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2 San Diego Reader February 14, 2008



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— Shaun Phillips, Pro football player

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# Read it.

# See it.

#### Reading

#### 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."

-Excerpt from "Eat, Pray, Love" by Sonia Eliot published February 6, 2008



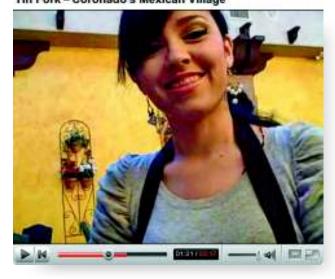
#### Tin Fork

"Welcome!" says this gent coming toward me all the way from the back, the kitchens, probably. "Lunch?"

Uh, hadn't meant to, and haven't even checked for prices, but what the heck. He leads me down to a table under a big curly metal Spanish chandelier, near some potted ferns. I put my antennas out for ghosts, spirits of the crazy days gone by — Korean War, Vietnam War, first Gulf War — when this island was swollen with military. I try to imagine the cacophony. Kinda like Top Gun, I'm guessing.

-Excerpt from "Pepe's Place" by Ed Bedford, published January 2, 2008

#### Tin Fork - Coronado's Mexican Village



#### **Say What?**

"Manscaping: 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.

-Excerpt from "Say What?" published February 6, 2008



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#### **BREAKING NEWS**

**Down beat** It's no secret that San Diego State's KPBS public broadcasting department has been cutting back on producers and local



Focus TV talk show this past summer and the departure in November of news director **Michael** 

coverage, the most

prominent examples being the controversial

cancellation of its Full

KPBS of news director **Michael Marcotte**. Now a recently

released financial document has raised fresh questions about the operation's future financial viability.

Covering the fiscal year ending in June of last year, the KPBS annual financial report reveals that total contributions dropped almost \$1 million, from \$16,746,419 in 2006 to \$15,796,196 in 2007. At the same time, grants from the federally subsidized Corporation for Public Broadcasting also fell significantly, from \$3,461,039 to \$2,759,017. All together, total operating revenue fell from \$21,397,103 to \$19,910,894. According to the report, the \$950,000, or 6 percent, drop in contributions was "primarily due to lower major gifts revenues."

The 20 percent falloff in Corporation for Public Broadcasting payments was because those grants were linked to the amount of KPBS's "nonfederal financial support," which tumbled over the previous two years, the report said. State taxpayers increased their contribution to KPBS, in the form of "transfers from San Diego State University," from \$2,291,558 to \$2,445,629. Still, KPBS "net assets" fell more than \$1 million, from \$16,226,879 to \$15,154,665.

KPBS reduced its "programming and production" spending from \$11,308,904 in 2006 to \$10,501,879 in 2007. And "payments to employees" were slashed from \$9,500,097 to \$7,901,004. "Broadcasting" expenses were reduced from \$6,807,380 to \$5,639,030. On the other hand, "fundraising and membership development" expenses jumped from \$5,880,484 to \$7,170,804.

"Underwriting" costs also rose, from \$1,860,764 to \$2,320,932. Additionally the department bought more hardware, signing a six-year lease worth \$1,508,879 with De Lage Landen Public Finance LLC to make the purchase. Also posting a hefty increase were "payments to suppliers," from \$12,485,346 to \$14,513,276.

Despite last year's revenue fall-off, KPBS general manager **Doug Myrland** says the stations are in pretty good shape. "It's still a very healthy organization, with \$15 million in net assets," he notes. "I don't know why the payments to employees were down. I don't believe payroll costs were down, so I think that's a cash flow thing." He added that recent staff cutbacks, such as those made in the wake of the *Full Focus* cancellation, will be reflected in the 2008 financial report. Myrland said he couldn't specifically account for the reported reduction in programming costs. "It might have been a special program we did in '06 that we didn't do in '07." Increases in payments to

suppliers represented higher costs for programming purchased from outside sources such as PBS, he said, adding that fundraising and underwriting costs were up due largely to inflation and increased commissions paid to staffers who recruit sponsors ("underwriters," in public broadcasting parlance) for the stations.

**Brian's singsong** Now that Super Tuesday is out of the way, the real business of politics can begin. On February 20, GOP congressman **Brian Bilbray**, who replaced the ill-fated **Randy"Duke"Cunningham**, is set to

stage a money-raising bash at the La Jolla Marriott, featuring House Republican Leader **John Boehner**, who "believes that Republicans can earn back the majority in Congress by getting back to their core principles." A \$2300 maximum contribution gets you a "Con-



Brian Bilbray

gressional Circle Private Reception & Photo Opportunity" in addition to lunch. Radio talker and fallen mayor **Roger Hedgecock**, convicted in a campaign money-laundering case, is set to be master of ceremonies. ... The San Diego county Democratic Party has amended a recent campaign disclosure filing to reveal that it paid **Larry Remer**'s Primacy Group \$7,350.23 to "oppose **April Boling**" in her run for San Diego city council. The bulk of the money went to a pollster; such expenses are not subject to the city's campaign limits if they are booked by the party as "member communications."

**Mother of Mogadishu** Now that it's been announced that Padres owner **John Moores** is splitting up with wife **Becky** and she is presumed to be in line under California law



year s watch Moore

Becky and John Moores

for half her husband's substantial net worth, a little foundation she established last year seems worth watching. Called the Moores Foundation for New Americans, the group's cause is

the "education of Sudanese refugees," on which was spent a total of \$75,597, according to a document filed with the IRS in May. As of last year, the only two donors to the fund were Becky, who gave \$100,000, and her daughter **Jennifer**, once married to **Jason McLeod**, a Padre minor-league coach; she kicked in \$50,000. Speaking of John Moores, on January 24 he gave \$15,000 to Proposition 93, the ill-fated effort by incumbent state legislators to extend their terms. It was backed by state Democratic senator pro tem **Don Perata**, one of Moores's favorite political beneficiaries.

— 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.

#### **Dust Bowl Coming?**

By Don Bauder

he wet 20th century, the wettest of the past millennium, the century when Americans built an incredible civilization

in the desert, is over," says a superb article in February's National Geographic. The piece, entitled "Drying of the West," mentions San Diego several times. Author Robert Kunzig writes, "The American West was won by water management. What happens when there's no water left to manage?" He notes that some scientists foresee "the Southwest's gradual descent into persistent Dust Bowl conditions by midcentury." Studies of tree rings suggest that the Southwest suffered severe and repeated droughts over many centuries. The wet 20th Century — when growth boomed — was an aberration. Normality may be returning.

San Diegan Mike Davis, who teaches environmental history at the University of California, Irvine, wrote a similar article that ran on the

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Contact Don Bauder at 619-546-8529 or don.bauder@mac.com website of the *Nation* late last fall. Some scientists are calling current conditions a "megadrought," possibly the worst in 500 years, although they aren't sure it will be more devastating than the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, wrote Davis.

the Sierras and Rockies has been inadequate. "All this has created the foundation for a drought so serious that you start thinking, could desertification be next?" wrote Manson. "Here we are, headed for a quarter-century of dryness, just when the population is set to add a million in San Diego County alone."

According to the San Diego County Water Authority, the local metro area gets 75 percent of its water from Los Angeles's Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. The district gets two-



Some scientists look for "the imminent drying of the U.S. southwest," his story said.

Then there was the cover story in the October 18, 2007 *Reader* by Bill Manson. It noted that as far back as 2004, the U.S. Geological Survey began calling the current drought as bad as or worse than any in 500 years. Rainfall has been low since the early 1990s, and snowfall in

thirds of its water from the Colorado River, which has gone through its eight driest years in recorded history. The other one-third comes from the State Water Project, which is bedeviled by environmental lawsuits and weakened levees that probably could not withstand earthquakes. San Diego gets another 6 percent at a stiff price from Imperial continued on page 8

#### **Neal Obermeyer**



#### **Train Water**

By Bruce Kauffman

n August 2003, the North County Transit District, preparing to build a train line linking Oceanside, Vista, San Marcos,

and Escondido, applied to state authorities for a storm water discharge permit. The train, called the Sprinter, would run along a 22-mile stretch of old freight line that parallels Loma Alta Creek through much of Oceanside and crosses several streams. Parts of the rail bed would require improvement, new track would have to be laid down, and 15 stations and 5 bridges would need to be built.

Compliance with clean water laws requires preventing erosion at construction sites. Unless graded dirt is controlled — held in place



Ben Neill

by fiber or vegetation - rainfall washes it down storm drains and into creeks. Satisfied that the transit district would comply with clean water laws, the local branch of the state water quality authority,

the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, issued a permit for the construction.

Three years later, as the line was being built, transit officials held a party to give the public its first look at the train. Emerging from a railroad barn to the theme music from the movie Rocky, a Sprinter car made a debut run of 150 feet. The sleek blue-and-turquoise car stopped and parked long enough for the crowd to admire it and to hear transit district executive director Karen King hail it as "truly unlike any train you've seen before."



Karen King

Built by Siemens Transportation Systems in Germany, the Sprinter needs no locomotive. It is propelled by two 420-horsepower diesel engines installed under the car's floor. At 135 feet long, it

seats 136 passengers and has room for another 90 standees. On each end is a blunt fiberglass nose cone that will cut through North County at speeds of up to 55 miles an hour. Each car costs more than \$4 million. An ever-escalating price tag for the new line has brought the overall cost from \$352 million in 2003 to an estimated \$478 million now - more than \$21 million per mile.

Meanwhile, citizens in Oceanside and San Marcos were complaining to the water quality control board that when it rained, pollutantladen dirt was washing off Sprinter construction sites and into creeks and a lake.

On February 20, 2007, the board sent Ben Neill, a state water resource control engineer, out to take a look. It had rained more than a third of an inch the day before, according to the National Weather Service's station in Vista, a "not extraordinary amount," Neill would write in a report.

The engineer found dirt flowing into municipal storm water systems and "navigable waters of the United States" at nine separate locations in Vista and San Marcos.

The report listed two sites in Vista — one east of Escondido Avenue and the other at the Sprinter's storage yard near Mar Vista Drive — that sent sediment into the Buena Vista Creek, which flows into the Buena Vista Lagoon. In San Marcos, the report catalogued "discharges" going into San Marcos Creek at seven different locations; six of them near the civic center and Cal State San Mar-



cos along Barham Lane and

Shelly Drive and the seventh

in the ArmorLite storage yard

near the Sprinter station that

will serve Palomar College.

San Marcos Creek ends up

in Lake San Marcos, a scenic

and recreational gem of the

tion, the water quality board

on March 19 issued the North

County Transit District a notice

of violation, charging it with

failing to follow best man-

agement practices in con-

trolling pollutants in storm

water discharges from the

construction sites. The notice

also said the district had failed

to develop a plan to reduce

Neill went out to inspect a

second time. He found sedi-

ment running off railroad

On March 21, engineer

those pollutants.

As a result of the inspec-

community.

construction sites into the Loma Alta Creek near El Camino Real and Industry Street in Oceanside. That day it had rained 0.13 inches. On April 3, the board issued a second notice of violation.

The water quality board asked the transit district for two separate reports describing "corrections made at the project" to comply with its permit. The district filed those reports on April 6 and April 24, 2007, a self-inspection attesting that the violations had been corrected.

By August 31, Neill had completed a technical analysis of the Sprinter rail project. His report said the transit district had failed to conduct adequate inspections before and after the rainfalls that occurred around the time of his visits. The inspections



were "critical to the foundation of an adequate program" to prevent future discharges.

He wrote that the district's failures amounted to "a serious violation." Having built a number of projects before, the report added, the transit district "should have the experience and expertise necessary" to comply with storm water requirements.

Neill also checked the district's two April reports. He found them wanting.

The transit district, for example, said that temporary erosion control provided 100 percent coverage. Neill had found large areas, including steep slopes, with no controls.

The district reported that litter from work areas was collected and placed in watertight Dumpsters. Neill had found construction waste on open ground exposed to storm water runoff.

The transit district reported that storm drain inlets were properly protected. Not so, said Neill. Some drains had no protection at all.

"NCTD's inspector either ignored items on the inspection checklist or was not properly trained...," Neill's report ≦

Neill recommended that e the transit district be fined a continued on page 10 er

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



Escondido Sprinter station

#### **Dust Bowl** coming?

continued from page 6

Valley, which gets the water virtually for nothing. The remaining 19 percent is locally generated — rainfall, groundwater, etc. The years 2006 and 2007 were two of the driest on record. This year? "We're praying," says authority spokesperson John Liarakos.

This year, numbers look

better. It would be a tragic mistake to postpone aggressive action on the basis of a couple of months of cheerier data.

CITY LIGHTS

What's being done locally? Not much. Various Southern California water authorities have issued the "20-Gallon Challenge," asking people to reduce water use by 20 gallons per person, per day — all told, about 10 percent. Various companies and institutions are proudly announcing

they are asking employees to cooperate. Mayor Jerry Sanders is holding well-publicized meetings with cities in the area. Just recently, the City announced it would give a \$350 rebate to those who buy a so-called smart irrigation system that reduces outdoor water use. But other Southern California cities are ahead in offering such incentives and in mandating conservation. Long Beach permits lawn

watering only three days a week. Builders get financial incentives up to \$2500 per home for installation of various inside and outside watersaving devices. Financial incentives for use of water-saving toilets and hose nozzles are more generous than in some other communities.

Las Vegas prohibits new front lawns, limits the size of back ones, and subsidizes families that tear up their lawns and replace them with desert plants. "San Diego needs to move to desertscaping," says Steve Erie, professor of political science at the University of California, San Diego, and director of the Urban Studies and Planning Program. "Half our water is dumped on our lawns."

Adds Erie, "This is a town in deep denial. The leadership thinks that if we adopt stricter measures like manda-

tory rationing, we will send the wrong signal to tourists and the business community. We're incredibly image conscious. We have a mayor who is led around by the nose by pollsters. The good news is that [L.A. mayor] Antonio Villaraigosa wants to be governor, so L.A. is playing footsie with San Diego, adopting a shortage plan." However, "Phoenix and Las Vegas are much more serious about recycling, reclamation."

"We are looking at water recycling," which has been given the repugnant name "toilet-to-tap," says Councilmember Donna Frye. The mayor realized "toilet-to-tap" was fecal politics. He vetoed the council's vote to pursue the matter, "and we overrode his veto." Many localities, including Orange County, have or are working on reclamation projects, although Orange County's program is different from the one on the drawing boards in San Diego. Opponents of toilet-to-tap say that it is energy intensive and not thoroughly tested for safety.

San Diego does use recycled water for cooling towers, industrial parks, irrigation of golf courses, and the like, but the City isn't doing a good job of that, says Frye. "Water allocation will be reduced from the Colorado River as well as the Bay Delta [State Water Project]. It's important that we address these questions while we can look at federal and state funding. It would be less expensive now to start planning. The Water Department has been terrific. The problem is that they are under the mayor. They have to handle it gingerly. The seriousness of the issue has not reached the higher levels of government."

Unfortunately, residential development goes on apace. "We have to get realistic about tying new growth and development to water supply," says Frye. "The infrastructure is inadequate. State laws say that for large-scale development, you have to show where the water will come from. I am not sure that has been adequately addressed. I don't see developers required to put in native vegetation; everyone wants a lawn and flowers. We live in a desert: put in desert vegetation. The mayor has a record of capitulating to developers."

> Says San Diegan Mike continued on page 10

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1 Diego

#### **Dust Bowl** coming?

continued from page 8

Davis, author of the article that ran on the Nation website, "As far as I can see, we are utterly asleep at the controls." As a result of the droughtcaused 2003 and 2007 fires, "People are encouraged to plant more water-absorbing plants around their homes, because houses that survived had highly watered plants such as ice plant. That kind of fire prevention extending to the backcountry implies unsustainable increases in water usage." The problem is that "In no sense have we had a holistic debate about climate change, water resources lessons we should be learning. Our political system seems unable to discuss these interrelated issues at the same time. The water situation will go from bad to worse."

All agree that San Diego doesn't seem to be able to pull it all together: the fires, for example, should speak volumes about the drought. But the City looks at fire and water as two separate problems.

Says City Attorney Mike Aguirre, "There is a failure of leadership to provide conservation, to do the hard work of water reclamation, to build desalination plants or to expand storage capacity. Our leaders don't want to admit the problem. We have to spend a lot of money, and there is not a lot of money because of the pen-

Erie sums it up: "This is a

second-rate town blessed with a first-rate climate but cursed with third-rate leadership and a fourth-rate newspaper."

But in a few years, will that climate be so wonderful? Or to paraphrase an old saying, will San Diegans be getting their just deserts? ■

#### Train water

the maximum amount — \$10,000 for each violation for each day, a total of \$160,000. A few weeks later, after waiving its right to a public hearing, the transit district paid the fine in full.

On October 5, Neill, accompanied by a second water quality board inspector, visited the rail project again, the first of six visits over two months to sites all along the line. They reported a host of new violations.

Heavy rains came in late November. The swollen Loma Alta Creek overflowed its banks, swamping businesses on Industry Drive. At Mission Linen Supply, office workers moved out of the flooded administrative building and into makeshift trailers raised more than two feet on rubber

The transit district held a second party three days after Christmas, inviting VIPs to board two cars in Oceanside for a trip to Escondido. Less than an hour went by before the train whooshed through a banner arrayed across the tracks in downtown Escondido. The district said the line was set to carry paying customers — \$2 one way and \$4 for a pass to ride the entire day — on January 13.

The celebration was shortlived. On December 31, based on the inspections that had begun in October, the water quality board slapped the transit district with an order to clean up its mess. The order gave the district a month to show how it would stop the "existing and threatened pollution" from "unauthorized discharges" of sediment along the Sprinter right-of-way and from the project's construction staging areas.

"I strongly urge a prompt and complete response...," Michael P. McCann, assistant executive officer for the regional board, wrote Karen King, the transit district's executive director. "Failure to meet these deadlines may subject you to further enforcement actions," among them referral to the district attorney for criminal prosecution.

The board could also levy fines of \$5000 per violation per day, McCann wrote, or seek an injunction against the district through the State Attorney General's Office.

Around the same time, citing mounting frustration, Oceanside mayor Jim Wood resigned from the North County Transit District board. Fellow members of the nineperson board included city councilmen from the other cities along the line, San Marcos, Vista, and Escondido.

"I've had a lot of difficul-

ties dealing with the North County Transit District," the mayor explained in a phone interview. "I was really frustrated with them, frustrated to the point of yelling. Maybe in their rush to start up, they overlooked the issues."

Mayor Wood and other Oceanside officials met with Industry Street business owners to discuss the flooding situation on Friday, January 4, amid forecasts of heavy weekend rains. The businesspeople blamed the flooding on the North County Transit District. They said that sediment deposited in the creek had cut the creek's capacity about in half. Raising the rail bed to keep the creek from flooding the tracks had also caused heavy rains to pour onto their properties.

The City supplied the businesses with sandbags, but they were no match for that first major storm of the year. By Monday morning, water from the overflowing creek had risen more than two feet on some properties and deposited two and a half inches of mud and debris in parking lots.

Though Mission Linen Supply blockaded its office doors with 900 sandbags, the building flooded as much as 8 inches. Outside, the water rose in some places to 27 inches. It climbed over a 6-inch curb, painted yellow for caution, that separated an electrical transformer from a walkway. The transformer and several air compressors short-circuited. When the crew showed up for work at five on Monday morning, Rogers sent them home and shut down operations. "I'm not going to put my employees in harm's way," he said.

The mayor said he had never seen such flooding in that area; he said that the transit district kept denying it was "their issue and concern."

A few hours later that Monday morning, the transit district started working on the track in Oceanside to prevent the creek from eroding the rail bed. By the following Saturday, the district had begun dredging the creek to increase its capacity. Some 1400 cubic yards of material were trucked off to the landfill. The work continued on January 13, scuttling the latest announced target for the Sprinter's opening

District officials then set a new start date of January 27, though this time with a disclaimer. The Sprinter still needed to pass a safety inspection by the state Public Utilities Commission, which had a checklist of some 5000 items.

On January 25, that target date was moved up to March 9. Among the reasons: the doors of the train did not line up with the platform on the eastbound side at the Vista station. The platform was too far away from the track. To correct it would require removing, redesigning, and rebuilding the entire platform.

On January 26 and 27, it rained again, and the dredging seemed to have worked. This time, there was no appreciable flooding along Indus-

try Street. District spokesman Tom Kelleher said the situation would improve even more when the City of Oceanside installed runoff basins to capture rainfall that might otherwise cause Loma Alta Creek again to overflow its banks. When that would be was unclear.

On January 31, the transit district responded to the violations found by water quality inspectors in October and November. In a report, the district said it had hired a consultant with experience in pollution remediation, the firm of Whitson Contracting and Management, to manage storm water compliance efforts.

Don Bullock, transit district manager of capital projects and construction, pledged that the district would install and maintain systems at Sprinter stations, staging areas, and storage yards "such that all discharges are minimized and/or contained." Measures to control discharges would be in place at the "majority" of sites by March 1 and along the entire line by May 1.

Bullock also attested that the report and an abatement plan that went along with it, based on his "inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information," were "true, accurate, and complete." He added, "I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violation." ■





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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.

#### **Number One**

Saw your article on Chris Cantore (Blurt, February 7) and had to laugh. When Clear Channel and I parted ways after nearly 15 years (where I was almost always in the top three ratingswise), I was number one the day they let me go. On my way out I had to stop at HR and pick up my rating bonus check.

Shannon Leder Jensen via email

#### **Very Heartening**

"The Ron Paul Posse" (January 31) by Dorian Hargrove was very heartening as Paul advocates return to Bill of Rights constitutional government with a sound gold-silver backed currency constitutionally controlled by congress and not the Bank of England's forprofit subsidiary, Federal Reserve Corporation, with a Delaware private incorporation charter dated 3-9-14, File No. 09042817. Its bagman the IRS — another for-profit private corporation and subsidiary of the Bank of England — was incorporated (Delaware) 7-12-33, File No. 032570, as a forprofit corporation — as is the CIA, Delaware incorporated 3-9-83, File No. 2004409 and subsidiary of British intelligence MI-5 and MI-6 wholly owned by the Bank of London.

Ron Paul would prefer to abolish the above organizations and their stranglehold on the U.S., who posses no constitutional delegation of authority for their existence here. All Republican and Democratic candidates, excepting Paul, are owned by these private corporations who are not governmental agencies. Currently we are potential terrorists under Bush and need to be brutalized and tortured by Homeland Security, this national federal police having, again, no constitutional authority for such. All police powers were delegated to the states. Paul would attempt to alter or abolish this Gestapo force; if elected, he will need our help and likely our last chance.

Finally, House Joint Resolution 192 of 1933 declared "the American people the enemy of the United States Incorporated."

> Leland Cassander San Marcos

#### Multicolored Mishmash

Thank you for the recent article on condo development in Hillcrest ("Condos Come, the Village Goes," "City Lights," January 17).

Two of the buildings

mentioned, a bunkerlike concrete high-rise at Sixth and Upas and the multicolored mishmash on Fifth Avenue at Thorne, are evesores that the residents of Hillcrest are now stuck with. The unfinished highrise has sat untouched for weeks. There are also two developments nearing completion in the vicinity of Vons on Washington Street that carry on a San Diego tradition of mediocre architecture tarted up with strange embellishments that are apparently somebody's idea of trendy. One of them could have been an attractive modernist structure, but the developer chose (incredibly) to crown the roof with what looks exactly like a long wooden storage shed, painted an ugly prison gray.

In my opinion, the Egyptian at Park and University and the pleasant Atlas at Fourth and Pennsylvania (which replaced a 1970s sprayed-stucco horror) are the only recent Hillcrest complexes that blend harmoniously with their surroundings. The interesting art deco "Deca" at Robinson and Park will probably look better once its landscaping is in. A huge new brown wood complex on First Avenue south of Laurel in nearly Bankers Hill is such an awful mess that it deserves a lifetime triple onion award.

There are also a couple of gracious complexes north of Washington Street that show what a developer with

continued on page 63





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#### STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP



~ MATTH ш ≶ ALIC

Ilustration by Rick Geary

Why is the human heart considered the center of love and affection? Who decided that? And where did the valentine heart come from? Is it supposed to be a version of the human

Well, why not the heart? The brain was already the think center, so what's left? Feet? Anyway, the heart as the house of love goes back at least to the ancient Egyptians, and other ancient societies seemed to agree. It's assumed that's because they noticed that lovey stuff makes the heart beat faster, so they figured the heart was linked to adoration and feeling all smoochy goofy and such like emotions. They also knew that anatomically the heart is clearly the center of a big network of vessels, so it's not hard to imagine that it was deemed a significant body part. As for the shape of the valentine heart, there are a million theories but no hard facts. European playing cards from the 1400s are some of the earliest examples of the heart designs, but there's no indication that the cards are connected in any way to Valentine's Day. The earliest valentines were poetry and mushy stuff written on decorated paper, not necessarily heart shaped. One theory about the heart shape is a very ancient scribble that was inspired by human lips or the female buttocks. Another is that it is based on the shape of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, since the Roman church reworked an ancient fertility festival into a more seemly celebration, St. Valentine's Day, and some early valentines were actually made and decorated by nuns. These are the kinds of stories that crop up when the experts haven't got a clue about the real answer. Sorry.

#### Matthew Alice:

We have a lot of new babies in the family. There's lots of diapers. I was wondering if babies pee and poop before they're born, or is this something they learn to do right away as soon as they come out? How can they do it before? What do they eat? I am wondering if vou can help me.

- Big Sister, El Cajon

Babies are all about pee and poop, Sis. And they actually do get some practice before they pop out. They swallow amniotic fluid and pee it out, leaving it for Mom's circulatory system to clean up. This happens through the last six months of pregnancy. Pooping is another story, though. There is a substance, meconium, in newborns' digestive systems, the result of skin cells, hair, and other secretions they ingest. In most cases, meconium isn't expelled until after birth, but in a small number of cases, it can happen before then. This can be dangerous if it gets into the baby's lungs. Hope that helps explain a bit about those mysterious baby creatures and their first major accomplishments: peeing and pooping.

#### Heymatt.

Why don't we ever see B batteries? Well, maybe you and Grandma see B batteries, but I don't. Was there ever such a thing as a B battery? What would we need to do to bring it back to make the battery line neat and continuous? I need to know this.

– Charged, via email

The elusive B battery lives! It hides out in special-power-need applications, but it's still around. It's been around since the 1920s, when battery power sources first came into use. A B battery used to be a necessity for listening to your old-timey radio that ran on glass tubes instead of silicon chips. It supplied 60 to 90 volts. Its usefulness sort of faded away when transistor radios got hot. But the B slot is filled. The universe is orderly.

#### Hevmatt:

I go to Colorado a lot, and a very embarrassing thing happens when I'm there. I fart a lot. I've really been aware of this, and I'm sure I do it more there than I do here. It doesn't happen when I go to the Colorado River or other places where I vacation. Just the Colorado mountains. Please tell me there is an explanation for this.

There's an easy explanation for high-altitude toots. Scientists actually did research on this when preparing for the space program. What exactly would happen to the human gut in low-pressure, high-altitude situations? Turns out the volume of intestinal gas doubles at the lower pressure of 15,000 feet. So, even if you weren't vacationing at those altitudes, you're going to feel slightly modified effects down lower. Your gut has its own happy routine at sea level, but it is definitely tootier up high.

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

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



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#### **SportingBox**

By Patrick Daugherty

# **Motor Sports**

ASCAR revs up on Sunday (\$89 for a DirecTV season sub) with their biggest race of the year, the Daytona 500. And you know what that means... Surf's up!

At least, according to *surfline.com*. Here is their Daytona Beach surf report: "...1–2 ft — ankle to knee high and poor conditions."

Plenty good enough. So, I'd better get a board. I click over to Craigslist Daytona Beach, find the "sporting" category, and — tadah! — "Surfboard, \$50.00. Mad Dog Fun shape which is great for learning or for small waves. Call John."

I do. "I've already sold it," John says. "It was an old surfboard. I've got four of them."

I tell him I'm calling from California, "Some of my brothers laugh at surfers on the

East Coast because the waves are so small."

"Aw, come on, they're not small here, not all the time."

Funny how we passed the "calling from California" bump without any comment. I ask, "What's a normal surfing day? Today's

surf report said one to two feet."

John says, "We got a swell, supposed to be starting up tomorrow or the next day, that will probably be head high. Normal is three, four, five feet, something like that. We don't have the constant swell you guys do; it's a bit more consistent on the West Coast. Our surf is predicated on weather patterns."

"How many days a year can you surf?"

"We probably get 200 good days a year; a little over half, maybe."

"Hell, that's not bad." More than I thought. "You must get tired of people like me slandering East Coast surfers."

"Nah, I could care less. The fewer people at my break, the better," John laughs.

The man is clearly a surfer. I ask, "How is the Daytona 500 for locals, or do you not even notice?"

"It doesn't matter to me. The special events and all that crap doesn't have anything to do with us. Those people don't get in the water, anyway; they clog traffic on I-95. Most of the guys who surf around here surf in Ponce Inlet. Those [Daytona 500] people don't venture down here. They stay around the hotels and pool decks.

"Are you going to watch the race?"

"Yeah, I'll watch it. I'm a fringe fan. I've been to it one time, and that's all I needed," John laughs. "I'm not big into the crowds or being with 300,000 people. I live 10 minutes from the speedway, and it takes 45 minutes to get home."

The man is clearly a local. "What's the best surfing beach in Florida?"

"There are two spots. I'm at one spot, Ponce Inlet, which is just south of Daytona. The other break — I think it's the best on the East Coast — is Sebastian Inlet. They have a big-deal surfing event every year."

"What about hurricanes? That's got to be an East Coast bonus."

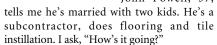
"Yeah, that's when everybody gets amped up. Most of the time cold fronts cause our waves. You'll get, occasionally, onshore winds that will blow up some wind surf, but for the most part, we get ground swells from

hurricanes and tropical storms. If they form 200, 300 miles out, we get really good stuff. I've had 10-, 12foot surf here."

"How long will that last?"

"Normally three or four days with good solid stuff," John says. "Not much work going on."

John Powell, 37,



"Slooooow."

The man is clearly a subcontractor. "When did you get into surfing?"

"I was 13, 14 years old."

Daytona Beach

"Love at first sight?"

"Oh, yeah, it's infectious."

"Do you remember what grabbed you? Usually there's one thing that holds you close."

"I think the rush that got me is the first time I got my feet planted on the board, and I got that jolt of speed going down the face of a wave. That did it for me. Now, at my age, and the way life has changed, it's more the peace and serenity of being out in the water, nothing else around you."

"How long will a session last?"

"Two to three hours."

"So, that's time enough to get away and decompress."

"Oh, yeah. Time to reflect on things. If you think about it, any other time, even if you're looking for a little spot for peace and quiet, maybe you got a radio going or a TV going or somebody in the background is talking. Out there, you're without the sound of anything except for the sound of water."

# "You must get tired of people like me slandering East Coast surfers."

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San Diego *Reader* February 14, 2

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delivery ..... $\star \star 1/2$ 

band.....★★<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>

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A pedestal stood in the vestibule of the Wyle Chapel at Torrey Pines Christian Church, its sandy surface studded with candles. Another pedestal stood at the entrance to the church proper, this one bearing two icons: the Infant

Christ and His mother: and Saint Anthony the Great, bearing a scroll that read: "I no longer fear God, but I love

The chapel is currently home to St. Anthony the Great Antiochian Orthodox Church, and a raft of pamphlets greeted the curious visitor. One proclaimed the Orthodox Church as "America's best-kept secret." Several made the case for the Orthodox Church as "the original Christian Church founded by Jesus Christ." And one offered a goodnatured attempt at explaining the liturgy's peculiar character. It did a fine job of anticipating the newcomer's reaction to the gentle riot of sensory stimuli: the icons up front, each with its own hanging wrought-brass candelabra; the ornate golden vestments on the priest, deacons, and even acolytes; the combined smells and bells of the

jingling censer; and most of all, the nearly incessant song from the small choir up front. ("About 75 percent of the service is congregational singing," according to the pamphlet.) The harmonies were cheerful; the words, full of repetition: pleas for mercy, exclamations of praise, the repeated "Blessed are the"s of the Beatitudes.

The Gospel — also chanted — told the story of the Ĉanaanite woman who begged Jesus to heal her daughter, only to be told, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." Only when she persists, saying, "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table" does Jesus relent, saying, "O, woman, great is your faith!"

This was one of the hardest Gospels for me to hear as a child," said Father John Kent Reimann in his homily, "and even as a young adult. As an Evangelical Christian, as much as I loved and venerated the Scriptures, this Gospel grated against my ear. I love Jesus, and I saw Jesus as love in the flesh. Then I heard these words, and I was going, 'I don't get it. It

sounds very strict, very harsh, very racist, almost.' But thank you, God, I'm in the Orthodox Church now. I don't have the understanding of Scripture by my own interpretation. The Holy Scriptures were written by the faithful in the church; they were written for the faithful, and they are best understood by the faithful. That's why we lean on the Holy Fathers and even Mothers of the Church for their understanding and interpretation." In particular, Reimann leaned on Blessed Theophylact, who argued that the reason for Christ's hesitancy was "so her faith would be made known as a witness." "He knew her heart," said Reimann. "The proper attitude is to come, not demanding, but as this woman humble...and our God embraces us."

Reimann preached and prayed down amid the people, chanted quietly up at the altar, and processed the elements of the Eucharist from one end of the church to the other. But for all the bowing and kissing and

> processing and incense, there was a great emphasis on the immaterial. (God was addressed as the King Invisible, and the final blessing invoked the Bodiless Powers of Heaven.) Even as the Liturgy of the Eucharist took center stage, Reimann prayed, "No one who is bound with the desires and pleasures of the flesh is worthy to approach...or serve thee." And the song sung during the Eucharist itself made reference to the life after this: "Receive the Body of Christ. Taste the fountain of immortality."

Before the conclusion of the liturgy, Reimann (along with his daughter) offered a lengthy prayer for the dead, remembering especially his fatherin-law. The sound was once again upbeat, asking for the man's soul "a place of brightness, a place of repose." Then, at the end, the tone

shifted: it went minor, mournful. As the censer jingled for the last time, the choir's words rose toward heaven; long, drawn-out syllables, repeating a single petition: "May his memory

What happens when we die?

"As Orthodox," said Reimann, "we believe we encounter the uncreated light of God. For those of us who love and trust God, it is a joy, like being in a dark forest and coming upon a fire — you want to draw near to its warmth and light. For those who do not want God, who deny God, who hate God, God's light, to them — because God seeks to be with everyone — to them, it seems like a terror, like flicking on the lights after you've had them off for a long time. In our understanding, that's a foretaste of the judgment — when Christ judges us, He confirms what's already in our heart."

— Matthew Lickona

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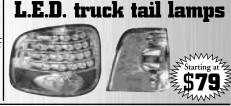
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#### **BestBuys**

-EVE KELLY

My husband Patrick comes down with the home-improvement bug a few times a year. And he's had it bad lately. He's tired of the tiny bits of gravel being tracked into the house from the decomposed granite path that runs between our back deck and the side gate. He's decided he wants to pour a new concrete sidewalk. When he told me his

plan, I smiled like a good wife, but inside I was grimacing with the memory of his last concrete project, a simple landing at the foot of a porch. He filled our car with 60-pound bags of concrete, started mixing them up one by one in the wheelbarrow only

to come up ten bags short. Cursing his lack of foresight, he raced to Home Depot for more bags. When he got back, the concrete he'd already poured had begun to set and didn't mix well with the new concrete. So I was glad when he told me that this time he would not be dragging home bags of concrete."I want to try some cart-away concrete," he stated. "It's concrete in a trailer that you pick up from a rental yard. Could you call around

and get some information on it?" "Sure," I fired back, with no idea what he was talking about.

I got some answers from Jim Westmoreland, operations manager at United Rentals in Chula Vista (619-422-1105). "You need a full-size pickup with a frame-mounted hitch to haul the concrete trailer," Westmoreland explained. "You can't use just a bumper hitch. It's a weight issue. A fully loaded trailer carries a yard of concrete." A yard weighs about 3000 pounds and covers an eight-byten-foot area four inches thick.

United Rentals has 15 rotary mixing trailers, which look and work like mini cement trucks. United Rentals' computer-operated system "mixes the sand, concrete powder, and gravel, and it shoots it out through a belt into the trailer dry. Then we add water to it, and you mix it up as you drive off. That is why it rotates like it does, so it's mixing constantly as you drive. When you get to your drop site, the concrete is mixed up, and you don't have to worry about the rocks settling."

Some rental-yard cart-away concrete trailers are basically a big tub on wheels. Westmoreland says that type is not as versatile as the rotomix trailers into which "vou can add water to it and drive further if you need to, and you can put additives like hardeners or fiber that reinforces it, or chemicals that make it set up real quick or slow down the process of setting. With the roto-mix trailers, you can mix those right in at the job site."

With an older tub-style concrete trailer, "It would be very hard to mix those things in. And another problem with them is the rocks settle down to the bottom, so when you go to pour it out, the rocks aren't mixed in with the concrete."

Westmoreland says you can travel farther with rotary mixing trailers than with the older "A fully loaded trailer carries a yard of concrete."

tub style. "We had a customer go all the way to Tecate with one because he was able to add enough water to it. You couldn't do that with a tub concrete trailer."

Westmoreland says the mix concrete offered at United Rentals is as good as the trailers you haul it in. "Our mix is computerized," he says, "and we provide a pretty rich mix; we kind of fattened ours up a lit-

And what does fattening a mix of concrete mean?

"There are different strengths of mix. It depends on what they call the sack number. The sack refers to how much cement powder is in that yard of concrete. The higher the sack number, the stronger the mix, meaning you can put more weight on it; it is harder. There are four-sack, five-sack, six-sack, and seven-sack. The stronger the mix, the more sack it has in it. So, if I give you a six-sack mix, that is strong enough for an average

driveway. The four-sack is fine for a sidewalk, good for a wall, fill-

ing up the blocks. The five-sack is for a sidewalk; the six-sack would be for a driveway; seven-sack is for an industrial driveway, where you would be expecting heavy trucks.

"The other advantage to having a stronger mix is the concrete is more creamy; it is easier to finish. The higher

concrete mix makes it stronger and also makes it finish nicer."

Can you return unused concrete?

'Yes, but we charge you quite a bit. It is a \$120 minimum cleaning charge because we pay dearly to get rid of it. So, it's important to know how much concrete you need and make a plan that will work."

United Rentals rents trailers for \$15 and sells concrete by the quarter yard, half yard, three-quarter yard, or yard. "A four-sack mix is \$84 for a quarter yard, \$102 for a half yard, \$120 for three-quarters of a yard, and \$135 for the yard. A five-sack mix runs \$89 for a quarter yard, \$107 for a half yard, \$125 for threequarters of a yard, and \$140 for one yard. A six-sack mix costs \$92 for a quarter yard,

\$110 a half yard, \$128 for three-quarters of a yard, and \$145 for one yard. The seven-sack mix is \$96 for a quarter yard, \$114 a half yard, \$132 for three-quarters of a yard, and \$150 for a yard. "We prorate it, so if you came in and got a yardand-a-half of a five-sack mix, it would be \$140 for the first yard and only \$70 for the second half yard that you buy."

United Rentals does not rent concrete tools, though they sell all the necessary tools for the job. Westmoreland was hesitant to recommend a trowel. "There are many different trowels: wooden ones, aluminum ones, magnesium ones. But \$20 will buy you a pretty

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- 1. Rotary mixing trailer
- 2. Troweling concrete
- 3. Concrete sidewalk



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#### **Matters of the Heart**

When I look at my hands and in my heart, I see stress as Lady Macbeth saw blood.

— Berri Clove

was going to tell him after we'd ordered our entrées, but I had not yet finished questioning my motives. Was I seeking attention? I knew he'd probably worry if I told him, and worry is a form of attention. If not for attention, could it be that I was soliciting some kind of pity? Or maybe I was just looking for an excuse for my erratic behavior. While David sipped his wine, my inner voices suggested possibilities, each louder than the one before, until the noise was so deafening I had to ask him to repeat what he'd said. A comment about the

alcoholic complaining that there's no open bar at the AA meetings."

"You're like an

Grenache, how nice it went with his soup. Here I was, undergoing a self-inflicted mental Spanish Inquisition, and his only concern was how well the wine was paired? Enough was enough.

"My heart has been skipping all day," I blurted, wishing I hadn't.

> "What do you mean?" I had to think about

that one. What did I mean? After a moment of silence, I answered, "It's probably nothing, but, well...like, it's been skipping beats, and sometimes beating really fast, and sometimes, when it skips, I have to cough to catch my breath."

David — my partner, my lover, my constant companion — looked horrified. "I think that's called arrhythmia." He whipped out his iPhone and commenced googling.

"I'm the epitome of health," I said. It occurred to me that what I'd wanted was for him to say it was no big deal, that I was being dumb to even mention it. I wanted him to reassure me that my little skips should draw no more alarm than a mild case of hiccups.

"You could die of

arrhythmia," David said, dashing my hopes for a quick end to the discussion. "It says right here that arrhythmia can be caused by smoking—"

"I haven't smoked in over five years," I countered.

"And excessive drinking—"

"I'd hardly call the wine I occasionally drink with dinner 'excessive," I reasoned.

"Stress." David paused in expectation of being interrupted, but this time my mouth remained shut. "And caffeine," he concluded. "How many coffees do you drink a day? That's it, no more caffeine." He may as well have said, "Hey, watch while I torture and kill this kitten."

"There has to be another way," I whispered. How would I survive without my mind-clearing fixes of hazelnut coffee, shots of espresso, and Diet Coke?

The topic was tabled when our entrées were set before us. I steered the conversation toward our plans for the week ahead and refrained from mentioning the intermittent cough-inducing palpitations I had throughout the meal. During the natural lulls that come with chewing and sipping, I contemplated the erratic beating of my heart. The amount of caffeine I consume is ridiculous, and it's true I've been a little Britney lately, what with a few random panic attacks and unwarranted freak-outs. But why

"Hey, you have your elevens,

what's up?" David asked, indicating the two lines that appear between my brows whenever I'm distressed.

"I'm trying to figure out what it is that stresses me out," I said.

"Everything," David offered. In response to my bewildered expression, he elaborated: "Every day you have a hundred worries — you worry whether someone is going to be on 'your' elliptical at the gym; you worry you might catch a disease from the crosswalk button; you worry there might be cilantro hidden in your food; every time we're in the car you worry that your engine might be on fire; and you're terrified of public restrooms. I could go on and on and on. And you wonder what might be causing you stress?" He sounded exasperated. I could do nothing but hang my head in defeat. David was right. There are few things in life that don't cause me

As soon as I walked through our door, having already promised David I would restrict my caffeine intake, I set about researching ways to reduce stress. Most of the websites I visited advised their highstrung readers to "eat right" and "exercise." But I already work out at least four days a week, and my diet is healthy and varied (aside from the unrestrained consumption of caffeine, of course, but I'd already resolved to adjust that). As I continued reading, I kept coming across the same



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method being touted by experts as the panacea for all anxiety-related woes:

The majority of people I know have tried yoga at least once, and a significant number of them swear by it. Even my dad is a fan. "It's very good for your chakras," Dad once told me. "You want to keep those things open and get them flowing. My favorite poses are the corpse, the warrior, and the downward-facing dog — that one looks really simple, but it's a bitch for me." He could have been speaking Urdu for all I understood. To me, yoga has always been like Scientology — a mysterious cult with a flair for fostering starry-eyed devotees. Still, hoping that it might help alleviate the pressure on my pumper, I decided to suppress my judgment of the unknown and give it a try.

I looked to like-minded friends for advice people who practiced yoga, but didn't buy into the cosmic hoopla. Amy sent me information on the studio she attends. After I expressed my reluctance to attempt my first pretzel poses in public, Ronaldo

suggested I try yogatoday.com, a site that offered free instructional videos I could follow in

I went to the site and launched a video for beginners. A blonde woman seated on a grassy knoll appeared. Between inhales and exhales that seemed to go on FOR-EV-ER, she introduced her two companions. The introductions took three minutes. My frustration grew, as, like the scenic brook behind her, she continued babbling about her heart and the earth and the rivers in her body. "Enough with the heavy breathing! Just tell me where to put my freakin' foot, for Christ's sake!" I snapped at the screen. "Jesus, like I want to sit here all day listening to some hippie on quaaludes wax poetic about ashantimajumbo-shakira?"

"What's going on?" David had followed the sound of shouting into my office.

"She won't shut up about her rivers and chakras and stop her heavy breathing long enough to teach me a pose," I complained. "And she talks so slooowww. Jane was right,"

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I continued, invoking my eldest sister. "If I want to relax, I should just get a massage." Jane had also said that she found yoga to be more stressful and annoying than relaxing.

David was laughing. I slapped at the keyboard until the woman was silenced and turned to find him holding his stomach, presumably from the pain of laughing so hard. "And what, may I ask, is so funny?"

David's eyes were welling up with tears of hilarity. Between gasps for air, he said, "That's the whole point!" and then fell back into a fit of laughter that eventually tapered to giggles, allowing him to explain himself while basking in the heat of my glare. "Yoga is all about breathing," he chuckled. "It's *supposed* to be slow and relaxing. You're like an alcoholic complaining that there's no open bar at the AA meetings." David grinned with amusement.

"She sounds like she

smoked a big spliff," I muttered. "I don't have patience for people who talk that slow. I just want to learn the poses without having to listen to some new-age hippie bimbo trying to speak Hindi."

"Look," David said, with a note of compassion. "Maybe yoga isn't for you."

"But all the websites said-

"Shh," he interrupted. "All they said was that if you want to stop suffering the effects of stress, you need to find ways to relax. I think I might be able to help you with that." His amused grin morphed into a devilish smile.

"Oh yeah? And how's that?" I prompted.

"A glass of wine, a hot, fragrant bath, and me," he said.

My heart beat a familiar, comforting rhythm in my ears. I shut my laptop, accepted David's outstretched hand, and said, "Lead on, maharishi." ■



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CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

is hair was black and wavy, his eyes blue; he was muscular and lithe at six foot one and 200 pounds, square-jawed, and comfortable in his skin. His conversational skills were better than average; the more he spoke the more likable he became, revealing a welldeveloped sense of humor and a healthy dose of humility that offset the quiet confidence he exuded. Even his table manners were up to par — while eating the meal for which I'd invited him out, he sliced rather than stabbed his skirt steak and opted to sip instead of gulp his wine. This strapping, corn-fed 26year-old would be the one to beat at a casting call for the next Superman movie. It was difficult for me to imagine why such a specimen of male perfection would hire a woman to help him meet other women. But two nights earlier, that's just what he had done.

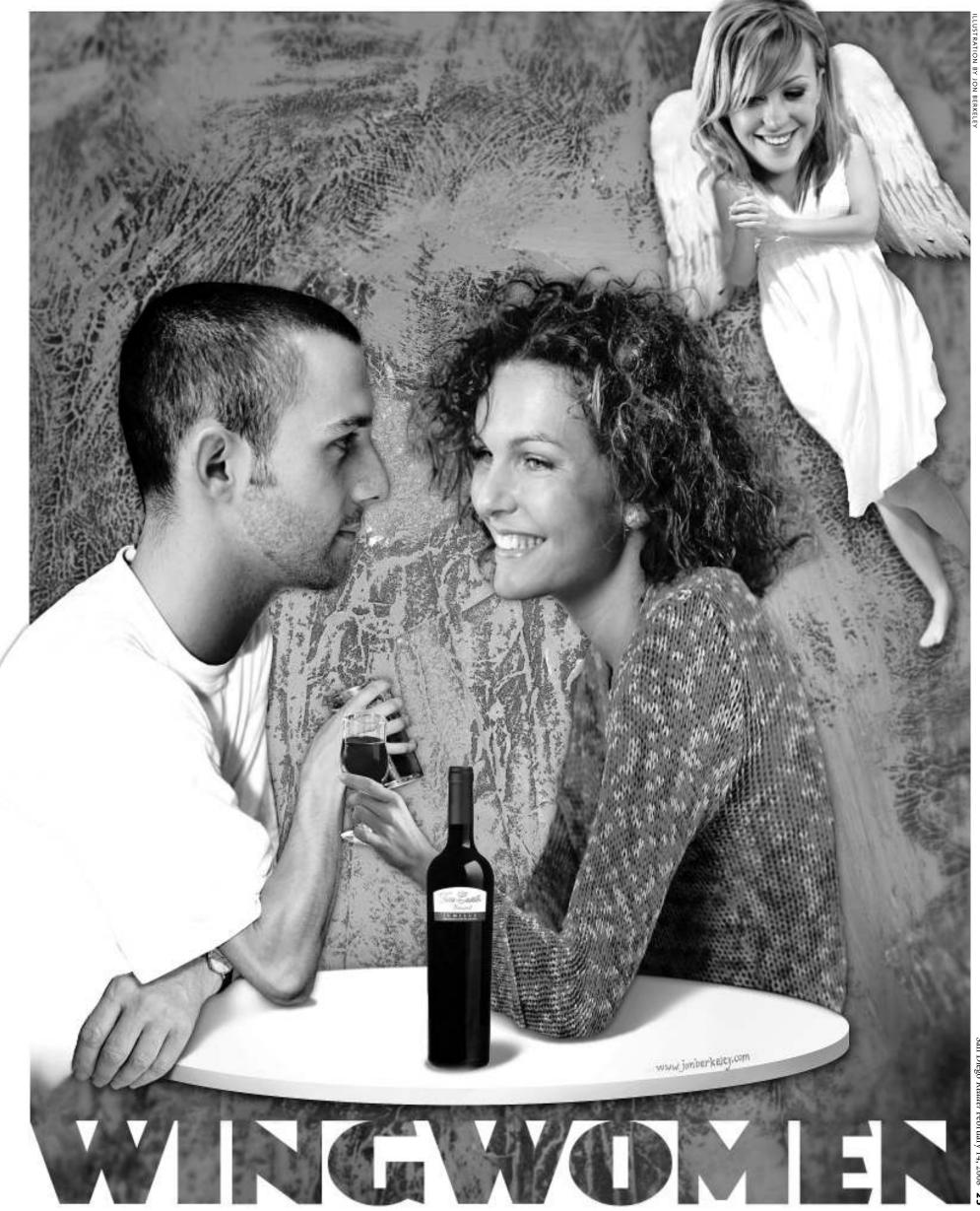
"Mark Anderson" — so dubbed by me because of his reluctance to be known — recently moved to San Diego from a small town in Iowa. "All my friends were getting married. They do that about this age," says Anderson. "I didn't like my job as a retail manager. I got bored. It's hard to find single girls my age in that area, and if you do, they all want to settle down right away." A friend invited Anderson to visit him in California. "He showed me a great time. I quit my job, sold some of my stuff, gave some of it to my friends and family, hired a moving company, and just moved out here." Two days after interviewing for a temp agency, Anderson was assigned a permanent job in an office. "I was always worried about money in the past. Now I'm able to go out and have a good time. For once in my life I don't have to work weekends and nights, and I'm going to enjoy that for a while."

Once here, Anderson was quick to make new friends, but a few months passed and he had yet to go on a date. "I tend to be very shy," he says. "I'm from a really small town — a graduating class of 35. My whole town was, like, 1000." In high school, Anderson was neither the most popular nor the most picked on. "I was stuck in the middle, which is actually the worst. A lot of those small-Midwestern-town stereotypes are true — the starting quarterback is going to be you popular gave in school. I was not the starting that the starting

the starting quarterback is going to be your most popular guy in school. I was not the starting quarterback. I was the tight end. It's not as glamorous."

Like any shy guy, Anderson has difficulty speaking to women. "If I'm interested in someone, my brain freezes and it's just a cloud and I can't think of a thing to say. I'm literally that guy who walks up to a girl and thinks she's attractive, and I go, 'Hi...' "He freezes and stares blankly for a few seconds to illustrate. "I've been single a very long time [a year and a half], and it's kind of like, 'Okay, I'm ready to have a girlfriend." Before moving to San Diego, Anderson had dabbled with craigslist, MySpace, Match.com, and Yahoo! personals, but this time around, he decided against online dating. "To be honest, I'm just a little too lazy to do all that work — I'd rather meet somebody in person and know right off the bat if I have that connection with her. Every girlfriend I've ever had, we just immediately had great chemistry, great rapport, and I just knew I had to date this person. I don't run into that often, and I definitely don't think I'd get that online."

"We get 15
emails a week
from girls who
want to be bar
buddies."



#### A Wingwoman Is Better Than a Wingman

One August afternoon at a coffee shop in Pacific Beach, Anderson noticed a pink business card pinned to the bulletin board. It said, "Bar Buddy San Diego: Because a wingwoman is better than a wingman." Anderson pocketed the card. "I thought, why not? It could be interesting. I knew about Wingwomen [a dating service in New York that opened in December 2004]. I'd seen them in Maxim and Playboy — I actually read Playboy, the articles are very good." That night, Anderson emailed the address on the card and booked himself a bar buddy for the following Wednesday.

Most singles are familiar with the term "wing-

man," used to describe the supportive male friend of a guy engaged in the art of seduction. In the Air Force, the wingman protects the lead aircraft in an attack formation. The term was most likely adopted by single men because of the strategic and predatory nature of hitting on women. The analogy can stretch to accommodate almost all aspects of dating: think of the phrases "he has her in his sights," "slipping in under the radar," "mission accomplished," and the commiserable "he was shot down." As a result of being pursued in this manner, women in the dating scene have their defenses up and can easily recognize such formations. Now, with companies like Bar Buddy, Wingwomen in New York,

and Venus Allure in Washington, D.C., men have a new and improved strategy for pursuing women.

Bar Buddy was founded in the summer of 2007 by Matt and Rick, two twentysomethings who requested I not share their last names. They met 21st birthday just a few months before launching the company that relies on the hundreds of bars he is now legally allowed to enter. He initially wanted to open a franchise of Wingwomen, but the company's owner, Shane Forbes, was not interested. "I asked, 'Do

# Matt stresses that Bar Buddy is not an escort service.

through craigslist, when Rick answered an ad to design a website for Matt. To pay his Mission Valley rent until the company takes off, Matt works as a computer systems administrator. He is tall and thick, with a baby face and dark hair. Matt celebrated his you mind if I steal your ideas?' and he said, 'No, but do not use the word "wingwomen." 'He was very nice; he gave me the rundown in three or four hours." Matt and Rick designed a website that could be easily accessed from a BlackBerry. "Even

the form can be filled out on a BlackBerry," says Matt. "Our target audience is 25to 45-year-old men who have a higher-than-average disposable income. Of that, a pretty good portion are on mobile devices." He adds that this feature will cut down on the possibility of a man becoming embarrassed if a coworker "sees over his shoulder and recognizes the website. Guys shouldn't be ashamed, but they probably wouldn't want to advertise" that they are using the service.

Matt stresses that Bar Buddy is not an escort service. "The girls are not going out to be your arm candy for the night; they're not going out to be your date." For \$50 an hour, a man can employ a "bar buddy" to accompany him to a social

event or bar and break the ice between him and any woman who interests him. Of the \$50, the woman gets \$20. "As we get a little more busy and are sending girls out on multiple dates, we will try to send feedback forms. Obviously, the better a girl scores, the more her rate is going to be." After a five-outing probationary period, the woman's pay is bumped to \$25. Eventually, a bar buddy can make up to \$35 per hour.

"We get somewhere in the range of 10 to 15 emails a week from girls who want to be bar buddies," says Matt. "We probably receive 6 to 10 emails a week from guys. Unfortunately, a very small percentage of them end up panning out." So far, the company has had



















about a dozen clients.

Rick, a superfit cutie with light eyes and sunbleached hair who reeks of quarterback, is responsible for compiling what he says is a collection of attractive, sociable females aged 21 to 35. Matt doesn't expect older men to use his service, but if they do, they would most likely be paired with a younger woman. "Whether it's right or wrong, a lot of the guys in their 50s are going to bars looking for 21-year-olds anyway."

The prime objective of a bar buddy, Matt explains,

is "obviously a phone number," but he emphasizes that there are no guarantees and that it is better for a client to make one real connection than to collect a long list of numbers.

"The main goal is for a

there meeting girls and talking to them and having fun, that's going to do it."

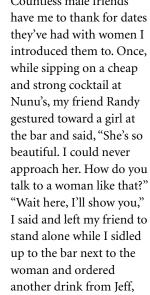
#### Barbarella, Volunteer Wingwoman

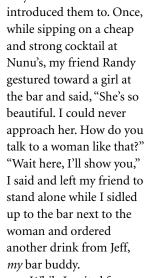
According to Bar Buddy's website, "Studies have

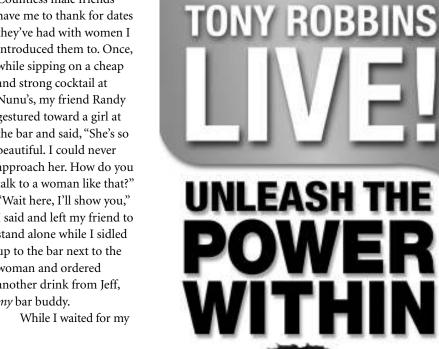
#### Not a strand of Gill's hair was out of place.

guy to feel satisfied," says Rick. "This is a matchmaking service, so building up his confidence is one thing I harp on the girls to do. If he feels satisfied, if he's out shown that it is easier to meet women when you are introduced to them by another woman." My personal experience corroborates the statement.

Countless male friends





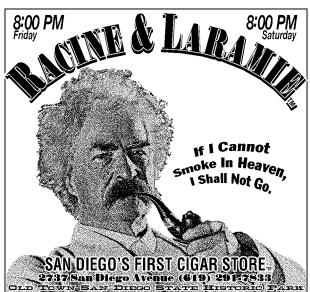








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vodka concoction, I turned to the girl and said, "Your brows are perfect. You do them yourself?" Thus we were speaking. Several minutes later, Randy appeared at my side, and I casually introduced him. "Oh, hey, Lisa, this is my friend Randy. You know, it's funny, you were just talking about how much you love the museum, and Randy here volunteers as a docent there once a month. I've got to use the restroom. Will you two watch my drink for me?" By the time I returned after half an hour of chatting with other friends, Randy and Lisa had exchanged contact information.

