

SAN DIEGO WEEKLY

VOLUME 37 / NUMBER 6
FEBRUARY 7, 2008

Reader

North Park
to the
Glider Port

Ollie's Big Bike Ride



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

Coors Amphitheatre no longer Coors – see Blurt

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**So much has gone wrong.
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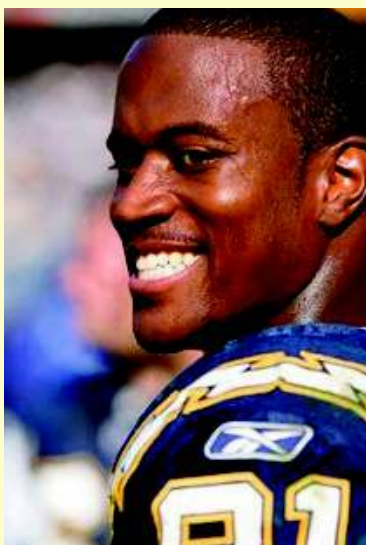
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Say What?

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

Say What



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

Surf Diego



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

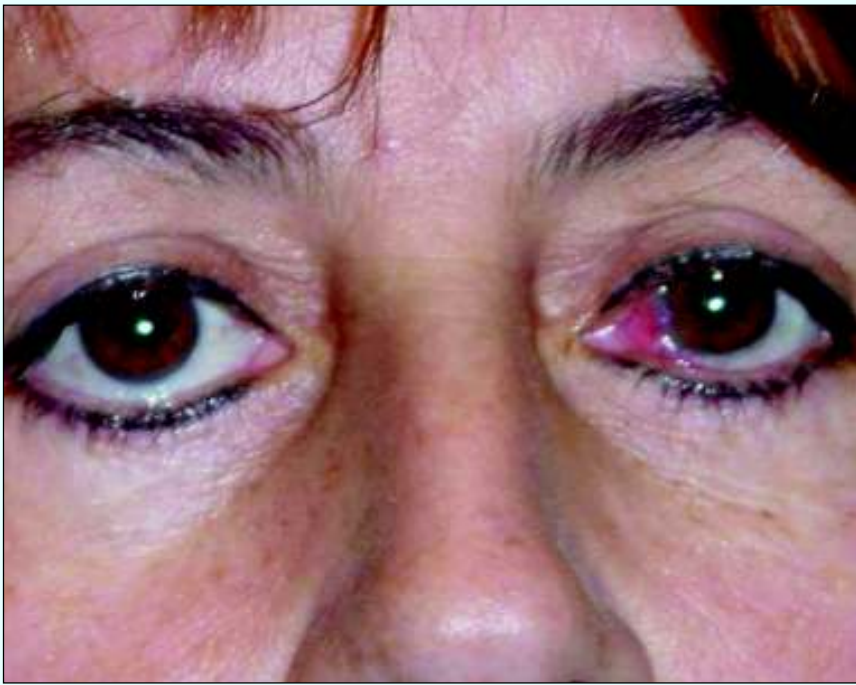
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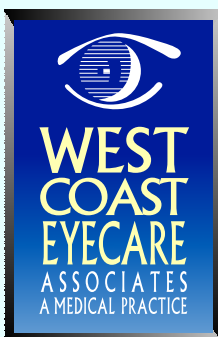
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- Suzanne W.

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BREAKING NEWS

Greedy With recession looming and tax revenues falling at an unprecedented rate, Governor



Robert Sullivan

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 sab-



Marye Anne Fox

batical 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 chancellors 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 15.6 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 Jostling 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 uncontrolled 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



Jan Goldsmith

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 irreparable harm to both myself and our minor children.” The couple later reconciled and Christine dropped the divorce action against her husband, but the story may resonate during the upcoming campaign; part of the city attorney’s responsibilities include running the Domestic Violence and Special Victims Unit. Both Goldsmiths are judges; she was appointed in 1987, he in 1998. In a statement issued by his campaign consultant this week, Goldsmith and his wife noted that they have been married 33 years and 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 defining moment. 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 PR chief **Deborah Brighton**. “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 *Reader* 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 of 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 com-

pany, pension fund — which promises that the bond will be paid off in full. In return, the bank pays the third party a regular premium. The calamity for which the bank



Frank Partnoy

gets insurance might be bankruptcy of the bond issuer, failure to pay interest or principal, and the like. Call this bond protection.

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-biggest 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

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 pro-

continued on page 8

Neal Obermeyer



Dulzura Deception

By Ernie Grimm

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 Valley Road, a dirt road that runs from State Route 94 to the international border eight



Robin Brailsford with Sedeka

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 growls 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 bor-

der. 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 Suburbans. 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 that 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 Mar-

ron 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 Harnon, press officer for the local Fish and Wildlife office. But it couldn't have been Fish and Wildlife biologists that Brailsford spoke to. "Late December is not the time to study quino checkerspots," Harnon says. "They're not up and flying around until March or April."

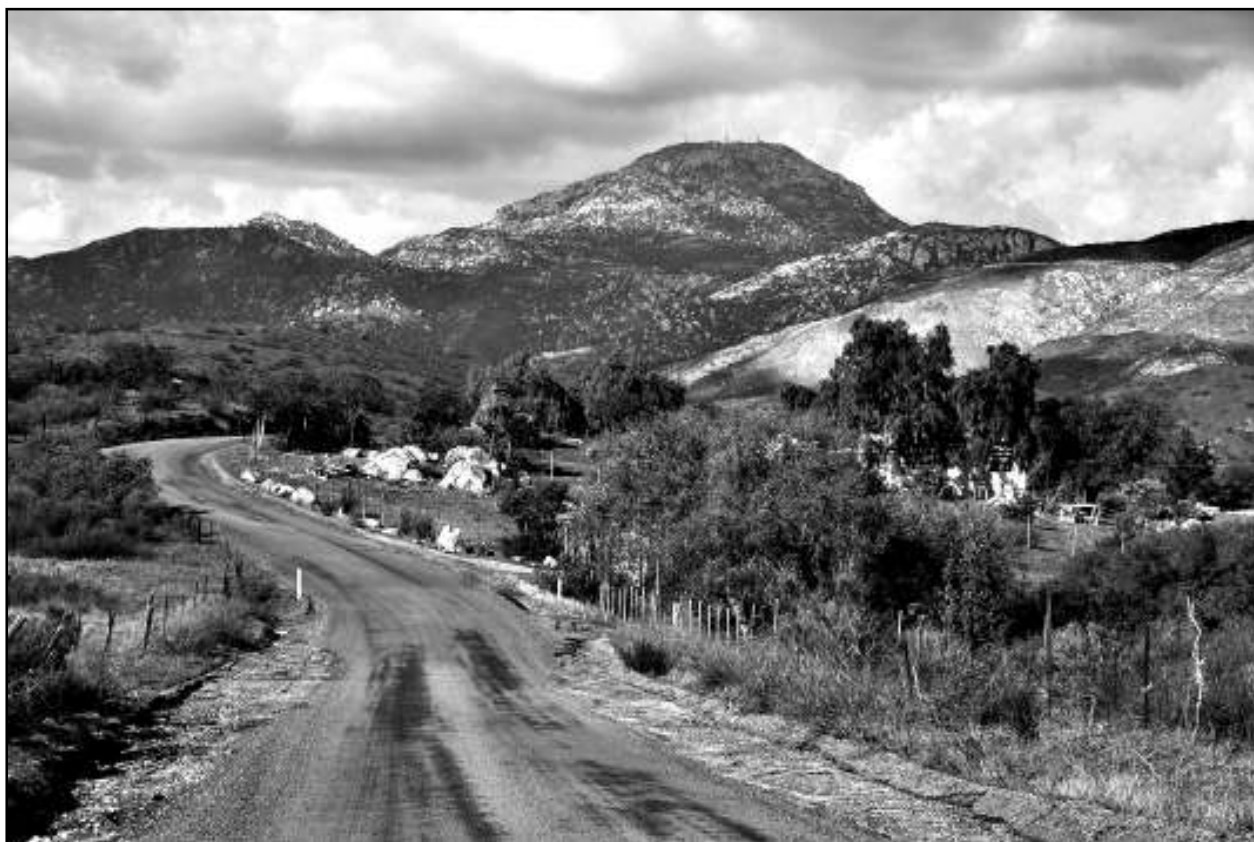
Officials from U.S. Customs and Border Protection, reached by phone, also expressed ignorance of any studies being performed on Marron Valley Road. All of this governmental ignorance would make one think Brailsford and her neighbors' worries were unfounded. But a December 2007 environmental impact statement (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-

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOE KLEIN



Marron Valley Road

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. Protection buyers, which had wrongly assumed they were covered for calamities, would find themselves in deep doo-doo. Worrisomely, public dis-

closure of swap deals is very slim. There is a stark lack of information. The swaps are sold over the counter, not traded on an exchange, and are largely outside the scrutiny of regulators.

Bill Gross, managing director of Newport Beach-based PIMCO, which runs the world's largest bond fund, recently pointed out that through use of derivatives,

hidden off the balance sheet, America's banks evade the reserve requirements that once backed up the system to prevent runs. Gross's January report put it in stark words: "Our modern shadow banking system craftily dodges the reserve requirements of traditional institutions and promotes 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 perhaps 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 trillion of swaps and \$500 trillion of all kinds of mysterious 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 subprime mortgages. "Casualties 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.I.A.S.C.O.: Blood in the Water on Wall Street* warned of coming problems with derivatives. His 2003 book, *Infectious 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 Partnoy, "no one could be sure where the risk had gone." Property, casualty, and reinsurance 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 shifting risk to less regulated insurance 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 company — especially one based offshore, as so many are — can only look at public documents. It doesn't have the inside scoop, as banks supposedly have.

Now the chickens are coming home to roost. Consider Ambac Assurance and the Municipal Bond Insurance Association (MBIA). They had done very well insuring tax-free municipal bonds. (For example, Ambac insured the San Diego ballpark bonds.) 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 question of whether Ambac and MBIA have the money to provide the protection they promised. The stock prices

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If bankers had brains

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of Ambac and MBIA have dropped precipitously, oscillating on rumors. There is talk of a bailout 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 finan-

cial 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. ■

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 Puebla Tree 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 crunches 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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- 12 EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS
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- 14 NON-COMPETITION AGREEMENTS
- 15 SEVERANCE AGREEMENTS
- 16 WAGE AND HOUR

■ EXTENSION 1004 ■

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Any person who makes or causes to be made any knowingly false or fraudulent material statement or material representation for the purpose of obtaining worker's compensation benefits or payments is guilty of a felony.



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- 50 YOUR WORK-RELATED INJURY
- 51 WORKERS' COMP BENEFITS
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■ EXTENSION 1015 ■

SEXUAL HARASSMENT / WRONGFUL TERMINATION



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- 70 SEXUAL HARASSMENT
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College 619-287-4422
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LETTERS

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

Ron Paul's Gang

I found your article on the Ron Paul lemmings to be very informative ("The Ron Paul Posse," "City Lights," January 31). Until now, my only impression of these people has been the anger I feel every time I drive past the new Thurgood Marshall Middle School and see the painted Ron Paul graffiti on the school's new concrete sign that it shares with Alliant International University. Perhaps Ron can send a couple members of his dedicated gang to clean up the vandalism, apparently left by one of their own.

Peter
Scripps Ranch

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 that even though I often disagree with him, as I have disagreed with your past editorial positions. You also mention that the *Gay and Lesbian Times* countered an editorial Mr. Yuhas wrote for the *Union-Tribune*. That is not true. A columnist took it upon himself to respond to Mr. Yuhas's comments. We simply published it unedited as many newspapers do. As to your questioning of whether or not my publications are pornographic, it is up to

your readers to decide. They can easily pick up a copy of the *Gay and Lesbian Times* or sign on to the Web and view past issues of *rocket magazine* at www.rocketsandiego.com and make up their own minds.

As for my philosophy, I simply want to be treated equally, as the vast majority of my community would agree. We seek absolutely no special treatment and no special rights. We want what you have. Period!

I understand deadlines and the importance of trying to get a story out. I hope this helps.

Michael G. Portantino
Publisher
Gay and Lesbian Times

Idiots!

Why must you make it so hard to look at all music events?? I did a search for music events and nothing was found for the entire month of February. Nice work. Guess I'm going to SignOnSanDiego.

Idiots!!!

Name Withheld
via email

We will soon return to our former website format of displaying a list of music events by venue — just as we do in the print version. Look for changes to the music section of our new site in the coming weeks. — Editor

continued on page 62

soft contacts

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Includes exam, spring-hinge metal frames, S.V. plastic lenses.

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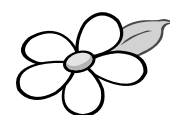
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- **As I Hear It** - Local CDs tested on the street...
- **Back When** - Best of Reader's past
- **Best Buys** - San Diego shopping
- **Blog Diego** - Best local blogs
- **Blog World** - Best international blogs
- **Breaking News** - Latest news stories
- **City Lights** - San Diego news and politics
- **Club Crawler** - Local picks of the week
- **Cover Story** - Front page feature
- **Crasher** - Detailed accounts of local parties

- **Crush** - Local wines and vineyards
- **Diary of a Diva** - San Diego woman tells all
- **Dumped** - Relationship failures
- **Letters** - Letters and e-mail to San Diego Reader
- **Matthew Alice** - Every question answered
- **Musician Interviews** - Local bands behind the scenes
- **Obermeyer** - San Diego politics illustrated
- **Off the Cuff** - Tough questions for man on street
- **Picture Story** - San Diego in photos
- **Reading** - San Diegans and their books
- **Remote Control** - Nothing like TV Guide
- **Roam-O-Rama** - San Diego's best hiking/biking trails
- **Say What** - San Diego slang
- **Seen on DVD** - Local experts share favorites
- **Sheep & Goats** - San Diego churches reviewed
- **Sporting Box** - Athletics without gush
- **Surf Diego** - San Diego surfers tell stories
- **T.G.I.F.** - Friday night in depth
- **Yo DJ!** - Local radio guys drop names

SAN DIEGO WEEKLY
Reader

Cool ^{new} website.

Click on any date and get a full list of events for that day.

Stories updated daily.

Readers can comment on any story.

Links to over 80 different San Diego **Neighborhood** pages – each with its own stories, events, coupons and classifieds.

Blogs updated daily.

Don Bauder, Josh Board, Jay Allen Sanford and others. Readers are encouraged to join the fray.

Links to **6500 movie reviews** by the inimitable Duncan Shepherd, plus movie show-times updated daily.

The screenshot shows the San Diego Reader website layout. At the top is a navigation bar with links like 'Job Giant', 'Useful Guides', 'Classifieds', 'Coupons', 'Tickets', 'Blogs', 'Log In or Sign Up', and 'Geek Tools'. Below this is a search bar and a main menu with categories: 'HOME', 'STORIES', 'NEIGHBORHOODS', 'EVENTS', 'MUSIC', 'MOVIES', 'ARTS', and 'FOOD & DRINK'. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- RECENT STORIES:** Features articles like 'Tacos Are a Tiny Taste of Temptation' and 'Circle of Friends'.
- LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR:** A calendar for January 2008 with a 'Today's Highlights' section listing events like 'Ozomathi Stanley Clarke'.
- CLASSIFIEDS:** A section for classified advertisements.
- COUPONS:** A section for discounts on restaurants, services, and more.
- CITY LIGHTS:** A section for local news and photos.
- NEIGHBORHOODS:** A section with maps and links for various neighborhoods like 'Allied Gardens' and 'Escondido'.
- MUSIC:** A section for music-related content, featuring artists like 'Astra Family' and 'Chris Klich'.
- MOVIES:** A section for movie reviews and showtimes, featuring titles like 'The Bucket List' and 'Rambo'.
- FOOD & DRINK:** A section for food-related content, featuring articles like 'Early Bird Gets the Duck'.
- CONTESTS:** A section for contests, featuring a contest to win a movie pass to 'In Bruges'.
- STAY IN TOUCH:** A section for staying updated with the site.

Red arrows from the text on the left point to specific features on the website: one points to the search bar, another to the 'Tacos Are a Tiny Taste of Temptation' article, a third to the 'Neighborhoods' section, a fourth to the 'Blogs of the Day' section, and a fifth to the '6500 movie reviews' section.

www.SDReader.com

San Diego Reader Job Giant Useful Guides Classifieds Coupons Tickets Blogs Log in or Sign Up Geek Tools

HOME STORIES NEIGHBORHOODS EVENTS MUSIC MOVIES ARTS FOOD & DRINK

SEARCH **GO**


FIND A RESTAURANT

Neighborhood:
 Cuisine:
 Restaurant Name:

[VIEW ALL RESTAURANTS](#)

THIS WEEK'S REVIEW

Gourmet Gluttony
 Posted Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2008 @ 12:00 p.m.



This year, for the first time since 1994, the 33rd annual winter Fancy Food Show came to San Diego, occupying the belly of the Convention Center for four days. Normally, the show is held in San ...

[MORE](#) [POST A COMMENT](#)

FOOD & DRINK ARTICLES

Underserved
 Portland didn't agree with marketing VP Kathy Bankard. Her employers at the tech company InFocus had moved her up north and bought her a house, ...
[MORE](#)

Gourmet Gluttony
 This year, for the first time since 1994, the 33rd annual winter Fancy Food Show came to San Diego, occupying the belly of the Convention ...
[MORE](#)

Anyone Can Dance
 "Tell you, man, they were dancing." "Dancing in a pizza place? Yeah, right. The pizzicato waltz?" Hank swears he saw it, last night, through the ...
[MORE](#)

Early Bird Gets the Duck
 Breathe a sigh of relief: It's not your grandma's Chex Loma anymore. The lovely, long-running Coronado bistro has sprung back to vivid life with new ...
[MORE](#)

Boutique Bubbings
 The hills across the road from Steve Chapin's Temecula vineyards — situated out past the tourist-friendly wineries and a short hop from Lake Skinner — ...
[MORE](#)

RECENT DRINK SPECIALS

[Pacific Beach Bar & Grill](#)
[Habana](#)

CALENDAR

2008 FEBRUARY

				1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	

Today's Highlights
9:30AM "Gardens of Brécy: A Lasting Landscape"
9:45AM Whale-Watching Cruises
10:00AM Craft Club
11:30AM "Writing for Their Lives"
[SUBMIT AN EVENT](#)

CONTESTS

Win Movie Passes to "Step Up 2 The Streets!"
 Posted 3 days, 1 hour ago
 The follow-up to the smash hit "Step Up," which ignited theaters in August 2006. When rebellious street dancer ...
[MORE](#)

Search for any restaurant by neighborhood, type of cuisine, or restaurant name.

Read **this week's review**.

Find recent drink specials at your favorite local watering hole.

San Diego Reader Job Giant Useful Guides Classifieds Coupons Tickets Blogs Log in or Sign Up Geek Tools

HOME STORIES NEIGHBORHOODS EVENTS MUSIC MOVIES ARTS FOOD & DRINK

SEARCH **GO**

BAR/CLUB, RESTAURANT

Bali Thai Café



407 Camino del Rio South
 San Diego, CA 92108
 619-297-0800
[GET DIRECTIONS](#)

[View Menu](#)
[View Coupon](#)

Expect the unexpected! This tiny, unique restaurant splits its menu between three nations with chefs from Indonesia and Thailand and a chef-owner from Suriname, a former Dutch colony (like Indonesia) in South America. The Thai menu is standard, although the *tom kha koong* (shrimp in coconut milk soup) is outstandingly authentic (don't eat the stuff at the bottom of the bowl!), while the richly tropical Indonesian dishes are so rare locally that culinary adventurers will want to explore such delights as "seafood delight roll," corn fritters, the soothing *soto ayam* (the Indonesian version of chicken-noodle comfort soup), Balinese fish fillet, and the spicy *sambal goreng* (shrimp in chili sauce), among others. Short but smart wine list, beer, sake. Easy evening parking. Heated, roofed patio. Large portions. Reserve for weeknights, no reservations accepted for weekends. Tuesday through Sunday, lunch and dinner. Low/moderate. — N.W.

Cuisine: Thai
Price: \$19 - \$21
SD Reader Rating:

CALENDAR

2008 FEBRUARY

				1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26
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9:30AM "Gardens of Brécy: A Lasting Landscape"
9:45AM Whale-Watching Cruises
10:00AM Craft Club
11:30AM "Writing for Their Lives"
[SUBMIT AN EVENT](#)

Everything you want to know about each restaurant:

- location
- directions
- hours
- reservation requirements
- kids' menu
- vegetarian items
- drink specials
- and more!

Plus the restaurant's **menu** and a valuable discount **coupon**!

BALI THAI

Tom Yum Taka 12
 Combination of seafood in hot and sour soup and fresh mushrooms

Papaya Salad 7
 Fresh papaya with spicy lime dressing, dried shrimp and crushed peanuts

Nam Tok 12
 Fresh salad with marinated Thai grilled beef

Laab Kai 9
 Minced chicken cooked with ground rice, red shallots, mint leaves and Thai spices

ENTREES

COMBINATIONS

Nasi Campur 22
 Coconut rice, chicken satay, ayam goreng kataon, fresh salad, beef rendang, telur balado, tempe goreng, acar, kecap and fresh sambal

Nasi Goreng
 Pan-fried rice with egg, onions, peas, carrots and herbs with choice of: Chicken, beef or mixed vegetables 9
 Shrimp / chicken and shrimp 12


Free entree

Buy 1 entree and 2 drinks, get second entree of equal or lesser value free. Offer expires February 29, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month.

Bali Thai Cafe
 Best Thai 2005, 2006 & 2007.

407 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego, 619-297-0800
www.balithaicafe.com

Backpage Coupons
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- Power outside mirrors w/turn signal indicators
- Push-button digital climate control system • Pioneer audio system
- iPod integration w/aux port • 6" 35-watt Pioneer subwoofer
- Audio controls on steering wheel • Fold flat front/rear and recline seats
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STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP

BY MATTHEW ALICE

Illustration by Rick Geary



Matthew Alice:

Who invented the yellow smiley face logo? Is he a millionaire now?

— Smilingly Curious, via email

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 trickier 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 grinny world. The Spains did okay on the buttons but didn't benefit from the decades of smileyfaciness 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 smile-type design appeared in various ads, note paper, 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 whimsy, speculating that it was a popular god 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 sprouting 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 table 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 it looks awful.

— 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 crud 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.

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

Got a question you need answered? Send an email to hey matt@cts.com or fax to 619-231-0489 or mail to Matthew Alice, c/o the Reader, Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186.



How does OFFICE PDX create some of the most stylish email campaigns in town?

They use Emma.

Every week, Kelly and Tony, founders of famed Portland design store, art gallery and event space OFFICE PDX, use email to keep their growing audience up to speed on new products, art openings and special events at the store. And they're doing it in style, with Emma's custom-designed email templates, one-click send-offs and real-time response tracking. It's easy, it's affordable, and it's helping 10,000 fine organizations around the world create, send and track email newsletters and campaigns in style. Oh, and nice hat, Tony.

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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, white beard. The beard was simply magnificent. As bonus, Homer's cheekbones were set high, causing raven eyes to squint mightily, which, in turn, begot the visage of a jolly, trustworthy St. Nick. Nothing could be further from the truth.

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

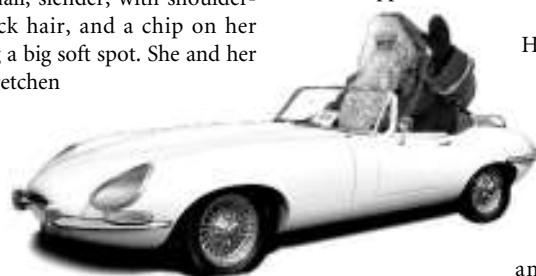
how it was we agreed to marry. I do remember the wedding. It was held at Homer's house, in the rarely used living room, the room with a wall of windows on the south side looking down on a protected forest.

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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SHEEP AND GOATS

PLACES OF WORSHIP REVIEWED

Denomination: Disciples of Christ
Address: 8320 La Jolla Scenic Drive North,
La Jolla, 858-453-3550
Founded locally: 1960
Senior pastor: Dr. Michael J. Spitters
Congregation size: about 700
Staff size: two full-time, a few part-time
Sunday school enrollment: 25
Annual budget: \$900,000
Weekly giving: around \$17,000
Dress: semiformal 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 emerging to become. We just know that we're getting out of something." Part of what he wanted to avoid was anything that struck outsiders as "playing at worshipping 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 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. Fitting environs 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, Gloria).

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 every-

day 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's asking.... Worshipping 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, "that way leads to abundant and everlasting life."

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

Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com



MICHAEL SPITTERS

Torrey Pines Christian Church La Jolla ★★½

Sermon

content.....★★★★
delivery.....★★½

Liturgy

.....★★★★

Music

congregational.....★½
band.....★★½

Snacks

.....★★★★

Architecture

.....★★★★

Friendliness

.....★★★★

Poor to satisfactory.....(none)

Good.....★

Very good.....★★

Excellent.....★★★★

Extraordinary.....★★★★

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— EVE KELLY

"I 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 at 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, one that would maybe make everyone happy: synthetic grass.

"It started as AstroTurf, back in the late '60s" explained Payne. "It became very prevalent on sports fields in the '70s. 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, there's fill in between the blades. We call it 'crumb rubber' — it's car tires ground up into little bits like breadcrumbs. If you saw the Colts game against the Chargers, and you saw someone drag their toe, you might have noticed a little rooster tail flying 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 shiny." 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 were 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

"You want your neighbor to say, 'Wow, nice lawn,' not 'Wow, nice fake lawn.'"

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."

Omega's lawns don't fade from exposure to UV radiation, said Payne, and "most factories will give an eight-year warranty on their product. There are four major

factories in Georgia, and they're all within 20 miles of each other. They make almost all of the artificial turf sold in America. There's some that comes out of China, but it's not of the same quality. One day, it will be, but not right now. Our focus is to get the most realistic grass available, grass with a high face-weight and density. We differentiate ourselves from other companies by giving you an eight-year warranty on the installation as well. Most companies, it's just two years. But I think that, depending on use, you can get between 10 and 20 years out of a synthetic lawn."

Cost for installed turf can vary greatly, cautioned Payne — "anywhere from \$7 to \$18 a square foot. At the high end, those guys have a lot of commercials to pay for. On the low end, you have to cut corners somewhere — maybe they put down only one inch of decomposed granite, or maybe they use turf made in China. We shoot for the highest quality at a fair price — it floats around \$10 to \$11 a square foot, installed. As the installation gets bigger, the price goes down a bit."

Finally, Payne noted that some water districts are offering rebates to customers who currently water their lawns if they decide to switch over to synthetic turf. "The Padre Dam and Helix districts are offering \$1 a square foot, up to 1000 square feet." For details, check with your district.

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1. Omega Turf installation
2. Omega Turf lawn
3. Chris Payne



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by Barbarella

Jane's Dream

The difference between perseverance and obstinacy is that one comes from a strong will, and the other from a strong won't.

— Henry Ward Beecher

I held the camera as steady as I could without a tripod, zoomed in on my sister's face, then backed off the

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.

zoom until the shot included the baby in her arms. Babies elicit compassion. "Okay, ready," I said. Jane raised her brows beseechingly. "No, don't look at me, look at the camera," I instructed. Adjusting her gaze to meet the lens, Jane gave a weak plea for help. "No, no, you can't just ask for it," I said, fully stepping into my role as director. "You need to make them want to give it to you. What's your sob story? Why should they choose you over everybody else?" "I need help," said Jane.

"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 even install build-outs. This was clearly a win-win situation, Jane reasoned. She would get someone to redesign her garage for free, a designer would get recognition and future work, and Oprah would gain viewers looking for organizing tips. "You know how to write," Jane told me four years ago. "Help me write this letter and I'll buy you lunch."

We never did write that letter. In the years since, a cavalcade of new home-improvement shows has allowed Jane to expand her list of prospective dream fulfillers. Every time she watches professionals take an average person and transform their disaster room 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."

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"You two get in here," Bella shrieked from the doorway, "I think it's starting to rain!"

Without missing a beat, Jane proceeded to implore 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? I've been working on these babies for years." I looked to Jane for an explanation.

"Where does she get this stuff?" I said.

"Everywhere. Sponges, Barb, they're sponges. That, and she's had two days in a row with daddy." Jane shrugged as if to say, "What're ya gonna do?"

After complimenting Bella on her buffness, I set about wrapping things up. "Let's try one more plea we can tack on to the end," I said.

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.

Suddenly, as though the random voices in our heads synchronized, Jane and I looked at her eldest daughter with newfound interest. "Bella," we called simultaneously. Jane let me take the lead: "Bella, look into the camera, honey. Say, 'help my mommy get organized,' okay?"

"Help my mommy!" Bella cried.

"Get organized," Jane said.

"Get organized," the child repeated.

"Now all together," I said. Jane joined me in chanting the demand a few times.

"Help my mommy! Get organized," echoed Bella. *From the mouths of babes*, I thought. This might actually work.

Once we had extracted the desired performance from the budding child star, Jane stepped before the camera and said, "If you have any ideas, anything you can email, anything at all,

please help." As if on cue, Bella, without any prompting, offered a Tiny Tim-like flourish for the camera: "So our family can be completely safe!" ■

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North Park to the Glider Port

Ollie's Big Bike Ride

(continued from front page)

My kit involves a pair of special elf shoes with yellow Velcro straps. They're elfish because there's a metal shank extending from the toe to the heel that prevents them from bending in the middle and provides more pedaling power. But for no reason at all, the toes curl up a little at the end.

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 pudginess 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 pained 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 from an unaccredited clown college, you wouldn't feel out of place. So to us, this outlandish way of dressing for safety 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 kit 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 nipples 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

"This is a walking bridge!" the woman bellows from under her plaid blanket.

change clothes completely. I won't be in the high-tech cling 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 36th Street, hushing 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!"

Off we go! Up 36th toward University, but I remember my map is behind me, on my coffee table. I eyeball the 200 feet I've covered already and decide it's too far, so rather than turn around for the map, I steel my frontier spirit, fold my ears flat against my head, shift gears, and carry on. We're mapless and free and riding wild for this one, kids. Strap in.

There's no way I'm taking University, and I'll tell you why. Buses. Your average pickup truck or Volvo station wagon is frightening enough to ride beside, but buses terrify the squirt out of me.

Let's look at the difference between a bus and me on a bicycle. I'm five foot seven inches in my black Cons and 206 pounds after a hearty breakfast. My bike is a 1985 Trek that originally weighed, from the factory,




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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 Tran-

sit System — is 40 feet long, 11 feet high, 8.5 feet wide, and without even one passenger weighs 28,875 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 diving 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 conveyor 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 hasenpfeffer.

No thank you. I'll ride up 36th, cross University, and turn left



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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 pull left 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 out of the 2800 miles, about 45 percent. The grand jury found the streets to be in “a deplorable situation.” I got that from San Diego County’s own website, sdcounty.ca.gov. I like the wording of it, “deplorable situation.” It sounds so

bleak.

Anyway. Mayor Sanders allocated \$13 million to repair the streets. That sum exceeds the funds budgeted for street repair in the previous seven years combined. Don’t get too excited. The \$13 million will repair about 100 miles. But it’s a start.

Stretches of Orange Avenue, Lincoln Avenue, and University, all around my neighborhood of North Park and into City Heights, are apparently included in those 100 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 deducible reason, Howard Avenue, and I’m heading toward the heart of North Park, 30th Street. Thirtieth 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,

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.

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 Boule-

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 to see a gigantic man in a helmet that’s the color of green usually reserved for iridescent plankton. He’s on a bike that looks as if it

could grasp mine, flip it on its side, and stomp it into the mud. His bike is chrome and blue, the top tube rides at about the height of my neck, and it has aggressive new styling. If his bike is Shaquille O’Neal, then mine is your sixth-grade PE coach, in those ugly short shorts, that Conway Twitty pompadour, and those arthritic, pale hands of his.

“Hello,” he says in a voice not unlike Herman from *The Munsters*, only with a little bit of an off-Broadway limp.

“New bike?” I ask.

“Yes-s-s-s, it is-s-s,” he answers, obviously thrilled.

“It’s a beauty,” I offer.

“Thank you. Oh well, thank you,” he speaks in a breathy tone. “I just love it.”

“How come you’re cycling?” I ask.

“Faster,” he answers. “I live on Adams and work at the hospital.”

“You just start riding?”

“Yeah. You know, I’m only a couple miles from work. My house is just back there,” he says and nods behind us. “I just thought, the other day,

hey, why can’t I bike to work? And a friend helped me buy it and showed me the bridge.”

Our hubs whirr in that way that sounds as though we’re battling a giant marlin with a Snoopy My First Fishing Pole (*WHIIIIZZZZZZ*), and we round the corner, dashing between pot-holes and across the pavement to Lincoln Avenue; then we whiz, side by side, left onto Vermont Street toward the circular dead end and sidewalk. His longer legs rotate the cranks much faster than I can, and he shoots past me. Damn my short, inadequate tadpole legs.

He bops up an easement, crosses the sidewalk, and appears to fall off the cliff onto the 163 and Washington below, but he doesn’t really fall. He glides into the narrow corridor of a pedestrian bridge, and I’m right behind him.

The bridge is blue metal framed with panels of stainless steel about shoulder height that are machine-cut with inspirational phrases from people like Dr. Seuss about the joys of walking.



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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 cross the span of the bridge, because on the other side, at the opposite end of the walking bridge, coming toward us is an antique woman, seated and humming along in a burgundy, motorized Rascal scooter.

Herman and I shimmy our dead reckon-

ing to the right of the woman, and I feather my chrome brake handles a touch in case Herman plows into the crone and I'm stuck behind a two-person cyclist-versus-septuagenarian pileup. Herman slows and I slow more. I was planning on bombing past her, but big Herman Munster slows and I slow behind him and he's right; we shouldn't blast past her. It'd be rude. So we slow wa-a-a-a-a down.

We're going much slower than walking speed; our hubs are clicking methodically and loudly and echoing against the metal side-walls 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."

"Yes, 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-

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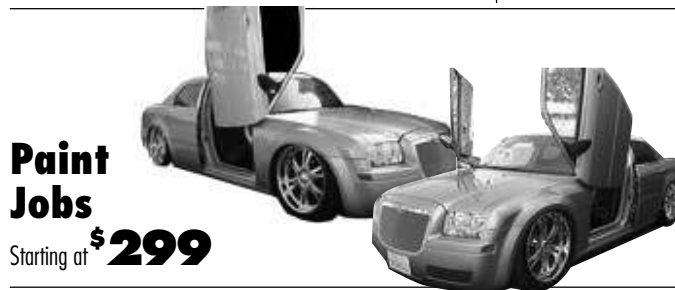
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4-7:30 pm

Saturday, Feb. 9
10 am-6 pm

Food! Discounts! Giveaways!

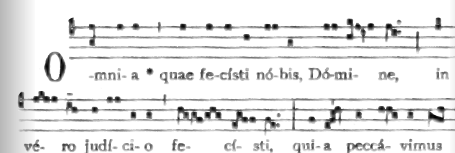
Come see our new Valentine's collection!

The Enchantress
619.294.4544

1400 Camino de la Reina #121
Next to Mission Valley Hooters



Gregorian Chant Mass



Celebrant:
Bishop Salvatore Cordileone.
Come early to get parking easily
(Little Italy Festa in progress).

Sunday, Feb. 10, 4:00 pm

Pizza Social with singing by the Schola after Mass.

Our Lady of the Rosary Church

San Diego's Jewel Box of Baroque and Rococo Art
State and Date Streets (Little Italy)
Downtown San Diego

before me, just in time for the yellow light, and I get the red, so I finger my brakes and pull my Converse 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 road from the walking bridge to the hill that drops down from Mission Hills into Old Town. And I'm at least consis-

tent in that I constantly change my mind and I'm hypocritical on my previous 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 Hillcrest sign, and past the busy retail district that ends at about Urban Mo's Bar and Grill, Bread & Cie, and Peet's Coffee 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 coozies up about two feet from me and electrically lowers its

Do You Get Anxious in Social Situations?

Do you:

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



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



For more information, please call

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

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 suffer from chronic pain, migraines, arthritis, MS, osteoporosis, or fibromyalgia?

FREE TREATMENTS Feb. 10-22. Call to reserve your space: **619-543-1061**

BOTOX® as low as
\$5.40/unit

BOTOX injections take as little as 15 minutes and last 3 to 9 months. **\$8 per unit** for first area, **\$6 per unit** second area, **\$5.40 per unit** third area introductory price (25 units per area). Results may vary.

Call 619-543-1061

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

We have new and innovative **medications** and regimens to help you lose weight without depleting your body of the nutrients it needs and help you feel satisfied: **bioidentical hormones**, lifestyle and nutrition training and **vitamin B-12 injections** are important contributors to your well-being and helpful in increasing your energy, heightening your metabolism and feeding your nervous system. Let Dr. Sterner develop an individualized program just for you.

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Medical Center & Weight Control Medical Clinic
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San Diego 92101

Robert F. Sterner, Jr., MD
Harvard 1978/UCLA 1982
Serving San Diego Since 1984

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

rear window to allow a poodle the size of a motorcycle to stick its head out and FRIGHTENINGLY bark in my ear. A quick shouted expletive, a startled shimmy, and a short burst of escaped urine, alas all from me, and with a hum the BMW and dog are, quick as they appeared, gone, and I'm cycling normally, with the exception of a heartbeat somewhere near the cyclical rate and noise of an M60 machine gun.

The son of a bitch rolled down his window so his dog could bark at me. Can you believe that?

If you're a cyclist you can. That sort of thing happens a lot, actually. 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-jambled, 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 recov-

ered, 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

do it. It's not like you *have* to ride a bike."

True. You're right. Cyclists are slow and are forever in the way. I know; I'm not just a cyclist. I also drive regularly. While I'm driving I get annoyed by the slow cyclists, and while I'm biking I get pissed at the

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-

My front wheel missed her rear bumper by a fraction of an inch.

drivers swerved so as not to run him over.

This all seems as though I'm begging for pity, doesn't it? Poor us. The cyclists who have to share the road with cars and buses are oppressed. I know what you're saying. "If you don't like it, don't

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

RESEARCH STUDIES

SCHIZOPHRENIA SCHIZOAFFECTIVE BIPOLAR DISORDER MAJOR DEPRESSION

We may currently or in the future have inpatient and outpatient research studies involving investigational medications for the conditions listed above.

Qualified candidates will be reimbursed for time and transportation (\$50 for each inpatient hospital day and up to \$100 for each outpatient visit).

For more information, call: **858-566-8222**

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

CYSTIC FIBROSIS

Are you or someone you know suffering from Cystic Fibrosis?

LUTH RESEARCH is conducting a paid medical research study in the San Diego area to help people diagnosed with CF. If you are interested in sharing with us what it is like to manage your "everyday" life, we will pay you **\$CASH\$** for conducting an in-home interview with us. This is strictly for research purposes only and there is **NO SALES** involved. All information is kept confidential and in compliance with the HIPPA laws and regulations.

LUTH
research
Intelligence from knowledge.™

If you are interested please call
619-243-8052 or
800-465-5884 ext. 8052 or 8033
between the hours of 8 am-5 pm
Monday through Friday.

Volunteers Needed

You May Be Compensated to Help Others



San Diego, CA

Accelovance is seeking healthy volunteers for upcoming drug discovery research studies. Must be 18 years of age or older. Qualified participants will be compensated based on length of study and travel commitment. Study related medication and physician care provided at no cost.

Call Accelovance Today!



ACCELOVANCE

(619) 291-2845

Allergic to Milk?



30 Million Americans suffer from Lactose Intolerance, and are forced to give up Milk, Cheese, Ice Cream, and other delicious foods everyday. If you suffer from moderate to severe Lactose Intolerance, you may qualify for a clinical research study.

Participants may receive up to \$300.00 for 3 visits.
Interested? Call Accelovance TODAY at:

San Diego, CA



(619) 291-2845

ACCELOVANCE



Neck or lower back pain?

Arm 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!



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- Facet syndrome

Complimentary consultation & evaluation!
See if you are a candidate for this new innovative treatment! Call for details. Offer expires 2/21/08.

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#201
866-887-5790
sdspinaldecompression.com



NON-SURGICAL
SPINE CARE CENTER

Hablamos Español



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
See our website: 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?
- Still having trouble sitting still or finding it impossible to simply relax?
- Between 18 and 65 years of age? • In overall good health?

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

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






Tired of the weight? A Type II diabetic?

Are you:

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

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

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



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

Anxiety?

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

☒ **Anxious/Worried?**


☒ **Difficulty Sleeping?**

☒ **Restless/Tense?**

☒ **Difficulty Concentrating?**

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

Center for Understanding and Treating Anxiety
Call: **(619) 229-3740**
<http://nas.psy.sdsu.edu>



Is your Schizophrenia medication making you heavy?


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


You may qualify if you are:

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

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

For more information about this study, please contact:
(619) 688-6565
See our website: www.ari-inc.com






Not sleeping?

Are you:

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

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

If you are interested in learning more about this study, please contact:
(619) 688-6565
See our website: www.ari-inc.com



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.

ects. Not that those are necessarily “bad” funds, but for pedestrian and bicycle projects, only \$.28 billion of that tax is budgeted, which is \$280 million. Which amounts to road and highway projects receiving 30 times the amount of money that is being allotted to bike and pedestrian projects.

Of course, there are easily 30 cars on the road for every one bike. Maybe that money *should* go to car funds rather than walking and biking funds, because there are just MORE cars.

But this is San Diego. Routinely named one of the healthiest cities in the United States. Joggers trot down the San Diego River path to Dog Beach every day. Hikers strap their boots up and plod around Cowles Mountain constantly. Every June, we shut down the 163 freeway, set up a stage every mile, and let possibly

deranged people run the Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon. And a quick search reveals 284 businesses related to the term “gym” in the San Diego area.

Why couldn’t we have a separate path for bikes and walkers?

Also consider this. Last year the price of \$65 per barrel of oil was considered scandalous, but we pushed through and got comfortable with that. Now it’s almost 100 bucks a barrel. And CNN’s *Fortune* magazine reports that a few experts theorize the price of oil could hit \$265 per barrel in coming years. I’m not here to argue whether it will happen or not, but do you really think gas will get cheaper? Has it ever gotten cheaper?

I predict a lot more bikes on the roads by this summer, when gas prices make their annual climb.

Why couldn’t San Diego be a leader in

cycling and pedestrian traffic, championing environmentalism funded by the TransNet tax? Why couldn’t we push further toward independence from oil, foreign or otherwise? What would we have to do, dip into the \$8.6 billion we’re planning on spending on highways?

Get us out of the vehicle traffic, and get vehicle traffic away from us. It works in favor of both our interests.

Here’s a cyclist’s pipe dream. Run a path, built up on the sides by curbs or raised from street level about a foot, for pedestrians and bikes only. It could be right down the middle of University or over to one side, where diagonal parking spots reside now. Cars could still park, but they’d have to park parallel instead of diagonally to the curb, but they could definitely park. The bike-and-walk

RESEARCH STUDIES



**ARE YOU A
NIGHT OWL?**

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:

- 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



PACIFIC SLEEP MEDICINE SERVICES For more information on these and other clinical studies:
call (toll free) **1.866.410.6767** or visit **www.AvastraClinicalTrials.com**



**ARE YOU TAKING
A PAIN
MEDICATION?**

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, hydrocodone 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

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.

Do You Suffer From Recurrent Genital Herpes?

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

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

Qualified participants will receive:

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

For more information, call:
619-521-2841

Medical Center for Clinical Research



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

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

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

- You receive up to \$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 medication for poor sleep.

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

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

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



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



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.



Finding Answers Together - Since 1982

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

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 will 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 megahouses. 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 perk up as though threatened by snakes, my body hair stands alert, my pupils

open, and the reserves of my adrenal glands are tapped to squeeze sweet paranoid juice into my bloodstream. I make myself larger, spreading out in hopes of increasing wind resistance. I jerk back on my brakes, hard, and ring my bell like a goddamn maniac as I glide gracelessly down the hill, jittery and screaming, "Don't kill me!" at every intersection and driveway, to ward off any motorists who could pull out perpendicular to my plummeting path. During my freefall, squealing brakes are intermittently interrupted by terrified screeching and a rapid-fire *ping ping ping ping ping ping ping ping ping!* until I reach the bottom of the hill and I'm emp-

tied into the blind intersection where Taylor Street crosses Juan.

And voilà! I'm at the bottom. And that's the most exhilarating ride in San Diego. And I lived. I look behind me up Juan and do a little cross over my T-shirted heart.

And I'm here in Old Town by the trolley station. Why there's a trolley station in the tacky tourist trap that is Old Town I don't know. I've never woken up and said to myself, "I really need to get a commemorative margarita glass, and what the hell, let's take the trolley to go get it!" But I suppose someone has, and there it is, and here we are.

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

RESEARCH STUDIES

Pediatric Diabetes Caregivers

Are you or someone you know the Primary Caregiver of a child with **Type 1 Diabetes**? **LUTH RESEARCH** is conducting a paid medical research at our facility located in downtown San Diego. We are looking for Caregivers of children 14 years or younger who have been diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes to participate in a 1-hour in-depth interview and we will pay you **\$100** for your time and opinions. This is strictly for research purposes only and there is **NO SALES** involved. All information is kept confidential and in compliance with the HIPPA laws and regulations.

If interested, please call:

**619-243-8052 or
800-465-5884 ext. 8052 or 8033**
between 8 am-5 pm Monday through Friday.

LUTH
research
intersection of intelligence



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)

Pediatric Research Study

Does your child have "Pinkeye"?

UCSD is conducting a clinical study using an antibiotic eyedrop for "Pinkeye" (bacterial conjunctivitis).

Your child may be eligible to participate if he or she:

- Is between the age of birth to 31 days old
- Has "Pinkeye" (bacterial conjunctivitis)
- Is in good general health

Study participation offers the following at no cost:

- Study medication (eyedrops)
- Physical and eye exams
- Vital signs (heart rate, respiratory rate, temperature)
- Compensation for your time and travel

Smoking too much pot?

WE WANT TO HELP YOU STOP!

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

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

or visit **www.pearsoncenter.org**

for more detailed information.



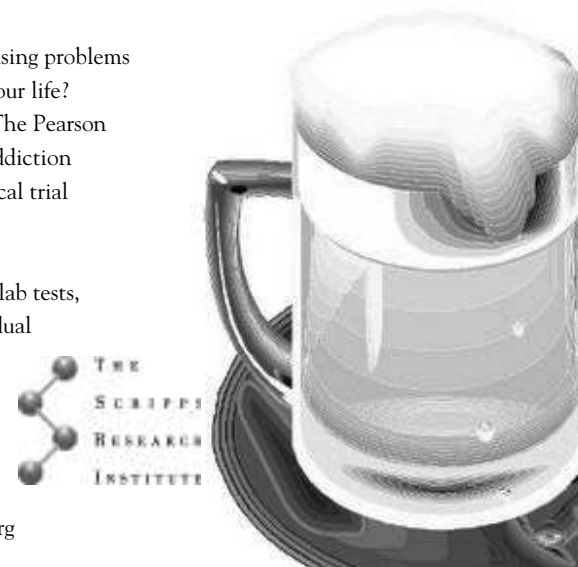
Attn: Heavy Drinkers

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

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

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

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



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 Bacon Street. Bacon ends at Robb Field, and there's a little easement that pops up from the street and onto the built-up edge of the river, where you can ride along the ravine.

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."

Why you little... If



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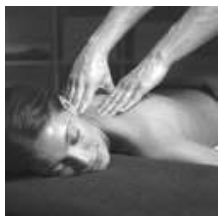


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there wasn't a fence here...

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.

"Yep," 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

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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, 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 suf-

fered 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
Hermosa 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 dis-
lodge 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 Cali-
fornia 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 Möbius
strip, and the third circles
interminably around an
outcropping of eucalyp-
tus 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 rec-
ognize a street sign and
make my way from Tor-
rey 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

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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, FASTER, 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! How come... 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 com-

posure 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!

At 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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"No," he says. "Conditions are all wrong. See that smog over the water?" he directs my attention to a brown layer sitting like a shelf of mud in the air over the Pacific. "That smog blew out there from the Santa Anas. We need it to blow the other direction for the pilots to get off the ground."

The glider port at Torrey Pines is a small patch of lawn overlooking a 300-foot steep cliff beside the ocean. People pay good money to strap themselves to a parachute or glider and, when a stiff wind catches them, jump off the cliff. No thank you.

The glider port also has a shop to buy the rayon jumpsuits, parachutes, and ropes and things for the activity and — why I'm here — a small outdoor café. Since it's not a popular lunch destination, and there are

no pilots flinging themselves yon into the open blue, I have a small area of a dozen white patio tables to myself, except for a fat black Labrador who comes to have a sniff at the back of my right knee.

I lean Blackie the Bicycle against a length of fence and pet the dog. From an open counter a thin man in a white chef's outfit calls out to me. "What would you like to eat?"

Finally. The reason I spent a morning riding a narrow steel bicycle 24 miles, down 200 feet to sea level, then 200 feet back up a winding road to here. Gorgeous here. "A big cheeseburger," I reply. "Sorry," he says. "We don't have cheeseburgers anymore."

My shoulders slump. I hang my head and rub my forehead with a gloved hand, spreading crystallized sweat salt and

road grime across my brow. I pat the chubby dog on the head.

"Okay," I call back to him and wave. "Thanks."

I pull Blackie the Black Bicycle of Morality and Justice from her hitching post, point her away from the cliff. I nod to the man in the patio chair watering his patch of lawn, and he nods back. And I walk Blackie through the dirt parking lot again, muttering to myself, "Maybe Coronado? Yeah. I think the Night and Day Café has a good burger for lunch... Yeah! I can take the Rose Creek Bike Path back. And get an ice cream at Gelato Vero, you know, for the carbs. It's going to be a long ride..."

At Salk Institute Road, I mount Blackie the Bicycle again and shout, "Hyeah, Blackie! Get up, girl! Hyeah!"

And we're off. ■

— Ollie

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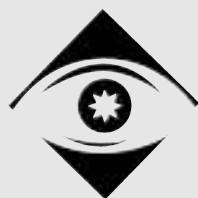
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When any old book won't do, find another life to lead



Robert Lowell and Jean Stafford

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.

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 over-

whelmed. 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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quently you've got gossip letters, your biographer likely will go to parties in other writers' biographies, and you've got the work.

phies. Stafford's a particularly felicitous subject because she married two writers—poet Robert Lowell was her first hus-

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 biogra-

band and the *New Yorker's* A.J. Liebling her third. So you have Ian Hamilton's Lowell biography and Raymond Sokolov's life of

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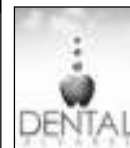
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Liebling. And because, through Lowell, Stafford got to know the mad Delmore Schwartz and bridge-jumper Berryman, you also have biographies or memoirs of these men, and you have Berryman's first wife Eileen Simpson's *Poets in Their Youth*. You can see how this works.

God knows, Stafford's life wasn't happy. Her father, blessed with a comfortable inheritance, was a largely unsuccessful writer of Western novels who wrote under the pseudonyms Jack Wonder and Ben Delight. Jean was the last of the Staffords' four children. She was born on a walnut ranch in Covina and lived there until she was five, when her father sold the ranch and moved the family to San Diego, where he hoped to triple his money (about \$300,000) by investing in the stock market. 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. She would remember, too, a trip to Coronado to hear the outdoor band concerts. Her father almost immediately lost every cent, and after eight months in San Diego, the family left in shame for Colorado, where Jean's mother kept them alive by taking in boarders. (Only David Roberts's *Jean*

filling page after page. We bought our father postage and paper; my mother spared his feelings; we believed he was an artist"), she'd decided by the time she turned ten that she'd write too. She graduated from the University of Colorado, which she attended on scholarship, got herself to Europe

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 writing 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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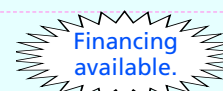
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friend Berryman said, "as a matinee idol." He was also an untreatable manic depressive who off and on had to be sequestered in loony bins, as Stafford and two subsequent wives (also literary — Elizabeth Hardwick and Caroline Blackwood) would learn. And he was given to violence — he was a wife beater.

Lowell was so wild and untamable that by the time he was a 13-year-old student, at St. Mark's, friends were calling him "Cal." Hamilton's biography explains, "The nickname 'Cal'... was part Caligula and part Caliban. His classmates considered both models thoroughly appropriate."

As Lowell got older, he got worse. In fall 1938, Stafford described Lowell to a friend as "an uncouth, neurotic, psychopathic murderer-poet."

* * *

On Christmas Day 1938, according to Hamilton's account, Lowell, notorious

for his bad driving, borrowed his father's big blue Packard and, with Jean in the passenger seat, crashed it into a wall at the end of a Cambridge cul-de-sac. Jean's nose was crushed. Lowell may or may not have fled the scene. He may or may not have been drunk. Stafford was hospitalized "to begin a long saga of dreadful operations on her nose."

David Roberts tells the tale this way:

"A few days before Christmas, Lowell borrowed his father's car and took her out on a date. A poor driver under the best of circumstances, that evening Lowell had a good deal to drink. As he drove her through west Cambridge on the way to Concord, he took the wrong turn at a fork in the road, entering a dead-end lane, and ran head-on into a wall. Lowell was unhurt, but Stafford's head smashed into the windshield, crushing her nose and fracturing her skull."

Ann Hulbert places the accident on December 21 and presents it through the eyes of James Hightower, Stafford's lover at the time: "He received an urgent message to call Mount Auburn Hospital. He found Stafford swaddled in bandages and, learning of the accident, discovered that she hadn't kept Lowell at a safe distance after all."

Lowell, a junior then at Kenyon College, returned to Ohio, leaving Jean in the hospital. The "long saga" described by Lowell biographer Hamilton lasted well over a year. There were five operations on her nose and excruciating dental work.

The 1938 car wreck is a milestone in all three biographies of Stafford, in Hamilton's Lowell, and of course earns mention in other books. Eileen Simpson, telling of a summer in 1946 that she and Berryman spent in Maine with the Lowells in the comfortable house

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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. Hulbert, 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 Hulbert 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 Kavanaughs" 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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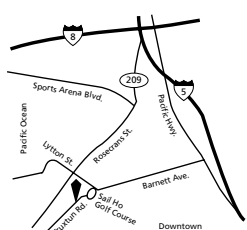
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"plucked the packs from the cold, numb nose. The pincers bit at nothing, snapped at the air, and cracked a nerveless icicle."

After her split from Lowell, Stafford scuttled into Manhattan's Payne Whitney Clinic, crazy from drink and sorrow. She wanted Lowell back and wrote him heartrending letters: "I have continued to wait for you as I shall wait for you all my life, not because I am possessive, not because I am a coward, but because I love you and because I desire you and desire to be married to you and because even if you never come back, there will be my hope that you will."

And, "I know this, Cal, and the knowledge eats me like an inward animal: there is nothing worse for a woman than to be deprived of her womanliness. For me, there is nothing worse than the knowledge that my life holds nothing for me but being a writer."

When Stafford wrote that letter, her first two novels, *Boston Adventure* and *Mountain Lion*, were already behind her. Her third and last finished novel (she would struggle for the rest of her life with novel manuscripts that she could never bring to an end), *The Catherine Wheel*, was published in 1952. She wrote short stories, most of which were published in the *New Yorker*, and odd pieces of journalism that appeared in *Vogue* and *Mademoiselle*.

Stafford was considered a writer's writer, someone who wrote elegantly, with polish, and with no thought for the fame that would put one's book in the grocer's rack. Her critical detractors thought her writing and her characters not much more than delirious stick figures. Many of her stories are stories of lonely children, better behaved than the youngsters who peopled stories of Stafford's contemporaries

J.D. Salinger, Carson McCullers, and Truman Capote.

December 1946, Lowell's second book of poetry, *Lord Weary's Castle*, was published, and by spring 1947, he had been awarded a Pulitzer and had his picture in *Life* magazine.

* * *

I didn't find Lowell that much a jerk when I first read the Ian Hamilton biography. Sure, his mother was a social-climbing old bag and his father a thorough weakling, and Robert was a spoiled only child, a mama's boy. But he was easy to forgive because of the wonder of his rolling lines as lush as undeveloped prairie and as stubborn underfoot. Re-reading him, however, as an accessory to Jean Stafford's story, he comes to seem someone like the monsters who lent him his nickname.

After the breakup, with Stafford put to bed

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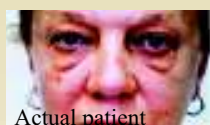
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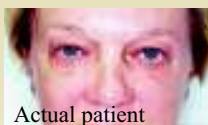
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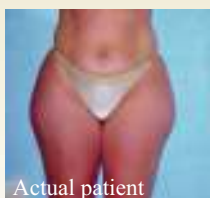
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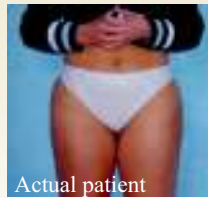
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behind locked doors in Payne Whitney and her *Mountain Lion*, with its tale of two youngsters, sister and brother, Molly and Ralph, growing up in first California and then Colorado, about to come into print, Lowell's poem "The Dead Brother" was published 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 grafito," 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

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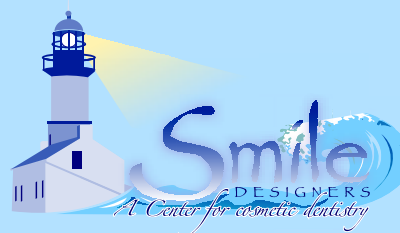
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and truly stranded.”
(Sheed)

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



Robert Lowell and Jean Stafford

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 dolling 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 Kavanaghs*, 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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have been thinking about
Lowell.

* * *

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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
thrall 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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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 father's publishing 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 slightly 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

Originally published in the *Reader* on November 19, 1992.



