

SAN DIEGO WEEKLY

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JANUARY 10, 2008

Reader



Soccer moms are the absolute worst

Story begins on page 24

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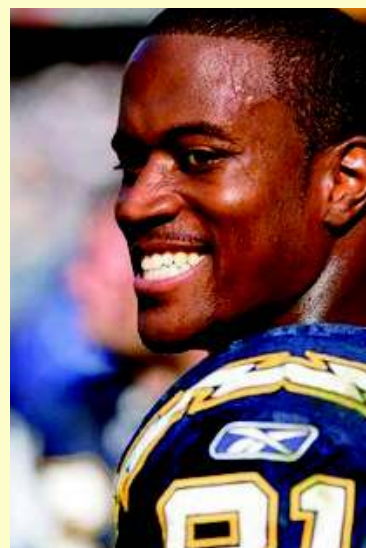
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BREAKING NEWS

Blowback A limousine operator in Washington, D.C., linked to the **Randy "Duke" Cunningham** scandal is suing the Copley Press for libel, alleging that *Union-Tribune* business writer **Dean Calbreath** falsely reported that company limos "would pick up Congressman Duke Cunningham and a prostitute and take them to the ADCS hospitality suite."



Randy Cunningham

ADCS is the firm of **Brent Wilkes**, the Poway defense contractor convicted of bribing Cunningham. The suit, filed in Washington's U.S. District Court by Shirlington Limousine and Transportation, Inc., and its owner **Chris Baker**, further claims that Calbreath also erred when he reported in April 2006 that the limo company had brought prostitutes to the ADCS suite. The action, filed last May and amended in October, claims that as a result of the allegedly false *U-T* coverage, Baker "suffered economic, commercial, emotional, psychological and political damage" and was subjected to "a brutal and scathing witch hunt characterized by highly invasive, unwarranted congressional, federal agency and media scrutiny."

"Following these articles," the complaint goes on to say, "a Congressional Subcommittee of the



Brent Wilkes

House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security held a public hearing exclusively on SL&T, a member of Congress introduced a Congressional Resolution in the House of Representatives calling for an investigation of SL&T, Congresswoman **Louise M. Slaughter** requested the Department of Homeland Security to cancel SL&T's multi-million dollar federal contract with DHS, hundreds of media stories were published nationally which repeated the false allegations, SL&T's lease at Ronald Reagan Airport was terminated, and other business damages occurred."

Baker and his company are asking the court to award them at least \$50 million in damages. Copley's lawyers filed a motion in November to dismiss the complaint on the grounds that the Washington court has no jurisdiction over the California paper and its San Diego-based reporter. **Judith Fanshaw**, a San Diego-based attorney for Copley, said it was company policy not to discuss the merits of the case, but added, "If you look at the lawsuit and you look at the story, it just speaks for itself [in favor of dismissal]."

Boxed in If past behavior is any guide, last weekend's playoff game between the Chargers and the Tennessee Titans resulted in a full house at the City's Qualcomm Stadium box, to which each San Diego city council member receives two free tickets. (The mayor gets six; Councilman **Scott Peters**, the council's president, gets four; stadium management receives eight; City Attorney **Mike Aguirre** gets two; and two go to each of the nine members of the City's stadium advisory board.) After years of scandals — some involving tickets given by councilmembers to

their biggest campaign contributors — the City finally adopted a new procedure requiring the City boxgoers to affix their legible signatures to a roster that was supposed to be posted quarterly on the Internet for review by the curious citizenry. (As of last week, the sheets for the second and third quarter were missing from the clerk's website, requiring a trip downtown to the clerk's office; an assistant clerk said the omission should be corrected by now.)

At the September Bears game, stadium manager **Erik Stover** gave two tickets to the Fort Lauderdale, Florida-based Sport Management Research Institute, which describes itself as "a



Ben Hueso

full-service market research consulting firm specializing in sport and entertainment business." According to a September 13 memo, the gift represented a "trade-out of guest services research during Chargers games." **Malissa Stanley**, a local muralist, got two tickets in exchange for a "logo painting in the press box." Other recipients included **Jeff Vetting** of Live Nation Motor Sports, which runs motorcycle events at Qualcomm, and **Steve Redfern** of AEG Live, which is building that 13,000-seat outdoor concert venue located on the former Chargers' practice field. Others to bag the coveted box seats over the course of the football season included the son and mother of Councilman **Jim Madaffer**; **Matt and Lindsey McGrath**, listed as relatives of Aguirre lieutenant **Don McGrath**; and lobbyist and political consultant **Art Castanares**, who went with Councilman **Ben Hueso**.

Charity begins in Chula Vista

Charger owner **Alex Spanos**, who has proclaimed Chula Vista the ultimate locale of his new football stadium — if it is to be built in San Diego County at all — has been putting a little of his money where his mouth is. According to a December 19 filing with the state's Fair Political Practices Commission, the football team kicked in with a \$5000 donation to Casa Seguras, "a confidential shelter for women and children," at the behest of **Shirley Horton**, Chula Vista's GOP assemblywoman. Other big donors recruited by Horton for the same cause included EastLake Company (\$25,000); Union Bank of California (\$10,000); and **Annie and David Malcolm** (\$10,000). Back in 2003, David Malcolm, a former port commissioner, pleaded guilty to one felony count of conflict of interest regarding a secret contract he had arranged to pull strings on behalf of Duke Energy — operator of the port-owned South Bay Power Plant that Spanos now has in his sights as the location of the proposed stadium.



Shirley Horton

— 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.

Raid!

By Don Bauder

There is an old Wall Street adage that is apt for both 2008 and 2009: "When they raid the whorehouse, they take the

charwoman and piano player too." Translation: when the stock market panics, it doesn't have time to distinguish between the naughty and the nice, between the innocent and not-so-innocent. They are all piled into the paddy wagon and hauled off to the pokey. It's like that with stocks of big financial institutions in today's mortgage crisis. Nobody knows what the mortgage-related paper these banks hold is worth. So the market knocks almost all of these stocks down mercilessly.

This causes a lot of unhappiness but also brings opportunity. At some point, somebody will recognize that the market has been punishing the charwoman and the piano player, who aren't burdened with much lousy mortgage paper. Their stocks will rebound, while the stocks of

the wicked remain in the hoosegow.

This year and next, there is a perfect market and economic environment for betting on charwomen and piano players, although this



can be a speculative game. The stock market will be highly volatile, as it was in 2007. Categories of stocks will be in favor one day and out of favor the next. That means more raids and more eventual exculpation of the innocent.

Such market volatility feeds on uncertainty, and the

U.S. economy will provide that in spades. There is a 35 to 60 percent chance of a national recession, caused by the mortgage and real estate crisis and the damage it is doing to consumer spending, which is 70 percent of the economy. (San Diego's recession odds are about 80 percent; it may already be in recession, because the real estate chaos will be more intense than in the rest of the nation.) Recession or not, there is agreement that the U.S. economy will soften

noticeably. The nation may be only halfway through the housing pain; San Diego, where prices have already fallen 15 percent from the peak, has even further to go. The bulk of corporate profits will weaken. Overseas economies may stay strong, generally.

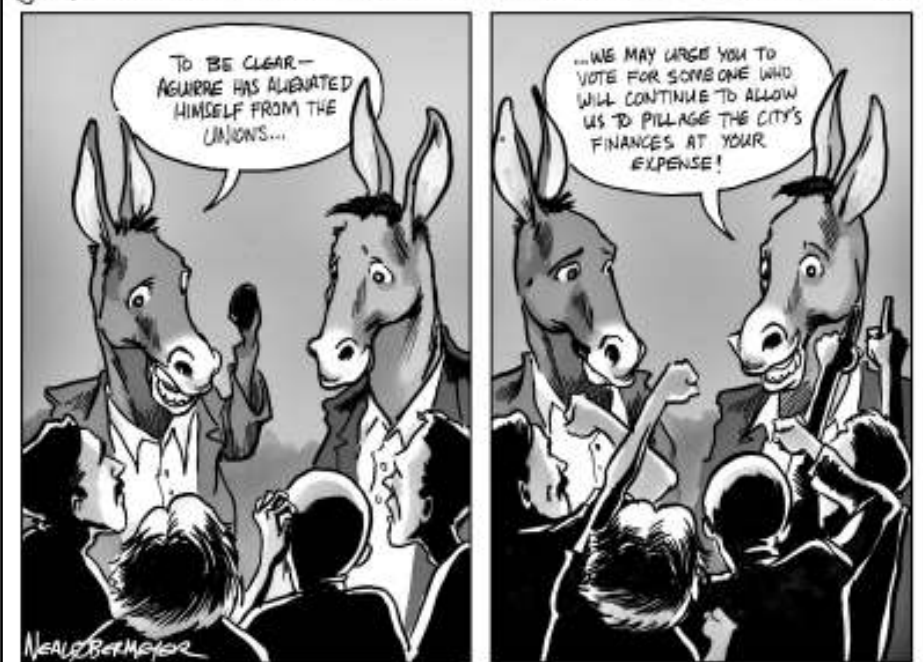
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Contact Don Bauder at 619-546-8529 or don.bauder@mac.com

Neal Obermeyer

SAN DIEGO DEMOCRATS REMAIN UNCERTAIN OF WHETHER OR NOT THEY'LL ENDORSE MIKE AGUIRRE



Innocents Saved from the Trash

By Ernie Grimm

Ten years ago, Elissa Davey received her vocation. She was a 50-year-old realtor, mother of two sons, and resident of San

Marcos when the call came in the form of a story in the newspaper about a newborn baby found dead and abandoned in Chula Vista. "Usu-

How ignorant. How sad.' Then your day starts, and you are off on your own and you forget."

But Davey couldn't forget that baby. "I don't know why that particular baby was different, but it haunted me to the point where, after a month, I called the County Medical Examiner's Office and I asked them what became of that baby. And he said he was still there. And if nobody claimed him, he would go into an unmarked grave at Mount Hope Cemetery. I asked, 'How do you claim a baby that is not yours?' He said, 'Show me you have a dignified place to put him.' So I went to work to make a dignified place to put him. But I didn't get that baby, because it took me almost a year to get it all set up."

What she set up was a nonprofit organization called



PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOE KLEIN



ally," she says today, "you read stories like that and say, 'Oh my God, who could do something like that? How cruel.

Garden of Innocence, dedicated to burying unidentified dead babies such as the Chula Vista baby she had read about and babies abandoned at local hospitals. El Camino Memorial park in Sorrento Valley "offered to donate 105 places for me. I just had to pay a one-time fee of \$16,000 for the opening and the closing of the graves."

Davey had put together

a board of directors for the nonprofit. She gathered them all and showed them the offer from El Camino. "I put the note on the table, and everyone that was there said, 'I am not signing that note.' Nobody would sign it with me. So I figured, 'I will sign, I don't care.' So I signed it, and I owed \$16,000 to El Camino."

She borrowed \$16,000 against the equity in her house to pay the cemetery and paid

it off over the next two and a half years with fund-raising efforts. "I started doing public speaking, I started putting out the word and getting people involved. We did a fund-raiser, and then New Venture Church in North County donated \$10,000, and another donor gave us \$15,000. So I was able to pay that off. Then, over the next couple of years, I decided to buy the land

around the garden. It came to \$30,000, but it was enough gravesites for 600 children. So I decided to do more public speaking and try to meet 30,000 people and ask them for a dollar each. I didn't have to meet 30,000 people, but I had to meet a lot of them. I spoke at church groups and civic groups, Lions Clubs, Kiwanis. I spoke at youth groups — some of the youth groups raised money by having car washes. We only put on one big fund-raiser. I was able to pay [the \$30,000] in a year and a half. So now the garden is totally paid off, except every time we bury a baby, we have to pay a fee of \$125."

In the spring of 1999, a baby boy whom Garden of Innocence members would later name Adam "was found wrapped up in his mother's sweatpants and thrown in the trash," Davey recalls.

The county medical examiner turned over Adam's body to Davey. On May 21, 1999, Adam became the first baby buried at the Garden of Innocence. And he was almost the last. "The medical examiner told us that part of the rules were, if [a baby] is unidentified and considered certified abandoned, that we

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Rebecca Melendez (left) of El Camino Memorial and Elissa Davey (right)

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

Raid

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And that's where the uncertainty lies. The dollar has plunged 30 percent against other currencies. The countries behind those currencies, particularly the euro, aren't happy about this dollar weakness. Those countries' export businesses are hurting. They would like to see the euro weaken against the buck.

But the U.S. Federal Reserve is fighting a recession. The usual cure is liquidity. Lending is frozen by the mortgage crisis. A little monetary juice may loosen things up. The Fed is expected to lower interest rates and, through its daily open-market operations, pump liquidity through the banking system.

Problem: more liquidity weakens the currency even more because lower interest

rates make dollar-denominated assets less attractive. A weaker currency and a flood of liquidity lead to even more inflation. For example, the weaker dollar leads to higher prices of imports. When import prices rise, domestic producers have an excuse to raise their prices.

So we have monetary inflation — the kind that is created by central banks, in effect, printing money. But

we also have nonmonetary inflation. Food prices, in particular, are going up for other reasons. Until a couple of years ago, food prices were going down. No more. Globally, wheat prices have doubled since spring. Other agriculture commodities' prices have been soaring. "Dearer food is likely to persist for years," says the *Economist* magazine, which labels the phenomenon "agflation."

Among the many factors tipping the supply/demand balance toward higher prices: the amount of meat a Chinese person eats each year is now 150 percent higher than it was in 1985. America's subsidization of ethanol will use up one-third of the corn crop. Result: higher corn prices. And fuel inflation will probably remain high.

Consumer inflation is now running at 4 to 5 per-

cent and may be at 6 percent or higher by year-end. This is beyond the Fed's tolerance limits and will inhibit its ability to fight recession with lower interest rates and more monetary juice. The Fed will look for creative, low-key ways to pump liquidity into the banking system. Other countries will do the same to lower their currencies, as they are doing now. The world's central banks will say these are coordinated efforts to melt frozen global credit markets, but that may not be what's going on: nations may be trying to whack their own currencies — something similar to competitive devaluations.

Just imagine the volatility. Today, analysts are sure that because of the weak dollar, the stocks to buy are the ones that sell products overseas: Caterpillar, General Electric, Boeing, Coca-Cola, etc. Those stocks will probably rise in this environment. Then suppose the dollar starts rising. Raid! These stocks will be hauled off to the slammer.

One day, certain stocks will be in jail, and the next, in favor. The overall market could crash this year, or it could go up, at least moderately. It is not as tied to the economy as it once was, because fiscal and monetary policies are obsessively devoted to keeping stocks up. Even though earnings may crater, the market could continue to be buoyed by liquidity. Just watch out if the Fed can no longer pump in the juice and interest rates soar with inflation. Bonds will fall in price. The only place to hide will be money market funds, savings instruments, and commodities (but be wary of those shark-filled commodity pits).

Since the government is holding a gun to your head and telling you to buy stocks, you really should own some. One way to hedge is to buy stocks of recession-proof companies making consumer essentials that also have a big overseas presence. There are two jewels: Procter & Gamble and Johnson & Johnson. Since the tax on dividends is now so low, you can load up on utilities, although steer clear of those trying to diversify out of the basic business. San Diego's utility, Semptra,

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Raid

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yields only 2 percent, but some say its nonutility operations, such as pipelines and liquefied natural gas, give it an excellent future. And there will be some opportunities in big banks once the mortgage threat clears, but that may be some time.

What about some innocent charwomen and piano players? There may be some in San Diego. The temporary staffing companies are out of favor on Wall Street now. AMN Healthcare Services, the largest such firm in health industries, has seen

its stock plunge from a high of \$29.10 last year to below \$17, although earnings and revenues continue to do well. There are problems: demand in the company's largest market, California, is on the weak side. Long-range hospital administrators may use fewer temps and hire permanent staff. Chairman Steve Francis recently sold \$52 million of shares; that's not too comforting. All told, however, this stock may be a case of an innocent rounded up in a raid.

The market is pounding apparel-retailing stocks too. Shares of Charlotte Russe

Holding, whose 390 stores target younger women, have been more than halved from their high of almost \$34 last year. But revenue is advancing, profits are holding steady, expansion proceeds, and the company is packing more buyers into its stores. Ashworth, a designer and seller of sportswear, is different. Its sales and earnings are coming down, and it recently cleaned out top management. The stock is down from last year's high of \$8.61 to above \$3.50. It pared its losses in the fourth quarter and the stock jumped. Still, it may deserve that paddy wagon. ■

details of where he was thrown away. And the County immediately canceled us and said, 'We gave you specific orders not to divulge that information.' I said, 'We didn't say a word, we never mentioned anything, we didn't tell a soul.' Come to find out that the person that wrote the story had spoken directly to someone in the Medical Examiner's Office who told her everything. So once they found out that we didn't do it, that it was one of their own personnel, we got the go-ahead to continue."

The other snag with Adam's burial involved the minister who volunteered to speak at the service. "Somebody asked me, 'What should we tell the minister to say?'" Davey recalls. "I said, 'We shouldn't have to tell him anything. Ministers know what to do at a gravesite service.'"

But the minister at that first service made Davey regret the decision not to give talk guidelines. "[He] used the word 'abortion,' he used the word 'kill,' he used the phrase 'thrown in the trash.' He said,

'What an awful mother.' He brought up all this horrible stuff. And we were thinking, 'Don't mention any of those words, because what happened yesterday doesn't pertain to today. Today is a new day.'"

At all of the services since Adam's, Davey and other members of the nonprofit have given guidelines to the ministers who volunteer to speak. "The only thing that we say is, 'Don't mention what an awful mom. Don't mention how cruel this was. Don't mention anything that happened yesterday. Focus on today. Today this baby is going home with a lot of people that care, a lot of people that love him.'"

Catholic priests, protestant ministers, rabbis, and shamans from around San Diego and as far away as Chicago have spoken at Garden of Innocence services. "We've had [representatives from] 32 different churches come, and they all volunteer. And we have more lined up who want to come for future services."

Though the clergy have varied, one constant has been

the Catholic fraternal organization the Knights of Columbus. "They've come out for every service," Davey says. "The first service, there were about 7. And the last service that we just did, there were about 30. But we have had as many as 70 there at one time. They give a lot of dignity to our services. They just give it an amazing amount of love. We just buried our 98th baby two weeks ago, and we are preparing for when we get our 100th because it is going to be a huge service, and the Knights of Columbus are going to be putting on the whole thing themselves. So it will be mostly a Catholic service, though we will have other people there. We will have a whole church choir there, from Good Shepherd [Catholic Parish in Mira Mesa]."

The Knights' involvement in Garden of Innocence was accidental — or providential. "One of the members of our group, Tony Miller," Davey recalls, "one of his relatives had passed away and left him with a sword. And so he went to a Catholic church to find

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Innocents saved

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weren't supposed to tell anybody any of his circumstances. So [representatives of the medical examiner] showed up at the service to kind of critique us and watch how we did the first service. But in the newspaper the next day was a whole story about [Adam], how he was found, where he came from, the

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out if he could donate it to the Knights of Columbus. He started talking to them about the Garden of Innocence, and they said, 'We would like to be involved in that.' We have had Knights from as far away as Connecticut come and do a service. They are an amazing bunch of men."

Most of the 98 babies buried at the Garden of Innocence were not newborns found in the trash, like Adam. "Those are called unidentified," Davey explains, "the ones that are found along the street or thrown in the trash or thrown in the sewer. We have had 10 or 12 of them. The rest are abandoned. Abandoned babies are those that died at area hospitals and the parents walked away and left the bodies. Some are stillborn, some of them are preemies that were born too soon and died right away. Some of them lived for a while before they were abandoned. Doris lived for a month. She was Life Flighted to San Diego from Orange County for immediate open-heart surgery at Children's Hospital, where she lived for a month. During that month, not one mother came to see her, not one grandmother, nobody. And then after a month, she died, and she ended up being certified abandoned. But during that month, the nurses at the hospital bond with these children so fast. So we explain to the hospital that we are going to take care of them. And we have had some nurses come to our services."

Davey reports that nurses who come to services of babies they cared for say they receive a sense of closure. Others have as well. "When Michaela was found in the mountains, I called the woman that found her, the jogger that found her, and told her that we were going to be taking care of her. She came, and it gave her great closure, because she never knew what would have happened to her. And the man that found Michael in the sewer, I called him to tell him that we were going to be taking care of him, and he came. And he said it was wonderful to see the dignity that this baby he had found in the sewer got."

Though she doesn't know for sure, Davey is almost cer-

tain that mothers of babies abandoned at hospitals have come to the Garden of Innocence to see their babies buried. "We believe that we have had maybe one or two mothers come that knew about it, but they never let us

know. We think they were the mothers because they were crying uncontrollably. But they didn't speak to anybody."

Parents who have abandoned their children at hospitals are not prosecuted.

"It's not against the law to walk away," Davey says.

Before Garden of Innocence, dead babies abandoned at hospitals were cremated and their ashes scattered at sea along with those of indigents found dead

around the county.

Now that the Garden of Innocence is up and running in San Diego, Davey is trying to start gardens in other states. Efforts are under way in Texas, Washington, Missouri, and Nevada. This isn't

Davey's job. She's still a realtor. She says it's her calling. "Sometimes people will ask, 'How can you bury a baby? That is the worst thing to do in the whole wide world.' And my answer right back is, 'How can we not?' " ■

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In 1985, we introduced the first holistic dog/cat food into the U.S. It is called Holistique Blendz. They had no idea what holistic meant. It doesn't mean natural and it doesn't mean organic. It is a philosophy of life. It means the whole body works together—mind, body and spirit. It saddens us that other dog food companies incorrectly throw around the word holistic just because Solid Gold uses it. It saddens us that they try to fool the public by trying to copy our philosophy.

I asked one dog food company what holistic meant, since he now uses it as part of the name of his product. He said it means they put apples in their food!

Solid Gold has always produced dry food in the U.S. In the spring of 2007, 137 dry dog/cat foods were recalled by the FDA for killing 6,000 animals and injuring 300,000 others. All contained melamine and cyanuric acid made in China. By the fall of 2007, 179 dry dog/cat foods were recalled.

Solid Gold was one of seven pet foods that were not recalled. Then, another dog food company admitted that their dog food was made in China but said it was not on the recall list. However they said they are checking for cyanuric acid/melamine poisoning just in case!

A large canned pet food company had its whole line of canned foods recalled for botulism poisoning. It was made in the U.S. The same time, another canned dog food line was recalled for salmonella poisoning. Twenty one people died of salmonella poisoning after handling the canned food. It was also made in the U.S. Solid Gold has not been involved with any of these tragedies.

In July 2007, a newspaper article read, "Lawsuit Alleges Pet Food Industry Fraud." A law firm in Miami, Florida accuses seven very big and well-known dog food companies of using "waste products, including euthanized dogs and cats, restaurant grease, hair, hooves, road kill and toxic chemicals and additives."

Solid Gold was not involved with any of this mess!

Finally a well-known dog food company agreed to compensate owners of 436 dogs that died from eating his dog food. The public may not be aware of the dangerous back room insidious plans against pets. But Solid Gold is and we will report them to you.

Most dog food companies make a variety of products. Dog food is at the bottom of the barrel and gets the scraps and leftovers that they can't use elsewhere. Example: we don't use avocados, which are hard on the pancreas. If you have a diabetic, pre-diabetic or older dog, avocados may make the situation worse. We don't use sunflower oil, which the Swedish National Cancer Society warns increases the risk of cancer by 69%. So if you want to be sure that you are feeding the best possible dog/cat food to your pets, feed Solid Gold. It is clean and safe. We make sure of that. Solid Gold does its homework.

To receive our catalogue and documentation of our research, write to our new (Feb. 08) address at 1331 N. Cuyamaca, El Cajon, California 92020. To find a store near you that carries Solid Gold, call us Monday, Wednesday, or Friday Pacific Standard Time from 11 am-5 pm: 619-258-7356. It's free.

To get a list of recalled pet foods, look up the FDA recall list at www.fda.gov/oc/opa.com/hottopicspetfood.html and/or www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/petfood/recall. Check monthly, since the list changes monthly. It drops compliance names and adds others. One dog company has been dropped and recalled three times.

Once upon a time, an old man and his dog had died. He was on a road leading to Heaven. He came to a beautiful large home that had written across the front, "This is Heaven." He approached the gate, only to be stopped by a guard. As he tried to enter, the guard stopped him, "No dogs are allowed in here." So the old man turned around and left. Soon, he came to another large house. The sign said, "HEAVEN." The old man and Teddy, his dog, walked up to the guard at the gate. "I want to come in. But I want Teddy to be welcome too." The guard smiled. "Dogs are always welcome in Heaven." The old man looked confused. "I don't understand. Your place is marked, "HEAVEN." So what is that other building down the road?" The guard frowned. "That is HELL," he said.

Retold by Sissy Harrington-McGill

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LETTERS

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

Sorry, Babe

A necessary and sufficient characteristic of an a***** is being self-consumed ("Merry Tuesday," "Diary of a Diva," January 3). Barb's entire essay was about Barb. Family, friends, and tradition be damned.

Ergo: David got it wrong. Sorry, babe, you are an a*****.

P.S. A little happiness is hard to come by in this life. Seems to me you squandered a bunch of it this Christmas. Maybe you can do better next.

E.J. Dunne
via email

Matt? Matt? Where Are You?

For years, my favorite part of the Reader has been Matthew Alice's "Straight From the Hip." I haven't seen that column published since November 7. Did I miss something? When is his column coming back? I left a question in the "Comments" section of his area on the website but haven't heard a word back. What's going on?

Vincent Andrunas
via email

OD? Oh, No!

I was wondering what happened to the "Straight From the Hip" column. I've noticed that for the past three or four weeks it hasn't been in there. I wondered if the guy, Matt, who does the column OD'd or is in rehab, like some of your other writers.

Thomas McVeigh
Lakeside

Matthew Alice responds: While we appreciate the concern, the idea of rehab is absurd. We've simply had the elves in for their 20-year tune-up, they found a few

things that needed adjusting, and when we're all back in fighting trim, we'll return.

Correction

Due to an editorial error in the January 3 "Of Note" on Get Back Loretta, the ticket price for the band's January 5 show at the Ché Café was incorrect. The show was \$5.

Retarded Blurb

William Crain did a blurb on one of San Diego's best bands, Get Back Loretta ("Of Note," January 3). He quoted their lyrics wrong, which he should have checked before quoting. He sounded retarded. He made fun of one of the best bands around. This is why I read *City Beat* instead of the Reader.

Ben
via email

William Crain responds: Thank you for correcting me on the lyrics. I did not have access to a lyrics sheet, and it sounded like "through the trees" to me.

100 Is Perfect

Get Back Loretta is great. Eighty-two jerk points for

the Reader.

Martha
via email

They're The Undorkiest

I don't understand why you'd call Get Back Loretta dorks or say anything bad about them at all — especially when you quote their lyrics wrong. Their music rocks, and the guys in the band are awesome! William Crain, get your information right!

Serena
via email

Wack Dork

I saw a wack article on my favorite San Diego band, Get Back Loretta. Whoever wrote it (William Crain) is an ignorant dork who knows nothing about music. He makes fun of the band and the Beatles and sheds no light into the music or anything. How embarrassing for you guys to run that blurb.

Fred
via email

Amazing And Catchy

Where do you guys get off dissing Get Back Loretta? They don't only have

amazing lyrics and catchy tunes, but they're amazing people as well. And there's no need to dis the Beatles either.

And next time you quote someone's lyrics, do it *right*.

Sarah
via email

Audience TLC

Your article about Get Back Loretta is completely false. Their lyrics are all inspiring and made my New Year's last year probably the best ever. They take great care with the audience and make sure that they are happy. You cannot compare them to any other band with a record deal or indie band.

Brandon
via email

No Emo Trashy Punk

So ya don't dis Get Back Loretta. They have *good quality* music, and they're not dorks. I'm sorry you don't see them as your average emo trashy punk band. But they're good. So go to hell if you think not. I suggest your paper does some music research so that your next article is accurate.

Guyanna Bedington
via email

Loretta Breakdown

Wow, William Crain's article about San Diego's band Get Back Loretta was a pretty big letdown! Not only did he put down the

Beatles (who, I might add, probably had the biggest breakthrough in music culture of all time), but he claimed that all members in the band were dorks. Personally, I don't think anyone in any kind of professional business deserves to be labeling anyone, but simply stating their opinion. I mean, I would be able to say that William Crain is an a*****, but I don't know the guy, although in his writing, he does kind of seem like one. And furthermore, Crain even got the lyrics of the song "Mr. Brown" wrong. Now, I don't know who this goes out to or who reads these comments, but this is the last article I read on your site. Get better writers!

Eddie
via email

Back In A Day

This is in regards to the "Of Note" section written by your wannabe music/band critic (William Crain). I grew up in the Beatles day, saw them on *Ed Sullivan*, and had a girlfriend who paid less attention to me when one of their songs was on the radio. For Mr. Crain to even suggest that "Get Back" was a bad song proves to me that he is not very savvy of good music. "Get Back" is my favorite Beatle song; my wife and I

continued on page 64

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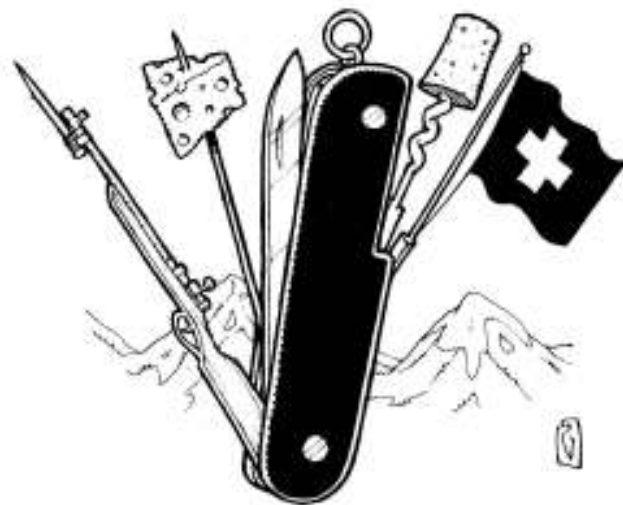
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STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP

BY MATTHEW ALICE

Illustration by Rick Geary



Dear Matthew:

I got a Swiss Army Knife for Christmas. The person who gave it to me keeps trying to tell me that the Swiss Army actually uses these knives. I think that's baloney. It's just a marketing tool to make them seem cool. I'm not even sure there is such a thing as the Swiss Army. I mean, who do the Swiss fight with? Why do they need an army? What's the truth, Matt?

— Skeptic, via email

The Swiss Army isn't the busiest outfit in town, that's true. But there is such a group. And each man is issued a variation on your Christmas gift and has been since 1891. Now, you might wonder, why does an army have to go into battle armed with corkscrews, scissors, and toothpicks? Those are just popular elaborations offered to the general public. Well, except for the corkscrew, which for 100 years has been part of the actual Swiss Army's Swiss Army Knife, but issued to officers only. The original knife had a wooden handle with a knife blade, screwdriver, can opener, and a punch — handy things to have in the field. About eight years later, the manufacturer came up with the clever spring-loaded mechanism, allowing more and more gadgets to be fitted into the handle. And eventually the whole thing was made up in aluminum instead of wood. The red plastic is the version for general sale.

Heymatt:

Sitting around with nothing much to do, I started thinking about how long it would be until it was summer again. And then I started thinking about sitting on the beach and hitting the surf with my Boogie board and then I started thinking about getting sunburned and then tan and then my hair going all beach blond. And then I started wondering why the sun turns my skin brown but turns my brown hair blond. It doesn't seem to make sense to me. But maybe it does to you. If it does, would you tell me why that happens?

— Andy, via email

Whoa, surprised you could get it together to send the email, Andy, with all that thinkin' goin' on. I've sort of got an answer for you, but considering what a dreamy kinda guy you are, I think you'll be satisfied. When you're out there on the sand, the sun rays hit your skin cells and trigger a chemical reaction that causes you to produce more melanin (dark pigmentation) to protect your skin from the evil UVs. Those same mysterious rays hit the melanin pigment in your brown hair and break it down. Go figure. Science guys aren't quite sure why that should happen. Despite how attractive your surfer locks are, hair is dead tissue, not a living organism, so the melanin in your hair is in a different environment. More likely to break down when exposed to sunlight. So now you're all set for summertime, and you won't have these questions cluttering up your dreamy mind.

Mattster:

You know those little baby corn ears that you find in salads sometimes? They look just like big corns but they're only a few inches long. Are these really baby corn ears? If they'd left them on the plant, would they have grown into big corn ears? Or are they some special mutant plant that only produces tiny corn ears?

— Cornie, San Diego

Hard to believe, but those miniature, baby-size ears of corn are really miniature, baby corn. No mutants. No gardening tricks. They're corn ears harvested wa-a-a-a-ay too early, if you ask me. Not so with the popular bag o' baby carrots. They're big carrots shaved down into bite-sized bullets. But baby corn? Real baby corn!

Matt:

I really enjoyed the TV show Six Feet Under. Where did the expression "six feet under" come from? Is there really a law that says people have to be buried six feet under the ground? I've only seen one grave in my life, and I don't think it was six feet deep.

— Maris Davis, via email

No, there probably isn't any city that demands that bodies be buried six feet under. In California the law says burials must be a minimum of 18 inches below ground level. Best the word- and phrase-origin guys can figure, the term came from a novel written by Daniel Defoe about the Great Plague in London in 1665. Defoe had the city's mayor declare that bodies of those who've died of the plague must be buried six feet deep to help prevent the spread of the disease. There's no historical support for this, but the book was popular enough that the expression might have spread from that source.

A searchable archive of past columns is available at SDReader.com

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—Kris Clark, 5/29/07

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Make This A Day You'll Remember Forever!

SportingBox

By Patrick Daugherty

He's Going All In

This started with Brian McNamee saying he injected Roger Clemens with steroids and human growth hormone from 1998 to 2001. Fast forward to Monday, the Clemens press conference, and a secretly recorded telephone conversation.

As someone who routinely does telephone interviews, I can tell you if the other person doesn't know you're recording, you have the power. You know what not to say and what subjects to avoid. You can move the conversation into areas you'd like and prod the other person into saying things you want him to say. Afterward, you decide which sections to make public. By the way, sections of the Clemens/Brian McNamee phone-conversation tape were bleeped out.

But, it was an interesting conversation, both men revealing nothing that could damage their case while prodding the other person to compromise himself. The long, 17-minute conversation was unnaturally vague on both sides.

Clemens says, "I don't know why you said I used steroids." This can be understood in two ways: Clemens doesn't know why McNamee ratted him out or Clemens doesn't know why McNamee made up a story.

McNamee said, "You treated me like family. You treated me better than anybody." And then, "Tell me what you want to me to do." Seemed like McNamee repeated that sentence 50 times. That can be taken two ways: "I've done you wrong by informing" or "I've done you wrong by lying" and I'll do anything to make it right.

Or, maybe there is a third option. Maybe McNamee was taping the conversation too.

McNamee says, "I'm in your corner. I didn't want this to happen, I also don't want to go to jail." Is McNamee saying he doesn't want to go to jail so he's telling the truth to the feds, or he doesn't want to go to jail so he's giving the feds what they want to hear?

Clemens says, "So much of it is untrue." How much of "it" is untrue? Which specific parts are untrue?

What would be the first sentence out of your mouth if you were Clemens talking to your accuser for the first time since his statements became public? How about, "WHY IN THE FUCK ARE YOU LYING ABOUT ME!" That would be the second sentence, the third sentence, the fourth sentence, and on until you got an answer.

Roger Clemens is using the Marion Jones

defense. Attack, threaten, sue. It worked for Jones. For awhile. Turns out she was attacking and threatening while negotiating with the feds to become a government witness. The feds decided she was unreliable and withdrew. Jones pled guilty.

Clemens, by using this tactic, provokes the wrong sorts of people: congressmen (who see headlines), Jeff Novitzky, the IRS special agent who nailed Barry Bonds (who sees a high-profile arrest), reporters (who see several months' worth of stories), and lawyers (who see money). Clemens has called them out.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform had previously scheduled a hearing on the Mitchell Report with baseball suits: baseball commissioner Bud Selig and union boss Donald Fehr, among others. Baseball players were not going to be called as witnesses.

Now the committee has "invited" Clemens to testify along with Andy Pettitte and Chuck Knoblauch (former Yankees teammates), Kirk Radomski (ex-Mets clubhouse guy and steroid dealer/government witness), and Brian McNamee. All the fellas must be happy that Clemens made this time in the national spotlight happen for them.

So far, Clemens has made a pouty video that wound up on YouTube, the *60 Minutes* interview, followed by filing a lawsuit against McNamee for defamation, followed the next day by a nationally televised press conference where he promised to attend and testify at a congressional hearing scheduled for January 16.

Clemens has thereby beckoned McNamee's lawyers to come on down to Texas and have a deposition party. He has given himself several opportunities to testify under oath, where every word he says will be gone over by many lawyers looking for anything they can use.

No one born of woman can come out of a serious investigation into his life looking clean. Clemens won't be the first. It is already apparent Clemens can't keep his mouth shut.

I should point out that Clemens could say to the congressional committee, or have his lawyer say, he has a lawsuit (initiated by him) in the hopper and regretfully cannot testify at this time. That worked for Barry Bonds. And, Clemens can drop his lawsuit at any moment, thus avoiding a deposition.

Or, we can take him at his word and believe the crazy bastard is going to testify in Congress and press his lawsuit.

I'll go with crazy.

The Vegas Line

The Vegas Line NFL Divisional Playoffs (Home Team in CAPS)			
<u>Favorite</u>	<u>Spread</u>	<u>Over/Under</u>	<u>Underdog</u>
Saturday			
GREEN BAY	8	41	Seattle
NEW ENGLAND	13 ½	48	Jacksonville
Sunday			
INDIANAPOLIS	8 ½	46 ½	San Diego
DALLAS	7 ½	47	N.Y. Giants
First-Half lines			
Saturday			
GREEN BAY	4 ½	20	Seattle
NEW ENGLAND	9 ½	24	Jacksonville
Sunday			
INDIANAPOLIS	6	23	San Diego
DALLAS	4 ½	23	N.Y. Giants

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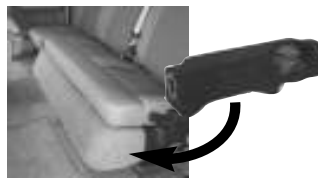
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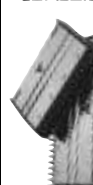


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PLACES OF WORSHIP REVIEWED

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Founded locally: 1976

Senior pastor: Dr. Larry Osborne

Congregation size: 6700

Staff size: over 150, including part-time

Sunday school enrollment: 1691

Annual budget: n/a

Weekly giving: n/a

Singles program: yes

Dress: casual to semiformal

Diversity: diverse — mostly Caucasian, Hispanic, and Asian American

Sunday worship: 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m. (main campus)

Length of reviewed service: 1 hour

Website: northcoastchurch.com

"We went to Europe four or five years ago," said 20something pastor Jeff Holmes, "and we saw that the church...was not really relevant to the real life of most people — the young people, especially. They view the church as more of a museum. We see that happening in America today. A lot of churches that want to continue to have a voice have gone into what they call 'bridge ministries.' They'll have cafés and things like that...different things can happen in different spaces. For us, the architecture dictates that we'll probably never be bigger than 50 people. This is a very niche program, an out-reach to find the artists in the community."

The community is North Coast Church, a proper megachurch with multiple campuses and a slew of worship services. The niche program is Canvas, a loosely structured gathering in the main campus' urban coffee bar. "The sermon may dictate our theme," explained Holmes, "but we have permission to break away from the paradigm of songs, sermon, offering, go home. Every week, it's something different."

Sunday, the center table bore colored pencils, construction paper, scissors, glue, pipe cleaners, and three bags of artist's clay. Holmes invited the congregation to come and pick up materials as he read from Psalm 40, written by David, "an awesome poet and musician, a man's man who fought battles yet also had a sensitive side and could express some pretty intimate things.... 'I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me up out of the slimy pit.... He set my feet on a rock.... He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.'"

The sermon (edited down) played on three flat-screen TVs. Some took notes and followed along in their Bibles; others sculpted figures or drew with the colored pencils. Many sipped coffee drinks from the bar. Pastor Larry Osborne stressed the need for small gatherings of other Christians to aid in spiritual growth and lamented, "We've confused going to church with being the

church.... You are a second-class Christian if you're not connected to other Christians.... We all need support and accountability, and it comes as iron sharpens iron."

Holmes took support and accountability as his theme for the service's project. "You're all artistic people and you don't like rules, so all I'm going to tell you is that this part of the room is going to deal with support, and this part of the room with accountability. And you have to do this as a group."

One couple — professed newcomers — excused themselves, saying, "I'm sorry — that was fun, but we're really not comfortable with this." The rest of the group split up: about ten people gathered on the accountability side, and nearly twice that over in support. After 15 minutes, they presented. Support went first, a narrator explaining three tableaux: a woman, standing, surrounded by others with hands on her shoulders. Another woman, falling but being caught by an equal number of hands. And a third

woman, horizontal and held aloft by those around her. "The first one is solid in her walk with God and solid in the support around her. The second has fallen away, but her support system is catching her. The third has totally walked away from God, but she's being supported totally back to Him."

Then came accountability's diorama: a woman fashioned from clay and a pipe-cleaner horse standing at a fork in the road, represented by popsicle sticks. "The rider is trying to pull the horse to the narrow path," explained one man. "But the horse sees an easier path. The rider has to be able to communicate with the horse." Another pointed out that the narrow road was labeled "friendship, camaraderie, being together, and singing together," while the wide road was "isolation, despondence, television services — things that let you stay in bed all day

and don't grow you."

Holmes asked for observations. "It's harder to choose to go someplace where you'll be accountable. That group was a lot smaller." "You can't have accountability without people to be supportive of you." "You have to trust the people in your support group to be accountable to them."

Finally, Holmes called the group to stand in a circle. "The Bible teaches that man and woman were created in the image of God. Look around at the image of God. Jesus...we ask that we would remember that we are your image bearers. We might be the only God that anyone ever sees. Help us reflect him well."

What happens when we die?

"I think that's determined by how we lived on earth," said Holmes. "I would say that if we come to God on His terms, then we will spend eternity with Him. If we don't, then we face the consequences of that."

— Matthew Lickona

Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com



JEFF HOLMES

Canvas at North Coast Church
Vista
★★½

Sermon

content.....★★★★
delivery.....★★★★

Liturgy

Music

congregational.....none
band.....none

Snacks

.....★★★★

Architecture

.....★★½

Friendliness

.....★★★★

Poor to satisfactory.....(none)

Good.....★

Very good.....★★

Excellent.....★★★★

Extraordinary.....★★★★



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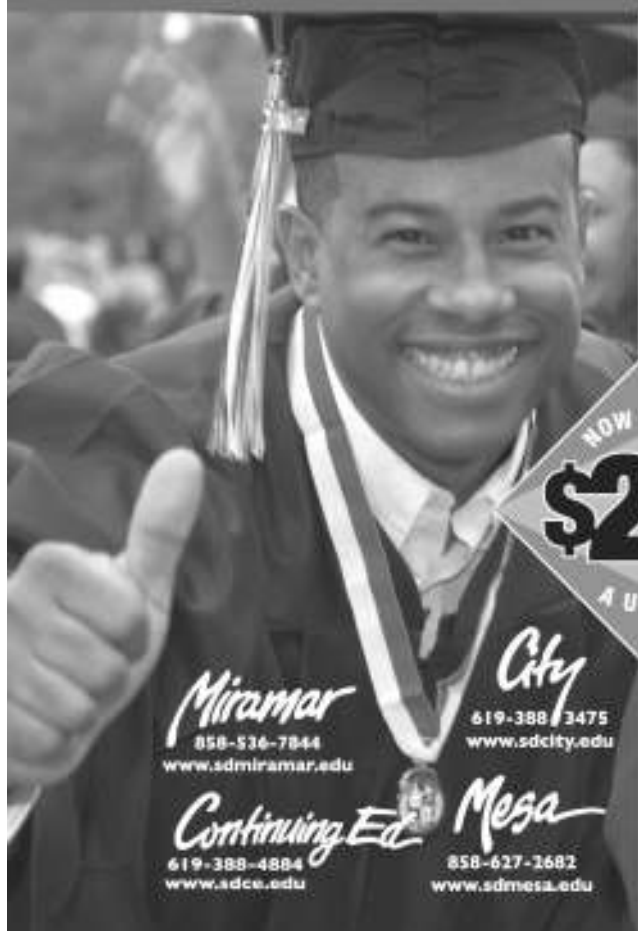


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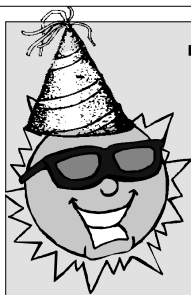
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—EVE KELLY

The after-Christmas glut of stuff landed hard on the Kelly home — every surface was laden with goodies waiting to find a place on our crowded shelves. Hubby Patrick and I decided it was time to de-clutter. Three days later, we had finished sorting trash from treasure from things to be donated, and we stared in awe at our pile of discarded electronics: two computer monitors, a TV/VCR combo, an old vacuum cleaner, two caller-ID boxes, an ancient microwave, and three cell phones. Some of it worked a little, some of it didn't; none of it was wanted. But I was hesitant to just send it all to the dump.

Turns out my hesitation had an upside — I learned that Mike Dolbow of Green Planet Solutions Inc. (760-639-0672; www.atotalgps.com) really didn't want me to send all that stuff to the dump. "That's electronic waste," he said. "It's our name for any item that runs on a battery or wall power that has reached the end of its life. Besides what you've got, there's clock radios, home telephones, printers...and the batteries themselves. They're all pretty much toxic because they contain heavy metals — things like lead, cadmium, and selenium. Some of them contain arsenic. Cathode-ray tubes are some of the most toxic — those are the tubes in TVs and computer monitors."

Dolbow's concern is that such toxins won't just stay in the dump. For example, "Polydiethylene was a fire retardant used in electronic products for years. It's been outlawed now, but it's still in a lot of products manufactured prior to 2006," products likely to hit the trash heap in the next few years. "If not recycled properly, polydiethylene can get into the groundwater, and from there, it can accumulate in the body over years, causing birth defects and other damage to the body." Computer monitors contain a powder that may itself contain aluminum dioxide, "which is very harmful. If a monitor is cracked, we collect it while wearing proper safety gear and box it up separately. Batteries contain materials that are even more toxic than monitors. Never throw out batteries — car batteries, cell phone batteries, even alkaline batteries."

Recycling keeps this sort of stuff out of the dump, but unfortunately, said Dolbow, "a lot of recyclers are selling the electronics overseas" because of the high profit margin. "There, the recyclers don't have the same environmental controls or human safety controls we have here. They'll take big piles of wire and burn off the insulation. They'll do the same with PC boards; the toxins just get released into the air. Workers wear no protective gear. I started this company to make sure things get recycled 100 percent."

Ecofriendly recycling, he said, avoids that fate by making sure that "every single material that's being processed is properly recycled or destroyed. We're a collection service. We bring the materials to E-World or IMS, and they separate the materials. They'll reclaim copper and

"Metals are crushed or melted down in a slow melt process that doesn't produce toxic fumes."

glass and send a lot of material to a large facility up north. Plastics are recycled into other materials. Toxins are removed either chemically or mechanically. Metals are crushed or melted down in a slow melt process that doesn't produce toxic fumes." Even batteries get crushed and separated into their constituent parts "for use in other batteries."

Not every item Dolbow picks up goes into the recycling stream. "If we get good computers, we'll remove the hard drives and replace them — sometimes, we get new hard drives donated or trade for them at small computer stores. Then we'll refurbish the computer and donate it. We've donated some to Head Start, some to families. We're trying to start up a refurbishing school program — if students come in and put in a couple of hours of labor assembling computers, they'll get to take home one of their own."

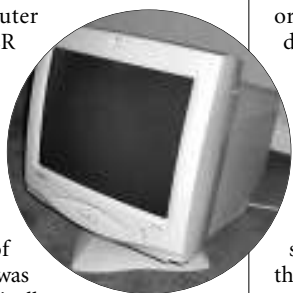
Working with the schools is how Dolbow hopes to make recycling a culture instead of a cost. "Processing this stuff is actually cheaper" than manufacturing from all new materials, "but it's not a culture. It's more of an ideal — something that's cool and earthy if you're into it, but if you're not, you don't do it. The best way to make sure ecofriendly recycling happens is to instill it in the younger generation."

We offer drives within the schools: we ask the kids to flyer neighborhoods. People bring their electronic waste to the school on a Saturday and drop it off at our truck. If we collect 20,000 pounds of material, the kids get a free dance — I used to be a DJ and still do it on the side."

Older folks, hopefully, will take a lesson from his business model. "By law now, companies can't throw electronics away. There's a state service you can call, and the service contacts a local recycler who then charges you to come pick up your electronic waste. But there's a state fund through the EPA that pays the recycler 20 to 48 cents a pound for the stuff. If I'm collecting money from the government, why should I charge you to pick it up? We make money from recycling materials through our downstream partners. There is no reason why we should charge the public."

The business is still getting going — right now, North County pickups are free, while other San Diego areas require a \$5 surcharge for gas — something Dolbow hopes to eliminate as business grows. And already, Dolbow is seeing some results. "We get a lot of vacuum cleaners, microwaves, DVD players. We pick up about 200 computers and monitors a week, though our goal for the monitors is 1000. We've picked up just under 1000 cell phones. Right now, we're targeting business areas, but we'll do curbside pickup. We've had a couple of neighborhood associations ask us to flyer their neighborhood and then go through two days later. Or people can call us for an appointment. And if an item is too heavy for you to move, the crew will remove it for you."

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by Barbarella

Turn Off

Lo! Men have become the tools of their tools.

— Henry David Thoreau

I remember my first time like it was yesterday. My heart beat fast with the excitement and trepidation of journeying into virgin territory. It was David's idea. Like walking backwards, it was too unnatural a concept to ever occur to me on my own. We had only been dating for a few weeks, but I already trusted him enough to follow his lead. So it was, one Friday evening around five years ago, after David had loosened me up with a home-cooked meal and a few

glasses of wine, that I did the unthinkable: I climbed over my new beau, dug through my purse, and, when my fingers found what they'd been searching for, I pressed the button that turned off my cell phone.

The 36 hours that followed my bold action were both blissful and hellish. On Saturday, we were lazy, ordering takeout and watching movies. But all

the while, I couldn't keep my mind from wandering back to my phone. Who might be trying to reach me? How would they manage to survive if I didn't answer their calls?

Telecommunication anxiety has plagued me ever since I purchased my first pager while still in high school. When that thing beeped, it was as though a person were standing beside me, saying, "Hey, Barb," and if I didn't respond immediately, it was like I was turning my back on that person in the flesh. I had an uncanny feeling that people could see me reading their number on the small display and that I would hurt their feelings or piss them off if I didn't get to a phone and call them as soon as was

humanly possible. The situation became more desperate when I got my first cell phone, a clunky black Sony Ericsson. The ringing phone, like a crying baby, demanded my immediate attention. Missed calls were not an option.

On Sunday morning of that momentous weekend five years ago, I turned my phone back on to discover that four people had left me 25 messages. David was baffled. Being older than me, he could remember when people did not have answering machines in their homes, when the concept of mobile communication devices existed only on shows like *Star Trek*. The horrified look on David's face at the apparent expectation of availability I had cultivated among my friends and family members brought me to the tragic realization that I had been fixed to an invisible leash. Since that moment, I have been slowly coaxing the telecommunication monkey from my back.

One recent afternoon, my mother and I were sipping coffee in a shop near my home. Twenty minutes into our visit, my phone rang. Without checking, I quickly reached into my bag and switched the mode to "silent," which I had forgotten to do prior to meeting Mom.

"Who is it?" Mom asked.

"Doesn't matter," I answered.

Mom looked concerned. "What if it's important?"

"Then they'll leave a message."

"What if it's someone with big news?"

"Then I'll hear the news later."

Now she looked worried. "What if it's an emergency?"

"Then they should call 9-1-1," I

stated.

Mom seemed mystified by my nonchalance. As if to test the extent of my unflappability, she suggested the worst-case scenario: "What if someone was in an accident, and they need your blood?"

"They'll have to find someone else's," I said.

"What if they'll die if they don't get yours?"

"Then they'll die," I said evenly. In answer to my mother's gasp, I added, "And I would be sad." Mom seemed uncomfortable with my answer, so I expounded a bit. "As my friend Jen once told me, my cell phone is for *my* convenience, not other people's. Having a phone doesn't mean I'm 'on-call.' No one is paying me to answer this thing every time it rings. Right now, I'm enjoying coffee with my mother, who is sitting in front of me, and who I would like to give my full attention without needless interruptions."

After a few moments of silence, Mom said, "Okay then," and we picked up our previous conversation where we'd left off.

It's easy to expect an immediate response when everyone is just a text message away. Everyone, that is, except my father. Not only does Dad not have a cell phone or pager, he has no call waiting on his landline. "I find it rude when someone interrupts a conversation to get the other line," Dad has told me. When calling Dad, my sisters and I are often confronted by the infuriating indifference of the busy signal. While on one of his daily peregrinations, Dad doesn't seem to mind the inconvenience of having to track down one of the three remaining payphones in

"Having a phone doesn't mean I'm 'on-call.' No one is paying me to answer this thing every time it rings."

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town whenever he wants to make a call. I, however, find it aggravating when I screen unknown numbers, then hear Dad on my voicemail saying something like, "Hey, I'm down the street, seeing if you're around," leaving me with no way to call him back to say, "Yes, I'm around, please come over!"

The women in my family are notoriously impatient, a condition the men in our lives must forever battle. We don't "call," we "attack." For example (and these names are interchangeable for any one of us), Heather calls Jane on her cell phone. When Jane doesn't answer, Heather hangs up and immediately dials Jane's home phone. When that line isn't picked up, Heather (having left no voicemail yet), calls Jane's cell phone again, maybe even two more times, before leaving a message. The reason we do this?

Because incessant calling increases the sense of urgency at the other end of the line, and the sister on the receiving end will invariably pick up. We do it, because it works. Simon, David, Sean, and Brad commiserate over the relentless ringing in their ears.

In the way a thrill-seeker is addicted to adrenaline rushes, I was hooked on a false sense of urgency that resulted from my distorted sense of importance. Despite my mother's fears, I know it is more probable that all the molecules of air will simultaneously rush to the same corner of my office than it is that my not answering my phone will cause someone to *die*. I was a slave to my cell, not because I thought someone might *need* me but because I had an irrational fear that if I didn't answer, people would stop calling.

While settling into

our red leather sofa for a movie the other night, I asked David if he remembered that first time.

"You mean when I suggested you turn off your phone, and you reacted as if I'd asked you to bungee jump off the Coronado Bridge with me? Yeah, I remember," he said.

"Come on, give me some credit. I did it, didn't I?"

"Oh, yeah, you did it, but you were freaked out until you turned it back on."

"I've gotten a lot better though, haven't I?"

"Yes, you have," David allowed, cooing up next to me. "And I am truly pleased that I no longer have to stand in front of the television and request, 'for the sake of all theatergoers, that you please remember to silence your cell phones.'"

"Of course you don't! I'm much better about that now," I cooed, wrapping my arms around

David and reaching, ever so discreetly, for the button that would ensure we would not be disturbed. ■

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Soccer moms are the a

At the Mira Mesa Recreation Center, playing for my fifth-grade youth basketball team, I watched as my coach threw a chair onto the court in anger. On another occasion, the referee threw my coach out of the gym during an argument. The following year, with a different coach, my grandmother was in town from Los Angeles, watching me play for the first time. I stole the ball, dribbled up-court, and missed a layup. My coach was furious. He put his hands around his neck and yelled, “Choker! You’re a choker! You missed an easy layup!” He threw his hands up in disgust. I lowered my head. I didn’t even want to look over to where my family was sitting. A teammate put his arm around me. “Did Coach even see the last three baskets you scored?” I glanced at the scoreboard and wondered if the coach realized we were up by 16 points.



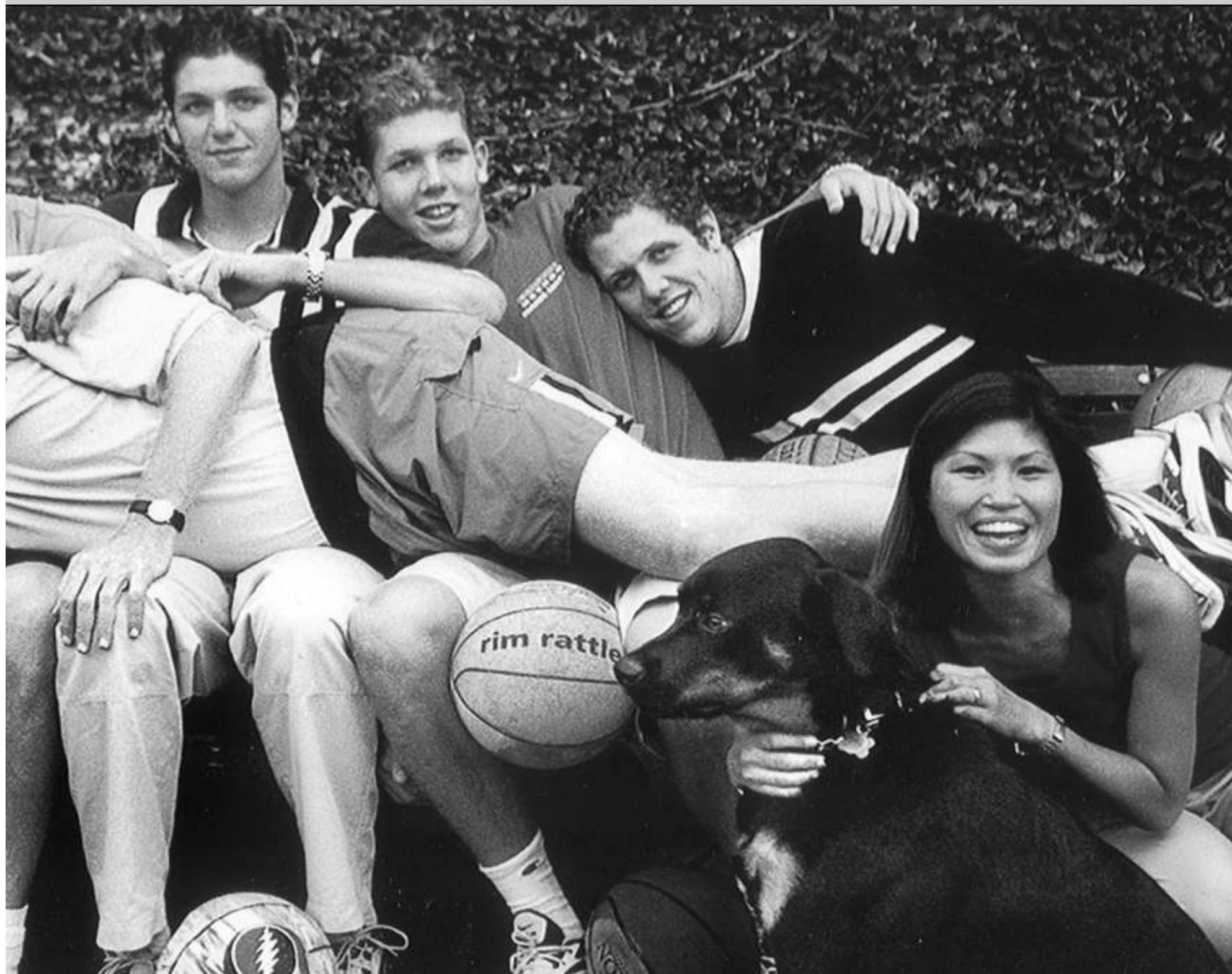
I look back on the memory and wonder: Why are coaches — adults — so hard on children? At the youth level, between ages 4 and 16, children should be taught the fundamentals of the game, sportsmanship, and fun.

When you get into high school

sports, that’s when you get cut from the team if you aren’t good. Or benched if you miss easy layups. You may have to run laps at practice if you forget a play.

On the news this year, we saw video of a youth wrestling match. An angry father jumped out of the stands and

absolute worst



Bill Walton (lying) and family

tackled a 14-year-old getting the better of his son. He claimed the child was doing an illegal move but failed to address why he didn't let the ref handle it (that father is being charged with injuring a minor).

Competitive parents can be tough. I

coached youth basketball for a few years. In Poway, Padres Tony Gwynn and Garry Templeton were always mellow while their sons played. But in La Costa, I coached a tall, skinny kid on the fifth- and sixth-grade team who wasn't aggressive at rebounding or scoring.

A mother came out to half-court in high heels to scream at the 16-year-old volunteer referee.

And he was really quiet. His dad, however, was a screamer. Not only did he yell at referees, he'd yell instructions to his son. One play was designed for his son to set a pick underneath, then run and post up at the free-throw line. The ball would come to him, and he'd pass to either of the two guards that were cutting to the basket. Well, Dad yelled for his son to shoot the ball. His son heard and forced a shot that was an air ball. When the play was called again later, there were more disastrous results. The shot was blocked by a defender. I called a time-out and instructed my player to listen to me, not his dad. When half-time came, I walked into the stands and approached a 6'3" bald-

ing guy. As a 22-year-old, and in front of the other parents, I didn't feel comfortable doing it. "Sir," I said, "I need you to stop yelling things from the stands. It's distracting to the kids. I have plays designed for them. If you want to coach your son, that's great. But do that on your own time." To my surprise, he apologized. And for the rest of the season, I never heard a peep from him.

We did have a mother a few weeks later that came out to half-court in high heels to scream at the 16-year-old volunteer referee. She insisted her son hadn't traveled with the ball. Her five-minute shouting match didn't change the call. It only embarrassed her 10-year-old son.



Adrian Gonzalez

HOT-HEADED PARENTS ON ICE

I went to the ice rink in UTC and talked to Tijana Martinovic, the hockey and figure-skating director. I asked her about parents who are a little extreme. She said,

"Oh yeah, we see a lot of that. We had an incident one time that got really bad. Child Protective Services got involved. It was a Ukrainian woman. She yelled at her kids and forced them to skate when they didn't want to. They would always come off the ice crying. Other parents would complain about her. After a woman from Child Protective Services filed a report, we didn't see her again. With parents, whether it's ice-skating practices or

hockey, we have a rule that while a coach is on the ice with the kids, the parents have to be quiet."

Aside from the shouting and yelling, what about moms who

Matt Smith works with Tijana. He's got bushy red hair and a thick Swedish accent. He's worked at the UTC rink for a year and a half. He adds, "I've never seen

PADRE ADRIAN GONZALEZ:
"OH, THERE'S NO NEED FOR IT. LET THE KIDS PLAY AND IF THEY LIKE IT, THEY ARE GOING TO ENJOY IT."

start their little girls' training sessions so early in the morning? What about the tendency to begin training at such a young age, hoping to get the next Nancy Kerrigan?

