SAN DIEGO WEEKLY

VOLUME 37 / NUMBER 1 JANUARY 3, 2008

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# San Diego

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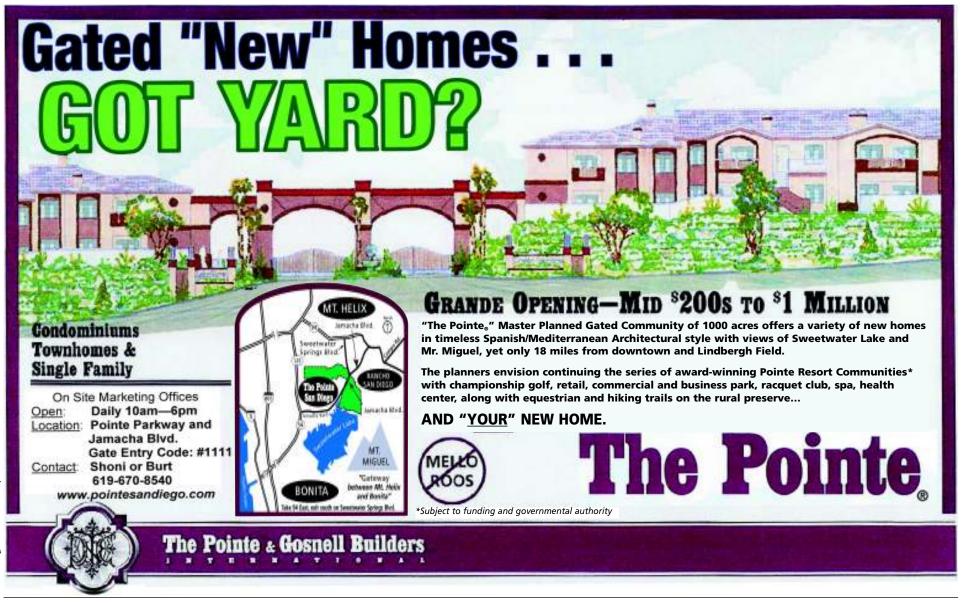
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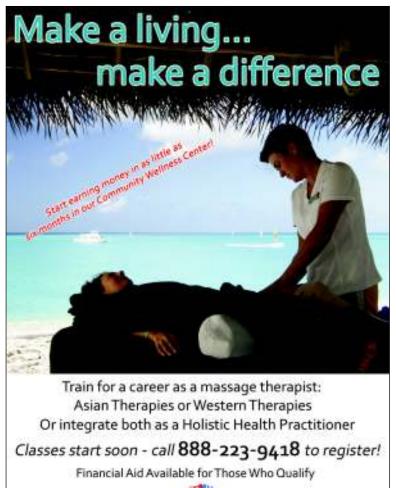
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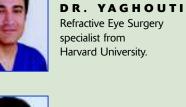
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#### BREAKING NEWS

The moves San Diego city councilwoman Toni Atkins's significant other, Jennifer LeSar,



has asked the City's Ethics Commission for some conflict-of-interest advice about her relationship with several unnamed clients who apparently may soon be doing business at city hall. "You indicate that you have clients with matters that may come before the Redevelopment Agency,

and are seeking guidance regarding the extent to which you may communicate with Redevelopment Agency staff concerning these matters," says a December 21, 2007 letter from Ethics Commission lawyer Alison Adema to LeSar, who runs LeSar Development Company and is on the board of the Centre City Development Corporation, an arm of the City's Rede-

velopment Agency. She recently got a contract from the mayor of Los Angeles to do a study of skid row there with an eye to redeveloping the area.



Jennifer LeSar

letter concludes, "If a client's matter involves a CCDC project, you may not engage in

The Ethics Commission

any communications pertaining to that project with anyone who is serving in a staff capacity in connection with that project, including those individuals who are technically employed by the Redevelopment Agency." But the letter goes on to provide LeSar a bit of wiggle room: "On the other hand, if the client's matter involves a redevelopment project outside the jurisdiction of CCDC, then you may communicate with Redevelopment Agency staff concerning that project so long as you are not acting on behalf of, or as the representative of, CCDC."

In February 2006, Atkins asked the Ethics Commission to rule on whether she was barred from voting on matters involving LeSar based on their "personal relationship." Then-commission lawyer Cristie McGuire responded by noting that the pair were "not registered domestic partners" and concluded that "involvements in bona fide dating relationships do not require public officials to recuse themselves from making governmental decisions that have a financial impact on individuals they are dating."

#### **Money wash** The state's Fair Political Practices Commission is set to levy a \$55,000



administrative penalty against San Diego's Latino Builders Industry Association for allegedly laundering 11 campaign contributions to local candidates, including former city councilman Ralph **Inzunza**, convicted in the Cheetahs strip-club bribery

case, and former Democratic

Ralph Inzunza

assemblyman Juan Vargas. The illegal contributions, made between November 5, 2001, and October 27, 2004, totaled \$2600, according to

an affidavit filed by FPPC staff ahead of a January 10 meeting at which the full commission will take up the matter. The document alleges that association director Jose Mireles used various employees and business associates to make the contributions, reimbursing them from association funds. One of the counts involved Ricardo Gomez, editor of the association's magazine, Latino Builders: "Gomez stated that he attended political fundraisers and usually made contributions using money orders. Mr. Gomez stated that he did not have a checking account at that time. Mr. Gomez stated that Mr. Mireles reimbursed him for any contributions he made by giving him a company check, which he would cash and use to purchase a money order. The check from Respondent would be in the exact amount of the contribution, and would be justified as a reimbursement for gas or some other company expense. Mr. Gomez stated that he would not have made these political contributions with his own money at that time, due to budgetary restrictions." Because the association did not respond to the commission's charges within 15 days after the allegations were served in late 2007, according to the documents, it waived its right to an administrative hearing on the merits of the accusations.

**Exec jet** Where did San Diego's superrich go at Christmastime? A 2006 twin-jet Gulfstream V belonging to Padres owner John Moores was spotted at the airport in Eagle, Colorado, the town where L.A. Laker Kobe Bryant got into a troublesome tryst with a local girl.... Speaking of private flying, the most



Carlsbad, with a total of five fatalities in two separate accidents. The first,

on April 29, involved the crash into the ocean of a Cessna 182Q shortly after takeoff. There were three victims, the pilot and his wife and stepdaughter, who were flying home to Phoenix. The airport's next fatal crash came on July 3, when a Beechcraft E90 collided with a 55foot-high power line shortly after takeoff on a morning with one-quarter-mile visibility, according to a National Transportation Safety Board report. The pilot and his passenger, bound for Tucson, were killed, and a worker on the golf course below was slightly injured when he was hit by debris as he jumped off his lawn mower. The crash so ruined the third hole of Carlsbad's new \$68 million municipal golf course that its grand opening had to be delayed, disappointing local duffers. No final determination of cause has been made for either crash.

— 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.

### **Anatomy of A Bubble**

#### By Don Bauder

ho could have foreseen the housing bubble? And its malodorous bursting? Well, San Diegans, certainly, should the ground knew of the

widespread fraud in the mort-

gage market. To get a mort-

gage, people didn't need

income, assets, a credit card,

or enough money for a down

payment. They just had to

know how to tell a fib. Those

selling the mortgages — who

otherwise would have been

peddling pencils on the

street — loved those liar loans.

They reduced the paperwork,

so the peddlers had more time

to round up suckers. And

loans whose monthly pay-

ments were wired to escalate

in the future were pawned off

on borrowers who could have

qualified for reasonable, lower-

have seen it, and some did: until late 2005, home prices had soared beyond anybody's imagination as buyers grabbed for exotic mortgages that doomed families to future payments they couldn't afford. And San Diegans weren't virgins: they had just been through the bursting of the high-tech stock market bubble of the 2000-2002 period. Silicon Valley suffered a worse stock-bubble bursting, and real estate later went even crazier. Now the silicon chips are falling where they may - in the sewer system.

In San Diego, homes of 900 square feet with holes in their roofs and mold in their walls were going for more than \$400,000. Wasn't that a sign of insanity?

Anybody with an ear to

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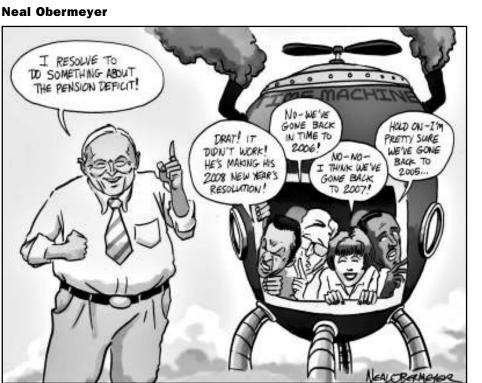
rate mortgages.

But why should the mortgage originators have cared if the loans were stinkers? As fast as they wrote the liar and predatory loans, they sold them off. Wall Street, figuring that home prices would never fall and people would always make their mortgage payments, bundled the mortgages into collateralized debt obligations (CDOs) and sold them to investors (well, gamblers, but they didn't know it at the time). These bonds contained good and smelly mortgages alike - yet the bond-



rating agencies gave them their highest AAA ratings. It was like mixing ground stinkweed with ice cream and selling a wondrous new gelato for ten times the standard price.

Wall Street came up with \$2 trillion worth of this gelato, and much of it was peddled overseas. Understandably, the buyers, holding paper that might be worthless, want to continued on page 8



### **Backcountry Building Woes**

By Joe Deegan

Paul Sommers promised his mother, when she was dying in 2002, that he would wisely invest the money she was

about to leave him. After she died, he began looking for land in East San Diego County. "I found a parcel in Potrero that I liked a lot," he tells me over breakfast."But there were quite a few restrictions on how I could use it. For instance, I couldn't build within 100 feet of the oaks or cross the



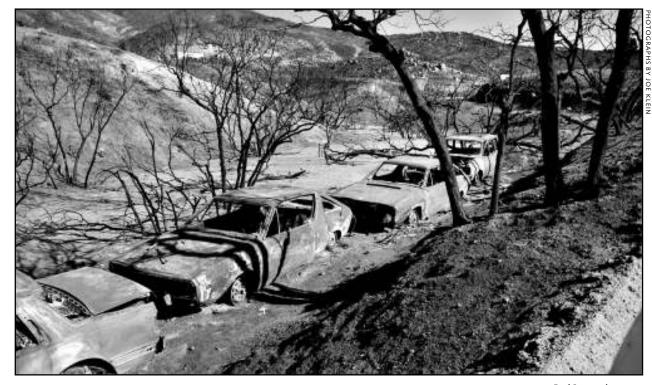
Fire hydrant on Sommers's property

stream with a new road. So I gave up on that one and began looking for another. But very quickly someone else bought the property. One day I saw that the new owner was grading underneath the oaks and building a road across the stream. A nearby resident told me that, unless neighbors complain, county officials hardly ever check on what

people are doing with their property." In 2003, Sommers and a

partner paid cash for 80 acres at another Potrero location. They wanted to put a large home on the land, accompanied by a guesthouse. The partner had a long-term plan to build the main residence. But Sommers was ready to go. He would proceed right away to build a 1200-squarefoot guesthouse of his own design. He wanted to live in it upon completion and grow food on some of the remaining land. Once settled, he would sell a home he has owned in Encanto for the last 21 years.

Shortly after the purchase, Sommers claims that the chief of the local volunteer fire department met him at the gate of his new property."My son and I had just arrived when the chief rolled up in a brand-new truck," says Sommers. "This was not long after the Cedar Fire, and he told me that the [San Diego Rural Fire Protection District] was requiring landowners to comply with brush-abatement codes. He asked me if I would



clear the trees next to the road that ran through my property. I'm a former Navy fireman, so I understood. But these were the big oaks that nobody was supposed to touch. The chief told me that if I started working right away, I'd get a good jump on it and the agency would work with me."

But on February 27, 2004, before he made much progress, a company called Fire Prevention Services, Inc., sent him a letter giving him 30 days to clear all brush on his land within 100 feet of structures (a dilapidated shed stood on the property) and 10 feet from any road on or bordering the property. The company identified itself as a "contracted agent for San Diego Rural Fire Protection District." And it stated that "properties which...do not comply...will be subject to clearing by the fire district at the owner's expense."

So Sommers started working in earnest. He bought a used tractor, rented a wood chipper, and got help from friends to complete the clearing. "Do you know," he asks me, "how much work it is to clear ten-foot-wide, half-milelong paths of trees and brush on both sides of the road? I was proud of myself when we finished, and I called Fire Prevention Services several times. Nobody ever answered. I then learned from neighbors that people were complaining that the company was overzealously harassing people in the backcountry and that the County shut them down. But not before I spent lots of time and money."

(Apparently Fire Prevention Services continued contracting with some local fire prevention districts. On May 9,2007, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection wrote to San Diego County concerning complaints it was receiving about the company. The letter suggested that Fire Prevention Services may have been misrepresenting the law and requiring landowners to do environmental damage.)

In the meanwhile, Sommers was preparing to apply for a building permit from the County Department of Planning and Land Use. He says that the department required that he draw up a new plat map of his property and that he obtain an engineer's evaluation of whether a septic system could be installed. "I offered to pay for removing the effluent from the property instead," he says, "but they said no." Eventually the County granted him a permit for the septic system, though he wouldn't have to install it until the house was being constructed.

"I also had to have good water on the property. So [in early 2005] I built a well, which required an additional permit and cost me \$22,300. The County said the well had to have a pressure bladder that would support fire sprinklers inside the house I was planning to build and a fire hydrant at the road," says Sommers.

To pay for it all, Sommers took out a second mortgage on his home. Otherwise, everything seemed to be going well. Then, in late 2005, county officials claimed that there was no legal access from Highway 94 to Sommers's property. The road that ran through his land was only a driveway, they said, and he would have to get an easement from another property owner to use it. That property owner, says Sommers, "originally said, 'No problem, use it free.' But later, he realized what he had and wanted \$20,000 for the easement."

Worse than that, however, when Sommers finally applied for his building permit, the County informed him that he didn't own a legal parcel. It turned out that an earlier owner called the Stabler Trust, which in the 1980s had subdivided the land into four parcels, had not followed the requirements of the 1972 California Subdivision Map Act. The law requires that land big subdivided into four parcels continued on page 10

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

Paul Sommers (pump and water tank in background)

2008

сіту сіднт б

### **Anatomy of** a bubble

continued from page 6

sue U.S. financial institutions. The legal morass could get putrid enough to set off a banking crisis comparable to that of the 1930s, although that is a very remote possibility. To shelter the big U.S. banks, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson wants a temporary interest rate freeze on

a limited number of subprime, or lower-quality, loans. It's being sold as a plan to rescue consumers from foreclosure, but if you believe that, you deserve to dine on skunk secretion. The Paulson plan's purpose is to shelter the banks from some lawsuits. Supposedly, various rescue plans won't nick taxpayers. Ha ha.

CITY LIGHTS

So how bad will this crisis be? Certainly, it could prove to be as deleterious as the sav-

ings and loan crunch of the late 1980s and early 1990s and the stock market crash of 2000-2002. Or worse.

"It is a big worry," says economist James Hamilton of the University of California, San Diego. There were heavy delinquencies when the economy was quite strong. "So what happens if we have a recession? We don't know, but it could be scary." Hamilton, who specializes in the

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study of both housing and economic downturns, is not yet ready to declare that we are headed for a recession.

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But his fellow economics professor at UCSD, Ross Starr, is more pessimistic. "This is probably the most depressed housing market the U.S. has seen since the 1930s," says Starr. "It is a big deal. It will almost certainly lead the economy into recession in 2008" as residential construction, a key component of total economic output, sinks even further. "Residential construction is going to be at its lowest in decades for 2008 and 2009"

CITY LIGHTS

Says Starr, "Part of this was foreseeable. But what was not foreseeable was the credit crunch that has come with it. Nobody knows the value of CDOs."With so much uncertainty, loans are not available for many purposes. The Fed-

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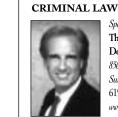


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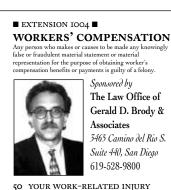
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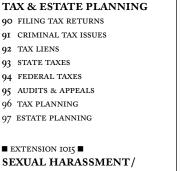
eral Reserve will continue to cut interest rates and add new relief wrinkles, but inflation is rising rapidly and the dollar is falling. The Fed may not be able to drop interest rates down to 1 percent, as it began doing early in the decade providing the helium for the housing bubble. "The crisis will become worse if homeowners are forced to sell en masse in distress. The foreclosure process is a costly one not only for those who lose homes but for the creditors."

CITY LIGHTS

Says Hamilton, "There are potential big losses" on government-sponsored enterprises such as Fannie Mae (Federal National Mortgage Association) and Freddie Mac (Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation), which buy mortgages and sell them on the open market. Will the government be forced to prop up Fannie and Freddie? "We shouldn't be pretending that everything will be okay if we have some kind of guarantee. We should be honest with taxpayers about the obligation they are assuming." That's especially true now that conservatives are even talking about a government bailout.

And what about the bondrating agencies that gave all this rancid gelato those AAA ratings? Frank Partnoy, law professor at the University of San Diego, wrote a research paper last year shedding light on these operations such as Standard & Poor's, Moody's, and Fitch. The rating agencies issued bullish reports on Enron right up until it collapsed, generally accepting at face value whatever the company said. The same was true with other corporate disasters such as WorldCom and Global Crossing. The agencies missed San Diego's collapse too issuing tough reports only after the City itself confessed that pension system liabilities were horrendous.

These agencies have a startling conflict of interest: "Approximately 90 percent of rating agency revenues come from issuers who pay for ratings," said Partnoy in his study. Is it any surprise that ratings are skewed to the optimistic? The typical Wall Street securities analyst, also chronically overoptimistic, dangles the prospect of favorable ratings to snag future fees. But the rating agency "threatens the issuer with unfavorable ratcontinued on page 10



### ■ EXTENSION 1015 ■ WRONGFUL TERMINATION

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CITY LIGHTS

### **Anatomy of** a bubble

continued from page 8 ings to obtain fees now,"

according to the report.

The rating agencies initially defended their AAA ratings by saying that default rates had been very low during the good years. No kidding. Did anybody think there might be bad years? "To look at the performance in good years as a predictor of what may happen in bad years is not a robust way to do a calculation," says Hamilton.

"With the benefit of 20/20 hindsight, the rating agencies

were asleep," says Starr. As others have pointed out, everybody conspires during a bubble to keep the bubble going forever.

CITY LIGHTS

In his book Infectious Greed, Partnoy explained that banks snap up the ablest financial analysts, and the various funds get the second best. "To put it charitably," said Partnoy, the analysts that wind up at the rating agencies are "not the sharpest tools in the shed."

But the same could be said for the big Wall Street firms that sold the gelato bonds and the purported investors who bought them. The characterization, too, applies to the slick salesmen who peddled the exotic and predatory mortgages and some, if not most, of the home buyers who snapped them up. And what about the Federal Reserve and the federal regulators? They looked the other way as fraudulent lending proliferated.

Building woes continued from page 7

or more must get a "certificate of compliance" from the county in which they are situated. The law was intended to give counties greater control in areas where they may want to prevent excessive development.

Sommers protested that he and his partner planned only two houses on their land. And why hadn't the County informed him of the subdivision problem before he'd spent thousands of dollars preparing to build? The County's answer? Their first discovery of the legal flag on his property came when he applied for the building permit. "What recourse do I have?" That's the question Sommers said he asked officials. "They told me the only thing I could do was to sue the former owner who did not follow the law

when he subdivided his land." About that time, Sommers

CITY LIGHTS

figured he needed a lawyer. So he hired land-use attorney Craig Sherman. "Craig saved me \$20,000 right away," says Sommers. "His research showed that the road running through my property, the one the County interpreted as only a driveway requiring that I get an easement, was in fact Old Stage Coach Road built in the 1800s."

On January 19, 2006, Sherman wrote to the County of evidence that "legal access is available to the Sommers property via the Old Stage Route [Potrero to National City]...as granted by the County Board of Supervisors since 1872." On a visit to Sherman's office, he shows me a response to his letter eight days later. It came from the County Department of Public Works and admitted the accuracy of his research and that there always was legal access to the property.

Sherman was not as successful in correcting the illegality of the Sommers's subdivision. He first wrote to owners of the Stabler Trust asking that they correct a problem they had caused. That problem, he wrote, "makes use of the [subdi-

WEDDING

RINGS

vided] properties impermissible until such illegality is cured." But after promising cooperation, the Stablers have stalled. In the meantime, Sherman filed a lawsuit against them, as the County Planning and Land Use Department suggested. Only he went a step further and included the County as a codefendant. He maintained that the County had a responsibility to enforce the Stablers' adherence to the Subdivision Map Act. Also, noted Sherman, that law has a provision designed to protect people who buy land that has been illegally subdivided.

LIGHTS

Sherman thinks that the County then reversed its course. "Suddenly they talked like they had made a mistake and wanted to work with us," he says. The planning department's Jarrett Ramaiya arranged a meeting with Sherman and Sommers for the purpose of discussing the two sides' differences. Sherman was looking forward to a settlement out of court. But he had to cancel at the last minute and asked for a new date for the meeting. Ramaiya, other county officials, and the Stablers' attorney met on the original date anyway.

Subsequently, the County

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decided that, in order to build on his land, Sommers would have to apply for his own certificate of compliance. "That would have cost me a great deal more in fees and penalties," Sommers tells me. "And two other owners who bought parcels stemming from the Stabler subdivision would have been hit with the same penalty. I couldn't do that."

CITY LIGHTS

As a result of Sommers's refusal, on January 7, 2007, the planning department issued its "intention to record a notice of violation." The violators included the Stablers, Paul Sommers and his partner, and the two other subdivision landowners.

The Sommers lawsuit will come to trial in April. Craig Sherman will argue that in granting Sommers several permits without revealing the subdivision illegality, the County has acted in bad faith. And as soon as Sommers purchased his property, the County Assessor's Office gave it a parcel number for the purpose of collecting new taxes. Sommers has paid those taxes since 2003. "It raises interesting questions about County assessment practices," notes Sherman. "Would you assign an assessor's parcel number to an illegal parcel? Doesn't assigning the parcel number and collecting taxes on the property legitimize the owner's stake in a government-recognized piece of property?"

In the meantime, the recent Harris Fire raced over Sommers's land, burning the shed, several old cars, and a pile of clear-cut oak logs he was saving for firewood. And the bank has foreclosed on Sommers's Encanto home. After he vacates in another two weeks, he plans to live in a trailer on his Potrero land until he can build.



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### LETTERS

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#### **Shameless Abe Lover** Dear Ollie, What is this morbid obsession you have with Abe Lincoln? ("Remote Control King.") You have mentioned him randomly in your last three columns. Have you ever asked yourself why it is that you are thinking about Ol' Abe? Could it be his stovepipe hat? His long, fluffy beard? Or his enormously long legs? Do you in the back of your head want to tie your hair up in pigtails, put on your spandex tights (the ones with the glittery stars), and ride Dear Ol' Abe all the way back to Kentucky? Sort of like the tall man on Everybody Loves Raymond. See any connection? See ya next time you're in the corral,



cember 13) that views are Ocean on upper-level winds especially good in Decemand is frequently diminishing the clarity of the atmober. I just noticed that I sphere over the entire westnow see mountains in the far distance, looking northern United States. northwest from Torrey The Book Pines Road in La Jolla. Disappeared What are the mountains I This is in reference to the have suddenly discovered? "Sheep and Goats" about Is-The Channel or San lam (December 27). I think Clemente Islands? Or could that Dr. Mattson would do

> Howard Goldman via email

Jerry Schad responds: An exceptionally cold, dry, clear mass of air was positioned over Southern California during the period December 22 to 27. The "mountain range" Mr. Goldman refers to is almost certainly Santa Catalina Island — its near end, about 70 miles northwest of La Jolla. Sharp-eyed observers all over San Diego County in that period of time probably also detected San Clemente Island, about 70 miles due west of La Jolla. While I was traveling on Interstate 5 in North County

> Society of North America says in your article, empathy for humanity at large. Name Withheld Offended Are you a spoiled brat that is selfish? Or can you live and let live? I grew up in Vermont. We all loved the holidays ("Does Christmas Offend You?" Cover Story, December 20). My best friend and neighbors were Jewish. Spending our holidays to-

> > continued on page 14



Ollie. Yee-haw! M. Tarantino

#### lands were consistently in via email view. Super-clear episodes like this are becoming in-**Mountain Discovery** creasingly rare. Air polluted Jerry Schad writes in the by desert dust and coalburning in China is being lofted across the Pacific

on December 27, both is-

well to read the book that is

a research report on the

Qur'an by Robert Morey.

It's called Islamic Invasion.

Two different libraries I

called said the book had dis-

appeared. I just want to say

Thank you, Mr. Lickona, for

your enlightened article on

Islam ("Sheep and Goats,"

December 27). Americans

need to hear more about av-

erage Muslims and to be ed-

ucated about Islamic beliefs.

Too often our thinking is

based on fear and ignorance

rather than knowledge and,

as the president of the Islamic

Name Withheld

it's quite informative.

**Enlightened On** 

Islam

"Outdoors" section ("Calendar: Local Events," Dethey be the Santa Monica Mountains?



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### LETTERS

continued from page 12

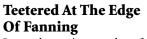
gether, we shared all the fun. I celebrated Hanukkah with Marcia, and she celebrated Christmas with my family. I attended synagogue celebrations and joined in their dance of the Torah. Neither of us was very religious; we just loved each other and shared our heritages.

I had a wonderful Norman Rockwell-style childhood. We went from house to house with our gift of song — we sang "Silent Night." California is different! You are so critical, acting superior and intellectual. It is fashionable to be offended instead of being grateful we have such prosperity. What can you do that will help people feel good about and respect each other's heritage?

News and media encourage conflict and fear. You are setting the tone every day. People feel anxious and untrusting! Get them before they attack you! Do you realize what you are doing to humanity?

Your question offends me. I am not a born-again, just a family person. Please try to change and encourage kindness and respect for my heritage.

Brenda Viana Little Italy



I am a long-time reader of your Reader, and after looking at your December 20 issue, I have some concerns. I'm referring to your article "Does Christmas Offend You?" (Cover Story). I went to read the article expecting either a rant against Christmas commercialism or a balanced presentation of views of all the religious minority groups living in the San Diego area about the Christmas holiday. But that's not what I found. Instead, the discussion was only between two individuals who were labeled repeatedly as "Jew" or "Christian," as if they were being pitted against each other. I wondered why all the other major religions -Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, etc. — weren't included.

The discussion between the two men was headlined and subtitled on several pages in such a way that, in my opinion, it teetered just at the edge of fanning the flames of anti-Semitism.

It reminded me of the cover story of the December 21 edition of your paper last year. It was titled "It's Not a Race Thing...It's Style." Your cover was full of "definitions," using words offensive to a large segment of the minority population. It was presented as if it were "educating the public," but the sensationalistic cover made me wonder about the possible underlying motivation. I gave the Reader the benefit of the doubt in that case, but seeing how the December 20, 2007 article pushed the envelope to the edge, I really question if what you're doing is intentionally racist or if you're merely trying to be "provocative." I sincerely hope it's the latter and that future presentations of highly charged issues will be done in a less sensationalized and more balanced manner.

Renata Chase Chula Vista

#### Why Not A Variety?

In the old days of the *Reader*, when it was three sections, the "Weekly Puzzle" used to vary in theme. Once a picture puzzle, another a hidden picture, sometimes, rarely, a crossword.

These days, we get a crossword every week. Not only that, but it's a puzzle that would rank at *N.Y. Times* Wednesday level at best. Why don't you run a Saturday-level puzzle once in a while and see how many entrants enter and answer correctly. That number would be informative.

Or, better yet, why not a variety of puzzles?

Rudy Stegmann via email

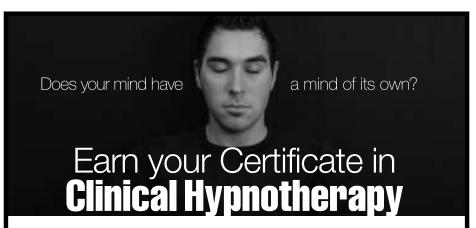








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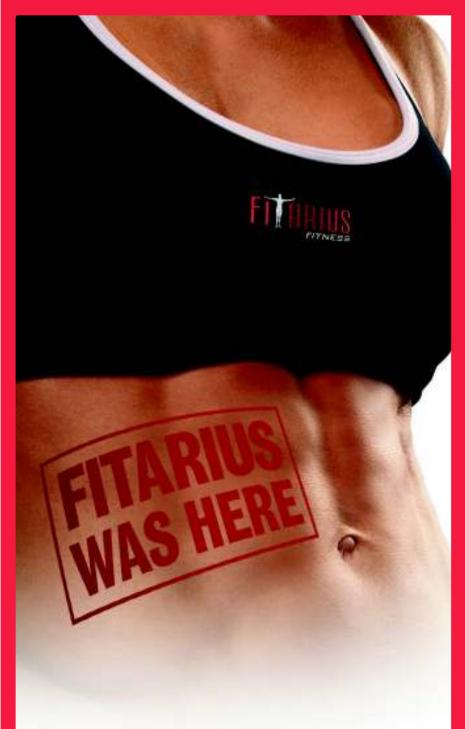
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### SportingBox By Patrick Daugherty

## **Sport Year In Preview**

The Box is nothing if not forward thinking. Who cares about "Sports Year in Review" rehash stories? Not me. Not you. Stories about the past bore forward thinkers. Anybody can write about what happened; the Box proposes to tell you what will happen, thereby saving you hours of unproductive time watching TV...time that could be spent working a second job.

Michael Vick, running a play that hasn't been used in the criminal justice system for years, pleaded guilty to a dog-fighting conspiracy charge and then checked himself into prison early. A bold, unconventional run off-tackle and might well have carried the day, save for Judge Hudson's vicious hit, nailing Vick in the pocket with a 23month sentence, 6 months more than the prosecutors asked for. Still, a game effort, Michael.

What's up for Vick in 2008? Good works. Under the guidance of federal prosecutors, Vick agreed to set aside \$928,000 for the care of pit bulls seized from his dog-fighting operation. What else? Well, he can look forward to an April 2 Commonwealth of Virginia trial on charges of felony dog-fighting and felony animal cruelty. There's a max of five years on each count. And, around that time, a five-million-dollar creditors lawsuit should be making its first court appearance. If Vick plays it right, he could get two weeks worth of courtroom, which translates into two weeks out of jail cell. That's something to look forward to. And, since an arbitrator ruled he should repay the Atlanta Falcons \$20 million in bonus money, there will be back-and-forth between his lawyers, their lawyers, generating plenty of paperwork for him to look over.

This means study time on the prison bunk bed! The same place where Jawaharlal Nehru wrote *The Discovery of India*, Martin Luther King wrote *Letter From a Birmingham Jail*, and Eldridge Cleaver wrote *Soul on Ice*. Again, something to look forward to and mayhap a new career. At one time Vick was the highest paid player in the NFL, but who's to say this isn't the best thing that ever happened to him?

Vick can look to his brother athletes over in Formula 1 racing for solace. The McClaren racing team got dinged \$100 million for the unfortunate discovery of a Ferrari technical dossier in the home of McLaren's chief designer. What's up for 2008? It is rumored that Formula 1 drivers who fail a drug test for steroids or human growth hormone will be fined \$5000 and given a stern warning. In writing.

I should take a moment and hand out our 2007 Sports Journalism Award. If sports journalists won't honor each other, who will?

For getting to the *bottom* of baseball's steroid scandal, the Sportbox Prize goes to the *The Trentonian*, a 73,000-circulation daily serving Trenton, New Jersey. This, for their recent front page splashed with a photo of a smiling Roger Clemens wearing an orange 1970s disco shirt beneath a screaming headline that reads, *HE TOOK IT IN THE BUTT*.

Just as an aside, I'll believe Clemens is innocent when he sues somebody for slander. The way Barry Bonds hasn't.

All right, listen up and I will tell you how to be invisible in plain sight. Regard, pilgrim, the San Antonio Spurs.

For the 1998–1999 season, the Spurs won the NBA Championship, beating the New York Knicks in five games. On to 1999–2000, the Spurs lost to Phoenix in the first round. On to 2000-2001, San Antonio led the NBA in home attendance, lost to the Lakers in the Western Conference Finals. On to 2001–2002, Spurs led in attendance again, lost to the Lakers again, this time in the Conference Semifinals. On to 2002-2003, Spurs won NBA championship, beating New York in six games. On to 2003-2004, Spurs lost to L.A. in the Conference Semifinals. On to 2004-2005, Spurs won the NBA Championship, beating Detroit in seven games. On to 2005–2006, Spurs lost the Conference Semifinals to Dallas in seven games. On to 2006–2007, Spurs won the NBA Championship, shutting out Cleveland in four games.

This makes San Antonio the fourth team in NBA history to win four championships. They've won three in the past five years. Their best players, Tony Parker, Manu Ginóbili, and Duncan are, respectively, 25, 30, and 31 years old. The Spurs are a legitimate dynasty, in league with Chicago, Boston, and the Lakers.

What's up for 2008? Have you ever been to San Antonio? Have you ever wanted to go to San Antonio? After the Spurs win the championship this year, will that change?

### The Vegas Line

NFL Playoffs — Week 1 Wildcard Weekend (Home Team in CAPS)				
Favorite	Spread	Over/Under	Underdog	
	<u>Saturda</u>	av		
SEATTLE	4	<b>4</b> 0	Washington	
Jacksonville	1	<b>37</b> ½	PITTSBURGH	
	Sunda	Y		
ΤΑΜΡΑ ΒΑΥ	3	<b>39</b> ½	N.Y. Giants	
SAN DIEGO	8 1⁄2	41	Tennessee	
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Rutgers	10	60	Ball State	
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San Diego Reader January 3, 2008 1

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Rancho Bernardo

\*\*

content .....★★ delivery ......★★

band ......  $\star \star$ 

Snacks.....★★

Architecture ......★★★

Friendliness .....

Poor to satisfactory.....

**★**<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>

...(none)

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...\*\*

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\*\*\*\*

congregational .....

Sermon

Music

Good ....

Very good .....

Extraordinary ...

Excellent ...

Denomination: United Methodist Address: 16550 Bernardo Heights Parkway, Rancho Bernardo, 858-485-5840 Founded locally: 1977 Senior pastor: Dr. Dick George Congregation size: 800 Staff size: 12 Sunday school enrollment: 120 Annual budget: n/a Weekly giving: n/a Singles program: no Dress: semiformal to formal Diversity: mostly Caucasian Sunday worship: 9 a.m., 10:45 a.m. Length of reviewed service: 1 hour Website: hopeumc.com

A number of spiritual currents ran through the service on the Sunday before Christmas at Hope United Methodist; several made themselves felt within the choir's opening set. We began with the traditional: a straight-up ren-

dition of "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" — no complicated harmonies, just voices over piano with a gentle cymbal keeping the beat. Very much of a piece with the crèche on the altar — the Baby Jesus not yet lying in His manger.

Then something a touch more progressive, a slow, almost wistful anthem that stressed humanity's part in manifesting God's presence: "Emmanuel/ Emmanuel...God with us/Revealed in us...? Reflective, perhaps, of the church itself, with its nave standing in for the face of Christ, and a long adjoining building serving as His outstretched arm.

And finally, a kind of self-critical hymn about hymns: "I'll bring you more than a song," they sang, "for a song in itself is not what you have required... I'm coming back to the heart of worship, and it's all about you, Jesus/

I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing that I've made it/ when it's all about you..." It caught something of the self-conscious introspection that would show up later in the liturgy.

We sat, and a couple ascended the steps (swathed in potted poinsettias) to light the four candles of the Advent wreath. "A candle is a small thing," pronounced the woman, "but one candle can light another...." The people responded: "When one mind illuminates another, when one heart kindles another, when one hand holds another! We light the candle of love to inspire our living...." And the people sang in response, a folksy song of personal fulfillment through Jesus: "I am the light of the world... If you follow and love/ You'll learn the mystery/ Of what you were meant to do and be."

The children came forward, and youth pastor Carrie Jaquess-Gutman addressed them as they huddled on the sanctuary steps. "Do you love to open presents?" she asked them. "I have a secret for you. As much as you love opening presents, your parents love to give you presents. You might hear us complaining about how much things cost...but we love it.... The Bible says that as much as our parents love us...God loves us so much more.... We can't really measure it, but there is a word for how much God loves us: Jesus.... It's so much better than what your parents could buy you.... So pray and thank God for that gift."

A stately gentleman read from the Gospel: "Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man, unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly." But, of course, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him not to fear, but to marry Mary and name the child Jesus. Before his sermon, pastor Dick George

asked us to join with him in prayer, a fascinating blend of mod-

ern and ancient lingos: "Creative Spirit of God, come as the earth and sustain us. Come as the wind and stir us. Come as fir and transform us...until we are all yours. We pray through Jesus who is our Christ, our healer and our redeemer."

His sermon was titled "Christmas Comes as a Child" and focused on our need to "receive the kingdom of God as a little child" in order to enter it. "The first Christmas," he preached, "required a man to set aside his principles and embrace a dream — God's dream." When the angel came to Joseph, "the first thing out of his mouth is, 'Do not be afraid,' and it is here that we have the key to why Joseph wanted to be righteous: he was afraid of what people would think ... say...do.... Christmas hinges on persons who can break out of their

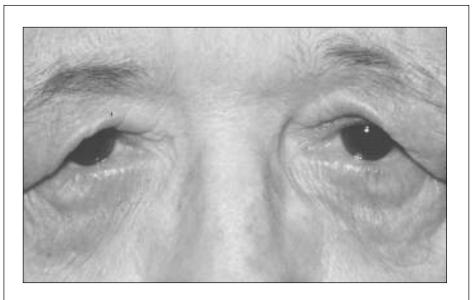
conventional life scripts to entertain and respond to new, extraordinary invitations that seem to come out of the blue — or maybe just from the Holy Spirit.... As adults, we often lack imagination to entertain what God offers to us."

Three quilts hung in the vestibule as we left, each offered for a member of the congregation and each dotted with pairs of loose strings dangling from the centers of the quilted squares. As we left, many people stopped to tie the strands, their heads bowed in quiet praver.

What happens when we die?

"My experience and belief say that we don't really know specifics," said George, "but it's going to be grand. We will be released from anything that we've experienced here on earth that has held us back, and we will become fully what God always envisioned us to be." — Matthew Lickona

Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com



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### **BestBuys**

-EVE KELLY

My husband Patrick is a bird lover. He spots birds and calls out their names to our kids. Birds of prey are a particular love, so when he eyed an advertisement for owl boxes, his interest was piqued. "Takes care of rodent problems," he said over the morning newspaper, "and we certainly could use some gopher help," he added. Our back

yard looks like a war zone of dirt mounds. Patrick attacks with poison; the gophers continue to munch. Patrick gets infuriated and our yard looks worse and worse.

Certified arborist and falconer for 40 years, Tom Stephan (760-789-

1493; *barnowlboxes.com*) has been installing owl boxes for the past 15 years. It's a business he got into by accident. "I was giving a lady an estimate on trimming a sycamore tree," he explained, "and she had an owl box on a low branch, and I could tell there were no owls in it. I really didn't even need to look. I knew it was too low. She told

me it was as high as her late husband could put it in the tree, and I offered to move it higher up for her." She agreed and three days later she called, saying owls had moved into the box. A friend of hers then wanted a box, "and within the first week, I had put up nine boxes. That was the start of the boxes. I have put up over 10,000 boxes now in San Diego County and also in Santa Barbara, Riverside, all over, all the way up to the Oregon border."

Stephan continued, "The curator of birds at the Natural History Museum called me back in 1994 and asked, 'How many boxes have you put up?' At the time, I said, 'about 250.' And he asked how many were active, and I said, 'probably 200 or so.' And he said, 'Two hundred nests is about the known population of wild nests for a barn owl.' So I had somewhere near double the population of barn owls in San Diego County."

So what is your secret?

"There is no real secret," he replied. "For any wildlife, you need three things: food, water, and cover, for anything from cockroaches to elephants. Barn

owls get all the water they need from the food they eat, rodents, which are everywhere. When Europeans arrived, they altered the environment so much that there aren't as many hollow trees. The owls nest in hollow trees, usu-

ally sycamore and oak trees. So we just provide them with nesting habi-

tat. For the past ten years, near 100 percent of the boxes that I put up get owls in the first year. If you see a barn owl in San Diego County, it is most likely from one of my boxes."

Why would people want barn owls to nest in their yards?

"According to a study done by the California Department of Fish and Game, one nesting pair of California barn owls could consume as many as 2000 gophers, rats, and mice. An average would be about 1750. That is a big pile of rodents. Nothing competes with barn "One nesting pair of California barn owls could consume as many as 2000 gophers, rats, and mice."

owls. They are like shrews; they eat, eat, and eat their own weight every night. Barn owls eat around here basically three things: gophers, rats, and mice. They will eat a few insects, but 98 percent are gophers, rats, and mice."

Stephan continued, "A young barn owl will have as many as 12 babies in a clutch, and from about ten days on, they will eat their own weight or more every night for the next two months. And they spread their clutch out; they don't lay it all en masse. It is every other day two eggs, every other day two eggs; they spread it out over the whole spring."

How long will they live?

"If the owl lives through the first winter, they will probably live about six years, maybe up to eight years. But you rarely know if your owls have died because they just go get a new partner right away."

Stephan offers three different owl-box designs. "All three boxes are made of a tropical hardwood called 'luan mahogany.' It's not mahogany, but looks like one, with a reddish hue, and the box gets an oil finish to highlight the wood grain. My top-end box, the Hoo's Who [\$950], is a two-story barn with oak trim around

the front and the edges and a manzanita branch perch. They come on a 16-foothigh galvanized steel pole set on a post that I set in the ground. Inside the Hoo's Who is an infrared night-time vision video camera and microphone. It is color in the day, black and white at night, and it has audio; you plug it into your TV."

"My most popular box is called the Ornate Owl Box [**\$500**]. It looks like a house, has a peaked, oversized roof, trim, and a manzanita perch. There is no camera."

"The last box is called the Basic Barn Owl Box [**\$350**]. It has a simple flat roof, it's rectangular, a plain-Jane box. I do everything for the client; I pick out the spot and I install the boxes."

Where are they installed?

"The boxes installed on poles are only 16 feet high. Some of the boxes that I put in trees are up to 60 feet high, but usually about 35 feet high."

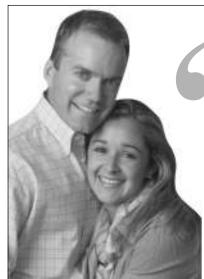
Is there a certain time of year they should be installed?

"Once peak season starts with some inclement weather, not necessarily rain, could be Santa Anas, fog...the onset of winter. Late October through late December is prime time when mated pairs are looking for a place to nest. The other good season is around June when all the babies are leaving the nest. But you can get owls any time of the year."

Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com

1. Barn owl

2. Tom Stephan



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### **Merry Tuesday**

From a commercial point of view, if Christmas did not exist it would be necessary to invent it.

— Katharine Whitehorn

e didn't have to voice it. I could see it in his face, in the moisture gathered in his eyes, in the firm set of his jaw. Disappointment. "Do what you think is right," he'd said. But I knew he didn't mean that. He meant, "Do what *I* think is right. What the world thinks

"I hate the holi-	
days," he had said	
on more than one	
occasion. "The	
obligation, the	
pressure, the	
spending money	
on things that peo-	
ple don't need."	

right. What the world thinks is right. Do what makes everybody happy." The compromise was one I wasn't willing to make. I refused to sacrifice my own happiness and peace of mind for the sake of theirs, and it is this point on which we disagreed. "Can you under-

stand?" I asked him. He didn't say no, but his mouth remained shut, and his head slowly turned from left to right and back again. My heart collapsed in my chest. "Okay, so you don't understand. I wish you could, but I can't make you. Can you respect my decision?"

"Yes, honey. Of course I respect you." He'd said it without hesitation. I sighed with bittersweet relief.

"I hate the holidays," he had said on more than one occasion. "The obligation, the pressure, the spending money on things that people don't need." I hadn't always agreed with him. I grew up loving Christmas. The streets sparkling with lights, the smell of goodies baking at every turn, the idea of lighting a fire even though it rarely gets cold enough in San Diego to need one, and, most of all, the abundance of brightly wrapped gifts under an enormous, ornament-bedecked tree. But change is the only constant,

and my opinion is no exception to the rule. "I'm not celebrating Christmas this year." I'd made the announcement to my mother, in a firm, matter-of-fact tone.

"Why?"

"Because I don't want to." It was imperative I make no excuses. It had taken me months of introspection and reasoning to reach the decision. I couldn't falter now because of some loophole someone else might find in my process.

"You don't want anything?"

"No. I have everything I've ever wanted and more."

"Don't get me anything, then." It was a dare. I was prepared.

"I wasn't going to." Explanations piled in my chest, climbed up my throat, and threatened to spill from my mouth, but I choked them back. The "not participating in seasonal gift exchanges has nothing to do with how much I love everyone" spiel, the "Christmas is for kids and I'm not interested in the frenzy of children ripping through presents" saga, and the "I'm not Catholic anymore, and the commercialization of everything is a bit gross to me" rigmarole. I swallowed them all and kept my face blank.

My mother stared at me for a moment and then said, "Okay." She was surprisingly acquiescent. Perhaps, I thought, this was a sign of understanding and acceptance. Maybe, I hoped, she wants me to do whatever it is that makes me happy, even if what makes me happy conflicts with what makes her happy.

You're not supposed to admit that you don't enjoy the holidays. Oh, there are aspects I still enjoy, like the smell of baking and the shimmering lights on every street. But the obligatory giving, the mental balancing of the Universal Gift Ledger, the madness of going to the mall, the expectations, and resulting stress didn't seem worth it; the way, once you reach a certain age, the distress of Sunday-morning hangovers keeps you from raving it up on Saturday nights. Christmas has been fun for me, but the downside began to eclipse the upside, bringing me to the realization that it's just not my holiday anymore. My heart wasn't in it, and I didn't want to fake it.

This season, I walked around pretending I was Jewish. Or Hindu. Or atheist. I pretended I was a person who did not grow up with the tradition of Christmas in her household so that I wouldn't feel like there was anything missing. It wasn't very hard because I don't feel like I'm missing out on anything important — spending time with my family is important, but I don't need the 25th of December in order to do that. So what else? Additional credit card debt? Super caloric food and lots of it? Receiving presents? Presents are all fine and good, and I appreciate it when someone is thoughtful

#### RESEARCH STUDIES

### Menstrual Cramps?

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

To qualify for this study, you must be:

- · Female, 18-45 years
- · Have regular menstrual periods for the last 6 months
- · Have cramps for the last 2 menstrual cycles

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



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858-505-8672 www.womenwellness.net



## 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.



*by* Barbarella

on my behalf, but there is nothing I need, and the last thing I want is to pile additional stress upon friends and family to spend time and money they might better spend on themselves hunting down something they think I might like because they feel like they should. I don't need a holiday in order to buy a gift for someone I love, especially a holiday of a religion I don't practice.

My family, however, does practice the religion, and they enjoy every aspect of the gift-giving season, and I can appreciate and respect their customs. After all, I grew up in the same household, enjoying the same things. My sisters now have children who look forward to Santa's nocturnal visit with the same fevered anticipation we used to have. I can understand the joy they receive in recapturing the magic through the eyes of

their kids. For me — the curmudgeonly aunt ---- the "magic" has transmogrified into "noise," and the sound of children screaming with delight or otherwise gives me a headache. Doesn't mean I don't love them. Doesn't mean I don't want to hug and squeeze them and hear all about their thoughts and feelings on the world that is still so new to them. It only means that I do not enjoy the sound of screaming. Not wanting to celebrate Christmas does not mean I don't love spending time with my family, it only means I don't want to celebrate Christmas.

On the day of Christmas Eve, I called my sisters and parents. I told them I loved them. I told them I hoped they would have a great Christmas day and that David and I would be heading to Ensenada with friends. I told them I looked forward to spending time with them when I returned. I didn't explain myself, and they didn't ask me to, but I got the sense that on some level, they knew that my not wanting to sit under the tree and sing carols had nothing to do with how much I loved each and every one of them.

The day was warm, and the sky was clear, so I suggested to David that we walk to Balboa Park, as we had plenty of time before joining our friends for the drive to Ensenada.

"Tell me that it's okay," I said, as David and I strolled around the lily pond looking for koi.

"Tell you what's okay?"

"Tell me I'm not an asshole."

"Babe, the fact that you're even concerned that you might be means you're not," David said.

"Thanks," I said, and reached for his hand. "Sometimes I just need to hear it." ■ **Do you** have eczema?

Has anyone you know ever been diagnosed with Eczema Herpeticum or had a bad reaction to the smallpox vaccine?

The ADVN with the UCSD Department of Dermatology has active research studies and is enrolling patients with Atopic Dermatitis, Eczema Herpeticum, Psoriasis, and healthy control subjects. Financial compensation is offered to eligible participants. This NIH-sponsored study typically involves only a single visit, which includes a questionnaire, examination, and blood draw. Especially needed are people of African-American genetic heritage, although anyone with Eczema Herpeticum is encouraged to contact us.

ADVN Atopic Dermatitus Vaccinia Network Please contact for more details, and spread the word. 858-657-8390 ucsddermstudies@gmail.com

RESEARCH STUDIES

Covance needs healthy women to take part in a clinical research study.

#### Qualified participants must be:

- Healthy females age 18-45
- Nonsmokers for at least 3 months
- Taking oral contraception for at least 2 months
  - Willing to make overnight stays

Participants may receive up to \$1,550 for time and participation.



Study 208279

#### 866.818.3253 9665 Chesapeake Dr., Ste. 200, San Diego, CA

TestWithTheBest.com

#### Restlessness or feeling on edge,

Easily Fatigued,

Irritability,

Trouble sleeping .....



## ARE YOUR CURRENT MEDICATIONS JUST NOT ENOUGH?

### eStudySite is conducting a research study for adults with Generalized Anxiety Disorder.

- If you or someone you know is: • 18 to 65 years of age
- Diagnosed with Anxiety and experiencing symptoms while being treated with any of the following medications: Cymbalta, Lexapro, Paxil, or Effexor XR

You *may* be eligible to participate in this research study.

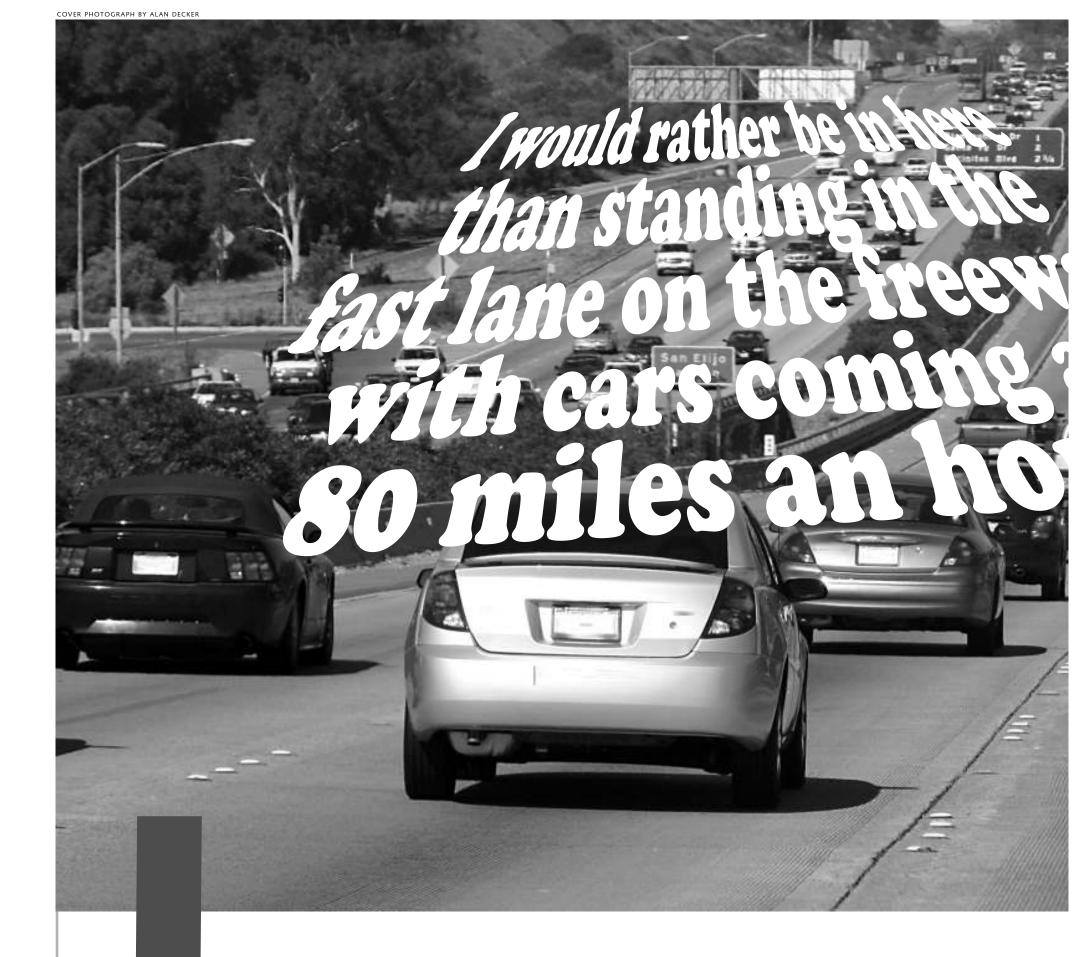
- Qualified study participants will receive:
- A comprehensive medical evaluation as it relates to the study
- Supervised care by medical professionals during the study
- Study medication at no cost
  Compensation for time and

San Diego Reader January 3, 2008

Ы

Compensation for time and travel may be provided.

For more information call eStudySite: (619) 321-6604 or toll free 1 (877) 857-2084



n Kearny Mesa, on a road called Opportunity, people in the Transportation set from a film on NASA space travel. Designed like a theater, the freeway traffic. Facing the video wall, on dozens of desks, about 100

Landeros uses a video wall control panel to patch in

Manchester

Ave

to the 78 cameras located on the highways throughout San Diego.

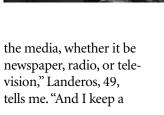
Management Center watch over us. The operations room looks like a room curves around a high bank of multiple screens displaying local computer monitors and a few televisions scroll imagery and data.

Birmingham Dr 1 Mile In a sense, the center — a joint venture between Caltrans and the California Highway Patrol — is the heart of San Diego, keeping the county's arteries circulating.

#### The Man Behind Those Freeway Cameras

It's the beginning of afternoon rush hour, 4:00 p.m. on an autumn Thursday. I'm sitting with Larry Landeros, a media information officer who works for the California Highway Patrol.

"What I do here is I monitor the computer that gathers all the information that comes into this room, and I provide that information back to



log here, and the media has access to it via the Internet. Over here, I have a Caltrans freeway

speed map screen, and it lets me know how fast traffic is moving all over town so I can relate to the public what slowing down is occurring. And then I do my broadcasts on radio and television." Landeros has been with the CHP for 23 years, the past 7 with the Transportation Manage-

Transportation Management Center, Kearny Mesa

### RESEARCH STUDIES

### How do sleeping pills affect pain in the brain? **Insomnia Volunteers Needed!**

- Are you between the ages of 18-50?
- Do you have trouble falling or staying asleep?
- Are you NOT taking any psychiatric, analgesic or sleeping medications?

If you answered YES to all of the above, you may be eligible to participate in a research study using an FDA-approved medication or placebo (an inactive drug). We will use Magnetic Resonance Brain Imaging to obtain a picture of your brain with and without the study drug while you experience experimental pain and temperature. This is a

1-week research study. All visits, treatment, and care will be at no cost to you, and you may receive up to \$275 for participation.

To receive more information, **call Elena at: 858-534-7556 or e-mail: insomniastudy@gmail.com** 



Are you diagnosed with Schizophrenia?

#### Are you currently taking Risperdal?

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

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

Do you have psoriasis?



If you are age 18 or older and have moderate to severe psoriasis, you may be eligible to participate in a new research study testing an experimental drug for psoriasis. Please call or e-mail MedDerm Associates to see if you qualify.

## Do you want clear skin?

You may be qualified to participate in a research study at MedDerm Associates.

DO Y For

For more information, call MedDerm at: (619) 542-0013 or visit our website at: www.medderm.net

# **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

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ment Center. He shares media-information-officer duties with Alicia Contreras and Robert Sanchez. Between 3:30 and 6:00 p.m. every weekday, Landeros delivers six 45-second radio traffic reports for KECR 910 AM and two 25-second television traffic reports on KGTV Channel 10.

At 4:15, he receives a phone call, says hello, and then launches into a speedy report:

"Good afternoon. On the eastbound 94 we've got brake lights from out of the downtown area to the Interstate 15 before heading back to full speed. Eastbound 8 slows from the 805 to Waring, with additional slowing East Main to Greenfield in the El Cajon area. Southbound 805 slow out of the Golden Triangle to 52. Expect to be on and off of the brakes from the 163 to Interstate 8. Brake lights reappear around Division Street, and they're going to last to Plaza Boulevard. Northbound 15, we have slowing as you come up on Ted Williams Parkway. That's going to last till Rancho Bernardo Road. Northbound 5, typical slowing from the 805 merge until Via de la Valle. Additional slowing Palomar to Cannon. Southbound 5, the brake lights get real heavy from Encinitas Boulevard to Manchester, and then again from Washington Street all the way



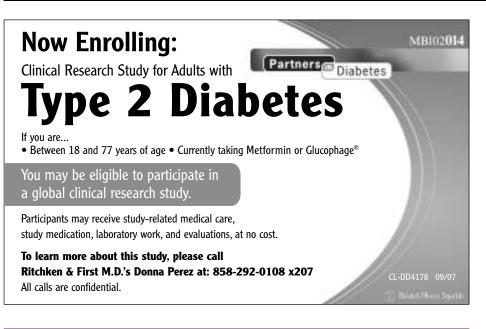
Streaming freeway video from video.dot.ca.gov/

The real brake lights begin around Rancho Santa Fe Road, and they're going to last all the way to Interstate 15. Remember to buckle up. For KECR radio, I'm Officer Larry Landeros for the California Highway Patrol."

Landeros doesn't trip over a single word.

"It took about three or four months for me to figure out how to do that," Landeros concedes. And then he says, "I can actually do it without looking at my cheat sheet or the computer screens, it's become so predictable." And then he demonstrates. He repeats his whole report, verbatim, while looking me straight in the eye. Then he smiles.

Landeros has an engaging manner. It's easy to see why he was chosen to represent the California Highway Patrol on television. You've probably seen him, five evenings a week



RESEARCH STUDIES

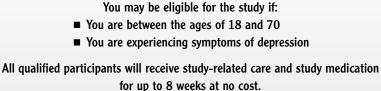
through the downtown

area. Eastbound 78,

expect a little slowing

around Emerald Drive.

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.



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

The California Neuropsycopharmacology Clinical Research Institute, LLC "CNRI, LLC"

### Do You Get Anxious in Social Situations?

#### Do you:

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

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

**VCSD** 

For more information, please call

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



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

#### You may qualify if you:

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

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

North County Clinical Research 760-639-4378

8



### 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.

California CLINICAL TRIALS Finding Answers Together - Since 1982

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.



### Are You A Night Owl Who Can't Fall Asleep

858-571-1188

Toll-free 800-571-1188

www.cctstudy.com

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?

858-571-1188

Toll-free 800-571-1188

www.cctstudy.com

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.





#### We're looking for volunteers with

### **Migraine Headaches**

If you are between the ages of 18 and 65, in good health and suffer from an average of 2 or more migraines monthly, you may qualify to try an investigational medication being studied for the treatment of migraine headaches.

Every research 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 receive \$250 for three study visits.

- You receive no-cost study-related medication and medical care.
- No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.







## 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.



for the past seven years on the five o'clock news. He gets two to three seconds of airtime at 5:25 and two to three seconds more at 5:45. He wears thin reading glasses about halfway down his nose and sports a thick black mustache. His hair is mostly black, but his sideburns are gray.

Landeros uses a video wall control panel to patch in to the 78 cameras located on the highways throughout the San Diego corridor. He hits a few buttons, toggles a joystick, looks around, and zooms in on traffic all over the city.

There are three ways to monitor the area traffic. Landeros can patch in to the freeway cameras and watch cars, he can refer to the Caltrans freeway speed map, and he can watch the codes on the computer-assisted dispatch (CAD) screen.

The Traffic Management Center also offers a useful array of interactive services directly to the public. You can either go online and type in 511sd.com, or dial 511 from your phone, and you're offered all sorts of traffic information, including how to use public transportation, what accidents are where, how long it might take you to get where you're going (provided there are freeways there), and so on.

And best of all, 511 is a free call.

On the video wall of the operations room, I



Adjusting freeway camera

and when I look back, the traffic is thicker and slower. But if I watch the screen continuously for four minutes, then I can't tell that anything has changed. It's like watching a sunset.

