There’s no outfit so fantastically ridiculous as the too-tight, brazenly colored, and obnoxiously patterned ensemble for riding a long distance on a bicycle. It’s too much. Ostensibly the outfits are colored and patterned wildly to present a bold contrast to the dreary roadside so motorists can see you, but I think outfits are designed to keep bicyclists from reproducing. Really, there’s no reason it has to be this tight, this bright, and reflectorized. STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 24
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Say What?

I had these old roommates that used the word “dinty” to describe a good, hearty meal. I don’t know if it comes from Dinty Moore stew, which is not a good, hearty meal, but I liked it and adopted it. I use it mostly for comfort foods or things that stick to your ribs, like meat loaf and mashed potatoes and oatmeal. My friend’s Mom makes a really dinty chicken-and-dumplings dish that fills you up for hours. Thanksgiving and Christmas are usually dintyful food times. Also, you can use it if you are too full to eat. As in, “No way, man, I’m too dinty for seconds!”

—Excerpt from “Dinty,”
published January 16, 2008

Surf Diego

“It was about three years ago,” says Caroline. “There were Santa Ana winds, and while we were out there, there was this huge swarm of butterflies. I think that the butterflies were blown out from inland. And at the same time there were, say, about 15 dolphins swimming next to our boards. They were all around. With the orange butterflies and the dolphins on a very beautiful day, it was a very nice combination.”

Caroline and her husband Jacek are European transplants who found each other in Southern California.

—Excerpt from “Tourmaline” by Ollie,
published January 16, 2008

Sheep & Goats

“A church for Ken-Tal,” read the glossy cardboard flyer that arrived in my mailbox. The usual photos of lovely, multiethnic churchgoers were accompanied by the less usual word “skeptical.” Ah. Going for the affluent intellectual sophisticates of Kensington and Talmadge. But, hello — services in the Hoover High School auditorium? That’s City Heights. What are these folks up to?

—Excerpt from “Harbor Church Mid-City” by Matthew Lickona,
published January 16, 2008
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Dr. Barry Katzman voted “Top Doctor” by San Diego Magazine

“I Wish I’d Done It Sooner.”

– Suzanne W.

“I knew I’d never need to wear glasses or contacts ever again, but I was shocked at how much my vision has improved. I now have 20/15 vision. Everything is clear and sharp now. I can see colors and details now that I couldn’t see before. I can read street signs from further away. My vision is far better than it was with my glasses or contacts.

It was so easy, I only wish I’d done it sooner.”
BREAKING NEWS

**Greedy** With recession looming and tax revenues falling at an unprecedented rate, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and the legislature are threatening draconian reductions in state spending, including closing state parks and releasing “low risk” prisoners. So far, though, it appears that University of California administrators are immune from any radical cost cutting. Take the case of Robert Sullivan, dean of UCSD’s Rady School of Management, which opened in 2005, offering master of business administration degrees to those yearning to make big money in the world of high-tech venture capital. Until recently, Sullivan was paid the relatively heady salary of $286,500. That amount, however, was apparently not enough. So last month UC regents, voting in closed session, approved a 19.7 percent raise to $342,800.

The unusually high boost was justified in a special report to the regents: “Mr. Sullivan has been actively recruited by another university,” it said. “He is a remarkable individual with the special talents and qualities needed to ensure that the Rady School of Management ranks among the world’s best management schools in the 21st century.” The memo’s rationale sounded similar to a letter Sullivan wrote to the Union-Tribune in January 2006 justifying an extra $248,000 in sabbatical pay given to his boss, UCSD chancellor Marye Anne Fox. “As someone who has known Chancellor Fox for 15 years, working with her at the University of Texas at Austin and also in North Carolina, I support the decision made by the university for recruiting her to UCSD,” Sullivan wrote. “When compared with the total compensation packages for chancellor and presidents at other public institutions reported in recent Chronicle of Higher Education surveys, her compensation is not out of line.”

At the same January meeting, the regents also approved smaller percentage boosts for three lower-paid administrators. Warren College provost Steve Adler got a 13.6 percent bump to $140,200; Thurgood Marshall College provost Allan Havis received a 17.4 percent increase to $144,300; and Mark H. Thiemens, the university’s dean of Physical Sciences, was given an 11.8 percent raise to $265,400. The extra pay was justified, the report said, because recent faculty pay increases had “significantly improved faculty compensation” and therefore the “Senior Managers’ salaries are not keeping pace with their adjusted professorial salaries.”

**Unnecessary roughness** Losing in the race for San Diego city attorney is becoming more pronounced as the major candidates lining up against incumbent Mike Aguirre seek to gain advantage. Likely to play a role in the campaign are documents from the 1986 divorce case of one prospective contender, superior court judge and ex-Poway mayor Jan Goldsmith, whose wife Christine accused him of turning “a minor disagreement into a major altercation.” According to a signed statement by Christine dated April 15, 1986, Goldsmith “began yelling and screaming at me in obviously uncontrollled anger. He then gave me a hard shove in the chest and cocked his fist in an extremely threatening manner. All of this appeared in front of the children causing them to be extremely upset and telling their father not to hit their mother. He then began throwing items off the kitchen counter in his continuing rage. I could not leave at that time without further aggravating the situation and exposing myself to potentially further harm.” The next day, she said, she slept at her sister’s house with the children. “I am afraid to go back to the house the Respondent is still there as I feel his anger may once again get the best of him and he may, in fact, cause physical danger to myself and our minor children.” The couple later reconciled and Christine dropped the divorce action. The report said, “At about the 12-year mark — in 1986 — we had our only serious marital problem and were faced with whether to work it out or terminate the marriage. We decided to work it out. We went through several months of counseling and made lasting adjustments in the way we communicate.” He added, “No relationship is without its difficulties. We are by no means ashamed of the way we responded to our defining moment 21 years ago. In fact, we are proud of the way we responded and how our relationship has grown and continues to grow in our 34th year of marriage.”

**Hil raising** When one Democratic presidential candidate swung through town last Friday, the business of the San Diego State University Research Foundation’s investment committee was put on hold. “Tomorrow’s meeting has been postponed to allow committee members to attend a special event on campus (Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton’s Town Hall Meeting),” said an email from foundation Chair Deborah Bright. “I will let you know when a revised date is selected.” A last-minute attempt by the committee to meet later in the day was scuttled when an attorney for the Founder pointed out that the short notice of the new meeting time was inadequate under the state education code.

— 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.

If Only Bankers Had Brains

By Don Bauder

By now you have memorized those three ugly words, “subprime mortgage mess.”

Get ready for three more: “credit default swap,” called CDS on Wall Street but barely known on Main Street, where it may well spread financial disease as lethal as subprime and sundry exotic mortgages. The sagacious financial expert who almost alone has warned about such looming woes for more than a decade is Frank Partnoy, professor of law at the University of San Diego.

In its simplest form, a credit default swap is essentially insurance against default or some other calamity on a debt instrument, such as a bond or a loan. For example, a bank holds a bond and wants to be sure it gets its steady interest payments and its principal when the bond matures. So the bank buys a contract from a third party — say, a hedge fund, insurance company — that promises that the bond will be paid off in full. In return, the bank pays the third party a regular premium.

Citigroup has lost billions of dollars in mortgage-related products, and the chief executives raking in $60 million or more a year in salary had no idea what was going on. Now some financial experts are asking if the credit default swap phenomenon is a protection racket — or a Ponzi scheme. People are wondering what happens when the third party promising protection fails.

If you do not know what a credit default swap is, you are asking dumb questions.

The vehicle by which this quasi-insurance is carried out is a derivative — a financial instrument whose value is derived from some other security, such as a stock, bond, or commodity. Most derivatives are bewilderingly complex — often created by Harvard and MIT mathematics PhDs. Sometimes both the buyers and sellers of derivatives don’t understand them. After all, the essence of white-collar fraud is contrived complexity. The investment banking world is expert at creating such mares’ nests. Trouble is, the firms are often not smart enough to unravel their own self-made messes. A low-level trader cost the second-largest French bank $7.2 billion by making trades the bank had not detected. The U.S. can’t be smug; big Wall Street houses such as Merrill Lynch and

Frank Partnoy

Citigroup have lost billions of dollars in mortgage-related products, and the chief executives raking in $60 million or more a year in salary had no idea what was going on. Now some financial experts are asking if the credit default swap phenomenon is a protection racket — or a Ponzi scheme. People are wondering what happens when the third party promising protection fails.

If you do not know what a credit default swap is, you are asking dumb questions.
The Spanish word dulzura means sweetness. And public artist Robin Brailsford found the sweet life when she moved to the hamlet of Dulzura, 30 miles east of San Diego along State Route 94. She lives in a contemporary concrete-block house/art studio on Marron (pronounced Muh-ROAN) Valley Road, a dirt road that runs from State Route 94 to the international border eight or so miles away. The concrete deck alongside her house offers a sweeping view across ten miles of land dotted with well-spaced houses and barns and rimmed with mountain ranges turning purple in the late-afternoon sun. Other than the chatter of juncos and crowned sparrows gorging themselves at Brailsford’s bird feeders, the only sound out here on the deck is the low whisper of the west wind blowing through the chaparral...that is, until a ten-wheel dump truck loaded with broken concrete growsl down the road a hundred yards from the house.

“We get a couple trucks every hour or so,” Brailsford says.

The trucks haul broken concrete chunks to a new concrete recycling yard about a mile south of Brailsford’s house in an area that locals call the runway because a former owner of the land used to land his private plane there. The trucks’ sudden appearance in late December is one of two recent occurrences that have the backcountry rumor mill churning out stories at full capacity. One rumor suggests that the concrete will be ground up and used to pave Marron Valley Road. Another says the road will be not only paved but widened as much as 60 feet. Yet another has the recycled concrete being used in the construction of a new road running alongside the border.

The grandest of the rumors is that the paved and widened road will lead to a new border port at the south end of Marron Valley.

The other event that’s powering the Marron Valley rumor mill also happened in late December. “It was the week between Christmas and New Year’s, which is traditionally a time when nothing happens. Everybody’s on vacation that week, and no county offices were open. Well, I was out in front working in the yard when some guys came by, and it looked like they were working on the road. I asked them what they were doing, and they said that they were biologists that were hired under a $5 million grant that had been gotten by [Congressman] Duncan Hunter’s office to look into widening Marron Valley Road, which is currently a county-maintained, narrow, 15-miles-an-hour road that dead-ends at the border. They said they were looking into widening it 30 feet on both sides of the road. This is all hearsay. But they said they wanted to widen it 60 feet total and make it into a four-lane highway so that Marron Valley Road would be a feeder road to supply the major road that Duncan Hunter wants built along the border. As we spoke to them, there were other guys in orange vests going back and forth on the road in the classic white Suburbs. It definitely looked like a survey crew.”

Brailsford was alarmed at the prospect of the dirt road she lives on, which is only wide enough for two cars to pass, being widened by 60 feet and paved. So she called Congressman Hunter’s office. “I was very polite. I said, ‘It is rumored that the road is going to be widened by 60 feet, and I want to look into that.’

‘Who did you hear that from?’ was the first thing they said to me. And I said, ‘Well, I think that is kind of irrelevant. It was supposedly someone working under the subcontract work. That is irrelevant.’ And he said, ‘Do you live on the border?’ And I said, ‘Yes, as a matter of fact, I do.’ And he said, ‘I don’t recall any road going in down there.’ And that is when I said, ‘I don’t care if you recall it or not. That is not what I am calling for. I am calling to find out whether it is a fact or not.’”

Another call placed to Duncan Hunter’s office yielded similar results. Reached at the congressman’s Washington, D.C., office, his aide Joe Kasper said that Hunter has made no appropriations requests for that area in the last few years.

Marron Valley Road is county-maintained. But Jennifer Stone, press representative for Supervisor Dianne Jacob, in whose district Marron Valley Road lies, says of the stories about a planned widening, “They’re just rumors. We’ve checked with Public Works, and they couldn’t find any projects pending for Marron Valley Road.”

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service monitors an endangered butterfly in the area. “It’s called the quino checkerspot,” says Jane Harmon, press officer for the local Fish and Wildlife office. “But it couldn’t have been Fish and Wildlife biologists that Brailsford spoke to.”

“I was not the one to receive that call,” Harmon says. “They’re not up and flying around until March or April.”

Officials from U.S. Customs and Border Protection, reached by phone, also expressed ignorance of any studies being performed on Marron Valley Road. All of this governmental ignorance would make one think Brailsford and her neighbors’ worries were unfounded. But a December 2007 environmental impact statement (available at borderfencenepa.com) seems to validate the rumors. “[Customs and Border Protection] proposes to construct, operate, and maintain approximately 4.4 miles of tactical infrastructure. Proposed tactical infrastructure would con-
If bankers had brains
continued from page 6

tection doesn’t have the money
to pay off. This could cause a
chain reaction. Protection
sellers could default. Protec-
tion buyers, which had
wrongly assumed they were
covered for calamities, would
find themselves in deep doo-
doo. Worrisomely, public dis-

American’s banks evade the
reserve requirements that
once backed up the system
to prevent runs. Gross’s Jan-
uary report put it in stark
words: “Our modern shadow
banking system craftily dodges
the reserve requirements of tra-
tional institutions and pro-
motes a chain letter, pyramid
scheme of leverage [debt],
based in many cases on no
reserve cushion whatsoever.
Financial derivatives of all
descriptions are involved, but
credit default swaps are per-
haps the most egregious
offenders.” If something goes
wrong in the economy —
and a national recession looks
increasingly likely — the banks
may well not have adequate
reserves. There are $45 tri-
illion of swaps and $500 tri-
illion of all kinds of mysteri-
ous derivatives floating around
the world, often undetected.
Gross says that in the course
of the coming (perhaps under-
way) economic woes, swaps
could account for $250 billion
of losses — the same as sub-
prime mortgages. “Casual-
ties and shipwrecks are the
inevitable consequence,” says
Gross.

University of San Diego
law professor Partnoy sold
derivatives on Wall Street for
two years. In 1997, his book
_F.A.S.C.O.: Blood in the Water
on Wall Street_ warned of com-
ing problems with deriva-
tives. His 2003 book, _Infect-
ious Greed: How Deceit and
Risk Corrupted the Financial
Markets_, specifically zeroed
in on swaps. He showed how
they were critical in the Enron
and WorldCom frauds. “Banks
had done an estimated $10
billion of credit default swaps
related to WorldCom,” wrote
Partnoy. When WorldCom
collapsed, the banks were
owed billions in the
bankruptcy, but they didn’t
worry: they had sold the risk
to somebody else. There were
800 swaps amounting to $8
billion of bets on Enron, wrote
Partnoy. Then—Federal Reserve
chairman Alan Greenspan
applauded this risk-shifting,
saying it took pressure off
U.S. banks. But because the
swap market was “opaque and
unregulated,” wrote Part-
noy, “no one could be sure
where the risk had gone.”

Property, casualty, and rein-
surance companies took hits,
as did pension funds and
hedge funds.

But, noted Partnoy, just
as banks used derivatives to
skirt reserve requirements,
insurance companies used
them to avoid legal rules that
blocked them from taking on
too much risk. Banks were
dodging regulation by shift-
ing risk to less regulated insur-
ance companies, which were
also doing illegal gambling.
Because of the swap boom,
the world financial system
might be creating instability,
not reducing it. Banks are in
the best position to monitor
a loan; they have access to
data that the third parties
don’t have. An insurance com-
pany—especially one based
offshore, as so many are—can
only look at public docu-
ments. It doesn’t have the
inside scoop, as banks sup-
posedly have.

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Ambac and MBIA had the
highest AAA ratings—ergo,
so did the municipal bonds
they guaranteed. But then
they got greedy. They decided
to insure debt instruments that
were loaded up with
mortgages that turned out to
be kinky. These bonds are
collapsing. There is a ques-
tion of whether Ambac and
MBIA have the money to pro-
vide the protection they
promised. The stock prices
continued on page 10
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February 7, 2008
Dulzura deception continued from page 7

sist of primary pedestrian fence [i.e., border fence], patrol roads, and access roads in two sections along the U.S.-Mexico international border in San Diego County, California.

Marron Valley Road is mentioned 11 times in the impact statement, mostly in connection with the flora and fauna damage the project would cause to the area along the road. The dreaded W-word is used, “In order for ingress/egress by trucks and heavy equipment, significant road widening would be required to safely accommodate truck traffic,” the statement says. Elsewhere, it states, “Certain points along Otay Mountain Truck Road and the spur to Puerta Buela construction access roads might require widening at various locations to allow for the safe travel of large construction vehicles. ’To the east…similar improvement might be required to Marron Valley Road.’”

The gravelly surface of Marron Valley Road crumbles underfoot as Brailsford walks to the concrete recycling yard. It’s 4:30 p.m.; the trucks have stopped for the day. About a mile south of her house, she comes to a gate on the left side of the road. A metal placard on the gate bears the name and phone number of Whillock Contracting, an El Cajon outfit. Walking around the gate and along a rough dirt road carved out of a hillside, she comes to the concrete dumping site, a wide area graded into a hillside looming over the south side of the valley. Two articulating skip loaders, their wheels nearly six feet tall, stand next to a pile of concrete covering an area about half the size of a football field and averaging seven or eight feet high. “Why did this have to be done here, where everybody in the valley can see it? I am all for recycling—it is fabulous—but maybe, even on this very road, I could find a better place to be recycling it than up here on the top where every single person in here can see it.”

Brailsford is also suspicious of the timing. “The same week those guys told me the road would be widened 60 feet we just happened to have a yard filled with road debris.”

Tory Whillock, who answers the phone at Whillock Contracting but refuses to give his work title there, says the concrete comes from houses burned in the recent Harris Fire. Asked if the concrete will be used for any widening projects on Marron Valley Road, Whillock laughs. “No, it will be ground up and used in rebuilding projects in the area. And I expect us to be done and out of there in five or six months.”

As Brailsford walks back to her house, the setting sun colors the hills shades of pink, and the cold January wind does the same to her cheeks. She smiles at the sight of Sedeka, her Korean jindo dog, chasing rabbits in the field alongside the road. It’s clear she loves this valley. “If this road were widened 60 feet,” she says, “it would ruin this area. It would absolutely ruin it.”

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If bankers had brains continued from page 8

of Ambac and MBIA have dropped precipitously, oscillating on rumors. There is talk of a bailout of some of these companies by big banks (themselves lacking funds) or even the federal government.

Some fear that if the economy weakens, a swap crisis could produce a global financial meltdown. In an article in London’s Financial Times on January 28, Partnoy warned, “Few people are confident that banks have accurately assessed the risks associated with the $45 trillion of credit default swaps.”

Some pooh-pooh pessimists such as Partnoy. One Little Mary Sunshine is Alan Greenspan. In his best-selling book The Age of Turbulence, published last year, Greenspan lauds credit default swaps for taking all the risk off banks and spreading it around to other institutions such as insurers and pension funds, thus avoiding “cascading defaults of an earlier era.” Unlike critics such as Partnoy, Greenspan says, “In today’s world, I fail to see how adding more government regulation can help.”

This year we may find out who is right.
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<th>Product</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<td><strong>In-dash stereo</strong></td>
<td>200-watt AM/FM, detachable-face CD, iPod jack, and RCA output to add amplifier. Authorized Kenwood dealer. Installation charges not included.</td>
<td>$69 <strong>Installed</strong></td>
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Correction
The photo of Tim Mays in the January 17 cover story, “Rockin’ Baby Boomers,” was taken by Robert Rowsey.

Cartoon In Error
Attention, Neal Obermeyer. Your cartoon is in error (January 31). The new proposition is not to extend term limits; it shortens them but keeps the terms in one house, so there is less house-hopping and more stability. Please do not mislead the readers.

Valerie Sanfilippo
via email

We Want What You Have
I feel compelled to write to you today to clarify a few points in your recent article “The Principal’s Principles,” dated January 24 (“City Lights”). While it is true that Mr. Rood and I were in a relationship, it is also true that we are currently in a custody dispute over my youngest daughter. Mr. Rood was the associate publisher (I’ve enclosed a copy of his business card under separate cover for your clarification) of both the Gay and Lesbian Times and rocket magazine, it is not true that we fired him as your article states. His clients and leads were simply reassigned, as is common practice in our industry. It’s preposterous to believe that I or my staff were unaware of the fact that Mr. Rood was a full-time all-year-round principal with the San Diego Unified School District. That being said, Mr. Rood kept his own hours with our publications. When the district contacted us informing us of an ongoing investigation into Mr. Rood, we responded by sending them to our attorney. As to the ethics of this situation, it is up to Mr. Rood and the San Diego Unified School District to decide.

As for Mr. Yuhas, he is a journalist entitled to his opinion and his voice. As a fellow journalist, I respect his own hours with our publications. When the district contacted us informing "City Lights.” While it is true that Mr. Rood and I were in a relationship, it is also true that we are currently in a custody dispute over my youngest daughter. Mr. Rood was the associate publisher (I’ve enclosed a copy of his business card under separate cover for your clarification) of both the Gay and Lesbian Times and rocket magazine, it is not true that we fired him as your article states. His clients and leads were simply reassigned, as is common practice in our industry. It’s preposterous to believe that I or my staff were unaware of the fact that Mr. Rood was a full-time all-year-round principal with the San Diego Unified School District. That being said, Mr. Rood kept his own hours with our publications. When the district contacted us informing us of an ongoing investigation into Mr. Rood, we responded by sending them to our attorney. As to the ethics of this situation, it is up to Mr. Rood and the San Diego Unified School District to decide.

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Some lucky people choose to make a living thinking up goofy, useless stuff to amuse the population and take up space in the landfill. Some of this stuff is tricker than others. The smiley face was complex enough to require two wacky brains to figure it out. Bernard and Murray Spain were makers of signs, stickers, labels, lapel buttons, and T-shirts, all to appeal to the population at large. It’s 1970, and times are tense and negative. Wars, protests, sit-ins. We were all in a frenzy. The Brothers Spain decided it was their duty to cheer us up, bring some peace, spread some love and happiness. Result! The black-and-yellow smiley face. Buttons, shirts, stickers, all with the Spains’ wish for a gritty world. The Spains did okay on the buttons but didn’t benefit from the decades of smileiness that ensued.

But even the Spains admitted that there were other versions of the sappy sign that long preceded theirs. The one they invented was simply the design that seemed to stick best in our hearts. It is documented that even in the 1930s — a time that certainly needed cheering up — a smiley type design appeared in various ads, note papers, signs. They were limited, individual efforts to spread cheer and not worldwide phenomena like our smiley. One well-cataloged effort was by an artist who worked for an insurance company that was suffering from basement-level morale. Rampant in that industry, I’ll bet. They wanted something to pep up the staff and make customers all bubbly. Anyway, the designer developed a lapel button with a grinny mouth and thought he was through. But after a little more thought, he realized that the whole corporate-uplift effort could be sabotaged if people expressed their true feelings by wearing the buttons upside down. Adding eyes and a nose averted that potential embarrassment. But the design wasn’t yellow and it wasn’t our favorite smiley. That was devised by the Spains. And it’s reassuring that the history of the icon is so well documented, saving future archaeologists the trouble of decoding the little whimsey, speculating that it was a popular go or a tribute to a great political leader of the mid 20th Century.

Heymatt:
Why is there a Governor Drive in University City? Did the governor used to live there or something?
— Just Driving By and Wondering

The key is the university part of University City. In the 1960s, La Jolla was a frenzy of college building. The campus of UCSD was close to opening. And the surrounding territory, now University City, was spouting new buildings and roads too. To link the two projects, the developers labeled the main drags university-related names. Regents Road? The University of California is governed by a board of 26 regents. Nobel Drive? Plenty of laureates were then among the faculty. Governor Drive! California’s governor is de facto head of the UC Board of Regents, thus the chief dude in the UC system. He appoints most of the members of the regents’ board. But in fact the gov is rarely active in the school’s mundane activities, so somebody else routinely chairs meetings. Despite that, in University City, the jobs of governor of California and chief regent are honored with a few miles of eponymous asphalt.

Dear Matt:
My sister is getting to be a health-food nut, and her latest bright idea is that sea salt is much better for you than regular white salt. She said it has a lot more nutrients in it, like vitamins and things. She also says it tastes better. All I know is that it is more expensive than regular salt and that is a problem.
— Food Freak’s Sister, Rancho Bernardo

Salt is salt is sodium chloride. Table salt is dredged from mines where dried-up oceans deposited it millennia ago. Once the dirt and crud is cleaned from the sodium, it’s packaged. The health-nut mantra is, salt loses valuable minerals when it’s processed. Sea salt, on the other hand, is gently and lovingly evaporated from seawater by hippies in Birkenstocks and not cleaned, preserving all its nutritional goodness. Well, sorta. When salt is deposited in mines by retreating seas, the molecular components precipitate out at different rates. Sodium and calcium go first, then magnesium, then potassium. So, according to the you-are-what-you-eat crowd, cleaning the salt removes valuable minerals and makes processed salt closer to pure sodium chloride. Nobody seems to be able to test this in order to quantify how much magnesium is being flushed down the drain. But it’s clearly just traces that could be made up with a pill or a better diet in general. Foodies scorn processed salt for other reasons, which actually we have dealt with before. They savor the crude coating the salt granules as bringing a unique, savory taste to whatever it’s sprinkled on. French sea salt tastes like the French sea marshes. Hawaiian red salt tastes like Maui. Well, recently some of that French stuff was taken off the market because the water from which it was lovingly evaporated was, ugh, polluted. You’d hardly think “foodie” would be such a high-risk occupation.

Matthew Alice:
Who invented the yellow smiley face logo? Is he a millionaire now?
— Smilingly Curious, via email

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SportingBox  By Patrick Daugherty

Valentine’s Day Column

This morning I mailed a Valentine’s Day card to a woman I haven’t seen or talked to in 40 years. I added a personalized inscription, “Do you remember where I put the car keys?”

The woman was once my wife. I married Rachel because I liked her family, particularly her dad, Homer. Don’t get me wrong; I was enormously fond of Rachel and enjoyed being with her. We were comfortable with each other. But, I was a restless 21-year-old male and had as much business being married as a dog has running a bank.

We met at Foothill Junior College. Might have spotted her in my economics class, although I’m not sure. Looking back, I don’t remember why I took an economics class, but I did.

Rachel was small, slender, with shoulder-blade-length black hair, and a chip on her shoulder covering a big soft spot. She and her younger sister, Gretchen (auburn hair, great tits, broad hips, someone I frequently fantasized sleeping with), lived with their parents in Los Altos Hills, California, a town of 7000 exceedingly rich white people near Stanford University. Saying that, it was a house, not a mansion. No servants, only three, albeit oversized, bedrooms, living room, family room, dining room, big kitchen, big garage, wine cellar, on a two-acre lot.

My marriage wasn’t about dad’s money. I was oblivious to money then; in fact, I never thought about much, less received, money from Rachel’s family. It was drinking French wine and arguing politics with Rachel’s dad that hooked me. We sat in front of a huge, adobe-styled fireplace and watched oak logs blaze. Dad was a doctor, back in the days when general practitioners were respected, earned enough money to live in a rich person’s town, and drove, in this case, a Jaguar XKE.

Homer was one of those men who seemed taller than he was. He couldn’t have been more than five-nine, but that was packaged in a stocky linebacker’s torso. He had wide shoulders for his height, thick neck, and a shiny, egg-shaped, bald dome. This was set over an oversized, immaculately trimmed, shiny, egg-shaped, bald dome. This was set over an oversized, immaculately trimmed, shiny, egg-shaped, bald dome. This was set over an oversized, immaculately trimmed, shiny, egg-shaped, bald dome. This was set over an oversized, immaculately trimmed, shiny, egg-shaped, bald dome.

He wore a bowtie to work and Brooks Brothers leisure clothes at home. I have never seen, before or since, a more meticulously dressed man. He always looked as if he’d stepped out of a hot shower, skin pink almost to scalding, wearing just-out-of-the-box pants and shirt and sweater, finished out with perfectly shined shoes.

On weekends, and more than a few weekdays, Homer and I took our positions in front of the mock-adobe fireplace, listened to classical music on his multi-thousand-dollar stereo, drank expensive wine, and goaded each other. I laughed. He cackled. Politically, Homer was Generalissimo Franco-right-wing-fascist and read a lot. I was commie-youth-anarchist and read a lot. He had a wine cellar. I had an appreciation.

I can remember Homer’s voice, especially his cackle, as clearly as if I had spoken to him yesterday. I don’t remember Rachel’s voice, and I don’t recall how it was we agreed to marry. I do remember the wedding. It was held at Homer’s house, in the rarely used living room, the room with a wall of windows on the south side looking down on a protected forest.

None of this seemed odd to me at the time. If you asked, I would have told you I loved Rachel — I would have said all the right things — and further, if you observed that I seemed to like Rachel’s family, particularly her father, more than I liked Rachel, I might have decked your impertinent ass on the spot.

My father was sick, needed care from my mother. They lived in Georgia. My two brothers and sister lived on the East Coast, too, so, to my great relief, no family member of mine attended the wedding. There were, say, 30 people there: Rachel’s family members, cousins, and a few friends. I liked, and to a certain extent, knew, everyone there. It was a party like many I’d attended at Homer’s house, except, on this occasion, the festivities were celebrating me and mine. I regarded that as a good thing. There was a soft-spoken minister, who did his duty quickly, pocketed the 40 bucks I handed him, and left.

Now what?

The Vegas Line can be found at SDReader.com, click on “Sporting Box.” The line will return to the print edition when the NFL season begins.

He had a wine cellar. I had an appreciation.

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Staff size: two full-time, a few part-time
Sunday school enrollment: 25
Annual budget: $900,000
Weekly giving: around $17,000
Dress: semi-formal to formal, plenty of jackets and ties
Diversity: mostly Caucasian
Sunday worship: contemporary service, 8:45 a.m.; traditional service, 11:15 a.m.
Length of reviewed service: 1 hour, 15 minutes
Website: torreypineschurch.org

“The term ‘emergent worship’ doesn’t really provide a good definition,” said Pastor Michael Spitters when we spoke before Sunday’s service. “We don’t know what we’re getting into or something.” Part of what he wanted to avoid was anything that seemed “playing at worshiping God”, i.e., worship that made no visible difference in the lives of the faithful. Part of what he wanted to become was “an authentic community... A big part of it is the horizontal connection as well as the vertical. If you don’t see God in your brother or sister... if it’s just a ‘me and my Jesus’ thing, then there’s a big disconnect with the suffering and injustice in the world.”

Spitters stressed that he wasn’t saying that Emergents were after a wholesale rejection of traditional religious forms. Merely the trappings of religion and ritual... that are empty to many of them... the big, program-oriented spectacle of religion, where you come in and get entertained. “In fact, he said, ‘some are actually taking back some of the traditions — the incense and the candles and the meditation.’

There was plenty of tradition on display at the 11:15 service. The rose window above the altar — the one with IHS inscribed in the stone and “Holy, Holy, Holy” written across the cover cloth — bore a host of traditional symbols: the flaming wheel from Ezekiel, the Chi Ro, the anchor and fish, and the crown of thorns among them. And in a stucco-happy world, brick walls practically proclaimed the church’s solidarity with history and stability. Stimulating emblems for both the music — stately choir and booming organ, ringing out “Be Thou My Vision” and the Doxology — and the relatively formal liturgy (“Introit, Invocation, Gospel”).

The call to worship, on the other hand, felt like standard modern-speak: “We have gathered as children of God’s promise, to keep alive our vision of hope. We have gathered on the mountaintop, that we may be strengthened to live as God’s children in the valleys of everyday life.” But the opening prayer was a little different in tone, a little grittier: “Sometimes where you take us is pretty scary, Lord... We’re fearful that the cost of following you will be too high... Heal us of our consternation... give us... bold, courageous determination to follow you.”