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continued from page 12

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S.F.
via email

In the navigational bar on the home page, place your cursor on "Stories." You'll find "Roam-O-Rama" in

the pull-down menu of alphabetized stories and columns. — Editor

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 grandsons (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 we'd be 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 continues to increase, since 1998 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 man, not the other way around, say that 2007 was the seventh warmest year on record. If the planet 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 as vocal about how the north polar ice refroze at record rates this winter or about

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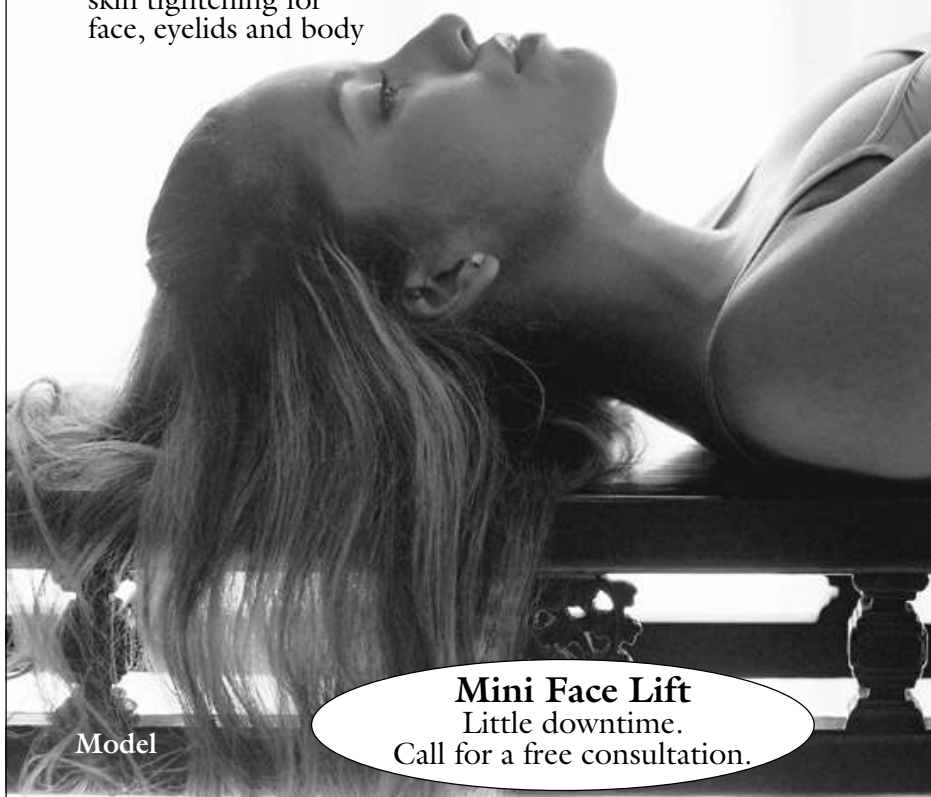
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how the southern ice has been setting new records for its extent. Of course not — that tends to disprove their favorite myth — that we're experiencing a climate catastrophe. They're depending on it to keep us interested in their plan to create a massive 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 "Shoehorn Technique," which is just hilarious. Please bring them back.

Irv Jacobs
La Mesa

Comments from Reader Website

Cover Story

Published January 30

Posted by jstar67 on Jan. 31, 1:45 p.m.

I know that Lupe is trying to do a good thing by feeding the homeless, but, unfortunately, the homeless she is feeding are made up mostly of drug abusing low-lives that stay in Ocean Beach, in part, because of people like her that make it easy for them. Many of them are runaways, that have left home, not because of a bad homelife, but because they want to do drugs, and their parents don't allow that. I live in Ocean Beach, and I can't even take my daughter down to enjoy the beach, because of the number of homeless that hang out in the park there. Feeding them just keeps them there. I understand that there are exceptions, but I see them every single day, and know that most of them are not just people who are "down on there luck". The adult homeless "party" with young kids/teenagers that live there, and it makes me sick. They are dragging our community down.

Posted by jstar67 on Feb. 1, 2008, 1:50 p.m.

trabson7-Unfortunately, I have gotten to know some of the homeless in Ocean Beach, because a good friend of mine has a son who habitually runs away, and we have found him down in the park at the beach, buying, selling, and doing drugs with many of them. Many of them are drunk everyday, and are doing nothing to try and better themselves. Many of them hang out under the

pier, selling drugs and bumming money for beer and cigarettes all day long. They swear, fight, crap on the stairs that I use to get to the beach, etc. I have even found them lying passed out with their wangs hanging out. just what I want my daughter to see. They all seem to have plenty of money to party, but apparently none to feed themselves, or get themselves into a shelter, or room for rent.

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 papparazzi. 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

janeb on Jan. 25, 2008, 4:52 p.m.

Finally, tacos getting the attention they deserve.

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Pacific Coast Trail Hiker

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 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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DANCE

"Collage 2008 — Moved to Dance" San Diego Civic Dance Company presents 25th annual recitals with dancing in variety of styles through February 17. 619-702-3408. Sunday, February 10, 2 p.m.; Saturday, February 9, 3 p.m.; Saturday, February 9, 7 p.m.; \$10-\$12. Casa del Prado Theater, 1650 El Prado, Suite 208. (BALBOA PARK)

"Romeo and Juliet" St. Petersburg Ballet performs re-telling of Shakespeare's love story, danced to music by Sergei Prokofiev. Full-length ballet by choreographer Serge Vikulov and artistic director Yuri Petukhov is performed in three acts. 619-570-1100. Tuesday, February 12, 7:30 p.m.; \$30-\$70. Balboa Theatre,

854 Fourth Avenue. 619-570-1100. (DOWNTOWN)

Annual International Dance Festival Event hosted by International Dance Association of San Diego promises dances from around world demonstrated and taught every half hour (until 4:30 p.m.). Partners not required. Vendors on hand offering wares. 619-286-1588. Sunday, February 10, noon; Balboa Park Club, 2150 Pan American Road West. (BALBOA PARK)

English Country Dancing Judee Pronovost calls for English country dancing. Learn heys, turn singles, casting, pousettes and more during beginners' instruction. 858-676-9731. Sunday, February 10, 6 p.m.; \$6. Jean Hart Academy of Dance, 12227 Poway Road. 858-676-9731. (POWAY)

Fun Time Square Dance No partners or experience needed. First time free. 619-561-3289. Friday, February 8, 6:30 p.m.; \$4. Lakeside Community Center, 9841 Vine Street. (LAKESIDE)

Lux Boreal Tijuana's 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. 760-795-6815. (OCEANSIDE)

Mardi Gras Dance Jeffery Broussard and the Creole Cowboys play for dance hosted by Bon Temps Social Club and Gator by the Bay Festival. 858-496-6655. Saturday, February 9, 7 p.m.; \$14. Balboa Park Club, 2150 Pan American Road West. (BALBOA PARK)

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Persian Garden Tango Learn this Valentino-esque ragtime choreography. Waltz and Such dance lesson (7:30 p.m.) in room 207, followed by open dancing (8:30 p.m.). All ages and abilities. Partners not required. Donation. 619-583-9956. Friday, February 8, 7:30 p.m.; \$1. Casa del Prado, El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

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.; \$7. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street. 619-238-8550. (NORTH PARK)

Rubberbandance Group The Canadian ensemble performs "hybrid of hip-hop and classical dance styles" for UCSD's ArtPower series. Artists plan informal post-performance conversation. 858-534-TIXS. Thursday, February 7, 8 p.m.; \$32-\$36. Mandeville Auditorium at UCSD, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Trocks Rock! Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo brings ballet alive with *Le Lac des Cygnes* (*Swan Lake, Act II*). Ensemble is described as the "foremost all-male ballet company" — they're a hoot!

The 8 p.m. performance follows open dress rehearsal at 4:30 p.m. (\$5). Observe the company's day-of-show preparations. 800-988-4253. Saturday, February 9, 4:30 p.m.; \$34-\$49. California Center for

the Arts, Escondido, 340 North Escondido Boulevard. 800-988-4253. (ESCONDIDO)

Winter Dance Concerts Various dance styles showcased by students. 619-475-8556. Friday, February 8, 7 p.m.; Thursday, February 7, 7 p.m.; \$6-\$7. School of Creative and Performing Arts, 2425 Dusk Drive. 619-470-0555. (PARADISE HILLS)

FILM

"Anyone and Everyone" Local filmmaker Susan Polis Schutz's documentary offers "moving account of several different American families who are connected by having a son or daughter who is gay." Film includes interviews with families from an array of religious and ethnic backgrounds. Discussion follows. 619-594-7307. Sunday, February 10, 2

p.m.; San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. 619-236-5800. (DOWNTOWN)

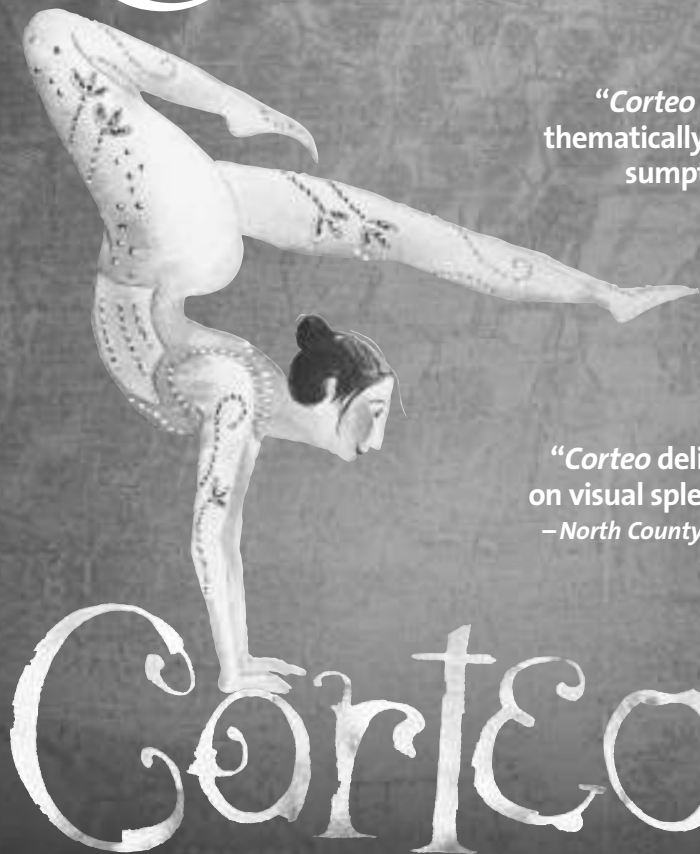
"Business of Being Born" Documentary by Ricki Lake about "the culture of birth in the U.S." Tickets: \$5 in advance and for pregnant women; \$10 at door. 619-886-9910. Saturday, February 9, 10 a.m.; \$5-\$10. Premium Birth Services, 2801 Fourth Avenue. (HILLCREST)

"Sixty Six" San Diego Jewish Film Festival gets underway with this film starring Helena Bonham Carter and Stephen Rea. Festival — running February 7-17 — showcases more than 30 contemporary Jewish-themed films from around world. Titles include *Dear Mr. Waldman*, *Three Mothers*, *A Love to Hide*, *Beaufort*, *The Galilee Eskimos*, *Making Trouble*, *Encounter Point*, *Under the Roller Coaster*, and many others. There will be guest artists, "Joyce Forum — A Focus on Emerging Filmmakers," more.

Screenings offered at AMC La Jolla 12 Theatres in La Jolla Village Square, Ultrastar Mission Valley Cinemas at Hazard Center, Ultrastar's Poway Creekside Plaza 10, and in David and Dorothea Garfield Theatre at Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center. Single tickets: \$13. Reservations, showtimes: 858-362-1348. Sunday, February 10, 1 p.m.; Friday, February 8, 10:30 a.m.; Thursday, February 7, 7 p.m.; Monday, February 11, noon; Saturday, February 9, 6:15 p.m.; Tuesday, February 12, 4:30 p.m.; Wednesday, February 13, noon; \$11-\$13. The David & Dorothea Garfield Theatre, 4126 Executive Drive. 858-362-1348. (LA JOLLA)

Film Classics from Mexico See *Tonta Tonta* with La India Maria. In Spanish, without subtitles. 619-527-

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MEDIA PARTNERS



3404 Wednesday, February 13, 6 p.m.; Beckwourth Library, 721 San Pasqual Street. 619-527-3404. (LOGAN HEIGHTS)

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center Currently screening in the IMAX theater: *Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure*, *Dinosaurs Alive!*, *The Living Sea*. “Fridays at the Fleet” showcases *Wolves* (6 p.m.) and *Alaska* (7 p.m.) on February 8. Ticket prices and show-times: 619-238-1233. Sunday, February 10, 9:30 a.m.; Friday, February 8, 9:30 a.m.; Thursday, February 7, 9:30 a.m.; Monday, February 11, 9:30 a.m.; Monday, February 11, 9:30 a.m.; Monday, February 11, 9:30 a.m.; Saturday, February 9, 9:30 a.m.; Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

Romance, Anyone? See *Venus*, the 2006 film starring Peter O’Toole and Vanessa Redgrave, during ongoing Carlsbad Library film series. 760-602-2026. Wednesday, February 13, 6 p.m.; Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane. (CARLSBAD)

FOR KIDS

“Hearts, Flowers and Bugs” Family Valentine party includes Valentine making, decorating of heart-shaped cookies, potting a “Valentine plant,” and garden play. Also on tap: preschool stories, songs, “special Valentine treat” for children. Bring 40 Valentines for exchange. Materials fee: \$10 per child (regular admission fees apply). Required reservations: 436-3036 x222. Saturday, February 9, 10 a.m.; Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. 760-436-3036. (ENCINITAS)

“That Valentine Show” Comic ventriloquist Lynn Trimble performs through Sunday, February 10. Old Fashioned Kite Flying Puppeteers take stage for *Maxfield Rubbish and His Time-Traveling Flea 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 Larlham and presented through song and dance by SDSU’s School of Theatre, Television, and Film, February 8–17. Reservations: 619-594-6884. Sunday, February 10, 2 p.m.; Saturday, February 9, 8 p.m.; Friday, February 8, 8 p.m.; \$13-\$15. Don Powell Theatre at SDSU, 5500 Campanile Drive. (SDSU)

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, 4548 Sweetwater Road. (BONITA)

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.; \$12. 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” exhibi-

tion, free art project for all ages. Materials provided. 760-434-2904 or 760-602-2021. 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 in-

cluded 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)

Kite-Making Workshop Step-by-step direction from members of San Diego Kite Club. Reservations: 619-239-0003 x405. Saturday, February 9, 10 a.m.; \$10-\$15. Mingei In-

ternational Museum — North County, 155 West Grand Avenue. 760-735-3355. (ESCONDIDO)

Ni Hao, Kai-Lan! San Diego Asian Film Foundation hosts screenings of Nickelodeon’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 x19. Saturday, February 9, 12:30 p.m.; \$6-\$15. San Diego Air and Space Museum, 2001 Pan American Plaza. 619-234-8291. (BALBOA PARK)



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Signs of Hope for Europe

A short talk followed by a question-and-answer session with Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, Archbishop of Vienna, Austria.

Cardinal Schönborn was the editor of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and the author of *Chance of Purpose* (Ignatius Press, 2007), based on Sunday-evening lectures at St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna.

Schönborn wrote an op-ed piece for the *New York Times* in July, 2005, which challenged "neo-Darwinian" evolution.

Schönborn is visiting California on behalf of the International Theological Institute.



FOUNDERS CHAPEL
Tuesday, February 12, 4:30 pm
4:00 pm: polyphony and chant by the schola from Our Lady of the Rosary in San Diego

San Diego's auxiliary bishop Salvatore Cordileone will introduce Cardinal Schönborn.

Admission is free.
Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

IN PERSON

"4x4" Sushi Performance and Visual Art's performance series continues with dance, theater, spoken word, and music. Participants present new or in-progress works in "alternative, casual social setting"; all pieces low-tech, limited to ten minutes, performed on 4' x 4' stage. Pay what you can. 619-235-8466. Tuesday, February 12, 8 p.m.; Ages 21 and up. Blue-foot Bar and Lounge, 3404 30th Street. 619-235-8466. (NORTH PARK)

"Digital Dharma" Telecommunications consultant Steven R. Vedro reads from his *User's Guide to Expanding Consciousness in the Age of the Infosphere*. Booksigning. 760-632-0488. Tuesday, February 12, 7 p.m.; Ducky Waddle's Emporium, 414 North Coast Highway 101. 760-632-0488. (LEUCADIA)

"Simply Delizioso" Food Network personality Ingrid Hoffmann plans cooking demonstration and discusses, signs her book. 858-454-0347. Tuesday, February 12, 7:30 p.m.; Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. 858-454-0347. (LA JOLLA)

"Tales: From a Distant Planet" Gay literary pioneer Felice Picano reads from his new book. Reading also features some selections from his popular memoir, *Art and Sex in Greenwich Village*. Poet, memoirist, fiction, sci-fi/fantasy writer Picano is author of 20 books. 858-456-1800. Saturday, February 9, 7 p.m.; D.G. Wills Books, 7461 Girard Avenue. 858-456-1800. (LA JOLLA)

"The Fire and the Word" Music, photography, book presentation by Gloria Munoz Ramirez, author of *The Fire and the Word: A History of the Zapatista Movement*, in Scripps Cottage at SDSU. Presented by Colectivo Zapatista Tzajalek 32 and Center for Latin American Studies. 619-594-1103. Monday, February 11, 6 p.m.; San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive. 619-594-5200. (SDSU)

"The Good Doctor" Carlsbad Playreaders present Neil Simon's play, directed by Charlie Reindeau. 760-602-2026. Monday, February 11, 7:30 p.m.; \$1-\$5. Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane. (CARLSBAD)

"The Vagina Monologues" Eve Ensler's play produced by StepUP Theater, Innermission Productions, and Battlecry Entertainment. High school seniors will perform and direct alongside *Vagina Monologues* participants from previous years. Proceeds benefit Chadwick Center at Rady Children's Hospital and Center for Community Solutions. 619-534-0030.

OUT & ABOUT

CREATING HUMOR ON THE SPOT— PAULA POUNDSTONE 4th & B, February 8.

(SEE IN PERSON)



Thursday, February 7, 7 p.m.; \$20. Stephen & Mary Birch North Park Theatre, 2891 University Avenue. 619-239-8836. (NORTH PARK)

Creating Humor on the Spot Comedian Paula Poundstone entertains. Tickets available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). Friday, February 8, 8 p.m.; \$22-\$40. Ages 21 and up. 4th & B, 345 B Street. 619-231-4343. (DOWNTOWN)

Fleet-Footed Step Dancing Leahy — an eight-person band of brothers and sisters from Lakefield, Canada — returns to merge Celtic, country, classical, and pop music with energetic dancing. 858-748-0505. Thursday, February 7, 8 p.m.; \$5-\$45. Poway Center for the Performing Arts, 15498 Espola Road. 858-748-0505. (POWAY)

In Judgment California Superior Court Judge Norbert Ehrenfreund discusses, signs *The Nuremberg Legacy: How the Nazi War Crimes Trials Changed the Course of History*. Book "reveals how the precedents set at Nuremberg have affected human rights, race relations, medical practice, big business, and even Germany's postwar development," as well as "modern war crimes trials of tyrants like Slobodan Milosevic and Saddam Hussein." 858-454-0347. Thursday, February 7, 7:30 p.m.; Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. 858-454-0347. (LA JOLLA)

Local Author Julie Ann Shapiro reads from and signs her "modern Cinderella story" *Jen-Zen and the One Shoe Diaries*. 760-632-0488. Wednesday, February 13, 7 p.m.; Ducky Waddle's Emporium, 414 North Coast Highway 101. 760-632-0488. (LEUCADIA)

Meet Local Authors Chris Marie Green (*Midnight Reign*), Mary Leo (*Cabin Fever*), and Michele Scott (*Tacked to Death*) sign their books. 619-482-9883. Sunday, February 10, 2 p.m.; Borders Books and Music - Chula Vista, 878 EastLake Parkway. 619-482-9883. (CHULA VISTA)

Ready for a Better Career? Caitlin Friedman and Kimberly Yorio, authors of *The Girl's Guide to Kicking Your Career Into Gear*, lead "Girls' Guide Career Workshop," discussion, and booksigning. 858-454-0347. Wednesday, February 13, 7:30 p.m.; Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. 858-454-0347. (LA JOLLA)

World-Beat Music and Dance Damaru performs with guest musicians Sene Africa and dancer Suzanne Forbes. 760-703-1487. Thursday, February 7, 8 p.m.; \$5. Claire de Lune, 2906 University Avenue. 619-688-9845. (NORTH PARK)

LECTURES

"And the Beat Goes On" Cardiac seminar by Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla cardiologist Steven Higgins, M.D. Learn of new advancements in electrophysiology, improved technologies and innovative procedures. Reception at 5:30 p.m., program: 6 p.m. in Great Hall of the Schaezel Center at hospital. Registration: 800-SCRIPPS. Wednesday, February 13, 5:30 p.m.; Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla, 9888 Genesee Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

"Artists' Round Table" Artists from *Mary, Queen of Scots* participate in Artists' Round Table — offering look at music, characters, behind-the-scenes work — hosted by San Diego Opera in Beverly Sills Salon of Civic Theatre. 619-232-7636. Thursday, February 7, 5:30 p.m.; San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue. 858-570-1100. (DOWNTOWN)

"Beginning and Refresher Genealogy Class" Course offered by North San Diego County Genealogical Society. Non-members welcome. 760-757-0528. Saturday, February 9, 9 a.m.; Cole Library, 1250 Carlsbad Village Drive. (CARLSBAD)

"Botany and Maalang: Neo Pop-Surrealism" Painters Martin Facey and Lek Namnath present

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two art talks in conjunction with their exhibition. 760-757-5368. Reception: February 21, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, February 7, 1 p.m.; Thursday, February 7, 11 a.m.; Kruglak Gallery at MiraCosta College, One Barnard Drive. 760-795-6657. (OCEANSIDE)

“Design with Elegant Silvers”

Explore using, combining silver plants in the garden when gardener, photographer Karen Bussolini speaks for San Diego Horticultural Society in Surfside Race Place. Bussolini is co-author of *Elegant Silvers: Striking Plants for Every Garden*. Plant forum follows. Free. 760-295-7089. Monday, February 11, 6 p.m.; Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. 858-755-1161. (DEL MAR)

“Early American Moderns”

SDSU art history professor Jo-Anne Berelowitz speaks for ongoing “Guest Lecture Series” themed “SDMA in the 21st Century.” 619-696-1953. Friday, February 8, 10 a.m.; \$7-\$12.

San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. 619-232-7931. (BALBOA PARK)

“The Faculty Factor 2008”

Annual San Diego Mesa College faculty exhibition opens with reception at 4:30 p.m.; Niku and Hueso Productions (“The Infinity Lab”) present performance/installation piece entitled *The Fire Next Time* (5 and 6 p.m.). Reception is followed by lecture by artist Nathan Betschart at 7 p.m. in room G-101. 619-388-2829. Exhibition closes Wednesday, March 5. Thursday, February 7, 4:30 p.m.; Mesa College Art Gallery, 7250 Mesa College Drive. (KEARNY MESA)

“Future Stewards of Our Planet”

Three fellowship students at Scripps Institution of Oceanography discuss their research discoveries and share visions for their future research for Perspectives on Ocean Science lecture series. Required reservations: 858-534-5771. Monday, February 11, 6:30 p.m.;

\$5-\$8. Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. 619-534-FISH. (LA JOLLA)

“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 *Classic Hikes of the World*. 858-279-4400. Thursday, February 7, 7 p.m.; Thursday, February 7, 7 p.m.; REI - San Diego, 5556 Copley Drive. 858-279-4400. (CLAIREMONT)

“Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail”

Dana Law, who has hiked the first 974 miles of the PCT in four years, shares his hiking adventures and photographs. 858-552-1657. Wednesday, February 13, 6 p.m.; La Jolla Library, 7555 Draper Avenue. 858-552-1657. (LA JOLLA)

“Opera Insights Series”

Historical and cultural background, music analysis, plot synopsis, musical selections from Donizetti’s *Mary, Queen of Scots* presented by Ron Shaheen to highlight upcoming San Diego Opera production. 619-236-5800. Wednesday, February 13, 5:30 p.m.; San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. 619-236-5800. (DOWNTOWN)

“Power of Portraiture: Three Generations of Photography in West Africa”

Candace Keller, Indiana University doctoral candidate in African contemporary photography, discusses work by artists Seydou Keita, Malick Sidibe, and Tijani Sitou, whose work Keller recently documented in Bamako, Mali. 619-696-1969. Friday, February 8, 6:30 p.m.; \$5-\$10. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. 619-232-7931. (BALBOA PARK)

“Romantic Rose”

Aenne Carver divulges the history of roses, how to grow them, their use in “tasty dishes and luxurious beauty products.” Learn three cut-rose arrangements to add to your repertoire; make body spray and a solid perfume. 619-255-0203. Saturday, February 9, 10 a.m.; \$35-\$43. San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado. 619-232-3821. (BALBOA PARK)

“Soviet Oceanography: From Local Fisheries to Cold War Oceans”

Ritter fellowship winner Daniel Alexandrov focuses on history of Russian oceanography during the Cold War in Sumner Auditorium at SIO (one-half block south of Naga Way). Alexandrov is sociology professor at Higher School of Economics St. Petersburg and at European University at St. Petersburg. 858-534-3624. Thursday, February 7, 3 p.m.; Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 8602 La Jolla Shores Drive. (LA JOLLA)

“Staying Healthy with the Seasons”

Staff of Zen Sanctuary plans presentation focusing on “natural ways to avoid lengthy colds and the flu.” Participants will be led through self-care techniques including reflexology, acupuncture, stretching, diet, yoga, Tai Chi, and Qui Gung. Discussion, questions, hand-outs. Required registration: 619-533-3974. Saturday, February 9, 3 p.m.; Ages 18 and up. Kensington Library, 4121 Adams Avenue. 619-533-3974. (KENSINGTON-TALMADGE)

“Stories from the Old Country: Yiddish, English, and Russian”

Steven Cassedy, professor of Slavic and comparative literature and associate dean of graduate studies at UCSD, addresses San Diego Jewish Genealogical Society. Explore Jewish writers who came to America during era of mass immigration and published their stories, fictional and non-fictional. 619-

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Rosarito

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

Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

583-0826. Sunday, February 10, 1 p.m.; Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, 4126 Executive Drive. (LA JOLLA)

"Struggling with Depression"

Emmy Award-winning television actress, talk show host, designer, author Linda Dano discusses her struggle with depression (major depressive disorder). Dano will be joined by family practice physician Dr. Sally Edwards. Learn to recognize symptoms of depression, illness triggers, map out a wellness plan, Support Partners program. Registration: 800-656-7315. Monday, February 11, 6 p.m.; Doubletree Hotel San Diego, 7450 Hazard Center Drive. (MISSION VALLEY)

"The 23rd Psalm: Inner Peace Is the Path to World Peace"

Marta Greenwood of London, England plans "world peace lecture" for San Diego Christian Science. 858-456-4588. Sunday, February 10, 2 p.m.; Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino Del Rio South. 619-297-0397. (MISSION VALLEY)

"Evolution of Consciousness"

Joseph Costa speaks for World Healer Institute (an organization he founded). Costa, who has recently returned from visiting India, is author of *Primal Legacy: Thinking for the 21st Century*, among other books. 858-467-6974. Friday, February 8, 7:30 p.m.; \$15. Sheraton La Jolla, 3299 Holiday Court. (LA JOLLA)

"Transformation: My Life as a Potter"

Mingei International Museum founder and director emerita Martha Longenecker shares her personal observances about her life and her craft in celebration of museum's 30th anniversary. Champagne reception follows. 619-239-0003 x405. Sunday, February 10, 4:30 p.m.; \$25-\$30. Mingei International Museum, 1439 El Prado. 619-239-0003. (BALBOA PARK)

"Walt Whitman Wired: The Secret to Art Marketing on the Internet"

Philly Joe Swendoza focuses on artists marketing "themselves in the technologically advanced 21st Century" for "2008 Professional Artist Lecture Series." 619-236-0011. Wednesday, February 13, 6 p.m.; \$5-\$10. San Diego Art Institute: Mu-

ROAM-ORAMA

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

The boulder-frosted summit of Woodson Mountain (aka Mount Woodson) has many routes of approach, though none this particular winter/spring season is as interesting 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.



Boulders, ridge of Woodson Mountain

Start your hike at the main parking area for Lake Poway Recreation Area, which may charge admission 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, upslope, 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 Fry-Koegel Trail. You swing to the right (east), though, and follow the continuation of the Mount Woodson Trail along the summit ridge, heading toward the antenna towers on Woodson Mountain's summit a little over a mile away. As you approach the summit, don't miss the remarkable, razor-sharp boulder flake on the left, just shy 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 publicly owned recreation or wilderness area. Trails and pathways are not necessarily marked. Conditions can change rapidly. Hikers should be properly equipped and have safety and navigational skills. The *Reader* and Jerry Schad assume no responsibility for any adverse experience.

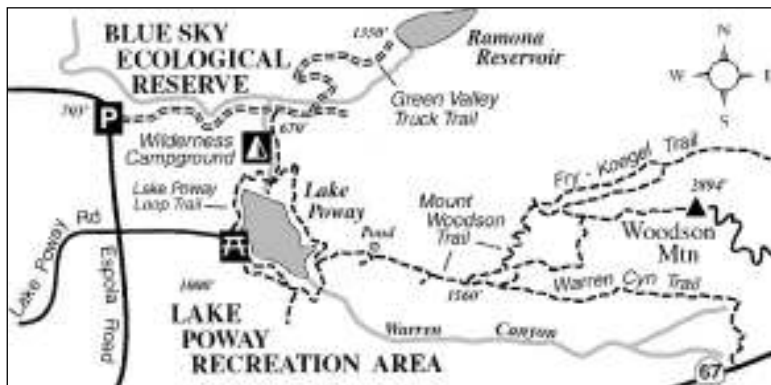
WEST SIDE WOODSON MOUNTAIN

Hike through gardens of boulders and postfire wildflowers on the trail from Lake Poway to Woodson Mountain.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 28 miles

Length: 1 mile round-trip

Difficulty: Moderately strenuous



seum of the Living Artist, 1439 El Prado. 619-236-0011. (BALBOA PARK)

"What Ever Happened to Conscious Attention?"

The subtitle for Barbara Stafford's talk is "Why the Brain Sciences Need the Aware-Making Visual Arts," which she presents for ongoing "Dialogues in Art and Architectures" series. Stafford is professor of art history at University of Chicago, and author of *Echo Objects: The Cognitive Work of Images*. What sorts of sights and sensory data make us pay deliberate, considered attention to the external

world? 858-454-5872. Tuesday, February 12, 7:30 p.m.; Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, 1008 Wall Street. 858-454-5872. (LA JOLLA)

"Writing for Their Lives" Thirteenth annual Writer's Symposium by the Sea boasts guests with voices "willing to explore the harder questions we all ask...ideas that represent our inner struggles." Events get underway with luncheon with Bishop William Willimon, on Monday, February 4, 11:30 a.m. (\$15). He is author of nearly 60 books. Event lo-

cation: Cunningham A in Nicholson Commons.

"An Evening with Susan Vreeland" is Monday, February 4, 7:30 p.m., in Colt Hall (\$15). Her books include *The Girl in Hyacinth Blue*, *The Passion of Artemisia*, *The Forest Lover*, and *Luncheon of the Boating Party*. Vreeland will share journeys she took while researching for the novels, including look at works of art that inspired her writing.

"An Interview with Anchee Min" is planned Tuesday, February 5, 7:30 p.m. Min's works include *Red Azalea*, *Katherine*, *Becoming Madame Mao*, *Wild Ginger*, and *Empress Orchid*.

Folk-rock and country rock music pioneer Richie Furay is "Unplugged," Wednesday, February 6, 7:30 p.m. (\$15). He was a founder of Buffalo Springfield and Poco, a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Vreeland leads "Writing Historical Fiction Workshop," Thursday, February 7, 1 p.m. (\$10). Vreeland will share stories of the hunt for clues and the process of bringing history to life.

Local mystery writer Ken Kuhlken plans "Memoir Writing Workshop," Thursday, February 7, 3 p.m. (\$10). How do we honestly capture our life and experiences? Kuhlken's books include *The Angel Gang: A Hickey Family Mystery*, *The Do-Re-Mi*, *The Loud Adios*, and *No Cats, No Chocolate*.

"An Interview with American Journalism Icon Gay Talese" offered Thursday, February 7, 7:30 p.m. (\$15). Talese is author of 11 books, was reporter for *The New York Times* (1956-1965), has written for *Esquire*, *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, other national publications.

Symposium concludes with "An Interview with Philip Yancey," Friday, February 8, 2 p.m. (\$15). Yancey is said to currently have more than 13 million books in print, including *Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?*, *Disappointment with God*, and *Where Is God When It Hurts?*

Except where noted, events take place in Crill Performance Hall in Cooper Music Center. 619-849-2297. Friday, February 8, 2 p.m.; Thursday, February 7, 7:30 p.m.; Thursday, February 7, 1 p.m.; Thursday, February 7, 3 p.m.; \$10-\$15. Point Loma Nazarene University, 3900 Lomaland Drive. 619-849-2433. (POINT LOMA)

Damask Weavings Professional weaver Bill Rafnel speaks for Palomar Handweavers' Guild meeting. He'll also discuss how he uses Fibonacci series in developing color sequences. Free.

Rafnel leads mini-workshop for participants to do color wrappings using several Fibonacci series techniques (\$20). Guests welcome. 760-533-5857. Monday, February 11, 9:30 a.m.; Ages 12 and up. Trinity Episcopal Church, 845 Chestnut Street. (ESCONDIDO)

Dog Safety Learn safety tips on dog toys, poisonous food and plants, more. Training accomplished through "kind, effective, and modern positive-reinforcement methods." Required advance registration: 619-299-7012 x2247. Wednesday, February 13, 6:30 p.m.; \$35. San Diego Humane Society and SPCA, 5500 Gaines Street. (LINDA VISTA)

Flowers Just So Floral designer Carvill Veech, an active participant in San Diego Museum of Art's "Art Alive" festivities, plans live demonstration for Point Loma Garden Club. 619-223-3315. Wednesday, February 13, 10 a.m.; Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal. 619-223-3315. (POINT LOMA)

GPS Basics Class REI outdoor school instructor divulges basics of GPS navigation; learn to pinpoint location, mark waypoints, plot courses, create routes, more. If you own a GPS bring it to class (some demo units available). Advance registration: 619-591-4924. Thursday, February 7, 6 p.m.; \$55. REI Chula Vista, 2015 Birch Road. 619-591-4924. (CHULA VISTA)

Get to Know "Lei Flowers" Southern California Plumeria Society gathers to discuss plumeria horticulture. Sales of plumeria items, books. 619-461-5942. Sunday, February 10, 1 p.m.; War Memorial Building, 3325 Zoo Drive. (BALBOA PARK)

Get to Know a "Hotspot" SDSU assistant professor of anthropology Erin P. Riley focuses

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What's That You're Reading?

NAME: JESSICA VALDEZ | **AGE:** 18 | **OCCUPATION:** FITNESS SUPERVISOR
NEIGHBORHOOD: SANTEE | **WHERE INTERVIEWED:** CURVES LA MESA



What are you reading?

"Eat, Pray, Love, by Elizabeth Gilbert."

Tell me about it.

"It's about Gilbert's journey. At the beginning of the book, she is in a really hard marriage. Her husband really wants to have kids, and she believes it's her duty, but she doesn't want to have them. So they get a divorce, and Gilbert ends up going on a one-year journey through Italy, India, and Indonesia — spending four months in each place. In Italy, she eats. She doesn't care about her dress size. She eats whatever she wants, lots of bread and pasta. Then she goes and spends four months in India. There, she prays in an ashram, a place to go for spiritual healing. She writes about starting to meditate really early in the morning, and about not talking, only praying. She was being in her own self, learning to deal with her inner demons, learning not to let her emotions get the best of her. And in Indonesia, she goes to a spiritual healer named Ketut. With his help, she heals herself and becomes ready to love again."

What did you make of the story?

"I think she was just trying to prove that it's okay to be alone. Through her spiritual journey, she realizes that she needs to be okay with herself before she can love anyone else. Also, it's okay to find your own happiness — you don't need someone else to make you happy."

Did you have a favorite person in the book?

"In the ashram, Gilbert meets a Texan man. He and she have both been through a lot of things, spiritually — but mostly, he's just really funny."

Tell me about the writing style.

"The writing is humorous, but I could relate to her in a bunch of different ways. I thought, 'She's one of us — a woman who has gone through heart-break and is trying to find herself.'"

Do you have a favorite passage?

"Gilbert offers a lot of lessons. There is one where she quotes Virginia Woolf.

It reads, 'Across the broad continent of a woman's life falls the shadow of a sword. On one side of the sword lies convention, tradition, and order, where all is correct. But on the other side of that sword, if you're crazy enough to cross it and choose a life that does not follow convention, all is confusing. Nothing follows a regular course.' Her argument is that crossing the shadow of the sword may bring a far more interesting experience to a woman, but you can bet that it will also be more perilous. Gilbert is using Woolf to say that you can do what a woman is supposed to do — have kids, get married, be a housewife — or not. But if you don't, you're going into territory that is looked down on. It's really not okay to be that woman in our society. But at least you won't be dreading who you became."

Compare this with other books you've read.

This one has touched me more than others."

What book has been most life-changing for you?

"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 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* cover to cover."

on "The Macaques of Wallacea: Conservation Status in a Biodiversity Hotspot" for 12 O'Clock Scholar program. Admission fee includes museum entry. 619-239-2001. Monday, February 11, noon; \$4-\$8. San Diego Museum of Man, 1350 El Prado. 619-239-2001. (BALBOA PARK)

How to Live Happily Ever After with Your Dog Open-forum workshop covers topics such as house training, socialization with

people and other animals, calmness in home, communication with your dog, basic nutrition, more. For people only. Required reservations: 619-299-7012 x2247. Tuesday, February 12, 6:30 p.m.; \$35. San Diego Humane Society and SPCA, 5500 Gaines Street. (LINDA VISTA)

Metropolitan Opera Preview Ron Shaheen shares his insight through "a rich array of multimedia resources to explore background in-

formation on the operas and composers." Series continues with look at Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*. 858-454-5872. Monday, February 11, 7:30 p.m.; \$12-\$17. Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, 1008 Wall Street. 858-454-5872. (LA JOLLA)

Mosaic Art Workshop Basics of mosaic taught by Lauren Becker Downey during two-part workshop, February 9 and 16. Finished piece may be functional or purely decora-

tive. Registration, required materials: 619-231-3900. Saturday, February 9, 10 a.m.; \$80. Ages 12 and up. Art Academy of San Diego, 840 G Street. (DOWNTOWN)

Operatic Favorites San Diego Opera Ensemble's six professional young singers perform works by Bizet, Puccini, Mozart, Delibes, Donizetti, Verdi, others. 619-696-1969. Sunday, February 10, 7 p.m.; \$10-\$25. San

Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. 619-232-7931. (BALBOA PARK)

Ready for Valentine's Day? Make a collage valentine — using handmade papers, twigs, milagros, charms, postage stamps, ribbon — in conjunction with current "Heart to Heart" exhibition. Materials fee: \$5. Registration: 619-233-6679. Sunday, February 10, 10 a.m.; \$25. Studio Maureen, 2963 Beech Street. (GOLDEN HILL)

San Diegans for 9/11 Truth Group gathers for reading, discussion, signing of *Debunking 9/11 Debunking: An Answer to Popular Mechanics* by author David Ray Griffin. Griffin is professor emeritus at Claremont School of Theology. Donation; no one turned away for lack of funds. 619-222-2120. Sunday, February 10, 4 p.m.; \$10. First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, 4190 Front Street. 619-298-9978. (HILLCREST)

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LOCAL EVENTS

Toy Camera Photography

Workshop taught by Garon Kiesel 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-suited 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 Podsiadlo teaches how to make hobbit pie, vegetarian lentil soup, pineapple upside-down ginger cake. Recipes, tastings included in class fee. Required ad-

vance registration: 760-436-3036 ext 206. Saturday, February 9, 1:30 p.m.; \$25-\$30. Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. 760-436-3036. (ENCINITAS)

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-lit), will lie near the tight little cluster of stars known as the Pleiades, high in the south at dusk.

Asian Pacific Historic District

Tours Led on second Saturday of each month, starting at Chinese Historical Museum. Required reservations: 619-338-9888. Saturday, February 9, 11 a.m.; \$2. Chinese Historical Society and Museum, 404 Third Avenue. 619-338-9888. (DOWNTOWN)

Hawkwatch

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

Love Is in the Air! Public and legal Valentine mating — among the fauna, that is — may be seen during guided nature walks. 619-668-3281. Sunday, February 10, 9:30 a.m.;

Wednesday, February 13, 9:30 a.m.; Saturday, February 9, 9:30 a.m.; Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. 619-688-3281. (SAN CARLOS)

Mangrove Removal Work

Party Event hosted by San Diego Audubon Society and Aquatic 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, Belding's savannah sparrows. Wear long pants, old clothes, sturdy waterproof shoes; water, snacks, gloves, tools provided. Project site accessed via Campland. For directions and to 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. 858-405-7503. Saturday, February 9, 10 a.m.; Rose Creek Cottage, 2525 Garnet Avenue. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Palm Walk

Offshoot Tours offers its monthly hour-long guided stroll exploring structure, growth habits, landscape value of palm trees. 619-235-1122. 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 Scranton and Carroll Canyon Roads). Directions: 858-342-8856. Sunday, February 10, 3 p.m.; San Diego Fire Station #41, 4914 Carroll Canyon Road. (MIRA MESA)

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Fri Feb 29th 2:30PM - 7PM, Sat March 1st 10AM - 12:30PM & 4PM - 7PM

info.jriescher@ridgewells.com

Bring binoculars, drinking water. 858-581-9944. Saturday, February 9, 9 a.m.; Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road. (CLAIREMONT)

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

"Atlas de la Diversidad Religiosa" New book from El Colegio de la Frontera Norte discussed. 011-52-664-687-9636. Thursday, February 7, 7 p.m.; Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BAJA)

"Panorama de la Fiesta Brava" Bullfighting lecture by José Antonio del Moral, director of *Fiesta Brava Weekly* magazine in Spain. 011-52-664-687-9636. Saturday, February 9, 4 p.m.; Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BAJA)

"Pioneros" Author Enrique Velasco Santana discusses new book. 011-52-664-687-9636. Wednesday, February 13, 7 p.m.; Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BAJA)

Hypnotists Taurus do Brasil and his son John Milton return for comic hypnotism performances through Monday, February 25. 011-52-664-687-9636. Thursdays, 6 p.m.; Fridays, 6 p.m.; Fridays, 9 p.m.; Saturdays, 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m.; Sundays, 8 p.m.; Mondays, 8 p.m.; Tuesdays, 8 p.m.; Wednesdays, 8 p.m.; through Monday, February 25, 2008, \$12-\$15. Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BAJA)

SPECIAL

"Bizarre Opening Day Bazaar" New "Strange Matter" exhibition opens with "fun activities, goofy games, and wacky challenges." Run across 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.; \$6-\$8. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

"Secrets from a Top Chef" Chef Brian Hill focuses on winter barbecues. Reservations: 888-424-3663. Saturday, February 9, noon; \$35. Macy's Mission Valley Home Store, 1555 Camino De La Reina. 619-299-9811. (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. 858-201-6098. Sunday, February 10, 10 a.m.; Friday, February 8, 4 p.m.; Saturday, February 9, 10 a.m.; \$4-\$5. Balboa Park, Park Boulevard at Presidents Way. (BALBOA PARK)

Back Care Yoga for the Family Jaruska Solyova plans "three workshops designed to deepen your breath, core awareness, and meditation." Yoga newcomers welcome. Fee: \$30 per person, or \$40 for family (up to four people). Registration: 858-456-9964. Saturday, February 9, 10 a.m.; \$30-\$40. La Jolla Cove Bridge Club, 1160 Coast Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

California Open Wildlife Art Festival Wildfowl and fish carvers competition includes fine art exhibits, carving competition. Artist of the year: Tom Tiedeman. 760-945-8442. Sunday, February 10, 9 a.m.; Saturday, February 9, 9:30 a.m.; NTC Promenade, 2825 Dewey Road. (POINT LOMA)

Downward-Facing Dog? "Doggie and Me" yoga event with yoga teacher Stacy McCarthy and her Bernese mountain dog named Buddha, hosted by Muttropolis and lululemon athletica. All-levels; no prior experience necessary. Bring yoga mat or large towel, water, comfortable clothes, friendly dog. Donation: \$10, benefiting Helen Woodward Animal Center. 858-755-3647. Sunday, February 10, 9 a.m.; \$10. Muttropolis Solana Beach, 227 South Cedros Avenue. 858-755-3647. (SOLANA BEACH)

Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park Old adobe buildings were once vacation retreat and working rancho of actor Leo Carrillo. Tours on Saturdays (11 a.m., 1 p.m.) and Sundays (noon, 2 p.m.). Saturdays, 11 a.m.; Saturdays, 1 p.m.; Sundays, noon;

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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

Sundays, 2 p.m.; Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park, 6200 Flying Leo Carrillo Lane. 760-476-1042. (CARLSBAD)

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 *The Cool School*; guest musicians will create impromptu scores to vintage home movies found at garage sales, courtesy of Found Film Jam; live music by the Vision of a Dying World, the Paddle Boat, DJ Jeff Graves. 858-454-3541. Thursday, February 7, 7 p.m.; Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown, 1001 Kettner Boulevard. 858-454-3541. (DOWNTOWN)

Organized Labor What is its future, nationally and globally? Share opinions with P&R Discussion Group. 619-370-1027. Thursday, February 7, 7 p.m.; The Other Side Coffee House, 4096 30th Street. 619-521-0533. (NORTH PARK)

Playin' Games Board game benefit for Heifer International. Play variety of board games including Settlers of Catan, Balderdash, Taboo. Donation: \$10. 619-204-8834. Friday, February 8, 8 a.m.; \$10. Tea N More, 7380 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (CLAIREMONT)

Prickly! San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society announces annual winter show with specimens from around world in room 101 of Casa del Prado. Exhibitors on hand to answer questions. 858-270-5544. Sat-

urday, February 9, 10 a.m.; Casa del Prado, El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Psychic Fair and Metaphysical Conference Lectures; tarot, palmistry, numerology, other psychic arts featured. Admission is free; \$20 per reading. 619-298-3422. Sunday, February 10, noon; Saturday, February 9, noon; Alexandra’s Bookstore, 3545 Midway Drive, suite G. 619-298-3422. (POINT LOMA)

Pucker Up? Smooch-a-Pooch party benefiting SNAP (Spay Neuter Action Project) with dog trainer and guest of honor Kathy Santo. Event promises “tray-passed dog treats for the four-leggeds” and kissing booth. Professional pet photographer Jen Petit will take shots (donation: \$10). Santo will sign copies of *Kathy Santo’s Dog Sense*. 858-459-9663. Wednesday, February 13, 5 p.m.; Muttropolis La Jolla, 7755 Girard Avenue. 858-459-9663. (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 10). Fees, reservations: 619-682-7200. Thursday, February 7; Saturday, February 9; Sunday, February 10; Monday, February 11; Friday, February 8; Marina Village Conference Center, 1936 Quivira Way. (PACIFIC 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, signing hosted by Buddy’s and Book Works. 858-720-0484. Tuesday, February 12, 6

OUT & ABOUT

STARS ON ICE LIVE

Hits San Diego Sports Arena, Saturday, February 9.

(SEE SPORTS)



p.m.; Buddy’s Bowtique, 2670 Via de la Valle, Suite A220. 858-720-0484. (DEL MAR)

Whale-Watching Cruises

Made possible by Birch Aquarium at Scripps and San Diego Harbor Excursion, now through March 31 at 9:45 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. daily. \$15 kids 4-12; \$30-\$35 for those 13 and older. Reservations: 619-234-4111. Thursdays, 9:45 a.m.; Fridays, 9:45 a.m.; Saturdays, 9:45 a.m.; Sundays, 9:45 a.m.; Mondays, 9:45 a.m.; Tuesdays, 9:45 a.m.; Wednesdays, 9:45 a.m.; through Monday, March 31, 2008, \$15-\$35. Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. 619-534-FISH. (LA JOLLA)

SPORTS

Bicycling, Anyone? Join Knickerbikers for 25-miler starting in Trophy’s parking lot. Participants

will decide route, lunch spot (bring money). 619-787-7427. Saturday, February 9, 9 a.m.; Trophy’s in Costa Verde shopping enter, 4282 Esplanade Court. 858-450-1400. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

Stars on Ice Live Olympic silver medalist Sasha Cohen joins cast of Olympic, world, and national ice-skating champions. Reservations: Ticketmaster, 619-220-TIXS. Saturday, February 9, 7:30 p.m.; \$25-\$110. San Diego Sports Arena, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. 619-224-4171. (POINT LOMA)

USA Sevens International Rugby Tournament

Competition between teams from 16 nations playing over 40 matches. Rugby Sevens games played on traditional-size field with only seven players per team. Fan Festival includes live music, food, merchandise. 619-702-7300. Saturday, February 9, 10 a.m.; Saturday, February 9, 10 a.m.; \$25-\$215. Petco Park, 100 Park Boulevard. 619-795-5000. (DOWNTOWN)

Visit Oceanside, Bonsall, and Escondido Bicycle Touring Society riders head out on 84-mile bicycle ride. 619-561-3846. Sunday, February 10, 8:45 a.m.; Doyle Park, 8175 Regents Road. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

MUSEUMS

Bonita Museum and Cultural Center

The museum highlights the history of the Sweetwater Valley from the mid-1800s, with historical photographs; artifacts, tools, and farming implements; the district’s 1953 fire engine; and bound copies back to the

1930s of the *Chula Vista Star News*. 619-267-5141. 4355 Bonita Road, 619-267-5141. (BONITA)

Campo Railroad Museum

Campo Railroad Museum, showcasing more than 130 years of American railroad history and technology through static and operating exhibits, the museum includes cabooses, steam and diesel locomotives, track motorcars, 1880s “Jim Crow” segregated passenger cars.

Interpretive 1.5-hour train rides offered each weekend (11 a.m., 2:30 p.m.) over portion of the San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railway. 619-465-7776, 619-478-9937. 31123-1/2 Highway 94, 619-465-7776. (CAMPO-POTRERO)

Chinese Historical Society and Museum

See artifacts from San Diego’s Chinese and Chinese-American history, culture, and art. Current museum artifacts include a 1920s warlord’s bed, exhibits on Chinese footbinding and Chinese-American veterans. The museum is in a building originally built in 1927 for the Chinese Mission. Adjacent to the building is an Asian garden with koi pond and waterfall. 619-338-9888. 404 Third Avenue, 619-338-9888. (DOWNTOWN)

Chula Vista Heritage Museum

The museum features glimpses of Chula Vista’s past; exhibits feature lemon packing crate labels, photographs of downtown Chula Vista, doors and adobe blocks from the original *Star* newspaper building, and relics from the Otay Watch Company. 619-427-8092. 360 Third Avenue, 619-427-8092. (CHULA VISTA)

Creation Museum A museum contrasting the evolution and cre-

ation world views. 619-448-0900. 10946 Woodside Avenue North, 619-448-0900. (SANTEE)

Gemological Institute of America Museum

Permanent exhibits include displays depicting science and art of gemstones and history, lore and cultural significance of jewelry. Required reservations: 800-421-7250 x4116. 5345 Armada Drive, 800-421-7250. (CARLSBAD)

George White and Anna Gunn Marston House

Historic home sits on five acres of landscaped grounds with a formal English Romantic garden. Built for civic leader and department store founder George Marston and his family by San Diego architects William Hebbard and Irving Gill, the Marston house design is in keeping with the early 20th-Century American Arts and Crafts period, emphasizing simplicity, function, and natural materials. 619-298-3142. 3525 Seventh Avenue, 619-298-3142. (HILLCREST)

Heritage Walk Museum

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

House of Pacific Relations

International Cottages are open every Sunday, noon–4 p.m., presenting history and traditions of 30 ethnic groups. On fourth Tuesday of each month, *Children Around the World* videos screened in Hall of Nations, select cottages open. 619-234-0739. 2125 Park Boulevard, 619-234-0739. (BALBOA PARK)

J.A. Cooley Museum

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

Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park

Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park, old adobe buildings were once vacation retreat and working rancho of actor Leo Carrillo. Tours on Saturdays (11 a.m., 1 p.m.) and Sundays (noon, 2 p.m.). 760-476-1042. 6200 Flying Leo Carrillo Lane, 760-476-1042. (CARLSBAD)

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Museum

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

Museum of San Diego History

“Place of Promise: Stories of San Diego” lets visitors “literally walk on San Diego”; a map of county extends from wall to wall across the floor. Also featured in ongoing exhibit are two large 1930s murals by artist Charles Reiffel and a 1910 San Diego streetcar. Stories of San Diego are interpreted through images, artifacts, oral histories from society’s collection. The museum is located in the Casa de Balboa building. 619-232-6203. 1649 El Prado, 619-232-6203. (BALBOA PARK)

Parsonage Museum of Lemon Grove

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in the World” features murals depicting the world of Kumeyaay in Lemon Grove in 12,000 B.C., when vast sweeps of oak savannah and a river dominated the area. The coming of the Spanish conquistadors and the Catholic hierarchy in the mid-18th century is portrayed. Century-old artifacts, along with photographs of leading contemporary Kumeyaay family flank the life size figures.

“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.

In “Lemon Grove: 1892-1935,” homes and families of pioneer fruit growers are shown in rare photographs, along with artifacts, in this display detailing agricultural roots of the town. 619-460-4353. 3185 Olive Street, 619-460-4353. (LEMON GROVE)

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

“Listen Here! Making Sense of Sound,” allows visitors to experience the nature of sound, how human beings perceive sound, and the act of listening through exhibits, activities, demonstrations. Exhibit from the Exploratorium in San Francisco continues through Sunday, June 1.

Ongoing exhibitions include “Origins in Space: Spin-Offs in Science and Technology,” “So WATT! An Illuminating Look at Energy,” “Aging for All Ages,” “Kid City” (for

OUT & ABOUT

THE TEN TENORS

California Center for the Arts, Escondido, Sunday, February 10.

(SEE CLASSICAL MUSIC)



preschoolers), “TryScience!” “Escape from Dino Island” is theme for motion simulator ride. Films are shown daily in the IMAX theater. 619-238-1233. 1875 El Prado, 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

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

The museum is dedicated to “curation of archaeological projects and sharing them with the public.” 760-291-0370. 16666 San Pasqual Valley Road, 760-291-0370. (ESCONDIDO)

San Diego Automotive Museum “High Art: Concept Cars and Automobile Design,” continuing through Wednesday, March 26, includes vehicles from General Motors, Nissan,

Chrysler, Mazda, Honda, Volvo, and Art Center College of Design.

More than 80 automobiles and motorcycles from horseless carriages to future prototypes are included in the museum’s permanent collection. Find the museum near the Starlight Bowl. 619-231-2886. 2080 Pan American Plaza, 619-231-2886. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Hall of Champions Ongoing exhibits include “Bird Watching — Tony Hawk in Flight,” “Surfing in San Diego,” exhibits of baseball card art, fencing, local rugby history. The museum is dedicated to promoting, recognizing, and preserving athletic achievement. 619-234-2544. 2131 Pan American Plaza, 619-234-2544. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Maritime Museum “The War through Steichen’s Eyes — Combat Photography in the Pacific 1943-45” features 50 photographs produced by Edward Steichen and photographers under his supervision; many famous images of World War II featured. Additional photographs, documents,

artifacts chronicle the life of this accomplished photographer. Through July.

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

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

class diesel-electric submarine was designed to track U.S. and NATO warships throughout the Earth’s oceans. There are also nautical exhibits, ship carpenters, model building, ships in bottles, woodcarvers, complete research library. 619-234-9153. 1306 North Harbor Drive, 619-234-9153. (DOWNTOWN)

San Diego Museum of Man “Edward S. Curtis Refocused” offers Native American insight into Curtis’s photo documentation of their lives. Curtis is famous for his photographs of recreated scenes of traditional life and 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, techniques he used.

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

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

Permanent anthropology exhibit “Footsteps through Time: Four Million Years of Human Evolution” features “more than a hundred touchable replicas of early humans, primates, and futuristic cyborgs (part human, part machine).” 619-239-2001. 1350 El Prado, 619-239-2001. (BALBOA PARK)

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

San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park Commemorates the clash (on December 6, 1846) during the Mexican War between the U.S. Dragoons, bolstered by sailors and volunteers from San Diego, and California militia. Narrated slide-show screens throughout the day, telling the story of the war in Mexico and California. Self-guided tour recounts the events of the battle and profiles the leaders of the forces and also describes the lives of the Indians indigenous to the valley. 760-737-2201. 16666 San Pasqual Valley Road, 760-737-2201. (ESCONDIDO)

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

William Heath Davis House Museum Museum is said to be the oldest surviving structure in the new town area of downtown San Diego. The house is a well-preserved example of a pre-framed lumber “salt box” family home, shipped from the East Coast to California by boat around Cape Horn in 1850. 619-233-4692. 410 Island Avenue, 619-233-4692. (DOWNTOWN)

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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 he learned about negatives he'd exposed 50 years earlier still stored somewhere in Paris, so he retrieved and printed them in a larger format than he was using when he first exposed the negatives.

About format. If you go to the smallish but choice exhibition of Kertész's photographs at the J. Paul Getty Center, all drawn from their voluminous 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 sublime 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

REVIEW

W.S. DI PIERO



Gypsy Children, November 10, 1916

André Kertész: Seven Decades

J. Paul Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Drive, Los Angeles

Through Sunday, April 13. For additional information, call 310-440-7300 or visit getty.edu.