#### Morgan Gill, Paid Wingwoman

"You kind of act like his sis-

ter, his friend, or the girlfriend of his brother's buddy," says Morgan Gill, who'd been Anderson's assigned bar buddy two nights before he met me for dinner. "You help break down the barriers that women instantly put up when they go out into the bar scene." Anderson was her first (and, at the time we spoke, only) assignment in San Diego, but Gill had been on many such outings while working for Wingwomen's Seattle branch. I met up with Gill one breezy, overcast August afternoon at a Starbucks in Clairemont Mesa. Her pink blouse and printed skirt ensemble was feminine but professional, and not a strand of her thick, straight dark hair was out of place. Her coloring, high cheekbones, and small, pretty features reminded me of Catherine Zeta-Jones. In addition to her day job as a project manager, Gill runs a relationship consulting business called Proper Me. She found Bar Buddy through its ad on craigslist.

Gill describes Anderson as "an attractive, six-

says, may need to be coached on the "rule of a thousand no's," which she defines as "It takes a thousand no's to get a really good yes. Guys who live in cities, they attest they've all had a thousand no's. That's why they have the confidence they have now. I've worked in sales a lot in my

# "It takes a thousand no's to get a really good yes."

foot-four guy who works out on a regular basis and has dark hair and very strong, manly features." She says he is a "prime candidate" for her consulting business, "because he grew up in a very small town and didn't have a lot of women to talk to." Such men, Gill life — most people are afraid to approach people they don't know, because they're scared of what they're going to say to them. They can't handle [rejection], but if you asked a lot of people and they all said no in any way, shape, or form, what's the fear

now? You've already been told."

Gill contacted Anderson by phone to establish a time and place to meet. "It was hard to get him to call me back," she remembers. "It's that fear thing." It is up to the bar buddy to work out the venue for an outing; the decision is based on the client's interests, availability, and location. At no point is a bar buddy supposed to get in a car or taxi with her client. If she and her client decide to leave one club and go to another, they should walk or take the trolley. If a bar buddy becomes too drunk to drive, Rick says he would pick her up or pay for a cab, because "that's part of the job, where they're going out and guys are buying them drinks — they don't

have to drink, of course, they want to keep their wits about them because they're on the job, but if they do." When Gill finally got hold of Anderson, she suggested they meet at In Cahoots, a country-western nightclub in Mission Valley, and she emailed a photo of herself so that he would recognize her.

"I talked to him a little bit out in the parking lot before we went in, just to get the story straight, because once you get in the bar it's hard to talk," Gill says. "The longer I spoke to him, the more outgoing he became — he's got a great personality, a great sense of humor. He's really a nice guy. I was, like, 'Oh my God, I could think of a few girls I would try to hook

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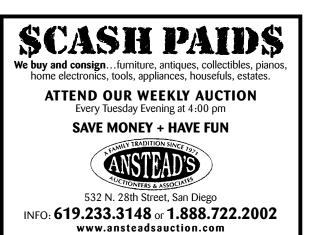






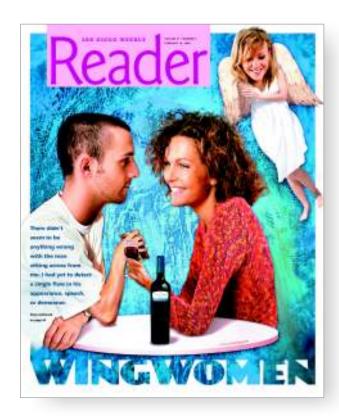








# Cool paper.



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Links to over 80 different San Diego

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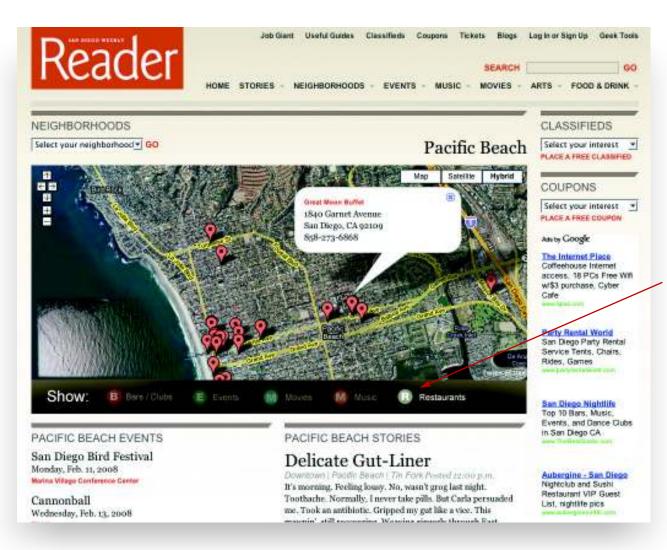
#### Blogs updated daily.

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#### Wingwomen

continued from page 28
you up with,' and when I
brought that up he turned
a little red and got shy, and
I was, like, 'Oh God, he's so
cute it's ridiculous.'

On his way to the club, Anderson was nervous but optimistic. After introducing herself, Gill asked Anderson a series of questions so she could get a feel



for the type of woman he might be interested in. It wasn't long, Anderson recounts, before they were comfortable enough to joke around. "I was laughing in the parking lot because there were pickup trucks everywhere, and I was, like, 'I don't see many farms around here.' And a bunch of guys in cowboy hats; I was, like, 'This was why I moved away from the Midwest, and I end up back in it.' Actually, I was laughing at them because I don't understand cowboys in San Diego." Though Anderson found Gill to be attractive and "easy to talk to," he had ruled her out as a prospect before meeting her. Aside from the fact that she had a boyfriend, Anderson says, "I went into it knowing I'm not even going to attempt

anything with [the bar buddy]. But if I just ran into [Gill] randomly at a bar, it would be completely different."

Gill says she could tell what sort of women Anderson was attracted to just by looking at him. "Somebody who takes good care of himself is 30-pounds-overweight women in wife-beaters and no makeup, and I knew that wasn't [Anderson's] cup of tea. I didn't want to say anything, so we kept walking and I thought, 'Okay, maybe this is the initial crowd, and maybe once we get inside, we'll find the hotties all in the back.' So

# "I wouldn't be surprised if she's a gold digger."

going to want to be with somebody who takes good care of herself"; in other words, if he's hot, he's going to want to be with somebody who's hot — and not somebody who's not. Gill's first glance inside the club revealed dismal options. "There was a sea of 20- to

we start walking around, and we did a couple laps, but there just weren't a whole lot of interesting people there or people that I thought he would find interesting."

Anderson claimed that he was not attracted to any

continued on page 36















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RESEARCH

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You may qualify for this study if:

- you are male or female between 18 and 70 years of age with Type 2 Diabetes
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If you qualify, your participation in the study would last about 4 months, during which you will receive the investigational study drug and study-related medical care at no charge. You will also be reimbursed for your out-of-pocket expenses: commuting expenses, meals and parking fees.

To learn more about the study, please contact us at:

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# Have you or someone you know been diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder?

Are you currently receiving treatment with lithium, olanzapine, Larnotrigine, or valproic acid? Are you currently experiencing depression? You are not alone!

Synergy Clinical Research is conducting research studies for *Bipolar Disorder with Depression*. All study-related procedures will be provided at no cost. Participants will be compensated for time and travel after each completed visit. We understand...

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

For more information, please call

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

You may be eligible for the study if:

- You are between the ages of 18 and 70
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All qualified participants will receive study-related care and study medication for up to 8 weeks at no cost.

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#### **SCHIZOPHRENIA**

#### Is your current medication working?

If you're taking Seroquel® and have experienced a return of symptoms, you may want to consider participating in a clinical research study.

This study is evaluating an approved medication to see if it may provide control of schizophrenia symptoms, and to evaluate its effect on weight.

Seroquel® is a registered trademark of Astra-Zeneca.

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- Are between 18 and 55 years of age
- Have been diagnosed with schizophrenia
- Have experienced a return of symptoms after taking Seroquel<sup>®</sup> for three months or more

All study-related care and study medication will be provided at no cost for up to eight months.

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#### **Depression**

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

Are you between the ages of 18 and 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.



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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:

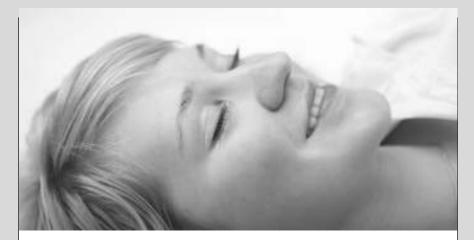
- You receive \$250 for three study visits.
- You receive no-cost study-related medication and medical care.
- No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.



Finding Answers Together - Since 1982

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# 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.

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Qualified volunteers will be compensated up to \$450 depending on your level of involvement in the study. If interested, please call.



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#### **Anxiety**

#### doesn't just stress your mind. We now know it can...

- Decrease your immune response
- Decrease your physical and mental functioning
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- Be mistaken for medical conditions

If you are between the ages of 18 and 50, you may qualify to take part in a research study of an investigational medication for Generalized Anxiety Disorder.

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 receive up to \$400 for your time and travel.
- You receive no-cost study-related medication and study-related medical care.
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# Schizophrenia

#### "I take my medications but still can't think clearly."

Are you (or someone you love) struggling to become more independent? Are you stable on your treatment yet still unable to do tasks that would allow you to become more independent?

Are you taking: Risperdal® or Abilify® and still having difficulty functioning? Our latest research study adds an investigational medication to your current treatment in the hope of improving your thinking processes.

We are caring, experienced professionals funded by a pharmaceutical company to conduct a research study for qualified people with schizophrenia.

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

- They receive up to \$835 for participation.
- They receive no-cost research study-related medication and medical care.
- No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.



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#### Wingwomen

continued from page 32 specific type of woman, but after 20 minutes, Gill deduced that he had a thing for brunettes. "And then he started going for the brunette-exotic look a little darker skin, darker hair, a more ethnic look. He really liked that, but I've got to say, 95 percent of the men I know go for that right off the bat. An Indian, Persian, or in this area, a very well-kept Latino girl. It's just exotic. It's not something you see every

Eventually, Anderson pointed out "one of the

exotic-looking gals" across the dance floor. Gill said she'd watch the girl for a while and try to determine if she was single. "You don't want to go up to somebody who's obviously with a guy. That's just not cool." After watching for a few minutes, Gill could see the woman was at the club with a group of women. "The first thing that came to mind was, 'She's here with a bachelorette party.' The second one is that she's doing a girls' night out kind of thing. Now, traditionally on a girls' night out, most of the girls have boyfriends." Gill had the feeling this girl

was taken, but she wanted to make sure. She instructed Anderson to go stand near a group of people so that he didn't appear awkward. Anderson obeyed and did his best to look "approachable but busy." Then Gill made her move. "I approached her, and I'm just, like, 'Hey, my friend over there thinks you're really cute,' and she's, like, 'Which one?' and she looks all interested." Gill pointed to Anderson, and the girl said she thought he was cute. Gill recalls, "I'm, like, 'Yeah, I know,' and she goes, 'But I'm married,' and she pulls her hand up, and

there's this huge rock on her finger, and I go, 'I knew it! You're here for a girls' night out, aren't you?' and she's, like, 'Yeah.' "

In a "separate the prey

from its herd" maneuver, Gill might follow a woman to the bathroom to strike up a conversation and do reconnaissance on behalf of her client. Anderson selected a second girl, who was surrounded by men. "I kept waiting and waiting, and she just was not branching out from the group," says Gill. She was able to obtain the woman's name (by overhearing someone else say it) but hesitated to bust into the group. She suggested they keep looking while waiting for an opportunity to address the girl. Anderson then pointed to a blond. "I was, like, 'Oh God, here we go,' "Gill says. "Out of all

the girls that he'd been pointing out, this one really didn't fit the mold. She was bleached blond, lots of makeup, really overdone, and she continually danced with guys that were 50 or older." Regardless of her personal feelings, Gill says, "I was, like, 'Uh, okay, you want her, I'll go get her.' "

The blond wore a "classic little baby-doll shirt tied in the back, which came down almost covering her entire really short shorts." Gill guessed her to be 26 but says the layers of caked-on makeup made her look around "32, trying to go for 26." Each time the woman appeared to be leaving the dance floor, another older man would cut in and back out she'd go. Gill told Anderson, "Okay, you hang out over here, and I'm going to try and grab her when she

comes off the dance floor." But when the next song ended and Gill opened her mouth to say hi, "Literally, a guy got his hand on her arm as I get her attention, and I'm, like, 'Are you serious? She's got one leg off the dance floor and one leg on, give me a break.' The guy looks at me, like, 'She's mine,' and I'm kind of, like, 'No, she's mine,' and he goes, 'Oh, you want her?' and I'm, like, 'I can't have her for, like, two seconds?' and he's, like, 'Okay,' and he goes away." Meanwhile, the object of Gill's dispute laughed at the fun of being fought over.

Once she had the girl's full attention, Gill employed her well-worn "Hey, my friend thinks you're cute" tactic. She asked the woman if she would come by and say hi to Anderson when she was

#### RESEARCH STUDIES



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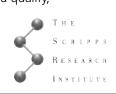
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- . Women between the ages of 18 and 60
- · And recently out of a domestic violence situation

#### What is involved?

Once we determine that you qualify for this study (via phone interview), you will be asked to participate in the following:

- In-person Interview
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When will this take place?

Each appointment will be made to accommodate your schedule, Monday thru Friday, 9am to 5pm.

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(3 hours each)

You can receive free individual psychotherapy and up to \$425 for your participation.

Principal Investigator: Murray III, Stain, VID, WPH, VA San Diago Healthcore System and University of California San Diago



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If you are 18-65 and are experiencing such symptoms of depression as feeling worthless, guilty, sad or blue; if you have lost interest in things, lack energy and concentration, you may qualify.

This study offers the possibility of treatment augmentation with a form of the vitamin folic acid to see if it may boost the effectiveness of your current medication in reducing symptoms of depression. This treatment is classified as a medical food, originally derived from a principle vitamin found in leafy green

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Ellen Solorzano: (858) 642-3913 Bernadette Di Toro: (858) 552-7598

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- Are between the ages of 18 and 49 with a history of an uncomplicated ulcer within the last five years; or are over age 50 (history of ulcers not required)

Qualified participants will receive all studyrelated medical care and diagnostic testing at no cost, and may be compensated for their time and travel.

To find out if you qualify, call: 858-277-7177 or visit: www.marginc.com

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

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#### Sadness? Low energy? Trouble sleeping? Can't concentrate? These are symptoms of Depression!

- Between the ages of 18 and 70?
- In overall good health?Currently experiencing these symptoms?

If you answered ves 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?

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

Currently suffering from obesity? 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





#### 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







#### **Alzheimer's Disease**

FEELING HOPELESS? A new investigational medication is available as

#### Are you or someone you love:

- Suffering from mild to moderate Alzheimer's Disease?
- Taking Aricept®, Exelon®, Razadyne®, or Reminyl® for the treatment of Alzheimer's Disease?
- Between 55 and 90 years of age? In overall good health? Not living in a nursing home?

#### Affiliated Research Institute is conducting a research study on Alzheimer's Disease. Qualified participants will receive at no cost:

- Study medication  $\cdot$  Medical evaluation by a board-certified medical doctor  $\cdot$  Laboratory tests
- Supervised care by medical professionals as it relates to the study
- · Compensation for time and travel · Health insurance is not required If you are interested in learning more about

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





#### 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**

finished dancing. "I really like to dance," said the girl. "Yeah, I know, I can tell," Gill responded. From where they stood, the blond could not see her admirer. She said she would try to stop by later. "Three songs later I'm noticing she's cycled through three different 50-year-old-looking guys. None of them were attractive, and I'm, like, 'Seriously,' you know? She had a couple of earrings in

her lip, and I'm really not thinking [Anderson's] going to be into her. She is not his type. Needless to say, she never came by." Gill ing.' I said, 'You're better off. Frankly, I wouldn't be surprised if she's a gold digger, and she just doesn't seem to be interested if

# "Women want what other women have."

waited for Anderson to bring it up. Eventually, Anderson said something. "He's, like, 'She's not com-

you're under the age of 49." Later, when Anderson was able to get a closer look, he agreed with Gill's

#### RESEARCH STUDIES

# Considering Dental Implants?

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# 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.



#### CONSTIPATION

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

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

To possibly qualify:

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

#### Participants may receive at **no cost**:

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

Interested, call:

619-521-2841

Medical Center for Clinical Research



#### Qualified participants must be:

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

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



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Study 208279 **TestWithTheBest.com** 

#### **SCHIZOPHRENIA**

# Is your current medication working?

If you're taking Seroquel® and have experienced a return of symptoms, you may want to consider participating in a clinical research study.

This study is evaluating an approved medication to see if it may provide control of schizophrenia symptoms and to evaluate its effect on weight.

Seroquel® is a registered trademark of Astra-Zeneca.

#### Do you qualify? You may qualify for this study if you:

- Are between 18 and 55 years of age
- Have been diagnosed with schizophrenia
- Have experienced a return of symptoms after taking Seroquel® for three months or more

All study-related care and study medication will be provided at no cost for up to eight months.

Please call: 1-888-619-7272



SYNERGY CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTERS

# 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.

# HEALTHY MALES WANTED!



Profil Institute is looking for healthy male volunteers to participate in a clinical research study evaluating a previously approved medication.

For more information, call (619) 788-9216



#### You may qualify if you are:

- . 18 to 50 years of age
- Not having major health problems
- Not currently taking prescription or over-thecounter medications
- A non-smoker for at least 6 months

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



Institute for Clinical Research,

865 Third Avenue Suite #100 Chula Vista, CA 91911

# ARE YOU OR A LOVED ONE EXPERIENCING MEMORY LOSS?



Did you know that there is no treatment to stop Alzheimer's disease? Current treatments only temporarily slow the symptoms. Researchers at UCSD and Ceregene, a San Diego biotechnology company, are recruiting volunteers for a Phase One clinical research study to test if the experi-

mental gene therapy drug is safe and improves the health and function of nerve cells involved in memory. All study participants will receive the experimental drug.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR STUDY

⊃ Age 50-80

Alzheimer's disease diagnosis

Stable health

Have a study partner for visits



For further information contact: Christina Gigliotti, PhD at (858) 622-5800



assessment. "So that turned out for the better — either she would have expected payment at the end of the night or she would have expected a diamond ring, one or two, which she wasn't getting either."

The fourth woman to spark Anderson's interest had a girl-next-door look about her. Her brown hair was in pigtails, she wore overalls, and her face was fresh. Gill thought she was "way too cute" to not have a boyfriend. Other clues tipped her off as well: "She just looked very comfortable with her surroundings,



she really wasn't trying to overdo anything, she was just happy with who she was. When I see a girl like that I'm, like, 'Oh, she's taken." Anderson wanted to be sure, so Gill continued to monitor the woman. "Sure enough, a few minutes later, a real happylooking little guy comes bouncing along, puts his arm around her, and they just look like a happy little couple." Anderson was disappointed. If prior to meeting him Gill had had a clearer understanding of the type of women Anderson liked, she says she would have taken him elsewhere. "I go, 'You're looking for a girl in all the wrong places. One, you're probably not going to find her in a bar and be able to talk to her, and two, you're in the wrong part of town — you need to go down to P.B.' "

"There's really not even a handful of girls I personally found attractive there," says Anderson. Still,

he considers the evening a success. "I did something new, and that's something in my hometown that I never would have done. I never would have gone out with a complete stranger to try to meet other people." Even though he didn't find Miss Right, Anderson still believes his chances are better with a wingwoman. "I don't know if 'science' is the right word, but whatever is behind it, I read a lot of articles on the Internet, and I've read so many studies that prove when a guy has a woman with him — it's even in the brain patterns of other women — not only do their defenses go down, but they literally find him more attractive because of the competitiveness, especially if it's another attractive woman. Women want what other women have. Studies have also shown they find a guy more trustworthy, easier to approach."

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 and 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 up to \$3,200.

For more information on this clinical study, please contact Pacific Research Network: 619-294-4302 or www.prnsd.com

PRN PACIFIC RESEARCH NETWORK

Call: 619-294-4302 • www.prnsd.com



#### Bipolar Disorder • Depression • Schizophrenia

Researchers at Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital are currently enrolling men and women into inpatient and outpatient studies.

Eligible participants may receive all study-related care at no cost, and may be reimbursed for time and travel.

Participation is confidential and trials are safely conducted under the supervision of experienced physicians and research specialists.

To learn more, please call the Sharp Mesa Vista Clinical Research Center at

(858) 694-8350.



#### What Came First, the Bitchy Woman or the Overaggressive Man?

Gill says this phenomenon is especially true in San Diego, where the women are "more difficult" to approach. "I know about 20

ing for girls, and they're dressed nice, they're attractive, they make money, they have great senses of humor, great personalities, and I am just flabbergasted as to why they can't find quality women." Gill blames this on the women of San

# "Don't walk up to her and start grinding on her."

single guys, and they're all perfect. I would hook them up with a girl any day of the week. But they're all single, *still*. They go out every single weekend lookDiego, who she says are particularly punishing. "If you're a decent-looking girl, and you have a decent-looking guy approach you, why are you being bitchy?"

Gill says many women in town expect men to buy them drinks. If one doesn't, the women "just get this attitude. They think it's funny to go out and not spend a dime."

Al Smith, a notoriously single friend of mine, agrees with Gill's assessment and adds that there's a tendency among Southern Californian women to have unrealistically high expectations. An attractive thirtysomething from Indiana who works in a senior position at Qualcomm by day and plays a pedal steel guitar in a band by night,

continued on page 44

RESEARCH STUDIES

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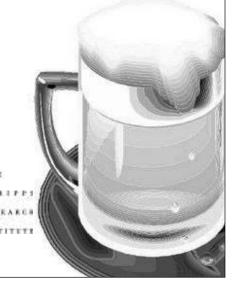
#### **Attn: Heavy Drinkers**

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Is your current alcohol use causing problems with your family, your work, your life?
If you want to stop drinking, The Pearson
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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.

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Or visit: www.pearsoncenter.org



# High Blood Pressure?



If you have mild to moderate high blood pressure, you may be eligible to participate in a voluntary clinical research study of an investigational drug.

Study participants will receive all investigational study medication and all study-related testing and examinations at no cost. Compensation for time and travel may be available.

If interested, please contact: **858-277-7177** or visit: **www.marginc.com** 

**Medical Associates Research Group** 

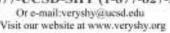


#### Worry Too Much?

- Are you afraid of being embarrassed or being judged by others?
- Do you avoid social interactions, relationships or jobs because you fear criticism or rejection?
- Do you dislike being the center of attention?
- Are you self-conscious dealing with authority figures?

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 anxiety. Medical assessment and clinical care are provided.

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askforhypnosis.com Free custom hypnosis CD

Bare Skincare \$25 Brazilian wax

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Beauty by Judy 15% off any purchase

Bee Tan Salon Free Magic Tan

Bella Pelle Medical Spa \$25 off treatment

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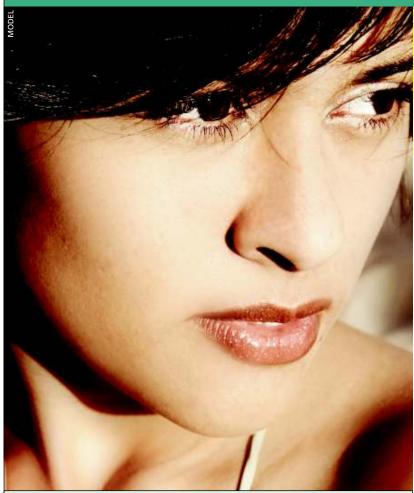
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Farzad Yaghouti, MD Medical Director

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#### Wingwomen

continued from page 41

Smith has met too many women who seem "to be more about what you can do for them than they are about finding someone to go on the journey of life with." He says there's too much emphasis placed on how much money a man makes, what kind of car he drives, and where his condo is situated. "It seems like a lot of the girls I've met in the past, they don't look at you as a person as much as they look at you as a reflection of themselves and their status, and I think that comes from insecurity," he says. "It's almost like they want a trophy man."

But shallow women are only one side of the bitchy coin. "When I first came here as a single adult," Gill remembers, "I was shocked by how aggressive the men are here." On several occasions, Gill has literally had to push away men who grind against her in bars. "It makes me really uncomfortable when I have to

become bitchy." Sometimes, she concedes, being rude is the only way for a woman to get her message across. One night, while dancing in the Gaslamp, Gill and her girlfriends were surrounded by a group of men. "They were, like, herding us together. It got to the point where the girls had to start dancing with each other, just because if you danced openly, a guy would come up to you."

Regardless, Gill says women should not allow bad behavior to transform them into bitches. "If there's one thing I can impart to the women of San Diego, it's be nice. If a girl approaches you and says, 'Hey, my buddy thinks you're cute,' just be open, don't shoot her down right away because you don't know her. Don't necessarily be nice to the guys grinding on you, but be a little more open to the guy who's not grinding on you, the guy who's not telling you he's going to buy you a drink —

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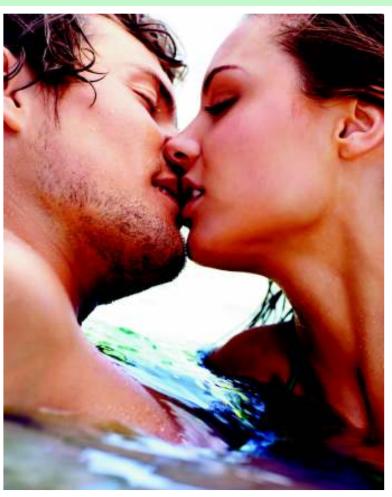
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All offers expire 3/6/08. Must present this adbe a little more open to the guy who keeps looking at you from across the bar." For men, Gill says, "As sad as this sounds, I would tell them to be a little more creative with how you meet a girl. Don't walk up to her and start grinding on her." Gill refers to the San

Diego club scene as a

"vicious cycle" of extremely offensive men begetting extremely defensive women. "Like the chicken or the egg, it's like, what came first? The bitchy girl or the aggressive guy? The girls just keep getting more standoffish and walled up and 'Get away from me,' and the guys just keep getting more and more aggressive to get them interested. I've been to Chicago, San Francisco, New York, Miami, Houston — I've hit the party scene in all of them, and I've never seen such an odd situation as this is." When asked what she thinks is the difference, Gill responds, "I don't think it's the military men - military guys are very respectful. They're the ones that will open the door for you, give you your coat; they will be more chivalrous." She thinks it might be a form of desensitization, "Where there are girls with boobs and bikinis everywhere, there's skin and alcohol everywhere, it makes the men like piranhas. It's a feeding frenzy because there's blood in the water."

Gill feels a hired wingwoman — because she is more invested in the guy's success — is more effective than a female friend who might be doing a favor. "There's just way too many variables," she explains. "I think it might have to do with female insecurities; some girls don't have it in them to approach others. It might be that they're single and could be that they're interested in the guy that they're with, and they just

don't say anything. Even if she's not single or interested in him and knows it would never work, there's this weird 'Why aren't you interested in me?' It's just this bizarre competitiveness." There is the possibility, Gill adds, that "the girl friend could be interested in the guy and may not want to hook him up with someone else, or that she may want to spend some time meeting men, whereas I'm here to answer questions, help you fit in, help you navigate, tell you, 'Hey, I wouldn't do that one if I were you. I'd go after somebody else."

#### **Bar Buddy Psychology**

Gill admits there are downsides to Bar Buddies that she does not encounter in her consulting business. Whereas a woman might be flattered to learn that her man had hired a consultant to help him meet or woo her, she might be put

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off that he'd hired a wingwoman to help him meet a number of strangers, one of whom *happened* to be her. "The guys are embarrassed," Gill explains, "because they have to admit they have problems meeting girls, that they're not at the top of their game. It comes down to primitive nature — all gatherer women want hunter men, and if they think he isn't the hunter they think he is, then there's some psychological thing in the back of their head that says he's not the one for me. So when a guy gets nervous and says, 'I'm scared to death to say I had to hire somebody to help me out,' what's the matter with that?"

According to Dr. Richard Jordan, a local psychologist who specializes in relationships, there's plenty the matter. "It's kind of a good news/bad news if it works," says Jordan. "The good news is, obviously you get paired up with somebody, and that might be a very cool thing. The bad news is — okay, just imagine that a guy meets a girl this way, they go out a few times, and she asks about his 'friend.' She might say, 'Oh, that sure was a cool friend. Tell me more about her. Did you guys ever date?' There's going to come a point somewhere in the game, if they get far enough along, when either he's going to have an ongoing secret he's going to have to lie about for the rest of his life or [he must] cop to, 'That wasn't really my friend,' and the whole foundation and heart of their initial meeting comes into question."

The two guiding principles of Jordan's practice, he explains, are truth and responsibility. "Truth: not only being honest but to tell the truth about what I'm experiencing right now and to share that with my partner. Responsibility: being responsible for any feelings or issues that come up, saying what's my part in that and taking responsibility." If you begin a relationship under false pre-

tenses, Jordan says,
"Whether [the woman] is
willing to overlook [the lie]
or not, it is something that
would have to be
overlooked."

My friend Al Smith says that he wouldn't be

comfortable with meeting a woman under such circumstances. His reasoning is similar to Jordan's. Smith says, "You're kind of starting the relationship, or whatever it's going to be, off on a lie. You may not be

completely misrepresenting yourself, but you're certainly not being honest either."

Small fibs, says Gill, are sometimes necessary in order to weed out undesirables. In her consulting business, she advises her wealthy clients to keep their credit cards close to their chests. One such man lives in Los Angeles and makes at least a million dollars a year. "He's attractive, fit, personable, travels the world in his free time; he has a hard time finding a girl who's genuine," explains Gill. "He meets the gold diggers, and he has to be very much on his guard, and he has to play games." Gill advised the

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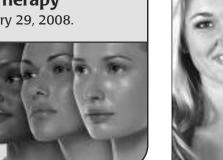
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man, who drives an expensive Humvee, to get an older vehicle, or "beater," and drive that on the first date. "A lot of these guys that are driving these really nice cars, have really nice houses, making money, I guarantee you that they have a beater they drive." If the woman is not "put off" by the homely vehicle, the man should feel safe to take her on a second date. He should not bring her back to his house "for the wow factor" until the fourth date. "But he still

should not open his garage for her," Gill says. And, she counsels, he must wait at least six months before introducing her to his friends and family.

Before any man requires dating advice, however, he needs first to meet a woman in whom he is interested. Despite Anderson's failed missions in this regard, he remains optimistic. He may have trouble approaching women, but once he's introduced to one, he is confident of success. Of

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other guys he's witnessed while out and about, Anderson says, "I don't think they were brought up well. There's no way I could see a woman walking down the street and go, 'Hey, baby, how are you doing?' My family raised me right."

After finishing his steak and taking the last sip of his wine, Anderson checks the time on his cell phone. I'd had him meet me for dinner at Bite in Hillcrest, and by now his friends would be waiting for him at a bar downtown. "Male friends?" I ask. Yes. "Are you out looking for girls?" Always. "How are you going to go about meeting them?"

Anderson pockets his phone, stands, and flashes his perfectly straight pearly whites. "I don't have a tactic," he says and shrugs. "I don't know. I'm just a nice guy."

"Well, then," I say, raising my glass. "Here's to you meeting a nice girl." ■

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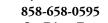




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he thing that bothered me most was that I didn't have a dad; that bothered me a lot. I remember going to my friend's house after school and her dad coming home and meeting her and hugging her, and I'd feel real crappy about that." The woman, Grace Stevenson, 41 years old, almost 42, mother of three, now single, is speaking in a soft, determined voice. She's a petite, barrel-chested woman with short auburn hair, round face, shimmering brown eyes.

"And on the last day of school I went to kiss the Grace Stevenson teacher on one side, and he went to kiss her on the other side, and we ended up kissing each other."

And this is Brawley, California, one of the last funk desert towns left to Imperial Valley. It's late afternoon, still hot, still building heat, jet-exhaust heat, impossibly hot, hot like a bad thing is going to happen.

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So you find city center, stop, walk around. It could be a Laundromat, a bar, a library, a church picnic, or sitting on a bench underneath a tree in the town park, but next to you is a nice lady. You look over and there's nothing sexual there. Just a nice lady and all you want is a smile, a morsel of palaver.

And so you say hello and say that you've always liked small towns like this, towns with old ratty buildings and pick-up trucks. And then, the woman begins to talk and you real-

ize that evil has come, and your stomach tightens and you remember that evil does live in the world, something that's slipped to the back of your mind after riding a steady paycheck for

The evil brought me to a second-story apartment on the north side of Brawley. Grace Stevenson and I sit around a white oval Formica table set between her kitchen and living room. A large TV plays. Grace's 19-year-old daughter Patricia is in and out, pouring pop, fixing a sandwich, back again for more pop, back again to deposit dishes in the sink.

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"I was born in Blythe, California, August 9, 1951. I had one brother and one halfsister. My brother was a year older, and my sister is 12 years younger."

"What were your parents doing when you were born?"

"They were field workers for one of the farms out there, Palo Verde. My mom was 20 and my dad was 27. They were getting a divorce when I was born."

Grace slowly rolls her head, shrugs her shoulders. "My roots are pure Mexican. My mom was the first American born on her side of the family. On my dad's side, my brother and I were the first American-born. My dad's still not a citizen. He's worked in the United States, has pretty much all my life, and is now retired from Foremost Dairy

The air conditioner kicks in with a thump. "What was your first memory?"

"I was 18 months."

"What did you see?"

"The kitchen in my grandfather's house. Green curtains, tables by the door heading toward the living room. The refrigerator was

on the right-hand side, there was a counter in front. Over towards the corner was the stove and then the sink. I was on my grandfather's lap sharing a Lucky Lager beer," Grace laughs. "He used to come home from work and like clockwork drink two beers before dinner."

"You said your parents were getting a divorce?"

"My parents were getting divorced while my mom was carrying me. My father divorced my mom, joined the service, and after he got out he went up to L.A. That's when she got into being what you call a 'fruit tramp' working in the packing sheds instead of the field."

The television is turned off. A young boy gets up from the living room floor, walks into one of the bedrooms, closes the door. Grace gazes at her hands. "When you're a fruit tramp, you build a reputation. My mom was a fast packer, and she was a clean packer. You got boxes, one layer or three layers. Everybody can pack the top layer so it's pretty, but the bottom layer, if it's dirty, people will complain when you deliver it. My mom was fast, and she was

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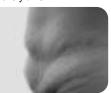
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good. She packed cantaloupe, tomatoes, broccoli, asparagus.

"My half-sister came along when I was 12, and my mom was working as a secretary. She wasn't always a fruit tramp, she tried to get out of it, but there was never enough money anyplace else. There were times when we were left with a neighbor or a relative, and after a while it became necessary for us not to be moved from school to school. There were times when we stayed with other people; there were times when we went with her. When she'd go, she'd be gone three months. My mom was a very spontaneous person. She was neat."

"Where did you live from the ages of six to eight?"

"Lived at my grandfather's house, on Vine Street here in Brawley. I was eight years old when we moved over to the west side of town. Started school at Witter, first grade."

"How did you like school?"

"I liked it, I liked it a lot. The teacher was great. I can't remember her name, but I remember how pretty she was, had nice black hair. There was a boy named Monk Henley, we both had a crush on each other. We were her pets, the teacher's pets. And on the last day of school I went to kiss

the teacher on one side, and he went to kiss her on the other side, and we ended up kissing each other. We both just about died! I ran home, we never even said good-bye.

"During the summer we went with my mom. My uncle was a fruit tramp, had a house in Los Banos, and there were times we stayed with him. In fact, my uncle Carlos, my mom, and my grandfather, I remember all of us staying there at the same time."

"What was the day like? What time would your mom go to work?"

"Sometimes as early as six o'clock in the morning, depending if it was in the rush of the season. When it was going full bore, 16 hours a day. We were told what we could do and what we couldn't do, and that's just how it was. I'm not saying we didn't screw up, but we didn't screw up major. My mom was not someone you crossed."

"What would your mom do after work? Would she come home, visit people, go out?"

"I remember, on Friday nights, we'd go out to a movie and then eat Chinese food. We always walked to the the-



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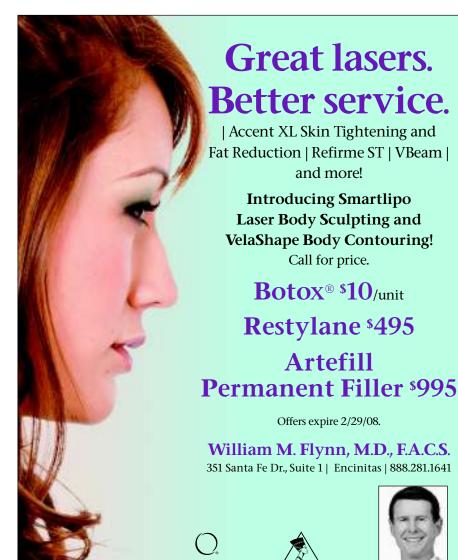
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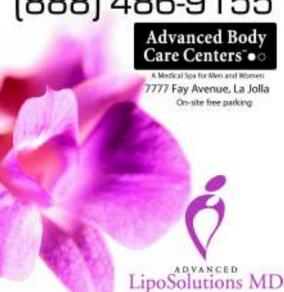








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ater, and from there we'd walk over to the restaurant."

"When did it stop, the traveling with Mom?"

"When I left home," wistful, appealing laugh. "My family is very traditional, old tradition. If I went and did anything it was either with my mother or my brother or I had family there. I was never unchaperoned. I was always watched over. My cousin, the same thing. My cousin and I, when we first started going to dances, our mothers went with us. And the boys asked the mothers if they could dance with us, we were never asked. It never seemed unusual to

me; I was just glad to go to the dance.

"I never had a pair of jeans until I moved away from home. Before I turned 16, dating age, my mom took me couldn't go out with. To this day I follow his advice. I call him Daddy."

The television is turned on again, I hear a child's sigh. "When did you leave home?"

#### "[My grandfather] told me the do's and don'ts about boys and what they could and couldn't do, what races I could and couldn't go out with."

over to my grandfather's house. We sat down on the front porch, and he told me the do's and don'ts. About boys and what they could and couldn't do, what races I could and

"My mother gave me an ultimatum when I was 18: 'Quit your job, stay home, and do as you're told or leave.' I was becoming too independent to be living at home, and

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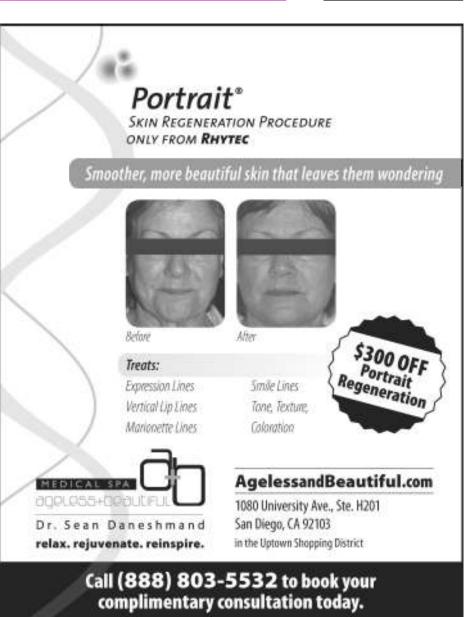
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it bothered my mother. She was fair. I knew I needed to leave."

Patricia brushes past us on her way to the kitchen, retrieves another pop, some ice, fills a glass; a telephone rings. "Your mom and dad divorced before you were born. Did he stay in contact with you?"

passion in it that it was unreal. They really loved each other, but they couldn't get along."

"Would they scream and

"My mom would yell. My dad would just be stern and keep talking, but she always had the upper hand. 'Kids, let's go,' and it was over."

#### "I had a premonition that someone was going to die."

"My dad was always in contact with us, gave my mother child support. Theirs was an extreme love-hate relationship. It's amazing, they would fight with each other, but you could tell even in that moment, there was so much

"So if you were visiting him in L.A. and they started to fight, she would pull the plug?"

"She had a knack for control. He, to this day, is very, very traditional. When he comes over here, spends three

days, he gets up, his coffee has to be ready. I fix his breakfast. I don't think the man knows how to use a frying pan. He sits down and I take him what he wants — that's just how it is. My mother didn't mind doing that, but at the same time she wanted some voice in what was going on. The reason for the breakup, he was having an affair. In Mexico it's no big deal for a family man to have another woman in another house, and the wife doesn't say anything about it. But my mom said, 'I'll be damned...'"

"Are you married?"

"I've been married twice. My first husband was Anthony, my high-school sweetheart. I still love the man; he's a real

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super guy. Anthony and I only fought one time, and then he left. We grew apart; he was and still is very much a hippie. He's working on the Greenpeace ship now, deckhand. He loves to travel, but you can't do that with a child."

"Where did you grow up?"

"I was raised here. I was gone for 18 years — lived in Arizona, Nevada, but most of the time in the San Diego area. I always came back here to visit, this was always home."

"When did you move

"September 16, 1988."

"Does your brother still live here?"

"He was killed in a car accident after he left the Planters bar. He was drunk and didn't want to drive, so he got a ride from somebody else, but he was too drunk to realize that this guy was too drunk too."

"When was that?"

"My mom died when I was 28. He died five years later, February of '83."

I looked into clear brown eyes, aware now that Grace and I have arrived at the cliff. I am very ambivalent about jumping. I lean back in my chair. "Tell me how your mom

"I had a premonition. I've always been very strong on premonitions. My mom knew about it. It's a sixth sense. Three weeks before my mom passed away I had a premonition that someone was going to die, and because of the fact that Grandfather was the oldest, I thought it was going to be Grandfather.

"My mom was staying at my house. I was living in Oceanside; she was working at the Vega Packing Shed in Carlsbad, packing tomatoes. My mom and I were heading home from the store, and she said, 'I wish I knew what it was like to die.' I told her, 'I know, I know what it's like to die.' My mom says, 'What do you mean?'

" 'I had a dream. It's just a struggle, and then all of a sudden it's dark and it's peaceful. You don't have to worry anymore.'

"She started to cry. I asked, 'What's wrong?' She said, 'That's not good, that means that you're going to die.' I said, 'No, it's not going to be me.' I

couldn't tell her that I thought it was going to be Grandfather. So. . . when I got the phone call it was weird."

"Where did your mom die?"

"Here in Brawley. It was Halloween weekend, October 29, on a Friday, and my brother and his wife were having a costume party at their house. My sister was in a quinceañera. My mom had driven her over from my house to watch my sister in the ceremony. My dad had come down from L.A. After the ceremony, my mom and dad left. I guess there was a reception afterwards, and after that, my sister went to a sleepover with all the girls. My dad and mom went to Grandfather's house for a little bit, and then they went to her house over on E Street."

"Your mom's house?"

"My mom always had to have a house here; she paid rent even when she was away. That night she was drinking — my mom was an alcoholic — and evidently she wanted to go to the sleepover and see my sister. My dad said, 'That isn't a very good idea.' And she started in. I don't

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know what exactly transpired, but my dad called my brother and said, I need your help, please come over here.' My mom got on the other line and said, 'No, baby, it's all right, everything is fine,' And my dad said, 'George, please come over here.'

"Everybody was leaving the costume party. They were going to a packing shed and party some more. My brother George and his wife had gotten into a little bit of a hassle, and they decided to stay home. They were both sleeping when they got another phone call. George answers the phone, and my dad says, 'Meet me at the police station. I've just killed your mother.' George got really mad and said, 'That's nothing to fucking joke about.'

"'It's no joke, George. Meet me at the police station. I've just killed your mother.'

"My brother lived over on Trail. He hung up the phone, and his wife said, 'What's wrong, George?' He said, 'I'm going to my mom's house. If you want to come with me you better get dressed now.' He threw her pants at her. She just put them on under her night shirt. They were three houses from the corner, turn right on Western, five blocks up, make a left, and three blocks over is my mom's house. They were going up Western, and he kept saying, 'He better be fucking joking. This better be a fucking joke.' As soon as they turned down E Street, he started to cry because he saw the police cars.

"They wouldn't let him in. He kept asking, 'Is my mom all right?' They said, 'No, she's dead. That's when he called me. It was one o'clock in the morning when he called. I remember the phone ringing. I was asleep when I heard the first ring. Even before I woke up, I knew it was a phone call saying Grandfather was dead. I answered, 'What's wrong?' "

"Mom's dead."

"No she's not!"

"It's no joke, Mom's dead."

"How did she die?"

"Dad killed her."

"What?"

"Dad killed Mom."

I light a cigarette, look at orange pop, feel like I should say something, have no idea what."Did you believe it right away?"

"I knew it was true. My mom and I had never been close. The last three months we started to talk, actually have conversations with each other. Talk about things that had been taboo: sex, men, different things. After she died, I waited five years for her to walk in my door, say, 'Hey, it wasn't me.' "

"Your dad went to prison?"

"One year to the day." "When was the next time

you saw your father?" "Five years later when my brother died."

"Your dad attended the funeral?"

"No, no. He was taken to the funeral home by my sister-in-law to view my brother. He could not attend the funeral. He has no contact with my mother's side of the family. He murdered my mother, he beat her to death. She had a broken jaw, broken esopha-

gus—she was beaten to death." "Did you go to the trial?"

"I didn't go to the trial, my brother did. I wasn't allowed in to see him. I told the police officers, 'Would you please do me a favor? This is his daugh-

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- 3 Breast lift
- 4 Breast reduction
- 5 Male breast reduction



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Extension 7030

**Laser Hair** 

Removal

2 How does it work?

3 How is it performed?

4 What does it feel like?

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5 Best candidates?

1 What is it?

#### Extension 7100 Cosmetic **Dentistry**

- 1 About our office
- 2 Implants, dentures & partials
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**3** Body Mass Index (BMI)

4 Is the Atkins Diet safe?

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# 5 Benefits

Extension 7000

Face-lift

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2 Procedure

4 Recovery

3 Cost

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- 2 Who is a candidate?
- 3 Your eve exam
- 4 Surgery 5 After surgery



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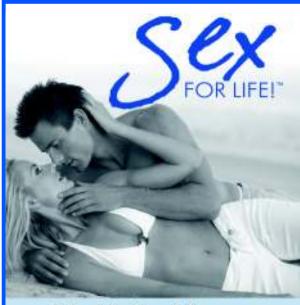
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ter, tell him that I love him very much.' For years I kept saying, 'He killed my mom, he killed my mom, but he didn't mean to do that. It wasn't him, he's not a violent man.' It wasn't until my brother died that I finally said, 'He murdered my mom, he didn't just kill her, he murdered her.'

"When my brother died, I was still very angry at my dad. I can say I hated him, but it was his son, right or wrong or whatever, he is the father of the boy that died, and he needed to know. Even my aunt said, 'Your dad needs to know.' I went to call his home phone, and I couldn't remember the number. And then it hit me, 'Hey, it's five years since you called this number, since you talked to this man.'

"I was at my Aunt Josey's house when I got a phone call from my sister-in-law's mother telling me to go to her house, that my dad was there. For the first time in my life I almost became physically ill. I didn't know what I was going to do.

"He came up and went to give me a hug, and I remember getting real stiff and putting my arms in front of me to let him know that I didn't want him to touch me, and I told him that I tried to contact him, but I didn't remember his phone number. I remember the look on his face, the hurt on his face."

"How long did you visit with him?"

"We sat in the living room for a half hour or so, and he saw his granddaughter for the first time."

"Did he seem nervous or angry?"

"He seemed so old, very old. My brother told me when he'd gone to the trial that he'd aged. He'd always been a very youthful-looking man. He said in the two months that passed it seemed like he'd aged ten years."

"Did he ever say he was sorry, or did he ever bring it up?"

"Never really spoke about it. I don't think I could deal with that, I wouldn't know what to say. I love my dad, I love him very much, but it makes me angry when he tells me I look like my mother. It's like he doesn't have any right to bring her up to me since he's the one who took her away from me. I don't know if I've forgiven him, but I know that I do love him."

"How often have you seen him since then?"

"I see him about once a

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"That's a lot. Did you start seeing each other after the funeral?"

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"What does your family

"My family knows that I talk to him, they don't want to hear about it." Strong, loud voice: "And I know that."

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tureless tabletop, TV is turned off, a toilet is flushed. "A lot of children, when something terrible happens to their parents, they often feel responsible. Did you ever feel that you..."

"No. The one thing that bothered me the most was that I didn't kiss my mother when she left that morning." Grace cries, "I kept thinking, 'I didn't kiss her,' it was weird. I didn't hug or kiss her, I was helping her load stuff in the car, and as she was driving away I said, 'Mom, I love you.'

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She goes, 'I love you too, baby.' "

"When you see your dad now, say, he's walking through that door, what do you think?"

"I always wonder, I always wonder how he feels or if he thinks about it. He tells me there's not a night that goes by that he doesn't dream of my mother. He loved her very much. When he walked into the police station and said, 'I just killed my wife,' they hadn't been married for 30 years. For 30 years they'd been divorced."

"What was your mom like?"

"I was very abused as a child. I remember her standing me up on a chair and whopping me with an electrical cord. She never touched my brother; I wouldn't let her touch my sister. She wanted a boy so she didn't have to worry about the dating and the loss of virginity. She loved me, she did, very much so. She provided really well for us: she tried her hardest to do everything, like moving us from the east side she didn't want us to live in the slums. But my mom was a very wicked person, you have no idea how."

"Could she make people angry enough so they'd want to hit her?"

"Yeah, she had a knack of bringing the fire out in a person; she knew which buttons to push in my dad, very much

"Did you ever have the sense that this was somehow foreordained?"

"My mother always said that if she reached the age of 50 and was not married, she would commit suicide because she didn't want to grow old by herself. I remember standing in front of the coffin with my brother, my sister, my two cousins, and my aunt, thinking, 'Mom, you got your wish.'"

"Do you think you'll ever talk about it with your dad?"

"I don't know how to bring it up. I've wanted to, but I can't do it, I can't do it without becoming angry again. He is sorry, he is very sorry, he misses her very much. To me, that's his punishment. He's the one who's living with it, he's the one who's got to live with the fact that she died at his hands. I can't imagine hurting someone to that extent, beating a person to death. She haunts him through me. I look a lot like her." ■

— Patrick Daugherty

Originally published in the Reader on July 30, 1992.

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San Diego Reader February 14, 2008

#### LETTERS

continued from page 12

a modicum of sophistication can achieve. The towering "stair step" condo at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Redwood is one of the best-looking buildings in the city; a real beauty.

Virtually the only San Diego architect who has successfully created a coherent, sophisticated style using elements from San Diego's architectural past is the man responsible for the Kensington Lofts on Adams Avenue. Apparently no developer has thought to ask him to design a building in Hillcrest. I suspect that his designs are too classy and tasteful to find wide appreciation among developers.

The real estate industry advisor who would love to bulldoze all the "obsolete" (probably anything built before 1980) buildings in

Hillcrest and turn the area into another generic University Towne Centre should cause shivers in anyone who appreciates historical architecture and what vestiges of "vintage charm" and atmosphere we have in San Diego. It is certainly true that there are pre-1930 buildings in Hillcrest that are neither charming nor architecturally interesting, and some have been ruined by hideous remodeling, but others are one-of-a-kind treasures and

#### HEALTH AND BEAUTY





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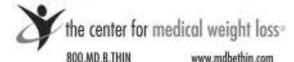
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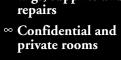
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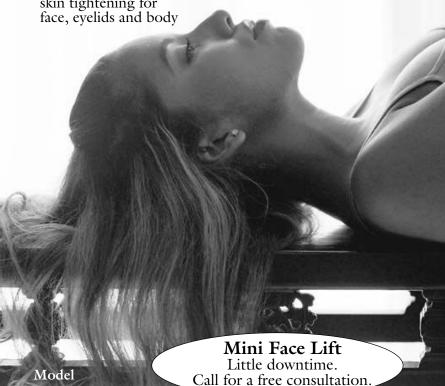
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fascinating oddities, links to San Diego's early days. The only obsolete buildings whose disappearance would be universally welcomed are most of the dreary piles from the 1960s and '70s, but many people live and work in those structures, so that isn't going to happen anytime soon.

Most people here appreciate the many improvements of the past 20 years: the Uptown Center; Village Hillcrest; and the beautification along sections of University, Washington, and Fifth Avenue; the upgrading and landscaping of certain blocks in the village area; the restoration of some picturesque old houses, apartment buildings, and bungalow courts; but the proliferation of ugly condo developments, along with the continuing demolition of interesting structures dating from the early 1900s and replacing them with bland stucco boxes and parking lots, threatens whatever charm Hillcrest has left. Jeff Hanna

#### **She Loves Us**

I read the Reader every week. About a month ago or so I saw the "Roommate from Hell" article. I loved it. It was one of the first things I would jump to when getting the Reader, until you guys changed it to the "Dumped" article, which is not nearly as entertaining. Not sure if there weren't enough stories sent in or what happened, but I just thought I would let you know my opinion. Other than that, everything is great. I love the *Reader!!!* 

> Savannah via email

Hillcrest

"Roommate from Hell" and "Dumped" run as stories become available. — Editor

#### Too Good To Be Wasted

Thank you ever so much for bringing back Ben Katchor's "Shoehorn Technique." I was so disappointed that you had canceled it, and I was so pleased to pick up my Reader today and see that "Shoehorn Technique" has been returned. This particular episode was especially funny. It's just a matter of time till these cartoons are collected in book form. They're too good to be wasted. For your information, Ben Katchor, the cartoonist, has been placed in

a category with George Harriman, who created "Krazy Kat," which was the most original cartoon of its time. I think Katchor has come up with something essentially all his own. Nothing similar to it is available anywhere, and I do thank you for bringing it back, and I hope you will find room among the classified ads for "Shoehorn Technique" every week.

Irv Jacobs La Mesa Cartoons run as space permits. — Editor

#### He Enjoys Us

I thoroughly enjoy reading your publication every week. I would like you to bring back the "News of the Weird" section. It has

not been in for two weeks now, and before that, it was cut down by one half.

Ronald E. Long San Diego

"News of the Weird" runs as space permits. — Editor

#### **Vain Gringos**

I just picked up a Reader. I haven't read one for like... God, I used to read them all the time. But every page is like some kind of ad for Lasik or Botox and stuff like that. It seems like just a

HEALTH AND BEAUTY



bunch of vain gringos or something. It seems pretty bad, how everything is about stuff that's looked down upon in most societies.

**Greg Gonzales** Chula Vista **Comments from Reader** 

**Cover Story Published February 6** Posted by pete69 on Feb.

8, 12:52 p.m. Good story Ollie. Much better than the one about food banks last week. It comes in a close second to the article JAS wrote about being a crackhead in SD a few months ago. Keep up the good work old chap. P.S. you should have taken a picture of that hottie on the schwinn. Posted by BikesAlot on Feb. 9, 10:24 a.m.

Thanks for an entertaining and encouraging story!! I bet some more people might try out bicycling thanks to this.

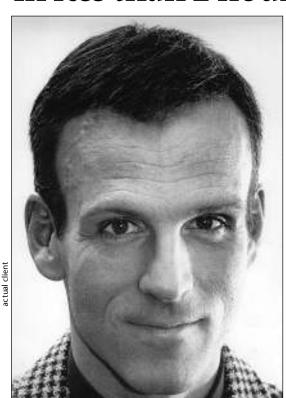
I bet Ollie and others would find easier routes by bringing along and actually using the San Diego Region Bike Map available FREE by calling 1-800-266-6883. The map shows where the Bike Lanes, Bike Paths, Bike Routes and other suggested roads are - helpful for avoiding some hills, buses, etc.

The San Diego County

Bicycle Coalition is pretty much leading the local efforts to get more money for bicycling improvements. Check 'em out at www.sdcbc.org. And they have free courses for improving bicyclists skills... avoiding the doe-sedoe with buses... for free!

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#### **Arnold Understands**

#### Cage Fighters

he reason it's a bloodier sport than boxing is that you're allowed to use elbows and knees," says Eric Del Fierro, chief operating officer for Total Combat Entertainment, a San Diego-based mixed martial arts event-production company. "Both are sharp, and the intention when you throw an elbow or knee is to cut — that's a way to get the fight stopped."

Total Combat is a mixed martial arts event in which two athletes fight with techniques drawn from various fighting disciplines, including boxing, wrestling, judo, jiu-jitsu, and karate. Only a few

LOCAL **EVENTS** 

methods of attack, such as groin punching, eye gouging, or biting, are prohibited in Ultimate Fighting

Championship events.

On Saturday, February 16, fighters matched by Del Fierro will square off in "Total Combat Xtreme Cage Fighting" at 4th&B. Each match consists of three three-minute rounds; championship matches are extended to three fiveminute rounds.

'We were the first mixed martial arts show in Southern California to be sanctioned," says Total Combat chief executive officer Diana Ocampo. The California Athletic Commission sanctioned the event in March 2006. "We were lucky because the governor understands [the sport]. He has his own promotion in Ohio." The Arnold Classic, an annual sports event named after Arnold Schwarzenegger, began as a bodybuilding competition 20 years ago and has

since expanded to include dozens of sports. Mixed martial arts (also known as "ultimate fighting") was added in 2006.

"A lot of these athletes are businessmen, college students, or college-educated," says Ocampo. "They're not thugs, you know? People take time out from their families and jobs to train. To train for a fight, they do conditioning for three or four hours, just in the morning, and then they come back later in the evening to do sparring techniques.'

Another misconception is that ultimate fighting is more dangerous than boxing. According to data compiled by the Journal of Combative Sport, 146 boxing fatalities have been documented since 1990. In the same time period, only 2 deaths – Doug Dedge in 1998 and Sam Vasquez in 2007 — have occurred in association with mixed martial arts.

The most common injury in mixed martial arts is laceration. "Most hospital visits are for stitches," says Del Fierro, who, in addition to his work with Total Com-

time firefighter and mixed martial arts coach at Alliance Gym in Chula Vista.