The Scripture reading related the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor. In his sermon, Spitters took up the apostles’ frightened response to the voice from the cloud, the one that said, “This is My Son whom I love... listen to Him.” When the disciples heard this, they fell face down to the ground, terrified.”

“How many of you would really like God to show up in your life... to speak to you directly?” asked Spitters. “To give you an irrefutable message: ‘This is what I want you to do with the rest of your life.’ The sheer spectacle of it would be enough to scare me half to death, but I think there’s something more that’s frightening the disciples... In the immediately preceding text, Jesus predicts his death. He says, ‘Guys, I’m going to suffer, and I’m going to die...’ And he says, Look, if you want to follow me, you too must pick up your cross and follow... It’s the fear that comes when we come face-to-face with God... and what He is asking... Worshiping the one true God is about risking a life-threatening encounter with the risen Christ — seeking God’s will for our lives... so you can walk down the mountain into the valley where people are hurting and do some good.”

But, he concluded, “If you want to follow... If you want to risk... If you want to be — you must pick up your cross and follow. ‘It’s the fear that comes when we come face-to-face with God...’”

After the sermon, Spitters took a seat in the pew, and Rev. Dr. Clair Berry took over the liturgy. He praised tithing for helping to keep wants and needs distinct, and for proclaiming that “we’re a part of that enterprise called the Kingdom of God.” And he presided over the Institution of Communion. Finally, Spitters rose after Communion (which he called “the highlight of every service”), read the announcements, and closed with an exhortation: “Let us go down from the mountain, listening to Jesus all the way.”

What happens when we die?”

“Even the Bible is conflicted on that,” said Spitters. “There is some Scripture to support the idea that when Christ comes again, then those dead in Christ shall rise first. Others believe that, as soon as you die, you meet your maker. I think it’s my job as pastor to say, ‘There are different ways of understanding this. It’s indicative of a church that’s non-creedal — we don’t have a statement that says, ‘When you die, this is what happens.’ Because I haven’t gone myself. I can only tell you what my hope is: that when we die, whatever existence we have, we will be united with God in a love we can’t even fathom right now.”

― Matthew Lickona

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Omega Turf (619-841-4010; omegaturf.com), "The typical lawn will eat 50 gallons of water per square foot per year. For the average household with a lawn, maybe half the water they use is for the lawn."

Payne, of course, had an alternative to offer, "Most insurance accepted. weekend appointments available. Use your JCPenney card. Offers good thru 3-10-08 with this ad."

Best Buys

— Eve Kelly

You give it ten years before water costs as much as gas costs now," said Patrick as he looked up from his morning Internet browse. "Maybe we should think about ripping out the grass in back, putting in some drought-tolerant landscaping.

"Easy for you to say," I replied, "I'm the one who needs to be able to send the kids out to play in the yard. Oh, and watch out for the cactus! I don't think so." But I saw his point. It takes a lot of water to keep grass green. In fact, according to Chris Payne of Omega Turf (619-841-4010; omegaturf.com), "The shine and color have been getting better. It was very short — maybe a quarter-inch tall — and not very realistic looking."

But that was then. "We're now in the fourth generation of synthetic turf; the form it's in now has been around for about seven years. On athletic fields, the blades are one and a half to two inches long. To give it structure — to keep the blades standing up — and to make it playable for tackling, they'll fill in between the blades. We call it 'crumb rubber' — it's car tires ground up into little bits like bread crumbs."

If you saw the Colts game against the Chargers, and you saw someone drag their toe, you might have noticed a little roasted tail fying up behind them. That wasn't dirt — it was crumb rubber.

For a while, installers were using the same stuff on residential applications, but "there were some limitations to that. The crumb rubber would travel around, get in your shoes. And the grass still looked plastic and shifty. But these days, grass is looking greener.

"The shine and color have been getting better, and by increasing the density of the blades, we've eliminated the need for crumb rubber. The blades are made from polyethylene, and then there's a shorter nylon fiber down low to help give structure. We are at the point now where a cut piece of synthetic tossed down on a lawn blends right in. The blade lengths vary, but they're around one and three-quarter inches long. If it was much longer, it would mat down; shorter, and it wouldn't look realistic. You want your neighbor to say, 'Wow, nice lawn, not! Wow, nice fake lawn.'"

Installation begins with tearing out your old lawn, down past the root layer, "about four inches. We do that mostly by hand. Then we spray Roundup. If I find nutgrass, I use a product called Sledgehammer, which is specifically made for nutgrass. Then we put down four inches of class-two road base. Most companies use decomposed granite, but granite is more variable, and I find the road base to be more stable. It compacts very nicely when we use the vibrating plate tamper to tamp it into place. We can even shape in little hills if you want them."

Next comes a 30-year weed block, which is a commercial cloth — very heavy and very reliable. Finally, we put down the synthetic grass. It comes in 15-foot-wide rolls, so there are points where you have to do seams, and that's where experience matters. If it's done well, you won't notice the seams.

"The grass is attached by five-inch stakes that we drive into the road base. It's compacted more tightly than dirt, so the stakes hold really well." To allow drainage, the turf is perforated. "Water goes right through. And that's another advantage that road base has over decomposed granite — it's very porous, and will hold a few inches of rain as it percolates it into the ground."

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Jane's Dream

"Who doesn't?" I prodded.

"I'm busy, I have two kids and I work in the hospitals, helping them with anticoagulants." Jane broke her stare with the camera to look at me. "Too much?" In response to my silent, but unambiguously communicated, Duh, she guffawed nervously.

"Okay," Jane said, regaining her composure. "I can do it again without the anticoagulant part."

"That's a good idea," I said.

"Bella! Come back here," Jane barked, momentarily distracted from the task at hand. Hindered by the baby in her arms, Jane looked to me for help and I ran after the blond hellion, scooped her up from a neighbor's yard with one arm, and deposited her next to Jane in front of the open garage. "Sorry," said Jane. "Where were we?"

"You were about to tell me why you think you deserve help with this mess behind you," I said.

"Right." Jane smiled pitifully into the camera and launched into a revised entreaty about how the birth of her second daughter necessitated an expansion of her house and, consequently, the loss of half her garage.

Everyone has a dream. Jane's dream, fathered by Oprah, was born four years ago. I wasn’t there to witness the magical moment, but I was the first person Jane called with the birth announcement. Over the phone, my sister sought my help in assembling a packet including a letter and photos of her then full-sized garage to be sent to the media maven. It was Jane's belief that Oprah, upon learning of the distress of her biggest fan, would dispatch a team of her designer minions to Jane’s house to clean up the clutter and maybe transform it into a vision of practical design perfection, she imagines herself standing in her gloriously renovated garage expressing her appreciation to the show’s stars for their design genius. Four years later and half a garage shorter, Jane’s dream is still waiting for its moment in the sun. A story she came across in a recent issue of Real Simple magazine about a woman who had too many coats in her closet inspired Jane to once again take action.

"Simon would be so pissed at me if he knew I was doing this," Jane said.

"Why?" I asked.

"Because he likes to do everything himself. But he has no time."

"There's an angle," I said.

"No, that won't work, then they'll be, like, 'He can do it himself.' Jane's face lit up and she said, 'I can say my husband's a hard worker without going into all the stuff he can do — yeah, let's do that.' Jane adjusted the baby on her hip and repositioned her brows until she felt they appeared sufficiently supplicating. To the camera, she said, "My husband is such a hard worker; he's such a great father and great husband."

The "King" sez:

If you’re in jail for smoking weed, "King" Stahlman's the bondsman you’ll need!
“You two get in here,” Bella shrieked from the doorway, “I think it’s starting to rain!”

Without missing a beat, Jane proceeded to zoom on the camera, “He would kill me if he knew I was doing this video, but I have to ask. Please help me. Thanks.”

Bella ran up to my side, flexed a bicep the size of a golf ball on her petite arm, and said, “See that? This stuff?”

“I need a better plea,” she said. “Why you?”

“Because I’m typical of all their readers — I’m a working mom, no time to do it, and no ideas. I am their woman. What they’re trying to do is show a common problem that’s fixable and relatable for many people. Come on, if that woman with too many coats could get picked, why not me?”

We were quiet for a moment as our heads filled with possible answers to that question.

Jane sighed. “I need a solution and said, “I need a solution to the problem that’s fixable.”

Jane nodded. This time, she invoked a serious anchorwoman’s expression and said, “I need a professional. I have no idea what to do, where to start. I’m overwhelmed.”

“Why don’t you just hire someone?” I suggested for the benefit of the film.

“There’s not a dollar left over for organizing because we put every penny into that new bathroom.”

“I’m still not buying it,” I said. “Why you?”

“Because I’m typical of all their readers — I’m a working mom, no time to do it, and no ideas. I am their woman. What they’re trying to do is show a common problem that’s fixable and relatable for many people. Come on, if that woman with too many coats could get picked, why not me?”

We were quiet for a moment as our heads filled with possible answers to that question.

Jane sighed. “I need a better plea,” she said.

“Yeah, I still think you need a way to stand out from all the others,” I said.
And while I’ve got your attention, let’s look at the rest of it. Those shorts. Usually these are modestly colored, black or white or red. Mine are white with a blue stripe down the sides. The color isn’t the problem. The arresting feature is their superhero tightness, and I’m not Clark Kent. A little pudge is squeezed out of the top and bottom, and to add insult, a nice thick wad of padding is sewn into the crotch and ass portion. Sure, it gives me a more comfortable ride on a small seat, but when I stand up it looks as though I’m delivering a newspaper, carried in the least convenient of places.

We’re nowhere near done. Wait for it.

Cycling jerseys come in two options: bright and ugly, or ugly and bright. Mine is a blown-up and pixilated version of the California flag. There’s a blocky depiction of the state brown bear on my chest, sniffing a chunky star on my right shoulder. The sleeves are red with white stripes and come to green elasticized ends at mid-bicep. Around the waist is a bright green band. I chose this jersey for its subtlety; I’m not joking about that.

Let’s get this over with. On my hands are black and orange striped...
gloves, and on my head is a red and white striped helmet.

Cyclists reading this are thinking, That’s a reasonable outfit. And everyone else has the look of painted incredulity on their faces. And you’re both right.

Cyclists as a group are insulated. We travel in small packs and try hard to stay where we’re safer, off busy roadways, which offers the added benefit of remaining out of the public eye. If everyone around you dressed in a rejected costume, you wouldn’t feel out of place. So to us, this outlandish way of dressing is suitable. But walk through a deli for a quick sandwich and watch mothers pull their children away from your thinly concealed “garbage.” You know what I mean.

I’ve worn this outfit before. Once for a 50-mile race from Rosarito Beach to Ensenada. And again for the Tour de Palm Springs, a 55-mile “fun ride” — although, after nearly four hours on a bike, “fun” must be redefined to include “Sweet molasses in the morning, is my crotch ever inflamed!” Among thousands of other cyclists on those days, I wasn’t by a far shot the most obnoxiously dressed. An entire SpongeBob ensemble comes to mind.

I thought I’d wear the outfit today because for riding a bike, it really is a good option. The tags that come with all of these silly articles say things like “Made with Quik-Flo technology to wick sweat from your jumbley bits and to let your nippies breathe free! Now with more padding!” and it’s true. It’s more comfortable to ride a bike for a long time in one of these soft-in-the-right-spots-and-porous-in-others getups.

But today I’m going to stop in shops and walk around amongst noncyclists, and I won’t be in a pack of my kind; I’m riding solo. So I strip off and change clothes completely. I won’t be in the high-tech clinging wrap today. Just a pair of blue jeans, a T-shirt, and a pair of black Converse will do.

My mission, decided wholly by me and passed down the chain of command from me to me, is to ride Blackie the Black Bicycle of Wonder and Truth to the glider port in Torrey Pines for a big, gross, oily cheeseburger and a Diet Coke. Then return on said bicycle to Mission Command, my grubby apartment in North Park, near the intersection of 36th Street and University Avenue.

I chose this mission because it cuts through a large swath of San Diego and covers a handful of the environments one can encounter on a bike ride: the coast, city streets, dedicated bike paths, and lanes shared with vehicles. Other reasons for the ride include “because it’s fun and it’s supercool,” which is kind of what riding bikes is about. Sure, bikes are a form of inexpensive — sometimes free — transportation, but if it were wholly drudging work then you wouldn’t have wanted one when you were eight. Is there another reason for the trip? Art appreciation, maybe, or shopping? No. It’s because bikes are fun and San Diego is a cool town. And the glider port is cool too.

So. With that I walk Blackie the Black Bicycle of Daring and Chance across the terra-cotta tile of my courtyard and onto the cracked asphalt of University, hissing and whispering softly, “Easy, girl. Easy.” She’s champing her bit. It might be the last day of good weather for a month, and Blackie can’t wait to wear down her tires before she’s put up for the winter. I mount her and yell, “Hyeah, Blackie! Hyeah, girl!”

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Completely glass

Includes frame and lenses. Great frame selection.

Satisfied: $74

Includes: eyeglass prescription, fitting, follow-ups.

Toric, gas-permeable & monovision extra.
a scant 23.7 pounds. A lot of the original components are long gone. It has a different derailing system that shifts gears; for that matter, it has different gears, and wheels, handlebars, and brakes. Some replacement parts are heavier than the originals and some are lighter, but we’re not slaying dragons here, so let’s guess my bike weighs about 25 pounds. Good.

Now, sitting on the bike, hunched over like a dog with its hind legs perched on an ottoman, I’m probably five and a half feet tall, and combined with the bike, I’m 230-ish pounds. A New Flyer city bus, model number C40LF — the bus of choice by the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System — is 40 feet long, 11 feet high, 8.5 feet wide, and without even one passenger weighs 28,675 pounds. Fully loaded it can weigh as much as 39,630 pounds. That’s twice as large as my apartment and over 170 times heavier than my little steel bicycle and me.

Also consider, a city bus swerves intermittently into the bike lane, stops to pick up riders, then swerves back through the bike lane into the street, past the cyclist, only to return a minute later, swerving past our hero toward the curb to pick up more riders. There are two bus routes from 36th Street to First Avenue, at the far end of Hillcrest, and the kind receptionist at San Diego’s transit phone service, 511, assures me that the wait at a bus stop on University will be no more than 10 to 15 minutes.

So, spread out in ten-minute intervals are two bus lines driving through the bike lane, 15 tons of metal, rubber, and glass each. When dealing with a bus, a cyclist becomes Bugs Bunny, desperate and sweating, trying diligently to escape the conveyer belt in a canning factory. Giant smashing things, choppers, and flaming ovens conspire to grind me into potted meat, label me, and set me on the shelf as hasenpeffer.

No thank you. I’ll ride up 36th, cross University, and turn left...
down a quieter street with only light pickups and passenger cars as the hazards that fly up my rear at 35 miles per hour.

I pulled through the intersection at 36th and Orange Avenue and breeze down freshly laid pavement. Orange Avenue has brand-new asphalt, dark and smooth, quite in contrast to the neighborhood, which offers the sight of two-liter soda bottles that have been inexplicably tossed onto the roofs of the houses, opened envelopes on the sidewalk, and destuffed plushy toys strewn across dead lawns.

The City started renovating the streets after it was found that San Diego had one of the worst road-maintenance records in the country. In 2001, 2003, and 2007 the County Grand Jury evaluated city streets — not all of them, only 1250 miles of road budgeted for repair. Blackie the Bicycle and I thank you, the Fine City of San Diego, My Beloved Home.

I shift Blackie the Black Bicycle of Justice and Good Times up a gear and pick up speed, and I cross the 805 freeway on a bridge where Orange Avenue becomes, for no deductible reason, Howard Avenue, and I'm heading toward the heart of North Park, 30th Street. Thirteenth Street is the only major street that connects Broadway with Adams Avenue without interruption. It is the quickest route to get from Golden Hill — via a little jog at Fern Street — to University Heights. Adams and University Avenue cross 30th, and the three of them distribute traffic from as far as Kensington and La Mesa across an urban spiderweb all the way to Hillcrest and as far south as Logan Heights.

And none of those roads has a bike lane. In fact, there isn't a dedicated bike lane — where bikes enjoy right-of-way, separated from vehicle traffic — in all of uptown or downtown except for TWO walking bridges that span a few dozen yards each. And I'm heading toward one of them.

There's a walking bridge that crosses Washington Street and an on-ramp of the 163, located at what appears to be a dead end on Vermont Street. Now, to get there you've got to wiggle your way around the quiet residential streets lined with Craftsman houses that parallel El Cajon Boulevard, and you've got to get to the west side of Park Boulevard. If you're a coffeehouse-and-food person, you'll recognize that area as where Cream coffeehouse and El Zarape-Mexican restaurant serve the hungry and undercaffeinated.

You've got to get to the west of those; on any route you take — Adams, Monroe, Madison, El Cajon, whichever — there's a little hill to get up that peaks at Park Boulevard.

To turn right onto Sports Arena would be stupid and suicidal.

Keep going. Push into the unassuming neighborhoods around Campus and Meade. I take a left on Maryland. I'm pleased to find I've taken the correct turn, despite my lack of a map. I'm reassured of my decision by the clickety sound of a freewheeling hub behind me.

I swivel my head over my shoulder like an owl behind me.

I'm reassured of my decision by the clickety sound of a freewheeling hub behind me.

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The inspirational phrases all, unbearably, have to do with “walking miles in my moccasins” and “no greater joy than shopping for shoes all day” (or thereabouts) and a bunch of painful garbage, and I’m thankful I’m on a bike and buzzing past so quick that I don’t have time to read that drivel. Oh, it’s trash. You should go see it.

Gay Herman Munster and I slow a bit as we see it. It’s trash. You should have time to read that drivel.

Oh, it’s trash. You should have time to read that drivel.

Quick that I don’t have bike and buzzing past so quick of painful garbage, and greater joy than shopping for shoes all day.

And he’s right; we and I slow behind him and I slow it down a little wider shoulders. Herman and I slow a bit as we see it. It’d be rude. So we slow wa-a-a-a-a-ay down. It’d be rude. So we slow wa-a-a-a-a-ay down.

Herman Munster slows bombing past her, but big man slows and I slow behind him and I slow behind him and he’s right; we shouldn’t blast past her. We’re going much slower than walking speed; our hulls are clicking methodically and loudly and echoing against the metal sidewalls of the bridge. Cars hum and honk at 50 miles per hour 40 feet beneath our rubber tires and the steel archway over Washington Street.

“This is a walking bridge,” the woman hollers as we near. “This is a walking bridge.”

“Ya, ma’am,” I offer from behind Munster’s wide shoulders. Herman and I slow it down a little more.

“This is a walking bridge!” the woman bel-...
Does the constant urge to go to the bathroom disrupt your sleep?

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

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

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

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

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Teens & Migraines
Is your child suffering?

Teen migraine clinical research study
To qualify, your teen must be:
- Ages 12-17
- Diagnosed with migraines or experiencing moderate to severe headaches that:
  - Last 2 hours or more
  - Occur 2 to 8 times per month for at least 6 months
- Accompanied by a parent or guardian to each study visit

Participating teens receive at no cost:
- A comprehensive medical evaluation as it relates to the study
- Study medication
- Ongoing study-related care by medical professionals

Compensation for time and travel may be provided.

All personal information collected for this study remains strictly confidential. For more information, please call Jerri Hayes at (858) 657-6125.

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

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

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

UC San Diego
Medical Center
discover the POWER of academic medicine
And I'm at least consis-
tent in that I constantly
can't change my mind and I'm
hypocritical on my previ-
ous stances. So there.

Onward! Excelsior!

I get going again
down University, and I
have a great deal of luck
with hitting green lights
and with cars that don't
seem to want to squish
me dead and flat in the
road. I'm making good
time. I shift Blackie's
derailleur around until I
can get her old gears to
stop chattering, bring in
my elbows, narrow my
eyes, and then I'm off, like
a shot in the sunlight,
down the quirky buzzing
University Avenue, under
the expanse of the Hill-
crest sign, and past the
busy retail district that
ends at about Urban Mo's
Bar and Grill, Bread &
Cie, and Peet's Coffee and
and gives way to a less
bustling neighborhood,
one with fewer cars
pulling from driveways or
entering traffic from side
roads.

While I continue
down University; riding
by an elementary-school
playground in the narrow
shared-with-cars lane, a
black BMW cozies up
about two feet from me
and electrically lowers its
light, and that's the last I
see of him. He disappears
before me, just in time for
the yellow light, and I get
the red, so I finger my
brakes and pull my Con-
verse from their little
pedal cages, roll to a stop,
and lean. Herman keeps
going through the yellow
light, and that's the last I
see of him. He disappears
after a sharp right turn at
Fifth toward the hospital.

And yes. I have to
take University. Even
though I ranted against it
earlier, it's the quickest
even if I rant against it.

Take University. Even

Fifth toward the hospital.

research studies

Research Opportunities

Are you overweight?
Do you have
elevated blood pressure?

Dr. Robert Henry and his associates at the VA San Diego Healthcare System/UCSD are
currently conducting a research study on Losartan Potassium compared to placebo and
its effects on insulin sensitivity in people who are overweight and have elevated blood
pressure.

You may qualify if you are:

• Male or female between the ages of 18-75
• Overweight
• Currently have mildly elevated to high blood pressure and are being treated
  with at most one high blood pressure medication
• Non-diabetic with impaired fasting glucose (blood sugar)

Participants will receive a medical screening at no cost by board-certified physicians
and have the option to enroll in a research study after screening. Compensation up
to $800 will be provided to participants who qualify for the research study.

If you are interested please call:
(858) 552-8585 ext. 6740

Do you have psoriasis?

If you are age 18 or older and have moderate to severe psoriasis,
you may be eligible to participate in a new research study
testing an experimental drug for psoriasis.

Please call or e-mail MedDerm Associates to see if you qualify.

Do you want clear skin?

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

For more information, call MedDerm at: (619) 542-0013 or visit our website at: www.medderm.net
My front wheel missed her rear bumper by a fraction of an inch.

My friend Ed, while on his bike, once had to slam his fist into the fender of a pickup truck attempting to run him over, a last-ditch effort to survive an oncoming machinery death. And it worked. The angry motorist backed away, presumably to save himself the trouble of repairing any body damage Ed’s fist and his bike might’ve impressed upon the truck.

Another friend, Eric, was door-jammed, which means that someone, while stopped at an intersection, waited for Eric to get close enough, then blew his door open a smidge to catch Eric in the front wheel and teeth. Sort of a “Hi! How’d you like to slow down from ten miles an hour to zero and hug this column of steel?” While Eric recovered, heaped on the ground, rubbing his bloody nose and gums, the traffic signal switched to green, and the vehicle slowly motored away.

Eric’s front wheel, frame, and forks were crumpled and wadded beneath him. Nobody stopped, but to their credit the other motorist breathing down my neck. I’ve ridden in a group of bikes and been harassed by cars. I have also driven down the street and been swarmed by a bunch of inner-city bicycle kids, en masse, who stopped my truck so I couldn’t get through an intersection. I’ve been on both sides, and if I could be in two modes of transportation at once, I’d irritate the hell out of myself from my truck and atop my bicycle, equally.

The solution is a separate lane for cyclists and pedestrians. If a completely separate lane is not viable, then designated bicycle lanes, outlined in white paint. Cycling in a designated bicycle lane and adhering to road rules reduce a cyclist’s chance of an accident by almost half, according to the League of American Bicyclists.

And if you’ve ridden a bike down a San Diego street, you know that bike lanes are rare and oddly placed, sometimes materializing from nowhere and ending as abruptly just a few yards away.

On the topic of roads and phantom bicycle lanes, consider this. SANDAG, which has the important-sounding title of “San Diego’s Regional Planning Agency,” has budgeted out the next 40 years of revenue from TransNet.

(Let’s not get TOO dry here. We’re already nearing day-after-Thanksgiving-turkey area. But let’s press on.)

TransNet is a half-cent sales tax we all pay that’s allocated to transportation projects. In the next 40 years, the wonderful wizards of SANDAG have allocated about $8.6 billion for streets, highways, roads, and miscellaneous proj-
Neck or lower back pain?
• Am or leg pain • Numbness
• Cramping • Weakness

Tired of nothing working?
Chiropractic, physical therapy, acupuncture, pain medication, muscle relaxers

Good news! Finally there is help! Without injections, medications or surgery!
Spinal Decompression
Computerized Therapy
creates a vacuum effect to facilitate the transfer of fluids, nutrients and oxygen herniation back inside the disc. Learn the importance of treating the cause of the problem, not just the symptoms. FDA approved!
As seen on channel 6!

Complimentary consultation & evaluation!
See if you are a candidate for this new innovative treatment! Call for details. Offer expires 2/21/08.
Call: (619) 688-6565 or visit us online at: www.ari-inc.com

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?
• Having trouble sitting still or finding it impossible to simply relax?
• 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 will receive study medication, 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.
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? • Between 18 and 70 years of age?
• In overall good health? • A non-smoker for at least 3 months?
• Currently suffering from obesity?
If you answered yes to all of these questions and are available for study-related visits for a year, you may be eligible for our investigational drug research study. If eligible, you will receive medical evaluations, including blood tests and electrocardiograms, nutritional counseling, investigational medication treatment, and visits to the clinic at no charge.

For more information about this study, please contact: (619) 688-6565 or visit us online at: www.ari-inc.com

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

Anxiety?
If you are troubled by worries, tenseness, difficulty sleeping or concentrating, you may be eligible for:
• Anxious/Worried? • Anxious free treatment as part of a clinical trial of a computerized treatment program for generalized anxiety disorder at the San Diego State University Psychology Department.
• Difficulty Sleeping? • Restless/Tense?
• Difficulty Concentrating?

Sadness? Low energy? Trouble sleeping? Can’t concentrate? These are symptoms of Depression!
Are you:
• Between the ages of 18 and 70?
• In overall good health?
• Currently experiencing these symptoms?
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 study medication, 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 call: (619) 688-6565 or visit us online at: www.ari-inc.com

Too Shy?
Trouble with dating? Parties? Public speaking?
Starting conversations? Speaking to authority figures?
Always worried about what other people think of you?
Confidential help is available. You may be eligible to Receive Free Treatment
with computerized therapy as part of a research program.
Call: 619-229-3740 or e-mail SDSUCUTA@hotmail.com
http://nas.psy.sdsu.edu
CENTER FOR UNDERSTANDING AND TREATING ANXIETY
6386 Alvarado Court, Suite 301, San Diego

Not sleeping?
• 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 or visit us online at: www.ari-inc.com
Do you have moderate or severe atopic dermatitis?

If you have atopic dermatitis on at least 10% of your body and you are at least 18 years of age, you may be eligible for a clinical research study.

You may qualify if you have: moderate or severe atopic dermatitis on at least 10% of body surface area.

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

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

Medical insurance is not required for study participation.

RESEARCH STUDIES

Do you go to bed at a late hour?

If so, you should know about a research study of an investigational medication for the treatment of Delayed Sleep-Phase Syndrome (DSPS).

Qualified Participants Must Have:
- Be 18 and older
- Go to bed later than you would like

Qualified Participants Will Receive:
- All study-related care, exams and study drug at no charge
- Compensation for time and travel

Are You a Night Owl?

For more information, call (toll free) 1.866.410.6767 or visit www.AstraClinicalTrials.com

Are you also constipated?

If so, you may be interested in a medical research study of an investigational drug for constipation caused by opioids, such as oxycodone, morphine, hydromorphone and others.

Qualified Participants Must Have:
- Had less than 3 bowel movements per week for the last month while taking an opioid
- Been suffering from chronic pain for at least 2 months

Are You Taking a Pain Medication?

Study-related medical exams, laboratory tests and study drug or placebo (inactive substance) are provided at no cost. Qualified participants may receive compensation for time and effort.
Are you a Good Sleeper between 21 and 50 years of age?

If so, you may qualify to participate in a research study at our sleep lab. This study involves no drug therapy; instead, the study tests an investigational noninvasive device. The duration of the study will be approximately 2 weeks, including 3 visits to the sleep lab.

Every study conducted by California Clinical Trials is staffed by a team of physicians and medical professionals trained to place your comfort and well-being first. Qualified volunteers will be compensated up to $450 depending on your level of involvement in the study.

If interested, please call.

858-571-1188
Toll-free 800-571-1188
www.cctstudy.com

Depression

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

Are you between the ages of 18 and 55 and finding it 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 $500 for your participation.
• You receive no-cost research study medication and medical care.
• No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.

858-571-1188
Toll-free 800-571-1188
www.cctstudy.com

Are You 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 noninvasive device. The duration of the study will be approximately 2 weeks, including 3 visits to the sleep lab.

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.

Qualified volunteers will be compensated up to $450 depending on your level of involvement in the study.

If interested, please call.

858-571-1188
Toll-free 800-571-1188
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)?
path wouldn’t have to be more than four or five feet wide.

Walkers and cyclists could visit area shops and reduce emissions as well as congestion. College kids riding from SDSU could make it to Hillcrest or North Park in no time. The blue-collar folks who live in City Heights could get a bike (mine cost $225) and ride to the center of the city for work.

As long as I’m dreaming, how about we make it a nice material to ride on, like garden pavers, stone, or, hell, even concrete, and line the path with trees. The trees would provide shade and a small amount of protection from the occasional rampaging, haywire car, and they’ll also add to San Diego’s tree canopy and oxygen supply. And if the bike path were separated by trees, shrubs, and foliage, the motorists wouldn’t have to look at our ugly cycling outfits.

Good God, I’m smart. I should be president.

But enough of that horrid, boring crap. Let’s get back to my ride. Because as I stated before, riding bikes is cool and fun, and the most fun you can have on a bike is sliding headfirst down Juan Street.

To get to Juan Street, you have to leave University Avenue and ride north toward Washington Street. I take Goldfinch Street because I like the name. Don’t stop on Washington; push past until you’re north of it, amid the gentle and glorious mansions of Mission Hills. Don’t dawdle here, ogling the mega-houses. Turn left on Fort Stockton Drive and veer (veer!) onto Sunset Boulevard (not to be confused with Sunset Street or Sunset Road) and turn right on Juan. Along your way, there are little rolling hills to conquer and middle-aged women with frost-tipped hair who will run you down like a coyote in the street beneath the all-weather belted radials of their Porsche SUVs, but stay vigilant. When you proceed farther west on Juan, you’ll come to a downhill part. That leads to a further downhill part and a yet more downhill part.

I’m not sure how the angle of a road’s downhillness is measured. I know it’s in “grade,” but I’m not sure if a higher number is steeper or, like shotgun shells, the consequences get more dire as the number drops. Let’s say that grade is considered steeper the higher the number, and therefore Juan Street’s grade is about 450,000 percent.

Some people can encapsulate themselves, tuck themselves in completely, perch atop their bike, and drop like a bomb down Juan. I cannot. I am what is described as a sissy. Riding down Juan, I jerk like a scared snail, my pupils stand alert, my pupils are intermittently interrupted by terrified shrieks. But I suppose someone has, and there is, and here we are.

The air in this valley is thin with smog, and I

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**Contact Information:** If you are interested in obtaining more information about this research study, please contact:

UCSD Pediatric Pharmacology Research Unit (PPRU)

Rosalinda Cruz, CMA, CCRC

619-497-2100 (office)

858-735-5732 (pager)

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cough a little and my eyes water. Fumes are forced up Pacific Highway from an offshore breeze, and I dab at my eyes. Sometimes being on a bike, without windows and conditioned air, can kind of suck.

Following Taylor Street across the trolley tracks, through an intersection with Pacific Highway, and under an Interstate 5 bridge, I’m on Rosecrans Street.

The thing to remember here is that to turn right onto Sports Arena Boulevard would be stupid and suicidal. It means you’re going to battle buses, weaving, chomping and smashing and HUGE, and coming at you. And after a short mental lapse, I turn right on Sports Arena. A bus rumbles up behind me, and I spend the next ten minutes screaming and pleading with the bus driver to spare my young life as she swings Ol’ Smashy the Giant Metal Box of Death in and out of my lane.