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, knifing 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 visitant 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 craft visual balances and cadences that charm the eye. In *The Harbor at Brest, France*, we see from above cubical crates crowding the bulwarks of a small, wooden, lozenge-shaped freighter nosing into a barge bearing white barrels. The vessels and their contents, including the flatbed stacked with metal pipes alongside the freighter, look arranged, a cubist 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 men'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 rubbery, 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 trolleys slogging 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 tilts 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



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Meudon, France, negative 1928; printed 1970s

balcony partition outside his room and his view of the sea’s horizon line. The image he made is low-key spooky: a shadow on the other side of the glass seems to be leaning toward the balcony railing *this* side of the glass; the rail’s flat fluorescent top triangulates with the horizon. With no apparent exertion or assertiveness, Kertész offers a meditation on mortality, on how in time we become shadows of ourselves, while the world wheels through its own changes: the tide ebbs, clouds blow by, and light paints itself on available surfaces. ■

ART LISTINGS

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

GALLERIES

“The Faculty Factor 2008” Annual San Diego Mesa College faculty exhibition opens with reception at 4:30 p.m.; Niku and Hueso Productions (“The Infinity Lab”) present performance/installation piece entitled *The Fire Next Time* (5 and 6 p.m.). Reception is followed by lecture by artist Nathan Betschart at 7 p.m. in room G-101. 619-388-2829. Exhibition closes Wednesday, March 5. Mesa College Art Gallery (7250 Mesa Col-

lege Drive). 4:30 p.m., Thursday, February 7. (KEARNY MESA)

“Cube” Lincoln Schatz’s second solo exhibition opens with reception. Piece “consists of a translucent Plexiglass room built within the gallery and embedded with 24 video cameras to create densely layered video portraits from one-hour sittings with invited guests.” Closes Saturday, March 15. 858-454-3409. Quint Contemporary Art (7739 Fay Lane). 6 p.m., Friday, February 8. (LA JOLLA)

Second Reception Reception for painter, sculptor James Watts and photographer Pablo Mason. Exhibit closes Thursday, March 6. 619-546-9546. Sharp Gallery (3807 Ray Street). 6 p.m., Saturday, February 9. (NORTH PARK)

“Endeavor: Part Two” Opening reception for exhibit hosted by Radioactive Future, boasting art by Christopher Raymond, Bret Barrett, Bill Pierce, Paul Brogden, Acamonchi, Lara K. Tamalunas, Perry Vasquez, Zuri Waters, Nuvia Crisol Guerra, May-Ling Martinez, Mary Fleener, Andi Brandenburg, Dave Miles, Celene. Show closes Saturday, February 16. 619-584-4448. Art Produce Gallery (3139 University Avenue). 6 p.m., Saturday, February 9. (NORTH PARK)

“Doublegible” Artist’s books by Linda McCullogh on display for her master of fine arts thesis exhibition in graphic design opens with reception. Closes Thursday, February 14. 619-594-6511. Flor y Canto Gallery at San Diego State University (5500 Campanile Drive). 6 p.m., Saturday, February 9. (SDSU)

“An Incomplete Theoretical History of a Dying Doppelgänger Multiverse” Opening reception for exhibit of new works by Josh Taylor. More than 20 artists will have work on view in the 14 open studios. Through February. 760-781-5779. Distinction Gallery (317 East Grand Avenue). 6 p.m., Saturday, February 9. (ESCONDIDO)

“From Dust to Decadence” Opening reception for 14 artists



Nôtre Dame, 1925–1928

included in Ceramics Invitational exhibition curated by Sasha Koozel Reibstein. Continues through Friday, April 4. 760-744-1150 x2304. Boehm Gallery at Palomar College (1140 West Mission Road). 4 p.m., Saturday, February 9. (SAN MARCOS)

“Hector Vex” Series Exhibition showcasing nearly 40 sculptures and drawings by Robin Bright opens with reception. Most of pieces in show “were recently created and have never been shown”; Bright began his minimalist-oriented “Hector Vex” series in New York in the late 1960s. Through Sunday, March 23. 619-238-6627. Pacific Beach Library (4275 Cass Street). 1 p.m., Sunday, February 10. (PACIFIC BEACH)

ART MUSEUMS

Mingei International Museum. “American Viewing Stones: Natural Art in an Asian Tradition.” Chinese connoisseurs began using large stones to decorate gardens, courtyards during the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.–A.D. 220); “Scholar’s Rocks” is English name most commonly used for these items. American viewing stone collecting began with first- and second-generation Japanese-Americans who continued traditions of bonsai and suiseki.

The “Chinese Woodblock Prints in the Style of the Ten Bamboo Studio” are likely from a 19th-Century edition of Treatise on Calligraphy and Painting of the Ten Bamboo Studio. Prints are noteworthy for technique of printing using multiple blocks. Both exhibits are ongoing.

Masterworks from permanent collection are gathered in “The Beauty of Use — Mingei International Museum at 30,” showcasing significant objects from many cultures shown in relationships highlighting similarities and differences among them. Museum has formed a collection of mingei now comprising 17,000 objects from 141 countries such as collection of 19th-Century African tribal currency, group of masks including example

of Amazonian feather work, ritual objects, selection of monumental containers. Closes Sunday, May 11. 619-239-0003. 1439 El Prado, 619-239-0003. (BALBOA PARK)

Mingei International Museum — North County. “Paper Transformed,” exhibition of “Origami — The Art of Paper Folding” from Mingei’s permanent collection continues through Sunday, March 2. “Origami” boasts nearly 100 examples of traditional and contemporary paper folding; exhibition honors acclaimed local paper folder, author, teacher Florence Temko.

“Art of Play: Kinetic Toys of the World” — closing Sunday, June 29 — features objects that move when manipulated. See kites from many countries, pull- and push-toys, antique mechanical banks, puppets, wooden toys. 760-735-3355. 155 West Grand Avenue, 760-735-3355. (ESCONDIDO)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown. “Robert Irwin: Primaries and Secondaries” is “the largest exhibition of renowned artist...Irwin’s work since 1993.” Exhibit features five new major installation works created specifically for MCASD’s galleries, is drawn almost exclusively

of works from museum’s collection. Closes Sunday, April 13. Find the museum directly across from the Santa Fe Railroad Depot. 858-454-3541. 1001 Kettner Boulevard, 858-454-3541. (DOWNTOWN)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla. In the room-sized “Erwin Redl: Matrix II,” the space seems to recede in all directions, as if the walls were mirrored. Floor-to-ceiling and wall-to-wall, the room is filled with grids of phosphor-green LEDs, creating an immersive web of light. Closes Sunday, May 4. 858-454-3541. 700 Prospect Street, 858-454-3541. (LA JOLLA)

CLASSICAL LISTINGS

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CLASSICAL

“From the Anna Magdalena Notebook” J.S. Bach compiled music notebooks in 1722 and 1725 for his young wife, Anna Magdalena, having “the character of a modern-day family album.” Notebooks contain varied selection of suites, dances, arias, chorales. Bach Collegium San Diego performs the master’s “French Suite No. 1 in D Minor,” “Recitative and Aria,” G.H. Stölzel’s “Bist du bei mir,” and other works from notebook. 858-456-2661. Powerhouse Community Center (1658 Coast Boulevard), 7 p.m., Thursday, February 7. (DEL MAR)

“Symphony Exposed” Igor Stravinsky shook foundations of music with “The Firebird: Suite,” which he wrote for Sergei Diaghilev’s Paris-based Russian Ballet in 1910. Conductor Jahja Ling, host Nuvi Mehta join San Diego Symphony for concert. Reservations: 619-235-0804. Copley Symphony

Hall (750 B Street), 7:30 p.m., Thursday, February 7. (DOWNTOWN)

“H.M.S. Pinafore” Gilbert and Sullivan’s comic nautical tale is season closer for Lyric Opera San Diego, with performances February 8 &ndash 24. Cast includes J. Sherwood Montgomery, Martha Jane Weaver, Robert Boldin, Daniel Klein, soprano Priya Palekar. Children 5 – 17 pay half price. 619-239-8836. Stephen & Mary Birch North Park Theatre (2891 University Avenue), 7:30 p.m., Friday, February 8. (NORTH PARK)

Jacobs’ Masterworks Concerts San Diego Symphony, conductor Jahja Ling, and pianist Jeffrey Biegel perform Stravinsky’s “The Firebird: Suite,” along with “Symphony No. 94 (Surprise)” by Haydn, and West Coast premiere of Liebermann’s “Piano Concerto.” Reservations: 619-235-0804. Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street), 8 p.m., Friday, February 8. (DOWNTOWN)

“Forgotten Romance” Take your Valentine to a Camarada chamber music concert boasting music of Bizet, Chopin, Lizst, Schubert, “other redoubtable romantics.” Love poetry by Shakespeare, Dickinson, Cummings, Rilke, Rumi will complement musical offerings. Reception at 6:30 p.m., concert at 7 p.m. 619-231-3702. Patrick Moore Gallery (2400 Kettner Boulevard, suite 103), 7 p.m., Saturday, February 9. (LITTLE ITALY)

Music with a Mission El Mundo performs Spanish Baroque music of missions and cathedrals for San Diego Early Music Society. Noted violinist Monica Huggett, sopranos Jennifer Ellis and Phoebe Jevtovic Alexander, mezzo soprano Janelle DeStefano featured on program. Reservations: 619-291-8246. Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá (10818 San Diego Mission Road), 8 p.m., Saturday, February 9. (MISSION VALLEY)

The Ten Tenors These Australians leapt “to international attention at Germany’s Eurovision Grand Prix de la Chanson” with “clever, virtuosic, and humorous lyrics and musicianship.” 800-988-4253. California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard), 7 p.m., Sunday, February 10. (ESCONDIDO)

Organ Concert Concert organist Herndon Spillman performs works by Franck, Duruflé, Bach, and Thomas Kerr. Offering. 760-752-6582. San Dieguito United Methodist Church (170 Calle Magdalena), 7 p.m., Sunday, February 10. (ENCINITAS)

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- Health Sciences, University of Washington, Seattle, USA
- University of Winchester, Theology and Religious studies,UK
- Hermann Memorial Hospital, Houston, USA
- Centre International, United Nations de Conferences, Geneva, Switzerland

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Concrete Coliseum

Blues Coors Amphitheatre, owned by Live Nation, will soon lose its name. Effective March 1, the Coors Brewing

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.

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 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.

"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.

— Ken Leighton

It's About the Ratings, Too

"Morning drive" is the most important time period for radio stations. Two morning shows — one with no music and one that declares to be "about the music" — are reacting differently as they face a downturn in ratings.

As the program director of FM94/9, Garrett Michaels

installed himself as morning DJ three years ago. His direct competition — Chris Cantore of 91X — was fired in December after 11 years. According to recent Arbitron rankings in the 18–34 demographic, Michaels's show didn't place among the top ten English-speaking stations; Cantore's final numbers placed his show at number five.

Although FM94/9 promotes itself as "about the music," Michaels recently added Tommy Hough to be his morning sidekick and newsmen.

"We still play ten songs an hour," says Michaels. "We had news before Tommy, but before it was provided by Metro Traffic. I don't think that Metro provided the caliber of [news delivery] that our listeners deserve. Tommy has a journalism background." Michaels says it's undecided whether Hough will remain on the morning show permanently.

All-talk shows tend to do better than music shows on morning radio. Insiders say the namesakes of the all-talk *Jeff and Jer Show* on Star 94.1 get paid well over \$1 million each for regularly placing in the top two among morning shows for those aged 25–54.

Jeff and Jer were enticed to move from 100.7 FM to work at Star 94.1 three years ago. They were replaced at 100.7 by the lower-profile (and

much less expensive) *Monique and the Man* morning show (100.7 is now called Jack FM). In the last Arbitron ratings, *Monique and the Man* beat *Jeff and Jer* and helped Jack FM move up to second place while Star FM slid from second to seventh among listeners aged 25–54.

the inside track blurt

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



ON THE GRASS AT COORS AMPHITHEATRE

The Chula Vista venue has been known as Coors Amphitheatre since it opened

PHOTOGRAPH FROM PICASWEB GOOGLE.COM



...ABOUT THE SPAM AS WELL? (MICHAELS)

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FEBRUARY 22

BADFISH
a tribute to
SUBLINE



FEBRUARY 23

THE JELLYBONES



FEBRUARY 24

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CAPTAIN MISERABLE
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FEBRUARY 28

EVERY TIME I DIE



FEBRUARY 29

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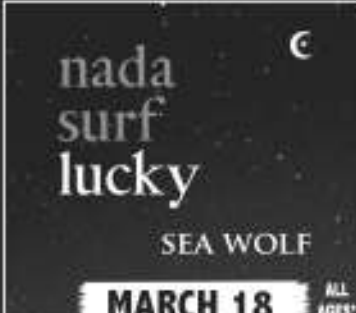
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 - 4/30 Avril Lavigne • Cox Arena
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All dates, acts and ticket prices subject to change without prior notice. Subject to applicable service charges.

Calendar
MUSIC SCENEblurt
continued

"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 that KUSI still has bands and solo artists



CUSATO WON'T PITCH THE HARD STUFF

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 7/39 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 starts 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 kcusato@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 a cartoon character 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

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JAY ALLEN SANFORD



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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 'toon gig by contacting *Metalocalypse* creator/songwriter Brendon Small via MySpace.

"[I told] him that my girlfriend and I were big fans of his first show, *Home Movies*. He wrote back to say he was a huge fan of mine too, having seen me play live in 1996 when he was a student at Berklee College of Music in Boston....

When the *Dethklok* album of music from the TV show came out and proved to be such a surprising success, there was a need for a live show and a live band to play it, so he asked me and my bass player, Bryan Beller, if we would join forces with him and legendary metal drummer

Gene Hoglan."

Keneally first came to local prominence fronting the band Drop Control. In 1987, he joined Frank Zappa's touring



DETHKLOK

band as a "stunt guitarist," replacing Steve Vai. He went on to play with XTC, Negativland, Robert Fripp, Screamin' Jay Hawkins, Solomon Burke, and others.

— Jay Allen Sanford

Trophy Strife Six San Diego-related artists are nominated for Grammy Awards (ceremony to be held on February 10 in Los Angeles): jazz pianist Eldar (Best Contemporary Jazz Album), country-folk duo Buck Howdy & BB (Best Musical Album for Children), As I Lay Dying (Best Metal Performance), singer-songwriter J.J. Cale (Best Contemporary Blues Album), as well as former locals Tom

Waits (Best Contemporary Folk/Americana Album) and Eddie Vedder (Best Song Written for Motion Picture).

Two national acts up for trophies have a local connection.

Over two days in the summer of 2000, Green Day (Best Rock Performance by a Duo or Group) filmed a video for their song "Minority" downtown, on Broadway between Fourth and Sixth Avenue. Though it was a major production, only about two dozen fans showed up to watch the shoot. The clip features the band in a parade, complete with baton twirlers and giant balloons, though these were later digitally enhanced to show the band members' faces. At the video's conclusion, the band destroyed their float and allowed fans to take pieces as souvenirs.

Beyoncé Knowles (Record of the Year) has San Diego connections that the artist would likely prefer not to have publicized. In 1999, Destiny's Child — the group she was in at the time — canceled a San Diego appearance when local "fan" LaToya Langford began to issue death threats against the all-girl group. According to online reports, Langford allegedly demanded a specific sexual favor from Knowles. A

restraining order was issued, but the threats continued until Langford's arrest.

When Knowles performed at Cox Arena last August, several online sources report,



RUDEY-LICIOUS BEYONCE

local staff were instructed not to look at, speak to, or approach her. From *Star Magazine*: "The staff were actually told before the show that if Beyoncé was coming down the hall, you were to find an unlocked room and immediately go into it, out of her presence."

— Bart Mendoza

CONTRIBUTORS

William Crain, Dave Good, Larry Harmon, Michael Hemmingson, Ken Leighton, Ryan Loyko, Bart Mendoza, Derek Plank, Eric Rife, Jay Allen Sanford, David Stampone

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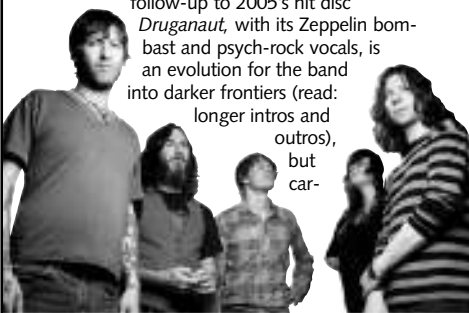
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This Week In Music

Thursday 7

Black Mountain casts its shadow over a crowded Casbah tonight. Leader Steven McBean is king of the hill with Pink Mountaintops and Black Mountain Army, Canadian collectives celebrating '70s rawk. In the *Future*, this year's Black Mountain follow-up to 2005's hit disc *Druganaut*, with its Zeppelin bombast and psych-rock vocals, is an evolution for the band into darker frontiers (read: longer intros and outros), but car-



BLACK MOUNTAIN AT CASBAH

ries over *Druganaut*'s acid appeal. Oakland jam band **Howlin Rain** blows through the room first.... Slash straps on his **Velvet Revolver** at House of Blues. Part G&R (Slash, Duff, and Matt) and part STP (singer Scott Weiland), this amalgamation's garnered a Grammy (2005 hard-rock performance for "Slither") and last year stood in for Van Halen at that supergroup's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction performance, playing through VH tunes. Revolver's on tour in support of their latest *Libertad*.... Uke virtuoso **Jake Shimabukuro** will pluck and slide his island vibe for Anthology. Expect to hear everything from hula to heavy metal. On his '07 disc *My Life*, Shimabukuro reinterprets Beatles, Zeppelin, and "Somewhere over the Rainbow.".... Ontario reggae rockers **Bedouin Soundclash**, Boston ska tuffs **Westbound Train**, and English beat boys **Beat Union** turn the treble up at Belly Up tonight.

Friday 8

"Dr. Mad Vibe" 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 blows, Moore kept the live act on the road, recording sporadically. The band's latest is '06 collection *Still Stuck in Your Throat*, which was their first in six years. This year they'll drop DVD *Everyday Sunshine* — A *Fishbone Documentary*. **Dirty Heads**, **One Drop**, and **Concrete Project** open.... Guitarist **Marc Ford** of Black Crowes

fame pulls into Belly Up in support of *Weary and Wired*, a collection of '60s-inspired rock-n-soul. San Diego blues-rock jam band **Deadline Friday** share the bill, touting last year's *Days Gone*.... Don your shiny shoes, as South American dance band **Los Amigos Invisibles** deliver Latin-flavored acid jazz to House of Blues. Sample *Super Pop Venezuela* for a taste. The Amigos will be joined by party band compatriots **Si*Se** (NYC) and Mexican-American **Gustavo Alberto**.... Local pop-rock quartet **Transfer** celebrate a CD release at Casbah with **Apes of Wrath**, **Holy Rolling Empire**, and the **Sea of Cortez**.... John Reis (Rocket from the Crypt, Hot Snakes) has a new venture called **Night Marchers**. They'll premiere material from punk'd rock-roll debut *See You in Magic*, "another handful of mind-blowing rat turds flung at the 'scene.'" Catch the Marchers Friday night at Reis's North Park office Bar Pink Elephant.... Friday-night sides: **Down's Family's** at the Ken with the **Postals**...**Thieves and Liars** gussy up at Beauty Bar with **Casket Salesmen**, **INVERSE**, and **Merkaba Bandits**...and funny lady **Paula Poundstone** will yuk up 4th&B.

Saturday 9

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



FISHBONE AT 'CANES

Pilots at the ready, urbs, that's a notable triple bill.... You better have at least "one good headlight" if you're going to get to the **Wallflowers** this week-end. Bob's son Jakob Dylan and his once radio-ready pop group will be out at the casinos. Check 'em Saturday night at Viejas, Sunday at Pala.... Fright-rock looms at Ken Club Saturday where organ grinders **Creepy Creeps** are in cahoots with pirate punks **Thee Corsairs** to scare the dance off you.... Reggae nation: Bay Area Bobs **Groundation** present their Bob Marley tribute at Belly Up. DJ Carlos Culture in support.... The Zombie Lounge hosts gunslingin' ghosts **Dead as Dillinger** as well as **7 Dirty Words**, **American Speedway**, and **Chivo**.... And you can catch the "Underground Uprising" at 4th&B with dub dance crews **Fiji** and **Bonafide**, **Kontiki**, **K2**, and **Island Irie**, brah.

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 crit pick *The Believer*. Miller splits the Solana Beach bill with Matador recording artist **Jennifer O'Connor**, a Brooklyn-based indie chick who rehashes Phair-ville. Pretty kids; easy listenin'.... And **James Blunt** will croon his tunes in Spreckels' fancy-pants room. Englishman Blunt's enjoyed a rocket ride off his '04 debut *Back to Bedlam* and its hit single "You're Beautiful." This year he's touring in support of new one *All the Lost Souls*. Sample single "1973" for Blunt's folk-pop tendencies. His stuff might remind you of pre-disco Bee Gees, which isn't a bad thing. **Sara Bareilles** opens.... Little Italy supper club Anthology presents San Diego's flamenco bros. **Novamenco**.... Local goth experimentalists **Operation Human Shield** play Zombie.... And there's a Sunday matinee set at Bar Pink Elephant with ambient 'gazers **Roxy Jones**. Goes off at 3p if you're in the North Park neighborhood.

Monday 11

Anti-Monday League's in session at Casbah, where locals **Swim Party**, **Talkdemonic**, **a.m. vibe**, and **f.u.z.z.** canvas for the indie-rock cause.... Mexican acoustic duet **Rodrigo y Gabriela** strum-n-thump Latin-tinged rock ballads at 4th&B. The pair is on a world tour touting last year's Rubyworks s/t release.... San Diego's electric soul songsmiths **Children of Nova** get their glam on at Beauty Bar — lotta Hedwig; little Angry Inch. Indie punk-n-pop DJ **Johnny Greenpoint** (NYC) spins in support.

Tuesday 12

Chicagoland jam band **Umphey's McGee** delivers 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 Murat* for a whiff of Umphey's steaming noodles. Ipecac recording artists **Dub Trio** set the stage. The Brooklyn dub punks have one hot 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 homespun wares off *If You Ever See an Owl*. The Lawrence, KS crew takes up a Tuesday at Bar Pink Elephant.... **SD House Parties** prop a pop three-way at Casbah as they host the **Softlightes** (R Fountain-berry from Incredible Moses Leroy), **People Noise**, and the **Lanterns**. The Lanterns are Les Savy Fav....ulous — check the no wave takes on last year's SXSW tour e.p.... Acoustic affair, as folk progeny **Sarah Lee Guthrie** and sideman **Johnny Irion** play Belly Up. **Gregory Page** warms the crowd. Where's Bluto when you need him?

Wednesday 13

It'll be a punk-rock sock-hop at Casbah as **Black Lips** re-visit *Good, Bad, not Evil* on the Middletown mainstay. *Good, Bad* topped most rock crits' year-end lists in '07 for its pump'd-pop take on trad American blues rock. The gritty Atlanta quartet killed the room last year. The



BLACK LIPS AT CASBAH

Lips share the stage with Portland garage band **Pierced Arrows** and basement punks **Beehive and the Barracudas** for show of the week.... Else: **Louis XIV** is playing an early-evening in-store at M-Theory before heading down to House of Blues, where they'll check in with the **Editors** and **Hot Hot Heat**.... Boogie-n-blues busker **Diablo Dimes** and dance troupe **Sultry Savage Burlesque** revive roaring '20s at Beauty Bar. — *Barnaby Monk*

Art Laboe

Feb. 15

Miguel Bose

March 2

Foo Fighters

March 3

Rufus Wainwright

March 4

George Lopez

March 15

Vampire Weekend

March 19

Def Leppard

Apr. 26

Avril Lavigne

Apr. 30

Juanes

May 3

WWE
Smackdown

Feb. 19

Supercross

With pit pass • Feb. 9



James Blunt

February 10

Margaret Cho

May 16, 17

Megadeth

May 20

The Cure

June 3

David Sedaris

June 30

Cirque du Soleil

"Corteo"

Through Feb. 17

"Stars on Ice"

Feb. 9

"Doodlebops Live"

March 2

"The Wiggles Live"

April 1

Harlem Globetrotters

Feb. 15, 17

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

The members of the group are Dandelion on lead vocals and lyrics; Mason Boogie on rhythm guitar and backup vocals; Japheth Ketcham on lead guitar; Jamie Thibodeau on percussion; Mike Lockrem on bass; Arturo Salido on keyboards, organs, and backup vocals; and the recently added Ishmael "the Peacemaker" on drums and vocals.

BEST GIG?

Mason: "House of Blues with the Wailers. We got there early for soundcheck and got to hang out with some of the original members. Al Anderson came up to us, sparked a joint, and passed it along.... Backstage was closed off to everyone except us, so we sat there smoking and watching our own private Wailers show."

Jamie: "Charley's in Paia, Hawaii. Good vibes, lively crowd, and we were in Hawaii!"

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."

LISTS

MICHAEL HEMMINGSON

WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO?

Japheth: "U2's *Achtung Baby*. Probably the record I've listened to most. Great guitar tones; great photo art on the sleeve. The whole thing comes across as very European."

Dandelion: "*Burnin'* by the Wailers. It captures the power of Bob, Peter, and Bunny."

Jamie: "Bob Marley's *Confrontation* and Grateful Dead's *Europe '72*."

WHAT DID YOU DO ON PROM NIGHT?

Japheth: "I didn't go to prom because I was a repressed Jehovah'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: "Don't believe in it. Love is familiarity."

Mason: "Yeah, I've had love at first sight. Usu-



Vegetation

ally it's just lust, but one time...you know who you are!"

SEXIEST LOCAL PERFORMER?

Japheth: "Lindsay from Roses on Her Grave."

Dandelion: "Definitely Mason Boogie."

Jamie: "DJ SweetBeets."

FIVE MOMENTS THAT SUCKED...

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."

FAVORITE DEAD CELEB?

Japheth: "Kurt Cobain."

Jamie: "Timothy Leary."

Mason: "Evangeline Lily—the people on *Lost* are dead, aren't they?"

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

Dandelion: "I see a lot more protest songs and music that carries a message."

THOUGHTS ON THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE?

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

BEST THING YOU EVER DID DRUNK?

Dandelion: "Answer these questions." ■

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Calendar

CONCERTS

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THIS WEEK'S CONCERTS

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, 9 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Leahy, Poway Center for the Performing Arts, Thursday, February 7, 8 p.m., 15498 Espola Road, Poway. 858-748-0505.

FRIDAY

Los Amigos Invisibles and SI*SE, 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., 5000 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., 5000 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

Rodrigo y Gabriela, 4th & B, Monday, February 11, 8 p.m., 345 B Street, Downtown. 619-231-4343.

TUESDAY

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

Sarah Lee Guthrie & Johnny Irion, 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 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.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

FEBRUARY

George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic, Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, February 14, 9 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Richard Elliott, 4th & B, Friday, February 15, 7 p.m., 345 B Street, Downtown. 619-231-4343.

Royal Crown Revue, Anthology, Friday, February 15, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

Sia, Belly Up Tavern, Friday, February 15, 9 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Styx, House of Blues, Saturday, February 16, 8 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Maceo Parker, Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, February 16, 9 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Third Day and the Myriad, House of Blues, Wednesday, February 20, 6:30 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.



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Queensrÿche and Don Dokken, House of Blues, Thursday, February 21, 8 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Blake Shelton, 4th & B, Friday, February 22, 7:30 p.m., 345 B Street, Downtown. 619-231-4343.

Bone Thugs-N-Harmony, House of Blues, Sunday, February 24, 7 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Earl Thomas and Amber Ojeda, Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, February 24, 7 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Marilyn Manson, House of Blues, Monday, February 25, 7 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Jay Farrar, Belly Up Tavern, Monday, February 25, 8 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

The Pat Metheny Trio, Anthology, Tuesday, February 26, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

Adrian Belew, Belly Up Tavern, Tuesday, February 26, 8 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

The Pat Metheny Trio, Anthology, Wednesday, February 27, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

MARCH

Miguel Bosé, Cox Arena, Sunday, March 2, 7 p.m., 550 Campanile Drive, College Area. 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., 550 Campanile Drive, College Area. 619-594-6947.

Rufus Wainwright, Belly Up Tavern, Tuesday, March 4, 8 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Air Supply, Sycuan Casino Showcase 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., 5000 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.

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Colbie Caillat

FEB 09

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THE HOLLYWOOD COMBO

FEB 15 9p-2a
CRUSH w/ DJ DEMON

FEB 16 9p-2a
DETROIT UNDERGROUND

FEB 17 5p-9p
SWING COMPETITION

FEB 22 9p-2a
UNDERCOVER

FEB 23 9p-2a
POLYESTER EXPRESS



FEB 08 5p-9p
RISING STAR

FEB 09 5p-9p
80'Z ALL STARS

FEB 10 4p-8p
SHELLE BLUE

FEB 08 10p-2a
POCKET PROTECTORS

FEB 09 10p-2a
MICHELLE LUNDEEN

FEB 10 9p-12a
DAVID PATRONE EXTRAVAGANZA



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Calendar CONCERTS

The Itals, Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, March 20, 9 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Built to Spill, Belly Up Tavern, Friday, March 21, 9 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Presidents of the United States of America, Belly Up Tavern, Saturday, March 22, 9 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

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

The Black Keys, House of Blues, Saturday, March 29, 7 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

A Flock of Seagulls and Dramarama, House of Blues, Sunday, March 30, 6 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Citizen Cope, House of Blues, Monday, March 31, 7 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

APRIL

Les Claypool, House of Blues, Wednesday, April 2, 8 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Bret Michaels, Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Friday, April 4, 8 p.m., 5000 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

Big Head Todd & the Monsters, House of Blues, Saturday, April 5, 7 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

RBD, Coors Amphitheatre, Sunday, April 6, 7 p.m., 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista. 619-671-3600.

Ministry, House of Blues, Monday, April 7, 7 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

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

Julio Iglesias, California Center for the Arts, Escondido, Friday, April 11, 8 p.m., 340 North Escondido Boulevard, Escondido. 800-988-4253.

Panic at the Disco, Soma, Saturday, April 12, 6 p.m., 3350 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 Mayall & the Bluesbreakers, Poway Center for the Performing Arts, Saturday, April 19, 8 p.m., 15498 Espola Road, Poway. 858-748-0505.

Ratt, Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Sunday, April 20, 7:30 p.m., 5000 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

Def Leppard and REO Speedwagon, Coors Amphitheatre, Saturday, April 26, 7 p.m., 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista. 619-671-3600.

Victor Wooten, Belly Up Tavern, Sunday, April 27, 8 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

Avril Lavigne and Boys Like Girls, Cox Arena, Wednesday,

NOTE

BY WILLIAM CRAIN

A couple of weeks ago I went to a party for an indie rock listserv I've belonged to for a long time and found myself listening to DJs spinning '70s hard rock bands like Starz and Nazareth. Not what I had expected from the message group where I used to go for gossip about Belle and Sebastian. But as the softer end of the indie world has been co-opted by the mainstream, a certain part of what used to be called the "alternative" audience has drifted toward the '70s sounds that punk was supposed to have wiped out.

The results can be kind of disorienting. A couple of years ago I was talking to a com-

munity radio station DJ about the heavy psych act Dungen, which was getting a lot of hype at the time. She said it sounded like the stuff her older brother used to listen to, the stuff she hated when she was growing up. This hatred was one of the things that, as a teenager, drove her to seek out new and different music — a passion that has remained with her to this day.

My point in bringing this up is to say I have mixed feelings about **Black Mountain**, a Vancouver band that is getting a lot of attention with a sound that is part Velvet Underground and mostly Deep Purple. It's all riffing guitars and gurgling organs and lyrics about drugs and witches. I mean, it would sound awesome blasting out of a custom van with a unicorn airbrushed on its side, circa 1973. And I



BLACK MOUNTAIN

can't justify why this is true, but I admit it also sounds awesome blasting out of computer speakers, circa 2008.

BLACK MOUNTAIN, The Casbah, Thursday, February 7, 8:30 p.m. 619-232-4355. \$10.

Calendar CLUBS

DJ

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.

710 Beach Club: *Thursday:* Brendan B. A night of hip-hop music. Ages 21 and up. 710 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-483-7844.

Air Conditioned Lounge: *Thursdays:* Too Cool for School. Old-skool hip-hop and '80s music, funk freestyle and new wave. Ages 21 and up. *Fridays:* Junior the Disco Punk. Old skool, rare grooves, funk, and disco, with opening set by DJ 1979. *Saturdays,* 9 p.m.: The Air Conditioned Cocktail Party. "Dance in your dazzling duds." Come in cocktail attire and get 2-for-1 cover charge. Ages 21 and up. *Sundays:* Guest DJ Night. Guest DJs to be announced. Ages 21 and up. *Mondays:* DJ 1979. Hip-hop, funk,

and soul. Special guest joins DJ 1979. Ages 21 and up. *Tuesdays,* 9 p.m.: Big Sonic Chill. "Ethereal dream-pop bliss" sponsored by San Diego's Local 94.9. *Wednesdays:* Club Nigel. Steve West and DJ SG spin the '80s. 4673 30th Street, Normal Heights. 619-501-9831.

Bar Dynamite: *Thursdays,* 9 p.m.: DJs SG, Dubz, Teknikscian. Hip-hop, funk, old skool, mashups, and reggae. \$5. *Wednesdays,* 9 p.m.: Deep House Nite. DJs Duane, Lil Ryan and Johnny D spin house music. Ages 21 and up. 1808 West Washington Street, Mission Hills. 619-295-8743.

Bar West: *Sunday:* Chris Cutz. Spinning hip-hop/rock/house. Ages 21 and up. *Saturday:* Mikey Beats.



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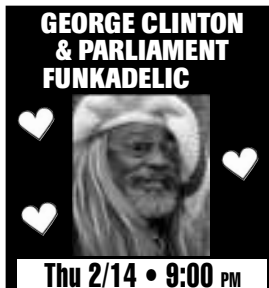
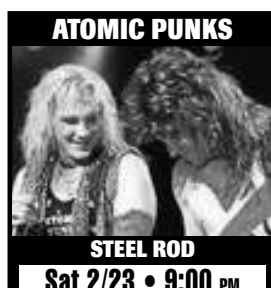
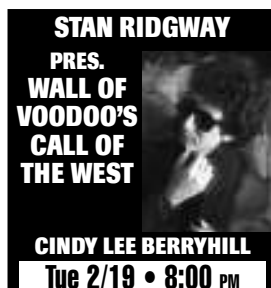
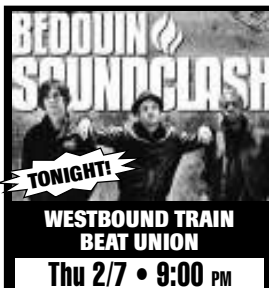
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3/18 **The Pretty Things w/The Amazing World of Arther Brown & Malchiks**
3/24 **FM 94.9 presents Bob Mould** – On sale Friday @ noon!
3/25 **Bob Schneider** • 4/3 **Halfway to Halloween Party!**

- 3/1 Al Howard & the K23 Orchestra and Perpetual Groove
- 3/2 Marcia Ball & John Hammond
- 3/4 Rufus Wainwright
- 3/5 SD Songwriters Guild w/The Candice Graham Project, Jeff Berkley & The Citizens Band & guest
- 3/6 Hotel Café w/Ingrid Michaelson, Cary Brothers, Greg Laswell, Kate Havnevik, Jessie Baylin & Jim Bianco
- 3/7 Immortal Technique
- 3/8 Escalera & Stripes & Lines – Dual Album Release Party!
- 3/9 The Blind Boys of Alabama
- 3/10 New York Dolls
- 3/12 Matthew Good

- 3/13 Mad Professor w/Elijah Emanuel & The Revelations
- 3/14 Tommy Castro Band
- 3/15 Common Sense
- 3/17 Shawn Mullins
- 3/19 Tristan Prettyman
- 3/20 The Itals w/Lloyd Hemmings
- 3/21 Built to Spill w/The Meat Puppets & Helvatia

- 3/22 The Presidents of the United States of America
- 3/23 Steve Earle w/Allison Moorer
- 3/29 The Avett Brothers
- 4/9 X
- 4/11 The Mother Hips & New Monsoon
- 4/12 The Mother Hips & Jackie Greene
- 4/13 Charlie Musselwhite
- 4/19 Cash'd Out
- 4/24 Dark Star Orchestra
- 4/27 Victor Wooten
- 5/22 Hal Ketchum

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Calendar CLUBS

DJ

(continued)

Resident and guest DJs at Bar West spin everything from hip-hop, to mashups, old skool, and funky house. Ages 21 and up. *Friday:* G-Roy. Spinning house and hip-hop music. Ages 21 and up. *Thursday:* Craig Smoove. Spinning house/hip-hop/mashups. Ages 21 and up. 959 Hornblend Street, Pacific Beach. 858-273-WEST.

Beauty Bar: *Tuesday*, 9 p.m.: DJ Jonny Greenpoint. From Brooklyn, New York. Spinning post-punk, indie rock, and dance music. Includes live performance by Children of Nova. *Alternative/garage/punk. Tuesdays*, 8 p.m.: Diamond Dog Tuesdays. “The night transitions in mood from lounge bar music all the way through the night to a full-scale dance club. DJ Heresy, Cota-Pop, and DJ Divebomb — three different DJs with three different styles.” Ages 21 and up. 4746 El Cajon Boulevard, Kensington-Talmadge. 619-516-4746.

Belo: *Saturday:* Scotty Boy. Spinning a mix of ’80s, rock, and house. Ages 21 and up. *Friday:* DJ Sneak. House. Ages 21 and up. *Thursday:* Paul van Dyk. “In Between” album tour. Trance/techno/electronica. Ages 21 and up. 919 Fourth Avenue, Downtown. 619-231-9200.

Bourbon Street: *Tuesday:* Play With It. Best and worst of the ’80s with DJ Junior the Disco Punk. 4612 Park Boulevard, Normal Heights. 619-291-0173.

Brass Rail: *Friday:* Club Fashion Where. Monthly fashion show, DJs, and discotheque, brought to you by Maystar. Second Friday of the month. 3796 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-298-2233.

Candelas: *Thursdays:* DJ ALA. Deep soulful house music. 416 Third Avenue, Downtown. 619-702-4455.

Canes: *Sundays*, 9 p.m.: Reggae Sundays. Moulin Rouge Ent. presents Club Seduction. Live reggae, hip-hop, and R&B performances every Sunday. Featuring DJ Alonzo, Baby Crown, and Big Daddy on the turntables. Ages 21 and up. 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780.

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. 760-729-4695.

Excelsior: *Thursdays*, 9 p.m.: Paradisco. Upscale lounge environment with DJs. 1028 Prospect Street Suite 210, La Jolla. 858-454-8092.

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 Miramar Road, Mira Mesa. 858-578-0757.

The Flame: *Saturday:* Sabbat. Goth and industrial every second Saturday of the month. With DJs Robin Roth, Adam, and Diskdroid. Ages 21 and up. 3780 Park Boulevard, Hillcrest. 619-295-4163.

Harney Sushi: *Wednesdays:* Mercer’s Han Night. A very special night with weekly guest DJs

NOTE

BY DAVE GOOD

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 rapid fire spans 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 slouch. His guitar carries the melody, and in that line of work the lead line is almost always an evocative and intricate puzzle that must be performed with resolute perfection. There is no room for error in this kind of music, and their backgrounds in thrash 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 stew of Latin culture, flamenco, and traditional Spanish guitar



RODRIGO Y GABRIELLA

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. 619-231-4343. \$31.

spinning: house, electro, mashups, and Brit-pop. 3964 Harney Street, Old Town. 619-295-3272.

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. 858-456-8111.

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.

Livewire: *Sunday*, 10 p.m.: DJ Ruby Mars. Garage/trash/soul. Ages 21 and up. *Monday:* Wheels of the Industry. Featuring local DJs. Ages 21 and up. *Thursday*, 9 p.m.: Skull Kontrol. First and Third Thursday of the month, with *DJ Mario O.* Ages 21 and up. *Saturday*, 9 p.m.: SD Zoo. Hip-hop and reggae with guest DJ Unite of Tribe of Kings, Gabe Vega, and Hippoh. Second Saturday of the month. Ages 21 and up. 2103 El Cajon Blvd, Normal Heights.

Molly Malone’s: *Friday*, 9 p.m.: DJ Levi. Rock. Ages 21 and up.

1270 Main Street, Ramona. 760-789-9050.

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

San Diego Sports Club: *Thursdays*, 9 p.m.: Club ’80s. New wave, punk, and new romantic with DJs Bryan Pollard, Roxanne Redlight, Sickboy, and Stem. \$2-\$4. Ages 21 and up. 1271 University Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-299-7372.


Thrusters Lounge: *Thursday*, 10 p.m.: DJs Pnutz and Collagey.

Hip-hop on the decks. Ages 21 and up. 4633 Mission Boulevard, Mission Beach. 858-483-6334.

Tio Leo’s Lounge: *Thursdays*, 8 p.m.: Zydeco Dance. DJ Gator Boy, every Thursday. 5302 Napa Street, Clairemont. 619-542-1462.

Waterfront Bar & Grill: *Thursday:* party jamz. Classic hip-hop and ’80s music. Ages 21 and up. 2044 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy.


Whiskey Girl: *Fridays*, 9 p.m., *Saturdays*, 9 p.m.: DJ Marc Thrasher . Music video mixes. Ages 21 and up. 600 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-236-1616.



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Whistle Stop: Friday: The Whistle Stop. Second Friday of the month, *Pussy Galore Stripped*, live bands with DJ Robin Roth spinning electro, indie, and '80s. 2236 Fern Street, South Park. 619-284-6784.

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. 858-454-4540.

CLUBS BY AREA

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BEACHES

710 Beach Club: 710 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-483-7844. *Saturday:* Dazed and Confused. A Led Zeppelin tribute band. Dust N Bones also performs a Guns N' Roses tribute. Ages 21 and up. *Wednesday:* Mower. with a set of Slower. Known for their garage rock/hardcore/metal music, Mower performs a set of jazz and lounge versions of their songs. Ages 21 and up.

Coyote Bar and Grill: 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad, 760-729-4695. *Sunday,* 5 p.m.: Bill Watson. Harmonica blues. Ages 21 and up. *Wednesday,* 6 p.m.: Red Lane. Rock/blues. Ages 21 and up. *Saturday,* 6 p.m.: Scott Carter & New Breed. A four piece band that plays a range of funk, rock, jazz, and reggae. Ages 21 and up. *Friday,* 6 p.m.: Restless Natives. Rock/blues/reggae. *Thursday,* 6 p.m.: Boneyard. Rock.

Tiki House: 1152 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-273-9734. *Saturday:* Mississippi Mudsharks. Blues/punk/roots. *Wednesday:*

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A SHATTERED HOPE

SAT. MAR 1

THE DAJJAL PERSONA
THE 25TH HOUR
WITT

THURS. MAR 6

THIS IS HELL
Elysia • Ruiner
SOLDIERS • TERRORSPELL

THURS. MAR 13

AVA
ANGELS & AIRWAVES
FICKLEFINGER • SUMA ONE OFFICE • ~~AGE~~ ~~UNDEAD~~

SAT. MAR 15
CASSAH PRESENTS

explosions in the sky
\$14 - 7PM - LUNATIKS
CASSAHMUSIC.COM

WED. MAR 19

PORTUGAL THE MAN
FOXY SHAZAM
\$12 - 7PM - LUNATIKS

FRI. MAR 28

TOKYO POLICE CLUB (Private Area)
EAGLE BEAGAL • NE BARBARIANS

SAT. MAR 29

THE LOVED ONES
FLATLINERS
COBRASKULLS

WED. APR 2

THE WARRIORS
The Ghost Inside
Stray From The Path
Fate

THURS. APR 3

THE UNSEEN
A WILHELM SCHAUM
EVACUATE • SAYAKA

FRI. APR 4

STREETLIGHT MANIFESTO
ZOX • DAN POTTHAST
\$14 - 7PM - LUNATIKS

SAT. APR 12
WANTS MUSIC PRESENTS

PANIC! DISCO
NEW ANIMAL BEATS
MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK • THE HIGH WIRE • PROTEST HERO

THURS. APR 17

A SKYLIT DRIVE
DANCE GAVIN DANCE
OH SLEEPER
BEFORE THEIR EYES

Calendar CLUBS

BEACHES

(continued)

Cannonball. *Friday:* Wise Monkey Orchestra. Acid jazz band. Ages 21 and up. *Thursday:* Trophy Wife. Local band performs alternative/rock/garage music. Ages 21 and up.

'Canes: 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-488-1780. *Saturday:* Three Bad Jacks. Cathouse Thumper, the Handsome Devils, and the Orange Velvets also perform. An electrifying night of punk, psychobilly, and rockabilly music. Ages 21 and up. *Wednesday:* SOJA, Rebellion. Canes and Poly Underground present a night of reggae, rock, and dub music. Ages 21 and up. *Friday:* Fishbone. Dirty Heads, One Drop, and The Concrete Project also performing. Ska/rock/reggae. \$12. Ages 21 and up. *Thursday:* Muzzle, Caskets On Parade. Encursos, In Every Breath also performing. Metal/rock. Ages 21 and up.

Dream Street Live: 2228 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-8131. *Wednesday,* 9 p.m.: Metal Lounge. Featuring local metal bands.

Humphrey's Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-224-3577. *Friday,* 6:30 p.m.: Josh Damigo. Acoustic/folk jams. \$10. Ages 21 and up.

Jack's La Jolla: 7863 Girard Avenue, La Jolla, 858-456-8111. *Thursdays,* 6 p.m., *Fridays,* 6 p.m., *Saturdays,* 6 p.m., *Sundays,* 6 p.m., *Mondays,* 6 p.m., *Tuesdays,* 6 p.m., *Wednesdays,* 6 p.m.: Piano Bar.

Every day of the week in the Ocean Room.

Pasquale on Prospect: 1250 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-456-0722. *Sundays,* 6 p.m.: Stage 4. Jazz/rhythm and blues.

Winstons: 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822. *Saturday:* Delta Nove. National touring act based out of Long Beach, California. Performs a mixture of funk, rock, and reggae music. Ages 21 and up. *Sunday,* 6 p.m.: JonniMaxx. Alternative/pop/rock. \$5. Ages 21 and up. *Friday,* 9 p.m.: The Devastators. CD release party. Local roots reggae, dub, and funk band. Ages 21 and up.

CENTRAL

Chasers Cocktail Lounge: 3615 El Cajon Boulevard, City Heights, 619-280-9379. *Saturday,* 11 p.m.: Hazelden, Leopold and His Fiction. Dave the Butcher, West Wind Boyz also perform. Show was originally scheduled for Scolari'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.: Dreg's of Sada. Classic rock/alternative/rhythm and blues. *Wednesdays,* 6:30 p.m.: Private Domain. Unplugged. Rock/alternative/reggae. *Saturday,* 7:30 p.m.: Liquid Blue. Electronic/pop/rock. *Thursday,* 7 p.m.: Scott Carter Duo. Indie/acoustic/alternative. *Friday,* 7:30 p.m.: The Siers Brothers. Covers hits from classic rock, Motown, '70s disco, and R&B.

The Living Room Coffeehouse: 5900 El Cajon Boulevard, College Area, 619-286-



Album: 40 oz. *Dreams on a Champagne Budget* (2007)
Artist: Hesh One
Label: self-released
Where available/price: Available as a download from heshone.com
Songs: 1) Put 'em Up 2) L.A. Narcocorrido 3) Bleed, Spit & Shit 4) Rock My Khakis 5) Red or Blue 6) Desert Eagle 7) Where You At? 8) Menace Crook 9) Stik-Up Kidz 10) Domestic 911
Band: All sampling and mixing done by Hesh One. Vocals and music samples mixed from popular songs found online.

As an art project, *40 oz. Dreams on a Champagne Budget* achieves its objectives. The album, which focuses on street gangs, relays a bittersweet theme: the juxtaposition of gun-

>hometown CDs

BY OLLIE

shots, police-radio scans, and soft piano convey the message that this is not the life desired, but it's the life one must face. Hesh One intersperses soulful cuts of wailing reggae and blues vocals with sound

bites of street-tough gangster rappers, including Dr. Dre, the Game, Snoop Dogg, Ice T, Xzibit, Above the Law, and the Wu-Tang Clan. Also in the spirit of guerrilla art, Hesh One offers a "do it yourself" kit where you can download the album artwork, all of the MP3s, and create your own copy of *40 oz. Dreams* for free.

As music, though, the album goes nowhere; the songs start with everything and end abruptly. Within the first few seconds of every song, Hesh has mixed in all of his rhythms, vocals, and sound effects and within a minute or so has ended them all and moved on to the next "song" in what he calls "short-attention-span lengths." Nothing is allowed to expand or peak. While the rowdy, bouncy



Hesh One

jungle breaks or pure West Coast hip-hop backbeat are danceworthy, well timed, and professionally mixed, the pace of the album rushes and leaves the listener in its empty wake.

TO GET YOUR LOCAL CD REVIEWED, PLEASE MAIL IT TO: Music Editor, Hometown CDs, San Diego *Reader*, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803

and up. *Wednesday:* Moral Crux, Teenage Rehab. Coffin Caddies, the Prey also perform. Punk/pop/rock. Ages 21 and up. *Friday:* The Crashing Marbles, On Blast. Rock/indie/garage. Ages 21 and up. *Friday:* Guava Belly, the Crashing Marbles. On Blast also performs. Rock/funk/indie. Ages 21 and up.

The Casbah: 2501 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-HELL. *Saturday:* The Night Marchers, the Sess. Static Static, Wild Weekend also perform. Garage rock/punk pop/new wave. Ages 21 and up. *Tuesday:* The

SoftLightes. Indie/electronica/folk. Ages 21 and up. *Monday:* Talkdemonic, Swim Party. Acoustic/alternative/rock. Ages 21 and up. *Wednesday:* The Black Lips, Pierced Arrows. Beehive & the Barracudas also performs. Rock/garage/punk. Ages 21 and up. *Friday:* Transfer. CD release party. Alternative/rock. Ages 21 and up. *Thursday:* Black Mountain, Howlin' Rain. Psychedelic/folk/rock. Ages 21 and up.

Dizzy's: 200 Harbor Drive, Downtown, 858-270-7467. *Wednesday,* 7 p.m.: Pre-Valentine's

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Paula Poundstone
4th & B
FEBRUARY 8

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Thursday, February 7
8 pm • Blues Guitar

Anna Troy with Robin Henkel

Friday, February 8
7 pm • Indie

Indie By Design
featuring
Veronica May & The To Do List
Social Green • Josh Damigo
Alicia Champion

Saturday, February 9
6 pm • Blues Fest

Tony McCune of Chula Vista
presents
The 12th Annual Super Blues Festival
featuring San Diego Blues Legends

Sunday, February 10
6 pm • Jazz

Benefit for Carl Evans Jr.
featuring **All-Star Jazz Lineup**

Monday, February 11
7 pm • Scorchin' Blues

Michele Lundeen

Tuesday, February 12
7 pm • Smooth Jazz

Reggie Smith

Wednesday, February 13
8 pm • Sweet Soul Music

The Soul Persuaders

Monday, February 25
Sean Costello

Saturday, March 8
Chris Duarte

Saturday, March 15
The Steely Damned

2241 Shelter Island Dr. • 619.224.3577
 Tickets for "Upcoming Shows" available at Ticketmaster and Humphrey's.
 All shows are 21 years and up.

Love Jazz Show. Tokeli & 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 Tokeli 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. \$15-\$10.

Epicentre: 8450 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa, 858-271-4000. *Saturday:* Irradio. Daysleeper, Airplane to Garcea, 1954, and Witt also perform. Alternative/progressive/soul. \$7-\$9. *Friday,* 7 p.m.: Misc. Ailments Foundation. Dead on the Dancefloor, Talea, Talk Fahrenheit, and Jack's Last Bullet are also performing. Get ready for a mixture of alternative, pop punk, and progressive music. \$7-\$9.

Hennessey's Tavern - Gaslamp: 708 4th Avenue, Downtown, 619-239-9994. *Friday,* 10 p.m.: Bluefish. Rock cover band. Kevin on vocals, Dan on guitar, Chris on bass, and Roger on drums. Ages 21 and up.

Henry's Pub: 618 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-238-2389. *Wednesday,* 9 p.m.: Lady Dottie & the Diamonds. Blues/soul/rock with room to dance. Ages 21 and up. *Sundays,* 9:30 p.m.: Karaoke with Levi Strauss. Weekly opportunity to sing your heart out. Ages 21 and up.

Hot Monkey Love Cafe: 6875 El Cajon Boulevard, College Area, 619-469-4113. *Friday,* 8 p.m.: Broke on Friday. Rock.

In Cahoots: 5373 Mission Center Road, Mission Valley, 619-291-8635. *Wednesdays,* 7 p.m.: KSON Night. Country western dance bar. Ages 21 and up.

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

The Kensington Club: 4079 Adams Avenue, Kensington-Talmadge, 619-284-2848. *Saturday,* 8 p.m.: The Creepy Creeps. The Corsairs also performs. Garage/surf/punk. Ages 21 and up. *Friday,* 8 p.m.: The Downs Family, the Postals. Punk/pop/folk. Ages 21 and up.

Little Italy Urban Bar & Restaurant: 1953 India Street, Little Italy, 619-398-2974. *Saturday,* 9 p.m.: West of 5. Rock.

Moondoggies Pacific Beach: 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.

O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub: 1130 Morena Boulevard, Clairemont, 619-276-5637. *Tuesday,* 9 p.m.: T.U.F.F./Hoolz/the Robe. The Cankles also performs. Another Zeke Productions presents a night of rock/alternative/acoustic music. Ages 21 and up. *Wednesday,* 9 p.m.: Climate Crisis, Sara Mesirow Band. Rock/alternative/folk-rock music. Ages 21 and up. *Monday,* 8 p.m.: Mystery Train. Pro-invitational blues jam. Ages 21 and up. *Friday,* 9 p.m.: The Northstar Session, the Grass Heat. Sacha Sacket also performs. A mixture of rock, roots, and acoustic music. Ages 21 and up.

Onyx/Thin: 852 5th Avenue, Downtown, 619-235-ONYX. *Tuesday,* 9 p.m.: Tuesday Night Jazz. Local trumpet player Gilbert Castellanos performs for KSDS 88.3FM jazz night. Ages 21 and up.

Ramada Inn: 5550 Kearny Mesa Road, Kearny Mesa, 619-596-9777. *Wednesdays,* 6 p.m.: Keith Jacobson. Smooth jazz saxophone.

Riley's: 2901 Nimitz Boulevard, Point Loma. *Wednesdays,* 9 p.m.: Swing Night. Live swing bands perform.

Rosie O'Grady's: 3402 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-284-7666. *Tuesdays,* 9:30 p.m.: Bdub's Jazz Jam Session. Modern jazz classics and standards every

Tuesday, with Bryan Whelan, Doug Walker, Laurel 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.

Sevilla: 555 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-5979. *Wednesday:* Club Salsa. with Orquesta Primo. Latin/mariachi/tejano. Ages 21 and up. *Mondays,* 9 p.m.: rock en español. Ages 21 and up.

South Park Bar & Grill: 1946 Fern Street, South Park, 619-696-0096. *Thursdays,* 9:30 p.m.: Open Jazz Jam. Ages 21 and up. *Fridays,* 7 p.m.: John Kopecky Trio. Jazz. Ages 21 and up. *Saturdays,* 8:30 p.m.: Open Blues Jam. with Will Jackson.

Ages 21 and up. *Sundays,* 6 p.m.: original music modern jazz series. Every Sunday, with Doug Walker, Tim Nunnink, Nick Tocco, and Nathan Hubbard. *Tuesdays,* 8 p.m.: Friend, Sibley, Hilton Trio. Jazz. Ages 21 and up.

The Handlery Hotel and Resort: 950 Hotel Circle North, Mission Valley, 619-298-0511. *Wednesday,* 5 p.m.: Christopher Dale and Friends. Acoustic. *Thursday,* 7 p.m.: Formely Bros., the Filmz, Podunk Nowhere.

Acoustic/rock/soul. *Friday,* 8 p.m.: Christopher Dale and Friends. Acoustic.


Tio Leo's Lounge: 5302 Napa Street, Clairemont, 619-542-1462. *Saturday:* Lady Dottie & the Diamonds. Blue/soul/rock. Ages 21 and up. *Friday:* Delancey. CD release party. Acoustic/emo/indie. Ages 21 and up.

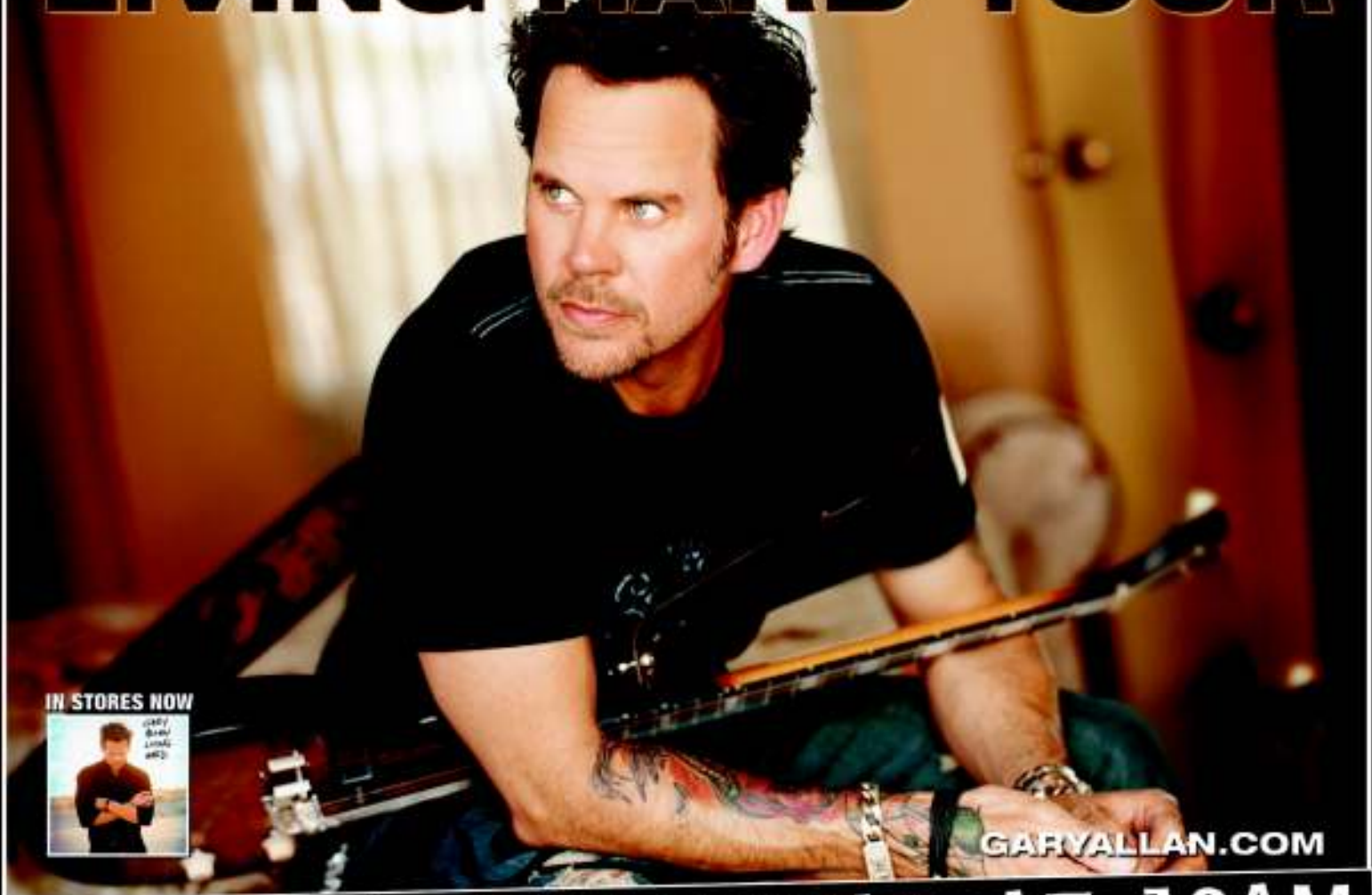
Tio Leo's Mira Mesa: 10787 Camino Ruiz, Mira Mesa, 858-695-1461. *Saturday:* Flashback. Ages 21

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San Diego Reader February 7, 2008 93

Calendar CLUBS

CENTRAL

(continued)

and up. *Thursday:* Stars on the Water. Rock. Ages 21 and up.

The Tower: 4757 University Avenue, Kensington-Talmadge, 619-284-0158. *Monday*, 9 p.m.: Dance to the blues. With *Lady Dottie & The Diamonds*. Ages 21 and up.