"When kids first start ice skating, the sessions are not that early. But that's the only time the ice is available for practice. College hockey teams practice at night, and during the day, people are using the ice. If the kids enjoy it, they get used to waking up early to practice before going to school."

anything like I have here in Southern California. The parents are so competitive. All they want to do is win. They want their kids to get to the NHL or win a gold medal in the Olympics. These are five-, six-, seven-year-olds. Parents are yelling at me in my office, complaining that their kids are not getting enough ice time. And we give them all the same amount of time. One game, one kid might get 30 seconds more. I don't sit there with a stopwatch. But it evens out in

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the next game. I'm trying to teach the sport and have fun. But they [the parents] get furious. I had a team of nine-year-olds. They were the youngest team in the league. They lost 30 games. When they finally won a game, the parents of the other team were so upset. They cornered this young referee. It was only his second game officiating. I felt so bad for him."

Why do you think it's different here than in Sweden?

"I think Sweden is more modest; maybe, also, more realistic. We don't think we'll go to the NHL or NBA."

Their boss walks in. Tijana says, "Do you have any angry-parent stories for this guy?" He looks at me and says, "Are you kidding? I have over 500 kids; each with two parents. I have a few stories each week. I have nightmares about it!"

(IN)FAMOUS SPORTS PARENTS

When you see a player like Tiger Woods, who becomes the best golfer ever, it reinforces all this negative, overachieving attitude parents are involved in. Tiger's dad started him on golf before the age of one. He was on *The Mike Douglas Show* golfing with Bob Hope at age two, and there's another clip of him on Carson golfing at a young age. Instead of a father thinking the odds of their son being the next Tiger are the same

as winning the lottery, they think pushing them hard is just the ticket.

Another successful sports father is Richard Williams. His daughters Venus and Serena became the two best players in tennis. He's told reporters he'd dreamed of a better future for his four daughters and that he would achieve that dream if at least one of them succeeded in sports. He got lucky with two, but from my point of view, it's a strange dream to have. A career

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in professional sports, especially for women, is hard to attain. The Williams girls have said in interviews that they were on the tennis courts with their father hitting balls so hard, it was like dodging bullets.

Their former hitting coach, Dave Rineberg, disagrees. He was fired by Richard, but in his book *Venus & Serena, My Seven Years as Hitting Coach for the Williams Sisters* (Frederick Fell Publishers), he mentions Richard conceiving the dream of them becoming the best women's tennis players when they were four and five years old. Richard talked about how he was smart to limit their competition during their junior years, and the ways he'd trained them for the pros, and that he'd even pull them from the courts for over a month at a time, to take them to Disney World, for instance, so they'd have a somewhat normal childhood and not burn out.

I think it's great that Richard did those things, but I'd be willing to bet

that if the girls had wanted to quit tennis at age ten, he wouldn't have let them. I have a problem with that. And while the Williams sisters were winning tournaments, Richard was shouting from the stands and holding up signs. He and his daughters acted unprofessionally — the young women threw their rackets to the ground in anger, tended to withhold kudos for opponents who beat them, and wore clothing and jewelry many considered distracting to their opponents. They turned off many in the tennis world. Richard screamed racism. Someone should have told him that instead of training the girls so hard, he might've taught them good sportsmanship and professionalism.

I had a friend who I felt would become one of these Little League dads. He played sports himself and was competitive. When his kids were babies, he talked about getting them into Little League. I thought I'd test



Chris Young

him. "What if they don't want to play baseball?" I asked. "Just because you loved baseball, they might not." He said, "I won't make them. If they don't want to play baseball, they won't have to." After a minute of silence, he added, "But they'll have to play at least a year or two. To see if they don't like it."

I haven't seen him in years but have been told by mutual friends that his kids love sports and excel. His brother says he's a

great coach. But he's been thrown out of a few games, and he yells at referees. I'm not so sure you can be a great coach for youth if you're yelling and a poor sport. A coach should lead by example.

A former Grossmont High School P.E. teacher told me, "Kids are competitive enough without having parents and coaches going overboard on top of that. Coaches at the youth level should be teaching the sport. I work in middle school

P.E. now, and I stopped letting the kids pick their own teams. Aside from the last ones being picked feeling bad, it wouldn't be any fun if all the good players were stacked on one team. It wouldn't be

coaches. I'm sure I'll see a fight. If not, I'll still get a chance to see your kid take a few swings and take a few pictures."

When I showed up at the fields in San Carlos, I was surprised by the

PADRE CHRIS YOUNG: "[MY PARENTS] NEVER PUSHED ME TO PLAY, AND THEY NEVER SCREAMED THE WAY SOME PARENTS CAN."

competitive, and everyone would lose interest. But they'd still do it that way, if you let them pick teams themselves. It's human nature, I guess."

ADULTS SCREAM BLOODY MURDER... AT A T-BALL GAME FOR FOUR-YEAR-OLDS

I asked my friend Gerald if I could watch his son's baseball game. "He's only four," Gerald said. "He's playing T-ball. Nobody yells or fights." I said, "I know parents and

number of SUVs and vans in the parking lot that had painted names and numbers on them and different messages about winning, an athletic extension of the bumper stickers that declare a child "student of the week." When I was young, I was thrilled just having my parents in the stands every other game.

I arrived early and went to get a Coke. I overheard two guys talking. One said, "I emailed that parent about the kid and how they should

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ADV N

Atopic Dermatitis Vaccinia Network

Please contact for more details, and spread the word.

858-657-8390

ucsddermstudies@gmail.com

move him to center field because he's hurting the team." The other parent talked about having lectured his son on how bad his hitting was.

I thought of the scene in the movie *Paranthood* when Clint Howard yells at Steve Martin because his son has dropped a routine fly ball: "He has no business being out there."

Michael Running,

who runs the "snack shack," tells me, "The parents here aren't that bad. The seven- and eight-year-olds, the 'caps'...they don't even keep score. It's the kids that surprise me. The game will end, and one of them will say, 'It was 12 to 8.' And they are usually right. Even at those early ages, they want to keep score and see who actually wins."

When Gerald's son's team (the Tigers) played, I couldn't believe how cute they were. One kid in the outfield pulled a quarter out of his pocket and couldn't stop talking about how he found it earlier in the day. Another child was in right field but talking to someone in the parking lot. Another kid was picking grass and sprinkling it like confetti. The

RESEARCH STUDIES

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

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



Participants must be:

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

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

For more information, call:

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

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

The medical term for this condition is dysmenorrhea.

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

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

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

Call to learn more:

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

The First Step is Your Call



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.



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www.cctstudy.com



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.



858-571-1188

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



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

**Who me? Yes, you, the one who is up most of the night.
Have trouble getting up early in the morning?**

**Feel like you could sleep all day
and should say, "who, who" all night?**

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

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

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- 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.



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Depression

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

Are you between the ages of 18 and 65 and finding life hard to tolerate? Has your energy and motivation to enjoy your life decreased? Do you find even simple pleasures empty? If so, you may qualify to try an investigational medication being studied for depression.

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

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

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



858-571-1188

Toll-free 800-571-1188
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shortstop, for a brief time, faced the opposite direction.

A ball hit to left field wasn't thrown to the proper base. And when a coach told a kid to throw the ball to "second base," the child took the instruction literally and threw the ball at the second-base bag. If not for the second baseman's quick reflexes, he would've been hit in the foot.

Late in the game, the kids all took three pitches. If they didn't connect, then they were to hit off the T. When

Gerald's son was, for some reason, given an extra pitch, the other coach screamed, "We talked about this before the game!" The coaches yelled, and people walked briskly toward the dugout. I wondered how, with a bunch of kindergarten kids, anyone could care if an extra pitch was thrown. Yet the adults screamed bloody murder, face-to-face, in front of the children.

COACH PAPA

Tom Czarnecki is a coach for the Tigers. He works wonderfully with chil-

dren. He makes jokes and explains things well, and when one kid doesn't want to play in the outfield yet wants to go up to bat, he lets the child do so; he also tells how the other kids all played in the outfield and that maybe next time, he should do that as well. The kids call him "Coach Papa." I asked him about the fight I'd witnessed. Why would coaches of five-year-olds argue?

"Well, the other team's coach has been trying to get all the teams to throw pitches to the kids. I was against it from

the beginning. They're too young for pitches. This is a T-ball league. They're still learning how to hold a bat, approach the plate, and all that. I had a heart attack in October. This was going to be my son-in-law's team. I was just helping out, since my grandson is playing. They all decided they would throw three pitches to each kid in the last inning. Some of our kids weren't making contact, and I told my son-in-law to go tell the other team's coach that it wasn't working out. And then one of our kids got

an extra pitch thrown. And he started screaming about it."

That day at the field, I had overheard a few parents talking about how competitive this manager was. One said, "I heard a player ask him once what the score was, and he angrily said, 'It's a tie. It's always a tie!' I think he's mad they don't keep score, and in his mind, if it's zero to zero, what's the point of even playing?"

I asked Tom why this other coach cares so much about the kids being rushed into taking

pitches. He said, "Well, his son is on that team. He's one of the best players; his kid can hit really well. He wants him to progress as fast as he can, I suppose. But there's really no reason to rush. What he has to think about is the kid on the team that *can't* hit the ball and put himself in that boy's shoes. It's about these kids having fun and learning the sport. If you don't get that, you're really missing it all. We have a retarded boy on our team. He's beautiful. He's the happiest kid in the world. The

RESEARCH STUDIES

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- ✓ Do you **FEAR** being the center of attention?
- ✓ Do you **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 to treat social anxiety disorder. Medical assessment and clinical care provided.

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



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?

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

look in his eyes...that's the reward you should get doing this."

It reminded me of a story that happened last year — a 29-year-old coach with a response opposite of Tom's. In Pennsylvania, this coach offered one of his 8-year-old players \$25 to "hit" a teammate with autism — with pitches to the groin and head. The coach hoped it would injure the autistic player, and then he wouldn't be forced to play the kid. He was convicted for corruption of minors and criminal solicitation to commit simple assault.

Tom told me: "I remember once when the coaches were drafting kids in the 'majors' and this 12-year-old wasn't going to be drafted. They told him to go down a league. He really shouldn't have had to go down a league. He was ready to play majors. He was so disappointed. I told him I'd take him. He was thrilled. These coaches would rather win than teach the kids or put a smile on their faces. I want to make it fun for them, so that the next year, they want to come back. I saw this kid working years later, and he yelled out my name with a smile on his face. It was great."

I asked him how long he'd been coaching.

"I had my first team in 1957, in the Detroit area. My boss wanted to keep the kids off the street around his store. With my own kids, it was around 1973. I got to San Diego in 1959, in the Marine Corps, and I met my wife. When we went to the Philippines or Saigon, we gave the kids baseballs. They just wanted to learn. Children love playing. There isn't that competitive winning aspect of it."

Have you always just coached the five-year-olds?

"No, no. I did the whole thing. T-ball, majors, pony. I've seen it

all. My son, son-in-law, they all got into it, too. One of them is in La Mesa. One is now working in Allied Gardens, coaching. And I made sure they were having fun when they were kids.

What some parents don't realize is, with four- and five-year-olds, they are still too young. So, you have fun with them. I had one kid show me a spider he found on the ground. During one

practice, a player told me he was ready to go play on the swings, so I let him. That's what you have to do. Like I said, you want them coming back the following year. And I think those

coaches that are yelling at them this young might not get that. Maybe you can do a 'good cop, bad cop.' But when you do...I did 20 years of Pop Warner football. If you get on them about some-

thing, you should build them back up even more. So, if there's discipline and finger-shaking, you make them feel even better when they do something right. And that, again, is for when the



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Are You a Healthy Male?

If so, Profil Institute would like to invite you to participate in a clinical research study evaluating a previously approved medication.

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- Not having major health problems
- Not currently taking prescription or over-the-counter medications
- A non-smoker for at least 6 months



Profil also provides:

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You may be compensated up to \$1,800 (some overnight stays required)

For more information, call

(619) 788-9216

Or

Email: volunteer@profil-research.com

Profil

Institute for Clinical Research, Inc.

865 Third Avenue Suite #100
Chula Vista, CA 91911

Are YOU Postmenopausal?

If so you may qualify for a medical research study at Covance.

Covance San Diego is looking for women who are:

- Healthy & postmenopausal for at least 12 months
- Age 40 - 65
- Non-smoking for at least 3 months
- Able to complete a 6-day/5-night stay, plus 11 outpatient visits

Participants will receive all study-related exams and investigational medication at no cost and may receive up to \$5,000 for time and participation.



COVANCE

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Please Reference Study 207547

TestWithTheBest.com or 866-818-3253

We need 12 volunteers only

Profil Institute for Clinical Research is conducting a clinical research study testing an investigational medication in type 2 diabetes adults.

Are you.....

- ▶ A type 2 diabetic controlling your diabetes with diet and exercise or Metformin monotherapy?
- ▶ between 18 and 65 years old?
- ▶ Otherwise healthy?

If you answered, "YES" to any of the above questions, you may qualify for this clinical trial.

Qualified Participants Will Receive:

- ✓ Study related physical exams and lab work at no charge.
- ✓ Compensation up to \$ 2000 (2 overnights required)

**For more information, please contact,
Toll Free: 1-866-308-7427
Local: 619-788-9216
Email: volunteer@profil-research.com**

Do you or a loved-one have trouble sleeping?



If you or a loved one are between the ages of 18 and 64 and have had trouble sleeping for 3 months or more, you may qualify for a 7-week research study of an investigational new drug's effects on sleep disturbances. Qualifying applicants will receive the study drug or placebo (sugar pill) and all study-related medical treatments at no cost as well as compensation for time and travel.

Participants must:

- Be in good health • Be between the ages of 18 and 64
- Have a history of primary insomnia for at least 3 months

For more information, please contact: **Jo Anna Williams, CRC**
Genesis Center for Clinical Research
3651 Fourth Ave., Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92103 • 619-260-0010

kids are older; certainly not at this level. With these kids, I'm having hamburgers after one game, ice cream after another. Fun stuff."

What can you do about crazy parents who aren't as understanding as you?

"Oh, there are a lot of them out there. You don't know how many times over the years I've heard, 'Why isn't my kid playing?' I always say that everyone will get a chance. Other parents want to know why their kid isn't playing a certain position. I tell them every boy plays every position. Every parent says their kid should be the pitcher [laughs]. I'd tell them they are putting too much pressure on the child. I'd show them they are wrong or that the child wasn't ready."

And that worked? It didn't make them angrier?

"It always did, my philosophy — like

Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer. Sometimes the kid might not be ready, but when they find the right place to fit in, it will work out."

Before I left, I told Coach Papa that I liked his philosophies on dealing with the young ones. "Watching your game," I said, "I saw one kid that was running the bases decide to sit down on one. Another decided to leave the base, and when asked why, he said he was thirsty." Tom said, "Oh yeah, they say funny things. I was teaching



Too Shy?

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Anxiety?

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

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Sleeping?**

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Is your current Anxiety medication not working?

Are you:

- 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?
- In overall good health?

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 will receive physician consultations, study-related medical examinations, laboratory evaluations and follow-up visits at no charge. You may receive study medication to be used in addition to the Generalized Anxiety Disorder medication you are currently taking. Health insurance is not required and compensation for time and travel is provided.

For more information about this study,
please contact:

(619) 688-6565

or visit us online at: www.ari-inc.com



Tired of the weight? A Type II diabetic?

Are you:

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

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

For more information about this study,
please contact:

(619) 688-6565

or visit us online at: www.ari-inc.com



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

Clinical research study for adults with depression.

If you or someone you know is:

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

Qualified study participants will receive:

- A comprehensive medical evaluation as it relates to the study
 - Supervised care by medical professionals during the study
 - Study medication at no cost
- Compensation for time and travel and an aftercare program may be provided.

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

(619) 688-6565

See our website: www.ari-inc.com



Is your Schizophrenia medication making you heavy?

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

You may qualify if you are:

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

Those who qualify will receive study-related procedures, such as physical exams, laboratory tests, and study medication.

For more information about this study, please contact:

(619) 688-6565

See our website: www.ari-inc.com



Not sleeping?

Are you:

- Having trouble falling asleep?
- Having trouble staying asleep through the night?
- Between 18 and 64 years of age?
- In overall good health?

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.

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

(619) 688-6565

See our website: www.ari-inc.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
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Now Enrolling: Clinical Research Study for Adults with Type 2 Diabetes

If you are...

- Between 18 and 77 years of age • Currently taking Metformin or Glucophage®

You may be eligible to participate in
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To learn more about this study, please call
Ritchken & First M.D.'s Donna Perez at: 858-292-0108 x207

All calls are confidential.

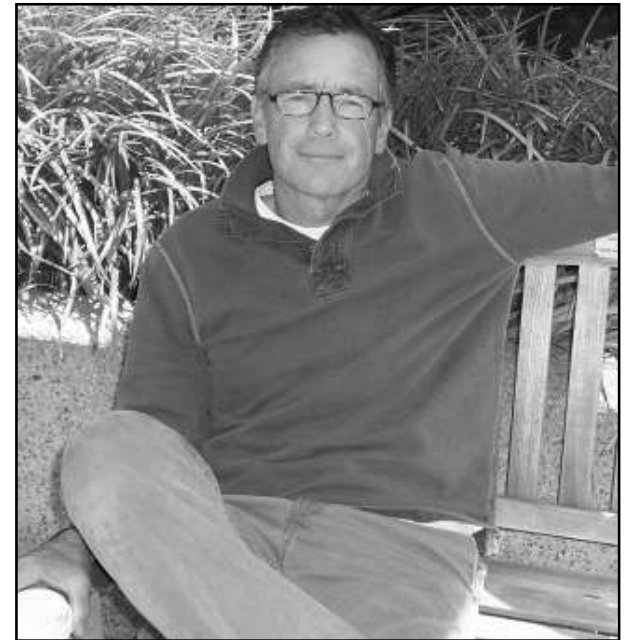


them how to hold a bat and the proper stance once. I said, ‘When you go home, have your dad help you with that.’ One kid said, ‘But my mom threw my dad out of the house!’ ”

WOULD I RATHER HAVE HAD A SPORTS-OBSESSED DAD?

A movie called *Gracie* came out this past spring. Actress Elizabeth Shue (*Leaving Las Vegas*, *The Karate Kid*) produced and stars in it; it's semi-autobiographical. In the May 27 *L.A. Times*, Shue said, “Our dad wasn't the Great Santini, but we did play sports nonstop. All day. Every day.”

I saw the movie, and in many ways Shue's father was worse. He would make his kids practice in the rain. When his wife complained about all the soc-



Former San Diego State and NFL quarterback Brian Sipe

cer talk at the table and how she felt left out, it doesn't change him. In the same interview with the *Times*, Shue said, “There is no footage of me playing soccer as the only girl. For four years. None.” A few paragraphs later, we learn that in the house the Shue kids lobbed head balls at one

another in the living room and pitched baseballs against oven doors.

The movie left me wondering which was worse — the father neglecting the females in his family or going to such extremes to coach his kids. He'd made them come home to practice drills instead of playing

RESEARCH STUDIES

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To participate in a clinical research study
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- In good health with no major medical problems



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(2 overnight stays required)

For more information, call:
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Periods Too Heavy?

If your periods are too heavy, a research study is underway using 2 investigational products for women with heavy menstrual periods. If you are over 18 years of age with regular periods and struggle with this heavy flow, you may want to consider this research study.

To possibly qualify you must:

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

Participants may receive study-related:

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- Lab studies, Pap smear and ultrasound
- Compensation

For more information call:

619-521-2841

Medical Center for Clinical Research

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All study-related care and study medication will be provided
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If so, you or a loved one may be interested in a research study
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Qualified Participants Must:

- Be 18 and older
- Go to bed later than you would like

Qualified Participants Will Receive:

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We are conducting a research study with an investigational
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To qualify, you must be at least 18 years of age, medically
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Qualified participants will receive:

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

For more information, call:

619-521-2841

Medical Center for Clinical Research

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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

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

with their friends. And he'd quit his job without telling his wife, so he could spend more time coaching the children.

The day after I saw Gracie, I got a phone call informing me that my dad had died. It made it

tough to write a story like this. I hadn't spoken to him in 6 years or seen him in 30. Would I have rather had a father screaming at me from the stands or making me shoot baskets in the rain...than a dad who

left my mom when I was four and who chose not to be a part of my life?

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I phoned a different friend, in a different part

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UC San Diego

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.

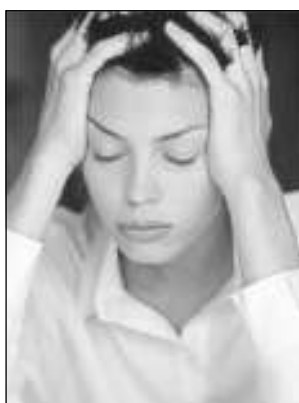
To qualify for this study, you must be:

- 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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Researchers in the Department of Psychiatry at UCSD are conducting a brain imaging study that provides free psychological treatment to individuals experiencing **excessive worry** or **panic attacks**. Compensation is provided. You must be between the ages of 18-55, a nonsmoker, and **not** currently taking psychiatric medication. Other eligibility criteria apply. Please call **858-534-6445** for more information and to see if you qualify.



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You may qualify for this study if you:

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Eligibility will depend on a range of criteria.

Study participants will receive study-related drug and medical care at no charge.

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of town, to find out which of his three kids had a soccer game next, which led to my witnessing another adult who screamed in front of ten-year-olds.

One kid was trying to head the ball. The defender ducked beneath him. The referee deemed this dangerous and threw a red card. An assistant coach didn't like the call and started screaming at the ref. The assistant coach was thrown out and had to leave the field. The problem with that? His son was in the game. When the boy saw his dad leaving, he started to cry. Can you imagine the many things the child could've been crying over? He might have wondered if his dad was going to jail. He might have wondered how he'd get home. Or, he might have simply been embarrassed. All ruining a pleasant Saturday

afternoon.

I asked psychotherapist and certified thanatologist Ruth Schrieblman, who is in private practice, to tell me her thoughts on these overly competitive adults.

"We live in a competitive society," she said. "I remember when my daughter was seven. We had her signed up for soccer. We lived in a diverse area. There were often mothers and fathers, even at practice, yelling and screaming for their kids to score goals. The competition was intense. One time the coach, a local physician, took the kids back to his house. This was before cell phones. I showed up and my daughter wasn't at the field and I panicked. When I finally found out where she was and picked her up, I went ballistic. All the coach said was 'But...she scored a goal today.'

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Right then I took her out of soccer. We live behind a grammar school, and I hear the coaches yelling at the kids. For some coaches, this is a big part of their life. The kids are the focal point. And many parents live vicariously through their children. Having an athletic superstar can be a way into a good college on scholarship. There are parents who are hoping athletics will pay for college. I know somebody who is in the sports

industry. He played professionally and coached on all levels. The family knows the kids won't get in on scholastic achievements, but the kids are great athletes. This is what they are depending on."

Is there any type of counseling that can help aggressive coaches or parents realize the effects of constant yelling? How many sessions are necessary?

"You can't say [whether] someone

might need three sessions or eight," Schriebman said. "Everyone is different. And, yes, it would be great if leagues had mandatory rules and meetings before the season started, stating that if a parent or coach acted inappropriately on the field, there would be ramifications."

If they were shown videos of how insane they look, would that help?

"I suppose. But you can't mandate people to go to anger management. Occasionally, someone will become a coach because they like the attention. And it's not against the law for them to yell. I would suggest, though, not having the parent as the head coach. It becomes too personal. Maybe it works better if they are assistant coaches."

Why don't other parents say or do anything? It's almost as if they accept this behavior.

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"Sometimes, the yelling is encouraged. Sometimes, they are trying to distract an opponent so they goof. And, really, parents who act this way...well, it has to do with internal values. Many times their behavior is fear-based. The child is an extension of the parent. If the kid doesn't perform, the parent feels humiliated. And that's a bad feeling."

"Empathy develops at around six or seven years of age. You start to realize you can't treat someone like that. But in some adults that awareness isn't fully developed. In a competitive atmosphere, it shows. They haven't matured, and it carries over."

WERE PRO ATHLETES DRIVEN BY THEIR PARENTS?

San Diego Padre pitcher Chris Young had an

autograph signing in UTC. I wanted to find out about some Padre players' youth baseball experiences. I asked Young, "How old were you when you started playing baseball?"

"I was five," he said. I asked if his parents were hard-core Little League types that pushed him and screamed from the stands. "Oh no," he said. "They were great. They never pushed me to play, and they never screamed the way some parents can."

I tried to ask another question but was drowned out by autograph-seekers.

I also talked to Padre first baseman Adrian Gonzalez, who grew up and played in leagues in Chula Vista. The two major leaguers had similar answers to my questions, but I doubt that that will dissuade parents from pushing their kids

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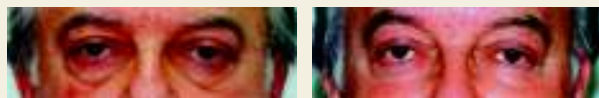
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hard to get them into the big leagues.

Gonzalez was the number-one pick of the 2000 baseball draft. When I saw him in a cell phone store in Chula Vista I asked, "At what age did you start playing baseball?"

"I was four years old."

Was your dad one of those hard-core parents yelling from the stands?

"No. He played it. And in Little League, when he coached it, he

coached me only one year. He was laid-back, really mellow."

What do you think about parents that aren't laid-back and are yelling from the bleachers?

"Oh, there's no need for it. Let the kids play, and if they like it, they are going to enjoy it."

I talked to local legend and Hall of Fame basketball great Bill Walton. He said, "Some of these parents are more concerned with their kid becoming the Next Big

Thing, and they lose sight of what's really important. I think this is the most important thing in the world right now and should be for any parent. I just wrote the foreword to a book on this very subject [*Revolution in the Bleachers*]. Sports should be a positive aspect for a youngster. The impetus for fun and good health. A coach, or a parent, should provide leadership. They should make it fun. I don't care if you're a politician, community leader, or boss. You don't have to yell and bully people. If I'd had coaches like that growing up, I wouldn't have had a career. I would've just said, 'This isn't fun' and left. And my dad, he was the most unathletic person around. I never shot a single basket with him. The one time I saw him run at a church picnic, he almost fell down. I died laughing. But he was

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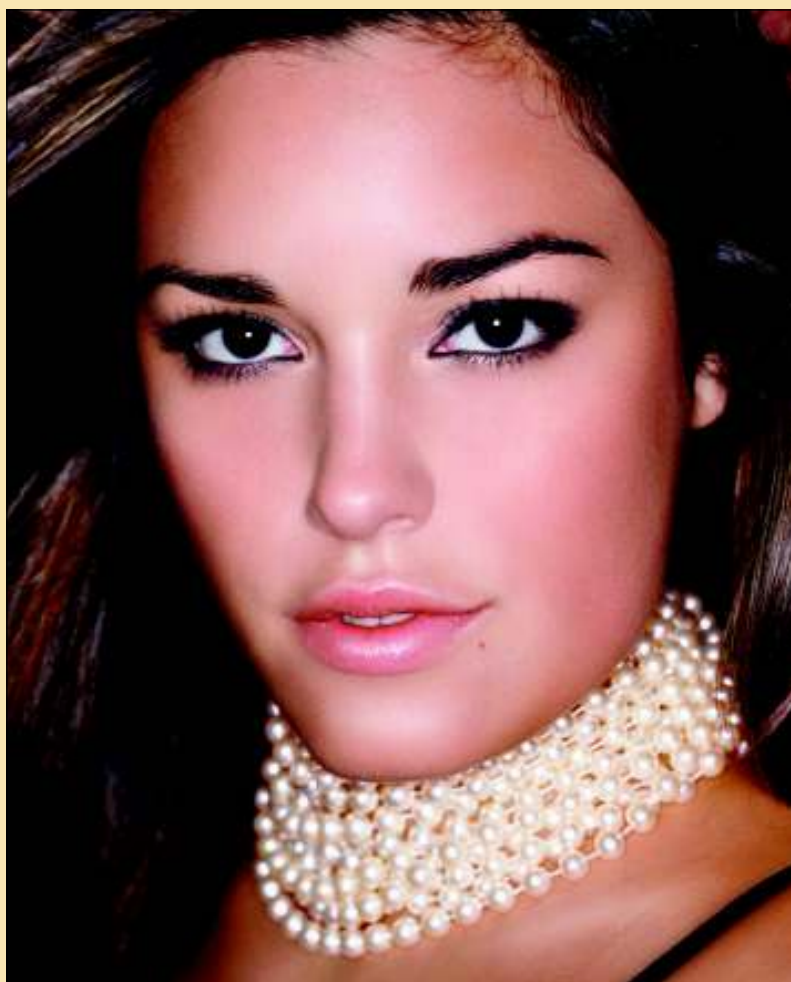
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always up there in the stands cheering me on, with that big baritone voice.”

Maybe the fact that your dad wasn't athletic and didn't know a lot about basketball helped — he couldn't yell

when you did things wrong.

“My dad was always supportive, no matter what. He taught me about love, life, friendship, education, and so much more. Parents can lead by example. Know-

ing about the sport has little to do with it. A UCLA guard and former pro named Greg Lee, who now lives in San Diego, is a great friend. His dad was a high school coach. He was always positive and great

around kids. It's the idiots out there and ego-maniacs like Bobby Knight. They think it's about them. When Knight was mercilessly fired from Indiana, *Time* called me up to write an essay comparing him to

Coach Wooden [UCLA]. I was up to a thousand words and they said, 'Uh, let's pare this down a bit.' Wooden taught me so much, and without the brow-beating and intimidation. Coaches like Bobby Knight...they are

out of control. It would be great if coaches like that were weeded out along the way.”

I agreed that Knight is out of control. But on the college level, and even for high school, I don't have a problem with

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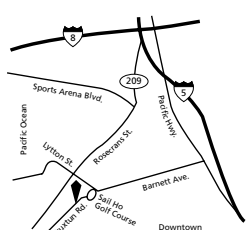
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coaches yelling. I played high school ball at Mira Mesa, and our coach had to yell at us and make us run laps if we screwed up. We knew the deal. It's what coaches do.

Walton said, "Why do they have to do that at any level? I don't care how old they are! Even college or NBA coaches. Look at what Don Nelson accomplished last year. He's not like that. When I played in the NBA, I was lucky enough to be coached by people like Red Aurebach, Jack Ramsey, Lenny Wilkens, Paul Silas [with the San Diego Clippers], Chaney. They were all positive. At Helix High, coach Gordon Nash was fantastic. And my first coach in El Cajon — Rocky. He made everything fun. Even going to practice, you looked forward to. He was such a humble human being. It was an honor, a thrill, to be on a team for a coach that was so selfless. I think every

level I played, it was made fun."

When I played summer league at Muni Gym in Balboa Park, I often saw Walton up there with his two sons. He was great with them. I'd also see him at the three-on-three tournaments I played in 17 years ago. I asked him to tell me about coaching those.

"First off, I have four kids, not just two. They're all two years apart. There's Adam, Nathan, Chris [who

played basketball at SDSU and is an assistant coach at USD High], and Luke [who's playing with the Lakers]. Lori and I always encouraged them to play for health and the fun group dynamic. The choice to continue on was theirs. Or even if basketball was the sport they wanted to play, and how much time they wanted to dedicate to it. It's their lives. As parents, your job is to help them achieve their goals. Parents sometimes try to live

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their dreams through their children. I never coached mine. I wanted to be a dad first. And I could be a tough coach.”

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stood your toughness.

“Sometimes you can't do that. What if something isn't in the best interest of the team?

Are you going to tell your son he isn't getting it done? I would rather be

there in the stands to give them a hug after the game and tell them I love them and cheer them on.”

When you watched your kids play and saw other parents yelling, did

you ever approach them? I'd have to think a 6'11" former NBA player would garner respect if you told them they didn't have the right approach with their kids.

“No. You can't really

do that. I just tried to lead by example, by cheering my kids on and being positive. Sports has that dark side, and bullies seem to come in and think it's their world. But the kids are smart. You

can't fool them. They know what's real out there. They know the people that are out of control, and they want to get away from those people, and they say, 'Let's get out of here. This is not for us.' ”

I still can't get past the fact that you don't think a college coach should ever yell. Don't you think there are the occasional times a player needs to be yelled at? I think of Vince Lombardi yelling at Bart Starr. Or even Burgess Meredith yelling at Rocky in the movies. I think sometimes coaches need to yell at players, and when they're teenagers, the players understand that. The player might not be concentrating, and a good yell helps them focus.

“No! Never. It's not necessary. It isn't. Listen...a situation isn't going to change with one speech or one play being called. But with lessons and values, and reinforcements of these things, the players will get it, without the overbearing bullying that some coaches want to continue with. Coaches impact lives and should show compassion and unconditional love. Coaches that are bullies care only about themselves.”

The Jr. NBA and WNBA have Ray Allen of the Bucks and coach Doc Rivers, you, and a few others involved. Is your passion for teaching and influencing kids one of the reasons you got involved?

“Yes. We constantly work with children. We're there to coach them, mentor them, and council them when they need us. There's over 20 million kids playing basketball in the U.S. And the program has been hugely successful on a global scale since its inception four years ago. I impart the same values that I did to my sons on a daily basis, along with the

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nothing like seeing a smile on a person's face. When I see a smile on my own child's face, I know I'm the luckiest guy in the world."

I read once that your dad wasn't into sports

but was a piano player. Would he have liked it more to see you in a piano recital instead of on a basketball court? "My dad would've supported me in whatever I wanted to do. Like

I said, I'm very lucky. My parents realized sports were part of a bigger world, and they supported my basketball and my dreams. And that bigger world included education, literature, art,

social awareness, and music. My dad led by example. And hard work. He had to work three jobs to put food on the table. He was always supportive. He was more into the arts and not ath-

letics. He sang in the church choir and played Mozart on the piano. But, 15 years ago, I told him my legs didn't work anymore and that I wanted him to teach me piano. He said, 'Bill, I'm a very proud dad.' I told him I was a very lucky, old son. He passed away 3 years ago..."

A few days later I got a phone call and email from Walton. He sends me pages and pages of research on the subject.

I talked to another former San Diego athlete.

Brian Sipe was the SDSU quarterback who led the NCAA in passing in 1971. He went on to become the Cleveland Browns' all-time leading passer and was the league MVP in 1980. Since he's been coaching the football team at Santa Fe Christian High in Solana Beach for a few years now, I thought his opinions on how parents and coaches relate to kids would be enlightening.

I told him first about my disagreement with Bill Walton over the issue of coaches yelling. He also disagreed with Walton. "Coaches can be successful no matter what their temperament," Sipe said. "When I became a coach, I had no experience. I was playing catch-up. I had this book by Lou Holtz I was skimming through, and it said a player should look for the three things in a coach: is it someone who can be trusted, someone committed to excellence, and does this person care about me? If you can answer yes to those three questions, it doesn't matter the temperament, or if the coach yells. The player understands the goals of the coach and respects that. They realize that the person is engaging them and is someone who cares about them. If a child is too young to ask those questions, then I think they're too young to play organized sports."

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sports, when the children are ten? Obviously, the kids gain something from that experience, and a coach doesn't need to yell.

Sipe said, "I think parents get their kids into organized sports too young. They should have free play and organize it themselves. When I was in La Mesa, at around 11 or 12 years old, my team won the Little League World Series in Pennsylvania. That was the highest level of youth players, arguably, in the world. When I was coaching my son's Little League team

in Del Mar, the same age range, I couldn't get them to understand things I thought were basic. If there was a runner on second base and a ball is hit to them, where the ball should be thrown. They were unprepared. I got so frustrated, I told them not to bring their gloves to the next practice, and we played 'work up' with a Wiffle ball. Growing up, we always played that. You could play it with just a few kids in a garage or a whole bunch out in the park. They weren't even familiar with that game.

It's because kids don't even seem to go out on their own and play the sports anymore without it being organized by adults."

Do you think that has to do with computer games, TV, and other interests kids have?

"It could be a 'which came first/chicken or the egg' scenario. If you were a six-year-old wearing an old uniform, with adults telling you what to do and where to go, would you enjoy it? Or would you quit playing and have more fun in front of the computer? When I

was a kid, we rode our bikes to the fields for games, and usually our parents weren't there. We were surprised if they were. Now the parents are there, and sometimes that's when problems arise. And in some of the youth games, they don't keep score. Well, if you aren't going to keep score, why have umpires and adults even involved? Let the kids just sign up, pick teams, and play. They can make their own rules."

Well, that might be a little too unorganized. You might get bullies,

and...

"So what," said Sipe. "That's all part of growing up. They'll learn to deal with the bullies. Hey, I'm 59 and I still have bullies in my life [laughs]. It's the same thing with players all getting trophies. I don't think that's necessary. Sometimes kids need to learn, that's a part of life, that you don't always win or receive an award. And if the kids want to keep score, let them keep score."

As a former player at the highest level of the game, do you expect

more from kids?

"Probably. I coached youth soccer for three years when my daughter played. And since I'm a former player, people were quick to offer me coaching jobs. But playing and coaching are different assignments. Success can sometimes disqualify you from being a good coach. Bill Cowher [former Steelers' coach, now CBS commentator on *NFL Today*] was a teammate of mine in Cleveland. He was always just barely making the team. But he survived by exploring every aspect of

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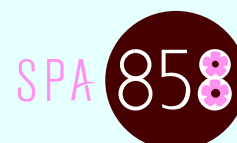
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the game. He was learning to become a coach back then."

I've seen Cowher do some yelling, but he's yelling at other adult NFL players. You don't see a problem with that style, obviously.

"I've played for a few gnarly coaches. I'm dating myself with that adjective. Don Coryell at SDSU, he was soft. But, Forrest Gregg in the NFL was intimidating. A rough guy. But I knew what their commitments were, and I didn't mind going into battle with them."

How do you handle crazy parents?

"My mom said she remembers some hassles in the stands when I was a kid, but I don't remember any back then. Parents need to learn their kids aren't perfect, and the kids need to learn for themselves. In the beginning of the season, I let people know how things are going to be. I tell them the reason their kids come out is to win a championship and I'm going to try to help them do that. I think certain standards are important. Sometimes a kid might

not play as much as someone else or be recognized the same way. This is a time when life collides with sports, and it's the peak of their athletic experience. Most will have none after high school. None will be paid to play professionally. And if that rare player does make it to that level, it won't be as enjoyable a time as it was in high school."

Do you think crazy parents get that way because professional sports is their ultimate goal?

"Some parents think

that. I tell them that 20 or fewer get scholarships in Division I out of the San Diego Section. That's everything south of Riverside — over three million kids. It's amazing how early in a child's life the parent is considering athletic scholarships. And, them wanting their child to be a professional athlete — there's not a more dysfunctional group of people around."

Quarterback Todd Marinovich, who played briefly for the Raiders, had a dad pushing him to play quarterback at an early age, making him

throw passes and do weight training strenuously before the age of 12. He ended up doing heroin and being arrested for a variety of things.

I asked Sipe if it's easier for him, as former NFL player, to talk to these parents.

"Yes. I get cut slack because of my playing career."

You teach at a Christian high school. How has your religion affected your coaching?

"My religion has completely [affected it]. If it weren't for my belief in God...I thought I was

done with football. But God gave me talents, and I wanted to teach these kids and give something back."

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Driving back from my interview with Sipe, I tuned in disc jockey Dave Palet, who does the morning sports show for XTRA 1360 AM (co-hosted with Jeff Dotseth). He told a story on the air that shocked me. Since he coaches the EastLake High School freshman baseball team,

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as well as a few Little League teams, I gave him a call.

Palet said, "I've always told people, with these reality shows now, if they just filmed these Little League parents and made a show out of it, it would be the best 30 minutes of TV. The parents are crazy. And so are some of the coaches."

What happened with your high school football team when you played?

"When I was 15 years old, I got in a fight in the locker room. I was defending myself and broke the shin of the best player on our team. He ended up becoming the best player in the city. The coach was mad and set me up in practices. I was the quarterback, but he started playing me at running back and telling everyone to hit me as hard as they could. One player refused. Everyone else did what the coach said. For a week, I was going home with blood coming out of my head. The coach then called me into the showers, with no one around. He told me I wasn't wanted and that I should quit. I told him I wasn't a quitter, and he put his fist in front of my face. He told me my sister was a whore, and so was my mom. He told me he wanted to fight, and I said, 'I don't fight teachers.' My mom wanted to go to the police, but my dad wouldn't let her. I was bleeding so much from my head and body... basically, because of this incident, I moved to Los Angeles to live with my grandmother. The only other option was changing schools, but the one was an all-boys' school, which I didn't want to attend. The others were too far away."

One fight involving an adult and a player, Palet did witness.

"I was watching a Little League playoff game. These were 14-year-olds, and the short-stop missed a fast line

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drive. Craig Nettles wouldn't have been able to get the ball, it was hit that hard. But his dad thought he should've, and he jumped over the fence and punched his son right in the face. Coaches and umpires

grabbed him and called the cops. Other times, I see parents in the stands watching practices. I would've been mortified if my dad did that. But, they do things like compile their kids' stats and send the info to coaches.

It's crazy."

As a coach, what do you do to help keep parents in check?

"At the beginning of the season, I tell everyone to be positive. If a player makes a mistake, they have to persevere. If the

options are yelling and wanting to kick ass, or patting someone on the back, I'm going to pat a kid on the back. If I hear a kid tell another kid, 'You suck,' I bench them. I only yell at one player. That's my son, and it's not extreme comments. It might be things like, 'Don't worry about it, move on.' Or maybe I'll tell him to focus. You have to be careful with other people's kids. There was a time my son ran into home, and he didn't know how to slide. He slowed down but ran into the catcher. The other coach grabbed my son, and I jumped over

and grabbed the coach. I was ready to knock him out. He's a friend of mine now, but he put his hands on my kid. Another guy I'm friends with got in my face, arguing over the rules. He wouldn't back down, and we almost fought."

Palet told me he had a million stories. There was a time a coach told a pitcher to hit his son with a pitch. Palet laughed. "Coaches are as bad as parents. Every year I would be voted to be the all-star coach. I think it's because the kids liked the fact that I was positive and not negative. When I hear parents in

the stands being negative, sometimes to shut them up, the umpires or coaches say, 'We can use more volunteers, if you think you can do better.' That usually shuts them up. One time, I couldn't shut this lady up. Her son was pitching, and she was yelling out stuff like 'He's afraid of you. He's over-rated and he sucks.' She was going on like that, and the batter could hear this. I went up to her and said, 'That boy's parents are probably sitting ten feet from you.' She looked at me like I was crazy and continued yelling and ripping this kid."

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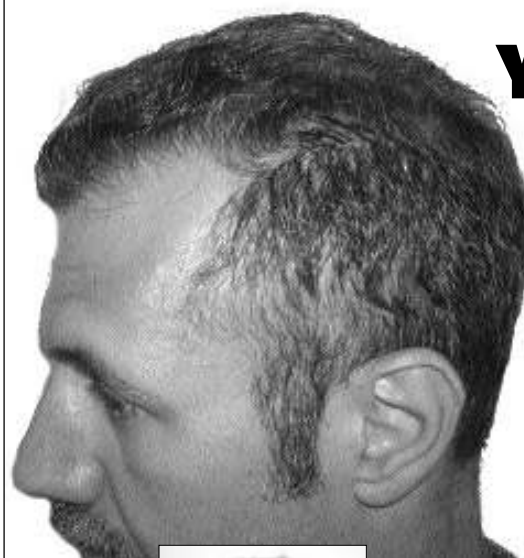
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I asked why coaches that do crazy things aren't thrown out of the league. Palet said, "They don't have enough coaches sometimes. They are volunteering. Sure, they do background checks to make sure they are safe to be around kids. But they should be stricter and let the coaches know it's a privilege. You can always coach up and be positive, instead of giving a kid the minimum amount of playing time and making it a bad experience."

KEEP QUIET AND PLAY

I decided to ask one of the lawyers I play basketball with if he's ever had any cases involving parents or coaches in youth sports. He said, "My firm never has, but I've heard of those cases. I'll tell ya, soccer moms are the absolute worst. When my daughter was going to a Catholic school, there were girls on the soccer

team that played on a traveling team. That, I thought was stupid. Do 12-year-olds need to go to Phoenix or Los Angeles to play games? They can't find enough 12-year-olds here? But they took a handful of the best girls and separated them into different teams. When the team my daughter was on played, the girls from the traveling team were yelling at their own teammates about how they were doing everything wrong.

I told my daughter to knock it off. She said, 'It's not me.' I told her I knew that but that she should end it. The next time her teammate said something negative to another player, my daughter told her to keep quiet and just play. The team lost, and all the mothers were standing around angry and saying, 'I knew we shouldn't have split up the girls from the traveling team. Now look what happened.' It's just a game, but they would

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rather have the team winning than have a variety of players.”

ANOTHER WALTON WEIGHS IN

I wanted to contact one last high school coach. Since Bill Walton's son Chris coaches at USD, I gave him a call. I said, “Your dad mentions in a piece he wrote that the greatest thrill for a parent in the stands is when your kid looks up at you and thanks you for coming to the game. Did he

ever surprise you by showing up for a game when he was supposed to be out of town working?”

“Actually, no. He traveled so much. That was hard. The NBA schedule usually coincided with our basketball games, and he spent two thirds of his time on the road. Every chance he could, though, he'd be at our games. That was always cool for us. Our mom was really a saint. She was the foundation for us for so long. And

she would take us to games and tournaments, often driving up to L.A.”

Did your mom scream from the stands?

“No. She was mild-mannered and always supported us. Our parents didn't push us to play basketball. School and education was the most important thing to them. My dad, having been injured for so much of his career, knew that it could all end. So he stressed the importance of an education. And even though they didn't push basketball, when you're 6'4" in seventh grade, you kind of weed out the other sports and gravitate toward basketball.”

Did you ever play for a coach with a temper?

“No. I never did. I was blessed that I always played for great coaches — from when I was a child, up to playing for Steve Fischer at San Diego State. We went to private schools, and the

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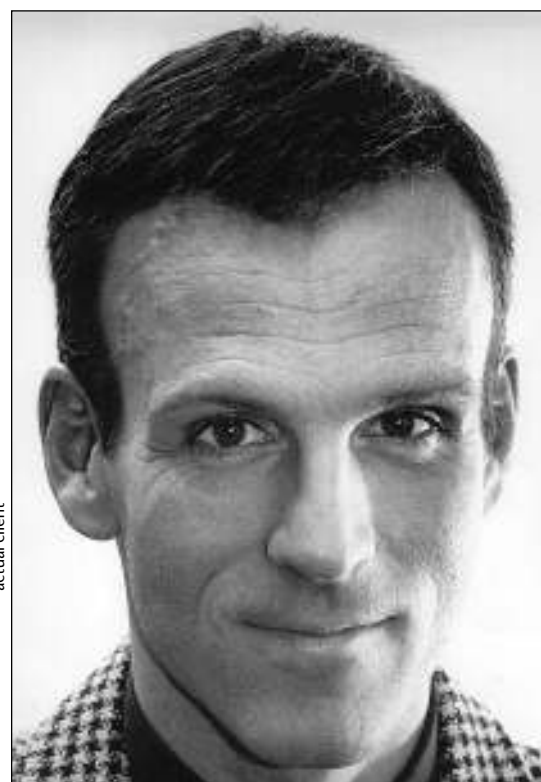
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coaches there were good teachers and never over the top."

As a kid, what did you think when you saw another coach yelling?

"If I saw a coach cursing or stomping their feet, I really just felt sorry for those players. And some parents were always going up to the coach to ask why their kid didn't get more playing time. Often, those coaches had a son that played on that team. And, my dad played for coaches like K.C. Jones and Jack Ramsey. They didn't yell. They just knew what kind of basketball they wanted to see and then let you play. Basketball should be fun, whether you are 10 or 25 years old and in the NBA."

How has all this influenced you as a coach?

"I take a little from here and there and from many of the coaches I've seen over the years. I learned a lot from my

dad, too. I think sometimes there is a time and place when you need to be a little stern and tell the players to focus. But I also feel that the players should be having fun and be competitive, without being scared. If a coach yells and scares the player, the players are more worried about making a mistake. They are looking over at the bench all the time, instead of just playing. That can hurt their confidence level."

Recently, I saw my fifth-grade coach at Alliant International University on Pomerado Road. He was in the bleachers watching his son play. He wasn't yelling, throwing chairs, or causing a commotion. He had a big smile on his face. He applauded when the team scored and never once yelled. Maybe he's matured.

Of course, it helped that his son was the best player on the court. ■

— Josh Board

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Readers of these pages (I mean the music pages, not *the* pages in general) have read at one time or another the writings of Richard Meltzer. Longtime readers of rock-jazz/blues-pop or miscellaneous contemporary (or even not-so-contemporary) music criticism will know who he is all right. Many of you will have wondered, at one time or another, *What is the deal with this guy?* Well, I'm not going to tell you.

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Not because I'm contrary or because he is a member of some too-hip-for-you clique, an inner-circle member of initiated prose pros I must protect or promote; it's just that I don't really know. I talked to him on the phone, however, last night, on the occasion of his new book, *A Whore Just Like the Rest*, and he seemed like a nice guy, a New York kind of guy, drinking a beer and talking about music. He would say things like, "Yeah? You think so?" sounding genuinely curious when I would offer him some choice theory of mine about his take on rock and roll, the dialectic of Meltzer and music.

I mention his review of a piece

by John Cage included in the book. Here is that review in its entirety:

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PHOTOGRAPH BY RONI HOFMAN

Richard Meltzer kissing "Betty" the rubber face

To say that this is typical Meltzer would be to say that the piece he is reviewing is typical John Cage. I might say that it is quintessential Meltzer though. Somebody is fucking with somebody here, and it's not Meltzer or his cat.

As I'm speaking to him, his cat is ill and a girlfriend is giving the cat IVs of something. "My cat actually wrote that," says Meltzer, and I have no doubt.

Meltzer has written for *Rolling Stone*, the *L.A. Weekly*, *Creem*, and *Spin*, to name a few. But the above review, like most of the last third of the book or so, was originally written for the *San Diego Reader*. Meltzer's

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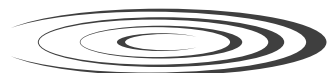
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love-hate relationship with this place is longstanding, and he himself admits that much of his best stuff was written in, for, and about San Diego.

"All the Tired Geezers in the Sun" about Lawrence Welk Village is one of these, and — love it or hate it — one must grant its status as a unique document. Meltzer has written about San Diego's peep shows and piano bars and covered the L.A. riots for a San Diego readership.

Meltzer on San Diego: "The people of San Diego get the best sampling of my precious bodily fluids. Now that I know how to write, where am I writing? For San Diego. When the response is, 'Hey! I could write that.' Maybe part of my gift [to San Diego] is, 'Hey! Go ahead and do it!' Maybe I don't have the ego attachment to it I once did. So you wannado it, Everyman, Everywoman? Go ahead and do it. You're welcome to it."

The conversation gravitates from rock writing to rock and roll itself, or "rock roll" as Meltzer often refers to it. I confess I am in danger of losing my love for it and ask him if he does not also find this happening to him.

"Oh, yeah," he says. "Just think about the whole theme of it. Once upon a time, rock and roll didn't exist and the human race had to do without it. Today's kids can't imagine that there was ever a time before it. Even in the '60s you had to go find it. It was not omnipresent. But after a certain point it became how you measured your life: song lyrics, riffs. You'd cross the street and think, 'Break on through to the other side' or whatever. But if you didn't work at it, you could go for

many days without hearing it.

"Somewhere by 1980, maybe? You got a situation I call 'Rocksurround,' where you couldn't get away from it."

"That's about the time MTV came on," I suggest.

"Even the volume on people's car radios multiplied incrementally," he adds. "It was used in commercials. It got so where you couldn't shut it off. For myself, I would welcome silence over that condition. Silence would be more of a rock and roll mode than rocksurround."

I agree and tell him, "Okay, I'm old. My opinion about rock and roll shouldn't matter. My job should now be to just get out of the way."

"My opinion about that," he says, "is that at one time there were no rock writers either. Even after there were, newspapers didn't have rock writers. There were rock mags, but it was a long time before the *New York Times* or the *L.A. Times* had their first rock review. And why did they have a second? Because they discovered they could get ads. By 1970 every [major] paper had a *staff* of rock writers. It got to where you had a food tube stretching from the industry to the writers. Now I get these stupid letters about my column ["Of Note"] asking me why I'm not covering the music, and I'm, like, 'Cover it yourself. Why would you want it covered?'"

"Yeah," I'm laughing. "I always read your thing just to see in what insane way you're going to get out of writing about what may be the next Black Oak Arkansas or whatever."

"To spill the beans." He's laughing too. "I guess what I'm doing is — I feel too many millions of words have been written about what the music *is*. I guess it's time to start writing about what the music *isn't*."

This leads to a discussion of a section in *A Whore Just Like the Rest* where the New York Dolls are playing at a party for Mercury Records in the early '70s, just as that record company was flushing itself into oblivion. Meltzer and Nick Tosches are the only writers who bother to show up at this sad affair, and Meltzer starts flinging macaroni salad at David Johansen's leather pants. A kid who hung with the New York band the Dictators jumps onstage to boogie down with the Dolls in a '60s-style/tribal/com-munal rave, a kind of *we're all in this together/it's us against them/let's erase the space between the stage and the audience!* attitude the Dolls were pantomiming if not inviting — and they kicked the crap out of him.

"Hey," I ask Meltzer, "do you remember, about that time, the Dolls were on public-access cable in Manhattan almost 24 hours a day?"

"Yeah," he goes. "They were playing at the old Mercer Arts Center until the place collapsed."

Ah, good times.

"A lot of readers really hate you," I point out to him, as if he doesn't already know this.

"Yeah, well, a lot of people want writers to behave with authority. They want to be led by the nose. And when they're not, it annoys them."

"The first rock writer I remember reading," I say,

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“was Robert Christgau [at the *Village Voice*]. I remember thinking, *What the fuck?* The guy couldn't be more deliberately obtuse, I thought. It was, *Jesus, man! Lighten up, you're writing about rock and roll.*”

Meltzer worked under/with/around Christgau and treats his relationship with him and the *Village Voice* in his book. “He and Greil Marcus regarded each other as the bee's knees.”

I ask him about Marcus, and Meltzer calls him “a square.” He then goes on to tell me a story about him and Tosches going over to Marcus's house, where the only thing to drink besides Miller High Life was Carnaby Street gin from a bottle that had been left topless on a shelf for years, rendering the stuff into little more than alcohol-free perfume — presumably with a protective layer of bug flotsam.

“I'm sure Nick and I were too pissed off to be sociable, so I don't remember talking to Greil at that event.”

“People are going to want to know, what's the deal with Meltzer?” I then go on to list some of the adjectives I've heard applied to him, like wise-ass, rakehell, and obdurate.

“Well, I've been all of those things. I've been intentionally obtuse, I've been clear as day, I've been a trickster and a mischief-maker...”

“A gunslinger, a surfer, and a hoodoo man...”

“Yeah, but most of these pieces are pretty direct.”

“It's funny to me that people have so much trouble with it.”

“It's funny to me too.”

Hating Richard Meltzer, I figure, serves a direct function: whatever it is that pisses you off should be a fairly accurate indicator of your own cultural prejudices.

Meltzer ends his book with a poem that first appeared in this paper. Part of it reads:

*“I'm too, too generous.
Don't take me seriously.
No more seriously than your life.
Don't tread on me.
Correct me if I'm wrong.
School is out...” ■*
— John Brizzolara

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LETTERS

continued from page 12

had it played at our wedding in 1970.

Another bothersome issue is that I remember Get Back Loretta has won four music awards at the San Diego Music Awards in the last three years. If your wannabe critic is calling this band dorky looking, dorkier acting, and suggests they are irritating, then it doesn't look like he has much respect for the San Diego music industry that awarded Get Back Loretta Best Pop Album of the year. I hope you aren't paying this Mr. Crain much for what he does. It also appears that he has trouble getting lyrics correct.

Byron P. Martin
via email

It's Not A Bad Thing

Get Back Loretta is one of the most innovative bands in Southern California. I don't see why it's a bad thing to take inspiration from the Beatles. I can't think of a better role model for music, and GBL definitely lives up to any and all expectations. They are the only band who has any business referencing the greatest band of all time.

Caitlyn
via email

What's The Joke?

I'm going crazy after reading the cover article in this week's issue ("Does Christmas Offend You?" December 20). In it Gideon Rappaport says, "As an old punch line went, 'What's a Jew doing on a horse?'" So, as a lover of old jokes, I went to Google to look up the joke. The only reference to the punch line given is to your story!

Please, what's the joke?
Al Weiss
via email

Gideon Rappaport responds: The painter Paul Brach told the story that, though he'd grown up in Jewish upper-middle-class New York, he'd spent time in Arizona working on a ranch and had studied at the University of Iowa, among other places. When he was drafted into the Army during WWII, they put him into a horse regiment in Texas. The first day, the sergeant, thinking to use someone as a bad example of

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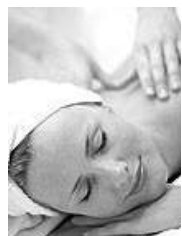
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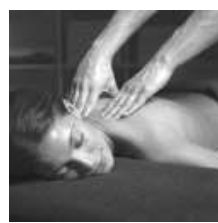
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Farnaz Haroon, DDS **ZOOM! Advanced \$269**

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riding so he could then whip the group into shape, asked Brach to do something on horseback. He did it. Then he was asked to do something much harder. He did it. The sergeant was not only stymied in his plan for the new recruit to set a bad example but surprised at what this particular recruit could do. When he found out who the recruit was, "What's a Jew doing on a horse?" was his response.

Comments from Reader Website

Cover Story Published January 2

Posted by Citizen Chris on 01/4/08, 6:56 a.m.

Excellent, informative piece by Geoff Bouvier. I

tip my hat in appreciation to the collaborative effort between the CHP and Caltrans to monitor "200,000" vehicles that transit San Diego daily. Occasionally, I venture onto I-15 with: NASCAR wannabe's; DUI drivers; tailgaters; mean & aggressive types; young men in truculent pick-up trucks; whizzing & weaving motorcyclists; and speeding moms, on cell phones, in minivans transporting 'precious cargo.' Each time I reach the exit I'm amazed I've survived — nothing short of miraculous!

Diary of a Diva Published January 2

Posted by Lisa on 01/2/08, 3:23 p.m.

I also grew up in a religious family and loved

Christmas when I was younger, but as I've gotten older I always feel like such a Scrooge. Now I just see Christmas as a time of empty gestures, bad traffic and mean people at the mall, not to mention the consumerism of all of it makes me sick. I have a kid though, so for now I have to go along with it.

Posted by Gloria on 01/2/08, 11:28 p.m.

Your piece is a holiday gift to your family: full of the excuses that you wisely held at bay. When I was younger I had a couple of years when I also banned the traditional Christmas festivities. I didn't think that I would ever enjoy Christmas again. (I lived in San Diego at the time

and I now believe that the nightmarishly-designed streets of Fashion Valley had something to do with my hatred of the date.) Now I have grown to pick and choose how I wish to celebrate, what I wish to celebrate and hold sacred for my family. We love to travel especially at this time of year. Interestingly, for me, this year felt every bit as magical as it did when I was a kid. I got to enjoy the good while passing over those purely superficial or ridiculously antiquated religious beliefs that I don't recognize anymore.

Posted by San Diego Transplant Living in Atlanta on 01/3/08, 4:57 p.m.

Barbarella- it's so funny that you made it a point to

not celebrate Christmas, but your video portrayed just that. Maybe not in the traditional sense... but you spent the 25th with people you love, sharing laughs, eating food, and making memories. That is what Christmas is all about. The gifts, decorations, and all of that other crap is secondary, though it may not seem so at the time. Thanks for sharing your life with us, even though you know it may be frowned upon. It takes courage. Just consider yourself very lucky that you choose not to celebrate Christmas rather than just not having people to celebrate with... That was me, no Christmas because I was estranged from my family for quite some time. Now that I have a family of my own and a man in my life to do the Christmas thing with, well... he turned out to be Jewish. Oh... the irony!

eran and San Diego home owner with a dream endure this?! FIRE those that don't perform in our county offices! Make these offices and management accountable! Give this man his due....He was dilligent, You were not! Our County Fathers Owe You One. (probably more!)

Posted by Otto Bosse on 01/4/08, 5:05 p.m.

It's too bad the absurdities by which 'The County' (just one example of many) operates 24/7 only come to light sporadically when some poor property owner has some patently outrageous time with them. Here's the deal people, the 'brain trust' that is 'The County' does this stuff daily...to everyone. This guy was not the exception he seems. You get an appreciation for the term 'lunacy' whenever you have any dealings with them.

Posted by hermitpad on 01/4/08, 7:23 p.m.

This story is not unusual. I have lived in the back-country all my life and anyone I talk to curses the incompetence of the County of San Diego and the idiots who work there. No one can get a straight answer and when you think you have one you better get in writing or on a tape recorder because they will change the requirements next time you talk to them. They don't know what they're doing. Do what you want. Don't ask, don't tell.

City Lights, by Don Bauder

Published January 2

Posted by Craig Maylor on 01/2/08, 4:56 p.m.

Mr. Bauder: Based on the above article, and the declining property tax revenues, does Bankruptcy for the City or County, look a little more like reality now?

Reply by Don Bauder: Yes, bankruptcy for the City looks more likely. Look for the possibility within the next few years. The County is just a little further away, largely because it sold pension obligation bonds and shifted the burden to today's youth.

Blurt

Published January 2

Posted by PM on 01/4/08, 4:30 a.m.

Mr. Sanford: You were kind to acknowledge and write about guitarist Bridget Bardell, who died from an "accidental" heroin overdose. Not to get semantical on this figure of speech so often used, but heroin is a non-prescription, pre-mediated killer, no 'accidental' mistakes about it, only tragedies. Unfortunately, it has claimed another victim. Yes, may she RIP. A good and safe day to you, sir.

Posted by Jay Allen Sanford on 01/4/08, 5:58 a.m.

Understood, and agreed. In trying to be delicate, I was mildly inaccurate. Sadly, I just heard about another local musician's death - Disgorge bassist Ben Marlin lost his long battle with cancer on Wednesday. RIP, and my condolences to his family and friends.

City Lights, by Joe Deegan

Published January 2

Posted by Jim White on 01/2/08, 4:07 p.m.

This story tells me the people who work for the county have a problem with their organization.

Posted by Mark on 01/3/08, 1:41 p.m.

Our Tax Dollars at Work?! Why must this Vet-

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- 3 Surgery
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Global Warming In a Nutshell

Clues from the Polar Ice Sheets

It's like trying to talk to someone who has a drinking problem: They don't want to hear what you have to say.

Americans are kind of in denial about global warming," says Jeff Severinghaus, professor of geosciences at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

"Charles Keeling [for whom the Keeling curve — the graph that tracks the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere over time — was named] started measuring [carbon dioxide] in 1958. His work showed beyond a shadow of a doubt that humans were causing CO₂ to increase."

LOCAL EVENTS

Carbon dioxide, Severinghaus explains, is a "heat-trapping gas" — the higher the concentration of this gas in the air, the warmer Earth will be, "and that's global warming in a nutshell."