Through luck, will, or divine intervention, I make it down Sports Arena, across Midway Drive, and up the little slope to West Point Loma Boulevard, heading into my beloved Ocean Beach. Ah, Ocean Beach. Receive me like a lover.

Ocean Beach has a really cool bike path, dedicated strictly to pedestrians and cyclists. It runs from Dog Beach along the San Diego River and Interstate 8 to Mission Valley. You can find the bike path if you get into Ocean Beach and turn right onto Sports Arena Boulevard, heading into my beloved Ocean Beach. Receive me like a lover.

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For our purposes today, we’ll need only a fraction of the path. We’ll just follow it next to Robb Field for a little while. Did you know there’s a skateboard pool there? Yeah, it looks like a big, wavy concrete bowl, and there are bendy, elastic kids swooping in and out of it at 280 miles per hour on little hunks of wood with wheels. Wild, huh?

I stop for a moment to watch, and one kid pops out on his board, glares at me from beneath his helmet, and says, “Nice bike, fag.”

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(San Diego Reader February 7, 2008)
there wasn’t a fence here…

Anyway. I move on. From the bike path you can wiggle your way over the Sunset Cliffs Boulevard and West Mission Bay Drive bridges and ta da! find yourself at the boardwalk beneath the roller coaster in Mission Beach. Sweet!

As I stand there admiring the morning light crashing against the Pacific Ocean and the bobbing black hoods of the surfers and the air that breezes in and smells like kelp, Foom! a cyclist bursts past me on the boardwalk, and I figure I’ve found my next interview subject. Besides, she is on a very cute little Schwinn.

Swiftly I pedal north on the boardwalk, the sun casting crisp lines of light over the beachfront houses, dazzling the beach and the splashing surf. Swifter now. And swifter. I’m a furious ball of sweat, elbows, and ass. I catch up to the little powder blue Schwinn and matching helmet. I’m brusquely brushing past improbably patterned muumuus of vacationers from Minnesota or Iowa to talk to the pretty girl on the little blue bicycle.

She turns her head and spots me. “Oh, hi,” she says, and she’s nice, like girls who don’t know they’re really beautiful.

“Hi,” I answer. “How come you’re cycling?” I’m a little winded from the sprint I’ve just performed to catch her.

“It’s faster and cheaper,” she says. And she’s really moving too; I’m having a tough time keeping up. She’s a hammer.

“It takes me the same amount of time to get to school whether I take my bike, a bus, or a car. So the bike is the cheapest,” she says. I’m not sure if she has an accent or if that’s just my throbbing circulatory system pounding away in my eardrums because I’m about to have an old fat man heart attack.

“You go to UCSD?” I ask.

“Yes,” she says, and she speeds away on her rickety cycle that’s about 20 years older than mine, and she’s easily 20 miles per hour quicker than me. And that’s it. She’s gone. Damn. I slow down and stop to catch my breath and get a cup of coffee. A great place to stop is the Seaside Cantina. It’s a little adobe hut right on the beach, and it has an upstairs porch and a railing that separates the main patio area from the boardwalk. You can’t get coffee any farther west without enlisting in the Coast Guard. I lean Blackie the Black Bicycle of Goodness and Beauty against the railing and get an iced coffee.

Seated in a green plastic lawn chair with my feet against the railing, I watch between my Converse-covered toes the surfers bob in the water and stand up occasionally, ride a wave for ten feet, and then fall back over, which looks like a...
wonderful way to spend a morning in November. My God, it’s snowing in Chicago right now. To hell with that.

While I’m sitting there a buddy of mine, Aaron, jogs past on the beach. I holler at him and he comes over.

“What’re you up to, man?” I ask.

“Just jogging.”

“I don’t want to interrupt. I was just sayin’ hey,” I tell him.

“Aw, no worries,” he says, scales the seawall, crosses the boardwalk, and perches on the aluminum rail next to my tennis shoes. “We’re going to Tequila tonight,” he says, meaning Tequila, Mexico.

“You and who?” I ask.

“Me and Larry,” he says. Larry and Aaron are co-owners of Cantina Mayahuel on 30th and Adams Avenue, and they’re consummate tequila connoisseurs.

“Guillermo will be distilling for Los Abuelos,” Aaron says, and he elaborates on how he and Larry are going to shoot footage of how tequila is distilled. Los Abuelos is their favorite brand. “We’re going to get a lot of footage,” he says. “It might only be worthy of YouTube, but we’ll still shoot it.”

You have to admire a man whose vacation videos feature the process for brewing his favorite booze.

And with a wave and an “All right. Well. See ya,” Aaron dismounts the railing, hurdles the seawall, and continues his jog down Pacific Beach. I love that randomly I can find people I know almost anywhere in San Diego, and while I’m outside of a car, I have more access to them.

I overturn the last of my cup into my mouth and frown. Guess it’s time to move on. I unlock Blackie from her hitching post (easy, girl, easy) and cruise her farther north on the boardwalk. For everything the Seaside Cantina has, it’s missing a restroom. But there’s one on the boardwalk at the end of Grand Avenue.

Around the entrance to the public restroom on Grand swarms a gaggle of bums. You don’t leave your bike, locked or unlocked, to a group of homeless. The three of them have two bikes, one a short pink girl’s beach cruiser, either donated to the wino by a very generous young lady or swiped from a porch. They aren’t going to acquire a third bike to complete their riding party today; I ride on, north toward La Jolla.

As if to put a finer point on my separated-bike-path idea, I look up Hornblend and see the blinky digital lights of a fire truck. I ease Blackie
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up the street toward the fire truck, and close to it, I notice a bluish gray BMW that’s been smacked and spun sideways, and hunks of it are scattered around the road. I’m glad I was riding on the boardwalk instead of Mission Boulevard.

While we’re on the subject, let’s look at some crash stats. According to a bicycle advocacy group — heroically named the Thunderhead Alliance — between 2003 and 2005 California reported, on average, 110 fatalities annually involving bicyclists. Of those 110 in all of California, San Diego rang in with an average of 3.7 bike deaths. And in 2006 — the year after the Thunderhead Alliance study — the San Diego County Medical Examiner’s Office counted 5 “auto versus bicycle” deaths.

That doesn’t seem too bad, does it? Yes, I know those 5 folks in 2006 would argue otherwise, but with all of the thousands of ways to eat it in the end, from drowning (39 people in 2006) to exposure (21 poor souls) to cardiovascular-related deaths (698!), biking doesn’t seem so dangerous. (This is only the people autopsied and reported by the Medical Examiner’s Office, but let’s keep this simple and use that as a cross section of the bigger whole.) A look at that last fact reveals that sitting sedentary, eating tubs of sugary goo, and NOT bicycling, to the point where you’ve acquired a cardiovascular disease, is almost 140 times more likely to bump you off.

Sure there are crashes. I’ve heard of some miserable ones. But anecdotally I’ve never heard the story of a bicycle death. Mostly, my friends and I have suffered bouts of “road rash,” where the skin is peeled from your arm or lips or behind by the sandpaper effect of sliding the body part across asphalt. Or we’ve had a nice conk on the head that left an ostrich egg above one of our eyes. Or we’ve simply leaned the bike over onto a rock or bush and laughed at our own lack of balance. Mostly, we’ve done all right. We’re light and zippy but not moving so fast that if we run up on something quickly we’ll seriously injure ourselves or anyone else.

Back to my ride. Having ridden the boardwalk to its northernmost end, I turn east on a road I can’t quite make out from the sign and probably won’t remember anyway, Crystal Lane or something, and I hunt around for La Jolla Boulevard. (Not to be confused with La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla...
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Shores Drive, La Jolla Hernandez Avenue, or La Jolla Parkway. Who names these? I find La Jolla Boulevard, and I’m again pedaling north into the quaint seaside village of La Jolla.

Riding a bicycle on any road in San Diego, you can pretty much tell where you are by the cars that bolt out in front of you from side streets, alleys, and driveways. In my neighborhood of Cherokee Point, it’s mostly purple Cressidas and brown Datsun pick-ups with the occasional minivan and landscaper’s truck. Around Hillcrest, it’s Vespas and Mini Coopers. On La Jolla Boulevard, while traveling north, the vehicle type that tries to playfully dislodge you from your bike transitions from the surfer VW vans of Pacific Beach to the polished and gleaming sports cars that rip up and down the north end of La Jolla Boulevard.

I don’t see the Maserati, and the brunette behind the wheel doesn’t see me. She breaks into the flow of traffic, revs the engine like a sewing machine, and peels out from Pearl Street almost to Prospect. My front wheel misses her rear bumper by a fraction of an inch, and I scream, “What the hell are you doing, lady?!” and ping my bell furiously. The sound of living the ultimate Southern California dream must be a bit too loud for her because she never hears my cries OR loud bell pinging. Blackie is a little spooked too, but I calm her down and carry on.

From Prospect Street, I get lost in a nimble manner. Riding to the end of a cul-de-sac, then coming back and taking what I think is a correct turn, I end up across a Y-shaped intersection. One lane leads to the fourth dimension, one is designed in a Mobius strip, and the third circles interminably around an outcropping of eucalyptus trees. I take a couple of spins around the trees, lean Blackie against one of them, and unleash the coffee I bought in Pacific Beach. With no real way to get unlost ahead of me, I venture back the way I came.

With luck, I find a walking bridge that begins at a children’s school fence and ends, inexplicably, at a car wash. Emerging from behind the car wash I recognize a street sign and make my way from Torrey Pines Road (not to be confused with Torrey Pines Lane) north on La Jolla Shores Drive. (Not to be confused with…ah, never mind; you get it already.)

This is the fun, or as...
it stands, not-so-fun bit. Because La Jolla Shores Drive moseys lavishly north, flat or slightly downhill for a little more than a mile, then departs sea level in favor of a massive climb, straight up into the clouds. The hill starts at Scripps Institution of Oceanography and ends at UCSD.

Turning the cranks slowly and watching my skinny front tire creep along one inch at a time, past a dead squirrel, then a cigarette butt, then a polystyrene coffee cup, I can think only of the young lady on the creaky old blue Schwinn who must do this every day. And I think of what a wimp I am in comparison, so I pedal faster, Faster, FASTEST, until my thighs glow like the filament of a high-wattage bulb and I can’t stand it, so I slow back down to my turtle’s crawl. Other cyclists pass me smartly, and between huffs I call to them. “Puff! Puff! Cycling? Puff! Puff!”

Sweat eases into my eyes. The other bicyclists on the hill regard my incoherent babble with slightly cocked heads, like a dog listening to a radio broadcast about cleaning drapes, and continue their ride.

At some point, and I’m not entirely sure where, La Jolla Shores Drive intersects with Torrey Pines Road again. My normal state is one of panicky confusion, but throw in a climb of hundreds of feet on a bicycle, and it’s too much to bear. I’m lucky I remember what I am doing up here in the first place.

So anyway, the hill breaks and gives way to Torrey Pines Road, and you can see to the right of the road the big chunky buildings and manicured lawns of UCSD. I’m regaining my faculties the farther I ride. Torrey Pines Road is nice and even and flat and has a broad bicycle lane, so I’m slowly acquiring the composure I left on that hill as the brisk breeze dries the sweat from my head.

To the left, I recognize the Salk Institute, and at an intersection I ask a man who’s crossing at the crosswalk where the glider port is. He throws a thumb over his shoulder, motioning west toward the coast and down Salk Institute Road, and says, “Back that way.” Excellent!

The terminus of Salk Institute Road is a dirt parking lot. I dismount Blackie the Black Bicycle of Honor and Might and continue on foot until I come to a man sitting in a white lawn chair with a garden hose across his lap, watering about a 30-foot radius of an acre of grass.

“How many times you have to move that chair to water the whole thing?” I ask.

“I don’t even try,” he answers from beneath his floppy khaki hat. November 30, sitting in a white plastic chair, beneath a sun hat, watering the lawn. I love San Diego.

“Anyone flying today?” I ask him.
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<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Liposuction</strong> $2500</td>
<td></td>
<td>Body contours are sculpted by removal of subcutaneous fat. Under local anesthetic. Unitsemnt with minimal recovery time.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Perlane</strong> $449</td>
<td>for 1cc syringe. World’s most popular filler.</td>
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<td><strong>Restylane</strong> $399</td>
<td>for 1cc syringe.</td>
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<td><strong>Juvéderm</strong> $349</td>
<td>per syringe (reg. $450).</td>
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<td><strong>Radiesse</strong> $495</td>
<td>1.3cc syringe (long lasting)</td>
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<td><strong>Photodynamic Therapy (PDT)</strong> $295 per treatment.</td>
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<td><strong>Fraxel II 4 sessions for $2500 or $700 per session</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Laser Hair Removal</strong> Call for special packages.</td>
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<td><strong>Cellulite Treatment with Velashape</strong> $750 for package of 10.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>IPL Photo Rejuvenation with Lumenis One</strong> $145 per treatment with purchase of four sessions.</td>
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**Spring Specials**

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<th>Package</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Botox, Restylane &amp; Juvéderm</strong></td>
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<td>Offered in different packages. We own all our laser and light equipment from Lumenis, the most common platform and the right technology. We do not rent any of our equipment. Certain restrictions apply. Call office for details.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cosmelan Peel</strong> $495</td>
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<td>Skin depigmentation for brown spots.</td>
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<td><strong>Teramge Body Shape</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Shape, tighten and develop a firm body by state-of-the-art technology. <strong>Thermage Skin Tightening.</strong></td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>NXT Thermage with STC Tip only $2100</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>900 pulses tip. Skin tightening for face and neck, stomach, thighs, or arms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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When any old book won’t do, find another life to lead

A common approach to getting through holidays is reading one after another off-the-rack crime novels. You’re hardly caring what’s on the page, anxious only not to be left alone with your own terrible thoughts. You barely finish off one greasy little paperback, comforted by the murderer’s capture, before you find yourself knee deep again in new gore. Read enough of these and soon the husband in New Canaan who beat his wife’s lover to a pulp with a garlic press slips into pages where the murder weapon was a Swiss Army knife and the victim a Detroit go-go dancer.

When any old book won’t do, find another life to lead.

Lowell was also an untreatable manic depressive who off and on had to be sequestered in loony bins.

This isn’t good for a person. At the shank of the year, when you audit your heart’s basest motives, assess failures, and face up to promises you’ve broken, to yourself and others, murder’s not what you should be reading about. When any old book won’t do, I go for biography. Find another life to lead.

Don’t plunge into bookstore or library and seize the first pretty cover. You don’t want someone about whom too much has been written. You don’t want to be overwhelmed. Right off, eschew the more popular U.S. presidents. Likewise, Marilyn Monroe, Elvis Presley, Shakespeare, Hemingway, Henry James.

You want also to sidestep suicides. Thus the poet Sylvia Plath, who ended her life by sticking her head in the oven; or the poet Anne Sexton, who took too many pills; and the poet Hart Crane, who jumped ship between Havana and New York; or Hemingway or Vachel Lindsay (whose last drink was Lysol); or Sara Teasdale, who overdosed when told about Lindsay’s death; or John Berryman, who jumped off a bridge; or Virginia Woolf, who filled her pockets with rocks and drowned herself in the River Ouse. All are to be avoided.

You may believe you want a happy life. You don’t. Triumphant progress from rags to renown, interminable virtue, will make you feel worse than you do. You want somebody bad enough to leave you feeling good or, at least, better.

I like writers’ biographies. You’ve got the life (and often several versions of the life), fre-

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— J. McElwee

Even my longtime hair stylist was amazed at the subtletness of both the grafts and donor sites, exclaiming, ‘Damn! That’s nice work!’

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They rented a white stucco house near Balboa Park, so close to the zoo that Jean would remember all her life hearing the lions roar.

Let’s say you had taken up (as I did recently) Jean Stafford, dead in 1979 and already graced by three biographers. Stafford’s a particularly felicitous subject because she married two writers—poet Robert Lowell was her first husband and the New Yorker’s A.J. Liebling her third. So I have fun with Hamilton’s Lowell biography and Raymond Sokolov’s life of Lowell—"a man of magnetic repulsiveness"—graced by three biographers: poet Robert Lowell, critic Edmund Wilson, and his daughter, Jean Stafford. Stafford’s 20 years of experience in Cosmetic Surgery for Face, Breast and Body confirm she can perform a state-of-the-art surgical procedure located at the Grand Hotel Tijuana Complex.

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The doctor “plucked the packs from the cold, numb nose. The pincers bit at nothing, snapped at the air, and cracked a nerveless icicle.”

Stafford: A Biography gives the San Diego information. Ann Hulbert’s Interior Castle: The Art and Life of Jean Stafford packs Stafford’s stay in San Diego to a few lines.) Though Stafford from childhood looked down on her father’s writ-

ing and suffered the poverty brought on by his failure (“For 15 years he sat before the typewriter, and then New York. She was no innocent by 1938, when she began dating Lowell (David Roberts proposes that Stafford, by the time she met Lowell, was syphilitic, a proposal that Ann Hulbert rejects).

Lowell was descended from the Boston Lowells and born in a brownstone on Beacon Hill. He was broad shouldered, tall, and “handsome,” his

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Stafford bought with money from her successful first novel The Boston Adventure (a success that drove Lowell wild with envy), places the accident in 1937 rather than 1938. The day that Simpson and Berryman arrive for their summer visit, Simpson “remembered Delmore’s having told us that Jean had been very pretty before the accident.” (This is a commonplace of the Stafford story — that she had been so much prettier before the car wreck.)

Simpson continues. “She and Cal had gone on a date to the Crawford House, a nightclub in downtown Boston. On the way home Cal, who was driving, had careened into a stanchion. When Jean regained consciousness, she was in a hospital, her face swathed in bandages.”

I go on so long with accountings of the car wreck as illustration of the pleasure this kind of reading can give. (The uncertainty about dates, however, dizzies me and is a lesson in the fallibility of books.) Each biographer gives his or her own slightly different version of the accident and fits it differently into the Stafford/Lowell saga. Lowell-partisan Hamilton falters a bit—maybe Cal was drunk, maybe he wasn’t. Halbert, rather than portraying the acci-

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dent as an important turning point in the Stafford/Lowell relationship, uses the event to show Stafford’s duplicity. For Stafford had lied to Hightower, who had been her lover, about the intensity of her feeling for Lowell. Roberts, harsher toward Lowell than Hubert or Hamilton and more protective of Stafford, presents the accident as clearly Lowell’s fault.

April 2, 1940, Lowell and Stafford were married. Before the year ended, Lowell had socked his bride in the face and rebroken her nose. From then on she would always look a bit off-center. In the last year they lived together, soon after Stafford had finished her second novel, The Mountain Lion, Lowell beat her up and threatened to kill her. Lines in Lowell’s “The Mills of the Kavanaugh” apparently refer to this event. The speaker in this section of the poem is Anne Kavanaugh, Harry Kavanaugh’s wife, who can be regarded here as a stand-in for Stafford, and Harry for Lowell:

“...you shook the bed, And struck me, Harry. ‘I will shake you dead As earth,’ you chattered...I’ll tell them, listen Harry: husband kills His wife for dreaming.”

Stafford’s story, “The Interior Castle,” started in 1939 and finished finally in 1946 when the marriage to Lowell was broken for good (he was sleeping with Delmore Schwartz’s pretty ex-wife Gertrude Buckman and Stafford was drinking too much), told the story as Stafford remembered it. What Stafford remembered was pain and terror. As “Interior Castle”’s Pansy Vanneman’s nose is anesthetized in preparation for her operation, the doctor

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<th>Brazilian</th>
<th>Upper Legs</th>
<th>Full Legs</th>
<th>Men's Chest and Abdomen</th>
<th>Men's Back and Shoulders</th>
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<td>Cost</td>
<td>$35</td>
<td>$175</td>
<td>$125</td>
<td>$100</td>
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behind locked doors in Payne Whitney and her Mountain Lion, with its tale of two youngsters, sister and brother, Molly and Ralph, growing up in first California and then Colorado, about to come into print, Lowell’s poem “The Dead Brother” was published in the Nation. The poem seemed to reflect on the incestuous feelings hinted at in Stafford’s Mountain Lion. She wrote him from the hospital that his poem “appearing a week before the publication of my book with its...theme of latent incest, at a time when you have left me and I am in the hospital, seems to me an act of so deep dishonor that it passes beyond dishonor and approaches madness. And I am trembling in the presence of your hate.” Lowell, surely wittingly, acted as something of a bottomfish, a scavenger of the heart, recording secrets people told him as lines in poems. The most egregious example of this nasty habit, writes David Roberts, was Lowell’s publishing, in The Dolphin in 1972, several poems whose lines were taken verbatim from anguished letters his then-estranged second wife Elizabeth Hardwick had written to him. Stafford married a second time to editor Oliver Jensen “and unmarried him again in haste, as one erases a graf-fito,” writes Wilfrid Sheed in “Miss Jean Stafford” (found in Sheed’s collection, Essays in Disguise). Stafford was 41 and single again when she met Liebling and almost 50 when he died in 1963. “Liebling,” writes Sheed, “with his wisecracking Grand Manner, seems to have opened windows for her and let out some terrors.” Everything I read about Liebling and Stafford made me glad that they met and married. When they were apart he wrote her adoring, witty letters. Unlike Lowell, Liebling was not envious of Stafford’s talent. He urged her to write again. Liebling’s early death at age 59, “left Jean well
and truly stranded.”

(Liebling did, however, leave Stafford a spacious house in East Hampton, land, and some money. She lived another 16 years. During her time with Liebling, she had written hardly at all. She’d never had children, and given that she’d been drinking fairly steadily since college, it’s perhaps as well she didn’t (she told anyone who asked that she knew she’d be an awful mother). Her collected short stories won a Pulitzer in 1970 and made her briefly popular again. The popularity came too late to enjoy. A year after her 60th birthday, a stroke made Stafford aphasic and increasingly helpless. Except to go to doctors, from this point on she rarely left the house.

Lowell died in 1977. An inebriated Stafford had to be talked out of dressing herself up in widow’s weeds, announcing herself as “the first Mrs. Robert Lowell,” and sweeping into the funeral.

When Stafford died, the books stacked on her bedside table were two by Mark Twain and Lowell’s Mills of the Kavanaughs, published 28 years earlier, containing line after line about her first marriage. Even then, 64 and deaf and speechless, hardly able to breathe without an oxygen tank, Stafford must...
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P.C. Ataii, D.M.D., Alex F. Ataii, M.D.
have been thinking about Lowell.

* * *

You can see, I hope, how this getting-through-the-holidays reading could work for you. I’d gotten started with Hulbert’s Stafford biography because someone gave me the book as a gift. I plun-
dered used bookstores for the other two Stafford biographies and found David Roberts’s (and never found the third, Charlotte Margolis Goodman’s Jean Stafford: The Savage Heart). Libraries provided Stafford’s novels and short stories and gave me a week when I was entranced by the Jamesian thrill Stafford cast in The Boston Adventure.

I soon began to won-
der what “Jean” (who as a young woman took pleas-
ure in fixing up houses she lived in) would think of the white shower cur-
tain I considered buying (“Too plain,” I thought she’d say. She liked big patterns) or Tina Brown’s accession to the editorship of the New Yorker. (She would have liked, I guessed, Brown’s putting the aberrant Harold Brod-
key to write about the election.)

I owned Hamilton’s Lowell and Lowell’s poems and gave over an evening to re-reading

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<tr>
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<td>DELUXE</td>
<td>$175</td>
<td>per couple includes full body massage, hot stone therapy, and aromatherapy massage.</td>
</tr>
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<td>DELUXE DECADENCE</td>
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Mills of the Kavanaughs

Mills of the Kavanaughs with what I’d read about Lowell’s marriage to Stafford. The Anne and Harry dialogue quoted above had before gone by me like some lovely cinema (and must have been quite satisfying because I’d remembered it). The poem opens with Anne playing solitaire. In the copy of Mills of the Kavanaughs found on Stafford’s bedside table, she’d noted that she had taught Lowell to play solitaire. She added: “...in the last months in Maine, we did nothing but play solitaire in separate rooms.”

In a bookstore, I flipped through Wilfred Sheed’s essay collection because I’d read, in the Stafford biographies, that Stafford and Lowell worked one year for Sheed’s publisher’s house (Stafford had typed his father’s translation of The Confessions of St. Augustine). There was the surprise of Sheed’s “Miss Jean Stafford” and his account of her funeral that begins with this: “Jean Stafford’s memorial service was almost as ironic as she was.”

Sheed goes on to tell that because of a scheduling bollix, almost no one attended and no one had been asked to speak. Sheed, however, was there, noting that Stafford’s cleaning woman, whom she’d recently made her sole heir, “stood stolidly apart from the other mourners, looking a mite embattled in her smart tattersall pants.”

What Sheed characterizes as “the dank little ceremony” ended with Stafford’s ashes being lowered into a hole next to Liebling’s, “The survivors traipsed off, not huddled together by loss, but scattered and bemused, and feeling perhaps that the ending was wrong for the story, not one of Stafford’s best. This was one of our finest writers, not some eccentric country lady, and she should have been buried with honor whether she liked it or not.”

Poor Jean Stafford. — Judith Moore


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Include Cotija’s
Your cover story on tacos and Mexican restaurants in your January 24 issue was truly great (“Tacos Are a Tiny Taste of Temptation”), I have made notes on several places I must try. However, you missed a real treasure here in Point Loma. It is called Cotija Taco Shop and is located at 3720 Voltaire Street. My family has enjoyed their food since 1976, and my young grandkids, who live away from San Diego, insist on having food from there when they visit.

In fact, during a visit of one of my daughters for Thanksgiving two years ago, my grandchildren (ages 9 and 11) insisted we have shrimp quesadillas instead of turkey for Thanksgiving dinner, and that is what we had. Also, during a visit from my other daughter and family, we were in La Jolla walking along the sidewalk above the ocean after we had been playing at the beach, and I mentioned that I might be moving to a senior housing center in La Jolla and to think how great that would be when they visited. By being so close to the beach, they could spend more time there. My 8-year-old grandson thought about this for a minute and then said something like, “No, Grandpa — you can’t do that because if you did you’d be far too far away from Cotija Taco.”

So, in my extended family’s opinion, Cotija Taco should have been included in your great list.

John Sandy Midway

Accept, Adapt
In response to your January 10 article titled “Global Warming in a Nutshell,” the first paragraph contains an error. It’s not global warming people deny. Global warming is happening, Global warming is good. The alternative is to slip into another ice age, which would be bad. You see, climate changes. That’s what it does. You cannot stop it — you have to simply accept it, adapt to it.

The second paragraph contains an error. The Keeling Curve and Keeling’s work in general did not show “beyond a shadow of a doubt that humans were causing carbon dioxide to increase.” It shows that carbon dioxide is increasing and says nothing of the cause. Further, as carbon dioxide increases so does ice, even when ocean temperatures have at best remained somewhat constant if in fact they have not cooled off. Those wishing to continue to fool themselves regarding the fact nature dominates, not the other way around, say that 2007 was the seventh-warmest year on record. If the plaits is experiencing rampant warming, don’t you think it would be first, second, or third instead of seventh?

There are many more errors in the article. Among the worst is the claim that “polar ice sheets form from snow falling on land and then being compacted.” The north polar ice cap sits not on land but on the Arctic Ocean. It does not form from snow falling on land. In fact, it’s essentially too cold and dry for snow or other precipitation to fall there — the ice there forms by freezing water from the ocean, not from falling snow. And if “the snow never melts in the polar regions,” why were Catastrophic Anthropogenic Climate Catastrophe Alarmists (CACCA) so upset about the fact the Northwest Passage may be open again soon. Don’t worry, the last time it was, the polar bears survived. Plus they aren’t vocal about how the north pole ice refroze at record rates this winter or about...
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how the southern ice has been setting new records for its extent. Of course not — that tends to disprove their favorite myth — that we’re experiencing a climate catastrophe. They’re depending on it to keep us interested in their plan to create a massive transfer of wealth much like the oil-for-food program. Why? Well, when you have trillions changing hands for no good reason, who’s going to notice a billion or two that’s gone missing here or there?

Your article raises the issue of increased desertification even though geological evidence suggests that a warmer world (with the continents in their current configurations) tends to be a wetter world. More warmth tends to produce more evaporation, which in turn leads to higher humidity and greater precipitation, not less. Deserts get a boost when evaporation rates decrease, and what moisture there is available gets stored in ice and snow — like during an ice age.

Climate change is inevitable. The Earth has been warmer. It has warmed faster. Besides, warmer temperatures mean a longer thong season. How can anyone be against that?

Greg Harris via email

Please, Please, Please
I am a regular reader of the Reader. I miss very much the comic strips. Please don’t discontinue them. Please bring back the comic books. I especially miss “Shooehorn Technique,” which is just hilarious. Please bring them back.

Irv Jacobs

Comments from Reader

Movie Review
Published January 30
Posted by zafiroblue05 on Jan. 31, 3:37 p.m.

Wonderfully-written article. And well done on Meet the Spartans. I wonder, though, if you mean decline to view the movie, or decline to review the movie. Either would make sense.

As to the Oscars, they are just an excuse for actors/actresses to get prettied up before cameras, before high-class paparazzi. There is no harm in that, I don’t think.

You mention the accolades given to Lord of the Rings, to There Will Be Blood, both of which you shrugged your shoulders at and gave one star. Does the acclaim of others affect your point of view?

Cover Story
Published January 23
janelb on Jan. 25, 2008, 4:52 p.m.

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The first thing I learned was that the man who has water on the mountain is king," says hiking enthusiast Dana Law. "Water is absolutely the most important thing you’ll have in Southern California, because this really is the land without water. When I saw my first mountain spring I was totally shocked. It’s the most amazing, unusual thing I’d ever seen."

On Wednesday, February 13, Law will appear at the La Jolla/Riford Library to talk about his experience hiking the Pacific Crest Trail. "This is one of three national scenic trails; it encompasses the entire U.S. West Coast beginning right here in San Diego County at the border in Campo," explains Law. "It’s a connection of mountains and desert roughly 2650 miles long, all the way to the Canadian border in Washington State.

Law, a self-employed fitness buff, has hiked 974 miles of the trail over the course of 22 separate journeys. He learned of the trail from another hiker in 2003 while on an 11-day, 140-mile "sea to sea" course from Torrey Pines to the Salton Sea.

Law experienced his first emergency on a hike in May 2004. "It was 80 degrees the day before and 80 degrees the day after, but it turned out to be 100 degrees on the day we left." When the trio of men set out, they made a pact to speak up about any adverse condition or health problem. Several miles in, one man began to look sick. "He kept being a guy and saying, ‘I’m fine,’ but then he collapsed." Law climbed to the top of the nearest peak and called 911. "He had to be airlifted with a helicopter. It turned out he had heat prostration. He was running on too little water."

Law, who hikes Cowles Mountain twice a week with a 25-pound backpack to stay in shape, says he is "constantly morphing and tweaking techniques to survive." In addition to finding the proper shoes (hiking boots are out, tennis shoes are in), Law thinks the most difficult hiking hurdle is the ongoing struggle to reduce the weight of his pack. "One of the first trips I took, my pack with water and food was about 45 pounds, which was much too much — I was totally wiped out after only a few days. In the Sierras I had a 38-pound pack with about seven days’ worth of food. An average pack these days shouldn’t be much higher than about 25 pounds." New technology in hiking gear has helped. Law’s old pack weighed four and a half pounds, but his new "ultralight" bag weighs only two pounds.

One danger for which Law has learned to prepare is hypothermia. "Staying dry is absolutely essential to your success and health and happiness. You don’t even have to be that cold — it could be 40 degrees and you might think that’s not freezing, but think of what your body temperature average is. If it’s 40 degrees and you’re wet and you start shaking, you could lose your life in the middle of nowhere."