One of the more effective ways to win a match is to break the skin of the opponent to cause bleeding. "If it's blocking the fighter's



vision because blood is bleeding into his eye, it might cause the ringside doctor to stop the fight," says Del Fierro. "In every show, I guarantee you that somebody's going to get cut. The last show we had a total of four guys who needed stitches.'

Del Fierro continues, "We also had a kid who ended up winning his fight but got his jaw broken." That fighter, Casey Ryan, took a jaw-crunching punch and then managed to get his opponent in a "triangle

choke" (by wrapping his legs around the man's neck and arm and putting pressure on his head), causing him to pass out. For a month after the match, Ryan's jaw was wired shut.

During the Ultimate Fighting Championship in Ohio in October, Alliance Gym's Brandon Vera hyperextended his thumb while throwing a punch. "This was in the first 2 minutes, and [Vera] ended up fighting two more rounds, a total of 15 minutes, with one hand." Vera lost the title match to a split decision by the judges.

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Expires May 1, 2008

Del Fierro says the "most incredible" fight he has witnessed was between Christian Vargas and Mike Granchi in 2006. "The fight was very competitive; it went to a split decision. Christian ended up hyperextending his elbow in the first round and couldn't feel it after that. Christian had Mike off of his feet a couple of times; he rocked him with a couple of knees — they were covered in blood. Mike won by split decision. They walked out of there dead; they both needed stitches. It was easily the fight of the night, maybe of the year.'

— Barbarella

**Total Combat Xtreme Cage Fighting** Saturday, February 16 7 p.m. 4th&B 345 B Street Downtown Cost: \$40 to \$100 Info: 619-392-4660 or totalcombat.tv/

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

#### DANCE

on the events section.

"Collage 2008 — Moved to Dance" San Diego Civic Dance Company presents 25th annual recitals with dancing in variety of styles through February 17. Saturday, February 16, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday, February 17, 2 p.m.; \$10-\$12. Casa del Prado Theater, 1650 El Prado, Suite 208. 619-702-3408. (BALBOA PARK)

**English Country Dancing Janet** Arnold calls for English country dancing. Beginners' instruction at 6 p.m. Sunday, February 17, 6 p.m.; \$6. Jean Hart Academy of Dance, 12227 Poway Road. 858-676-9731. (POWAY)

Flight Path Makes Music Martha Wild calls for contradance hosted by San Diego Folk Heritage (8 p.m.). Beginners' dance workshop: 7:30 p.m. Wear soft-soled shoes. Friday, February 15, 7:30 p.m.; \$7. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street. 619-238-8550 (NORTH PARK)

**Gravity-Defying Leaps!** Moiseyev Dance Company performs "most spectacular, theatrical, athletic folkdancing in the world," with "incredible acrobatics." Sunday, February 17, 7 p.m.; \$40-\$55. California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 North Escondido Boulevard. 800-988-4253.

#### FILM

"9/11: Press for Truth" Battle for truth and accountability waged by families of 9/11 victims chronicled in film showcased for "Sunday Afternoon at the Movies" series. Members of San Diegans for 9/11 Truth. Sunday, February 17, 2 p.m.; San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. 619-236-5800. (DOWNTOWN)

"La Sconosciuta" Giuseppe Tornatore's 2006 film starring Michele Placido and Allesandro Haber showcased. In Italian with English subtitles. Friday, February 15, 7 p.m.; \$2. Italian Community Center, 1669 Columbia Street. 619-237-0601. (LITTLE ITALY)

"Silent Films We Love Most" Teeny-Tiny Pit Orchestra for Silent Films provides live music and sounds with a sampling of classic short films from silent era for UCSD's ArtPower series. See The Great Train Robbery, Rescued by Rover, Corner in Wheat, It's a Gift, more. Stay for champagne, chocolate, post-performance conversation with film curator Rebecca Webb and pit director Scott Paulson. Screenings offered in UCSD's Calit2 Theatre. Thursday, February 14, 8

#### OUT & ABOUT

LA SCONOSCIUTA Italian Community Center,

Friday, February 15.

(SEE FILM)



p.m.; \$10. UCSD: University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. 858-534-TIXS. (UCSD)

"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 Jewishthemed 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.

Showtimes: Thursday, February 14, noon; Friday, February 15, 10:30 a.m.; Saturday, February 16, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, February 17, 1 p.m.; \$11-\$13. The David & Dorothea Garfield Theatre, 4126 Executive Drive. 858-362-1348. (LA JOLLA)

"The Mars Daybreak" This 2004 anime flick is featured for Mars Movie Night in studio 106 of Art Union Building. Also on tap: a "Duck Dodgers" cartoon and another episode from Flying Disc Man from Mars (1950). Friday, February 15, 7 p.m.; Art Union Building, 2323 Broadway. Free with reservations: 619-233-9779. (DOWNTOWN)

"The Real Dirt on Farmer John" Documentary following 'Farmer John's astonishing journey from farm boy to counterculture rebel to the son who almost lost the family farm to a beacon of today's booming organic farming movement." Screening sponsored by

Home International 619-330-9798 Tuesday, February 19, 7 p.m.; Lestat's Coffee House, 3343 Adams Avenue, 619-282-2848, (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

Romance, Everyone! Enjoy Cher and Nicolas Cage in Moonstruck when the 1987 film is showcased for Carlsbad Library film series, Wednesday, February 20, 6 p.m.: Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane, 760-602-2026, (CARLSBAD)

Silent Film Night Winter Pops concerts and screenings of Robin Hood, the 1920s swashbuckler starring Douglas Fairbanks, planned by San Diego Symphony and conductor Gillian Anderson, Friday, February 15, 8 p.m.; Saturday, February 16, 8 p.m.; \$20-\$80. Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street. Reservations: 619-235-0804. (DOWNTOWN)

Up for a "Madcap Post-Feminist Spoof"? See Robert Carv's Ira and Abby during Film Forum. Wednesday, February 20, 6:30 p.m.; San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. 619-236-5800.

Utterly Unromantic Bernardo Bertolucci's 1973 film Last Tango in Paris with Marlon Brando screens for winter film series. Thursday, February 14, 7 p.m.; \$5-\$7. Sherwood Auditorium at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, 700 Prospect Street. 858-454-3541. (LA JOLLA)

#### **FOR KIDS**

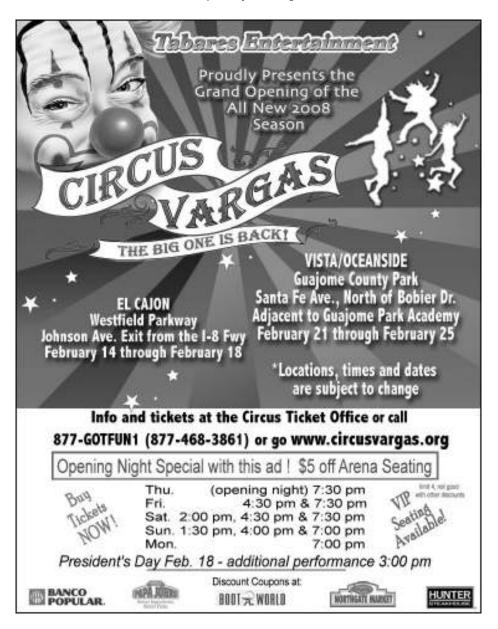
"Chemistry" It's topic for family science day; participants "make a free science experiment" to take home. Included in regular admission. Saturday, February 16, noon; \$6-\$8. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

"The Jungle Book" Rudvard 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. Thursday, February 14, 8 p.m.; Friday, February 15, 10 a.m.; Saturday, February 16, 4 p.m.; Sunday, February 17, 2 p.m.; \$13-\$15. Don Powell Theatre at SDSU, 5500 Campanile Drive. Reservations: 619-594-6884. (SDSU)

"The Little Engine That Could" Big Joe Productions take the stage for performances February 20-24. Shows begin at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Wednesday-Friday and at 11 a.m., 1, and 2:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday; \$3-\$5. Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Road West. 619-544-9203. (BALBOA PARK)

"Totally Tidepools" Ever eaten lunch with your toes? Learn about tidepool creatures during family day





"Explore It: Tide Pools" runs 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Turn over rocks (and then carefully replace them) to discover hidden creatures, "build a tidepool of your own to take home and enjoy." Fee is \$4 per person, in addition to regular aquarium admission. Advance registration required: 858-534-7336. Saturday, February 16, 11 a.m.; Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. 619-534-FISH. (LA JOLLA)

Animal Tales Story Time Enjoy animal stories, crafts, and of course, animals. Sunday, February 17, 1 p.m.; \$3. Ages 4 and up. San Diego Humane Society and SPCA, 5500 Gaines Street. 619-243-3432. (LINDA VISTA)

#### **IN PERSON**

"Evolutionary Revival" Reverend Michael Dowd, author of Thank God for Evolution! How the Marriage of Science and Religion Will Transform Your Life and Our World, is featured speaker at Evolutionary Revival. Dowd will "share a gospel that's billions of years old." Friday, February 15, 7 p.m.; Ages 10 and up. First Uniarian Universalist Church of San Diego, 4190 Front Street. 619-263-2165. (HILLCREST)

"Hell and Spiders: An Old Town Romance" Valentine's plays (15 minutes in length) on Plaza del Pasado stage. Thursday, February 14, 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Friday, February 15, 7 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Old Town State Historic Park, 4002 Wallace Street. 619-954-6936. (OLD TOWN)

OUT & ABOUT

GREED, CORRUPTION, LOVE — URINETOWN Coronado School of the Arts, February 15–23.

(SEE IN PERSON)



"Life's a Good Gig" Pianist, composer, singer, author John Cain plans concert and booksigning. Cain performs selections from his repertoire and his new CD and speaks about his book; he will be joined by Latin percussionist Kiko Jimenez and guests. Saturday, February 16, 2 p.m.; PianoSD.com, 1233 Camino Del Rio South. 619-298-5313. (MISSION VALLEY)

"Open Air: Poems Inspired by Nature" Enjoy poetry by Emily Dickinson, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Robert Frost, Walt Whitman, Edgar Allan Poe, and others while "surrounded by some of the most beautiful and famous American landscape paintings of the 19th Century." Included in regular museum admission Saturday, February 16, 3 p.m.; \$4-\$10. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. 619-232-7931. (BALBOA PARK)

**"Song Yet Sung"** James McBride (*The Color of Water*) signs and discusses his new book. Monday,

February 18, 7:30 p.m.; Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. 858-454-0347. (LA JOLLA)

**Dueling Pianos** Valentine's Day concert with music and comedy for all ages by New York City performers Michael and Amy. Tickets include refreshments. Thursday, February

14, 7 p.m.; \$5-\$10. Salvation Army Kroc Community Center Performing Arts Theatre, 6611 University Avenue, 619-269-1536. (COLLEGE AREA)

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To place your ad in the Wedding Guide, call 619-235-8200. February 15–23. "Musical combines social commentary with large doses of humor." Friday, February 15, 7 p.m.; Saturday, February 16, 7 p.m.; \$12-\$15. Ages 10 and up. Coronado School of the Arts, 650 D Avenue . 619-522-4050. (CORONADO)

Happy Valentine's Day? Kathi Diamant, author of *Kafka's Last Love: The Mystery of Dora Diamant,* reads passages about "one of the world's greatest love stories." Thursday, February 14, 7 p.m.; D.G. Wills Books, 7461 Girard Avenue. 858-456-1800. (LA JOLLA)

Meeting Mr. Mortenson Greg Mortenson, co-author of *Three Cups of Tea*, discusses his book, his work, and answers questions for "One Book, One San Diego." He'll be joined by Julia Bergman, who will share story of her involvement with his Central Asia Institute. Signing follows. Tuesday, February 19, 7 p.m.; Qualcomm Hall, 5775 Morehouse Drive. 619-236-5800. (MIRA MESA)

Morning with Mortenson Greg Mortenson, co-author of *Three Cups of Tea*, discusses his book, his work, and answers questions for "One Book, One San Diego." He'll be joined by Julia Bergman, who will share story of her involvement with his Central Asia Institute. Tuesday, February 19, 11:15 a.m.; Saville Theatre at San Diego City College, 1313 Park Boulevard. 619-308-3554. (DOWNTOWN)

Nomads Show Fusion bellydancing by the Shimmy Sisters, "live original Middle Eastern-flavored music" by Danyavaad, DJ Sandbag, guests. Valentine's dinner and show: \$100 per couple (includes wine, entrée, dessert, show); \$10 without dinner. Thursday, February 14, 6 p.m.; \$10-\$100. Portugalia, 4839 Newport Avenue. 619-222-7678. (OCEAN BEACH)

**Novel Wine Tasting** Peter May reads (in English) from his latest book *The Critic* for Alliance Française de San Diego. While re-

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#### Ensenada

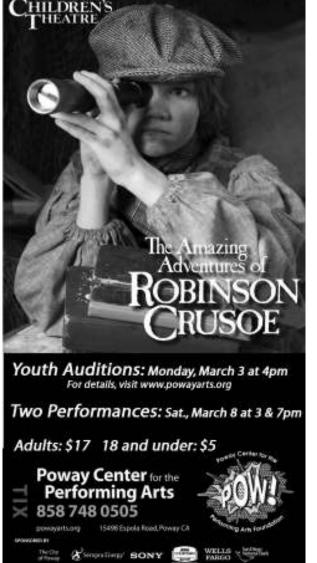
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# Calendar Local Events

searching the book, May enrolled at Maison du Vin in Gaillac for oenology course. Event promises tasting of Gaillac wines, discussion, book sales, signing. 858-254-2253. Monday, February 18, 6 p.m.; \$20-\$25. Ages 21 and up. Bistro Le Bouchon, 511 West Valley Parkway. (ESCONDIDO)

Prepare to Be Inspired! Meet Greg Mortenson, co-author of *Three Cups of Tea*, when he appears for "One Book, One San Diego" events. 619-260-7808. Monday, February 18, 6 p.m.; Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park. (LINDA VISTA)

**Sunset Poets** Poets are encouraged to bring new work, old, or favorite poems for a long open-mike session (with no featured poet on the program). "It's also okay to just sit and listen." Everyone is invited to stay for conversation, no-host food and beverages (around 5:30 p.m.). Sunday, February 17, 3 p.m.; The Flying Bridge, 1105 North Coast Highway, 760-758-2410. (CARLSBAD)

**The New Shanghai Circus** Acrobats, tumblers, contortionists, jugglers, cyclists, gymnasts, live musicians entertain in the 2000-year-old Chinese tradition. Sunday, February 17, 3 p.m.; \$25-\$45. Balboa Theatre,

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

**Vampire Babylon Trilogy Author** Chris Marie Green signs *Midnight Reign*, the middle book of her first Vampire Babylon trilogy.
Friday, February 15, 7 p.m.;
Mysterious Galaxy Books, 7051
Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. 858268-4747. (CLAIREMONT)

#### **LECTURES**

"Asher B. Durand — The Foremost Landscape Painter in Mid-19th-Century America" David Smith offers insight into Durand's life in conjunction with "Kindred Spirits: Asher B. Durand and the American Landscape" exhibition. Learn about the artist's pre-eminence as an engraver, influence of Thomas Cole on his allegorical landscapes, Durand's role in development of American landscape painting and Hudson River School. Tickets include same-day museum admission. Wednesday, February 20, 6 p.m.; \$7-\$15. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. 619-232-7931. (BALBOA PARK)

"Climate Change and the World's Oceans" Jane Lubchenco of Oregon State University speaks for "Global Climate Change: Species and Places" series. Wednesday, February 20, 6:30 p.m.; San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado. 619-232-3821. (BALBOA PARK)

#### **OUT & ABOUT**

NEW SHANGHAI CIRCUS

Balboa Theatre, Sunday, February 17.

(SEE IN PERSON)



"Collections and Criticism"

San Diego Union-Tribune art critic Robert Pincus speaks for "SDMA in the 21st Century" themed "Guest Lecture Series." Friday, February 15, 10 a.m.; \$7-\$12. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. 619-696-1953. (BALBOA PARK)

"Container Gardening and Design" Una Tyler and Patrick Powelson of Anderson's La Costa Nursery address MiraCosta College Horticulture Club in Alta Vista Garden at Brengle Terrace Park. 760-729-8172. Saturday, February 16, 12:45 p.m.; Brengle Terrace Park, 1200 Vale Terrace Drive. (VISTA)

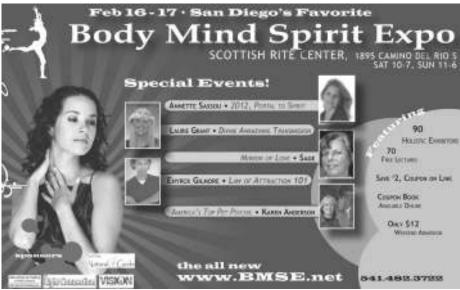
"Death Valley — 1998 — Wildflower Year of the Century" Horticulturalist Rosemary Foster shares photographs and impressions of the year when El Niño rains of 1997-1998 brought a record 5.8 inches of rainfall to Death Valley. California Native Plant Society meets in Casa del Prado room 104. 619-685-7321. Tuesday, February 19, 6:30 p.m.; Casa del Prado, El Prado. (BAL-BOA PARK)

"Downsizing to Freedom" Susan Nystrom Walsh's seminar is subtitled "How to Prepare for the Next Adventure"; she will discuss how to transfer current property taxes to a new home, reverse mortgages, disbursing household goods for seniors. Wednesday, February 20, 6 p.m.; La Jolla Library, 7555 Draper Avenue. 858-552-

"Easy Steps to Self-Hypnosis" Walter Holtschi illuminates path "to inner peace." Learn "why self-hypnosis works and what can be achieved by it." Donation. Thursday, February 14, 6 p.m.; Ages 18 and up. Sacred Pathway Bookstore, 300 Carlsbad Village Drive. 760-729-

2434. (CARLSBAD)

"From Black Gold to the Black Oystercatcher" Taldi Walter discusses "Challenges and Opportunities in Alaska" for San Diego Audubon Society. Walter will highlight imminent and compelling challenges facing Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, other areas. 619-682-7200. Friday, February 15, 7 p.m.; Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road. (CLAIREMONT)









"Healing Environments: The Quest for Optimal Patient Experiences" Friends of San Diego Architecture sponsor lecture by Jain Malkin, described as "a leader in the field of health-care design." Talk followed by coffee, discussion. Donation; free for students. 619-224-8584. Saturday, February 16, 9:30 a.m.; NewSchool of Architecture and Design, 1249 F Street. (DOWNTOWN)

"Ins and Outs of Birds" Learn to be a pro at avian anatomy and get a comprehensive look at birds in this two-part class led by ornithologist Phil Unitt, Participants examine internal organs and structures, investigate anatomical structure of birds (the "ins"), discover their adaptations to flying and feeding, how to use external features for identification purposes (the "outs"). Second class: Thursday, February 21, 6:30 p.m. Registration: 619-255-0203. Tuesday, February 19, 6:30 p.m.; \$25-\$33. San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado. 619-232-3821. (BALBOA PARK)

"Irish Civil Registration" Irish Interest Class meets, sponsored by British Isles Genealogical Research Association. Nonmembers welcome. 858-453-9053. Wednesday, February 20, 10:30 a.m.; LDS Family History Center, 4195 Camino del Rio South. (MISSION VALLEY)

"Managing Your Irrigation Water" How do soil, plant, and water relationships result in better plant health, improved water management? Find out when Water Wise series continues. Saturday, February 16, 1 p.m.; \$15-\$25. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West. 619-660-0614. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

"Rhone: River of Wine" Celebrate wines of southern France when wine maven Barbara Baxter of Planet Wine continues "Sacred and Profane" series. Wednesday, February 20, 7:30 p.m.; \$25-\$30. Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, 1008 Wall Street. Reservations: 858-454-5872. (LA JOLLA)

"Self-Promotion: Taking Yourself Seriously" Workshop hosted by Buddha Frog Music Publishing. Donation. 619-533-3902. Saturday, February 16, 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.; \$5. College-Rolando Library, 6600 Montezuma Road. (COLLEGE AREA)

"The Unleashing of Evolutionary Thought" Humanist Fellowship gathers to hear George Riddle on (his uncle) Oscar Riddle's ideas during round-table discussion. 619-670-4159, 619-544-0640. Sunday, February 17, 2 p.m.; San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. 619-236-5800. (DOWNTOWN)

"Xeriscape: Beautiful Landscape on a Low-Water Budget" Seven principles of xeriscape, plant selection, planting techniques presented. Saturday, February 16, 9:30 a.m.; \$20-\$30. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West. Reservations: 619-660-0614. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

A New Gardening Tool "Gardening on a New Level" presented by Mitch Shirts for San Diego Floral Association's quarterly meeting. Shirts is accumulating "wisdom of local experts, the resources of proven techniques, and the interests of individual gardeners" to "make them accessible to everyone, in a way that is easy to use." Find group in room 101 of Casa del Prado. 619-232-5762. Tuesday, February 19, 7 p.m.; Casa del Prado, El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Clicker Training for Cats Teach your cat "some fun new behaviors"

— like sit or wave bye-bye — during class. Maybe "learn a new and exciting way to keep your cat off the kitchen counter." Registration: 619-299-7012 x2704. Class is for people only. Friday, February 15, 6:30 p.m.; \$35. San Diego Humane Society and SPCA, 5500 Gaines Street. (LINDA VISTA)

Computer Genealogy Society of San Diego Colleen Fitzpatrick presents "Database Detective: Extracting Meaningful Information from the Internet and Your Own Files." Patterns among names, dates, addresses, events in your genealogy information can enliven your family history. User groups for Legacy and RootsMagic precede presentation. Meeting is in Robinson Auditorium complex at UCSD. Saturday, February 16, 9 a.m.; UCSD: University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. 619-426-8295. (UCSD)

**Q:** How Are Wetlands Restored? Find out when Serena Moseman presents "Building and Burying of a Restored Wetland: The Roles of Mud, Microbes, and Man in the Friendship Marsh" for Tijuana Estuary Speaker Series. (The answer involves tiny microbes.) Saturday, February 16, 10 a.m.; Tijuana Estuary Visitors' Center, 301 Caspian Way. 619-575-3613 x305 or x330. (IMPERIAL BEACH)

**Revelle Forum** Pulitzer Prize and MacArthur Fellowship winner Jared Diamond and his sister, novelist and former *Los Angeles Times* business columnist Susan Diamond (*What Goes*)

Around), for discussion on powerful themes and strategies they employ as writers. UCLA professor Jared Diamond is author of *Guns, Germs, and Steel* and other bestselling books. Monday, February 18, 7 p.m.; \$35. Neurosciences Institute, 10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive. Registration: 858-882-8000. (LA JOLLA)

What Is "Executive Order #9981"? Celebrate 60th anniversary of President Truman's order to desegregate the armed forces. Panel

discussion exploring effects of the order with veterans from different eras who experienced segregated services. Panelists include Tuskegee Airmen, Montford Point Marines, Buffalo Soldiers, and Navy Sailors, who will tell their stories, answer questions. Wednesday, February 20, 10 a.m.; Veterans Museum and Memorial Center, 2115 Park Boulevard. 619-239-2300. (BALBOA PARK)

Who Was Princess Enheduanna? Jungian analyst Dr. Betty De Shong Meador focuses on "The Sumerian



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#### **OUTDOORS**

Tree Heights can be easily measured this week if the sun shines at midday. On or near February 18, at or very near 12 noon, the sun as seen from San Diego County stands at an altitude of 45 degrees above the horizon. Under those conditions, the length of a shadow cast by a vertical tree trunk on a horizontal surface equals the height of the tree trunk. Even if you lack a measuring tape, you can still use your own feet to pace the distance heel-to-toe: the length of an average adult male's shoe sole, for example, is very close to one foot.

Ceanothus, or wild lilac, begins it annual blooming cycle this month at least in the warmer coastal areas. Assuming sufficient rainfall arrives, by sometime in March virtually every chaparral-covered canyon and hillside on the coastal strip may exhibit blueor white-flowering specimens. The peak of the ceanothus bloom will work its way eastward, reaching Ramona and Alpine by March or April, and the Palomar, Cuyamaca, and Laguna mountains by April or May. For the next several years, ceanothus growth will be rampant in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, where the devastating 2003 Cedar wildfire incinerated nearly all of the trees, and

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

ROAM-()-RAMA

icholas Flat harbors a small oasis of live oaks and an old cattle pond backed Nicholas Flat harbors a small basis of live band sind and grassy meadows above the pond may host an eye-popping wildflower show. Because so many plant communities converge in this one area — coastal sage scrub, grassland, chaparral, and oak woodland — Nicholas Flat is a good bet for bird- and wildlife-watching too.

Nicholas Flat resides in Leo Carrillo State Beach, which includes a considerable chunk of coastal hillside in the Santa Monica Mountains as well

> as an outstanding stretch of wild coastline. For the easiest hike into Nicholas Flat, you may begin at a back entrance to the state-beach property, on Decker School Road. To reach that trailhead, drive 2.5 miles north of Pacific Coast Highway on Decker Road (Highway 23) and turn west on Decker School Road. Simply go to the end of the dead-end road, where you will find the Nicholas Flat trailhead. From the trailhead, a pleas-

ant oak-lined path leads south to an intersection just above the pond. Bear right to visit the oakdotted west shore or the grassy area north of the pond. Amid the oaks you can look for a bedrock metate (grinding slick), where the native Americans of the Chumash tribe milled acorns. In wetter times, the pond brims with water, while in drought years it can turn

bone-dry by late summer, with gaping cracks up to two feet deep in the abobe mud at the bottom.

To explore more, you can work your way around the lake to the top of the sandstone outcrops on the south side (watch out for poison oak as you do so). From there you get a fine view through the gorge of San Nicholas Canvon to the blue ocean below.

A somewhat better view can be had by hiking up to a 1680-foot knob on the ridge to the west (an extra gain and loss of 300 feet, entirely on trail). An excursion farther afield can take you past an 1838foot high point along the Malibu Springs Trail, and then back to Decker School Road.

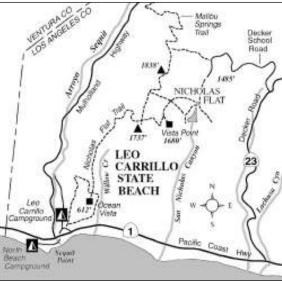
Nicholas Flat can also be approached from the Leo Carrillo Campground, a halfday's leisurely hike for the

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.

#### **NICHOLAS FLAT**

Up Malibu way, in Leo Carrillo State Beach, Nicholas Flat is a nature lover's dream

Distance from downtown San Diego: 168 miles Hiking length: 1.5 miles round trip Difficulty: Easy



hour total eclipse, this one occurs during the most convenient early evening hours. Near sunset the full moon, already nicked by Earth's shadow during the initial partial stages of the eclipse, will start rising from the east horizon. Total eclipse begins at 7 p.m. and ends at 7:52 p.m. During the totality period, the moon will likely glow a soft coppery color due to sunlight refracting through (and being reddened by) Earth's atmosphere. This ruddy, indirect sunlight bounces back from the moon to Earth, and that dim light is all we'll see on the face of the moon during the 52-minute totality period. After totality ends at 7:52 p.m., a sequence of closing partial phases will continue for more than an hour, until the moon regains its normal full-moon appearance. Your chances of effectively observing this eclipse will likely improve if you travel to the mountain or desert areas of San Diego County, where the skies tend to be clear and dark.

A Total Lunar Eclipse graces

the San Diego sky on Wednesday, February 20. Unlike last year's wee-

Very Low Tides this weekend and early next week coincide with optimum times of day for tidepooling: Sunday, February 17 at 1:18 p.m. (-1.2 feet); Monday at 1:55 p.m. (-1.4 feet); Tuesday at 2:29 p.m. (-1.4 feet); and Wednesday at 2:59 p.m. (-1.2 feet). Very high tides will also occur within that string of days, most notably on Monday at 6:53 a.m. (+6.0 feet); Tuesday at 7:38 a.m. (+6.1 feet); and Wednesday at 8:19

Allergies Starting? Don't cry! Learn surprising facts about urban pollen producers when Buena Vista Native Plant Club gathers. Meet "good" and "bad" plants, walk around garden to identify blooms and seeds. 760-439-2473. Sunday, February 17, 2 p.m.; Buena Vista Audubon

opened up opportunities for post-fire, pioneering vegetation such as the The Moon, just past first-quarter phase on Valentine's Day, gleams from a position nearly at the top of

the sky during twilight and early evening. Romantically inclined individuals may want to take

Romantic \$230 per couple. Private 20-minute tour. Feb. 14-17.

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# Adopt a Russian Child

Please attend a free informational meeting Thursday, February 21, from 7-9 pm. (Ask about our Asian program.)



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moon on that night.



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Society Nature Center, 2202 South Coast Highway. (CARLSBAD)

**Discover Old Escondido East**Walking tour led by Escondido History Center, starting at southeast corner of Grand and Broadway. 760-743-8207. Saturday, February 16, 11 a.m.; Draper's and Damon's, 101
East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

**Explore Swami's** A naturalist from Birch Aquarium at Scripps leads "Tidepooling for All." Required reservations: 858-534-7336. Sunday, February 17, noon; \$8-\$10. Swami's Beach, 1298 South Coast Highway 101. (ENCINITAS)

Finding Faults Nature walk at Batiquitos Lagoon focusing on geology of the lagoon. 760-931-0800. Saturday, February 16, 9 a.m.; Batiquitos Lagoon Nature Center, 7380 Gabbiano Lane.

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. Saturdays, 9 a.m.; through Saturday, February 23, 2008, Wildlife Research Institute, 18030 Highland Valley Road. 760-789-3992. (RAMONA)

Interested in Native Flora? Point Loma Native Plant Reserve work party. Learn about native flora, "see how beautiful a water-wise garden can be." Tools provided. No experience necessary. Find garden at Mendocino Boulevard and Greene Street off Voltaire Avenue. 619-297-7380. Sunday, February 17, 9 a.m.; Ages 13 and up. Point Loma Native Plant Reserve, at Mendocino Boulevard and Greene Street. (POINT LOMA)

Miner's Loop Trail Naturalist-led hike along trail on north face of Black Mountain Park. See wildflowers, great views, and learn about historic arsenic mine. Meet in parking-staging area (off new extension of Carmel Valley Road, about 1/4 mile east of intersection with Black Mountain Road. Wear hiking books, bring water. 858-484-3219. Saturday, February 16, 9 a.m.; Carmel Valley staging area, Carmel Valley Road (1/4 mile east of intersection with Black Mountain Road). (RANCHO PENASOUITOS)

North Park Urban Safari Explore renaissance of North Park during Urban Safari walking tour. Saturday, February 16, 9:30 a.m.; \$10. Caffe Calabria Coffee Roasters, 3933 30th Street. Required reservations: 619-944-9255. (NORTH PARK)

**Observe a Lunar Eclipse** Watch the moon disappear during astronomy program. Learn what is currently in night sky. Wednesday, February 20, 5 p.m.; San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park, 16666 San Pasqual Valley Road. 760-737-2698. (ESCONDIDO)

**Tree Time** Offshoot Tours offers hour-long guided tour highlighting various Balboa Park trees. 619-235-1122. Saturday, February 16; Balboa Park Visitors' Center, 1549 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Valentine Wooing Continues! Macho male lizards and redthroated hummingbirds may show off during guided walks among sunflowers. Saturday, February 16, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, February 17, 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday, February 20, 9:30 a.m.; Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail. 619-688-3281. (SAN CARLOS)



# "He wanted the abortion. I am left with the pain. Will it ever go away?"

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an Diego *Reader* February 14, 2008

## What's That You're Writing?

NAME: JERRY GUERN | AGE: 36 | OCCUPATION: WRITER AND SOFTWARE ENGINEER NEIGHBORHOOD: GOLDEN HILL | WHERE INTERVIEWED: CLAIRE DE LUNE, NORTH PARK



#### What are you writing?

"I'm writing a fantasy/horror/conspiracy novel that takes place during the Fourth and Fifth Crusades: Ottonius, which is a very, very old German name. It's the name of a semi-immortal being who figures prominently in the story, one of the names he's lived under."

Tell me about it.

"The story is about a very secret order within the Catholic Church in the early 13th Century — even though they've existed for centuries. Their purpose is

to hunt and eradicate supernatural creatures, particularly ones that are considered a threat to Christianity. And they end up getting involved in real-life conspiracies within the Church and the ruling class of Europe behind the Fourth Crusade. That's the conspiracy aspect of the story."

#### What made you write it?

"I've always found the era of the Crusades fascinating: people putting their lives absolutely on the line for what they believed to be the highest good. Even though the Crusades have kind of a bad name now because, you know, there's a lot of cynicism people have in their minds about what they think the real reasons were, and they forget that the people at the bottom, the rank-and-file, really were doing this because they believed they were serving the Lord. Frankly, I always thought it would be interesting to write a vampire story [set] during the Crusades, kind of a mixing of genres and eras."

Why should someone read this?

"Honestly, it's mostly an escape. Read the first page to have

an adventure, see a world that's recognizably ours but very different from ours, in a different time, when magic is real. See characters who are caught up in problems much larger than their lives, that are changing the course of the entire world and have metaphysical significance. That's why you should read the first page. The goal as a writer after that — you want to read the next page because you want to know what happens."

#### Do you have a favorite section?

"I'd say the favorite sections are the battle scenes because you get to see the characters' cleverness and their ruthlessness. You see into their minds, mostly, in the fight scenes. Some of the scenes that deal with the main character's relationship with God, I think, are the deepest ones. A recurring theme of the story is people trying to do the highest good to serve God, but being deceived by people much smarter than them as to what would serve God's will—another theme for the Crusades.

"The Fourth Crusade is the perfect Crusade for the story because, for very complicated reasons, they ended up attacking two Christian cities and going home. And so a lot of Christian knights ended up, for decades, feeling tremendous guilt and doing years of penance for their involvement in the Crusades."

#### Tell me about your writing habits.

"I write almost exclusively in cafés — it worked for J.K. Rowling; it works very well for me. I wrote a 230,000word novel almost exclusively in this café here, up in the loft. I've spent more time in Claire de Lune than the staff. I write on a laptop, once in awhile for brainstorming in a notebook. I try to write every day but I don't make it every day because I'm working. And when I can, I'll clear off entire days to do nothing but write. My stories are sufficiently long and complex that I can have one section I'm brainstorming on, one section I'm editing, one section I'm rearranging — so there's a variety of tasks to do. Whatever state of mind I'm in, there's something I can do to work on the book. I've made a lot of sacrifices in life to have the time for writing."

#### What's your day job?

"I'm a scientific software engi-

neer at Lockheed Martin. I work on passive sonar systems — the kind that doesn't deafen the marine mammals. I've got evenings and weekends [to write]. Earlier in my career, I just saved up money so that I could, in between jobs, take off months at a time to do nothing but write and do some traveling. I've kind of been a starving artist without having to starve."

#### What are your relationships like?

"All my friends are pretty smart people, a lot of them academics, I'd say that more than half of my friends are creative in some way; they're either writers or painters or sculptors. As an artist you relate best to other people who have something they're doing that is central to their existence, that they turn off the TV for, that they use up their time off for. As far as very close relationships, I'm engaged and about to be married. She's an artist and a writer. It's really important to be with someone who understands your need to focus, your need to be completely absorbed in your work — who will support you even when supporting you means leaving you alone for a little bit."

## SOUTH OF THE BORDER

**"Atemporia"** Alejandra Pert and Eduardo Ribé discuss new magazine. 011-52-664-687-9636. Friday, February 15, 7 p.m.; Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BAJA)

**"Beatlemania"** The Fab Four return. 011-52-664-681-7000. Friday, February 15, 9 p.m.; \$35. Grand Hotel Tijuana, on Boulevard Agua Caliente.

**"La Historia del Tigre"** Bruno Bichir presents comic play. 011-52-664-687-2604. Friday, February 15, 7 p.m.; Friday, February 15, 9 p.m.; \$15. Casa de la Cultura de Tijuana, Avenida París #5, in Colonia Altamira.

**Archaeology Lecture** Archaeologist John Joseph Temple Sánchez

Gavito presents "La Nao de China, Historia, y Arqueologia en Baja California." 011-52-664-687-9636. Wednesday, February 20, 7 p.m.; Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BAJA)

**Expo Boda** Find "everything for your wedding." 011-52-664-633-4000. Sunday, February 17, 11 a.m.; Camino Real Hotel, Zona Río.

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.; Wondays, 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)

Juan Jose Rodriguez "El Pumita" in Concert Benefits Hospital Infantil de las Californias. 011-52-664-634-2404. Saturday, February 16, 9 p.m.; \$30-\$75. Baby Rock, in Zona Río.

Pepe Aguilar in Concert The San Antonio, Texas, native performs ranchera music. 011-52-664-685-3031. Saturday, February 16, 6 p.m.; \$30-\$120. Campo Nuevo Ensenada, Avenida Diamante and Pedro Loyola.

Valentine's Day 5K Run Event starts and finishes at Unidad CREA. 011-52-664-215-9000. Sunday, February 17, 8:30 a.m.; Unidad CREA. Zona Río.

#### SPECIAL

**"Army of Icons"** Adapta Project exhibition boasts "works by San

Diego, Los Angeles, and Tijuana artists whose work represents iconic imagery from unexpected subcultures and urban tribes." View installations, paintings, videos by Mely Barragan, Kelsey Brookes, John Dillemuth, Richard Gleaves, Plasticgod, Perry Vasquez, others. Opening reception: Friday at 6 p.m.; exhibit continues noon-8 p.m. on Saturday. 619-436-9034. Friday, February 15, noon; Friday, February 15, 6 p.m.; Children's Museum San Diego/Museo de los Niños San Diego, 200 West Island Avenue. 619-233-8792. (DOWNTOWN)

"Fathers and Daughters in a Changing World" "Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature" series resumes with Sholem Aleichem's *Tevye the Dairyman*. SDSU associate professor of English and comparative literature June Cummins leads discussion. Registration: 858-694-2484.

Series shifts to new Encinitas Library on March 12. Wednesday, February 20, 6:30 p.m.; Encinitas Community Center, 1140 Oakcrest Park Drive. (ENCINITAS)

#### "God's Creation Is Good!"

Awards ceremony for 45th annual religious art festival exhibition. Art juror Ken Goldman and poetry juror Terry Hertzler selected 12 poems and approximately 60 art works for inclusion. View works through Sunday, March 23. Viewing hours: Saturday, February 16, 4 p.m.; St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 3502 Clairemont Drive. 858-273-1480. (GLAIREMONT)

"Green Is Red Hot!" Self-guided tour of two low-water-use demonstration gardens and a "green roof" plant sale hosted by San Diego Horticulture Society at three sites: City of San Diego Environmental Services Department (9601 Ridgehaven Court), 7922 Armour Street, and San Diego County Water Authority (4677 Overland Drive). Nancy Knight presents "The Right Plant in the Right Place," Jim Mumford examines "Green Roofs: Growing in Popularity," and Pamela Homfelt focuses on "Maintaining a New Drought-Tolerant Garden"; lectures begin at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., and 1 p.m. For lecture locations and more information: 858-756-2579. Saturday, February 16, 9 a.m.; City of San Diego Ridgehaven Building, 9601 Ridgehaven Court. (KEARNY MESA)

"Love Your Heart: Pass the Chocolate" Chef Bernard Guillas demonstrates recipes including lovin' chocolate spoon cake and fudge cream and presents "tastings of three different heart-healthy dark chocolate varietals." Donation benefits American Heart Association. Reservations: 888-424-3663. Saturday,



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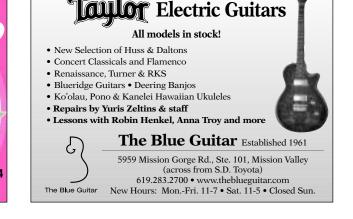
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February 16, noon; \$10. Macy's Mission Valley Home Store, 1555 Camino De La Reina. 619-299-9811. (MISSION VALLEY)

"On the Nature of the Gods" San Diego Great Books gathers to discuss Cicero's work. Newcomers welcome. Saturday, February 16, 2 p.m.; San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street, 619-236-5800, (DOWNTOWN)

**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 16, 10 a.m.; \$30-\$40. La Iolla Cove Bridge Club. 1160 Coast Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

Balkan Singing Mary Ann Downs hosts "perfect opportunity to tone your singing voice and practice your songs." All-request dancing follows (8:30 p.m.). Saturday, February 16, 7:30 p.m.; \$4-\$6. Folk Dance Center, 4569 30th Street, 619-281-5656.

Celebrate Year of the Rat Welcome vear 4706 during Chinese New Year Food and Cultural Fair hosted by San Diego Chinese Center. See lion and dragon dancing, Chinese acrobats, Chinese folk dance and music, Asian Story Theater, children's activities, live entertainment, Asian

cuisine, martial arts performances, cultural exhibits. Saturday, February 16, 10 a.m.; Sunday, February 17, 10 a.m.; Chinese Historical Society and Museum, 404 Third Avenue, 619-234-7844. (DOWNTOWN)

**Comedians and Religion** What do comics George Carlin, Bill Maher, Lewis Black, Kathy Griffin, others have to say about religion? Explore with Humanist Association of San Diego. 760-445-8112. Sunday, February 17, 1 p.m.; Ages 18 and up. Jovce Beers Community Center, 3660 Centre Street, (HILLCREST)

Eat Up! L&L Hawaiian Barbecue hosts corned beef musubi-eating contest. Musubi is described as "a pseudomythical dish that consists of a piece of corned beef and special sauce on top of a block of green rice (using green-colored dried shrimp), wrapped with a thin strip of dried seaweed." Winners may be sent to Honolulu, Hawaii, to compete in St. Patrick's Day contest. 619-336-6888. Saturday, February 16, 11 a.m.; Ages 18 and up. L & L Hawaiian Barbecue, 1860-B Sweetwater Road. (NATIONAL CITY)

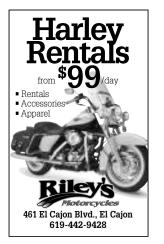
Koi Show 21st annual show hosted by Koi Club of San Diego. Hundreds of koi on display, information, vendors selling koi and pond supplies. Saturday, February 16, 9 a.m.; Saturday, February 16, 9 a.m.; Del Mar

Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. 858-793-5555. (DEL MAR)

Lux at Night View art exhibits, take studio tours, enjoy music, and refreshments. Current artist-in-residence is Los Angeles landscape painter Astrid Preston. 760-436-6611. Wednesday, February 20, 7 p.m.; Lux Art Institute, 1550 South El Camino Real, (ENCINITAS)

Mushroom Fair 2008 View displays of local fungi, identify specimens, and take in book and mushroom sales, cultivation demonstrations, and lectures by experts during fair hosted by San Diego Mycological Society in room 101. Presentation by "renowned mushroom photographer" Taylor Lockwood (2 p.m.), who will share narrated digital slide show with photographs, stories from his book Chasing the Rain: My Treasure Hunt for the World's Most Beautiful Mushrooms. 858-566-3958. Sunday, February 17, 10:30 a.m.; Casa del Prado, El Prado.

Rev It Up and Go! San Diego Auto Swap features classics, hot rods, cycles, and high-performance vehicles on display (in conjunction with Kobey's Swap Meet). Vehicles on display and for sale, along with "acres of parts and accessories." Sunday, February 17, 7 a.m.; San Diego Sports Arena, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. 858-484-9342. (POINT LOMA)





\$35 registration through Feb. 22 (includes meals) For more information: (619) 338-9981 www.sandiegohostels.org/peace.shtml

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# **SeaWorld Entertainment Opportunities**





For detailed information regarding audition and position requirements, visit SeaWorldSanDiegoAuditions.com or call our Audition Hotline (619) 226-3607

SeaWorld San Diego is an Equal Opportunity Employer supporting a drug-free workplace. © 2008 Busch Entertainment Corp. All rights reserved **Auditions & Interviews** will be held on: Saturday, Feb. 23 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

SeaWorld's Adventure Camp Facility 500 SeaWorld Drive San Diego, CA 92109

Seeking outstanding performers and backstage professionals with excellent people skills.

- Costume Characters Percussionists
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- Show Hosts
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Prepare an audition that is no longer than two minutes and appropriate for family audiences. Bring a non-returnable headshot photo and resume.

All applicants must be at least 18 years of age. (Costume characters must be at least 16 years of age.)



# A DAY IN

FEBRUARY 15 THROUGH JUNE 15



#### Experience life and death in the ancient Roman world

Two thousand years ago, Mt. Vesuvius erupts in cataclysmic fury, burying the Roman city of Pompeii. Preserved in ash, frozen in time... Pompeii lives again.

See more than 250 priceless artifacts from the legendary lost city along with body casts of victims formed at the very moment of death. Experience life and death in the ancient Roman world. Spend a day in Pompeii!

The only showing on the West Coast!

Tickets are on sale now online www.sdnhm.org; at the Museum or by phone: 877.946.7797.

#### SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Rockin' Family Sock Hop Enjoy dancing, games, bubble-gum blowing, costume contests, and rock n' roll. 760-839-4382. Saturday, February 16, 6 p.m.; East Valley Community Center, 2245 East Valley Parkway. (ESCONDIDO)

**Submitted for Your (Voting)** Consideration Can a woman or an African-American win the next presidential election? Discuss with P&R Discussion Group. Thursday, February 14, 7 p.m.; The Other Side Coffee House, 4096 30th Street. 619-370-1027. (NORTH PARK)

Tai Chi and Chi Kung Learn Chinese restorative exercises in center's Fireside Room. "You will learn five movements to practice in minutes each day. These exercises benefit core spinal muscles, circulatory system, nervous system, and organ function." Friday, February 15, 2 p.m.; Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center, 6845 University Avenue. 619-287-4005. (COLLEGE AREA)

Tibetan New Year (Losar) Celebration Drikung Kyobpa Choling Meditation Center of Escondido presents a Losar (Tibetan New Year) celebration and fundraiser. Enjoy lama dancing, healing ceremony and blessings, Tibetan cultural song and dance, introduction to Tibetan monks, and "special puppy circus." Saturday, February 16, 2 p.m.; \$8-\$15. Seaside Center for Spiritual Living, 1613 Lake Drive. 760-738-0089.

Tour North Chapel Historic Navy North Chapel at Liberty Station boasting Spanish Revival architecture was built in 1942 and has recently been restored. The original Rogers pipe organ will be playing; chapel features stained-glass windows by San Diego artist Fred Wieland, ornate tile, hand-carved pews. 619-335-0221. Saturday. February 16, 9 a.m.; North Chapel at NTC, 2881 Roosevelt Drive.

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)

What Is Meaning? How do you get it? Concept of meaning discussed by North County Agnostics. 760-445-8112. Monday, February 18, 7 p.m.; Oceanside Mission Library, 3861-B Mission Avenue. (OCEANSIDE)

Woof! San Diego Labrador Dog Show. 858-481-9085. Saturday, February 16, 8 a.m.; Sunday, February 17, 8 a.m.; Del Mar Horsepark, 14550 El Camino Real.

#### **SPORTS**

"Smackdown" WWE competition. Tickets available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). Tuesday, February 19, 6:45 a.m.; \$23-\$78. San Diego Sports Arena, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. 619-224-4171. (POINT LOMA)

Six Bernardos Ride Knickerbiker bicyclists will travel on six roads with

#### <u>OUT & ABOUT</u>

THE HARLEM **GLOBETROTTERS** 2008 WORLD TOUR

Friday and Sunday, February 15 and 17, San Diego Sports Arena.

(SEE SPORTS)



"Bernardo" in their name during 25mile ride starting in parking lot in front of Starbucks. Bring money for (optional) lunch at Greek eatery near end of ride. 858-453-3687. Sunday, February 17, 9:30 a.m.; Albertsons Market, Rancho Bernardo, 12475 Rancho Bernardo Road. (RANCHO BERNARDO)

#### The Harlem Globetrotters

Team brings its thoroughly entertaining yet highly skillful basketball to center court. Tickets available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). Friday, February 15, 7 p.m.; Friday, February 15, 7 p.m.; \$18-\$140. San Diego Sports Arena, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. 619-224-4171. (POINT LOMA)

MEN ARE AS GOOD AS WOMEN REQUIRE THEM TO BE!

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Fléchelle Morin (877) 266-5477 www.nokissing.com To the Lighthouse Join San Diego Bicycle Touring Society riders for jaunt from I Street boat launch parking lot (I-5 to J Street). Bicyclists will take Coronado ferry (bring money for fare) on this flat 47-miler and hit Point Loma lighthouse. 619-562-2882. Saturday, February 16, 8:45 a.m.; J Street Marina Park, J Street off I-5. (CHULA VISTA)

Xtreme Cage Fighting Total Combat 26 with mixed martial arts cage fighting. Eight matches, with bouts including Preston Sharp versus Toby Imada, Waylen Kennal versus Frank Lester, Nick Garcia versus Kevin Dunsmoor, more. 619-392-4660. Saturday, February 16, 7 p.m.; \$35-\$100. Ages 21 and up. 4th & B, 345 B Street. 619-231-4343. (DOWNTOWN)

#### MUSEUMS

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

#### **Bancroft Ranch House Museum**

Bancroft Ranch House Museum houses indigenous Indian artifacts and memorabilia of early settlers in the area, run by the Spring Valley Historical Society. The home, built in 1863, was registered as a National Historic Landmark in 1962 and is on a spot where Kumeyaay Indians camped more than 1000 years ago beside the spring that later gave the area its name. 9050 Memory Lane, 619-469-1480. (SPRING VALLEY)

**Barona Cultural Center and** Museum 619-443-7003 x2. 1095 Barona Road, 619-443-7003.

Birch Aquarium at Scripps Facility is a component of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UCSD. More than 60 tanks contain marine life of Pacific Northwest, California coastline, Mexico's Sea of Cortés, and South Pacific. The La Jolla Kelp Tank is a two-story-high tank with giant kelp plants and nearly 30 species of local marine life. "Feeling the Heat: The Climate Challenge" examines science behind climate change; "Art of Deception" explores undersea camouflage. "Wonders of Water" waterplay area includes three interactive stations. The Lynne and Howard Robbins Shark Reef Exhibit features a 13,000-gallon shark tank with black tip, white tip, bamboo, and wobbegong sharks. 2300 Expedition Way, 619-534-FISH. (LA JOLLA)

California Surf Museum "Tom Keck: Exposed" continues through March. Born in Coronado in 1937 and raised there, Keck "would discover a lifelong playground in the Pacific Ocean." Museum features surfing artifacts and memorabilia - such as surfboards and clothing — of local legends Phil Edwards, John "L.L." Richards, and Peter Johnson, and Duke Kahanamoku, 223 North Coast Highway, 760-721-6876, (OCEANSIDE)

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

Visitors meet a shuttle bus at the Bayfront E Street Trolley Station or at the center's parking lot at the foot of E Street and Bay Boulevard. 1000 Gunpowder Point Drive, 619-409-5903, (CHULA VISTA)

**Coronado Museum of History** and Art "The Joy of Toys: Antique Treasures," on display through Sunday, March 2, includes variety of antique toys, furniture, vintage collectibles, comics, Winnie the Pooh's "40-Acre Woods," more. Ongoing exhibits explore the overall history of Coronado, Navy and Army, Tent City, and the Hotel del Coronado. 1100 Orange Avenue,

619-435-7242. (CORONADO)

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

**Gaslamp Museum of Historic** San Diego Glimpse San Diego's colorful past at the museum, where displays highlight Wyatt Earp's San Diego days, the Peg Leg Gold Legend, the first maps and photographs of Old Town and "New Town," early military history, the naval disaster in 1923 at Point Honda, and more, 413 Market Street, 619-237-1492, (DOWNTOWN)

Heritage of the Americas Museum More than 100 Chinese jades of the Late Neolithic (4300-2500 B.C.) through the Ming periods (A.D. 1368–1644) are included in "The Stone of Heaven: The Enduring Art of Jade Age China." From ancient times, jades in China were treasured as talismans, worn on the body either as final adornments in death or as ornaments in life. See a rare and valuable jade burial suit of the Han dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 221), one of only about two dozen that have been excavated in China. The suits were made of more than 2000

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This week our Huge Valentine's Singles Dance will be on:



Thursday, February 14, 2008 7:00 PM at San Diego Wine & Culinary Center 200 Harbor Drive Suite 120 San Diego, CA 92101

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For more information http://love.thesocialplace.com 1-866-258-6952



See website for details.

www.lucky7match.com (619) 890-7117

The museum features art and artifacts from South and North America, concentrating on the utilitarian and decorative artistry of crafts workers from ancient cultures. The museum also features wings dedicated to natural history, archaeology, education, anthropology, and fine art. Find the museum on the Cuyamaca College campus. 12110 Cuyamaca College Drive West, 619-670-5194. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

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

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

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

#### OUT & ABOUT

#### **GRAVITY-DEFYING LEAPS!**

Moiseyev Dance Company, Sunday, February 17, California Center for the Arts, Escondido.

(SEE DANCE)



#### Museum of Making Music

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

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

Olaf Wieghorst Museum Dis-

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

Ramona Pioneer Historical Society and Guy B. Woodward Museum Complex of historical buildings includes the Verlaque House (the only Western

adobe home of French provincial design still in existence), wagons, antique exhibits, and artifacts. There is a cowboy bunk house, women's clothing and accessories from 1700 to 1800, a ranch blacksmith shop and tack room. The Casey Tibbs Memorial Exhibit is dedicated to Tibbs, a local resident who was a world-champion rodeo rider. The Bancroft Memorial Rose Garden is on the grounds. Rare documents, historical exhibits, books, photographs, and a re-

San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum Museum onboard the decommissioned USS *Midway* is open for tours, now berthed at 910 North Harbor Drive. Exhibits include Navy jet simulators, carrier and flight deck touring, captain's sea cabin, pilot house, navigation

search library are also part of the

complex. 645 Main Street, 760-

789-7644. (RAMONA)

bridge. Admission fee includes audio guide. 910 North Harbor Drive, 619-544-9600. (DOWNTOWN)

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

San Diego Model Railroad Museum Museum Museum celebrates American railroads with "the largest permanent operating model railroad and toy train exhibit" in North America. Four scale-model railroads of the Southwest, the "San Diego County Relief Map" exhibit, and an interactive toy train. There is a multimedia presentation on railroading, an op-

erating railroad semaphore signal, and interpretive displays on railroads and model railroading. The museum is downstairs in the Casa de Balboa building. 1649 El Prado, 619-696-0199. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Natural History Museum "A Day in Pompeii," opening on Friday, February 15, features authentic artifacts from Pompeii, buried in 79 CE during catastrophic eruption of Vesuvius. View body casts of volcano's victims, frozen in their last moments; and objects such as frescoes, jewelry, household items. Closes Sunday, June 15.

"Photography at the Poles" features images of the 77Arctic and Antarctic by leading National Geographic photographers in the museum's Ordover Gallery. Look for landscapes, mass breeding grounds of king penguins, wildlife. Closes Sunday, May 4.

The permanent exhibit "Fossil Mysteries" showcases last 75 million years in Southern California and Baja California region, a time known for its rich fossil record. Highlights include life-sized models of Albertosaurus, Lambeosaurus, a sea cow, megalodon shark, more.

Current "giant-screen film" is Ocean Oasis. 619-232-3821. 1788 El Prado, 619-232-3821. (BALBOA PARK)

**Serra Museum** "Commemorating 75 Years: The Serra Museum" is said to "remember the events leading up to the dedication of Presidio Park and the Serra Museum" on July 16, 1929. The exhibit includes a "visit back in time to 1929." The museum inter-

prets the Native American, Spanish, and Mexican periods of San Diego's history and contains Spanish Colonial furnishings, art, and artifacts. It's located at the site of the West Coast's first European settlement. 2727 Presidio Drive, 619-297-3258. (OLD TOWN)

Veterans Museum and Memo-

rial Center Memorial to men and women who served in U.S. Armed Forces, Coast Guard, and Wartime Merchant Marine, Located in the former San Diego Naval Hospital Chapel (2115 Park Boulevard), the museum features original serviceinspired stained glass, as well as historical murals painted by Richard DeRosset. Main exhibit hall features displays, exhibits of historic artifacts, documents, photographs, memorabilia, artwork honoring men and women who served. Museum is also home to San Diego Vietnam Peace Memorial and Veterans Memorial Garden. 2115 Park Boulevard, 619-239-2100. (BALBOA

#### Wells Fargo History Museum

Museum features a working agents' office staffed by guides in period costumes and contains a working telegraph for visitors to send and receive messages. Short films on California and Wells Fargo history; a gold display, part of the collection assembled by Wells Fargo agent Samuel Dorsey at the end of the 1800s; an exhibit of Concord Coach #251, a restored stagecoach built in 1867; and the Davies watch. The museum is located in the reconstructed Colorado House. 2733 San Diego Avenue, 619-238-3929. (OLD TOWN)

SINGLES





#### CLASSICAL 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 CLASSICAL MUSIC, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at

SDReader.com by clicking on the events section.

#### CLASSICAL

"H.M.S. Pinafore" Gilbert and Sullivan's comic nautical tale is season closer for Lyric Opera San Diego, with performances February 8-24. Cast includes J. Sherwood Montgomery, Martha Jane Weaver, Robert Boldin, Daniel Klein, soprano Priya Palekar. Children 5–17 pay half price. Stephen & Mary Birch North Park Theatre (2891 University Avenue), 7:30 p.m., Thursday, February 14, 2:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., Saturday, February 16, Sunday, February 17. 619-239-8836. (NORTH PARK)

Soirée for Music Lovers On Valentine's Day, celebrate 20th anniversary of this concert series with virtuoso violinist János Négyesy and friends. Listen for romantic classical pieces by Händel, Schubert, Mozart. 858-534-3229. Mandeville Recital Hall at UCSD (9500 Gilman Drive), 8 p.m., Thursday, February 14.