On Monday, January 14, Severinghaus will give a lecture at the Birch Aquarium at Scripps detailing his research of gas bubbles trapped in polar ice sheets. "Not to be confused with 'sea ice' — which is a thin layer of ice that is only about six feet thick and made from frozen sea water — 'polar ice sheets' are the big masses of ice on Antarctica and Greenland. There's only two of them," he says.

Polar ice sheets "form from snow falling on land and then being compacted." An ice-core drill is used to extract cylinders of ice ten feet long and five inches in diameter. Once removed from the ground the sections are pieced together to form one long cylinder, the longest of which is 3.6 kilometers, or little more than two miles long —

the depth from the surface to bedrock.

"Because the snow never melts in the polar regions, it just falls and piles up. Every year is preserved as a layer. Like the rings on a tree, you can actually see the layers, count them, and [obtain] an accurate age of the ice." Using the layers, which are each about an inch thick, scientists can count back as far as 40,000 years. "Beyond that, you have to use more indirect techniques for dating core, like radiometric dating."

The ice cores, Severinghaus says, are "samples of ancient atmosphere." For 10,000 years the concentration of carbon dioxide in the air, measured in parts per million, has maintained a slow and steady climb. During the ice ages, the gas was at 200 parts per million. It took 5000 years for it to reach a level of 280. Then, "in the past 150 years, it jumped from 280 to 380."

Severinghaus says the burning of fossil fuels caused the sharp increase and that the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is now rising two parts per million per year. "Next year it's going to be 382, and the year after that 384, and it's also accelerating because economies like China and India are really coming online right now and beginning to adopt our lifestyle."

In a crowded elevator, "just from people exhaling," Severinghaus explains, carbon dioxide reaches 1000 parts per million. "To actually be harmed by CO₂, you have to get up to 10,000 parts per million, at which point it makes you sort of sleepy." Only in extreme cases can carbon dioxide kill, as in the instance of Lake Nyos, located in the West African country of Cameroon, in 1986. "The lake turned over all of a sudden, meaning the bottom of the lake comes



Jeff Severinghaus

up to the top — most lakes do this every winter, because cold water is denser than warm water, so the cold water sinks. This is one of those lakes where that doesn't happen — the water is stagnant down at the bottom, and the CO₂ had been building up there for hundreds of years, and then the whole thing turned over all at once and the [gas] came boiling out." The cloud of carbon dioxide flowed into nearby villages, asphyxiating at least 1700 people and thousands of animals.

Aside from freak incidents like Lake Nyos, Severinghaus admits that carbon dioxide poses no threat to humans. So why be concerned about the gas warming the air? "People don't really care if the temperature goes up five degrees. But the rain belts would move [toward the poles], which means places that today are a little on the dry side are going to get even dryer, and places on the wet side are going to get wetter. It's not necessarily a bad thing. Heating bills will be lower for people who live in cold places, and the Russians are happy

because they'll be able to grow wheat in northern Russia. But," Severinghaus continues, "because so much of the population lives in warmer, dryer regions already, the negative impacts are going to vastly outweigh the positive."

The impact will be felt hardest among the world's poor. "We are able to adapt, because we can desalinate the ocean or buy a bottle of water," says Severinghaus, "but the people in Bangladesh are going to have a harder time."

— Barbarella

**Perspectives on Ocean Science:
Climate-Change Clues Frozen in Time
Monday, January 14
6:30 p.m.**

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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

Events that are underlined occur after January 17.

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

BAJA

Hypnotists Taurus do Brasil and his son John Milton return to Centro Cultural Tijuana for performances through Monday, February 25. Curtain rises at 8 p.m. Monday–Wednesday, at 6 and 9 p.m. Thursday–Saturday, and at 5 and 8 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets: \$12–\$15 U.S. Find center at Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street in Zona Río. 011-52-664-687-9636. (TIJUANA)

Motorcycle Racing promised during ZR Mexicali GP, Sunday, January 13, 10 a.m., at km 28 on Mexicali-Tijuana Highway, Laguna Salada. Registration opens at 7 a.m. Registration fee: \$90 U.S. 011-52-686-564-6653. (MEXICALI)

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Physicists explain this peculiar phenomenon as due to color-dispersion (as in a prism) and scattering of sunlight through the Earth's atmosphere. Binoculars (or a small telescope) are helpful in spotting it. For green-flash hunting at sunset, any site with a view of the ocean horizon suffices. For the sunrise green flash, any spot overlooking the low desert (Sunrise Highway in the Laguna Mountains, for example) is good.

The Red Planet Mars continues to shine brightly with a steady light in the eastern sky after dusk. It reached opposition with the sun (180 degrees away from the sun) on December 24, 2007, and will be gradually receding from the Earth (and dimming in brightness) over the next several months.

Venus continues blazing bright in the east as a brilliant "morning star" visible from early dawn until sunrise. By early March, however,

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Rosarito Beach Hotel Family Vacation Getaway Package: \$139

One night in an oceanfront room, two 30-minute massages, continental breakfast, dinner, 2 kids 12/under stay/eat free dinner. \$169+ tax, double occupancy. Sunday-Thursday. Expires March 6, 2008. Excludes US holidays/special events. www.Rosaritobeachhotel.com. 1-866-ROSARITO.

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Venus will be slipping into the sun's glare. By late March, it will no longer be easily observable. In July, Venus will emerge again as a bright "evening star" visible in the west after sunset. Venus's evening-star stint will continue through fall and winter of this year.

The Latest Sunrise of the year (on standard, not daylight time) occurs Thursday, January 10, near 6:52 a.m. for most of metropolitan San Diego. Slowly at first, then more rapidly in the weeks to come, sunrise will arrive earlier with each passing day. By March 20, the sun will be rising a full hour earlier than it does now. The earlier sunrises are mostly a consequence of the sun's apparent movement from the southern sky toward the northern sky from December to June. You can keep track of that movement by noting where the sun rises (or sets) over a period of many weeks from a fixed vantage point, such as your home.

Mystery Tour, naturalist Kathleen Flanagan leads fast-paced, generally strenuous walk of about seven miles in Daley Ranch, with route determined by makeup of group, Friday, January 11. Hike starts at 8 a.m. in main parking lot on La Honda Drive. Free. 760-839-4680. (ESCONDIDO)

Adopt-a-Crag! Volunteer service project hosted by REI and Allied Climbers of San Diego, Saturday, January 12, 8 a.m., at Mission Trails Regional Park (One Father Junipero Serra). Trail rehabilitation, debris removal, sign installation. Free. Register with customer service: 858-279-4400. (SAN CARLOS)

Master Composters lead composting workshop Saturday, January 12, 8:30 a.m., at Escondido Community Garden. Instruction and demonstrations in building and maintenance of backyard compost piles, worm bins. Free. Garden is just north of Highway 78 on Centre City Parkway; park behind garden in cul-de-sac at Morning View Drive and Lincoln Avenue. Free. 760-839-6216. (ESCONDIDO)

Not too Late to Stand Under Mistletoe! See how parasites attach to host Western sycamore while taking guided nature hike, Saturday, January 12, starting at 8:30 a.m. at Kumeyaay Lake campground entry station (Two Father Junipero Serra Trail). Free. 619-668-3281. (SAN CARLOS)

Volunteer Trail Guides sought for Mission Trails Regional Park, getting underway with ten-week training course starting Saturday, January 12, 8:30 a.m. at visitors' center (One Father Junipero Serra Trail). \$25 materials fee. Registration: 619-668-3279. (SAN CARLOS)

Expert Birders from San Diego Field Ornithologists to lead bird walk on easy trail winding along Tecolote Creek on Saturday, January 12, starting at 9 a.m. at Tecolote Nature Center (5180 Tecolote Road). Free. Bring binoculars, drinking water. 858-581-9944. (CLAIREMONT)

Hawkwatch, visit Ramona's grasslands to witness winter migration of hawks, falcons, and eagles during outing led by Wildlife Research Institute. Walks offered every Saturday in January and February, 9 a.m.–noon. Walks led by trained biologist. Wear hiking or walking boots. Bring binoculars or spotting scopes if you have

them. Outings begin at Wildlife Research Institute headquarters, 18030 Highland Valley Road (near Rangeland). Free. 760-789-3992. Heavy rain cancels. (RAMONA)

Second Saturday Nature Walks at the Reserve, San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy hosts walk exploring migratory birds and native plants, Saturday, January 12, 9 a.m. Free. Directions: 760-436-3944. (CARDIFF)

Tend California Native Plants, remove invasive interlopers, pick up litter with Friends of Famosa Slough around treatment ponds of urban wetland, Saturday, January 12, 9 a.m.–noon. Meet at corner of West Point Loma Boulevard and Famosa Boulevard with work clothes; bring work gloves and tools if you have them. Free. 619-224-4591. (POINT LOMA)

Trail Repair for Paso Picacho continues in Cuyamaca Rancho


State Park on Saturday, January 12, 9 a.m. Bring work shoes, gloves, hat, water, snack. Group gathers at Paso Picacho campground maintenance area behind fire department building. Free. Registration: 858-278-3280. (CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK)

Enjoy Peace on Earth — rippling of San Diego River, chirping birds, scented flora — during guided walks on Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday, January 12, 13, and

16, 9:30 a.m., in Mission Trails Regional Park (One Father Junipero Serra Trail). Free. 619-668-3281. (SAN CARLOS)


Eagle Peak Preserve Fire Recovery work hosted by San Diego River Park Foundation's Clean and Green Team near Julian, Saturday, January 12, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Volunteers needed for survey work, erosion control, other activities. Free. RSVP, directions: 619-297-7380. (JULIAN)

Explore Font's Point in western Borrego badlands with Canyoneers on Saturday, January 12, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Participants hike approximately four miles cross-country along ancient lakeshores and plains hinting of life a million years ago, climb Burk's Knoll, traverse rim of Mammoth Cove to end at Font's Point. Free. Directions: 619-255-0203. (ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK)



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Calendar LOCAL EVENTS

Friends of Rose Creek invite volunteers for variety of work in native plant garden, Saturday, January 12, 10 a.m.-noon, behind Rose Creek Cottage (2525 Garnet Avenue). Park on Fogg Street, just south of Garnet. Weed, water, plant native species. Bring work or gardening gloves, water. 858-405-7503. Free. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Palm Walk, Offshoot Tours offers its monthly hour-long guided stroll exploring structure, growth habits, landscape value of palm trees, Saturday, January 12, 10 a.m., at visitors' center. Free. 619-235-1122. (BALBOA PARK)

Asian Pacific Historic District Tours offered on second Saturday of each month, including January 12. Tours start at 11 a.m. at Chinese Historical Museum (404 Third Avenue). \$2. Required reservations: 619-338-9888. (DOWNTOWN)

"Beyond the Eye," course on desert stargazing led by Dennis Mammana continues, Saturday, January 12, noon-5 p.m., at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Visitors' Center Discovery Lab. Explore universe beyond what can be seen with eye, focusing on equipment, accessories, techniques. \$35. Registration: 760-767-4063. (ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK)

Mangrove Removal Work Party in Northern Wildlife Preserve hosted by San Diego Audubon Society and Aquatic Adventures. Help gather scientific data on mangrove plants, remove this invasive species to restore rare coastal salt marsh benefiting endangered light-footed clapper rails, Belding's savannah sparrows on Saturday, January 12, 1-4 p.m. Wear long pants, old clothes, sturdy waterproof shoes; water, snacks, gloves, tools provided. Free. RSVP, directions to site: 619-682-7210. (MISSION BAY)

Birding the Marsh, Chula Vista Nature Center hosts guided bird-watching hikes around Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge on Sunday, January 13, 11 a.m. Free. Reservations: 619-409-5900. (CHULA VISTA)

Fledgling Birdwatchers invited to Audubon Society outing at Lake Murray, Monday, January 14, 8 a.m. Bring binoculars, small notebook, field guide. Meet in parking area of Lake Murray near small bleachers. Easy hiking. 858-755-7133. Free. (LA MESA)

DANCE

"Go Ask Alice," this "lively, contemporary version" of *Alice in Wonderland* is presented Thursday and Friday, January 10 and 11, by students at Coronado School of the Arts. Expect "circus-inspired, full-length dance concert comprised of 15 inventive dances" directed by Betzi Roe. Curtain rises at 7 p.m. in campus performing arts center, 650 D Avenue. Tickets: 619-522-4050. (CORONADO)

Bohemian National Polka promised during Waltz & Such vintage dance lesson, Friday, January 11, 7:30 p.m., in room 207 of Casa del Prado. Open dancing, 8:30-9:45 p.m. All ages and abilities.

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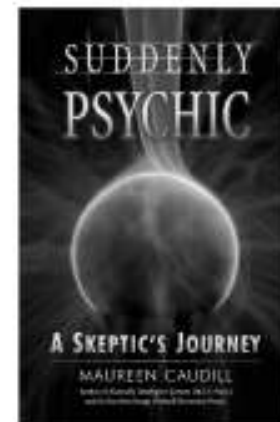
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Hustle Club Party, Saturday, January 12, 8 p.m.–midnight, at Dance North County (535 Encinitas Boulevard, suite 100). \$7. 760-803-9982. (ENCINITAS)

More the Merrier makes music, Graham Hempel calls for contraband on Saturday, January 12, 8 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church (3030 Thorn Street). Beginners' dance workshop: 7:30 p.m. \$7. Wear soft-soled shoes. Free music jam before dance, 6 p.m. 619-594-6828. (NORTH PARK)

American Latin and Ballroom Dance Party, Saturday, January 12, 8 p.m., at Pattie Wells Dancetime Center (1255 West Morena Boulevard). Dancing for singles and couples of all ages. West Coast swing lesson at 8 p.m. \$7; first time free. 619-275-3533. (BAY PARK)

Fusion-Style Bellydancing by Sarasvati Modern Tribal, Saturday, January 12, 9 p.m., at Egyptian Tea Room (4644 College Avenue). All ages. Free admission. 619-265-7287. (COLLEGE AREA)

"Cabaret Dances — Imágenes Latinas" Jean Isaacs San Diego Dance Theater plans concerts January 17–20 at San Diego Museum of Art. Evenings of modern dance embody "the Latin spirit" with choreography by Jean Isaacs for her company of nine dancers. Dancing begins at 8 p.m. Thursday–Saturday, 6 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets: \$25 general, available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). Information: 619-225-1803. (BALBOA PARK)

FILM

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, currently screening in the IMAX theater: *Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure*, *Dinosaurs Alive*, *The Living Sea*. "Fridays at the Fleet" showcases *Mysteries of Egypt* (6 p.m.) and *Dolphins* (7 p.m.) on January 11. Ticket prices and showtimes: 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

Brats, Berth Marks, Below Zero — enjoy these fine Laurel and Hardy flicks when Saps at Sea Tent — local chapter of Laurel and Hardy fans — gathers on Saturday, January 12, 7 p.m., at Trinity Presbyterian Church (3902 Kenwood Drive). \$6. 619-417-9032. (SPRING VALLEY)

"The Beautiful Country," Hans Peter Moland's film starring Bai Ling, Tim Roth, Nick Nolte, screens for Film Forum at San Diego Public Library (820 E Street) on Monday, January 14, 6 p.m. In Vietnamese and English with English subtitles. Free. 619-236-5800. (DOWNTOWN)

"The Future of Food," documentary focusing on "the unlabeled, patented, genetically engineered foods that have quietly filled...grocery store shelves for the past decade" screening hosted by Home Intl, Tuesday, January 15, 7 p.m., Lestat's West (3343 Adams Avenue). Free; donations accepted. 619-330-9798. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

World on a String, film series offering "look into the world of beading that takes you around the world and to many cultures" continues with *The Tiny Mighty Bead*, Tuesday and Saturday, January 15

and 19, 7:30 p.m., at Xpressive Arts Center (12257-B Old Pomerado Road). \$5. 858-679-2787. (POWAY)

"A Seal's Life: The Story of the Northern Elephant Seal" screens Thursday, January 17, 6:30 p.m., at Birch Aquarium at Scripps (2300 Expedition Way). Documentary details journey that elephant seals make along coast of North America. Producer Drew Wharton discusses film, answers

questions after film. \$8. 858-534-4109. (LA JOLLA)

"Fat Man Walking" has San Diego premiere during winter film series, Thursday, January 17, 7 p.m., at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (700 Prospect Street). Probing, impressionistic documentary by filmmakers David Mollering and father-and-son Pierre and P.J. Bagley "follows the trajectory of Oceanside resident Steve Vaught, whose unusual

weight-loss strategy involves walking from San Diego to New York." Mollering, Bagley, Vaught on hand for post-screening question-and-answer session with audience. \$7. 858-454-3541. (LA JOLLA)

LECTURES

"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 Robins 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)

GPS Basics Class, explaining functions and features of these devices, Thursday, January 10, 6 p.m., at REI San Diego (5556

Copley Drive). Review of features, practical applications. Bring your own GPS if you have one; some demo units available. \$55 for non-members. Reservations: 858-279-4400. (KEARNY MESA)

Fire Service Levels, Fire and Emergency Response Times, equipment, staffing issues discussed by Battalion Chief John Thomson of San Diego City Firefighters when Clairemont Town Council meets, Thursday, January 10, 7 p.m., in

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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

cafeteria at Clairemont High School (4150 Ute). Free. 858-831-9555. (CLAIREMONT)

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. (ENCINITAS)

"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)

"Beginning Ikebana," classes presented by Mary Rawlings at Quail Botanical Gardens (230 Quail Gardens Drive). Five-class series runs Fridays, January 11–February 8, 10 a.m.–noon. Bring notebook, pen, bucket, towel, floral scissors. Cost: \$150 plus \$60 materials. Required advance registration: 760-436-3036 x206. (ENCINITAS)

"Rococo Art: Just Frivolous or Something More?" Find out when

UCSD art history professor Norman Bryson speaks for guest lecture series at San Diego Museum of Art on Friday, January 11, 10 a.m. \$12. 619-696-1953. (BALBOA PARK)

Learn to Use the Mouse and Keyboard during computer class for beginners, Saturday, January 12, 9 a.m., at Rancho San Diego Library (11555 Via Rancho San Diego). Free. 619-660-5370. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

"Beyond Xeriscape — Gardening for Sustainability" is subject, Saturday, January 12, 10 a.m., in Cuyamaca College's Water Conservation Garden (12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West). Fine-tune your approach to water-wise gardening. \$15 general. Reservations: 619-660-0614. (EL CAJON)

Comprehensive Bike-Maintenance Class planned on Saturday, January 12, 10:30 a.m.–4 p.m., at REI Encinitas (1590 Leucadia Boulevard). \$85 nonmembers. Registration: 760-944-9020. Repeats January 26. (ENCINITAS)

"Understanding the Role of Genetics in Retinal Eye Disease and Why You Should Do Genetic Testing" is discussed by Radha Ayyagari from UCSD department of ophthalmology for Foundation Fighting Blindness on Saturday, January 12, 10:30 a.m., at San Diego Library (820 E Street). Kathie M. Bishop of Ceregene Inc. presents "How and Why Gene Therapy May Be a Viable Treatment for Retinal Eye Disease." Free. RSVP: 866-782-7330. (DOWNTOWN)

Bye Bye Grass, Part Two, gardening expert Nan Sterman teaches "how to evaluate irrigation, prepare soil, select plants, design your

OUT & ABOUT

"CABARET DANES — IMÁGENES LATINES," Jean Isaacs San Diego Dance Theater, Thursday-Sunday, January 17-20, San Diego Museum of Art.

(SEE DANCE)



PHOTOGRAPH BY MANUEL ROTENBERG

new garden" on Saturday, January 12, 1 p.m., in Cuyamaca College's Water Conservation Garden (12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West). \$25. Reservations: 619-660-0614. (EL CAJON)

Issues and Candidates in upcoming primary election provide focus when League of Women Voters representative speaks for OWL (the Voice of Midlife and Older Women) on Saturday, January 12, 1 p.m., at Unitarian Universalist Church (4190 Front Street). Open to public. Free. 619-233-0671. (HILLCREST)

"John Daniel Abel: Paintings, Drawings, and Graphics, 1977–2007" — exhibition of nearly 100

works continues through Sunday, February 3, at Earl and Birdie Taylor Library (Pacific Beach Library, 4275 Cass Street). Abel plans artist's talk, Saturday, January 12, 1 p.m. Free. 858-581-9934. (PACIFIC BEACH)

"A Year of Cosmic Marvels," preview upcoming celestial events such as eclipses, planetary conjunctions, meteor showers, more, when astronomer, photographer Dennis Mammana speaks for "Desert Skies" lecture series hosted by Anza-Borrego Institute, Saturday, January 12, 7 p.m., at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park visitors' center amphitheater. Dress warmly; bring blanket seating,

binoculars, and flashlight covered with red cellophane (to preserve night vision) if you have them. \$15. 760-767-4063. (BORREGO SPRINGS)

"Blocks in Weaving," what are they, how are they used, and how can you see blocks in design? Find out when Deanna Johnson of San Diego Creative Weavers' Guild speaks for Palomar Handweavers' Guild on Monday, January 14, 9:30 a.m. Free. Mini-workshop follows (\$20). 760-533-5857. (ESCONDIDO)

"Archaeological and Geospatial Investigations of Fire-Altered Rock Features at Torrey Pines State Reserve" explored by

Scott Mattingly and Lynn Gamble for 12 O'Clock Scholar program at San Diego Museum of Man on Monday, January 14. \$8 fee includes museum admission. 619-239-2001. (BALBOA PARK)

"Lessons from Chelsea: International Ideas for Sustainable Gardens" presented by Nan Sterman when San Diego Horticultural Society gathers, Monday, January 14, 6 p.m., in Surfside Race Place at Del Mar Fairgrounds. Plant forum follows. Free. 760-295-7089. (DEL MAR)

"Climate Change Clues Frozen in Time" — polar ice sheets are said to be sensitive indicators of current climate and also preserve evidence of past climate conditions. Scripps Oceanography researcher Jeff Severinghaus explains how gas bubbles provide clues to the past for Perspectives on Ocean Science lecture on Monday, January 14, 6:30 p.m., at Birch Aquarium at Scripps (2300 Expedition Way). \$8. Required reservations: 858-534-5771. (LA JOLLA)

Socially Responsible Investing" explained by Xavier-Yves Halász, Monday, January 14, 6:30 p.m., at San Diego Library (820 E Street). Free. 619-238-6630. (DOWNTOWN)

"Writing Songs on Guitar," workshop by Nashville guitarist Tim Thompson for San Diego Nashville Songwriters Association on Monday, January 14, 7 p.m., at Bob Duffy's Studio (16405 Summer Sage Road). \$20 general. Reservations: 619-884-1401. (POWAY)

"Email for the Absolute Beginner, Part I" taught at Poway Library (13137 Poway Road), Tuesday, January 15, 8:45–10 a.m. Participants must have current county library card, be familiar with use of computer mouse. Free. Part two: Thursday, January 17,

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8:45 a.m. Reservations: 858-513-2900. (POWAY)

"Food for Life," six-part nutrition and cooking class "designed for cancer prevention and survival" begins with "Fueling Up on Low-Fat Foods" presented by Tracy Childs on Tuesday, January 15, 11:45 a.m., at Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center (10905 Road to the Cure). Free. RSVP: 858-450-5990 x243. (SORRENTO VALLEY)

"Cracking the Case," handwriting analysis workshop revealing "secrets...in the strokes of handwriting to help solve real and fictional mysteries," Tuesday, January 15, 6 p.m., at Spring Valley Library (836 Kempton Street). Free. 619-463-3006. (SPRING VALLEY)

Digital Television Awareness Day is Tuesday, January 15, 6 p.m., at Lincoln Acres Library (2725 Granger Avenue). After February 17, 2009, most TV broadcasting will be digital. Will you need to buy a new TV? The FCC's office will answer questions and explain the transition. Free. 619-475-9880. (NATIONAL CITY)

"Designing California Native Gardens," slide show, book signing planned when Arlie Middlebrook visits California Native Plant Society meeting, Tuesday, January 15, in Casa del Prado room 101. Middlebrook is author of *Designing California Native Gardens: The Plant Community Approach to Artful Ecological Gardens*, owner of Middlebrook Gardens in San Jose. Plant sale: 6:30 p.m.; meeting: 7:30 p.m. Free. 619-282-3645. (BALBOA PARK)

Planning a Trip to Mt. Whitney? Learn details of permit process, how to prepare gear, training tips, proper footwear, other "insider knowledge" during clinics planned at REI. On Tuesday, January 15, 7 p.m., head to REI Encinitas (1590 Leucadia Boulevard, 760-944-9020) and REI Chula Vista (2015 Birch Road, 619-591-4924). REI San Diego (5556 Copley Drive; 858-279-4400) hosts clinic on Wednesday, January 16, 7 p.m. Free. (ENCINITAS, CHULA VISTA, KEARNY MESA)

Neo-Classicism and Romanticism explored — with focus on Delacroix, Gericault, Turner, Constable — when art historian Linda Blair continues "French Art in the 19th Century" series, Tuesday, January 15, 7:30 p.m., at Athenaeum Music and Arts Library (1008 Wall Street). \$17 per talk. 858-454-5872. (LA JOLLA)

"The Birth of the Book," John Sieber, professor emeritus of religion, worked on conserving, translating from Coptic, and editing Codex VIII of the *Facsimile Edition of the Nag Hammadi Codices*. He'll speak Wednesday, January 16, 6:30 p.m., at Imperial Beach Library (810 Imperial Beach Boulevard). Free. 619-424-6981. (IMPERIAL BEACH)

"The Care and Feeding of Your Home Office Computer" explained by Kenneth Farmer for SD/PEN Editors Network on Wednesday, January 16, 6:30 p.m., in Clairemont Community Room (4731 Clairemont Drive). Free. 858-451-3266. (CLAIREMONT)

"I'm Drinking the Stars," wine maven Barbara Baxter of Planet Wine examines beginning of great vineyards, modern winemaking techniques, connoisseurship, and more for "Sacred and Profane" series, Wednesday, January 16,

7:30 p.m., at Athenaeum Music and Arts Library (1008 Wall Street). \$100 for four-part series; \$30 per talk. Reservations: 858-454-5872. (LA JOLLA)

"How to Test Your Clairvoyance," Walter Holschi divulges "how to develop your psychic senses and improve your intuition," Thursday, January 17, 6 p.m., at Sacred Pathway Bookstore (300 Carlsbad Village Drive, suite 103). Free. 760-729-2434. (CARLSBAD)

Touchy! "Tellington TTouch" discussed on Thursday, January 17, 6:30 p.m., at San Diego Humane Society (5500 Gaines Street). Method "helps reduce various signs of stress such as excessive barking and separation anxiety." \$10. No pets. Required reservations: 619-243-3424. (LINDA VISTA)

Safe Boating Course, eight weeks long, offered by San Luis Rey Sail and Power Squadron. Course starts Thursday, Jan-

uary 17, 7 p.m., at Oceanside Yacht Club (1950 Harbor Drive). Nominal materials fee. 760-942-0870, 760-754-8670. (OCEANSIDE)

IN PERSON

"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)

"Corteo" is "a joyous procession, a festive parade imagined by a clown," presented by Cirque du Soleil under the *grand chapiteau* at Del Mar Fairgrounds, January 11–February 3. *Corteo* cast includes 61 artists from 16 countries.

Performances begin at 8 p.m. Tuesdays–Thursdays; 4 and 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays; 1 and 5 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets:

\$50–\$85 general, with discounts for seniors, students, children. 800-678-5440. (DEL MAR)

Author Arlie Middlebrook discusses, signs *Designing California Native Gardens: The Plant Community Approach to Artful Ecological Gardens*, on Friday, January 11, 7 p.m., at Borders Books and Music (11160 Rancho Carmel Drive). Free. 858-618-1814.

Busy on Friday? Meet Middlebrook on Monday, January 14,



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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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For information or to schedule a UFE consultation,
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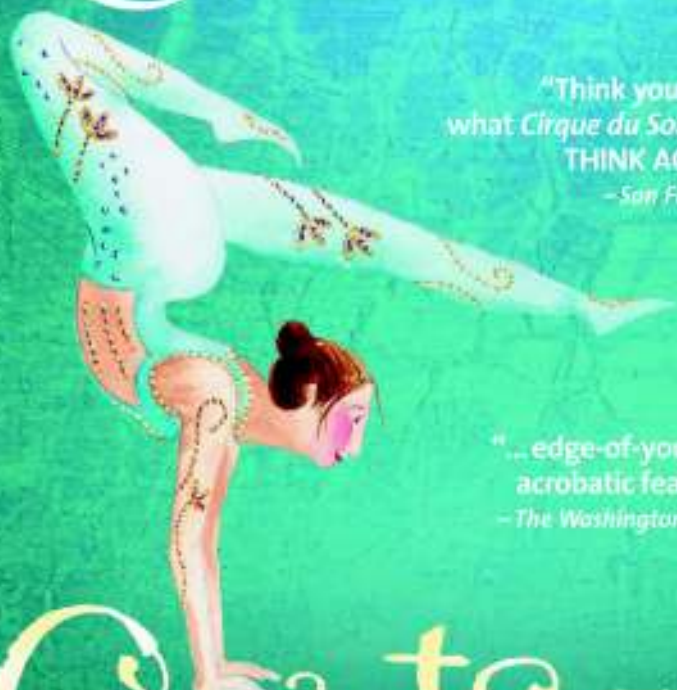


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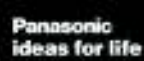
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What's That You're Reading?

NAME: KALEY FITZPATRICK | **AGE:** 21 | **OCCUPATION:** STUDENT/COFFEE BARISTA
NEIGHBORHOOD: SOUTH PARK | **WHERE INTERVIEWED:** SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY



What are you reading?

"Keeping Faith, by Jodi Picoult."

Tell me about it.

"It's about a lady who is getting a divorce, and she's trying to keep her daughter. The daughter has an imaginary friend, and she's actually starting to see spirits. But the mom isn't believing it because they just were never very religious."

What do you make of the plot and the writing?

"Picoult gives a lot of detail — she'll talk about how people are clothed or the way a blanket is draped. But not to the point where you just get bored and lost. It's very easy reading. She's good at tying everything together, making you understand where you are at throughout the book."

Who's your favorite character?

"Probably the daughter, Faith. She's struggling with her mom, who is definitely having problems with the divorce, and isn't paying much attention to Faith. She doesn't understand why her mom won't love her. She's well written; she has the personality and

beliefs of a child, and she puts all of her trust in this imaginary friend, who is full of purity and innocence."

Do you have a favorite passage?

"Mom finds the little girl, Faith, climbing on top of her swing set. Mom asks, 'Why are you doing that?' And Faith says, 'My friend told me to do it.' That's the beginning of her imaginary friend, and you're kind of drawn into it."

Compare this with other books you've read. What sort of books do you like?

"Books that have situations that could for sure happen in real life. I was reading Jennifer Weiner's books for a while; they're very similar to Picoult's. They tell about female lives in a realistic way — but with a little bit more drama than my life has. I like to be able to relate to a character. Also, I rarely get time to read, so when I do, I don't want

it to take too much concentration. I just want to sit down and enjoy reading it."

What book has been most life-changing for you?

"Honestly? The Bible. Growing up, in church, they would refer to passages to get you through everyday situations. It's something that I'm always going to have with me. I go back and forth on reading it and not reading it, but it always holds meaning for me."

Do you have a favorite author?

"Right now, it's Jennifer Weiner. I've read four of her books, and loved them all. They're about different women in different cities with different lifestyles. The most recent was *Goodnight Nobody*. That was about a woman who moves from New York City to Connecticut — she's settling down into the suburbs, becoming a housewife. Another woman in the neighborhood gets killed, and it becomes

the main character's hobby to try to figure out who the murderer is. The book was funny, sad, and suspenseful."

What magazines or newspapers do you read?

"I read the *Union-Tribune* and *People* and the gossip magazines. In the *Union-Tribune*, I probably read only one article to the end, or do the crossword puzzle. In *People*, I like to look at the pictures — I'll read it, but only every now and then."

Do you talk to your friends about reading?

"I have a good friend at work. She has very different tastes in books, but we talk about what we're reading. She was recently reading a book on psychology — sensing and understanding. She reads more intellectual things than I do, but I like it because she introduces me to different ideas."

7 p.m., at Borders Books and Music (1072 Camino del Rio North). 619-295-2201. Free. (CARMEI MOUNTAIN, MISSION VALLEY)

Local Thriller Author Susan Arnout Smith signs *The Timer Game*, Friday, January 11, 7 p.m., at Mysterious Galaxy (7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard). Free. 858-268-4747. (CLAIREMONT)

Up for a "Quirky Metaphysical Tale"? Author Eileen Favorite reads from *The Heroines*, Friday, January 11, 7 p.m., at Barnes and Noble Bookstore (5500 Grossmont Center Drive). What happens when what Scarlett O'Hara,

Blanche du Bois, Madame Bovary, others do when they get together? Free. 619-667-2870. (LA MESA)

From Stand-Up Comedian to Sociopolitical Satirist, Shang featured January 11 and 12 at Comedy Palace (8878 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard). Transplanted New Yorker has been featured on many HBO shows. Shows begin at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, with additional show at 10 p.m. on Saturday. \$20. 858-573-9067. (KEARNY MESA)

"How to Be a Megastar Tour 2.1" — Blue Man Group takes stage to "embrace the rules, rituals,

and raw excitement of...the arena rock concert." Concert starts at 8 p.m., Friday, January 11, at San Diego Sports Arena. Tickets: \$49.50, \$85, available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). (SPORTS ARENA)

"The Lion's Drum — A Retelling of an African Folktale" performed and signed by author, publisher Steven Gregory, Saturday, January 12, 2 p.m., at Borders Books and Music (878 EastLake Parkway). Free. 619-482-9883. (CHULA VISTA)

Science Fiction Author Todd McCaffrey signs, discusses *Dragon*

Harper, Saturday, January 12, 2 p.m., at Mysterious Galaxy (7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard). Free. 858-268-4747. (CLAIREMONT)

Love, Passion, Magic, Death... Celtic harpist, storyteller Patrick Ball presents "The Romance of Tristan and Iseult" for Storytellers of San Diego on Saturday, January 12, 7:30 p.m., in Manchester Executive Conference Center at University of San Diego (5998 Alcalá Park). Concert is suitable for adults, children over 12. \$10. 619-298-6363. (LINDA VISTA)

Lavay Smith and Her Red-Hot Skillet Lickers perform classic jazz and blues to "steam-up the night," Saturday, January 12, 8 p.m., at California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard). \$35. 800-988-4253. (ESCONDIDO)

Epic Fantasy Author Robin Hobb visits Mysterious Galaxy Books to discuss, sign *Renegade's Magic*, Sunday, January 13, 2 p.m. Free. Find Galaxy at (7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, suite 302; 858-268-4747). (CLAIREMONT)

Pasadena Poet Fernando Castro is featured when Sunset Poets gather on Sunday, January 13, 3 p.m., at Flying Bridge Restaurant (1105 North Coast Highway). Open-mike readings follow. Free. 760-758-2410. (OCEANSIDE)

"An Afternoon with Charlene Baldrige," this journalist has written poetry for nearly 60 years. She'll share selections from her latest book, *Winter Roses*, and other original poetry, Sunday, January 13, 3 p.m., at San Diego Museum of Art. Included in museum admission. 619-232-7931. (BALBOA PARK)

"Favorites from the Piano" played by Nancy Cochran on Sunday, January 13, 4 p.m., at North Coast United Methodist Church (1501 Kelly Street). Donations accepted for performers. Optional dinner from Flying Bridge follows (\$6.50 general). 760-439-4099. (OCEANSIDE)

"Justice and Science: Trials and Triumphs of DNA Evidence" discussed, signed by George "Woody" Clark, Tuesday, January 15, 5 p.m., at Borders Books and Music (668

Sixth Avenue). Free. 619-702-4200. (GASLAMP QUARTER)

Celestial Melodies! "Chinese New Year Spectacular" with music and dance, January 15-17, at California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard). Curtain rises at 8 p.m. each night, with 2 p.m. matinee on Wednesday. Tickets: \$38-\$108. 888-973-7469. (ESCONDIDO)

"Ultimate Cheapskate's Guide Roadmap to 'True Riches' discussed, signed by Jeff Yeager at Borders Books and Music (1072 Camino del Rio North), Wednesday, January 16, 7 p.m. Free. 619-295-2201. (MISSION VALLEY)

Outdoors and Adventure Writer Dan Koeppel discusses and signs *Banana: The Fate of the Fruit That Changed the World* at Warwick's Bookstore (7812 Girard Avenue) on Wednesday, January 16, 7:30 p.m. Free. 858-454-0347. (LA JOLLA)

Author Caitlin Rother signs *Naked Addiction*, Thursday, January 17, 7 p.m., Borders Books and Music (11160 Rancho Carmel Drive, 858-618-1814). Free. (CARMEI MOUNTAIN)

The "Giddy Musical Comedy" *Honk!* offers a new twist on Ugly Duckling's story; it's next production for actors of San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts. Curtain rises at 7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, January 17-19, and 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, January 19 and 20. \$7 general. Find campus at 2425 Dusk Drive. 619-475-8556. (PARADISE HILLS)

Acclaimed Indian Author Vikram Chandra discusses, signs *Sacred Games*, Thursday, January 17, 7:30 p.m., at Warwick's

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"CORTEO" BY CIRQUE DU SOLEIL
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(SEE IN PERSON)



OUT & ABOUT

"HOW TO BE A MEGASTAR TOUR 2.1"
By Blue Man Group, Friday,
January 11, San Diego
Sports Arena.

(SEE IN PERSON)



PHOTOGRAPH BY DARBE ROTACH

Bookstore (7812 Girard Avenue).
Free. 858-454-0347. (LA JOLLA)

"The Eclectic Collective"
promises soul music, Thursday,
January 17, 7:30 p.m., in David
and Dorothea Garfield Theatre,
Lawrence Family Jewish Commu-
nity Center (4126 Executive
Drive). Artists include JZMN,
Steph Johnson, Ryan Montana,
Ernest Lane, Mac Johnson. \$15.
858-362-1348. (LA JOLLA)

SPORTS

"The Joy of Riding and Re-
membering," join Knickerbikers
for bicycle ride from County Ad-
ministration Building (Hawthorne

and Harbor Drive) to Coronado
Museum of History and Art to
take in "The Joy of Toys" on Sat-
urday, January 12. The 25-miler
starts at 9 a.m. Bring money for
lunch, museum admission, ferry
fare from Coronado back to start.
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858-863-4755. (MISSION BAY)

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ble Bookstore (Del Mar Highlands
shopping center, at Del Mar
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ate hills, peppy pace includes snack
stop. 858-623-0628. (DEL MAR)

Bonsall Blast, take an 84-mile
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ing Society riders on Sunday, Jan-
uary 13, starting at 8:45 a.m. in
Doyle Park (8175 Regents Road).
Bring money for lunch in Bonsall.
619-561-3846. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

No Rider Left Behind! Intro-
duction to mountain biking
hosted by REI Encinitas (1590
Leucadia Boulevard), Sunday, Jan-
uary 13, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Bike fit, ad-

justments, riding techniques,
safety skills, ride to practice (loaner
bikes available). \$70 general. Reg-
istration: 760-944-9020. (ENCINITAS)

Rock-Climbing Basics Class
slated for Thursday, January 17,
6 p.m., at REI Encinitas (1590 Leu-
cadia Boulevard). In-store climb-
ing wall utilized for overview of
sport, individualized instruction.
Gear provided. \$50 general. Regis-
tration: 760-944-9020. (ENCINITAS)

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ing presentation by the Stamp Sis-
ters. This Family Arts and Literacy
Connection event is held Thursday,
January 10, 6:30 p.m., at Salvation
Army Kroc Community Center
Performing Arts Theatre (6845
University Avenue). (COLLEGE AREA)

**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. Registra-
tion: 760-796-3757. (ESCONDIDO)

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

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Friday, 10 a.m.–7 p.m. Saturday,
10 a.m.–5 p.m. Sunday. Weekend
pass: \$5. 760-390-3599. (DEL MAR)

Board Game Benefit for Heifer
International, Friday, January 11,
8 p.m., at Tea N More (7380
Clairemont Mesa Boulevard). Play
a variety of board games including
Settlers of Catan, Balderdash,
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8834. (CLAIREMONT)

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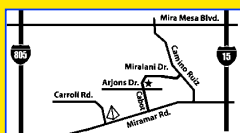
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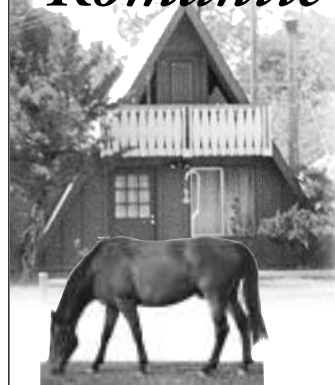
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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

and family-friendly” hobby of model railroading hits Del Mar Fairgrounds January 12 and 13. “Model Railroad skills span from carpentry to artistry, from electrical engineering to historical research.” Show opens at 10 a.m. both days, closes at 6 p.m. Saturday, 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission: \$10 general, free for those 16 and younger. 630-279-5094. (DEL MAR)

Explore Oceanic Cultures— make a lei, learn hula dancing during art demonstration, Saturday, January 12, 1 p.m., at California Center for the Arts Museum (340 North Escondido Boulevard). Includes short tour of “Rituality” exhibit. RSVP: 760-839-4120. (ESCONDIDO)

La Jolla Motor Car Classic with salute to pre-1916 horseless carriages and classics, Sunday, January 13, 11 a.m.–3 p.m., on lawn at La Jolla Cove. All manner of vehicles on display. Free. 619-233-5008. (LA JOLLA)

Travel Show hosted by Carefree Vacations travel agency, Sunday, January 13, 1–4 p.m., at Scottish Rite Center (1895 Camino del Rio South). Cruise and tour companies on hand to “meet all your vacation needs.” Free. 858-450-4060. (MISSION VALLEY)

The Brig Lady Washington and topsail ketch *Hawaiian Chieftain* sail into San Diego Bay to dock at Kona Kai Marina (1561 Shelter Island Drive) on Monday, January 14, 4 p.m. Visit continues through January 21, with dockside tours January 14–18, 4–5 p.m. (and January 19 and 21, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.). Donation: \$3.

Public sailings and battles planned Saturday–Monday, January 19–21, 2–5 p.m. Battle sails fee: \$60 general; pay \$55 for ad-

ROAM-ORAMA

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

The triple set of waterfalls dubbed the “Three Sisters” is an amazing San Diego County feature not many have seen. In full flood, these cascades put on a show reminiscent of Yosemite’s show stoppers — except at a reduced scale. Since some of the upstream drainage of Boulder Creek comes from Cuyamaca Reservoir, regulated releases of water there can greatly affect the volume of water flowing over the falls.

Although the round-trip hike measures only four miles from the nearest road, visiting the falls is a task for expert hikers, not beginners. Take along drinking water, and be prepared for some strenuous climbing, both up and down, on marginal pathways and on no trail at all near the falls themselves.



Three Sisters Falls

To get to the trailhead from San Diego, exit Interstate 8 at Highway 79 (Descanso exit) and drive north. After 1.3 miles turn left on Riverside Drive. Continue 0.6 mile to the main crossroads (post office, etc.) of the hamlet of Descanso. From there take Oak Grove Drive 1.6 miles to the intersection of Boulder Creek

into a kidney shaped pool about 80 feet long and at least 10 feet deep. Watch your footing — it’s deceptively easy to slip on the smooth rock and perhaps be seriously injured. It’s difficult and dangerous to climb up to the uppermost waterfall, though some agile climbers have done it.

This article contains

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

THREE SISTERS FALLS

Boulder Creek, west of Cuyamaca Peak, cascades down a spectacular triad of waterfalls.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 55 miles

Hiking length: 4 miles round trip

Difficulty: Strenuous

Road on the right. Follow Boulder Creek Road north for 13.0 miles (first half paved, then dirt) to a hairpin turn where unpaved Cedar Creek Road joins from the west. Park there, taking care not to block traffic, and post a National Forest Adventure Pass on your car (the parking area and falls lie in Cleveland National Forest territory).

On foot now, follow the remains of an old ranch road (not Cedar Creek Road) due west for 0.7 mile to a saddle, where an old mining road on the left slants southeast and descends into Sheep Camp Creek. You can both see and hear the falls from this saddle.

Descend southwest on the mining road for 0.4 mile, cross Sheep Camp Creek, and switch back onto a narrow path cut into the south slope. After about 0.3 mile, the trail veers sharply left and passes over a saddle in the divide between Sheep Camp Creek and Boulder Creek.

Next, you negotiate an abrupt drop of 500 vertical feet through chaparral on a primitive — and in places excessively steep and slippery — trail cut by hikers’ footsteps. At the bottom you can either forge a route through the brush and angular rocks along the left side of the creek or (if the water level is not too high) rock hop and wade toward the falls. Great masses of poison oak, intermixed with wild grape vines, lie along the banks. Be very cautious of slippery rocks.

When you reach the base of the waterfalls, all the previous thrashing about will have been worth it. The “middle sister” is impressive, with water sliding 50 feet down a smooth channel worn in the bedrock



venture sails. Reservations: 800-200-5239. (SHELTER ISLAND)

“Snapshot of an Era: Uncovering Our New Deal Past” — ex-

hibition 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)

“Demons, Golems, and Dybbuks: Monsters of the Jewish Imagination” is theme for “Let’s Talk About It: Jewish Literature” reading, discussion series at La Jolla Library (7555 Draper Avenue). Focus on Tony Kushner’s *Angels in America* on Wednesday, January 16, 6:30 p.m. Free. Registration: 619-236-5817. (LA JOLLA)

“Bodies...the Exhibition” features more than 250 “real, whole, and partial human body specimens...dissected and preserved,” providing up-close looks inside skeletal, muscular, reproductive, respiratory, circulatory, other human body systems. Many whole-body specimens “are dissected in vivid athletic poses.”

Exhibit continues through Thursday, January 31, in former Robinsons-May at University Towne Centre (4425 La Jolla Village Drive). Exhibit opens at 10 a.m., closes at 7 p.m. Sunday–Thursday, 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Tickets: \$26.50 general, \$21 seniors, \$18 for those 5–12. 877-263-4375. (LA JOLLA)

Thar She Blows! Daily whale-watching cruises offered by Birch Aquarium at Scripps and San Diego Harbor Excursion, now through March 31 at 9:45 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Naturalists on board share knowledge, gray whale artifacts, specimens. Fee: \$15 for kids 4–12; \$30–\$35 for those 13 and older. Reservations: 619-234-4111. (DOWNTOWN)

How Would You Amend the Constitution? Make your case with P&R Discussion group, Thursday, January 17, 7 p.m., at Other Side Coffeehouse (4096 30th Street). Free. 619-370-1027. (NORTH PARK)

FOR KIDS

“Bitsy’s School Adventures” presented by comic ventriloquist Lynn Trimble through Sunday, January 13, in Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theater. Next up: *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *Other Favorites* performed by Big Joe Productions, January 16–20.

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

“Space 15” — explore teen area at San Diego Museum of Art, Thursday, January 10, 6 p.m. Meet other teen artists, sketch characters,

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OUT & ABOUT

LAVAY SMITH AND HER RED HOT SKILLET LICKERS
Saturday, January 12,
California Center for the Arts,
Escondido.

(SEE IN PERSON)



OUT & ABOUT

THE BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
at San Diego Junior Theatre
through Sunday, January 20,
Casa del Prado Theater.

(SEE FOR KIDS)



PHOTOGRAPH BY KEN JACQUES

create storyboards and flip books.
Free. 619-232-7931. (BALBOA PARK)

"The Bridge to Terabithia"
presented by San Diego Junior
Theatre through January 20 in
Casa del Prado Theater. Adapta-
tion of Newberry Award-winning
book by author Katherine Pater-
son is for those eight and older.
Curtain rises at 7 p.m. on Fridays,
2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.
January 19 show is ASL inter-
preted. Tickets: \$8-\$11 for those
under 14 and seniors, \$10-\$13
general. Reservations: 619-239-
8355. (BALBOA PARK)

Chula Vista Live Steam Club
provides train rides, 12-3 p.m.,
Saturday and Sunday, January 12
and 13, at Rohr Park (4548 Sweet-
water Road). Donation: 50 cents.
Children under 48" must be ac-
companied by an adult. 619-421-
5227. (BONITA)

**Build a (Pretend) Recycled
Robot** during family science day
at San Diego Air and Space Mu-
seum on Saturday, January 12, at
12:30, 1:30, and 2:30 p.m. (sessions
last 45 minutes). Included in paid
admission. Reservations: 619-234-
8291 x19. (BALBOA PARK)

**"As the Story Goes: Creating
Community,"** in conjunction

with current "Rituals" exhibit, ex-
plore rituals from around world
through storytelling and art activ-
ities on Sunday, January 13, 2 p.m.,
at California Center for the Arts
Museum, Escondido (340 North
Escondido Boulevard). Free.
760-839-4120. (ESCONDIDO)

"Magic for Life," Amazing Dana
presents "The Magician's Nutri-
tion Education" for kids, Thurs-
day, January 17, 2 p.m., at Fletcher
Hills Library (576 Garfield Ave-
nue). Fish is brain food! Free.
619-466-1132. (EL CAJON)

MUSEUMS

**Antique Gas and Steam Engine
Museum,** the museum locates,
collects, documents, and preserves
historical gas-, steam-, and horse-
powered equipment related to agri-
culture and the general develop-
ment of America. The collection is
made up of equipment used in lum-
bering, mining, oil drilling, and con-
struction industries. Blacksmith and
wheelwright shop, country kitchen
and parlor, steam-operated saw
mill, and 1/3-scale train. Find the
museum at 2040 North Santa Fe
Avenue. 760-941-1791. (VISTA)

**Bonita Museum and Cultural
Center,** the museum highlights
the history of the Sweetwater Val-
ley from the mid-1800s, with his-
torical photographs; artifacts,
tools, and farming implements; the
district's 1953 fire engine; and
bound copies back to the 1930s of
the *Chula Vista Star News*. Find the
museum at 4355 Bonita Road;
619-267-5141. (BONITA)

Campo Railroad Museum,
showcasing more than 130 years of
American railroad history and tech-
nology through static and operating
exhibits, the museum includes ca-
booses, steam and diesel locomotives,
track motorcars, 1880s "Jim
Crow" segregated passenger cars.

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rides offered each weekend
(11 a.m., 2:30 p.m.) over portion
of the San Diego and Arizona East-
ern Railway. Find the depot on
Highway 94 at Forrest Gate Road.
619-465-7776. (CAMPO)

**Chinese Historical Society and
Museum,** see artifacts from San

Diego's Chinese and Chinese-
American history, culture, and art.
Current museum artifacts include
a 1920s warlord's bed, exhibits on
Chinese footbinding and Chinese-
American veterans. The museum
is in a building originally built in
1927 for the Chinese Mission. Ad-
jacent to the building is an Asian
garden with koi pond and water-
fall. Find the museum at 404 Third
Avenue (at J Street). 619-338-
9888. (EAST VILLAGE)

Chula Vista Heritage Museum
the museum features glimpses of
Chula Vista's past; exhibits feature
lemon packing crate labels, pho-
tographs of downtown Chula
Vista, doors and adobe blocks
from the original *Star* newspaper
building, and relics from the Otay
Watch Company. Find the mu-
seum at 360 Third Avenue.
619-420-6916. (CHULA VISTA)

Creation Museum, a museum
contrasting the evolution and cre-
ation world views is found at
10946 Woodside Avenue North.

For more information, call
619-448-0900 x231. (SANTEE)

**Gemological Institute of
America Museum,** permanent
exhibits include displays depicting
science and art of gemstones and
history, lore and cultural signifi-
cance of jewelry. Find the GIA at
5345 Armada Drive. Required
reservations: 800-421-7250 x4116.
(CARLSBAD)

**George White and Anna Gunn
Marston House,** historic home
sits on five acres of landscaped
grounds with a formal English Ro-
mantic garden. Built for civic
leader and department store
founder George Marston and his
family by San Diego architects
William Hebbard and Irving Gill,
the Marston house design is in
keeping with the early 20th-Cen-
tury American Arts and Crafts pe-
riod, emphasizing simplicity, func-
tion, and natural materials. The

museum is located at 3525 Seventh
Avenue; 619-298-3142. (HILLCREST)

Heritage Museum, an interpre-
tive wall, replicas of the early post
office and general store, and a

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TUESDAYS

Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

school room are part of this museum. A mural painted by Michael Strong depicts six periods of Poway's past. Find the museum in Old Poway Park, at 14134 Midland Road; 858-679-8587. (POWAY)

House of Pacific Relations, International Cottages are open every Sunday, noon-4 p.m., presenting history and traditions of 30 ethnic groups. On fourth Tuesday of each month, *Children Around the World* videos screened in Hall of Nations, select cottages open. 619-538-4069. (BALBOA PARK)

J.A. Cooley Museum, an eclectic collection of items — including displays on phonographs, clocks, electric trains, and 20 other types of collections — is featured at the museum. The current featured attraction is an "Industrial Product Collection," with examples of the historical progression of auto technology from 1886-1915, "some classics and a concept car." Find the museum at 4233 Park Boulevard; 619-296-3112. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park, old adobe buildings were once vacation retreat and working

ranch of actor Leo Carrillo. Tours on Saturdays (11 a.m., 1 p.m.) and Sundays (noon, 2 p.m.). Find Rancho de los Quiotes at 6200 Flying LC Lane. 760-476-1042. (CARLSBAD)

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Museum, housed in a historic building, the museum features five permanent galleries with artifacts, uniforms, vehicles, weapons, and photographs depicting Marine Corps history. The museum is located in Building 26 at MCRD, just inside Gate 4, off Pacific Highway. 619-524-6038. (DOWNTOWN)

Museum of San Diego History, "Place of Promise: Stories of San Diego" lets visitors "literally walk on San Diego"; a map of county extends from wall to wall across the floor. Also featured in ongoing exhibit are two large 1930s murals by artist Charles Reiffel and a 1910 San Diego streetcar. Stories of San Diego are interpreted through images, artifacts, oral histories from society's collection. The museum is located in the Casa de Balboa building; 619-232-6203. (BALBOA PARK)

Olaf Wieghorst Museum displays paintings and prints by Olaf Wieghorst and features exhibits of other artists' American West art. Adjacent to museum is courtyard with cactus gardens, 20 x 20-foot reproduction of Wieghorst's painting *Navajos at Castle Creek*,

OUT & ABOUT

FAT MAN WALKING

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Thursday, January 17.

(SEE FILM)

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)

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, "Listen Here! Making Sense of Sound," allows visitors to experience the nature of sound, how human beings perceive sound, and the act of listening through exhibits, activities, demonstrations. Exhibit from the Exploratorium in San Francisco



PHOTOGRAPH BY EDUARDO CONTRERAS

continues through Sunday, June 1.

Ongoing exhibitions include "Origins in Space: Spin-Offs in Science and Technology," "So WATT! An Illuminating Look at Energy," "Aging for All Ages," "Kid City" (for preschoolers), "TryScience!" "Escape from Dino Island" is theme for motion simulator ride. Films are shown daily in the IMAX theater. 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Archaeological Center, "A Letter from the Ocean Hotel: Victorian Lady Traveler's Adventures in San Diego, 1888" includes glassware, dishes, bottles, personal items dating from late 1880s that were excavated from a block in East Village area downtown in 2002.

The museum is dedicated to "curation of archaeological pro-

jects and sharing them with the public." Find center at 16666 San Pasqual Valley Road; 760-291-0370. (ESCONDIDO)

San Diego Automotive Museum, "High Art: Concept Cars and Automobile Design," continuing through Wednesday, March 26, includes vehicles from General Motors, Nissan, Chrysler, Mazda, Honda, Volvo, and Art Center College of Design.

More than 80 automobiles and motorcycles from horseless carriages to future prototypes are included in the museum's permanent collection. Find the museum near the Starlight Bowl. 619-231-2886. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Hall of Champions, ongoing exhibits include "Bird Watching — Tony Hawk in Flight," "Surfing in San Diego,"

exhibits of baseball card art, fencing, local rugby history. The museum — dedicated to promoting, recognizing, and preserving athletic achievement — is located at 2131 Pan American Plaza. 619-234-2544. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Maritime Museum, "The War through Steichen's Eyes — Combat Photography in the Pacific 1943-45" features 50 photographs produced by Edward Steichen and photographers under his supervision; many famous images of World War II featured. Additional photographs, documents, artifacts chronicle the life of this accomplished photographer. Through July.

"San Diego's Navy," based upon book by same name written by Bruce Linder, is said to be "the only comprehensive exhibit depicting the extraordinary contribution the Navy has made to the history of the San Diego region."

The museum features permanent exhibits documenting the history of San Diego's waterfront and the building of the West Coast by sea, the old San Diego-Coronado ferryboats, the tuna fishing industry, and the military. The museum fleet consists of the 1863 bark *Star of India*, the 1898 San Francisco ferryboat *Berkeley*, and the 1904 Scottish steam yacht *Medea*. The HMS *Surprise*, used in film *Master and Commander*, is permanently on exhibit; see artifacts, costumes, props used in making of the flick. Also open for touring: a B-39 Soviet attack submarine, among the largest conventionally powered submarines ever built. This Project 641/Foxtrot class diesel-electric submarine was designed to track U.S. and NATO warships

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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

throughout the Earth's oceans. There are also nautical exhibits, ship carpenters, model building, ships in bottles, woodcarvers, and a complete research library.

The museum is located at 1306 North Harbor Drive, along the Embarcadero at corner of North Harbor Drive and Ash Street; 619-234-9153. (DOWNTOWN)

San Diego Museum of Man, "Journey to the Copper Age: Archaeology in the Holy Land" tells

story of profound changes metalurgy brought to human society: birth of Mediterranean farming, creation of first temples and cemeteries, emergence of complex societies. Exhibition chronicles development of humanity in present-day Israel, Palestine, and Jordan. Highlights include photographs by *National Geographic* photographer Kenneth Garrett and collection of archaeological artifacts seen for first time on West Coast. Through January.

"Edward S. Curtis Refocused" offers Native American insight into Curtis's photo documentation of their lives. Curtis is famous for his photographs of recreated scenes of traditional life and cere-

mony, for portraits of tribe members wearing historic garments. Exhibition features prints of his photogravures taken in locations throughout U.S. and Canada and examines some controversial elements of Curtis's work, techniques he used.

"Art and Expression: The Legacy of Our Collections" highlights 17 key collections, relates stories of the collectors, how collections came to museum, their significance in preserving history of past generations. Objects include pottery, baskets, beadwork, jewelry, woodcarving, folk art, katsinas, bone and ivory implements, shields, textiles.

In "Artists Speak: Contemporary Art from Ghana and Zimbabwe," museum has partnered with artists from Ghana and Zimbabwe to showcase paintings and sculpture by accomplished African artists.

Permanent anthropology exhibit "Footsteps through Time: Four Million Years of Human Evolution" features "more than a hundred touchable replicas of early humans, primates, and futuristic cyborgs (part human, part machine)." 619-239-2001. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Tug Boat Museum, a 100-foot retired Korean War-era tug boat built in 1951 is open for tours at museum. Boat is docked along Harbor Drive, between Grape Street and Broadway. 619-200-7417. (DOWNTOWN)

San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park commemorates the clash (on December 6, 1846) during the Mexican War between the

U.S. Dragoons, bolstered by sailors and volunteers from San Diego, and California militia. Narrated slide-show screens throughout the day, telling the story of the war in Mexico and California. Self-guided tour recounts the events of the battle and profiles the leaders of the forces and also describes the lives of the Indians indigenous to the valley. The museum is found at 15808 San Pasqual Valley Road. 760-737-2201. (ESCONDIDO)

Valley Center History Museum, the museum features an educational exhibition centered around a California grizzly bear, described as "the only one on view in San Diego." Also on exhibit: model of an 1862 settler's cabin, collection of Indian baskets, and aerospace display. Find the museum at 29200 Cole Grade Road. 760-749-2993. (VALLEY CENTER)

William Heath Davis House Museum, said to be the oldest surviving structure in the new town area of downtown San Diego, the

house is a well-preserved example of a preframed lumber "salt box" family home shipped from the East Coast to California by boat around Cape Horn in 1850. Find the museum at 410 Island Avenue (at Fourth Avenue); 619-233-4692. (GASLAMP QUARTER)

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SPEED DATING

Thursday, January 10

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at **The Bitter End** (downtown)

Thursday, January 24

Ages 25-37, 38-48 & 48-62
at **30-Two Lounge** (downtown)

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CLASSICAL

Symphony Exposed! Enjoy Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* when conductor Giancarlo Guerrero, guest artists, and host Nuvi Mehta take stage for this San Diego Symphony concert, Thursday, January 10, 7:30 p.m., in Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street). Tickets: \$15–\$60. Reservations: 619-235-0804. (DOWNTOWN)

Swiss-Born Pianist Gilles Vonsattel performs for North County concert series hosted by La Jolla Music Society, Friday, January 11, 7:30 p.m., in Schulman Auditorium at Carlsbad City Library (1775 Dove Lane). Listen for pieces by composers including Bach, Liszt, Bartók, Dallapiccola, Ravel. Tickets: \$30 general, \$5 for children. 858-459-3728. (LA COSTA)

"Flower of Passion — Thorn of Despair," Asteria presents courtly songs of late Middle Ages in concert hosted by San Diego Early Music Society on Friday, January 11. Duo includes soprano Sylvia Rhyne, Eric Redlinger on tenor and lute. Concert begins at 8 p.m. at St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church (743 Prospect Street). Tickets: \$20, \$25. Reservations: 619-291-8246. (LA JOLLA)

Von Suppé's "Light Cavalry Overture" is on tap when San Diego Symphony, conductor Giancarlo Guerrero, and violinist Jeff Thayer present "Jacobs' Masterworks" concerts, January 11–13. Also on program: Lalo's *Symphonie espagnole*, the Mussorgsky/Ravel *Pictures at an Exhibition*. Concerts begin at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday in Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street). Tickets: \$20–\$90. Reservations: 619-235-0804. (DOWNTOWN)

The MiraFlores Trio plans concert, Saturday, January 12, 2 p.m., at La Jolla Library (7555 Draper Avenue). Musicians include pianist Theresa Kim, cellist Sarah Koo, violinist Yumi Cho. Free. 858-552-1657. (LA JOLLA)

Mendelssohn's "String Quartet No. 2 in A Minor" may be heard when Philharmonia Quartett Berlin performs for La Jolla Music Society's Revell Chamber Music Series, Saturday, January 12, 8 p.m., Sherwood Auditorium, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (700 Prospect Street). Also on program: Schumann's "String Quartet No. 2 in F Major"

and "String Quartet No. 9 in C Major No. 3 (Razumovsky)" by Beethoven. Tickets: \$25, \$55, \$75. 858-459-3728. (LA JOLLA)

Civic Organist Carol Williams plans concert in Spreckels Organ Pavilion on Sunday, January 13, 2 p.m. Free. 619-702-8138. (BALBOA PARK)

"Mother and Maiden," a program celebrating Virgin Mary with pieces by composers von Bingen, Byrd, Britten promised by Pacific Women's Chorus on Sunday, January 13, 3 p.m., at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (1046 Solana Drive). Donation: \$10. 760-634-9809. (SOLANA BEACH)

Solo Guitarist George Svoboda performs for mini-concert at noon on Monday, January 14, at Athenaeum Music and Arts Library (1008 Wall Street). Free. 858-454-5872. (LA JOLLA)

"Music for the Seasons," the colors of the seasons explored when San Diego Chamber Orchestra performs with violinist Lindsay Deutsch and soprano Katherine Blumenthal. Selections by Tchaikovsky, Piazzolla, de Boismortier, O'Conner, Haydn, Cage, Vivaldi, Glazunov.

Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, January 14, in Sherwood Auditorium at Museum of Contemporary Art (700 Prospect Street); on Tuesday, January 15, at Del Mar Country Club (6001 Clubhouse Drive); and on Friday, January 18, at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral (2728 Sixth Avenue). Tickets: \$7–\$373, depending upon venue. Reservations: 858-350-0290. (LA JOLLA, RANCHO SANTA FE, MIDDLETOWN)

UCSD Cellist and Pianist Geoffrey Gartner performs "A Flux Recital," featuring pieces by Fluxus composers Dick Higgins, James Tenney, Gyorgy Ligeti, as well as pieces by John Cage on Monday, January 14. Concert begins at 8 p.m. in Mandeville Recital at UCSD. Free. 858-534-3229. (LA JOLLA)

Ebony and Ivory, duo playing woodwinds and keyboards for Hidden Valley Community Concert Association, Tuesday, January 15, 7:30 p.m., at California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard). \$15. Space availability: 760-740-0619. (ESCONDIDO)

ART LISTINGS

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GALLERIES

"A Stark Reality" — landscapes and portraiture by longtime San Diego painter Stuart Burton may

be seen through Friday, February 29, in Simayspace at Art Academy of San Diego (840 G Street). Opening reception, Friday, January 11, 6 p.m. 619-231-3900. (DOWNTOWN)

Artist Shayna Yates will be on hand for "Kettner Nights" opening, Friday, January 11, 6 p.m., at Noel Baza Fine Art (2165 India Street). Gallery is currently exhibiting work by Yates, Christo, Hugo Crosthwaite, Jim Dine, Ethel Greene, Marianela de la Hoz, Kathy Mason Lerner, Lichtenstein, Peter Mars, Picasso, Rauschenberg, Tamayo, Yves Tinguely, Gwen Toomallatai, Warhol. 619-876-4160. (LITTLE ITALY)

Explore Recent Additions of fine art and artists' books in Athenaeum Music and Arts Library's permanent collection during exhibition on display through Saturday, February 9. Artists include Marcos Ramirez ERRE, Mauro Staccioli, Jean Lowe, Ed Ruscha, Michele Burgess, many others. Reception: Friday, January 11, 6:30 p.m. Find Athenaeum at 1008 Wall Street, 858-454-5872. (LA JOLLA)

"Scapes — The Studio Landscape Show," a group exhibit by 16 artists, opens with reception on Saturday, January 12, 4 p.m., at Santa Ysabel Art Gallery (30352 Highway 78, at junction of Highway 79; 760-765-1676). Closes Sunday, February 17. (SANTA YSABEL)

"Lenore Simon: Mechanical Bride," solo exhibition by local printmaker, mixed-media artist Simon opens with reception on Saturday, January 12, 6 p.m., at 4 Walls Gallery (3813 Ray Street, 619-501-0879). Closes Wednesday, March 5. (NORTH PARK)

Paintings and Sculpture by James Watts and photographs by Pablo Mason gathered in exhibit opening with Ray at Night reception, Saturday, January 12, 6 p.m., at Sharp Gallery (3807 Ray Street). Through Thursday, March 6. 619-546-9546. (NORTH PARK)

"Sub 1K," exhibit with more than 20 artists and more than 50 artworks, all priced under \$1000, continues with reception on Saturday, January 12, 6 p.m., at Distinction Artist Studios and Gallery (317 East Grand Avenue). Closes Saturday, February 2. 760-781-5779. (ESCONDIDO)

Artist Bradley Streeper has exhibition January 14–17 in Keller Art Gallery at Point Loma Nazarene University (3900 Lomaland Drive). Artist's reception: Tuesday, January 15, 7 p.m. 619-849-2396. (POINT LOMA)

"The Art of Motion" by Blake Shaw and "Images of Nature" by Lew Abulafia open with reception on Thursday, January 17, 5:30 p.m., at Ordovery Gallery (444 South Cedros Avenue, studio 172). See these exhibitions of fine art photography through Sunday, February 24. 858-720-1121. (SOLANA BEACH)

ART MUSEUMS

California Center for the Arts Museum, "Rituality" features contemporary works from ten local artists alongside traditional artifacts from Africa, Native North America, the Pacific Islands. Exhibition examines role of ritual in exploration of identity, creation of community, construction of power, as mediated and expressed through art.

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

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

"The Poetics of Myth" features a series of bas-relief terra-cotta panels by Brad Burkhart, focusing "on the creation of modern myths and archetypes."

Each of these exhibits continues through Sunday, January 27.

The museum is located at 340 North Escondido Boulevard; 760-839-4120. (ESCONDIDO)

Mingei International Museum — North County, "Paper Transformed," exhibition of "Origami — The Art of Paper Folding" from Mingei's permanent collection continues through Sunday, March 2. "Origami" boasts nearly 100 examples of traditional and contemporary paper folding; exhibition honors acclaimed local paper folder, author, teacher Florence Temko.

"Art of Play: Kinetic Toys of the World" — closing Sunday, June 29 — features objects that move when manipulated. See kites from many countries, pull- and push-toys, antique mechanical banks, puppets, wooden toys. Find the museum at 155 West Grand Avenue. 760-735-3355. (ESCONDIDO)

Mingei International Museum, "Craft in America: Expanding Traditions" surveys more than 200 works, spanning a period of nearly 200 years. Handcrafted furniture,

ceramics, fiber and textiles, basketry, glass, wood, jewelry, metalwork are showcased. Closes Sunday, January 27.

Also on view: "American Viewing Stones: Natural Art in an Asian Tradition." Chinese connoisseurs began using large stones to decorate gardens, courtyards during the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.–A.D. 220); "Scholar's Rocks" is English name most commonly used for these items. American viewing stone collecting began with first- and second-generation Japanese-Americans who continued traditions of bonsai and *suiseki*.

The "Chinese Woodblock Prints in the Style of the Ten Bamboo Studio" are likely from a 19th-Century edition of *Treatise on Calligraphy and Painting of the Ten Bamboo Studio*. Prints are noteworthy for technique of printing using multiple blocks. Both exhibits are ongoing.

Masterworks from permanent collection are gathered in "The Beauty of Use — Mingei International Museum at 30," showcasing significant objects from many cultures shown in relationships highlighting similarities and differences among them. Museum has formed a collection of *mingei* now comprising 17,000 objects from 141 countries such as collection of 19th-Century African tribal currency, group of masks including example of Amazonian feather work, ritual objects, selection of monumental containers. Closes Sunday, May 11. The Mingei is located on square with San Diego Museum of Art. 619-239-0003. (BALBOA PARK)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown, "Robert

Irwin: Primaries and Secondaries" is "the largest exhibition of renowned artist...Irwin's work since 1993." Exhibit features five new major installation works created specifically for MCASD's galleries, is drawn almost exclusively of works from museum's collection. Closes Sunday, April 13. Find the museum at 1001 and 1100 Kettner Boulevard (at Broadway), directly across from the Santa Fe Railroad Depot. 858-454-3541. (DOWNTOWN)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla, the room-sized "Erwin Redl: Matrix II" opens Thursday, January 17. The "space seems to recede in all directions, as if the walls were mirrored. Floor-to-ceiling and wall-to-wall, the room is filled with grids of phosphor-green LEDs, creating an immersive web of light." Closes Sunday, May 4.

Find the museum at 700 Prospect Street. 858-454-3541. (LA JOLLA)

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)

Gregorian Chant Mass



Sunday, Jan. 13, 4:00 pm

Pizza Social with singing by the Schola after Mass.

Our Lady of the Rosary Church

San Diego's Jewel Box of Baroque and Rococo Art
State and Date Streets (Little Italy)
Downtown San Diego

Calendar

MUSIC SCENE

The Reader offers \$25 for news tips published in *Blurt*. Call us at 619-235-3000, ext. 456, or e-mail your tip to blurt@sdreader.com

Yes, We Can All Get Along The annual “Mods vs. Rockers” scooter rally rolls out next weekend. The two archetypes were

Pharaohs have about 70 members in Southern California. We’re an international club.”

King says the two groups will converge at the Tower Bar January 19. On the 20th, they meet up for a barbecue on Mission Bay.

“Then, at 6 p.m., we meet at Gelato Vero and all drive

Although *Quadrophenia* depicted violence between the two groups, King says the local mods get along with the “rockers.”

“We meet every Tuesday at the Egyptian Tea Room in the College Area,” says King, who works at a Vespa dealership in Hillcrest. “And from there we go to see a ska DJ or a band. We might go to the Zombie Lounge or the Tower Bar or the Live Wire.”

— Ken Leighton

Rankin’ San Diego San Diego ranked number 17 in U.S. terrestrial radio-market earnings last year, with the 45 stations in operation generating around \$203 million of income. The same Arbitron ratings show the two most-listened-to local stations are KSON-FM/KSOQ-FM country and KIFM jazz. The station with the smallest audience is XHFG-FM, which plays Latin pop. The surveys only represent listenership north of the Mexican border.

According to a BIA Financial Network report, the city’s most profitable radio station last year was KOGO-AM, which earned Clear Channel an estimated \$14.9 million. Clear Channel’s area stations earned around \$63.1 million, representing almost a third of all revenue generated by local radio.

Among the top U.S. markets for people who

download or listen to music online, San Diego ranks number three, with 21 percent of adults doing so within the past month. Austin and Salt Lake City top the list. The national average is 15 percent.

— Jay Allen Sanford

Plentiful, Easy Money Over? Longtime Encinitas singer/songwriter Jack Tempchin did well when the Eagles released his “Peaceful Easy Feeling” in 1972 and “Already Gone” two years later. Both were top 40 hits. Every time the Eagles rereleased the songs (on “best of” or live albums), Tempchin earned songwriter



TEMPCHIN'S ROYALTIES BONANZA ALMOST GONE

royalties. The Eagles’ *Their Greatest Hits 1971–1975* sold 27 million copies, making it one of the ten best-selling albums ever, according to the Recording Industry Association of America.

Last year, the Eagles used two of his songs, “Somebody” and “It’s Your World Now,” for *Long Road Out of Eden*, their first studio album in 28 years. The record debuted at number one on *Billboard*’s Top 200 album chart when it was released in November.

Tempchin says the legal protections for songwriters have made him a good living.

“It’s been a bonanza over and over and over again.”

Six years ago, he and



TIERNAN (LEFT) RECOGNIZED BY MANY

fellow songwriters

Jackson Browne and J.D. Souther sued the music-publishing company Warner-Chappell Music for underpayment of royalties they said they were due for four tracks used on the ’71–’75 compilation. The suit asked for \$10 million. When the case was settled out of court, Tempchin said he was “satisfied” with the confidential settlement.

With the arrival of the digital music free-for-all, Tempchin now wonders if the bonanza is over.

“A lot of people believe that the creators of music don’t need to be paid anymore.... If people are downloading albums for free, no one is getting paid.... Through most of my life, the copyright laws were working and songwriters were getting paid. But now that’s all changing.”

Jack Tempchin distributes his latest solo album *Songs* through tempchin.com. He appears every Tuesday with his band Rocket Science at the Calypso in Leucadia.

— Ken Leighton

Sloppy Seconds Last month, the online “Pacific Songwriting Competition” named local Michael Tiernan “2007 Songwriter of the Year” after he briefly was

recognized as runner-up in the contest. Privately sponsored by New Zealand opera singer Deborah Wai Kapohe, the four-year-old competition has in the past awarded cash prizes totaling \$40,000 (NZ). This year, the purse strings were tightened, with the top prize being a few hundred dollars.

“The first winner, a Nashville guy, thought there was way more money in the prize packages this year, and he got into a major dispute with the organizers,” says Tiernan. When their initial pick declined to be involved with the contest, Tiernan, who had already won the “Best Pop Rock Songwriter” category, got the call.

“I thought it was all settled, but out of the blue, they asked, ‘Do you want it?’” he laughs. Despite the second-hand honor, Tiernan says he’s happy to find space on his wall for the plaque. “It’s sloppy seconds, but I’ll take it.”

— Bart Mendoza

blurt

the inside track

portrayed in the 1979 British cult film *Quadrophenia* (based on the Who’s rock opera of the same name). The sharply dressed Mods liked ska, R&B, and reggae and rode Italian scooters; the Rockers wore leather, rode Triumph motorcycles, and tended to prefer rock.

For the local rally, members of two local scooter clubs, the Pharaohs and the Secret Society, will ride alongside the “rockers” in the Ton Up Club.

“This is our 15th anniversary,” says Nicole King of the Pharaohs. “The Secret Society turns 25 years this year.”

The Secret Society formed during the mid-’80s ska boom, when hordes of Vespas would show up at local ska shows.

“I really don’t know how many members they have,” says King. “It’s a secret. The

up to the Belly Up Tavern. I am leading the ride.... We take the Coast Highway all the way up. Some people



ROCKERS WANTED (KING, LEFT)

have smaller bikes that aren’t allowed on the freeway. They range in speed from, like, 20 miles an hour to 70 miles an hour.”

JANUARY EVENTS

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Calendar
MUSIC SCENEblurt
continued

Blue Money Drummer Freddie Fontaine once spent six months touring with the Blue Man Group.

"I was with the band; I wasn't a Blue Man," says the longtime local wedding-band vet. "It was still a difficult audition, though. On tour, the band is part of the stage show too, so there's a lot of theatrics involved...."

"You're playing with other drummers and percussionists all at once...not many drummers have that kind of experience. They [Blue Man] teach you to exaggerate all your rock-and-roll moves, like the synchronous head bob, the [drum stick] spins and twirls, the one-handed audience wave."

Fontaine says the tour gig paid around \$500 a week.

"Which wasn't bad, especially when you consider benefits and per diems and stuff."

Musicians at fixed-location Blue Man theaters reportedly earn more than tour players.

"That's a really hard gig to get into. It's at least \$1000 a week, but nobody ever quits. I told them I was willing to move to Las Vegas or Boston.... Even after doing the tour for them, I couldn't get in. Plus there's a big union controversy about working the [fixed locale] Blue Man shows, even for the musicians. I didn't want to join another union."

Fontaine considered

auditioning as an actual Blue Man.

"I saw they make twice as much as the highest-paid [musicians]. But then I discovered that I'm probably allergic to the makeup."

The Blue Man Group appears tomorrow, January 11, at the Sports Arena.

— Jay Allen Sanford

Warts and All Paul Devitt opened the Beauty Bar in late 2005 after launching other salon-themed nightspots in New York, L.A., San Francisco, Austin, and Las Vegas. Erica Jessup ran the Beauty Bar as general



VEGA, NOT FEELING THE BEAUTY BAR

manager until vacating the position a couple weeks ago.

Jessup oversaw the City Heights club's talent lineup, which often included bands such as the Prayers, Fifty on Their Heels, and Grand Ole Party. DJ/promoter Gabe Vega, who anchored the bar's Feel the Noise Friday-night event, also left in December.

The Beauty Bar relies on proceeds from door admission to pay its bands and DJs. Regardless of how many people come in through the door, however, one insider says low bar income could lead to a band's

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or DJ's exclusion from playing the club.

Attempts to reach Devitt and Jessup were unsuccessful.

Vega, who built up a following at the Whistle Stop, moved to the Beauty Bar when it opened. He recently began playing at the newly opened U-31 in North Park (formerly known as Buster Daly's).

— Ken Leighton

Chinese Democracy

Before saxophonist Chris Klich founded his Jazz Quintet, he played club and corporate events with the Mar Dels, who have taken their act around the world.

"When we traveled to Macau in China, I had to dress up as Paul McCartney and pretend to play bass for a 'Legends of Rock' set. Of course, there was no sax player in the Beatles, so I had to shoulder a Hofner bass and pretend I was McCartney. I usually made about \$200 per Mar Dels gig, but when we did the Legends thing, clients usually paid us more. Ironical, I actually don't know the first thing about playing bass...."

"We were doing a performance atop Victoria Peak in Hong Kong harbor on the night the Chinese

took over Hong Kong [in 1997]. On that trip, we also played at the China Club, an exclusive venue usually only open to members of the Politburo, where Chairman Mao had all of his social affairs. For that gig, the police threatened to seize our equipment if we continued playing past the permitted time. While [the promoter] kept yelling at us that we should keep playing, we were watching the Chinese police gathering up our stuff and contemplating languishing in a Chinese jail cell. I believe a lot of money exchanged hands before the police changed their mind and let the show go on."

The Chris Klich Jazz Quintet appears Saturday, January 12, at Claire de Lune in North Park.

— Jay Allen Sanford

Short Stuff Joshua and Zachary Wheeler (Scarlet Symphony, Society!) play every Sunday morning for the Beautiful Rescue, the Mission Gathering's worship band. While Zach has been playing bass for Mission for over a year, Josh joined in on drums in early December. They play every

Sunday at 10:30 at the Birch North Park Theatre.

• Gary Bahen, owner of Accident Prone Records, has moved back to San Diego from Portland. Accident Prone has put out records by locals such as Tiltwheel and

Street (4603 Park Boulevard, Mueller College).

• If you went to the White Buffalo show at the Casbah November 30, you may have seen a guy who resembles White Buffalo, who played that night. Well, the other



JOHNNY, HEATHER, AND WHITE BUFFALO

Counterfit since 1997. Bahen says, "I was gone for just shy of four years.... The label and screenprinting arms of Accident Prone are both intact and ready for SD." • We can also welcome a new project from Drew, former drummer of Motionless and the Binge. He moved to Seattle in early 2007, but now he's back and doing an acoustic duo with his brother called Save Amos. Catch them on January 25 at Across the

guy is Johnny Janiga. He's in a duo called Podunk Nowhere. Johnny and his wife Heather make music with a Southern flair and well-crafted guitar changes. Maybe you heard some on FM/94.9's local holiday show.

— Vanja James

CONTRIBUTORS

William Crain, Dave Good, Larry Harmon, Michael Hemmingson, Ken Leighton, Ryan Loyko, Bart Mendoza, Derek Plank, Eric Rife, Jay Allen Sanford, David Stampone

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JANUARY 11



JANUARY 17



JANUARY 21



JANUARY 22



JANUARY 24



JANUARY 29



JANUARY 30



JANUARY 31



FEBRUARY 4



FEBRUARY 5 & 6



FEBRUARY 8

2/12	UMPHREY'S MCGEE	2/23	BADFISH (TRIBUTE TO SURNAME)	3/7	BAD RELIGION
2/13	EDITORS	2/24	BONE THUGS N	3/30	LOST 80'S LIVE
2/15	HORRORPOPS		HARMONY		FEAT:
2/16	STYX	2/29	TAKE ACTION		DRAMARAMA,
2/19	SONATA ARCTICA		TOUR FEAT:		A FLOCK OF
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club crawler

This Week In Music

Thursday 10

SanFran-based **Dwarves** roll into Casbah tonight. Singer Blag Dahlia and uninhibited guitarist He Who Cannot Be Named (the



DWARVES AT CASBAH

dude plays nude) broke out of the Chicago psych-rock scene in the late '80s. After relocating to California, the band pulled West Coast punk, particularly the Cramps, into their garage. Nothing much has changed in the vet punk band's sound since then, but their latest disc, 2004's *The Dwarves Must Die*, shows Blag's got pop tendencies. Bay Area buds **Cell Block 5** and locals the **Atoms** also on the bill.... A lot of glam and bam bam when '80s hair bands **Skid Row**, **Pretty Boy Floyd**, and **L.A. Guns** drag the Aqua Net through House of Blues. Remember, this isn't yer dad's *Slave to the Grind* Skid Row. Sebastian Bach's been gone a long time — we're in the Johnny Solinger era.... **Hello Operator** answers the call at Beauty Bar. The Toronto power-pop duo will drop debut *The Breaks* Feb. 5. Think *Candy-O* era Cars — turbocharged. Local up-and-comers **Red Feathers** open. Driving guit, bouncing keys, and crooning indie vox make the Feathers one to watch this year. E.P. out soon.... **Midwinters** blow into Belly Up with **Exfriends** and **Mayweather** for locals-only alt-country sets.

Friday 11

Aussie multi-instrumentalist **Xavier Rudd** is big on the festival circuit. Friday night, he hauls his kit and caboodle to House of Blues touring last year's rootsy collection *White Moth*. Didgeridoo solo!... San Diego songsmith and friend of Mandy (Moore) and Minnie (Driver), **Greg Laswell**, plays Casbah. Laswell's been a fave of SDMAs over the past

decade, garnering six nominations and two wins (Best Local recording and Song of the Year). His new Vanguard disc *How the Day Sounds* is due in March. Alt-pop quintet **Emery Byrd** (who apparently "don't give a f*** about the Sex Pistols") split the bill.... O.C. reggae-rockers

Common Sense drive it down to Belly Up where they'll put the party on with nu-wavers **Iglu and Hartly**.... Strokes-y indie act **Dynamite Walls** blows it up at Beauty Bar with hook-heavy Atlanta band the **Futurists**.... Thrummy production act **Blue Man Group** brings the body paint and confetti cannons to Sports Arena.

Saturday 12

Pall Jenkins is back behind the blinking heart and saw Saturday night as indie-goth act **Black Heart Procession** closes out a West Coast swing with new players and fresh tunes. Black Heart will share the Casbah stage with **Calico Horse** and **Manuok**, while **Fantastic Magic** casts calliope spells in the Atari Lounge.... Down the street at Anthology, rock-roll Hall-of-Famer and former Byrd/Flying Burrito Brother **Chris Hillman** will dig up roots rock. Hillman's joined on stage by bluegrass-picker and Desert Rose Band pardner **Herb Pederson**. Desert flower **Amy Loftus** warms the supper-club crowd.... Free show downtown, as **Modern Day Moonshine** plays a CD-release at House of Blues. Sampling *Same Old Fight* suggests a soul-drenched reggae set from these locals.... The noisiest 'do in town, **Hostile Combover**, coif at Tower Bar. Industrial punx **Operator X** also on the bill.... Beachside, you got indie rock by **Bloody Hollies** and



BLACK HEART PROCESSION AT CASBAH



LUPE FIASCO AT BELLY UP

Get Back Loretta at 'Canes in Mission Beach and Latin dance rock by **Agua Dulce** at Winstons. Scotty Blinn and his **Mississippi Mudsharks** open the Dulce show for a fun-n-funky double bill at the O.B. rock room.

Sunday 13

Belly Up props a New Acoustic Generation showcase Sunday night featuring **Michael Tiernan**, **Veronica May**, **Trevor Davis**, and **Allied Gardens**.... Supersucker **Eddie Spaghetti** brings his country skunk to Casbah. Mr. Spaghetti will be joined by the likeminded **Deere Johns** and Zappa trib kid **Jordan Shapiro**.... Bar Pink Elephant's advertising a **Swami Record Swap** at the North Park lounge. Indie label Swami Records was founded in 2000 by Elephant proprietor and local rocker John Reis (Rocket from the Crypt/Hot Snakes). The swap meet starts at noon.

Monday 14

The anti-Monday protests continue at Casbah in oh-eight, and this year, "the League wants you!" This week's speechifiers include **The Weather Underground** (L.A.), **The Roman Spring** (S.D.), and **The Secret Stolen** (Chico).... Out at Winstons, jammy psych act **Electric Waste Band** raise the Dead, 'mong others.

Tuesday 15

Chicagoland rapper **Lupe Fiasco** broke with his

2006 disc *Food & Liquor*, a record his contemporaries lauded as "a breath of fresh air" for hip-hop, breaking from the genre's mean-streets culture for something street-kid cool (check out skate-rap hit "Kick, Push"). The four-time Grammy nominee dropped his critically acclaimed follow-up, *The Cool*, in December, which debuted in Billboard's top 20. Fiasco visits Belly Up Tuesday night for a Blazin' 98.9-sponsored set.

Wednesday 16

Get regular when San Fernando's reanimated **Electric Prunes** work the Belly Up *har har* Wednesday night. The '60s psychedelics hit internationally with their single "I Had Too Much to Dream (Last Night)" and inclusion on the top-selling *Easy Rider* soundtrack (theirs was the music behind the trippy cemetery scene). After a 30-year hiatus, the Prunes are back to touring and recording, releasing two new collections in '04 (*California*) and '06 (*Feedback*). Local psych-pop throwbacks the **Prayers** will open the show for nostalgic sets of the week.... Another '60s star, **Al Kooper**, will visit with AcousticMusicSanDiego. Kooper made his name as one of the founders of Blood, Sweat & Tears and then as session



ELECTRIC PRUNES AT BELLY UP

man/producer for such luminaries as Bob Dylan and Mike Bloomfield. Question is, will Kooper go acoustic or roll in the Hammond he's best known for? This year, Kooper will release a new original collection, *White Chocolate*.... Steely Damned fusion guitarist and "San Diego's best kept secret" **Hank Easton** plays Anthology.... Rapping up: **Twista**, the "fastest rapper in the world," according to *The Guinness Book of World Records*, will rock the mic at 'Canes...while MC **Destructo Bunny** and beats crew hip-hop all over Winstons. — Barnaby Monk

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<p>SUNDAY • JANUARY 13</p> <p>EDDIE SPAGHETTI (SUPERSUCKERS) & JORDAN SHAPIRO THE DEERE JOHNS</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY • JANUARY 16</p> <p>SOLE AND THE SKYRIDER BAND TELEPHONE JIM JESUS THE KNEEHIGHS</p>	<p>TUESDAY • JANUARY 22</p> <p>M-THEORY PRESENTS THE SHAKY HAND THE LONELY H</p>
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Sinatra Speaks

“For years I have been convinced that Wayne Newton is really a woman.”

José Sinatra is a good-time party and music man around town, first as front man for the former José Sinatra and Troy Dante Inferno and now as host of the “O.B.-oke” at Winstons, which draws a large crowd every Sunday night with singing, games, and door prizes.

His new ensemble is the José Sinatra Love Muscle, now in rehearsal and getting ready for gigs. He also sings with Supabad, a James Brown tribute band. “People are always amazed at my uncanny resemblance to James Brown,” he says. He’s been recording in San Diego and Los Angeles for an upcoming CD, *Moonlight Sinatra*.

José is a flamboyant stage persona of Bill Richardson’s in the same vein as Andy Kaufmann’s Tony Clifton, the quirky and abusive lounge singer — or, in José Sinatra’s mind, Wayne Newton. “For years I have been convinced that Wayne Newton is really a woman,” he says, noting the difference in voice and style of the Vegas performer’s early years as compared to today. “Someday the truth will come out.”

SEXIEST LOCAL PERFORMER?

“Besides myself, I will honestly say a lovely girl named Ashley who brings down the house when she sings at O.B.-oke. She wins the prizes, and so help me Rhonda, I dream of giving [the prize] to her.”

FAVORITE QUOTE?

“In-a-Gadda-Da-Vida, baybah/ Doncha know that ah luv you?/ In-a-Gadda-Da-Vida, hunah/ Doncha know that ah hallways beeuah tru-hoo?” An old song by, I think, Jeremy Irons and the Butterflies [Iron Butterfly]. Not only does it seem to predict everything that has happened since its 1968 release, it continues to touch me every day in a very private place.”

GUILTY PLEASURE?

“Watching *Grey’s Anatomy* Thursday nights with a similarly devoted group of female friends. If the episode is really inspiring, we’ll play ‘doctor’ as soon as it’s over.”

IF YOU COULD HAVE LUNCH WITH ANYONE...

“Anyone and everyone’s okay with me, as long as they’re paying and not named ‘Britney.’”

WHAT DID YOU DO PROM NIGHT?

“Went up to New York to hang out with some friends at the Biltmore who were acting in *Hair*. Jim Rado [cowriter of *Hair*] came with me to my high school graduation in Maryland that following week. His coauthor Gerry Ragni wanted to marry me. Everyone who actually did go to the prom is now dead.”

LISTS

MICHAEL HEMMINGSON



José Sinatra

TOP FIVE ALBUMS?

1. Grin, *1+1*. “Nobody’s ever done passion like Nils Lofgren does on the final track, ‘Soft Fun.’ I’ve never been able to make out all the words, and I’ve never cared. It is monstrous and moving.”
2. Richard Harris, *My Boy*. “A revealing, autobiographical album Richard Harris made in 1971 concerning love, marriage, birth, estrangement. His voice is perfect, the arrangements are beautiful, the songs and story are haunting.”
3. Georges Delerue’s *30 Ans de Musique de Film*. “Ken Russell called him ‘the greatest film composer who ever lived.’ I agree, and might even delete the word ‘film.’”

4. *The Raspberries — Greatest Hits*. “Sometimes Eric Carmen sounds more like Paul McCartney than Paul McCartney ever did, and he can write melodies that have the tenacity of herpes.”
5. *Abbey Road*. “The Beatles’ last album. No one seems to realize that all the voices on ‘Because’ were done by John Lennon. I’ve just recorded my own version — doing everything — with slightly altered lyrics that, to my mind, better reflect our world 39 years later. I call it ‘Because (Your Hole Is Brown).’”

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT: REAL OR IMAGINED?

“I have only to wake up each morning and look in the mirror for it to happen all over again.” ■



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Thurs., Jan. 24 ~ Trece de la Suerte
Tues., Jan. 29 ~ Charlie Chavez y Su Afro Truco
Wed., Jan. 30 ~ Salsa Caliente
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Calendar CONCERTS

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THIS WEEK'S CONCERTS

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Skid Row and L.A. Guns, House of Blues, Thursday, January 10, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

FRIDAY

Xavier Rudd, House of Blues, Friday, January 11, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

The Blue Man Group, San Diego Sports Arena, Friday, January 11, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma. 619-224-4171.

SATURDAY

Chris Hillman and Amy Loftus, Anthology, Saturday, January 12, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

TUESDAY

Lupe Fiasco, Belly Up Tavern, Tuesday, January 15, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

WEDNESDAY

Twista, Canes, Wednesday, January 16, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

JANUARY

Ben Kenney, House of Blues, Thursday, January 17, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Cross Canadian Ragweed, Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, January 17, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Pat Green, 4th & B, Friday, January 18, 345 B Street, Downtown. 619-231-4343.

Fu Manchu, The Casbah, Friday, January 18, 2501 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy. 619-232-HELL.

Tiger Army, Soma, Friday, January 18, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma. 619-226-SOMA.

Social Distortion, House of Blues, Friday, January 18, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Dilated Peoples, Belly Up Tavern, Friday, January 18, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Ryan Adams, Spreckels Theatre, Saturday, January 19, 121 Broadway, Downtown. 619-235-9500.

Social Distortion, House of Blues, Saturday, January 19, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Social Distortion, House of Blues, Sunday, January 20, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

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, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Steve Poltz, Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, January 24, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Fred Eaglesmith, AcousticMusicSanDiego, Friday, January

25, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Pepper, Canes, Friday, January 25, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780.

Stanley Clark, Anthology, Friday, January 25, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

Ozomatli, Belly Up Tavern, Friday, January 25, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Stanley Clark, Anthology, Saturday, January 26, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

Ozomatli, Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, January 26, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Molotov, House of Blues, Tuesday, January 29, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 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, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

Matt Costa, The Casbah, Thursday, January 31, 2501 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy. 619-232-HELL.

FEBRUARY

Poncho Sanchez, Anthology, Friday, February 1, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

Brazil Carnaval 2008, 4th & B, Saturday, February 2, 345 B Street, Downtown. 619-231-4343.

Poncho Sanchez, Anthology, Saturday, February 2, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

Los Lobos, Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, February 2, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Raul Malo, Anthology, Sunday, February 3, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

Wyclef Jean, House of Blues, Monday, February 4, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Raul Malo, Anthology, Monday, February 4, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

Pinback, House of Blues, Tuesday, February 5, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

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

Pinback, House of Blues, Wednesday, February 6, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Jake Shimabukuro, Anthology, Thursday, February 7, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

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

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

Jimmy Webb, AcousticMusicSanDiego, Saturday, February 9, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

The Wallflowers, Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Saturday, February 9, 5000 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

Rhett Miller, Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, February 10, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

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

David "Honeyboy" Edwards, AcousticMusicSanDiego, Monday, February 11, 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights. 619-303-8176.

Umphey's McGee, House of Blues, Tuesday, February 12, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Jill Scott, Copley Symphony Hall, Wednesday, February 13, 750 B Street, Downtown. 619-235-0804.

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

George Clinton and Parliament Funkadelic, Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, February 14, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

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

Richard Elliott, 4th & B, Friday, February 15, 345 B Street, Downtown. 619-231-4343.

Fabulous, Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Friday, February 15, 5000 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

Styx, House of Blues, Saturday, February 16, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Maceo Parker, Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, February 16, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Third Day and the Myriad, House of Blues, Wednesday, February 20, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Queensrÿche and Don Dokken, House of Blues, Thursday, February 21, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 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, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Marilyn Manson, House of Blues, Monday, February 25, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Pat Metheny Trio, Anthology, Tuesday, February 26, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

Adrian Belew, Belly Up Tavern, Tuesday, February 26, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Pat Metheny Trio, Anthology, Wednesday, February 27, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

MARCH

Marcia Ball and John Hammond, Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, March 2, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Foo Fighters, Cox Arena, Monday, March 3, 550 Campanile Drive, College Area. 619-594-6947.

Rufus Wainwright, Belly Up Tavern, Tuesday, March 4, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

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

The Blind Boys of Alabama, Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, March 9, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

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

Angels and Airwaves, Soma, Thursday, March 13, 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma. 619-226-SOMA.

Built to Spill, Belly Up Tavern, Friday, March 21, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Presidents of the United States of America, Belly Up Tavern, Friday, March 21, 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

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

Citizen Cope, House of Blues, Monday, March 31, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

APRIL

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

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

Ministry, House of Blues, Monday, April 7, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Avril Lavigne and Boys Like Girls, Cox Arena, Wednesday, April 30, 550 Campanile Drive, College Area. 619-594-6947.

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► **The Black Spots**

Friday 1/11



► **Counter Launch**

► **Estamos En Fuego**
► **Silent Lune** 
► **The Tommy Mora Band**

Saturday 1/12



► **760**

► **Dive Bomber**
► **Kompany of Kings**
► **Mordichi**

Sunday 1/13



Tuesday 1/15

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Wednesday 1/16

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Rhythm & the Method Cheeky

Friday 1/18
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Matt Williams

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Thursday, January 10
8 pm • Top 40

Stelita's Groove

Friday, January 11
7 pm • Blues Guitar

Laurie Morvan

9:30 pm • Blues

Roy Gaines



Saturday, January 12
6 pm • Original Rock

Roxy Monoxide

9:30 pm
Dance & Disco

Makai



Sunday, January 13
8 pm • Smooth Guitarist

Patrick Yandall



Monday, January 14
7 pm • Scorchin' Blues

Michele Lundeen

Tuesday, January 15
7 pm • Zydeco & Variety

Bayou Brothers

Wednesday, January 16
8 pm • Indie Rock

Sheila Sondergard

Saturday, January 26
Dennis Jones



Saturday, February 2
John Nemeth with
Nathan James & Ben Hernandez

Wednesday, February 6
Anthony Gomes



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THURSDAY, JANUARY 17

TOPIA - UPSCALE LATIN NIGHTLIFE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18

VICTOR DINAIRE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

BLK INK MUSIC

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

DJ Z-TRIP

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

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Calendar CONCERTS

MAY

Nightwish, House of Blues, Friday, May 23, 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

JUNE

The Cure, Cox Arena, Tuesday, June 3, 550 Campanile Drive, College Area. 619-594-6947.

Calendar CLUBS

DANCE

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

Air Conditioned: Wednesdays, *Club Nigel*, Steve West and DJ SG spin the '80s. Thursdays, *Too Cool for School*, old-skool hip-hop, and '80s. Fridays, rare groove, funk, and disco. Saturdays, *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.

Bar Dynamite: Thursdays, hip-hop, funk, and old-skool with DJ's SG, Dubz, and Teknikscian. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. 1808 West Washington Street, Mission Hills. 619-295-8743.

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. Sundays, *Winter Break Jam* featuring DJ Dizzy D. Wednesdays, guest DJs spin hip-hop, R&B, and reggaeton. 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. Sundays, *Rare Form Sundays*, downtempo, hip-hop, and rock. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. No cover. 4696 30th Street, North Park. 619-640-2500.

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.

San Diego Sports Club: Thursdays, *Club '80s*, new wave, punk, and new romantic with DJs Bryan Pollard and Roxanne Redlight. First and third Saturdays, *Therapy*, alternative, industrial, and gothic with Bryan Pollard and guests. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.; 21 and up. 1271 University Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-299-7372.

Tio Leo's: Thursdays, zydeco dance with DJ Gator Boy. 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. 5302 Napa Street, Bay Park. 619-542-1462.

Whiskey Girl: Fridays and Saturdays, DJ Marc Thrasher mixes music videos. Sundays, *10 Spot Sundays*, DJ Famous

NOTE

BY DAVE GOOD

It would be a mistake for history to remember **L.A. Guns** only for the temporary merge with Hollywood Rose that spawned the first official lineup of Guns N' Roses. During the last great hard-rock era on the West Coast, L.A. Guns released albums that stand out as brilliant souvenirs of the format called sleaze rock by the music press. The band's second album, *Cocked and Loaded*, led a pack of riff-raff that included the Crüe, Ratt, Poison, Hanoi Rocks, Faster Pussycat, and a host of less-memorable hard rockers. At their best, L.A. Guns were the hottest opening act around, blasting greasy sex, dope, and rock-and-roll anthems from the grandiose touring stages of Def Leppard

and AC/DC. If there is a problem with L.A. Guns today, it is that there are two bands recording and touring under the name L.A. Guns.

In fairness, both bands contain some original members, if you consider that the lineup has been in a near-constant state of flux since **Tracii Guns** founded the original version while in high school. The two bands came about when Tracii left to form Brides of Destruction. Front man Phil Lewis hired a replacement named Stacey Blades, and L.A. Guns survived. But when the Brides project flat-lined, Tracii rounded up alumni **Paul Black** and **Chad Stewart** (this version, with **Jeremy Guns** on bass, is the one that will play San Diego) and began to appear in public as L.A. Guns.

The L.A. Guns with Blades is a snarling riff machine in the way of Guns N' Roses. Yet



L.A. GUNS

Tracii Guns, never a particularly gifted guitarist, adds a skanky quality to his music that harkens back to the disorderly bandstands of the Sunset Strip during the mid-'80s. I, for one, am glad that there are bands still willing to go there.

L.A. GUNS, House of Blues, Thursday, January 10, 7 p.m. 619-299-2583. \$17.50.

Dave mixes video requests. Mondays, *Manic Mondays*, DJ Marc Thrasher mixes '80s and '90s videos. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, DJ Famous Dave mixes music videos. 9 p.m.; 21 and up. 600 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-236-1616.

Whistle Stop: Second Friday of the month, *Pussy Galore Stripped*, live bands with DJ Robin Roth spinning electro, indie, and '80s. 2236 Fern Street, South Park. 619-284-6784.

CLUBS BY AREA

If you wish to submit a listing, call 619-235-3000, ext. 405, night or day by 5 p.m. Friday, the week prior to publication. To send weekly or monthly

schedules, fax to 760-788-1309 or mail to Reader Music Scene, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the music section.

BEACHES

Bar Leucadian, 1542 North Coast Highway 101, Leucadia. 760-753-2094. Friday and Saturday, live classic/pop rock.

The Calypso Cafe, 576 North Highway 101, Encinitas. 760-632-8252. Thursday, *Captain Kirk and Beam Me Up Scotty*, rock. Friday, *Palos*, Latin. Saturday, *Semisi and Fulabula*, reggae. Sunday, *Middle Earth*, fusion/folk/acoustic. Monday, *Escalera*, acoustic/indie/soul. Tuesday, *Jack*

Tempchin, folk. Wednesday, *Tres Sapos*, Latin jazz.

'Canes, 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780. Thursday, *Canobliss*, *Mniyic*, *Tainted Society*, *Discord*, and *Twelve Twenty*. Saturday, 9 p.m., *Fono*, *the Bloody Hollies*, *Demasiado*, and *Get Back Loretta*, rock/blues/indie/soul. Wednesday, *Twista*, rap/hip-hop.

Chateau Orleans, 926 Turquoise Street, Pacific Beach. 858-488-6744. Friday, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., *Robin Henkel*, blues.

Ché Café, UCSD Campus, 9500 Gilman Drive, Student Center B-0323C, La Jolla. 858-534-2311. Friday, 8 p.m., *Career Soldiers*, *Sayaka*, *Evacuate*, and *All Out Attack*, punk/hardcore. Saturday, 7 p.m., *Violation*, *Mind Piece*, *Down*

Again, and *Cold Stare*, hardcore. Sunday, 7 p.m., *Ensign*, *Built to Last*, *Masterpiece*, *xonechoicex*, and *Cold War*, hardcore.

Dreamstreet, 2228 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach. 619-222-8131. Thursday, *Pony Up Pervert*, *the Paranorms*, and *the Black Spots*, alternative rock. Friday, *the Tommy Mora Band*, *Counter Launch*, *Estamos en Fuego*, and *Silent Lune*, alternative rock. Saturday, *Dive Bomber*, *Kompany of Kings*, and *760*, hard rock. Sunday, reggae. Wednesday, *Alexxx*.

Gallagher's Pub and Grill, 5046 Newport Avenue, Ocean Beach. 619-222-5300. Sunday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *the Rhythm Jacks*, R&B.

Hennessey's Tavern (PB), 4650 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach. 858-483-8847. Saturday, 10 p.m. to 1 a.m., *the Band in Black*, rockabilly.

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SAT 1/12 7:30/9:30PM

CHURCHITO VALDES



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Calendar

CLUBS

BEACHES

(continued)

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.

The Kraken, 2531 Old Highway 101, Cardiff. 760-436-6483. Thursday, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., *Joe Wood and the Lonely Ones*, blues rock. Friday, *Rock Kandy*, rock. Saturday, *Plato Soul*, rock/soul. 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 Jolla. 858-459-0700. Thursday, 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., *Tokeli and Friends*, jazz. Saturday, 9 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., *the Tokeli Jazz Quintet*.

710 Beach Club, 710 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-483-7844. Friday, *Audible Mainframe*, hip-hop.

Shooters Bar and Grill, Sheraton La Jolla, 3299 Holiday Court, La Jolla. 858-453-5500. Tuesday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., *John Cain*, international jazz/blues/Latin/pop/standards.

Tiki House, 1152 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-273-9734. Thursday, *Good Stuff*, rock. Friday, live rock. Saturday, *the Stoney Dudes*, rock. Wednesday, *Guava Belly*, rock/funk.

Turquoise Cafe, 873 Turquoise Street, Pacific Beach. 858-488-4200. Thursday, *Evona's Jazz Trio*.

Winstons, 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach. 619-222-6822. Thursday, 9 p.m., *Sweet Tooth*, rock/alternative/indie. Friday, 9 p.m., *Psydecar* and *Israel Maldonado*, reggae/soul/Latin/funk. Saturday, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., *the Mississippi Mudsharks*, blues, 9 p.m., *Agua Dulce*, Latin. Monday, 9 p.m., *the Electric Waste Band*, classic rock. Tuesday, 9 p.m., *Pleasure Devices* and *Early Autumn*, alternative. Wednesday, 9 p.m., *Destructo Bunny*, hip-hop/experimental.

DOWNTOWN

Anthology, 1337 India Street, San Diego. 619-595-0300. Friday, two shows, 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., *Rod Piazza and the Mighty Flyers*, blues. Saturday, two shows, 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., *Chris Hillman*, country rock. Sunday, 7:30 p.m., *Charlie Romo*, pop/Latin. Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., *Jeff Moore and the Witchdoctors*, blues. Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., *the Hank Easton Group*, jazz/pop/rock/blues.

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., *Jacqueline Grace*, hip-hop/pop.

The Casbah, 2501 Kettner Boulevard, midtown. 619-232-HELL. Thursday, *the Dwarves*, *Cell Block 5*, and *the Atoms*, punk. Friday, *Emery Bryd* and *Greg Laswell*, rock. Saturday, *the Blackheart*



Xavier Rudd, January 11, House of Blues

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, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., and Friday, 7:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., *the Stiletto*s, rockabilly/blues. Saturday, 7:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., *Private Domain*, rock and roll. Sunday, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., *the Ideas*, classic rock. Tuesday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., *the Dregs of Sada*, classic rock/alternative/R&B. 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, San Diego. 858-270-7467. Friday, 8 p.m.,

Brett Sanders and His Quintet, soul jazz. Saturday, 8 p.m., *Peter Sprague*, *Geoffrey Keezer*, *Gunnar Biggs*, *David Anderson*, and *Tripp Sprague*, 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.

Henry's Pub, 618 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-238-2389. Thursday, *the Flock of 80's*. Friday, *Good Times*. Saturday, 9:30 p.m., *Bluefish 619*, rock cover band. Tuesday, *the Stiletto*s, rockabilly. Wednesday, *Lady Dottie and the Diamonds*, blues.

House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-299-2583. Thursday, *Skid Row*, *Pretty Boy Floyd*, and *L.A. Guns*, metal/rock. Friday, *Xavier Rudd* and *Mishka*, folk rock/acoustic/indie. Saturday, 6 p.m., *Modern Day Moonshine*, classic rock.

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

Martini Ranch, 528 F Street, downtown. 619-235-6100. Tuesday, 9 p.m., *Modern Day Moonshine*, blues/rock/reggae/soul.

Patrick's II, 428 F Street, downtown. 619-233-3077. Music is blues/soul unless otherwise noted. Thursday, *Len Rainey and the Midnight Players*. Friday, *Johnny "V" Vernazza*. Saturday, *Blue Four*. Sunday, *Big Mo*. Monday, *L.A. Jones*. Tuesday, *the Kyle Culkin Band*. Wednesday, *Blue Largo*.

Sevilla, 555 Fourth Avenue, downtown. 619-233-5979. Club Salsa: Thursday, *Charlie Chavez y Su Afro Truco*, salsa. Tuesday, *Primo*, Latin jazz/salsa.

The Shout House, 655 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp. 619-231-6700. Rock and roll sing-along dueling pianos.

The Westgate Hotel, 1055 Second Avenue, downtown. 619-238-1818. The Plaza Bar: Monday through Friday, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., *the Prince of Piano*, piano/pop.

Evening Entertainment: Thursday and Friday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Fran Loskota*, pop/jazz. Saturday, 8 p.m. to midnight, *Karen Giorgio*, cabaret. Sunday and Monday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Julio de la Huerta*, Latin. Tuesday and Wednesday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., *Faith Page*, international/standards.

Whiskey Girl, 600 Fifth Avenue, downtown. 619-236-1616. Thursday, *DaGroove*, rock hits, and *DJ Marc Thrasher*. Friday and Saturday, *DJ Marc Thrasher*. Sunday, *DJ Famous Dave*. Monday, *Manic Mondays* with *DJ Thrasher*. Tuesday, *DJ Famous Dave*. Wednesday, *the Stepping Feet*, a Dave Matthews Band tribute, pop/rock, and *DJ Famous Dave*.

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Friday, January 11
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Saturday, January 12
Blue Four
"Chicago Blues Man"

Sunday, Jan. 13 "Big Mo" Blues	Monday, Jan. 14 L.A. Jones	Tuesday, Jan. 15 Kyle Culkin Band	Wednesday, Jan. 16 Blue Largo
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dub dynamite
dub roots and reggae
DJs Rashi & Eddie Turbo

Wednesday 1/16
deep sexy
house music
**DJ Duane/
Lil Ryan &
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"North County's True Music House"

THURSDAY 1•10 ICE NINE KILLS CLS EUDORA STRONG ARM DOWN	THIS WEEK FRIDAY 1•11 WITHER SENTINEL CRIMSON KNIGHT	SATURDAY 1•12 CLIMHAZZARD NITRATE ATEN FULCRUM
SUNDAY 1•13 IN QUESTION	TUESDAY 1•15 GUITAR HERO NIGHT!!! Come out and act like a rock star all night!!! Guitar Hero 1, 2 and 3!!	WEDNESDAY 1•16 NIHILIST • BASTARD OBSEQUY DESPITE THE WOLVES

UPCOMING SHOWS (See our website for more info):

THURSDAY 1•17 MURSIC CAUSEWAY	FRIDAY 1•18 9World Wide Concerts presents TBA!!	SATURDAY 1•19 DYING REGRET ETCHED IN RED • MEDIUS DISCORD • ILL CONCEIVED	
SUNDAY 1•20 9World Wide Concerts presents TBA!!	TUESDAY 1•22 GUITAR HERO NIGHT!!! Come out and act like a rock star all night!!! Guitar Hero 1, 2 and 3!!	WEDNESDAY 1•23 Jen Razz presents live music TBA!!	THURSDAY 1•24 EGYPT CENTRAL SEVERED ROOTS DEAD SERIAL KILLERS UNLOADED

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Classic Rock



Mad for Mary

Upcoming: Thursday, January 17

Dust-N-Bones

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Thursday, January 10

Sammy & the Sofa Kings

Friday & Saturday, January 11 & 12

Classic Rock



Serious Guise

Sunday, Jan. 13

**Catch the
Fallen**

Tuesday, Jan. 15

**Good Night
Caulfield**

Wednesday, Jan. 16

**Search the City
and
A Dream too Late**

Upcoming: Thursday, January 17

Drownsverve • Bed of Nails • Tore Back • Severed Roots

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FRI. JAN 18

LIVE NATION

\$16 - 8:30 - LUNATIKS.COM

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SAT. FEB 9

\$14 • 7PM • LUNATIKS

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FRI. JAN 11

SO LONG DAVEY
THE MATERIAL
ARM THE ANGELS
CHILDREN OF NOVA
THE CATHEDRALS

SAT. JAN 12

It Pays to Be
FOR THE FALLEN DREAMS
RECON
EVERY BRIDGE BURNED
AMERICAN ME
THE AURORA COMPLEX

THURS. JAN 24

FINCH

TERA MELOS
SOUND THE ALARM
REEVE OLIVER

SAT. JAN 26

Mooster

Buck-O-Nine
HUB CITY STOMPERS
FABULOUS RUDIES
SHANK AGENTS

SUN. JAN 27

THE PAC TOUR
THE ADDITION

ENVY ON THE COAST
DANGER: RADIO
ANOTHER DAY LATE
\$12 - 6PM - LUNATIKS

WED. JAN 30

BLACK DOLPHIN MURDER
3 INCHES OF BLOOD
HATE INTERNAL
DECREPIT BIRTH
\$12 - 7PM - LUNATIKS

SAT. FEB 2

DEAD TO FALL
WINDS OF PLAGUE
(CD RELEASE)
IMPENDING DOOM
BELAY MY LAST

WED. FEB 6

SHERWOOD
the matches

THE HIGHER
WE SHOT
THE MOON

THURS. FEB 14

CORRA STARSHIP

METRO STATION
WE THE KINGS & THE CAR
\$12 - 6:30 - LIVE NATION

FRI. FEB 15

darkest hour
cephalic carnage

SAT. FEB 16

EMERY
PIERCE THE VEIL

MAYDAY PARADE
AS CITIES BURN
CRY THE AFFLICTED

THURS. MAR 13

AVA
ANGELS & AIRWAVES

TICKETMASTER - SOMA BOX OFFICE - LUNATIKS

FRI. MAR 14

SILVERSTEIN
THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
A DAY TO REMEMBER
PROTEST THE HERO

Carlsbad. 760-479-0242. Friday, 8 p.m., *Steven Ybarra*, acoustic pop. Saturday, 8 p.m., *Jeffrey Morin*, acoustic.

Borders Books and Music (Carmel Mountain), 11160 Rancho Carmel Drive, Carmel Mountain. 858-618-1814. Saturday, 8 p.m., *Patty Hall*, acoustic/blues.

Carvers, 11940 Bernardo Plaza Drive, Rancho Bernardo. 858-566-2400. Friday and Saturday, *Laguna*, classic rock.

Cheers, 2475 Main Street, Ramona. 760-789-0270. Friday and Saturday, live rock/country. Tuesday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Mike Gardner*, acoustic rock/folk.

Coyote Bar and Grill, 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4695. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Michele Lundeen and Blues Streak*, blues. Friday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *the Restless Natives*, rock/folk/reggae. Saturday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Gumboyaya*, New Orleans funk and blues. Sunday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Johnny "B" Blues*, blues. Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *the Fabulous Woodies*, classic rock.

Cuvee Restaurant, 2334 Carmel Valley Road, Del Mar. 858-259-5878. Monday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Sambajazz*, Brazilian and American jazz.

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.

Harrah's Rincon Casino and Resort, 33750 Valley Center Road, Valley Center. 877-777-2457. Thursday, 7 p.m., *Paradise*, Latin/soul/rock.

Hennessey's Tavern (Carlsbad), 2777 Roosevelt Street, Carlsbad. 760-729-6951. Wednesday, 9 p.m., *the Bleeding Irish*, Irish punk rock.

Hensley's Flying Elephant Pub and Grill, 805 Tamarack Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-672-8305. Wednesday 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Joe Wood and the Lonely Ones*, blues rock.

The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe, 5951 Linea del Cielo, Rancho Santa Fe. 858-756-1131. Thursday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., *Jerry Melnick*, jazz/variety piano.

J.J. Lander's Irish Pub, 125 Main Street, Fallbrook. 760-731-0839. Saturday, 8 p.m., *Raiz Muzik*, reggae.

The Jumping Turtle, 1660 Capalina Road, San Marcos. 760-741-7778. Thursday, *Ice Nine Kills*, *CLS*, *Eudora*, and *Strong Arm Down*, alternative rock/metal/indie. Friday, *Wither*, *Sentinel*, and *Crimson Knight*, hard rock/death metal/thrash. Saturday, *Climhazzard*, *Nitrate*, *Aten*, and *Fulcrum*, hardcore. Sunday, *In Question*, hard rock. Wednesday, *Nihilist* and *Bastard*, death metal/hardcore.

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.

North Bar Sports and Spirits, 200 West El Norte Parkway, Escondido. 760-480-8228. Thursday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Mike Gardner*, acoustic rock/folk.

R. O'Sullivan's, 118 East Grand Avenue, Escondido. 760-737-0954. Sunday, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., and Tuesday, 8 p.m., *the Clachan Boys*, Irish folk. Wednesday, 8 p.m., *the Clay Colton Band*, alternative rock/folk.

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, *Swim Party*, indie/acoustic. Saturday, 5 *Alarm*, pop/rock. Wednesday, *Wire Monkey*, alternative.

Tom Giblin's Irish Pub and Restaurant, 640 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-729-7234. Friday, 9 p.m., *Brehon Law*, Irish folk. Wednesday, 8 p.m., *the Clachan Boys*, Irish folk.

SOUTH BAY/CORONADO

Borders Books and Music (Chula Vista), 878 EastLake Parkway, Suite 210. Chula Vista. 619-482-9883. Friday, 8 p.m., *Johnson*, *Bosley*, and *Morin*, acoustic trio.

Buon Giorno Restaurant, 4110 Bonita Road, Bonita. 619-475-2660. Thursday, *Yvonne Flores*, piano/jazz. Saturday, *Madera* and *One Thousand Eyes*, jazz.

The Butcher Shop, 556 Broadway, Chula Vista. 619-420-9440. Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Wednesday, 8 p.m., *Ray Correa*, standards/pop/Latin.

Hotel del Coronado, 1550 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-6611. Babcock and Story: Thursday through Sunday, 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., *Tony Lasley*, Latin jazz. Friday and Saturday, 8:30 p.m., *Ray Briz*, pianist. Monday, 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., *Gonzo Gonzales*. Tuesday and Wednesday, *Jim Gibson*, guitarist.

1500 Ocean: Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 9 p.m. to midnight, *Tony Lasley*, jazz guitar. Crown Room: Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., *Ray Briz*, pianist, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., *Ping Hu*, harpist.

Island Sports and Spirits, 104 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-3456. Friday, *Cool Fever*, blues/rock. Saturday, live rock.

The Manhattan Lounge, 400 Broadway, Chula Vista. 619-422-6641. Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m., *Stone Wolf*, classic rock to modern rock.

McP's Irish Pub and Grill, 1107 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619-435-5280. Friday, *Harmony Road*, classic rock. Saturday, *the Stiletto*s, rockabilly/blues.

EAST COUNTY

Dirk's Niteclub, 7662 Broadway, Lemon Grove. 619-469-6344. Friday and Saturday, live classic rock.

Don's Cocktail Lounge, 13321 Business Highway 8, El Cajon. 619-443-



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Calendar CLUBS

EAST COUNTY

(continued)
2444. Friday and Saturday, live country/rock.
Renegade Inn, 14335 Old Highway 80 (half mile east from Lake Jennings turnoff), Flynn Springs. 619-561-8105. Friday and Saturday, *Southbound Johnny*, country.
Second Wind, 8528 Magnolia Avenue, Santee. 6019-596-8350. Friday and Saturday, *Serious Guise*, classic rock.
Tommy's Italian Restaurant, 1190 North Second Street, El Cajon. 619-440-2676. Friday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., *Franco Z*, standards/swing/jazz.

Calendar BANDS

ALTERNATIVE

Alexxx: Dreamstreet
Aten: The Jumping Turtle
Bastard: The Jumping Turtle
Evan Bethany: Lestat's Coffee House
The Bitchfits: Brick By Brick
Black Spots: Dreamstreet
The Blackheart Procession: The Casbah
Built to Last: Ché Café
Cabron: Brick By Brick
Calico Horse: The Casbah
Career Soldiers: Ché Café
The Cathedrals: Soma
Chase Pagan: Epicentre
Children of Nova: Soma
Climhazzard: The Jumping Turtle
CLS: The Jumping Turtle
Cold Stare: Ché Café
Cold War: Ché Café
Counter Launch: Dreamstreet
Crime in America: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub
Crimson Knight: The Jumping Turtle
The Dajjal Persona: Epicentre
Demasiado: 'Canes
Early Autumn: Winstons
Earthless: The Casbah
Ensign: Ché Café
Eudora: The Jumping Turtle

Evacuate: Ché Café
Fulcrum: The Jumping Turtle
Get Back Loretta: 'Canes
Ice Kills Nine: The Jumping Turtle
In Question: The Jumping Turtle
It Prevails: Soma
Kennedy's Curse: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub
Late Summer: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub
Lost Ocean: Epicentre
The Material: Soma
Mayweather: Belly Up Tavern
Mind Piece: Ché Café
Mniyic: 'Canes
Nihilist: The Jumping Turtle
Nitrate: The Jumping Turtle
October Burning: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub
The Paranorms: Dreamstreet
Pleasure Devices: Winstons
Pony Up Pervert: Dreamstreet
Sayaka: Ché Café
Sentinel: The Jumping Turtle
Silent Lune: Dreamstreet
So Long Davey: Soma
Strong Arm Down: The Jumping Turtle
Swim Party: Surf N'Saddle
Violation: Ché Café
The Weather Underground: The Casbah
Wire Monkey: Surf N'Saddle
Wither: The Jumping Turtle
xonechoicex: Ché Café

ROCK

American Me: Soma
Archons: The Casbah
Arm the Angels: Soma
The Atoms: The Casbah
The Aurora Complex: Soma
The Bloody Hollies: 'Canes
Bluefish 619: Henry's Pub
Steve Brewer: Blarney Stone Pub
Emery Byrd: The Casbah
Canobliss: 'Canes
Captain Kirk and Beam Me Up Scotty: The Calypso Cafe
Cell Block 5: The Casbah
Connelly: Epicentre
The Dateless Losers: The Ould Sod
Dead on the Dance Floor: Epicentre
Discord: 'Canes

as i hear it

BY BRIAN CARVER

Artist: **Ajizza**
Song: **"Do What We Do"** (from the CD *Do What We Do Records Presents*)
Heard By: **Gabe Gayhart**, Escondido



Gabe

It was average. It wasn't something that I'd necessarily buy, but I think it's always nice to have a good cadre of local talent. In terms of rappers, there's still not a "protégée" out there for San Diego. We're still looking for that. The beat was a basic four-count beat that was reminiscent of the "G-funk era," except it lacked some of the funk. His vocal delivery was nice because he has a unique, raspy sound but his lyrical content was cliché. Some of the wordplay he was using reminded me of 50 Cent. It wasn't anything flavorful where you're, like, "that's a sweet hook!" It's better than some of the commercial stuff that I hear, but that's not saying much.

SAN DIEGO SONGS TAKE THE STREET TEST

Artist: **Red Pony Clock**
Song: **"Take a Side"** (from the CD *God Made Dirt*)
Heard By: **Lauren Lillie**, Brooklyn, NY



Lauren

I liked it. It had a bit of a Belle & Sebastian/Rilo Kiley vibe to it. At first I thought it was going to have a bit of a retro '60s sound, but as the song went on it had much more "full" percussion. It makes me think of how one of my friends was describing the Mountain Goats to me: it's happy music about sad subjects. The main lyric was about how if you make a decision you have to commit to that until you die. It wouldn't be something that you'd hear in the Top 40 on the radio, but I'm sure that's not what they're going for. I picture putting that on in my apartment and making drinks for my friends and starting a little impromptu party.

Artist: **Shaka Buku**
Song: **"Good Times Here Today"** (from the CD *Feel Different*)
Heard By: **Mandy Stadtmiller**, Brooklyn, NY



Mandy

I don't really like "jam band-y" music like that, but I could tell that they're probably really good people. People who are into jam-band music would find it very enjoyable and pleasant. This band is going somewhere; I'm just not their audience. I'm kind of a jaded cynic, so for me, the kind of music I like is by acoustic singer/songwriters like Mason Jennings who have wincingly embarrassing positive lyrics, but it's very singular and unique. A lot of this stuff seems a little bit hackneyed and clichéd, like "clap your hands, we're going to rock out and fight oppression." I imagine the big draw to this band is seeing them live because they probably put on a really good show.