In Law’s experience, it’s heat that causes more problems than cold. On several occasions, he and his team realized that they had gone too far in hot weather. The worst of these may be the time when they covered 15 miles in one day across the Cajon Pass on the way to Las Vegas. "We went up 4000 feet in 15 miles, and it was incredibly hard. It was hot, it was miserable, it was the most challenging thing we’d ever done physically in our lives." Of other hot-day treks, Law says, "I’ve had nausea and weakness. Sometimes I’ve collapsed at the end of the day and curled up,speechless in a ball for an hour."

Oddly enough, at no time during any of his journeys has Law suffered a blister. He does not attribute this to his shoes (trail-running tennis shoes), but to the high state of physical conditioning he maintains. At 53, Law is the youngest of his hiking partners. Despite his conditioning and experience, he is not immune to making mistakes. While entering the southern Sierras, Law fell behind his hiking partners. Despite his condition and experience, he is not immune to making mistakes. While entering the southern Sierras, Law fell behind his friends and admitted he wasn’t feeling well. When they arrived at the nearest stopping point, Law passed out. "Twelve hours later, I woke up in the same position. In this case, Law believes he had consumed too much water. "People get sick from drinking too much water. Remember the woman in that contest who died?" (In January 2007, a 28-year-old died after participating in a water-drinking contest on a radio station in Sacramento.)

Hiking enthusiasts love to trade information about their favorite gear, as evidenced on numerous online forums. Aside from his MP3 player, which Law says helps him get to sleep in his tent, the one piece of gear he treasures above all others is his bandanna. "You can filter water with it, keep your face covered, and wipe the sweat off." — Barbarella

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Lux Boreal Tijuanas’ contemporary dance company performs. Ensemble is known for creating/staging pieces reflecting strong social bonds. 760-795-6815. Friday, February 8, 8 p.m.; $12. Miracosta College Theatre, One Barnard Drive. 760-795-4848. (DOWNTOWN)

Mardi Gras Dance Jeffrey Brooks and the Creole Cowboys play for dance hosted by Bon Temps Social Club and Gator by the Bay Festival. 619-486-6655. Saturday, February 9, 7 p.m.; $14. Balboa Park Club 2350 Pan American Road West. (BALBOA PARK)

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Ranting Banshee Band makes music, Steve Barlow calls for San Diego Folk Heritage contradance. Beginners’ dance workshop: 7:30 p.m. Wear soft soled shoes. 619-283-8550. Saturday, February 9, 7 p.m.; 87. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3000 Thorn Street. 619-238-8550. (NORTH PARK)


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FOR KIDS


That Valentine Show” Comic ventriloquist Lynn Trimble performs through Sunday, February 10. Old Fashioned Kite Flying Puppeteers take stage for Manifold Rubbish and His Time-Traveling Haunted Circus, February 13-17. 619-544-9203. Thursdays, 10 a.m.; Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.; Fridays, 10 a.m.; Fridays, 11:30 a.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m.; Saturdays, 1 p.m.; Saturdays, 2:30 p.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m.; Sundays, 1 p.m.; Sundays, 2:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 10 a.m.; Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. through Sunday, February 10, 2008, $3-$5. Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Road West. 619-544-9203. (BALBOA PARK)

“The Jungle Book” Rudyard Kipling’s classic tale of lost boy Mowgli, adapted for stage by Margaret Lathum and presented through song and dance by SDSU’s School of Theatre, Television, and Film, February 4-17. Reservations: 619-594-8884. Sunday, February 10, 2 p.m.; Saturday, February 9, 9 p.m.; Friday, February 8, 8 p.m.; $13-$15. Don Powell Theatre at SDSU, 5500 Campanile Drive. (DOWNTOWN)

All Aboard! Chula Vista Live Steam Club provides train rides. Donation: 50 cents. Children under 48” must be accompanied by an adult. 619-421-5227. Sunday, February 10, 12:30 p.m.; Saturday, February 9, 12:30 p.m.; Rohr Park, 4544 Sweetwater Road. (TONTA)

Aunt Tilly’s Magic Show Children and their families are invited to enjoy show, games, and do some Valentine’s Day crafts. 858-573-5007. Saturday, February 9, 12:30 p.m.; Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. 858-573-5007. (MISSION VALLEY)

Baby Loves Disco “Childproof disco” for toddlers, preschoolers, parents. Enjoy “dance party featuring real music spun and mixed by real DJs blending classic disco tunes from the ’70s and ’80s.” to get those little booties moving and grooving.” Bubble machines, baskets of instruments, a chill-out room (with tents, books, puzzles), diaper-changing stations, healthy snacks. 619-232-8100. Sunday, February 10, 2 p.m.; 821. Aubergine on 4th, 500 Fourth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

Combine Lunacy and Learning Beethoven’s Wig performs for family open studio (at 11:30 and 1 p.m.). Tours of the “In Focus: National Geographic Greatest Portraits” exhibition, free art project for all ages. Materials provided. 760-434-2904 or 760-642-2021. Saturday, February 9, 11 a.m.; Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane. (CARLSBAD)

Get Steamed! Enjoy a demonstration of ferryboat Berkeley’s triple expansion steam engine during Maritime Museum’s Winter Family Day: Kids can build a working mini-steamboat to take home. Short cruise on San Diego Bay aboard historic Pilot boat is included in paid admission. Adults pay regular admission; children must be accompanied by adult to enter for free. 619-234-9153. Sunday, February 10, 11 a.m.; San Diego Maritime Museum, 1306 North Harbor Drive. 619-234-9153. (DOWNTOWN)


Ni Hao, Kai-Lan! San Diego Asian Film Foundation hosts screenings of Nickolodeon’s new animated preschool series, Ni Hao, Kai-Lan. Arts and crafts, refreshments. 858-565-1264. Saturday, February 9, 11:30 a.m.; Saturday, February 9, 10 a.m.; Ages 2 and up. Mission Valley 7, 7510 Hazard Center Drive. 619-685-2841. (MISSION VALLEY)

Puff Gliders Use straws and custom wings to create a breath-powered glider during family science day. Sessions, lasting 45 minutes, start at 12:30, 1:30, and 2:30 p.m. Included in paid admission. Reservations: 619-234-8291 x139. Saturday, February 9, 12:30 p.m.; 86-151. San Diego Air and Space Museum, 2001 Pan American Plaza. 619-234-8291. (BALBOA PARK)
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Cardinal Schönborn was the editor of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which was published in 1992. Schönborn is visiting California on behalf of the Archbishop of Vienna, Austria.

Schönborn was the editor of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the author of the Baedeker Guide to Vienna, and the author of Live from Venice. Schönborn is visiting California on behalf of the Archbishop of Vienna, Austria.

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La Fonda Hotel Restaurant & Spa


“The Faculty Factor 2008” Annual San Diego Mesa College faculty exhibition opens with reception at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 7, 2008. Mesa College Art Gallery, 7250 Mesa Drive. (MESA)

“Future Stewards of Our Planet” Five fellowships are awarded to San Diego State students at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. (BALBOA PARK)

“Hiking New Zealand” Peter Potterfield shares slide-illustrated experiences of hiking through New Zealand, question and answer follows. Potterfield will also sign copies of his books. (BALBOA PARK)

“Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail” Dana Love, who has hiked the first 974 miles of the PCT in four years, shares his hiking adventures and photographs. 619-552-1657. Wednesday, February 13, 6 p.m. at La Jolla Library. 7535 Draper Avenue. 858-552-1657. (LA JOLLA)

“Opera Insights Series” Historical and cultural background, music analysis, plot synopsis, musical selections from Donizetti’s Maria, Queen of Scots presented by Ron Sahben to highlight upcoming San Diego Opera production. 619-232-3830. Wednesday, February 13, 5:30 p.m. at San Diego Public Library, 420 E Street. 619-236-5800. (BALBOA PARK)


“Romantic Rose” Anne Carver delves the history of roses, how to grow them, their use in “tasty dishes and luxurious beauty products.” Learn three rose arrangements to add to your repertoire; make body spray and a solid perfume. 619-255-0203. Saturday, February 9, 10 a.m.; Thursday, February 7, 7 p.m.; Thursday, February 7, 7 p.m.; REI - San Diego, 5556 Copley Drive. 858-279-4400. (CLAREMONT)

“Shaking Hands” Daniel Alexandrov focuses on his work for the Propaganda Lab. (LA JOLLA)

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“Shaking Hands” Daniel Alexandrov focuses on his work for the Propaganda Lab. (LA JOLLA)
The boulder frosted summit of Woodson Mountain (aka Mount Woodson) has many routes of approach, though none this particular winter/spring season is as intense as the west-side approach from Lake Poway. The October 2007 Witch Creek Fire thoroughly incinerated the brushy slopes east of the lake, and those slopes are likely to sport significant, and maybe spectacular, color from postfire wildflowers from February through April.

If you choose to hike all the way to Woodson’s summit and back, an effort involving nearly seven miles and cumulative elevation gain of 2300 feet, then bring food and plenty of water to sustain you.

Start your hike at the main parking area for Lake Poway Recreation Area, where you may change administra-
tion for those who are not citizens of the city of Poway.

Descend to a grassy picnic area on southwest shore of Lake Poway, and follow either of two wide trails southeast (they soon join together). After skirting the south shore and dipping to cross Warren Canyon, you come to a trail junction at 0.8 mile. Turn right on the signed Mount Woodson Trail and climb east on a steep grade through hillsides that only a few months ago were totally black, but now are showing signs of botanical rebirth.

At 1.1 miles from the start, a small pond lies on the left. At the next signed junction, 1.8 miles, turn left, upstream, on the “new” Mount Woodson Trail. (East of here, the more primitive “old” Mount Woodson Trail goes up the same slope, and the poorly maintained Warren Canyon Trail follows a severely undulating course east toward Highway 67.)

Using the new Mount Woodson Trail, you ascend on sunbathed, south-facing slopes, curving around large granitic boulders. The ever-widening view across the lowlands to the south and west duly compensates for the sweaty effort.

At 2.4 miles the trail reaches Woodson’s sharply defined summit ridge. To the left you can scramble up some granite slabs to enjoy a great vista to the west. Ahead lies the descend-
ing fly-kneel Trail. You swing to the right (east), then up, and follow the continuation of the Mount Woodson Trail along the summit ridge, head-
ing toward the antenna towers on Woodson Mountain’s summit a little over a mile away. As you approach the summit, don’t miss the remark-
able, razor-sharp boulder flake on the left, just styx of where you reach the end of a paved service road. Press ahead another 0.2 mile to reach Woodson’s highest point.

This article contains information about a publicity 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.

W E S T  S I D E  W O O D S O N  M O U N T A I N

Hike through gardens of boulders and postfire wildflowers to Woodson Mountain. Distance from downtown San Diego: 28 miles Length: 1 mile round-trip Difficulty: Moderately strenuous

“Actually, this one. I’m going into the Navy, and it’s not conventional for a woman to be joining the service, per se. This book helped me go from not realizing what life was all about to realizing that I should be happy, because life is too short to dwell on the small things. It also made me realize that it’s okay to try something new and fail, and then try something else.”

Do you have a favorite author?

“I like Sarah Dessen. She writes teenage romance novels. She’s good at writing from the perspective of someone my age — even though she’s an older woman.”

What magazines or newspapers do you read?

“I read Cosmopolitan and People to cover.”
To your Children, Photography Workshop taught by Garen Kess, exploring “the fun and creative world of plastic camera photography” using “the famous Holga and Diana cameras” first made in 1950s. Classroom discussion, time for taking photos. Learn about various lighting conditions and shooting applications best-suit for this type of image making. No age restrictions. Participants keep camera, other materials. Advance registration: 619-231-3900. Sunday, February 10, 1 p.m.; $48. Ages 12 and up. Art Academy of San Diego, 840 G Street, (DOWNTOWN)

Vegetarian Faire Cooking Class Chef Elizabeth Podlasnik teaches how to make hobby pea, vegetarian lentil soup, pineapple upside-down ginger cake. Recipes, tastings included in class fee. Required advance registration. 760-436-3036 ext. 206. Saturday, February 9, 1:30 p.m.; $25-$30. Quail Botanical Gardens, 330 Quail Gardens Drive. 760-436-4306. (ESCHERT)

OUTDOORS

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

Ornamental Pear Trees are bursting into bloom all over town. The thousands of white blossoms appear in sheets and clusters, rather like snow when viewed from a distance. Nice specimens can be seen along Lake Murray Boulevard, along Clairemont Mesa Boulevard between Highway 163 and Interstate 15, and in parts of downtown San Diego.

Big Ocean Swells and wild surf conditions occurring during San Diego’s winter season tend leave certain area beaches partially or wholly denuded of sand. The powerful waves pull sand off the beach and move it into deeper waters offshore, leaving behind deposits of rounded cobbles where sand has been removed. During spring and summer gentle wave action returns much of the sand, usually in time for the arrival of summer tourists. Artificial sand-replenishment projects are usually in the works, too, whereby sand dredged from waters offshore is transported back to the shoreline.

Thin-Grinned Crescent Moon returns to the evening sky on Friday, February 8, hovering prominently over the last gleam of twilight. By Wednesday, February 13, a much fatter moon, at first-quarter phase (half-fit), will lie near the tight little cluster of stars known as the Pleiades, high in the south at dusk.


Hawkwatch Visit Ramona’s grasslands to witness winter migration of hawks, falcons, and eagles during outgoing led by Wildlife Research Institute. Walks led by trained biologist every Saturday in January and February. Wear hiking or walking shoes. Bring binoculars or spotting scopes if you have them. Heavy rains cancel 760-789-3992. Saturdays, 9 a.m. through Saturday, February 23, 2008. Wildlife Research Institute, 18030 Highland Valley Road. 760-789-3992. (BARBARA)

Love is in the Air! Public and legal Valentine mating — among the fauna, that is — may be seen during guided nature walk. 619-688-3281. Sunday, February 10, 9-30 a.m.; Wednesday, February 13, 9:30 a.m.; 3 pm. Naturalist led nature walks every Saturday in January and February. Wear hiking or walking shoes. Bring binoculars or spotting scopes if you have them. 619-688-3281. San Diego Field Ornithologists, Bovet Adobe, 1549 El Prado. 619-688-3281. (CAROL)

Palm Walk Offshoots Tours offers its monthly hour-long guided stroll exploring structure, growth habits, landscape value of palm trees. 619-233-1122. Saturday, February 9, 10 a.m.; Balboa Park Visitors’ Center, 1549 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Pierre Bovet Adobe History Walk Hike in Carroll Canyon to visit ruins of little-known Pierre Bovet adobe, learn about Bovet and his family, their place in San Diego history. Meet at Fire Station #41 (near corner of Scramton and Carroll Canyon Roads). Directions: 858-342-8836 Sunday, February 10, 3 p.m.; San Diego Fire Station #41, 4914 Carroll Canyon Road. (MBR MESA)

Mangrove Removal Work Party Event hosted by San Diego Audubon Society and Aquaristic Adventures in Northern Wildlife Preserve. Help gather scientific data on mangrove plants, remove this invasive species to restore rare coastal salt marsh benefiting endangered light-footed clapper rails, Ridgway’s sandpipers. Wear long pants, old clothes, sturdy waterproof shoes, water, snacks, gloves, tools provided. Project site accessed via Campland. For directions and RSVP: 619-682-7210. Saturday, February 9, 1 p.m.; Ages 14 and up. Campland on the Bay, 2211 Pacific Beach Drive. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Native Plant Gardeners Friends of Rose Creek invite volunteers for variety of work in native plant garden, behind Rose Creek Cottage (park on Fogg Street, just south of Garnet). Weed, water, plant native species. Bring heavy-duty work or gardening gloves, water. 858-405-7500. Saturday, February 9, 10 a.m.; Rose Creek Cottage. 2525 Garnet Avenue. (PACIFIC BEACH)

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**SOUTH OF THE BORDER**

**“Atlas de la Diversidad Religiosa”**
New book from El Colegio de la Frontera Norte discussed. 011-52-664-687-9636. Saturday, February 9, 7 p.m.; Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paso de los Héroes and Mina Street. [BAJA]

**“Panorama de la Fiesta Brava”**
Bullfighting lecture by José Antonio Frontera Norte discussed. 011-52-664-687-9636. Saturday, February 9, 9 a.m.; Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Baja Tecolote Road. [BAJA]

**“Bullfighting lecture by José Antonio Frontera Norte discussed.”**

**“Bizarre Opening Day Bazaar”**
New “Strange Matter” exhibition opens with “fun activities, goofy games, and wacky challenges.” Run across a surface of a large pool of mysterious liquid without sinking, build a tall and sticky structure composed entirely of water-soluble packing peanuts, see how fast you can walk while wearing super-sticky Velcro shoes, more. Included in regular admission. 619-238-1233. Saturday, February 9, 11 a.m.; 858-551-LIMO. [MISSION VALLEY]

**“Back Care Yoga for the Family”**
Yoga instructor teaches “three workshops designed to deepen your breath, core awareness, and meditation.” Yoga newcomers welcome. Free: $30 per person, or $40 for family (up to four people). Registration: 858-436-9964. February 9, 9 a.m.; 858-551-LIMO. [MISSION VALLEY]

**“Bridal Bazaar”**
From simple hors d’oeuvres & cakes to elaborate buffets or sit-down receptions, our experienced staff will plan a menu that will please your guests and someone’s wallet. Visit www.abrilliantlimo.com or call us at 800-929-1984 x125. Free cake tasting. 858-755-3647. Sunday, February 10, 10 a.m.; 858-755-3647. [DONALD BEACH]

**“Secrets from a Top Chef”**
Chef Brian Hill focuses on winter barbecues. Reservations: 888-424-3663. Saturday, February 9, noon; 853-199-9911. [MISSION VALLEY]

**“Spring of Prosperity”**
San Diego Lunar New Year Tet Festival celebrating year of the rat. Professional singers, lion dances, food for sale, arts and craft vendors, carnival rides, at Park Boulevard and Presidents Way in Balboa Park. 858-203-6098. Sunday, February 10, 10 a.m.; 858-203-6098. [MISSION VALLEY]
Make a Pet Rock TNT (Thursday Night Thing) “takes a nostalgic trip back in time with activities and live performances” inspired by artist Robert Irwin’s 50-year career. San Diego Premiere of Morgan Neville’s documentary The420. Guest musicians will create impromptu sounds to vintage home movies found at garage sales, courtesy of Found Film Island. Live music by the Vision of a Dying World, the Paddle Boat, DJ Jeff Graves. 8:54-3:34. Thursday, February 7, 7 p.m.; Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown, 1001 Kettner Boulevard. 8:54-3:34. (CARLSBAD)

Organized Labor What is its future, nationally and globally? Share opinions with P&R Discussion Group. 6:19-20:12. Thursday, February 7, 7 p.m.; The Other Side Coffee House, 4096 30th Street. 8:51-3:23. (PACIFIC PARK)


Pride! San Diego Castro and Sco- culent Society announces annual winter show with specimens from around world in room 101 of Casa del Prado. Exhibitors on hand to an- swer questions. 8:52-20:54. Sat- urday, February 9, 10 a.m.; Casa del Prado, El Prado. (BALDWIN PARK)

Psychic Fair and Metaphysical Conference Lectures, tarot, palm- reading, astrology, psychic arts featured. Admission is free; $20 per reading. 6:19-284.24. Tuesday, February 11, noon; Saturday, February 16, noon; Alexander’s Bookshop, 3545 Midway Drive, suite E. 6:19-284.24. (CARLSBAD)

Pucker Up! Smooth-a-Pooch party benefiting SNAP (Spy Neuter Action Project) with dog trainers and guest of honor Kathy Santo. Event promises “tray-passed dog treats for the four-leggers” and kissing booth. Professional pet photogapher Jen Pett will take shots (donation: $10). Santo will sign copies of Kathy Santo’s Dog Ame. 8:54-964. Wednesday, February 13, 5:30 p.m.; Murrella La Jolla, 7,755 Garaz Avenue. 8:54-964. (LA JOLLA)

San Diego Bird Festival Birders from all over, novice to expert, will participate in festival hosted by San Diego Audubon Society. On offer: 14 workshops, 25 field trips all over San Diego County and in Baja. Keynote speaker is bird authority Kenn Kaufman (on Sunday, February 13). Fees: reservations: 8:54-2,700. Thursday, February 7, Saturday, February 9, Sunday, February 10; Friday, February 14; Friday & Saturday Marine Village Conference Center, 1936 quartzia Way (quartzia BEACH)

Show Your Pooch Some Love Meet dog behavioral specialist Kathy Santo, who will answer dog questions and sign copies of her book Kathy Santo’s Dog Sense. Refreshments for canines and humans, discussion, signed by Kathy’s and Book Works. 8:52-720.4844. Tuesday, February 12, 6 p.m.; Buddy’s Bottleque, 2670 Via de la Valle, Suite A220. 8:52-720-4844. (VILLAGE)
ABOUT

The Art of the Treganzas” boasts hammered copper and brass artifacts, paintings, drawings, and Arts and Crafts furniture created between 1906-1935 by this pioneer Lemon Grove family.

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center “Strange Matter,” opening Saturday, February 9, introduces visitors to the world of materials science. Materials scientists investigate structure of materials to discover what gives them their remarkable properties. Closed Sunday, May 18.

“Aging for All Ages,” “Kid City” (for preschoolers), “TrySciencet!” “Escape from Dino Island” is theme for motion simulator ride. Films are shown daily in the IMAX theater. 619-228-1233. 1875 El Prado, 619-228-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

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. 2080 Pan American Plaza, 619-231-2886. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Museum of Man “Edward S. Curtis Revisited” 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 ceremony, 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; technique 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, kintsugi, bone and ivory implements, shields, textiles.


San Diego Harborside 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. 2080 Pan American Plaza, 619-231-2886. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Maritime Museum “Footsteps through Time: Four Million Years of Human Evolution” showcases paintings and sculpture by museum has partnered with artists 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, kintsugi, bone and ivory implements, shields, textiles.

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THE TEN TENORS California Center for the Arts, Escondido, Sunday, February 10. (SEE CLASSICAL MUSIC)

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Ski Trip Feb. 23
Leica Spirit

“I photographed real life...not the way it was, but the way I felt it.”

During off hours while working as a clerk at the Budapest stock exchange before the outbreak of the Great War, the young André Kertész took photographs and began to nurse ambitions about making it his life’s work. The war intervened. Drafted into the Austro-Hungarian army in 1914, he was wounded in 1916 and mustered out in 1918. When the war ended, his new life as a photographer more or less began. In 1925, at age 31, he moved from Budapest to Paris, took up freelance photography, and began to make what have since become iconic 20th-century images. In 1936, he emigrated to New York and spent many years supporting himself with commercial photography. (Between 1945 and 1962 House and Garden published over 3000 of his photographs, so the man had little wiggle room for his own work.) After a long commercial career, Kertész, who lived to be 91, began his second new life and returned to the personal, exploratory photography he’d practiced in Budapest and Paris. He was even able, in a way, to resurrect his young life in the 1970s — around 1950 he’d had to quit the darkroom, when he developed allergies to the chemicals, and rely on assistants — has the same underfoot.

About format. If you go to the smallish but monumental holdings of his work, bring a magnifying glass. No joke. Many pictures Kertész created in the early season of his career were contact prints from negatives that measured, at best, four by five inches, often only two by two inches, especially in the very early work from Hungary when he was already using a small portable camera, “I worked from the start in the Leica spirit,” he later said, “long before the Leica existed.” He was such a master printer that even his images of grand spaces jammed with landscape or cityscape details have an engraved precision and subtle gradations of light to shade to darkness that yield one snappy revelation after another. Until he began to make larger six-by-eight-inch positives, he printed most of his work on postcard stock that yielded softened, plush textures, which he either used at standard postcard size or trimmed to the negative’s size. He established two pressure systems in the frame: miniaturization for dusky concentrates of black and white, but within that extreme diminution a stunning spatial expansiveness in city and country scenes.

I throw in country (or small-town) scenes because Kertész, though he thought of himself as a man of the cities, also loved provincial locales, especially in Hungary. In one of his earliest pictures a fiddler crosses a dirt-pack village street with his begging shoeless son at his side. In another, three bare-bottomed gypsy kids pad across a field pushing a wheelbarrow that, Kertész later recalled, contained scavenged clothing. While these images brim with pathos and empathy — “I photographed real life...not the way it was, but the way I felt it” — the tiny images pull us in with their rippled depths and crinkled, knitting volumes. Kertész challenged himself to take the most grandiose monuments and human “projects,” like the Eiffel Tower or Notre Dame, and treat them not as “look here” views but as more or less casual, off-to-the-side components of city life. He made the monumental intimate by deftly blending a broad tonal range of a city’s grays, blacks, and silvers. His picture from afar of the Eiffel Tower floats our gaze out across rooftops till it discovers the Tower, minuscule in the distance, rimmed with sizzling light. In another photo, he makes Notre Dame into a ghostly happenstance visitor to a river scene of workers and bridges and fat dockside blocks of stone. It’s evidence of another remark: “Have confidence in the inventions and transformations of chance.”

Major photographers sharpen our awareness of how our angle of approach to the seen determines our feeling for it. In his scrupulous 1928 street image, Meudon, France, our eye first finds a man crossing the street carrying a large flat parcel wrapped in newspaper. Buildings on each side narrow deeper in the picture to street’s end, at which point we cannot not follow the compositional rhythms skyward where, way high in the picture, as if on a pedestal, a locomotive crosses a stone trestle like an apparition, trailing soft-muscled smoke. The entire scene is pretty shabby, with messy, incoherent construction going on at the foot of the trestle. The picture’s subject is the act of finding, of “describing,” what’s before our eyes but passes unnoticed until the photographer reveals to us the whole field of relatedness.

Kertész lived through modern art’s major shifts — cubism, abstraction, conceptualism, surrealism — and he absorbed their assertions into his native compositional instincts. He loved to use strangely angled overhead views to create visual balances and cadences that charm the eye. In The Harbor at Brest, France, we see from above cubical cranes crowding the bulwarks of a small, wooden, lozenge-shaped freighter nosing into a barge bearing white barrens. The vessels and their contents, including the flattened stacked with metal pipes alongside the freighter, look arranged, a basket maritime-industrial still life. A different sort of experimentation happens in a series of nudes titled Distortions. The surrealists preached that if you combine two given objects you create a third reality that never before existed. In the early 1930s, a man’s magazine commissioned Kertész, who liked to call himself a “naturalist surrealist,” to photograph nudes reflected in a parabolic mirror; working with a classical motif, the pictures he produced — the women’s limbs are inflated like bladders or stretched like gum — swim in the same waters harvested by the surrealists. The rubber, curvilinear joints and swooping fields of flesh come right out of Dalí and Picasso.

Kertész’s triumphant late work exists in an aura of contemplative serenity. He was always a purveyor of mystery. See his 1920 Budapest image of a young couple peering through a chink in a fence to sneak a peek at a circus we can’t see: their backs (which are all we see), his round-brimmed hat, her head scarf, and the wood planks compose an image of secret pleasures hidden from sight. And the work of the 1960s and 1970s — around 1950 he’d had to quit the darkroom, when he developed allergies to the chemicals, and rely on assistants — has the same sensation of benevolent puzzlement and secret knowledge. An elegantly dressed man, his back to us, stands in Central Park on a fall day pondering an empty broken park bench in the foreground visually reiterated by a loose chain of benches stretching into the distance. Most of the famous modern photographs of New York register the city’s restless energy and unending self-reinvention. I’m thinking of Alfred Stieglitz’s photographs of horse-drawn trolley sliding through snow, Robert Frank’s image of Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, and Louis Faurer’s eye-poppers of 42nd Street’s neon. Kertész’s bench picture has the sober stillness we see in his 1967 photograph (my favorite) of a street puddle. In the jagged mirror of the rainwater, which looks like a torn page pasted across the pavement, lies a reflection of nearly the entire height of the Empire State Building. A monumental icon of urban life is inverted, dematerialized, and laid to rest underfoot.

Kertész’s images can be sober but never leaden or dour. He was in life a good-natured character, and that carried over into the work. Sometimes it lifts toward sentimentality, as in a picture of a small cloud hovering beside the Rockefeller Center — Oh, lonely, wandering cloud! But when the quietude, technical inventiveness, benevolence, and seriousness come together, they result in an image like Martinique, one of his last pictures. He and his wife were vacationing in a Martinique hotel where Kertész wanted to find some fresh connection between a pebbled glass...

Organ Concert: Concert organist Herndon Spillman performs works by Franck, Durufle, Bach, and Thomas Kerr. Offering. 760-752-6582. San Diego United Methodist Church (179 Calle Magdalena), 7 p.m., Sunday, February 10. (ENCINITAS)


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Concrete Coliseum
Blues Coors Amphitheatre, owned by Live Nation, will soon lose its name. Effective March 1, the Coors Brewing Company will end its connection with the area’s largest outdoor venue (10,000 reserved seats and a capacity for an additional 10,000 in open seating).

One concert insider says the new name would probably include “Live Nation.” A beer industry executive says he heard that the new venue would include the “Sleep Train” name; the mattress company has secured the naming rights at two other Live Nation venues in California — Sleep Train Amphitheatre, near Sacramento, and Sleep Train Pavilion in Concord.

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Coors Amphitheatre, drawing almost 250,000 paid guests. The previous year, the magazine reported that in 2006 Coors was the 41st biggest amphitheatre in the U.S., selling more than 160,000 tickets.

“I don’t know if those figures are correct,” says one insider. “Pollstar merely reports the figures that are given to them by each venue. I’m sure that number included comp tickets (that were not paid for).”

Neither Coors nor Live Nation released press releases, Live Nation spokesman Greg Terlizzi did not respond to a request for comment; neither did Coors Amphitheatre general manager Thierry Gray.

Jenny Volanakis, a spokesperson for Coors, says, “It was a good partnership, but we are just allocating our resources elsewhere.” She says the company will continue to underwrite the naming rights for Coors Field in Denver.

“The numbers have gone down dramatically,” says one insider about corporate sponsorship of venues. “It was different when Coors opened ten years ago. Those were the go-go years for outdoor venues like this; money was flowing.”

Another person speculated that the opening of AEG’s 13,000-seat outdoor venue near Qualcomm may have lowered the perceived future potential of Coors Amphitheatre.

Company will end its connection with the area’s largest outdoor venue (10,000 reserved seats and a capacity for an additional 10,000 in open seating).

The Chula Vista venue has been known as Coors Amphitheatre since it opened in 1998. A source says the Coors Brewing Company paid more than $500,000 annually for naming rights and to allow Coors to sell its products exclusively.

“Coors must not see the value anymore,” says one insider. “They must have decided that what they pay outweighs the benefit in terms of their exposure.”

The move confounds some, considering the venue has reported a dramatic increase in box-office sales last year: Pollstar magazine pegged Coors as the 16th busiest amphitheatre, drawing almost 250,000 paid guests. The previous year, the magazine reported that in 2006 Coors was the 41st biggest amphitheatre in the U.S., selling more than 160,000 tickets.

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Another person speculated that the opening of AEG’s 13,000-seat outdoor venue near Qualcomm may have lowered the perceived future potential of Coors Amphitheatre.
“It might just be that Jeff and Jer are too old and too rich for their audience,” says one insider. “They finally may have moved beyond relevance to their core audience.”

Jeff and Jer will soon celebrate their 25th anniversary as a morning team.

— Ken Leighton

Not Conducive to Rocking Out Two months ago, KUSI dropped the live-band segments from its 10 a.m. weekday news show in order to present a straight-news approach. But, reporter and weekend anchor Kristen Cusato makes sure than KUSI still has bands and solo artists perform in studio on weekends. “I can’t pitch hard-rock bands,” says Cusato. “We are not conducive to rocking out. When we had Arm the Angels on, we had to break it down; they played acoustic, and the drummer sat in a chair with a tambourine. I don’t think they had ever done anything like that before.”

Since Fox Rox ended a year ago, Fox/Channel 6 has live bands on its morning-news show infrequently. KNSD 7/9 presents live bands every Friday during the summer but only occasionally the rest of the year. Cusato doesn’t see her station bringing back a Fox Rox-style show dedicated to local music.

