

SAN DIEGO WEEKLY

VOLUME 36 / NUMBER 49

DECEMBER 6, 2007

# Reader



## Night is my day

Story begins on page 24

The sad saga of San Diego State's hybrid car – see City Lights



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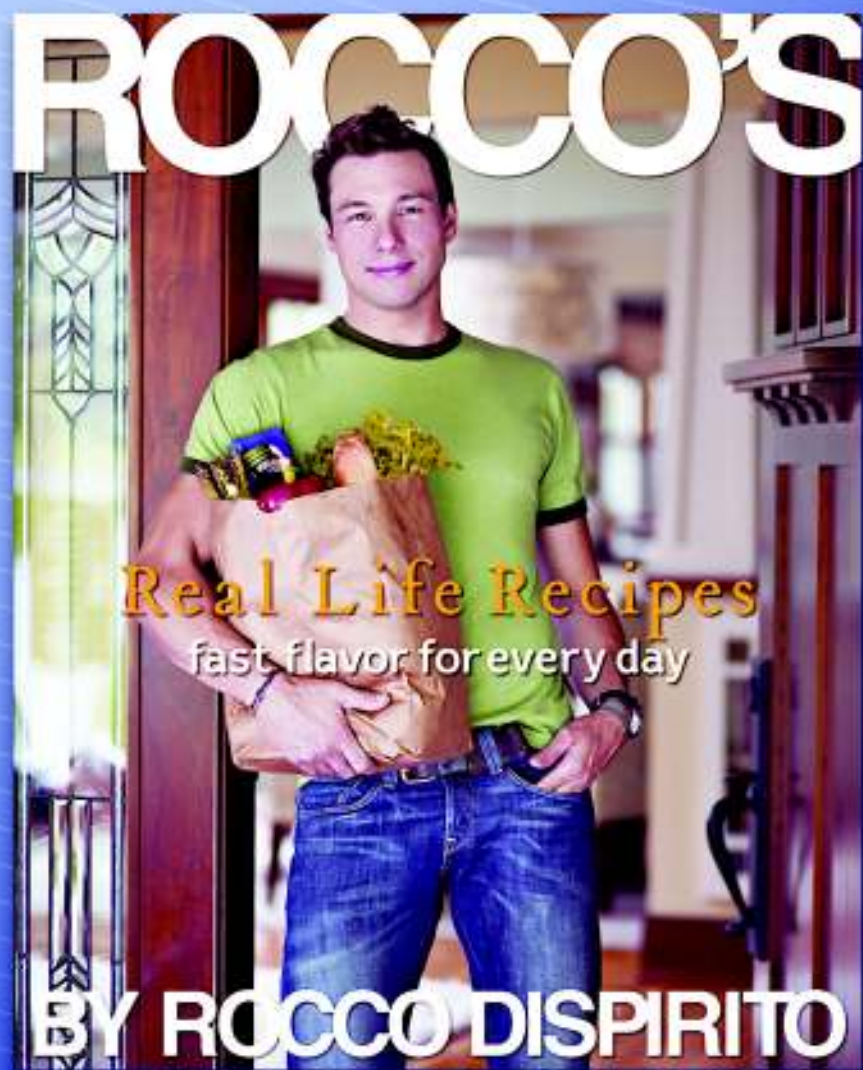
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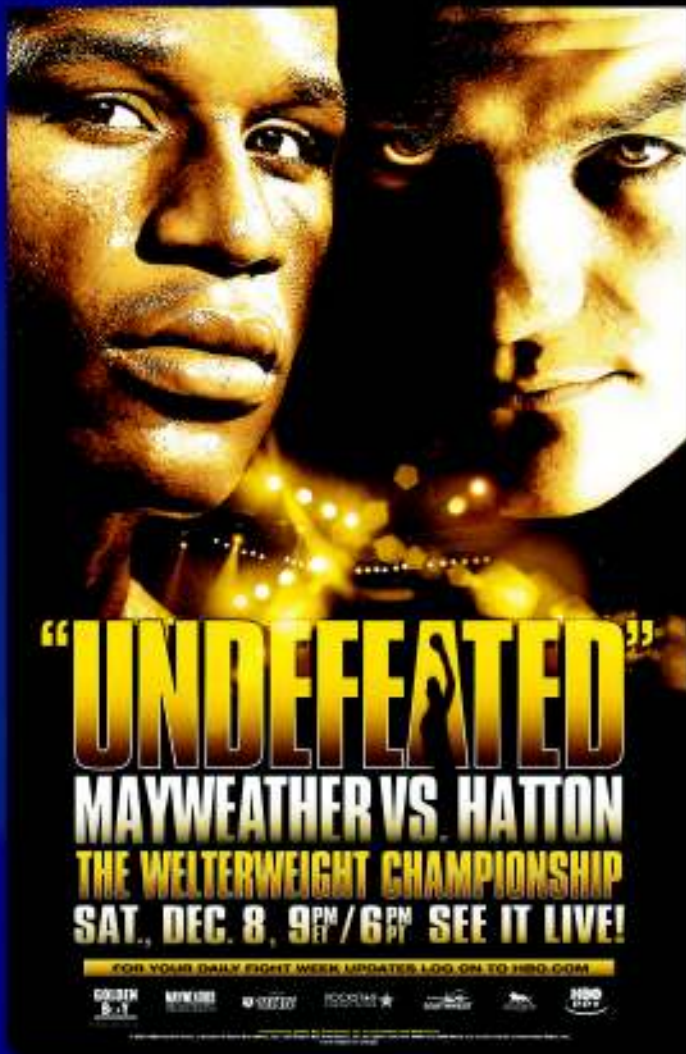
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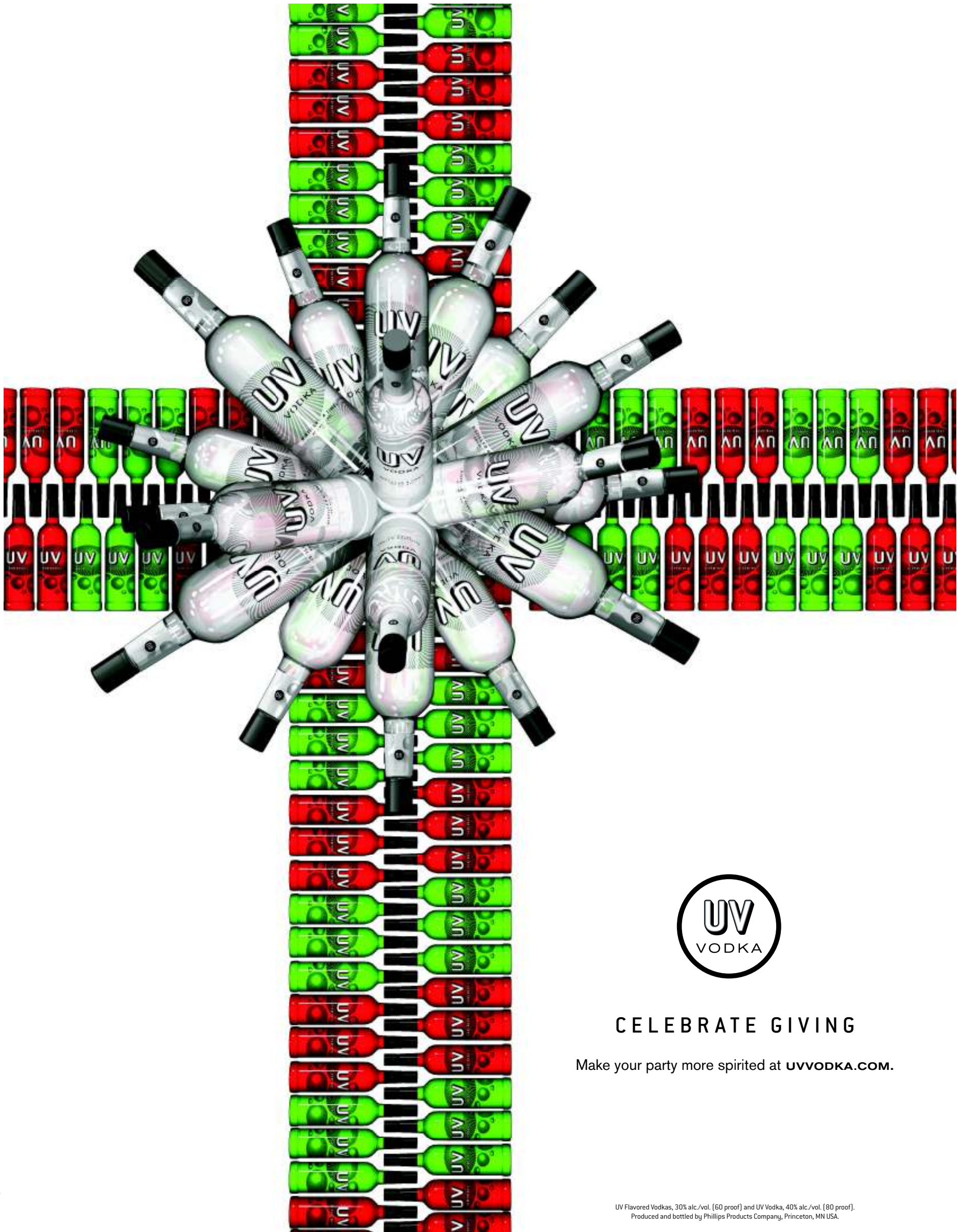
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## Hybrid Hell

By Ernie Grimm

**B**ack in June, a team of San Diego State mechanical engineering students and their professor placed 6th out of 17 universities

in the exclusive Challenge X vehicle design competition, cosponsored by General Motors and the Department of Energy. "Let me put this in perspective," says Frank Falcone, a graduate engineering student who worked on the project. "This is the first time SDSU has ever been part of a competition like this. So to see us, with nothing, get 6th place and beat all those other schools with all that money, it was very satisfying."

The competition put San Diego State on the map in the burgeoning field of hybrid automobile technology. But instead of being welcomed back as returning victors, Falcone says, "We returned to school to find out that the lock and the key on our gate had been changed. We couldn't put the car away in our lab because we no longer had access to that gate. And we still don't have access."

Dr. Jim Burns, the mechanical engineering professor who led the San Diego State team in the Challenge X competition, wasn't surprised. Being locked out was only the latest move in what he characterizes as three years of

harassment and obstructionism perpetrated by the dean of engineering, Dr. David Hayhurst, and the mechanical engineering department head, Karen May-Newman.

The beginnings of San Diego State's involvement in



SDSU Challenge X hybrid vehicle

the Challenge X came in 2001, when officials from the contest saw a hybrid sports car called the L3 Enigma that Burns and a student team had built. "It was at the Michelin Challenge, which is a world-wide automotive event that was held in Southern California that year," Burns says. "There happened to be in the audience [Challenge X] organizers. And they were impressed

with what they saw. So two and a half years later, when we proposed to be part of the Challenge program, they recognized us, which is great, because it is very difficult to get into one of these challenge programs. You have to really have shown that you can do the work. We had done that with the Enigma, and they were impressed enough to give us a shot this time."

In early 2004, during the application process for Challenge X, Burns and members of his team say they endured the first bit of obstruction-

ism from Dean Hayhurst. "The night [the application] was supposed to go out," Burns says, "we made it quite clear to him that it had to go out at a specific time to make FedEx to get to the funding agencies' mailbox in time."

Terry Ireland, a former lab technician in the College of Engineering who worked on the Challenge X project,

*continued on page 8*

## BREAKING NEWS

**Public makeover** Still shadowed by controversy over last summer's abrupt cancellation of its *Full Focus* public affairs TV show by station manager **Doug Myrland**, San Diego State University-run KPBS is conducting a poll whose questions lead some to believe that big changes may be in the works for the state-funded operation.



Chris Reed

Among other things, the broadcaster wants to find out just how opinionated hosts of KPBS radio shows should be. In the wake of the *Full Focus* fracas, critics have said that the frequent presence of *Union-Tribune* editorialists **Chris Reed** and **Bob Kittle** and other *U-T* staffers who repeat the paper's editorial line is excessive and denies other citizens an outlet to express their opinions.

In the poll, participants are asked to weigh in on a scale from one to ten on "how important" it is for a program host to have "a definite point of view and [express] his or her opinions." Another question asks whether poll respondents would prefer a moderator to "ask pressing questions and make observations without advocating his or her point of view." Regarding guests, KPBS wants to know the relative importance of conducting "interviews mainly with citizens, generally from your region, who have experience with the topic being discussed" versus interviewing "people who are experts on the topic being discussed." In addition, respondents are asked whether they like "having callers call in to express their opinions or ask questions" and having programs that cover "a wide range of discussion topics during a typical month."



Bob Kittle

The station's website is also referenced. The poll asks, "Is there an online site that you feel a part of, that is, an online community that shares your interests and offers intelligent online conversation? This would be a trusted online site that you feel is a SAFE place to participate in online discussions." Then the survey gets to the bottom line by asking whether respondents contributed money to KPBS, which has suffered of late from a plateau in individual donations. It adds, "Please note that this survey is being conducted by an independent research firm. Responses are for analytical purposes only, and will not be for fundraising."

**Chummy** Now that the gift-giving season has begun, lobbyists and others who want to remain in the good graces of San Diego city officials might take a hint from previous tributes paid to the city's public servants by local influence peddlers, favor seekers, and miscellaneous admirers. Sports tickets are always eagerly received, witness two November 2006 admissions worth \$162 to a

Chargers game that private investigator **Vince delaMontaigne** gave to assistant police chief **Joel Bryden**. DelaMontaigne is an ex-FBI agent who back in the 1990s ran the San Diego-based task force that ran herd on the Arellano Felix drug cartel. More recently, though, he's had another high-profile assignment, that of working on an investigation ordered by San Diego mayor **Jerry Sanders** into whether city officials mishandled the Sunroad Enterprises high-rise project near Montgomery Field. Critics claim that the final Sanders report whitewashed the involvement of the mayor and his staff in the 2006 Sunroad affair, during which **Jim Waring**, the mayor's chief of land use and economic development, claimed he'd been only belatedly aware that the Federal Aviation Administration had red-flagged the Sunroad building as hazardous to air safety. Emails unearthed by city attorney **Mike Aguirre** contradicted that claim. Fueling the wrath of critics, investigators failed to interview Sunroad owner **Aaron Feldman**, because, in the words of **Jo Anne SawyerKnoll**, the Sanders aide who spearheaded the study, "It was not critical to the investigation." The final report, released July after a two-month investigation, concluded that though there had been "errors in judgment," there was "no evidence whatsoever found of conspiracy, fraud, corruption, illegal conduct or violation of any state or federal law or regulation." That finding brought a stinging rebuke from none other than the *Union-Tribune*, which opined in August, a day after Waring abruptly quit, that the report was "full of holes and glaring inconsistencies." (Reached by phone this week, delaMontaigne said Bryden was a personal friend and denied that the ticket gift was related to his consulting work.)

Speaking of gifts, a month before he left the city, Waring himself got four Padres tickets and a parking pass worth \$235 from the developers of Black Mountain Ranch. **Beth Murray**, assistant deputy chief of Land Use and Economic Development, picked up a \$210 Padres ticket from the North Island Credit Union.

**Never mind** District Attorney **Bonnie Dumanis** is out with an email touting the San Diego city attorney candidacy of her deputy, **Bill Gentry**, against incumbent **Mike Aguirre**. But her staffers apparently weren't supposed to get it and were asked to forget about it if they did: "Please note that we have made every effort to remove employees of both the District Attorney's Office and the Sheriff's Office from this email list. Please disregard this email if you receive it in error."



Jim Waring



Bonnie Dumanis

— 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.

## Neal Obermeyer





## Hybrid hell

*continued from page 7*

remembers the evening the application was to be sent to Detroit. “We filled out the forms,” he recalls, “and I hand carried this form up there to Dean Hayhurst’s office so he could sign it. And then I sat in his office from about 4:00 in the afternoon to about 6:30 at night.”

“By the time he signed it,” Burns says, “we were already an hour after that deadline. So we found a courier service to



*David Hayhurst*

take care of it for us, and I gave the bill to the school to the tune of \$300. There were some negative consequences to that.”

Burns continues, “Right around that same time period, when we put this proposal

actively moving some of my equipment out of some of the labs. That was early 2004. But we persevered the rest of that semester, though I was not a very happy camper around that time. A lot of courses that I taught were now in jeopardy because the equipment and resources to teach that stuff well were being surplused and moved out and not supported. Meetings were held in my lab, staff was there without my presence, and other faculty members were told, ‘Hey, this stuff is all up for grabs. What would you like?’ Very, very nasty and unprofessional.”

In March of 2004, Burns got word from Challenge X organizers that San Diego State’s application had been accepted. So, with the help of technician Terry Ireland, who at 62 has decades of experience building cars, he began to set up a lab for the project. Despite sensing growing opposition from Hayhurst and May-Newman, he decided to go forward with the project. “We had 2000 square feet of lab space,” Burns recalls, “that had appropriate roll-up door access. At least we had that. And Terry was still with me. We were relatively confident that we could do this job, although it was very ambitious for this university, especially with very



*Jim Burns*

union rules. By filing the grievance, he was acting against the advice of a union representative, who worried that Ireland’s status as a temporary employee made him an easy target for retaliatory firing. Ireland filed the grievance “three months before I was to become permanent,” he recalls. “I had to file, because if I didn’t I would have lost the

really cause bad blood if I pressed it and proved that the dean was a liar. So I dropped it. Three months later, they didn’t renew my contract. I had never been reprimanded for anything, I had a perfect record, I had an ‘outstanding’ on one year and an ‘excellent’ on the next year as evaluations. And I was supposed to have had an evaluation sometime right

unfair labor practice. And they reinstated my grievance. Meanwhile, six months after I am gone, they hire a temporary employee on an emergency basis to replace me, and then six months after that, they posted my old job. So I filed for that job and turned in my application and everything, and they didn’t interview me for my old job. They

there was no other technician to support him as per the contract that the dean signed with Challenge X, which stipulated that the university would provide technician support, someone who knew something about cars and the electronics that goes on cars. Because this is cutting-edge stuff, this is a whole lot different than just a car. I was the only guy there with any experience, the only guy there that fit the description. So whether they let me go because I had filed a grievance against the dean or because they wanted to hurt Dr. Burns’s program by letting me go, I don’t know.”

For his part, Burns is convinced Ireland’s losing his job was an attack on the Challenge X effort.

Burns continues, “They [Hayhurst and May-Newman] called a meeting right after school started [in August 2004], just after they had fired Terry during the summer. And [Hayhurst] had the audacity, with a nasty little smile on his face, to ask, ‘So how is Terry?’ At that point, I knew exactly what was up.

*continued on page 10*



*Biodiesel engine*



*Fuel injectors*

in, I was inexplicably pulled off of teaching certain classes. The department chair at the time, Karen May-Newman, had decided other people were going to teach these courses, no explanation, just ‘You are not doing this anymore. We are making a change.’ Whatever that means. And the dean and some of the people in other departments were

little support [from the College of Engineering].”

Not long after getting the lab set up, in the summer of 2004, Terry Ireland, whom Burns refers to as “my talented technician,” lost his job at San Diego State after he filed a labor grievance for having to supervise another technician who was paid a higher salary, something that is against

right to file. According to union regulations, you have to file a grievance within 30 days of finding out about it; otherwise, you lose that right to file a grievance. Well, I signed it, I filled out the thing, and the dean denied having asked me to supervise [the higher-paid technician]. And since I am somewhat of a team player, I figured it would

around when I filed for the grievance. They never did give me the evaluation; they just didn’t renew my contract. They didn’t fire me; they just didn’t renew my contract. So I filed an unfair labor practice for retaliation for filing a grievance. And the school disallowed that, so then I had to file with the Public Employment Relations Board for

said that I wasn’t qualified for the job that I had been doing. Subsequently, they’ve claimed that I spent all my time with Dr. Burns, that I didn’t do anything for anyone else. That is a lie. I proved it to the Public Employment Relations Board, and the judge made a ruling that they had to put me back to work. But without me working for Dr. Burns,

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## Hybrid hell

*continued from page 8*

So it was game on at that point. I realized that there was no turning back. I told him in no uncertain terms that he

should go and screw himself."

After this meeting, Burns went to San Diego State's provost Nancy Marlin "to find out what her thought was on this illegal firing [of Terry Ireland]. The provost is the person who kind of runs the daily

operations of the university. She handles all the nitty-gritty details, the dirty work, so that the president doesn't have to. In this case, I thought the whole thing smacked of a conspiracy, and I was going to tell her about it. But she would

have nothing of that. She would not talk to me. All she'd say is, 'This is a personnel matter,' and all I could say at the end, after her cutting me off at every sentence, was, 'I'm here to follow the chain of command. You can't say you

weren't informed.' My intent to go there was to tell her, 'Listen, this guy was fired illegally, and I am going to support him in every way possible as this goes forward, and I suggest you stop this. Terry is a valuable member of this

program, and we signed a contract with GM and [the Department of Energy] that said he would be working on the team. We are using United States money here, federal funds, and what you have done is you have made it impossible for me to do a good job.'"

Along with Ireland's dismissal, Burns says Hayhurst and May-Newman "made [me] teach a course with three people in it. They have an obligation to the state that if a course cannot make money for the state — there is a minimum number of people that they have to have in it — they have to cancel the course. There were three people in the course. I think the minimum is seven or something like that. And I was made to teach that course anyway, even though I said before the course started, 'You know, I really could use the time for Challenge X.'"


Records obtained from San Diego State indicate that, given a choice between time spent teaching and time spent on Challenge X, Burns often chose the latter and either canceled classes or had a former student substitute for him. Several students complained via email to Dean Hayhurst. "I do not believe [Dr. Burns's class] has been conducted in a professional nor respectable manner for a course offered at an accredited university," wrote one student in a September 14, 2004 email. Around the same time, ten of Burns's students cosigned a letter to Hayhurst that said in part, "Professor James S. Burns's repeated rambling lectures detailing the enormity of 'his' hybrid electric car and other pet projects have not proven helpful, to say the least."

Asked about the complaints, Burns admits that his heart wasn't in his teaching. "I had pretty low morale at the time. I was trying my best to cover all this stuff while having my workload essentially doubled and being told that I couldn't have any help."

The Challenge X competition is set up as a four-stage process, with evaluations done at the ends of four consecutive school years. Burns says that because of the obstructionism he faced, "I really thought we were going to fail miserably." And in the first year's evaluation, in spring of

*continued on page 12*

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## CITY LIGHTS

### Hybrid hell

continued from page 10

2005, they very nearly did. "We were 15th out of 17th in the paper-design competition in year one."

In year two of the Challenge X, teams were given a Chevrolet Equinox compact SUV in which they were supposed to implement their designs from year one. The university was slow to fill out and send the necessary forms to GM so that the Equinox could be shipped. A June 23, 2005 letter from General Motors to San Diego State says, "Our records indicate that your school has not returned a signed Challenge X Vehicle Donation Agreement. We had requested that this be signed and returned by June the 9th, 2005, in order for your vehicle to be shipped the week of June 20, 2005. We cannot ship your vehicle without a signed agreement. Please return your documentation as soon as possible to avoid further delay of your vehicle's shipment."

The paperwork was eventually sent in, and the new Equinox arrived. But transforming it into a high-performance hybrid vehicle required lab equipment to which Burns says he and his students were denied access. "We just decided that we would man up here, we would do this no matter what, we would stop complaining. We didn't write another letter; we never asked for any more help. We knew we weren't going to get it. I spent something like \$20,000 that I had saved up for other projects over the years."

Terry Ireland helped out during this phase as a volunteer. "If there was something we needed to fabricate, and we couldn't get access to the lab equipment, I would drive across town and make it at a machine shop I had access to and bring it back."

But when Hayhurst forbade Burns to let Ireland work on Challenge X as a volunteer, Ireland enrolled as a student in a class taught by another professor named Mike Lambert. "Any student could work on the project," Ireland explains, "so I enrolled in a class."

Though happy to have Ireland back on the project, Burns worried that Lambert would

## CITY LIGHTS

suffer retaliation from Hayhurst and May-Newman for making it possible. "I said, 'Mike, if this really is as nasty as I think it is, there is going to be some retribution for this.' He said, 'Well, I am the instructor, and if I don't stand for permitting someone to enter my class if I think he can benefit from it, then I am failing as a faculty member.' He told me this point-blank. And I expected that something might happen."

Something did happen. Lambert was denied tenure. Burns grows heated when discussing his colleague's case. "To end his career for being sympathetic to me and Ireland, that is the most unconscionable, nasty, vicious... Lambert's wife has cancer; he has two small kids at home. He was the most productive faculty member on the entire faculty for several years in a row, by all the measures that matter. And Hayhurst has been viciously and nastily claiming that Mike Lambert's work is not meriting of serious concern. That is nonsense, that is utter bullshit. It is a vicious, calculated attack, in my opinion."

When it came to fitting out the Equinox for year two of Challenge X, Falcone says, "We did a lot of research on whether or not to use hydrogen, ethanol, or other fuels, and when we crunched all the numbers, we found out that we could get the best performance and the best fuel economy by combining a diesel engine with an electric motor. We took a look at how the car was designed. It is a conventional vehicle. We looked at how best to fit all that in there. What made the most sense was to split the engine and the motor up. A Prius or a Ford Escape, they pack them all under the hood. But we didn't have enough room under the hood in this car for that. So the front wheels are powered by the diesel engine; the rear wheels are powered by the electrical motor. We designed this car with the potential to have 400 combined horsepower. We were really hoping to go for performance. Unfortunately, in all three years, we just never had the money to buy the batteries to get the job done. With the batteries we had, we were only about around 250 horsepower or so, which is better than the stock Equinox. But

## CITY LIGHTS

if we had a lithium ion battery pack in this car, holy cannoli."

Instead of the more powerful, more efficient lithium ion batteries, Burns says, "I had to buy \$2000 worth of motorcycle batteries at the last minute."

Still, the car was good enough for the State team to move up eight places when it took part in the year two assessment at the GM Desert Proving Ground in Mesa, Arizona, from May 30 to June 8, 2006. In an August 1 letter to university president Stephen Weber, Challenge X official Robert Larsen gushed, "SDSU placed an impressive 7th out of 17 teams! Only one other new team to the advanced vehicle technology competition program — Mississippi State University — placed higher than SDSU! We are very pleased with the significant progress the SDSU team made on their vehicle in the last several months before the competition, which we attribute to Professor Jim Burns and his students and to the support of the university's administration."

But Burns says there was precious little help from the university's administration, which continued to deny the team access to lab equipment in year three of the competition — by the end of which, teams were supposed to have refined their Equinoxes into marketable finished products. "I bought equipment with my own money — a mill and a lathe. And I bought an automotive lift to lift the car up so that we could work on it, because we had a lift in the other room, but I wasn't allowed access to it except when they said I could, but not at night and not on weekends and not without some little \$8-an-hour student that they hired to look over my shoulder and report anything that was going on that they didn't like so that they could shut me down."

The San Diego State Equinox was good enough to move up one spot to sixth in the third year of the Challenge X competition in June 2007. But when they returned to locked gates and more obstruction, Burns decided he'd had enough and he asked for a leave of absence. "I was getting migraines last year, I was having heart palpitations this year. I looked at the toll

## CITY LIGHTS

on my family, my wife who suffered for years through this, and frankly went without things so that I could afford to buy the stuff that it took to succeed here. I looked at my son and thought I was not spending enough time with him. I left the university, frankly, for sanity reasons."

Reached at San Diego State, Dean Hayhurst commented, "The Challenge X program was something that we agreed to sponsor years ago, and we have invested quite a bit of money in equipment and lab space to try to make this successful. So I am disappointed that any of these individuals would portray the university as being anything but generous and supportive."

Asked why, if the university was so supportive, Burns has such hard feelings on the matter, Hayhurst responds, "I don't understand it myself. Why Dr. Burns might be unhappy or have some concerns, I don't know, I honestly don't. I really wish I could answer that question. I think it would make my life simpler if I understood the answer to that question."

The fourth year of San Diego State's Challenge X project, which involves marketing the product, has been taken over by the university's business school. Terry Ireland, who has turned down a \$200,000 settlement offer from San Diego State, is waiting to see if two more Public Employment Relations Board judges will ratify the first judge's favorable decision. Mike Lambert awaits his April hearing in his tenure-denial case. Jim Burns has filed a grievance with the California Faculty Association, which represents the faculty of California's State University system. Though he's still a tenured professor at San Diego State, he's teaching at Southern Utah University in Cedar City, Utah. Frank Falcone, who hopes to defend his thesis and earn a master's in mechanical engineering in December, says, "I am heartbroken that this program is broken at SDSU. For the first time since, I think, 1998, there will be no hybrid vehicle research at our school. Almost a decade of research just thrown in the trash. Without Dr. Burns here, there is no program. He is the hybrid vehicle program at San Diego State." ■



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### Whoa, Kenny!

Look!

The last cover story, "He Should Have Known Better" (November 29), highlights Larry Harmon's utter lack of professional and courteous journalism. Larry has disregarded the duty of ethics in his field. Larry should have known better! A few of his statements can be interpreted as a malicious public attempt to slander an independent downtown business that doesn't need any more trouble around its name or that of the owner, one that I'll refrain from using. I, unlike Larry, have class. Why talk about the owner? That information was not valid to the story. Just saying a bar or place downtown would be sufficient. Larry didn't say the names of the Mexican gangsters or people Squire sold drugs to. Larry is scared of those guys. Larry should be ashamed of sounding like a fourth-grade drama queen, and no "I'm sorry" could ever take back what's been printed. If

he can dish that, he can eat this — Larry, you should give up writing and get a job at a porn shop so you can be the creep you are.

Kenny King  
San Diego

### Disgusting Crasher

I picked up a copy of this week's Reader, and I'm a big fan of a couple of the sections in there, one of which is the "Crasher" column. But I've got to say that this week (November 29) I think it's absolutely disgusting. I can't believe you would print something that glorifies drinking to the extent it does, and I think it's absolutely horrible. If this is the only way for someone to have fun at a party, maybe I'll just stop reading the column. I expect more from you guys.

Sheila Evans  
Pacific Beach

### Alcoholic Vomit

The Reader is a document that need not be read in its entirety at all. Simply flipping its pages gives the mind a panorama of a culture of decadence, confusion, insanity, and decline, and this is worth the five minutes it takes to flip through these worthless pages. Therefore, the Reader redeems itself by serving as an example of a decaying culture, coughing out its last alcoholic vomit and other drug-infested mucus. And that is all.

Name Withheld

### The Entitled Hartin

Just read the article on South Mission Beach Jetty published November 29 ("SurfDiego").

Are you kidding me? You actually ran this article? Are you looking to promote "localism" in San Diego? What kind of logic is "Regulars are a higher caliber surfer and entitled to the better waves at South Mission Jetty"? If you are so regular and have only surfed SMJ every day for the last 30 years, you can't be all that "high caliber." You have no idea what other breaks are like or how to surf other breaks.

What is this sense of entitlement Hartin boy has? Fights? Yeah, right! I'll call the cops and have them thrown in jail for harassing me. Just last week my buddies and I were at a break where a "regular" was dropping in on other surfers, and when confronted he claimed to be a "local." Ha! What the hell is a local? The number of years you surfed there? How great you are? At what point does someone become a "regular/local"? If Kelly Slater was to paddle out to your break and take most of the waves, what are you going to do? Why would you not want beginners to surf there if it is such a great break? Are beginners not entitled to some guidance?

To Hartin, I'd say get over yourself and share this great sport. To the Reader, I'd ask your staff to consider what you are writing. There's already too much hate in this world; let's promote respect.

Todd  
via email  
*continued on page 73*

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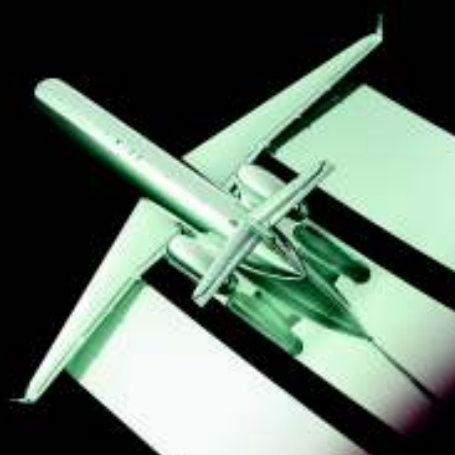
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## SportingBox By Patrick Daugherty

# Didn't Missa Thing

Here's the setup... I played duplicate bridge in Fairbanks, Alaska, in 1966. Games were played in the Tiki Cove, otherwise known as the basement of the Mecca Bar.

There were 20 to 30 regulars seething, drinking, lashing out at their partners. Picture a roomful of smart, middle-aged neurotics sitting around card tables, swilling booze, egos steadily inflating until they reached the size of a male peacock in rutting season. And then there was me and my partner, Todd Mehner, jellybean youths. I was there on the strength of Todd's enthusiasm; he was a killer bridge player and needed his fix. I played for a season, picked up 2.5 masterpoints, and went on to other things.

Forty-one years later, Todd and I are standing in the Yerba Buena Ballroom underneath the San Francisco Marriott. There are 14,000-plus bridge players here to compete in the North American Bridge Championships. We've been talking to a pair from San Diego County.

I should stop and say something about duplicate bridge. Ignoring exceptions, complications, and details, players sit at table with a bridge board in front of them. Players bid as per usual, but when playing a hand, players place their cards on the table directly in front of them. After the hand is played, every hand is returned to its bridge board. One pair of players is North-South, the other pair is East-West. Over the course of the session, pairs will move, but the bridge boards remain at the same table. In this way, the same hands are played by each North-South and East-West team, score is kept, best score wins. The idea is to reward skill and eliminate chance.

Meet Judy Last-Name-I-Can't-Spell from Santee and her partner, Marty Last-Name-Withheld, from La Mesa. Judy is 50, maybe a little older, wears a yellow sweater and brown slacks. Marty, a little younger, is wearing an orange bowling shirt, black slacks, and brown shoes.

They both play out of "Adventures in Bridge, down in San Diego off Mission Gorge. It's a huge group," Marty says.

I want to know how the game has changed. I say, "Back in the Tiki Cove, the first question asked of another player was, 'What convention do you play?' What's the first question now?"

Judy says, "What do you play?"

Marty adds, "Standard American with some toys, depending on who I'm playing with."

Standard American was the default back in the

day. "The second question was, 'How many masterpoints do you have?'"

Marty: "I have 250ish."

Eight presidents, three wars, 13 foreign interventions later, and bridge conventions remain the same, as does lust for masterpoints. Reader, you mock out of ignorance. People have died for less. But, the real point, the only point that needs be dealt with, is, where in the hell are *my* masterpoints?

I must retrieve my 2.5 masterpoints fairly earned in the Tiki Cove. I'm discussing this with Jon Brewer of Chula Vista. He tells me, "If you're not a Life Master, your points get purged."

"WHAT!"

"You can reinstate yourself. You can get them out of hock by paying all of your past dues."

That's better. "How much are dues?"

"Thirty-five dollars each year."

I calculate \$1400. "Seems reasonable."

The next morning I telephone American Contract Bridge League headquarters in Memphis and, after being passed on just once, hear, "Yes, sir, this is Cindy. I understand you have a question about points."

"Yes, points earned in 1966. I want them."

"Well, sir, unless you were a member at that time..."

"I was."

"Your points would be in your total," Cindy says, "but we would not have a record of those particular points."

I explain that my total points would equal my Fairbanks points. Cindy says, "We might could find your total from back then. It would be by name and address. Is there a phone number where I can call you back in a few minutes?"

I give her my stats. Hang up and forget.

Fifteen minutes pass, the telephone rings. It's Cindy. She's out of breath. "Sorry for the delay. I kept getting people's voice mail," Cindy says. "I didn't find it. If I had and you wanted to rejoin, we would add those old points to your new records for a one-year renewal fee of \$35."

A much, much better number than \$1400. We chit. We chat. "Have you been there a long time?"

"Twenty-five years."

"Must be a good job." Are these people *always* this friendly? I can't remember the last time an organization treated me this well. "Tell me about the strangest call you've had."

"Well," Cindy says, "we did get a letter from a lady asking if she could come live with us. She didn't have anywhere to go. It was really sad."

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# SHEEP AND GOATS

PLACES OF WORSHIP REVIEWED

**Denomination:** Roman Catholic

**Address:** 10818 San Diego Mission Road, Mission Valley, 619-283-7319

**Founded locally:** 1769 (original mission)

**Senior pastor:** Richard Duncanson

**Congregation size:** 2900 families

**Staff size:** about 15

**Sunday school enrollment:** about 200

**Annual budget:** around \$1 million

**Weekly giving:** around \$15,000

**Singles program:** young adults group currently being reorganized

**Dress:** semiformal to formal

**Diversity:** Caucasian and Hispanic

**Sunday worship:** 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m. (St. Francis chapel); 10 a.m., 11 a.m. (Spanish, St. Francis chapel); noon, 5:30 p.m.

**Length of reviewed service:** 55 minutes

**Website:** [www.missionsandiego.com](http://www.missionsandiego.com)

"I don't know if you're a visitor," said the woman who approached me, "but I saw you taking pictures and I thought you might like to know the story of the crucifix at the front of the church. Did you see how it had no arms? We had a priest here, Monsignor Egan, and he found it in Italy and thought, 'Week after week, I tell people the Gospel: you must be the arms of Christ.'" So Egan brought it back and had it mounted — a permanent reminder of mission to the Mission's congregation.

A plump green wreath sat on one side of the altar at Mission San Diego de Alcalá, a single flame rising from one of the candles buried within its branches. Advent had begun, and after the mission bell tolled, the congregation rose and sang: "O come, O come Emmanuel/ And ransom captive Israel/ That mourns in lonely exile here/ Until the Son of God appear..." They were accompanied by a bright, sometimes thunderous organ and a choir boasting a flair for the dramatic. "REJOICE/ rejoice," they sang — boom and whisper, one hard upon the other — "Emmanuel/ Shall come to thee O Israel."

"Happy New Year!" said Monsignor Duncanson in greeting. "This first Sunday of Advent is the beginning of a whole new Church year, going back to the beginnings to identify with the chosen people of old, longing for the coming of their savior. Let's pause for a moment, then, to recapture that sense of anxious expectation and longing for the coming of our Savior...as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ."

Duncanson wore purple to mark the liturgical season; so did the woman giving the readings. Isaiah promised that "all nations" would come to "the LORD's mountain..." That he may instruct us in his ways, and we may walk in his paths.... They shall beat their swords into plowshares." Paul warned the Romans that "the day is at hand...let us conduct ourselves properly...not in orgies and drunkenness..." And Jesus told his disciples to "stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come."

Duncanson took those readings as cues for his sermon, which was built around three phrases borrowed from homespun pop culture. First, the hide 'n' seek cry of "Ready or not, here I come!" Second, the reminder that "Santa Claus is coming to town," and that "he's making a list, and checking it twice, gonna find out who's naughty and nice." Third, the maxim, "Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today."

"The challenge is for us to be ready to meet the Lord...to do all the things that are proper in preparation for the Lord's coming...not just on Christmas Day, when we celebrate His birth, but looking forward to His return in glory." He cited the "three Rs": recalling the Lord's promises, repenting our sins, and rehearsing good deeds in preparation. To aid in this, "during the Advent season, we'll have wonderful role models.... Isaiah helps us recall how the chosen people longed for the coming of their savior.... John the Baptist will be here very soon,

calling us to repentance because the Kingdom of God is at hand. On December 18, we'll celebrate a penance service...to respond to that call." And as for rehearsing, "we have the feasts of the Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Guadalupe.... Mary is the example par excellence of a human being who was open to doing God's will.... She accepted the plan, saying, 'I am your servant, be it done unto me according to your word.' The mystery of the Incarnation...required the cooperation of Mary as a human mother. Every one of us is called to be aware of and responsive to what is God's plan for us, to be part of His plan for the world's salvation."

Mary appeared in the song for the preparation of the gifts: "The coeternal Son/A maiden's offspring see/ A servant's form Christ putteth on/ To set His people free." And the

prayers of the faithful recalled "Our Jewish brothers and sisters, as they celebrate Hanukkah."

"You believe that the Son of God once came to us," said Duncanson during the final blessing. "You look for Him to come again. May His coming bring you the light of His holiness."

Before we left, Duncanson suggested congregants take home a copy of "Day by Day through Advent with Mother Teresa." The quote for the First Sunday: "All beginners have their many crosses, but pray for me and for those who join, that we may have the courage to do this work for souls."

What happens when we die?

"Our Lord meets us," said Duncanson. "And He says, 'Welcome into the kingdom my Father has prepared for you, because when I was hungry, you gave Me something to eat.' Or, if not, we're in trouble. I love that passage from Matthew."

— Matthew Lickona



MISSION SAN DIEGO DE ALCALA

## Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá Mission Valley

★★½

### Sermon

content.....★★★★

delivery.....★★★★

### Liturgy

.....★★★★

### Music

congregational .....★½

band .....★★½

### Snacks

.....no snacks

### Architecture

.....★★★★

### Friendliness

.....★★★★

Poor to satisfactory.....(none)

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# Don Covers the *U-T*.

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This week's postings:

## *U-T* Announces Massive Buyout Plan

Posted by Don Bauder on December 3, 2007

Merry Christmas to all. The *Union-Tribune* today (Dec. 3) announced a plan to reduce the staff significantly – a total of 43 in the newsroom alone, along with other employees throughout the company. The plan is called "voluntary separation program," or VSP, but in the memo, *U-T* president Gene Bell... [Read more and add a comment.](#)

## *Union-Tribune* To Lop 15-20 More Heads

Posted by Don Bauder on November 30, 2007

Gene Bell, president of the *Union-Tribune*, sent a memo Wednesday in which, typical of the newspaper, the bombshell was concealed in Little Mary Sunshine prose. Bell told certain employees November 28 that the paper is making changes that are designed to give readers more news specific to their own geographic area. "We are changing the way we zone local news and advertising to better serve readers and advertisers, and to streamline our main press run," said Bell. In the penultimate paragraph, he stated, "Removing zoned content from the main run will increase efficiency and cut pressroom costs, including the elimination of 15-20 positions." Then came a subtle warning that more is likely to come: "In challenging times such as these, it is critical that we find ways to better serve customers while reducing expense." There will be more details in coming weeks, Bell said.

[Read more and add a comment.](#)

Anonymous / sdblogger

November 30, 2007 at 3:45 p.m.

Don: This "streamlining" has cost them me as a paid subscriber. With shrinking fonts, ink darkness making anyone with less than the fighter pilot eyesight I used to have only adding to my continuing frustration with the political vendettas and oversupport and misrepresentations so as to give only favorable "news" on the shenanigans and outright wrongdoings of Mayor Republican and company, it's sad that I will no longer have a daily newspaper to peruse but the *UT* leaves me - and I guess will leave others little choice but to get what we need to know from whatever alternative sources we can. AND, in this vein, YOU are a tremendous source of honest reporting and insight into what is really going on in our town. Thanks and best wishes.

Don Bauder / dbauder

November 30, 2007 at 4:47 p.m.

Response to comment #1: There is a reason for the *U-T* losing readers much faster than other metro dailies are losing readers. As you mentioned, one of the reasons is the ignoring of bad news about a feckless and dishonest mayor. The other reason is the endless pursuit of the vendetta against the city attorney and Councilmember Donna Frye. Unfortunately, the newspaper cannot be trusted; when it errs, it buries the confession in small print in an inconspicuous place, and in unfathomable legalese. There are demographic reasons for the rapid plunge, but the main ones are the lack of credibility of the editorial product. Best, Don Bauder

anonymous / Anon92107

December 1, 2007 at 4:26 a.m.

San Diego readers who read and think about the news desperately need an honorable newspaper to replace the "Tory" *U-T* that has betrayed the citizens of San Diego. Too bad we can't meet that need by gathering up honorable journalists who have left the *U-T* and transplant Ben Franklin's newspaper as a San Diego Gazette.

Don Bauder / dbauder

December 1, 2007 at 11:55 a.m.

Response to post #3: It's not going to happen. Even excellent newspapers are seeing their revenues and profits drop sharply. The newspaper business has been receding for some time. Demographics and the news cycle are going against newspapers.

Who would invest in such an enterprise? Best, Don Bauder.

## BestBuys

—EVE KELLY

A couple of years ago I took up lettering. Once a week I would spend a few hours copying letters, mainly the italic form. I became fairly proficient, but life interfered with learning any other styles. Now I am wishing I had learned more. I have a Twelve Days of Christmas party in the works and would like to use Old English lettering for our party invitations. Perhaps I could hire a calligraphist to help.

Artist and owner

of Ladybug Art Cal-

ligraphy Studio

(619-563-0082),

Susan Hull has been

lettering for 35 years.

"When I started, there

were no classes offered

so I learned out of books.

Calligraphy, by definition, is

the art of beautiful handwriting. So it

has to be done by hand; it cannot be done by

computer. You can't beat the warmth of the

human hand. There are hundreds and hun-

dreds of styles dating back to the cave paintings.

From the cave paintings it evolved into symbols,

the symbols evolved into letters, and then

there was a break into the eastern and

the western alphabets. In Roman

times, everyone could read and

write. That is what brought about

the Dark Ages — a paper short-

age, in theory — and because

knowledge became just for the

privileged class. During the Dark

Ages only the monks wrote and

the monasteries were isolated

from one another so the alphabets

became totally bastardized. When

Charlemagne came into power, he

resolidified the alphabets. That is why

the letter style Carolingian [Charlemagne's

favorite] is so important because that is the one

on which our current alphabet is based. It has

two additional letters from the alphabets of

Roman times. And then from that it has devel-

oped into the curlicues and the fancies that so

many people think of as calligraphy now. But

calligraphy can be anything from a block letter

to the swirls of Spencerian [Declaration of Inde-

pendence] to Illuminated capitals."

Are there certain letterings that are more

commonly used?

"Copperplate is the most commonly used

for invitations because it is swirly but still very

legible. Spencerian is a little swirlier, has more

flourishes to it. We do a lot of

invitations in italic. If peo-

ple know only one let-

ter style, usually italic

is the letter style that

they know."

What paper

and instruments do

you use?

"We can write

on any paper; however,

the paper will affect the fin-

ished product. All paper is

milled; the more highly it is milled, the smoother

the surface. All paper has sizing, which is a liq-

uid that is added when it is still in the pulp form.

The amount of sizing will effect how porous

the paper is. The more porous the paper, the more

it bleeds; it doesn't get a nice, crisp edge. The

paper will affect the liquid that we use to letter.

"As far as the instrument," she continued,

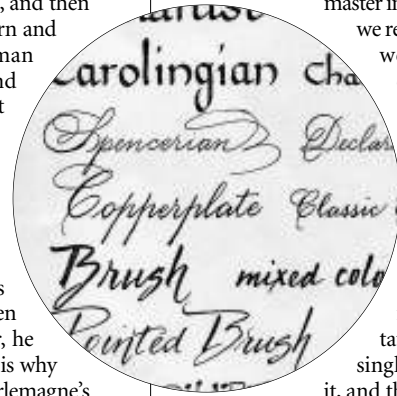
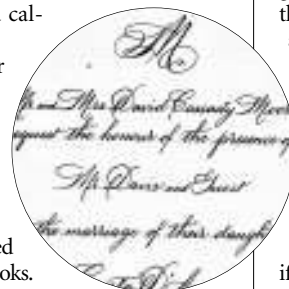
"there are basically four types of pens. Felt-tip

pens — the advantage of them is they're read-

ily available, inexpensive, and transport easily.

The disadvantage is that they run out pretty

quickly and the tips mush down, so you can't



"Calligraphy, by definition, is the art of beautiful handwriting."

get the nice, crisp edge you need to get the true thick and thins of calligraphy.

"Then there are cartridge pens, where a little bullet of ink fits down into it. They are usually not too expensive, pretty good as far as transportation, but their downside is that their nibs are not as crisp. So, you are not going to get the clarity that you want, and there are also usually ink-flow problems. There are also reservoir pens, where there's a tank built into the pen that holds the liquid, like the old-fashioned fountain pens. But here we work with the dip pens. The advantage of the dip pen is that you get your sharpest point, the greatest variation in the thick and thin, and a much greater variation in the inks that you can use. With the dip pen, you can use anything; you can use iced tea if you want to. You can use watercolors, which make your palette limitless. So, if someone comes in and says they want this lovely puce green, we have to custom mix that color for them, and that cannot go into any of the other types of pens."

Hull laid out the process of lettering they use at the studio. "We do a single master in calligraphy and then

we reproduce it. And then

we hand-address the

envelopes. We can

individually hand-

letter the invitations,

but it becomes

really pricey. Most

people don't want

to pay \$10 each;

they would rather

pay \$1 each. My

favorite style of invi-

tation is when we do a

single master, reproduce

it, and then instead of saying

"The courtesy of your presence is requested," we put "The courtesy of the pres-

ence of" and then we leave it blank and go back

and hand-letter the name of the individual

invited. And then we hand-address the enve-

lope, and it looks as though the entire invita-

tion has been hand-written for the person

receiving it. It takes an absolute expert to tell

the difference."

Pricing varies widely on each project. "For

invitations," said Hull, "figure they start at \$95

per 100 and go up from there. For \$95, you are

going to get black ink on a plain flat stock." If

the studio creates the invitation, there is 50 per-

cent off the addressing costs.

Ladybug studio offers lettering for invi-

tations, envelope addressing, seating charts, place

cards, and guest books. "We do anything

from Johnny's poem that he wrote to

Grandma to the invitations for when the

Queen of England came to re-inaugurate

the Old Globe Theatre. I did a couple of

prayer books for the queen, too. But my

favorite is doing little Johnny's poem. All

across the nation on Christmas morning, they

are opening up my presents, so I have that won-

derful feeling."

Hull teaches private classes — "...\$50 an hour

for private instruction, but you can bring up to

four students for that cost. A beginning class

customarily lasts two to three hours, depend-

ing on how many people there are and how

smart they are."

Columns archived at [SanDiegoReader.com](http://SanDiegoReader.com)

1. Calligraphic invitation

2. Calligraphy styles

3. Susan Hull

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by Barbarella

# Turkey Tempest

*Turkey, n. A large bird whose flesh when eaten on certain religious anniversaries has the peculiar property of attesting piety and gratitude. Incidentally, it is pretty good eating.*

— Ambrose Bierce, The Devil’s Dictionary

An impasse had been reached. David and his father, Robert, are both obdurate men, with opinions as flexible as stone. Their eyes glistened, their jaws clenched in fortitude. The debate carried on in the

absence of statistics, reaching a desperate crescendo of unfounded statements along the lines of, “Because that’s the way we’ve always done it.” I was certain that Satan would suffer from frostbite before these two would ever agree on how to cook the goddamn turkey.

It was an ancient argument, with few permutations: David — a foodie to his core — suggests a way to improve upon the bird, and Robert — a patriarch of tradition — insists there

is nothing wrong with the way he has been grilling the gobbler for the past 30 years. The year David wanted his father to try brining the bird we arrived prepared with Alton Brown’s first cookbook (riddled with scientific food facts) and a DVD of the famous chef’s “Good Eats” episode about turkey. David’s determination was as endearing as it was wearying; after three exhausting days of instructional hand-outs and video animations of the process, he wondered if all the effort had been worth it. As with most of David’s attempts, the brining was allowed, later deemed unnecessary, and abandoned the following year.

Last year, my adorable chef took a stance on stuff-

ing. He’d read an article about the dangers of bacteria-soaked bread crumbs and set out to convince his parents to bake the Hungarian-herbed, mushroomy mixture separately. The resistance was fierce until David resorted to fear tactics — he managed to convince Ency (his mother and eternal mistress of the kitchen) and me (a neurotic freak) that stuffing cooked inside the bird could turn lethal and result in our family being the subject of tragic post-Thanksgiving headlines. In the end, Robert declared stuffing a non-issue, as he was prepared to, and did, cook every last microbe to death.

This turkey day — on what was my fourth consecutive Thanksgiving dinner at my in-laws’ cozy home on the Massachusetts island of Martha’s Vineyard — David decided to tackle temperature. On David’s list of gastronomical gaffes, dried-out meat is right up there with mashed potatoes from a box. The first time he heard me order my filet mignon “well-done,” David reacted with shock and disgust, as though I’d slapped him in the face. After many lectures and bouts of pleading, he now has me ordering “medium,” though I usually whisper an aside to our servers, “on the well side of medium.”

I was raised to fear partially cooked food — pink is evil and will hurt you. “Better overcooked than undercooked” is a

phrase I live by. This time, I was rooting for Robert, who said the turkey wasn’t done cooking until a thermometer plunged into its breast read 180 degrees. David maintained that the thermometer should be aimed at the “innermost part of the thigh,” and that the meat should be yanked from the grill once it hit 165.

After a few hours of turkey tug-of-war, the guys started busting out evidentiary exhibits to support their claims. David pulled up a handful of websites to corroborate his number, none of which impressed Robert, who clutched in his hands the guidebook that had come with his grill, and the Weber Company was unambiguous about the number 180. I sat nearby, trying to read, as the two men emphatically rebuffed each other’s sources by insisting their own were more reliable.

“You might not be cooking that turkey at all,” said Judith from the doorway. Ency’s sister glided into the room, her teacup Yorkshire terrier and constant companion, Nicholas Alexander, circling her ankles. In answer to our unasked question, Judith swept the air with her arm in an elaborate gesture to indicate the room from which she had just emerged. Judith reminds me of old Hollywood, or what would have happened if Eva Gabor and Katherine Hepburn were merged into one actress and then given the role of Blanche DuBois. She

The first time he heard me order my filet mignon “well-done,” David reacted with shock and disgust, as though I’d slapped him in the face.

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speaks in an unhurried manner, which is disarming in the way of snake venom, and seems to anesthetize victims with her electric wit, so that they cannot immediately detect the burn of her jolting humor. One morning, when I thought everyone had gone to the store, I ran downstairs, burst into the kitchen, and stopped just short of smacking into Judith. Before I could explain myself, Judith remarked nonchalantly, "Oh, hi, you must have heard me calling you." Her eyes remained on mine, the barest hint of a devilish smile tugging at the corner of her lips, as

she again pressed the little device she held in her hand — a clicker she uses to call Nicholas.

Now standing at the head of the table, Judith again had that impish gleam in her eyes. "Ency-kaem is checking the newspaper to see if hunting season has begun. I think she wants to send you boys out with guns." David and Robert shared a confused look, but I knew what Judith was talking about. The day before, while traipsing through the woods on a damp and colorful carpet of leaves, Ency and I heard gunshots. Ency halted, turned to me, and said, "My

friend Nancy eats wild turkey every year. I wonder what it tastes like." The island is rampant with wild turkeys. One gang likes to hang out at the base of a local jungle gym, with their leader (it turns out turkeys can fly) perched six feet off the ground on the topmost monkey bar.

"They can't go hunting now," I said. "First of all, David would never consider holding a gun. But even more importantly, where are we supposed to get bright orange vests at this hour?"

"I guess you're right," said Judith with a sigh. "Orange wouldn't suit

David's complexion."

"And, anyway," I added, "They can't even decide on how to cook the bird we have." I returned to my reading and blocked out the sound of the ongoing turkey dispute. When Robert said, "Okay, 170 it is," I dropped my book. Before that moment, the possibility of Robert giving in to an argument fell shortly behind that of Paris Hilton making it through Harvard Law School. With the aid of his laptop and Google, David had finally located a page his father found persuasive. Robert stepped into the frigid air to fire up the grill, and David's sister,

Michelle, entered the room. "Your dad just said he'd cook the turkey to 170," I informed her.

"Really?" Michelle said. Then, to David, she said, "You must be happy. That's closer to your number than his. How did you convince him?"

"I just had to find a source he trusted," David said. Smiling triumphantly, he turned his laptop so that Michelle and I could see the screen.

"Is that a joke or is there really a 'meat and poultry hotline?'" I asked, pointing to the 800-number at the bottom of the Web page. Michelle laughed, but David was all

seriousness. Summarizing his find, a gem that put all his other attempts to shame, he said, "It's a government source — the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods, or NACMCF. I showed Dad that 180 *used to be* the right number, but that the government recently changed it to 165. He's still cooking it more than it needs to be cooked, but there's always next year," David said cheerfully. "Look how many years it took me to get you to order your steak 'medium' instead of 'incinerated.' Baby steps, baby. Baby steps." ■

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*Chris Kearns*



*Brandon*



*Brian Manning*

# Night is my day

## **UNDER THE CARE OF RUDFORD'S GRAVEYARD SERVERS**

Though flanked by Jack in the Box and, farther up the street, a Denny's, the diner stands out as being a good after-party, post-drinking weekend hangout...or, at the very least, a place to park yourself and get huevos rancheros and a cup of sober-up coffee. As far as diners go, it looks the

part, which is a lot of the appeal, with burgundy pleather booths, a Formica-topped counter, and oval-shaped windows. Rudford's definitely has the old-style, train-car-influenced pattern many diners of the 1940s adopted but which has since been put to the wayside.



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On Friday night, notorious for being the most hectic time, the diner and its patrons fall under the care of Brandon and Alicia, the graveyard servers, both of whom work 9:00 p.m.–5:00 a.m. every week. They work with a natural fluidity, each aware of the other's movements.

The diner is divided into front and back, each outfitted with its own soda and coffee stations and each designed to be manned by one server at a time, but the two are frequently in each other's spaces. Alicia refills lemon bowls behind the counter as Brandon dashes past her, dipping a scoop into one of the ice buckets before pouring a soda. They have inches to spare; the space between the wall and the counter is barely large enough for two people to pass, and Brandon and Alicia maneuver around each other, jetting back and

forth to the glassless rectangular window where orders come up, clipping their slips to a rotating, chandelier-like wheel suspended inside. The cook, visible from the waist up, squints at the orders before, shielded from view, he prepares the food. The comforting

yard shifts a year ago when the manager, who only works in the day-time, offered him the shift.

"Nobody wanted to do graveyard," he says, "especially on a Friday night, where it's very stressful and very busy and you need to know

## "Nobody wanted to do graveyard," Brandon says, "especially on a Friday night."

smell of mashed potatoes fills the restaurant and mingles with the tinny sound of piped-in oldies from unseen speakers.

Brandon, 23, is tall and lanky with a slow, infectious smile. In his spare time, he builds computers. He eventually wants to go back to school for a degree in technology. Brandon started working grave-

the menu and the customers. A lot of people don't survive."

So far, Brandon has been happy as a night worker, adopting it into his general routine. He lives in El Cajon, drives 20 miles to work in the evening and home again in the early morning, then sleeps until 12:00 or 1:00 in the afternoon. During the day, he man-

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ages to get his errands done, hang out with friends, and, of course, build a computer or two.

Alicia, 28, only works graveyard on Fridays, though she used to take on a full week of night shifts. She has a mane of dark hair and friendly brown eyes and can switch effortlessly between English and Spanish when talking to customers. She's a mother of two, Briana, 11, and Alexis, 8, and has finished a program in medical billing and coding that, ultimately, she decided is not for her.

"So many times I've tried to broaden my horizons," she laughs, "but I keep coming back here. I get real attached to my customers. I can never work a nine-to-five behind a computer. If you can, more power to you, but my personality doesn't really fit that profession."

It was hard for her, however, doing graveyard

every night, especially with the two kids, who stay with her mother while she works the late shifts.

"Being a single mom is demanding," Alicia says, recalling the days when she would have to be up for her older daughter's softball games after a hard night of

cereal. That's why I'm lucky. I think if they were younger it would be harder."

Outside, it has long since gotten dark. It's just past midnight, and customers have begun trickling in; a few couples, mostly young, and a smattering of older folks. This Friday is slower than

## "So many times I've tried to broaden my horizons," Alicia laughs, "but I keep coming back here."

work.

"I'd just go and suck it up and sleep during the day," she says, "but my kids are a little older [now]. When they're hungry they can make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. So, if they know I'm tired, they'll get themselves a bowl of

normal, according to Brandon and Alicia, and they have more time to relax and chat with each other and with the customers. A few of the regulars have seated themselves at the bar. One is a retired electrician with Coke-bottle glasses, and the other is Arturo, a

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broad-faced man in a blue shirt, a late-night fixture at the diner.

"Hey, Arturo!" Alicia calls, as he lumbers up to the counter. Arturo grins at her and waves.

"He comes in and talks to us," says Brandon, casting an eye in Arturo's direction. "He loves to say, 'Can I bug you right now?' 'Cause he likes to bug us, definitely, when we're busy."

Both Brandon and Alicia have a roster of regulars. Some come in during the day, but many come in the night hours.

"The regulars are the people who go out every Friday night," Alicia says.

"We have [cus-

tomers] who have been here since the '80s, that come in every day," says Brandon. "They live their everyday lives, and they get to know us on a personal basis."

Alicia in particular has bonded to a number of pregnant women who come in at all hours, craving a strange assortment of food. Laughing, she says she often doesn't know their names, just those of their unborn children.

"I feel like I'm their auntie when the babies are growing, because I feed [the moms] through the whole pregnancy, when they're craving bread pudding, ice

cream, pickles...I mean, weird [stuff]."

She turns to the retired electrician.

he jokes.

The bar rush has started, though, as Brandon and Alicia report, it's

**"I have a heart for this group of people," Chris says, sitting at her desk as the women and children sleep soundly outside.**

"Can I get you anything else?" she asks.

He smiles at her.

"A million dollars,"

not as busy as usual. A group of rockabilly kids traipse through to the back of the restaurant,

one in full John Travolta *Grease* regalia, complete with sculpted hair. Another wears cat's-eye glasses and an elaborate pink-and-purple hairdo. Alicia recognizes a girl in a white party dress, and they embrace, exchanging pleasantries before Alicia turns back to her work.

But not all customer interactions are good ones; the late-night crowd, especially when intoxicated, can get volatile.

"One time I had a customer who got so mad she threw a glass of water at my back and it broke against me," says Brandon, as he scratches

down an order. "I had to toss 'em out."

Alicia was sexually harassed one night by a customer who grabbed her behind as she was taking an order.

"He just comes up to me and smacks me on my booty," she says, miming the gesture.

The situation was defused when Brandon and Louie, who is both a busboy at Rudford's and a late-night regular, demanded that the offending customer leave.

Mostly, however, the customers are harmless. Often drunk, often lonely and sometimes crazy, but harmless. Late nights



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bring out the eccentrics. Brandon remembers a woman with "too much blush and frazzled hair" who told him her entire life story, while Alicia has waited on a homeless man who refused to talk, instead writing extensive notes about the impending apocalypse on restaurant napkins. Both have had their share of customers who work as pimps and prostitutes, one of whom, according to Alicia, is pregnant and still on the street.

"It's pretty sad, actually," she says, shaking her head. "I mean, it blows my mind, because they get younger and younger and younger. And this girl that's pregnant, I said, 'Girl, and you're working?' and she said, 'I got to make my money!'"

Some of the odder customers bring an uplifting spirit into the restaurant, cheering both staff and patrons.

"We have transvestites come in," Alicia says. "They love when we treat them like women 'cause they think they are. But, I mean, I don't judge anybody. They're great people, they make me laugh. They come from Lips and I ask, 'So, how was the show?' 'Great, but you missed it.' And I'll say, 'Well, give us a little taste,' and they'll, like, sing and everybody starts clapping for them. You get a little show."

As she speaks, the door flings open and two young men stumble in. One is blond and tall, the other shorter, wearing a long-sleeved, baseball-style blue shirt. Baseball Shirt lets out a piercing whistle, one that reverberates around the restaurant. He moves like a cartoon drunk, coming to rest at a table occupied by two men and a woman; his friend joins them, sliding into the opposite bench.

"Thor is going to put his giant German penis all over your leg," announces Baseball

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Shirt, partially to the table and partially to the entire restaurant.

The people in the booth look as if they're trying not to laugh.

Brandon and Alicia exchange glances.

"Well," says Alicia, with a smile and a sigh, "it's Friday!"

### SHE WATCHES OVER THE SAN DIEGO RESCUE MISSION

At 11:30 at night, number 120 is the only lit building on Elm Street. On the last block of Elm before the north 5 freeway intersects it, number 120 houses both the men's and women's/children's divisions of the San Diego Rescue Mission homeless shelter. The lobby is bright, staffed by two men who answer the phones and

control the sliding doors that admit entry into the building; a stash of Breathalyzer sticks sit in a basket by a bucket of ice water.

Christine Marquardt-Kerns, or "Chris" as she is more commonly known, arrives not long after she's paged. She is the lead residence manager for the emergency night shelter at the Rescue Mission, a job that requires her, as she puts it, to be a "jack of all trades." A friendly woman clad in a button-down shirt and plain blue jeans, Chris leads the way down a catacomb of hallways, each opened by the swipe of a card. "You can't get anywhere in here without one of these," she says, holding hers aloft. She touches it to a small pad

installed by the door and, with a click and a beep, the lock releases.

Her office, located on the ground floor, overlooks the Nueva Vida Haven, the room in

silent save for the sounds of breathing, some even-sounding, some labored. In addition to ten bunks (20 beds), the room is filled with families on pallet beds, made up

grandmothers. Some have stacked possessions in rows beside their cots and blankets. An old chrome ghetto-blaster radio rests against piles of clothing and other belongings, next to a sleeping family of three.

Chris's office is a room towards the back of Nueva Vida. It contains two desks, a computer with Internet access, a few bookshelves, and a large monitor, on which are shown fuzzy images of all the floors of the building. In addition to Nueva Vida, Chris must do facility checks for several of the residence halls, where women in the Rescue Missions' various programs are housed for the longer term. These checks she does hourly, swiping her card to get onto the elevator and to

each floor, where she walks the halls on her rounds. She must also prep the dining room for breakfast and stay on top of the laundry for the emergency night shelter; most of the laundry is linens.

"I have a heart for this group of people," she says, sitting at her desk while the women and children sleep soundly outside, "[and] with my Christian background, that's my desire, to work with this group."

For the past four years, Chris has worked nights with the Rescue Mission, often covering a 12-hour shift. Her family has been understanding, and she spends most of her off-time with her husband, children, and nieces. "I think my family is just a lot of hanging

**Bob is a shadowy figure amongst the trees. In the moonlight, his hair and beard look white, his shirt glows faintly.**

which women and children are housed for the night. Nueva Vida is dark, lit only by two orange dome lights and illumination spilling in from the hallway. It is

from whatever the shelter can find and whatever the women and their families have brought. Kids sleep in piles next to their mothers and sometimes, as Chris says, their

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out together right now," she says. "I still have two teenagers at home. Because my daughter's in high school, I've been going through a little bit, 'cause I'm, like, 'Oh, I never see you!' She's a football manager, so when she's getting off practice, I'm already at work. So...it's been tough. I think it's been tougher for me than it has been for her. When [my son] comes home from school, I'm still asleep, 'cause daytime is my nighttime, so..."

But Chris keeps a good balance, working Monday through Thursday and taking weekends off. Her job description is "pretty much a mix of a lot of things."

"You have to do a little case-managing," she says. "I do a lot of one-on-one talking with them; sometimes they just need to talk or vent. Sometimes we get a rapport going and we can joke with certain ones, making it lighter for them, so they don't have to stress all the time. We do floor checks every hour. We do laundry. Last night I did 27 loads. So we do that all night."

Besides the "routine," as Chris calls it, there are times when she must deal with emergencies.

"I had a baby delivered in here," she recalls, leaning back in her chair. "It was an experience. I was doing floor checks after about midnight, and she goes, 'I think it's time,' so I said, let me check you, and I said, 'Yes, it's time, let me call.' She was over by the bed, and the baby was already coming. By the time the paramedics came here, the baby's head was already out."

The night wears on. Chris loads and unloads washers, does her hourly check of the upstairs, patrolling the stroller-filled halls. The building used to be a hospital, she explains, which accounts for the sterile tile floors and wide-doored rooms.

It is here that the women in the various residential programs live, often up to 18 months at a time. Pictures of past residents hang on the walls, a reminder that better days are ahead.

Everything goes as

planned until the routine is broken by a call from Alma, a staff member who covers the upper floors. Chris is stocking the dining hall on the second floor when Alma reports that two cops have brought in a teenage

runaway, C., whose mother, T., is staying in the emergency night shelter. Chris shakes her head. "I told her mother she wouldn't get any sleep tonight," she says ruefully, before putting down her bin of forks to

assess the situation.

Down in the women's shelter lobby, the cops, a baby-faced rookie and a more seasoned officer, stand with C. between them. In bright orange shorts and T-shirt, C. stands defi-

antly, hands cuffed in a criss-cross behind her back. They found her, the elder officer says, down by the ballpark. An earpiece trails from his ear down behind his shoulder.

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reasons a young lady would be down there,” he says. “Prostituting and crack cocaine.”

“I was on MySpace all day,” C. insists.

“We played the name game with her for almost three hours,” the officer tells Chris and Alma. “It was lie after lie after lie. She has no problem lying to the police.”

Chris returns to Nueva Vida to wake T.,

C.’s mother, who follows groggily as Chris leads her to the lobby to collect C. Mother and daughter are the spitting image of each other, so much so that the cop even comments.

“It’s like clones!” he says.

T. smiles tightly. C., sitting on the couch, says nothing. The rookie officer releases the handcuffs, and C. rubs her

wrists, silent and sullen, but for the time being safe.

“C. doesn’t look at what the consequences could be,” Chris says, once back in her office. “That’s the part I hate. I try and get them to think. Some of the kids [that] have been on the street, they try and act like they’re grown, so a lot of times I have to remind them, ‘Hold up,

you’re only a child. Let’s slow you down a little while you’re in here.’ ”

After C. and T. settle in for the night, yet another emergency — slightly less urgent — crops up. Back in the dining room, Alma arrives to inform Chris that one of the residents upstairs, G., is complaining of back pain. She can’t get out of her bunk, and Alma calls the para-

medics while Chris tries to locate the source of the pain by pressing on the woman’s back; G. groans in pain, and Chris eventually gives up. The paramedics, once they arrive, try this too, but G. is in too much pain.

“Can you rate the pain on a scale of one to ten, ten being the worst pain you’ve ever felt?” one of the paramedics asks.

“Ten!” G. replies.

Outside the room, Chris smiles.

“They’re so young,” she whispers, referring to the two paramedics, who can’t be over 25.

“Don’t drop me!” G. jokes, as the paramedics help her onto the gurney. Though in pain, she still has a sense of humor. They wheel her into the elevator and are gone.

“A lot of people say, ‘I don’t know how you do this,’ ” says Chris, ensconced once more in her office. “God has given me this calling. When I was seven years old, I had a vision of a huge inn, and if someone needed a place to stay, they could stay. And I’ve always had a heart for what I call ‘the underdogs.’ ”

She pauses.

“I tell even my staff that get hired on, I tell them, ‘You have to be called to this job. Because if you haven’t been called to this job, you’re not going to last. You won’t make it here. Especially at night.’ ”

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The San Diego Astronomy Association’s Tierra Del Sol observatory site is about 60 miles from San Diego, just past the Golden Acorn Casino on Old Highway 80. It’s up a treacherous dirt road, nearly impossible to navigate without headlights, which one, as the driving directions indicate, must do if arriving after sunset so as not to shock the dark-adjusted eyes of the patrons.

The observatory was built in 1998 on ten acres of what president Bob Austin describes as “high desert,” a clearing of dusty ground amidst scrub trees no higher than a man’s head. It’s made up of several sites, the first of which are the “public pads,” two long walkways of concrete laid parallel across what

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serves as the observatory's parking lot. Anyone is free to leave their car, set up a telescope on a pad, and sit under the sky. A group of teenagers has pitched a row of tents, sleeping until the night's event: a meteor shower that's due to start at 4:30 a.m.

Bob is a shadowy figure amongst the trees. In the moonlight, his hair and beard look white, his shirt glows faintly. He leads the way with a slight limp, the result of back surgery, and gives an impromptu guided tour.

The observatory buildings are just beyond the public pads, he says, to the left of the wide dirt track that serves as a main artery through the compound. There are nine buildings, seven private observatories, and two public structures, a red-lighted room that serves as a clubhouse, and a station for public viewing. Each is made of

concrete, roofs fully retractable to reveal the night sky.

To the right of the road, beyond a chain-link fence, are the private pads, smaller slabs of concrete shielded by scrub. Laughter emanates from somewhere among them, oddly musical in the silence of the night. Light from red-light flashlights flicker, and shadows pass through the trees.

Bob's observatory, which he shares with two other members, is the fourth in the row of buildings. He opens it with a key and beckons entrance.

The space is about the size of a child's room, walls six or seven feet tall before they give way to the sky. The telescopes, two large, futuristic-looking contraptions, are situated on one side, equipment boxes, camping gear and a desktop computer on the other. The two scopes, Bob

explains, are an eight-inch LX200 Schmidt-Cassegrain and a ten-inch Meade Classic LX200, the latter of which is set up to take astral photographs. On the computer is a murky image of a dusty star. This, Bob explains, is the Bubble Nebula, a network of stars and gas surrounding a star called the BD602522. Bob has set his telescope camera, a Santa Barbara Instruments ST-7E, to capture 18 ten-second exposures of the nebula, which are all downloaded to his computer. The image on the screen is a sample, an outline, really; once the set of exposures is com-



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**Booze and Bullets Do Not Mix**  
Posted by Mike Hemmingson on November 28, 2007  
Encanto, guns, a murder – what a surprise. [Read more and add a comment.](#)

pleted, Bob will combine the 18 photographs together with special computer software that will generate a final, cleaner image.

He points to the screen.

"See this little frame here?" he asks, pointing at the sample image; it glows red, reflecting in his glasses. His voice is soft and even.

"There's a star in the center." He points to a crawling status bar in the corner. "The line down here, see it moving? That's a chip. It's taking a

picture, downloading it, checking to see what the error is off-center and sending a correction to

background.

Done with the photos, Bob takes a seat in one of the collapsible

# "I received a small refractive telescope for Christmas and spent hours and hours just looking at Saturn and Jupiter."

the mount to keep the star centered. The top one, that's hardly moving, it's because it's a ten-minute exposure. It's showing the progress of that one ten-minute shot."

Bob has some examples of his finished products, and he pulls them out as Rush plays softly from an unseen stereo. The shots are beautiful, swirling masses of murky blue, white, and yellow, milky orbs in both the foreground and

chairs gathered in the center of the room. Surrounded by telescopes and humming machinery, it is clear he is at home.

He had an early start; Bob's forays into astronomy began when he was in elementary school.

"I was about somewhere between 10 and 13," he says, "[when] I received a small refractive telescope for Christmas and spent hours and hours just looking at Saturn and Jupiter. It was all I could find."

He laughs.

During high school, his interest waned, but years later, when the SDAA put on an event at his daughter's school in La Mesa, he found his love for astronomy rekindled. He rejoined the SDAA, which he was a member of as a teen, and in 2001 began to experiment with astrophotography. Six years later, he now runs a website devoted to his passion, [astronomy-pictures.com](http://astronomy-pictures.com), and is considered an expert around the observatory. In 2004, he was elected president and is one of the most frequent visitors.

"I come up two to three weekends a month," he says. "I usually stay for two days just because of the cost for gas. I sleep in here."

He overnights at the observatory only when he doesn't have work the next day — Bob sets up Internet migration for Hewlett Packard in Rancho Bernardo — but

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8:00 PM Friday

8:00 PM Saturday

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OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO STATE HISTORIC PARK

# Make Peace with your Period

A research opportunity of a NATURAL PRODUCT  
for menstrual pain and discomfort.

Our physicians are participating in research to determine if the investigational use of a natural product made of five traditional Chinese herbs can reduce or cure menstrual pain and cramping.

The medical term for this condition is dysmenorrhea.

Clinical studies in China have demonstrated the product effective in treating dysmenorrhea. Millions of Chinese women have used it for years without any serious side effects. Unlike other therapies to treat menstrual pain, this product works by treating the cause of the pain.

If you have experienced dysmenorrhea in the last two months, you may qualify.

## Call to learn more:

Medical Center for Clinical Research  
William D. Koltun, M.D.  
(619) 521-2841  
Mission Valley

Participants will receive all study-related care, including physical exams, lab tests and study medication.

The First Step is Your Call



# CONSTIPATION

## Straining All The Time...Doesn't Matter What I Eat

A 9-week clinical trial for men and women between 18 and 75 years of age who struggle with the discomfort and straining associated with **chronic constipation** is underway. An oral investigational medication is being studied to evaluate the safety, tolerability and effectiveness in adult subjects with chronic constipation.

To possibly qualify:

- Male or female, between 18 and 75 years of age
- Have a history of chronic constipation (fewer than 3 bowel movements per week) for at least 6 months
- No history of abdominal surgery or abnormal EKG

Participants may receive at **no cost**:

- Study-related exam and consultation with a board-certified specialist
- Study-related labs, EKG and study medications
- Compensation for your time and travel

Interested, call:

**619-521-2841**

Medical Center for Clinical Research



# Do You Suffer From Recurrent Genital Herpes?

We are conducting a research study with an investigational medication to see if it helps reduce the healing time for genital herpes outbreaks.

To qualify, you must be at least 18 years of age, medically diagnosed with genital herpes, and be in good general health.

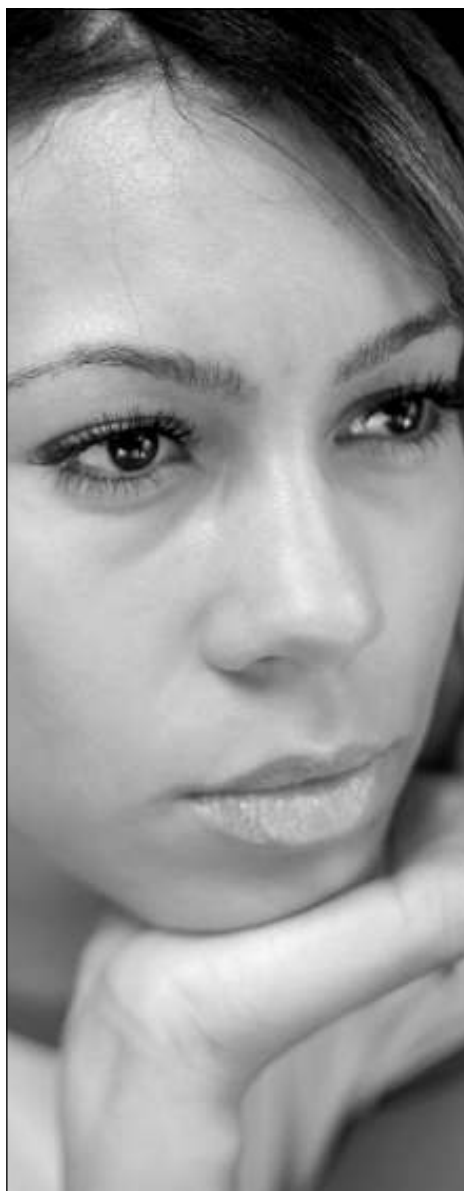
## Qualified participants will receive:

- Study medication • Laboratory tests
- Study-related physical exams
- Compensation for time and travel

For more information, call:

619-521-2841

**Medical Center for Clinical Research**



# Periods Too Heavy?

If your periods are too heavy, a research study is underway using 2 investigational products for women with heavy menstrual periods.

If you are over 18 years of age with regular periods and struggle with this heavy flow, you may want to consider this research study.

To possibly qualify you must:

- Be at least 18 years or older
- Have heavy but regular menstrual periods
- Not presently on oral contraception or willing to go off

Participants may receive study-related:

- Exam and consultation by a board-certified physician
- Lab studies, Pap smear and ultrasound
- Compensation

For more information call:

**619-521-2841**

Medical Center for Clinical Research





## 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.**

Clinical  
Research Center  
**SHARP** Mesa Vista  
Hospital

MV66A ©2007 SHC

there are times when he has to scramble his schedule.

“We had a meteor shower a couple of weeks ago,” he says, “and it happened to be on a Sunday night, in the early morning. I made arrangements to not come in Monday, and I made up for it by working on a Saturday.”

There are a handful of others who also frequent the observatory. Bob describes them as he leads the way back down the path to the public rooms. Dirt crunches under his feet.

“We’ve got Alice,” he says. “She’s up here a lot. She’s also the corresponding secretary. And the guy with the loud laugh, that’s Jim, he’s our director. So there’s the core group that comes up a lot. We love it up here.”

Back at the public viewing room, the diehard regulars have

assembled, sitting around the telescope in plastic chairs. The light in the room is dim and red and highlights the faces of Jim, Alice, Jim’s stepdaughter Angie, her daughter Colleen, and

*some*,” says Angie, eyes shining.

A bartender by trade, Angie was introduced to the sky by her stepfather. She attended a meteor shower a number of years ago and loved it

**“Meteors,” she says, “they’re fabulous. Out here, you see meteors and the Milky Way, and it’s gorgeous, it’s unbelievable.”**

stepdaughter C.C. — both of whom are getting a few hours of sleep. Everyone is killing time before the meteor shower, which, according to Jim, happens once every 300 years.

“It’s going to be *awe-*

and has come up to the observatory on a somewhat frequent basis ever since. “It was so freaking cold,” she says, almost breathlessly, “it was so cold...I’ve never seen anything like it before in my life. They were right

### RESEARCH STUDIES

#### OPIOID-INDUCED CONSTIPATION BRINGING YOUR LIFE TO A STANDSTILL?

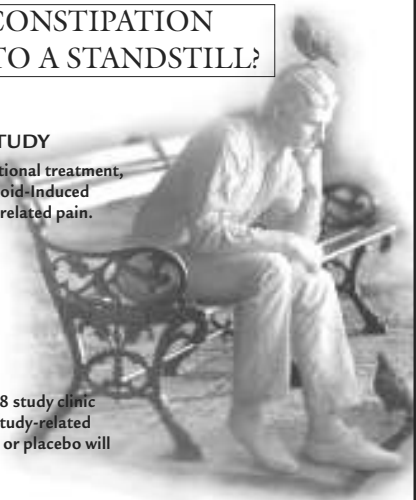
##### GET MOVING AND JOIN OUR OIC RESEARCH STUDY

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 study clinic visits and at least 1 telephone call to assess any side effects. All study-related office visits, medical evaluations, and investigational medication or placebo will be provided to qualified study participants at no cost.



**PACIFIC SLEEP  
MEDICINE SERVICES**

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

**1.866.410.6767**

#### MISS RESTFUL SLEEP?



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

## 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

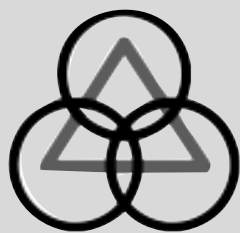
##### QUALIFIED PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE, AT NO COST:

- 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**



# SYNERGY CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTER

*"Together...we can make a difference!"*

## Do you or someone you love suffer from **Alzheimer's Disease?**

If you are:

- Male or female between 50 and 85 years of age
- Fluently read and speak English
- Are in good general health

**You may be eligible to participate in a clinical research trial for an investigational new medication.**

Participants will receive at no cost:

- Study-related exams • Investigational drug
- Compensation for travel-related costs to attend study visits

For more information, please call:

**1-888-619-7272**



SYNERGY CLINICAL  
RESEARCH

## 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**



## 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.



SYNERGY CLINICAL  
RESEARCH

## **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**

## **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](http://www.parAGOnstudy.com)**

## **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.

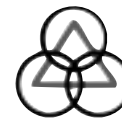
*Seroquel® is a registered trademark of Astra-Zeneca.*

**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**



SYNERGY CLINICAL  
RESEARCH

[www.synergysandiego.com](http://www.synergysandiego.com)



## Are you taking moderate to high doses of pain medication for cancer but still experiencing breakthrough episodes of pain (Breakthrough Cancer Pain)?