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

Dive Bomber: Dreamstreet
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The Dwarves: The Casbah
The Electric Prunes: Belly Up Tavern
The Electric Waste Band: Winstons
Endure the Fall: Epicentre
Every Bridge Burned: Soma
The Exfriends: Belly Up Tavern
The Fabulous Woodies: Coyote Bar and Grill
Fing: The Kensington Club
Five More Days: Epicentre

Flexx Bronco: The Zombie Lounge
Fono: 'Canes
For the Fallen Dreams: Soma
Four Minutes till Midnight: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub
The Good Stuff: Tiki House
Guava Belly: Tiki House
Chris Hillman: Anthology
Hostile Comb-Over: Tower Bar
Hotel St. George: The Kensington Club
The Ideas: Dick's Last Resort
L.A. Guns: House of Blues
Laguna: Carvers
Mad for Mary: Second Wind (San Carlos)
The Midwinters: Belly Up Tavern
The Miggs: Lestat's Coffee House
The Mojave: The Kensington Club
Mommy's Little Monsters: Brick By Brick
Mondays Alibi: Epicentre

The Tommy Mora Band: Dreamstreet
Noisegod: Brick By Brick
Nuclear Tomorrow: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub
The Oaks: The Casbah
Operator X: Tower Bar
Paradise: Harrah's Rincon Casino and Resort, Tio Leo's Lounge
Plato Soul: The Kraken
Pretty Boy Floyd: House of Blues
Private Domain: Dick's Last Resort
The Restless Natives: Coyote Bar and Grill
Rhythm and the Method: Brass Rail
Rock Kandy: The Kraken
The Roman Spring: The Casbah
Roxy Monoxide: Humphrey's
Stone Wolf: The Manhattan Lounge
The Secret Stolen: The Casbah
Serious Guise: Second Wind (Santee)
Shoot the Pilot: Brick By Brick

Side Jobz: Tio Leo's (Mira Mesa)
Skid Row: House of Blues
Eddie Spaghetti: The Casbah
The Spares: The Zombie Lounge
The Stiletto's: Henry's Pub, Dick's Last Resort, McP's Irish Pub and Grill
The Stoney Dudes: Tiki House
The Strikers: The Zombie Lounge
Sweet Tooth: Winstons
Tainted Society: 'Canes
The 25th Hour: Epicentre
West of 5: Little Italy Urban Bar and Restaurant
Witt: Epicentre
Yesterdays Papers: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

POP / TOP 40

5 Alarm: Surf N'Saddle
The Flock of 80's: Henry's Pub
Iglu and Hartly: Belly Up Tavern
The Love Rangers: The Alley
Rick Lyon: The Imperial House



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	JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA Friday, March 14 7:30 pm		THE KLEZMATICS Grammy Award Winning World Music Thursday, April 24 7:30 pm
KENNY BURRELL QUARTET Saturday, June 21 7:30 pm		MARK O'CONNOR'S APPALACHIAN WALTZ TRIO Saturday, August 2 7:30 pm	

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KARAOKE

Saturday • January 12
SIDE JOBZ

Sundays
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Thursday • January 17
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Stelita's Groove: Humphrey's
The Stepping Feet: Whiskey Girl

JAZZ / BIG BAND

The Archtones: Croce's Jazz Bar
Gunnar Biggs: Dizzy's
Tom Bishop: Rancho Bernardo Inn
Blue Largo: The Book Works/Pannikin Cafe, Patrick's II
Ray Briz: Hotel del Coronado
The Hank Easton Group: Anthology
Evona's Jazz Trio: Turquoise Cafe
Donnie Finnell and Company East: Bistro 221
Yvonne Flores: Buon Giorni Restaurant
Jim Gibson: Hotel del Coronado
The High Society Jazz Band: Tio Leo's Lounge
Insight: Jimmy Love's
Keith Jacobsen: Ramada Inn
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 Giorni Restaurant
Masterpiece: Jimmy Love's
Kevin McCully: The Westgate Hotel
Jerry Melnick: The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe, Rancho Bernardo Inn
The Shep Meyers Trio: Croce's Jazz Bar
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
One Thousand Eyes: Buon Giorni Restaurant
Sue Palmer: Croce's Jazz Bar
Dan Papaila: The Lodge at Torrey Pines
Primo: Sevilla, Croce's Jazz Bar
The Prince of Piano: The Westgate Hotel
Rick Ross: La Valencia Hotel
Sambajazz: Cuvee Restaurant
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Friday, January 11

Leo Rising

LIVE MUSIC
Saturday, January 12

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Vintage Vegas: Martini's Above Fourth

Doug Walker: South Park Bar and Grill

Jason Weber: Humphrey's

Larry White: Jack's Restaurant

Willovealot: American Legion Post 310

Patrick Randall: Humphrey's

Yavez: Croce's Jazz Bar

Z-Bop: The Flying Bridge

Franco Z.: Tommy's Italian Restaurant

REGGAE / SKA

Earl Chinna Smith: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

Common Sense: Belly Up Tavern

Kiddus 1: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

Kindle to Ember: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

Kush and the Jah Blood Fiyah Angels: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

Israel Maldonado: Winstons

Psydecar: Winstons

Raiz Muzik: J.J. Lander's Irish Pub

Semisi and Fulabula: The Calypso Cafe

COUNTRY

The Band in Black: Hennessey's Tavern (PB)

The California Rangers: McCabe's Beach Club

The Deere Johns: The Casbah

Southbound Johnny: Renegade Inn

The Working Cowboy Band: Tio Leo's Lounge

ACOUSTIC / FOLK

Allied Gardens: Belly Up Tavern

Brett Bixby: Lestat's Coffee House

The Bleeding Irish: Hennessey's Tavern (Carlsbad), The Zombie Lounge

The Clachan Boys: Tom Giblin's Irish Pub and Restaurant, R. O'Sullivan's

The Clay Colton Band: R. O'Sullivan's

Christopher Dale: The Handlery Hotel and Resort

Trevor Davis: Belly Up Tavern

Delancey: Lestat's Coffee House

Escalera: The Calypso Cafe

Formerly Brothers: Lestat's Coffee House

Mike Gardner: Cheers, North Bar Sports and Spirits, Mas Fina Cantina

Gonzo Gonzales: Hotel del Coronado

The Grass Gypsies: The Handlery Hotel and Resort

Patty Hall: Borders Books and Music (Carmel Mountain)

Harmony Road: McP's Irish Pub and Grill

Johnson, Bosley, and Morin: Borders Books and Music (Chula Vista)

Greg Laswell: The Casbah

Brehon Law: Tom Giblin's Irish Pub and Restaurant

Lelia Lopez: Lestat's Coffee House

Manuok: The Casbah

Veronica May: Belly Up Tavern



>hometown CDs

BY OLLIE

Album: *Little Words* (2007)

Artist: Jenn Grinels

Label: self-released

Where available/price: At live shows (one for \$15, two for \$20); at M-Theory in Mission Hills and Lou's Records in Encinitas for \$12. Online at jenngrinels.com for \$15.

Songs: 1) Misery 2) I Know Your Heart 3) No Better 4) Closure 5) Crutch 6) Treason 7) Somewhere Between 8) Slingshot 9) Gray 10) Happy Birthday 11) Can't Stay Here

Band: Jenn Grinels (vocals, guitar), Dwayne Larring (guitar, bass), Richard Greene (violin), William Driskill (drums), Jesse Carmichael (drums), Ryant Tallent (piano)

Man, can Jenn Grinels sing! Her sultry voice

growls at the hot, slow parts in song one, "Misery," and it

rings out like gold in the quick-paced and heartfelt track three, "No Better." The album is all sweet acoustic tracks, and even in that simple form she makes each song interesting, using deft transitions between the highest and lowest notes of her considerable range.

The songwriting is pretty good, too. Grinels avoids the cliché trappings of her genre — acoustic love and breakup songs — and she embraces genuine, original lyrics without the smartypants overtones or anger of her indie-girl-group contemporaries. She is the real, talented epitome of today's best indie music.



Jenn Grinels

Grinels's music would be perfect to me if she had a little more indignation and animal aggression. With that, I think she could hang with Johnette Napolitano.

TO GET YOUR LOCAL CD REVIEWED, PLEASE MAIL

IT TO: Music Editor, Hometown CDs, San Diego *Reader*, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803

Jamie Michaels: Lestat's Coffee House

The Middle Earth Ensemble: The Calypso Cafe

Miles Joseph: Lestat's Coffee House

Mishka: House of Blues

Jeffrey Morin: Borders Books and Music (Carlsbad)

Thomas Ian Nicholas: Lestat's Coffee House

Korrie Paliotto: Borders Books and Music (Mission Valley)

Xavier Rudd: House of Blues

Jordan Shapiro: The Casbah

The Slater Sisters: Lestat's Coffee House

Jack Tempchin: The Calypso Cafe

Michael Tiernan: Belly Up Tavern

Chris Velan: Lestat's Coffee House

Steven Ybarra: Borders Books and Music (Carlsbad)

BLUES / SOUL

The Bankhead Press: The Gordon Biersch Brewery

The Bayou Brothers: Humphrey's

Big Mo: Patrick's II

Blue Four: Patrick's II

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Cool Fever: Island Sports and Spirits

Kyle Culkins: Patrick's II

Roy Gaines: Humphrey's

Gumboyaya: Coyote Bar and Grill

Robin Henkel: Chateau Orleans

Johnny "B" Blues: Coyote Bar and Grill

L.A. Jones: Patrick's II

Lady Dottie and the Diamonds: Henry's Pub, Tower Bar

Michele Lundeen and Blues Streak: Coyote Bar and Grill, Humphrey's

The Mississippi Mudsharks: Winstons

Modern Day Moonshine: Martini Ranch (Gaslamp), House of Blues

Jeff Moore and the Witchdoctors: Anthology

Laurie Morvan: Humphrey's

Mystery Train: O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub

Rod Piazza and the Mighty Flyers: Anthology

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BINOCULAR ENVY

by Josh Board

I heard about a jungle-themed party in National City. I put on a pair of khaki shorts and a jungle shirt that my mom gave me years ago. I'd worn it only once before. I borrowed a pair of binoculars and, outfit complete, headed out.

I thought I'd have the coolest gear, but when I walked in, I saw three people who were dressed just like me. Two with hats. I turned into a third-grader, though, thinking, *Ha! My binoculars are bigger than theirs. They'll have binocular envy.*

One guy was dressed in a gorilla outfit. I heard him say to someone, "My banana is wilting. Do you have stuff I can put in it?"

Half an hour later, I met an entire family in banana outfits.

It was a good environment for a party. Aside from all the costumes, there was a game room — pool table and a video game. There was a woman in a witch doctor outfit behind the bar fixing smoothies with a machine that she recently bought. As she made a strawberry-banana drink for me, I



Top right: Jim (middle); Bottom left: Jim next to the hot rod he built

asked her why the new machine was better than a blender. She raved about the shaved ice and how it doesn't just crush it. I told her that she should do a commercial for the thing.

The back yard was small, but it had a pool with skulls around it that had water coming out of

The name stood for "bass, guitar, and a little Tarzan thrown in."

The drummer had a baseball bat for a leg. "Is that your cos-

bass drum. "These guys made it for me, and I think it looks cool."

His name was Steve. He told me he'd developed a blood clot when he was 35. He was a professional skateboarder and a merchant marine. He told me that he still skates and about something interesting he does for extra cash: "I went to Victorville. The military pays amputees \$250 a day. They put us up in a hotel, plus expenses. They want their soldiers to be trained in realistic situations. I

"Don't tell her, but she just lost a buck on this sale."

them. It had a slide and a ledge that kids were jumping from.

I saw a table with Batarzan shirts for \$5. I asked what Batarzan was. I was told it was the band that was going to play.

tume?" I asked him. "Uh, no. I only have one leg."

I would've felt bad asking that, but he chose to use a Louisville Slugger for a leg. I asked if that helped him play the

worked with some Iraqi Americans. They wanted them to work through a translator. One of the things they had me do...I was in a Cadillac near a house. It blew up. We were told to roll out of the car and scream. They had my leg all made up. They had asked if they could do an IV on me. I said sure. This was my first day there. Well, they forgot to cut it off and someone had forgotten about me. All this blood was draining out of me into the bag. They finally came over and put it back in. Usually, though, it's fun work. Victorville isn't the best place. But I lay on a cot, taking a nap. I just worked an hour at the Air Force base out there. Four days total. It was easy money."

As he finished the story, a woman came over and handed him a folded-up diaper. A few people laughed. I had no idea what that was about.

There were a few other skateboarders I talked to. One has a board deal with Creature. Another mentioned a shoe deal with a company called Vox. I found out that a guy named Neil, who I did a cover story on for the

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Crasher

Reader, was released from prison. He was charged, along with his wife, in the death of their son. They told me his wife was still in prison.

I enjoyed talking with the musicians. There were a few guys from the band Creepy Creeps. We talked about the local music scene and a few people we knew.

There were a lot of punk and rockabilly records being played, and when one hardcore song came on, Jim's wife said, "Can you play some nicer music?" She mentioned that someone's parents were at the party.

I asked Jim about the machine I saw in his garage. He told me it's for silk-screening shirts, which explains how they could sell the Batarzan T's for only \$5. I bought one. He said, "My daughter said she'd sell them if I gave her a cut. But, she's over in the swimming pool, so don't tell her, but she just lost a buck on this sale."

I'd seen an old hot rod on the front lawn and asked Jim about it. It was a car he's rebuilding. We talked about old cars. I told him I just bought a '69 Jag, and he said I was crazy and told me that Jags have a lot of electrical problems. He said, "At least you won't have to smog it." I asked if he built the elaborate pool slide and back-yard set. He did.

I went to get food from the kitchen and saw a caveman's club on the table. I remembered seeing a caveman earlier, but I couldn't resist. I picked it up and said to Steve, "Is this one of your legs?" Luckily, he has a sense of humor about his leg.

A few people started talking about medical conditions. Someone mentioned that he'd had two brain tumors that were removed through his sinus cavity. Another guy said his grandmother had a tumor and that they had to take her eyeball out to remove the tumor. I said, "You guys are making it hard for me to enjoy these celery sticks."

A band started playing, and it was difficult to hear people talk. I asked Jim if the neighbors ever called the cops. He said that the police don't show up unless it's after 11:30 p.m. It was still late afternoon.

One guy walked in and said, "All right, I'm here. Let's get drunk now."

I heard someone ask Jim's wife if she'd lost a bone. I saw she was wearing a string of them around her neck as well as bone earrings. I overheard someone ask Jim about his chimp suit. When I asked him what that was about, he said, "When we perform, I wear a chimp suit.... My songs are sung through the eyes of a chimp." I stayed to see them play a few songs before heading out.

As I left, I walked by a five-year-old in a cat costume and the guy in the caveman outfit. He was complaining about how hot he was. His wife said, "You should've thought about that before you wore all that fur."

I debated whether I should lie and end the story by saying he clubbed her over the head for nagging him. ■

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Blared and Brayed and Tweaked

Two of the year's best performances crept up on no one.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW: PLAYS AND PRODUCTIONS. Last year, several shows arrived ballyhoo-first. Pre-opening-night accolades promised "Broadway bound" quality and SRO houses both here and in New York. Some of them, however, were a letdown, like the La Jolla Playhouse's *Cry-Baby*, which promised John Waters's critique of all things apple pie but gave us Donnie and Marie in Dixie Peach pomade. Others were a fright: the Playhouse's *Carmen* blared and brayed and tweaked every moment: Cirque du Overthetop. Both productions did commercial takes on their material. Do they signal a trend at the Playhouse, erstwhile showcase of Peter Sellars and Robert Woodruff?

As disturbing was the Old Globe's watered-down *Measure for Measure*. You could hear director Paul Mullins thinking, "Problem play? No prob." He cookie-cut the script as a comedy, paring away (sometimes mocking) anything that threatened a tidy, crowd-pleaser ending. This was Shakespeare for people who don't like Shakespeare.

Some of 2007's most memorable shows began quietly, even humbly, then crept up on you.

Cygnnet Theatre opened 2007 with Dael Orlandersmith's haunting *Yellowman*, which takes a dream-destroying look at "internal racism" among African Americans. Monique Gaffney and Mark Broadnax played "dark-skinned"

Alma and "high yellow" Eugene (and several others) in a slow dance of separation, as prejudices tore them apart.

The production's nonverbal theatricality was so eloquent it was as if the playwright attended every rehearsal, encouraging the actors to stress subtexts and key moments with revealing gestures and movements. Truth is: except for a single line about a bare stage and two chairs that should sit far apart, the script has no stage directions. On the page it's mostly monologues. Director Esther Emery and her cast and crew *invented* everything between the lines and crafted one of 2007's most creative, moving productions.

Another surprise: Harvey Fierstein's *Catered Affair*, at the Old Globe, came with the "Broadway bound" fanfare of a new musical. But instead of revving up the audience with a hot opening number, several women entered, casually singing "la...la..." as if warming up. It felt like being backstage, behind the scenes of



Yellowman

a musical, and, it turned out, that's what Fierstein had in mind.

A "play with music," and not a musical, *Catered* avoided externals (it's almost as minimalist as *Our Town*) and dove deep into the lives of a lower-middle-class Bronx family. A simple "I do" unpacked decades of repressed feelings — repressed 1950s feelings at that. At first the premise looked unpromising. But the production relentlessly grounded itself in emotional truth, and the results were as wonderful as unexpected. Someone called it "Arthur Miller set to music."

Last year saw some fine directorial work: Esther Emery for *Yellowman* and *Communicating Doors* at Cygnnet; Kristianne Kurner's buoyant *Sailor's Song* at New Village Arts; Frank Galati's *after the quake* and Dominique Serand's *Deception* at La Jolla Playhouse. But John Doyle's direction of *Catered* stands as foremost among equals. His behind-the-scenes approach turned the musical genre inside out.

He built many scenes with silence (even *fought* for them, it sometimes felt, against the audience's wishes). The most unforgettable: Faith Prince's Aggie, the mother slowly com-



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A Catered Affair

ing apart, reaches the condition Wordsworth wrote about, where thoughts lie "too deep for tears." What does she do? Nothing. She just sits, unable to proceed. In effect, Doyle devised a literal show-stopper: absolute silence. Finally, when Aggie can, she rises, crosses the stage, and walks up a fire escape. She just needed that time alone. There

was nothing she, or we, could do to help her along. In these days of antsy, frame-by-frame stage business, Doyle took a huge risk in doing nothing — and fashioned the most eloquent theatrical moment in 2007.

Catered will open in New York sometime this year. Most oddsmakers don't give the unsplashy, nondeliberately

ingratiating production much of a chance. Well, if it doesn't enjoy a healthy run, I for one will think less of Broadway.

The show that *really* snuck up on people was New Village Arts's *Sailor's Song*. As written, John Patrick Shanley's comedy-drama, about making fundamental choices, does your thinking for you ("just do it," his characters urge Rich, the commitment-fearing protagonist, as if in an extended Nike commercial). But the staging, directed by Kristianne Kurner and choreographed by Robin Krist, often leapt in an instant from pale, pimply old reality to the wisp and fluidity of dreams.

The music ranged from Strauss's "Blue Danube" to Otis Redding's "Try a Little Tenderness" (the latter for a Dance of Death). Somehow, Manny Fernandes, who played Rich, rowed a boat across the stage and then, as if to show off, did some fancy spins and curlicues — without effort; even, it seemed, without gimmicks. Magic.

New Village Arts is reprising *Sailor's Song* in August. More good news: last year, San Diego Black Ensemble Theatre and Cygnet Theatre offered possibly the most popular series of staged readings in local theater history: The August Wilson Cycle. Several times, the off-night series had to turn away patrons — for a staged *reading*, mind you, without set, props, or cos-

tumes. Wilson's words have that much appeal.

One of last year's reads, *Fences*, will receive a full production at Cygnet beginning January 26. The companies recently announced they'll continue the series in 2008 with Wilson's *Jitney*, *Two Trains Running*, *King Hedley II*, and *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*.

Two of the year's best performances crept up on no one. And in both cases the actors avoided what may be the biggest trap of all: clue the audience that, while your character may be an elitist snob, or a mean-spirited drunk, or a reek of evil, you, the cuddly, lovable, wondrous human being playing the role, are certainly none of these things.

When they walked onstage in *W;t* at the North Coast Rep, and in *St. Nicholas* at Cygnet, Rosina Reynolds and Ron Choularton left all traces of themselves in the wings. Reynolds played a rigid, control-freak scholar, dying of cancer, and Choularton a blood-sucking theater critic, who cavorts with vampires, unforgettably. ■



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Calendar THEATER

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.

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, THROUGH JANUARY 20; WEDNESDAY AND SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 619-544-1000.

Feminine Ending

South Coast Repertory Theatre stages the West Coast premiere of Sarah Treem's comedy about "the choices of a talented woman." Timothy Douglas directed.

SOUTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, JULIANNE ARGYROS STAGE, 655 TOWN CENTRE DRIVE, COSTA MESA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, THROUGH JANUARY 27; TUESDAY THROUGH SUNDAY AT 7:45 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 2:30 P.M. 714-708-5555.

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, SIMON EDISON CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, BALBOA PARK, THURSDAY, 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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National Comedy Theatre

Improvisational comedy, making up funny stuff on the spot, is diffi-



Joey and Maria's Comedy Italian Wedding

cult enough. Years ago, however, Keith Johnstone thought it'd be more exciting if gone competitively. He got the idea from pro wrestling ("where Terrible Turks mangled defrocked priests while grannies waved their handbags"). National Comedy Theatre, an off-

shoot of Johnstone's TheatreSports (artistic director Gary Kramer says the two compare like "rugby and American football"), resembles an athletic event more than an improve. Teams wear uniforms and compete on ActroTurf. Using suggestions from the audi-

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108 San Diego Reader January 10, 2008

ence, they play “Emotional Sympathy,” “Blind Line,” and “Freeze Tag,” with judges awarding points to the best scenes. Klunkers and groaners get booed; quick wit rewarded (one of the most refreshing parts of the contest: people acknowledge failure, abundantly, then forget it). It makes for a lively, often funny evening. And Gary Kramer is one talented comedian.

Worth a try.

MARQUIS THEATER, 3717 INDIA STREET. MISSION HILLS, OPEN-ENDED RUN; FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 7:30 P.M. AND 9:45 P.M. 619-295-4999.

San Diego Theatresports: The Funhouse

A cross between improvisational comedy and *Family Feud*, The Funhouse combines improv with competitive scene-making, with the audience awarding points to the winning team. Purists might balk at the odiousness of comparisons used in this format, but the “game show,” on Fridays, is a kick. The 90-minute evening offers different bits. The winner gets a banana, the loser a “forfeit.” Some attempts went nowhere (improv is tough: I did it in my, as hindsight reveals, callow youth). Others made amazing twists and turns. The group has more hits than misses, and their guru, Keith Johnstone, wrote one of the very best books I’ve read about making theater. They put his pearls to good use. Their motto: “Remember, when it’s not funny, it’s art.”

Worth a try.

THE FUNHOUSE 6822 EL CAJON BOULEVARD (BETWEEN 68TH AND 69TH), COLLEGE AREA. FRIDAY AT 7:45 P.M. SATURDAY AT 7:45 P.M. AND 9:45 P.M. 619-465-7469.



In This Corner

String of Pearls

North Coast Repertory Theatre stages Michele Lowe’s exploration of the effects that a single string of pearls has on an array of women. Karen Carpenter directed. NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987D LOMAS SANTA FE DRIVE, SOLANA BEACH, SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, THROUGH FEBRUARY 10; THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 7:00 P.M. MATINEE SUNDAY AT 2:00 P.M. 858-481-1055.

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Hugh Butternut’s done his lounge act at the Triple Espresso Coffeehouse 20 years to the day. While

patrons sip a house blend — “Grape,” “Scandinavian Blizzard,” or “Mokoko Cocoa Mocha” — Hugh plays ’70s tunes on the pi-

ano. He and his companions, here to celebrate Hugh’s anniversary, got stuck in the ’70s. The trio used to be Maxwell, Butternutt, and

Bean, a comedy group that never went far. They’re “losers,” they admit, but not “ordinary” ones. And hey, their reunion could help them

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face searing issues from their mediocre pasts. The story line’s straight from *Forever Plaid*. There’s also the *Forever Plaid* problem: the three comedians are far too talented to play inept characters. One’s a whiz at the piano. Another’s a first-rate mime, and the third’s a crackerjack magician. The trio’s so talented, when the plot has them complain of difficulties to overcome, you wish they’d quit trumping up the pseudo-drama and get on with this highly entertaining, if lightweight show.

Worth a try.

HORTON GRAND THEATRE, 444 FOURTH AVENUE, GASLAMP QUARTER, THROUGH FEBRUARY 17; THURSDAY AT 7:30 P.M. FRIDAY AT 8:00 P.M. SATURDAY AT 5:00 P.M. AND 8:00 P.M. SUNDAY AT 3:00 P.M. AND 7:00 P.M. 619-234-9583.

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Starlight Musical Theatre

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ROBERT WENT DUBAC'S

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This is how far we've come: An affordable new neighborhood eatery, warm and pretty but unpretentious, serving humanely raised natural Niman meats, precious Jidori chicken, local organic veggies in thoroughly tasty simple dishes — am I back in San Francisco, or have I landed in Hog Heaven?

Ritual Tavern is closely linked to the nearby Linkery, that staunch purveyor of ethical food culture a few blocks south. Mike Flores, who owns Ritual with his wife Staci Wilkins, is a Linkery "graduate," and so is chef Glenn Farrington. They've carried their culinary idealism across University Avenue to the north side of 30th Street, to the site of a former Greek-Mexican eatery called Mallo's.

The space has been thoroughly renovated to look like an Old World pub. One room of the Ritual houses an attractive bar. Next to it — but happily separate, in case the bar gets noisy, as bars may do — is an attractive, public dining room with a bare floor, a dark green wall or two, dark-stained wooden accents, and well-spaced tables topped with white cloths. Soft, spacey rock was playing on the sound system when I arrived; later, it was replaced by bebop, still played softly. The staff believe that conversation is an integral part of a civilized dinner. Ah, Grownupville.

I ate there during the week between Christmas and New Year's, when the populations of San Diego and the Midwest switch places, so I couldn't bring my usual horde of hungry Vikings; all were scattered to the freezing regions to visit various Aged P's or grown children. Happily, my friend Marciela was still in town and looking for (culinary) adventure. As a duo we couldn't eat our way through the menu, but what we did eat told us we'd hit a winner on every front: food, atmosphere, comfort, price. The menu is short and looks deceptively simple, but what emerges is pleasure on a plate.

We began with a round of house onion rings, with an airy batter leavened by Ballast Point pale ale. The rings came with a remoulade dip — not mustardy-hot green New Orleans remoulade, but pink, mild, and rich. The same light batter robes a vegetable assortment and a shrimp appetizer if you fancy more fried food. We had to try the scampi (haven't had *that* for ages). Tender, sweet Gulf of Mexico shrimp floated in a dark, lemony broth, with toasted ciabatta from Sadie Rose Bakery along-



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE KLEIN

side for dipping. Marci and I tried to guess what the mysterious undertones were: Worcestershire, or maybe Thai fish sauce. Neither one, the chef told me later: "It's just the classic scampi recipe, with shallots, garlic, sherry, olive oil, and butter." It tasted better and richer than that.

Entrée possibilities include a burger and fries (with house-made ketchup, sweetened with cane sugar instead of evil high-fructose corn syrup), catfish and chips, pan-fried Jidori chicken breast with pineapple glaze, and a tempting shepherd's pie with a load of veggies that includes green beans and sweet, seductive parsnips. (There are vegan versions of several of these choices.) There are one or two specials every night as well.

I couldn't pass up the temptation to try "Saddlebrush Gumbo," so named because the chef is a Long Island Yankee cooking a Southern dish (see "About the Chef" for details). As y'all probably know, I'm a strict constructionist when it comes to Creole or Cajun gumbo and can get testy about ersatz renditions — but this is not a Louisiana gumbo at all. To start, instead of the "Cajun trinity" of green peppers, celery, and onions, the chef uses carrots — carrots in gumbo! Second, it isn't

really a soup, more a thick étouffée ("smothered" dish). Then, too, there's neither okra nor filé in it.

But gumbo isn't restricted to Louisiana — it's common throughout the South, from the Carolinas to Texas, with a number of regional variations.

When I spoke to the chef, I asked what color he made his roux, to get a hint of what he was doing with the dish and where it might have come from: It's a golden roux, he told me, made with bacon fat and flour, lighter in color than Louisiana's typical range of peanut butter to mahogany. That alone points to origins in Alabama, or more likely Florida. The carrots? Here's my theory: Florida's zillions of retired New Yorkers (including many of my relatives) have never eaten okra in their lives — but carrots they know and love. So perhaps this recipe stems from the southeast Florida culinary region that runs from Century Village (where an alligator once slithered out of a canal and ate somebody's grandson) to South Miami Beach. Jewish Mother Gumbo, maybe?

By any name, it's wonderfully good eating — a thick, full-flavored sauce robing Mexican shrimp, Niman's semi-spicy andouille sausage, and rea-

REVIEW NAOMI WISE

The Ritual Tavern ★★★ (Very Good)

4095 30th Street (north of University Avenue), North Park, 619-283-1618, ritualtavern.com.

HOURS: Tuesday–Sunday, 5:30–11:20 p.m.
PRICES: Appetizers, \$5–\$11; mains, \$11–\$20; desserts, \$3–\$7

CUISINE AND BEVERAGES: Classic pub grub plus more exotic ventures, all made with humanely raised Niman meats, Jidori chicken, locally grown organic vegetables. Vast list of local and international artisan beers; a dozen affordable international wines, nearly all available by the glass. Soft drinks include Mexican Coca-Cola (made with cane sugar, not corn syrup).

PICK HITS: Shrimp scampi; beer-battered onion rings, veggies, or shrimp; "Saddlebrush" gumbo; lamb sirloin; nightly specials; bread pudding. Also good bets: shepherd's pie, Stone Smoked Porter shake.

NEED TO KNOW: Small parking lot behind restaurant. Cozy, conversational atmosphere. Several vegan and gluten-free menu items.

Ratings reflect the reviewer's reaction to food, ambience, and service, with price taken into consideration. Menu listings and prices are subject to change.

Go to SanDiegoReader.com to find hundreds of past reviews.

sonably tender Jidori chicken breast, with a delicious, wholesome backbeat from organic long-grain wild rice, instead of the sticky white stuff.

The highest-priced item (\$20) is a lamb sirloin with a rosemary-Port reduction sauce. It arrived cooked to a perfect medium-rare and came with "potato goat cheese dumplings" (that is, gourmet Tater Tots) and fresh, simple spinach from Crow's Pass Farms in Temecula. Marci and I agreed: It's a charming dish we'd gladly cook for ourselves if only we could get this quality of lamb at our local Vons (fat chance).

Most of the dishes are designed to go well with the awesome beer list. There are only a dozen-odd wines (the short list of whites could use some bolstering), and they change frequently, but the sweet

Fabulous tapas menu!



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★★★★1/2 – Very
 Good to Excellent"
 – Naomi Wise,
 San Diego Reader, 12/13/07

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 San Diego Reader, 12/27/07

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For dessert, we were tempted by the artisan cheese board but, feeling full, succumbed instead to the house bread pudding. It's soft, sturdy, and flavorful, loaded with raisins and glazed with a sugar syrup dusted with mace and nutmeg. You can get it topped with all-natural gelato if you like. (Minus gelato, any leftovers make a grand breakfast.) Beer lovers may want to try the outrageous-sounding Stone Smoked Porter Shake — an ice-cream "soda" of vanilla gelato in dark beer. The Caffè Calabria organic French-press coffee is rich and fine, including the decaf.

Googling the Ritual, I encountered one review that remarked that the place seemed less ambitious than the nearby and somewhat similar Jayne's Gastropub (a younger, scener, excruciatingly louder take on a British "local"). In some ways, that's true — Jayne's ventures

more widely into international dishes, especially in its appetizers, whereas Ritual's more limited, concentrated menu cleaves closer to updates of old-style pub grub. But talking over the comparison, Marci and I decided that Ritual's ambitions are simply different, and higher in some ways: They have more to do with consistent quality and careful cooking than the length or breadth of the menu. Having eaten at both, we enjoyed Ritual's food better, and trusted the chef more. (And we certainly preferred the quiet ambience that let us gossip to our heart's content.) If you live nearby and prefer an atmosphere that favors civilized discourse over a perpetual party vibe, this cozy tavern could easily become your hang-out — your new weekly ritual.

ABOUT THE CHEF

The story is familiar: Chef Glenn Farrington came from a family with many generations of food pros behind him — his great-grandmother was a private chef

at an estate on Long Island's deluxe North Shore, and his ancestors in Ireland had often done the same (though in those days they were called "cooks"). As a teenager, he started out dish-washing in a neighborhood eatery and realized swiftly that restaurants were his natural environment.

He moved to San Diego 14 years ago. "The North Shore of Long Island wasn't working for me. It's remote from everything, and I just couldn't see staying there and buying a house I couldn't afford and having a bunch of kiddies to drive me crazy," he says. "So I moved to Mission Beach, became a surfer, and lost my Long Island drawl." He worked many front-of-the-house jobs at local restaurants, including Cafe Westgate and Trattoria Acqua, and gradually slipped into cooking, paying attention to what he saw in

restaurant kitchens and learning from watching television cooking shows. "I was married for a few years and was a house-husband pretty much, and that's how I learned to pay attention to a lot of shows and hone a lot of my things at home. Then I was working in the kitchen at Cafe 222 when I met Jay [owner of the Linkery], and he asked me to come to the Linkery. I couldn't say no." When Linkery co-worker Mike Flores opened Ritual three months ago, moving there was a natural next step.

I asked him about the Saddlebrush Gumbo — where did he get the name? "The term dates back to the Civil War," Farrington said. "People who were originally from north of the Mason-Dixon Line moved back north when the Civil War started, and then, after the war ended, it was safe to come back

down south. The Yankees who moved back were called 'saddlebrush.' I adapted this name because, the week we opened, there was an online review saying how it was a shame there were carrots in the gumbo. Another comment said, 'Yeah, must've been a Yankee!' So, being from New York — a true Yankee — I had to call it Saddlebrush. A customer who was eating it here told me the term and suggested the name. I had a great-great-grandfather who was a general for the South, so it only seemed fitting.

"I did a lot of research on gumbo, because I've always understood gumbo to be real serious business. You've got to do it right or don't do it at all. And I found a lot of recipes with carrots. The authentic gumbo recipes — 150 different recipes — all varied. They all had some kind of roux, most

had some kind of pork, chicken, seafood. So we decided to use andouille, Jidori chicken, and Gulf of Mexico shrimp, 'cause if you were from Louisiana, that's the kind of shrimp you'd get. And when I tried the carrots in it, we had some people from Louisiana, real hard-line, tasting it, and they said, 'Don't change a thing.'

"My food philosophy is for us to use the best ingredients we can possibly find — especially with produce. It's really key to have extremely fresh produce and as much organic as we can muster. We get our meats shipped from Niman through a meat jobber in L.A. We're really strong believers in no hormones, etc. — as ethical in the animal-rearing processes as possible. It does cost more, but we manage — we don't want to compromise the integrity of our mission." ■

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GINZA SUSHI

Organic Heaven

It's just a damned sandwich, but the taste has me thinking like a wine connoisseur.

Gotta be careful here. To say something's the best. But...oh, to heck with it. This is the *best freakin' sandwich* I can remember munching, okay? It's enough to make a vegan out of me.

I'm in Silver Strand Plaza, where I.B. begins. Imperial Beach. Actually, I'm in a health-supplement store. Seacoast Vitamins and Herbs. Chaldean-Mexican-American family runs it. Well, the two daughters do. Frances, who's, like, 22, runs the store, and Vanessa — she's 26 — started up this organic cafe inside the store last fall. And that's where I'm sitting, at one of the tables by the kitchen, facing a green bowl of lumpy golden soup and a plate with this hunk of vegan paradise on it, this bi-ig focaccia sandwich, loaded, beautiful to look at.

"You eat with your eyes first!" Vanessa said when she brought it over to me.

So true. The sandwich is cut diagonally, so you can see the archeological strata of everything they put in there. The creamy green of the wasabi mayo, strewn with parsley, the green lettuce, the white and green sprouts, the red slash of sun-dried tomatoes, the cream of mashed butternut squash, the purple-brown of the layer of roasted eggplant, oozing gold of caramelized sautéed onions, and more green wasabi mayo. You hate to wreck the thing, but man. What a taste! Truly, since it's vegan, I was expecting blah-on-blah, cardboard. Only reason I asked for this "Baby Greens" vegan sandwich (\$8.99) in the first place was to be spartan, one of the boys, seeing how this was a health store and all. Even though they have meat here too, like the "Chicago Way," roast beef with horseradish, and turkey (both, \$8.99), and some pretty in-

teresting salads (like the \$9.99 lime-and-cilantro chicken salad, and the strawberry-and-spinach, \$8.99). There are even some delish-sounding vegetarian paninis I could have gone for, like the "Appallonia," with grilled apples, vegan "bacon" (or real bacon, if you want), cheddar, and red-onion mayo (\$7.99).

But no. Martyr complex, I guess. So I ordered this "Baby Greens," the most gutless-sounding sandwich of all.

Ha!

The first taste of the garlic and the eggplant and the tomatoes and onions and squash...mixed with the focaccia...I can't tell you. I'm so surprised, I can hardly swallow. Sandy, lady at the table next door, sees my expression and asks, "You okay?"

"Uh, yes." I mean, not to go over the top. It's just a damned sandwich, but the taste has me thinking like a wine connoisseur. The textures, the marriage of rich and delicate flavors, the nice touch of caramelizing, the grippy, the slidey. Bold, earthy... For Vanessa, and for uncardboard-like vegan food, this looks like a very good year. To be really true to the wine-tasting comparison, I'd have to spit it out. But hey, no way.

Sandy's sipping the soup of the day, potato and leek (\$3.99). In a crazy moment, I order that too. It's a thick, tongue-caressing spuddyleeky treat. Lots of other stuff in there, carrots, celery, garlic. Can taste bay leaf and white wine. Imagine! Here, surrounded by vitamin pills, we're into gourmet.

Turns out Vanessa has been a precocious foodie since forever. She had to wait till she was 12 before her dad let her start making sandwiches in their liquor store-deli in Lakeside. "I experimented on the customers all the time,"

she says. Finally, her mom Gladys (who's bustling around the place too) and dad sent her to Italy, to the Leonardo da Vinci Culinary Academy in Florence. Cordon Bleu. "Everybody ate rich, but good, organic foods over there," Vanessa says, "yet they stayed thin. It's because they carry things, they walk everywhere! We've got a long way to go here."

Many of the cafe's customers have problems, like diabetes, liver problems, gluten intolerance, and Vanessa cooks to accommodate them all.

I ask her how come this sandwich is so tasty. She says she tries to buy seasonally, local, organic. "But there are rules," she says. "You eat with your eyes first," she says. "That's important. A sandwich has got to have colors. And height. Lots of stuff inside. The bread: Got to be interesting. And above all, a sandwich must have flavor. Vegan doesn't have to be tasteless! And, God first. I pray over every dish I make. 'He' makes them."

Then she's back in the kitchen. I look around. It's bright out here. The walls are sky-blue, light green, and gold, and a black marble counter angles across the back corner. There's some pretty good art on the back wall, by a local artist.

But the thing I notice most is how when people come in, they kind of let out a big breath. They take things off. They sit down, like this is where they can let it all hang out. Sanctuary. Like Teresa, who's diabetic. She sits at the table next to mine and also orders the soup. She says Frances has saved her with the liver detox supplements she's given her.

We're all talking. And damn. If I'd held back on the soup, I would've had enough change to



Vanessa

try one of the organic apple strudels (\$2.99) or the chocolate brownies, vegan, zero-gluten.

I pay up. "So where's your dad?" I ask Vanessa.

"Iraq," she says. "He's Iraqi Chaldean. He's over there doing intelligence work. He's been there four, five years. But when he comes back, he'll be pretty proud when he sees what Frances and I have done with this cafe." ■

The Place: Olive Oil Organic Cafe, 600 Palm Avenue, Suite 109, in Silver Strand Plaza, Imperial Beach, 619-429-1779

Type of Food: Deli sandwiches

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No Perfect Closure

"Mr. and Mrs. Average Consumer still perceive cork to be associated with more premium wines."

Most of the cork industry is essentially in denial," says Michael Friedman, CEO for Oneo Closures North America. "It's done a few things to try to resolve the issues but never really approached it from a truly scientific point of view. They've simply said, 'We've been doing it this way for years; let's just do it better.'"

The issue, of course, is TCA: trichloroanisole, the compound responsible for producing corked wines. At worst, a corked wine will smell a lot like wet cardboard. At best, it may simply flatten a wine's flavor profile — mute it, muddy it. Either way, the wine business loses. "We've run some consumer research," says Friedman, "and one of the things we've found is that some consumers don't really know what a flawed wine tastes like. When they taste TCA, they don't know it's TCA; they just know they don't like it. They'll think, 'I got a bad bottle,' or 'This is oxidized,' or 'I don't like this sort of wine.' Then they close the bottle and never come back. You may have even lost a consumer for wine in general."

My trusty *Oxford Companion to Wine* notes that "the problem of corkiness was perceived by the wine industry to have increased during the 1980s, at the end of which estimates of the proportion of corked wine bottles varied from less

than two percent to more than five percent of the total." (And these days, you can find voices in the industry that will go as high as nine percent.) The tentative tone of "was perceived...to have increased" is understandable. Did corkiness rise, or did the wine community just get more savvy? And if corkiness did rise in the '80s, why then?

Crush

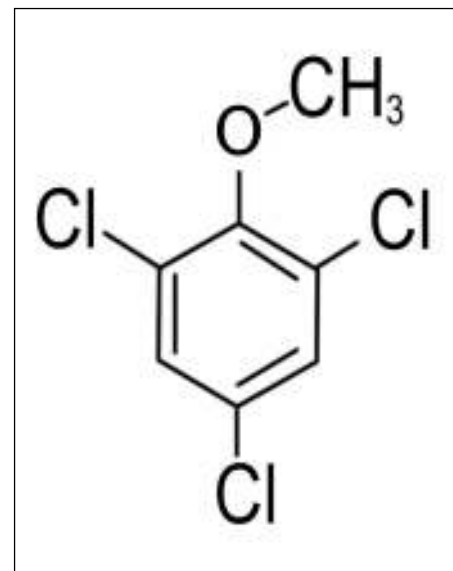
MATTHEW LICKONA

Friedman was around in those days, working in the corporate wine world, and he is similarly hesitant to pronounce on the matter. "I've done a lot of reading about this, and it's very hard for me to get an absolute answer. The history says that it's always been around, and I've got to believe that it has. Chlorine is a naturally occurring thing," and chlorine is one of the things that makes TCA possible. Briefly: chlorine reacts with phenolics in the cork to form trichlorophenol. Trichlorophenol then gets converted to chloroanisoles by molds growing on the cork, and there you have it.

"So get rid of the mold," you reply. "Disinfect the cork." Which is exactly what the cork industry thought, decades ago. "In the '60s and '70s and '80s," explains Friedman, "people used chlorine to sterilize corks and cork equipment. Which is, of course, the last thing you want to use. I'll speculate and say that the use of chlo-

rine was probably something that accelerated the prominence of TCA and may have actually increased the levels." Still, he says, "I think there are a lot of different faults, different causes for the increased predominance of TCA." (For one thing, cork producers weren't the only ones misguidedly using chlorine as a cleaner. Says Friedman, "There are wineries that have been literally rebuilt because the beams and floors were affected by TCA.")

Again, Friedman is hesitant to judge, but he is willing to make a few observations. The first has to do with quality control in the cork industry. "Way back in the mid-'80s, I used to work for a very high-volume, very low-end sparkling wine producer. We made a decision to switch from plastic stoppers to natural cork — we're talking a few hundred million corks, which is a fairly significant impact on the market — and we were told, 'No problem, no big deal.' All of a sudden, when we entered the marketplace, the price of cork went up. That said to me, 'Uh-oh, we've got a tight supply. There's a fine balance between supply and demand for cork.' Since then, I've heard from all the people in the traditional cork industry, saying, 'No, it's not a function of us supplying a lower grade of cork just to keep up with demand.' " (A lower grade of cork, it might be supposed, would be more likely to contain fissures and crevices, places for moisture to collect and mold to grow.) "I don't know the real answer, but it certainly looks like the wine industry's demand for cork-finished wines grew at a pace that was faster than the cork industry's ability to react with a high-quality product. And the kind of industrial control that would be associated with that may have fallen by the wayside for a period of time. That certainly looks to be a plausible



TCA, the compound that produces corked wines

explanation."

That brings us to the cork producers' decision to "simply do the same thing better." The cork industry, says Friedman, is now pitching "industrial control. That means following a product from its raw material all the way through production. Every single plank of cork bark is coded and followed all the way through the process. If they get a TCA-laden cork at the end of the process, they can trace it back. Their response was controlling the source, controlling the processing, making sure the cork was cleaned correctly." "Correctly" first meant using hydrogen peroxide instead of chlorine. Then, "in the late '80s/early '90s, a steam process was in-

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vented. It had somewhere between 60 and 80 percent efficiency in removing TCA from cork. That's relatively effective, but we think it should be 100 percent."

Here, the progressive wine-drinker will likely pipe up and say, "You know what's 100 percent TCA-free? A screw cap. Or, for that matter, a plastic cork." Oneo makes its own line of screw caps — though not for wines sold in the U.S. — so Friedman would probably grant the point. But he isn't ready to cede the argument. "We just think that, long term, it's not the right solution. First of all, it's not a renewable resource. Second, there's an environmental issue — mining boxite to make aluminum is hardly environmentally friendly."

Third, there's the question of aging. "Oxygen is both your enemy and your friend in the wine business. Over a long period of time, oxygen can destroy a wine. But the right amount of oxygen over the right amount of time is your friend. That's a major part of the aging process. If you talk to the aluminum screw cap manufacturers, you'll find that they have a problem — screw caps are a perfect closure. Mechanically, they shut down the bottle. It's a great closure if the wine is going to be consumed within, say, 12 to 18 months, and you're not worried about allowing long-term exposure to oxygen."

But if you want to go longer, things are less perfectly predictable. Right now, says Friedman, "Reductive issues are the big buzzword in the world of screw caps. A wine that's perfectly sealed under a screw cap over a period of time actually goes anaerobic. You end up with what people call a reductive character, a sort of rubbery, almost flinty character. It's temporary, and it blows off fairly quickly, but screw cap producers are working hard to find a liner that enables a small amount of oxygen permeation" — the way cork does. So far, "They have one liner that allows for some permeation, but the problem is, it's uncontrollable."

Finally, there's the image thing. Friedman is happy to admit that "there are people who are highly aware of wine, who are involved and are familiar with the benefits of screw caps and the place of plastic corks. But for the most part, Mr. and Mrs. Average Consumer still perceive cork to be associated with more premium wines. There are maybe six or seven studies that pretty much confirm that consumers still prefer cork. We all understand the problem," he says, his marketer's instincts warming to the subject, "and we all understand that the only solution is ultimately going to be to fix the problem with cork instead of with alternate closures. Plastic doesn't work; screw caps are imperfect. Cork is a great

product, and it works well when we process it right."

How to process it right? The answer next week. ■

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 700 reviews. A complete searchable list is available online at SanDiegoReader.com. Price estimates are based on the latest information available for a midrange entrée. Inexpensive below 10; moderate: 10 to 19; expensive: more than 25. Please call restaurants in advance for reservations.

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 pico de gallo sauce and cheese, "run over" between two pieces of sourdough) or the Aussie Burger (1/2-pound patty, with a fried egg, cheese,

bacon, grilled onions, beets, pineapple, and a side of steak fries). And for an "outback experience," order up Vegemite (a beefy kinda paste) and four slices of bread — it's the Aussie national food, mate. Lunch and dinner weekdays, three meals weekends. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Donovan's Steak and Chop House 4340 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla, 858-450-6666. At this excellent traditional steakhouse, the menu includes a variety of appetizers, among them a cocktail of giant shrimp with a spicy, tomatoey sauce and a large,

lightly sautéed crab cake with house-made tartar sauce. The wet-aged prime beefsteaks are seasoned with sea salt and pepper and cooked on a gas grill precisely to your order. Bleu cheese, bearnaise, and peppercorn sauces are available at extra charge. Non-beef entrées include fish, seafood, veal chop, pork chop, or a delicate Australian rack of lamb. Unlike many steakhouses where your money buys only the meat, entrées are served with vegetables and potato. Additional à la carte sides include creamed spinach and sautéed mushrooms. Among the house-made

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desserts the highlights are a light, creamy cheesecake with fresh strawberry sauce and a traditional creme brûlée. The service is attentive, friendly, and knowledgeable, in a masculine setting with dark wood-paneling, dim lighting, and only a moderate noise level. Cigar room off the bar. Open Monday through Saturday. Very expensive. — *N.W.*

George's at the Cove 1250 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-454-4244. With a new name and renovated for an even better ocean view, the former George's at the Cove continues to serve Chef Trey Foshee's ambitious, healthful California cuisine based on prime, seasonal ingredients and emphasizing sustainable wild seafood, local produce, naturally raised meats and poultry. The cooking style is a little lighter now, good for carb-counters, with only small amounts of starch on the entrées. The award-winning wine list offers few bottles under \$50, but many by the half-bottle or glass, including serious dessert wines. Full bar, creative "chef cocktails" with fresh fruit. Wheelchair elevator available but hidden (ask valet parkers); disabled can use neighbor Pasquale's mens' room on same floor. Vegetarians and vegans accommodated to order. Reserve well ahead. Dinner nightly. Very expensive. NW

Hancock Street Café 3354 Hancock Street, Point Loma, 619-296-2060. If you spot Marilyn, Elvis, and Lady Liberty waving at you from the sidewalk, you're here. They are life-size fiberglass lookalikes, but Mario is real, and his restaurant is a living shrine to jazz pianist Herbie Hancock. Mario has pianos, guitars, and drums inside — even a little stage where you're often welcome to perform. The food? Italian home cooking. Mario is from New York and knows his pasta. You can usually expect a good-value special, like spaghetti and meatballs. Sometimes

he'll even throw in a bottle of red wine. Here among the little factories and auto shops of Loma Portal may be San Diego's most popping cultural phenomenon. Worth investigating, even if you just want to eat. Open daily, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Jack's La Jolla 7863 Girard Avenue, La Jolla, 858-456-8111. This sprawling, glitzy restaurant has several venues serving steaks, seafood, sushi, and pub grub. In The Dining Room, the most formal and serious choice, Chef Tony De Salvo prepares a menu of refined, seasonal California-French cuisine featuring highly creative combinations of luxury ingredients and local products, full of unexpected touches, e.g., a duck breast pairs delightfully with cocoa nibs. When you move on to sweets, dessert chef Jack Fisher is one of the town's best and boldest. An international wine offers plenty by the glass, although bottles run high. Full bar. Vegetarians accommodated by request — ask and ye shall receive. Ask valet parkers for directions to wheelchair lift and elevators. Reservations urged. Dinners only in Dining Room, Tuesday through Sunday. Very expensive. NW

Lamont Street Grill 4445 Lamont Street, 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). Homey atmosphere; can get loud. Affordable wine list, full bar. Open daily, dinner only. Moderate. — *N.W.*

P. F. Chang's China Bistro — **La Jolla** 4540 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla, 858-458-9007. Okay, you're look-

ing at the haunches of a giant horse right outside your corner window, and there don't seem to be any actual Chinese people among the wait staff. But this busy mall-Chinese chain (130-plus restaurants) has a certain cool. Those reproduction Chin Dynasty horses are really something, as are the bits of the Great Wall and the terra cotta soldiers scattered inside. The food? The spicy ground chicken and eggplant was too salty for our taste, the "Sichuan from the Sea" shrimp too sweet, and the Cantonese roasted duck not that exciting. Yet there are jewels, if one searches for them. And — not that it's at all Chinese — the massive "Great Wall of Chocolate" dessert will knock you over. Lunch and dinner. Moderate. — *E.B.*

Portugalia 4839 Newport Avenue, Ocean Beach, 619-222-7678. This spacious, informal room decorated with strings of Christmas lights resembles an ethnic community center — and indeed, OB is home to a long-term Portuguese fishing community. The fascinating menu is split between the homeland and its former colony, Brazil, including several coconut milk-swathed seafood dishes from tropical Bahia which are rarely found locally. The array of appetizers from both countries embraces addictive *bolinhos de bacalhau* (salt cod fritters) and *risóis de camarão* (fried pastry pockets filled with shrimp). For entrées you can choose Portuguese specialties like the earthy *gomes de sã* (codfish with chick peas) or Brazil's *bife apimentado* (spicy beef) or even an African-inspired *bife de moçambicana* (beef with shellfish). There's also a *rodizio* option of skewered meats and/or seafood. Save room for the owner's mom's home-made desserts, especially *pastéis de nata* (delicate custard-filled pastries). Portuguese wines, full bar. Not all dishes always available. Service quality variable. Long stairway up to second-floor restaurant. Live music most nights after 10 p.m. Easy parking. Lunch and dinner Tuesday through Sunday, to midnight or later except Sundays. Moderate. NW

Rum Jungle Smoothies and Deli 4150 Mission Boulevard #153, Pacific Beach, 858-273-2227. Why do Brazil-

ians have more fun? *Açaí* (ah-saa-ee). Why do Brazilians settle in PB? Maybe it's because Rum Jungle Smoothies serves up *açaí*, the flesh of a Brazilian palm nut, for breakfast. The dark purple mush comes from the *açaí* palms that grow around the Amazon River delta. Rum Jungle adds granola, banana, strawberries, blueberries, mango pieces, and honey to make a surprisingly filling breakfast. Of course this bright little place has lots of other smoothies, too, along with sandwiches. But the *açaí* power fruit bowl is what keeps them coming back. Open until 6 p.m. daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Tapenade 7612 Fay Avenue, La Jolla, 858-551-7500. This is not only one of the finest restaurants in the county but in the country. Featuring sunny Provençal flavors, famed chef-owner Jean-Michel Diot offers superb seasonal ingredients treated with the consummate ease of a master chef. Among the special joys here are a sophisticated *foie gras torchon*, luscious free-range veal, and top-quality seafood, with garnishes that display an impressive 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.*

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 *pâte* plate, or get serious with braised short ribs or duck confit surprisingly paired with spicy Nawl-

ins red beans and rice. No reservations accepted, so best to go at off-hours or you'll wait for a table. Comfortable lounge with fireplace for sipping. Full bar. No corkage charge after 11 p.m., when restaurant staffers drop in for after-work nosing. Lunch and dinner until 1 a.m.; closed Monday. Low-moderate. — *N.W.*

Umi Sushi 2806 Shelter Island Drive, 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; entrées inexpensive to moderate. — *N.W.*

Zenbu 7660 Fay Avenue, 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.*

BAJA

El Cid Lopez Mateos #993, Baja, 646-178-1809. This restaurant is at the heart of the tourist district, but the cooking and service are way above coach class.

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Look to the "Specialties" section of the huge menu for the most interesting selections. Crisp quail with rose petal sauce (famed from *Like Water for Chocolate*) proves outrageously delicious, and the seasonal *chiles en nogada* (meat-stuffed poblano chiles with walnut-cream and pomegranate) gain refinement from greaseless ground sirloin. 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.*

El Rodeo Boulevard Salinas #1647, Baja, 664-686-5640. This 30-year-old steak haven sits on traffic-drowned Salinas, but climb onto its porch and you're at some Sonoran desert rancho, saguaro cacti and all. Inside it's dark wood and brick, wagon wheels, lariats, rifles, longhorns, and generous amounts of cattle-ranch food. Entrée price includes a delicious soup of roast beef juices, beans cooked in their own juices, a quesadilla, a salad, two *botana* (snack) plates, of, say, vinegary veggies and potatoes, and a beef liver medley, flour tortillas, chips, and hot sauce. You

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can get any cut of steak you want. A *parrillada* — BBQ dish — gives you marinated beef rib, *carne asada*, and barbecued chicken, all sizzling on a rancho-style metal tabletop grill that glows with hot coals. Best part: the roasted spring onions splayed across the meat. Dessert and coffee also included. Vegetarian upon request. Good place for a party. Open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. — E.B.

La Espadaña Avenida Sanchez Taboada #10813, Baja, 664-634-1488. 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 Tijuana'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 entrance 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.

La Vuelta Avenida Revolución #8210, , 664-685-7309. Bring your lover here and hide away in one of the cuddly *carretitas* — nooks. Even if traffic is ghastly at "the turn" ("*la vuelta*") where Revolución hooks left, you forget all that inside this vestige of Olde Tijuana, with balcony seating, resident mariachis, and food and drink all day and night. Dive into a *combinación mexicana* (chile relleno, taco, and enchilada) or *carne asada* served in an *olla de barro*, an earthenware pot from Guadalajara. Even the gringo-sounding *filete mignon* with mushroom sauce somehow comes out Mexican. Most Mexicans actually turn up about 1 a.m., after their own parties, to be serenaded by the excellent ten-piece mariachi band. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Rica Torta Niños Héroes Avenida #890, Baja, 664-685-8579. 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 avocado...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-rib bed, crisptoasted 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), Baja, 664-686-1560. Maybe the only smoke-free restaurant in Tijuana, this vegetarian haven was started in 1996 by health-conscious Doctor Georgina Vallarta de Alcantar. They make their own yogurt, soy hash, breads, rolls, salsas — and "meats" like a veal from their own wheat gluten — daily. You sit at wood tables and chairs next to blue-framed 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 jalapeno. 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.

CENTRAL

Aladdin's Café — Clairemont 5420 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Clairemont, 858-573-0000. These cafés offer a bright, clean atmosphere for bright and clean, if rather generic, Middle Eastern favorites (hummus, tabbouleh, kebabs, *shawerma*, etc.), plus imaginative Levantine-flavored pizzas



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Calendar

RESTAURANTS

and salads. There are ample choices for vegetarians. Both locations offer beer and wine. Hillcrest's owners offer a more Lebanese cuisine. Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W.

Anthology 1337 India Street, Little Italy, 619-595-0300. This spiffy, multi-level nightclub offers pleasant, user-friendly, modern-American cuisine (local produce, natural meats, wonderful breads) conceived by consulting celeb chef Bradley Ogden with popular local toque Jim Phillips. But when good musicians are cookin' onstage, the eats are liable to become mere background music for the mouth. A great date venue for jazz lovers. No cover charge Tuesdays and some Sundays, otherwise ticket prices (bought separately) vary, plus \$15 to \$20 minimums (easy to meet). Wine list is fine and wide ranging but starts high and escalates sharply, plus full bar with fruity cocktail creations as well as classics. Dinner only, Tuesday through Sunday. Expensive on up, if you drink anything but tap water. — N.W.

Bale French Sandwich Shop 4879 University Avenue, City Heights, 619-283-4352. Ann Nguyen started this back in 1980. Ann's brother succeeded her, and the prices have hardly changed — they're incredibly low. But the taste of her sandwiches is up there in French-Vietnamese heaven. The Vietnamese are special at this: they do French better than the French — with some spicy Asian touches. The BBQ Pork French sandwich delivers the immediate taste of cilantro, garlicky mayonnaise, sweet barbecue sauce, carrots, onions, cucumber, and lashings of sliced pork, with the occasional heat of a green jalapeño. But above all, it's that crunch of bread — fresh, feathery, and very French — that makes this hard to beat. Add dessert of homemade banana shrimp cake and — *voilà!* Open daily,

breakfast through early dinner. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Big Kitchen 3003 Grape 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 avocado, cream cheese, and chives omelet. Vegans' fave may be the "vegie option": sauteed 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.

Blue Water Seafood Market and Grill 3667 India Street, Mission Hills, 619-497-0914. This bright, clean charmer a half-block south of El Indio has a double identity: First, it's a retail fish market; aside from Whole Foods, this is the only restaurant-quality fresh raw seafood south of I-8 and west of City Heights. If you love oysters, don't miss the big, buttery bivalves here. Second, it serves simple, terrific seafood to eat in or out. Plates are plastic, but don't look for greasy fried stuff. Entrées are grilled gently until perfectly done, topped with your pick of flavors (the lemon-garlic butter is especially tasty) and come with rice and a huge salad with your choice of terrific house-made dressings. If indecisive, ask what's best that day. The overstuffed grilled fish tacos are messy and perfect, with just the right proportions of ingredients. Reachable only by driving north on India. Metered street parking by day. Good choice of beers; a few affordable wines; \$5 corkage for BYOW. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to low moderate. — N.W.

Bombay Exotic Cuisine of India 3975 Fifth Avenue, 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 less spicy (though their *sag paneer* — creamy, cheesy spinach — delivered a surprising punch). The buffet includes tandoori chicken, assorted *pakor*as (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, Monsoon, 729 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-234-5555. Moderate. E.B.

Brians' American Eatery — Hillcrest 1451 Washington Street, Hillcrest, 619-296-8268. Note the apostrophe: Not one but two Brians have taken over what had been Topsy's, a venerable coffeehouse/eatery for 40 years. They've done a good job of cleaning it up without gutting the fifties roadhouse character. It's open all night on week-ends, and late night is quite a scene. But for a lot of people, breakfast is the thing. The Brians' eight-ounce charbroiled top sirloin steak with eggs and country potatoes is a great Saturday morning treat. Or the "Hey Ricky!!!" omelet with chorizo, avocado, green chilies, onions, and cheeses. Or ask for their off-menu breakfast special — it's always cheaper. Another good thing: coffee comes by the thermos-full. Three meals until 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday; open 24 hours from early Friday morning until Sunday evening. Inexpensive. — E.B.

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 11 poplar trees in a brick patio that has one unusual downtown advantage — except 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.

Bully's East 2401 Camino del Rio South, Mission Valley, 619-291-2665. Despite the plasma TV sports screen, this place is very '60s. For example, dark, woody, plush red booths. And always crowded. Word is, they serve more prime rib with au jus and horseradish than any eatery in San Diego. The "Petite Cut" 8 ounce, their smallest, fills you plenty, with its baked potato and salad. But just once, come here with your main squeeze and order up the "full cut for two." It hangs ten over the edges. Or go bonkers and order the 32-ounce cut (available in Mission Valley) — just to watch your neighbors' eyes bug out. Not flush? Try the "Bully Burger," French Dip sandwich, or calamari sandwich. Lonely? Go to the horseshoe-shaped Low Bar. Lunch and dinner daily. — E.W.

Café Chloe 721 Ninth Avenue, Downtown, 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.

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 customers. 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 accompanied by mashed potatoes, veggies, coleslaw, a roll, *and* dessert — like the delicious pineapple pie available Mondays — 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.

Chive 558 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 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. — 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, louché, 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.

El Agave 2304 San Diego Avenue, Old Town, 619-220-0692. Reservations recommended. Wheelchair access dif-

ficult (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 highlights are the five different Oaxacan moles (plus a sixth from Chiapas), local sea bass in tangy jamaica (hibiscus) sauce, and a unique appetizer, *tlacog*os *cuilacoche*, 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 (at Winder), Mission Hills, 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 sublime 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.

El Pollo Loco 2795 Main Street, Logan Heights, 619-595-0847. Additional locations in Midway, Carmel Mountain, Chula Vista, El Cajon, Lemon Grove, National City, Poway, and more. This Mexican-style chicken chain offers healthier, tastier fast food. The flame-broiled poultry has crisp, richly seasoned, very salty skin; the flesh can vary from barely done to overdone, but usually is just right. The bird (or any assortment of its parts) comes with sage gravy, tortillas, and a choice of side dishes that includes rich, sweet black beans, crisp and clean coleslaw, great gooey-cheesy macaroni, and passable mashed potatoes. Help yourself to salsas (there are four varieties), chopped onions, lemons, cilantro, hot peppers. But stick with the chicks — the taqueria-style choices are barely better than Taco Bell. Check for daily specials, wherein a small amount of cash will buy a huge amount of highly palatable poultry. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — N.W.