U-31: 3112 University Avenue, North Park, 619-584-4188. *Monday*, 8 p.m.: City of Industry. For locals in the hospitality industry. *Wednesday*, 8 p.m.: Long Live Logos, Bedford Grove. Goodbye Elliott, The Predicates also performing. Rock/pop/indie. \$5. *Tuesdays:* U-31 Karaoke. Ages 21 and up.

Waterfront Bar & Grill: 2044 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy. *Saturday*, 8 p.m.: Broke on Friday. Rock. Ages 21 and up.

Whistle Stop: 2236 Fern Street, South Park, 619-284-6784. *Tuesday:* Board Games & Mellow Grooves.

EAST COUNTY

Dirk's Niteclub: 7662 Broadway, Lemon Grove, 619-469-6344. *Saturday, Friday:* Nemesis. Classic rock/metal/grunge. Ages 21 and up.

Fannie's Nightclub: 9143 Campo Road, Spring Valley, 619-698-2204. *Thursdays*, 8:30 p.m.: Cory Wilkins. Alternative/rock/blues. Ages 21 and up.

Second Wind (Magnolia): 8528 Magnolia Avenue, Santee, 619-596-8350. *Mondays*, 9 p.m.: Second Wind Karaoke. Weekly event. Ages 21 and up. *Thursday:* Hugh Gaskins & the G String Daddies. Blues/soul. \$5.

NORTH COUNTY COASTAL

The Alley: 421 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad, 760-434-1173. *Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays:* The Love Rangers. Dance music.

Bar Leucadian: 1542 North Coast Highway 101, Leucadia, 760-753-2094. *Saturday:* Appleseed. Rock/folk/experimental. Ages 21 and up. *Friday:* Illicit Behavior.

North County based band that plays classic rock songs from the '60s through the present day. Illicit Behavior was featured on the cover of the January 17, 2008 issue of the Reader entitled "Rockin' Baby Boomers." Ages 21 and up.

The Calypso Café: 576 North Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-632-8252. *Sunday*, 7:30 p.m.: Michael and the Band. Come join Michael and the Band for a Sunday evening of music and wine at their favorite North County hangout. Acoustic.

Finnegan's Pub and Grill: 1814 Marron Road, Carlsbad, 760-721-5311. *Friday*, 5:30 p.m.: The Blokes. (Rowdy Celtic). Acoustic/folk.

The Kraken: 2531 South Highway 101, Cardiff, 760-436-6483. *Saturday:* Plato Soul. San Diego cover band performs classic to modern hits. *Wednesday:* Jeff Moore & the Witch Doctors. Down-home Americana blues rock. *Friday:* West of 5. Rock. *Thursday:* West Coast Blues Band. Blues.

McCabe's Beach Club: 1145 South Tremont Street, Oceanside, 760-439-6646. *Saturday*, 5 p.m.: Fleetwood MAX. Fleetwood Mac tribute band. Classic rock/pop.

Ocean House: 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad, 760-729-4131. *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. *Fridays*, 9 p.m., *Saturdays*, 9 p.m.: DJ Kool T. Top 40, techno, and '80s.

Molly Malone's: 1270 Main Street, Ramona, 760-789-9050. *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.: City Limits Band. Although billed as a country band, the City Limits Band can also be heard playing popular classic rock, blues, rockabilly, and surf. The City Limits Band has been performing live entertainment since 2001. Ages 21 and up.

as i hear it

BY BRIAN CARVER

Artist: **The Frantic Romantic**
Song: **"Why Do We Punish the Ones We Love"** (from the CD *Say What You Wanted to Say*)
Heard By: **Harrod Suarez**, North Park



Harrod

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.

SAN DIEGO SONGS TAKE THE STREET TEST

Artist: **Steven Ybarra**
Song: **"The Beauty of Your Love"** (from the CD *Love Love Love*)
Heard By: **A.J. Pixler**, Kearny Mesa



A.J.

Strangely enough, I once saw a guy who played with a friend of mine. I think his name was Steven...local artist, too. He sounded just like this guy... [Laughs] That's him! I actually saw him six months ago and got an EP from him. I really like his sound and his voice. I'm not really into the whole religious-music thing, but I do like Switchfoot. He's definitely along those lines. The lyrics seemed like they were about him finding God and thanking him for being in his life and giving him the power to do things he might not be able to do normally. I would hope he could get big. I definitely see him doing shows that he could tour the nation on, playing in front of 1000 or 2000 people in a club.

Artist: **Tribal Seeds**
Song: **"Rider"** (from their self-titled CD)
Heard by: **Shintaro Yasui**, Sapporo, Japan



Shintaro

I don't know why, but I was reminded of Japanese pop. I didn't understand the lyrics because I don't have the [language] skill of listening, so I was focused only 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.

TO GET YOUR LOCAL CD HEARD, PLEASE MAIL IT TO:
Music Editor, As I Hear It, San Diego *Reader*, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803

MORE MUSIC AND VENUES

HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTING: *Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday the week prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone number, and a phone number (including area*

code) for public information to READER MORE MUSIC EVENTS, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the events section.

MORE MUSIC

"A Funny Valentine"
Rosemary Watson and her trio plan tribute to Rogers and Hart in Schulmann Auditorium. Tickets issued at 1 p.m. 760-602-2012. Sunday, February 10, 2 p.m.;

Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane. (CARLSBAD)

"Kurdish Music of Iran"
Center for World Music presents Ali-Akbar Moradi accompanied by "a stellar group." Moradi plays Kurdish *tanbur* (long-necked lute) and is a vocalist; he's joined by Ulas Ozdemir (vocals, *baglama*, another long-necked lute), Mani Balouri (on *kamancheh*, a spiked fiddle), and Moradi's sons Arash and Kourosh (on *tanbur*, *setar*, *percussion*). 619-688-0688. Friday, February 8, 8 p.m.; \$15-\$30. Neurosciences Institute, 10640

BACKSTAGE

at

THE BITTER END

Live Music

Thursday · February 7

9:30 pm - Sickstring Outlaws

10:30 pm - Full Boar

11:30 pm - Whole Hog

Monday · February 11

9 pm - Killer Karaoke

Tuesday · February 12

10 pm - Dust 'N' Bones
(Tribute to
Guns 'N' Roses)

Sunday · February 10

**9 pm - Open Mic for
Singer/Songwriters & Comedians**

ALL ACCESS

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Saturday 2/9
DJ Beatnick
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with hip-hop,
soul, more

Sunday 2/10
Cool Like Dat
Hip-hop,
'80s freestyle
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Monday 2/11
**Dynamite
Mondays**

Tuesday 2/12
Good Times
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MAR 15TH MIDNITE IN CONCERT

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Calendar CLUBS

MORE MUSIC

(continued)

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"Summer Stock" Annual variety show by San Diego Choraleers adult mixed chorus, Inflections 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 Wandermere 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. 760-839-4329. Thursday, February 7, 7 p.m.; Escondido Library, 239 South Kalmia Street. (ESCONDIDO)

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acoustic jazz guitar master Romero Lubambo, guitarist, percussionist, vocalist Celso Machado. 619-570-1100. Monday, February 11, 7:30 p.m.; \$25-\$60. Balboa Theatre, 854 Fourth Avenue. 619-570-1100. (DOWNTOWN)

Barbershop! Barbershop singing celebrating Valentine's Day for ongoing music series. Offering. 858-273-1480. Sunday, February 10, 7 p.m.; St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 3502 Clairemont Drive. 858-273-1480. (CLAIREMONT)

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David "Honeyboy" Edwards
Concert hosted by AcousticMusicSanDiego. 619-303-8176. Monday, February 11, 7:30 p.m.; \$15-\$40. Normal Heights United Methodist Church, 4650

Mansfield Street. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

Doo-Wop! The Alley Cats &mdash an a cappella foursome &mdash perform songs of the '50s and '60s. Offering. 619-464-4331. Sunday, February 10, 4 p.m.; San Carlos United Methodist Church, 6554 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)

Jimmy Webb
AcousticMusicSanDiego concert.

Reservations: 619-303-8176. Saturday, February 9, 7:30 p.m.; \$30. Normal Heights United Methodist Church, 4650 Mansfield Street. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

Jon Foreman Singer and songwriter of the band Switchfoot. In celebration of his first solo outing *Fall and Winter*, John foreman will perform a free acoustic concert. Saturday, February 9, 2 p.m.; Lou's Records, 434 North Coast Highway 101. 760-753-1382. (ENCINITAS)

Keith Jacobson Smooth jazz saxophone player. Saturday, February 9, 6 p.m.; Ages 21 and up. Trisler's Wine Bar, 8555 Station Village Lane, Suite C. 619-298-1501. (MISSION VALLEY)

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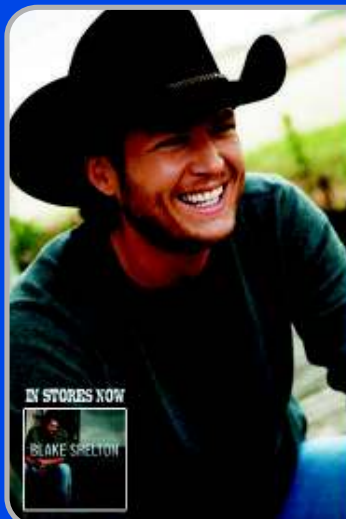
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Crasher

PAINFUL PIROUETTE

by Josh Board

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



Top left: Tony (middle) and his fiancée (right)

[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

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 about it for four hours."

I overheard a couple of

"Someone always seems to ruin games for me when I record them."

put his hands over his ears. I told him I was just joking. He said, "Someone always seems to ruin games for me when I record them."

One guy came up to me

and if there are long streets that actually have different zip codes. I asked Matthew Alice, but the question was never answered."

I said, "It seems possible

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 Shydney years ago, he had a cast



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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 relative being in a band I saw, she told me that she

thought he dabbled in drugs. I said, "You think he would've learned something from Jim 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 won-

dered 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?" ■

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"High-Energy Motown Dance Rock"
Saturday, February 9
Family Style
"Blues, Soul, Rock & Roll"
Sunday, Feb. 10
Blue Largo
Monday, Feb. 11
Taryn Donath & Mojo Rising
Tuesday, Feb. 12
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CA Express VIP Card **Free card**

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Lucky 7 Match **\$5 off speed dating**

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Second Wind Bars **Free WiFi Internet**

The Wine Encounter **Free wine tasting**

Tio Leo's Lounge **\$1 off admission**

U-31 **2nd drink \$1**

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THE DOWNS FAMILY
THE DISSIMILARS
THE POSTALS
Saturday, February 9
THE CREEPY CREEPS
THEE CORSAIRS
Friday, February 15
JAPANESE SUNDAY
HIALEAH
FEVER SLEEVES
Saturday, February 16
MANGANISTA
FACULTY LOUNGE
RIBOFLAVIN
Saturday, February 23
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San Diego Reader February 7, 2008 101

Tryst Sweetly, Discreetly

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 Linkenheil, 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 scarcely the notorious Japengo Thursday-night set, nor 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 conventioners to *avoid* the Gaslamp meat-market scene, as well as a place for loving locals to tryst 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



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE KLEIN

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 ahi, 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 croutons 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

REVIEW

NAOMI WISE

Sally's on the Water

★★★ (Very Good)

Manchester Grand Hyatt, One Market Place (at West Market Street), downtown, 619-358-6740, sallyssandiego.com.

HOURS: Lunch, Monday–Friday, 11:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m., Saturday, noon–3:00 p.m.; Sunday brunch 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Dinner, Sunday–Thursday, 5:30–10:00 p.m., Friday–Saturday until 11:00 p.m.

PRICES: Starters, \$8–\$16; entrées, \$28–\$38; sushi and sashimi, \$4–\$26; desserts, \$9. Lunch entrées, \$14–\$18. Sunday brunch buffet, \$39. Prix-fixe dinner at the “chef's table” in the kitchen by pre-arrangement, price to be negotiated.

CUISINE AND BEVERAGES: Asian-fusion, emphasizing seafood, plus sushi-sashimi menu. Mainly Californian, rather steep wine list (little under \$40), plenty by the glass (at high markups), plus serious sake list on sushi menu. Full bar.

PICK HITS: Appetizer sampler for two; crab cakes; shrimp tempura; ahi and salmon Napoleon; black cod with miso-orange sauce; banana lumpia.

NEED TO KNOW: Free validated parking in hotel self-parking garage. Long walk to restaurant, but no barriers to mobility devices. Two vegan appetizers, one vegan entrée. Scenic patio seating in good weather. Views all around. Dining-room tables well spaced, but room can get loud when sound system is turned on high. Reservations strongly recommended.

Ratings reflect the reviewer's reaction to food, ambience, and service, with price taken into consideration. Menu listings and prices are subject to change.

Go to SanDiegoReader.com to find hundreds of past reviews.

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 unidentifiable starchy solids — Kabocha 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:

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It could pass for a light Mediterranean tomato-seafood broth, a base for a bouillabaisse rather than a bisque. Apparently, it, too, 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 entrées 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 meat 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 sable), among the finest and fattiest of all fin-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 sensuous.

Moonfish (Hawaiian opah) is a pretty 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, no!" as some local chefs call it), it seems to lose a lot in transit. Here, the faintly 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 has had problems with conventioners 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 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 lychee relish and sweet-tomato compote, but the garnishes didn't matter much once the line-cook stubbed 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 aborts the flight of even the free-est 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, frangible wrapper bought off the lush 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 atremble 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 scenesters' 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 Swissôtel Düsseldorf.

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 outdid 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 smack-talking, you just got to keep up with everybody else, and I was usually worse than everybody else. You 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 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 tastes. 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 bib 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

Madeira and Creme Fraiche

or **Seared Sea Scallop with Braised Spinach**

Soy Wasabi Beurre Blanc

Second Course

Essence of Crab Soup "Olympic"

Minced Chives and Poppy Fleuron

or **Petite Greens with Roasted Pear and Gorgonzola**

Candied Pecans and Champagne Vinaigrette

Main Course

Petite Filet of Beef Tenderloin, Shittake Glaze

Gruyere Potato Stack and Fresh Vegetables

or **Pan-Seared Fillet of Local Sea Bass**, Mango Dijon Sauce

Truffle-Scented Mashed Potatoes and Fresh Vegetables

Dessert

Strawberry Grand Marnier "Heart"

creme Anglaise and Raspberry Coulis

or Chocolate Amaretto Torte, Mocha Sauce and Fresh Berries

\$65 per person plus tax and gratuity

with Wine Pairing \$85 per person

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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 whiplash 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 \$1.26.”

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 tapeworm-hungry. Found myself slip-sliding in, like iron filings to a magnet. Big liquor counter to the right, three or four grocery aisles down the middle, and deli on the left. Two gals at the counter, Romy and Miriam, are bright and cheery as all get out. They know the names of half the people they’re serving and exactly what they want. Plus, the deli looks like bargain city, but also clean and fresh. We’re talking Boar’s Head meats, displays of cheeses, chafing dishes bubbling with hot food sold by the pound. Pork loin, chicken fajitas, honey ham, turkey, catfish, tilapia, Lordy! Most are about \$4.99 a pound. That includes two sides of, say, rice, veggies, baked potatoes, or mash. Oh, and they do breakfasts too, like a \$2.99 sandwich with egg, cheese, bell pepper, and red onion. Or a

\$3.99 egg, cheese, and potato burrito. Or a cheese-potato omelet with a meat — sausage, ham, or bacon — for \$4.99. Most expensive is the “Seventh Avenue Omelet,” with the lot: meat, cheeses, 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 99 cents!

“Such a deal,” I say. “What is 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. Then, whoa: “Hey Buddy — Choice of Two,” sign says. So you can choose half a turkey sandwich and add either a half romaine salad or half a cup of soup. Cost: \$5.99.

There are other customers waiting, so I jump on that. Pick the sandwich and pea soup option. Plus I ask for a coffee, but *aargh!* They’re out. Oh man. Gotta have joe. Ask them to hold everything while I sprint around the block to the nearest 7-Eleven. Costs \$1.39. Huh. Good price. Must show new respect to 7-Eleven.

Whew. So now, here I am, finally, sitting at the table outside Super Jr. and gouging into my \$1.99 special. The big, chunky potatoes in tomato sauce are great, the fajita beef is tasty, and the saffron rice makes good filler, all swilled down with a combo of cawfee and pea soup (hey, not as bad as it sounds). Really, what a

steal. Plus the half-turkey ain’t half bad either, and, truth be known, it’s all too much for even my boa constrictor flexi-gut.

’Course, we’re not talking La Jolla here. I look up just in time to see this guy running, pounding, hauling ass right past me down the sidewalk. He’s flying across Broadway, heading for the bay.

“He trying out for the Olympics?” says the Lucky’s tattoo guy, popping his head outside.

“If the cops come,” guy with a loaded shopping cart advises his buddy, “you gotta remember, rules of the street. See nothin’, say nothin’.”

That’s when this smart, blazer-wearing Asian guy comes out from the deli.

“Hey, man, tried the tomato soup?” he asks me. “You should. I made it myself...wait. I’m going to get you a sample.”

Turns out this is Trung, Vietnamese American, the chef. He started around Christmas time. He goes back inside, returns with a cup of roiling tomato soup. I try it. Oh, Lordy. It is good. Tons of celery, onions, corn, tomatoes. Rich. Fresh. Gourmet, I wanna say.

Trung is fresh out of a San Francisco Cordon Bleu school. Wow. But a Cordon Bleu-trained chef for...Super Jr. Market?

“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 1970 (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.”

I can understand. Attract the office crowd across the trolley tracks.

But I need to know one thing. “Omar,” I



Romy

say. “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. Hope his replacement is as talented. But that’s not the main thing. Having a Cordon 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. ■

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

Type of Food: American

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, \$4.99; hot entrées, e.g., pork loin, chicken fajita, honey ham, turkey, catfish, tilapia, around \$4.99 a pound, including two sides, e.g., rice, veggies, baked potatoes, mash; California sandwich (roast turkey, bacon, avocado, cheese), \$5.99; half turkey sandwich, half romaine salad, half cup soup (choose two), \$5.99; second-day combos, e.g., beef fajita, rice, sautéed potatoes, \$1.99; second-day pork chop, 99 cents

Hours: 7:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Monday–Friday (breakfast 7:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.)

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Jarhead Red

"Before they deploy, it's a tradition to have this dinner — and wine, and a cigar."

First to Fight 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 appreciate it. A lot of people would say, 'Oh, they're always asking for this or that.' But I came up with this: every time a charity came and asked us for something, I would give them a private tasting for six, let's say — and it would have a value on it. That guaranteed us at least six people in the shop." The tasting brought folks in, but the next step for a wine shop involved get-

ting out: "We do a lot of benefits."

Which brings us to the Marines. "We're big supporters of the Marine Corps Scholarship Fund," Bankerd says. "We'll help sponsor golf tournaments and fund-raisers. One of the colonels from Pendleton had a big party here for his XO and his command team. But foremost, we sell Jarhead Red" — a wine whose label boasts that it is made by Marines, for Marines. "We're probably the largest off-base retailer. My partner Larry Kinser was a Marine, and once a Marine, always a Marine." The print was donated because "we sponsored a homecoming and deployment event for the Third Division — we did what they call Mess Night. In the Marines, when it's the last meal they have before they deploy, it's a tradition to have this dinner — and wine, and a cigar."

The Boys and Girls Club receives similar attention. "Every January, we do a tasting of the top 100 wines from the year before, and a portion of that gets donated 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 donate a dollar from every bottle of Carlsbad Red we sell back to the club. It's an opportunity for us to give back to the community. It lets people know that they're in Carlsbad, that it's benefiting them."

The wine's label was painted by local artist Doris Keats, but the wine itself hails from the north. Explains Bankerd, "It's not like when a restaurant buys from a commodity house and slaps a label on it. I actually go up there and taste all the barrels." Further, "We didn't develop it right away — we determined the varietal based on what the customers were buying."

What they were buying was Zinfandel. "We thought, 'How can we find a Zinfandel that would be really to their liking, that they could own and feel good about, and that they could get at a great price?' We started working with this winemaker in Sonoma, John Eppler, who specializes in Zinfandel. He helped us select some barrels and sent the samples down. It's a blend of Sonoma Zinfandel 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 customers 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 a relatively remote location, which means she needed to make her store a destination. "Sort of like San Diego Wine Company," before they moved onto the main Miramar drag. "They were hard to find — but everybody knew where they were," because the prices were so low. "You have to provide something that people will drive for." For Carlsbad Wine Merchants, that means a sense



of camaraderie, "a spirit of wanting to help people 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 second store up in Northern California — my son runs it. It's called Pleasant Hill, and it's the same

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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 underserved that community was. Within three or four months, his wine club" — 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 takes me out of the competitive pool. I have something unique."

And, notes Bankerd, "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 a small winery that had good juice and wasn't working through any distribution company. We bought the entire production. That's what you really want to find, a really good

wine for the price. And because we bought it at a really good price, we're making more than a dollar a bottle. People know the flavor, they come back for the price, and boom." ■

RESTAURANT LISTINGS

The Reader's Guide to Restaurants are recommended listings written by our reviewers (Ed Bedford, Barbara David, Ambrose Martin, Shari McCullough, Max Nash, Eleanor Widmer, Naomi Wise). Each issue contains only a fraction of over 700 reviews. A complete searchable list is available online at SanDiegoReader.com. Price estimates are based on the latest information available for a midrange entrée. Inexpensive: below \$10; moderate: \$10 to \$19; expensive: \$20 to \$29; very expensive: more than \$30. Please call restaurants in advance for reservations.

BEACHES

The Australian Pub 1014 Grand Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-273-9921. A great place to take your kids after a morning at the beach. This relaxing pub, owned by a true-blue Aussie, offers heaps of good Aussie food. Try the Road Kill (grilled chicken breast with pico de gallo sauce and cheese, "run over" between two pieces of sourdough) or the Aussie Burger (half-pound patty, with a fried egg, cheese, bacon, grilled onions, beets, pineapple, and a side of steak fries). And for an "outback experience," order up Vegemite (a beefy kinda paste) and four slices of bread — it's the Aussie national food, mate. Lunch and dinner weekdays, three meals weekends. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Café Japengo 8960 University Center Lane, La Jolla, 858-450-3355. Here Bentleys and Beamers far outnumber Buicks. Inside is contemporary with an Asian flair, complete with kimono stands and bamboo forests. Sushi is the specialty, and it's above average, although the sushi bar chefs aren't very friendly, and the seasoned rice tastes quite salty. The highly prized fatty tuna (*toro*) and flying fish roe *tobiko* are offered when available. Otherwise, they may be replaced by smelt roe, *masago*, which may be a minor disappointment. However, the *uni* (sea urchin roe) is pristine. If you appreciate subtlety, try the egg-omelet sushi (*tamago*), a delightful mixture of eggs, sake, and mirin. Creative party rolls are especially popular here, including the amusing Tootsie Roll — sweet and spicy, crunchy and spongy, with fried soft shell crab topped with grilled shitake mushrooms, avocado, and a sake marinade. Entrées are often a letdown, but diners may be satisfied to make a meal from appetizers like the *char su* duck salad with goat cheese, candied pecans, and pomegranate vinaigrette; duck wontons with coriander pesto and *ponzu* sauce; and an excellent kimchi martini. No reservations for the sushi bar; arrive early for prompt seating. Lunch weekdays only; sushi bar opens at 5 p.m.; dinner begins at 6 p.m. Very expensive. — B.D.

California Modern 1250 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-454-4244. With a new name and renovated for an even better ocean view, the former George's at the Cove continues to serve Chef Trey Foshee's ambitious, healthful California cuisine based on prime, seasonal ingredients and emphasizing sustainable wild seafood, local produce, naturally raised meats and poultry. The cooking style is a little lighter now, good for carb-counters, with only small amounts of starch on the entrées. The award-winning wine list offers few bottles under \$50, but many by the half-bottle or glass, including serious dessert wines. Full bar, creative "chef cocktails" with fresh fruit. Wheelchair elevator available but hidden (ask valet parkers); disabled can use neighbor Pasquale's mens' room on same floor.

Vegetarians and vegans accommodated to order. Reserve well ahead. Dinner nightly. Very expensive. — N.W.

Clay's La Jolla 7955 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla, 858-551-3620. In this oddly cozy penthouse with wide windows facing west, the curtains rise at sunset to reveal a panorama stretching to the sea. It's comfortable, attractive, not too formal — casual-chic. Here, chef-owner Clay Bordan cooks up a creative, sophisticated, seasonal California-Fusion menu with international flavors seamlessly integrated, featuring organic vegetables, wild fish, naturally raised meats and fowl. With his discerning palate, his fare is unusually delicious. And it's healthful, low-carb enjoyment with interesting veggies, little starch, minimal cream. Wine list includes some high-end French bargains; good choices by the glass. Full bar. Free parking. Elevator-accessible restrooms same floor. Dietary restrictions accommodated. No kiddie menu, but child-size plates half-price from regular menu. Reservations recommended. Live local jazz in lounge most nights after 7 or 8 p.m.; big band Sunday nights. Can be noisy. Three meals daily. Expensive. — N.W.

Costa Brava 1653 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-273-1218. Cordial owner-host Javier Gonzalez opened this charming restaurant so that local Spaniards would have a place to gather with an authentic atmosphere of home, and indeed, the "Euro" atmosphere and late hours give a truly Iberian feel. The lively garlic-rich dishes here include a wide array of tasty tapas and, among the entrées, a paella that's made to order (sized to serve two or four; call ahead for larger groups). Patio seating in good weather. Parking lot and wheelchair access via the alley behind the restaurant. Open daily 11 a.m. to midnight, with bargain prices at Sunday brunch. Reservations advised for weekend evenings. Moderate. — N.W.

Donovan's Steak and Chop House 4340 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla, 858-450-6666. At this excellent traditional steakhouse, the menu includes a variety of appetizers, among them a cocktail of giant shrimp with a spicy, tomatoey sauce and a large,

lightly sautéed crab cake with house-made tartar sauce. The wet-aged Prime beefsteaks are seasoned with sea salt and pepper and cooked on a gas grill precisely to your order. Bleu cheese, bearnaise, and peppercorn sauces are available at extra charge. Non-beef entrées include fish, seafood, veal chop, pork chop, or a delicate Australian rack of lamb. Unlike many steakhouses where your money buys only the meat, entrées are served with vegetables and potato. Additional à la carte sides include creamed spinach and sautéed mushrooms. Among the housemade desserts the highlights are a light, creamy cheesecake with fresh strawberry sauce and a traditional crème brûlée. The service is attentive, friendly, and knowledgeable, in a masculine setting with dark wood paneling, dim lighting, and only a moderate noise level. Cigar room off the bar. Open Monday through Saturday. Very expensive. — N.W.

Hancock Street Café 3354 Hancock Street, Point Loma, 619-296-2060. If you spot Marilyn, Elvis, and Lady Liberty waving at you from the sidewalk, you're here. They are life-size fiberglass look-alikes, but Mario is real, and his restaurant is a living shrine to jazz pianist Herbie Hancock. Mario has pianos, guitars, and drums inside — even a little stage where you're often welcome to perform. The food? Italian home cooking. Mario is from New York and knows his pasta. You can usually expect a good-value special, like spaghetti and meatballs. Sometimes he'll even throw in a bottle of red wine. Here among the little factories and auto shops of Loma Portal may be San Diego's most popping cultural phenomenon. Worth investigating, even if you just want to eat. Open daily, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Jack's La Jolla 7863 Girard Avenue, La Jolla, 858-456-8111. This sprawling, glitzy restaurant has several venues serving steaks, seafood, sushi, and pub grub. In the Dining Room, the most formal and serious choice, Chef Tony De Salvo prepares a menu of refined, seasonal California-French cuisine featuring highly creative combinations of luxury ingredients and local products,

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full of unexpected touches, e.g., a duck breast pairs delightfully with cocoa nibs. When you move on to sweets, dessert chef Jack Fisher is one of the town's best and boldest. An international wine list offers plenty by the glass, although bottles run high. Full bar. Vegetarians accommodated by request — ask and ye shall receive. Ask valet parkers for directions to wheelchair lift and elevators. Reservations urged. Dinners only in Dining Room, Tuesday through Sunday. Very expensive. — N.W.

Lamont Street Grill 4445 Lamont Street, Pacific Beach, 858-270-3060. PB's most romantic restaurant serves California comfort food, punctuated by bold and sometimes strange Mexi/Asian/Cajun flavors, in a rambling converted residence with several rooms and levels. Dinners come with soup or salad, and many entrées are served over marvelous housemade fresh pasta. Salmon over fettuccine in a delicate dill cream sauce is especially fine. The huge array of desserts is housemade, too, with something for every palate. The most desirable tables (available first come, first served) are on a lovely fireplace-heated patio. Wheelchair ramp and parking in small lot behind restaurant (call ahead and they'll save you a spot). Homey atmosphere; can get loud. Affordable wine list, full bar. Open daily, dinner only. Moderate. — N.W.



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P. F. Chang's China Bistro — La Jolla 4540 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla, 858-458-9007. Okay, you're looking at the haunches of a giant horse right outside your corner window, and there don't seem to be any actual Chinese people among the wait staff. But this busy mall Chinese chain (130-plus restaurants) has a certain cool. Those reproduction Chin Dynasty horses are really something, as are the bits of the Great Wall and the terra-cotta soldiers scattered inside. The food? The spicy ground chicken and eggplant was too salty for our taste, the Sichuan from the Sea shrimp too sweet, and the Cantonese roasted duck not that exciting. Yet there are jewels, if one searches for them. And — not that it's at all Chinese — the massive Great Wall of Chocolate dessert will knock you over. Lunch and dinner. Moderate. — E.B.

Portugalia 4839 Newport Avenue, Ocean Beach, 619-222-7678. This spacious, informal room decorated with strings of Christmas lights resembles an ethnic community center — and indeed, O.B. is home to a long-term Portuguese fishing community. The fascinating menu is split between the homeland and its former colony, Brazil, including several coconut-milk-swathed seafood dishes from tropical Bahia that are rarely found locally. The array of appetizers from both countries embraces addictive *bolinhos de bacalhau* (salt cod fritters) and *rissóis de camarão* (fried pastry pockets filled with shrimp). For entrées you can choose Portuguese specialties like the earthy *gomes de sa* (codfish with chick peas) or Brazil's *bife apimentado* (spicy beef) or even an African-inspired *bife de moçambicana* (beef with shellfish). There's also a *rodizio* option of skewered meats and/or seafood. Save room for the owner's mom's homemade desserts, especially *pastéis de nata* (delicate custard-filled pastries). Portuguese wines, full bar. Not all dishes always available. Service quality variable. Long stairway up to second-floor restaurant. Live music most nights after 10 p.m. Easy parking. Lunch and dinner Tuesday through Sunday, to midnight or later except Sundays. Moderate. — N.W.

Rum Jungle Smoothies and Deli 4150 Mission Boulevard #153, Pacific Beach, 858-273-2227. Why do Brazilians have more fun? *Açaí* (ah-saa-ee). Why do Brazilians settle in PB? Maybe it's because Rum Jungle Smoothies serves up *açaí*, the flesh of a Brazilian palm nut, for breakfast. The dark purple mush comes from the *açaí* palms that grow around the Amazon River delta. Rum Jungle adds granola, banana, strawberries, blueberries, mango pieces, and honey to make a surprisingly filling breakfast. Of course this bright little place has lots of other smoothies, too, along with sandwiches. But the *açaí* power fruit bowl is what keeps them coming back. Open until 6 p.m. daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Tapenade 7612 Fay Avenue, La Jolla, 858-551-7500. This is not only one of the finest restaurants in the county but in the country. Featuring sunny Provençal flavors, famed chef-owner Jean-Michel Diot offers superb seasonal ingredients treated with the consummate ease of a master chef. Among the special joys here are a sophisticated foie gras *torchon*, luscious free-range veal, and top-quality seafood, with garnishes that display an impressive balance of venturesome creativity and rigorous technique. Desserts are worth the calories, matching the style and flair of the earlier courses. And you don't even have to dress to the nines for your first-class dinner — the sixes will do in the easy bistro atmosphere. Serving lunch (including a moderate two-course prix fixe) weekdays, and dinner daily (including bargain-priced three-course prix fixe "sunset dinners" Sunday through Thursday). Otherwise, expensive to very expensive, and worth it. — N.W.

The Third Corner Wine Shop and Bistro 2265 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-223-2700. Ed Moore's casual, loosey-goosey spot is first of all a wine shop selling most global bottlings for just 20% over wholesale. It's \$5 to pop the cork there if you plunk down at a table among the racks to enjoy casual bistro-style food designed to go with wine. You can snack on goat cheese salad, smoked duck salad, a cheese plate or a pâté plate, or get serious with braised short ribs or duck con-



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fit surprisingly paired with spicy Nawlins red beans and rice. No reservations accepted, so best to go at off-hours or you'll wait for a table. Comfortable lounge with fireplace for sipping. Full bar. No corkage charge after 11 p.m., when restaurant staffers drop in for after-work noshing. Lunch and dinner until 1 a.m.; closed Monday. Low-moderate. — *N.W.*

Umi Sushi 2806 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-226-1135. An instant neighborhood success, this large, cheerful sushi bar and dinner house also offers Japanese and Korean entrées, including *teppanyaki* (cooked in the kitchen, not at the table), Korean ribs, and excellent beef teriyaki of gently grilled prime beef. Sushi highlights include lemony *ama ebi*, rich garlic tuna, and a Crazy Boy roll spicy enough to divert your palate from the presence of imitation crabmeat. Free parking lot (often full). Special kids' menu available. Lunch Monday through Saturday, dinner daily. Sushi prices lower than most; entrées inexpensive to moderate. — *N.W.*

Zenbu 7660 Fay Avenue, La Jolla, 858-454-4540. It was a natural for fisherman-restaurateur Matt Rimel to open a sushi bar/fish house featuring sparkling-fresh catch, much of it from his own boats. Sashimi and the simpler sushi are better here than the big party rolls, which can be lunkish. Don't miss the sashimi of live local *uni* (sea urchin) served on its shell most weekends. Cooked fish entrées feature equally sparkling seafood, sometimes in almost goofily elaborate preparations. No reservations; 30-minute wait likely on weekends. Sushi bar is up a short staircase; dining room and patio tables are wheelchair accessible. Several vegetarian choices. Full bar, good sake list. Dinner nightly. Upper-moderate to expensive. — *N.W.*

BAJA

From the United States use the prefix 011-52 when calling Mexico.

El Arrecife Calle Colima 2293, Baja, 664-200-2585. Think of it as a Mexican take on an American institution, the burger joint. In this settled, upper-middle-class neighborhood, Daniel Ludim Gómez Vaca set up a hip little spot ("The Reef") where he specializes in...octopus burgers. Actually, octopus, shrimp, beef, or chicken burgers.

Or mixes. 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 half 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, 646-178-1809. This restaurant is at the heart of the tourist district, but the cooking and service are way above coach class. Look to the Specialties section of the huge menu for the most interesting selections. Crisp quail with rose petal sauce (famed from *Like Water for Chocolate*) proves outrageously delicious, and the seasonal *chiles en nogada* (meat-stuffed poblano chiles with walnut cream and pomegranate) gain refinement from greaseless ground sirloin. Fish dishes are fresh, rich, and tender, and you'll find nine different ways to enjoy a steak. If you can handle a tableside production number, crepes with *cajeta* (caramel sauce) make a very grand finale. Fully bilingual staff; English menus available. Vegetarian on request. Sidewalk patio dining available. Reserve for weekends during tourist peaks. Full bar, with excellent margaritas, Baja wines. Open daily, continuous service breakfast through dinner. Moderate. — *N.W.*

La Espadaña Avenida Sanchez Taboada #10813, Baja, 664-634-1488. If you learn only one word of Spanish, learn this one: *Borrego*. Because this place does the greatest oven-cooked leg of lamb ever. The meat tastes as if it were cooked in wine, garlic, and herbs, but the owners insist it's just Tecate lamb baked slowly in its own juices with a bit of oregano. But most folks come here for beef — steaks and the popular beef fillet, sizzled at a big flame-and-smoke display counter BBQ grill. Vegetarian upon request. All terra-cotta and timber, this is where the local middle classes come for their cross-border food fix. Think Tijuana's version of Mission Valley. Still, it's charming, and you can have fun. For instance, don't forget to ask them to ring the bells set in their *espadanas* (holes cut in the mission frontage) above the great arched wooden entrance door; they clank tunelessly, but they're great for celebrating your 21st birthday, Mom getting her degree — whatever. Open for breakfast, lunch, dinner, seven days. Moderate. — *E.B.*

Rica Torta Niños Héroes Avenida #890, Baja, 664-685-8579. This café may have the best *tortas* (call them Mexican-style hamburgers) in Tijuana. Six-inch rashers of marinated carne asada, slices of ham, squares of cheese, chopped salad, tomato slices, fresh-scooped avocado...it's a double-wide, double-high burger. The menu has 16

different kinds of *tortas*, from chorizo with eggs to beefsteak ranchero, all served in huge, three-ribbed, crisp-toasted Mexican bread buns. There's other stuff, but to a burger buff, one of these is quite enough. Vegetarian upon request. Open seven days. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

El Rodeo Boulevard Salinas #1647, Baja, 664-686-5640. This 30-year-old steak haven sits on traffic-drowned Salinas, but climb onto its porch and you're at some Sonoran desert rancho, saguaro cacti and all. Inside it's dark wood and brick, wagon wheels, lariats, rifles, longhorns, and generous amounts of cattle-ranch food. Entrée price includes a delicious soup of roast beef juices, beans cooked in their own juices, a quesadilla, a salad, two *botana* (snack) plates, of, say, vinegary veggies and potatoes, and a beef-liver medley, flour tortillas, chips, and hot sauce. You can get any cut of steak you want. A *parrillada* — BBQ dish — gives you marinated beef rib, carne asada, and barbecued chicken, all sizzling on a rancho-style metal tabletop grill that glows with hot coals. Best part: the roasted spring onions splayed across the meat. Dessert and coffee also included. Vegetarian upon request. Good place for a party. Open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. — *E.B.*

Vallarta Natural 1252 Boulevard Agua Caliente (just before El Toreo de Tijuana), Baja, 664-686-1560. Maybe the only smoke-free restaurant in Ti-

juana, this vegetarian haven was started in 1996 by health-conscious Doctor Georgina Vallarta de Alcantar. They make their own yogurt, soy hash, breads, rolls, salsas — and "meats" like a veal from their own wheat gluten — daily. You sit at wood tables and chairs next to blue-framed yellow walls splattered with Talavera ceramic suns. At breakfast, try the *tartaleta vallarta*, a mix of eggs, spinach, mushrooms, onions, and chile. For lunch (and it's usually busiest around three), their excellent soup, *caldito de tlalpeno*, packed with cheese, rice, avocado, and chile, will fill you nicely. The soy *hamburguesa* is good, but go for the *torta*, which has that gluten *milanesa* along with cheese, avocado, and jalapeno. Good organic coffee. Wonderful juices, especially the cactus — if you need cleaning out. Open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

La Vuelta Avenida Revolución #8210, Baja, 664-685-7309. Bring your lover here and hide away in one of the cuddly *carretitas* — nooks. Even if traffic is ghastly at "the turn" ("*la vuelta*") where Revolución hooks left, you forget all that inside this vestige of Olde Tijuana, with balcony seating, resident mariachis, and food and drink all day and night. Dive into a *combinación mexicana* (chile relleno, taco, and enchilada) or carne asada served in an *olla de barro*, an earthenware pot from Guadalajara. Even the gringo-sound-

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PACIFIC OYSTERS TEMPURA Crispy oysters tempura, pickled Bermuda onion, shiso, hot-and-sour vinaigrette

BOURBON-GLAZED PETALUMA FARMS QUAIL Artisan bacon, sheep's milk ricotta-stuffed quail, garlic spinach, aged cheddar hashbrowns, vanilla Makers Mark gastrique

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JIDORI POUSSIN Slow-cooked poussin, truffled Peruvian purple-potato puree, creamed garlic spinach, Wiser farms baby carrots, port reduction foam

BRANDT BEEF FILET MIGNON DE ROSSINI Grilled 6-oz. Brandt beef filet mignon, artisan foie gras, potatoes robuchon, wild mushroom and asparagus fricassee, béarnaise sauce

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ing *filete mignon* with mushroom sauce somehow comes out Mexican. Most Mexicans actually turn up about 1 a.m., after their own parties, to be serenaded by the excellent ten-piece mariachi band. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

CENTRAL

El Agave 2304 San Diego Avenue, Old Town, 619-220-0692. The menu celebrates three great pre-Hispanic cuisines — Aztec, Mayan, Nahuatl — with discrete admixtures of France, Spain, and Italy. (It's the history of Mexico on a plate.) Among the highlights are the five different Oaxacan moles (plus a sixth from Chiapas), local sea bass in tangy jamaica (hibiscus) sauce, and a unique appetizer, *tlacogos cuittlacoche*, ovals of blue corn masa topped with a sort of "mushroom" that grows on corn ears. (In English it's called "corn smut," but it tastes much nicer than that sounds.) The bar stocks at least 1700 tequilas and makes a food-friendly on-the-rocks margarita with fresh fruit juices. Reservations recommended. Wheelchair access difficult (steep ramp). You'll find upscale, unusual Mexican specialties in an intimate Spanish-style dining room or on a small heated balcony. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate. — *N.W.*

Aladdin's Café — Clairemont 5420 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Clairemont, 858-573-0000. These cafés offer a bright, clean atmosphere for bright and clean, if rather generic, Middle-Eastern favorites (hummus, tabbouleh, kebabs, *shawerma*, etc.), plus imaginative Levantine-flavored pizzas and salads. There are ample choices for vegetarians. Both locations offer beer and wine. Hillcrest's owners offer a more Lebanese cuisine. Inexpensive to moderate. — *N.W.*

Anthology 1337 India Street, Little Italy, 619-595-0300. This spiffy, multi-level nightclub offers pleasant, user-friendly, modern-American cuisine (local produce, natural meats, wonderful breads) conceived by consulting celeb-chef Bradley Ogden. But when good musicians are cookin' onstage, the eats are liable to become mere background music for the mouth. A great date venue for jazz lovers. No cover charge Tuesdays and some Sundays, otherwise ticket prices (bought separately) vary, plus \$15 to \$20 minimums (easy to meet). Wine list is fine and wide ranging but starts high and escalates sharply, plus full bar with fruity cocktail creations as well as classics. Dinner only, Tuesday through Sunday. Expensive on up, if you drink anything but tap water. — *N.W.*

Bale French Sandwich Shop 4879 University Avenue, City Heights, 619-283-4352. Ann Nguyen started this back in 1980. Ann's brother succeeded her, and the prices have hardly changed — they're incredibly low. But the taste of her sandwiches is up there in French-Vietnamese heaven. The Vietnamese are special at this: they do French better than the French — with some spicy Asian touches. The BBQ Pork French sandwich delivers the immediate taste of cilantro, garlicky mayonnaise, sweet barbecue sauce, carrots, onions, cucumber, and lashings of sliced pork, with the occasional heat of a green jalapeño. But above all, it's that crunch of bread — fresh, feathery, and very French — that makes this hard to beat. Add dessert of homemade banana shrimp cake and — *voilà!* Open daily, breakfast through early dinner. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Big Kitchen 3003 Grape Street, South Park, 619-234-5789. This isn't just a restaurant, it's the social center of the universe — and Judy "The Beauty" Forman is its queen. Blame her for the Fern Street Circus, for driving the Miss California beauty pageant out of town, and for disgustingly healthy dishes like Judy's Favorite (spinach, mushrooms, sherry, and eggs). Our favorite: the avocado, cream cheese, and chives omelet. Vegans' fave may be the veggie option: sautéed spinach, mushrooms, onions, cilantro, brown rice, tofu, and roasted garlic. Her cooks make pretty much everything on the spot, including muffins, waffles, and pancakes. While you're waiting, they always have this "out there" eclectic crowd, plus walls filled with pictures and bon mots like "Will Be President For Food." Break-



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Calendar

RESTAURANTS

fast and lunch only; closes at 2 p.m. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Blue Water Seafood Market and Grill 3667 India Street, Mission Hills, 619-497-0914. This bright, clean charmer a half-block south of El Indio has a double identity: First, it's a retail fish market; aside from Whole Foods, this is the only restaurant-quality fresh raw seafood south of I-8 and west of City Heights. If you love oysters, don't miss the big, buttery bivalves here. Second, it serves simple, terrific seafood to eat in or out. Plates are plastic, but don't look for greasy fried stuff. Entrées are grilled gently until perfectly done, topped with your pick of flavors (the lemon-garlic butter is especially tasty) and come with rice and a huge salad with your choice of terrific house-made dressings. If indecisive, ask what's best that day. The overstuffed grilled fish tacos are messy and perfect, with just the right proportions of ingredients. Good choice of beers; a few affordable wines; \$5 corkage for BYOW. Reachable only by driving north on India. Metered street parking by day. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to low-moderate. — *N.W.*

Bombay Exotic Cuisine of India 3975 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-298-3155. We're talking northern India here, right? That means lots of lamb, potatoes, creamy sauces, tandoor-baked breads, chicken, and less of the south's mouth-scalding heat. At least in its daily buffet, Bombay's a lot less spicy (though their *sag paneer* — creamy, cheesy spinach — delivered a

surprising punch). The buffet includes tandoori chicken, assorted *pakoras* (lentil-batter fritters), mock duck, chicken tikka, and, if you hit the right day, an addictive mango soup. If you want meat or spicy food, best to order from the menu — say, a creamy tikka masala with lamb, or long kebabs of minced lamb (kebab curry), or the rich Bombay Coconut Malai. Tell them whether you want it mild, spicy or, for leather-mouths, *tikhi*. For a cheap, light meal, try a couple of lamb samosas. And be sure they bring the chutneys, India's real unexplored treasure. Lunch and dinner; buffet at lunch and Monday evenings only. Sister restaurant, Monsoon, 729 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-234-5555. Moderate. — *E.B.*

Brians' American Eatery — Hillcrest 1451 Washington Street, Hillcrest, 619-296-8268. Note the apostrophe: Not one but two Brians have taken over what had been Topsy's, a venerable coffeehouse/eatery for 40 years. They've done a good job of cleaning it up without gutting the fifties roadhouse character. It's open all night on week-ends, and late night is quite a scene. But for a lot of people, breakfast is the thing. The Brians' eight-ounce charbroiled top sirloin steak with eggs and country potatoes is a great Saturday morning treat. Or the "Hey Ricky!!," an omelet with chorizo, avocado, green chiles, onions, and cheeses. Or ask for their off-menu breakfast special — it's always cheaper. Another good thing: coffee comes by the thermos-full. Three meals until 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday; open 24 hours from early Friday morning until Sunday evening. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Brickyard Coffee and Tea 675 West G Street, Downtown, 619-696-7220. The problem, if you're rich

enough to live in the Marina District, is the lack of café life. That is, until this modest little eatery and café settled in next to the tracks by the Seaport Village trolley stop. You sit under 11 poplar trees in a brick patio that has one unusual downtown advantage — except for the wind sifting through the poplars (or a trolley pulling in), it's completely silent here. Sipping coffee and reading your paper is the thing here, but you can fill up, too, with items like Texas chili, or grilled cheese and tomato sandwich with a cup of chili, or spinach and mushroom quiche with a small Caesar salad, or *panini*. You can also order half a sandwich — turkey, ham, beef, or tuna — with a cup of soup or Caesar salad. It's the nearest thing to a French country café. Open early morning till 3 p.m. daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Bully's East 2401 Camino del Rio South, Mission Valley, 619-291-2665. Despite the plasma TV sports screen, this place is very '60s. For example, dark, woody, plush red booths. And always crowded. Word is, they serve more prime rib with au jus and horseradish than any eatery in San Diego. The Petite Cut 8 ounce, their smallest, fills you plenty, with its baked potato and salad. But just once, come here with your main squeeze and order up the "full cut for two." It hangs ten over the edges. Or go bonkers and order the 32-ounce cut (available in Mission Valley) — just to watch your neighbors' eyes bug out. Not flush? Try the Bully Burger, French dip sandwich, or calamari sandwich. Lonely? Go to the horseshoe-shaped Low Bar. Lunch and dinner daily. — *E.W.*

Café Chloe 721 Ninth Avenue, Downtown, 619-232-3242. How did we ever manage before this indispensable bistro opened? In a bright and

beautiful setting with small tables, bar seating, and a patio, you'll find light and lovely Parisian-style bistro fare with substantial breakfasts, svelte lunches and dinners, and sophisticated bar nibbles. Don't miss breakfast's poached eggs with sage-truffle beurre blanc. Nightly specials keep the menu interesting, and desserts are worth every calorie. Beverages include divine lavender lemonade, root beer choices, and an intelligent wine list at modest markups, most available by the glass. Metered street-parking daytime. No reservations except large groups. Moderate. — *N.W.*

La Casita 1247 C Street, Downtown, 619-531-0044. Don't be fooled by the li'l old blue-and-white clapboard house at the bottom of City College's hill. Princes and politicians come to this full-service restaurant to hammer out deals, mix with the Latino (or Anglo) community, and eat some of the best *chorizo con huevos* (spicy pork sausage with eggs) in town. Fair-weather eaters flock to the spacious garden patio to chow down among the songbirds. In the cozy Mexican-style interior, the pictures on the walls tell you who-all comes here for the good tacos and enchiladas or the delicious pork burritos. Most delicious of all is watching Anglo city-hallers trying valiantly to learn to love the housemade *menudo* (tripe soup). Delivery anywhere downtown 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open six days 6 a.m. to 3 p.m., closed Sundays. — *E.B.*

Chicken Pie Shop of San Diego 2633 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park, 619-295-0156. How much do people love this place? Count the chickens lining the walls — ceramic, wood, beaded, painted, even feathered. Hundreds. They're gifts from generations of customers. Now, as in the 1930s when it started up, the basic chicken pie comes

filled with big chunks of chicken meat, doused with white gravy and accompanied by mashed potatoes, veggies, coleslaw, a roll, *and* dessert — like the delicious pineapple pie available Mondays — all for one really low price. The menu also offers fried chicken, burgers and steaks, but 90 percent of customers still order that same old chicken pie. Seven days. Cash only. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Chive 558 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-232-4483. Here you'll find a new cuisine for the upscale residential neighborhood rising around the restaurant. Diners can choose an adventurous meal or an evening of sophisticated comfort food. Urbane multicultural fusion dishes dance cheek to cheek with remade American classics and the occasional sleek French luxury dish. A "grazing menu" features small bites for folks on a diet or on the run. The menu changes seasonally. — *N.W.*

Dobson's 956 Broadway Circle, Downtown, 619-231-6771. This reputable downtown restaurant offers class and comfort, geared for people who enjoy eating well. The food is good, often very good, as with chicken liver mousse pâté, Mediterranean blue mussels, and, when available, the crude but virtuous soft-shell crab. Their sweets, such as brownies, are hefty, louché, and cheap. Bring a date to the upstairs dining room. Dobson's is suave, its confidence infectious. Lunch and dinner Monday through Friday; dinner only on Saturday. Moderate to expensive. — *M.N.*

La Doña 1784 Newton (at Beardsley), Southeast San Diego, 619-233-4939. This café is steeped in Mexican history, especially Barrio Logan history. You half expect to see several L.A. zoot-suitors drift in as you inspect the black-

and-white shots of the late actress Maria Felix (Mexico's Marilyn Monroe) or the great photos of the Mexican Revolution that include Zapata and Pancho Villa. The place has been here for 63 years, and old-timers say it reminds them of long-ago cafés in Los Angeles, Modesto, or Madera. The food is home cooking, Mexican style, with meals like scrambled eggs and chorizo with rice and refried beans. Watch out for the pot o' salsa — it's a real jaw-slammer. Other dishes to sample include *chicharrones*, *menudo*, and *pozole*. Seven days, breakfast to late lunch. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Fleming's Steak House & Wine Bar — Downtown 380 K Street, Downtown, 619-237-1155. A steakhouse for ladies who power lunch, an "old girls" club, or just a happy place where the term "a nice piece of meat" isn't a bad thing? The mahogany of the "old boys" steakhouse genre gives way here to cheery cherry wood. When you get the fried cheese, it's Brie, rolled in panko bread crumbs and slivered almonds. And the wine list boasts far more than just burly Cabernets and Bordeaux — over 100 of the far-flung offerings are available by the glass, and you can assemble your own three-glass tasting flights. Prime steaks are the main event, perfectly cooked and well-seasoned. Try the key lime pie for dessert — custardy and full of limey bite. Valet parking. Dinner nightly. Very expensive. — *A.M.*

Gourmet India 810 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-702-7967. Most local Indian restaurants share nearly identical panregional menus (yawn). Gourmet India, in contrast, serves authentic regional delicacies you won't find at the clones. Don't miss the distinctive appetizers, especially the crunchy sev poori (wheat wafers with



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a vibrant, spicy fresh topping), the bel poori (India's favorite railway snack), or southern India's uttapam, pancakes (made of cream of wheat) resembling soft, exotic mini-pizzas, accompanied by a coconutty fresh chutney. Peshawari naan is a spectacular tandoor-cooked bread stuffed with cashews, raisins, and fresh cheese, and tandoori chicken wings are tender and savory with their lively green dipping sauce. Entrées include the rarely seen mirchi tikka, tender boneless chicken from the tandoor, steeped in a bright, spicy, lime-juice marinade. Madras Fish in coconut milk is a delicious southern-style coconut milk curry, and the house specialty, Bombay Chicken, is a salty and oddly homey-tasting stew. Interesting and appropriate wine list; numerous Indian and international beers. You can eat royally on a prosperous peasant's budget. Lunch and dinner daily. (Parking not validated at Horton.) Moderate. — N.W.

Grant Grill 326 Broadway, Downtown, 619-232-3121. The hotel has reopened after its \$52-million renovation, and it's looking magnificent. The Grant Grill, too, is changed and freshened. In days of yore, the bill of fare combined French haute cuisine with British hotel-grill staples. Now it's thoroughly Southern Californian (although they did resurrect the fabled mock turtle soup in response to diner pleas) with nods to the "slow food" movement. Well-raised meats, local produce, and artisanal products include housemade burrata mozzarella and herbed bread. Entrées are large, rather salty, and have fine side items, but there's still a basic conservatism at work. Nothing here to scare the horses. Appetizers and amuse-

bouches are more engaging than entrées, while desserts are in the "needs more work" stage. Serving pace, especially on busy evenings, is slow. But the town's movers and shakers are back at their old favorite haunt. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily. Very expensive. — N.W.

Hob Nob Hill 2271 First Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-239-8176. It opened in 1944 as a 14-stool lunch counter. Now, you sweep in under the maroon canopy to shiny red booth seats, deep blue carpet, blond wood, paintings, and a half-wall of wine. You're thinking "business class," but don't be fooled. We're talking coffee-shop prices, especially with the all-day breakfasts and sandwiches, not to mention the burgers with a salad tossed in. It's across the street from a retirement condo complex and at dinner, says the owner, "We cater to seniors." While there are à la carte choices, affordable three-course prix fixe dinners (with a regular entrée for each day of the week, Mom style) are the order of the day — e.g., tasty barbecued pork on Saturday, roast lamb or pot roast Sunday. Open daily. Inexpensive to low-moderate. — E.B.

Huffman's Bar-B-Que 5039 Imperial Avenue, College Area, 619-264-3115. This café has a huge multigenerational following, some famous — check out their wall photos, in which Jesse Jackson and Muhammad Ali are just two — and some not so famous. The big draw is Huffman's fabulous Southern soul food. Try their gravy-smothered fried chicken served with collard greens, yellow peppers, red beans, rice, and white mopping-up bread, or their Louisiana Creole gumbo, thick with crab, shrimp, links,

ham, and chicken. Other fine eats include the catfish sandwich and half-pound rib tips. Open daily, lunch and dinner, to 11 p.m. weekdays, 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Ikea Restaurant 2149 Fenton Parkway, Mission Valley, 619-283-6166. Central shrine for San Diego's 10,000 Swedes, so they say. They come to taste open-faced sandwiches, salmon, shrimp, and meatballs again. This restaurant inside Sweden's wildly successful home interiors chain is a great intro to Swedish tastes. The food's more sensible than exciting, of course. But healthy — beef and pork for the meatballs are guaranteed hormone-free. You eat the meatballs with Swedish lingonberry (not cranberry) sauce. Seafood is big: the shrimp open-faced sandwich, the salmon plate with potatoes and broccoli, and the Gravad Lox Plate (cured salmon) are always on. And if you want to be disgustingly healthy, chew on their fresh vegetable plate (raw carrot sticks, cauliflower, garbanzo beans, and mushrooms). All for a song. The only health hazard: hordes of babies and kids romping in the restaurant's mother-friendly play area. Inexpensive. — E.B.

El Indio Mexican Restaurant 3695 India Street (at Winder), Mission Hills, 619-299-0333. Eat here and you eat with the ghosts of presidents, politicians, and three generations of San Diegans. Ralph Pesqueira, the guy who started it in 1940 as a simple tortilla factory, invented taquitos ("little tacos") as snacks for his customers. The deep-fried taquitos are still their number-one selling item. But also try Burrito Indio, a wheat tortilla stuffed with marinated zucchini, corn, beans, onions, cheese, and tomato, and the potato burrito, another good vegetarian choice. While you're waiting (and it's usually crowded), grab some of El Indio's huge, scrumptious homemade chips and a pot of their salsa ranchera. Open 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Joe's Crab Shack — Mission Valley 7610 Hazard Center Drive, Mission Valley, 619-574-8617. Joe's is silly with crab-shack ambience (campy nautical paraphernalia on down to souvenir gimme caps), but the food's not bad. You can choose buckets of steamed, barbecued, or garlic crab (of various subspecies), or go for fried or grilled seafood or steaks, or salads. Grown-ups may prefer the patio to the rockin', raucous interior. Full bar, not much wine. Inexpensive to low moderate. Also in Oceanside, Pacific Beach, and downtown. — N.W.

Krakatoa 1128 25th Street, Golden Hill, 619-230-0272. This used to be an abandoned property. Now the swamp-green clapboard house is the coolest, if (reportedly) ghost-ridden, coffee-eatery hang-outery in Golden Hill. Its garden is lush and tropical, and on its wooden deck laptops unfold, essays get written, relationships get worked out. The menu is light, the names heavy: the breakfast sandwich (scrambled eggs, cheese, fruit) is the Wonchi (an Ethiopian caldera); the roast turkey sandwich with ham, cream cheese, and cranberry sauce is the Ubehebe (a dormant volcano in Death Valley); the Amboy (a Mojave Desert volcano) is a peanut butter, honey, banana, cinnamon, and bacon sandwich. Open 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Sundays till 6 p.m.). Inexpensive. — E.B.