We are seeking volunteers for a clinical research study to test the effectiveness and safety of a medication for such pain episodes. This will be delivered by a simple nasal spray, which may mean that the medication works more quickly.

Volunteers should be cancer patients over the age of 18 taking moderate to high doses of pain medication daily and still suffering from at least one episode of Breakthrough Cancer Pain a day.

Trial participants will be regularly monitored by qualified medical staff.

**To learn more about this study, please call  
Ritchken & First M.D.'s Donna Perez at: 858-292-0108 ext. 207**

**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.

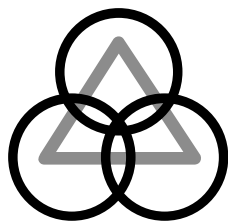
To find out if you qualify for this study, or for more information, please call:  
858-566-8222

**The California Neuropsychopharmacology Clinical Research Institute, LLC  
"CNRI, LLC"**

# Weight Loss

At Synergy Research Center we participate in investigational research studies for this and many other conditions.

For more information  
**call: 888-619-7272**



**SYNERGY CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTERS**

here in front of you, like a..."

She makes a *whoosh* sound, drawing her arm across her face, before continuing. "They just sort of went on forever."

Alice, sitting across from her, nods.

"Meteors," she says, "they're fabulous. Out here, you see meteors and the Milky Way, and it's gorgeous, it's unbelievable."

A small, spectacled woman in her mid-50s, Alice has been coming to the observatory for over 12 years. She has her own

private pad and is on the site almost every weekend, often staying overnight.

"When I first started doing astronomy, I thought I knew the sky," she says. "I knew the constellations, I knew the basic stars...[then] I came out here, and I couldn't find anything. Because there were too many stars! It was so dark out here. That was 12 years ago. There were so many stars I couldn't even find the constellations. It was unbelievable. I came out here and I couldn't even find the

Big Dipper."

These days, the stars are getting harder to find for another reason: light pollution. According to Jim, there are plans for a big casino in the works that would go up on one of the Native American reservations that border the observatory, something that would greatly decrease visibility for the astronomers. While busy trying to fight that, the observatory members also must contend with an increase in neighboring houses, some of which are blasting the area with light.

## RESEARCH STUDIES



## 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**

## Smoking too much pot?

**WE WANT TO HELP YOU STOP!**

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

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

or visit **www.pearsoncenter.org**

for more detailed information.





## Schizophrenia

**can tear families apart.**

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

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

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

- They receive compensation for their participation.
- They receive no-cost research study-related 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



## 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.



**858-571-1188**

Toll-free 800-571-1188  
www.cctstudy.com



## Depression

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

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



## 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.



**858-571-1188**

Toll-free 800-571-1188  
www.cctstudy.com



## Do You Have Insomnia? Are You Taking Ambien?

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.



**858-571-1188**

Toll-free 800-571-1188  
www.cctstudy.com



## Does the constant urge to go to the bathroom disrupt your sleep?

You may qualify to participate in a clinical research study of an investigational medication designed as treatment for adults with Nocturia (frequent nighttime urination).



### Participants must be:

- 40 to 75 years of age
- Have experienced Nocturia for at least 3 months
- In generally good health

Qualified participants may receive study related medical care and study medication at no cost as well as compensation up to \$2,000 for time and travel.

### For more information, call:

eStudySite at (619) 321-6604 or toll free 1 (877) 857-2084



"We've gone out and bought shielded lighting and gone house to house and said, 'Can we install this?'" says Jim, referring to special fixtures that control the light rather than let it flood. "And we've had pretty good luck with a couple of people."

The lights, he explains, are often used to keep illegal immigrants from crossing a property, an issue Tierra Del Sol faces as the town — and the observatory — is only 12 miles from the border.

"We get people crossing our property," says Alice, "and you know the truth is, they don't want to bother us, we don't want to bother them." She pauses. "I may be the only one on the property. I come out here alone sometimes. And you know, it's a safety issue. I don't want to... I don't want somebody

jumping me when I'm out here alone."

"That's why people in the community are putting out these flood-lights on their property," Jim says.

But, for now, the view of the sky remains somewhat unhindered — to the untrained eye, at least — and the astronomers can carry on with their work.

The night continues. The astronomers break from their group, Bob to his observatory, Jim and Angie to wake up Angie's kids, and Alice to lie on the slab of concrete outside the public viewing room, arms crossed under her head, looking up at the stars.

She mentions that women who work night shifts have a higher rate of breast cancer than those who don't.

"We are meant to live a certain way," she says. "Daylight, night-

time. The whole thing. When we don't live in concert with the natural world, things don't work."

Yet, every weekend she is up all night with the sky, willing to take the risk.

"I come here for my sanity," she says.

At 3:00, everyone assembles again, congregating outside the public viewing room in white plastic chairs. Bob has come back from checking the photos, and Angie's family, Colleen and C.C., arrive, bleary-eyed and excited. The group of teenagers has awakened, and they set up their chairs, settling in shyly. Their chaperone, the father of four of the kids, cradles his ten-year-old daughter on his lap. The little girl tilts her head upwards. "It's gorgeous," she breathes.

Everyone sits, necks craned, watching and

## RESEARCH STUDIES

Celebrate with us at our new office Sat., Dec. 15, 10 am-3 pm.



## Neck or lower back pain?

Arm or leg pain • Numbness  
Cramping • Weakness

## Tired of nothing working?

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

Bulging Disc After Decompression



- Disc Herniation
- Degenerative disc
- Sciatica
- Spinal stenosis
- Facet syndrome

## 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!

### New location!

**2555 Camino del Rio South #201**

Celebrate with us Sat., Dec. 15, 10 am-3 pm

Giveaways – decompression treatment program, flat-screen TV



Dr. Theo H. Kircher, QME, Chiropractor  
866-887-5790  
sdspinaldecompression.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 CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTERS**

**888-619-7272**

## RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

Are you taking only one of the following:

**RISPERDAL  
OLANZAPINE  
SEROQUEL  
ABILIFY**

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



## Tired of the weight? A Type II diabetic?

### Are you:

- A Type II diabetic?
- In overall good health?
- Currently suffering from obesity?
- Between 18 and 70 years of age?
- 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](http://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](http://www.ari-inc.com)



## Too Shy?

Trouble with dating? Parties? Public speaking?  
Starting conversations? Speaking to authority figures?  
Always worried about what other people think of you?

Confidential help is available. You may be eligible to

### Receive Free Treatment

with computerized therapy as part of a research program.

Call: **619-229-3740** or e-mail: [SDSUCUTA@hotmail.com](mailto:SDSUCUTA@hotmail.com)  
<http://nas.psy.sdsu.edu>

CENTER FOR UNDERSTANDING AND TREATING ANXIETY

6386 Alvarado Court, Suite 301, San Diego



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
- Supervised care by medical professionals during the study
- 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, please call:

**(619) 688-6565**

See our website: [www.ari-inc.com](http://www.ari-inc.com)



## Anxiety?

If you are troubled by worries, tenseness, difficulty sleeping or concentrating, you may be eligible for

✓ **Anxious/Worried?**

✓ **Difficulty  
Sleeping?**

✓ **Restless/Tense?**

✓ **Difficulty  
Concentrating?**

### free treatment

as part of a clinical trial of a computerized treatment program for generalized anxiety disorder at the San Diego State University Psychology Department.

Center for Understanding  
and Treating Anxiety

Call: **(619) 229-3740**  
<http://nas.psy.sdsu.edu>



## Is your Schizophrenia medication making you heavy?

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](http://www.ari-inc.com)





## BOTOX® as low as \$5.16/unit

BOTOX injections take as little as 15 minutes and last 3 to 9 months. **\$8 per unit** for first area, **\$6 per unit** second area, **\$5.16 per unit** third area introductory price (25 units per area). Results may vary.

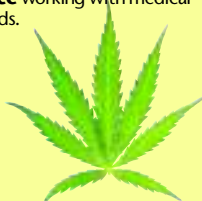
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waiting. Overhead, Orion and Gemini twinkle.

"I saw one!" yells Colleen.

"Where? I missed it," C.C. pouts.

Bob points to a bare patch of sky.

"It was there," he says.

Everyone waits until another meteor, unmistakable and bright, cuts a line across the blackness, leaving a long trail until it fizzles out. It lasts mere seconds but feels longer, somehow, suspended. Everyone exclaims in unison.

Angie hugs herself, arms covered by a sweatshirt.

"See?" she says. "Awesome!"

### GEEKY MEETINGS FOR LATE-NIGHT LINUX USERS

It's going on 9:30 p.m. when a small portion of the San Diego Kernel Panic Linux Users'

Group — Brian, Rodney, Gil, Jim, Jim (again), Tracy, and Neil — arrive at the Denny's on Friars Road. An odd bunch at first glance, as the age differences between some of the men are considerable, they wait in the foyer until a host appears.

He looks warily at the group. "You might not all be able to sit with each other," he says. "Or I could push some tables together."

The men glance at each other; they are used to this. "This happens every time we come here," someone says.

A waitress catches sight of the group and smiles in recognition. She frowns when told of the table situation.

"You're regulars!" She looks around the restaurant. "Come on," she says.

For the past ten years, the Kernel Panic Linux Users Group has

met, first at the San Diego County Department of Education Office, and then, for the "after-meeting," at Denny's. Their final destination, however, is located somewhere in cyberspace.

KPLUG, as it's commonly known, has an active Internet relay chat — or IRC — channel. Located on the freenode server on the IRC system, #kernel-panic, as the name appears within the IRC structure, is the online home of the Users' Group, a network of (mostly) men who get together to discuss — among other things — computer networking and the operating system called Linux. Mostly, though, the channel is their little corner of the Net, where they, as one chatter put it, "BS with our friends."

IRC looks like something out of the Matrix,

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only a little less flashy. Information zips by on a central screen, or “console,” as server connections are made, each one spitting out a long string of news, updates, and of course, the status of the connection. Once in a chat room (commonly known as a “channel”), text goes by with astounding speed; several different people, known only by their IRC aliases (or nicknames), carry on several different conversations at once. Everything is typed into a small box. Hit “enter” and the text disappears, only to flash onto the chat room screen seconds later.

But the Matrix is a baby compared to IRC, which was developed in the late 1980s. Born from Internet discussion groups and eventually used during a media blackout to provide updates on the Soviet coup of 1991, it allows users to connect to vari-

ous servers and, in near real time, chat with (potentially) millions of people all over the world.

Linux, like Windows or Mac OS X, works as a computer’s backbone, handling everything from running complex applications to displaying the correct date and time. Unlike Windows and Mac OS X, Linux is free...for those who can devote the time and energy to learning how to use it. Part of what is known as open-source software, Linux is fully available to the public,



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**Qualified participants will receive study-related medical exams and  
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**Medical insurance is not required for study participation.**

right down to the code with which it was made. "With Linux, you get access to the source code, the computer instructions that are used to build the operating system software," Brian, one of the KPLUG members, explains in an email. "You can make changes to those instructions if you wish." This means that, if so inclined, people can add on, take out, and revamp the system to their liking.

Finally, the KPLUG-gers are seated; it takes four small Denny's tables to accommodate everyone. The men get down to business, consulting menus. A tired-looking waitress, who wilts a little at the size of the group, takes drink orders. Save for a few waters, most order something caffeinated.

Out of the seven men at the after-meeting, three frequent the Kernel

Panic chat room. Two are channel operators, or "ops," meaning that they have some degree of control over the channel.

One of these ops is the aforementioned Brian, or "spicyjack" as he is known in the channel. He's a tall man with bright blue eyes and arrives at the meeting on a BMW motorcycle. Dressed in a yellow flak jacket and a bright orange Amoeba Music T-shirt, he has attended KPLUG meetings for the past ten years and has been a channel op for about as long.

"Channel ops in #kernel-panic don't really have formal 'duties,'" he says in an email before the meeting. "Sometimes channel ops will kick people out of the channel who are obnoxious, or they'll kick people out of the channel to *be* obnoxious. Most of the channel ops know each other in

person as well as online, and a lot of us also share the responsibility of running the user groups' mail and Web server."

Brian figures he spends an average of 8–12 hours a day connected to the channel — if not actively chatting in it — on weekdays, and about 4–8 hours on the weekends.

"On weekends, I try to 'unplug' [and] not sit on the computer all day," he says, "as I think that too much of anything is not healthy."

Though he doesn't stay up too, too late on the weekends, Brian still finds himself in the channel past midnight. Like many others in the channel, he often leaves the chat room running on his computer when he's doing other things.

The other two channel ops at the meeting are Tracy (known as "tessier") and Neil, a.k.a.

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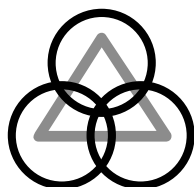
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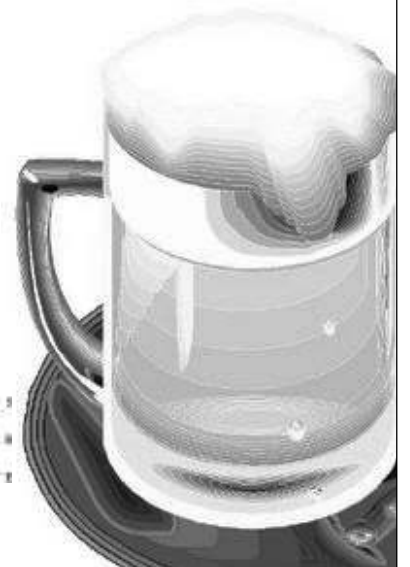
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**Participants will:** • Attend eight study visits • Be randomly assigned to one of two glucose meters

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“pacneil.” Tracy, a younger, clean-shaven man in a black button-down, has been with the channel since 1995. He’s had access to the Internet since the late ’80s as the

result of a job on a military base and now holds a job as the director of IT at Interactivate, a Web design and Internet marketing company.

“One of the reasons

I’m up late a lot is because part of it kind of fits my natural sleep pattern,” he says. He sips his Coke. “Like I say, once I’m awake, I’m awake, once I’m asleep, I’m

asleep — but also, once I get working on a computer problem and I’m into it and I’m making progress, I don’t want to stop. It’s one of those things where once you

get in the zone, or whatever you want to call it, and you’re actually making progress, you want to keep going while the going’s good.”

The food arrives and

everyone digs in. Some have ordered full meals, like Jim, who’s having the senior turkey dinner, while others, like the other Jim, have only dessert. It takes the waitress three trips to deliver all the meals, which she carries on a large, round tray.

The after-meeting winds down just before 11:30. They all settle their bill individually, and then they split up, some to turn in the towel, others to hit the channel — namely Tracy, Neil, and Brian — before eventually settling down to catch a few hours of sleep.

In the channel, conversations cross the board. Tracy shares a favorite Web-comic and playfully argues with his girlfriend, known in the channel as “tr1nity,” about his late-night habits.

“The worst part about staying up late is having a gf,” he types, using the online abbreviation of “girlfriend.”

“I do not hate staying up late,” tr1nity counters, “if I can just get up at noon, then I can stay up [the] whole night.”

Tr1nity, who will be working on her MBA next year, currently has two part-time jobs. She was, Tracy reports, sleeping in the car during the KPLUG meeting.

“I know someday she’ll get tired of trying to accompany me to these geeky meetings,” he types, then addresses her directly.

“Want to go to the Asterisk users’ group next Friday? I’m going. You can sleep there in the library too. You can come with me to meetings and sleep in all sorts of exotic locations,” he jokes.

Soon after, at around 12:30, he and tr1nity sign off, as does Brian.

“Stick a fork in me, I’m done,” he types, before slipping away from his computer. ■

— Rosa Jurjevic

## RESEARCH STUDIES

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# ONE MAN, ONE WOMAN, NO BABY



Kelly Anjon had called the San Diego Institute of Pathology in Solana Beach, and a woman there had told her the results of a test: she was pregnant. That was July 8, 1982, the same day Kelly had rented us a home in Cardiff. The home was our first together, Kelly was my girlfriend, and the pregnancy was a mistake. The two weeks that followed were so intense that actions were forced, distorted, as if only a day remained in our lives. What to do about the pregnancy became the inescapable center of Kelly's life. She had never imagined that the decision whether to have an abortion could become something so confusing and emotionally painful. During that time I learned a great deal, nothing of which was moral in the sense of whether abortion is right or wrong, but about feeling sympathy for a woman who must make such a decision, and how best to support her. What I learned I wish I had already known. The story is true; only the names of the women have been fictionalized.

The first person Kelly called was Robin Aswell, one of her best friends. Robin was a Grossmont College nursing student, and she had gone through two abortions herself. Earlier in the week Kelly had told her she could be pregnant, but that she

hoped she wasn't. Now that Kelly knew she was pregnant, Robin was a good person to call; she understood.

"Oh my God," she said. "What will you do?"

"I'm not sure."

"How many weeks pregnant are you?"

"Nine, I think."

"I feel so badly for you."

I was in Los Angeles when Kelly called. My decision was made: I wanted the abortion. However, I wouldn't tell her what to do, not because I'm benevolent, but rather I was certain that without my saying anything, she would quickly opt for the abortion. I assumed a liberal attitude and asked, "What do you want to do?"

"I don't know."

"Did you tell your

parents?"

"I can't. I'm embarrassed to tell them. I feel that they'll think I've done something terribly wrong." She hesitated. "I told Robin."

"Great." Her friends had always been a sore spot between us in the nine months we'd known each other. "Couldn't you have waited to tell me first? Maybe I don't want your friends to know. Did you ever think of that?"

"Stop it."

*"I can't afford to buy a bed and pay for an abortion too."*

*"Hey!" Her voice rose in pitch, tightening. "I never said I'd have an abortion."*

"I just wish you'd let me know these things first."

"All right already."

I was mad and frustrated. She was always telling

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me she knew intuitively when she could get pregnant. Bull. “What do you want to do?”

“I don’t know. I’m going to Elario’s to hear jazz. I’ll be back before 12. We can talk then.” She wanted to change the subject. This one was too pressured. “By the way, I rented us a home in Cardiff today. Aren’t you happy?”

“Very.”

“Only there’s no bed. But I know where we can buy a futon.”

“No. I can’t afford to buy a bed and pay for an abortion too.”

“Hey!” Her voice rose in pitch, tightening. “I never said I’d have an abortion.”

“All right. But I don’t want to buy a bed.”

“But aren’t you at least glad we have a home? We can make our place really nice.”

“But I don’t want to buy a bed. You have one in storage we can use.”

“I’m tired of talking about beds.”

As it was, she arrived home too late to talk. But she later described the dream

she had that night. In a doctor’s office, she lay on a metal table, her skirt drawn past her hips, her belly big and round like a hill, her body sopped in sweat. Lights glared. The doctor came holding a long needle. He stuck it inside her vagina and pulled a bloody mass from her. But

ously considered having the child. Mary Tomkovich’s abortion was in 1977 when she and Kelly were each 22 years old. Mary lived with a jazz musician in a studio in Carmel Valley. He was like a child. He assured her everything was all right when everything wasn’t all right.

*While I wanted children — maybe even five of them eventually — our first wasn’t to come for another year, with one to follow every 18 months. That was the plan. The baby she now carried was not part of the plan.*

he couldn’t sever from her body what he pulled. He pulled and pulled, and the pulling hurt. She screamed and awoke. She stayed up through the night.

Almost all of Kelly’s friends had been pregnant and unmarried. All decided to have abortions; none seri-

A big, strong woman, still Mary had cried after it was over. But the bad feeling — that the baby had been ripped out of her — didn’t last long.

That night Mary and Kelly went to dinner in Encinitas, at the Shepherd. They talked about things other than the abortion. They

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joked and laughed. To Kelly, Mary's abortion wasn't a big thing. That a frequently bitter national controversy raged over a 1973 Supreme Court decision — which nearly completely unfettered women from legal restrictions to obtain abortions through the first six months of pregnancy — hardly made a dent in Kelly's consciousness.

Robin underwent her second abortion in 1979. She didn't know whether the father lived in Hawaii or California. The first abortion had been physically painful. During Robin's second abortion, performed by a North

County gynecologist, as she lay on the metal examination table, she tried to get up and walk away. The nurse held her hand and said relax, that she had already made her decision to have one. Kelly paid scant attention to Robin, when after the second abortion Robin continually questioned social mores — why couldn't she have a baby and not be married? Even in 1981, when Linda Covici — an artist friend from Carlsbad — had her abortion, Kelly intellectually understood that her friend needed support, but Kelly talked with her about the decision more from duty

than emotional empathy. Abortion was just a thing people did when they got pregnant.

Kelly's pregnancy, however, wasn't an isolated crisis in her life. She had undergone surgery in early April for an ovarian cyst, but her whole ovary was removed. For three months following, she was depressed. She had given up her home in Solana Beach because with the surgery she couldn't work and thus couldn't afford the rent. Being forced to live again in Del Mar with her mother and father only made her feel worse. I did what I could to support her during that period — I cooked for her, I loaned her money, I spent a lot of time sitting with her inside the house. I should say I also intensely felt the loss of her ovary. In reaction, in fear of losing my own health, I began to run five to ten miles daily.

Slowly I built up my physical stamina to a level equal to that when I played basketball six years earlier. My daily running routine worked to discipline my mind as well as my body. Also, at age 26 I was involved in the

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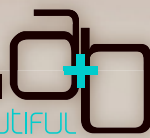
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newspaper and magazine business as a writer, and that, I came to understand, has little to do with softness or sympathy or paying heed to the feelings of other people (sometimes even one's lover) but a lot to do with meeting deadlines. That kind of tension was transforming me the way boiling water hardens an egg, and about as quickly. I put intellectual pragmatism above the freedom (or natural inclination) to follow one's emotions and feelings. But Kelly never felt pressured to succeed in a career; she was born into a wealthy family and knew she

could always turn homeward when in need of money—if she were desperate. Many evenings when Kelly went with friends to the Triton to listen to jazz, I would stay home to work. What I denied she embraced.

I had wanted life to go smoothly after the ovarian cyst. But now in July, when Kelly was finally happy and active again, enjoying walks and running, came the pregnancy. While I wanted children—maybe even five of them eventually—our first wasn't to come for another year, with one to follow every 18 months. That was the

plan. The baby she now carried was not part of the plan, a road hazard in need of removal. In my journal I wrote of the resentment and

things as a home of our own. That second week in July I felt my anger all the more intensely, because she said she felt no anger or resent-

*"People are so selfish. It's not that you think it would be unfair to the baby to be born. The baby would be unfair to you."*

anger I felt that such complications—and her need for my emotional support—took me away from my work, work that produced the money for us to have such

ment, yet insinuated little things about me, quick stinging barbs—I cared more about money than about her and the living thing she carried.

At the same time, something intriguing and provocative was also occurring. What was inside Kelly was more like a human than I had imagined. By the tenth week, a little miniature person had formed, half the size of my thumb, a bump on the wall of Kelly's uterus. The head was inordinately large compared to the rest of the body, the eye orbitals forming, little dots for ears, tiny arms and legs. And I wondered: was the embryo cognizant on a human level? A brain the size of my fingernail. Could it function? What is human cognizance? How do you

judge functionality? I wondered whether what was inside her possessed a soul.

Did the soul arise as the result of earthly living, a collection of one's experiences in the world? Perhaps the soul preceded earthly living, from the moment of conception. Or maybe the soul came when the fetus "quickened," when the mother felt its movements, a belief commonly held in this country 250 years ago. I wondered if the soul survived after the body's biological death. I thought that, even if the soul were immortal and appeared sometime during

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the embryonic or fetal stage, it wouldn't be too badly upset at having to go directly to the soul world and not having the opportunity to exist in the earthly world.

Even if there were such a soul (what is a soul?) and it would be upset by an abortion, no guilt plagued my conscience. War and abortion. Some people may say both are forms of murder. But how easily they're accepted by society as natural phenomena, despite the sorrow each may bring. And since the spiritual questions couldn't be empirically proven, rather requiring some degree of faith, of which I have very little, I put aside that question. I decided to get on with more pragmatic matters, such as the cost of having the child, or how long Kelly would wait before an abortion would become quite expensive. Maybe my thoughts and words qualify me as a perfectly horrible and evil person. Some right-to-life proponents, in fact, may want to stone me, which wouldn't be very forgiving or Christian of them.

I much prefer those right-to-lifers who would choose to pray for me. Kelly probably wondered what the hell was wrong with me. Regardless of my feelings about abortion, she questioned why I couldn't at least give her more emotional support and be more patient, since she wasn't positive, but was pretty sure that if she had the abortion, a murder of some sort would be committed. And there was something else. She felt guilty that she could entertain thoughts of disavowing motherhood.

"Part of me embraced the pregnancy," Kelly wrote in her journal in the first days after she learned she was pregnant. "Yet now I had a living entity who in nine months would erupt from my body and start a chain of demands, beginning with feeding and changing, etc., and never ending until the day I died, asking for money, cars, etc. I disliked myself for the hesitation and anxiety. After all, my mother had four children by the time she was 27 (my age) and I couldn't even caress one." But as Kelly had been with her friends who had undergone abortions — giving them her compassion mainly out of duty — I didn't know how guilty a woman could

feel or how hard the decision could be for her.

\* \* \*

I drove from Los Angeles to Cardiff on the 11th, which was a Sunday, and I planned to stay until the 14th, a

Wednesday. Kelly that day wore a cowboy shirt that had become very tight and accentuated her breasts. I liked the shirt on her; she looked sexy in it. But she said she felt embarrassed that people might know she was preg-

nant. On the couch she insisted I sit close to her. The tension between us lifted. "What do you want me to do?" she said.

"I want you to decide."

"If I want to have the child?"

"You decide."

"My baby must be almost ten weeks old."

"Is there anything to feel?"

"Like I'm carrying the ocean in my belly."

We went for a walk along

San Elijo Lagoon. The trail went down near Seabright Lane, in Solana Beach, and we walked past the broom thistle and castor brush. She walked barefoot, and the skirt she wore was patterned with blooming flowers and

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leafy limbs. We walked quietly, I think, because of the unspoken anxiety and that many of the words we each spoke were cruel, and that we were afraid those spoken with apparent understanding and sympathy would be misconstrued as spitefully intended. Also, although I didn't know it then, Kelly had made an appointment for an abortion. Her dramatic sense told her that if she were quiet now, when she told me about the appointment, the impact would be even greater. Where there was sand, near where green salt grass grew in the watery mud, we lay down and closed our eyes and lay

quietly in the warm sun. We heard each other's breathing and splashing birds skidding down into the shallows to feed. "I made an appointment with Dr. Silver on the 21st," she said. "But if I have the abortion, that's also the first day of work for me at the racetrack. I may be fired if I miss the first day."

"You can always say you had a tooth pulled."

"I can't tell them that."

"Right. They'll expect your mouth to be all swollen. Say you had a wart removed from your foot and you need a day to stay home and mourn its loss."

"This is serious. All you're doing is joking."

I poked my finger into her ribs.

"Don't. You're acting like a child."

She sat up and looked across the lagoon at the homes on the Cardiff hills. "It'll never be right for us to have a baby," she said.

"But I can't afford a baby. We haven't even got a permanent home. We need to have our own home first, but that we can't afford. We can't even afford the bill for you to have the baby in the hospital. Do you want a welfare child? The baby'll have to wear rags and newspapers for diapers."

"Money!" She spat out the word. "All people are con-

cerned with is *money*. They say they don't want a child yet, because of the money. But what about caring for what two people in love have created? People are so selfish. It's not that you think it would be unfair to the baby to be born. The baby would be unfair to *you*. That's what worries you. We could eat less. We could give good enough care. When do you think we *will* have the money? It's always so well planned with you that you completely lack spontaneity. Well, I'm going to tell you something. Things don't go like how a clock ticks; they're not ordered. You have the baby and that adds incentive to

make more money. You've got to loosen up. And feel. Can't you understand that this isn't a business proposition we're talking about? That this is something alive that we created out of love? A living thing."

"But how do you know it's living?"

"Inside I feel a child just beginning its life. What's inside is something spiritual and in that way is alive."

"But how alive?"

"I don't know, I can't prove it, if that's what you mean." We had begun to walk back. "You're always so practical; all you think about is money. You don't see the beauty in what our love has

brought."

"I'm getting awfully tired of you putting me down."

"I'm sorry."

We drove in silence back to Cardiff.

That night, as we readied to sleep, she was undressing and let her skirt fall. She stood, rounded, very white and lovely, a delicate maiden who could have been painted by an Italian artist in the 16th Century.

But my fear that she wouldn't have the abortion played on me. "Even if it is alive, you don't need to feel guilty," I said. "We're not under Christian law and you can still have the abortion."

"Something inside me

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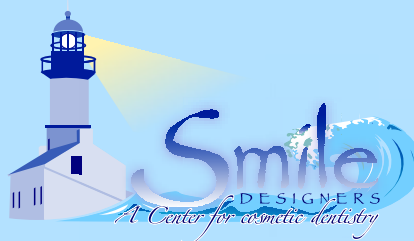
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is alive and part of me and I'm nurturing what could be our child, and you try to divorce yourself from what's happening by calling what's inside me an *it*. You're so unfeeling of what I feel. Anyway, just because I think abortion is some kind of murder, and I feel maternal, that doesn't mean I'm anything close to a Christian. Now, will you please turn off the lamp? And let's go to sleep."

She decided to have the abortion, although she wanted one sooner than the 21st. But that date was the soonest one could be scheduled with Dr. Allan Silver, whom she trusted; she was absolutely certain he was one of the best in his field in North County. When she had had the ovarian cyst, other doctors had made Kelly feel threatened by suggesting a hysterectomy might be required. Silver assured her the surgery would be far less severe. He was right. Although he had removed an ovary,

Kelly was obviously fertile. Besides, the scar across her lower belly was a faint stroke that could hardly be seen.

That she was having the abortion now would make things much easier, since up to the 12th week either one of two simple procedures could be employed to remove

The newer, more commonly employed method is vacuum suction. The cervix is again dilated. Only this time a slender tube is inserted into the uterus, the tube connected to a vacuum pump that uses low suction to clean the uterus. Then a small curette would be used to

*No wonder we are a nation of ice blood.*

*No wonder we look at starving children of other nations indifferently.*

the embryo. Dilation and curettage — D&C — was the traditional procedure and required that the opening of the cervix be dilated; that is, stretched (by tapered metal rods of graduated sizes known as dilators) until wide enough to accept a curette, which is a rod-shaped instrument with a sharp-edged spoon on one end that the doctor would gently use to scrape clean the uterine walls.

clean up. Both procedures routinely take less than ten minutes and can be performed with only a local anesthetic.

But an abortion requires money. The cost for one with Dr. Silver would be about \$125 to \$150, an amount that, with our tight budget, would make the rent, telephone, other utilities, and food bills much harder to pay. Kelly, too embarrassed to ask her parents for help, went to apply for MediCal. She called the downtown central office, and was then told to call the Oceanside office, where she had gotten MediCal earlier for her ovarian cyst surgery. Somebody at that office said Kelly needed to make an appointment. But none could be scheduled until after the 21st.

The best Kelly could do would be to drive to the Oceanside welfare office and wait until a caseworker squeezed her in on an emergency basis. On the day she

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went, while she flipped through magazines, brown-skinned women bounced their babies. Other children ran around the spare room. Other mothers dressed in patched blue jeans, raggedy clothes. Three hours later somebody missed her scheduled appointment and a caseworker called Kelly in. The caseworker said the abortion couldn't be considered an emergency, so the paperwork wouldn't possibly be finished before the 21st. But after the 21st, Kelly said, I'll be past my 12th week. Exactly, the caseworker said; past the third month an abortion is considered an emergency and MediCal can be obtained quite rapidly. But then the cost would rise to \$400 at least, and the procedure would be far more serious and susceptible to complications; a saline solution would be injected into her amniotic sac by a hypodermic needle inserted through her stomach, thus forcing the body to expel what was now technically a fetus. Nothing made sense. "Forget MediCal," Kelly said later that day. "We'll pay ourselves."

in for her abortion: "I drove to Robin's home to pick her up. On the way to San Diego I looked at a couple walking down the street. I began to cry. I said to myself, how can anything conceived out of love be ripped out of me? Why can't I just have a baby? I told Robin I was afraid. She held my arm while I drove. My voice was shaky. I felt a lump in my throat. I said that this wasn't going to be as easy as I thought it would be.... I didn't want to go through with it. I didn't know what I wanted to do. My emotions were all confused. I wished I weren't pregnant. I wanted to go home and eat lunch.... The clinic was enormous. Thirty women were in the lounge all waiting for abortions. I filled in forms. A woman and her boyfriend sat across from me. She held him. He comforted her. When the door opened from the abortion room, a pretty girl in a Levi's jumper wobbled out and held her stomach and cried. She just stood there. Her boyfriend came to her and held her and put his arms around her. One of her

parents came toward her and caressed her. I looked at the woman across from me. We were both afraid and smiling. I felt like I was watching a horror film.... I was called by the counselor. She was a Mexican lady. I began to cry. She was very nice and handed me a Kleenex and asked me if the abortion was my decision? I said yes, tears streaming down.... Other questions she asked I was too choked up to answer. Afraid, and sick. Dizzy. The Mexican lady said to follow her. She led me back and gave me a cup to pee into for another pregnancy test. I looked down the hall. A room with benches attached to the walls was filled by women who all had surgical clothing and caps on and who waited for their abortions. They were all silent, lined up like cattle. Other women who were undressing were lined up in front of lockers they put their street clothes in. The Mexican lady kept asking if I was all right? I choked up again and said I wouldn't do this. She said okay. She said she would give

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I left again for Los Angeles. Kelly continued to worry that she would lose her race-track job if she had the abortion on the 21st and missed work. She badly needed money, too. So she scheduled an abortion for Friday the 16th with Family Planning Associates Medical Group, on Alvarado Road in San Diego. She called to let me know. It was Thursday evening.

"What time do you leave?" I asked her.

"Eleven."

"Do you want me to come?"

"If you want."

"But I've got appointments Friday. They're important."

"It's not like I want you to meet me for coffee."

"You talk like I'm deserting you."

"Is that what you're feeling?"

"That's what I'm trying not to feel."

"Then you really feel you're deserting me?"

"Don't you understand I have to work?"

"No. Don't you understand?"

In her journal, Kelly described the day she went

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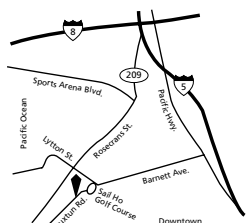
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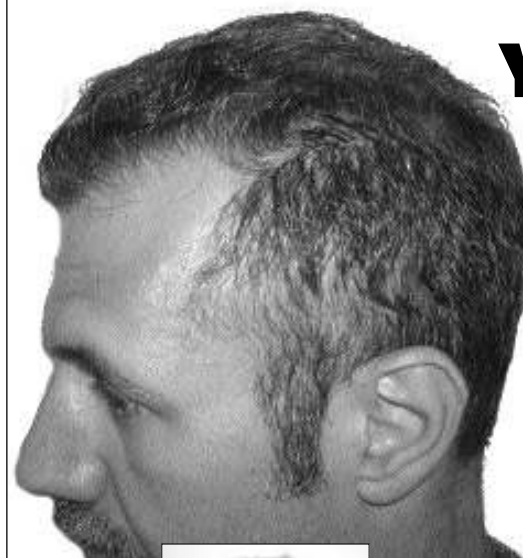
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me back my money order and asked if I were going to have the baby? I said I didn't know. I just wasn't ready for this.... She said if I had the baby, I would need prenatal care and I should come back in two weeks. She calculated I was nine to ten weeks pregnant and that if I didn't want to pay \$400 for an abortion, I would need to take care of the matter before 12 weeks.... Leaving the clinic, although my problem wasn't solved, I felt good, like I had won some sort of battle. The people there for their abortions seemed so dissociated from life and love. Abortion seemed like a concentration camp at the clinic, everyone ready to be gassed to lose life. I feel abortion is up to the individual but this day felt like we lacked love and responsibility to our children. No wonder we are a nation of ice blood. No wonder we look at starving children of other nations indifferently. I know all the arguments for pro-life and yet still feel those things are up to the individual, but, please, let's wake up. These women were silent. Maybe they were resolved. Or maybe they were feeling guilty and frightened into quiet submission. But I felt as though this was cruel. That their maternal feelings were dead sensations. The animal's emotions gone from us as women and the rational, civilized were in control to make us like robots, instruments of society.... I feel as though we have lost touch with something.... It's an intuitive self that knows modern technology and civilization have set us up in some confusing situations.... Women are very different from men. Women are creatures that create. We are earthy and our natural selves want to protect. It's natural to have babies. For a woman who is really in touch with herself, it has to be difficult to have an abortion."

Later in the day I called. I had worked hard all day and now was filled with nervous energy, saturated with adrenalin. I asked stupid questions over and over, like what would she do now? She kept saying she didn't know and get off my back already, because I'm tired of you harping on me having to get an abortion. I wasn't too understanding of her complex feelings at that moment.

I kept telling her I was objective and she was too emotional. But all I had were simple answers to explain my own very unsimple emotions. Long silences ensued. It cost a lot to talk this time of day. She wasn't talking.

She was so emotionally confused, she couldn't. Then we ought to talk another time, I said, because this is costing too much if all we're going to do is be silent. "But you don't understand," she said. "How could you? You're so

far away."

"What do you mean by that?"

"Nothing. You're just far away."

"What do you want from me? I can't pick up on what you mean if you don't

say anything."

"I didn't know I would need you so badly."

"If you didn't know, how am I supposed to know?"

"I asked you to come last night."

"You didn't say it very

strongly. It just didn't get through to me. Look, I don't want to argue with you. I can't talk too long now."

"Go ahead and put money first. You just want me to be an automaton. You should be glad I have feelings.

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She refused to say she loved me when she put down the phone. I slammed down my receiver.

\* \* \*

I came down Saturday morning. On Monday, Kelly decided she wouldn’t take

the racetrack job at all and would have the abortion. She went to Dr. Silver’s office, on Lomas Santa Fe Drive, on Tuesday, so her blood type could be taken. “What time is your — uh — appointment?” the nurse asked as Kelly filled in a form.

“Eleven.”

“Thank you, Mrs. Anjon.”

“Miss Anjon.”

We went to her parents’ home that afternoon. They were still unaware of the

pregnancy. As we sat Kelly felt slight cramps and noticed a bit of blood trickle down her legs. Unexpectedly, Kelly’s mother said we should have a baby and then sell it for \$10,000. Then she said, “No. I’m only joking.” Actually, she went on, she had been thinking of breeding her miniature terriers and selling the pups for \$350 apiece. Kelly’s grandmother — also living in Del Mar — called: “When are you going to have babies?” An hour later, Judy, a family friend, and her three children came by. Kelly’s mother joked with Judy, saying Kelly was pregnant. (Does she know?! How could she?) “Kelly pregnant!” Judy said.

“I’m only kidding.”

“I remember when Kelly was just a little girl.”

At home in Cardiff, Kelly grimaced. She felt more cramps and blood. We went upstairs to change into running clothes, then drove to San Dieguito High’s athletic field. I ran sprints; she walked slowly around the track. I looked angrily at her, not knowing how badly she bled. I heaved the shotgun. She sat on the grass and talked with a woman, then she stood

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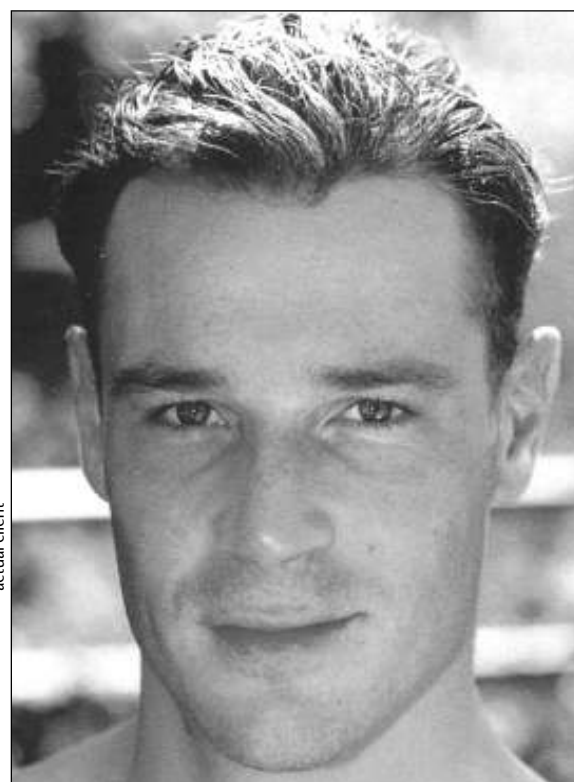
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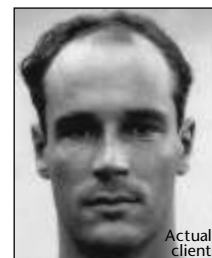


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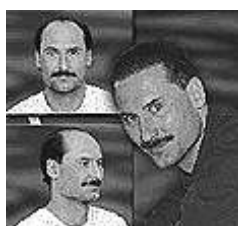
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and jogged to the track, but again she slowed to a walk. Blood trickled down her thighs. She thanked God she had worn purple sweats. At home she went into the bathroom and tore paper off the roll to put between her legs and scoop up the blood. It was thick, coagulated blood she felt run down. Too much fell. In the mirror she saw a ghost look back, with tight lips and furrowed brow. "Are you all right?" I called.

"It's not too bad."

She went to the telephone and dialed Robin, who said none of the pregnant women with whom she

had spoken bled or experienced cramps.

"I'm not bleeding too badly."

"It just doesn't seem normal. Call if you need me."

"Kelly, are you all right?" I asked.

"I'm all right."

"No you're not."

She lay across the length of the couch. I held her. She turned away from me and dialed Scripps Memorial Hospital, in Encinitas, and she talked with the emergency operator.

Did she feel cramps?

Yes.

She should call her doc-

tor. Dr. Silver wasn't in, but Dr. Alan Blank, an associate, was on emergency call. He said meet him at Scripps, in La Jolla.

Would she want me to drive?

"Yes, that would be nice."

She slowly climbed the stairs to our room. She put on her blue prairie dress that showed her so tightly, and brushed her hair. It was very important to dress pleasantly and look nice for the doctor. I had a bad feeling. My whole routine for tomorrow was shot. I also knew something bad was happening to Kelly.

In the car I was quiet. I just looked at the speedometer. I try to stay healthy, go to bed early, wake early, run, stay trim, make enough money for us to live comfortably. But what Kelly was

going through was ripping away from me all the protections I had carved for myself in 26 years, habits and a way of life, little things done daily that enabled me not to feel lonely and helped me function in the world. Now I had

*"You're having a miscarriage.*

*You've got to have a D&C.*

*In about 20 minutes."*

to peek out from the darkened cave in which I had lived before we met. Kelly needed me to give up my cave, surrender, compromise my values. She held my arm and asked me to look at her, not the speedometer. "Please help me, because I need you. And don't be dark and resentful of what I can't help."

I was very familiar by now with the hospital and easily found the emergency entrance. We took chairs in front of the admitting desk. A dark-haired man on the telephone talked about the chicken dinner he wanted

after he got off work. The man put down the telephone. Fluorescent lights brightened the room. "Name?"

"Kelly Anjon."

"That's Anjohn?"

"A-N-J-O-N."

"Middle name?"

"None."

She put her hand on my leg and closed her eyes and

swallowed. The cramps surged through her. He filled in a form on the computer screen.

"Do you have MediCal?"

"No."

"Mrs. Anjon, we will have to consider this a cash account then until you make other arrangements. Do you understand you're to pay the full amount?"

"I can't right now." "Perhaps as you leave." The couch we sat on was a thin one with a metal frame. In came Dr. Blank, bearded, wiry haired, intellectual looking. "Mrs. Anjon, I'll see you as soon as you're brought into emergency." He disappeared behind the double swinging doors.

Kelly and Dr. Blank described what next happened. There was a nurse and attendant in the emer-

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gency room, which was spacious and spotless. There were bright lights. Somebody said it was a slow night. The nurse took Kelly to a small room, an alcove, curtained off from the bigger room with all the beds. "Take off all your clothes and jewelry," she said and brought her a plastic bag for her silver and ivory bracelets and earrings and necklaces, the barrettes in her hair. Kelly put on a papery thin gown and lay on the metal examination table, quiet, a wounded animal, feeling pain, wanting to fall asleep. She was also very angry. The

whole pregnancy had become a matter of submission. Dr. Blank walked in. "How much blood do you have?"

"I had to change my pad 20 minutes ago."

"Lay back."

Her back on the cold steel table, her legs angled toward the ceiling, her feet in stirrups. He picked out blood and bits. "You're having a miscarriage. You've got to have a D&C. In about 20 minutes."

Just Dusting & Cleaning, Kelly's older sister used to joke when she underwent them. But her sister always joked about serious matters.

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This was serious. These cramps were at least a hundred times worse than the menstrual kind.

Kelly had broken her arm when she was a child. The doctor had moved the fractured bone pieces for X-rays. That pain had made her scream and was more painful than these cramps. But the cramps, which came in waves a few minutes apart, were the worst pain in her adult life. She didn't scream now, she thought, because she was older. But she wanted to scream. Dr. Blank returned to tell Kelly what he had told at least a hundred women before her: "There is no way you can cause a miscarriage. They happen because of chromosomal problems at the beginning of conception. A miscarriage isn't the woman's fault. There are approximately 15 miscar-

riages that occur for every 100 pregnancies. Each pregnancy you have a 15-percent chance to have one. With so many chromosomes joining and DNAs involved, it's surprising there aren't more miscarriages. A miscarriage, I repeat, isn't the woman's fault — cannot be caused, for instance, by a fall down stairs."

Dr. Blank led me inside, assuring me that Kelly would still be able to have children when all this was finished. Someone from the lab came to take blood. She was nervous, her veins difficult to locate. "I know you won't do this right," she said to the lab technician. Twice, sticking in the needle, he couldn't locate the vein. "I just knew you wouldn't. Oh please do it right."

"It's okay, Kelly." I brushed the hair off her forehead.

"There we go," the technician said, filling pint bottles. "I wish my mother were here."

She lay on the table an hour. The lights that glared

ing her into somebody she hadn't been before, each crisis making her wiser, weakening her, too. The table she lay on was hard. My eyes, like the scalpels, cut into her,

*Kelly told the anesthesiologist she was frightened that she wouldn't awaken when he put her to sleep. Dr. Blank put his hand on her stomach. "Anybody who wouldn't be nervous before an operation would be insane."*

from the ceiling cut her body into different angles and surfaces, like a diamond being shaped. All the blades and scalpels that had cut into her had cut her into different angles and surfaces, mak-

frightening her that what she was going through was taking me down along with her, and maybe I would leave, a hard knock, but if I left, she said to herself, she would survive. Though that would

be bad. An orderly came to take her to the second-floor ob/gyn. She requested a painkiller. He was gentle-voiced and said he would ask the nurse. He returned, saying sorry, no. "You'll be in surgery too soon."

"It's my body, why can't I have one?"

The orderly rolled her onto the gurney and took her to her new room. A new nurse came inside. "Do you still have cramps?"

"I have."

"All right, that's because toxic remains from the fetus are being flushed out of your body. But when the cramps go away, that doesn't mean all the toxic remains will be gone. They may make you bleed for days or poison you, which is why the D&C is needed."

Another orderly rolled Kelly onto a gurney at 12:30. The bleeding had soaked her

gown dull red. On first-floor surgery, I kissed her good-bye. The surgery room was bright as the beach in August. Kelly told the anesthesiologist she was frightened that she wouldn't awaken when he put her to sleep. Dr. Blank put his hand on her stomach. "Anybody who wouldn't be nervous before an operation would be insane." The nurse put electrodes on her chest. Kelly told the anesthesiologist the syringe he used was too large, and that she didn't want the shot.

"You'll feel a peculiar taste in your mouth," he said.

"I feel it."

"Tastes like garlic."

"Garlic never tasted so bad."

All the people standing above her were now joking, making jokes about her, saying good-bye, laughing. Kelly couldn't remember why they laughed. The room turned

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very fast in circles and became very white and bright and the lights pressed in against her eyes, pushing them back into their sockets. Then she felt tired and closed her eyes.

Because the miscarriage had naturally dilated the cervix, the D&C had become simplified for Dr. Blank to perform. First he swabbed her vagina with antiseptic and inserted a speculum to hold it open. He used a tweezer-like instrument — a tenaculum — to grasp the cervix and steady the uterus. With the curette he gently cleaned her uterine wall. The anesthesiologist injected Pitressin — a synthetic pituitary gland hormone — into her uterus, which forced the muscular tissue to contract, lessening the postoperative bleeding.

In the recovery room, Kelly awoke before 1:00. Soon two nurses took her back to the second floor, where she tried to sleep, but her room was by the nurses' station. They talked and laughed all night. Dr. Blank came at 7:30 in the morning. She thought that considering his late night,

he looked fresh. Suddenly Kelly remembered the abortion. "I was to have one with Dr. Silver this morning," she said.

"Just call and cancel."

With the realization that she didn't have to go through with the abortion, Kelly felt especially fine. She just lay in bed and slept and felt fine.

\* \* \*

A few weeks later it was all over. The bill — close to \$1000 for less than 12 hours in Scripps Memorial — would be paid for by Medi-Cal. Nothing of what happened between us was forgiven too well, though a lot was forgotten. Her parents still are unaware.

In early August, Kelly went to dinner with Linda Covici and Maria Moreno at Maria's apartment in Pacific Beach, near the freeway. They're all very womanly and aesthetic and they love one another very much. After dinner they drank red wine. Linda and Maria sat on the couch in a well-lighted portion of the room. Kelly sat alone on the sofa where Maria

hadn't put any lights and it was shadowy. For what had happened — and what she now described — Kelly seemed oddly exhilarated.

At first Kelly said that she felt fine and wasn't at all bothered by what she had experienced. But Linda couldn't help noticing how nervously Kelly would laugh as she told about the day she went in for the abortion, and that her left eye seemed to have developed a tic. They drank more wine. Maria refilled their glasses. Kelly continued to talk and reached for her glass but spilled the wine, which darkened the carpet. "A woman goes through so much pain," she said. "The cyst I had and the ovary I lost — that was very painful. Even our periods are painful, and pregnancy, too. A man goes through none of this. You know, if I were to be born again, and had my choice, I'd be born a man." ■

— David Steinman

Originally published in the *Reader* on November 18, 1982

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# LETTERS

continued from page 14

## Hear My Boo

My wife and I were at Bob Dylan's Christian concert at Golden Hall on November 27, 1979, which Jay Allen Sanford describes in "Blurt" in the November 29 issue. I was the one who performed the "one discernible moment of booing."

It was the sixth time I'd heard Dylan, and he'd never said more than a couple of mumbled "thank yous" before, and here he was with what I describe in my rock music book (*Tell Tchaikovsky the News: An Essential Rock Music Collection, 1965-1979, 1984*, unpublished, though G.P. Putnam's wanted an "irreverent book about rock music," so I sent mine, but they sent it back saying it was "too irreverent" — I still have that letter) as "little piss-anty 6th grade Sunday school s\*\*\*\*\* sermons," including the "I had this cross" rap you quote.

So the next time he started in, I took a deep breath, and at a pause in his sermonette, I bellowed as loud a boo as I could. The couple in front of me jumped. I was sitting in the dead middle of the audience and everyone heard it, half of whom cheered my boo while the other half booed it.

My wife couldn't take it, so she went out into the lobby, where they still sold hard liquor back then, and had a drink, during which a TV reporter came up and interviewed her. She expressed her unhappiness eloquently, and it was on the 11:00 news, unfortunately before the VCR-era, so we didn't get a videotape of it.

But an acquaintance of ours did tape the concert (smuggling it in dangling at his crotch), and even though he sat a long way from us, you can hear my boo and the crowd's reaction clearly.

But who cares? Dylan played the loveliest guitar solo that night I've ever heard him play. As a character in the movie *American Pop* repeatedly says, "It's the music I love."

John Mood  
Ocean Beach

## Comments from Reader Website

### Blurt

Published November 28

Posted by BeHiResident on 11/28/07, 1:59 p.m.

I'm not surprised Dolce closed down. Ghettofabulites trying to be high rollers are bad for business and bad for a neighborhood. May the AC Lounge close next. F.Scott Fitzgerald said "the further away from wealth one is, the more one tries to live what one mistakes for a wealthy lifestyle."

Posted by Stephen M. Bessette on 12/1/07, 10:36 a.m.

Ken, Thanks for your mention in "Blurt," but I need to make some corrections: KRTM will indeed be building a new tower on Mt. Palomar, but it is a licensed upgrade for our current channel 88.9 FM, not 96.9 We do currently have a licensed FM translator in the San Pasqual area, but that's very small and has been on the air since April. Also, construction will not begin until later in 2008, so we obviously won't be on the air by the end of 2007. Thanks!

Steve Bessette  
General Manager  
KRTM Radio

Posted by FRSD 96.9FM DJ on 12/2/07, 7:42 p.m.

Wow look Ken got it wrong again. Just so everyone knows, at 96.9FM we have a strict "NO KEN LEIGHTON" policy. Not only did he try to expose one of our DJs publicly because he was butt hurt that we wouldn't do interviews with him anymore, but he always distorts the truth. If you want to know anything about us, please email us or get in contact via our website ([www.pirate969.org](http://www.pirate969.org)). And to Steve Bessette, please contact us if you ever have any interference concerns as we'll gladly work with you.

### Cover Story

Published November 28

Posted by Hijo de Santo on 11/28/07, 11:46 p.m.

I don't know about this story, but love all the botox and boob enhancement ads in the reader. Say it to my face at punkboardnews.com

Posted by poe on 11/30/07, 10:12 a.m.

Doing drugs gets you famous! I'm going to start

immediately.

Posted by two more tumors on 11/30/07, 11:19 a.m.

couldn't this have been summed up in a paragraph in 'Blurt'? If only Squire couldn't legally obtain crack pipes, he'd never have gotten into this mess! Oh Government, won't you please shut down every smoke shop in town to prevent another dumbass from hurting himself?!

Posted by Puckett on 11/30/07, 7:54 p.m.

Trolling punk board and MySpace is one thing, but all y'all need to find a hobby like knitting or something because trolling The Reader's site is like competing in the Special Olympics.

### Crasher

Published November 28

Posted by marco on 11/29/07, 12:28 p.m.

Josh, your portrayal of Pacific Beach (although accurate) is not helping the cause to bring beer back to the beach. Please realize that you may have more influence than you think.

### Restaurant Review

Published November 28

Posted by Samurai Jim's Mom on 11/30/07, 8:07 a.m.

My husband and I read the restaurant review. What a writer she is!! We enjoyed reading it, and I want to send the highest comment that I can write. Tell Naomi BRAVO. She captured the evening in words. What a talented person. She holds the readers attention and really makes you want to have the same dining experience. It was such an honor to be asked to be there and what an experience I had. I used to read a restaurant review in Northern California where we used to live because I love to experience great tasing and

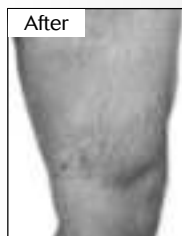
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For detailed information regarding audition requirements, visit

**SeaWorldSanDiegoAuditions.com**

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properly prepared food. Anyway, when we are San Diego sometime I want to see Naomi again to thank her personally.

## Diary of a Diva

**Published November 28**

*Posted by Jerrienne Harland (from MoPA) on 11/30/07, 11:42 a.m.*

Barb — Now I have yet another reason to write to you. Your terrific Dad. At first meeting at the museum, I fell into adoring mode — he reminded me so of my own Pop. He brought his entire self to each meeting, the last being this past late spring outside the Minge in Balboa Park. I heard a familiar voice call my name, turning to the sound I found your sweet father. How nice for me to see him once again before leaving San Diego. I have been following you and David around the world with delight at your adventures. Thanks for the memories of you both at MoPA and for continuing to be a touchstone to SD. Recently I saw David's photo art on a decorating show on HGTV — a great surprise! Your loyal reader in New Mexico

## City Lights, by Don Bauder

**Published November 28**

*Posted by Tony St. John on 11/28/07, 11:55 a.m.*

Don, its too bad the San Diego scientific community doesn't create a new corporation to produce solutions to the climate change problems we are experiencing already, including drought, firestorms and water shortages as opening scenarios in the new age of global warming. If the latest IPCC report is really to be believed and supported by the public, the scientific community must start making the right things happen with the required sense of urgency. Unfortunately, the way things stand in the scientific community, what President Eisenhower said in 1961 is still correct today: "The prospect of domination of the nation's scholars by Federal employment, project allocations, and the power of money is ever present — and is gravely to be regarded."

*Posted by Tony St. John on 11/29/07, 4:11 a.m.*

Don, the key part of Ike's concern about "domination

of the nation's scholars" because "the power of money is ever present — and is gravely to be regarded" applies not only to scientists but to political corruption as you keep documenting. Thus the gravest consequence we are experiencing today is that scientists have not formed corporations to eliminate carbon dioxide producing energy sources because our politicians are also dominated by the fossil fuel burning special interests, so we have now experienced firestorms in 2003 and 2007 as a new way of life in San Diego. And the bottom line is that all of our local, state and federal politicians continue to fail the tests of leadership and our scholars continue to fail humanity.

*Posted by Tony St. John on 11/29/07, 1:04 p.m.*

P.S. A worst case study of the "domination of the nation's scholars" by "the power of money" is provided by what appears to be your favorite poster boy John Moores. As you recently documented John "abruptly" resigned as a UC regent shortly after his UC President, physicist and poster sychophant Robert Dynes also resigned. Together they perpetuated over 50 years of UC H-bomb production to control humanity, and most recently produced UC's infamous oil alliance with BP to sell out what may have been left of UC's integrity. The most hideous consequence is UC's continuing failure to dedicate resources required to produce controlled fusion for over 50 years that could have prevented accelerating droughts, firestorms and water shortages in San Diego, as well as preventing global warming tipping points. So good old John boy sold out UC integrity, San Diego quality of life and humanity, giving trifecta a whole new meaning for continuing to maximize his fortune at our expense.

*Posted by sean on 11/30/07, 1:17 p.m.*

Don, great article. So many times these IPO stocks are all dreams and "potential" but so few generate substantial revenues and consistent profits. The Wall Street underwriters also share some of the blame, often managing the early

share prices and pushing their brokerages to have customers buy the stocks. I remember Buy.com going public in 1999, shares shot up, then most of the insiders and underwriter got out and the stock plummeted. Then later, the same owner bought the shares back cheaply in 2001 and took it public.

*Posted by Button Pusher on 12/2/07, 6:00 p.m.*

Anyone who wants to invest in Chinese companies should be very very careful. Investor wannabe needs to develop special skill, ability to keep one eye open when you sleep. They have unique book keeping methods, just like Enron. You will be amazed how they are cooking the book. Difference is Chinese government is not watching their book keeping method as did in United States. Government and Companies are partnering themselves as long as companies are bringing in foreign currency. I would say there are thin lines between governments and so called private companies all have silent partner. Chinese government is hell bent to obtain foreign investment and if they can screw western countries same time is a plus.

*Reply by Don Bauder*  
You are offering an apt warning. Remember Japan in the 1980s? Real estate was so overpriced that the grounds of the Imperial Palace were worth more than all of California. Japanese pledged overpriced real estate as collateral to buy overpriced stocks. Finally, people couldn't afford to live in Tokyo. The central bank had to burst the bubble. The Nikkei, then almost at 40,000, is still less than half its 1989 level.

## Cover Story

**Published November 20**

*Posted by Phoenix Psaltery on 11/30/07, 9:38 p.m.*

I'd like to point out that there are a number of Second Life newspapers. One of the oldest is the Metaverse Messenger ([www.metaversemessenger.com](http://www.metaversemessenger.com)), which has been publishing weekly for 2-1/2 years. Great story! P2



# Strange Revival

## Submarine Race

**T**he Salton City 500 began in 1961 and ran for ten years,” says Scott B. Davis. The 500-mile boat race was held on a triangular course in the Salton Sea, a 35-mile-by-15-mile saltwater lake located just east of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, about 120 miles from San Diego. Davis, a photographer and desert enthusiast, recently came across an article in a 1962 issue of *Desert Magazine* that detailed the race. “Here were glorious photos and full stories — 25,000 people came to the first event. One of the things I really enjoy doing when I travel through the desert is to animate history.”

### LOCAL EVENTS

On Saturday, December 8, Davis will host the inaugural return of the Salton City 500, but with a twist — instead of boats, remote-controlled submarines will be raced. “I’ve always had these fantasies of strange revivals out there,” Davis says of Salton City. “It was originally built to become California’s Riviera, to compete with Palm Springs, but it sort of did a belly flop in the ’70s when the sea flooded. It all went downhill, and now most of the communities are abandoned.”

Fewer than 1000 people reside in Salton City. Davis, a San Diego resident, is intrigued by the “colorful characters” who are attracted to the area. “There is a man who is known as Hunky Daddy who lives at Bombay Beach on the east side of Salton Sea,” says Davis. “He fought in the Hungarian Revolution in the ’50s, and when he came to America he found his way to Salton Sea. He lives in a modest shack and, to be quite frank, he drinks a lot. He speaks very

broken English and sounds and looks and feels like someone out of a David Lynch movie.”

The decision to race submarines instead of boats was as conceptual as it was practical. “I don’t own a boat, and I don’t want to buy a boat, so how to re-host the Salton City 500? Any event out there would be underwhelming by nature. The city is abandoned — it’s a forsaken place — so no matter how grandiose you tried to make an event, you’d draw a small crowd at best. So I thought, ‘Just make it an event.’ I’ve got a sign that says, ‘Submarine Races Today!’ I’m going to put it out on the highway so that passersby might think, ‘What? A submarine race? Turn around!’”

Contestants can enter the race at any point before the starting flag drops at 1 p.m. Though Davis has posted information in desert newspapers and at the Los Angeles Center for Land Use Interpretation (“which seemed like the perfect organization for weird stuff like this”), he currently has only two contestants, one of whom is himself. Davis’s submarine, purchased online, cost \$30, is made of plastic, and is five inches long. Because the range of the remote control is around 25 yards, the race will be held 10 yards offshore. Instead of the original 500 miles, the subs will race 500 yards in a triangular course. The race is expected to last no longer than 30 minutes.

“When you think about it, you actually have to have a very small submarine in order to race it close enough that you can see it and operate it,” says Davis. Buoys will be set in the water to mark the course, and the submarines have headlights, which Davis believes will be viewable in the day-



Scott Davis

time. Davis’s sub has not yet been used outside of his bathtub. Saltwater, Davis explains, is more buoyant than freshwater. “I think it will add to the challenge of the whole event and allow the most consummate professionals to rise to the surface.” Bumper stickers (one of which is on Davis’s truck) and T-shirts will be sold at the event.

Davis’s friends and family are not sure what to make of his efforts. “They started with ‘What?’ and then just went to laughter, followed by the usual litany of questions, like, ‘You’re really going to do this? Do you think anybody’s going to come?’” When asked what he hopes to achieve, Davis says, “I want this race to revitalize the golden era of the sea, while offering a new interpretation of a submarine landscape [the entire

area is 227 feet below sea level]. I just saw a woman [Marta Beckett] perform an opera in the desert over the weekend. She’s been doing it every week for 30 years, audience or not. I’d like to be part of this same legacy. This is an event that may or may not be noticed, but in any case, there it is. Or was.”

— Barbarella

### Salton City 500: Racing toward New Depths

**Saturday, December 8  
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Calendar  
LOCAL EVENTS

Events that are underlined occur after December 13.

**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

**Lobster Lunch** and holiday shopping tour hosted by Baja California Tours, Thursday, December 6. The \$85 fee includes transportation, lobster feast at Patio de la Langosta in Puerto Nuevo, shopping in Rosarito Beach, Tijuana. Reservations: 858-454-7166. (ROSARITO BEACH, PUERTO NUEVO)

**“Conjunto Norteño”** — Pablo Jaime Sáinz discusses his new book of stories about state of Sinaloa, Thursday, December 6, 7 p.m.,

Centro Cultural Tijuana (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street). Free. 011-52-664-687-9636. (TIJUANA)

**“Las Culturas Prehispanicas del Golfo de Mexico”** is topic for lecture by Felipe Solís Olguín at Centro Cultural Tijuana (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, in Zona Río) on Friday, December 7, 7 p.m. Free. 011-52-664-687-9636. (TIJUANA)

**“The Nutcracker”** is presented by Ballet del Noroeste and Gloria Campobello Academy dancers, December 7–9, at Centro Cultural Tijuana (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, Zona Río). Curtain rises at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 6 p.m. on Sunday. \$25 U.S. 011-52-664-687-9636. (TIJUANA)

**Electronic Music** by Skazi at Tia Juana Tilly’s (Avenida Revolución and 7th Street) on Friday, December 7, 9 p.m. \$30 U.S. 011-52-664-685-6024. (TIJUANA)

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

Screening in the CECUT Omnimax: *El Misterio del Nilo, Vikingos, Viaje a la Luna, Oasis Marino*. The center is located at Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, Zona Río. Showtimes and information: 011-52-664-687-9600 x50. (TIJUANA)

OUT & ABOUT

“RAIN!”  
CIRQUE ELOIZE  
At Civic Theatre  
through Sunday,  
December 9.

(SEE IN PERSON)



**Christmas Concert** planned Thursday, December 13, with performances by Vocal Clásico and Niños Cantores of Conservatory of Music of the Orchestra of Baja California. Concert begins at 7:30 p.m. at Centro Estatal de las Artes (CEARTE, at Boulevard Costero and Avenida Club Rotario). \$5 U.S. 011-52-646-173-4307, 011-52-646-173-4308. (ENSENADA)

**“Ecos del Alma,”** writer Magui del Mar showcases poetry, Thursday, December 13, 7 p.m., at Centro Cultural Tijuana (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, in Zona Río). Free. 011-52-664-687-9636. (TIJUANA)

**“Gala Navideña”** — Christmas music played by Orchestra of Baja California at 8 p.m. on Thursday, December 13, at Centro Cultural Tijuana (Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street, Zona Río). \$15 U.S. 011-52-664-687-9636. (TIJUANA)

OUTDOORS

**Earliest Sunset** (4:43 p.m. from San Diego) occurs Thursday, December 6, a date that is not coincident with the shortest day (winter solstice — December 21) because of factors relating to the noncircular shape of Earth’s orbit around the sun and the tilt of Earth’s axis. Early December is a good time to view the setting sun from the spectacular vantage point of Cabrillo National Monument at the tip of Point Loma. During most of the year, you can’t do that since sunset occurs well after the park’s closing time of 5:15 p.m.

**Ripening Palm Fruit**, hanging in great clusters on California’s native fan palms (*Washingtonia filifera*), can be seen (and tasted) this month. The black, pea-sized fruit consists of a deliciously sweet but almost paper-thin skin surrounding a hard seed. (These are not “California dates” — the fruit of

cultivated palms introduced into California’s deserts from northern Africa.) Our native fan palms can be seen in their natural habitat in about two dozen canyons within Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. They have also been planted widely elsewhere in California, including along the main streets of Palm Springs.

**Toyon**, or “Christmas-berry,” one of the more distinctive shrubs of Southern California’s native chaparral plant community, has begun to flaunt clusters of red berries. Here in coastal San Diego, toyon can be found wherever large patches of native vegetation survive, but especially in the thick chaparral covering some north-facing slopes. Toyon branches may look inviting to cut as a Christmas wreath — but they’re protected by California state law.

**“Bisnaga Alta Wash,”** Reena Deutsch leads “Desert Exploration 101” for Anza-Borrego Institute, Thursday, December 6, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., at Blair Valley. Look for elephant trees, pictographs. Rugged, strenuous hike is seven to eight miles long. \$45. Reservations: 760-767-4063. (ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK)

**Search for a Shooting Star** or Saturn and Jupiter during stargazing parties planned (weather permitting) Friday and Saturday, December 7 and 8, 8–10 p.m., in MiraCosta College baseball field (One Barnard Drive). Free. Call to confirm: 760-757-2121 x6201. (OCEANSIDE)

**Got Mistletoe?** Find out how mistletoe gets into sycamore trees near Old Mission Dam during guided walk on Saturday, December 8, 8:30 a.m., in Mission Trails Regional Park at Kumeyaay Campground entry station (Two Father Junípero Serra Trail). Free. 619-668-3281. (SAN CARLOS)

**Expert Birders** from San Diego Field Ornithologists to lead bird walk on easy trail winding along Tecolote Creek on Saturday, December 8, starting at 9 a.m. at Tecolote Nature Center (5180 Tecolote Road). Free. Bring binoculars, drinking water. 858-581-9944. (CLAIREMONT)

**Get to Know Paso Picacho** at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park while helping with trail-repair work on Saturday, December 8, 9 a.m. Bring work shoes, gloves, hat, water, snack. For those 16 and older with a parent. Free. Registration: 619-341-1746. (CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK)

**Imperial Beach Jetty Cleanup** hosted by San Diego Coastkeeper on Saturday, December 8. Meet group on north side of Imperial Beach Pier at 9 a.m. Free. Directions: 619-758-7743. (IMPERIAL BEACH)

**Miner’s Loop Trail Walk** led by naturalist Arne Johanson on Saturday, December 8. Enjoy great views, learn about old arsenic mine. Wear hiking boots; bring water, sun protection. Meet group at 9 a.m. in parking staging area off new extension of Carmel Valley Road (one-quarter mile east of its intersection with Black Mountain Road). Free. 858-342-8856. (RANCHO PENASQUITOS)

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# Calendar

## LOCAL EVENTS

**"No One Likes a Dirty Beach,"** beach cleanup hosted by Ocean Minded, Saturday, December 8, 9 a.m., at Wisconsin Street. Cleanup supplies provided. Free. 949-369-5057. (OCEANSIDE)

**River Restoration at Mast Park,** Saturday, December 8, 9 a.m.–noon, hosted by San Diego River Park Foundation and Friends of Santee's River Park. Tamarisk, or salt cedar, is invasive nonnative species harmful to native environment, beneficial native flora. Volunteers are needed to help cut down the plants, transport cuttings to nearby green waste containers. Free. Find Mast Park at 9125 Carlton Hills Boulevard. 619-297-7380. (SANTEE)

**Second Saturday Nature Walks at the Reserve,** San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy hosts walk exploring migratory birds and native plants, Saturday, December 8, 9 a.m. Free. Directions: 760-436-3944. (CARDIFF)

**Deck the Trails with Boughs of Holly** — toyon berry, that is. See some toyon during guided walks on Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday, December 8, 9, and 12, 9:30 a.m., in Mission Trails Regional Park (One Father Junípero Serra Trail). Free. 619-668-3281. (SAN CARLOS)

**Asian Pacific Historic District Tours** offered on second Saturday of each month, including December 8. Tours start at 11 a.m. at Chinese Historical Museum (404 Third Avenue). \$2. Required reservations: 619-338-9888. (DOWNTOWN)

**Mission Bay Mangrove-Removal** work party hosted by San Diego Audubon Society and Aquatic Adventures. Help gather important scientific data on mangrove plants, remove the invasive species to restore rare coastal salt marsh benefiting endangered light-footed clapper rails, Belding's savannah sparrows on Saturday, December 8, 1–4 p.m. Wear long pants, old clothes, sturdy waterproof shoes; water, snacks, gloves, tools provided. Free. RSVP, directions to site: 619-682-7210. (MISSION BAY)

## ROAM-ORAMA

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

A simple shack fashioned of rock, cement, and corrugated metal might be unremarkable anywhere else, but in the midst of thousands of acres of wild desert, it becomes a significant point of interest.

The semi-rugged hike to the rock house in Rockhouse Canyon includes some stretches of well-worn but poorly marked trails. Ducks (small piles of stones) and stake markers may be of some help in following the route. Topographic maps are very handy if you do go off course. A mandatory prerequisite for this and all other desert wilderness travel adventures is plenty of drinking water.

To get to the starting point from San Diego, first travel east on Interstate 8 to Ocotillo in Imperial County. Exit there and take County Route S-2 northwest, back into San Diego County, and also into Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. After 16 miles on S-2, look for the unpaved Bow Willow Campground access road on the left, at mile 48.4 according to the roadside mile markers posted at one-mile intervals. Drive 1.6 miles to the camping area at the end of the road.



Rockhouse Canyon vista after winter rains

On foot now, walk 0.5 mile up along the sandy wash in the wide Bow Willow Canyon. On your left (south) you'll see a small alluvial fan leading up to a rocky draw in the mountains. Clamber upward through this draw, passing a single palm tree and gaining about 200 feet of elevation. You'll come up to a sandy wash that winds upward to a gently sloping plateau area of broken rock formations. Hardy desert plants, like cholla cactus, ocotillo, and creosote bush, sparsely cover the ground. After you stay with the wash for about a mile, ducks and wooden markers further guide the way generally south-southwest over an almost imperceptible divide, then down more steeply onto the broad floor of Rockhouse Canyon.

Many years ago, off-road vehicles could navigate up the sandy bottom of Rockhouse Canyon toward the shack. Now, you simply choose your own path up-canyon for 0.5 mile to an elliptical valley thickly covered with cholla cactus and ocotillo. Nestled against the rocky hillside on the south side of this valley is the line shack, which leans against the face of a large boulder. The decrepit interior of the shack houses the remains of a fireplace and the usual rusty bedsprings.

East of the shack, at the mouth of a canyon, is a watering trough and the remains of a pipeline to a seasonal spring and waterfall 0.4 mile up-canyon. A pleasant hour or two can be spent exploring this canyon and the next canyon to the west.

The line shack marks the halfway point of the hike. Return by going

directly over the low pass to the north into Bow Willow Canyon, using the remains of an old cattle trail. Once in Bow Willow Canyon, you turn right (down-canyon). Again, years ago, the canyon floor below this point once harbored a jeep road. Now it's mercifully quiet and you can enjoy a serene and leisurely descent back to Bow Willow Campground, nearly three

miles away.

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.

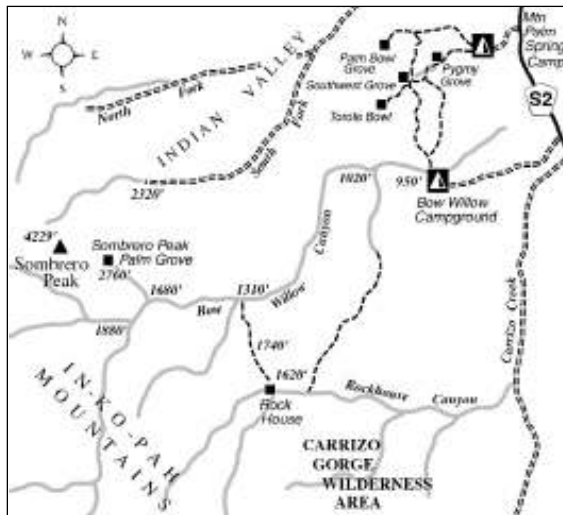
### ROCKHOUSE CANYON

Hike to the rock house in Rockhouse Canyon, near Anza-Borrego's Bow Willow Campground.

**Distance from downtown San Diego:** 105 miles

**Hiking length:** 7.5 miles

**Difficulty:** Moderately strenuous



**Learn About Geology of the Bluffs** and the tidepools at Swamis Beach during Batiquitos Lagoon public walk during low tide, Saturday, December 8. Join group at 1:30 p.m. at head of stairs at Swamis Beach City Park (on Highway 101 just south of Swamis Beach). Free. 760-931-0800. (ENCINITAS)

**Help Rescue Wildlife in Peril** with Wildlife Assist. Next orientation is Saturday, December 8,

2 p.m., at Escondido Library (239 South Kalmia Street). Free. 619-921-6044. (ESCONDIDO)

**Explore Florida Canyon** with Canyoneers during hike through this central canyon on Saturday, December 8, 9 a.m. Directions: 619-255-0203. (BALBOA PARK)

**Where the Heck Is Brooklyn Heights?** Find out when Walkabout explorers take moderately

paced walk, Sunday, December 9, starting 9:15 a.m. at 2412 30th Street (between Laurel and Kalmia streets). Free. 619-231-7463. (SOUTH PARK)

**Birding the Marsh,** Chula Vista Nature Center hosts guided bird-watching hikes around Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge on Sunday, December 9, 11 a.m. Free. Reservations: 619-409-5900. (CHULA VISTA)

**Nature Walk** planned Sunday, December 9, starting at 11 a.m., at Tijuana Estuary visitors' center (301 Caspian Way). This estuary protects a variety of plant communities and wildlife. Free. 619-575-3613. (IMPERIAL BEACH)

**The Geminid Meteor Shower,** one of the year's two most regularly active showers, peaks December 12–14. The moon, in waxing crescent phase, will set by early

evening and thus not cast any significant interfering light into the sky. Nonetheless, you must be far from city lights to see the meteors effectively. The first Geminid meteors become visible around 6:30 p.m., and viewing improves into the middle of the night. Upwards of 50 meteors per hour can be spotted, depending on the exact date and time, and assuming you are at a dark-sky location.

## DANCE

**An "All Children" Version of *The Nutcracker*** presented by Scripps Performing Arts Academy, December 7–9. Curtain rises at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, with 2 p.m. matinees on Saturday and Sunday, at Scripps Ranch High School Theatre (10410 Treena Street). \$22. 858-586-7834 (SCRIPPS RANCH)

**East Coast Caller** Adina Gordon takes calling duties, Gray Beard makes music for contradancing, Friday, December 7, 8 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church (3030 Thorn Street). Beginners' dance workshop: 7:30 p.m. \$8. Wear soft-soled shoes. 619-283-8550. (NORTH PARK)

**Nutty Time of Year!** City Ballet of San Diego, under direction of Steven and Elizabeth Wistrich, plans *Nutcracker* performances December 7–16 at Spreckels Theatre (121 Broadway). Production follows choreography by Russian choreographer Lev Ivanov, with Tchaikovsky's score performed by City Ballet Orchestra. Curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, with 2 p.m. matinees on Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets: \$29–\$59. 858-272-8663. (DOWNTOWN)

**"WinterDance 2007,"** Palomar College dance students shine with original choreography in variety of styles during recitals directed by Patricann Mead, Friday and Saturday, December 7 and 8, 8 p.m., in Howard Brubeck Theatre at Palomar College (1140 West Mission Road). \$12 general. 760-744-1150 x2453. (SAN MARCOS)

**Hustle Workshop** led by Gary Ulaner for San Diego Hustle Club, Saturday, December 8, 7 p.m., at Dance North County (535 Encinitas



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Boulevard); \$15. Hustle Club dance party follows, 8 p.m.-midnight (\$7). 760-803-9982. (ENCINITAS)

**"Land of the Sweet"** — LaDiego Dance Theater presents "updated version" of *The Nutcracker* set to music by Duke Ellington, December 8 and 9, at Educational Cultural Complex (4343 Ocean View Boulevard). Curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets: \$10 children, students, seniors; \$12 general. 858-576-0302. (SAN DIEGO)

**Selected Dances** from the Yves Moreau workshops reviewed by Mary Marshall, Saturday, December 8, 7:30 p.m., at Folk Dance Center (4569 30th Street). Regular dance program follows. \$6 general. 619-281-5656. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

**Belly Dance Show** by Marianna, Saturday, December 8, 8 p.m., at House of India (3659 India Street). Indian cuisine, belly dance shows with "real sword" and candle tray balancing. No cover. 619-291-4800. (MIDDLETOWN)

**English Country Dancing** with calling by Ellen, Ellie, and Karin on Sunday, December 9, 6-9 p.m., at Jean Hart Academy of Dance (Oak Knoll Plaza, 12227 Poway Road). \$6. 858-676-9731. (POWAY)

**Get Your Groove On!** Latest dance steps taught by instructor/dancer Prince on Thursdays at Dancing Unlimited (4569 30th Street). Beginners at 7-8 p.m., intermediate/advanced 8-9 p.m. \$10 per class, \$35 for four. 858-635-1211. (NORTH PARK)

**Zydeco Dances** with lessons are offered every Thursday at Tio Leo's (5302 Napa Street, between Morena Boulevard and Linda

Vista Road). Beginning dance lessons at 7 p.m.; open dancing to recorded tunes from 8-10 p.m. \$5 (first visit free). 619-857-8409. (LINDA VISTA)

## FILM

**"The Color of Paradise,"** Majid Majidi's film "tells the story of a boy whose inability to see the world only enhances his ability to feel its powerful forces." Film screens Thursday, December 6, 7 p.m., in Little Theatre at San Diego State University. Discussion led by Farid Mahdavi, professor of Middle Eastern, Islamic world history. Free. 619-594-5262. (SDSU)

**Teen Producers Project** hosted by Media Arts Center San Diego plans sixth anniversary celebration and student scholarship fundraiser, Friday, December 7, 5:30 p.m., at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (1100 Kettner Boulevard). Premiere screening of two local Teen Producer Project documentaries — *I Want My Parents Back* and *It's Your Life, Live It Safe. The A-G Requirements: Your Pathways to California's Colleges and Universities* shows both students, Spanish-speaking parents "the importance of education and how it can positively influence their lives." Requested donation: \$50. RSVP: 619-230-1938 x102. (DOWNTOWN)

**The Environmental Movie** *Green: The New Red White and Blue* screens, with discussion afterwards, Friday, December 7, 6:30 p.m., in room 112 at First Unitarian Universalist Church of

San Diego (4190 Front Street). Free. 619-298-9978. (HILLCREST)

**"Thirst: Fighting the Corporate Theft of Our Water"** — film focusing on "fight over community water resources across the globe" screens for San Diego Renters Union, Sunday, December 9, 1:30 p.m., at Joyce Beers Community Center (1220 Cleveland Avenue). "Can San Diego Lose Its Water System?" Discussion follows. Donation requested. 619-687-5109. (HILLCREST)

**"Loose Change — Final Cut,"** third installment of documentary asking "tough questions about the attacks of September 11" screened by San Diegans for 9/11 Truth on Sunday, December 9, 6:30 p.m., in Joyce Beers Community Center (3900 Vermont Street). Film's writer/director Dylan Avery will be on hand to host event. Requested donation: \$5. 619-222-2120. (HILLCREST)

**"First Snow"** (2006) screens for Film Forum at San Diego Public Library (820 E Street) on Monday, December 10, 6:30 p.m. Free. 619-236-5800. (DOWNTOWN)

**Film Classics from Mexico** are screening at Beckwourth Library (721 San Pasqual Street). *Camelia* with Maria Felix may be seen Wednesday, December 12, 6 p.m. In Spanish, without subtitles. Free. 619-527-3404. (LOGAN HEIGHTS)

**Holiday Films** spotlighted for ongoing film series hosted by Carlsbad Library, with *The Family Stone* featured on Wednesday, December 12, 6 p.m., in Schulman Auditorium (1775 Dove Lane). Flick stars Diane Keaton, Sarah Jessica Parker, many others. Free. 760-602-2026. (LA COSTA)

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# What's That You're Writing?