The freeway speed map updates every 30 seconds. At 3:30, the routes on the screen are all green (indicating traffic traveling over 50 miles per hour), with a little yellow (37 to 50 miles per hour). By 4:30, a dozen red lines (under 37 miles per hour) have appeared. The red lines will remain until 6:30 or so, when the yellow and green take over again.

Collisions and traffic incidents show up on the dispatch screen. The screen is all in code. An 11-79 is an accident with an ambulance rolling; 11-80 is an accident with major injuries; 11-81 is an accident with minor injuries; 11-82 is an accident with property damage only. And 11-83 is an accident without any details.

After listening to Landeros's radio report (twice), it occurs to me that he must have to think of a lot of different ways to say the same thing.

"All the time," he says, laughing. "Sometimes I'll use off-ramps as reference points, and sometimes I'll use communities. I might say Kearny Mesa to La Jolla one time, and then I might say Kearny Villa Road to Genesee Avenue the next time. And then I need different ways to say 'slow.' Expect brake lights, brake lights appear, congestion starts,

#### RESEARCH STUDIES

can see the freeways get-

ting busier. It doesn't

though. Instead, I look

away for four minutes,

happen all at once,

## Are you currently diagnosed with **Bipolar Disorder**

#### and receiving treatment with Lithium or Depakote?

Do you currently have a combination of the following symptoms? Unusual periods of "highs" and "lows" • Racing thoughts • Poor attention span • Irritability Excessive involvement in activities • Unusually elevated mood • Changes in appetite • Rapid thoughts

You may qualify to try an investigational medication while participating in a research study and be reimbursed \$50 for your screening visit if screening and continuing the study as an outpatient, \$50 for each inpatient hospitalization day you are in the study (excluding day of hospital discharge and any stabilization days) and \$100 for each outpatient visit (excluding screening visit). Total reimbursement will not exceed \$1400.

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

## BOTOX<sup>®</sup> as low as \$5.40/unit

BOTOX injections take as little as 15 minutes and last 3 to 9 months. **S8 per unit** for first area, **S6 per unit** second area, **S5.40 per unit** third area introductory price (25 units per area). Results may vary

Call 619-543-1061

### Medical Marijuana Evaluations

WARNING: ID Cards issued by Health Department are the only ID cards recognized by law enforcement.

Legitimate and affordable. Dr. Sterner has **10 years' experience** working with medical marijuana patient needs.

For 24-Hour Recorded Information Please Call: 619-442-4215 Save 10% with ad. Expires 1/30/08. For weight control. New patients only.

### Lose Weight as low as \$10/day

We have new and innovative **medications** and regimens to help you lose weight without depleting your body of the nutrients it

your body of the nutrients it needs and help you feel satisfied: **bioidentical hormones**, lifestyle and nutrition training and **vitamin B-12 injections** are important contributors to your well-being and helpful in increasing your energy, heightening your metabolism and feeding your nervous system. Let Dr. Sterner develop an individualized program just for you.

Call 619-543-1061 Central Location



www.antiagingarts.com

Medical Center & Weight Control Medical Clinic 1516 W. Redwood St., Ste. 105 San Diego 92101 Robert F. Sterner, Jr., MD Harvard 1978/UCLA 1982 Serving San Diego Since 1984

### Have you been diagnosed with Osteoporosis by a physician?

Are you currently taking Fosamax, Evista, Boniva, Actonel or Forteo? You may qualify for an opinion research study for women. Interviews will be here at our offices in Mission Valley on

January 23, 24 and 25.

You will be compensated \$50 for your time.



### 619-308-2961 ext. 320

## Are you Hispanic and **living with asthma?**

Researchers in your area are evaluating the safety and effectiveness of a study drug to treat asthma in the Hispanic population.

You may qualify to participate if you:

- Are Hispanic (both parents identified as Hispanic)
- Are 12 years of age or older
- Take asthma medication daily

Qualified study participants will receive study-related drug and medical care at no charge. Reimbursement for time and travel may be provided. Health insurance is not needed to participate.

### Call: 858-505-0069

www.a

**30** San Diego *Reader* January 3, 2008



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

#### If you are:

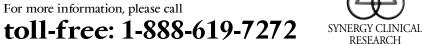
- Male or female between 50 and 85 years of age
- Fluently read and speak English
- Are in good general health

#### 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



### 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 toll-free at: 1-888-619-7272 Together...we can make a difference.



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

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

You are experiencing symptoms of depression

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

To find out if you qualify for this study, or for more information, please call toll-free: 1-888-619-7272

or visit: www.parAGOnstudy.com

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

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

You may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study for a potential diabetes treatment. You may be eligible if: • You have been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes and are

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

For more information, please call

toll-free: 1-888-619-7272

## Worry Too Much?

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

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

> For more information, please call toll-free: 1-888-619-7272

## **SCHIZOPHRENIA**

### Is your current medication working?

If you're taking Seroquel<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> 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 toll-free: 1-888-619-7272



www.synergysandiego.com

### A free seminar on the non-surgical treatment of fibroids!

Common symptoms of uterine fibroids include heavy or irregular bleeding, cramping, pelvic pain, and frequent urination

Join us for a free seminar to learn about the latest treatments for fibroids, including Uterine Fibroid Embolization (UFE), a nonsurgical procedure clinically proven to provide symptom relief.

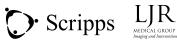
#### Thursday, January 10 · 6:30-8:00 pm Scripps Memorial Hospital Encinitas Conference Center

354 Santa Fe Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024 Directions: The hospital is immediately west of the Santa Fe Drive exit from I-5. The conference center and driveway to the parking lot are on the west side of the hospital.

#### Speakers

Ross A. Christensen, M.D., Interventional Radiologist Angelica Zaid, M.D., Obstetrician and Gynecologist Niseema Agarwal, L.Ac., Licensed Acupuncturist

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## 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**  traffic slowing, and so on."

At 5:02, Landeros leads me to "the glass room," a soundproof glass enclosure in the corner of the operations room where he does his live television broadcasts.

He brushes his hair, hooks himself up to a bunch of wires, and surveys various cameras to determine which traffic views he might show to people who are watching the evening news.

"I like to show the 15 near the Ted Williams Parkway," Landeros says, bringing this camera's view up onto a nearby screen. "Another one I like is the 52 leading into Kearny Mesa. And then, my favorite," and at this, he hits a few buttons, and a spectacular view of downtown comes onto the screen, *"boom.* Look at that. The 5 freeway headed south toward



downtown, with all those buildings in the background. You should see the view from this camera in the morning, with all the sunlight coming through the windows."

At 5:10, eastbound on the 94, near 28th Street, the first crash of the Thursday rush hour occurs. A black Chevy Tahoe and a black Ford Escape have gotten into a minor fender bender.

Landeros sees the report of the crash on the dispatch screen and then finds the two cars on one of the freeway cameras. Within moments, we can see that the Escape has rearended the Tahoe, and the unharmed drivers are talking to a police officer on the center divide.

"Not a serious collision," Landeros says, "and they're not even blocking any lanes. But still, all the lookey-loos slow down, and traffic gets congested."

I comment that this seems like a slow rush hour. Or rather, a fast rush hour, as it were.

"Very noneventful," Landeros says. "But we don't use the Q-word in here." At this, Landeros produces a yellow notepad and a pen and writes something down. Then he shows me the word "QUIET."

I say, "Quiet," and Landeros waves his hands theatrically.

"No," he says, mock seriously. "You could blow it for us. It's a jinx. We don't ever say the word. Instead, we say 'noneventful.' "

Landeros positions himself before a television camera and small klieg light. He continues to chat with me, even as the light comes on and the camera activates. He's got a small television on one side of the room showing the five o'clock news. The traffic segments will come on right after the segments about the weather.

I can't hear Brooke Landau, Channel 10's traffic anchor, but she must have said something into Landeros's earpiece because he interrupts our conversation to say hello to her. They talk about what they'll be covering when they go on the air.

A second collision occurs at 5:20 on the westbound 8 at Taylor Street. According to the dispatch screen, two vehicles are on the right shoulder, a gray jeep and a green sedan. Landeros finds them a minute later

RESEARCH STUDIES

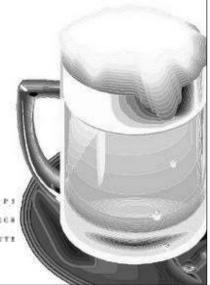
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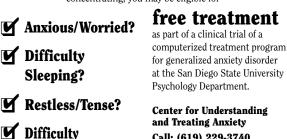
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#### Are you:

- 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

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Currently taking one of the following: Cymbalta, Lexapro, Paxil or Effexor for the treatment of Generalized Anxiety Disorder? • Still feeling nervous, tense or "on edge" most of the time? Still having trouble sitting still or finding it impossible to simply relax Between 18 and 65 years of age?
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### Sadness, low energy, trouble sleeping, can't concentrate... Depression – have your symptoms returned?

Clinical research study for adults with depression.

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- 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:

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### 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.

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### Not sleeping?

Are you:

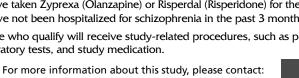
· Having trouble staying asleep through the night?

If you answered yes to all of these questions, you may be eligible for our investigational drug research study. If you qualify and choose to participate, you may receive study medication and you will receive study-related physician consultations, study-related medical examinations, laboratory evaluations and follow-up visits at no charge. Health insurance is not required and compensation for time and travel is provided.

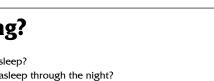
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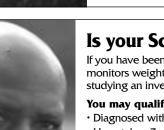
San Diego Reader January 3, 2008 μ







· Having trouble falling asleep? · Between 18 and 64 years of age? · In overall good health?



on a freeway camera, and all we can tell is that the crash was not serious. "They're exchanging information," Landeros says. "Those are good people, good citizens of America."

At 5:25, the traffic segment starts, and Landeros goes quiet, evidently listening for his cue on his earpiece. A minute later, his face suddenly appears on the television screen - for

about two seconds, before it shifts to freeway-camera views and he bursts out talking.

"And good afternoon to you," he begins. "The first camera we're going to take a look at is

RESEARCH STUDIES

CAN'T FIND A

READE

at 15 and Ted Williams Parkway. You can see the traffic moving nicely. You might see some slowing when you get to the Rancho Bernardo area, but it's a pretty nice drive for the most part. And into

Santee, very tight from the 163 all the way to Mast Boulevard, but it should lighten up as you get into Santee. Brooke, back to you." About 19 seconds.

Short and sweet.

RZ

Enti

"So that's it for that," Landeros says. But less than two minutes later, his telephone rings, and it's time for him to do another 45 seconds for radio. He goes through the whole routine and doesn't miss a word.

After he's done, Landeros looks over at me. "Switching between the two mediums is a real challenge."

To me, he sounds like a pro.

A few minutes later, scanning the dispatch screen, Landeros says, "We're pretty accidentfree."

He tells me that although it's a noneventful rush hour, this isn't at all unusual. And even if there were multiple collisions with fatalities, the energy in the operations room wouldn't change much. No one raises his or her voice, and no one starts running around. It's still the same 20 or so people, answering 911 calls and monitoring information.

At 5:40, a third accident is reported on the dispatch screen. Northbound 5 at Sassafras Street, a four-vehicle collision — golden Lexus, black Jeep, and two unknown vehicles. And when Landeros patches in to the proper camera and toggles the joystick, we see that this is, again, a minor accident. Certainly no injuries, and we can't see any twisted metal.

A few minutes later, Landeros delivers his second report for the five o'clock news. After he finishes and packs up the wires in the soundproof glass television room, it's right about 6:00 p.m. His phone rings, and he does his last radio spot for the evening.

Landeros's workday will continue for a few more hours, but his celebrity time is over until tomorrow.

"Well," Landeros says, as he leads me out of the building, "tonight was a slow night. But

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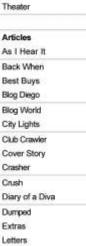
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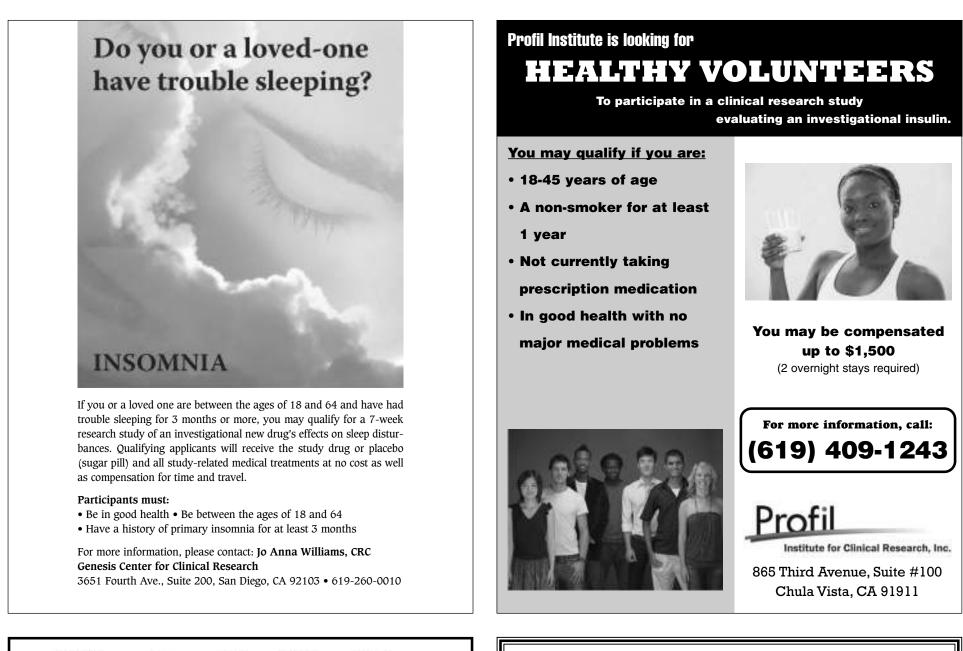
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## Do You Have Rosacea?

If you think you may be suffering from Rosacea and are at least 18 years of age, you may be eligible for a clinical research study.

You may qualify if you have: red skin around forehead, cheeks or nose, red bumps similar to acne (minimum of 8), or tiny blood vessels over the nose and cheeks that appear as a blush from a distance.

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

Qualified participants will receive study-related medical exams and investigational medications at no cost.

Medical insurance is not required for study participation.



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oftentimes, we can go a couple weeks in a row like this, with no serious crashes and nothing life threatening. And then all of a sudden, it's bam! We'll get a whole bunch of them right in a row." He tells me the last fatal crash in the area occurred over a week before.

But for now, the rush-hour crawl has already begun to give way to the ordinary speed limits of night.

#### "Nine-one-one emergency."

"Um, this is on highway 5, right by Mission Bay. We just saw a man hit another man with a car."

"Was this person standing near a semitruck, ma'am?"

"Yes. Yes. Did you get a call on it?"

"We're getting several calls on this, ma'am. May I have your name, please?"

At 11:00 a.m. on a weekday, most of the desks in the operations room are empty. About 20 CHP officers and Caltrans engineers talk on headsets, type, walk around, and engage in conversation.

phone is "Nine-one emergency." Not "Nine-

one-one." Just "Nine-

lable may have saved

dusted with gray. He

recently turned 40. His

quiet, keen eyes keep a

constant smile in them.

o'clock shadowed, even

curved desk, Burke faces

tors: a mapping screen, a

screen with information

But Burke can't rely

If you dial 911 from

on the information from

cell signals. Sometimes

the data's accurate, and

sometimes it's off by

a land line, your local

police station gets the

three computer moni-

dispatch screen, and a

about incoming cell

phone signals.

miles.

As he sits at his long,

And his chin is five

at 11:00 a.m.

lives over the years.

Under the circum-

Burke's short hair is

stances, that omitted syl-

one."

Today, I'm patched in to the emergency phone line of Caltrans public safety dispatcher John Burke.

And right on cue, Burke delivers his tagline.

"Nine-one-one emergency."

Burke's 911 voice is slightly more intense than his normal speaking voice, but that only means that he goes from sounding like a hypnotist to talking like the rest of us. Burke's manner gives off an air of relaxedness. But there is one hint of hurry in John Burke.

What he really says when he answers the

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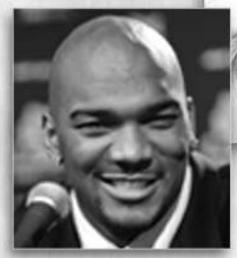
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Arean available to beard rartified physicians. "Results leaved on a random sample of 38 men and 61 werein on our medically prescribed dist. Results may very by contex. Programs available for 18 years and elder.

call, and they know where you are. But if you dial 911 from a cell phone, the call goes to a Traffic Management Center. And the dispatcher might have a sense of where you are. Maybe. The systems that track and pinpoint the locations of cell phone users are notoriously unreliable.

That's why Burke almost always asks the same question after his 911 tagline. "Where are you?"

If the person hesitates, he might say, "I need two cross streets and an address." If the person doesn't know, then he or she is going to need to find out.

"I'm not going to guess where someone is," Burke says. "I have to know where he is." That way, Burke

knows which medics to roll if the emergency requires a medic.

To answer 911 calls or public service calls, Burke clicks on a green window on the left computer monitor.

To talk to me instead, Burke clicks on a red window.

Whenever he clicks the green window, the phone rings just about

"A lot of people will get

angry with us, but we are

# asking things for a reason."

every minute. "Nine-one

emergency." A woman's voice crackles over the line. She's out of breath and sounds as if she's either driving or outdoors. She begins to tell Burke why she's calling and where she is, but her voice cuts

"And what did you see out there?" She's seen two buckets rolling around. "And what lane were

Burke interrupts.

"Ma'am," he says,

"your cell phone cut out

really badly. What free-

way are you on? North-

bound or southbound?

some debris on the

off-ramp?"

highway.

And before or after what

She's calling about

they in, counting from the left side?"

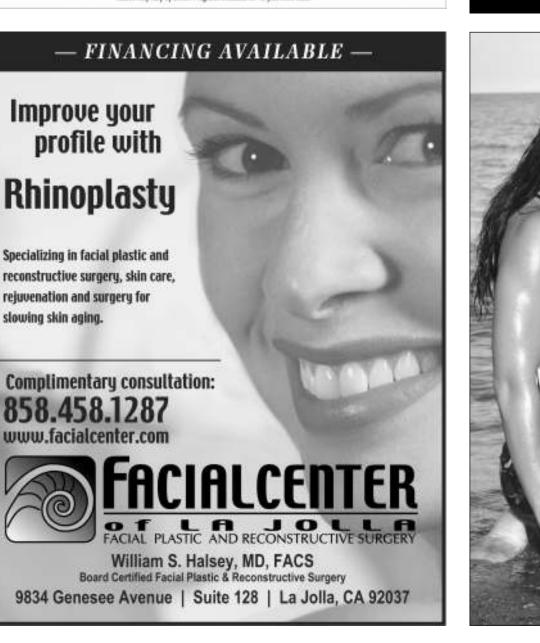
She tells him they're pretty much all over the road.

"Okay," Burke answers. "And what's

### HEALTH AND BEAUTY

in and out.

Model



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**\$239**\*



your name, ma'am?" And then he confirms her cell phone number.

While this conversation is taking place, Burke types codes into his computer. Each bit of code indicates what's taking place, where, when, and who should be alerted. In this case, a Caltrans road crew will head out to clean up the buckets.

This kind of call is far more common than high-urgency ones. But nevertheless it's an important call.

"A lot of people don't know when to call 911." Burke clicks the red window and turns to me. "But anything in a freeway lane can get kicked up and go through someone's windshield or make someone swerve into another lane. We should know about highway debris right away."

Caltrans estimates that its crews collect

venation

around 20,000 cubic yards of lost objects and trash from the county's roadways each year. That's enough garbage to fill 20 average-sized houses from floor to A man with a thick Spanish accent says that he's seen a reckless driver cutting people off on the 805 freeway.

Burke gets the man to be as specific as possi-

"I was talking to a motorcyclist up in the mountains who was trapped underneath his motorcycle off the road, and no one could see where he was."

ceiling.

And that's only the collected garbage. Burke clicks the green window, and his phone beeps. "Nine-one emergency." ble, and exactly one minute and three seconds later, the information has been logged into the computer and the call is done.

After Burke presses the button that ends the

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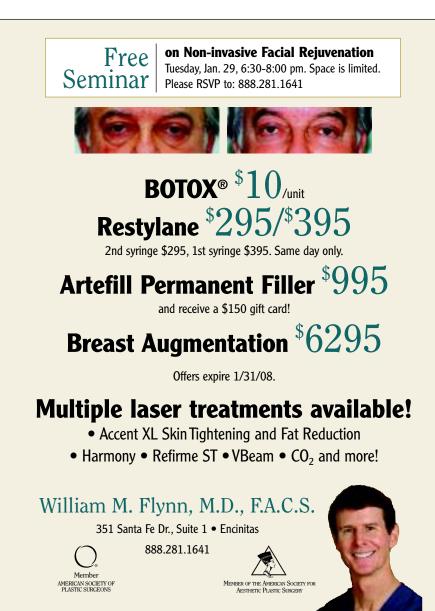
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call, I commend him for his ability to understand the man through his accent.

"The good thing about coming from L.A.," Burke says, "is 20 percent of your calls were Spanish, 20 percent were Vietnamese, 20 percent were Chinese. I can understand a lot from having worked there. You just do the best you can to extract information from people, regardless. And if you get to the point where you can't, then you quickly get a translator on the phone. Because if you can't understand everything they're saying, then you may miss something that's really important." Translators?

"Yes, we have a 911 translating service," Burke answers in his composed voice. "And we get them on the phone with us, and we still guide the caller through

everything. And we have access to translators for every language. I used one once for Swahili." Burke's line beeps with another call. "Nine-one emergency." No answer. "Hello? Hello?" Dead air. "Nine-one-one emergency." Burke's back to speaking more slowly now. "Hello? Hello?" But there's no one

there. "One of the things we get here," and Burke points to the monitor on our left, "you see this?" He's indicating the

phone number of the call that's just come in. "This is either an old cell phone, one of the ones that used to have '9' as a speed dial for 911 and someone's sitting on their phone, or that was a prank phone call."

Burke says calls come in all the time with no people on the other end. He figures it's usually due to accidental dialing or a small child.

With so many different kinds of 911 calls from the accidental to the critical — how can a dispatcher be trained to handle them all?

"You have to be able to think on your feet," Burke says, "and you have to listen and pay close attention. Experience helps too. I've just about heard it all, over the years. And the best way for things to go is for the person who calls in to just let me guide them to the information I want. A lot of people will get angry with us, but we are asking things for a reason. We're trained to do it, but we really don't have time to explain it. Sometimes, people want to go into a big long story, but if we cut you off, there's a reason for it. The operator's not trying





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to be rude. So if you do call, then let the operator guide you through the call. That's the fastest thing you can do."

I imagine that Burke's workday must have highs and lows: flurries of activity followed by long lulls. I ask him whether he'll read a book or watch television in between calls or whether he has to be "on" for 12 hours straight.

"You have to know what's going on in here," he says. "If I don't know what's happening everywhere in this room and everywhere on this computer, then that breaks my concentration. Then if I get a call, and somebody else is already on that situation, then I should already know about that."

Twelve hours of constant attention? That must be difficult.

"Well," Burke says, "up in L.A., it was eight hours nonstop."

Burke has worked for three years at the San Diego Traffic Management Center, and before that, he had the same job for six years at the center in Los Angeles.

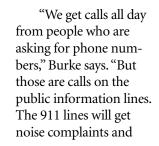
He continues, "In L.A., they don't have the lulls. Now, San Diego's growing, and I have noticed that the lulls are getting smaller, but we have busy times and slower times throughout the day."

According to recent numbers provided by Caltrans, San Diego motorists drive over 12.5 billion miles each year. Our local freeways might carry more than 200,000 cars on them every day.

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Burke and his fellow dispatchers field over 1.3 million calls per year, which breaks down to about 3000 calls per day, for an average of over two calls every minute.

And while lives do get saved and moments of excitement do occur, the fact is, most of the calls aren't all that exciting.



business disputes, but we don't handle any of those. And of course we get prank calls." Burke's heard unusual things over the years.

"One call I remem-

ber was a hot air balloon landing on Torrey Pines Road," he remembers, laughing. "And then you have your basic calls about a dog running on the freeway. But then the next thing you'll have is

someone running after the dog and trying to catch it. And those are serious calls. You don't want people running around on the freeway. I mean, I like dogs, but you don't want people to







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get hit also. And any kind of bridge jumper or suicide call-in, those always get your heart pumping. Once in a while, we'll get the person who is about to commit suicide calling in, and you just have to talk to them. Oh, and one time, I remember it was early in the morning on a Sunday, and there was a guy driving down the freeway with a woman tied to the hood

of his car." Burke says that motorcycle accidents are

HEALTH AND BEAUTY



about the worst things he deals with on a regular basis.

"They're usually really bad," he says. He keeps his hands folded in front of him as he quietly talks. "I had one a couple of weeks ago, where I was talking to a motorcyclist up in the mountains who was trapped underneath his motorcycle off the road, and no one could see where he was. And he couldn't move. But I had to figure out where he was. So I had my map,

and I was asking him how far up the mountain road he was, and I had to confirm a lot of things. And that was a tough call, because he was in a lot of pain. But we found him."

It sounds as though Burke derives satisfaction from his job.

He agrees. "No matter how many times you get weird calls or you get frustrated, when you go home, there's always going to be those 30 calls that you don't even remember, where you got somebody an ambulance for a stroke or a heart attack or you helped some guy who cut off his hand — all these things, where if you remember them, you only talked to this person for 30 seconds, but you really saved their lives."

Burke is an anonymous lifesaver. It has to be frustrating not to get any of the glory for his good deeds.

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Burke disagrees, barely changing his pitch of voice. "I went into the Highway Patrol Academy, and when I was in training, before I came to dispatch, one thing I found out is I would rather be in here than standing in the fast lane on the freeway, with cars coming at 80 miles an hour. That's a little more stressful."

Burke and his fellow dispatchers must not get much closure concerning the events they hear about. An emergency is reported, Burke deploys forces to deal with it, and then he never hears about it again.

"That's something you get used to," Burke says, shrugging. "We're all really too busy. You move on, from call to call. You can't let anything stay with you, good or bad."

Burke's job requires a unique skill set.

"Most of the time, we're doing three things at once," he agrees. "You're typing, talking, and listening. And you have to remember."

Must be tough to find people to do what Burke does.

The pay for a 911 call dispatcher — who might work as radio dispatcher one day, public safety dispatcher the next — ranges from \$3413 to \$4147 per month, plus a \$300 retention bonus, time and a half for overtime (and almost everyone works at least some overtime), and two-and-ahalf-time holiday pay.

And, in fact, there is a shortage in staffing at the center. Ideally, 55 dispatchers would be on the payroll. Currently, 42 positions are filled, and 10 of those 42 are trainees.

Burke tells me, "It would be nice to have

five radio dispatchers and eight people answering 911 calls, no matter how busy it is in here. But on a typical day, we only have two people answering 911 calls."

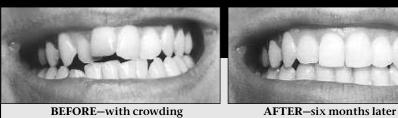
Then he specifies, "The calls can roll over to the radio dispatchers, but ideally, we'd have more people in here. And the biggest thing is retention. Getting people to make it through the training is really important."

It takes about a year to become a fully trained public safety dispatcher. And then you're in for some odd hours.

"We're on 12-hour shifts," Burke explains, "so I come in at 5:30 in the morning, and I leave at 6:00. I get a half hour for lunch, and a 15minute break almost every two hours. I work three 12-hour days one week, and four 12-hour days the next, so that has its benefits. You get some

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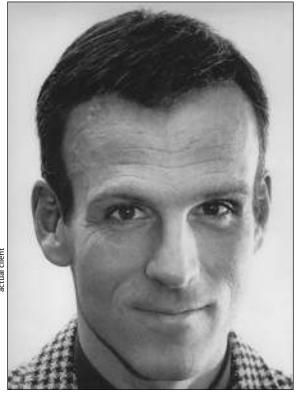
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real time off, which allows you the opportunity to just get away from it all."

Burke makes his phone line go green, and we sit a moment, waiting for an emergency. The phone beeps

again. "Nine-one

emergency."

A man is calling in from his boat. "I'm in a boat on the water," he says. "And my engine quit, and I'm taking on water."

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"Are you in the ocean?" Burke asks. "No," the man answers, "I'm on Lake Elsinore." He sounds levelheaded but a little worried. "Okay," Burke says, "we're going to get the

The man's cell phone

has a San Diego prefix.

sheriff on the line. Just a second."

Burke flips a switch on his headset. "Hi, sheriff," he says.

"This is CHP. I have a transfer for you. I have a

boat on Lake Elsinore." And Burke hands off the call.

He clicks his line red and turns to me.

"I've never been to Lake Elsinore," he says, in that calm hum of a voice, "but I do know who handles the lake. I know that there's a sheriff in a boat there."

I imagine that Burke's heart must start beating faster during these calls, but he has to remain calm. The word I've thought of as I've listened to him is "dispassionate." But in his dispassion he listens closely and remains extraordinarily present.

"I need to think of what questions to ask to get the information I need," Burke says. "And I have to do that quickly."

I tell Burke that I've called 911 only once in my life. It was back in 2001, and they were closing up Bar Dynamite in Mission Hills, right below an overpass for the



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"The thing about wait times for 911 calls is this," Burke says. "Most

### HEALTH AND BEAUTY



go through." right through. But in that

of the time, people get

situation, you say 200

nessed that accident.

How many of them do

you think were calling

through? Incidents like

that inundate our sys-

tems and can skew the

is also set up in such a

from somewhere else

while we're getting all

numbers. But our system

way that if you're calling

those calls from the same

place, then your call will

and trying to get

people might have wit-

So if 911 puts you on hold for a big, visible event of some sort, then you can probably figure it's safe to just hang up?

"No," Burke insists. "You don't want to hang up. You want to let us tell you what we have going on. You never want to hang up, because you never know. And we don't want to miss that one thing. And there could be two or three things going on in one place at one time. I've had that happen. I've had an accident in the street, near a building, and everyone's giving the same address, but on the second floor of the building, there was also a robbery. And we might have missed that if people were on hold and just hanging up. That was in L.A."

Burke then asks me what happened with the accident I witnessed. I tell him that as I ran up the hill to the



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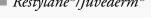
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freeway, I finally got through to a 911 operator and was told that the accident had already been reported. And then, when I reached the road, I saw one of the most horrific things I've ever seen.

A motorcyclist had T-boned a car doing at least 80 miles an hour, probably more. The dented car was parked now, across a lane near the on-ramp, and the motorcycle was on fire about 200 yards down

## HEALTH AND BEAUTY



the road. And in between the car and the motorcycle, spread in pieces for 200 yards all over the freeway, was the body of the motorcyclist.

"You should talk to someone on the MAIT team," Burke says. "That's kind of the other side of what I do in here. Those guys see that kind of thing all the time."

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a car and I'm lying on

"Where are you?"

"Okay, ma'am. You

"No, I was changing

"Okay, but I don't

"I'm close to Wal-

Mart. I am bleeding so

bad. Please don't let me

die. Don't let me die! I

know where you are. I

need you to tell me

where you are."

"I don't know."

were hit. Are you a

my tire, and I was hit

pedestrian?"

bv a car."

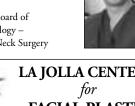
the side of the street!

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"We'll go for a few days or a week where there are no fatal accidents, but then we'll have a whole bunch at the same time, especially over holiday weekends, for instance."

Sergeant Ball's team — the Border Division team — is located in San Diego, but it covers four counties: San Diego, Orange, Imperial, and part of Riverside. The local team is Sergeant Ball, four investigative officers, a Caltrans engineer, and a motor-carrier specialist.

"These individuals bring different disciplines in the area of collision reconstruction," Sergeant Ball says. "We have an engineer who deals with load weight design, highway design, and things of that nature. Our motor-carrier specialist has an extensive history in the mechanics of vehicles.

"Along with our team," Sergeant Ball says, "we have MAIT associates. And those associates will cover duties in area offices, whether it be road patrol or specialduty assignments or investigations."

The associates supplement the primary team members when they need assistance in different areas. Sergeant Ball's primary team is on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

"Our main purpose is collision reconstruction," he says. "That's what we do on a daily basis. We assist in indepth, complex investigations, ranging in a wide variety of issues. We have people who are dynamics specialists and human-factor specialists. So let's say we have a collision with multiple fatalities. There's physical evidence on the roadway, on the vehicles. When I refer to human factors, I mean the people who were involved in the collision. And what we ask is, 'What was going on

prior to and leading up to this collision?' So we go into the in-depth history of the driver profiles. We have people who are trained to analyze, preserve, and collect the physical evidence, trace evidence, and DNA evidence on the roadway, and what we do is we get that evidence to our local crime labs to be able to determine all the factors surrounding a particular accident. We follow injury patterns, read component parts inside and outside the vehicles involved, collect DNA samples off air bags, and we're also able, in some instances, to determine how a crash happened

HEALTH AND BEAUTY

through a dynamics analysis, speed analysis, and human factors."

How does the team begin an investigation? "When we look at a

collision, we look at it in what we call a nine-cell

matrix," Sergeant Ball says. "So what we have is the pre-crash, the atcrash, and the post-crash phases of the collision. And then there's three categories within each of the crash phases: the



environment, the human, and the vehicle. So three times three, and those components are the nine cells, as we call them.

"So when we look at a pre-crash, we look at the environment: was it

raining, was it sunny, where was the sunlight, how was it reflecting, and so on. And then the human factor: was intoxication involved, either illegal drugs or alcohol or even prescribed medication, or was there sleep

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deprivation, which can be even more dangerous behind the wheel than someone who's been drinking alcohol. And then we look at the vehicles, examining them mechanically to determine whether or not

there were any preexisting conditions with the vehicle that may have contributed to the collision. And then we do the same thing for the crashmoment, and for the post-crash collision scene, always thinking in terms of the environment, the human, and the vehicle."

Surely San Diego and the surrounding areas don't have these kinds of fatal accidents all the time. "Our workload really varies," Sergeant



graphical area we respond to, we have numerous offices throughout the entire division, but again, we don't get involved in every case. Typically, we're involved in pretty severe cases, usually multiple fatalities. You know, I've been to scenes where we've had five, six, seven fatalities in one collision sequence. And there's a lot of times where we become involved in cases for the district attorney after the case has been submitted. We do work

like the FBI. We don't only do collision reconstruction. We also have training in evidence collection and preservation. So we'll go out with crime scenes sometimes, for officer-involved shootings or officer fatalities."

As it turns out, there has been a downward trend in fatal collisions in San Diego County over the past four years. According to the CHP, in 2004, 170 crashes led to 183 fatalities. In 2005, 163 crashes caused 188 deaths. In 2006, it was 155 and 177. And as of December 20 last year, 114 accidents had involved 128 deaths.

What's the worst thing Sergeant Ball's seen?

"One of the toughest things that I've had to do was I had to investigate on-duty officer-involved deaths with people that I've worked with. With friends. I've had to attend autopsies of people that

Ball says. "Given the geo-R

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I've worked with. Those are the things that stick with me. And some of the toughest cases that I think we deal with are those involving young children. Especially when they're not properly restrained in a vehicle, and you have this small child, and, you know, they can't buckle them-

selves into a car seat, and they're basically at the mercy of their parents or caregivers."

Sergeant Ball has a wife and children of his own, and, of course, he is a stickler when it comes to car safety. "I tell my children all the time that they aren't sitting properly in their seats or they

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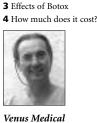
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aren't wearing their seat belts correctly," he says. "A seat belt wasn't designed to be worn under the arm, for instance. It actually will induce injury, and it won't protect you the way that auto manufacturers have designed it to."

I ask Sergeant Ball to tell me about a particular accident or two, but he's hampered by a couple of factors. On the one hand, he can't tell me about anything recent, due to legal concerns. But I speculate that there's another reason behind Sergeant Ball's reluctance to launch into a specific story about a fatal accident that he's witnessed. I suspect that Sergeant Ball has done his best to forget as much as he can. Instead of telling me

about a specific case, Sergeant Ball offers to walk me through what his team does in general at an accident scene.

"You have a major collision with multiple fatalities," Sergeant Ball begins. "Usually, you have the initial responding officer who gets on scene and handles the securement, as far as diverting traffic and trying to preserve as much physical evidence as he or she can. When it's something of that magnitude, you'll usually have a supervisor who responds to the scene. And that area commander might decide, okay, we'll go ahead and use MAIT on this. And then we'll be notified to respond, no matter what time of day it is, no matter where we're at. So we get the call, I activate my team, and we begin responding."

I interrupt Sergeant Ball to ask him whether the team rolls up in a big van with "MAIT" on the side, à la television shows.

He chuckles. "We do have a service truck, which is a large truck that has a crane on it, so we're able to lift up

motorcycles and cars. And there's a lot of specialized equipment on that truck that we use not only on-scene but also when we do our indepth follow-up investigation with the mechanical inspections of vehicles. We also have other vehicles which bring our total station survey equipment, for physical evidence collection, markings, lighting equipment, generators, and so forth."

Sergeant Ball continues. "So when we initially get on-scene, again, we're looking at where the vehicles are, and we're seeing whether we need to reposition things to get physical evidence, and that's obviously secondary to making sure that all the emergency operations have been completed. Although, usually by the time we get there, that kind of stuff is done. The ambulances and whatnot have usually come and gone.

"And then we'll get there and worry about hazardous materials, fractured fuel lines, and the like, and we'll make sure our scene is safe. And always in the back of our minds, we'll analyze how we're going to process the scene to try to open up the roadway as quickly as we can.

"So we walk through the scene with the onscene commander, we get a good understanding of where people went, and we'll decide whether we need to get anyone to a hospital to get any type of statements, and if not, then we know where they're at, so we can follow up with them.

"And then we process the scene. Usually we start by photographing the scene. I have my environment team that goes through and documents the collision, the roadway features, and geometry. The physical-evidence team is going through and marking and collecting physical evidence: tirefriction marks, debris, gouges, scrapes. And then we take the cars for evidence usually, to get measurements off of them for speed analysis as well as mechanical inspection.

"And then when we've wrapped it up, usually after a couple of hours, although sometimes it's longer if the scene is very in-depth, then we have a debriefing, we make sure that we have everything and that's what the team concept is for - and then we break everything down, and we go back to the office, and we begin analyzing all this data that we've collected."

Sergeant Ball's job sounds as though it would be entertaining on a TV show.

"A lot of people try to glamorize what we do," Sergeant Ball acknowledges. "But to be quite honest with you, there's nothing very glamorous about what the MAIT team does. Most of what we see is actually quite horrific. But everyone on the team is very dedicated to the mission of the team. Me, personally, what got me involved in the MAIT program was I suffered a personal loss in a traffic collision in another state. My mother was killed in a crash in Colorado, when she was a passenger in a vehicle back in 1998. And Colorado was a no-fault state, which meant, basically, that they didn't put anybody at fault for the collision. But having that experience in my past, that's what's given me my drive, I would say, to do MAIT-type of work."

Sergeant Ball also does what he does on behalf of others.

"We want to answer those tough questions for the families. They want to know. They want to know what happened. And that's why we do these in-depth investigations."







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# The Fence Grows

Tour of Balboa Park Plant Habitats

he Mexican fan palm is obviously from Mexico, but those plants don't really know boundaries," says landscape architect Steve Wichmann. "The Mexican palm is fast-growing, and it is a palm that will easily regenerate itself from seed in the natural habitat — they'll pop up anywhere, even in cracks of pavement. They can be a pain in that regard if you want one and not ten, or if you put in this cute little four- or six-foot-high palm and it quickly becomes taller. Plus, the faster they grow, the faster the life cycle of the fronds, and you have to cut out those dead fronds."

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LOCAL EVENTS



ad fronds." Wichmann is one of several volunteer horticulturists who conduct the Offshoot Tour at Balboa Park on Sat-

urday mornings. Tour subjects include history, palm trees, trees in the park, and desert vegetation. This Saturday, January 5, the subject will be history.

"What's fascinating to me," says Wichmann, "is that the entire [park] was developed in three years — from the time they selected an architect and plan it only took the city three years to motivate and get it built." Buildings were constructed of "what was considered temporary building material" such as heart redwood, chicken wire, and plaster mixed with horsehair.

Balboa Park was completed in 1915 as part of San Diego's Panama-California Exposition to commemorate the opening of the Panama Canal. At the time of opening, landscaping was not complete, so the city required all landscape workers to wear green ponchos during the day to blend in with the landscape as they continued their work. Wichmann says the fair was meant to stand for a year but that it "was so popular, San Diego decided to hold it over for another year, which was the first time a World's Fair was held for two years."

"San Diego was on its own," says Shirley Larson, another volunteer horticulturist for the park. "They got no financial help from the federal government. When they started thinking about this in 1910, there were only 40,000 people in San Diego."

San Diego's exposition, Larson explains, came to be known as the Garden Fair because "a couple of million plants were planted." Nearly a hundred years later, some of those plants still stand. "Good records were not kept of what was planted, and some trees have come and gone," says Larson, but the Moreton Bay fig is a known original. This Australian native stands behind the Natural History Museum 80 feet tall and with a canopy width of 145 feet. "It is thriving since we put the fence up [ten years ago] — before that it was doing poorly. There was so much compaction on the soil, not enough oxygen. People were climbing on it and knocking off the aerial roots. As the tree gets bigger, the fence [around it] grows.

Wichmann has a particular fondness for the park's palm trees. Some Mexican fan palms have been standing in Palm Canyon since 1912. The Canary Island day palms on the main Prado were planted in 1915. "The Canary Island palms are a signature tree that sets the tone for the entire park," says Wichmann. "The plant material is part of the entire package of architecture — it's a cohesive unit, and without that part I don't think



the overall design would be as strong or as meaningful."

Some species of tree have difficulty surviving in a Mediterranean climate. "At either side of the bridge at the end of the lily pond are two clusters of [Everglades] palm trees that you don't see a lot of," says Wichmann. "They generally like a more tropical or humid environment. And they're slow growing, so they tend to be expensive. Mexican palms might cost \$30 a foot (in trunk height), while other palms can run more than \$250 a foot. The Everglades palm is native to Florida and the Caribbean. "They like a lot of water. They're not in the pond, but they're very close to it, and the pond creates a small microclimate of additional humidity.'

While giving the tour, Larson likes to highlight the broadleaf evergreens. "What I stress to people who come from an area that has winter is that we grow trees here that are unlike anything you'll ever see in the winter Balboa Park's lily pond

places. The broadleaf evergreen looks like a deciduous tree and has ordinary leaves, but it doesn't lose them in the fall. They don't have this short life span." Citrus trees are broadleaf evergreens. Such trees could not survive in winter climates because their leaves would freeze. "It's not like these leaves have infinite life spans," explains Larson. "It varies with the tree; they may have a two- to four-year life span. All summer long [these trees] will lose some of their older leaves and grow new leaves, so all summer long I'm raking leaves."

— Barbarella

Balboa Park Offshoot Tour Saturday, January 5 10 a.m. Balboa Park Visitor's Center 1549 El Prado Cost: Free Info: 619-239-0512 or www.balboapark.org







Events that are underlined occur after January 10.

HOW TO SEND US YOUR **LISTING:** Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday the week prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone number, and a phone number (including area code) for public information to READER EVENTS, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the events section.

#### OUTDOORS

Gray Whale Migration off San Diego County's coast peaks this month. The best view spots from land are high points close to the surf. Aside from the whale-watching overlook at Cabrillo National Monument, try Sunset Cliffs, the pocket parks and dead-end streets from Pacific Beach to Scripps Park in La Jolla, various ocean overlooks on the trail system at Torrey Pines State Reserve, the cliffs opposite Carmel Valley Road south of Del Mar, overlooks opposite Lomas Santa Fe Drive in Solana Beach, and various clifftop viewpoints and beach access stairways

in Encinitas and Leucadia. Scan the ocean a few hundred yards to a couple of miles out using highpowered binoculars. Best times for viewing are about 9 a.m. to noon.

The Quadrantid Meteor Shower, delivering a brief and sometimes intense display of "shooting stars," will be best seen this new year starting just before midnight on Thursday, January 3, and ending with the light of dawn on Friday morning. Only those observers situated far from city lights are likely to see meteors in abundance. This year, the moon's phase is waning crescent; its glare in the earlymorning sky will not seriously compromise sky conditions.

**San Diego Audubon Birding,** Saturday, January 5, 8 a.m., at Tijuana Estuary visitors' center (301 Caspian Way). Free. 858-755-7133. (IMPERIAL BEACH)

Ven Explora la Naturaleza Conmigo, Chula Vista Nature Center hosts bilingual nature walk, Sunday, January 6, 1 p.m. Led by a Spanish-speaking interpretive guide, walks introduce visitors to Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge and nature center. Free. Find center at 1000 Gunpowder Point Drive. 619-409-5900. (CHULA VISTA)

**Very Low Tides** early next week will provide opportunities for observing sea life in the lower intertidal zones. On Monday, January 7, the tide dips to -1.0 foot at 3:03 p.m. Tuesday's low tide of -1.1 feet occurs at 3:35 p.m. Wednesday's low tide of -1.1 feet happens at 4:06 p.m.

Harbor Island Sunset Walk hosted by Walkabout, Monday, OUT & ABOUT

**"THE USE OF NATIVE PLANTS BY NATIVE PEOPLE"** Class at Quail Botanical Gardens begins Thursday, January 10.

(SEE LECTURES)



January 7. Three-mile walk starts at 4 p.m. by information board near restrooms in parking lot at west end of Harbor Island (on Harbor Drive across from Hilton Inn). Free. 619-222-3447. (SHELTER ISLAND) **The Crescent Moon** returns to evening sky on Wednesday, Jan-

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uary 9. Look for its thin, smiling shape low in the southwestern sky about 30 minutes after the sun sets. On the following day (Thursday) the slightly thicker crescent moon will be much easier to spot, and it will be visible for a longer period of time after sunset.

#### DANCE

Ranting Banshee makes music, JoAnn Koppany calls for contradance, Friday, January 4, 8 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church (3030 Thorn Street). Beginners' dance workshop: 7:30 p.m. \$7. Wear soft-soled shoes. 619-283-8550. (NORTH PARK)

#### FILM

**"The Del Fuegos,"** "four frustrated biker wannabees" take a road trip in this comedy screening for Saturday Film Series at Lemon Grove Library (8073 Broadway), January 5, 2:30 p.m. Free. 619-463-9819. (LEMON GROVE)

**"Banished,"** Marco Williams's film showcases the "thousands of African-American families...violently driven from their land by their white neighbors." Screens for "Sunday Afternoon at the Movies," January 6, 2 p.m., at San Diego Public Library (820 E Street). Free. 619-236-5810. (DOWNTOWN)

### LECTURES

**Medical Hypnotherapists** Greg Turner and Lynn Whitmire help you keep your resolutions during open house Friday, January 4, 3 to 7 p.m. (810 Emerald Street). Free. 888-658-6899. (PACIFIC BEACH)

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37820 Old Highway 80 (60 minutes east of downtown San Diego, 2 miles south of I-8) **619-766-4288 • www.liveoaksprings.com**  **"Xeriscape:** Beautiful Landscape on a Low-Water Budget" presented Saturday, January 5, 9:30 a.m., in Cuyamaca College's Water Conservation Garden (12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West). Learn seven principles of xeriscape, planting techniques. \$20 general. Reservations: 619-660-0614. (EL CAJON)

**"The Anza-Borrego Story"** is topic for Anza-Borrego Desert State Park lecture in conjunction with the park's 75th anniversary, Saturday, January 5, 7:30 p.m., at Borrego Springs Performing Arts Center. Donation: \$5. 760-767-4063. (BORREGO SPRINGS)

**"New Nuclear Power in the U.S.,"** Al Tschaeche shares his insight Monday, January 7, 1:15 p.m. at Encinitas Senior Center (1140 Oak Crest Park Drive). Free. 760-753-2456. (ENCINITAS)

**Get Outside!** Wilderness Basics Course with lectures and four weekend field trips offered by Sierra Club. Ten-week course begins Monday, January 7, at REI (5556 Copley Drive). Subjects include wilderness ethics, first aid, equipment, water filtration, nutrition, map and compass, more. Free. 858-279-4400. (CLAIREMONT)

**Metropolitan Opera Preview Lecture**, Dr. Ron Shaheen shares his insight through "a rich array of multimedia resources to explore background information on the operas and composers." Series begins Monday, January 7, 7:30 p.m. with focus on *Macbeth* by Giuseppe Verdi. \$17 per lecture, or \$60 for the series at Athenaeum Music and Arts Library (1008 Wall Street). 858-454-5872. (LA JOLA)

"Internet for the Absolute Beginner" taught at Poway Library (13137 Poway Road) on Tuesday, January 8, 8:45–10 a.m. Participants must have current county library card, be familiar with use of computer mouse. Free. Reservations: 858-513-2900. (POWAY)

"Journey to the Copper Age: Archeology in the Holy Land," presentation and slide show examines exhibit at San Diego Museum of Man for First Tuesday series, January 8, 7 p.m. at the Rancho San Diego Library (11555 Via Rancho San Diego). 619-660-5370. Free. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

**"French Art** in the 19th Century," art historian Linda Blair begins 5-part series at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 8, by examining art in midcentury Paris. \$75 series (or \$17 per lecture) held at Athenaeum Music and Arts Library (1008 Wall Street). 858-454-5872. (LA JOLLA)

**"Pest Management** and Natural Enemies," scientific and biologic controls shared when Point Loma Garden Club gathers, Wednesday, January 9, 10 a.m., at Portuguese Hall (2818 Avenida de Portugal). Free. 619-223-3315. (POINT LOMA)

**"The Blessing of a Broken Heart:** Transforming a Story Into a Theatrical Play," Todd Salovey (associate artistic director of San Diego Rep) and actress Lisa Robbins break down the Rep's latest production during oration Thursday, January 10, 1 p.m., at Powerhouse Community Center (1658 Coast Boulevard). Free. 858-755-1666. (DEL MAR)

**Kumeyaay and Luiseño** practices revealed during class, "The Use of Native Plants by Native People," at Quail Botanical Gardens (230 Quail Gardens Drive). Participants will learn about "plants used for food, medicine, ritual, and basketry" and "the interdependency between land and people." Classes held 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursdays, January 10, 17, and 24, and Saturday, January 26, 9 a.m. to noon. \$100. Required registration: 760-436-3036, x206. (ENCINTAS)

"Lawrence Weschler on Robert Irwin," Weschler expected to expound on his Irwin biography, *Seeing*  *Is Forgetting the Name of the Thing One Sees*, Thursday, January 10, 7 p.m., at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Jacobs Building (1001 Kettner Boulevard). \$5 general. 858-454-3541 x151. (DOWNTOWN)

## IN PERSON

**"Jeannie Cheatham:** My Life in Music..." Blues icon celebrated

during reception in UCSD Arts Libraries (lower level of west wing of Geisel Library), Sunday, January 6, 4 p.m. Cheatham and friends will read from her autobiography, *Meet Me With Your Black Drawers On.* Free. 858-534-8074. (LA JOLLA)

**Danny Green Trio** offers Latin jazz during mini-concert at noon on Monday, January 7, at Athenaeum Music and Arts Library (1008 Wall Street). Free. 858-454-5872. (LA JOLLA) John Kao, "Mr. Creativity," expands on his book, *Innovation Nation: How America Is Losing Its Innovation Edge, Why It Matters, and How We Can Get It Back,* Monday, January 7, 7 p.m., for UCSD's Revelle Forum at Neurosciences Institute (10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive). \$35. Registration: 858-882-8000. (LA JOLLA)

**The Whodunit Club,** Grossmont Adult School's "mystery book discussion class" welcomes author Caitlin Rother (*Poisoned Love* and *Naked Addiction*) to first meeting of its winter session, Tuesday, January 8, 11 a.m., at Borders Books and Music (159 Fletcher Parkway). Free. 619-401-4122. (EL CAJON)

Laugh for Recovery, comedy show to benefit Mental Health Systems rehabilitation services stars Dat Phan and Kenny Kane, at Belly Up (143 South Cedros Avenue), Tuesday, January 8, 7 p.m. \$30. 858-481-8140. (SOLANA BEACH)

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# Sunday, January 20

SD Convention Center, 10am-5pm. More than 300 exhibitors with everything for your wedding. Info, coupons, www.bridalbazaar.com.....5208

# LOCAL EVENTS

"4x4," Sushi Performance and Visual Art's performance series continues Tuesday, January 8, 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)

2008 Jazz Live, singer Andy Bey kicks off this monthly series in Saville Theatre at San Diego City College (at C Street and 14th Street). Tuesday, January 8, 8 p.m. \$10. 619-388-3037. (DOWNTOWN)

Asian Slim Secrets, Linda Yo offers advice from her book Wednesday, January 9, 6:30 p.m., at Fletcher Hills Library (576 Garfield Avenue). Free. 619-466-1132. (EL CAJON)

"Hooked on Baja," author Tom Gatch discusses and signs his new book at Borders Books and Music (1072 Camino del Rio North) on Thursday, January 10, 7 p.m. Free. 619-295-2201. (MISSION VALLEY)

## SPORTS

La Jolla YMCA Surf Series continues competition at La Jolla Shores, Saturday, January 5, 7:30 a.m. Surfers of all ages and



#### **Big Bear Cool Cabins**

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## **Cupid's Castle B&B**

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Kosarito

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Tuesday arrival. And \$279 for Wednesday thru Saturday arrival.
01152-646-176-6225, 01152-646-176-6230, 01152-646-176-6235.
reservations@hotelesterobeach.com. www.hotelesterobeach.com.

# **OUT & ABOUT**

AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR JAMES A. OWEN at Mysterious Galaxy, Monday, January 7.

(SEE IN PERSON)

tors. 858-453-3483 x141. (LA JOLLA)

Ride the Fallbrook Hills with San Diego Bicycle Society riders on

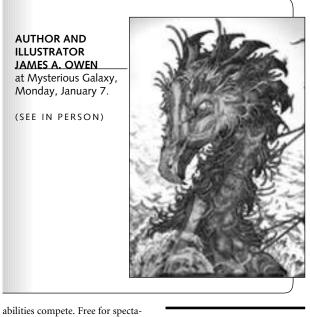
Sunday, January 6. The 75-miler

starts at 8:45 a.m. in upper parking

lot at Moonlight Beach (at Third

and C). Bring money for deli

lunch. 619-561-3846. (ENCINITAS)



SPECIAL

Thar She Blows! Daily whalewatching cruises made possible by Birch Aquarium at Scripps (2300 Expedition Way) and San Diego Harbor Excursion, now through March 31 at 9:45 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. \$15 kids 4-12; \$30-\$35



Weddings • Formal Occasions • Dances Holiday Parties • All other events

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for those 13 and older. Reservations: 619-234-4111. (LA JOLLA)

"Snapshot of an Era: Uncovering Our New Deal Past" - exhibition exploring the genesis of the university campus and development of San Diego during the New Deal continues through May, in Special Collections Reading Room, University Archives, and Donor Hall of San Diego State University's Love Library (5500 Campanile Drive). Exhibit uses archival photographs, institutional records, memorabilia, other primary resources to highlight impact of various New Deal programs on the physical campus environment, student life during the 1930s. Free. 619-594-6791. (SDSU)

**San Diego Boat Show,** over 500 boats and yachts, boating and sailing lessons, fishing seminars, kids' area, and live music, January 3–6 at San Diego Convention Center and Marriott Marina (111 West Harbor Drive). Hours: Thursday and Friday, noon to 8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. \$10 adults, \$5 kids 12–16, free for kids under 12. 858-274-9924. (DOWNTOWN)

**Recycling...**up close and personal, Lemon Grove Historical Society leads tour of Edco Recycling Facility, Thursday, January 3, 1 p.m. Wear "sensible" shoes. Carpool from Parsonage Museum (3185 Olive Street). Free. 619-460-4353. (LEMON GROVE)

**"What Rights Do Animals Have?"** Discuss subject with P&R Discussion group, Thursday, January 3, 7 p.m., at Other Side Coffee House (4096 30th Street). Free. 619-370-1027. (NORTH PARK)

**New Year, New You 2008,** experts offer advice on keeping resolutions on everything from weight loss and relationships to finance and career, Sunday, January 6, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., at California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard). \$10 general. 760-294-0664. (ESCONDIDO)

**Stamp-Collecting Show**, stamp and cover dealers offer wares, Sunday, January 6, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., at Al Bahr Shrine Temple (5440 Kearny Mesa Road). Free. 619-218-7835. (KEARNY MESA)

**Experience a Traditional Tea Ceremony** when Soryo Ayako Stott and assistants present demonstrations, Tuesday, January 8, at 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., at Japanese Friendship Garden. Included in garden admission. 619-232-2780. (BALBOA PARK)

**Tai Chi and Qigong** stress release, 5-week class offered on Thursdays from January 10 through February 7 at Redwood Town Court (500 East Valley Parkway), 10 a.m. Free. Registration: 760-796-3757. (ESCONDIDO)

**"Descartes** — What Was His Legacy?" P&R discussion group meets to discuss on Thursday, January 10, 7 p.m., at Other Side Coffee House. Free. 619-370-1027. (NORTH PARK)

### FOR KIDS

**"Pacific Tales"** presented by Old-Fashioned Kite Flying Puppeteers through Sunday, January 6 in Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theater. Shows begin at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Wednesday-Friday and at 11 a.m., 1, and 2:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Next up: *Bitsy's School*  Adventures, performed by Lynn Trimble, comic ventriloquist. Find theater at 2130 Pan American Place. Admission: \$3 for children, \$4 seniors, \$5 general. 619-544-9203. (BALBOA PARK)

**Nature Hike** for young naturalists led by naturalist D.J. Summers in Daley Ranch on Friday, January 4, 10 a.m. Easy hike along Jack Creek Meadow loop trail, followed by leaf craft at picnic area after hike. Fun starts with shuttle

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our new noresnorme sector restroor 10 table games, gft shop and restroor

ride from La Honda parking area. Free. Reservations: 760-839-4680. (ESCONDIDO)

**San Diego Junior Theatre** season continues with *Bridge to Terbithia*. Production continues through January 20 in Casa del Prado Theater. For ages 8 and up. Curtain rises at 7 p.m. on Fridays; 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. January 19 show is ASL interpreted. Tickets: \$8–\$11 for those under 14 and seniors, \$10–\$13

- Opening Jan

5469 Casino Way, El Cajon, CA

general. Reservations: 619-239-8355. (BALBOA PARK)

Wacky Science Sundays with Ms. Frizzle and Magic School Bus, Sunday, January 6, 12:15 and 2:15 p.m., at San Diego Natural History Museum. Kids explore "mysterious creatures, fascinating habitats," hands-on science. Included in regular museum admission. 619-232-3821. (BALBOA PARK) **Learn About Dike Rock Critters** when Birch Aquarium at Scripps hosts Tidepooling for Tots led by aquarium naturalist, Tuesday, January 8, 2:30–4 p.m. Fee: \$10 per adult, \$8 per child. Required reservations: 858-534-7336. (LA JOLLA)

**Teen Advisory Council** forming at Julian Library (1850 Highway 78). Help the library "select books, movies, music, graphic novels, and programming for the teen section of the library," Tuesday, January 8, 5 p.m. Free. 760-765-0370. (JULIAN)

### MUSEUMS

**Bancroft Ranch House Museum** houses indigenous Indian artifacts and memorabilia of early settlers in the area, run by the Spring Valley Historical Society. The home, built

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**"JEANNIE CHEATHAM:** MY LIFE IN MUSIC" at Geisel Library Sunday, January 6.

(SEE IN PERSON)



in 1863, was registered as a National Historic Landmark in 1962 and is on a spot where Kumeyaay Indians camped more than 1000 years ago beside the spring that later gave the area its name. The museum is found at 9050 Memory Lane; 619-469-1480. (SPRING VALLEY)

Barona Cultural Center and Museum is located at 1095

Barona Road; 619-443-7003 x2. (LAKESIDE)

Birch Aquarium at Scripps, an aquarium and museum under one roof, the facility is a component of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UCSD. More than 60 tanks contain marine life of Pacific Northwest, California coastline, Mexico's Sea of Cortés,

and South Pacific. The La Jolla Kelp Tank is a two-story-high tank with giant kelp plants and nearly 30 species of local marine life. "Feeling the Heat: The Climate Challenge" examines science behind climate change; "Art of Deception" explores undersea camouflage. "Wonders of Water" waterplay area includes three interactive stations. The Lynne and

Howard Robbins Shark Reef Exhibit features a 13,000-gallon shark tank with black tip, white tip, bamboo, and wobbegong sharks.