Love Songs for a Mad World Soprano and pianist Ann Chase performs for Concert Hour Series in Palomar College Performance Lab (room D-10). 760-744-1150 x2316. Palomar College (1140 West Mission Road), 12:30 p.m., Thursday, February 14. (SAN MARCOS)

"A Russian Romance" Enjoy "jewels of the Russian repertoire" by Tchaikovsky, Glinka, Borodin, Rachmaninoff, Khachaturian, and Prokofiev during concert by San Diego Chamber Orchestra. Reservations: 858-350-0290. St. Paul's Cathedral (2278 Sixth Avenue), 7:30 p.m., Friday, February 15. (HILLCREST)

Silent Film Night Winter Pops concerts and screenings of Robin Hood, the 1920s swashbuckler starring Douglas Fairbanks, planned by San Diego Symphony and conductor Gillian Anderson. Reservations: 619-235-0804. Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street), 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday, February 15 and 16.

"Mary, Queen of Scots" San Diego Opera continues season with Gaetano Donizetti's tragic bel canto

opera. Cast includes South African coloratura-soprano Angela Gilbert in title role, American mezzo-soprano Kate Aldrich, tenor Yeghishe Manucharyan, German bass Reinhard Hagen, British bass-baritone Andrew Greenan, Conductor is Edoardo Müller, director is Andrew Sinclair, Sung in Italian with English translations above stage. Reservations: 619-533-7000. San Diego Civic Theatre (1100 Third Avenue), 7 p.m., Saturday and Tuesday, February 16 and 19. (DOWNTOWN)

Organ Concert Recital by civic organist Carol Williams, 619-702-8138. Spreckels Organ Pavilion (2211 Pan American Road), 2 p.m., Sunday, February 17. (BALBOA PARK)

"Jessie and Friends" Pianist Jessie Chang joins friends from San Diego Symphony for chamber music of Bach, Brahms, Schumann, and Muczynski. Offering. 619-232-7513. First Presbyterian Church (320 Date Street), 6 p.m., Sunday, February 17. (DOWNTOWN)

"Love Is in the Air" Enjoy selections by Donizetti, Offenbach, Verdi, Massenet, Bizet, Mozart, Puccini, and others during concert by Cherylyn Larson (soprano), Kathleen O'Brien (mezzo-soprano), Aleksandr Agamirzov (tenor), William Nolan (baritone), Janie Prim (piano). Reception at 4:30 p.m., concert at 5 p.m., cocktails at 6:30 p.m. Recommended reservations: 858-793-0316. Californiae Foundation for International Global Arts (320 South Cedros Avenue, suite 500), 4:30 p.m., Sunday, February 17. (SOLANA

Kytasty String Trio Mini-concert performance. Bring your lunch! 858-454-5872. Lyceum Theatre (79 Horton Plaza), noon, Monday, February 18. (DOWNTOWN)

"España" Poway Community Symphony Orchestra plans concert including "Capriccio Espagnol" by Rimsky-Korsakov, "Suites 1 and 2" from Carmen by Bizet, and Rodrigo's "Concierto de Aranjuez" with guitar soloist Fred Benedetti. 858-673-9702. Poway Center for the Performing Arts (15498 Espola Road), 7:30 p.m., Monday, February 18. (POWAY)

# ART LISTINGS

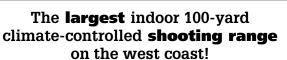
**HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTING:** Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday the week prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone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

#### ART MUSEUMS

Mingei International Museum. "American Viewing Stones: Natu-

ral Art in an Asian Tradition." Chinese connoisseurs began using large stones to decorate gardens,





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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. 1439 El Prado, 619-239-0003. (BAL-

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, pulland push-toys, antique mechanical banks, puppets, wooden toys. 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. 1001 Kettner Boulevard, 858-454-3541.

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. 700 Prospect Street, 858-454-3541. (LA JOLLA)

#### Museum of Photographic Arts.

"The Photographer's Eye: A Way of Seeing" is drawn from the museum's permanent collection. Exhibit illustrates the book The Photographer's Eye (1966) by John Szarkowski; he led 160 exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York.

Also closing Sunday, April 20, is "Measured Time: MoPA at 25." Museum's atrium wall holds a timeline exhibition reflecting museum's achievements since 1983. Images from permanent collection illustrate significant artists whose first solo exhibitions were held at MoPA, more.

"Picturing the Process" focuses on "an evolution of the early history

of photography." Exhibition including photographic works ranging in date from mid-19th to early 20th Century closes Sunday, July 6. 1649 El Prado, 619-238-7559. (BALBOA PARK)

#### San Diego Museum of Art.

"Kindred Spirits: Asher B. Durand and the American Landscape" closing on Sunday, April 27 surveys over 50 paintings, drawings, engravings by Durand, a of foremost artist of his era "who created the most memorable American landscape paintings of the mid-19th century." Exhibit gives extra emphasis given to large-scale landscape paintings for which he is best remembered. "Plein Air Past and Present: A Collaboration Between SDMA and the Lux Art Institute" runs concurrently, featuring more than 20 California plein-air paintings. "Josef Albers and His Students: Theory and Practice," closing Sunday, March 2, presents four prints by master artist, color theorist, teacher Josef Albers. Display features works by four of his American students — Richard Anuszkiewicz, Robert Birmelin, Robert Rauschenberg, Audrey Flack — with each work corresponding to one of Albers' prints. 1450 El Prado, 619-232-7931. (BALBOA PARK)

Timken Museum of Art. Permanent collection includes European old master paintings, 18th- and 19th-Century American paintings, and Russian icons. Saint Bartholomew, the only Rembrandt painting on public display in San Diego, is featured. 1500 El Prado, 619-239-5548. (BALBOA PARK).

#### GALLERIES

"The February Show" Exhibit opens with reception for the eight participating artists. Closes Friday, March 28. 619-692-0099. Taboo Studio (1615 West Lewis Street ). 6 p.m., Friday, February 15. (HILLCREST)

"Coffee Stories/Qisas Al Finjan"
Opening reception for Doris Bittar's exhibition. Bittar used the idea of taseomancy — reading fortunes from coffee cups — to create photographs, paintings, video installations on display through Saturday, March 22. Also on view: "Being Here" by Nilly Gill and "Selections from the Athenaeum's Artists' Book Collection: Sol LeWitt, Books." 858-454-5872. Athenaeum Music and

Arts Library (1008 Wall Street). 6:30

p.m., Friday, February 15. (LA JOLLA)

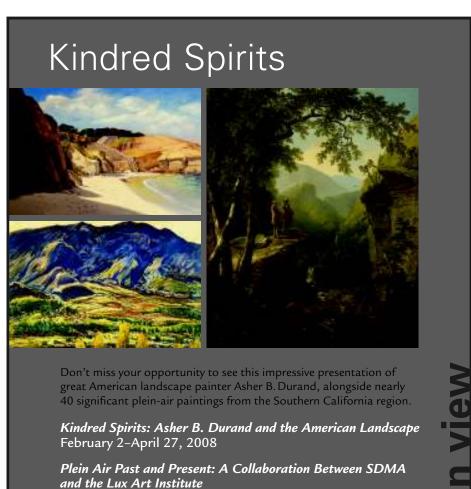
"See Related Story: The Murder of J.R. Warren" Opening reception for exhibition by Brooklynbased artist Rory Golden. Artist uses automobile rearview mirrors and two-sided, mixed-media drawings "to remember the death of J.R. Warren, victim of a hate crime in West Virginia." Closes Friday, May 16. 760-750-4378. Kellogg Library at CSU San Marcos (333 South Twin Oaks Valley Road). noon, Tuesday, February 19. (SAN MARCOS)











SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF ART

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February 2-April 27, 2008



The Reader offers \$25 for news tips published in Blurt. Call us at 619-235-3000, ext. 456, or e-mail your tip to blurt@sdreader.com

Noise Police "Carlsbad's gotten ugly," says a musician who supports himself by playing music in Carlsbad clubs. Following noise

"The cops stopped by my place last weekend with their [sound] meter," says Davis. "They told us they were just doing a dry run with it. That night we just had a jukebox. We turned it down a couple notches. We had the door closed, all the windows closed, and we were way over the 65-decibel maximum.



complaints by nearby residents, the City of Carlsbad is enforcing a new entertainment ordinance that went into effect February 1. Two venues — Hennessey's Tavern and Finnegan's were told two weeks ago to cease hosting live bands and deejays and to reapply for a new entertainment license.

Andy Davis, owner of Carlsbad's Mas Fina Cantina, says the ordinance sets a 65-decibel threshold for ambient noise outside of clubs.

The meter showed we were at 80 decibels, and that was just with people on the patio out front. There was nothing else I could do to make

it quieter." The noise restrictions could impact Coyote Bar and Grill. Boar Cross'n, the

Ocean House, and the Alley. Davis says Tom Giblin's

Irish Pub is being sold due to the regulation crackdown. The pub has been known to present Irish bands on weekends. Owner Ned Giblin, who owns and operates two other restaurant/music venues in Escondido and Fallbrook, did not respond to messages.

Carlsbad police officer George Zavala oversees the new sound-enforcement ordinance. A call to him requesting comment was not returned.

— Ken Leighton

Pulled Axl After

Velvet Revolver canceled their sold-out February 7 show at House of Blues, the band released this statement: "Following Velvet Revolver's performance [February 6] in Los Angeles, lead singer Scott Weiland voluntarily entered a rehab facility. Tonight's scheduled performance at San Diego has been postponed.'

The band canceled a four-date Australia tour to begin February 15 as well.

When Velvet Revolver appeared in San Diego last September, the band

headlined at Coors Amphitheatre; the House of Blues nightclub has a 1000person capacity. Some cynics wonder if the planned summertime reunion of Weiland's most successful band, Stone Temple Pilots, may have had some bearing on the canceled show. Insiders say that STP will get between \$150,000 and \$200,000 for each STP performance and that the HoB payday was a small fraction of that amount.

HoB talent buyer



WEILAND POLICES HIMSELF THIS TIME

Candace Mandracia savs the band's agent assured her that the San Diego House of Blues show will be rescheduled.

> 9:30 pm Classic Rock

Rockola

Velvet Revolver management offered no other information.

Another insider believes that the rehab reason may be legitimate and not a ploy.

"That [February 6] L.A. date was at a musicindustry convention. It was for the C.I.C. [Concert Industry Consortium]. I'm sure Scott just got around some old promoter

friends,

partied, and woke up the next day with a hangover and decided he'd rather go to rehab than drive down to San Diego. Plus, I don't think he wants to screw up again and tell the DeLeo brothers for the 47th time that he has to cancel STP gigs because of his abuse.'

Former San Diegans Robert and Dean DeLeo cofounded STP with Weiland.

— Ken Leighton

#### **Will Thrash for Shoes**

"Tony [Hawk] took [skateboarding] into the homes," says Nihilist

singer/bassist Loren Tipton. "We represent the dark side of the skate industry.

Tipton's speed-metal band attracted the attention of Volcom last year; the Costa



THE NIHILIST SALUTE

Mesa-based company which started out selling snow, skate, and surf apparel — put Nihilist on two different

"We toured Europe last summer," says Tipton. "A month later we toured the whole East Coast. They paid for the whole thing. We go to Athens in May."

Tipton says the arrangement is a "handshake deal" whereby his band gets to play outdoor gigs and club dates connected with Volcom-sponsored events. Nihilist gets exposure and a connection with the actionsports industry, but the band





**Backstage** 

Friday, February 15

6 pm • Singer/Songwriter

Patti Zlaket

8 pm • Rock Valentine's Celebration

with Viva Santana

Saturday, February 16 9:30 pm • Disco & Dance

Rising Star



Sunday, February 17 6 ρm • Jazz

Presidents' Day Jazz Celebration with Tayari & DJ John Phillips



Monday, February 18 7 pm • Blues Chet Cannon's Blue Monday Blues Party

with quest James Harman

7 pm • Roots Blues Nathan James & Ben Hernandez

Tuesday, February 19

8 pm • Rock 'n' Blues John Eager Band

Wednesday, February 20

#### **UPCOMING SHOWS**

Monday, February 25 Sean Costello

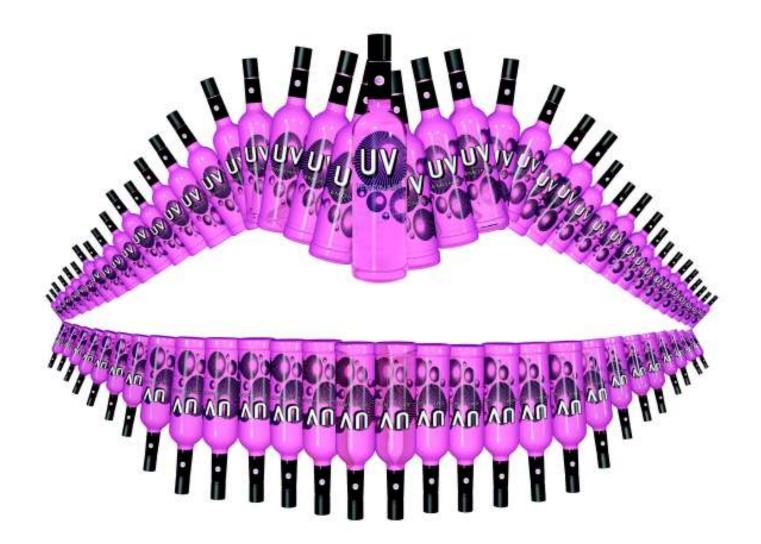
Saturday, March 8 Chris Duarte

Saturday, March 15 The Steely Damned

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Tickets for "Upcoming Shows" available at Ticketmaster and Humphrey's.

All shows are 21 years and up.





#### CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY

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isn't getting rich off the deal. They pay for the tour. Depending on each show, we

might get a cut of the door." Apart from the actionsports side of the company that Nihilist is working with, Volcom Entertainment's bands (Valient Thorr, ASG, and Year Long Disaster) get the benefit of tour support, music videos, and recording for the company's record label.

"We are working on it," says Tipton about the possibility of Nihilist joining the Volcom Entertainment label. "I think they are interested in us. But that's a whole separate budget."

Besides Volcom, Nihilist has a sponsorship with DC Shoes. The band gets shoes but no dough.

Nihilist has had the same lineup for five years. Tipton, 28, says his is the oldest band among a thriving thrashmetal scene that includes Damcyan of Santee, Immolated Seraphim of Chula Vista, and Keaper of Carlsbad.

"A lot of thrash bands are starting to grow their hair out. The whole thrash thing died out in the early '90s. I started to see it come back in the last two years. All the old iconic metal bands like Slayer and Overkill are putting out albums and touring again. People are sick of nu metal.'

Nihilist appears at the Jumping Turtle on March 14. — Ken Leighton

#### **Her Bloody Valentine**

One year ago today, A.M.

Vibe vocalist Lisah got her throat slit.

"It was the end result of a horse accident," she says. "My C4 and C5 discs were touching each other, and I had spinal stenosis, which means my spinal cord was being smashed. You couldn't even see the protective canal around my spinal cord." Doctors told her that the wrong movement could cause crippling damage.

The only option was spinal fusion surgery, unless I wanted to live a sedentary life. But I was very concerned about my vocals. My surgeon told me they'd be cutting through or very close to a nerve that affects my vocal cords and voice box. He couldn't guarantee that my



LISAH'S VOICE MAKES THE CUT

voice would go back to normal." While awaiting her operation, she says she ...lost all the strength in my arms and hands, and trying to play guitar was brutal. I had to sit down to play, and eventually I had to stop playing at all."

On February 14, "They [doctors] went in through my neck to my spine. Afterwards, I found out that they discovered a piece of my crushed disc lodged in my spinal cord, which could have paralyzed me for life just



A year later, she says, "No harm was done to my vocals! Sometimes my shoulders and neck get tired.... I have a titanium plate in my neck, and sometimes I can feel it in there behind my esophagus especially when I laugh really hard, then I can totally

— Jay Allen Sanford

Good Rap "It almost seems like people and the media are more concerned with which [hip-hop] artists are going to jail and rehab, rather than the positive contributions they are making to society," says rapper/emcee Miki Vale. "As far as mainstream hip-hop artists, there are actually a lot who are making charitable contributions: Nelly, David Banner, Talib Kweli...Master P and his P. Miller Youth Centers are designed to take kids off the streets and provide education and

financial literacy." Master P — a onetime San Diego Stingrays forward (as Percy Miller) — has also headed up several benefits for

Vale, meanwhile, has cofounded the local UPliftment Project.

IN SAN DIEGO: BALBOA THEATER

THE CITY GAVE SOME-

THING BACK TO THE

COMMUNITY.

BEAUTIFUL! IT'S ABOUT TIME

"[It's] a series of events that showcase artists we feel are not only extremely talented but are also socially aware and using their music as a tool to spread a positive message. All the money raised from these events is donated to charitable organizations like the International Rescue Committee and the FTP [Feed the People] program."



VALE'S POSITIVE VIBRATION

FTP volunteers such as Vale gather every other Sunday to walk the streets and deliver bagged lunches to the

Vale's debut album is set for release next month. Early Sunday morning (1:00 a.m.), she plays Andrea Rushing Fine Arts Gallery in North Park with DJ Slopoke.

HEY, I GIVE

SOMÉTHING

BACK EVERY

DAY...

– Jay Allen Sanford

#### The Obsession Is Over

'All the money I make on CDs or shows up until April is going towards getting me to Bolivia," says Poway-based singer/songwriter Katie Christine Smith. "I'm going there to help out with feeding the hungry, working with indigenous Indians, and teaching the youth about living healthy lives." She estimates her cost for the trip at around \$2000. "Also, I'm learning music in Spanish so that I can sing down there,

too....
"I've been listening to Mexican music since I was 11. I used to be obsessed with the singer Selena, and I memorized all her songs. Since then, I've been following a lot of awesome Hispanic musicians, like Juanes and Julieta Venegas, so I can sing in Spanish. I just need to learn the songs. I'm actually writing my own songs in Spanish, too! I just have someone who is fluent read over the lyrics, to check the grammar and stuff."

In Bolivia, Smith will be working with Shield of Faith Ministries, as well as several members of the Rancho Bernardo church she attends,

JAY ALLEN SANFORD



MS. SMITH GOES TO BOLIVIA Maranatha Chapel.

"I'm not worried about bringing my guitar on the trip," she says. "I'll just pray it doesn't get stolen. It's nothing fancy to begin with. I've never owned an expensive guitar."

– Jay Allen Sanford

#### CONTRIBUTORS

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



# HOUSE OF BLUES 1055 FIFTH AVE SAN DIEGO

















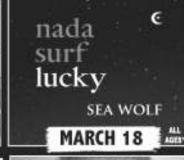
































CONTING SOON

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4/7 MINISTRY

4/11 YELLOWCARD

4/13 SAY ANYTHING

4/20 SYMPHONY X

5/1 THE SLACKERS
(HOB DELTA ROOM)

5/23 NIGHTWISH







All shows are 21+ unless otherwise noted.







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3/24 Saul Williams • Casbah
3/29 Lavell Crawford • 4th & B
4/2 Beto Cuevas • 4th & B
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4/6 RBD with La Nueva
Banda Timbiriche
Coors Amphitheatre
4/26 Def Leppard with REO
Speedwagon
Coors Amphitheatre

4/30 Avril Lavigne • Cox Arena 5/20 Gigantour feat Megadeth Cox Arena 5/24 Vicente Fernandez

24 Vicente Fernandez Coors Amphitheatre

#### This Week In Music

Thursday

Free Your Mind and Your Ass Will Follow you to Belly Up tonight, where P-funk maestro George Clinton and Parliament-Funkadelic host a Valentine's Day love-in. Since 1956, the five core members, who started out as a doo-wop act in Plainfield, NJ, have grown to two-dozen players delivering psych-funk dance jams on record and road. Parliament's known for their colorful, brassy sets, yet Clinton couches

courses in sociopoli-

the band's party mix. Check out 2005's How Late Do You Have 2BB4UR Absent? for the collective's latest.... Casbah's Valentine's affair has all the flavors of the day, including headliners Grand Ole **Party,** who's rock-n-soul debut *Humanimals* dropped last month. Ex-Eiffel Tower bombers the Prayers share the stage, while folkie droners Fantastic Magic put their spell on the Atari Lounge. Skull Kontrol DJs spin between sets... your sweetheart's old school or just likes it old school, Sycuan Casino's booked Tommy James and the Shondells ("Mony Mony," "Crimson and Clover," "Crystal Blue Persuasion"). The original Shondells haven't recorded since the band broke up in 1970, but in 2007 James and the group reunited in a New Jersey recording studio. Can't wait for that one, then check 2005 remasters The Greatest Hits of Tommy James & the Shondells for the essential oldies.

Friday

Shake out the zoot! Anthology's putting up a swing set Friday night when revivalists Royal Crown **Revue** spin through the Little Italy supper club. The L.A. seven-piece has outlasted fellow throwbacks with a dose of punkabilly and by keeping the Warped kids in touch. Cred: couple of the Crowns were in punk band Youth Brigade. RCR is on the road in support of their latest, El Toro.... Round the corner at 4th&B, Scottish saxman Richard Elliot blows for the downtown crowd. Elliot's best known for his years with funk jam band Tower of Power, but since has kept smooth jazz rough around the edges and hooked up with trumpeter Rick Braun The two are touting their first collaboration, released on their own ARTizen Music Group label, R n R.... London club queen Sia kicks off her North American tour Friday night at Belly Up. The singer is stateside to promote her new dance-pop confection — er, collection, Some People Have Real Problems. The club site says it's sold out exclamation point.... So, stay downtown, where Whistle Stop's caged hook-heavy rockers Emery Byrd with alt-country trio Silverbird.... Drag the River, Cory Branan, Silent Comedy are on Casbah's main stage while Vena Cava's back in the Atari Cava.... **Mellowdrone** will do just that at Beauty Bar.... And apparently Friday night is the Japanese Sunday at Ken Club.

Saturdav

It's been 30 years of "1-2-3-4!" for "Metal" Mike Saunders and his L.A. hardcore band the Angry Samoans, who peaked with early '80s classics *Inside my Brain* (1980) and *Back from Samoa* (1982) and frequent tours with compatriots the Dead Kennedys. Unable to keep quiet about world events, the abrasive Samoans regrouped and dropped e.p. Fuck the War in '06. Catch the news, punk-rock style, at Brick by Brick Saturday night, with the equally divisive **Battle Born**,

Blood Stained Reality, and Tim Raldo & Filthy Fuks.... Tahoe jam band Blue Turtle Seduction visit granola rock on Winstons. Sacramento's psychedelic soul brothers Izabella open the O.B. room's mini roots fest.... Saxman and funk pioneer Maceo Parker will appear at Belly Up. The 64-year-old Kinston, N. Carolina, native has recorded and shared the stage with James Brown, George Clinton, Bootsy Collins... Parker's touring in support of his 2007 solo souljazz piece Roots & Grooves. Grand Pianoramax

featuring Celena Glenn and DJ Scotto also on the bill.... Oh, mama, I'm in fear for my life **Styx** is back and they're playing House of Blues. Styx is the Angry Samoans of the conceptual-rock .. Raceway dance bands Big Sandy, the Palominos, and Todd Stedman rev up Casbah.... Latin grooves at 'Canes, with **Agua Dulce**...and just a rock and roll off the 805, you got garage punks Batar-Zan playing Tower Bar, SD nu-wavers Manganista at Ken Club, and L.A.'s Ringers have an appointment at the Beauty Bar.

Sunday

Belly Up's serving stuffed chops on Sunday as two of San Diego's up-and-coming unknowns, Dynamite Walls and Drowning Men, rock the Solana Beach stage. You like rock-n-soul, you'll dig these sleeper sets of the week. Sit with some MySpace samples, and we'll see you there. There's a wedding anniversary/party at Casbah, and it looks as if the couple registered at the poprock shop to book Beatle burners **Get Back** Loretta, quirk-pop duo Bunky, and newbies **Listening to Rocks**. The Lorettas will be jumping around the left side of the country next few months watering late-blooming debut Over the Wall.... Latin jazzman Johnny Polanco appears at Anthology Sunday night. The multi-instrumentalist is bandleader of L.A. collective Conjunto Amistad...which means Static Lullaby. Not really. But you can catch the Chino.



Cali. screamos at SOMA with Enter Shikari, Take the Crown, Mikoto, and A Shattered Hope

Monday

A night of '80s throwbacks as Casbah's Anti-Monday League props locals Manganista for release of the indie-pop acts Propaganda in Stereo Also on the bill: Bay Area funk-rocker Chow

Nasty, kitsch-glitch Devo duo Alpha Channel, and east L.A. 'wavers **Beatmo**.... Soul sister **Lady Dottie** will wear her **Diamonds** out at Tower Bar. as she's wont to do come Monday nights.

Tuesday

Sound scientist **Stan Ridgway** presents Wall of Voodoo's *Call of the West* Tuesday night at Belly Up. West is the 1982 new wave staple that held the hit "Mexican Radio." Ridgway will be joined by San Diego songstress

Cindy Lee Berryhill, who's out in support of Beloved Stranger, featuring timely election-year num-ber "When Did Jesus become a Republican?" Cra-a-azv on you — the sisters Wilson deliver **Heart**'s timeworn riffage to Harrah's Rincon, Couple Heart classics

made it onto last year's hot-ticket Guitar Hero game, and this year, the Shout Factory series will release the girls on Legendary Albums Live: Dreamboat Annie.... Psychedelic spacemen Nudity (Olympia, WA) tour their new Discourage disc Nightfeeders through Casbah. Check the Web sam-ples — it's as billed, "Seventies avant noise with poise," like MC5 doing Tull covers. Local noiseniks A Scribe Amidst the Lions and Thieves & Liars will baptize you.

Wednesday

Last September, hip-hop pioneer Kevin Donovan. aka Afrika Bambaataa, was nominated for 2008 induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Bam is a Bronx native of Carribean descent who came up in the '70s around Mudd Club and the b-boy break-dance and graffiti-art craze. He was one of the founders of the anti-gang group Bronx River Projects and is now known as much as an advocate for troubled youth as for his music. Sean Healy Presents brings the 50-year-old MC to 'Canes Wednesday night. The night's remainders include the **Lovemakers**, **Buddy Akai**, and **Oslo** at Casbah...**Third Day** and the **Myriad** at House of Blues...and Jezebel and Pop Noir at Beauty Bar.

- Barnaby Monk

Art Laboe

Miguel Bose

Rufus Wainwright

Vampire Weekend

Def Leppard

Avril Lavigne Apr. 30 Juanes

Alicia Keys

Joe Jackson

Gary Allan

Smackdown

# George Lopez



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222-7800 atlastickets.com Margaret Cho May 16, 17

Megadeth

The Cure

David Sedaris

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"The Wiggles Live"

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# Pre-Bummer Haight-Ashbury

"They plan their tours around their favorite restaurants and Japanese hot baths."

JAY ALLEN SANFORD

Itimately, this music is our attempt to add a tile or two to the fluid mosaic that is California and its mythology," says Eric Nielsen, one half of experimental space-rock duo High Mountain Tempel.

"It's our reflection of the waterfalls of Big Sur, the pre-bummer Haight-Ashbury, the traffic and gangs and smog of L.A., the windbent branches of Torrey Pines, the

falling cinders of canyon fires, the witch covens and guru love nests, the sheer audacity of the Central Valley aqueduct, the Buddha calm of the High Sierras, the gnashing teeth of 1980s punk rock, and the skin-cracking power of a Santa Ana wind."

Nielsen draws inspiration from such unlikely sources as Terry Riley, Lustmord, Philip K. Dick, and H.P. Lovecraft. He helps run local website www.blogsandiego.com and performs with outfits like Maquiladora, Buzz or Howl, and various Japanese underground bands (Astro, High Rise, and others).

High Mountain Tempel released a CD late last year on their Lotushouse Records label, *A Screaming Comes Across the Sky.* According to Nielsen, "It's the soundtrack to your next apocalypse."

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

- 1. Akron/Family, *Love Is Simple:* "I've heard their live show converts the weary and the reluctant and raises spirits from their vacant lives back into their bodies."
- 2. Einstürzende Neubauten, *Alles Wieder Offen:* "Germanic chants and soundscapes to soothe the rough edges of the day."
- 3. Pink Floyd, Obscured by Clouds: "It houses the

true, honest underground of spirit and '70s psychedelia."

4. Mountain Home, self-titled: "Spooky, subtle drones, haunting vocals, and reinterpretations of old standards."

5. The Assemble Head in Sunburst Sound, *Ekranoplan*: "This album is heavy rock in an articulate and heady format."

#### DESERT-ISLAND DVDs?

- 1. Fast Times at Ridgemont High: "I was an impressionable 15 when the movie came out...the songs from the soundtrack still move me."
- 2. The Last Temptation of Christ: "I'm not a big fan of the world music genre, but this [soundtrack] is a classic."
- 3. The Last Waltz: "The Band's epic last show...these songs are American legends, and so are the guest musicians."
- 4. *Grizzly Man*: "This amazing movie by Werner Herzog focuses on wild Alaska, a man living on the edge of sanity, and the line where humans and the wilderness meet."
- 5. *Eraserhead*: "David Lynch is the Faulkner of American film."

#### **BEST BAND EVER?**

"Acid Mothers Temple and the Melting Paraiso. These guys are masters on their instruments, and they continuously work on their craft. They tour nonstop through Europe, Japan, and the U.S. three times every year. They drink, smoke, and enjoy life more than most folk. They plan their tours around their favorite restaurants and Japanese hot baths. They sleep in their boots on the hardwood floors with no pillows or blankets for three hours a night."



Fric Nielsen

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

"The Dalai Lama. Maybe we could plan a world peace conference in the U.S. to focus on diplomacy and discussion instead of killing and supplying the military industrial complex. The war costs dollars, lives, uprooted families, and karma for the U.S....if Al-Qaeda wanted to disrupt the finances of America by attacking the World Trade Center, they have accomplished their goal through our wasted spending in Iraq."

#### LIFE'S DEFINING MOMENT (SO FAR)?

"At 13 I moved to the Bay Area and was able to experience the underground punk scene, the social consciousness of Berkeley, and the other world that is San Francisco. I really believe California should secede from the U.S. and become the Switzerland of North America. This place is like

no other in the world, and it's too often taken for granted. When I'm on tour and people ask me where I'm from, I never say 'The U.S.,' I always say 'California.' "

#### **HOTTEST LOCAL PERFORMER?**

"Pall Jenkins of the Black Heart Procession. You really have to see it to understand it. Maybe it's the soul voice or the beard; I'm not sure."

#### LAST BOOK READ?

"The Possibility of an Island by Michel Houellebecq. The greatest French existentialist of our time, with a story about a future where humanity has vanished. It's sci-fi, religion, sexuality, and pop culture mixed into a story where DNA is saved, individuals are cloned, and you never die...but you never really live."



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#### ROYAL CROWN REVUE IN THE MOOD TO NEO SWING!



FRI 2/15 7:30/9:30PM

#### CHARLES McPHERSON ALTO SAX LEGEND



SAT 2/16 7:30/9:30PM

#### JOHNNY POLANCO HOT LATIN SALSA



#### PAT METHENY TRIO W/ CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE & ANTONIO SANCHEZ



**FEBRUARY 26 & 27** 

#### UPCOMING SHOWS!

ROCKOLA'S	2/2
GEORGE HARRISON	
TRIBUTE	

ANDYE	KANE	2/2

TOM SCOTT 2/29

GEOFFREY KEEZER TRIO 3/1

MICHAEL LINGTON 3/7

HERB ALPERT 3/21 & 22

DI LADY 24 9 27 All shows subject to change.

#### TUESDAY TASTINGS ~ 1/2 PRICE WINE\*

\*featuring select premium & boutique bottles every Tuesday

HAPPY HOUR Tues-Fri 5:30pm-7pm

BOX OFFICE HOURS Mon-Thu 9am-8pm Fri/Sat 9am-10pm Sun Noon-8pm

#### TICKETS ON SALE THREE WAYS!

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#### Calendar concerts

Music videos for all concerts now on SanDiegoReader.com

## THIS WEEK'S CONCERTS

#### **THURSDAY**

**"Legendas de Banda,"** 4th & B, Thursday, February 14, 7 p.m., 345 B Street, Downtown. 619-231-4343

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

#### **FRIDAY**

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

The Manhattans, the Persuaders, Heatwave, Cox Arena, Friday, February 15, 7:30 p.m., 550 Campanile Drive, College Area. 619-594-6947.

#### The 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.

#### **SATURDAY**

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

#### Charles McPherson,

Anthology, Saturday, February 16, 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

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

#### **SUNDAY**

**Johnny Polanco**, Anthology, Sunday, February 17, 7:30 p.m., 1337 India Street, Little Italy. 619-595-0300.

#### **TUESDAY**

Stan Ridgway and Cindy Lee Berryhill, Belly Up Tavern, Tuesday, February 19, 8 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

#### **WEDNESDAY**

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

upcoming lana Beach. 858-CONCERTS

#### **FEBRUARY**

619-299-2583.

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

All That Remains, Soma, Friday, February 22, 6:30 p.m., 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma. 619-226-SOMA.

**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,

## Valentine's Day Comedy Show\*

Presented by Slanted Comedy • Tickets \$20 Starring Edwin San Juan featuring Justin Rivera \*Friday, Feb. 15 & Saturday, Feb. 16 and Naveed Mahbub





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# Calendar

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.

**Sister Nancy,** 4th & B, Friday, February 29, 8 p.m., 345 B Street, Downtown. 619-231-4343.

#### **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.

**Immortal Technique,** Belly Up Tavern, Friday, March 7, 9 p.m.,

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

**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,

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

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.

Particle, House of Blues, Saturday, March 15, 8 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583

**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.

**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.



BY DAVE GOOD

Richard Elliott first caught my ear during the mid-'80s as a member of one of the West Coast's hottest funk/jazz bands, Tower of Power. Later, he put out a solo album called *Trolltown* that featured an electrifying remake of Aretha Franklin's "Until You Come Back to Me." He charted with the old Percy Sledge hit "When a Man Loves a Woman," a bombast of sax passion that got serious radio play on smooth-jazz stations and made Elliott almost iconic. But unlike many of his saxist contemporaries who were likewise churning out sexy pop covers left and right (of them, I put Ernie Watts at the top of the class, George Howard somewhere in the middle,

and soulless Kenny G at the bottom), Richard Elliott doesn't just cover songs. He owns them with his wit and the force of his bullish tone.

But I think that pop sax has painted itself into a corner with that tone, golden as it may be. It is not the natural sound of the instrument — the sound of today's pop jazz sax is oversaturated, excessive, and exaggerated. By nature, a sax is a breathy and reedy contraption with brass overtones; Stan Getz worked that range better than any-

one. Sax tone is highly influenced by the shape of the mouthpiece and by the grip one puts on it with one's jaws while blowing.

Elliott's tone has its roots in Grover Washington, Tom Scott, and the nearly forgotten Ronnie Laws. Born in Scotland and raised in L.A., Richard Elliott came into music during that overblown rawness of saxology.

RICHARD ELLIOTT

But like a lot of smooth jazz stars, Elliott appears to have much more going on intellectually in his music than that yuppie-smug prosaic format will bear. He steps away from those constraints when performing live.

RICHARD ELLIOTT, 4th & B, Friday, February 15, 7 p.m. 619-231-4343. \$40 to \$50.

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.

**Trey Songz,** Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Saturday, March 22, 8 p.m., 5000 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-

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. Angie Stone, Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Saturday, March 29, 8 p.m., 5000 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-

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.

**Pitbull and Baby Bash,** House of Blues, Friday, April 4, 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.

**The Mother Hips,** Belly Up Tavern, Friday, April 11, 9 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-481-9022.

**Panic at the Disco,** Soma, Saturday, April 12, 6 p.m., 3350





info@JacksLaJolla.com

Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma, 619-226-SOMA.

The Mother Hips,  $\operatorname{Belly} \operatorname{Up}$ Tavern, Saturday, April 12, 9 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

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.

Kanye West, San Diego Sports Arena, Sunday, April 20, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma. 619-224-4171.

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 Ĉircle, 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, April 30, 7 p.m., 550 Campanile Drive, College Area. 619-594-6947.

#### **MAY**

Juanes, San Diego Sports Arena, Saturday, May 3, 8 p.m., 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma. 619-224-4171.

Celtic Woman, Coors Amphitheatre, Friday, May 9, 8 p.m., 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista. 619-671-3600.

Megadeth, Cox Arena, Tuesday, May 20, 5:30 p.m., 550 Campanile Drive, College Area. 619-594-6947.

Nightwish, House of Blues, Friday, May 23, 8 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-299-2583.

Vicente Fernandez, Coors Amphitheatre, Saturday, May 24, 8 p.m., 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista. 619-671-3600.

#### **JUNE**

The Cure, Cox Arena, Tuesday, June 3, 7:30 p.m., 550 Campanile Drive, College Area. 619-594-6947.

Gary Allan, Viejas Casino Concerts in the Park, Wednesday, June 4, 8 p.m., 5005 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

#### alendar **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.

'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 Krown, and Big Daddy on the turntables. Ages 21 and up. 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-

#### 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 2for-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: Saturday: Brent Bartel. Spinning hip-hop, house, and mashups. Ages 21 and up. Thursday: D-Skwiz. Spinning hiphop/funk/rock. Ages 21 and up. Sunday: Scooter. Resident and guest DJs at Bar West spin everything from hip-hop to mashups, old skool, and funky house. Ages 21 and up. Friday:

Fresh One. Resident and guest DJs at Bar West spin everything from hip-hop to mashups, old skool, and funky house. Ages 21 and up. 959 Hornblend Street, Pacific Beach. 858-273-WEST.

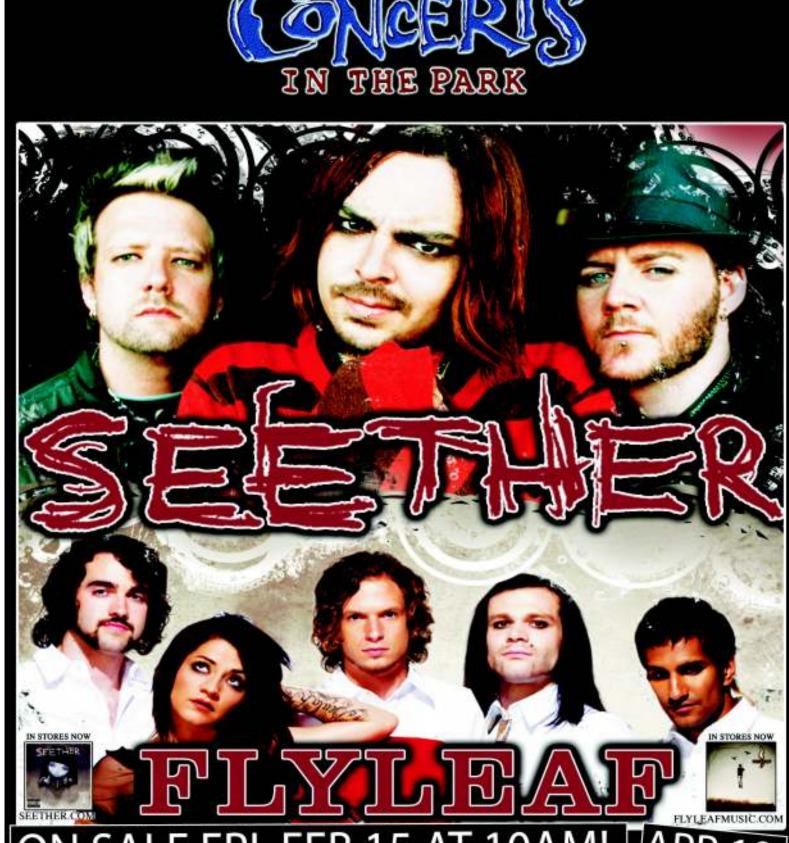
Beauty Bar: Thursdays, 10 p.m.: Soul Survivors. Thursday nights with DJ Rob Hostetter and Daniel Sant. Ages 21 and up. Tuesdays, 8 p.m.: Diamond Dog Tuesdays. "The night transitions in mood from lounge bar music all the way through the night to a full-scale

dance club. DJ Heresy, Cota-Pop, and DI Divebomb - three different DJs with three different styles." Ages 21 and up. 4746 El Cajon Boulevard, Kensington-Talmadge. 619-516-4746.

Belo: Friday: Gabriel & Dresden. Electronic/pop/progressive house. Ages 21 and up. 919 Fourth Avenue, Downtown. 619-231-9200.

**Bluefoot Bar and Lounge:** Friday, 9:30 p.m.: Funk 101. First and third Friday of the month, with





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#### alendar **CLUBS**

#### DJ

DJ Sergio, SK, and Brother Barry. Soul, hip-hop, house, roots, party jams. Ages 21 and up. 3404 30th Street, North Park. 619-235-8466.

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

Covote 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

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-

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

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-

Onyx/Thin: Thursday, 9 p.m.: Cruise Control: 4 the Love Edition. Valentine's Day special event with Donald Glaude, DJ Frances, and Xcite. House/funk/electro. Ages 21 and up. 852 5th Avenue, Downtown. 619-235-ONYX.

#### San Diego Sports Club:

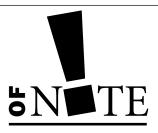
Thursdays, 9 p.m.: Club '80s. New wave, punk, and new romantic with DJs Bryan Pollard, Roxanne Redlight, Sickboy, and Stem. \$2-\$4. Ages 21 and up. 1271 University Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-299-7372.

Sevilla: Thursday: Club Salsa. Valentine's Day celebration. Special dinner shows are followed by DJ New Yo Rican. Ages 21 and up. 555 Fourth Avenue, Downtown. 619-

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

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

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



BY WILLIAM CRAIN

"We were not really part of that whole MTV, new wavey thing," says **Stan Ridgway**, speaking about his old band, Wall of Voodoo. This comment may come as a surprise to the many poor souls who remember Wall of Voodoo only for their weird 1982 hit "Mexican Radio." Ridgway intends to catch them up with a concert showcasing "Mexican Radio" and other songs from Wall of Voodoo's Call of the West.

"I like to describe 'Mexican Radio' as an accidental MTV hit," Ridgway says. "We were at that point where MTV needed things to play. And as MTV took off, so did the videos they were playing. I think a lot of people who purchased the record or came to see us, they got more than they bargained for. It wasn't just happy-golucky stuff. Some of it was interestingly dark, as is my interest. My favorite films, all that stuff. The American promise is filled with stories like that. It's almost inexhaustible.

Ridgway talks like that. Like the characters he plays in his songs, both in Wall of Voodoo and his solo career, he's full of wry humor and tweaked clichés. "Part of the charm of the old music was that it was sort of a juxtaposition of the

electronic and the old earthy sounds of the electric guitar," Ridgway says. "I don't think that had really been done as much as we did it. There were mostly electronic bands like Kraftwerk or there were the rockabilly-type bands like the Stray Cats. They had the twang, and the other guys had the drone. And

**STAN RIDGWAY** 

I think what we did was we put the drone with the twang. So we had...dwang? Something like that?

STAN RIDGWAY, Belly Up Tavern, Tuesday, Febuary 19, 8 p.m. 858-481-9022. \$18.

#### **CLUBS BY AREA**

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

#### **BEACHES**

710 Beach Club: 710 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-4837844. Thursday: E.I.M.. Elephants in Mud are originally from Fort Wayne, Indiana, They perform a mix of reggae/ska/punk rock music. Ages 21 and up. Friday: 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. Wednesday: Split Finger, Sandollar. Reggae/rock/ska. Ages 21 and up.

Coyote Bar and Grill: 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad, 760-729-4695. Thursday, 6 p.m.: Bozzani Brothers, Classic rock, Ages 21 and up. Friday, 6 p.m.: Big Rig Deluxe. A Local five piece roots country band that performs original music and classic covers

Country/folk rock/rockabilly. Ages 21 and up. Saturday, 6 p.m.: Michelle Ludeen. Blues/soul/rock. Ages 21 and up. Sunday, 5 p.m.: Jerome Dawson. Jazz. Ages 21 and up. Wednesday, 6 p.m.: Billy Watson. Blues/soul/jazz. Ages 21

Tiki House: 1152 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-273-9734. Friday: Elephants in Mud, the Professors. A unique blend of reggae, punk, and surf music. Saturday: Nards. Americana/pop/classic rock. Wednesday: Pushing Rope. Country/punk/bluegrass.

'Canes: 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-488-1780

Thursday: "Heart Throb". Richard Johnson presents a night of hip hop and underground music. Featuring ThumTac, Vash-tha-Stampede, Clay Pigeons, and Vision. Ages 21 and up. Friday: Stepping Feet. A Dave Matthews tribute. Cubensis also performs a Grateful Dead tribute. Ages 21 and up. Saturday: Agua Dulce. Israel Maldonado also performs. Latin/reggae/funk. Ages 21 and up. Wednesday: Afrika Bambaataa. One of the legendary godfathers of hip-hop music comes to 'Canes. Afrika Bambaataa's creative ability to record and produce beats has earned him a nomination for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Ages 21 and up.





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

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. Thursday: American Drag. American Drag's San Diego debut. Features members of Garaj Mahal. Rock/progressive/classic rock. Ages 21 and up. Friday: BLVD. Live drum and bass with hip-hop. MC Souleye joins BLVD on tour. Rap/hip-hop/experimental. Ages 21 and up. Saturday, 9 p.m.: Blue Turtle Seduction, Izabella. Two Northern Californian touring acts migrate south for the winter. Get your boogie on to a soulful dance party, followed by some highenergy, high-altitude bohemian jam-grass. Ages 21 and up. Wednesday, 9:30 p.m.: Pruitt Igoe. Come celebrate the release of Pruitt Igoe's self-titled album. Two years in the making; reflecting the themes of love, loss, politics, and selfexploration. Lending their talents to the CD were Harold Todd (saxophone, flute) and Bill Saxton (saxophone). Performances by Danyavaad, the Shimmey Sisters, and Pruitt Igoe. Electronic/ambient/rock. \$5. Ages 21 and up.

#### **CENTRAL**

**Chasers Cocktail Lounge:** 

3615 El Cajon Boulevard, City Heights, 619-280-9379. *Friday*, 9 p.m.: Levator. Eddy Burke, My Pet Saddle, and Wendy Bailey performs. Indie/folk/pop rock. Ages 21 and up.

Dick's Last Resort: 345 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-231-9100. Thursday, 7 p.m.: Blue Rocket. 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.

**The Shout House:** 655 4th Avenue, Downtown, 619-231-6700. *Thursdays*, 7 p.m., *Fridays*, 6 p.m., *Saturdays*, 6 p.m., *Sundays*, 7 p.m. The Shout House. Rock and roll sing-along dueling pianos. \$5-\$10. Ages 21 and up.

**The Westgate Hotel:** 1055 Second Avenue, Downtown, 619-238-1818. *Thursday*, 6 p.m.: The Peter Pavone Quintet. With Richard James, Bob Magnusson, Flip Oakes, and Kevin Koch. Jazz. \$79.

Beauty Bar: 4746 El Cajon Boulevard, Kensington-Talmadge, 619-516-4746. Thursday, 10 p.m.: Mighty Six Ninety. Followed by DJ Rob Hostetter and Daniel Sant (Soul Survivors). Rock. Ages 21 and up. Friday, 9 p.m.: Mellowdrone. An indie/experimental/psychedelic rock band from Los Angeles, California. Includes performances by Spirit Army and the Swedish Models. Also features DJ Jonny Greenpoint spinning post punk/indie rock/garage music. \$8. Ages 21 and up. Saturday, 9 p.m.: The Ringers, Writer and This Holiday Life perform alternative/pop/rock music. Also features DJ Mada spinning mash ups/rock/funk music. \$5. Ages 21 and up. Sunday, 9 p.m.: Tony Tee Presents. Buddy Akai DJ set and Loud noises, Remixes/electro, \$5.

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Ages 21 and up. *Monday*, 9 p.m.: DJ Sea Wizard. Ages 21 and up. *Tuesday*, 9 p.m.: DJ Corey Biggs. Local DJ spinning a mix of indie rock, new wave, and electro music. Ages 21 and up. *Wednesdays*, 10 p.m.: DJ RatStar. Spinning soul and hip-hop on Wednesday nights. Ages 21 and up.

**Blarney Stone Pub:** 5617 Balboa Avenue, Clairemont, 858-279-2033. *Monday*, 8 p.m.: Sean O'Donnell. Lead singer of Reeve Oliver. Allison Gill also performs. **Brass Rail:** 3796 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-298-2233. *Saturday*, 9 p.m.: Noche Latino. Latin music night, with DJ Ruben Casas and DJ Klaus.

**Brick by Brick:** 1130 Buenos Avenue, Clairemont, 619-275-LIVE. *Friday*: Mniyic, Sic Monic, Canobliss. Discord and 3MA also perform.

Metal/hardcore/experimental music. Ages 21 and up. Saturday: The Angry Samoans. Battle Born, Blood Stained Reality, and Tim Raldo perform. Rock/punk/metal. Ages 21 and up. Wednesday: One Lonely Robot. Local alternative/pop rock band. Members include Chris Swain (vocals, guitar), Loren Perelman (lead guitar, vocals, keys, percussions), Tony Keil (bass), and Alicia Cattaneo (drums). Ages 21 and up.

**Camel's Breath Inn:** 1033 Friars Road, Mission Valley, 619-281-1722. *Thursdays*: Karaoke. Sing your heart out on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday nights. On Monday nights, you can have fun playing a round of Wii bowling! Ages 21 and up. Fridays, Saturdays: Live DJ. Every Friday and Saturday night. Ages 21 and up. Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays: Karaoke. Sing your heart out on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday nights. On Monday nights, you can have fun playing a round of Wii bowling! Ages 21 and up.

The Casbah: 2501 Kettner
Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232HELL. *Thursday*: Grand Ole Party,
the Prayers. Fantastic Magi, Skull
Control DJs also perform.
Alternative/funk/rock. \$12-\$14.
Ages 21 and up. *Friday*: Drag the
River. Cory Brannan, the Silent
Comedy, and Vena Cava perform.
Country-rock. Ages 21 and up.
Saturday: Big Sandy & His Fly-Rite
Boys. Rockabilly/country/American
roots band out of Anaheim,
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#### alendar **CLUBS**

#### **CENTRAL**

Todd Stedman also perform. Ages 21 and up. Sunday, 8:30 p.m.: Get Back Loretta, Bunky. Roger and Sara's wedding anniversary party. Also features Listening to Rock. Garage/pop/rock. \$8. Monday: Anti-Monday League Present. A night of alternative/new wave/electronica music. Features performances by Manganista, Chow Nasty, Alpha Channel, and Beatmo. Ages 21 and up. Tuesday: Nudity. The four-piece astraltraveling band out of Olympia, Washington, is back again, this time prepped with all-new material off their upcoming album on Portland, Oregon's Discourage Records. They serve up their

Claire de Lune: 2906 University Avenue, North Park, 619-688-9845. Saturday, 8:30 p.m.: The Chris Klich Jazz Quintet. Jazz.

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psychedelic rock and roll. \$7. Ages

through a driving brand of

21 and up.

San

Dizzy's: 200 Harbor Drive, Downtown, 858-270-7467. Friday, 8 p.m.: Dean Brown. Worldrenowned funk/fusion guitar master makes his San Diego debut with Cliff Allen on Drums, Steve Steinberg on saxophone, and Milo Otmar on bass. \$15. Ages 21 and up. Sunday, 7 p.m.: Apple Brown Jazz Ensemble. Features Gabriel Sundy (baritone saxophone), Peter August (tenor saxophone), Andy Geib (trombone), Nazo Zakkak (piano/keyboards), Harley Magsino (electric/acoustic bass), and Dave

Pschaida (drums/percussion). \$10. Ages 21 and up.

Epicentre: 8450 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa, 858-271-4000. Saturday: No Lifeguard On Duty. Grim Luck, The Deadbeat Babies, Dr. Skavra, and RCF also perform. A night of local bands that perform a fusion of ska, reggae, and pop punk music. \$7-\$9.

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

**Hot Monkey Love Cafe:** 6875 El Cajon Boulevard, College Area, 619-469-4113. Friday, 9 p.m.: Carlos Procel Nahuel. Argentinian singer and songwriter performs for the first time in San Diego. \$10.

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.

JP's Pub: 10436 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Tierrasanta, 858-576-2509. Friday, 9 p.m.: Hoo Doo Blues. Blues/rock/swing. Ages 21

Jimmy Love's: 672 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-595-0123. Thursday, 6:15 p.m.: Masterpiece. Jazz/rhythm and blues. Friday, 9:45 p.m.: Diva Soul. Dance/show-band that performs classic to modern hits. They offer a wide range of styles that include Latin, funk, blues, and rock. Saturday, 9:45 p.m.: The M-80s. '80s cover band that performs dance, pop, rock, and Top 40 hits. Sunday, 6:30 p.m.: Masterpiece, Jazz/rhythm and blues. Monday, 6:30 p.m.: Insight.

>hometown CDs

Album: The Neighbors Are Listening (2007)

Artist: Alex Esther Label: self-released

Where available/price: iTunes for \$9.99 and CDBaby for

Songs: 1) Grey 2) State I'm In 3) Love Me Like You Do 4) Far Too Long 5) Something Better 6) Fool Again 7) Wonderful For Me 8) Midnight Driver 9) Hermit 10) Baby It's Alright...I Guess 11) Somewhere 12) Sunrise 13) The Hype

Band: Alex Esther (guitars, vocals, mandolin), David Ybarra (guitar, bass, percussion), Heather Ybarra (vocals), Chester Drowers (drums, percussion)

Website: alexesther.com

Here is an open letter to all college dropouts who played in the high school marching band. If you heed the advice given here, you will no doubt enjoy a richer career and life, either by

exploring your talent and creating something original and culturally relevant or by realizing that you should pursue other methods of obtaining capital perhaps life-insurance sales.

Here goes: Stop, right now,

writing lyrics at coffeehouses. There are enough relaxed songs featuring the words "coffee," "cappuccino," and "green tea" to satisfy listeners of caffeinatedbeverage tunes for the rest of time.

Stop, right now, practicing at busy gourmet coffeehouses. Your acoustic guitar and voice combine into a sweet, sentimental tone that stands out against the backdrop of bustling customers, espresso machines, and chatter. This confuses you into thinking you sound important and sensitive, but when put to a CD and listened to in a kitchen, your voice grates like the whining of a sleepy child, and your song becomes one more on the heap of redundant acoustic-guitar songs.

You are not the Plain White T's. Your song is not "Hey There Delilah." You are not Dave Matthews; he is, and has been for years, and you won't replace

him as himself. The same goes for Jack Johnson and John Mayer.

You will not attain celebrity if you continue. Since you have, at least, a dash of talent, please, give up your café mewling to find something authentic inside you that you can share with us.

Thank you.

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IT TO: Music Editor, Hometown CDs, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803

A mixture of Latin, jazz, and soul music. *Tuesday*, 6:30 p.m.: Mystique. Jazz/funk/rhythm and blues. Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.: The Soul Revue. Jazz music until 10 p.m., dance and Top 40 until 11

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. Friday: Japanese Sunday, Hialeah. Fever Sleeves also perform.

Indie/rock/progressive. Ages 21 and up. Saturday: Manganista. Local band performs an upbeat mixture of alternative/new wave/reggae music. Also features performances

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by Faculty Lounge and Riboflavin. Ages 21 and up

**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. Thursdays, 9 p.m.: Karaoke.

Come and sing karaoke every Thursday night. Ages 21 and up. *Friday*, 9 p.m.: Beach Music Mafia. presents a night of rock/alternative/psychedelic music. Featuring the Playground Slap, the Shamey Jays, and Bad Science Fiction. This will also be Johnny Different's final show. Ages 21 and up. Saturday, 9 p.m.: One Inch Punch, Magnolia Black. The Empire State, Awaiting Samsara



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# Calendar

#### **CENTRAL**

(continued)

also perform. Punk rock/ alternative/metal. Ages 21 and up. Sunday, 7:30 p.m.: Troubadour. Open-mike night. Hosted by Phil Harmonic. Ages 21 and up. Mondays, 8 p.m.: Mystery Train. Pro-invitational blues jam on Monday nights. Ages 21 and up. Tuesday, 8 p.m.: Podunk Nowhere and Vanja James. Six acts from Another Zeke Productions. Ages 21 and up. Tuesday, 9 p.m.: Another Zeke Productions Presents. A night of rock/acoustic/folk/indie music. Features the Inevitable Mr. Chris, Death Is a Holiday, Save Amos, Vanja James, and Quinn Allen. Ages 21 and up. Wednesday, 9 p.m.: LSD Promotions Presents. An evening of local rock, punk, and metal music. Features Bedpost Buzzards, Nuclear Tomorrow, and Noisegod. Ages 21 and up.

**Patrick's II:** 428 F Street, Downtown, 619-233-3077. *Friday*, 9 p.m.: The Buick Wilson Band. Blues/soul. 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. Saturday, 9:30 p.m.: The Rhythm Jacks. Rhythm and blues. 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.

Sevilla: 555 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-5979. Sunday: Club Salsa. Grand opening of "Sunday Salsa." Featuring 2006 Grammy nominee: Tobaco y Ron. Ages 21 and up. Mondays, 9 p.m.: rock en español. Ages 21 and up. Tuesday, 8:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 8:30 p.m.; Club Salsa. Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday night. Performance by Charlie Chavez y Su Afro Truco. Includes salsa dance lessons by Valerie. 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.: The John Kopecky Trio. Jazz. Ages 21 and up. *Saturdays*, 8:30 p.m.: open blues jam. with Will

# as i hear it

Artist: Stolen

Song: "Pills from  $\mathbf{God}$  " (from the  $\mathsf{CD}$ 

Drop that Apple)

Heard By: Danny M., UTC



Dann

It was good. To me, it sounded very dated; it sounded like San Diego '90s rock. I don't know if these guys have been playing for that long, but that's what it reminded me of. One band I thought about — musically, at least, not vocally — was Lucy's Fur Coat. [The vocals] weren't anything special, but it was good. I just don't hear anything that I could see hitting a national level, but it would be fun to go watch them play and go have some drinks with some friends. The recording was really weak. I think if they had a cleaner recording it would sound better. I don't pay too much attention to the lyrics; I listen to more of the flow of the music. They got the job done. They rocked pretty hard.