**NAME:** RICHARD LEDERER | **AGE:** 69 | **OCCUPATION:** AUTHOR/LINGUIST  
**NEIGHBORHOOD:** SAN DIEGO | **WHERE INTERVIEWED:** BOOK SIGNING, CORONADO PUBLIC LIBRARY



## What's your latest book?

*"Presidential Trivia: The Feats, Fates, Families, Foibles, and Firsts of Our American Presidents."*

## Why did you write it?

"The fun for me is knocking on the door of my biblical threescore year and ten, to write a history book after writing more than 30 language books because I was nibbling around the edges and finally fell into the facts about the presidents. And in my own case, as the father of the two most famous poker

players in the world, I'm a pattern seeker, which is what *they* do. And I just knew it was time to do something else. I'd written so much about language. And seeing the patterns — the one about the vice presidents, and no president was an only child — it was just great fun. To do it at this stage, I just felt synapses and axons and dendrites and ganglia just sprouting in my skull. So, it's been a great experience."

## Could you summarize the book?

"Obviously this is the most powerful office on earth and

has been occupied by the greatest variety of humanity. Rich, poor, experienced politicians, inexperienced, handsome, ugly, educated PhDs, virtually no school at all. I'd grown up in the era of Roosevelt, and I was interested in their lives. I'll revise this when the new president comes in."

## Do you have a favorite passage?

"I think my favorite is the thing about the vice presidents, that only three became president after serving two natural terms as vice president."

## Why should someone read this?

"To learn more about the presidents, to learn about their humanity — I think it's a very humanizing book. I think one of my main goals is that people know more about our presidents; it's important in our society."

## Tell me about your writing habits.

"I am a nonfiction writer. I think

for the fictionalist, the man or woman sits in a room with his or her characters and setting. I sit in a room with the reader because I'm thinking about my audience, and I sit with you. I just felt this was an incredible topic, and it had much more than I thought.

"I write because learning is a lifelong adventure for me. I write to learn. Eldridge Cleaver said, 'I write to untangle the snarled web of my mind.'

"I never get writer's block, ever. I can write any time of day — most writers have schedules and mine tends to be early on. I hit the ground punning, and my writing room is right outside the bedroom. I wake up, eat, and start writing. But I can write anytime of day. A lot of writers have to be in a very private space — they stay in bed, some of them. The phone is ringing, people are ordering books; I do all of that

and I don't get distracted. Because it's for your children; your books are your children and you serve them. For a lot of writers, they write the book and that's the end of it. In my case, it's less than half of it."

## Why do you sell your own books?

"A writer doesn't make a living writing books; a writer makes a living selling them. And I write to be read. I have to support my writing habit, so this is what I do."

## Does your writing affect your relationships?

"I am very lucky in that I am a very fast writer. And if I need to, I can put in a 12-hour day. When there is no distance between who you are and what you do, it's never work. So, it's not exhausting. When you love what you do, you don't work. What a place to be what I am, in San Diego."

**"Crystal Darkness,"** San Diego Prevention Coalition screens 30-minute documentary "created to prevent the use of the most addictive drug in use today" on Wednesday, December 12, 7 p.m., at Santee Library (9225 Carlton Hills Boulevard). Discussion follows. Free. 619-448-1863. (SANTEE)

**"TFM Student Film Festival,"** Thursday, December 13, 7 p.m., in Don Powell Theatre at San Diego State University. Diverse program includes fiction, documentary, animation, music videos, experimental new works by television and film students. \$10 tickets include "veggie-friendly barbecue (while supplies last)," 5:30 p.m. 619-594-1375. (SDSU)

**Fritz Lang's Classic *Metropolis*** is showcased for fall film series, Thursday, December 13, 7 p.m., at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla (700 Prospect Street). "*Metropolis* remains a marvel of dystopian imagery, complete with a mad scientist, an idealist hero and his love interest, and a stunning female robot." \$7. 858-454-3541. (LA JOLLA)

**Reuben H. Fleet Science Center,** currently screening in the IMAX theater: *Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure*, *Dinosaurs Alive*, *The Living*

*Sea*. Ticket prices and showtimes: 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

## LECTURES

**The Ambassador of El Salvador** is H.E. Rene Antonio León Rodríguez, who will discuss El Salvador's future and immigration for San Diego World Affairs Council luncheon on Thursday, December 6, 11:30 a.m., at Paradise Grille (2690 Via de la Valle). \$40 general. 619-325-8200. (DEL MAR)

**"Bhutan...of Mountains and Monks"** — learn about trekking and touring in home country of REI Adventures' Bhutanese guide, Tenga Chopel, during presentation, Thursday, December 6, 6:30 p.m., at REI San Diego (5556 Copley Drive). "Bhutan is a medieval kingdom hidden in the eastern Himalaya." Free. 858-279-4400. (KEARNY MESA)

**"20th Century San Diego Art** from Two Collections" continues through Friday, December 21, in Simayspace at Art Academy of San Diego (840 G Street). "Stuart Burton and Doug Simay have been involved in the San Diego art scene for decades"; they'll conduct walk-

through of exhibition on Friday, December 7, 7:30 p.m. Free. 619-231-3900. (DOWNTOWN)

**NatureScape Workshop** planned Saturday, December 8, 9 a.m., at Mackenzie Creek Park (2275 Mackenzie Creek Road). Nature-friendly plant selection, water-saving irrigation techniques, composting, mulching, organic pesticides, more. Free. Required reservations: 619-409-3893. (CHULA VISTA)

**Goodbye, Grass, Part Two,** gardening expert Nan Sterman focuses on "kinds of spaces you need," irrigation, soil preparation, low-water plantings, Saturday, December 8, 1 p.m., in Cuyamaca College's Water Conservation Garden (12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West). \$25. Reservations: 619-660-0614. (EL CAJON)

**"The Poetics of Myth"** — exhibit discussed by artist Brad Burkhart during gallery talk, Saturday, December 8, 1 p.m., at California Center for the Arts Museum, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard). Included in museum admission. 760-839-4120. (ESCONDIDO)

**"First Aid for Dogs and Cats"** covered during American Red Cross class, Sunday, December 9, 1-5 p.m., at San Diego Humane

Society and SPCA (5500 Gaines Street). \$55. Required reservations: 619-243-3424. (LINDA VISTA)

**"From the Inside: What We Can Learn from Rape Survivors"** presented by Katie Feifer for Voices and Faces Project, Sunday, December 9, 2 p.m., at El Cajon Library (201 East Douglas Avenue). "Photographs, stories of effects of sexual violence." Free. 619-588-3718. (EL CAJON)

**Local Published Children's Book Authors** divulge lessons they've learned about writing and publishing when Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators meets on Monday, December 10. Meeting begins at 2 p.m. at Hahn School of Nursing building at University of San Diego (at Linda Vista Road and Marion Way). \$9. 619-660-8861. (LINDA VISTA)

**"Holiday Entertaining with California Natives"** is subject when René van Rems presents holiday program showcasing "unusual materials" for San Diego Horticultural Society on Monday, December 10, 6 p.m., in Surfside Race Place at Del Mar Fairgrounds. Designs will be auctioned off; cookie exchange follows. Free. 760-295-7089. (DEL MAR)

**"Archaeological Explorations** and the Dead Sea Scrolls" — during the 1960s, Israeli archaeologists were determined to discover more Dead Sea Scrolls. UCSD anthropology and Judaic studies professor Norma Kershaw reviews major archaeological surveys mounted by researchers, Monday, December 10, 6:30 and 8 p.m., at San Diego Natural History Museum. \$25. Suggested reservations: 619-255-0203. (BALBOA PARK)

**"Live from the Poles: Spotlight on Antarctic Penguins"** presented by penguin expert Gerald Kooyman for Perspectives on Ocean Science lecture, Monday, December 10, 6:30 p.m., at Birch Aquarium at Scripps (2300 Expedition Way). Decades of research are giving researchers insight into potential impacts of climate change on the ecology of Emperor and Adelie penguins. During presentation, audience will have opportunity to talk directly via satellite phone with penguin researchers at Cape Royd's, Antarctica. \$8. Required reservations: 858-534-5771. (LA JOLLA)

**"Preventing Failures in Stainless Steels"** addressed during dinner meeting of American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Tuesday, De-

cember 11, 5:30 p.m., at Solar Turbines training facility (on corner of Harbor Drive and Hawthorn Street). Schiff Associates senior engineer Mark Bell will discuss families of stainless steels, how proper material selection, welding, understanding of the environment are needed to avoid failures. Bring "failures" for "brief evaluation and discussion." \$10. 619-665-7916. (DOWNTOWN)

**"How to Keep Your New Year's Resolutions"** explained by Walter Holtschi, Thursday, December 13, 6 p.m., at Sacred Pathway Bookstore (300 Carlsbad Village Drive, suite 103). Free. 760-729-2434. (CARLSBAD)

## IN PERSON

**Are Crime-Scene Cleanup Companies** accurately portrayed by Hollywood? According to Marie Fitzgerald, owner of A&M Bio-Recovery, "Television programs about crime don't fairly portray her industry." Get the skinny when Fitzgerald addresses Sisters in Crime on Thursday, December 6, 7 p.m., at Joyce Beers Community Center (1010 University Avenue). \$3. 858-748-6842. (HILLCREST)

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# Calendar

## LOCAL EVENTS

**Children's Novelist** Pam Muñoz Ryan discusses, signs *Paint the Wind*, Thursday, December 6, 7 p.m., at Warwick's Bookstore (7812 Girard Avenue, 858-454-0347). Free. (LA JOLLA)

**Ring in the Holidays!** Community festival of music continues daily through Sunday, December 23, 7 p.m., at Latter-Day Saints Temple (7474 Charmant Drive). Bell choirs, Hispanic choirs, deaf choir, operatic and instrumental performances, harps, youth choirs, much more! Free. 858-277-7798. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

**Swingin' Big-Band and Holiday Sounds** on tap when Jerry James Sound Investment performs for First Thursday Concert in Escondido Library's Turrentine Room (239 South Kalmia Street) on December 6, 7 p.m. Free. 760-839-4329. (ESCONDIDO)

**"Rain!"** Cirque Eloize hits Civic Theatre for run, through Sunday, December 9. "Story takes place in a theater where a circus show is in rehearsal, where theater and reality blend into one another and you can't tell where one begins and the other ends"; piece blends dance, theater, stunts, humor. Curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 2 p.m. on Saturday; 1 and 6 p.m. on Sunday. Find theater at 202 C Street. Tickets: \$17, \$38, \$53, available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). (DOWNTOWN)

**"Winter Sing and Swing,"** Frequency vocal jazz ensemble performs in MiraCosta College The-

atre (One Barnard Drive) on Thursday and Friday, December 6 and 7, 7:30 p.m. \$10 general. 760-795-6815. (OCEANSIDE)

**World-Beat and African Music** by Damaru and Sene Africa (hailing from Senegal), along with belly dance by Shalimar (belly dance) on Thursday, December 6, 8 p.m., at Claire de Lune Coffee Lounge (2905 University Avenue). Donation: \$5. 619-688-9845. (NORTH PARK)

**"A Night for Jazz and Celebration,"** live jazz performances by keyboardist Bob Ravenscroft and bassist Dwight Kilian for Media Serving the Word ministry, Friday, December 7, 5 p.m., at Christ Lutheran Church (4761 Cass Street). Free. 858-483-2300. (PACIFIC BEACH)

**Musical Holiday Entertainment** planned at North Chapel in Liberty Station (2881 Roosevelt Street) on December 7 and 8. Opera singer Martha Jane Howe performs Friday at 6 p.m., followed by Cabrillo Singers (7 p.m.).

On Saturday, Cherubs and Joyful Praise children's choir perform (11 a.m.); followed by Ringers REJOYce, an adult bell ensemble of four and a half octaves of bells (1 p.m.). American Guild of Organist members Alicia McMillin (5 p.m.) and George Butterfield (8 p.m.) play Christmas melodies on original Rogers pipe organ. Soloist Sarah Suhonen presents Christmas jazz selections (6:30 p.m.). Free. 619-573-9300. (POINT LOMA)

**"Oy Chanuke: A Celebration of Yiddish Culture"** — Yiddish arts festival planned December 7-9 at Congregation Beth El of La Jolla (8660 Gilman Drive). Yale Strom focuses on "The Influence of Klezmer Music on the Revival of Yiddish Culture in the United

## OUT & ABOUT

**DUE DUO**  
Athenaeum Music  
and Arts Library,  
Monday, December  
10.

(SEE IN PERSON)



States" during "Khanike dinner," Friday, 6:15 p.m.

On Saturday, Shabbat services at 9:30 a.m. followed by presentation on Yiddish literature by Thane Rosenbaum (author of *The Golems of Gotham*, *Second Hand Smoke*, *The Myth of Moral Justice*). Rosenbaum tells a Yiddish story during luncheon on Saturday, noon. Concert by Yale Strom and Hot Pstromi at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday's events include family *Khanike* party and puppet show with storyteller/musician Craig Parks (4 p.m.). Screening of *King of the Corner*, directed by and starring Peter Riegert, starts at 7 p.m. Riegert leads discussion following movie (for mature audiences). Pricing, reservations: 858-452-1734. (LA JOLLA)

**SDSU MFA Graduate Reading** — ten MFAs read poetry and short stories, Friday, December 7, 7 p.m., in Scripps Cottage at San Diego State University. Potluck. Free. 619-594-5443. (SDSU)

**Something for Everyone?** Meet a bevy of authors at Mysterious Galaxy Bookstore on Friday, December 7, 7 p.m. Roster boasts local erotica author Celia May Hart (*One More Time*), urban fantasy author Jeanne Stein (*The Watcher*), mystery author Theresa Schwegel (*Person of Interest*), and

epic fantasy author J.V. Jones (*A Sword from Red Ice*). All will discuss, sign their works. Free admission. Find the Galaxy at 7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, 858-268-4747. (KEARNY MESA)

**Stand-Up Comedian** Doug Stanhope — who had short-lived candidacy for president on Libertarian ticket — performs second anniversary Ocean Beach Comedy show on Friday, December 7, 7 p.m., at Winstons (1921 Bacon Street). \$10. 619-222-6822. (OCEAN BEACH)

**"The Mystery of the Magi's Gold"** explored by Sister of Late Night Catechism, Friday, December 7, 7 p.m., at Mission San Luis Rey (4050 Mission Avenue). Who "made off with the gold coins and left Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus in that lousy stable without any chance to upgrade to a suite? With special forensic tools and audience-participation," Sister solves the mystery. Tickets: \$20-\$75. 760-757-3250. (OCEANSIDE)

**"In Adoration of the King of Kings,"** the 2007 yuletide musical by Camp Kirkland and Tom Fettke, with script by Nan Gurley, presented December 7-9 at Hope United Methodist Church (16550 Bernardo Heights Parkway). Performances begin at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, 2 p.m. on Saturday, 4 p.m. on

Sunday. To obtain free tickets, call 858-485-5840. (RANCHO BERNARDO)

**"Love and Other Feelings"** — songs penned throughout fall 2007 semester by members of MiraCosta College's songwriting class showcased, Friday, December 7, 7:30 p.m., in Studio A at the Creative Arts Complex at MiraCosta College (One Barnard Drive). \$10. 760-795-6815. (OCEANSIDE)

**Makaha Sons Annual Christmas Concert** with guest Keali'i Reichel, Friday, December 7, 7:30 p.m., at Stephen and Mary Birch North Park Theatre (2891 University Avenue). Halaus performing: Halau o Na Ali'i, Halau o Pualani, Taupou. Tickets: \$45-\$85. 619-239-8836. (NORTH PARK)

**"A Christmas Carol"** — the classic Dickens tale of Scrooge interpreted with "music, dancing, and holiday magic" by La Jolla Stage Company, December 7-16, at Torrey Pines Christian Church (8320 La Jolla Scenic Drive North). Performances begin at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, December 7 and 8, and at 2 and 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 9 (and 8 p.m. on Friday, December 14, 2 and 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 16). Tickets: \$15 children, \$20 adult. 858-454-7798. (LA JOLLA)

**Carols by Candlelight Concerts** benefiting Make-A-Wish Foundation of San Diego, Friday and Saturday, December 7 and 8, 8 p.m., California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard). Headliner is Billy Ray Cyrus; other country artists include Joe Nichols, Carter's Chord, Collin Raye, Juice Newton, Buck Howdy. Each will sing traditional holiday favorites, hits of their own. \$28. 858-707-9474. (ESCONDIDO)

**"Christmas Is Comin' Uptown"** musical loosely based on Charles Dickens's "Christmas Carol" continues through December 16 at

World Beat Center (2100 Park Boulevard). Scrooge is a Harlem slumlord about to foreclose on a tenement house and a church who receives surprise visits from an old friend and some ghosts. Performances begin at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, December 7, 8, 14, and 15; at 5 p.m. on Sundays, December 9 and 16. Tickets: \$20 general, \$10 students. 619-263-7911. (BALBOA PARK)

**Oliver Lake Organ Quartet** performs for Athenaeum Jazz at Athenaeum School of the Arts Studio (4441 Park Boulevard), Saturday, December 8, 8 p.m. Quartet members include saxophonist Lake, Jared Gold (organ), Duane Eubanks (trumpet), Johnathan Blake (drums). \$24 general. 858-454-5872. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

**Songs, Spirituals, Holiday Favorites** promised when soprano Anishka Lee-Skorepa gives recital with pianist Janie Prim, Saturday, December 8, 8 p.m., at First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego (4190 Front Street). \$10. 619-298-4580. (HILLCREST)

**Local Novelist** Dovie D. Dawson signs, discusses her book *Discovering Me: Reality from Within*, Saturday, December 8, 2 p.m., at Somewhere Else Coffeehouse and Bookstore (330 North Magnolia). Free. 619-441-0480. (EL CAJON)

**"Harmony Comes Home,"** annual holiday show by Pacific Coast Harmony, Saturday, December 8, 3 and 7 p.m., at Neurosciences Institute (10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive). "Music and joy of the holidays in the barbershop style." \$15 general. 760-723-2294. (LA JOLLA)

**The "17th Annual Requiem"** presented by San Diego African American Musicians' Heritage Foundation, Saturday, December 8, 3-6 p.m., at Christ Church of San Diego (1355 Fern Street). Fea-

# Wedding Guide

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tured: Glen Doucette, Lila Brown Smith, James Moody; guest artists include emcee Cynthia Hammond, Earl Volkes Trio, Jessie Davis, Lisa Hightower, Aubrey Fay, many others. Donation: \$20. 858-566-1974, 619-264-7240. (GOLDEN HILL)

**Fine Art and Music** promised Saturday, December 8, 6-10 p.m., at Sister Lodge in the Gallery Upstairs (3807 Utah Street). Meet artists Pilar Montañó, Julio de la Huerta, Marnie Cruz, Joe Cruz and see their paintings; musician John Cain, author of *Life's a Good Gig*, will sign books, perform songs, 6-8 p.m. Additional musical performances by operatic tenor Daniel Hendricks and composer, musician, artist de la Huerta. Free. 619-286-3144. (NORTH PARK)

**"A Christmas Carol"** is presented by Kinney Productions, December 7-23, at Julian Town Hall (2129 Main Street). Curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, with 1 p.m. matinee on Sunday,

December 23. Tickets: \$10 general, \$6 for those 12 and younger. 760-765-1857, 760-765-1688. (JULIAN)

**"Gloria,"** MiraCosta Chamber Chorale and North Coast Chorale perform December 8 and 9 at First Presbyterian Church (2001 El Camino Real). Program includes traditional carols, classical holiday music, seasonal music from Spain, Mexico, Russia, England; chorales will sing Arnold Freed's "Gloria" with organist Jackson Borges. Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday. \$10 general. 760-795-6815. (OCEANSIDE)

**Celtic Harpists** and "multi-instrumentalists" Lisa Lynne and Aryeh Frankfurter plan concert, Saturday, December 8, 8 p.m., at Seaside Center for Spiritual Living (1613 Lake Drive). \$15. 818-569-5691. (ENCINITAS)

**"Ed McMahon's Memories of 'The Tonight Show,' "** romp through late-night TV with the

sidekick extraordinaire on Saturday, December 8, 8 p.m., at Poway Center for the Performing Arts (15498 Espola Road). Tickets: \$45 adults, \$5 children. 858-748-0505. (POWAY)

**Sassy, Classy, Brassy!** San Diego Men's Chorus plans holiday show, December 8 and 9, at Qualcomm Hall (5775 Morehouse Drive). Guests: Westwind Brass, the Cosmos. Concerts begin at 8 p.m. Saturday (\$20, \$25); 3 p.m. Sunday (\$15). 619-296-7664. (SORRENTO VALLEY)

**"Comics That Kill"** — comedy by Stephanie Paul, Georgia Van C, Jason Bang, Bethany Dwyer, Erik Knowles, Danielle Stewart on Saturday, December 8, 8:30 p.m., at Milano Coffee Company (8685 Rio San Diego Drive, suite B). Not for those under 14. \$7. 619-263-3335. (MISSION VALLEY)

**First African-American Newspaper's Contributions** to San Diego explored when local scholar and writer Jacqueline Bacon dis-

cusses her book *Freedom's Journal: The First African-American Newspaper*. Talk starts at 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 9, at San Diego Public Library (820 E Street). Free. 619-236-5821. (DOWNTOWN)

**Jazz Vocalist** Rachel Lauren performs for fall concert series, Sunday, December 9, 2 p.m., in Schulman Auditorium at Carlsbad City Library (1775 Dove Lane). Free; tickets given out beginning at 1 p.m. 760-602-2012. (LA COSTA)

**International Human Rights Day Celebration**, Sunday, December 9, 3 p.m., in Crill Hall at Point Loma Nazarene University (3900 Lomaland Drive). The 59th anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) adoption marked with concert by combined San Diego Young Artists Symphony Orchestra and Point Loma Nazarene University Orchestra. Listen for "Fanfare for the Common Man" and "A Lincoln Portrait" by Aaron Copland,

"Theme from *Schindler's List*" by John Williams. Program includes brief UDHR cartoon video, a reading by Walter Ritter of Elie Wiesel's Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, more. Free. 619-223-8074. (POINT LOMA)

**Second Sunday Poetry Series** features reading by Lizzie Wann and Johnnie Renee Nia Nelson, Sunday, December 9, 3 p.m., at Open Door Books (4761 Cass Street). Open reading follows. Free. 858-270-8642. (PACIFIC BEACH)

**Presidio Brass Quintet** plays Christmas music, Sunday, December 9, 4 p.m., at North Coast United Methodist Church (1501 Kelly Street). Donations accepted for performers. Optional dinner follows (\$6.50 general). 760-439-4099. (OCEANSIDE)

**What Happens at the Library?** Author talk by Don Borchert, writer of *Free for All: Oddballs, Geeks, and Gangstas in the Public Library*, Monday, December 10,

6:30 p.m., in Wangenheim Room at San Diego Public Library (820 E Street). Borchert shares tales from his 12 years as assistant librarian in suburban Southern California. Free. 619-236-5821. (DOWNTOWN)

**International Human Rights Day Commemoration**, celebrating 59th anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights adoption, set for Monday, December 10. Six actors, one narrator perform reading of *Lemkin's House*, described as "a thought-provoking drama about the horrors of genocide," Monday, December 10, 7 p.m., Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, University of San Diego (5998 Alcalá Park). Free. RSVP: 619-260-7509. (LINDA VISTA)

**Due Duo** — concert with combination of two guitarists and two trumpeters: George Svoboda and Fred Benedetti and Calvin Price and Philip Tauber — Monday, December 10, 7:30 p.m., at



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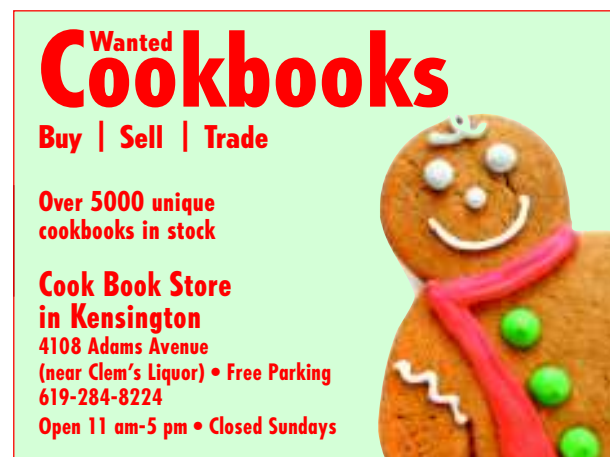


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# Calendar

## LOCAL EVENTS

Athenaeum Music and Arts Library (1008 Wall Street). Two duos create “a new yet old sonic resonance.” \$20. Reservations: 858-454-5872. (LA JOLLA)

**Palomar Jazz Ensembles** led by Gunnar Biggs and joined by flutist Holly Hofmann in concert, Monday, December 10, 8 p.m., in Howard Brubeck Theatre at Palomar College (1140 West Mission Road). \$12 general. 760-744-1150 x2453. (SAN MARCOS)

**“Jingle All the Way,”** celebrate the season with San Diego Chorus, Tuesday, December 11, 7:30 p.m.,

Scottish Rite Temple (1895 Camino del Rio South). \$25 tickets include buffet of cakes, treats, coffee, tea. 619-262-8522. (MISSION VALLEY)

**“4x4,”** Sushi Performance and Visual Art’s performance series continues Tuesday, December 11, 8 p.m., at Bluefoot Bar and Lounge (3404 30th Street). Participants present new or in-progress works in “alternative, casual social setting”; all pieces low-tech, limited to ten minutes, performed on 4’ x 4’ stage. 21 and older. Donation. 619-235-8466. (NORTH PARK)

**“WordChop,”** evenings of poetry and prose reading, spoken word, song, freestyle rap, every Wednesday, 7–8 p.m., at Jitters Coffee (510 North Coast Highway #D). Original literature and old favorites welcome. Background DJ available to provide

atmosphere music and beats. Free. 760-967-7886. (OCEANSIDE)

**Pomerado Brass Quintet** plays for holiday party, Wednesday, December 12, 6:30 p.m., at Rancho Peñasquitos Library (1330 Salmon River Road). Free. 858-538-8159. For all ages. (RANCHO PENASQUITOS)

**Community Sing-Along** hosted by San Diego Children’s Choir and Westwind Brass, Wednesday, December 12, 7 p.m., at St. Paul’s Cathedral (2728 Sixth Avenue). Westwind Brass will perform music from Tchaikovsky’s “Nutcracker Suite,” Handel’s “Messiah,” a “Kwanza Celebration,” and mix of popular American Christmas carols. San Diego Children’s Choir Youth and alumni ensembles will sing pieces including “Angels’ Carol” by John Rutter, “What a Wonderful Child” by Larry Shackley, an “exciting version” of “Deck the Halls,” more. \$25 general. 619-501-3562. (MIDDLETOWN)

**Staged Reading of Jean Shepherd’s Classic *Christmas Story*** performed by Olive Tree Players of Mission Valley, December 13–16. Expect version of 1983 film in which Ralphie Parker devises a scheme to get a BB gun under the Christmas tree. Arrive early for Christmas carolers, hot apple cider. Performances begin at 7 p.m. Thursday–Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday. General admission: \$10 in advance, \$12 at door. 619-297-4366 x510. (MISSION VALLEY)

**“Thoroughly Modern Millie”** presented by actors of San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts. Curtain rises at 7 p.m. Thursday–Saturday, December 13–15 (and Thursday and Friday, December 20 and 21), and 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 22. \$10 general. Find campus at 2425 Dusk Drive. 619-475-8556 (PARADISE HILLS)

**Thriller Author** Todd Buchholz signs, discusses *The Castro Gene*,

Thursday, December 13, 7 p.m., at Del Mar Library (1309 Camino del Mar). Free. 858-755-1666. (DEL MAR)

**Renowned Economist** Paul Krugman visits Warwick’s Bookstore (7812 Girard Avenue) on Thursday, December 13, 7:30 p.m., to discuss and sign *The Conscience of a Liberal*. Free. 858-454-0347. (LA JOLLA)

**“The Latin Jazz Experience”** is illuminated in concerts on Thursday and Friday, December 13 and 14, 7:30 p.m., in MiraCosta College Theatre (One Barnard Drive). Expect tribute to icons of Latin jazz, guest performers. \$10 general. 760-795-6815. (OCEANSIDE)

**Contemporary and Classic Compositions** on tap when Palomar Concert Band presents holiday concert, Thursday, December 13, 8 p.m., in Palomar College Performance Lab (room D-10 at 1140 West Mission Road). \$12 general. 760-744-1150 x2453. (SAN MARCOS)

## 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)

**Greater San Diego Hunter Jumper Horse Show** continues through Sunday, December 9, at Del Mar Fairgrounds. Show hours: 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Free admission. 858-481-9085. (DEL MAR)

**Bring a New, Unwrapped Toy** to donate for Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots campaign during USO’s 11th annual 8k/5k run and walk at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar on Saturday, December 8, 8 a.m. 619-235-6503. (MIRAMAR)

**In Search of the Black Sea Turtle,** paddle silent kayaks over warm, shallow waters of South Bay, pass over eel grass beds to look for backs and heads of turtles rising to breathe during family program hosted by San Diego Natural History Museum, Saturday, December 8, 9 a.m. Learn biology of these sea creatures, story of San Diego’s turtles (tale that began in 1855). Fees: \$65 for adults, \$20 per child 8–12 in double kayak with parent (price includes equipment, paddling instruction). Reservations: 619-255-0203. (SAN DIEGO BAY)

**Looping the Bay,** Knickerbiker bicyclists will head out from County Administration Building (1600 Pacific Highway) for 25-mile jaunt on Saturday, December 8, at 9:30 a.m., catching 10 a.m. ferry to Coronado. Riders stop to see Christmas tree at Hotel del Coronado, continue south and back up bay side, stopping at El Torito for lunch. Bring money for lunch, ferry. 858-453-3687. (DOWNTOWN)



**Garden of Lights**  
December 7-9, 13-23, 26-30  
5:00 PM to 9:00 PM

**Holiday Lighting Exchange Event**  
hosted by SDG&E and PEAK,  
Friday, Dec. 14,  
from 5-9 PM  
during Garden of Lights.

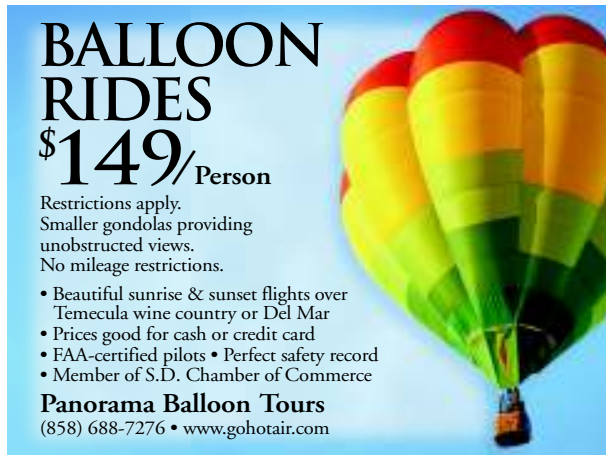
Exchange up to three (3) incandescent holiday light strands for energy-efficient multicolored holiday lights (while supplies last).

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Photo: Bob Wigand

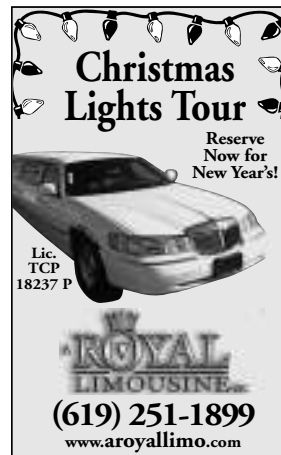


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**Nate Harrison Grade Ultimate Downhill Mountainboarding Race** is Saturday, December 8, starting at 10 a.m. Race follows seven-mile fire road down Palomar Mountain. The “NHG-7” is a timed run down mountain; riders leave start gate in one-minute intervals. Fastest time wins the race. Competitors include (three-time undefeated champ) Krazy Kris, Daymein Herstenstein, Akoni Kama, Scott Jones, Neil and Ben Selinger, Todd Sanders, Daniel Beltz, Brad Beren, Rob Eakle, Mike Kintanar, Daren Peterson. Last year’s winning time: around 20 minutes.

To reach Nate Harrison Grade, take I-15 towards Highway 76; head east. Follow Highway 76 about 12 miles; after Cole Grade Road, turn left on Nate Harrison Grade, follow to start of dirt road. No fees. 858-382-0355. (PALOMAR MOUNTAIN)

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

**The “Hardest Ride”** led by San Diego Bicycle Touring Society bicyclists is an 80-miler starting at 8:45 a.m. at Doyle Park (8175 Regents Road) and hitting Valley Center, Lilac, more on Sunday, December 9. Free. 619-688-6536. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

**Storm the Beach!** Cyclocross event on wide, fast dirt roads with deep sand sections and rideable hard-pack beach section, Sunday, December 9, on Red Beach. Race-

day registration opens at 8:30 a.m.; first category begins racing at 9:30 a.m. Take I-5 to Las Pulgas exit; go west, proceed through yellow gate on dirt road to parking area. To enter base, bring driver’s license, proof of insurance, vehicle registration. Race entry fee: \$25. USA Cycling licenses required; one-day licenses available for purchase. 760-500-7879. (CAMP PENDLETON)

**San Diego Chargers** are in Tennessee for game against Titans on Sunday, December 9, 10 a.m. Game broadcast on CBS; listen on radio station KIOZ-FM, Rock 105.3. Tickets for future games: \$54–\$92, available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS).

SPECIAL

**“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)

**Holiday of Lights** at Del Mar Fairgrounds is showcase of seasonal festive lights, with more than 350 holiday-themed displays on view 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),

OUT & ABOUT

**“ED McMAHON’S MEMORIES OF THE TONIGHT SHOW”** Saturday, December 8, Poway Center for the Performing Arts.

(SEE IN PERSON)



\$18 per vehicle with six or more people. 858-793-5555. (DEL MAR)

**Historic Navy North Chapel** at Liberty Station was built in 1942 and has recently been restored. Tours and open house planned at North Chapel on Saturdays, December 8, 15, 29, 9–11 a.m. The original Rogers pipe organ will be playing.; chapel features stained-glass windows, ornate tile, hand-carved pews. Free. Find chapel at 2881 Roosevelt Drive; 619-573-9300. (POINT LOMA)

**“Are There No Truths — Only Half-Truths?”** Explore subject with P&R Discussion group, Thursday, December 6, 7 p.m., at Other Side Coffee House (4096 30th Street). Free. 619-370-1027. (NORTH PARK)

**Color and Light Abound** when TNT (Thursday Night Thing) convenes for end-of-the-year holiday bash showcasing the luminous work of artist Robert Irwin on Thursday, December 6. Evening includes guided, behind-the-scenes tour through galleries, make-your-own kaleidoscope activity, live performances by the SoftLightes, Tender Buttons, Red Pony Clock, deejay Dr. Indulgent. Party starts

at 7 p.m. at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (1001 Kettner Boulevard). Donation: \$3. 858-454-3541. (DOWNTOWN)

**Christmas on the Promenade** planned at NTC Promenade at Liberty Station, December 7 and 8. Friday’s events run 4–9 p.m., 10 a.m.–6 p.m. on Saturday. “Winter Wonderland Snow Hill,” Christmas tree alley, live performances, holiday vendors, breakfast with Santa (Saturday), kids’ zone. Admission is free. 858-225-5687. (POINT LOMA)

**Ride the Ferry with Santa** from San Diego Harbor Excursion’s Ferry Dock (on North Harbor Drive) at 4 p.m. on Friday, December 7. Ride concludes at “Winter Garden” boasting snow to play in, live music, face painting, and holiday crafts for kids. Events continue with 32nd annual holiday parade along Orange Avenue at 6 p.m. and concert in Rotary Park at 7 p.m. Free. 619-435-9260. (DOWNTOWN)

**Balboa Park December Nights** — entertainment, food, holiday cheer, free admission to museums in park-wide annual celebration, Friday, De-

cember 7, 5–10 p.m., and Saturday, December 8, noon–10 p.m. Free admission. 619-239-0512. (BALBOA PARK)

**Garden of Lights**, 12th annual event boasts gardens decorated with 90,000-plus sparkling lights on plants and trees at Quail Botanical Gardens (230 Quail Gardens Drive). Holiday Garden of Lights can be enjoyed 5–9 p.m., December 7–9, December 13–23, and December 26–30. Holiday crafts, live entertainment, marshmallow roasting, children’s activities, and food (for sale). Admission: \$10 general, \$3 for those 3–12, free for kids under 3. 760-436-3036. (ENCINITAS)

**“Gift of Art”** exhibit and fundraiser by artist Doris Besikof, Friday, December 7, 5 p.m., at Loews Coronado Bay Resort (4000 Loews Coronado Bay Road). Representative of Modest Needs Foundation will be on hand to accept donations and issue tax-deductible receipts; all donations distributed to those devastated by recent wildfires. Each person who donates will receive one of Besikof’s original oil paintings (art given will be of similar value to the amount donated). Free admission. 619-424-4443. (CORONADO)

**Christmas Caroling** in community and hot chocolate social planned on Friday, December 7, starting at 5:30 p.m. at All Saints’ Parish Hall (625 Pennsylvania Avenue). Free. RSVP: 619-298-7729. (HILLCREST)

**“The Sacred and the Profane,”** interpretations of contemporary life in Lhasa, Tibet, by Chinese and Tibetan artists, and collection of

*thangkas*, showcased December 7–9 at Lotus Loft (680 West Beech Street #2). Show hours: 6–9 p.m. Friday, opening at 1 p.m. on weekend, closing at 9 p.m. on Saturday, 6 p.m. on Sunday. Free. 619-991-2097. Show closes Saturday, January 5. (DOWNTOWN)

**Holiday Book Sale** at Friends of the Coronado Public Library on Saturday, December 8, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., at 6th and D Avenue. Free admission. 619-435-0290. (CORONADO)

**Paint-Out on Ocean Beach Pier** hosted by San Diego Watercolor Society, Saturday, December 8, 9 a.m. Jane Riles will demonstrate on-location watercolor painting; everyone can paint until noon, when Riles offers informal critiques. Free. 619-876-4550. (OCEAN BEACH)

**Tai Chi Chih** open practices, every Saturday, 9 a.m., at Sixth Avenue and Upas Street. Free. 619-231-9091. (BALBOA PARK)

**44th Annual North Park Toyland Parade**, Saturday, December 8, starting at 11 a.m. at Utah Street and University Avenue, with clowns, classic cars, horses, flag and drill teams, bands, traveling east on University, ending at 32nd Street.

Marching band competition starts at 9:30 a.m. at North Park Recreation Center (4044 Idaho Street). Free. 619-252-7918. (NORTH PARK)

**Art in the Valley**, Carmel Valley Artists host 44th annual winter show and sale, 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Saturday, December 8, at Karl Strauss Brewery Gardens (9675 Scranton

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# Calendar

## LOCAL EVENTS

Road). Many artists exhibit work in variety of media. Free admission. 760-945-6922. (SORRENTO VALLEY)

**Learn Traditional Japanese Gift-Wrapping Methods** when origami artist Vicky Mihara leads workshop, Saturday, December 8, 10:30 a.m.–noon, at Mingei International Museum — North County (155 West Grand Avenue). \$15 fee includes materials. Reservations: 760-735-3355. (ESCONDIDO)

**Pacific Beach Holiday Parade** with over 100 bands and floats, Saturday, December 8, noon, on Garnet Avenue (between Haines and Cass Streets). Santa's village for kids, arts and crafts vendors at Cass Street. Free. 858-273-3303. (PACIFIC BEACH)

**Salton City 500** remote-control submarine race slated for Saturday, December 8, 1 p.m., at site of Salton City Yacht Club (Salton Sea Road off Route 86). Race will run triangular course, with all subs racing simultaneously. Free. 619-804-2590. (SALTON SEA)

**"Christmas in Provence,"** enjoy traditional French holiday desserts, learn about Christmas tradition in Provence, enjoy French songs, hug *le pere Noel* (Santa) during festivities hosted by Alliance Française de San Diego on Saturday, December 8, 2–4 p.m., at Alta La Jolla Clubhouse (1540 Alta La Jolla Drive). Free. 858-254-2253. (LA JOLLA)

**Knitting Circles** for those who already know the basics to hook up and "meet other knitters and

exchange ideas," Saturdays, 2–5 p.m., at Knitting by the Beach (616 Stevens Avenue, suite B). You're asked to use yarns purchased in the store during session. Free. 858-509-9276. (SOLANA BEACH)

**"Festival of Lights"** celebrating Chanukah and heritage of Jewish settlers, Saturday, December 8, 6 p.m., at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park Plaza. Traditional songs, folk dancing, magic show, food. Free. 619-884-5527. (OLD TOWN STATE PARK)

**We Love a Parade** (wet versions), Oceanside Yacht Club hosts 31st annual Christmas Boat Parade of Lights, Saturday, December 8. Many light-adorned boats circle harbor for viewing pleasure beginning at 6 p.m. Watch parade from anywhere within harbor. Free. 760-722-5751.

The 35th Mission Bay Christmas Boat Parade of Lights is Saturday, December 8, 7 p.m. Parade begins at Quivira Basin, covers the Mission Bay shoreline to south Ingraham Street Bridge. Best viewing points are Crown Point, east side of Vacation Island, west side of Fiesta Island. 858-539-0570.

"Yo Ho Ho... A Pirate's Christmas" is theme for 36th annual San Diego Bay Parades of Lights, Sundays, December 9 and 16, 5:30–9:30 p.m. For those viewing on land, north and south ends of Embarcadero as well as pathway along Coronado are good spots. Free. 619-224-2240. (MISSION BAY, OCEANSIDE, SAN DIEGO BAY)

**Stamp-Collecting Show**, stamp and cover dealers offer wares, Sunday, December 9, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., at Al Bahr Shrine Temple (5440 Kearny Mesa Road). Free. 619-218-7835. (KEARNY MESA)

## OUT & ABOUT

**"JOHN DANIEL ABEL: PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS, AND GRAPHICS, 1977–2007"**  
Opening Sunday, December 9,  
Pacific Beach Library.

(SEE GALLERIES)



SICK WOMAN, JOHN ABEL, 2007

**Mystical Tea-Reading Parties** planned by "fourth-generation tea leaf reader" Jannine Oberg on Sunday, December 9, 1:30 p.m., at Lavender Fields (12460 Keys Creek Road). Enjoy lavender Earl Grey tea, freshly baked lavender scones, and explanation of "secrets and mysteries behind the journey of tea from its origin in China, through Asia, and into Europe." One person from each table will have her tea leaves read aloud. \$12. Registration: 888-407-1489. (VALLEY CENTER)

**Alan Greenspan's Essay** "Gold and Economic Freedom" is subject for San Diego Objectivist discussion group, Sunday, December 9, 6 p.m., Claire de Lune Coffee Lounge (2906 University Avenue). Newcomers welcome. Free. 619-277-5840. (NORTH PARK)

**Yoga for Lunch!** Sylvia Castelluzzo leads "gentle, slow flow" yoga classes on Mondays and Wednesdays, including December 10 and 12, noon, Dance Place (2650 Truxton Road, studio 201). \$7. 858-380-7507. (POINT LOMA)

**Holiday Bazaar and Tea** hosted by Point Loma Garden Club on Wednesday, December 12, 10:30 a.m.–1 p.m., at Portuguese Hall (2818 Avenida de Portugal). Specialty holiday fresh and dried decorations, crafts and

home-made delectables for sale. Free admission. 619-223-3315. (POINT LOMA)

**Las Posadas** sponsored by Save Our Heritage Organisation, Wednesday, December 12. Celebration represents pilgrimage of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem seeking shelter, complete with donkey. Public is invited to be part of procession, join with choir in singing traditional Mexican, American songs. Luminarias light the way beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Heritage Park and continuing through Old Town into the state park to the plaza. Free. 619-297-9327. (OLD TOWN)

**"Your Heart's Desire:** Sex and Love in Jewish Literature" explored during "Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature" discussion series, continuing with *The Lover* by A.B. Yehoshua on Wednesday, December 12, 6:30 p.m., at Poway Library (13137 Poway Road). Free. 858-513-2939. (POWAY)

**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)

**Sights + Sounds**, radio station FM 94.9 plans party on Thursday, December 13, 7 p.m., at San Diego Museum of Art. Live music by band Film School; Halloran plays music in rotunda; DJ Jon DeRosa will play post-punk and indie rock music. \$12. Reservations: 619-232-7931. (BALBOA PARK)

## FOR KIDS

**"Space 15"** is new teen area at San Diego Museum of Art. On Thursday, December 6, 6 p.m., participants meet other teen artists, sketch characters, create storyboards and flip books, and

hear about fall animation competition for teens. Free. 619-232-7931. (BALBOA PARK)

**The Bare Necessities!** The musical *Disney's The Jungle Book Kids* presented by J\*Company Youth Theatre, December 6–16, at David and Dorothea Garfield Theatre, Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center (4126 Executive Drive). Performances begin at 7 p.m. on Thursdays and Saturdays, 1 and 4 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets: \$12.50 children, \$16.50 adults. Reservations: 858-362-1348. (LA JOLLA)

**Balboa Park Puppet Guild Players** present free evening shows for "December Nights" festivities on Friday and Saturday, December 7 and 8, at 6, 7, 8 p.m., in Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theater.

Next up: *Cinderella*, performed by Puppet Express and Weaver's Tales, December 12–16. Shows (except December 7, 8) 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)

**"A Christmas Carol"** is presented by Pacific Children's Theatre, December 7–15, at Mission Hills United Church of Christ (4070 Jackdaw Street). Performances begin at 7 p.m. on Fridays; 2 p.m. on Saturdays; 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 9. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$7 kids. 619-920-2838. (MISSION HILLS)

**"Babes in Toyland,"** it's Christmas in Mother Goose Land, and wicked villain Barnaby wants to marry Mary. Quite Contrary and take over the world, but Mary and her friends have other plans. San Diego Junior Theatre South Bay actors tackle play, December 7–23, at Theatre on Third (250 3rd Avenue). Piece is based on 1903 operetta by Victor Herbert and Glen MacDonough.

Performances begin at 7 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, 2 and 4 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$5 youths. 619-239-8355. (CHULA VISTA)

**"The Velveteen Rabbit"** is current production for La Jolla San Diego Junior Theatre, continuing through December 16 at Firehouse YMCA Community Center (7877 Herschel Avenue). Performances begin at 7 p.m. on Fridays, at 2 and 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. \$10–\$15. 619-239-8355. For all ages. (LA JOLLA)

**Build a Recycled (Pretend) Robot** during family science day at San Diego Air and Space Museum on Saturday, December 8, at 12:30, 1:30, and 2:30 p.m. (sessions last 45 minutes). Included in paid admission. Reservations: 619-234-8291 x19. (BALBOA PARK)

**Chula Vista Live Steam Club** provides train rides, 12:30–2:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, December 8 and 9, at Rohr Park (4548 Sweetwater Road). Donation: 50 cents. Children under 48" must be accompanied by an adult. 619-421-5227. (BONITA)

**"As the Story Goes: Constructing Power,"** in conjunction with current exhibit, explore rituals from around world through storytelling and art activities on Sunday, December 9, 2 p.m., at California Center for the Arts Museum, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard). Free. 760-839-4120. (ESCONDIDO)

**Baby Loves Disco**, childproof disco for toddlers, preschoolers, parents planned Sunday, December 9, 2–5 p.m., at Aubergine (500 Fourth Avenue). "Baby Loves Disco" is "dance party featuring real music spun and mixed by real DJs blending classic disco tunes from the '70s and '80s...to get those little booties moving and grooving." Bubble machines, baskets of instruments, a chill-out room (with tents, books, puzzles), diaper-changing stations, healthy snacks. \$12. 619-232-8100. (DOWNTOWN)

**Mrs. Santa Claus** — a.k.a. actress, screenwriter, filmmaker Mickey Harrison — visits Warwick's Bookstore (7812 Girard Avenue) for Christmas story time, Monday, December 10, 4 p.m. Free. 858-454-0347. (LA JOLLA)

**National Cocoa Day** is celebrated with cups of cocoa and tales spun by storyteller Harlynn Geisler, Thursday, December 13, 3:30 p.m., at Valley Center Library (29200 Cole Grade Road). Free. 760-749-1305. (VALLEY CENTER)

## MUSEUMS

**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 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)

**Olaf Wieghorst Museum** displays paintings and prints by Olaf Wieghorst and features exhibits of other artists' American West art. Adjacent to museum is courtyard 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)

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# Visual Respiration

*Who knew fluorescent light could enchant?*

Robert Irwin, born in Long Beach in 1928, has a long history in and with California, San Diego in particular, where he has lived for 17 years and where a major exhibition of his work is on view downtown at the Museum of Contemporary Art, in both the old Kettner Building, which Irwin helped design, and the new Jacobs Building across the street that occupies the Santa Fe Depot's old baggage claim area. His pedagogy has been inseparable from his working career as an artist. As a professor at UCLA, USC, and other universities, he has spread not only his changing ideas about artistic practice but has been a model for generations of emerging artists. He has also executed public projects, the most conspicuous being the popular garden he created in the 1990s for the Getty Center. That commission grows more loudly than others because of much-publicized discord between him and the Getty complex architect, Richard Meier. Irwin's plunging, color-blasted garden installation is a sybarite's bower compared to Meier's priestly, aluminum-and-travertine pavilions.

Walking through the MCASD exhibition, *Robert Irwin: Primaries and Secondaries*, is not only a stroll through Irwin's brain over the past 50 or so years, it's also a snaggletoothed graph of changes in American art. We've passed from the supremely subjective, lyrical jazziness of abstract expression (Pollock, de Kooning, Kline), to minimalism's cool, angular reductions (Frank Stella,

Ellsworth Kelly), to conceptual art, installations, earthworks art, and all the other environmental, anything-goes, all-media adventures of the past 25 years. By 1971, having worked his way through abstraction, Irwin, much given to philosophical ruminations on the nature of art, gave up making objects as things to be "beheld" by viewers and devoted himself to creating art experiences in which object, receiver, and environment interfuse. One example is an installation he conjured for this exhibition: 115 fluorescent light fixtures occupy a grand (22' x 51') wall in the Jacobs, fashioned into T's and chevrons and hyphens that create cartouches of shade like little tombs where each light bar has been laid to rest. The boldness of the execution pushes you back; the mysteriousness of the lights pulls you in. The day I was there, a woman sat in a meditative position against the opposite wall looking at those lights as if suspended with them in a contemplative state. Who knew fluorescent light could enchant?

The exhibition takes its title from another new work, a set of panels painted in primary and secondary colors, with a rider of black and white monochromes, identically sized and hung on the walls like conventional paintings, except that they're crafted from aircraft honeycomb aluminum, and like other panels in the exhibition that I'll get to in a minute, they look like colored viscous fluid poured into molds, fixed, and then spray-painted with many layers of car lacquer.

## REVIEW W.S. DI PIERO



*Who's Afraid of Red, Yellow & Blue*

**Robert Irwin: Primaries and Secondaries**  
Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, 1001 Kettner, downtown  
In the Jacobs Building until February 23, 2008, and at the Kettner Building until April 13, 2008. For additional information, call 858-454-3541.

The Prussian blue, scarlet, canary yellow, and other colors don't have the optical buzz of certain minimalist paintings that are like amphetamine injected directly into your eyeball. Irwin doesn't consider these panels "pictures," anyway. They're environmental installations that

create a (very pleasurable) conversation between color, optical nerve, ambient space, and the inner life. I doubt it's accidental that the tawny orange panels match the color of passing trolley cars visible through the museum windows. The color echolations put us not *before* something

## Jaden Needs Our Help



Jaden was born on June 25, 2007, as what we thought was a very healthy baby boy. At 3 months, Jaden was having difficulty with digesting his food. Upon taking him to his pediatrician, Jaden was thought to have Acid Reflux. It wasn't until two months later that we found out that Jaden has a fatal disease called Krabbes.

Currently, Jaden is in North Carolina awaiting treatment at Duke University. However, Jaden can't receive the medical treatment he needs without our help.

Jaden will need extensive medical treatments to help with the pain of this terrible disease. As we race forward with hope for a cure, help us keep baby Jaden at the forefront of the medical doctors who may be able to give him life.

Without your donations, we can't help Jaden.

**Savingjaden.com**

**Blood Drive for Jaden:** Monday, Dec. 10, 11 am-5 pm  
Perry Ford National City

**Golf Tournament for Jaden:** Thursday, Dec. 13, 11 am  
San Marcos Country Club

## SDMA and FM 94/9 Present Sights + Sounds



Sights + Sounds features *Animated Painting*, SDMA's innovative exhibition of digital media, as well as local artist collective Ancient Gallery, FM 94/9 DJ Halloran, DJ Jon DeRosa, and a live performance by L.A. band Film School.

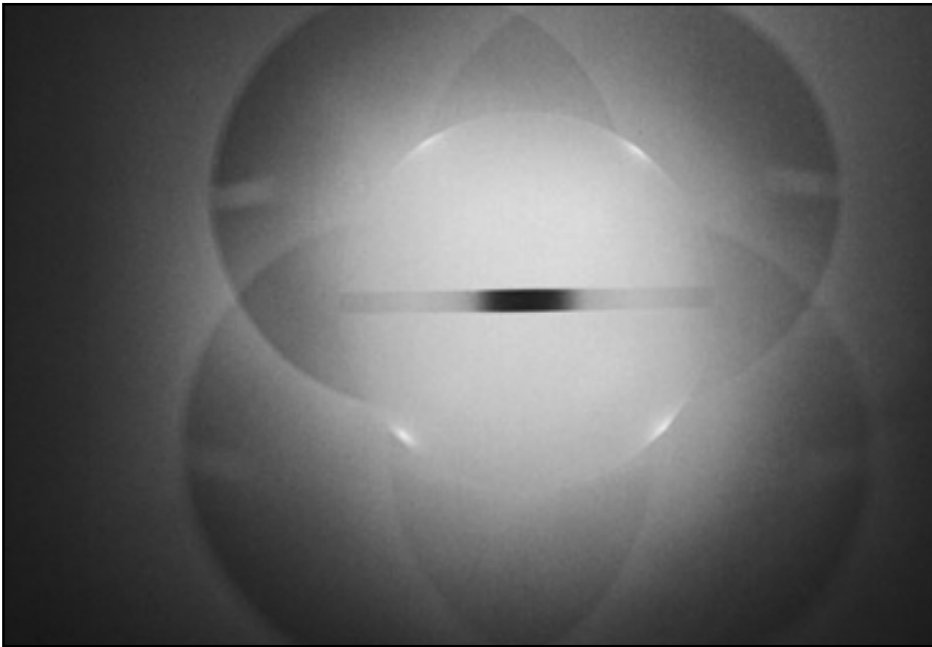
Tickets cost \$10 for members and \$12 for nonmembers.

**SDMA** **FM94/9**  
IT'S ABOUT THE MUSIC

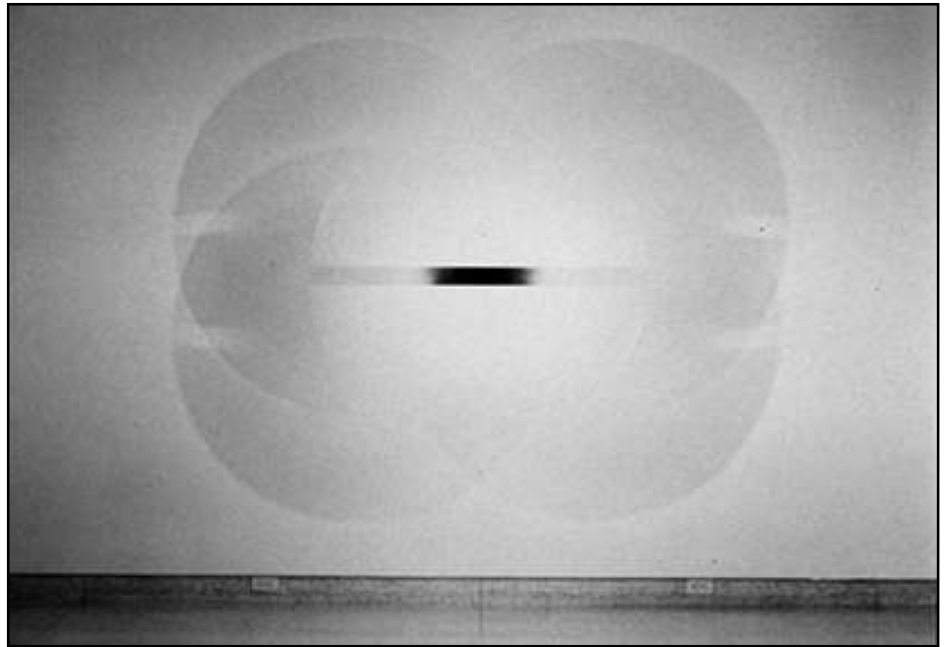
**SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF ART**  
**WWW.SDMART.ORG**

Artwork: Ruth Gómez, still from *Animales de compañía* (detail), 2005.





Untitled, 1968-1969



Untitled, 1969

but *inside* it: the museum interior and its contents absorb and stream back out to the workaday industrial exterior.

Another new panel installation, *Who's Afraid of Red, Yellow & Blue*, spins off late-1960s monochrome pictures of the same title by Barnett Newman. Irwin's "treatment" of Newman's precedent turns paintings-of-a-kind into installations. He uses panels similar to those in *Primaries and Secondaries* to organize an architectural space. Two large plates, suspended from the ceiling like an artifice of heaven, hover above matching panels on the floor. The space between them, the dialoguing, pressurized color environment they create, dilates depending on

where you stand — it's really some kind of sleek visual respiratory system. Irwin conceived the piece for that space, and the refractive results are uncanny. The gallery's high clerestory windows float on the floor panels, which in turn reflect them on the hovering flats — every surface receives and gives back some ambient element. The whole apparatus is one giant give-and-take gesture.

Irwin's commitment to art that accommodates place is x-rayed in the drawings included in the exhibition. (It's a small relief to pass from the airy but massive panels to the work on paper.) Two towers he was commissioned to design for Chicago (never built) were to be

constructed of cast iron and mixed media that in winter would have created frozen water effects. The room of drawings and architectural models also includes plans for the Miami International Airport in 1986, a visionary drawing of a "Desert Botanical Garden" for Phoenix, and designs for Donald Judd's complex in the high desert country of Marfa, Texas. The faintly sketched plans and models show Irwin the artist-dreamer to more delicate effect than anything in the exhibition.

Start your tour in the Jacobs Building and then walk across the street to the Kettner venue, and be prepared for a blast from you know where. The abstract expressionist canvasses Irwin was making in the early 1960s are impacted with meaty, whirling swabs of pigment. They look like "casings" of the tempestuousness we associate with de Kooning and Hans Hoffman. But look over your shoulder and you'll see becalmed, well-behaved tidiness in the meticulously designed color-field abstractions Irwin produced just a couple of years later. The wilderness has been paved over. Two of these prototypical minimalist pictures run thin ribs of paint across an expanse of similar hue. (One of them — citron lines stretched like pulled taffy across

a pastoral yellow ground — is happy *and* sober.) Another representative picture from Irwin's restless early period looks from a distance like a mildly befogged white surface. Approach it and you see that the fog is an optical scrim created by hundreds of tiny brush-tips of pink and green dots that dilate from a central concentration toward fade-to-white margins.

The middle gallery upstairs is an example of how the most up-to-date artist revises his own environmental constructions. Irwin, as I've said, helped to design the Kettner galleries, the oddest of which has a corner cut at an obtuse angle. It's always a little disorienting to enter the space because it messes with our expectations of the standard white-box exhibition space. For the current show he straightens up and flies right, so to speak, by squaring his original off-the-perpendicular design. To box the space — the piece is called *Square the Room* — he draped a wall-sized, finely filamented chain-mail scrim made of tergal voile, which looks at first like what it is — a wall. Except that it's not. If you're the sort of mule-headed viewer that I am who doesn't like to read explanations before looking, something about *Square the Room* looks off. So if you do as I did and like a fanatical myopic window-shopper close in on it while trying to figure out what's off, you'll bump your nose against the screen. That's when you see the room inside the room. It's a spiffy idea, lightly and humorously brought off, even if it's not exactly something you'd contemplate in the same way that sitting woman did before Irwin's gossiping bars of fluorescent light. ■

*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

**"Celebrating with Family and Friends,"** 80 original watercolor paintings included in exhibit continuing through Saturday, December 29, at San Diego Watercolor Society Showcase Gallery at NTC Promenade (2825 Dewey Road, suite 105). Juror: Drew Bandish. Reception for artists is Friday, December 7, 5 p.m. 619-876-4550. (POINT LOMA)

**"Human-Nature"** — PhotoArts Group hosts "photographic exploration of the distinctions and interfaces between people and the natural world" continuing through Tuesday, December 11, at 262 East Grand Avenue. Reception for artists: Saturday, December 8, 4 p.m. 760-432-9444. (ESCONDIDO)

**"Re-Covey,"** 26 artists "re-imagine 26 books" in exhibit opening with reception, Saturday, December 8, 5:30 p.m., at Art Around Books Gallery (5433-B Linda Vista Road). Through Saturday, January 12. 619-542-1179. (LINDA VISTA)

**"Art on Fire,"** local artists Nigel Grey, Corey Smith, Tyler Howorth "are supporting Habitat for Humanity's relief efforts to rebuild homes in the San Diego firestorm disaster areas" during exhibition opening with reception, Saturday, December 8, 6 p.m., at GRO Gallery (1105 South Coast Highway 101). Closes Saturday, December 22. 760-518-5311. (OCEANSIDE)

**Asian-Themed Art Event** for Ray at Night, Saturday, December 8, 6 p.m., at Gallery 504 (3041 University Avenue). Exhibit showcases local and international artists' "interpretations and visions as inspired by the Orient." Whole Leaf Tea House will provide "Gong Fu" tea service, lessons about teas of China. 504-390-3271. (NORTH PARK)

**"Sub 1K,"** exhibit with more than 20 artists and more than 50 artworks, all priced under \$1000, opens with reception on Saturday, December 8, 6 p.m., at Distinction Artist Studios and Gallery (317 East Grand Avenue). Closes Saturday, February 2. 760-781-5779. Second reception: Saturday, January 12. (ESCONDIDO)

**"Collecting Dust and Other Things:** Ephemera and Documentation" — series exploring meaning and process of art collecting begins with exhibition of nonmanipulated photographs by Bill Dane and performance on Saturday, December 8, 6:30 p.m., at 4 Walls Gallery (3813 Ray Street). Through Wednesday, January 9. 619-501-0879. (NORTH PARK)

**"John Daniel Abel: Paintings, Drawings, and Graphics, 1977-2007"** — exhibition of nearly 100 works opens with reception on Sunday, December 9, 1 p.m., at Earl and Birdie Taylor Library (Pacific Beach Library, 4275 Cass Street). Majority of works have never been exhibited; see landscapes, figurative paintings and drawings. Artist's talk: Saturday, January 12, 1 p.m. 858-581-9934. Through Sunday, February 3. (PACIFIC BEACH)

**Winter Multimedia Exhibit** and small images show opens with reception on Sunday, December 9, 4 p.m., at Del Mar Art Center Gallery (top level, Del Mar Plaza, 1555 Camino Del Mar). Annual "Starry Night" fundraiser with entertainment, refreshments takes place concurrently. 858-481-1678. (DEL MAR)

## ART MUSEUMS

**California Center for the Arts Museum,** "Ritualty" 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



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**FRIDAY:** Salsa\* • West Coast Swing

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“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.”

Each of these exhibits continues through Sunday, January 27.

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 *sui-seki*.

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, Downtown,** “Robert Irwin: Primaries and Secondaries” is “the largest exhibition of renowned artist...Irwin’s work since 1993.” Exhibit features five new major installation works created specifically for MCASD’s galleries, is drawn almost exclusively

of works from museum’s collection. Closes Sunday, April 13. Find the museum at 1001 and 1100 Kettner Boulevard (at Broadway), directly across from the Santa Fe Railroad Depot. 858-454-3541. (DOWNTOWN)

**Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla,** “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 cellphone 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.

“Image Makers and Rule Breakers: French Art, 1860-1960,” continuing through Sunday, January 20, highlights museum’s depth in mid-19th- through mid-20th-Century French painting and sculpture. Exhibition “presents two

parallel tracks of artistic experimentation: one following the landscape tradition and the other figurative art. It examines how these different paths both progressed towards abstraction.” Close to 30 works are on view, including Bouguereau’s *Young Shepherdess* and pieces by Monet, Toulouse-Lautrec, Renoir, Degas, others.

“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)

## CLASSICAL LISTINGS

*Events that are underlined occur after December 13.*

**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

**Music Student Honors Recital** for Concert Hour performance, Thursday, December 6, 12:30 p.m. in Palomar College Performance Lab (room D-10 at 1140 West Mission Road). Free. 760-744-1150 x2316. (SAN MARCOS)

**“A Warm Winter’s Night,”** favorite classics, carols of holiday season promised when Palomar Women’s Chorus take stage on Thursday, December 6, 8 p.m., in Palomar College Performance Lab (room D-10 at 1140 West Mission Road). \$5 general. 760-744-1150 x2316. (SAN MARCOS)

**Baroque Christmas Concert** by Aulos Ensemble and soprano Julianne Baird hosted by Fallbrook Music Society on Friday, December 7, 8 p.m., at Bob Burton Center for the Performing Arts (2400 South Stage Coach Lane). Concert, performed on “original instruments,” promises traditional carols, instrumental noels, cantatas with arias of Bach, Vivaldi, Rameau. Tickets: \$30 general, \$25 for active military, \$10 for those 12 and younger. Reservations: 760-451-8644. (FALLBROOK)

**Beethoven’s “Symphony No. 9”** may be heard when San Diego Master Chorale joins San Diego Symphony for “Jacobs’ Masterworks” concerts December 7–9 in Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street). Conductor Jahja Ling welcomes guest artists Olivia Gorra (soprano), Beth Clayton (mezzo-soprano), Jason Collins (tenor) Andrew Foster-Williams (bass-baritone). Concerts begin at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets:

\$20–\$90. Reservations: 619-235-0804. (DOWNTOWN)

**“Carols and Lullabies from the Southwest”** by Conrad Sousa may be heard when USD Choral Scholars and USD Concert Choir perform December 7 and 9, accompanied by orchestra and Spanish guitarist. Concerts begin at 8 p.m. on Friday, 2 p.m. on Sunday, in Founders Chapel at University of San Diego (5998 Alcalá Park). \$10 general. 619-260-4111. (LINDA VISTA)

**Distinguished British Soprano** Julia Gooding presents master class hosted by San Diego Early Music Society and National Association of Teachers of Singing on Saturday, December 8, 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. (approximately), at All Souls’ Episcopal Church (1475 Catalina Boulevard). Participants will perform works from the baroque continuo song literature accompanied by organ or harpsichord. \$5. 619-226-4266. (POINT LOMA)

**“The Gospel Messiah”** — Quincy Jones’s contemporary version of the 1741 oratorio may be heard Saturday, December 8, 6:30 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church (3030 Thorn Street). 619-281-2592. (NORTH PARK)

**“L’Enfance du Christ,”** Berlioz’s Christmas oratorio telling story of flight into Egypt by Mary, Joseph, infant Jesus promised when La Jolla Symphony and Chorus perform December 8 and 9. Concerts begin at 8 p.m. on Saturday, 3 p.m. on Sunday in UCSD’s Mandeville Auditorium. \$26 general. 858-534-4637. (LA JOLLA)

**Civic Organist** Carol Williams performs in Spreckels Organ Pavil-

ion on Sunday, December 9, 2 p.m. Free. 619-702-8138. (BALBOA PARK)

**East County Youth Symphony in Concert,** Sunday, December 9, 3 p.m., at El Cajon Elks Lodge (1400 East Washington Avenue). Program includes “Symphony No. 8 in G” by Dvořák and Mozart’s “Eine Kleine Nachtmusik” and “Flute Concerto in D.” Free. 619-444-0228. (EL CAJON)

**Christmas Concert** planned by choirs of Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Sunday, December 9, 4 p.m. Selections from Handel’s “Messiah,” traditional carols, other Christmas music; over 60 performers including handbell ringers, singers, instrumentalists will participate. Offering. Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 925 Balour Drive; 760-753-1026 x10. (ENCINITAS)

**“Serenati,”** elegant vocal music on tap when Lisa Elliott (soprano), Lisa Hoefs-Nau (soprano), Suzanne Shick (piano) perform Sunday, December 9, at Californiae Foundation for International Global Arts (Galerie d’Art International, 320 South Cedros Avenue, suite 500). Reception at 3:30 p.m., concert at 4 p.m., cocktails at 5 p.m. Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$23 at door. Recommended reservations: 858-793-0316. (SOLANA BEACH)

**Sing Along With Handel!** “Messiah” sing-along featuring community mass choir and San Diego Chamber Orchestra, Sunday, December 9, 4 p.m., at Christ United Presbyterian Church (3025 Fir Street). Soloists include contralto Sandra Camarena, tenor Dan Eaton, baritone Arthur Wheatfall, soprano Tonia Hampton. Narration of oratorio by

Dorothy Smith and youth choir. 619-239-2346. Free. (SOUTH PARK)

**“Feast of Lights,”** Westminster Choir and orchestra sing Handel’s “Messiah” with optional audience sing-along section (bring a score), Christmas carols, December 9 and 10, at First Presbyterian Church (320 Date Street). Concerts begin at 6 p.m. on Sunday, 7:30 p.m. on Monday. Offering. 619-232-7513. (DOWNTOWN)

**Westwind Brass Holiday Programs** offered Sunday, December 9, 7 p.m., at La Mesa First United Methodist Church (4690 Palm Avenue). Enjoy music from many countries and eras, including traditional Christmas carols, Hanukkah music, selections from Tchaikovsky’s “Nutcracker Suite,” Handel’s “Messiah,” more. Guest organist: Lea Schmidt-Rogers.

Busy on Monday? Concert repeats, Monday, December 10, 7 p.m., at Neurosciences Institute (10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive). Tickets for either concert: \$25 general. 619-501-3562. (LA MESA, LA JOLLA)

**“Puer Natus,”** enjoy Christmas music from 17th-Century Italy and Germany for soprano and two cornets by Schütz, Frescobaldi, Praetorius, Cima, and others when Gooding/Roberts/West/Savan ensemble performs for San Diego Early Music Society on Sunday, December 9. Concert begins at 8 p.m. at St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church (743 Prospect Street). Tickets: \$20, \$25. Reservations: 619-291-8246. (LA JOLLA)

**Senior Voice Recital** by James Schindler, Sunday, December 9, 8 p.m., in Smith Recital Hall at San Diego State University. Free. 619-594-6020. (SDSU)

# Gregorian Chant Mass



**Sunday, Dec. 9, 4:00 pm**

Pizza Social with singing by the Schola after Mass.

**Our Lady of the Rosary Church**

San Diego’s Jewel Box of Baroque and Rococo Art  
State and Date Streets (Little Italy)  
Downtown San Diego



# Calendar

## MUSIC SCENE

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](mailto:blurt@sdreader.com)

**After the Storm** RTX, an Orange County grindcore/speed-metal band, had a little trouble after they played Scolari's Office November 23.

# blurt

the inside track

"We had just gotten off a tour," says RTX bassist Kurt Midness, "and our agent told us about this place called Scolari's Office, that they didn't have a proper stage and they only paid, like, \$75 or \$100. But we weren't complaining." After their show, "They refused to pay us."

A Scolari's employee says it is true that RTX did not get paid.

"At one point [lead singer Jennifer Herrema] slammed her fist on the bar," says the employee. "She started sitting on the drum kit and mumbling incoherently. She started slamming her fist on the video game. She jumped on the bar at one point and looked like she was going to attack [a female bartender]."

The employee says Herrema's alleged bad behavior forfeited RTX's payment guarantee.

Bassist Midness says that Herrema "...leaned over the bar and knocked over someone's drink" but that there was no assault. "[Scolari's

manager] Donny never gave us a reason why he didn't pay us."

Herrema called the police. When they arrived, they told RTX they couldn't help them to get paid because it was a civil matter, says Midness. Then things got ugly, according to Alia Jyawook, who was there with her friend Chris Bloss.

could park there until 3 a.m. because that's what the sign said. The cop turns around and pushes Chris to the ground and tells him, 'Get the fuck out of here.' Chris says, 'You don't have any right to touch me. Don't touch me.' They start pushing him, then punching him, and they knocked him to the ground. A female cop gets on top of him while the male cop is still hitting him. The nightstick comes out, and they start hitting him with that. Chris never fought back at all. He was laying on his arms on the sidewalk. Tons of people saw it. Then they mace him. All he says is, 'Why am I getting arrested?'

"The band saw all this, and as they drive off someone kicks out the window in the van.... Chris was arrested and charged with interfering with police business."

SDPD spokeswoman Monica Muñoz said if there is an ongoing investigation it would be an internal affairs matter.

Jyawook says witnesses can contact her at [aliajyawook@yahoo.com](mailto:aliajyawook@yahoo.com).

"We didn't get far when four police cars pulled us over," says Midness. "They told us to get out of the van. Our driver didn't have a drop to drink. They spread us all out and checked our IDs. They arrested Jennifer, who didn't have an ID. They released her the next day with no charges."

Herrema says, "I kicked the window out because I just wanted to get out and help the kid. That Chris guy got involved in the first place because he saw these huge bouncers throw me to the sidewalk."

— Ken Leighton

**Mortgaged Limbs** After 14 years and approximately 130 releases by bands such as the Locust, GoGoGo Airheart, and the Rapture, GSL Records founder Sonny Kay and his partner Omar Rodriguez announced in October that they were calling it quits. Kay said the main reason for shutting down was a lack of sales and increased marketing costs.

"With each new release, the marketing and promotion expenses swelled more and more," Kay said. "There were these spiraling expenses and the inability for any of these records to really pay for themselves." Because of the amount of music vying for listeners' attention these days, Kay said smaller labels have been forced to spend huge amounts on promotions.

"To have any kind of impact whatsoever these days would cost a minimum \$9000 or \$10,000. The lion's share of that would be hiring a reputable indie publicist." He estimated GSL was spending about \$4 in promotions for every \$1 spent manufacturing the records and CDs.

"For us, we were spending \$1500 a month per band [on promotions], and we were mortgaging limbs to make that happen." Because GSL put so much importance on the artwork and design of each release — which included a lot of colored vinyl and eye-popping inks — the industry's transition to digital downloads

made Kay question his reason for continuing to put out music.

"More and more, and especially over the last year, I've been waking up to the fact that it's not really [as much] about quality of the record than [it is about] sales.... It's



PHOTOGRAPH FROM GOLDSTANDARDLAB.COM

### GSL GUYS' GOLD STANDARD STOPPED MAKING SENSE

so far removed from what we were doing successfully years ago that I got to the point where I was really disillusioned with satisfying the distributors, satisfying the bands — do everything we should be doing and at the same time swallow the fact that we're selling 800 records."

— Larry Harmon

### Battle-Tempered Record Exec

"My boyfriend, Marine captain David T. Russell, just got sent to Iraq for the third time," says singer/songwriter Jenn Grinels. "There are a couple of songs on the new album that deal with his past deployments. He happens to be highly decorated — Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart — which he doesn't like to talk about, but I'm very proud of him."

The story of how Russell earned his Purple Heart and

Silver Star was featured in a December 2006 *GQ* magazine article, "A Few Good Medals."

"They ran a photo of him smiling and covered in blood," says Grinels. "That picture was taken right after he was shot. One of his Marines joked with him, 'Sir, can you try to look injured?'"

The couple met two years ago, when a group of Marines caught Grinels performing at a pub. "I heckled the Marines from the stage," says Grinels. "I made them put their arms around each other and do a kick line while I sang. When I got offstage, Dave approached me and said, 'You have characteristics I'd like to pass on to my children.' It worked!"

Grinels says Russell helped get her new album made.

"He acted as executive producer and was involved every step of the way," she says. "He gave feedback on the music, offered a few lyrics here and there, was present for the recording when he got back from his tour, enlisted graphic designers, and dealt with the duplication company. He also wrote some of the mass emails, and he's always my roadie



### GRINELS'S MARINE DESERVES LINE-DANCING MEDAL

when he's available."

Grinels is on a nationwide tour, scheduled to end around the same time Russell returns

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continued

home in May.

— Jay Allen Sanford

**Drummer on the Sax**

"Our shows include a band, vaudeville, black-light puppets, aerialists, flame-handlers, jugglers, magic, sideshow performers, and just about anything else you can think of," says Glenn Allen, music director for the Technomania Circus. While putting together a house band with local performers, Allen says musicians were taught circus skills.

"Our drummer just learned how to drum and play saxophone at the same time, which is kind of like musical juggling. If nothing else, we can



PHOTOGRAPH FROM TECHNOMANIACIRCUS.COM

...AND HE PLAYS HARP AND MANDOLIN (WILLY BOLOGNA)

put band members in clown makeup."

He acknowledges that some performances involve danger.

"The fire marshal checks out acts that use fire, and I carry a million dollars of insurance, just in case something happens to an

aerialist or something. So far, we've never had an accident."

The circus performs monthly in a back yard near 25th and Commercial Street. Performers can be hired for private parties as well. For a 45-minute show with a troupe of five to ten performers, expect to pay \$1500; magic sword acts run \$400, and several puppet-themed shows are available for \$175 per show, per puppeteer.

For \$200, "Willy Bologna, the Vulgarian Clown," does headstands on broken glass, sticks quarters up his nose, and puts out fires in his pants.

"That's me, actually," reveals Allen. "I don't do the pants fire for kids' parties, though."

The next Technomania Circus performances are on December 7 and 8. See [technomaniacircus.com](http://technomaniacircus.com).

— Jay Allen Sanford

**Material Progression**

San Diego's most publicized band at the moment admits it doesn't have much of a hometown buzz.

"We're still building our name," says guitarist John Moreaux of the Material, an emo band often compared to Paramore because of female lead singer Colleen D'Agostino.

For the past month, clips of the Material have been airing regularly on MTV2 to promote a contest; on December 15, the band will appear on the cable channel as one of three finalists in the Dew Circuit Breakout competition.

Moreaux says a panel of judges selected the top 12 finalists from 4000 entries in September. An MTV2 website popularity poll narrowed the list to 6, then last week the Material was named as one of the top 3 (along with the Myriad from Seattle and the Terribles from Santa Barbara).

"Last year the winner won a \$15,000 gift certificate from Guitar Center and an article in

**OVERHEARD IN SAN DIEGO: O.B. HOUSE PARTY**

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Alternative Press magazine."

The MTV2 website says the winning band will star in their own video.

Moreaux points out that

the annual Dew contest helped jump-start the careers of Yellowcard, Thursday, and Taking Back Sunday. Last year's winner — Halifax, from

Thousand Oaks — has not made a big break nationally.

"Maybe they didn't know how to capitalize on it. But they did get to be a guest on *Real World* [and] an opening slot on the Bamboozle tour."

Moreaux says that a band can garner 100 Internet votes per day from one computer, but he doesn't think "ballot stuffing" happens much. "In order to vote that much you'd have to sit at your computer for 15 or 20 minutes, and that's too time-consuming. I don't think any kid wants to sit in front of their computer for 20 minutes. We're all too ADD for that."

Producers did not disclose how many votes each finalist

received. Moreaux says his band worked hard for their votes.

"We made flyers and passed them out in front of



PHOTOGRAPH BY THOMAS CEREDA

THE MATERIAL PREPS FOR MTV2 SHOWDOWN

malls and other public places. We posted a lot of bulletins on MySpace."

Fans can vote at [MTV2.com](http://MTV2.com) for their favorite finalist through December 15.

— Ken Leighton

**Outside Help** The Stereotypes are down to a trio, but the loss of three members hasn't slowed them down. Built around singer John Finkbiner, multi-instrumentalist/producer Mike Kamoo, and bassist Tim Hines, the group recently lost guitarist Dante Conti, who relocated to Austin, while drummer Charlie McCree and keyboardist Steve Blake are working on their own projects.

The band isn't playing live at the moment, but Finkbiner says, "If something big comes along, we can always call the old members and have them fill in."

The Stereotypes release a fifth album, *Black & White 5*, on their Earthling Records label in January. The group will get a major push that month when ABC-TV's sci-fi drama

*Kyle XY* uses their songs "All My Life," "The Lines," and "Did You Know" in three consecutive episodes.

The band recently had their contract with Coleman camping gear extended through 2010. The company has used their songs "New Situation," "Stars," and "International" in marketing campaigns.

The song "Outside" has been the recreational equipment giant's staple: it will be heard in a commercial set to launch during 2008's NCAA "March Madness" series; next year, a "rock 'n' roll" lantern that plays "Outside" will be marketed in Japan.

Several Spanish-language versions of "Outside" were attempted for use in Latin markets, including one sung by Static Halo front man Dylan Martinez. The idea was scrapped after "somebody at Telemundo thought the translation sounded like an invitation to step outside and fight," Finkbiner laughs.

"When they got through



PHOTOGRAPH FROM MYSPACE.COM/STEREOTYPESMUSIC

THE STEREOTYPES TAKE A BREAK FROM OUTSIDE

looking at the demographics, it turned out most people also spoke English, so they just stuck with the original version."

(The author has previously worked on musical projects with Stereotypes members.)

— Bart Mendoza

**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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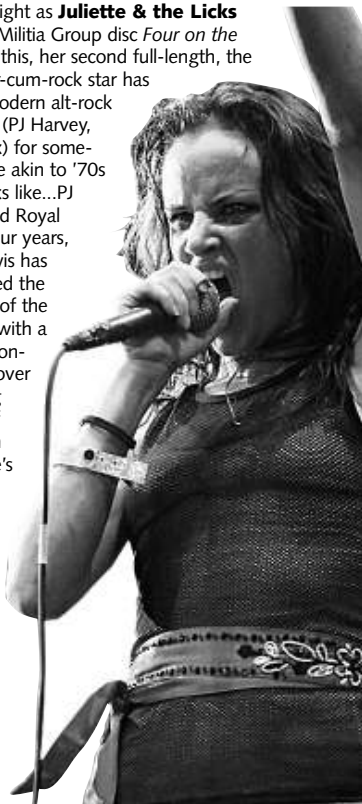
This Week In Music

## Thursday 6

Natural born killer Juliette Lewis will slay a Casbah crowd tonight as **Juliette & the Licks** tout new Militia Group disc *Four on the Floor*. On this, her second full-length, the movie star-cum-rock star has bedded modern alt-rock influences (PJ Harvey, Royal Trux) for something more akin to '70s throwbacks like...PJ Harvey and Royal Trux. In four years, singer Lewis has experienced the downside of the music biz with a seeming constant turnover of backing players, of which, I'm sure, there's an army. (Sign me up.)