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

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

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



**AFRICAN NIGHTS** at Salvation Army Kroc Center, Thursday, January 10.

(SEE SPECIALS)







#### Chula Vista Nature Center, an

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

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

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

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

#### Flying Leatherneck Museum,

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

**Gaslamp Museum of Historic** San Diego, glimpse San Diego's colorful past at the museum, where displays highlight Wyatt Earp's San Diego days, the Peg Leg



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

great blue heron ambles on stilt-legs across the reed-fringed shallows, stabbing occasionally at subsurface morsels of food. A willowy egret glides in for a perfect landing, scattering concentric ripples across the surface of the lagoon. Both birds seem oblivious to binocular-toting humans, who spy on them a comfortable distance away.

A scene like this is repeated almost daily at San Elijo Lagoon. The lagoon is considered the premier birdwatching site in North County. This month, in particular, brings the added excitement of spotting winter migrant birds such as



white pelicans. Pelicans, egrets, herons, terns, and a variety of other bird species provide endless entertainment as they go about the business of fishing and feeding in the lagoon's shallow waters. West of Interstate 5, in the

"West Basin" part of the lagoon, high tides wash over mud flats and mats of salt-tolerant vegetation. Here, a dozen kinds of

shorebirds can be seen on a typical day. East of the freeway, the "East Basin" part of the lagoon

is higher and drier, and receives some fresh water from local creeks. Various trailheads serve as entry points for hikes along the

lagoon's shoreline. One starting point, serving the rambling trails of the East Basin, is 0.4 mile east from I-5 on Manchester Avenue, opposite a satellite campus of MiraCosta College in Cardiff. Another trailhead, on the West Basin side, lies at the north end of Rios Avenue in Solana Beach. A third trailhead - serving a short, looping interpretive trail — is located at the San Elijo Lagoon Nature Center on Manchester Avenue, 0.5 mile west of I-5.

From Rios Avenue, you gain access to trails that meander along the lagoon's placid south shore. These paths meander through coastal sage-scrub vegetation and groves of eucalyptus and other nonnative trees. Froded sandstone bluffs half-hidden behind a screen of vegetation provide an impressive backdrop for the lagoon. A side trip to the south can take you into a secluded little ravine called Holmwood Canvon. On the east side of I-5, runoff from Escondido Creek and La

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 OUARTER)

Heritage of the Americas Museum, more than 100 Chinese jades of the Late Neolithic (4300-2500 B.C.) through the Ming periods (A.D. 1368–1644) are included in "The Stone of Heaven: The Enduring Art of Jade Age China." From ancient times, jades in China were treasured as

talismans, worn on the body either as final adornments in death or as ornaments in life. See a rare and valuable jade burjal suit of the Han dvnastv (206 B.C.-A.D. 221), one of only about two dozen that have been excavated in China. The suits were made of more than 2000 square and rectangular plates of jade sewn together with threads of gold, silver, or bronze (depending upon the status of the wearer). Ongoing.

The museum features art and artifacts from South and North America, concentrating on the utilitarian and decorative artistry of crafts workers from ancient cultures.

The museum also features wings dedicated to natural history, archaeology, education, anthropology, and fine art. Find the museum on the Cuvamaca College campus, 12110 Cuvamaca College Drive West. 619-670-5194. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

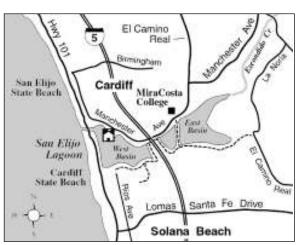
Heritage Walk Museum, the museum includes the restored Victorian House, the city's original Santa Fe Train Depot, a railroad car with model train, working blacksmith shop, and a barn. Find Heritage Walk in Grape Day Park, at 321 North Broadway; 760-743-8207. (ESCONDIDO)

Orilla Creek supports a freshbasin. One branch leads all water marsh — the East the way to La Orilla Creek Basin portion of the lagoon. at El Camino Real. Yet A quick access to that is by another path swings comway of a flood-control dike pletely around the dirt-fill east of I-5. The dike leads embankment used to consouth toward a trail (with struct the freeway, forming side paths) that traverses a connection between the the "upland" part of the East and West basins

SAN ELIJO LAGOON

Watch winter-migrant birds at North County's San Elijo

Distance from downtown San Diego: 23 miles Hiking length: 1 to 3 miles, or more Difficulty: Easy



John DeWitt Historic Museum and Library, operated by the Alpine Historical Society, it is located in the 1897 home/office of Dr. Sophronia Nichols. She was the first doctor in Alpine and the first female doctor in the East County. Indian artifacts from the Kingery family on exhibit. The museum is located at 2116 Tavern Road; 619-659-8740. (ALPINE)

La Mesa Depot Museum, located in a restored 1894 wooden train station, exhibits include original telegraph and telephone equipment, pot-bellied coal stove, period furniture. The adjacent freight train display features 1923 steam locomotive, 1957 refrigerator car, 1941 caboose. Find the museum at La Mesa Boulevard and Spring Street. 619-465-7776. (LA MESA)

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

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

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

Olaf Wieghorst Museum displays paintings and prints by Olaf Wieghorst and features exhibits of other artists' American West art. Adjacent to museum is courtvard with cactus gardens, 20 x 20-foot reproduction of Wieghorst's painting Navajos at Castle Creek, and original restored home Wieghorst lived in for many years starting in 1945. The museum is located at 131 Rea Avenue. 619-590-3431. (EL CAJON)

**Ramona Pioneer Historical** Society and Guy B. Woodward Museum is a complex of historical buildings, including the Verlaque House (the only Western adobe home of French provincial design still in existence), wag-

#### Dance your We make dreams come true! **TASTEI** • Personalized, one-on-one lessons from highly trained professional dance teachers • Attend daily/weekly group lessons and OHR SHALOM SYNAGOGUE (DOWNTOWN) fun-filled practice parties » Sundays, February 3, 10 & 24 Temple Emanu-El (Del Cerro) • Arthur Murray... Since 1912, the world's largest dance school • Couples and singles invited CONGREGATION SHIR AMI (ENCINITAS) » THURSDAYS, APRIL 24, MAY 1 & 8 BALLROOM, LATIN & SWING What you do on Arthur the dance floor Murray **DESIGNED FOR THOSE UNAFFILIATED WITH A CONGREGATION** is our business! Contact UJF Outreach, 858.571.3444 or outreach@ujfsd.org 8303 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Suite 205 858-499-0180 www.sdarthurmurray.com

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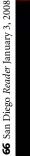
- » TUESDAYS, MARCH 18, 25, APRIL 1
- CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL (UNIVERSITY CITY)

#### TASTE II

### **Customs, Life-Cycles, Holidays & Traditions**

- » TUESDAYS, JANUARY 15, 22 & 29 CONGREGATION BETH EL (LA JOLLA)
- » Wednesdays, February 13, 20 & 27 Congregation Dor Hadash (Kearny Mesa)
- » THURSDAYS, MARCH 6, 13 & 27 TIFERETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE (SAN CARLOS)





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#### BY SONIA ELIOT

# What's That You're Reading?

NAME: DARIN DELOZIER | AGE: 27 | OCCUPATION: RADIO ENGINEER NEIGHBORHOOD: LA MESA | WHERE INTERVIEWED: DOWNTOWN LA MESA



#### What book are you currently reading?

"The History of Christendom, which is actually a series of six books. Only five are published — I'm waiting for the sixth. I just finished the fifth one: the French Revolution and Napoleon." <u>Tell me about the book.</u>

"The series is written by Warren Carroll, and he goes through the history of the world from the viewpoint of a Catholic Christian. He starts at creation. He doesn't give it a date, but he basically tells you what the Bible says about

creation. Then he starts at the first signs of civilization — Mesopotamia and Egypt. [Carroll] used to work for the CIA, and he was a founder of Christendom College and a history professor there."

#### What do you make of the argument?

"He starts off — I don't know if you'd call this an argument saying that every writer is biased in some way. Everyone is coming from a worldview. His is a Catholic worldview, and just because he has a Catholic worldview does not mean he can't be objective. I think [he does achieve that objectivity] because he does not make excuses for the sins of people that were supposed to be Christian. He never loses sight of the big picture. He does bring you into the details of a certain battle or political maneuver, but he doesn't forget to step back every once in a while and remind you of the big picture: how does this event affect everything else, and why is it going on?" Tell me about the style and language.

"I love the way he writes. He tries to stay chronological, like he's narrating a story. It's not a novel in the sense that he has quotation marks and dialogue going on, but it's just as if he's sitting next to you telling you this story of the history of Christendom. It's very

accessible, but it would be difficult for a high-schooler. If you love history, yeah, it's accessible." Any favorite passages?

"There was a peasant uprising against the French Revolution in the Vendée. It started spontaneously, overnight, and many of their leaders were farmers. Many of their weapons were a pitchfork and a rosary. And their badge was the Sacred Heart. And they called themselves the Catholic

and Royal Army. It's not in all the his-

tory textbooks, but you can relate to it because it was just a bunch of farmers fighting to keep their religion legal. There's no economic or political excuse as a reason for this uprising. The only thing that makes sense is they were just fighting for their religion. Although they didn't succeed in worldly terms they didn't march into Paris and put down the Revolution — they put up a fight, and they distracted the revolutionary army enough that it shook them up a little bit and made the Revolution pay attention to them. The huge revolutionary army came in and routed and scattered [the uprising]. Pope John Paul visited the place once and called them martyrs."

Compare this with other books you've read.

"I started [the series] because I was a slacker in high school and I need to make up for lost time. I'm trying to form my mind now because I didn't do it before, and I figured history was a good place to start, so it'll give me a context for the things learn in the future." Who are your favorite authors?

"Warren Carroll. I like Tolkien, I like Hilaire Belloc. I read *Brideshead* [*Revisited*]; I liked that."

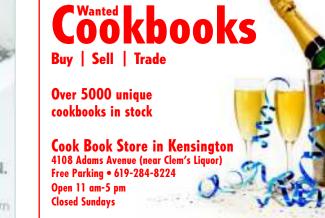
# What magazines or newspapers do you read?

"I don't read newspapers or magazines. I get my news from Internet sites, like the 'Drudge Report.'" <u>Do you talk to your friends</u> about reading?

"I do. Somehow whatever I'm reading works itself into a conversation. A lot of times I'll be reading this story, and it's something extraordinary, it sounds like somebody's writing a script, but then you'll remember — hey, this thing's real, this really happened. And I just get excited about that, and I go tell my roommates, 'Can you believe this really happened?' They're usually very interested, and we just talk about why it happened, and they ask me questions, and I try to recall what I just read. So it's a good refresher."







# Adopt a Russian Child

Please attend a free informational meeting Thursday, January 17, from 7-9 pm. (Ask about our Asian program.)

RSVP: 619-294-7772 Toll-free: 877-542-7772 www.adoption-options.org





Expires 1/31/08. Sorry, no credit cards accepted.



ons, antique exhibits, and artifacts. There is a cowboy bunk house, women's clothing and accessories from 1700 to 1800, a ranch blacksmith shop and tack room. The Casey Tibbs Memorial Exhibit is dedicated to Tibbs, a local resident who was a world-champion rodeo rider. The Bancroft Memorial Rose Garden is on the grounds. Rare documents, historical exhibits, books, photographs, and a research library are also part of the complex.

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

San Diego Aerospace Museum, the technological advancements

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

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

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

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

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

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

\$15 entrance fee

(877) 266-5477

MEN ARE AS

GOOD

AS WOMEN

REQUIRE

THEM TO BE!

San Diego County Sheriff's Museum, the 150-year history of the sheriff's department is highlighted at the museum, which is located "just feet away" from the original cobblestone jail site, built in 1850. The museum boasts artifacts, photographs, equipment, uniforms, and vehicles, along with exhibits from each of the departments making up the organization such as crime scene, K-9, court service, detentions, crime lab, bomb squad, and many others. Find the museum at 2384 San Diego Avenue; 619-260-1850. (OLD TOWN)

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

San Diego Model Railroad Museum, museum celebrates American railroads with "the largest permanent operating model railroad and toy train exhibit" in North America. Four scale-model railroads of the Southwest, the "San Diego County Relief Map" exhibit, and an interactive toy train. There is a multimedia presentation on railroading, an operating railroad semaphore signal, and interpretive displays on railroads and model railroading. The museum is downstairs in the Casa de Balboa building. 619-696-0199. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Natural History Museum, the permanent exhibit "Fossil Mysteries" showcases last 75 million years in Southern California and Baia California region. a time known for its rich fossil

# <u>OUT & ABOUT</u>

"WHAT'S NEW?" San Diego Watercolor Society reception Friday, January 4.

record. Highlights include life-

sized models of Albertosaurus,

Lambeosaurus, a sea cow, mega-

are Ancient Qumran: A Virtual Re-

ality Tour and Ocean Oasis. 619-

Serra Museum, "Commemo-

rating 75 Years: The Serra Mu-

seum" is said to "remember the

events leading up to the dedication

of Presidio Park and the Serra Mu-

seum" on July 16, 1929. The ex-

hibit includes a "visit back in time

Native American, Spanish, and

Mexican periods of San Diego's

history and contains Spanish

Colonial furnishings, art, and arti-

facts. It's located at the site of the

West Coast's first European settle-

Saturdays

**Dance Party** 

8 pm-1 am

8110 Aero Dr.

Skies Lounge Four Points Sheraton

The museum interprets the

Current "giant-screen films"

lodon shark, more.

232-3821. (BALBOA PARK)

to 1929."

(SEE GALLERIES)



ment, 2727 Presidio Drive. 619-297-3258, (OLD TOWN)

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

Veterans Museum and Memorial Center, memorial to men and women who served in U.S. Armed Forces, Coast Guard, and Wartime Merchant Marine. Located in the former San Diego Naval Hospital Chapel (2115 Park Boulevard), the museum features original service-inspired stained glass, as well as historical murals painted by Richard DeRosset. Main exhibit hall features displays. exhibits of historic artifacts, documents, photographs, memorabilia, artwork honoring men and women who served. Museum is also home to San Diego Vietnam Peace Memorial and Veterans Memorial Garden. 619-239-2300. (BALBOA PARK)

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



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8



SINGLES

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Weekly dating workshops starting January 19, 2008 At Café Bleu in Hillcrest www.cafebleusd.com Fléchelle Morin Athletic Singles Amociation Dating to Marriage Consultant



Events that are underlined occur after January 10.

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

"The Sun Never Sets on the Habsburg Empire," La Jolla Renaissance Singers perform choral selections "from regions formerly under the reign of Charles V," Sunday, January 6, 3 p.m. at St. Mary Magdalene Church (1945 Illion Street). Free. 619-276-1041. (BAY PARK)

String Piano Quartet featuring Joseph Valent, Maya Ginsberg, Burt Fisch, and Carol Tolbert, Wednesday, January 9, 7 p.m., at Carmel Valley Library (3919 Townsgate Drive). \$15 general. 858-552-1668. (CARMEL VALLEY)

## ART LISTINGS

Events that are underlined occur after January 10.

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

### GALLERIES

"What's New?" Original watercolor paintings exhibited through the month of January at NTC Promenade (2825 Dewey Road #105). Reception Friday, January 4, 5 p.m. Free admission. 619-876-4550. (POINT LOMA)

"Building Houses/Hiding Under Rocks." new exhibition by Aaron T. Stephan premieres during reception Friday, January 4, 5 p.m., at Quint Contemporary Art (7739 Fay Lane). 858-454-3409. Closes Saturday, February 2. (LA JOLLA)

Athenaeum's Growing Collection shared during reception Friday, January 4, 6:30 p.m. Books, sculptures, and paintings on display in Main and North Reading Room galleries pf Athenaeum Music and Arts Library (1008 Wall Street). Free. 858-454-5872. (LA JOLLA)

High-Tech High Media Arts senior work on display during reception Wednesday, January 9, 7 p.m., at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (1100 Kettner Boulevard). Free. 619-398-8620. (DOWNTOWN)

## ART MUSEUMS

California Center for the Arts Museum, "Rituality" features contemporary works from ten local artists alongside traditional ar-

tifacts from Africa, Native North America, the Pacific Islands. Exhibition examines role of ritual in exploration of identity, creation of community, construction of power, as mediated and expressed through art.

"Niki de Saint Phalle: A Spiritual Path" offers a closer look at de Saint Phalle's spiritual journey, her interpretation of traditional tarot cards. "Is the tarot pack only a game of cards, or is there a philosophy behind it?"

Fifty-four individual paintings by Teresa Villegas are gathered in "La Lotería: An Exploration of Mexico." Artwork draws upon Mexican traditions, historical figures, food, popular culture.

"The Poetics of Myth" features a series of bas-relief terracotta panels by Brad Burkhart, focusing "on the creation of modern myths and archetypes." Each of these exhibits contin-

ues through Sunday, January 27. The museum is located at 340 North Escondido Boulevard; 760-839-4120, (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.

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)

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.

"Josef Albers and His Students: Theory and Practice," closing Sunday, March 2, presents four prints by master artist, color theorist, teacher Josef Albers. Display features works by four of his American students - Richard Anuszkiewicz, Robert Birmelin, Robert Rauschenberg, Audrey Flack — with each work corresponding to one of Albers' prints.

"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.

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

Timken Museum of Art. "Drawn to Rome: French Neoclassical Sketchbooks and Prints" explores sketches and prints by young French painters and architects who studied in Rome. Work by these artists "helped spark a revival in classical aesthetics that transformed 18th-Century French art." Closes Sunday, January 13.

Permanent collection includes European old master paintings, 18th- and 19th-Century American paintings, and Russian icons. Saint Bartholomew, the only Rembrandt painting on public display in San Diego, is featured. 619-239-5548. (BALBOA PARK)





San Diego Reader January 3, 2008 8





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Who Charted? San Diego musicians did not have a major impact on the national album charts in 2007. Angels & Airwaves'

The following week it slipped to 41 and never went higher; it spent ten weeks on Billboard's 200 Chart. Last month, Switchfoot.com announced that Nielsen Soundscan showed that Oh! Gravity had sold 135,000 units (not including sales at Christian bookstores); the first Switchfoot release, The

Beautiful Letdown, sold 2.6

As I Lay Dying's An

number 8 when it was

Billboard's 200 Chart.

who had the most

released this summer; the

disc lasted eight weeks on

The San Diego rocker

commercial success in 2007

BY DEFINITION, DAUGHTRY RULES

may be North County native

with 40 other guitarists in the

Daughtry's band. (Daughtry

Josh Steely. He auditioned

fall of 2006 to join Chris

became famous after

Ocean Between Us debuted at

million copies.

the inside track

second Geffen album, I-Empire, debuted at number 9 on the Billboard 200 Album Chart when it was released November 6. Seven weeks later, the disc was at 172. (Former blink singer/guitarist Tom DeLonge fronts Angels & Airwaves.)

DeLonge's former bandmates, Mark Hoppus and Travis

Barker. released a debut CD with their new band +44 in November 2006. When Your Heart Stops Beating entered Billboard's 200 chart at

10, but four weeks later it had slipped to 153. The disc lasted ten weeks on the chart and fell off in February. Switchfoot's third CD,

Oh! Gravity, charted in January 2007 at number 18.

performing on American Idol.)

"We played 280 shows this year, and they all sold out," says Steely from his Carlsbad home.

Steely did not play on Daughtry's self-titled debut album, which, according to Billboard, was the most popular record of 2007: 3.2 million copies sold, number one for two weeks, and never left the top 50 all year.

"When the number-one record of the year is by the fourth-place runner-up from American Idol, that's a pretty piss-poor statement about the record industry,' says a local insider about Daughtry's music. "It's formulaic crap that won't matter in the grand scheme of things five years from now."

Steely disagrees.

"We won three American Music Awards and have three Grammy nominations. How do you criticize a band that has sold more records than anyone else?"

Daughtry embarks on a two-month tour of the U.S. with Bon Jovi February 12. – Ken Leighton

Get Paid Lately? Fifty on Their Heels manager Scott Pactor offers advice on how bands can land repeat paying

gigs: "Low bar total equals failure, high bar total equals success," he blogs at catdirtsez.blogspot.com. "The success of the bar ultimately rests on the size of the guest list. This hurts the promoters, but benefits the bar, and the Beauty Bar will cut you if your bar total is low...so the comp list [for a July show] was close to 100. So, that's like \$500 that the bands lose

[in cover charges], but an additional \$1500 or whatever for the bar [in drink sales], so what are you going to do? Cultivate the guest list. Expand the guest list...do



FIFTY ON THEIR HEELS KNOWS HOW TO GET BY

you think I care whether I collect the cover? Get in there

and drink. Patrick's II in the Gaslamp Quarter reportedly pays bands \$350 on weekday evenings (when there's usually no cover) and \$450 on weekends (when admission averages \$5).

Local bands report playing for a bar tab at the Zombie Lounge, the Ken Club, and Scolari's.

The Epicentre requires bands to presell a minimum of 32 tickets. Opening bands are expected to draw 32 to 50 people, for which they're paid \$1 a head. Supporting acts in the middle of the bill need to bring in 50 to 95 people, which earn bands \$1.75 per head. Local headliners are expected to draw 96 or more people, to be paid \$2.50 per head. Multiband local showcases are structured to pay \$1 per head for the first 50 tickets sold and \$2 per

head for 51 or more.

A local musician who often plays the Casbah says, "Bands don't compare notes [on pay], but as far as I know, [receiving] door percentages would probably be only for really big bands. I don't know about beer tabs, but bands do play there for free to get a break, especially at local showcases where admission is free. I've never heard of an opening band there not being paid, though in some cases it will vary by crowd size or lack thereof. Openers for a big show probably get paid between \$40 and a few hundred, depending on a whole lot of variables."

Another local says, "The Belly Up pays bands when admission will be \$10 or more at the door, usually \$100 to \$200. Some bands opt for lower pay in exchange for more [free] drink tickets.' — Jay Allen Sanford

**Everyone's a Critic Will** the Union-Tribune be cutting back on its music coverage? Earlier this month, a memo from U-T management to employees said that 43 editorial positions were going to be eliminated, including 3 "critic" positions from the arts and entertainment department. Employees were offered buy-out packages.

Michael Kinsman, a 25-year veteran of the U-T newsroom, was one of 29 editorial staffers who accepted the buy-out. Kinsman was a business writer for 24 years but regularly contributed features and reviews on blues and roots-rock artists. His last day at the paper was Friday. He is not sure if he will continue to write music stories. "There is no question this

will damage the quality of the paper," says Kinsman about the cuts. Quality criticism, he says, "...is where a paper can really shine." He thinks that Varga, who has been the U-Tpop music critic for more than 20 years, "is probably safe."

Night & Day editor Michael Crowell says all U-T arts writers (Varga and Nina Garin, for example) will now pool their work with SignOnSanDiego.com writers. Crowell says that no editorial positions were eliminated from the paper's Internet staff.

- Ken Leighton

Sax Worker When San Diego's Creedle suspended operations a decade ago, the quirky avant-rock-jazz band had streamlined down to a quartet. In 1996, the bass/drums/guitar/sax lineup released its third and final album, When the Wind



ON THE SHOULDERS OF JAZZ GIANTS (GASTELUM)

Blows — their jazziest, right down to the LP cover art. Of those four members, saxophonist Cochemea Gastelum, who grew up in Spring Valley, has delved



Reader January 3, 2008





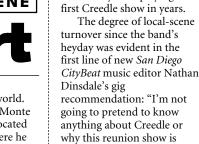
n Diego Reader January 3, 2008 71

San



deepest into the jazz world. The 1990 graduate of Monte Vista High School relocated to New York City, where he has been involved in too many recording sessions and live performances to recount here

There are fresh YouTube clips of Gastelum playing a November gig in Milan alongside jazz legends Archie Shepp (70) and Oliver Lake



worldwide.

Last Sunday found Gastelum in San Diego for the holidays and playing the

such a big deal...' – David Stampone

Now Listen Up Jess Reed, singer/songwriter/ guitarist with Diamonds of Rome, says, "If a band is starting up, you have to do everything you can do to



DIAMONDS OF ROME FIND THEIR SPACE

(65) in the small ensemble Iswhat?!, anchored by drummer Hamid Drake. Gastelum has played regularly in a couple of hot NY-based retro-soul-plus bands on the Daptone label for over two years - the Budos Band and the Dap-Kings — and often on the same bill.

He also played on two of 2007's most critically acclaimed albums: Version, by Brit ex-pat DJ/producer Mark Ronson, and Back to Black, the Grammy nominated Amy Winehouse record that has scored high on many year-end lists and sold over 5 million copies

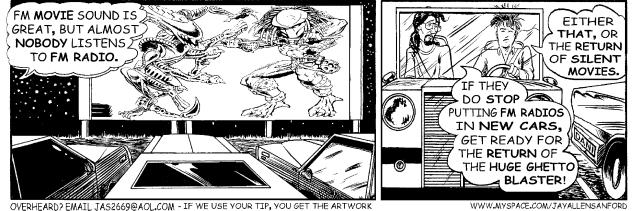
promote. Competition is really fierce. If you really believe in your music, you should get it out there.'

So, Reed purchased 100 30-second ads on 91X to promote his band ("We've been compared to Social Distortion and Guns N' Roses"). Reed's message? Check out his band's MySpace page.

'I don't spend money on rent," says Reed, who makes money by giving guitar and drum lessons. He lives with his parents and friends so he can promote his band.

Reed says he paid between \$25 and \$35 for each ad that

#### OVERHEARD IN SAN DIEGO: SOUTH BAY DRIVE-IN JAY ALLEN SANFORD



aired on 91X in October, November, and December. He says hits on the band's MySpace page increased by about 250 each week the ads ran.

Reed says his band has no scheduled gigs until their CD is out (due in the spring). – Ken Leighton

#### **Glossines with**

Benefits "'Well, let's have a benefit show for you!' ---that's what everybody was saying," relates Glossines singer-bassist Amber Everson. The native San Diegan needs surgery to remove a polyp from her vocal cords as quickly as possible to prevent further, permanent voice damage. She is uninsured.

but, then I considered how have played [through seven years together]...'you're having a benefit in your bathroom for an ingrown toenail? We're there!' "

began in late Âugust, when she went hoarse after the second show of a two-week West Coast tour. Resting her voice on days off didn't help.

Carnes," says Everson. With

no improvement weeks after the tour, she went to a clinic, then was directed to another... The diagnosis process culminated when a laryngologist at the UCSD Voice Disorders Clinic "...could clearly see on a screen the polyp on one cord — like a blister — which was rubbing and forming a growing callus on another cord.... The doctor said there



NO ALTERNATIVE TO SURGERY (EVERSON)

was no alternative to surgery, no chance it would go away.... The surgery's cost is

\$7000, money required up front. Bunky, Kill Me Tomorrow, the Heartaches, Widows, and Nightmares are the SD acts scheduled to perform January 8 at the Casbah. Clothes items (Glossines underwear!) and baked goods will be on sale. — David Stampone

#### In a Better Place They

passed on in 2007: January 12: Jimmy Cheatham, 82/Jazz trombonist, UCSD educator, recording artist. January 27: Glenna Hazleton, 91/Founder of La Jolla Athenaeum noon miniconcerts, 1970. • February 6: Frankie Laine, 93/1950s-1990s crooner, TV and movie star. • April 8: Carl McKellips, 48/Owner of Wingspan Studios and member of San Diego Songwriters Guild. Multiple solo releases. • April 21: Gary Lynn Loftin, 38/Singer, lyricist for punk rock band the Resentments. • April 22: Don Beck, 62/Sax player with the Rhythm Masters, Nomads, King Biscuit Blues Band, toured with Loretta Lynn, the Fortunes, Lena Prima. April 25: Laurie Burke Shields, 47/Singer-songwriter, wife of Robert Shields (of Shields and Yarnell). Released two albums (More Than Romance, 1996, and Dream

Songs, 1998). • July 28: Patricia Smith, 88/Founder of the La Jolla Chorus, part of the La Jolla Symphony. · September 5: Paul Bleifuss,



JIMMY CHEATHAM, GONE ALMOST A YEAR

60/Custom drum maker, drummer with Nova. October 2: Guy Lopez, 42/Bass player with the Zeros, the Upbeats. • December 12: Ike Turner, 76/Rock 'n' roll founder, leader of Ike and Tina Turner Revue.

– 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

Every Thursday

1012

(Sublime Tribute)



"It's hard for me to ask,

many benefits the Glossines

Everson's problems

"As time went on, it got really raspy, really Kim

# ON · BROADWAY

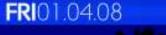
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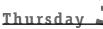


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5TH

# crawler



San Diego pop-rock quartet Drowning Men will wash up at Casbah tonight. Their self-released e.p. *Kill the Matador* flashes with guitar overtones, piano pounce, and driving bottom — ambitious swell-and-burst takes on Arcade Fire and the Walkmen without the anthemic googaw. Little sour grapes, lot of sour mash! It's available on iTunes and at M-Theory and Lou's. Acoustic duo **China** Clippers open.... Gram Parsons will be 26 forever and forever considered grandaddy to Americana music. The Flying Burrito's music will be paid tribute at Belly Up tonight when the Sin City Allstars, a SoCal collective including Slidewinders, Mike Stinson, and Eve Selis celebrate Parsons's hitless but bullshitless canon .... Hollywoodites Chelsea Smiles bring garage-punk power chords to Zombie Lounge. Sampling last year's debut Thirty-Six Hours Later convinced my kid he was listening to Kiss, so there ya go. The Pegs and the Clap also on the bill.

### Friday **Z**

OC punk-n-pop trio **Supernova** made their name by suing for the rights to it. The 2006 lawsuit was filed in San Diego federal court against CBS series *Supernova* for trademark infringement. The band's been recording and touring their spacemen regalia since 1993 and won the suit. (The show was renamed *Rock Star: Supernova.*) 2001 disc *Pop as a Weapon* remains the band's highwater mark, land-

ing them Warped tours and a cut "Chewbacca") in Kevin Smith's cult flick Clerks. Supernova hits Casbah Friday night. and hip-hop hits indie rock with openers Bad Credit. Local ras man Elijah Emanuel delivers his Revelations to Belly Up. The roots reggae band will be ioined by local SUPERNOVA AT CASBAH Jamaican ska

joint the Hi-Lites and dub act Black Heart Warriors Hi-Fi.... Local heavy-metal merchants Animal Corpse host a Marshall-stacked showcase at Soma featuring Animal Corpse, Crimson Knight, Stiletto Silhouette, Sergulath, Abomination, and Diabolical Slaughter.... Oceanside sextet Faded Chroniclez floods rapcore with horns for danceable beats and bleats. They drive it down to 'Canes where they'll share a bill of beachside fare with Irieside, Kneehighs, and Resident Cain.

Saturday

Golden shower of hits. Hermosa Beach hardcore heroes the **Circle Jerks** have resurfaced and will hold forth



CIRCLE JERKS AT HOUSE OF BLUES

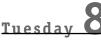
night at House of Blues. Fronted by the humor of Keith Morris's (Black Flag) raspy poetics and gui tarist Duane Detson's (Bad Religion) speedy pyrotechnics, the erstwhile Jerks have been prompting pits since 1979! The band hasn't recorded since 1987's VI but have propped a new single on their MySpace page, "I'm Gonna Live," sug-gesting a full-length in '08. Check '05 DVD The Show Must Go Off for a live primer.... Grammywinner Ricky Lee Jones (Best New Artist 1980) swings her soul pop into Belly Up. The "lower-mid-dle-class-hillbilly-hipster" touts her latest, 2007's The Sermon on Exposition Boulevard — a collection of devotional music.... Other mentionables round town: trick triple bill at the Ché Café as **Get** Back Loretta, the Atoms, and Vision of a Dying World welcome the kids back to campus with punk'd indie pop.... Lords of Altamont and Creepy Creeps haunt Casbah with organ-grinding spook rock.... San Diego screamos Hello Marquee smack down Soma with Dull Science and Flight to Athena .... L.A. jazz chanteuse Charmaigne Clamor graces Anthology room. and Hialeah, Architect Sketch, Cinder Cone (LA), and Brigades Like This (SF) jam into Scolari's.

### This Week In Music

## Sunday

Locals-only sets of the week go off at Tower Bar Sunday night, where the **Sess**, the **Muslims**, and the **Prayers** prop dance-rock for the indie set.... Back to Ché, where art-rock fills the bill. The UCSD campus collective books shoe-gazey locals **Japandi, Planets, Short Hair**, and **Manacle**.... At the Zombie, garage-rock comers **Inigo** works out stage legs opening for Encinitas she-rocker **Wendy Bailey**. Check Bailey's independent collection *It Ain't Rocket Science* on her MySpace page. Looks and listens like Liz fare.





In 25 years, jazz guitarist **Bill Frisell** has released more than 35 collections of originals and covers, scraping the palette from jazz standards to folk originals. The virtuoso is a musician's musician, bending strings and blaring amps to suit a soundscape. Frisell and percussionist **Joey Baron** settle in at Anthology for a two-night stint that's sure to drop learned jaws and inspire interest from supperclub foodies.... Casbah hosts a med-expense fundraiser for clothing designer/Glossines bassist **Amber Everson** Tuesday night. Compatriots **Kill Me Tomorrow, Heartaches, Widows, Bunky, Nightmares,** and **DJ Dmitri** of Booty Basement fill the bill.... Well-heeled indie oddities the **Modlins** bolster what's already been a catch-all

week for Zombie Lounge. (Keep it up, undead booking guy.) Check out last year's Shins-y Here's to Being Happy and tell me again San Dagans cain't do Baroque. Cherry bill includes Love Pentagon, Secret Apollo, Pan de Sal, DJ Ding Dong, and Horror Nate.... Belly

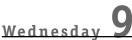
Up's got a

'comedy

showcase

BILL FRISELL AT ANTHOLOG

for mental health." Comics include **Dat Phan** (*Last Comic Standing*) and **Kenny Kane**, and the laugh riot's hosted by a dude named **Bob Murphy**.



Indie pop hopefuls the **Morning Benders** will stay vertical Wednesday, least long enough to stagger onto Beauty Bar's back-yard stage. The Berkeley band's premiering material from their forthcoming '08 release, which Pitchfork already hates. But they coughed two quotes — could be worth a first-hand appraisal. (The drums aren't *that* loud.).... World musicman **David Lindley** will display his multinstrumental skills for a Belly Up brood Wednesday night. Primarily a guitarist, Lindley earned his stripes with Jackson Browne before this noncom solo gig.



MORNING BENDERS AT BEAUTY BAR

Anthology for one last night, btw). Lindley's got popular rock-writer **Jack Tempchin** on the bill, howev., and that inspires a "Peaceful, Easy Feeling."

- Barnaby Monk





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## SATURDAY JANUARY05

## SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE

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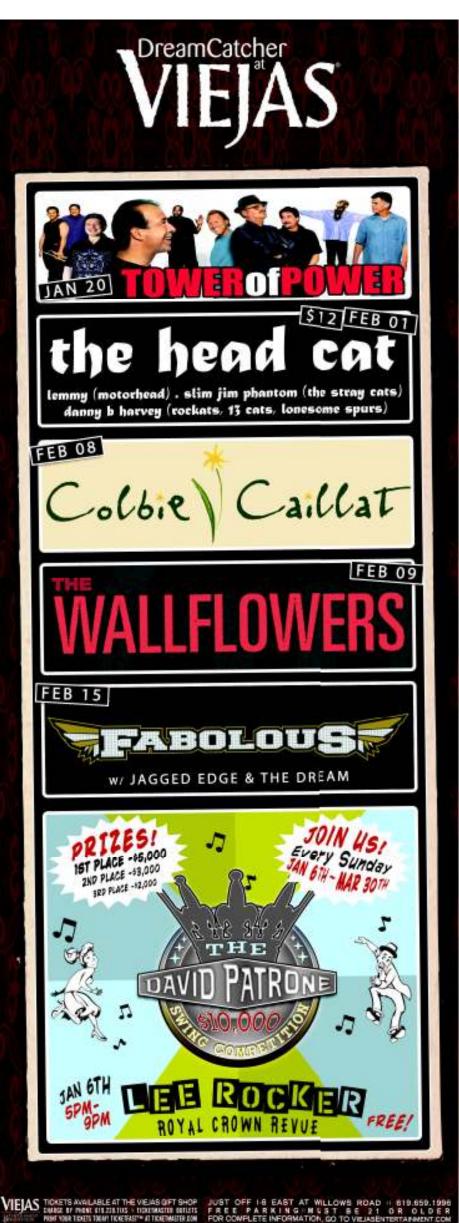
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San Diego Reader January 3, 2008 75



## Hunky Dory

"'The Wizard' – enough said."

ouis XIV formed in early 2003 when former members of alt-country locals Convoy chose sexed-up pop over redneck rock. In January 2005 the Illegal Tender EP, self-released on their own Pineapple Recording Group label,

popped up all over radio with the hit "Finding Out True Love Is Blind," which also turned up on their 2005 album The Best Little Secrets Are Kept.

Rolling Stone named Louis XIV one of its "Ten Artists to Watch" in 2005, while Entertainment Weekly included them on its list of "Eight Hot Bands." Esquire cited Best Little Secrets as one of "Four Records to Get You Ahead of the Game.'

Last September the band released a new digital EP online, The Distances from Everyone to You, with three new songs plus a cover of Queen's "Flash's Theme," now heard on the Sci-Fi Channel series Flash Gordon. A new full-length album, Slick Dogs and Ponies, is due this month. Louis XIV hits the House of Blues stage on February 13 with the Editors and Hot Hot Heat. Singer/guitarist Brian Karscig answered our queries.

#### WHAT'S IN YOUR CD PLAYER?

1. Leon Russell, self-titled: "Probably one of the best songwriters and piano players of all time, and my personal inspiration musically. I've been listening to this album for years, and it never gets old.'

2. Air, Moon Safari: "When you travel in a bus with 11 guys, every night someone in that group is in a party mood. When I'm not, I retreat to my bunk, close the curtain, and put my headphones on with Air and read a book. Instant escape.'

3. The Electric Light Orchestra, Eldorado: "Our whole band will agree that Jeff Lynne and Louis Clark are geniuses, and the string arrangements always make my arm-hair stand up.<sup>3</sup>

you would expect something like this from our band, and the song 'Life on Mars' never gets old."

JAY ALLEN SANFORD

1. Rushmore: "Max Fischer's oneliners have stood the test of time, and everything about it is genius.

**DESERT-ISLAND DVDs?** 

4. Black Sabbath, self-titled: "Always a great preshow listener. Geezer, Bill, Ozzy, and Tony.

5. David Bowie, *Hunky Dory:* "Because I'm sure

2. Fletch: "Probably Chevy's best."

The Wizard' — enough said."

3. The Last Waltz: "This concert film documenting the Band is a huge inspiration to our group, and it's one of the best ideas ever captured on video. It's the model for all rock documentaries.

4. Scarface: "We've all seen it a million times, but doesn't everyone still stop and watch it every time you pass it while channel surfing?

#### **FIVE GUILTY PLEASURES?**

1. Rock of Love with Bret Michaels

2. The Food Network

3. Kiss Alive! and Kiss Alive II 4. Transsexual karaoke bars in Germany 5. Hashish

#### **BEST DRUNK STORY?**

"A well-known promoter once made posters of the group and was selling them without our permission. They were extremely ugly, and kids were being ripped off. I walked up to him in the club, asked him how many more were there, grabbed them out of his hands, unzipped my pants, and urinated all over them in front of him.'

#### **DREAM LUNCH DATE?**

"Keith Richards. I must have a conversation over food with him

JAN. 8

UPCOMING KENNEDY'S CURSE

OCTOBER BURNING KINDLE TO EMBER KIDDUS I EARL CHINNA SMITH



#### WORST INJURY?

"I used to skateboard a lot as a kid, so I've broken everything, but one time I got my foot caught in the side of an escalator at JCPenney. It cut off four of my toes. They were sewn back on, but I'm still missing half of one toe.'

#### WHERE DO YOU HANG OUT?

"The Casbah. Great music, Pabst in a tall-boy can, and running into Tim [Mays, owner] is always a pleasure.

SECRET CRUSH? "Christy Turlington. She came to one of our shows in NYC. Didn't know much about her, but now she's the celebrity I'm most interested

#### WORST JOB?

in.

"I haven't had many. Telemarketing sucked. I always felt guilty about cold-calling people for money; however, I did acquire shamelessness from it, I suppose, and that's always good for a rock musician."



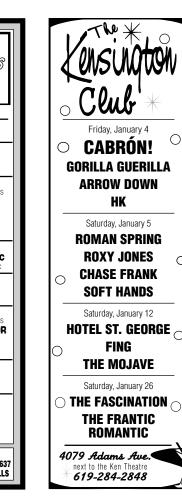
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B.B. KING SUNDAY, JANUARY 6



BILLY RAY CYRUS SATURDAY, JANUARY 19



TRAVIS LEDOYT ELVIS TRIBUTE FRIDAY, JANUARY 25



HEART TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19



FRANK SINATRA, JR. SUNDAY, MARCH 2



AMERICA FRIDAY, MARCH 7



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THIS WEEK'S CONCERTS

#### SATURDAY

#### The Circle Jerks: House of Blues, Saturday, January 5, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

TUESDAY

Bill Frisell and Joey Baron: Anthology, Tuesday, January 8, 1337 India Street, San Diego. 619-595-0300.

David Lindley: Belly Up Tavern,

#### WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, January 9, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140. Bill Frisell and Joey Baron: Anthology, Wednesday, January 9, 1337

India Street, San Diego. 619-595-0300.

#### UPCOMING CONCERTS

#### JANUARY

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. Chris Hillman and Amy Loftus:

Anthology, Saturday, January 12, 1337 India Street, San Diego. 619-595-0300.

Lupe Fiasco: Belly Up Tavern, Tuesday, January 15, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

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 Cashah, 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.



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Social Distortion: House of Blues, Friday through Sunday, January 18, 19, and 20, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp 619-299-2583.

Rvan 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.

Lil Wayne: House of Blues, Monday, January 21, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Steve Poltz: Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, January 24, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

Fred Eaglesmith: Acoustic Music San Diego, 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.

Stanley Clark: Anthology, Friday and Saturday, January 25 and 26, 1337 India

Street, San Diego. 619-595-0300. Molotov: House of Blues, Tuesday, January 29, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Mary Gauthier and Mark Olson: AcousticMusicSanDiego, Wednesday, January 30, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Robben Ford: Anthology, Thursday, January 31, 1337 India Street, San Diego. 619-595-0300

#### FEBRUARY

**Poncho Sanchez:** Anthology, Friday and Saturday, February 1 and 2, 1337 India Street, San Diego. 619-595-0300.

"Brazil Carnaval 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,

Raul Malo: Anthology, Sunday and Monday, February 3 and 4, 1337 India Street, San Diego. 619-595-0300. Wyclef Jean: House of Blues

Monday, February 4, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Robin Trower: 4th & B, Tuesday, February 5, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

Pinback: House of Blues, Tuesday and Wednesday, February 5 and 6, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Jake Shimabukuro: Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, February 7, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

Los Amigos Invisibles and SI\*SE: House of Blues, Friday, February 8, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Colbie Caillat: Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Friday, February 8, 5000 Willows Road, Alpine 619-445-5400.

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.

Rodrigo y Gabriela: 4th & B, Monday, February 11, 345 B Street, San Diego. 619-231-4343.

Umphrev's McGee: House of Blues, Tuesday, February 12, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Jill Scott: Copley Symphony Hall, Wednesday, February 13, 1245 Seventh Avenue, downtown. 619-235-0804.

The Editors and Hot Hot Heat: House of Blues, Wednesday, February 13, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

#### George Clinton and Parliament

**Funkadelic:** Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, February 14, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.

Glen Phillips: AcousticMusicSanDiego, Friday, February 15, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Fabolous: Vieias Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Friday, February 15, 5000 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

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

#### Roy Zimmerman:

AcousticMusicSanDiego, Saturday, February 23, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Bone Thugs N Harmony: House of Blues, Sunday, February 24, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Marilvn Manson: House of Blues Monday, February 25, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-299-2583.

Adrian Belew: Belly Up Tavern Tuesday, February 26, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

The Pat Metheny Trio: Anthology, Tuesday and Wednesday, February 26 and 27, 1337 India Street, San Diego. 619-595-0300

#### MARCH

Marcia Ball and John Hammond: Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, March 2, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

The Foo Fighters: Cox Arena, Monday, March 3, SDSU campus, College Area. 619-594-0429.

Rufus Wainwright: Belly Up Tavern, Tuesday, March 4, 143 South Cedro Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

Bad Religion: House of Blues, Friday, March 7, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

The Blind Boys of Alabama: Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, March 9, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

Clutch: House of Blues, Wednesday, March 12, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

Angels and Airwaves: Soma, ursday, March 13, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-7662.

Built to Spill: Belly Up Tavern, Friday, March 21, 143 South Cedros Avenue Solana Beach. 858-481-8140.

The Presidents of the United **States of America:** Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, March 22, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.

Janis lan: AcousticMusicSanDiego,

Thursday, March 27, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

#### APRIL

Big Head Todd & the Monsters: House of Blues, Saturday, April 5, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.

**RBD:** Coors Amphitheatre, Sunday, April 6, 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista. 619-671-3600.

As seen on Comedy Central Jan. 11 & 12



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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.

#### JULY

Richard Cheese & Lounge

Against the Machine: House of Blues, Saturday, July 26, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-299-2583.



#### DANCE

If you would like to include your DJ event, e-mail sellis@nethere.com or submit a listing online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the music section. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, the week prior to publication. The listings are free.

Air Conditioned: Wednesdays, Club Nigel, Steve West and DJ SG spin the '80s. Thursdays, *Too Cool for School*, oldskool 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

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.

Candelas: Thursdays, deep soulful house by DJ ALA and guests. 416 Third Avenue, downtown. 619-702-4455.

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, Ascensi on, underground dance music with DJs Robin Roth and Tom King. No cover. 2812 Kettner Boulevard, Middletown, 619-543-0933.

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.

Static Lounge: First Friday of the month, West Coast mash-up sessions, 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.



#### BY DAVE GOOD

"I wasn't a singer," says Jeannie Cheatham after I tell her how much I have enjoyed her singing over the years. "I was always a piano player that played for other vocalists." Maybe so, but I'm not the only person that ever heard her belt out a Kansas City-style rag or two. "Jeannie Cheatham," a critic once wrote, "sings the blues with remarkable energy and in another era would have been regarded as one of the greats." Twice nominated for W.C. Handy Awards (the blues equivalent of the Grammy), Cheatham toured the club circuit back East in the '50s, '60s, and '70s and backed acts such as Big Mama Thornton and Jimmy Rushing and Larry Darnell. "I was an accompanist," Cheatham says, "all the way till I got to San

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, DI 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. 2236 Fern Street (corner of 30th and Juniper), South Park 619-284-6784

Diego." That would have been 1978, the year she came here with her trombone-playing husband, Jimmy.

The Cheathams started a weekly jam at the Bahia. Jimmy took a job as music professor at UCSD. Eventually the Cheathams launched the Sweet Baby Blues Band, a good-timing New Orleans-influenced big band that took off. They were featured guests at all of the major blues and jazz festivals across the country. "We are the last and the only band playing this type

of music in the world," said Jeannie. The group was scheduled to play the Kennedy Center last year, a promise that Mrs. Cheatham kept even though Jimmy died in January. Jeannie recently published her autobiography — at her UCSD gig she will read selections from the book and perform songs that illustrate the era from which her memoir

I ask her if the band is finished, and

CHEATHAM EANNIE

> she says, "No," with this caveat: "My mother told me - she's 99 - she says, 'Now listen, Jeannie. Remember: You're 80 goin' towards 90, not 80 goin' towards 40." Cheatham laughs. "I said, 'Thanks a lot, Mom.

> JEANNIE CHEATHAM, Geisel Library, UCSD, Sunday, January 6, 4 p.m. 858-534-8074. No cover.

**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 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.

'Canes, 3105 Ocean Front Walk Mission Beach, 858-488-1780, Friday 8 p.m., *Faded Chroniclez*, rock. Saturday, 8 p.m., *Mystic Roots, Shaka Buku*, Carbine, and the Wylde Bunch, reggae/pop/hip-hop/funk/indie/rock

Ché Café, UCSD Campus, 9500 Gilman Drive, Student Center B-0323C, La Jolla. 858-534-2311. Saturday, 6 p.m., Defiance, This Bike Is a Pipe Bomb, and Vena Cava, 8:30 p.m., Get Back Loretta, the Atoms, and the Vision of a Dying World, indie/rock/soul/punk.

Dreamstreet, 2228 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach. 619-222-8131. Thursday, Blue's Ruby, Bordertown Bust, and I.D. mbs and the Soul Stealers, rock/blues. Friday, Avva, Big Tooth Comb, Muzzle, and *Encurses*, alternative rock. Saturday, *Medius*, the Dead Serial Killers, and Handouns and Heroin hardcore/death metal. Wednesday, Alexxx and Dethrattle, hardcore/metal.

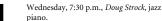
E Street Cafe, 128 E Street, Encinitas. 760-230-2038. Music is acoustic/folk unless otherwise noted. Thursday, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Joseph Angelastro, jazz. Friday, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., *Diane* Waters. Saturday, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Scott Gates, bluegrass, 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., the Smart Brothers.





## was taken.





Hennessey's Tavern (PB), 4650 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach. 858-483-8847. Friday, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Ace Tropics, rock. Saturday, Willie, surf rock.

Jack's Restaurant, 7863 Girard Avenue, La Jolla. 858-456-8115. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Larry White*, contemporary jazz.

5-8 PM: Winstons Game Day with the Wii

**NFL FOOTBALL** 

Wild Card Weekend

All games shown

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NFL FOOTBALL

Wild Card Weeke

Two 12′ High-Def TVs

Drink and Food Specials

\$2 drinks 9 pm to close

6-8 PM

Drunk Poets Society

ening of music from the Grateful Dead

**ELECTRIC** 

6-8 PM: Think 'N' Drink Trivia

MIKE

WATT

& THE

MISSING

MEN

4-8 PM: Winstons Art Show

**CALVIN WESTON** 

Indie Rock

THE

WENDY DARLING

UPCOMING:

1921 bacon street

ocean beach 619-222-6822

ISRAEL MALDONADO BAND

All aames shown

4-7 PM: Deepwater

Reggae

Rock

S.A.T.O.R.I

7-9 PM

The Kraken, 2531 Old Highway 101, Cardiff. 760-436-6483. Friday, the Bill Magee Blues Band. Saturday, Funky Pox. Sunday, the Blues Brokers, blues jam,

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 Iolla. 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 Quinte

710 Beach Club. 710 Garnet Avenue Pacific Beach. 858-483-7844. Friday, Media Lab, October Burning, and Kavena, metal/hardcore/rock/punk. Saturday, Strive Roots, reggae.

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 Aven Pacific Beach. 858-273-9734. Friday, Canon Ball, rock. Saturday, Kevin Never Talks, rock. Wednesday, the Ancient Sunrise, blues/rock.

Turquoise Cafe, 873 Turquoise Street, Pacific Beach. 858-488-4200. Thursday, jazz trio. Friday, jazz quartet. Saturday, Latin jazz, Sunday, eclectic/world music. Monday, Blue 44. jazz. Wednesday, blues.

Winstons, 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach. 619-222-6822. Thursday, 9 p.m., S.A.T.O.R.I. Friday, 9 p.m., Superunloader, alternative/rock/blues. Saturday, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., *Deepwater*, blues, 9 p.m., *the Devastators*, reggae/dub. Monday, 9 p.m., the Electric Waste Band, classic rock Tuesday, Pleasure Device and Early Autumr alternative rock. Wednesday, 9 p.m., live

#### DOWNTOWN

rock.

Anthology, 1337 India Street, San Diego. 619-595-0300. Friday, the Detroit Underground, rock/soul. Saturday, Michael Ward, 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., Melissa Vaughan, folk.

The Casbah, 2501 Kettner Boulevard, midtown. 619-232-HELL. Thursday, *the* Drowning Men and China Clippers, rock/alternative. Friday, Supernova and Bad Credit, rock/hip-hop/alternative. Saturday, the Creepy Creeps and the Lords of Altamont, punk.

Croce's Jazz Bar, 802 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-4355. Music is jazz. Thursday, 8 p.m., Warren Lovell, Friday, 8:30 p.m., Yavez. Saturday, 8:30 p.m., Primo, Sunday, the Archtones, Monday, Dave Scott. Tuesday, Shep Meyers. Wednesday, 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, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Blue Rockit*, blues/rock. Friday, 7:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., Private Domain, rock and roll. Saturday, 7:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., Blue Rockit. Sunday, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., *the Ideas*, classic rock. Tuesday, 8 p.m., *Elvis at Dicks*. Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., Private Domain, unplugged, rock.

Dizzy's (Harbor Club Towers at Second and J Street), 200 Harbor Drive,

(alx)

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### DOWNTOWN

San Diego. 858-270-7467. Saturday, 8 p.m., Gilbert Castellanos, Latin jazz.

G5-Georges on Fifth, 835 Fifth Avenue (between E and F Streets), downtown. 619-702-0444. Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Wednesday, Tom Barabas, pianist.

House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Avenue downtown. 619-299-2583. Saturday, the Circle Jerks, punk.

Jimmy Love's, 672 Fifth Avenue r of Fifth and G), dow 619-595-0123. Thursday and Sunday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., Masterpiece, jazz/R&B. Friday, 9:45 p.m., live dance music. Saturday, 9:45 p.m., Diva Soul, disco/Top 40. Monday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Insight*, jazz. Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., Mystique, jazz/R&B. Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., the Soul Revue, dance/Top 40.

Patrick's II, 428 F Street, downtown. 619-233-3077. Music is blues/soul unless otherwise noted. Thursday, Ronnie Lane and the Texas Twisters. Friday, 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Ronnie Lane and the Texas Twisters, 9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., Nik Simon Saturday, Aunt Kizzy'z Boyz. Sunday, Chet Cannon and the Committee. Monday, Shelle. Tuesday, the 145th Street Deluxe Blues Band. Wednesday, the Bill Magee Blues Band.

Rock Bottom, 401 G Street, Gaslamp. 619-231-7000. Friday, DJ Mylar. Saturday, Superfly and Crush, rock/funk.

Sevilla, 555 Fourth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-5979. Club Salsa: Thursday Primo, Latin jazz/salsa. Tuesday, Walter II v Rumbanev, salsa.

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. Sun 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

Worldbeat Center, 2100 Park Boulevard, Balboa Park. 619-230-1190. Friday, 8:30 p.m., Tribal Seeds and Rebelution, reggae.

#### 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, 6:30 p.m., David Timothy Smith, piano bar

American Legion Post 310, 465 47th Street, San Diego. 619-264-1919 Thursday, 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., the Post 310 Blues Band. Sunday, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Willovealot, smooth jazz/funk.

Borders Books and Music (Mission Valley), 1072 Camino del Rio North, Mission Valley. 619-295-2201. Friday, 8 p.m., Tom Boyer,

Brass Rail, 3796 Fifth Avenue, San Diego. 619-298-2233. Thursday, 9:30 p.m., Rhythm and the Method, rock/blues

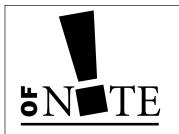
Brick by Brick, 1130 Buenos Avenue, Bay Park. 619-275-LIVE. Friday, Jeff Bloom and the Reggae Allstars, Guava Belly, Sandollar, and the Lloyd St. Rockers, rock/reggae. Saturday, In Every Breath, Soundescape, Lunar Fiction, Unbeknown, Feeling of Hate, and Alyssa Jacey, metal/rock

Epicentre, 8450 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa. 858-271-4000. Saturday, Yovee and the Shena alternative/indie/ska/punk.

The Gordon Biersch Brewery, 5010 Mission Center Road, San Diego 619-688-1120. Friday, Stranger, reggae/rock/soul.

The Handlery Hotel and Resort. 950 Hotel Circle North, San Diego 619-298-0511, Friday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. and Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Christopher Dale, acoustic pop.

Humphrey's, Half Moon Inn, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island.



#### BY WILLIAM CRAIN

It's probably a bad idea to name your band with a Beatles reference, especially if you write melodic, exquisitely arranged guitar-pop songs with lots of vocal harmonies. That's like having a Led Zeppelin-y hard-rock band and naming it Bustle in Your Hedgerow: You don't want to set your audience's expectations too high before you've played a note.

But Get Back Loretta does something a little different: The San Diego band takes its name from the lyrics of one of the small number of bad songs in the Lennon-McCartney canon, from the album Let It Be. (Imagine if the Beatles' discography were released in

619-224-3577. Backstage Lounge: Thursday, 8 p.m. to midnight, *Rockola* classic rock. Friday, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., the *Cannon*, blues jam. Tuesday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Bill Magee*. Wednesday, 8 p.m. to midnight, the Soul Persuaders, sweet soul music

The Imperial House, 505 Kalmia Street, San Diego. 619-234-3525. Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Rick Lyon, pop standards/Top 40/variety.

JP's Pub. 10436 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Tierrasanta. 858-576-2509. Friday, 9 p.m., West of 5, classic to modern rock.

Friday & Saturday

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From The Late Late Show

with Craig Ferguson

**Kadan's,** 4696 30th Street, San Diego. 619-640-2500. Monday, *Mayhem* 

Mondays, punk rock. The Kensington Club, 4079 Adams Avenue, Kensington. 619-284-2848. Friday, *Cabron!*, *Gorilla Guerilla*, and *the* Homeless Sexuals, punk/hardcore/rock/indie. Saturday, Roman Spring, Roxy Jones, Chase Frank,

Avenue, Normal Heights. 619-282-0437.

noted. Thursday, Annie Bethancourt and Whitton, Friday, Mojave, the Smart Brothers, and Tempo No Tempo, rock/alternative. Saturday, Gregory Page. Sunday, Anna Troy, Johnny Nicholson

reverse order: After Let It Be and Yellow Submarine they would have been dropped by their record company before they ever got to Abbey Road.) Where was I? Oh, yeah: The audience is sit-

ting there, with expectations high, maybe, but a little confused. And here comes Get Back Loretta, five dorkylooking, even dorkier-acting guys. They're smiling, and they're cracking jokes, and the girls in the front row are cheering, and everyone else can't decide if the band's shlubbiness is endearing or

sort of irritating. And then Get Back Loretta starts to play, and they've got the melodies and the harmonies and guitars and keyboards and a really nimble-sounding drummer. They come out singing the song "Mr. Brown," which has a line that goes: "So we march through the trees / With our two-part harmonies." and

> 0232. Saturday, 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., Vintage Vegas, jazz

Miami Grille (UTC), 4545 La Jolla Village Drive, San Diego. 858-552-0668. Thursday and Sunday, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Jeff Blum, Cuban jazz.

#### O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub, 1310 Morena Boulevard, Bay Park.

619-276-5637. Friday, Just Like Jenna and on Loon, rock/punk/alternative. Saturday, Ricksha, the Lonely Mattress Salesman, and the FUUSA, rock/alternative/pop. Monday, Mystery Train, blues. Tuesday, Batman vs. Predator, the Royalty, and Lusitania, experimental/indie/pop/Americana. Wednesday, Soundbone and After the Crash, rock/alternative.

The Ould Sod, 3373 Adams Avenue Normal Heights. 619-284-6594. Friday, Billy Midnight, rock/country. Tuesday,

Padre Gold, 7245 Linda Vista Road. San Diego. 858-277-8681. Monday, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., the Jazz Project Big Band, big-band swing.

it doesn't really sound like the Beatles. It

sounds like an updated, more commercial

XTC. It sure doesn't sound like "Get Back,'

GET BACK LORETTA. Ché Café. Saturdav.

January 5, 8:30 p.m. 619-534-2311, \$20,

Pal Joey's, 5147 Waring Road, Allied Gardens. 619-286-7873. Friday and Saturday, the Blues Invaders, blues.

Ramada Inn, 5550 Kearny Mesa Road, Kearny Mesa. 619-596-9777. Proud Mary's Restaurant: Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Keith Jacobsen, smooth jazz saxophone

Second Wind, 8515 Navajo Road, San Carlos. 619-465-1730. Friday and Saturday, Serious Guise, classic rock.

**Soma,** 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, San Diego. 619-226-SOMA. Friday, Animal Corpse, Crimson Knight, Stiletto Silhouette, Sergulath, Abomination, and Diabolical Slaughter, metal. Saturday, Hello Marquee, a Dull Science, Let Live, Flight to Athena, Invictus, a Shattered

Saturday, January 19

FADED CHRONICLEZ

**BLUE SKY BLONDE** 

**HAVEN BORN** 

(Reunion Show)

**DAPPER DANS** 

Friday, January 25

WICKHEAD

Martini's Above Fourth, 3940 Fourth Avenue, San Diego. 619-293traditional Irish folk. BRICK BrickbyBrick.com • (619)275-LIVE • 21 and up with ID Ctix Friday, January 18 THE MOTELS Featuring Martha Davi Friday, January **JEFF BLOOM &** THE REGGAE ALLSTARS **GUAVA BELLY** SANDOLLAR Dante Last Comic



Saturday, January 26 BLACK PATTERNS **FROM SATURN BITCHFITS** THE DREAMING (All-Girl Misfits Tribute) **MAGNOLIA BLACK** NOISEGOD

2/13 Moral Crux • Teenage Rehab • 2/16 JFA • Angry Samoans 2/22 "Rock This Town" (an appreciation for '50s music & culture) • 3/2 The Mother Truckers • 4/30 UFO LOT 81 ving lunch & dinner Etix.com Bookings: 1130 Buenos Ave. 619-276-3993 (off Morena Blvd.)