#### SAN DIEGO SONGS TAKE THE STREET TEST

Artist: Modern Day Moonshine Song: "Reminiscin'" (from the CD Same Old Fight)

Heard By: Gabriel Meza, North Park



Gabrie

It's not something that I would go ahead and purchase. It does seem to have that San Diego flair or sound almost like a laid-back "beach" type of music. I do like the guitar-playing; he plays very clean, especially the solos. Again, it's unfair to say that it sucks because it's just not my style of music. I love Bauhaus, Pink Floyd, Louis the XIV. [MDM reminded me of] maybe Jack Johnson. The lyrics I would need to hear several times to get what he is "reminiscin" about, but the technical level of the songwriting, on a scale of one to ten. I would give him about an eight. I believe he needs more transitions in the song. It's something that you might listen to on Star [94.1 FM] or Jack [100.7 FM].

Artist: The Secret Samurai Song: "Bereft of Enemies" (from the CD Gun Sho Gun) Heard By: Chris Quintanar, Spring Valley



Chri

I thought it was cool. It was relaxing. down-to-earth. It's something you feel emotionally inside. It's just like Dick Dale — flowing, mellow...perfect. It's like a perfect wave. Take it for what it is, but let your mind absorb something you've never heard before. [I heard] a lot of guitars...a lot of guitar riffs. That's all I heard. A little bit of drums, but more guitars than anything. The guitar riff was totally catchy. It sounded like, "hey, let's go out and surf." It's a fun song. [If I were to put that song on] I'd be just chillin' with my friends, drinking a beer — just having some fun. And if it was summertime, I'd be on the beach.

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The Handlery Hotel and Resort: 950 Hotel Circle North,

Mission Valley, 619-298-0511. *Friday*, 8 p.m.: Barbara Nesbitt. Acoustic/blues/country. *Wednesday*, 5 p.m.: Christopher Dale and Friends. Acoustic.

**Tio Leo's Lounge:** 5302 Napa Street, Clairemont, 619-542-1462.

*Friday*: The Fremonts. Blues. Ages 21 and up.

**Tio Leo's Mira Mesa:** 10787 Camino Ruiz, Mira Mesa, 858-695-1461. *Saturday*: Side Jobz. Covers music ranging from classic rock to modern hits. Ages 21 and up.

The Tower: 4757 University Avenue, Kensington-Talmadge, 619-284-0158. Saturday, 10 p.m.: Batar-Zan, Los Mysteriosos. Nowhere Fast, and The Ratt's Revenge also performing. Alternative/Punk rock. Monday, 9 p.m.: Dance to the blues. With Lady Dottie & The Diamonds. Ages 21 and up.

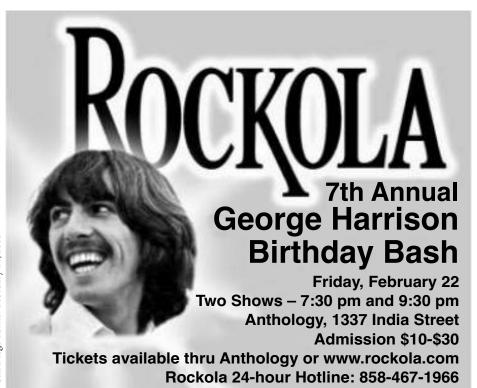
**U-31:** 3112 University Avenue, North Park, 619-584-4188. *Monday*, 8 p.m.: City of Industry. For locals in the hospitality industry. *Tuesdays*: U-31 Karaoke. Ages 21 and up. *Wednesday*, 8 p.m.: Long Live Logos, Bedford Grove. Goodbye Elliott, The Predicates also performing. Rock/pop/indie. \$5.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

**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. *Friday, Saturday*: Five Miles High. Ages 21 and up.

Fannie's Nightclub: 9143 Campo Road, Spring Valley, 619-698-2204. *Thursdays*, 8:30 p.m.: Cory Wilkins. Alty Milkins. Ages 21 and up. *Friday*: Punk Bands. by LSD Productions. A night of punk rock















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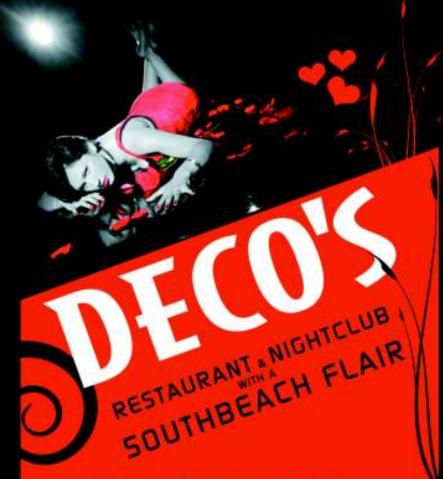
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#### alendar **CLUBS**

#### **EAST COUNTY**

music. Ages 21 and up. Saturday: The Mentors. 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.

Second Wind (Navaio): 8515 Navajo Road, Santee, 619-465-1730. Wednesday: Reverend Stickman, American Manics. Fuzz

#### Huzzi also performs. Alternative/pop/punk. Ages 21 and

**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. *Friday*: Misty & the Mobys. A five piece San Diego band that covers the hits of the '60s, '70s, and '80s. Ages 21 and up. Saturday: Custard Pie. Covers Led Zeppelin songs, as well as other top performers: Bad Company, the Stones, Black Crowes, ZZ Top, Heart, and Janis Joplin. Classic rock/blues/southern rock. Ages 21 and up.

The Kraken: 2531 South Highway 101, Cardiff, 760-436-6483. Thursday: Dan Dragon Walker Band. Friday: Idle Train. Saturday: Blue Heat. Wednesday: Jeff Moore & the Witch Doctors. Down-home Americana blues rock

#### **NORTH COUNTY INLAND**

Carvers: 11940 Bernardo Plaza Drive, Rancho Bernardo, 858-566-2400. Friday, 8 p.m., Saturday, 8 p.m.: Laguna.

The Filling Station: 9522 Miramar Road, Mira Mesa, 858-578-0757. Thursdays, Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays: Karaoke Nights. Hosted by David Kelly's All Star Entertainment. Over 35,000 songs to choose from!

**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.

J.J. Lander's Irish Pub: 125 South Main Street, Fallbrook, 760-731-0839. Saturday, 9 p.m.: Brehon Law. Original and traditional Irish folk music. Acoustic. Ages 21 and up. Wednesday, 9 p.m.: Tim Lee. Rock. Ages 21 and up.

The Jumping Turtle: 1660 Capalina Road, San Marcos, 760-741-7778. Thursdays: Guitar Hero Night. Come out and act like a rock star all night! Includes Guitar Hero 1,2, and 3. Friday: Call of Thousands, Celebrates the release of their new CD entitled, "Into the Coming Storm." Bedlam also performs. Metal/hardcore. Saturday: Axe Hammer, Invocation War. Execution, Against the World also perform. Heavy metal/thrash/hardcore. Sunday: The Material, Radio Racer. On Hot Minute, Invictus also perform. Alternative/punk/pop. Wednesday: Thee Corsairs, Jason Lee & the

# **Yo, DJ**1

#### Talk About a Star



George Clinton plays the Belly Up Tavern tonight, February 14

The year was 1983, and as always on a Saturday morning, my best friend and I get into my mom's van and head downtown to the local roller-skating rink. I couldn't tell you the exact date, but I can tell you that as soon as "Atomic Dog" by George Clinton came on, life on the roller-skating rink became a

little bit more fun. That was such a great song to skate to. And I did skate to it for weeks.

Now, fast-forward to 1993, and I'm working my first radio job in Salinas-Monterey, and we are doing a bus trip to San Carlos to see George Clinton at the Circle Star Theater. When I found out about this, I told our promotions director I have to be there and I was. I can't tell vou how I did it, but I did get backstage and for the first time in my life I was star-struck.

I was standing at the side of the stage, and it was probably an hour before the show when at the corner of my eye I see George Clinton coming my way. I was frozen and wanted to say so much but couldn't. He looked at me and said hi and walked away. I couldn't move and regret to this day I wasn't able to talk or move. At least I have that memory.



DJ: SHERRY KNIGHT Station: MAGIC Shift: MONDAY-FRIDAY, 10 A.M.-3 P.M.

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Molly Malone's: 1270 Main Street, Ramona, 760-789-9050. Friday, 9 p.m.: Flashback. Rock. Saturday, 9 p.m.: Metal Brigade. One Thread also performs. Metal/hardcore.

Pounders: 125 West Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-739-1288. Friday, 9 p.m., Saturday, 9 p.m.: West of 5. Classic to modern rock.

R. O'Sullivan's: 118 East Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-737-0954 Friday, 8 p.m.: Raiz Muzik. Local

reggae/ska/roots band. Members include Sonny Romero (vocals, drums), Sergio Gonzalez (piano, keyboard), Vasily Punsalan (bass), Luis Bautista (guitar) Gino Bareno (guitar), John Roy (sax), and Greg Humphrey (trumpet). Ages 21 and up. Sunday, 5 p.m.: Clachan Boys. Lively, original, and traditional Irish folk music. Acoustic. Ages 21

The Red Parrot Lounge at Casino Pauma: 777 Pauma Reservation Road, Fallbrook, 760-742-2177. Saturday, 8 p.m.: MoonDance. Classic rock/r&b/soul cover band.

#### **SOUTH BAY**

**American Legion Post 310:** 

465 47th Street, Southeast San Diego, 619-264-1919. *Sunday*, 7 p.m.: Willovealot, Jazz.

Janie's Cocktails: 656 E Street, Chula Vista. Sundays, 9 p.m.: Karaoke.

McP's Irish Pub and Grill:

1107 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-5280. *Thursday*, 8 p.m.: 2 Guys Will Move U!. McP's Irish Pub & Grill features local musicians that perform a diverse range of music: rock, jazz, blues, classical, as well as traditional Irish folk music



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(Oingo Boingo Tribute)

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SATURDAY, MARCH 8



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#### **MORE MUSIC AND VENUES**

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**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.

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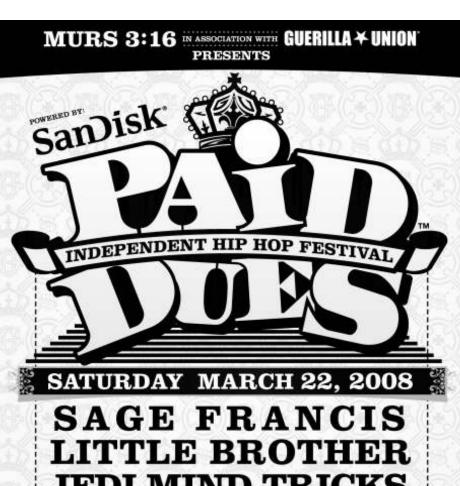
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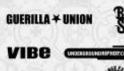
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#### **Crystal Vibrations Concert**

Sound healer Elivia Melodev makes music on her 45 crystal singing bowls, along with Native American flutes, didgeridoo, vocals, \$20. Bring blankets, pillows for "deep listening" in this dance studio with no seating. Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$25 at door, Reservations: 760-471-7304. Saturday, February 16, 7 p.m.; \$20-\$25. Performing Arts Workshop, 1105 2nd Street. (ENCINITAS)



Sia, February 15, Belly Up Tavern

Glen Phillips Jonathan Kingham opens. Acoustic/folk rock/pop. Friday, February 15, 7:30 p.m.; \$15-\$40. AcousticMusicSanDiego, 4650 Mansfield Street. 619-303-8176. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

#### Jazz at the Athenaeum

Norway's Tord Gustavsen Trio celebrates Valentine's Day for series. 858-454-5872. Thursday, February 14, 7:30 p.m.; \$18-\$23. Athenaeum Music and Arts

Library, 1008 Wall Street. 858-454-5872. (LA JOLLA)

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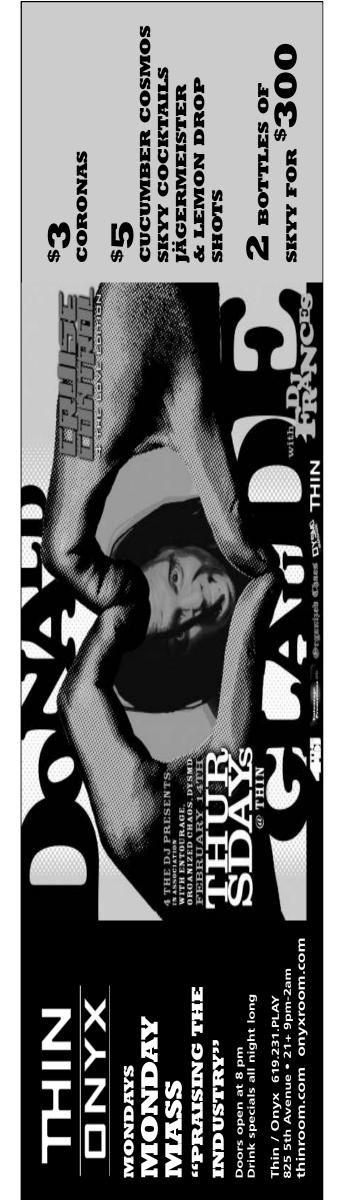
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# Crasher

#### BROTHEL BASH

by Josh Board

got a call about a party in Stockton but thought it was too far to drive. I was tempted, however, when I heard the warehouse was going to be decorated as a brothel.

Ken explained to me that Stockton was an area near South Park. So, I threw on my cowboy boots and a western shirt and headed downtown.

There was a BBQ and car show in National City that afternoon, and I hit that first. The flyer advertised "pre-1968 vehicles." I wondered if I drove my '69 Jaguar down if they'd tell me to get lost.

They were collecting \$10 donations for the bands. I like it when I see money going to the groups, since they often play such events for free. Sometimes setting up the equipment takes as long as the sets.

The groups included Pachuco Jose, Con Los, Boogie Boys, Omar and the String Poppers, the Bop-Tones, and the Del-Fi's. A few of the bands were from L.A. It was a mix of rockabilly and rock tunes that









Bottom left: Conquistador car club members

seemed to fit the theme of the

There were several lowriders. I heard one guy in his 60s ask, "Why do people take a great old Thunderbird or Impala and chop it up, lower it, and do all this?" I said, "Sometimes I agree that they make it

tricked out."

There was an old Ford truck, and my date and I couldn't figure out what the

"I thought air conditioning back then... was just rolling down the windows."

look horrible, especially when they go crazy with all the stencil designs on the hood. But if you look at some of the Mercury's here...they look so much better the way they're

big cylinder was over the window. We asked the Latina standing near it. "I don't know. It's my dad's truck." She pointed him out. He explained that it was an old-fashioned air conditioner. A woman standing nearby said, "I thought air conditioning back then...was just rolling down the windows."

There were car clubs at the event. One group, the Conquistadors, threw a party that I attended a year ago.

There were a few cars that were rusty and needed a lot of

When some of the nicer cars were pulling out to leave, they didn't have much space to get out. I wondered if they

ever get into scrapes trying to fit these cars into their spaces, so I asked one of the car owners. He said something about spending over \$50,000, but I couldn't hear the rest of what he said because four motorcycles pulled up. I just nodded as if I agreed.

We decided to take off and head to the brothel party. The Ricky Nelson song "Garden Party" came on the car radio, and I inserted "brothel party" as I sang along.

I always hope a place is going to be easy to find. Well, for this party, there were two giant legs with garter belts outside the warehouse.

As we walked up, we saw some smokers outside. And there were a lot of fake handlebar mustaches and some authentic old suits. One person was in a bathrobe. He said, "Hey, my wife put me in this thing, so I'm a victim of her."

A few of the smokers had their cigarettes in holders. One woman reminded me of Bette Davis — the way she was smoking and talking, not the



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> Upcoming: February 21

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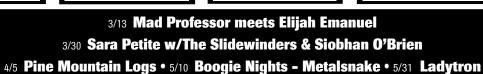








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Wed 3/5 • 8:00 PM

- 3/12 Matthew Good
- 3/13 Mad Professor meets Elijah Emanuel & The Revelations
- 3/14 Tommy Castro Band
- 3/15 Common Sense
- 3/17 Shawn Mullins 3/19 Tristan Prettyma
- 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
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- 3/29 The Avett Brothers 4/3 Halfway to Halloween Party!
- 4/9 **X** 4/11 The Mother Hips & New
- 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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There were women wearing colored boas.

There were people at this party who were filmmakers and some moviethemed decor on the walls. I saw a sign that read "Ouiet on the set." The James Bond movie poster with Halle Berry was pleasant to look at, though it didn't really fit in with the

1800's-brothel theme.

As the music played and people got loud, I started to feel that this was the perfect venue for this party. The upholstery business next door was closed, so there was nobody to complain about the noise.

When I walked over to check out the food, a guy said to me, "Aren't you glad the sandwiches are covered? I get grossed out when flies are all over

I met a guy named Lance, a filmmaker from L.A. He told me about an indie movie he made and how he just bought a fulllength feature. We ranted about how many movies come out that suck. He's the only one I talked to who agreed with me about The Departed being overrated.

The art on the walls was by Sheree Neff, Bridget Coulter, and Jamie

Roxx. I had met Roxx at a few different parties. His style of pop art gets compared to Andy Warhol's. I overheard someone nearby say, "Did you hear Jamie went to Vegas and got married and then it was annulled shortly after?" The response was, "Hev, he's just like all those famous people, then."

I said to Roxx, "Last time I saw you, it was when Stan Ridgway was playing at the Belly Up.

You had a painting for him." Roxx was allowed backstage, and Ridgway loved his work. Roxx said, "We were working on a short film, and we wanted to use his song "Mexican Radio" in it. I think it's gonna happen."

I met an actress named Bridget Coulter, who did an interesting painting of a topless woman. The painting had real feathers on it and sequins glued around the

I met artist Sheree Neff, and we talked about digital photography. She showed me some shots she took in Virginia. She had her business cards designed a unique way they were attached to Hershev bars. The Hershev logo had been changed to her name. I said, "I may be biased because of my love of chocolate, but this is the best business card

I told her this story about my visit to a friend in Utah: A limo driver had gone into a diner there and asked if he could buy 50 packets of Grey Poupon. The owner of the diner asked why, and he said, "Every time I'm at a stoplight, someone pulls up, honks, and when I roll down my window, they ask if I have any Grey Poupon. I figured I'd tape my business cards to the packets and hand them out when they ask."

I walked by one person who said that they hated Frank Lloyd Wright's work. I said, "What about the Guggenheim?" They said, "Well, that building is okay. But he's overrated."

When this couple asked me about a few other Wright pieces, I said, "I got to confess, I really don't know anything about the guy. I know more about Orville Wright than Frank Lloyd Wright."

The guy said, "What do you think about Orville's Flyer II?"

I said, "Uh, I actually don't know much about the Wright brothers either. So, let me say that I know more about Orville Redenbacher than Orville Wright."

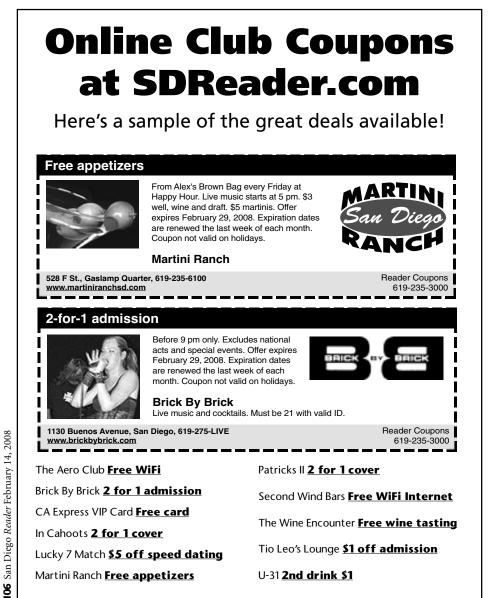
He didn't have any popcorn questions for me.

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

Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com







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# **Tell Me About** the Cheese Sauce

"We took over their recipes, their cooks... We're new, but we're still a family."

**ED BEDFORD** 

Over 30

arcade games &

istory in Chula Vista? You betcha. Like, the other day I came across a couple of geezers outside an eatery, yakkin' away like there was no tomorrow. Seems they'd just met up again after half a century.

'We've changed," one's saying. "This ol' place hasn't one bit, beyond a lick of paint."

Huh.

It's a cream-colored stucco building with a big sign that says, "El Patio. Fine Mexican Food

Wow. It's exactly 54 years since

'54. Have to check it out. Eating solo tonight, anyway. Carla and I...discussion...money again...ugh. You don't wanna know. So feeling — how do they say it? — lugubrious. And this might be just what a lugubrious lughead needs. The inside's warm, red, low-lit, with paintings of Mexican street scenes all around the walls. Even at this early evening hour, around 5:00, the place burbles with clumps of people, mainly in booths. Older and younger folks, all together.

Bamboo skirting and a plank timber ceiling make it feel woodsy. Low-light Tiffany lamps make it '50s-romantic. All the chairs are really big and old, made of twirly, rounded, heavy-looking wood. Bet they started life here in '54 too. And the tables look like flattened oak trees, with thick trunks and four gnarly leg-roots spreading over the carpet. Another '50s touch: the "tablecloths" are maroon Naugahyde. And another: the cashier sits at a separate cash-register booth, facing the rear.

Lady in the next-door booth has brought her nephew to one of her all-time favorite places to try one of her all-time favorite dishes, enchiladas.

"They have the best green salsas here," she says.

The booth on her other side is full of ex-Diegans visiting from Kansas City, Missouri. This was their favorite place for years. "I first came here in the '70s," says Pat, looking up from her carne asada burrito. "I used to eat this dish all

the time. It's still good."

Jim, across the table, takes a pull on a Dos Equis before plowing into his combo chile relleno, enchilada, and taco. "Nothing to beat this in Missouri," he says.

I get a bit of sticker shock, though, when Martha the waitress brings me the menu (and it's a big

one). Two of those enchiladas cost \$9.50, with rice and beans. So does the carne asada burrito. The chile relleno, enchilada, taco combo goes for \$11.95. Lunchtime looks easier. If I'd eaten here earlier, I could have had an open-faced chiliburger with fries for \$6.95, or a beef or chicken tostada for \$5.95. Most lunch items run seven to ten bucks. Like, two ground beef enchiladas are \$7.95.

I see that breakfast (served till one in the afternoon) is even cheaper. Chilaquiles with an egg and frijoles costs \$6.95, and two eggs with bacon or sausage are only \$5.50. Omelets will run \$7-\$9. And, hey, "El Patio omelet" sounds absolutely scrumbo, dammit. "Fluffy eggs, wrapped around bacon, sausage, bell peppers, onions, and tomatoes, then topped with sour cream, \$8.95." But it's way too late for that. Now, in the evening, most of the chow goes for \$8-\$14. Gotta be real careful here.

"Ohmygosh," cries this lady Laurina at a booth where another multigenerational family's having a get-together. She has this big fried tortilla stacked with everything. Beef, looks like, in a big mound of salad. It's a "flying saucer," an appetizer, if you can believe it. "And this is only half,"

she says. Wow. Half-size goes for \$8.95 (\$7.95 at lunch). Full-size, it's \$12.95, anytime.

Strikes me, this is a place for traditional Mexican food. Good, unsurprising, filling, maybe a little pricey at night for the likes of me.

'So what's the most popular dish?" I ask Martha.

"Try number 17," she says.

It's "The original famous...shredded beef burrito with our FAMOUS cheese sauce," according to the menu.

"Tell me about the cheese sauce," I say.

"I can't," says Martha. "Family secret. But it's a gravy type of cheese sauce."

Hmm, \$9.50. But so's most everything.

"I'll take it," I say. And when it comes, there's plenty to the original Famous Burrito, stuffed with shredded beef and splurged over with cheese sauce. The sauce is slightly smoky, maybe, and there sure is a lot of it, along with the rice. Not mind-blowing wow, but gut-filling good.

I eat till I can eat no more. And get a box for the rest.

"We have three generations coming in here," says Guillermo, who runs the place with his daughter Lili. They've had it 2 years, but for the first 50, it was run by the family of Alex Monguia, the original owner. "He came from El Paso, Texas," Guillermo says. "We took over their recipes, their cooks, their staff. We're new, but we're still a family."

I get up to pay the backward-facing cashier lady. I guess this is like the original corner Italian trattoria, say the one Olympia Dukakis goes



El Patio, since 1954

into in Moonstruck. (With Cher, remember?) I can just imagine the number of Chula Vistans who did part of their growing up in here. Birthdays, engagement dinners, wakes, the whole enchilada. A ton of emotional attachment.

So don't come here with your fast friends. Come to get embraced by the coziness, to, well...reconcile with your main squeeze. Carla, can we talk? ■

The Place: Restaurant El Patio, 410 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-422-9745

Type of Food: Mexican

**Prices:** Breakfast chilaquiles with egg, frijoles, \$6.95; two eggs with bacon or sausage, \$5.50; El Patio omelet (fluffy eggs, bacon, sausage, bell peppers, onions, tomatoes, with sour cream), \$8.95; flying saucer, half-size, \$8.95 (\$7.95 at lunchtime), full-size, \$12.95; two enchiladas with rice, beans, \$9.50; carne asada burrito (same sides), \$9.50; chile relleno, enchilada, taco combo, \$11.95; lunchtime open-faced chiliburger with fries, \$6.95; beef or chicken tostada

(lunch), \$5.95; two ground-beef enchiladas (lunch), \$7.95 **Hours:** 9:00 a.m.–9:30 p.m. Monday–Thursday (breakfast till 1:00 p.m.); 8:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m. Friday–Saturday; 8:00 a.m.–9:30 p.m. Sunday

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# **Thin Skinned**

"In Hollywood, the big thing is how to say no."
Everybody wants to say no."

y now, most people with even a passing interest in wine have heard of the *Sideways* effect: a movie takes Pinot Noir as a central metaphor for its thin-skinned and temperamental protagonist, and hey presto, Pinot Noir is the "It Grape." But while

the wine industry went gaga, the movie industry seemed content to sip, spit, and move on.

At least, that's how it seemed to Lannette Pabon and Ross Schwartz. Schwartz had registered the first draft of his screenplay for Bottle Shock — a film about the

famed Paris tasting of 1976 — in the middle of 2004, shortly before Sideways was released. "We weren't certain how it would affect our project, recalled Pabon when we spoke. "Ultimately, I think it proved that there was an audience interested in wine." Schwartz disagreed. "In Hollywood, the big thing is how to say no. Everybody wants to say no, so they look for reasons to say no. We ultimately did this film as an indie, but when I first started discussing it in Hollywood, the first response was 'Nobody cares about wine.' Then, after Sideways came out, it was 'All the oxygen about wine has been used up by Sideways. People are not going to want to go to another movie about wine.' So I don't think Sideways really helped us.

But if it didn't help, neither did it slow down their efforts to see the story behind the Paris tast-

ing realized onscreen. I called to Pabon and Schwartz while the couple was attending Sundance, where *Bottle Shock* would be screened and offered up for distribution. A lot had happened to the film since their last direct involvement with

it, including a pretty serious rewrite by the director/producer team of Randall Miller and Jody Savin. But the story began with them — or, more precisely, with Pabon.

"I grew up in Northern California," began Pabon. "I was always into wine, but I'm incred-

ibly competitive. So when I started dating Ross in 1999, I decided to take a class at UCLA Extension."

"I've been into wine since the late '60s, when I went to Berkeley," explained Ross. "I've been driving up to wine country forever. When we got together, Lannette said she wanted to catch up."

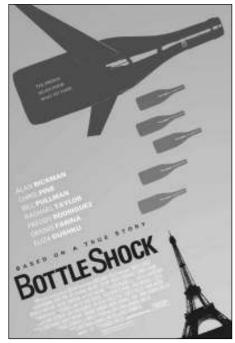
"Right," said Pabon. "There's a 19-year age difference between us, so I felt a little bit behind in my drinking abilities and wine discernment. Ross and I were taking trips to wine regions around the world, but especially to Napa. So I took the class, and it really sparked my curiosity about the history of Napa. The story of the Paris tasting" — when two upstart California wines, a Chateau Montelena Chardonnay and a Stag's Leap Cabernet, beat out some of the top White Burgundies and Red Bordeaux of France in a blind tasting

conducted by French judges — "came up a number of times."

Pabon saw an opportunity. "My generation really doesn't know anything about the birth of Napa — why such world-class wines come out of this region. For me, it was 'Why not? How did we miss this really important competition?' I thought it was a natural underdog story, and I was really driven to tell it." (Plus, in Gustavo Brambilia — then with Montelena — Pabon had a chance to portray the importance of immigrants to California's viticultural glory. "That was really important to me," she said. "Napa was a huge melting pot. People came from all over the world and landed there.")

Schwartz, who had written a few screenplays already, wasn't so sure. "When I first got involved, I thought, 'Who is going to really care? The story has been around for 30 years, and nobody else has told it. There's a reason for that. Who would be interested in a bunch of French people slurping and spitting out wine in a movie?" He started toying with the idea of somehow tying up the story with something else — a murder mystery, perhaps — in order to ratchet up the appeal. Then he met the Barretts of Chateau Montelena.

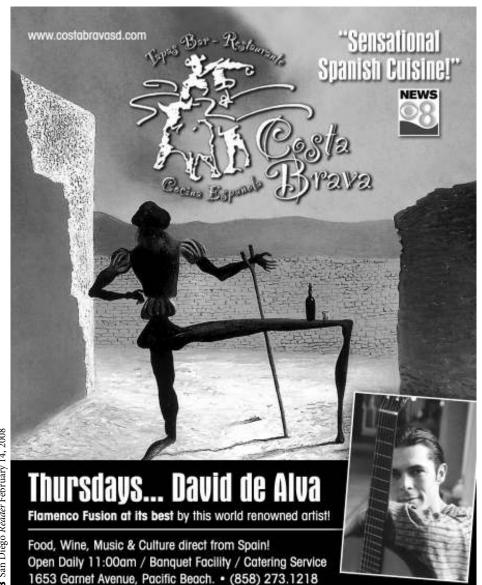
"Before deciding on the story, we decided to go to Napa and interview everybody," said Schwartz. "I remember we were in the middle of a three-hour interview with Jim and Bo Barrett — they're very colorful people, and they have great stories — and Jim pounded the tabled and said, 'I'll tell you what your movie is.' He told us this story about the wine turning brown. If you make a wine with reductive methods — working to keep out oxygen — and you do it too well, it will cause the wine in the bottle to turn brown. In fact, that's what happened to Jim's wine. Before the tasting, he was faced with 500 cases of brown wine, and nobody knew why. It had never hap-



Promotional poster

pened to anybody before, and it was all because it was done too perfectly. He was just miserable." As it happened, the browning was a temporary change. The wine came back from the commercial grave, turned a proper shade of yellow, "and according to Jim, that's the wine that went and won the tasting. A pretty dramatic story" — no murder mystery required.

At that point, Schwartz had a different problem on his hands. "Lannette and I were just boyfriend and girlfriend at the time. I didn't want to get into a situation where we broke up and I







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wouldn't be able to use something I spent a year and a half writing. So I made her sign a deal." (The two have since married.) Pabon got story credit, Schwartz got screenplay — and the title, which came to him late one night as he drove home from a writing group. "It had to be that. It applied to so many layers of the screenplay. Bottle shock is where, if you move wine, it sometimes goes into shock. And this wine had to travel, pretty much lastminute, from the U.S. to France. When we spoke with Warren Winiarski at Stag's Leap, he said that he felt that that was one of the advantages they probably thought they had — that our wine wouldn't show well because of being brought over there. That, and the wines they put up in the contest were older, more mature. So that was one meaning. And then, it shocked them that we won.'

Once the screenplay was finished, it was time to let the studios figure out why they needed to say no. They did their job, but Schwartz persisted and eventually found a home for the project at IPW, an independent production company. IPW landed Miller and Savin; Bill Pullman, Alan Rickman, and Dennis Farina signed on, and hey presto, Schwartz and Pabon needed something they could wear to Sundance.

A few days before heading to Utah, they got their first look at the finished product. "I guess this happens a lot with Sundance," said Schwartz. "You're working on the film up until the last second. It's a very funny story — which we intended and I think Randy Miller captured the tone of what we wanted. He nailed it." Added Pabon, "It was exactly how I had envisioned telling the story. I knew the ending, and I was still rooting for them. It had a really good emotional component that drew you in. It told the immigrant story, the Gustavo story. It accomplished all the things I had envisioned in the very beginning." ■

#### 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

 ${\bf San Die go Reader. com.} \ {\it Price}$ 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

Azul La Jolla 1250 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-454-9616. The flagship of the local Brigantine chain serves ambitious Japanese-influenced, California-global fusion cuisine on a daily changing menu in a room with a panoramic ocean view. But you need not stuff your shirt to dine - garb runs to resort-casual and the atmosphere is family friendly. There's even a low-priced kiddie menu. The wine list is friendly, too, with merciful markups and plenty by the glass and half-bottle. Full bar. Short staircase down to restaurant; elevator to the right of en-try (ask for directions for wheelchair access when calling to reserve). Valet parking. Very noisy. One vegetarian entrée, but all food restrictions accommodated to order. Lunch Tuesday through Sat-

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Bare Back Grill 4640 Mission Boule vard, Pacific Beach, 858-274-7117. This may be the first New Zealand food place in town, but that's not what keeps the customers coming in. It's BBG's claim that most of their meat is certified organic. The owners guarantee hormone-free beef and lamb, both from New Zealand. So, what to eat? Burgers, burgers, burgers — all kinds — from Prime NZ Angus to lamb burgers with wasabi dip. They also offer chicken. Decor inside is strictly Kiwiland, from the all-black rugby shirt on the wall to the declaration of food principles. People who had given up on hormone-treated meat are coming here for their first burger in years. Open seven days, 11 a.m. to 11

p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B.

urday, dinner nightly, Sunday brunch. Very expensive. — *N.W.* 

Broken Yolk Cafe 1851 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-270-9655. Breakfasting PBers love this place for three reasons: its sundeck, its 26 different four-egg omelets (which you can split with your partner, no extra charge), and the challenge of omelet #27. This dozen-egg "Broken Yolk Cafe Special" comes stuffed with a mountain of mushrooms, onion, cheese, chili, plus home fries and biscuits. If you can down it in an hour, pay nothing — you've got huevos. If you can't, the yolk's on you— \$19.99. My advice: split a 4-egger. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Bully's La Jolla 5755 La Jolla Boulevard, La Jolla, 858-459-2768. Despite the plasma TV sports screen, this place is

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very sixties. For example, dark, woody, plush red booths. And always crowded. Word is, they serve more prime rib with au jus and horseradish than any eatery in San Diego. The "Petite Cut" 8 ounce, their smallest, fills you plenty, with its baked potato and salad. But just once, come here with your main squeeze and order up the "full cut for two." It hangs ten over the edges. Or go bonkers and order the 32-ounce cut (available in Mission Valley) — just to watch your neighbors' eyes bug out. Not flush? Try the "Bully Burger," French Dip sandwich, or calamari sandwich. Lonely? Go to the horseshoe-shaped Low Bar. Lunch and dinner daily. — E.W.

C-Level 880 Harbor Island Drive, Downtown, 619-298-6802, California-Mediterranean comfort food with a



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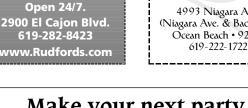
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# Calendar RESTAURANTS

Southern Low Country accent from Chef Deborah Scott; same menu lunch and dinner. Alas, the restaurant's name also gives away its grade — the food's okay but not spectacular, although the gorgeous heated patio at the edge of the bay does plenty to sweeten the pot. Your visiting aunt will swoon over the view and enjoy the food. Vast wine list with plenty by the glass, wide range of prices but some steep markups; good beer list. Full bar with creative cocktails. Ample free parking. No reservations except for large parties. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate to expensive. — N.W.

Fairouz Café and Gallery 3166 Midway Drive, Point Loma, 619-225-0308. Seek out this family-owned-and-operated restaurant for wonderful Lebanese and Greek food. The owner, a noted artist, displays his paintings on the dining room walls. The extensive menu offers excellent lamb, stuffed grape leaves, and a wide selection of exotic vegetarian meals. Copious all-you-can-eat buffet available at lunch or dinner in addition to the regular menu. Given 24 hours, this café will prepare an astonishing Lebanese feast at low cost. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate. — E.W.

The Fishery 5040 Cass Street, Pacific Beach, 858-272-9985. Pacific Shellfish Seafood Company founder Judd Brown got his start as a commercial fisherman. He doesn't fish anymore, but he does everything else — supplying product to top-tier restaurants, retailing glistening specimens to hungry shoppers and serving patrons who want to dine in amid the icy-blue walls and gorgeous trophy fish. The Fishery's menu is equally extensive, covering SoCal basics (excellent mahimahi burrito), lunchtime standards (sandwiches, fine malt-dredged fish and

chips), sushi, and an ambitious lineup of dinnertime entrees, some of them whimsically creative (tortilla-encrusted Mexican black bass). If ambition occasionally outstrips execution, an obsession with freshness helps compensate, and you get the sense that things are getting better all the time. The wine list is relatively inexpensive and carefully selected. Casual atmosphere. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate to expensive. — A.M.

Great Moon Buffet 1840 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-273-6868. This is one of the classier Chinese all-you-can-eat buffets in town. They boast a glittering chandelier hanging in the octagonal entrance, plus over 150 items daily. Certainly they have great surf-n-turf, like prime rib and jumbo shrimp or mayonnaise mussels. Or Japanese charcoalgrilled eel with sesame seeds on rice (unagi-zushi). It tastes salty yet caramely too. Eel-icious. Or Chinese baked crab meat on crab shell. Add crab legs, and maybe some roast duck. Cramming? Feast today, fast tomorrow. Dessert fruits include loquats, pineapple, peach, longan. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — E.B.

JRDN 723 Felspar Street, Pacific Beach, 858-270-5736. It's a day at the beach: Befitting a restaurant digging its feet into the sand, the food here is fresh, fun, and unfussy, featuring sustainable seafood, natural meats (including truly tasty spice-rubbed steaks), organic/local produce, and a separate sushi bar. The dishes cover the waterfront, ranging from mac 'n' cheese to die for to a sexy, fruited gaz-pacho to swoon over. The chic interior, relaxed atmosphere, and great grazing draw an exuberant, youngish crowd. Creative cocktails are part of the charm, along with a venturesome wine list with plenty by the glass. Tables (reservable) on the heated beachfront patio could easily become a summertime lifestyle. Validated valet parking. Just one lacto-vegetarian entrée, but vegetable sides plus salads fill in amply. Bread available by request only. Lunch weekdays, brunch

ious lineup weekends, dinner nightly. Entrées expensive. — N.W.

--encrusted Kabuki Sushi Restaurant 4475 Mis-

sion Boulevard, Pacific Beach, 858-270-1986. This place has a unique system of delivering tempting dishes to you via boats floating along a mini-canal that surrounds the sushi bar. You take food off and pay according to the plate size. The sushi chefs—they can be a show in themselves—have the usual panoply of sushi, sashimi, nigiri. The dragon rolls (crab, shrimp tempura, eel, avocado) and spider roll (soft-shelled crab) are tasty too. It's young and crowded here—is that because you don't have to sweat the menu, just grab what you like off the boat and chew? Open for lunch and dinner Tuesday to Saturday; dinner only Sunday; closed Monday. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

**Karinya Thai** 4475 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach, 858-270-5050. Think of the movie *The Beach*, with a bunch of Leo DiCaprio look-alikes getting off on the coconut curries like gang ped, panang, and kang kari. Or noodle dishes like the famous *pad thai*. But they're in the right place: Karinya remains true to its Thai origins. The tom yum kung (hot and sour shrimp soup) is a meal in itself. Steaming away with its fierce little charcoal fire at your table, the hot pot holds plenty of shrimp, and you can taste the essential mushrooms, lemon grass, ginger, lime juice, cilantro, and of course nam pla, Thai fish sauce. A nice counterpart to the hots of the soup are the Fresh Spring Rolls, filled with tofu and vegetables and mint. Another sizzler: pad talay, a saute pan full of mussels, shrimp, squid, and other seafood in a great spicy sauce. The recipe's from Koh Samed, an island like the one featured in The Beach. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

La Jolla Brew House 7536 Fay Avenue, La Jolla, 858-456-6279. Don't expect to see the beach. Do expect to taste some good beers made right here and good solid food, such as the prime rib sandwich (which goes great with their Russian Stout) or the roasted potato. Or

maybe best of all, the buffalo burger — big, hefty, and low on cholesterol. You'd call this a family, multi-generational sports bar eatery. Nice mix. It's La Jolla, so it's not dirt cheap, but the guys here seem really interested in making interesting brews and good food to accompany them. Open for dinner seven days lunch Tuesday through Sunday. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

Mardi Gras Café 3185 Midway Drive, Point Loma, 619-223-5501. The Creole cooking at this café/grocery, to eat in, take out, or have catered for your next party, is sound and tasty, if deliberately underseasoned (just add salt and hot sauce to taste). You can also buy the real and rare ingredients from the freezer, deli case, and grocery shelves, including Cajun tasso (spiced ham), boudin blanc (rice sausage), and crawfish sausage when it's in season. Daily brunch through early dinner. No alcohol, everything available for takeout. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Michele Coulon Pastries 7556-D Fay Avenue, La Jolla, 858-456-5098. The daughter of Don Coulon (retired chefowner of The Belgian Lion restaurant) presides at this delightful little cafe/bakery. (Look for it behind the octagonal sandwich shop that fronts its mini-mall.) Every ingredient is fresh and of top quality. Cakes are light, moist, rich, and available as wholes, slices, and even "miniatures," plus you can choose tarts, chocolates, ice creams, and breakfast pastries. Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Moderate. — N.W.

The Pannikin La Jolla 7467 Girard Avenue, La Jolla, 858-454-5453. Also in Del Mar and in Encinitas. Oh, sure, the inside of this converted bungalow is cool, with its woody-green tables of different heights and cool damsels with animal temp-tattoos on their arms serving you. But here at Pannikin's La Jolla outpost, the outside's the "in" spot, with its brick and earth tones and weathered timber and sixties rainbow tables. But you have to make it through the laptop-clacking, cell phone-blabbing crowd who use this

as their garden office and Very Important Meeting spot. Musicians, grad students, and school kids also show up to munch twigs and nuts and think serious thoughts. Breakfasts are mostly steamedegg variations, including the popular Greek eggs and a filling breakfast burrito. For lunch, a mild chicken curry is a nutty treat, and "pannwiches" such as ham or tuna are fresh, generous, and worthy, though the retros among us will be looking for a salt lick all the way home. La Jolla and Del Mar three meals daily, Encinitas breakfast and lunch only. Inexpensive. — E.B.

People's Organic Foods Co-op **Deli** 4765 Voltaire Street, Ocean Beach 619-224-1387. This is the land of "organic," "cruelty-free," "environmentally afe," "shade-grown." Vegan Country. People look either disgustingly healthy, disturbingly pasty, or just plain smug. But the food tastes pretty good. And they sell it by the pound so you can mix and match. 'Course, you have to learn new words, like tempeh (cultured soy which can be made to taste like anything). And dishes have a sensible momsy East Coast feel — garlic eggplant with beet root and onions, tempeh loaf, sweet squash and rice, millet spinach bake, shepherd's pie, "mango madness," tempeh sausage steamed vegetables, vegan macaroni and cheese. Bottom line: it's guilt-free. Open seven days, breakfast, lunch, dinner ("serious" breakfasts daily except Tuesday and Thursday). Inexpensive. — E.B.

Saska's Sushi 3768 Mission Boule vard, Mission Beach, 858-488-7311. Venerable, local steak-and-seafood joint that tries harder, from the broth-thin homemade teriyaki sauce (sweet up front, fading to bitter ginger) for the well-cooked (if mild-flavored) fish to the cuton-the-premises aged beef. The interior's low wood-slat ceilings, driftwood beams, dim light, and red leather booths combine with the stay-up-late kitchen to make the space feel like a cozy haven, a respite from the brighter buzz of Mission Beach. The wine list runs the gamut from Cook's sparkling wine to Cristal champagne, stopping along the way at an interesting (if expensive) collection of reserves. Next door is the restaurant's serviceable sushi bar (858-488-7255) and two-story patio dining. Lunch weekdays, brunch and lunch weekends; dinner seven days. Sushi bar open nightly, 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Moderate. — A.M.

**Sky Room** 1132 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-454-0771. The stunning ocean view offers three essentials for a memorable evening: privacy, intimacy, and the ability to talk without the interruption of noise. The food is a feast to the eyes as well as the palate. Best bets: abalone and scallop steak appetizer, the daily soup, diver scallops, and lobster. Dinner only, with two seatings on weekends. Very expensive. — *E.W.* 

**Sportsmen's Seafoods** 1617 Quivira Road, Mission Beach, 619-224-3551. Fifty years ago this restaurant-fish market was a tuna cannery, part of San Diego's late-lamented fishing industry. The same Sicilian family still owns it, and still knows everything about fish and how to cook it. The menu is devoted to the "fruits of the sea" and includes a wonderful seafood platter (shrimp, squid, clams, fish, fries, and salad). And, of course, a crispy-crunchy fish-and-chips platter. Eat outside on deck, contemplating the small ships on the bay. They buy seasonal catch from local fish-boats and also sell it at their attached retail market. They're famous for smoking fish for the fishermen. Open daily, lunch/early dinner. Retail market closed Monday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

World Famous 711 Pacific Beach Drive, Pacific Beach, 858-272-3100. World Famous is as on-the-beach as it gets, right on PB's boardwalk. It has a covered porch, a side-slung patio, and low-slung ceilings, so everything feels intimate. You sit at varnished inlaid wooden tables with lots of diagonal timbering and sexy blue lighting. It's often crowded and noisy. Who's gonna be picky here? You, when you're paying twenty-some bucks for a steak. On the other hand, the prime rib, surf-n-turf, and tournedos will fill you fine. If you want to beat the big prices, try the beach burger or a seared ahi Caesar salad. The view is free. Breakfast and lunch inexpensive; dinners moderate to expensive. Open daily. — E.B.

#### BAJA

From the United States use the prefix 011-52 when calling Mexico.

Big Boy Restaurant 9892 Agua Caliente Boulevard, Baja, 664-686-3788. Besides having excellent Mexican-American food, this Big Boy knock-off draws some of the most interesting people in Tijuana — journalists, lawvers, cattle ranchers, politicians, Baja's heavy hitters. Day or night, Big Boy is always busy. Gringo food's no problem. Breakfast includes eggs, bacon, sausage, chorizo or ham, plus hash browns or frijoles, toast, juice, and endless coffee. Nobody will object if you sit sipping the free refills till the moon comes up. But you won't you'll crack and order more when you smell the popular, macho "royal" hamburger, with two beef patties, smoked ham, onions, lettuce, tomatoes, fries, and salad. Or the chicken breast marinated in tequila with cilantro, guacamole, and beans. Vegetarian upon request. Open 24/7. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* 

Café la Especial Avenida Revolución #718 (down the market steps), Baja, 664-685-6654. Café la Especial was once a great favorite of American aficionados of Tijuana's bullfights at the old downtown Plaza de Toros. Summer Sundays, fans would crowd into the café to chow down before the fights or rush back afterwards for a few drinks and a hearty meal. Inside, little has changed, not even the 50-50 locals-to-gringos ratio. Food is standard Mexican/American border fare, from tacos and tamales to carne asada









and bistek ranchero, from cactus and eggs to steak and eggs. Vegetarian upon request. But the atmosphere is the real draw: the low ceiling, varnished wood, black furniture with flowers painted up and down the legs and portraits on the backs, and lots of murals of Mexico on the walls. Owner Humberto Brambila's aunt Justina started it all, he says, in 1948, with the steamed taco stand upstairs. That's still going too. Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate.— *E.B.* 

El Faro de Mazatlán Boulevard Sanchez Taboada #9542, Plaza Financiera, Baja, 664-684-8882. We're talking safe, reliable, middle-class fish fare here. The "Lighthouse of Mazatlán" is bright, blue, and white with smart varnished wood furniture and delivers fish, lobster, oyster, squid, and shrimp dishes that are easy to like. Generous free appetizers include marlin ceviche, fried fish, and fish albóndigas soup. The interesting part is in trying dishes like the sea snail salad. (After a few closed-eve bites, it's delicious - like eating a sliced clam. It's great in a Caesar.) Look for original ways with octopus, *pez espada* (swordfish) and others. One of the simplest, best dishes: the cabicucho (Mexican sea bass), charbroiled but moist and really better without its ranchero sauce. Vegetarian upon request. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Moderate. — E.B.

Malecón de Puerto Nuevo Calle Entrada, Baja. Northwest edge of Puerto Nuevo; take Calle Entrada (entry road) to the ocean-front bluff, edge right, and walk about 30 feet down a steep dirt road running seaward from the street-mar-ket on the oceanside edge of town. Look for a yellow building with blue trim and a terrace with umbrellas. Worth looking for. This great, honest little restaurant harks back to the original, uncommercialized "lobster village" before it got its

since August, 2002, it's owned by an active fisherman, who serves (as much as weather permits) fresh-caught local lob-sters and genuine "daily catch" with standard sides — superb frijoles, red rice, real melted butter — and that's all. The first-course ceviche, when available, is astonishingly flavorful with fish caught that very morning; in harsher weather, a hearty, warming fish chowder substitutes. Breaking from Puerto Nuevo tradition, when the lobster is fresh caught it's simply split and grilled, not lard-fried first, and all the better for it. Some staffers are bilingual. Open brunch through dinner. No reservations, cash only. Low moderate. — N.W.

Mariscos el Locochón Popotla Fishing Village, Baja. Five minutes south of Rosarito Beach (non-toll road), in Popotla fishing village, on dirt road next to Fox studios. There are smarter places to eat, like Puerto Nuevo. Even in Popotla, most other eateries look more like, well, eateries. The thing about Pedro Garcia Barcelo and El Locochón is that they are what they are. His fishermen friends hand him fish straight off the boats, he sells them on a table in the sand, and if you so desire, he'll toss one into a pan of oil on a wood fire, fry a couple of corn tortillas, add cilantrotomatoes, radishes, fried cebollitas (green onions), and presto! He'll hand you your freshest fish taco ever. Work out a price with him. He's there every day till dusk. Inexpensive. — E.B.

**Mr. Fish** Boulevard Agua Caliente #6000, Baja, 664-686-3603. The sign is showing its age and the concept (exotic middle-class restaurant in the middle of a parking lot) seems dated, but two-decade-old Mr. Fish is still serving good fish food. Ask for the Spanish-language menu if you can handle it — it's far more extensive than its poor English cousin. Sit outside under the palm thatch if weather

permits. All the basic dishes are good, like octopus in white wine, Lucifer's Oysters with white sauce and smoky chipo tle chiles, or the Mr. Fish Combination: half a lobster, fish, shrimp, and calamari. Probably the most popular gringo choice is mahi mahi in lemon-pepper sauce, but consider ordering with salsa eneldo dill sauce. Also interesting: seafood fet-tuccine "a la Gorvachov" (with vodka) and anything (such as the lobster Mr. Fish or thermidor) with the signature salsa blanca. It'll remind you of something (could it be Rubio's?). Open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days. Moderate. -

#### CENTRAL

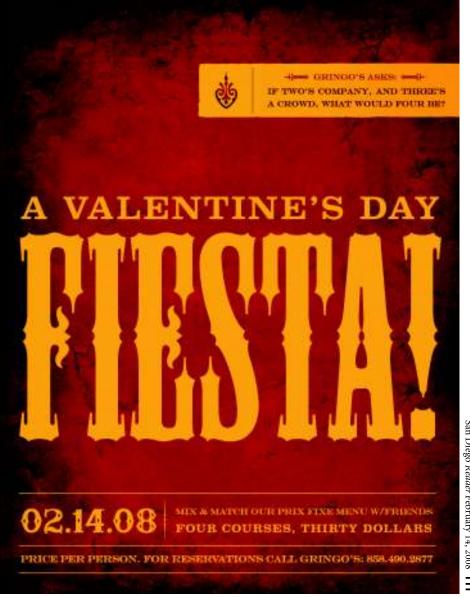
4.0 Deli 5844 Montezuma Road, College Area, 619-281-4040. This lowceilinged, dark, student sandwich hangout gets the frat house crowd, luring them in with draft beers and big Buds that go for a song. Pitchers too, if you buy sandwiches with them, and the sandwiches are no dull lunch-counter fare. Try the Montezuma, a toasted sub with grilled chicken cutlets, chorizo, Mon-terey Jack, and a "kick-butt southwestern dressing." Or Grilled Rivas, named after a much-loved Colombian who worked here: grilled turkey, Monterey Jack, grilled onions, and peppers. Check specials like the Buffalo Bleu, with grilled roast beef, bacon, red onions, bleu cheese, and Tabasco. The owners had a full-scale deli in New York, so this range is no surprise. Open Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday to 5 p.m., Sunday closed. Inexpensive. *E.B.* 

Alambre's Mexican Grill 756 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-2838. Surprise: this place strives to be inexpensive,









like a Mexico City café-bar, where you hang out to watch soccer or talk over the night at two in the morning. They keep the kitchen open till the wee hours. Breakfasts are decent workaday deals, like the burrito stuffed with chorizo, spuds, and eggs. Try the interesting chicharon de queso that looks like a foot-long golden scroll, and watch for the impulse-cooked teaser plates like cebollitas, small grilled onions in Maggie's sauce. Specialty is the namesake Alambres Mexico City-style taco, usually meat or fish plus bell peppers, onions, and ba-con. Open 9 a.m. to 3 a.m. daily. Inex-pensive. — *E.B.* 

**Apertivo** 3926 30th Street, North Park, 619-297-7799. This wine bar-bistro offers iItalian tapasi of simple Italian classics lightened up and scaled down to medium-size portions — about the size you probably eat at home. All the condiments are on the table, so you can season or cheese your food to taste as you go instead of having a waiter waft them before you've lifted a fork. Good dishes include prosciutto-wrapped shrimp, eggplant rollatini, and for dessert, an airy lemon cheesecake mousse. Parking via alley 1/2-block west. No reservations, but for weeknight large groups, call ahead. Weekends, arrive very early or late or expect a wait. Call-in/take-out food orders okay. Check chalkboard on sidewalk for specials. Plenty for vegetarians and veg-ans. Sound level: roaring. Dinner Tuesday through Sunday (weekends until 11 p.m.). Inexpensive.

Arrivederci 3845 Fourth Street, Hillcrest, 619-299-6282. However you picture an idealized Italian restaurant sprawling café; on the strada or little cozy corner as in *Moonstruck* — somehow Arrividerci is it. The straight-from-Rome look of the crowded sidewalk deck and yellow-and white-awning helps. The menu is a big yet familiar regional potpourri. Reliable standards include *vitello* bel monte (veal in a brandy cream sauce with tomatoes), "straw and hay" (paglio

e fieno al pesto), pale yellow-and-green pasta with string beans and pine nuts in a delicious pesto sauce, or shellfish pasta dishes like linguine *mediterraneo*, with clams, mussels, and big garlicky shrimp. Part of the fun is bumping chairs. Think dining car on a narrow-gauge railroad — you're that close to the next table. Lunch and dinner daily. Moderate.

Basic Urban Kitchen and Bar 410 Tenth Avenue, Downtown, 619-531-8869. The whole bricky, post-industrial thing that rules the Gaslamp really works here. This ex-horse carriage repair shop is one cool hangout, left as is except for a "relaxing room" that divides the two eating/drinking areas by a metal-coil curtain and "rugs" made of old inner tube strips. But what really defines Basic is Connecticut, the state that - who knew? gave us the pizza. Direct from New Haven comes the "thinnest pizza in the country," according to the owners. Try the mashed potato pizza with cheese melted on top, bacon, and red peppers, or the Little Neck clams. Open 11:30 a.m. to 2 a.m. daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Batter Up! 342 Euclid Avenue, Southeast San Diego, 619-262-3333. Chefowner Mel Johnson was one of the founders of the Gaslamp's late, great Juke Joint Café. The food he serves at Batter Up! is less ambitious (so far) — but talent will tell. The food at this friendly, casual sports bar (about ten minutes from Petco via the 94) may be pub grub, but the cooking is serious. Fried fish, fried shrimp, thick sandwiches, and juicy Certified Angus burgers with creative dress ings are well above the norm. Free parking in large lot patrolled by security guards. First-timers should request sauces (especially the house hot sauce) on the side until you know whether you like them. Fairly noisy inside (depending on what's on TV); quiet patio outside. Open daily, lunch and dinner, with early closing Sundays. Inexpensive.

**Bay Café** 1050 North Harbor Drive, Downtown, 619-595-1083. If you're hungry at the city ferry landing, you can eat in the bare-bones interior or take your tray upstairs to a handsome bayview terrace (with no wheelchair access). After a chilly crossing, try the enjoyable New England-style clam chowder, which is milky, clean, and not

over-thickened, with tender clams and tiny diced potatoes. The menu features breakfast dishes, burgers, sandwiches (all served with generic fries), variations on fish and chips including prawns, plus some entrée salads. The burgers are genuinely "have it your way" — for a few extra cents each, the kitchen will add extra ingredients (Jack or Cheddar, mushrooms, grilled onions, bacon, jalapeño). Open daily, 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Inexpensive. — *N.W.* 

Bertrand at Mister A's 2550 Fifth Avenue, 12th floor, Hillcrest, 619-239-1377. Bertrand Hug's airy, open renovation of this formerly "ancient regime" eatery offers a fabled panoramic city view with a casual-chic, highly romantic ambience. Chef Stephane Voitzwinkler's modern French cuisine is a fine fit for the setting, including bistro classics and fresh inventions, emphasizing top-grade seasonal ingredients. A huge, intelligent wine list covers a full range of prices, ages, and origins, including "ripe" firstgrowth Bordeaux. Smoking and fairweather dining on wraparound terrace/observation deck. Note: parking entrance on Fourth Avenue; wheelchair access via ramp to left of reception desk. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Expensive. — N. W.