**Scissors for Lefty** (SanFran) and **Suffrajet** (Chicago) tenderize ya....

**Ahmad Jamal's** first studio recording came out in 1951. Since then the jazz pianist and composer has released 30 collections, most notably 1958 classic *But Not for Me*, music from which is featured on hit live takes *Ahmad Jamal at the Pershing*. Not only was Jamal an influence to young Miles Davis, his music continues to score films and is a peck for hip-hop samplers. The 77-year-old jazzman's trio (with bass and drums) will sit in at Anthology for three nights starting Thursday.... The punk pride of San Dago, **Fifty on Their Heels**, is all over town this weekend. Get with 'em and kindred spirits from NY, NY the **So So Glos** at Beauty Bar Thursday night and get yer Johnny Rotten on. See Friday and Saturday for more shows, y'know, if you want to do that Dead head thing.... Over the hill and not so far away, **Junior the Disco Punk** spins "bad music for bad people" at Bar Pink Elephant in North Park.



JULIETTE & THE LICKS AT THE CASBAH

## Friday 7

Pull on your boot cuts and pull down that Deere cap, ya'll, Whistle Stop's propping country rock in a triple bill. Local rock-n-soul sots **Bartender's Bible** lay out the old-school barroom brand; **Exfriends** come from '90s Americana; and New Yorker by way of Chataanooga **Billie Anne Crews** turns up her strat for fat "country grunge." Lady sounds a bit like Janis.... Remember Japanese trio **Shonen Knife**? Thanks to the likes of Thurston Moore and Kurt Cobain, the shepunks have been bringing it stateside for 25 years. This year the ladies tout their 14th disc *Fun Fun Fun* — a little snap, crackle, and a lot of pop. And none of the screech factor I remember. With Buffalo's answer to Shonen Knife, **Juliet Dagger**. Wisconsin's **Wildbirds** will warm the room with fuzzy backwoods strum-alongs.... **Fifty on Their Heels'** weekend romp moves up to UCSD's Ché Café, the **So So Glos** in tow. Ché bill adds retro pop up-and-comers the **Sess** and Imperial Valley's R&B kings **Chango Rey Y El Moreno**.... Gonna be a punkrock punchdown at Tower Bar Friday night as surfcats **Monsters from Mars** take on dirty duo **Batar-Zan**.

## Saturday 8

Sonic superheroes **Aquabats!** bring their schtick to Soma Saturday night. The Huntington Beach boys are entertainers first, setting elaborate stage shows where the quintet dresses in matching superhero costumes and battles evil with music — some ska, some synth-y power pop, and then rock-roll when they need the heavy artillery. Have a look/listen to 2005's *Charge!* CD/DVD. **Hunter Revenge**, **Ska Agents**, and **DJ Lance Rock** (from hit kids' show *Yo Gabba Gabba!*) join our heroes in their cause.... Indie pop auteur **David Bazan** — aka Pedro the Lion — performs an early set at Casbah in support of solo e.p. *Fewer Moving Parts*. It's a Bazan joint, but the split personality's sure to get some Headphones or Pedro on. Fellow Nor'wester **J Tillman** also plays. Late night it's Punk Rock Karaoke, where legit punk players play and YOU sing your favorite punk classic. I'll be the guy doin' "Wonderful!".... Reggae rodent **Eek-a-Mouse** visits 'Canes with Pasadena party boyz the **Bfoundation** and locals **Social Green**. Solid beachside bill.... **Fifty on Their Heels** closes out the weekend roadshow in Mexicali, where they'll storm Ole Caribe with the **So Sos** and Mexicali crunkers **Lipstick Terror** and **Maniqui Lazer**.

## Sunday 9

Jingle Ball's here. The annual Star 94.1 event goes down at Sports Arena Sunday starting at 6p. Lineup is Star fare: **Vanessa Carlton**, **Lenny Kravitz**, **Duran Duran**, and **Matchbox Twenty** — proceeds to Becky's House.... The

other big gig's across town at SDSU's Cox Arena. This one's called



NAKED RAYGUN AT THE CASBAH

Nightmare before Christmas and features **Angels and Airwaves**, **Bad Religion**, **Against Me!**, and **Seether**.... Chicagoland garage-punk jam band **Naked Raygun** reunited for last year's Riot Fest, an annual punk-rock festival held in the Windy City. Afterward, the early '90s heyday quartet of Pezzati, Stephens, Kezdy, and Spicer (*Raygun...Naked Raygun*) announced the band was back in biz. The Guns shoot up Casbah Sunday night with SanFran's **Swingin Utters**.

## Monday 10

I'd have bet you that **Fuel** was the band that did that song "Hey Man, Nice Shot." You prob'ly know it wasn't them and would've taken the bet. Filter played that 1995 hit. You can see my confusion: Fuel, Filter... Anyway, Fuel, hard rock band from Tennessee, plays Viejas Monday night in support of new Epic records full-length *Angels and Devils*. **Trapt** opens.... **Korn** frontman **Jon Davis** brings his "Alone I Play" acoustic gig to House of Blues. Davis promises covers, unheard Korn comers, and Korn classics. L.A. industrial act **Godhead** in support.... *Good news for people who like Modest news: Modest Mouse* squeak in a Soma set with **Matt Costa**. Love 'em or hate 'em, that's Johnny Marr on stage!

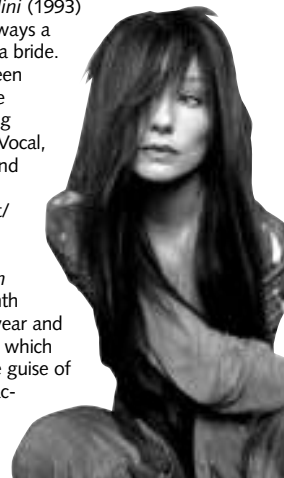
## Tuesday 11

Alt-rock hip-hop band **G Love & Special Sauce** pours it out at 4th&8 Tuesday night. The 15-year-old Philadelphia-based trio is popular for a hopped-up R&B vibe, which can be sampled on '90s hits "Cold Beverage" and "Baby's Got Sauce." The dance-party act touts last year's disc *Lemonade*. San Diego's acoustic blues chanteuse **Tristan Prettyman** (who appeared on *Lemonade*) sets the stage.... Round the corner at House of Blues, bassist Jeordie White (aka Twiggy Ramirez of Marilyn Manson fame) and his **Goon Moon** rise over HOB's Delta Room stage. The L.A.-based band has joined the desert-rock community that evolves around Chris Goss, Josh Homme, and their Queens of the Stone Age. Goss and Homme both appear on the Goons' debut *Licker's Last Leg* (Ipecac 2007) and Goss tours with the band.

## Wednesday 12

Didn't the **Melvins** just play here in, like, October? Well, whatev., Seattle grunge gods King Buzzo and Dale set up for two nights at Casbah Wednesday and Thursday. For last year's Ipecac disc (*A Senile Animal*, the sludge rockers hooked up with L.A. drum-n-bass duo **Big Business**, who join the sets Wednesday night. On Thursday the band'll perform hit disc *Houdini* (1993) in its entirety.... Always a bridesmaid, never a bride.

**Tori Amos** has been nominated for nine Grammys, including Best Female Rock Vocal, Best Rock Vocal, and Best Alternative Album. The pianist/singer/songwriter released the confounding *American Doll Posse*, her ninth studio effort, this year and brings that tour, in which Amos takes on the guise of a half-dozen characters (Amos says alter egos), to Copley Symphony Hall Wednesday night.... Touring never ends for New Orleans barroom rockers **Cowboy Mouth**. The quartet revisits the *Voodoo Shoppe* tour on Belly Up. L.A. singer/songwriter **Joe Firstman** opens.



TORI AMOS AT COPLEY SYMPHONY HALL

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# Flower Chick

*“I had to empty the honey buckets twice a day. That job was worth five bad jobs.”*

**A**dina Tarralik Leger, stage name adiVa, was born and raised in Canada’s high arctic in a small town called Coral Harbour, population 800. Her father is Irish Canadian and mother is Inuit. She now calls San Diego home.

“Usually I will play with Soul-Junk,” she says. “They’ve given me opening sets for which I am equally grateful and horrified, because they are a high-energy act — and I am kind of the acoustic flower chick.” She refers to her music as lo-fi, recorded in the bathroom using a Mac. She admits that there are imperfections, “but Jesus don’t mind.”

**FAVORITE BAND OF ALL TIME?**

“U2. Any band that can make the transition from being a miraculously good musical act into something much grander and more important gets my vote any day. I mean, Bono stood in front of the leaders of the world and asked them to please start giving more — who does that? Bono is much more than a voice or a front man or a celebrity — he’s an innovator, and he’s someone who doesn’t waste his platform.”

**FAVORITE DEAD CELEB?**

“Janis Joplin. There was just something so tragic about her, about the look in her eyes. I think she experienced great sadness in her life even with all that fame and the incredible talent. She has so

much soul and emotion in her voice.”

**WHAT CELEBRITY WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE LUNCH WITH?**

“What is a celebrity anymore? We are so inundated with celebrity that I think the captivation and the mystery has turned into something else entirely. It used to be that there were these seemingly interesting, glamorous, behind-that-curtain lives that regular people would dream about maybe being able to catch a glimpse of, but now it’s all this gluttonous overload. I know too much about Britney Spears. I was never a fan, but I know more about her now than when she was actually this huge pop star. It’s weird to live in a world where you don’t necessarily control the information that you take in anymore — you are assaulted with it everywhere you go.

“I guess if I had to pick anyone I’d have to say Joaquin Phoenix. He seems at odds with Hollywood, and yet he is so good at what he does. I can’t remember the last time I didn’t like an actor for a period of time because he was so heinous and evil as one of his characters — after *Gladiator*, I remember thinking how creepy Joaquin was...I might have to have lunch with him just to let him know I don’t think he’s creepy anymore.”

**NUMBER-ONE GUILTY PLEASURE?**

“Oprah. But please don’t tell anyone.”

**LISTS**  
MICHAEL HEMMINGSON



PHOTOGRAPH BY KELLEY LEGER

adiVa

**LAST BOOK READ?**

“*Interpreter of Maladies*; it is such a delicious read. Simply divine. I have never been a fan of short stories — they just seem like appetizer — but after reading Jhumpa Lahiri’s *The Namesake* I was intrigued and went out and bought [*Interpreter*] the first chance I got.”

**FIVE FAVORITE THINGS?**

- 1. “Playing my guitar, with nothing but me and the ears of Heaven.”
- 2. “Sitting at my grandmother’s kitchen table, drinking tea and talking with her, learning from her.”
- 3. “Treasure hunting on a Saturday morning.”

- 4. “A good conversation — with a friend or a stranger, doesn’t matter.”
- 5. “Talking and listening to God.”

**FIVE WORST JOBS?**

“I once worked as a ‘pool supervisor-slash-life-guard’ at the local swimming pool in my hometown. There was no indoor plumbing in the change rooms. They had these things called ‘honey buckets’ — anyone who knows what that is understands why this was a horrible, terrible, heinous job. I had to empty the honey buckets twice a day. That job was worth five bad jobs.” ■

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All Ages

THURSDAY • DECEMBER 6 <b>JULIETTE &amp; THE LICKS</b> <b>SCISSORS FOR LEFTY</b> <b>SUFFRAJET</b>	 COCKTAILS • LIVE MUSIC • 21 w/ID 2501 KETTNER BLVD. • 232-4355	SATURDAY • DECEMBER 22 <b>DIRTY SWEET</b> <b>YEAR LONG DISASTER</b> <b>DESERT DIAMONDS</b>
FRIDAY • DECEMBER 7 <b>SHONEN KNIFE</b> <b>WILDBIRDS</b> <b>JULIET DAGGER</b>	FRIDAY • DECEMBER 14 <b>THROW RAG</b> <b>THE HITCHHIKERS</b> <b>THE SCREAMIN</b> <b>YEEHAW</b>	MONDAY • DECEMBER 24 <b>EXILE ON</b> <b>KETTNER BLVD.</b>
SATURDAY • DECEMBER 8 EARLY SHOW 7 PM <b>DAVID BAZAN</b> <b>J TILLMAN</b> LATE SHOW 10 PM <b>PUNK ROCK KARAOKE</b>	SATURDAY • DECEMBER 15 <b>IMPERIAL TEEN</b> <b>MIDNIGHT MOVIES</b> <b>LOVERLEE</b>	THURSDAY • DECEMBER 27 <b>GERMS</b> <b>ADOLESCENTS</b> <b>BATTALION OF SAINTS</b>
SUNDAY • DECEMBER 9 <b>NAKED RAYGUN</b> <b>SWINGIN' UTTERS</b> <b>SHOT BAKER</b> <b>TILTWHEEL</b>	MONDAY • DECEMBER 17 ANTI-MONDAY LEAGUE PRESENTS A HAUNTED CHRISTMAS <b>THE NIGHTMARES</b> <b>SATANIC PUPPETEER</b> <b>ORCHESTRA</b> <b>THE CANKLES</b>	FRIDAY • DECEMBER 28 SATURDAY • DECEMBER 29 <b>SWEET AND TENDER</b> <b>HOOLIGANS</b>
MONDAY • DECEMBER 10 ANTI-MONDAY LEAGUE PRESENTS <b>PREFUSE 73</b> <b>SCHOOL OF</b> <b>SEVEN BELLS</b> <b>BLANK</b>	TUESDAY • DECEMBER 18 <b>C.L.A.</b>	SUNDAY • DECEMBER 30 <b>CREEDLE</b>
TUESDAY • DECEMBER 11 <b>OFFICE</b> <b>TIGER CITY</b> <b>VIA AUDIO</b>	WEDNESDAY • DECEMBER 19 <b>GARY SHUFFLER'S</b> <b>BIRTHDAY EXTRAVAGANZA</b>	MONDAY • DECEMBER 31 ANTI-MONDAY LEAGUE PRESENTS NEW YEAR'S EVE <b>MOTHER HIPS</b> <b>BILLY MIDNIGHT</b>
THURSDAY • DECEMBER 13 <b>MELVINS</b> PERFORMING THEIR CLASSIC ALBUM <i>HOUDINI</i> IN ITS ENTIRETY <b>BIG BUSINESS</b>	THURSDAY • DECEMBER 20 <b>REEVE OLIVER</b> <b>SATISFACTION</b> <b>SAY VINYL</b>	FRIDAY • JANUARY 11 <b>GREG LASWELL</b>
	FRIDAY • DECEMBER 21 <b>DIRTY SWEET</b> <b>THE PRAYERS</b> <b>ASTRA</b>	FRIDAY • JANUARY 18 <b>FU MANCHU</b>
		SUNDAY • JANUARY 20 <b>THE LEGENDARY</b> <b>SHACK SHAKERS</b>
		WEDNESDAY • JANUARY 23 <b>WILL HOGE</b> <b>JASON ISBELL</b>
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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

CANES & seedless present

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

EARL ZERO

ROOTS COVENANT

DASH EYE • REEFAH • LADY FYASTARTER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

KEMISTRY



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

Rockhill & CANES present

GROUCH & ELIGH  
OF THE LIVING LEGENDS



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27

Brazilian Pre-NYE Party

with

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28



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TO FREEDOM

(Sublime Tribute)

RUDE BOY ROOTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

the IRON MAIDENS

(All-female tribute to Iron Maiden)



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MONDAY, DECEMBER 31 • NEW YEAR'S EVE

An Evening With

Tainted  
Love

(80's Tribute)



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1/5: Mystic Roots, Carbine, Shaka Buku & Wylde Bunch

1/16: Twista • 1/18: Wild Child (Doors Tribute)

1/25: Pepper • 1/26: Cash'd Out

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MARC COHN



AMY CORREIA

Sat 12/8 • 9:00 PM



Sun 12/9 • 8:00 PM

COWBOY MOUTH



JOE FIRSTMAN

Wed 12/12 • 9:00 PM

THE KNITTERS



DEAD ROCK WEST  
CHEAP LEIS

Thu 12/13 • 8:00 PM

YOUNG DUBLINERS  
XMAS SHOW



THE DROWNING MEN

Sat 12/15 • 9:00 PM

THE MAR DELS  
CHRISTMAS SHOW



Sun 12/16 • 6:00 PM

GARY "HO HO" HOEY'S  
ROCKIN' CHRISTMAS  
SHOW



BILL MAGEE BLUES BAND

Wed 12/19 • 8:00 PM

VENICE XMAS SHOW



MICHAEL TIERNAN

Thu 12/20 • 8:00 PM

THE GREYBOY  
ALLSTARS



W/GUEST

Fri 12/21 • 9:00 PM

CASH'D OUT



THE DEERE JOHNS  
DJ GONZO

Sat 12/22 • 9:00 PM

THE DAVE MATTHEWS  
BAND EXPERIENCE:  
STEPPING FEET



STRIPES & LINES

Sun 12/23 • 9:00 PM

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METAL EXPERIENCE

Fri 12/28 • 9:00 PM

PATO BANTON



LOVE AND GROOVE  
DJ CARLOS CULTURE

Sat 12/29 • 9:00 PM

CRACKER &  
CAMPER VAN  
BEETHOVEN



Sun 12/30 • 8:00 PM

FM 94.9 PRESENTS  
NEW YEAR'S EVE  
THE AGGROLITES



GRAND OLE PARTY  
BEATMO

Mon 12/31 • 9:00 PM

SIN CITY REVUE II



SIN CITY ALL STARS  
MIKE STINSON  
THE SLIDEWINDERS  
EVE SELIS

Thu 1/3 • 8:00 PM

ELIJAH EMANUEL &  
THE REVELATIONS



THE HI-LITES

Fri 1/4 • 9:00 PM

LAUGH FOR  
RECOVERY:  
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(WINNER OF  
LAST COMIC  
STANDING)



W/SPECIAL GUEST  
COMEDIANS

Tue 1/8 • 8:00 PM

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2/7 Bedouin Soundclash  
2/8 Marc Ford & Deadline Friday • 3/13 Mad Professor  
3/29 The Avett Brothers On sale tomorrow @ noon!

1/9 David Lindley

1/11 Common Sense

1/16 Electric Prunes

1/17 Cross Canadian Ragweed

1/18 Dilated Peoples

SWINGIN' HAPPY HOURS

12/7 ATOMIC GROOVE

12/21 THE FABULOUS PELICANS

12/28 BILLY WATSON

1/19 Dead Mans Party

1/24 Steve Poltz CD Release Party!

1/25 & 1/26

Ozomatli

1/27 Mountain

2/9 Groundation Bob Marley

Tribute Show

2/10 Rhett Miller

2/13 ALO

2/16 Maceo Parker

2/26 Adrian Belew

3/2 Marcia Ball & John

Hammond

3/9 The Blind Boys of Alabama

3/14 Tommy Castro Band

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12/9 ORQUESTA PRIMO

1/6 ORQUESTA PRIMO

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DEC 14

DEC 15



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DEC 07 10pm-2am  
• **CRUSH** 5pm-9pm  
DEC 08 10pm-2am  
• **FULL EFFECT**  
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• **EMERALD RIVER**  
DEC 09  
• **BREEZ'N**

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VODKA

**VIEJAS**  
ENTERTAINMENT  
& PRODUCTION



# Calendar CONCERTS

## JANUARY

**The Circle Jerks:** House of Blues, Saturday, January 5, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

**David Lindley:** Belly Up Tavern, Wednesday, January 9, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

**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.

**Ben Kenney:** House of Blues, Thursday, January 17, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

**Cross Canadian Ragweed:** Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, January 17, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

**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.

**Dilated Peoples:** Belly Up Tavern, Friday, January 18, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

**Tiger Army:** Soma, Friday, January 18, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-7662.

**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.

**Steve Poltz:** Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, January 24, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

**Fred Eaglesmith:** AcousticMusicSanDiego, Friday, January 25, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

**Ozomatli:** Belly Up Tavern, Friday and Saturday, January 25 and 26, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

**Pepper:** 'Canes, Friday, January 25, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780.

## FEBRUARY

**"Brazil Carnival 2008":** 4th & B, Saturday, February 2, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

**Los Lobos:** Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, February 2, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

**Robin Trower:** 4th & B, Tuesday, February 5, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

**The Wallflowers:** Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Saturday, February 9, 5000 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

**Jimmy Webb:** AcousticMusicSanDiego, Saturday, February 9, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

**Rhett Miller:** Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, February 10, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

**Styx:** House of Blues, Saturday, February 16, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

**Maceo Parker:** Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, February 16, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

**Queensrÿche and Don Dokken:** House of Blues, Thursday, February 21, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

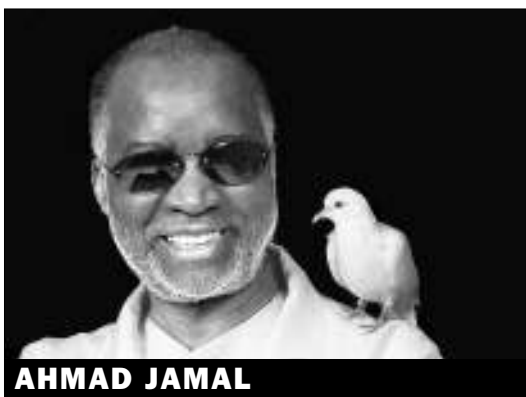
# NOTE

BY DAVE GOOD

The music that **Ahmad Jamal** was making in the early 1970s spoke of kinder days ahead. Jamal's jazz at that time was more cushion than intellect. Things were looking up: a bloody decade of civil rights demonstrations was behind us, Vietnam was in the nation's rearview mirror, and the Nixon White House was unraveling. Gordon Parks ushered in the age of blaxploitation films with *Shaft*, Alex Haley would have his Pulitzer for *Roots*, and rap would emerge by the end of the decade. Through that timeframe Jamal made utopian records that bespoke a vision of peace and lazy Sunday afternoons. Groups like the Crusaders and Steely Dan were getting the message.

"Ahmad Jamal," once wrote record producer Rachel Elkind, "is never banal." An elegant sentiment that sums up the gravitas of the pianist. In the '50s Jamal's playing was loaded with impenetrable chords that he moderated with a lightning-fast right hand. Some historians claim that it was Jamal who introduced the piano trio to jazz; others said that they could hear the entire breadth of jazz history in his playing. Even with that level of respect, as well as a National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Masters award, Jamal never got his public due in the way that his contemporaries did. But those contemporaries listened — a young Miles Davis would cite Jamal as a major influence on the development of his own modal creations.

Decades later, when I began to listen in earnest, Jamal's music was still percussive but less straight-ahead, a gauzy high of



AHMAD JAMAL

melodies blended with a jazz master's interplay of anxiety and disengagement. It was the right sound at the right time. "When turbulence goes on in the world," he told an interviewer once, "that is when music soothes the savage beast."

**AHMAD JAMAL, Anthology, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, December 6-8. 619-595-0300. \$18 to \$63.**

## 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.

## MAY

**Nightwish:** House of Blues, Friday, May 23, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

## JUNE

**The Cure:** Cox Arena, Tuesday, June 3, SDSU campus, College Area. 619-594-0429.

# Calendar CLUBS

## DANCE

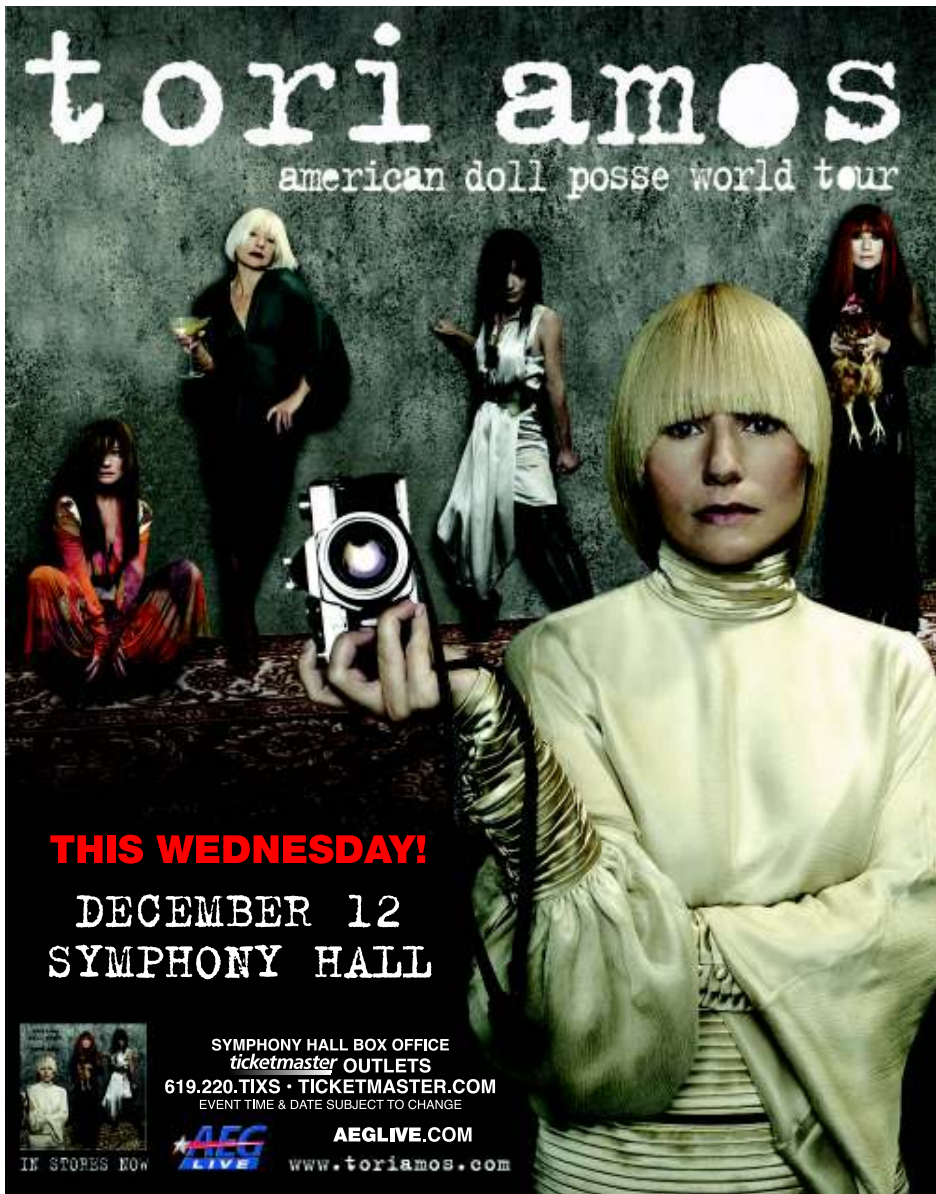
If you would like to include your DJ event, e-mail [sellis@nethere.com](mailto:sellis@nethere.com) or submit a listing online at [SanDiegoReader.com](http://SanDiegoReader.com) by clicking on the music section. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, the week prior to publication. The listings are free.

**Air Conditioned:** Wednesdays, *Club Nigel*, Steve West and DJ SG spin the '80s. Thursdays, *Too Cool for School*, old-school hip-hop, and '80s. Fridays, rare

groove, funk, and disco. Saturdays, *Cocktail Party*, dance in your dazzling duds. Sundays, guest DJ night. Mondays, hip-hop, funk, and soul with DJ 1979. Tuesdays, *Big Sonic Chill*, dream pop bliss. 4673 30th Street, North Park. 619-501-9831.

**Beauty Bar:** Fridays, *Feel the Noise*, electronic dance rock beats. 4746 El Cajon Boulevard, Talmadge. 619-516-4746.

**Brass Rail:** Third Thursday of the month, *Pussy Galore*, live bands with DJ Robin Roth spinning electro, indie, and '80s. Second Friday of the month, *Club Fashion Whore*, fashion show and discotheque. Fourth Friday of the month, *Sabbat*, old skool '80s, gothic, and industrial with DJs Atom, Liquid Grey, and guests. 3796 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-298-2233.



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Jahja Ling, conductor / San Diego Master Chorale  
Olivia Gorra, soprano / Beth Clayton, mezzo-soprano  
Jason Collins, tenor / Andrew Foster-Williams, bass-baritone

**HOLIDAY POPS**  
THIS YEAR WITH AN ADDED SATURDAY AFTERNOON PERFORMANCE!  
DECEMBER 19, 20 @ 7:30PM / DECEMBER 21, 22 @ 8PM  
DECEMBER 22, 23\* @ 2PM  
Matthew Garbutt, conductor / Mariachi Champaña Néxin  
San Diego Civic Youth Ballet / San Diego Master Chorale  
\*Family Festival version

**ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**  
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THURSDAY, JANUARY 24 @ 7:30PM  
BEETHOVEN'S 5TH WITH TWO ORCHESTRAS!  
Jahja Ling, conductor / Pinchas Zukerman, conductor & violin  
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**Candelas:** Thursdays, deep soulful house by DJ ALA and guests. 416 Third Avenue, downtown. 619-702-4455.

**Club Rio:** Wednesdays, *Hot Wednesdays*, dancehall, reggae, and R&B. 9 p.m. 1299 Camino del Rio South, Mission Valley. 619-843-7400.@bold:The Flame: Second Saturday of the month, *Sabbat*, gothic and industrial with DJs Robin Roth, Adam, and Diskdroid. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. 3780 Park Boulevard, Hillcrest. 619-295-4163.

**Inferno Young Adult Nightclub:** Fridays and Saturdays, DJ Kool T spins Top 40, techno, and '80s. 9 p.m. to 1:15 a.m., high school students and up. 775 Metcalf Street, Escondido. 760-741-1271.

**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.

**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 elektronika. 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.

**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 Juniper), South Park. 619-284-6784.

CLUBS BY AREA

If you wish to submit a listing, call 619-235-3000, ext. 405, night or day by 5 p.m. Friday, the week prior to publication. To send weekly or monthly schedules, fax to 760-788-1309 or mail to Reader Music Scene, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the music section.

BEACHES

**Bahia Resort Hotel,** 998 West Mission Bay Drive, Mission Beach. 858-488-0551. Tangier Lounge: Thursday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m. to midnight, and Wednesday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., *John Cain*, international/jazz/blues/Latin/pop/stand ards.

**Beaumont's,** 5662 La Jolla Boulevard, La Jolla. 858-459-0474. Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 8:30 p.m., live blues and classic rock.

**Blue Parrot,** 4993 Niagara Avenue, Suite 103, Ocean Beach. 619-222-1722. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m., *John Tafolla and Friends*, guitar and vocals.

**The Calypso Cafe,** 576 North Highway 101, Encinitas. 760-632-8252. Live blues/jazz/reggae nightly.

**'Canes,** 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780. Thursday, *Mad Martigan*, the *Matt Morris Band*, and *Drover Mad*, indie/rock. Saturday, 9 p.m., *Eek-a-Mouse*, *B Foundation*, and *Social Green*, reggae/ska/rock. Wednesday, 8 p.m., *Andrew Lovely*, *Clay*

*Colton*, *Leperkhanz*, and *Hector's Revenge*, acoustic/experimental/rock.

**Chateau Orleans,** 926 Turquoise Street, Pacific Beach. 858-488-6744. Friday, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., *Robin Henkel*, blues.

**Ché Café,** UCSD Campus, 9500 Gilman Drive, Student Center B-0323C, La Jolla. 858-534-2311. Friday, the *Sess*, the *So So Glos*, *Chango Rey y el Moreno*, and *Mermaid*, punk/rock/R&B/garage.

**Dreamstreet,** 2228 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach. 619-222-8131. Thursday, *Pony Up Pervert* and the *Mess*, alternative rock. Friday, 3AM and *Desolace*,

alternative rock. Saturday, *Tainted Society* and *Feeling of Hate*, rock/metal.

**E Street Cafe,** 128 E Street, Encinitas. 760-230-2038. Music is acoustic/folk unless otherwise noted. Thursday, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., *Joseph Angelastro*, jazz. Friday, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., *Kyle Van Buskirk*; 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., *Korrie Paliotto*. Saturday, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., *Timmy Hoover*; 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., *Jennifer Cunningham*. Sunday, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., *Jesse James*. Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., *Doug Streak*.

**Hennessey's Tavern (PB),** 4650 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach.

858-483-8847. Friday, *Pushin' Rope*, rock.

**Jack's Restaurant,** 7863 Girard Avenue, La Jolla. 858-456-8115. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *PHD Jazz*.

**The Kraken,** 2531 Old Highway 101, Cardiff. 760-436-6483. Thursday, 3 *EZ Pieces*, jazz. Friday, the *Bill Magee Blues Band*, blues. Saturday, *Blue Heat*, blues/rock. Wednesday, *Jeff Moore* and the *Witchdoctors*, blues.

**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.

**Manhattan Restaurant** (at the Empress Hotel), 7766 Fay Avenue, La Jolla. 858-459-0700. Thursday, 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., *Tokeli and Friends*, jazz. Saturday, 9 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., the *Tokeli Jazz Quintet*.

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## Calendar

### CLUBS

## BEACHES

(continued)

**Portugalia**, 4839 Newport Avenue, Ocean Beach. 619-222-7678. Thursday, 7 p.m., *Jeffrey Gottlieb*, rock.

**Saska's**, 3768 Mission Boulevard, Mission Beach. 858-488-7311. Friday, 10 p.m. to 1 a.m., *Hugh Gaskins and the G-String Daddies*, rockabilly/blues.

**710 Beach Club**, 710 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-483-7844. Thursday, 9 p.m. to midnight, *Joe Wood* and the *Lonely Ones*, acoustic rock/blues. Friday, *Drive Bomber*, *Dirty Madame*, *dFrost*, and *Ellis Bancroft*. Saturday, 40 oz. of *Freedom*, metal/alternative/rock/punk. Sunday, 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., the *Red Coats*, *Splat Finger*, *Still Ill*, and the *Beachwoods*, indie/reggae/rock/new wave.

**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.

**Tiki House**, 1152 Garnet Avenue,  
Pacific Beach. 858-273-9734. Thursday,  
Friday, and Saturday, live rock and 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*. Tuesday, flamenco. Wednesday, blues.

**Winstons**, 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach. 619-222-6822. Thursday, *Trilio Degracias*, funk/rock/hip-hop. Friday, 9 p.m., *Elijah Emanuel* and the *Revelations*, reggae. Saturday, 9 p.m., *Banyan*, jazz/experimental/punk. Sunday, 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Vegetation*, *Deadline Friday*, *Brain Buckit*, *Sweet Tooth*, *Chi Club*, and *Black Birds*, reggae/rock/alternative/indie. Monday, the *Electric Waste Band*, classic rock. Tuesday, *Blue Spring*. Wednesday, *Mike Pinto* and the *Mashers*, reggae.

## DOWNTOWN

**Anthology**, 1337 India Street, San Diego. 619-595-0300. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, **Ahmad Jamal**, jazz pianist. Tuesday, two shows, 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., **Brian Culberson's Soulful Christmas** featuring **Gerald Albright**, **Howard Hewett**, **Nick Colionne**, and **Victoria White**, jazz. Wednesday, **Big Bill Morganfield**, jazz.

**Blarney Stone Pub**, 502 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-8519. Friday and Saturday, *Steve Brewer*, classic rock.

**Borders Books and Music (Gaslamp)**, 668 Sixth Avenue, San Diego. 619-702-4200. Saturday, 8 p.m., *Franki Love*, folk.

**The Casbah**, 2501 Kettner Boulevard, midtown. 619-232-HELL. Thursday, *Juliette and the Licks*, *Scissors for Lefty*, and *Suffrajret*. Friday, *Shonen Knife*, *the Wildbirds*, and *Juliet Dagger*, pop punk/garage rock/classic rock. Saturday, *David Bazan* and *J. Tilman*, rock/folk/acoustic, 9 p.m., punk rock. Sunday, *Naked Raygun* and *the Swingin' Utters*, punk/rock. Monday, *Prefuse 73* and *the Art of Pain*. Tuesday, *Office, Tiger City*, and *Via Audio*, rock/indie/pop/experimental. Wednesday, *the Melvins* and *Big Business*, rock/metal.

**Croce's Jazz Bar**, 802 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-4355. All music is jazz unless otherwise noted. Thursday, *Warren Lovell*. Friday, *Yavez*. Saturday, *Primo*. Sunday, *the Archtones*. Monday, *Dave Scott*. Tuesday, *the Shep Meyers Quartet*. Wednesday, *Fuzzy and the Bluesmen* or *Sue Palmer*.

**Dakota Grill and Spirits**, 901 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-234-5554. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, contemporary piano.

**Dick's Last Resort**, 345 Fourth Avenue, downtown. 619-231-9100. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, live rock and roll. Sunday, 6:30 p.m., *the Ideas*, retro rock and roll. Tuesday, 11 p.m., *the Dregs of Sada*, rock. Wednesday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Private Domain*, unplugged, rock.

# OF NOTE

BY WILLIAM CRAIN

San Francisco has been a big town for Britpop since before they called it Britpop. I don't know why; my guess is that it has something to do with the fog. Ordinarily, this simply means a lot of play in dance clubs (the semi-regular Britpop dance party Popscene has been running for more than a decade) and large audiences whenever British acts come to the Bay Area. Occasionally, however, a band tries to sound like their idols from across the pond. More rarely, a local act manages to rise above mere imitation and create something of its own. More rarely still, one of these bands is good enough to attract attention across the

**Dizzy's** (Harbor Club Towers at Second and J Street), 200 Harbor Drive, San Diego. 858-270-7467. Sunday, 5 p.m., *Nathan James and Ben Hernandez*, acoustic blues.

**4th & B**, 345 B Street, downtown. 619-231-4343. Thursday, *Terri Clark*, country. Tuesday, *G Love and Special Sauce*, roots/blues/hip-hop.

**G5-Georges on Fifth**, 835 Fifth Avenue (between E and F Streets), downtown. 619-702-0444. Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Wednesday, *Tom Barabas*, pianist.

**Henry's Pub**, 618 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-238-2389. Thursday, *the Flock of 80's*. Friday, *Good Times*. Saturday, *Good Times*, classic rock. Tuesday, *the Stilettos*, rockabilly. Wednesday, *Lady Dottie and the Diamonds*, blues.

States and in Europe.

**Scissors for Lefty** is just such a band. In fact, I lump the five-piece in with Britpop more out of convenience than anything else. Singer **Bryan Garza** sometimes does a bedroom-voice murmur that reminds me of Pulp's Jarvis Cocker, but what I'm getting at mostly is that Scissors for Lefty's ease with a well-constructed pop song and their sense of humor fit in better with British bands than with the self-serious artistes of American indie. (Hmm... wasn't that stereotype supposed to work the other way around?)

The infamously snarky website Pitchfork was vicious in its review of Scissors for Lefty's album *Underhanded Romance* from earlier this year, comparing them to "the Killers, OK Go, the Bravery, and boring, latter-day Hot Hot Heat," but it's an unhappy person who can't find something to like in

**House of Blues**, 1055 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-299-2583. Friday, *Riders on the Storm*, rock. Monday, *Jonathan Davis* and *godHead*, rock/hardcore. Tuesday, *Goon Moon*, rock. Wednesday, *Hawthorne Heights*, *Escape the Fate*, *Amber Pacific*, the A.K.A.'s, and *the Secret Handshake*, hardcore/rock/punk/indie.

**Jimmy Love's**, 672 Fifth Avenue (corner of Fifth and G), downtown. 619-595-0123. Thursday and Sunday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Masterpiece*. Friday and Saturday, 9:45 p.m., *Superfunk Fantasy*, pop/Top 40/covers. Monday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Insight*, jazz. Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Mystique*, jazz/R&B. Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., *The Soul Revue*, dance/Top 40.

**Patrick's II**, 428 F Street, downtown. 619-233-3077. Music is blues/soul unless otherwise noted. Thursday, *Bill Magee Blues*. Friday, *Shari Puerto*. Saturday,

*Aunt Kizzy's Boyz. Sunday, the Kyle Culkins Band. Monday, Dave Camp. Tuesday, Chet Cannon and the Committee. Wednesday, the Bayou Brothers.*

**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,  
*Salsa Caliente*. Tuesday, *Orquesta 8.8*.

**The Shout House**, 655 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-231-6700. Rock and roll sing-along dueling pianos.

**The Westgate Hotel**, 1055 Second Avenue, downtown. 619-238-1818. The Plaza Bar: 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 band, pop/rock, and *DJ Famous Dave*.

## SAN DIEGO

**Albie's Beef Inn**, 1201 Hotel Circle South, San Diego. 619-291-1103. Friday, 6:30 p.m., Saturday, 7 p.m., and Tuesday,



## SCISSORS FOR LEFTY

all those bands. Frankly, if Scissors for Lefty's "Ghetto Ways" doesn't make you smile, you might want to change the dosage on your meds.

**Juliette & The Licks** also perform.

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# Calendar

## CLUBS

### SAN DIEGO

(continued)

**The Prado Restaurant**, 1549 El Prado, San Diego. 619-557-9441. Friday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Adrienne Nims and le Jazz Hot*.

**Ramada Inn**, 5550 Kearny Mesa Road, San 619-596-9777. Proud Mary's Restaurant: Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Keith Jacobsen*, smooth jazz saxophone.

**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. Thursday, 9:30 p.m., *MiRthkon*, experimental/jazz/metal. Saturday, 9 p.m., *Low Red Land*, rock/indie/hyphy.

**Second Wind**, 8515 Navajo Road, San Carlos. 619-465-1730. Friday and Saturday, *Serious Guise*, classic rock.

**Soma**, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-SOMA. Music is rock/metal/indie/experimental/punk. Thursday, 7 p.m., *From First to Last*, *Vanna*, *Four Year Strong*, *This Is the Hospital*, and *Kenotia*. Friday, 5 p.m., *Avenged Sevenfold*, *Atreyu*, *Suicidal Tendencies*, *Fair to Midland*, and *Operator*; 7 p.m., *Enter Shikari*, *Flight to Athena*, and *Invictus*. Saturday, 7 p.m., *the Aquabats*, *Hunter Revenge*, and *the Skank Agents*. Sunday, 6 p.m., *Self Against City*, *Get Back Loretta*, *Weatherbox*, *This Holiday Life*, and *White Apple Tree*. Monday, 7 p.m., *Modest Mouse* and *Matt Costa*.

**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 session. 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, *Side Jobz*, classic rock.

**Tio Leo's Lounge**, 5302 Napa Street (at Morena Boulevard), Bay Park. 619-542-1462. Friday, *the Viewmasters* and *the Rhythm Masters*, alternative/rock. Saturday, *Delancey*, *Lisa Sanders*, and *Ventana*, acoustic/indie/jazz. Wednesday, *the High Society Jazz Band*.

**The Tower Bar**, 4757 University Avenue, San Diego. 619-284-0158. Friday, live rock. Monday, *Lady Dottie* and *the Diamonds*, blues. Tuesday, *Ratt's Revenge*, garage/surf/punk/soul.

### NORTH COUNTY

**The Alley**, 421 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-434-1173. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, *the Love Rangers*, dance.

**The Bailey Barbecue Restaurant and Bar**, corner of Main Street and A Street, Julian. 760-765-9957. Saturday, 8 p.m. to midnight, *One Way Out*, blues.

**Belly Up Tavern**, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022. Friday, *Don Carlos*, *Nikki M*, and *Destiny Roots*, reggae. Saturday, 9 p.m., *Marc Cohn* and *Amy Correia*, folk. Sunday, 8 p.m., *Primo*, Latin jazz/salsa. Wednesday, *Cowboy Mouth*, rock/Southern rock/punk, and *Joe Firstman*, rock/acoustic/alternative.

**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 folk.

**Borders Books and Music (Carlsbad)**, 1905 Calle Barcelona, Carlsbad. 760-479-0242. Friday, 8 p.m., *Derrick Boess*, acoustic folk. Saturday, 8 p.m., *Gabriella*, pop/indie. Wednesday, 7 p.m., *the Maldonado Quartet*, acoustic Latin pop.

**Carvers**, 11940 Bernardo Plaza Drive, Rancho Bernardo. 858-566-2400. Friday and Saturday, *the Elevators*, blues.

**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. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Boneyard*, rock. Friday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *the Sons of Bordertown*, rock/blues/folk. Saturday, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., *Billy Watson*, harmonica blues, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Scott Carter and New Breed*, pop/jazz. Sunday, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., *the Fabulous Woodies*, classic rock, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Billy Watson*, blues. Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *the Scott Carter Duo*.

**Cuvee Restaurant**, 2334 Carmel Valley Road, Del Mar. 858-259-5878. Monday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Sambajazz*, Brazilian and American jazz.

**Epazote**, 1555 Camino Del Mar (in the Del Mar Plaza), Del Mar. 858-259-9966. Thursday, 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., *Z-Bop*, jazz/swing/standards/blues.

**The Flying Bridge**, 1105 North Coast Highway, Oceanside. 760-722-1151. Sunday, 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Z-Bop*, jazz/swing/standards.

**Hennessey's Tavern (Carlsbad)**, 2777 Roosevelt Street, Carlsbad. 760-729-6951. Friday, live music. Saturday, *Leo Rising*, classic rock.

**Hennessey's**, 224 Main Street, Vista. 760-643-1619. Wednesday, 9 p.m. to midnight, *the Bleeding Irish*, Irish/punk/folk.

**Hensley's Flying Elephant Pub and Grill**, 805 Tamarack Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-672-8305. Wednesday 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Joe Wood and the Lonely Ones*, acoustic rock/blues.

**J.J. Lander's Irish Pub**, 125 Main Street, Fallbrook. 760-731-0839. Thursday, 9 p.m., *Ned Giblin and Paul Castellanos*. Friday, 8:30 p.m., *the Clay Colton Band*, acoustic rock/folk. Saturday, 8:30 p.m., *Brehon Law*, Irish folk. Tuesday, 8:30 p.m., *Tim Lee*, acoustic rock. Wednesday, 8:30 p.m., *Fear the Fat Guy*, acoustic rock.

**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.

**Molly Malone's**, 1270 Main Street, Ramona. 760-789-9050. Friday, 9 p.m., *Metal Brigade*, metal. Saturday, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., *Flashback*, rock and roll.

**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.

**O'Ireland**, 575 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-720-1500. Saturday, noon to 2 p.m., *the Bad Blokes*, Irish fiddle/mandolin/banjo/guitar.

**Ocean House**, 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4131. Friday and Saturday, live rock. Sunday, salsa. Tuesday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., *the Cradit Union*, swing.

**Patrick's Irish Pub**, 13314 Poway Road, Poway. 858-486-0764. Saturday, 9 p.m. to midnight, *the Clachan Boys*, Irish folk.

**R. O'Sullivan's**, 118 East Grand Avenue, Escondido. 760-737-0954. Thursday, 9 p.m., *Joe Wood and the Lonely Ones*, acoustic blues/rock. Sunday, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., and Wednesday, 8:30 p.m., *the Clachan Boys*, Irish folk. Tuesday, 8:30 p.m., *Nate Donnis*, 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 and Saturday, live rock/alternative rock.

**Tom Giblin's Irish Pub and Restaurant**, 640 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-729-7234. Thursday, 9 p.m., *Tony Cummings*, Irish folk. Friday, 9 p.m., *Brehon Law*, Irish folk. Saturday, 8:30 p.m., *the Clay Colton Band*, acoustic rock/folk. Tuesday, 8:30 p.m., *Fear the Fat Guy*, acoustic rock. Wednesday, 9 p.m., *Brehon Law*.

**When in Rome**, 1108 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas. 760-944-1771. Thursday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Adrienne Nims and Spirit Wind*, global jazz.

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**GEORGE ACOSTA**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15  
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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21  
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**TIMO & DJ YUSEF**

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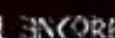
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**12.14**  
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**HELDEN**



**12.15**  
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# Calendar

## BANDS

### ALTERNATIVE

(continued)

**This Holiday Life:** Soma

**This Is the Hospital:** Soma

**Ventana:** Tio Leo's Lounge

**The Viewmasters:** Tio Leo's Lounge

**War Stories:** Brick By Brick

**White Apple Tree:** Soma

**The Widows:** The Kensington Club

### ROCK

**The A.K.A.'s:** House of Blues

**Amber Pacific:** House of Blues

**Atreyu:** Soma

**Avenge Sevenfold:** Soma

**Bad Science Fiction:** O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

**A Bande Apart:** The Kensington Club

**The Beachwoods:** 710 Beach Club

**Big Business:** The Casbah

**Black Birds:** Winstons

**Blizzard:** O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

**Boneyard:** Coyote Bar and Grill

**Brain Buckit:** Winstons

**Steve Brewer:** Blarney Stone Pub

**Chango Rey y el Moreno:** Ché Café

**Chi Club:** Winstons

**Cowboy Mouth:** Belly Up Tavern

**The Credit Union:** Ocean House

**Juliet Dagger:** The Casbah

**Jonathan Davis:** House of Blues

**Deadline Friday:** O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub, Winstons

**Desert Diamonds:** The Kensington Club

**Trulio Desgrasias:** Winstons

**Desolace:** Dreamstreet

**d.Frost:** 710 Beach Club

**Dive Bomber:** 710 Beach Club

**The Dregs of Sada:** Dick's Last Resort

**Drover Mad:** 'Canes

**The Electric Waste Band:** Winstons

**Escape the Fate:** House of Blues

**The Fabulous Woodies:** Coyote Bar and Grill

**Feeling of Hate:** Dreamstreet

**Joe Firstman:** Belly Up Tavern

**Flashback:** Molly Malone's

**40 oz. of Freedom:** 710 Beach Club

**From First to Last:** Soma

**Full Xposure:** Dirk's Niteclub

**Mike Gardner:** North Bar Sports and Spirits, Cheers

**The Glossines:** The Kensington Club

**godHead:** House of Blues

**Good Times:** Henry's Pub

**Zach Goode:** Brick By Brick

**Goon Moon:** House of Blues

**Groove:** Janie's Cocktails

**Joey Harris and the Mentals:** O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

**The Taylor Harvey Band:** McP's Irish Pub and Grill

**The Heartaches:** The Kensington Club

**Hector's Revenge:** 'Canes

**The Ideas:** Dick's Last Resort

**In Every Breath:** Brick By Brick

**Juliette and the Licks:** The Casbah

**Kenotia:** Soma

**Leo Rising:** Hennessey's Tavern (Carlsbad)

**The Little Efert Band:** JP's Pub

**Low Red Land:** Scolari's Office

**The Melvins:** The Casbah

**Metal Brigade:** Molly Malone's

**The Matt Morris Band:** 'Canes

# as i hear it

BY BRIAN CARVER

Artist: **Retrolust**

Song: **"Superstarr"** (from the CD *Wired*)

Heard By: **Thorin Tobiassen**, College Area



Thorin

I was excited about the intro; It sort of reminded me of older Nine Inch Nails. The content of the lyrics wasn't really my style, but the tone matched the song very well. I think one of the lines was he's "committing all the right sins." The angst of it was almost like Linkin Park, but the lyrical content was more like pop punk. The background music seemed pretty nice except there wasn't a lot of variance; it had a more electronic sound to it. The character of the [singer's] tone was good for the music. He wasn't a ridiculously good singer, but it was solid — it wasn't grating at all. It would be good cruisin' music if you were on your way to a friend's house at night.

Artist: **Solarminds**

Song: **"My Salvation (Saved)"** (from the CD *A Lighthouse for the Sun*)

Heard By: **Natalie**, San Diego



Natalie

For me, that kind of music is not relaxing, but I can do my homework while I'm listening to it. I couldn't really hear the lyrics — they're kind of low. I think that's because of how it was recorded. There's no specific band that popped into my head when I listened to that song. I would describe it as alternative. It sounded tranquil. I could mostly hear guitar. I could see that getting radio airplay but not being popular. Everything right now is a lot faster. I listen to everything from Spanish to country music, but I can't recall who they sound like. That would be a good song for going on a long trip.

Artist: **Kashious**

Song: **"The Way I Am"** (from his self-titled CD)

Heard By: **Connor Kirkwood**, North Park



Connor

It sounded like smooth-jazz karaoke. There's this Kenny G sax in the background the whole time that's kind of distracting. It made me feel bad for the guy; it sounded like he was going for Barry White but maybe he wasn't quite there. But I liked it when he got really guttural and started talking about how his palms get sweaty when she comes around. It was about not looking for a one-night stand and just wanting to have someone to hold his hand or something...only it didn't rhyme. It would have been really, really easy to make it rhyme. I could imagine listening to it if the guy was trying to hawk it and had it on a Discman and was, like, "check out my new record!"

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**Office:** The Casbah  
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**The Pheromones:** Little Italy Urban Bar and Restaurant

**Private Domain:** Dick's Last Resort  
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**Metro**



Friday, December 7  
9:30 pm  
Rockin' Blues Guitar

**Coco Montoya**



Saturday, December 8  
8 pm • Blues Guitar

**Johnny "V" Vernazza**  
with  
**Anna Troy**



Sunday, December 9  
8 pm • Smooth Jazz

**Matt Marshak**



Monday, December 10  
7 pm • Scorchin' Blues

**Michele Lundeen**



Tuesday, December 11 • 7 pm • Roots Blues

**Nathan James & Ben Hernandez**

Wednesday, December 12  
8 pm • Singer/Songwriter

**David Jacob Strain**



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# Crasher

## JUST PAKORAS

by Josh Board

**m**y stepdad was at a meeting and my mom called to ask what I was doing. I told her I was going to crash the reception of an Indian wedding. My mom loves weddings — and free food — so I asked, “You want to come with me?”

“Am I allowed to?” Mom asked. I told her that there are no rules when it comes to crashing. In the movie *Wedding Crashers*, Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn had each other as wingmen when it came to picking up girls. It would be difficult with my mom in tow, but I was up for the challenge.

As we pulled into the parking lot of the community center in Encinitas, I saw a pizza delivery driver show up with a few large boxes. I said, “Cool. At least I know there won’t be a lot of funky foods I’m not familiar with.”

As I followed the delivery driver, I realized he was going into the gym next door to the reception hall.

The bride was standing at the door of the hall greeting guests. She looked confused, but she smiled at us. Luckily, my mom had brought a gift. When I told her I was going to write about her wedding reception, she seemed fine with it.

The majority of the crowd was Indian, but we were seated



next to an African-American man and a Caucasian woman. We made small talk and the woman mentioned that she was a lawyer.

When I returned from the bar, my mom leaned in and said, “He asked if you always bring me to parties with you.”

**“He can DJ your party at night and do your face lift in the morning.”**

I noticed that there were things on the table that you stick to your forehead, “bindis,” and a few of the Indian women had them on. I’m sure they showed up with them, though. Their outfits were colorful, although I’m colorblind and have trouble with my blues and purples.

I met Sunana, the bride’s sister. She helped organize the reception. She told me that she



writes a column for *North County Times*, and we talked a little about that. When she talked about organizing fund-



Top right: Keshav, the boy who liked pakoras;  
Bottom right: Sunana, the bride’s sister (left)

raising and hired them on the spot. Nobody in the family knew he was bringing them here.”

They performed interesting dances that seemed Russian in style, and then people were climbing on each other’s shoulders.

I said to my mom, “It’s time to get some free food,” and we went for appetizers. The food was catered by Indian Tandoor and was a bit spicy. One guy in line said, “You gotta love this food. It’s delicious and it clears your sinuses for the rest of the year.”

I was happy to see that the food was labeled, although “tikka,” “samosa,” and “pakoras” didn’t help me much. I

knew what the chicken kabobs were. I grabbed one of those. I met a third-grader named Keshav. He was piling pakoras on his plate. “What are pakoras?” I asked him. He said, “They’re pakoras.” I smiled and asked, “What do they taste like?” He responded, “They taste like pakoras.” I said, “Is that a meat, like chicken? Or is it a vegetable?” He sighed and said, “They’re just pakoras.” I said, “Let me ask you this — I’ve never had them before — do you think I’ll like them?” He said, “How should I know?” He walked away, tired of my questions.

I put some on my plate and wasn’t disappointed. They had onions and spinach and were mixed with potatoes. Sunana said, “...and, like everything good in this world, you fry it.”

I heard another guest asking about the samosas. They’re a staple of Indian food, like french fries.

As I sat to eat, a guy came over, shook my hand, and said that he just wanted to introduce himself and say that he liked my column. That was cool, getting props in front of my mom (though I would’ve appreciated it more if I had a date with me). A woman with an orange dress and strawberry-blond hair with a red flower in it came



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Friday & Saturday, December 7 & 8 • 9 pm  
**Classic Rock**



## 6 One 9

Sunday, December 9: **40 Oz. to Freedom** (Sublime Tribute Band)

Wednesday, December 12  
**China Clippers • Climate Crisis**

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## Crasher

over. We talked a bit, and she said that she hated being single. If my mom had been a male friend, I would've kicked her under the table.

When the woman went back to her table, I decided to steal a move from *Wedding Crashers*. I wrote a note saying we should have an arranged marriage. I wrote a date for a year in advance and made "yes," "no," "maybe" boxes for her to check. I included my phone number and a statistic that stated 85.3 percent of arranged marriages work. It was completely made up, but I thought that throwing the percentage in there would seem more...professional. A little girl walked

by and I gave her a few dollars to go over and give it to her.

When I talked with Sunana later, I mentioned that arranged marriages have the same success rate as normal marriages. She told me that it's actually higher in arranged marriages. She told me that her sister's marriage wasn't arranged.

"She graduated from USD and passed the bar. Before she got a job, she went to India. And, if you are over 25 and not married, wherever you go, relatives will parade men in front of you. When she met J.D., they hit it off. They toured New Delhi together and two months later were engaged."

I snuck over to the gym next door and watched

a few people play basketball. A couple of the employees were eating pizza. I told them that I was hoping the pizza was for the wedding next door, and they said, "Hey, man, if you'd rather have pizza, grab a piece. We aren't going to finish it." I grabbed a slice of pepperoni and we talked a little basketball before I headed back to the wedding.

Speeches were being made as I walked back in. Some made me teary eyed, which was odd — I didn't know any of these people.

The DJ started playing dance music and the dance floor filled quickly. My mom and I left before dinner arrived.

I saw the third-grader walking by with a soda in each hand and asked him if I could take his picture. He put a look on his face as if to say he wasn't in the mood for my antics, but he gave me a smile. ■

*Crash your party? Call 619-235-3000 x421 and leave an invitation for Josh Board.*

Columns archived at [SanDiegoReader.com](http://SanDiegoReader.com)

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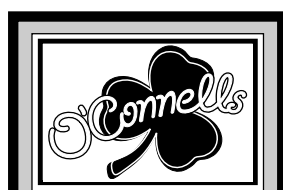
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**THURSDAYS KARAOKE**

FRIDAY, DEC. 7  
**DEADLINE FRIDAY**  
**BAD SCIENCE FICTION**  
**JOEY HARRIS & THE MENTALS**

SATURDAY, DEC. 8  
**OCTOBER BURNING**  
**NO SIGN OF WEAKNESS**

SUNDAY, DEC. 9 • 7:30 PM  
**TROUBADOUR OPEN MIC**  
HOSTED BY PHIL HARMONIC

MONDAY, DEC. 10 • 8:00 PM  
**MYSTERY TRAIN**  
PRO-INVITATIONAL BLUES JAM

TUESDAY, DEC. 11  
ANOTHER ZEKE PROD. PRESENTS  
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# Good Jazz Beats All Food

For author Marcel Proust, the taste of a madeleine, a beloved pastry of childhood, evoked nostalgic memories that subsequently unleashed thousands of pages of prose upon the literary public. Most of us don't get quite that excited about our food.

Yes, flavors (and aromas) have a unique ability to bring back recollections of lost times, and sometimes even a tear of joy. And yes, at its best, cuisine is an art form, however evanescent the artworks. But if you eat at Anthology, your dinner may have to compete for your attention with jazz — another evanescent art, much of it freshly created out of improvisations on old recipes (that is, standard melodies).

Good jazz can not only evoke past scenes, it provides them with a haunting soundtrack — moving music turning into movie music. In my case, the memory movies (with my jazz-loving teenage self as the protagonist) are shot in black and white, in the fluid style of the New Wave filmmakers of the time, with a backdrop of glorious, bohemian Manhattan in the early '60s, jazz capital of the universe.

Our group began dinner at Anthology, present era. "I love this place!" said James, a handsome ex-chef-turned-realtor and Samurai Jim's neighbor. (We'd met previously over dinner at Kensington Grill.) "It's the perfect destination for a first date — if the girl likes jazz." This splashy new nightclub-with-food at the south end of Little Italy has a menu overseen by celeb chef Brad Ogden and cooked by local toque Jim Phillips. We deliberately chose to go there on a Tuesday night, when there's no cover charge and the music is usually the house jazz band. I'm paid to review food, not music. "Eh, house band," I figured, "I won't have to pay attention." This particular evening, however, the band turned out to be a small combo led by sax player Jason Weber.

We were seated at a four-top in a slightly sunken area (let's not call it "the pit") close to the stage. The decor is glam and gorgeous, from what you can see of it in the atmospheric lighting. The ivory-colored leather (ette?) chairs look luxurious but aren't really all that comfy (at least for shorties). You can also sit at the banquettes lining the walls, but we chose a table because it's easier to converse. There are higher levels to the place — a balcony-style second-floor mezzanine with a full menu, and a third-floor stratospheric



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE KLEIN

lounge with only a bar menu, also balcony-style, from which you can look down on the groundlings and, I guess, throw popcorn on them. There's another bar at ground level (it was packed that night) for drinkers and single diners. There's a \$20 food/drink minimum on the first floor, \$15 on the mezzanine — easy enough to meet with a glass of wine and a bowl of soup. No jazz-loving paupers allowed, I guess, except on the top floor.

"San Diego really needs a steady venue for jazz like this," James continued, "but it registers as a little too mature for San Diego audiences. Most people here want to eat and run, go dancing, go someplace else..." "Too shallow to settle in and enjoy the music," said Fred. James nodded and said, "But I'd be here every night if I could."

A page at the back of the wine list is devoted to cocktails devised by the head bartender — most are slight variations on classics; others get creative with fruits and sweet liqueurs. I was the

sole creativity-risker, choosing the tartest-sounding creation: a "Basil Limoncello" was as crisp and refreshing as I'd hoped. The gents went with classic booze. Meanwhile, the band struck up, and we ordered our dinner accompanied by its opening notes.

I have to admit up front that I'm long familiar with Brad Ogden's work (from the Bay Area) and that I'm not especially a fan.

I've always found his food likable but underwhelming — good, sound, user-friendly, but lacking in some dimension of passion or intensity. I think Ogden's greatest contributions to restaurant cuisine are probably his house-baked bread assortments. A server equipped with tongs duly brought around a bread tray and ramekins of soft butter. The Anthology choices mirror those at Arterra, where Ogden also consulted — fabulous miniature corn muffins, mini-seeded baguettes, tiny blimps of sweet soft rolls. Be not ashamed, pig out at will: The bread server comes but once, to return nevermore. You want two

## REVIEW

NAOMI WISE

### Anthology ★★ (Good)

1337 India Street (between A Street and Ash Street), Little Italy, 619-595-0300, [anthologysd.com](http://anthologysd.com).

**HOURS:** Dinner Tuesday–Sunday, 5:30 p.m.–closing. (Kitchen closing time varies with the night's entertainment; typically 9:30 p.m. early in the week, 11:30 p.m. for big acts on weekends.)

**PRICES:** Appetizers \$10–\$21; entrées \$19–\$34. Desserts about \$7.

**CUISINE AND BEVERAGES:** Seasonal menu of modern American cuisine with some Asian, Mexican, Mediterranean influences; fine ingredients, including local sustainably raised produce and natural meats. Mainly steep, mainly California wine list, very little under \$45, lots by the glass and half-bottle, plus full bar with creative cocktails.

**PICK HITS:** Blue cheese soufflés, farmers' market salad, Brandt flat-iron steak, basil limoncello cocktail, all breads.

**NEED TO KNOW:** Pay parking lot on corner of A Street. Ground-floor bar and restaurant are wheelchair accessible; other venues up staircase. Cover charge most nights, requiring separate payment for tickets. Usually no cover Tuesday nights and some Sundays. Food-beverage minimums \$15–\$20. A few lacto-vegetarian appetizers, one vegetarian entrée. Reservations advised for parties larger than two.

Ratings reflect the reviewer's reaction to food, ambience, and service, with price taken into consideration. Menu listings and prices are subject to change.

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bread at the least, but you should brazenly choose even more. (Purses are made for stealing fine restaurant rolls — just ask my sainted mother, stepmother, or mother-in-law, if you can distract them from their harp-playing gigs in heaven.)

The best dish of the evening was an appetizer "duet of Maytag blue cheese soufflés." Two tiny puffed circles shared the plate, one a mild cheese, the other a strong one. Alongside were arugula, slices of port-poached pears, and a sticky, yummy

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# Calendar

## RESTAURANTS

mound of caramelized spiced walnuts. We played “mix and match” with the garnishes, and every bite was interesting.

A “farmers’ market salad” is a riff on the classic French frisée-and-poached-egg salad, a mixture of green and red curly endive, fluffy hard-cooked egg, and applewood-smoked bacon bits in Banyuls vinaigrette, with (*ta-da!*) a few puffs of batter-fried chanterelle mushrooms on the side. The mushrooms were to die for, of course. But the surprise was how well the salad “aged” as we passed it around, the bacon flavor seeping into the vinaigrette and gradually ennobling all the other ingredients.

Steamed duck dumplings were controversial — everyone sorta liked them but me, the Chinese-food snob. They looked something like wontons with pointy ends but didn’t taste anything near. “Pastry is way too thick and doughy,” I said, turning into the Last Empress with the nine-inch fingernails. “Any good Han chef would be embarrassed.” The filling was mildly flavorful, the sweet-and-sour dip reasonably pleasing. Oh, go ahead, try them, make up your own mind.

“Santa Barbara Smoke-House Salmon” flopped. It

wasn’t smoked, it was thickly cut gravlax, tasting very ordinary plated over small, thin Yukon Gold potato pancakes with crème fraîche, minus any visible sign of the menu-advertised caviar. Although the lighting was dim, my teeth didn’t detect any caviar crunch either.

The wine list is long and fabulous, if price is no object. For the first course I chose a Santa Barbara Roussanne (Consillence) for a “mere” \$45 — lively, slightly sweet, an easy pleasure. For the entrées, James was jazzed to find a Rhone-like red Meritage blend called “the Prisoner” (\$65) that proved wonderful drinking — just enough tannin for depth, but smooth and bright. Over the course of the evening, it never faded.

Meanwhile, the band played to a semiattentive audience. Jason Weber is a dark-eyed, balding, intense-looking guy, maybe in his 30s. A few numbers into the first set, he launched into a sad-happy flowing melody that tore my mind away from my plate and left my heart in little pieces. Suddenly: A cloudy Manhattan afternoon, early fall, no money for subway fare, trekking two miles down desolate 11th Avenue for a few minutes of solitude overlooking the Hudson River at Gansevoort Pier (then derelict with rotting wooden planks, not the chic spot it is today), from whence I’d later turn east-

ward to the Village to commune with my kind.

Jazz like that will overpower any food. Nothing you can eat — be it chilies, wasabi, or the sourest yuzu fruit — hurts as deeply as good jazz, and no dessert is as sweet. The only sensual art that has a chance against such music is the best sex you ever had — preferably accom-

*No food hurts as deeply as good jazz, and no dessert is as sweet.*

panied by “Trane, or maybe Mingus’s “Good-bye, Porkpie Hat.” (Do NOT attempt this activity to the tune of Monk’s “Little Rootie Tootie.”) The next day I Googled Jason Weber. Found his website. Discovered in “Reviews” a roaring all-out rave from 2006 by the late, great (sucks that he’s dead) Buddy Blue, who was apparently as surprised and as knocked out as I was. It seems that when jazz lovers write about Jason Weber, they end up writing love songs.

Breath of relief when the band struck up a Thelonious Monk number, all playfulness and mathematical structure, releasing me from the capture of my senti/mental movie to get back to the entrées. “Clam chowder-style” seared Maine diver scallops (with bacon and crispy clams) were okay but a trifle overcooked. At an earlier

visit, Samurai Jim had hung out at the bar and gathered food recommendations from his fellow drinkers. A peckerwood-type with a Southern accent had recommended the fried chicken: “It’s real down-home cooking.” Well, it was all white meat — mighty white and rather dry, as breast usually is. The gravy was also white — it

enjoyed so thoroughly at Starlite Lounge. This was good, but not as good as Starlite’s. The cut seemed a bit thinner and the meat less tender. James talked about a young woman chef he’d trained when he was working as head chef at a resort in Fiji. “I could recognize that she had the talent to be a chef — not just from the head but from the heart. Anybody can follow a recipe, but the best chefs cook from the heart,” he said.

In the latening evening, Jason Weber and his sidemen were also cooking from the heart, another fluid, happy-melancholy melody, math and passion, drawn out in a long sinuous sax line that reeled my mind in like a hooked marlin. (Back to the derelict pier with a 16-year-old’s vague heartache, watching the great gray river flow.) Food is an easy physical pleasure, whereas good jazz is often difficult and complex and apt to steal your soul. Sensual, too, but in a sneakier way. An image came to mind of an old cheap paperback of the sort published in the late ’40s and early ’50s. On its cover, a tawdry-looking hotel room, where a long-haired brunette lies on the bed, wearing a white satin slip and an ankle bracelet, smoking a cigarette, legs slightly spread, while a dark-eyed balding saxophonist kneels on the bed between her ankles and plays.

“You’re right,” I told James. “It’s a great first-date destina-

tion. If she loves jazz, she’ll be all yours.”

We still had to try some desserts, pro forma. The dark-chocolate mousse was all gone, so the guys chose a trio of crème brûlées and a tapioca pudding. All sweet pabulum, to my palate. James spotted the most interesting choice, a Port tasting — ages 20, 30, and 40. Their personalities proved much like people of those same ages: the 20-year-old lively but callow, the 30 ripe and vibrant, the 40 mellowed and just starting to fade.

Then the band went off and we finished and paid and left. “The food is kind of middling,” all the guys said on the car ride home. “Not bad, just not very exciting.” “I’ve never found Brad Ogden’s food exciting,” I said. “It’s good, but it’s risk-free, background music for the mouth. And Jim Phillips is very skillful and reliable but — well — not really known for creative breakthroughs, no insult intended.” “Yeah, I’d go to Anthology on a first date,” said Jim, “and have the soufflés and the salad, and after the show we’d go up to Starlite for the rest of dinner. But the music was great!” “Yes, the music — oh,” I said, wrung out from it and still hungry for more.

No chef interview tonight, folks. We’re done here. The chef of the evening was not at the stove but on the stage.

(This review is dedicated to Buddy Blue and Judith Moore.) ■

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# Can't Nobody Lick Us

*"Say hi to Mr. Frog. I'm a self-taught cabdriver and puppeteer and clown."*

**P**addy Wilson, please meet your family at the front entrance."

The loudspeaker crackles loud and then soft, depending on the wind.

Wow. Kobey's Swap Meet. Looks like a state fair.

"Food?" Vince says. He punches my \$1 ticket at the gate. "It's down the bottom there. Green canopy."

I cast my eye past sideshow-lookin' tents with wind-blown flaps and tables and crowds. Ah, yes. Green. At the end, as the man said. I wander past karaoke-gear stands, knife stands, art stands loaded with stag-in-the-sunset-type paintings, a tent filled with artificial palms, a whole rack of used cars, even. Strikes me that this may be the last place where ordinary people can come and do business. This is pre-slick. Medieval, almost. It don't have that lemony-sweet waxed-nightly smell, that nicey-nicey-grab-your-money-and-smile feel of, say, Mission Valley. This is face-to-face, a place where The People still do their own business, innocents, con artists all.

Except, of course, the concession at the end's run by Aramark. It's an outfit that's all over the country. So this ain't no mom 'n' pop cooking Grandma's recipes, no sir. It'll be standard fare. They have a few round white plastic tables and benches outside. No umbrellas. And today's a sharp-sun doozy. You stand at the counter, and the guys behind look down at you from about four feet up. Behind them, the wall menu has three or four breakfast items, like a bagel filled with egg and cheese (\$3.75) and a breakfast burrito (\$3). But the main thing is lunch. They have a hamburger for \$4, or BBQ bacon, teriyaki, or chili cheeseburgers for \$5. Chicken sandwich is \$3.75, and a superdog goes for \$3.50.

I ask for a coffee (\$1), but they're out. Hmm. That's when I see the gyro (\$5.50). Now I notice

a spit turning in the gloom. I order one and go sit out at the nearest table, next to a little lady in an electric scootabout. Alice is sipping a hot cocoa. She, uh, has a frog on her back. A big green frog with its arms wrapped around her.

**TIN  
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"Say hi to Mr. Frog," Alice says. I shake its cloth paw. It's a backpack. "I'm a self-taught cabdriver and puppeteer and clown," she says. "I live nearby. I'm here quite a lot. It's my mini-vacation for two to three hours every weekend."

The guy yells "Ed!" from the kiosk, and I go to pick up my food.

I'd been expecting some mass-production gyro, nuked in the microwave, but guess what? This is terrific. Slices of lamb, tomato, lettuce, yogurt-cucumber sauce, tzatziki, I guess, all of it oozing out of the pita bread. Ten minutes and I've got the thing eat and beat — love lamb when it's nice and juicy — and I'm ready to rock and roll.

So's Alice the frog lady. She leans forward, flicks some tzatziki off my nose. "You must come meet some of my other friends."

We start our tour of the midway. Alice calls "Hi!" through the tent flap to Mr. Seu, the Chinese masseur. And to Rafael, under the towel. He's one of the regulars. We stop at the stand where her friends make jerky out of elk, croc, buffalo, all sorts of weird animals. Then Will's Wire Works, where this guy Will is twisting metal around a tiger's eye gemstone right there in front of you, and another place that makes nothing but crazy signs like "Your husband called and said to buy anything you want."

By the time we get to Paul "Sticky" Binner's honey stand, I'm hungry again. But not for sweet stuff. That's when I see three magic letters.

"BBQ."

Huh. I thought there was only one concession spot at Kobey's. But these guys, in their blue-and-white kiosk, are set up beside another Aramark

outlet. I leave Alice chatting with Sticky and follow the aroma.

"Delicious BBQ sandwich, \$4.50," says the little sign. "With curly fries, \$6." They have hotlinks too, for \$3.75, but the sandwich is it.

"I'll have one," I say to Emilio, guy who's helping out today. Has a stud in his — ouch! — chin. "Fries?" he asks.

"Nup," I say.

Within a minute, he has slipped together bun, mayo, a wad of steaming shredded pork, grilled onions, and BBQ sauce. I take it all to a circular seat and huddle under the single black umbrella, next to Rosa María — another li'l ol' lady, about Alice's age, except she's from Sonora. She nibbles fries from the Aramark concession (\$1.75). I bite into my bun. Ooh. Yes. Good taste. The meat feels nicely smoked, has a slight vinegar tang to it, but not too sharp. Interesting. And man! The garlicky sweet BBQ sauce ramps it up from good to great. Maybe the atmosphere is part of it. Nearby, two guys under a green umbrella play South American music with guitars, lutes, pipes, pan flutes. Yes, it's standards like "El Condor Pasa," but they do it really well. Rosa María and I groove away in our tiny shared island of shade.

After a while, I lope over to ask the guys where they're from. Ecuador, they say. Inty and Rummy. They call themselves Khausak. It means "life" in Quechua, the Incas' language. They're here every weekend. On the way back, I come across Tom. Turns out the BBQ is his idea. "We cook the pork in a smoker the night before," he says. "We're kinda new here, but I've been in the business 30 years." 'Course he won't tell me his sauce recipe, except it includes garlic and brown sugar, Southern-style. He's aiming for ribs too, soon.



Tom

But he knows he's gotta be good: There's a big Phil's BBQ just beyond the back fence of this place.

Hard to leave. The pan pipes, the hawkers, the stuff, these rich BBQ pork smells, the sun...it's precorporate! That's what it is. Yeah, Kobey's makes a mint off this operation, for sure, but it's where business is basic. It makes you think of Ma's last speech in *The Grapes of Wrath*.

"We keep a-comin'...Can't nobody lick us. We'll go on forever, Pa. We're the people." ■

**The Place:** Aramark refreshment stall and Tom's BBQ (Festival Fun Foods), at Kobey's Swap Meet, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, 619-226-0650 (Kobey's number)

**Type of Food:** American

**Prices:** At Aramark: breakfast bagel filled with egg and cheese, \$3.75; breakfast burrito, \$3; hamburger, \$4; BBQ bacon burger, teriyaki burger, or chili cheeseburger, each \$5; chicken sandwich, \$3.75; superdog, \$3.50; at Tom's Festival Fun Foods BBQ: BBQ shredded pork sandwich, \$4.50; with curly fries, \$6; hotlinks, \$3.75

**Hours:** Aramark, 7:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m., Saturdays—Sundays only; Festival Fun Foods BBQ, 8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Saturdays—Sundays only

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# Chocolate Riff

*"I'm not looking for a painkiller.  
 I'm looking for elegance, finesse."*

**I** was in bed this morning, thinking about chocolate," said Foppiano Vineyards representative Susan Valera. "Back in the '60s, when it came to wine, you had Burgundy, Rosé, and White Sauternes. And back then, my dad used to bring home five-cent Hershey bars of milk chocolate. These days, the diversity of Zinfandels is kind of like the diversity of chocolates. You don't just have milk chocolate — you have white chocolate, dark chocolate, chocolate with 62 percent cocoa and with 78 percent cocoa. Depending on what you like, you can go and pick a Zinfandel you like."

Valera was speaking as one of the panelists at a Zinfandel-tasting seminar held at the San Diego Wine & Culinary Center as part of the fourth annual San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival. The panel was hosted by Paul Lukacs, wine editor for *Saveur* magazine and an accomplished wine writer (his book, *American Vintage: The Rise of American Wine*, won a trio of wine-book awards), and featured six Zinfandels (and six accompanying speakers) from six wineries: Bourassa Vineyards, Michael David, Écluse, Foppiano, Opolo, and Van Ruiten. Besides the usual rundown on each wine, Lukacs had asked the speakers to comment on two questions.

First, said Lukacs, "Compared to most varietals, Zinfandel comes in a very diverse array of styles, from...claret-style...to wines that taste so

heavy they might as well be fortified." (I was glad he slipped in the "most," there; otherwise, someone surely would have asked about Riesling.) The question, then: "If you're a consumer, how do you know what you're buying?" Valera's riff on chocolate was less a response than a nifty bit of perspective on the matter, but her answer got me thinking. Riesling comes in a dizzying range of styles, but there's a name for each — *Spätlese trocken*, for instance, tells the consumer both about must-weight prior to fermentation (*Spätlese*) and the degree to which fermentation is carried out (*trocken*). I read the label, and I know this much: I'm getting a bone-dry, medium-bodied Riesling. Zinfandel already includes the term "late-harvest" when it wants to indicate Port-like levels of ripeness and alcohol; perhaps the varietal could benefit from a full set of stylistic terms?

Of course, the label already gives some hint of what's to come in the form of an alcohol percentage. Alcohol content can tell you something about ripeness, body, and mouthfeel; high levels are occasionally associated with the term "jammy fruit bomb." And that led to Lukacs's second question: "An issue that seems to be getting more and more prominence in the press, and from what I hear, more and more concern for consumers, is the ever-rising level of alcohol. A 16 percent Cabernet is not common, but it's almost unusual not to buy

highly alcoholic Zinfandel. Is this good? Is this bad? What do you think?"

Vic Bourassa of Napa's Bourassa Vineyards took first crack. "Our particular wine is one of the lighter ones you're going to taste; it's only 14.3 percent. That's based on what happened in the vineyard this year. It's got tannin, fruit, structure. The wine is light in alcohol, so what fruit there is in it is allowed to come through. Also, the spiciness. It's got balance, and when you taste balanced wines with balanced foods, the food makes the wine taste better and the wine makes the food taste better."

Michael Phillips of Michael David spoke next. "We like the higher alcohol; it works in Lodi," he said. But he wasn't claiming that Lodi just produces riper fruit. Phillips said that he waters "very sparingly, in order to concentrate the fruit." Further, "We let the fruit concentrate on the vine until it's slightly shriveled. You get a very concentrated wine." Concentration means a higher ratio of sugar to water in the grape, and that means higher alcohol levels. "Everybody has different styles, but this is the style that I've developed over the years. This wine is 15.9 percent. I have wines close to 17.5 percent, but that's bigger than I like, so I'll probably blend them down."

"Our intent is to try to do food-friendly Zinfandels," said Steve Lock of Écluse Wines in Paso Robles, though he was quick to add, "I'm realizing you can be food-friendly from a Port all the way to the other end." Still, "The feedback we get from our wine club and the people we speak with is that that's the kind of wine they're typically looking for. It's a complement to food and not simply a wine you might sit around and drink on the patio. The alcohol on this one is 15.4 percent; our intent is



Zinfandel panel at San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival

to get it down in the fourteens if we can. But we pick the fruit when we get the flavors we want," and sometimes, that means higher alcohol levels.

Rick Potruch of Opolo Vineyards (also in Paso Robles) concurred with that last bit, saying, "People think we search out the ripest fruit we can find, in order to make high-alcohol wines. Actually, to achieve physiological maturity in our vineyards, we have to let the fruit hang out there, building up sugar levels." That's because "we have extremely cold nights for as warm as our days are. We may be at 95 degrees during the day and cool down to the high 40s at night. The cold locks in the natural acids." The result: "We once had a tank ferment totally dry to almost 18.9 percent. We've actually used a spinning cone system to reduce the alcohol on some of our wines, just because we don't want to put 18 percent on a Zin."

But he parted company with Lock on the whole food-friendly bit. He was happy to suggest his wines as a pair for grilled sausage or carne asada tacos but added, "I believe that for a lot of Americans, wine is a cocktail. Wine consumption has passed beer consumption — somebody goes to

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happy hour, and instead of ordering beer, they're ordering wine. You get home after a rough day of work and watch five minutes of CNN, and a nice big glass of heavy Zinfandel takes the edge off. I think it's a trend that's not going to stop."

Host Lukacs was delighted. "You're the first completely honest vintner I've met who says, 'Yes, in America, wine is a cocktail.' Much of the growth in American wine consumption is based not on drinking wine with meals but drinking it instead of Scotch. Whether that's a good or bad thing, I don't know, but it's something that's happening."

The Van Ruiten reps suggested that the controversy over high-alcohol Zin was "more of a problem for the wine press and the wine critics than for the actual consumers. It's something to talk about, but for consumers,

if you like the wine, you like it."