Corvelles, Motown; 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., Atomic Groove, dance music Saturday, 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., *Viva Santana*, Latin rock. Sunday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Aubrev Fav, smooth jazz; 8 p.m. to midnight, Daryll Williams, smo jazz. Monday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., Chet

and the Soft Hands. soul/experimental/indie/rock.

Lestat's Coffee House, 3343 Adams

Music is acoustic/folk unless otherwise

and Nathan Reich.



but it sounds really good.

BY





#### SAN DIEGO

Hope, and the Shenanigans,

hardcore/punk/ska 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 9:15 p.m., live jazz. 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, Masterpiece, jazz/R&B.

#### **NORTH COUNTY**

The Alley, 421 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-434-1173. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, the Love Rangers, dance

Belly Up Tavern, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022. Thursday, *the Sin City Allstars, Mike* Stinson, the Slidewinders, and Eve Selis rock/metal/country. Friday, 9 p.m., *Elijah Emanuel and the Revelutions, the Hi-Lites,* and Blackheart Warriors Hi-Fi, reggae/ska/roots/dub. Saturday, 9 p.m., Rickie Lee Jones, pop/jazz/folk rock. Sunday, 8 p.m., Primo, Latin jazz/salsa Wednesday, 8 p.m., David Lindlev and Jack Tempchin, acoustic/rock/blues/folk.

Bistro 221, 221 Grand Avenue, Escondido. 760-737-7398. Friday and Saturday, Donnie Finnell and Company East, standards and light jazz.

The Book Works/Pannikin Cafe, Flower Hill Mall, I-5 at Via de la Valle, Del Mar. 858-755-3735. Friday, 8 p.m., Josiah, solo guitar.

Borders Books and Music (Carlsbad), 1905 Calle Barcelona Carlsbad. 760-479-0242. Friday, 8 p.m., Derrick Boess, American folk/acoustic.

Borders Books and Music (Carmel Mountain), 11160 Rancho Carmel Drive, Carmel Mo 858-618-1814. Saturday, 8 p.m., Steven Ybarra, acoustic pop.

Carvers, 11940 Bernardo Plaza Drive, Rancho Bernardo. 858-566-2400. Friday and Saturday, Nite Hawk, classic rock.

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* Backwater Blues Band, Saturday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., the Jerry McCann Band, rock/reggae/R&B. Sunday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Reggie Smith and Pressed for Time, jazz. Wednesday, Ronnie Lane, rock/blues

Cuvee Restaurant, 2334 Carmel Valley Road, Del Mar 858-259-5878 Monday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Sambajazz, Brazilian and American jazz.

THURSDAY • JANUARY 3

**CHINA CLIPPERS** 

**ROYAL CAMPAIGN** 

FRIDAY . JANUARY 4

**SUPERNOVA** 

**BAD CREDIT** 

SATURDAY . JANUARY 5

THE GLOSSINES

TUESDAY . JANUARY 8

FUNDRAISER FOR AMBER

THE HEARTACHES

**BUNKY • WIDOWS** 

IN THE ATARI LOUNGE

**NIGHTMARES** 

DJ DMITRI

**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.

The Hot Java Cafe. 11738 Carmel Mountain Road, Suite 182, Carmel Mountain. 858-673-7111. Friday, 8 p.m., Sharon Hazel Township, indie folk/

The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe, 5951 Linea del Cielo, Rancho Santa Fe. 858-756-1131. Thursday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Jerry Melnick, jazz/variety piano.

The Jumping Turtle, 1660 Capalina Road, San Marcos. 760-741-7778. Friday, 8:30 p.m., the Dajial Persona and Down m the Gallows, metal/hardcore. Saturday, 8:30 p.m., Cage, Call of Thousands, Sator Square, and Mordium, metal

La Costa Resort and Spa, 2100 Costa Del Mar Road, Carlsbad. 760-438-9111. Spa: Friday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Adrienne Nims and Spirit Wind, global jazz.

Mas Fina Cantina, 2780 State Street, Carlsbad. 760-434-3497. Wednesday, 8 p.m. to midnight, Mike Gardner, acoustic rock/folk.

McCabe's Beach Club, 1145 South Tremont Street, Oceanside, 760-439-6646. Friday, 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., the California Rangers, country,

Mille Fleurs, 6009 Paseo Delicias, Rancho Santa Fe. 858-756-3085. Wednesday through Saturday, *Tad Sissler* and *Randy Beecher*, piano/lounge.

North Bar Sports and Spirits, 200 West El Norte Parkway, Escon 760-480-8228. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Mike Gardner, acc rock/folk.

Ocean House, 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad, 760-729-4131, Friday, 9 p.m. to midnight, the Band in Black, rockabilly. Saturday, 9 p.m. to midnight, live rock

Pounders, 125 West Grand Avenue Escondido. 760-739-1288. Friday and Saturday, *Stone Wolf*, classic 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, the Republic, rock.

#### SOUTH **BAY/CORONADO**

Borders Books and Music (Chula Vista), 878 Eastlake Parkway, Suite 210. Chula Vista. 619-482-9883. Saturday, 8 p.m., Jacqueline Grace, hiphop/dance/pop rock.

The Butcher Shop, 556 Broadway, Chula Vista. 619-420-9440. Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Wednesday, 8 p.m., Ray Correa, standards/pop/Latin. >hometown CDs



Album: Radiates Your Head (2007)

Artist: Agave

#### Label: self-released

Where available/price: Lou's Records in Encinitas and M-Theory Music in Mission Hills for \$10. Online at *iTunes* for \$9.99 and CDBaby.com for \$12.97.

Songs: 1) Radiates... 2) Drippin' Bitches 3) On My Mind 4) She Is Green 5) Lazy Naked Sundays 6) Walkabout 7) The Point 8) Blown Out Day 9) Huevos con Queso 10) Viva Salsipuedes 11) Wake Up 12) Pulse 13) South Swell 14) Radiates Your Head

Band: Rusty Bishop (guitars, vocals), Chris Flores (drums, percussion, vocals), Tony Goncalves (vocals), John Metzger (bass, vocals)

Nothing can be said of track 5, "Lazy Naked Sundays," except it is downright irritating. The other songs reach the ear somewhere in the range of

Galley at the Marina, 550 Marina

Saturday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Toni Valdez

Hotel del Coronado, 1550 Orange

Babcock and Story: Thursday through

Lasley, Latin jazz. Friday and Saturday,

4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Gonzo Gonzales

3456. Friday, Ron's Garage, classic rock.

McP's Irish Pub and Grill, 1107

Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-

5280. Thursday, 8 p.m. to midnight, live

nustic

aturday, Jesus Jackson, aco

8:30 p.m., Ray Briz, pianist. Monday,

Sunday, 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Tony

Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-6611

Parkway, Chula Vista. 619-422-5714.

and the Fahlguyz, blue

guitarist

"slightly talented beach jamband pabulum" and "overwrought pretentiousness." Agave goes out of its way

to be inaccessible; they've specialized themselves to

619-593-5119. Friday, 7 p.m., Johnson, Bosley, and Morin, ac

Dirk's Niteclub, 7662 Broadway, Lemon Grove. 619-469-6344. Friday and Saturday, *Full Xposure*, classic rock.

Fannie's Nightclub, 9143 Campo Road, Spring Valley. 619-698-2204

Tommy's Italian Restaurant, 1190 North Second Street, El Cajon. 619-440-2676. Friday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Franco Z,



**ALTERNATIVE** 

Chase Frank: The Kensington Club

death. They're a post-reggae beach jam band without an island sensibility. The people I let listen to Radiates Your Head with me said either, "I don't like beach music" or "I'm not really into jam bands." Agave is damned if they Phish and damned if they Marley.

Look past their unmixed style to their raw talent and they're not bad. Although, their writing is a bit sophomoric (see track 2, "Drippin' Bitches," for an account of how a "booty drive a man insane," if you dare), but the poppy soft-rock rhythm held down by Metzger's bass and Flores's percussion is catchy and crisp. Tony Goncalves's vocals can either grate on the ears or drive with high-key passion and precision...along the lines of horrid crap rocker Geddy Lee of Rush.

The Circle Jerks: House of Blues

The Common Loon: O'Connell's

The Creepy Creeps: The Casbah

The Dead Serial Killers:

Dethrattle: Dreamstreet

Early Autumn: Winstons

Feeling of Hate: Brick By Brick

Get Back Loretta: Ché Café

Gorilla Guerilla: The Kensington

The Homeless Sexuals: The

Roxy Jones: The Kensington Club

Paratrooper: Second Wind (Santee)

The Royalty: O'Connell's Pub and

Pleasure Device: Winstons

A Shattered Hope: Soma

Soundescape: Brick By Brick

Handguns and Heroin: Dreamstreet

A Dull Science: Soma

Encurses: Dreamstreet

Flight to Athena: Soma

Hello Marquee: Soma

Kensington Club

Invictus: Soma

Nightclu

Medius: Dreamstreet

Pub and Nightclub

Defiance: Ché Café

Drea

Agave

Agave incorporates light sound effects that lend the album a bit of a dub feel, but the band never drives home any connection to a Jamaican/ Polynesian heritage. If you're new to San Diego and want a beachy, marijuana-haze night in a local beach bar, hit up Agave.

#### TO GET YOUR LOCAL CD **REVIEWED, PLEASE MAIL**

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This Bike Is a Pipe Bomb: Ché Café Vena Cava: Ché Café

The Vision of a Dying World: Ché The Wylde Bunch: 'Canes

Yovee: Epicentre

#### ROCK

Ace Tropics: Hennessey's Tavern (PB) After the Crash: O'Connell's Pub and Nightcluł

The Ancient Sunrise: Tiki House Animal Corpse: Soma Atoms: Ché Café

Blue's Ruby: Dreamstreet

Boneyard: Coyote Bar and Grill Steve Brewer: Blarney Stone Pub

Cabrón!: The Kensington Club Cage: The Jumping Turtle

Call of Thousands: The Jumping Turtle

Canon Ball: Tiki House J.D. Combs and the Soul Stealers: Dreamstreet

Crimson Knight: Soma

The Dajjal Persona: The Jumping

The Detroit Underground:



2008 January 3, San Diego Reader 2

SATURDAY • JANUARY 19 \*asbah THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT THE DROWNING MEN COCKTAILS • LIVE MUSIC • 21 w/ID 2501 KETTNER BLVD. • 232-4355 **DEMASIADO • VITRO** PEN AND INK WEDNESDAY • JANUARY 9 **REPUBLIC OF LETTERS** SUNDAY • JANUARY 20 AUTOTONIC THE LEGENDARY SHACK SHAKERS THURSDAY • JANUARY 10 NAUTICAL DISASTER **DWARVES** MONDAY . JANILLARY 21 ANTI-MONDAY LEAGUE PRESENTS FRIDAY • JANUARY 1 **GREG LASWELL** DAREDEVIL JANE THE CREEPY CREEPS EMERY BYRD **ROSES ON HER GRAVE** LORDS OF ALTAMONT **THIEVES AND LIARS** SATURDAY • JANUARY THE BLACK HEART PROCESSION WEDNESDAY • JANUARY 23 WILL HOGE SUNDAY • JANUARY 13 **KILL ME TOMORROW EDDIE SPAGHETTI JASON ISBELL** (SUPERSUCKERS FRIDAY • JANUARY 25 WEDNESDAY • JANUARY 16

**SKYRIDER BAND** FRIDAY • JANUARY 18 **FU MANCHU** 

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#### acoustic. Friday, Toni Valdez and the Fahlguyz, blues. Saturday, 4-Way Street, classic rock, Sunday, Jim Moore, acoustic folk. Monday, Gene Warren, Irish folk. Tuesday, Jackson and Jesus, acousti Wednesday, Laguna, classic rock.

EAST COUNTY Borders Books and Music (El Cajon), 159 Parkway Plaza, El Cajon.

Tuesday and Wednesday, Jim Gibson, 1500 Ocean: Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 9 p.m. to classic rock. midnight, Tony Lasley, jazz guitar. Crown Room: Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., *Ray Briz*, pianist, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., *Ping Hu*, harpist. Island Sports and Spirits, 104



Abomination: Some Alexxx: Dreamstreet Avva: Dreamstreet Big Tooth Comb: Dreamstreet

China Clippers: The Casbah

standards/swing/jazz. Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435

rock. Friday and Saturday, Nemesis,

#### Thursday, the Corv Wilkins Band, rock. Friday and Saturday, live rock. Second Wind, 8528 Magnolia Avenue, Santee. 6019-596-8350. Thursday, 8 p.m., Paratrooper, alternative

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Media Lab: 710 Beach Club Billy Midnight: The Ould Sod Mordium: The Jumping Turtle Muzzle: Dreamstreet Nemesis: Second Wind (Santee) Nite Hawk: Carvers

October Burning: 710 Beach Club Private Domain: Dick's Last Resort The Republic: Surf N'Saddle

Rhythm and the Method: Brass Rail Ricksha: O'Connell's Pub and

Nightclub Rockola: Humphrey's

Ron's Garage: Island Sports and Spirits

Sandollar: Brick By Brick Sator Square: The Jumping Turtle

Sergulath: Soma

Serious Guise: Second Wind (San

The Sin City Allstars: Belly Up Tavern

The Slidewinders: Belly Up Tavern The Soft Hands: The Kensington

Soundbone: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

Stiletto Silhouette: Soma Stone Wolf: Pounder's Supernova: The Casbah Jack Tempchin: Belly Up Tavern Tempo No Tempo: Lestat's Coffee Unbeknown: Brick By Brick Viva Santana: Humphrey's West of 5: JP's Pub

The Cory Wilkins Band: Fannie's Nightclub

#### **POP / TOP 40**

Atomic Groove: Humphrey's The Corvelles: Humphrey's Jacqueline Grace: Borders Books and Music (Chula Vista) Rickie Lee Jones: Belly Up Tavern The Love Rangers: The Alley Rick Lvon: The Imperial House David Timothy Smith: Albie's Beef The Soul Revue: Jimmy Love's

#### JAZZ / BIG BAND

Joseph Angelastro: E Street Cafe The Archtones: Croce's Jazz Bar Tom Bishop: Rancho Bernardo Inn Jeff Blum: Miami Grille (UTC) Ray Briz: Hotel del Coronado Gilbert Castellanos: Dizzy's Aubrey Fay: Humphrey's Donnie Finnell and Company East: Bistro 221 Yvonne Flores: Buon Giorno Restaurant Jim Gibson: Hotel del Coronado Insight: Jimmy Love's Keith Jacobsen: Ramada Inn The Jazz Project Big Band: Padre

Gold Fran Laskota: The Westgate Hotel Tony Lasley: Hotel del Coronado J.J. Lim's Jazz Jam: South Park Bar and Grill

Warren Lovell: Croce's Jazz Bar Madera: Buon Giorno Restaurant Masterpiece: Tio Leo's (Mira Mesa),

Jimmy Love' Kevin McCully: The Westgate Hotel

Jerry Melnick: The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe, Rancho Bernardo Inn The Shep Meyers Trio: Croce's Jazz

Mystique: Jimmy Love's Mike Nelson: The Lodge at Torrey

Pines Adrienne Nims and Spirit Wind:

La Costa Resort and Spa Tim Ninnink: South Park Bar and Grill



Artist: Mike "The Feel" Schaub Song: "The Greatest Wife in Texas" (from the CD One Man Wilding) Heard By: Rebecca Moos, Mission Hills



One Thousand Eves: Buon Giorno

Sue Palmer: Croce's Jazz Bar

Rick Ross: La Valencia Hotel

Sambaiazz: Cuvee Restaurant

Dave Scott: Croce's Jazz Bar

Time: Coyote Bar and Gril

Doug Strock: E Street Cafe

The Tokeli Jazz Quintet:

Vintage Vegas: Martini's Above

Manhattan Restauran

**Reggie Smith and Pressed for** 

Pines

Hotel

Up Tavern

Dan Papaila: The Lodge at Torrey

Primo: Sevilla, Croce's Jazz Bar, Belly

The Prince of Piano: The Westgate

His voice sort of reminds me of Nick Drake. His voice wasn't showy - he was playing to his strengths, so it was kind of understated and subtle. [The music is] kind of folksy with almost surf guitar — really fast acoustic guitar. But it was pretty. Very ballad-y. I couldn't understand the words well, but it was a love-conflict situation. There was one part near the end where there's a breakdown, and he gets kind of bluesy. I didn't care for that part. Productionwise, it was a little bit lo-fi, but that didn't bother me at all. It's the certain kind of music I like when I'm driving long distances. There's something organic about it.

Artist: 12 Cent Song: "Motorcycles" (from the CD For the WinI)

Heard By: Chris Parker, North Park



Generally speaking, I'd say I actually liked it. That in itself surprises me because I would classify it as "punk," and that's not something that I'm a huge fan of. It's not Bad Brains in 1983 or something that's just way beyond me, but it actually reminds me of something that's more commercial, like Bad Religion. It comes in at under a minute — like, 48 seconds — but the music's tight, the vocals are clear. On that particular song, they have a poignant message. He said, "The stuff you want is not always the stuff you get and the stuff you've got sometimes you'd rather forget." Personally, I would buy that album.

#### Artist: Little Man T Song: "Fearful Momentum" (from the CD Mon Autre Moiti) Heard By: Brendan Berg, North Park



SAN DIEGO SONGS TAKE THE STREET TEST

It was a very dramatic reverie reminiscent of an Ástor Piazzolla tango. The accordion playing was in the background. It's got an Argentina flavor, but that transposes to Berlin or New York...it's pretty cosmopolitan, I think. It's really "soundtrack" stuff. It was all instrumental. In terms of commercial radio, it has potential for recording and touring. I think it has more potential for advertising than it does for selling records. You got to hand it to them for pursuing that flavor. That's the kind of band where you want to be out on the town and wander in where they're playing.

TO GET YOUR LOCAL CD HEARD, PLEASE MAIL IT TO: Music Editor, As I Hear It, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803

Doug Walker: South Park Bar and Michael Ward: Anthology Larry White: Jack's Restaurant Darvll Williams: Humphrey's Willovealot: American Legion Post

> Yavez: Croce's Jazz Bar **Z-Bop:** The Flying Bridge, Epazote Franco Z.: Tommy's Italian Restaurant

Up Tavern Jeff Bloom and the Reggae Allstars: Brick By Brick Carbine: 'Canes

Bar and Grill

Shaka Buku: 'Canes The Shenanigans: Epicentre, Soma Stranger: The Gordon Biersch Brewery Strive Roots: 710 Beach Club Tribal Seeds: World Beat Center

The Band in Black: Ocean House The California Rangers: McCabe's Beach Club Scott Gates: E Street Cafe Mike Stinson: Belly Up Tavern

**ACOUSTIC / FOLK** 

Annie Bethancourt: Lestat's Coffee House

Derrick Boess: Borders Books and Music (Carlsbad)

Tom Bover: Borders Books and Music

Christopher Dale: The Handlery

4-Way Street: McP's Irish Pub and Grill



Jesus Jackson: Island Sports and Spirits

Johnson, Bosley, and Morin: Borders Books and Music (El Cajon)

Josiah: The Book Works/Pannikin Cafe Jen Knight: E Street Cafe

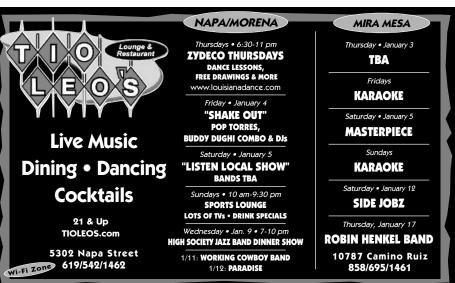
David Lindley: Belly Up Tavern The Lusitania: O'Connell's Pub and

Moiave: Lestat's Coffee House Jim Moore: McP's Irish Pub and Grill Johnny Nicholson: Lestat's Coffee Hou

Gregory Page: Lestat's Coffee House Nathan Reich: Lestat's Coffee House Eve Selis: Belly Up Tavern

Sharon Hazel Township: The Hot Java Cafe

The Smart Brothers: E Street Cafe, Lestat's Coffee House Anna Troy: Lestat's Coffee House





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Blackheart Warriors Hi-Fi: Belly

The Devastators: Winstons Elijah Emanuel and the

The Hi-Lites: Belly Up Tavern Lloyd St. Rockers: Brick By Brick The Jerry McCann Band: Coyote

Revelations: Belly Up Tavern

Mystic Roots: 'Canes

Rebelution: World Beat Center

Diane Waters: E Street Cafe



## **C**rasher

## DR. ROBIN HOOD

#### by Josh Board

plastic surgeon named Dr. Batra had a Christmas party for his employees at a house in Cardiff. The place was nice, and I said to my girlfriend, "We'll get to see what kind of house a plastic surgeon can afford." Turned out it was someone else's home.

Dr. Batra, noticing that I wasn't an employee or former patient, came over and introduced himself. I told him who I was and then asked him about what he did.

Aside from raking in big bucks from people who want to change their looks, he told me about an organization he founded called D.O.C.S., which stands for "Doctors Offering Charity Services."

He told me about going to Mexico to work on cleft lips and palates. He was detained at the border once for six hours while trying to cross in his scrubs.

There was a lot of food on the counter. I assumed it was Indian food and stayed away from it. Then the doctor's sister said, "It's all Italian food that was catered. We wanted Indian,



but everyone gets tired of us always having Indian food."

Since she's a writer, among other things, she told me about something she was planning that needed actor Keifer Sutherland's help. She told me that because he was recently jailed, she was going to write

One breast implant was punctured three weeks into his practice. Saline shot into the air.

him a letter every day for 24 straight days — play on his show 24.

I saw a news story a few



Top left: The scar on Boris's arm; Top right: Dr. Batra (middle); Bottom right: Dr. Batra's sister (right)

As I sipped my drink, I

asked Dr. Batra to tell me more

about D.O.C.S. He said they help

migrant workers. Native Ameri-

cans, and victims of domestic

days later that reported how bored he was in jail and that he hadn't had any visitors, just books to read.

I grabbed a few meatballs,

and the bartender working the

party hooked me up with a

pomegranate martini.

violence. I think he forced himself to smile when I said "It's nice that you do charitable stuff like that and take a break from all those breasts you slave over

> He pointed toward one of his employees and said, "I did her breasts." She smiled and

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daily."

posed. I said, "They, uh, look lovely." As we spoke, I wondered if women who have breast implants mind if you stare at them as you're talking. You'd think that they'd want to know that the money they spent didn't go unnoticed. Just the same, I maintained eye contact.

I overheard Dr. Batra talking about a VA hospital not taking care of its patients: "In a way, I'm like Robin Hood. I get paid from all these rich people having face lifts, and I go overseas to help poor people...or military personnel who aren't taken care of."

He told me that he worked on the grandson of author Tony Hillerman. He said that Tony gave him signed copies of one of his novels. I said, "I would've told him nothing says thanks like having a character in a book named after you."

The caterers announced that dinner was served. I thought the food on the kitchen counter was dinner. Apparently, those dishes were appetizers, as a buffet was set up in the living room.

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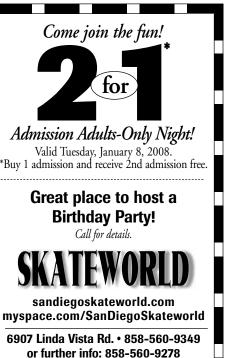
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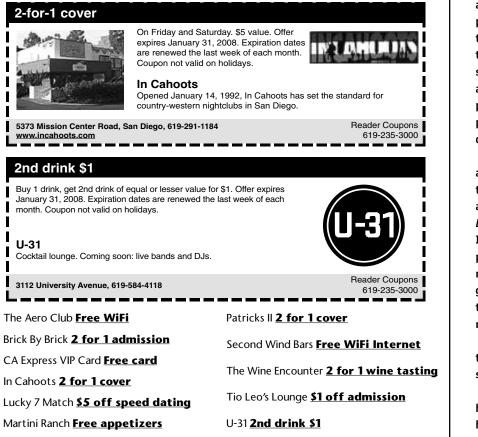
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If you would like to be included on your own band page, send us:

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- discography
- list of influences
- member history
- album reviews
- · links to related websites
- contact e-mail
- cross-references to other bands, etc.

We're hoping to include a couple of **downloadable MP3s** for as many of the performers as we can.

#### If you would like to have songs added to your own page, we'll need two things:

1. MP3 files with one or two songs (actual file rather than link to an online player). It'll be ideal if you can place file(s) on a disc to send or drop off at the Reader's downtown office (address below), or you can e-mail file (zipped) to: readermusic@gmail.com

2. A note granting permission to post to the site. E-mailing this is fine as long as you include direct contact info as well as a scan of your signature. We'll e-mail you a draft of the note upon request.

Questions? Feel free to ask. E-mail: readermusic@gmail.com

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I asked Dr. Batra about rapper Kanye West's mother, who recently died during surgery. He suggested that many people are practicing who aren't properly licensed. He then told me that he was offered the job working on the show The Swan five years ago. He didn't like the premise, how there'd be people who felt like ugly ducklings.

I sat next to a couple and talked movies with them. The guy told me his all-time favorite movie was Boondock Saints. I told him I met the San Diegan who produced it and thought the movie was overrated. As we got into a debate over that. the doctor called me over to meet one of his colleagues. Dr. Batra said, "This is

the second-hardest-working surgeon in San Diego." In an attempt at

humor, I said as we shook hands, "I have a third nipple." He responded. "What do you want me to do, squeeze it?"

Later, I was talking to



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an older couple who had interesting accents. I thought they were from Russia. She was an attractive mortgage broker and I can't remember what Boris did, though I recall he competed in jujitsu tournaments. I asked him if he had any stories about the doctor, and he rolled up his sleeve and showed me a huge scar. He said Dr. Batra was in Temecula but rushed back after a big piece of glass got lodged in his arm. They almost had to amputate. After six hours of surgery, Dr. Batra saved Boris's limb.

Dr. Batra came over and finished the story, saying, "Blue Cross didn't want to pay the bill. They wanted proof that the surgery I did was necessary. I went on the national news talking about what they were doing, and the day before one of the programs was going to air, they called to say they reversed their decision."

I had another event to go to that night, and after finishing my dinner, I was going to sneak out. Then Dr. Batra started talking about



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each of his employees. I thought it would be rude to walk out in the middle of it.

Some of the stories were touching; others were funny. One breast implant was punctured three weeks into his practice. Saline shot into the air. They didn't have an extra implant, and he wasn't sure if he was going to hire the doctor after that. He laughed and said, regarding that doctor, "You think he's your ally. But he talks shit about you, too." Everyone laughed.

Dr. Batra's parents sat on the couch and made conversation with people. His mom was dressed in traditional Indian garb. I had a brief conversation with them and was glad that they didn't have thick accents. I feel bad when someone has an accent and I have trouble understanding them.

His parents are from Cleveland, and they have one child who just passed the bar exam, another who's a successful writer, and Dr. Batra, who has a thriving surgical practice in Del Mar.

I then thought about my mom because she's also from Cleveland. She has a son who spent way too much time in bars and another who writes about people getting drunk at parties.

Crash your party? Call 619-235-3000 x421 and leave an invitation for Josh Board.

Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com





## A Good Place

*"This year five shows announced themselves 'Broadway bound' even before they opened!"* 

**The Year in Review**. A woman at a local mall, recently interviewed on TV, summed up 2007 with one look. Asked why Christmas shopping was down this season, she replied, "Well, we had these fires, and gas prices are

through the moon, and..." and as she continued, her eyes searched the reporter's, as if to ask, "Where the hell have you been?"

In theater, 2007 should be remembered, first and foremost, as the year Craig Noel received the prestigious National Medal of the Arts. In a White House ceremony on November 19, Noel accepted the award "for his decades of leadership as a pillar of the American theater. As a director of hundreds of plays and a mentor to generations of artists, his work has inspired audiences and theater producers across the nation."

Were the lifetime achievement award bestowed 20 years ago, when Noel was 72 and had already earned it, the nation might have wondered, "Craig who? San Diego what?" But since our theater community has expanded by leaps and bounds in the past two decades, and since Noel has been *the* constant, gentle force behind its growth — Obi-Wan in a Greek sailor's cap people around here say with civic pride, "It's about time!"

Noel, who began as the Old Globe Theatre's hat checker in 1935, became artistic director in 1947. In 1981, he stepped down, handing the



reins to Jack O'Brien. On January 28, 2008, O'Brien will be inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame for his work on Broadway: Tony Awards for directing *The Coast of Utopia, Hairspray*, and *Henry IV*, along with five other Tony nomina-

> tions (Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, The Invention of Love, The Full Monty, Two Shakespearean Actors, and Porgy and Bess). On January 21, as part of the San

Diego Theater Critics Circle's annual awards ceremony, we will pay tribute to Jack O'Brien, who picked up the banner and carried it high. For details about the ceremony, which we

named for Craig Noel, go to *sdcriticscircle.org.* A Marker of How Far We've Come. In

1983, O'Brien directed Thornton Wilder's *Skin* of *Our Teeth* at the Old Globe. One performance was televised, live, around the country. It was the first time San Diego theater received national attention, and I must admit, many of us were a mite provincial about the prospect. People all over town hoped the performance would go well, with no live glitches, and that we'd be good enough for such a showcase. Aided by Harold Gould, Sada Thompson, and Blair Brown, O'Brien did a masterful job. Reviewers raved, and "we" were a coast-to-coast hit.

About six months ago two producers sent me an email. They wanted to know a good place to try out their new musical.

Why, here," I replied with astonishment



Craig Noel (left) at National Medal of Arts ceremony

and civic pride, "of course! This year five shows announced themselves 'Broadway bound' even before they opened!"

"But that's the problem," came the reply.

"San Diego's become too well known these days. Critics from around the country attend your major world premieres. Everyone keeps an eye on you. We want someplace more quiet, less in

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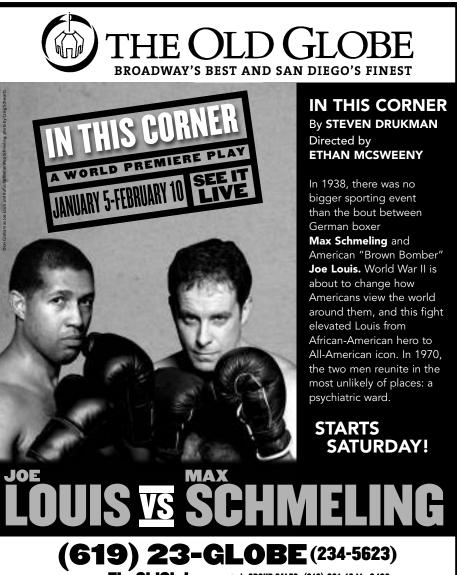
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the national spotlight." I recommended Puyallp, Washington, during applepicking. They said "thanks." I said, "Hey — anytime."

Another Marker: Seven theaters opened on December 1, 2007. Since few media have more than two reviewers, at least five shows got delayed notices. In the olden days we had three, maybe four openings a week, and rarely on the same night. Last year we had several bulge periods — April, late May through June, and a late-September/early-October stampede — when everyone opened at once. These periods not only dispersed regular first-night audiences, they prompted many critics either to see a preview, which can be iffy, or come back later in the run.

Two requests, one simple, the other apparently not. Press people: at or near the top of all press releases, please announce the official opening night, not the first preview, as many do, so we won't circle the wrong date and have to uncircle it and reschedule later.

Second: back around the time of *The Skin of Our Teeth*, others and I suggested the need for a central calendar where all theaters presented their opening-night schedules long in advance. That way the smaller companies, who usually get bumped by the bigger ones, could choose free prime time nights, or even open weeks (late February, mid-August, late October through early November are often vacant), and plan accordingly.

For years, Bill Purves's theater league fulfilled this function, and overlaps were few. Nowadays, and this is the downside of our bounty, they're the norm. Ergo, a general calendar. Maybe at Actor's Alliance?

A Friend and (Now) Former Colleague. For many years Anne-Marie Welsh has been the theater critic for the *Union-Tribune*. She has been an indefatigable advocate of theater, writing reviews and features (around 5000, she estimates), doing hours and hours of behind-the-scenes support work for the arts, and re-forming the theater critics circle. About two weeks ago, she accepted a buy-out from the paper and will no longer review for the *U*-*T*.

Anne-Marie told me she has several irons in the fire. I sincerely hope she continues to work on our side of the proscenium. I also hope that her departure (as many allege lately) doesn't signal a new *U*-*T* policy of deemphasizing "soft news" (i.e. arts coverage), especially since it flourishes in this city as never before.

The *U*-*T* and other media contemplating downsizing of the arts should ask themselves: when Charles Foster Kane decided to start a newspaper, who was the first person he hired?

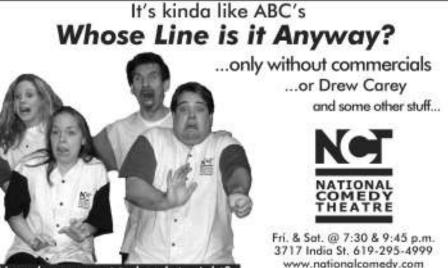
#### THEATER LISTINGS

Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith. Information is accurate according to material given to us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.

Tickets \$12-\$15



The Blessings of a Broken Heart San Diego Repertory Theatre presents a workshop production of Sherri Mandell's struggle, adapted by Todd Salovey, to find strength after the murder of her son by terrorists in Israel. Salovey directed. SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN, FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, THROUGH JANUARY 20; WEDNESDAY AND SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M.



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#### In This Corner

The Old Globe Theatre presents the world premiere of Steven Drukman's drama about Joe Louis and Max Schmeling. They battled in the ring in 1938. Now they reunite in 1970, in a psychiatric ward. Ethan McSweeney directed. CASSIUS CARTER CENTRE STAGE, SI-MON EDISON CENTRE FOR THE PER-FORMING ARTS, BALBOA PARK, THURS-DAY, JANUARY 10, THROUGH FEBRUARY 10; SUNDAY, TUESDAY, AND WEDNESDAY AT 7:00 P.M., THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-234-5623.

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this format, but the "game

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ousness of comparisons used in

show," on Fridays, is a kick. The

90-minute evening offers differ-

ent bits. The winner gets a ba-nana, the loser a "forfeit." Some

attempts went nowhere (improv

is tough: I did it in my, as hind-

Others made amazing twists and

turns. The group has more hits

Keith Johnstone, wrote one of

about making theater. They put

sight reveals, callow youth).

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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 en-

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## The Chow of Thao

If you and your eating buddies feel like tasting your way through several Asian countries and are looking for economy fare, then Chow is designed for you.

It's the latest venture of restaurateur Alex Thao, best known as the young entrepreneur who revived his parents' original restaurant Celadon before opening the razzle-dazzly Rama in the Gaslamp, which is still San Diego's finest destination for "royal Thai" palace-style cuisine. With his latest venture, Thao has set his sights considerably lower. His Chow Noodle House offers a mix-andmatch menu of noodle dishes and rice bowls from Thailand, Vietnam, China, and Japan. (Don't know why, but he omitted Singapore and Malaysia.) The average entrée runs \$9, which hits the spot during the post-holiday credit-card-bill shock-and-awe period. The simple cooking may also seem a relief after holiday indulgences.

Visually, Chow is the opposite of the low-down, crowded Chinatown noodle joints that sustained my crowd through and after college. The decor is starkly modern in shiny black, white, and chrome, with contrasting red napkins. It's a little like the inside of a tidy bachelor's refrigerator — spacious, clean, cool. In fact, the tables nearest the window are chilly on a cold night. If you arrive early, the restaurant's soundtrack is cool and jazzy, too, but after 7:00 p.m. it starts to pulse and thump with a more trendy rock format.

The staff is so accommodating that one night, when we ordered coconut ice cream and the kitchen was out, a staffer hopped in a car and ran over to Celadon to pick some up for us. It was excellent ice cream, studded with juicy bits of pineapple.

The menu changes often, and has done so as of January 1, while my two visits occurred prior to the switchover. But I was warned of the upcoming change in time for the second meal and mainly ordered items that would carry over into the New Year.

The poser Chow presents is: Can one kitchen successfully prepare four different national cuisines? My posse and I chose dishes from all four to find out. To build up some suspense, let's visit Thailand (Thao's own specialty) last and start with China instead. I was surprised and delighted by the pan-fried pork dumplings (a.k.a. potstickers), with their thin, crisped wrappers and well-seasoned filling, a classic balance of sweet and savory.



EW

REV

NAOMI WISE

They were not world-shaking potstickers but typical of those served at good Chinese restaurants and came with an appropriate hot-salty-sour soybased dip.

The Chinese wonton soup we sampled was less successful, partly because it in-

cluded noodles and dumplings. On the draft of the new menu (emailed by the publicist), the extra pasta will be replaced by vegetables, let-

ting the wontons stand — or float — alone. I hope so, because adding noodles to wonton soup is like garnishing ravioli with spaghetti. The arbitrary addition of tasteless, desiccated bits of chicken breast made matters worse: The reason that wonton soup is typically garnished with *char siu*, sweet barbecued pork, is not because the soup needs random creature-protein but because *char siu* contributes flavor. The wontons fell short, too, with doughy wrappers and bland filling. (If it's the same forcemeat as in the dumplings, it may have turned out less well than usual that evening.) But the ultimate problem was the soup itself, a thin, mild chicken broth with little fat globules on top. It's missing subtle Chinese seasoning and lacks sufficient body to fulfill that heartening Chinese comfort-food quotient. (I have tasted its like occasionally at ultra-cheap, older Cantonese-American restaurants.) A friend from southern China once told me, "When you taste the soup in a Cantonese

restaurant, you'll know whether the rest of the food will be good, because the same broth will be in most of the stir-fry dishes." When I tasted Chow's broth, my inner merged bissing *"Guei lo traft"* 

Last Empress emerged, hissing, "Guei lo tref!" Japan seems to fare better, or maybe it only

seemed so because I didn't grow up eating in Japanese restaurants. The shrimp tempura are pleasant, in any case. The shrimps aren't the huge butterflied prawns of the best tempuras, and the batter is not airborne, but if you look at them as generic fried shrimp, they're tender enough and taste very good with the ginger-spiked dip. Japanese fried chicken (which may be off-menu by now) was also a fun dish. Surprisingly, it was neither the lightly floured, spicy *karaage* I'd hoped for, nor the *katsu* McNuggets I expected but closer to "popcorn shrimp" — small deep-fried breast-bites in a crackly cornstarch coating, glazed in a light,

### Chow Noodle House

540 University Avenue (at Sixth Avenue), 619-269-9209.

**HOURS:** Open daily 11:00 a.m.–11:00 p.m. **PRICES:** Appetizers, \$5–\$8; entrées, \$8–\$11; desserts, \$3.

**CUISINE AND BEVERAGES:** Noodle dishes and rice bowls from Thailand, Vietnam, China, and Japan. Solid, adventurous wine and sake lists at reasonable prices, plenty by the glass, plus sake martinis.

**PICK HITS:** Potstickers (pan-fried pork dumplings); shrimp tempura; Tom Yum (Thai noodle soup); Japanese fried chicken; curries, desserts.

**NEED TO KNOW:** No reservations accepted except for large parties. Small parking lot on Sixth Avenue, north of University (or use Rite-Aid pay lot on Robinson). Music on sound system gets louder and heavier as evening progresses. Kiddie menu available as of January 1. Many dishes highcarb, with sugary sauces over starch.

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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sweetish sauce, all in all more reminiscent of Chinese sweet-and-sour pork than anything Japanese. The Japanese "must taste" dish for me was ra-

The Japanese "must taste" dish for me was ramen. Years ago, after seeing *Tampopo* for the third time, my partner and I slurped through San Francisco's Japantown, seeking *Tampopo*-quality ramen at different noodle houses. Don't know whether we found it (since neither of us had eaten ramen in Japan), but we thoroughly enjoyed several top contenders. Chow's *cha siu* ramen (with pork, egg, fishcakes, and a few dark-green veggies) would have come in, oh, second-to-last — although the soup is reasonably tasty and easy eating. But here, too, the broth isn't quite right — it's lacking a flavor that I can't name but miss. The noodles are a little soggy, and the egg is too hard-cooked.

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Next stop, Vietnam. Both appetizers from that country shared a serious omission, as Vietnamese cuisine values "do it yourself." In homes and restaurants, appetizers arrive with a huge heap of lettuce leaves, fresh herbs (mint, basil, cilantro, rau ram, etc.), scallions, and other salad ingredients, and "lettuce wraps" are assembled according to the tastes of the individual diner. If the appetizer is already some sort of a wrap, then the wraps get wrapped. At Chow, this custom is ignored. One leaf of lettuce doth not a salad make.

While spring rolls are common to both Thailand and Vietnam, the version we tasted accorded more closely to Vietnamese recipes, stuffed with plump shrimps among crunchy sprouts, julienned carrot, thin rice noodles, cucumber batons, and basil leaves. For all its freshness and crunch, the filling was a trifle bland, but the plate came with only a single leaf of butter lettuce and two sprigs of cilantro, plus an unimpressive dipping sauce. A Vietnamese crèpe (banh xeo) was overstuffed with shrimp, ground pork, bean sprouts, and shredded woodears. Once again the salad wrap (two leaves of lettuce) was a token, and the riot of herbage was sorely missed, especially since the pancake was greasy. Chow's version of nguoc cham dipping sauce was, to my taste, ruinously sweet.

For a Vietnamese entrée, we chose "360 beef" (a.k.a. shaking

beef), served with rice. The beef (probably tri-tip) was suitably tender and decently seasoned but it lacked the smoky, caramel depths and greater tenderness of the same dish made with sirloin at Del Mar's Le Bambou or, a block away from Chow, made with filet mignon at Saigon on Fifth. It came with a ramekin of salt and black pepper mixed together, an authentic garnish, but the pepper seemed to be bottled fine-ground, not coarse freshground, as it should be.

By now, I'm sure you're picking up a pattern. With *farang* (non-Thai) cuisines, Chow's renditions are edible and pleasant but neither authentic nor optimal. For any dish you might try here, a better version can be found at other restaurants dedicated to that ethnic cuisine. But since Chow's owner runs two of the top Thai restaurants in San Diego, how does the kitchen do on his native cuisine?

Bad news. Chow is not Celadon or Rama. It's also not Lotus Thai, or any other reasonably good Thai restaurant in the area. It proves to be one of the least authentic, most deeply compromised Thai kitchens around.

The first problem is an evident indifference to quality. Take the satays. The skewered beef was not only cardboard tough but uninteresting. The chicken was overcooked and underseasoned. The dipping sauce was cloyingly sweet. A food-vendor with a sidewalk brazier on any alley or temple courtyard in Bangkok would be out of business in three days with skewers like these. No Thai would try them twice, and there aren't enough dumb *farangs* in the whole country to support them.

Second problem: In its version of an often spicy cuisine, Chow — attempting to please all tastes - defaults to just about no heat at all. (This is silly. Patrons who dislike spicy food have three other nations' milder dishes to choose from.) Instead of cooked-in chilies, you receive a condiment tray holding dried red peppers, pickled red peppers, pickled green serranos, and Sriracha sauce. Help yourself. The problem is, throwing hot chilies onto food that's already cooked creates a harsher effect than introducing the spice from the start, so that it has a chance to mellow and blend with its fellow ingredients. Here's an example: With no built-in chile, Chow's som tum (green papaya salad) is tart and vaguely pleasant but shallow tasting. None of the tablecondiments mirrors the typical Thai preparation, which begins with pounding garlic and fresh hot chilies in a mortar to a rough paste. You can't fix it at the table with sprinklings of condiments — you don't have the raw materials or the tools. In contrast, when my Isaanborn friend Tuy in Nan Yang (on Phuket) makes som tum, she assembles it (except for the last-minute chopped nuts) the night before she serves it, so that

all the flavors can make friends (including a fair amount of hot pepper — she *is* from the spiciest culinary province of Thailand).

Finally, Chow substitutes sweetness for fire. Take the nightmarish pad thai. To borrow from Sweeney Todd, it's got to be "the worst pad thai in London" — or anywhere else. Rename it "Dentist's Yacht"it's got enough sugar to rot your molars in three bites. In Chiang Mai, the noodles, barely sweetened by a light sauce, are an excuse on which to hang a riot of pungent dried shrimp, fresh shrimp, dried radish, and fresh vegetables. At Chow, the heavy, glutinous sauce tastes as if it wandered off from a Thai wedding dish called mee krob (made with deep-fried "exploded" rice noodles and about 40 other ingredients, which is why you don't see it often in restaurants). At weddings, maybe all the sugar is appropriate.

Another evening's "drunken noodles" (large, soft egg noodles with seafood in coconut-based curry sauce) were not really drunk — they were on a sugar high. From white sugar, I'm sure — Thai palm sugar doesn't taste as sweet, and it doesn't come granulated but arrives in solid blocks of various shapes. (The ones in my cupboard look like suntanned seashells.) You have to laboriously grate off the amount you need — a process that automatically breeds restraint. Cooks in Thailand tend to use palm sugar as a seasoning,

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one flavor among many. In America, Domino makes sugar dominant.

We did find one truly pleasing Thai dish: Tom Yum, lemongrass noodle soup. Far less fiery than usual, it revealed an unexpected soothing side to its personality. The tender shrimp in the broth were perfectly cooked. By now, however, Chow may be serving a different, beef-broth version with short rib meat. (I'd gladly try that, too.)

Our final Thai entrée was green curry. Since the new menu draft seems to offer it only with chicken, rather than seafood, that's how we had it — encountering another flurry of dried-out breast meat swamped in a sauce so lackluster, you could do at least as well at home with a quarter-cup of bottled Thai Kitchen green curry paste and a can of Chao Kuo coconut milk.

In fact, you'd probably do it better, since you'd probably toss in some vegetables (how about Japanese eggplant?), and you'd take better care of whatever protein you were using. One of my tablemates at the second dinner has lived her life in a small town in Wisconsin, without much experience with Southeast Asian cuisine. "They seem to use an awful lot of meat and starch and not a lot of fresh vegetables," she commented, picking at the drunken noodles. The rest of us burst into a chorus about how atypical Chow's food is compared to more authentic restaurants (especially in its Vietnamese dishes), much less compared to the veggie-rich cooking of the four Asian nations it covers.

Over an excellent dessert of sticky rice with mango, posseregular Sam looked thoughtful. "Does it seem to you that all of this food has been heavily adapted for gringos?" "The Thai word for 'gringos' is *farang*, but yes," I said. "Hard to believe the same owner owns Celadon and Rama," said Mary Jo. "Lower price point here," said Sam, "lower ambitions."

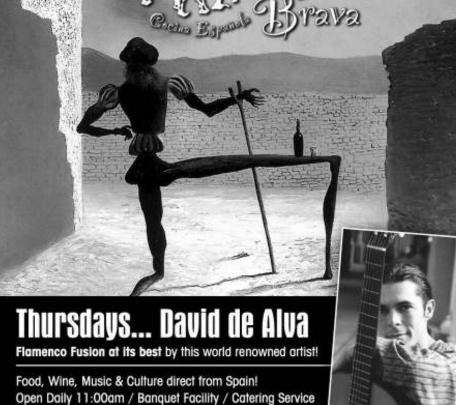
Nevertheless, while Chow's cooking doesn't have the light, wholesome balance of authentic Asian fare, if you navigate carefully around the menu, you can get a tasty, inexpensive dinner without reservations or forethought. It's the globalized, So-Cal equivalent of dear old Hong Hing and Hong Fat, the Mott Street hangouts that fed my generation of impoverished Manhattan hipsters - but unlike those institutions, it's not greasy or cockroach-scary but clean and pleasant. If I were in the neighborhood and short of funds, I'd eat at Chow again in a New York minute — but I'd eat there with lowered expectations.

Jazz lovers, take note: Jason Weber, the sax player whose soaring music distracted me from my "review dinner" at Anthology, returns to Anthology this Sunday, January 6. (No cover, \$15-\$20 minimum.) ■

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## **Pepe's Place**

"When I was courting my wife, I'd turn up outside her home with ten mariachis."

ED BEDFORD

ang warily," my Scottish grandpa said. "Go carefully, 'specially when it comes to birthday surprises. Women hate

I was thinking of that the other day, because

here I was, deep in Carla territory. Coronado. I wanted to check out this place for her boithday, the day before New Year's.

I was thinking Mexican Village. Mention it to Carla and her eyes go funny. As a kid, she'd gone there for big celebrations, like birthdays, first dates, or when her

Navy stepdaddy returned from a West-Pac. So many Navy flyboys practically lived there at the "Village" between tours, they called it "Mex-Pac."

That's why I came over here. Trouble is, I heard the place had closed its doors after being in business for, like, 60 years. Guess it's found a new operator, because now a big sign says "OPEN."

'Course I have to pop in. And, wow, it's bright and beautiful inside. Big tile floor with a massive fountain in the middle, bars and lounge on the right, and straight ahead a kind of dining hall, with bright yellow faux-washed flowerpot-studded walls, lit by a skylight that lets the sun flood in.

"Welcome!" says this gent coming toward me all the way from the back, the kitchens, probably. "Lunch?"

Uh, hadn't meant to, and haven't even checked for prices, but what the heck. He leads me down to a table under a big curly metal Spanish chandelier, near some potted ferns. I put my antennas out for ghosts, spirits of the crazy days gone by — Korean War, Vietnam War, first Gulf War — when this island was swollen with mili-

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tary. I try to imagine the cacophony. Kinda like *Top Gun*, I'm guessing.

Except, right now, the music ain't "Danger Zone," it's, well, I'd swear it's either Julio Iglesias or...d'ah, Pedro...the great Mexican icon?

"Infante, Pedro Infante," says the guy, Pepe. "That's *Amorcito Corazón* [Little Love of the Heart] he's singing." Turns out this is Pepe's place now.

A pretty gal comes up. Marisol. One of Pepe's eight daughters — wow. "And four sons," says Pepe. Twelve kids? "I

have been blessed," he says. Marisol and Alicia are working out front, and their brothers Luis and Ricardo are cooking. Nearly all the recipes come from their grandmother Elisa and uncle Roberto in Jalisco.

I ask for a coffee (\$1.99, endless refills). Marisol brings me a plate of chips and mild salsa and a big shiny menu. I flash through it. Lord. The prices all look like \$11, \$15, \$17 buckaroos. Then I see the back page. Mexican Village "signature" burritos, \$8.50, stuffed with everything from *"tripitas*" to *carnitas con papas* (pork with potato) to shrimp with Veracruzano sauce. Okay, the shrimp's a buck more. Burgers go for \$7.50, and, yes! You can get three soft tacos for \$6.95. Now we're talking. Carnitas, carne asada, *tripas* (tripe), shrimp, or fish. Deal.

Except, when it comes to it, I go pay out twice as much just so I can have a crisp shell. I order a combo beef taco and chicken taco plate with rice and beans (\$10.95).

They come on a big oval platter, standardlooking crisp tacos, but gushing with grated lettuce and cheese and big tomato wedges. I ask for some stronger salsa. Marisol brings out a little witch's brew of thick, lethal sauce. It certainly helps. I polish off the tacos lickety-split. The chicken one's fine, but the beef's got all the flavor, savory, a little sweet, refreshingly crisp lettuce, and a nice crunchy taco shell, though I'm kinda wishing I'd gone for, say, the *carnitas con papas* burrito.

I tell Pepe about the birthday idea. "I'm not made of money," I say. "But this'd mean a lot to her."

"It's the gesture that's important," he says. "When I was courting my wife, I'd turn up once a month outside her home in Tijuana with ten mariachis and serenade her, say with the Luis Miguel song, *'Entrega Total'* — 'Total Surrender.' You have to surprise them."

Huh. That's not what Grandpa said.

"Would you like me to sing you a song?" he asks.

"Absolutely," I say.

Pepe goes and gets a microphone, plugs it into a tape box, and starts singing, with full recorded orchestral backing. "Por vivir en quinto patio..." It's about a poor boy serenading from the street up to a rich girl on her swank fifth-floor balcony. "El dinero no es la vida, es tan sólo vanidad." "Money is not life, it's only vanity."

All right! Man after my own heart. And a beautiful, powerful voice, too. This is just what this place needs. For the past 70 years it's had gringos playing at Mexican — and doing it well — but now the island has the real thing.

"Really, I am the wealthiest man in the world," says Pepe. "Not money. I am 65, I have my life, my 12 children, my music, and this wonderful place."

And then he excuses himself to go set up for

**The Place:** *Mexican Village, 126 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-3111* **Type of Food:** *Mexican* 

**Prices:** Mexican Village "signature" burritos, \$8.50 (fillings, e.g. tripitas [tripe], carnitas con papas [pork with potato], chorizo and eggs); shrimp burrito, \$9.50; quesadilla, \$6.95, with meat, \$9.95; cheeseburgers, fries, \$7.50; three soft tacos, \$6.95, fillings include carnitas, carne asada, tripas (tripe), shrimp, fish; main dishes more expensive: beef taco and chicken taco with rice and beans, \$10.95; carne asada beef with rice, beans, tortillas, \$15.95; carnitas plate with cactus, \$15.95; combination plates, \$9.95–\$11.95; ceviche tostada, \$4.95 **Hours:** 11:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m., Sunday–Thursday; till 10:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday **Bus:** 904. 901

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Pepe Dominguez

a party tonight.

Me, I go to the front desk to pay Alicia.

"Wow," I say. "Your dad. Serenading your mom. He's something else. How would you like someone to serenade you with ten mariachis below your window?"

"I'd be weirded out," Alicia says.

Sigh. Somehow, I feel Carla would love to be weirded out like that. If only I had the *dinero* to be that weird. ■

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8





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## At the Cusp

"These are people who are established. They're well known for writing books."

y the time Dan Berger joined the San Diego B Union in 1979, he was already doing double-duty as a sportswriter and wine columnist. (Today, after a couple of wine books and a career that has seen his name in Gourmet,

the Los Angeles Times, and a host of other publications, he publishes Dan Berger's Vintage Experience, a subscription-based newsletter he produces with his wife, Juliann Savage.) Sports and wine may sound like a slightly oddball combination, but it's far from an isolated case. Heck, it's not even an isolated case at the San Diego Union.

Consider Linda Murphy, who worked as a sportswriter and editor at the Union for years before heading up to wine country. There, she found odd jobs in the wine industry, and when she decided she wanted to get back into writing, she turned her pen to her new passion. Freelancing for the wine section at the San Francisco Chronicle led to editing said section, and after a solid run at the paper, she left to become West Coast editor for both Decanter and JancisRobinson.com.

Or consider Bruce Schoenfeld, hired out of Harvard to serve as a general sportswriter. He moved to Cincinnati to cover the Reds, then got tired of sports and decided to write a book on bullfighting. So he went to Spain. Recalls Robert Whitley, who worked as Schoenfeld's editor, "This was 10, 12 years ago, when Spanish wine was at

the cusp of its renaissance. And you can't hardly go to Spain and not drink wine." Today, he's a contributing editor at Wine Spectator.

And of course, there's Whitley himself, whose wine column - syndicated nationally by Cop-

ley News Service — runs in the Union-Tribune and who spent nine years as a sports editor at the Union before the merger in '91. For him, the connection between sports and wine is no coincidence: covering the one pretty much required knowing the other. "I was 20 years old, covering the New

York Knicks for New York Newsday in the early '70s. We had Bill Bradley on that team, and Dave Dubocher, Willis Reed, Walt Frazier - and Phil Jackson. It was pretty amazing. Newsday was the type of newspaper that expected you to cultivate sources. We had a very generous expense account, and we took sources out to lunch, out to dinner. When you're the guy inviting somebody out to dinner for a meeting and you're picking up the tab, you're the person who gets handed the wine list. I knew squat about wine, so I started going to wine shops and asking questions. Back then, a lot of the shops would have bottles open — you could taste things and ask about them." Job-related research gave way to affinity, and affinity gave way to a full-blown collection.

So when Dan Berger left the Union in the early '80s, "Maureen Clancy, who was the food editor, asked me if I was interested in writing the wine column. I declined, because I was grounded in European wines, and I thought if you were going to write about wine for a California newspaper, you should really be grounded in California wines. It was only after the merger years later" - when Whitley was working for Copley in Los Angeles -- "that I went back and said, 'If you're still interested, I feel confident now.' My palate is not as extremely tilted toward European-style, earthy, mineral-driven wines as it once was. The desire for that type of wine is still there, but I try to be ecumenical. A wine may not be my favorite style, but if it's a legitimate style and it's well made in that style, then I try to give it its due.'

After leaving the Union, Whitley began to focus more and more on wine — since '97, he has written about nothing else. In 1994, he founded the Monterey Wine Competition. Five years ago, he took over the San Diego International Wine Competition. And four years ago, he had the bright idea of a wine competition in which all the judges were professionals in the wine world. People like Mary Ewing-Mulligan, MW. Like Paul Lukacs, Elin McCoy, Leslie Sbrocco. "I had enough good friends with whom I had tasted over the years - people in whom I had a high level of confidence as far as their ability to reason through a wine. I knew that, even if they didn't all agree, they would all have sound logic behind their opinions." So was born the Critic's Challenge.

And it was at the Critic's Challenge that Whitley hit upon the idea for WineReviewOnline.com. "I was looking around the room at all of these great wine journalists" - people who wrote for the Boston Globe, the Washington Post, Forbes, Wine & Spirits, Decanter, etc. - "and I thought to myself, 'What if I could have all of these people in one place, on a website?' You wouldn't want to do a publication - who has the money to do a



Robert Whitley

four-color slick and compete with Wine Spectator? If people sink all their resources into the product — the paper, the color, that sort of thing — then they have less they can use to go head-to-head with the Spectator in terms of hiring top talent. But, I thought, with a website, you could actually do this.'

He found a dozen or so colleagues who were game and found a couple of partners in winewriters Michael Franz and Michael Apstein. The site just turned two and a half. "Over the last year, we averaged 78,000 visitors a month, and we did 85,000 in November. In December, I expect we'll break 100,000. You always get a flood of new people who find you around the holidays, and they stay with you." They come, in part, because of the

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name. "If you Google 'wine review' or 'wine reviews,' we're the number-one result. We get a tremendous amount of traffic from that. Same with Yahoo. People are looking for ideas around the holidays, and they do a search." They stay for the stars. "We have name recognition. These are people who are established. They're well known for writing books, writing for major publications." And there's a reason they're well known — as I write this, Patrick Comiskey has a clear-eyed and engaging story posted on the site about Jess Jackson, a man who has "transformed the industry at least twice and in the last ten years has emerged as one of California's most envied property owners, one of its most dedicated stewards, and by far one of its richest men."

Besides the articles and columns, the site offers regular features: "Wine With ..., "In the Kitchen," "On My Table," "Today's Featured Wine"...and reviews. "I'm guessing we have about 5000 in the database, and you can search them. It's pretty cool." And because it's all digital, the database has a certain...mobility. Says Whitley, "We just partnered up with a company called Decidero that has created a proprietary technology to

95\*

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deliver wine reviews by text message to mobile phones and PDAs. It's nice if you're in a shop, or even in a restaurant." rating, reviewer, price, and critique. "It's just a regular text-message fee. I think it's pretty cool. It gives us more exposure, gets us out there."

#### 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

The Armenian Cafe 3126 Carlsbad Boulevard (at Pine), Carlsbad, 760-720-2233. At this large cottage with a year-round heated sundeck overlooking Highway 101, the menu offers Armenian specialties cooked with a Lebanese accent as well as generic Mid-dle Eastern crowd pleasers, including gyros made from scratch. Lamb shish kebab is the house specialty, a "loss leader" featuring tender premium lamb cubes with assertive seasonings, grilled over gas. Even better are distinctive dishes from the owner's family recipes:

his mom's Lebanese kibbe (a large, glo rified nut-filled lamb meatball) is outstanding, as is her kashta lea dessert an exotic nutmeg sponge cake fragrant with rosewater syrup, topped with pis-tachios and thickened cream. Dinner platters constitute a full meal, includ-ing a great "Armenian salad" and a tasty dip for the meat, along with less-than-great egg-lemon soup, pilaf, and pita wedges. Wine list is dreary, but corkage fee is reasonable. Three meals daily. Live music and belly dancer Friday and Saturday night. Moderate to slightly expensive. - N.W.

Blanca Beachwalk Plaza, 437 South Highway 101, Solana Beach, 858-792-0072. The opening of sleek, sophisticated Blanca marks the arrival of our first 21st-century restaurant, highlighting perfect seasonal ingredi-ents so radiantly and originally prepared that diners must rouse to rapt attention. Chef Wade Hageman, a protegé of renowned SF/Vegas chef Michael Mina, has imported a similarly complex, labor-intensive style of cook ing that appeals as much to the mind as to the senses. He's imported a major Mina strategem — showcasing an individual ingredient by presenting it in several different incarnations within the same dish, like musical variations on a theme. Blanca's menu lists each item's pedigree and primary garnishes, but those details don't begin to describe the behind-the-scenes enhancements of marinades, brines, rubs, soaks, and infusions that play subtle roles in the multilayered flavors that come to the table. Appetizers are especially adventurous, the wine list is exceptional (if mainly very pricey), and the restaurant's decor is as modern and polished as the food. Dinner only. Reservations required. Very expensive. — N.W.