Cusato says most of the local artists who have appeared on KUSI were respectful and happy to be there. “We had Chad [Butler] and Jon [Foreman] of Switchfoot on. They were honest, real guys.” Most of her guests have been singer-songwriters, such as Eve Selis, Josh D’Amigo, and Barbara Nesbitt.

Only once did a booking backfire. “When Spell Toronto showed up…they gave the crew a really hard time. They wouldn’t answer questions. While they are on the air, the drummer sat in the background and started eating a sandwich. I’m sure they thought this was supposed to be funny, but it wasn’t. I don’t know if they thought they could do this because KUSI is some yahoo station, but we’re not.”

Cusato says artists can contact her at kusato@kusi.com. Good Morning San Diego airs from 6 to 10 a.m. on weekends.

— Ken Leighton

Tick-Tick-Tick… Guitarist Mike Keneally will become the cartoon character Dethklok in 2008 when he tours with Dethklok, a live-action band based on the Cartoon Network TV show Metalocalypse.

“We don’t dress to resemble the cartoon,” he says, “because we’ve got three projection screens with animation going during the show, similar to the band Gorillaz, showing the cartoon band ‘performing’ the music we’re playing onstage…The drummer wears headphones so that the live band stays synched to the visuals. The band dresses all in black and stays mostly in the shadows until the last song, when the cartoon band goes away and the live band is flooded with white light.”

Keneally landed the “stunt guitarist” role as a “surprising success,” he says. “We had Chad [Butler] and Jon [Foreman] of Switchfoot on. They were honest, real guys.” Most of her guests have been singer-songwriters, such as Eve Selis, Josh D’Amigo, and Barbara Nesbitt.

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[DEEP DISH]
+ Cullan, Alan B
Thursday 7

Black Mountain casts its shadow over a crowded Cashbar tonight. Leader Steven McBean is king of the hill with Pink Mountaintop and Black Mountain Army, Canadian collectives celebrating ‘70s rock. In the future, this year’s Black Mountain Army will follow up to 2005’s hit album ‘Drunken’ with their Zeppelin bombastic and psych-rock vocals, an evolution for the band into darker frontiers: longer intros and outros, but a cast of different characters.

San Diego’s flamenco bros. Open.... Guitarist Jake Shimabukuro plucks and slides his island vibe for Anthology. Expect longer intros and outros, one Drop, Sunshine — A Fishbone Documentary. This year they’ll drop DVD to hear everything from hula to heavy metal. In the Future, into darker frontiers (read: Druganaut, casts its shadow over a crowded neighborhood. You better have at least “one good headlight” if you’re going to get to the Wallflowers this weekend.

Fame puli into Belly Up in support of Weary and Winded, a collection of ‘60s-inspired rock-n-soul. San Diego blues-rock jam band Deadline Friday share the bill, toasting last year’s Days Gone.... Don your Motley Revolver at House of Blues. Part GAR (Slash, Duff, and Matt) and part STP (singer Scott Weiland), this amalgamation’s tour behind ‘06 crit pick “Slither”) and last year stood in for Van Halen STP (singer Scott Weiland), this amalgamation’s tour behind ‘06 crit pick “Slither”) and last year stood in for Van Halen (singer Scott Weiland), this amalgamation’s tour behind ‘06 crit pick “Slither”)

Friday 8

“Do, Mad Life” Angelo Moore and his ska punk outfit Fishbone surface at ‘Canes Friday night. The 30-year-old act broke with the L.A. alt-rock scene that delivered Red Hot Chili Peppers and Jane’s Addiction to the world. Through personnel blow, Moore kept the live act on the road, recording spasmodically. The band’s latest ‘06 collection STILL Stuck in Your Throat, which was their first in six years. This year they’ll drop DVD Everyday KEE KEE!

Saturday 9

If you missed the Night Marchers’ punk parade at the Pink Elephant last night, catch up at Cashbar, where the quartet will walk again. Cashbar set includes R&B rave-ups the Sess and the punks Wild Weekend.

Sunday 10

Singer-songwriter Sunday, I guess, as Belly Up books Old 97’s frontman Rhett Miller. The alt-country troubadour-slash-poster boy continues to tour behind ‘06 off the title-track. The Believer. Miller splits the Solana Beach bill with Matador recording artist Jennifer O’Connor, a Brooklyn-based indie chick who resides Phishville. Pretty kids, easy listenin’.... And James Blunt will croon his tunes in Speckles’ fancy-paneled room. Englishman Blunt’s enjoyed a rodeo ride off his ‘04 debut but his latest effort ‘737’ his hit tunes in Speckles’ fancy-paneled room. Englishman Blunt’s enjoyed a rodeo ride off his ‘04 debut but his latest effort ‘737’....

Monday 11

Anti-Monday League’s in session at Cashbar, where locals Swim Party, Talkdemonic, a.m. vibe, and f.u.z.z. canvas for indie-rock cause Mexican acoustic duo Rodrigo y Gabriela strum-n-slump Latin-tinged rock ballads at 4:THM. The pair is on a world tour touting last year’s SXSW tour e.p.... Acoustic affair, as folk-funk-tacular Savy Fav...u...lous — check the no wave takes on Caribbean from Incredible Moses Leroy), Montreal by sidekick.

Tuesday 12

Chicagoland jam band Umphrey’s McGee deliver a carbo load to House of Blues Tuesday night. These festival vets are poised to take up the Phish mantle. Give an ear to last year’s stage set Live at the Alhambra for a whiff of Umphrey’s dreamy noodles, jazzy recording artists Dub Tilt set the stage. The Brooklyn dub punks have a hit off the press, Another Sound Is Dying.... Country-fried combo the Terrible Twos roll out “Rockville”-era R.E.M. at a steady clip — sample the homepop wams off if You Ever See an Owl. The Lawrence, K.5 crew takes up a Tuesday at Bar Pink Elephant....

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“I was so fried that I turned her down and haven’t heard from her since.”

Vegitation is San Diego’s solution to keeping reggae fresh and green. They produce original reggae songs instead of rehashing those Marley tunes that most reggae acts perform at local bars and clubs. Vegitation played for the evacuees at Qualcomm Stadium in October, the Ranchita Rocks Music Festival near Borrego Springs last September, and the environmentally conscious Sustainability Day at SDSU, also in September. They are regulars at Winstons and PB Bar and Grille.

Vegitation’s third CD, *Family Strong*, recently hit the streets. This June the band goes on its first nationwide tour.

**Lists**

Michael Hemmingson

**WORST GIG?**

Mason: “We arrived at the UCSD Unolympics and were shocked to find about 3000 kids on the field yelling and screaming. Before we could set up, there was an announcement for the ice cream social just over the hill. We ended up playing to six people. One was listening to an iPod, and two of them left before our second song.”

**WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO?**

Japheth: “R. sik that carries a message.”

Mason: “George Bush fixing the election. George Bush fixing another election. Crackdown by DEA on medicinal dispensaries in San Diego County. When our first drummer left. Being stuck in a Turkish prison.”

**FIVE MOMENTS THAT SUCKED…**

Mason: “I didn’t go to prom because I was a repressed Ishovah’s Witness.”

Dandelion: “I don’t remember; check the police reports.”

Mike: “I took acid and didn’t tell my date about it. I had been trying to have sex with her for a year, and that night she was finally ready. I was so fried that I turned her down and haven’t heard from her since. Ah, prom.”

**LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT?**

Japheth: “I didn’t go to prom because I was a repressed Ishovah’s Witness.”

Dandelion: “I don’t remember; check the police reports.”

Mike: “I took acid and didn’t tell my date about it. I had been trying to have sex with her for a year, and that night she was finally ready. I was so fried that I turned her down and haven’t heard from her since. Ah, prom.”

**BEST THING YOU EVER DID DRUNK?**

Mason: “Evangeline Lily — the people on Lost are dead, aren’t they?”

Jamie: “Timothy Leary.”

**WHERE DO YOU SEE MUSIC GOING IN THE 21ST CENTURY?**

Mason: “[I hope that] Obama or Clinton can topple the Republican spin machine and lead our country back to where it should be.”

**THOUGHTS ON THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE?**

Mason: “I’m for Barak Obama.”

Jamie: “I’m not interested.”

**BEST THING YOU EVER DID DRUNK?**

Dandelion: “Answer these questions.”

Ivan's Brothers

**WHAT DID YOU DO ON PROM NIGHT?**

Japheth: “I didn’t go to prom because I was a repressed Ishovah’s Witness.”

Dandelion: “I don’t remember; check the police reports.”

Mike: “I took acid and didn’t tell my date about it. I had been trying to have sex with her for a year, and that night she was finally ready. I was so fried that I turned her down and haven’t heard from her since. Ah, prom.”

**WORST GIG?**

Mason: “We arrived at the UCSD Unolympics and were shocked to find about 3000 kids on the field yelling and screaming. Before we could set up, there was an announcement for the ice cream social just over the hill. We ended up playing to six people. One was listening to an iPod, and two of them left before our second song.”

**WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO?**

Japheth: “R. sik that carries a message.”

Mason: “George Bush fixing the election. George Bush fixing another election. Crackdown by DEA on medicinal dispensaries in San Diego County. When our first drummer left. Being stuck in a Turkish prison.”

**FIVE MOMENTS THAT SUCKED…**

Mason: “I didn’t go to prom because I was a repressed Ishovah’s Witness.”

Dandelion: “I don’t remember; check the police reports.”

Mike: “I took acid and didn’t tell my date about it. I had been trying to have sex with her for a year, and that night she was finally ready. I was so fried that I turned her down and haven’t heard from her since. Ah, prom.”

**LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT?**

Japheth: “I didn’t go to prom because I was a repressed Ishovah’s Witness.”

Dandelion: “I don’t remember; check the police reports.”

Mike: “I took acid and didn’t tell my date about it. I had been trying to have sex with her for a year, and that night she was finally ready. I was so fried that I turned her down and haven’t heard from her since. Ah, prom.”

**BEST THING YOU EVER DID DRUNK?**

Mason: “Evangeline Lily — the people on Lost are dead, aren’t they?”

Jamie: “Timothy Leary.”

**WHERE DO YOU SEE MUSIC GOING IN THE 21ST CENTURY?**

Mason: “[I hope that] Obama or Clinton can topple the Republican spin machine and lead our country back to where it should be.”

**THOUGHTS ON THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE?**

Mason: “I’m for Barak Obama.”

Jamie: “I’m not interested.”

**BEST THING YOU EVER DID DRUNK?**

Dandelion: “Answer these questions.”

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FRANK SINATRA, JR.
SUNDAY, MARCH 2

AMERICA
FRIDAY, MARCH 7

BOZ SKAGGS
FRIDAY, APRIL 18

SIZZLIN’ SALSA SATURDAYS
FREE SALSA LESSONS 7PM • LIVE BANDS 8PM
DANCE CONTEST 11PM — You could win CASH!

Don’t miss a FREE live performance by The Crystals singing classics like “Da Doo Ron Ron” & “Then He Kissed Me” Wednesday, February 27 at 1pm & 3pm!

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THURSDAY
Velvet Revolver, House of Blues, Thursday, February 7, 8 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Jake Shimabukuro, Anthology, Thursday, February 7, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

Bedouin Soundclash, Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, February 7, 7 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Leahy, Poway Center for the Performing Arts, Thursday, February 7, 7 p.m., 13498 Espola Road, Poway. 888-748-0505.

FRIDAY
Los Amigos Invisibles and SL7E, House of Blues, Friday, February 8, 8 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Tab Benoit, Anthology, Friday, February 8, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

Mark Ford and Deadline Friday, Belly Up Tavern, Friday, February 8, 9 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Colbie Caillat, Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Friday, February 8, 8:30 p.m., 500 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

SATURDAY
Haste the Day and Scary Kids Scaring Kids, Soma, Saturday, February 9, 7 p.m., 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma. 619-226-SOMA.

Benny Hollman’s Big Band Explosion, Anthology, Saturday, February 9, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

The Wallflowers, Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Saturday, February 9, 8 p.m., 500 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

SUNDAY
Novamenco, Anthology, Sunday, February 10, 7:30 p.m., 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

James Blunt, Speckels Theatre, Sunday, February 10, 8 p.m., 121 Broadway, Downtown. 619-235-9500.

Rhett Miller, Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, February 10, 8 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

TUESDAY
Umphrey’s McGee, House of Blues, Tuesday, February 12, 6:30 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Sarah Lee Guthrie & Johnny Irton, Belly Up Tavern, Tuesday, February 12, 8 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

WEDNESDAY
The Editors, Louis XIV, and Hot Heat, House of Blues, Wednesday, February 13, 7 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

ALO, Belly Up Tavern, Wednesday, February 13, 9 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

FRIDAY
George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic, Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, February 14, 7 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Richard Elliot, 40s & 80s, Friday, February 15, 7:30 p.m., 1345 B Street, Downtown. 619-231-4343.

SUNDAY
Novamenco, Anthology, Sunday, February 10, 7:30 p.m., 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

James Blunt, Speckels Theatre, Sunday, February 10, 8 p.m., 121 Broadway, Downtown. 619-235-9500.

Rhett Miller, Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, February 10, 8 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

MARCH
Miguel Bosé, Cox Arena, Sunday, March 8, 8 p.m., 1337 India Street, Point Loma. 619-594-6947.

Marcia Ball and John Hammond, Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, March 2, 8 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

The Foo Fighters, Cox Arena, Monday, March 3, 7:30 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 619-594-6947.

Rufus Wainwright, Belly Up Tavern, Tuesday, March 5, 8 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Air Supply, synthetic Casino Showcases Theatre, Thursday, March 6, 8 p.m., 5469 Casino Way, El Cajon.

Bad Religion, House of Blues, Friday, March 7, 7 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Live, Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Friday, March 7, 8 p.m., 500 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

Bad Religion, House of Blues, Saturday, March 8, 7 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

The Blind Boys of Alabama, Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, March 9, 8 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

New York Dolls, Belly Up Tavern, Monday, March 10, 8 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Clutch, House of Blues, Wednesday, March 12, 8 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Angels & Airwaves, Soma, Thursday, March 13, 7 p.m., 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma. 619-226-SOMA.

Shawn Mullins, Belly Up Tavern, Monday, March 17, 8 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Nada Surf, House of Blues, Tuesday, March 18, 7 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.
Citizen Cope, 2583. Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583. Sunday, March 30, 6 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583. Monday, March 31, 7 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

A Flock of Seagulls and Built to Spill, Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, March 22, 9 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Ace Frehley, Tavern, Saturday, March 22, 9 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

John Mayall & the Bluesbreakers, Poway Center for the Performing Arts, Saturday, April 19, 9 p.m., 15498 Espola Road, Poway. 858-748-0505.

Yellowcard, House of Blues, Friday, April 11, 8 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Panic at the Disco, Soma, Saturday, April 12, 6 p.m., 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma. 619-226-SOMA.

Say Anything, House of Blues, Sunday, April 13, 7 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

John Darnielle and the Mountain Goats, California Center for the Arts, Escondido, Friday, April 15, 9 p.m., 340 North Escondido Boulevard, Escondido. 800-988-4253.

Black Mountain, House of Blues, Saturday, April 19, 8 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

The Itals, Black Mountain, Saturday, April 19, 8 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Les Claypool, House of Blues, Saturday, April 26, 7 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Ace Frehley, Soma, Saturday, April 26, 6 p.m., 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma. 619-226-SOMA.

John Darnielle and the Mountain Goats, California Center for the Arts, Escondido, Friday, April 15, 9 p.m., 340 North Escondido Boulevard, Escondido. 800-988-4253.

Black Mountain, House of Blues, Saturday, April 19, 8 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

The Itals, Bell Up Tavern, Saturday, March 22, 9 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Ace Frehley, Monday, March 24, 8 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

The Black Keys, House of Blues, Saturday, March 26, 7 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.
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Wednesday, February 13

Adam Biaze • Fuzz Huzzi

Upcoming: February 20

Reverend Stickman • American Manics
Fuzz Huzzi

February 21

Slowhand (Eric Clapton & Cream tribute band)

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1986 INCE

3/15

DIAMOND HEAD

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PROSTHETIC

3/17

WHIP

3/18

ESCABEZ

3/19

The Blank Johnsons

3/20

The Joyful Noise

3/21

Ratt

3/22

The New Philharmonic

3/23

The Drowners

3/24

The Good, the Bad & the Ugly

3/25

The Jesus Lizard

3/26

The Jesus Lizard

3/27

The Jesus Lizard

3/28

The Jesus Lizard

3/29

The Jesus Lizard

3/30

The Jesus Lizard

3/31

The Jesus Lizard

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**Friday & Saturday, February 8 & 9 • 9 pm**

Free Parking • Free WiFi Access

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**Upcoming: February 20**

**Reverend Stickman • American Manics**

Fuzz Huzzi

February 21

Slowhand (Eric Clapton & Cream tribute band)

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**Friday & Saturday, February 8 & 9 • 9 pm**

Free Parking • Free WiFi Access

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**Classical Rock**

2/7/17 • 9:00 PM

Sarah Lee Guthrie & Johnny Irion

2/8/17 • 9:00 PM

Alo

2/9/17 • 9:00 PM

George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic

2/10/17 • 9:00 PM

DJ Carlos

2/11/17 • 9:00 PM

Maceo Parker

2/12/17 • 9:00 PM

Grand Pianorama feat. CeCe Glenn & DJ Scotto

2/13/17 • 9:00 PM

Stranger Six

2/14/17 • 9:00 PM

Arab and the Angels

2/15/17 • 9:00 PM

The Itals

2/16/17 • 9:00 PM

Tristan Prettyman

2/17/17 • 9:00 PM

Jessie Baylin & Jim Bianco

2/18/17 • 9:00 PM

Project, Jeff Berkley & The Citizens Band & guest

2/19/17 • 9:00 PM

Al Howard & the K23 Orchestra

2/20/17 • 9:00 PM

Perpetual Groove

2/21/17 • 9:00 PM

The Midnight Choir

2/22/17 • 9:00 PM

The Drowning Men for Explosion

2/23/17 • 9:00 PM

Cindy Lee Berryhill

2/24/17 • 9:00 PM

Psychedelic Roots Covenant

2/25/17 • 9:00 PM

The Blasters & the Hacienda Brothers

2/26/17 • 9:00 PM

Atomic Punks

2/27/17 • 9:00 PM

Steve Earle w/Allison Moorer

2/28/17 • 9:00 PM

Earl Thomas

2/29/17 • 9:00 PM

Justus Ewing

3/1/17 • 9:00 PM

Adam Biaze

3/2/17 • 9:00 PM

Fuzz Huzzi

3/3/17 • 9:00 PM

The Presidents of the United States of America

3/4/17 • 9:00 PM

Steve Earle w/Allison Moorer

3/5/17 • 9:00 PM

The Beet Brothers

3/6/17 • 9:00 PM

Mad Professor

3/7/17 • 9:00 PM

Common Sense

3/8/17 • 9:00 PM

Shawn Mullins

3/9/17 • 9:00 PM

The Blind Boys of Alabama

3/10/17 • 9:00 PM

Hotel Café w/Ingrid Michaelson, Cary Brothers, Greg Laswell, Kate Havnevik, Jessie Ruddle & Jim Bianco

3/11/17 • 9:00 PM

Saricteria

3/12/17 • 9:00 PM

Janet Jackson

3/13/17 • 9:00 PM

Mad Professor w/Elijah Emanuel & The Revelations

3/14/17 • 9:00 PM

Kim Carnes

3/15/17 • 9:00 PM

The Jesus Lizard

3/16/17 • 9:00 PM

The Jesus Lizard

3/17/17 • 9:00 PM

The Jesus Lizard

3/18/17 • 9:00 PM

The Jesus Lizard

3/19/17 • 9:00 PM

The Jesus Lizard

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3/27/17 • 9:00 PM

The Jesus Lizard

3/28/17 • 9:00 PM

The Jesus Lizard

3/29/17 • 9:00 PM

The Jesus Lizard

3/30/17 • 9:00 PM

The Jesus Lizard

3/31/17 • 9:00 PM

The Jesus Lizard

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**Reverend Stickman • American Manics**

Fuzz Huzzi

February 21

Slowhand (Eric Clapton & Cream tribute band)

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**3/13 Elijah Emanuel & The Revelations – Just added to Mad Professor Show!**

The Pretty Things w/The Amazing World of Arther Brown & Malchiks

3/18 FM 94.9 presents Bob Mould – On sale Friday @ noon

3/25 Bob Schneider • 4/3 Halway to Halloween Party!
Brass Rail: Friday: Club Fashion Where. Monthly fashion show, DJs, and discotheque, brought to you by Mayure. Second Friday of the month. 3796 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-288-2233.


Coyote Bar and Grill: Fridays, 10:30 p.m.: Saturdays, 10:30 p.m.: DJ Steve Hasty. Spinning every Friday and Saturday night at the Coyote Bar & Grill. 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4669.

Excursion: Thursdays, 9 p.m.: Paradise. Upscale lounge environment with DJs. 1028 Prospect Street Suite 210, La Jolla. 858-434-8092.

The Filling Station: Fridays, 9 p.m.: Saturdays, 9 p.m.: DJ Dance Party. Dance to your favorites! Over 65,000 songs for your pleasure. Ages 21 and up. 9522 32nd Street, Miramar. 858-570775.


Harney Sushi: Wednesdays: Monica’s Han Night. A very special night with weekly guest DJs. spinning: house, electro, mashups, and Brit-pop. 3964 Harney Street, Old Town. 619-253-3272.

Inferno Young Adult Nightclub: Fridays, 9 p.m.: Saturdays, 9 p.m.: DJ Kool T. Top 40, techno, and ’80s. 775 Metcalf Street, Escondido. 760-741-1271.

Jack’s La Jolla: Thursdays, 10 p.m.: Saturdays, 10 p.m.: Wall Street Bar: DJs and dancing in the Wall Street Bar. 7863 Girard Avenue, La Jolla. 858-455-8111.

Kadan: Mondays, 9 p.m.: Mayhem Mondays. Punk rock every Monday. Live bands and resident DJ Nate Horror provide the tunes. Ages 21 and up. 4696 30th Street, North Park. 619-640-2500.


Molly Malone’s: Friday, 9 p.m.: DJ Levi. Rock. Ages 21 and up. 1270 Main Street, Ramona. 760-789-9050.

Monodogies Pacific Beach: Saturdays, 9 p.m.: “What’s Good.” DJs Enigma and Cisco. Hip-hop, R&B, and Top 40. 382 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-485-6550.


Tio Leo’s Lounge: Thursdays, 8 p.m.: Zielo Dance: DJ Gator Boy, every Thursday. 3062 Napa Street, Clairemont. 619-542-1462.


Whiskey Girl: Fridays, 9 p.m.: Saturdays, 9 p.m.: DJ Marc Thrasher. Music video mixes. Ages 21 and up. 600 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-236-1416.

If the acoustic duo Rodrigo y Gabriella sounds more like a trio, it is because Gabriella Quintero’s right hand does the work of two guitarists. It flutters and snaps and swivels in the air above her instrument as if free of tendons. The right-hand fire sparks strings and various parts of her hollow-body guitar and produces a husky and uncommon mix of rhythms and textures and great thundering exclamations. All the while, she’s comping on rhythm chords and bass notes. With a right hand like that, Rodrigo y Gabriella don’t need a rhythm section. Her flamenco guitar on overdrive is three-quarters of the duo’s sound, and without it they might have been written off as just another pair of reformed rockers playing good flamenco. This is a limb I’m willing to go out on.

Not that her partner Rodrigo Sanchez is any stich. His guitar carries the melody, and in that line of work the lead line in almost always an evocative and intricate puzzle that must be performed with resolve perfection. There is no room for error in this kind of music, and their back grounds in trash metal helped to hone their skills.

In Mexico City (they eventually moved to Ireland to begin their acoustic career), Sanchez and Quintero both played guitar in Tierra Acida for almost a decade. They took their cues from American hardcore metal bands like Slipknot and Metallica. You needn’t hear Rodrigo y Gabriella’s covers of Floyd or Zeppelin to hear the rock spirit that counterbalances with their strew of Latin culture, flamenco, and traditional Spanish guitar and pop — rock guitar is still the essence of every note they play, and at serious amplification. They are the rock stars of Spanish guitar, and all that’s missing are the power chords.

RODRIGO Y GABRIELLA, 4th & B, Monday, February 11, 8 p.m. 619-231-4543. $31.

Zenbu: Saturday, 8 p.m. Zenbu DJs. Local DJs spin house, dance-rock, indie, and downtempo. Intimate sushi bar/lounge setting. 7660 Fay Avenue, La Jolla. 858-454-4340.

CLUBS BY AREA

How to submit a club or DJ listing: Call 619-235-3000 x405, night or day by 5 pm Friday, the week prior to publication. To send weekly or monthly schedules, fax to 619-231-0489 or mail to Reader Music Scene, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA, 92186. You may also submit information online at SDReader.com by clicking on the music section.

BEACHES


$1 Beers’ Wednesday Nights 9 pm-Midnight. *Select Draft Beers. 21 & Over.

College & NBA Headquarters
Every day of the week in the Ocean Room.
Pasquale on Prospect: 1250 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-456-0722. Sundays, 8-9 p.m.: Stage 4 Jazz/rhythm and blues.

Central
Chasers Cocktail Lounge: 3615 El Cajon Boulevard, City Heights, 858-289-9379. Saturday, 11 p.m.: Hazelken, Leopold and His Fiction. Dave the Butcher, West Wind Boys also perform. Shoe was originally scheduled for Scalier’s Office; however, all shows have now been moved to Chasers. Rock. Ages 21 and up. Dick’s Last Resort: 345 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-231-9100. Sunday, 6:30 p.m.: The Ideas. Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.: Drag’s of Sada. Classic rock/alternative/rythym and blues. Wednesday, 8:30 p.m.: Private Domain. Unplugged. Rock/alternative/reggae. Saturday, 7:30 p.m.: Liquid Blue. Electronic/pop/rock. Thursday, 7 p.m.: Scott Carne Duo. Indie/alternative/alternative. Friday, 7:30 p.m.: The Sires Brothers. Covers hits from classic rock, Motown, 70s disco, and R&B. The Living Room
The Shout House: 655 4th Avenue, Downtown, 619-231-6700. Thursdays, 7 p.m., Fridays, 6 p.m., Saturdays, 6 p.m., Sundays, 7 p.m.: The Shout House. Rock and roll sing-along during piano. $5-$10. Ages 21 and up.

Brass Rail: 3796 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest, 858-298-2333. Saturday, 9 p.m.: Noche Latino. Latin music night, with DJ Ruben Casas and DJ Klaus.

TO GET YOUR LOCAL CD REVIEWED, PLEASE MAIL IT TO: Music Editor, Hometown CD, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803
Love Jazz Show: Tokelii & Jazz Quartet present a Pre-Valentine’s Love Jazz Concert at the new Dizzy’s in the San Diego Wine & Culinary Center on February 13. Beat the Love Crowds and join us for a glass of wine with that special someone while Tokelii sings you love songs... jazz style! Special guests heat up the stage: Mikan Zlatkovich, piano; Gilbert Castellanos, trumpet; Brett Sanders, drums; and Rob Thorsen, bass. 8:10.


Rosie O’Grady’s: 3402 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-284-7666. Tuesdays, 9:30 p.m.: Bija’s Jazz Jam Session. Modern jazz classics and standards every Tuesday, with Bryan Whelan, Doug Walker, Lauren Grinnell, and friends. Ages 21 and up.

San Diego Sports Club: 1271 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-299-7372. Tuesdays, 9 p.m.: acoustic open-mike night. Unplugged talent every Tuesday. Ages 21 and up.

Scolari’s Office: 3936 30th Street, North Park, 619-296-3546. Saturday, 10 p.m.: Hazelden. Rock/alternative/indie.


South Park Bar & Grill: 1446 Fern Street, South Park, 619-496-0996. Thursdays, 8:30 p.m.: Open Jam. Ages 21 and up.

The Handley Hotel and Resort: 950 Hotel Circle North, Mission Valley, 619-288-4511. Wednesday, 5 p.m.: Christopher Dale and Friends. Acoustic. Thursday, 7 p.m.: Formerly Bros., the Filmz, Podunk Nowhere.

Zia’s: 832 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-483-6550. Saturdays, 9 p.m.: “What’s Good”. DJs Enigma and Cisco. Hip-hop, R&B, and Top 40.


North County based band that plays classic rock songs from the 60's through the present day. Illict Behavior is the cover band selected for the cover of the January 17, 2008 issue of the Reader entitled “Rockin’ Baby Boomers.” Ages 21 and up.


Finnegan’s Pub and Grill: 1834 Marion Road, Carlsbad, 760-721-3311. Friday, 5:30 p.m.: The Blues. (Buddy Collier). Acoustic/Folk.


McCabe’s Beach Club: 1145 South Tremont Street, Oceanside, 760-439-6446. Saturday, 5 p.m.: Fleetwood Max. Fleetwood Mac tribute band. Classic rock/pop.

Ocean House: 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad, 760-729-8315. Saturday, 8:30 p.m.: Live Wire. Live Wire Band plays a mix of your favorite rock hits from the 60s through today.

North County Inland

Inferno Young Adult Nightclub: 775 Metcalf Street, Escondido, 760-741-1271. Friday, 9 p.m., Saturday, 9 p.m.: DJ Kod. T. Top 40, techno, and ‘80s.

Molly Malone’s: 1270 Main Street, Ramona, 760-789-9001. Saturday, 9 p.m.: Worldwide Concerts. Presents a night of heavy metal/hardcore music. Ages 21 and up.

Patrick’s Irish Pub: 13314 Poway Road, Poway, 858-486-0764. Saturday, 9 p.m.: Saturday, 9 p.m.: DJ Kod. T. Top 40, techno, and ‘80s.

North County Coastal


I thought it was good. I thought that it was something that I would want in my “car rotation.” It had a good driving beat. It was sort of in and out of the beat, there would be these moments where it was just the guitar riff. I like the upbeat, pop quality to it. I can’t place [his voice]…it reminds me of someone else. It wasn’t particularly striking; it wasn’t what drew me to the song initially. It was more the sound of the music. It reminds me of a lot of alternative bands but sort of that newer sound — pop with a harder edge to it. I would imagine [hearing that song in an Amanda Bynes movie — although, I haven’t seen any of those movies. I don’t know what goes on in them].