Lightnin' Jacks BBQ 4705-H Clairemont Drive, Clairemont, 858-270-8227. Clean, cute, and a little self-conscious, this barbecue has black-and-white Western pictures on the walls and some seating on barstools with metal "saddles" (more comfortable than they look). The barbecue mechanism is a Texas-style pit smoker burning sweet hickory. The meats that emerge from it aren't the smokiest, but they're tasty enough. Pork ribs are tender and moist, and beef brisket carries enough smoke flavor to pass muster in Texas; other meat choices are less successful. The tomato sauce is pleasant but ordinary. A fried catfish plate makes a flavorful alternative (but beware the cat sandwich, awash in hot sauce). Hush puppies and sweet potato fries are the most savory sides. Check your take-out bag to make sure you're getting what you ordered, as youthful staff is easily flustered. Kiddie plates available. Draft beer and wine available. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W.



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Calendar

RESTAURANTS

The Linkery 3386 30th Street, North Park, 619-255-8778. The artisanal “slow food” cuisine here features local ingredients and made-from-scratch preparations. Despite the name, there’s a full menu that includes tasty grilled vegetable appetizers and some fine entrées. But the focus is on the side dishes of fresh sausages made daily on-premises. These vary not only in composition but in palatability. Good ones include chicken curry, *linguina*, Polynesian pork. Venturesome international wine list at low markups, plus international beers and Mexican Coca-Cola (better tasting than U.S. made). Small parking lot (enter by alley on Upas just east of Jack in the Box). Noisy even when nearly empty. No reservations. Dinner daily until 11 p.m. Moderate. — *N.W.*

Lou and Mickey’s 224 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-237-4900. The one-time ornate Royale Brasserie across from the convention center finally had to bow to conventional tastes and simplify into a fifties-style steak-and-seafood house. Kings Seafood is still the owner, so the fish quality remains fine. The fare is simple, with minimal sauce or garnish; vegetables cost extra, coming in large portions but merely adequate preparations. Best dishes include BBQ Shrimp, Manale’s Style, a buttery, spicy New Orleans extravaganza (available as starter or entrée), and the huge, juicy rib-eye Cowboy Steak. Valet parking at door. Wraparound heated dining patio. Noisy in dining room near bar; request “Nude Room” for quiet. For interesting wines at good prices, look into “Adventures” sections of the list. Dinner nightly, weekends until 11 p.m. Fish moderate, meats expensive. — *N.W.*

Oceanaire Seafood Room 400 J Street, Downtown, 619-858-2277. Oceanaire serves all manner of fresh seafood, including some rare species, from simple preparations to complex

dishes with international influences (France, Italy, Asia, Louisiana, fusion). Fusion-y appetizers range from crab cakes (among the best in town) and lively El Diablo fried squid to disappointing oysters Gatafellar and laughable Cajun-rubbed prawns. (“Eh, Soileau! C’mere, let me rub these prawns on you!”) Of a menu comprising some 30 entrées, the best dishes tend to be the least ambitious choices from the Simply Grilled and Broiled section. Or you can gamble on more elaborate but risky composed entrées — e.g., fire-roasted Mano de León scallops in an Asian-style treatment are earthy and delicious, but spiny lobster is buried under an overwhelming, incoherent sauce. Let K.I.S.S. be your guideline. Vegetables and side dishes, served family size at extra charge, aren’t wonderful. Housemade desserts are pretty good and sized for groups. The oyster bar is a pleasant separate area for snacking or seasonal special dinners; in season, the Kumamotos are superb, other varieties less thrilling. Reservations urged, especially on weekends. Dinner daily. Happy hour at oyster bar moderate, dinner very expensive. — *N.W.*

Po Pazzo 1917 India Street, Little Italy, 619-238-1917. The restaurant’s name means “a little crazy,” but owner Joe Busalacchi was crazy like a fox to open the first seriously swanky eatery in Little Italy. The decor resembles the set of a Manhattan supper club in a black-and-white movie, right down to the gray color scheme and curvy booths. Music plays loudly (with a live pianist Thursday through Saturday), keeping the energy and noise levels high. You almost expect to see Frankie and Dino at the next table. The USDA Prime steaks are flash-roasted in a special oven at 1700 degrees (in the style of Ruth’s Chris), and if they’re a little chewy, they’re also flavorful — especially the Sicilian steak. But the pasta dishes are even better, and the veggies accompanying the entrées often outshine the proteins — the kitchen is still Italian at heart and the fundamental things apply. Full bar. Lunch and dinner weekdays, dinner only weekends.

Reservations advised. Expensive. — *N.W.*

El Pollo Loco 2795 Main Street, Logan Heights, 619-595-0847. Additional locations in Midway, Carmel Mountain, Chula Vista, El Cajon, Lemon Grove, National City, Poway, and more. This Mexican-style chicken chain offers healthier, tastier fast food. The flame-broiled poultry has crisp, richly seasoned, very salty skin; the flesh can vary from barely done to overdone, but usually is just right. The bird (or any assortment of its parts) comes with sage gravy, tortillas, and a choice of side dishes that includes rich, sweet black beans, crisp and clean coleslaw, great gooey-cheesy macaroni, and passable mashed potatoes. Help yourself to salsas (there are four varieties), chopped onions, lemons, cilantro, hot peppers. But stick with the chicks — the taqueria-style choices are barely better than Taco Bell. Check for daily specials, wherein a small amount of cash will buy a huge amount of highly palatable poultry. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

RA Sushi 474 Broadway, Downtown, 619-321-0021. Big and splashy, this Arizona-based chain restaurant tries to create a high-energy party atmosphere with loudish music and louder “Oriental” decor. Its grazing menu features sushi, sashimi, and hosts of Asian-oid appetizers, plus a few substantial noodle dishes and entrées. The food’s a mixture of the dire and the delicious — old, pulpy *edamame* versus magnificent miso soup, delicate dilled salmon and desiccated *katsu*. The sushi rice is well seasoned, but the products are inconsistent from hour to hour and roll to roll, depending on how long ago the seafood was defrosted and how recently the rice was cooked. You take your chances, but it’s fun anyway. Numerous Asian beers and sakes, affordable wines, full bar specializing in fancy cocktails. Those with fading eyesight may need a penlight to read the menu. Daily, lunch through dinner, to 1 a.m. Bar open to 2 a.m. Moderate. — *N.W.*

Ranchos Cocina — North Park 3910 30th Street, North Park, 619-574-1288. At both locations of this delightful mini-chain you’ll find healthy, cre-

ative Mexican and vegetarian cuisine in cheerful, tropical-style settings burgeoning with plant life and craft objects. A big plus: zero attitude. You don’t have to be vegi-virtuous to enjoy full-flavored combinations that are as creative as they are wholesome. Try anything with lobster or calamari steak — in fact, all the seafood here is pristine. And sample something with the housemade mole sauce of a zillion ingredients. Actually, try...anything. (Well, the chicken breast is as dry here as everywhere else. Try anything else.) Open daily breakfast through dinner. No reservations, but call ahead for large parties. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

The Ritual Tavern 4095 30th Street, North Park, 619-283-1618. North Park is becoming a hotbed of ethical food culture, and Ritual is one of its proponents. At this cozy, civilized, Old World-style pub where the music always plays softly enough for conversation you’ll find classic pub dishes plus some more exotic forays, cooked with consistent care to emphasize the fine, natural flavors of humanely raised Ni-man meats, gourmet Jidori chicken, locally grown organic vegetables. Want a burger? The ketchup is made in-house. The wildest dish is a tasty, mouth-filling, étouffé-thick “Saddlebrush” (Yankee) gumbo that’s not remotely Cajun or Creole (it’s got carrots — and no okra or filé!), served over long-grain wild rice instead of the sticky white stuff. Vast list of local and international artisan beers includes a Porter milkshake for dessert; nearly all of a dozen affordable international wines are available by the glass. Soft drinks include Mexican Coca Cola (made with cane sugar, not corn syrup). Small parking lot behind restaurant. Several vegan and gluten-free menu items. Dinner Tuesday through Sunday to 11 p.m. Moderate. — *N.W.*

Saigon on Fifth 4900 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-220-8828. This is the rare local Vietnamese restaurant that emphasizes the urban, French-influenced cuisine of colonial-era Saigon and Hue, rather than the ubiquitous *pho* noodle soups of the North. The list of house specialties includes many entrées you won’t find elsewhere in San Diego,

among them a smoked oyster omelet and a unique version of coconut shrimp served in the coconut shell. Many dishes here include honey, so the Boon (spicy noodle salad) deserves its name — a refreshing break from the sweetness. Well-chosen, reasonable wine list suits the food, as does the serene decor. Validated underground parking just north of the bank. Open daily, lunch and dinner until midnight. Low moderate. — *N.W.*

Sala Thai 6161 El Cajon Boulevard, College Area, 619-229-9050. With purple cloth napkins, white tablecloths, green banquettes, butter-colored walls, and a portrait of King Chulalongkorn, Sala Thai has all the trappings of a class joint — except you’re only paying six or eight bucks for main dishes. The food? A bit gentle on the spice front. *Tom yum kung*, the famous shrimp soup, should make your neck hairs stick straight out, but if that’s what you want you’ll have to ask the cooks to make it spicier. Chicken *mussaman*, labeled “medium spicy,” is pretty tame but still delicious with its authentic taste-boosters like kaffir lime leaves. Hottest curry: chicken green. Health treat: *Som tum*, the famous papaya salad. Lunch, dinner daily; dinner only on Sunday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Sammy’s Woodfired Pizza — Downtown 770 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-230-8888. It’s not Italian or New York pizza, it’s...San Diego pizza! The crusts are Californian: thick and slightly sweet. The toppings range from ordinary to exotic. The menu includes many salads and a handful of American-Italian entrées. Continuous service, same menu lunch and dinner. Open daily. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Sang Dao 4212 National Avenue, Logan Heights, 619-263-0914. Laos has an exotic Shangri-La thing about it, yet the large family that runs this eatery will tell you Lao food is quite plain and simple: vegetables, freshwater fish, chicken, pork, occasional beef, sticky rice, and noodles. But taste their delicious spicy catfish and you’re right back at exotic. Thai basil, garlic, and most of all, the gingery *galanga*, a.k.a. “Laos root,” help make it unfishy. Other must-trys: BBQ beef, *som yum* (papaya

salad), and especially the spicy salad with minced meat called *larb* — closest thing to the national dish. The surroundings here may be homey, but not the excellent cuisine. “Sang Dao”? It means “Star Light.” Open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. six days, closed Monday. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Shakespeare Pub 3701 India Street, Mission Hills, 619-299-0230. Probably the most convincing English pub in town. The Bard’s brew-house boasts bare-board floors, diamond lead-glass windows, and authentic Brits sitting around the bar quaffing ale from their own pewter mugs. Pub grub is bluff and plain spoken. Shepherd’s pie, bangers and mash, ploughman’s plate (the pickled onions and cheese, Scotch egg, and Branston pickle make it the real thing) — all are great with rich English beer, say, a Boddington’s Pub Ale. Sunday’s roast beef dinner is worth dragging yourself out of bed for, too. The pub includes a shop that sells British goods. Breakfast weekends, lunch weekdays, and dinner daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Sixth Avenue Bistro 1165 Sixth Avenue, Downtown, 619-239-4194. This charming, airy café offers some very credible New Orleans-style cooking at affordable prices. Among the sandwiches are an outstanding oyster po’ boy (with big juicy oysters and good light batter) and a fine, fully packed approximation of a *muffaletta*, albeit with a kaiser roll standing in for Central Grocery’s big, round Italian bread. The jambalaya is tasty, too, even with the substitute for andouille. Wine and beer. No reservations. Breakfast to dinner (closes 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday). Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Toshi Sushi 5943 El Cajon Boulevard, College Area, 619-287-3536. Don’t ask what’s in the “dynamite” sauce (besides the obvious mayo and smelt ore) — it’s a house secret, one the restaurant dangles before you in numerous contexts. Try it baked onto the rich, everything-goes Garbage Roll, where deep-fried shrimp, freshwater eel, and tuna add flavor to the creamy-crunchy interplay of sauce and vegetables. Rolls, both plain and elaborate,



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abound here. While some can be heavy on the rice and light on the fish, others are triumphs. The Toshi Tempura Special Roll takes battered whitefish and wraps it around the seaweed casing, which is then filled with just-cooked whitefish and a host of garnishes — an exotic-yet-homey fried-fish alternative. The Johnny Roll shows octopus at its most tender, but watch out for spotlight-hogging sweet cream cheese. The simpler sushi can vary — a brilliant, translucent slice of tuna offset by a blander, duller salmon. Japanese entrees are also available. Inexpensive to moderate. — A.M.

Tropical Star 6163 Balboa Avenue, Clairemont, 858-488-5900. A modest café and grocery offers Puerto Rican and Latin American food and groceries. Very modest surroundings; good authentic inexpensive food. Same menu all day Monday through Saturday; closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — E.W.

Whole Foods Market 711 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-294-2800. For vegetarians on the go, Whole Foods' prepared food section will feed you better — and faster — than any vegetarian restaurant in town. Outstanding selections include the Emerald Mushrooms salad, and especially the *farofa* salad — it's like American stuffing, but it's couscous studded with almonds, fat raisins, thin strips of scrambled egg, and bits of carrot and bell pepper. Whole Foods' vegetarian meals will tempt any meat eater with their delicious originality. La Jolla branch at 8825 Villa La Jolla Drive, 858-642-6700. Inexpensive to moderate. — M.N.

El Zazape 4642 Park Boulevard, University Heights, 619-682-1652. This stylish little Mexican restaurant on a tony stretch of Park Boulevard is proof that not all taco shop food is equal. Try a shredded beef or chicken taco or tostada and you'll know what we mean, with their generous mounds of juicy, slow-cooked meat. Many enjoy their unusual scallop burritos, vegetarian potato-filled burritos and rolled tacos, and well-prepared soups. We go for the stewed meat. El Zazape is dependable, serving Mexican with solid, home-made, handmade flavor. Three meals daily. Inexpensive. — M.N.

NORTH INLAND

Abbey's Real Texas BBQ — Kearny Mesa 9533 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Kearny Mesa, 858-279-7427. Texas barbecue consists of

meat, chicken, turkey, and links that are repeatedly mopped with a marinade and cooked in a big cast-iron smoker (rather than grilled over a fire). Here they use mesquite to barbecue the poultry quickly and the brisket ve-r-r-y slowly. In addition to the usual BBQ sides (potato salad, coleslaw, beans, etc.), they offer a Caesar salad. At the Miramar branch the room is large and unadorned but very clean. Wheelchair accessible. Same menu lunch and dinner. Open daily; continuous service for lunch and early dinner weekdays; normal dinner hours weekends. Inexpensive to low moderate. — N.W.

Bernard'O Restaurant 12457 Rancho Bernardo Road, Rancho Bernardo, 858-487-7171. Chef Patrick Ponsaty, a master of flavor, reigns in this unpretentious but beautiful high-ceilinged bistro, producing creative, classic-based French modern 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) bouillabaisse should be? Or squab at its best? This is the place — and desserts are ravishing, too. Servers are mainly well-informed, enthusiastic fellow foodies who are right on the mark. Alluring wine list at all prices includes top French growths at near-bargain markups, plus full bar. One vegetarian entrée most seasons. Slightly dressy, reservations urged. Lunch Wednesday through Friday, dinner nightly. Expensive but not exorbitant. — N.W.

Bistro 221 221 East Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-737-7398. This genteel bistro — with comfortable chairs and linen-covered tables inside and a shaded patio on the sidewalk — is especially tasty at lunch, with its sophisticated quesadillas and a classic burger and fries cooked your way. At dinner simple starters shine, including a Florida version of gumbo and Maryland crab cakes with minimal filler. The dinner entrées are also the best. — N.W.

Centre City Café 2680 S. Escondido Boulevard, Escondido, 760-489-6011. In the quiet little "motel row" just north of Lake Hodges, this cute, friendly café serves classic American diner food, including all-day breakfast. The chicken-fried steak is exemplary, with a crackly batter crust and a smooth, peppery cream gravy. Several cuts of USDA Choice steaks are offered at rock-bottom prices, and early-bird dinners and daily specials offer amazing bargains. You can eat inside, in a coffee-shop ambience, or chow down on the dining terrace in front. Open

daily, three meals. Huge portions, low prices. — N.W.

China Max 4698 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-650-3333. The decor is plain and bright, the sound level loud, but this is a major resource for authentic Hong Kong cooking — creative and multiregional, filtered through the refined wizardry of the genuine Cantonese style. The seafood aswim in the live tanks includes such delicacies as black cod (bony but wonderfully sweet), Dungeness crab, and (if you've got the money) abalone — but even inexpensive, homey dishes (e.g., wonton soup, crabmeat cakes) sing with flavor. Call ahead for reservations to avoid a wait at the door. A Pan-Asian community throngs here, for good reason. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive to exorbitant but mainly moderate. — N.W.

El Galeón 503 West Mission, Escondido, 760-746-5951. Mexican seafood, along with the usual dishes, is featured in a bright coffee-shop atmosphere with comfortable booths, big windows, a lunch counter, and a salad bar. Shrimp and langostino ("squat lobster," in fishermen's terms) are the house specialties and are well treated. Also consider an intense little marlin taco (squeeze some lime onto this rich, strong fish), or the savory *albondigas* soup (lime it up, too). Open daily, breakfast through dinner. Inexpensive (standard dishes) to moderate (seafood). — N.W.

Fiore's 777 Harrah's Way, Valley Center, 877-777-2457. This is where Valley Center goes to celebrate special occasions. An island of serenity in the cacophonous casino, the restaurant offers fine certified-Angus grilled steaks and chops of various species. For a starter, the shrimp margarita is delicious. Choices include numerous seafood entrées, and for lighter eating there's an oyster bar attached. The best attraction is the long, adventurous wine list, offering international bottles at bargain prices with by-the-glass choices galore. Half the fun is matching wines to foods. The beer list is sophisticated, too, as are well-priced cognacs and aged ports. Business-casual dress code. Kids allowed in casino restaurants, not in gambling area. Reservations advised for weekends. Open for dinner daily. Moderate at oyster bar; upper moderate to very expensive in restaurant. — N.W.

The Grill 10920 Roselle Street, Suite #104, Carmel Valley, 858-587-7940. Sorrento Valley is where you commute to work, not to live, so forget warm neighborhood eateries. At first glance, the Grill is what you'd expect — standard strip mall, bare-bones furnishings,



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office-lunch oriented. But the Greek owners give it character with generous but cheap breakfast dishes like the Mediterranean omelet and lunch specials such as the luscious Philly cheese steak. And they're flexible. Want bacon, sausage, and ham in your breakfast pita? They'll do all three, same price as with a single meat. Breakfast and lunch weekdays. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Hacienda de Vega 2608 South Escondido Boulevard, Escondido, 760-738-9805. This is a Mexican restaurant with a difference — or two. The setting is a gorgeous restored Old California-style hacienda set on two acres, including a verdant courtyard (complete with fountain) for fair-weather dining. The menu is also a leap upward from standard fare. Senora Vega offers authentic Mexican cuisine cooked in the sophisticated manner of Mexico City, her hometown — not border-food compromises. You'll find an array of fresh and interesting appetizers along with a wide choice of serious entrées featuring complex, delicious sauces. Each dish is seasoned to the optimum spiciness for its overall flavor — this is not the land of the bland. The Sunday all-you-can-eat brunch offers a whole sampling of goodies brought to your table, with refills as desired. Five vegetarian entrées and a kiddie menu available; casual atmosphere. Full bar specializing in margaritas, of course. Open daily, lunch (or brunch) and dinner. — *N.W.*

Pho Hoa Hiep — Mira Mesa 9910 Mira Mesa Boulevard #A, Mira Mesa, 858-578-1468. This *pho* (soup) place of the brothers Hoa and Hiep is a clean, busy eatery near hi-tech offices. It's popular at lunch and dinner, partly because of frequent two-for-one deals. Try the #1, *Dac Biet Xe Lua*, an extra large bowl of soup filled with rare steak slices and well-done brisket, flank, tendon, and tripe along with mint and bean sprouts. A popular breakfast *pho*

is French bread with beef juicy cube soup. They also have rice dishes. And try the traditional fruit drinks, maybe the *Xam Bo Luong*, a combination of loganberry, black dates, seaweed, and lotus seeds in syrup. Lunch, dinner daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

San Diego Artisan Bakers 1551 South Escondido Boulevard, Escondido, 760-740-5963. This European-style bakery specializes in hearty, handcrafted, slow-fermented breads made from natural ingredients. Recipes of the 24 loaves are from France, Italy, Germany, and the U.S. These loaves have textures and depths of flavor you'll never find in supermarket-bakery breads. And for breakfast or a snack, there's nothing better than settling on the front porch with a cup of espresso and one of the moist and chewy scones. Open Monday through Saturday, morning to late afternoon. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Sand Crab Cafe 2229 Micro Place, Escondido, 760-480-2722. Sandy Crabbe (honest, that's his name) owns this fun, funky dive in the wilds of industrial Escondido near the San Marcos border. A visit offers the primordial, preschoolish joy of whacking crabs to pieces with mallets and eating them with your hands. (Bibs are optional.) Everybody gets into the party spirit. There's a huge à la carte list of appetizers, soups, snacks, and main courses, often at bargain prices. Entrées include several crab-bucket combos, cooked to a well-seasoned boil with corn, potatoes, and spicy Louisiana sausage. Most of the shellfish were flash-frozen on shipboard, but they're still tasty. The melted non-butter "spread" accompanying them appeals to the area's many health-conscious residents. (Or you can BYOButter and they'll melt it for you.) Fine tangy housemade key lime pie is a perfect finale. Beer and wine and good margaritas. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to moderate. — *N.W.*

Seoul B.B.Q. 4344 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-505-8700. This Korean restaurant means sitting before a sizzling cast-iron grill, sipping hot sake, the smell of grilled beef, grilled onions, and fresh garlic in the air. Try the Ko-

rean B.B.Q. marinated short ribs (*tong galbi*) or thick marbled slices of sirloin (beef *gui*). You'll enjoy all the accompanying dishes that make the meal, like crunchy seaweed salads, radishes in garlicky tomato sauce, slow-cooked potatoes with soy sauce and jalapeño pepper. Feeling adventurous? Go for the goat meat hot pot or Korean steak tartare (*yukhoe*). This is sensual, elemental, hairy-chested food. Lunch and dinner six days, closed Sunday. — *M.N.*

Spices Thai Cafe — Rancho Bernardo 16441 Bernardo Center Drive, Rancho Bernardo, 858-674-4665. Superb Thai restaurant that's not only elegant but whose food contains no MSG and very little fat. The seafood dishes rate highly. Among other delicacies are duck and frog legs. Put Spices Thai Café at the top of your list. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.W.*

NORTH COASTAL

101 Café 631 South Coast Highway, Oceanside, 760-722-5220. This is the oldest li'l eating establishment in Oceanside. Cooks have been flipping burgers here since 1928. The café is named after Route 101, the Pacific Highway. Old-timers remember when everyone from truck drivers to movie stars would stop for a bite before heading on to San Diego and Tijuana. Try the ABC (avocado, bacon, and cheese) Omelet, the 101 Original Cheeseburger with its "secret sauce," chicken-fried steaks with eggs and, of course, the Great Depression dish: biscuits with gravy and home fries. Open daily, three meals until midnight. Cash only. No alcohol. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Armenian Café 3126 Carlsbad Boulevard, Carlsbad, 760-720-2233. At this large cottage with a year-round heated sundeck overlooking Highway 101, the menu offers Armenian specialties cooked with a Lebanese accent as well as generic Middle Eastern crowd pleasers, including gyros made from scratch. Lamb shish kebab is the house specialty, a loss leader featuring tender

premium lamb cubes with assertive seasonings, grilled over gas. Even better are distinctive dishes from the owner's family recipes: his mom's Lebanese *kibbe* (a large, glorified nut-filled lamb meatball) is outstanding, as is her *kashta lea* dessert — an exotic nutmeg sponge cake fragrant with rosewater syrup, topped with pistachios and thickened cream. Dinner platters constitute a full meal, including a great Armenian salad and a tasty dip for the meat, along with less-than-great egg-lemon soup, pilaf, and pita wedges. Wine list is dreary, but corkage fee is reasonable. Three meals daily. Live music and belly dancer Friday and Saturday night. Moderate to slightly expensive. — *N.W.*

Blanca 437 South Highway 101, Solana Beach, 858-792-0072. The opening of sleek, sophisticated Blanca marks the arrival of our first 21st-century restaurant, highlighting perfect seasonal ingredients so radiantly and originally prepared that diners must rouse to rapt attention. Chef Wade Hageman, a protégé of renowned SF/Vegas chef Michael Mina, has imported a similarly complex, labor-intensive style of cooking that appeals as much to the mind as to the senses. He's imported a major Mina stratagem — showcasing an individual ingredient by presenting it in several different incarnations within the same dish, like musical variations on a theme. Blanca's menu lists each item's pedigree and primary garnishes, but those details don't begin to describe the behind-the-scenes enhancements of marinades, brines, rubs, soaks, and infusions that play subtle roles in the multilayered flavors that come to the table. Appetizers are especially adventurous, the wine list is exceptional (if mainly very pricey), and the restaurant's decor is as modern and polished as the food. Dinner only. Reservations required. Very expensive. — *N.W.*

California Bistro 7100 Four Seasons Point, Carlsbad, 760-603-6868. This restaurant features fresh California cuisine in a beautiful, luxurious hotel dining room. Open 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday to Thursday (to 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday). Reserve for the Fri-

day night seafood buffet (5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.), which includes cooked seafood, sushi, and sashimi. Moderate to expensive. — *E.W.*

California Pizza Kitchen — Solana Beach Highway 101, Solana Beach, 858-793-0999. Two Beverly Hills lawyers started this chain in 1985 to exploit "the premium pizza segment." Some 150 restaurants later, guess it worked. The place is all shiny chrome, glass, etched palm trees, golden wood and black furniture, and two pizza ovens with real logs burning inside. The Original BBQ chicken pizza, the chain's first hit, is still their top seller. It has barbecue sauce, smoked Gouda and mozzarella cheeses, BBQ chicken, red onions, and cilantro. The BBQ chicken chopped salad is good too, as is the jambalaya. If you've got a sweet tooth, but are embarrassed to order Hawaiian pizza, try the pear and Gorgonzola. It has caramelized pears, caramelized onions, Gorgonzola and other cheeses, and hazelnuts. At night, the Nobel Drive branch features a view of the shining Mormon cathedral. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B.*

Corner House Café & Pizzeria 11815 Sorrento Valley Road, Carmel Valley, 858-755-3183. This must be the last farmhouse standing in Sorrento Valley's glassy, glossy business park. Corner House Café shares the nearly century-old, yellow, two-story clapboard house with Lily's Closet Café and Caliente Mexican Food. You eat outside in patios and gardens among flowers, fountains, farm carts. It feels like the country. Sandwiches reign. Try the Ironman sandwich (chicken, avocado, cheese) or Sorrento's Choice (turkey, cream cheese, sunflower seeds). Also terrific are the full meals. No fancy tableware, but dishes like chicken tequila fettuccini with its green pasta and sinful golden creamy sauce are sophisticated, delicious, and interesting. Open daily till 5 p.m. (3 p.m. Saturday, closed Sunday). Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Joey's Smokin' B-B-Q — Carmel Valley 4645 Carmel Mountain Road, Carmel Valley, 858-350-1317. Joey Maggioro doesn't produce Southern "Q" so much as So-Cal "Q" — more an homage to Memphis than anything

you'd find in Memphis itself — but the tables include paper towel dispensers instead of napkins, a clear signal to go ahead and get messy. All the meats are smoked, not grilled, in true "Q" fashion. Pulled pork offers reasonably credible Memphis-style flavor and tender-chewy texture. Baby back ribs come in three versions: sweet ribs glazed with the "suh-weet" sauce, wet ribs glazed with the mild-spicy sauce, and dry-rubbed ribs sprinkled with spice rub. Sweet or wet are the best. Chicken plates come in a variety of sizes and parts. Housemade hot links are well seasoned in the Louisiana manner but extremely salty. The list of sides is long and varied. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — *N.W.*

Juanita's Taco Shop Estilo Tepatitlan — Encinitas 290 North Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-943-9612. Enticing aromas of fresh tortillas and fragrant frijoles greet you as you enter this busy little taqueria, where the food's cooked in the style of Tepatitlan, a small city near Guadalajara. Its local specialty is carnitas — which Juanita's does up (by the plate or by the pound) as tender, non-greasy shreds, served with fresh, cilantro-laden mild tomato salsa. Standard wraps are fine, too, and the beans taste as good as they smell. Try a "Flying Saucer" — it really takes off, with shredded meat, onions, mild chiles, beans, sour cream, shredded orange cheese, and puréed guacamole riding high on an airy crisped flour tortilla. Open daily, three meals, until 3 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Kealani's 137 West D Street, Encinitas, 760-942-5642. Tucked between a 7-Eleven and a pizzeria, with an exterior sign that says "Saimin" (for Hawaii's version of Top Ramen), this island of the Islands prescribes "Living Da Aloha Spirit." A ukulele player sometimes serenades the noonday crowd at the sidewalk tables, and at any hour the food is "plate lunch" — two scoops of short-grain rice, mild house-made macaroni salad, and a choice of authentic "grines." Don't miss the outstanding kalua pig, zesty, smoky shreds of *imu*-style roast pork, resembling a

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moister version of Southern “pulled pork.” The menu covers the whole panoply of island standards, from *malasadas* (Portuguese donuts) to *musubi* (Spam sushi), with a Saturday special of a luau’s worth of “local food.” While you’re waiting, check out the droll Hawaiian vocabulary lessons under the glass tops of the tables. Open Monday through Saturday, lunch to early dinner. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Milton’s Deli 2660 Via de la Valle, Del Mar, 858-792-2225. This sprawling, family-friendly eatery started out as a nonkosher Jewish deli, but has come to embrace diner food, pub grub, and Italian and Mexican favorites, along with a full cast of Ashkenazi noshes. Sit down and stuff yourself with stuffed cabbage, overstuffed deli sandwiches, crisp-skinned fat cheese blintzes, *matzoh brei*, hot brisket with latkes — or chicken-fried steak, if that’s your bag. Or take out from the attached deli and bakery. The yummy chopped liver will remind you of the Bronx, the smoked whitefish and silky Nova will take you home to Flatbush, but the soft, cottony bagels — *oy!*, so goy! Seven days, three meals. Inexpensive to low moderate. — N.W.

The Original 101 Diner 552 First Street, Encinitas, 760-753-2123. This is where the caviar crowd from Rancho Santa Fe comes to remember their roots. It’s got all the deliberately down-home cooking you could want, including all-day breakfast ranging from

really cheap biscuits and sausage gravy to a pretty cheap top sirloin steak and eggs. For lunch, the bacon-Cheddar burger with fruit is a good surprise combo. The turkey-cranberry salad sandwich is also good, and try the spinach salad, with bacon, feta cheese, olives, mushrooms, and chopped egg. Even though this 101’s vintage (1983) in no way compares with the Oceanside 101 Café’s (1928), it has become a genuine part of Encinitas life — lines on the weekends will tell you that. Open for breakfast and lunch daily. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Pamplemousse Grille 514 Via de la Valle, Solana Beach, 858-792-9090. The locals’ favorite French provincial restaurant offers exquisite, creative cooking. Favorites from an often-changing menu include white fish served any style, mushroom *capuccini* soup, and *tarte Tatin*. Serene atmosphere with excellent service. Dinner reservations urged. Dinner nightly, lunch Friday only. Dinners expensive. — E.W.

Poseidon 1670 Coast Boulevard, Del Mar, 858-755-9345. The two dining rooms and bar here boast airy, stylish decor and ocean views, and the SRO umbrella-shaded patio is right at water’s edge. Lunches run to sandwiches, burgers, and fried seafood of ordinary competence and uneven preparation: wonderfully coconutty fried shrimp, for example, share a sampler plate with dead-dry salmon croquettes. Dinner

dishes are modern Cal cuisine — that is, a mix-and-match of Pacific Rim-Mediterranean-Mexican flavors, with some emphasis on seafood. But the view’s the thing here. Full bar. Open daily, lunch and dinner; breakfast on weekends. Moderate to expensive. — N.W.

Roxy Natural Foods Restaurant 517 North Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-436-5001. You don’t have to be a Self Realization Fellowship follower to fit in in Encinitas, but it helps. Roxy was made for the veggie crowd who’ve grown up around the famous seaside compound. These days, that includes surfers, vegans, and even visiting Hollywood stars picky about their food. Actually, it is no longer strictly a vegetarian eatery: the owners have added chicken and fish for Encinitas’s “new people” — the carnivores buying up property in the hills. But the vegan-vegie spirit still rules. Most popular item on the menu is owner Shahram Naimi’s own invention: the scrumptious Roxy falafelburger. Its green “meat” is made from garbanzo beans, potatoes, onions, cilantro, and herbs, all bedded down with tomatoes, a thick mat of sprouts, and melted cheese, covered by a whole-wheat bun. For chicken lovers, the garlic chicken pizzas sell big-time. Other

healthy treats include the three-egg avocado omelet with toast, the artichoke sandwich (with marinated artichoke hearts), and the squash enchilada dinner (steamed banana squash with corn, bell peppers, and low-fat cream cheese in a flour tortilla). Payoff? You come out feeling good and full, not bad and bloated. Open daily, brunch through dinner. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Star of India — Del Mar 3860 Valley Centre Drive, Del Mar, 858-792-1111. It’s the lunch buffet that can lead you by the nose into Indian (and here, specifically Punjabi) food. Pick among specialties like vegetable *pakora* — a bunch of veggies dipped in chickpea batter and fried — or a nice mess of eggplant with potatoes, chicken curry masala, and maybe the first cooked spinach you ever loved, *palak paneer*. Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

When In Rome 1108 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-944-1771. This elegant restaurant offers three dining areas and a menu with outstanding appetizers and pasta dishes. There are many unusual preparations. Gorgeous presentation; warm, friendly service. A winner. Dressy-casual crowd. Dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Expensive. — E.W.

SOUTH BAY

Anthony’s Fish Grotto — Chula Vista 215 West Bay Boulevard, Chula Vista, 619-425-4200. If you don’t want overcomplicated food, Anthony’s obliges. Fish and chips is still the simplest and the best. Or Mama’s Platter, cod combined with batter-fried calamari, shrimp, oysters, scallops, and clam strips. Anthony’s has been up and running for six decades now, with the buying power to get the pick of the catch. The menu offers 18 different seasonal fish to choose from, plus — if you’ve got the bread — delicious lobster dishes (in season) like lobster thermidor with a creamy, winey sauce. No reservations. Open daily, lunch through dinner. Moderate. — E.B.

Café 1134 1134 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-437-1134. Since the place changed hands a couple of years back, the food has definitely gotten more interesting. Breakfast omelets, for starters. The Cortez has sautéed shrimp, mushrooms, Jack cheese, avocado, sour cream, plus fruit or sautéed potatoes. *Paninis* like the Tuscany come stuffed with roast beef and bleu-cheese crumbles. They do a fine chicken pecan

salad, too. But at heart this is still a Left Bank sort of coffee place for hanging out, talking, arguing, and having deep thoughts. Grab a joe or a large bottle of their hoppy Mermaid’s Red Ale, take it outside, start a conversation. Open 5:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. (kitchen 7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.) daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

La Costa Azul Mariscos 1037 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-691-9812. Great family-run hangout for traditional seafood from Sinaloa and Nayarit, Mexico’s crackling-hot desert/coastal states. Their ancient Sinaloa dish *aguachile* (shrimp in spicy brine) is simple, mouth-sizzingly effective, *langostinos* are lush, but maybe most satisfying are whole-fish dishes like *pescado Veracruzano*. Truly traditional offerings come in giant three-legged *molcajetes*. Even their less-traditional signature dish, *Camarones Costa Azul* (crab and cheese-stuffed, bacon-wrapped shrimp) arrives in a burning hot *molcajete*. Also delicious: the sizzle-plate fajitas *mixtas*, with shrimp, beef, chicken. Many customers come around sunset, just to sit with a cool drink under palm fronds on the patio. Even if you’re actually on Chula Vista’s Broadway, it feels strangely like Cabo. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate. — E.B.



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Calendar RESTAURANTS

Crown Room 1500 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-6611. Let's face it, this is one of the grandest entrances you'll make anywhere, into the enormous, gloomy, vaulted timber dining room where presidents, princes and Marilyn Monroe have chowed down. It's only open for Sunday brunch these days. The gigantic eat-till-you're-beat buffet feast ranges from omelets to salmon, crab legs, prime rib, dizzying desserts, and even a chocolate fountain for large parties, available upon request.

The downside? Monroe was here to shoot *Some Like It Hot*, but (apart from the chocolate) most food ain't. It's either cold (like the croissants, though the chocolate chunk ones are delicious) or lukewarm (like prime rib and eggs Benedict — and those eggs could do with a lot more Benedict). But this is an Edwardian-scale social occasion — see and be seen. The food isn't great, but the atmosphere is grand. Open Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Expensive. — *E.B.*

D'Lish Pizza and Pasta 386 East H Street, Suite 211, Chula Vista, 619-585-1371. Also at 2260 Otay Lakes Road. This chain has always prided itself on its Italian/California pastas, pizzas, and salads. Now it has gone carnivorous, adding marinated flank steak

and a rib eye to the "bistro entrées." If you're ordering the flank, well-done is a no-no. That will toughen it. But a rare flank is, well, d'lish in its marination and especially its pesto-like chimichurri sauce. Also good: fire-roasted vegetable pizza, where the quick roasting makes for great-tasting, Technicolor-bright broccoli, zucchini, eggplant, and bell peppers. And Mediterranean Chicken Salad works well, partly thanks to the tang of pepperoni chips. Moderate. — *E.B.*

L'Escale 2000 Second Street, Coronado, 619-435-3000. Probably the pink flamingos and bay views bring you here first. But L'Escale ("port of call" in French) delivers to the taste buds too. For "Northern Mediterranean cuisine with California flair," read: lots of pasta, fish, salads, sandwiches. Try the grilled salmon *niçoise* salad with its richly sauced fish, crunchy green beans, red potatoes, strong olives, and rosemary-flavored bun. Entrées like grilled chicken and mushrooms in Parmesan cream with penne pasta are safe enough. Or bone-in filet mignon. But for sheer architecture, check out the tuna salad sandwich wrapped in lavosh: three vertical Armenian bread tubes, angle-sliced to reveal interiors of tuna and greenery. Eat on the pool- and bay-surrounded patio if you can. Breakfast, lunch, dinner. Moderate to expensive. — *E.B.*

Spiro's Gyros 1201 First Street #4, Coronado, 619-435-1225. The food, the music, the view — are we outside Athens? Is this the Aegean? This inside-outside Greek cafe is located at the water's edge, and the heated patio has a spectacular view of San Diego, the bay, and the boat traffic. At sunset, sipping

their excellent Greek wines (cheaper than their Californian), watch the sun set the city ablaze in gold. The prices keep Spiro's popular with the locals as well as tourists. Try the moussaka (eggplant casserole) or the souvlaki chicken, marinated in *tzatziki* sauce, served with tomatoes, onions, and pita bread. Open seven days until 8 p.m. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Tango Grille Argentine Steak House 635 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-420-0384. Play gaucho and enjoy the most authentic Argentine *parrillada* (mixed grill) in town at this charming, warmly decorated bistro about two minutes from the Chula Vista Shopping Center. Fine, smoky wood-grilled Colorado beef appears in several unusual cuts (including succulent steak-cut short ribs). You can choose from two different mixed grills (sized for one or two), the first with conventional meats, the other — the more adventurous — includes organ meats and blood sausage. For starters, there are brilliantly seasoned mini-empadas of amazing lightness, as well as several interesting salads. Those not in a grilled-meat mood can opt for numerous pastas (including a big, meaty lasagna) or the ubiquitous *milanesa* (breaded beef or chicken patties) of the pampas. Portions are more than generous, and so are the flavors. Open daily. Low moderate. — *N.W.*

Village Pizzeria 1206 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-522-0449. Mootime Creamery owner David Spatafore decided to set up what he's always wanted: a cheap, back-east Italian, red-and-white-tablecloth, dangling-Chianti-bottle eatery where local families and amateur sports teams can

come in and pig out. He wisely didn't destroy what was half of the famous old Mexican Village. Instant atmosphere! Ancient murals of guys with guitars serenading señoritas, arches, illuminated clusters of red grapes. The bad news: you might have to handle pumped-up kids' sports teams cramming the booths around you. The good news: great calzones and pizza by the slice. (Pizza-by-slice portions stop at 6 p.m.) Open lunch through dinner, seven days. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

EAST COUNTY

Antonio's Hacienda 700 North Johnson Avenue, El Cajon, 619-442-9827. If the decor hasn't been updated from its original 1960s-fabulous Old California Spanish, it's because there's been no need. The enormous dark-wood chandeliers, the padded-leather wooden chairs, the chainsaw-weathered wood beams — all top-shelf and aging well. Families abound, reveling in the guitar trio and the exposed kitchen station — such atmosphere! And the flavors are user-friendly, sweetness muting the spice in the salsa and the ranchero sauce. The Camarones Tequila is a little more exciting, the sweetness of its bacon-wrapped shrimp gets a fine counter from the bitter liqueur in the marinade. Excellent Enchiladas Suizas: pale, mush-tender, shredded chicken wrapped in tortillas and doused with good, tangy green sauce. Lunch and dinner daily. Champagne brunch on Sunday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; all-day buffet Sunday. Inexpensive to low moderate. — *N.W.*

Fred's Old Fashioned Burgers 2754 Alpine Boulevard, Alpine, 619-445-1264. Up here, Fred's it and that's that. You really get a bang for your burger buck, from the cheap junior burger to quarter-pounders and half-pounders to Fred's three-quarter-pound "monster burger." Even the innocent-sounding BLT sandwich comes loaded with six slabs of bacon. Maybe the most delicious burger sandwich is a quarter-pound patty slithered between sautéed onions and oozing with cheese under grilled sourdough. Also good: the grilled chicken sandwich and the patty-melt special with fries and soft drink. Really hungry? Order Fred's Alpine Goliath, a two-pound burger that needs a ten-inch bun to support it. But, as they say, be careful what you wish for. Seven days, 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

The Kopper Kettle 12108 Woodside Avenue, Lakeside, 619-561-0628. "Early to bed, early to rise, sit at Kopper

Kettle, tell big lies." The plaque says it all: the Kettle's Social Central for this part of Lakeside. But its other claim to fame is important, too: They broast. Think broiling and roasting. They pressure-cook their chicken and their potatoes in oil. The result is a tastier, crisper, and less greasy chunk of chicken and wedges of potato that are crusty with light insides — great for dipping in their homemade ranch sauce. The menu features many broasted items, plus dozens of big-plate breakfast and lunch items. Expect tons of friendliness, traditional fare, less for the nuts and twigs crowd. Open 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Lake Murray Café 5465 Lake Murray Boulevard, La Mesa, 619-433-0180. This is the neighborhood café this neighborhood lacked for years. Which explains why, since it opened in 2005, it's been busy, mostly filled with locals. People come because the waitresses know them and know what they like, but also because the plates are usually overloaded. All the omelets are four-egggers, with generous sides like biscuits and gravy. Portuguese sausage scramble is a bulky way to start the day. Evening meals include fish served European-style with the head still on. Other comfort foods include liver and onions, meat loaf, and pork chops with stuffing. Open 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Mediterraneo 1347 Tavern Road, Alpine, 619-445-9902. The vibe in this tasteful little trattoria (with adjoining bar) is young, and so is the chef, still slipping new dishes into a menu stuffed with local favorites. The pizzas are outstanding — such a lovely, airy, silken crust! Such wafer-thin rounds of pepperoni! Entrées change with the seasons. Desserts are big and sweet. When the weather's fine, dine on the patio and watch the sun drape light over the piney hills. Daily, lunch and dinner, plus Sunday brunch. Expensive. — *A.M.*

Somewhere Else Coffeehouse & Bookstore 330 North Magnolia Avenue, El Cajon, 619-441-0480. Here, 100 years ago, stagecoaches and gold miners from Julian would raise a ruckus at this very crossroads every morning. Today, what has to be the smallest counter-restaurant with the tiniest kitchen in El Cajon serves up decent, straightforward breakfasts, soups, and sandwiches, along with good conversation that can't be a lot different from stagecoach days. Breakfast scrambles, burritos, and *panini* are filling. They have a little living room area packed with books and a cool deck out back. Coffee and a toasted bagel with tomato and avocado is delicious. But be good — Maria, the owner, is an ex-cop. Open for breakfast and lunch. Closed Sundays. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Ye Olde Bicycle Cafe 6792 University Avenue, La Mesa, 619-582-4024. You're eating in a museum here. You can nibble your *panini* and check out ancient bikes like Rudge's penny farthing or the three-seater bike the Three Stooges used. The little blackboard menu's basically a list of toasted *paninis* and cold sandwiches. Each sandwich gets its name from the bike world. The Tandem is a double-decker peanut butter and jelly sandwich. The Tour de France has ham and Swiss on a croissant; the Tour d'Italia is salami, pepperoni, ham, cheese, and a pot of *marinada*. Add their rib-sticking chicken soup with wild rice and you'll have a cheap and enlightening lunch. 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday; 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* EOF

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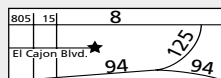
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New Names

She suggests a Sandra Bernhard without the sneer.

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 de-

serves 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 —



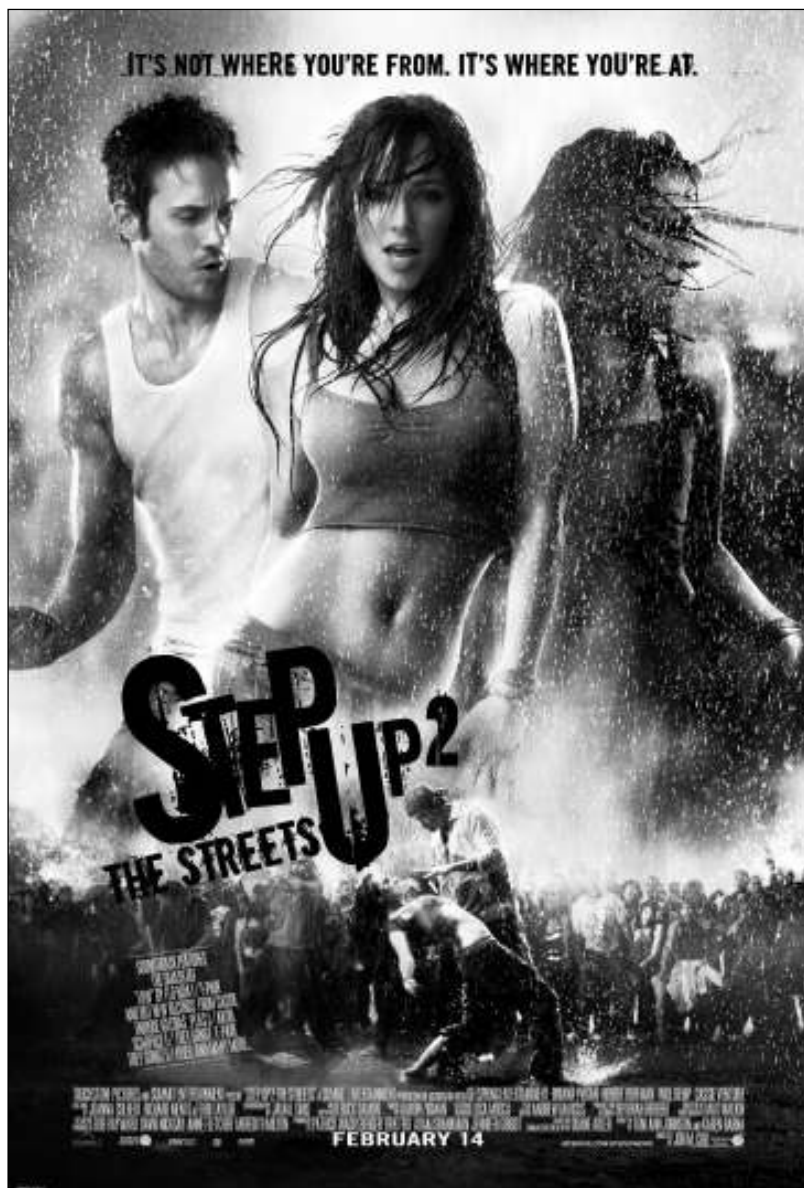
Over Her Dead Body

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 Bern-

hard 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



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Calendar

MOVIES

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 film-

making 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 mu-

seum 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 Beast*, 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-

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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 barnstorming tour organized and hosted by Vince Vaughn (alphabetically, Ahmed Ahmed, John Caparulo, Bret Ernst, and Sebastian Maniscalco) as well as the names of the thirty stopping points on their itinerary, slightly revised in midcourse by Hurricane Katrina. The trip, recorded in dreary 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 hints, whiffs, of all of it, occasionally even a hint or whiff of humor. ■

MOVIE LISTINGS

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

Atonement — British, bookish period piece, from an Ian McEwan novel, about a young girl's misreading of the amorous activities of her elders, and its tragic consequences. (A mole on the right cheek links the three different actresses who play the role, Saoirse Ronan in the Thirties, Romola Garai in wartime, and Vanessa Redgrave in modern day.) The movie starts rather sedately, despite some point-of-view tricks, in a commonplace country estate; and it then gets rather overblown in the war sequences, including a marathon Steadicam single take of the evacuation at Dunkirk. But all in all it's well-mounted, well-dressed, well-acted, and, well, dull. With Keira Knightley, James McAvoy, Brenda Blethyn, and Harriet Walter; directed by Joe Wright. 2007.

★ (ESCONDIDO 16; FLOWER HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

The Bucket List — A feel-good death trip, directed by the crowd-coddling Rob Reiner, about two terminal cancer patients, a billionaire WASP and a blue-collar black, who bond as hospital roommates and set out together to do the things and see the sights they never had time for: skydive, car race, get a tattoo, visit the Riviera, the Dark Continent, the Pyramids, the Great Wall, and along the way open themselves up to epiphanies: “The stars — it’s really one of God’s good ones.” (Although they often have a book at hand in bed or on an airplane, you can’t expect a screen character to use his final months to curl up at last with *The Pickwick Papers*.) The good feelings extend even beyond the grave: the action is narrated posthumously in the first-person omniscient, implicitly settling the amicable debate on the afterlife. A fair measure of your regard for Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman would be your pain at seeing them in such pap. Perhaps the closest contact with a real concern emerges in the former’s probing question to the latter: “You always had those freckles?” Sean Hayes, Rob Morrow. 2007.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASSLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VALLEY)

Cassandra's Dream — With this, Woody Allen looks like he has overextended his stay in England. The refreshment is gone. Less engrossing than *Match Point*, less engaging than *Scoop*, it spins a

yarn of working-class brothers (Ewan McGregor, Colin Farrell, working their thespian tails off) who, in exchange for financial favors from a rich uncle, become literal brothers in crime, new to the game and unfit for it. Allen, writer and director, and absentee on screen, slides the chess pieces around on their felt bottoms, no friction, no deception, no hesitation, carrying out a telegraphed plan of attack. An air of detachment is the closest he comes to humor: a Dreiser-esque moralism spreads a wet blanket. One listens for his voice through the thick British accents, and one hears a frequent tone of whining and pleading, and just a snatch of highbrow chat about Greek tragedy. One looks for his fingerprints, and one sees a sedentary camera and a burnished surface. The spectator's search for the familiar filmmaker generates most of the sparse suspense. With Hayley Atwell, Tom Wilkinson, Phil Davis. 2007.

★ (LA JOLLA 12)

Charlie Wilson's War — Didactic poli-
cisci lesson on How the System Works, en-
tertainingly illustrated by screenwriter
Aaron Sorkin and director Mike Nichols.
The titular war is the one between the Soviets
and the Afghans in the Reagan era, and
Charlie Wilson is a nonfictional Texas con-
gressman (played with supreme compla-
cency by Tom Hanks) who, ideally situated
for budgeting purposes, spared some time
from his enjoyment of the perks of power
(single malt, cocaine, strippers in the hot
tub) in order to do the bidding of a rabid
Right-wing fundraiser in his home state
(Julia Roberts, fully surrendering to her
natural or enhanced grotesquerie, at one
point intrepidly separating her gluey eye-
lashes with an open safety pin) and broker
a covert alliance between the Pakistanis and
the Israelis, combatting the Evil Empire
from discreetly behind the scenes. This is
not your typical tale of the cavalier cynic
getting involved, finding religion, commit-
ting himself to a cause. The protagonist's
profligate ways are typical enough, and the
refugee camp that opens his eyes is depicted
very straight, but there remains, even after
that, a sense of irony about his crusade —
no more solemnity in his demeanor than in
that, let's say, of the surgeons in *MASH* —
so that his commitment is forever perceived
as something of a pose, something within
quotation marks. The job gets done all the
same. Philip Seymour Hoffman, sporting a
lush mustache and full head of dark hair in

testimony to the character's Mediterranean ethnicity, goes Hanks one better (several better, in fact) as a disgruntled CIA spook who, irked at not getting the Finland assignment after studying Finnish, cannot even throw a tantrum without a wink. Not only does Hoffman walk away with the show, he also gets to recite the Buddhist parable whose punchline frames the entire picture, turning an ostensibly happy ending into an up-in-the-air ending, or in other words no ending at all. We know too well what happened next. With Amy Adams, Emily Blunt, Ned Beatty. 2007.

★★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12)

Cloverfield — Vindication for the grainy, jiggly image of the handheld camcorder, the mockumentarist's best friend and a corner-cutting, cost-cutting device for any purpose. The premise — the excuse — is the making of a video souvenir at the going-away party for a Manhattan yuppie, the night before his departure to a plum job in Japan; and the product, by its very nature, is an exercise in subjective camerawork as extreme as, though not as strained as, Robert Montgomery's anomalous *Lady in the Lake*, 1946. Amateurish by design, with the camera in the hands of a conscripted novice, the evolving souvenir is all we get for the first twenty minutes of the movie, leading to suspicions of padding in what turns out to be barely an hour-and-a-quarter movie. It might have led also to squirms of impatience if the document had not been labelled at the top as the property of the Department of Defense, retrieved from the "area formerly known as Central Park." You know something's coming. What finally comes at the twenty-minute mark, revealed bit by bit, fleeting glimpse by side-long glance, proves to be a distant relative of Godzilla — the yuppie didn't have to go to Japan; Japan came to the yuppie — a composite creature combining on a gargantuan scale the slimy squid, the plucked chicken, and the skinned calf, shedding like fleas some spidery creatures of more human dimension. (Additional aerial footage from a cable news network lends some helpful perspective.) It is quite understandable and quite realistic, in the post-Rodney King era, that the party videographer would choose to keep the tape rolling as his small circle of friends fights to survive the night ("People are gonna wanna know how it all went down"), and the shaky, sketchy cover-

age of the events only enhances their immediacy and intensity. And the monsters themselves, even allowing for their extended tendency to play peek-a-boo, are expertly realized. This is *Blair Witch* on a looser budget. Lizzy Caplan, Jessica Lucas, T.J. Miller, Michael Stahl-David, Mike Vogel, Odette Yustman; directed by Matt Reeves. 2008.

★★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; Santee Drive In; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

The Diving Bell and the Butterfly — Julian Schnabel relates another true-life tale from the wide world of art, this one a little more liberated from convention than his *Basquiat* or his *Before Night Falls* (though it immediately and continually brings to mind Alejandro Amenábar's *The Sea Inside*), the tale of Jean-Dominique Bauby, an editor at *Elle* magazine, who in the prime of life suffered a stroke that left him paralyzed but for his left eyelid (and his imagination and his memory), and who dictated a memoir, letter by letter, through a system of blinks. The first three-quarters of an hour or so are reasonably audacious, subjectively visualized through the eyes of the invalid (Mathieu Amalric, at this point unseen), with cropped faces and figures,

blurred edges, off-kilter angles, etc., and yet the camera looks awfully free-swinging and the editing awfully jumpy for the P.O.V. of a paralytic, as if Schnabel felt he had to lend a helping hand to keep things hopping. (The rotation of comely coquettes to serve as speech therapist, physical therapist, and amanuensis seems to have been assembled out of similar motives.) Much of the remainder of the film feels drawn out and padded, with the major exception of a tense scene in which the wife, operating the speakerphone in the hospital room, is required to mediate a call from the mistress. The essential subject matter is one that demands in its treatment purity and rigor, and that receives instead disorder and indulgence. (This really wasn't the time and place for further proof of the director's hip taste in music, U2, Velvet Underground, Tom Waits.) A big critical favorite, nonetheless, perhaps owing to the special dispensation granted the handicapped, the quickness to applaud the least little show of humor, verve, perseverance. With Emmanuelle Seigner, Marie-Josée Croze, Anne Consigny, and Max von Sydow. 2007.

★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

The Eye — Reviewed this issue. With Jessica Alba, Alessandro Nivola, Parker Posey, Rade Serbedzija, and Rachel Ticotin; directed by David Moreau and Xavier Palud.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; MIRA MESA 18;

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STARTS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8 - CHECK DIRECTORIES FOR LISTINGS

SEEN ON DVD



Who Killed the Electric Car?

ILISE GERSTEN BUSH

Curator, San Diego Jewish Film Festival, sdjcf.lfjcc.org

Tonight's opening film, *Sixty-Six* is a quirky coming-of-age 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 *Galilee Eskimos*, in which the aged founders of a kibbutz wake up to find the kibbutz has been sold out from under them. Instead of regressing into self-pity, their pioneer spirit is re-awakened. I call this the Israeli *Cocoon* 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 film about 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 bonus features. 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



The Black Book

HELEN FLEMING

Co-chair, San Diego Jewish Film Festival

Beaufort, showing at the SDJFF, is an intense, realistic depiction of life in the trenches. It recalls the haunting experience of *Das Boot*, where tension, boredom, and confinement converge to heighten the trauma of military life. A soldier's duty is to wait and obey, never knowing what the big picture is, stuck in an existential hell, which is following orders.

Another of our films, *Jellyfish*, unfolds in a similar style to *Crash*. You meet random characters that seem inexplicably remote from each other, yet as their tales unfold, their threads of commonality are unmasked in a surprising way.

A Love to Hide, a French World War II thriller, is a devastating tale of love, treachery, ambition, and betrayal during the Nazi occupation. It reminds me of *The Black Book*, in which no one was who or what they seemed to be. Both films are excellent illustrations of ordinary people trying to survive.

DAS BOOT (Germany) 1982, Sony Pictures
List price: \$14.94

CRASH (USA) 2005, Lionsgate
List price: \$14.98

THE BLACK BOOK (Netherlands/Germany) 2006, Sony Pictures
List price: \$29.95



The Thorn Birds

JUDY FRIEDEL

Past chair, San Diego Jewish Film Festival

We are showing the first four episodes of the Israeli mini-series *A Touch Away* during the festival. It's the juicy story of forbidden love between a secular, Russian-Israeli man and an ultra-Orthodox woman. It reminds me of *The Thorn Birds*, an Australian miniseries, which is an equally juicy story of forbidden love between a priest and a woman.