California Bistro 7100 Four Seasons Point, Four Seasons Resort Aviara, Carlsbad, 760-603-6868. This restaurant features fresh California cuisine in a beautiful, luxurious hotel dining room. Open 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday to Thursday (to 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday). Reserve for the Friday night seafood buffet (5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.), which includes cooked

seafood, sushi, and sashimi. Moderate to expensive. — E.W.

Joey's Smokin' B-B-Q 6955 El Camino Real, Carlsbad, 760-929-1396. Also Torrey Hills Center, 4645 Carmel Mountain Road, Carmel Valley, 858-350-1317. Joey Maggiore doesn't produce Southern "Q" so much as So-Cal "Q" — more an homage to Mem-phis than anything you'd find in Memphis itself — but the tables include paper towel dispensers instead of napkins, a clear signal to go ahead and get messy. All the meats are smoked, not grilled, in true "Q" fashion. Pulled pork offers reasonably credible Memphisstyle flavor and tender-chewy texture. Baby back ribs come in three versions: sweet ribs glazed with the "suh-weet' sauce, wet ribs glazed with the mildspicy sauce, and dry-rubbed ribs sprinkled with spice rub. Sweet or wet are the best. Chicken plates come in a variety of sizes and parts. House-made hot links are well seasoned in the Louisiana manner, but extremely salty. The list of sides is long and varied. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive to moderate. - N.W.

Juanita's Taco Shop Estilo Tepatitlan 290 North Coast High-way 101, Encinitas, 760-943-9612; also in Vista at 248 Main, 760-758-4531. Enticing aromas of fresh tortillas and fragrant frijoles greet you as you enter this busy little *taqueria*, where the food's cooked in the style of Tepatitlan, a small city near Guadalajara. Its local specialty is carnitas - which Juanita's does up (by the plate or by the pound) as tender, non-greasy shreds, served with fresh, cilantro-laden mild tomato salsita. Standard wraps are fine, too, and the beans taste as good as they smell. Try a "Flying Saucer" — it really takes off, with shredded meat, onions mild chiles, beans, sour cream, shredded orange cheese, and puréed guacamole riding high on an airy crisped flour tortilla. Open daily, three meals, until midnight. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Kealani's 137 West D Street, Encinitas, 760-94-ALOHA. Tucked between a 7-Eleven and a pizzeria, with an ex-terior sign that says "Saimin" (for Hawaii's version of Top Ramen), this island of the Islands prescribes "Living Da Aloha Spirit." A ukulele player sometimes serenades the noonday crowd at the sidewalk tables, and at any hour the food is "plate lunch" — two scoops of short-grain rice, mild housemade macaroni salad, and a choice of authentic "grines." Don't miss the outstanding kalua pig, zesty, smoky shreds of *imu*-style roast pork, resembling a moister version of Southern "pulled pork." The menu covers the whole panoply of island standards, from malasadas (Portuguese donuts) to musubi (Spam sushi), with a Saturday special of a luau's worth of "local food." Ŵhile you're waiting, check out the droll Hawaiian vocabulary lessons under the glass tops of the tables. Open Monday through Saturday, lunch to early dinner. Inexpensive. -N.W.

Milton's Deli Flower Hill Mall, 2660 Via de la Valle, Del Mar, 858-792-2225. This sprawling, family-friendly eatery started out as a non-kosher Jewish deli, but has come to embrace diner food, pub grub, and Italian and Mexican favorites, along with a full cast of Ashke-nazi noshes. Sit down and stuff yourself with stuffed cabbage, overstuffed deli sandwiches, crisp-skinned fat cheese blintzes, *matzoh brei*, hot brisket with latkes — or chicken-fried steak, if that's your bag. Or take out from the at-tached deli and bakery. The yummy chopped liver will remind you of the Bronx, the smoked whitefish and silky Nova will take you home to Flatbush, but the soft, cottony bagels — *oy!*, so *goy!* Seven days, three meals. Inexpensive to low moderate. -N.W.

The Original 101 Diner 552 First Street, Encinitas, 760-753-2123. This is where the caviar crowd from Rancho Santa Fe comes to remember their roots. It's got all the deliberately down-home cooking you could want, in-cluding all-day breakfast ranging from really cheap biscuits and sausage gravy to a pretty cheap top sirloin steak and eggs. For lunch, the bacon-Cheddar burger with fruit is a good surprise combo. The turkey-cranberry salad sandwich is also good, and try the spinach salad, with bacon, feta cheese, olives, mushrooms, and chopped egg.

Even though this 101's vintage (1983) in no way compares with the Oceanside 101 Café's (1928), it has become a genuine part of Encinitas life - lines on the weekends will tell you that. Open for breakfast and lunch daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Pamplemousse Grille 514 Via de la Valle, Solana Beach, 858-792-9090. The locals' favorite French provincial restaurant offers exquisite, creative cooking. Favorites from an oftenchanging menu include white fish served any style, mushroom cappucini soup, and tarte Tatin. Serene atmosphere with excellent service. Dinner reservations urged. Dinner nightly, lunch Friday only. Dinners expensive. - E.W.

**Poseidon** 1670 Coast Boulevard (south of 18th Street), Del Mar, 858-755-9345. The two dining rooms and bar here boast airy, stylish decor and ocean views, and the SRO um-brella-shaded patio is right at water's edge. Lunches run to sandwiches, burg-ers, and fried seafood of ordinary competence and uneven preparation: won-derfully coconutty fried shrimp, for example, share a sampler plate with deadly-dry salmon croquettes. Dinner dishes are modern Cal cuisine that is, a mix-and-match of Pacific Rim-Mediterranean-Mexican flavors, with some emphasis on seafood. But the view's the thing here. Full bar. Open daily, lunch and dinner; breakfast on weekends. Moderate to expensive. N.W.

**Roxy Natural Foods Restaurant** 517 North Coast Highway 101 (at D Street), Encinitas, 760-436-5001, You don't have to be a Self Realization Fellowship follower to fit in in Encinitas, but it helps. Roxy was made for the veggie crowd who've grown up around the famous seaside compound. These days, that includes surfers, vegans, and even visiting Hollywood stars picky about their food. Actually, it is no longer strictly a vegetarian eatery: the owners have added chicken and fish for Encinitas's "new people" — the carnivores buying up property in the hills. But the vegan-veggie spirit still rules. Most popular item on the menu is owner

King Crab •11••\* Vietnamese Beef Noodle Soup 1-lb. Alaskan Crab Legs Every Monday Lobster <sup>\$</sup>1 Off Spring Rolls or Egg Rolls\* Cannot be used with 10% off entire check offer. Prime Rib •11••\* Rated Outstanding Noodle Soup Noodle Soup in the North County by Chefmoz.org 1" Cut, Slow Roasted | Every Friday 10% Off Entire Check\* \$10 minimum purchase. Weekend \*Dine-in only. Not valid with any other offers, discounts or specials. Brunch Limit one per table. Valid at this location only. Expires 1/15/08. Special rice noodle soup with beef Bottomless Champagne and Mimosas <sup>\$</sup>5. Pho Lucky Fried rice with beef, chicken, shrimp or sole fillet Breakfast Special \$3.95 with purchase. Deep-fried wonton 9-11 am Saturday and Sunday Vietnamese Beef Noodle Soup Stir-fried shrimp & vegetables \*Purchase required. Specials start at 5 pm. Excellent spring rolls and egg rolls 770 Sycamore Ave., Ste. E & F Crispy fried egg noodles with shrimp & vegetables Vista, CA 92083 2040 Harbor Island Dr. • 619.291.8011 Steamed rice or rice vermicelli with BBQ 760-727-2738 chicken, pork, shrimp, beef or vegetarian with tofu boathouserestaurant.com · Free parking Open 8 am-9 pm 7 days a week





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Shahram Naimi's own invention: the scrumptious Roxy falafelburger. Its green "meat" is made from garbanzo beans, potatoes, onions, cilantro, and herbs, all bedded down with tomato a thick mat of sprouts, and melted cheese, covered by a whole-wheat bun. For chicken-lovers, the garlic chicken pizzas sell big-time. Other healthy treats include the three-egg avocado omelet with toast, the artichoke sandwich (with marinated artichoke hearts), and the squash enchilada dinner (steamed banana squash with corn, bell peppers, and low-fat cream cheese in a flour tortilla). Payoff? You come out feeling good and full, not bad and bloated. Open daily, brunch through dinner. Inexpensive. - E.B.

When In Rome 1108 South Coast Highway 101 (at Encinitas Boulevard), Encinitas, 760-944-1771. This elegant restaurant offers three dining areas and a menu with outstanding appetizers and pasta dishes. There are many unusual preparations. Gorgeous presen-tation; warm, friendly service. A winner. Dressy-casual crowd. Dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Expensive. — E.W.

#### NORTH INLAND

Centre City Cafe 2680 S. Escondido Boulevard (frontage road along Cen-tre City Parkway), Escondido, 760-489-6011. In the quiet little "motel row" just north of Lake Hodges, this cute, friendly café serves classic American diner food, including all-day breakfast. The chicken-fried steak is exemplary, with a crackly batter-crust and a smooth, peppery cream gravy. Several cuts of USDA Choice steaks are offered

at rock-bottom prices, and early bird dinners and daily specials offer amazing bargains. You can eat inside, in a coffee-shop ambiance, or chow down on the dining terrace in front. Open daily, three meals. Huge portions, low prices. - N.W.

Fiore's Harrah's Rincon Casino, Valley Center, 877-777-2457. This is where Valley Center goes to celebrate special occasions. An island of serenity in the cacophonous casino, the restaurant offers fine certified-Angus grilled steaks and chops of various species. For a starter, the shrimp margarita is delicious. Choices include numerous seafood entrées, and for lighter eating there's an Oyster Bar attached. The best attraction is the long, adventurous wine list, offering international bottles at bargain prices with by-the-glass choices galore. Half the fun is matching wines to foods. The beer list is sophisticated, too, as are well-priced cognacs and aged ports. Business-casual dress code. Kids allowed in casino restaurants, not in gambling area. Reservations advised for weekends. Open for dinner daily. Moderate at Oystar Bar; upper moderate to very expensive in restaurant. -N.W.

The Grill 10920 Roselle Street, Suite 104, Sorrento Valley, 858-587-7940. Sorrento Valley is where you commute to work, not to live, so forget warm neighborhood eateries. At first glance, the Grill is what you'd expect — standard strip mall, bare-bones furnishings office-lunch oriented. But the Greek owners give it character with generous but cheap breakfast dishes like the Mediterranean omelet and lunch specials such as the luscious Philly cheese steak. And they're flexible. Want ba-con, sausage, and ham in your breakfast pita? They'll do all three, same price

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as with a single meat. Breakfast and lunch weekdays. Inexpensive. - E.B. Hacienda de Vega 2608 S. Escondido Boulevard (frontage road along Centre City Parkway), Escondido, 760-738-9805. This is a Mexican restaurant with a difference - or two The setting is a gorgeous restored Old California-style hacienda set on two acres, including a verdant courtyard (complete with fountain) for fairweather dining. The menu is also a leap upward from standard fare. Señora Vega offers authentic Mexican cuisine cooked in the sophisticated manner of Mexico City, her hometown border-food compromises. You'll find an array of fresh and interesting appe tizers along with a wide choice of serious entrées featuring complex, delicious sauces. Each dish is seasoned to the optimum spiciness for its overall flavor - this is not the land of the bland. The Sunday all-you-can-eat brunch offers a whole sampling of goodies brought to your table, with re-fills as desired. Five vegetarian entrées and a kiddie menu available; casual atmosphere. Full bar specializing in margaritas, of course. Open daily, lunch (or brunch) and dinner. -N.W.

**San Diego Artisan Bakers** 1551 South Escondido Boulevard (at 15th), Escondido, 760-740-5963. This European-style bakery specializes in hearty, handcrafted, slow-fermented breads made from natural ingredients. Recipes of the 24 loaves are from France, Italy, Germany, and the U.S. These loaves have textures and depths of flavor you'll never find in supermarket-bakery breads. And for breakfast or a snack, there's nothing better than settling on the front porch with a cup of espresso and one of the moist and chewy scones. Open Monday through Saturday,

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morning to late afternoon. Inexpensive. - N.W.

#### LA JOLLA

Barbarella 2171 Avenida de la Playa, La Jolla Shores, 858-454-7373. This pop-ular restaurant sits nestled in an English garden just blocks from the beach. You can dine amidst the flora at street-side tables, in the enclosed patio, or in the small dining room. Once you're seated, the friendly staff provides fresh-out-of-the-oven sourdough wheat bread to nibble on. The menu changes daily, offering fresh fish, steak, chicken, pastas, soups, and pizzas, all cooked with a twist of imagination that delivers on the flavor. For instance: pizza topped with smoked salmon, crème fraîche, chives, and fried capers. Or delicate Alaskan halibut served over creamed spring onions with a watercress salad. If a fresh fruit crêpe happens to be on the dessert menu, leap on it! Open for lunch and dinner daily S.M.

Clay's Hotel La Jolla (11th floor penthouse), 7955 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Iolla, 858-551-3620. In this oddly cozy penthouse with wide windows facing west, the curtains rise at sunset to reveal a panorama stretching to the sea. It's comfortable, attractive, not too formal – casual-chic. Here, chef-owner Clay

with international flavors seamlessly integrated, featuring organic vegetables wild fish, naturally raised meats and fowl. With his discerning palate, his fare is unusually delicious. And it's healthful, lowcarb enjoyment with interesting veggies little starch, minimal cream. Wine list includes some high-end French bargains; good choices by the glass. Full bar. Free parking. Elevator/ accessible restrooms same floor. Dietary restrictions accommodated. No kiddie menu, but childsize plates half-price from regular menu. Reservations recommended. Live local jazz in lounge most nights after 7 or 8 p.m.; big band Sunday nights. Can be noisy. Three meals daily. Expensive. N.Ŵ.

Bordan cooks up a creative, sophisti-cated, seasonal California-Fusion menu

Donovan's Steak and Chop House 4340 La Jolla Village Drive, Golden Triangle, 858-450-6666. At this excellent traditional steakhouse, the menu includes a variety of appetizers, among them a cocktail of giant shrimp with a spicy, tomatoey sauce and a large lightly sautéed crab cake with house-made tartar sauce. The wet-aged prime beefsteaks are seasoned with sea salt and pepper and cooked on a gas grill pre-cisely to your order. Bleu cheese, béarnaise, and peppercorn sauces are available at extra charge. Non-beef entrées include fish, seafood, veal chop, pork chop, or a delicate Australian rack of

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lamb. Unlike many steakhouses where your money buys only the meat, entrées re served with vegetables and potato. Additional à la carte sides include creamed spinach and sautéed mushrooms. Among the house-made desserts the highlights are a light, creamy cheese-cake with fresh strawberry sauce and a traditional creme brûlée. The service is attentive, friendly, and knowledgeable, in a masculine setting with dark wood-pan-eling, dim lighting, and only a moderate noise level. Cigar room off the bar. Open Monday through Saturday. Very expensive. - N.W

George's at the Cove 1250 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-454-4244. At

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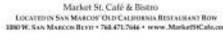
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George's dressy, comfortable downstairs fine-dining restaurant, California Modern Restaurant, chef Trey Foshee's superb California cuisine is based on prime ingredients, emphasizing local seafood and produce and cooked to highlight rather than mask the natural flavors. The menu changes seasonally, so don't miss such treats as squash soup, table-smoked salmon, Sea of Cortez scallops, or winebraised prime short ribs when available A long and serious (but costly) wine list at fair prices offers plenty by the glass or half-bottle, including rare dessert wines. Leisurely pace, attentive service — make a special evening of it. Reservations necessary. An informal Café is one flight up, and on the rooftop is the wildly popular Terrace Bistro, with its fabulous seacoast views, sharing with the Café a more casual and affordable menu; reservations advised. Wheelchair-access by two elevators; front desk staff will guide you (if arriving alone, ask valet parkers to fetch a staffer). Men's restroom upstairs; disabled can use neighbor Pasquale's facilities. Downstairs dinner only; upstairs lunch and dinner daily. Downstairs expensive to very expensive; Café and Terrace moderate. — *N.W.* 

The Marine Room 2000 Spindrift Drive (off Torrey Pines Road), La Jolla, 858-459-7222. High cuisine, high ads venture, high seas — at only moderately high prices. With chef Bernard Guillas as top toque, the Marine Room has become the quintessential great San Diego restaurant. The exhilarating coastal view meets Cal-French-Pacific Rim cuisine that's as exuberantly out-front as the waves whacking the windows. Guillas's oceanic culinary inventiveness with ultra-fresh, exotic ingredients makes every visit a voyage of discovery, and preparations are so elaborate that each listing on his precise menu reads like a whole tasting dinner. Reservations requested; slightly dressy but not stuffy. Easiest route: Make a right from westbound Torrey Pines onto Roseland or Viking and go left on St. Louis, which runs into Spindrift. Wheelchair ramp to the left of front door. Noisy when crowded. Dinner Sunday through Thursday 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Expensive. — N.W.

Sante Ristorante 7811 Herschel Avenue, La Jolla, 858-454-1315. The name is Italian for "saint," and the Northern Italian/regional cooking shines here, especially the fish and seafood dishes. Fresh seafood specials are available every night, in addition to those on the menu. Excellent pasta with mushrooms, ravioli with quail, and lamb chops. Separate room for bar; separate private dining room. Lunch Monday through Saturday, dinner nightly. Enclosed patio for lunch. Not to be missed. Moderate (pastas) to expensive. — E.W.

Sushi on the Rock 7734 Girard Avenue, La Jolla, 858-456-1138. (Also at 1923 Calle Barcelona, Encinitas, 760-436-6261.) This noisy, high-energy spot — a boxy, saloon-like space with a sushi bar in back — draws a lively twenty-something crowd (although older folks will have plenty of company, too). Unlike more traditional sushi bars, there's a vast selection of "rock and rolls" — huge, creative party sushi. And they're fabulous, with sparkling fresh seafood and immensely clever combi-nations. Try, for instance, the shrimp tempura roll, which wraps fried shrimp, crab shreds, *daikon* sprouts and Japanese mayo in deep-fried salmon skin - the combo would be just as impressive as an appetizer at a top Cal-French restaurant. The Orange Crush is another sublime invention, fresh and crunchy with veg gies and tobiko wrapped in suave salmon Even simple rolls are so well conceived and the rice so nicely seasoned, you won't need soy-wasabi dip. No reserva tions, long waits (in cramped entryway) on weekends. Good sake list. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly, with deep discounts for happy hour specials. Moderate. Second (quieter, but with full bar) location at 1923 Calle Barcelona, Carlsbad, 760-436-6261. — N.W.

**Tapenade** 7612 Fay Avenue, La Jolla, 858-551-7500. This is not only one of the finest restaurants in the county but

in the country. Featuring sunny Provençal flavors, famed chef-owner Jean-Michel Diot offers superb seasonal ingredients treated with the consummate ease of a master chef. Among the special joys here are a sophisticated *foie gras torchon*, luscious free-range veal, and topquality seafood, with garnishes that display an impressive balance of venturesome creativity and rigorous technique. Desserts are worth the calories, matching the style and flair of the earlier courses. And you don't even have to dress to the nines for your first-class dinner — the sixes will do in the easy bistro atmosphere. Serving lunch (including a moderate two-course prix fixe) weekdays, and dinner daily (including bargain-priced three-course prix fixe) "sunset dinners" Sunday through Thursday). Otherwise, expensive to very expensive, and worth it. — N.W.

**Zenbu** 7660 Fay Avenue (at Kline Street), La Jolla, 858-454-4540. It was a natural for fisherman-restaurateur Matt Rimel to open a sushi bar/fish house, featuring sparkling fresh catch, much of it from his own boats. Sashimi and the simpler sushi are better here than the big party rolls, which can be lunkish. Don't miss the sashimi of live local *uni* (sea urchin) served on its shell most weekends. Cooked fish entrées feature equally sparkling seafood, sometimes in almost goofily elaborate preparations. No reservations; 30-minute wait likely on weekends. Sushi bar is up a short staircase; dining room and patio tables are wheelchair accessible. Several vegetarian choices. Full bar, good sake list. Dinner nightly. Upper moderate to expensive. — *N.W.* 

#### MISSION VALLEY & THE MESAS

China Max 4698 Convoy Street (at Engineer), Kearny Mesa, 858-650-3333. The decor is plain and bright, the sound level loud, but this is a major resource for authentic Hong Kong cooking — creative and multiregional, filtered through the refined wizardry of the genuine Cantonese style. The seafood aswim in the live tanks includes such delicacies as black cod (bony but wonderfully sweet), Dungeness crab, and (if you've got the money) abalone — but even inexpensive, homey dishes (e.g., wonton soup, crabmeat cakes) sing with flavor. Call ahead for reservations to avoid a wait at the door. A Pan-Asian community throngs here, for good reason. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive to exorbitant but mainly moderate. — *N.W.* 

IKEA Restaurant & Cafe 2149 Fenton Parkway, Mission Valley, 619-283-6166, ext. 1200. Central shrine for San Diego's 10,000 Swedes, so they say. They come to taste open-faced sandwiches, salmon, shrimp, and meatballs again. This restaurant inside Sweden's wildly successful "home interiors" chain is a great intro to Swedish tastes. The food's more sensible than exciting, of course. But healthy — beef and pork for the meatballs are guaranteed hormone-free. You eat the meatballs with Swedish lingonberry (not cranberry) sauce. Seafood is big: the shrimp open-faced sandwich, the salmon plate with potatoes and broc-coli, and the Gravad Lox Plate (cured salmon) are always on. And if you want to be disgustingly healthy, chew on their fresh vegetable plate (raw carrot sticks, cauliflower, garbanzo beans, and mushrooms). All for a song. The only health hazard: hordes of babies and kids romping in the restaurant's mother-friendly play area. Inexpensive. -E.B.

King's Fish House 825 Camino de la Reina (west of Mission Center Drive), Mission Valley, 619-574-1230. (Also at 2015 Birch Road, Chula Vista 619-591-1690.) To find King's in the mega-mall, go slightly west of Koo Koo Roo and follow the line of cars to the free valet parking. It's a chain, but it's a classy chain, offering fish and seafoods of a quality that's well above average, including crustaceans from a live tank and a half-dozen varieties of pristine oysters. Generously-sized entrées come with soup or salad (includ-ing a Caesar that's above suspicion) and two hefty side dishes. The vast menu of American-style preparations changes daily to reflect the fresh catch, and includes some rotating regional specialties (e.g., New Orleans, Hawaii, New England). Don't miss the prawn potsticker appetizer, if available, and for dessert, the miraculously light bread pudding. The atmosphere is goodtimey (with two patios and a barroom as well as a dining room), the service is enthusiastic, and the management will call ahead. Kiddie menu available. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate. — *N.W.* 

Lightnin' Jacks BBQ Clairemont Town Square, 4705-H Clairemont Drive (near movieplex), Clairemont, 858-270-8227. Clean, cute, and a little self-conscious, this barbecue has black and-white Western pictures on the walls and some seating on barstools with metal "saddles" (more comfortable than they look). The barbecue mechanism is a Texas-style pit smoker burning sweet hickory. The meats that emerge from it aren't the smokiest, but they're tasty enough. Pork ribs are ten-der and moist, and beef brisket carries enough smoke flavor to pass muster in Texas; other meat choices are less successful. The tomatoey sauce is pleasant but ordinary. A fried catfish plate makes a flavorful alternative (but beware the cat sandwich, awash in hot sauce). Hush puppies and sweet potato fries are the most savory sides. Check your take-out bag to make sure you're getting what you ordered, as youthful staff is easily flustered. Kiddie plates available. Draft beer and wine available. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to moderate. - N.W.

The Philadelphia Sandwich Co. 3904 Convoy Street (south of Othello), Kearny Mesa, 858-571-0888. This classic luncheonette is a monument to Philly culture, including sports pen-nants, historic photos, and colorful mummers' costumes. The menu is equally devoted to the city's cuisine, especially its two great cult sandwiches: the hoagie and the cheese steak. The mixed-meat hoagie is way more than a hero — its flavor array is similar to (and just as intense as) a New Orleans muffulletta. As for the cheese steak, it starts with steak strips, onions and your choice of cheese, and expands from there. Philly natives may like the simple version with Cheez Whiz, but the luscious "Everything" with provolone is more likely to seduce the innocent. "Phily fries" (with garlic) are the right go-with. The menu also offers Penn-sylvania-packaged foods ("Philadelphia Scrapple" to go, Tastykakes, Wise potato chips) to nostalgic émigrés. Lunch to early dinner nightly. Inex-pensive. — *N.W.* 

**San Tong Palace** 4690 Convoy Street (between Engineer and Balboa), Kearny Mesa, 858-571-6837. This unassuming, strip-mall restaurant is

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1640 Camino del Rio North (next to Robinsons-May), Mission Valley, 619-291-7328. Footballer Junior Seau contributes more to San Diego than just sacks. His extravagant multivenue sports pub is major league fun — a reallife reincarnation of some 1960s McLuhanite media art show, with 70 video screens (ranging from large-nor-mal to giant HDTV) running sportscasts and a professional DJ on high, periodically spinning cool sounds over muted talking heads. The menu offers mainstream "something for everyone" choices, including pizza, hefty but so-so burgers, some elementary sushi, all-American entrées, and Seau's family recipe of Samoan teriyaki "plate lunch." Above all, there's pub grub. The chicken wings are pretty good, and you can get all three sauces (Buffalo, BBQ, and Asian) on one order. Perfect hangout for mismatched couples with one sports fan and one fashionista (the latter can head for Nordstrom and Saks discount outlets nearby). On game days, patrons are al-lowed just one game in the dining room (\$15 minimum), but you can linger from wake-up to closing on the patio or in the bar. Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate. -N.W.

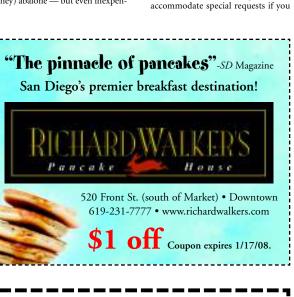
Seoul B.B.Q. 4344 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-505-8700. This Korean restaurant means sitting before a sizzling cast-iron grill, sipping hot sake, the smell of grilled beef, grilled onions, and fresh garlic in the air. Try the "Ko-rean B.B.Q." marinated short ribs (*tong* galbi) or thick marbled slices of sirloin (beef *gui*). You'll enjoy all the accompanying dishes that make the meal, like crunchy seaweed salads, radishes in garlicky tomato sauce, slow-cooked potatoes with sov sauce and jalapeño pepper. Feeling adventurous? Go for the goat meat hot pot or Korean steak tartare (*yukhwoe*). This is sensual, ele-mental, hairy-chested food. Lunch and dinner six days, closed Sunday. - M.N. Tropical Star 6163 Balboa Avenue, Clairemont, 858-874-7827. A modest café and grocery offers Puerto Rican and Latin American food and groceries. Very modest surroundings; good authentic inexpensive food. Same menu all day Monday through Saturday; closed Sunday. Inexpensive. - E.W.

#### THE BEACHES

**The Australian Pub** 1014 Grand Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-273-9921. A great place to take your kids after a morning at the beach. This relaxing pub, owned by a true-blue Aussie, offers heaps of good Aussie food. Try the Road Kill (grilled chicken breast with



#### Happy New Year! Snow Crab Every Night Prime Rib Fri.-Sun. All-you-can-eat buffet Free drink *seafood* | *sushi bar* | *hawaiian barbecue* | *dim sum* (OYSTERS, DUNGENESS CRAB, RIBS & JUMBO SHRIMP SERVED AFTER 4 PM) lunch buffet dinner buffet \$799 \$1199 AGE 3-6 <sup>\$</sup>4.49, AGE 7-10 <sup>\$</sup>6.49 MON.-THURS. 4-9:30 PM AGE 3-6 <sup>s</sup>3.49, AGE 7-10 <sup>s</sup>5.49 MON.-SAT. 11 AM-4 PM <sup>\$</sup>12<sup>99</sup> vith buffet FRI. & SAT. 4-10:30 PM \$**13**49 BUFFET TO-GO AVAILABLE: LUNCH \$3.49/LB. • DINNER \$4.49/LB. GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • PARTY TRAYS AVAILABLE **1 FREE BUFFET** 10% off total bill Party of 10 or more. <sup>\$</sup>2 off <sup>s</sup>3 off FREE FREE gift BIRTHDAY buffet buffet Lunch or dinner. MEAL Lunch or dinner. Minimum Minimum With purchase of 8 adult \$15 purchase. \$30 purchase. meals and valid ID. Expires 1/17/08. With ad. Not valid with any other offer or on holidays. FX US CSUPER\_ 1411(2)( 3860 CONVOY STREET, SUITE #121 • 858-715-1608 4556 CAMINO DE LA PLAZA, SAN YSIDRO • 619-662-2985





pico de gallo sauce and cheese, "run over" between two pieces of sourdough) or the Aussie Burger (1/2pound patty, with a fried egg, cheese, bacon, grilled onions, beets, pineapple, and a side of steak fries). And for an "outback experience," order up Veg-emite (a beefy kinda paste) and four slices of bread — it's the Aussie na-tional food, mate. Lunch and dinner weekdays, three meals weekends. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* 

Cafe Athena Pacific Mall, 1846 Garnet Avenue (at Lamont), Pacific Beach, 858-274-1140. With a more upscale, eye-catching decor and a longer and more serious menu than most Greek cafés, this is a popular destination, so be sure to reserve for dinner or you'll risk a long wait. The choices include good soups and appetizers (except for a sub-par *taramasalata*), outstanding moussaka, above-average gyros, and interesting, unusual desserts. There's plenty for vegetarians. Rather noisy when crowded. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to low moderate. - N W

Costa Brava 1653 Garnet Avenue (at Jewel), Pacific Beach, 858-273-1218. Cordial owner-host Javier Gonzalez opened this charming restaurant so that local Spaniards would have a place to gather with an authentic atmosphere of home, and indeed, the "Euro atmosphere and late hours give a truly Iberian feel. The lively garlic-rich dishes here include a wide array of tasty tapas and, among the entrées, a paella that's made to order (sized to serve two or four; call ahead for larger groups). Patio seating in good weather. Parking lot and wheelchair access via the alley behind the restaurant. Open daily 11 a.m. to midnight, with bargain prices at Sunday brunch. Reservations advised for weekend evenings. Moderate. -N.W.

Hancock St. Cafe 3354 Hancock Street, Loma Portal, 619-296-2060. If you spot Marilyn, Elvis, and Lady Liberty waving at you from the sidewalk you're here. They are life-size fiberglass lookalikes, but Mario is real, and his restaurant is a living shrine to jazz pi-anist Herbie Hancock. Mario has pianos, guitars, and drums inside — even a little stage where you're often wel-come to perform. The food? Italian home cooking. Mario is from New York and knows his pasta. You can usu-ally expect a good-value special, like spaghetti and meatballs. Sometimes he'll even throw in a bottle of red wine. Here among the little factories and auto shops of Loma Portal may be San Diego's most popping cultural phe-nomenon. Worth investigating, even if you just want to eat. Open daily, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Humphrey's by the Bay 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island, 619-224-3577. Most diners at this resort/concert venue restaurant eat at the prix fixe pre-show dinners because they guarantee good seats for the concerts at the next-door ampitheatre. But better food emerges once the music-mavens leave the premises. The kitchen features fine seafood, juicy meats, and prime steaks with seasonal veggie garnishes. Preparations are pleasing but in no way startling — it's a hotel restaurant, after all. Reserve for show-nights or to snare a window table with a gorgeous marina view. Free parking when there's no concert, valet parking when there is. Dining room pleasantly quiet. Open daily breakfast through dinner; brunch buffet Sunday. Pre-show prix fixe up-per moderate, à la carte expensive/very expensive. — N.W.

Isabel's Cantina 966 Felspar Street (at Cass), Pacific Beach, 858-272-8400. This cheerful café instantly became a gathering spot for many PB-ites, in-cluding the forsaken population of adults. Chef-owner Isabel Cruz, who calls herself "Food Girl," has imported much of her Mission Cafe menu of Latin-Asian-sorta-health-food to the beach. A self-confessed "lazy cook," she focuses on wholesomeness rather than authenticity. Breakfast and lunch are the main meals here and include competent eggs, luscious scrambled eggs, huge sandwiches, and weighty slabs of coconut French toast. Competent Latin-style dishes include tamales with airy masa. Devotees of Southeast Asian cuisines, however, may be disappointed by the simplistic stabs in that direction.

If your dish is too mild, house sauces (chili oil, salsa, chipotle sauce, etc.) are available on request. Beer and wine. Small, free front parking lot; pay lot across the street at west end of the block. Three meals daily; closed 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Inexpensive to low moderate. — *N.W.* 

Kaiserhof 2253 Sunset Cliffs Boulevard, Ocean Beach, 619-224-0606 Even on weeknights, crowds fill this restaurant and biergarten, chowing down on hefty, hearty German cooking in a festive atmosphere. Flavors are authentic, but can be monotonous due to the kitchen's reliance on commercial products (especially a heavy-flavored beef base that makes all the sauces taste alike). Good schnitzels, potato pancakes. The excellent apple strudel is the only dessert made in-house. Reservations advised, especially for patio seating. Full bar, Lunch Friday through Sunday, dinner Tuesday through Sun-day. Moderate. — *N.W.* 

Lamont Street Grill 4445 Lamont Street (between Grand and Garnet), Pacific Beach. 858-270-3060. PB's most romantic restaurant serves California comfort food, punctuated by bold and sometimes strange Mexi/Asian/Cajun flavors, in a rambling converted residence with several rooms and levels. Dinners come with soup or salad, and many entrées are served over marvelous house-made fresh pasta. Salmon over fettuccine in a delicate dill cream sauce is especially fine. The huge array of desserts is house made, too, with something for every palate. The most desirable tables (available first come, first served) are on a lovely fireplace-heated patio. Wheelchair ramp and parking in small lot behind restaurant (call ahead and they'll save you a spot). Homev atmosphere; can get loud. Affordable wine list, full bar. Open daily, dinner only. Moderate. - N.W.

Red Sails 2614 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island, 619-223-3030. One of the city's oldest eateries has been renovated to look like it always has, but fresher. The dining rooms resemble those on a river paddleboat or a small, rakish cruise ship, while the bayside patio is a funky waterside pleasure, be-

set by pigeons. The menu runs to sim-ple seafood and steaks (wet-aged USDA Choice), but quality is uneven. Tasty starters include briny littleneck clams on the half-shell, an interesting clam chowder, and a classy house salad (but ask for vinegar and oil on the side to dress it). The coconut shrimp entrée is a good, guilty pleasure, but the fin-fish and fried entrées taste like supermarket frozen food. For the starch accompaniment, baked potato is the most fla-vorful option. Full bar, strong cock-tails, weak wine list. Kiddie menu available. Daily three meals until 11 p.m. Low moderate. — *N.W.* 

Saska's 3768 Mission Boulevard, Mission Beach, 858-488-7311. Venerable, local steak-and-seafood joint that tries harder, from the broth-thin homemade teriyaki sauce (sweet up front, fading to bitter ginger) for the well-cooked (if mild-flavored) fish to the cut-on-the-premises aged beef. The interior's low wood-slat ceilings, driftwood beams, dim light, and red-leather booths combine with the stay-up-late kitchen to make the space feel like a cozy haven, a respite from the brighter buzz of Mission Beach. The wine list runs the gamut from Cook's sparkling wine to Cristal champagne, stopping along the way at an interesting (if expensive) collection of reserves. Next door is the restaurant's serviceable sushi bar (858-488-7255) and twostory patio dining. Lunch weekdays, brunch and lunch weekends; dinner seven days. Sushi bar open nightly, 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Moderat A.M

The Third Corner Wine Shop and Bistro 2265 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-223-2700. Ed Moore's casual, loosey-goosey spot is first of all a wine shop selling most global bottlings for just 20% over wholesale. It's \$5 to pop the cork there if you plunk down at a table among the racks to enjoy casual bistro-style food designed to go with wine. You can snack on goat cheese salad, smoked duck salad, a cheese plate or a pâté plate, or get seri-ous with braised short ribs or duck confit surprisingly paired with spicy Nawlins red beans and rice. No reservations



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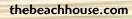
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accepted, so best to go at off-hours or you'll wait for a table. Comfortable ounge with fireplace for sipping. Full bar. No corkage charge after 11 p.m. when restaurant staffers drop in for after-work noshing. Lunch and dinner until 1 a.m.; closed Monday. Lowmoderate. - N.W.

Umi Sushi 2806 Shelter Island Drive (at Shafter, off Scott), Point Loma, 619-226-1135. An instant neighborhood success, this large, cheerful sushi bar and dinner house also offers Japanese and Korean entrées, including teppanyaki (cooked in the kitchen, not at the table), Korean ribs, and excellent beef teriyaki of gently grilled prime beef. Sushi highlights include lemony ama ebi, rich garlic tuna, and a "Crazy Boy" roll spicy enough to divert your palate from the presence of imitation crabmeat. Free parking lot (often full). Special kids' menu available Lunch Monday through Saturday, dinner daily. Sushi prices lower than most; en trées inexpensive to moderate. — N.W.

#### CENTRAL SAN DIEGO

**Big Kitchen** 3003 Grape Street (be-tween 30th Street and Fern Street), South Park, 619-234-5789. This isn't just a restaurant, it's the social center of the universe — and Judy "The Beauty" Forman is its queen. Blame her for the Fern Street Circus, for driving the Miss California beauty pageant out of town, and for disgustingly healthy dishes like Judy's Favorite (spinach, mushrooms, sherry, and eggs). Our favorite: the av-ocado, cream cheese, and chives omelet. Vegans' fave may be the "veg gie option": sautéed spinach, mushrooms, onions, cilantro, brown rice. tofu, and roasted garlic. Her cooks make pretty much everything on the spot, including muffins, waffles, and pancakes. While you're waiting, they always have this "out there" eclectic crowd, plus walls filled with pictures and bon mots like "Will Be President

For Food." Breakfast and lunch only; closes at 2 p.m. Inexpensive. - E.B.

**Chicken Pie Shop of San Diego** 2633 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park 619-295-0156. How much do people love this place? Count the chickens lining the walls - ceramic, wood, beaded painted, even feathered. Hundreds They're gifts from generations of cus-tomers. Now, as in the 1930s when it started up, the basic chicken pie comes filled with big chunks of chicken meat, doused with white gravy and accom-panied by mashed potatoes, veggies, coleslaw, a roll, *and* dessert — like the delicious pineapple pie available Mon days - all for one really low price. The menu also offers fried chicken, burgers and steaks, but 90 percent of customers still order that same old chicken pie. Seven days. Cash only. Inexpensive. -E.B.

Huffman's Bar-B-Que 5039 Imperial Avenue (at Euclid), Chollas View, 619-264-3115. This café has a huge multigenerational following, some famous — check out their wall photos, in which Jesse Jackson and Muhammad Ali are just two — and some not so famous. The big draw is Huffman's fabulous Southern soul food. Try their gravy-smothered fried chicken served with collard greens, yellow peppers, red beans, rice, and white mopping-up bread, or their Louisiana Creole gumbo, thick with crab, shrimp, links, ham, and chicken. Other fine eats include the catfish sandwich and halfpound rib tips. Open daily, lunch and dinner, to 11 p.m. weekdays, 1 a.m. Fri-day and Saturday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* 

Krakatoa 1128 25th Street, Golden Hill, 619-230-0272. This used to be an abandoned property. Now the swamp-green clapboard house is the coolest, if (reportedly) ghost-ridden, coffee-eatery hang-outery in Golden Hill. Its garden is lush and tropical, and on its wooden deck laptops unfold, essays get written, relationships get worked out. The menu is light, the names heavy: the breakfast sandwich (scrambled eggs, cheese, fruit) is the Wonchi (an Ethiopian caldera); the roast turkey sandwich with ham, cream cheese, and cranberry sauce is the Ubehebe (a dormant volcano in Death Valley); the Amboy (a Mojave Desert volcano) is a peanut butter, honey, banana, cinna-mon, and bacon sandwich. Open 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Sundays till 6 p.m.). Inexpensive. — *E.B.*  La Dona 1784 Newton (at Beards-ley), Barrio Logan, 619-233-4939. This café is steeped in Mexican history, es pecially Barrio Logan history. You half expect to see several L.A. Zoot-suitors drift in as you inspect the black-andwhite shots of the late actress Maria Felix (Mexico's Marilyn Monroe) or the great photos of the Mexican Revolution that include Zapata and Pancho Villa. The place has been here for 63 years, and old-timers say it reminds them of long-ago cafés in Los Angeles, Modesto, or Madera. The food is home cooking, Mexican style, with meals like scrambled eggs and chorizo with rice and refried beans. Watch out for the pot o' salsa — it's a real jaw-slammer. Other dishes to sample include *chichar-rones, menudo*, and *pozole*. Seven days, breakfast to late lunch. Inexpensive.

The Linkery 3386 30th Street (at Upas), North Park, 619-255-8778. The artisanal "slow food" cuisine here features local ingredients and made-from scratch preparations. Despite the name, there's a full menu that includes tasty grilled vegetable appetizers and some fine entrées. But the focus is on the side dishes of fresh sausages made daily onpremises. These vary not only in composition but in palatability. Good ones include chicken curry, *linguisa*, Polynesian pork. Venturesome international wine list at low markups, plus international beers and Mexican Coca-Cola (better tasting than U.S. made). Small parking lot (enter by alley on Upas just east of Jack in the Box). Noisy even when nearly empty. No reservations. Dinner daily, until 11 p.m. Moderate. — *N.W.* 

#### EAST COUNTY & COLLEGE AREA

Antonio's Hacienda 700 North Johnson Avenue, El Cajon, 619-442-9827. If the decor hasn't been updated from its original 1960s-fabulous Old California Spanish, it's because there's been no need. The enormous dark-wood chandeliers, the padded-leather wooden chairs, the chainsaw-weathered wood beams all top-shelf and aging well. Families abound, reveling in the guitar trio and the exposed kitchen station - such

atmosphere! And the flavors are userfriendly, sweetness muting the spice in the salsa and the Ranchero sauce. The Camarones Tequila is a little more exciting; the sweetness of its bacon-wrapped shrimp gets a fine counter from the bitter liqueur in the marinade. Excellent Enchiladas Suizas: pale, mush-tender shredded chicken wrapped in tortillas and doused with good, tangy green sauce. Lunch and dinner daily; Saturday and Sunday champagne brunch-buffet from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Inexpensive to low moderate. -A.M.

Geno's Barbecue 291 West Main Street, El Cajon, 619-444-3667. The original owner, Geno, was a real guy, a refugee from corporate America who turned this ex-Taco Bell joint into a surfing-themed BBQ place. He was a surfer, but serious. He'd won lots of prizes for his BBQ sauce, using a chili pepper he said nobody else had. Today, a new owner has continued the tradition. Try #5, pulled pork and slaw, or #9, shredded beef, melted jack, and sautéed onions. Sides like dirty rice and cornbread are good, but if you're light of pocket go for the "Ripcurl" hot dog, the best deal on the menu. Open 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Sala Thai 6161 El Cajon Boulevard (College Plaza), College Area, 619-229-9050. With purple cloth napkins, white tablecloths, green banquettes, butter-colored walls, and a portrait of King Chulalongkorn, Sala Thai has all the trappings of a class joint — except you're only paying six or eight bucks for main dishes. The food? A bit gentle on the spice front. Tom yum kung, the famous shrimp soup, should make your neck hairs stick straight out, but if that's what you want you'll have to ask the cooks to make it spicier. Chicken *mussaman*, la-beled "medium spicy," is pretty tame but still delicious with its authentic taste-boosters like kaffir lime leaves. Hottest curry: "chicken green." Health treat: Som tum, the famous papaya salad. Lunch, dinner daily; Sunday dinner only. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Toshi Sushi 5943 El Cajon Boule vard, College Area, 619-287-3536. Don't ask what's in the "dynamite" sauce (besides the obvious mayo and smelt roe) — it's a house secret, one the restaurant dangles before you in

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numerous contexts. Try it baked onto the rich, everything-goes Garbage Roll, where deep-fried shrimp, freshwater eel, and tuna add flavor to the creamycrunchy interplay of sauce and vegeta-bles. Rolls, both plain and elaborate, abound here. While some can be heavy on the rice and light on the fish, others are triumphs. The Toshi Tempura Spe-cial Roll takes battered whitefish and wraps it around the seaweed casing, which is then filled with just-cooked whitefish and a host of garnishes - an exotic-yet-homey fried-fish alternative The Johnny Roll shows octopus at its most tender, but watch out for spotlight-hogging sweet cream cheese. The simpler sushi can vary — a brilliant, translucent slice of tuna offset by a blander, duller salmon. Japanese en-trées are also available. Inexpensive to moderate. — A.M.

Valley House Restaurant 10767 Woodside Avenue (at Magnolia), San-tee, 619-562-7878. This is for Cornbelt folks, plus wannabes who enjoy plain-speaking, plenty-of-it Iowan food. Take the morning special, "Iowa Breakfast": breaded pork tenderloin, two eggs, and hash browns, fries, or grits, plus a choice of biscuits, muffins, or toast it's delicious. Lunch or dinnertime you can't go wrong ordering the signature "Iowa Porker" hot sandwich (breaded pork tenderloin in a bun with soup, potato salad, or steak fries) or the "Iowa Beefers" (seasoned ground beef simmered in chicken broth, piled into a burger bun). Open three meals, seven days. Inexpensive. — E.B.

#### FAR EAST

Mediterraneo 1347 Tavern Road (Alpine Creek Shopping Center), Alpine, 619-445-9902. The vibe in this tasteful little trattoria (with adjoining bar) is young, and so is the chef, still slipping new dishes into a menu stuffed with local favorites. The pizzas are out-standing — such a lovely, airy, silken crust! Such wafer-thin rounds of pep-peroni! Entrées change with the seasons. Desserts are big and sweet. When the weather's fine, dine on the patio and watch the sun drape light over the piney hills. Daily, lunch and dinner, plus Sunday brunch. Expensive. A.M.

#### **UPTOWN &** OLD TOWN

Alex's Brown Bag 2550 Fifth Avenue (at Laurel), Suite 171, uptown, 619-231-2912. The reborn Alex's (now in the Mr. A's building) is rightly fa-mous for its "Original Philadelphia cheese steak sandwich" (with fried bell peppers, onions, mushrooms, and mozzarella). The owners say what makes their sandwiches so special is that they have the meat trucked in from cheese steak central, South Philly itself. Other Italian-American goodies in-clude the Italian Stallion (Genoa salami, capocolla prosciutto, and mortadella sausage meat), eggplant parmigiana with hot garlic bread, grilled pas-trami, and cheese on rye. Open for breakfast, lunch, and just-after-work dinner weekdays. — E.B.

Blue Water Seafood Market and Grill 3667 India Street (at Chalmers), midtown, 619-497-0914. This bright, clean charmer a half-block south of El Indio has a double identity: First, it's a retail fish market; aside from Whole Foods, this is the only restaurant-quality fresh raw seafood south of I-8 and west of City Heights. If you love oysters, don't miss the big, buttery bi-valves here. Second, it serves simple, terrific seafood to eat in or out. Plates are plastic, but don't look for greasy fried stuff. Entrées are grilled gently until perfectly done, topped with your pick of flavors (the lemon-garlic butter is especially tasty) and come with rice and a huge salad with your choice of terrific house-made dressings. If indecisive, ask what's best that day. The overstuffed grilled fish tacos are messy and perfect, with just the right propor-tions of ingredients. Reachable only by driving north on India. Metered street parking by day. Good choice of beers; a few affordable wines; \$5 corkage for BYOW. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to low moderate. - N.W.

#### Bombay Exotic Cuisine Of India 3975 Fifth Avenue (between University and Washington), Hillcrest, 619-298-3155. We're talking northern India here, right? That means lots of lamb, potatoes, creamy sauces, tandoor-baked breads, chicken, and less of the south's mouth-scalding heat. At least in its daily buffet, Bombay's a lot



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less spicy, (though their *sag paneer* — creamy, cheesy spinach — delivered a surprising punch). The buffet includes tandoori chicken, assorted *pakoras* (lentil-batter fritters), mock duck, chicken *tikka*, and, if you hit the right day, an addictive mango soup. If you want meat or spicy food, best to order from the menu — say, a creamy *tikka* masala with lamb, or long kebabs of minced lamb (kebab curry), or the rich Bombay Coconut Malai. Tell them whether you want it mild, spicy or, for leather-mouths, tikhi. For a cheap, light meal, try a couple of lamb samosas. And be sure they bring the chutneys, India's real unexplored treasure. Lunch and dinner; buffet at lunch and Monday evenings only. Sister restaurant, Mon-soon, 729 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-234-5555. Moderate. - E.B.

El Agave 2304 San Diego Avenue (at Old Town Avenue), Old Town, 619-220-0692. Reservations recom-mended. Wheelchair access difficult (steep ramp). You'll find upscale, unusual Mexican specialties in an intimate Spanish-style dining room or on a small heated balcony. The menu celebrates three great pre-Hispanic cuisines — Aztec, Mayan, Nahuatl with discrete admixtures of France, Spain, and Italy. (It's the history of Mexico on a plate.) Among the high-lights are the five different Oaxacan moles (plus a sixth from Chiapas), local sea bass in tangy jamaica (hibiscus) sauce, and a unique appetizer, *tlacogos cuitlacoche*, ovals of blue corn masa topped with a sort of "mushroom" that grows on corn ears. (In English it's called "corn smut," but it tastes much nicer than that sounds.) The bar stocks at least 1700 tequilas and makes a food-friendly on-the-rocks margarita with fresh fruit juices. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate. — *N.W.* 

**El Indio Mexican Restaurant** 3695 India Street, midtown, 619-299-0333. El Indio, "the god of Mexican food," presides over this bustling (expect a line), airy restaurant in an atmosphere of pale blue 1940s solidity. The menu includes the usual suspects (burritos, tacos, etc.), plus slightly less common items (machaca, chile rellenos). Excellent house-made corn tortillas help the standard fare to better approximate the divine. So do the sub-lime core flavors of the meats — the chicken in the taco and the beef in the enchiladas. The carne asada sports a pleasant char, and the beans have a raw-beany intensity. Less heavenly: seasonings (especially paprika and salt) tend toward the heavy side. Open daily, breakfast through dinner. Inexpensive — A.M.



Open 24/7 2900 El Cajon Blvd. 619-282-8423 www.Rudfords.com **El Zarape** 4642 Park Boulevard, University Heights, 619-692-1652. This stylish little Mexican restaurant on a tony stretch of Park Boulevard is proof that not all taco shop food is equal. Try a shredded beef or chicken taco or tostada and you'll know what we mean, with their generous mounds of juicy, slow-cooked meat. Many enjoy their unusual scallop burritos, vegetarian potato-filled burritos and rolled tacos, and well-prepared soups. We go for the stewed meat. El Zarape is dependable, serving Mexican with solid, homemade, handmade flavor. Three meals daily. Inexpensive. -M.N.

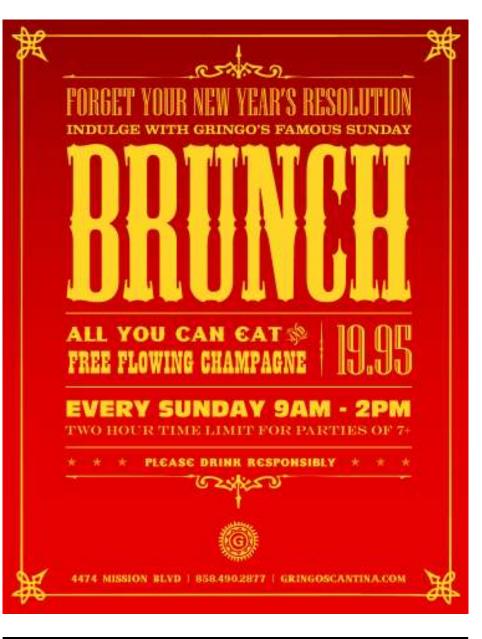
**Extraordinary Desserts** 1430 Union Street (at Ash), Little Italy, 619-294-7001; also 2929 Fifth Avenue, uptown, 619-294-2132. Patrons look ing for a quiet dessert still cling to the original charming cottage near Balboa Park. Those wanting more of a meal head for the newer Little Italy location, a vast, noisy space with industrial-chic decor and a menu of eclectic small plates - mezze spreads, bruschettas, sandwiches, and cheese plates. Flavors tend to be intense; some creations (such as a bacon-cured salmon sand-wich and *pantelleria*, a celery-date spread) are wonderful, others are exhausting even in small portions. Both locations offer pastry cases full of desserts that live up to "extraordinary," to eat on-site or to take home. Chefowner Karen Krasne incorporates flavors inspired by the global reach of her travels, from the cooking schools of Paris to the rice fields of Bali. The white cakes are food for angels. Wines (including champagnes), beers, fruit elixirs. Vegetarian-friendly menu. Both locations open seven days, three meals. Uptown location desserts only, all day. Moderate. — N.W.

Gulf Coast Grill 4130 Park Boulevard (between University and El Ca-jon), Hillcrest, 619-295-2244. The Gulf's faux-rustic, woodsy dining rooms and patio are great hangouts if you like a restaurant with a noisy party atmosphere. The menu focuses on the cuisine of the South and Southwest, with an emphasis on Louisiana and a heavy hand on the salt shaker. The

kitchen does best with the straight Southern dishes, turning out divine fried soft-shelled crabs, airy hush puppies, and delicious little corn muffins. If you're deeply familiar with Cajun-Creole flavors, though, don't look for pure authenticity — you'll do better with jambalaya, étouffée, or the lunchtime oyster po' boy than with the soulless gumbo or the misconceived red beans and rice. Heated, smokerfriendly front patio. Wheelchair elevator to restrooms next to stairs. Free parking lot left of the door. Full bar. Lunch Monday through Saturday, brunch Sunday, dinner nightly (early closing Sunday). Moderate to slightly expensive. - N.W.

Harney Sushi 3964 Harney Street (off Congress), Old Town, 619-295-3272. This friendly little spot on a side street serves as a secret haven of pretty-good sushi just a few steps from Old Town's nonstop tacos and margaritas. You can also get sashimi, Japanese appetizers, and a few mixedethnicity entrées (noodles, pasta, teriyaki, tempura) made with seafood or chicken breast. Beef is served, but numerous dishes are vegetarian. Good sake list. Sound system runs loud inside; patio dining available in warm weather. Reservations for sushi bar accepted but not necessarily honored. Open weekdays for lunch, dinner nightly until midnight, with a DJ Tues-day through Saturday. Sushi prices lower than most, entrées inexpensive to moderate. -N.W.

Hob Nob Hill 2271 First Avenue (at Juniper Street), Banker's Hill, 619-239-8176. It opened in 1944 as a 14-stool lunch counter. Now, you sweep in under the maroon canopy to shiny red booth seats, deep blue carpet, blond wood, paintings, and a half-wall of wine. You're thinking "business class," but don't be fooled. We're talking coffee-shop prices, especially with the all-day breakfasts and sandwiches. not to mention the burgers with a salad tossed in. It's across the street from a retirement condo complex and at din-ner, says the owner, "We cater to seniors." While there are à la carte choices, affordable three-course prix





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Dinner Daily 5-9 pm

Cut Rolls: California, Caterpillar, Cucumber, Philly, Rainbow, Crab, Soft Shell Crab, Spicy Tuna, Tempura Shrimp, Vegetable, Yummy, Firecracker, Seafood Dynamite, Shrimp

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fixe dinners (with a regular entrée for each day of the week, Mom style) are the order of the day — e.g., tasty barbecued pork on Saturday, roast lamb or pot roast Sunday. Open daily. Inexpensive to low moderate. — *E.B.* 

Izakaya Masa 928 Fort Stockton Drive, Suite #109, Mission Hills, 619-542-1354. An izakaya is the Japanese equivalent of a tapas bar. The menu here includes 12 cold appetizers and 19 hot ones, along with 12 deepfried mini-kebabs and a host of more standard dishes, plus sushi. Find adventure with the little dishes. Chuka kurage, superb cold jellyfish salad, is crunchy and spicy but lightly sauced, with no greasy chili-oil residue. Fried oysters (kaki), ethereal fried tofu in broth, and kara-age (spicy fried chicken) stand out among the hot ap-petizers. *Kushi-age*, a variety of deepfried kebabs on bamboo skewers, are inexpensive and delicious; try the Japanese sausage. *Maguro yamakake*, a cold appetizer of raw tuna with glutinous grated mountain yam, is an advanced course in Japanese cuisine — a strenuous challenge to a Western palate. Sushi rolls are a bit creative, but not the restaurant's forte. Go for the tapas and enjoy yourself. Lunch Tuesday through Friday and Sunday, Dinner six nights. Closed Monday. Inexpensive to moderate. - N.W.

Joe's New York-Style Deli Royal Food Mart, 3401 First Avenue (at Upas), Banker's Hill, 619-295-7666. You enter a time machine: A cavernous concrete-floored deli that dates back to 1902, with a high ceiling, acorn-shaped hanging lights, and a big old-fashioned cooler-counter packed with cheeses hams, and sausage meat. Old display cases carry olives, pâté, Ryvitas. A sawed-off wooden barrel bulges with Hungarian wines. Go for wraps, jumbo hot dogs with sauerkraut, or East Coast-generous sandwiches like corned beef, dry Genoa salami, cotto salami bologna, or liverwurst. That Boars Head liverwurst is da bomb. Caesar salad with chicken or a cup of tortellini soup are good light alternatives. Open

breakfast through early dinner daily. — *E.B.* 

Lotus Thai 3761 Sixth Avenue (at Robinson), Hillcrest, 619-299-8272. Also at 906 Market (at Ninth Avenue). downtown, 619-595-0115. This restau rant has taken a giant step up from standard Thai eateries. Most of the menu consists of the usual dishes, but each branch also offers a selection of chef's specialties. Some of these are more authentic; others are more creative than the norm. The chefs are from northern Thailand, and something in their cooking hints of their region - a certain zestiness, a love of strong citruses and fresh herbs that speaks of the Ping River and the hills of Chiang Mai. Well-chosen, affordable wine list, Asian and American beers, and cocktails based on soju (Asian lower-proof rice liquor), including a yummy rambutan cosmo. Noisy when crowded. Reservations recommended for Hillcrest on weekends. Lunch and dinner daily. Low moderate. - N.W. Jimmy Carter's Cafe 3172 Fifth

Avenue (at Spruce Street), Hillcrest, 619-295-2070. This comfy, middleclass eatery has a surprise — great Indian breakfasts (until 11:20 a.m. weekdays, 3 p.m. weekends). Try their chicken curry or *pessaratu* (mung bean crêpe with onions, peppers, ginger, *dhal*, and chutneys). Or vegetarian *vindaloo*. Jimmy (no, not the ex-pres) does Chinese too — like the Mongolian beef (Chinese vegetables and beef in a hot chili sauce over rice or noodles), or good Mexican dishes such as chili verde (pork or chicken simmered in spicy tomatillo sauce). But center stage is his all-American Jimmy Burger (1/3pound patty with potato or carrot salad). One bonus: a fine tangential view of Balboa Park's lawns and trees. Open daily, breakfast through dinner. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* 

Kous Kous Moroccan Bistro 3940 Fourth Avenue, Suite 110 (downstairs below street level), Hillcrest, 619-295-5560. This could be the ideal neighborhood restaurant — if you love exploring Middle Eastern cuisines. The Moroccan specialties at Kous Kous are delicious, authentic, and healthful, and the witty, entertaining staff treat you like guests at an informal dinner party. Unlike most Moroccan restaurants in the U.S., the menu is à la carte rather than prix fixe, and seating is at normal chairs and tables, not floor cushions, so you can focus on the food and not some Arabian Nights fantasy. Start with a lively Chutney Sampler appetizer plate of *mezze*, Moroccan style, and if b'stila is on the menu, don't pass up this treat of minced chicken in a cinnamon-dusted filo crust. Entrée highlights include Lamb Tagine, slowbraised, greaseless fall-apart shanks with prunes, almonds, Moroccan seasonings and a touch of honey; and Chicken Mu'hammer, a tenderly braised half-chicken with quartered green olives and slivers of salty preserved lemons. All entrées come with lively, flawless couscous. Kebabs (filet mignon, shrimp, etc.) also come with a mixed green salad served with refreshing, lemony dressing. For dessert, housemade choices include refreshing fresh berries with orange liqueur and rosewater and a creamy crème brulée, plus pastries from Bread & Cie, Dinner nightly. Reservations urged for weekends. Restaurant is below street level. elevator is left of the staircase to Martini's. Moderate. - N.W.