Fair enough. However, attendee Steve Dryden (a member of the wine press but also a consumer) had a complaint. "When I drink wine, I'm not looking for a painkiller," he said. "I'm looking for elegance, finesse, and something that's reflective of the wine. Sometimes, with high-alcohol wine, elements of the wine get overpowered." (Lukacs, meanwhile, couldn't help noting that "a lot of what you hear people in the press say is that one of the reasons there's high alcohol in California wines is because of people in the press. I can think of one person, who lives in Monkton, Maryland, who tends to like big, jammy, fruit-bomb type wines." And at least one other attendee echoed Dryden's sentiments. "To me," he said, "the distinctive character of Zinfandel is that black pepper spice. I'm curious, be-

cause none of the six samples we've had here have really had that."

"I think it largely comes from the fruit we've had," replied Lock. "It's one of those things that you can't control — it's there or it's not there." Again, fair enough — I'm happy to bow to superior expertise in the wine-making department. But I'm looking at my hasty notes — "candied raspberry; sweet fruit, incredible sweetness — bubblegum [?]; huge but not syrupy." Only one hit the herbal/spicy notes loud and clear. It's tempting to wonder if maybe a little something gets lost amid all those gobs of sweet fruit.

Or, in at least one case, covered by a dusting of residual sugar. "The majority of our Zinfandel is in two products," said Potruch. "One is the Sunny Creek Zinfandel, and it has al-

ways been what I call Smucker's in a glass. It's just sweet, jammy fruit up front, but it does have that kind of traditional spice on the finish." The more robust Mountain Zinfandel also gets left with a touch of RS. "A guy named Jess Jackson has been proving that America loves sugar for a long time. A little bit of sugar in our Zinfandel has been a key to our differentiation from, say, a Dry Creek Zinfandel, which will have a more traditional pepper component."

Six producers is hardly a representative sample, but still, 0 for 6 in the black pepper department. Maybe the alcohol issue is not all in the press's collective head? Maybe the ripeness has a way of becoming all? Consider this final exchange about Zin's famously variable style. An attendee asked, "When you think Zinfandel, a lot of people think, 'Oh, that's going to be a



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## Calendar RESTAURANTS

bold, meaty red wine.’ Is there any way you can kind of explode that myth?”

“You have to get the wine in front of people,” replied Lock. “We’ve sat down with buyers and had them say, ‘We don’t really have room for Zinfandel on our list; it’s big and bold, and we don’t really have the food we want to serve with that.’ You have to try to move them into it: ‘We’re here, it takes five seconds...’ A lot of times, they’re, like, ‘Well, this is not what I thought it would be.’ That’s really the only way.” Admirable persistence, but the buyer then has to be thinking, “If I’m in the business, and I had to be talked into this, what’s it going to take to convince the consumer?”

Bourassa seemed to grant this point when he said, “I think America is starting to accept the fact that when they order a Zinfandel, they kind of know what they’re going to get. Maybe a spice bomb, maybe a fruit bomb...” And Opolo’s Potruch was even blunter: “I think America has accepted the high-alcohol Zinfandels, but the critics haven’t, and some of the traditionalists obviously haven’t.” ■

## 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

**Beach Grass Cafe** 159 South Coast Highway 101 (one block south of Lomas Santa Fe), Solana Beach, 858-509-0632. Formerly a branch of Parkhouse Eatery, Beach Grass has been bought by a mini-chain (with Swami’s Cafe and Honey’s), but still serves the original recipes. You could eat breakfast here daily and never get bored with the creative morning menu, which includes foamy, fresh orange juice and “Beach Benedict” with eggs and house-made hollandaise on a soft, lush crab cake. Oddly, though, the “maple” syrup and “butter” spread are both mass-market blends. Lunches and dinners feature multi-ethnic “coastal cuisine,” with the best results in seafood dishes like “Moroccan crabcakes” and the fish-n-yam chips (with fine house-made tartar sauce). Vegetable accompaniments are tasty and creative. Reservations essential for weekend breakfasts. Free parking in back via driveway to right of restaurant. Breakfast through dinner daily. Moderate to slightly expensive. — N.W.

**Cafe Zinc** 132 South Cedros (at Lomas Santa Fe), Solana Beach, 858-793-5436. The Rancho Santa Fe set like to hang out here in the garden patio with their Porsches at the curb and their shih tzus under the table (dogs are welcome). Even for non-doggie people, the California pepper trees and garden sculpture make this indoor-outdoor eatery a really pleasant kick-back place (which gets its name from the zinc-top bar inside). The menu, a mixture of Italian and vegetarian, offers dishes like frittata with cucumber salsa, and baked eggplant “pizzette” (personal-size pizza) with marinara, mozzarella, and Parmesan cheese. The vegetarian chili and the Zinc veggie burger (served on a La Brea bun) are tasty too. Open daily, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B.

**El Q’ero** 564 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-753-9050. You’ll feel like a guest at an intimate party eating a leisurely dinner in this small, noisy, pretty dining room. Chef Monica Szepeszy offers personalized, home-style renditions of South American cuisines, including house-made beverages. Be sure to try the house’s *chicha morada*, a

tangy soft drink made from Peruvian purple corn. The fare includes numerous types of empanadas, tapas-like small plates, and full-size entrées — most from the family homeland, Peru. Desserts vary nightly and can include a cloud-like *tres leches* cake. Vegetarian and allergy-restricted diets accommodated. Lunch and dinner Tuesday through Saturday. Reservations necessary. Moderate. — N.W.

**Firefly** 251 North El Camino Real (at Mountain Vista), Suite B, Encinitas, 760-635-1066. At this spacious wine bar and restaurant (sharing a small mall with well-known Savory), the wine list emphasizes California boutique wineries and lesser-known bottlings from around the world, and plentiful choices by the glass make it easy to experiment with unfamiliar wines. The menu starts with a half-dozen wine-bar snacks including a cheese plate and a charcuterie plate. The most popular lunch item is a grand Cobb salad, and at dinner there’s a tasty bourbon-and-mustard-brined pork tenderloin. Desserts are a strong suit here, including a creative crème brûlée featuring white chocolate and the fragrant bergamot of Earl Grey tea. For weekend brunches, Firefly does it up big with a long, seductive array of choices, including a delicious Dungeness crab Benedict. The menu changes frequently, but this likeable spot feels like a sophisticated neighborhood restaurant where, if you’re old enough to enjoy a taste of the grape, you can pretty much come as you are. Open for lunch Monday through Friday, brunch weekends, dinner nightly. Moderate to expensive. — N.W.

**La Especial Norte** 604 North Coast Highway 101 (at Leucadia Boulevard), Leucadia, 760-942-1040. This brightly lit roadhouse sports highly whimsical decor (take a look at the blue ceramic “pond” in the dining room, complete with cayman) and boasts a five-page menu, including a page of a dozen regional soups and another full page for seafood. The soups are superb — the authentic Mexico City-style chicken soup is laden with avocados, chicken shreds, cilantro, and rice, and the savory eggplant soup includes airy little “croustons” of puffed *relleno* batter. The fresh, interesting seafood entrées outshine the relatively ordinary renditions of the standard stuffed-tortilla variations. No wheelchair access to restrooms. Open daily, breakfast through dinner. Inexpensive. — N.W.

**Pacific Del Mar** Del Mar Plaza, 1555 Camino Del Mar (at 15th Street), Del Mar, 858-792-1803. The chic crowd is drawn here by Pacific Rim/Californian-fusion cuisine centering on seafood and organic, locally grown produce. It’s qual-

ity all the way, but some nights the restaurant is a victim of its own success. The riotous overflow crowds can challenge the kitchen’s capacities, not to mention diners’ tender ears. (Best strategy for pleasure: Reserve for early or late on a weeknight, and ask for patio seating or Room #2.) Fun list of low-priced mini-appetizers, plus great baked oysters, seared scallops, mustard catfish, and house-cured rib eye. The award-winning wine list is half price Thursday nights, and the full bar specializes in creative martinis. “Pacifica Dine-In” offers call-in take-out for selected items. Lunch and dinner daily. Early-bird dinner discount. Pacifica Breeze Café (a level down) offers savory dishes for breakfast through late lunch daily. Expensive to very expensive. — N.W.

**Potato Shack Cafe** 120 West I Street (off South Coast Highway 101), Encinitas, 760-436-1282. Check out the cute potato-toon mural on the side of the building — a sign for spud-lovers to load up on portions sized for lumberjacks from The Lumberyard across the street. American fries (served “All you can eat!”), French fries, potato patties, and baked potatoes with various toppings are the heart of the menu, along with eggs, omelets, biscuits with sausage gravy, and beer-battered onion rings made from sweet reds. If size counts, consider the daunting inch-thick “manhole” pancake that’s bigger than the plate. Lunch runs to “deli” sandwiches (with potatoes), or a hearty bowl of chili con carne. Arrive early weekends. Open daily, breakfast to late lunch. Inexpensive. — N.W.

**Savory** 267 North El Camino Real, Encinitas, 760-634-5556. Chef-owner Pascal Vignau was executive chef of the Four Seasons Aviara when he decided he wanted his own little place. His casual strip-mall restaurant has been perpetually packed for dinner since opening day. Here he serves a monthly changing menu of Southern French and Mediterranean cooking spotlighting seasonal local produce. Highlights include an ultra-rich macaroni-and-ham casserole. The adventurous mainly-Cal wine list is remarkably affordable, with many choices available by half-bottles and glasses (and modest corkage if you BYO). Dinner reservations urged; groups larger than ten accommodated with manager’s approval. High tea Saturday afternoon. Lunch Tuesday through Saturday; dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Moderate. — N.W.

**Tom Giblin’s Irish Pub** 640 Grand Avenue (at Roosevelt Street), Carlsbad Village, 760-729-7234. Occupying the whole of a handsome, sprawling, block-long Elizabethan-style building, this friendly “small-townish” saloon offers

some above-average pub-grub, especially the perfect, moist corned beef with firm-tender cabbage, the huge, lively salads, and the house-baked brown bread. Boxy (Irish “peasant” potato pancakes, rarely found in California) are done up rather doughy rather than crisp to serve as “wraps” for corned beef and other dishes. Live music Tuesday through Sunday, 9 p.m. to midnight. A large, attractive heated patio next to the parking lot offers some afternoon serenity. Open daily, lunch until late. Inexpensive. — N.W.

### NORTH INLAND

**Abbey’s Real Texas BBQ** 6904 Miramar Road (at Commerce Street, behind Denny’s), Miramar, 858-566-5235. Newer, smaller branch at 9353 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard (at Ruffin Road), Kearny Mesa, 858-279-7427. Texas barbecue consists of meat, chicken, turkey, and links that are repeatedly mopped with a marinade and cooked in a big cast-iron smoker (rather than grilled over a fire). Here they use mesquite to barbecue the poultry quickly and the brisket ve-r-r-y slowly. In addition to the usual BBQ sides (potato salad, coleslaw, beans, etc.), they offer a Caesar salad. At the Miramar branch the room is large and unadorned but very clean. Wheelchair accessible. Same menu lunch and dinner. Open daily; continuous service for lunch and early dinner weekdays; normal dinner hours weekends. Inexpensive to low moderate. — N.W.

**El Bizcocho** Rancho Bernardo Inn, 17550 Bernardo Oaks Drive (at Rancho Bernardo Road), 858-675-8500. The deluxe restaurant in this rural golf-and-tennis hideaway features upscale, creative French-California cuisine, incorporating old-is-new techniques and imaginative combinations of seasonal ingredients. The weighty wine tome starts out expensive and goes up from there, with relative bargains at the high end and some half-bottles; by-the-glass choices are just adequate. To find it: Take Bernardo Oaks Drive (a long block west of Pomerado) north to the end of the road to the RBI parking lot (with validated parking for restaurant-goers). If disabled, specify when you reserve, and they’ll set up your table in an accessible area. Otherwise there’s a maze of short staircases to negotiate en route to the restaurant. Tie-and-jacket requirement now relaxed, but still very dressy. Great service, luxury resort ambiance. Dinner nightly, Sunday brunch. Very expensive. — N.W.

**Galeon (Escondido)** 503 West Mission (at Centre City), Escondido, 760-746-5951. Mexican seafood, along with the usual dishes, is featured in a bright coffee-shop atmosphere with comfortable booths, big windows, a lunch counter and a salad bar. Shrimp and *langostino* (“squat lobster,” in fishermen’s terms) are the house specialties, and are well treated. Also consider an intense little marlin taco (squeeze some lime onto this rich, strong fish), or the savory *albondigas* soup (lime it up, too). Open daily, breakfast through dinner. Inexpensive (standard dishes) to moderate (seafood). — N.W.

**Pho Hoa Hiep** 9910 Mira Mesa Boulevard, #A, 858-578-1468 (also at 6947 Linda Vista Road, 858-268-8406). This *pho* (soup) place of the brothers Hoa and Hiep is a clean, busy eatery near hi-tech offices. It’s popular at lunch and dinner, partly because of frequent two-for-one deals. Try the #1, *Dac Biet Xe Lua*, an “extra large bowl” of soup filled with rare steak slices and well-done brisket, flank, tendon, and tripe along with mint and bean sprouts. A popular breakfast *pho* is “French bread with beef juicy cube soup.” They also have rice dishes. And try the traditional fruit drinks, maybe the *Xam Bo Luong*, a combination of loganberry, black dates, seaweed, and lotus seeds in syrup. Lunch and dinner six days, closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

**Rancho Valencia** 5921 Valencia Circle, Rancho Santa Fe, 858-759-6216. Nestled in the lush garden setting of the Rancho Valencia Resort is one of San Diego’s dining gems. They advertise the cuisine as California-French. Whatever. Every bite from appetizer to dessert is prepared and presented to delight Californians, French people — actually, any person on the planet with taste buds. Enjoy an entrée of prime mesquite-grilled steak, fresh fish, veal, or chicken. Portions are generous, as is the wine list. Casual-elegant dress. Open daily, lunch and dinner; brunch Sunday. Very expensive. — S.M.

**Vincent’s Sirino’s** 113 West Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-745-3835. French-born chef-owner Vincent Grumel serves Gallic classics in an intimate, small-town bistro setting. This is a cuisine of rich dark sauces robing fine ingredients, such as a huge, flavorful veal chop (no factory calf, that). Mushrooms and vegetables (from local farmers or Grumel’s own garden) are the season’s best and sensitively treated. Desserts are worth every calorie — save room for the spectacular Bavarian. Full bar, fine wine list. Lunch Tuesday through Friday, dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Expensive. — N.W.

### LA JOLLA

**Great Khan’s Mongolian Festival** 4545 La Jolla Village Drive (UTC), 858-678-0950. This is a chain that stretches almost as far as the Mongolian Empire, but that’s because the idea is good. One meal, plenty of it, and guaranteed fresh because it’s either frozen (curled shavings of beef, chicken, turkey, pork) or raw (veggies including cabbage, celery, broccoli, cucumber, green peppers, carrots, mushrooms, pineapple, water chestnuts). Stuff as much as you can into your bowl and hand it to the chef to braise on the huge hotplate, and add noodles. Bonus: gallery view of skaters or an ice hockey match while you eat. Open lunch through dinner weekdays, earlier closing weekends. Inexpensive. — E.B.

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**La Taverna** 927 Silverado Street (at Girard Avenue), La Jolla, 858-454-0100. Reservations are a necessity at this tiny trattoria, especially if you'd prefer the relative quiet of the roofed sidewalk patio to the din of the cute but cramped dining room. Look for Italian cooking styles ranging from Tuscan, which showcases pastas with simple fresh sauces, to meatballs and red sauce. Highlights include chef-owner Mary Ann Vitale's house-made Sicilian-style fennel sausage, and if the feather-light potato gnocchi is on special, just say "yes." Save room for a slice of house-made layer cake. Moderate. — *N.W.*

**Piatti Ristorante** 2182 Avenida de la Playa, La Jolla Shores, La Jolla, 858-454-1589. Whether you sit inside to enjoy the warm, rustic decor or outside under the giant ficus tree listening to the fountain, you're in for a treat at this secluded restaurant. Meals begin with crunchy corn-studded *ciabatta* and spicy balsamic dipping sauce, but don't fill up too soon: the appetizers and salads are varied and tasty. All pastas are house-made and served with lively, unusual sauces. Lemon-herbed rotisserie chicken, wood-fired pizzas, veal *piccata*, and *bistecca* (a grilled rib-eye steak) round out the entrées. Portions are generous, so pace yourself if you're planning to have one of their house-made desserts. Lunch and dinner daily, brunch also available Saturday and Sunday. Moderate. — *S.M.*

**Sadaf** 613 Pearl Street (at Cuvier), La Jolla, 858-551-0643. You worry—those formal fixtures and black-tux waiters, the gold-encrusted paintings, and the crisp, pink table linens all scream "expensive!" Actually, prices are easygoing, especially at lunch. After the basket of complimentary bread, try skewers of chicken or ground filet mignon with rice or salad, or *albalou polo* (rice, dried cherries, and chicken). Pistachio-and-rose-

water ice cream is a great finale. Non-specials and evening meals cost more, but at any price this is real Persian food, with typical riotous herbage and sybaritic spicing. Another branch in the Gaslamp turns into a nightclub after dinner, but the food's better at this La Jolla flagship. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B.*

**Tutto Mare** 4365 Executive Drive (at Executive Way), Golden Triangle, 858-597-1188. The modern Italian cuisine here emphasizes pasta and fresh seafood from the mesquite grill or oak-fired oven. Lunch hours roar with chic crowds from the surrounding office buildings, but the kitchen is most on its toes then, too. Pastas come with fresh-tasting sauces, and substantial seafood salads are available. Entrées (whether seafood or meat) may be overcooked by the fierce wood fires, and most come with minor variations of the same lemon-butter sauce and a one-size-fits-all veggie medley. Full bar, interesting wine list, good happy hour nibbles. Complimentary valet parking. Call for careful directions (very hard to find). Extremely noisy. Lunch and dinner weekdays, dinner weekends. Pastas and salads moderate, entrées expensive. — *N.W.*

## MISSION VALLEY & THE MESAS

**Andrés Restaurant** 1235 Morena Boulevard, Bay Park, 619-275-4114. This is a cozy cultural surprise on hard-to-define Morena Boulevard. The food is flavorful (and not spicy-hot like Mexican and South American dishes). A good introduction to it is *ropa vieja* ("old clothes"): shredded beef sautéed with mushrooms, green pepper, and tomatoes with ever-present rice and black

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beans. And the Cuban sandwich (roast pork, baked ham, and cheese) shows off the Cuban handling of pork. Other interesting dishes include *alcapurria* (pork and green plantain) and luscious, messy *yuca con mojo* (yuca root with garlic oil). Open for lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B.*

**Shanghai City Restaurant** 3860 Convoy Street #105 (off Balboa), Kearny Mesa, 858-278-5883. Forget the blah strip mall it hides in—this little piece of Shanghai is a jewel. It feels like one of those century-old places in San Francisco's Chinatown. A two-foot-long, satin-silver arowana fish greets you as you come in. Brightly painted dragon columns support a gold dragon arch that leads you into the gold-walled dining room. Mainly, Chinese seem to come here, often eating Shanghai seafood dishes or choosing sumptuous specials like clay hot pots filled with eel and chestnuts or steamed rockfish on a big oval platter. Or, for around five dollars, you can choose lunches like Shanghai

chicken, chicken chop suey, or Szechuan pork with crispy noodles, soup, steamed rice, a spring roll, and the main item. Open daily 10 a.m. to midnight. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B.*

**Spice House Cafe** 9035 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard (at Complex Drive, across from courthouse), 858-565-1028. When your "head feels like an old potato" and your "tongue like a button hook" (to quote Kipling), Spice House's answer is their Hangover Omelet. We don't know if it's the Ortega chilies or Jack cheese or super tangy tomato sauce, but some guys swear they feel better for eating it. Other excellent choices include Portuguese sausage with three eggs; Italian sausage frittata with ham, tomatoes, mushrooms, and thick French toast topped with strawberries and whipped cream. Emphasis on Greek-American cuisine. Breakfast and lunch, closes at 3 p.m. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

**24-Hour Valley Kitchen Family Restaurant** 875 Hotel Circle South, Mission Valley, 619-819-1017 or 619-298-8282. Great when everything else is closed. The place feels like a Midwestern chain eatery: all carpets, dark-wood walls, etched glass. Prices are a little up there, but hot French dip is great and burgers are generous. Best news may be that if you feel like breakfast at midnight, no problem. Ask for the pork chops, two eggs, hash browns, and biscuits and gravy. Chops are crumbed and buried in hash browns. Splosh on lots of applesauce, and leave room for the biscuits—their bacon-fat gravy will have you licking the plate. Bonus: You can sit here with a book and a coffee all night long if you like. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B.*

## THE BEACHES

**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 *açaí*, the Amazonian palm berry energy bowl. If you're not strapped for cash, go for the popu-

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# Calendar

## RESTAURANTS

lar *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.*

**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 preparation choices for chicken or filet mignon. The pan-roasted halibut is gently enhanced with a champagne *beurre blanc* sauce and topped with crispy braised leeks. Desserts abound, with an imported French cheese plate topping the list — along with pastries, meringues, etc., all freshly prepared in-house. Bakery, 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 Moondoggies chain serves the sort of Mexican cuisine you might find at a seaside resort in Cabo or Puerto Vallarta — skillfully prepared

with good, fresh ingredients, 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 better than it needs to be. A vast list of tequilas, interesting margaritas, and a sensible wine list emphasizing affordable, food-friendly Chilean bottlings add to the draw for a lively young crowd that revs the decibels to a roar on week-ends. Three meals daily, brunch available Sunday. Moderate. — *N.W.*

**The Surfside** 4527 Mission Boulevard (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 and flavorful fusion-y tapas, many of them going for half-price during weeknight happy hours. You can actually 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.*

**Sushi Ota** 4529 Mission Bay Drive (at Bunker Hill Street), Pacific Beach, 858-270-5670. What becomes a legend most? At its best, this renowned sushi bar offers fish of exceptional quality, perfect tart-sweet rice, tight wraps, and disciplined creativity. These joys don’t come easily. First, find the place: Driving south

from Balboa, look left, and pull into the mini-mall with the large 7-11 sign (opposite Rubio’s). Sit at the sushi bar to snoop on your neighbors’ choices, watching for off-menu extravaganzas. Don’t miss the *ama ebi* with crisp shrimp heads, atypically flash-baked (not batter-fried). Cooked dishes are dull except for *chawan mushi* (custard broth with ginkgo nuts). Alas, when Ota-*sari*’s away, his elves may play — amateurishly. Best bet: Reserve a bar seat when the master’s most likely to be present. Lunch Tuesday through Friday, dinner daily. Disabled access chancy. Long, crowded waits unless you’ve reserved. Moderate. — *N.W.*

## CENTRAL SAN DIEGO

**La Fachada** 20 25th Street (near Commercial Street), Logan Heights, 619-236-8566. The thing about La Fachada is: You can have anything anytime. This restaurant near the trolley’s 25th Street stop is Mexican but has Anglo food too — maybe because the cops’ Central Division HQ sits across the road. Great not-quite-morning place for breakfast at, say, 3 a.m. They do a pretty good Western omelet breakfast with cheese, bell peppers, onions, and ham, bacon, or sausage. They also have great Caldo Siete Mares and Vuelta a la Vida, tasty soups laden with seafood. But the best fun is in the evening up to 11 p.m., when an outdoor kitchen operates, mostly serving tacos to eat under a big white garden canopy. Open 7 a.m. to 3 a.m. (Friday and Saturday open 24 hours). Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

**Los Reyes** 2496 Broadway (at 25th), Encanto, 619-231-0716. Smaller branch at 47th and Market. If you’ve ever craved

those fabulous Mexican fish soups that can be such energy restorers, these strip-mall Mexican restaurants have a great one. It’s *Caldo 7 Mares* (Seven Seas Soup) and it comes as a big bowl of savory red fish soup clunking with giant crab legs, clams, chunks of white fish, shrimp, the pink and purple suckers of octopus, and vegetables. It’s also called *Vuelva a la vida*: “Return to life.” On a hot day, their Cocktail Campechana (shrimp and octopus in a light, spicy tomato broth) will return you to life, too. Four brothers and one sister from Michoacan run the place. A very Michoacan dish is *carnitas* — pork shoulders. Or try their gringo lunch deal of a bacon cheeseburger with fries and a can of soda. The prices make this a tightwad’s paradise. Three meals daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

**Saigon** 4455 El Cajon Boulevard, City Heights, 619-284-4215 or 619-284-4288. You’re in a big glass palace here. It’s especially good on Sundays, when three- or four-generation Vietnamese families gather for lunch. Gaggles of waiters hover a glance away, but take your time. The menu has over 250 items on it. Default choice: *pho*, the famous, filling soup-meal of Vietnam where beef cooks in the soup. Another safe bet is stir-fried crispy or soft egg noodle with seafood and assorted vegetables. “33” Vietnamese beer is on hand to make Saigon lovers sentimental. Open daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

**Trieu Chau Restaurant** 4653 University Avenue, City Heights, 619-280-4204. This is as near as you’ll come to eating breakfast in Phnom Penh or lunch in Vientiane. Cambodians come in the morning to talk politics and play Cambodian chess. At lunch, Laotians replace them. Maps of “Kampuchea” decorate the walls, as well as long-distance telephone ads. The menu includes Chinese, Khmer, and Lao

dishes. In the morning, ask for “*djak kvai coffay dok ko*” — fried bread with Cambodian coffee, the standard French-Khmer breakfast. Later in the day, you might try pan-fried noodles with broccoli and beef or shrimp and gravy (“*koitiow bahat sai kho*”). If in doubt, ask for Kathy, who speaks Chinese, Khmer, Lao — and English. Open daily, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

**Turf Supper Club** 1116 25th Street, Golden Hill, 619-234-6363. At this cozy saloon (a landmark since 1950, “re-established” in 1998), if your meat’s done wrong, it’s your own fault. Every night’s an indoor cook-out, as patrons huddle by the communal fire-pit tending their steaks (a choice of three ritzy cuts, well-marinated in garlic and olive oil), burgers, chicken breasts, or portobello mushrooms; others choose the veggie kabobs or teriyaki skewers of beef, chicken, or fish. And that’s the menu. The only side dish is a simple salad — not even fries. But the meat’s a treat, especially the huge, juicy Delmonico rib eye. If you’re an utterly hopeless cook, a staffer will mind your meal for you, but you’d miss half the fun. Full bar, no reservations. Week-days dinner only; open until 2 a.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Inexpensive to barely moderate. — *N.W.*

## EAST COUNTY & COLLEGE AREA

**Barnes Bar-B-Que** 2625 Lemon Grove Avenue, Lemon Grove, 619-462-9206. Clayton Davis’s sign says it all: “Let Us Bring Tha South to Ya Mouth.” You can tell this is the real deal from the two heavy iron doors in the brick wall behind the counter and the big wood fires burning oak inside. This

is Memphis-style soul food, mild and mouth watering — and cheap. Expect dollar portions, from smothered chicken or pork, neck bones and cabbage, to country yams, corn on the cob, and corn bread. Other lip-smacking dishes include chopped beef brisket sandwich, pork ribs or shoulder, beef ribs, red snapper, and hot links or ham — all with two sides and bread. Oh yes, they also serve catfish sandwiches and sweet potato tarts. Or you could just stand outside and smell the smoke. Open Monday through Sunday, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

**Jimmy’s** 9635 Mission Gorge Road (at Town Center Drive), Santee, 619-448-8994. We’re at the end of the line here, the trolley’s Orange Line. Feels like a safari. You walk back through the grass to the streets of Santee. Thank goodness for this family-friendly restaurant with good, old-fashioned American food. Their six-page plastic menu tells all — forget your diet and dig into the breakfast “Eggs and Cakes” (two eggs, three pancakes), the “Touchdown” (two eggs, two hotcakes, four strips of bacon or three link sausages), or the “Monte Cristo” hot sandwich (ham and turkey grilled on batter-dipped Texas toast with Swiss cheese, hot syrup, and French fries). Later in the day, the New York strip or sirloin steak with all the trimmings, and desserts like homemade cinnamon bread pudding with raisins and whipped cream. Open three meals, seven days. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

**Los Michoacanos** 8001 Mission Gorge Road, Santee, 619-449-9032. You get a lot for a little here. Order even one really cheap potato taco from Luis Gabriel, the owner, and you get the full treatment of tortilla chips and salsa beforehand. Then out comes this hot, crisp-shelled taco, bursting with shredded lettuce, two cheeses, and inside, the

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most scrumptious sautéed potatoes. It may be way cheap, but it's no way mean. Other good Mexican dishes here include the chorizo torta or the grand garlic shrimp combo. Added bonus: The place is new, bright, red and yellow, and sports a terrace looking out across the valley. Open seven days, three meals. Inexpensive — *E.B.*

**The Omelette Factory** 7941 Mission Gorge Road, Santee, 619-596-9686. The Factory sits in the kind of stand-alone building you expect to see in a country town: long, angled roof with a portico dressing up the basic shed structure behind. It's a great sprawling place that's ideal to bring the kids for a big breakfast. You can't beat their omelets, all nineteen of them, from the Just Say Cheese (with Swiss, Jack, Cheddar, or American), to the magnificent Factory Omelette (a build-your-own: up to four meats, veggies, or cheeses). A Greek family has turned this location, outside Santee, from an abandoned social hall into a regular pit stop for half the community, it seems. For lunch, try the Factory Burger. It has two hamburger patties *plus* gyro meat, two cheeses, and onions. Breakfast and lunch, seven days. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

#### FAR EAST

**La Posta** 32337 Old Highway 80, Pine Valley, 619-478-5600. Is the Wild West dead? Not out here. Swagger in past the rocking chairs on the wooden porch, by the "NRA meets here, every 3rd Wednesday, 7 p.m." sign, past bows and arrows, dream catchers, lariats, and brass spittoons, and swing into a chair. Now think vintage American food. Hefty anytime-breakfasts include two eggs, hash browns, biscuits, and coffee or eggs with chicken-fried steak or a bulging veggie omelet. ("With syrup" breakfast items, such as pancakes, stop at 2:30 p.m.) Their sourdough cheeseburger with fries or potato salad is big, or delve into a bowl of chili. Folks hereabouts talk about that chili in low, reverent voices. For dinner, the rib eye steak or pork chops is good enough to make city folks swoon. Three meals daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

**Ramon's Smokehouse BBQ** 1730 Alpine Boulevard, Suite 110, Alpine, 619-445-1008. The smell of mesquite wood burning under fresh-cut beef rib is beyond resistance. The secret Texas recipe draws crowds. Go Sunday morning, especially, when chefs in maroon aprons dance around the fat-spitting fire, disappearing into the clouds of fragrant smoke to flip the racks of beef and pork ribs. In good weather you can eat out back next to an authentic chuck wagon. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

#### UPTOWN & OLD TOWN

**Adams Avenue Grill** 2201 Adams Avenue, University Heights, 619-298-8440. The frequently changing menu tries to embrace several disparate styles and can't quite get its arms around any of them. The dishes are often ambitious; a few soar, but many falter due to flaws in conception, execution, or both. Largely ho-hum wine list needs selections with enough sweetness to stand up to items featuring Asian spice — try the Rieslings. Still, the place seems full of happiness and friendliness: yellow and orange walls, plenty of smiles amid the bustle. Soups receive lavish attention and sometimes live up to their billings. As to treats, the generous, marvelous lavender-infused crème brûlée makes this a dessert destination — pause to sniff a spoonful before slipping it between your lips. Lunch and dinner daily, breakfast Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Inexpensive to moderate. — *A.M.*

**Asian Bistro** 414 University Avenue (just east of Fourth), Hillcrest, 619-296-4119. The historic building has been freshly redecorated, keeping only the overhead sign that used to mark a one-time Chinese "dive." Now the eclectic pan-Asian menu emphasizes Thai flavors — the owners and kitchen staff are Thai, including executive chef "Miss Songri" (who put Celadon on the map), working in a more casual vein here. Don't miss "Atomic Hog's Wings" (small pork shanks) or the Louisiana fried buster crab dish named "Jumping

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# Calendar RESTAURANTS

Jarvis.” The beer and wine lists are international and affordable. Lunch and dinner, serving until 3 a.m. nightly. Lunches inexpensive, dinners moderate. — *N.W.*

**Bread and Cie** 350 University Avenue (at Fourth), Hillcrest, 619-683-9322. At least twenty breads emerge daily from this bakery's 10,000-pound French stone hearth oven. Most are dense, crusty, and delicious French or Italian peasant breads, including the outstanding anise-fig and black olive loaves that are served in many top local restaurants. Scones, brownies, muffins, banana bread, and cookies are the sweet side of the house. Focaccia pizza and sandwiches (many with thick-sliced bread and rather thin fillings) are available to take out or eat on the spot — inside the café or on the sidewalk patio. Open daily except Christmas, breakfast through early dinner. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

**Ichiban** 1449 University Avenue (at Normal), Hillcrest, 619-299-7203. Is this Paris or Tokyo? At night, the café outside glows like a Van Gogh painting, except the customers are eating sushi and drinking green tea, not red wine. The best values are at lunch, with weekday specials like Bento combos (sushi rolls, crab, salmon, rice) and filling soups overflowing with veggies and thick *udon* noodles. Healthy? You betcha. The miso soup (with every dish) made from soy and seaweed is a great daily iodine fix. Number One — that's what “*ichi-ban*” means. Open to 9:30 p.m., Sunday until 9 p.m. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

**Jack and Giulio's Italian Restaurant** 2391 San Diego Avenue (at Arista), Old Town, 619-294-2074. After more than four decades in business, this father (Giulio) and son (Jack) operation manages to stay fresh. The antipasto salad, with its thin-cut prosciutto and salami, will get your juices flowing. All the traditional Italian entrées like veal parmigiana and fettuccine Alfredo are there, but go for the house specialties like Spaghetti New Orleans with shrimp, crawfish, and crab meat, or the expensive scampi dishes. Broke? Get a simple Angel Hair Mediterraneo or rigatoni with meat sauce to enjoy out on the patio. Open for lunch and dinner, seven days. Moderate. — *E.B.*

**Ono Sushi and Pacific Spice** 1236 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-298-0616. If you are searching for

huge portions, fresh tasty food and reasonable prices, don't overlook this colorful Japanese/Pacific Rim café. Excellent specialty rolls, entrées, appetizers. Very crowded weekends; lively young crowd. Dinners nightly; open for lunch Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.W.*

## DOWNTOWN

**Athens Market** 109 West F Street (between First and Front), 619-234-1955. Alex Spanos and lots of local hotshots come here for honest Greek home cookin'. Yes, it's classy — white table cloths, linen napkins — but you can fill up on just a bowl of *fakae*, owner Mary Pappas's “secret recipe” lentil soup, and an appetizer, like *spanakopita* (spinach and cheese pastry pockets). Entrées come with rice, roast potato, a vegetable, soup or salad, and French bread and butter — all at a darned good price. Oh, and don't despise the gyro. Meat flavor's great, and it takes a football player to empty this plate. Lunch and dinner Monday through Friday, dinner only Saturday, closed Sunday. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B.*

**Bud's Louisiana Food Shoppe** 2034 Kettner Boulevard (at Grape, next to the Waterfront Park), Little Italy, 619-239-4210. Bud Deslattes, a New Orleans native, was the original chef-owner of the late Bayou Bar and Grille and the inventor of the legendary white chocolate bread pudding served there. Now he's cooking it in this cute, casual eatery. A brief but choice menu features authentic Cajun-Creole specialties, to eat in or “to geaux.” (If taking out, ask for your rice on the side.) Among the treats are a fine seafood bisque, crawfish étouffée, and a “cupa-cupa-cupa” sampling of gumbo, jambalaya, and red beans and rice. For lunch, check out the roast beef po' boy. Some Louisiana grocery items intermittently available at retail (frozen andouille, tasso, crawfish, etc.). Parking's usually a pain but worth it. Beer and generic wine. Closed Sunday and Monday. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

**Edgewater Grill** 861 West Harbor Drive, Seaport Village, 619-232-7581. An easy walk from the Convention Center, the dining room is spacious and handsome, and the view from the crowded dining terrace is optimal (the bay, the Coronado Bridge, a park, etc.). The menu, though, is convention-centered — like a Howard Johnson's for the 21st century. The fare features middle-of-the-road faux-fusion salads, seafood, grilled steaks, pastas (most with shellfish), and individual pizzas, plus daily

fin-fish dishes listed on a card in a plastic holder on the table. The lighter dishes are the most successful — this is not a bad place to “graze” on appetizers and a mini-pizza when you're starved for a view. Difficult wheelchair access to terrace. Open daily, breakfast through dinner. Entrées high moderate to very expensive. — *N.W.*

**Fat City Steakhouse** 2137 Pacific Highway (at Hawthorn), Little Italy, 619-232-9303. In the Deco “pink palace” at the edge of downtown, the USDA Choice steaks (and one velvety Prime cut) are cooked over mesquite charcoal, which lends them a deliciously smoky campfire flavor. Don't like beef? You can choose nicely grilled chicken, pork, or salmon; two vegan pastas; or scampi. The appetizer list is mainly trite pub grub, but the fry cook does a great job with calamari. And in fair weather, the lush garden dining patio is a little piece of Eden. Full bar, rather basic wine list. Casual ambience, above-average wheelchair access from large, free parking lot. Dinner daily 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Inexpensive to moderate. — *N.W.*

**Gen Lai Sen Hakka Seafood Restaurant** 1065 12th Avenue (at C Street), downtown, 619-239-5478 or 619-239-5479. Across the street from City College, you'll encounter a split personality. The good twin provides superb Hakka dishes, a style developed by a nomadic people originally from northwest China, now residents of mainly the south China coast. The bad twin dishes out gluey cornstarch-ridden stir-fries for starving students. But it's easy to tell which twin is which: The “chef recommend sizzle plates,” the hot pots that taste like home cooking (best ordered by four or more), the greaseless fried rice, the noodles (especially “house special rice noodles”), and the whole steamed fish-of-the-day are palpable hits. And if you really want to know what the fuss about Hakka is all about, try the sizzle plate stuffed tofu — these deep-fried crisp rectangles with a pork meatball inserted in each tender center resemble meat-flavored roasted marshmallows, and may just change your mind about bean curd. Open brunch through dinner Monday through Friday. Pleasant service, very casual, mainly inexpensive. — *N.W.*

**Las Cuatro Milpas** 1857 Logan Avenue, Barrio Logan, 619-234-4460. This isn't a restaurant, it's a legend. The same Estudillo family has been serving old-fashioned Mexican food here for three generations — seventy years. Rice, beans, pork tacos (they don't serve beef), pork tamales, chorizo with eggs — that's about it. So how come they have lines outside every day? Blame a potent mix-

ture of sentiment and the lard they refuse to abandon. Folks say that lard flavor is the real Mexico. Also famous: their Saturday *menudo*. Warning: go easy with their deep wine-colored hot sauce. It's room-rocker strength. The name? From a famous mariachi song, “The Four Cornfields.” Open morning to mid-afternoon, Monday to Saturday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

**Mediterranean Cafe and Lounge** 1352 Fifth Avenue (between A and Ash), downtown, 619-515-2233 or 619-325-1900. Don't come early. You'll be all alone. Turn up around midnight, and you'll see just how social the Lebanese can be. Meals are spread over a couple of hours with lots of conversation, probably finishing with a baklava, Turkish coffee, and a *sheesha* — water pipe (much cheaper by the hour here than down in the Gaslamp; best flavor: rose). They have the whole panoply of Middle Eastern and Greek food, but the best deals are probably the single lamb skewer on a roll of pita bread with hummus, tomato, lettuce, and pickles, or the meat pie on pita. Open 5:30 p.m. to 3 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 5:30 p.m. to 4 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B.*

**Ocean Room and Lounge** 630 Fifth Avenue (north of Market), Gaslamp, 619-501-6550. Sometimes you don't want a temple of haute cuisine, merely an easygoing place for folks to meet — especially if there are oysters involved. Ocean Room fills that bill handily, one of the few Gaslamp joints where you can enjoy a conversation without straining over the noise. The fare is mainly Mediterranean-style seafood, with a few nods at Cajun cuisine. Pleasant dishes include mussels *mariniere*, “Cajun” seafood pasta (with sub-Cajun spice levels), seafood pan roast, and Fanny Bay oysters on the half-shell. Or try the oyster shooters. Valet parking, bar for single diners, casual feel. Dinner nightly. Expensive (but less than average for the neighborhood). — *N.W.*

## SOUTH BAY & CORONADO

**Coronado Boathouse 1887** 1701 Strand Way, Coronado, 619-435-0155. For a relaxing good time with lovely views and tasty food to match, put on your aloha shirt and head over the bridge. The old Coronado Boathouse boasts a handsome, historic structure with architecture mirroring the nearby Hotel Del, plus enthusiastic servers, terrific water views, and satisfying main-

stream American cooking. The herbed artichoke appetizer and fresh macadamia-crusted halibut sauced with coconut milk are wonderful. The juicy roast beef here is USDA Prime (translates to “melt in your mouth”) and even the desserts offer some old favorites cooked with classy ingredients and imaginative twists. A perfect place to entertain your in-laws or hold your birthday dinner. Full bar. Dinner seven days, moderate to expensive. — *N.W.*

**Da Kine's Plate Lunches** 1635 Sweetwater Road (at Prospect), National City, 619-477-8494. You go here for your Pacific Island fix — hundreds of Hawaiians do, every day. You'll find Hawaiian license plates and surfboards on the walls, “Aloha Maid” Guava Nectar, and island food. Although the kalua pig here isn't cooked in an *imu* — a hole in the ground — it sure tastes like the real thing and comes with cabbage, rice, macaroni salad, and kimchi. But beware of the *haupia* cake — it may cause serious addiction. Lunch and early dinner daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

**Filipino Desserts Plus** 2220-Q East Plaza Boulevard, National City, 619-479-6748; also at 8955-F Mira Mesa Boulevard (inside Seafood City), Mira Mesa, 858-271-5754. Filipinos often mix sweet and savory, so it's no surprise that this desserts place has regular dishes too, including *adobo* pork, *pancit*, and *lumpia*. *Diniguan*, a Filipino specialty, is pork made with “chocolate milk,” slang for pig's blood. But the pride of the place is the desserts, from the *ube halea* (purple yam custard) and *maja blanca* (coconut-corn combo) to the *sapin sapin* (multicolored layer cake) and fried sweet *saba* banana on a skewer. Open daily, breakfast through early dinner. — *E.B.*

**Island Wok** 922 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-6835. This tiny indoor-outdoor-takeaway café is a standby with locals, especially the high school crowd. It serves good Vietnamese-Chinese food, and plenty of it. The owner, Xuan, makes scrumptious fresh (not fried) Vietnamese spring rolls wrapped in rice paper with shrimp, pork, or chicken and vegetables in the middle. But most customers go for the steamable combination plates. You always get chow mein, fried or steamed rice, and a fried spring roll to start off, and then you can add entrées like orange chicken, *kung pao* chicken, or sweet-and-sour pork. Lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday. Closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

**Parisi's Italian Restaurant** 323 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-420-4490. This is an area where a lot of folks live in trailer parks on fixed incomes, and

Parisi's has become their affordable, often daily treat. The good news is they don't just open cans. Nick and Rosemary Parisi, who opened here back in 1979, brought New Jersey traditions with them. Nick had been a butcher. His son Nick still makes his own delicious fennel-flavored sausage just as his dad taught him. Sons and daughters now run the place and still make their own spaghetti sauce, too. Other dishes include the eggplant or veal Parmesan sandwich and meatballs and sauce with garlic bread. This isn't the smart, spare Gaslamp Italian, it's the old-fashioned *Moonstruck* Italian. Lunch and dinner daily. — *E.B.*

**Peohe's** The Landing, 1201 First Street, Coronado, 619-437-4474. This gorgeous, view-endowed restaurant offers upscale, Hawaiian-inspired fish and gargantuan steaks in a lush tropical-style setting with indoor waterfalls and three separate patios. Given the visual splendor, much of the food is better than it needs to be, featuring top-quality seafood prepared with care, e.g., halibut in a lush, sassy Frangelico-touched macadamia *beurre blanc*. A chocolate shell filled with macadamia nut ice cream may be worth the calories, too. Full bar. Reservations advised. Lunch (with limited breakfast) Monday through Saturday; brunch Sunday. Dinner nightly. Expensive. — *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.**

**La Fonda** Baja Highway 1, Km. 59 (Alisios exit from toll-road, about halfway between Rosarito and Ensenada), 646-155-0307 and 646-155-0308, [www.lafondabaja.com](http://www.lafondabaja.com). It's hard to imagine a better start to the day, in any sweeter ambience, than at La Fonda (“The Inn”), which offers Mexican and American breakfast dishes and a lavish Sunday brunch buffet with both. Arrive early for patio seating under a straw umbrella with a full-out ocean view. The bilingual menu is written on chalkboards and dinner choices change nightly, featuring American and Mexican seafood entrées and deluxe meats aged in-house. Vegetarian upon request. Most staffers speak some English. Full bar, including Baja-grown wines. Open daily, three meals, starting about 9 a.m. Inexpensive to moderate. Visa and MasterCard accepted. — *N.W.*

**La Leña** Agua Caliente Boulevard #1191, Tijuana, 686-2920. The nicest



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thing about La Leña ("The Fire Log") is its view. You come off noisy, fume, traffic-wracked Agua Caliente into this quiet, dark-wood, creamy-yellow walled room and a full view of...countryside! Actually, a green golf course studded with trees. In the middle of Tijuana? Golfers thwack balls, giant mowers look like *Star Wars* creatures. So no surprise that you get country-club type eating: open-grill *charro* food for well-to-do *charros*. Old-style BBQ steaks, surf-and-turf combos, and big slabs of Mexican-cut *filete cabreria*, which are flabby but tender. Most arrive at your table sizzling on black iron hotplates. Servings are generous (meals come with soup or salad and you get a free appetizer such as shredded beef and tortillas) if not remarkable. Or even especially Mexican — their hamburger is darned tasty. Vegetarian upon request. But the atmosphere is a great break from the raucous TJ we all know and (sometimes) love. Lunch and dinner daily from 11 a.m. until late. Moderate. — *E.B.*

**MULTIPLE LOCATIONS**

**Bully's East** 2401 Camino del Rio South, Mission Valley, 619-291-2665. Also at 5755 La Jolla Boulevard, La Jolla (858-459-2768), and 1404 Camino del Mar, Del Mar (858-755-1660). Despite the plasma TV sports screen, this place is very sixties. For example, dark, woody, plush red booths. And always crowded. Word is, they serve more prime rib with au jus and horseradish than any eatery in San Diego. The "Petite Cut" 8 ounce, their smallest, fills you plenty, with its baked potato and salad. But just once, come here with your main squeeze and order up the "full cut for two." It hangs ten over the edges. Or go bonkers and order the 32-ounce cut (available in Mission Valley) — just to watch your neighbors' eyes bug out. Not flush? Try the "Bully Burger," French Dip sandwich, or calamari sandwich. Lonely? Go to the horseshoe-shaped Low Bar. Lunch and dinner daily. — *E.B.*

**Cilantro Live!** 3807 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-325-1949. Also at 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad, 760-585-0136. Look in Cristina Guzmán's kitchen: no ovens, no burners. Only warmers. Her theory? Never heat food above 112 degrees or the enzymes will die. Enzymes? They're life. They give you energy and do your digestion for you. What's amazing is how much real-looking and -tasting food she can create with raw nuts and twigs. And

fruit. And especially seeds. She creates tuna wraps using sunflower-pumpkin seed pâté and burgers using flax seeds — both pretty credible and edible. Drinks? The margaritas (green apple with ginger, lime, and cinnamon) have to be good: Ms. Guzmán comes from Mexico City. Open for lunch and dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Lunch and dinner daily at Hillcrest branch. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

**Popeye's Chicken & Biscuits** 2333 Highland Avenue (at 24th Street), National City, 619-477-5605; 2210 E. Plaza Boulevard (at Euclid Avenue), National City, 619-470-3002; 3489 Santo Road (at Aero Drive), 858-573-0035; Metropolitan Center, 1737 Euclid Avenue (north of Federal Boulevard), Chollas Creek, 619-527-6565; and 6095 El Cajon Boulevard (at College Avenue), 619-286-3322. This is the one major national chain to cling firmly to a regional American identity: Wherever you go, if you find a Popeye's, you'll be eating Louisiana flavors. But some flavors travel better than others in fast-food translations: The spicy, crisp fried chicken and air-light drop biscuits are fine as can be. The étouffé (whether of chicken or crawfish, when available) is surprisingly decent. The gumbo, offered at some locations, is weird — flavors aren't bad, but it's more like a Creole risotto, with wet rice instead of liquid (where's the soup?). Dirty rice and jambalaya are nasty and dry. Food quality varies subtly from branch to branch, as does the attitude of the counter-per-

sons. Open daily, three meals. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

**Ruby's Diner** 1 Pierview Way, Oceanside, 760-433-7829. One thing about Ruby's: You can build an appetite just getting there. It's at the end of the 1/3 mile-long Oceanside pier. (There's a \$1 shuttle tram, too.) Ruby's is part of a themed "forties diner" chain stretching from LAX to Scottsdale, Arizona. But it's still fun. Shiny Chevy Corvette-style red leatherette and chrome booths, white walls, portholes, old Coca-Cola signs, "Dewey-Warren" presidential buttons, and that view to Hawaii. Good-sized servings, too — try their omelets. Also in Carlsbad and Mission Valley. Open daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

**Uno Chicago Bar and Grill** The 1943-born Uno chain made its mark by transforming the flat Italian pizza into something a little more upstanding. Deep-dish pizzas have become one of Chicago's better-known exports. Now Uno does serious steak too, with variously sized Angus top sirloins. They come pretty much as is, but the meat itself is plenty flavorful and tender. Its expanded menu includes fajitas, ribs, shrimp scampi, and steak'n cheese burgers. Still, most lunchtime customers we saw seemed to stick to the staple: deep-dish pizzas and salads. Open daily, continuous service, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to moderate. Fashion Valley Center, 619-298-1866; 5th and H, Chula Vista, 619-420-8660; 890 W. Valley Parkway, Escondido, 760-480-8667. — *E.B.*



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# Feisty as Ever

*Will the grandmother put down her pepper sprayer and embrace her son-in-law?*

In Latino culture a *quinceañera* is a coming-out party for 15-year-old girls, “like Christmas and birthdays and Miss America pageants rolled into one,” says a character in Rick Najera’s *Sweet 15*. As with debutante balls, they’re often in competition with each other, costing anywhere from \$5000 to “the sky’s the limit.” Why age 15? It’s a year earlier than “the skinny gringas, so they can’t get all the good men.”

## REVIEW

JEFF SMITH

Ten years ago, to finance his daughter Sonora’s *quince*, Eddy Valderama drove a contraband-filled truck for El Jefe’s Tijuana cartel. He botched the job, bad, and has spent the past decade hiding out in Mexico. Now he wants to give her a belated party — have “everything the way it should have been” — even if it means coming back to the States and risking his life.

Eddy returns to San Diego like Rip Van Winkle. Life has gone on. Sonora graduated from SDSU and is headed to Stanford Law. Only two things haven’t changed. Her grandmother’s feisty as ever (and hey: she never slugged that priest; just “bitch-slapped him” is all). And rumors still abound about Eddy’s ties to organized crime. Asked if he was connected, Sonora, who adored him, replies, “There was *nothing* organized about my father.”

A local native, Najera has set *Sweet 15* in San Diego and packs the piece with references, from *Triple Espresso*’s tenure to the Scripps Aviary at Balboa Park. The more you know about the area, the more you’ll appreciate his love of San Diego,

faults and all. They also help the script, which has faults aplenty, keep going.

*Sweet 15* has a much better setup than punch-line. Will Sonora, who double-majored in women’s studies and Chicana studies at SDSU, agree to a ritual she now finds sexist, patriarchal, and patronizing? Will the grandmother put down her pepper sprayer and embrace the idea — and her son-in-law?

Will El Jefe make a lethal cameo? (Those two black Escalades across the street? Trust me: they aren’t the Prize Patrol.)

Act One has humor and tension. Act Two begins with more — since the planner spent the money and must create from nothing — but soon resembles watching air leave a balloon. The *quince* has an audience-participation dance number. So, the planner, a flamboyant and funny Carlo D’Amore, must select five couples from the audience, rehearse them, send them back to their seats, then have them return later to perform. As a result, during much of the second act, time comes close to standing still.

Along with a sharp-eyed, funny view of San Diego, the first act promises an exploration of families, cultural rituals, and, most of all, second chances. And Act Two begs for strong, character-driven comedy and resolution. Instead it becomes ad lib- and situation-driven. The script dwindles and ties up loose ends with sitcom facility.

The cast gives things a go, especially Fernando



Alma Martinez, Nina Brissey, Yvonne Delarosa in *Sweet 15* (Quinceañera)

**Sweet 15 (Quinceañera)**, by Rick Najera

**San Diego Repertory Theatre**, 79 Horton Plaza, downtown

**Directed by Sam Woodhouse**; cast: Rick Najera, Alma Martinez, Nina Brissey, Yvonne Delarosa, Jose Yenque, Carlo D’Amore, Fernando Vega; scenic design, Ron Ranson; costumes, Paloma H. Young; lighting, Jason Bieber; sound, Tom Jones

**Playing through December 16**; Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Wednesday and Sunday at 7:00 p.m. Matinee Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. 619-544-1000.

**Victoria Martin: Math Team Queen**, by Kathryn Walat

**Moxie Theatre, Lyceum Space**, 79 Horton Plaza, downtown

**Directed by Jennifer Eve Thorn**; cast: Nicole Monet, Joseph Dionisio, Jessie Allen Moore, Tim Parker, Luke Marinkovich; scenic and lighting design, Mia Bane; costumes, Jennifer Brawn Gittings; sound, Liv Kellgren

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Moxie Theatre and director Jennifer Eve Thorn conjure a fun, upbeat story about embracing one's most heartfelt choices. Performing on Mia Bane's multi-use set (including

Using young actors on a local main-stage could be a risk. Not so at Moxie. The game cast had few slip-ups, when I saw the show, and offered a true find. Luke Marinkovich played Jimmy, the ungainly frosh math whiz, with an instinctive sense of where things are, onstage, at every point. In monologues, his vulnerability built a rich rapport with the audience, as if saying, "This is high school — remember? — when Blue Mondays looked like they'd never go away." ■

Lamb's Players stages its historical reenactment of Christmas in 1907 at the Hotel del Coronado, which includes a cast of 30, songs, and a five-course meal.

North Coast Repertory Theatre presents a new version (by Jacqueline Pardue Goldfinger) of the popular Dickens story. Joe Powers directed.

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# Calendar

## THEATER

**A Christmas Story**

The Olive Tree players present a staged reading of Jean Shepherd's tale about Ralphie Parker, who schemes to get a genuine Red Ryder BB gun under the Christmas tree.

OLIVE TREE PLAYERS, FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SAN DIEGO, LINDER HALL, 2111 CAMINO DEL RIO SOUTH, MISSION VALLEY, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, THROUGH DECEMBER 15; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, AT 2:00 P.M. 619-297-4366 X510.

**Cowboy Versus Samurai**

"Speak for yourself, John." But what if John Alden, or in this case Travis, an English teacher, can't. Until Veronica arrived, he was one of only two Asian-Americans in Breakneck, a "two donkey" Wyoming town. She's Korean-American with a penchant for white men. And when she falls for Del, a hunky, none-too-bright P.E. teacher, Travis writes love letters to her and signs Del's name, à la Cyrano de Bergerac. Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company has earned a reputation for staging entertaining and thought-provoking theater. Michael Golamco's smart, funny *Cowboy Versus Samurai* is both a

love story that poses tough, intricate questions about identity, race, and bias, without sounding like a lecture or opting for easy solutions (even the love story's in doubt). David F. Weiner's useful, multi-leveled set has five panels, on which color slides (and Jeremy Siebert's first-rate sounds, especially wraparound winds) expand the space to Wyoming proportions. Except for a tendency to rush their lines, the four-person cast — Paul Morgan Stetler (Del), Volt Francisco (Travis, still running though convinced he's stopped), Eric "Pogi" Sumangil (radical, and racist, Chester), and Zandi De Jesus (NY-savvy Veronica) — all handle their assignments quite well. And remember the names. Each shows promise and is relatively new to local theater.

**Worth a try.**

MO'OLELO PERFORMING ARTS COMPANY, 10TH AVENUE THEATRE, 930 10TH AVENUE, DOWNTOWN, THROUGH DECEMBER 16; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-342-7395.

**Cry-Baby**

This new musical, based on the John Waters movie (1990), is thinner than Waters's moustache. Buffed and Lysol'd, it's *Cry-Baby* watered-down. Baltimore in 1954 has two social groups: Squares, an entitled upper class, and Drapes, a gang of white kids in black leather. Hip-shaking, bebopping Cry-Baby (so called because he can't) is the

"most popular loser in school." He falls for Allison, a Square who's good, "but I don't wanna be." The forces of repression — including a quartet of Squares (who sing like the Plaids of *Forever Plaid* and talk like Hitler Youth) — endeavor to keep Cry-Baby and Allison apart. Most of the musical, the first act in particular, feels generic. The songs, rock and roll at the cusp of puberty (which came about the day Elvis sang "Hound Dog") are lively and familiar ("Do That Again" being a dead steal from Jerry Lee Lewis's "Great Balls of Fire"). The show entertains. Director Mark Brokaw (and Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan's hilarious one-liners and Rob Ashford's excellent choreography see to it) keeps things moving even when the book, which extends many bits too long, doesn't. But since the villains speak their subtexts (as if to say "Hi, I'm a Nazi"), and the heroes are so heroic (James Snyder, an indefatigable young talent, plays Cry-Baby closer to Donny Osmond than to Johnny Depp's spit-curled movie version), the musical's so audience-friendly it plays like *Rebel with a Nice Cause*.

**Worth a try.**

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, MANDELL WEISS THEATRE, 2910 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DRIVE, THROUGH DECEMBER 16; TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY AT 7:30 P.M. THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 858-550-1010.

**Gamers**

In this one-person comedy, Steve's a tech support operator who hates his job and plays MMORPGs. Will he "save the kingdom, or will doing the coffee rotation get in the way?"

LESTAT'S WEST, 3341 ADAMS AVENUE, NORMAL HEIGHTS, THROUGH DECEMBER 11; TUESDAY, AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 5:00 P.M. 858-254-8332.

**How the Grinch Stole Christmas**

The Old Globe presents its holiday show, about the Green Meanie and hapless Whoville. The tenth anniversary production includes three new songs.

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, SIMON EDISON CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, BALBOA PARK, THROUGH DECEMBER 30; TUESDAY THROUGH SUNDAY AT 7:30 P.M. FOR MATINEE SCHEDULE, CALL 619-234-5623.

**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 DECEMBER 30; TUESDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE TUESDAY THROUGH THURSDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 1:45 P.M. 760-749-3448.

**It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play**

In Cygnet Theatre's holiday show, you not only watch the familiar story of George Bailey, you also watch how it's made in a 1947 radio studio: announcers, flashing applause signs, even a commercial for Lux soap. A change happens toward the end, however. The fiction trumps the fact. As George undergoes an existentialist identity crisis, the actors become the characters, the story steps forward, and how it's being made disappears. Along the way, the show's a treat, especially Scott Paulson's inventive sounds — like a popped top hat for an opening parachute, or a flicked ice cream scoop for crickets. Directed by Sean Murray, wearing Jeanne Reith's wide-body, double-breasted suits and lighter-than-air dresses, the cast performs in the hyper-acting style of the period. As George, Tom Andrew has the antsy "shoot the works" style down pat. His performance recalls Jimmy Stewart's in the movie, true. But the bigger crime would be if it didn't. Melissa Fernandes, Veronica Murphy, and Brenda Dodge sing (and flash those cinemascope, post-WWII smiles) beautifully. They do a spunky commercial for "Lux Toilet Cake" that's both spot on and a hoot.

**Worth a try.**

CYGNET THEATRE, 6663 EL CAJON BOULEVARD, COLLEGE AREA, THROUGH DECEMBER 30; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT (AND WEDNESDAYS, AF-

TER DECEMBER 12) AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-337-1525.

**Lamb's Players Festival of Christmas**

Now in its 30th year, Lamb's Players annual holiday show has a new script by Kerry Meads: a diverse group of stranded travelers celebrate the season with stories and songs.

LAMB'S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 ORANGE AVENUE, CORONADO, THROUGH DECEMBER 29; TUESDAY THROUGH THURSDAY AT 7:30 P.M. FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 6:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AT 4:00 P.M. AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-437-0600.

**Nuncrackers: The Nunsense Christmas Musical**

The Broadway Theater stages the musical comedy, from the creators of *Nunsense*, about the little sisters of Hoboken. To raise money they're staging *The Nutcracker*.

THE BROADWAY THEATER, 340 EAST BROADWAY, SUITE B, VISTA, THROUGH DECEMBER 22; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 760-806-7905.

**The O'Connor Girls**

Scripps Ranch Theatre offers Kate Forgette's "old-fashioned play" about the O'Connor family, who learn more about each other, once the parents are gone, than ever before. Charlie Rieneau directed.

SCRIPPS RANCH THEATRE, LEGLER BENT BROUGH THEATRE, ALLIANT INTERNA-

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TIONAL UNIVERSITY, 10455 POMERADO ROAD, SCRIPPS RANCH, THROUGH DECEMBER 8; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, AT 4:00 P.M. 858-578-7728.

Off the Ground

New Village Arts stages the world premiere of Ami Chini and Tom Zohar’s comedy that asks, “What is the difference between helping and controlling?” and “When does a family get-together become an intervention?” NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787B STATE STREET, CARLSBAD, THROUGH DECEMBER 23; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 760-433-3245.

O Jerusalem

University of San Diego Theatre Arts presents A.R. Gurney Jr.’s drama about the “Palestinian-Israeli conflict, American foreign policy, terrorism, love, loyalty, and personal integrity.” Liz Shipman directed. CAMINO HALL, ROOM 131, UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO, THROUGH DECEMBER 9; THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY AT 7:30 P.M. 619-260-2727.

Pericles, Prince of Tyre

Old Globe/University of San Diego Graduate Theatre Program presents Shakespeare’s late romance (and, Northrop Frye once sug-

gested, one of the world’s earliest operas). Sabin Epstein directed. CASSIUS CARTER CENTRE STAGE, SIMON EDISON CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, BALBOA PARK, THROUGH DECEMBER 9; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-523-5623.

Punks

Ion Theatre opens its promising new space with a warning: its take on Genet’s drama *The Maids* “contains full nudity, strong language, sexual situations, simulated drug use, and smoke.” It is also an 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 lech 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 basketball-sized silver wig). The script, conceived 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 PERFORMING ARTS, 4580-B ALVARADO CANYON ROAD, EAST MISSION VALLEY, THROUGH DECEMBER 15; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. 619-374-6894.

Rain

Cirque Eloize, a Quebec-based ensemble, presents its vision of “a little rain,” in which nostalgic memories of childhood bloom. Daniele Finzi Pasca wrote and directed. SAN DIEGO CIVIC THEATRE, THIRD AND B STREETS, DOWNTOWN, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, THROUGH DECEMBER 9; TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, AND SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY AT 7:00 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 competitive scene-making, with the audience awarding points to the winning team. Purists might balk at the odiousness of comparisons used in this format, but the “game show,” on Fridays, is a 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.**

THE FUNHOUSE 6822 EL CAJON BOULEVARD (BETWEEN 68TH AND 69TH), COLLEGE AREA. FRIDAY AT 7:45 P.M. SATURDAY AT 7:45 P.M. AND 9:45 P.M. 619-465-7469.

Sweet 15 (Quinceañera)

Reviewed this issue. SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE, LYCEUM THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN, THROUGH DECEMBER 16; WEDNESDAY AND SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M.

THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-544-1000.

Triple Espresso: A Highly Caffeinated Comedy

Hugh Butternut’s done his lounge act at the Triple Espresso Coffeehouse 20 years to the day. While patrons sip a house blend — “Grape,” “Scandinavian Blizzard,” or “Mokoko Cocoa Mocha” — Hugh plays ’70s tunes on the piano. He and his companions, here to celebrate Hugh’s anniversary, got stuck in the ’70s. The trio used to be Maxwell, Butternutt, and Bean, a comedy group that never went far. They’re “losers,” they admit, but not “ordinary” ones. And hey, their reunion could help them face searing issues from their mediocre pasts. 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.

Victoria Martin: Math Team Queen

Reviewed this issue. LYCEUM THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN, THROUGH DECEMBER 16; WEDNESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-544-1000.

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The Fritz Theatre

(619) 233-7505 www.fritztheatre.com

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Stagehouse Theatre, El Cajon  
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http://grossmont.gcccd.cc.ca.us/

The Hispanic Arts Theatre Of San Diego

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www.lajollaplayhouse.org

La Jolla Stage Company

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www.thelajollastageco.org

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Poway Center For The Performing Arts

15498 Espola Rd., Poway  
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PowPAC, Poway’s Community Theater

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Ramona MainStage Theatre

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The Rehearsal Room

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# A Place in the Shade

*If their powers are fully on display, it's only because, paradoxically, their powers are held partly in reserve.*

Where do I stand now on the Coen brothers? Or to step back a pace, where did I stand on them before *No Country for Old Men*, their new one? Going into it, I would have said that the flame of their inspiration appeared to be burning a bit low. *Intolerable Cruelty* had not looked to me, as it looked to so many others, to be a pronounced drop-off, only a subtle drop-off, from their high standard, especially in relation to the sharp drop-offs on either side of it, the preceding hodgepodge of *The Man Who Wasn't There* and the succeeding remake — a red flag for sure — of *The Ladykillers*. Their few-minute segment earlier this year in *Paris, Je T'Aime*, albeit one of the bright spots in the film, was too slight to fuel an argument. And frankly it troubled me, as I mentioned well beforehand, that *No Country for Old Men* would be their first literary adaptation — another red flag — and it troubled me all the more after I read

## REVIEW

DUNCAN SHEPHERD

the Cormac McCarthy novel of the same name, an overflowing bloody pulp thriller, plumped up with folksy first-person social commentary in italics, about a Texas good ole boy who stumbles upon the internecine scene of a drug deal gone bad, makes off with a satchel of cash, and tries to ditch the implacable hired killer (among others) on his trail. Now that I've seen the adaptation, it still troubles me.

The brothers, Joel and Ethan, sharing the writing credit as always and sharing the directing credit as they only began to do with *The Ladykillers*, were smart to cut down the social commentary — the Decline of Western Civilization as viewed by an aging third-generation lawman — to a single block of voice-over at the outset ("Some of the old-time sheriffs never even wore a gun"), and to sprinkle any additional such commentary lightly into the dialogue ("Once you quit hearing 'sir' and 'ma'am,' the rest



*No Country for Old Men*

is soon to follow"). Without those repeated and repetitive interruptions, the simple pursuit narrative — the killer pursuing the filcher, the lawman pursuing both — unfolds as lean, linear, streamlined, and yet slow, steady, and long, never very deep. And on the Coens' part, never very inventive.

They have followed McCarthy's blueprint scrupulously, even slavishly,

and have bountifully harvested his lip-smacking dialogue; and the major unconventionalities in this mostly conventional thriller are all his. For better or for worse. To have kept the lawman as an observer and commentator, forever a step behind the hunter and hunted, never getting in on the action, feeling helpless and "over-matched," is not just different but

meaningful. On the flip side, when we've been privy, every step of the way, through one close shave after another, to the hunted's point of view — and in fact we identify with this character to the exact extent that if we ourselves had found \$2 million in a bag, we'd want to hang onto it — it's not just different, but perverse, to lose touch with him at a climactic point near the end.



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(Under the rules of professional conduct, I can't be more specific, but anyone who has seen the movie will know what I mean.) That this comes straight from the book is no justification. On screen it inescapably stacks up as a bigger gaffe than on the page, where, in the nature of the medium, our physical connection with the characters is always more tenuous, illusory, ghostly. Our image of them there, im-mured in our mind's eye, is limited to verbal description only. If that. Books, in a manner of speaking, are strictly secondhand; movies, firsthand.

The brothers' fidelity to the novel marks the film as not simply one of their less inspired, but also less personal, almost like an assignment from a Hollywood studio of yore, although in reality an assignment they assigned to themselves. (An assignment, admittedly, suited to their temperament.) The specter of ye olde Hollywood studio shadows, too, the overlap in casting between the Coens' film and the recent *In the Valley of Elah*, sharing, as if from the rolls of contract players, three key members: Tommy Lee Jones, comfortably typecast as the Texas lawman (even if the words on the page might conjure someone more along the lines of Wilford Brimley or Ned Beatty, and thus raise fewer expectations of a final dramatic satisfying showdown), Josh Brolin as the foolhardy good ole boy (slightly smarter, but not sufficiently smarter, than the average Coen malefactor), and, in a small part, Barry Corbin as the lawman's crippled, cat-fancying old crony.

To be sure, the Coens are meticulous technicians, supremely skillful, attentive to the minutest detail. And while the body count climbs numbingly high (the count in their *Fargo* is about my upper limit outside a war film), the tension in individual set pieces is teased out to an exquisite agony, and with no artificial boost from any background music. (The Coens' regular composer, Carter Burwell, gets credited for the exit music.) I would disagree sharply with those who approvingly link the new film to the brothers' splashy debut, *Blood Simple*, seeing no basis for this comparison other than the Texas setting and the vomit scene. When the Coens re-cut their immature first film for re-release, it was a better film because they had become better filmmakers. And if, as I keep hearing, their powers in the new film are fully on display, it's only because, paradoxically, their powers are held partly in reserve. Whenever they give you something extra (see, for example, the shot of the scuff marks on the linoleum after a strangulation victim has thrashed his last), they give it at the minimum dose. Making the point, moving on.

Certainly a personal touch, a personal sense of humor, comes into the local-color cameos of gas-station attendant, motel clerk, hotel clerk, trailer-park manager, etc., etc. And perhaps a somewhat unseemly humor, or at least unseemly delight, comes into the characterization of the psychopathic killer, Javier Bardem, with his robotic delivery of lines, his torturous banter, his gimmicky weapon (a compressed-air tank for blowing locks out of doors and blowing holes in heads), and above all his Engelbert Humperdinck haircut circa 1972 (hair humor always being big with the Coens). It was a good idea, again taken straight from the book, to allow the killer some chinks: he's inexplicably in handcuffs when we first

meet him, he bleeds when shot, and he is not impervious to accidents of fate, but he even so ascends pretentiously close to a mystical stature — a force of evil, an ill wind, or, as he is expressly labelled, a "ghost." And the shrimpy Woody Harrelson, for all his outsized cockiness, constitutes bad casting as a hired gun sent to outgun the hired gun. He can inspire no confidence.

If, in the final tally, the whole thing adds up to not much more than a beautiful job of construction — a tidy sum, at that — I'm nonetheless tantalized by a detectable pattern of repeats and echoes. In adjacent scenes, both the hunter and the hunted (a hunter himself at that moment) ask their respective prey to hold still. Each of them at some point must nurse his own gunshot wound. The lawman sits on the same couch as the killer, drinks milk from the same bottle, and stares, as did the killer, at his reflection in the TV screen. The air ducts in two separate motels facilitate tight-squeeze escapes. Two minor characters utter the fatalistic truism that you can't stop what's coming. Two of the killer's victims make verbatim pleas for their lives: "You don't have to do this."

What else? I suspect that the pattern, apart from supplying some textural richness, offers merely a hint, an illusion, of order and meaning in a violent, senseless universe. But I suspect, as well, that I must look at the film again. In the meantime, I provisionally place it safely above *The Man Who Wasn't There* and *The Ladykillers*, a shade below *Intolerable Cruelty*, and clearly outside their amazing unbroken run, seven films, thirteen years, from *Raising Arizona* through *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* I will stoutly defend myself against any move, on those grounds, to excommunicate. ■

## MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by Duncan Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of past reviews sorted alphabetically, by year of release and by rating, are available online at SanDiegoReader.com.

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Osama

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I'd like to suggest a DVD that ties with our One Book One San Diego campaign for *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace...One School at a Time*. In the book, Greg Mortenson recounts how in 1993, after a failed attempt to climb K2, he got separated from his guide and stumbled into a remote village called Korphe in northeast Pakistan. Hearing the villagers lament that they didn't have a school, he promised he would return to build one for them. A decade later he became part of a nonprofit working to build schools in the remote mountain border villages of Pakistan and Afghanistan. The DVD of *Osama*, the first all-Afghan feature released since the end of the Taliban rule, relates well to Mortenson's story. Filmmaker Siddiq Barmak has said that *Osama* was partially inspired by a girl he once met who disguised herself as a boy in order to attend school.

**OSAMA** (Afghanistan) 2003,  
MGM  
List price: \$14.98



Perfect Blue

RALPH DE LAURO

Film curator, Central Library

I would like to plug *Paprika*, Satoshi Kon's mind-bending box of dreams. Follow the thrilling adventures of Dr. Chiba, a psychotherapist working on the cutting edge of science. Her alter ego is Paprika, a dream detective who enters people's sleep to battle the source of their nightmares. When an evil force steals her dream machine, waking life is overrun by nightmares, and Paprika is the only hope to save Tokyo. You can find this on DVD but you can see it at the Central Library on December 17.

If you watch *Paprika* closely you'll see movie posters for Kon's earlier films *Tokyo Godfathers* and *Perfect Blue*. *Tokyo Godfathers* reworks the John Ford/John Wayne western *Three Godfathers* and is perfect for the holidays with its Christmas setting. If you want more of Kon's mind-bending storylines, check out *Perfect Blue* in which the line blurs between an actress and her role.

**PAPRIKA** (Japan) 2006,  
Sony Pictures  
List price: \$26.96  
**TOKYO GODFATHERS** (Japan)  
2003, Sony Pictures  
List price: \$19.94  
**PERFECT BLUE** (Japan) 1998,  
Manga Video  
List price: \$19.98



Rabbit-Proof Fence

ALAN BUGG

Library assistant, Central Library

These three films make me think about how I see people — how preconceived notions, first impressions, and outward appearances so often belie the volumes of stories that we don't get in that initial glimpse. *A Dry White Season* — the movie that I had to sneak into way back when — made me want to read André Brink's book about a white South African's social awakening to the injustices of apartheid.

Next, Phillip Noyce's *Rabbit-Proof Fence*, which deals with Australia's Aborigines Act that allowed the government to remove children of mixed Aboriginal and white parentage from their families and place them in white-run educational facilities.

Finally, Marcel Camus's *Black Orpheus*, which I first remember seeing on PBS as a child. The myth of Orpheus and Eurydice is re-imagined in Rio de Janeiro's Carnival. This may partially explain my love for Brazil.

**A DRY WHITE SEASON** (USA)  
1989, MGM  
List price: \$14.98  
**RABBIT-PROOF FENCE**  
(Australia) 2002, Miramax  
List price: \$14.99  
**BLACK ORPHEUS**  
(Brazil/France) 1959,  
Criterion Collection  
List price: \$29.95

get there. Washington, to pay him a backhanded 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; 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)

**Atonement** — British, bookish period piece, from an Ian McEwan novel, about a young girl's misreading of the amorous activities of her elders, and its tragic consequences. (A mole on the right cheek links the three different actresses who play the role, Saoirse Ronan in the Thirties, Romola Garai in wartime, and Vanessa Redgrave in modern day.) The movie starts rather sedately, despite some point-of-view tricks, in a commonplace country estate; and it then gets rather overblown in the war sequences, including a marathon Steadicam single take of the evacuation at Dunkirk. But all in all it's well-mounted, well-dressed, well-acted, and, well, dull. With Keira Knightley, James McAvoy, Brenda Blethyn, and Harriet Walter; directed by Joe Wright. 2007.  
★ (LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MISSION VALLEY 20; FROM 12/7)

**August Rush** — Mystical magical musical about the orphaned spawn of an unmarried rock-and-roller and classical cellist, all three reunited through music, under a full moon in Central Park, in the boy's twelfth year. Too goopy to be true. And the synthesis of motley forms of music produces ear-strain on top of credulity-strain. With Freddie Highmore, Keri Russell, Jonathan Rhys Meyers, Terrence Howard, and (as a cowboy-hatted, soul-patched Fagin for underage street musicians) Robin Williams; directed by Kirsten Sheridan. 2007.  
● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; 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 the spongy, marshmallowy computer-animated honeybees or for the premise that permits them to converse in English at equal volume with humans. The storyline 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; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

**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 younger 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 cookie-cutter Westchester shopping mall. The robbery 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 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 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.  
★★ (HORTON PLAZA 14, FROM 12/7; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; SAN MARCOS 18, FROM 12/7)

**Beowulf** — Computer-animated comic-book 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.  
★★ (CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

**Blade Runner** — Two of the more socially conscious of cinematic genres — science fiction and the detective story — have been mated to produce a future-generation Los Angeles (A.D. 2019) that looks like Tokyo or Hong Kong gone to seed. The detective work is somewhat scamped, except for a good scene (echoing Antonioni's *Blow-Up*) involving a computerized photo scanner and enlarger. And several nostalgic throwbacks to Bogart's heyday simply misfire: the hard-boiled, first-person narration (eliminated in the re-released "director's cut"); the Venetian-blind shadows; the Joan Crawford hairdo and fashions on the female lead. The sci-fi elements are more fully elaborated, but aren't always sure-fire either: the topography of the cityscapes often seems as flat and jumbled as a Cubist painting, and even the tightest of shots is apt to be busied up with reflections, moving lights, colored mist. With Harrison Ford, Rutger Hauer, and Sean Young; directed by Ridley Scott. 1982.  
★ (KEN)

**Dan in Real Life** — Annual family gath-

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 billowing 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 going-nowhere 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 renewed 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.  
★★ (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 epitome 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

MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Bargain showtimes are in parentheses.

CENTRAL

CLAIREMONT

Town Square 14

4665 Clairemont Drive (858-274-1234)  
The Golden Compass (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. 11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20 Sun. 1:30p.m.  
Call theater for program information

DOWNTOWN

Gaslamp 15

701 Fifth Avenue (619-232-0400)  
Call theater for program information

Horton Plaza 14

Horton Plaza (619-444-FILM)  
American Gangster (R) Fri.-Sun. (2:15) 6:05, 9:30; August Rush (PG) Fri. (2:20, 4:55) 7:30, 10:05 Sat.-Sun. (2:20) 4:55, 7:30, 10:05; Before the Devil Knows You’re Dead (R) Fri. (2:00, 4:40) 7:25, 10:05 Sat.-Sun. (2:00) 4:40, 7:25, 10:05; Beowulf (PG-13) Fri. (1:35, 4:10) 7:15, 10:00 Sat.-Sun. (1:35) 4:10, 7:15, 10:00; Dan in Real Life (PG-13) Fri. (2:10, 4:45) 7:35, 9:50 Sat.-Sun. (2:10) 4:45, 7:35, 9:50; The Golden Compass (PG-13) Fri. (1:50, 2:25, 4:25, 5:00) 7:00, 7:40, 9:30, 10:15 Sat.-Sun. (1:50, 2:25) 4:25, 5:00, 7:00, 7:40, 9:30, 10:15; Hitman (R) Fri. (1:45, 4:05) 7:25, 9:45 Sat.-Sun. (1:45) 4:05, 7:25, 9:45; Lars and the Real Girl (PG-13) Fri. (1:55, 4:25) 7:05, 9:40 Sat.-Sun. (1:55) 4:25, 7:05, 9:40; Michael Clayton (R) Fri. (1:30, 4:20) 7:10, 9:55 Sat.-Sun. (1:30) 4:20, 7:10, 9:55; The Mist (R) Fri.-Sun. (2:30) 6:30, 9:25; One More Chance (NR) Fri. (2:05, 4:30) 6:55, 9:35 Sat.-Sun. (2:05) 4:30, 6:55, 9:35; Strength and Honor (R) Fri. (2:30, 5:00) 7:40, 10:10 Sat.-Sun. (2:30) 5:00, 7:40, 10:10; This Christmas (Not Rated) Fri. (1:40, 4:15) 7:20, 10:00 Sat.-Sun. (1:40) 4:15, 7:20, 10:00

LA JOLLA

La Jolla 12

8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (858-558-2262)  
American Gangster (R) Fri. 12:45, 4:00, 7:20, 10:45 Sat.-Sun. 12:00, 3:25, 6:45, 10:05; August Rush (PG) Fri. 1:45, 4:35, 7:55, 10:40 Sat. (11:00) 1:45, 4:35, 7:55, 10:40 Sun. 1:45, 4:35, 7:55, 10:40; Awake (R) Fri. 1:35, 4:00, 6:20, 8:30, 10:50 Sat. (11:25) 1:35, 4:00, 6:20, 8:30, 10:50 Sun. 1:35, 4:00, 7:10, 9:30; Bee Movie (PG) Fri. 1:00, 3:45, 6:10, 8:25, 10:45 Sat. (10:50) 1:15, 3:45, 6:10, 8:25, 10:45 Sun. (10:30) 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:35, 9:50; Beowulf (PG-13) Fri. 1:25, 4:05, 7:05, 9:55 Sat. (10:40) 1:25, 4:05, 7:05, 9:55 Sun. 1:25, 4:05, 7:05, 9:55; Dan in Real Life (PG-13) Fri. 1:10, 3:35, 5:50, 8:15, 10:55 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. 1:55, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15 Sat.-Sun. (11:10) 1:55, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15; The Golden Compass (PG-13) Fri. 1:30, 2:15, 4:15, 5:00, 7:00, 7:45, 9:45, 10:30 Sat.-Sun. (10:45, 11:30) 1:30, 2:15, 4:15, 5:00, 7:00, 7:45, 9:45, 10:30; Hitman (R) Fri. 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:05, 10:25 Sat.-Sun. (10:30) 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:05, 10:25; This Christmas (Not Rated) Fri. 1:20, 4:10, 7:15, 10:00 Sat.-Sun. (10:35) 1:20, 4:10, 7:15, 10:00

La Jolla Village

8879 Villa La Jolla Drive (619-819-0236)  
Call theater for program information

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)  
The Golden Compass (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:30) 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30  
Call theater for program information

Mission Valley 7

7510 Hazard Center Drive (619-685-2841)  
American Gangster (R) Fri.-Sat. (12:30, 3:45) 7:00, 10:15 Sun. (12:30, 3:45) 7:00; August Rush (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:30, 1:30) 4:30, 7:30, 10:15 Sun. (10:30, 1:30) 4:30, 7:30; Beowulf: Digital 3D (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:45, 1:45) 4:45, 7:45, 10:30 Sun. (10:45, 1:45) 4:45, 7:45; Enchanted (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00; The Golden Compass (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00, 10:00 Sun. (10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00; Mr. Magorium’s Wonder Emporium (G) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:00, 7:15, 9:30 Sun. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:00, 7:15; The Santa Claus Brothers (No Rating) Sat.-Sun. (10:30a.m.)

Mission Valley 20

1640 Camino Del Rio North (858-558-2262)  
Call theater for program information

STATE UNIVERSITY

Ken

4061 Adams Avenue (619-819-0236)  
Blade Runner: The Final Cut ( ) Fri. 4:15, 7:00, 9:35 Sat.-Sun. 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:35; Eraserhead (Unrated) Fri.-Sat. 12:00a.m.