Blue Point 565 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-6623. In a handsome, plushy dining room, pristine seafood and Prime-grade steaks and chops are featured in well-focused preparations highlighting Pacific Rim and Mediterranean flavors. A fine lobster bisque includes plenty of lobster, and crab-stuffed trout and dayboat scallops are among the highlights of the menu. But at this conventioneers' favorite, be sure to specify the doneness you prefer, especially for fish, which defaults to well-done. Valet parking onsite, or inexpensive self-parking one block east at Park It On Market. Large sidewalk dining patio. Business-casual dress looks best here. Reservations urged. Dinner nightly. -

Buca di Beppo — Downtown 705 Sixth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-7272. People come here to celebrate, in party droves, by gobbling huge plates of "themed" Italian. Bucca di Beppo ("Joe's Cellar") is a mighty national chain -

but it works. Downtown's rabbit warren of low-ceilinged dining rooms is plastered with Italian photos (check out Sophia Loren, transfixed by Jane Mansfield's breasts) and crowded with customers chowing down from portions large enough to feed two or more. Try the penne arrabiata with its spicy sausage or the popular chicken parmigiana. Standard stuff, but what the heck — you're having fun. Don't leave without conquering the mountainous, wicked Bella Festa, two huge balls of ice cream on double chocolate cakes running with sambuca sauce, caramel, and nuts on an 18-inch plate. Open for lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive to moderate. -

**Busalacchi's Ristorante 3683 Fifth** Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-298-0119. Remember Olympia Dukakis in *Moon*struck retreating for comfort to her local trattoria? Busalacchi's has that settled, warm feel, but it's more interesting. Multi-levels create nooks and crannies for *liaisons dangereuses*, or there's the streetside casual level. Niche fountains and faux marble columns make it feel old-fashioned. Being Sicilian, they have plenty of the tomato-sauce-dominated dishes (like *torta di melanzana*, eggplant lavered with mozzarella). But also try the excellent calamari piccata, a calamari 'steak" bathed in butter, mushrooms lemon, capers, and white wine. Simple but delish. Or salads like insalata di fileto with filet mignon, goat cheese, walnuts, eggs, and arugula. And hey, if you want to keep the budget intact, nothing wrong with spaghetti della casa. Lunch Monday through Friday; dinner nightly. Moderate to expensive. — E.B.

Café Pacifica 2414 San Diego Avenue, Old Town, 619-291-6666. The fare here is mainly very fresh seafood, either fusioned up and somewhat chancy, or grilled simply and reliably excellent. Among the highlights are a clean-limned clam chowder, some amusing yellowfinstuffed wontons, crab-stuffed portobello mushrooms, and luscious mustardcrusted Oregon catfish. On the downside, Mexican pink abalone are tiny, over-breaded, and overpriced. Several good grilled meats are available for fishscorners. Optional valet parking \$5. Wheelchair lot and ramp behind restaurant (ask valet to direct you). Often very noisy. Serious, rather steep California wine list; full bar. Daily, dinner only. Upper moderate to expensive. — N.W.

Café Zia 6686 El Cajon Boulevard, College Area, 619-337-3937. South Asia meets Mexico! Khaled Zia had the brilliant idea of combining wraps with chicken and South Asia's great gift to the world: chutney — mango chutney, papaya chutney, peach, apple, even a serrano chili pepper chutney. The combo works with them all. As soon as you smell the chicken strips hissing away on the grills, you're hooked. Then when they come smothered in peach or mango chutney, or cooling yogurt, along with sweet-sauced potatoes, what can you do? Do as half of San Diego State does: just say yes. Open daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

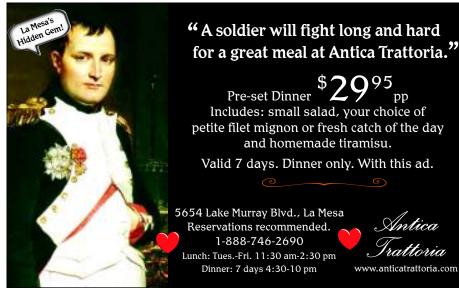
Candelas 416 Third Avenue, Downtown, 619-702-4455. Don't look for tacos here — chef Eduardo Baeza specializes in *alta cocina*, a luxurious, inventive combination of traditional Mexican fare and French techniques. In a handsome Spanish-style dining room (romantic but rather noisy) with gracious service, the menu emphasizes seafood, including a signature dish of luscious stuffed Maine lobster. Plenty for meat lovers, too, with fine Black Angus cuts inventively garnished. But the menu and ingredients have been somewhat compromised over the years to accommodate the "Dude, where's my taco?" conventioneers. The choices are more Dude-friendly - that is, less venture some than they might be, and execution can be uneven. In the lounge at 10 p.m. on weekends, the music cranks up and the scene goes disco (with a cover charge for non-diners; IDs checked). Reservations advised, required on weekends; slightly dressy. Dinner nightly until 11 p.m. Interesting but expensive wine list; food expensive or higher. — *N.W.* 

Cantina Mayahuel 2934 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-283-6292. Here, vou're in a Latino-chic world, but don't be afraid to order simple things, like shrimp or beef tacos. Larry Auman the owner-chef-artist, makes you feel you're in Mexico City or Veracruz with his masks and yellow-wash walls and those awesome, interesting tacos. The Caesar salad is wonderful, too. Try it with

mahi mahi or shrimp. Also look for specials like chili Colorado (slow-cooked beef) or Yucatan seafood stew with salsa habañero, and ginger on black beans and rice. For all the folk-industrial glamour, we're talking Latin-American comfort food. This cantina is what San Diego should be: bicultural. Bring both languages. Open noon to 10 p.m.; closed Monday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* 

Dakota Grill and Spirits 901 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-234-5554. The name may hint at cowboy cooking, but look for simple mid-American comfort food at one of the many local eateries under the Cohn Restaurant Group aegis. A typical entree includes a hunk of red (or "the other white") meat cooked on a wood-fired grill, smeared with a precooked sauce that, for better or worse, first meets its mate on the plate. Meatavoiders will find fish and poultry dishes, too. Tasty taters but dull veggies come with most entrees. Desserts run to fruity favorites like cobblers, crisps, and upside-down cake. Treats from the wide ranging beverage list include three-glass wine flights in four styles of wine, and a pleasant house brew, Dakota Pale Ale, that suits the food. The two-floor restaurant offers big plush booths, tall windowed walls, and a piano player gliding from rinky-dink 1950s pop to Fats Waller stylings and Ellingtonian riffs. Valet parking. Full bar. Lunch weekdays; dinner nightly. High moderate to expensive. — N.W.

**Darband Fifth Avenue Grill** 1556 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-230-1001 Darband is named after an exotic mountain resort north of Tehran. Quite a contrast to this sloping office-and-car-park strip of Fifth. Lunchtimes, office workers fill the tables. Evenings feel more, well, Persian. It's mostly men, some playing backgammon, talking, arguing, laughing. With all the Farsi flying round, it feels like a local café back in Tehran. Food is good, fresh, regular Persian. "Khoresh Bademjan" is a tasty baby eggplant and beef stew. "Barg" is a safe bet, too — marinated beef tenderloin with rice. So is the vegetarian plate, though the veggie wrap's cheaper. Of course, kabobs star, as do yogurt-y, cu cumber-y, minty flavors. Open lunch





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and dinner; closed Sunday. Inexpensive.

DeMedici 815 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-702-7228. This lovely, creamand-sepia dining room evokes an Italian Renaissance villa, while its sidewalk patio offers a prime pageant of Gaslamp follies. Either way, you'll enjoy exceptional service - attentive but utterly unobtrusive — and a menu centered on succulent pastas and refined seafood dishes. The nightly specials and the waiter's recommendations for the freshest catch will lead you to the evening's best entrées. Fish dishes are exquisite and anything with calamari (fresh local catch) is worth ordering; Atlantic shell-fish, though, tend to be a tad overcooked. Reserve, and dress on the spiffier side some Hollywood celebs hang their Borsalinos here, upping the clothing curve. Dinner 5 p.m.to 11 p.m. weekdays, 5 p.m. to midnight weekends. Valet parking available. Moderate (simpler pastas) to very expensive. - N.W.

**Dublin Square** 554 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-239-5818. The entire pub was hand-crafted in Waterford, shipped over, and installed (by Irish craftsmen) in the Gaslamp. The exterior indeed resembles a real (but very new) Dublin pub; the interior has authenti-cally dim lighting and spirited Irish music, including live bands (acoustic but loud) during happy hours and some evenings. If you're looking for food, too, there's a fine corned beef and cabbage, resembling the corned beef of Katz's Deli on the Lower East Side — it's that wee touch o' the garlic that does the trick. Other choices include Guinness beef stew, shepherd's pie (made with ground beef), steaks, lamb medallion, fish and chips, and grilled fish, plus standard pub grub. Lunch and dinner (including Irish breakfast anytime) daily. Moderate.

Extraordinary Desserts — Hill**crest** 2929 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-294-2132. Patrons looking for a quiet dessert still cling to the original charming cottage near Balboa Park. Those wanting more of a meal head for the newer Little Italy location, a vast, noisy space with industrial-chic decor and a menu of eclectic small plates - mezze spreads, bruschettas, sandwiches, and

cheese plates. Flavors tend to be intense; some creations (such as a bacon-cured salmon sandwich and *pantelleria*, a celery-date spread) are wonderful, others are exhausting even in small portions. Both locations offer pastry cases full of desserts that live up to "extraordinary," to eat on-site or to take home. Chefowner Karen Krasne incorporates fla-vors inspired by the global reach of her travels, from the cooking schools of Paris to the rice fields of Bali. The white cakes are food for angels. Wines (including champagnes), beers, fruit elixirs. Vegetarian-friendly menu. Both locations open seven days, three meals. Uptown location desserts only, all day. Moder-

The Fish Market 750 North Harbor Drive, Downtown, 619-232-3474. There's something fishy about these crowded, noisy, ever-multiplying restaurants - namely, mesquite-grilled, skewered, steamed, or panko-fried seafood plus piscine chowders, pastas, and salads Preparations are generally simple and consistent among locations. All the raw seafood is processed at the chain's Northern California facilities, so when the menu refers to a "local" species it merely means it's from somewhere in the Pacific. Small retail fish market in the downtown branch offers slightly fresher products than at most supermarkets. Identical products and dishes are served in the dining room, the oyster bar, and at Top of the Market. But the sushi bar is emphatically the top Fish Market venue, with just-right rice, pristine seafood, and expert preparation. The "Ichiban Hamachi" (also available in the dining rooms) is outstanding. No reservations, but the space is vast so waits are brief. Restaurant open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate to expensive. Also in Del Mar at 640 Via de la Valle, 858-755-2277; mini-branch near Fashion Valley, 2401 Fenton Parkway, 619-280-2277. -

George's on Fifth 835 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-702-0444. This steak-house is in a historic building that was once a hangout of Wyatt Earp — it now boasts faux-Victorian decor and amusing wall art. Formerly Roger's on Fifth, it was owned by former mayor-felon Roger Hedgecock; now Roger's rabbited and left it to his partner George Harrington. It's still wildly popular with conventioneers on expense accounts. The menu offers Prime and ultra-Prime steaks, some of it at jaw-dropping prices
— although entrées do include free vegetables. Ask for sauces on the side unless you like them thick and heavy. Some of the best items are non-beef: the cold seafood appetizers ("lobster martini," oysters, tuna tartare) and a juicy grilled pork chop. Good range of wines at normal to slightly high markups; full bar. Valet parking; cheaper lot through alley next to restaurant. Dinner nightly. Expensive to extreme. — N.W.

Harbor House 831 West Harbor Drive, Downtown, 619-232-1141. This two-story Midwesterner-friendly eatery caters mainly to tourist families and conventioneers, but the upstairs Oyster Bar is a pretty spot to chill out and watch the sailboats over a good margarita and a plateful of iced bivalves. Upstairs preparations tend toward simple American coastal dishes; the menu includes more appetizers and the drinks include artisan beers. The downstairs main dining room features more old-fashioned "haute" preparations and has a longer wine list but no view. All foods and  $drinks \, from \, both \, venues \, are \, available \, by \,$ request on both floors (but not all servers know this). Parking free with validation for two hours. Reservations strongly advised for after 6:15 p.m. any evening. Accessible via elevator from main dining room, with entrance on the park (south) side of the building. Lunch and dinner daily upstairs; dinner only downstairs. Moderate to expensive. - N.W.

Hawthorn's Restaurant 2895 University Avenue, North Park, 619-544 0940. When this long-standing Banker's Hill restaurant moved to spiffy (if quite noisy) new digs here, the change proved positive in every way. Menu choices are now fewer but better, with superior ingredients including varied and seasonal locally grown vegetables matched to the individual entrees. The kitchen now does more from scratch, and you can taste all these improvements on the plate. The fare is Mediterranean-American with Mexican touches. Most desserts outsourced. Wide-ranging wine list, full bar, corkage a reasonable \$15. Reservations recommended, especially on weekends. Expensive. — N. W.

Jyoti Bihanga 3351 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-282-4116. Oh sure, you'll be watching Sri Chinmoy, the Bengali guru, on TV juggling, declaring Geneva International Airport a "Peace Blossom," or boarding his Italian "Treno della Pace." Plus, his books, his portraits, his paintings, and his chant-songs sur-round you. Apart from that, not only is this heavenly blue-domed restaurant run by his students peaceful, but the fresherthan-fresh Bengali-tinged health food is delicious. Their chutney-topped "Neatloaf" bursts with nutty, intriguing flavors. Even the accompanying mashed potato and gravy tastes different. Also delish: Brahma Burrito, "Infinite Blue" (interesting brown rice salad with bleu cheese dressing), and the Shiva Wrap (tofu and fresh veggies with a well-integrated curry flavor). On cold days, start with a steaming sweet pea soup. Monday through Saturday lunch and dinner (no dinner Wednesday); Sunday occasional brunch only. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Kansas City Barbecue 610 West Market Street, Downtown, 619-231-9680. Scrumptious smells waft across the 9680. Scrumpous smeils wart across the tracks at the Seaport Village trolley stop — barbecued pork and beef. And yeah, this is the joint where Tom Cruise and Kelly McGillis did their "sleazy bar scene" in *Top Gun*. And it *is* kinda sleazy, especially in the shadowy horseshoe bar, with memorabilia like hanging bras, Czech license plates, and stickers ("Grow Your Own Dope: Plant A Man"). The beef and pork ribs (or rib tips or chicken breast) are worth it. They're cooked over an oak-fueled fire. Nice long happy hour (3:30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m., at bar only) has great food/grub deals. Open daily, lunch until late, serving until 2 a.m. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B.* 

Kemo Sabe 3958 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-220-6802. Audacity is Chef Deborah Scott's culinary signature. In her cooking, Southeast Asia meets the Southwest, with Japanese touches and towering heaps of garnishes. All the edible frou-frou decorating the appetizers can wear you out, but most entrees are more focused and friendly. Good choices include a starter of mussels in a seductive chipotle cream sauce, and entrees of spicy, sweet-sour layered "jerk" chicken





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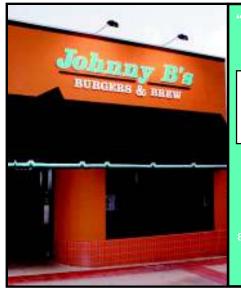


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or the signature "Skirts On Fire," a miraculously tender grilled skirt steak imbued with a picante marinade. Desserts by Sharon Bristol follow the house style — sky-high, ornate, complex. Casual atmosphere, very noisy. Heated patio. Dinner served daily. Reservations strongly advised. Prices moderate. — *N.W.* 

Kensington Grill 4055 Adams Avenue, Kensington-Talmadge, 619-281-4014. This long-standing, comfortablebut-sophisticated neighborhood restaurant has found a fine formula for flavorable, seasonal California cuisine with adventurous touches of Asia and Mexico. It's way beyond what most neighborhoods would expect. Wellknown local chef Hanis Cavin (a big low-key guy) proves an alpha griller, ensuring that every bite is cooked precisely until it's done, not a second longer. Almost everything is more than tasty. Most desserts come from upscale sister-restaurant Laurel, although the house-made choices are fine, too - no baby-food sweets here. Wine list is adventurous with lots of affordable choices; full bar. Small parking lot attached. Always a few dishes for vegetarians and a vegan entrée. Reservations recommended. Dinner nightly. "Early-bird" three-course dinner moderate; regular menu moderate to expensive. — N.W.

King's Fish House 825 Camino de la Reina, Mission Valley, 619-574-1230. To find King's in the mega-mall, go slightly west of Koo Koo Roo and follow the line of cars to the free valet parking. It's a chain, but it's a classy chain, offering fish and seafoods of a quality that's well above average, including crustaceans from a live tank and a half-dozen varieties of pristine oysters. Generously-sized entrées come with soup or salad (including a Caesar that's above suspicion) and two hefty side dishes. The vast menu of American-style preparations changes daily to reflect the fresh catch, and includes some rotating regional specialties

(e.g., New Orleans, Hawaii, New England). Don't miss the prawn pot-sticker appetizer, if available, and for dessert, the miraculously light bread pudding. The atmosphere is good-timey (with two patios and a barroom as well as a dining room), the service is enthusiastic, and the management will accommodate special requests if you call ahead. Kiddie menu available. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate. - N.W.

Lydia's Café and Nightclub 1628 Palm Avenue, Southeast San Diego, 619-429-3603. This easygoing dancing/eatery has a faithful following that goes back to 1957. But before you dance, eat! Check out the birria en su jugo (goat in its juices) with beans, rice, and tortillas, or enjoy filling snacks like taquitos, cucaracha (a corn tortilla stuffed with ham, cheese, and sour cream), or the snack Lydia says she invented: botanas (beans, pork, and melted cheese over corn chips). Open daily, three meals. (Call ahead for availability of the *birria*.) Inexpensive. — *E.B.* 

Max New York Steakhouse and Seafood 827 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-235-8500. As steakhouses go, Max is a good value, offering huge portions of fine, gently raised near-organic meat, cooked to order and offered at relatively gentle prices. You don't even have to pay extra for your veggies. For beef, there's full-flavored naturally raised Angus or butter-tender Kobe-style Wagyu beef. Or you can choose a giant rack of lamb, so tender it should be called Certified agnus. Sauces tend to be pedestrian; request them on the side. The classic steakhouse appetizers are done with some smart twists. Superb international wine list at below-average markups, including plenty by the glass. Full bar. Valet parking, or inexpensive lot via alley two doors north. Open nightly, until midnight on weekends. Upper moderate to

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood **Restaurant** 675 L Street, Downtown, 619-645-6545. Want to hang out with the baseball elite? They graze here, next to the ballpark. But what should really draw you is happy hour. It's an awesome deal where you get a half-pound burger and fries for under two bucks. Ditto steamed mussels, chicken satay, California rolls, fish cakes, cheese plate, more.

Best beverage deal: Coke or (refillable) iced tea, and the staff is sporting about you ordering multiple eats and sitting on one drink. Feel guilty? Don't. This loss leader works: From one place, in Portland, Oregon, M&S has grown to 86 locations nationwide. Happy hour Monday through Friday, 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on game days). Inexpensive. — *E.B.* 

**Modus Supper Club** 2204 Fourth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-236-8516. Modus means *method*, and what that means is that all the food is cooked from scratch in the classical French manner, with no shortcuts, no restaurant-supply products or frozen food, no fakery. Chefowner Nathan Coulon designed this as a place for locals to drop in, nosh well on a little or a lot, and sip until all hours of the night. The menu, printed daily, offers about nine starters and five or six entrées. Confit of duck, hazelnut-crusted rack of lamb, and Quinault River sturgeon in season are all impressive. geon in season are an impressive.

Pommes frites — perfect French fries —
live up to their billing, and appetizer salads are just as idyllic. All desserts come
from Mom — famed La Jolla pastry chef Michele Coulon. They look beautiful and taste as sweet and rich as society wedding cakes. This is a truly user-friendly spot, where going out to eat doesn't have to be a big deal. Excellent wine list devised by co-owner/sommelier Scotty Johnson, full bar featuring creative cocktails with all-fresh ingredients blended by Ariana Johnson. Open nightly until 1 a.m. Reservations advisable for large parties and weekends. Expensive for full meals, moderate for graz-

Molly's 333 West Harbor Drive, Downtown, 619-230-8909, Chef Timothy Au's seasonal cuisine offers creative twists, superb local produce, and deli-cious flavors. Pick up a miniature menu at the dining room entrance to remind yourself of what you're eating - you'll appreciate all the more the astute comnations of ingredients. A vegetarian tasting platter is tempting even to hardcore carnies. Vast choice of California wines including half-bottles and generous pours by the glass. Sommelier Lisa Redwine, one of the best in the business locally, can be trusted to help you choose

to match your food. Full bar. Reserve, even for two, or expect a wait. Free valet parking at hotel front door (Front Street entrance), validated for three hours. Open for dinner. Very expensive.

Morton's of Chicago 285 J Street, Downtown, 619-696-3369. This famous Chicago steakhouse is swanky, in a manly way: dark, clubby, luxurious, and louche. You go to Morton's for great steak. Their Midwestern grain-fed beef is aged and meticulously grilled to your specifications. You can get a one-and-ahalf or three-pound porterhouse, which will be juicy, marbled with flavorful fat. You can also get good fish at Morton's. The big, golden salmon fillet flakes to the fork and is moist, sweet, buttery. The pricey à la carte sides are either bad or mediocre. The Morton's Hot Chocolate Cake is exceptional. But go for the steak. Expensive. — *M.N.* 

Napa Valley Grille 502 Horton Plaza, Downtown, 619-238-5440. This restaurant at the top of Horton Plaza is staffed by professionals and the food is very good, including the excellent grilled calamari. There is an elegant homeyness to Napa Valley Grille, a comforting, satisfying dining experience. Moderate to expensive. — M.N.

Pierre's Place 1404 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-727-4700. Guys twirl pizza dough like they were in Cirque du Soleil. Other kids run back and forth cooking, serving. Who'd guess they're all homeless teens who live and study here at the Toussaint Center? This eatery's new, smart, a mix of quarry stone, blond wood, sea-green chairs, red walls, brown leather couches, and full bookshelves. Food's good, too. You might say nouvelle Italian-Californian. Think California Pizza meets Father Joe. Interesting dishes like Florentine breakfast panini, Tuscan chicken panini (nice and squelchy with provolone, red peppers, pesto), and the Italian Special (toasted Italian roll with salami, ham capicola, provolone). The "vanillages" gelato, with bits of apple pie, ain't half bad either. 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Pomegranate Russian-Georgian Restaurant 2302 El Cajon Boulevard,

University Heights, 619-297-4007. Pomegranate's address is serendipitous since the food of Deep-South Georgia is the Louisiana cuisine of the Slavic world — alive with fresh herbs, garlic, touches of hot pepper. This rustic-looking restaurant is animated with antic humor (check the multilingual graffiti on the walls) and offers unique, flavor-bomb dishes. Don't miss the world-beating beefy, herb-jungle borscht (beet soup but it's way more than that), the Lobio bean dip, and Olivier salad. The chef slow-smokes his moist barbecued beef and pork and cold-smokes whole trout. a treat as a group appetizer or summer entrée. On weekends, there's sublimely smoky shashlik (a.k.a. shish kebab). The printed menu is only a hint as to what's really cooking, and regular patrons get the best off-menu choices. So become a regular. Street parking is dire. Reservations advised for weekend dinners. Dinner nightly (service until 11 p.m. Friday

La Posta de Acapulco 3980 Third Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-295-8982. (Also in Lakeside and Spring Valley.) People have been coming to this orange-andwhite drive-through-without-cars for  $20\,$ years. One of the main reasons is the carne asada burritos. Rich-tasting, fresh, generous. Folks sit around the outside benches right next to Washington Street, oblivious to the traffic. Also much loved here are the chile verde and the quesadilla with carne asada. For breakfast, think chorizo burrito. And for value, just to fill you up, you can't beat the bean tostada. You can drink horchata, a rice drink, or *jamaica*, made from hibiscus flower, to complete the picture. Open 24 hours in Hillcrest. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* 

and Saturday). Moderate. — N.W.

Puerto La Boca 2060 India Street. Little Italy, 619-234-4900. Argentines love their beef and they love it lean and wholesome — free-range and grass fed. That's what you'll find at this uncompromisingly authentic outpost of Buenos Aires cuisine. The great national entrée is the mixed grill (parrillada) for two or more — a massive meatarama featuring numerous grilled cuts of marinated beef, chicken, and sausages. Start with luscious beef or corn empanadas or, if you're feeling hungry and adventurous, matambre (rolled beef galantine). Not a steak lover?

Try the shrimp la boca. Don't eat meat? There are vegetarian pastas and pizzas. Gnocchi (*Ooquis*) are served only on the 29th of each month. International, affordable choice of wines, plus Latin and U.S. beers. Full bar. Patio dining. Daily lunch and dinner hours, with dinner menu all day Friday and Saturday.

Rainwater's on Kettner 1202 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-233-5757. Enjoy culinary time travel with this vintage restaurant's classic chophouse fare — wet-aged USDA Prime beefsteaks and roasts with luxurious "Continental" sauces, plus some seafood, poultry, and other odd meats (including milk-fed calf's liver), served in what looks like a cozy English gentlemen's club writ large. If you've ever wanted to try Beef Wellington, the chef here is one of the few who can pull it off correctly. At weekday lunches, the place buzzes with downtown movers and shakers, but dinner hours are usually serene and gracious (reserve anyway). An awesome international wine list, strong on great French bottles (and scant on affordable ones). Full bar. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Very expensive. — N.W.

Sausage King 811 West Washington Street, Mission Hills, 619-297-4301. Not too many delicatessens in the county still make their own sausages, luncheon meats, and jerky. But the German couple who runs this place does. They make an unbelievable 34 different sausages and luncheon meats, plus 10 different smoked meats like turkey, beef, Westphalian ham, Black Forest ham, and even bacon. For lunch they will make you a really cheap bun-sandwich filled with anything from home-made liverwurst to blood sausages to salami. Two would really fill you up. As with the nearby cheese shop (see Venissimo), the Starbucks at Falcon and Washington is a good place to chow down this unique sausage experience. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Inexpensive. —

**Starlite Lounge** 3175 India Street, Little Italy, 619-358-9766. No pedestrian pub grub at this lounge — nearly all the major staffers are protégés of now-de-parted Michael Stebner, conduit of the Alice Waters's ethos of local and natural.







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# Portugalia

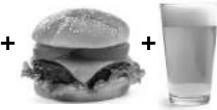
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Chefs hang out here off duty. The seasonal menu of California-Mediterranean cuisine features naturally raised meats. house-made pasta and sausages (do try the house-made sausage plate!), and lo-cal produce. The Jidori chicken and Prime flat-iron steak are knockouts, and for dessert let your inner child commune with your outer adult over the irresistible toffee-chip ice cream sandwich. Short, smart, merciful wine list with French and California wines at way-below-average markups, scanty by the glass. Full bar with creative cocktails. About seven lacto-vegetarian dishes, bupkes for veg-ans. Age 21 and up only. Free parking lot attached. Dinner nightly, moderate. —

Stingaree 454 Sixth Avenue, Downtown, 619-544-0867. This huge restaurant has a nightclub on the mezzanine and an outdoor lounge on the roof. The Mediterranean food by chef Antonio Friscia comes in three plate sizes - little, medium, and large. It's a built-in invitation to graze and share if you want to keep it light before you go dancing. The fare features premium, naturally raised meats, wild fish, and local organic vegetables. The rich international wine list is steep, but there's plenty by the glass; full bar. Friday and Saturday nights, dinner is a three- or four-course prix fixe only (your choices from the à la carte menu), but that gets you free entry into the club. Reservations advisable, urged for weekends. Dinner Tuesday through Saturday. Very expensive. — N.W.

Taste of Africa Cuisine 5241 University Avenue, City Heights, 619-583-5788. This is one of the main gathering places for Somalis in San Diego, but they welcome others to sample their food which is a combination of African, Italian, Arab, and Indian influences. Fish plays a big role in the diet of a country that boasts the longest coastline in Africa, but so does lamb and goat meat. Start with a fadareshin, a mixed plate of roasted goat meat, fried fish, basmati rice (the Indian influence), and a pile of spaghetti - common since the Italians came to colonize. No meal is complete without bananas, which are mixed in with pretty much everything, especially soups. Open three meals daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* 

Taste of Szechuan 670 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-291-1668. Friendly staff serves up standard Szechuan Mandarin fare at this archetypal Chinese restaurant. Szechuan Garlio Shrimp is number one on the list of twelve House Specialties for good reason. This tangy dish of crispy, deep-fried shrimp is one of their best. Not often seen on the menus of strip mall Chinese restaurants, the Szechuan Orange Fish

La Mesa · 619-466-4470

night Monday through Thursday, 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday, Sunday until 10 p.m. Inexpensive to moderate. — B.D.

Tofu House 4646 Convoy Street Kearny Mesa, 858-576-6433. This stylish little eatery is proof positive that our city has matured for its specialty ethnic foods. Tofu House is a Korean restaurant serving up specialty tofu dishes. Flavorful, healthy foods. I highly recommend the soontofu soups (beef, pork, seafood, or mushroom) with raw egg drop you drop vourself and a side of tasty fresh kimchi Deliver yourself from sorrowfully generic foreign food — Tofu House serves vivid ethnic food. Open daily. Inexpensive. — M.N.

Top of the Market 750 North Harbor Drive, Downtown, 619-234-4867. The upper-crust upper floor of the downtown Fish Market (see Multiple Locations listing) has largely the same food as the downstairs, plus a few luxury items (e.g., abalone) and occasionally some creative appetizer specials. Prices are about 25% higher for identical items, in exchange for a slightly elevated view and a dressier, white-tablecloth setting that's almost "formal" by San Diego standards — flip-flops and tank tops aren't allowed on men, and collared shirts (e.g., polos) are suggested at dinner. That doesn't mean that the atmosphere is quietly gracious — the room's just as huge, packed, and raucous as the lower realms, even on the terrace. Reserve, and expect a short wait anyway. Elevator provides wheelchair access. Open daily. Expensive. - N.W.

Venissimo Cheese 754 West Washington Street, Mission Hills, 619-491-0708. Just don't ask for Velveeta here. Everything else, they've got: sixty-plus varieties of cheese, most from Europe. But a meal? Yes. You can get a baguette-style sandwich stuffed with cow cheese, sheep cheese, goat cheese, fruity, moldy, runny, stinky, any cheese in the house, same price, around five bucks. Even *Boschetto* cheese, with truffles in it, which sells at around \$30 per pound, or Napoleon's favorite, stinky Epousses Berthaut, or the beautifully tangy Schloss. Plus you get grapes or a pear to go with the sandwich. Where to eat it? Starbucks. a few doors down, usually doesn't mind. Coffee, bread, interesting cheese, fruit
— it's the perfect combo. Open 10 a.m.

Restaurant





to 6 p.m.; closed Sunday. Inexpensive

#### **NORTH INLAND**

Ashoka the Great 9474 Black Mountain Road, Mira Mesa, 858-695-9749. Seek out this splendid Indian restaurant. The setting is lovely, the service excellent, and the food first-rate. Don't over-look the tandoori dishes. Numerous selections are available for vegetarians. An all-you-can-eat lunch buffet is served daily. Dinner buffet Monday and Thursday. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — É.W.

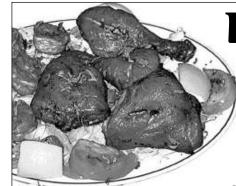
**Bolsa Vietnamese Restaurant** 9225 Mira Mesa Boulevard #118, Mira Mesa, 858-693-3663. "The name 'Bolsa' isn't Vietnamese," says Kim Trang. "It's Spanish for 'bag."" She's playing on words here: Trang once owned *Pho Bolsa* on University Avenue, and every Vietnamese knows *pho bo* is Vietnam's most popular quick meal, a beef rice noodle soup. At this location, Trang still makes excellent *pho bo*, but she has 122 other items as well, including fried catfish with ginger fish sauce, healthy (non-fried) Vietnamese spring rolls, or egg rolls with lettuce and mint in which to wrap them (sprinkled with nuoc mam, Vietnamese fish sauce). We're talking family-style cooking. Come once and Trang will remember you and everything you ate even if it was just pho bo. Inexpensive. -

Cabana Cove 777 Harrah's Way, Valley Center, 877-777-2457. This fun eatery brings Pacific Beach to Valley Center with its cheerful (make that gor geous) surfer decor and a menu of classy surfer grub. With glass walls looking out on the mountains and on two curvy swimming pools, this is the only restaurant in the casino to offer views of the outer world. The eclectic menu, from surfing spots around the world, includes wonderful, smoky pork as both a taco and an entree, plus pristine seafood choices. Full bar, creative cocktails. Breakfast Monday through Friday; lunch and dinner daily. Moderate. - N.W.

A Delight of France 126 West Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-746-2644. This authentic French bakery is one of the best in the region, offering daily baked authentic baguettes, brioches, quiches, and croissants, including a luscious almond croissant studded with nuts and laced with sweet almond paste. They claim to use all-organic ingredients, even the eggs, and locally grown produce. For a hearty breakfast, you can choose omelets, frittatas, French toast, and eggs. Lunch dishes include several savory tarts, a French deli plate, crêpes, salads, and sandwiches. And ooh la la, there are dessert pastries, too. Open for brunch/lunch and pre-dinner snacks Tuesday through Saturday; lunch/brunch only on Sunday. Inexpensive. - N.W.

East Buffet 8998 Miramar Road, Mira Mesa, 858-566-1888. Curly-haired stone lions greet you outside one of the grander dining halls in the county. "The biggest buffet of San Diego" claims the menu, "with over 200 items daily." Start at the Mongolian grill. Pick your raw prawns, chicken, pork, beef, satays, and hand the plate-load to the Iron Chef. He'll stircook them on the hotplate for you. You'll need hiking boots to cover the endless rows of steaming chafing dishes. Musteat: the fresh sashimi, like salmon and tuna — mouth-wateringly scrumptious. And try the chicken feet (they taste a bit like cow tongue, or brains). Open daily, brunch through dinner. Inexpensive. -

The French Market Grille 15717 Bernardo Heights Parkway, Rancho



Choice of desserts

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San Diego Reader February 14, 2008

# Calendar Restaurants

Bernardo, 858-485-8055. Ambience is served in generous portions at this romantic establishment with elegant indoor dining or a charming garden setting. The wine list has over 50 selections, including several available by the glass, and the varied menu offers Gallic dishes of duck, lamb, fish, veal, frog legs, and more. Most dishes are served with the usual French cuisine sauces, but if you're dieting, they'll gladly omit sauce. Ingredients and execution of the entrées can be inconsistent (e.g., some nights the fish is overcooked or the meat is tough, other nights they're fine) but the crab-cake appetizer is always outstanding. Save room for dessert, especially the excellent crème brûlée. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Moderate. — S.M.

Golden Egg Omelet House 316 489-6420. This breakfast-lunch treasurehouse is vast but cute, its brick walls and open beams festooned with knickknacks (all for sale). This is *the* place on Sunday mornings, when three generations bond over great, generous breakfasts. Omelets are perfect — light, thin crepe-like eggs wrapped around tall mounds of elaborate fillings. Thick waffles can be topped with fresh seasonal fruit. And then there are eggs, hash, crepes, humongous burgers, and sand-wiches. The potato casseroles, with a choice of a dozen fillings, are as huge in flavor as they are in size. Whatever you choose will carry you through until dinof a mall. Easiest entry from Mission is at SDGE driveway; do not pass McDonald's. Good handicap access; sturdy highchairs; low-salt cooking. Open daily, breakfast and lunch. Inexpensive. -

**Hunan** 16719 Bernardo Center Drive, Rancho Bernardo, 858-487-8131. This casual family restaurant serves the cuisines of two spicy Chinese provinces, Szechuan and Hunan — each with its own dedicated chef — but both chefs tone the spice way down to a suburban American comfort level. If you don't already know the difference between these neighboring cuisines, you're unlikely to learn them here. But you can have an enjoyable meal: Tea-smoked duck, eggplant Hunan-style, and shredded potatoes with pickled vegetables are the outstanding dishes. If you're planning on a multicourse feast, order your meal a few dishes at a time or everything will be served at once; the staff is accommodating but limited-English. Over 20 vegan entrees. Full bar, Chinese beers, generic wines. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Madras Café 9484 Black Mountain Road, Mira Mesa, 858-695-6229. In the same strip mall as Ashoka the Great, this family-friendly café features the savory vegetarian cuisine of South India. It's distinctly different from the standard North Indian menus, centering on numerous varieties of stuffed pancakes — from thin, crisp (and irresistible) crêpelike dosais stuffed with vegetable curry to lacy rice-flour aapams drenched in coconut milk to hefty, frittata-like uttapams. (Try the latter with the delicious, not-too-spicy chile-onion stuffing.) Puffy *poori* bread and tamarind rice are spectacular. Order your dishes in the sequence you hope to eat them — that's usually how they come out of the kitchen. And don't expect hovering "Raj" - style service — it's just not the Tamil way. Seasoning is generally mild, to accommodate kiddies; spicy sauces are on the table. No alcohol. Open Tuesday through Sunday with buffet lunches and à la carte dinners. Inexpensive. —

Mille Fleurs 6009 Paseo Delicias, Rancho Santa Fe, 858-756-3085. One of the area's top destination restaurants, Bertrand Hug's beautiful room with beautiful food draws "the beautiful people" — Hollywood honchos, high-end high school graduation parties, and a steady influx of rarefied Rancho Santa Fe residents flaunting huge twinkling rocks. The daily-changing menu sports first-rate modern French cuisine (with a few German touches) by long-time chef Martin Woesle. Order at will — everything's flawless. The menu's most exciting on weeknights, when crowds are

sparser and the the kitchen has time to stretch. The wine list is fabulous but exorbitant even at the bottom. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Reservations recommended. Very, very expensive. — N.W.

**Onami Japanese Restaurant** 240 East Via Rancho Parkway, Escondido, 760-738-7522. This Japanese buffet of-fers everything from miso soup and sukiyaki to a host of salads, including several variations of sunomono (cucum ber salad). Then there are terivakis, sashimis, and a plethora of sushi rolls. Among the winners are the California roll with masago, tempura shrimp roll, guacamole roll, and Philadelphia roll. Skip the dry egg rolls and head for the corn crab cakes, terivaki chicken, tempura shrimp, and veggies. Desserts offer fresh fruits, bite-size cake options, and go-back-for-seconds green tea ice cream. The food is fresh, the presentation artful, and the staff friendly and efficient. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Expensive. — S.M.

**The Original Pancake House** 3906 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-565-1740. Starve yourself for eight hours, then come in here and order up an Ap-ple Pancake — a foot-wide, batter-filled, five-egg paradise pelted with slices from two Granny Smith apples and baked till it puffs up like a golden mini-super-dome. Cinnamon cinches it. The German Pancake, or its kid brother, the Dutch Baby, are good oven-baked alternatives, as is the really, really filling mushroom omelet, which comes with three pancakes. Oh, and the Eggs Michael: sausage patties and poached eggs lost somewhere under a mushroom-sherry sauce. The whole atmosphere — striped gold-and-cream wall-paper, dainty cups, shelves of ceramic dogs — feels like it's the Fifties and your granny took you here when you were five. Okay, it's a nationwide franchise, but it's a comfy franchise, from Oregon. All-day breakfast only, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Inexpensive. Other locations at 14905 Pomerado Road, Poway, 858-679-0186; 160 South Rancho Santa Fe Road, Encinitas, 760-943-1939; 435 South Melrose Drive, Vista, 760-758-3441. — E.B.

**Pearl Chinese Cuisine** 11666 Avena Place, Rancho Bernardo, 858-487-3388 At Emerald Restaurant's younger, prettier suburban sister, you'll find modern Hong Kong-style Chinese cuisine, including both familiar and exotic dishes. Daytimes are for dim sum (Chinese tapas), served daily until 3 p.m., plus champagne dim sum brunches on weekends. Along with standard items, the choices here leap to the latest Pacific creations, some rarely found this side of the ocean, including irresistible Shanghai soup dumplings. Dinners range from folk food to showy "gold cup" dishes. For a taste treat and visual hoot, try the sea bass with pine nuts, sculpted to resemble a dish sponge. International wine list at modest markups complements the cooking. Full bar. Frying done in corn (not peanut) oil. Reservations advised. Lunch and dinner on weekdays; three meals on weekends. Moderate, with some expensive specialties. — N.W.

St. Tropez — Rancho Bernardo 16625 Dove Canyon #109, Rancho Bernardo, 858-673-6824. If you love continental breakfast, these bright cafés with indoor-outdoor seating offer scores of house-baked pastries (including brioche) and good coffee. Parisian-style brunch/lunch choices embrace croque monsieur and croque madame (grilled ham and cheese sandwiches, topped with either light cream sauce or an egg), crèpes, quiche, onion soup gratinée, or chicken-filled puff-pastry. Omelets are tather weighty. Some of the sandwiches offer Mediterranean flavors — try a pan bagnat (salade niçoise on a baguette) or one of the grilled panini. Desserts range from cookies on up to elaborate cakes. Beer and wine. Open daily, breakfast to early dinner. Inexpensive. — N.W.

#### NORTH COASTAL

**Addison** 5200 Grand Del Mar Way, Carmel Valley, 858-314-1900. At this gala, gorgeous restaurant a mile or so uphill from the hotel at Doug Manchester's new luxury resort, the brief menu offers dishes made with superior ingredients, executed flawlessly. However, it may be hard to warm up to the chef's palate, which seems to favor sour, tart, and acidic notes, with no concessions to

culinary comfort. The creative cooking involves strange flavor-combinations, such as well-seasoned lamb shank with a goat cheese tart served over a slick of acidic lemon-sorrel sauce plus uncured housemade sausage with a purée of Japanese umiboshi, fiercely sour plums that seem to come from a different universe than the meat. Or an amuse of tart yogurt punctuated by sour quince and puckery gooseberries. It seems to be more about the chef's self-expression than about your pleasure, but many people love it — it apparently depends on what night you eat there. Service is formal, deluxe, and quite rigid: The bussers are your bosses. Dinner Tuesday through Sunday only. Reservations essential; request detailed route directions. Extremely expensive. — N.W.

Americana 1454 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar, 858-794-6838. Housed in a historic building, this casual breakfast/lunch joint turns into a serious dinner house at nightfall. The cooking represents the American melting pot, featuring worldwide flavors. Mornings, along with flawless eggs Benedict and utopian waffles, you can get a "Roman breakfast" of prosciutto, mozzarella, and fried egg on English muffin. At dinner, don't miss the lamb chop and eggplant appetizer or the duck breast with fig sauce. During summer, some of the veggies come from chef-owner Randy Gruber's home garden; the French fries (which don't come from his garden) are world class. To finish, a banana tarte tatin shouldn't be resisted. Thoughtful, reasonable wine list. Breakfast (until 3 p.m.) and lunch daily, dinner Tuesday through Saturday. Kids' menu available. Breakfast and lunch inexpensive to moderate; dinner moderate to expensive. — A.M.

Le Bambou 2634 Del Mar Heights Road, Del Mar, 858-259-8138. No mere "pho joint," this lovely restaurant serves the sophisticated Vietnamese cuisine of pre-war Saigon — and the owners' daughters serve it in the flower-bedecked dining room with grace, intelligence, and evident pleasure in teaching westerners about the cuisine. Appetizers (most of them designed for rolling with fresh herbs in lettuce leaves and eating with your hands) are varied and of superb quality. Few restaurants here do the royal

delicacy of "ground shrimp on sugar cane" so well. Most of the house specialty entrées are equally accomplished. Lacqué duck, sautéed shrimps or scallops in tamarind sauce, and "Star of the Sea" curry are outstanding. The gently priced wine list abounds in the fruity whites that go so well with this cuisine, while beer-quaffers can enjoy Vietnam's own "33" brand. Lunch Tuesday through Friday, dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Low moderate. — N.W.

The Bird House Grill 250 North Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-944-2882. A great place to check out real Turkish cuisine. The inside has a fine collection of blue-and-white wall plates and blue glass eyes to ward off evil spirits. Try the house specialty, Iskender Kebab (ground meat kebab, rice, tomato sauce, and house-grown yogurt) — "Iskender" means "Alexander." Or the Kofte plate (ground meat kebab, rice, salad, pita, and tzatziki sauce). The shepherd's salad is a traditional dish brimming with fresh tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, parsley, oil, and lemon. Good healthy Mediterranean diet. Even the baklavas are less gloopy. Open Monday to Saturday, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — E.B.

California Pizza Kitchen — Carmel Valley 11602 Carmel Mountain Road, Carmel Valley, 858-675-4424. 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, BBO 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.

**El Callejon Restaurant** 345 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-634-





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2793. This is a Mexican restaurant with a difference: Instead of the standard boring border foods and combo plates, it offers a long menu of genuine, zesty mainland dishes, some with original spins on traditional themes. Shrimp zarandeados with a rich sauce of chiles and beef in cilantro sauce are some of the delights. There's even a *parrillada* (mixed grill) to serve two. The atmosphere offers more pleasures. At lunchtime, the dining room seems like a serene hacienda. Evenings the restaurant may turn into a rollicking community center, where multi-generational families and groups of friends fill the dining rooms and spill onto the sizable patio hidden in back. Mariachi band on Fridays and Saturdays. - N.W.

Come On In 11455 El Camino Real, Carmel Valley, 858-350-2700. Clunky name, but suave Euro-bistro feel with outside tables under trees. This is your escape to "Paree" anytime you can afford La Jolla. Actually, they keep the price of breakfasts — like two "plain and simple" steamed eggs with fresh fruit and toast, or the "Popeye" omelet, with spinach, Parmesan cheese, prosciutto ham, and diced tomato, fruit, and toast down to a small roar. Of course, everybody in this neck of the woods is trying not to eat, so expect lots of fruit plates and healthy lunch sandwiches like roasted eggplant with zucchini, bell peppers, tomatoes, and mozzarella. Open daily until 9:30 p.m. Inexpensive to moderate: dinners a little more expensive. —

Firenze 162 South Rancho Santa Fe Road, Encinitas, 760-944-9000. This big, beautiful, gracious restaurant (located in the same mall as Harvest Ranch Market, just north of Rancho Santa Fe) offers both a handsome interior and a romantic fire-lit patio. The well-spaced tables are laden with huge portions of accom plished, multiregional Italian cuisine and reasonably priced Italian and California wines (with 1/2-price wines Monday nights). Vegetarians will rejoice in the two dozen meatless selections. Lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday, dinner only on Sunday. High moderate.

Jake's Del Mar Waterfront Grill 1660 Coast Boulevard, Del Mar, 858-755-2002. Offering surf and turf by the sea, Jake's not only hugs the oceanfront, with a patio overlooking the waves, but has a smaller patio next to Powerhouse Park, with its fragrant mimosa plants, where you can walk off the calories. A branch of the well-known Hawaiian chain. Duke's, Iake's' fare is competently cooked, if not inspired. The seafood may flaunt fusion-y, sugary touches, while steaks are Prime or high-grade Choice.

Portions are huge — the tasty Dungeness crab cake appetizer is sizeable enough for a substantial lunch, offering loads of crab and little filler. Location is very popular with locals and tourists both, so reservations urged for any meal, essential for the à la carte Sunday brunch. Lunch Tuesday through Saturday, dinner nightly, brunch Sunday. Lunch and brunch moderate, dinner expensive. —

Knockout Pizza 2959 Carlsbad Boulevard, Carlsbad, 760-434-4468. This inside-outside cafe is your prototypical California surfer hangout. It's cream and green with maroon canvas window canopies, red-painted make-believe shutters, and three surfboards sprouting through the roof. On weekends, lines of tourists come looking for their California fix. But Kono's is known among locals, too, for generous breakfasts. Check out their PBS: Pancakes, Bacon and Scrambled eggs. Or the breakfast sandwich with eggs, bacon, cheese, and tomato on a toasted English muffin. Or the CB Burger (chicken breast, green chili, and pica sauce). Best time: foggy mornings. Chow down on their patio on the pier while you enjoy a birds-eye view of surfers appearing out of the mists below. Breakfast and lunch daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Market Restaurant and Bar 3702 Via de la Valle, Del Mar, 858-523-0007. Market occupies an odd location, way out in the boonies of far-east Del Mar, but it's worth seeking out. The menu, which changes daily, is inspired by whatever seasonal foodstuffs chef-owner Carl Schroeder (formerly at Arterra) finds at the local produce market (Chino Farms) and from the nearby seas. Despite the ambitious food and prices, vibes are "neighborhood restaurant" — people are having a good time here, and so will you. For once, the appetizers and entrées are equally good, with no letdown. At our visit, boneless beef shortribs, North Atlantic monkfish, bluenose bass, and venison chops were all imaginative, with perfectly sized portions and intriguing sides. Appetizers may include celery-root soup, Maine lobster salad, blue cheese soufflé, and a strudel of forest mushrooms and artichokes, all of them scrumptious — but the menu could be completely different when you visit, so be prepared. This is truly seasonal, local cuisine, and hurray for that. Dinner nightly. Reservations essential. Expensive to very expensive. - N.W.

Paul's Place 3671 Mission Avenue. Oceanside, 760-721-0124. This restaurant looks like a McDonald's or Wendy's (the building used to be a franchise) and the food comes fast, but it's no chain. The menu strikes a balance between

<mark>A Latin A</mark>merican

American and Greek fare. The baked Greek half-chicken, the spiced grilled chicken sliced up on a salad with pita bread, and the gyros (all at earthy prices) mix with all-American three-egg breakfast specials with home fries. Lunch offers include meaty hamburgers, gyros with fries, or a surprisingly tasty turkey burger. Inexpensive. — E.B.

El Q'ero 564 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-753-9050, You'll feel like a guest at an intimate party eating a leisurely dinner in this small, noisy, pretty dining room. Chef Monica Szepesy offers personalized, home-style renditions of South American cuisines, including house-made beverages. Be sure to try the house's chicha morada, a tangy soft drink made from Peruvian purple corn. The fare includes numerous types of empanadas, tapas-like small plates, and full-size entrees — most from the family homeland, Peru. Desserts vary nightly and can include a cloud-like tres leches cake. Vegetarian and allergy-restricted diets accommodated. Lunch and dinner Tuesday through Saturday. Reservations necessary. Moderate.

Ruth's Chris Steak House Carmel Valley 11582 El Camino Real, Carmel Valley, 858-755-1454. Flash-cooked steaks from the finest wet-aged, cornfed USDA Prime, seasoned with salt, pepper, butter, and parsley, are the hallmark of this 95-location chain. If you aren't a salt offender, ask the kitchen to use a lighter touch. All side dishes are à la carte but come in portions large enough to feed two. The broiled tomatoes, caramelized with a touch of sugar, are a delight, and potatoes are offered in eight guises. A pecan-topped sweet potato casserole, although delicious, would be better as dessert. Non-beefeaters can choose from numerous luxurious seafood dishes, a cheese-stuffed chicken breast, grilled portobello mushrooms, and six salads. Award-winning wine list is steep but serious, with an average bottle price of \$70 and reasonable markups. The main room harbors a fabulous view of the ocean if you arrive before sunset, but it's noisy - tables upstairs are quieter. Dinner nightly; lunch Friday only. Also downtown, with equally stunning views, at 1355 North Harbor Drive, 619-233-1422. Very ex-

Sbicca American Bistro 215 15th Street, Del Mar, 858-481-1001. Though characterized as an "American Bistro," Chef Susan Sbicca ("speeka") also reveals Asian and Mexican influences in her creative menu. Set in a one-time private home a block from the Del Mar coast, this lively restaurant boasts five dining rooms, including one downstairs





February 14, 2008 Please choose one item per course.

#### Foreplay

Oysters Rockefeller Shrimp mascarpone

#### Just Getting Started

Arugula & prosciutto wrapped figs tossed with truffle-sherry vinaigrette & fig balsamic, topped with shaved Parmesan Reggiano

Rustic artichoke, asparagus & oven-roasted tomatoes drizzled with balsamic vinaigrette & extra virgin olive oil

#### The Act

Petite filet mignon and lobster thermidor Broiled red snapper Ravioli of love

### <u> Happy Endings</u>

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619-235-3000

#### Free Argentinian dessert



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2060 India Street (at Hawthorne), Little Italy, 619-234-4900 www.Puertolaboca.us



#### 15% off all menu items



Excludes beverages. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Offer expires February 29, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month. Coupon not valid on holidays.

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13425 Poway Road, Poway, 858-668-1745

Reader Coupons

#### Pacific Beach, Mission Beach & Ocean Beach

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Great Moon Buffet 10% off total bill

Lahaina Beach House **Free breakfast** 

Moondoggies 50% off second lunch

Pacific Beach Bar & Grill 2 for 1 entrée

Pacific Rotisserie Free entrée

P.B. Mika 99¢ sake

Portugalia Free entrée

# East County & State College

Anna's The Family Restaurant 50% off second entrée Centifonti's Restaurant **50% off entrée** 

Fix Me A Plate Cafe 15% off any entrée

Golden Wok 10% off buffet

Greek Town Buffet 50% off 2nd dinner buffet

Habana Free appetizer

La Fogata 50% off entrée

Shakey's Lunch buffet \$5.49

Stockdale's 50% off Southern Alabama cuisine

Thai Dragon House Free Thai entrée

Thai Taste 50% off 2nd entrée

Trevi Ristorante 50% off entrée Windy City Beef 1/2 off menu item

Uptown & North Park

Café Bleu **Complimentary starter** 

Cay Nhan \$4.95 Vietnamese dishes

Coffee House on Broadway Free Mocha Jackson

Harar Ethiopian Restaurant Free sambussa appetizer

Hob Nob Hill **\$2 off entrée** 

India Princess Free dinner

Lips 50% off dinner

Old World Deli & Café **\$2 off breakfast or lunch** 

Rudford's \$2 off any menu entrée

San Filippo's **Saturday pizza special** 

Seasons 142 1/2 off tapas

The Wine Encounter **Free wine tasting** 

Midway, Old Town & Mission Valley

Bali Thai Free entrée

Pizza Bella **\$1 wine carafe** 

Rockin' Baja Baja Bucket for two \$29.95

Royal Spices Thai Cuisine 20% off receipt

Tio Leo's **Dinner combos \$9.49 each** •

#### Downtown & Point Loma

Alex's Brown Bag **Philly cheese steak \$5.49** 

The Boathouse 2-for-1 lunch or brunch

Dublin Square **2 for 1 breakfast** 

Hard Rock Café •

Hornblower Cruises

House of Blues 20% off restaurant receipt

Humphrey's

Jewel Box 2 for 1 entrée

The Local **\$3 Thursdays** 

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant

Olé Madrid 2 for 1 lunch or brunch entrée

Petrini's Free entrée

Puerto La Boca Free Argentinian dessert

Richard Walker's Pancake House \$1 off entrée

**Rock Bottom** 

Sevilla \$10 off Spanish cuisine

The Shout House

Sierra Pacific 3-course gourmet dinner \$34.95

Visions 25% off sushi

Xavier's Free appetizer

Clairemont, University City, Miramar Rd., Poway, Mira Mesa, Scripps Ranch & Kearny Mesa

Boomerangs **Lunch special \$8.99** 

Crazy Sushi & BBQ 50% off special rolls

Filling Station Free appetizer

Kai Sushi 15% off all menu items

Lightnin' Jack's BBQ Free BBQ Mo's Island Grindz 50% off plate lunch

Pampas Free empanada

RB Sushi 50% off sushi and rolls only Sky Box Sports Grill Burger special \$7.99

Studio Diner Free appetizer Thai Cafe \$1 off buffet

South Bay & Coronado

Lai Thai 50% off entrée

Atoll at the Catamaran Hotel

Canes \$5 off any entrée

Costa Brava Free tapa for lunch

Gringo's Free appetizer at lunch

Saska's \$12 off second entrée

#### La Jolla

Aloha Sushi **Free sushi** 

Cafe Milano Free Comedy Store tickets Clav's La Iolla

Extreme Pizza Free medium pizza Jack's La Jolla Free dessert

La Jolla Brew House Free lunch or dinner entrée The Shack Bar & Grill Burger, fries & beer \$6.95 Su Casa 20% off entire check

#### North County

Calypso Free appetizer

A Delight of France Free appetizer or dessert Greek Village **Free saganaki** 

Inta Juice **Free smoothie** 

Mikko Japanese 50% off sushi

Pho Lucky 10% off entire check Rossi's Pizza Free mini pizza

Santa Fe Cafe 50% off 2nd entrée Sipz Free vegetarian appetizer

Wild Note Cafe

Restaurants listed without coupon offers have only menus online. Restaurants with • have multiple locations. See online menu or coupon for all locations.

with a fireplace and a "wine room" upstairs for private parties. In fair weather, the outdoor rooftop patio is the best seat in the house. The menu changes seasonally, though a few perennial favorites remain. The rich, deeply flavored lobster-shrimp bisque with overtones of sweet butter pastry is worth a return visit. A thick maple-roasted pork prime rib with vanilla-scented sweet potatoes and bourbon chantilly sauce is a house favorite, although not quite as exquisite as the soup. Monday nights feature \$5 martinis; on Tuesdays and Thursdays, all bottles of wine from the fine Californiacentric wine list are 50% off. No corkage fee on Wednesday, Crowded during rac ing season. Lunch and dinner daily. Ex-

St. Germain's Cafe 1010 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-753-5411. Despite the Parisian name, the food here is all-American. Omelets are the cafe's best-known dish — 14 variations of three-eggers (or Eggbeaters by request) served with toast or a muffin, plus tasty herb-strewn "cafe potatoes" or fresh fruit salad. But don't overlook the Belgian waffles, scrambles, pancakes, Louisiana sausages, or the three versions of expertly poached eggs Benedict with genuine hollandaise. Sandwiches run to hearty American classics (including some veg choices), and along with beef burgers, turkey burgers, and veggie burgers, there are no fewer than six twists on lean charbroiled chicken breast on a burger bun. The sheltered patio is always crowded, but there's a large interior dining room with a separate smoothies-and-icecream bar. Open daily, breakfast to late lunch. Inexpensive. - N.W.