Shakespeare Pub & Grille 3701 India Street (at Washington), South Mission Hills, 619-299-0230. Probably the most convincing English pub in town. The Bard's brew-house boasts bare-board floors, diamond lead-glass windows, and authentic Brits sitting around the bar quaffing ale from their own pewter mugs. Pub grub is bluff and plain-spoken. Shepherd's pie, bangers and mash, ploughman's plate (the pickled onions and cheese, Scotch egg, and Branston pickle make it the real thing) — all are great with rich English beer, say, a Boddington's Pub Ale. Sunday's roast beef dinner is worth dragging yourself out of bed for, too. The pub includes a shop that sells British goods. Breakfast weekends, lunch weekdays, and dinner daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

#### DOWNTOWN

**Bandar Fine Persian Cuisine** 825 and 837 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-238-0101. In a comfortable setting, the Persian menu offers just a "pick hits list" of popular dishes culled from this fabled cuisine, but the cooking is first rate, featuring fine ingredients prepared with care, skill, and healthfulness. The "Bandar Special" entrée combo lets you choose any two kebabs (chicken, game hen, or beef), beautifully marinated and cooked to your order. Entrées featuring rice with poultry are elaborate and refined, spiked with tangy barberries, sour cherries, or lentils and dates. The list of Persian desserts now includes Persian ice cream, a rose-scented exotic treat. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Moderate. — *N.W.* 

Brickyard Coffee and Tea 675 West G Street, downtown, 619-696-7220. The problem, if you're rich enough to live in the Marina District, is the lack of café life. That is, until this modest little eatery and café settled in next to the tracks by the Seaport Village trolley stop. You sit under eleven poplar trees in a brick patio that has one unusual downtown advantage cept for the wind sifting through the poplars (or a trolley pulling in), it's completely silent here. Sipping coffee and reading your paper is the thing here, but you can fill up, too, with items like "Texas chili," or grilled cheese and tomato sandwich with a cup of chili, or spinach and mushroom quiche with a small Caesar salad, or *panini*. You can also order half a sandwich - turkey, ham, beef, or tuna - with a cup of soup or Caesar salad. It's the nearest thing to a French country café. Open early morning till 3 p.m. daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* 

Broadway Pizza 1008 Broadway (at downtown, Tenth Street), downtown, 619-232-6264. This restaurant, near the downtown Senior Center and City College, offers no-nonsense Italian-American food. And they're not skimpy: from a pizza slice to barbecue beef sandwiches to a Louisiana-style sausage link sub, portions are generous. If you want a hearty dinner, try the whole slab of beef ribs, with veggies, garlic bread, and salad. Unfortunately, the quality has dropped; the formerly fine pizza, for instance, is now marred by oily, low-grade mozzarella and not-so-great optional deli-meat toppings. But the main thing is, while the rest of downtown snores, they're still open, from 10 a.m. to to 3 a.m. Monday through Saturday, closing midnight Sunday. And they'll even deliver to nearby neighborhoods. Inexpensive. N.W.

**Cafe Chloe** 721 Ninth Avenue (at G Street), East Village, 619-232-3242. How did we ever manage before this indispensable bistro opened? In a bright

and beautiful setting with small tables, bar-seating, and a patio, you'll find light and lovely Parisian-style bistro fare with substantial breakfasts, svelte lunches and dinners, and sophisticated bar-nibbles. Don't miss breakfast's poached eggs with sage-truffle *beurre blanc*. Nightly specials keep the menu interesting, and desserts are worth every calorie. Beverages include divine lavender lemonade, root beer choices, and an intelligent wine list at modest markups, most available by the glass. Metered street-parking daytime. No reservations except large groups. Moderate. — N.W.

**Chive** 558 Fourth Avenue (near Island), Gaslamp, 619-232-4483. Here you'll find a new cuisine for the upscale residential neighborhood rising around the restaurant. Diners can choose an adventurous meal or an evening of sophisticated comfort food. Urbane multicultural fusion dishes dance cheek to cheek with remade American classics and the occasional sleek French luxury dish. A "grazing menu" features small bites for folks on a diet or on the run. The menu changes seasonally, but you can trust the kitchen any time of year. Very noisy. Full bar. Dinner nightly, until 11:30 p.m. weekends. Full meals expensive; "grazing" can be moderate. — *N.W.* 

**Dobson's** 956 Broadway Circle, downtown, 619-231-6771. This reputable downtown restaurant offers class and comfort, geared for people who enjoy eating well. The food is good, often very good, as with chicken liver mousse pâté, Mediterranean blue mussels, and, when available, the crude but virtuous soft-shell crab. Their sweets, such as brownies, are hefty, louche, and cheap. Bring a date to the upstairs dining room. Dobson's is suave, its confidence infectious. Lunch and dinner Monday through Friday; dinner only on Saturday. Moderate to expensive. — *M.N.* 

Galileo 101 West Tower, Harbor Club, 201 J Street (at Second Avenue), downtown. Also 10 Harbor Drive, Suite 101, downtown, 619-702-7101. When new, Galileo 101 offered "avant-garde Italian" food that has gradually evolved into adventurous Euro-Cal cuisine, its dishes influenced by modern French cooking with a few Pacific Rim touches. Chef Joe Craig is putting all his talent and imagination into the seasonal menu, with generally splendid results. Moist, tender sea bass is served with rarely seen Hawaiian ubi — huge yams with rich-flavored deep-purple flesh. Flat-iron steak and short ribs are both made with ultra-tender, flavorful Kobe beef, accompanied by zesty sides. The nightly specials are worth serious consideration — they're where the chef fully stretches out and has some fun on the job. Creative appetizers may include scallops with osso buco and a wild boar tamale. Solid international wine list. Dinner six nights, closed Sunday. Reservations advised. Expensive to very expensive. — N.W.

Gourmet India 810 Fourth Avenue (south of F Street), Gaslamp, 619-702-7967. Most local Indian restaurants share nearly identical panregional menus (yawn). Gourmet India, in contrast, serves authentic regional delicacies you won't find at the clones. Don't miss the distinctive appetizers, especially the crunchy sev poori (wheat wafers with a vibrant, spicy fresh topping), the *bel poori* (India's favorite railway snack), or southern India's uttapam, pancakes (made of cream of wheat) resembling soft, exotic mini-piz-zas, accompanied by a coconutty fresh chutney. *Peshawari naan* is a spectacu-lar tandoor-cooked bread stuffed with cashews, raisins, and fresh cheese, and tandoori chicken wings are tender and savory with their lively green dipping sauce. Entrées include the rarely seen mirchi tikka, tender boneless chicken from the tandoor, steeped in a bright, spicy, lime-juice marinade. Madrasi Fish in coconut milk is a delicious Southern-style coconut milk curry, and the house specialty, Bombay Chicken, is a salty and oddly homey-tasting stew. Interesting and appropriate wine list; numerous Indian and international beers. You can eat royally on a prosperous peasant's budget. Lunch and dinner daily. (Parking not validated at Horton.) Moderate. — *N.W.* 

**Grant Grill** U.S. Grant Hotel, 326 Broadway (between Third and Fourth Avenue), downtown, 619-232-3121. The hotel has reopened after its \$52 million renovation, and it's looking magnificent. The Grant Grill, too, is changed and freshened. In days of yore, the bill of fare combined French haute cuisine with British hotel-grill staples. Now it's thoroughly Southern Californian (although they did resurrect the fabled mock turtle soup in response to diner pleas) with nods to the "Slow Food" movement. Well-raised meats,



local produce, and artisanal products include housemade burrata mozzarella and herbed bread. Entrées are large, rather salty, and have fine side items, but there's still a basic conservatism at work. Nothing here to scare the horses. Appetizers and amuse-bouches are more engaging than entrées, while desserts are in the "needs more work" stage. Serving pace, especially on busy evenings, is slow. But the town's movers and shakers are back at their old favorite haunt. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily. Very expensive. — N.W.

Harbor House 831 West Harbor Drive, Seaport Village, downtown, 619-232-1141. This two-story Midwesterner-friendly eatery caters mainly to tourist families and conventioneers but the upstairs Oyster Bar is a pretty spot to chill out and watch the sailboats over a good margarita and a plateful of iced bivalves. Upstairs preparations tend toward simple American coastal dishes; the menu includes more appetizers and the drinks include artisan beers. The downstairs main dining room features more old-fashioned "haute" preparations and has a longer wine list but no view. All foods and drinks from both venues are available by request on both floors (but not all servers know this). Parking free with validation for two hours. Reservations strongly advised for after 6:15 p.m. any evening. Accessible via elevator from main dining room, with entrance on the park (south) side of the building. Lunch and dinner daily upstairs; dinner only downstairs. Moderate to expensive. -N.W.

House of Blues 1055 Fifth Avenue (north of Broadway), downtown, 619-299-2583. HOB's dining rooms (filled with vibrant folk art) are separate from the nightclub, so you don't have to attend a performance to eat there. Highlight of the week is the prix-fixe Sunday "Gospel Brunch" in the basement (with near-hidden elevator access), a generous buffet of mainly tasty mainstream and Southern goodies, including extraordinary smoked roast beef. Upstairs, the regular menu mingles soul and Cajun dishes with pub grub. The gumbo is surprisingly successful (if not exactly personal or eccentric) and the jambalaya is real. Oddly bittersweet Voodoo Shrimp (aka "BBQ Shrimp") comes with irresistible rose mary combread. A sampler of grilled Louisiana sausages is a hit. But some dishes denature regional flavors — the amiable, Tennessee-style baby back ribs are more Nashville suburb than downtown Memphis, while the humongous Caiun meatloaf and the bronzed catfish boast all the right Cajun spices but no Cajun flavor. Entrées come with veg-etables, but consider amending them with tasty, inexpensive sides like superb sweet potato fries with housemade ketchup. Wine list is pitiful; have a Hurricane. Lunch and dinner nightly until 2 a.m. (except Sunday until midnight). "Lightning Lunch" prix fixe weekdays.

Call for Gospel Brunch tickets. Dinner reservations essential; dinner packages available with access to shows. Moderate. -N.W.

La Casita 1247 C Street (at 13th Street), downtown, 619-531-0044. Don't be fooled by the li'l old blue-andwhite clapboard house at the bottom of City College's hill. Princes and politi-cians come to this full-service restaurant to hammer out deals, mix with the Latino (or Anglo) community, and eat some of the best chorizo con huevos (spicy pork sausage with eggs) in town. Fair-weather eaters flock to the spacious garden patio to chow down among the songbirds. In the cozy Mexican-style interior, the pictures on the walls tell you who-all comes here for the good tacos and enchiladas or the delicious pork burritos. Most delicious of all is watching Anglo City-Hallers trying valiantly to learn to love the house-made menudo (tripe soup). Delivery anywhere downtown 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open six days 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., closed Sunday. — E.B.

Lou and Mickey's 224 Fifth Avenue (between K and L), Gaslamp, 619-237-4900. The onetime ornate Royale Brasserie across from the Con-vention Center finally had to bow to conventional tastes and simplify into a fifties-style steak-and-seafood house. Kings Seafood is still the owner, so the fish quality remains fine. The fare is simple, with minimal sauce or garnish; vegetables cost extra, coming in large portions but merely adequate prepara tions. Best dishes include "BBQ Shrimp, Manales' Style," a buttery, spicy New Orleans extravaganza (available as starter or entrée), and the huge, juicy rib-eye "Cowboy Steak." Valet parking at door. Wraparound heated dining patio. Noisy in dining room near bar; request "Nude Room" for quiet. For interesting wines at good prices, look into "Adventures" sections of the list. Dinner nightly, weekends until 11 p.m. Fish moderate, meats expensive. - N.W.

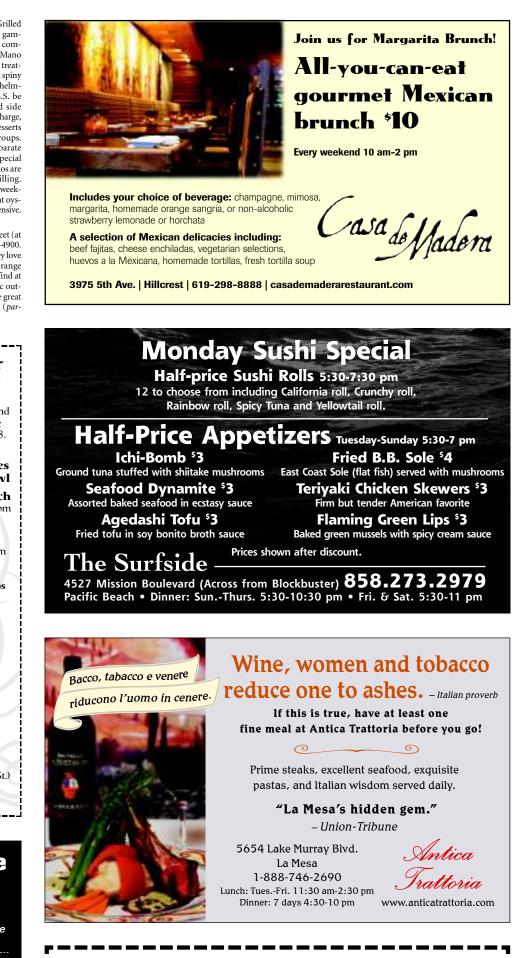
Napa Valley Grille 502 Horton Plaza, Gaslamp, 619-238-5440. This restaurant at the top of Horton Plaza is staffed by professionals and the food is very good, including the excellent grilled calamari. There is an elegant homeyness to Napa Valley Grille, a comforting, satisfying dining experience. Moderate to expensive. - M.N.

The Oceanaire Seafood Room 400 J Street (at Fourth Avenue), Gaslamp, 619-858-2277. Oceanaire serves all manner of fresh seafood, including some rare species, from simple preparations to complex dishes with in-ternational influences (France, Italy, Asia, Louisiana, fusion). Fusion-y appetizers range from crab cakes (among the best in town) and lively El Diablo fried squid to disappointing oysters "Gatesafellar" and laughable "Cajunrubbed" prawns. ("Eh, Soileau! C'mere, let me rub these prawns on you!") Of a menu comprising some 30 entrées, the best dishes tend to be the least ambitious choices from the Simply Grilled and Broiled section. Or you can gamble on more elaborate but risky composed entrées - e.g., fire-roasted Mano de León scallops in an Asian-style treatment are earthy and delicious, but spiny lobster is buried under an overwhelm ing, incoherent sauce. Let K.I.S.S. be your guideline. Vegetables and side dishes, served family size at extra charge, aren't wonderful. Housemade desserts are pretty good and sized for groups. The Oyster Bar is a pleasant separate area for snacking or seasonal special dinners: in season, the Kumamotos are superb, other varieties less thrilling. Reservations urged, especially on week-ends. Dinner daily. Happy hour at oyster bar moderate, dinner very expensive. — N.W.

Puerto la Boca 2060 India Street (at Hawthorn), Little Italy, 619-234-4900. Argentines love their beef and they love it lean and wholesome — free-range and grass fed. That's what you'll find at this uncompromisingly authentic outpost of Buenos Aires cuisine. The great national entrée is the mixed grill (par-



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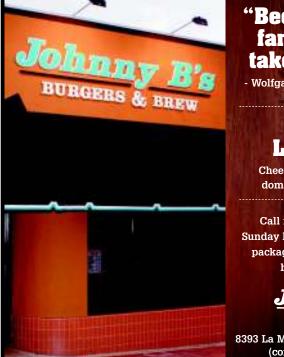
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Uptown & North Park

Café Bleu Complimentary starter Cay Nhan \$4.95 Vietnamese dishes Coffee House on Broadway Free Mocha Jackson Harar Ethiopian Restaurant Free sambussa appetizer Hob Nob Hill **\$2 off entrée** India Princess Free dinner• Lips 50% off dinner Old World Deli & Café \$20 off breakfast or lunch San Filippo's **Saturday pizza special** Seasons 142 1/2 off tapas The Wine Encounter Free wine tasting

Clairemont, University City, Miramar Rd., Poway, Mira Mesa, Scripps Ranch & Kearny Mesa

Boomerangs Lunch special \$8.99 Crazy Sushi & BBQ 50% off special rolls Filling Station Free appetizer Mo's Island Grindz 50% off plate lunch Pampas Free empanada RB Sushi 50% off sushi and rolls only Sky Box Sports Grill Burger special \$7.99 Studio Diner Free appetizer Thai Cafe **\$1 off buffet** 

#### North County

Calypso Free appetizer A Delight of France Free appetizer or dessert Greek Village Free saganaki Inta Juice Free smoothie Mikko Japanese **50% off sushi** Pho Lucky 10% off entire check Portugalia Free entrée Rossi's Pizza **Free mini pizza** Santa Fe Cafe 50% off 2nd entrée Sipz Free vegetarian appetizer Wild Note Cafe

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rillada) for two or more - a massive meatarama featuring numerous grilled cuts of marinated beef, chicken, and sausages. Start with luscious beef or corn empanadas or, if you're feeling hungry and adventurous, matambre (rolled beef galantine). Not a steak lover? Try the shrimp "la boca." Don't eat meat? There are vegetarian pastas and pizzas. Gnocchi are served only on the 29th of each month. International, affordable choice of wines, plus Latin and U.S. beers. Full bar. Patio dining. Daily lunch and dinner hours, with dinner menu all day Friday and Saturday. — *N.W.* 

Sixth Avenue Bistro 1165 Sixth Avenue (at B Street), downtown, 619-239-4194. This charming, airy café offers some very credible New Orleansstyle cooking at affordable prices. Among the sandwiches are an out-standing oyster po' boy (with big juicy oysters and good light batter) and a fine fully-packed approximation of a muffaletta, albeit with a kaiser roll standing in for Central Grocery's big, round Italian bread. The jambalaya is tasty, too, even with the substitute for andouille. Wine and beer. No reservations. Breakfast to dinner (closes 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 4 p.m. Sun-day). Inexpensive. -N.W.

#### SOUTH BAY & CORONADO

Crown Room Hotel Del Coronado, 1500 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-6611. Let's face it, this is one of the grandest entrances you'll make anywhere, into the enormous, gloomy, vaulted timber dining room where presidents, princes and Marilyn Monroe have chowed down. It's only open for Sunday brunch these days. The gigantic eat-till-you're-beat buffet feast ranges from omelets to salmon, crab legs, prime rib, dizzying desserts, and even a chocolate fountain for large parties, available upon request. The downside? Monroe was here to shoot Some Like It Hot, but (apart from the chocolate) most food ain't. It's either cold (like the croissants, though the chocolate chunk ones are delicious) or lukewarm (like prime rib and eggs Benedict — and those eggs could do with a lot more Benedict). But this is an Edwardian-scale social occasion — see and be seen. The food isn't great, but the atmosphere is grand. Open Sunday from 9:30 a.m to 2:30 p.m. Expensive. — E.B.

L'Escale Coronado Marriott Island Resort, 2000 Second Street, Coronado 619-435-3000. Probably the pink flamingos and bay views bring you here first. But L'Escale ("Port of Call" in French) delivers to the taste buds too. For "Northern Mediterranean cuisine with California flair," read lots of pasta fish, salads, sandwiches. Try the grilled salmon *niçoise* salad with its richly sauced fish, crunchy green beans, red potatoes, strong olives, and rosemary-flavored bun. Entrées like grilled chicken and mushrooms in Parmesan cream with penne pasta are safe enough. Or bone-in filet mignon. But for sheer architecture, check out the tuna salad sandwich wrapped in lavosh: three vertical Armenian bread tubes, angle-sliced to reveal interiors of tuna and greenery. Eat on the pool and baysurrounded patio if you can. Breakfast, lunch, dinner. Moderate to expensive — E.B.

**Spiro's Gyros** Ferry Landing, 1201 First Street #4, Coronado, First Street #4, Coronado, 619-435-1225. The food, the music, the view - are we outside Athens? Is this the Aegean? This inside-outside Greek café is located at the water's edge, and the heated patio has a spectacular view of San Diego, the bay, and the boat traffic. At sunset, sipping their excellent Greek wines (cheaper than their California), watch the sun set the city ablaze in gold. The prices keep Spiro's popular with the locals as well as tourists. Try the moussaka (eggplant casserole) or the souvlaki chicken, marinated in *tzatziki* sauce, served with tomatoes, onions, and pita bread. Open seven days until 8 p.m. Inexpensive. - E.B.

Tango Grille Argentine Steak **House** 635 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-420-0384. Play *gaucho* and enjoy the most authentic Argentine *parril*lada (mixed grill) in town at this charming, warmly decorated bistro about two minutes from the Chula Vista Shopping Center. Fine, smoky wood-grilled Colorado beef appears in several unusual cuts (including succu lent steak-cut short-ribs). You can choose from two different mixed grills (sized for one or two), the first with conventional meats, the other - the more adventurous - includes organ meats and blood sausage. For starters, there are brilliantly seasoned mini-empanadas of amazing lightness, as well as several interesting salads. Those not in a grilled-meat mood can opt for nu-merous pastas (including a big, meaty lasagna) or the ubiquitous *milanesa* (breaded beef or chicken patties) of the pampas. Portions are more than generous, and so are the flavors. Open daily. Low moderate. - N.W.

Village Pizzeria 1206 Orange Ave Coronado, 619-522-0449 nue. Mootime Creamery owner David Spatafore decided to set up what he's always wanted: A cheap, back-east Italian, red-and-white-tablecloth, dangling Chianti bottle eatery where local families and amateur sports teams can come in and pig out. He wisely didn't destroy what was half of the famous old Mexican Village. Instant atmosphere! Ancient murals of guys with guitars serenading señoritas, arches, illuminated clusters of red grapes. The bad news: You might have to handle pumped-up kids' sports teams cramming the booths around you. The good news: Great calzones and pizza by the slice. (Pizza-by-slice portions stop at 6 p.m.) Open lunch through dinner, seven days. Inexpensive. - E.B.

#### From the United States use the prefix 011-52-664 when calling Tijuana; when calling in Tijuana use only the restaurant's seven-digit number.

El Cid Lopez Mateos #993 (just off Blancarte), Ensenada, Baja, 646-178-1809. This restaurant is at the Baja, heart of the tourist district, but the cooking and service are way above coach class. Look to the "Specialties" section of the huge menu for the most interesting selections. Crisp quail with rose petal sauce (famed from Like Wa*ter for Chocolate*) proves outrageously delicious, and the seasonal *chiles en no*gada (meat-stuffed poblano chiles with walnut-cream and pomegranate) gain refinement from greaseless ground sir-loin. Fish dishes are fresh, rich, and tender, and you'll find nine different ways

to enjoy a steak. If you can handle a tableside production number, crêpes with cajeta (caramel sauce) makes a very grand finale. Fully bilingual staff; English menus available. Vegetarian on request. Sidewalk patio dining available. Reserve for weekends during tourist peaks. Full bar, with excellent margaritas, Baja wines. Open daily, continuous service breakfast through dinner. Moderate. - N.W.

La Espadaña Avenida Sánchez Taboada #10813, Zona Río, Tijuana, 634-1488 or 634-1489. If you learn only one word of Spanish, learn this one: *Borrego*. Because this place does the greatest oven-cooked leg of lamb ever. The meat tastes as if it was cooked in wine, garlic, and herbs, but the owners insist it's just Tecate lamb baked slowly in its own juices with a bit of oregano. But most folks come here for beef steaks and the popular beef fillet, sizzled at a big flame-and-smoke display counter BBQ grill. Vegetarian upon request. All terra-cotta and timber, this is where the local middle classes come for their cross-border food fix. Think Ti-juana's version of Mission Valley. Still, it's charming, and you can have fun. For instance, don't forget to ask them to ring the bells set in their espadanas (holes cut in the Mission frontage) above the great arched wooden en-trance door; they clank tunelessly, but they're great for celebrating your 21st birthday, Mom getting her degree whatever. Open for breakfast, lunch, dinner, seven days. Moderate. — *E.B.* Rica Torta Niños Héroes Avenida #890, between 2nd and 3rd Streets (opposite Dorian's department store), Ti-juana, 685-8579. This café may have the best tortas (call them Mexican-style hamburgers) in Tijuana. Six-inch rashers of marinated carne asada, slices of ham, squares of cheese, chopped salad, tomato slices, fresh-scooped avo-cado...it's a double-wide, double-high burger. The menu has 16 different kinds of tortas, from chorizo with eggs to beefsteak ranchero, all served in huge, three-ribbed, crisp-toasted Mexican bread buns. There's other stuff, but to a burger buff, one of these is quite enough. Vegetarian upon request. Open seven days. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Vallarta Natural 1252 Boulevard Agua Caliente (just before El Toreo de Tijuana), 686-1560. Maybe the only smoke-free restaurant in Tijuana, this vegetarian haven was started in 1996 by health-conscious Doctor Georgina Vallarta de Alcántar. They make their own yogurt, soy hash, breads, rolls, sal-sas — and "meats" like a veal from their own wheat gluten - daily. You sit at

wood tables and chairs next to blueframed yellow walls splattered with Talavera ceramic suns. At breakfast, try the *tartaleta vallarta*, a mix of eggs, spinach, mushrooms, onions, and chile. For lunch (and it's usually busiest around three), their excellent soup caldo tlalpeno, packed with cheese, rice, avocado, and chile, will fill you nicely. The soy hamburguesa is good, but go for the torta, which has that gluten milanesa along with cheese, avocado, and jalapeño. Good organic coffee. Wonderful juices, especially the cactus — if you need cleaning out. Open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* 

#### MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

D'Lish Pizza and Pasta 386 East H Street, Suite 211, 619-585-1371; and Eastlake Village Center South, 2260 Otay Lakes Road, Suite 101, 619-216-3900: both in Chula Vista This chain has always prided itself on its Italian/California pastas, pizzas, and salads. Now it has gone carnivorous, adding marinated flank steak and a rib eye to the "bistro entrées." If you're ordering the flank, well-done is a no-no. That will toughen it. But a rare flank is, well, d'lish in its marination and especially its pesto-like chimichurri sauce. Also good: fire-roasted vegetables



pizza, where the quick roasting makes for great-tasting, Technicolor-bright broccoli, zucchini, eggplant, and bell peppers. And "Mediterranean chicken salad" works well, partly thanks to the tang of pepperoni chips. Moderate. — E.B

La Costa Azul Mariscos 1037 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-691-9812. Great family-run hangout for traditional seafood from Sinaloa and Nayarit, Mexico's crackling-hot desert/coastal states. Their ancient Sinaloa dish *aguachile* (shrimp in spicy brine) is simple, mouth-sizzlingly ef-fective, *langostinos* are lush, but maybe most satisfying are whole-fish dishes like pescado Veracruzano.Truly traditional offerings come in giant threelegged molcajetes. Even their less-traditional signature dish, Camarones *Costa Azul* (crab and cheese-stuffed, bacon-wrapped shrimp) arrives in a burning hot *molagte*. Also delicious: the sizzle-plate fajitas *mixtas*, with shrimp, beef, chicken. Many custor come around sunset, just to sit with a cool drink under palm fronds on the patio. Even if you're actually on Chula Vista's Broadway, it feels strangely like Cabo. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate. — E.B.

Sammy's Woodfired Pizza It's not Italian or New York pizza, it's...San Diego pizza! The crusts are Californian: thick and slightly sweet. The toppings range from ordinary to exotic. The menu includes many salads and a handful of American-Italian entrées Continuous service, same menu lunch and dinner. Open daily. Inexpensive. 702 Pearl Street, La Jolla, 858-456-5222; 770 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-230-8888; 8650 Genesee Avenue, Costa Verde, 858-404-9898; 12925 El Camino Real, Del Mar, 858-259-6600; 1620 Camino de la Reina, Mission Val-ley, 619-298-8222. — *N.W.* 

St. Tropez If you love continental breakfast, these bright cafés with in door-outdoor seating offer scores of house-baked pastries (including brioche) and good coffee. Parisian-style brunch/lunch choices embrace croque monsieur and croque madame (grilled ham and cheese sandwiches, topped with either light cream sauce or an egg), crêpes, quiche, onion soup gratinée, or chicken-filled puff-pastry. Omelets are rather weighty. Some of the sandwiches offer Mediterranean flavors - try a pan bagnat (salade nicoise on a baguette) or one of the grilled panini. Desserts range from cookies on up to elaborate cakes. Beer and wine. Open daily, breakfast to early dinner. Inexpensive. Encinitas: 947 South Coast Highway 101, Lumberyard Shopping Center #103D, 760-633-0084; downtown: 926 Broadway Circle, 619-696-8695 and 600 West Broadway, 619-234-2560; Hillcrest: 3805 Fifth Avenue, 619-497-0297; Ran-cho Bernardo: 16625 Dove Canyon #109, 858-673-6824. - N.W.



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## Wring Out the Old

That's just life in the little city. The provincial city. The second-class city.

RE

IEW

DUNCAN SHEPHERD

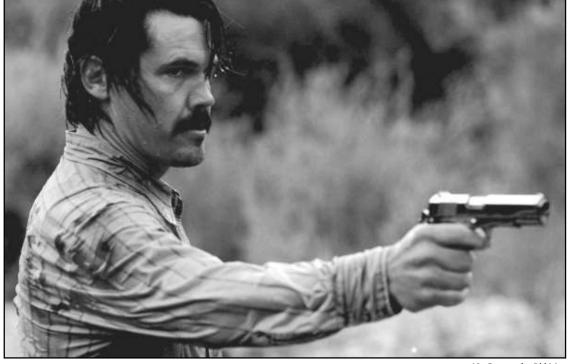
he best new movie I saw in the last twelve months was *Private Fears in Public Places* by the now eighty-five-year-old Alain Resnais. I saw it in Los Angeles on Cinco de Mayo and again on Seis de Mayo at the

start of my summerlong sabbatical, and wrote about it (by then obtainable on DVD) at the end of that sabbati-

cal. In the interim, the same-day deaths of Ingmar Bergman and Michelangelo Antonioni gave me occasion to reflect, if it's not indecorous to express a reservation, that those two rough contemporaries of Resnais, big as they've been in my moviegoing life, wear their seriousness on their sleeve (like an armband of black crepe), dress as if for a funeral, convey their meaning in their mien, whereas Resnais, while no less serious, does not. He seems in consequence the more human, the more complex, the more courageous, to say nothing of more artful. Private Fears looks and acts cheery, but isn't. It haunts me still. Because it never opened in San Diego, however, it is not eligible for inclusion in my Top However-Many List. The critics in Los Angeles and New York don't have such an out, yet I haven't been seeing it on their lists either. Nor have I been seeing on those lists the film that by default tops my own, Emanuele Crialese's *Golden Door* (not to be confused with anybody's *Golden Compass*), which opened and

closed very early in my absence, and about which I have written next to nothing. All I need say in this con-

text is that it's a film that really and truly does its subject - the historical immigrant journey - from beginning to end, bottom to top, forwards and backwards, rustic Sicily to Ellis Island. It does it with taste, with telling detail, and with artistic vision, such that the elemental material is made fresh again: the solid mass of people suddenly divided by water, a sort of parting of the Red Sea of Humanity, as the boat pulls away from the dock, leaving half the mass ashore; the storm at sea staged exclusively below deck, without today's compulsory crutch of Perfect *Storm* computer software; the post-card exaggerations of giant vegetables, taken into the foreigners' imaginations and fantasies as literal truth of the new Promised Land. In short, it's a film that is really and truly directed, though not ostentatiously or self-



indulgently. From assorted critics circles and Oscar touts, I have seen the names bruited about as the year's Best Actress, but I have seen no name to displace Charlotte Gainsbourg in my esteem.

*Into Great Silence*, next in line, stands as a corrective to the gaining notion that the highest purpose of a documentary is to represent one's own

viewpoint on an issue of national urgency (*No End in Sight, The Eleventh Hour, Sicko*, et al.). German filmmaker Philip Gröning illuminates, in suggestive rather than declarative fashion, and at almost three hours in duration, a tiny little out-of-the-way corner of our world, the contemplative life at a Carthusian monastery in the French Alps. The result is an invaluable docNo Country for Old Men

ument of no pressing timeliness, merely unflagging timelessness.

Alfonso Cuarón's *Children of Men* and Clint Eastwood's *Letters from Iwo Jima* come third and fourth in order of preference, although in the real world, which is to say the media meccas of New York and Los Angeles, both of these belong to the previous year of 2006. That's just life in the little city.

<text><section-header>

MA VIENA A LA PORTUNA A A LA PORTUNA DA LA PORTUNA DE LA POR





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Opens in theatres January 11.

The provincial city. The second-class city. I thought that Cuarón's dazzling and harrowing vision of a dying world without children got the short end of the stick in relation to the two concurrent films of his friends and countrymen, Alejandro González Iñárritu's Babel and Guillermo del Toro's Pan's Labyrinth. I thought it should have gotten pretty much the entire length of the stick. And I was again in the minority in thinking that Eastwood's Japanese-language, Japanese-perspective complement to his Flags of Our Fathers, a couple of months earlier, was the lesser half of the diptych. It was something special and essential, even so.

Which brings me in due course to Joel and Ethan Coen's intense and involving chase film, *No Country for Old Men*, and to the apparent and inescapable conclusion that I concur in the widespread opinion that this is the finest American film of 2007, regardless of how far it may be from the finest Coen film. That says a lot about the year just past.

The best revival I saw, for that matter the best film of any type in any venue in any format, was Yves Allégret's doom-laden French noir from the post-WWII heyday, Une Si Jolie Petite Plage, once again seen only in Los Angeles. The best one I saw locally was Alberto Lattuada's Mafioso, in its time a little-noticed Italian seriocomedy, and unstuffy sociological study, dated 1962. It would have gone straight to the top of my list if I could consider revivals to be eligible. That, too, says a lot about the year just past, and a little something about the year 1962. To say a little something more about it, at random: Yojimbo, The Exterminating Angel, Barren Lives, Family Diary, The Eclipse, Winter Light, Knife in the Water, Kanchenjungha, Le Doulos, Thérèse Desqueyroux, Hatari!, What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?, Whistle Down the Wind, Ride the High Country, The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance, Light in the Piazza, Lolita, etc. Unlikely that the Lattuada could crack the Top Ten.

Honorable mentions, from higher honors to lower: Joon-ho Bong's The Host, a South Korean creature feature, not in all facets as good as its amphibian creature; Craig Brewer's Black Snake Moan, an unjustly shunned exploitation film of admirable daring; Mike White's Year of the Dog, flatteringly tailored to the talents of Molly Shannon, an offbeat comedy that burrowed deeper than its surface quirks; Rescue Dawn, Werner Herzog's uncompromised mainstream Vietnam War film; the tough French policier by Xavier Beauvois, Le Petit Lieutenant; the well-constructed Argentine caper film by the late Fabián Bielinsky, El Aura; Paul Haggis's In the Valley of Elah, the most successful of Hollywood's several grapples with developments in the Middle East; Wes Anderson's gleamingly colorful The Darjeeling Limited; Jason Reitman's gradually ingratiating Juno; Shari Springer Berman's and Robert Pulcini's The Nanny Diaries, a tickling piece of fluff predictably underrated; Danièle Thompson's Avenue Montaigne, French fluff underrated just the same: the Coen brothers', Walter Salles's, Oliver Schmitz's, and especially Alexander Payne's segments in the omnibus film, Paris, Je T'Aime, dragged down as a whole by the fourteen other segments; How to Cook Your Life, Doris Dörrie's talky yet captivating portrait of the Buddhist master chef, Edward Espe Brown; Sicko,

Michael Moore's characteristically amusing and appalling documentary on health care, however sick you may be of Michael Moore; and, with its powerhouse face-off between Judi Dench and Cate Blanchett, Richard Eyre's *Notes on a Scandal*, a last straggler from 2006.

The book, for all the old and obvious reasons, remains open on World Cinema 2007. San Diego Cinema 2007 is a shorter book. Now closed. ■

#### 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.

Across the Universe — Two-and-aquarter-hour promo for the Beatles without ever mentioning them by name. A generous, even overgenerous sampler of their songs (thirty-three of them, by the count in the press notes, leaving aside the numberless others that are quoted from or alluded to) has been re-recorded, or "covered" as they say in the business, by a fictitious cast of characters plunked down against the bil lowing backdrop of the Sixties: the war, the draft, the protests, the drugs, the psychedelics, the Sexual Revolution, all that. To link the Beatles with the upheaval makes a certain sense. Unlike, say, the more enduring Rolling Stones or the goingnowhere Dave Clark Five, the Beatles were a group that really did evolve (or, as some would prefer, devolve) swiftly and dramatically, making them a useful weathercock for the winds of change. You are here reminded afresh of their range and their

riches; and in new mouths, you hear the songs with new ears. (The tremulous, down-tempo rendition, for example, of "I Wanna Hold Your Hand" by an Asian American high-school cheerleader, T.V. Carpio, brings the song a new, a 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)

#### Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem — The

cross-series combat continues on a crashlanded spacecraft in Colorado, and spills into the small town of Crested Butte. The brothers Colin and Greg Strause, visualeffects technicians in their feature directing debut, appear to be on very poor terms with human beings, and not a whole lot better terms with extraterrestrials. Steven Pasquale, Johnny Lewis, Kristen Hager, John Ortiz, Reiko Aylesworth. 2007. • (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8: ESCONDIDO 16: FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VAL-LEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10: RANCHO DEL REY 16: RANCHO SAN



DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

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 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. ★ (GASLAMP 15)

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.

★ (ESCONDIDO 16, FROM 1/4; FLOWER HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER, FROM 1/4; LA JOLLA VIL-LAGE; MIRA MESA 18, FROM 1/4; MISSION VAL-LEY 20; PARKWAY PLAZA 18, FROM 1/4; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14, FROM 1/4; VISTA VILLAGE)

#### Before the Devil Knows You're

**Dead** — Interesting attempt by the eightythree-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 cookiecutter 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 - familv discord, family dislovalty, 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. \*\* (GASLAMP 15)

Charlie Wilson's War — Didactic polisci lesson on How the System Works, entertainingly illustrated by screenwriter Aaron Sorkin and director Mike Nichols. The titular war is the one between the Soviets and the Afghans in the Reagan era, and Charlie Wilson is a nonfictional Texas congressman (played with supreme complacency by Tom Hanks) who, ideally situated for budgeting purposes, spared some time from his enjoyment of the perks of power (single malt, cocaine, strippers in the hot tub) in order to do the bidding of a rabid Right-wing fundraiser in his home state (Julia Roberts, fully surrendering to her natural or enhanced grotesquerie, at one point intrepidly separating her gluey eye lashes with an open safety pin) and broker a covert alliance between the Pakistanis and the Israelis, combatting the Evil Empire from discreetly behind the scenes. This is not your typical tale of the cavalier cynic getting involved, finding religion, committing himself to a cause. The protagonist's profligate ways are typical enough, and the refugee camp that opens his eyes is depicted very straight, but there remains, even after that, a sense of irony about his crusade no more solemnity in his demeanor than in that, let's say, of the surgeons in MASHso that his commitment is forever perceived as something of a pose, something within quotation marks. The job gets done all the same. Philip Seymour Hoffman, sporting a lush mustache and full head of dark hair in

The Great Debaters

testimony to the character's Mediterranean ethnicity, goes Hanks one better (several better, in fact) as a disgruntled CIA spook who, irked at not getting the Finland assignment after studying Finnish, cannot even throw a tantrum without a wink. Not only does Hoffman walk away with the show, he also gets to recite the Buddhist parable whose punchline frames the entire picture, turning an ostensibly happy ending into an up-in-the-air ending, or in other words no ending at all. We know too well what happened next. With Amy Adams, Emily Blunt, Ned Beatty. 2007.

★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; ES-CONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

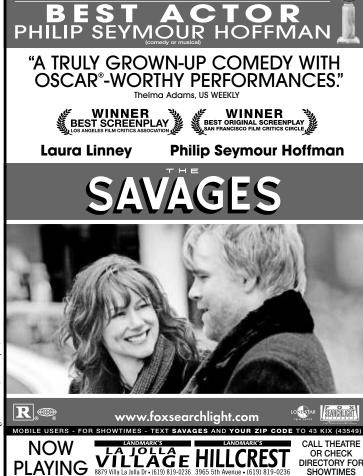
The Darjeeling Limited — One thing to be said for a Wes Anderson film, and it's no small thing, is that it bears an individual stamp. A stamp as flat as a postage stamp, as emphatic as a rubber stamp. (Whap, whap.) A well-known commodity after Bottle Rocket, Rushmore, The Royal Tennen baums, The Life 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 firstclass sleeper car across India, with the ultimate aim of tracking down their mother (a no-show at the funeral) in a convent at the foot of the Himalayas. In other words, a typical Wes Anderson operation, bringing about the insecure bonding of misaligned oddballs, but in an atypical exotic setting, the better to draw out their oddness. Owen Wilson, Adrien Brody, Jason Schwartzman, Amara Karan, Anjelica Huston, Bill Murrav. 2007. ★★★ (LA PALOMA)

The Diving Bell and the Butterfly -Julian Schnabel relates another true-life tale from the wide world of art, this one a little more liberated from convention than his Basquiat or his Before Night Falls (though it immediately and continually brings to mind Alejandro Amenábar's The Sea Inside), the tale of Jean-Dominique Bauby, an editor at Elle magazine, who in the prime of life suffered a stroke that left him paralyzed but for his left evelid (and his imagination and his memory), and who dictated a memoir, letter by letter, through a system of blinks. The first three-quarters of an hour or so are reasonably audacious, subjectively visualized through the eyes of the invalid (Mathieu Amalric, at this point unseen), with cropped faces and figures, blurred edges, off-kilter angles, etc., and yet the camera looks awfully free-swinging and the editing awfully jumpy for the P.O.V. of a paralytic, as if Schnabel felt he had to lend a helping hand to keep things hopping. (The rotation of comely coquettes to serve as speech therapist, physical therapist, and amanuensis seems to have been assembled out of similar motives.) Much of the remainder of the film feels drawn out and padded, with the major exception of a tense scene in which the wife, operating the speakerphone in the hospital room, is required to mediate a call from the mistress. The essential subject matter is one that demands in its treatment purity and rigor, and that receives instead disorder and indulgence. (This really wasn't the time and place for further proof of the director's hip taste in music, U2, Velvet Underground, Tom Waits.) A big critical favorite, nonetheless, perhaps owing to the special dispensation granted the handicapped, the quickness to applaud the least little show of humor, verve, perseverance. With Emmanuelle Seigner, Marie-Josée Croze, Anne Consigny, and Max von Sydow. 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-everafters," namely modern-day Manhattan in live action, whither she's soon followed by her betrothed prince, a CG chipmunk, and a witch's minion. The slothful working-out of this inspiration should pass as sophisticated among grade-schoolers. And maybe once in a while among grown-ups. (With a song, the princess rallies pigeons, sewer rats, and cockroaches to help with the domestic chores.) Amy Adams, far from the most plasticky actress, maintains a plucky air of innocence bordering on Blanche Du Bois delusion. With Patrick Dempsey. James Marsden, Timothy Spall, and Susan Sarandon; directed by Kevin Lima. 2007. ★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA 12: MISSION VALLEY 20: OTAY RANCH 12: PALM PROMENADE 24: PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MAR-COS 18: SANTEE DRIVE IN)

The Golden Compass — Unstirring epic fantasy, set in a parallel universe where people's souls walk beside them in the form of talking animals, called "daemons." In addition, there's a whole glossary of made-up proper nouns, an obligatory oppressive, thought-policing Ruling Power, and a young girl singled out by destiny to be the Savior, aided by a good witch, a gypsy band, a dirigible-flying cowboy, a CG armored polar bear (cousin of the Coca-Cola polars), and the truth-telling gizmo of the title. A four-pronged last-minute rescue



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settles nothing, for this is but Part One of Philip Pullman's "His Dark Materials" trilogy. With Dakota Blue Richards, Nicole Kidman, Daniel Craig, Eva Green, and Sam Elliott; directed by Chris Weitz. 2007. ★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; ESCONDIDO 16; FASH ION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12: PALM PROMENADE 24: RAN-CHO DEL REY 16; SAN MARCOS 18)

Gone Baby Gone — Directing debut of Ben Affleck, who stays behind the camera and cedes the spotlight to his younger brother Casey, in the role of Patrick Kenzie, the Boston missing-persons private eye ("I find the people that started in the cracks and then fell through"), along with his "snooty" partner Angie Gennaro (Michelle Monaghan), featured in a series of detective novels by Dennis Lehane. The plot, starting sensibly enough with the vanished daughter of a drug-addicted and derelict single mom. proves in the long run to be preposterous. But Affleck, meaning Casey more than Ben, works wonders to humanize Lehane's rather embarrassing literary creation, partly just by his youthful delicacy and his chipon-the-shoulder defensiveness about it. A singularly unprepossessing hero, he gains stature by holding his ground, however sullenly, against some highly showy performances (Ed Harris, Amy Madigan, Amy Rvan, Morgan Freeman, among them). And the other Affleck, Ben, does some nice impressionistic detailing of his native Bean Town, and some candid thumbnailing of assorted lowlifes, before he succumbs to a muddying plot and a gagging resolution. 2007.

★ (GASLAMP 15)

The Great Debaters — An Oprah film (or anagrammatically, a Harpo Film) for Oprah's audience, with their insatiable appetite for uplift. The fact-based story of the debate team at little Wiley College, an allblack institution in segregationist Texas, and of their climactic showdown on the topic of Civil Disobedience against the national champs of Harvard University, plays as a sort of two-hour spot for the UNCF. Denzel Washington, as both the debate coach in front of the camera and the director behind it, may be somewhat unimaginative, even embarrassingly unimaginative, in his complete and precise merger of the two roles into one: the great edifier. (Not just my character but me myself.) Still, if the remedial elucidation of racial issues seems a bit behind the times, it's not so much because the action is set in the 1930s as because racial progress continues to lag in the 2000s. The edifier has plenty of just cause. Nate Parker, Jurnee Smollett, Denzel Whitaker, Forest Whitaker. 2007. ★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; ESCONDIDO 16; FASH-ION VALLEY 18: HORTON PLAZA 14: LA JOLLA 12: MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MAR-COS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

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.

(PALM PROMENADE 24)

I Am Legend — The third screen treatment of Richard Matheson's post-apocalyptic vampire tale is the first to retain the original title (cf. The Last Man on Earth and The Omega Man), and the first to bring to it the total commitment of top dollar, most helpful in creating a weed-overgrown New York City. It also brings to it some very wet sentimentality, with Will Smith having a hard time shouldering the burdens of being a Renaissance man amid a population of nocturnal zombies: he's a brilliant scientist, a hardbodied soldier, a tender dog lover, a Bob Marley aficionado, a Shrek memorizer, and so on. The situation nevertheless keeps a good grip until the fortuitous appearance of a second (and third) human being, after which the grip loosens. With Alice Braga, Charlie Tahan, and briefly an uncredited



Emma Thompson; directed by Francis Lawrence. 2007.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18: GROSSMONT CENTER: HORTON PLAZA 14: LA COSTA 6: LA JOLLA 12: MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24: PARKWAY PLAZA 18: POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15: RIVER VILLAGE 6: SAN MARCOS 18: SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VIL-LAGE)

I'm Not There — Todd Haynes blows another cloud of mist into the mystique of

EST DIRECTOR · Julian Schnabel

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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 hobo

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set you free

style, 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 Winshaw, Heath Ledger, and Charlotte Gainsbourg. 2007. ★ (GASLAMP 15)

Into the Wild — Illustration, in a sketchy hand, of the Jon Krakauer nonfiction book on Christopher McCandless, a 1990 college graduate, on the doorstep of Harvard Law School, who gave away his tuition fund to Oxfam, obliterated his identity, renamed himself Alexander Supertramp, and swapped the evils of society for the purity of the northern wilderness ("No longer to be poisoned by civilization," he carved into a wooden shingle at his encampment), where ultimately he starved to death in 1992. It may not sound like much of an idea for a film. It isn't. A Seventies-style road movie, redolent of Seventies-style disaffection, it has a strong element of travelogue, as our happy-go-lucky hobo rides his aging Datsun westward to South Dakota, abandons it at Lake Mead, kayaks down the Colorado River, drifts into Mexico, trainhops up to L.A., thumbs his way to the Salton Sea, Anza Borrego, and Alaska. In that final destination, the travelogue veers toward nature documentary. At nearly two and a half hours, the film feels very, very long, albeit short on relatable incident: the protagonist goes places, he meets people, and then he goes to a place where he won't meet people, where he will meet only his end, a martyr to something or other. Director Sean Penn unmistakably takes himself very seriously, and takes his protagonist almost reverently, painting him as something of a holy fool (a reader of Tolstoi, even though an eater of meat when he can get it), and offering up this speculative reenactment as nothing less than an endorsement. At the top, he sets the tone with a high-flown epigraph from Lord Byron: "I love not man the less, but Nature more" -







he Wizard of O

FRANCIS WEIDINGER Independent filmmaker

Lost Horizon: Garden of Eden in black-and-white. Frank Capra can be awesome, funny, and satirical. But in Lost Horizon, he got lost. It's still fun to take the trip and see utopia through the eyes of one of America's greatest filmmakers.

Wizard of Oz: Finally, color in the middle of the movie even though we had to kill a witch to get it. Makes you want to join the Lollipop Guild, Damn munchkins, ruby slippers, and that yellow brick road. Still a frickin' great movie. Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain.

Monkey Business: Watching a Marx Brothers movie is like strolling through the Garden of Eden. Harpo helping out at customs - and lip synching to Maurice Chevalier - is beyond heaven. I laugh my ass off every time I see this scene. Groucho steers the ship: Chico adds flavor: and I'm still not sure what Zeppo does.

LOST HORIZON (USA) 1937, **Columbia Pictures** List price: \$27.95 THE WIZARD OF OZ (USA) 1939, Warner Home Video List price: \$26.98 (two discs) MONKEY BUSINESS (USA) 1931,

Universal List price: \$14.99



DEBORA KLOCHKO Director, Museum of Photographic Arts, mopa.org

In the current MoPA exhibition, Picturing Eden, photographers deal with the idea of the Garden as a metaphor for good and evil, heaven and hell. To continue with these concepts, try When Worlds Collide, which takes us from destruction to redemption. Scientists discover Earth's on a collision course with a rogue star. A rocket ship's built to save a small group so humans can start life on a new planet.

In The Island, two clones (Ewan McGregor, Scarlett Johansson) live in what appears to be paradise but in gaining a new awareness and a loss of innocence they uncover what they really are.

Finally, the original Blade Runner (pre-director's cut) depicts a future where life's created and manipulated on a cellular level. The creator's destroyed and a new Adam and Eve (Harrison Ford, Sean Young) run away to a more idyllic place where being real or fabricated doesn't matter.

#### WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE (USA) 1951, Paramount List price: \$9.98 THE ISLAND (USA) 2005, Dreamworks List price: \$12.98 BLADE RUNNER (USA) 1982, Warner List price: \$34.99 (four discs)



SHANE FLORES Curator, Secret Cinema

Code 46 has the sense of closing a circle, when all the elements of our fabled Edenic fall collapse into a terminal near-future. distorted and corrupted by our "tumble down the staircase." Proscribed self-knowledge, persecuted sensuality. and circumscribed geographies where "inside" and "outside" are defined by the most drastic of consequences.

Remember the '6os, when Eden was something to be found here, now and within? Before we decided to get all Book of Revelations medieval on our own collective ass. The Valley Obscured by Clouds is a postcard found between the pages of the book, a testament to how earnest the impulse was then, and how close a seeker can come even now, if only he's willing to step off the grid.

Derek Jarman's The Garden - Eden remembered through a plague fever and cast before you in shards by a visionary in memoriam of a time before sex could be murder.

CODE 46 (England) 2003, MGM List price: \$14.98 THE VALLEY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS (France) 1972, Homevision List price: \$19.95 THE GARDEN (England) 1990, Artificial Eve List price: \$26.99 (PAL import only)

aside, unassertive, but ever-faithful boyfriend, the baby's biological father, and a cooler dude than you'd ever guess from his track-team togs. And if the dialogue is unabatingly overcolored, at least the hues are spread around democratically. 2007. ★★★ (ESCONDIDO 16; FLOWER HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER; HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA 12: MIRA MESA 18: OCEANSIDE 16: PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA CAMINO REAL; RANCHO DEL REY 16; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

The Kite Runner — From the Khaled Hosseini novel, directed by Marc Forster (Finding Neverland, Stranger Than Fiction), a story about a storyteller, and in large part a story truly worthy of a storyteller. The remaining parts are hackneved and/or hokey. Main elements: two boyhood pals in Kabul, 1978, the sons of master and servant, and the psychologically penetrating betrayal of the second by the first, our evolving storyteller. Notwithstanding the graphic barbarities of the Taliban in the year 2000, the film takes a tactical and tactful approach to the Islamic topic, and the nostalgic re-creation of life in the Afghanistan of yesteryear (handsomely photographed in the bargain) is highly beneficial: the competitive, combative, and colorful kite flying, the Pashtodubbed print of The Magnificent Seven (Charles Bronson's accent giving him away as a native Iranian), the swanky comforts of the hero's home, the imposing figure of his principled, civilized, dignified father (ably embodied by the star of Taste of Cherry. Homayoun Ershadi), destined to run a gas station in Fremont after fleeing the Soviet invaders. The besetting problems of dividing a screen role between a younger and an older actor are brutally spotlighted in the scene where a Taliban bully tells the now adult hero that he never forgets a face, when in truth the face little resembles the one that the bully last saw. It is not surprising that the hero, in turn, doesn't recognize the bully. With Khalid Abdalla, Zekeria Ebrahimi, and Ahmad Khan Mahmidzada. 2007.

★★ (FASHION VALLEY 18: FLOWER HILL 4: HOR-TON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; SAN MARCOS 18: TOWN SOUARE 14)

Kurt Cobain: About a Son — In-hisown-words documentary on the late lead singer of Nirvana, directed by A.J. Schnack. (KEN, FROM 1/4)

National Treasure — Juvenile adventure yarn about a treasure hunt for the legendary booty of the Knights Templar, handed down to their natural successors, the Masons, and squirreled away by the American Founding Fathers, with clues to its whereabouts written in invisible ink on the back of the Declaration of Independence. The Jerry Bruckheimer treatment (Jon Turteltaub the nominal director) blends bombast and grandiosity with insolence and insouciance, in such a way as to appeal strictly to the tone-deaf or tone-indifferent (or more exactly, juveniles). Nicolas Cage reverts to his action-hero mode, which is to say his take-the-money-and-run mode. Justin Bartha, the mentally challenged younger brother in Gigli (if you're one of the forty-two people who saw it), is the sardonic sidekick who seems to be doing an impression of Dennis Miller. Diane Kruger, the Face That Launched a Thousand Ships in Troy, is Just Another Pretty Face. And Sean Bean is just another British baddie, albeit slightly more justifiable as a present-day descendant of the Redcoats. With Jon Voight, Harvey Keitel, Christopher Plummer, 2004. • (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 VALLEY 7: MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; 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: TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

No Country for Old Men — The Coen brothers' first literary adaptation, from a Cormac McCarthy original, an overflow ingly 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. Sharing the writing credit as always and sharing the directing credit as they only began to do with The Ladykillers, the brothers 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 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 be sure, the Coens are meticulous technicians, supremely skillful, attentive to the minutest detail. And while the body count climbs numbingly high, 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.) 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, 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). Tommy Lee Jones, Javier Bardem, Josh Brolin, Kelly Macdonald, Woody Harrelson. 2007. ★★★★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VIL-

LAGE; PALM PROMENADE 24)

One Missed Call — French director Eric Valette remakes a Japanese horror film in English, with Shannyn Sossamon and Edward Burns (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; ESCON-DIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VAL-LEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18: POWAY 10: RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MAR-COS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; FROM 1/4)

The Orphanage — Spanish spook show by first-time filmmaker Juan Antonio Bayona, starring Belén Rueda (HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA 12; FROM 1/4)

P.S. I Love You — A widow (Hilary Swank) receives guidance from her late husband (Gerard Butler), directed by Richard LaGravanese. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18: GASLAMP 15: GROSSMONT CENTER: LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MIS SION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEAN SIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROME-NADE 24: PARKWAY PLAZA 18: POWAY 10: RANCHO DEL REY 16: RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15: RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN: TOWN SOUARE 14: VISTA VILLAGE)

The Savages - Philip Seymour Hoffman in the male lead, blond and bearded, as a Buffalo drama professor at work on a tome on Bertolt Brecht. And Laura Linney in the larger female lead, brunette and bedraggled, as an unproduced dramatist at work on a "subversive, semi-autobiographical play" (as she describes it in her grant applications) inspired by the works of Jean Genet, Eugene O'Neill, and cartoonist Lynda Barry. They are brother and sister, forced into the same yoke to deal with their demented father (Philip Bosco) after his

that one. The kid sister periodically supplies some explanatory narration ("I understand what he was doing"), and Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder chimes in with a half-dozen or so acoustic songs in sympathy and support. Of the real protagonist's earnestness and conviction, the film can tell us next to nothing. Of the filmmaker's, it can tell us much. And then it can tell us again. And again. With Emile Hirsch, Marcia Gav Harden, William m Hurt, Jena Malone, Vince Vaughn, and Hal Holbrook. 2007. ★ (GASLAMP 15)

Reader San

**Juno** — A slow starter. In the title role of a pregnant Minnesota high-schooler (named after the Roman goddess of marriage, fidelity, fertility), the dry flat sardonic linedelivery of Ellen Page, the angelic avenger of Hard Candy, is not easy to warm up to, no matter how much we might try to see it 5 as an adolescent defense mechanism, or

how much as humble emulation of Janeane Garofalo. And the garishly colorful dialogue, from first-time scripter and former stripper Diablo Cody, often tends to push too hard ("Being pregnant makes me pee like Seabiscuit"). The heroine, interested in simply finding a good home for the baby, not in making a profit off it, finds a possible taker in the weekly PennySaver ("next to the exotic birds"), a neat-freaky suburban couple in the gated confines of Glacial Valley Estates. It's there that things really begin to get interesting. Our initial arrival at the housing development is alone sufficient to convince us of Jason Reitman's directorial bona fides: a series of static shots of antiseptic House Beautiful after House Beautiful as the car passes across the screen, left to right, in front of each. And the prospective mother, Jennifer Garner (her piano-wire tautness put to good use), turns out to be the neater of the pair, someone who will

studiously ponder "custard" versus 'cheesecake" as the color for baby's room, while the prospective father, Jason Bateman, proves to be the freakier, a stay-athome composer of advertising ditties and a frustrated rock-and-roller. A curious, potentially dangerous after-school relationship blossoms between him and the heroine: he may be a commercial sell-out as a composer, but he's a person who can talk music to a teenager, and he demonstrates 'decent taste in slasher movies" (e.g., Herschell Gordon Lewis's The Wizard of Gore, another impediment to our warming up to the heroine). Over time, the film builds, and it does so with proficiency, patience, and foresight. If the heroine is never wholly embraceable, the surrounding characters go far to compensate, specifically J.K. Simmons as her droll laconic dad, Allison Janney as her worldly-wise, even-keeled mom, and above all, Michael Cera as her shunted-

Sun City "girlfriend" of twenty years kicks the bucket and her family kicks him out. These are big performances in a small film made up of small moments, a life-is-messy comedy of small (but not few) laughs. Writer and director Tamara Jenkins, not heard from since her (subversive, semiautobiographical) Slums of Beverly Hills, seeks the universal in the individual - the particulars, the peculiarities, the normal abnormalities (the lachrymosity of Hoffman, the mendacity of Linney) - which is the right way to go about it. The peculiarities needn't have been so artsy-fartsily peculiar. With Peter Friedman and Cara Seymour. 2007.