UPTOWN

Hillcrest Cinemas

3965 Fifth Avenue (619-819-0236)  
The Darjeeling Limited (R) Fri. 4:30, 9:40 Sat.-Sun. 11:00, 4:30, 9:40; How to Cook Your Life (Wie man sein Leben kocht) (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 1:45, 7:15; I’m Not There (R) Fri. 2:15, 5:15, 8:15 Sat.-Sun. 11:15, 2:15, 5:15, 8:15; Into the Wild (R) Fri.-Sun. 1:15, 4:45, 8:00; Margot at the Wedding (R) Fri. 2:00, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50 Sat.-Sun. 11:30, 2:00, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50; No Country for Old Men (R) Fri. 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 10:00 Sat.-Sun. 10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 10:00

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center

1875 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-1233)  
Dinosaurs Alive! (NR) Fri.-Sat. 1:00, 4:00, 7:00 Sun. 1:00, 4:00; The Living Sea (Not Rated) Fri. 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 Sat. 10:00, 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 Sun. 10:00, 12:00, 3:00, 6:00; Sea Monsters 3D: A Prehistoric Adventure (NR) Fri. 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 Sat. 11:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 Sun. 11:00, 2:00, 5:00

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)

The Golden Compass (PG-13) Fri. 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30 Sat. 11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30 Sun. 11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:20

RANCHO SAN DIEGO

Rancho San Diego 15

2951 Jamacha Road  
Call theater for program information

SANTEE

Santee Drive In

10990 Woodside Avenue (619-448-7447)  
The Abandoned (R) Fri.-Sun.; August Rush (PG) Fri.-Sun.; Enchanted (PG) Fri.-Sun.; The Golden Compass (PG-13) Fri.-Sun.

SOUTH BAY

CHULA VISTA

Chula Vista 10

Broadway between H and I (619-338-4214)  
Call theater for program information

Palm Promenade 24

770 Denmery Road (858-558-2262)  
The Golden Compass (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:45) 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45  
Call theater for program information

Rancho Del Rey 16

East H Street (619-216-4707)  
The Golden Compass (PG-13) Fri. (12:35, 3:15) 6:40, 9:15  
Call theater for program information

IMPERIAL BEACH

South Bay Drive-In

2170 Coronado Avenue (619-423-2727)  
Call theater for program information

NORTH INLAND

CARMEL MOUNTAIN

Carmel Mountain

11620 Carmel Mountain Road (858-674-9770)  
Call theater for program information

ESCONDIDO

Escondido 16

350 W. Valley Parkway (760-291-0119)  
Call theater for program information

FALLBROOK

River Village

5256 S. Mission Road (760-945-8784)  
Call theater for program information

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)  
Call theater for program information

DEL MAR

Del Mar Highlands 8

El Camino Real at Del Mar Heights Road (858-646-9420)  
Call theater for program information

Flower Hill 4

2630 Via de la Valle (858-646-9425)  
August Rush (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:30, 1:30) 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 Sun. (10:30, 1:30) 4:30, 7:30; Dan in Real Life (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (2:15) 8:15; Into the Wild (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:00) 4:45, 10:45 Sun. (11:00) 4:45; Love in the Time of Cholera (R) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00, 10:00 Sun. (10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00; No Country for Old Men (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:15, 2:00) 5:00, 8:00, 10:45 Sun. (11:15, 2:00) 5:00, 8:00

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)  
Call theater for program information

OCEANSIDE

Mission Marketplace 13

College Boulevard and Mission Avenue (760-806-1790)

American Gangster (R); August Rush (PG); Awake (R); Bee Movie (PG); Beowulf (PG-13); Enchanted (PG); Hitman (R); The Mist (R); Mr. Magorium’s Wonder Emporium (G)

Oceanside 16

401 Mission Avenue (760-439-1733)  
Call theater for program information

Across the country critics are raving about “This Christmas”

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Herald Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY The Philadelphia Inquirer

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LAUREN LONDON SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY MEKHI PHIFER AND REGINA KING AS USA 100% BY MARCUS MILLER PRODUCED BY MEKHI PHIFER RONNIE WARNER PADDY CULLEN DAMON LEE DELROY LINDO  
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MOVIES

ering (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 lugishness. Juliette Binoche looks as if she could do better. With John Mahoney, Dianne Wiest, and Emily Blunt; directed by Peter Hedges. 2007.  
● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18)

**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 *Bottle 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 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 together on a "spiritual journey" in a first-class 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)

**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-ever-afters," 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 plastically 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; 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; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

**Eraserhead** — Equipped with a too sooty black-and-white image and a sadistically overamplified soundtrack, David Lynch's nightmare visions belong somewhere in the area of "fantastic art," but have found a somewhat uncomfortable home on the midnight-cult circuit. The main narrative thread, if one can be extracted from the jungly snarl, centers around a slimy, encephalic birdlike creature (a fine example of "monster" special effects, and one that the makers of *Star Wars* and *Close Encounters* might well look at with envy), which has somehow been sired by the movie's sadsack hero, and which now lies on a table in his apartment, mewling, spitting up, contracting chicken pox, and being generally disgusting; and this thread possesses something of the quality of Gogol's and Kafka's satirical horror stories, although not as firmly embedded in a believable background and a lucid, factual tone. The shock value of the movie's various images of excrescences, eruptions, diseases, decapitations, and so forth, is largely numbed by its thorough submersion in a delirious, deliquescent world where anything goes but nothing ever comes of it. Still, this pestiferous little movie, produced in co-operation with the American Film Institute, leaves you with the feeling in the pit of your stomach that you are apt to have after stepping

accidentally on a snail. 1977.  
★ (KEN, 12/7 AND 8 MIDNIGHT)

**First Snow** — The futile struggle against fate of an unnecessarily unsympathetic hero, a fast-talking flooring salesman who wants to transition to jukeboxes. Belabored, unbelievable, but sizzingly photographed in the Southwest desert by Eric Edwards, and played with strong conviction by Guy Pearce, Piper Perabo, William Fichtner, Rick Gonzalez, Jackie Burroughs, and especially, as an unshowy roadside fortune-teller, J.K. Simmons. Almost in spite of itself it works up some nice paranoid suspense, stopping short of the hammy climax. Written and directed by Mark Fergus. 2007.  
★ (SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY, 12/10, 6:30 P.M.)

**The Golden Compass** — Epic fantasy with Nicole Kidman, Daniel Craig, Eva Green, Sam Elliott, and Dakota Blue Richards, directed by Chris Weitz. (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; PLAZA CAMINO REAL; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; SOUTH BAY DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 12/7)

**Hitman** — Video-game idiocy around a peerless assassin with a shaved head, a bar code tattooed on the back of it (assuring him the anonymity demanded of his job), and a voice mistakable for Clint Eastwood's. The prevalent fog indoors is a symbol, a symptom, of a fog in the brain. With Timothy Olyphant, Dougray Scott, and Olga Kurylenko; directed by Xavier Gens. 2007.  
● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; SOUTH BAY DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 12/7)

NADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)  
**How to Cook Your Life** — A ninety-minute Buddhist retreat under the spiritual guidance of chef Edward Espe Brown, author of "the Bible of bread making." Or in other words: the dharma made palatable, even delectable. The focal point of German filmmaker Doris Dörrie (*Enlightenment Guaranteed*) ripples outward from personal matters like anger and confusion to larger cultural matters like wealth and waste, the homeless, and organic farming. Essentially it's a lecture film, but well photographed and sensitively edited, and it has a complex, charismatic central character and an unexpected emotional climax when he gets your attention by squeezing out a couple of tears before you have any idea why. 2007.  
★★★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS, FROM 12/7)

**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 Desire*. (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 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 Winslow, Heath Ledger, and Charlotte Gainsbourg. 2007.  
★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

**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-

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132 San Diego Reader December 6, 2007

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 re-enactment 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 Gay Harden, William Hurt, Jena Malone, Vince Vaughn, and Hal Holbrook. 2007.

★ (FLOWER HILL 4; HILLCREST CINEMAS)

**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 unmatched 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) often feels hurried and half-baked. With Benjamin Bratt, Catalina Sandino Moreno, Fernanda Montenegro, John Leguizamo, and Hector Elizondo; directed by Mike Newell. 2007.

● (FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; PALM PROMENADE 24)

**Margot at the Wedding** — Nicole Kidman and Jennifer Jason Leigh as estranged sisters, written and directed by Noah Baumbach.

(HILLCREST CINEMAS, FROM 12/7)

**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 three-billion-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-wagging smugness that so often chills his charm. In fact he has sunk 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 corporation, 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.

★★ (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 missile-defense 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 science-fictional, 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 manager 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 doom-sayer, 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; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

**Mr. Magorium’s Wonder Emporium** —

The once proud Dustin Hoffman, with a prissy lisp, bushy eyebrows, shrunken hair, and ice-cream suits, as the centuries-old proprietor of a magic toyshop: crushed under a riot of color and a steamroller of whimsy. With Natalie Portman, Jason Bateman, and Zach Mills; written and directed by Zach Helm. 2007.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 18; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; LA COSTA 6; 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)

**No Country for Old Men** — Reviewed this issue. With Tommy Lee Jones, Javier Bardem, Josh Brolin, Kelly Macdonald, and Woody Harrelson; written and directed by Joel and Ethan Coen.

★★★★ (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 MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

**Romance and Cigarettes** — John Turturro, in his director’s hat, dips into lip-sync musical fantasy in the proletarian mode of *Pennies from Heaven* (or the more rarefied and bourgeois *Same Old Song* of Alain Resnais), with minor modifications: the people engage in raunchier talk, and instead of simply mouthing the words to old pop songs, they audibly sing along with the original recordings. The self-conscious jokiness, broadened perhaps by the blue-collar milieu, testifies to the filmmaker’s discomfort with fantasy. Kate Winslet has some genuine fun as a hot-patootie redhead, and Elaine Stritch makes a big splash in a brief appearance (“Every breath is a victory,” in response to a routine “How are you?”). With James Gandolfini, Susan Sarandon (fifteen years older than Gandolfini, as his wife), Mary-Louise Parker (three years younger than him, as his daughter), Aida Turturro (one year younger, as another daughter), Mandy Moore (a third daughter, the right age for it), Bobby Cannavale, Steve Buscemi, and Christopher Walken. 2007.

★ (LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

**Strength and Honor** — Bare-knuckle boxing action with Michael Madsen, Vinnie Jones, and Richard Chamberlain, written and directed by Mark Mahon. (CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; MISSION VALLEY 7; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; FROM 12/7)

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KENNETH TURAN, LOS ANGELES TIMES

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**CAREGIVERS/HOMEHEALTH/Personal Assistants/CNAs.** Make extra money for the holidays and get paid weekly! Hourly and live-in. Compassionate and dependable. Flexible hours, competitive pay. Apply weekdays, 8am-3pm. Right at Home 858-451-7844; 16486 Bernard Center Drive #124, San Diego, CA 92128. www.rahencinitas.com.

**CAREGIVERS: LIVE-INS,** 2, 3, 4 or 5 days/week, \$120/day including sleep and meal periods. Weekends and hourly: 4-hour, 8-hour and 12-hour shifts, AM/PM.

# Free Classifieds!

Post free online ads with photos at SDReader.com

Top pay, flexible shifts 24/7, 401(k), production bonus, rewards for good work. Requires valid driver's license, vehicle/insurance, registration, one year of paid elder caregiving experience, eligibility to work in the United States. \$50 Hiring Bonus after 90 days of employment. Comfort Keepers, 2006 Workplace Excellence Medallion Award SDSHRM, San Diego: 619-795-6036. San Marcos: 760-598-3400.

**CAREGIVERS** needed immediately. 1 year experience. All shifts available. Hourly and live in. Call Assertive Homecare Services, 3774 Grove Street, Suite L-1, Lemon Grove. 619-466-6890.

**CASHIER.** San Ysidro. All shifts available. Good customer service and cash handling experience required. \$8.50/hour. Apply at www.sunsetparking.com or call 760-753-4004 x333.

**CASHIER.** Weekend shifts included. Part time, \$8/hour. Resort perks include free non-motorized boat rentals, resort discounts! EOE. Apply: 2211 Pacific Beach Drive, 92109. Jobline: 858-581-4208.

**CASHIERS.** Ordering, stocking, cleaning. Nights. Will train. 7-Eleven, 10505 San Diego Mission Road, San Diego, 92108 (near Qualcomm Stadium).

**CIRCULATE PETITION.** Circulate statewide political petition. \$100-\$200/day. Paid 3 times per week. All areas. Work immediately after a brief orientation. Call 24/7, 619-819-8950.

**CIRCULATORS.** Collect signatures on statewide petitions. No experience necessary. Paid 3x/week. \$10-\$30/hour. Independent contract work where/when you want. Full/part time. 619-230-9020.

**CLASS B DRIVERS.** MDI offers paid holidays after 520 hours and vacation bonuses after 2000 hours. Apply at MDI Staffing: 858-277-5680.

**CLASSROOM AIDES.** Work with developmentally disabled children in non-public school. Experience preferred. Allied Gardens, Chula Vista, La Mesa. Monday-Friday, 7:30am-1pm. \$9.75/hour to start. EOE. www.vistahill.org. E-mail: steinjobs@vistahill.org. Fax resume: 619-281-0453. EOE. Apply weekdays, 9am-4pm: Stein Education Center, Attention: HR, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego CA 92120.

**CLOSERS WANTED,** to generate leads for home improvement. No selling of products! Average income \$20-\$30+/hour Part-Time! Monday-Saturday, day/evening. More info, 1-866-DRHARTY (1-866-374-2789). www.thhd.net.

**CNA/CHHA.** Beginners, experienced. Family Caregivers, Childcare, Home Care Aides, Drivers. Great pay! New-hire bonus! Nonmedical, in-home help for seniors, children, disabled. 12-and 24-hour shifts! Training. Flexible schedules, benefits, retirement, childcare. At Your Home Familycare. E-mail: homecarejobs@atyourhomefamilycare.com. Toll free: 1-877-903-JOBS.

**CNAs AND HHAs,** Caregivers/Homemakers, come join us help others in need while making extra money for the holidays. We offer weekly pay, flexible schedules, and training. Hourly and live-ins wanted. Apply: Right at Home, 858-451-7844; or e-mail resume: employment@rahencinitas.com.

**COMMERCIAL CARPET CLEANING** Foreman. Carpet cleaning company is looking for a foreman to work with and supervise cleaning crews. Have strong communication skills, self motivated, ability to supervise and problem solve. Bilingual preferred. Clean driving record. Non-smoking. 619-947-4194.

**COMMUNITY TRAINING** Specialist/Job Coach. \$9.75/hour to start. Assist developmentally disabled adults in the community. Behavioral and instructional programs. Implement schedules. 32.5 hours/week. Benefits. E-mail: steinjobs@vistahill.org. Fax resume: 619-281-0453.

Apply weekdays, 9am-4pm, Stein Education Center, Attention: HR, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego CA 92120.

**COMPANIONS/HOMEMAKERS,** HHAs and CNAs. Come join us help others in need while making extra money for the holidays. We offer weekly pay, flexible schedules, and training. Hourly and live-ins wanted. Apply: Right at Home, 858-451-7844; or e-mail resume: employment@rahencinitas.com.

**CONSTRUCTION.** Home remodeling company seeks Drywallers, Tapers, Rough/Finished Carpentry and Painters. Full/part time. 6-7 years experience required. 619-277-1720.

**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, apply online www.gostaff.com.

**CONSTRUCTION/REMODEL.** Local home remodeling company is seeking experienced/skilled electricians, plumbers, drywallers and laborers. Interested applicants please fax resume to 619-946-4364 or call 619-271-5864.

**CONSTRUCTION:** Project Managers, Service Technicians, Installers. Seeking motivated, organized people experienced with design, blueprints, A/V systems installation. Benefits offered. Send resume: dplotkin@audioassociates.com; fax 619-461-9469. EOE.

**CORRECTIONAL DEPUTY PROBATION** Officer I. County of San Diego Probation Department now hiring. Test Dates: December 8, 2007, 8am or January 5, 2008, 8am. Montgomery Middle School, 2470 Ulric Street, San Diego 92111. Must be 21 years, good physical condition, no illicit drug usage. U.S. citizen or becoming a citizen. Pass criminal/personal background investigation. No felony convictions. High school diploma/GED. \$35,068-\$44,740/year.

www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation. Jobline: 858-514-8558.

**CORRECTIONAL MONITOR.** Volunteers of America, a faith-based social service nonprofit, is seeking qualified individuals with experience in security or related field and an interest in corrections to work with our parolee clients in our San Diego Stabilization Center located in downtown San Diego. Monitor the activities of clients, ensure the safety and security of the building, its residents and ensure normal operations. Requires HS/GED and related work experience (\$8-8.25/hour). Part-time evening and graveyard shifts available. Call: 619-228-2047; e-mail resume: hr@voa-swcal.org; fax: 619-282-8210; or mail: Volunteers of America, 3530 Camino Del Rio North, #300, San Diego, CA 92108. EEO/AAP Employer.

**COSMETOLOGISTS.** We provide benefits for Licensed Cosmetologists that are unmatched in the industry: health, wealth, training, and life crisis management resources. Call 877-870-8087 or email yasmin.shah@greatclips.net.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE.** Face-to-face interviewing. No sales! Will train. \$10-12/hour. Full/part-time. 619-379-4237.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE:** Immediate openings at door company, Service and Quote Department. Good communication and computer skills (MS Word, spreadsheet) required. Must have good attitude and attendance. Bilingual (English/Spanish) a plus. Fax resume to 619-671-2310. We will call you for an interview. 7565 Siempreviva Road, San Diego, CA 92154 (near Otay Mesa border).

**DATA ENTRY SPECIALIST** for Alcohol and Drug Treatment Program. Volunteers of America, a faith-based social service nonprofit, is seeking a Data Entry Specialist to help us collect and enter data to determine the effectiveness of our A&D program. Requires A.A. degree or minimum of 60 credits towards degree and proven data-related experience. Position located at facility. (\$9-\$9.90/hour.) Call: 619-228-2047; e-mail resume: hr@voa-

swcal.org; fax: 619-282-8210; or mail: Volunteers of America, 3530 Camino Del Rio North, #300, San Diego, CA 92108. EEO/AAP Employer.

**DEPUTY PROBATION OFFICER.** County of San Diego Probation Department is now hiring. Test Dates: December 15, 2007 or January 26, 2008. Qualified applicants will be notified by mail of the time and location of the test. Applications must be submitted no later than 15 days prior to exam date. 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 background investigation. No felony convictions. \$50,752-\$61,672/year. Safety Retirement-Sworn Officers 3% at age 50. Bilingual men/women encouraged to apply. Applications can be accessed online from the Job/Current Recruitment section of the County website at: http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov. Jobline: 858-514-8558.

**DEPUTY SHERIFF** and Deputy Sheriff Detentions/Courts. San Diego County Sheriff's Department. Hiring for two types of positions; take one exam, apply for either or both! Exam dates: Saturday, December 8, 2007, 7:30am arrival or Thursday, December 13, 2007, 12:30pm arrival, Sheriff's Administrative Center, 9621 Ridgehaven Court, San Diego CA 92123. Saturday, December 15, 2007, 7:30am arrival, Rancho Buena Vista High School, 1601 Longhorn Drive, Vista CA 92083. Registration by e-mail or phone is required for the Ridgehaven test ONLY at: recruit@sdsheriff.org. Detention/Courts: \$39,796-\$61,608 annual salary, plus benefits. 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. required. Bring valid photo ID. Valid California Driver's License prior to appointment. Effective oral and written communication in English. EOE. Additional test dates: www.joinSDSHERIFF.net. 858-974-2000.

**DISPATCHER.** Experience preferred. Part time, 25-35 hours/week. Nights and weekends. Benefits. Old Town area. Apply in person: 3140 Moore Street, San Diego 92110. 619-778-3807. Email chrisortiz2@cox.net.

**DISTRIBUTE FLYERS.** Easy work, good pay. Need to live in, be familiar with East County. Distribute flyers house to house. Hard worker, positive attitude. 619-463-5169.

## HELP WANTED



IMMEDIATE ASSIGNMENTS FOR:

# LIVE-IN CAREGIVERS

Drivers with insurance.  
2-3 years' experience and CA ID or DL, SS required.  
Fingerprint and TB test a plus. Competitive pay. Overtime for holidays. Employer-matched 401(k). Health, vision and dental insurance available.

Also offering opportunities for:  
**CNAs, HHAs and Hourly Caregivers**

**Call for an interview in North County or San Diego:**  
**760-434-4393 or 619-231-0151**

**Or apply in person 10 am-3 pm Tuesday-Thursday:**  
**2333 1st Ave., Ste. 205, San Diego, CA 92101**



**Attentive Home Care**  
Licensed • Bonded • Insured

### RESTAURANT

The Rancho Valencia Restaurant, recipient of the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence and named “One of the Top 100 Hotel Restaurants” by Zagat Survey, is a wonderfully romantic and elegant dining experience in Rancho Santa Fe.

We are currently hiring:  
**Line Cooks – Full-time**  
Must have experience and flexible availability.

Please send resumé to:  
hr@Ranchovalencia.com

Or visit us at:  
www.ranchovalencia.com/resort/careers.php

No phone calls, please.



## NOW HIRING!

Chula Vista • San Diego • San Marcos



### Permanent Part-time Package Handler

**Must be:** 17 1/2 years old • Able to lift up to 70 lbs.  
Available to work Monday-Friday

**Shifts:** 3-9 am; 5-10 pm **Pay Rate:** \$8.50-\$9.50/hr.



### Seasonal Driver Helper

**Must be:** Able to meet UPS driver appearance standards  
Able to meet driver in delivery area • At least 18 years old  
Available to work during the day Monday-Friday (on-call basis)  
Available to work from October 1–December 31, 2007

**Hours:** Varies with delivery area **Pay Rate:** \$8.50/hr.

**Apply online at: www.upsjobs.com**

EOE/M/F



## Careers in Probation

# Deputy Probation Officer

### 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 • Bachelor's degree with experience

**Salary:** \$50,752-\$61,672 annually  
Safety Retirement~Sworn Officers 3% at age 50.  
Bilingual men/women encouraged to apply.

**Test date: December 15, 2007**

**Qualified applicants will be notified by mail of the date, time and location of the test.**  
All applications must be submitted no later than 15 days prior to the exam date. Applications received after the 15th day will be scheduled for the following exam. Applications can be accessed on-line from the Job/Current Recruitments section of the County website at:  
**http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov**  
**Jobline: 858-514-8558**

Welk  
RESORTS

*We are the road to your success!*

## Looking For A Change? Stop Working. Start A Career!

Are you a bartender, server, leasing agent, fitness instructor, or anyone with the following characteristics?

- \* Confidence
- \* High Energy
- \* Enthusiasm
- \* Success Oriented
- \* Great Smile
- \* Like Different Types of People

Would you enjoy working with like-minded people?  
We are looking for people like ourselves. People who like to have FUN while making lots of money!

**In November, 18 Sales agents made over \$10,000  
4 made over \$15,000  
and 1 made over \$18,000!**

These people did NO prospecting, NO advertising,  
NO traveling, NO customer service, NO billing.  
The clients came to the resort; and the agents had  
4+ weeks of vacation.

Come join the professional vacation ownership  
sales team at the Welk Resort Group.

Call Tom Trobaugh at: **760-749-5082**  
or fax résumé to: **760-749-5084**

Never Been Done Before...

# \$28,000

in  
days,  
not  
weeks

...simply returning phone calls.

No Selling! No Explaining! No Convincing!

## 1-888-593-8287

"I received \$34,000 cash to my front door  
in my first 3 weeks!" – Joe, Baker, CA

"My best week since joining the program is \$17,000."  
– Anne, Single Mom, WA

"I couldn't believe that I generated \$22,000 in  
1 day in this program." – Bob, Retired, IA

"My first 72 hours brought me \$11,000, and I just started!"  
– LeAnn, Housewife, CA

**DOG BRUSHER/BATHER** Wednesday-Saturday, two daytime shifts. Fun, busy environment. Experience helpful. Call 858-456-1552 or apply Wednesday-Saturday: 508 Nautilus Street, La Jolla, 92037.

**DOG GROOMER** for long established shop, Santee/Lakeside area. Must be dependable, kind and highly experienced. Full/part time. Call 619-562-0710, 619-672-1318 or 619-441-1919.

**DOG/CAT & OTHER PET CARE** in your home. Paid "Host Families" needed for vacationing pets. Experience with animals necessary. www.pawsonplaypetcamp.com. Toll free, 888-320-PETS (7387).

**DOOR MAN WANTED** for The Boulevard, 6949 El Cajon Boulevard in the SDSU area. Call 619-316-4011 for interview.

**DRIVER HELPER, SEASONAL:** UPS is hiring for Seasonal Driver Helper positions in Chula Vista, San Diego and San Marcos. Must be able to meet UPS driver appearance standards, able to meet driver in delivery 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.

**DRIVERS WANTED.** Requires valid CA driver's license, current H-6 DMV printout and good, safe driving skills. Hourly/commission/tips. Call 619-591-0303 or or apply 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 license. Full-time positions, great benefits. Days, afternoons, weekends. Background check/drug test required. Excellent 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 21+ years, clean driving 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 delivery with late model pickup truck, car or van. Clean DMV. Local and North County openings. \$1750 to \$2400 a month. Fuel paid. Independent contractors. 619-233-4374.

**DRIVERS.** Dominion Distribution is looking for part-time Drivers to deliver free publications on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. You must have a truck, van or SUV and be currently insured. Call Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm, 858-279-3137 x243.

**DRIVERS.** Immediate openings for delivery throughout San Diego County! Deliver AT&T phone books to new customers. Good pay! Year-round work. Full-time or part-time hours. Day time hours only. Use your own car. Paid car allowance opportunity. Must bring with you: Driver's license, Social Security card, proof of insurance. Transportation and drug screening required. Apply or call 9am-1pm Monday-Thursday at 9586 Distribution Avenue, Suite K, Miramar, San Diego, 92121; 858-547-4427.

**DRIVERS.** Must have Class B license with passenger endorsement and at least 6 months experience. Fixed route, Monday-Friday, 36-40 hours/week with benefits. Call 619-287-0628.

**DRIVERS.** Now hiring Patrol Drivers! \$11.00 per hour. Call now, 619-294-3200.

**DRIVERS.** Teams earn top dollar plus great benefits. Solo drivers also needed for Western regional. Werner Enterprises, 800-346-2818 x123.

**DRIVERS.** Transportation company seeking C-Class Drivers for fixed routes. Must have good driving record and clean background. For more information, please call 619-232-4199.

**DRIVERS.** Transportation services provider for seniors and disabled. Great pay! At Your Home Familycare. E-mail: homecarejobs@atyourhomefamilycare.com. Call toll free: 1-877-903-JOBS.

**DRIVERS/DELIVERY.** Employees wanted! Use your own mini-pickup. \$440/week starting. Openings county-wide. Gas bonus paid. Growth opportunity. 619-230-1532, 858-578-7812, 760-639-5400. www.databay.net/applicant/formsd.asp.

**DRIVERS/DELIVERY.** Immediate long-term positions. Class A & B—Local/Intrastate, Class C—Local/Intrastate. Class C drivers must have 1 year of experience, pass drug screen, and be able to read Thomas Guide. Full benefits available immediately. Call 858-292-8662, fax 858-292-0230, e-mail help@gostaff.com, apply online www.gostaff.com.

**DRIVERS: MORTUARY DRIVERS.** Growing transportation company has full- and part-time openings for reliable employees. Good driving record, heavy lifting and clean background check required. Healey, Scott & Bradt. Fax resume to 619-328-6911 or e-mail hsbtrans@aol.com. 619-441-9867.

**EDUCATION.** The San Diego County Office of Education is seeking qualified applicants for part/full-time, temporary and permanent positions: Food Services Worker (\$11.96 - \$15.30/hourly); Child Aide Worker (\$11.96 - \$15.30/hourly); Occupational Therapist (\$28.88 - \$36.86/hourly); Program Secretary (\$16.45 - \$21.01/hourly); Teacher Assistant (\$8.75/hourly). For information or to apply, go to www.sdcoe.net/apply. EOE.

**EDUCATION:** Want to make a difference through education? We have teaching and administrative positions available at our private elementary school in La Jolla. We use "Study Technology" created by Mr. Hubbard. Join the fun! E-mail your resume to daniduggan@cox.net or call 858-454-1972.

**ELECTRONIC ASSEMBLERS,** Test Technician, Production Workers 3rd shift, Mail Sorters, and Engineering. MDI offers paid holidays after 520 hours and vacation bonuses after 2000 hours. Apply at MDI Staffing: 858-277-5680.

SAN DIEGO SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

# Now Hiring!



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## THE REFLECTION OF SUCCESS

Exam Dates:

**December 8, 2007  
7:30 am Arrival**

**December 13, 2007  
12:30 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 15, 2007  
7:30 am Arrival**

Rancho Buena Vista High School  
1601 Longhorn Drive, Vista, CA 92083

18-year-olds eligible to apply! Bring valid photo ID.

**www.joinSDSHERIFF.net**  
**858-974-2000**



**FAMILY SERVICES COORDINATOR.** Seeking licensed-eligible intern or licensed MFT/LCSW. Exciting full-time opportunity working with SED, high-risk youth, families. Positions available throughout San Diego County, including North County region. Bilingual a plus. MHS, Inc is an EOE, offers excellent benefits/competitive salaries. Please send resume and cover letter to famfor-admin@mhsinc.org or fax 858-569-1873.

**FIRE SPRINKLER FITTER** with experience and knowledge of certifications, backflows, repairs and installs. Knowledge of highrises and/or marine a plus. Call immediately: 619-670-3500 x20.

**FITNESS CENTERS** hiring Front Desk Staff, Sales Consultants and Group Exercise Instructors. Part/full time. Being Fit Fitness Centers. Clairemont, 858-483-9294; www.beingfit.net.

**FITNESS TRAINER** with strong fitness background. Personal training experience required. Must be able to work full/part time hours. E-mail resume: donawilson@fitnesstogether.com or call 858-451-6051.

**FRONT DESK COORDINATOR/Management.** Aveda concept salon in La Mesa. 30+ hours weekly. Must have computer skills, be organized, outgoing able to multitask. Previous experience necessary. Contact Roz, 619-464-6066.

**FUNDRAISING** for national charities and Democratic Party. Full-or part-time (evening and Sunday shifts). Paid training. Medical, dental, 401(k). Hourly plus bonuses, regular raises. Apply at Gordon & Schwenkmeyer, 9620 Chesapeake Drive, Suite 108, San Diego 92123-1369. Call 858-496-2100.

**GARDENER.** The Handlery Hotel and Resort is hiring a Gardener. We have competitive pay and excellent benefits. Please apply to: 950 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA, 92108 or fax resume to: 619-298-3948.

**GENERAL OFFICE.** San Diego, East and North County. Busy offices require multi-tasking, organization skills, phones and typing. Accounting skills a plus. Background/drug test required. Benefits. Fax resume 888-369-9229 or e-mail wmaplicants@aol.com.

**GENERAL.** Free employment and training services for individuals with disabilities,

ages 19-21 on probation or parole. Able Disabled Advocacy, Inc., 2850 6th Avenue Suite 311, San Diego, CA 92103. 619-231-5990 x305.

**GENERAL.** Permanent, no experience necessary. Appliance company hiring Management Trainees, Setup/Display, and Customer Service. If people-person and self-motivated, call for appointment 9am-12noon, Monday-Friday: 619-448-2294.

**GROCERY/NATURAL FOODS.** Now hiring! Grocery Clerks (Graveyard and Day Shifts) and Produce Clerk (Del Mar). Meat Clerk and Scanning Clerk (4S Ranch). \$9-\$15.50/hour. Great environment, competitive pay, bonus and benefits. Jimbo's Naturally! 12853 El Camino Real, Del Mar. Fax 858-793-7732, hr@jimbos.com, www.jimbos.com.

**GROUP FITNESS INSTRUCTORS:** Corporate, Luxury and Residential exercise environments. Locations all over San Diego. All types of classes, all days and times. Water and Mind/Body Instructors strongly encouraged to apply. Certification and experience required. E-mail: chenayle@fitxsandiego.com. Fax: 858-715-8681. Call 858-715-8611.

**GUARDS/SECURITY OFFICERS.** Special Response Officers. Full or part time. High starting pay. Excellent benefits. Training available. Drug/background. EOE. M/F/D/V. Apply: Weekdays, 9am-4pm, ABM Security Services, 1620 Fifth Avenue, Suite 875, San Diego. E-mail: eric.wallis@abm.com. 619-338-9360.

**GUARDS/SECURITY.** Join the #1 Security Team where people make the difference. Call Securitas, the largest, most respected security company in the world! Countywide positions available. Free Guard Card training. Medical/dental/vision and 401(k), excellent working environment, free uniforms. For fastest

response, apply online now! www.securitasjobs.com. Thank you for applying online! Or call San Diego: 619-641-0049; San Marcos (North County): 760-591-3733; Temecula: 951-676-3954. EOE/M/F/V/D, drug free. PPO #14827.

**HAIR DESIGNERS.** Busy Gaslamp salon seeking booth renters. Walk-ins available! Great urban loft environment, convenient parking. Move-in incentives. 619-231-7588.

**HAIRSTYLIST.** Booth rental in friendly, upscale La Jolla salon, in business 58 years! Parking provided. Very reasonable rent—\$350/month! Call 619-222-3585 or 858-488-2951.

**HAIRSTYLIST.** Booth rental only, \$1000/month. Chula Vista, Otay Ranch Town Center new mall. A must see location! Walk-ins available. Experience needed. 619-623-0853.

**HAIRSTYLIST.** Color, cuts, texturing, waxing. Experienced Hairstylist wanted for clean, full-service salon in Mira Mesa. We provide training, benefits, clients, supplies. 858-530-9005.

**HAIRSTYLIST.** Lower your expenses! La Jolla/UTC. Relaxed, established easy-going salon seeks weekly booth renters: \$200/week. Call Paul Gerard Hair Salon, 858-625-0555.

**HAIRSTYLIST.** Sport Clips, Rancho Bernardo/Poway. \$10/hour plus commission and bonuses. Full time/part time, nights and weekends. Call 858-592-4104 or visit www.SportClips.com/stylists.

**HAIRSTYLISTS** needed for a hip, new salon. No clientele needed! Walk-in clients available. Will train. We need you now. Great benefits package includes health insurance. 858-380-5882.

**HEALTH.** Dispatch Coordinator, Social Services Coordinator, Van Driver, Caregiver, CNA, HHA, PCA. Competitive salary, benefits, flexible. Email incqs@sbcglobal.net, fax 760-428-9442. In-Home Care, 5963 La Place Court, #114, Carlsbad. 760-931-5442.

**HEALTHCARE: RNs, LVNs, AIDES.** Join La Jolla Nurses! Looking for Home Health Aides, ongoing assignments. Also per diem work—you pick the days, hours and shifts! Competitive pay rates, excellent work assignments. Employee-owned agency—you receive shares of company stock free! State-licensed home health agency. Medical, dental and vision benefits; 401(k) plan, referral bonus. La Jolla Nurses HomeCare, 858-454-9339.

**HOME HEALTHCARE/CNAs/HHAs.** Enjoy the rewards of volunteering while earning a paycheck; make extra money for the holidays. Hourly and live-in assignments available. We're seeking caring, compassionate, and dependable people with personal transportation. Benefits: flexible hours, competitive compensation, paid weekly. Apply weekdays: 9am-4pm. Right at Home, 8369 Vickers Street #203, San Diego CA 92111. www.rahlajolla.com. 858-277-5900.

**HOSPITALITY STAFFING:** Earn extra holiday cash daily! Love fun, food and entertainment? HEPcat has immediate openings for: Servers, Bartenders, Chefs/Cooks. Daily and weekly pay! Flexible work schedules! We provide training and advancement in the hospitality industry! Interviews take place Monday-Friday at 10:30am or 1:30pm or 4:30pm sharp! Se habla español. HEPcat, 814 Morena Boulevard, Suite 210, San Diego, CA 92110. 888-472-1829. sandiego@hepcat.us. www.HEPcat.jobs.

**HOTEL STORE ROOM CLERK** part time. The Handlery Hotel and Resort is hiring for service oriented positions. We have competitive pay and excellent benefits. Please apply to: 950 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA, 92108 or fax resume to: 619-298-3948.

**HOTEL.** Assistant Front Office Manager for Doubletree Del Mar. Contact 858-481-5900 or in person: 11915 El Camino Real, Del Mar.

**HOTEL.** Bell Person for Doubletree Del Mar. Contact 858-481-5900 or in person: 11915 El Camino Real, Del Mar.

Post free online ads with photos at SDReader.com

**HOTEL.** Full/part-time Front Desk, customer/guest service experience desired. Part-time Driver. Apply in person anytime: Days Inn & Suites, 3350 Rosecrans Street, 92110.

**HOTEL.** Housekeeping for Doubletree Del Mar. Contact 858-481-5900 or in person: 11915 El Camino Real, Del Mar.

**HOUSECLEANER NEEDED.** In Cardiff 4-5 hours/day, two days/week-you choose the days! Up to \$15/hour based on experience. 760-634-4433.

**HOUSECLEANING.** Weekly pay. Paid mileage. Merry Maids offers flexible hours. No nights, weekends, holidays. Work in teams. Insured car required. Must speak English. South Coast/all south areas only. 619-336-1612; 619-226-2621.

**HOUSEKEEPER** wanted for Hotel. Full time. Experience helpful. Apply Best Western Lamplighter Inn & Suites, 6474 El Cajon Boulevard, 92115 or fax resume to 619-582-6873.

**HOUSEKEEPERS.** Immediate openings! Part time and full time. Earn up to \$462 weekly after 5 weeks full time plus tips. Paid weekly. Must have car and phone. Call today, start tomorrow! WorkWithDanas@aol.com. Dana's Housekeeping Personnel Service. 619-298-6110.

**HVAC TECHNICIAN.** ARS is looking for career-minded HVAC Technician with minimum three years experience. If you like the idea of working for a national leader in the service industry, with benefits that rival the the industry standard, and have the motivation and desire to earn an income that would make many college graduates envious, please call us today to arrange an interview that just might change your life forever! Kevin, 858-677-5455 x113. kkeillington@ars.com, www.jobswithars.com Drug-free work environment. License #ARS San Diego 791820.

**IN-HOME CARE.** Caregivers and Companions. Minimum 1 year experience non-medical home care for seniors. Valid

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**INSIDE SALES COORDINATOR.** Full/part time. 2-3 years sales experience. \$15/hour plus commission. For an immediate interview, call 858-597-4000. Send resume to staffing@tristaff.com.

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**INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN** Technology Specialist and Program Specialist. Don't miss the Big Tent Job Fair, 12/08/07, 10am-2pm, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College Parking Lot 4C. Also hiring Assistant College Cashier, Child Development Center Aide, Clerical Assistant, Warehouse Assistant, Printing Operations Assistant, Student Services Assistant, Sculpture Technician and many more! EOE/Title IX Employer. www.gcccd.edu.

**JOB COACH/COMMUNITY** Training Specialist. \$9.75/hour to start. Assist developmentally disabled adults in the community. 32.5 hours/week. Benefits. EOE. Apply Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm: Stein Education Center, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego 92120. E-mail: steinjobs@vistahill.org. Fax: 619-281-0453. www.vistahill.org.

**JOB COACHES.** Community-oriented Center for Independent Achievement is seeking dependable individuals in East County. 1:4 group ratio maximum. \$8.50-\$9.50/hour. Annual raises. Bonuses for exceptional performance. Benefits with full-time. pficareer@yahoo.com. Fax 619-440-6864. 619-440-6802.

**JOB FAIR!** Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District is having a Big Tent Job Fair: 12/08/07, 10am-2pm, Grossmont College Parking Lot 4C. Hiring Assistant College Cashier, Child Development Center Aide, Clerical Assistant, Warehouse Assistant, Printing Operations Assistant, Student Services Assistant, Instructional Design Technology Specialist, Program Specialist, Sculpture Technician and many more! EOE/Title IX Employer. www.gcccd.edu.

**JOB FAIR.** HMSHost, the nation's largest airport concessionaire for food, beverage and retail services, is hiring for full-time union positions at the San Diego Airport. Wednesday, December 5, 8:30am-5pm. HMSHost Human Resources Office, San Diego International Airport, 3665 North

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**Test Dates:**

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San Diego Regional Public Safety Institute (NTC)  
4347 N. Harbor Dr., San Diego

**Wednesday, Dec. 12 • 6 pm**

City Concourse Building  
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**Friday, Dec. 14 • 8 am**

Balboa Park Club Ballroom  
2150 Pan American Rd. West, San Diego



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**LAW ENFORCEMENT.** Deputy Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Detentions/Courts. San Diego County Sheriff's Department. Hiring for two types of positions; take one exam, apply for either or both! Exam dates: Saturday, December 8, 2007, 7:30am arrival or Thursday, December 13, 2007, 12:30pm arrival, Sheriff's Administrative Center, 9621 Ridgehaven Court, San Diego CA 92123. Saturday, December 15, 2007, 7:30am Rancho Buena Vista High School, 1601 Longhorn Drive, Vista CA 92083. Registration by e-mail or phone is required for the Ridgehaven test ONLY at: recruit@sdsheiff.org. Detention/Courts: \$39,796-\$61,608 annual salary, plus benefits. 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. required. Bring valid photo ID. Valid California Driver's License prior to appointment. Effective oral and written communication in English. EOE. Additional test dates: www.joinSDSHERIFF.net. 858-974-2000.

**LEAD SETTERS.** \$1500-\$3500 weekly. Looking for a fun job? Something with great earning potential that won't interfere with your winter fun? Well, here it is.... Pacific Home Remodeling is hiring Lead Setters to canvass our install areas for a few hours each day. No sales. No experience necessary, training is provided. Up to \$40/hour plus bonus and commission. Call to schedule an interview: 858-866-0183. pacifichomere remodeling.com.

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**LVNS NEEDED** to care for medically fragile child in Santee. Must have minimum 1 year experience. Call Mom: 619-339-6664 or 619-749-2227 or leave message.

**MAID SERVICES.** Relax. It's done. No nights, weekends, holidays. Merry Maids offers flexible hours, weekly pay, paid mileage. Work in teams. Insured car required. Must speak English. South Coast/ all south areas only, 619-336-1612; 619-226-2621.

**MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN** needed for apartments/hotel, 5 years experience required. Full Time with benefits. Call 619-296-6333 x304 or fax/mail resume 619-295-5286/4440 Pacific Highway, 92110.

**MAINTENANCE TECHS** for North County luxury apartments. Must be experienced. Background/drug test required. Benefits. Fax resume to 888-369-9229 or e-mail wmaplicants@aol.com. Call 888-252-7976.

**MAINTENANCE.** Volunteers of America Southwest California, a faith-based social service nonprofit is seeking a qualified candidate to perform general maintenance and repair duties at a licensed adult residential facility for mentally ill adults in Spring Valley. Requires passing criminal background check and a clean driving record. Part-time, 30 hours/week (\$11/hour). Call: 619-228-2047; e-mail: hr@voa-swcal.org; fax resume: 619-228-8210; or mail resume: Volunteers of America Southwest CA, 3530 Camino Del Rio North, #300, San Diego, CA 92108. EEO/AAP Employer.

**MANICURIST.** One of the lowest booth rentals available! Relaxed, established easy going La Jolla/UTC salon. \$100/week. Lower your expenses. Call Paul Gerard Hair Salon, 858-625-0555.

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**MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN.** ASC Certified Jaguar Technician. Part time or full time with full benefits. Great salary! Call Jaguar Specialists, 858-274-5191.

**MENTAL HEALTH AIDE/COOK.** Volunteers of America Southwest California, a faith-based social service nonprofit, is seeking a qualified candidate to come join us in our life saving mission to help individuals and families obtain the tools they need to improve their quality of life. Monitor clients, assist with setting and administration of medications, do light charting, prepare and serve meals and assist with ordering food and supplies, menu planning, organization and maintenance of kitchen and dining room area at a licensed residential facility for the mentally ill adults in Spring Valley. Requires passing a criminal background check and a clean driving record. Position full time, Monday through Friday. Part-time Mental Health Aide position also available (\$8.25/hour). Call: 619-228-2047; e-mail resume: hr@voa-swcal.org; fax: 619-228-8210; or mail to Volunteers of America, 3530 Camino Del Rio North, #300, San Diego, CA 92108. EEO/AAP Employer.

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E-mail: steinjobs@vistahill.org

All applications/résumés must include job title. www.vistahill.org

**Recreation Assistant**  
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Supervise direct care of children with autism and other disabilities. 12 units ECE or related field, CA driver's license. Pre-employment screening/background check. Monday-Friday 9:30 am-6 pm.

**Community Training Specialist/Job Coach**  
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**Classroom Aides**  
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The GCCC District Employment Services

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Date: December 08, 2007  
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Location: Grossmont College Parking lot 4C

We currently have classified positions open and will have many more to come.

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**OUTDOOR YOUTH COUNSELOR.** Do you love the outdoors and helping troubled teens? Immediate openings at Eckerd outdoor therapeutic programs in North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, Vermont, New Hampshire. Year-round residential position, free room/board, competitive salary/benefits. Info and apply online: www.eckerdryouth.org or fax resume to Career Advisor/AN, 727-442-5911. EOE/DFWP (AAN CAN)

**PACKAGE HANDLERS.** UPS is hiring for permanent, part-time positions in Chula Vista, San Diego and San Marcos. Must be 17-1/2 years old, able to lift up to 70 lbs., and be available to work Monday-Friday. Shifts: 3am-9am and 5pm-10pm. \$8.50-\$9.50/hour. Apply online at www.upsjobs.com.

**PAROLEE SERVICES COORDINATOR.** Volunteers of America Southwest California, a faith-based social service nonprofit, is seeking a Services Coordinator for our San Diego Stabilization Center. Meet with residents to develop an individual development program; provide assistance in accessing needed community services; provide general vocational, academic, social and personal counseling to residents and oversee the work of program monitors. Requires related experience in corrections or working with a difficult population with some experience in vocational guidance and employment services. Prefer A.A. degree. Criminal background check and TB test required. \$10-\$11/hour plus benefits. Call: 619-228-2047; e-mail resume: hr@voa-swc.org; fax: 619-282-8210; or mail: Volunteers of America, 3530 Camino Del Rio North, #300, San Diego, CA 92108. EEO/AAEP Employer.

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**PART-TIME.** Disabled couple looking for person willing to sell art and craft one time weekly over Internet. Excellent commission. For details 619-574-8724.

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**PHONE SALES.** \$1000-\$2000+/week realistic first-year potential! Highest paid commission in industry with bonuses. Experienced Re-loaders welcomed! Start your high-paying sales career today! 30-

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**PHYSICAL THERAPIST (LICENSED).** Part/full time for busy out-patient orthopedic/sports clinic. Competitive wages, health insurance, retirement package, friendly work environment. Contact Audra: 858-454-9769; mfrstudy@gmail.com.

**PLUMBERS AND PLUMBERS' Helpers:** Install low flow toilets in San Diego and Los Angeles. Neat appearance, tools, transportation, clean DMV required. Full-time opportunities, competitive pay, great benefits! Send resume: 858-576-9018, dchessher@swe-inc.com.

**PLUMBERS.** ARS is looking for career-minded Plumbers with minimum 2 years experience. If you like the idea of working for a national leader in the service industry, with benefits that rival the industry standard, and have the motivation and desire to earn an income that would make many college graduates envious, please call us today to arrange an interview that just might change your life forever! Kevin, 858-677-5444 x113, kellington@ars.com, www.jobswithars.com. Drug-free work environment. License #ARS San Diego 791820.

**PLUMBING APPRENTICE.** Need a trade? No experience necessary. Work in plumbing, drain cleaning trade. We train. Earn up to \$30/week with opportunity for advancement. Must have small truck or van. 858-530-3265. 619-440-4336. 760-741-7503.

**POKER INSTRUCTOR.** New position for Poker Instructor now open! Good opportunity. Send resume to P.O. Box 191044, San Diego, CA 92159.

**POLICE OFFICERS.** San Diego Police Department is hiring! Ready for a career change? See our upcoming test block dates on our website. Police Recruit earns \$42,723 per year. Police Officer I earns \$43,596 per year. Police Officer II earns \$61,110 per year. For more information, Call 619-531-COPS or visit our website at: www.sandiego.gov/police.

**PROBATION CAREERS.** Correctional Deputy Probation Officer I. County of San Diego Probation Department now hiring. Test Dates: December 8, 2007, 8am or January 5, 2008, 8am, Montgomery Middle School, 2470 Ulric Street, San Diego 92111. Must be 21 years, good physical condition, no illicit drug usage. U.S. citizen or becoming a citizen. Pass criminal/personal background investigation. No felony convictions. High school diploma/GED. \$35,069-\$44,741/year. www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation. Jobline: 858-514-8558.

**PROPERTY MANAGER.** Must be experienced, for 60 units in Ocean Beach. Work directly with owner. Computer skills needed. Compensation negotiable. Call 619-501-5553. Fax resume: 619-222-0277.

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**RECREATION ASSISTANT** for the Stein Education Center, a private special education school serving children with Autism and other disabilities. Candidates must possess 12 units of Early Childhood Education or 12 units in a related field and a valid California driver's license. Duties include supervising direct care, scheduling social and recreation activities.

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ties. Computer knowledge preferred. Monday-Friday, 9:30am-6pm. Starting salary \$10.33/hour with benefits. Pre-employment screening (drug test, TB) and Background Check (FBI and Department of Justice). EOE. Apply in person, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego 92120 or fax resume to 619-281-0453.

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**RESTAURANT HOST/HOSTESS.** The Handlery Hotel and Resort is hiring Restaurant Host/Hostess. We have competitive pay and excellent benefits. Please apply to: 950 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA, 92108 or fax resume to: 619-298-3948.

**RESTAURANT LINE COOK:** For Irish pub, bar and grill. Experience necessary. Apply: 554 4th Avenue, Gaslamp or fax: 619-239-5828, or e-mail: dublinsquare@yahoo.com.

**RESTAURANT LINE COOKS.** Full-time. Rancho Valencia Restaurant, Rancho Santa Fe. Must have experience and flexible availability. Send resume to hr@ranchovalencia.com. Or visit www.ranchovalencia.com/resort/careers.php. No phone calls please. EOE/Drug-free workplace.

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**RESTAURANT.** Now hiring! Baker and Deli Clerks (Del Mar), Kitchen Supervisor and Dishwasher (4S Ranch), Prep Cook and Dishwasher (Escondido). \$9-\$15.50/hour. See ad under Grocery/Natural Foods. Jimbo's Naturally!

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**RESTAURANT: ROCKIN' BAJA** Lobster hiring all positions. Apply in person Thurs-

days 3pm: Old Town, 3890 Twiggs, 92110.

**RESTAURANT: TAKA** needs Bussers. Popular Japanese sushi restaurant in Gaslamp. Apply in person 2pm-5pm, Monday-Friday, Taka Restaurant, 555 5th, 92101. 619-338-0555.

**RETAIL SEASONAL HELP** at UTC and Fashion Valley kiosks. Experience preferred. Various hours, part-time, 7 days/week. Call HR at 949-276-4431. Rainbow Sandals.

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**SECURITY OFFICER.** The Handlery Hotel and Resort is hiring a Security Officer, Graveyard, part time. We have competitive pay and excellent benefits. Please apply to: 950 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA, 92108 or fax resume to: 619-298-3948.

**SECURITY OFFICERS.** Allied Barton Security Services. Up to \$12/hour, medical/dental/vision, 401(k) with company match, holiday pay, paid vacation, free uniforms, Guard Card assistance, free basic and advanced training, career advancement. Must be at least 18 years of age and have a high school diploma/GED. DOD clearance, secret or higher, a plus. Criminal background check and drug screen required. Apply online: www.greatsecurityjobs.com. Or apply in person 8am-4pm Monday-Friday: 7670 Opportunity Road, Suite #210, San Diego. Call: 858-874-8200.

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**SECURITY.** Bald Eagle Security hiring licensed Security Officers. Full/part time. Downtown San Diego locations only. No car or cell phone required. Guard Card required. Must be able to work flexible hours, mostly swing and graveyard plus every weekend. Background check. EEO/Drug free. Call 619-230-0022, e-mail jonny@baleaglesecurity.com, or apply in person at 2049 Main Street, San Diego, CA 92113.

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**SECURITY.** Openings throughout San Diego County. Guard card required. Call De Caprio Security, 619-948-4022.

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**SOCIAL SERVICES.** Company is hiring for various positions. We work with adult developmental disabilities population. No experience necessary, we will train. Must have clean criminal record. Positions starting at \$8-\$10 depending on positions. Medical benefits are offered. Fax resume to 619-390-1888 or call 619-390-1800.

**SOCIAL SERVICES.** Instructors needed for day programs in Lakeside and Ocean-side for adults with developmental disabilities. Excellent benefits, no nights/weekends, start \$10.25-\$10.75/hour. Entry-level, \$9.00/hour. Unyeway, Inc.: 619-562-6330. Fax resume: 619-562-6547.

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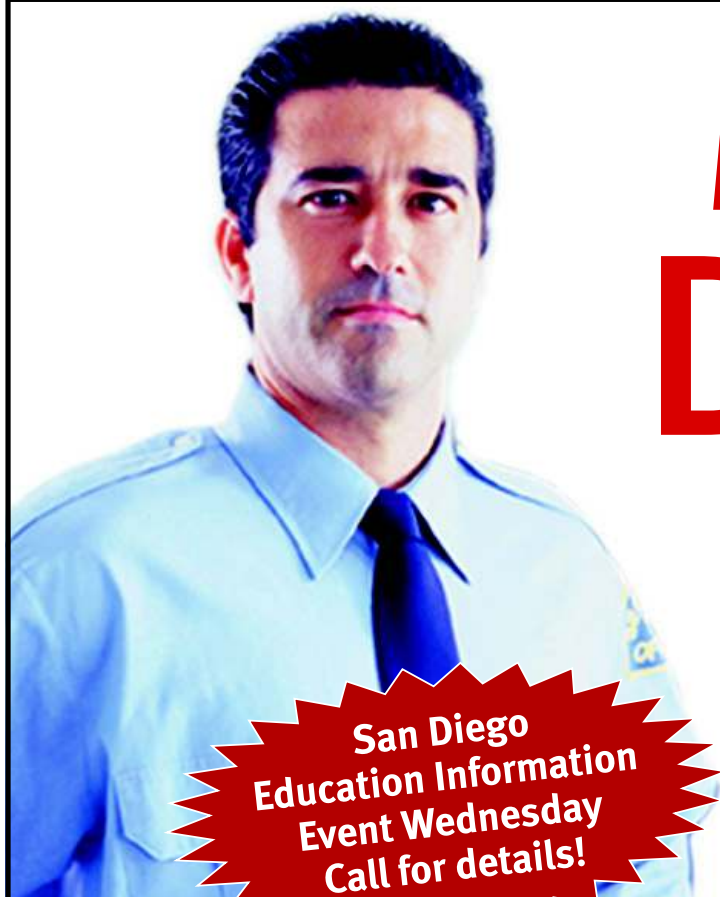
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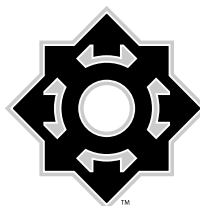
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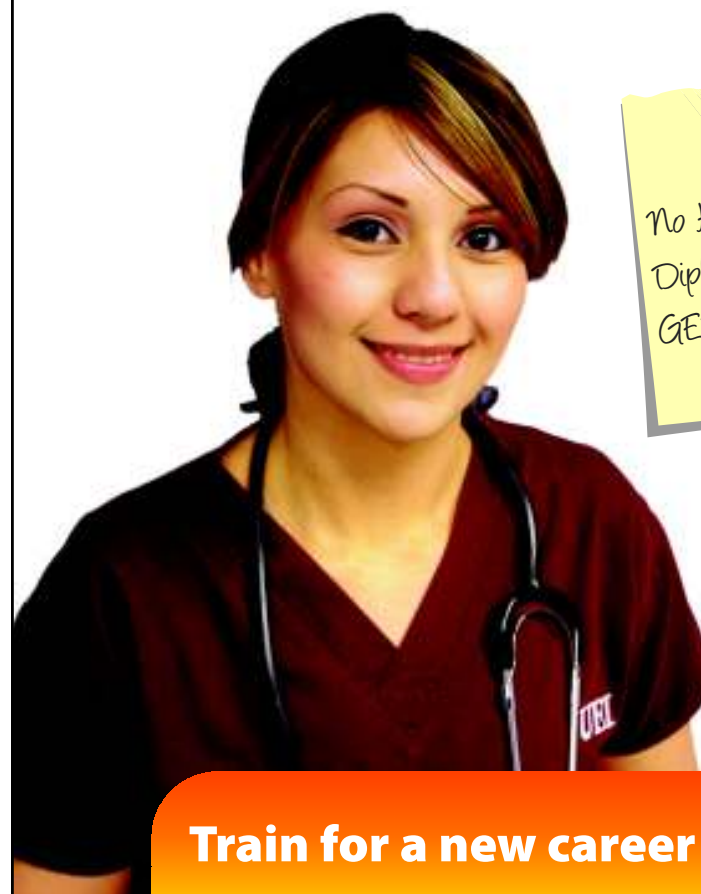


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**PHARMACY TECHNICIAN** Course at UEI. Approved Veterans, Rehab, WIA. Job Placement Assistance, Financial Aid (if qualified). 3666 Kearny Villa Road, #100, 92123; 310 3rd Avenue, #C6, Chula Vista 91910. Call today! 1-877-206-1915. Visit our website: [www.uei4you.com](http://www.uei4you.com).

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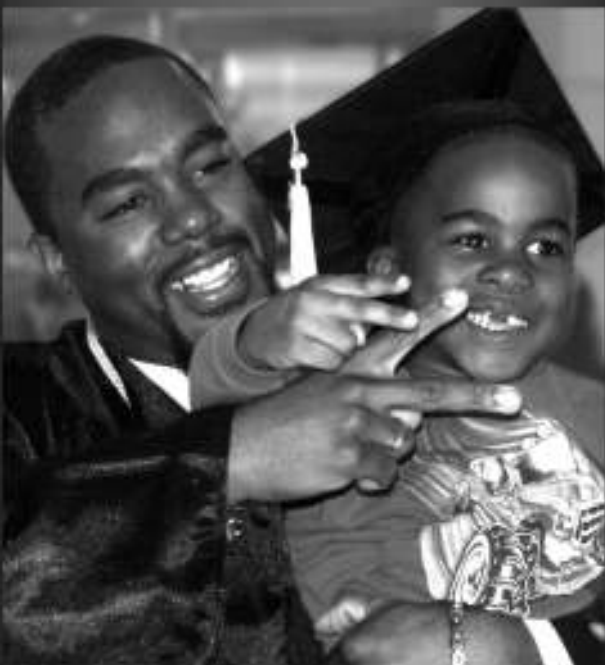
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## THE READER PUZZLE

### Across

- Doctor's order
- Understand
- Orgs.
- Where enfants learn
- U.S. Grant's adversary
- The Wildcats of the NCAA
- Sunday singers
- Blue hue
- VIP with an MBA, perhaps
- Reason why pranksters Jennings and Rather got email accounts?
- Helpful hints lady
- Fit for sainthood
- Can
- Where '80s Defense Secretary Weinberger swims laps?
- Proactiv target
- Mob scenes
- Sci-fi figures
- Neuter one of the Beastie Boys?
- Vanna's cohort
- Author Levi
- Pilsner alternative
- Something to contend with when trying to get into the Prado Museum or the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao?
- "Superman" villain Luthor
- Bearing
- Put back in office
- Modern-day luxury ... and a hint to this puzzle's theme
- "Car Talk" airer
- White house?
- Settle (on)
- Neth. neighbor
- On a scale of one \_\_\_\_
- They may become unhinged
- They may be burned
- "Doesn't that strike you \_\_\_\_?"
- Not let happen

### Down

- Jiffy
- Alas, in Austria
- "\_\_\_\_-hoo!"
- Youngest SCOTUS member
- Valiant
- They may be sour
- "No god but God" author \_\_\_\_ Aslan
- Grad
- Belgrade native
- Gaze
- Kind of clock
- Common tie score in soccer

- Ostentatious
- Govt. agency that's ass backwards?
- Cries of surprise
- Confused state
- "No \_\_\_\_"
- "I think we should"
- Funnyman Richard
- Goal
- 1990s Charles S. Dutton sitcom
- Sch. group
- \_\_\_\_ Lanka
- Fasten
- Film buff's cable channel
- New to the beach, maybe
- Baldwin of "30 Rock"
- College book
- Huff and puff
- Didn't chug
- Units of wisdom?
- Actress Julia
- Miniscule
- "Gracias" reply
- "Hardball" broadcaster
- Statehouse official: Abbr.
- Moreno of "West Side Story"
- They may need massaging
- Voice above tenor
- Pigeon-\_\_\_\_
- Eggs at a sushi bar
- Blunder
- Founded: Abbr.

### RULES OF THE GAME

- The prize for solving the *Reader* Puzzle will be a *Reader* T-shirt.
- All entries in the *Reader* Puzzle contest must be received by the *Reader* by 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, five days following the issue date (Fax to 619-231-0489 or U.S. Mail to *Reader* Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803).
- All entries must be accompanied by your name and address.
- Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible.
- In the event of disputes or ties, decisions of the judges will be final and arbitrary. We've only got five prizes each week to give away, so if there are more than five winners, we'll have a lottery.
- All answers must be entered in the space allowed on the puzzle page. And please, no phone calls or trips to our office.
- One entry per person.

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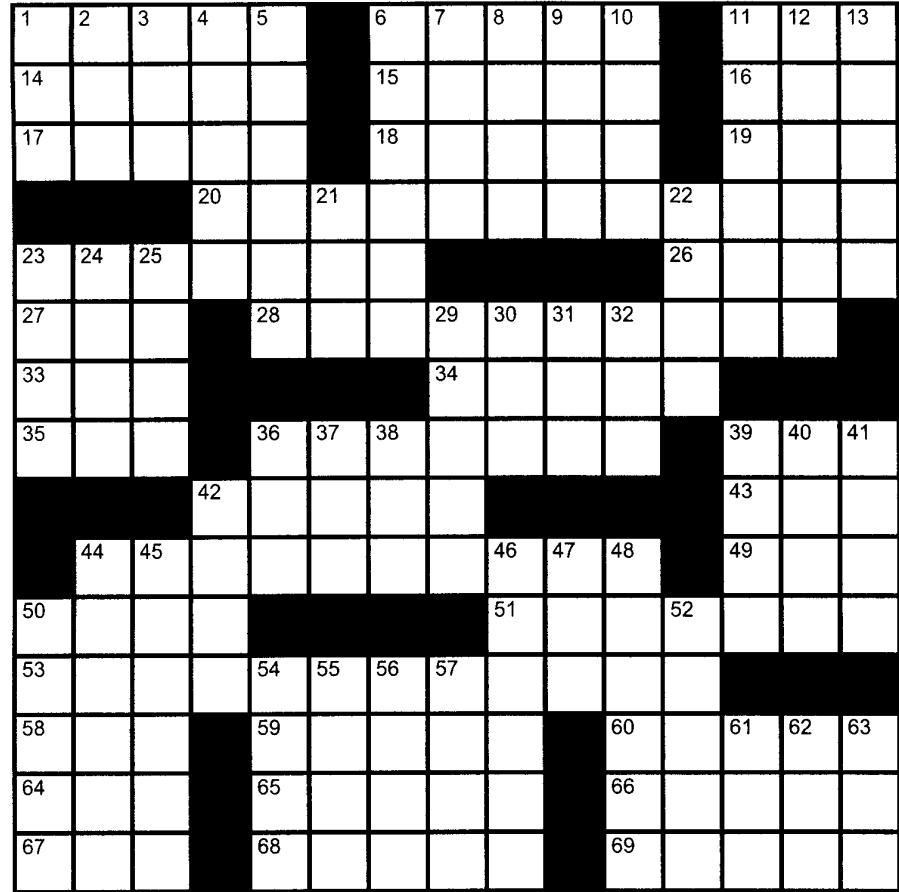
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by David Levinson Wilk

Solution to and winners of the *Reader* Puzzle for 11/29/07.

There were 67 entrants. The winners are:

- Berta Higgins, *San Diego*
- Gary Mocko, *Oceanside*
- Felina Thom, *Lemon Grove*
- Don Reckles, *San Diego*
- Andrea Duncan, *Valley Center*

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Alvaro Alvarez  
Waiter  
Seal Beach

It was a red Atlantic. And I really liked the car. It is basically like the Volkswagen Jetta is now. It was red. I was 16 when I got it, so...that was probably 1986. I guess some people can be real particular about their cars and what they look like. I was happy with it. It got me where I wanted to go.



Michelle Shocked  
Singer-Songwriter  
Los Angeles

My first car was standard trans-mission, so I was always grind-ing the gears when I was learning to drive it with my dad. It was a '70 or '71 bug. It wasn't until my mom explained the purpose of the clutch that I got it. I was once asked to autograph someone's car. It was an old station wagon, and I don't know why, but I signed it Michelle Shock Absorber.



Nikki Sixx  
Mötley Crüe bassist  
and songwriter  
Los Angeles

It was a '48 Plymouth. And if you can believe this, the thing didn't even have any floorboards in it. I had the car for a little while. The first car I bought when I got a little money was a Porsche Boxster. It was a little small for me, but at the time it was all I could afford.



Tony Atkinson  
Waiter  
Downtown

I bought an '83 Chevy Nova as a graduation present in 1985. It looked like a little Volkswagen Rab-bit, not like those old Novas that were huge. I had it all through col-lege. I think I paid \$7000 for it, and it never needed a new engine or any-thing. It was a good little car that I put over 200,000 miles on.



Chino Moreno  
Landscape  
National City

My first car was a 1975 Toyota Celica GT Coupe. I was 15, driv-ing with my dad, and he saw it on a car lot. It only had 25,000 miles on it and was in great condition. My dad negotiated with the dealer, and we drove off with it. I couldn't believe I had a car that I couldn't yet drive for six months. My dad drove the car since I was not of age. He smoked from the point when he put the key into the ignition until he reached each destination. It stunk like cigarettes for years, and ashes were everywhere in the car. I had fixed the car up with new paint, striping, custom wheels, and low-profile tires and gave it to my brother for his 16th birthday. He rolled it in the mountains a few weeks later.



Audrey Ricca  
Student  
Mira Mesa

It was a Mazda 626. The thing really sucked. It was always breaking down and was such a hassle. I guess a lot of people have that problem with first cars. It was a '94, and it was old when I got it. I had it for almost two years during school. I called the color of it "roorange" because it was red and orange.

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**INCREDIBLE LIGHTNESS** of touch! Rein-vigorate yourself with my nurturing deep tissue/light touch massage. 100% satisfaction guaranteed! Melt away tension, relieve stress. Morena Boulevard and I-5. HHP-98000184. Courtney, 970-201-4671.

**FEEL, SENSE, EXPERIENCE** Swedish-based full body massage. Balanced blend of techniques deepens relaxation. Locals/travelers welcome. Daytime/evening. Certified. Lic#22248. John, 619-248-1865.

**SUPER LIGHT EXTRAORDINARILY** divine loving touch. Cranio-sacral balancing. Night appointments available. Georgiana, HHP-0317, 760-966-1672.

**MASSAGE SO WONDERFUL**, it's guaranteed to be the best part of your day. Come explore the magic of my touch. Heidi, 619-280-7784.

**NORTH COUNTY MASSAGE.** Certified Massage Therapist. 20 years experience. Swedish, circulatory and deep tissue. Out calls. 9am-8pm. Insured and licensed. MT-1185. Call Mark, 760-742-0267.

**ASIAN SPA.** Therapeutic massage. Swedish, deep tissue, Sports, Thai stretch. Discreet location. Shower/jacuzzi. \$75/hour. \$115/1-1/2 hours. Cash only! 9833 Pacific Heights Boulevard (cross street Mira Mesa Boulevard), Unit G, Mira Mesa 92121. 10 minute drive from Del Mar/La Jolla! 619-301-6797.

**THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE.** Pristine, serene setting. Deep to light tissue. Trained in all techniques. Sports, myofascial, lymphatic, Reiki, Aromatherapy. Reflexology. 7-days, flexible hours. Full gym. Pool. Spa. Del Mar. Adrianna, 858-353-2008.

**DIANA'S \$99 HOLIDAY SPECIAL!** Try a relaxing full body massage in front of a warm, cozy fire. Showers available. Centrally located. 619-876-7988.

**PUERTO RICAN MASSEUR.** Swedish and deep-tissue bodywork by certified fitness-trainer athlete. Military discounts. Lic-96009528. Daytime and evening appointments available. Revitalizing effect! puertoricanCMT@sbcglobal.net. 619-688-0668.

**PROFESSIONAL MASSAGE** bodywork by Mary Ann. Therapeutic, pain/stress relief, calming, energy balancing, deep muscle therapy, structural alignment. Aromatherapy/essential oils. Advanced techniques. MT-0089. 760-942-9375.

**NORTH ESCONDIDO/Luxury Motorhome.** Unique, quiet setting. Experienced, intuitive with great hands. Swedish meltdown goes deep enough to relax, rejuvenate. \$90/hour. 9am-7pm. Tori, 619-980-7846.

**NURTURING, PROFESSIONAL RN.** 30 years experience. Relaxing, healing full-body massage. Light touch to deep tissue, sports injuries, combination. Elder care. RN-125108. Call Liz, 760-942-0977.

**TANTALIZING MASSAGE BY** Trina. Let my firm yet gentle hands release all your stress. Massage catered to your needs. Call Trina 9am-10pm, outcall/incall. 619-528-1135.

**COME LET ME PAMPER** you. Firm or light touch, full body massage, custom tailored. Soothing tension release/traquil relaxation. Incall/outcall. 619-862-1867.

**THE BEST DOUBLE MESSAGE.** Feel the power of two massage therapists. Call today and receive \$10 off and free body shampoo or body scrub. Lic-003419. 619-281-8851.

**TOUCH OF SERENITY.** An unforgettable hour of bliss! A quality massage in a clean, cozy and serene location. 7 days. Parking/outcalls available. Julia, 619-253-5527.

**MASSAGE IN THE COMFORT** of your own home or hotel room by European-trained massage therapists. Available 7 days/week. HHP-92009389. Call: 619-295-5594.

**YVONNE'S MAGIC HANDS!** Enjoy a nurturing light touch for deep relaxation. These are hands you will never forget. Lic-93004782. For appointment, call 619-260-1950.

**MASSAGE/SPA SERVICES.** 12 years experience. HHP-18114. Swedish, acupres-sure, reflexology. East/west combination. Scrubs/wraps. Couples welcome. Incall/outcall. Hotels. Gift certificates. 619-300-7332. www.massagingsandiego.com/massagetherapy.com.

**ISLAND GIRL** will customize a massage to suit you. Intuitive, nurturing hands. Ultra-relaxing feminine touch. Monday-Friday, 9:00am-6:30pm. MT-416. Gift certificates available! Nathalie, 619-302-7537.

**AFFORDABLE BODY MASSAGE.** Let a native San Diegan stimulate mind, body, and soul through the power of touch. Available 7 days/week. Call now! 760-696-0305.

**\$10 OFF ONE HOUR** or longer massage when you book with one of our newest therapists. Call for schedules. A Better Body, Lic-96001191. 858-560-6740. www.abetterbodyspa.com.

HEALTH & FITNESS

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**BOTOX, \$8 PER UNIT** (\$48 to \$96 per area), IPL Laser \$100-\$250, Restylane \$375 per 1cc. Austin Dermatology Center. "Putting patients first". 858-622-1960. www.austin-derm.com.

**CERTIFIED PERSONAL TRAINERS.** Aerobics, body composition testing, injury rehabilitation, youth programs, nutrition analysis. Gift certificates. Visa/Master-Card. www.wendyshealthandfitness.com. Wendy's Health & Fitness, 619-466-4386.

**COLON HYDROTHERAPY.** 16 years in La Jolla. FDA registered equipment. Disposables. Liver, lymph, and cellulite therapies. 858-551-9228. www.lajollalymphatic.com.

**LOSE WEIGHT!** Weight is a symptom of an internal issue that sometimes lies deep within the subconscious mind. Use hypno-therapy to heal your personal issues and release the weight permanently. www.ExperienceEmpowerment.com, 619-549-8654.

NAME This Place



Last week's place: (clue: Breakers near bakers) Circuit breakers and other post-fire replacement equipment at SDGE Service Restoration Yard at Santa Ysabel Sub-Station, 30410 Highway 78, near Dudley's Bakery. Some of the 475 PG&E and other "mutual aid" workers from western state utilities camped here to help 800 local technicians repair recent fire damage. They replaced 290 transformers, 1880 power poles, and 35 miles of overhead wire. (Last week's winners: Jeff Sykes, Jonathan Watts, Joseph JohaneK, Maria Katsas, Bryan Gittings)

Q: Skate-ological remains?

**Describe** this location, name the near-est cross-streets, and win a *Reader* T-shirt. E-mail to NameThisPlace@SanDiegoReader.com; fax to 619-231-0489; or mail to *Reader*, Name This Place, Box 85803, San Diego 92186 — include your name and address. (Deadline, Tuesday, 9 a.m. In case of ties, lottery will determine top five winners.)



**NEW TAI CHI AND QI GONG** Classes. First class free. Visitors welcome. Taoist Sanctuary, 4229 Park Boulevard, San Diego 92103. 619-692-1155 or www.taoistsanctuary.org.

**PRESCRIPTION EYEGLASSES,** \$8. Custom made to your prescription, stylish plastic or metal frame, Highindex, UV protection, anti-scratch lens, case, lenscloth for only \$8. Also available: rimless, titanium, children's, bifocals, progressive, tintints, ARcoating, etc. http://zennoptical.com. (AAN CAN)

**TREADMILLS, ELLIPTICALS,** cycles, and other exercise equipment wanted. Cash for quality fitness gear. We pick up. Big selection of new and used exercise equipment for sale. 90 days free financing! Play It Again Sports, 858-751-0338. www.playitagainsd.com.

PARENT RESOURCES

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**LICENSED HOME DAY CARE.** Fun learning environment. Located in Scripps Ranch, accepting ages 0-5. Offering tumbling/gymnastics. Experienced preschool teacher, 15 years. Lic#376619333. itsoncristina@yahoo.com. 619-316-5041.

**PREGNANT?** Considering adoption? Talk with caring people specializing in matching birthmothers with families nationwide. Expenses paid. Toll free 24/7, Abby's One True Gift Adoptions, 1-866-413-6293. (AAN CAN)

WEDDING & PARTY GUIDE

**PLACE PRINTED ADS** in the Reader by calling 619-235-8200.

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**AFFORDABLE PHOTOGRAPHY** and Ministerial. Married couple with over 30 years experience in wedding business teams up to cover your event. www.brianhowarthphotography.com. Call Brian or Valerie: 619-583-0411.

**AWARD-WINNING PHOTOGRAPHER.** See your wedding day unfold on DVD. On a budget? Digital photography. Hourly rates, special events. Kidnapper of Images, Beverly, 858-736-4472; 858-274-4472.

**BAND, "HOT PURSUIT."** Weddings; corporate, private parties. High-energy dance band featuring sax player, female vocalist. Swing, jazz, rock, R&B, country, dance hits. 760-751-1876. www.HotPursuitMusic.com.

**BEAUTIFUL PORTRAITS** Done in the privacy of your own home. Free 8x10 with this ad. Family, Graduations, individuals. Call for appointment. Mind's Eye Photographies, 619-602-8253.

**DISC JOCKEYS/LIVE BANDS**/novelty acts. Weddings, corporate, parties. 400 bands, 10 DJs to choose from. All types of music. Affordable! Since 1973. 619-223-5732. www.musicasyoulikeit.com.

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## STAGE NOTES

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**ABANDON YOUR ACTING FEARS!** Actors' Workshop Studios. San Diego's number 1 film/TV studio! Professional 3-camera set. Weekly in-house auditions with Hollywood/local casting directors, producers, agents. [www.actorsworkshopstudios.com](http://www.actorsworkshopstudios.com); 858-587-6666.

**ABILITY THROUGH TRAINING.** The Robert Wald Actor's Studio focuses on moment-to-moment reality training. These classes unlock the actor's ability to work spontaneously and with the realism and intensity advocated by the industry's creative legends. Beginners welcome. Thursday evening class available, 6:30pm-10:30pm or Saturday morning. Call for information. 619-542-1216.

**AUDITIONS** Casting "Being Elvis," a weekly non-union reality based Television show, which follows the crazy life of an Elvis impersonator. Seeking actors and actresses, age 28-55 with strong improvisational skills. You must be funny, with strong ability to ad-lib, singing ability is a plus. If selected You will be paid to be in pilot and part of a weekly show on a nationwide cable network. Open call auditions Saturday, December 8, 12pm-3pm, at Actors Alliance, 2650 Truxton Road,

Suite #107, San Diego, 92106. For driving directions go to [actorsalliance.com](http://actorsalliance.com).

**AUDITIONS.** SeaWorld's Sesame Street Bay of Play: December 15, 2007, Team OC, 385 Clinton Street, Costa Mesa CA 92626 or January 5, 2008, SeaWorld's on-site Adventure Camp Facility, 500 SeaWorld Drive, San Diego 92109 (across from SeaWorld Security). Dancers: Please arrive promptly at 9:00am or promptly at 12:00pm. Must be between 4'11" and 6'3" tall, able to wear full body character costumes. Singers/Actors: please arrive promptly at 4:00pm. Prepare and perform one-to two-minute musical piece that demonstrates your vocal ability. Must be 18+ years. Bring recent photo, resume, EOE. Audition Hotline: 619-226-3607. [www.SeaWorldSanDiegoAuditions.com](http://www.SeaWorldSanDiegoAuditions.com).

**MALE/FEMALE MODELS WANTED.** We are seeking attractive models with good physiques, 18-25, for video and print work. No experience necessary! Earn up to \$2,000 per day! For more information, call Rose at 858-571-0512. [www.platinumred.com](http://www.platinumred.com).

**MEDIA MAKE-UP ARTISTS** earn up to \$500/day for television, CD/videos, film, fashion. One week course in Los Angeles while building portfolio. Brochure, 310-364-0665. [www.MediaMakeupArtists.com](http://www.MediaMakeupArtists.com). (AAN CAN)

**MODELS.** Amateur models needed for photo, video, web work. Ages 18-60. All types. No experience necessary. Cash paid. Professional setting. Call Jenn, 619-379-4964.

**MODELS/INTERNET VIDEO.** Females 18+. Reality-based/art photography. Excellent 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 877-282-2458.

**MOVIE EXTRAS, ACTORS,** models! Make \$100-\$300/day. No experience required. Meet celebrities. Full time, part time. All looks needed! Call now. 1-800-566-6103 x528. (AAN CAN)

**PASTORELA.** Volunteer actors. Popular among Hispanics. Biblical account describing the shepherd's journey to worship baby Jesus and bless Mary. Performed in Spanish (some English). 619-434-6693.

**TAP DANCERS,** 50+, wanted. Performance troupe forming. Enthusiasm and gusto far more important than experience or talent. 619-697-1810.

**TEACHERS FOR CHILDREN:** Gymnastics, Cheerleading, Hip-hop, Theater, Ballet/Tap, Flag Football, Basketball for ages 2-12, beginning levels. Experience required. Mobile gym program. Part time. North County. \$15-\$35/class. 760-917-4800.

**VOICEOVER WORKSHOP.** Break into voiceover! Taught by voice actor/author James Alburger. Learn interpretation, character voices, microphone technique, more for radio/TV. [www.voiceacting.com](http://www.voiceacting.com); 858-484-0220.

uals, couples, children, adolescents/families. Private Mission Valley location. Phaedra Scoortis, MA, MFT, MFC-43174. 619-972-0209.

**ARE YOU MAD?** Learn how to manage your anger constructively. Gain power, control, reduce conflict and improve your relationships. Classes begin soon. Mission Valley. Jay Schneider, LCSW. Lic#9573. [www.manageangerdaily.com](http://www.manageangerdaily.com). 858-538-5587.

**CLINICAL HYPNOTHERAPY.** "What the mind can conceive, the body can achieve." All issues addressed. Free consultation. Patricia R. Parlin, Ed.D. CHT1403-250. Call 619-442-3661 or 619-504-1935.

**FEELING STUCK? STRESSED?** Experiencing crisis? Relationship issues? Career problems? Family conflicts? Grief? Past trauma? Take back your power. Free consultation: 619-723-9244. Trish Deignan, LCSW21861.

**GAY/BISEXUAL MEN.** Supportive individual therapy. Depression, anxiety, confusion, addictions, spiritual/religious issues. Married, closeted welcome. Discretion, confidentiality assured. Mel Karman, PhD, MFC-12709. 619-296-9442.

**HEALTHY ADULTS:** Inner Child healing and recovery work. Establish healthy boundaries. Heal wounds of dysfunctional family. Thought Field Therapy eliminates phobias and traumas. Counseling for individuals, couples' enrichment and family bonding. Sharon Goodlove, TFT Diagnostician; Glenn Goodlove, LCSW-1450. Goodlove Counseling Center, 858-569-8975. [www.goodlove-online.com](http://www.goodlove-online.com).

**MILITARY.** PTSD? Battle Fatigue Syndrome? Night Terrors? Memory Loss? Difficulty Sleeping? Troubled Relationships? Former military therapist licensed trauma specialist providing free group treatment. License #MFT37234. 858-342-0181.

## NOTICES

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**AL-ANON,** Grupo paz mental. Sufre por el alcoholismo en su familia? Juntas sesionan Martes, 5:30pm-7pm, y Sabados, 1-2:30pm, 3450 Bonita Road, #207, Bonita, CA 91902.

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**ALCOHOLISM AND SMOKING** addictions and the treatment of other health issues are my specialties. Also treat the mental health issues of Bi-polar and depressive illnesses. Over 35 years experience. William D Miller, MA, MFT, Lic#3118. Call for an appointment. 858-456-8199.

**ANXIOUS? DEPRESSED?** Relationship issues? Parenting/family issues? Insurance and sliding scale accepted. Individ-

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**ALANON-GRUPO RENCUENTRO.** Hay problemas de alcoholismo en su familia? Sesiones Lunes y Jueves de 5:00-6:30pm, 3450 Bonita Road #207, Bonita, 91902. 619-470-6955.

**ALCOHOLICOS ANONIMOS.** Tiene problemas con la bebida? Llamenos 24 horas. Oficina Central Hispana, 3628 University Avenue, San Diego, 92105. 619-280-7224.