She's Got It, also showing at this year's festival, is a fun bank caper about three women, unlucky at love but trying their luck at getting rich through unorthodox means. It's reminiscent of *Ocean's Eleven*, a must-see for anyone fond of George Clooney, which I'm assuming is most people.

Our closing-night film is *Making Trouble*, a documentary about female Jewish comics through the years. Fanny Brice is one of the comics featured. Brice was wonderfully portrayed by Barbra Streisand in *Funny Girl*, which also starred Omar Sharif as her husband.

THE THORN BIRDS (Australia/USA) 1983, Warner Home Video
List price: \$29.98 (two discs)

OCEAN'S ELEVEN (USA) 2001, Warner Home Video
List price: \$14.96

FUNNY GIRL (USA) 1968, Sony Pictures
List price: \$14.94

Juno — A slow starter. In the title role of a pregnant Minnesota high-schooler (named after the Roman goddess of marriage, fidelity, fertility), the dry flat sardonic line-delivery of Ellen Page, the angelic avenger of *Hard Candy*, is not easy to warm up to, no matter how much we might try to see it as an adolescent defense mechanism, or how much as humble emulation of Janeane Garofalo. And the garishly colorful dialogue, from first-time scripter and former stripper Diablo Cody, often tends to push too hard ("Being pregnant makes me pee like Seabiscuit"). The heroine, interested in simply finding a good home for the baby, not in making a profit off it, finds a possible taker in the weekly *PennySaver* ("next to the exotic birds"), a neat-freaky suburban couple in the gated confines of Glacial Valley Estates. It's there that things really begin to get interesting. Our initial arrival at the housing development is alone sufficient to convince us of Jason Reitman's directorial bona fides: a series of static shots of anti-septic House Beautiful after House Beautiful as the car passes across the screen, left to right, in front of each. And the prospective mother, Jennifer Garner (her piano-wire tautness put to good use), turns out to be the neater of the pair, someone who will studiously ponder "custard" versus "cheesecake" as the color for baby's room, while the prospective father, Jason Bateman, proves to be the freakier, a stay-at-home composer of advertising ditties and a frustrated rock-and-roller. A curious, potentially dangerous after-school relationship blossoms between him and the heroine: he may be a commercial sell-out as a composer, but he's a person who can talk music to a teenager, and he demonstrates "decent taste in slasher movies" (e.g., Herschell Gordon Lewis's *The Wizard of Gore*, another impediment to our warming up to the heroine). Over time, the film builds, and it does so with proficiency, patience, and foresight. If the heroine is never wholly embraceable, the surrounding characters go far to compensate, specifically J.K. Simmons as her droll laconic dad, Allison Janney as her worldly-wise, even-keeled mom, and above all, Michael Cera as her shunted aside, unassertive, but ever-faithful boyfriend, the baby's biological father, and a cooler dude than you'd ever guess from his track-team togs. And if the dialogue is unabatingly overcolored, at least the hues are spread around democratically. 2007.

★★★ (ESCONDIDO 16; FLOWER HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER; HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Michael Clayton — The title figure is the designated fixer for the elite Manhattan law firm of Kenner, Bach & Ledeen, touted as a "miracle worker" but more modest in his self-assessment: "I'm not a miracle worker, I'm a janitor. The smaller the mess, the easier it is for me to clean it up." And a three-billion-dollar class action suit against his firm's biggest client, United Northfield, or UNorth for short, makes a very big mess. Aside from being George Clooney, the hero doesn't look like much. Crushed under a mountain of debt, sworn off the gambling habit (notwithstanding a prefatory relapse at the poker table), run ragged by his job, begging his boss for an advance and getting the brush-off, he has little time for his neglected son and none for a shave. In addition to all that, Clooney has firmly suppressed the head-wagging smugness that so often chills his charm. In fact he has sunken into the part quite deeply and depressively. We keep waiting to see some sign of a miracle. And waiting. In its bald essentials — the soulless law firm, the monolithic corporation, the robotic hit men, the stirrings of conscience and poses of piety, the mechanics of comeuppance — the film is fairly standard-issue. But screenwriter (the *Bourne* series) and first-time director Tony Gilroy, beginning with the nonlinear narrative arrangement, has devised an all-over strategy of tease and obfuscation, very clever at disguising the lack of cleverness. Very clever, that is, in presentation, not in plot, character, idea. If we sometimes grow weary of not knowing what the hell people are talking about, we never altogether get

weary of wanting to know. Tilda Swinton, Tom Wilkinson, Sydney Pollack. 2007.
★★ (HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24)

Nanking — Difficult-to-stomach documentary on the Japanese invasion of the then Chinese capital in 1937 and subsequent atrocities, recounted through archive footage, still photos, present-day interviews with survivors, and excerpts from letters and diaries read on camera by actors in costume (Woody Harrelson, John Getz, Mariel Hemingway, Stephen Dorff, Jurgen Prochnow, et al.). An heroic alliance of Westerners — American missionaries and Nazi businessmen, incongruously — to create and defend a Safety Zone for refugees slightly softens the awfulness. Very slightly. (The purpose of the film is not so much to show what the Japanese did as to show what War did, and does.) The actors do their best, but can't hold a candle to the real people: e.g., an old man's wrenching memory of his mortally wounded mother breast-feeding his baby brother as blood poured out of the gashes in her chest. Directed by Bill Guttentag and Dan Sturman. 2007.

★★ (KEN, THROUGH 2/7)

National Treasure: Book of Secrets — National disgrace: another overtaxed premise with an eye to a franchise. ("This doesn't involve another treasure hunt, does it?") The honorable name of Gates has been implicated in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, and rather than finding this historically intriguing, the present-day Gateses find it personally insulting. Exoneration will lie on a path through the Statue of Liberty, Buckingham Palace, the White House, Mount Vernon, Mount Rushmore, and the legendary City of Gold, as well as through exaggerated CG-aided action. With Nicolas Cage, Diane Kruger, Justin Bartha, Jon Voight, Helen Mirren, Harvey Keitel, and Ed Harris; directed by Jon Turteltaub. 2007.
● (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24)

No Country for Old Men — The Coen brothers' first literary adaptation, from a Cormac McCarthy original, an overflowingly bloody pulp thriller, plumped up with folksy first-person social commentary in italics, about a Texas good ole boy who stumbles upon the internecine scene of a drug deal gone bad, makes off with a satchel of cash, and tries to ditch the implacable hired killer (among others) on his trail. Sharing the writing credit as always and sharing the directing credit as they only began to do with *The Ladykillers*, the brothers were smart to cut down the social commentary — the Decline of Western Civilization as viewed by an aging third-generation lawman — to a single block of voice-over at the outset ("Some of the old-time sheriffs never even wore a gun"), and to sprinkle any additional such commentary lightly into the dialogue ("Once you quit hearing 'sir' and 'ma'am,' the rest is soon to follow"). Without those repeated and repetitive interruptions, the simple pursuit narrative — the killer pursuing the filcher, the lawman pursuing both — unfolds as lean, linear, streamlined, and yet slow, steady, and long, never very deep. And on the Coens' part, never very inventive. They have followed McCarthy's blueprint scrupulously, even slavishly, and have bountifully harvested his lip-smacking dialogue; and the major unconventionalities in this mostly conventional thriller are all his. (For better or for worse.) To be sure, the Coens are meticulous technicians, supremely skillful, attentive to the minutest detail. And while the body count climbs numbingly high, the tension in individual set pieces is teased out to an exquisite agony, and with no artificial boost from any background music. (The Coens' regular composer, Carter Burwell, gets credited for the exit music.) Certainly a personal touch, a personal sense of humor, comes into the local-color cameos of gas-station attendant, motel clerk, hotel clerk, trailer-park manager, etc., etc. And perhaps a somewhat unseemly humor, or at least unseemly delight, comes into the characterization of the psychopathic killer, with his robotic delivery of

MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; SOUTH BAY DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Fool's Gold — Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson fight to out-cute one another, 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 brutality is truly brutal; none of the humor is humorous. With Donald Sutherland, Ray Winstone, Alexis Dziena, Ewen Bremner, and Kevin Hart; directed by Andy Tennant. 2008.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION

VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 2/8)

I Am Legend — The third screen treatment of Richard Matheson's post-apocalyptic vampire tale is the first to retain the original title (cf. *The Last Man on Earth* and *The Omega Man*), and the first to bring to it the total commitment of top dollar, most helpful in creating a weed-overgrown New York City. It also brings to it some very wet sentimentality, with Will Smith having a hard time shouldering the burdens of being

a Renaissance man amid a population of nocturnal zombies: he's a brilliant scientist, a hardbodied soldier, a tender dog lover, a Bob Marley aficionado, a *Shrek* memorizer, and so on. The situation nevertheless keeps a good grip until the fortuitous appearance of a second (and third) human being, after which the grip loosens. With Alice Braga, Charlie Tahan, and briefly an uncredited Emma Thompson; directed by Francis Lawrence. 2007.

★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24)

In Bruges — Reviewed this issue. With Colin Farrell, Brendan Gleeson, Ralph Fiennes, and Clémence Poésy; written and directed by Martin McDonagh.
● (HILLCREST CINEMAS, FROM 2/7)

MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Bargain showtimes are in parentheses.

CENTRAL

CLAIREMONT

Town Square 14

4665 Clairemont Drive (858-274-1234)
Call theater for program information

DOWNTOWN

Gaslamp 15

701 Fifth Avenue (619-232-0400)
The Bucket List (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:30, 2:45) 5:00, 7:20, 9:35; **Enchanted** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 2:20) 4:45, 7:10, 9:25; **First Sunday** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 2:20) 4:40, 7:05, 9:20; **Fool's Gold** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:05, 1:30, 2:35) 4:05, 5:05, 6:35, 7:35, 9:05, 10:05; **Into the Wild** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:35, 3:45) 7:00, 10:10; **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (1:35, 3:35) 5:40, 7:50, 9:55; **Over Her Dead Body** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:25, 2:40) 4:55, 7:15, 9:30; **Rambo** (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:10, 3:30) 5:50, 8:05, 10:20; **Strange Wilderness** (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:40, 3:40) 5:45, 7:55, 10:00; **There Will Be Blood** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:50, 1:25, 3:10) 4:50, 6:30, 8:10, 9:50; **Vince Vaughn's Wild West Comedy Show: 30 Days & 30 Nights - From Hollywood to the Heartland** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:55, 3:05) 5:15, 7:25, 9:40; **Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:55, 1:30, 2:30) 4:05, 5:05, 6:40, 7:40, 9:15, 10:15

Horton Plaza 14

Horton Plaza (619-444-FILM)
Call theater for program information

LA JOLLA

La Jolla 12

8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (858-558-2262)
The Bucket List (PG-13) Fri. 12:35, 2:50, 5:15, 7:45, 10:20 Sat.-Sun. (10:20) 12:35, 2:50, 5:15, 7:45, 10:20; **Cassandra's Dream** (PG-13) Fri. 1:15, 4:10, 7:10, 9:50 Sat. (11:30) 1:55, 4:35, 7:10, 9:50 Sun. 5:30, 7:55, 10:30; **Charlie Wilson's War** (R) Fri. 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40 Sat. (11:10) 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40 Sun. 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40; **Cloverfield** (PG-13) Fri. 12:20, 2:30, 4:45, 7:05, 9:30 Sat.-Sun. (10:15) 12:20, 2:30, 4:45, 7:05; **Fool's Gold** (PG-13) Fri. 12:15, 2:55, 5:25, 8:05, 10:45 Sat.-Sun. (10:10) 12:25, 2:55, 5:25, 8:05, 10:45; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri. 12:50, 3:15, 5:50, 8:25, 10:50 Sat.-Sun. (10:35) 12:50, 3:15, 5:50, 8:25, 10:50; **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG) Fri. 1:35, 4:30, 7:35, 10:35 Sat. (10:45) 1:35, 4:30 Sun. 1:35, 4:30; **Over Her Dead Body** (PG-13) Fri. 12:55, 3:10, 5:30, 7:55, 10:30 Sat. (10:30) 12:55, 3:10, 5:30, 7:55, 10:30 Sun. 12:55, 3:10; **Rambo** (R) Fri. 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:25, 9:55 Sat. (11:00) 1:20, 7:35, 10:00 Sun. 7:35, 10:00; **The Orphanage** (El Orfanato) (R) Fri. 12:40, 3:05, 5:35, 8:00, 10:25 Sat.-Sun. 9:30p.m.; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri. 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:10 Sat.-Sun. (11:20) 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:10; **Untraceable** (R) Fri. 1:05, 3:25, 5:45, 8:15, 10:40 Sat.-Sun. (10:50) 1:05, 3:25, 5:45, 8:15, 10:40

La Jolla Village

8879 Villa La Jolla Drive (619-819-0236)
Atonement (R) Fri. 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55 Sat.-Sun. 11:05, 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55; **The Kite Runner** (PG-13) Fri. 4:15, 9:45 Sat.-Sun. 10:55, 4:15, 9:45; **No Country for Old Men** (R) Fri. 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 10:05 Sat.-Sun. 11:15, 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 10:05; **The Savages** (R) Fri.-Sun. 1:30, 7:00; **There Will Be Blood** (R) Fri. 2:00, 5:15, 8:30 Sat.-Sun. 10:45, 2:00, 5:15, 8:30

MIRA MESA

Mira Mesa 18

10733 Westview Parkway (858-635-7700)
Call theater for program information

MISSION VALLEY

Fashion Valley 18

7037 Friars Road (858-558-2262)
Call theater for program information

Mission Valley 7

7510 Hazard Center Drive (619-685-2841)
Atonement (R) Fri.-Sat. (10:30, 1:15) 4:15, 7:15, 10:15 Sun. (10:30, 1:15) 4:15, 7:15; **The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 7:30, 10:00 Sun. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 7:30; **Fool's Gold** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00; **Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert Disney Digital 3D** (G) Fri.-Sat. 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00 Sun. 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00; **Michael Clayton** (R) Fri. (11:15, 2:15) 5:00, 7:45, 10:45 Sat. (2:15p.m.); **There Will Be Blood** (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:30, 3:30) 7:00, 10:30 Sun. (11:30, 3:30) 7:00; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri. (10:15, 12:45,

3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45 Sat. (12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45 Sun. (12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15

Mission Valley 20

1640 Camino Del Rio North (858-558-2262)
Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert Disney Digital 3D (G) Fri.-Sun. 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
Call theater for program information

STATE UNIVERSITY

Ken

4061 Adams Avenue (619-819-0236)
Taxi to the Dark Side (R) Fri. 4:30, 7:00, 9:30 Sat.-Sun. 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

UPTOWN

Hillcrest Cinemas

3965 Fifth Avenue (619-819-0236)
In Bruges (R) Fri. 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00 Sat.-Sun. 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri. 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10 Sat.-Sun. 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10; **No Country for Old Men** (R) Fri. 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40 Sat.-Sun. 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40; **Persepolis** (PG-13) Fri. 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15 Sat.-Sun. 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15; **The Diving Bell and the Butterfly** (PG-13) Fri. 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50 Sat.-Sun. 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50

Museum of Photographic Arts

1649 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-7559)
Call theater for program information

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center

1875 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-1233)
Alaska: Spirit of the Wild (Not Rated) Fri. 7:00p.m.; **Dinosaurs Alive!** (NR) Fri.-Sun. 1:00, 5:00; **The Living Sea** (Not Rated) Fri. 3:00, 9:00 Sat. 11:00, 3:00, 7:00 Sun. 11:00, 3:00; **Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure** (No Rating) Fri. 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 8:00 Sat. 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00 Sun. 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00; **Wolves** (Not Rated) Fri. 6:00p.m.

San Diego Natural History Museum

1788 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-232-3821)
Ocean Oasis (Not Rated) Fri.-Sun. 12:00, 2:00, 4:00; **Planet Earth: Mountains** (NR) Fri.-Sun. 11:00, 1:00, 3:00

EAST COUNTY

EL CAJON

Parkway Plaza 18

405 Parkway Plaza (619-401-3456)
Call theater for program information

LA MESA

Grossmont Center

Grossmont Center (619-465-7100)
Atonement (R) Fri.-Sat. (12:40, 3:50) 7:00, 9:45 Sun. (12:40, 3:50) 7:00, 9:40; **The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:20, 2:40) 5:00, 7:15, 9:35 Sun. (12:20, 2:40) 5:00, 7:15, 9:30; **Cloverfield** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (3:00) 9:55 Sun. (3:00) 9:50; **Fool's Gold** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:10, 2:45) 5:20, 8:00, 10:40 Sun. (12:10, 2:45) 5:20, 7:55, 10:25; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:00, 2:20) 4:40, 7:05, 9:25 Sun. (12:00, 2:20) 4:40, 7:05, 9:20; **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (1:30, 3:35) 5:55, 8:20, 10:30 Sun. (1:30, 3:35) 5:55, 8:10, 10:15; **Over Her Dead Body** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:35) 5:10, 7:35; **Rambo** (R) Fri.-Sat. (12:45, 3:10) 5:30, 7:50, 10:05 Sun. (12:45, 3:10) 5:30, 7:50, 10:00; **There Will Be Blood** (R) Fri.-Sat. (1:20) 4:50, 8:25 Sun. (1:20) 4:50, 8:15; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:05, 2:35) 5:05, 7:45, 10:10 Sun. (12:05, 2:35) 5:05, 7:45, 10:05; **Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (1:35) 4:30, 7:25, 10:20 Sun. (1:35) 4:30, 7:25, 10:10

RANCHO SAN DIEGO

Rancho San Diego 15

2951 Jamacha Road
Call theater for program information

SANTEE

Santee Drive In

10990 Woodside Avenue (619-448-7447)
The Bucket List (PG-13) Fri.-Sun.; **Cloverfield** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun.; **Fool's Gold** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun.; **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun.

SOUTH BAY

CHULA VISTA

Chula Vista 10

Broadway between H and I (619-338-4214)
Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 1:30) 6:15; **Cloverfield** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (3:45) 8:30, 10:45; **The Eye** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:30, 1:00, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45;

Fool's Gold (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30; **Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert Disney Digital 3D** (G) Fri.-Sun. 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00; **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:45, 12:45, 2:45) 5:00, 7:30, 9:45; **Over Her Dead Body** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:15, 1:45) 4:30, 7:00, 9:15; **Rambo** (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:15, 12:45, 3:00) 5:15, 7:45, 10:15; **There Will Be Blood** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:15, 3:30) 7:00, 10:30; **Untraceable** (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:30, 1:00, 3:30) 6:00, 8:30, 10:45; **Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:15, 1:15) 4:15, 7:15, 10:15

Otay Ranch 12

Eastlake Parkway at Olympic (858-558-2262)
The Bucket List (PG-13); **Cloverfield** (PG-13); **The Eye** (PG-13); **Fool's Gold** (PG-13); **Juno** (PG-13); **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13); **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG); **Over Her Dead Body** (PG-13); **Rambo** (R); **Strange Wilderness** (R); **There Will Be Blood** (R); **27 Dresses** (PG-13); **Untraceable** (R); **Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins** (PG-13)

Palm Promenade 24

770 Denney Road (858-558-2262)
Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG); **Atonement** (R); **The Bucket List** (PG-13); **Juno** (PG-13); **Cloverfield** (PG-13); **The Eye** (PG-13); **First Sunday** (PG-13); **Fool's Gold** (PG-13); **Hannah Montana/Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert Tour** (G); **I Am Legend** (No Rating); **Juno** (PG-13); **Mad Money** (PG-13); **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13); **Michael Clayton** (R); **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG); **No Country for Old Men** (R); **The Orphanage** (R); **Over Her Dead Body** (PG-13); **Rambo** (R); **Strange Wilderness** (R); **There Will Be Blood** (R); **27 Dresses** (PG-13); **Untraceable** (R); **Vince Vaughn's Wild West Comedy Show** (R); **The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep** (PG); **Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins** (PG-13)

Rancho Del Rey 16

East H Street (619-216-4707)
Fool's Gold (PG-13) Fri. (12:00, 2:40, 5:20) 8:00, 10:40
Call theater for program information

IMPERIAL BEACH

South Bay Drive-In

2170 Coronado Avenue (619-423-2727)
Call theater for program information

NORTH INLAND

CARMEL MOUNTAIN

Carmel Mountain

11620 Carmel Mountain Road (858-674-9770)
Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG) Fri.-Sat. (12:40, 3:00) 5:15, 7:35 Sun. (12:40, 3:00) 5:15; **The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:50, 3:10) 5:30, 7:45, 9:55 Sun. (12:50, 3:10) 5:30, 7:45; **Cloverfield** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. 7:15, 9:30 Sun. 7:15p.m.; **The Eye** (PG-13) Fri. (12:35, 2:55) 5:25, 7:40, 10:00 Sat. (12:35, 2:55) 5:20, 7:40, 10:00 Sun. (12:35, 2:55) 5:25, 7:40; **Fool's Gold** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:05, 2:35) 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 Sun. (12:05, 2:35) 5:00, 7:30; **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:25, 2:40) 4:45, 7:05, 9:30 Sun. (12:25, 2:40) 4:45, 7:05; **Michael Clayton** (R) Fri.-Sat. (12:00, 2:30) 5:00, 7:30, 10:05 Sun. (12:00, 2:30) 5:00, 7:30; **Over Her Dead Body** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. 9:55p.m. Sun. 7:35p.m.; **Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie** (G) Fri.-Sun. (12:20, 2:40) 4:50; **Rambo** (R) Fri. (12:45, 3:05) 5:20, 7:50, 10:05 Sat. (12:45, 3:05) 5:25, 7:50, 10:05 Sun. (12:45, 3:05) 5:20, 7:50; **There Will Be Blood** (R) Fri.-Sat. (12:00, 3:15) 6:30, 9:45 Sun. (12:00, 3:15) 6:30; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:15, 2:30) 4:55, 7:25, 9:50 Sun. (12:15, 2:30) 4:55, 7:25; **Vince Vaughn's Wild West Comedy Show: 30 Days & 30 Nights - From Hollywood to the Heartland** (R) Fri.-Sat. (12:30, 2:45) 5:05, 7:20, 9:40 Sun. (12:30, 2:45) 5:05, 7:20; **Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (12:10) 4:30, 7:00, 9:35 Sun. (12:10) 4:30, 7:00

ESCONDIDO

Escondido 16

350 W. Valley Parkway (760-291-0119)
Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:50, 3:55); **Atonement** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:25) 6:55; **The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:15, 2:55) 6:40, 9:40; **Cloverfield** (PG-13) Fri. (1:00, 4:30) 8:00, 10:45 Sat.-Sun. (1:00) 4:30, 8:00, 10:45; **The Eye** (PG-13) Fri. (12:55, 4:10) 7:20, 10:20 Sat.-Sun. (12:55) 4:10, 7:20, 10:20; **Fool's Gold** (PG-13) Fri. (12:05, 1:40, 3:20, 5:00) 7:05, 7:45, 9:50, 10:30 Sat.-Sun. (12:05, 1:40, 3:20) 5:00, 7:05, 7:45, 9:50, 10:30; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:20, 3:10)

7:15, 9:45; **Mad Money** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 10:05p.m.; **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:45, 3:00) 7:30, 9:55; **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:35, 3:40) 6:45; **No Country for Old Men** (R) Fri.-Sun. 6:35, 9:30; **Over Her Dead Body** (PG-13) Fri. (1:05, 4:50) 7:35, 10:10 Sat.-Sun. (1:05) 4:50, 7:35, 10:10; **Rambo** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:10, 2:40) 7:50, 10:40; **Strange Wilderness** (R) Fri. (4:20) 10:00 Sat.-Sun. (4:20) 10:00; **There Will Be Blood** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 3:30) 7:00, 10:25; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:40, 3:50) 6:50, 9:35; **Untraceable** (R) Fri. (1:10, 4:40) 7:55, 10:35 Sat.-Sun. (1:10) 4:40, 7:55, 10:35; **Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:30, 3:35) 7:25, 10:15

FALLBROOK

River Village

5256 S. Mission Road (760-945-8784)
Atonement (R); **The Bucket List** (PG-13); **Fool's Gold** (PG-13); **No Country for Old Men** (R); **Over Her Dead Body** (PG-13); **Rambo** (R); **There Will Be Blood** (R)

POWAY

Poway 10

13475 Poway Road (858-646-9423)
The Bucket List (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 7:45, 10:15 Sun. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 7:45; **Fool's Gold** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00; **Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert Disney Digital 3D** (G) Fri.-Sat. 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00 Sun. 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:30, 1:45) 4:15, 7:00, 9:45 Sun. (11:30, 1:45) 4:15, 7:00; **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:15, 12:15, 2:30) 4:45, 7:15, 9:30 Sun. (10:15, 12:15, 2:30) 4:45, 7:15; **Over Her Dead Body** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:45, 1:00, 3:15) 5:30, 7:45, 10:15 Sun. (10:45, 1:00, 3:15) 5:30, 7:45; **Rambo** (R) Fri. (11:00, 1:15, 3:45) 6:15, 8:30, 10:45 Sat. (1:15, 3:45) 6:15, 8:30, 10:45 Sun. (1:15, 3:45) 6:15, 8:30; **There Will Be Blood** (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:45, 3:30) 7:00, 10:30 Sun. (11:45, 3:30) 7:00; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15; **Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:30, 1:30) 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 Sun. (10:30, 1:30) 4:30, 7:30

SAN MARCOS

San Marcos 18

1180 West San Marcos Boulevard at Old California Walk (760-471-3711)
Call theater for program information

VISTA

Vista Village

Highway 78 at Vista Village Drive (760-945-7469)
The Bucket List (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:35, 2:10, 4:35) 7:05, 9:30; **Cloverfield** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:30, 5:05) 9:35; **The Eye** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:30, 3:00, 5:25) 7:45, 10:10; **Fool's Gold** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 11:40, 1:40, 2:20, 4:20, 5:00) 7:10, 7:50, 9:50, 10

SANDIEGOREADER.COM

Calendar

MOVIES

lines, his torturous banter, his gimmicky weapon (a compressed-air tank for blowing locks out of doors and blowing holes in heads), and above all his Engelbert Humperdinck haircut *circa* 1972 (hair humor always being big with the Coens). Tommy Lee Jones, Javier Bardem, Josh Brolin, Kelly Macdonald, Woody Harrelson. 2007.

★★★★ (FLOWER HILL 4; HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MIRA MESA 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; PALM PROMENADE 24; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6)

The Orphanage— Spanish ghost story that strives at all times to stay within arm’s reach of ambiguity — real ghosts or overheated imagination? — in the mold of the Henry James prototype, *The Turn of the Screw*, or at any rate in the mold of the academic squabbles over it. James may have set out to write a straightforward ghost story, but was, bless his unsullied soul, incapable of it. Director J.A. Bayona is no James, nor is he even a Jack Clayton, the judicious filmmaker who turned *The Turn...* into *The Innocents* on screen. The basic situation without doubt seems primed for “resonance,” and the lead actress, Belén Rueda, seems primed almost for spontaneous combustion. An adopted orphan returns to the palatial orphanage thirty years later, with plans to reopen it, and with an adopted, HIV-positive orphan of her own. The boy, already inclined towards imaginary playmates, appears to have made contact with the ghosts of half a dozen children still hanging about the place, and soon goes missing. His mother then goes bananas. Bayona’s tightwire act of trying to walk a line of psychological subtlety while also trying to keep genre addicts on the hook tends to make the obligatory jolts feel all the more forced and factitious: the premonitory music, the startling noises, the creaking hinges, the magnified eyes of the prune-faced old lady behind her coke-bottle lenses, the fingers slammed in the bathroom door and the backward jackknife into the tub, the plowed-over pedestrian and the gruesome makeup on the carcass. Through all that, we are apt to remain, in common with the rational husband and police-woman, unconvinced and unmoved. Ambiguity will have that effect. The climax, when the heroine is at last left alone in the house, nevertheless crams in two or three good shivers, but it goes on three or four steps too far. Fernando Cayo, Roger Príncipe, Geraldine Chaplin. 2007.

★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA 12; PALM PROMENADE 24)

Over Her Dead Body — Reviewed this issue. With Eva Longoria Parker, Paul Rudd, Lake Bell, and Jason Biggs; written

and directed by Jeff Lowell.

★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Persepolis — Cartoon recap of the comic-strip memoir by Marjane Satrapi, covering her childhood in Iran under (and then out from under) the Shah, her adolescence in Austria to escape the strictures of the Islamic Revolution, her return to her homeland as a depressed and medicated young woman, then a bride, then a divorcee, and her ultimate exile in France, stretching from the late Seventies, to put dates on it, to the early Nineties. The animation is not all that animated. With stiff movement, a flat visual field, and a black-and-white palette (but for the lightly colored framing scenes in the present tense), it is the furthest thing from the limitless taffypull of contemporary computer animation. It is in fact quite deliberately reactionary, a return to “nature” if you will, a homespun product of the human hand, staying as close as possible (notwithstanding some decorative embellishment here and there) to the naive style of the original drawings. And since Satrapi herself is credited as codirector along with a fellow comic artist, Vincent Paronnaud, we can be sure the result has her stamp of approval. The general effect, overriding any risk of trivialization, is something in the vicinity of the Brechtian “alienation effect,” something distancing, something cushioning, so that we experience such painful subjects as political oppression, imprisonment, torture, execution, etc., less viscerally and (for all the outward resemblance to a Saturday-morning TV kiddie cartoon) more cerebrally. That’s not to say the film goes in for in-depth analysis of Middle Eastern modern history. It goes at these subjects strictly from the point of view of a growing girl trying to make sense of them, and the emphasis gradually and eventually shifts to the individual. If she started out to bear witness to the events of her time, she wound up in the long run a witness primarily to the witness. And she delivers her unblushingly personal testimony with candor, with humor, with self-deprecation, and with aesthetic distance — a distance commensurate to that provided by the primitive animation. Whatever mixed feelings we might have about that animation, they fall away as it becomes merely a serviceable vehicle, frugal and no frills, to convey the unhackneyed story. A useful medium, plain and simple. With the voices of Chiara Mastroianni, Catherine Deneuve, Danielle Darrieux, Simon Abkarian, and Gabrielle Lopes. 2007.

★★★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

Rambo — As if to concede his depletion of ideas, Sylvester Stallone, star and director,

has not troubled to think up a new title for the resuscitation, after twenty years’ slumber, of his embittered Vietnam vet (“Fuck the world”), settling for the title of the second film in the series, minus its little-used subtitle: *First Blood Part II*. He could have taken a cue from his recent *Rocky Balboa* and given it the full name of *John Rambo*, or taken the usual route to *Rambo IV* or *Rambo: First Blood Part IV* or perhaps *Rambo: Fourth Blood*. But no. (“Fuck the world.”) Not much thought of any sort seems to have gone into it, and yet Rambo/Stallone knows without need of thought that books and medicines aren’t going to “change anything” in the war zone of Burma, and if you want to extract some misguided American missionaries from the clutches of the kill-crazy militia, in under ninety minutes, no limit on casualties — well, he’s your man. Without need, either, of 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 Julie Benz, Matthew Marsden, Graham McTavish, Paul Schulze. 2008.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

The Savages — Philip Seymour Hoffman in the male lead, blond and bearded, as a Buffalo drama professor at work on a tome on Bertolt Brecht. And Laura Linney in the larger female lead, brunette and bedraggled, as an unproduced dramatist at work on a “subversive, semi-autobiographical play” (as she describes it in her grant applications) inspired by the works of Jean Genet, Eugene O’Neill, and cartoonist Lynda Barry. They are brother and sister, forced into the same yoke to deal with their demented father (Philip Bosco) after his Sun City “girlfriend” of twenty years kicks the bucket and her family kicks him out. These are big performances in a small film made up of small moments, a life-is-messy comedy of small (but not few) laughs. Writer and director Tamara Jenkins, not heard from since her (subversive, semi-autobiographical) *Slums of Beverly Hills*, seeks the universal in the individual — the particulars, the peculiarities, the normal abnormalities (the lachrymosity of Hoffman, the mendacity of Linney) — which is the right way to go about it. The peculiarities needn’t have been so artsy-fartsily peculiar. With Peter Friedman and Cara Seymour. 2007.

★★ (HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street — The Grand-Guignol

Broadway musical (words and music by Stephen Sondheim), Tim Burtonized for Hollywood. Which means, among other things (such as less music), a ton-of-bricks production design, an ashen color scheme sometimes edging up to the border of black-and-white (excluding the rivers, lakes, geysers of rich red blood), and the *de rigueur* Johnny Depp, showing off a diffident singing voice, as a frightfully frigid avenger, chilling in quite the wrong way. (Whoever said revenge is a dish best served cold can’t have meant straight from the freezer.) Helena Bonham Carter, Alan Rickman, and Timothy Spall are likewise not singers. 2007.

★ (HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION VALLEY 20)

Taxi to the Dark Side — Documentarist Alex Gibney, director, writer, and narrator, takes as his starting point the death of an Afghan cab driver in U.S. detention at Bagram 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 uncensored) and Guantanamo, and at no point along the way do we get any idea that the Americans have ever once incarcerated a certifiable terrorist in these places or extracted through interrogation an iota of useful information. Canned clips of Bush, Cheney, and Co., fan the flames of outrage. The filmmaker’s late father, an old-school Naval interrogator in WWII, appears on screen in the closing credits. 2007.

★ (KEN, 2/8 THROUGH 14)

There Will Be Blood — Based loosely, so they say, on *Oil!*, a muckraking, boat-rocking, banned-in-Boston novel by Upton Sinclair (a writer partial to exclamation points in his titles), this is a kind of anti-epic, an anti-*Giant*, about a miserly, misanthropic, nothing short of murderous American oil man in the first decades of the last century: warped beyond recognition as an exemplar of the enterprising capitalist. (The accompanying music credited to Jonny Greenwood of the British rock group Radiohead, edgy, skittery, dissonant, helps set the tone: not music to Build an Empire By, such as a Dimitri Tiomkin or a Max Steiner might have composed, but instead music to Squirrel Away Nuts for the Winter By.) The hard dirty work, at the outset, of digging a well all by his lonesome is vividly and wordlessly captured by writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson, yet it’s hardly adequate to explain or excuse the character’s subsequent aberrance, and his particular animus towards a hayseed faith healer (the initially very young and insufficiently aging Paul Dano), each of whom has his own inflexible reasons for not deferring to the other: the Self-Made Man versus the Man of God. Daniel Day-Lewis, ever the risk-taker, even if the risk (immurement in Victorian melodrama) is much the same as in *Gangs of New York*, makes of the protagonist a real and repellantly compelling figure when he’s not breaking the spell with his John Huston rollercoaster cadences. (Why would this de-

praved money-grubber, we keep asking ourselves, be impersonating the director of *The Maltese Falcon*, *Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, whatever?) But two and a half hours, if all we’re going to do is gape, are a long time to spend in the company of such a man, a good hour or more too long. There will, as promised, be blood, though not any time soon, and never all that much. Kevin O’Connor, Ciarán Hinds. 2007.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18)

27 Dresses — Girly fairy tale to do with the proverbial always-a-bridesmaid, twenty-seven times by actual count, with a closetful of once-worn gowns to prove it, who stands mutely by as her slutty younger sister returns home and steals her dreamy boss right out from under her nose. Screenwriter Aline Brosh McKenna and director Anne Fletcher unprotestingly accept all the romantic-comic conventions, the contrivances, the clichés, and tidy them into shape as if with a nail file and vial of varnish. Katherine Heigl, blandly beautiful whenever her face-crumpling fierceness isn’t spoiling the effect, 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 blahs at bay. James Marsden, Malin Akerman, Edward Burns, Judy Greer. 2008.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Untraceable — The filmmakers (director Gregory Hoblit, a trio of scriptwriters) wish to “comment” on the ghoulish appetite of the American public while simultaneously feeding it. They have set up a demonic, taunting, diabolically clever (etc.) serial killer in a Portland basement, from where his tortures and murders are “streamed live” over the Internet, the victim’s demise hastened by every “log-on.” (There’s a great deal of indigestible computerese.) An ugly spectacle all around, not least in the blood-draining cinematography. Diane Lane, as a cyber-crimefighter with the FBI, takes three showers in the course of the movie, but doesn’t come out clean. Billy Burke, Colin Hanks, Joseph Cross. 2008.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Vince Vaughn’s Wild West Comedy Show: 30 Days and 30 Nights, Hollywood to the Heartland — Reviewed this issue. With Ahmed Ahmed, John Caparulo, Bret Ernst, Sebastian Maniscalco, and Vince Vaughn; directed by Ari Sandel.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; FROM 2/8)

Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins — Malcolm D. Lee’s comedy about an L.A. radio personality (Martin Lawrence) who returns to his Deep South roots.

(CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; FROM 2/8)

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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.

REVIEW JEFF SMITH

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. Dis-

illusioned 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 multifaceted 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 crooked 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



Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson, Antonio T.J. Johnson in *Fences*

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, Madeline 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.

insight: Troy reaches for a bat and swings it smoothly: the ex-jock's equivalent of a calming mantra.

Productions of *Fences* showcase Troy. James

Earl Jones in the original and Lawrence Fishburne in L.A. played him as a star vehicle: *Othello* catching for the Homestead Grays/Pittsburg Crawfords. Director Delicia Turner Sonnenberg, honored

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Calendar THEATER

last year by the San Diego Critics' Circle for her visionary approach to theater, has taken a much more rewarding tack: in the Cygnet production, Troy is a big, revolving planet, a Jupiter; his loving, long-suffering wife Rose is the sun.

She is his center and, when she runs interference for him, his circumference. "I've been standing in the same place for 18 years," Rose reminds Troy at one point, "I've been standing with you." And when he crosses a line, she nails him with "You always talking about what you give...But you take too. You take...and don't even know nobody's giving." Rose binds Troy's "yes" and "but" qualities. In the end, when his "sins" begin to dominate, she resurrects the positives.

Back in the mid-Eighties, Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson gave one of my all-time favorite San Diego performances as Lena, in the Floyd Gaffney-directed *Boseman and Lena* at the Educational Cultural Complex. In the mud of nowhere, Lena makes a simple, for her heroic, self-assertion. Thompson's Rose ranks with Lena. *Fences* has nine scenes — or innings. By the bottom of the ninth, Thompson has evolved from batting in the pitcher's spot to cleanup. She laces Rose with humor and a free physicality (enhanced by Veronica Murphy's excellent costumes). In the end, Thompson becomes molten, as 18 years of support/enabling explode. Where Troy crossed the line, Rose erects an emotional fence.

The leads deliver all the goods, but so does everyone else on Mike Buckley's brick-walled, sturdy front porch set, dappled by Eric Lotze. As Troy's sons, Laurence Michael Brown and Patrick Kelly keep suspended the question whether Lyons and Corey will inherit, as Rose worries, "the sins of the father." Grandison Phelps III, as Troy's buddy Bono, and young Madeline Hornbuckle, as Raynell, make valuable contributions.

August Wilson always weaves the sacred and profane,

myth and reality, through his plays. In *Fences*, Troy's brother Gabriel is a mentally challenged WWII vet, with a metal plate in his skull, and/or his angelic namesake. When Gabe says he's fighting "hellhounds," for example, who's to say he isn't? Mark Christopher Lawrence does a special turn as the horn-blower who, though he strikes out three times with his trumpet, ends up smashing the deepest home run of all. ■

THEATER LISTINGS

Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith. Information is accurate according to material given us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last-minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.

Anton in Show Business

6th at Penn Theatre presents Jane Martin's backstage comedy about an ill-fated production of Anton Chekhov's *The Three Sisters* that skewers every sacred cow in theater. Dale Morris directed. 6TH AT PENN THEATRE, 3704 SIXTH AVENUE, HILLCREST. THROUGH MARCH 2: THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M., 619-688-9210.

Death and Taxes

New Vision Theatre stages an audience participation murder mystery. The town council becomes the jury, but guess what? All the suspects're on the council. SUNSHINE BROOKS THEATRE, 217 NORTH COAST HIGHWAY, OCEANSIDE. THROUGH FEBRUARY 10: FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M., 760-529-9140.

Fences

Cygnet Theatre and the San Diego Black Ensemble present August Wilson's complex portrayal of Troy Maxson, a man fenced in and out. Delicia Turner Sonnenberg directed. CYGNET THEATRE COMPANY, 6663 EL CAJON BOULEVARD, SUITE N, COLLEGE AREA. THROUGH FEBRUARY 24: THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M., SUNDAYS, 7 P.M., TUESDAYS, 7:30 P.M., 619-337-1525.

Hello, Dolly!

Lamb's Players stages Jerry Herman and Michael Stewart's endearing musical about the irrepressible Dolly Levi, based on *The Match-*

maker by Thornton Wilder.

LAMB'S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 ORANGE AVENUE, CORONADO. THROUGH MARCH 16: FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 4 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M., TUESDAYS, 7:30 P.M., WEDNESDAYS, 7:30 P.M., 619-437-0600.

In This Corner

Steven Druckman's drama retells the relationship between Joe Louis and Max Schmeling, whom the press turned into ideological icons for their 1936 and 1938 Fights of the Century. But, the play insists more often than need be, they weren't: Schmeling detested Hitler, and Louis, once he stepped out of the ring, became yet another segregated African-American who couldn't have his picture taken with a white woman. The play retells Pygmalion. Louis becomes re-engineered out of words into a racist white's ideal black man. He can clobber opponents, but must never smile or gloat. When he leaves the ring for good, and the media can no longer exploit him, Louis nosesdives from celebrity like an Icarus. The world premiere script has crisp dialogue and flashes of sharp writing, but Louis and Schmeling exist more in theory, as verbal constructs meant to prove a point about verbal constructs, than in depth. And the ending (a tidy summation about winning losers with echoes of *Rocky III*) is weak. As if sensing that the text needs more grounding, director Ethan McSweeney has drenched the Cassius Carter with atmosphere and pugilistic detail. The stage is a boxing ring, a near-perfect fit, and although the play's about Main Event headliners, McSweeney and seven talented performers make it an engaging ensemble show, in spite of the script's lack of a knock-out punch.

Worth a try.

CASSIUS CARTER CENTER STAGE, SIMON EDISON CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. THROUGH FEBRUARY 10: THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 2 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M., SUNDAYS, 7 P.M., 619-234-5623.

National Comedy Theatre

Improvisational comedy, making up funny stuff on the spot, is difficult enough. Years ago, however, Keith Johnstone thought it'd be more exciting if gone competitively. He got the idea from pro wrestling ("where Terrible Turks mangled defrocked priests while grannies waved their handbags"). National Comedy Theatre, an offshoot of Johnstone's TheatreSports (artistic director Gary Kramer says the two compare like "rugby and American football"), resembles an athletic event more than an improve. Teams wear uniforms and compete on ActroTurf. Using suggestions from the audience, they play "Emotional Sympathy," "Blind Line," and "Freeze Tag," with judges awarding points to the best scenes. Klunkers and groaners get booed; quick wit rewarded (one of the most refreshing parts of the contest: people acknowledge failure, abundantly, then forget it). It makes for a lively, often funny evening. And Gary Kramer is one talented comedian.

Worth a try.

MARQUIS THEATER, 3717 INDIA STREET, MISSION HILLS. OPEN-ENDED RUN; FRIDAYS, 7:30 P.M., FRIDAYS, 9:45 P.M., SATURDAYS, 7:30 P.M., SATURDAYS, 9:45 P.M., 619-295-4999.

Oklahoma!

The Welk Resort Theatre stages Rodgers and Hammerstein's ageless musical about the opening of





String of Pearls

the Oklahoma territory and the blooming of love. WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DRIVE, ESCONDIDO. THROUGH APRIL 6; THURSDAYS, 1:45 P.M., THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 1:45 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., TUESDAYS, 1:45 P.M., WEDNESDAYS, 1:45 P.M., 888-802-7469.

Ordinary People
OnStage Playhouse presents Nancy Gilsenan’s dramatic adaptation of Judith Guest’s novel. The loss of an older brother may change Conrad Jarrett’s “ordinary” family entirely. Jay Mower directed. ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE, 291 THIRD AVENUE, CHULA VISTA. THROUGH FEBRUARY 9; THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., 619-422-7787.

Playwrights Project: Plays by Young Writers
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San Diego Theatresports: The Funhouse
A cross between improvisational comedy and *Family Feud*, The Funhouse combines improv with competitive scene-making, with the audience awarding points to the winning team. Purists might balk at the odiousness of comparisons used in this format, but the “game show,” on Fridays, is a kick. The 90-minute evening offers different bits. The winner gets a banana, the loser a “forfeit.” Some attempts went nowhere (improve is tough: I did it in my, as hindsight reveals, callow youth). Others made amazing twists and turns. The group has more hits than misses, and their guru, Keith Johnstone, wrote one of the very best books I’ve read about making theater. They put his pearls to good use. Their motto: “Remember, when it’s not funny, it’s art.” Worth a try. FUNHOUSE, 6822 EL CAJON BOULEVARD, COLLEGE AREA. OPEN-ENDED RUN; FRIDAYS, 7:45 P.M., SATURDAYS, 7:45 P.M., SATURDAYS, 9:45 P.M., 619-846-6978.

Sea of Tranquility
According to Howard Korder’s comedy-drama Santa Fe, New Mexico, has replaced California as the place, if not to find, heal, or reinvent oneself, then at least the site for major depressurization. Everyone - a Whitman’s sampler of various neurotics - has toxic underpinnings (even a house). Reactions to their burdens range from allergies to murder. A relocated family counselor (and demoted psychiatrist) wants to do good but — physician heal thyself - finds that his meddling magnifies peoples’ troubles. Korder raises some fundamental questions: Can people change? Are our emotions, as psychobiologists aver and antidepressants corroborate, just chemically induced? Are spells, curses, and charms for real? Korder’s written a funnier and much deeper play than the one currently at the Old Globe. As if reticent to face its implications, director Michael Bloom has staged *Tranquility* just this side of sitcom, his actors chipper-mannered and wavy-gestural and clinging to a “type.” The result is a consistently strange tone that, when in doubt, encourages easy laughs over

more upsetting matters. David Kay Mickelsen’s costumes run the New Age gambit. Scott Bradley’s set, a 70-year-old rough wooden plank house with cracking adobe walls, is a gem. And Robert Wierzel’s expert lighting has a creamy, high-desert feel. OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. THROUGH FEBRUARY 10; THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 2 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 7 P.M., 619-234-5623.

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.” Liz Sabicer directed. THEATRIX, 155 E GRAND AVENUE, ESCONDIDO. THROUGH FEBRUARY 17; FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M., 760-405-3212.

String of Pearls
A string of perfectly matched, rose pearls goes on a 35-year odyssey in Michelle Lowe’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 unidimensional and sprint by too fast. Unlike Lowe’s hip, funny *Smell 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 spare, appealing 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 subtexts, due in part to the thin script’s preference for hugging the surface. When given room to roam, however, the actors deliver some sharp portrayals: Kwana Martinez’s Beth, a lifelong innocent from whom the

pearls depart and return; Christy Yael’s exhausted Kyle, who needs a break from her mother’s Alzheimer’s; Jennifer Seifert’s Abby, who gets an unmentionable wish; and Crystal Sershen, who creates seven distinct characters, from a snoot to a 300-pound gravedigger. NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DRIVE, SOLANA BEACH. THROUGH FEBRUARY 10; THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M., SUNDAYS, 7 P.M., 858-481-1055.

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. Intrepid in the face of devastation, dance-hostess Charity Hope Valentine is more unsinkable than Molly Brown (to prove it, she almost drowns twice). The musical comes

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at a transitional point: the Sixties're beginning to cook with "The Rhythm of Life," yet Charity keeps falling for repressed gents from the Fifties. No problem. She is her middle name and will remain "hopefully ever after." Instead of Fosse's pyrotechnics, the performers at Coronado barely reached the house seats. No one projected until Act two, and the band was almost hushed, toning way down such Cy Coleman belters as "Big Spender" and "If My Friends Could See Me Now." As Charity, Andria Elam had a winning rapport with the audience, but sang quietly, as if to herself. Some exceptions: dressed like, and as elastic as, Sly Stone, Mitchell Hills filled the theater with "The Rhythm of Life"; as Helene and Nickie, Charity's jaded co-workers, Katie Belcher and Jeri Harms laced their songs with much-needed attitude. CORONADO PLAYHOUSE, 1835 STRAND WAY, CORONADO. THROUGH FEBRUARY 17; THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M., 619-435-4856.



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(619) 235-6135 www.centroraza.com

Christian Community Theater
1545 Pioneer Way, El Cajon
(619) 588-0206 www.expacive.com

Civic Theatre
3rd & B, Downtown
(888) 570-1100 www.sdcomic.org

Clairemont Community Players
Holmes Elementary
4902 Mt. Ararat, Clairemont
(888) 560-5114

Community Actors Theatre
2957 54th St., State College
(619) 264-3391
www.communityactors theatre.com

Copley Symphony Hall
750 B St., Downtown
(619) 235-0804
www.sandiegosymphony.com

Coronado Playhouse
1835 Strand Way, Coronado
(619) 435-4856
www.coronadoplayhouse.com

Cygnat Theatre Company
6663 El Cajon Blvd., Ste. N, College Area
(619) 337-1525 www.cygnattheatre.com

Diversionary Theatre
4545 Park Blvd., Normal Heights
(619) 220-0097 www.diversionary.org

East County Performing Arts Center
210 E. Main St., El Cajon
(619) 440-2277 www.ecpac.com

Educational Cultural Complex Theater
4343 Ocean View Blvd., Southeast
(619) 527-5256

Eveoke Dance Theatre
644 7th Ave., Downtown
(619) 238-1153 www.eveoke.org

The Fault Line Theatre
3152 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest
(619) 692-3382 www.faultlineprod.com

Fern Street Circus
(619) 235-9756 www.fernstreetcircus.org

The Fritz Theatre
(619) 233-7505 www.fritztheatre.com

Grossmont College
Stagehouse Theatre, El Cajon
(619) 644-7234
http://grossmont.gcccd.cc.ca.us/

The Hispanic Arts Theatre Of San Diego
(619) 475-7496

H.I.T. Productions Dinner Theater
Shirley's Kitchen, 7868 El Cajon Blvd.
La Mesa (619) 561-8673
(619) 561-8673 www.dinnertheater.net

Horton Grand Theatre
444 Fourth Ave., Downtown
(619) 234-9583

Inner Mission Productions
(619) 245-4958
www.innermissionproductions.org

Ion Theatre
(619) 374-6894 www.iontheatre.com

Iris Theater
4580-B Alvarado Canyon Rd.
(619) 271-4144 www.iristheater.org

Laguna Playhouse
606 Laguna Canyon Rd., Laguna Beach
(949) 497-2787

La Jolla Playhouse
Mandell Weiss Center, UCSD
(858) 550-1010
www.lajollaplayhouse.org

La Jolla Stage Company
7887 Herschel Ave.
(858) 459-7773
www.thelajollastageco.org

Lamb's Players Theatre
Paul and Ione Harter Stage
1142 Orange Ave., Coronado
(619) 437-0600 www.lambplayers.org

Lamplighters Community Theatre
8053 University Ave., La Mesa
(619) 464-4598
www.lamplighterstheatre.org

Lyric Opera San Diego
Stephen & Mary Birch
North Park Theatre
2891 University Ave.
(619) 239-8836
www.lyricoperasandiego.org

Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theater
Balboa Park
(619) 685-5990

Mesa College Theatre Company
7250 Mesa College Dr., Clairemont
(858) 627-2621

MiraCosta College Theatre
One Barnard Dr., Oceanside
(760) 795-6815 www.miracosta.edu

Mira Mesa Theatre Guild
(858) 693-7328

Moonlight Stage Productions
651 E. Vista Way Vista
(760) 724-2110
www.moonlightstage.com

The Muse Theatre
(619) 239-2894
www.themusetheatre.com

Mystery Cafe
The Imperial House Restaurant
505 Kalmia St., Hillcrest
(619) 544-1664 www.mysterycafe.net

National Comedy Theatre
3717 India St., Mission Hills
(619) 295-4999
www.nationalcomedy.com

New Village Arts Theatre
2787 B State St., Carlsbad
(760) 433-3245 www.NewVillageArts.org

North Coast Repertory Theatre
987-D Lomas Santa Fe Dr., Solana Beach
(858) 481-1055 www.northcoastrep.org

North Park Vaudeville
2031 El Cajon Blvd., North Park
(619) 647-4958

The Old Globe Theatre
Cassius Carter Centre Stage
Lowell Davies Festival Theatre, Balboa Park
(619) 23-GLOBE (234-5623)
www.oldglobe.org

Onstage Playhouse
291 Third Ave., Chula Vista
(619) 422-7787 www.onstage.itgo.com

Palomar College Theatre
1140 W. Mission Rd., San Marcos
(760) 744-1150 x2453 www.palomar.edu

Patio Playhouse
201 E. Grand Ave., Escondido
(760) 746-6669 www.patioplayhouse.com

Pine Hills Lodge
2960 La Posada Way, Julian
(760) 765-1100 www.pinehillslodge.com

Point Loma Nazarene University
Salomon Theatre
3900 Lomaland Dr., Point Loma
(619) 849-2433 www.ptloma.edu

Poway Center For The Performing Arts
15498 Espola Rd., Poway
(858) 748-0505 www.powayarts.org

PowPAC, Poway's Community Theater
13250 Poway Rd., Poway
(858) 679-8085 www.powpac.org

Ramona MainStage Theatre
626 Main St., Ramona
(760) 789-7008

The Rehearsal Room
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(619) 589-9963

San Diego Actors Theatre
P O Box 880285 92168
(858) 268-4494 www.sdactorstheatre.net

San Diego City College Theater
15th and C Streets, Downtown
(619) 230-2676 www.sdcity.edu

San Diego Junior Theatre
Casa Del Prado Theatre, Balboa Park
(619) 239-8355 www.juniortheatre.com

San Diego Musical Theatre
(858) 560-5740
www.SDMT.org

San Diego Opera
1200 Third Ave., Downtown
(619) 232-7636 www.sdogera.com

San Diego Repertory Theatre
79 Horton Plaza, Downtown
(619) 544-1000 www.sandiegorep.com

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and Experimental Theater
(619) 594-6884
http://theatre.sdsu.edu/

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(619) 465-7469 www.improvise.net

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(858) 578-7728
www.scrippsranchtheatre.org

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(619) 688-9210 www.sixthatpenn.com

San Diego Black Ensemble Theatre
(619) 280-5650

Sledgehammer Theatre
(619) 544-1484 www.sledgehammer.org

Southwestern College
900 Otay Lakes Rd., Chula Vista
(619) 482-6367 www.swc.cc.ca.us

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(619) 262-6162
http://home.san.rr.com/vantagetheatre

Welk Resort Theatre
8860 Lawrence Welk Dr., Escondido
(888) 802-7469
www.welkresort.com/sandiego

The Wild Parrot Players Community Theatre
Point Loma United Methodist Church
1984 Sunset Cliffs, Ocean Beach
(619) 269-6946

Women's Repertory Theatre
(619) 282-3277
www.womensrep.org

The Importance of Being Earnest

South Coast Repertory Theatre stages Oscar Wilde's most popular play (called by some, the "funniest comedy in the English language"). Warner Shook directed. SOUTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 655 TOWN CENTER DRIVE, SOUTHEAST SAN DIEGO. THROUGH MARCH 9; FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 2:30 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2:30 P.M., TUESDAYS, 7:30 P.M., WEDNESDAYS, 8 P.M., 714-708-5555.

The Physicists

UCSD Theatre & Dance presents Friedrich Durrenmatt's "horrific farce exposing the morals of science in advancing warfare." Lori Petermann directed. UCSD: UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO, 9500 GILMAN DRIVE, UCSD. THROUGH FEBRUARY 16; FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 2 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., 858-534-2230.

The Pillowman

Grim, relentless, and bizarrely playful, Martin McDonagh's drama puts art on trial and, in the end, not just art but life itself. Katurian has written 400 stories, 398 about violence to children. Tupolski, a self-described "high-ranking police officer in a totalitarian dictatorship," interrogates Katurian, suspecting involvement in copycat killings based on his fiction. *The Pillowman* takes a police state view of art (Ariel, the second cop on duty and the

opposite of Prospero's sprite, swears 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 staging. Under Claudio Raygoza's expert direction, and one of Ion's finest casts, we are either slumming in a hellhole or, as McDonagh insists, seeing the world unmasked. Jeffrey Jones shines as Katurian. 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 as deep as an iceberg, and as cold. Scott gives eerie, matter-of-fact line readings tinged at the edges with monster ironies, as when the detective tells Ariel, stone calmly, "Hurry up and torture the prisoner; we have to shoot him in half an hour."

Critic's Pick. ION THEATRE COMPANY, 4580-B ALVARADO CANYON ROAD, GRANTVILLE. THROUGH FEBRUARY 16; THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 7 P.M., 619-374-6894.

The Vagina Monologues
For one night only, as part of national V-Day, the global movement dedicated to raising awareness and ending violence against women, Step Up Theatre, in association with Battlecry and InterMission Productions, stage Eve Ensler's inspiring monologues. Step Up is a teen theater troupe, and all the proceeds ("every dime," promises director Carla Nell) go to charity, specifically the Chadwick Center and the San Diego Center for Community Solutions, to prevent violence against adolescent females and young girls.

Worth a try. BIRCH NORTH PARK THEATRE, 2891 UNIVERSITY AVE, NORTH PARK. ; THURSDAY, 7 P.M., 619-239-8836.

The Vagina Monologues

This Is Our Youth
They're bright kids: Dennis has a business acumen well beyond his 21 years (and current employment as a drug pusher); Warren and Jessica have acute sensitivities

(she's wise enough to see that a decade can change a person completely). It's just that each is emotionally retro, stuck in the old ways and inept in matters of the heart. It's 1982. The Me Decade's about to trickle down, and the trio's on the verge of adulthood. A few more ridiculous mistakes could decide if they make the leap. Kenneth Lonergan's 48-hour slice of Upper West Side "youth" has dialogue so sharp is must make David Mamet weep, and characters so alive they evoke laughter and tears, or confusions of both, making you as lost in your emotions as the kids. Director Francis Gercke and a splendid New Village Arts cast have brought Lonergan's tough script to vivid, felt life. Joshua Everett Johnson's terrific as Dennis, who shouts verbal drive-bys and into whose secure scene the Grim Reaper makes a cameo. Tom Zohar's a crisp combo of intuited sagacity and bulbous nativité. And, wearing the greatest hits of punk mufti, Rachel Van Wormer captures the counterphobic veneer of the early Eighties - the outward show of competence, so beloved of the yuppies, masking the inner turmoil of perplexed souls. The acting, ensemble and individual (as in Johnson's unforgettable screen-monologue) makes the audience a fly on the fourth wall, watching chaos expand and maybe, or maybe not, ruling the day.

Critic's pick. NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787 B STATE STREET, CARLSBAD. THROUGH FEBRUARY 17; THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 3 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M., 760-433-3245.