★★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

Starting Out in the Evening - Literary indie, not just in source material (a well-regarded novel by Brian Morton) or in talky, articulate, literate treatment, but also in subject matter: a stiff-necked New York Jewish intellectual (he wears a tie when home alone), a drinker at the well of Lionel Trilling, Alfred Kazin, Irving Kristol, et al., struggling to complete his fifth and final novel before his demise, parrying the timeconsuming advances of an adoring, auburn-haired grad student who has selected him as the obscure topic of her master's thesis, and who has set herself the difficult goal of getting him back in print. (Subplot: his unmarried daughter and her ticking biological clock.) Small, slow, serious film, not without humor, in spite of the straightness and narrowness (or because of the straightness and narrowness) of Frank Langella's committed performance, his total avoidance of anything like comic loopiness and broadness. Lauren Ambrose and Lili Taylor give him plenty of credible trouble as the chief women in his life, new admirer and aging daughter respectively. With Adrian Lester; directed by Andrew Wagner. 2007. ★★ (KEN, THROUGH 1/3)

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street — The Grand-Guignol Broadway musical (words and music by Stephen Sondheim), Tim Burtonized for Hollywood. Which means, among other things (such as less music), a ton-of-bricks production design, an ashen color scheme sometimes edging up to the border of black-and-white (excluding the rivers, lakes, geysers of rich red blood), and the de rigueur Johnny Depp, showing off a diffident singing voice, as a frightfully frigid avenger, chilling in quite the wrong way. (Whoever said revenge is a dish best served cold can't have meant straight from the freezer.) Helena Bonham Carter, Alan Rickman, and Timothy Spall are likewise

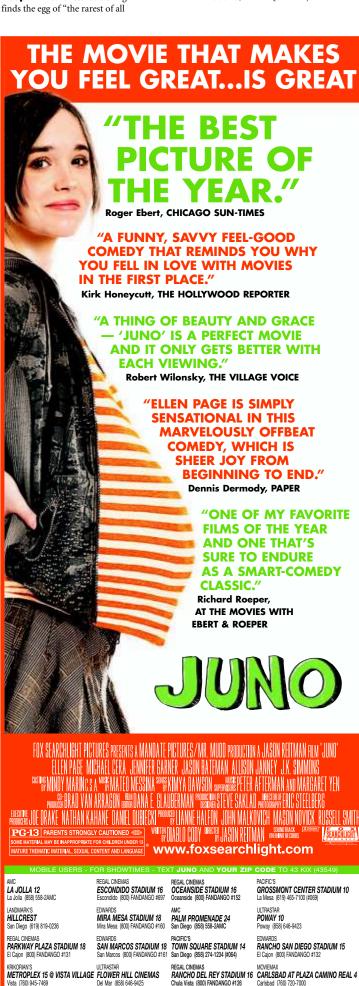
not singers. 2007. ★ (DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MAR-COS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

24-Hour Party People — Michael Winterbottom's re-creation of the Manchester pop scene from the mid-Seventies through the Eighties: i.e., from punk to rave. Breathless, chaotic, self-consciously "postmodern" - which translates into raggedy, uneven visuals and a main character who addresses the camera with full knowledge of future events and full awareness that he's in a movie (soon to be a DVD). This character - real-life TV personality and musical entrepreneur Tony Wilson, portrayed by comedian Steve Coogan — emerges as a real character all right, a little full of himself, given to exaggeration, an aspiring messiah, yet an earnest enthusiast. Shirley Henderson, Paddy Considine, Sean Harris, Danny Cunningham. 2002. ★ (KEN, 1/5 MIDNIGHT)

Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story — In essence a spoof of *Walk the Line*, to do with a sort of cut-rate Johnny Cash (a Johnny Wampum maybe), although the protagonist's music branches out further than the real Cash's into the groves of Bob Dylan, The Beatles, punk rock (ahead of its time), trend-setters and -followers in general. The comedy mostly aims low, low, depressingly so. The scene with the Beatles in India is a relatively high, high highlight (particularly Paul Rudd's squeezed enunciations as John Lennon), and in the lead role John C. Reilly's innate amiability helps to counteract depression. With Jenna Fischer, Kristen Wiig, Raymond J. Barry, and Tim Meadows; directed by Jake Kasdan. 2007. ★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

**The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep** — A fatherless lad during WWII finds the egg of "the rarest of all creatures" — only one on the planet at a time — and nurses the hatchling into the Loch Ness Monster, easily mistakable for a Nazi submarine. Spectacular scenery (New Zealand supplementing Scotland) as the backdrop for a gruesomely cute CG critter and some strong-arm manipulation. With Alex Etel, Emily Watson, Ben Chaplin, David Morrissey, and Brian Cox; directed by Jay Russell. 2007.

• (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 18; FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEAN-SIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROME-NADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RAN-CHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14) Youth without Youth — Francis Ford Coppola's first film in a decade (*The Rain-maker*, just to jog your memory), although in truth he hasn't been a *force* since the decade of the Seventies. His comeback, or anyway his return to action, should secure his position in the margin: an English-language (variously accented) art film, replete with "painterly" light, monochrome flashbacks, experimental dream scenes *circa* 1925, upside-down and sideways images, mirror-multiplied images-within-images, doppelgänger dialogues, Nazi boogeymen, Eastern mysticism, decades of period settings. Inspired by a philosophical novella of Mircea Eliade, it revolves around a hoary old Romanian linguist (Tim Roth) who, when struck by lightning, miraculously reverses the aging process and runs into a dead ringer for the long lost love of his youth (Alexandra Maria Lara). It progresses from abstruseness to absurdity. 2007. ★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS, THROUGH 1/4)



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#### Bargain showtimes are in parentheses.

#### CENTRAL

#### CLAIREMONT

**Town Square 14** 4665 Clairemont Drive (858-274-1234) **Alvin and the Chipmunks** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (11:00, 1:15, 3:30) 5:45, 7:55, 10:00 Sun. (11:00, 1:15, 3:30) 5:45, 7:55, 10:05; **Atone-ment** (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:40, 1:20) 4:10, 7:00, 9:50; **Charlie Wilson's War** (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:55, 2:20) 5:10, 7:50, 10:20 Sun. (11:55, 2:20) 5:10, 7:40, 10:00; **The Golden Compass** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:25) 6:50; The Great De**baters** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:55, 1:40) 4:30, 7:15, 10:05 Sun. (10:55, 1:40) 4:30, 7:15, 10:10; I Am Legend (No Rating) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 2:00) 4:25, 7:10, 9:35; Juno (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:45, 2:15) 5:00, 7:20, 9:40; **The Kite Runner** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:20, 3:40) 7:05, 9:45; **Na-tional Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:45, 1:45) 4:40, 7:35, 10:25 Sun. (10:45, 1:45) 4:35, 7:20, 10:00; **No Country for** Old Men (R) Fri.-Sun. (3:55) 9:25; One Missed Call (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:15, 1:25, 3:35) 5:35, 7:45, 9:55; P.S. I Love You (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:05, 1:50) 4:35, 7:25, 10:15 Sun (11:05, 1:50) 4:35, 7:25, 10:10; Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:10, 2:10) 4:50, 7:30, 10:10; The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:50, 1:30) 4:15, 6:55, 9:30

#### DOWNTOWN

#### Gaslamp 15

701 Fifth Avenue (619-232-0400) American Gangster (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:05) 5:00, 8:15; Awake (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:25, 3:30) 5:35, 7:50, 9:55: Before the Devil Knows You're Dead (R) Fri.-Sun. (2:15) 4:50, 7:25, 10:00; Enchanted (PG) Fri.-Sun. (2:25) 4:45, 7:10. 9:35; Fred Claus (PG) Fri.-Sun. (2:05) 4:45, 7:15, 9:50; Gone Baby Gone (R) Fri.-Sun. (2:10) 4:55, 7:30, 10:05; I'm Not There (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:15) 4:05, 6:50, 9:40; Into the Wild (R) Fri.-Sun. (2:40) 6:10, 9:25; **P.S. I Love You** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (1:30, 2:35) 4:15, 5:25, 7:00, 8:10, 9:45; The Perfect Holiday (PG) Fri. Sun. (1:10, 3:25) 5:40, 7:55, 10:10; Walk Hard: **The Dewey Cox Story** (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:20, 2:30, 3:35) 4:40, 5:50, 7:05, 8:05, 9:20, 10:20

#### Horton Plaza 14

Horton Plaza (619-444-FILM) Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG); Charlie Wilson's War (R); The Golden Compass (PG-13); The Great Debaters (PG-13); I Am Legend (No Rating); The Kite Runner (PG-13); National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG); Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (R); The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep  $\left( PG\right)$ 

#### LA JOLLA

#### La Jolla 12

8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (858-558-2262) Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG) Fri. 1:00, 3:20, 5:35, 7:55, 10:20 Sat.-Sun. (10:50) 1:00, 3:20, 5:35, 7:55, 10:20; Charlie Wilson's War (R) Fri. 1:55, 4:45, 7:25, 10:05 Sat.-Sun. (11:20) 1:55, 4:45, 7:25, 10:05; Enchanted (PG) Fri. 12:50p.m. Sat.-Sun. (10:35) 1:10; **The Great Debaters** (PG-13) Fri. 1:25, 4:15, 7:10, 10:10 Sat.-Sun. (10:40) 1:25, 4:15, 7:10, 10:10; I Am Legend (No Rating) Fri. 1:40, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55 Sat. (11:10) 1:35, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55 Sun. 1:40, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55; Juno (PG-13) Fri. 12:45, 3:10, 5:40, 8:15, 10:45 Sat. (10:30) 12:50, 3:10, 5:40, 8:15, 10:45 Sun. (10:30) 12:50, 3:10, 5:40, 8:15, 10:40; **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG) Fri. 1:30, 4:35, 7:45, 10:55 Sat. (10:35) 1:30, 4:35, 7:45, 10:55 Sun. (10:35) 1:30, 4:35, 7:45, 10:55 Sun. (10:35) 1:30, 4:35, 7:45, 10:45; **One Missed Call** (PG-13) Fri. 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 8:00, 10:30 Sat. (10:45) 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 8:00, 10:30 Sun. 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 8:00, 10:30; **P.S. I Love You** (PG-13) Fri. 1:35, 4:25, 7:20, 10:25 Sat. (10:55) 1:40, 4:25, 7:20, 10:25 Sun. 4:25, 7:20, 10:25; Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (R) Fri. 1:20, 4:05, 7:00, 10:00 Sat. (10:40) 1:20, 4:05, 7:00, 10:00 Sun. 1:20, 4:05, 7:00, 10:00; **The** Metropolitan Opera: Hansel and Gretel En-core - NCM Event Sun. 12:00p.m.; The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep (PG) Fri. 2:00, 4:40, 7:05, 9:45 Sat.-Sun. (11:30) 2:00, 4:40, 7:05, 9:45

La Jolla Village 8879 Villa La Jolla Drive (619-819-0236) Atonement (R) Fri.-Sun. 11:20, 1:40, 2:15 5:00, 7:00, 8:15; The Kite Runner (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 11:10, 1:55, 4:50, 8:00; No Country for Old Men (R) Fri.-Sun. 11:00, 4:20, 9:40; The Savages (R) Fri.-Sun. 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

#### **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) Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:25) 1:50, 4:30, 6:55, 9:25; Charlie Wilson's War (R) Fri.-Sat. (10:45) 1:20, 4:05, 6:40, 7:30, 9:15, 10:05 Sun. (10:45) 1:20, 4:05, 6:40, 7:30, 9:15; **Enchanted** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:05) 1:45, 4:20, 7:05, 9:45; **The Golden** Compass (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:35) 2:10, 4:55; The Great Debaters (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:35) 1:35, 4:35, 7:35, 10:30; **I Am Legend** (No Rating) Fri.-Sat. (11:00) 12:15, 1:30, 2:50, 4:10, 5:25, 7:15, 8:00, 9:50, 10:35 Fri.-Sat. 12:15, 2:50, 5:25, 8:00, 10:35 Sun. 12:15, 2:50, 5:25, 8:00 Sun. (11:00) 12:15, 1:30, 2:50, 4:10, 5:25, 7:15, 8:00, 9:50; **The Kite Runner** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:30) 12:40, 1:40, 3:45, 4:40, 6:50, 7:40, 9:55, 10:40 Sun. (10:30) 12:40, 1:40, 3:45, 4:40, 6:50, 7:40, 9:55; **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:50) 12:35, 1:30, 3:40, 4:35, 6:45, 7:45, 10:00, 10:45 Sun. (10:50) 12:35, 1:30, 3:40, 4:35, 6:45, 7:45, 10:00; **One Missed Call** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:50) 2:15, 4:50, 7:10, 9:40; **P.S. I Love You** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 12:25, 3:25, 6:25, 9:35; **Sweeney Todd: The Demon Bar**ber of Fleet Street (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:30) 1:25, 4:15, 7:20, 10:20; Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story (R) Fri.-Sun. 12:45, 3:10, 5:35, 8:05, 10:25; The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:40) 1:15, 3:50, 6:30,

#### **Mission Valley 7**

7510 Hazard Center Drive (619-685-2841) Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG); Candyland: Great Lollipop Adventure (G); Charlie Wilson's War (R); I Am Legend (No Rating); National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG): P.S. I Love You (PG-13); Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story (R)

#### Mission Valley 20

1640 Camino Del Rio North (858-558-2262) Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:35) 12:10, 12:55, 2:30, 3:15, 4:50, 5:35, 7:55, 10:05; Atonement (R) Fri,-Sat. (10:50) 1:45, 4:40, 7:35, 10:35 Sun. (10:50) 1:45, 4:40, 7:35, 10:25; Charlie Wilson's War (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:35) 2:05, 4:35, 7:15, 9:50 Fri.-Sat. (11:35) 12:20, 2:05, 2:50, 4:35, 5:20, 7:15, 8:00, 9:50, 10:30 Sun. (11:35) 2:05, 2:50, 4:35, 5:20, 7:15, 8:00, 9:50; **Enchanted** (PG) Fri.-Sat. 12:05, 2:40, 5:15, 8:00, 10:40 Sun. 5:15, 8:00, 10:30; **The Golden Compass** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:40) 2:25, 5:10, 7:40, 10:20 Sun. 2:25, 5:10, 7:40, 10:20; **The Great Debaters** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:35) 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:55; I Am Legend (No Rating) Fri.-Sat. (11:50) 12:40, 2:20, 3:05, 4:55, 5:40, 7:30, 8:10, 10:00, 10:45 Sun. (11:50) 12:40, 2:20, 3:05, 4:55, 5:40 7:30, 8:10, 10:00; National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:05, 10:40) 12:15, 1:00, 1:40, 3:20, 4:05, 4:45, 6:25, 7:10, 7:50, 9:25, 10:10, 10:55 Sun. (10:05) 12:15, 1:00, 1:40, 3:20, 4:05, 4:45, 6:25, 7:10, 7:50, 9:25, 10:10; **One Missed Call** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:15) 12:30, 2:45, 5:05, 7:20, 9:35, 11:55 Sun. (10:15) 12:30, 2:45, 5:05, 7:20, 9:35; **P.S. I** Love You (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:50) 1:35, 4:25, 7:25, 10:20; Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (R) Fri.-Sat. (10:45, 11:30) 1:30, 2:15, 4:15, 5:00, 7:00, 7:40, 9:45, 10:25 Sun. (10:45, 11:30) 1:30, 2:15, 4:15, 5:00, 7:00 7:40, 9:45; The Metropolitan Opera: Hansel and Gretel Encore - NCM Event Sun 12:00p.m.; Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:45) 2:10, 4:30, 7:05 9:20, 11:40 Sun. (11:45) 2:10, 4:30, 7:05, 9:20; **The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:00) 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:05, 10:40 Sun. (10:00) 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:05, 10:30

#### STATE UNIVERSITY

#### Ken

4061 Adams Avenue (619-819-0236) Kurt Cobain About a Son (Not Rated) Fri. 4:50, 7:15, 9:40 Sat. 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40 Sun 2:25, 4:50, 7:00, 9:40; **24 Hour Party People** (R) Sat. 11:55p.m.

#### UPTOWN

#### Hillcrest Cinemas

*3965 Fifth Avenue (619-819-0236)* **Juno** (PG-13) Fri. 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:15 Sat.-Sun. 11:45, 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:15; No Country for Old Men (R) Fri. 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55 Sat.-Sun. 10:55, 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55; **The Savages** (R) Fri. 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:05 Sat.-Sun. 11:15, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:05

#### **Museum of Photographic Arts** 1649 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-7559) Call theater for program information

**Reuben H. Fleet Science Center** 1875 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-1233) Call theater for program information

San Diego Natural History Museum 1788 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-232-3821) Ocean Oasis (Not Rated) Fri.-Sun. 12:00,

#### **EAST COUNTY**

#### **EL CAJON**

Parkway Plaza 18 405 Parkway Plaza (619-401-3456) Call theater for program information

#### LA MESA

**Grossmont Center** 

Grossmont Center Grossmont Center (619-465-7100) Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG) Fri.-Sat. (11:00, 1:15, 3:35) 5:55, 8:25, 10:35 Sun. (11:00, 1:15, 3:35) 5:55, 8:10, 10:15; Atonement (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:10, 2:05) 4:45, 7:35, 10:20 Sun. (11:10, 2:05) 4:45, 7:35, 10:10; Charlie Wilson's War (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:55, 2:35) 5:10, 7:40, 10:05 Sun. (11:55, 2:35) 5:10, 7:40, 9:55; **I Am Legend** (No Rating) Fri.-Sat. (12:05, 2:45) 5:25, 8:05, 10:30 Sun. (12:05, (12.05, 2.45) 5.25, 8.05, 10.25; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun (11:30, 2:10) 4:35, 7:00, 9:25; **National Trea**-(11:50, 21:0) 4:55, 7:00, 9:25, National Trea-sure: Book of Secrets (PG) Fri.-Sat. (12:30, 3:55) 7:15, 10:15 Sun. (12:30, 3:55) 7:15, 10:05; One Missed Call (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:20, 1:30, 3:45) 5:50, 8:15, 10:25 Sun. (11:20, 1:30, 3:45) 5:50, 8:00, 10:00; **P.S. I Love You** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:25, 3:40) 7:05, 9:50 Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:45, 2:25) 5:05, 7:55, 10:40 Sun. (11:45, 2:25) 5:05, 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) Enchanted (PG); I Am Legend (No Rating); National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG); P.S. I Love You (PG-13)

#### SOUTH BAY

#### **CHULA VISTA**

Chula Vista 10

Broadway between H and I (619-338-4214) Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem (R): Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG); Candyland: Great Lollipop Adventure (G); Charlie Wilson's War (R); I Am Legend (No Rating); National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG); One Missed Call (PG-13); P.S. I Love You (PG-13); The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep (PG)

#### Otay Ranch 12

Eastlake Parkway at Olympic (858-558-2262) Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem (R); Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG); Charlie Wilson's War (R); Enchanted (PG); The Golden Compass (PG-13); I Am Legend (No Rating); National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG); One Missed Call (PG-13); P.S. I Love You (PG-13); Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (R); Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story (R); The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep (PG)

#### Palm Promenade 24

770 Dennery Road (858-558-2262) Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG) Fri. (10:55) 12:10, 12:40, 1:30, 2:25, 3:10, 3:50, 4:45, 5:30, 6:10, 7:35, 8:30, 10:05 Sat. (10:15, 11:05) 12:10, 12:40, 1:30, 2:25, 3:10, 3:50, 4:45, 5:30, 6:10, 7:35, 8:30, 10:05 Sun. (10:15, 11:05) 12:10, 12:40, 1:30, 2:25, 3:10, 3:50, 4:45, 5:30, 6:10; Charlie Wilson's War (R) Fri. (11:45) 12:45, 2:10, 3:35, 4:50, 6:15, 7:30, 8:35, 9:55, 11:10 Sat. (10:10, 11:45) 12:45, 2:10, 3:35, 4:50, 6:15, 7:30, 8:35, 9:55, 11:10 Sun. (10:10, 11:45) 12:45, 2:10, 3:35, 4:50, 6:15, 7:30, 8:35, 9:55; **Enchanted** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:15) 2:05, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50; **The Golden Compass** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:40) 2:20, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30 Sun. (11:40) 2:20, 5:20, 7:55, 10:25; **The Great Debaters** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:30) 1:20, 4:15, 7:05, 10:10; **Hitman** (R) Fri.-Sat. 10:45p.m. Sun. 10:35p.m.; **I Am Legend** (No Rating) Fri. (11:10) 12:30, 1:10, 1:55, 2:55, 3:40, 4:30, 5:40, 6:25, 7:10, 8:15, 8:50, 9:40, 10:40, 11:20 Fri. 1:10, 3:40, 6:25, 8:50, 11:20 Sat. (10:45, 11:10)

12:30, 1:05, 1:55, 2:55, 3:40, 4:30, 5:40, 6:25, 7:10, 8:15, 8:50, 9:40, 10:40, 11:15 Sat. (10:45) 1:; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri. (10:45) 1:05, 3:25, 6:05, 8:25, 10:50 Sat. (10:40) 12:55, 3:25, 6:05, 8:25, 10:50 Sun. (10:40) 12:55, 3:25, 6:05, 8:25, 10:45; National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG) Fri. (11:00) 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00 Sat. (10:00, 11:00) 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00 Sun. (10:00, 11:00) 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00,; No Country for Old Men (R) Fri.-Sat. 7:45, 10:35 Sun. 7:45, 10:30; One Missed Call (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:30) 1:45, 4:05, 6:20, 8:40, 10:55 Sun, (11:30) 1:45, 4:05, 6:20, 8:30, 10:40; P.S. I Love You (PG-13) Fri. (10:35) 1:25, 4:25, 7:15, 10:15 Sat.-Sun. (10:20) 1:25, 4:25, 7:15, 10:15; Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (R) Fri. (11:55) 12:50, 2:45, 3:55, 5:25, 6:45, 8:10, 9:30, 10:50 Sat. (10:35, 11:55) 1:10, 2:45, 3:55, 5:25, 6:45, 8:10, 9:30, 10:50 Sun. (10:35, 11:55) 1:10, 2:45, 3:55, 5:25, 6:45, 8:10, 9:30; Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:20) 1:40, 4:25, 6:40, 8:55, 11:15 Sun. (11:20) 1:40, 4:25, 6:40, 9:15; **The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep** (PG) Fri. (11:50) 1:35, 2:30, 4:20, 5:10, 6:50, 7:50, 9:20, 10:20 Sat. (10:50, 11:50) 1:35, 2:30, 4:20, 5:10, 6:50, 7:50, 9:20, 10:20 Sun. (10:50, 11:50) 1:35, 2:30, 4:20, 5:10, 6:50, 7:50, 9:20

2170 Coronado Avenue (619-423-2727)

## NORTH INLAND

#### **Carmel Mountain**

11620 Carmel Mountain Road (858-674-9770) Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG) Fri.-Sat. (1:20, 3:25) 5:30, 7:40, 9:50 Sun. (1:20, 3:25) 5:30, 7:40; Charlie Wilson's War (R) Fri.-Sat. (1:00, 3:10) 5:20, 7:45, 10:00 Sun. (1:00, 3:10) 5:20, 7:45; **Enchanted** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (1:05p.m.); **The Golden Compass** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (1:55) 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 Sun. (1:55) 4:45, 7:15; **The Great Debaters** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (1:25) 4:15, 7:00, 9:40 Sun. (1:25) 4:15, 7:00; **I Am Legend** (No Rating) Fri.-Sat. (1:00, 1:45, 3:10) 4:50, 5:20, 7:05, 7:45, 9:30, 9:55 Sun. (1:00, 1:45, 3:10) 4:50, 5:20, 7:05, 7:45; National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG) Fri.-Sat. (1:05, 3:30) 5:00, 6:45, 7:45, 9:30 Sun. (1:05, 3:30) 5:00, 6:45, 7:45; **One Missed Call** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (1:15, 3:15) 5:30, 7:35, 10:00 Sun. (1:15, 3:15) 5:30, 7:35; **P.S. I Love You** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (1:15) 4:15, 7:00, 9:40 Sun. (1:15) 4:15, 7:00; **The Water Horse: Legend** of the Deep (PG) Fri.-Sat. (2:00) 4:30, 7:10, 9:45 Sun. (2:00) 4:30, 7:10

#### **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) Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG): Candyland: Great Lollipop Adventure (G); Charlie Wil-son's War (R); I Am Legend (No Rating); National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG); P.S. I Love You (PG-13)

#### POWAY

#### Poway 10

13475 Poway Road (858-646-9423) Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem (R); Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG); Candyland: Great Lollipop Adventure (G); Charlie Wilson's War (R); I Am Legend (No Rating); National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG); One Missed Call (PG-13); P.S. I Love You (PG-13); The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep (PG)

#### 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) Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG) Fri.-Sun.

(11:25, 12:15, 1:45, 2:35, 4:20, 5:00) 7:20, 9:40; (11:25, 12:15, 1:45, 2:25, 4:20, 5:00) 7:05, 5:40; Atonement (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:45, 1:30, 4:15) 7:10, 10:00; **Charlie Wilson's War** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 1:30, 4:00) 7:25, 10:00; **Enchanted** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:05, 2:40, 5:15); **The Great Debaters** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:45, 1:45, 4:35) 7:25, 10:20; **I Am Legend** (No Rating) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 2:40, 5:20) 7:15, 8:00, 9:45, 10:35; Juno (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 12:20, 2:50 5:15) 7:40, 10:05; National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 10:45, 1:00, 1:45, 4:00, 4:45) 7:00, 7:45, 10:00, 10:45; One Missed Call (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:30) 7:50, 10:15; **P.S. I Love You** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:45, 1:40, 4:35) 7:30, 10:25; Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:10, 2:00, 4:45) 7:35, 10:20; Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story (R) Fri.-Sun. 7:50, 10:15; The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:50, 1:35, 4:20) 7:05

#### **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)

Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem (R); Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG); Candyland: Great Lollipop Adventure (G); I Am Legend (No Rating); National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG); P.S. I Love You (PG-13); Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (R); Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story (R); The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep (PG)

#### Flower Hill 4

2630 Via de la Valle (858-646-9425) Atonement (R); Charlie Wilson's War (R); Juno (PG-13); The Kite Runner (PG-13)

#### **ENCINITAS**

La Paloma 471 South Coast Highway 101 (760-436-SHOW) Across the Universe (PG-13); The Darjeeling Limited (R)

#### LA COSTA

La Costa 6

6941 El Camino Real (at Aviara/Alga) (760-599-8221) Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG); Candyland: Great Lollipop Adventure (G); Charlie Wilson's War (R); I Am Legend (No Rating); National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG); P.S. I Love You (PG-13); Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story (R)

#### OCEANSIDE

Mission Marketplace 13 College Boulevard and Mission Avenue (760-806-1790) Call theater for program information

Oceanside 16 401 Mission Avenue (760-439-1733) Call theater for program information

## **MOVIE SHOWTIMES**

Rancho Del Rey 16 East H Street (619-216-4707) Call theater for program information **IMPERIAL BEACH** South Bay Drive-In

Call theater for program information

**CARMEL MOUNTAIN** 

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olidays, vacation. Medical, dental, train holidays, vacation. Medical, dental, train-ing, career management. www.jobs.volt. com. EOE. San Diego: 858-576-3140; e-mail: clairemont@volt.com. Carlsbadu: 760-729-8916; email carlsbad@volt.com. El Cajon: 619-401-1524; email elcajon@ volt.com. San Marcos: 760-471-0800; email sanmarcos@volt.com. Scripps Ranch: 858-578-0920; email scrippsrahc@volt.com.

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ALCOHOL AND DRUG TREATMENT ALCOHOL AND DRUG TREATMENT Counselors. We are seeking treatment counselors to help us meet the needs of our dual-diagnosed clients at our li-censed facility in the Flynn Springs area of El Cajon. Treatment Specialist I (\$9.25/ hour) requires HS/GED willingness to en-roll in A&D certification program. Treat-ment Specialist II (\$10-\$11/hour) requires A.A. degree or CAARR certification and related work experience. Requires pass-ing criminal background check. Full and

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Jobline: 858-514-8558. **DEPUTY SHERIFF** and Deputy Sheriff De-tentions/Courts. San Diego County Sheriffs Department. Hiring for two types of posi-tions; take one exam, apply for either or both! Exam Date: Saturday, January 5, 2008, 7:30am arrival, Southwestern Col-lege Cafeteria, 900 Otay Lakes Road, Chula Vista CA 91910 or Wednesday, Jan-uary 9, 2008, 5:30pm arrival Sheriff's Ad-ministrative Center, 9621 Ridgehaven Court, San Diego CA 92123. Registration by e-mail or phone is required for the Ridgehaven test ONLY at: recruit@ scheriff org. Detention/Courts: \$39,796-\$61.608 annual salary, plus benefits, 18 sdsFariff.org. Detention/Courts: \$39,796-\$61,608 annual salary, plus benefits. 18-year-olds eligible to applyl Deputy Sheriff: \$49,704-\$71,099 current annual salary, plus benefits. U.S. citzen or applied for cit-izenship; 20-1/2 years old. High school graduate or G.E.D. required. Bring valid photo ID and \$3 for parking at Southwest-ern. 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.

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trastate, 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 im-mediately. Call 858-292-8562, fax 858-292-0230, e-mail help@gostaff.com, apply online www.gostaff.com.

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#### Special **Education**, **Prevention** Services and Treatment **Programs**

Applications/résumés are accepted Monday-Friday 9 am-4 pm.

**Stein Education Center** 6145 Decena Drive San Diego, CA 92120 Fax: 619-281-0453 E-mail: steinjobs@vistahill.org

All applications/résumés must include job title. www.vistahill.org Recreation Assistant \$10.33/hr. to start, with benefits

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.

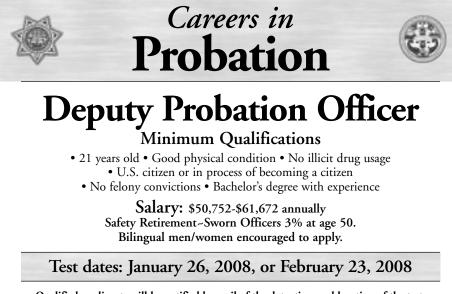
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instructional programs. Implement schedules. 32.5 hours/week. Benefits.

Assist teachers in group- and community-based instruction for developmentally disabled adults. Implement behavioral management programs. 30 hours/week.

\$9.75/hr. to start, DOE Work with developmentally disabled children in a nonpublic school. Experience preferred Allied Gardens. Chula Vista, La Mesa. Monday-Friday 7:30 am-1 pm. FOF





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

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#### **Minimum Qualifications**

• 21 years old • Good physical condition • No illicit drug usage • U.S. citizen or in process of becoming a citizen • No felony convictions • High school diploma or GED

#### Salary:

\$35,069-\$44,741 annually Safety Retirement-Sworn Officers 3% at age 50. Bilingual men/women encouraged to apply.

Test dates:

January 5, 2008 • 8 am or February 2, 2008 • 8 am

Montgomery Middle School 2470 Ulric Street • San Diego, CA 92111

Maximum 85 applicants. Applications available at the test site. For additional information, contact the department's

> Jobline: 858-514-8558 www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation

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LAW ENFORCEMENT. Deputy Sheriff and LAW ENFORCEMENT. Deputy Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Detentions/Courts. San Diego County Sheriff's Department. Hir-ing for two types of positions; take one exam, apply for either or both! Exam Date: Saturday, January 5, 2008, 7:30am arrival, Southwestern College Cafeteria, 900 Otay Lakes Road, Chula Vista CA 91910 or Wednesday, January 9, 2008, 5:30pm arrival Sheriff's Administrative Center, 9621 Ridgehaven Court, San Diego CA 92123. Registration by e-mail or phone is required for the Ridgehaven test ONLY at: recruit@sdsheriff.org. De-tention/Courts: \$39,786-\$61,608 annual salary, plus benefits. 18-year-olds eligitention/Courts: \$39,796-\$61,608 annual salary, plus benefits. 18-year-olds eligi-ble to apply! Deputy Sheriff: \$49,704-\$71,099 current annual salary, plus benefits. U.S. citizen or applied for citi-zenship; 20-1/2 years old. High school graduate or G.E.D. required. Bring valid photo ID and \$3 for parking at South-western. Valid California Driver's Li-cense prior to appointment. Elfective oral and written communication in En-glish. EOE. Additional test dates: www. glish. EOE. Additional test dates: joinsdSHERIFF.net. 858-974-2000

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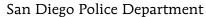
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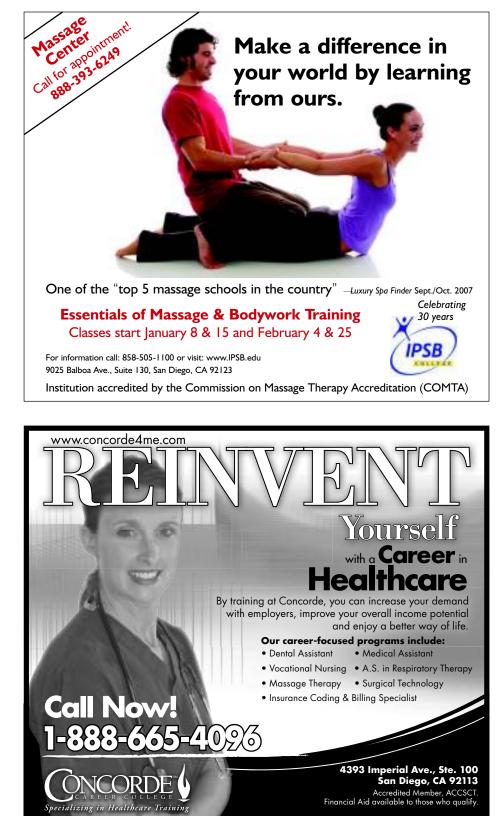
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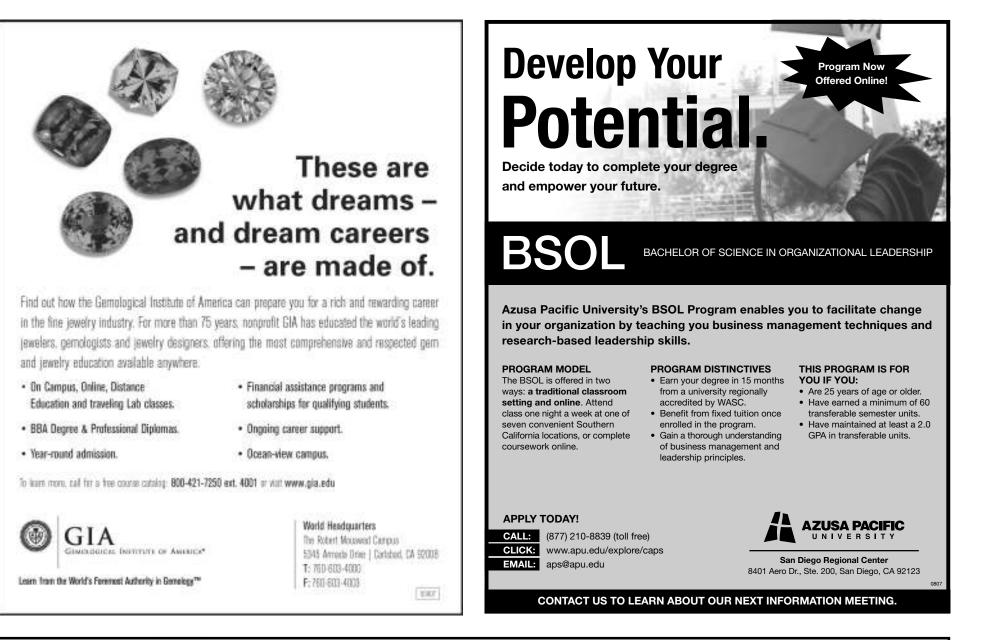
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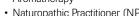


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9. Weird Al's first Top 40 hit

1. Knight at the movies

14. Cheese tray selection

16. Battery terminal

18. Pitcher Hershiser

20. 53-Across examples

24. Big-eyed25. 53-Across examples

35. "Mickey" singer Basil

41. Monopoly quartet: Abbr.
 42. "Anastasia" actor Tamiroff

44. Suffix with psych- or neur-

53. Title of a popular children's

game, with each word a hint to

the answers in 20-, 25- and 46-

33. That, in Tijuana

34. Author Jorge \_\_\_\_

36. Crow's call

37. Show piece?

45. "Yes, captain!"

Across

60. Buzzed 61. "I did it!" 63. Group of eight

Down

59. Cold War epithet

64. Yours, in Tours 65. Adam and Eve, at a diner

68. Word after dog or salad

66. Hotelier Helmsley

67. Dorothy's dog

1. Yeshiva student

4. Chevy since 1958

6. "Quo Vadis" role

7. Hydrox rival, once

9. Hands down

12. In a casual way

25. Window sticker

26. Honshu port

13. Some NFL linemen 21. City NNE of Paris

22. Abbr. in the personals

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8. Live Aid founder Bob

2. Tweak, say

3. Notre \_

5. Arrived

10. Shrink

11. Labor

46. 53-Across examples

51. "Six Feet Under" role 52. Year abroad

15. Present for the teacher?

Across

5. Eton kiss

17. Chicken

23. Tall tale

19. Leaves port

THE READER PUZZLE

Borges

- 27. 1974 Queen tune "\_\_\_\_\_ Here'
- 28. CCLI doubled 29. Org.
- 30. Grammy winner Jones
- 31. Deli request
- 32. Having learned a lesson
- 38. Ear: Prefix 39. Famed streaker of 1941
- 40. "Low-budget," in brand names
- 43. Writer known as "The Sage of
- Baltimore"
- 47. Actress Fanning
- 48. "\_\_\_\_ be my pleasure" 49. Pointillism pioneer Georges
- 50. Blew
- 53. Casino pair
- 54. "Do \_\_\_\_ others ..." 55. Foe of Caesar
- 56. Windsor, e.g.
- 57. It's a long story
- 58. Avant-garde
- 59. Vote seeker
- 62. Obstinate one

- RULES OF THE GAME
- 1. The prize for solving the Reader Puzzle will be a Reader T-shirt. 2. All entries in the *Reader* Puzzle contest must be received by the Reader by 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, five
- days following the issue date (Fax to 619-231-0489 or U.S. Mail to *Reader* Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803). 3. All entries must be accompanied by
- your name and address. 4. Employees of the *Reader* and their
- immediate families are not eligible. 5. In the event of disputes or ties, decisions of the judges will be final and arbitrary. We've only got five prizes each week to give away, so if there are more than five winners,
- we'll have a lottery. 6. All answers must be entered in the space allowed on the puzzle page. And please, no phone calls or trips to

our office. 7. One entry per person.

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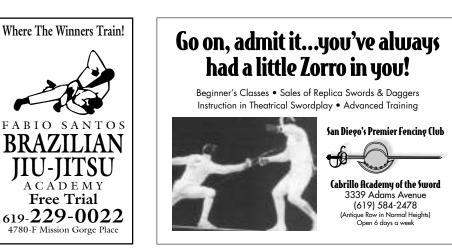
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2. Mark Gibronime, San Diego

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3. Melanie Savary, San Diego

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com. AUDITIONS: Luann: Scenes in a Teen's Life. A musical by Greg Evans, based on his comic strip. Directed by Dana Case. 1/23/08, 7pm (voice and movement); 1/24/08, 7pm (readings from script). Howard Brubeck Theatre, Palomar Col-lege, 1140 W. Mission Road, San Marcos 92069. more info: 760-744-1150 x2455, www.palomarperforms.com. www.palomarperforms.com.

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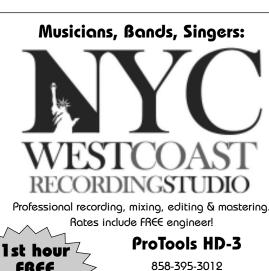
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Gayle Roberts **Business** Owner Chicago

t was this meat train thing I got. I'm a vegetarian. I was able to give it to my husband, though. I also got a sweater. It was from the same person. My sister-in-law. It had these knitted balls. One was on each shoulder and one over each of my breasts. They were walnut size, and they looked like fabric pasties. It was an ugly sweater.



Ivette Sanchez Waitress Del Mar

don't know. I can't think of anything I received that I didn't like. Oh, wait...last Christmas. It was a giftexchange thing. I got this plastic snowman. It wasn't a snow globe or anything remotely cool. It was just this plastic piece of junk. If you get batteries, it lights up. I still have it someplace. But the other gifts they had were a DVD player. There was a bed set I wouldn't have minded getting.



Nicole Gonsalves Lab Tech La Jolla

The thing that comes immedi-L ately to mind is clothing. I've gotten some ugly clothing over the years. Some really hideous sweaters that had reindeers all over them. I might wear it once in front of the person that gave it to me and then never again. I'll try to keep the clothes for a length of time. That takes away the guilt I have when I get rid of it I might subconsciously leave it at someone's house or it just some how disappears and is no longer in my closet.



John Mav Guitarist Mira Mesa

It was from my first wife. She kept asking me over and over what I wanted for Christmas. I said that the only thing I wanted was an annual pass to Disneyland. That was it. A simple request to follow. So, what does she get me? A year pass to the zoo. That is not the same thing! Was I mad? Well...we are no longer married.



Jeff Dreifuss *Restaurant Employee* Mira Mesa

It was from my grandparents. I guess most people have gotten bad gifts from grandparents. They gave me these patent white leather shoes. They had big, silver shoelaces. They didn't even have a black sole. I think it was a manila color. And they were way too big for me. They were the ugliest shoes I've ever owned.



Nicohl Doss Waitress San Marcos

t was either the losing lottery ticket I got as a gift or a bra. It was way too big. I guess I was a bit flattered by it, at first. But it is a bit of a bummer that I couldn't fit into it. My boss got a singing Jesus, though. I think she mentioned that once as being her worst gift.

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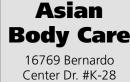
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OFFICE/RETAIL SPACE. \$975/month. 3 rooms, 1 bathroom. Pacific Beach. Avail-able immediately. 1761 Garnet Avenue. Alta Vista Properties. 858-274-3600. www.altavistamanagement.com. CARLSBAD. \$100-\$125. 1-car size

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#### RENTALS HOUSES

PLACE PRINTED ADS in the Reader by

calling 619-235-8200. **POST FREE ONLINE ADS** with photos at SDReader.com. See thousands of classi-fied ads not printed here!

ALLIED GARDENS. Beautiful, like new 2 bedroom, 2 bath. All appliances. Ceiling fans. 2-car garage. Fireplace. Walk-in closet. Patios, Jacuzzi, Yard. No pets. Nonsmoking. Near shopping, more. \$1895. 619-286-2634.

\$1895. 619-286-2634. CARLSBAD. Gorgeous model home! 2 large bedroom, 2-1/2 bath plus bonus room. 2-car garage. Yard. All amenities. Recreation area. Gated. \$2250. 760-602-0145 or cell, 760-803-1742.

0145 or cell, 760-803-1742. CARLSBAD. Brand new! Great location! 3 bedroom, 4-1/2 bath. 2-car garage. All amenities. Landscaped yard. Retreat, gameroom, clubhouse, fitness, pool, ten-nis. \$3600. 760-602-0145, 760-803-1742. CARLSBAD. \$3995. 3 bedroom plus of-fice, 3-1/3 bath. 2-story. Move-in special! Hardwood, granite, stainless. 2-car garage. Built-ins. 7343 Paseo Capuchina. 88-514-8201.

CARLSBAD. La Costa Oaks. \$3700. 3 bedroom plus bonus room, 2-1/2 bath. 2-story. Fireplace. Granite, stainless. Jacuzzi. Barbecue. Garage. 3486 Camino Cereza. 858-514-8201

vannino vereza. 858-514-8201. CARLSBAD. Move-in special! \$3995. 4 bedroom, 4-1/2 bath. 2-story. Fireplace. Hardwood, granite, stainless. 2-car garage. Built-ins. 6830 Jade Lane. 858-514-8201.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$1595. Brand new! Rent/rent to own. Spacious 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath. All new appliances. Gorgeous, livable, fenced. Conveniently located. Shawn, 619-315-6665, 619-698-4473. CLAIREMONT. \$2400. Very nice, 3 bed-room, 2 bath. Family room, fireplace, all new. Fenced, landscaped, canyon. Open house Saturday/Sunday 10-4pm. 5244 Cole Street. 858-273-7241.

CLAIREMONT/BAY PARK. \$1795. 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath home with view of Mis-sion Bay. 2-car garage. New carpet. Small pet negotiable. Holiday special-Free rent until 1/15/08. 3578 & 3586 Tren-ton. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

COLLEGE AREA. 2 and 3 bedroom homes. Some with hardwood floors and yard, Several to choose from. Washer and dryer connections, garages and garden-ers included. Apartment Finders. Free servicel 619-296-2787.

service! 619-296-2787. **CREST.** 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Air condition-ing. New laundry. Dishwasher, mi-crowave oven. Fenced yard. Off-street parking. No pets, no smoking. \$800/month plus utilities. 619-447-8920. Sourmonth plus utilities. 619-447-8320. EL CAJON. \$1650. 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath house. Appliances, garbage disposal. Laundry hookups. No pets. 636 South Magnolia. Available 1/15/08. Section 8 OK. 619-971-1145; 619-579-8027.

EL CAJON. \$2000/month. 1634 estimated square feet. 4 bedroom, 2 bath. Pets OK. Large fenced yard. New carpet. Extra den/office. Central heat/air. Agent, 619-71.0001

471-2201. ESCONDIDO. \$1250-\$1500. Tired of apartment living? Beautiful 2 & 3 bedroom manufactured homes offer spectacular hiltop views. Full-sized washer/dryer, some small yards. Peaceful community, sorry no pets. 1924 Sheridan Avenue. 760-745-1677.

LA JOLLA. 4 bedroom. 2 bath house. \$2950 Spacious backyard. Close to Tourmaline Beach. Stop by leasing office at 5060 La Jolla Boulevard. 655 Wrelton. TPPM, 858-483-7412, www.casadelmar.info.

LA MESA. 3 bedroom, 2 bath plus office on mountain. Fantastic view to ocean! on mountain. Fantastic view to ocean 2000 square feet. Garage. Family room. Fireplace. \$2675. Lease. Agent, Bill, 619-823-1674

823-1674.
LA MESA, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 8805 Fabi-enne Way. Estimated 1125 square feet, \$1850/month. Great backyard with deck. Large driveway, fireplace, washer/dryer and dishwasher. Call 619-471-2201. LA MESA 3 bedroom 2 bath. 8805 Fabi-enne Way. Estimated 1125 square feet. \$1850/month. Great backyard with deck. Large driveway, fireplace, washer/dryer and dishwasher. Call 619-471-2201. LEMON (BROVE, Quiet, secluded, spa-cious 3 bedroom, 2 bath 3000+-square-foot house, laundry hookups, central air, appliances, hardwood, 2 fireplaces, dou-ble carport, formal dining, large patio/yard. \$2600/month includes wa-ter/gardener. 619-698-8497, 619-888-0310

LEMON GROVE. \$1650. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. All new bathroom, newly painted and carpeted throughout. Large fenced yard with separate storage. Garage Garage converted into workroom. Near shopping. Pets negotiable. 619-271-

## Say What?

LEUCADIA. \$2300. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, West of Highway 101. Fenced yard, hard-wood floors, new bath and kitchen. 427 La Veta Avenue. Leasing Unlimited, 760-436-7273.

MISSION BAY. Beautiful 2 bedroom, 2 bath manufactured home. Full water view. 4-parking. Washer/dryer. All amenities. Pet possible. \$2000/month. 858-270-8991.

8991. MOUNT HELX. \$3600. 5 bedroom, 4 bath house plus den on private 1/2 acre. Pool. Citrus trees. 2 fireplaces. Upper and lower decks with magnificent views. Must see to appreciate! 1 year lease. Includes gardener and pool service. Shown by ap-

MT. HELIX. 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home. 2400 square feet. Quiet neighborhood. 2-car garage. Pool. No pets. Deposit. \$2300 includes gardener/pool service.

MT. HELIX: 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home. 2400 square feet. Quiet neighborhood. 2-car garage. Pool. No pets. Deposit. \$2300 includes gardener/pool service. 619-443-9192.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. Sparkling 2 bedroom renovated top to bottom! New paint. New laminate floors. New Berber carpet. New kitchen cabinets, refrigerator, stove/oven. Stack washer/dryer. Landscaped. Off-street parking. Like new home! \$1305. 4411 39th Street. See at northcuttproper-ties.com. Agent, 858-505-1300.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 3 bedroom, 2 bath

detached house. Fenced-in patio area. 4653 Wilson Street (back house). Month to month. \$1700/month, \$1700/deposit. Pets considered. 619-276-7640.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$850. Small 1 bed

pintment only, 619-427-5533.

19-443-9192

Al Smith | Age: 33 | Lives: University Heights

My first [slang word is] "pornfolio." A pornfolio is the collection of porn files that get stored on your computer. A "porncierge" is the guy that'll go to your house in the event that you die and remove all your porn.

"Manther" is the male version of a cougar. And another [slang word] is "**hobosexual**." A hobosexual is the exact opposite of a metrosexual. Another one is "fire hazard." A fire hazard is a guy who's obviously gay,

but in denial. I used to work with someone we nicknamed Fire Hazard

See the video

Go to SanDiegoReader.com Click on Say What

floors, many windows. \$1295. N oking. 4548 38th. 619-729-3460.

Appointments, 619-296-2873. NORTH PARK. 2 bedroom, 1 bath newly remodeled Craftsman. New hardwood floors, newly remodeled black and white bathroom. Formal dining room with Gum-wood built-ins and French doors, break-fast nook, laundry room with washer/dryer hookups. New landscaping. Off-street parking galore plus storage. \$1795/month. Available now. 3330 31st Street. 619-683-9274.

1139. NORTH PARK. Newly remodeled Crafts-man home. 4 bedroom, 2 bath. Stainles steel appliances. New paint and carpet, granite countertops, fireplace. Some utili-ties included. Garage available. Large front porch. Washer and dryer. \$2395, 858-598-1111 x 190. www. utopiamanagement.com.

utopiamanagement.com. NORTH PARK. \$1650. 1/2 off first month. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath house with den. Garage, wood floors, stove, refrigerator, washer/dryer hookups. Pets OK. Section 8. 3149 Boundary Street. 619-804-3325. OCEAN BEACH. Ocean view! 1 bedroom duplex. Large garage. Hardwood floors. Sunny, quiet. Laundry hook-ups, shared uplex. Large OK. \$1660. Available now. 4656 Niagara. 619-920-4022.

or top of hill in Ocean Beach! Huge back-yard with garage and washer/dryer! Hardwood floors and partial ocean view! Small pet on approval. 4437 Newport Av-enue. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.

PACIFIC BEACH/DEANZA COVE. \$2200 Cute, cozy 2 bedroom, 2 bath mobile home on the cove. Includes washer/dryer, utilities/cable. Mike, 858-456-0407; 858-344-1033.

436-0407; 858-344-1033.
PACIFIC BEACH, \$2250, Large 3 bed-room, 2 bath house. Washer/dryer, Fire-place. Stove, refrigerator. Heat. Fenced yard. Covered carport. Available 1/06/08. 1810 Chalcedony. 619-884-3399.

PACIFIC BEACH. Move-in special \$1675. Quiet 2 bedroom, 1 bath house \$1675. Quiet 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. Blocks to Garnet, beach. 1 parking. Pri-vate patio. No pets. Nonsmoking. 964 Emerald. 619-286-3400.

Emerald. 619-286-3400. **PACIFIC BEACH.** 3 bedroom, 2 bath house \$2250. Large front patio, master suite, washer/dryer, fenced yard, off street parking. No pets. Agent, 619-296-3190 PACIFIC BEACH. \$1300. 2 bedroom,

bath house, refrigerator, stove, walk to bay or beach, comes with 1-car garage. Fee. Free search at www. westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2995. House with views of the Bay. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths. 2-car garage. Washer, dryer. Patio. New carpet. New paint. Available now. 1-year lease. Pets negotiable. Call Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228

PACIFIC BEACH. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 4 blocks to beach. Large yard, washer/ dryer, garage. \$2700. Available January 15, 1140 Diamond Street. Call 858-273-

POINT LOMA, Designer Remodeled 4 bedroom 3 bath, 2400 square foot, garage. Yard, patio/fountain. Kitchen stainless steel/granite countertop, stainless steel appliances, lighted cabinets

out. Spa tub, rainfall shower, dual sinks, large walk-in closet. Fireplace, wine cel-lar, \$2950, lease option. 619-368-9410. POINT LOMA, Spacious 3 bedroom 1-1/2 bath. Washer/dryer, fireplace, wood floors, 2 car spaces. Water included. \$1750/month, won't last. Hablamos es-panol. 619-395-3015. POINT LOMA. 3240 Lowell Street. \$2850.

Hardwood floors travertine/slate through

City, bay viewsl Great room! 2 bedroom, 2-3/4 bath house. Cathedral ceilings. Tile and carpet. 2 fireplaces. Built-in bar. Garage. Yard. Pets OK. About 2900 square feet. 619-435-0387.

Supare reel: 019-435-0367. SAN MARCOS. Move-in special. \$2499. 3 bedroom plus loft, 2-1/2 bath. 2-story. Hardwood. Deck. Garage. Laundry room. Calistoga. 1716 Kenwood Place. 88-514-8201

SOLANA BEACH. \$1895. Large 2 bed room, 2 bath house. 2-car garage. No pets. Fireplace. New carpet. Washer/ dryer. Patios. Appliances. 103 Guerrero Court. Juno, 619-275-3455.

SOUTH BAY. Like new! 6 bedroom, 3 bath home. Washer/dryer, stove, refriger-ator, microwave. \$2375/monthly includes gardener. \$2000/deposit. No pets. Lease. \$35/adult application fee. Stevens Real Estate, 619-422-3810.

SOUTH BAY, \$1800, 3 bedroom, 1 bath house, \$1600, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2-car garage. Beautiful security. Large yard. All appliances included. 858-254-4469. SOUTH PARK. \$1550/month plus de-posit. 3 bedroom, 1 bath house, wood floors, washer/dryer, yard. Available now. Small pet OK. 2609 Montclair. 619-669-

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619-308-7953 or 011-52-664-683-6363

Detrysmoking, 4345 36th 619-729-3400. NORTH PARK, Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. Garage. Living room. Fireplace. Large fenced yard. Pets OK, \$2500 in-cludes gardener/water. Available 2/1/08. Appointments, 619-296-2873.

OCEAN BEACH. \$2195. 2 bedroom house

# NORTH PARK. \$1450-\$1800. 2 bedroom, 1 bath homes. Close to Downtown. Re-frigerator, stove. Laundry hook-ups. No pets. 3658-3660 Louisiana. 619-435-



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## NAME This Place



Last week's place: (clue: Fun courtesy of the water guy) Kids walk through the "Bob Friedgen" playground in Harvey Griffen Park, 9550 Milden Street, Grossmont, La Mesa. The largely xeroscaped park celebrates Griffen, a hands-on water guy who helped build reservoirs and flumes to get water here from up north. (Last week's winners: Erich Case, Doreen Godwin, Fred Walker, Bruce Kelly, Judson Pena)

(12/20/07 winners: Powell Caulder, La Donna Peacott Josephine Johnson, Fredrich Stein, Lavene Myers)

SOUTH PARK. \$1800 rent plus \$1800 de-posit. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath house, hard-wood floors, large deck, jacuzzi. 1645 Grove Street. 1000 square feet. Owner pays water. Nonsmoking. No pets. 619-640-7530. www.sdforrent.com.

SPRING VALLEY. Home with pool! 3 bed-room, 2 bath. 2406 Coach Drive. 1559 es-timated square feet. 2-car garage, fireplace, dishwasher, heating/air conditioner. Gardener/pool service included. \$1900. 619-471-2201.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$1600. 2 bedroom, 1 bath Craftsman, stove, refrigera-tor, dishwasher, laundry hookups. Full basement. Deck. Off-street parking. No pets. 4438 Alabama. 619-302-1598.

pets. 4438 Alabama. b19-302-1598. UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$1295. 2 bed-room, 1 bath with garage. House/Duplex \$1295 Deposit. Newly renovated unit, new tile, new paint, convenient location, coin-operated laudry. Move In Special: \$500 off 1st month's rent OAC. Available now. 3024 Madison Avenue. www. cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, wood floors, granite/tile kitchen, fire-place, yard, garage, workshop. Pet OK with deposit. (No pit bulls). 4404 Louisiana. \$1500. 619-445-0799.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$1395. 1 bed UNIVERSITY Includits, \$1395. 1 bedra wood floors, new paint, kitchen with newer stove, refrigerator, new stack washer/dryer. Quiet neighborhood on cul-de-sac. Large front and back fenced yard, off-street parking. Walk through his-toric neighborhood, lots of nearby shops. 4583 Delaware Street. 619-683-9274. UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, \$1325, Picture perfect cottage, 1 bedroom, 1 bath Wood floors. Huge den. Fenced yard Parking. Freeway access. Laundry. 2720 Monroe Avenue. Agent, 619-692-4121. VALLEY CENTER. Woods Valley. \$4000 Volute 1 Certrent, Woods Valley, 94000. Over 4500 square feet. 4-car garage. On cul-de-sac. Brand new, move in anytime. Nonsmoking. No pets. Call for details, Top Notch Realty, Inc., 858-715-0688.

#### RENTALS

#### **APARTMENTS /** CONDOS

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ALLIED GARDENS. \$1175. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. New custom two tone paint and car-pet throughout, blinds! Parking, laundry, pool onsite. Very spacious. Sorry, no pets. 4550 Vandever. Manager, 619-282pets

ALPINE. \$900. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Air conditioning, on-site laundry, pool. Small pets welcome. Call 619-445-0805. www.sdaptbrokers.com.

0805. www.sdaptbrokers.com. **ALPINE**. December rent free! Relaxed country living at its best! From \$800 1, 2 bedroom floor plans with dishwasher, heated pool, spa, fitness center and 24 hour laundry facilities. Dogs under 25 pounds and cats welcome! Call for more details, current specials! Alpine Country Apartments, 2660 Alpine Boulevard. 619-445-8022. www.alpinecountryapartments.

BALBOA PARK. \$975. 1 bedroom, 1 bath charming cottage available. Across from Balboa Park. No pets. 528 Olive Street. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.

BALBOA PARK. EAST. Newly remodeled 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Patio and yard. \$899. 2649-1/2 B Street (behind house). 858-568-5081.

BANKER'S HILL. Studio, \$900. 1 bed-room, \$1050. Downstairs, facing pool gated. Newly remodeled, all brand new

Cats/small dogs OK. Deposits \$600, pet \$300. 413 Olive Street. 619-291-5788. BANKER'S HILL/DOWNTOWN. \$2195 Super nice 2 bedroom condo, hardwood floors, 2 patios, fireplace, teriffic view washer/dryer. Pets OK. Available now ardwood dryer. Pets Cit. we at 6<u>19-696-7500.</u>

**Clue:** The house that Ruth built

**Describe** this location, name the nearest cross-streets, and win a Reader T-shirt.

Reader.com; fax to 619-231-0489; or mail

to Reader, Name This Place, Box 85803, San Diego 92186 — include your name and address. (Deadline, Tuesday, 9 a.m.

In case of ties, lottery will determine top

five winners.)

E-mail to NameThisPlace@SanDiego

BANKER'S HILL, Nice 1 bedroom, wood floors, second floor corner, small view, air conditioning, forced air heating, \$900. References. 2149 2nd Avenue. Also, 1 bedroom with deck \$915. 619-992-7791 or 619-992-0078.

BANKER'S HILL. \$1695. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, fireplace, porch. Nonsmok-ing unit. Under 25 pound pet with \$500 additional deposit. Street parking. 2930 Columbia Street #B. CCPM, 619-296-6699.

BANKER'S HILL. \$675-\$910. Lovely studio and 1 bedroom. Well-kept, classic building designed by Gill. Stove, refriger-ator, gas included. Laundry onsite. Near bus. 619-236-0452.

BANKER'S HILL \$2275. Extra nice 2 bedroom townhouse with den. Open and bright! Garage, fireplace, large storage. Cat OK. 2233 5th Avenue. Agent, 619-

Cat Un. 2233 5th Avenue. Agent, 619-469-7790. www.westmanproperties.com. BanKER'S HILL, \$995. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Parking, laundry, available now. 304 West Hawthorn Street #5. Agent, 858-560-1178.

BANKER'S HILL. \$1450. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Fenced yard, laundry, parking,

small to medium pet OK. 316 West Hawthorn. Agent, 858-560-1178. BANKER'S HILL. \$1395. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Beautifully upgraded apartment. Tile and hardwood floors, view from wooden deck. Move-in special: 1/2 month free OAC. 310 West Hawthorn. Agent,

858-560-1178 BANKER'S HILL, \$995. Utilities included. bedroom. Completely renovated. Ceramic tile throughout. Hardwood floors.
 \$700 deposit. Cat OK. 2105 Brant Street. OAC. 619-549-9726.

BANKER'S HILL, Upstairs 1 bedroom. 8895. Victorian building. Completely ren-ovated. Fantastic view of Downtown and bay. \$600 deposit. OAC. Cat OK. 2142 Second Avenue. 619-549-9726.

BANKER'S HILL, \$1000-\$1200/lease restored, luxury studios with new Fully restored, luxury studios with new stainless appliances, granite counters, stone tiled kitchen and bath, clawfoot bathtubs, hardwood floors, ceiling fanc, top-of-the-line fixtures, on-site laundry, rooftop deck with views. No pets. Non-smoking. 2408 Second Avenue. Call for appointment, 619-232-0153 or 858-361-8234 or 619-851-4521. www.sdreader. com/rent/2159.

BANKER'S HILL. \$825. 1 bedroom apartment, laundry, close to all. Wood floors. 1915 4th Avenue #5. AMI Property Man-agement. 619-697-6314.

BANKER'S HILL, \$795. Studio apartment, security building, laundry, large, close to all. 2117 Front Street #8. AMI Property Management, 619-697-6314.

BANKER'S HILL \$995.1 Hedroom apart-ment, great location. Quiet, close to all. 1955 Front Street. AMI Property Manage-ment. 619-697-6314.

ment. 619-697-6314. BANKER'S HILL \$895. 1/2 off 1st Month. Large studio, wood floors, huge closet, gated, appliances, laundry. Pets ok. 2311 4th Avenue. 619-804-3325.

Aun Avenue. o 19-804-3325. BANKER'S HILL Will go fast! \$800-\$900 per month. Deposit \$500. Spacious stu-dios in secured vintage building with great views. First Avenue/Hawthorn. Full size kitchen and bath. On-site laundry. On street parking. Only cats with \$200 deposit. 619-325-7332.