El Zarape 4642 Park Boulevard, University Heights, 619-682-1652. 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, home-made, handmade flavor. Three meals daily. Inexpensive. — M.N.



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Fleming's Steak House & Wine Bar — Downtown 380 K Street, Downtown, 619-237-1155. A steakhouse for ladies who power lunch, an “old girls” club, or just a happy place where the term “a nice piece of meat” isn’t a bad thing? The mahogany of the “old boys” steakhouse genre gives way here to cheery cherry wood. When you get the fried cheese, it’s Brie, rolled in panko bread crumbs and slivered almonds. And the wine list boasts far more than just burly Cabernets and Bordeaux — over 100 of the far-flung offerings are available by the glass, and you can assemble your own three-glass tasting flights. Prime steaks are the main event, perfectly cooked and well-seasoned. Try the Key Lime pie for

dessert — custardy and full of limey bite. Valet parking. Dinner nightly. Very expensive. — A.M.

Galileo 101 201 J Street, Downtown, 619-702-7101. 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’sbila*

is the menu, don’t pass up this treat of minced chicken in a cinnamon-dusted filo crust. Entrée highlights include lamb tagine, slow-braised, 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, house-made choices include refreshing fresh berries with orange liqueur and rosewater and a creamy crème brûlée, 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.

Gourmet India 810 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-702-7967. Most local Indian restaurants share nearly identical pan-regional 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-pizzas, accompanied by a coconutty fresh chutney. Peshawari naan is a spectacular 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. Madras 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 326 Broadway, 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.

Hob Nob Hill 2271 First Avenue, Hillcrest, 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 dinner, says the owner, “We cater to seniors.” While there are à la carte choices, affordable three-course prix fixe dinners (with a regular entrée for each day of the week, Mom style) are the order of the day — e.g., tasty barbecued pork on Saturday, roast lamb or pot roast Sunday. Open daily. Inexpensive to low moderate. — E.B.

Huffman's Bar-B-Que 5039 Imperial Avenue, College Area, 619-264-3115. This cafe 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-

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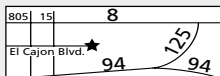
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Calendar

RESTAURANTS

smothered fried chicken served with collard greens, yellow peppers, red beans, rice, and white mopping-up bread, or their Louisiana Creole gumbo, thick with crab, shrimp, links, ham, and chicken. Other fine eats include the catfish sandwich and half-pound rib tips. Open daily, lunch and dinner, to 11 p.m. weekdays, 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Ikea Restaurant 2149 Fenton Parkway, Mission Valley, 619-283-6166. 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 broccoli, 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.*

Joe's Crab Shack — Mission Valley 7610 Hazard Center Drive, Mission Valley, 619-574-8617. Joe's is silly with crab-shack ambience (campy nautical paraphernalia on down to souvenir gimme caps), but the food's not bad. You can choose buckets of steamed, barbecued, or garlic crab (of various subspecies), or go for fried or grilled seafood or steaks, or salads. Grown-ups may prefer the patio to the rockin', raucous interior. Full bar, not much wine. Inexpensive to low moderate. Also in Oceanside, Pacific Beach, and downtown. — *N.W.*

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, cinnamon, and bacon sandwich. Open 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Sundays till 6 p.m.). Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

La Casita 1247 C Street, Downtown, 619-531-0044. Don't be fooled by the li'l old blue-and-white clapboard house at the bottom of City College's hill. Princes and politicians 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 3 p.m., closed Sundays. — *E.B.*

La Doña 1784 Newton (at Beardsley), Southeast San Diego, 619-233-4939. This café is steeped in Mexican history, especially Barrio Logan history. You half expect to see several L.A. Zoot-suitors drift in as you inspect the black-and-white 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 *chicharrones*, *menudo*, and *pozole*. Seven days, breakfast to late lunch. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Lightnin' Jacks BBQ 4705-H Clairemont Drive, Clairemont, 858-270-8227. Clean, cute, and a little self-conscious, this barbecue has black-and-white Western pictures on the walls and some seating on barstools with metal "saddles" (more comfortable than they look). The barbecue mechanism is a Texas-style pit smoker burning sweet hickory. The meats that emerge from it aren't the smokiest, but they're tasty enough. Pork ribs are tender and moist, and beef brisket carries enough smoke flavor to pass muster in Texas; other meat choices are less successful. The tomato 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 Linkery 3386 30th Street, 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 on-premises. These vary not only in composition but in palatability. Good ones include chicken curry, *linguista*, 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.*

Lou and Mickey's 224 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-237-4900. The one-time ornate Royale Brasserie across from the Convention 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 preparations. Best dishes include "BBQ Shrimp, Manales' Style," a buttery, spicy New Orleans ex-

travaganza (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.*

Oceanaire Seafood Room 400 J Street, Downtown, 619-858-2277. Oceanaire serves all manner of fresh seafood, including some rare species, from simple preparations to complex dishes with international 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 "Cajun-rubbed" 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 overwhelming, 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 weekends. Dinner daily. Happy hour at oyster bar moderate, dinner very expensive. — *N.W.*

Po Pazzo 1917 India Street, Little Italy, 619-238-1917. The restaurant's name means "a little crazy," but owner Joe Busalacchi was crazy like a fox to open the first seriously swanky eatery in Little Italy. The decor resembles the set of a Manhattan supper club in a black-and-white movie, right down to the gray color scheme and curvy booths. Music plays loudly (with a live pianist Thursday through Saturday), keeping the energy and noise levels high. You almost expect to see Frankie and Dino at the next table. The USDA Prime steaks are flash-roasted in a special oven at 1700 degrees (in the style

of Ruth's Chris), and if they're a little chewy, they're also flavorful — especially the "Sicilian steak." But the pasta dishes are even better, and the veggies accompanying the entrées often outshine the proteins — the kitchen is still Italian at heart and the fundamental things apply. Full bar. Lunch and dinner weekdays, dinner only weekends. Reservations advised. Expensive. — *N.W.*

RA Sushi 474 Broadway, Downtown, 619-321-0021. Big and splashy, this Arizona-based chain restaurant tries to create a high-energy party atmosphere with loudish music and louder "Oriental" decor. Its grazing menu features sushi, sashimi, and hosts of Asian-oid appetizers, plus a few substantial noodle dishes and entrées. The food's a mixture of the dire and the delicious — old, pulpy *edamame* versus magnificent miso soup, delicate dilled salmon and desiccated *katsu*. The sushi rice is well seasoned, but the products are inconsistent from hour to hour and roll to roll, depending on how long ago the seafood was defrosted and how recently the rice was cooked. You take your chances, but it's fun anyway. Numerous Asian beers and sakes, affordable wines, full bar specializing in fancy cocktails. Those with fading eyesight may need a penlight to read the menu. Daily, lunch through dinner, to 1 a.m. Bar open to 2 a.m. Moderate. — *N.W.*

Ranchos Cocina — North Park 3910 30th Street, North Park, 619-574-1288. At both locations of this delightful mini-chain you'll find healthy, creative Mexican and vegetarian cuisine in cheerful, tropical-style settings burgeoning with plant life and craft objects. A big plus: zero attitude. You don't have to be vegi-virtuous to enjoy full-flavored combinations that are as creative as they are wholesome. Try anything with lobster or calamari steak — in fact, all the seafood here is pristine. And sample something with the house-made mole sauce of a zillion ingredients. Actually, try...anything. (Well, the chicken breast is as dry here as everywhere else. Try anything else.) Open daily breakfast through dinner. No reservations, but call ahead for large parties. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Saigon on Fifth 4900 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-220-8828. This is the rare local Vietnamese restaurant that emphasizes the urban, French-influenced cuisine of colonial-era Saigon and Hue,

rather than the ubiquitous *pho* noodle soups of the North. The list of house specialties includes many entrées you won't find elsewhere in San Diego, among them a smoked oyster omelet and a unique version of coconut shrimp served in the coconut shell. Many dishes here include honey, so the Boon (spicy noodle salad) deserves its name — a refreshing break from the sweetness. Well-chosen, reasonable wine list suits the food, as does the serene decor. Validated underground parking just north of the bank. Open daily, lunch and dinner until midnight. Low moderate. — *N.W.*

Sala Thai 6161 El Cajon Boulevard, 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*, labeled "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; dinner only on Sunday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Sammy's Woodfired Pizza — Downtown 770 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-230-8888. 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. — *N.W.*

Sang Dao 4212 National Avenue, Logan Heights, 619-263-0914. Laos has an exotic Shangri-La thing about it, yet the large family that runs this eatery will tell you Lao food is quite plain and simple: vegetables, freshwater fish, chicken, pork, occasional beef, sticky rice, and noodles. But taste their delicious spicy catfish and you're right back at exotic. Thai basil, garlic, and most of all, the gingery *galanga*, a.k.a. "Laos root," help make it unfishy. Other must-trys: BBQ beef, *som yum* (papaya salad), and especially the spicy salad

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with minced meat called *larb* — closest thing to the national dish. The surroundings here may be homey, but not the excellent cuisine. “Sang Dao”? It means “Star Light.” Open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. six days, closed Monday. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Shakespeare Pub 3701 India Street, 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.*

Sixth Avenue Bistro 1165 Sixth Avenue, Downtown, 619-239-4194. This charming, airy cafe offers some very credible New Orleans-style cooking at affordable prices. Among the sandwiches are an outstanding oyster po’ boy (with big juicy oysters and good light batter) and a fine, fully packed approximation of a *muffaletta*, albeit with a kaiser roll standing in for Central Grocery’s big, round Italian bread. The jambalaya is tasty, too, even with the substitute for andouille. Wine and beer. No reservations. Breakfast to dinner (closes 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday). Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Toshi Sushi 5943 El Cajon Boulevard, 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 numerous contexts. Try it baked onto the rich, everything-goes Garbage Roll, where deep-fried shrimp, freshwater eel, and tuna add flavor to the creamy-crunchy interplay of sauce and vegetables. 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 Special 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 bland, duller salmon. Japanese entrees are also available. Inexpensive to moderate. — *A.M.*

Tropical Star 6163 Balboa Avenue, Clairemont, 858-488-5900. A modest cafe 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.*

Whole Foods Market 711 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-294-2800. For vegetarians on the go, Whole Foods’ prepared food section will feed you better — and faster — than any vegetarian restaurant in town. Outstanding selections include the Emerald Mushrooms salad, and especially the *farofa* salad — it’s like American stuffing, but it’s couscous studded with almonds, fat raisins, thin strips of scrambled egg, and bits of carrot and bell pepper. Whole Foods’ vegetarian meals will tempt any meat-eater with their delicious originality. La Jolla branch at 8825 Villa La Jolla Drive, 858-642-6700. Inexpensive to moderate. — *M.N.*

NORTH INLAND

Abbey’s Real Texas BBQ — Kearny Mesa 9533 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Kearny Mesa, 858-279-7427. Texas barbecue consists of meat, chicken, turkey, and links that are repeatedly mopped with a marinade and cooked in a big cast-iron smoker (rather than grilled over a fire). Here they use mesquite to barbecue the

poultry quickly and the brisket ve-r-r-y slowly. In addition to the usual BBQ sides (potato salad, coleslaw, beans, etc.), they offer a Caesar salad. At the Miramar branch the room is large and unadorned but very clean. Wheelchair accessible. Same menu lunch and dinner. Open daily; continuous service for lunch and early dinner weekdays; normal dinner hours weekends. Inexpensive to low moderate. — *N.W.*

Centre City Café 2680 S. Escondido Boulevard, Escondido, 760-489-6011. In the quiet little “motel row” just north of Lake Hodges, this cute, friendly cafe 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 ambience, or chow down on the dining terrace in front. Open daily, three meals. Huge portions, low prices. — *N.W.*

China Max 4698 Convoy Street, 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.*

Fiore’s 777 Harrah’s Way, 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 deli-

cious. 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 oyster bar; upper moderate to very expensive in restaurant. — *N.W.*

The Grill 10920 Roselle Street, Suite #104, Carmel 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 bacon, sausage, and ham in your breakfast pita? They’ll do all three, same price as with a single meat. Breakfast and lunch weekdays. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Hacienda de Vega 2608 South Escondido Boulevard, 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 fair-weather dining. The menu is also a leap upward from standard fare. Senora Vega offers authentic Mexican cuisine cooked in the sophisticated manner of Mexico City, her hometown — not border-food compromises. You’ll find an array of fresh and interesting appetizers 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 refills as desired. Five vegetarian entrées and a kiddie menu avail-

able; casual atmosphere. Full bar specializing in margaritas, of course. Open daily, lunch (or brunch) and dinner. — *N.W.*

Pho Hoa Hiep — Mira Mesa 9910 Mira Mesa Boulevard #A, Mira Mesa, 858-578-1468. This *pho* (soup) place of the brothers Hoa and Hiep is a clean, busy eatery near hi-tech offices. It’s popular at lunch and dinner, partly because of frequent two-for-one deals. Try the #1, *Dac Biet Xe Lua*, an “extra large bowl” of soup filled with rare steak slices and well-done brisket, flank, tendon, and tripe along with mint and bean sprouts. A popular breakfast *pho* is “French bread with beef juicy cube soup.” They also have rice dishes. And try the traditional fruit drinks, maybe the *Xam Bo Luong*, a combination of loganberry, black dates, seaweed, and lotus seeds in syrup. Lunch, dinner daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

San Diego Artisan Bakers 1551 South Escondido Boulevard, 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, morning to late afternoon. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Sand Crab Cafe 2229 Micro Place, Escondido, 760-480-2722. Sandy Crabbe (honest, that’s his name) owns this fun, funky dive in the wilds of industrial Escondido near the San Marcos border. A visit offers the primordial, preschoolish joy of whacking crabs to pieces with mallets and eating them with your hands. (Bibs are optional.) Everybody gets into the party spirit. There’s a huge à la carte list of appetizers, soups, snacks, and main courses, often at bargain prices. Entrées include several crab-bucket combos, cooked to a well-seasoned boil with corn, potatoes, and spicy Louisiana sausage. Most

of the shellfish were flash-frozen on shipboard, but they’re still tasty. The melted non-butter “spread” accompanying them appeals to the area’s many health-conscious residents. (Or you can BYOButter and they’ll melt it for you.) Fine tangy house-made Key lime pie is a perfect finale. Beer and wine and good margaritas. Open daily, lunch and dinner. 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 “Korean 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 soy sauce and jalapeño pepper. Feeling adventurous? Go for the goat meat hot pot or Korean steak tartare (*yukhwoe*). This is sensual, elemental, hairy-chested food. Lunch and dinner six days, closed Sunday. — *M.N.*

NORTH COASTAL

101 Café 631 South Coast Highway, Oceanside, 760-722-5220. This is the oldest li’l eating establishment in Oceanside. Cooks have been flipping burgers here since 1928. The café is named after Route 101, the Pacific Highway. Old-timers remember when everyone from truck drivers to movie stars would stop for a bite before heading on to San Diego and Tijuana. Try the ABC (avocado, bacon, and cheese) Omelet, the 101 Original Cheeseburger with its “secret sauce,” chicken-fried steaks with eggs and, of course, the Great Depression dish: biscuits with gravy and home fries. Open daily, three meals until midnight. Inexpensive. Cash only. No alcohol. — *E.B.*

Armenian Café 3126 Carlsbad Boulevard, Carlsbad, 760-720-2233. At this large cottage with a year-round heated sundeck overlooking Highway



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Calendar

RESTAURANTS

101, the menu offers Armenian specialties cooked with a Lebanese accent as well as generic Middle 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, glorified nut-filled lamb meatball) is outstanding, as is her *kashta lea* dessert — an exotic nutmeg sponge cake fragrant with rosewater syrup, topped with pistachios and thickened cream. Dinner platters constitute a full meal, including 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 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 ingredients so radiantly and originally prepared that diners must rouse to rapt attention. Chef Wade Hageman, a protégé of renowned SF/Vegas chef Michael Mina, has imported a similarly complex, labor-intensive style of cooking that appeals as much to the mind as to the senses. He’s imported a major Mina

stratagem — 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, 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.*

California Pizza Kitchen — Solana Beach Highway 101, Solana Beach, 858-793-0999. Two Beverly Hills lawyers started this chain in 1985 to exploit “the premium pizza segment.” Some 150 restaurants later, guess it worked. The place is all shiny chrome, glass, etched palm trees, golden wood and black furniture, and two pizza ovens with real logs burning inside. The Original BBQ chicken pizza, the chain’s first hit, is still their top seller. It has barbecue sauce, smoked Gouda and mozzarella cheeses, BBQ chicken, red onions, and cilantro. The BBQ chicken chopped salad is good too, as is the jambalaya. If you’ve got a sweet tooth, but are em-

barrassed to order “Hawaiian” pizza, try the pear and Gorgonzola. It has caramelized pears, caramelized onions, Gorgonzola and other cheeses, and hazelnuts. At night, the Nobel Drive branch features a view of the shining Mormon cathedral. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B.*

Joey’s Smokin’ B-B-Q — Carmel Valley 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 Memphis 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 Memphis-style 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 mild-spicy 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.*

Kealani’s 137 West D Street, Encinitas, 760-942-5642. Tucked between a 7-Eleven and a pizzeria, with an exterior 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 house-made 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.” While 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 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 Ashkenazi 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 attached 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, including 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. — *N.W.*

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 often-changing 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, Del Mar, 858-755-9345. The two dining rooms and bar here boast airy, stylish decor and ocean views, and the SRO umbrella-shaded patio is right at water’s edge. Lunches run to sandwiches, burgers, and fried seafood of ordinary competence and uneven preparation: wonderfully coconuty 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, 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 Shahram Naimi’s own invention: the scrumptious Roxy falafel-burger. Its green “meat” is made from garbanzo beans, potatoes, onions, cilantro, and herbs, all bedded down with tomatoes, 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.*

Star of India — Del Mar 3860 Valley Centre Drive, Del Mar, 858-792-1111. It’s the lunch buffet that can lead you by the nose into Indian (and here, specifically *Punjabi*) food. Pick among specialties like vegetable *pakora* — a bunch of veggies dipped in chickpea batter and fried — or a nice mess of eggplant with potatoes, chicken curry *masala*, and maybe the first cooked spinach you ever loved, *palak paneer*. Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B.*

When In Rome 1108 South Coast Highway 101, 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 presentation; warm, friendly service. A winner. Dressy-casual crowd. Dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Expensive. — *E.W.*

SOUTH BAY

Anthony’s Fish Grotto — Chula Vista 215 West Bay Boulevard, Chula Vista, 619-425-4200. If you don’t want overcomplicated food, Anthony’s obliges. Fish and chips is still the simplest and the best. Or Mama’s Platter, cod combined with batter-fried calamari, shrimp, oysters, scallops, and clam strips. Anthony’s has been up and running for six decades now, with the buying power to get the pick of the catch. The menu offers 18 different seasonal fish to choose from, plus — if you’ve got the

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bread — delicious lobster dishes (in season) like lobster thermidor with a creamy, winey sauce. No reservations. Open daily, lunch through dinner. Moderate. — *E.B.*

Crown Room 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 luke-warm (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.*

D'Lish Pizza and Pasta 386 East H Street, Suite 211, Chula Vista, 619-585-1371. Also at 2260 Otay Lakes Road. 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 vegetable 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.*

L'Escale 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 bay-surrounded patio if you can. Breakfast, lunch, dinner. Moderate to expensive. — *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 effective, *langostinos* are lush, but maybe most satisfying are whole-fish dishes like *pescado Veracruzano*. Truly traditional offerings come in giant three-legged *molcajetes*. Even their less-traditional signature dish, *Camarones Costa Azul* (crab and cheese-stuffed, bacon-wrapped shrimp) arrives in a burning hot *molcajete*. Also delicious: the sizzle-plate fajitas *mixtas*, with shrimp, beef, chicken. Many customers 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.*

Spiro's Gyros 1201 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 cafe 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 *parillada* (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 succulent 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 numerous 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 Avenue, Coronado, 619-522-0449. 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.*

EAST COUNTY

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 user-friendly, 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. Champagne brunch on Sunday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; all-day buffet Sunday. Inexpensive to low moderate. — *N.W.*

Mediterraneo 1347 Tavern Road, 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 outstanding — such a lovely, airy, silken crust! Such wafer-thin rounds of pepperoni! 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.*

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Blood and Ghosts

Two and a half hours are a long time to spend in the company of such a man.

Somehow, somewhere, in my month-long move from Domicile A to Domicile B, my in-the-dark notes and first draft for a critique of *There Will Be Blood* got mislaid, lost, most likely twist-tied into a Hefty bag and sent off to the landfill.

So you will just have to take my word for it that the scribbles contained many trenchant observations cogently stated. All I can dredge up from muddy memory (I saw it at the end of November) is the remainder of this paragraph. Based loosely, so they say, on *Oil!*, a muckraking, boat-rocking, banned-in-Boston novel by Upton Sinclair (a writer partial to exclamation points in his titles), the film is a kind of anti-epic, an anti-*Giant*, about a miserly, misanthropic, nothing short of murderous American oil man in the first decades of the last century: warped beyond recognition as an exemplar of the enterprising capitalist. (The accompanying music credited to Jonny Greenwood of the British rock group Radiohead, edgy, skittery, dissonant, helps set the tone: not music to Build an Empire By, such as a Dimitri Tiomkin or a Max Steiner might have composed, but instead

REVIEW

DUNCAN SHEPHERD

music to Squirrel Away Nuts for the Winter By.) The hard dirty work, at the outset, of digging a well all by his lonesome is vividly and wordlessly captured by writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson, yet it's hardly adequate to explain or excuse the character's subsequent aberrance, and his particular animus towards a hayseed

faith healer (the initially very young and insufficiently aging Paul Dano), each of whom has his own inflexible reasons for not deferring to the other: the Self-Made Man versus the Man of God. Daniel Day-Lewis, ever the risk-taker, even if the risk (immurement in Victorian melodrama) is much the same as in *Gangs of New York*, makes of the protagonist a real and repelently compelling figure when he's not breaking the spell with his John Huston rollercoaster cadences. (Why would this depraved money-grubber, we keep asking ourselves, be impersonating the director of *The Maltese Falcon*, *Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, whatever?) But two and a half hours, if all we're going to do is gape, are a long time to spend in the company of such a man, a good hour or more too long. There will, as promised, be blood,



There Will Be Blood

though not any time soon, and never all that much.

The Orphanage, under the Wes Craven-like imprint of Guillermo del Toro (*Cronos*, *Mimic*, *Pan's Labyrinth*, et al.), but under the actual direction of novice J.A. Bayona, is a Spanish ghost story that strives at all times to stay within arm's reach of ambiguity — real ghosts or overheated

imagination? — in the mold of the Henry James prototype, *The Turn of the Screw*, or at any rate in the mold of the academic squabbles over it. James, as I recollect, set out to write a straightforward ghost story, but was, bless his unsullied soul, incapable of it. Bayona is no James, nor is he even a Jack Clayton, the judicious filmmaker who turned *The Turn...* into

The Innocents on screen. So few horror films these days exercise a measure of restraint, so few set their sights anywhere but on topping their fore-runners, that it's easy to overvalue one that does. The basic situation without doubt seems primed for "resonance," and the lead actress, Belén Rueda, seems primed almost for spontaneous combustion. An adopted orphan re-



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turns to the palatial orphanage thirty years later, with plans to reopen it, and with an adopted, HIV-positive orphan of her own. The boy, already inclined towards imaginary playmates, appears to have made contact with the ghosts of half a dozen children still hanging about the place, and soon goes missing. His mother then goes bananas. Bayona's tightwire act of trying to walk a line of psychological subtlety while also trying to keep genre addicts on the hook tends to make the obligatory jolts feel all the more forced and factitious: the premonitory music, the startling noises, the creaking hinges, the magnified eyes of the prune-faced old lady behind her coke-bottle lenses, the fingers slammed in the bathroom door and the backward jackknife into the tub, the plowed-over pedestrian and the gruesome makeup on the carcass. Through all that, we are apt to remain, in common with the rational husband and police-woman, unconvinced and unmoved. Ambiguity will have that effect. The climax, when the heroine is at last left alone in the house, nevertheless crams in two or three good shivers, but it goes on three or four steps too far.

P.S. I Love You, a Christmas release, can still be found around town if you're interested in whether a two-time Academy Award-winning actress, Hilary Swank, can lighten herself into the thespian weight-class of a Sandra Bullock or a Kate Hudson. The answer, you will find, is no, not when the director and co-writer, Richard LaGravenese, who directed her also in *Freedom Writers*, is intent on sniffing out pockets of genuine emotion in a mechanical tearjerker (and laugh-jerker) about a turning-thirty widow who learns to live again under the guidance of pre-written missives from her dear departed, Gerard Butler, a life-loving, beer-chugging Irish minstrel. ("Why," she wonders in front of the TV screen one night, "can't I be Bette Davis?" — another two-time Academy Award-winner, but an unequalled ten-time nominee.) Swank may not be able, in a flashback to the meet-cute, to look quite like a college coed on her first tour of Europe, but she can touchingly act like one, and remind us in the process that one of her rarest gifts is her totally uncool enthusiasm. Kathy Bates, merely a one-time Academy Award-winner, has her moments, too, as Swank's sourpuss mother. The initial layout of the situation is cleverly and deftly done, with a lengthy pre-credits sequence of a marital spat and détente, an off-screen death during the credits, and then straight into the wake without warning. And the continuing visibility of the yummy hubby in the apartment and in flashbacks might do something to placate the spectator who felt shortchanged on ghosts in *The Orphanage*, as well as do something to persuade the skeptic of their existence. Anyone remembered is a ghost. ■

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-a-quarter-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 billowing backdrop of the Sixties: the war, the draft, the protests, the drugs, the psychedelics, the Sexual Revolution, all that. To link the Beatles with the upheaval makes a certain sense. Unlike, say, the more enduring Rolling Stones or the going-nowhere Dave Clark Five, the Beatles were a group that really did evolve (or, as some would prefer, devolve) swiftly and dramatically, making them a useful weathercock for the winds of change. You are here reminded afresh of their range and their riches; and in new mouths, you hear the songs with new ears. (The tremulous, down-tempo rendition, for example, of "I Wanna Hold Your Hand" by an Asian-American high-school cheerleader, T.V. Carpio, brings the song a new, a renewed feeling, all by itself almost worth the price of admission.) By the second half, however, the inspiration irreversibly runs out of steam en route to a spluttering climax of "All You Need Is Love." (Wearily, now: yeah, yeah, yeah.) Part of the problem is that, as the counterculture gains momentum in the sequence of events, there's a visible increase in music-video vulgarity, ornamental surrealism, Fellini-esque fantasy, all the elements that go into director Julie Taymor's fabled "vision." Another part of the problem may be that the later songs, even though the playlist in the film does not observe a strict chronology, tend to be more turgid. Part, too, may simply be that two-and-a-quarter hours are too long for a promo. With Evan Rachel Wood, Jim Sturgess, Joe Anderson, Dana Fuchs, Martin Luther McCoy, and cameos by Bono, Eddie Izzard, Joe Cocker, Salma Hayek. 2007.

★★ (LA PALOMA)

Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem — The cross-series combat continues on a crash-landed spacecraft in Colorado, and spills into the small town of Crested Butte. The brothers Colin and Greg Strause, visual-effects 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.

● (CHULA VISTA 10; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18)

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

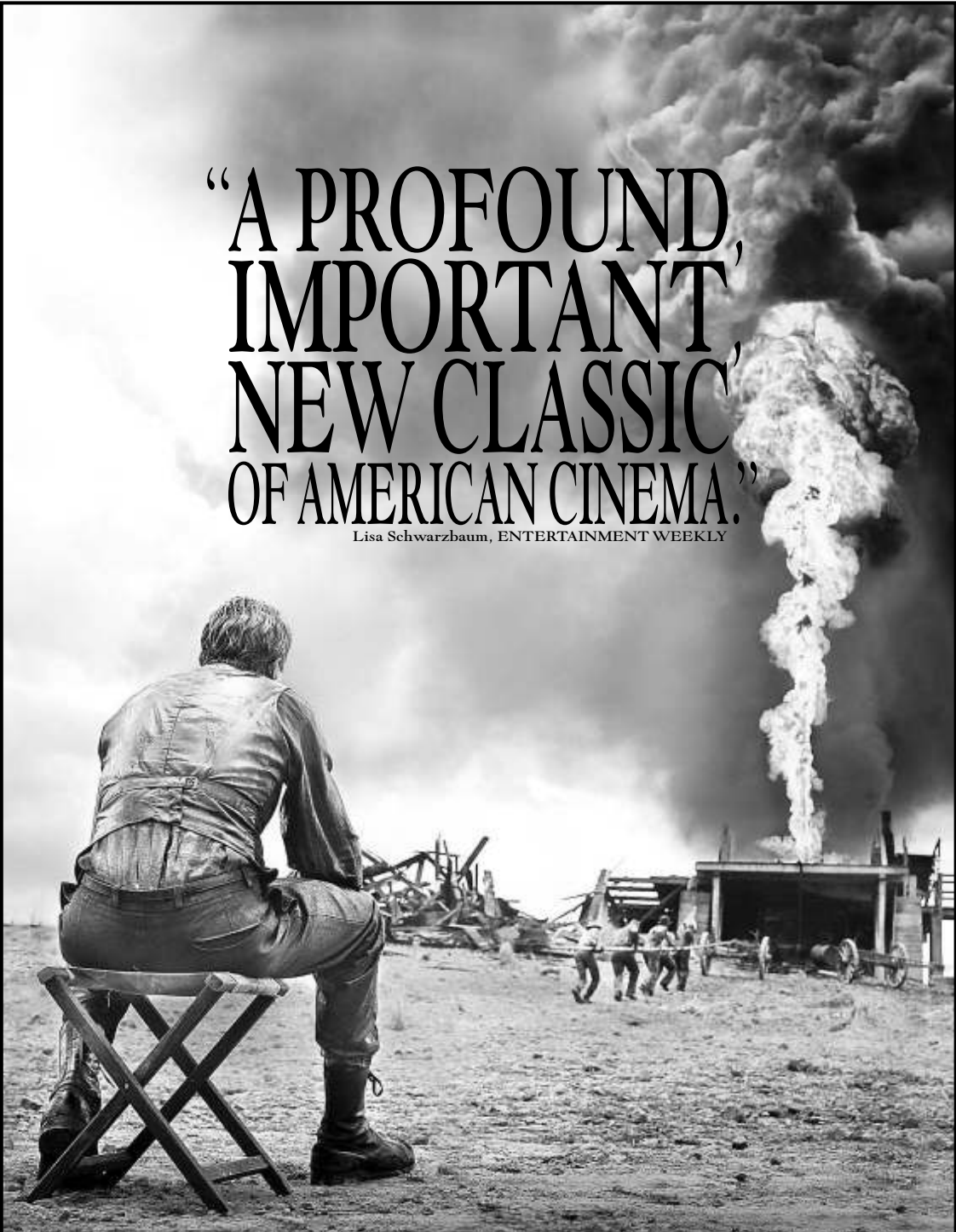
period haircut, framing his face with folded wings. With Chiwetel Ejiofor, Josh Brolin, Lymari Nadal, and Ruby Dee. 2007. ★ (GASLAMP 15)

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 se-

dately, 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; FLOWER HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7, FROM 1/11; MISSION VALLEY 20; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

The Beautiful Country — Pretty, for sure, in Stuart Dryburgh's glossy photography. A parentless Vietnamese peasant, shunned in his picturesque village as "bui doi" ("less than dust," the term reserved for children of American fathers), tracks down his mother in the big city, where she works as a housemaid for an old crab who soon slips on a puddle of water in slow-motion and cracks open her head, and then the hero's odyssey begins in earnest: to America the Beautiful in search of his father, through a Malaysian refugee camp, onto a slave ship bound for Manhattan, and finally



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measure.) If this outing seems a cut above all previous ones, it may be the benefit of a real, a tangible, a substantial background against which to display his specimens: three, thirty-something brothers who have not spoken to one another in the year since their father’s funeral, now heading out together on a “spiritual journey” in a first-class sleeper car across India, with the ultimate aim of tracking down their mother (a no-show at the funeral) in a convent at the foot of the Himalayas. In other words, a typical Wes Anderson operation, bringing about the insecure bonding of misaligned oddballs, but in an atypical exotic setting, the better to draw out their oddness. Owen Wilson, Adrien Brody, Jason Schwartzman, Amara Karan, Anjelica Huston, Bill Murray. 2007.
★★★ (LA PALOMA)

Diva — Flashy but extremely untidy comedy-thriller. A state of confusion is, perhaps, to be expected in a movie that juggles opera and white slavery, that juxtaposes the most wildly disparate settings, that buries its people beneath junkpiles of unrevealing quirks and knickknacks. And it is only fair to acknowledge the deliberateness of that state. On the other hand, it also seems fair, even mandatory, to say that the jumble of elements works against not just internal coherence, but against any underlying sincerity that might prompt a viewer to make allowances. With Frederic Andrei and Wilhelmenia Wiggins Fernandez; directed by Jean-Jacques Beineix. 1982.
★★ (KEN, 1/11 THROUGH 17)

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 eyelid (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

place where there are no happily-ever-afters,” namely modern-day Manhattan in live action, whither she’s soon followed by her betrothed prince, a CG chipmunk, and a witch’s minion. The slothful working-out of this inspiration should pass as sophisticated among grade-schoolers. And maybe once in a while among grown-ups. (With a song, the princess rallies pigeons, sewer rats, and cockroaches to help with the domestic chores.) Amy Adams, far from the most 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; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18)

First Sunday — Caper comedy with Ice Cube, Tracy Morgan, and Loretta Devine, written and directed by David E. Talbert. (CHULA VISTA 10; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 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; FROM 1/11)

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 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.
★ (HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; 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

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rather embarrassing literary creation, partly just by his youthful delicacy and his chip-on-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 Ryan, Morgan Freeman, among them). And the other Affleck, Ben, does some nice impressionistic detailing of his native Bean Town, and some candid thumbnailing of assorted lowlifes, before he succumbs to a muddying plot and a gagging resolution. 2007.
★ (GASLAMP 15)

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 all-black 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; FASHION 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 MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

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



The Orphanage

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 VILLAGE)

I’m Not There — Todd Haynes blows another cloud of mist into the mystique of Bob Dylan. The filmmaker, who once en-

listed Barbie dolls to tell the Karen Carpenter story, now borrows a gimmick used by Todd Solondz in *Palindromes*, employing a rotation of dissimilar actors to play a single role, a multiplication of a gimmick used by Luis Buñuel in *That Obscure Object of Desire*. (Not a gimmick, in other words, exclusive to filmmakers named Todd.) The fact that Bob Dylan is a real person and a public figure, about whom we may have our own ideas, further complicates matters, and it is easy to lose track of the subject of the film when we are looking at a prepubescent black boy, Marcus Carl Franklin, hopping freight trains in Depression-period hobostyle, or looking at Richard Gere in granny

glasses on horseback in the era of the model-T, and all the easier when they are masquerading under the aliases of Woody Guthrie and Billy the Kid, respectively. The songs in the film (sometimes sung by Dylan himself, sometimes by others) leave no doubt as to the protagonist’s identity, and no doubt as to his uniqueness, but between the half-dozen different faces and pseudonyms, the film seems to be not so much about the “many lives of Bob Dylan” as about a half-dozen different lives altogether. The elusiveness of the man, the multifacetedness of him, would presumably be The Point, but that point could have been made more subtly: the dissimilarity of Marcus Carl Franklin and Richard Gere amounts to gross overstatement. Adding to the confusion is a visual patchwork stitched together out of grainy black-and-white, glossy black-and-white, jaundiced color, and peachy color (Edward Lachman, cinematographer), not even counting the diverse cinematic allusions, catch them if you can, to Fellini, Godard, Peckinpah. With Christian Bale (who gets the speaking voice, the cadence, just right), Cate Blanchett (who additionally, cross-dressingly, gets the look just right), Ben Winslow, Heath Ledger, and Charlotte Gainsbourg. 2007.
★ (GASLAMP 15)

In the Name of the King — Video-game swordplay with Jason Statham, Leelee Sobieski, and Kristanna Loken, directed by Uwe Boll.
(CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 1/11)

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 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 anti-septic 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-at-home 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 shuntedaside, 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

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CHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER
VILLAGE 6; 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 hackneyed 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 Mahmudzada. 2007.

★★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MISSION VALLEY 7, FROM 1/11; PALM PROMENADE 24, FROM 1/11; TOWN SQUARE 14)

National Treasure: Book of

Secrets — National disgrace: another overtaxed premise with an eye to a Franchise. ("This doesn't involve another treasure hunt, does it?") The honorable name of Gates has been implicated in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, and rather than finding this historically intriguing, the present-day Gateses find it personally insulting. Exoneration will lie on a path through the Statue of Liberty, Buckingham Palace, the White House, Mount Vernon, Mount Rushmore, and the legendary City of Gold, as well as through exaggerated CG-aided action. With Nicolas Cage, Diane Kruger, Justin Bartha, Jon Voight, Helen Mirren, Harvey Keitel, and Ed Harris; directed by Jon Turteltaub. 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; 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 overflowingly bloody pulp thriller, plumped up with folksy first-person social commentary in italics, about a Texas good ole boy who stumbles upon the interminable 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



P.S. I Love You

(“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’ regu-

lar 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., and. 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)

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est. Drudging remake of a Japanese horror film, manifestly not one of the better ones. With Shannyn Sossamon, Edward Burns, Ana Claudia Talancón, Azura Skye, Johnny Lewis, Ray Wise, and Margaret Cho; directed by Eric Valette. 2008.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 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)

The Orphanage — Reviewed this issue.

With Belen Rueda, Fernando Cayo, Roger Princep, and Geraldine Chaplin; directed by J.A. Bayona.

★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA 12; PALM
PROMENADE 24, FROM 1/11; RANCHO DEL
REY 16, FROM 1/11; VISTA VILLAGE,
FROM 1/11)

P.S. I Love You — Reviewed this issue.

With Hilary Swank, Gerard Butler, Lisa Kudrow, Harry Connick, Jr., and Kathy Bates; directed by Richard LaGravenese.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; GLOSSOM VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; 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; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14)

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

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-Gene Shalit, TODAY

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-Marshall Fine, STAR MAGAZINE

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-Forrest Hartman, GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

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SEEN ON
DVD



Pirates of the Caribbean

TOM PLONKA

Hockey player from Rhode Island

I'm on the water a lot with my boat going to Catalina and Mexico, so I guess I like movies that take you out to the high seas. I think the first *Pirates of the Caribbean* movie was good. Johnny Depp's a good actor and as Captain Jack Sparrow he's pretty cool. But the two sequels just didn't make any sense. *Dead Man's Chest* just stopped in the middle of nowhere.

On a more realistic note, *Master and Commander*, with Russell Crowe, was very good. The film took you all over the globe, and even to the Galapagos Islands. That film captures the real feel of the ocean. It's also interesting because it was shot near here in Baja.

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

(USA) 2003, Walt Disney
List price: \$19.99 (two discs)

MASTER AND COMMANDER

(USA) 2003,
Twentieth Century Fox
List price: \$14.98



Moonstruck

MIKE FARRELL

Hockey player from Buffalo, New York

Here goes, three films from Buffalo. I have to start with the 1950s film *Niagara*. It's the movie that put Buffalo on the map. A young Marilyn Monroe, the intense compression of air, and tons of water from the falls — they all combine for a powerful effect.

The Robert Redford baseball movie *The Natural* shot a few scenes just a couple miles from my parents' house, which is just outside Buffalo. Some people tell me I look a lot like Redford. Wait a minute — he's getting pretty old! I once wrote "wonder boy" on my hockey stick.

But *Moonstruck* may be my favorite movie of all time. I'm not a big Cher fan, but she worked in this movie. Nicolas Cage was awesome. Frickin' funny. "When the moon in the sky looks like a big pizza pie, that's amore..."

NIAGARA (USA) 1953,

Twentieth Century Fox
List price: \$14.98

THE NATURAL (USA) 1984,

Sony Pictures
List price: \$24.94 (two discs)

MOONSTRUCK (USA) 1987,

MGM
List price: \$19.98



Miracle

TIMO MASLIN

Hockey player from Finland

Miracle, about the famous 1980 Olympic hockey game, may have been the reason I came to America. Just joking. I was 12 years old when that U.S. team beat my Finns in the Olympics to win the gold, after beating the Russians. Great story for the USA, sad story for the Finns. And then they made it into a movie with Kurt Russell as coach Herb Brooks. USA! USA! USA!

Slapshot is the classic movie of all time. Blood, fights, and plenty of beer. The Hansen brothers gave goons a good name. This is a great training film for any kid wanting to play hockey. Paul Newman, as the aging player/coach, even skates okay. He kept his head up like a real hockey player. But don't watch any of that *Mighty Ducks* crap.

MIRACLE (USA) 2004,

Walt Disney
List price: \$14.99

SLAPSHOT (USA) 1977,

Universal
List price: \$12.98

demented father (Philip Bosco) after his 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, semi-autobiographical) *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)

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 confident 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 MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

There Will Be Blood — Reviewed this issue. With Daniel Day-Lewis, Paul Dano, Kevin J. O'Connor, and Ciarán Hinds; written and directed by Paul Thomas Anderson.

★ (MISSION VALLEY 20, FROM 1/11)

This Is Spinal Tap — Its fictitious director, Marty DiBergi, only too happy to subscribe to the journalese *du jour*, labels this movie a "rockumentary." We might suggest in that same spirit, and in that same Time Inc. style, that its actual director, Rob Reiner, describe it as a "mockumentary": a put-on (or -down) of all the rock concert/tour documentaries, with particular indebtedness to Martin Scorsese's *The Last Waltz*. (Certainly the beard and the furrowed brow and the subsidiary role as on-screen interviewer, in addition to the baptismal name, bring to mind Scorsese.) Every episode that might be said to go too far in search of a laugh can be matched with one that goes exactly far enough, and

with plenty of others still left over. And, in any event, the performances of Michael McKean and Christopher Guest as the co-founders of the band — David St. Hubbins and Nigel Tufnel respectively — function almost gyroscopically to compensate for any deviation. They, and to a lesser extent Harry Shearer as the lower-profile Derek Smalls, never drop their masks long enough even to wink at the viewer. If, despite all that, there is any damaging complaint to be raised, it would just be that the filmmakers have made things too easy on themselves (and on the heavy-metal fans in the audience) by focussing on a group so precipitously and pitifully in decline. Heavy-metal fans will be able to reassure themselves that the egregious badness of the music, and the broadness of much of the humor, are necessary to the parody. Heavy-metal non-fans on the other hand, or fans of parody in general, will feel quite justifiably that no such precautions were needed. It is easy enough for the latter, of course, to laugh whenever they want to at the bona fide "heavies" on MTV. But that's a colder and lonelier experience than this is. 1984. ★★ ★ (KEN, 1/12 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.

★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24)

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; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 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)

MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Bargain showtimes are in parentheses.

CENTRAL

CLAIREMONT

Town Square 14

4665 Clairemont Drive (858-274-1234)
Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:35, 1:50) 4:20, 6:50, 9:20; **Atonement** (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:30) 4:10, 7:00, 9:50; **The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:05, 2:30) 5:15, 7:45, 10:25; **Charlie Wilson's War** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:55, 2:20) 5:10, 7:40, 10:15; **First Sunday** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:10, 2:35) 5:20, 8:00, 10:30; **I Am Legend** (No Rating) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 2:00) 4:30, 7:10, 9:45; **In the Name of the King: A Dungeon Siege Tale** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (1:35) 4:25, 7:15, 10:05; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:50, 2:15) 5:00, 7:20, 9:55; **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (1:45) 4:35, 7:30, 10:20; **One Missed Call** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (2:25) 5:25, 7:55, 10:00; **P.S. I Love You** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (1:55) 4:40, 7:25, 10:10; **Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie** (G) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 2:10) 4:45, 7:05, 9:25; **Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street** (R) Fri.-Sun. (2:05) 4:50, 7:35, 10:15; **The Water**

Horse: Legend of the Deep (PG) Fri.-Sun. (1:40) 4:15, 6:55, 9:30

DOWNTOWN

Gaslamp 15

701 Fifth Avenue (619-232-0400)
Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem (R) Fri.-Sun. (2:35, 3:20) 5:00, 5:35, 7:25, 8:25, 9:55; **American Gangster** (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:40) 4:35, 8:05; **Before the Devil Knows You're Dead** (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:50) 4:35, 7:20, 10:05; **The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (1:45, 2:40) 4:15, 5:15, 6:40, 7:40, 9:05, 10:00; **Enchanted** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (3:15) 5:40, 8:10; **First Sunday** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (2:15, 3:25) 4:45, 5:45, 7:15, 8:15, 9:45; **Into the Wild** (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:35) 4:50, 8:15; **P.S. I Love You** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (1:40, 2:15) 4:10, 5:10, 7:00, 8:00, 9:50; **Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie** (G) Fri.-Sun. (1:30, 3:30) 5:55, 8:10; **Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story** (R) Fri.-Sun. (2:35, 3:15) 5:05, 5:30, 7:30, 8:20, 9:55

Horton Plaza 14

Horton Plaza (619-444-FILM)
Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:10, 1:20, 3:50) 6:45, 9:10; **Charlie Wilson's War** (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:05, 2:20, 3:35) 6:50, 7:30, 9:15; **The Golden Compass** (PG-13) Fri. (11:15, 1:55, 4:30) 7:10, 9:45 Sat.-Sun. (11:15, 1:55) 4:30, 7:10, 9:45; **The Great**

Debaters (PG-13) Fri. (11:10, 2:15, 5:00) 7:45, 10:35 Sat.-Sun. (11:10, 2:15) 5:00, 7:45, 10:35; **I Am Legend** (No Rating) Fri. (1:25, 3:45, 4:20) 6:40, 9:20, 9:50 Sat.-Sun. (1:25, 3:45) 4:20, 6:40, 9:20, 9:50; **In the Name of the King** (PG-13) Fri. (11:05, 1:15, 2:00, 4:10, 4:50) 7:05, 7:35, 10:00, 10:30 Sat. (11:05, 2:00) 4:10, 4:50, 7:05, 7:35, 10:00, 10:30 Sun. (11:05, 1:15, 2:00) 4:10, 4:50, 7:05, 7:35, 10:00, 10:30; **The Kite Runner** (PG-13) Fri. (1:10, 4:15) 7:05, 9:55 Sat.-Sun. (1:10) 4:15, 7:05, 9:55; **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG) Fri. (11:00, 11:55, 1:50, 4:40) 7:00, 7:35, 10:25 Sat.-Sun. (11:00, 11:55, 1:50) 4:40, 7:00, 7:35, 10:25; **Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street** (R) Fri. (2:05, 4:55) 7:40, 10:20 Sat.-Sun. (2:05) 4:55, 7:40, 10:20; **The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep** (PG) Fri. (11:30, 2:10, 4:45) 7:25, 10:05 Sat.-Sun. (11:30, 2:10) 4:45, 7:25, 10:05

LA JOLLA

La Jolla 12

8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (858-558-2262)
Call theater for program information

La Jolla Village

8879 Villa La Jolla Drive (619-819-0236)
Atonement (R) Fri. 11:20, 1:40, 2:15, 5:15, 7:00, 8:15 Sat.-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)
Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem (R); **Alvin and the Chipmunks** (PG); **Charlie Wilson's War** (R); **Enchanted** (PG); **First Sunday** (PG-13); **The Great Debaters** (PG-13); **I Am Legend** (No Rating); **In the Name of the King** (PG-13); **The Kite Runner** (PG-13); **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG); **One Missed Call** (PG-13); **P.S. I Love You** (PG-13); **The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie** (G); **Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street** (R); **Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story** (R); **The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep** (PG)

Mission Valley 7

7510 Hazard Center Drive (619-685-2841)
Atonement (R); **The Bucket List** (PG-13);

Charlie Wilson's War (R); **I Am Legend** (No Rating); **In the Name of the King** (PG-13); **The Kite Runner** (PG-13); **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG)

Mission Valley 20

1640 Camino Del Rio North (858-558-2262)
The Metropolitan Opera: Macbeth - NCM Event Sat. (10:30a.m.); **The Metropolitan Opera: Macbeth Encore - NCM Event** Sun. 12:00p.m.

STATE UNIVERSITY

Ken

4061 Adams Avenue (619-819-0236)
Diva (Not Rated) Fri. 4:20, 7:00, 9:35 Sat.-Sun. 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35; **This Is Spinal Tap** (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; **The Diving Bell and the Butterfly** (PG-13) Fri. 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 9:50 Sat.-Sun. 11:05, 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 9:50

Museum of Photographic Arts
1649 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-7599)
Call theater for program information

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center
1875 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-1233)
Dinosaurs Alive! (NR) Fri. 3:00p.m. Sat.-Sun. 11:00, 3:00; **Dolphins** (Not Rated) Fri. 7:00p.m.; **The Living Sea** (Not Rated) Fri. 1:00, 5:00, 9:00 Sat. 1:00, 5:00, 7:00 Sun. 1:00, 5:00; **Mysteries of Egypt** (Not Rated) Fri. 6:00p.m.; **Sea Monsters 3D: A Prehistoric Adventure** (NR) Fri. 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 8:00 Sat. 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00 Sun. 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00

San Diego Natural History Museum
1788 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-232-3821)
Call theater for program information

EAST COUNTY

EL CAJON

Parkway Plaza 18
405 Parkway Plaza (619-401-3456)
Call theater for program information

LA MESA

Grossmont Center
Grossmont Center (619-465-7100)
Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG) Fri.-Sat. (1:00, 3:20) 5:45, 8:15, 10:25 Sun. (1:00, 3:20) 5:45, 8:10, 10:20; **Atonement** (R) Fri.-Sat. (12:50, 3:45) 7:00, 9:45 Sun. (12:50, 3:45) 7:00, 9:35; **The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:20, 2:45) 5:10, 7:45, 10:10 Sun. (12:20, 2:45) 5:10, 7:35, 9:50; **Charlie Wilson's War** (R) Fri.-Sat. (12:30, 2:55) 5:20, 7:50, 10:20 Sun. (12:30, 2:55) 5:20, 7:40, 9:55; **I Am Legend** (No Rating) Fri.-Sat. (12:10, 2:30) 5:00, 7:35, 9:55 Sun. (12:10, 2:30) 5:00, 7:25, 9:40; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:00, 2:25) 4:45, 7:10, 9:35 Sun. (12:00, 2:25) 4:45, 7:10, 9:25; **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (1:10) 4:20, 7:25, 10:15 Sun. (1:10) 4:20, 7:20, 10:05; **One Missed Call** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (1:20, 3:35) 5:55, 8:25, 10:35 Sun. (1:20, 3:35) 5:55, 8:05, 10:10; **P.S. I Love You** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (1:30) 4:30, 7:20, 10:05 Sun. (1:30) 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

RANCHO SAN DIEGO

Rancho San Diego 15
2951 Jamacha Road
Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:45, 3:15) 7:10, 9:45; **The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:30, 3:00) 7:00, 9:50; **Charlie Wilson's War** (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:10, 3:50) 6:40, 9:55; **Enchanted** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (1:00, 3:55) 6:45, 9:40; **First Sunday** (PG-13) Fri. (1:40, 4:30) 7:45, 10:15 Sat.-Sun. (1:40) 4:30, 7:45, 10:15; **The Golden Compass** (PG-13) Fri. (1:15, 4:45) Sat.-Sun. (1:15) 4:45; **The Great Debaters** (PG-13) Fri. (1:20, 4:35) 7:40, 10:25 Sat.-Sun. (1:20) 4:35, 7:40, 10:25; **I Am Legend** (No Rating) Fri.-Sun. (12:50, 3:45) 6:50, 9:35; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri. (12:55, 4:10) 7:15, 10:05 Sat.-Sun. (12:55) 4:10, 7:15, 10:05; **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG) Fri. (12:35, 4:00) 7:30, 10:40 Sat.-Sun. (12:35) 4:00, 7:30, 10:40; **No Country for Old Men** (R) Fri.-Sun. 7:35, 10:35; **One Missed Call** (PG-13) Fri. (1:35, 4:40) 7:55, 10:10 Sat.-Sun. (1:35) 4:40, 7:55, 10:10; **P.S. I Love You** (PG-13) Fri. (1:25, 4:25) 7:35, 10:30 Sat.-Sun. (1:25) 4:25, 7:35, 10:30; **Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie** (G) Fri.-Sun. (12:40, 3:30) 7:05, 9:30; **Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street** (R) Fri. (1:30, 4:20) 7:25, 10:30 Sat.-Sun. (1:30) 4:20, 7:25, 10:30; **The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep** (PG) Fri. (1:05, 4:15) 7:20, 10:00 Sat.-Sun. (1:05) 4:15, 7:20, 10:00

SANTEE

Santee Drive In
10990 Woodside Avenue (619-448-7447)
The Bucket List (PG-13) Fri.-Sun.; **I Am Legend** (No Rating) Fri.-Sun.; **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG) Fri.-Sun.; **P.S. I Love You** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun.

SOUTH BAY

CHULA VISTA

Chula Vista 10
Broadway between H and I (619-338-4214)
Call theater for program information

Otay Ranch 12
Eastlake Parkway at Olympic (858-558-2262)
Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG); **The Bucket List** (PG-13); **Charlie Wilson's War** (R); **Enchanted** (PG); **First Sunday** (PG-13); **I Am Legend** (No Rating); **Juno** (PG-13); **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG); **One Missed Call** (PG-13); **P.S. I Love You** (PG-13); **The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie** (G); **Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street** (R); **The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep** (PG)

Palm Promenade 24
770 Dennergy Road (858-558-2262)
Call theater for program information

Rancho Del Rey 16
East H Street (619-216-4707)
Call theater for program information

IMPERIAL BEACH

South Bay Drive-In
2170 Coronado Avenue (619-423-2727)
Call theater for program information

NORTH INLAND

CARMEL MOUNTAIN

Carmel Mountain
11620 Carmel Mountain Road (858-674-9770)
Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG) Fri.-Sat. (12:55, 3:05) 5:10, 7:20, 9:35 Sun. (12:55, 3:05) 5:10, 7:20; **The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:45, 3:00) 5:15, 7:30, 9:55 Sun. (12:45, 3:00) 5:15, 7:30; **Charlie Wilson's War** (R) Fri.-Sat. (12:35, 2:50) 5:05, 7:35, 10:00 Sun. (12:35, 2:50) 5:05, 7:35; **First Sunday** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:35, 2:55) 5:25, 7:45, 10:00 Sun. (12:35,

2:55) 5:25, 7:45; **The Great Debaters** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (1:10) 4:20, 7:00, 9:45 Sun. (1:10) 4:20, 7:00; **I Am Legend** (No Rating) Fri.-Sat. (12:30, 1:15, 3:30) 4:25, 6:45, 6:50, 9:30, 9:35 Sun. (12:30, 1:15, 3:30) 4:25, 6:45, 6:50; **In the Name of the King: A Dungeon Siege Tale** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (1:00) 4:15, 7:00, 9:50 Sun. (1:00) 4:15, 7:00; **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (1:25) 4:35, 7:25; **One Missed Call** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:40, 2:40) 4:45, 7:05, 9:40 Sun. (12:40, 2:40) 4:45, 7:05; **P.S. I Love You** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. 6:55, 9:45 Sun. 6:55p.m.; **Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie** (G) Fri.-Sat. (12:30, 2:45) 5:00, 7:10, 9:30 Sun. (12:30, 2:45) 5:00, 7:10; **The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (1:30) 4:30

ESCONDIDO

Escondido 16
350 W. Valley Parkway (760-291-0119)
Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:45, 3:30) 6:30, 9:35; **Atonement** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:25, 3:25) 7:25, 10:20; **The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri. (12:10, 2:50, 5:20) 7:50, 10:25 Sat.-Sun. (12:10, 2:50) 5:20, 7:50, 10:25; **Charlie Wilson's War** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:35, 3:15) 7:45, 10:35; **Enchanted** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:55,

3:40); **First Sunday** (PG-13) Fri. (1:30, 4:40) 7:30, 10:10 Sat.-Sun. (1:30) 4:40, 7:30, 10:10; **The Great Debaters** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:30, 3:55) 7:35, 10:30; **I Am Legend** (No Rating) Fri. (1:05, 4:30) 7:55, 10:40 Sat.-Sun. (1:05) 4:30, 7:55, 10:40; **In the Name of the King: A Dungeon Siege Tale** (PG-13) Fri. (1:00, 4:10) 7:10, 10:15 Sat.-Sun. (1:00) 4:10, 7:10, 10:15; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri. (12:05, 2:35, 5:05) 7:40, 10:15 Sat.-Sun. (12:05, 2:35) 5:05, 7:40, 10:15; **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 3:05) 7:00, 10:05; **No Country for Old Men** (R) Fri.-Sun. 6:40, 9:55; **One Missed Call** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (1:15) 4:50, 8:00, 10:45; **P.S. I Love You** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:50, 3:50) 6:50, 9:50; **Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie** (G) Fri. (12:20, 2:40, 5:00) 7:20, 9:40 Sat.-Sun. (12:20, 2:40) 5:00, 7:20, 9:40; **Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street** (R) Fri. (12:40, 4:15) 7:05, 10:00 Sat.-Sun. (12:40) 4:15, 7:05, 10:00; **The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:15, 3:00) 6:45, 9:45

FALLBROOK

River Village
5256 S. Mission Road (760-945-8784)
Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG); **The Bucket**

List (PG-13); **I Am Legend** (No Rating); **In the Name of the King** (PG-13); **Juno** (PG-13); **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG)

POWAY

Poway 10
13475 Poway Road (858-646-9423)
Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG); **The Bucket List** (PG-13); **Charlie Wilson's War** (R); **First Sunday** (PG-13); **I Am Legend** (No Rating); **In the Name of the King** (PG-13); **Juno** (PG-13); **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG); **One Missed Call** (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)
Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:30, 3:00, 5:25) 7:45, 10:10; **Alvin and the Chipmunks** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:10, 2:35, 5:00) 7:20, 9:40; **Atonement** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 1:45, 4:30) 7:10, 10:00; **The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:35, 2:00, 4:25) 7:00, 9:30; **Charlie Wilson's War** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 2:05, 4:35) 7:25, 9:50; **First Sunday** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:20, 2:45, 5:05) 7:30, 10:00; **The Great Debaters** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:50, 1:50, 4:35) 7:25, 10:20; **I Am Legend** (No Rating) Fri.-Sun. (11:45, 2:30, 5:10) 7:50, 10:30; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:50, 2:15, 4:40) 7:10, 9:35; **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:50, 1:45, 4:45) 7:40, 10:35; **One Missed Call** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:45) 8:00, 10:15; **P.S. I Love You** (PG-13) Fri. (10:45, 1:35, 4:25) 7:15, 10:05 Sat. (10:45, 1:35) 7:15, 10:05 Sun. (10:45, 1:35, 4:25) 7:15, 10:05; **Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie** (G) Fri.-Sun. (12:05, 2:20, 4:40) 7:05, 9:20; **Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:15, 2:00, 4:50) 7:35, 10:20; **The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 1:35, 4:10) 6:50, 9:15

NORTH COASTAL

CARLSBAD

Plaza Camino Real
2385 Marron Road (760-729-7469)
Juno (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:00, 1:10, 3:20) 5:30, 7:45, 10:00 Sun. (11:00, 1:10, 3:20) 5:30, 7:45; **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:55, 1:40, 4:30) 7:15, 9:55 Sun. (10:55, 1:40, 4:30) 7:15; **Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street** (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:10, 1:45, 4:20) 7:00, 9:35 Sun. (11:10, 1:45, 4:20) 7:00

DEL MAR

Del Mar Highlands 8
El Camino Real at Del Mar Heights Road (858-646-9420)
Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG); **The Bucket List** (PG-13); **I Am Legend** (No Rating); **In the Name of the King** (PG-13); **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG); **P.S. I Love You** (PG-13); **Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street** (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); **The Bucket List** (PG-13); **Charlie Wilson's War** (R); **I Am Legend** (No Rating); **Juno** (PG-13); **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG)

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


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


































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PRODUCED BY DAVID E. TALBERT DAVID MCILVAIN TIM STORY ICE CUBE MATT ALVAREZ WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY DAVID E. TALBERT

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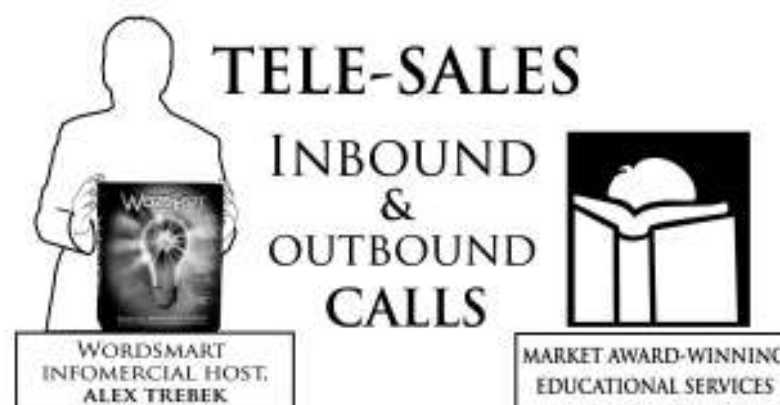
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Amy Jaramillo

Case Manager

Hillcrest

It's every day in my life. Oh, well, if I have to pick one, I'll say going to Switzerland with my boyfriend recently. We spent time in the capital. I got to meet his family. I saw the Swiss Alps, the highest peaks, which were 11,000 feet. I got to speak a few languages and eat lots of chocolate and lots of fondue.



Jasmine Janecek

Building Plan Checker

Solana Beach

My days are all happy. If I had to say one, I'll go with my last birthday. We all went out for Mexican food. We went to Live Wire after that and had cake. We had some delicious *tres leches*. And, of course, we did some shots. I ended up puking on the pretty red dress my mom got me. I ended up passed out on the bathroom floor.



Kimberli Kirsten

Cleaning Service

Vista

Well, since that's so hard to say, and there's a lot to pick from, I will tell you what my happiest day would be. It would be if I woke up and everything was positive around me. When I go to pick up my kids, everyone would be smiling. There would be no traffic, and the cars on the road, nobody doing anything crazy or cutting people off. I'd get the perfect parking spot. I'd be positive to other people, too. And the day would end with a good book and a glass of wine.



Frances Pedraza

Maid

Oceanside

I would have to say when my children were born. My oldest is ten, and my other just turned nine. Another really good day was when my entire family went to Florida on vacation. Just having us all there together and spending that time with one another made it a very special time.



Randy Roberts

Business Owner

Chicago

I would say when I met my wife Gayle. I have to say that or I'll be in trouble. We worked at the same restaurant when we were teenagers and started dating fairly soon after we met. It was in the early '80s. I went away to college, but we did the long-distance thing. We broke up a few times but always ended up getting back together. Now we run a business together. We just traveled out here on vacation. They're all great days, but if I had to pick one, it's the day I met her.



Grace Tudor

Waitress

San Diego

It was when I drove from Illinois to California after days on the road. I'm from East Peoria. I had got in so late, and it was crazy on the interstate. I was lost for two hours. But, after all that driving, getting my first apartment ever, getting some sleep, and just being so happy at that moment, that was the best day.