I don’t know why, but I was reminded of Japanese pop. I don’t understand the lyrics because I don’t have the (language) skill of listening, so I was focused on the music, I feel like [in the song] someone was trying to go somewhere — to keep walking. I just imagined he had some problem that he was trying to overcome. The tempo was up. I liked it. The music was upbeat, and I feel like it would cheer me up. It’s not like Japanese reggae. I listen to Japanese reggae but also UB40 and Bob Marley. Popular music is very up-tempo, so it might [become] popular.
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**TUESDAY 2-19**

**Wednesday, February 27**

**Saturday, February 23**

**Sunday, February 24**

**Tuesday, February 12 & 19**

**Wednesday, February 13 & 20**

**Thursday, February 14**

**Friday, February 15**

**Saturday, February 16**

**Sunday, February 17**

**Monday, February 18**

**Tuesday, February 19**

**Wednesday, February 20**

**Thursday, February 21**

**Friday, February 22**

**Saturday, February 23**

**Sunday, February 24**

**Monday, February 25**

**Tuesday, February 26**

**Wednesday, February 27**

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**More Music (continued)**

John Jay Hopkins Drive. 858-882-8000. (LA JOLLA)


“Summer Stock” Annual variety show by San Diego Choraleers adult mixed chorus, Implications vocal jazz group, Women of Note with Serra-Naders, Men of Note. 619-427-2448. Saturday, February 9, 4:30 p.m.; Patrick Henry High School, 6702 Wonderland Drive. (SAN CARLOS)

ARC Trio New and original jazz music by Rick Helzer (piano), Justin Grinnell (acoustic bass), Nathan Hubbard (percussion) for First Thursday Concert, 760-819-4329. Thursday, February 7, 7 p.m.; Escondido Library, 239 South Kalmia Street. (ESCONDIDO)

Assad Brothers Brazilian Guitar Festival Brazilian-born Grammy Award winners Sergio and Odair Assad share “vitality of their Brazilian guitar with exceptional artistry, innovation and expression.” Duo joined by guitarist, vocalist Badi Assad.
<table>
<thead>
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| THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7 | MUZELLE  
CASKETS ON PARADE  
ENCURSOS  
IN EVERY BREATH |
| SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9 | THREE BAD JACKS  
THE CATHOUSE THUMPERS  
THE HandsOME DEVILS  
THE ORANGE VELVETS |
| WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13 | HEART THROB  
CLAY PIGEONS • LENNY HANDS  
SIGHPHUR ONE • THUMTAC  
B.R.L.S • VASH THA  
STAMPEDE • BUCKY ADAMS |
| FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15 | DAVE MATTHEWS BAND  
EXPERIENCE |
| SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16 | YSAEL MaldONADO  
ROOTS COVENANT |
| SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16 | AFRIKA BAMBAATAA  
(Grateful Dead tribute) |
| FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22 | ROCKIN’ JOHNNY WHITE PRESENTS  
FOIL  
BLUE SKY BLONDE  
SIRENS OF SHIPWRECK  
CHILDREN OF NOVA |
| SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23 | B.SIDE PLAYERS  
(HIVE)  
SECOND AREA HOSTED  
BY SOCAL SELECTRESS |
| SATURDAY, MARCH 1 | DEAD MAN’S PARTY  
(Oingo Boongo Tribute)  
LONG DUC DONGS |

**UPCOMING**

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
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| FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8 | FISHBONE  
DIRTY HEADS • ONE DROP  
THE CONCRETE PROJECT |
| SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9 | DAVE MATTHEWS BAND  
EXPERIENCE |
| FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15 | DAVE MATTHEWS BAND  
EXPERIENCE |
| SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16 | AFRIKA BAMBAATAA  
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| SATURDAY, MARCH 1 | DEAD MAN’S PARTY  
(Oingo Boongo Tribute)  
LONG DUC DONGS |

**ON BROADWAY**

- **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15:** FEDDE LE GRAND  
- **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16:** DAVE AUDE

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San Diego Reader February 7, 2008

Barbershop! Barbershop singing celebrating Valentine’s Day for ongoing music series. Offering, 8:58-273-1480. Sunday, February 10, 7 p.m.; St. Mark’s United Methodist Church, 3502 Clarmont Drive. 858-273-1480. (CLAREMONT)

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San Diego
February 7, 2008

MORE MUSIC

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Doo-Wop! The Alley Cats & Annapurna's fouspom discus song performance of the '50s and '60's. Offering, 8:59-448-4831. Sunday, February 10, 4 p.m.; San Diego United Methodist Church, 6540 Cowles Mountain Boulevard. (SAN CARLOS)

Jazz at the Athenaeum Solo piano performance by Danny Zeitlin. 858-454-5872. Saturday, February 9, 7:30 p.m.; $18-$23. Athenaeum Music and Arts Library. 1008 Wall Street. 858-454-5872. (LA JOLLA)

World-Class Contrabass
UCSD faculty member Mark Dresser for Concert Hour Series in Palomar College Performance Lab (room D-10), 760-744-1130. $23. Thursday, February 7, 7:30 p.m.; Palomar College, 1140 West Mission Road. (SAN MARCOS)

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SAN DIEGO READERS: FEBUARY 7, 2008
When football season was in full swing, there was a surprise birthday party for Tony. He had just gotten back from Iraq. It was in Del Cerro, and I arrived after Tony showed up.

Tony’s cousin Raymond said, “I was taking him golfing, along with his brother from Oregon. It was a struggle at first to get him out of the house. He didn’t want to wake up early.”

Tony’s girlfriend came over and told me about all the friends and family who helped decorate while he was on the links. As she was explaining this to me, a guy named Jimmy was showing everyone the scorecard from the golf game. I assumed Jimmy’d won.

Tony’s girlfriend mentioned that they were engaged, and I asked how he proposed. “Well, we were in Hawaii, in a bar. He had asked my dad first. Then, all of the sudden, he’s moving bar stools around, looking on the floor. I asked him what he was doing. He said ‘Looking for something.’ I started to help him look, and when I found the ring I said, ‘This?’”

I overheard one guy yell at his friend, “I told you, don’t tell me anything that happened in the Utep game. I’m recording it.” I leaned over and said, “But that interception that was run back for a touchdown was awesome.” The guy screamed, and said, “You work at the Reader? Well, I’ve lived in every zip code in San Diego, and I have a question about zip codes to me. When I worked at the post office, I saw that Pacific Beach had over 42 letter carriers for the various streets. And long streets like Grand and Garnet had 18 different carriers alone. I imagine if a street is long enough, it can go into a different zip code.”

Another guy suggested, “Call Caltrans, they’ll know. Of course, it’ll take five of them standing around and talking for four hours.”

I overheard a couple of guys I thought were soldiers talking about injuries. One of them said something about teeth being knocked out and that if you put them in milk right away you could have them put back in your mouth. Maybe I’ll ask Matthew Alice that question.

I wasn’t sure if one of them actually had this happen to them or if it was about someone they knew.

One guy was willing to tell me about his various injuries. “When I was in Iraq, a few of the injuries were stupid. I mean, one time I was blown out of a building. That sounds like the type of injury you should hear about during a war. But, one of my embarrassing injuries is when I tripped running upstairs. I got hurt pretty bad, too.” He then told me about a friend of his from Australia who was doing a documentary in Iraq. He told me the filmmaker broke his leg trying to start a motorcycle.

I told him that when I interviewed comedian Ritch Shydner years ago, he had a cast
on his leg. He was reluctant to tell me what happened but finally admitted that he bought a motorcycle, against his wife’s wishes. When he went to ride it the first day, he hadn’t put the kickstand up. He described it as a motorcycle doing a pirouette before it crashed down on his leg. He said, “I might just leave all that out next time I tell the story and just say it was a motorcycle accident.”

In the back yard, there were several tables set up with food and alcohol. One guy was fixing a fajita. He was putting a little of everything in it, and when he put pineapples on the tortilla, a woman nearby said, “You’re a pro at that.” He said, “Well, at putting stuff in it. I’m just not sure what it’ll taste like.” When he got to the end of the table, the thing was about a foot thick.

I was wearing a Doors T-shirt, and a woman complimented me on it. We started talking and she said she had an old boyfriend who worked for the Doors. She told me about hanging out on the beach with keyboardist Ray Manzarek. When I mentioned a Doors boardist Ray Manzarek. She started talking and she said, “Hey, maybe he did learn something from Morrison.” Someone nearby heard this and said, “Hey, maybe he did learn something from Morrison. Like how to do drugs.”

We also talked about the lawsuit between the Doors drummer and the rest of the group for rights to the band name. The drummer won, and the band changed their name to Riders on the Storm. She knew details about the case that hadn’t been reported but was reluctant to give me any info.

I went over to talk to Tony again. I told him the silver tricycle I saw in the back yard looked like it was 100 years old. “Do you want to ride it?” he slurred. “No,” I said. “I just wondered how old it was.” He said, “I don’t know. We f***ing stole it from a school. But, we take it down this huge hill once in a while.”

I went to grab a Coke and overheard some guy say that Orville Redenbacher lived on Coronado. I told the guy that a friend of mine was once in a movie theater line in Mission Valley and was standing behind him. Someone approached Redenbacher for an autograph, and he said, “I don’t give autographs, but you can have this.” He handed the guy a card, turned around to my friend, and asked, “Do you want one?” My buddy thought it would be something that would get him a free bag of popcorn. Instead, it was a business card that read, “I met Orville Redenbacher, the popcorn king.”

I said, “I wonder if you meet King Stahlman, does he give you a Monopoly-style ‘Get out of jail free’ card?”

Crash your party? Call 619-235-3000 x421 and leave an invitation for Josh Board.

Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com
Sally’s has a long-standing reputation as one of San Diego’s most romantic destinations for lovers. It’s an outbuilding behind the Manchester Grand Hyatt at the edge of Seaport Village (so, fans of antique rock, you’ll be sneaking to Sally’s through the alley). It’s got plenty of warm-weather outdoor seating and views of cityscapes and bayscapes from the picture windows of the interior. Until recently the menu was modern French, through a series of French-born chefs who knew and mentored each other in an unbroken succession and invariably moved on to Bertrand at Mr. A’s in a stately, continuous procession.

Two years ago, the hotel management decided to switch the cooking style to Asian-fusion, with a stronger focus on seafood (always featured, but less intensively than now). With the arrival a few months ago of German-born chef Sarah Linkenheir, the French line is broken. The ambience has subtly changed, too, in an apparent attempt to skew younger. Whatever the canned music was when I ate at Sally’s a few years ago, I didn’t notice it. This time it was edgy modern rock, a more abrasive sound, and played much louder. I went to Sally’s expecting a Valentine’s Day destination for serious couples. I’m sure (at least I hope) they’ll make some adjustments for the occasion with mellower, more sophisticated sounds, but on an ordinary night I’d now see it more as a destination for an impressive first date or a serious third one.

It’s not so easy to change identities, and possibly not even a good idea. If Sally’s is trying to capture the Gaslamp crowd, it doesn’t seem to be working very well. Our fellow diners midweek were the notorious Japengo Thursday-night set, or the Stingaree weekend gang — who probably wouldn’t feel quite at home at civilized Sally’s in any case. There were a few tables of thirtysomethings but more silverbacks, who were probably as annoyed with the music as I was. Sally’s was always a relaxing place for conveniences to avoid the Gaslamp meat-market scene, as well as a place for loving locals to try sweetly and discreetly. But the management still has some good instincts: At one point during my dinner, a large party (8? 12? who’s counting?) entered and were carefully seated at a table well away from other diners — a considerate strategy.

Aside from the ice-cold (near-frozen) butter that came with the table bread, our starters were nearly all vibrant and arresting — although I missed the raw oysters and cold seafood platter of the old days. A “Napoleon” of raw abalone, lightly cured salmon (gravlax, not lox), and avocado, layered with a few thin fried wonton crackers, was silky and ultra-fresh. Everything in the combination, down to the soy-oyster sauce and furikake seasoning mixture (sesame, seaweed, dried shrimp), worked in perfect harmony. The portion is generous enough to share with a friend or a sweetie, every bite a blast of maritime freshness.

An Asian lobster salad, on the other hand, is more salad than lobster — a busy plateful of Napa cabbage, red Belgian endive, mandarin orange sections, “lightbulb” tomatoes, sweet onions, and fried wonton-skin crostons in a sweet, fruity papaya vinaigrette. Now and then you can even find a bite of lobster hiding under a cabbage leaf, but doing so is no occasion for rejoicing. The bulk Pacific lobster meat, which arrives frozen, has lost its flavor in the chill and tastes almost neutral. (A week later, I met very similar lobster in a pot pie at Urban Solace in North Park, so it must be going around right now, like a winter cold.) The menu is about to change and incorporate a fresh lobster dish, so this and other preparations involving crustaceans are likely to improve.

An appetizer plate for two includes nearly all the remaining starter choices. Sally’s famous crab cakes (with King and Maryland blue crab) seem unaltered by time and chef changes — still refined and delicate, lightly coated, with almost no filler. They are pretty much the definitive crab cakes of San Diego, even when miniaturized for the sampler platter. Tempura prawns are sweet and tender, robed in a mere whisper of batter. A Hunan duck quesadilla, a thin flour tortilla rolled around a filling of duck and smoked Gouda, is cut into conical sections like a sushi roll and plated over a daub of wasabi mole, wherein the wasabi is so subtle you can’t really taste it. “This is very delicate,” said one of my tablemates approvingly. Pacific lobster bisque, our least favorite part of the sampler, arrived in two demitasse cups, but without spoons. At the bottom of each cup were small cubes of indentifiable starchy solids — Kabscha pumpkin, the menu told us. Spoons would really help. (I have visions of desperate Heimlich maneuvers to dislodge slurped-up pumpkin pieces.) The soup itself is rather thin:
It could pass for a light Mediterranean tomato-seafood broth, a base for a bouillabaisse rather than a bisque. Apparently, too, it suffers from bland lobster meat issues.

It’s almost a given that restaurants with great starters will slump a bit on the main course. Here, one of our entries was sublime — the others, not. As I learned from one of Sally’s previous chefs (after he decamped for Mr. A’s), unlike the Marriot chain (with Arterra and Molly’s), the Hyatt group has not yet seen the wisdom of investing in local, seasonal, and organic ingredients — although the current chef is pushing toward use of naturally raised fish and poultry, where the flavor difference is unmistakable. It’s not as bad as Sysco veggie medleys, but in small ways, if you’ve been eating at top local destinations, you’ll probably notice the slight fall-off in flavor from what you’d expect at this price point.

The star entrée was black cod (aka sake), among the finest and fattiest of all fishes. It arrived tenderly poached in a subtle broth of orange, miso, and bonito, a gentle, perfect dish. Accompanied by rice, baby favas, and pea greens, it was deeply satisfying. Moonfish (Hawaiian opah) is a prettier critter with flashing rainbows of opalescent skin when it’s alive, a scuba diver’s darling. When I tasted it a few years ago, fresh caught and cooked to tenderly translucent (not opaque) at a Honolulu seafood restaurant, it was a rare treat — but like its compatriot ono (or “oh, not” as some local call it), it seems to lose a lot in transit. Here, the filet was smoky garlic crust, with a butter sauce flavored with vanilla and mirin (Japanese sweet cooking wine), sounded pretty to the palate, along with accompaniments of baby spinach and wasabi mashed potatoes (the latter proving very lean, with just a tiny wasabi kick) — but the precious fish was cooked through to relatively well done, moist only at the very center, and that’s all she wrote. It wasn’t because the chef had problems with conversion; sending fish back for more cooking (although she’s appalled when tables ask for halibut “well done”) but that she herself prefers opah cooked this way, at least after its long air journey. (She finds it too chewy when lightly cooked, and indeed, it may be, served 48 hours later when than when I ate it fresh-caught in Honolulu.)

Pan-seared diver scallops were beautiful thick hunks, and tender, but so oversalted they tasted as if they’d been marinated in brine. They came with a lychene relish and sweet-tomato compote, but the garnishes didn’t matter much once the line-cook stuffed his toe on the salt shaker.

We also tried the evening’s special, a poached-grilled free-range chicken breast. Our waiter — radiating enthusiasm, knowledge, and intelligent good looks — had sampled it just before dinner service began. Cooked by the chef herself, it was exquisitely tender, he said. Hours later, we were not as lucky. Cooked-dry breast abets the flight of even the freeest bird.

Sally’s desserts (aside from those served at the “chef’s table” dinners, which chef Linkenheil prepares personally) are designed by the chef and executed by the hotel’s pastry kitchen. The surprise hit for us was a banana-caramel lumpia (the Filipino version of a spring roll — a crisp-fried dough wrapper that’s more typically stuffed with savory ingredients like ground pork, shrimp, and bean sprouts). The delicate, crumbly wrapper bought off the hash weight of the fruit and the richness of the sauce, restoring the balance of sweet and savory flavors. I was less pleased with a coconut panna cotta. I love coconut and adore panna cotta — ideally an ethereal, gelatin-stiffened cream confection, softly creamy like a maiden’s breast — but too much gelatin rendered this version as firmly bouncy as a silicone implant.

Sally’s still has plenty of potential for V-Day: Seafood is light on the tummy, not liable to cause premature snoozing on that special night. The chef plans a special menu for that evening but hadn’t finalized it when I spoke with her. (Hey, how about a raw oyster appetizer for a V-Day aphrodisiac?) All that’s really needed to restore the romance to the atmosphere is a change of soundtrack, from whatever “share the pain” Goth group they were playing to, say, the Coltrane for Lovers CD or equivalent.

Sally’s shouldn’t even try to be a bridge-and-tunnel young scientists’ hangout, never gonna happen — so act your age, lovely lady, and you’ll attract your lovers!

ABOUT THE CHEF

Thanks to a semester as an exchange student in Ohio, Sarah Linkenheil speaks American English with a faint German accent. “Germans aren’t the greatest cooks, but my mom would bake, and I really enjoyed that. And I started making breakfast for my parents, and I really liked that, too. My mom was the big inspiration. And then in high school, I was always the one to make food for my friends, with ideas about what to make, what to bring. And I decided to start my apprenticeship to learn to do it professionally.” At 18, in 1998, she began apprenticing with the Swissotel Dusseldorf. There are still relatively few women chefs in the world, least of all at hotels and other top destinations. I asked Sarah if she’d encountered any professional barriers because of her gender during her education or career. “Not really. I always felt like I always outside everybody,” she laughed. “I was fortunate, because I had a little more basic education than the people that usually started to cook professionally in Germany. I was already 18½, and these kids that had just started to cook were 16, so I was more mature, already taking things a little more seriously. I was very competitive — but I did know a lot more than the guys did that I worked with. It gave me, early on, the idea that I can handle this, oh, yeah. You do have to fight your way through, you have to do the smoke-talking, you just got to keep up with everybody else, and I was usually worse than everybody else. I know how rough restaurants usually are.”

Sarah continued learning as she gained experience at major European resorts in Switzerland, and later in Vail, Colorado, where she met her husband (who is a line-chef at Arterra). “We were quite done with the cold and snow, so we looked into where else we could go. I was with Hyatt already and kept an eye onto all the job openings, and Sally’s turned up one day, and I applied and got the job.”

“The switch to Asian fusion happened at Sally’s in November–December 2006. I learned about Asian flavors here; I’ve never traveled to Asia, but for I’ve never traveled to Asia, but for a long time I’ve been fascinated by the types of food and spices and techniques used there. Coming from Germany and Switzerland, I have to say that the flavors are a little bland — the farther north of the equator you are, the blander the flavors. It’d be better to go there [to Asia] and learn from people who really know the cuisines and cook them every day, but I’m very fortunate here that my bosses [the hotel executive chefs] are extensively traveled, and they know all kinds of different cuisines. That definitely is my way of learning, and I learn every day. The chef in overall charge of the hotel food is from Hawaii, so he knows all these Asian cuisines. Maybe they need to send me to Hawaii to taste the food there.”

“I do like the way it’s changed in this city. From what I hear, eating in San Diego has changed a lot in the last ten years. I hope to be opening even more people’s horizons to different foods, different flavors, and I hope they will go for it and won’t be afraid to taste new things. I think we [Sally’s] are doing a good thing by not trying to fit too tightly into any bracket — we hope that people will try everything and not be afraid of something they haven’t tasted before.”

Note: Next week I’m taking a desperately needed breather and will not deliver a review. Doesn’t mean I’ve died with my boots on, I’m just inhaling deeply, cleaning house, planting Chinese greens, and doing the overdue laundry while I start work on a project that may take a little extra time. See you the week after.

Valentine’s Day Sweetheart Menu at the Torreyana Grill
February 14 to 16, 2008

First Course
Wild Mushroom Strudel
Madera and Creme Fraiche
or Seared Scallop with Braised Spinach
Soy Wasabi Beurre Blanc

Second Course
Essence of Crab Soup “Olympic”
Minced Chives and Poppy Fleurons
or Petite Greens with Roasted Pear and Gorgonzola
Candied Pecans and Champagne Vinaigrette

Main Course
Petite Filet of Beef Tenderloin, Shitake Glaze
Gruyere Potato Stack and Fresh Vegetables
or Pan-Seared Fillets of Local Sea Bass, Mango Dijon Sauce
Truffle-Scented Mashed Potatoes and Fresh Vegetables

Dessert
Strawberry Grand Mariner “Heart”
creme Anglaise and Raspberry Coulis
or Chocolate Amaretto Torto, Mocha Sauce and Fresh Berries
$65 per person plus tax and gratuity with Wine Pairing $85 per person plus tax and gratuity

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San Diego Reader February 7, 2008
Boa Constrictor Flex-Gut

“If the cops come, you gotta remember, rules of the street. See nothin’, say nothin’. ”

Guys asleep on the sidewalk. Guys shuffling past with walking sticks. Guys pushing shopping carts filled with their belongings. Guys rolling by in electric scooters with whiskplash aerials and a faded Old Glory flicking at the top.

Man, I feel guilty just eating.

I’m loaded with food out here on the three-table, two-umbrella patio of Super Junior Market & Deli. It’s on Seventh Avenue, between the trolley and Broadway, just beyond the smart B Street banking district and its lunchtime sandwich crowd. Here, we’re next door to a tattoo parlor. Lucky’s, and look across to a kind of storage place where people load ATMs on and off trucks.

“Got two bucks?” says this gal who’s stopped beside the railing. “I need a beer. Ice House costs $1.25.”

At least she’s honest. What the heck. Got a few spare today. I hand over two Washingtons.

Twenty minutes ago, I was heading toward Broadway to catch me a bus, when, hey. Noticed this market with a deli inside, and promises of real food. Oh, yeah. Lunchtime. Suddenly, I felt this market with a deli inside, and promises of real food. Oh, yeah. Lunchtime. Suddenly, I felt...

The Place:
Super Jr. Market & Deli, 1036 Seventh Avenue, downtown, 619-232-6367

Prices:
Breakfast sandwich with egg, cheese, bell pepper, red onion, $2.99; egg, cheese, potato burrito, $3.99; cheese, potato omelet with sausage, ham, or bacon — for $4.99. Most expensive is the “Seventh Avenue Omelet,” with the lot: meat, cheese, bell peppers, mushrooms, $5.99.

Then I notice a hot cabinet at the far right of the counter. It holds heated combos, some you wouldn’t expect. Like rice and sautéed potatoes with beef fajita for…whack! $1.99. A chunky pork chop for $9.99.

“A little a deal, ” I say. “What’s the deal?”

“They’re leftover items from yesterday,” Romy says. “We combine them into dishes.”

So, hot diggity. I grab that $1.99 combo before it goes. Then I get down and continue the sandwich hunt. I know. I’ve already got enough food with two bucks, but I just like the sound of the California sandwich: roast turkey, bacon, avocado, Swiss cheese, and the usual fixin’s, $5.99.

I also see Phillies on the list, and clubs, Jr. Specials, tuna melts, torpedoes, and even a chicken pita. Average cost’s around six clams. “This is where I want to get myself a name,” says Trung. “With dishes that are original. I am 23. I want to prove interesting doesn’t have to be expensive.”

Another guy comes out. Omar. He’s Chaldean American. This is his family’s market. Has been since 1976 (and it was going 20 years before that). “We want to upgrade,” Omar says. “Do more original cooking. Gourmet taste, but keep the prices affordable.”


“Tell me you’re not going to ditch the deals,” the $1.99 leftover specials?

“No, no. Don’t worry. We’ll always have leftovers. Better not to toss them.”

Next time I drop in, Trung has moved on. Guess that’s showbiz. His replacement is as talented. But that’s not the main thing. Having a Corden Bleu chef in the deli is all well and good — but when you’re tapped out? Knowing where you can fill your gut for less than a couple of clams! Priceless.

Celebrate Valentine’s Day with beautiful waterfront dining!
Love is in the air, love is on your plate, and love is having a romantic dinner here at the Boathouse.

Live Maine Lobster $21 95
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Plus a limited regular dinner menu.
Thursday, February 14, 4:30-10 pm.
Reservations required. Dinner & drink specials.

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Jarhead Red

“Before they deploy, it’s a tradition to have this dinner — and wine, and a cigar.”

First for Right and Freedom,” reads the title of the big military print on the tasting room wall at Carlsbad Wine Merchants. The painting depicts a group of Marines moving along a ruined wall and behind a blown-out car, firing at an enemy off somewhere to the left. Below the image is a brass plaque: “Thank you for your support and friendship from the Marines and Sailors of Weapons Company 3rd Battalion, First Marines.”

It’s not exactly standard tasting room decor. But it’s entirely in keeping with the character of Kathy Bankerd’s enterprise. Carlsbad is home to a goodly number of bottle shops, all laboring in the shadow of the Carlsbad Costco, which sells more wine than any other Costco in America. (And Costco, of course, sells more wine than any other retailer in America.) To survive, she says, “I knew that there had to be a sense of community. I thought, ‘If we’re going to carry the name of the city, then we should be involved with the city’s causes.’ People really going to carry the name of the city, then we should to be a sense of community. I thought, ‘If we’re
tica.) To survive, she says, “I knew that there had
to make her store a destination. “Sort of
this wine — and wine, and a cigar.”

The Boys and Girls Club receives similar at-
tention. “Every January, we do a tasting of the
top 100 wines from the year before, and a por-
tion of that goes to the club.” And when it
comes time for the club’s annual gala, the wine on the table is the shop’s house label, Carlsbad Red. “During the month surrounding the gala, we
do a special of Carlsbad Red. We sell back to the club. It’s an opportunity for
the samples down. It’s a blend of Sonoma Zin-
fandel and Lodi Petite Sirah — the Sonoma grapes like the little bit of sweetening the inland fruit gives them. We actually did the blending here in the back room. John flew down, and as we came up with the different blends, we had a team of cus-
tomers here to try them. They tasted them and
voted on them, and that’s how we developed the
blend. It really was designed to be an expression of the community — to reflect the community’s tastes and lifestyle. It’s become our number-one seller; we sell about 300 cases annually. We did a Zinfandel reserve one year, and now we’re looking to add a Cabernet and a white. People love shipping it to relatives and friends.”

But community involvement was only part of the campaign. Bankerd also had to overcome shipping it to relatives and friends.”

For Carlsbad Wine Merchants, that means a sense of camaraderie, “a spirit of wanting to help peo-
ple find the right wine.” Some stores, she says, “have good wines, but nobody knows. Somebody
says, ‘This gets marked up five percent,’ and out it goes on the floor. Nobody knows if it’s a good wine.” Bankerd might charge more, “but we’ll tell you it’s a good wine, and it’s worth $12, or whatever we’re charging.”

And if you can avoid price wars altogether, so much the better. “A year ago, I opened a sec-
ond store up in Northern California — my son runs it. It’s called Pleasant Hill, and it’s the same
Concept, I had a lot of concerns, because the store is right at the gateway to Napa and Sonoma, but people embraced it dramatically. I couldn’t believe how well-versed they were. Within three or four months, his wine club was off the ground — subscribers who could be counted on to buy a certain amount of wine every month — was at 400. It’s that same concept — great customer service, great selection. And the selection is key. He’ll taste the wine from a small winery up there that may be selling only to the Northern California market. If he likes the wine, ‘he’ll work with them on pricing, and we’ll do a combined buy. I can get a different selection of wines in my shop, and it also opens up a competitive pool. I have something unique.

And notes Banker, “unique” doesn’t necessarily mean “wildly expensive.” “We’re finding some hidden gems up there. We’ve got a Chardonnay, Dancing Vine, that’s phenomenal — you can put it up against any $20 bottle. We sell it for $9.99. It was just the price, and boom.”

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Cannot be used with 10% off entire check offer.

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10% Off Entire Check

$14 minimum purchase.

*One per table. Not valid with any other offers, discount or special. Expires 2/29/08.

Kings Inn

Kings Inn

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Amigo Spot

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Choice of beef, chicken or fish entree • Dessert

Available all day for reservations

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Buy one lunch or dinner entrée and two drinks and receive one entrée of equal or lesser value free. Excludes holidays. With this ad. Expires 2/14/08.

Basil Thai Bistro
8680 Naavo Road, Suite 104 (at Lake Murray Blvd.)
San Diego • 619-460-TBAI (8424)

Valentine’s Day in Portugal & Brazil! Authentic three-course Portuguese dinner, bottle of wine, dessert and belly dancing show. $100 per couple When you mention this ad. Show only: $15 per person after 8 pm Call 619-222-7678 for reservations.

Portugalia
San Diego’s first and only Portuguese restaurant 4839 9th Avenue • Ocean Beach Catering available www.sdportugalia.com

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Valentine’s Day
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GRAND OPENING
Free Thai Entrée

P. F. Chang’s China Bistro — La Jolla 4340 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla, 858-456-9607. Okay, you’re look- ing at the launch of a giant horse right outside your corner window, and there don’t seem to be any actual Chi- nese people among the wait staff. But this busy mall Chinese chain (150 plus restaurants) has a certain cool. These 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 Can- tonese roast duck not that fresh. But there are soups, 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 op- tions, informal room decorated with strings of Christmas lights resembles an ethnic community center — and in- deed, O.B. is home to a long-term Por- tuguese fishing community. The fasci- nating menu is split between the homeland and its former colony, Brazil, including several coconut-milk- smoothed seafood dishes from tropical Bahia that are rarely found locally. The array of appetizers from both countries embraces addictive batatas de bacal- haus (salt cod fritters) and rosto deca- marão (head pastry pockets filled with shrimp). For entrées you can choose Portuguese specialties like the earthy game de cau (collards with chic peas) or Brazil’s frio açaí (spicy beef) or even an African-inspired fricã de macauçu (bark with shellfish). There’s also a real-time option of skew- ered meats and/or seafood. Save room for the owner’s homemade desserts, especially pastéis de nata (del- icate custard-filled pastries). Por- tuguese wines, full bar. Not all dishes always available. Service quality vari- able. Long staircase up to second-floor restaurant. Live music most nights af- ter 10 p.m. Easy parking. Lunch and dinner Tuesday through Sunday, to midnight or later except Sundays. Moderate. — K.W.

Rum Jungle Smoothies and Deli 4150 Mission Boulevard #153, Pacific Beach, 858-227-2227. Why do Brazil- ians have more fun? Acai (ah-sah-cii). Why do Brazilians settle in PB? Maybe it’s because Rum Jungle Smoothies serves up açaí, the flesh of a Brazilian palm fruit, for breakfast. The dark pur- ple mush comes from the acai palm that grows around the Amazon River delta. Rum Jungle adds granola, ba- nana, strawberries, blueberries, mango pieces, and honey to make a surpris- ingly filling breakfast. Of course this bright little place has lots of other smoothies, too, along with sandwiches. But the acai power fruit bowl is what keeps them coming back. Open until 6 p.m. daily. Inexpensive. — J.B.

Tapenade 7412 Fay Avenue, La Jolla, 858-551-7500. This is not only one of the finest restaurants in the county but also keeps them coming back. Open until 6 p.m. daily. Inexpensive.

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Baja

From the United States use the prefix 011-52 when calling Mexico
El Arrecife Calle Collins 223B, Baja, 664-200-2485. Think of it as a Mexican take on an American institution, the burger joint. In this setting, upper-midle-class neighborhood, Daniel Ludin Gomez Vaca set up a hip little spot (“The Reef”) where he specializes in...octopus burgers. Actually, octopus, shrimp, beef, or chicken burgers. Or mix. One of the best is octopus and shrimp with cheese and bacon. The children of Tijuana’s elite come here to watch soccer, eat, and hang out, even though it’s cramped and hard underground. The menu has healthier alternatives, such as chicken salad or shrimp salad, but it’s the octopus that has made him famous. Open noon to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

El Cid Lopez Mateos #993, Baja, 664-178-1409. This restaurant is at the heart of the tourist district, but the cooking and service are way above coach class. Look in the Specialties section of the huge menu for the most interesting selections. Grilled quail with rose petal sauce (famed from “Lake Water for Chocolate”) proves outrageously delicious, and the seasonal chiles en nogada (must-stuff pollofino with wal-nut cream and pomegranate) gain refinement from grassesse ground soil. 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 azúcar (caramel sauce) make a very grand finale. Fully bilingual staff. English menu available. Vegetarian. —E.B.