BAPDENT. 0 19-325-7332. BAY PARK. \$1420. Deluxe 2 bedroom, 2 bath, panoramic sailboat views/your ter-race! Dishwasher. Berber. Gated. Laun-dry. Parking. No stairs. Cat friendly! Beach/freeway. 2805 Morena. 858-459-1544.

BAY PARK. 3907 Gresham Street. 2 bed-room, 2 bath condo. Awesome view! Fire-place, balcony, disbwashor Jace, balcony, dishwasher, washer/dryer. 2 underground parking. \$2425/month, deposit \$2425. www. timcassidy.com. Cassidy, Broker, 619-275-LIST.

BAY PARK/CLAIREMONT. \$1175. Upgraded 2 bedroom, 1 bath. On-site laun-dry, parking, upper unit. 2537 Chicago Street #10. Agent, 858-560-1178. BONITA. Great view. \$1200, utilities in-cluded. 1 bedroom cottage. Balcony, deck. Across from golf course. Parking. 619-894-0536.

CARDIFF. 2 bedroom spacious apart-ments \$1395. No pets. Parking included. Only 3 blocks from the beach. Easy ac-cess to I-51 Rent special, 1/2 off the first month OAC, 760-430-4444 x190. www.

anagement.com

CARDIFF. Not on the beach! East of I-5! §1450. 2 bedroom, 1 bath Park Place condo. 925 square feet. 2-parking spaces. Fireplace. Hardwood/tile/carpet flooring. Washer/dryer. All appliances. Water/trash included. Community pool. No pets! Available now. (Credit check re-quired, \$30 fee.) 760-815-9522 nyjenny@hotmail.com

CARLSBAD from \$1200. Beautifully re-modeled 1 and 2 bedrooms. Fantastic views. Walk to beach. Spacious floor plans. No pets. 2303 Ocean Street. 760-434-7721.

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CARLSBAD. \$1175. 2 bedroom, 2 bath garden apartment. Fireplace, new fix-tures, Berber carpet, clean. 760-729-

CARLSBAD. \$1375. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, pet OK with deposit, parking included, pool, fitness center. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-

CARLSBAD. \$1025. Beautiful 1 bedroom Bright and airy. Laundry, pool, dish-washer, parking. Easy access to freeway and shopping. Garages available. No pets. 1000 Chinquapin. 760-729-8681.

CARLSBAD. \$1325.2 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse-style apartment with large pa-tio. 3 blocks to beach. Secluded garden complex. 2 parking spaces. No pets. 362 Chinguapin Avenue. TPPM, 760-729-8132.

CARLSBAD/LA COSTA. \$1625. Large,

Unavury 3 bedroom, 2 bath in beautiful gar-den complex with views over La Costa golf course. Fireplace, washer/dryer, air conditioning, pool, spa, sauna. 2385 Caringa Way. Alicante Views. TPPM, 760-431-7575.

CARMEL MOUNTAIN. \$1395. 2 bedroom, 2 bath Palo Alto condo. Parking. All appli-ances. Fireplace. Air. Patio. Pool/spa. No smoking/pets. 619-887-0995.

Smoking/pets. 6 19-887-0995. CARMEL VALLEY. Looking for affordable luxury living? 1 and 2 bedrooms. Flexible leases; call for current rates. Near beaches, shopping, easy freeway ac-cess, great school district! Free tennis, swimming lessons! Washer/dryer. Park-ing. Fitness center. Pool. No pets. Club Torrey Pines, 12646 Torrey Bluff Drive. 1-866-354-2096. www.sdreader.com/rent/ 2106.

CARMEL VALLEY. Super luxurious newly remodeled 1 bedroom condominiur hardwood/natural stone floors, grani countertops, stainless steel kitchen app ances, washer/dryer. No pet \$1375/month. 858-722-3987.

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

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/OTAY RANCH. \$975.

bedroom with full bath, kitchenette and living room. Private entrance. Air condi tioning/heater. Utilities included. Mi crowave, refrigerator. 619-656-3652; 619-253-4786.

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 mail/freeway. Available now. 433 D Street. 619-632-0080.

CHULA VISTA. \$775/month. \$250 de-posit. 1 bedroom, fully furnished. 2 blocks from Chula Vista Center. Off-street parking. Laundry room. Lots of trees. 521 Park Way. Office open daily (near Fifth and G).

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-

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Photograph from the San Diego Historical Society



Tt. Olivet Cemetery in Nestor, 1963. Four years ago, *usgennet.org* issued a report on the cemetery located in Nestor off Saturn Boulevard, near Coronado Avenue. The report indicated that the 20 found gravestones were "unmarked," "broken," "toppled," "disintegrating," "buried," and "vandalized."

The reporter wrote: "I visited this cemetery about a week ago. Someone has made an

attempt to restore it. It is very small, and there are a lot of young kids buried there (one, two years old) who died in the very early 1900s. Someone was buried there as recently as 1986 or so. He was the son of parents who were buried there in the 1930s.... I've searched the internet and San Diego sources and could find no mention of this cemetery.... It seems sadly forgotten."

- by Robert Mizrachi

You can purchase this photo and many more at the San Diego Historical Society Research Library or online at www.sandiegohistory.org FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 619-232-6203, EXT. 127

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AQUARIUMS AND PONDSI Freshwater/ saltwater fish. Extensive reef animals. 9000 square feet. Low warehouse prices! Expertise not found in Southern California cookie-cutter stores! Aquatic Warehouse. 5466 Complex Street #204, San Diego. Behind Superior Courthouse, off Claire-mont Mesa Boulevard. www. aquaticwarehouse.com. Daily, 10am-7pm. Saturday, 10am-6pm. Sunday, 11am-6pm. 858-467-9297.

BAN BACKYARD PUPPY MILLS. Please visit your local humane society and adopt one or more of the sweetest pets you'll

BENGAL LEOPARD BABY. Take a walk on the mild side of wild. Drop dead gor-geous. TICA registered. Canaries also available. North County/Vista. 760-724-

B316. BUY/SELL/TRADE reptiles, amphibians, turtles, tortoises, snakes, lizards. Largest reptile selection in Southern California. Voted #1 in San Diego. Pet Kingdom, 619-224-2841.

**DOGS. FOCAS** is a trusted name in pet adoptions. Call for information on a vari-ety of wonderful rescued pets. Always alered, microchipped, vaccinated. Most 150 donation. 619-685-3536. GET A LIFE! Visit your local animal shelter and adopt a new best friend.

and adopt a new best friend. **KITTENS/CATS,** 10+ weeks, need re-sponsible, lifetime homes. Cute, friendly, virus tested, neutered, vaccinated, de-wormed, defleaed. Tuesday/Thursday, 6 8pm; Saturday/Sunday, noon-4pm. PetsMart La Jolla, 8657 Villa La Jolla

Drive (I-5 at Nobel). Fee. www.sdcats. KITTENS/CAT ADOPTIONS. Spayed/

neutered, combo tested, shots, mi-crochipped. January 5, 2008, 1-4pm, at PetPeople, 8843 Villa La Jolla Drive, La Jolla. 858-457-2036. KITTIES, rescued. Beautiful, all ages. All full of love! Give them the wonderful homes they deserve. Adoption fee in-cludes medicals and spay/neuter. 760-

KOI PONDS AND WATER GARDENS KOI PONDS AND WALLS Control of the second se

11am-4pm, 619-441-9275, PEKINGESE, purebred, white, neutered, 2 years, housebroken. Plays ball, mellow. Has license, microchip, shots. Has some issues. \$100. No small kids. 619-583-

POODLE PUPS, standard, healthy, beau-tiful. Born 11/5/07. Tails docked, dew claws removed. 3 males, 3 females. AKC registration. \$1500. San Diego area. 619-944-6245. F-mail biogradoo@a-1 mail higarden@aol

PUG CHIHUAHUA MIX, neutered, 1 year 6lbs., black and tan, lovable lapdog, not barky, likes other dogs, \$150. No small kids. 619-466-0426.

ktds. 619-466-1426. SIAMESE KITTENSI Companion animals. CFA Pedigree: Blue Point, Lilac Point, Chocolate Point, also Balinese, Oriental, and Oriental long Hair. \$300. 619-819-9112, 760-690-3973, 202-903-0274, 909-0704-00

DownTown/GoLDEN HILL. Large stu-dio with full kitchen in very nice neighbor-hood. Hardwood floors. Close to bus stop. 942 23rd Street. \$695. 619-994-DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. Las Flores Ho tel. Small, quiet. \$120/week and up. Four-week minum. Color TV with basic cable. Refrigerator in most rooms. Se-cure. 619-235-6820.

DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. Move-in Specials. Live/Work Lofts in the heart o Gaslamp! Roof decks with barbe

Laundry on every floor. Parking available. Seven locations Downtown. Select pets OK. Visit loft leasing office: 315 Fourth Av-enue. 619-231-1505 x12. www. trilogymanagement.com. Also visit www. sdreader.com/rent/2064.

**DOWNTOWN.** Cozy rooms, \$450-\$625, grab these little jewels today! Very com-

DOWNTOWN. Cozy rooms, \$450-\$625, grab these little jewels todayl Very com-fortable, 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 Manage-ment, 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 ser-vice, no pets, 636 C Street (between 6th and 7th). C Street Inn, Hughes Manage-ment, 619-234-4165. www.sdreader.com/

**DOWNTOWN.** Gaslamp area. Move-in special, \$280. Community kitchen, shared bath, on-site laundry, vending ma-chines, no pets, Star Hotel, 522 7th Av-

619-235-6068.

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 Col-legel \$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 bath

and/dable, short-term stays, invate barry room, kitchenette, microwave, refrigera-tor, cable TV. Air conditioning, laundry, voice mail. High speed Internet. Food ser-vice daily. Near trolley/bus/freeway, Bal-boa Park, Gaslamp. West Park Inn, 194 4th Avenue. www.westparkinn.com. 619-236-1600. www.sdreader.com/rent/2037.

236-1600. www.sdtreader.com/refu/2037. DOWNTOWN. 2 bedroom, 2 bath with panoramic view of the cityl 300 W. Beech Street. Over 1000 square feet of luxury liv-ing. Many upgrades. All appliances and great community amenities. \$2450, 619-291-5555 x190. www.utopiamanagement. com

DOWNTOWN. \$675. Studio, 1 bath apartment, great views, all utilities paid, Petco Park, controlled access buil Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.

DOWNTOWN. \$775. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, cat OK with deposit, hard-wood floors, paid water/trash/gas. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN. \$1250. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath

duplex, tile floors, 2-car parking included, extremely large backyard. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-

367-3333. DOWNTOWN. \$1750. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths apartment, pet OK, covered park-ing, barbecue/picnic area, business cen-ter, spa, fitness center. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-2220

DOWNTOWN. \$1900. 2 bedroom, 2 bath

new condo, breathtaking view, perfectly situated for fresh air, warmth and sun-shine. Fee. Free search at www. westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

Westsiderentals.com. 619-307-3333. DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. From \$800/month. Private bath, cable TV, mi-crowave, refrigerator. Utilities included. Secure, quiet, charming. Efficiency apart-ments with laundry. Near trolley/loss lines, blocks from harbor. On-site manager.

Villa Caterina, 1654 Columbia Street. 619-232-3400.

DOWNTOWN/EAST VILLAGE. Newly re-modeled studios. \$600 plus \$300-\$400 

DOWNTOWN/HARBOR VILLAGE. Move in special! \$750. Unique 1 bedroom. Bal-cony. Laundry. Parking. Close to base, Downtown, Coronado, NASSCO. Bay views. 2850 Main Street. 619-246-1275.

DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP From \$1395.

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.

298-7232; visit www.soayprop DOWNTOWN/EAST VILLAGE. Studios from %650 1 bedrooms from \$725. Totally

esh paint. New tile. New appliances ats OK. 619-997-1133.

Cats OK. 019-997-1133. DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. Great loca-tion 1 bedroom, 1-1/2 baths lofts \$1750. Banker's Hill, 2 bedroom with washer/dryer \$1650. Available now. Call 619-255-0526.

DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. \$99 moves you

feet, cement floor, \$2425. Loft, 1163 square feet, carpeted, \$1600. Pets OK, parking available, keyless entry system, laundry facility, high speed Internet capa-bility, central air/heat, high ceilings. Pent-house 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

241-3523. www.sdreader.com/rent/2145.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. Bright, cor

ner studio, \$940. 9' cellings, three clos-ets. Ideal location. Charming, secure, quiet building with laundry. 1534 Front, near Beech Street. 619-233-7428.

quare 1163

in! Live/work lofts. Penthouse, square feet, \$2750. Loft, 1463 sc feet, cement floor, \$2425. Loft,

from \$650. 1 bedrooms from \$725. Tota renovated. Vintage building. 10 bloc from water. Authentic hardwood floo

Hughes

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Sdreader.com/rent/2064. DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. Rooftop penthouse, 900 square feet, \$1495. 1 bedroom, 360 degree windows, 9' ceil-ings. Charming, secure quiet building with laundry. 1534 Front Street, near Beech Street. 619-233-7428.

DOWNTOWN/SHERMAN HEIGHTS. Small 1 bedroom. View of the city, gated, large storage unit, washer/dryer, \$750/ month. 207 19th Street. Call 619-994-0440

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EL CAJON. \$695. 1 bedroom. Fabulous pool/courtyard complex. Super clean pool/courtyard complex. Super clean apartments. No pets. \$895 moves you in! 314 Wisconsin Street. TPPM, 619-742www.palmestates.info

EL CAJON. Spacious apartments. 1 bed-room, \$800/up. 2 bedrooms, \$950/up. Pool, onsite laundry, assigned parking, freeway close. Pets welcome! Ask about move-in specials! Anabel Court Apart-ments, 303 East Madison Avenue. 619-

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619-520-7830. EL CAJON. 1 bedroom, \$700. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$800 & up. Great amenities, air conditioning, laundry on-site, pool, recreation room, parking. Lushyl landscaped. No pets. 294 Ballan-tyne. 619-334-7934. EL CAJON. \$1150 2 bedroom townhome. New carpet, new wood floors and tile.

EL CAJON, STIBU 2 bedroffm townhome, New carpet, new wood floors and tile, new paint. Coin-operated laundry facility with community pool. Move In Special: 1/2 off first month's rent OAC. Available now. 294 Chambers Street #9. www. cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

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EL CAJON. Cajon Villas. \$785, 1 bed-room. \$1000, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. \$1325, 3 bedroom. Pool. Parking. Air condition-ing. No pets. 933 Peach Avenue. 619-47-9192

EL CAJON. \$200 off first month! 2 bed-room, 1-1/2 bath townhome, \$1100. Freshly painted. New appliances, carpet. Patio. Small gated community. Laundry facilities. Pool. No pets. 1397 Éast Wash-ington. 619-593-6602. stratfordarm-

EL CAJON. Starting at \$695. 1 bed-rooms. El Cajon's best maintained proprooms. El Cajon's destinantantos pro-erty with beautiful courtyard and sparkling pool. No pets. 1072 East Madison Avenue. TPPM, 619-444-1614. www.fourvindsapts.info.

EL CAJON. \$705. 1 bedroom. Beautifully maintained apartments with sparkling pool. No pets. 234 West Park Avenue. TPPM, 619-850-9722. www.palmtowers.

EL CAJON. \$705-\$840. Spacious 1 bed-room and 2 bedrooms. Beautiful property with sparkling pool. Walk to courthouse and Main Street shopping. No pets. 163 Ballantyne Street. TPPM, 619-990-5900. www.palmtowers.com.

WW.pathtowers.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.

619-249-2770. **EL CAJON.** Spacious 2 bedrooms from \$25, \$300 move-in special! Townhomes. Private patios. Great location with on-site parking and laundry. 432-441 Dominguez Way. TPPM, 619-405-4500.

Way. IPPM, 619-405-4500.
EL CAJON. Fully furnished, totally equipped 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Quiet, gated complex. Maid services available. Flexible terms-Bimonthly, monthly or lease. \$1200. 619-884-6088. ENCINY of rease. § 1200. 619-884-6088. ENCINITAS. Treat yourself to this ele-gantly furnished 1 bedroom at Moonlight Beach. Walk to shops, restaurants, Coaster. Gourmet kitchen, washer/dryer, dishes, linens. \$2195/month. 760-753-4101.

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ENCINITAS. Ocean view 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo. Fireplace, decks, garage. Al appliances, washer/dryer on premises Village, Coaster, beach close. Nonsmok-ing. \$1625/month. 858-481-2604.

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ESCONDIDD. 1 bedroom, \$850. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1025. Resort style living.
\$1/2 off first month's rent! Open house
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FASHION VALLEY/USD. \$1250. 2 bed SeaWorld and the bay. Parking. Cat OK



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Completely refurbished. 5946 Lauretta Street #7. Call CCPM, 619-296-6699. 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. \$1250 rent. \$600 deposit. OAC. 2 bedroom. 2 bath. 2 open parking spaces. Laundry. No pets. At 1340 Eureka Street #24. 619-298-5820. FASHION VALLEY. The Bluffs, 2 bed-room, 2 bath condo, central heat/air, bal-cony, pools, tennis, clubhouse. Laundry facilities. Nonsmoking. Cat OK. Year lease. \$1750. 619-701-3549.

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.

GOLDEN HILL/DOWNTOWN, 1/2 month GOLDEN HILL/DOWNTOWN. 1/2 month off! Free application fee! 1 bedrooms from \$1120. 2 bedrooms from \$1405. 2 bedrooms townhomes from \$1685. City views. Controlled access. Washer/dryer, microwave, central air/heat. Rooflog deck. Spa. Barbecue. Parking, Pet friendly! Golden Pacific, 1015 19th Street. 1.800-433.e156. www.pacificiliving.com. www.sdreader.com/rent/2028.

GOLDEN HILL, (2) Charming 1 bedroom, 1 bath \$795/\$850. Hardwood floors. Great neighborhood, laundry on-site. Available now. No dogs. 2412 E Street.

GOLDEN HILL. \$1695. Cityscape. Nice 2 bedroom condo. Dramatic Downtown views! 3rd floor, granite, stainless appli-ances. Cat OK. 1233 22nd Street #14. Agent, 619-469-7790. www. nproperties.com

GOLDEN HILL \$875. 2 bedroom 1 bath. Bottom floor, corner unit. Laundry on-site. Pet under 20 pounds considered. Very clean. 1021-28 28th Street. Manager, 619-929-8127.

GOLDEN HILL. \$825.1 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs unit. Laundry. Clean and bright. Assigned parking. Close to Down-town/Balboa Park. 2631 A Street. Call 858.671 1070 operativing complicities of the street.

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 am-ple street parking, 9 blocks from Balboa Park, 5 minutes to Downtown San Diego. Rent includes water and gardener. 3303 Beech Street. Please call 619-921-1695 or relwardan@lorberlaw.com. /ardani@lorberlaw.com.

HILLCREST, Luxury condo, 3 bedroom, 3 bath. Granite, stainless, 2-car garage, fireplace, washer/dryer, Jacuzzi tub. Like new. 2 blocks park, \$2700/month, 619-889-8508, 619-920-4719.

HILCREST. \$800. Sunny studio in charming, gated Spanish building. Nice, recently remodeled kitchen with gas stove. Ceiling fan. Tile shower. Laundry on-site. Cat OK. 1830 Robinson Avenue. Call 619-298-1961.

HILLCREST. Spacious 1 and 2 bed-rooms! 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. \$850 studio. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1550. Pool, canyon view. Close to all. Rec room. Cat OK. Sleepy Hollow Apartments, 4201 Sixth Aenue. 619-298-1059.

HILLCREST. \$1050. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, storage closet, dishwasher, built-in book shelf, laundry on site, parking. No pets. 1224 Pennsylvania Avenue. CCPM, 619-pe ceco.

296-6699. HILCREST, Hillcrest Palms. Senior com-plex. 55+ living! \$900. 1 bedroom apart-ments. Gated community. Convenient location. Near hospitals, restaurants, shopping. No pets. 4042 Albatross Street. 619-574-0784.

619-574-0784. HILLCREST. \$895. 1 bedroom, upstairs. Remodeled. Stove, refrigerator. Dish-washer, microwave. Coin laundry. Great location. Cat OK with additional \$300 de-posit. Available now. 3730 First. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. 858-270-2071. www.delsolpm.com.

HILLCREST. \$800 rent. \$600 deposit, OAC. Large 1 bedroom duplex. No pets. At 3853-1/2 First Avenue. Agent, 619-

293-5313.
HILLCREST. \$1275. 2 bedroom, 2 bath end unit. Bright. Dishwasher. Balcony. Laundry. Private garage. Gated. Garden setting. No pets. Available now. 3672 Georgia Street. 619-301-9958. HILCREST. 1/2 off first month! \$1100. 1 bedroom. Patio. Ceiling fan, microwave. bedroom. Patio. Ceiling fan, microwave Gated entry. Garage. Lush garden set-ting. Laundry. Cat OK. 3914 Centre. 619

HILLCREST. Ask about our move-in spe-ciall 1 bedrooms from \$875. 2 bedrooms from \$975. Great floor plan. Easy freeway access. 4124 Campus Avenue. 619-294-HILLCREST. Studio. \$835. Great location

quiet area. Off-street parking, laundry. Cat OK. 4166 4th Avenue. 619-298-7868 ace.rasnyder.com

HILCREST: \$1395.2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Secured parking, 4th floor, great views! Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher. No pets. Available now. 1907 Robinson. Michael 858-597-6100 x321.

Michael 636-397-6100 x321: HILLCREST. Quiet, charming, cozy deluxe 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1300. Gated, fireplace. All appliances, washer/dryer, skylight, private patio, 2 parking spaces. Cats OK. No smoking facility. 3680 Al-abama Street. Available now. 619-269-5237. HILLCREST. Remodeled, luxury with

garage! All redone granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, maple wood cabinetry. Community sundeck countyard 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. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath \$1495/month. Sorry, no pets. Lease option available. 1030

## **Surf**DIEGO

Name: Lvn Siem and Lisa Carulli

Black's Beach, famous for being "clothing optional," is also a favorite of surfers because of its ability to hold a large swell. While a high tide of seven feet might make for waves in the ankle- to knee-high range at some beaches, Black's can have surf that's chest to shoulder high

"When it's not great, like today, [waves are] a foot [high at some breaks]; here [at Black's] it'll be two feet, three feet," says Lisa Carulli. She says that the waves are larger because, "It's an uninterrupted wave; there's a submarine canyon below the surf, so there's nothing to stop the swell. It's not a gentle rising of sand toward the beach; it's a canyon that doesn't interfere with the swell "

Black's Beach is officially known as Torrey Pines State Beach and sits below the glider port in La Jolla. Access to Black's from the glider port parking lot is via a 300-foot hike down a steep cliff. Because of its difficult access and larger waves, Black's can

Robinson Avenue, San Diego. Call Nicol at 619-807-7053.

at 619-807-7053. **HILCREST.** Newly remodeled, pool, washer/dryer. Month to month. Barbecue, clubhouse featuring a pool table, flat screen TVs and bar. Granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, maple wood cabinetry and large storage rooms. 2 bedroom, 2 bath \$1795/month. Sorry, no pets. Lease option available. 1030 Robin-son Avenue, San Diego. Call Nicol at 619-807-7053.

807-7053. HILLCREST. Studio, \$800/month with move-in special. 1/2 off first month's rent! New carpet and paint. 3740 Sixth Av-enue. Call manager at 619-820-2584. HILCREST. \$1150. Lovely 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage. Carpet. Breakfast nook. New kitchen. New bathroom. Fenced side yard. Street parking. Laundry rooms shared with tenants. No pets. Available now. 3819 Park Boulevard, behind "Num-bers." Phillips Realty. 619-291-6686 or bers." 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 Re-alty, 619-291-6686 or Pablo 619-249-2770. HILLCREST. \$1200. 2 bedroom. Quiet. Canyon hideaway. Hardwood floors. Pet OK. Walk to Uptown, shops. 4166 Tenth. 619-222 5701

are welcome.

HILLCREST. \$995. 1/2 off 1st month. Charming lower 1 bedroom, stove refrigerator, laun-dry, next to Balboa Park, UCSD. Pet negotiable. Storage \$75/month. 3533 6th Av-enue. 619-804-3325.

enue. 619-804-3325. **HILLCREST.** Holiday Special: 1/2 off first month's rent! \$1050, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Cats welcome! Controlled access, gated parking, elevator access. Very clean unit. Small, private balcony. Dishwasher, central air and heat. Ceiling fan. Tons of cabinet space. Cose to Downtown, Balboa Park and Old Town! 858-571-1970. www.sunriseliving. com.

Junipe

surfers, but, Lisa says, "It's know them."

not local-y," meaning all "It's not really a group here," says Lyn. "Other

"We're ex-pros!" says Lisa. "We actually met at a competition - what was that, ten years ago? We're

laugh with Lyn. "No, really. It's true.' See the video

Go to SanDiegoReader.com

KEARNY MESA/CLAIREMONT. \$1295. Holi-day Special: 1/2 off first month's rent 2 bed-room, 1 bath condo. 1 small pet welcome!! Private, cul-de-sac, corner unit. Large front grassy yard. Hardwood floors. Ceramic Tile. Upgraded fixtures. Walk-in closet. Washer/ dryer hook-ups and community pool. 858-967-7330. Sunriseliving.com. KENSINGTON. \$1295-\$1350. Extra large 2 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. skyliohts. fully

bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, skylights, fully equipped kitchen. All amenities, coin laun-dry, off-street parking. No pets. Call 858-456-2098.

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the same ones and get to Lisa has been surfing for 27 years, and Lyn has surfed for 18 years.

the two best women surfers in San Diego," she states confidently and shares a

Click on SurfDiego

San Diego Reader January 3, 2008

ing. Laundry. No pets. 1445 Grove Avenue. TPPM, 619-575-0778. KEARNY MESA/CLAIREMONT. \$1295. Holi-

KENSINGTON. \$895. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Hardwood floors. Very nice! Available 01/10/08. 4118 Adams Avenue #2. www. cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

HILLCREST. \$1025. 1/2 off first month. Large lower 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Gated, appliances, washer/dryer, underground parking. Cat OK. Section 8. 4155 Georgia Street. 619-804-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. 2 bedroom, 2 bath com-pletely remodeled condo, \$1595 unfur-nished, or \$1895 furnished. Pool/spa. Must seel 1979 Avenida del Mexico #123. Agent, 550 coo 1170. 858-560-1178 IMPERIAL BEACH. \$795. 1 bedroom in well

maintained garden setting. Pool. Parking. Laundry. No pets. 1445 Grove Avenue. TPPM, 619-575-0778. IMPERIAL BEACH. \$895. 2 bedroom, 1 bath in well maintained garden setting. Pool. Park-

spots have tighter groups, but there are a lot of good people here. You'll run into

seem prohibitive to new

Live: Ocean Beach Surfing: Black's Beach

#### SHOEHORN TECHNIQUE

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lease. 619-464-0416. LA MESA. \$925. 1 bedroom. Hardwood floors, new appliances, freshly painted. Laundry facilities. Garage available. Small pets OK. Section 8 OK. Available now. Call Tony, 619-316-3473. e-mail: av\_lopez@cox.net LA MESA. \$400-\$600/monthly. 25'-30' fully furnished trailers and spaces. Quiet park. Laundry onsite. No pets. Conve-nient location close to all/bus. References required! 619-461-0264. A MESA \$920/un\_1 hedroom\_\$1220/

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LA MESA. \$975. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath triplex. Laundry hook-ups. Patio. Cul-de-sac. Parking. No pets. 7410 Lime Street #C. Agent, 619-298-7724. LA MESA. \$795 rent. \$600 deposit, OAC. Large 1 bedroom, detached cottage. Open daily, 3:30-6pm. No pets. At 4859 or 4861 Jessie Street (east of 73rd). 619-299-8515.

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Call 619-474-4441. NATIONAL CITY, \$1100. Deposit \$1000. 2 bedroom, 2 bath duplex. 1000 square feet. Range, refrigerator, dishwasher, mi-crowave. Garage. Hookups. Landscap-ing, water, refuse paid. Ed, \$10.234.8454 ing, water, 619-224-8454.

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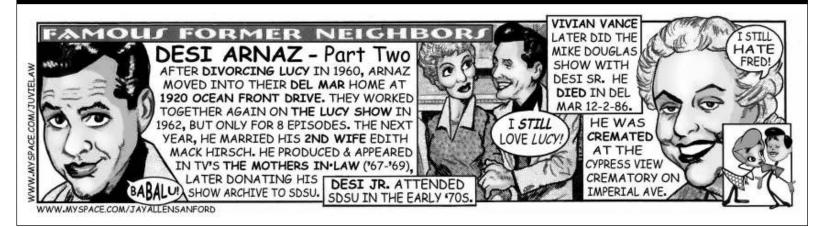


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When it comes right down to it, I think I'm too young to have any sort of real concept of true love — the kind that brings not only great pleasure but real torture, the kind that you would die for but would rather live with. I tell myself this optimistically.

I remember meeting him, that guy. We would go through times that were transitional, and I think a lot of a college experience is all about that. I was young and still living where I grew up, a small suburb of Boston. Sometimes I felt as though I had the whole world was in front of me to conquer, and sometimes I felt as if I'd never get out alive.

I suppose he seemed a little nerdy at first, sort of awkward, but he was different than anyone I'd ever met. At 21 I had met a whole mess of people, but no one like this. Hanging out turned into talking the whole night through, about everything, about anything, about the time I didn't fit on the school bus because I was wearing a dice costume four times the size of my body. I was blown away by how close I felt to someone that I didn't really know yet.

So I fell in love, and I fell fast. It's true that sometimes love blooms too quickly, only to wilt and wither before it gets a chance to really grow. But right then I felt rejuvenated, inspired, and most importantly, alive. I thought I had found what I was looking for and had found a perspective on all that love crap you see in movies and read about. I tossed all my old doubts and fears aside. I decided that maybe true love did exist and suddenly thought all those adages and proverbs about love must be true, such as, "It happens when you least expect it."

I fell deeper and deeper in love, and one

Dumped

### That Feeling

thing became clear: When you're this far in it's either going to work or it isn't — and if it doesn't, you know it's going to hurt like hell.

As time went on, it felt less perfect, and I tried my best to get the love back to its original, flawless state. Truth of the matter is, nothing is perfect. But, at the time, I was unwilling to accept this, and I tried to somehow magically fix the relationship. In the beginning I was on top of the world, and the possibility of that changing scared me.

But it was what it was. I no longer felt "funny"; I no longer laughed all the time. I spent my time writing five-page letters to my boyfriend, trying to explain myself - but even I realized that I wasn't making any sense. I had lost control of the situation. This independent and intelligent person I had worked my entire life to become had suddenly turned into this insecure person that even I didn't like.

Out of a panic I suggested taking a break. I was so scared of losing what I had worked on and loved for a year, and I think this was my way of trying to prevent it. This break turned into the inevitable breakup, and at first I was okay with it. Being friends sounded good. Being friends was something I could handle. After

all, if you love someone, you love them enough to keep a friendship.

The nice idea of a friendship turned into months of fighting and crying and misery. I assumed we would get back together, and when we didn't, that pain I had been setting aside sank in. I found myself praying for some sort of lobotomy. Suddenly, the movie Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind seemed like a great plan, if only I could find a way to execute it. If the one I loved found someone else didn't want to stand around and watch this happen. I did my best to avoid all contact, which is harder than it sounds.

You start to realize that life does go on, and sometimes that's not easy to accept, but I did eventually start to feel more and more like myself. I was free of that attachment. I wasn't trying to live for someone else's happiness anymore. Being free of commitment meant I could live for me and only me, and what a prospect. Dreams I'd harbored — of living in a new city and breaking out of my small town were now a possibility. I decided I wouldn't mourn anymore.

I don't live in Massachusetts now, and sometimes I don't even feel like the same person. Sometimes I look back, and I don't know what to make of it. I don't know if the time makes the love seem smaller or that distance makes me forget or that there really is something bigger, more real, than I could ever even imagine. I guess human nature is unpredictable sometimes. It's something we have no control over, and overanalyzing our lives and the people we love, or used to love, will only make us crazy. I realize you cannot be mad at someone for wanting what they want. You might not ever get the answer you're looking for, but after a while you won't need it.

I now know that when I love again it will be different. I don't feel like a kid anymore. The weird thing is, I feel as if I can actually let go now.

I think I'm starting to like that feeling.

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adgs. b19-588-4106, b19-2b1-1565. SPRING VALLEY, \$1400. Newly remod-eled townhome, 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. 2 level. Available 2/1/08. Washer/dryer. 2 parking spaces. Pool. \$1400 deposit. Dogs ok. 619-793-6886.

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DOWNTOWN. Studio condo, 12th floor. Balcony with views. Parking. Discounted. \$7,760 down required. Buyer to finance balance of \$250,884. Owner. 858-272-2760, rriecken@san.rr.com.

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5417. VISTA. Shadowridge Golf Course home. 2875 square feet, 2 story, 4 bedroom, 3 bath, 3-car garage. New roof, windows, granite kitchen, landscaping. \$744,000. Dennis, 760-518-6250.

## news of the WeiRD

- In parts of India's Uttar Pradesh state, according to a November BBC News dispatch, women are oppressed by poverty, abusive husbands, and corrupt officials. Two years ago, Ms. Sampat Pal Devi got fed up. She organized several hundred women and began protecting women using both nonviolence (heaping public shame on wrongdoers) and violence (with axes and the traditional Indian stick, the "lathi"). Said Sampat Devi, "Village society in India…refuses to educate [women], marries them off too early [age nine, in her case], barters them for money. Village women need to study and become independent to sort it out themselves."

#### **The Litigious Society**

— A few days after professional skier Stoil Popow was killed while kite-surfing in the rough winter waters off of Connecticut's Long Island Sound in 2004, his widow told the *Connecticut Post* that she had "begged" her husband not to go out "because it's January." In November 2007, she filed a wrongful-death lawsuit in federal court, charging that her husband's tragic demise was actually caused by the town of Stratford, Conn., which was negligent in not posting warning signs along the stretch of beach used by Popow (of "hazardous and unsafe conditions") and for not having lifeguards on duty.

#### Ironies

— On Nov. 7, news media reported that New York City's Serendipity 3 restaurant had been noted by the *Guinness Book of World Records* for having the planet's most expensive dessert (a \$25,000 chocolate sundae, featuring, among other delicacies, edible gold flakes). On Nov. 16, the same news media reported that the city's Department of Health had ordered Serendipity 3 closed after inspectors found a live mouse in the kitchen, along with mouse droppings, fruit flies, house flies, and more than 100 cockroaches.

- A 21-year-old man was seriously injured by a hit-and-run driver in the early morning hours of Nov. 3 in Suffolk County, N.Y., as he was walking away from his disabled SUV. Police said that the victim was probably the same driver who, a few minutes earlier, had rear-ended a sedan and driven off without stopping.

#### **Compelling Explanations**

— Dr. Paul Schum, 50, the principal of the Catholic Bethlehem High School in Bardstown,

Ky., was arrested in October on prostitutionrelated charges after he was discovered loitering in an alley dressed as a woman in leather and fishnet stockings and with fake breasts. A local priest, presumably intending to help Dr. Schum, said dressing as a woman didn't sound like something Schum would be involved in, "but again, we're in the Halloween season." Dr. Schum eventually resigned and the prosecutor dropped the charge. - Simple Explanations: (1) Alex Noel, 16, a finalist in Rhode Island's Great Pumpkin Weigh-Off in October, said his success raising his 1224pound pumpkin was because "You spend all your time with it. No sports. You just come home and be with the pumpkin." (2) Darren Mack, 46, pleading guilty in Las Vegas in November to murdering his wife and also accepting a judgment for attempting to kill the judge handling his divorce: "I do understand...in my [current] state of mind that shooting at the judiciary is not a proper form of political redress.'

#### Creme de la Weird

- Mr. Sandy Wong, 45, was sentenced in November in Edmonton, Alberta, to 90 days in jail for three counts of indecent exposure, including masturbating with his pants down while sitting on the roof of a BMW at a local agriculture fair. According to a psychiatrist, Wong said he is sexually attracted to the BMW's roof because "it's curved like a woman's body," but he also has been aroused by a 1967 Camaro, a 1965 Chevy Bel Air, a 2005 Mini Cooper, and a 1991 Buick Century.

#### **Least Competent Criminals**

— Failed to Master the Art of the Getaway: (1) Robert Hickey Jr., running from a Hamilton County (Tenn.) sheriff's deputy in October, dashed into nearby woods, fell into a well, and had to be rescued. (2) Rudy Aguas, 25, running from a Reno, Nev., police officer in November after a failed carjacking, ducked into a building but got stuck in a freshly poured concrete floor. (3) A suspect in car break-ins, running from Miccosukee Indian Reservation police near Miami in November, dove into a retention pond but apparently failed to notice a "Live Alligator" sign and was killed by "Poncho," a gator well known to locals.

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego *Reader*, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 or to WeirdNewsTips@Yahoo.com

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## **BACK WHEN**

In the Reader

#### **Fifteen Years Ago**

The death of shopping center czar Ernest Hahn last week got plenty of coverage in the San Diego Union-Tribune. There were three stories and one editorial the day after his death, and a fourth story and a Neil Morgan column after his funeral. All trumpeted Hahn's accomplishments and legacy. Morgan even referred to the developer as "Mr. San Diego," an honor he received in 1990 from the San Diego Rotary Club.

Oddly enough, there was no mention at all of Hahn's ties to another one-time Mr. San Diego, C. Arnholt Smith, who had received the honor in 1961. The failed financier bankrolled Hahn's very first shopping center back in 1967, La Cumbre Plaza in Santa Barbara. Smith also made Hahn a director of his United States National Bank, the notorious San Diego financial institution whose collapse in October 1973 ultimately led to the fall of the House of Arnholt.

Smith and Hahn initially met in the middle 1960s, when U.S. National Bank — then at the peak of its bank-buying spree - purchased Pacific State Bank, which Hahn had co-founded. Hahn, who also served as Pacific State's president, was promptly elected to U.S.

National Bank's 18-member board of directors. In a telephone interview, Smith, now 93, recalled the deal: "We were looking for bank locations in that general area there, so we made a cold call on them to see if they would like to merge with U.S. National Bank. And out of that conversation came the deal."

-CITY LIGHTS: "WHAT THEY DIDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT MR. SAN DIEGO," Thomas K. Arnold, January 7, 1993

#### **Ten Years Ago**

I had seen Convoy play the previous night at 'Canes in Mission Beach. They opened for Lucy's Fur Coat, a San Diego band that in 1994 was poised on the brink of stardom. Behind the antics of manic frontman Charlie Ware, Lucy's rode the wave of a mediainduced buzz: for a time in the early- and mid-'90s, San Diego was going to be the second Seattle. That never happened. Lucy's Fur Coat released an album; then Ware quit the band to attend law school. A lawyer now with his own telephone extension. Ware rejoined the band, and on this night they headlined a show for a loval local audience.

'Canes seemed more like a dance club than a live-act venue, with its tiered floors, disco balls, and DJ booth. The crowd of beautiful and fit college-age kids had dressed up even wore cologne and perfume — to come hear music; I spotted several cigar smokers, flirting, lifting their chins to blow smoke. This crowd was here for Lucy's Fur Coat, not Convoy.

The two bands have little in common. Lucy's plays a guitar-driven hard rock, and Ware's intensity incites something just short of moshing. Convoy plays original country rock, what [Jason] Hill calls "American music." - "SOUNDINGS," Justin Wolff, January 8, 1998

#### **Five Years Ago**

I'm at a party in Point Loma celebrating the successful conclusion of a literary event that took a great deal of time and effort to put together. Everyone involved is letting go after months of preplanning, meeting deadlines, corresponding with finicky writers who demand this and that. We're partying hearty, as they say in San Diego. I'm talking poetry and literature with several of the country's best writers. The food is delicious; we're standing outdoors on the terrace of a lovely Point Loma home with a magnificent view. Life is good. There's just one problem. I'm

What They Didn't Tell You About Mr. San Diego

San Diego Reader, January 7, 1993

CITTLISETS.

drinking too much. The Chardonnay is going down like a soothing brain balm, making the night seem even more magical. I've got to be careful. Seven years ago I got a DUI, and that experience convinced me never again to drink and drive. But here I am at a party, drinking and having to drive home. The thought crosses my mind, "I'll call a cab," but it's fleeting. "I'm not *that* drunk," I tell myself. -- "DUI," Fred Moramarco, January 2, 2003

Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com

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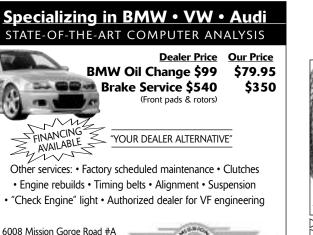
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Attention: Honda/Acura Owners For those of you not familiar with our automotive repair shop, we'd like to introduce

ourselves. We are a family-owned and -operated general auto repair business. Our goal is simple: provide top-quality service and good, honest auto repair. We have no interest in selling you items/services you don't really need. We simply believe in telling you like it is and you tell us what you want done. Although our name suggests only Honda and Acura repairs, we are a general full-service repair shop specializing in Hondas and Acuras.

lerry Sample, Ir. (General Manager) is an ASE Master Technician who is also Acura/Honda factory-trained. With well over a decade of experience, including several years working as a top mechanic at a well-known local Acura dealership, you can be assured of top-notch quality service. Jerry takes pride in what he does. His diagnostic skills are well-known throughout the industry. Often when customers are unable to achieve satisfaction elsewhere, they are directed to Jerry for an analysis. He thrives on a good challenge. Jerry will also take the time to explain to customers what he believes the problem is and how he would go about fixing it.

Greenlight Honda Acura Care prides itself on quality and service. We are proud to have more than 1,000 customers in San Diego and surrounding areas. The loyalty of our customers attests to lerry and his crew's integrity.

Bryan Bettencourt (Service Technician) also has many years of experience in the automotive business including audio and communications. Bryan is the "go-to" guy for all your electrical needs. He complements Jerry in every way. Together, Jerry, Bryan and their team are a formidable group of technicians, ensuring that you walk away a satisfied customer. Some repair shops take shortcuts and often cover up problems with a temporary fix. We know...we fix their mistakes!

#### Bottom line: We do it right the FIRST time! Our standard is to use factory parts and perform quality work ... just at a more reasonable cost.

We look forward to meeting you and having the opportunity to do business with you. Stop by and check us out, give us a call or an e-mail. Be sure and visit our website for valuable discount coupons. \_\_\_\_\_

15K • 45K • 75K FACTORY SERVICE Includes: • Oil change • Tire rotation • Transmission service • Factory-recommended inspections \$109 <sup>95</sup>	<b>30K • 60K • 90K</b> Includes: Change spark plugs Maintenance tune-up Drain & refill radiator Change air filter Inspect brakes 4-tire rotation Inspect suspension Change engine oil & filter Most cars. Platinum plugs extra. With coupon. Plus hazardous waste fee.	FACTORY SERVICE • Transmission drain & refill • Inspect PCV valve (if applicable) • Inspect fuel filter • Top off all fluids • Check & tighten all belts • Free 38-point inspection • 18995 • 4-cyl. & 5-cyl. & 6-cyl.
FREE Code Check (Is your "check engine" light on?) Alignment \$5995 4-wheel	HONDA AC 7960 RONSON Behind Pann A	osbcglobal.net

#### One:

We sit silently together for an hour every day, each of us pretending to be engrossed in the iPod/the book/ the computer/the knitting/the cell phone/the journal we brought to entertain us for the duration of the bus ride — the diversionary tool whose real purpose is to prevent others from speaking to us. We never make eye contact with each other, except (in apologetic embarrassment) when the bus driver stops so abruptly that each of us ends up in the lap of the person sitting next to us, or (in sweaty commiseration) when the bus driver sees fit to blast the heater in spite of the 80-degree weather outside. Or when we catch someone watching us with our diversionary tool a little too intently so we respond by smiling at them without showing our teeth. Showing teeth is a sign of aggression, so we opt for a tight-lipped, toothless smile — universal sign of passive aggression. We know these people by heart, have memorized these dozens of faces: the Asian Hemingway, the pink-haired lesbian, the lady-with-springs-in-her-shoes, the angry vegan guy, the girl who knits socks. We come to know their schedules, and we wonder about them when they are missing, or when we see them on a different bus than our usual because we overslept or worked late. We love these real-life caricatures because we know them so well, and when

MICKEY MOUSE OLD PHONE, Collector, Antique French lord statue 13" pewter. Antique French lord statue 13" pewter, brass teddy bear, \$15. Brass hi-top hat and small one \$15, \$45. 702-334-2350. MINERAL COLLECTION. Cables, slabs cutting rough, crystals, lots of quartz in cluding Herkimer diamonds, unusua cutting rough, crystals, lots of quartz in-cluding Herkimer diamonds, unusual tumbled, much more. Knife collection, old Kershaws, Schrade IXLs, others. 619-

MISCELLANEOUS. Extension ladder \$45. Gardem tools, \$7 each. Electric slow cooker pots (2), \$9 each. Extension cords, different sizes, new, \$3-\$25 each. 619-582-0096. MODEL AIRPLANE, B-29 bomber, 4 en-gines, RC, \$95. Still in box, 619-574-7530. MOVING SALE. Aquarium/stand, refriger-ator, washer/dryer, dishwasher, freezer, microwave, TVs/stands, stereo, beds, daybed, dressers, recliner, coffee/end, dining table/chairs, vacuum, bikes. 619-670-7021

**MOVING SALE** Kenmore refrigerator (1 year old), bar stools, kitchen table (glasstop) 2 chairs, loveseat, entertainnter, dresser coffee table. Call -9927.

NEW VINYL WINDOWS, Two new win-

BLOG DIEGO

TITLE: Sanctimony | ADDRESS: sanctimony.net AUTHOR: Helena Bristow | FROM: Mission Hills | BLOGGING SINCE: 2002 POST DATE: November 19, 2007 | POST TITLE: Snapshots from My Commute

one disappears, we miss their presence in our day.

Still, we do everything we can to avoid speaking to each other. We work on the same campus, perhaps in the same building, but still we do not speak. We see them at lunch on campus or at the grocery store in our neighborhoods and pretend not to recognize them --- we see the recognition in each other's eyes, and we know that they, too, are consciously resisting the instinct to say hello. Quickly we each divert our eyes, so as not to risk making a new friend. And if we should happen, on the

bus, to meet someone we know in real life, we cordially say hello, and make an effort to say as few words as possible for the duration of the commute, sitting at opposite ends of the bus and focusing more than necessary on our packaged diversions.

#### Two:

A sick man in a hospital gown is

wandering the hospital grounds on a hot November morning. His balding head surrounded by long, greasy, dark hair; he has not bathed in many days and is cov-



ered in his sickness. His gown is clean and open in the back as hospital gowns generally do. It is sharing with all those in proximity a view of his white cotton boxer shorts (thank heaven he is wearing boxer shorts). His walk is laden with pain, and it is clear that he doesn't care that the world can see his boxer shorts; he is busy worrying about how he is

going to overcome the agonizing pain and about the morphine and the Vicodin that are not quite helping him cross the next few dozen feet to the hospital

> entrance and back to his shared room where he can close a pale green curtain and pretend that he is not alone; that someone is there beside his sick bed, praying for his recovery.

#### Three:

Any day of any week, a prison inmate in his orange jumpsuit is dripping blood from his stab wounds onto the wheelchair, to which he is

handcuffed, and onto the sidewalk below. Tired-looking sheriffs (you can hear their eyes rolling; they know the stabbing was just a ploy for an early-morning field trip) accompany the softly smiling inmate, who is happy to be on "the outside," if only for a few hours. And hospitals are fascinating places. They know this because in prison they watch ER and

Scrubs and House and Grey's Anatomy.

#### Four:

Ronnie sighs as I sit down next to him on the bus on a Friday morning in March. His shoes are shiny black-and-white leather, not brand-new, but as though they have been recently polished. I accidentally sit on the corner of his leather jacket, as is wont to happen on a crowded bus, and apologize as he pulls it out from under my thigh. I tell him that I like his shoes, and the three people nearest to us all turn to stare at his feet and remark on how new they look. They are over a year old, he says, but he has a lot of shoes, and he clearly takes good care of them. As soon as the gawkers have returned to their computering or iPodding or reading, Ronnie whispers to me, "I've got the cancer in my liver," and he complains of thirst and hunger. He is going in for a battery of tests - no food or drink after 11 p.m. last night, not even a sip of water. He tells me that all he wants is coffee, bacon, eggs. He has cancer in his liver, and this is all he wants. "I hope the prognosis is good," I say (what does one say when a stranger has confessed that he may be dying?). "It's not," he says, and quotes Confucius that "we should live each day as though it were our last and learn each day as though we were to live forever."

Got a blog you'd like to flog? Send your best stuff — around 900 words' worth — to FlogYourBlog@SanDiegoReader.net. If we run your posts, we'll send you \$50.

STEEL BUILDINGS, 30'x40', 40'x60' 50'x100'. Advertising discount. Prices lim ited. Up to 50%. Call Larry, 619-719-**TOOLS.** Porter-Cable belt sander #361, 3"x24", \$100. Plunge router, needs work, \$50. More tools for sale. 760-941-9371.

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**A** UTOMOTIVE

WALL MURAL Beautiful highrise city scene, print, lovely frame, 2'x5', \$9.95.

WEBER BARBECUE, \$75. 1991 Honda Accord radiator with fan, \$150. Adult

Accord radiator with fan, \$150. Adult medium briefs, 50 cents each. 2001 GMC Sonoma, low mileage, \$10,000. Bicycle, \$40. 760-233-9520.

WORMS. Redworm, nature's fertilizer. One bucket, \$40. Guaranteed 1000+ worms. Lisa, 619-449-7875.

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fit. Picture frame design, \$300. Jim or Lou 760-855-7802. 858-672-3852.

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AUTOMOTIVE

BMW 330ci, 2004, gray, manual, 34,500 miles, free maintenance and warranty un-til 2010 or 100K, excellent condition, pri-vate parties, \$31,000. eldirectorJJ@aim. com or 858-472-0499.

BMW 23, 1996, black convertible road-ster, only 64,900 miles, automatic, excel-lent condition, black leather power seats, new back window, customized BMW chrome wheels. \$10,500. 858-344-1234. ower seats, ized BMW BIWY, 325ci, 1994. Convertible, 132,000 miles, 5 speed, air conditioning, leather. Multi-disc player. Newer tires. Clean ti-le/registration. Everything works, bought another car. \$3999, 619-929-7957.

FORD TAURUS, 2003, 46K miles, great air conditioning, 4 door, CD, runs excellently, looks good, good on gas, burns no oil, al-ways maintained. \$6000. 619-850-4338. FORD TAURUS, 2003. SES, V6. Silver. Ex-cellent, like new, just smogged and oil change. All fine, 83,000 miles. All power, loaded. \$7399/best. 760-586-9448.

FORD THUNDERBIRD, 1970. Landu, 2-door big block 429, 360HP+. Many small upgrades to engine. Custom Pioneer CD. Power windows, driver side doesn't work, \$6800, 619-370-0036.

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LEXUS RX 300, 1999, vanilla, 97,700 miles. \$13,000 or take over payments of \$485.42. Thomas, 619-459-2006. PORSCHE BOXSTER S, 2000, convert-

ible, midnight blue/tan, 6-speed manual, sport package, cruise, CD, premium sound, premium wheels, low miles, all records, fast, \$19,500. 858-270-0707. TOYOTA CAMRY XLE, 1999, super clean, new tires, clean title, V-6, power steering, brakes, locks, windows, trip odometer, tachometer, air conditioning, tilt, leather, \$200 brock £10, 240 5 104

\$6200/best, 619-249-5194 Socio/Joest: 619-249-5194. TOYOTA CARRY, 1997, excellent condi-tion, 112K miles, complete service/Carfax records. New radiator, water pump, tim-ing belt, battery, wipers, trottle body sys-tern, more. \$4900. 619-275-2595.

VW JETTA TDI, 2001, dissel, 68K miles, runs great, 45mpg, new tires, dark blue, black cloth interior, \$13,000/best. Parked 4861 Del Monte Avenue. 619-820**\$500! POLICE IMPOUNDS.** Cars, trucks, SUVs from \$500! Hondas, Chevys, Jeeps, Toyotas, Nissans and more! For listings and information, call 800-495-0660 xC664.

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fied ads not printed here! CHEVY 1500, 2002, extended cab, tow package, shell, warranty GMPP Ma-jorguard, original owner, 71K miles, 5.3 V-8, automatic, pewter metallic, gray cloth, \$13,700. Dave, 619-405-2791. CHEVY PICKUP, 1993. 6-cylinder, longbed. New transmission, starter, bat-

longbed. New transmission, starter tery. Everything works perfect. good. Asking \$3000, 619-920-3362.

CHEVY VAN, 2003, 2500 Series, Chevy Express. V-8, automatic locks/windows. CD/stereo, polished aluminum wheels, white, leather seats, cage behind driver. It's a beauty! \$11,000/best. 619-670-5734.

FORD ECONO VAN E250, 1995, heavyduty lift on back, great commercial van, real roomy, great engine. Some body work and 1 tire needed. \$800. 619-957-MOLF 7033

FORD F-250, 1977, crew cab with camper shell, runs very well, very strong, uses no oil, dependable, good tires, \$1500/best. Serious replies only. 619-368-1158; 619-850-4338.

FORD RANGER SUPERCAB, 2003, excellent condition, 4.0 V-6, automatic, air con-ditioning, 4 door, power everything, custom wheels and tires, tonneau cover, 62K miles, \$9800. Steve, 619-709-995. **GMC SIERRA**, 1993, 7.4 liter, white ex-tended cab, long bed, 139K miles, \$6000 cash. Private parties only, 619-271-9540. MAZDA B-2000 PICKUP, 1987, with shell. 5 speed. New brakes, oil seals. Previ-ously rebuilt transmission and carburetor. 200,000+ miles, but still great workhorse. \$2000/best, 619-696-9653.

MOTORHOME, 1985 Rockwood, 31 foot, Chevy 454, 52,000 miles, 6.5k generator, levelers, twin beds. Excellent condition, \$8000. 858-566-4231.



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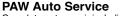
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#### WOW. 2008 CAN CHOKE ON IT.

First day, I was shot in the butt with a BB gun. I'm not kidding. Some little terrorist with a pump-action Daisy and a swift bicycle lay in wait to ambush me at my mailbox. Before the sweet sting of copper and a short spasm of my left butt cheekie, I heard rustling and giggling in a nearby bird of paradise plant. When I leaned over to investigate, there was a darling little Himalayan girl built like a stout Sherpa, only about two feet high.

When I said, "Hello there. Are you lost?" I felt the hot sizzle of a ball bearing in my can, right next to my cell-phone pocket. As I jerked upward, covered my wounded rear with both hands, and let out an alarmed holler, the Sherpa girl bolted from the bird of paradise plant and her older brother dashed from an alleyway behind me; the little bandito waving a chintzy rifle around, its barrel smoking in the sunlight, and he hopped onto a waiting red-and-white Schwinn - his daring steed.

I spun back to catch the Sherpa girl flip me the bird and throw a gluey stick of green swirly candy that affixed itself to my T-shirt between my left nipple and bellybutton. "Why you little ... " I shouted and dragged the candy away from me, trailing behind it long arcs of goo and leaving a viscous puddle of gunk.

"Happy New Year!" I called to the fleeing juvenile delinquents.

Second day I was run over by a schoolteacher on a Vespa. I was bicycling up 35th Street when from a cross street a bright blue scooter shot through an intersection and glanced against my rear wheel. The tiny front wheel of the aspiring motorcycle-to-be knocked me down. I was lying sideways on the asphalt with my shoulder in the gravel and a black trashcan against my face.

"I'm late," the woman shouted. "It's my first day teaching third grade!" "Well, then, we better sort all this ... "

Before I could convey my sentiment, she had untangled my twisted bike from her uninspired moped and sped off. I stood up stiff and bleeding through my clothes and resolved to not step one foot out of my bedroom the rest of the year. Now, if you'll excuse me, I have to order TiVo and tend to some wounds.

#### WHAT I WILL AND WON'T WATCH THIS WEEK

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PARTS

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#### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 3** CURIOUS GEORGE

#### PBS 7:00 A.M.

In other news, I'm rapidly losing my memory.

Since I hit my 30s, I've noticed a startling forgetfulness. There's a disease, but I can't think of the name right now. I'm pretty sure I have that. I've heard of medication that can help with...whatever we're talking about. Who are you?

**GREY'S ANATOMY** 

#### ABC 9:00 P.M.

This cold is my own damn fault. Riding bikes

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not printed here FORD MODEL A, 1931, panel delivery truck, chili pepper red, very rare, immactruck, chili pepper red, very rare, immac-ulately restored, original engine and still running well, \$21,500. Douglas, 619-232-2020.

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DUNE BUGGY, 4 seater, home built in 2006, Fibertech frame, 2.5L Subaru WRX turbo, fuel injection, running/racing/tail-lights, Jamar 4 speed, receipts, \$24,900. 619-726-4813

HELICOPTER MINI 500, single seat, experimental, liquid-cooled Rotax 582 en-gine with Pep kit, doors, 5-point safety narness, easy ground maneuvering, 70mph, 14.7 gallon, \$24,000. 520-440-

KEYSTONE SPRINTER Copper Canyon 2007, 36.9' 5th wheel, queen bed suite full bath, bunk room with 1/2 bath, up graded jacknife couch, 2 slides. \$21,500 252-917-7183.

drunk in the rain to ease depression really only works to add misery to one's life. However, this cold's shining bright spot is that it has revealed to me the nastiest phrase in the English language, found on the side of a coughsyrup bottle, "encourages a productive cough." The imagery. Oh, the imagery.

#### FRIDAY, JANUARY 4

**ACURA & HONDA OWNERS** 

· Rotate tires if needed

• Top off all fluids

· Complete brake inspection

· Check all hoses & belts

· Replace spark plugs

Kearny Mesa Acura & Honda Specialists

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• Check & adjust timing to specs

Check radiator and fan operation • Road-test

Change oil & filter • Inspect air filte

L

#### 1 VS. 100

NBC 8:00 P.M.

Friday night on TV is like that dozen or so strands of hair that magically appear in your mouth anytime you make out with someone.

> TRUCK PARTS, 1948 Chevy pick-up cab (interchangeable with 1947-1953 models) on chassis, all fenders, doors, hood, nice American racing wheels. Best offer by New Year 2008. 760-765-3206.

BUMPER-TO-BUMPER SPECIAL

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You really have to fight through the tough ones, ignore most of it, and pick at your lips with wet fingers. Wait. Then, no, Fridaynight TV is not like that at all. I take it back. I'm not sure where I was going with that. Carry on.

#### SATURDAY, JANUARY 5 GOOD MORNING SAN DIEGO, WEEKEND KUSI 7:00 A.M.

Every Saturday morning since being dumped, I have sat up from my spot on the couch, wiped the white ring of snot and narcotic dust

from my nose and the snot trough above my lip, shot green liquor with beer backs, and thought to myself, It's a long drive; I can sober up on the freeway. 2008, here I come.

#### MEET THE PARENTS FAMILY 5:30 P.M.

Since I'm single and using this column as an online dating tool, I'd like to get some preferences out of the way. My new favorite shape is umbrella, and my new favorite taste is oblong. My favorite smell is the checks-and-balances system. Oh, I'm one to take home to mom.

#### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 6** AMERICAN GLADIATORS

#### NBC 9:00 P.M.

Oof! Nobody remembers that spandex + hair gel + Nerf weapons doesn't equal cool? Allow me to refresh any TV producers who may be reading. Spandex + hair gel + Nerf weapons = sad, confused teenagers wearing high heels and a powder wig and crying in the shower. Not cool. (God, how supremely uncool I was.)

#### MONDAY, JANUARY 7 COLLEGE FOOTBALL

#### FOX 5:15 P.M.

Come on, Edwards! Bring home our 44th win for the white males! Here we go, Edwards! Here we go! Wait. Is this the same thing? I get American ritualized entertainment mixed



Grey's Anatomy

up sometimes.

#### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 8** ELVIS PRESLEY TRIBUTE

QVC 10:00 A.M.

As if Michael Jackson's camouflaged picnic surprise hovering around his daughter's furry forearm were not insult enough ...

#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9 THE JEWISH AMERICANS

#### PBS 9:00 P.M.

I can only imagine Mel Gibson's consternation at this program's airing. I'm sure he puts on a yarmulke, lipsticks up, and does the Silence of the Lamb's tuck and wiggle in front of a mirror every time something like this is played. Outside his Malibu ranch, you can hear the shouts of "Put the lotion in the basket! They'll never take our freedom!'

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 10 CELEBRITY APPRENTICE NBC 9:00 P.M.

AUTOMOTIVE

We should hope that pancake makeup is made from something other than petroleum because the supply drain created by this show may bring crude oil over the 100-dollar-per-barrel mark. Four bucks for a gallon of gas so we can see one of the Baldwins row a duck-shaped boat across a pond and then do long division isn't a trade I'm willing to make.

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