Triple Espresso: A Highly Caffeinated Comedy

Hugh Butternut's done his lounge act at the Triple Espresso Coffeehouse 20 years to the day. While patrons sip a house blend — "Grape," "Scandinavian Blizzard," or "Mokoko Cocoa Mocha" — Hugh plays '70s tunes on the piano. He and his companions, here to celebrate Hugh's anniversary, got stuck in the '70s. The trio used to be Maxwell, Butternutt, and Bean, a comedy group that never went far. They're "losers," they admit, but not "ordinary" ones. And hey, their reunion could help them face searing issues from their mediocre pasts. The story line's straight from *Forever Plaid*. There's also the *Forever Plaid* problem: the three comedians are far too talented to play inept characters. One's a whiz at the piano. Another's a first-rate mime, and the third's a crackerjack magician. The trio's so talented, when the plot has them complain of difficulties to overcome, you wish they'd quit trumping up the pseudo-drama and get on with this highly entertaining, if lightweight show.

Worth a try. HORTON GRAND THEATRE, 444 FOURTH AVENUE, DOWNTOWN. THROUGH FEBRUARY 17; FRIDAYS, 7:30 P.M., SATURDAYS, 5 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 3 P.M., SUNDAYS, 7 P.M., 619-234-9583.

Where There's a Will... There's a Wake

Mystery Café Dinner Theatre presents James Pascarella and Will Roberson's interactive comedy, set in a 1920s speakeasy where suspicion shrouds every "gangster, game, and dame." Pascarella directed.

MYSTERY CAFE, 505 KALMIA STREET, HILLCREST. OPEN-ENDED RUN; FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., 619-544-1664.

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CLASSROOM AIDES. Work with developmentally disabled children in non-public school. Experience preferred. Allied Gardens, Chula Vista, La Mesa. Monday-Friday, 7:30am-1pm. \$9.75/hour to start. EOE. www.vistahill.org. E-mail: steinjobs@vistahill.org. Fax resume: 619-281-0453. EOE. Apply weekdays, 9am-4pm: Stein Education Center, Attention: HR, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego CA 92120.

CLOSERS WANTED to generate leads for home improvement. No selling of products! Average income \$20-\$30+/hour, part-time! Monday-Saturday, day/evening. More info, 1-866-DRHARTY (1-866-374-2789). www.thnd.net.

CNA/CHHA. Beginners, experienced. Family Caregivers, Childcare, Home Care Aides, Drivers. Great pay! New-hire bonus! Nonmedical, in-home help for seniors, children, disabled. 12-and 24-hour shifts! Training. Flexible schedules, benefits, retirement, childcare. At Your Home Family-

care. E-mail: homecarejobs@atyourhomefamilycare.com. Toll free: 1-877-903-JOBS.

CNAs AND HHAs, Caregivers/Homemakers. We offer weekly pay, flexible schedules, and training. Hourly and live-ins wanted. Apply: Right at Home. 858-451-7844; or e-mail resume: employment@rahencintas.com.

COLLEGE SERVICES/Maintenance Coordinator. If you enjoy helping people, are a self-starter, organized and detail-oriented, consider joining our dynamic private college. Must be able to lift 50+ pounds. Minimum AA Degree preferred. Monday-Friday, 7:30am-4:30pm. E-mail resume and cover letter: kpetty@fidm.edu. No phone calls, please.

COMMUNITY TRAINING Specialist/Job Coach. \$9.75/hour to start. Assist developmentally disabled adults in the community. Behavioral and instructional programs. Implement schedules. 32.5 hours/week. Benefits. E-mail: steinjobs@vistahill.org. Fax resume: 619-281-0453. EOE. Apply weekdays, 9am-4pm, Stein Education Center, Attention: HR, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego CA 92120.

CONSTRUCTION, REMODEL, room additions, carpentry. Must work in all trades. Truck and tools required. Call 619-280-3650.

CORRECTIONAL DEPUTY PROBATION Officer I. County of San Diego Probation Department now hiring. Test Date: March 1, 2008, 8am. Montgomery Middle School, 2470 Ulric Street, San Diego 92111. Must be 21 years, good physical condition, no illicit drug usage. U.S. citizen or becoming a citizen. Pass criminal/personal background investigation. No felony convictions. High school diploma/GED. \$35,068-

\$44,740/year. www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation. Jobline: 858-514-8558.

CORRECTIONAL MONITOR. Want experience in the field of corrections? Monitor the activities of clients at our parolee program located in downtown San Diego ensuring the safety of the clients, the facility, and ensuring normal operations. Requires HS/GED and related work experience (\$8.25/hour). Call Human Resources: 619-282-8211; e-mail resume: hr@voa-swcal.org; fax: 619-282-8210; or mail: Volunteers of America, 3530 Camino Del Rio North, #300, San Diego, CA 92108. EOE/Affirmative Action Employer.

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CUSTOMER SERVICE/DISPATCHER. ARS of San Diego is seeking a motivated multitasker with good communication and leadership skills for a fast-paced environment. Must be a team player with a minimum of 5 years experience. Kevin, 858-677-5455 x113. kkellington@ars.com, www.jobswithars.com. Drug-free work environment. License #791820.

CUSTOMER SERVICE: Mayer Reprographics is seeking to train a detail-oriented individual with computer skills to learn our

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DATABASE EDITOR. Work with manufacturer catalogs & price lists to maintain/update both product & price data for electrical/plumbing distributors. High-level detail orientation/strong computer skills required. Carmel Mountain Ranch area. Approximately \$12.50/hour. Full-time temporary position. Reply with resume: Shirley_Vaughn@TradeService.com.

DELIVERY DRIVER. Full-time/part-time. \$8/hour. Weekends a must for well-established flower shop in Pacific Beach. Bring DMV printout to 1560 Garnet Avenue.

DELIVERY DRIVERS. Valentine's deliveries; flexible hours. Potential to earn up to \$50/hour! Own vehicle, insurance. Must have Thomas Guide. Kelly, The Flower Garden, 858-635-5503.

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DEPUTY PROBATION OFFICER. County of San Diego Probation Department is now hiring. Test Dates: February 23, 2008 or March 22, 2008. Qualified applicants will be notified by mail of the time and location of the test. Applications must be submitted no later than 15 days prior to exam date. Qualifications: Bachelor's degree with experience. Must be 21 years, good physical condition, no illicit drug usage. U.S. citizen

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SDReader.com, the website for the San Diego *Reader* newsweekly, has openings for 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 SDReader.com. Online Sales Representatives will also be responsible for developing proposals, managing current business, and generating opportunities in a quickly-changing industry. Please send a cover letter and updated résumé detailing your experience in online sales.

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DEPUTY SHERIFF and Deputy Sheriff Detentions/Courts. San Diego County Sheriff's Department. Hiring for two types of positions; take one exam, apply for either or both! Exam Dates: Wednesday, February 13, 2008, 5:30pm arrival, Sheriff's Administrative Center, 9621 Ridgehaven Court, San Diego CA 92123 or Saturday, February 16, 2008, 7:30am arrival, Rancho Buena Vista High School, 1601 Longhorn Drive, Vista CA 92083. Registration by e-mail or phone is required for the Ridgehaven test ONLY at: recruit@sdsheriff.org. Detention/Courts: \$39,796-\$61,608 annual salary, plus benefits. 18-year-olds eligible to apply! Deputy Sheriff: \$49,704-\$71,099 current annual salary, plus benefits. U.S. citizen or applied for citizenship; 20-1/2 years old. High school graduate or G.E.D. required. Bring valid photo ID. Valid California Driver's License prior to appointment. Effective oral and written communication in English. EOE. Additional test dates: www.joinsdSHERIFF.net. 858-974-2000.

DIRECTOR, PERFORMANCE Accountability and Compliance. Volunteers of America Southwest California, a faith-based social service non-profit is seeking a candidate to join our management team to develop and implement an ongoing contract and regulatory compliance audit program to ensure that contract performance expectations and quality assurance standards of Volunteers of America, State, County and Federal regulatory and funding agencies are met or exceeded for all service divisions and operations. Responsibilities include developing audit tools, conducting random compliance audits, providing reports and reviewing monthly, quarterly and annual financial billing reports and service performance reports for funding sources. Requires a B.A. and 3-5 years of related experience. Call Human Resources: 619-228-2047; or mail resume and cover letter to: Volunteers of America, Attention: Human Resources, 3530 Camino Del Rio North, #300, San Diego, CA 92108; or fax to: 619-282-8210; or e-mail: hr@voa-swcal.org. EOE/Affirmative Action Employer.

DISC JOCKEY, MOBILE. Weddings, parties, dances. Need van/truck for transportation, great stage personality, music knowledge. Experience preferred. \$25/hour plus bonuses. Bilingual a plus. Music As You Like It. 619-223-5732.

DISPATCHER/CUSTOMER SERVICE. ARS of San Diego is seeking a motivated multitasker with good communication and leadership skills for a fast-paced environment. Must be a team player with a minimum of 5 years experience. Kevin, 858-677-5455 x113, kkellington@ars.com, www.jobswithars.com. Drug-free work environment. License #791820.

DRIVER, VENDING ROUTE. Full time. Experienced preferred or will train. Bring clean DMV. Good pay plus benefits, company vehicle. Apply Monday-Friday: 7988 Stromesa Court, San Diego.

DRIVER. Bus tours of San Diego and Tijuana, charters and SPAB. Class B/P/A license required. To \$14/hour plus medical, dental, and vision benefits. Call: 619-520-5200.

DRIVER/COURIER. Part-time shifts available. Must have pickup with shell, mini-van or cargo van. Excellent pay, mileage and benefits! Call 858-444-2350.

DRIVERS NEEDED. Deliver bounce houses to children's parties. Part time. Truck or vehicle with hitch, clean DMV, insurance required. Make up to \$100/day. 619-440-4387.

DRIVERS WANTED. Requires valid CA driver's license, current H-6 DMV printout and good, safe driving skills. Must be 25 years or older. Apply in person at Xpress Shuttle, 1065 Bay Boulevard, Suite B, Chula Vista, CA 91911.

DRIVERS. 100% paid family insurance! Home daily! Owner/operators drop and hook loads! CDL-A, 2 years experience, 3 points maximum! Complete Logistics, 800-373-9001.

DRIVERS. Bonus paid! Auto parts delivery with late model pickup truck, car or van. Clean DMV. Local and North County openings. \$1750 to \$2400 a month. Fuel paid. Independent contractors. 619-233-4374.

DRIVERS. Dominion Distribution is looking for part-time Drivers to deliver free publications on Mondays and Fridays. You must have truck or van and be currently insured. Call Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm, 858-279-3137 x243.

DRIVERS. Drivers and helpers for moving company. Driver's pay based on experience. Experience a plus but not necessary. 619-291-9950.

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DRIVERS/CLASS B. Apply in person: Classic Residence by Hyatt, 8515 Costa Verde Boulevard, San Diego CA 92122 or e-mail hrlajolla@hyattclassic.com. EOE/M/F/V/D.

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DRIVERS: CLASS B Drivers with "P" endorsement for shuttle van in the Carlsbad area. Requires current DOT medical card and experience operating 15-passenger van. Must pass pre-employment background check and drug screen. \$12/hour. Two full-time openings, one part-time opening (16 hours/week). International Services, Inc., 6494 Weathers Place, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92121. 858-278-4310. E-mail resumes: recruitment@karawia.com.

DRIVERS wanted for floral deliveries for Valentine's Day, February 12, 13 and 14. Must be courteous and professional. Must have own vehicle, insurance, clean DMV and Thomas Brothers Guide. \$15/hour plus gas. A Flower Factory, 858-974-1231, 7276 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard.

EDUCATION. KidSchool Foreign Language Center. Bilingual Toddler/Preschool Teachers—Language: Spanish, Mandarin, French. Experience important. Also Temporary Summer Jobs for bilingual college students. Experience with elementary age

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EQUIPMENT ENGINEER. Full-time for Diversified Business Solutions in San Diego. Masters in Engineering, Mechanical Engineering or related, or its foreign equivalent. E-mail cover letter and resume to Jeff Theilacker, jefft@dbconnected.com.

EVENT/GAME STAFF. Fun working environment! Interactive game rental company hiring staff for corporate parties and events. Will train. Very flexible schedule. Heavy lifting may be required. \$9-\$10/hour to start. For more information and to fill out application, go to [www.partyals.com/job.html](#).

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FITNESS TRAINER with strong fitness background. Personal training experience required. Must be able to work full/part time hours. E-mail resume:

[donawilson@fitnesstogether.com](#) or call 858-451-6051.

FLORIST-DESIGNER. Established Pacific Beach flower shop needs competent, hardy, experienced floral designer. Part-time. Weekends a must. Production work and customer service required. Fax resume to 858-273-1203. 858-273-0344.

FUNDRAISING for national charities and Democratic Party. Full-or part-time (evening and Sunday shifts). Paid training. Medical, dental, 401(k). Hourly plus bonuses, regular raises. Apply at Gordon & Schwenkmeyer, 9620 Chesapeake Drive, Suite 108, San Diego 92123-1369. Call 858-496-2100.

GENERAL. Free employment and training services for individuals with disabilities, ages 18-21 on probation or parole. Able-Disabled Advocacy, Inc., 2850 6th Avenue Suite 311, San Diego, CA 92103. 619-231-5990 x305.

GENERAL. Gain skills to succeed. Are you 16 to 21, low income, need high school diploma or GED and work experience? Turning the Hearts Center, 619-691-9643.

GENERAL. Hearing Protector Research. If you have normal hearing and no training or experience in using ear plugs/ear-muffs, be a paid subject in our research program. \$50 for 1.5-hour visit. Jesse, 619-671-1426.

GROCERY/NATURAL FOODS. Now hiring! Cashier, Produce, Grocery and Meat Clerks (Del Mar); Manager on Duty (Escondido); Cashier and Vitamin Specialist (Carlsbad). \$9.00-\$15.50/hour. Great environment, competitive pay, bonus and benefits. Jimbo's Naturally! 12853 El Camino Real, Del Mar. Fax 858-793-7732. [hr@jimbos.com](#). [www.jimbos.com](#).

GROUP FITNESS INSTRUCTORS: Corporate, Luxury and Residential exercise environments. Locations all over San Diego. All types of classes, all days and times. A.M. STEP class and SPIN instructors especially needed now. Certification and experience required. E-mail: [FitX@](#)

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HAIR ASSISTANT/STYLIST for busy Colourist in Coronado. Must be licensed. Career oriented. Full time. Contact Janice at Domani Salon of Beauty and Wellness, 619-977-1778.

HAIR DESIGNERS. Busy Gaslamp salon seeking booth renters. Walk-ins available! Great urban loft environment, convenient parking. Move-in incentives. 619-231-7588.

HAIRSTYLIST. Booth Rental, \$145/week. 2 weeks free! Backbar, towels, janitorial, utilities included. Clean modern salon. Good parking. CutZ.n.ColorZ, 3755 Murphy Canyon #B, 92123. Dennis, 480-201-2207.

HAIRSTYLIST. Children's hairstylist wanted for Children's Salon in La Jolla and Carmel Valley. Many clients eagerly awaiting you! Experience with children preferred. Please call 858-551-5161.

HAIRSTYLIST. Lower your expenses! La Jolla/UTC. Relaxed, established easy-going salon seeks weekly booth renters: \$200/week. Call Paul Gerard Hair Salon, 858-625-0555.

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HAIRSTYLISTS-COMMISSION. C13 Salon is an upscale European-style salon on Cortez Hill in Downtown San Diego. We're seeking talented, creative individuals with that "special touch" for commission-based openings. We provide ample parking, linens, and the best back bar, including L'Oreal, Pureology, Tigi, etc. Booth rent also available, starting at \$165. C13 Salon, 1452 7th Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101. 619-948-1434. [www.salonc13.com](#).

HAIRSTYLISTS. Experienced for a beautiful boutique hair salon in the heart of Solana Beach. We offer great incentives to make your move easy. Drop off your resume at Salon Mirror Mirror, 148 South Solana Hills Drive, Solana Beach CA 92075.

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HAIRSTYLISTS/MANAGER. Color, cuts, texturizing, waxing... you can do it all. We're looking for skilled Hairstylists motivated to make money and have fun at the same time. Mira Mesa and UTC areas. Call 858-530-9005.

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HAIRSTYLISTS needed for a hip, new salon. No clientele needed! Walk-in clients available. Will train. We need you now. Great benefits package includes health insurance. 858-380-5882.

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HEALTHCARE: Palomar Pomerado Health is hiring! Skilled Nursing Facilities: Certified Nursing Assistants and Licensed Vocational Nurses. General Services: Cooks, Food Service Workers, Nutrition Care Assistants, Environmental Service Workers, and Security Officer. Home Health: LVN, Home Health Aides, CNA/ Personal Care Assistants, Homemaker/ Companion/Sitter. For consideration, please apply online: [www.pph.org](#) or apply in person, Monday-Friday, 7:30am-4:30pm at Palomar Medical Center, Human Resources: 660 East Grand Avenue, Escondido, 92025 or Pomerado Hospital, Human Resources: 15615 Pomerado Road, Poway, 92064.

HOME HEALTHCARE/CNAs/HHAs. Hourly and live-in assignments available. We're seeking caring, compassionate, and dependable people with personal transportation. Flexible hours, competitive compensation, paid weekly. Apply weekdays: 9am-4pm. Right at Home, 8369 Vickers Street #203, San Diego CA 92111. [www.rahlajolla.com](#). 858-277-5900.

HOTEL POSITIONS. The Handlery Hotel and Resort is hiring for service oriented positions. We have competitive pay and excellent benefits. Please apply to: 950 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA. 92108 or fax resume to: 619-298-3948.

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HOTEL: RANCHO VALENCIA RESORT in 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/resort/careers.php](#) or apply in person at 5921 Valencia Circle, Rancho Santa Fe CA 92067. No phone calls please. EOE/Drug-free workplace.

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Call for an interview in North County or San Diego: **760-434-4393** or **619-231-0151**

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



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Jobline: 858-514-8558

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JOB COACHES. Community-oriented Center for Independent Achievement is seeking dependable individuals in East County. 1:4 group ratio maximum. \$8.50-\$9.50/hour. Annual raises. Bonuses for exceptional performance. Benefits with full-time. pficareer@yahoo.com. Fax 619-440-6864. 619-440-6802.

JOB FAIR: Monday-Friday, February 4-8, 10am-3pm, at 10717 Camino Ruiz, Suite 252, Mira Mesa, CA 92126 (corner of Mira Mesa Boulevard and Camino Ruiz). The Estridge Group, in partnership with Kyocera America, has the following temporary and temp-to-hire open positions: Machine Operators, Microscope Inspectors, Chemical Handlers. Benefits available! Attend our job fair or call for more info: 858-566-9111.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT. Deputy Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Detentions/Courts. San Diego County Sheriff's Department. Hiring for two types of positions; take one exam, apply for either or both! Exam Dates: Wednesday, February 13, 2008, 5:30pm arrival. Sheriff's Administrative Center, 9621 Ridgehaven Court, San Diego CA 92123 or Saturday, February 16, 2008, 7:30am arrival, Rancho Buena Vista High School, 1601 Longhorn Drive, Vista CA 92083. Registration by e-mail or phone is required for the Ridgehaven test ONLY at: recruit@sdsheriff.org. Detention/Courts: \$39,796-\$61,608 annual salary, plus benefits. 18-year-olds eligible to apply! Deputy Sheriff: \$49,704-\$71,099 current annual salary, plus benefits. U.S. citizen or applied for citizenship; 20-1/2 years old. High school graduate or G.E.D. required. Bring valid photo ID. Valid California Driver's License prior to appointment. Effective oral and written communication in English. EOE. Additional test dates: www.joinSDSHERIFF.net. 858-974-2000.



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Wednesday, February 13, 2008: 4-8 pm • Tuesday, February 26, 2008: 4-7 pm

Positions available include:

Stand Leaders, Stand Attendants, Event Porters, Day Porters, Food Preps, Cooks, Vending Commissary Leaders, Vending Commissary Workers, Food & Beverage Vendors, Team Store Clerks, Program Vendors
Non-union positions: Level Supervisors

Fine Dining (Suites, In-Seat & Clubs)

Tuesday, February 19, 2008: 4-8 pm • Saturday, February 23, 2008: 11 am-4 pm

Positions available include:

Bartenders, Bar Backs, Club Servers, In-Seat Servers, In-Seat Runners, Suite Runners, Cooks (event-only & pre-event), Food Preps (event-only & pre-event), Host Persons
Non-union positions: Level Supervisors

All Job Fairs will be held at Petco Park – enter by the Western Metals Building located across from the Marriott on Tony Gwynn Drive.

Ideal candidates will have food service, retail and/or fine dining food service background; but we will train the right individuals.

- DNC Sportservice requires pre-employment drug testing and criminal background checks.

****Must be able to work Padres home games, including playoffs. ****

- We will be conducting on-site interviewing. Please dress in appropriate interview attire (no jeans, sneakers, sandals, T-shirts, etc.).

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LIGHTING TECHNICIANS. Must be able to work with installation of lamps, ballasts, fixtures, and other lighting components. Experience preferred. Temporary/full time. Contact 619-739-1301, jennifersmith@ultralighting.org.

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LOAN OFFICERS AND AGENTS. Self-motivated individuals with phone sales experience needed for San Diego real estate brokerage. Commission only, no salary. Call 858-576-2000 or fax resume: 858-576-2020.

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MACHINE OPERATOR/Honeycomb Laser to \$13/hour. El Cajon. First shift. Prior production machine operator experience required. Honeycomb experience a plus. Apply: www.atworkstaffing.com, 619-234-WORK (9675).

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MACHINE OPERATORS. JOB FAIR: Monday-Friday, February 4-8, 10am-3pm, at 10717 Camino Ruiz, Suite 252, Mira Mesa, CA 92126 (corner of Mira Mesa Boulevard and Camino Ruiz). The Eastridge Group, in partnership with Kyocera America, has the following temporary and temp-to-hire open positions: Machine Operators, Microscope Inspectors, Chemical Handlers. Benefits available! Attend our job fair or call for more info: 858-566-9111.

MACHINE SHOP/MACHINE OPERATORS. GPR Stabilizer is the producer of motorcycle related machined parts. Our steady growth in the motorcycle industry has reached a point for us to open immediate positions in the machine shop. Great opportunity for qualified person(s) in a growing company. Salary, vacation, and benefits negotiable for qualified applicants. Apply: GPR Stabilizer, 8715 Dead Stick Road, San Diego, CA 92154, 619-661-0101. Or fax/e-mail: 619-661-0707, Attn: Ralph Norman (ralph@gprstabilizer.com) or Randy Norman (randy@gprstabilizer.com).

MAID SERVICES. Relax. It's done. No nights, weekends, holidays. Merry Maids offers flexible hours, weekly pay, paid mileage. Work in teams. Insured car required. Must speak English. South Coast! all south areas only, 619-336-1612; 619-226-2621.

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIANS. Apply in person: Classic Residence by Hyatt, 8515 Costa Verde Boulevard, San Diego CA 92122 or e-mail hrlajolla@hyattclassic.com. EOE/M/F/V/D.

MAINTENANCE. Volunteers of America Southwest California, a faith-based social service nonprofit, is seeking a qualified candidate to perform general maintenance and repair duties at a licensed adult residential facility for mentally ill adults in Spring Valley. Must clear fingerprints, complete criminal background check, and have a clean driving record. Part-time, 30 hours/week (\$11/hour). Call Human Resources: 619-282-8211; fax: 619-282-8210; e-mail: hr@voa-swcal.org; or mail resume: Volunteers of America Southwest CA, 3530 Camino Del Rio North, #300, San Diego, CA 92108. EOE/Affirmative Action Employer.

MAINTENANCE/HVAC for North County luxury apartments. Must be experienced. Background/drug test required. Benefits. Fax resume to 888-369-9229 or e-mail wmapplicants@aol.com. Call 888-252-7976.

MANICURIST. Natural nail manicurist for upscale La Mesa Aveda concept salon/spa. Afternoons, evenings, Saturdays.

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MENTAL HEALTH AIDE. Volunteers of America Southwest California, a faith-based social service nonprofit is seeking qualified entry-level candidates with an interest in working with the mentally ill. You will monitor clients, assist with setting and administration of medications, do light charting, assist with preparation and serving of meals for clients located at our El Cajon and Spring Valley facilities (\$8.25/hour). Call Human Resources: 619-282-8211; e-mail resume: hr@voa-swcal.org; fax: 619-282-8210; or mail: Volunteers of America, 3530 Camino Del Rio North, #300, San Diego, CA 92108. EOE/Affirmative Action Employer.

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MICROSCOPE INSPECTORS. Job Fair: Monday-Friday, February 4-8, 10am-3pm, at 10717 Camino Ruiz, Suite 252, Mira Mesa, CA 92126 (corner of Mira Mesa Boulevard and Camino Ruiz). The Eastridge Group, in partnership with Kyocera America, has the following temporary and temp-to-hire open positions: Machine Operators, Microscope Inspectors, Chemical Handlers. Benefits available! Attend our job fair or call for more info: 858-566-9111.

MOBILE DJs. \$35-\$40+/hour. Are you a fun, energetic and good looking person who enjoys entertaining? If so, you could be looking at a lifelong career of making great money at a fun job. Music knowledge important but positive attitude is more important. Truck or hatchback required with good driving record. Bilingual DJs very welcome. 3 positions available. If you know a friend who fits this description, tell them about it! Send e-mail with qualifications and contact information to saplyak@hotmail.com.

MOVE-IN COORDINATOR. Apply in person: Classic Residence by Hyatt, 8515 Costa Verde Boulevard, San Diego CA 92122 or e-mail hrlajolla@hyattclassic.com. EOE/M/F/V/D.

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NANNY PART-TIME. Boys ages 5 and 9. Point Loma area, 2-3 afternoons, 2-6pm. Must love Football, dogs, board games. Need Ca drivers license, 619-507-1528, dana5035@gmail.com.

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PAYS \$500: MIRENA IUD for 3 years. Call Kim at the Medical Center for Clinical Research, 619-521-2841.

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PHONE SALES. Earn \$1000-\$2000+ per week! Paid training. \$11/hour. Great hours. Benefits. Call today, start tomorrow! Ron, 800-854-2830 x226.

PLUMBERS. ARS is seeking career-minded Plumbers with minimum 2 years experience. If you like the idea of working for a national leader in the service industry, with benefits that rival the industry standard, and have the motivation and desire to earn an income that would make many college graduates envious, please call us today to arrange an interview that just might change your life forever! Kevin, 858-677-5455 x113. kkellington@ars.com, www.jobswithars.com. Drug-free work environment. License #791820.

PLUMBERS/SERVICE TECHNICIANS with experience needed now! Rescue Rooter offers: Medical/dental, 401(k), vans/tools, paid vacations/overtime, high income, drug-free workplace. To apply, please e-mail: lmkyng@ars.com or call: 858-457-6506. AA/EOE. License #765155.

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PORTER. Drug test required. Fax resume to 888-369-9229 or e-mail wmapplicants@aol.com.

PROBATION CAREERS. Correctional Deputy Probation Officer I. County of San Diego Probation Department now hiring. Test Date: March 1, 2008, 8am. Montgomery Middle School, 2470 Ulric Street, San Diego 92111. Must be 21 years, good physical condition, no illicit drug usage. U.S. citizen or becoming a citizen. Pass criminal/personal background investigation. No felony convictions. High school diploma/GED. \$35,069-\$44,741/year. www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation. Jobline: 858-514-8558.

PROGRAM SUPERVISOR. Mental Health and Dual Diagnosed. Volunteers of America Southwest California is seeking a Program Supervisor to manage the daily operations, casework and services at our licensed facility for the mentally ill and dual diagnosed located in the Flynn Springs area of El Cajon. Position requires a Bachelor's degree in related field, 3-5 years related experience working with the mentally ill and dual diagnosed. Previous supervisory experience required. Requires knowledge of CCL regulations and Title 22. Excellent written and verbal communication skills required. Must be able to pass fingerprinting and criminal background check and TB test. (\$28,000-\$31,000). Call Human Re-

sources: 619-282-8211; e-mail resume: hr@voa-swcal.org; fax: 619-282-8210; or mail: Volunteers of America Southwest California, 3530 Camino Del Rio North, #300, San Diego, CA 92108. EOE/Affirmative Action Employer.

PROJECT ACCOUNTANT. Come join our team and make a difference! You would provide accounting services to social service programs including: A/P, A/R, processing claims, assisting with budget preparation, monitoring financial activities and variances, assisting with audits, preparation of financial reports. Requires BA, 3-5 years of related experience, excellent computer skills, prefer experience with Great Plains and Excel. Call Human Resources: 619-228-2047; or mail resume and cover letter to: Volunteers of America, Attention: Human Resources, 3530 Camino Del Rio North, #300, San Diego, CA 92108; or fax to: 619-282-8210; or e-mail: hr@voa-swcal.org. EOE/Affirmative Action Employer.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT. Alta Vista Properties needs a licensed Real Estate Agent to take over Accounting and Property Management responsibilities. Full-time. Pacific Beach. Good growth potential. Fax resume to Bob Boone, 858-274-5390.

RECEPTIONIST/ADMINISTRATIVE Assistant. \$12-\$15/hour. Requires advanced computer skills, professional demeanor. Phones, coordinate travel arrangements, customer service. San Diego location. Call TriStaff today! 858-597-4000. Fax: 858-453-9632; E-mail: staffing@tristaff.com.

RECREATION ASSISTANT for the Stein Education Center, a private special education school serving children with Autism and other disabilities. Candidates must possess 12 units of Early Childhood Education or 12 units in a related field and a valid California driver's license. Duties include supervising direct care, scheduling social and recreation activities. Computer knowledge preferred. Monday-Friday, 9:30am-6pm. Starting salary \$10.33/hour with benefits. Pre-employment screening (drug test, TB) and Background Check (FBI and Department of Justice). EOE. Apply in person, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego 92120 or fax resume to 619-281-0453.

RESEARCH STUDY: YAZ Continuous (periods every 3 months), pays up to \$400, one year study. Call Kim at the Medical Center for Clinical Research, 619-521-2841.

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time, Wednesday-Sunday or Saturday-Wednesday, evening shifts); openings in Santee, Lemon Grove and Pacific Beach. All positions require valid California Driver's License, 2 years driving experience, clean criminal background, pre-employment drug testing. Full-time positions offer insurance benefits. EOE. Contact Lance: The ARC of San Diego, 3030 Market Street, San Diego 92102. Fax: 619-234-3759. 619-685-1175. E-mail: lmcgill@arc-sd.com.

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RESTAURANT BAR MANAGER: For Irish Pub, bar and grill. Experience necessary. Apply, Monday-Friday, 12noon-5pm, 554 4th Avenue, Gaslamp or fax: 619-239-5828, or e-mail: dublinsquare@yahoo.com.

RESTAURANT COOKS: IKEA, San Diego. Preparing and serving food, part-time or full-time. Great benefits, opportunities and environment! You have to be available to work weekends and holidays and available to work at lease some night and day shifts. Proactive, able to use all kinds of kitchen tools, able to lift 50 pounds (25 kilograms). Apply at <http://www.ikea.com/us/en/or> in person: 2149 Fenton Parkway, 92108, 619-283-6166.

RESTAURANT LINE COOK: For Irish pub, bar and grill. Experience necessary. Apply: 554 4th Avenue, Gaslamp or fax: 619-239-5828, or e-mail: dublinsquare@yahoo.com.

RESTAURANT PREP/COOK. Some experience. Apply Monday-Sunday only 9am-11am or 2:30pm-5:30pm with Sylvia, Melissa or Chris: Greek Islands Cafe, Seaport Village, 92101. No phone calls!

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RESTAURANT. Now hiring! Cook and Deli Clerk (Del Mar); Cook and Baker (4S Ranch); Deli Clerk and Prep Cook (Carlsbad); Prep Cook (Escondido). \$9-\$15.50/hour. See ad under Grocery/Natural Foods. Jimbo's Naturally!

RESTAURANT/DELI Sandwich Shop in La Mesa seeks multi-tasking assistant. Full-time. Long term benefits. Salary plus tips. Call 619-318-0187 for an interview.

RESTAURANT: PETCO PARK. Delaware North Companies (DNC) Sportservice hiring for 2008 Padres Baseball Season. Job Fair for Fine Dining (Suites, In-Seat & Clubs)— Tuesday 2/19 4pm-8pm, Saturday 2/23 11am-4pm. Western Metals Building across from Marriott on Tony Gwynn Drive. Qualified applicants should have fine dining food service background but will train the right individuals. Positions available include: Bartenders, Bar Backs, Club Servers, In-Seat Servers, In-Seat Runners, Suite Runners, Cooks (event-only & pre-event), Food Preps (event-only & pre-event), Host Persons. Non-union positions: Level Supervisors. Must be able to work Padres home games, including playoffs. Requires pre-employment drug testing and criminal background checks. On-site interviewing, please dress in appropriate interview attire (no jeans, sneakers, sandals, T-shirts, etc.). For more information: www.sdbaseballjobs.com. Or call: 619-795-5901. EEO/D/V/M/F.

RETAIL SALES ASSOCIATE. Full or part-time. Good opportunity. Flexible hours. Reliable. Bridal & Tuxedo Shop, 4242 Camino Del Rio North, #14, Mission Valley. Fax resume: 619-281-1304. 619-281-1717. 619-549-4690.

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RETAIL/RESTAURANT: PETCO PARK. Delaware North Companies (DNC) Sport-service hiring for 2008 Padres Baseball Season. Job Fair for Concessions, Retail & Warehouse— Wednesday 2/13 4pm-8pm, Tuesday 2/26 4pm-7pm. Western Metals Building across from Marriott on Tony Gwynn Drive. Qualified applicants should have food service or retail background but will train the right individuals. Positions available include: Stand Lead-

ers, Stand Attendants, Event Porters, Day Porters, Food Preps, Cooks, Vending Commissary Leaders, Vending Commissary Workers, Food & Beverage Vendors, Team Store Clerks, Program Vendors. Non-union positions: Level Supervisors. Must be able to work Padres home games, including playoffs. Requires pre-employment drug testing and criminal background checks. On-site interviewing, please dress in appropriate interview attire (no jeans, sneakers, sandals, T-shirts, etc.). For more information: www.sdbaseballjobs.com. Or call: 619-795-5901. EEO/D/V/M/F.

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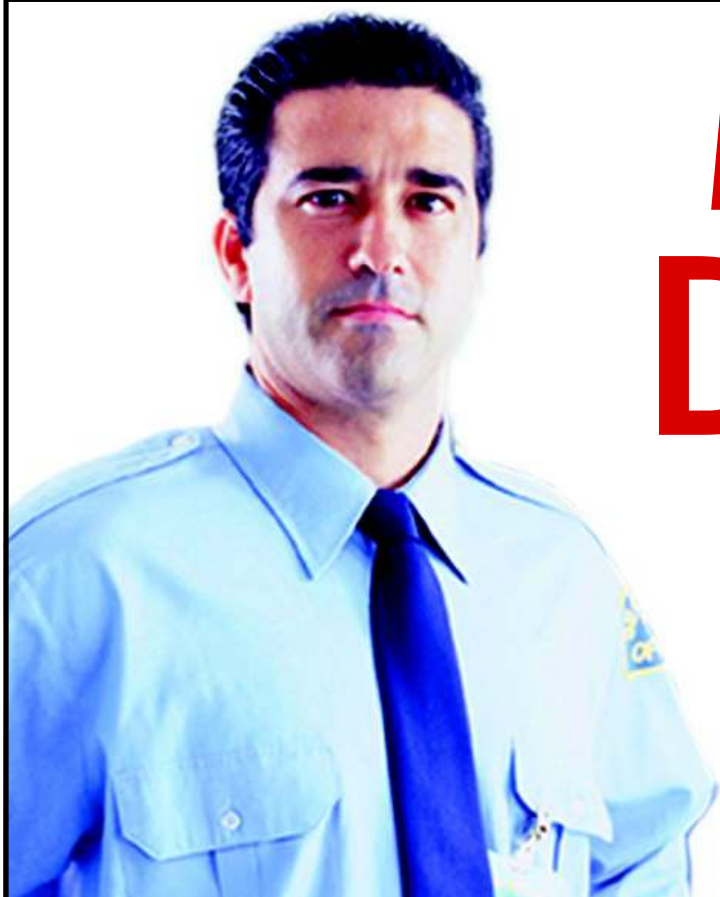
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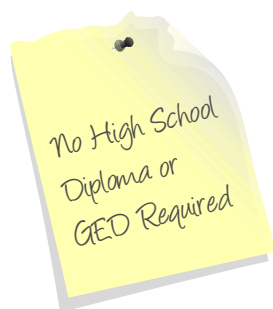
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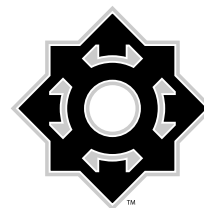
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- Hwys.
- First baseman Huff
- Run-of-the-mill: Abbr.
- "The Last of the Mohicans" heroine
- Civil rights advocate ____ B. Wells
- Debtor's letters
- "No two ways ____"
- Pa. neighbor
- Money spent in eastern Europe?
- The Coneheads' show, for short
- Hence
- Snake, at times
- Extra play periods, for short
- Bruce and Spike
- '50s Ford flops

Down

- Sully
- Like black humor
- Words exclaimed before vacation or drink
- Wind chimes sounds
- Suggestive
- Celebrating
- "My dear fellow"
- War god on Olympus
- "____ your mother!"
- Win over

- "I'll be right there!"
- Something brought to the table
- Where some plant managers work?
- "____giorno!"
- Does business with
- Urdike's "Rabbit ____"
- Tatami, e.g.
- Item a golfer looks down on
- Spanish 101 verb
- Title of a 1961 hit song or a 1986 hit movie
- Better-than-average pupil
- They're yellow in pool halls
- "If I Ruled the World" rapper
- Relative of a chickadee
- Common parental explanation
- Harvey in movies
- "Dies ____" (Latin hymn)
- Spin
- Worthless talk
- Lecherous men
- "Tag, ____ it!"
- Shirley Temple features
- Yen
- Prayer start
- Some boxing wins, briefly

RULES OF THE GAME

- The prize for solving the *Reader* Puzzle will be a *Reader* T-shirt.
- All entries in the *Reader* Puzzle contest must be received by the *Reader* by 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, five days following the issue date (Fax to 619-231-0489 or U.S. Mail to *Reader* Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803).
- All entries must be accompanied by your name and address.
- Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible.
- In the event of disputes or ties, decisions of the judges will be final and arbitrary. We've only got five prizes each week to give away, so if there are more than five winners, we'll have a lottery.
- All answers must be entered in the space allowed on the puzzle page. And please, no phone calls or trips to our office.
- One entry per person.

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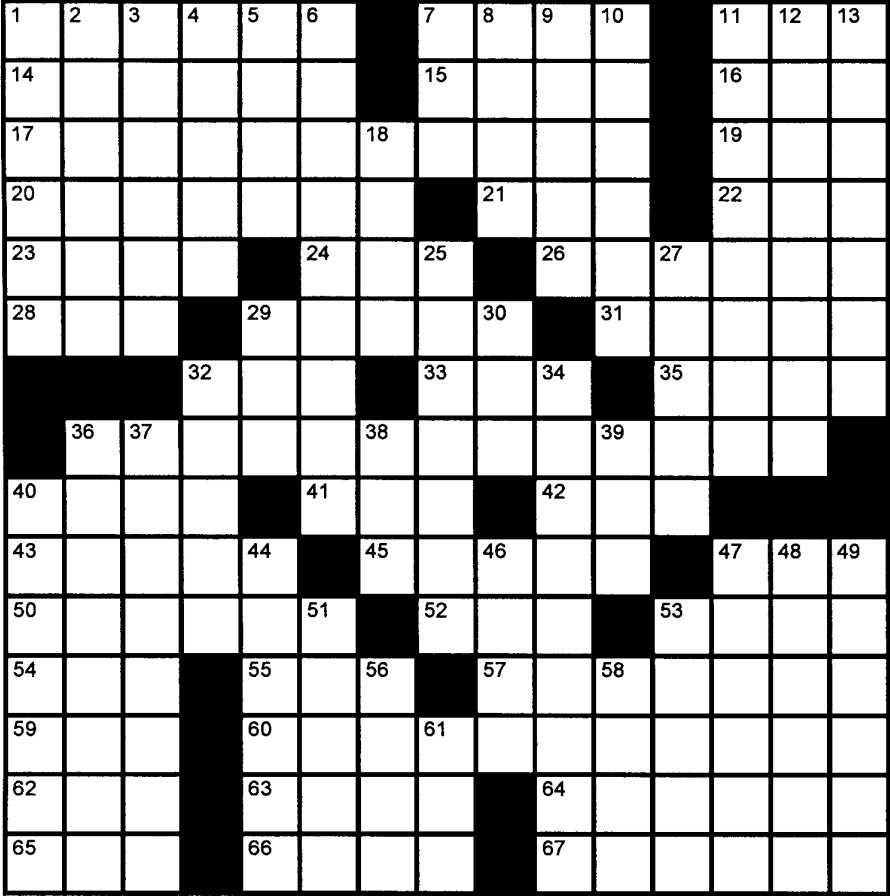
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Solution to and winners of the *Reader* Puzzle for 1/31/08.

There were 79 entrants. The winners are:

- Teri Ansar, *Escondido*
- Wilma Quisenberry, *Oceanside*
- Robert Crumrine, *Encinitas*
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Last week's place: (clue: Honk if you like pretty lake birds) Feeding geese at Lindo ("pretty") Lake, near Lakeshore Drive, Lakeside. Everything from migrating Canadian geese to wood ducks stop off here on the Pacific flyway migration. Some never leave, thanks partly to Lakeside residents who regularly buy seven-dollar bags of grain to keep them happy. (Last week's winners: Mark Deane, Van Anisetto, Craig Ettern, Parker Alfredo, Leonie Wirtz)

Q: Play cup with Dennis?

Describe this location, name the nearest cross-streets, and win a *Reader* T-shirt. E-mail to NameThisPlace@SanDiegoReader.com; fax to 619-231-0489; or mail to *Reader*, Name This Place, Box 85803, San Diego 92186 — include your name and address. (Deadline, Tuesday, 9 a.m. In case of ties, lottery will determine top five winners.)



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SurfDIEGO

Name: Antonio Azambuja

Lives: Bahia, Brazil

Surfing: Thomas Street, Pacific Beach

For ten years, Antonio Azambuja has traveled from Brazil to San Diego each winter to surf. "I like the people of San Diego very much. You are all very warm, very nice people." This year's trip got a little rained out, but he had a few good sessions on his final days. "The past two days, it has not been good, but today we have been from North La Jolla to here now. Good surfing."

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." He cites warm water, large waves, and friendly people as the attractions of Punta Hermosa.

"I am 42 now. I have surfed since I was 5," Antonio says. In his 37 years of surfing and all of his trips, he says his worst wipeout 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."

To 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!"

See the video

Go to SanDiegoReader.com

Click on SurfDiego

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AGUA HEDIONDA LAGOON, Foundation, needs volunteers to serve as docents. Assist in garden, special events, field trips. Free training, flexible schedules. Please contact deb@aquahedionda.org, 760-804-1969.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL works for human rights. Meetings: 7pm, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. First Unitarian Church, 4190 Front (opposite UCSD Medical Center). Information, 619-283-1637.

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BOBBY'S PLACE NIGHTCLUB. Tuesday Karaoke, 9pm. All Male Review, Fridays, 9pm. Check us out for your next party/event. 6179 University Avenue. Call 619-582-6730; 619-987-3513.

CAN PRAYER THERAPY HEAL? Find solutions to problems. Achieve inner peace and balance, eliminate chronic disease pain, lose crippling fear. 858-652-0728.

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DIVORCECARE meets every Sunday at 9am at 4926 La Cuenta Suite 203-A, Tierrasanta. Special Free support group for those divorcing, divorced, or broken live-in relationship. 4926 La Cuenta, Suite 203, Tierrasanta. Bruce, Bruce@sdfunding.com or 619-461-4480.

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FREE EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING services for individuals with disabilities, ages 18-21 on probation or parole. Able-Disabled Advocacy, 2850 6th Avenue #311, San Diego 92103. 619-231-5990 x305.

FREE PSYCHIC HEALING. Lecture Clinic. Free readings for new visitors. Every month's first Monday. 7:30pm 1/7/08, 2/4, 3/3, by Vessa's Clairvoyant Program students. 4455 Morena Boulevard, #108. 858-509-7582.

FRENCH SPEAKER WANTED, For conversational practice. Approximately immediate. Let's meet once a week over coffee. amatt01@aol.com.

GAIN SKILLS TO SUCCEED. Are you 16 to 21, low income, need high school diploma or GED and work experience? Turning the Hearts Center, 619-691-9643.

LOOKING FOR LOVE? Great opportunity to do something different! Motivational Speaker, Veronica Vaca, will inspire you to unchain your heart and open you up to manifesting your love. Lecture/guided meditation will uplift your spirit and hopes. Great topic for men/women. Del Mar Hilton, February 28, 7pm-9pm. Advance tickets, \$35. Door admission, \$40. 760-716-1314.

MEDICAL RESEARCH STUDY for people with mood swings. Investigational new, natural, nutrition-based treatment that may help you feel better. To participate contact MoodSwing.com or 619-296-6563.

MENOPAUSAL, overweight, underweight, trouble sleeping, hot flashes? UCSD studying the effects of estrogen (taken for 8 weeks) on sleeping, hot flashes, and mood in menopausal women. 5-month study. 6 overnight hospital stays required. Call 619-543-7393.

MOVIE BUFFS. Interested in watching movies then discussing it afterwards (like book clubs)? Ages 25 to mature welcome. Please call 619-850-6075 or 858-272-8727.

PATHWORK DISCUSSION, "The Challenge of Relationship" February 19, 2008. 7-9pm Eureka Street/Mission Valley. Open meeting, no fee, materials available. Please call for directions 619-296-9046.

PMS RESEARCH. UCSD researchers need women, 20-45, not on medication, birth control, or smoking, with regular menstrual cycles for a 5-month PMS study using sleep and light therapy. 8 overnights required. Call 619-543-7393.

PRAYER HEALS. Discover freedom and wellness. Find out how prayer works for you to eliminate chronic disease, pain, fear, depression. 858-652-0728.

PREGNANT/NEW MOMS. UCSD study, women ages 20-45, not using medication or smoking, are needed for a sleep/light study. Required, 4 evaluation visits + 4 overnight hospital stays. 619-543-7393.

PRIVATE COUNSELING. Your journey can be clearer, more peaceful; relationship issues, body image, self-esteem, anger. I can help. Work toward acceptance of yourself. Fee. 619-838-6817.

RECOVERY GROUPS for men and women seeking freedom from addiction/co-dependency. Fridays, 7pm. Celebrate recovery, First Lutheran, 867 South Lincoln Avenue, El Cajon. 619-444-7444. www.recovery4u.cc.

RESEARCH STUDY. Women living with smoker needed for 9-day research study. Leave message, 619-594-8827 or email TRDRPPDASudy@projects.sdsu.edu, for more information.

SINGLES FOR JAZZ is a new not-for-profit club for singles interested in attending various concerts and clubs in the San Diego area. Membership is free. Call 760-445-5459.

STITCHES FROM THE HEART needs volunteers to knit, crochet, or quilt blankets, little sweaters and hats for babies in need. These items are donated to hospitals all over the country. Patterns available. Donated yarn appreciated for our seniors. Toll free 866-472-6903 or e-mail

us at StitchFromHeart@aol.com. Our web site: www.StitchesFromTheHeart.org.

TEMPLE OF BHAKTI YOGA. Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30pm; Fridays, 6:30-7:30pm. Free. For information please call 760-787-0700.

THE GLENNER ALZHEIMER'S Family Centers offers training for family caregivers and healthcare professionals a free 6-hour ongoing CEU Dementia course. RSVP at 800-736-6674.

TWELVE STEPS NOT working for you? Try a self-empowering, skill-building approach with S.M.A.R.T. Recovery, free support groups. 858-546-1100.

UCSD MEDICAL CENTER needs healthy volunteers, 40-65 years old, for a research study. Payment is \$10/hour. Please call 619-543-7201.

VOLUNTEER Childbirth Assistants needed. UCSD Medical Centers Doula Program needs women to help mothers during labor. Big commitment, lots of gratification. 619-543-6269.

WRITERS (2) looking for "Chicken Soup" type pet stories for new book and teen series, with photos if possible. claudia@writersetc.com or piedpiper@newsblaze.com or 858-693-3939.

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SKI VACATION. March 1-8, Breckenridge 4-star resort. 1 or 2 bedroom suite. 40% discount. 858-292-5165.

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DAVIEBABE still in Boston. I very much hope that you are happy. It would be a shame if we were both miserable.

TO MY GIRLS, That bought that Asian brand car. Sell it now. Alfi said you could have his old VW. Be seeing you. Dream well.

TO THE BEST HUSBAND, And father in the world. Happy Valentine's Day! Thank you for always being there for us. Love, Nicklaus and Ann.

MUSIC

EQUIPMENT / INSTRUMENTS

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BASS CABINET, Eden 1x15 XLT, 400 watts, barely used, \$350/best. 858-509-3778.

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Say What?



Misty | Age: 29 | Occupation: Hair Stylist | Lives: La Mesa

The slang I use is mostly terms for metrosexual guys. I'm a hairstylist, so a large amount of my clients are men. I like **"manscaping"** for guys who are picky about grooming their body hair, which is a good thing. Body hair should be attended

to. Also, a **"murse"** is a man-purse. My favorite term is a **"he-string,"** which is what I call thong underwear made for men. I don't know if I've ever seen a pair that I thought were attractive, but I bet someone out there can make

them work. I think that any word can be made really funny by adding "man" into it somewhere.

See the video

Go to SanDiegoReader.com

Click on Say What

Check out myspace.com/blackambulance and/or call Shaun, 619-417-4751.

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Sean Guinn

Student

La Mesa

It’s eating cookies and brownies. That, and a good tearjerker. It’s all about movies. Something that has a sad part, but it ends with a good part. A nice, happy ending. A movie like *High Fidelity*, where the guy goes through his mind all the women that messed him up, and he goes back to meet with some of them.



Rita Coranado

Bartender

Point Loma

My advice to men is that the best way to get over one woman is to get under another one. Getting over broken hearts...that reminds me of the Bee Gees song “How Can You Mend a Broken Heart?” I’ve never had a broken heart. I’m the one that breaks them. But, I guess you cry a lot, eat chocolate, and take long showers being depressed.



Jeff Johnson

Computers

Bay Park

Really, getting with someone else is the best thing to do. It’s like tearing a Band-Aid off really quickly. You want all the intimacy and affection of someone else, even if it’s just a quick fix to make you stop thinking about the one who broke your heart. And, finding someone else, even just for a quick fix, is the easiest way to start getting over the person you cared about.



Charlie Dimes

Musician

Del Mar

I don’t want to say any clichés like “This will pass.” I guess it all depends on who broke your heart. I might tell a friend that they are better off without them. Other times, I might have to be nice because you know it’s going to be a drag for a while. And even though you might know in a few weeks they’ll be over it, they don’t want to hear that it’s happened to everyone. That’s something they aren’t in the mood to hear.



Richard Harrison

Framer

La Mesa

I think everyone has been there. If it happened to someone I know, I’d tell them to just get over it. “You’ll eventually find someone else. The person you are pursuing right now is probably not the one for you.” And, it’s always easier to tell others what to do than when it happens to you. Sometimes you sit and listen. But I don’t think enough people just tell their friends to shut up and get over it. They condone their pouting.



Jennifer Albright

VA Tech

Los Angeles

I would just tell them to suck it up and deal. People have to learn to just get over that stuff and not run around pouting about it. There’s so many people; billions of people in the world, and they’re going to whine over one failed relationship? I guess that’s me giving them some tough love.

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COLLEGE AREA. 2 rooms available March 1. Nonsmokers. \$500/\$550 monthly. Fully furnished rooms. Includes utilities, cable, Internet. Washer/dryer. Quiet, pleasant neighborhood. Margaret, mw4692@hotmail.com; 619-723-3667.

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COLLEGE AREA. 4 bedroom, 2 bath home. Remodeled kitchen, new granite/tile/cabinets. Newer carpet/paint. Granny flat, fireplace. \$2200. Available now. 619-933-5824, bhanke@cox.net.

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GOLDEN HILL. 2 bedroom, 1 bath home. 750 estimated square feet. \$1450/month. Small fenced backyard. Pet friendly. Agent. 619-471-2201.

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HILLCREST. \$1700. Darling Spanish cottage, fabulously updated. Vintage 1933 charm, with new everything. Granite/stainless kitchen, gorgeous tile bathroom. Must see! Robinson near Vermont. Kathleen, 619-838-3358.

KENSINGTON. 3 bedroom 2 bath with hardwood floors, plantation shutters, custom paint, bright updated kitchen, central air/heat, finished detached garage with work bench, storage, new front loading washer/dryer. Great for entertaining: outside gazebo and covered patio. Walk to village. 4848 Kensington Drive. \$2895. 619-683-9274.

LA JOLLA. \$7250/or best offer. Brand new 4 bedroom, 4 bath, fireplace, hardwood floors, 4000 square feet, ocean view, patios, large yard, garage. Near all. 7157 Country Club Drive. 858-405-4308.

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LA MESA. 3 bedroom, 2 bath plus office on mountain. Fantastic view to ocean! 2000 square feet. Garage. Family room. Fireplace. \$2595. Lease. Agent, Bill, 619-823-1674.

LAKESIDE. \$1300. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. Huge fenced yard. Laundry room in house. 1 car attached garage. Off Wintertgardens. 858-560-0272.

LEMON GROVE. \$1650. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. All new bathroom, newly painted and carpeted throughout. Large fenced yard with separate storage.

Garage converted into workroom. Near shopping. Pets negotiable. 619-271-2250.

MIRA MESA. \$1825. Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath plus den. House. 2-car garage. Fireplace. Yards. No pets. New carpet/paint. Dishwasher. 10938 Polaris Drive. Juno, 619-275-3455.

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MOUNT HELIX. \$3200. 5 bedroom, 4 bath house plus den on private 1/2 acre. Pool. Citrus trees. 2 fireplaces. Upper and lower decks with magnificent views. Must see to appreciate! 1 year lease. Includes gardener and pool service. Shown by appointment only. 619-422-8334 or 619-890-4467.

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NORMAL HEIGHTS. Charming 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Fenced yard. Hardwood floors, washer/dryer. Pets OK. Available 3/1. Year lease. 3814 Edna Place. \$1500. 619-282-5430. robb_bower@yahoo.com.

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NORTH PARK. Nice area. \$1450. Cute 2 bedroom, fireplace, fenced yard, wood floors, laundry on site. Drive by appointment only. 3403 31st Street. 619-992-7791.

NORTH PARK. \$1425. Adorable 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage. Garage plus off-street parking. Private yard. Wood floors. Laundry. Available 4/1/08. 3172 Myrtle. By appointment, 619-742-3471.

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NORTH PARK. \$1450-\$1800. Charming 2 bedroom, 1 bath homes. Close to Downtown. Hardwood floors. Refrigerator, stove. Laundry hook-ups. Garage. No pets. 3658-3660 Louisiana. 619-435-1139. 619-435-0387.

NORTH PARK. \$1200. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Cottage. Very cute. Cozy. Hardwood floors. Custom paint, tile, custom fixtures. Centrally located. Close to I-805, shopping and more! Garage included. Laundry facility on site. 3741 Bancroft Street. Call 858-571-1970. sunriseslaving.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1695. 2 bedroom back house available. Located in quiet residential neighborhood just 2 blocks to Bermuda Beach and Sunset Cliffs Park! Fenced yard with deck. Hardwood floors in living room, tile in kitchen and bath and new carpet in bedrooms. New fixtures throughout! Storage area with washer/dryer. Covered parking. Gardener and water included. No pets. 4686 Bermuda Avenue. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1495. Charming 2 bedroom, 1 bath house with a detached 1 car garage. Available for the first time in three years. This house is part of fourplex but is freestanding on the lot. Upgrades that will be done to this house included all new carpet, new paint in designer colors, new baseboards, new blinds and upgrades to the bathroom. Includes stove, refrigerator, washer/dryer. This is quiet, friendly complex. Must have excellent credit and references. Low deposit of \$800. Available by March 1, 2008. Pets on approval. 4874 Del Monte Avenue at Cable Street. Call Scott at 619-846-6615. Please call between 9am and 5pm. scott@hendershawandassociates.com

OCEAN BEACH. 3 bedroom 2 bath near beach living. Hardwood floors, sunny kitchen, upgraded baths, washer/dryer, master suite upstairs with attached office/den with spectacular views plus balcony. 1 car garage plus great storage. 4622 Greene Street. \$2295. 619-683-9274.

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PACIFIC BEACH. Thomas Avenue. 2 bedroom house, wood floors. 1-1/2 blocks to beach. Washer/dryer, gated backyard. \$1895, includes trash. Available now. 858-740-7682.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1850. 3 bedroom, 1 bath house, 2-car parking included, refrigerator, stove, yard, approximately 1100 square feet. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

POINT LOMA. 2 bedroom, 2-3/4 bath house. \$2700. 3240 Lowell Street. City/ bay views! Great room! Cathedral ceilings. New carpeting. 2 fireplaces. Built-in bar. Garage. Yard. Pets OK. About 2900 square feet. 3240 Lowell Street. 619-435-0387.

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CARLSBAD. \$1380. 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath, pet OK, 2-car gated parking, pool, refrigerator, stove, microwave, yard, balcony. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

CARLSBAD. \$925. Spacious Junior 1 bedroom. Bright and airy. Laundry, pool, outdoor community kitchen, dishwasher. Parking. Garages also available. No pets. 1000 Chingupin. 760-729-8681.

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CITY HEIGHTS. \$895. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo. Downstairs, new floor, canyon view, water/sewer/trash included. 2840 39th Street #10. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. www.peoplehelpingothers.com.

CITY HEIGHTS. Two 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 600 square feet, \$750. Near SDSU. 4316 52nd Street. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. www.peoplehelpingothers.com.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$695. 1 bedroom. Upstairs unit. Updated/clean. Parking and laundry onsite. No pets. 2617 Highland. Agent, 619-820-2584.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$1550-\$1895. 1 and 2 and 3 bedrooms. Custom maple cabinets. Hardwood floors. Stainless steel fixtures. Washer and dryer in unit. Granite counter tops. Custom paint. Gated community. Private patio. Assigned parking. Completely/remodeled. Cats and dogs OK! 4102 Marlborough Avenue. \$100 moves you in! Call Carol at 619-283-3563. sunriseliving.com.

CLAIREMONT/KEARNY MESA. Wexford Manor. Large 1 and 2 bedrooms in beautiful complex with pool, spa, laundry, air conditioning, dishwasher. Sorry, no pets. \$995-\$1295. Photos at www.WexfordLiving.com. 7870 Stalmer Street. 858-277-4843.