Tip Top Meats 6118 Paseo del Norte, nd, 760-438-2620. This geranium

splashed blue-and-white Bavarian chalet is more than a butcher's shop. It's a combination butcher-deli-diner. Enter through the bulging deli and listen for the shouts and clatter of serving ladies. Look for the "Es ist Wunderbar!" sign over the counter. Try German and American dishes like Big John's all-youcan-eat bacon, pork-link sausage, bratwurst, or ham breakfast with three eggs, home fries, and toast. Or the sausage plate: bratwurst, knackwurst, and smoked Polish with German potato salad and traditional stuffed cabbage. Owner Big John is a heavyweight Olympic boxer from the former East Germany with an M.A. in meat sciences Generous portions abound. Friday through Sunday after 4 p.m., he roasts his famous prime rib dinner. Inexpensive. — E.B.

**Trattoria Positano** 2171 San Elijo Avenue, Cardiff, 760-632-0111. If you're tired of Italian restaurants, you'll be revitalized by this one. Original recipes, wonderful fresh fish, nightly specials, ex-cellent lamb and pastas. Very warm atmosphere. A treasure. Reservations accepted for parties of four or more; expect a wait at prime dinner hours, especially on weekends. Lunch and dinner six days, Sundays dinner only. Upper moderate.

**Vigilucci's** 505 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-942-7332. In the Land of 10,000 Trattorias, this is one of the most popular — and for good reason. The restaurant's motto, "a little piece of Italy," is actually accurate. Freshness, simplicity, and savvy seasoning — that's Italian. The pastas are luscious (try the comforting cannelloni with an unusual stewed meat stuffing) and the fla vorful entrees come with honest fresh

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vegetables. The staff is bouncy and jokey, the wines are mainly affordable, and spirits run high. Of course it's crowded, so reserve to avoid a long, hungry wait. Other locations include Vigilucci Cucina in Carlsbad, Vigilucci's Pizzeria in Leucadia, and Vigilucci's Seafood and Steakhouse in Carlsbad. — *N.W.* 

Vivace 7100 Four Seasons Point, Carlsbad, 760-603-3773. If you ever wished to eat like the Medicis did, here's the place for it. This lovely hotel-restaurant at a gorgeous resort showcases Italian haute cuisine which is simpler and more natural than the French equivalent. You'll find inventive combinations of first-class ingredients, skillfully executed and beautifully presented with none of the culinary cliches of the "mamma mia" joints. Reservations urged. Valet parking free for diners. "Resort-casual" no hats, shorts or jeans, or sandals but room may be painfully noisy if patrons get too festive. Dinner seven nights. Four-course tasting dinner a relative bargain, but wine list may blow the budget. Moderate (pastas and risottos) to very expensive. — *N.W.* 

#### **SOUTH BAY**

Bay Beach Café 1201 First Street, Coronado, 619-435-4900. The dinner menu here has California's typical dumbed-down world-appetizer array, plus salads, pastas, grilled meats, a few sautee items, and children's plates. The restaurant is family-friendly (full o' kids, actually), with a menu that appeals to the young — in the past, the chef seemed to have a sweet tooth, since almost every dish involved honey or sugar. Your server will tell you about the day's fresh-fish selections, which are more attuned to adult palates with fresh, fine-quality seafood done simply and well. Noisy in side when crowded: reserve for the lovely terrace with a view of the beach. Open daily, lunch and dinner, with weekend breakfast. Moderate to slightly expensive. - N.W.

The Family House of Pancakes 562 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-425-5133. This is a great place for three things; your family, your kids, and your appetite. The restaurant is famous for its "Grandma's" buckwheat pancakes, its banana-pecan pancake, and its rolled pancakes, oozing with berries and

**Lizard Lounge** 1301 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-437-6677. This venerable saloon, a Navy old-timers' favorite since the era when lounge lizards in leisure suits stalked the earth, now houses a good little sushi bar at one end of its spirits bar. The rice is well-sea-soned, the seafood tastes sparkling-fresh, and each nigiri is given its own individual garnish (e.g., lemon with the hamachi roll). Most of the inside-out party rolls are variations of the California roll formula, with the same center of sweet crab and avocado, but there's also a lively mango-albacore roll, featuring tempura shrimp, avocado, and ponzu. For best seats and peaceful eating, come early; the bar fills fast and the room can get downright rowdy as the night rolls on. Street parking. Lunch/dinner daily. Moderate.

**Mesquite** 9932 Mercy Road #108, Poway, 619-420-0767. Named after Sebastian Merkl, the owner's German granddad, who jumped ship in New York after World War I. Merkl's claims to be the first real New York-style deli south of Hillcrest. It certainly has serious,

all-day, New York-type breakfasts like pastrami and corned beef three-egg omelets or Reuben omelets filled with corned beef, Swiss cheese, and sauerkraut. Or salami and eggs, pancake-style. There's even a breakfast Philly cheese steak. But it's not only New York. Out back, their Texas-style smoker burns mesquite for some pretty mean ribs. Also check Chula Vista's truck farm history on the walls, a collection of crate-end labels with all the fruits that this town's soils used to produce. Sunday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Friday and Saturday dinner only. Inexpensive. -

Swaddee Thai 1001 C Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-8110. Tourists never stray to Swadee's quiet residential location a block from the bright lights of Orange Avenue. Their loss is the locals' gain. The dining room is a quiet, lovely haven from the hustle; the service is caring and gracious. Even if the long list of Siamese specialties is merely standard, the kitchen, too, is devoted to the art of gently giving pleasure. The peanut sauce accompany ing the sate, for instance, is classically

balanced; the complex but soothing coconut-chicken soup can wash away all cares; and the calamari in the many seafood arrays is cleverly knife-scored to achieve sheer tenderness along with good looks. Even the jasmine rice is an exceptionally fragrant brand. Unless you specify otherwise, spicy dishes have a nice nip tuned to brave but tender *farang* tastebuds. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive to moderate. - N.W.

#### **EAST COUNTY**

Oggi's 9828 Mission Gorge Road, Santee, 619-449-6441. At least ten branches all over the suburbs; see phone book for the nearest one. Is it the pizzas or is it the housemade brewskis (six ales, one lager, one stout) that make Oggi's so popular? Is it the sports-bar ambiance (with multiple video screens) or just the near-ubiquity of branches that has won this chain numerous "best pizza" citations? The pizzas are American-style,

with thick, slightly sweet crusts, many with elaborate toppings that sound more adventurous than they taste. (All the cheese alternatives are equally mild.) The menu also offers pub snacks, decent soups and salads, hearty sandwiches, and American-Italian entrees so mall-adapted that no mamma mia in Bensonhurst or North Beach would even recognize them. Full bar, lunch and dinner daily at most branches; free local delivery with minimum order. Inexpensive. — N. W.

Ranas.Com 9683 Campo Road, Suite A, Spring Valley, 619-589-1792. With 33 Mexican restaurants in the area, this Mexico City eatery has got to be good. It's a cheery place with lime green walls and orange accents. Cooking from the capital tends to be less bitingly hot than some northern food, with unexpected taste combos, like *pollo en salsa de cac-ahuate* (an almost Thai-tasting chicken in peanut sauce which comes with rice, beans, and tortilla). Aztec huarache (cactus with potato, cheese, lettuce, sour cream, and salsa) is also easy to love. In-











Open Sun.-Thurs. 11 am-9 pm Fri. & Sat. 11 am-9:30 pm

#### **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

#### **Anton in Show Business**

It's an oxymoron in Jane Martin's serious comedy about the state, but hopefully not the future, of American theater. Three women, a rich TV star (Deanna Driscoll), an off-Broadway struggling artist (Robin Christ), and an ingenue-wannabe (Aimee Janelle Nelson) sign on for a production of Chekhov's Three Sisters in San Antonio. Throughout their process, from auditions to rehearsals, business keeps trumping, and squelching, art. In the end, like the Prozorov sisters stuck in rural Russia, the trio comes no closer to their dreams. Everything Jane Martin says about current theater is true: commercialism dominates, interpretations mediate texts, few roles for women. But the play is often more a vehicle for commentary, including an intrusive critic in the audience, than an involving story (which is Jane Martin's, aka John Jory's, ongoing complaint: in today's theater, concepts dominate, not stories). When they don't fuse

with Chekhov's sisters, the characters are cardboard. It's a tribute to the 6th@Penn cast that they have some dimensions. At times shrill and heavy-handed (the night I was there the cast played big to a small audience), the production benefits from the three leads, especially Driscoll, who at times takes charge and creates humor out of nothing. The show's look is Our Town minimalism, within which Cashae Monya makes an impressive local debut in several roles.

#### Worth a try.

6TH AT PENN THEATER, 3704 SIXTH AV-ENUE, HILLCREST, THROUGH MARCH 2: THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M., SUNDAYS, 7 P.M., MONDAYS, 7:30 P.M., TUESDAYS, 7:30 P.M., WEDNES-DAYS, 7:30 P.M., 619-688-9210.

#### **Fences**

Baseball immortal Josh Gibson died three months before Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in 1947. August Wilson's drama opens in 1957. Troy Maxson, a Gibson-like character snubbed by the major leagues, shows that although baseball's been desegregated for a decade, the world outside hasn't. Troy is Wilson's, and one of American theater's, most multi-faceted creations. Mention a negative and a positive jumps to his defense (and vice versa). Wilson says with Troy, "you got to take the crookeds with the straights. Which is 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 a complex, vulnerable man. Stagings of Fences showcase Troy. Director Delicia Turner Sonnenberg has taken a more rewarding tack: Troy is a big revolving planet, a Jupiter, but his loving, long-suffering wife Rose is the sun. As

played by the excellent Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson, Rose is Troy's center. And when he crosses one line too many, she builds an emotional fence between them. The leads deliver all the goods, and so does everyone else on Mike Buckley's brick-walled set, dapple-lit by Eric Lotze. Mark Christopher Lawrence does a special turn as Troy's mentally-challenged brother, Gabe (who may, or may not, be his angelic namesake). In the end, Gabe swings and misses three times, but ends up smashing the deepest home run of all. Critic's Pick.

CYGNET THEATRE COMPANY, 6663 EL CAJON BOULEVARD, SUITE N, COLLEGE AREA. THROUGH MARCH 2; SUNDAYS, 2 P.M., SATURDAYS, 2 P.M., MONDAYS 7:30 P.M., THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., FRI-DAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 7 P.M., 619-337-1525.

#### Gypsy

For one night only, California Center for the Arts, Escondido, hosts a touring production of the Stephen Sondheim/Jule Styne musical, based on the autobiography of stripper Gypsy Rose Lee. CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS, ES-CONDIDO, 340 NORTH ESCONDIDO BOULEVARD, ESCONDIDO, : SATURDAY, 8 P.M., 800-988-4253.

#### H.M.S. Pinafore

619-239-8836.

Lyric Opera San Diego presents Gilbert and Sullivan's first blockbuster hit, about a "saucy beauty of a ship" and love between members of different social classes. David Brannen directed. LYRIC OPERA SAN DIEGO, 2891 UNI-VERSITY AVENUE, NORTH PARK. THROUGH FEBRUARY 24: THURSDAYS. 7:30 P.M., FRIDAYS, 7:30 P.M., SATUR DAYS, 7:30 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2:30 P.M.,

#### Hello, Dolly!

Lamb's Players stages Jerry Herman and Michael Stewart's endearing musical about the irrepressible Dolly Levi, based on The Matchmaker by Thornton Wilder. LAMB'S PLAYERS THEATRE 1142 OR-ANGE AVENUE, CORONADO. THROUGH MARCH 16; THURSDAYS, 7:30 P.M., FRI-DAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 4 P.M., SAT-URDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M., TUESDAYS, 7:30 P.M., WEDNESDAYS, 7:30 P.M., 619-437-0600.

#### **Leading Ladies**

The Broadway Theater opens its new season with Ken Ludwig's comedy about classically trained British actors who dress in drag to land a quality gig. Randall Hickman directed.

BROADWAY THEATRE, 340 EAST BROAD-WAY, VISTA. THROUGH MARCH 16; THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M., 760-806-7905.

#### **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 olay "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., SAT-URDAYS, 9:45 P.M., 619-295-4999

#### Oklahoma!

The Welk Resort Theatre stages Rodgers and Hammerstein's ageless musical about the opening of

Saturday, June 21

7:30 pm

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., TUES-DAYS, 1:45 P.M., WEDNESDAYS, 1:45 P.M., 888-802-7469

#### Route 66

Moonlight Stage Productions presents Roger Bean's "musical revue of songs for the road." Brian Wells and David Brannen co-directed. AVO PLAYHOUSE, 303 MAIN STREET. VISTA. THROUGH FEBRUARY 24; THURS-DAYS, 7:30 P.M., FRIDAYS, 7:30 P.M., SATURDAYS, 2 P.M., SATURDAYS, 7:30 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M., 760-724-2110.

#### 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,

#### Worth a try.

FUNHOUSE, 6822 FL CAJON BOULE-VARD, COLLEGE AREA. OPEN-ENDED RUN: FRIDAYS, 7:45 P.M., SATURDAYS, 7:45 P.M., SATURDAYS, 9:45 P.M., 619-

#### 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.

#### **Sweet Charity**

I might have caught the Coronado Playhouse's show on a bad night. I'd heard some good things about

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 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 coworkers, 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.

it but saw few. Bob Fosse directed

#### Ten-Minute Madness

GB Productions presents seven new short plays by playwrights from around the country, performed by an ensemble cast. NORTH PARK VAUDEVILLE, 2031 EL CA-JON BOULEVARD, NORTH PARK. THROUGH FEBRUARY 16: FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATUR-DAYS, 8 P.M., 619-647-4958.

#### 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; THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 2:30 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2:30 P.M., TUES-DAYS, 7:30 P.M., WEDNESDAYS, 8 P.M., 714-708-5555.

# Where There's a Will... There's a Wake

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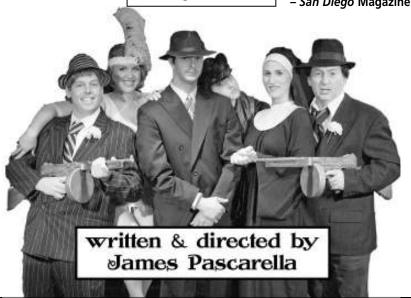
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WALTZ TRIO

Saturday, August 9

7:30 pm

#### The Physicists

"In the realm of science, there is nothing more repugnant than a miracle." Two mysteries get solved in Friedrich Durenmatt's comicparable. Someone is strangling the nurses at a private sanatorium. The reason: one of the patients has solved the biggest mystery of all, "the gravity problem," which could unleash colossal energy. Is it the garrulous gent dressed as Isaac Newton? Or the guy with the white shock of hair calling himself Einstein? Or the mumbler in King Solomon's robes, who claims to be the German mathematician/theoretical astronomer Mobius? The solution to both mysteries leads to a greater question: who has the right to control - or even create such godlike power? ("Now I am become Death," said J. Robert Oppenheimer quoting Vishnu, when he helped invent the atom bomb). UCSD Theatre's given the 1962 play a big, at times pyrotechnic production. All design elements, from Steven C. Kemp's decadent drawing room to Emily DeAnge

lis's early Sixties costumes, meld-Director Lori Petermann inverts the sane and insane characters. Just about everyone in authority (except Johnny Wu's funny, Philip Marlow-like inspector) is predictably goofy. And the alleged psychotics become rationalist philosophers. Throughout, but especially in Act one, the comedy gets pushed too hard. The cast fills almost every moment with business: how something gets said becomes more important than what. The approach, though generous and democratic, dulls the pace. The more effective performances - Amalia Fite's creepy Doktor von Zahnd, for example - keep the touches inside the character. Gears shift when Larry Herron enters as Mobius. In his excellent portrayal, when Toto pulls back the curtain he doesn't reveal a sham, but a real wizard tormented by his gifts.

#### Worth a try.

UCSD: UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO, 9500 GILMAN DRIVE, UCSD. THROUGH FEBRUARY 16; THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., FRIDAYS,

8 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 2 P.M., SATURDAYS, 2 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 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



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Sun, Mar 16 Vienna Boys Choir

Thu, Mar 20 In the Mood

Mar 28 & 29 California Ballet Presents: First View

San Diego Jewish Film Festival: His People (ON SALE SOON) Sat. Apr 5

San Diego Men's Chorus with Frenchie Davis Sat. Apr 12

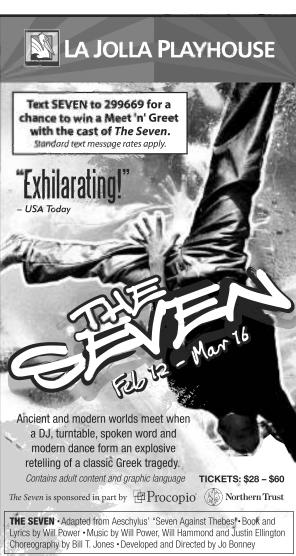
Classics 4 Kids Family Concerts: Going Green Sun, Apr 13

Sun, Apr 20 Jungle Jack Hanna (ON SALE TODAY) Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano

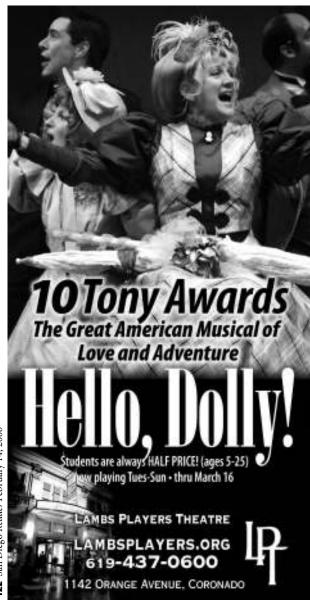
Sat, May 10 Betty Buckley in Concert

#### TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

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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-offact 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., 619-374-6894

#### The Seven

La Jolla Playhouse presents Will Power's hip-hop, "sampling" take on Aeschylus's Seven Against Thebes, developed and directed by Justin Ellington.

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, 2910 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DRIVE, UCSD, THROUGH MARCH 16; SUNDAYS, 2 P.M., SUNDAYS, 7 P.M., TUESDAYS, 7:30 P.M., WEDNESDAYS, 7:30 P.M., 858-550-1010.

#### 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 inexpert 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 48hour 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

natïveté. And, wearing the greatest hits of punk mufti, Rachel Van Wormer captures the counterphobic veneer of the early '80s - 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 ing 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., SAT-URDAYS, 5 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M.,

reunion could help them face sear-

#### Where There's a Will... There's a Wake

619-234-9583.

SUNDAYS, 3 P.M., SUNDAYS, 7 P.M.,

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 di-

MYSTERY CAFE, 505 KALMIA STREET, HILLCREST, OPEN-ENDED RUN: FRI-DAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., 619-544-1664

# THEATER DIRECTORY

Actors Alliance Of San Diego 2650 Truxtum Road, Suite 203 Liberty Station (619) 224-3600 www.actorsalliance.com

Arts Tix 28 Horton Plaza, Downtown (619) 497-5000 www.sandiegoperforms.com

#### **Asian American Repertory Theatre**

www.asianamericanrep.org

#### **Beacon Theatre**

www.beacontheatresd.com

Borrego Springs Performing Arts Center 590 Palm Canyon Dr., Borrego Springs (760) 767-4275 www.bspac.us

#### The Broadway Theatre 340 East Brodway, Vista

(760) 806-7905 www.premiereforkids.com

#### **California Center For The Arts** 340 N. Escondido Blvd., Escondido

#### (760) 839-4100 www.artcenter.org Carlsbad Village Theatre

(760) 729-0089 www.carlsbadvillagetheatre.com

Centro Cultural De La Raza

#### **Christian Community Theater**

#### (619) 588-0206 www.expaclive.com **Civic Theatre**

(858) 570-1100 www.sdcivic.org

### Clairemont Community Players

Holmes Elementary 4902 Mt. Ararat, Clairemont (858) 560-5114

# Community Actors Theatre 2957 54th St., State College (619) 264-3391 www.communityactorstheatre.com

Copley Symphony Hall

#### (619) 235-0804 ww.sandiegosymphony.com

**Coronado Playhouse** 1835 Strand Way, Coronado

#### (619) 435-4856 www.coronadoplavhouse.com

**Cygnet Theatre Company**6663 El Cajon Blvd., Ste. N, College Area
(619) 337-1525 www.cygnettheatre.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 (619) 440-2277 www.ecpac.com Educational Cultural Complex

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

#### **Grossmont College** Stagehouse Theatre, El Cajon

(619) 644-7234 nt occed ce 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

#### (619) 234-9583

Inner Mission Productions

#### nnermissionproductions.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

(858) 550-1010 ww.laiollaplayhouse.org

#### La Jolla Stage Company

(858) 459-7773 www.thelajollastageco.org

# Lamb's Players Theatre Paul and Ione Harter Stage

Paul and Ione Harter Stage 1142 Orange Ave., Coronado (619) 437-0600 www.lambsplayers.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

(619) 239-8836

#### Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theater (619) 685-5990

# Mesa College Theatre Company 7250 Mesa College Dr., Clairem (858) 627-2621

MiraCosta College Theatre
One Barnard Dr. Oceanside (760) 795-6815 www.miracosta.edu

# Mira Mesa Theatre Guild

#### Moonlight Stage Productions 651 E. Vista Way Vista (760) 724-2110

www.moonlightstage.com

Mystery Cafe
The Imperial House Restaurant
505 Kalmia St., Hillcrest
(619) 544-1664 www.mysterycafe.net **National Comedy Theatre** 

#### (619) 295-4999 ww.nationalcomedv.com

2787 B State St., Carlsbad (760) 433-3245 www.NewVillageArts.org

# North Coast Repertory Theatre 987-D Lomas Santa Fe Dr., Solana Bea (858) 481-1055 www.northcoastrep.

North Park Vaudeville 2031 El Cajon Bl (619) 647-4958

#### The Old Globe Theatre

Cassius Carter Centre Stage Lowell Davies Festival Theatre, Balboa Park (619) 23-GLOBE (234-5623)

### Onstage Playhouse 291 Third Ave., Chula V

291 Third Ave., Chula Vista (619) 422-7787 www.onsta

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**

ming 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., Ramos (760) 789-7008

#### The Rehearsal Room

1159 6th Ave., De (619) 589-9963 San Diego Actors Theatre

# San Diego City College Theater

San Diego Junior Theatre
Casa Del Prado Theatre, Balboa Park
(619) 239-8355 www.juniortheatre.com

#### San Diego Musical Theatre

w.SDMT.org San Diego Opera

#### (619) 232-7636 www.sdopera.com

San Diego Repertory Theatre

#### (619) 544-1000 www.sandiegorep.com S.D. School Of Creative &

Performing Arts 2425 Dusk Dr., Paradise Hills (619) 470-0555 www.scpa.sandi.net

# San Diego State University Don Powell Theatre

and Experimental Theater (619) 594-6884 http://theatre.sdsu.edu/

#### San Diego Theatresports

(619) 465-7469 www.improvise.net

#### Scripps Ranch Theatre

10455 Pomerado Rd., Scripps Ranch (858) 578-7728 www.scrippsranchtheatre.org 6th @ Penn Theater

#### 3704 6th Ave., Hillcrest (619) 688-9210 www.sixthatpenn.com San Diego Black Ensemble Theatre

**Sledgehammer Theatre** (619) 544-1484 www.sledgel

# Southwestern College 900 Otay Lakes Rd., Chula Vista

(619) 482-6367 www.swc.cc.ca.us

#### The Spreckels Theatre 121 Broadway, Downtown (619) 235-9500

Star Theatre 402 North Coast Highway, Oceanside (760) 721-9983 www.startheater.org

Starlight Musical Theatre Starlight Bowl, Balboa Park (619) 544-7827

#### www.starlighttheatre.org **Sullivan Players**

(858) 274-1731

# Sushi Performance & Visual Art 320 Eleventh Ave., Downtown

(619) 235-8466 www.sushiart.org Teatro Mascara Magica

#### (619) 231-3586

The Theatre In Old Town 4040 Twiggs St., Old Town (619) 688-2494 www.theatreinoldtown.com

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# Calendar Movies

#### 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.

★ (FLOWER HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20)

**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, carrace, 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



The Eye

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; GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MIS- SION 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)

Charlie Wilson's War — Didactic polisci lesson on How the System Works, entertainingly illustrated by screenwriter Aaron Sorkin and director Mike Nichols. The titular war is the one between the Soviets and the Afghans in the Reagan era, and Charlie Wilson is a nonfictional Texas congressman (played with supreme complacency by Tom Hanks) who, ideally situated for budgeting purposes, spared some time from his enjoyment of the perks of power

(single malt, cocaine, strippers in the hot tub) in order to do the bidding of a rabid Right-wing fundraiser in his home state (Julia Roberts, fully surrendering to her natural or enhanced grotesquerie, at one point intrepidly separating her gluey evelashes with an open safety pin) and broker a covert alliance between the Pakistanis and the Israelis, combatting the Evil Empire from discreetly behind the scenes. This is not your typical tale of the cavalier cynic getting involved, finding religion, committing himself to a cause. The protagonist's profligate ways are typical enough, and the refugee camp that opens his eyes is depicted very straight, but there remains, even after that, a sense of irony about his crusade no more solemnity in his demeanor than in

that, let's say, of the surgeons in MASHso that his commitment is forever perceived as something of a pose, something within quotation marks. The job gets done all the same. Philip Seymour Hoffman, sporting a lush mustache and full head of dark hair in 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.

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 sidelong 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 gargan-



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# Calendar MOVIES

tuan 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 coverage 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

★★★ (CHULA VISTA 10; FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VAL-LEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18)

**Conspiracy** — Action film starring Val Kilmer, Gary Cole, and Jennifer Esposito, directed by Adam Marcus.
(DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8, FROM 2/15)

**Definitely, Maybe** — Adam Brooks's romantic comedy with Ryan Reynolds, Abigail Breslin, Elizabeth Banks, Isla Fisher, Rachel Weisz.

(CARMEL MOUNTAIN; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY



Fool's Gold

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)

**Diary of the Dead** — George A. Romero raises some more zombies, with Michelle Morgan, Josh Close, and Shawn Roberts. (PALM PROMENADE 24, FROM 2/15)

**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, THROUGH 2/14; HOR-

TON PLAZA 14, FROM 2/15; LA JOLLA VILLAGE,
FROM 2/15)

Honeydrip

part, bothered to look at concert footage of Anne-Sophie Mutter, Sarah Chang, Leila Josefowicz, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, anybody at all. With Alessandro Nivola, Parker Posey, Rade Serbedzija, and Rachel Ticotin; directed by David Moreau and Xavier Palud. 2008.

■ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKET-PLACE 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; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

**The Eye** — 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 be-

ing 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

Her great blessing, by compensation, is that

she could never see herself playing the vio-

lin: one moving part only, the right shoul-

der joint, like a cardboard-cutout puppet,

hinge, the rest of her body stock-still. You

wonder whether Alba, to "prepare" for the

the bent arm swinging back and forth on its

moment is precisely in front of a mirror.

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 SOLJARE 14: VISTA VILLAGE)

**Honeydripper** — Indie filmmaker John Sayles evokes the music scene in rural Alabama ca. 1950, with Danny Glover, Lisa Gay Hamilton, Charles S. Dutton. (HORTON PLAZA 14, FROM 2/15)

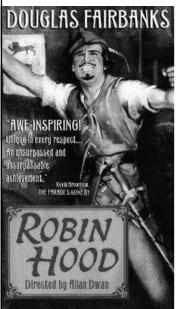
I Am Legend — The third screen treatment of Richard Matheson's post-apocalyptic vampire tale is the first to retain the original title (cf. The Last Man on Earth and The Omega Man), and the first to bring to it the total commitment of top dollar, most helpful in creating a weed-overgrown New York City. 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.

★ (MISSION VALLEY 20)

In Bruges - Writer-director Martin Mc-Donagh, in his feature debut, dispatches two British hit men to lie low, after a job with messy collateral damage, in the "fairytale" 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 museum 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-

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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. 2008.

• (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

Into the Wild — Illustration, in a sketchy hand, of the Jon Krakauer nonfiction book on Christopher McCandless, a 1990 college graduate, on the doorstep of Harvard Law School, who gave away his tuition fund to Oxfam, obliterated his identity, renamed himself Alexander Supertramp, and swapped the evils of society for the purity of the northern wilderness ("No longer to be poisoned by civilization," he carved into a wooden shingle at his encampment), where ultimately he starved to death in 1992. It may not sound like much of an idea for a film. It isn't. A Seventies-style road movie, redolent of Seventies-style disaffection, it has a strong element of travelogue, as our happy-go-lucky hobo rides his aging Datsun westward to South Dakota, abandons it at Lake Mead, kayaks down the Colorado River, drifts into Mexico, trainhops up to L.A., thumbs his way to the Salton Sea, Anza Borrego, and Alaska. In that final destination, the travelogue veers toward nature documentary. At nearly two and a half hours, the film feels very, very long, albeit short on relatable incident: the protagonist goes places, he meets people, and then he goes to a place where he won't meet people, where he will meet only his end, a martyr to something or other. Director Sean Penn unmistakably takes himself very seriously, and takes his protagonist almost reverently, painting him as something of a holy fool (a reader of Tolstoi, even though an eater of meat when he can get it), and offering up this speculative reenactment as nothing less than an endorsement. At the top, he sets the tone with a high-flown epigraph from Lord Byron: "I love not man the less, but Nature more" that one. The kid sister periodically supplies some explanatory narration ("I understand what he was doing"), and Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder chimes in with a half-dozen or so acoustic songs in sympathy and support. Of the real protagonist's earnestness and con-



In Bruges

viction, the film can tell us next to nothing. Of the filmmaker's, it can tell us much. And then it can tell us again. And again. With Emile Hirsch, Marcia Gay Harden, William Hurt, Jena Malone, Vince Vaughn, and Hal Holbrook. 2007.

★ (GASLAMP 15; LA PALOMA)

Ira and Abby — Nebbish and dingbat, engaged at first sight, married at first chance. By name, Chris Messina and Jennifer Westfeldt, a poor man's Steve Guttenberg and poor woman's Jennifer Tilly (except that she's also the scriptwriter). With Judith Light, Robert Klein, Frances Conroy, Fred Willard, and Jason Alexander; directed by Robert Cary. 2007.

• (SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY, 2/20, 6:30 P.M.)

**Jumper** — Flashy adolescent fantasy about a bullied nerd who spontaneously acquires

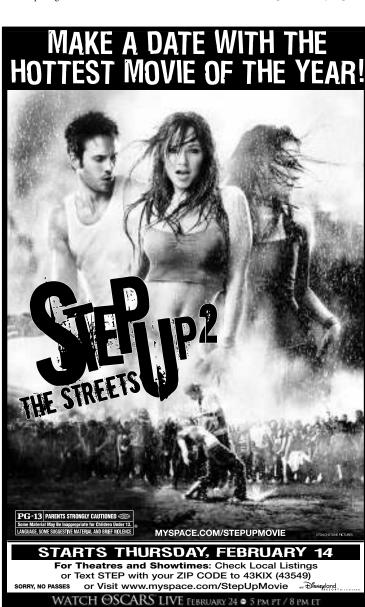
the supercool superpower of teleportation: the face of Big Ben one minute, surfing in Fiji the next, the head of the Sphinx the next. Hardly has this power been established, and hardly has the awkward teen morphed into Hayden Christensen, before he's on the run from a murderous party-pooper known as a Paladin (the white-haired Samuel L. Jackson), though that doesn't deflect the Jumper from a detour to woo his childhood crush (Rachel Bilson). Development is stunted; questions and confusion far outrun thrills and suspense.

With Jamie Bell, Michael Rooker, and Diane Lane; directed by Doug Liman. 2008.

◆ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; 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)

pregnant Minnesota high-schooler (named after the Roman goddess of marriage, fidelity, fertility), the dry flat sardonic linedelivery of Ellen Page, the angelic avenger of Hard Candy, is not easy to warm up to, no matter how much we might try to see it as an adolescent defense mechanism, or how much as humble emulation of Ianeane 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 Iason Reitman's directorial bona fides: a series of static shots of antiseptic House Beautiful after House Beautiful as the car passes across the screen, left to right, in front of each. And the prospective mother, Jennifer Garner (her piano-wire tautness put to good use), turns out to be the neater of the pair, someone who will studiously ponder "custard" versus "cheesecake" as the color for baby's room, while the prospective father, Jason Bateman, proves to be the freakier, a stay-athome composer of advertising ditties and a frustrated rock-and-roller. A curious, potentially dangerous after-school relationship blossoms between him and the heroine: he may be a commercial sell-out as a composer, but he's a person who can talk music to a teenager, and he demonstrates "decent taste in slasher movies" (e.g., Herschell Gordon Lewis's The Wizard of Gore.

**Juno** — A slow starter. In the title role of a





another impediment to our warming up to the heroine). Over time, the film builds, and it does so with proficiency, patience, and foresight. If the heroine is never wholly embraceable, the surrounding characters go far to compensate, specifically J.K. Simmons as her droll laconic dad, Allison Janney as her worldly-wise, even-keeled mom, and above all, Michael Cera as her shuntedaside, unassertive, but ever-faithful boyfriend, the baby's biological father, and a cooler dude than you'd ever guess from his track-team togs. And if the dialogue is unabatingly overcolored, at least the hues are spread around democratically. 2007. ★★★ (ESCONDIDO 16; FLOWER HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER; HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA COSTA 6: LA JOLLA 12: MIRA MESA 18: MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; 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)

Hosseini novel, directed by Marc Forster (Finding Neverland, Stranger Than Fiction), a story about a storyteller, and in large part a story truly worthy of a storyteller. The re-1978, the sons of master and servant, and the psychologically penetrating betrayal of the second by the first, our evolving storytakes a tactical and tactful approach to the Islamic topic, and the nostalgic re-creation of life in the Afghanistan of yesteryear is highly beneficial: the competitive, combative, and colorful kite flying, the Pashtodubbed print of The Magnificent Seven (Charles Bronson's accent giving him away principled, civilized, dignified father (ably embodied by the star of Taste of Cherry, Homayoun Ershadi), destined to run a gas station in Fremont after fleeing the Soviet invaders. The besetting problems of dividing a screen role between a younger and an older actor are brutally spotlighted in the

The Kite Runner — From the Khaled maining parts are hackneyed and/or hokey. Main elements: two boyhood pals in Kabul, teller. Notwithstanding the graphic barbarities of the Taliban in the year 2000, the film (handsomely photographed in the bargain) as a native Iranian), the swanky comforts of the hero's home, the imposing figure of his

scene where a Taliban bully tells the now adult hero that he never forgets a face, when in truth the face little resembles the one that the bully last saw. It is not surprising that the hero, in turn, doesn't recognize the bully. With Khalid Abdalla, Zekeria Ebrahimi, and Ahmad Khan Mahmidzada.

★★ (HORTON PLAZA 14)

The Last Tango in Paris — Bernardo Bertolucci's big splash. It has been so overdiscussed that nearly every incident seems familiar even as it's happening. And so, the focus of attention is narrowed to where it mainly belongs - the extravagances of Bertolucci's juicy romantic style, his inexplicable bursts of camera movement, gushes of music, rich lighting effects. In the acting department, Marlon Brando's mulled-over maneuvers are effectively counterbalanced by Maria Schneider's breezy instinctiveness 1973

★★★ (MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, LA JOLLA, 2/14, 7 P.M.)

Let's Get Lost — Bruce Weber's documentary scrapbook on the life of jazz singer and trumpeter (and heart-throb) Chet Baker. The filmmaker (whose Broken Noses was about the boxer and Chet Baker lookalike, Andy Minsker) has a lot of material, some of it quite rare, but he hasn't a lot of angles on it. The predominant one seems to be a morbid horror at the man's physical decay: from looking like the lead in a 1950s j.d. drama to looking like a grizzled bitplayer in a cattle-drive Western; or in the actual words of those who knew him, from "Greek god" to common "junkie." His (monotonous) music, heard mostly in snippets, is almost incidental in this context. But the widely varied black-and-white imagery - ranging from the glossiest and highest-contrast to the grainiest and grayest — evokes all the nostalgia required.

★ (KEN, 2/15 THROUGH 21)

Mad Money — A demographically diverse trio of women (Diane Keaton, Queen Latifah, Katie Holmes) are of undivided mind about the wisdom and fun of siphoning off wrinkled old bills, marked for shredding, from the Kansas City Federal Reserve. The director, Callie Khouri, makes a unanimous fourth. A caper comedy heedless of consequences, completely inconsequential. With Ted Danson. 2008.

• (PALM PROMENADE 24)

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 threebillion-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-waggling 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.

★★ (MISSION VALLEY 20)

#### **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 CGaided action. With Nicolas Cage, Diane Kruger, Justin Bartha, Jon Voight, Helen Mirren, Harvey Keitel, and Ed Harris; di-

rected by Jon Turteltaub. 2007. • FASHION VALLEY 18; LA JOLLA 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 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;

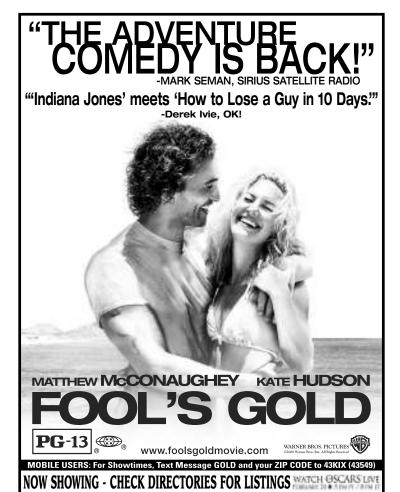
The Orphanage— Spanish ghost story that strives at all times to stay within arm's reach of ambiguity - real ghosts or overheated imagination? - in the mold of the Henry James prototype, The Turn of the Screw, or at any rate in the mold of the academic squabbles over it. James may have set out to write 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 prunefaced 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





· (619) 819-0236 For showtimes and to buy tickets visit tickets.landmarktheatres.com

Reader February 14, 2008



# **MOVIE SHOWTIMES**

Bargain showtimes are in parentheses.

#### **CENTRAL CLAIREMONT**

#### Town Square 14

4665 Clairemont Drive (858-274-1234) Atonement (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:30) 4:15, 7:00. 9:55; The Bucket List (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:45, 2:35) 5:20, 7:55, 10:25; Definitely, Maybe (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 2:10) 4:55, 7:30, 10:10: Fool's Gold (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:20, 12:10, 1:55, 2:45) 4:30, 5:15, 7:10, 7:45, 9:45, 10:30; **Jumper** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:05, 12:15, 1:20, 2:30, 3:25) 4:45, 5:35, 7:15, 8:00, 9:40, 10:20; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:35, 2:20) 5:00, 7:25, 9:50; **The Spiderwick Chronicles** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:15, 12:00, 1:50, 2:40) 4:25, 5:10, 7:00, 7:40, 9:30, 10:05; **Step Up 2 the Streets** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:50, 2:25) 5:05, 7:50, 10:15; **There Will Be Blood** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 2:15) 5:25, 8:45; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:10, 2:05) 4:35, 7:20, 10:00; **Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:05, 1:40) 4:20, 7:05, 9:35

#### Gaslamp 15

701 Fifth Avenue (619-232-0400) Call theater for program information

#### Horton Plaza 14

Horton Plaza 14 Horton Plaza (619-444-FILM) Cloverfield (PG-13) Fri. (10:55, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30) 7:45, 9:50 Sat. (10:55, 1:10, 3:20) 5:30, 7:45, 9:50 Sun. (10:55, 1:10, 3:20) 5:30, 7:50, 9:55; Definitely, Maybe (PG-13) Fri. (11:30, 2:00, 4:40) 7:15, 10:00 Sat.-Sun. (11:30, 2:00) 4:40, 7:15, 10:00; **The Eye** (PG-13) Fri. (11:00, 1:20, 4:05) 7:10, 9:45 Sat.-Sun. (11:00, 1:20) 4:05, 7:10, 9:45; **Honeydripper** (PG-13) Fri. (11:20, 2:05, 5:00) 7:45, 10:30 Sat.-Sun. (11:20, 2:05) 5:00, 7:45, 10:30; **The Kite Runner** (PG-13) Fri. (11:05, 4:45) 10:20 Sat.-Sun. (11:05) 4:45, 10:20; **Step Up 2 the Streets** (PG-13) Fri. (11:15, 12:00, 1:35, 2:30, 4:05, 4:50) 7:05, 7:30, 9:25, 10:05 Sat. (12:00, 2:30) 4:05, 4:50, 7:05, 7:30, 9:25, 10:05 Sun. (11:15, 12:00, 1:35, 2:30) 4:05, 4:50, 7:05, 7:30, 9:25, 10:05; **Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of** Fleet Street (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:55) 7:35; The Diving Bell and the Butterfly (PG-13) Fri. (11:10, 1:45, 4:20) 6:55, 9:30 Sat.-Sun. (11:10, 1:45) 4:20, 6:55, 9:30; **The Orphanage** (R) Fri. (11:25, 1:50, 4:15) 6:50, 9:20 Sat.-Sun. (11:25, 1:50) 4:15, 6:50, 9:20; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri. (11:30, 2:00, 4:30) 7:00, 9:35 Sat.-Sun. (11:30, 2:00) 4:30, 7:00, 9:35; **Untraceable** (R) Fri. (11:40, 2:10, 4:50) 7:25, 9:55 Sat.-Sun. (11:40, 2:10) 4:50, 7:25, 9:55

#### **LA JOLLA**

#### La Jolla 12

8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (858-558-2262) **The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri. 12:35, 3:00, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15 Sat. (10:20) 12:35, 3:00, 5:15, 7:45 Sun. (10:20) 12:35, 3:00, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10; **Charlie Wilson's War** (R) Fri. 1:50, 4:20, 7:05, 9:40 Sat. (11:05) 1:50, 4:20, 7:05, 9:35 Sun. 4:20, 7:05, 9:35; **Cloverfield** (PG-13) Fri. 12:50, 2:55, 5:00, 7:35, 9:50 Sat. 7:30, 9:50 Sun. 10:30p.m.; **Definitely, Maybe** (PG-13) Fri. 1:35, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00 Sat.-Sun. (10:45) 1:35, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00; **Fool's Gold** (PG-13) Fri. 1:25, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45 Sat. (10:40) 1:25, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45 Sun. 1:25, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45; **Jumper** (PG-13) Fri. 1:20, 3:35, 5:55, 8:20, 10:45 Sat.-Sun. (10:55) 1:20, 3:35, 5:55, 8:20, 10:45; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri. 12:55, 3:15, 5:35, 8:05, 10:35 Sat.-Sun. (10:25) 12:55, 3:15, 5:35, 8:05, 10:35; National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG) Fri. 1:15, 4:25, 7:25, 10:20 Sat. (10:30) 1:30, 4:30 Sun. 1:30, 9:55; **The Spiderwick Chronicles** (PG) Fri. 1:05, 3:25, 5:45, 8:15, 10:40 Sat.-Sun. (10:35) 1:05, 3:25, 5:45, 8:15, 10:40; **Step Up 2** the Streets (PG-13) Fri. 12:30, 3:05, 5:25, 7:55, 10:25 Sat.-Sun. (10:15) 12:30, 3:05, 5:25, 7:55, 10:25; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri. 1:55, 4:40, 7:15, 10:05 Sat. (11:15) 1:55, 4:40, 7:15, 10:05 Sun. 4:40, 7:15, 10:05; **Untraceable** (R) Fri. 12:45, 3:10, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 Sat. (10:50) 1:15, 10:15 Sun. 10:15p.m.

**La Jolla Village** 8879 Villa La Jolla Drive (619-819-0236) Call theater for program information

#### **MIRA MESA**

#### Mira Mesa 18

10733 Westview Parkway (858-635-7700) The Metropolitan Opera: Manon Lescaut - NCM Event () Sat. 10:00p.m. 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. Sun. (11:15, 2:15) 5:00, 7:45, 10:45; Definitely, Maybe (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30; Fool's Gold (PG-13) Fri. Sun. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45; 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, 10:15; **Jumper** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:15, 12:30, 2:45) 5:15, 7:30, 10:00; **The Spiderwick Chronicles** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 12:15, 2:30) 4:45, 7:15, 9:30; **There Will Be Blood** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 3:30)

Mission Valley 20 1640 Camino Del Rio North (858-558-2262) Call theater for program information

#### **STATE UNIVERSITY**

4061 Adams Avenue (619-819-0236) Let's Get Lost (1997) (NR) Fri. 4:20, 7:00, 9:40 Sat.-Sun. 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

#### UPTOWN

**Hillcrest Cinemas** 3965 Fifth Avenue (619-819-0236) In Bruges (R) Fri. 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50 Sat.-Sun. 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50; Juno (PG-13) Fri. 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00 Sat.-Sun. 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00; **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, 10:10 Sat.-Sun 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:10

#### **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) Dinosaurs Alive! (NR) Fri.-Sun. 1:00, 5:00 Everest (Not Rated) Fri. 6:00p.m.; The Living Sea (Not Rated) Fri. 11:00, 3:00, 9:00 Sat. 11:00, 3:00, 7:00 Sun, 11:00, 3:00; Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure (No Rating) Fri. 10:00, 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; **Space Station** (No Rating)

#### San Diego Natural History Museum 1788 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-232-3821)

Call theater for program information

#### **EAST COUNTY**

#### **EL CAJON**

#### Parkway Plaza 18

405 Parkway Plaza (619-401-3456) Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG) Fri. (12:00, 2:20, 4:40) Sat.-Sun. (12:00, 2:20) 4:40; **The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri. (12:05, 2:25, 4:45) 7:20, 9:45 Sat.-Sun. (12:05, 2:25) 4:45, 7:20, 9:45; **Cloverfield** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 7:00, 9:15; **Definitely, Maybe** (PG-13) Fri. (12:05, 2:45, 5:25) 8:10, 10:50 Sat.-Sun. (12:05, 2:45) 5:25, 8:10, 10:50; The Eye (PG-13) Fri. (12:30, 3:00, 5:25) 7:50, 10:20 Sat.-Sun. (12:30, 3:00) 5:25, 7:50, 10:20; **Fool's Gold** (PG-13) Fri. (12:25, 3:05, 5:40) 8:15, 10:55 Sat.-Sun. (12:25, 3:05) 5:40, 8:15, 10:55; **Jumper** (PG-13) Fri. (12:10, 12:30, 2:25, 2:50, 4:40, 5:10) 7:00, 8:20, 9:15, 10:35 Sat.-Sun. (12:10, 12:30, 2:25, 2:50) 4:40, 5:10, 7:00, 8:20, 9:15, 10:35; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri. (12:20, 2:45, 5:10) 7:40, 10:10 Sat.-Sun. (12:20, 2:45) 5:10, 7:40, 10:10; **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13) Fri. (12:40, 3:10, 5:30) 7:45, 10:00 Sat.-Sun. (12:40, 3:10) 5:30, 7:45, 10:00; **Na**tional Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG) Fri. (1:30, 4:30) 7:35, 10:35 Sat.-Sun. (1:30) 4:30, 7:35, 10:35; **The Spiderwick Chronicles** (PG) Fri. (12:00, 12:20, 2:30, 2:55, 5:00, 5:20) 7:25, 7:50, 9:55, 10:20 Sat.-Sun. (12:00, 12:20, 2:30, 2:55) 5:00, 5:20, 7:25, 7:50, 9:55, 10:20; **Step Up 2 the Streets** (PG-13) Fri. (12:15, 12:35, 2:40, 3:00, 5:05, 5:30) 7:40, 8:00, 10:05, 10:25 Sat.-Sun. (12:15, 12:35, 2:40, 3:00) 5:05, 5:30, 7:40, 8:00, 10:05, 10:25; **There Will Be Blood** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:10, 3:35) 7:05, 10:30; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri. (12:25, 3:05, 5:45) 8:25, 10:55 Sat.-Sun. (12:25, 3:05) 5:45, 8:25, 10:55; Untraceable (R) Fri.-Sun. 8:15, 10:45; The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep (PG) Fri. (12:15, 2:55, 5:35) Sat.-Sun. (12:15, 2:55) 5:35; Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins (PG-13) Fri. (12:40, 3:15, 5:50) 8:25, 11:00 Sat.-Sun.

(12:40, 3:15) 5:50, 8:25, 11:00

#### LA MESA

#### **Grossmont Center**

Grossmont Center (619-465-7100) **The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:15, 2:35) 4:55, 7:15, 9:40; **Definitely, Maybe** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:40, 2:15) 4:50, 7:25, 9:55; Fool's Gold (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:05, 2:40) 5:20, 7:50, 10:20; **Jumper** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:35, 3:05) 5:35, 8:00, 10:25; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:50, 2:10) 4:35, 7:10, 9:35; **The** Spiderwick Chronicles (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:30. 2:00) 4:30, 7:00, 9:25; **Step Up 2 the Streets** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:35; **There Will Be Blood** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:55) 4:45, 8:25; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 2:30) 5:10, 7:35, 10:05; **Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:45, 2:25) 5:05, 7:40, 10:15

#### **RANCHO SAN DIEGO**

#### Rancho San Diego 15

Call theater for program information

#### Santee Drive In

10990 Woodside Avenue (619-448-7447) The Bucket List (PG-13) Fri.-Sun.; Fool's Gold (PG-13) Fri.-Sun.; Jumper (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) Call theater for program information

#### Otay Ranch 12

Call theater for program information

#### Palm Promenade 24

770 Dennery Road (858-558-2262) Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG); The Bucket List (PG-13); Cloverfield (PG-13); Definitely, Maybe (PG-13); Diary of the Dead (R): The Eve (PG-13): Fool's Gold (PG-13): Jumper (PG-13); Juno (PG-13); Mad Money (PG-13); Meet the Spartans (PG-13); National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG); The Orphanage (R); Over Her Dead Body (PG-13); Rambo (R); The Spiderwick Chronicles (PG); Step Up 2 the Streets (PG-13); Strange Wilderness (R); There Will Be Blood (R): 27 Dresses (PG-13): Untraceable (R); Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins

**Rancho Del Rey 16** *East H Street (619-216-4707)* **The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri. (1:45, 4:15) 7:25, 9:55 Sat.-Sun. (1:45) 4:15, 7:25, 9:55; Defi**nitely, Maybe** (PG-13) Fri. (11:40, 2:20, 5:05) 7:40, 10:30 Sat.-Sun. (11:40, 2:20) 5:05, 7:40, 10:30; **The Eye** (PG-13) Fri. (1:30, 4:55) 7:55, 10:20 Sat.-Sun. (1:30) 4:55, 7:55, 10:20; **Fool's Gold** (PG-13) Fri. (11:45, 2:25, 5:10) 7:50, 10:35 Sat.-Sun. (11:45, 2:25) 5:10, 7:50, 10:35; **Jumper** (PG-13) Fri. (11:50, 12:20, 2:05, 2:40, 4:30, 5:00) 7:30, 8:10, 10:00, 10:45 Sat.-Sun. (11:50, 12:20, 2:05, 2:40) 4:30, 5:00, 7:30, 8:10, 10:00, 10:45; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri. (12:15, 4:10) 7:15, 10:15 Sat.-Sun. (12:15) 4:10, 7:15, 10:15 Meet the Spartans (PG-13) Fri. (4:05) 7:05 Sat.-Sun. 4:05, 7:05; No Country for Old Men (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:00, 3:50) 6:55, 9:45; Rambo (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:15) 10:05; The Spi**derwick Chronicles** (PG) Fri. (11:45, 12:40, 2:10, 3:55, 4:45) 6:40, 7:10, 9:10, 9:40 Sat.-Sun. (11:45, 12:40, 2:10, 3:55) 4:45, 6:40, 7:10, 9:10, 9:40; **Step Up 2 the Streets** (PG-13) Fri. (11:35, 12:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:25, 5:30) 7:20, 8:00, 9:50, 10:40 Sat.-Sun. (11:35, 12:30, 2:00, 3:00) 4:25, 5:30, 7:20, 8:00, 9:50, 10:40; **The Orphanage** (R) Fri. (12:00, 2:55, 5:25) 8:05, 10:35 Sat.-Sun. (12:00, 2:55) 5:25, 8:05, 10:35; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri. (12:25, 4:20) 7:00, 9:40 Sat.-Sun. (12:25) 4:20, 7:00, 9:40; Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins (PG-13) Fri. (12:45, 4:40) 7:45, 10:25 Sat.-Sun. (12:45) 4:40,

#### **IMPERIAL BEACH**

#### South Bay Drive-In

2170 Coronado Avenue (619-423-2727) Call theater for program information

#### **NORTH INLAND**

#### **CARMEL MOUNTAIN**

#### **Carmel Mountain**

11620 Carmel Mountain Road (858-674-9770) Call theater for program information

#### **ESCONDIDO**

#### Escondido 16

350 W. Vallev Parkway (760-291-0119) Call theater for program information

#### **FALLBROOK**

**River Village** 5256 S. Mission Road (760-945-8784) Call theater for program information

Poway 10 13475 Poway Road (858-646-9423) The Bucket List (PG-13) Fri. (10:15, 12:30, 2:45) 5:15, 7:45, 10:15 Sat. (10:15, 12:30, 2:45) 10:15 Sun. (10:15) 7:45, 10:15; **Care Bears:** Grizzle-ly Adventures (NR) Sat.-Sun. (10:30a.m.); Definitely, Maybe (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30; **Fool's Gold** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45; Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert **Disney Digital 3D** (G) Fri. 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:15 Sat.-Sun. 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00; **Jumper** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 1:30, 3:45) 6:15, 8:30, 10:45; Juno (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:15, 1:45) 4:30, 7:00, 9:30; The Spiderwick Chronicles (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 12:15, 2:30) 5:00, 7:30, 10:00; **Step Up 2 the Streets** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:30, 1:00, 3:30) 6:00, 8:15, 10:45; 27 **Dresses** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 2:15) 4:45, 7:15, 10:00: Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins (PG-13) Fri. (10:30, 1:15) 4:15, 7:00, 9:45 Sat. Sun. (1:15) 4:15, 7:00, 9:45

#### **SAN MARCOS**

#### San Marcos 18

1180 West San Marcos Boulevard at Old California Walk (760-471-3711) **Atonement** (R) Fri. (1:25, 4:20) 7:10 Sat.-Sun. (1:25) 4:20, 7:10; **The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri. (11:35, 2:15, 4:45) 7:15, 9:45 Sat.-Sun. (11:35, 2:15) 4:45, 7:15, 9:45; **Definitely, Maybe** (PG-13) Fri. (11:40, 2:35, 5:15) 8:00, 10:45 Sat.-Sun. (11:40, 2:35) 5:15, 8:00, 10:45; **The Eye** (PG-13) Fri. (12:10, 2:50, 5:10) 7:35, 10:10 Sat.-Sun. (12:10, 2:50) 5:10, 7:35, 10:10; **Fool's Gold** (PG-13) Fri. (11:50, 2:20, 5:05) 7:50, 9:55, 10:35 Sat.-Sun. (11:50, 2:20) 5:05, 7:50, 9:55, 10:35; **Jumper** (PG-13) Fri. (12:00, 12:30, 2:25, 2:55, 4:50, 5:15) 7:15, 7:40, 9:40, 10:05 Sat -Sun (12:00, 12:30, 2:25, 2:55) 4:50, 5:15. 7:15, 7:40, 9:40, 10:05; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:55, 3:40) 6:50, 9:25; Meet the Spartans (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (1:00) 6:35; **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG) Fri. (1:15, 4:10) 7:25, 10:25 Sat.-Sun. (1:15) 4:10, 7:25, 10:25; No Country for Old Men (R) Fri. (1:05, 4:05) 7:05, 10:05 Sat.-Sun. (1:05) 4:05, 7:05, 10:05; Rambo (R) Fri. (1:35, 4:15) 6:40, 9:05 Sat.-Sun. (1:35) 4:15, 6:40, 9:05; The Spiderwick Chronicles (PG) Fri. (11:30, 12:05, 2:00, 2:30, 4:30, 5:00) 7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:00 Sat.-Sun. (11:30, 12:05, 2:00, 2:30) 4:30, 5:00, 7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:00; **Step Up 2 the Streets** (PG-13) Fri. (11:25, 2:10, 4:40) 7:20, 9:50 Sat.-Sun. (11:25, 2:10) 4:40, 7:20, 9:50; There Will Be Blood (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:45, 3:15) 6:45, 10:15; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:35, 3:45) 6:55, 9:35; **Untraceable** (R) Fri.-Sun. (3:20) 9:10; **Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:40, 3:30) 7:05, 10:00

#### **VISTA**

#### Vista Village

Highway 78 at Vista Village Drive (760-945-7469) Call theater for program information

#### **NORTH COASTAL**

#### **CARLSBAD**

#### Plaza Camino Real

2385 Marron Road (760-729-7469) Fool's Gold (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:20, 2:45) 5:10, 7:35, 10:00; Jumper (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 1:30, 3:35) 5:40, 7:45, 9:45; The Spiderwick Chronicles (PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 2:20, 4:40) 7:00, 9:10

#### **DEL MAR**

#### Del Mar Highlands 8

El Camino Real at Del Mar Heights Road (858-646-9420)

The Bucket List (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:15, 12:30, 2:45) 5:15, 7:45, 10:15; **Fool's Gold** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30; Hannah Montana & Milev Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert Disney Digital 3D (G) Fri.-Sun. 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:15; Jumper (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:15, 1:30, 3:45) 6:15, 8:30, 10:45; The Spiderwick Chronicles (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 12:15, 2:30) 5:00, 7:30, 10:00; Step Up 2 the **Streets** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45; **Welcome Home Roscoe** Jenkins (PG-13) Fri. (10:30, 1:15) 4:15, 7:00 Sat.-Sun. (1:15) 4:15, 7:00, 9:45

#### Flower Hill 4

2630 Via de la Valle (858-646-9425) Atonement (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:30) 4:45; Definitely, Maybe (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45; Juno (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30; **No Country for Old Men** (R) Fri,-Sun. (1:45) 7:45, 10:45; There Will Be Blood (R) Fri,-Sun. (11:30, 3:30) 7:00, 10:30

#### **ENCINITAS**

#### La Paloma

471 South Coast Highway 101 Into the Wild (R)

#### **LA COSTA**

#### La Costa 6

6941 El Camino Real (at Aviara/Alga) (760-599-8221)

**Definitely, Maybe** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30; **Fool's Gold** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45; **Hannah Montana & Miley** Cvrus: 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; **Jumper** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 1:15, 3:45) 6:15, 8:30, 10:45; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri. (10:15, 12:45, 3:00) 5:15, 7:45 10:15 Sat.-Sun. (12:45, 3:00) 5:15, 7:45, 10:15; The Spiderwick Chronicles (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:00, 7:30, 10:15

#### **OCEANSIDE**

#### Mission Marketplace 13

College Boulevard and Mission Avenue (760-806-1790)

Cloverfield (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (1:30) 6:00, 10:45; **Definitely, Maybe** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45; **The Eye** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:15, 2:45) 5:00, 7:45, 10:15; **Fool's Gold** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:45, 2:15, 4:45) 7:30, 10:15; **Jumper** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 12:45, 1:45, 3:00, 4:00) 5:15, 6:15, 7:30, 8:30, 9:45, 10:45; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 2:30) 5:00, 7:15, 10:00; **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 1:45, 4:15) 6:30, 8:30, 10:30; **Rambo** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 3:45) 8:15; The Spiderwick Chronicles (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 1:15, 3:30) 5:45, 8:00, 10:30; Step **Up 2 the Streets** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 12:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30) 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:30; **There Will Be Blood** (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:30) 7:00; **Untraceable** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:15, 4:45) 10:30: Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:15, 2:00, 4:30) 7:15,

#### Oceanside 16 401 Mission Avenue (760-439-1733)

**The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri. (12:00, 2:15, 4:35) 7:05, 9:25 Sat.-Sun. (12:00, 2:15) 4:35, 7:05, 9:25; **Cloverfield** (PG-13) Fri. (4:20) 9:40 Sat.-Sun. 4:20, 9:40; **Definitely, Maybe** (PG-13) Fri. (1:15, 4:10) 7:00, 9:35 Sat.-Sun. (1:15) 4:10, 7:00, 9:35; **The Eye** (PG-13) Fri. (12:40, 3:10, 5:30) 7:50, 10:10 Sat.-Sun. (12:40, 3:10) 5:30, 7:50, 10:10; **Fool's Gold** (PG-13) Fri. (12:00, 2:00, 2:50, 5:20) 7:55, 10:25 Sat.-Sun. (12:00, 2:00, 2:50) 5:20, 7:55, 10:25; Jumper (PG-13) Fri. (11:15, 12:15, 1:25, 2:25, 3:30, 4:40, 5:45) 6:50, 8:00, 9:00, 10:15 Sat.-Sun. (11:15, 12:15, 1:25, 2:25, 3:30) 4:40, 5:45, 6:50, 8:00, 9:00, 10:15; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri. (11:30, 2:05, 4:45) 7:30, 10:00 Sat.-Sun. (11:30, 2:05) 4:45, 7:30, 10:00; **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:45, 1:50, 3:55) 6:05, 8:10, 10:35; **No Country for Old Men** (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:10) 6:55; **Rambo** (R) Fri. (12:05, 2:45, 4:55) 7:15, 9:40 Sat.-Sun. (12:05, 2:45) 4:55, 7:15, 9:40; **The Spiderwick Chronicles** (PG) Fri. (12:10, 2:35, 4:50) 7:10, 9:30 Sat.-Sun. (12:10, 2:35) 4:50, 7:10, 9:30; **Step Up 2 the Streets** (PG-13) Fri. (12:20, 2:40, 5:00) 7:20, 9:45 Sat.-Sun. (12:20, 2:40) 5:00, 7:20, 9:45; **Strange Wilderness** (R) Fri. (11:35, 1:55, 4:00) 6:10, 8:25, 10:40 Sat.-Sun. (11:35, 1:55) 4:00, 6:10, 8:25, 10:40; There Will Be Blood (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:50, 3:20) 6:45, 9:55; Untraceable (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:40) 7:25, 10:05; Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins (PG-13) Fri. (11:55, 2:30, 5:05) 7:45, 10:20 Sat.-Sun. (11:55, 2:30) 5:05,





Renata Tebaldi

#### **EDOARDO MUELLER**

Principal guest conductor, San Diego Opera, sdopera.org

Renata Tebaldi: Profonda ed infinita is a collection of the best videos Renata did in her life —her interviews and performances, and footage of all her costumes. Very touching.