Rica Torta Nitos Herrera Avenida #990, Baja, 664-857-8579. This café may have the best tortas (all them Mexican-style hamburgers) in Tijuana. Six-inch rashers of marinated carne asada, slices of ham, squares of cheese, chopped salad, tomato slices, fresh- scopped avocado...it’s a double-wide, double-high burger. The menu has 14 different kinds of tortas, from churros with eggs to beefsteak rancheros, all served in huge, three-ribbed, cryo-packet Mexican hard tortas. There’s other stuff, too, but to a burger buff, one of these is quite enough. Vegetarian upon request. Open seven days. Inexpensive. — E.B.

El Rodeo Boulevard Salinas #1667, Baja, 664-666-5640. This 30-year-old steak house sits on traffic-divided Salinas, but climbs onto its porch and you’re at some Somente desert ranch, saguaro cacti and all. Inside it’s dark, wood and brick, wagen wheel, lariat, rifles, longhorns, and generous amounts of cattle-ranch food. Entree price includes a delicious soup of meaty beef juices, beans cooked in their own juices, a quasadilla, a salad, two fromac (stack) plates, of, say, vinegar veggie and potatoes, and a beef liver medley, fried tortillas, chips, and hot sauce. You can get any cut of steak you want. A porkchop — BBQ dish — gives you marinated beef rib, carne asada, and barbecued chicken, all aning on a ru-cho-style metal tabletop that glows with hot coals. Best part: the roasted spring onions playd across the meat. Dessert and coffee also included. Vegetarian upon request. Open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. — E.B.

Valarta Natural Boulevard Agua Caliente (just before El Torre de Tijuana), Baja, 664-188-1900. Maybe the most smoke-free restaurant in Tijuana, this vegetarian haven was started in 1996 by health-conscious Doctor Georgina Vallarta de Alcantara. They make their own tortillas, any hash, breads, rolls, sauces — and “meats” like a voice from their own wheat gluten — daily. You sit at wooden tables and chairs near blue-framed yellow walls split- tered with Tavurine ceramic signs. At breakfast, try the tatorada salina, a mix of eggs, spinach, mushrooms, onions, and chile. For lunch (and it’s usually busiest around three), there’s excellent soup, cablé tallow,opped with cheese, rice, avocados, and chile, will fill you nicely. The any lamburgers are good, but go for the tortas, which has that gluten melange along with cheese, avocado, and jalapeño. Good organic coffee. Wonderful juices, especially the cactus — if you need cleaning out. Open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

La Vuelta Avenida Revolucion #6310, Baja, 664-685-7300. Bring your lover here and hide away in one of the cuddly corner—nooks. Even if traffi- c is ghostly at “the turn” (“El Túnel”) where Revolution block left, you for- got all that inside this vestige of Olde Ti- juana, with balcony seating, resident mariachis, and food and drink all day and night. Dive into a carnivorous menu (chile rojo, tacos, and Enchilada) or come aed aed in an olle de borro, an earthenware pot from Guadalajara. Even the gringo-sound...
All-You-Can-Eat Sushi Bar $22.95 per person

With this ad. Up to 5 persons. Reg. $24.95.

Lunch Daily 11:30 am-2 pm
Dinner Daily 5-9 pm

Appetizers: Gyoza, Egg Roll, Soft Shell Crab, Miso Soup, Shrimp Tempura, Chicken Teriyaki, Agedashi Tofu, Green Salad, Rice

Nigiri Sushi: Albacore, Amaebi Avocado, Clam, Crab, Eel, Egg, Inari, Hamachi, Ikura, Saba, Smelt Egg, Octopus, Oyster, Salmon, Scallop, Shrimp, Smoked Salmon, Squid, Tuna, Uni, Red Snapper

Cut Rolls: California, Caterpillar, Cucumber, Philly, Rainbow, Cut Rolls:

Hand Rolls: Eel, Salmon Skin, Scallop, Crab, Spicy Tuna, Shrimp, Vegetable

With this ad. Up to 5 persons. Reg. $24.95.
Bulky’s East 2401 Camino del Rio South, Mission Valley, 619-281-2685. Despite the plasma TV sports screen, this place is very ‘60s. For example, the menu also offers fried chicken, burgers and sandwiches. Lonely? Go to the bar — Downtown, 619-211-6771. 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 and white shots of the late actress Maria Felix (Mexico’s Marilyn Mon-}
El Pollo Loco
2795 Main Street, North Park, 619-293-0475. Additional locations in Midway, Carmel Mountain, Chula Vista, El Cajon, Lemon Grove, National City, Poway, and more. This Mexican-style chicken fast food offers healthier, faster food. The flame-broiled chicken has crisp, finely seasoned, very salty skin; the flesh can vary from barely done to overdone, which is what I get. The bird (or any assortment of its parts) comes with sage green, tortillas, and a choice of side dishes that includes rice, sweet black beans, crisp and coleslaw, great smoky charred macaroni, and mashed potatoes. Help yourself to sauces (there are four varieties), chopped onions, lomos, cilantro, hot pepper. Stick with the chicken — the taquería-style dishes are hardly better than Taco Bell. Check for daily specials, which are usually half off. A bucket of cash will buy a huge amount of highly palatable poultry. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Ruth's Chris
474 Broadway, Downtown, 619-231-2002. Big and splashy, this Arizona-based chain restaurant tries to create a high-energy party atmosphere with loud music and leader. "Oriental" décor. Its signature menus feature sushi, sashimi, and host of Asian entrées, plus a few substantial non-Asian starters. There’s a mixture of the dire and the delicious. The predominant sauce is nondescript miso soup, delicate dilled salmon and seasoned kat. The miso soup is far from consistent from hour to hour and to restaurant to restaurant. The salmon was seared and perfectly cooked. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — N.W.

San Diego Seafood Restaurant
401 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-234-1618. Inexpensive.

The Radiation
4093 30th Street, North Park, 619-283-1618. It is becoming one of downtown's hotspots. It is a joint — except you're only paying six or eight bucks for main dishes. The Radiation offers all the crimes of any other bar — fun — but stick with the chicks — the taquería-style dishes are hardly better than Taco Bell. Check for daily specials, which are usually half off. A bucket of cash will buy a huge amount of highly palatable poultry. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Sushi • Cocktails • Lounge
1409 C Street
San Diego, CA 92101
Monday-Saturday 5-11 pm
Happy Hour 5-7 pm
Phone: 619-702-6010

Free entraée
Buy one entreée, get one of equal or lesser value free! One per party. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 2/3/08.

Sushi • Cocktails • Lounge
1409 C Street
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Phone: 619-702-6010
abounds here. While some can be heavy on the rice and light on the fish, others are triumphs. The Tohku Tempura Special Roll takes battered whitefish and wraps it around the seaweed casing, which is then fried with just-cooked whitefish and a host of garnishes — an exotic, yet homey fish-fish alternative. The Johnny Roll shows octopus at its most tender, but watch out for spot-light hugging white cream sauce. The simply rich can vary — a brilliant, whitefish and a host of garnishes — an which is then filled with just-cooked wrap it around the seaweed casing, unsophisticated to low moderate. — N.W.

Bernard O’Restaurant • 12437 Rancho Bernardo Rd., Rancho Bernardo, 858-487-7171. Chef Patrick Ponsaty, a master of flavor, reigns in this unpre- tentious but beautiful high-ceilinged bistro, producing creative, classic-based French menu even cuisine featuring fine seasonal ingredients. The food isn’t merely creative, it tastes heavenly — the man’s got a palate. You want to know what genuine (California-adapted) lobster bisque should be? Or squash at its best? This is the place — and desserts are ravishing, too. Service is mainly well-informed, enthusiastic fellows from who are right on the mark. Allowing wine list at all prices in- cludes top French growths at near-bar- gain markups, plus full bar. One vege- tarian entrée most seasons. Slightly dressy, reservations urged. Lunch Wednesday through Friday, dinner nightly. Excludes holidays. — N.W.

Bistro 211 • 211 East Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-731-7998. This genteel bistro — with comfortable chairs anderson-covered tables inside and a shaded patio on the sidewalk — is es- pecially tasty at lunch, with its sophis- ticated quahogas and a classic burger and fries cooked your way. At dinner simple starters shine, including a Florida version of gumbo and Mary- land crab cakes with minimal filler. The dinner entrées are also the best. — N.W.

Centre City Café • 2480 S. Escondido Boulevard, Escondido, 760-489-6011. In the quiet little “motel row” just north of Lake Hodges, this cute, friendly café serves classic American breakfast, lunch and dinners and offers fine certified-Angus grilled steaks. Many enjoy their potato-filled burritos and rolled tacos, especially tasty at lunch, with its sophis- ticated quesadillas and a classic burger and fries. — N.W.

China Max • 4608 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-450-3335. The diner is plain and bright, the sound level low, but this is a major resource for authentic Hong Kong cooking. — N.W.

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San Diego Italian Baker (851) 486-5800. Specializes in cornmeal breads, and cat-tered, slow-fermented breads made from natural ingredients. Classic items at this European-style bakery and bistro include a variety of scones and their famous chocolate chip rye bread. 

Sand Crabs Cafe — 2229 Micro Place, Escondido, 760-480-2722. Sandy Hoa and Hiep are the owners of this fun, funky dive in the wilds of industrial Escondido near the San Mar- torial Escondido. Try the ABC (avocado, bacon, and cheese) omelet, the 101 Original Cheeseburger (beef), and the 101 Original Whoopie Pie (a large, glorified nut-filled dessert treat). 

Molcajete Azteca — 9100 Ocean View Boulevard, Carlsbad, 760-740-5963. This European-style bakery specializes in hearty, hand-crafted, slow-fermented breads made from natural ingredients. Classic items at this European-style bakery and bistro include a variety of scones and their famous chocolate chip rye bread.

Sardi's — 1160 S. Girard Ave., San Diego, 619-289-5201. The theme here is '50s-style diner with clippy, chummy atmosphere. Try the Juicy Lucy, a burger with lots of cheese and a large portion of fries. 

Enjoy Coronado! Free entrance
With purchase of any entrée of equal or greater value and two drinks. Not to be combined with any other offers. Expires 2/22/08.

The best gourmet coffee for miles! coffee • tea • smoothies all-day breakfast & lunch
Large selection of fair trade coffees and teas. Open daily 6 a.m. – 7 p.m.

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*Free house coffee or tea with any purchase. ** 10% off order of equal or lesser value per person. Offer expires 2/22/08.

**Buy any entree, get second of equal or lesser value 50% off.

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**Buy any entree, get second of equal or lesser value 50% off.
Please provide the raw text of the document so I can read it naturally and generate the plain text representation.
Thanks to an attractive cast, the creamy cinematography of John Bailey, and the light touch of writer and first-time director Jeff Lowell, Over Her Dead Body is an uncommonly pleasant romantic-comic fantasy, in the Blithe Spirit spirit. A heavier touch would have easily been possible in dealing with a jealous ghost hell-bent on thwarting her former fiancé's first attempt at another relationship, a year after her wedding-day death. The "haunting" presence of a departed loved one carries a cargo of psychological truth, and the unfolding plot spells out the hypothetical question of whether you would want your remaining loved one, after your departure, to go on grieving your absence till the end of time or go on to be happy with someone else—a heart-versus-head question, no longer hypothetical. A heavier touch, needless to add, would have made matters decidedly less pleasant. The implications are clear enough without it. (The heavier touch is felt only in a burst, a splutter, a thunder of flatulence humor: fantasy flatulence, illusory flatulence, but flatulence nevertheless.)

The attractiveness of the cast deserves a closer look, a look beneath the attractive surface. The chronically underemployed Paul Rudd, as the man in the middle, is sufficiently low-key to signal that he has not forgotten his loss, but not so despondently low-key as to be hopelessly and off-puttingly out of reach. Eva Longoria Parker, whose name lost a little something in euphony when she added the surname of her new husband, San Antonio Spurs point guard Tony Parker, and whose screen character cloaks the actress in the white-bread name of "Katherine Anne Spencer," has an even trickier part to play. At the start, she must be so wound-up on her wedding day, so high-handed with the hired help, so near the point where we want to strangle her ourselves, that we don't feel too bad about it when an off-balance ice sculpture crushes her skull. The rest of the way, while essentially playing the villain, she must reclaim some humanity, provide some clue (if surface attractiveness is seen as insufficient) as to why Paul Rudd would ever have gotten engaged to her in the first place. I can't say she entirely pulls it off, but I can say, in sympathy, that her romantic rival—an upstart caterer and, on the side, an ungifted psychic—does her no favors. Lake Bell, whom I had never before seen nor heard of (a regular, I gather, on Boston Legal, among other TV series), can put up no competition in the glamour department. Coarse-featured, with a beaky nose, a strong brow and receding eyes, a wide and lopsided mouth, she suggests a Sandra Bernhard without the sneer. A healthy, earthy, outdoorsy type, she looks in full makeup—a rare occasion—vaguely like a drag queen. (Which reminds me to mention, among the attractions of the cast, Jason Biggs as a not altogether typical gay confidant, an inept partner in the catering business.) And even if she can be a bit of a motormouth, she's got a good muffler and a smooth gearshift. She made me smile. (Something Longoria Parker didn't.) In the average romantic comedy, she would likely be relegated to the bosom-buddy role, the Joan Cusack or Judy Greer role. Her casting in the lead, a nod to the comic over the romantic, and a nod to personality over pulchritude, amounts in contemporary Hollywood to a death-defying risk. I can only hope...
that others, on seeing the rewards, will take the risk, too. Those rewards, when you glance at the opening-weekend box-office report, are plainly not financial. Death was not defied.

The Eye, the first English-language enterprise of the young French filmmaking team of David Moreau and Xavier Palud, is a ho-hum Hollywood re-do of a Hong Kong horror, wherein a blind classical violinist receives corneal transplants and, along with them, blurry visions of the world around her, other worlds, past happenings, ghosts, and whatnot. (Is it normal, doctor, to see the souls of the departed being escorted by shades to the Other Side?) Her great tragedy had always been that she could not look in the mirror and see Jessica Alba, and the tragedy continues even after she regains her sight: the movie’s creepiest moment is precisely in front of a mirror. Her great blessing, by compensation, is that she could never see herself playing the violin: one moving part only, the right shoulder joint, like a cardboard-cutout puppet, the bent arm swinging back and forth on its hinge, the rest of her body stock-still. You wonder whether Alba, to “prepare” for the part, bothered to look at concert footage of Anne-Sophie Mutter, Sarah Chang, Leila Josefowicz, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, anybody at all.

In Bruges, the feature debut of writer-director Martin McDonagh, dispatches two British hit men to lie low, after a job with messy collateral damage, in the “fairy-tale” Medieval town near the coast of Belgium, where one of them (the tousled Brendan Gleeson) is interested in seeing the sights while the other (the tight-wire Colin Farrell) sizes the place up as a “shithole,” excepting only a Bosch masterpiece piece. Together they engage in forced, overwritten, exhibitionistic comic dialogue at some variance with the guilty conscience and the thoughts of suicide. Ralph Fiennes, attempting to do (if not outdo) Ben Kingsley in Sexy Heart, comes into it late as a hot-tempered, high-principled crime boss. A little later, bullets fly, blood flows. The beauties of the town survive all this, and even the wan photography.

Vince Vaughn’s Wild West Comedy Show: 30 Days and 30 Nights, Holly-

“HILARIOUS AND HEARTFELT. BRILLIANT BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE AMERICA LAUGH.”

- John Black, BostonNOW

Vince Vaughn’s WILD WEST COMEDY SHOW
30 DAYS AND 30 NIGHTS HOLLYWOOD TO THE HEARTLAND

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wood to the Heartland is pretty self-explanatory. About all the title leaves out are the names of the four lower-echelon standup comics on the bar-band tour organized and hosted by Vince Vaughn (alphabetically, Ahmed Ahmed, John Caparulo, Brett Ernst, and Sebastian Maniscalco) as well as the names of the thirty-stop ping stops on their itinerary, slightly revised in midcourse by Hurricane Katrina. The trip, recorded in the documentary video, is too lengthy for filmmaker Ari Sandel (another first-timer) to do justice to any aspect of it — the shape and pace of the comedians’ routines, the backstage activity, the life on the road — but you get whiffs, whiffs, of all of it, occasionally even a hint or whiff of humor.

**MOVIE LISTINGS**

All reviews are by Danae Shepherd. Reviews are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for now unidentified. Thousands of past reviews are sorted alphabetically, by showtime, release and by rating, are available online at SanDiegoReader.com.

**Atonement** — British, bookish period piece, from a 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 hip leads the three different actresses who play the role, Saoirse Ronan in the Thirties, Romola Garai in wartime, and Vanessa Redgrave in the present, to the era in modern day.) The movie starts rather sedately, despite some point-of-view tricks, in a commonplace country estate, and it then gets rather overwritten in the war sequences, including a marathon Standbeeld single-shot take of the excavation 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 Hayley Atwell, directed by Joe Wright. 2007.

**Cloverfield** — Didactic pedi-nic lesson on How the Systems Work, entertainingly illustrated by screenwriter Aaron Sorkin and director Mike Nichols. The titular war is the one between the Soviets and the Aflahim in the Reagan era, and Charlie Wilson is a nonfictional Texas Congressman (played with supreme complacency by Tom Hanks) who, ideally situated from the point of view of the era, was reasonably able to separate his glory eyes from an open safety pin and broker a covert alliance between the Pakistanis and the Israelis, combating the Evil Empire from behind the scenes. This is not your typical tale of the civilian spy getting involved, finding religion, committing himself to a cause. The protagonist’s preghistle ways are typical enough, and the refugee camp that opens his eyes is depicted very straight, but there remains, even after all that, a sense of irony of his crusade — more so for the audience than the character, who is more a bystander than any doer. (This film, in a way, is a testament to the character’s Mediterranean origins, goes Hanks one better (several better, in fact) as a disguised CIA spook who, instead of not getting the Finnish asign- ment after studying Finns, cannot even throw a tantrum without a wind. Not only does Hoffman walk away with the show, he also gets to recite the Buddhist parable whose punchline frames the entire picture, turning an unremarkable happy ending into an up-in-the-air ending, or in other words no ending at all. I know we too well what happens to Bob (Abraham) Adams, Emily Blunt, Ned Beatty. 2007.

**Cinderella Man** — In the title, I am referring to a cardboard cutout at the end of the lobby at a Miami nightclub. (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12)

**Charlie Wilson’s War** — Didactic pedi-nic lesson on How the Systems Work, entertainingly illustrated by screenwriter Aaron Sorkin and director Mike Nichols. The titular war is the one between the Soviets and the Aflahim in the Reagan era, and Charlie Wilson is a nonfictional Texas Congressman (played with supreme complacency by Tom Hanks) who, ideally situated from the point of view of the era, was reasonably able to separate his glory eyes from an open safety pin and broker a covert alliance between the Pakistanis and the Israelis, combating the Evil Empire from behind the scenes. This is not your typical tale of the civilian spy getting involved, finding religion, committing himself to a cause. The protagonist’s preghistle ways are typical enough, and the refugee camp that opens his eyes is depicted very straight, but there remains, even after all that, a sense of irony of his crusade — more so for the audience than the character, who is more a bystander than any doer. (This film, in a way, is a testament to the character’s Mediterranean origins, goes Hanks one better (several better, in fact) as a disguised CIA spook who, instead of not getting the Finnish asign- ment after studying Finns, cannot even throw a tantrum without a wind. Not only does Hoffman walk away with the show, he also gets to recite the Buddhist parable whose punchline frames the entire picture, turning an unremarkable happy ending into an up-in-the-air ending, or in other words no ending at all. I know we too well what happens to Bob (Abraham) Adams, Emily Blunt, Ned Beatty. 2007.

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**Clint Eastwood’s War** — Didactic pedi-nic lesson on How the Systems Work, entertainingly illustrated by screenwriter Aaron Sorkin and director Mike Nichols. The titular war is the one between the Soviets and the Aflahim in the Reagan era, and Charlie Wilson is a nonfictional Texas Congressman (played with supreme complacency by Tom Hanks) who, ideally situated from the point of view of the era, was reasonably able to separate his glory eyes from an open safety pin and broker a covert alliance between the Pakistanis and the Israelis, combating the Evil Empire from behind the scenes. This is not your typical tale of the civilian spy getting involved, finding religion, committing himself to a cause. The protagonist’s preghistle ways are typical enough, and the refugee camp that opens his eyes is depicted very straight, but there remains, even after all that, a sense of irony of his crusade — more so for the audience than the character, who is more a bystander than any doer. (This film, in a way, is a testament to the character’s Mediterranean origins, goes Hanks one better (several better, in fact) as a disguised CIA spook who, instead of not getting the Finnish asign- ment after studying Finns, cannot even throw a tantrum without a wind. Not only does Hoffman walk away with the show, he also gets to recite the Buddhist parable whose punchline frames the entire picture, turning an unremarkable happy ending into an up-in-the-air ending, or in other words no ending at all. I know we too well what happens to Bob (Abraham) Adams, Emily Blunt, Ned Beatty. 2007.

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Seeing the movie, Six Days, the most comprehensive approach to the film of the 1967 Six Day War that I’ve ever seen. Another comprehensive documentary is Who Killed the Electric Car? Make sure to watch all the materials. It’s a real eye-opener.

HOPE AND GLORY (England) 1987, MGM
List price: $14.98
COCOON (USA) 1985, 20th Century Fox
List price: $9.98
WHO KILLED THE ELECTRIC CAR? USA 2006, Sony Pictures
List price: $19.94

June — A slow starter. In the title role of a prestigious Minnesota high-schooler named after the Roman goddess of marriage, fidelity, the dry, flat saronic line-delivery of Ellen Page, the angelic avatar of Hard Candy, is not easy to warm up to, in no way much we might have to try to see it as an adolescent defense mechanism, or how much as humble emulation of Jussie Gelardo. 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 worldly PennySaver (“next to ‘the crotch小鸟s’), a neat-freak suburban couple in the gated confines of Glacial Valley Estates. It’s a theme that really begins to get interesting. Our initial arrival at the housing development is alone sufficient to convince us of Jason Reitman’s directorial bone fides: a series of static shots of anti-septic House Beautiful after House Beautiful as the car passes over the screen, left to right, in front of each. And the prospective mother, Jennifer Garner (her piano-wise tutelage put to good use), turns out to be the mother of the pair, someone who will studiously ponder “cushard” versus “cheesecake” as the color for baby’s room, while the prospective father, Jason Bateman, proves to be the freaker, a stay-at-home composer of advertising ditties and a frustrated rock-and-roll. 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 to a teenager, and he demonstrates “decent taste in slasher movies” (e.g., Her—Her—Her—Gordon Lewis’s The Wizard of Coke, 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 convincing, the surrounding characters’ trajectories are far too complicated, specifically J.K. Simmons as her droll lachan dad, Allison Janney as her worldly-wise, even-keeled mom, and above all, Michael Cera as her shunted-aide, unsatisfactory, but ever-faithful boyfriend, the baby’s biological father, and a cooler dude than you’d ever guess from his track-team look. And if the dialogue is unbearably overwrought, at least the lines are spread around democratically. 2007
★★★★ DESCENDERS (FILMEN 31, GROSSMÖNTTEIN, HILLCREST) LAGOS 7; L.A. JULIA 12; MIRA MESA 18; OCEAN- IDY 12, CTY PARK 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PENNYSELVES 29; PARKWAY PLAZA 18, FISHING VILLAGE 9; ROSS CO DEL REY 30; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOES 18, TOWN SQUARE 24; VISTA VILLAGE
Michael Clayton — The title figure is the designated thief for the elite Manhattan law firm of Kenner, Bach & Ledeon, touted as a “miracle worker” but more modest in his self-assessment: “I’m not a miracle worker, I’m a janitor. The smaller the mess, the easier it is for me to clean it up.” And a three-billion-dollar class action suit against his firm’s biggest client, United Northfield, or UNorth for short, for a very big mess. Aside from being George Clooney, the hero doesn’t look much like Claud. Undercut in a mountain of Deft, zoom off the gambling habit (notwithstanding a profane relapse at the poker table), run ragged by his job, bogging his boss for an advance and getting the brush-off, he has little time for his neglected son and none for a shave. In addi- tion to all that, Clooney has firmly ap- preciated the head-sagging smugness that so often chills his charm. In fact he has sunk into the part quite deeply and depressively. We keep waiting to see some sign of a mira- cle. And waiting. In its bald essentials — the soulsick law firm, the monochro- matic, the robotic hit men, the stiffs in crinoline and pens of poity, the chun- kiness of consequence — the film is fairly standard-issue. But screenwriter (the Wester series) and first-time director Tony Gilroy, beginning with the nonlinear narra- tive arrangement, has devised an all-over strategy of tease and obfuscation, very strategy of tease and obfuscation, very

ILSE GERSTEN BUSH
Curator, San Diego Jewish Film Festival, sdjcj.lfjcc.org
Tonight’s opening film, Sixty-Six is a comedy that reminds me in spirit of Hope and Glory. It’s the story of Billy, who holds on to his childhood and learns truths about his family as bombs rain down on London during World War II. It’s funny, too. Also screening is Gollée Ékimskom because that film was about residents of a retirement home given the gift of renewed youth by visitors from another planet. We’re also showing Six Days, the most comprehensive approach to the film of the 1967 Six Day War that I’ve ever seen. Another comprehensive documentary is Who Killed the Electric Car? Make sure to watch all the materials. It’s a real eye-opener.

HOPE AND GLORY (England) 1987, MGM
List price: $14.98
COCOON (USA) 1985, 20th Century Fox
List price: $9.98
WHO KILLED THE ELECTRIC CAR? USA 2006, Sony Pictures
List price: $19.94

MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANID 18; OCEANID 18; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; PALM CO DEL REY 20; PALM CO SAN MAR COES 18; SOUTH BAY DRIVE IN TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE
Fool’s Gold — Matthew McConaughey, Kate Hudson fight to out-cute one an- other, and out-bronze one another, as a still-in-love divorced couple on a Caribbean treasure hunt, in competition with a murderous rapper. Some of the bru- talities they commit are often not in keeping with the era in which the aged founders of a kibbutz wake up to a shocking realization: given the gift of renewed youth unmasked in a surprising way. It’s funny, too. It’s also brings to it some very wet stuff, some of which is intrinsically not in keeping with the era in which the aged founders of a kibbutz wake up to a shocking realization: given the gift of renewed youth. Some of the brutalities they commit are often not in keeping with the era in which the aged founders of a kibbutz wake up to a shocking realization: given the gift of renewed youth. Some of the brutalities they commit are often not in keeping with the era in which the aged founders of a kibbutz wake up to a shocking realization: given the gift of renewed youth.

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**MOBILE SHOWTIMES**

**CENTRAL CLAIREMONT**

Town Square 14
6063 Clairemont Drive (858-274-1234)

**DOWNTOWN**

Gaslamp 15
700 Fifth Avenue (619-225-0400)

**LA JOLLA**

La Jolla 12
8070 La Jolla Drive (858-585-2262)

**EAST COUNTY**

El Cajon
Parkway Plaza 18
495 Parkway Drive (619-491-4356)

**NORTH INLAND**

Carmel Mountain
11628 Carmel Mountain Road (858-674-9770)

**SOUTHBAY**

Chula Vista
10707 Pearl Road (858-585-2262)

**MISSION VALLEY**

Fashion Valley 18
7037 Pearl Road (858-585-2262)

**MISSION VALLEY 7**

5750 Hazard Center Drive (619-685-2411)

**SANTEE**

San Diego
San Diego Natural History Museum
1780 Park Place, Balboa Park (619-232-3821)

**SOUTHERN OCEAN**

Carlsbad
Plaza Camino Real
2055 Marlin Road (760-729-2479)

**ENCINITAS**

La Paloma
6941 El Camino Real (760-486-6097)

**LA COSTA**

6941 El Camino Real (760-486-6097)

**FLOWER MILL 4**

2600 Via de la Llave (858-684-4285)

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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 hairdo circa 1972 (hair hu-
mon always being big with the Goons).
Tommy Lee Jones, Javier Bardem, Josh Brolin, Kelly MacDonald, Woody Harrel-
son.
2007.
★★★★ (FLOWER HILL) CINEMA; LA JOLLA VILLAGE, MIRA MESA 18; PALM PROM-
enade 24; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 3; RIVER VILLAGE 6; TOWN SQUARE 14)
★ The Orphanage — Spanish ghost story needs all the time at its disposal to reach a 
sort of ambiguity — real ghosts or over-
humanized,” and the lead actress, Belén Rueda, 
seems primed almost for spontaneous com-
bustion. An adopted orphan returns to the 
palatial orphanage thirty years later, with 
gruesome makeup on the carcass. Through 
room door and the backward jackknife into 
line of psychological subtlety while also try-
ning to “change anything” in the war zone of 
Burma, and if you want to extract some 
meaning from the occasional clutches of the 
kid-crazy militia, in under
ninety minutes, no limit on casualties — 
well, he’s your man. To match, an up-to-date 
head count of hawks and doves in the general 
populace, he’ll stick to his guns (and his bow and arrows), and the grisly mayhem will 
throttle any impulse to snicker. The viewer can only aspire to a 
state of acceptance (“Fuck the world”), well 
shy of a state of awe. With Julianne Moore, 
Matthew McConaughey, Graham McTavish, 
Paul Schrader.
2008. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; ES-
condido 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSS-
MONT CENTER; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION 
MARKETPLACE 12; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROM-
enade 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RAN-
cho del Rey 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 31; RIVER 
VILLAGE 6; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)
Taxi to the Dark Side — Documentar-
it Alex Gibney, director, writer, and narrator, takes as his starting point the 
death of an Afghan cab driver in U.S. de-
tenure at Bagam Air Field, and the fall 
guys are talking to him on camera. The 
path of investigation, from there, stretches 
out to Abu Ghraib (the familiar photos un-
censored) and Guantanamo, and at no 
point along the way does he get any idea that 
the Americans have ever once incarnated 
a certifiable terrorist in any of these places or 
issues, the clichés, and tides into shape them as if with a nail file and vial of var-
cnish. Katherine Heigl, blandly beautiful 
whenever her face-crumpling isn’t spoiling 
the setup, gets an opportunity to play a 
more coherent character than in Knocked Up 
and demonstrates a fine control of the light and shade of legible emotion. 
She keeps the folks at bay. James Marsden, 
Malin Akerman, Ed Helms, Eliza Dushku, 
Dimitri Tiomkin or a Max Steiner might 
War, and repellently compelling figure when he’s 
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Sacred and Profane

“I’ve been standing in the same place for 18 years. I’ve been standing with you.”

The great boxer Joe Louis and baseball immortal Josh Gibson were contemporaries who thrived in the 1930s. The Old Globe Theatre’s In This Corner tells of Louis’s exploited life in the spotlight, during the Age of Jim Crow.

August Wilson’s Fences, among many other things, shows what life was like for an African-American athlete denied the chance to star.

Gibson died of a stroke three months before Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in 1947. Gibson never got to perform on the grand stage (and if he did, Barry Bonds’d still be chasing his home run record). Fences opens in 1957. Troy Maxson, a Gibson-like character, shows that although baseball’s been desegregated, the world outside hasn’t.

The play abounds with fences, walls, and barriers: the fences at Pittsburgh’s Homestead Baseball Park that Troy could clear with ease; the barriers of segregation; the penitentiary walls Troy spent 15 years behind for killing a man in self-defense; the protective fence Troy’s building in his yard to keep the world — and death — at bay. His first name suggests another. Ancient Troy had impregnable walls, until a ruse brought them down.

Troy creates and breaks invisible barriers. His two sons, Lyons (by a previous marriage) and Corey, want to “play”: Lyons, to be a musician; Corey, to win a college football scholarship. Disillusioned Troy, who was denied play, refuses to let them chase dreams. At the same time, he breaks a barrier at work: he becomes the first black trash collector allowed to drive a truck.

Troy Maxson is one of August Wilson’s, and American theater’s, most multi-faceted creations. He’s a “yes…but...” character. Mention a negative (like his philandering with Alberta late in his life), and a positive jumps up and counterbalances it (that he took responsibility for his family for years and years). Yes he verges on cruelty to his sons, but he means well and doesn’t want them to face what he did. With Troy, and Wilson says it three times to stress the point, “You got to take the crookeds with the straights.”