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CLAIREMONT/MISSION BAY. Up to \$250 off! 1 bedroom, 1 bath from \$1085, 2 bedroom, 1 bath from \$1300. Dishwasher, microwave. Tennis, basketball.

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CLAIREMONT. \$860. Studio. \$995. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Gated, parking, pool. 5150 Balboa Arms Drive. Call 858-571-0104.

CLAIREMONT. \$1400. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Balcony, laundry, gated, pool. 5188 Balboa Arms Drive. Call 858-541-7683.

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SALT WATER FISH TANK, 5 gallon cube, live rock, sand, tropical crabs, 1 light, big filter, perfect for small fish or eel. \$40/best, 760-754-4509.

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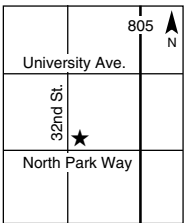
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COLLEGE AREA/TALMADGE. \$735. Nice 1 bedroom apartment. Quiet building, downstairs, large rooms. Coin laundry. Cat OK. 4438 Menlo Avenue. Agent, 619-469-7790. www.westmanproperties.com.

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DOWNTOWN/EAST VILLAGE. February move-in special! Only \$613-\$736/month with 12 month lease! Utilities included! Office hours: daily 8am-6pm. Near Petco Park, bus/trolley. Fully furnished. Bay/ballpark views. Underground parking. Air conditioning. Laundry. Internet. Clubhouse/library. Income qualify! Island Village. 1245 Market Street. For details, 1-800-351-0613. www.sreader.com/news/rent2070.

DOWNTOWN. Brand new rooms near City College. Single rooms with kitchenettes from \$140/week plus deposit (long-term). Includes utilities/cable. Quiet, secure. Shared bath/laundry. Hotel Mediterranean. 619-231-8656. www.hotelmed-sd.com.

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DOWNTOWN. \$1599. Luxurious, historic El Cortez. Unfurnished/furnished. 1 bedroom corner unit. Pool/spa, gym, deck, valet parking, laundry. Excellent location near everything. Pets welcomed. 858-274-3487.

DOWNTOWN. Cortez Hill. \$170/week. Rooms for rent. Centrally located. Clean, quiet, secure. Furnished, microwave, cable TV, refrigerator. 4th and Beech Street. Ask for Linda. 619-559-1954.

DOWNTOWN. 2 bedroom, \$1200. Includes all utilities except electricity. Hardwood floors. View, quiet complex, gated parking, remote entry, laundry onsite. No pets. 1830 Market. 619-405-RENT(7368).

DOWNTOWN. Studios with kitchen and bath, \$625-\$700. Single room with private bathroom, \$500-\$550. No smoking or pets. 10th and E Street. Hughes Management, 619-239-1639 x103.

DOWNTOWN. Comfortable rooms, \$450/up. Studios, \$650/up. Near Gaslamp District. Very quiet and clean. Free cable TV, on-site laundry, vending machines, community kitchen, shared bathrooms. Near shopping, restaurants, movie theatres and Horton Plaza. No pets. Arlington Apartments, 701 7th Avenue. Hughes Management. 619-231-2385. www.sreader.com/news/rent2097.

DOWNTOWN. Cozy rooms, \$450-\$625, grab these little jewels today! Very comfortable, convenient location, historic building near C Street trolley. Choice of shared or private bathrooms. Free cable TV, on-site laundry, vending machines, modern elevator, no pets. Southern Hotel, 1159 6th Avenue at B. Hughes Management, 619-239-3808. www.sreader.com/news/rent2099.

DOWNTOWN. Economical furnished rooms, \$400-\$500. Best price, save money. Conveniently located on C Street trolley line, near restaurants, free cable TV, shared bathrooms, on-site laundry facilities, vending machines, elevator service, no pets. 636 C Street (between 6th and 7th). C Street Inn, Hughes Management, 619-234-4165. www.sreader.com/news/rent2098.

DOWNTOWN. Gaslamp area. Move-in special, \$280. Community kitchen, shared bath, on-site laundry, vending machines, no pets. Star Hotel, 522 7th Avenue. 619-235-6068. Hughes Management.

DOWNTOWN. Outstanding furnished rooms, \$400-\$500. Heart of Gaslamp. Shared bathrooms. Community kitchen. Free cable TV. No pets. 843 4th Avenue. Windsor Hotel. 619-235-6068. Hughes Management.

DOWNTOWN. Attractive rooms. Shared bath. Utilities included! Near City College! \$400-\$595 per month. Weekly rates from \$125! 719 14th Street, Villa Victoria. Hughes Management, 619-231-2385.

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DOWNTOWN. \$675. Studio, 1 bath apartment, great views, all utilities paid, near Petco Park, controlled access building. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN. \$750. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, cat OK with deposit, hardwood floors, paid water/trash/gas. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN. \$1850. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths condo, pet OK with deposit, 2-car parking, really nice unit in newer building. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN. \$1750. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths apartment, pet OK, covered parking, barbecue/picnic area, business center, spa, fitness center. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN. \$3000. 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo, 2-car garage parking, security, window blinds, fitness center, pool, spa, gym, clubhouse. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN. \$5000 off first month! \$5995/month. 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath, 2-story penthouse. 20th floor, Horizon Towers. A+ views! 2 parking, pool, gym. Agent, 619-471-2201.

DOWNTOWN. Condo. \$500 off! \$1995/month. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. The Mark, 3rd floor. Community pool, gym, 1 parking space, storage. Pets OK (30 pounds.) Agent, 619-471-2201.

DOWNTOWN. 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo, \$1700, or ready to move into fully furnished, \$1850. 3rd floor with private balcony, upgraded kitchen with island and all appliances, washer/dryer in unit, underground parking. 235 Market Street #303. Agent, 858-560-1178.

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FASHION VALLEY. The Courtyards. \$1275. 860-square-foot 1 bedroom condo, underground parking, resort-like: pool/spa/sauna/tennis/gym. Lease. No pets/smoking. ETS Realty, 858-560-5564.

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HILLCREST. \$975. One bedroom, lower apartment, with new carpet, slate vinyl, and paint. Newer appliances. Very clean. Decent closet space. Nice shared courtyard. Charming 9-unit complex has on-site parking and laundry and locked entry gates. No pets or smoking. 3928 Third Avenue. Call for appointment, 858-571-1181.

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HILLCREST. Studio, \$835. 1 bedrooms, \$945. Great location, quiet area. Off-street parking, laundry. Cat OK. 4166 4th Avenue. 619-298-7868. hilltopterrace.rasnyder.com.

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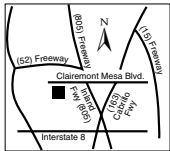
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LA MESA. \$1195. rent. \$600 deposit, OAC. Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse duplex. Patio. No pets. Open daily, 3:30-6:00pm at 4857 Jessie Street. 619-299-8515.

LA MESA. \$750. Studio, laundry, gated, parking, air conditioning. 4851 73rd Street. Call 619-697-8458.

LA MESA. \$850. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Parking, pool, laundry, yard. Cat OK. 4905 73rd Street. Call 619-697-8458.

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LA MESA. \$925. 1 bedroom, 1 bath with patio and on-site laundry. Clean, quiet, secure: cute and funky. If you can find one better, rent it! 7908 La Mesa Boulevard. Call Rachael, 619-804-1044.

LA MESA. \$750. Spacious studio, private bedroom area, patio, newer carpet, barbecue area. Garage included. Call 619-462-1550.

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MISSION BEACH. \$950. Studio. Balcony. Fireplace. New carpet/paint/windows. Laundry room. Parking. 100 feet from bay. 3630 Bayside Lane. Available now. 619-888-6604.

MISSION BEACH. 1 bedroom. Walk to beach and Bay. Wood floors. 1-car garage with additional parking. 3625 Mission Boulevard. \$999. 858-568-5081.

MISSION HILLS/HILLCREST. Newly remodeled 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath townhome. 1150 square feet. Garage. Laundry hookups. Private fenced yard. Quiet cul-de-sac on canyon. \$1950. 619-992-9927.

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MISSION HILLS. \$1200/up. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Laundry. Parking. Pets OK. La Paloma Apartments. Open daily, 1-5pm. 3911 Dove. 619-297-1134.

MISSION HILLS/HILLCREST. \$1580-\$1690. 1 bedrooms. \$2175, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Central air/heat. Dishwasher. Gas stove. Underground parking. Crown moldings. Vaulted ceilings. Fireplaces. Walk-in closets. Washer/dryer. Internet access. Elevator. Gym. Cats welcome. Mission Hills Commons Apartments, 4021 Falcon Street. missionhills@sbcglobal.net. Please call today, 619-220-0707. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2032.

MISSION HILLS. \$1400. 1 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath condo. Spacious. Quiet. Gated. Washer/dryer. Underground parking. Fantastic views. Walk to Old Town. 1802 McKee Street. 619-300-1152.

MISSION HILLS. \$850. 1 bedroom. Upstairs. Hardwood floors. Murphy bed. Antique bathtub. Some utilities included. Intercom entry. Laundry. No pets. Agent, 619-298-7724.

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MISSION HILLS. \$700 studio. Cat OK. Built-in computer nook. 3222 Reynard Way. CCPM, 619-296-6699.

MISSION HILLS. \$1025-\$1045. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Immaculate community. Hardwood floors. Bright and airy. Fresh paint. Laundry on site. Close to I-5, Little Italy, Downtown and Balboa Park. 2822 Reynard Way. Call 858-571-1970. sun-riseling.com.

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MISSION VALLEY/COLLEGE Area. First month free on 1 bedrooms! 1 bedrooms from \$960! 2 bedrooms from \$1400. Minutes to shopping, dining, transit, SDSU. Gated community. Pool/spa. On-site laundry. Fitness center. Carports available. 4929 Collwood Boulevard. 619-287-3020. collwoodpines.rasnyder.com.

MISSION VALLEY. \$900. A newly renovated studio condo. Lower level with private, fenced patio. Loads of amenities! 7932 Mission Center Court. Call for appointment, 619-793-4010.

MISSION VALLEY. The Lido. Luxury 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. 1200 square feet. Both bedrooms overlook pool! Assigned gated underground parking. Washer/dryer. Storage. Pets considered. \$2,000. www.the-lido.com. 619-252-7082.

MISSION VALLEY. \$2500. 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Dishwasher, microwave, washer/dryer, covered parking. 5805 Friars Road #2105. Available 3/1. 619-640-7530. www.sdforrent.com.

MISSION VALLEY. \$1060. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, parking included, fitness center, fireplace. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

NATIONAL CITY. \$750/month. 1 bedroom fully furnished. Low \$150 deposit. No SDGE deposit or hookup required. 624 East 24th Street. Office open daily. 619-474-3787.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. Totally remodeled! Spacious, upstairs 2 bedroom, 2 bath plus bonus room. Attached 2-car garage. Gated. Laundry onsite. No smoking/pets. \$1695 plus deposit. Available now. 4454 Cherokee Avenue. 92116. Agent: Barbara. 619-405-9493.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$950 2 bed 1.5 bath townhome clean quiet sorry no pets, gated, patio area. Street parking. \$1000 deposit. Kansas street 858-270-7699.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$995 rent, \$600 deposit, OAC. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. New carpet and paint. No pets. At 4742 East Mountain View Drive #10. 619-299-8515.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$985, 2 bedroom. Spacious. Pool, off-street parking, on-site laundry. Close to major freeways. Sorry, no pets! 4841 West Mountain View Drive. 619-282-6440. Sunriseliving.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$750 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Laundry onsite. Available 2/10/08. 4669 Cherokee Avenue Unit D. www.cethron.com. (619) 295-1100.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1045. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Private patio. Parking. Laundry. 4744 33rd Street. Xlarent.com, 619-683-7638.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1095. Downstairs 2 bedroom, 2 bath corner apartment. Berber carpet, air conditioning, parking. 4527 39th Street. Xlarent.com, 619-683-7638.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$775. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, remodeled kitchen, new vinyl. On-site laundry. Garage parking. Gated community. 619-255-0382. www.sdpaprotectors.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$735 1 bedroom, 4263 42nd. \$795 1 bedroom, 4670 Cherokee. \$895 2 bedroom, 4133 37th. Very nice, on-site laundry. No pets. 760-672-0425.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom 2 bath, upper unit. \$1250. Balcony, fireplace, washer/dryer. Garage. In gated building. 619-286-4250.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1025. 1 bedroom, \$825. Dishwasher, parking, laundry, patio. \$200 off first month. 3162 Monroe. Call 858-490-9125.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1250, move-in \$500 off. Nice, upgrades, unique downstairs, 2 bedroom 1 bath. Nonsmoking tri-plex. Garage, gated courtyard, porch, extra storage, laundry. Small pet ok, 4461 32nd #1. 619-283-8359.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$725/month. Studio. New stove, freshly painted. Off street parking. Laundry on site. Pet on approval. 4663 Felton Street #B. 619-640-7530. www.sdforrent.com.

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NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$825. Lower 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Stove, refrigerator, ceramic floors, walk-in closet, laundry, small storage. Cat ok. Section 8 ok. 4389 39th Street #3. 619-804-3325.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. Kensington. \$1395 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Small patio, pet OK. Near Adams, shopping, freeways. Air conditioning, washer/dryer. 4540 Wilson Avenue. Agent 619-318-8166.

NORTH PARK. \$835. 1 bedroom. Cute cottage in well-kept complex. Convenient location near freeways and shops. 4241-1/2 33rd Street. Call Jon, 619-583-8391.

NORTH PARK. \$925. Huge, upstairs 1 bedroom with large office or extra room. Berber carpet. Eat-in kitchen. Off-street parking. New vinyl windows. Walk-in closet. Laundry on site. www.goldenhillpm.com. Agent, 619-234-9553.

NORTH PARK. 2 bedroom, 2 bath with garage. Downstairs, super large unit with new paint, upgraded ceiling fans, coin laundry on-site. Close to all freeways and shopping. 3662 32nd Street #3. \$1250. (619)683-9274.

NORTH PARK. \$825 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Small complex, great area, quiet lower unit. Gated entry, parking. Great location. Laundry on-site. Move-in special: \$300 off first month's rent (OAC) Available now. 4177 Illinois Street #2 and #7. www.cethron.com. 619-733-9033.

NORTH PARK. \$1000. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Nice, bright, and airy upper apartment. Plenty of cabinet space. Laundry and parking on site. 1 year lease. Available now. 4119-1/2 and 4123-1/2 Kansas Street. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

NORTH PARK. \$1000/\$1000. Nice, bright upper unit and a detached cottage. With hardwood floors, built-in china cabinet. Set in lushly landscaped gated complex.

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Laundry on site. 1 year lease. Available and now. 4058 Hamilton Street. #4060, #4062. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

NORTH PARK/HILLCREST. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, \$1100. Large walk-in closet. Gated, dishwasher, laundry facilities, parking. No pets. Close to Naval Hospital, shops, freeways. 3710 Alabama Street. 619-299-1699. www.melroyproperties.com.

NORTH PARK. \$950. Nice, bright upper unit and a detached cottage. With hardwood floors, built-in china cabinet. Set in lushly landscaped gated complex. Laundry on site. 1 year lease. Available now. 4058 Hamilton Street. #4062-1/2. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

NORTH PARK. \$1275. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Big, beautiful fenced-in yard. Hardwood floors, completely remodeled, nice tile. New washer/dryer/stove/refrigerator. Small pets considered. Open house: 5-7pm Friday, 2/8, 2-5pm Saturday, 2/9, 2-5pm Sunday, 2/10. 831-295-3606.

NORTH PARK. 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Garage plus one parking. Fireplace. Air conditioning. Washer/dryer. Dishwasher. Pets negotiable. \$1900/monthly. 619-518-2005.

NORTH PARK. \$1250. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo, 850 square feet. Section 8 OK. Garage, washer/dryer, water/sewer/trash paid. 3745 Swift Avenue #4. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400, www.peoplehelpingothers.com.

NORTH PARK. \$825. Move-in bonus! Nice 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Gas/water paid. Pool. Gated, quiet, no pets, onsite laundry. 619-281-1714.

NORTH PARK. \$950. Downstairs 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Refrigerator, stove. Washer/dryer. Garage available, \$100. Clean. Private small yard. Pets OK. Non-

smoking. Available 2/1. 3657 Herman Avenue #A. 619-995-9995.

NORTH PARK. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, new granite countertops, maple cabinetry, carpet; in-unit washer/dryer, all appliances, air conditioning, fireplace. Available 3/1. \$1425. 619-817-7181.

NORTH PARK. \$875. 1 bedroom, downstairs condo in quiet canyon setting. New paint, new carpet. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave. Heat and air conditioning. Tandem parking. Shared deck and jacuzzi area. No pets. Available 2/1. 2044 Robinson. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

NORTH PARK. Luxury 2 bedroom, 2 bath. All new with granite counters, stainless steel appliances, garage, fireplace and more. www.ApartmentFindersInc.com. 619-296-2787.

NORTH PARK. \$775. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs. Parking. Laundry. No pets. Available approximately 1/7/08. 4160 36th Street #3. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

NORTH PARK. \$1100, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs. Renovated. Granite. New windows. Parking. Laundry. 4053 Cherokee Avenue #8. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

NORTH PARK. \$825. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, upper. All new decor, carpet, and appliances in gated building. Must see! Broker, 619-286-4250.

NORTH PARK. \$745. 1 bedroom, downstairs. Laundry onsite. Cats OK, no dogs. Available now. 3952 Iowa Street #3. 619-339-4311.

NORTH PARK/MORLEY FIELD. \$1425. Spectacular 2 bedroom apartment. Newly remodeled. The final touches are being done on your dream apartment. All you have to do is apply. This unit has undergone an extensive remodel in excess of \$35,000.00. Upgrades include: all new maple kitchen cabinets, new ceramic tile counter tops with full backsplash. Stainless steel appliances including micro-

hood and dishwasher. The bathroom has been completely done over with new tile shower enclosure, new tube, new vanity with granite top, all new fixtures and tile floors. There are crown moldings throughout, new baseboards, new window treatments, ceiling fans, air conditioning, all new doors, ceramic tile floors with mosaic diamond inserts and plush carpet in bedrooms. All new paint in designer colors. This is a pride of ownership building. We are almost finished with exterior remodel which cost us in excess of \$125,000.00. The property is gated with intercom, has on site laundry and one off street parking space. 3740 Pershing Avenue at Landis. Pet on approval. Call Scott at 619-846-6615. Please call between 9am and 5pm. scott@hendershawandassociates.com.

NORTH PARK. \$1050. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, upstairs. Laundry on site. No pets. 3942 Kansas Street #1. 619-640-7530. www.sdforrent.com.

NORTH PARK. \$1195. Beautiful large, lower 2 bedroom, 2 bath, mirrored closets, ceiling fans, new flooring, laundry, off-street parking, near all. 3746 31st Street #2. 619-804-3325.

NORTH PARK. \$695. 1/2 off first month. Secluded 1 bedroom, 1 bath, triplex, appliances, new carpet. Small pet OK. 3787-1/2 Florida Street. 619-804-3325.

NORTH PARK. \$1195. 1/2 off first month. Extra large, upper 2 bedroom, 2 bath, gated complex, all appliances, air conditioning, balcony, underground parking. Cat ok. Section 8 ok. 3928 Illinois Street #204. 619-843-0796.

NORTH PARK. \$925. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. New carpet, new blinds, new appliances. Spacious unit. Large balcony. Upgraded fixtures. Centrally located, close to I-805, shopping and more. 3984 32nd Street. Section 8 OK! Call 858-571-1970. sun-riselling.com.

NORTH PARK. \$1075. Extra large, upper 2 bedroom, 1 bath, all appliances, on-site laundry, 2 parking spaces. Near all. Small

pets negotiable. Section 8 ok. 4185 Texas Street #9. 619-804-3325.

NORTH PARK. \$825. Quiet. 1 bedroom apartment. Move in special! New paint/ carpet, stove. Security gated. Parking. Laundry on site. Available now. 4121 Iowa. 619-546-5633.

NORTH PARK. \$850. Lower 1 bedroom, 1 bath, beautiful wood cabinets, stove, refrigerator, on-site laundry, off-street parking. Cat ok, Section 8 ok. 3337 Herman Avenue #4. 619-804-3325.

NORTH PARK. \$1675. Victorian-style upper 3 bedroom, 2 bath, all appliances, washer/dryer, granite, mirrored wardrobe doors, upgraded fixtures. Parking. Cat ok. 3376 Grimm Avenue #2. 619-804-3325.

NORTH PARK. \$1172. Upgraded 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo. Lower unit, parking and laundry. Section 8 welcome! 4557 33rd Street #2. Agent, 858-560-1178.

NORTH PARK. \$850. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Approximately 600 square feet. Hardwood floors, extra storage unit, on-site laundry. Great location. Close to shopping, restaurants, and freeways. 1 year lease, available now. 3615 30th Street. Cogan Properties, 619-818-3282.

OCEAN BEACH. \$935. Blocks to the beach! 1 bedroom. Clean. Parking. Laundry. No pets. Seacoast Apartments, 5030 Lotus. Call Doris, 619-204-1651.

OCEAN BEACH. \$925. Large 1 bedroom apartment. Patio, laundry, 2 blocks to beach. No dogs or cats. 5045 Lotus Street. Available now. Deposit \$825. 858-292-6046.

OCEAN BEACH. \$975/month. 1 bedroom apartment. Deposit \$975. On-site laundry. New windows. Street parking. No pets. Available now. 1725 Sunset Cliffs Boulevard. 619-224-3443.

OCEAN BEACH. \$875/month. Studio apartment. Deposit \$875. On-site laundry. New windows. Street parking. No pets. Available now. 1725 Sunset Cliffs Boulevard. 619-224-3443.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1075. Large 1 bedroom. Recently remodeled! New kitchen, new bathroom, new paint. Laundry/parking. Patio. No pets. 4639 West Point Loma Boulevard #3. 760-753-2490.

OCEAN BEACH. Beautiful beachfront ocean view! Studio, \$995. 1 bedroom, \$1075-\$1200. 2 bedroom, \$1400-\$1600. Serene security garden buildings. Hardwood floors, ceramic tile, laundry. Garages available. Pets considered. For address and availability, call 619-224-1748. For applications, call 619-501-5553.

OCEAN BEACH. \$745. Studio, mile from beach in quiet tropical setting. Laundry. New carpet, paint. Available immediately. 4166 Udall St #2. 619-222-9308.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1095. 2 bedroom. 1 mile to beach in quiet complex. Newer carpet, paint. Laundry. Parking. 4362 Banning. Available immediately. 619-222-9308.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1195. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, near beach, small building. Roomy, clean, quiet. No pets. Nonsmoking. Nice home. 5050 Santa Monica Avenue. Manager #14. Call 9am-5pm. 619-222-3897.

OCEAN BEACH. \$995. Spacious 1 bedroom with courtyard, laundry and parking. 4878 Saratoga Avenue #106. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1095. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex unit with parking! Close to beach! Small pet on approval. 4660 Green Street. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$975. 1 bedroom, 1 bath cottage available. New kitchen. Located 1 block from beach. No pets. 5018.5 Cape May Avenue. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$875. Large studio steps to beach! Parking and laundry. No pets! 1984 Abbott Street. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$875-\$995. 1 bedroom upstairs apartment and large studio available in South Ocean Beach! Parking and laundry. No pets! 4922 Santa Cruz #7 and #10. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1350. 2 bedroom, 1 bath downstairs apartment. First block on beach! Parking and laundry on site! No pets! 5041 Santa Monica Avenue #5. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

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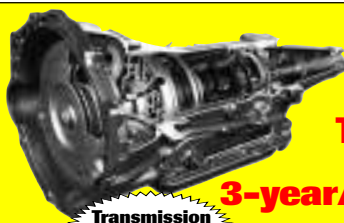
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OCEAN BEACH. \$995. 1 bedroom, 1 bath downstairs apartment. One block to beach! Laundry on site! No pets. 5057 Narragansett Avenue #2. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetapacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1050. 1 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs apartment with deck and partial ocean view! Hardwood floors and includes all utilities. No pets. 2188 Abbott Street. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetapacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH/POINT LOMA. Move-in special! \$1800. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhome. Washer/dryer. Hot tub. Garage. 4554 West Point Loma Boulevard. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1350. Large downstairs 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Near beach. Laundry. Appliances. Cat ok. 4826 Santa Cruz. 619-224-4215.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1350. Upper 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment in four-plex. Parking. New kitchen. Laundry. Cat ok. 4630 Voltaire Street. 619-224-4215.

OCEAN BEACH. Near beach. \$980, upstairs 1 bedroom, new wood floors. \$1400, downstairs 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Laundry, parking, cat ok. 4811 Del Monte. 619-224-4215.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1750. At the Pier, 1 plus bedroom, 1 bath townhouse, 2 car garage. Ocean view deck. Appliances, fireplace. Pets ok. 619-224-4215.

OCEAN BEACH. \$850. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs. No pets. Refrigerator, stove. Close to beach and shopping. 5102 Muir Avenue. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1350. Deposit \$1000. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. 1 year lease. Close to beach. Parking. Available now. 4955 Brighton Avenue. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$775. Deposit \$500. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Refrigerator. Stove. No pets. Available now. 5109 Longbranch. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1095. 1 bedroom apartment, pet OK, pool, laundry, dishwasher, balcony, central heat, 700-square-foot, patio, paid trash. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1350. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex, refrigerator, stove, approximately 800 square feet, paid water and trash. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

OCEAN BEACH. Sunset Cliffs-steps away from your new home. 1/2 off first month's rent! Studio apartment at \$985. No application fee! Assigned parking. Cats welcome. Stove, Refrigerator, Laundry facilities. Sun deck with ocean view. 4925 Del Mar Avenue. Call for appointment, 619-235-9018. www.pacificliving.com.

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OCEAN BEACH. 2 bedroom, 2 bath Sea Colony townhouse, attached garage, washer/dryer, refrigerator, upgraded kitchen, new carpet and paint. \$1900/month. Call 619-840-8231.

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Jerry Sample, Jr. (General Manager) is an ASE Master Technician who is also **Acura/Honda factory-trained**. With well over a decade of experience, including several years working as a top mechanic at a well-known local Acura dealership, you can be assured of top-notch quality service. Jerry takes pride in what he does. His diagnostic skills are well-known throughout the industry. Often when customers are unable to achieve satisfaction elsewhere, they are directed to Jerry for an analysis. He thrives on a good challenge. Jerry will also take the time to explain to customers what he believes the problem is and how he would go about fixing it.

Greenlight Honda Acura Care prides itself on quality and service. We are proud to have more than 1,000 customers in San Diego and surrounding areas. The loyalty of our customers attests to Jerry and his crew's integrity.

Bryan Bettencourt (Service Technician) also has many years of experience in the automotive business including audio and communications. Bryan is the "go-to" guy for all your electrical needs. He complements Jerry in every way. Together, Jerry, Bryan and their team are a formidable group of technicians, ensuring that you walk away a satisfied customer. Some repair shops take shortcuts and often cover up problems with a temporary fix. We know...we fix their mistakes!

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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 Holzle's *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.) Holzle predicts a higher success rate than for ordinary dating agencies but at a fee of \$1995 per client.

The Continuing Crisis

— Egypt's competitive spirit, combined with a recent surge in piety as some in the Middle East strengthen their commitment to Islam, has led many men to suddenly sport dark calluses on their foreheads as a signal of perhaps-overenthusiastic daily praying. The five prayers require, in all, 34 contacts with the ground (of forehead and nose), and additional personal prayers add to the total, according to a December *New York Times* dispatch from

Cairo. Rumors persist that some men use sandpaper to darken the calluses to appear even more pious. — **Noxious Substances:** (1) State and federal authorities descended on Quality Pork Processors of Austin, Minn., in December after 11 workers contracted a mysterious neurological illness, which apparently came from inhaling the mist that results from blowing hogs' brains out with compressed air. (2) New York City apartment-house doorman Jonah Seeman was suspended in December after excessive complaints about his bad breath. His job, said a resident, is opening the door, "not...his mouth." (3) Maurice Fox, 77, said in December he would comply with the wishes of the Kirkham Street Sports and Social Club of Paignton, England, to sit only by the front door so he could excuse himself when he needed to pass gas, which management said had become a problem.

Bright Ideas

— Michael Windisch, proprietor of the Maltermeister Turm restaurant in Goslar, Lower Saxony, Germany, solved what has become a crisis for other restaurants since the state extended a smoking ban in August. Windisch opened three holes in an outer wall so that, in cold weather, a smoker

need not venture outside but can stick his head and arms through the holes and puff away while remaining inside (according to a December report in *Der Spiegel*).

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 militia would continue to attack their property, finally promising "chemical, biological and nuclear mass destruction." — John Hayes, 46, a Marietta, 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 to the class, but Burton and his partner put out the fire (limiting damage to \$150,000) along with the dispatched crew, which arrived shortly after Burton.

Least Competent Criminals

— Josue 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 hitched 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

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1100. Studio, top floor with private balcony. Vaulted ceilings,

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1550, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath; \$1675, 2 bedroom, 2 baths. Partial ocean views! Beautifully remodeled. Dishwasher. Quiet atmosphere. Heated pool. Parking or garage available. Cats considered. 858-272-4398.

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PACIFIC BEACH. Studio, steps from beach. Laundry, hot tub on site. Available 2/03. To view, 633 Missouri Street. Please do not disturb tenants. \$1025. 858-483-3335.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$200 off first month. 2 bedroom, 1 bath across from Mission Bay from \$1325! Gated community. Trails to bay, beach. Adjacent amenities: pool, spa, sundeck, barbecue lounge. Equipment and free weight room. Cardio fitness center. Computer lab with printer. TV lounge. On-site laundry. Cat friendly! 1-800-490-6372. www.pacificliving.com.

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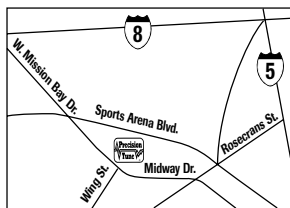
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BACK WHEN

In the Reader

Thirty Years Ago

I would not complain that Jeannette 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 Tashkow, 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 Democratic 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

Twenty Years Ago

It was seven o'clock in the morning, cold as a dog's nose, and I was down on my knees, crawling through the brush on Volcan Mountain, looking for something that I knew damn well didn't exist.

I had ditched my mountain bike in the bushes down by the locked gate at the base of Volcan Mountain and started up the hillside on foot. There were patches of sharp-smelling chinquapin that always give me sneezing fits, and thick stands of cedars and oaks. A covey of worried quail led me up a steep creek; when I got too close, they would fly on ahead.

Just about every tree on Volcan Mountain taller than eight feet has a sign tacked to it: "No trespassing — Violators Liable To Arrest! Signed, E.C. Rutherford." I didn't expect Mr. Rutherford to understand that I was trying to find the headwaters of the San Dieguito River.

—"FIFTY MILES OF RIVER," Steve Sorensen,

February 11, 1988

Fifteen Years Ago

The sight of a bloated Fleetwood Mac dueting with martian-like Michael J., the unctuous strains of Loggins and Messina's horrid old chesnut "Your Mama Don't Dance," the incon-

gruous 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 CHULA VISTA GARAGE,"** Gina Arnold, February 11, 1993

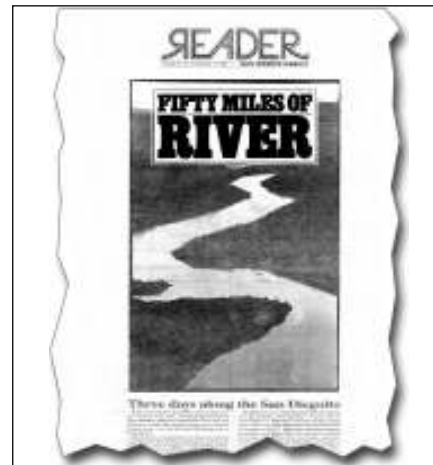
Ten Years Ago

My experience at Horizon Christian Fellowship was not positive. I disliked the music. I disliked the fact that there were neither hymnals 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 clanish, insider/outsider feel. Although I can't imagine why anyone — even the most ardent born-again Christian — would want to commit any of these contemporary hymns to memory, much less print them on paper.

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

Five Years Ago

"The image is of dignity, but the real picture of Native Americans is not such a beautiful picture," Fallbrook resident Rita Coolidge tells



San Diego Reader, February 11, 1988

me over the phone. "There are a lot of people who don't benefit from casino money. Alcoholism is high; education is poor.

"Initially I came with Kris [Kristofferson] and thought, '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 walk 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

Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com

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College Cut-Up

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 he/she 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 missives, 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.

I recognized 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, but I was playing it so aloof that I hardly recognized it.

One night I asked him to tell me 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 would not, but 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 1 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 still 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 called my mother and then his parents. His father got him to calm down and accept my decision, 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. 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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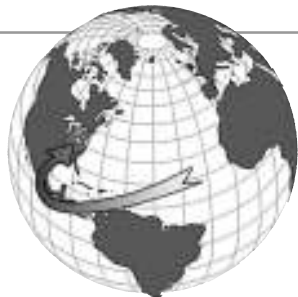
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MY LITTLE PARASITE

Every year, my husband and I look forward to Halloween. We plan for months in advance to make sure that we have cool (though sometimes obscure) costumes. One year we went as characters from children's books — he was the man in the yellow hat 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 gouge in his head from my spiked ball-and-chain accessory. He blames me, I blame the whiskey.

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 teeth) and he ended up being Evil Spock from *Star Trek's* “Mirror, Mirror” universe (it was a spare costume we had on hand — again, 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 doctor, 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

drink away your shame over your piss-poor costume choice! Now that, my friends, is a crime.

By October 1, I was feeling pretty morose about the whole Halloween affair. I was looking forward to the party a friend was throwing and to seeing some friends who were coming in from out of town, but I'd be lying if I said I wasn't a little depressed



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 “chest-burster” toy (from the movie *Alien*) on the Internet. A \$1 thrift-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

chestbuster 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 Halloween-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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DISNEY PARK HOPPER tickets, 4 one-day tickets, each \$60 (\$90 value). Good until March 15, 2008. Must pick up from me. Margie, 619-691-0787.

HARBOR CRUISE. 4 passes for the 1 or 2-hour Cruise and Sea Lion Adventure or seasonal Whale & Dolphin Watching Adventure. \$65 cash. 619-773-5370; 619-674-1808.

SPORTS

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AIR RIFLE, RWS model 34, 177 caliber, wood stock, \$175. Still in box. 619-574-7530.

BIKES and rollerblades. Raleigh touring bike, nice condition, \$150. Kid's Specialized mountain bike, \$65. Women's rollerblades, size 8-1/2 to 9, new, \$65. 858-864-2708.

BOWFLEX ELITE GYM. Hardly used. All attachments and manuals. Paid \$1000, selling for \$500 858-693-3251

GOLF CLUBS, ladies' matched set, graphite shafts, bag, \$185. 858-487-8494.

GOLF CLUBS, 3 woods, full set of irons, bag, \$75. 858-487-8494.

JET SKI, 1997 Seadoo Bombardier GTX, 2 stroke, great for beginners, recent engine and propulsion system serviced, freshwater only, 2nd owner, life vests, \$2500/best. 619-742-3909.

KAYAK SAIL, Spiritsail, full size, new \$300, sell \$160. Kokatat sprayskirt, waterproof, breathable, new \$120, sell \$60. Both in new condition. 619-415-9534.

KAYAKS FOR SALE. Closeout sale on all leftover 2007 model Cobra Tourer and Expedition kayakers. Includes used demonstrator models and new display kayaks from 15' to 18'. New prices from \$995 to \$1700. Closeout prices on complete packages from \$595 to \$895. Some used trade in kayaks, 10' to 13' also available priced from \$250 to \$500. Visit our website at www.kayaksd.com or call San Diego Sailing Center at 858-488-0651.

ROLLER BLADES, men's K2 MOD 8 skates, size 12, rarely used, still have the original wheels in great shape, \$89.99. Bob, 619-563-4985.

SAILBOAT, 1981 25' Catalina, all systems upgraded, excellent condition, 9.5 outboard, \$5800. 619-295-3720.

SKI BOOTS, men's Salomon Performa 7.0, size 10-1/2/28.5, \$50. Ski poles, \$5. Men's ski pants 34R, women's pants 6 regular, \$10 each. Men's sweaters, medium, \$5 each. 858-558-3481.

SKIIS, K2 Trixial 5500 9-1 skiis. Used two seasons. Great deal, \$40. Also Nordica ski boots, mens size 10. Made in Italy. Asking \$40, 858-652-8738.

SKIS, LaCroix 290cc, Atomic poles, Marker titanium bindings, Lowa boots VA70, size 10, with carriers, mint condition, over \$1200, sacrifice \$200. 619-277-3200.

SNOWBOARD BLOWOUT SALE 25%-75% off selected new and used snowboards, boots, clothing and accessories. Why rent this year when you can buy at these prices? Trade in other sports and fitness equipment to save even more money. Play It Again Sports, Pacific Beach, Tierrasanta, College Area. 858-490-0222, www.playitagainsd.com.

SOFTBALL PLAYERS. We need a 3rd baseman and a left fielder to complete our team. We start February 10. 619-517-5791.

SOFTBALL TEAM wants a shortstop and center fielder. 619-295-0385.

SOFTBALL-ADULTS; SPRING 2008. Men/co-ed team registration. Competitive/recreational divisions. Register now, reserve your place. Starts 3/1/2008. Information: www.softballsd.com or call John 619-261-0826.d

SURFBOARD RACKS by Yakima with surf pads and straps. Paid \$525 new. One year old. Complete gutterless set. Selling \$295. Call 858-449-2760.

SURFBOARDS. 12.0 Stand up paddle board, retail, \$1600, must sell, \$875. Vintage Lightning Bolt and Mark Richards, must sacrifice, best offer. 87 brand new Wave Weapons, super sale! Call 760-809-8642.

SURFBOARDS. New, never in water. Two 9', new foam tops/fiberglass bottoms, \$100 each. One 6' fiberglass, \$50. Wet suits, 2 XL shorts. More. 360-789-7375.

TENNIS LEAGUE. Intermediate to advanced skill levels. Join the year-round fun at the #1 League in San Diego. Leagues starting now. 858-794-1800; www.tennisleague.com.

WEIGHT BENCH, Olympic size with leg attachment, adjustable, excellent condition, \$75. Can deliver. 619-462-8131.

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KOWA 2-1/4x2-1/4 format with 80mm lens. Canon FTb 35mm with 50mm f/1.8. Minolta XG-1 with 50mm f/1.7. Great cameras, excellent condition. \$550 takes all. 619-585-8652.

NIKON SB-24 flash with manual, has a few scratches, works great, \$65. 619-246-7856.

COMPUTERS

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COMPUTER by Linksys, Access Point wireless, 2.4GHz, new, 2 months old, bought the wrong item, \$60. 619-445-5898.

COMPUTER CIRCULATION CENTER. Buy, sell, trade. Laptops, PCs. Repairs, upgrades, virus/spyware removal. 24-48 hour turnaround. 9350 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, San Diego 92123. Call 858-573-0411.

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COMPUTER Mouse, keyboards, \$100 all. Windows 95. Spanish version, \$25. CD writer \$25, rfort27@hotmail.com or 760-598-6906.

COMPUTER TOWER, with 17" monitor, \$40. Large 18" HP monitor, \$20. 15" IBM monitor with keyboard, \$20. Fax, printer, scanner, copier, \$15. 760-685-8291.

LAPTOP BLOWOUT. FREE Diagnostic. Laptops starting from \$298 for ACER, Dell, IBM, Toshiba and more. Laptop/projector rentals-\$25/\$75. 3 locations! Going fast, call now: 1-888-861-8347.

TOSHIBA LAPTOP/TABLET PC, Windows XP. Model #35000. 1.33 GHz, 752 RAM, 40GB. \$455. Handwriting recognition. NIS 2008 and MS Office. Kelvin 858-232-9271.

TOTAL COMPUTER. Commercial service. We do everything. Installation, set-up, training, repair, networking, telephones, wiring, upgrades. \$20 in-home diagnostics. 619-941-1809; cell, 619-607-0221.

BICYCLES

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GARY FISHER TARPONS, hardtail, \$100/best. Many more bikes available, all sizes. 858-551-9510.

U-LOCK, extra long, 11", made by Specialized, Alcatraz model, \$15. 858-270-5856.

WANTED / TRADE

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CASH FOR ANY COMICS before 1970, original comic and animation art, autograph collections, early Disney and Disneyland items, any movie and rock and roll items. 619-465-3090.

CASH PAID: GOLD/DIAMONDS and watches. Any condition OK. Highest dollars paid. We also buy estates. Call for quote. 619-235-6555.

FISHING TACKLE. Collector wants for his personal collection wooden lures, reels, miscellaneous by Heddon, Plueger, Creek Chub, South Bend, Shakespeare, to name a few. 619-972-3488.

FRENCH SPEAKER WANTED, For conversational practice. Approximately intermediate. Let's meet once a week over coffee, amat01@aol.com.

INDIAN ARROWHEADS/ARTIFACTS. Must be authentic. Call Steve at 619-985-8562.

MASSAGE CHAIR, gently used. Villeroy Boch Acapulco pattern china. Reasonable prices please. 619-501-1883.

OLD TOYS AND TRAINS. Lionel, American Flyer, Marx, Aurora, Corgi, Dinky, Hot Wheels, Matchbox, slot cars, Buddy-L, Smith-Miller, Structo, Tonka. Old plastic vehicles: Pyro, Renwal, Dave, 858-756-2411.

SHOTGUN AND RIFLE SHELL boxes, pre-1960. One and two-piece boxes, empty or full, manufactured by Winchester, Peters, Remington, Western, Federal, Robin Hood, Defiance, etc., for private collection. 858-565-1756.

SMALL BOAT WANTED, 8 feet long or less, row or sail. 619-656-2831.

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

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MY PERSONAL AD ON AN INTERNET DATING SITE:

This isn't for dating. I'm not making this profile to get dates. This profile is to audition for a nemesis or nemesises (nemesi?). 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 of residential neighborhoods and even catch and defend against a flying pit bull, which you will toss at my face; you are daring in your bank-robbery escapades and your exotic dancing at beach-house parties, but you are cowardly when faced with the stony cheekbones of law.

About me: Ah, the dashing hero. Within me blazes the fire of justice. Some of my means may be questionable, but the end is righteous. I am kind to children and animals. I had a rocky youth until a kindly Japanese maintenance man taught me the art of karate. At first I am the underdog, you are the venerated favorite in our chosen matches, but eventually, through a moment of introspection, I will find the determination and courage within me to defeat you. Every. Damn. Time.

Children cheer my name.

About us: There will be no walking along beaches. No kissing and wine in the rain with roses and lingerie. No. There will be no holding of hands. Unless our hands have been tied together to facilitate a dramatic feature of an otherwise mundane knife fight like in Michael Jackson's documentary of inner-city gang youth culture, "Beat It." There will be no chocolate unless it is poisoned in some fashion. We will not be lovers. Ever. But at one point you and I will be friends, until that is, your dastardly nature forces you to betray me. Instead of retracting from the deception and turning cold and jaded inside, I'll 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 obscene with the quick rearrangement of a couple letters? Jag and Becker. Come on. Oh, I guess that is just me. God, I need a woman. I'm so lonely.

THE GREAT WHITE HYPE
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 ferocity and power of a week of television

programming dedicated to sharks can't be equaled. But the other is plain frightening and icky. Tough decision.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8
GHOST WHISPERER
CBS 8:00 P.M.

So far, the list of "whisperers" includes horses, dogs, ghosts, slugs, 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 behinds, what 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 bedroom floor watching TV with my finger in my bellybutton while making fart noises with my lips.

A CHARLIE BROWN VALENTINE
ABC 8:00 P.M.

Allow me to literally translate every nuance and metaphor of the Charlie Brown oeuvre. People take advantage of Charlie Brown because of his affable, try-hard-to-please nature. Physically, he is not repulsive but carries himself to be unattractive. Socially, he is ostracized because of his awkward nature. This all speaks to a shame issue with a possible body-dysmorphic disorder. Charlie will probably work with computers in the future, will experiment with homosexuality, and will eventually date, marry, and divorce someone from his office. Charlie may commit suicide or may live out his final years loveless. It's a bleak existence, Charlie Brown.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10
FREE RADIO
VH1 10:30 A.M.

I'm confused by the Bryan 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 rootering Lindsay Lohan? He must be, like, 50. Well, good for him.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11
RUGBY
CASD4 7:00 P.M.

CASD4 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?



Prehistoric Park

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12
SPORTSCENTER
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 VL teddy bears, I Spider Man costume, and IV Tonka trucks. I've just now finished my MCMLXXVI cup of coffee, and I'm about to use the restroom for my MMMMMMMMMMMMD-CLXXXVII number I.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13
AMERICA'S BALLROOM 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 4
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 Mustaches." 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.

BELL. Norman Rockwell's "Looking Out To Sea" porcelain bisque dinner bell, great gift, limited edition, River Shore Ltd., only \$45. Leave message, speak slowly, Yvonne, 619-283-1767.

FAINTING COUCH. authentic, turn-of-the-century antique, dark walnut with gold velvet fabric, \$675. Amy, 619-231-0030.

LINEN. vintage European, beautiful, for table, bed, bath, and kitchen from various European countries. Prices vary according to piece. 760-415-8133.

MIRROR. art deco, old, 1930s, 1/4 bevel, 32"Hx16-1/2"W, \$195. 619-296-7185.

NORMAN ROCKWELL PLATES. Beautiful plates, still in box with certificates. \$15/each. Call Jodi, 619-670-5734.

VICTORIAN SOFA. Late 1800s. Dark mahogany wood, all original fabric. In good shape. \$600. Call 619-876-7988.

GARAGE SALES

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KENSINGTON. Super yard sale. Saturday 2/16. Great clothes, home decor, videos, shoes, etc. Come on by our yard sale. Adams at Vista (92116).

OCEAN BEACH. Garage sale. Saturday, 2/9, 7am-2pm. Furniture, electronics, sports equipment, clothes, shoes, books, movies, music, toys, stuffed animals. A must see! 2033 Abbott Street.

OLD TOWN. Garage sale. Saturday, 2/2, 9am. TV, collectibles, electronics, knick-knacks, sporting goods, tools, hardware, holsters, clothing, household goods, leather goods, purses. 4111 Mason Street.

PACIFIC BEACH. Furniture, tools, DVDs, VHS movies and more. 2/09/08, 8am-1pm. 700 block of Van Nuys Street.

PACIFIC BEACH. Alley behind 869 Tourmaline Street, Saturday 2/09/08, 8am.

Furniture, electronics, tools, car, clothes, appliances, DVDs, sporting goods, etc. Moving East! All must go!

POINT LOMA. 15-family rummage sale. Saturday, 2/9, 6am-noon. Kid's/adult's clothes, toys, furniture, appliances, washer/dryer, lots more. Don't miss! 2741 Mendonca Drive (Gateway Village).

TIERRASANTA. Huge sale! Hundreds of high quality great stuff, many new items for every room. Clothes, sports equipment. 2/09/08, 2/10/08, 8am-2pm 10847 Corte Playa Toluca.

APPLIANCES

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STACKABLE WASHER/DRYER, Excellent condition \$245. Can deliver. Call Yolanda 619-262-8801.

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ELECTRONICS

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BELKIN-TUNE CAST II, Transmitter for ipod/mp3 player. Includes car adaptor and cord. \$29/new, 619-574-7530.

FLAT SCREEN TV, 24". Apex model 2402. Check stats online. Was in office with minimal use, 20"Hx26"Wx20"D, \$70. 858-652-8738.

HOME THEATER, digital professional system, 800 watts, list price on box \$1999, new, never used, still in box, asking \$500/best. 619-466-8663.

POWERED ACTIVE 8" SUBWOOFER, (#SP-180W) by Sherwood. Manuals. A steal at only \$100. Call 858-232-9271.

TV, COLOR, 27", with remote, like new, excellent picture, \$99, 619-461-4805.

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BED \$169 A BARGAIN. A Ortho Pillowtop Queen, new in plastic with warranty, mattress/box. All sizes. Credit cards accepted. Can deliver. 800-464-6420. North County, 800-464-6490.

BED, queen size with frame, \$85. 760-233-9520.

BED, Sleep Number model 9000, queen, 3 months old, excellent condition, with manual, \$2800/best. Save \$1600 off new. Can deliver. 619-749-3450.

BUNK BEDS. With mattress! Unused! Dark brown wood. Solid. Originally paid \$1500. Sacrifice, \$500. Call 619-277-9326.

CHAIRS, video game rocker chairs, 2 matching, good condition, \$25 each or both for \$40. 619-466-8663.

CHINA CABINET, mahogany, Duncan Phyfe style, lighted display case, with 3 shelves, drawer, enclosed storage on bottom. Store value \$895. Yours for \$600. Photo available. 760-729-6571.

COMPUTER DESK, professional, executive, wood, high quality, with hutch, keyboard, and 6 drawers, excellent condition, \$175. 619-466-8663.

COMPUTER DESK, Office wall/corner unit, 7 piece, custom, solid wood, natural finish, beautiful! 80" tall. E-mail pictures! Arrange to fit space. \$900. Vista 760-941-0541.

COUCH AND MATCHING LOVESEAT. Sage in color, fabric is cut chenille. Excellent condition. Call Jill 858-792-4689.

DESKS WITH RETURNS, neutral color metal, \$225. Bookshelves, file cabinets, all nice shape. Complete office. Freeway close. Delivery possible. City Heights, 619-749-3450.

DINING ROOM TABLE, 8 matching chairs with black leather seats, Italian black lacquer, brown lacquer wood extension, good condition, \$2950/best. Rene, 858-452-1179.

DINING ROOM SET. Duncan Phyfe. 1930s-1940s. Mahogany. Table, 6 chairs, buffet. Needs TLC, \$450/best, 619-280-9083.

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DINING ROOM TABLE, With hutch, 6 upholstered chairs. Excellent condition, must sell. 619-886-6929.

DINING ROOM TABLE, Round, 49"W with out the 2 table extensions, 4 chairs, mid-back, no arms. Vintage wood, medium color wood, \$175. 619-867-6767.

DRAFTING WORK TABLE, metal, wood top (removeable), 6'8"Lx3'Hx2' 11-1/2"W, \$100. 619-465-5593.

END TABLE, Large. Burl wood finish. 3x5'. A steal at only \$100. Call Kelvin 858-232-9271.

ENTERTAINMENT ARMOIRE, Ethan Allen, 84"x45"x22", quality piece, will fit TV to 33"W, excellent condition, 2 CD drawers. Original receipt \$3162; asking \$300. Rob, 619-890-6848.

EXECUTIVE DESK and matching conference table, faux emerald green marble, very nice condition and easy move, \$850. Pictures available. City Heights, 619-749-3450.

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HONDA ACCORD, 2004, automatic, blue/gray color, stereo, CD, runs like new, in great condition, 92K miles, \$10,995. Must sell. Call 760-602-8286.

HONDA CIVIC EX, 2001, 4-door sedan, 5-speed manual, good condition, 79K miles, silver, \$7600/best. Kenneth, 719-439-0877.

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CHEVY MARK III 1500, 1997 van, clean title, recent smog, 163K miles, no rear seats, extra cargo space, well maintained, cruise, power, \$4200/best. Armin, 818-470-4144.

CHEVY PANEL, 1935, delivery truck, complete and original with bullet holes, unrestored and running, \$7500/best. 858-273-1331.

CHEVY PICKUP, 1993. V6. Longbed, well maintained. New rebuilt transmission, tires, shocks, battery, starter. Alarm. Registered, 4/08. Runs perfect \$3000, 619-920-3362.

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CHEVY VAN, 2003, 2500 Series, Chevy Express. V-8, automatic locks/windows. CD/stereo, polished aluminum wheels, white, leather seats, cage behind driver. It's a beauty! \$9500/best. 619-670-5734.

DODGE CARAVAN, Handicapped van 1994. 53,000 miles, electric ramp. Runs great, \$7000, 858-483-5534.

FORD E350 CLUBWAGON, 1998, extended, 12-15 passengers, tow, V10, very reliable, looks good, air bags, am/fm stereo, rear air conditioning, tilt, \$6000. Sandra, 619-405-7955.

FORD ESCAPE, 2001. XLT, 2 wheel drive. Black with grey bucket seats. Excellent condition, automatic, loaded, 49,000 miles. Reduced to \$8690. For details call 619-787-7500.

FORD F150 XLT SUPERCAB, 2002, 4.6L, V-8, black, grille guard, running boards, bed rails, bed liner, power everything, K&N filter, new tires, awesome, \$7997. 619-246-9841.

FORD RANGER SUPERCAB, 2003, excellent condition, 4.0 V-6, automatic, air conditioning, 4 door, power everything, custom wheels and tires, tonneau cover, 62K miles, \$9800. Steve, 619-709-9995.

GMC SIERRA, 1993, 7.4 liter, white, extended cab, long bed, 139K miles, \$5900 cash. Private parties only. 619-271-9540.

ISUZU RODEO, 1995, well kept SUV, excellent condition, new tires, brakes, runs great, will run forever, 4x4, snowboard racks, good sound system, moonroof, \$3400. 805-259-6870.

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TOYOTA TACOMA, 2002, automatic, black with tan interior, 4x4 king cab, 93K miles, great condition, Weatherguard toolbox, ready for work or play, \$11,500. 619-425-9626.

VW POP-UP CAMPER VAN, 1972, beautiful Westfalia, excellent condition, newer red and white paint, rebuilt engine, runs great, bed, table, sink, refrigerator, potty, \$8000. 215/284-0852.

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CADILLAC FLEETWOOD, 1993, big body, Brougham (lowrider), 141K original miles, current tags, new paint, automatic, very clean engine, no leaks, air bags, \$4500/best. Danny, 619-955-9023.

FORD LTD, 1972, convertible, rebuilt/restored, looks/drives great, custom pearl green paint, custom white/green interior, custom sound system, rebuilt 429 V8, \$7000. 619-767-8189.

FORD MODEL A, 1931, panel delivery truck, chili pepper red, very rare, immaculately restored, original engine and still running well, \$21,500. Douglas, 619-232-2020.

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ALFA SEEYA MOTORHOME, 2003. 40', Allison 3000 MH 6 speed. XC Freightliner chassis, leather sofa sleeper, 3 TVs. Selling due to wife's condition, \$100,000, 858-945-3145.

FORD COACHMAN 350, 1988. 28'. Class C. Clean, runs great, new refrigerator and tune-up, \$8000/best, 760-791-7277.

MOTOR HOME, 2002. Pleasure Way on Dodge, 29K miles, like new, \$35,000. 619-669-4931.

RV PARTS/ACCESSORIES, Many items, moving out of 40' motorhome. Ladder, sewer/air hoses, Blud Ox hitch, bulbs, fuse, lubricants, cleaners, power cords. 858-945-3145.

T.G.I.F.

I consider the human body a gift from God and a prime example of his awful brand of mercy.

By John Brizzolara

Checking online listings for things I am missing out on (as I recuperate with a broken foot I've gone on about), especially Fridays, I happened upon "Bodies" for Friday, February 8. This exhibition (which closes on Sunday, February 10) I thought of as a Friday activity because of its location at University Towne Centre, where there are so many other Friday-oriented things to do. One can shop, dine, take in a movie, and, depending on how strong your stomach might be, either before or after dinner, educate oneself on the human anatomy. I know it might well put me off of food or induce queasiness afterward.

Not only am I squeamish to a large extent, I have grown to think of the human body, as I age, as treacherous, a complicated system of fragile parts waiting to go wrong.

The "Bodies" exhibit listing reads, in part: "Features more than 250 'real, whole, and partial human body specimens...dissected and preserved, providing up-close looks inside skeletal, muscular, reproductive, respiratory, circulatory, and other human body systems. Many whole-body specimens are dissected in vivid athletic poses." Found in former Robinson's-May store. 877-263-4375. When: Thursdays from 10

a.m. to 7 p.m.; Fridays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sundays from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. The address, in case you don't know where UTC is, would be 4425 La Jolla Village Drive.

I have been given much opportunity over the years and more intensively in the recent past for meditations on the human body. So much has gone wrong with my own for reasons having to do with age, lifestyle, heredity, etc., but to a large degree, the seemingly random.

Cancer at the age of 35, for example, has never been explained adequately, even to oncologists who are clueless as to the why of its onset. Hodgkin's disease (called sometimes "the young person's disease"), which is a particular type of lymphoma, was the culprit. No history of it in the family. One odious oncologist made a feeble attempt to direct blame at my smoking or drinking, but this idea was shot down by several other MDs in the same field whom I consulted over 14 months. Environmental? Maybe. It is possible they've come closer to pinpointing causes since 1985 — they have certainly improved a victim's odds since then — but I hardly keep up with medical journals on the subject. In fact, I pretty much repress the whole thing. It comes under the category of "Anyone Get the Number of That Truck? No? Oh Well." Or, Shit Happens or Life's Rich Tapestry, whatever you like.

That same odious oncologist referred to my heart failure in 2002 (I listed his name as a medical reference, and he came in very briefly to see me in the hospital) as "alcoholic cardio myopathy." In the weeks and months that followed, I asked cardiologists if my condition could be neatly ascribed to alcohol — after all, my father died of the same thing at the age of 49 and drank a couple of beers he didn't finish in front of a televised ball game on Sundays — and I was told, "No."

Recently I broke, fractured, and dislocated an ankle by changing directions suddenly on a staircase. The orthopedic techs and surgeons alike made noises such as, "Oooh, jeez!" while grimacing in the most unreassuring way. I had assumed they saw this kind of thing every day...well, fairly often. That they did not is maybe a point for those in the camp of "the miraculous machine that is the human body." While it is typical of me and my regrettable cynicism, I will again

say that for those reasons mentioned above, along with countless indignities and bits of patchwork that become so necessary with age, I consider the human body, paradoxically, a gift (a major one) from God and a prime example of his awful brand of mercy.

That the exhibit at UTC displays circulatory, muscular, and respiratory systems and whole-body specimens "in vivid athletic poses" strikes me as ironic. Humorous in the way that I find the spectacle of an elderly jogger, his face a rictus of determination as he slams his pancreas and liver against the pavement, one foot after the other, a hellhound called the inevitable on his trail, humorous. Certainly not in a thigh-slapping way, but you know what I mean.

I hope this column is published before the "Bodies" exhibition closes on February 10. If not and I've whetted your appetite for nothing, I apologize. Either way, I know I will miss it. Now that I think of it, I have other plans through February 10, which I intend to make immediately.



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WANTED: Rim for 2001 GMC Sonoma. 760-233-9520.
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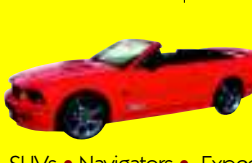
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