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CORRECTIONAL DEPUTY PROBATION Officer I. County of San Diego Probation Department now hiring. Test Date: February 2, 2008, 8am. Montgomery Middle School, 2470 Ulric Street, San Diego 92111. Must be 21 years, good physical condition, no illicit drug usage. U.S. citizen or becoming a citizen. Pass criminal/personal background investigation. No felony convictions. High school diploma/GED. \$35,068-\$44,740/year. www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation. Jobline: 858-514-8558.

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For additional information, contact the department's

Jobline: 858-514-8558

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DELL. Immediate opening for energetic and experienced Sandwich Maker/General Help at Pearson Deli, Point Loma. Full or part time. Wage negotiable. Apply: 2435 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego 92106. 619-222-2234.

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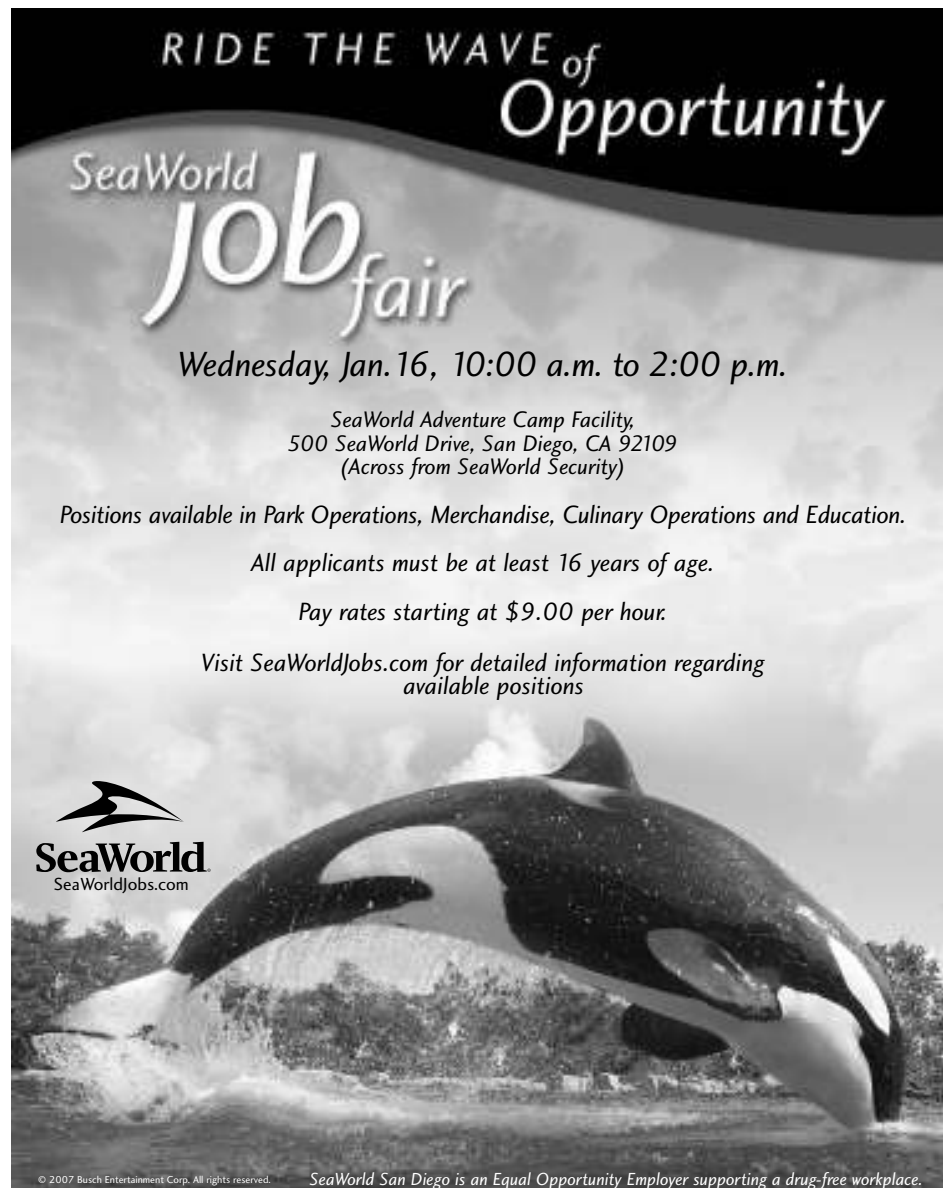
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GROCERY/NATURAL FOODS. Now hiring! Vitamin Specialist, Cashier, Grocery Shift Leader (Graveyard) and Produce Clerk (Del Mar), Grocery Manager on Duty, Grocery Clerk and Janitor (Escondido). \$9.00-\$15.50/hour. Great environment, competitive pay, bonus and benefits. Jimbo's Naturally! 12853 El

Camino Real, Del Mar. Fax 858-793-7732. hr@jimbos.com. www.jimbos.com.

GROUP FITNESS INSTRUCTORS: Corporate, Luxury and Residential exercise environments. Locations all over San Diego. All types of classes, all days and times. Water and Mind/Body instructors strongly encouraged to apply. Certification and experience required. E-mail: carolyn@fitsandiego.com. Fax: 858-715-8681. Call 858-715-8611.

GUARDS/SECURITY. Join the #1 Security Team where people make the difference. Call Securitas, the largest, most respected security company in the world! Countywide positions available. Free Guard Card training. Medical/dental/vision and 401(k), excellent working environment, free uniforms. For fastest response, apply online now! www.securitasjobs.com. Thank you for applying online! Or call San Diego: 619-641-0049; San Marcos (North County): 760-591-3733; Temecula: 951-676-3954. EOE/M/F/V/D, drug free. PPO #14827.

HAIR DESIGNERS. Busy Gaslamp salon seeking booth renters. Walk-ins available!

Great urban loft environment, convenient parking. Move-in incentives. 619-231-7588.

HAIRDRESSER and esthetician needed for salon in Hillcrest. Full time or part time. Booth rental only. Free parking. Call Judy, 619-291-1190.

HAIRSTYLIST. Booth rental in great Hillcrest/Uptown location with parking. \$750 per month. 1/2 off first month's rent. The Hairrem. Call John, 619-894-6439.

HAIRSTYLIST. Children's hairstylist wanted for Children's Salon in La Jolla and Carmel Valley. Many clients eagerly awaiting you! Experience with children preferred. Please call 858-551-5161.

HAIRSTYLIST. Lower your expenses! La Jolla/UTC. Relaxed, established easy-going salon seeks weekly booth renters: \$200/week. Call Paul Gerard Hair Salon, 858-625-0555.

HAIRSTYLISTS needed for a hip, new salon. No clientele needed! Walk-in clients available. Will train. We need you now. Great benefits package includes health insurance. 858-380-5882.

HEALTHCARE. Now hiring. Caregiver. Full and Part Time. Experience in Dementia a plus. Belmont Village is an employee focused senior living community, near Highway 15 and Poway Road. We offer great pay, medical coverage, and a quarterly incentive bonus. Stop by to apply, call: 858-486-5020, or fax resume: 858-486-3540. Belmont Village at Sabre Springs, 13075 Evening Creek Drive, San Diego, CA 92128. EOE.

HEALTHCARE: RNS, LVNs, AIDES. Join La Jolla Nurses! Looking for Home Health Aides, ongoing assignments. Also per diem work—you pick the days, hours and shifts! Competitive pay rates, excellent work assignments. Employee-owned agency—you receive shares of company stock free! State-licensed home health agency. Medical, dental and vision benefits; 401(k) plan, referral bonus. La Jolla Nurses HomeCare, 858-454-9339.

HEALTHCARE: Palomar Pomerado Health is hiring! Skilled Nursing Facilities: Certified Nursing Assistants and Licensed Vocational Nurses. General Services: Cooks, Food Service Workers, Nutrition Care Assistants, Environmental Service Workers, and Distribution Cart Technicians. Home Health: LVN, Home Health Aides, CNA/Personal Care Assistants, Homemaker/Companion/Sitter. For consideration, please apply online: [HELP WANTED](http://www.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

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.

Community Training Specialist/Job Coach
\$9.75/hr. to start, DOE

To assist developmentally disabled adults in the community. Behavioral and instructional programs. Implement schedules. 32.5 hours/week. Benefits.

Transition Specialist • \$9.75/hr. to start, DOE

Assist teachers in group- and community-based instruction for developmentally disabled adults. Implement behavioral management programs. 30 hours/week.

Classroom Aides
\$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. EOE



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858-578-9205

MISSION VALLEY
5608 Mission Center Rd.
619-497-0971

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619-223-1900

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Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2008 • 6 pm
Balboa Park Club Ballroom
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Friday, Jan. 18, 2008 • 8:30 am
Balboa Park Club Ballroom
2150 Pan American Rd. West, San Diego



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E-mail: Help@gostaff.com

Apply online: www.gostaff.com

pph.org or apply in person, Monday-Friday, 7:30am-4:30pm at Palomar Medical Center, Human Resources: 660 East Grand Avenue, Escondido, 92025 or Pomerado Hospital, Human Resources: 15615 Pomerado Road, Poway, 92064.

HOME CARE COMPANIONS. Live-in Care Companions for older adults. We offer competitive salary of \$10/hour, \$135/day for live-in, mileage reimbursement. Must have valid California Driver's License and transportation. One year experience providing care to seniors or CNA license. Angie, 858-485-7100; fax: 858-485-7106; email: amolano@silveradosenior.com.

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HOTEL HOUSEKEEPING. Rancho Valencia, one of the premier luxury Southern California resorts, is currently seeking a Housekeeping Evening Supervisor. Ideal candidate must have extensive hotel housekeeping experience, strong English communication skills and valid drivers license. Apply in person: 5921 Valencia Circle, Rancho Santa Fe CA 92067. Or email resume (as attachment): hr@ranchovalencia.com. www.ranchovalencia.com. No phone calls please. EOE/Drug-free workplace.

HOTEL. Assistant Front Office Manager for Doubletree Del Mar. Contact 858-481-5900 or in person: 11915 El Camino Real, Del Mar.

HOTEL. Old Town Inn seeks Relief Night Auditor/Front Desk. Experience preferred. Competitive pay/benefits! Apply: 4444 Pacific Highway, fax resume: 619-296-0524 or e-mail: oldtowninn@nethere.com.

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IN-HOME CARE. Caregivers and Companions. Minimum 1 year experience non-medical home care for seniors. Valid California Driver's License. Serving Santee/La Mesa/Del Cerro/San Carlos. Maureen, Visiting Angels, 619-749-7525.

INSIDE SALES EXECUTIVES. Homes.com, a leader in real estate Internet technologies, is looking for strong Sales Account Executives to grow business. We are interviewing those who show a high degree of self-confidence, self-motivation and exceptional communication skills. Proven closing abilities a plus. Sell web services and Internet advertising to realtors direct. Full time only. If you are a qualified Salesperson who believes in yourself, quotas will be no problem. We know how to treat our employees: Fun work environment, base salary plus commissions, all benefit included, career opportunities/growth potential. If you're a proven successful Sales Rep, you will want to hang your hat with us for years to come. Send resume to resumes@homes.com or call 888-329-7576 x2172.

INSIDE SALES/APPOINTMENT SETTER. Part time-full time. Days/evenings. Experience preferred. Better Business approved. Convenient Mission Valley office. Great income potential, hourly plus bonuses, weekly pay. 858-279-9896.

JOB COACH/COMMUNITY Training Specialist. \$9.75/hour to start. Assist developmentally disabled adults in the community. 32.5 hours/week. Benefits. EOE. Apply Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm: Stein Education Center, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego 92120. E-mail: steinjobs@vistahill.org. Fax: 619-281-0453. www.vistahill.org.

JOB COACH/FOOD SERVICE. Job Coach positions, fast-paced mess hall at the Marine Corps Recruitment Depot. Requirements: any combination of training and experience equivalent to a high school education. May be required to transport clients and/or equipment in own vehicle. Ability, and interest, in working with adults with developmental disabilities. May be required to lift and to physically perform whatever job is being trained. Must have a valid California Driver's License and 24 months of driving experience. Salary is \$10.33/hour. Ability to complete criminal record clearance as required by the military base and a Health Screening. Send resume to Bill Lovell, 9575 Aero Drive, San Diego CA 92123. Fax: 619-234-6070 or visit www.arc-sd.com. EOE.

JOB COACHES. Community-oriented Center for Independent Achievement is seeking dependable individuals in East County. 1:4 group ratio maximum. \$8.50-\$9.50/hour. Annual raises. Bonuses for exceptional performance. Benefits with full-time. pficareer@yahoo.com. Fax 619-440-6864. 619-440-6802.

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Exam Dates:

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Registration by e-mail or phone is required
prior to the Ridgehaven test **ONLY**.

recruit@sdsheriff.org

January 19, 2008 • 7:30 am Arrival

Rancho Buena Vista High School
1601 Longhorn Dr., Vista, CA 92083

18-year-olds eligible to apply!

Bring valid photo ID.

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San Diego County Sheriff's Department Open House January 31, 2008 • 6-8 pm

This FREE event is a great opportunity for anyone interested in a career in law enforcement. Talk to the heroes of the Sheriff's Department about the hiring process, qualifications, benefits, career advancement, the academy and much, much more!

San Diego Sheriff's Department
9621 Ridgehaven Court, San Diego, CA 92123

Contact Deputy Laura Legler:

858-974-2336

Laura.Legler@sdsheriff.org

EOE

SurfDIEGO

Name: **Marty Cowles**
Lives: **Ocean Beach**
Surfing: **Avalanche Jetty, Ocean Beach**

"Go home, Barney," Marty Cowles says is the worst insult he's heard from locals. The most he's been hassled is at Oceanside. "They get pissed off at you up there. Riding at the pier in Oceanside is pretty cutthroat."

Since Marty came to San Diego from South Dakota five years ago, he's been surfing. He moved here for the music scene; he's keyboard player in a couple of on-again off-again bands.

Marty surfs Ocean Beach because everyone's respectful. "As long as you stay out of people's way, you know, if you're in line, you can go for it. People will let you go. Nobody's really competing for waves or showing off."

After five years, Marty considers himself an accomplished surfer. The challenge of surfing and the



mellow feeling after a session surfed well are why he keeps coming out. "Whether you're getting good waves or not," Marty says. "It's still something to do that makes

you feel good....
"South Dakota, we have wakeboarding and...well, getting drunk. Surfing is a different feel. It's more zen, but also a little more intense;

you have to stay on your toes out there."

See the video
Go to SanDiegoReader.com
Click on SurfDiego

JOB FAIR! Ride the wave of opportunity at SeaWorld! January 16, 10am-2pm, Sea-World Adventure Camp Facility, 500 Sea-World Drive, San Diego 92109 (across

from SeaWorld Security). Now hiring: Park Operations, Merchandise, Culinary Operations and Education. Must be at least 16 years of age. \$9/hour to start. EOE. Drug-

free workplace. For detailed information, visit SeaWorldJobs.com. Apply in person: Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm: 500 Sea World Drive, San Diego 92109. 619-226-3842.

JOB WANTED, I am seeking a job as a caregiver or personal driver for an elderly or disabled person. I have references and experience. Brad, 619-244-3343.

LANDSCAPE. We seek 3 reliable hard-workers for our expanding aeration team. Valid driver's license required. Will train. Opportunity for advancement. Call Poway office: Greenway, 858-486-8277.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT. Deputy Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Detentions/Courts. San Diego County Sheriff's Department. Hiring for two types of positions; take one exam, apply for either or both! Exam Dates: Wednesday, January 16, 2008, 12:30pm arrival, Sheriff's Administrative Center, 9621 Ridgeway Court, San Diego CA 92123 or Saturday, January 19, 2008, 7:30am arrival, Rancho Buena Vista High School, 1601 Longhorn Drive, Vista CA 92083. Registration by e-mail or phone is required for the Ridgeway test ONLY at: recruit@sdsheriff.org. Detention/Courts: \$39,796-\$61,608 annual salary, plus benefits. 18-year-olds eligible to apply! Deputy Sheriff: \$49,704-\$71,099 current annual salary, plus benefits. U.S. citizen or applied for citizenship; 20-1/2 years old. High school graduate or G.E.D. required. Bring valid photo ID. Valid California Driver's License prior to appointment. Effective oral and written communication in English. EOE. Additional test dates: www.joinSDSHERIFF.net. 858-974-2000.

LAW ENFORCEMENT: OFFICER Assistant. U.S. Pretrial Services, a federal law enforcement agency with the judicial branch, is seeking an Officer Assistant. Incumbent should be familiar with the criminal justice system and possess the following skills: an ability to effectively deal with people in a variety of situations; investigative techniques; data gathering techniques; and excellent oral and writing skills. Bilingual (English/Spanish) speakers preferred. Appointment subject to successful background investigation, medical clearance and drug screening. First time appointees under Law Enforcement Retirement must not have reached their 37th birthday. Send resume and cover letter: U.S. Pretrial Services, 940 Front Street, Box 5196, San Diego, CA 92101. No phone calls please. An EEO employer.

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MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN needed for apartments/hotel. 5 years experience required. Full Time with benefits. Call 619-296-6333 x304 or fax/mail resume 619-295-5286/4440 Pacific Highway, 92110.

MAINTENANCE TECHS for North County luxury apartments. Must be experienced. Background/drug test required. Benefits. Fax resume to 888-369-9229 or e-mail wmaplicants@aol.com. Call 888-252-7976.

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<http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov>
Jobline: 858-514-8558

MAINTENANCE. Volunteers of America Southwest California, a faith-based social service nonprofit, is seeking a qualified candidate to perform general maintenance and repair duties at a licensed adult residential facility for mentally ill adults in Spring Valley. Must clear fingerprints, complete criminal background check, and have a clean driving record. Part-time, 30 hours/week (\$9-\$11/hour). Call Human Resources: 619-282-8211; e-mail: hr@voa-swc.ca.org; fax resume: 619-282-8210; mail resume: Volunteers of America Southwest CA, 3530 Camino Del Rio North, #300, San Diego, CA 92108. EEO/Affirmative Action Employer.

MAINTENANCE for older buildings. Must have experience. Tools and transportation required. Call 619-692-3124 or 619-234-7572.

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MARKETING. Promote well-known natural food companies at local events. Interest in nutrition/organics, able to lift 35-pounds, computer-literate. E-mail resume with 1-paragraph personal statement: Angelina@tkpromotions.com.

MENTAL HEALTH AIDE. Volunteers of America Southwest California, a faith-based social service nonprofit is seeking qualified entry-level candidates who have an interest in working with the mentally ill. You will monitor clients, assist with setting and administration of medications, do light charting, assist with preparation and serving of meals for clients located at our El Cajon and Spring Valley facilities (\$8.25/hour). Call Human Resources: 619-282-8211; e-mail resume: hr@voa-swc.ca.org;

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OFFICE. Immediate long-term positions. Managers, Recruiters, Receptionist, Account Managers and Sales Staff. Full benefits available immediately. Call 858-292-8562, fax 858-292-0230, e-mail help@gostaff.com, apply online www.gostaff.com.

OPEN HOUSE! Free! San Diego County Sheriff's Department. Thursday, January 31, 2008, 6pm-8pm. Great opportunity for anyone interested in a Law Enforcement career. Talk to the heroes of the Sheriff's Department about the hiring process, qualifications, benefits, career advancement, the Academy and much more! San Diego Sheriff's Department, 9621 Ridgehaven Court, San Diego CA 92123. EOE. Contact Deputy Laura Legler, 858-974-2336. Laura.Legler@sdsdsheriff.org.

OUTDOOR YOUTH COUNSELOR. Do you love the outdoors and helping troubled teens? Immediate openings at Eckerd outdoor therapeutic programs in North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, Vermont, New Hampshire. Year-round residential position, free room/board, competitive salary/benefits. Info and apply online: www.eckerdoutdoor.org or fax resume to Career Advisor/AN, 727-442-5911. EOE/DFWP (AAN CAN)

PART TIME. Looking for a home-based business? Join our Watkins team today. Flexible, part time, excellent training provided. Free info at www.zestybiz.com.

PAWNBROKER. Full-time, experience required. Must be motivated, reliable. Able to lift and type. Future management possibilities. Apply in person: 3993 30th, North Park; fax 619-298-1948.

PHONE SALES. \$1000-\$2000+/week realistic first-year potential! Highest paid commission in industry with bonuses. Experienced Re-loaders welcomed! Start your high-paying sales career today! 30-year old company. Great hours, 7am-2:30pm, Monday-Friday. No overtime, weekends, evenings. Paid training. 401(k), medical, dental, 3 offices for your convenience. Kearny Mesa: Allen, 858-292-8577. Oceanside: Mike, 619-701-3631. Sorrento Valley: Ron, 800-854-2830 x232.

PHONE SALES: Phone pro's make \$50K-\$100K plus! Ready to earn what you're worth? Paid holidays/training/time off. Health benefits, 401K, great leads. Call 858-638-7986 x4500.

PLUMBER. Experienced. Service/repair and tenant improvements. Dependable. Clean DMV. Full-time days. Fax 619-440-2966. Call 619-440-2872.


PLUMBERS. ARS is seeking career-minded Plumbers with minimum 2 years experience. If you like the idea of working for a national leader in the service industry, with benefits that rival the industry standard, and have the motivation and desire to earn an income that would make many college graduates envious, please call us today to arrange an interview that just might change your life forever! Kevin, 858-677-5444 x113. kkelington@ars.com, www.jobswithars.com. Drug-free work environment. License #ARS San Diego 791820.

PLUMBERS/SERVICE TECHNICIANS with experience needed now! Rescue Rooter offers: Medical/dental, 401(k), vans/tools, paid vacations/overtime, high income, drug-free workplace. To apply, please e-mail: lmyking@ars.com or call: 858-457-6506. AA/EOE. License #765155.

PLUMBING APPRENTICE. Need a trade? No experience necessary. Work in plumbing, drain cleaning trade. We train. Earn up to \$900/week with opportunity for advancement. Must have small truck or van. 858-530-3265. 619-440-4336. 760-741-7503.

PROBATION CAREERS. Correctional Deputy Probation Officer I. County of San Diego Probation Department now hiring. Test Date: February 2, 2008, 8am. Montgomery Middle School, 2470 Ulric Street, San Diego 92111. Must be 21 years, good physical condition, no illicit drug usage. U.S. citizen or becoming a citizen. Pass criminal/personal background investigation. No felony convictions. High school diploma/GED. \$35,069-\$44,741/year. www.sdccounty.ca.gov/probation. Jobline: 858-514-8558.

PROGRAM SUPERVISOR- Mental Health and Dual Diagnosed. Volunteers of America Southwest California is seeking a Program Supervisor to manage the daily operations, casework and services at our licensed facility for the mentally ill and dual diagnosed located in the Flynn Springs area of El Cajon. Position requires a Bachelor's degree in related field, 3-5 years related experience working with the mentally ill and dual diagnosed. Previous supervisory experience required. Requires knowledge of CCL regulations and Title 22. Excellent written and verbal communication skills required. Must be able to pass fingerprinting and criminal background check and TB test. (\$28,000-\$31,000). Call Human Resources: 619-282-8211; e-mail resume: hr@voa-swc.ca.org; fax: 619-282-8210; or mail: Volunteers of America Southwest California, 3530 Camino Del Rio North, #300, San Diego, CA 92108. EEO/Affirmative Action Employer.



Hiring for 2008 Padres Baseball Season
Petco Park, Home of Your San Diego Padres
We are looking for team players for the "Team behind the Team."

Concessions, Retail & Warehouse
Saturday, February 2, 2008: 11:00 am-4:00 pm
Wednesday, February 13, 2008: 4:00 pm-8:00 pm
Tuesday, February 26, 2008: 4:00 pm-7:00 pm
At the Western Metals Building located across from the Marriott on Tony Gwynn Dr.
Qualified applicants should have food service or retail background, but we will train the right individuals.
Positions available include:
Stand Leaders, Stand Attendants, Event Porters, Day Porters, Food Preps, Cooks, Vending Commissary Leaders, Vending Commissary Workers, Food & Beverage Vendors, Team Store Clerks, Program Vendors
Non-union positions: Level Supervisors

****Must be able to work Padres home games, including playoffs****
Fine Dining (Suites, In-seat & Clubs)
Tuesday, February 19, 2008: 4:00 pm-8:00 pm
Saturday, February 23, 2008: 11:00 am-4:00 pm
At the Western Metals Building located across from the Marriott on Tony Gwynn Dr.
Qualified applicants should have fine dining food service background, but we will train the right individuals.
Positions available include:
Bartenders, Bar Backs, Club Servers, In-Seat Servers, In-Seat Runners, Suite Runners, Cooks (event-only & pre-event), Food Preps (event-only & pre-event), Host Persons
Non-union positions: Level Supervisors

•DNC Sportservice requires pre-employment drug testing and criminal background checks.
****Must be able to work Padres home games, including playoffs****
• We will be conducting on-site interviewing.
Please dress in appropriate interview attire (no jeans, sneakers, sandals, T-shirts, etc.).

For more information log onto our website at: www.sdbaseballjobs.com or call: 619-795-5901
EEO/D/V/M/F

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We are seeking someone experienced with Macintosh QuarkXpress. Experience with Page Director ALS is desired, but we are willing to train you in this software. As proofreading will be a large part of the job, excellent proofreading skills are a must. We are seeking someone with excellent grammar, spelling and punctuation skills. Speed and accuracy under deadline pressure is a must. Full-time position.

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Forward résumé to San Diego Reader Personnel Department:

**Mail:** P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803
Fax: (619) 231-0489
E-mail (plain text only, no attachments or enclosures): hrdept@sdrreader.com

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PROPERTY MANAGER AVAILABLE. Well educated, years of applicable experience, fast learner. Very passionate about applying my integrity toward my commitment of my employer. Jeff Gamby@hotmail.com; 614-315-5323.

QUALITY MANAGER. Full time-exempt. Must have Business or Engineering BA. We design and manufacture high-tech equipment and systems for oceanographic, industrial, commercial, military. vanessa@rosys.com.

RECREATION ASSISTANT for the Stein Education Center, a private special education school serving children with Autism and other disabilities. Candidates must possess 12 units of Early Childhood Education or 12 units in a related field and a valid California driver's license. Duties include supervising direct care, scheduling social and recreation activities. Computer knowledge preferred. Monday-Friday, 9:30am-6pm. Starting salary \$10.33/hour with benefits. Pre-employment screening (drug test, TB) and Background Check (FBI and Department of Justice). EOE. Apply in person, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego 92120 or fax resume to 619-281-0453.

REPAIR TECHNICIAN. Full-time, Mira Mesa. Manual/power wheelchairs and home medical equipment. Experience a plus, training available. Benefits. Clean driving record required. Drug-free workplace. HRRancho@yahoo.com, 858-866-0681.

REPOSSESSION AGENT, Established agency located in North County is seeking career-minded individuals that would like to break into the repossession field. Company training provided to qualify for repossession license. For individuals with clean DMV records and are at least 21 years of age with no felonies, apply in person with drivers license Monday through Thursday, 10am-4pm: Fenders Recovery Service, 915 Bailey Court, Suite #110, San Marcos, CA 92070. 760-752-8632.

RESEARCH STUDY: YAZ Continuous (periods every 3 months), pays up to \$400, one year study. Call Kim at the Medical Center for Clinical Research, 619-521-2841.

RESERVATION AGENTS. Hourly pay plus bonuses. Full or part time. AM/PM shifts. Paid weekly. Medical, dental. Near

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RESPIRE CARE for children and teens with developmental disabilities. Critical need. Countywide! Great pay! New-hire bonus! Nonmedical, in-home help. Caring heart more important than experience. Training, 12-and 24-hour shifts. Flexible schedules, benefits, retirement, childcare. At Your Home Familycare. E-mail: homecarejobs@atyourhomefamilycare.com. Toll free: 1-877-903-JOBS.

RESTAURANT BAR MANAGER: For Irish Pub, bar and grill. Experience necessary. Apply, Monday-Friday, 12noon-5pm, 554 4th Avenue, Gaslamp or fax: 619-239-5828, or e-mail: dublinsquare@yahoo.com.

RESTAURANT LINE COOK: For Irish pub, bar and grill. Experience necessary. Apply: 554 4th Avenue, Gaslamp or fax: 619-239-5828, or e-mail: dublinsquare@yahoo.com.

RESTAURANT MANAGER for Doubletree Del Mar. Contact 858-481-5900 or in person: 11915 El Camino Real, Del Mar.

RESTAURANT WAITPERSON. Sushi Chef for Sushi a La Kaz, a new restaurant in Chula Vista. Call Kaz at 858-699-5973.

RESTAURANT. Dishwashers, Full and Part Time. Wash dishes, stock food and set up dining room. Belmont Village is an employee focused senior living community, near Highway 15 and Poway Road. We offer great pay, medical coverage and a quarterly incentive bonus. Stop by to apply, call: 858-486-5020, or fax resume: 858-486-3540. Belmont Village at Sabre Springs, 13075 Evening Creek Drive, San Diego, CA 92128. EOE/Drug free workplace.

RESTAURANT. Now hiring! Baker, Deli Clerks and Dishwasher (Del Mar); Deli Supervisor and Kitchen Supervisor (4S Ranch); Deli Clerk (Carlsbad); Deli Clerk and Prep Cook (Escondido). \$9-\$15.50/hour. See ad under Grocery/Natural Foods. Jimbo's Naturally!

RESTAURANT. Subway is now hiring Counter Attendants and Managers. Full or part time, day and evening shifts. Flexible scheduling. Competitive wages. Free employee meals. Paid vacation. Tuition assistance. Apply in person. Mira Mesa: 9242 Miramar Road; 858-578-9205. Mission Valley: 5608 Mission Center Road; 619-497-0971. Point Loma: 2907 Shelter Island Drive; 619-223-1900. Management applicants, fax resume to 619-688-9291.

RESTAURANT/SANDWICH SHOP. La Jolla Shores Mom'n'pop sandwich shop. Experienced team player. Fast-paced, multi-tasking retail environment. \$10 hour plus tips. Call 7am-11am only, Phil, 858-459-3921.

RESTAURANT: FUDDRUCKERS Grand opening. Grill/Prep Cooks, Bakers, Expeditors, Dishwashers/Bussers, Sales Associates, Servers. Apply 1/14 or 1/18 10am-5pm: 1007 5th, San Diego 92101. 619-544-1700.

RESTAURANT: PETCO PARK. Delaware North Companies (DNC) Sportservice hiring for 2008 Padres Baseball Season. Job Fair for Fine Dining (Suites, In-Seat & Clubs)— Tuesday 2/19 4pm-8pm, Saturday 2/23 11am-4pm. Western Metals Building across from Marriott on Tony

Gwynn Drive. Qualified applicants should have fine dining food service background but will train the right individuals. Positions available include: Bartenders, Bar Backs, Club Servers, In-Seat Servers, In-Seat Runners, Suite Runners, Cooks (event-only & pre-event), Food Preps (event-only & pre-event), Host Persons. Non-union positions: Level Supervisors. Must be able to work Padres home games, including playoffs. Requires pre-employment drug testing and criminal background checks. On-site interviewing, please dress in appropriate interview attire (no jeans, sneakers, sandals, T-shirts, etc.). For more information: www.sdbaseballjobs.com. Or call: 619-795-5901. EEO/D/M/F.

RETAIL SALES. Flexible hours, fun working environment, free parking. Fun boutique in La Jolla looking for energetic and motivated individuals. 858-349-5208.

RETAIL SPORTING GOODS SALES. Part time, flexible hours, discount, free lift tickets. Other benefits. \$8-\$9 per hour. Selling skate, surf, fitness, golf and more. College area. Play it Again Sports, 619-787-2305.

RETAIL/BILINGUAL. Wireless provider expands to El Cajon. Full/part time. Available weekends/holidays. Experience. HS diploma required. Call today! 858-597-4000. Fax: 858-453-9632; E-mail: staffing@tristaff.com.

RETAIL/COPY CENTER. Busy store seeks experienced, friendly, professional copy consultants for copying/finishing. \$9.00-\$13.00/hour. Full-time shifts. Great technology-driven work environment. Growth potential, training, benefits. Call Nimish, 858-337-3557. Apply in person: Copy2Copy, 3737 Murphy Canyon Road #C, San Diego, 92123. E-mail: jobs@copy2copy.com. Fax: 858-292-8102.

RETAIL/RESTAURANT: PETCO PARK. Delaware North Companies (DNC) Sportservice hiring for 2008 Padres Baseball Season. Job Fair for Concessions, Retail & Warehouse— Saturday 2/2 11am-4pm, Wednesday 2/13 4pm-8pm, Tuesday 2/26 4pm-7pm. Western Metals Building across from Marriott on Tony Gwynn Drive. Qualified applicants should have food service or retail background but will train the right individuals. Positions available include: Stand Leaders, Stand Attendants, Event Porters, Day Porters, Food Preps, Cooks, Vending Commissary Leaders, Vending Commissary Workers, Food & Beverage Vendors, Team Store Clerks, Program Vendors. Non-union positions: Level Supervisors. Must be able to work Padres home games, including playoffs. Requires pre-employment drug testing and criminal background checks. On-site interviewing, please dress in appropriate interview attire (no jeans, sneakers, sandals, T-shirts, etc.). For more information: www.sdbaseballjobs.com. Or call: 619-795-5901. EEO/D/M/F.

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SALES REPS. Seasoned, for outbound Call Center. \$13.50/hour plus bonus! Monday-Friday. Located in Miramar. Serious applicants only. For interview, call

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SALES. Attention Real Estate Agents and Mortgage Brokers! Your sales skills are a perfect match for my industry. Serious only, 1-800-230-5880.

SALES. Attention Real Estate Agents, Insurance Agents, and Mortgage Brokers! We need your sales skills in my industry. Serious inquiries only. www.income121.com, 888-648-9528.

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5291 or apply in person 12-5pm Monday-Thursday: 2851 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 300, San Diego 92108.

SALES. Outside Sales, eLiveLife.com—sell Salon & Spa certificates door-to-door and/or frin promotional trade show booths, must be outgoing, positive! Kiosk Sales, eLiveLife.com—Mission Valley. Inside Sales, American Satellite-Mission Valley, 2667 Camino del Rio South #204— DirectTV phone center, \$300-\$500/day. 619-398-5050 or e-mail resume to info@eLiveLife.com.

SALES/PHONE: Phone pro's make \$50K-\$100K plus! Ready to earn what you're worth? Paid holidays/training/time off. Health benefits, 401K, great leads. Call 858-638-7986 x4500.

SALES/FINANCE. Community One's Vista location is hiring! If you have considered going into the real estate field and making a six-figure income, Community One is the answer. Here is the opportunity of a lifetime. Great training provided. The only requirement is to have the drive and desire to be successful. To apply, call Edgar at 858-663-0472.

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SALES: Coastal Pure Water hiring Salespeople for San Diego County. Whole house water conditioners, reverse osmosis water purifiers. Very high commission. Marcel, 619-398-5782. coastalwater@gmail.com. www.sandiegopurewater.com.

SALON. Newly remodeled, in Kensington, looking for Hairstylist, Manicurist and Aesthetician/Massage Therapist to join our team. Full or part time. Booth rental or commission with some clientele. Call Marissa, 619-666-7707 or e-mail gr8stylist@gmail.com.

SAN DIEGO POLICE Department is hiring! Are you ready for a career change? See our upcoming test block dates on our website. Police Recruit earns \$42,723 per year. Police Officer I earns \$43,596 per year. Police Officer II earns \$61,110 per year. For more information, Call 619-531-COPS or visit our website at: www.sandiego.gov/police.

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SECURITY OFFICERS. Allied Barton Security Services. Up to \$12/hour, medical/dental/vision, 401(k) with company match, holiday pay, paid vacation, free uniforms, Guard Card assistance, free basic and advanced training, career advancement. Must be at least 18 years of age and have a high school diploma/GED. DOD clearance, secret or higher, a plus. Criminal background check and drug screen required. Apply online: www.greatsecurityjobs.com. Or apply in person 8am-4pm Monday-Friday: 7670 Opportunity Road, Suite #210, San Diego. Call: 858-874-8200.

SECURITY. Bald Eagle Security hiring licensed Security Officers. Full/part time. Downtown San Diego locations only. No car or cell phone required. Guard Card required. Must be able to work flexible hours, mostly swing and graveyard plus every weekend. Background check. EEO/Drug free. Call 619-230-0022, e-mail jonny@bald eaglesecurity.com, or apply in person at 2049 Main Street, San Diego, CA 92113.

SECURITY. Immediate openings. \$10/hour and up depending on experience and computer skills. Weekly pay. Some positions offer full paid medical. Guard Card required. Apply online at pacwestsecurity.com. Or call 858-279-5900.

SECURITY. We want you to join Securitas, the #1 Security Team. We offer: County-wide positions, Free Guard Card training, medical/dental/vision and 401(k), Excellent working environment, free uniforms. For fastest response, apply online now! www.securitasjobs.com. Thank you for applying online! Or call San Diego: 619-641-0049; San Marcos (North County): 760-591-3733; Temecula: 951-676-3954. EOE/M/F/D, drug free. PPO #14827.

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SERVICE TECHS/PLUMBERS with experience needed now! Rescue Rooter offers: Medical/dental, 401(k), vans/tools, paid vacations/overtime, high income, drug-free workplace. To apply, e-mail: lmyking@ars.com or call: 858-457-6506. License #765155, AA/EOE.

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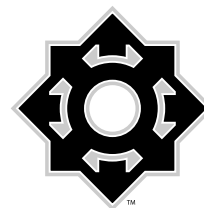
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Don't worry, Sweetheart. This will be the last time those darned New Year's hooligans egg the front of our house.

Cool down, Ted. Houses get egged on Halloween...not New Year's Eve.

Crap. I'm not waiting ten whole months to shoot hooligans. I don't suppose there's any Valentine's Day hooliganism, is there?

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SERVICES COORDINATOR- Parolee Program. Volunteers of America is a faith-based social service nonprofit. Come join us in our life saving mission to help individuals and families obtain the tools they need to improve their quality of life. Conduct orientation of new residents, assist residents with assessing needed community services and job seeking efforts, provide general counseling and maintain case files. Requires A.A. degree with 3-5 years related work experience. Experience with vocational guidance services preferred. (\$10-\$11/hour). Call Human Resources: 619-282-8211; e-mail resume: hr@voa-swcal.org; fax: 619-282-8210; or mail: Volunteers of America Southwest California, 3530 Camino Del Rio North, #300, San Diego, CA 92108. EEO/Affirmative Action Employer.

SHUTTLE DRIVER. San Diego hospital. Monday-Friday. Full and part time. \$10/hour. Good customer service and clean driving record. Apply at www.sunsetparking.com if interested.

SOCIAL SERVICES. Instructors needed for day programs in Lakeside and Ocean-side for adults with developmental disabilities. Excellent benefits, no nights/weekends, start \$10.25-\$10.75/hour. Entry-level, \$9.00/hour. Unyeway, Inc.: 619-562-6330.

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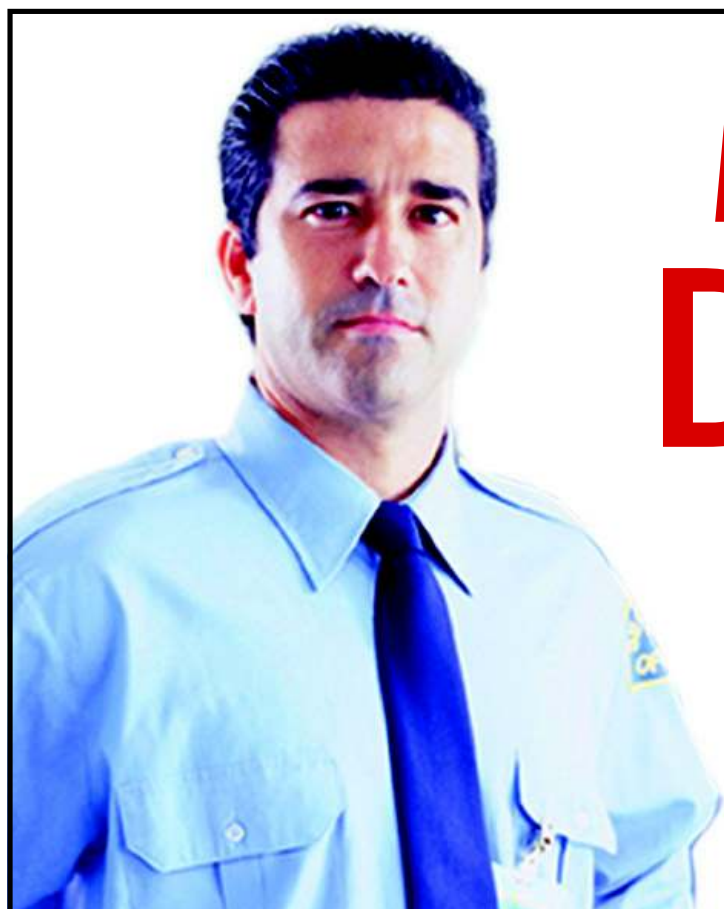
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PICTURE STORY

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Tamzon Feeney outside the Box Office nightclub, 1965. According to our local daily, she and “a band of teenagers have attempted what may be the city’s first statue veiling. The 17-foot fiberglass-and-steel statue of a big

blonde go-go girl had gone up... at a nightclub at 4450 Alvarado Canyon Road. Feeney, 16, and her staunch band of ten ‘Teens for Morality’ conducted a predawn raid” and put a mumu on her.

— by Robert Mizrachi

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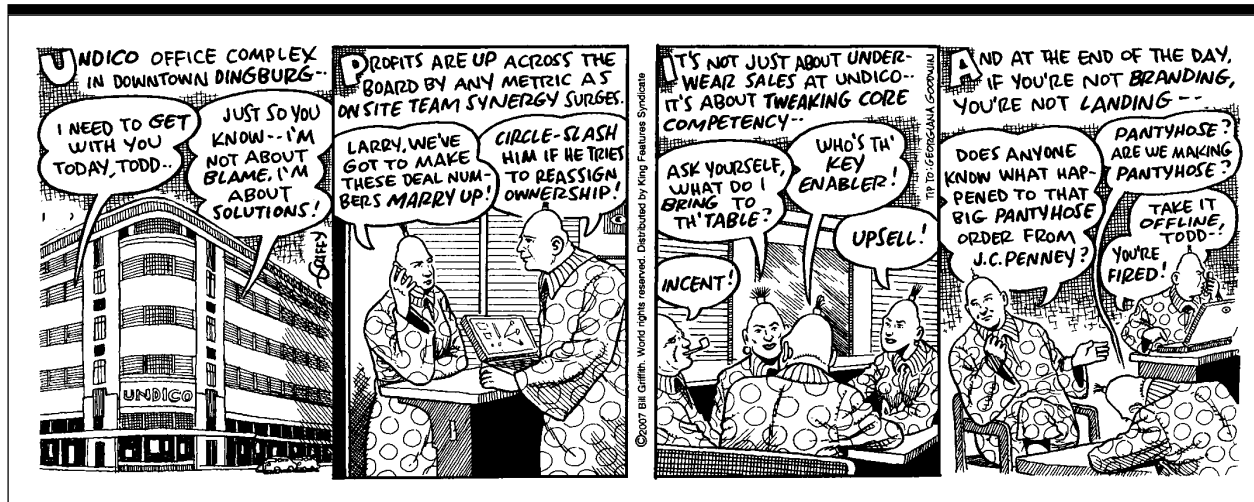
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Across

- Dwindles
- Scholar's wish, maybe
- Fortune's partner
- News source, perhaps
- Kind of screen
- Corp. capital raisers
- Type of unconsciousness that only occurs after eating a hot breakfast dish?
- "Showgirls" actress Gershon
- Egg: Prefix
- It meant the world to Claudius
- Gleeful announcement that precedes a viewing of a 1996 Coen brothers film?
- Cries of discovery
- Fishy?
- Square dance staple
- Novelist Jaffe
- Revolutionary Guevara
- What the British proclaimed upon scrapping a bronze coin from their national currency?
- "Oh, give ____ home ..."
- ____ Men with the 2000 hit "Who Let the Dogs Out"
- Painter Georges
- Peach, plum and lemon
- Bean variety
- Winged insect living at Old MacDonald's place?
- Esau's twin
- Neon borders?
- ____ pronounce you ..."
- Hard to believe ... or an apt title for this puzzle
- Dawn, poetically
- 8 1/2-pound statue
- Gaze
- Lodges
- Upright, e.g.
- Wheel holder

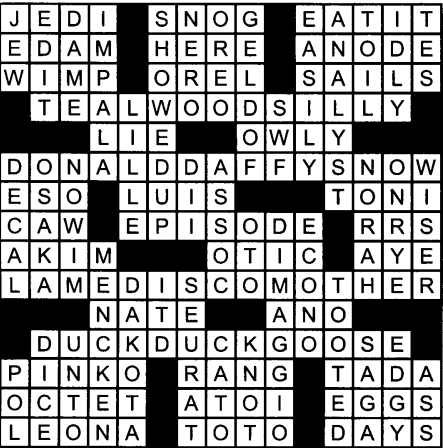
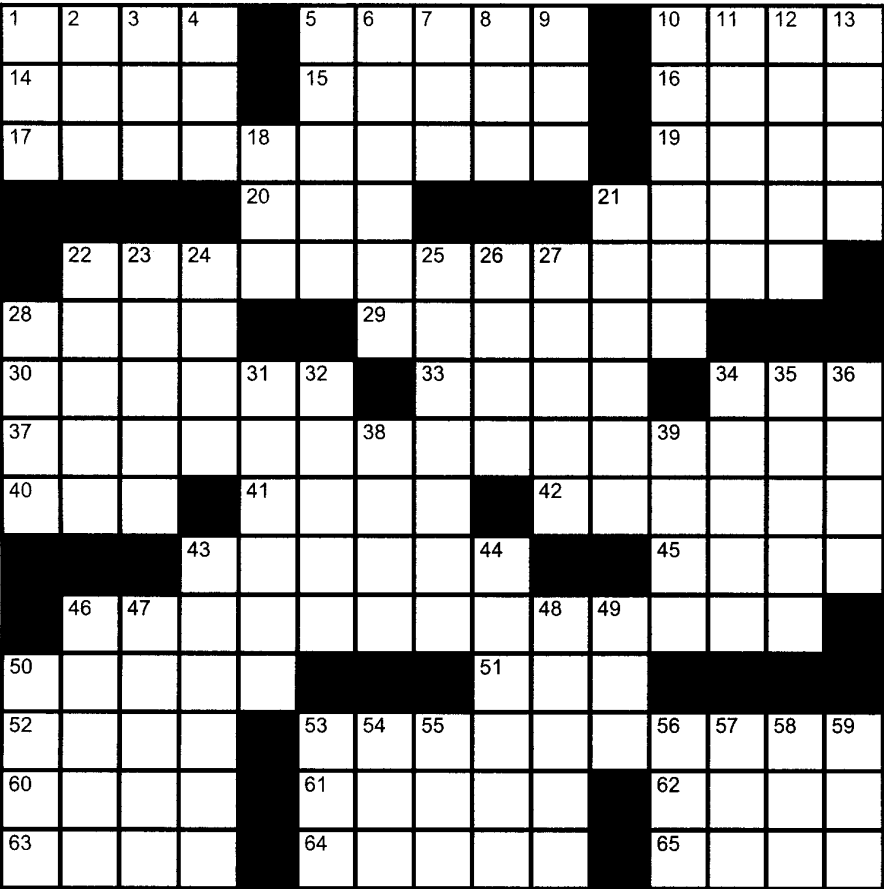
Down

- Dobby, in Harry Potter
- "Don't ____ fool!"
- Lush locale?
- Compete in a slalom
- Turkey go-with
- King's bane
- Commotion
- "Platoon" setting
- La-la lead-in
- Dieter's concern
- Impersonator's action
- Extremely, in slang
- Actor Morales
- Silent greeting

- Get by
- French wine valley
- You hardly have to study for it
- "Like that'll ever happen!"
- "Lady Lindy"
- Captain Picard's counselor on "Star Trek: The Next Generation"
- Helsinki natives
- Sixth day creation
- Awesome, slangily
- Toothbrush handle?
- Barrier reef makeup
- Requiring extra postage, say
- Is, to Isabella
- "____ shalt not ..."
- Insolence
- Some dentalwork
- Eddberg of tennis
- Papal cape
- Type of squash
- It comes before Febrero
- Trio after Q
- First name in '60s rock
- Dandy
- "Take me ____ am"
- Co. that formed NBC
- E-file preparer, briefly
- Spell
- Sushi option
- "Dr." with Grammys

RULES OF THE GAME

- The prize for solving the *Reader* Puzzle will be a *Reader* T-shirt.
- All entries in the *Reader* Puzzle contest must be received by the *Reader* by 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, five days following the issue date (Fax to 619-231-0489 or U.S. Mail to *Reader* Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803).
- All entries must be accompanied by your name and address.
- Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible.
- In the event of disputes or ties, decisions of the judges will be final and arbitrary. We've only got five prizes each week to give away, so if there are more than five winners, we'll have a lottery.
- All answers must be entered in the space allowed on the puzzle page. And please, no phone calls or trips to our office.
- One entry per person.



by David Levinson Wilk

Solution to and winners of the *Reader* Puzzle for 1/3/08.

There were 78 entrants. The winners are:

- Bob Vollmar, *La Jolla*
- Gary Mcko, *San Diego*
- Gale Chapman, *Chula Vista*
- Gayle Strudel, *San Diego*
- Sandra Luke, *San Diego*

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GOT RESOLUTIONS? Personal training, motivation and talent coaching. Achieve

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HOLIDAY SEASON ruined your diet? Concerned about overweight, diabetes, high blood pressure, cholesterol, depression, finances? Join world's leading 30-day lifestyle enhancement journey to better health. Free information sessions: Clairemont Church, 4125 Hathaway Street, San Diego 92111, 6:30pm, January 22, 24, 27, 29. Limited seating. Reservations: 858-774-1979 or SdClairemontAdventist.org.

LOSE WEIGHT! Weight is a symptom of an internal issue that sometimes lies deep within the subconscious mind. Use hypnotherapy to heal your personal issues and release the weight permanently. www.ExperienceEmpowerment.com, 858-231-8398.

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NAME This Place



Last week's place: (clue: The house that Ruth built) Sculpture of the late Ruth Norman at the El Cajon headquarters of the Unarius Academy of Science, 145 South Magnolia Avenue (at Douglas). Ruth and husband Dr. Ernest Norman founded the Unarius Academy of Science in 1954. "Unarius" is an acronym for Universal Articulate Interdimensional Understanding of Science. (Last week's winners: Kevin Roche, M. McGriffin, Gregg G. Simmons, Steve Mahony, Paul Brewin)

Q: Presidential funding fountainhead?

Describe this location, name the nearest cross-streets, and win a *Reader* T-shirt. E-mail to NameThisPlace@SanDiegoReader.com; fax to 619-231-0489; or mail to *Reader*, Name This Place, Box 85803, San Diego 92186 — include your name and address. (Deadline, Tuesday, 9 a.m. In case of ties, lottery will determine top five winners.)



PRESCRIPTION EYEGLASSES, \$8. Custom made to your prescription, stylish plastic or metal frame, Highindex, UV protection, anti-scratch lens, case, lenscloth for only \$8. Also available: rimless, titanium, children's, bifocals, progressive, tints, ARcoating, etc. <http://zennioptical.com>. (AAN CAN)

TREADMILLS, ELLIPTICALS, cycles, and other exercise equipment wanted. Cash for quality fitness gear. We pick up. Big selection of new and used exercise equipment for sale. 90 days free financing! Play It Again Sports, 858-751-0338. www.playitagainsd.com.

PARENT RESOURCES

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CRIB. Legacy crib with drawer, \$150. Solid hardwood, single drop-side rail. Baby Trend high chair, \$55. Reclining seat, 6-position height adjustment. Excellent condition. dancindy@cox.net.

NEED BABYSITTER? I Currently babysit 2 children, family is moving in a few

months. Looking to babysit 2 or 3 children depending on age, 760-889-9861.

PREGNANT? Considering adoption? Talk with caring people specializing in matching birthmothers with families nationwide. Expenses paid. Toll free 24/7, Abby's One True Gift Adoptions, 1-866-413-6293. (AAN CAN)

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BAND, "HOT PURSUIT." Weddings; corporate, private parties. High-energy dance band featuring sax player, female vocalist. Swing, jazz, rock, R&B, country, dance hits. 760-751-1876. www.HotPursuitMusic.com.

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ABANDON YOUR ACTING FEARS! Actors' Workshop Studios. San Diego's number 1 film/TV studio! Professional 3-camera set. Weekly in-house auditions with Hollywood/local casting directors, producers, agents. www.actorsworkshopstudios.com; 858-587-6666.

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ACTING WORKSHOP-KIDS/TEENS. Host: Bruce Ducat, successful Hollywood acting coach. Focus: TV/movie acting, 10 weeks, Sunday January 20th, Actor's Alliance, 10:30am-5pm. Info/reservations, 619-508-2055.

AUDITIONS-AGATHA CHRISTIE'S Black Coffee, a Poirot Mystery, 7pm Monday-Tuesday, 1/21-1/22. Coronado Playhouse. Open auditions. No appointment necessary. Director Keith Anderson. E-mail: maryemily@rocketmail.com. www.coronadoplayhouse.com.

AUDITIONS/INTERVIEWS. January 12 and February 23, 11am-3pm, SeaWorld's Adventure Camp Facility, 500 SeaWorld Drive, San Diego 92109 (across from SeaWorld Security). Seeking outstanding performers and backstage professionals with excellent people skills. Costume Characters, Comedic Actors, Show Hosts, Hosts that sing and play guitar, Electric Guitarists, Percussionists (February audition date only), Bands and Group Specialty Acts, Lighting & Stage Crew, Audio and Video Crew. Must be at least 18 years of age (Costume Characters at least 16 years of age). Prepare an audition no longer than two minutes appropriate for family audiences. Bring non-returnable headshot photo and resume. EOE. Audition Hotline: 619-226-3607. www.SeaWorldSanDiegoAuditions.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 College, 1140 W. Mission Road, San Marcos 92069. more info: 760-744-1150 x2455, www.palomarperforms.com.

LIVE ON STAGE! Point Loma Actors Workshop. Taste the performance high! All levels welcome. Join now! www.pointlomaactors.com. 619-225-0044.

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MODELS. Amateur models needed for photo, video, web work. Ages 18-60. All types. No experience necessary. Cash paid. Professional setting. Call Jenn, 619-379-4964.

MODELS. Male, 18-25 wanted for print work. Call 619-806-0235.

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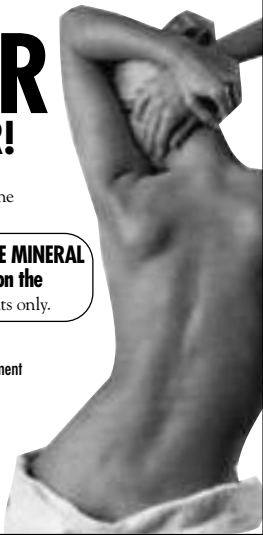
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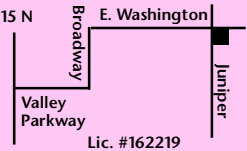


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HOLISTIC NUGGET #2. Armor: The autonomic nervous system reacts to stress or trauma first with emotions, but if they are not relieved, it will shut down emotional and organ sensations with chronic muscle tension. Dr. Mary Lou MacIvalaine, Ph.D., Psychologist 14409. 619-501-0334, drmacilvalaine.com or sextherapysandiego.com.

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NOTICES

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AL-ANON, Grupo paz mental. Sufre por el alcoholismo en su familia? Juntas sesionan Martes, 5:30pm-7pm, y Sabados, 1-2:30pm, 3450 Bonita Road, #207, Bonita, CA 91902.

ALANON-GRUPO RENCUENTRO. Hay problemas de alcoholismo en su familia? Sesiones Lunes y Jueves de 5:00-6:30pm, 3450 Bonita Road #207, Bonita, 91902. 619-470-6955.

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ALCOHOLICOS ANONIMOS. Tiene problemas con la bebida? Llamenos 24 horas. Oficina Central Hispana, 3628 University Avenue, San Diego, 92105. 619-280-7224.

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CAN PRAYER THERAPY HEAL? Find solutions to problems. Achieve inner peace and balance, eliminate chronic disease pain, lose crippling fear. 858-652-0728.

CANNABIS PATIENT(S) ACT. (Association Cannabis Therapeutics.) Nonprofit. Seeks caregiver/patients with questions about co-operatives, clones, medicine, growing guidelines. Proposition 215 local guidelines. Meth kills. 619-528-0907.

DIVORCECARE meets every Sunday at 9am at 4926 La Cuesta Suite 203-A, Tierrasanta. Special Free support group for those divorcing, divorced, or broken live-in relationship. 4926 La Cuesta, Suite 203, Tierrasanta. Bruce, Bruce@coastline-realestate.com or 619-461-4480.

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Say What?



Britney | Age: 18 | Occupation: Fashion Designer | Lives: Bonita

My favorite slang word is **granny-panties**. I love the way it sounds. It is basically underwear that are really huge, usually made of cotton, look like they could fit over your entire body and are the nastiest things ever. Every girl I know

has at least one or two pairs, mostly reserved for laundry day or something. Under no circumstances can you ever let someone see you in grannies; it would be instant humiliation. You can also use it to describe frumpy clothing, like a too-big

dress. I have a sweatshirt that is total granny-panties; I only wear it to bed.

See the video
Go to SanDiegoReader.com
Click on Say What

TRAVEL & GETAWAYS

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TIMESHARE. Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Presidential Floating Timeshare, Pueblo Bonito Sunset Beach Hotel and Spa. Rated top 20 Mexican resorts. Paid \$30,000; asking \$15,000. 760-845-6347.

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DAVIEBABE IN BOSTON. I had "a wonderful life". I had a wonderful wife! I had great little stepkids. Still crazy after all these years.
DAVIEBABE in Boston. You were right about so many things: Seinfeld, candy canes, digits, consummate, and so much more. Still crazy after all these years.

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CITY HEIGHTS. \$1300. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Half off first month! Upstairs. Dishwasher, fireplace, patio, laundry. Gated

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CITY HEIGHTS. \$995. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo. Pools. Gym. Laundry. No section 8. Gated community. Near freeway/shopping/downtown. Cats OK. Lease. Susan, 619-588-2370.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$775 rent. \$600 deposit. OAC. 1 bedroom. Parking spot. Laundry. No pets. At 4377 Marlborough Street #2. Agent, 619-299-8515.

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CLAIREMONT. \$1550. Wonderful 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo in Bay Ho. Upgraded unit, large balcony, pool. 2 parking spaces. Available 2/1/2008. Westbourne Realtors. 858-488-4800.

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COLLEGE AREA/TALMADGE. \$725 rent. \$600 deposit. OAC. Large 1 bedroom. New carpet. Parking. Laundry. No pets. At 4423 Menlo Avenue #12. 619-990-5021 or agent, 619-299-8515.

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COLLEGE AREA/TALMADGE. Near SDSU. \$795, 1 bedroom. \$895. Large, 2 bedroom. New carpet/paint. Quiet complex. Laundry, parking, gated, 4420 Estrella Avenue. 619-253-2290.

COLLEGE AREA. From \$1195. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condos. Balcony/patio. Gas stove, microwave. Central air/heat. Dishwasher. Washer/dryer hook-ups. Gated. Pet on approval. Near all/golf course. 619-285-3822.

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DOWNTOWN. Comfortable rooms, \$450/up. Studios, \$650/up. Near Gaslamp District. Very quiet and clean. Free cable TV, on-site laundry, vending machines, community kitchen, shared bathrooms. Near shopping, restaurants, movie theatres and Horton Plaza. No pets. Arlington Apartments, 701 7th Avenue. Hughes Management, 619-231-2385. www.sdreader.com/rent/2097.

DOWNTOWN. Cozy rooms, \$450-\$625, grab these little jewels today! Very comfortable, convenient location, historic building near C Street trolley. Choice of shared or private bathrooms. Free cable TV, on-site laundry, vending machines, modern elevator, no pets. Southern Hotel, 1159 6th Avenue at B, Hughes Management, 619-239-3808. www.sdreader.com/rent/2099.

DOWNTOWN. Economical furnished rooms, \$400-\$500, best price, save money. Conveniently located on C Street trolley line, near restaurants, free cable TV, shared bathrooms, on-site laundry facilities, vending machines, elevator service, no pets, 636 C Street (between 6th and 7th). C Street Inn, Hughes Management, 619-234-4165. www.sdreader.com/rent/2098.

DOWNTOWN. Gaslamp area. Move-in special, \$280. Community kitchen, shared bath, on-site laundry, vending machines, no pets, Star Hotel, 522 7th Av-

enue. 619-235-6068. Hughes Management.

DOWNTOWN. Outstanding furnished rooms, \$400-\$500. Heart of Gaslamp. Shared bathrooms. Community kitchen. Free cable TV. No pets. 843 4th Avenue. Windsor Hotel. 619-235-6068. Hughes Management.

DOWNTOWN. Attractive rooms. Shared bath. Utilities included! Near City College! \$400-\$595 per month. Weekly rates from \$125! 719 14th Street, Villa Victoria. Hughes Management, 619-231-2385.

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DOWNTOWN. Brand new rooms near City College. Single rooms with kitchenettes from \$140/week plus deposit (long-term). Includes utilities/cable. Quiet, secure. Shared bath/laundry. Hotel Mediterranean. 619-231-8656. www.hotelmed-sd.com.

DOWNTOWN. Condo for rent, Santa Fe Grand. 2 bedroom, plus den, 2 bath, 1700 square feet. Bay view, underground parking. Available 2/1. Lease \$3400/month. 619-544-1797.

DOWNTOWN. Newer 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Available now. Parking, gated, fitness center and pool. Balcony and fireplace. Pets OK. 850 Beech Street. \$2025. 619-334-6781. www.poseidonproperty.com.

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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.

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DOWNTOWN. Beautiful 1, 2, and 3 bedrooms. Some with lofts. Parking. Amenities. 1-year lease. \$2000-\$3000. www.elisabethsellssandiego.com, 619-788-2720.