**ALCOHOLICOS ANONIMOS.** Problemas con el alcohol? Nosotros le ayudamos a vivir mejor. Sesiones Lunes-Viernes, 7am y 8pm. Sabados, 8am y 7pm. Domingo 8am y 5pm. Grupo Bonita Hispano, 3450 Bonita Road, #207. 619-280-7224.

**BE A MILLIONAIRE FROM HOME!** Sell Mangosteen; make lots of money! Very high antioxidant value. Significant anti-inflammatory properties. Tons of health benefits! [www.diane.discovermangosteen.com](http://www.diane.discovermangosteen.com). Diane, 877-674-4280.

**CANNABIS PATIENT(S) ACT.** (Association Cannabis Therapeutics). Nonprofit. Seeks caregiver/patients with questions about co-operatives, clones, medicine, growing guidelines. Proposition 215 local guidelines. Meth kills. 619-528-0907.

**DACHSHUNDS-TIME FOR walkin'** in a Wiener-Wonderland! Sunday, 12/23/07, 1pm-3pm. Meet by the large fountain in Balboa Park dressed in holiday attire. Everyone welcome! [www.sddc.us](http://www.sddc.us).

**DIVORCARE** meets every Sunday at 9am at 4926 La Cuenta Suite 203-A, Tierrasanta. Special Free support group for those divorcing, divorced, or broken live-in relationship. 4926 La Cuenta, Suite 203, Tierrasanta. Bruce, [Bruce@coastline-realestate.com](mailto:Bruce@coastline-realestate.com) or 619-461-4480.

**DIVORCING/SEPARATING?** Get guidance/support during your emotional adjustment. Group meets Friday, 6:30-8pm, in Allied Gardens off Waring Road. Divorce Anonymous, 619-442-1550.

**DO YOU BELIEVE IN PRAYER-** based healing. Call, then discover health, wellness, and harmony in your life. 858-272-3246.

**DO YOU HAVE RELATIONSHIP** Setbacks, anxiety, or pain tormenting you? Call and discover the freedom, wellness, and abundant health in your life. 858-272-3246.

**DONATE** that automobile, boat, RV, etc. to Ronald McDonald House Charities-San Diego, receive tax deduction and possibly a partial cash payment! Call toll-free, 866-244-8464.

**FREE EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING** services for individuals with disabilities, ages 19-21 on probation or parole. Able-Disabled Advocacy, 2850 6th Avenue #311, San Diego 92103. 619-231-5990 x305.

**FREE PSYCHIC HEALING.** Lecture Clinic. Free readings for new visitors. Mondays, 7:30pm 1/7/08, 2/4, 3/3 by Vessa's Clairvoyant Program students. 4455 Morena Boulevard, Suite #108. 858-509-7582.

**GOD HEALS TODAY.** Discover freedom and wellness. Find out how prayer works for you to eliminate chronic disease, pain, fear, depression. 858-652-0728.

**HAPPY BARBERSHOP HOLIDAY,** A variety of holiday music performed by the California Note Catchers. 12/8/07, 7pm. Free. Monte Vista Village Auditorium, 2211 Massachusetts, 91945. 619-464-3727.

**HARMONY COMES HOME.** Barbershop Holiday Show, December 8, 3pm and 7pm, The Neurosciences Institute. We're bringing family together for a huge holiday reunion. [www.pacificcoastharmony.org](http://www.pacificcoastharmony.org). 760-723-2294.

**HELP FOR YOUR LIFE.** Lonely? Dial hope 858-277-8060. Scripture, new thought, prayer, helpful messages 858-277-2389. Sunday service, 10 a.m., Linda Vista Presbyterian Church, 2130 Ulric Street, San Diego, 92111. 858-277-0523.

**HERPES/HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS.** (HSV/HPV) Support group. Accurate medical information and support. Recorded message, 619-491-1194. [www.SanDiegoCityHELP.org](http://www.SanDiegoCityHELP.org).

**LA DOLCE VITA GATHERINGS.** Specializing in fabulous, custom artistic designs to create an unforgettable atmosphere for any event/opportunity. Put the art back into entertaining! [www.ladolcevitagatherings.com](http://www.ladolcevitagatherings.com). 619-665-8269.

**MUSIC BUFFS** Interested in watching movies, then discussing it afterwards (like book clubs)? Ages 25 to mature welcome. Please call 619-850-6075 or 858-272-8727.

**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS.** Meetings, 3pm Monday, La Mesa. No fees. Call Carolee, 619-589-1842.

**PARENTS, FAMILIES** and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). Find help, support, and understanding. Meetings: Hillcrest, East County, North County. [www.pflag.com](http://www.pflag.com). Call for details, 619-579-7640.

**PATHWORK DISCUSSION.** December 13, "Christ's Greatest Gift." 1323 Stratford Court, Del Mar, 7-9pm. Open meeting. No fee. Materials available. Please call for information, 858-259-1880.

**PATHWORK DISCUSSION.** December 18, "Surrender in Abundance." 7-9pm, Eureka Street/Mission Valley. Open meeting, no fee, materials available. Please call for directions, 619-296-9046.

**PRIVATE COUNSELING.** Your journey can be clearer, more peaceful; relationship issues, body image, self-esteem, anger. I can help. Work toward acceptance of yourself. Fee. 619-838-6817.

**RECOVERY GROUPS** for men and women seeking freedom from addiction/co-dependency. Fridays, 7pm. Celebrate recovery, First Lutheran, 867 South Lincoln Avenue, El Cajon. 619-444-7444. [www.recovery4u.cc](http://www.recovery4u.cc).

**RESEARCH STUDY, WEIGHT LOSS** patients needed for study. Eligible participants will receive one entry into a raffle for \$500. Please e-mail [wresearch@yahoo.com](mailto:wresearch@yahoo.com) or call 760-964-8846.

**RESEARCH STUDY.** Women living with smoker needed for 9-day research study. Leave message or email [TRDRPPDAStudy@projects.sdsu.edu](mailto:TRDRPPDAStudy@projects.sdsu.edu), for more information.

**SEX** and/or relationship problems? Out of control? You are not alone. Call Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, a 12-step fellowship, PO Box 3791, San Diego 92163 or 619-685-7211 or [www.slaa-san-diego.org](http://www.slaa-san-diego.org).

**SINGLES FOR JAZZ** is a new not-for-profit club for singles interested in attending various concerts and clubs in the San Diego area. Membership is free. Call 760-445-5459.

**SUPPORT GROUPS.** Six groups monthly, SOSL (Survivors of Suicide Loss). Call 619-482-0297 or email [soslsd@yahoo.com](mailto:soslsd@yahoo.com).

**TEMPLE OF BHAKTI YOGA.** Sunday, 10:30-11:30am; Tuesday, 6:30-7:30pm. For information please call 760-787-0700.

**THE ROCK CHURCH** Has new evangelizing Hip Hop dance company, auditions December 8, 2pm, Culture Shock Dance Studio, 2110 Hancock Street, 2nd floor. All ages welcome, looking for professional quality Hip Hop dancers that Love our Lord Jesus, [rocksteadymistry@yahoo.com](mailto:rocksteadymistry@yahoo.com), <http://www.therocksandiego.org/eventcalendar/3484>.

**TWELVE STEPS NOT** working for you? Try a self-empowering, skill-building approach with S.M.A.R.T. Recovery, free support groups. 858-546-1100.

**VOLUNTEER CHILDBIRTH** Assistants Needed. UCSD Medical Center's Doula Program needs women to help mothers during labor. Big commitment, lots of gratification! 619-543-6269.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** Have you had odd experiences? Are your beliefs different than others? Ages 18-35 participate in research study examining stress. Contact [mjuan@alliant.edu](mailto:mjuan@alliant.edu).

**WRITERS (2)** looking for "Chicken Soup" type pet stories for new book and toon series, with photos if possible. [claudia@writersetc.com](mailto:claudia@writersetc.com) or [piedpiper@newsblaze.com](mailto:piedpiper@newsblaze.com) or 858-693-3939.

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Say What?



Jenna | Age: 17 | Occupation: Barista | Lives: Normal Heights

I try not to speak with slang. I know raver slang; I used to be one. There's "plum": "Peace, love, unity, respect and responsibility." There's "candy kids," which isn't really slang; it's just what the ravers with all of the

bright bracelets are called. And "jungle-ist." That's a raver who's into jungle. Jungle's a genre of electronic music. I was a jungle-ist. Other jungle-ists loved me because I have a camo tattoo and a skull tat-

too with a bandana over his face, which makes it kind of jungle.  
  
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SurfDIEGO

Name: **Cliff Crenshaw**  
Lives: **Santee**  
Surfing: **Ocean Beach pier**

The winter surf season is here. More boots and hoods appear on the beach and bob in the rolling waters. Only dedicated beginners and lifelong enthusiasts pad-dle out.

Cliff Crenshaw drives the 20 minutes from Santee to the coast often. He's a Teamster between jobs, so he's dedicated nearly every morning to surf-ing. He surfs alone usually, but sometimes his son or brother joins him.

On this day, Cliff brought his bright red 9'6" Velzy. He's surfing Ocean Beach pier because, he says, "I like the Obecians. Most days I just surf and go home, but sometimes I'll stop in for a cocktail afterward."

His favorite spots in San Diego are "Black's, Sun-set Cliffs when it's big, and South Mission jetty." He's surfed up and down the coast from above L.A. to the south of Baja. He's vacationed in Hawaii, Florida, and Australia. "I went in summer, so Aus-



tralia was a bit small when I was there," he says. Costa Rica is next.

Of the divided surf cul-ture in San Diego — the "locals" vs. "the tourists" — Cliff says, "Oh, sure. There's all kinds. People can be jerks about their surf spot, but

they leave me alone. I've been surfing here almost 35 years; nobody bothers me." Cliff's family moved here from Florida in 1973.

Cliff says the worst part of his surfing career has been the awful wipeouts; the best thing is that he has saved

three people from drowning. "When you see some-body drowning, you just have to ditch your board and drag them in."

See the video  
Go to San DiegoReader.com  
Click on SurfDiego

**CARLSBAD.** \$100. 1-car size garage for parking and/or dry storage only. 1000 Chiquapin. 858-755-4721.

**OFFICE SPACE.** 150 Square feet. \$300/month. La Mesa. Easy freeway access. Quiet area. 8900 Grossmont Boulevard. Bob Cota Realty. 619-465-9934.

**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.

**LA JOLLA OFFICE SPACE.** 600 square feet. 2 separate units. Recently carpeted. Near ocean. \$1200. \$1300. kitchen and bath. Designated parking. New air conditioning. Lease. 6525-6527 La Jolla Boule-vard. 619-260-0752.

**CARMEL VALLEY.** Commercial office sub-lease. 200 square feet. \$3.65 per square foot. Large office (18x10) plus 11 large (8x8) telemarketing cubes. Move in ready. 619-980-0150.

**GOLDEN HILL.** Storage, shed, 6'x10', clean, new, \$45, deposit \$45. 1-year lease. 619-368-9410.

**SORRENTO VALLEY.** I-5. Sports/dance studio. Airconditioned, hardwood floor, mirrored walls. Hourly basis, low as \$10/hour. Monday-Friday until 3pm, Sat-urday evenings, Sunday times available. 858-622-9696.

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**NORTH PARK OFFICE SPACE** available from 315-1130 square feet at only \$1.00 per square foot. 3930 Oregon Street. www.utopiamanagement.com. 619-291-5555.

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RENTALS  
Houses

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**BAY PARK.** 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. Garage. Upgrades throughout. 7500 square foot lot. No pets. 2103 Burgener Boulevard. \$2550. 619-518-2005.

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**CHULA VISTA/EASTLAKE,** Brand new home, 4 bedroom, plus extra bonus room, 2.5 bath, 2972 square feet. Fireplace. Beautifully landscaped. \$2750/month, 619-813-5990, 619-479-2400.

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**CHULA VISTA.** \$895. Charming 1 bed-room, 1 bath cottage. Clean, quiet, se-cure, ready for move-in. Will not last! 215 Glover #A. Call Rachael 619-804-1044.

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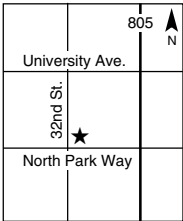
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**BANKER'S HILL.** \$1750. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, fireplace, porch. Nonsmoking unit. Under 25 pound pet with \$500 additional deposit. Street parking. 2930 Columbia Street #B. CCPM, 619-296-6699.

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**CARMEL MOUNTAIN RANCH.** 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, 1-car garage. Vaulted ceilings, washer/dryer, beige paint. 1-year lease. Available 12/28/07. \$1795. Peter. 858-663-5695.

**CARMEL VALLEY.** Looking for affordable luxury living? 1 and 2 bedrooms. Flexible leases; call for current rates. Near beaches, shopping, easy freeway access, great school district! Free tennis, swimming lessons! Washer/dryer. Parking. Fitness center. Pool. No pets. Club Torrey Pines, 12646 Torrey Bluff Drive. 1-866-354-2096. [www.sdreader.com/rent/2106](http://www.sdreader.com/rent/2106).

**CARMEL VALLEY.** 2 bedroom, 2 bath. 1-car garage. Gourmet kitchen, granite, new appliances. Balcony, fireplace. Small dogs considered. \$2200. Craig, Advent Property Management, 858-401-0557.

**CARMEL VALLEY.** \$1450. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo. Large loft. Carport. No pets. Washer/dryer. Fireplace. Sky-light. Pool. Dishwasher. 4049 Carmel View Road #76. Juno, 619-275-3455.

**CASA DE ORO.** Half off first month, OAC! \$1050, 2 bedroom. \$1300, 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Spacious. Laundry, balconies, pool. Military accepted. Espanol. 619-857-0365.

**CASA DE ORO.** Mount Helix. 1 bedrooms starting at \$850. 2 bedrooms starting at \$1025. Park/garden-like settings. Pool. Spa. Close to all shopping. Cats welcomed with deposit. Conrad Villas Apartments. 3917 Conrad Drive. Visit our website: [www.progressmanagement.net](http://www.progressmanagement.net) or call 619-697-6323.

**CHULA VISTA.** \$855, including garage, large 1 bedroom apartments. Walk-in closets, laundry on site. Pool, jacuzzi, gas grill, park-like setting. 619-425-0670.

**CHULA VISTA.** \$1950/month. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. 1469 estimated square feet. Big back yard. 2-car garage. Community pool. 2575 Saddlehorn. 619-471-2201.

**CHULA VISTA.** \$100 off first month's rent! Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1100 with \$900 deposit OAC. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$900 with \$800 deposit. Pool, laundry room. Close to mall/freeway. Available now. 433 D Street. 619-632-0080.

**CHULA VISTA.** \$825. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, "all utilities included." New carpet, paint, clean, quiet, secure and ready now. On-site laundry, pool, parking. Best deal in South Bay! 540 Flower Street. If you can find one better, rent it! Crista, 619-425-5451 or Rachael, 619-804-1044.

**CHULA VISTA.** \$825. Cute 1 bedroom, 1 bath bungalow. Remodeled unit. Garages available. Call 619-420-2205. [www.sdaprbrokers.com](http://www.sdaprbrokers.com).

**CHULA VISTA.** Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Gated, central air/heat, dishwasher, balcony, laundry, off-street parking. Section 8 OK. No pets. \$1125. Deposit \$800. 619-425-6511.

**CHULA VISTA.** \$945. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Beautiful garden courtyard. Controlled access. Very clean. Air conditioning. No pets. 540 Naples Street. TPPM, 619-422-5709.

**CHULA VISTA.** \$995. 2 bedroom, 1 bath in beautiful luxury property with central vacuum and air conditioning. Controlled access parking. No pets. 161 5th Avenue. TPPM, 619-420-8161.

**CHULA VISTA.** \$875. 1 bedroom in luxury property with central vacuum and air conditioning. Beautiful garden setting, controlled access parking, no pets. 144 Garrett Avenue. TPPM, 619-585-1959.

**CHULA VISTA.** Large downstairs 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath. Jacuzzi, pool, laundry on-site. Lots of storage space. Patio, barbecue grill, assigned gated parking. Near all. 212 Palomar #2. \$1200. 858-483-5111 x10 or apply online at [www.melroyproperties.com](http://www.melroyproperties.com).

**CITY HEIGHTS.** \$995. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo. Pools. Laundry. No Section 8.

Gated community. Near freeway/shopping/downtown. Cats OK. Year lease. Susan, 619-980-6823.

**CITY HEIGHTS.** \$675, rent. \$600 deposit, OAC. 1 bedroom duplex. New carpet. No pets. At 4331-1/2 41st Street. 619-299-8515.

**CITY HEIGHTS.** 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$995 plus \$500 deposit OAC. Huge apartments with parking, pool, laundry. Call 619-284-1045. [www.melroyproperties.com](http://www.melroyproperties.com).

**CITY HEIGHTS.** Two 2 bedroom/2 baths, 850 square feet, newly renovated, \$995. Two 1 bedroom, 1 baths, 600 square feet, \$750. Near SDSU. 4316 52nd Street. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. [www.peoplehelpingothers.com](http://www.peoplehelpingothers.com).

**CLAIREMONT/KEARNY MESA.** Wexford Manor. Large 1 and 2 bedrooms in beautiful complex with pool, spa, laundry, air conditioning, dishwasher. Sorry, no pets. \$995-\$1295. Photos at [www.WexfordLiving.com](http://www.WexfordLiving.com). 7870 Stalmer Street. 858-277-4843.

**CLAIREMONT.** Free daily continental breakfast, HBO, concierge service, maid/linen service! No lease! Furnished studios from \$395/week; \$1195/month! Corporate housing available. Utilities included! Microwave. Mini-refrigerator. Laundry. Heated pool, spa. Central location. Garden surroundings. Parking. No pets. California Suites Hotel, 5415 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. 1-888-475-7147. [www.sdreader.com/rent/2035](http://www.sdreader.com/rent/2035).

**CLAIREMONT.** \$1125, 2 bedroom with balcony. Upstairs. Pool. Laundry. New carpet. Off-street parking. No pets. Available now. 7322 Mesa College Drive. 858-560-6204.

**CLAIREMONT.** Bay Ho. \$1195. 1 bedroom. Remodeled. Parking. Pool. Laundry in complex. Close to freeways and beach. Available January 2008. No pets. 1-year lease. Call Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.

**CLAIREMONT/MISSION BAY.** "Unbeatable move-in Specials!" Up to \$500 off move on select units. Newly remodeled 1, 2 bedrooms. 1 bedroom starting \$1085. 2 bedrooms starting \$1300. Air conditioning. Movie theatre. Pet deposit. Gym. Yoga. Pool. Coral Bay Canyon, 3309 Cowley Way. Toll free: 1-877-585-1146. [www.CoralBayApartments.com](http://www.CoralBayApartments.com). [www.sdreader.com/rent/1031](http://www.sdreader.com/rent/1031).

**CLAIREMONT.** \$985. 1 bedroom. \$1250, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Gated. Parking. Pool, spa. Workout room. Laundry. 5150 Balboa Arms Drive. Call 858-571-0104. [www.kandrpproperties.com](http://www.kandrpproperties.com).

**CLAIREMONT.** \$1300. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. First month free! 1000 square feet. Dishwasher. On-site laundry. Pool. Near freeways. Mount Alifan Place. Agent, 619-692-4121.

**CLAIREMONT/MISSION BAY.** Up to \$500 off! 1 bedroom, 1 bath from \$1085. 2 bedroom, 1 bath from \$1300. Dishwasher, microwave. Tennis, basketball. Movie theatre, pool, gym, yoga lessons. Pet with deposit. Available now. Monday-Saturday, 9am-6pm. Sunday, 10am-5pm. Coral Bay Park, 3309 Cowley Way. [www.CoralBayCanyonAndParkApartments.com](http://www.CoralBayCanyonAndParkApartments.com). Call: 1-877-585-1146. [www.sdreader.com/rent/1070](http://www.sdreader.com/rent/1070).

**CLAIREMONT.** \$3200. 3 bedroom, 2 bath house with boat/RV storage. Lots of privacy. Wonderful garden with flowers, grapes, blackberries. May also rent furnished. 619-990-2979.

**CLAIREMONT.** \$1440/month, plus deposit. 2 bedroom 1-1/2 bath condo. Granite countertops, surround sound, balcony. Pool, gym, on-site parking and laundry. 858-531-7133.

**COLLEGE AREA/ROLANDO.** \$625. Large studio cottage, Quiet area. No dogs/cats. 4560 Rolando Boulevard. 858-292-6046.

**COLLEGE AREA.** \$850. Remodeled 1 bedroom, 1 bath garden apartments. Ample off-street parking. Laundry facilities. Lots of light. Walking distance to SDSU and shopping. No pets. 619-287-9890; numeric page 619-407-1355.

**COLLEGE AREA.** \$1350. Extra large 3 bedroom, 1 bath, parking, laundry, close to all. Rent reduced for apartment management. Experienced, references, tools. No pets. 619-465-6588.

**COLLEGE AREA.** Remodeled studio. Upper unit/behind house. Separate entry, kitchen, bath. 350 square-feet. \$850/month includes utilities, cable, Internet. 6172 Mary Lane Drive. 760-603-0057; 619-871-6909.

**COLLEGE AREA/TALMADGE.** \$735-\$900. Nice 1 bedroom, 2 bedroom apartments. Quiet building, downstairs, large rooms. Coin laundry. Cat OK. 4438 Menlo Avenue. Agent, 619-469-7790. [www.westmanproperties.com](http://www.westmanproperties.com).

**COLLEGE AREA.** From \$775. 1 bedroom. Sparkling pool, on-site laundry, barbecue. Central location, near all. New carpet and accessories. No pets. 4333 College Avenue. 619-287-8380.

**COLLEGE AREA.** \$750-\$775. 1 bedroom. Near shops. Laundry room. No pets. 6769 El Cajon Boulevard. Apartments in rear courtyard. 619-464-0901.

**COLLEGE AREA/SAN CARLOS.** \$1145, 2 bedroom, 1.25 bath condo. Second floor. Balcony. Great parking. Tile, upgrades. Pets OK! Air, pool, clubhouse. Available 12/20/07. 619-887-0440.

**COLLEGE AREA.** \$1325, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Fireplace. Central heat/air. Microwave, dishwasher. Balcony. Gated. Intercom entry. 4828 Art Street. Agent, 619-298-7724.

**COLLEGE AREA.** \$1025. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. Garage. Stove. Refrigerator. Blinds. Washer/dryer hookups. Fenced yard. No pets. Near The Grove. 3547 College Avenue. Agent, 619-298-7724.

**COLLEGE AREA.** 2 and 3 bedroom homes. Some with hardwood floors and yard. Several to choose from. Washer and dryer connections, garages and gardeners included. Apartment Finders. Free service! 619-296-2787.

**COLLEGE AREA.** \$1350. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo in the attractive Sunrise Community, 1100 square feet, all kitchen appliances, balcony, outside storage, common garage parking, water paid. 5980 Dandridge Lane #238. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. [www.peoplehelpingothers.com](http://www.peoplehelpingothers.com).

**COLLEGE AREA.** 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo \$1295. Upstairs, fireplace, washer/dryer, dishwasher, balcony, mirrored closet doors, tandem garage. No pets. 6055 Estelle. Agent, 619-296-3189.

**COLLEGE/LA MESA.** \$850. Remodeled 1 bedroom. Clean, secure. New carpet, paint. Close to everything. On site laundry. If you can find one better; rent it. 7240 El Cajon Boulevard #25. Rachael, 619-804-1044.

**DEL MAR.** 2 bedroom, 2 bath duplex with garage. Front and back yard. Washer/dryer in units. Approximately 1300 square feet. For info call, 619-281-4006.

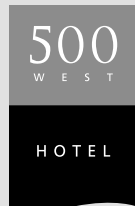
**DEL MAR.** Beautiful 1 and 2 bedrooms, some with ocean views! Heated pool, spa, fitness center, dishwasher, microwave. No pets. 526 Camino Del Mar. Agent, 858-755-4721.

**DEL MAR.** Ocean view 2 bedroom, \$1995, 3 bedrooms, \$2495. Non-view 2 bedrooms, \$1695-\$1795, 3 bedrooms, \$2295. Block to ocean. 201 Fourth Street. Call for special! 858-481-9585; [mikeatla@aol.com](mailto:mikeatla@aol.com).

**DEL MAR/SOLANA BEACH.** Ask about our holiday specials! \$1175. Newly remodeled studio located close to Del Mar Beaches, Cedro's Design District. Perfect for the Southern California lifestyle. Balconies/patios. Pool. Parking. Electricity included. Medium dogs welcome! 858-755-1466. [sandpiper.rasnyder.com](mailto:sandpiper.rasnyder.com).

**DOWNTOWN.** \$1350. 1 bedroom loft, courtyard view, balcony, parking,

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**DOWNTOWN/EAST VILLAGE.** December move-in special! Only \$613-\$736/month with 12 month lease! Utilities included! Office hours: daily 8am-6pm. Near Petco Park, bus/trolley. Fully furnished. Bay/ballpark views. Underground parking. Air conditioning. Laundry. Internet. Clubhouse/library. Income qualify! Island Village, 1245 Market Street. For details, 1-800-351-0613. www.sdreader.com/rent/2070.

**DOWNTOWN.** Brand new rooms near City College. Single rooms with kitchenettes from \$150/week plus deposit (long-term). Includes utilities/cable. Quiet, secure. Shared bath/laundry. Hotel Mediterranean. 619-231-8656. www.hotelmed-sd.com.

**DOWNTOWN.** Beautiful building, new furnished rooms. Refrigerator, microwave, TV, cable. Starting at \$175 weekly. 920 Beech Street. Call 619-234-1952.

**DOWNTOWN.** Studios with kitchen and bath, \$625-\$700. Single room with private bathroom, \$500-\$550. No smoking or pets. 10th and E Street. Hughes Management, 619-239-1639 x103.

**DOWNTOWN.** Comfortable rooms, \$450/up. Studios, \$650/up. Near Gaslamp District. Very quiet and clean. Free cable TV, on-site laundry, vending machines, community kitchen, shared bathrooms. Near shopping, restaurants, movie theatres and Horton Plaza. No pets. Arlington Apartments, 701 7th Avenue. Hughes Management, 619-231-2385. www.sdreader.com/rent/2097.

**DOWNTOWN.** Cozy rooms, \$450-\$625, grab these little jewels today! Very comfortable, convenient location, historic building near C Street trolley. Choice of shared or private bathrooms. Free cable TV, on-site laundry, vending machines, modern elevator, no pets. Southern Hotel, 1159 6th Avenue at B, Hughes Management, 619-239-3808. www.sdreader.com/rent/2099.

**DOWNTOWN.** Economical furnished rooms, \$400-\$500, best price, save money. Conveniently located on C Street trolley line, near restaurants, free cable TV, shared bathrooms, on-site laundry facilities, vending machines, elevator service, no pets, 636 C Street (between 6th and 7th). C Street Inn, Hughes Management, 619-234-4165. www.sdreader.com/rent/2098.

**DOWNTOWN.** Gaslamp area. Move-in special, \$280. Community kitchen, shared bath, on-site laundry, vending machines, no pets, Star Hotel, 522 7th Avenue. 619-235-6068. Hughes Management.

**DOWNTOWN.** Outstanding furnished rooms, \$400-\$500. Heart of Gaslamp. Shared bathrooms. Community kitchen. Free cable TV. No pets. 843 4th Avenue. Windsor Hotel, 619-235-6068. Hughes Management.

**DOWNTOWN.** Attractive rooms. Shared bath. Utilities included! Near City College! \$400-\$595 per month. Weekly rates from \$125! 719 14th Street, Villa Victoria. Hughes Management, 619-231-2385.

**DOWNTOWN.** Furnished studios. From \$59/daily, from \$210/weekly rates! Ideal, affordable, short-term stays. Private bathroom, kitchenette, microwave, refrigerator, cable TV. Air conditioning, laundry, voice mail. High speed Internet. Food service daily. Near trolley/bus/freeway, Balboa Park, Gaslamp. West Park Inn, 1840 4th Avenue. www.westparkinn.com. 619-236-1600. www.sdreader.com/rent/2037.

**DOWNTOWN.** \$600. Studio available now. Convenient location near public transportation. No pets. Close to City College at 22nd and Broadway. 619-210-4651.

**DOWNTOWN.** \$795 and up. Cool studios! Classic, spectacular building. Full kitchen/bath. Hardwood floors. Murphy beds with built-ins. Storage/laundry on site. Cat-friendly. 619-233-3973; 619-665-8307. www.floir.com/biltmore.htm.

**DOWNTOWN.** \$675. Studio, 1 bath apartment, great views, all utilities paid, near Petco Park, controlled access building. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

**DOWNTOWN.** \$775. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, cat OK with deposit, hardwood floors, paid water/trash/gas. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

**DOWNTOWN.** \$1250. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath duplex, parking included, in-unit washer/dryer, 2007 wildfire victims get discount on deposit. Fee. Free search at

www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

**DOWNTOWN.** \$1750. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths apartment, pet OK, covered parking, barbecue/picnic area, business center, spa, fitness center. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

**DOWNTOWN.** Studio. \$800 includes all utilities except electricity. Hardwood floors. View, quiet complex, gated parking, remote entry, laundry onsite. No pets. 1830 Market. 619-405-RENT(7368).

**DOWNTOWN.** \$1595 with a \$500 move-in special! 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Refrigerator, stove. Dishwasher. Washer/dryer. Exercise room. 101 Market Street, #213. 858-598-1111 x190. utopiamgmt.com.

**DOWNTOWN.** \$2995. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Refrigerator. Stove. Dishwasher. Pool. Washer/dryer. Fireplace. Patio/balcony. Gated community. Gym/exercise room. 300 West Beech Street #2003. 858-598-1111 x190. utopiamgmt.com.

**DOWNTOWN.** \$1600. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Refrigerator. Stove. Dishwasher. Air conditioner. Washer/dryer. Patio/balcony. Gated community. Gym/exercise room. 550 15th Street, #808. 858-598-1111 x190. utopiamgmt.com.

**DOWNTOWN.** \$1495. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Refrigerator. Stove. Dishwasher. Air conditioner. Spa. Washer/dryer. Patio. Balcony. Gated community. Gym/exercise room. 550 15th Street, #808. 858-598-1111 x190. utopiamgmt.com.

**DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY.** From \$800/month. Private bath, cable TV, microwave, refrigerator. Utilities included. Secure, quiet, charming. Efficiency apartments with laundry. Near trolley/bus lines, blocks from harbor. On-site manager, Villa Caterina, 1654 Columbia Street. 619-232-3400.

**DOWNTOWN/HARBOR VILLAGE.** Move-in special! \$750. Unique 1 bedroom. Balcony. Laundry. Parking. Close to base, Downtown, Coronado, NASCOC, Bay views. 2850 Main Street. 619-246-1275.

**DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP.** From \$1395. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartments. Move-in Special, 1/2 off first month! 9-foot ceilings, all appliances, central heat/air, controlled entry, parking included. William Penn Building, Corner 5th and F. Agent, 619-298-7232; visit www.sbayproperties.com.

**DOWNTOWN/GOLDEN HILL.** Large studio with full kitchen in very nice neighborhood. Hardwood floors. Close to bus

stop. 942 23rd Street. \$695. 619-994-0449.

**DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP.** \$99 moves you in! Live/work lofts. Penthouse, 1546 square feet, \$2750. Loft, 1463 square feet, cement floor, \$2425. Loft, 1163 square feet, carpeted, \$1600. Pets OK, parking available, keyless entry system, laundry facility, high speed Internet capability, central air/heat, high ceilings. Penthouse extras: granite kitchen countertops, Brazilian cherry wood floors, stainless steel appliances, 9 French doors. 1014 Fifth Avenue. Toll free: 1-888-241-3523. www.sdreader.com/rent/2145.

**DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY.** Great location! 1 bedroom, 1-1/2 baths lofts \$1750. Banker's Hill, 2 bedroom with washer/dryer, \$1650. Available now. Call 619-255-0526.

**DOWNTOWN/CORTEZ HILL.** Newer 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Available now. Parking, gated, fitness center and pool. Balcony and fireplace. Pets OK. 850 Beech Street. \$2200. 619-334-6781. www.poseidonproperty.com.

**DOWNTOWN/CORTEZ HILL.** 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, balcony, all appliances, washer/dryer. Underground parking. Rooftop spa, great view. Pets negotiable. Available now. \$1725. 858-449-8497.

**DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP.** Las Flores Hotel. Small, quiet. \$120/week and up. Four-week minimum. Color TV with basic cable. Refrigerator in most rooms. Secure. 619-235-6820.

**DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP.** Move-in Specials. Live/Work Lofts in the heart of The Gaslamp! Roof decks with barbecue. Laundry on every floor. Parking available. Seven locations Downtown. Select pets OK. Visit loft leasing office: 315 Fourth Avenue. 619-231-1505 x12. www.trilogymanagement.com. Also visit www.sdreader.com/rent/2064.

**DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY.** 1501 Front Street #432. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1500. Great condo! 663 estimated square feet. reader@sdcpm.net. SDCPM, 800-246-2530.

**EL CAJON.** \$775. 1 bedroom. New carpet, refrigerator, air conditioning. Barbecue, pool, laundry, parking, gated. 718 South Magnolia. Ask about move-in special! Section 8 OK. 619-312-0606.

**EL CAJON.** \$715. 1 bedroom. Just remodeled! Beautiful landscape with gated entry. No pets. 1018 East Lexington Avenue. TPPM, 619-838-8088. www.eastwindsapts.com.

**EL CAJON.** \$695. 1 bedroom. Fabulous pool/courtyard complex. Super clean apartments. No pets. 314 Wisconsin Street. TPPM, 619-742-7600. www.palmetstates.info.

**EL CAJON.** Spacious apartments. 1 bedroom, \$800/up. 2 bedrooms, \$950/up. Pool, onsite laundry, assigned parking, freeway close. Pets welcome! Ask about move-in specials! Anabel Court Apartments, 303 East Madison Avenue. 619-579-5640.

**EL CAJON.** Gated community park. Trailers for rent, different sizes. From \$450-\$850. Plus utilities/deposit. Conveniently located, close to trolley, bus, shopping. No pets. 619-334-0591.

**EL CAJON.** 1 bedroom, \$700. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$800 & up. Great amenities, air conditioning, laundry on-site, pool, recreation room, parking. Lushly landscaped. No pets. 294 Ballantyne. 619-440-3044.

**EL CAJON.** Cajon Villas. \$785. 1 bedroom, \$985. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. \$1270. 3 bedroom. Pool. Parking. Air conditioning. No pets. 933 Peach Avenue. 619-447-9193.

**EL CAJON.** \$725. 1 bedroom. Air conditioning. Gated. Pool. Laundry. Parking. Available 12/5. 506 Emerald Avenue #12. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

**EL CAJON.** 1 bedroom, \$795. 2 bedroom, \$925. \$200 off move-in special! OAC. Smaller, quiet community. Patios, balconies around nice courtyard. On-site laundry facility. Pool area. Near busline. Villa Mollison, 991 North Mollison. 619-588-1780.

**EL CAJON.** \$1195. 2 bedroom, 2 bath remodeled condo with air conditioning, carpet, fresh paint, and wooden blinds, fireplace, granite counters. Pool, spa, and gym. 858-598-1111 x192. utopiamgmt.com.

**EL CAJON.** \$1195. Christmas special! Now offering 1/2 month free, off the first month's rent. The \$1000 security deposit can be paid in two installments (\$1097.50 to move in). Beautiful, 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhouse. Backyard. New carpet/paint/tile/appliances. On-site laundry. Parking. No dogs. Credit check. 1236 Persimmon Avenue. 619-938-3242.

**EL CAJON.** Move-in special! 1/2 off first month's rent. OAC. \$1150. 2 bedroom townhome. New carpet, new wood floors and tile. New paint. Coin-op laundry facility with community pool. Available now. 294 Chambers Street #9. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

**EL CAJON.** \$900/up. 2 bedroom, 1 and 2 stories. Amenities. Pool, park-like grounds, parking. Near town, shops, bus. 743 South Magnolia Avenue. Call 619-579-0174. 619-464-1818.

**EL CAJON.** Make it your home for the holidays! \$200 off first month! 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhome, \$1100. Freshly painted. New appliances, carpet. Patio. Small gated community. Laundry facilities. Pool. No pets. 1397 East Washington. 619-593-6602. stratfordarmsapts.com.

**EL CAJON.** \$850. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs. Carpet. Dishwasher. Laundry room. One assigned parking. No pets. Available now. 1423 Peach Avenue. Phillips Realty, 619-291-6686 or Pablo, 619-249-2770.

**EL CAJON.** Starting at \$695. 1 bedrooms. El Cajon's best maintained property with beautiful courtyard and sparkling pool. No pets. 1072 East Madison Avenue. TPPM, 619-444-1614. www.fourwindsapts.info.

**EL CAJON.** Spacious 2 & 3 bedrooms from \$825. \$300 move-in special! Townhomes. Private patios. Great location with on-site parking and laundry. 432-441 Dominguez Way. TPPM, 619-405-4500.

**ENCINITAS.** Treat yourself to this elegantly furnished 1 bedroom at Moonlight Beach. Walk to shops, restaurants, Coaster. Gourmet kitchen, washer/dryer, dishes, linens. \$2195/month. 760-753-4101.

**ENCINITAS.** 1 bedroom, 1 bath charming guesthouse/cottage. Olivenhain area. Den, fireplace, washer/dryer, private yard/patio, Nonsmoker. Cat OK. \$1350. 760-942-7174 or 619-560-5291.

**ENCINITAS.** \$1425. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo, one assigned open parking. Use of pool, on-site coin laundry. Water/trash paid. No pets. Lease. 760-685-3022.

## RENTALS

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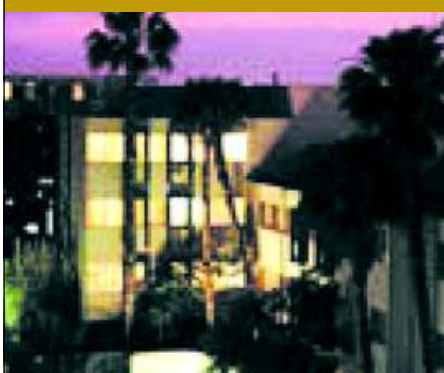
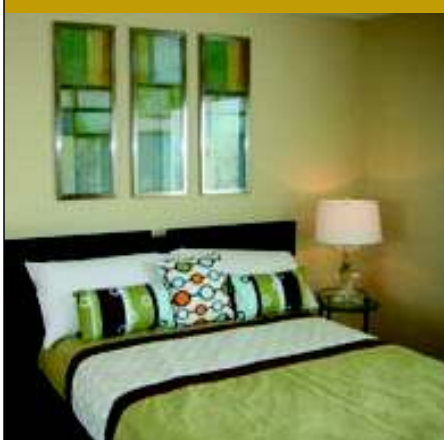


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**ESCONDIDO.** Call for specials! Spacious 1 bedrooms from \$835, deposit \$400. 2 bedrooms from \$995, deposit \$500. Great floor plan. Pool, spa. Covered parking. Laundry. RV parking. Cats are welcome. 647. West Lincoln Street. 760-489-8989.

**ESCONDIDO.** \$1250-\$1500. Tired of apartment living? Beautiful 2 & 3 bedroom manufactured homes offer spectacular hilltop views. Full-sized washer/dryer, some small yards. Peaceful community, sorry no pets. 1924 Sheridan Avenue. 760-745-1677.

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**FASHION HILLS.** \$2595. 3 bedroom, 3 bath townhouse. 2-car garage. Gorgeous, with designer finishes. Granite. Pets negotiable Available immediately. 6880 Camino Berdecio. Boone Property Management. 858-274-3600. www.booneproperties.com.

**FASHION VALLEY.** \$1250 rent. \$600 deposit, OAC. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Granite counters. 2 parking spots. No pets. At 1355 Brunner Street. 619-298-5820.

**FASHION VALLEY/USD.** \$1300. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath upper unit with view of SeaWorld and the bay. Parking. Cat OK. Available beginning of December. 5946

Lauretta Street #7. Call CCPM, 619-296-6699.

**FASHION VALLEY.** \$1100. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Huge walk in closet. Dishwasher. On site parking. Balcony. No pets. 5720 Gaines Street. 619-299-3477.

**FASHION VALLEY.** \$1250. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, lower unit. Near USD. Available beginning of January. View of the bay. Cat OK. Street parking. 5919 Mildred Street #B. CCPM, 619-296-6699.

**GOLDEN HILL.** \$795. 1 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. Fenced patio. Off-street parking. Convenient location. 1239 33rd Street. Hughes Management, 619-239-1639 x102.

**GOLDEN HILL.** Contemporary furnished studio in upcoming community. Available now. Minutes from Downtown. \$1300/month. All utilities, underground parking, DSL, balcony. For detail and viewing. 619-595-0111. www.vantaggiosuites.com.

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**GOLDEN HILL/DOWNTOWN.** Call for great move-in special! 1 bedrooms from \$1120. 2 bedrooms from \$1405. 2 bedrooms townhomes from \$1685. City views. Controlled access. Washer/dryer, microwave, central air/heat. Rooftop deck. Spa. Barbecue areas. Parking. Pet friendly! Golden Pacific, 1015 19th Street. 1-800-433-6156. www.pacificliving.com. www.sdreader.com/rent/2028.

**GOLDEN HILL.** \$1695. Cityscape. Nice 2 bedroom condo. Dramatic Downtown views! 3rd floor, granite, stainless appliances. Cat OK. 1233 22nd Street #14. Agent, 619-469-7790. www.westmanproperties.com.

**GOLDEN HILL.** \$795. 1 bedroom upstairs apartment with view of Park. Hardwood floors. Cat OK. Near 28th and A Streets. Available now. 619-234-5355.

**GOLDEN HILL.** 3102 G Street. Large studio. Off-street parking. Walk-in closet. Nice! Utilities, Internet, cable, water paid. Full kitchen. Very private. \$800/month. 619-838-8282.

**GOLDEN HILL/DOWNTOWN.** Junior 1 bedroom, \$825 includes utilities. Hardwood floors, decorator colors, laundry. Cat OK with deposit. On bus line. 619-231-8723.

**GOLDEN HILL/SOUTH PARK.** \$1350. 2 bedroom duplex with private yard for pet. Hardwood floors, large closets, built in storage. Breakfast nook in sunny kitchen. Great residential neighborhood with ample street parking, 9 blocks from Balboa Park, 5 minutes to Downtown San Diego. Rent includes water and gardener. Open House December 15, noon-2pm. 3303 Beech Street. Please call 619-921-1695 or relwardani@lorberlaw.com.

**GOLDEN HILL.** \$625. Must see! Delightful studio in beautiful Victorian overlooking Downtown. Hardwood floors, bay window, kitchen with full-size refrigerator, laundry on-site. \$500/deposit. Loren, 619-997-0273.

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**HILLCREST.** Spacious 1 and 2 bedrooms! Berber carpet, fireplace, spa, gym, intercom, elevator. Sorry, no pets. Hillcrest Summit, 4134 4th Avenue. See photos at www.WexfordLiving.com. 619-299-0047.

**HILLCREST.** \$1600. Charming, bright 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Canyon views. Hardwood floors. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher. Onsite laundry. Parking. Pets on approval. 3983 Georgia Street. 619-280-2658.

**HILLCREST.** \$1050 rent. \$600 deposit, OAC. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. No pets. At 3831 First Avenue #1. 619-299-8515.

**HILLCREST.** Hillcrest Palms. Senior complex. 55+ living! \$900. 1 bedroom apartments. Gated community. Convenient

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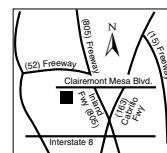
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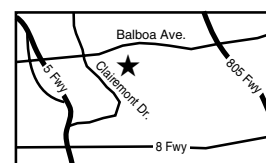
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location. Near hospitals, restaurants, shopping. No pets. 4042 Albatross Street. 619-574-0784.

**HILLCREST.** \$895. 1 bedroom, upstairs. Remodeled. Stove, refrigerator. Dishwasher, microwave. Cold laundry. Great location. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Available now. 3730 First. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. 858-270-2071. www.delsolpm.com.

**HILLCREST.** \$1650. 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhome with hardwood and tile flooring, granite counters, stainless appliances, washer/dryer, spa and sundeck with view. 858-598-1111 x192. utopiangmt.com.

**HILLCREST.** \$1400. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Secured parking, 4th floor, great views! Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher. No pets. Available now. Michael 858-597-6100 x321.

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**HILLCREST.** \$995. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Vaulted ceilings. Walk to Balboa Park and shopping, parking. Laundry. Available 01/01/08. 3820 8th Avenue #1. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

**HILLCREST.** Senior building 62+. \$825/month. \$350 deposit. 1 bedroom apartments. Fresh paint, new carpet/blinds, gated building with intercom. Elevator. Recreation room. On site laundry. Air conditioning. Cats/small dog OK. Section 8 OK. 1220 Robinson Avenue. Please contact resident manager, 619-291-7284. www.scott@hendershawandassociates.com.

**HILLCREST.** Remodeled, luxury with garage! All redone granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, maple wood cabinetry. Community sundeck courtyard 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.

**HILLCREST.** 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 \$1750/month. Large 1

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bedroom, 1 bath \$1395/month. Sorry, no pets. Lease option available. 1030 Robinson Avenue. Call Nicol at 619-807-7053.

**HILLCREST.** Wood floors, large floor plan. Month to month. Granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, maple wood cabinetry. 2 bedroom, 2 bath \$1850/month. 1 bedroom, 1 bath \$1495/month. Sorry, no pets. Lease option available. 4093 First Avenue. Call Nicol at 619-807-7053.

**HILLCREST.** \$950. Great cottage. 1 bedroom, 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, 619-249-2770.

**HILLCREST.** \$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 "Numbers." Phillips Realty, 619-291-6686 or Pablo, 619-249-2770.

**HILLCREST.** \$825. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs. Carpet. One assigned parking space. Laundry room. No pets. Available now. 3820 Georgia Street between Robinson Avenue and University Avenue. Phillips Realty, 619-291-6686 or Pablo, 619-249-2770.

**HILLCREST.** Open house, Saturday 12/8, 10am-3pm. \$1000. 2-1/2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Second floor. Carpet, air conditioning, laundry room shared with tenants. Street parking. No pets. 3843 Park Boulevard. Phillips Realty, 619-291-6686, or Pablo 619-249-2770.

**HILLCREST.** \$795. \$300 off 1st month. Large studio. Hardwood floors. Laundry. Gated complex. Near Balboa Park. Minutes to Downtown. Cats OK. 415 Juniper Street. 619-300-9487.

**HILLCREST.** \$1025. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath, downstairs, beautiful complex, washer/dryer, balcony, elevator, parking.

Near Balboa Park. Cat OK. 4155 Georgia Street. 619-297-7662.

**HILLCREST.** \$1275. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath, downstairs, beautiful complex, washer/dryer, balcony, elevator, parking. Near Balboa Park. Cat OK. 4155 Georgia Street. 619-297-7662.

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**HILLCREST.** \$975. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Immaculate apartment with off-street parking. Near Henry's Marketplace. No pets. 4219 Georgia Street. TPPM, 619-299-1004.

**HILLCREST.** Ask about our move-in special! Studios from \$750. 1 bedrooms from \$950. Great floor plan. Easy freeway access. 4124 Campus Avenue. 619-294-2871.

**HILLCREST.** Studio, \$835. Great location, quiet area. Off-street parking, laundry. Cat OK. 4166 4th Avenue. 619-298-7868. hilltopterrace.rasnyder.com.

**HILLCREST/UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS.** \$1495. Bright 2 bedroom, 2 bath upstairs condo. Garage plus driveway parking. Vaulted ceilings. Fireplace. Washer/dryer. Appliances. French doors; balcony. Pets negotiable. Available 1/1/08. 4475 Campus Avenue. 619-294-7867.

**HILLCREST/NORTH PARK.** Quiet, charming, cozy deluxe 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1300. Gated, fireplace. All appliances, washer/dryer, skylight, private patio, 2 parking spaces. Cats OK. Nonsmoking. 3680 Alabama Street. Available December 23. 619-269-5237.

**HILLCREST/UNIVERSITY** Heights. \$1250. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, recently, remodeled, granite counters, crown molding, limestone floors. Spacious ground floor unit in small gated complex. Assigned parking. Laundry. 619-683-2370.

**HILLCREST/BALBOA PARK.** \$1250. 1 bedroom. Vintage 1920s large downstairs

in 4-plex. Stove, refrigerator, wood floors, formal dining room with built-in buffet. Entry system. Shared patio. Small garage. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Available 12/10. 1632 Upas. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. 858-270-2071. www.delsolpm.com.

**HILLCREST/MISSION HILLS.** Holiday discount! Huge 2 bedroom. Balcony. Ample closets! Laundry. Parking. Ceramic tile, carpet. Lobby intercom. 3836 Front Street. \$1325. Appointment: Broker, 619-548-4599.

**IMPERIAL BEACH.** \$1495. Newly remodeled 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath condos. Steps to beach. Heated pool, views. All appliances. 1111 Seacoast. Agent Bill, 619-823-1674.

**IMPERIAL BEACH.** \$895. 2 bedroom. Secure building. Parking. Cul-de-sac. 1166 Ivy Lane. 619-301-8654.

**IMPERIAL BEACH.** \$795. 1 bedroom in well-maintained garden setting. Pool, parking, laundry. No pets. 1445 Grove Avenue. TPPM, 619-575-0778.

**IMPERIAL BEACH.** Furnished 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, \$1995, or unfurnished \$1695. Pool/spa. Must see! 1979 Avenida del Mexico #123. Agent, 858-560-1178.

**KENSINGTON/TALMADGE.** \$1125. Spacious, 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Nice, newer building. Washer/dryer included, fireplace, carport. No pets. 4452 Highland Avenue. Agent, 619-469-7790. www.westmanproperties.com.

**KENSINGTON.** \$1295-\$1350. Extra large 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, skylights, fully equipped kitchen. All amenities, coin laundry, off-street parking. No pets. Call 858-456-2098.

**KENSINGTON.** \$895. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Hardwood floors. Very nice! Available 01/10/08. 4118 Adams Avenue #2. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

**KENSINGTON.** \$1450. Beautiful 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhouse. Garage. Large enclosed patio, two balconies. Fireplace. Gated. Laundry hookups. 4166 Monroe

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**LA COSTA.** Large 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath townhome available now. Adjacent to resort. Dual-level, views, fireplace, garage, decks, 2 miles to beach. 7025 Estrella De Mar. Pets OK. \$2350. Poseidon Property Group, 619-334-6781.

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**LA JOLLA VILLAGE** from \$1025. Charming 1 bedrooms. Pool, laundry, elevator. Walk to La Jolla Cove and business district. No pets. 858-459-8254. www.casalindaapartments.com.

**LA JOLLA** Woodlands. Large 1 bedroom tri-level loft townhouse with attached garage. Includes all appliances, pool, spa, and sauna. \$1695. Available after 12/17. 214-500-8349.

**LA JOLLA, SOUTH.** Luxury 2 bedrooms starting at \$1895. Steps to beach, balcony, pool, spa, views, controlled access. No pets. Nonsmoking. Office at 5060 La Jolla Boulevard. Open Monday through Saturday, 9am-5pm or call TPPM, 858-483-7412 for information. www.casadelmar.info.

**LA JOLLA/UCSD.** \$1475. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Near shops. Balcony. Garden window. Laundry. No pets. Available after 12/1. 8849 Villa La Jolla Drive. 858-457-4509.

**LA JOLLA.** Studio. Amazing location. One block to Starbucks, beach and bus.

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**LA JOLLA.** \$1400. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, second floor, stove, refrigerator, window treatment, dishwasher. Off street parking for 1 car. Nonsmoking/no pets. 858-454-5419.

**LA JOLLA.** Windansea Beach, 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, off-street parking, coin-laundry. No pets. \$2000/month. 311 Nautilus. 619-508-1513.

**LA JOLLA.** \$995. Studio in the village. Garden setting. New windows. Laundry room. No pets. 7555 Herschel Avenue. 858-459-1102.

**LA JOLLA.** \$1950. 2 bedroom, 1 bath townhouse. 3 levels. Laundry, balcony, covered deck, garage. New appliances, hardwood floors. Clubhouse/spa, etc. UCSD close. Pets okay. 619-628-1810.

**LA JOLLA.** \$1800. 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath apartment. 1 block to Windansea Beach. Off-street parking and on-site laundry. 329 Rosemont Street. Boone Property Management. 858-274-3600. www.booneproperties.com.

**LA JOLLA.** \$1250. 1 bedroom. 2nd floor. Controlled access. Pool. Secured parking. Laundry. No pets. Steps to beach. Available 12/15. 6655 La Jolla Boulevard. 858-882-7494.

**LA JOLLA.** \$1450. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo. 2 blocks/beach! Top floor; end unit. Covered parking. Balcony. Pools. Gym. No pets. kccowan@pacbell.net, 760-533-3140.

**LA JOLLA.** 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath condo. 2-car garage. Quiet community! Features fireplace, all appliances, great storage, wet bar. Dual master bedrooms! \$1995. 858-598-1111 x190. www.utopianmanagement.com.

**LA JOLLA/WINDANSEA.** 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Parking. New paint/carpet/appliances. \$1950/monthly. For immediate occupancy. Call 858-485-8121 or cell, 858-722-6851.

**LA JOLLA/WINDANSEA.** \$1850. 2 bedroom, 1 bath with fireplace and garage. One block to surf and sand. Garden courtyard. No pets. Open Saturday 2:30-3:30pm. 338 Palomar Avenue. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

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San Diego Reader December 6, 2007 163



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**LA MESA.** \$795 rent. \$600 deposit, OAC. Large 1 bedroom, detached cottage. No pets. At 4859 or 4861 Jessie Street (east of 73rd). 619-299-8515.

**LA MESA.** \$920/up, 1 bedroom. \$1220/up, 2 bedroom. Across Grossmont Center, trolley, Costco. Quiet, spacious units. Pools. Mellmanor Apartments, 8750 Mellmanor Drive. 619-461-1940.

**LA MESA.** \$835. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Parking. Pool. On-site laundry. No pets. 6-month lease. 5436 Vincetta Court. Call 619-462-8896. [www.kandrproperties.com](http://www.kandrproperties.com).

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**LA MESA.** \$700. Studio. 600 square feet. Parking. Laundry. Pool. Balcony. 4851 73rd Street. Call 619-697-8458. [www.kandrproperties.com](http://www.kandrproperties.com).

**LA MESA.** \$1025. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Garage. Laundry. Cat OK. 5027 Guava Avenue. Call 619-980-5177. [www.kandrproperties.com](http://www.kandrproperties.com).

**LA MESA.** \$1500-\$1900. Quiet furnished/unfurnished 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. 2-car garage. Available 1/15/08. Aztec Drive. Near park, all. Washer/dryer. Patio. Pool. Jacuzzi. No pets. 619-260-0752.

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**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 now. \$500 security deposit. Credit check required. 8447 La Mesa Boulevard at University. Please call between 9am and 5pm. Call Scott at 619-846-6615. [www.scott@hendershawandassociates.com](http://www.scott@hendershawandassociates.com).

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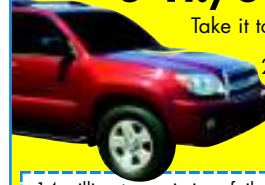
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## Believe It or Not

A few years ago I quit my job and began law school in downtown San Diego. I was a long-time Cardiff resident but decided that it would make sense to be closer to school and related activities. My options were limited, as I had three dogs — my salvation arrived when I found “two rooms in beautiful Craftsman house w/rain-tree forest backyard in South Park — dogs welcome.”

Carrie, big and loud with bright-red dyed hair and some indeterminable accent, interviewed a guy named Phil and I at the same time. Phil was interviewing for a single room that was available. The windows were open, sage was burning, and everything seemed relatively clean.

We believed Carrie when she said that others were so eager to get these rooms that we would lose out unless we signed a contract right then and there. We believed her story that the last tenants had been there for years. (Later, one tenant came by to retrieve something and told me they had been there only a few months.) We believed that Carrie was employed full-time as a writer for the Discovery Channel — along with several other tall tales. As it was, she never worked a day the whole time we were there (which ended up being less than three months) and didn't even own a word processor, let alone a computer.

The first omen came when I pulled up with some friends to start moving in. A former tenant of the back-yard studio, there to pick up some items she had left, said, “Welcome to Hell.” I wish I had paid more attention to that. The first thing I do remember really noticing is Carrie planting herself right inside the front door, scrutinizing and commenting on every item we brought in.

The next discovery was that the door to both of my rooms did not close all the way, and

there was no real door lock, only a hook-and-eye lock — get this — on the outside of the door. Then we were informed that we were forbidden to lock the door at the foot of the stairs that led up to our rooms.

I always closed my room's door carefully when leaving, as my near-blind elderly dog stayed inside while I was gone, and twice I came home to find him at the foot of the stairs. I knew then that Carrie had been snooping around in my room.

My other two dogs I put in the yard when I was gone. That rain-forest floor that was covered with leaves and had appeared so beautiful turned out to hide big piles of dog doo, left daily by the big white dog belonging to Joe — another tenant, renting a studio in the back yard. Joe never picked up the poo, and not once did I walk in that yard without stepping in it. I had to keep an extra pair of shoes on the back porch to wear and then rinse off every time.

There were greasy, filthy pots and pans on the stove and hidden in the oven. I wished I'd taken a tour of the house before moving in, but I was just glad to have found a place near school that would take dogs. The sink was always filled with dirty dishes in a wet, slimy plastic tub. The refrigerator contained items that were years old. Seriously. It was so unreal that I

took pictures of everything — sort of a “Ripley's Believe It or Not” scene. Thank goodness I had a small refrigerator and microwave upstairs. The foyer area near the back door held the washer and dryer and some bookcases containing filthy books (I mean neglected and dirty, not pornographic). Did I mention she had cats? Ten or twelve? These cats were skinny, some visibly ill, and they were terrified of people. Their litter boxes were in this foyer and were never cleaned the whole time I was there. The smell was overwhelming. Needless to say, I never used her washer and dryer.

Our shower did not drain and always flooded the floor. She finally got someone in to fix this — some cheerful “bloke” who ended up spending the night there with her. She had sat on the edge of the tub while he worked, exposing her ample bosom. It was on this night that I looked her up in a database I had access to through school — why had I not thought of doing this before? My heart stopped and my hair stood on end: she had numerous outstanding criminal and civil charges against her.

I learned that Phil was going to move out the next weekend, so I secretly made the same arrangement for myself. Saturday morning my team showed up early, and I got

out of there. We both let our deposits go, just happy to be free of the place.

Several months later I got a call from some guy who had met Phil at a coffee shop. They had been talking about living situations and discovered that they had a previous landlord in common — Carrie! This guy and another girl had just experienced the same thing we had. Their tale varied in that with them Carrie had disappeared for weeks, leaving no information, instruction, or cat food. By the time she did get in touch, disconnect notices for the utilities had arrived, and the tenants began to find dead cats around the house. Carrie told them to throw the cats in the trash!

These two wanted to take her to court to recover rent and deposit. Phil declined to testify, but I agreed to do so. They won their case, though we had to sit through a played-out drama of the defendant putting on an act that she had medical problems and was likely to pass out at any time.

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**MISSION BEACH.** \$950. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, hardwood floors, balcony, approximately 625-square-foot up-graded unit, steps to beach/bay. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

**MISSION BEACH, SOUTH.** \$825. Large studio. No pets. Nonsmoking. Parking. Appliances. Carpet/paint. Clean. Beach side. 715 San Fernando Place. Juno, 619-275-3455.

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**MISSION HILLS/HILLCREST.** \$795 rent. \$600 deposit, OAC. 1 bedroom or studio available. Hardwood floors. Parking. Laundry. No pets. At 1004 West Palm Street #A or #J. 619-299-8515.

**MISSION HILLS.** Spacious 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath duplex. Gorgeous bay/harbor view! Eat-in kitchen, balcony, garage, laundry room. Quiet neighborhood. 3152 Horton. \$1800/month. 619-291-8777, 619-929-7412.

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**MISSION HILLS, NORTH.** \$750. Large, unfurnished studio. Quiet backyard unit with deck. Views of bay and downtown. Newer kitchen. Cat OK. Nonsmoking. Garage \$75 extra. Coin laundry. 1775 Linwood Street. 760-943-8852.

**MISSION VALLEY.** \$1595. Newer 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 underground parking spaces, washer/dryer in unit, dishwasher, pool, jacuzzi, gym. Available 12/1. 619-301-9427.

**MISSION VALLEY.** Brand new 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms, 3 bedrooms from \$1505. Furnished apartments available. Gated parking garage. Courtesy patrol. Washer/dryer. Fitness center. Movie theater. Pool/spa. Pets allowed. Steps to trolley, restaurants and shops! Village at Morena Vista, 5395 Napa Street. Toll-free, 1-888-571-0840. www.sreader.com/rent/2153, www.villageatmorenavista.com.

**MISSION VALLEY.** Autumn special! From \$375/weekly. Renovated fully furnished studios/suites! Pool, spa. Full kitchen. On-site laundry. Complimentary continental breakfast. Off-street parking. Free high speed Internet, cable-80 channels, HBO! Near SDSU, Qualcomm, more! Days Inn & Suites, 5343 Adobe Falls Road. 1-800-492-9471; 619-287-1911. SanDiegoHotelsDaysInn.com. www.sreader.com/rent/2139.

**MISSION VALLEY.** \$1450. \$500 off move-in! 2 bedrooms, 1-1/2 bath townhome with laminate floors, spacious living room, dishwasher, pool, spa, and gym. 858-598-1111 x192. utopiamgmt.com.

**MISSION VALLEY.** \$1600. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Hardwood/Travertine floors. Washer/dryer. Small pet with deposit. Gated community. Pool/spa/fitness. 619-994-9117. 619-987-9118.

**MISSION VALLEY.** \$1325. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 960 square feet, 2nd floor, balcony, pools, gym, parking, water/sewage/trash and basic cable included. 6780 Friars Road #244. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. www.peoplehelpingothers.com.

**MISSION VALLEY.** \$1060. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, parking included, fitness center, fireplace. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

**MISSION VALLEY.** \$995. Large 1 bedroom condo. No pets. Nonsmoking. Parking. Balcony. Dishwasher. Carpet. Nice. Quiet. Pool. Gym. 1621 Hotel Circle South #E111. Juno, 619-275-3455.

**MISSION VALLEY/COLLEGE** Area. Ask about our holiday specials! 1 bedrooms from \$960! 2 bedrooms from \$1400. Minutes to shopping, dining, transit, SDSU. Gated community. Pool/spa. On-site laundry. Fitness center. Carpools available. 4929 Collwood Boulevard. 619-287-3020. collwoodpines.rasnyder.com.

**MISSION VILLAGE.** \$1200. 2 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs condo. Almost new conversion! Granite counters, new kitchen, ample storage. Great location! Bradstreet Investments, 619-980-5200.

**MT. HOPE.** \$900. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Parking, quiet neighborhood. 3909 C Street #C. Agent, 619-527-1478, ask for Steve.

**NATIONAL CITY.** \$99 off first month! 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$875/month plus \$600 deposit. Parking space. Water paid. 116 Palm Avenue. Call 619-474-4441.

**NATIONAL CITY.** \$750/month. 1 bedroom fully furnished. Low \$150 deposit. No SDGE deposit or hookup required. 624 East 24th Street. Office open daily. 619-474-3787.

**NATIONAL CITY.** \$695 plus utilities. 1 bedroom apartment off 16th and Highland. Close to all. No pets. Year lease. Rick. 619-422-3810.

**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** \$750 1 bedroom, 4263 42nd. \$825 1 bedroom, 4670 Cherokee. \$950 2 bedroom, 4133 37th. Very nice, on-site laundry. No pets. 760-672-0425.

**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, \$1050. Large kitchen, new paint. 2-car garage. On-site laundry. No pets; nonsmoking. Mr. A's Property Management, 619-697-1888.

**NORMAL HEIGHTS/NORTH PARK.** \$995. Charming 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Hardwood floors. Stove, refrigerator. Onsite laundry. Parking. Sorry-no pets! 4327 37th Street. 619-281-5418.

**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** \$800. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs. Gated. Laundry. 1-car garage. Available 12/10. 4379 Swift Avenue. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** \$995. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs. New paint. Ceramic tiled floors. Gated. Laundry on-site. Available 01/15/08. 4582 39th Street. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** \$1100. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath, gated building, parking, on-site laundry, air conditioning, newly redecorated. 4631 Idaho. 619-521-1901. 619-461-9415.

**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** \$1250. \$200 off! Nice, upgraded 2 bedroom, 1 bath non-smoking triplex. Gated. Attached storage. Porch. Laundry. Garage. Cat/tiny dog OK. 4461 32nd, #1. 619-283-8359.

**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** 4474 33rd Street #6. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Dishwasher, air conditioning, and washer/dryer. Off street parking. No pets. \$1050/month, \$1050 deposit. www.timcassidy.com. Cassidy, Broker, 619-275-LIST.

**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** \$945. Remodeled 2 bedroom apartment. New paint, windows, bath, more. Dishwasher. Laundry facilities. Parking space. 4525 34th Street #3. Shore Management. Call Manager, 619-280-1334.

**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** First month's rent moves you in! \$725. Studio. All utilities included. Coin laundry. Parking. Pergo floors. Custom paint and fixtures. Close to freeways. On-site manager. Cat friendly! 3185 Madison Avenue. Call Brandon, 619-584-2588 and 858-571-1970. sun-riseling.com.

**NORMAL HEIGHTS.** 2 bedroom cottage, attached garage with driveway, yard, new paint/appliances, refinished hardwood floors, many windows. \$1300. No pets/smoking. 4548 38th. 619-729-3460.

**NORTH PARK/UNIVERSITY** Heights. Upgraded 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Garage plus parking. Fireplaces, balcony, top floor. Washer/dryer. Air conditioning. Convenient to freeways, parks, restaurants. \$1850. Agent 619-303-0821.

**NORTH PARK.** \$900. Spacious 2 bedroom, upstairs. 2 story. Small complex. Laundry. Off-street parking. No pets. Available now. Mission Gorge Realty. 619-229-0231.

**NORTH PARK.** Move-in special! Senior/disabled building. 1 bedroom. Close to transportation, freeways. Available now. \$795. 3628 Monroe Avenue. Call 619-269-2246. www.melroyproperties.com.

**NORTH PARK.** \$800. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs. Completely renovated. Granite. New windows. Parking. Laundry. Available 12/20. 4053 Cherokee Avenue #8. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

**NORTH PARK.** \$1050. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath, upstairs unit. Newer carpet and paint. Laundry and parking onsite. No

pets or smoking allowed. 6 month lease. Deposit \$900. Call 619-640-6958.

**NORTH PARK.** \$950. 1 bedroom with office. Upstairs in gated 12 unit building. New Berber carpet. Dining area. Off-street parking. Laundry on site. Lots of storage. www.goldenhillpm.com. Agent, 619-234-9553.

**NORTH PARK/HILLCREST.** 1 bedroom, \$850. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, \$1050. Gated, dishwasher, laundry facilities, parking. No pets. Close to Naval Hospital, shops, freeways. 3710 Alabama Street. 619-299-1699. www.melroyproperties.com.

**NORTH PARK.** \$775. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Laundry. Parking. New carpet. Available now and 12/05/07. 4553 Texas Street #8. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

**NORTH PARK.** Move-in special, \$300 off first month rent. OAC. \$850. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Small complex. Great area. Quiet. Lower unit. Gated entry. Parking. Great location. Laundry on-site. Must see! Available 12/10/07. 4177 Illinois Street #2. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

**NORTH PARK.** \$1000. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Nice, bright and airy upper apartment. Plenty of cabinet space. Laundry and parking on site. 1 year lease. Available 12/10. 4119 Kansas Street #4119-1/2. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

**NORTH PARK.** \$1000. Nice, bright upper unit with hardwood floors, built-in china cabinet. Set in lushly landscaped gated complex. Laundry on site. 1 year lease. Available 12/15. 4058 Hamilton Street #4062-1/2 and 4064-1/2. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

**NORTH PARK.** \$800. Downstairs 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Off-street parking, small gated complex, patio, dishwasher, air conditioning, laundry on premises. No pets/smoking. 4177 Iowa Street. 619-580-8980.

**NORTH PARK.** \$995. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, lower level unit, built-ins, 1-car garage, laundry on site. No pets. 4170 Texas Street. CCPM, 619-296-6699.

**NORTH PARK.** \$775. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Brand new carpet, window coverings, custom two tone paint. Laundry and parking onsite. No pets. 4183 Alabama. Manager, 619-820-2584.

**NORTH PARK.** \$875. Spacious 1 bedroom. New carpet and vinyl. Great view. Remodeled kitchen. Cat welcome. Gated community. Great location. Call 619-298-4474.

**NORTH PARK.** \$815. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Special: \$200 off 1st month's rent!

Waived credit check fee. Swimming pool. Parking. Garden Vista Apartments. 4121 Cherokee. 619-284-8363. sunriseliving.com.

**NORTH PARK.** \$1695. Large secluded 2 bedroom, 1 bath, den, washer/dryer hookups, yard garage. Near Balboa Park. Pets welcome. 3149 Boundary Street. 619-804-3325.

**NORTH PARK.** \$1145. 1/2 off 1st month. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath. New paint, flooring, laundry, large closet, parking. Near all! Cat OK. 3345 Herman Avenue. 619-804-3325.

**NORTH PARK.** \$895. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath, balcony, air conditioning, new carpet, underground parking, laundry. No pets. Near all! 3928 Illinois Street. 619-843-0796.

**NORTH PARK.** 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Parking, laundry on site, stove, refrigerator. Nice view, upstairs, quiet. \$975/month, \$900 deposit. No pets. Available now. 1 year lease. Credit check. 3738 31st Street #H. Call Carmen, 619-887-8786.

**NORTH PARK.** \$875. Large 1 bedroom, downstairs. laundry on site. No pets. Microwave, mirrored closet doors. Available December 10. 3051 Meade Avenue #1. Go and view or apply online at www.melroyproperties.com. 858-483-5111 x10.

**NORTH PARK.** \$775/month. \$500 deposit, 1 bedroom apartments. 3940 Idaho Street #7, #10. Laundry on-site. Cats only with \$250 deposit. Conveniently located. 619-298-8383.

**NORTH PARK.** \$800. Downstairs 1 bedroom, 1 bath. All appliances. Parking. Dishwasher. Window air conditioner. Cat laundry. No pets/smoking. 4459 Arizona. 619-282-4054, 619-787-3881.

**NORTH PARK.** \$900 rent. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Seniors building, 55+. Laundry on-site. Section 8 OK. 3776 Alabama Street #C-114. 619-640-7530. www.sdforrent.com.

**NORTH PARK/Theatre District.** \$1250. Loft, huge, unusual open plan, vaulted ceilings, wood floor, delicious kitchen and bathroom. Second floor somewhat noisy. 619-987-0001.

**NORTH PARK.** \$850. Furnished, large studio condo. No pets. Underground parking. Gated. Hardwood floors. Dishwasher. Balcony. Pool/jacuzzi. Nice. 3760 Florida Street #311. Juno, 619-275-3455.

**NORTH PARK.** \$850. 1 bedroom duplex, upstairs, new paint, new carpet. Very bright and airy, lots of windows. Across from park. No pets. Available now. 2715 Lincoln Avenue. 858-483-5111 x10 or apply online at www.melroyproperties.com.

**NORTH PARK.** Luxury! New 2 bedroom, 2 bath La Boheme condo. 2-car garage. Air conditioning. Fitness center. Laundry room. 3950 Ohio Street. \$1950/month. 760-201-5160.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$935. Manager's Special. Blocks to the beach! 1 bedroom. Clean. Parking. Laundry. No pets. Seacoast Apartments, 5030 Lotus. Call Doris, 619-204-1651.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$1085. Very clean 1 bedroom cottage. 4976 Santa Monica Avenue. Hardwood floors. Nice kitchen. Laundry facilities onsite. Small pets OK. Call Josh, 619-230-1234.

**OCEAN BEACH/POINT LOMA.** \$2000. 2 bedroom townhome. Move-in special! Washer/dryer. Hot tub. Garage. 4554 West Point Loma Boulevard. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$975. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Vertical blinds, off-street parking, laundry. No pets. Near YMCA. Available now. 4419 Montalvo Street. 619-523-0763.

**OCEAN BEACH.** Beautiful beachfront ocean view! Studio, \$995. 1 bedroom, \$1075-\$1200. 2 bedroom, \$1400-\$1600. Serene security garden buildings. Hardwood floors, ceramic tile, laundry. Garages available. Pets considered. For address and availability, call 619-224-1748. For applications, call 619-501-5553.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$1095. 1 bedroom, large, upstairs, remodeled. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, coin laundry, parking. Close to cliffs. No pets. Available 12/8. 4784 Bermuda. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$1295. Charming 1 bedroom. Steps to ocean! Bay window, large kitchen, on-site laundry. \$500 off first month. No pets. 5074 Del Monte Avenue. 619-231-2727 x233.

**OCEAN BEACH.** 1 bedroom, \$900 with \$500 deposit. Remodeled. Walk to the beach. Off-street parking. Laundry room, controlled entry. 1/2 utilities paid. No pets. Available January 1. 619-223-3946.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$1450. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath. All amenities. Fireplace. Swimming pool. Onsite laundry. Off-street parking. No pets. 4825 Del Mar Avenue. 619-758-9565.

**OCEAN BEACH/SUNSET CLIFFS.** Large 2-level 3 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. View, garage, deck, laundry. 2 blocks to ocean. No smoking. Cat?/dog? 4742-1/2 Orchard. \$2700/month. 619-221-9047.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$925. Large 1 bedroom apartment. Patio, laundry, 2 blocks to beach. No dogs or cats. 5045 Lotus Street. Available now. 858-292-6046.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$790. Studio, 1 bath apartment, carpet floors, on-site laundry, basic utilities included. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$1450. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. 1-car parking included, on-site laundry. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$1400. 1 bedroom. 1-1/2 blocks to beach! Completely renovated! Hardwood floors. New stainless appliances. Granite counters. Parking. Patio. No pets! Newport Avenue. 619-244-0725.

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$650. Deposit \$350. Studio. Utilities paid. No kitchen. Refrigerator. Warming oven. Close to beach. No



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### FREE BRAKE INSPECTION BRAKES

Includes:  
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Starting at **\$79<sup>95\*</sup>** Front or rear Plus parts. Labor only. Most cars.

\*Valid for most cars. Call store for details. Each store individually owned and operated.

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166 San Diego Reader December 6, 2007

**LEAD STORY**

— The Modern Mother: Style- and environment-conscious Canadian mothers insist on cloth diapers, especially designer labels of flannel, fleece or wool-knit, according to a November report in Toronto’s *Globe and Mail*. Hand-made embroidered diapers (perhaps in tie-dye or camouflage) are priced at up to \$80 each (and some babies get to wear them only just after taking care of business in an ordinary diaper).

**Cultural Diversity**

— In October, Italy’s economic minister, noting that a third of all men over 30 still live with their parents and that rental housing markets are depressed, proposed a tax break worth the equivalent of about \$1400 for each man in his 20s who will leave Momma’s house. (A week earlier in Sicily, one mother turned her son over to the police for staying out too late. She also took away his house keys and cut off his allowance. The son, who complained that the allowance was too small, is 61 years old.)  
— The normal daily tension between India and Pakistan arises in many forms, but one nightly ceremony on the border at Wagah crossing is particularly odd: According to the *L.A. Times*, uni-

formed guards from both countries march toward each other, “glower fiercely through their mustaches” and puff themselves up, eyeball to eyeball, in a show of confidence for their respective countrymen. However, they then shake hands and close the border for the night.

**Latest Religious Messages**

— “This is a college education that I can use,” said sophomore Emily Felts, 19, as she praised the homemaking curriculum of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Men and women may be equal, the school says, but they have different roles, and for women, that includes “how to set tables, sew buttons, and sustain lively dinnertime conversation,” or how to use the Internet to track grocery coupons, according to an October dispatch in the *Los Angeles Times*. Felts said she enjoys the work (except vacuuming), but it “doesn’t matter what I think. It matters what the Bible says.”  
— In November, Catholic priests in Ireland and Northern Ireland complained about their respective governments’ proposals to lower the presumed-impaired blood-alcohol level for drivers from .08 to .05, which they say is unfair. Because of a priest shortage, current priests expect to be

driving great distances to conduct Masses this Christmas season, and since they are obliged to drink any leftover sacramental wine from each Mass, they fear inevitably approaching, or exceeding, the blood-alcohol threshold.

**Questionable Judgments**

— In October, Patty Cooper, 50, accused her landlord (the Central Vermont Community Land Trust) of failing to “accommodate” her disability under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act when it barred her “service horse” from living in her apartment. Cooper uses a wheelchair because of a brittle-bones disorder and says the miniature horse (100 pounds, 32 inches tall) not only pulls the chair but cheers her up. A trust spokesman said keeping rats out of the hay bales would be difficult enough, but he doubted Cooper’s assurance that the horse could be easily housebroken.  
— Also Questionable: (1) Japanese adults push their children to save more, but few are buying the piggy bank introduced by the TOMY Co. in November because, if not fed with savings for a period of time, the bank just explodes, scattering the contents. (2) In September, three young men in a dinghy on a canal in Australia’s Gold

Coast region stood up to moon a group of people but lost their balance and fell in, with two recovering quickly, but the third was chopped in the face by the then-circling dinghy’s outboard propeller and was in serious condition.

**Strange Days**

— Several men were arrested recently and charged with sex “crimes” involving inanimate objects. In Ayr, Scotland, Robert Stewart was convicted of sexually aggravated breach of the peace (and officially labeled a sex offender) after being caught alone and pantsless in his hostel bedroom thrusting against a bicycle. Craig McCullough, 47, was arrested in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in October after allegedly being caught “in a compromising position” with an inflatable toy doll, in an otherwise-empty public restroom. Steven Marshall, 18, was arrested in Galashiels, Scotland, in November (and officially labeled a sex offender) after being caught simulating sexual intercourse against the pavement of a city street.

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 or to WeirdNewsTips@Yahoo.com

pets. Available now. 2138 Abbott. 619-226-7368 or [www.bkbinc.com](http://www.bkbinc.com).

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$1400. Deposit \$1000. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. 1 year lease. Close to beach. Parking. Available 12/15. 4955 Brighton Avenue. 619-226-7368 or [www.bkbinc.com](http://www.bkbinc.com).

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$1295. 2 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs apartment with hardwood floors. Blocks to beach! No pets. 4903 West Point Loma Boulevard. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or [www.sunsetpacificrealty.com](http://www.sunsetpacificrealty.com).

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$995. 1 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs apartment with parking and laundry in South Ocean Beach. Blocks to Beach! No pets. 4874 Santa Cruz Avenue #8. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or [www.sunsetpacificrealty.com](http://www.sunsetpacificrealty.com).

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$1275-\$1295. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartments available with dishwasher, balconies, etc. Laundry on-site! No pets. 4231-4241 Voltaire Street. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or [www.sunsetpacificrealty.com](http://www.sunsetpacificrealty.com).

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$995. 1 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs apartment, 1/2 block to beach! Laundry on-site. No pets. 5057 Narragansett Avenue #11. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or [www.sunsetpacificrealty.com](http://www.sunsetpacificrealty.com).

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$1050. 1 bedroom, 1 bath attached cottage with hardwood floors! Block to beach. Pet on approval. 5067 Brighton Avenue. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or [www.sunsetpacificrealty.com](http://www.sunsetpacificrealty.com).

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$1150. 1 bedroom, 1 bath downstairs apartment with tile floor throughout! Steps to sand! Garage. No pets. 5064-1/2 Niagara Avenue. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or [www.sunsetpacificrealty.com](http://www.sunsetpacificrealty.com).

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$1350. 2 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs apartment with parking and laundry. 1st block on beach! No pets.

5043 Santa Monica Avenue #22. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or [www.sunsetpacificrealty.com](http://www.sunsetpacificrealty.com).

**OCEAN BEACH.** \$1350. 2 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs unit with hardwood floors in South Ocean Beach! Blocks to ocean! 4816 Del Mar Avenue. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or [www.sunsetpacificrealty.com](http://www.sunsetpacificrealty.com).

**OCEAN BEACH.** 2 bedrooms from \$1595. Gated community includes pool, spa, barbecue, bike room and recreation room with pool/ping-pong tables, kitchen with TV. Separate fitness center. On-site laundry, with 5 washers and dryers! Assigned off-street parking. Balconies. 4975 Del Monte. 619-221-8158. [cocoalpalms.rasnyder.com](http://cocoalpalms.rasnyder.com).

**OCEANSIDE.** \$925. 1 bedroom, \$1195, 2 bedroom apartments. Closets. Private yards/balconies. Great location. Pool. Laundry. Barbecue. Free garage, gas utilities, heat. No pets. 760-757-4641.

**OCEANSIDE.** New 1 and 2 bedroom units at Sunset Ridge. Flexible lease terms for those who will be deployed. Close to Mira Costa College. All appliances included, community pool, spa, recreation. \$1195-\$1550. Granite Management, 760-438-9545.

**OCEANSIDE.** \$750. Studio, 1 bath apartment, close to the beach, paid utilities. Fee. Free search at [www.westsiderentals.com](http://www.westsiderentals.com). 619-367-3333.

**OCEANSIDE.** \$1075. 2 bedroom, 1 bath triplex, 2-car garage parking, central air, central heat, in-unit washer/dryer. Fee. Free search at [www.westsiderentals.com](http://www.westsiderentals.com). 619-367-3333.

**OLD TOWN.** \$650-\$695. Low \$150 deposit. Fully furnished studios-alcoves on excellent hillside location. Free basic cable. 1616 Guy Street. 619-298-6242.

**OLD TOWN.** \$875. 1 bedroom cottage. New paint, carpet, blinds. Very nice. Large storage area with unit. Behind 2051

San Diego Avenue. Manager, 619-820-2584.

**OLD TOWN.** 1912 San Diego Avenue #3. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath. San Diego Bay view. Includes two-car garage. No pets. \$975/month, \$975 deposit. [www.timcassidy.com](http://www.timcassidy.com). Cassidy, Broker, 619-275-LIST.

**OLD TOWN.** 2 bedroom, 2 bath. 1912 San Diego Avenue #5. San Diego Bay view. Includes two-car garage. No pets. \$1250/month, deposit \$1250. [www.timcassidy.com](http://www.timcassidy.com). Cassidy, Broker, 619-275-LIST.

**PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT.** 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse. Patio edges bay. Bay/downtown views. Community pool, spa, gym. Parking, beach 9 blocks. \$2050. 619-733-8669.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1500. Upstairs 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment with Downtown views. 2-off-street parking. Free laundry! Storage. Available now. 2032 Thomas Avenue. Tod, 858-437-1794.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** Near beach! \$1300. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, quiet fourplex, 962-A Wilbur Avenue. No pets. Stove, refrigerator, off-street parking. 619-275-2858.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** 1 bedroom on beach plus 2 bedrooms in the 2000 block of Garnet. 6 month's lease. Pets under 30 lbs ok. Roomies/co-signers ok. Office open 7 days. 4217 Oliver Court. 858-483-7670.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** Bay front penthouse. 4 bedroom, 3 bath. 3000 square feet. Spectacular bay/ocean view! Parking. Elevator. 3740 Rivera. \$5000. Agent, 866-723-9456. [www.sdvcr.com](http://www.sdvcr.com).

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$2500. 3 bedroom, 3 bath apartment. \$1250 deposit. No pets. Laundry, fireplace, patio. Available December 1, 2007. 1452 Diamond. 1 parking space. 858-336-7997.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** Large 1 bedroom 1 bath upstairs apartment. \$1050. Newer refrigerator, stove, carpet, blinds. Parking, laundry. Indoor cat OK. Available now. 1488 Reed. 858-272-1488.

**PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH** \$1600. House, 2 bedroom, 1 bath with den. Dishwasher. 2 off street parking, laundry room. No pets. Available 1/1/08. 1845 Chalcedony. 858-459-1928.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** Luxury townhouse, 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath, attached 2-car garage, all appliances included. Close to all. No smoking/pets. Available early December. Monthly rent: \$2050, deposit \$2100. To view 1954 Missouri Street, christineroi@sbcglobal.net, 858-274-8251. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/plblife>.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1795. 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath luxury townhouse. All appliances, 2 fireplaces, patio. Quiet. Drive by 1932 Missouri Street #2. Available now. Call 760-744-2129.

**PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH.** \$1050. Live near the beach! Sparkling clean! 1 bedroom, 1 bath downstairs apartment. Garage space. Laundry. Sorry, no dogs. 1053 Sapphire. 858-454-7691.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** Low \$500 deposits, OAC! Studios from \$945. 1 bedrooms from \$1195. 2 bedrooms from \$1650. Air conditioning/heat. Cats welcome! Heated pool, water aerobics. Fully equipped gyms. Spas. Tennis. Basketball. Lighted tennis courts. Business center. Laundry. Bay Pointe, 3866 Inghram Street. [www.progressmanagement.net](http://www.progressmanagement.net). Toll free: 1-888-759-7435. [www.sdreader.com/rent/2081](http://www.sdreader.com/rent/2081).

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$600 off first month's rent. Free application fee! Hurry in and get one of the largest 1 bedroom apartment homes in Pacific Beach at \$1275. 2 bedrooms from \$1595. Bike trail to Mission Bay. Fitness center, TV lounge, pool,

spa. Sundeck. Barbecue lounge. Storage. Covered/garage parking available. Cat friendly. Fabulous floor plans! Spectacular bay views. Mount Soledad! The Pacific at Mission Bay. 2636 Grand Avenue. 1-800-490-6372. [pacificatmissionbay\\_pacificliving@crossfiremail.com](mailto:pacificatmissionbay_pacificliving@crossfiremail.com). [www.pacificliving.com](http://www.pacificliving.com). [www.sdreader.com/rent/1049](http://www.sdreader.com/rent/1049).

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1300. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 850 square feet, 1 assigned parking, laundry on-site, top floor unit. Spacious apartment with common patio. 1956-1/2 Oliver Avenue. Bill Luther Realty, 858-488-1580.

**PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT.** 3 bedroom, 2 bath, \$2500. Beautiful large upstairs, newly remodeled unit with sweeping views of Mission Bay. This unit has everything including (2) 1-car garages. No pets. Available December 20. 3842 Lamont Street. 858-483-3221.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$2350. 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath condo with attached garage. Washer/dryer. Beautiful new construction. Available immediately. 1558 Hornblend Street #4. Boone Property Management. 858-274-3600. [www.booneproperties.com](http://www.booneproperties.com).

**PACIFIC BEACH.** 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, \$1375. New granite kitchen, new carpet/tile for both units. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, \$1450 and 1 bedroom plus den with balcony/ocean view, \$1195. No pets. Lease. 4467 Dawes. 858-483-4553.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$875. Downstairs 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. On-site laundry and parking. No pets. 1965 Hornblend #1. Please call 619-698-1400 or 619-992-7754.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1095. 1 bedroom. Large, downstairs, remodeled. Stove, re-

frigerator, dishwasher, microwave. Coin laundry, pool, parking. No pets. Available now. 1433 Oliver. Del Sol Property Management. Broker. 858-270-2071. [www.delsolpm.com](http://www.delsolpm.com).

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1200. 1 bedroom in quiet 4-plex. Stove, refrigerator, coin laundry, garage with opener. Nice shared lawn area. Available 12/1. 1360 Reed. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071. [www.delsolpm.com](http://www.delsolpm.com).

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$925. 1 bedroom, downstairs. Stove, refrigerator, gas fireplace, coin laundry, parking, 7 blocks to ocean. No pets. Available 12/10. 1452 Grand. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071. [www.delsolpm.com](http://www.delsolpm.com).

**PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH.** \$1200. 1 bedroom, downstairs, large, remodeled. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, coin laundry, pool. No pets. Available 12/8. 812 Tourmaline. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071. [www.delsolpm.com](http://www.delsolpm.com).

**PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH.** \$1195. 1 bedroom, charming unit in 4-plex. Stove, refrigerator, large private fenced patio area. Nice shared lawn with white picket fence, garage. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Available 12/8. 1011 Opal. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071. [www.delsolpm.com](http://www.delsolpm.com).

**PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT.** \$1450. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Large, upstairs unit with new carpet, vaulted ceilings, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, fireplace, coin laundry, garage. No pets. Available 12/15. 4122 Jewell. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071. [www.delsolpm.com](http://www.delsolpm.com).

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**PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH.** \$1795. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, downstairs condo in 4-plex. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, laundry hookups, private balcony, garage plus space. No pets. 1-year lease. 954 Sapphire. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

**PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT.** \$1375. 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage, on quiet 2 unit property. Stove, refrigerator, garage, nice front lawn, water/gardener paid. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Easy freeway access. Available 12/21. 2145 Thomas. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1100. Studio, top floor with private balcony. Vaulted ceilings, skylights, secured parking space, laundry on site. Near beach. Call 12-5pm for information, 619-992-6760.

**PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT.** \$1195. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs. Parking. Coin laundry. Easy freeway access. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Available 1/22/08. 2154 Reed. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1550. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, Partial ocean views! Beautifully remodeled. Dishwasher. Quiet atmosphere. Heated pool. Parking or garage available. Cats considered. 858-272-4398.

**PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT.** \$1195. 1 bedroom. Detached unit on quiet 3-unit property. Stove, refrigerator. All utilities paid. Nice shared lawn area. Garage. Pet OK upon approval with additional deposit. Available 12/24. 1936 Reed Avenue. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1310/\$1750. Beautifully remodeled, 1 bedroom, 1 bath; 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Great views! Balcony, dishwasher, and imported tile. Heated pool. Laundry. Parking or garage available. 858-272-4398.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** 1 bedroom available now! Top floor, vaulted ceiling. End unit. \$975. New kitchen, ceiling fan, pool, parking, laundry. No pets. Hurry! 858-536-1900.

**PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH.** \$1195. 1 bedroom, upstairs. Remodeled. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, balcony, parking, coin laundry. Close to Torrance line Surf Park. No pets. Available 12/25, 830 Sapphire. Del Sol Property Manage-

ment, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

**PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH.** \$3600. 4 bedroom, 3-1/2 bath, 3-story townhome. All appliances. Laundry. Tandem garage with opener. Balcony. Patio with small fenced yard area. Gas fireplace. Many upgrades, built in 2005. Available 1/1/08. 856 Felspar. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$550-\$625. Studio. Off-street parking. Close to Mission Bay. Laundry available. All utilities paid. Call 858-272-2889.

**PACIFIC BEACH Studio.** \$850/month. Parking. Close to all, walk to bay. No pets. \$850/security deposit. 1606-1/2 Pacific Beach Drive. 858-270-4674.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage. Close to bay. \$1300/month, \$1000/deposit. Parking, laundry facility, no pets. 4115 Ingraham Street. 858-270-4674.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1200. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Upper level. Off-street parking. Laundry on site. No pets. 4451 Haines Street. 858-270-4492 x203.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$900. Studio, 3 blocks to beach. Assigned off street parking. Laundry on-site. No pets. 1050 Hornblend. 858-270-4492 x203.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1700. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 3 blocks to beach. Assigned off-street parking. Laundry on-site. Available mid-December. No pets. 1050 Hornblend. 858-270-4492 x203.

**PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT.** Steps to the bay. Washer/dryer. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$2100/month. 1 bedroom, 1 bath \$1695. Sorry, no pets. 3910 Haines, just off Riviera and Roosevelt. Call Nicol, 619-807-7053.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$950. 1/2 off first month! Move in special! 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Corner unit. Laundry on site. No pets. 4476 Bond. 760-402-8325.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** 2 bedroom, 1 bath townhouse, \$1275. New paint/carpet. Parking. 2017 Grand Avenue. Available now. Agent, 619-260-1368. View at sevillegmt.com.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$975. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment in a small quaint complex close to shops and the bay. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$700. Studio, 1/2 bath apartment, cat OK, month-to-month lease. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1100. 2 bedroom apartment, 1-car parking, yard, shared front yard, close to I-5, bike to beach/bay. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1350. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, quiet neighborhood, stove, garden setting, barbecue area. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1595. 3 bedroom, 2 bath duplex, will consider pet with deposit, 2-car parking included. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1525. Extra large 2 bedroom, 1 bath, upstairs, parking, across street from Mission Bay and close to Crystal Pier. No pets. 4412 Dawes Street. 619-804-3325.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 block to beach! Large living room and kitchen. Nice patio with lawn in back. 1 year lease, \$1650. Available 1/2/2008. 1183 Pacific Beach Drive. Nonsmoking, no dogs. 619-318-6477.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1190/month. Upgraded 1 bedroom second floor apartment. Close to beach! Friendly gated complex. Dishwasher, carpet/tile, courtyard, barbecue, laundry facilities. 1216-1/2 Felspar. 858-483-2504.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** All new, upstairs junior 1 bedroom. New paint, new carpet. Near bay. Close to all. Available now. \$950. 1967 Grand Avenue. 858-483-5111 x10. www.melroyproperties.com.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** Great values, nice, clean, convenient apartments in multiple Pacific Beach locations. Studios from

\$765. 1 bedrooms from \$960. 2 bedrooms from \$1395. Parking, laundry. Some buildings with gated entry, pool and/or deck. No pets. 858-483-3796.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1495. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Walk to Garnet, ocean. New carpet, paint. Parking. No pets. At Emerald and Cass. Available now. 619-260-3400.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$975. 1 bedroom. Designer features. Updated appliances. Very well maintained complex. Walk to Vons. Must see! Open Saturday 11am-12pm. 2112 Garnet. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

**PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT.** \$1495. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Half block to Sail Bay. Great location! Partial bay view. Close to restaurants and shopping. Open Saturday, 1-2pm. 3825 Riviera Drive #4. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1250-\$1650. Senior building (ages 62+). Open Saturday and Sunday, 10am-12pm. 2 bedroom, 2 bath in controlled access building. Immaculate, washer/dryer, fireplace, secured parking. 1625 Chalcedony Street. TPPM, 619-806-5760.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1295. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Cat OK with extra deposit. 1 parking. 2112 Balboa Avenue #11. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

**PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT.** \$995. Large 1 bedroom. New carpet, paint and blinds. Walk to Sail Bay. 4015 Haines Street #6. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$500 off first month's rent! Charming 1 bedroom apartments from \$1105. 2 bedroom, 1 bath starting \$1545. Only 1 block from the beach! Located in the north Pacific Beach neighborhood with beachfront access only minutes away. Short distance to downtown La Jolla shopping and dining. Our quaint apartment homes include on-site laundry facility, extra storage and a quiet location. Cat friendly. Call our rental office today! 858-272-7464.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1025. Recently remodeled, very private, upper, quiet, clean 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Ceiling fans, microwave, dishwasher, laundry, reserved parking. Building well maintained. No pets. 619-279-0031.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1395. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhome in ultra clean garden property. Easy access location. Laundry, parking. No pets. Su Casa Apartments. 2155 Felspar Street. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

**PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT.** Dogs OK! 3 blocks/bay. \$1475-\$1675. 2 bedroom upper duplex. 1-parking. Vaulted ceilings. Private balcony. Laundry onsite. Grass courtyard. Don't disturb front house-use alley access! Open daily for viewing. 9am-5pm. 1924 Oliver Avenue. 619-822-0093.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath with garage. Downstairs, new paint, new carpet. Newly remodeled. No pets. Available now. \$1675. 1663 Diamond Street #1. 858-483-5111 x10 or apply online at www.melroyproperties.com.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 860 Missouri Street #D. Great location, only 1-1/2 blocks to the beach! All utilities paid. One covered parking space. No pets. \$1550/month; deposit \$1550. www.timcassidy.com. Cassidy, Broker, 619-275-LIST.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** All utilities paid. 860 Missouri Street. Spacious studio apartment. Great location, only 1/2 blocks to the beach! No pets. \$895 rent, \$950 deposit. www.timcassidy.com. Cassidy, Broker, 619-275-LIST.

**PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT.** \$895/rent, \$450/deposit. Beautiful large studio on the bay. Great floorplan. No pets. Available in January. 3976 Morrell Street. 858-483-3221.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** \$1500/month. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Parking. Pools. Laundry facilities. Cat OK. 3883 Jewell Street. Call Manager, 858-272-0068. For photos and floorplans, see www.apartments.com/tuscanapartments.

**PARADISE HILLS.** 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 3-story townhome built 2007. 1535 estimated square footage. 425 Meadowbrook #108. Community pool, Jacuzzi. 2-car garage, air conditioning, dishwasher, microwave. \$2050/month. Agent, 619-471-2201.

**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.

**POINT LOMA.** No rent until January, 2008! Free iPhone! Expires 12/31/07, 13-18 month lease. Newly renovated 1 bedrooms from \$1435! City and bay views! Caesar-Stone countertops. Stainless-steel appliances. Pool, spa, sauna. Sundeck. Fitness centers. Elevators. Air conditioning. Cat friendly. Gables Point Loma, 3811 Marquette Place. 619-223-6577. Gables.com. www.sreader.com/rent/1003.

**POINT LOMA.** 1 bedroom, 1 bath from \$1250. 2 bedroom, 2 bath from \$1550. Beautiful apartment homes. Pool, spa and view deck, fitness center, media room, gated parking, gorgeous gated community. 3950 Leland. 619-223-1390.

**POINT LOMA.** Completely remodeled spacious studio. \$950. On-site laundry, manager, and parking. Close to freeway, shopping, and beaches. Must see! No pets. 2089 Chatsworth Boulevard. 619-222-0152.

**POINT LOMA.** \$725-\$850. Downstairs studio with new carpet! Also 1 bedroom available. Located near Shelter Island and Liberty Station. No pets. 2809 Jarvis Street. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

**POWAY.** \$1125. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartments. Beautiful courtyard, pool, dishwasher, patio or balcony, parking, laundry. No pets. 12500 Oak Knoll. 858-679-1789.

**POWAY.** 1 bedroom from \$895. Laundry. Near shopping and more. No pets. 12529 Oak Knoll. 858-486-0109.

**RANCHO BERNARDO.** \$1195. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Refrigerator. Stove, dishwasher. Air conditioner. Pool, spa. Washer/dryer. Tennis court. Fireplace. Patio/balcony. 12023 Alta Carmel, #245. 858-598-1111 x190. utopiamgmt.com.

**RANCHO PENASQUITOS.** 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1250-\$1350/month. Low \$500 deposits! Newly remodeled. Air conditioning. Pool, spa. Carport. No pets. Rancho Villas Apartments. Call 858-484-0744.

**SAN CARLOS.** \$1250. Ask about special! Large 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhome. Fireplace, balcony, stackable washer/dryer, dishwasher, air, jacuzzi. 8247 Jackson Drive. Agent, 619-281-0030.

**SAN CARLOS.** \$1275. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condominium, golf course view. Pool and spa. Laundry facilities. 7835 Cowles Mountain Court. Available December 1. 619-465-4879.

**SAN CARLOS.** Super special! 2 bedroom townhouses. \$1375 and up. Stove, dishwasher, garage, large patio, pool, laundry facilities. Lakewood Villa Townhomes,

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<p><b>Synthetic Blend Premium Oil Change</b></p> <p>Includes filter and up to 5 quarts synthetic blend oil. Most cars. Plus \$2 disposal fee.</p> <p><b>\$36.95*</b></p>	<p><b>Timing Belt</b></p> <p>Starting at <b>\$70*</b> 4-cyl. Parts extra.</p>	<p><b>Head Gasket</b></p> <p>Starting at <b>\$199*</b> Labor only.</p>	<p><b>New Axles</b></p> <p>Starting at <b>\$139.95*</b></p> <p>Installed! Rebuilt available. Lifetime warranty.</p>	<p><b>Starters &amp; Alternators</b></p> <p>Starting at <b>\$190</b> Installed. Most cars.</p>	<p><b>Fuel System Flush</b></p> <p><b>\$75.95</b></p>

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<p><b>SMOG CHECK</b></p> <p>Most 4-cyl. cars.</p> <p><b>\$15.75</b></p> <p>With coupon. Plus \$8.25 cert. and \$3 VID.</p> <p><b>FREE RETEST</b> with repair</p>	<p><b>30K • 60K • 90K SERVICE</b></p> <p>Most cars.</p> <p>from <b>\$99.99</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install new spark plugs</li> <li>• Change engine oil</li> <li>• Change oil filter</li> <li>• Adjust idle to factory specs</li> <li>• Check ignition system and timing</li> <li>• Lubricate chassis</li> <li>• Inspect brakes</li> <li>• Check all hoses, radiator and cap</li> <li>• Drain and refill cooling system</li> <li>• Rotate 4 tires</li> <li>• Check suspension</li> <li>• Check air and fuel filters</li> <li>• Tighten and inspect belts (exposed only)</li> <li>• Clean battery terminals</li> <li>• Adjust emergency brake</li> <li>• Inspect manual transmission fluid</li> <li>• Inspect differential fluid</li> </ul>	<p><b>COMPLETE AXLE-SHAFT SPECIAL</b></p> <p>Parts &amp; labor. Most cars.</p> <p><b>\$99.99</b></p>
<p><b>"Check Engine" Light On?</b></p> <p>Diagnostic. Most cars.</p> <p><b>\$24.99</b></p>	<p><b>TIMING BELT</b></p> <p>Parts &amp; labor. Most cars.</p> <p><b>\$89.99</b></p>	<p><b>OIL CHANGE SPECIAL</b></p> <p>Includes new filter and up to 5 qts. oil. Most cars.</p> <p><b>\$15.99</b></p>
<p><b>TUNE-UP SPECIAL</b></p> <p>Includes: new plugs, check timing, inspect hoses &amp; belts. Most cars.</p> <p><b>\$24.99</b> 4-cyl. • <b>\$35.99</b> 6-cyl. • <b>\$45.99</b> 8-cyl.</p>	<p><b>We also do: Engine Rebuilds • Valve Jobs • Drivability Problems</b></p> <p><b>Electrical • Struts • Shocks • Air Conditioning • Fuel Injection Service</b></p> <p><b>OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK: Mon.-Fri. 8 am-6 pm • Sat. 8 am-2 pm • Sun. by appt.</b></p> <p><b>6696 Miramar Road, Suite M, San Diego (Near I-805) • 858-552-8898</b></p> <p>No Appointment Necessary • Major Credit Cards &amp; ATM Accepted</p>	

# BACK WHEN

## *In the Reader*

### Thirty Years Ago

While San Diego County has grown sharply, this desert community of 1200 people has stood still. Today Borrego Springs has one auto mechanic, one air-conditioning expert, one plumber, one electrician. If a General Electric dishwasher breaks down, the local parts store can fix it. But Westinghouse and Maytag owners often face a months-long wait.

—CITY LIGHTS: **"BORREGO, BORROW, OR STEAL,"**

*Paul Krueger, December 8, 1977*

### Twenty-Five Years Ago

All he knows for sure is that he woke up beside Otay Reservoir, north of the Mexican border, on a Friday evening in early November, and that now he's in the county's emergency mental hospital. He doesn't know if he was knocked unconscious or was sleeping. When he came to, he was wearing dress slacks (with a rip in one knee), a white shirt, a black vest, a green military raincoat, and running shoes. He hadn't a cent to his name; even his name had eluded him. He walked to Brown Field, a man without a self, without a past, and from there an ambulance took him to a Chula Vista hospital.

—**"VOICES IN THE DARK,"** Neal Matthews,

*December 9, 1982*

### Twenty Years Ago

I knew Oscar and I were headed for a show-down when he refused to whistle the UCLA fight song. He had had no trouble with the Woody Woodpecker song or with the first bars of Beethoven's Fifth, but when it was rah-rah-rah time, the mule-headed bag of feathers shut his beak in a huff.

The ingrate. After all, hadn't I saved his worthless little tail from the jaws of death? There he was, a poor lost soul flying aimlessly around Mission Bay, when he decided to try to fly through a hotel window.

—**"BIRDS ON THE BLOCK,"** Violet Rosenblum,

*December 10, 1987*

### Fifteen Years Ago

In the seven years since divorce, I have made several attempts to draw Jason out on the subject of his parents' dissolved marriage.

When his mother and I were discussing the separation one night all those years ago, and the volume rose on the recriminations and tears, Jason, then eight, woke up, himself crying. This was unusual; Jason was a sound sleeper. His mother and I, at a momentary truce, went upstairs to see to him. "What's wrong, Honey?" His mother cradled his head.

"Don't do it," he sobbed. Mom and Dad looked at each other, then, feigning innocence, back at Jason.

"Do what, Honey?"

His answer was between sobs and around a hole where, until recently, two front teeth had been. "The theperation!"

—**"FLESH OF MY FLESH,"** John Brizzolara,

*December 10, 1992*

### Ten Years Ago

We discovered the rat on the Wednesday before Mother's Day, when the Rhodos lilies were blooming a murderous, lovesick red, a red so sweetly poisonous that it seemed to belong in Rappaccini's garden. "Rappaccini's Daughter," you may remember from American Lit, is an allegory by Nathaniel Hawthorne that concerns the fate of Beatrice, who has been raised among her father's supernaturally potent flowers to be as deadly as she is beautiful.

—**"RATS AND LILIES,"** Laura McNeal,

*December 11, 1997*

### Five Years Ago

Just before the city council elections last month, Monsignor "Father Joe" Carroll, the homeless-housing czar, dispatched a letter to



*San Diego Reader, December 10, 1992*

his charity mailing list. "I am writing — for once — not to ask for a donation, but for a favor," the letter began. "I have wasted too much time in recent years fighting politicians who fail to recognize the causes I believe in. I fought a valiant and successful battle to be placed in City Council District 2. Now that the District 2 seat has come up for election, I believe Kevin Faulconer will provide the most balanced, realistic, and compassionate support for the causes to which I have dedicated my life."

—CITY LIGHTS: **"FATHERLY INTERVENTION,"**

*Matt Potter, December 8, 2002*

*Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com*

8492 San Carlos Drive, San Diego. 619-469-3585; 619-944-0671.

**SAN CARLOS.** 3 bedroom, 3 bath townhouse. Double garage. All appliances. 1617 square feet. Large patio. \$1995 includes cable, gardener, water. 7403 Rainswept Lane. 619-464-1818.

**SAN DIEGO.** 1 bedroom, 1 bath. \$650-\$780. Nonsmoking. Call 619-262-6278 or 619-675-9088.

**SAN DIEGO.** \$1250/month. Estimated 1200 square feet. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath. Backyard, washer/dryer. Freeway friendly. Call now for a showing! 619-471-2201.

**SAN DIEGO.** \$579. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Laundry and parking on site. 619-640-1712.

**SANTEE.** Free rent! 1 bedroom 1 bath, \$925. 2 bedroom 2 bath \$1125. Newly remodeled apartments with appointed features. Spacious floor plans. Call 619-596-0768, email ikaria@cgpinc.com.

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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.

**SCRIPPS RANCH/SABRE SPRINGS.** \$1515. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Carport parking. Washer/dryer. No pets. Near I-15/56 freeway. 858-484-5318; 858-722-4000.

**SCRIPPS RANCH.** Monarch-5 star resort living! 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Top floor. 2-car garage. Fireplace. Washer/dryer. Gym/cafe. \$2175 includes water. 858-945-6517.

**SERRA MESA.** \$1395. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Wood floors. Walk-in closet. Community pool. Weight room. Kids play area. Parking. Stackable washer and dryer. Tiled patio. 3571 Ruffin Road #144. Agent, 619-692-4121.

**SOUTH PARK.** \$1075. Nice 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Tile/carpet. Laundry. Pool. Pets welcome with approval. 1714 Grove Street, #17. 619-280-2658.

**SOUTHEAST SAN DIEGO.** \$700. Cute 1 bedroom, half of duplex, gated. New bathroom. Hardwood floors, stove, refrig-

erator. Small yard. No pets. Available 1/1. Call 619-454-7549.

**SPRING VALLEY.** \$1250. Well maintained 2 bedroom, 2 bath ground floor unit. Appliances. Washer/dryer. Parking. Community amenities. The Rotsart Group. 619-401-3097.

**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.

**TALMADGE/COLLEGE AREA.** \$795. Large 1 bedroom apartment. Security gated. Near SDSU. New paint. Patio. Laundry. Parking. Dishwasher. Quiet. Nice courtyard. 4544 Altadena Avenue. 619-265-7886.

**TALMADGE/KENSINGTON.** Deluxe 2 bedroom 1 bath starting at \$1070! Large closets, built-in shelving, ceiling fans, separate dining room. Refrigerator, stove, dishwasher. Covered parking, courtyard, on-site laundry. Pool, spa with poolside WiFi. Outdoor billiards, barbecue lounge with WiFi. Fitness center, computer lab! Pet-friendly. Talmadge Point, 619-282-1191. www.pacificliving.com.

**TIERRASANTA.** \$2025. 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhome. Washer/dryer. 1600 square feet. Garage. Recently upgraded.

Community pool. Edge Park Way. Agent, 619-692-4121.

**TIERRASANTA.** \$895. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Senior complex. Gated, quiet complex, recreation room with activities, on-site laundry. Next to shopping, bank, pharmacy and more. Cat OK. Section 8 OK. 4906 La Cuenta Drive. 619-296-6699.

**UNIVERSITY CITY/UTC.** Avanti at Renaissance. \$2250. 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhouse. 2-car garage. Fireplace, hardwood floors, laundry. Available December. No pets. 1-year lease. Call Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.

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Includes: boot, parts, labor, grease. 1/2 price for the 2nd boot on same axle. Most vehicles. Limited time offer.

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**UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS.** \$1175. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Washer/dryer, dishwasher, air conditioning, gas fireplace, carpet/linoleum. Off-street parking. 8-unit complex. 4026 Alabama. 619-296-9557. 619-286-4320.

**UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS** \$845. 1 bedroom, upper. North of Adams west of 805. Bright, faces south, parking laundry. Available 12/17. Owner managed. 619-280-8832. mchev08@yahoo.com.

**UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS.** \$795. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Small, quiet community. Fresh paint. New carpet. Laundry on site. Cat OK. 4470 Alabama Street. 619-692-0732. 619-857-1187.

**UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS.** \$945. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Hardwood floors. Bay window. Built-ins. Private balcony. Xlarent.com. 619-683-7638.

**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.

**UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS.** 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1025. On wooded canyon hillside. Laundry onsite. 3948 Florida Street. Agent. Call 619-298-1057. View at sevillengmt.com.

**UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS.** \$1295. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Charming Spanish style house. Hardwood floors. Washer/dryer included. A must see! Available 01/01/08. 4315 Maryland Street. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

**UTC/LA JOLLA.** 1/2 off first's rent, Christmas special! Nice 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo. Pet friendly unit available for move-in today! Lots of upgrades and great community amenities. Must see! \$1395. 858-598-1111 x190. www.utopiamanagement.com.

#### REAL ESTATE

### Houses

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**AMAZING!** Room for everything! Almost 1 acre, newer home. 4 bedroom, 2 bath. Family room, fireplace, RV parking. Reduced by \$71,000! \$549,000. Agent Kelly, 619-562-6999.

**BONSALL.** Custom Tudor 3648 square foot 4 bedroom 3-1/2 bath, 4 acres. Granite countertops in kitchen, hardwood

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**CHULA VISTA-LIVE AUCTION!** Sunday, 12/9/07. Fantastic, remodeled 4 bedroom, 2 bath single story home. Starting bid-\$349K. Call for info/registration, 619-851-8718. Dianekap@mac.com.

**COLLEGE AREA.** By owner, Historic Rolando Village. 3 bedroom 2 bath, deck/spa. \$349,500/best. Inspection Saturday/Sunday 12/8, 12/9, 10am-6pm, home sold Sunday night to highest bidder, 619-808-2293.

**EL CAJON.** Mobile home. Senior park. Pool. Reduced to \$21,000/best. 1+ bedroom 1 bath. Refurbished, carport, air conditioning, washer/dryer. Low lot rent. Owner, 858-581-9151.

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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, \$325,000. No Agents! Kelly Re/Max, 619-562-6999.

**KANSAS.** 2 bedroom, 1 bath country home with large yard. Pretty and quiet like Mayberry! \$12,000 or best offer. 858-344-7375.

**LAKE SHASTINA CALIFORNIA.** Custom 3 bedroom, 2 bath home overlooking golf course. Deck. Deluxe kitchen. Skylight.

Jacuzzi in master. \$359K. Gary, Golden West Realty, 530-859-2469.

**MENIFEE.** New, custom horse ranch. Take my house for what I owe. Single story, 4 bedroom, 4 bath, outdoor shower and game room. Rod, 808-854-9636.

**NORTH PARK-GRAND Opening!** 15 new construction rowhomes from the low \$400,000s. Multiple floorplans available. Call for more information, 619-401-3097.

**OREGON.** Minutes to Grants Pass. Lovely 4 bedroom, 3 bath, 2 story, 1.16 acres. Pasture land, mountain views. Additional guest quarts, plus large shop. \$429,900, 541-761-1012.

**OREGON/UMATILLA.** 303 acre Umatilla buffalo ranch. Nice 2100 square foot custom log home, 6000 square foot shop, buffalo corrals, 125 acre irrigated circle with water rides, 270 acres of rock, all rock are leased under mining permit. Minutes from town, 541-567-2833.

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**POWAY.** Priced to sell! Conservative appraisal at \$920,000, asking \$875,000. Everything updated! 5 bedroom, 3 bath beautiful single-story. E-mail for pictures. xinnamongirl@yahoo.com. Call 619-504-5417.

**VISTA.** Cute 2 bedroom, 1 bath manufactured home. Palms Family Park. Built 1985. Very open floor plan, vaulted ceilings. Fenced yard, laundry hookups. \$79,900. 760-724-4954.

**VISTA.** Own our own land and mobile home. \$125,000. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. 55+ community. Small animal OK. \$130 HOA. Includes water, trash, cable. 760-295-3514.

#### REAL ESTATE

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**DEL MAR.** Lovely, sunny 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with pool and Jacuzzi. Monthly interest \$1695. \$15,000 down. APR only 5.9%. Call Agent, Elizabeth, at 619-286-5813.

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**LITTLE ITALY.** Spacious condo, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 845 square feet. Upgraded kitchen, washer/dryer. Community pool and gym. Built 2004. \$349,900-\$359,900. Realtor, 619-403-0114.

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#### REAL ESTATE

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**GLEN ABBEY MEMORIAL PARK.** Cemetery plots \$2500 block 5 and \$3500 in block 41. Call 619-583-5189 or 619-203-9465.

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**INSTANT EQUITY.** If you are looking to buy into an equity position or build sweat equity, contact me, broker. sandiegoinstantequity.com or 619-322-7175.

**NEW MEXICO.** Chaparral. D & B Farm. Pistachio orchard, 60 acres, custom home (4 bedrooms), guest house/office, warehouse, shop, processing, storage. See: www.DandBPistachios.com.

**OREGON/HERMISTON.** Home-site, 8 acres with giant 22,000 square foot shop or storage. 64 10x20 bays, would make excellent car storage, 25' between bays, with office in center. Building tall and well constructed, 3 face power and single face power. New drilled well. Close to Columbia River recreation, zoned residential, \$265,000. Stuart Bonney 541-567-2833.

**VISTA.** Mobile home. Reduced \$10,000. Total remodel. Tile in kitchen, dining room and bathrooms, thermal windows in California room, 5 citrus trees, \$79,500. 760-599-0249.

**ZERO DOWN ALL AREAS** or cash out for any reason. Credit scores to 300. Foreclosure, bankruptcy OK. No out-of-pocket costs. Loans available. Ron, 408-461-0406, www.weneedalloanow.com.

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**CHARGERS TICKETS.** Press level, premium location, individual games for sale. Face value, \$92. Don, leave message, 619-291-9996.

### Sports

**PLACE PRINTED ADS** in the Reader by calling 619-235-8200.

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**BEACH CRUISERS.** front and back fenders, male and female frames, \$80/each. Call 858-488-2582.

**DIVE SUIT.** Body Glove, men's medium/large, 6.5mm, back zip, very good condition, \$65. 619-222-2566.

**KAYAK FOR SALE.** New and used. Cobra demonstrator 10 foot kayaks \$395 to \$495 with seat and paddle (regular \$500-\$750) Tandem kayak sale. New Tandems (regular \$1250) on sale for \$899-\$999. Used demo Tandems, complete with 2 seats and 2 paddles for just \$699-\$799 (regular \$1145). Fish 'n' Dives, new and used for \$795-\$1095 complete with seat and paddle. San Diego Sailing Center, 858-488-0651. For photos, see www.kayaksforsale.com.

**SCUBA GEAR.** Tanks, regulators, wet suit, weights, knife, mask, fins, spear gun, light, BC, plus extras, excellent condition. 619-287-0942.

**SEA KAYAK.** Necky Tesla, 17', stowable sail, Aas rudder, hatches, bulkheads, lots of extras. \$750. 619-415-9534.

**SKI WEAR.** Avex ski goggles, new, in box, \$20. Columbia Sportswear hat with tags, \$12. Ladies' Fera ski jacket, black, \$20. 858-603-5753.

**SNOWBOARD BLOWOUT SALE** 25%-75% off selected new and used snowboards, boots, clothing and accessories. Why rent this year when you can buy at these prices? Trade in other sports and fitness equipment to save even more money. Play It Again Sports, Pacific Beach, Tierrasanta, College Area. 858-490-0222, www.playitagainsd.com.

**SOFTBALL LEAGUE** needs teams and individual players for fall/winter season. 619-295-0385.

**SOFTBALL PLAYERS.** Team needs a short-stop and center fielder. 619-517-5791.

**SPORTS BOARD GAME CLUB.** We want new players. All you need is luck and the spirit to win. Call for details on how to join, 619-517-5781.

**STATIONARY BIKE,** 10' epoxy paintal, 16' dory, paint spray, tools. 858-864-8960.

**SURFBOARD RACKS.** By Yakima with surf pads and straps. Paid \$525 new. Complete set. One year old. Selling \$295. Call 858-449-2760.

**SURFBOARD,** 9'6" longboard shaped by Hank Warner, triple stringer, single fin, very clean, \$500. 760-753-3610.

**SURFBOARDS.** 6 used Thrusters, 7.0 gun, 6.10 down to 6.0. water tight, used, from \$100-\$200 each. Also liquidating inventory. Quads, fish thrusters, 50% off retail and longboards 50% off. 760-809-8642.

**SURFBOARDS,** 61" channel islands, \$200. 6' sharp eye, \$150. 5'10" modern fish, \$150. All in good condition. All with FCS fins and traction pad. 858-488-8842.

**TENNIS LEAGUE.** Intermediate to advanced skill levels. Join the year-round fun at the #1 League in San Diego. Leagues starting now. 858-794-1800; www.tennisleague.com.

**TREADMILL.** Vision Fitness T7200, great condition, new belt, gently used, well maintained, simple controls, multiple programs and elevations, folds, wheels, built to last, \$500. 858-481-7358.

**WET SUIT,** O'No O'Neill, great condition, medium-large, \$45/best. 619-280-9083.

**XL GLIDER.** Used, very good condition. No monitor, \$50. College Area 619-465-9459.

### Photo

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**CAMERAS.** About a dozen cameras, make reasonable offers. Bob 858-273-8069.

## AUTOMOTIVE

**Oil Change**  
**\$18<sup>95</sup>\***

Includes new oil filter and up to 4 quarts of oil. Hazardous waste fee \$2.

**Radiator Flush**  
**\$24<sup>95</sup>\*** + labor

**Fuel Injector Cleaning**  
**\$39<sup>95</sup>\***

**Timing Belts**  
**\$90\***

Includes parts and labor. Most cars.

**Muffler Special**  
**\$64<sup>95</sup>\*** and up

**Catalytic Converter Special**  
**\$109<sup>95</sup>\*** and up

**Engine Steam Cleaning Available**

**THAO AUTO REPAIR**

3400 El Cajon Blvd. • (619) 640-4606 • (619) 640-4607  
3752 Park Blvd., Hillcrest • (619) 692-1065

Visa • MasterCard • Special rates for auto body repair without insurance.

\*All offers valid on most cars, with coupon. Exp. 12/20/07.

**ADVANCED MACHINE**

PARTS • SERVICE • WELDING

Your Complete Automotive Machine Shop • 3400 El Cajon Blvd.

619-640-4609 • Se habla español

COMPLETE LONG BLOCK REBUILD FROM \$699

• Flywheels \$15 • Valve jobs from \$75 • Crankgrinds \$55

Most flywheels & crankgrinds available in 1 day or less.

**Smog Check**  
**\$16<sup>75</sup>**

Plus \$8.25 for certificate. Most cars. Trucks, SUVs, vans, 1996 and newer cars extra.

**Catalytic Converter Special**  
**\$109<sup>95</sup>\*** and up

**Brakes [2 wheels]**  
**\$69<sup>95</sup>\***

Install new lining. Resurface drums or rotors extra.

3D Technology Alignment & New Tires Available. Most Major Brands. Call for Reader Special.

**Computerized Tune-Up**  
**\$29<sup>95</sup>\***

4-cyl.

6-cyl.

8-cyl.

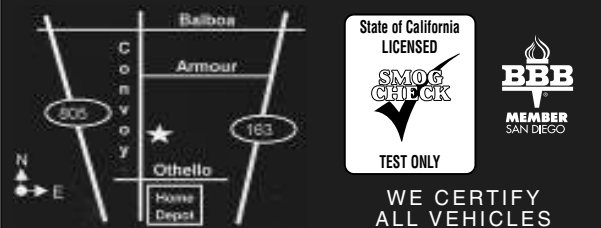
**\$34<sup>95</sup>\***

**\$40<sup>95</sup>\***

Install spark plugs and set timing. Diagnostic (scope hookup).

**\$7 OFF SMOG CHECK**

\*Fast Service \* No Hidden Charges\*



**KEARNY MESA SMOG CHECK**

4191 Convoy St., Suite A (Same bldg. as Big O Tires) (858) 874-8490 M-F 8 am-6 pm, Sat 8 am-3 pm

**TransmissionPros**  
HONESTY. VALUE. TRANSMISSIONS DONE RIGHT.

CONTACT US TODAY FOR:

- FREE 30 Point Safety Inspection!
- FREE Check Engine Light Diagnostics with Repair
- \$49.95 Performance Synthetic Oil Change
- **HEAVY DUTY TRANSMISSION REBUILDS**
  - 2 Year, 24,000 Mile Warranty
  - Bigger Transmission Cooler
  - New Solenoids and Wiring
  - Shift Kit, New Bushings, Sprags and Bearings
  - Heavy Duty Spec Torque Converter

5780 Autoport Mall (805 and Miramar Rd.)

858.558.8808 - Ask for Luis!

www.Transmission-Pros.com

**FREE**

**OIL CHANGE** with Transmission Flush

**CV BOOT**  
**REPLACEMENT SPECIAL** (MOST CARS, STARTING AT)

**\$49.95**

**TRANSMISSION TUNE-UP SPECIAL**  
**\$49.95**

Includes: Filter (if required), Fluid, Gasket, and Pan Removal. On most cars. Not valid with any other offer or coupon. Member's special fluids extra. Not intended to correct internal problems. Preventative maintenance only.



**free invisible bra!**

With purchase of full-price tint (3-7 windows). Call for details. Invisible paint-protection film that shields against rocks, weathering, and bug stains.

**or 15% off window tinting**

**SOUND CHECK**

Car Audio, Video, Security and more!

7861 Raytheon Rd. • Kearny Mesa • 858-560-5455



**Chris's Auto Repair**

Foreign & Domestic

**60K/90K/120K** Services

4-cyl. from **\$149<sup>95</sup>**  
6-cyl. and 8-cyl. extra.  
Call for details.

**Oil Change**

**\$14<sup>95</sup>**  
Most 4-cyl. cars. Includes new filter, EPA, up to 5 qts. oil. Some oil filters extra.

**Basic Tune-Up** with oil change

4-cyl. **\$35<sup>00</sup>**  
6-cyl. **\$39<sup>95</sup>**  
8-cyl. **\$49<sup>95</sup>**

Most cars. Includes new plugs and new oil filter. Inspect cap, rotor wire, air filter. Some oil filters extra. Some cars labor extra. Platinum plugs extra. Most present coupon at time of service. Coupons may not be combined with any other offers. Expires 12/26/07.

**Smog Check**

**\$15<sup>75</sup>** +\$8.25 certificate +\$2 ET. Most cars. Bring DMV notice. Vans, SUVs, RVs, trucks, V8, and European extra.

Must present coupon at time of service. Not to be combined with any other offer. Expires 12/26/07.

**FREE Brake Inspection with any service • A/C Service \$20**

2920 Damon Ave. #C & D (Behind In-N-Out Burger) Pacific Beach 92109 • 858-270-1888

# BLOG DIEGO

POST DATE: October 26, 2007  
POST TITLE: Discovering Ensenada  
Sooo...Mexico. We took a shuttle  
out of San Diego. Mexico is a laid-  
back country in most aspects, but  
driving is an exception to the rule.

I have to admit that I had my  
doubts about our bus driver. She  
was barely clearing 80 pounds, and  
there were more teeth missing  
than showing in her mouth. Once  
again, I learned not to judge. She  
*nailed* the trip. On the drive home,  
she yelled and honked with the rest  
of them. She inched closer and  
closer to a car blocking an intersec-  
tion and said, 'I'll just give them a  
little bump, okay?' as she smiled  
back at us. Fortunately the car  
moved in the nick of time. She  
gave new meaning to the Carrie  
Underwood song, "Jesus Take the  
Wheel." I felt like I was driving  
with dad (control in chaos), and  
there was a comfort in that.

My Spanish vocabulary is lim-  
ited to words shared with the  
English language. For example, I  
can say, "burrito," "taco," "enchi-  
lada," "tortilla," and "rodeo."  
Beyond that, it's an awkward game  
of charades. Fortunately, the only  
word I really needed to know was  
"margarita."

We stayed at the Hotel Corona  
on the water. Other than the plas-  
ter on the inside, it looked like a  
Holiday Inn...except for the vend-  
ing machine in the lobby:

D-7 = Doritos

B-1 = Nature Valley Granola  
Bars

A-2 = Marlboros

A-3 = Marlboro Lights  
G-9 = condoms  
Add beef jerky and it's pretty  
much 7-Eleven in a cute compact  
case.

As for the food, we had fresh  
fish tacos at a very non-FDA-  
approved taco stand. They  
didn't speak English, but I'm  
pretty good at pointing and  
Spanish numbers. I said  
"Ocho" and held up one fin-  
ger. She looked confused, but  
perhaps she didn't get my  
enunciation.

They told me not to drink  
the water, but what's the  
worst that could happen? I  
get sick? I could get a giant  
intestinal worm? Come on!  
Both of those would result in  
effective, rapid weight loss. I'm  
playing my girl card here. Give me  
some water. Unfortunately, I  
didn't get sick and I didn't lose  
weight. Some people just don't  
have *any* luck.

The wedding was a very tradi-  
tional Mexican wedding, meaning  
no one showed up for the cere-  
mony and *everyone* showed up for  
the party. If there's one thing the  
Mexican people know how to do  
well, it's throw a good party.

Reception start time: 7 p.m.  
Dinner: 10:30 p.m.  
Cake: 1:30 a.m.  
Go home: 4 a.m.  
Weddings on this side of the  
border suddenly look like glorified  
tea parties.



POST DATE: September 22, 2007  
POST TITLE: The Fight  
Chris and I had a "difference of  
opinion" last night. We were talk-  
ing about baby names, and it led to  
a heated "discussion." Why were  
we fighting about baby names? I  
have absolutely no idea.

Now, before you get those  
panties in a bunch, I'm not preggio.  
Maybe someday, but *not today*.  
Anyway, we already have two girl

names picked out. Some people  
don't like to say what they are  
naming their kids so that no one  
steals the names, but I'm putting it  
out there that these are *our* names,  
and if someone steals them, I'm  
printing this blog to prove owner-  
ship of said names.

If you do steal them or our  
initial ideas, I'll never talk to  
you again, which, for some,  
wouldn't be a bad thing.  
Now, Cole, no fair popping  
out another kid just so you  
can steal our names and reap  
the benefits of me never  
speaking to you again. That's  
just mean.

Girl name #1 — Natalie  
Remington Atkinson. N.R.A.  
We totally dig the initials and  
the gun name right in the middle  
should evoke fear in any guy's  
heart who is interested in dating  
her.

Girl name #2 — Hennessey  
Monea Atkinson. French cognac  
and the most beautiful Irish castle  
I've ever seen — plus, Paula and I  
chased cows there. Good memo-  
ries. Why Hennessey? It's a pretty  
name *and* Chris wants to call her "C."

No problems, right? Um, yeah.  
Except if genetics play any role, we

won't even have a girl. So that's  
what our "discussion" was about  
last night — boys' names. Wanna  
hear what Chris wants to name  
our prodigy?!? Kire. Like, Tire with  
a K. He wants to nickname him  
"Er." Ooooh, but it doesn't stop  
there. He wants...ready...wait for  
it...Kire Optimus Prime Atkinson.

Yeah, that's when I started  
laughing so hard I cried.

Well, he relinquished "Opti-  
mus Prime," but he's not budging  
on "Kire." It will be a cold day in  
hell, buddy. Cold...day...in hell.

POST DATE: August 17, 2007  
POST TITLE: Excuse Me, How  
Much Is That???

We've got this delicious bin of  
Peanut M&Ms at the office. I'd  
plunder the stash at least three or  
four times a day — until I realized  
how many sets of hands went into  
that thing. Suddenly, I was over-  
whelmed with the thought of the  
quantity of germs in there. So  
overwhelmed that I became  
intensely interested in who did and  
who did not wash their hands after  
they used the restroom.

Frankly, I don't know what  
kind of obsessive compulsive psy-  
chopath makes tiny tears in the  
bathroom dry towels to see who is  
and who is not a believer in hand  
sanitization. What kind of *crazy* do  
you have to be to...

Oh, who am I kidding. I totally  
did that. But you guys don't  
understand my desperate *need* for  
Peanut M&Ms! And the results? If  
I get the inkling for a Peanut  
M&M, I'm buying my own.

Got a blog you'd like to flog? Send your best stuff — around 900 words' worth — to [FlogYourBlog@SanDiegoReader.net](mailto:FlogYourBlog@SanDiegoReader.net). If we run your posts, we'll send you \$50.

## AUTOMOTIVE



### TIRES

All Sizes Available

**Goodyear**  
**Dunlop**  
**Michelin**  
**BF Goodrich**  
**Remington**  
**Republic**

**Import Tires**

155/80R13	\$24 <sup>99</sup>
175/70R13	\$28 <sup>99</sup>
185/70R13	\$30 <sup>99</sup>
185/70R14	\$34 <sup>99</sup>

No carry-out. Installation extra.

**Free Alignment Check**  
With purchase of 4 tires.  
Adjustments and shim additional.

90 Days  
Same As  
Cash, OAC

8230 Commercial | La Mesa  
(1 block west of Carl Burger Dodge)  
**619-466-7776**



## Window Tint

Lifetime warranty • Most cars • Some restrictions apply  
Mobile service, pickup & delivery available

Rear 3 Windows

# \$59

Give the gift of window tint!

COMPUTER CUT tint goes on faster, cleaner & more accurate

**SEA SIDES CLASSIC TINTING**  
For 20 years, San Diego's window tint specialists  
2707 Garnet Ave. • 858-581-2294 (Next to Washington Mutual)



## Smog Special

### Test Only

Fast • Easy • No Appointment Needed

# \$26<sup>75</sup>

plus \$8.25 certificate & \$2 transfer fee.  
Trucks, vans & SUVs \$10 extra.  
We now do European cars.

## or \$31<sup>75</sup> with a Free Retest

We Certify: Gross Polluters, Out of State, DMV Renewal, Change of Ownership

Effective 12/1/07 Evap testing will be included in smog test.  
An additional \$5 will be charged for vehicles from 1976-95.

### SMOG CLINIC

7535 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Suite C  
(Next to Kearny Mesa Bowling Alley)  
858-292-7903 Mon.-Fri. 8 am-6 pm • Sat. 8 am-3 pm  
Visa • MasterCard • Coupon expires 12/20/07.  
Must present coupon at time of service.



San Diego Reader December 6, 2007 171



## COMPUTERS

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**COMPAQ EVO T30** with charger, keyboard, and mouse, 2 full sets and 1 without the mouse, T20 box you can have, \$75. UTC, 858-652-8738.

**COMPUTER CIRCULATION CENTER.** Buy, sell, trade. Laptops, PCs. Repairs, upgrades, virus/spyware removal. 24-48 hour turnaround. 9350 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, San Diego 92123. Call 858-573-0411.

**COMPUTER HELP?** Call the best! Fast, friendly, reliable. Repairs, upgrades, training, cable/DSL, networks, wireless! \$35/hour plus \$10 onsite. Music recording, 858-753-6680.

**LAPTOP BLOWOUT. FREE** Diagnostic. Laptops starting from \$298 for ACER, Dell, IBM, Toshiba and more. Laptop/projector rentals-\$25/\$75. 3 locations! Going fast, call now: 1-888-861-8347.

**LAPTOP, NEW,** GPS (portable gps road map) printer, pc camera, wireless G router used, house hold items, computer parts, computer monitor, 858-623-8434.

**PRINTER,** wide format inkjet for commercial use, two 10K and one 5K, MMP 9001R by Mastermind, print 44"W and 3.1 thick, 319lbs., \$10,000. UTC, 858-652-8738.

**SCANNER,** Epson 2480 color with feeder, no CD and instructions included, create reprints and enlargements with 2400x4800 dpi, \$75. UTC, 858-652-8738.  
**TOTAL COMPUTER.** Commercial service. We do everything. Installation, set-up, training, repair, networking, telephones, wiring, upgrades. \$20 in-home diagnostics. 619-941-1809; cell, 619-607-0221.

## BICYCLES

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## WANTED / TRADE

**PLACE PRINTED ADS** in the Reader by calling 619-235-8200.  
**POST FREE ONLINE ADS** with photos at SDReader.com. See thousands of classified ads not printed here!

**CASH** for Walt Disney autographs, original animation/comic art, vintage Disney items, Disneyland items, any type vintage comics, autographed photos (no sports), movie items, 619-465-3090.

**CASH PAID: GOLD/DIAMONDS** and watches. Any condition OK. Highest dollars paid. We also buy estates. Call for quote. 619-235-6555.

# Free Classifieds!

Post free online ads with photos at SDReader.com

**FISHING TACKLE,** Collector wants for his personal collection wooden lures, reels, miscellaneous by Heddon, Pflueger, Creek Chub, South Bend, Shakespeare, to name a few. 619-972-3488.

**I AM LOOKING** for a person who knows carpentry. Exchange for housing. Please call me after 9am. 619-479-4212.

**INDIAN ARROWHEADS/ARTIFACTS.** Must be authentic. Call Steve at 619-985-8562.

**OLD TOYS AND TRAINS.** Lionel, American Flyer, Marx, Aurora, Corgi, Dinky, Hot Wheels, Matchbox, slot cars. Buddy-L, Smith-Miller, Strucio, Tonka. Old plastic vehicles: Pyro, Renwal. Dave, 858-756-2411.

**SHOTGUN AND RIFLE SHELL** boxes, pre-1960. One and two-piece boxes, empty or full, manufactured by Winchester, Peters, Remington, Western, Federal, Robin Hood, Defiance, etc., for private collection. 858-565-1756.

## ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

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**ALL ANTIQUES WANTED!** Cash paid. Antiques/collectibles. Also, quality furniture, pianos. 1 piece or houseful. Cash paid. Same day pickup. Bonded. Licensed. Since 1965. 1-800-840-4447, www.southcoastauction.net.

**AMERICAN/ENGLISH/FRENCH.** 19th/20th century. 200 year old tiger oak 4 foot round table with 4 chairs. Dining room tables. 3-buffet services. Chest of drawers. Living room pieces. 619-847-5144.

**ANSTEAD'S AUCTION.** We buy antiques, collectibles, household furniture, appliances, TVs, home electronics, pianos. Prompt service. Local buyers. Licensed/bonded. Serving San Diego since 1971. 619-233-3148; 1-888-722-2002.

**ANTIQUE SINGER SEWING,** Machine, with carrying case and original 1947 sales slip. Excellent condition! \$300/cash. Antique fancy Lane cedar chest, bench style, dark wood, excellent condition \$300/cash, 619-465-0482.

**CASH REGISTER,** 1915 National, beautiful brass Empire case design on oak base, 5 rows keys, works great, can be electrified, 26"Wx23"Hx17"D, \$1650. 619-296-9415.

**CLOCK,** Westminster chiming, 38x14, solid wood, beautiful detail, collector

quality, \$625. Antique mantel clock, \$150/best. 619-420-2619.

**DISC JOCKEY'S** collection, 500 jazz/big band 33-1/3" records plus 10 albums from 1930s, 1940s, 1950s, and large Ampex phono with speakers. \$1000. 619-422-3547.

**FAINTING COUCH,** authentic, turn-of-the-century antique, dark walnut with gold velvet fabric, \$775. Amy, 619-231-0030.

**NATIVITY COLLECTIBLES.** Holy family, 3 porcelain figurines, baby Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, distributed by Avon of New York. Will sell for less than cost, \$45. Yvonne, 619-283-1767.

**ORIGAMI SCULPTURES.** Very complex, the ancient Japanese art of paper folding. Gregory, 619-241-2079.

**WANTED:** I buy 1950s-1970s rock and roll concert posters, flyers, handbills, used or unused tickets, programs. Private party. Please call 619-501-6210.

## GARAGE SALES

**PLACE PRINTED ADS** in the Reader by calling 619-235-8200.

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**ALLIED GARDENS,** Saturday December 8, 7am-12pm. Furniture, including entertainment center, desk, color TV, bar stools, miscellaneous, household items and small appliances. 4653 Rainier Avenue.

**BANKER'S HILL.** Kids'/women's clothing, costume jewelry, electronics, high chair, wood floors, shutters, miscellaneous. 2440 Albatross. Saturday, 12/8/07, 7am-12pm.

**CARMEL VALLEY.** Garage sale. Saturday, 12/8, 7:30am. Multifamily furniture, housewares, clothes. 4959 Sandshore Court.

**CLAIREMONT.** Garage sale. Saturday, 12/8, 8am-noon. Furniture, assorted Christmas decorations, household items, miscellaneous. 4398 Clayford Street.

**ENCINITAS.** Yard sale. Saturday, 12/8, 9am-2pm. DC shoe samples. Clothing, snowboard clothing, snowboards, men's size 9, women's size 7, kids/toddlers. 444 Pescado Place.

**LA MESA.** Huge 12-family yard sale. December 8 and 9 from 7am-1pm. Electronics, children's clothes and toys, books, movies, etc. Proceeds benefit Rattlers baseball club. Located at 10765 Louisa Drive (Mt. Helix off Avocado Boulevard, north of 94).

**LAKESIDE.** Yard sale. Sunday, 12/9, 8am. Remodeling house, cleaning out closets, electronics, household items, furniture, clothing, books, paint, wallpaper, blinds, door hardware. 9220 Palomino Ridge.

**LINDA VISTA,** Garage/yard sale. 631 Caminito Luisito, Saturday December 8, in Friars Village, 9am-2pm. Books, LPs, VCRs, camping equipment, sports equipment.

**OCEAN BEACH.** Multifamily sale. Saturday, 12/8, 8am. Lights/timers, garland, handmade ornaments, satin balls, lots of other items, 74" cat condo. 1669 Sunset Cliffs Boulevard.

**PACIFIC BEACH.** Moving sale. Saturday, 12/8, 7am-5pm. Office furniture, bedroom furniture, beds, desks, dressers. 630 Loring Street.

**SERRA MESA.** Garage sale. Saturday, 12/8, 8-11am. Christmas items, dishes, clothes, sports cards, and miscellaneous. 8931 Pollard Avenue.

**SPRING VALLEY/NORTHERN,** Saturday 12/8, 8am-noon, 2223 Casa Cielo. Futon couch, toddler bed, crib, rocker, strollers, toys, clothes, girls' bicycle, sport coats, and some unusual items.

## APPLIANCES

**PLACE PRINTED ADS** in the Reader by calling 619-235-8200.

**POST FREE ONLINE ADS** with photos at SDReader.com. See thousands of classified ads not printed here!

**APPLIANCE, STACKABLE,** Excellent condition. Can deliver \$235. Contact Yolanda 619-262-8801.

**DISHWASHER/DRYER,** Late models, multi-function, energy savers. Dishwasher under counter or portable. Dryer can stack or rest on floor. Super deal at \$80/each. 619-461-2643.

**MICROWAVE,** eWave, \$50. 2 oven/stove-top, GE, good condition, \$99. 858-486-0440.

**MISCELLANEOUS.** Sony studio monitor, great condition, 19", \$150. Panasonic VCR/monitor, 21", \$50. Key cutting machine, lever action, \$400/best. Never used. 619-224-0499.

**WASHER,** gas dryer, 2001 Kenmore 90 series, heavy duty, large capacity, matching machines, work perfectly, very good condition, delivery negotiable, \$300. 619-757-6628.

## ELECTRONICS

**PLACE PRINTED ADS** in the Reader by calling 619-235-8200.

**POST FREE ONLINE ADS** with photos at SDReader.com. See thousands of classified ads not printed here!

**IGO EVERYWHERE 130** notebook power adapter with iGo Dual Power accessory, new, in box with case and manual. Retail price \$149.99; asking \$100/best. Contact c-dabs@hotmail.com.

**PANASONIC KX-FP 155** phone, fax, copier, answer machine \$95. Still in box. 619-574-7530.

**TAPE DECKS,** 8 track, vintage top Pioneer recording model, 3 of them, like new, plus 60 tapes including Elvis boxed set, \$250 for all. 760-732-1315.

**TV,** 24" Apex model 2402, moving and must sell, no manual included, extra uni-

versal remote, 20"Hx26"Wx20"D, \$70. UTC, 858-652-8738.

**TV,** Excellent condition, large screen and stand, speakers, 858-755-0312.

**TYPEWRITER,** Smith Corona Spell Right SL 105, does it all, hardly used, \$50. 858-272-9795.

## FURNITURE

**PLACE PRINTED ADS** in the Reader by calling 619-235-8200.

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**BABY FURNITURE FOR SALE,** High chair \$15. Infant seat crib and mattress \$50. Youth bed \$40. Booster seat \$5. 16" girls bicycle \$20. Call 619-465-3170.

**BED \$100 ABSOLUTE BARGAIN!** The Furniture Warehouse now open to the public. We sell warehouse direct. Come see our large showroom. We have over 70 sets in stock from \$89! 995 Bay Boulevard, Chula Vista, 91911. Open 11am-7pm daily. Closed Monday. Credit cards accepted. Legitimate warranties in writing! Fast delivery. 619-426-2727. www.tfwarehouse.com.

**BED \$169 A BARGAIN.** A Ortho Pillowtop Queen, new in plastic with warranty, mattress/box. All sizes. Credit cards accepted. Can deliver. 800-464-6420. North County, 800-464-6490.

**BED A DISCOUNT** store. Mattress World in Hillcrest sells new beds at warehouse pricing lower than regular stores. Student specials, fast delivery or pickup, national brands. Member of the Better Business Bureau. Mattress World, 1601 University Avenue, 2 blocks west of Park Boulevard in Hillcrest. Check www.davisworld.com or email to info@davisworld.com. Call 619-296-1221.

**BED FRAME,** metal. Fits different size beds. Can be easily taken apart to be transported in a car. \$20. 858-277-3065.

**BED,** Almost new, double, dresser, file cabinet, desk, etc. 858-755-0312.

**BEDROOM SET,** Thomasville, solid wood, dark blond, king headboard, 2 nightstands, 2 lamps, and 9-drawer dresser with attached mirror, fantastic condition, \$499. 619-698-3200.

**BEDS.** Waterbed, motionless, California king, \$200/best. Futon, queen, wood frame, \$100/best. Encinitas, p.m. best, 760-753-8824.

**CHAIR** and ottoman, overstuffed with feather, custom built, burgundy with blend cushion, 36"W, moving, must sell, \$125/best. UTC, 858-652-8738.

**CHINA CABINET,** mahogany. Duncan Phyfe style, lighted display case, with 3 shelves, drawer, enclosed storage on bottom. Store value \$895. Yours for \$595. Photo available. 760-729-6571.

**COMPUTER DESK,** SIUS, made in Denmark, 4' across back, 27"H, leg base 30", rubber moulding, 1' from back, looks

good, slight scuff, \$75. UTC, 858-652-8738.

**COUCH,** comfortable down filled with 5 toss pillows, large, 96Wx45Dx32H, paid \$1600, asking \$500 cash. Denise, 619-309-8195.

**DAYBED/FUTON,** Bunkbed/trundle-heavy duty, very universal, space saver, can separate, \$80/best/trade. 619-670-0356.

**DINING ROOM SET,** With 6 chairs and extension. Quality, contemporary design with frosted glass insert. Newly purchased, moving, must sell. Exceptional deal at \$1700. 619-838-4445.

**DINING SET,** formal, excellent condition, beautiful oak wood in pecan color, 2 leaves, 6 padded seat/cane-back chairs, 2 with arms, \$375. 619-698-3200.

**DINING TABLE,** oak, reproduction 4" round with 24" insert, 6 chairs, \$200. Matching hutch, \$100. Sofa table, \$75. Round coffee table, \$75. Best offers. 858-271-9070.

**DRESSER,** not particleboard, \$25. Queen mattress and box spring, \$50. 619-575-0161.

**DRESSER,** wicker, shabby chic, 30"Hx19"Dx41"W, \$60. Turk 4 adorable, unmatched, petite, wood chairs, fun colors, old, all \$99. 760-753-6996.

**ENTERTAINMENT CENTER,** 5"Wx45"H on rollers, oak, 2 glass doors, 3 shelves and storage, large 2 door storage area under TV, side door, \$115. 619-563-4985.

**ENTERTAINMENT CENTER,** pine veneer, 18"Dx54"Wx48"H, TV space 31"Wx27"H, 2 adjustable shelves, perfect condition, \$50. Can email photos. 760-941-0541.

**FURNITURE A DISCOUNT** Factory Direct store. Lowest prices. Order from manufacturers' catalogues and save. Solid cherry, maple, oak or pine, American made Vermont craftsmanship or imported. San Diego's best home furnishings source since 1960. Member of the Better Business Bureau. Al Davis Furniture, 1601 University Avenue, 2 blocks west of Park Boulevard in Hillcrest. Check www.davisworld.com or email to info@davisworld.com. Call 619-296-1221.

**FURNITURE.** Like new, must go. Sofa, \$100. Washer/dryer, \$200. All tables, \$100. TV, \$50. Dinette set, \$100. New king size bed, \$200. Etc. 858-780-9633.

**MATTRESS A DISCOUNT** store-Mattress World in Hillcrest sells new beds at warehouse pricing lower than regular stores. Student specials, legitimate warranties, fast delivery or pickup, name brands. Member of the Better Business Bureau. Authorized Sealy, Simmons, Spring Air, Aireloom dealer. Also Latex, chemical-free and Swedish style Visco-Memory! Mattress World, 1601 University Avenue, 2 blocks west of Park Boulevard in Hillcrest. Check: www.sandiegobeds.com or email to: info@davisworld.com. Call: 619-296-8000.

**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.

**OTTOMAN,** elegant, oversized, 36"x26"x19", leopard print fabric, comfortable enough to seat 2, sturdy to use as a coffee table, originally over \$500, asking \$120. 619-299-9151.

**QUEEN BED MATTRESS,** Box, frame, like new \$100. Standard mattress, \$50. Twin mattress \$35. Chest of drawers, bureau with mirror \$60. Mornings, evenings, weekends 760-739-9464.

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AT TEN YEARS OLD I WAS IN A SERIOUS *LAWRENCE OF ARABIA* PHASE. For Christmas I drew out what I wanted in crayon and left the illustrations around the house: me, in long flowing robes with heroic belts, a turban, and long, curved scimitar.

It's not like I was hinting around about it, either. In bright vermilion (I had the Crayola 54-pack, thank you very much), with an arrow pointing to the outfit, I wrote, "This is what I want for Christmas. Thank you." I churned these sledgehammer hints out at a rate of about 20 an hour for a month of weekends, working away on the floor of my bedroom.

My dad gave me a fair bit of hope when he picked up a few of the drawings scattered across my stained carpet and said, "I think I know what somebody's getting for Christmas."

On the morning of Christmas, I woke from my three-hour nap at the usual Christmas wake-up time, 4:00 a.m., and bolted to the front room. Beneath the tree, I dug through the improbably patterned, garishly colored paper packages and ribbon-wrapped boxes, but couldn't find my gift.

"Well, how do you like it?" my dad asked from the hallway.

"Like what? I don't see it here at all," I answered.

"Sure, it's right here." He strode into the living room and ran a palm softly across the top of a hardwood desk that I hadn't noticed. "You know, because you draw so much, and you're always on the floor."

Never does childhood shriek with such living pain as when it receives the wrong Christmas gift. And never is a Christmas gift so painful as when it is a desk.

"You've got to be joking."

"Look, it's not even finished. You can pick whatever stain color you like, and we can stain it in the garage," he said, patting it lovingly.

Bear in mind, I was ten years old, not a middle-aged florist with a champagne-colored Karmann Ghia, a teacup poodle named Spencer, and a collection of pony figurines. I was ten.

Until this point, I had not thought to get my father anything for Christmas. But looking at him smile proudly at the oak desk and seeing him happily dreaming of us staining it together, I knew exactly what I'd get him as a gift, and I gave it to him by saying, "It's great, Dad. Really, thank you. Can we work on it tomorrow?"

WHAT I WILL AND WON'T WATCH THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

**THE PRICE IS RIGHT**  
**CBS 10:00 A.M.**

Aw, what a cute story. But, let's not let that sentimental BS happen again, okay? Strict adherence to this Christmas list is required. Beatings will occur upon deviation. Understood? Yes, let's get started.

**THE CROCODILE HUNTER**  
**ANIMAL PLANET 6:00 P.M.**

Christmas-list item, the first: eye sockets on fleshy turrets that rotate and manage themselves independently from each other, like a chameleon. Included with this item, I want my brain to interpret the incoming signals from the bizarrely angled eyeballs without making me throw up every few minutes. You

know, in case I go on a date.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

**HOW IT'S MADE**  
**DISCOVERY 6:30 P.M.**

Nöel article deux: invention of the ice-cream chimichanga and a lifetime supply of them. Get cracking, you food people. I want to see elbows and cinnamon shakers, deep-fat fryers, and a sense of determination. Move move move! It better be chocolate-y and hold within it the power to seriously maim anyone with a heart condition. You have three weeks.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8**  
**EON KID**  
**CW 10:00 A.M.**

Gifts for me to keep me happy and to make sure I don't come to your house to drag your pillows through my butt crack #3: a mummified duck with an eye patch! Because pirates are now passé. I still want a bird for my shoulder, but parrots are right out; mummies and ducks are going to be huge next year, I just know it. An eye-patched duck mummy! Excelsior!

**SHOWBIZ TONIGHT**  
**CNN HEADLINE NEWS 8:00 P.M.**

This next one is a performance piece, so hold on to your wigs: I want the skeleton of Amerigo Vespucci mounted to the sparkly banana seat of a unicycle, a length of fiberglass pole tied to his ribcage for balance, and the whole spectacle to be shoved out across a high wire. So the history books will read "Amerigo 'The Flying Italian' Vespucci," instead of "Amerigo Vespucci, the cartographer." I mean he's got that cool name, and it's kind of going to waste.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

**SANTA BABY**  
**FAMILY 6:00 P.M.**

Presents v 4.3(e): the ability to create a pearl by secreting, hardening, and polishing a fluid around a grit of sand that has irritated my right ear canal. I'm already partially deaf in it, and the added wax will make a fine yellowish gem, which I will give out next year for Christmas. What's your address?

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

**THE BIG BANG THEORY**  
**CBS 8:30 P.M.**

Since I believe most conflicts can be resolved through violence, I want, for my fifth or sixth gift (whichever it is now), a robot to punch out the next barista who says, "Why do you want ice in your coffee?" The robot will reply in that menacing monotone voice of all violent robots, "Because he wants to drink it now and it's 180,000 degrees, you twit!" and then his giant boxing-gloved hand will smash the overly pierced dink in the beak and it will robot-shout, "I SAID NOW!" Man,



Hannah Montana

that's so beautiful. That's what Christmas is really about.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

**HANNAH MONTANA**  
**DISNEY 7:00 P.M.**

Gift XIX: this next gift is really from me to you. It's the wish that musical performers would not put their lips directly on a microphone when they sing. Get your lips off that thing, it grosses us all out — damn lips on a metal mesh microphone. And you don't even know who used that last or if it rolled around on the floor before you started singing. Gyeah! Gyeah!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

**SAM THE COOKING GUY**  
**CA4SD 7:00 P.M.**

While we're discussing food: I'd like all food-stuffs to be bioengineered, cross-pollinating everything's DNA with that of Teflon DNA. So when you drop a bit of meat or a prune on the floor and you pick it up, that one hair that managed to cling to the underside will magically slide off. Really, that gift is for us all. I'm nothing if not generous.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

**GREAT GIFTS**  
**QVC 7:00 P.M.**

And the 400dsth and final Christmas present!: that Lawrence of Arabia outfit. I'm not joking. It's been 21 years. Let's hop to it. My friends and family should be ashamed of themselves, really.

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**SALON EQUIPMENT.** 2 styling chairs, shampoo bowl, shampoo chair, 2 dryer chairs, 2 dryers, 2 manicure stations, hydraulic facial table, tilt-up massage/facial table. 619-339-3140.

**WALL UNIT,** large, teak, with shelves and cabinets, \$200. Large, solid wood dresser with shelves and drawers, \$150. 619-423-5916.

MISCELLANEOUS  
FOR SALE

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**AIR RIFLE,** RWS model 34, \$150, still in box. 619-574-7530.

**ANCHOR,** 30lbs., \$28. TV, 20" color, \$35. Generator, Honda 400W, excellent, \$225. Oars, 7', \$45. Down Army sleeping bag, \$35. New men's hiking boots, \$7. 858-568-1029.

**ART AND ART SUPPLIES,** landscapes. 619-437-8739.

**ART COLLECTION,** must sell original lithographs, posters, world renown artist Wighurst, Secunda, Picasso, etc., autographs, sculptures. Plants, gallon pots, 4, \$10. Investment books. Toaster. 858-560-0100.

**ARTIST SUPPLIES.** 2 handmade, stretched canvases, 36"x60"x2-1/2" and 48"x60"x2-1/2", sized with rabbit skin glue, clear poplar stretcher bars, \$100 each. Anthony, 619-543-0712.

**BEDS A PILLOWTOP MATTRESS** Box Set. New in plastic with warranty. Queen \$169. King \$239. Credit cards accepted. Can deliver. 800-464-6420. North County, 800-464-6490.

**CHILD'S ROLLERBLADES.** Size not known. However, boot soles measure 9-1/2". Hardly used. Included are elbow, wrist, knee pads \$40. 619-226-8044.

**CLOTHES,** Jackets, shirts, jeans, toys, stuffed animals (cleaned) etc. 858-755-0312.

**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, 858-277-7197.

**DESK,** TV 24x18, computer table, office chair, \$5. Wheelchair, doors, wall mirror, bird cage, queen bed frame, Christmas stand, toys, decorations, 26' cozy trailer. 858-270-0565.

Free Classifieds!

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**DOLL HOUSE HOBBY KIT,** 3-story San Francisco style. In original box which has never been opened, \$40. 619-226-8044.

**EARRINGS,** 1 carat total weight round diamond solitaire twist stud in 14K gold, new, in gift box. Retail \$1439; sale price \$799.99; asking \$500. c-dabs@hotmail.com.

**EASEL,** artist's fold-up with brush set, \$35. Overhead projector, gram scale, triple beam, \$55. Vacuum, Kirby, self-propelled, attachments and shampooer, \$200. 619-449-8069.

**ENTERTAINMENT CENTER,** Electronics, brand-new clothing and other miscellaneous goods. For more info, please call Nick and Goldie, 619-574-8724.

**FIREWOOD,** Mixed, logged cords delivered \$225. Dan 619-460-1213.

**FIREWOOD,** large truckload, eucalyptus, freshly cut, \$50. Escondido, 760-685-8291.

**HOT-TUB/SPA NEW,** Deluxe 2007 Model. Neck jets, therapy seat. Many jets. Never used! Warranty. Can deliver. Worth \$5950, sell \$1950. 858-530-0980.

**HOUSEHOLD ITEMS.** Double bed, sofa sleeper, dressers, recliner, chairs, radio receiver, theater system, wall units, art-work, ornaments, and much more. Hurry! 619-888-2581.

**ICE SKATES,** men's 11-2/3. Leather jacket, ladies' large. Microwave oven. Videos. 619-420-1028.

**JACKET,** women's size medium, short, buff color, hardly worn, \$59/best. 858-273-7214.

**LAWN MOWER,** gas, no catcher, might need work, \$20. 6 brooms plus 2 floor brushes, long handles, \$15 all. Shower door, \$10. Chandelier, \$5. 760-685-8291.

**LETTER OPENER** from Western Airlines, good condition, \$10. 619-296-7185.

**MARIJUANA CHRISTMAS CD.** Includes hydro Hanukah, Santa's Bag, The Stoner Reindeer, Weed inmy stocking. Puff for Peace, and more. Get it on itunes or www.jetrap.com.

**MICKY MOUSE OLD PHONE,** Collector. New in box. Antique French lord statue 13" pewter, brass teddy bear, \$15. Brass hi-top hat and small one \$15. \$45. 702-334-2350.

**MICKY MOUSE OLD PHONE,** Collector. Antique French lord statue 13" pewter, brass teddy bear, \$15. Brass hi-top hat and small one \$15, \$45. 702-334-2350.

**MINERAL COLLECTION.** Cabs, slabs, cutting rough, crystals, lots of quartz including Herkimer diamonds, unusual tumbled, much more. Knife collection, old Kershaws, Schrade IXLs, others. 619-260-8482.

**MIRROR,** bed tray, books, linens, curtains, new shower curtain, white eyelet bed ruffle, child-size sleep cushion, picture frames, ladies' leather camping shoes. 858-273-1406.

**MITER SAW,** Universal gig, molding set and several 10" table saw blades, excellent condition, \$60 all. 858-278-6970.

**MODEL AIRPLANE,** B-29 bomber, 4 engines, RC \$95. Still in box. 619-574-7530.

**MOVIES (4),** VHS, audio Psalms Bible series narrated by Charlton Heston, unopened, excellent gift, \$40. 858-277-8544.

**MOVING SALE.** Aquarium/stand, refrigerator, washer/dryer, dishwasher, freezer, microwave, TVs/stands, stereo, beds, daybed, dressers, recliner, coffee/end, dining table/chairs, vacuum, bikes. 619-670-7821.

**MOVING SALE.** Motorcycles, canoe, fishing tackle, furniture, beds, TV, car (1989 Chevy Camaro RS), tools, shooting supplies, knickknacks, clothes (boys' and men's). Bruce, 760-274-5467.

**NEW LARGE WOMEN'S LEATHER** Jacket with iPod hook-up (black) \$400. Contact Yolanda 619-262-8801.

**PLUMBING,** Cobra model #99018 cable drum machine 5/16"x35' slotted end cable with 2 piece cutter. \$125, still in box. 619-574-7530.

**RC CAR,** Red Ferrari, 1/10 scale, precise, fastm \$95. Still in box. 619-574-7530.

**RESTAURANT KITCHEN** Exhaust, fire protection and replacement air components. Will comply with local and State fire codes, \$1000. 858-566-4231.

**SANTA COOKIE JAR,** Fitz & Floyd, older, still in box, lots of gold, \$45. Ski pants, women's size medium, never worn, \$10. Coach purse, \$35. 619-282-9581.

**STOCK POT,** 12 quart, heavy stainless steel, with lid, separate steamer and pasta cooker with handles, used twice, like new, \$15 cash. Santee, 619-562-0152.

**TIRES,** 31x10.5x15, good, \$50 all. Lawn mower, Honda, later model, \$85. Garden

fountain, 4-1/2', nice, \$95. Pet carrier, 2', \$18. Car cover, expensive, \$28. 858-581-6223.

**TRUCK,** \$450. Pool table, \$100. Piano, Yamaha electric, \$500. Drain snake, \$305. Aviary, \$125. Pool, \$550. Piano bench, TV, coolers, baby items, \$35 each. 619-660-8079.

**VACUUM,** upright, bagless, \$15. 35 moving boxes, \$40 all. Kitchen sink, stainless steel, 2 compartments with faucet, \$15. Large cooler, \$10. Escondido, 760-685-8291.

**VIOLINS,** reasonable. Make music for Christmas. Antique metronomes. Twin bed frame, \$9. 619-426-4360.

**WORMS, REDWORM,** Nature's fertilizer, 1 bucket \$40. Guaranteed 1000+ worms. Lisa 619-449-7875.

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**HARLEY-DAVIDSON** close ratio 4 speed transmission \$700. STD pan heads, new, \$700. 760-941-9371.

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**SUZUKI LT Z400,** Glamis ready quad full race axle, 4 stroke, many upgrades. Must sell now! Can email photos, \$2400. 760-854-1825.

**YAMAHA BLASTER 200,** Quad, stock \$1100. Must sell now! Can email photos. 760-854-1825.

**YAMAHA TTR 225** Dual Sport, 1999, street legal, good condition, \$1500. 760-633-0138.

AUTOMOTIVE  
CARS

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# T.G.I.F.

Had I not been drugged, I doubt I would have been as fearless.

By John Brizzolara

This past 90 days or so have been the worst of my life. Even 14 months of cancer treatment in '86 and '87 weren't worse.

Since late August, I've been either hospitalized or drunk in between hospital stays for multiple maladies: cardiac, bronchitis, pancreatitis, other stuff. I was given a new pacemaker and defibrillator. A huge amount of this hell is my own fault for the lifestyle and consistently bad choices I have made since childhood. The truth pure and simple — and I do try to keep to the truth in this column; and while I think I have been 90-some percent successful, with some glaring exceptions, I still wonder. Like Peter Lorre's line in *The Maltese Falcon*, "...but it is the truth." As if it was some completely irrelevant or at least inaccessible concept to a thoroughly corrupt soul.

Another characteristic of this column (as is often pointed out to me, as if I'm unaware) is the element of self-pity. Well, I gotta be me. It is a characteristic, or a character defect, whichever you prefer; you're probably right if you consider this a defect because it raises hell with me and those around me and is a great source of my drunkenness and demoralization. This column will be no different, so if you have no patience for that kind of crap, go on to the used-RV-sales listings or turn back 100 pages or so to something more interesting.

Some notes from the first seven-

day stay at UCSD Medical Center: "It is now Saturday morning, 10 a.m. I have been here since Wednesday afternoon. On the one hand, I am fearful/anxious/dreading; on the other, I am bored for the first time in years. In this way, a hospital stay is much like flying: simultaneously tedious and terrifying. I will be operated on for a new bypass on Monday (my son's birthday). Minor surgery, they call it...as if any of it is minor. You are cut open, artificial shit (stainless steel) is implanted next to your heart (the seat of the finest and most bitter of things human), and it will be done by students, theoretically supervised by pro electrocardiologists. Any complications, say, a slip of the scalpel on any of the three wires connected to my most vital muscle, or the accidental detachment of any one of those wires they attempt to dock with subtle manipulations, and they will send me to hell — a new, more refined hell. Though, I must say, they all seem to have fine, articulated, and nimble Asian fingers. They warned me to this effect that 'If your heart starts doing a bizarre kind of rumba and you start to go, don't worry, we'll bring you back with these paddles. Unless, of course, you don't want us to. We need your permission for such heroic measures.

"My response under anesthetic, as I recall, was something like, Fuck you. If it's time to go, it's time to go. Had I not been drugged, I doubt I would have been as fearless."

To be more concise, this is what followed in the next three months. I would return to the hospital after the anesthetic wore off after having swilled most of a fifth of whiskey; an idiotic move, but one motivated by pain, pharmaceutical drugs, and my constant companion: the demonic compulsion to drink. This would, in turn, induce more chest pain, inflame pneumonia somehow, and play havoc with my pancreas (I don't even know what it is supposed to do). This went on for over three months.

At the end of this time, rendering myself pretty much unable to work, I paid no rent. At any moment now I shall be evicted.

Over Thanksgiving weekend I found myself flat broke and forced to sober up. A friend brought some frozen food over. After having quit smoking for two months, I found some old cigarettes and chain-smoked them through Sunday night. Sleepless, I found myself wallowing in and replaying every bad move I'd made in recent months. So many of them presented themselves, I considered suicide and realized that not only was I a coward in this area, I had no idea how to go about it. And not only that, I found I really did fear the more refined, above-mentioned hell I was told awaited suicides. Another aspect of that was the real-



ization that suicides often doom their children to the same fate. My son has had enough trouble.

I suppose I should gladly exchange three months of hell for an eternity of it, but I still can't help but wonder why I brought this down on myself. I don't feel like I've been a bad person, though I've done enough so thoroughly wrong I maybe deserve a bad case of acne or, say, polyps.

I know guys who have had it worse: like the guy in the hospital bed next to me for a while — gawd! What a cheery but terribly afflicted character; someone who made my troubles look like those of a sitcom character with tennis elbow. I don't know how people get through them. I've prayed, of course, and that worked to a large extent. Still, I have no idea where I'll be living a week or two from now, probably some institution or another, and I probably — no, undoubtedly — need it, though I do not want it.

On the other hand, almost everything I have ever wanted has led down a corridor so dark it not only eclipses light, but, like a black hole, lets none escape.

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