Which is just what Antonio T.J. Johnson gives us in Cygnet Theatre’s splendid production. He’s a lion in a cage, roaring through the bars and, except for a brief glimpse of freedom on his way north, he’s been caged all along. This is Johnson’s best work ever and, one of the best features, he has rage, and gentleness, in reserve.

A large man, Johnson can dominate the stage — telling stories, pushing out — then become so vulnerable that Troy appears to shrink, pulling us into his tormented psyche. Baseball, which he learned to play in prison, saved Troy. It’s his metaphorical template for life, its rules his Ten Commandments. When the world becomes too complex, Johnson adds a brilliant insight: Troy reaches for a bat and swings it smoothly: the ex-jock’s equivalent of a calming mantra.


Fences by August Wilson
Cygnet Theatre, 6663 El Cajon Boulevard, College Area
Directed by Delicia Turner Sonnenberg; cast: Antonio T.J. Johnson, Sylvia M’Lafi Thompson, Mark Christopher Lawrence, Madeleine Hornbuckle, Patrick Kelly, Grandison Phelps III, Laurence Brown; scenic design, Mike Buckley; costumes, Veronica Murphy; lighting, Eric Lotze; sound, George Ye
Playing through February 24; Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Sunday at 7:00 p.m. Matinee Sunday at 2:00 p.m. 619-337-1525
DANCING IN THE DARK
Book by Douglas Carter Beane
Music by Arthur Schwartz | Lyrics by Howard Dietz
Directed by Gary Griffin
Old Globe Theatre | MARCH 4 - APRIL 13
A World Premiere Musical
Featuring the film score that has become legend. Packed with hits like “A Shine On Your Shoes,” the quintessential ode to show business, “That’s Entertainment!” and the unforgettable title song “Dancing in the Dark.”
Tickets on Sale Now!
the Oklahoma territory and the blooming of love.

DOWNTOWN. THROUGH FEBRUARY 10; LYCEUM THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., 619-422-7787.

San Diego Theatresports:
The House A cross between improvisational comedy and Family Feud. The Funhouse combines improved competitive scene-making, with the audience awarding points to the winning team. Purists might balk at the boldness of comparisons used in this format, but the “game show” on Fridays, is a kick. The 90-minute evening offers different hits. The winner gets a banana, the loser a “foolish.” Some attempts went nowhere (improve is tough when you’re still as hitless and wavy-gestural and clownish as youth). Others made amusing turns 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 their pearls to good use. Their motto: “Remember, when it’s not funny, it’s Worth a Try.

Ordinary People
OnStage Playhouse presents Nancy Gilsenan’s dramatic adaptation of Judith Ganis’ novel. The loss of an older brother may change Conner Jarrett’s “ordinary” family entirely.

SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., 619-236-5800.

Playwrights Project:
Plays by Young Writers
Four weeks, selected from 289 submissions by teenagers statewide, receive full professional productions in the 3rd annual Playwrights Project. For individual plays and performance times, call 619-544-1000.

LYECA THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, SATURDAYS, 2 P.M., 7:30 P.M., 619-422-7787.

Readings of August Wilson’s Plays: Two Trains Running
San Diego Black Ensemble and Cygnet Theatre continue their immensely popular series of staged readings of one of America’s theater’s rarely performed but most important playwrights. Twice winner of the Pulitzer Prize (for Fences in 1987 and The Piano Lesson in 1990), August Wilson wrote a cycle of dramas that probe the African-American experience through the decades of the 20th century (he concentrated, he said, “on the biggest idea that confronted blacks in each decade”). The readings will be staged at Cygnet, the City Heights Performance Annex, and other locations. For specifics, check with Cygnet, and arrive early, since many of last year’s readings were sold.

Worth a Try
SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY, 820 E STREET, DOWNTOWN, SATURDAY, 12:30 P.M.

Route 66
Moonlight Stage Productions presents Roger Bean’s musical revue of songs for the road. Brian Wells and David Brannen co-directed. AVO PLAYHOUSE, 303 MAIN STREET, VIsta, THROUGH FEBRUARY 24, TUESDAYS, 1:45 P.M., WEDNESDAYS, 1:45 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., TUESDAYS, 1:45 P.M., SATURDAYS, 7:30 P.M., 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 7:30 P.M., 8 P.M., 619-236-5800.

 Songs for a New World
White Dog Theatre Company presents Jason Robert Brown’s stories of “hope in the face of adversity; of knowing when to believe in our dreams and when to lay them to rest,” Li’l Abner directed.
THEATRIX, 155 E GRAND AVENUE, ESCONDIDO, THROUGH FEBRUARY 17, FRIDAYS, 7:30 P.M., SATURDAYS, 7:30 P.M., SUNDAYS, 7:30 P.M., 616-455-1212.

String of Pearls
A string of perfectly matched, rose-red pearls goes on a 35-year odyssey in Michelle Lone’s sketchy, episodic, at times moving drama at North Coast Rep. Along the way it encounters tragedy, hope, emptiness, and performs Houdini-like escapes, for example, from a grave and the belly of a fish. The 100-minute, intermissionless play has 27 characters, most of whom are unadorned and sprint by too fast. Unlike Lone’s lofty, funny “Small of the Kill at NCRT in 2005, much of String is narrated, which makes for long, undramatic passages. The play’s not only talky, it often describes, rather than feels, its emotions. The pearls come in a blue velvet box, which Marty Burnett’s sparling set recreates on stage, the pearls a shiny, cream-colored platform and table. Four women play all the characters (and do some amazing, split-second costume changes). At times the acting’s uneven and lacks subtlety, due in part to the thin script’s preference for burying the surface. When given room to roam, however, the actors deliver some sharp portrayals: Eousa Martinez’s Beth, a lifelong innocent from whom the pearls depart and return; Christy Yad’s exhausted Kyle, who needs a break from her mother’s Alzheimer’s, Jennifer Siebler’s Abby, who gets an unmentionable with; and Crystal Sherren, who creates seven distinct characters, from a snoot to a 300-pound gravedigger.

NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 1030 LUMAS SANTA FE DRIVE, SOLANA BEACH, THROUGH FEBRUARY 10, THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 7 P.M., 619-482-1155.

Sweet Charity
I might have caught the Coronado Playhouse’s show on a bad night. I’d heard some good things about it but saw few. Bob Fosse directed the 1966 original and, with inimitable Gwen Verdon in the lead, the production boomed with energy and Fosse’s trademark precision. Intropid in the face of devastation, dance-hostesses Charity Hope Valentine is more unlikable than Molly Brown (to prove it, she almost drowns twice). The musical comes...
**The Importance of Being Earnest**

Coast Repertory Theatre stages Oscar Wilde’s most popular play (*called by some, the “finest comedy in the English language”). Warner Shoik directed.

_SOUTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 655 TOWN CENTER DRIVE, SOUTHEAST SAN DIEGO. THROUGH MARCH 9; FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 3 & 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 & 7 P.M._

The Pillowman

Grime, relentless, and bizarrely playful, Martin McDonagh’s drama puts art on trial and, in the end, not just art but life itself. Katurian, as the playwright, is a “critic of our situation. He is the one who pushes us to think about what we do. He is the one who tells us about the horizon. He is the one who tells us that we are not all right.” This is our world. The Pillowman takes a police state view of art; (Ardis, the second cop on duty and the opposite of Prospero’s spirit, means he would torture Katurian just for writing his stories). The cops prove as brutal as Katurian and his brother’s abusive parents. Ion Theatre matches the play’s intensities with a tight, often quietly ferocious production. Under Claudia Ragoza’s expert direction, and one of Ion’s finest casts, we are treated to a terrifying display of art. As McDonagh insists, we see the world unmasked. Jeffrey Juskiewicz and Ardis. Unlike Josef K, tried for crimes unknown in Kafka’s novel The Trial, the more we learn about Katurian, the more his guilt and innocence expand. Matt Scott makes Tupolski a type of Everyman, an ice-berg and, as cold. Scott gives voice to, matter-of-fact line readings, as when the detective tells Katurian, “I know the ironies, as when the detective tells Ardis, calmely, “Harry up and try to save the prisoner. The story’s line-strait from former Police. There’s also the Forever Problem: the 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 a crackpot magician. The trio’s so talented, when the plot has them complicity of difficulties to overcome, you with them’d quit trumping up the pseudo-drama and get on with really entertaining, if lightweight show._

**World’s a’brin**

_FORTINO GRAND THEATRE, 444 FOURTH STREET, DOWNTOWN. THROUGH FEBRUARY 17; THURSDAYS, 7:30 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 3 & 7 P.M._

Where There’s a Will... Where There’s a Wake

Mystery Coffee Dinner Theatre presents James Pascarella and Will Roberson’s interactive comedy, set in a 1920s speakeasy where all the murder, mayhem, and suspicion shrugs every “gangster, game, and dame.” Pascarella directed.

_MYSTERY CAFE, 805 MALMA STREET, HILLCREST. SPONTANEOUS RUN, FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 & 10 P.M., SUNDAYS, 8 P.M._

**Theater Directory**

**Featuring**

Terence Clarke as the much-anticipated character of Louis in _Our Town_ at the Coast Repertory Theatre.

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128 San Diego Reader February 7, 2008

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SDFreader.com, the website for the San Diego Reader, recently launched its Online Sales Representatives to join our team. We are seeking seasoned sales professionals with a strong background in Internet media sales. Qualified candidates will be proactive in developing revenue, increasing our client base, and selling marketing solutions for SDFreader.com. Online Sales Representatives will also be responsible for developing proposals, managing current business, and generating opportunities in a quick-changing industry. Please send a cover letter and updated résumé detailing your experience in online sales.

Jobs at the Reader

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Does selling for one of San Diego’s most-recognized brands appeal to you? With a circulation of 162,000 copies a week, the San Diego Reader is now the third-largest alternative news weekly in the U.S. We reach one out of every three adults in the county and have been the number one resource for local news, entertainment, arts and culture for over 34 years. We are looking for energetic and enthusiastic people who want a career bringing consistent results to their clients. The role available is to develop and service a diverse client base with the help of our sales assistants. You will be trained to design ad campaigns that bring results for your advertisers. Sales experience is essential and a successful track record of cold calling in any industry is preferred.

Benefits include health coverage paid 100%, 401(k) with employer match, free downtown parking in Little Italy and more.

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$28,000 in days, not weeks...
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Call for an interview in North County or San Diego: 760-434-4393 or 621-231-0151

Or apply in person 10 am-3 pm Tuesday-Thursday: 2333 1st Ave., Ste. 205, San Diego, CA 92101

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• Full-time
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Rancho Santa Fe is looking for Room Attendants, Turndown Attendants, and Part-time Spa Housekeepers. For requirements and online application, please visit: http://www.ranchovalencia.com/resortcareers.php

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Minimum Qualifications
- 21 years old
- Good physical condition
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Test date:
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www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation
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SALES. Call Claire at 858-550-5:30pm-9pm. Self motivated with prior experience. Call Claire at 858-550-5:30pm-9pm. Self motivated with prior experience. Call Claire at 858-550-5:30pm-9pm. Self motivated with prior experience. Call Claire at 858-550-5:30pm-9pm. Self motivated with prior experience. Call Claire at 858-550-5:30pm-9pm. Self motivated with prior experience. Call Claire at 858-550-5:30pm-9pm. Self motivated with prior experience. Call Claire at 858-550-5:30pm-9pm. Self motiva...
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THE READER PUZZLE

by David Levinson Wilk

Across
1. Composer Shostakovich
7. Wise guy
10. Bond
13. Lasting forever
16. Kick ___ storm
17. Money spent in western
20. "Peace!"
21. NCAA's reverse
24. Swagger Williams
26. Kind of chow
28. Author Leflan
30. "Black" painter
31. Scallop ingredient
32. You might play something by it
33. Gaulan Paul
35. Some "CSI" figs
36. Money spent in New England!
40. Wonder's "___ She Lovely"
41. Scale notes
42. "eh-Provence"
43. Fajita filler
45. Work period
47. Hey!
49. First baseman Huff
51. "The List of the Mohicans"
54. Civil rights advocate, ___ Wills
56. Debut's letters
57. "Noel"
58. Pa. neighborhood
59. Money spent in eastern Europe
60. The Creatures' show for show

Down
6. Snake, at times
6. Skiing commercial
7. Extra periods, for short
8. Wind chimes sounds
9. A Musician
10. "My dear fellow"
11. War god on Olympus
12. "___ your mother"
13. Win over

11. "The right there!"
12. Something brought to the table
13. Where some plant managers work
14. ___ gismond
15. Does business with
16. Updike's "Rabbit ___"
17. Tattim, e.g.
18. Item a gopher looks down on
19. 301 verb
20. Title of a 1961 hit song or a 1996 hit movie
21. Better-than-average pupil
22. They're yellow in pool halls
23. "Raided the Water Upper"
24. Relative of a chickadee
25. Common parental explanation
26. Avery in more
27. "Dios ___" (Latin hymn)
28. Spin
29. Ghostly talk
30. Lecherous men
31. "Pap"
32. Shirley Temple facts
33. 56. Group of people
34. 57. Jean or Jeanne
35. 58. Tangerine
36. 59. Uncle
37. 60. "I've been here before"

Clues for 1/31/08

1. The prize for solving the Reader Puzzle will be a Reader T-Shirt.
2. All entries in the Reader Puzzle contest must be mailed to The Reader by 9:50 a.m., Tuesday, five days following the issue date.
3. E-mail: 619-231-0489 or U.S. Mail: Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 58510, San Diego, CA 92112-5109.
4. All entries must be accompanied by name and address.
5. Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.
6. In the event of disputes or ties, the decisions of the judges will be final and binding.
7. We've only got five prizes each week to give away, so if you're more than five winners, we'll have a lottery.
8. All answers must be entered in the space allowed on the puzzle page.
9. Please, no phone calls or trips to our office.

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Name: Antonio Azumba

Lives: Bahia, Brazil

Surfing: Thomas Street, Pacific Beach

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Antonio has trekked extensively for surf vacations — from Costa Rica to Hawaii to Puerto Rico — but his favorite spot is... “Peru. Definitely. It is a place called Punta Hermosa. It is south of Lima.” Here he cites warm waves, large, wide open, and friendly people as the attractions of Punta Hermosa.

“I am 42 now. I have surfed since I was 5.”

As for his 37 years of surfing and all of his trips, he says his worst weekend was ten years ago in Brazil. “I broke my shoulder. It was a big wave and, well, I dropped down and it was an accident.”

For surfers who are considering a vacation to Brazil, Antonio warns of one potential danger. “Every year it is very common to see jellyfish. I have not been stung, but people in my area, on my beach, I know they have been stung.” His favorite animal encounter was in Northern California, where, he says, “We saw marine lions. How do you say? Sea lions!”

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LEAD STORY
— A startup Massachusetts dating service has the usual questionnaires about likes and dislikes but bases compatibility on how one person smells to another (straights and gays accommodated). Eric Holde, ScientificMatch.com tests each person’s "major histocompatibility complex" (MHC) genes, the science behind which dictates how one person will translate the scent of another (with similar-processing people less compatible). (In one famous study, women preferred the smell of T-shirts from men whose MHC was the most different from their own.) Holde predicts a higher success rate than for ordinary dating agencies but at a fee of $1995 per client.

Great Moments in Maturity
— Douglas Hoffman, 61, was sentenced in January to as much as five years in prison for staging a small-scale terror campaign among his neighbors in Henderson, Nev., to mask his own vandalism in destroying over 500 trees to get a better view of the Las Vegas Strip. At first, according to prosecutors, Hoffman cut down just the trees that affected his own view, but to divert attention, he cut down others in the subdivision and then sent threatening notes suggesting that an extremist would continue to attack their property, finally promising “chemical, biological and nuclear mass destruction.”

John Hayes, 46, a Marzette, Ga., middle-school coach, was arrested in December and charged as the person who drove a group of his students around at night so they could vandalize various Christmas yard decorations (in one case, leaving reindeer entangled in "sexual positions"). A neighbor whose display was wrecked pursued Hayes’s truck, caught up to him, and asked, “Are you crazy?” Hayes responded, allegedly, “It’s just a bit of fun.”

The District of Calamity (continued)
— Washington, D.C., firefighter Gerald Burton faced suspension in December for disobeying a direct order by fighting a blaze he had come across while driving his fire truck to a training class. A supervisor had ordered him on the class, but Burton and his partner put out the fire (limiting damage to $15,000) along with the dispatched crew, which arrived shortly after Burton.

Least Competent Criminals
— Jesse Herrios-Coronilla, 18, was arrested in Durham, N.C., in January and charged with DUI after he accidentally drove through a yard in a residential neighborhood. He then abandoned his car and hitches a ride, but at a later traffic stop, police identified him by his shoes, in that when he ran out of the yard, he had stepped in several piles of the resident’s dogs’ droppings.

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 or to WeirdNewsTips@Yahoo.com.

by Chuck Shepherd

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- **Features**:
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Thirty Years Ago

I would not complain that Jeanette De Wyze's story on nudists ("What You See, February 2) was completely one-sided. But still, De Wyze never once treated any of the serious objections to nudism.

For example, De Wyze must realize that there is more to the beginning of western civilization than naked Greeks and clothed Christians. Does she really think that non-Christian Hebrews and Romans, not to mention Egyptians, Etruscans, Chaldeans, were nudists?

—LETTERS: *ONE TOGA OVER THE LINE,* Abe Takhaw, February 5, 1978

Twenty-Five Years Ago

But the Hedgecock staff is more upset with O'Connor's absence from a January 30 debate before the gay San Diego Democratic Club. Having refused to appear at two previous club functions, O'Connor pledged to attend the recent session. She never showed, leaving Hedgecock alone to defend gay rights. "It's okay to be with the pack [of other candidates] in backing gays," commented one Hedgecock advisor, "but it's dangerous to go it alone."

—THE INSIDE STORY, Paul Krueger, February 10, 1983

Fifteen Years Ago

The sight of a blasted Fleetwood Mac dueting with marian-like Michael J., the uncanny strains of Loggins and Messina's horrid old chestnut "Your Mama Don't Dance," the incomprehensible presence of Lou Reed and Los Lobos: a mockery of the ideals that real rock 'n' roll cherishes.

—MUSIC SCENE: THE TEENAGE WASTELAND LIVES ON IN A CHILA VISTA GARAGE,* Gina Arnold, February 11, 1993

Ten Years Ago

My experience at Horizon Christian Fellowship was not positive. I disliked the music. I disliked the fact that there were neither hymns nor overhead projections of hymn lyrics. This might not have mattered so much if the musical portion of the service hadn't lasted for 45 minutes. While I understand why a "non-denominational" church might not want to tie itself to traditional hymns, the result — no hymnals, no overhead projections — was a clanh, inside/outside feel. Although I can't imagine why anyone — even the most ardent born-again Christian — would want to commit any of these contemptu, memory, much less print them on paper.  

—SHEEP AND GOATS, Abe Oroscoe, February 12, 1998

Five Years Ago

"The image is of dignity, but the real picture of American Nationalism is not such a beautiful picture," Fallbrook resident Rita Coolidge tells me over the phone. "There are a lot of people who don't benefit from casino money. Alcoholism: high education is poor.

"Initially I came with Kris [Kristofferson] and through,' 'What a gem; it's so family oriented.' Fallbrook has a little main street. I can wear my pajama bottoms out in public with my jacket. Who cares?"

"I walked around my neighborhood with my Rottweiler. Sometimes I do an aerobic walk and go over to Rocky Peak and spend half my mornings there."

—GRACE AMONG AVOCADOS,* Jill Underwood, February 6, 2003

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**San Diego Reader, February 11, 1998**
I was in my sophomore year of college, and I’d never had a boyfriend. Not because I wasn’t interested but because I’d been too busy with my own life to consider being a part of someone else’s. Then one summer evening I received an email from a fellow student named Terry. I didn’t know if Terry was a man or woman, but she/he seemed to share a lot of my interests and said a mutual friend had given him/her my email address. After a few getting-to-know-you misses, Terry requested a picture, so I sent mine off and received what turned out to be “his” in return. Score — he was cute. Boys rarely talked to me, especially cute ones, and I felt a spark of hope that he might be interested. We emailed each other for the next two months before the fall semester started, and we agreed to meet up when we got back to school, and I found him waiting for me at our prearranged spot on campus, and my mother took both of us out to dinner. He turned out to be a polite, well-groomed, intelligent young man. Terry and I started spending more time together over the next few weeks, although I was sure it was just friendly, I certainly had a crush on him, and I was playing it so aloof that hardly recognized it.

One night he asked me to tell him his biggest, darkest secret (how original, right?), hoping I could suss out whether he was interested in me or not. I got more than I bargained for. Turned out he had suffered from severe depression and a tendency toward self-mutilation for a good portion of his adult life but assured me he had gotten help and was fine now. I had suffered my own bouts of depression and struggled with an eating disorder, so I wasn’t about to pass judgment. That night he asked me if I wanted to start dating, and I said, “Yes.”

I fell in love in a matter of weeks. At least I thought that’s what love felt like. A squirming feeling in the pit of my stomach whenever we were together and even when we weren’t, never wanting to be apart, feeling like I could tell him anything. When the girl I was rooming with moved out, I thought it would be the perfect opportunity for Terry to take her room. A month after we started dating, we were talking about getting married after graduation.

The day he moved in, his parents and my mother came to visit us, and we all went out to dinner together. The way Terry’s parents acted and the way he interacted with them — well, it was a little scary. It seemed as if he had never really made the break with them. The day our parents left and it was just him and me, I felt a terrible sinking sensation in my stomach. I was starting to think I had made a mistake.

Over the next month I realized how different Terry and I were. When we were living on opposite sides of the campus and seeing each other after class and on the weekends, it was easy to overlook how emotionally fragile he was. Sometimes the tiniest thing that went wrong would set him off, and he would cry and say, “One day you’re going to get tired of this and find someone better.” I assured him I wouldn’t, not, even as I said the words, I wondered if he was right.

We clashed over politics, bathroom-cleaning duties, even what shows to watch on television. I had always needed a lot of alone time to maintain my sanity, but Terry wanted to be around me all of the time, and he was brought to tears whenever I told him I needed space. I’m an emotionally reserved person who doesn’t show much affection, and Terry needed constant affirmation.

One evening we went out to dinner with a friend of mine who had been wanting to meet Terry for some time. On the train ride to the restaurant, my friend (who happens to be gay) and I kidded with Terry about his refined grooming practices and called him “metrosexual.” I didn’t know this had offended Terry until I a.m. that night when he came to my room with scratches all over his chest where he had cut himself with a pair of scissors. He cried and said I had called him gay, that I wasn’t affectionate enough, and that he thought it would be better if he simply ran away. It took me two hours to convince him that I had said no such thing, that I was in love with him, and that he would accomplish nothing by leaving school.

After another month of trying to be the girlfriend that he wanted, I was emotionally and physically exhausted. I broke up with him. Or at least, I tried. I had bought a non-refundable plane ticket to visit him and his family over Thanksgiving but told him that I wouldn’t be going and that I thought we needed to end the relationship. I knew he would take it hard, but I wasn’t prepared to come home and find him crying in despair on the floor of his bedroom, again with multiple cuts across his chest, the scissors lying on the floor next to him. He wept violently and threw himself about the floor, screaming, “You have to come home with me! You have to!” He curled up like a child, weeping, and I grabbed the scissors and all over his chest where he had cut himself. I didn’t know this had offended him, although I had to spend the next few hours consoling him.

In truth, he simply couldn’t believe that the relationship was over, that we were far too different.

He told me that he had changed and begged me for a second chance, and I agreed to give him one. He gave me a beautiful necklace.

It only lasted a couple of weeks longer. I had seen his ugliest side, and I couldn’t forgive it. I told him that I couldn’t see him anymore. He said that I had used him, that people didn’t “just fall out of love.” I assured him that I had. He started crying and ran to his room, slamming the door.

He slammed his door a lot in those first few days, but this time I refused to play his game, to run over and make sure he was okay. I finally recognized that he was emotionally abusive and used his tears as a way of manipulating me.

I had no other place to go and no one to take over my rental agreement, so I stayed one room away from him for the next four months, sick to my stomach and scared that he might do something to harm me.

I saw him on the street a couple of years later; someone was taking a picture of him and a girl, and I didn’t feel jealous. In fact, I felt sorry for that girl. I hope her love story with him turned out better than mine.

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**MY LITTLE PARASITE**

Every year, my husband and I look forward to Halloween. We plan months in advance so that when the day comes, we have cool costumes. Last year, however, we went as the characters from Curious George and I was Madeline. Another year we went as “evil” characters — he was a punk Grim Reaper with a real scythe (don’t ask) and I dressed up as Gogo Yubari from the *Kill Bill* movies. That was a great year, despite the fact that we went a little overboard with the authentic look for my costume, and he ended up with a bleeding gash in his head from my spiked ball-and-chain accessory. He blames me, I blame the wig.

Unfortunately, for the past two years, we’ve let ourselves get behind the eight ball with regard to our Halloween costumes. In 2005, we moved from California to Pennsylvania. Short on time and energy, I ended up being a vampire (I have a lot of black clothes to choose from and just needed to buy a wig) and he ended up being Evil Spock from Star Trek’s “Mirror, Mirror” universe (it was a spare costume we had on hand — don’t ask). In 2006, we’d just bought a house and we slacked off again. He was a pirate and I was a vampire, again. 2007 just had to be different. Then, two weeks after St. Patrick’s Day, I got pregnant.

Halloween choices are limited when you’re of the female persuasion. You can choose from: slutty nurse, slutty cop, slutty lifeguard, slutty maid, slutty witch...sense a trend here, folks? Even for our adolescent daughters, Halloween costumes are getting more and more sexualized. I guess it’s not just Halloween, though — don’t even get me started on the whole Bratz phenomenon.

There are some subsets of womankind, however, that are spared this focus on sex appeal. The pregnant woman happens to be one of those subsets. Never mind that I find this to be both a blessing and a curse — why does being pregnant automatically disqualify you from the ranks of the sexy? The point is that instead of opening up a whole new field of choices, it limits your choices even further.

Search for “pregnant Halloween costumes” on the Internet, and you’ll get as many hits as if you’d searched for online porn. But the difference (or similarity, depending on your perspective) is that each click of your mouse takes you to a website that looks similar to the last. Apparently, as a pregnant woman, you have to resign yourself to the following choices: painting your protruding belly to resemble a pumpkin (or other round object), dressing up as a knocked up fill-in-the-blank (i.e., cheerleader, nun, famous starlet à la Britney Spears), “hiding” the belly in a full-body costume (like a clown), or crapping out and just wearing a T-shirt on which some underage sweatshop worker bedazzled the word “Boo.” Because you’re pregnant, you don’t even get the benefit of being able to about not being able to come up with a spectacular costume idea (and, okay, also about being the only sober adult on Halloween). Then, an inconspicuous cardboard box arrived in the mail, addressed to my husband.

To preface, throughout my entire pregnancy I have been prone to referring (affectionately, of course) to my unborn daughter as “my little parasite.” Apparently, this inspired my husband, and he found a plush “chestburster” toy (from the movie *Alien*) on the Internet. A $1 thrill-store shirt, fabric paint, and some space-age-looking clothes I already owned completed what I considered to be the best Halloween costume I had ever worn. On Halloween, I celebrated the festivities with Violet (the name that both my unborn daughter and the plush chestburster-alien now share) emerging from my chest amidst black, red, and glow-in-the-dark neon-green blood and guts.

Before we ended up at our friend’s house party (where, I might add, the pregnant lady outlasted half of the party’s attendees), we’d stopped into the Jekyll and Hyde, a Houston-themed bar in Pittsburgh. Excuse my immodesty, but I had the best costume among the ladies and gents alike. Still, I’m sure I would have lost the 1 a.m. costume contest to the slutty pirate or slutty flight attendant, or maybe even the slutty Red Riding Hood. Oh, the injustice of it all.

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This isn’t for dating. I’m not making this profile to get dates. This profile is to audition for a nemesis or nemesis (nemeses)!! As it stands, I am nemesis-less, and I feel that a man doesn’t truly rise up to meet his potential until forced to do so through competition and confrontation. Batman wouldn’t exist if there were no Joker. Without Jan Michael Vincent of Airwolf, there would be no Richard Dean Anderson of MacGyver.

About you: You are Patrick Swayze to my Keanu. Your frosted surfer shag offers little opposition to my tight black FBI regulation haircut. I will chase you through the back yards while making fart noises with my finger in my bellybutton. I will keep on lovin’.

Because that’s what I do. I’m the hero.

WHAT I WILL AND WON’T WATCH THIS WEEK
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7
JAG
USA 7:00 A.M.
BECKER
USA 8:00 A.M.

All right, now someone did that on purpose. Is it me, or could those two show titles be obscured with the quick rearrangement of a couple letters? Jag and Becker. Come on. Oh, I guess that just me. I need a hero. I’m so lonely.

THE GREAT WHITE HOPE
XDTV 8:00 P.M.

I can’t decide whether my new fight name will be Anthony “Shark Week” Olivieri or Anthony “Homeless Clown with a Prominent Herpe on His Lip” Olivieri. One is intimidating, sure; the other is obscene with the quick rearrangement of a name, number, and theoretical instrument.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8
GHOST WHISPERER
CBS 8:00 P.M.

So far, the list of “whisperers” includes horses, dogs, ghosts, shugs, beverages in coconut husks, chunky knit sweaters, and airline-safety pamphlets. Maybe I’m doing it wrong, but I don’t whisper to anything. I’m more of a normal talker, and when inebriated, a shouter. I am Ollie, the Drunken Underpants Shouter.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9
PREHISTORIC PARK
ANIMAL PLANET 11:00 A.M.

It’s no secret I love cavemen. Everything cave-men all the time. What they ate, how they wiped their benches, their version of dentistry and interior decoration encompassed; it all fascinates me. I might study cave people if I ever lose my job of sitting on the bed-room floor watching TV with my finger in my bellybutton while making fart noises with my lips.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10
FREE RADIO
WHV 10:30 A.M.

I’m confused by the Bryon Adams/Ryan Adams issue. I keep hearing one of their names in conjunction with hip new scenes, and I think, Really? That Canadian guy who sang that song “Summer of ’69”? Last thing I heard he did was the soundtrack to Robin Hood, and now he’s roostering Lindsay Lohan. He must be, like, 50. Well, good for him.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11
RUGBY
CASSA 7:00 P.M.

CASEN answers the question: Now that the professional football season is in break until next fall, how will we get our fill of men playfully slapping each other on the rump, embracing each other arm-in-arm, and tenderly fondling each other in the swimsuit area?

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12
SPORTS CENTER
ESPN 8:00 P.M.

Since last Sunday, I’ve had Super Bowl Fever. I’m no more interested in football than I was before the game, but now I categorize everything in Roman numerals. I have VI teddy bears, I Spider Man costume, and IV Tonka trucks. I’ve just now finished my McMXXVI cup of coffee, and I’m about to use the rest-room for my MMMMMMMMMMDLXXII number I.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13
AMERICA’S BALLOON CHALLENGE
PBS 8:00 P.M.

PBS attempts to capitalize on the dancing-competition craze, but it comes out a little weird and wrong, stiff and unentertaining — they’re PBS, and that’s how they do things. You can’t see it, but I’m squinting, and I’ve got my hand held up, palm down, and I’m rocking back and forth in that “they’re a little different” kind of way. Like, “eh.”

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14
MAKING THE BAND
MTV 7:30 P.M.

I’ve killed my last theoretical solo music project, Week Old Sheep Cheese, to start a new theoretical band. I don’t have a name for the band, but I’m kicking around “Bomb Selleck and the Mustachies.” I need theoretical musicians. If you’d like to be a Mustache, leave your name, number, and theoretical instrument you would play if you could play an instrument.

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