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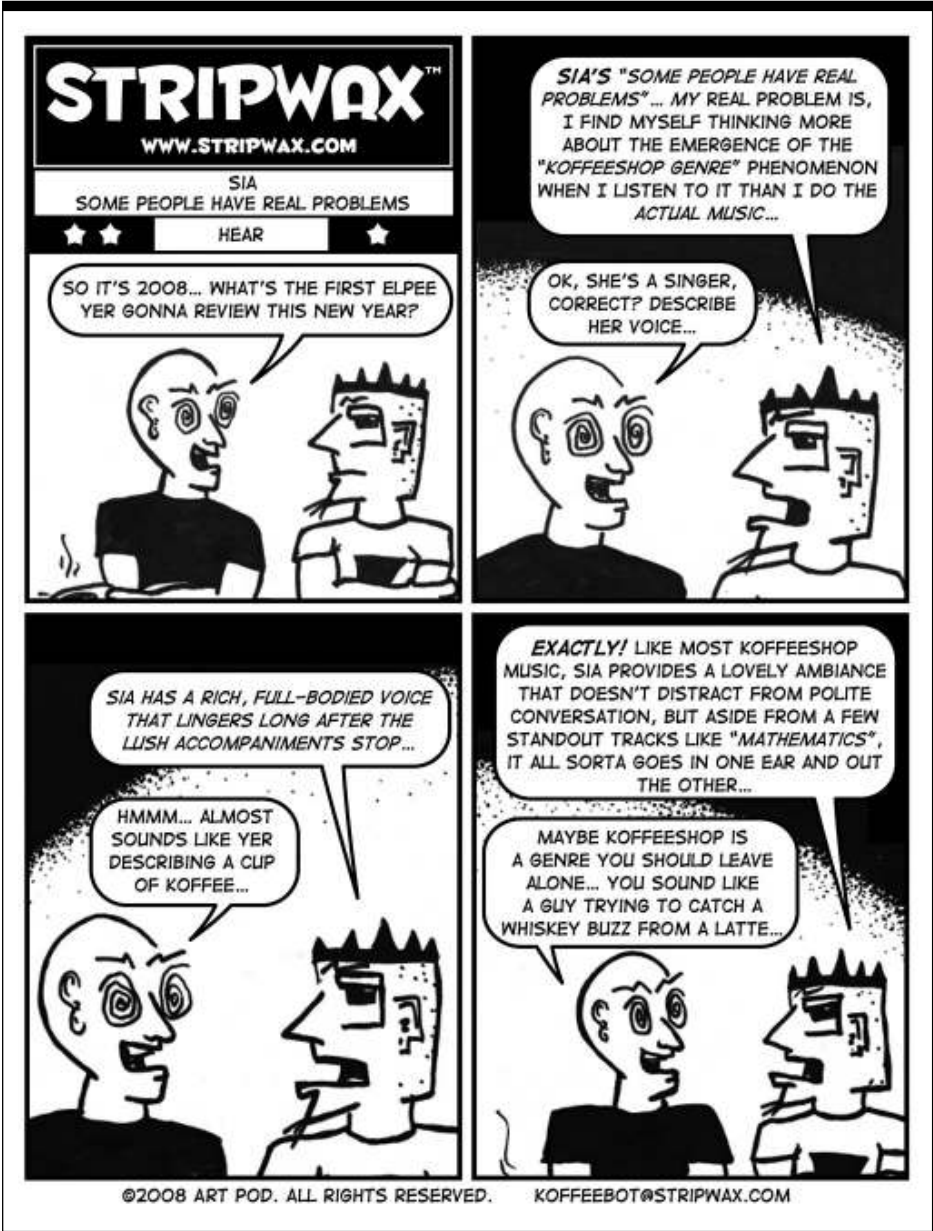
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DOWNTOWN/CORTEZ HILL. \$1750. Sharp 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Wood floors, granite counters, great location near Petco, Balboa, freeways, 1 assigned parking. Agent, 619-303-0821.

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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.vantaggiouites.com.

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GOLDEN HILL. \$875. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Fenced patio. Off-street parking. Convenient location, 3357 B Street. No pets. Hughes Management, 619-239-1639 x102.

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GOLDEN HILL. \$875. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs unit. Laundry. Clean and bright. Assigned parking. Close to Downtown/Balboa Park. 2631 A Street. Call 858-571-1970. sunriseliving.com.

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GOLDEN HILL/DOWNTOWN. Junior 1 bedroom, \$850 includes utilities. Hardwood floors, decorator colors, laundry. Cat OK with deposit. On bus line. 619-231-8723.

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HILLCREST. \$980. Senior/disabled 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Elevator. On-site parking. Quiet community. Close to public transportation, shops and freeways. Available now. Section 8 OK. Small pet. Hillcrest Regency, 1050 Essex Street. Call Dan, 619-294-4146.

HILLCREST. \$800 rent. \$600 deposit, OAC. Large 1 bedroom duplex. No pets. At 3853-1/2 First Avenue. Agent, 619-299-8515.

HILLCREST. \$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.

HILLCREST. Hillcrest Palms. Senior complex. 55+ living! \$900. 1 bedroom apartments. Gated community. Convenient location. Near hospitals, restaurants, shopping. No pets. 4042 Albatross Street. 619-574-0784.

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 Alabama Street. Available now. 619-269-5237.

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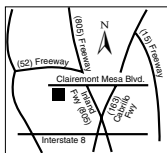
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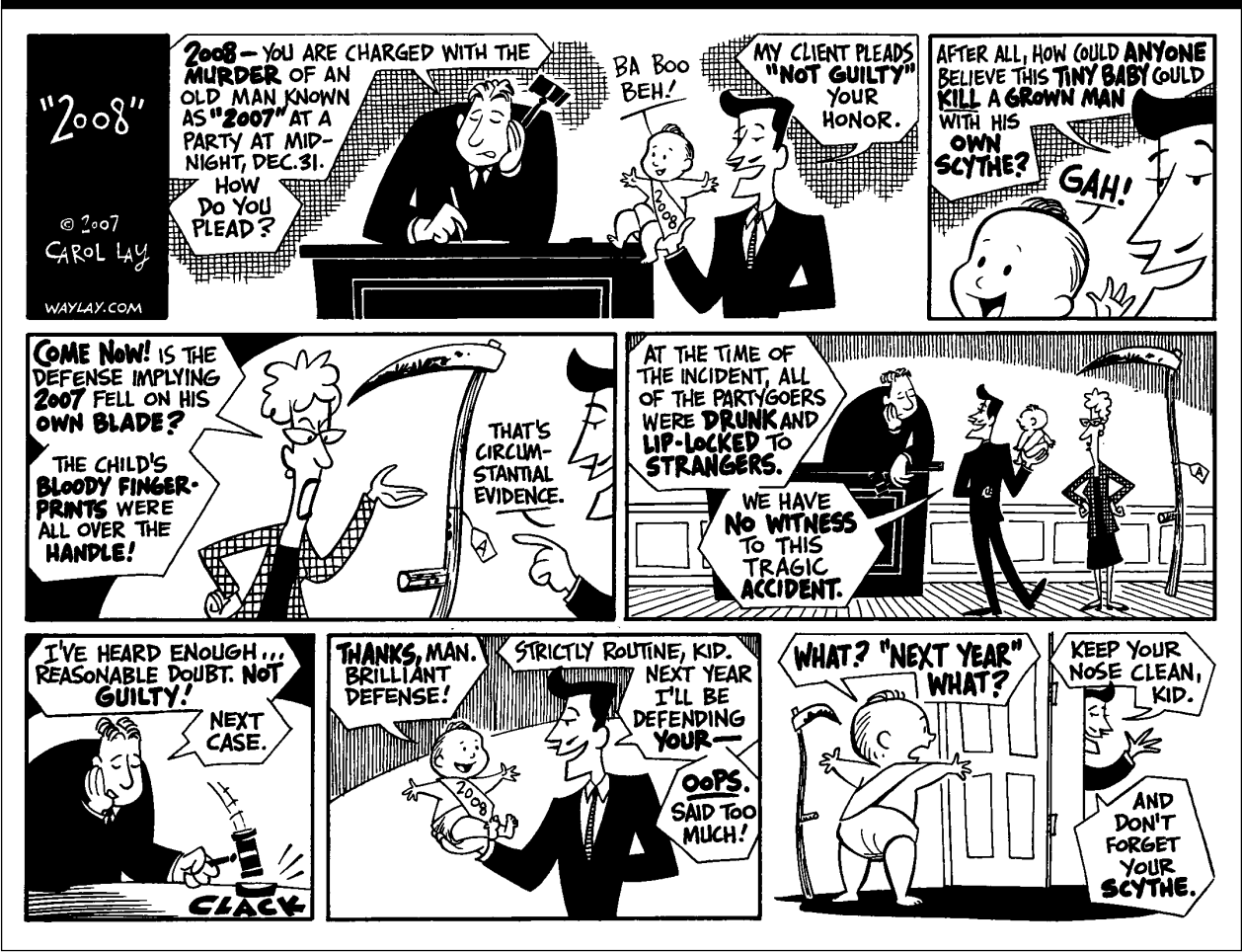


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MISSION VALLEY/COLLEGE Area. Ask about our New Year's special! 1 bedrooms from \$960! 2 bedrooms from \$1400. Minutes to shopping, dining, transit, SDSU. Gated community. Pool/spa. On-site laundry. Fitness center. Carpools available. 4929 Colwood Boulevard. 619-287-3020. collwoodpines.rasnyder.com.

NATIONAL CITY. Move-in special: \$99 off first month! 1 bedroom, 1 bath, recently upgraded, \$800/month. Studio, \$650. Parking space. Water paid. 116 Palm Avenue. 619-474-4441.

NATIONAL CITY. \$750/month. 1 bedroom fully furnished. Low \$150 deposit. No SDGE deposit or hookup required. 624 East 24th Street. Office open daily. 619-474-3787.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1250. \$200 off! Nice, upgraded 2 bedroom, 1 bath nonsmoking triplex. Gated. Attached storage. Porch. Laundry. Garage. Cat/tiny dog OK. 4461 32nd, #1. 619-283-8359.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$995 rent. \$600 deposit, OAC. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. New carpet and paint. No pets. At 4742 East Mountain View Drive #10. 619-299-8515.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1125. Very nice 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. 2-story, townhouse-style. North of Adams with gated patio. 2 private parking spots and skylight. Small pet OK. Available 1/20. 4750 33rd Street in back, behind 4748.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$995. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs. New paint. Ceramic tiled floors. Gated. Laundry on-site. Available 01/15/08. 4582 39th Street. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

NORMAL HEIGHTS \$750 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Laundry onsite. Available 2/10/08. 4669 CheroKee Avenue Unit D. www.cethron.com. (619) 295-1100.

NORMAL HEIGHTS \$1000. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Clean, quiet. Parking, gated, laundry. Available 1/15/08. 4382 Utah Street. #10 www.cethron.com. (619) 733-9033.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 4774 33rd Street #6. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Dishwasher, air conditioning, and washer/dryer. Off street parking. No pets. \$1050/month, \$1050 deposit. www.timcassidy.com. Cassidy, Broker, 619-275-LIST.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$725. 1 bedroom, close to shops with on-site parking. 4669 Iowa Street #6. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1095. Downstairs 2 bedroom, 2 bath corner apartment. Berber carpet, air conditioning, parking. 4527 39th Street. Xilarent.com, 619-683-7638.

NORMAL HEIGHTS/KENSINGTON \$975. 2 bedroom. Newly renovated. Garden setting. Spacious and quiet. 619-987-0001.

NORMAL HEIGHTS/KENSINGTON. \$795. Sunny, spacious, 1 bedroom quiet garden apartment. Just refurbished. 619-987-0001.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$695. Studio. Gas, water, trash paid. New cabinets. Ceramic tile floors. Laundry. No pets. 3355 Madison Avenue. www.SeeTheUnit.com. Agent, 619-298-7724.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$975. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs. Gated. Storage. Laundry on site. Parking. No pets. Available now. 4678 Ohio Street #2. Agent, 619-298-7724.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, \$1050. Large kitchen, new paint. 2-car garage. On-site laundry. No pets; nonsmoking. Mr. A's Property Management, 619-697-1888.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$775. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, remodeled kitchen, new vinyl. On-site laundry. Garage parking. Gated community. 619-255-0382. www.scdapbrokers.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$775. 1 bedroom. Brand new paint and carpet! Completely renovated. Single-story complex. Laundry. Parking onsite. Cat OK. 3064-68 Adams Avenue. Agent, 619-820-2584.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$750 1 bedroom, 4263 42nd. \$795 1 bedroom, 4670 Cherokee. \$925 2 bedroom, 4133 37th. Very nice, on-site laundry. No pets. 760-672-0425.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$800. 1 bedroom. \$1075, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Gated. Laundry. 1-car garage. 4379 Swift Avenue. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$950. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. New carpet/paint, parking, upper

unit. 4563 38th Street #6. Agent, 858-560-1178.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. \$825 includes utilities. Cat OK. 4687 Hamilton. Agent, 858-560-1178.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. Move-in special! First month's rent moves you in! \$725. Studio. All utilities included. Coin laundry. Parking. Pergo floors. Custom paint and fixtures. Close to freeways. On-site manager. Cat friendly! 3185 Madison Avenue. Call 858-571-1970. sunriseliving.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1250. \$200 off! Nice, remodeled 2 bedroom, 1 bath nonsmoking triplex. Gated. Attached storage. Porch. Laundry. Garage. Cat/tiny dog OK. 4461 32nd, #1. 619-283-8359.

NORTH PARK. \$900. Spacious 2 bedroom, upstairs. 2 story. Small complex. Laundry. Off-street parking. No pets. Available now. Mission Gorge Realty. 619-229-0231.

NORTH PARK, \$815. 1 bedroom, beautiful remodel. Great kitchen, maple cabinets, dishwasher, hardwood floors, laundry, air conditioning, roof deck, street parking. No pets. 3080 University. 619-954-3777.

NORTH PARK. \$1200. 4661 Utah Street. Available 1/7. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. Laundry on-site, street parking. No pets. Section 8 OK. 619-640-7530.

NORTH PARK. \$1000 rent. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Seniors building, 55+. Laundry on-site. Section 8 OK, seniors 55+. 3776 Alabama Street #C-114. 619-640-7530. www.sdforrent.com.

NORTH PARK. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$950. 1 bedroom, \$795. Dishwasher, parking, laundry, patio. \$200 off first month. 3162 Monroe. Call 619-284-1314. www.melroyproperties.com.

NORTH PARK. \$950 rent. \$600 deposit, OAC. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. New paint. Parking spot. No pets. At 4541 Hamilton Street #2. 619-299-8515.

NORTH PARK. \$775. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Laundry. Parking. New carpet. Available now! 4553 Texas Street #8. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

NORTH PARK. \$825 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Small complex, great area, quiet lower unit. Gated entry, parking. Great location. Laundry on-site. Move In Special \$300 off First Month's Rent OAC! Available now.

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NORTH PARK. \$930. Nice 2 bedroom apartment. Upstairs. Quiet building, new carpet, Off-street parking, Coin laundry, Cat OK. 4136 Iowa Street. Agent, 619-469-7790. www.westmanproperties.com.

NORTH PARK. \$775. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs. Parking. Laundry. No pets. Available approximately 1/7/08. 4160 36th Street #3. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

NORTH PARK. \$1100, 2 bedroom. Upstairs. Renovated. Granite. New windows. Parking. Laundry. 4053 Cherokee Avenue #8. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

NORTH PARK. Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath spacious second floor apartment. New appliances, carpet and paint. With vaulted ceilings and 1 car garage. Centrally located with easy access to I-15 and I-805. No pets please. \$1500 619-291-5555 x190. www.utopiamanagement.com.

NORTH PARK. \$1145. 1/2 off 1st month. Extra large, lower 2 bedroom, 2 bath, all appliances, new paint, tile, on-site laundry. Cat OK. Section 8. 3345 Herman Avenue. 619-804-3325.

NORTH PARK. \$725. Secluded 1 bedroom, 1 bath, triplex, appliances, new carpet. Small pet OK. 3787-1/2 Florida Street. 619-804-3325.

NORTH PARK. \$1225. Extra large, upper 2 bedroom, 2 bath, gated complex. All appliances, underground parking, air conditioning, on-site laundry. 3928 Illinois Street. 619-297-4860.

NORTH PARK. \$850. 1 bedroom in garden complex. Walk to restaurants, shopping and coffee shops. Gated entry, pool, laundry. 4172 Mississippi Street. TPPM, 619-299-9897.

NORTH PARK. \$1100. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath, gated, parking, on-site laundry, dishwasher, walk-in closet, self-cleaning oven, air conditioning, newly redecorated. 4631 Idaho. 619-521-1901. 619-461-9415.

NORTH PARK. 1 bedroom apartment, \$750. Small complex, off-street parking. Laundry, security gate. Very quiet. Manager on site. Call 619-563-9727.

OCEAN BEACH. \$935. Manager's Special. Blocks to the beach! 1 bedroom. Clean. Parking. Laundry. No pets. Seacoast Apartments, 5030 Lotus. Call Doris, 619-204-1651.

OCEAN BEACH. \$925. Large 1 bedroom apartment. Patio, laundry, 2 blocks to beach. No dogs or cats. 5045 Lotus Street. Available now. 858-292-6046.

OCEAN BEACH. Beautiful beachfront ocean view! Studio, \$995, 1 bedroom, \$1075-\$1200. 2 bedroom, \$1400-\$1600. Serene security garden buildings. Hardwood floors, ceramic tile, laundry. Garages available. Pets considered. For address and availability, call 619-224-

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OCEAN BEACH. \$1190. Very clean 1 bedroom cottage. 4980 Santa Monica Avenue. Hardwood floors. Nice kitchen. Free laundry facilities onsite. Small pets OK. Josh, 619-230-1234.

OCEAN BEACH. \$995. 1 bedroom near beach. Small building, roomy, clean, quiet. No pets. Nonsmoking. Nice home. 5050 Santa Monica Avenue. Manager #14. Call 9am-5pm. 619-222-3897.

OCEAN BEACH. \$2200, 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhouse. Washer/dryer hookup. Gourmet kitchen. 1 block by the beach! Available 2/1/2208. 619-987-5323.

OCEAN BEACH. Studio, \$785. Remodeled, new tile floor, new tile shower, new tile kitchen counter, fresh paint throughout. Laundry on site. Street parking. No pets. 4854 Lotus Street. 760-753-2490.

OCEAN BEACH. \$900/month. Studio cottage, 1 block to beach. Remodeled with separate kitchen, patio, parking and laundry on site. Nonsmoking. No pets. 619-224-9639.

OCEAN BEACH. \$975. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Vertical blinds, off-street parking, laundry. No pets. Near YMCA. Available now. 4419 Montalvo Street. 619-523-0763.

OCEAN BEACH. \$750. Studio apartment. Available now. 1-1/2 blocks to beach. No pets. \$400 deposit. 5081 Lotus. 858-695-3759.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1075. 1 bedroom, large, upstairs, remodeled. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, coin laundry, parking. Close to cliffs. No pets. Available now. 4784 Bermuda. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1350, large upper 2 bedroom, 1 bath. \$1550, lower 2 bedroom, 2 bath (4811 Del Monte). Near beach. Appliances. Laundry. 619-224-4215.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1150. 1 bedroom duplex with patio. Appliances. Parking. Pets OK. 4573 Cape May. 619-224-4215.

OCEAN BEACH. \$980. Nicely remodeled large 1 bedroom. Parking. Laundry. Appliances. No dogs. 4933 Saratoga. Call 619-224-4215.

OCEAN BEACH \$1100 2 bed 1 bath apartment. Off-street parking, close to all. 2731 Camulos Street. 619-224-0306.

OCEAN BEACH. Studio, \$775. 4977-1/4 West Point Loma Boulevard. Built-in storage and closet. Neat kitchen and bath. Cottage-style. On-site laundry and garden. Near Freeway 8. Agent, Alex, 619-523-2265.

OCEAN BEACH. \$950. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs. No pets. \$950 deposit. Laundry. Parking. Available 1/15. 5035 Brighton Avenue #8. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1400. Deposit \$1000. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. 1 year lease. Close to beach. Parking. Available now. 4955 Brighton Avenue. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1550 \$1000 deposit. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Upstairs. Many upgrades. Ocean view. Parking. Laundry. Available now. 4714 Point Loma Avenue. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1350. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath downstairs apartment with parking and laundry! New carpet, paint and vinyl. Blocks to beach! No pets. 4965 Muir Avenue #1. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacifcrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1150. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex unit with parking! Close to beach! No pets. 4660 Green Street. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacifcrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$950. 1 bedroom, 1 bath cottage available. Located 1 block from beach. No pets. 5024-1/2 Cape May Avenue. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacifcrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$875. Large studio steps to beach! Parking and laundry. No pets! 1994 Abbott Street. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacifcrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$995. 1 bedroom attached cottage with garage! Blocks to beach. No pets! 4917 Saratoga Avenue. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacifcrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$995. 1 bedroom upstairs apartment in South Ocean Beach! Parking and laundry. No pets! 4922 Santa Cruz #9. Please call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacifcrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1250. 2 bedroom downstairs apartment with parking and laundry. Blocks to beach! No pets. 4918 West Point Loma Boulevard #D. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacifcrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1495. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment with hardwood floors!

Blocks to beach. Includes all utilities. Pet on approval! 5030 Brighton Avenue. 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacifcrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$745. Studio, mile from beach in quiet tropical setting. Laundry. New carpet, paint. Available immediately. 4166 Udall St #2. 619-222-9308.

OCEAN BEACH/PONT LOMA. \$1875. 2 bedroom townhome. Move-in special! Washer/dryer. Hot tub. Garage. 4554 West Point Loma Boulevard. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

OCEAN BEACH. \$950. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, parking included, on-site laundry, refrigerator, stove, quiet neighborhood. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1350. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex, refrigerator, stove, approximately 800 square feet, paid water and trash. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

OCEAN BEACH. \$950. Remodeled 1 bedroom. Block and half from beach! Parking. Newly refinished hardwood floors. No pets. Small 6-unit complex. Newport Avenue. 619-244-0725.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1350. 1 bedroom. 1-1/2 blocks to beach! Completely renovated! Hardwood floors. New stainless appliances. Granite counters. Parking. Patio. No pets! Newport Avenue. 619-244-0725.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1295 rent. \$600 deposit. OAC. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse duplex. 1 block to beach. 2 parking spots. No pets. At 5126 Brighton Street. Agent, 619-299-8515.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1875. Small 3 bedroom. Hardwood floors. Off-street parking. 1-1/2 blocks from ocean. Pets accepted. 5060 Brighton Avenue. 619-692-1136.

OCEAN BEACH/SUNSET CLIFFS. Large 2-level 3 bedroom, 2 bath apartment/townhouse. View, garage, deck, laundry. 2 blocks to ocean. No smoking. Cat?/dog? 4742-1/2 Orchard. \$2700/month. 619-221-9047.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1600. 2 bedroom apartment on park, deck, view, dishwasher, parking, coin laundry, storage. No smoking. Pet? 4938 West Point Loma. Available 2/1. 619-221-9047.

OCEAN BEACH. \$900-\$950. 1 bedroom apartments on park, garage or yard, parking, coin laundry, beach close. No smoking. Pet? 4940/4958-1/2 West Point Loma Boulevard. 619-221-9047.

OCEANSIDE, SOUTH. \$1200. Ocean View! 1/2 block to beach. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Renovated unit. Gated. Berber carpet, ceramic tile, air conditioning. No pets. 760-722-8924.

OCEANSIDE. Large 2 bedrooms from \$1300, west of Interstate 5, just 8 blocks to beach, in vibrant downtown village. Beautiful remodeled units. 508 North Nevada Street. Visit www.WexfordLiving.com. 760-433-8810.

OCEANSIDE. \$1095, 1 bedroom 1 bath apartment. Upgraded granite, laminate wood/tile. Pool, spa, laundry, gated parking. Cat OK. Available 2/1. 760-439-5728. www.casavistaapartments.com.

OCEANSIDE. \$950. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, lower. Garage. Patio. Gated. Section 8 ok. References. Deposit. 1346 Dubuque. 858-361-1369.

OCEANSIDE. 1 bedroom, \$785. \$785 deposit. All utilities paid. New carpet. Close to beach. Parking. Laundry. Available now. No pets. 209 Surfrider Way #C. 619-226-7368.

OCEANSIDE. \$925. 1 bedroom, \$1195. 2 bedroom apartments. Closets. Private yards/balconies. Great location. Pool. Laundry. Barbecue. Free garage, gas utilities, heat. No pets. 760-757-4641.

OCEANSIDE. \$750. Studio, 1 bath apartment, close to the beach, paid utilities. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

OCEANSIDE. \$1151. 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath townhouse (approximately 1280-square-foot), 1-car garage, easy freeway access, community pool/spa, near all. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

OLD TOWN. \$650-\$695. Low \$150 deposit. Fully furnished studios-alcoves on excellent hillside location. Free basic cable. 1616 Guy Street. 619-298-6242.

PACIFIC BEACH. Bay front penthouse. 4 bedroom, 3 bath. 3000 square feet. Spectacular bay/ocean view! Parking. Elevator. 3740 Rivera. \$5000. Agent, 866-723-9456. www.sdvvr.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1795. 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath luxury townhouse. All appliances, 2 fireplaces, patio. Quiet. Drive by 1932 Missouri Street #2. Available immediately. Call 760-744-2129.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1100. Studio, top floor with private balcony. Vaulted ceilings, skylights, secured parking space, laundry on site. Near beach. Call 12-5pm for information. 619-992-6760.

PACIFIC BEACH. 1 very large bedroom, 1 bath. \$900/month. Close to beach. Onsite laundry and pool. Quiet community. 858-272-8790.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1300. 2 bedroom lower unit near bay. 4021 Lamont Street. No pets. Laundry facility. Off street parking. Available 1/2/08. (858)274-1446 email: bjornandersen@gmail.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1190/month. Upgraded 1 bedroom and 2 bedroom available. Second floor apartment. Close to beach! Friendly gated complex. Dishwasher, carpet/tile, courtyard, barbecue, laundry facilities. 1216-1/2 Felspar. 858-483-2504.

PACIFIC BEACH. 1 bedroom on beach plus 2 bedroom in the 2000 block of Garnet. 6 month's lease. Pets under 30 lbs ok. Roomies/co-signers ok. Office open 7 days. 4217 Oliver Court. 858-483-7670.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1550. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, Partial ocean views! Beautifully remodeled. Dishwasher. Quiet atmosphere. Heated pool. Parking or garage available. Cats considered. 858-272-4398.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1310/\$1675-\$1725. Beautifully remodeled, 1 bedroom, 1 bath; 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Great views! Balcony, dishwasher, and imported tile. Heated pool. Laundry. Parking or garage available. 858-272-4398.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1395. Large, bright, upstairs 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath apartment. Fireplace. Dishwasher. Off-street parking. Very quiet. No pets. 858-481-9819 or 858-270-1243.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. 3 master bedroom, 3 full bath townhome, 3 blocks/beach, 2-car garage, 2-balconies, spa, enclosed patio, washer/dryer, fireplace. Cat possible. \$2700. 619-807-3010.

PACIFIC BEACH. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1200; 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$900. Each with one parking space. Laundry on site. 6-month lease. No pets. 619-435-3830.

PACIFIC BEACH. Security deposit \$250, OAC! January move-in special! Studios from \$945, 1 bedrooms from \$1195, 2 bedrooms from \$1650. Air conditioning/heat. Cats welcome! Heated pool, water aerobics. Fully equipped gyms. Spas. Tennis. Basketball. Business center. Bay Pointe, 3866 Ingraham Street. www.progressmanagement.net. Toll free: 1-888-759-7435. www.sdreader.com/rent/2081.

PACIFIC BEACH. 1/2 off first month's rent this week only! Rent extra large 850 square foot 1 bedroom apartment homes in Pacific Beach at \$1260, 2 bedrooms from \$1550. Bike trail to Mission Bay. Fitness center, TV lounge, pool, spa. Sundeck. Barbecue lounge. Storage. Covered/garage parking available. Cat friendly. Fabulous floor plans! Spectacular bay views, Mount Soledad! The Pacific at Mission Bay, 2636 Grand Avenue. 1-800-490-6372. pacificatmissionbay-pacificliving@crossfiremail.com. www.pacificliving.com. www.sdreader.com/rent/1049.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$500 off first month's rent! Charming 1 bedroom apartments from \$1105. Only 1 block from the beach! Located in the north Pacific Beach neighborhood with beachfront access only minutes away. Short distance to downtown La Jolla shopping and dining. Our quaint apartment homes include on-site laundry facility, extra storage and a quiet location. Cat friendly. Call our rental office today! 858-272-7464.

PACIFIC BEACH. Bright 2 bedroom, 2 full baths! Upstairs unit. New carpet. Laundry, 2 parking. Quiet. 1948 Emerald. \$1495. Available now. By appointment. 858-554-0400. signad2000@yahoo.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH WEST. \$1150. 1 bedroom apartment, block to beach. Small, quiet complex. Garden. Parking. No pets/smoking. 848-1/2 Emerald. Best call evenings, 858-459-1352.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$775. Studio. Off-street parking, laundry. No pets. One year lease. 1415 Grand Avenue. Call 619-890-9210.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1650. 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhouse. Garage. 1-parking. Dishwasher. Fireplace. Patio. Laundry hookups. Cat OK. 2122 Balboa. Cross street Noyes. 858-576-8292.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1195. 1 bedroom in quiet 4-plex. Stove, refrigerator, coin laundry, garage with opener. Nice shared lawn area. Available now. 1360 Reed. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$1195. 1 bedroom, downstairs, large, remodeled. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, coin laundry, pool. No pets. Available 1/8/08. 812 Tourmaline. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1450. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Large, upstairs unit with new carpet, vaulted ceilings, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, fireplace, coin laundry, garage. No pets. Available now. 4122 Jewell. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1325. 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage, on quiet 2 unit property. Stove, refrigerator, garage, nice front lawn, water/gardener paid. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Easy freeway access. Available now. 2145 Thomas. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1195. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs. Parking. Coin laundry. Easy freeway access. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Available 1/10/08. 945 Chalcadony. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1475-\$1495. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs. Large units. Stove, refrigerator. Open parking space or garage space. Coin laundry. Private patio. 2-1/2 blocks to ocean. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Available 1/10/08. 945 Chalcadony. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$1475. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Large, upstairs. New carpet, stove, refrigerator. Private balcony. Parking. Coin laundry. No pets. Available

1/11/08. 1032 Beryl. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1350. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Stove, refrigerator. Downstairs unit on 3-unit property. Parking. Will consider small pet with additional deposit. Available 1/12/08. 1130 Reed. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$1445. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath, downstairs, front unit. Stove, refrigerator, coin laundry. No parking. No pets. 2-1/2 blocks to ocean. Available 2/1/08. 959 Chalcadony. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. Studio, \$825. Large, quiet. Utilities included. Sundeck. Easy access to I-5. No pets. 2176 Thomas Avenue. 858-270-0929.

PACIFIC BEACH. All utilities paid. 860 Missouri Street. Spacious studio apartment. Great location, only 1/2 blocks to the beach! No pets. \$895 rent, \$950 deposit. www.timcassidy.com. Cassidy, Broker, 619-275-LIST.

PACIFIC BEACH. 860 Missouri Street #H. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Great location, only 1/2 blocks to the beach! \$1495. www.timcassidy.com. Cassidy, Broker, 619-275-LIST.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$1450. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs front unit. Stove, refrigerator, private balcony, coin laundry, parking. No pets. Available 2/10. 1051 Diamond. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071, www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$825. Upstairs studio with full kitchen. Stove, refrigerator, coin laundry. All utilities paid. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. 3 blocks to ocean. Available 2/1 or sooner. 5049 Cass. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$975. 1 bedroom, 4-plex. Stove, refrigerator. Nice shared lawn area. Coin laundry. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Available 2/14. 4536 Gresham. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. Great values, nice, clean, convenient apartments in multiple Pacific Beach locations. Studios from \$765. 1 bedrooms from \$970. 2 bedrooms from \$1395. Parking, laundry. Some buildings with gated entry, pool and/or deck. No pets. 858-483-3796.

PACIFIC BEACH. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhouse. New-built 2005! High end custom construction. Tiled kitchen/bath. Quality Berber carpet. Built-in closets. Nonsmoking. \$1950. 858-270-2576.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$925. 1 bedroom. Close to bay with onsite laundry and parking. 4418 Bond Street #7. 858-336-4891 or 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$800. Studio. Cute and cozy. Near bay. Large kitchen/dining area. Excellent location. Sorry, no pets or smoking. 4210 Haines Street #5. Agent, 619-692-4121.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1700. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 3 blocks to beach. Assigned off-street parking. Laundry on-site. Available now. No pets. 1050 Hornblend. Call 858-270-4492 x203.

PACIFIC BEACH. 3 bedroom, 3 bath townhome. 3-car garage. Fireplace, washer/dryer, patio and deck. No pets. 1853 Grand Avenue. \$2550. Available late January. 858-270-4492, x203.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1500/month. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Parking. Pools. Laundry facilities. Cats OK. 3883 Jewell Street. Call Manager, 858-272-0068. See www.apartments.com/tuscanapartments for photos and floorplans.

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PACIFIC BEACH 1 bedroom apartment. Steps to ocean. Unique courtyard. Includes utilities. 628-1/2 Diamond Street 760-634-1746 or 858-488-9026.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1550. 2 bedroom, 1 bath townhouse. 2 off-street parking, private patio, remodeled kitchen with appliances, fireplace. Water/trash included. No smoking! Pets. 619-606-4945.

PACIFIC BEACH. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, upper, on alley, \$1350. Open beam ceiling, new paint, parking. Available now. 1464 Grand Avenue. Agent, 619-260-1368. View at

LEAD STORY

— In December, inmate Michael Polk (serving time for robbery and aggravated assault) filed a federal lawsuit against the Utah Department of Corrections for denying him the right to properly practice his religion, Asatru. According to its teachings, adherents must communicate with ancient Nordic gods (such as Odin, Thor, and Heimdal) and for that, it is crucial that they have a Thor’s hammer, a mead horn (for drinking wassail), a drum of wood and boar skin, a “rune staff,” and a sword (though Polk said he would accept a cardboard sword).

The Entrepreneurial Spirit!

— A warehouse on Chicago’s West Side is “the world capital of fake [latex] vomit, where it’s still made the old-fashioned way, ladle by ladle, formed and coagulated,” reported the *Chicago Tribune* in December. Though it is not as popular as 50 years ago (7000 units sold yearly, compared to 60,000 then), Fun Inc. president Graham Putnam said, still, “It’s the best vomit on the market.” According to the awe-struck *Tribune* reporter: “The texture is soft and sturdy, pliable and complex, with ridges of multihued solid chunks looking like a jagged lunar landscape...perfect for the bathroom, refrigerator,

auto seat, or sidewalk.”

— Leading Economic Indicator: Evangelical Christians, among all people of faith, seem excited to purchase products that reinforce their religious values, according to a marketer cited in a December *Denver Post* report, resulting in an explosion of Jesus-themed merchandise such as Jesus riding a bull, surfing, and playing soccer, Jesus air-fresheners and Grapes of Galilee wine.

Cutting-Edge Science

— Males Will Be Males: University of Lausanne (Switzerland) researchers discovered that not only are cichlid fish oriented to “oral sex” (because the female stores fertilizable eggs in her mouth) but that studlier males have evolved a trick to get females to open up: Super-procreative males create egg-like growths on their fins, which females imagine are their own missing eggs and try to suck them up, thus improving the male’s opportunity to slip sperm in, according to a November report in *New Scientist*.

— A research team led by Richard Hanson of Case Western Reserve University (Cleveland) has produced a colony of “supermice” whose physical abilities are the rodent equivalent of those of gifted humans. By modifying a single metabolism gene, researchers enhanced the mouse’s ability

to use body fat for energy, creating a mouse that can run five hours without stopping, live longer, and have three times as much sex as ordinary mice. According to Hanson, humans have exactly the same modifiable gene, but “this is not something that you’d do to a human. It’s completely wrong.”

News That Sounds Like a Joke

— (1) Salt Lake City police reported that an out-of-town man was treated at a local hospital on Dec. 1 after being beaten up by gang members. The man had earlier mentioned to the gang-bangers that “Utah gangs” are not as tough as those from his hometown. (2) In October in West Palm Beach, Fla., Jacqueline Holmes filed a lawsuit against a nightclub named Coco Bongo for injuries after a disco ball fell from the ceiling and conked her on the head.

Fine Points of the Law

— (1) Ryan Holle, 25, is serving a life sentence (with no possibility of parole) in Florida even though his only connection to a 2003 murder was that he loaned his car to one of the killers. According to a December *New York Times* report, Florida, even when dispensing its second-worst punishment of all, does not restrict “aiding and

abetting” to just those who consciously assist a murder. (2) Scott Masters, 41, faced a potential 30-year sentence for shoplifting a doughnut in a Farmington, Mo., convenience store in September because, as he exited the store, he pushed a worker aside. Prosecutors said that “assault” made the crime a “strong-arm robbery” (but in December, a judge decided 90 days in jail was more appropriate).

People Different From Us

— Small-Town News: (1) Nicholas Palmer, 22, briefly took to the woods near Swanville, Maine, in October after an altercation with his sister. He had tried to snip the cord of the clipper she was using to shave the family cat to rid it of fleas and ticks. (2) Robin Handel, 44, was arrested in Rowlett, Texas, in December and charged with conspiracy after allegedly convincing her mother to kill Robin’s husband to protect a romance she was having via the Internet. The small-caliber handgun that the mother used failed to inflict life-threatening wounds, either to the husband or when she shot herself as police closed in.

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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PACIFIC BEACH. \$765. Studio, 1 bath apartment, carpet floors, 1-car driveway parking. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1195. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, new carpets, on-site laundry, refrigerator, stove, new paint, skylights. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1595. 3 bedroom, 2 bath duplex, will consider pet with de-

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PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. Near beach! 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. Oversized 2-car finished garage plus 2 parking. Hardwood floors. Washer/dryer. No pets. 907 Sapphire. \$2200. 858-735-8593.

PACIFIC BEACH. 3 bedroom, 2 bath duplex. Front yard. 2-private patios. Hardwood floors. Dishwasher, washer/dryer,

laundry room. Parking. No pets. 2014 Felspar. \$2400. 858-735-8593.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1165. Clean, quiet, neat 1 bedroom. Steps to Mission Bay on Sequoia Street. Hardwood floors, laundry. No pets. Long term. 858-454-1375.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$995. 1 bedroom. Half block to Sail Bay. Laundry. Open Saturday, 10-11am. 3817-1/2 Riviera Drive. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1450. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Across from Sail Bay with partial view. Parking, laundry. Open Saturday 11:30am-12:30pm. 3825 Rivera Drive #4. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1250-\$1595. Senior building (ages 62+). Open Saturday 10am-12pm. 2 bedroom, 2 bath in controlled access building. Immaculate, washer/dryer, fireplace, secured parking. 1625 Chalcedony Street. TPPM, 619-806-5760.

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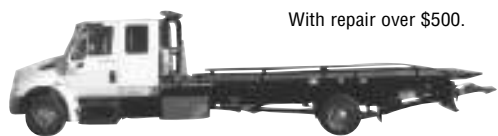
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Her ass looked big in the jeans. That's why I left her.

Ten years ago I wasn't 30 pounds overweight, and I didn't drink, not even coffee. I'd graduated college and moved to Ocean Beach. I was a regular at Java Joes, and it seemed like I knew everybody and I always had several girls interested in me. If a girl was cute enough, and she liked me, well, hell, I liked her back. At least for a while. They were mostly interchangeable, the women — varying degrees of attractive.

I see now that I hurt a lot of them, that it was cruel...emotional battery. A lot of them really liked me. If there's karma, I reckon I'm paying into it — for all those girls I took for granted, and for the one in particular that I told to go away.

There had been this string of mini dumps — on my part — for about a year, and there was always another girl. Then I met one that was special. We clicked. We laughed all the time. I couldn't believe how interesting she was. I hung on her every word. Some of the best things I've ever heard anyone say came from her. On one date we took a walk through Quail Botanical Gardens; I was really into cactus and succulents at the time. She later surprised me on my birthday with a small, planted cactus array in a shallow pot. She had put it together herself. It was the best, a wonderful present.

She was in love with me. One night she couldn't sleep and stayed up writing and illustrating this incredible poem about how much

Rear-View Mirror

she felt for me. I still have it.

She had minor surgery right after we'd met, so sex wasn't an option, not for a couple of weeks. She was staying with her parents in Carlsbad. I'd drive up, and we'd take a walk or sit on her parents' bed upstairs and watch a movie. It was during one of these movies that we had our one sexual encounter. We were kissing, and it got a little heated, and she was grinding a bit on my thigh and she, well, finished.

Funny thing, the specific timeline of it is hazy now. It's weird, like I was in a daze or on some kind of autopilot. It has since become clear to me that this was a relationship with real potential, but I don't remember thinking about marriage for even a second; I never even considered any kind of long term. It was what it was, which was that I enjoyed the attention. Yeah, this attention was from her, which was the best I've ever had, but it was all about me.

She came over to visit me at the house I was renting with a couple of friends. I remember that we were in the kitchen and that she was wearing new, dark blue jeans, which I

didn't think were flattering. And I just decided, right there, that we were done: There was no way I could see myself with a girl who had kind of a big ass. Later (that day? the next?) I told her on the phone that I thought we were "sexually incompatible." There was a pause, then she asked, "Would you like to work on it?" I said, "No."

Now here I sit, thinking of her. What happened? "You never thought you'd be alone, this far down the line" goes an Eagles song. Was I so arrogant that I thought a better one — I guess her, but a bit slimmer — would come along? Is it that I "nipped it in the bud" before anything could become an issue? In some subconscious way? Seems so implausible... "subconscious," give me a break. Strange that for a lot of it I can't remember really "being there," though. It was like this funny, extended-adolescence dream where I was cool and smart and deserved everything and got everything — but it was real. That was real.

So I dumped a girl with an amazing personality who enjoyed sex and came easily and was devoted to me. I even got along well with

her parents. I tried to find her on the Internet last year, on Google, MySpace; no luck.

Here's another lyric, Steve Poltz: "I try to love, I can't help but run / Where did all this fear come from? / I wonder when it will leave me."

I'm sorry, Jen. I guess I used to think everything had a do-over, like playing a video game. Or like this was some dress rehearsal or something, and we were just practicing for when it was real. Anyway, I hope I didn't mess you up even one fraction of how I f***ed myself up, doing what I did.

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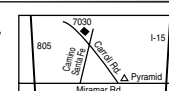
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BACK WHEN

In the Reader

Thirty Years Ago

Soon I will join the bulk of you in the sub-urbs. I can hardly wait. In my mind is a vision of provincial bliss, complete with the aroma of back yard barbecues and the melody of an ice cream truck.

In the fall of 1976 I moved into a hotel located on Lower Broadway.... For one thing it isn't possible in downtown San Diego to live by oneself. One can rent a room, single occupancy; but that does not guarantee said individual will be alone.

—**"A LULLABY OF BROADWAY,"** Merton Gaudette, January 12, 1978

Twenty-Five Years Ago

My four-month-old daughter is beginning to grow her permanent hair. Because it is thin, the way it is growing around her cowlick is apparent—it goes clockwise.... Do children in the Southern Hemisphere have hair that goes counterclockwise?

I will answer, but only when I can research it thoroughly. I'm making arrangements with my travel agent, and I should be in Australia by spring. New Zealand is close by, so I might as well see how hair grows there, too. New Guinea might prove instructive, and there's Fiji, and Tahiti....

—STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP, Matthew Alice, January 13, 1983

Twenty Years Ago

The Coral Room opened in 1957, the first dance venue among the dairy farms that covered Mission Valley.

As old friends stopped outside the Coral Room entrance to bid Thronburg good-bye, some asked her where they'll all go now. The Coral Room and La Pavilion at the nearby Town and Country Hotel were the only two swing dance rooms in the valley. The Mississippi Room in North Park's Lafayette Hotel closed down a couple of years ago, and the big-band music at the La Costa Hotel up the coast was eighty-sixed two weeks ago. Thronburg says La Pavilion is too small, too cold, and the dance floor is sticky. (Dancers rave about the Coral Room's parquet dance floor but say La Pavilion's marble floor is bad because floor wax oxidizes on marble and turns gummy.)

—CITY LIGHTS: **"THE LAST DANCE,"** Neal Matthews, January 14, 1988

Fifteen Years Ago

The English translation of Laura Esquivel's

book *Como Agua Para Chocolate* appeared in San Diego at the same time the film version premiered in Tijuana. The coincidence of the English book and Mexican film presenting at the same time across the border is like the coincidence of book and film appearing at the time of the 500-year commemoration of the opening of the New World by Europeans. That is my private view, but I will try to demonstrate it to you in my own way.

—**"BLOOD RECIPES,"** Ana Maria Corona, January 14, 1993

Ten Years Ago

I could have predicted it: Duncan Shepherd won't give his imprimatur to *Titanic* (Movies, December 18) and the sheep start whining, "Duncan hates movies!"

If the sheep would quit listening to the crowd, they would see that Shepherd's review is accurate. Two Sundays ago, I filed into the Cinema 21 with 2000 other lemmings. The special effects were good, and I appreciated the way Cameron made us relate to the magnitude of the tragedy— but that's where my appreciation stopped.

—LETTERS: **"I WISH I COULD BE LIKE YOU!"** Robert Kumpel, January 15, 1998



San Diego Reader, January 13, 1983

Five Years Ago

The creditors took umbrage at La Bella's role as Moores's lawyer during a federal grand jury investigation two years ago into Councilwoman Valerie Stallings and gifts she'd gotten from Moores. Moores has been friend and business partner of Warren Hellman, San Francisco venture capitalist, political donor, and powerful UC alumnus, who happens to be father-in-law of UCSD chancellor Robert Dynes. Atkinson, who ran UCSD before Dynes, is headed back to autumn retirement in La Jolla, with Dynes a prime candidate to succeed him.

—CITY LIGHTS: **"LA BELLA'S HORDE,"** Matt Potter, January 9, 2003

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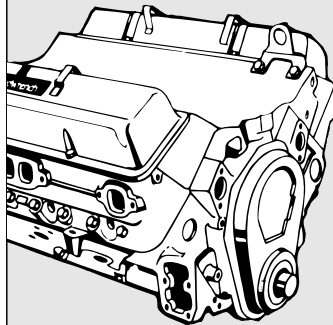
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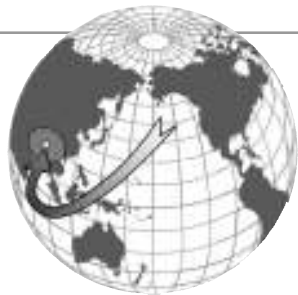


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HOMECOMING

Hours grew into days, days into weeks, weeks into months, and yet time gives me the illusion that it was just a few days ago when my illness began. Ah! Time had ceased to exist then, as thoughts of my ill health entirely consumed my mind. But I realize now, when I am regaining my health, that my illness was just a clever ploy by time to secretly make a fool of me, quietly ticking, laughing away all the while, tricking me behind my back to hand me back to my parents for the second time in my life.

"Eighteen months of medications, physical therapy, and rest," is what the doc said. Foolish doc. He didn't know what he was saying. It meant giving up my job and having to be babysat. It meant a complete wreck of a semblance of the normalcy a closeted gay tried creating far away from expectations. It meant running back crying to mama, just like when I was a kid, forcing me again to be a part of her dream plans for me — just like old times. "Don't worry, you'll make a full recovery," the doc added with a smile. Foolish, foolish doc. How could he smile when he was giving me such a grim prognosis? I was back to where I had started without a cure and he was smiling. This doc was mad. I wanted to run away, but I was in a wheelchair and even standing up was difficult. Mama was maneuvering the wheelchair from behind, and I knew she knew only one way to go — toward home, family, a wife for her only son, grandkids, heaven. She didn't know that she was taking home a devil from hell who wanted to spoil her carefully manicured Garden of Eden.

Home. I never really moved out of my parents' home, but I made sure that I was never there. Work was my excuse. Earn-

ing money, which I never really cared about, became the perfect pretext to attain some sense of freedom. Traveling the whole year round gave me the normalcy away from customary life. Small hotel rooms and cramped company quarters gave me the breathing spaces I needed. I have always chosen the discomfort of a seat on a bus or an airplane over my bed at home, suspicious of any expectations my bed might have in exchange for the comfort it gives me. Often, selfish goals have led one to unintended greater heights, a bigger name. My narrow intentions let me become an employer's dream, a selfless hardworking employee willing to sacrifice home for the company's sake. Ha! Selfish is altruistic, and "home sweet home" is a scary home.

Mama. She once had another son, and I once had an elder brother. I was just another son then, until my brother died of an overdose. After going through rehabilitations and relapses with my brother for many years, his death killed something inside Mama. Her only consolation was me, her other

seedling. Suddenly, I was under the spotlight. Ha! Invisible became visible — a gay was left to carry on the family name.

Closeted gays are visible, yet invisible. They are, but they are not. They are plants that hide their fruits deep underneath the ground. The green leaves above are just pretenses, false promises of flowers and fruits on their



stems, lest it breaks the gardener's heart. It is not easy to forget the nurturing, the love, the care, and the hope of the gardener toward that sapling; a spurious existence is much better than truth, shame, disappointments, tears, and pain.

It was a frustrating first few weeks coming back after hospitalization. I shouted at night in exasperation after

trying for many hours to get up. Mama would come running, her reassuring hands wiping away my frustrated tears, skillfully hiding her own compassionate tears. But the situation improved dramatically within a few weeks. Though weak, I was soon walking again. More recently, I got a call from A.K., a gay friend (read: secret lover). He came from

Delhi and wanted to see me over dinner. I told Mama that I was going out to meet a friend. When I came out of my room, Mama was knitting in the living room, her eyes proudly looking at me all dressed up. When I worked the car out of the garage, she was attending

some flowers on the porch, but her eyes were still on me. When I was on the road, those eyes were there in the rear-view mirror, telling me that she, her hope, and her expectations will be waiting for me. I stepped up the gas and speeded toward my gay lover. Mama, I am not home yet.

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HUNGARIAN PLUMBERS ARE ALL GREAT FANS OF M.C. ESCHER, I'VE DEDUCED. They don't just see the artist's creative works as pleasing concepts but more as hard-fact schematics and blueprints for their own work. In the average Hungarian bathroom, pipes protrude from the walls and lead smartly into the fourth dimension. Shower hoses form Möbius strips and, as an ouroboros, reroute themselves into their own showerheads. There are systems of shelves and stairs in each toilet bowl that you will never comprehend, and you don't even want to look at the sink, which is upside down near the ceiling.

Climbing a pole and then rounding a glass wall, I stood in what I thought was the shower. Once in there, I fiddled with the dozen or so dials and knobs housed in a little clay cabinet, and for the next 20 minutes intermittently sprayed either scalding-hot or frigid-ice water into my ear, up my bum, and then out onto the concrete floor, while a calliope somewhere tooted that big-top circus theme song. *Doot doo diddle liddle oot doo dah dah...*

When I'd had enough, I climbed down out of the stall and blew jets of hot perfumed air onto me from a white box on the wall; there were no towels in the entire hotel. I know, I asked the girl at reception earlier.

Mirrored doors pulled back to reveal that whatever space had been there before was now sealed off tight with a brick wall. The gleeful sprinkler that I believed was the shower in all this had formed a wonderful puddle on the floor in which my jeans now bobbed and floated.

My hair was still a little oily and stuck straight up. I wore my cold, stiff, soaked pants out of the room and thought my toothbrush must've been transported to a remote upper-plains region of Mars.

As I stood in the hallway dripping and unhappy, Ron looked up from his bunk and said, "The bathrooms are weird here, huh?"

"You ain't whistling Dixie."

"My turn," he said, and pulled a towel from his luggage. "You think *that's* strange, sit here and watch TV for a few minutes."

"Oh, no. Not me, boy." Instead, I sat on the balcony and ate a candy bar, listening to Ron's terrified shouts and the soft calliope music.

WHAT I WILL AND WON'T WATCH THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10

WHAT NOT TO WEAR
TLC 12:00 P.M.

I don't understand robes. I don't want to be sort of dressed. I wish to frolic either with my bad intentions completely revealed or covered by a comfy pair of jeans. I think swingers with boats and hot tubs are the only people who like robes, and that's just because they can tread that line between lewd and teasing, like, "Want to see my naughty bits? I was only kidding. Or, maybe I'm not. No, only joking. Unless you want to see them." Who has the time for that game of peek-a-boo? I have dishes to do.

THAT '70S SHOW
FOX 6:00 P.M.

Turtlenecks are as equally confusing as robes. A rumpled woolen skin for my neck isn't exactly

what leaps to mind when I think of flattering fashion, but if it's your thing, okay. Sadly, every school picture of me ever taken is in a turtle-neck, a pair of chunky glasses, and chrome orthodontic headgear. I was one part revolting and one part interesting; the eye doesn't know where to look, but it can't turn away.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11

AMERICA'S NEXT TOP MODEL
MTV 5:00 P.M.

A new favorite thing of mine is to get into a pair of tightly underpants, wet a sock and put it on my left foot, and run through Balboa Park. When the sock reaches three times its normal length and *fwaps* against the cement, I wave to passersby and yell "laundry day!" I shrug like "you know," and they do too. Like it happens to all of us. Ha ha! Boy are they dumb.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

COLLEGE BASKETBALL
CBS 10:30 A.M.

If procrastinating were an Olympic sport, I'd take home the gold. I've got it all worked out in my head. My name is Olyana Vasilyevich, and I procrastinate for the Russians. It's been my life's dream to stand atop the podium and wiggle my pigtails at my comrades back home who are watching me on the neighborhood TV. (I actually looked up Russian girls' names for that joke WHILE I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE WORKING! That's why I deserve that gold medal.)

THE MYSTERY OF THE HUMAN HOBBIT
DISCOVERY 5:00 P.M.

Finally, something to enslave. Oh, sure, whine about rights and all that, but my breakfast isn't going to make itself, and I'm really tired of lacing my own shoes. It's not like I'll abuse mine; I'll keep it in a sock drawer and change its newspaper once a week. OH, C'MON! Stupid ACLU spoils everything.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

WORLD'S STRONGEST MAN COMPETITION
ESPN 6:00 P.M.

I'm all for this; in fact, I say we carry this over into other interesting tidbits of life. *World's Ugliest Jacket Competition. World's Drunkest Poodle Competition. World's Largest Eyebrow Competition.* And something I'm a top contender for, *World's Longest Fart Noise from the Lips Made While Digging in a Bellybutton Competition.* Ah, the sting of contest, I'm ready for you!

MONDAY, JANUARY 14

DANCE WAR: BRUNO VS. CARRIE ANN
ABC 8:00 P.M.

Stay for the halftime show where Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld tango in matching sequined vests. It's really something when Cheney spits that rose into the audience and slaps Rummy on his meaty, old-man behind. *Brought to you by Halliburton! Halliburton: Now with 20 percent more war! And glitter!*



The Mystery of the Human Hobbit

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15

MY GYM PARTNER'S A MONKEY
CARTOON 9:30 P.M.

I want to own an octopus. And not just own like as in an aquarium, but own like a pony. My octopus and I will gallop off into the watery green ocean over sand hills and down canyons until I dismount her, walk around her, and pet down her clammy skin, whispering "Shhhh, girl. I love you, girl. Shhhh, that's a good girl," and she'll nuzzle against me for carrots. Ah, the American dream: a boy and his octopus.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16

CASHMERE MAFIA
ABC 10:00 P.M.

Lucy Liu is a media mogul and catfights with other snotty women about fashion? Really, I'd rather not. You know what, folks, pick up a book. Seriously. I'll lend you one of mine. Please, shut it off one night; it won't kill you. I swear.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17

THE CELEBRITY APPRENTICE
NBC 9:00 P.M.

When I worked in an office, I'd make dirty paper puppets and put on pornographic plays at my desk, complete with repairmen, shocked neighbors, and innocent paperboys. My manager would ask why I did such things, and I'd say, "It's hard to stay entertained when you're this drunk." She thought I was kidding. "Oh, you," she'd say. Then I'd swig more booze and get back to my dirty play. "Well, hello there. I'm selling subscriptions to the... Hey, what's going on here, mister?"

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BMW 330ci, 2004, gray, manual, 34,500 miles, free maintenance and warranty until 2010 or 100K, excellent condition, private parties, \$31,000. eldirectorJJ@aol.com or 858-472-0499.

BMW Z3, 1996, black convertible roadster, only 64,900 miles, automatic, excellent condition, black leather power seats, new back window, customized BMW chrome wheels. \$10,500. 858-344-1234.

BUCK REGAL, 1976. 350 engine, 350 transmission. Burgundy, excellent road manners. Classic style, super clean, smog passed. Registered, ready to drive away. \$3500. 619-583-0924.

CHEVY CORVETTE, 1987, excellent condition, runs great, very well maintained, have all records, burgundy, tinted windows, removable panel sunroof, 350 automatic, must sell, \$5500. 858-568-3352.

FORD CONTOUR GL, 1997, 4 door, low miles, automatic, air conditioning, power steering, brakes, windows, locks, tilt, cruise, stereo/cassette, premium wheels, must sell, \$2975. 619-838-0779.

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FORD FOCUS SE, Compact wagon. 28mpg! White, 67,000 miles. Only 6,000 miles on rebuilt transmission. CD/MP3. Inspections welcome, no time wasters please, \$4,900. 760-487-1995.

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HONDA ACCORD EXL, 2001. Great car! 114,500 miles, leather, fin, air conditioning, 6-disc CD changer. 5-speed manual. One owner, all maintenance paperwork available. \$9,250, 858-619-8159.

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PORSCHE BOXSTER S, 2000, convertible, 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, 1997, excellent condition, 112K miles, complete service/Carfax records. New radiator, water pump, timing belt, battery, wipers, trottle body system, more. \$4900. 619-275-2595.

TOYOTA COROLLA LE, 2001, air conditioning, power steering/brakes, 4 door, cloth interior, radio, cassette, CD, 6 player, 26,728 miles, \$8500. 760-631-2959.

VOLVO C70 HT, Convertible, 2001. Dark blue body and top, beige leather interior. Automatic, rollover protection system. One owner. All maintenance records available, \$12,900, 858-531-2201.

VW JETTA, 2002. GLS. 4 door sedan, automatic. Blue, tan leather. Sunroof, tinted windows, alloy wheels, premium sound. 83,000 miles. Leaving state, \$7500/best, 858-712-9681.

VW JETTA, 1990. Red, auto, 4 door, sunroof, CD player, air, 1 owner. No accidents, 156,000 miles, good

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CHEVY PICKUP, 1993. Auto. 6-cylinder, longbed. New shocks, brakes, battery. Nice wheels/tires. CD player. Nice heater/air cold. Runs perfect. \$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 BRONCO, 1969, \$9999, 619-582-2477, or carl1940carl@yahoo.com.

FORD ECONO VAN E250, 1995, heavy-duty lift on back, great commercial van, real roomy, great engine. Some body work and 1 tire needed. \$800. 619-957-4933.

FORD ECONOLINE E250, 2003. Van. Only 53,000 miles. Very dependable. Has divider with door separating front from back. Air conditioning. Power doors, windows. \$11,000, 619-726-3333.

FORD RANGER SUPERCAB, 2003, excellent condition, 4.0 V-6, automatic, air conditioning, 4 door, power everything, custom wheels and tires, tonneau cover, 62K miles, \$9800. Steve, 619-709-9995.

GMC SIERRA, 1993, 7.4 liter, white extended cab, long bed, 139K miles, \$6000 cash. Private parties only, 619-271-9540.

GMC TRUCK, 1975, 3/4 ton, excellent work truck, needs minor work, \$850. Gary, 619-280-6426.

ISUZU RODEO, 2000. Black, gray interior. 76,711 miles. Just reconditioned engine. Air conditioning, CD player. Manual transmission. Newer tires. \$5,900. Email to test drive dynamiteboy80@yahoo.com.

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TOYOTA ARUNNER SR5, 1991, white, V-6, all power, rebuilt motor, new tires, clean, 4x4, reliable, sacrifice \$2600. Camp trailer, 16' Aristocrat, 1968, bathroom, nice, \$1200. 858-581-6223.

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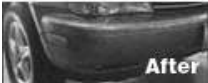
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T.G.I.F.

He discovered my humanity, warts writ large, and only my death can redeem me.

By John Brizzolara

Thank God it's January. All of January is the New Year, I'd say, and the equivalent of a Saturday morning on a close-up of a calendar. In this case, this January, it is a Saturday that has followed a kind of nightmare weekend — that being the end of August (in all its optimism) through its end, this morning.

I'm sitting in my son's apartment in San Marcos again, with a cast on my ankle, a walker next to me, and a son who finds nothing but fault with his idiot, character-debased father. Outside the rain is falling on the dead and dead alike in this town. I am in the very heart of that karmic territory when one finds oneself saying, "Well, the upside is that things certainly can't get any worse." Only I find that the Fates love to crack each other up this way, by provoking mortals to actually believe this.

I'll refrain from discussing the necessity for the cast and walker because I have this overwhelming certainty that readers are sick of hearing about my medical problems (though this one had nothing to do with alcohol), and I say only that there is much pain involved. This does nothing to help my equanimity toward my sons resentments. And what could those be? "Walking around." Meaning the cumbersome walker.

I would love to return to writing

about "events," stuff to do or stuff other people do with their Friday nights. Other people, period. But to do so would inevitably involve a tale originating from the next hospital bed, and there we'd be again. I could maybe do a column on how nurses spend their Friday nights at the nurses station, but that would only be the flimsiest of ruses, though at least it wouldn't necessarily be about me.

Some recent mail included an e-mail my publisher wouldn't show me (he may have rightly assumed that it would depress me into a non-work mode, just as I'm able to get back to a computer and all), the e-mail said, in effect, that Brizzolara is a hopeless loser. But other correspondence included an invitation from a man named McCarthy, a complete stranger, who invited me to stay with him at his place in Oceanside over the holidays if I found I had no other place to go. Yet another anonymous Christmas card, with no return address and a prematurely shredded postmark, included words of support, political sympathy, and a \$20 bill. I have no means of returning it, but thank you, sir, and God bless. I assure you the money will go somewhere it can do some good and not to some liquor bottler.

It's true enough that the digits 2-0-0-8 are arbitrary in meaning, unless you're into numerology, which is crap. But one can impose one's own order on them. I will use them as a demarcation code for taking better care of my health and turning around some bad habits. If I am even halfway successful, 2008 will be a good year — or at least a better year.

In the meantime, this year will be the first in which I am an unqualified reprobate to my son. Not the loveable, avuncular reprobate everyone allows for, but an unredeemable character of generically low order. Previously there has always been some kind of illusion on his part that there was something of the truly good man about me; but he has arrived at that rite of passage where "My Dad" has become and forever will be "My f—ing father." He discovered my humanity, warts writ large, and only my death can redeem me and emphasize fond and noble memories, in some cases even a kind of hagiography. I did pretty much the same thing with my father.

Of course my son is to a large degree very different, considering his mental state: always highly changeable. In fact, last night, during a brief cease-fire on his part (I rarely shoot back, though he believes he's under attack from me) he confessed, "Dad, I don't know what to do with my emotions lately." For the past



five years he has known exactly what to do with them, and that is bury them, don't experience them, and sidestep them in a way I often wish I could do. When I tried to tell him this might well be a sign of recovery, and that everyone experiences this at one time or another, his reaction was to arch his back on the bed, clutch his head and moan, "No. No. No. There is nothing good or normal about this." I was missing the point completely and reaffirming his emerging opinion of me as perverse and wrong-headed.

After having generously invited me here until my foot heals, he is, within hours, having serious regrets and is already angling for ways for the return of his role-playing-game buddy/roommate. The sight of me hobbling around on a walker is clearly disconcerting to him: another indication of rotten humanity and anything but power.

The king must die.

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