The Art of the Piano is an anthology of the great pianists of the past. Being myself a modest pianist, I enjoy watching how the old masters played.

The BBC undertook a project to adapt all 37 of Shakespeare's plays to the small screen. Their version of Shakespeare's The Comedy of Errors is very well performed. It is always a great experience to watch this kind of production.

RENATA TEBALDI: PROFONDA ED INFINITA (Italy) 2006,

Hardy Classics

List price: \$33.50 (PAL format)

THE ART OF THE PIANO (USA)

1999, NVC Arts

List price: \$29.98

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

(England) 1983, BBC/Time-Life List price: \$34.95



The Tudors

#### **ANGELA GILBERT**

South African coloraturasoprano, San Diego Opera

The Office: The Complete Series — Ricky Gervais's BBC version (even though I love the NBC one just as much) includes the Christmas Special, which is the conclusion to the two-season run. My boyfriend and I will start and promise we will only watch one show but then end up spending his entire day off watching all of series one. Then we promptly make a date for

Peter Jackson's Lord of the Rings Trilogy — the extended versions — is a holiday season

And, finally, the cable series The Tudors, to remind myself how relieved I am that as an opera singer I still get to keep my clothes on...well, most of the time.

THE OFFICE: THE COMPLETE SERIES (England) 2001-03. BBC/Warner

List price: \$59.98 (four discs) LORD OF THE RINGS: THE

**MOTION PICTURE TRILOGY** (New Zealand/USA) 2001-03,

**New Line** 

List price: \$80.95 (twelve discs)

THE TUDORS: THE COMPLETE FIRST SEASON (England) 2007,

Showtime

List price: \$42.99 (four discs)



Elizabeth

#### KATE ALDRICH

American mezzo-soprano, San Diego Opera

Elizabeth (the 1998 one with Cate Blanchett): I am a sucker for big, sweeping lyrical films and beautiful costumes. Despite some inaccuracies, this is my favorite historical drama — even before I knew I would be playing the queen here in San Diego!

The Godfather, Part I or Part II: It's a toss-up between the original and its sequel. Again, I love big, sweeping lyrical epics, plus these have fantastic acting and directing all around.

Amadeus: I'm sensing a big, sweeping lyrical historical trend here. But how operatic this film is! Imagining the inside life of such a great musician with the backdrop of Vienna (although filmed in Prague) in its heyday, and Mozart's music as the score makes for a great film. Milos Foreman made a beautiful movie.

ELIZABETH (England) 1998, Universal

List price: \$14.98

THE GODFATHER DVD

COLLECTION (USA) 1972-90,

Paramount

List price: \$49.99 (five discs)

AMADEUS (USA) 1984,

Warner

List price: \$19.97

all that, we are apt to remain, in common

Over Her Dead Body — Thanks to an attractive cast, the creamy cinematography of John Bailey, and the light touch of writer and first-time director Jeff Lowell, we have here an uncommonly pleasant romanticcomic 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.) With Eva Longoria Parker, Paul Rudd, Lake Bell — the show-stealer, stepping up from the small screen — and Jason Biggs. 2008. ★★ (GASLAMP 15; PALM PROMENADE 24)

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 adoles cence 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 aniored 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 selfdeprecation, 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 Abkar ian, and Gabrielle Lopes. 2007.

mation is not all that animated. With stiff

movement, a flat visual field, and a blackand-white palette (but for the lightly col-

★★★ (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: ES-CONDIDO 16: FASHION VALLEY 18: GASLAMP 15: MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MIS-SION 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 SOUARE 14)

The Savages — Philip Seymour Hoffman in the male lead, blond and bearded, as a Buffalo drama professor at work on a tome on Bertolt Brecht. And Laura Linney in the larger female lead, brunette and bedraggled, as an unproduced dramatist at work on a "subversive, semi-autobiographical play" (as she describes it in her grant applications) inspired by the works of Jean Genet, Eugene O'Neill, and cartoonist Lynda Barry. They are brother and sister, forced into the same voke 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, semiautobiographical) Slums of Beverly Hills, seeks the universal in the individual — the particulars, the peculiarities, the normal abnormalities (the lachrymosity of Hoffman, the mendacity of Linney) — which is the right way to go about it. The peculiarities needn't have been so artsy-fartsily peculiar. With Peter Friedman and Cara Sey 2007.

★★ (LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

The Spiderwick Chronicles — An inherited Gothic monstrosity in the countryside, newly occupied by a fatherless family from the Big Apple, houses a secret chamber and a sealed book, never meant to be read, Arthur Spiderwick's Field Guide to the Fantastical World Around You, The buildup (scrabbly sounds in the walls, a plastered-over dumbwaiter, a warning written in dust) holds promise, but the promise dissipates with the materialization: a kit and caboodle of butt-ugly CG beings sprites, sylphs, fairies, a dragon-sized griffin, a honey-loving brownie, toadlike goblins vulnerable to tomato sauce, and the shape-shifting Ogre, Mulgarath, the anti-Shrek, who could somehow rule the world if he could possess the book, Saccharine family fare based on the kiddie-lit series by Tony DiTerlizzi and Holly Black. With Freddie Highmore (as twins), Mary-Louise Parker, Sarah Bolger, Joan Plowright, and David Strathairn; directed by Mark Waters.

• (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18: GASLAMP 15: GROSSMONT CENTER: LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MIS-SION 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; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Step Up 2 the Streets — Street-dance musical with Briana Evigan and Robert Hoffman, directed by Ion Chu. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MIS-SION MARKETPLACE 13: MISSION VALLEY 20: OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROME-NADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RAN-CHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA 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)

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, THROUGH 2/14)

with the rational husband and policewoman, 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 Princep, Geraldine Chaplin. 2007. ★ (HORTON PLAZA 14: PALM PROMENADE 24)





Judy Greer, 2008.

The Spiderwick Chronicles

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; ESCONDIDO 16; FASH-

OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROME

NADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RAN-

MIRA MESA 18: MISSION VALLEY 20:

ION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12;

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 repellently compelling figure when he's not breaking the spell with his John Huston rollercoaster cadences. (Why would this depraved money-grubber, we keep asking ourselves, be impersonating the director of The Maltese Falcon, Treasure of the Sierra Madre, whatever?) But two and a half hours, if all we're going to do is gape, are a long time to spend in the company of such a man, a good hour or more too long. There will, as promised, be blood, though not any time soon, and never all that much. Kevin O'Connor, Ciarán Hinds. 2007.

★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPI ACE 13: MISSION VALLEY 7: MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

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,

CHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18: TOWN SOUARE 14)

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 blooddraining 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.

• (ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; HOR-COS 18: TOWN SOUARE 14)

TON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VAL-LEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24: PARKWAY PLAZA 18: RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MAR-

Vince Vaughn's Wild West Comedy Show: 30 Days and 30 Nights, Hollywood to the Heartland — Pretty selfexplanatory. 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 Manis-

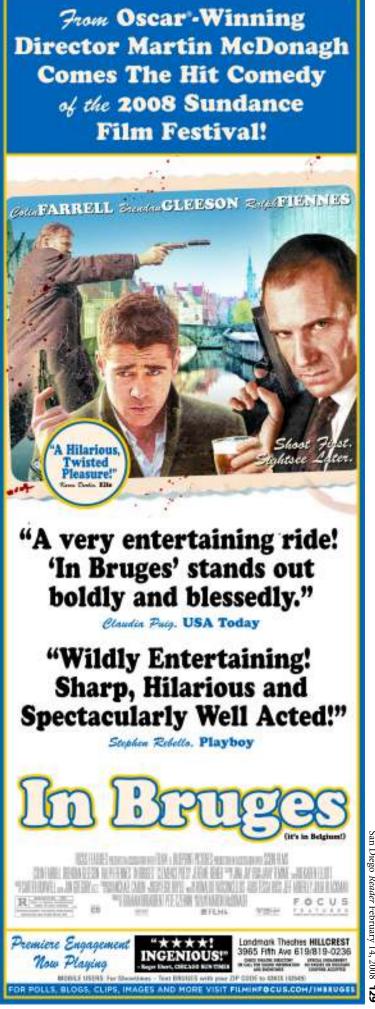


calco) as well as the names of the thirty stopping points on their itinerary, slightly revised in midcourse by Hurricane Katrina. The trip, recorded in dreary video, is too lengthy for filmmaker Ari Sandel to do justice to any aspect of it — the shape and pace of the comedians' routines, the backstage activity, the life on the road — but you get hints, whiffs, of all of it, occasionally even a hint or whiff of humor. 2008.

★ (GASLAMP 15; MISSION VALLEY 20)

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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: GROSSMONT CENTER: MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MIS-SION 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: SOUTH BAY DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA



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and oner experience: o 19-944-3521.

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Qualified applicants will be notified by mail of the date, time and location of the test. All applications must be submitted no later than 15 days prior to the exam date. Applications received after the 15th day will be scheduled for the following exam. Applications can be accessed on-line from the Job/Current Recruitments section of the County website at:

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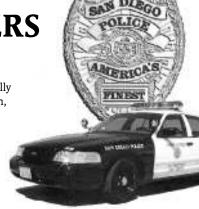
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Sat., March 15, 2008 • 8:30 am Balboa Park Club Ballroom 2150 West Pan American Road & Presidents Way

Wed., March 19, 2008 • 6 pm Balboa Park Club Ballroom 2150 West Pan American Road & Presidents Way

Fri., March 21, 2008 • 8:30 am Balboa Park Club Ballroom 2150 West Pan American Road & Presidents Way



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CAREGIVERS/COMPANIONS. Visiting
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596-3400.

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Department now hiring. Test Date: March
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Sdounty, ca.gov. Jobline: 858-514-8558.

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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.

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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 students important. E-mail resume: office@kidschool.us.

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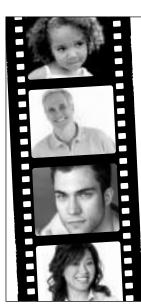
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Recreation Assistant • \$10.33/hr. to start, with benefits Supervise direct care of children with autism and other disabilities. 12 units ECE or related field, CA driver's license. Pre-employment screening/background check. Monday-Friday 9:30 am-6 pm.

Community Training Specialist/Job Coach • \$9.75/hr. to start, DOE To assist developmentally disabled adults in the community. Behavioral and instructional programs Implement schedules. 32.5 hours/week. Benefits.

Transition Specialist • \$9.75/hr. to start, DOE

Assist teachers in group- and community-based instruction for developmentally disabled adults. Implement behavioral management programs. 30 hours/week.

Classroom Aides • \$9.75/hr. to start, DOE

Work with developmentally disabled children in a nonpublic school. Experience preferred. Allied Gardens, Chula Vista, La Mesa. Monday-Friday 7:30 am-1 pm.

Stein Education Center, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego, CA 92120 Fax: 619-281-0453, E-mail: steinjobs@vistahill.org All applications/résumés must include job title. www.vistahill.org



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#### March 1, 2008 March 22, 2008

Sign-up begins at 6:30 am on each test date.
Where: San Diego County Operations Center
Entrance at corner of Complex Street & Topaz Way,
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First come, first served. Seating is limited. Arrive early.

Bring valid picture ID.

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**PORTER,.** North County. Drug test required. Fax resume to 888-369-9229 or email wmapplicants@aol.com or cal 888-252-7976.

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.

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RECREATION ASSISTANT for the Stein Education Center, a private special education school serving children with Autism and other disabilities. Candidates must posess 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.

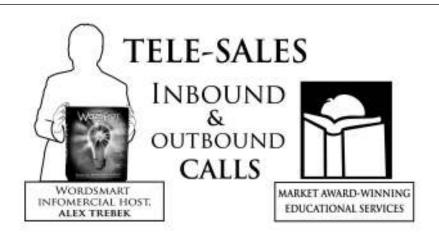
or fax resume to 619-281-0453.

RESEARCH SCIENTIST/Protein Chemistry. Design and perform cloning of essential motifs in proteins involved in cell cycle, apoptosis, inflammation and HIV as well as neurological diseases, etc. Experience with Protein Chromatography, etc. Ph.D. in Biological Chemistry or Masters and 3 years experience. Located in Poway. E-mail resume: hr@prosci-inc.com.

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RESTAURANT. Sandwich shop in Mission Beach needs Assistant Night Manager. Experience a must. Full time. Apply in person: 728 Ventura Place, Mission Beach or call Joe at: 858-488-1690.

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RESTAURANT: PETCO PARK. Delaware North Companies (DNC) Sportservice hirting for 2008 Padres Baseball Season. Job Fair for Fine Dining (Suites, In-Seat & Clubs)— Tuesday 2/13 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 Servers, In-Seat Servers, In-Seat Runners, Suite Runners, Cook (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/DV/M/F. RESTAURANT: PETCO PARK. Delaware

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sales, inventory control. Knowledge in surf/skate. Apply in person: Ocean Beach, 5035 Newport Avenue. 619-222-

Beach, 5035 Newport Avenue. 619-222-1575; e-mail: dana5036@gmail.com.

SALES CALL CENTER. 25 immediate openings. Contact existing customers to provide additional products and services, rovide friendly and professional customer service, identify/maximize sales opportunities. Requires effective oral communication, professional phone etiquette, exceptional customer service skills, ability to work in fast-paced sales environment. No call center/telemarketing experience required with 6 months to a year retail experience. Full and part-time. Hourly/bonus (DOE). Workway offers weekly paychecks, benefits, direct deposit. Apply today at 1011 Camino Del posit. Apply today at 1011 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 340, 92108. 619-278-

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SALES. Pens/key tags/magnets/stickers. Broker makes \$2100/week. Own hours, work from home. Just sell! Telequest. Call after 3pm any day. Mike Dean, 619-651-6071

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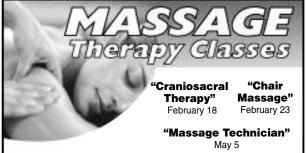
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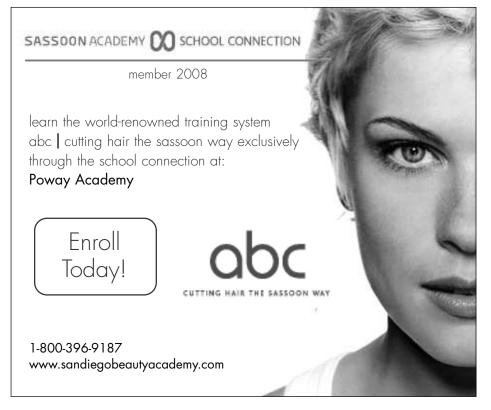
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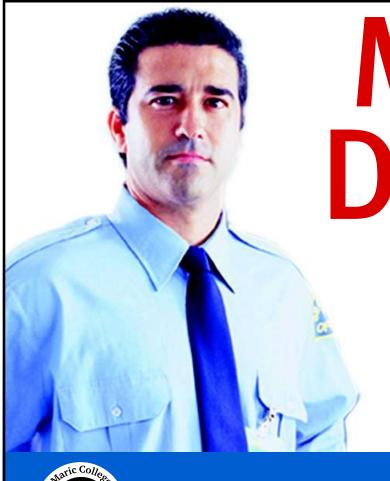
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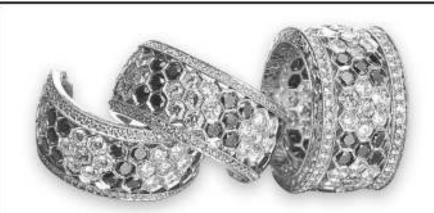
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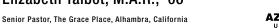
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### Across

- 1. They're encountered in "close
- encounters" 5. Fail to act
- 10. Big brutes14. Carter of "Gimme a Break!"
- 15. TV chef Deen
- 16. Up to snuff 17. Writer who, judging by his monogram, would be an apt spokesman for law school grads?
- Arthur of tennis
- 20. Hard-to-hum
- 21. Blood fluids 23. "I Will Follow \_\_\_\_\_" (1963 #1 hit)
- 24. GQ, e.g.
- de Leon
- 26. Explorer
- 28. Composed
- 30. Like a lamb
- 33. The NBA's Cavaliers, on
- scoreboards
- 36. Hapless
- 38. "Honest to goodness!"
- 39. Dreams
- 41. Fitzgerald and others
- 43. Dollywood's state: Abbr.
- 44. Don's group
- 46. Bed spread
- 48. Agreement 49. Zoloft rival
- headache
- 53. Prep the soil again
- 55. French West Indies isle, informally
- 59. Fodder for the hiring committee
- good example
- 63. Sea surrounding Mykonos
- 64. Pinup Hayworth
- 66. Writer who, judging by his monogram, would be an apt spokesman for a package shipping company?
- 68. Secondhand
- 69. Home to over one billion
- 70. Covered walkway
- 71. It's nothing at all
- 72. Bootlicker
- 73. Thing to do

### Down

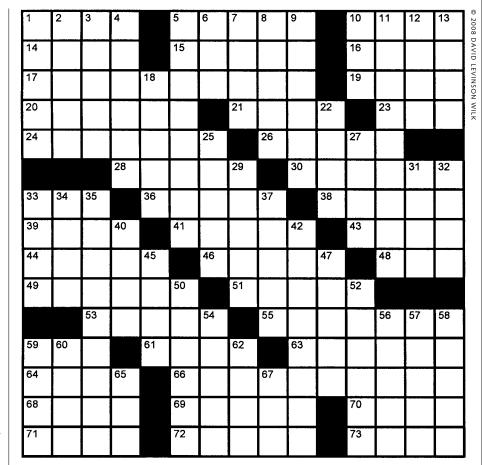
- 1. Fix, as a photocopier
- the lions (sacrificed) 3. Game show announcer Johnny
- 5. Mike Hammer's creator
- 6. Swimmer Thorpe
- 7. Yanks
- 8. [expletive deleted]
- 9. Peter of Peter, Paul & Mary 10. Jump provider: Abbr.
- 11. Writer who, judging by his monogram, would be an apt spokesman for a TV network?

- 12. K-12.
- 13. Look 18. "Running on Empty" actress Christine
- 22. Ever and
- 25. Triangular road sign
- 27. Geezer
- 29. It's barely passing 31. Bank annoyance
- 32. Cravings
- David 33.
- 34. Perjurer
- 35. Writer who, judging by his monogram, would be an apt spokesman for the band with the 1991 #1 hit "Unbelievable"?
- "The Covenant with Black America" author Smiley
- 40. Petite or jumbo
- 42. Dismissed
- 45. Sighs of relief

- 47. Rutabaga, e.g. 50. Work on a Time piece with another's help?
- 52. Like the best advice 54. Prefix with -centric
- 56. Fashion's Oscar de la \_
- 57. Snacks in shells 58. Underhanded sort
- 59. Cruise's homonymic "Vanilla Sky" costar
- 60. Workbench attachment 62. Alan of "The West Wing"
- 67. It might be humanitarian

### RULES OF THE GAME

- 1. The prize for solving the Reader Puzzle will be a Reader T-shirt.
- 2. All entries in the Reader Puzzle contest must be received by the Reader by 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, five days following the issue date (Fax to 619-231-0489 or U.S. Mail to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803).
- 3. All entries must be accompanied by your name and address.
- 4. Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible.
- 5. In the event of disputes or ties, decisions of the judges will be final and arbitrary. We've only got five prizes each week to give away, so if there are more than five winners, we'll have a lottery.
- 6. All answers must be entered in the space allowed on the puzzle page. And please, no phone calls or trips to our office.
- 7. One entry per person.





Solution to and winners of the Reader Puzzle for 2/7/08.

by David Levinson Wilk

There were 65 entrants. The winners are:

- 1. William Trap, El Cajon 2. Peter Kronfeld, San Diego
- 3. David Castillos, San Diego
- 4. Linda Hettel, San Diego 5. Yancy Herbet, San Diego

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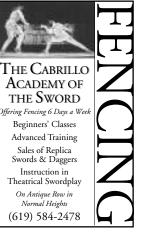
Italy. Treat yourself to royal treatment at Relaxation Plus. 20% off all services. Gift certificates. Open daily. HHP-92009389. 619-295-5595. PEACE OFFERINGS. "Window to your

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COUPLES MASSAGE. Beautifully decorated room with tables side by side. Re-laxation Plus, Little Italy, 20% off all services. Gift certificates. 7 days/week. HHP-92009389. 619-295-5595.

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# Instruction





# **NAME This Place**



Last week's place: (clue: Play cup with Dennis?) The two 80-foot America's Cup yachts — Stars and Stripes and Abracadabra — tied up at the Embarcadero on North Harbor Drive, at Broadway. They are among the fastest single-hull sailboats in the world. Next Level Sailing (soon to change to Dennis Conner's America's Cup Experience), a group partly owned by Conner, invites the public to sail aboard in impromptu races or two-hour cruises around the bay. Expect to pay around \$100. (Last week's winners: Steve Mahoney, Alfred A. Hart, Joan Hubbs, David Wright, Austin Anderson)

# Clue: Stamped out for good

**Describe** this location, name the nearest cross-streets, and win a Reader T-shirt. E-mail to NameThisPlace@SanDiego Reader.com; fax to 619-231-0489; or mail to Reader, Name This Place, Box 85803, San Diego 92186 — include your name and address. (Deadline, Tuesday, 9 a.m. In case of ties, lottery will determine top five winners.)



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HAVE DIABETES OR ASTHMA? We find out why you have it. Call us at the Altered States Research Group. 619-516-3992, or toll-free: 877-544-ASRG (2774).

LEARN TAI CHI. Free class. Relaxed envi-ronment. South Clairemont Recreation Center, Saturday morning, 8:30am. All are welcome. More information at http://en.jud.com/Eichi

NEW TAI CHI AND QI GONG Classes Sanctuary, 4229 Park Boulevard, San Diego 92103. 619-692-1155 or www

ONLINE PHARMACY. Buy Soma, Ultram, Floricet, Prozac, Buspar; 90 quantity \$51.99, 180 quantity \$84.99. Price in-cludes prescription! We will match any competitor's price. 1-866-465-0794. www.rxmedscentral.com. (AAN CAN)

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cherry red, \$700. 619-218-4401.

PROSTATE CANCER? Confused about treatment options? We can help. Informed Prostate Cancer Support Group. www. iposg.org. Meeting: February 16, 10am, Moores UCSD Cancer Center, 3855 Health Sciences Drive, La Jolla 92037. No medical/religious affiliations.

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15mph, perfect for assistance getting around, brand new, \$1500. 858-452-4700.

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tion, \$500. Bill, 619-583-3006.

TREADMILLS, ELLIPTICALS, cycles, and other exercise equipment wanted. Cash for quality fitness gear. We pick up. Big selection of new and used exercise equipment for sale. 90 days free financing! Play It Again Sports, 858-751-0338. www.playitagainsd.com.

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BAND, "HOT PURSUIT." Weddings; corporate, private parties. High-energy dance band featuring sax player, female vocalist. Swing, jazz, rock, R&B, country, dance hits. 760-751-1876. www. HotPursuitMusic.com.

DISC JOCKEYS/LIVE BANDS/novelty acts. Weddings, corporate, parties. 400 bands, 10 DJs to choose from. All types of music. Affordable! Since 1973. 619-223-5732. www.musicasyoulikeit.com.

# STAGE NOTES

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ABANDON YOUR ACTING FEARS! Ac-ABANDON YUNK ACTING FEARS! AC-tors' Workshop Studios. San Diego's number 1 film/TV studio! Professional 3-camera set. Weekly in-house auditions with Hollywood/local casting directors, producers, agents, www. actorsworkshopstudios.com; 858-587-

ABILITY THROUGH TRAINING. The Robert Wald Actor's Studio focuses on noment-to-moment reality training. These classes unlock the actor's ability to work spontaneously and with the realism and intensity advocated by the industry's creative legends. Beginners welcome. Thursday evening class available, 6:30pm-10:30pm or Saturday morning. Call for information. 619-542-1216.

Call for information. 619-542-1216.

AUDITIONS/INTERVIEWS. February 23, 2008, 11am-3pm, SeaWorld's Adventure Camp Facility, 500 SeaWorld Sevenity, Seeking outstanding performers and backstage professionals with excellent people skills. Costume Characters, Comedic Actors, Show Hosts, Hosts that sing and play guitar, Electric Guitarists, Percussionists, Bands and Group Specialty Acts, Lighting & Stage Crew, Audio and Video Crew. Must be at least 18 years of age (Costume Characters at least 16 years of age). Prepare an audition no longer than two minutes appropriate for family audiences. Bring non-returnable headshot photo and resume. EOE. Audition Hotline: 619-226sume. EOE. Audition Hotline: 619-226-3607. www.SeaWorldSanDiegoAuditions.

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LIVE ON STAGE! Point Loma Actors Workshop. Taste the performance high! New classes starting now. Beginners welcome. Join the fun. www.pointlomactors.com. Sign up now. 619-225-0044.

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MODELS. Amateur models needed for photo, video, web work. Ages 18-60. All types. No experience necessary. Cash paid. Professional setting. Call Jenn, 619-379-4964.

MODELS. Male model, 18-25 wanted for print work. Call 619-806-0235.

MOVIE EXTRAS/MODELS. Earn up to \$200 per day. All looks needed to work with film and TV production companies. No experience required. Call 877-282-

START-UP MODELS. Photoshoot trip to Hawaii. Expenses paid. Start/expand your portfolio. Great scenic backdrops! freehawaiiphotoshoots.com or 858-204-

VOICEOVER WORKSHOP, Break into VOICEOVER WORKSHOP. Break into voiceover! Taught by voice actor/author James Alburger. Learn interpretation, character voices, microphone technique, more for radio/TV. www.voiceacting.com; 858-484-0220.

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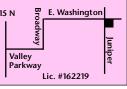


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AFFORDABLE THERAPY: \$30/HOUR grief, relationship issues, individuals/cou-ples/families/teens. LMFT#42894. Susan 858-272-5242 or 714-929-6209.

ANXIOUS? DEPRESSED? Relationship issues? Parenting/family issues? Insur-ance and sliding scale accepted. Individuals, couples, children, adolescents/ families. Private Mission Valley location. Phaedra Scoortis, MA, MFT, MFC-43174. 619-972-0209

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EMOTIONAL WOUNDS from childhood? "Healthy Adults: Inner Child Course" begins in March. Call for free preview. Heal wounds from dysfunctional family. Thought Field Therapy eliminates phobias and traumas. Counseling for individuals, couples' enrichment and family bonding. Sharon Goodlove, TFT Diagnostician; Glenn Goodlove, LCSW-1450. Goodlove Counseling Center, 858-569-8975, www.goodlove-online.com. EMOTIONAL WOUNDS from childhood?

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# Notices

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AL-ANON, Grupo paz mental. Sufre por el alcoholismo en su familia? Juntas sesionan Martes, 5:30pm-7pm, y Sabados, 1-2:30pm, 3450 Bonita Road, #207, Bonita, CA 91902.

ALANON-GRUPO RENCUENTRO. Hav problems de alcoholismo en su familia? Sesiones Lunes y Jueves de 5:006:30pm, 3450 Bonita Road #207, Bonita, 91902. 619-470-6955.

**ALCOHOLICOS ANONIMOS.** Tiene problemas con la bebida? Llamenos 24 horas Oficina Central Hispana, 3628 University Avenue, San Diego, 92105. 619-280-7224.

ALCOHOLICOS ANONIMOS. Problemas con el alcohol? Nosotros le ayudamos a vivir mejor. Sesiones Lunes-Viernes, 7am y 8pm. Sabados, 8am y 7pm. Domingo 8am y 5pm. Grupo Bonita Hispano, 3450 Bonita Road, #207. 619-280-7224.

ANXIOUS? DEPRESSED? Recovery Inc., self-help mental health meetings since 1937. Many suffer from nervous symptoms, fears. Voluntary offering. www.recovery-inc.org or 619-275-0364.

**BE A HERO.** Be a Guardian Angel and help safeguard the community against crime. 619-964-8099 or www.

BE A MILLIONAIRE FROM HOME! Sell Mangosteen; make lots of money! Very high antioxidant value. Significant anti-in-flammatory properties. Tons of health benefits! www.diane.myjetstream.net. Diane, 877-674-4280.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS! Display your work online on Rambles.us. It's free. Get your gallery. Exposure your work de-serves. www.rambles.us, register. RAM-BLES art is a journey.

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CANNABIS PATIENT(S) ACT. (Associa tion Cannabis Therapeutics.) Nonprofit. Seeks caregiver/patients with questions about cooperatives, clones, medicine, growing guidelines. Proposition 215 local guidelines. Meth kills. 619-528-0907.

DEBTORS ANONYMOUS, 619-525-3065

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.

**DIVORCING/SEPARATING?** Get guid-ance/support during your emotional adance/support during your emotional ad-justment. Group meets Friday, 6:30-8pm in Allied Gardens off Waring Road. Di-vorce Anonymous. 619-442-1550.

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EVILDOERS BEWARE. Fight violent crime and injustice. Be a real-life superhero. Join the Xtreme Justice League. 619-819-7834 or www.myspace.com/

FELLOWSHIP OF OLDER GAYS (FOG) Social club, full calendar of activities. Free strictly confidential information. PO Box 4271, San Diego 92164-4271. Call 619-291-4480.

FREE COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS! "How to Start a Business" for people with dis-abilities. Wednesday 2/20 1pm-4pm at

# **Surf**DIEGO

Name: Dakota Lives: Ocean Beach Surfing: Dog Beach

Despite the ripping winds and freezing water, 30year-old Dakota is out at Dog Beach looking for surf. The cold isn't new to him; he recently moved back to California from Bellingham, Washington. "It's gnarly out there."

Dakota, raised in Ocean Beach, learned to surf at the Dog Beach jetty. "I kept coming to Dog Beach and getting hammered on the Dog.

He's moved back from the rough waters of Washington and is looking forward to returning to Sunset Cliffs, although his usual haunts are the O.B pier and the jetty. He has surfed down in Baja but returns to familiar waters. "It's nice around here: the jetty is sweet and the peel is good off the jetty."

He has never been seriously hurt surfing but does mention the trouble with the spot just behind him. "I've been eaten up pretty good over here when it walls up and pounds you. Dog Beach, when it gets a little bigger, is not the best

He has had a close call with a shark "It wasn't that big, maybe four

feet long. It saw me and then kind of skidded out."

Dakota mentions one

new concern: "My buddy told me about his friend getting a rash from getting in the water less than 72 hours after it rained. I didn't used to take it too seriously, but now I wait after a good, heavy rainfall."

See the video Go to SanDiegoReader.com Click on SurfDiego

United Cerebral Palsy, 8525 Gibbs Drive #100, 92123. Bus 25 from Fashion Valley to Aero Drive/Afton or from Clairemont to Aero Drive/Glenn Curtiss Road. Off-street parking available. Sponsored by Ablebisabled Advocacy. Call Cindy Lennon, 619-231-5990 x315 to reserve your spot.

FREE EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING services for individuals with disabilities, ages 18-21 on probation or parole. Able-Disabled Advocacy, 2850 6th Avenue #311, San

versational practice. Approximately inter-mediate, let's meet once a week over

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.

HERPES/HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS. V) Support group. Accurate information and support message. 619-491-1194. www. SanDiegoCityHELP.org.

LOOKING FOR LOVE? Great opportunity LOKING 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.

MOVIE BUFFS. Interested in watching movies then discussing it afterwards (like book clubs)? Ages 25 to mature wel-come. Please call 619-850-6075 or 858-

OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE Anonymous

Observation for people with OCD. I2-step meeting for people with OCD.
Mondays, 6-7pm, Department of Health
Services Complex, 3851 Rosecrans
Street, Mission Room. Information:
OCAhelp@cox.net. **OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS.** Meetings daily. www.oasandiego.org or 619-521-

PATHWORK DISCUSSION, "The Challenge of Relationship" February 19, 2008. enge of Relationship" Februáry 19, 2008. 7-9pm Eureka Street/Mission Valley. Open meeting, no fee, materials avail-able. Please call for directions 619-296-

PMS RESEARCH. UCSD researchers mo nepearChurs. 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.

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San Diego *Reader* February 14, 2008

RESEARCH STUDY. Women living with smoker needed for 9-day research study. Leave message, 619-594-8827 or email TRDRPPDAStudy@projects.sdsu.edu, for more information.

SUPPORT GROUPS. Six groups monthly, SOSL (Survivors of Suicide Loss). Call 619-482-0297 or email sosIsd@yahoo.

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volunteers, 40-65 years old, for a re-search study. Payment is \$10/hour Please call 619-543-7201.

WRITERS (2) looking for "Chicken Soup" type pet stories for new book and toon series, with photos if possible. claudia@ writersetc.com or piedpiper@newsblaze.com or 858-693-3939.

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AMANDA, MISSED YOUR POOL, Party Still imagine how you look, never met. Happy Valentine's Day. Like to do something sometime. Gabe's new name is Jack.

BEATLE JUICE IN 1988. Date ended

through the years. All chromosomes are good. Crude man, does crude things, ok. DAVIEBABE in Boston. February 14, 1993. The elevator at the hospital. I was very, very happy. 5 years later I was very, very sad and still am.

MUSIC

# EQUIPMENT / Instruments

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COUNTRY MUSIC/BLUEGRASS jam. Guitar, mandolin, fiddle, banjo players interested in getting together to play country music and bluegrass. Call Bob, 858-753-1775.

DRUMMER, KEYBOARD, quitars needed for 5-piece band audition for major hip/hop act. www.myspace.com/heatrock audition March 1, 12 noon. Contact risland@iconrecords.net.

FEMALE LEAD VOCALIST sought by established 7-piece working 50s-60s show band. 4-6 gigs/month. Likes of Tina Turner, Diana Ross, Aretha Franklin. Wigs, costumes. 858-481-4380.

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BAY PARK. 1 room \$600. Large house, very clean. Fireplace, laundry, storage, backyard, all amenities, parking. Female only. No pets/smoking. Available now. Mark, 619-995-0099; 619-235-2415,

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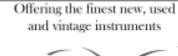
CLAIREMONT, Share 2 bedroom 2 bath townhouse, above Mission Bay. Pool, jacuzzi, gym. Washer/dryer. Off-street parking. Pet friendly, \$800 includes utili-ties. Call Mike 619-881-9644.

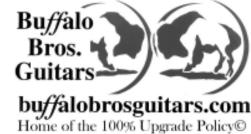
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Sac. Female preferred. 619-264-3933. **COLLEGE AREA.** \$580/month, 1/4 utilities, \$200 deposit. Female only. Room available in clean, quiet home. Laundry on site. Will consider dog. Available now. 619-302-3530; 619-235-2415, x31952.

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619-235-2415, x29601. **ENCINITAS, EAST.** Village Park. Share 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath condo. Nice neighborhood. Association pool, tennis, green

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ment necessary. 619-584-5900.

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# **Say What?**



Chay | Age: 40 | Occupation: Legal field | Lives: Santee

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"tanorexic" is a great word because we live in Southern California and a lot of people here tend to go overboard on the fake tanning. You know the type, the super-skinny bleached blond girls that look orange. I want to give

them some SPF and a sandwich. It's even worse when you see the orange guys running around.

See the video Go to SanDiegoReader.com Click on Say What

plus 1-month deposit. Call Tim, 858-642-6733

LA JOLLA, Steps to Windandsea beach. Clean, quiet 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath apartment. Ocean view, patio, parking, laundry. No smoking/pets. Avialable now, \$825, 858-405-5992.

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LA MESA, 2 bedroom, private 1 bathroom in house. No smoking. Share only kitchen. Large backyard. Washer/dryer, garage. Split utilities. Pets ok, \$1200/month, 619-465-7858.

LA MESA, Share quiet comfortable house. Large room 20x12, 1/2 bath, private entrance. Laundry. 15 minutes

SDSU, Downtown. No pets, smoking, heavy partying. \$525, 1/4 utilities, 619-466-7500.

LA MESA/SDSU. \$580/month. Hardwood floors. Nice area. Share large house. Washer/dryer. Large backyard. Walk to SDSU and trolley. Nonsmoking/drugs. Call Darin, 858-243-1911.

MIRA MESA, Room for rent, \$500/month \$150/deposit. References. Kitchen privi-leges share bath. Laundry, parking, pool, jacuzzi. 12x16 feet, private. Near trans-portation. No pets/drugs, 858-653-0423.

portation. No pets/drugs, 858-653-0423.

MIRA MESA. 2 rooms available. Good neighborhood. \$450. Discount possible. Large kitchen, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, dining room, living room, laundry. Satellite TV. Female only. 858-752-1804.

MIRA MESA. Miramar College. \$510, including utilities. Quiet room. Large, clean home, granite kitchen, pool. Male, nonsmoker, nondrinker. No drugs/pets. Near bus. Available now. 619-235-2415,x16217.

MIRA MESA. \$600. Single room. Large

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NORMAL HEIGHTS. Share beautiful 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Pool, spa, onsite laundry, hardwood. Quiet complex. Seeking onsmoker to share with female. \$575 plus deposit. 619-282-4794.

plus deposit. b 19-zoz--r эт.

NORTH PARK. Amazing condo with own bathroom. Modern 7-unit gated building. Ouiet neighborhood. Fireplace, balcony, vaulted ceilings, laundry. \$750 plus 1/2 utilities. Cats OK. 415-370-6540.

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OFF THE CUFF by Josh Board How often do you lie?



Kirk Johansen Marketing Manager Ocean Beach

never lie. But, you don't know me, so, I could be lying right now. Seriously, I don't think I lie, but I have to think the odds are that I do once in a while, like if you want to spare someone's feelings or something. Oh, I've sometimes told people I was a race-car driver, and that isn't



Jennifer Williamson Student

San Diego

7ery rarely. I skipped class on V Friday morning. One of my classmates asked me why, and I lied, even though the real reason I wasn't there made a lot more sense. It was kind of personal, and you don't need to share stuff like that with nosey people. But, generally, I'm not telling lies for no reason. And if I have to tell a small one, it's probably for a good



Alex Rocha

UPS Driver

San Diego

Really, doesn't everyone tell lies?
Some may tell more than others. It could be something small, like saying you tried some food item someone suggested and that you liked it. I guess I lie when I call in sick to work. I do that once every few months, but I get seven sick days a year. I'm not sure if you'd really consider this lying, but when you're messing with your friends, that's a form of telling a lie.



Sean Stidham

Visual Stylist

Kensington

don't lie that often. I'd rather people be mad at me, even when I'm telling the truth. Some people don't like the honest approach. Another problem with me lying is that I have A.D.D. So, I can't even remember what it is I lied about. I know it's best for me to just not make something up.



Stefanie Carroll Administrative Assistant

Clairemont

think everyone tells white lies, especially if they don't want to hurt people. The last time I told a lie was on my résumé for a job interview I figure if it's going to give me more of an edge. And it was nothing big like saying I was CEO of a company. It's something that they won't know is a lie, and I think when it comes to job-related fields, doing that is probably fairly common.



Sam Morales

Cabinet Maker

Normal Heights

never lie. Ever. I've never told a lie. Okay, well, seriously, I think everyone has. That's why I want my answer to just say that I never have. Because that would be obvious that I'm lying right there. Basically, I don't think the question really works. Everyone has lied at some point in their life.

# SERVICES

# **Pacific Beach**

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Yoshi Massage

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LAKESIDE. \$1300. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. Huge fenced yard. Laundry room in house. 1 car attached garage. Off Wintergardens. 858-560-0272.

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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. Musse 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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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 bed room, 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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Appointments, 5 192-295-2973.

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. 619-435-139. 619-435-0387.

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456-0407; 858-344-1033.

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Agent, 619-298-7/24.
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ALPINE. 2 bedrooms, \$1290. Private
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BANKER'S HILL/DOWNTOWN. \$1195. 1

BANKER'S HILL. Starting at \$750, plus deposit. Spacious studios. Secured vintage building. Great views. Full size kitchen/bath. Laundry. Cat OK with \$200 deposit. First/Hawthorne. 619-325-7332.

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com/news/rent2159.

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619-790-6441.
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The following year, a San Diegan vacationing in Hawaii sued a company for over \$17,000 after being injured by a surfboard.

– by Robert Mizrachi

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697-8432.

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Manager's cell: 858-361-8234 Assistant Manager's cell: 619-851-4521

# **Fully Restored Luxury Studio Apartments**

- Located in prestigious Banker's Hill
- New stainless-steel appliances
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- Bathroom has refinished deep clawfoot bathtubs
- New stone tile in bathroom
- Refinished hardwood floors
- Top-of-the-line fixtures
- Rooftop deck views of the San Diego Bay & Downtown

Starting at \$1000 to \$1200 a month. Lease will be one year.

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THIS IS A NONSMOKING BUILDING.

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CHULA VISTA. \$775/month. \$250 deposit. 1 bedroom, fully furnished. 2 blocks rom Chula Vista Center. Off-street park-ng. Laundry room. Lots of trees. 521 Park Way. Office open daily (near Fifth and G). 319-420-5084.

CHULA VISTA. Pacific Pointe Retirement Village. Studios/1 bedroom apartments start \$1725/month-to-month, includes meals, housekeeping, transportation, water/trash/utilities, 24-hour staff. 171-4th. 619-420-8744. www.pacificpointeret.com, asstadmin@pacificpointeret.com.

com, asstadmin@pacificpointeret.com.

CHULA VISTA. \$1650/month. Beautiful
condo. 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath. Approximately 1230 square feet. 2-car garage.
Storage area, heat, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, washer, dryer. Appointment: call agent, Andy,
619-471-2201.

CHULA VISTA, \$800. Beautifully remod-eled 1 bedroom in gated community. Air conditioning, community laundry. Gated parking. No pets. Near freeway and trol-ley. 2887 Main Street. 619-691-9377.

CITY HEIGHTS, 2 bedroom 1 bath duplex. Spotless, spacious. Refinished hardwood floors, completely remodeled kitchen/bath. Washer/dryer in unit off-street parking. Small pet ok 619-851-2493.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$675 rent, \$600 deposit, OAC. 1 bedroom duplex. New carpet. No pets. At 4331-1/2 41st Street. 619-299-8515.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$895. 2 bedroom, 1 bath cnry 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. Up-stairs unit. Updated/clean. Parking and laundry onsite. No pets. 2617 Highland. Agent, 619-820-2584.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$800. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. New carpet, fresh paint. Spacious. Clean. Large closet space. New window coverings. Ready 2/16. 4405 Menlo Avenue. Call 858-571-1970. sunriseliving.com.

CLAIREMONT/KEARNY MESA. Wexford Manor. Large 1 and 2 bedrooms in beau-tiful complex with pool, spa, laundry, air conditioning, dishwasher. Sorry, no pets. \$995-\$1295. Photos at www. WexfordLiving.com. 7870 Stalmer Street. 858-277-4843.

CLAIREMONT. \$1250. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath canyon townhouse. Triplex overlooking peaceful canyon. Beautiful views, deck, laundry. Quiet cul-de-sac. Walk to Clairemont Square. No pets. 619-286-

CLAIREMONT SOUTH. \$1350. 2 bedcom, 1 bath duplex. Garage, front and backyard, close to I-5, bus. Available 3/1. 3339 Apache Avenue, 92117. Lee, 619-200-9668, 858-272-4938.

CLAIREMONT canyon rim townhome on cul-de-sac. 3 bedroom, 3 bath. \$1495. Remodeled, large, private yard, dishwasher, hookups, garage, tree garden, pets. 6490 Lanston. 619-993-4269.

\$1205. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Large, sunny townhomes. Pool. No pets. The Gardens, 5544 Balboa Arms Drive. Call

858-278-5862.

CLAIREMONT. Free daily continental breakfast, HBO, concierge service, maid/ linen service! 6-12 month lease discounts! Furnished studios from \$395/ week; \$1195/month! Corporate housing available. Utilities included! Microwave. Mini-refrigerator. Laundry. Pool, spa. Central location. Garden surroundings. Parking. No pets. California Suites Hotel, 5415 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. 1-888-

475-7147. www.sdreader.com/news/

rent2U35.

CLAIREMONT/MISSION BAY. "Unbeat able move-in Specials!" Up to \$250 o n Specials!" Up 1 ect units. Newly re move on select units. Newly remodeled 1, 2 bedrooms. 1 bedroom starting \$1085, 2 bedrooms starting \$1085, 2 bedrooms starting \$1300. Air conditioning. Movie theatre. Pet deposit. Gym. Yoga. Pool. Coral Bay Canyon, 3309 Cowley Way. Toll free: 1-877-585-1146. www. CoralBayApartments.com. www. sdreader.com/news/rent1031.

CLAIREMONT. \$860. Studio. 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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**CLAIREMONT.** \$1195. Nice and homey 2 bedroom duplex. Off-street parking. Small front and backyard. Gas stove. Washer/dryer hookups. No pets. 619-276-6745.

CLAIREMONT, \$1275. Large 2 bedroom duplex. Nicely landscaped, quiet complex. Washer/gas dryer hookups. Patio, garage. No pets. 3340 Clairemont Drive. Oon't disturb tenants. 858-278-2562

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COLLEGE AREA. \$775. Charming upstairs 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Small quiet complex near SDSU. Parking. Laundry. No pets. 4546 54th Street, #10. Agent, 619-698-1400. www.allenrealpropertyservices.

COLLEGE AREA/TALMADGE. Free rent in February! \$795, 1 bedroom. New carpet/ paint. Quiet complex. Laundry, parking, gated, 4420 Estrella Avenue. 619-253-

COLLEGE AREA. \$1095. 1/2 off first month. Extra large lower 2 bedroom 2 ith laundry, off-street parking. Near Cat ok. 4644 Soria Drive #1. 619-

COLLEGE AREA. \$785, 1 bedroom. Sparkling pool, on-site laundry, barbecue. Central location, near SDSU. No pets. 4333 College Avenue. 619-287-

COLLEGE. \$950. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, upper unit. Off-street parking, on-site laundry. Minutes from SDSU. 4910-1/2 67th Street. No pets. Move-in special. 619-565-7300. **COLLEGE.** 55+, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Gated. \$775/month, \$500/deposit. New carpet/tile, 600 square-feet,

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DEL MAR/SOLANA BEACH. \$1185. Call for move-in special! Newly remodeled studio located close to Del Mar Beaches Cedro's Design District. Perfect for the Southern California lifestyle. Balconies/ patios. Pool. Parking. Electricity included. Medium dogs welcome! 858-755-1466. sandpiper.rasnyder.com.

sandpiper.rasnyder.com. **DOWNTOWN.** San Diego's first hip hostel hotel. From \$49/night. From \$245/week. From \$19/bed in hostel. Free wireless Internet. Near bus/trolley. Flat screen TVs. European-style detached bathrooms. Restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. 500 West Hotel. 500 West Broadway. Toll free: 1-888-895-0875. 619-234-5252. www.500WestHotel.com, www.sdreader.com/news/rent2114.

sdreader.com/news/rent2114.

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. Club-house/library. Income qualify! Island Village. 1245 Market Street. For details, 1-800-351-0613. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2070.

**DOWNTOWN.** Beautiful building, new furnished rooms. Refrigerator, microwave, TV, cable. Starting at \$175 weekly. 920 Beech Street. Call 619-234-1952.

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ment, 619-239-1639 x103.

DOWNTOWN. Comfortable rooms, \$450/ up. Studios, \$650/up. Near Gaslamp Dis-trict. Very quiet and clean. Free cable Tv, on-site laundry, vending machines, com-munity kitchen, shared bathrooms. Near shopping, restaurants, movie theatres and Horton Plaza. No pets. Arlington Apartments, 701 7th Avenue. Hughes Management. 619-231-2385. www. sdreader.com/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

# RENTALS

# 500

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\$49\* per night

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CALL TOLL-FREE: 1-888-895-0875 or 619-234-5252 \*Subject to availability. \$3 linen charge for hostel rooms. Hostel rate only for non-California residents. TV, on-site laundry, vending machines, modern elevator, no pets. Southern Hotel, 1159 6th Avenue at B, Hughes Management, 619-239-3808. www.sdreader.com/psys/fort2000

DOWNTOWN. Economical furnished rooms, \$400-\$500, best price, save money. Conveniently located on C Street trolley line, near restaurants, free cable TV, shared bathrooms, on-site laundry facilities, vending machines, elevator service, no pets, 636 C Street (between 6th and 7th). C Street Inn, Hughes Management, 619-234-4165. www.sdreader.com/news/ren/2098.

DOWNTOWN. Gaslamp area. Move-in special, \$280. Community kitchen, shared bath, on-site laundry, vending machines, no pets, Star Hotel, 522 7th Avenue. 619-235-6068. Hughes

Management.

DOWNTOWN. Outstanding furnished rooms, \$400-\$500. Heart of Gaslamp. Shared bathrooms. Community kitchen. Free cable TV. No pets. 843 4th Avenue. Windsor Hotel. 619-235-6068. Hughes Management.

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Hughes Management, 619-231-2385. DOWNTOWN. Furnished studios. From \$59/daily, from \$210/weekly rates! Ideal, affordable, short-term stays. Private bath-room, kitchenette, microwave, refrigera-tor, cable TV. Air conditioning, laundry, voice mail. High speed Internet. Food ser-vice daily. Near trolley/bus/freeway, Bal-boa Park, Gaslamp. West Park Inn, 1840 4th Avenue. www.westparkinn.com. 619-236-1600. www.sdreader.com/news/ rent2037.

**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.** Cortez Hill: 1 bedroom with loft, \$2000, parking, hardwood floors, 18 foot ceilings. Gaslamp: 1 bedroom plus den, view, \$2300. Great complex. www. elisabethsellssandiego.com, 619-788-

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.

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.

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**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/LITTLE ITALY. Great location! 1 bedroom, 1-1/2 baths lofts \$1750. Sanker's Hill, 2 bedroom with vasher/dryer \$1650. Available now. Call 19-255-0526 DOWNTOWN. \$5995/month. Move-in Special: \$5000 off first month (annual lease; move in by 2/14/08). Beautiful penthouse, 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath. Fitness center, pool, Jacuzzi. Underground parking. Horizon Towers. 510 1st Avenue #2002. Agent, 619-471-2201.

**DOWNTOWN.** Condo. \$500 off 1st month! The Mark. \$1995/month first 6 months;

82200/month 2nd 6 months, annual lease. Beautiful pool, Jacuzzi, fitness center. Underground parking. Pets welcome. Agent, 619-471-2201.

DOWNTOWN/EAST VILLAGE. Newly remodeled rooms avilable for weeklylmothy rentals, \$495-\$600 plus \$300-\$400 security. Controlled access, shared bathrooms/kitchens. Full size beds. Laundry facility. Patio area. Palms Hotel, 619-233-0408.

ner studio, \$940. 9' ceilings, hardwood floors. Ideal location. Charming, secure, quiet building with laundry. 1534 Front, near Beech Street. 619-233-7428.

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997-1133.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. From \$800/month. Private bath, cable TV, microwave, refrigerator. Utilities included. Secure, quiet, charming. Efficiency apartments with laundry. Near trolley/bus lines, blocks from harbor. On-site manager. Villa Caterina, 1654 Columbia Street. 619-233-3400.

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**DOWNTOWN/**Heart of Gaslamp. \$1800. 1 bedroom condo, furnished or unfurnished. Top floor with city view, pool, gym, parking, full-size washer/dryer in

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DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. Las Flores Ho-tel. Small, quiet. \$120/week and up. Four-week minimum. Color TV with basic cable. Refrigerator in most rooms. Se-cure. 619-235-6820.

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DOWNTOWN/SHERMAN HEIGHTS. Small 1 bedroom, gated, view of the city. Walking distance to Downtown. Large storage area. New paint and carpet. 207 19th Street. \$750. 619-994-0449.

EL CAJON. \$695. 1 bedroom. Open Saturday 12-3pm. Fabulous pool/courtyard complex. Super clean apartments. No pets. \$895 moves you in! 314 Wisconsin Street. TPPM, 619-742-7600. www.palmestates.info.

EL CAJON. 1 bedroom, \$800. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$900. Great amenities, air conditioning, laundry on-site, pool, recreation room, parking. Lushly land-scaped. No pets. 294 Ballantyne. 619-334-7934.

# RENTALS

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Designer floor plans offer:

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- · Air conditioned\*
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  - · Frost-free refrigerators

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· Garages available

· Movie theater · Weekly Yoga classes

# Please ask about our preferred and government employee specials.

Pets are welcome (based upon approval).
\*Select units.

\*\*Prices subject to change. Call today for current pricing/specials. www.CoralBayApts.com



# Downtown/Gaslamp Penthouse Suite \$2750

\$99 Moves You In! (Includes first month free with 13-month lease!)

Urban Penthouse Living (1,546 sq. ft.)









Brazilian Cherrywood Floor - Granite kitchen countertops - Open, loft-style floor plan - City and harbor views (select units) - Cable/high-speed Internet ready - Pets welcome Easy keyless telephone entry access • Near bus & trolley • Garage parking available • Handicap access • Near Horton Plaza, Petco Park, Seaport Village, restaurants

San Diego Reader February 14, 2008





Valid with ad only on 13-month leases Offer expires 2/21/08.

# Newly Renovated 1 Bedrooms from \$1325

# RESIDENCE FEATURES

- · City and bay views
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- · Custom Euro-style cabinetry
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- Sculpted carpet in bedrooms
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- Resort-style pool & sundeck
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• 5 lighted tennis courts with tennis pros • 6 laundry facilities • Heat/air conditioning

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**Bay Pointe Apartments** 

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E-mail: baypointeapts@san.rr.com www.progressmanagement.net EL CAJON. \$900/up. 2 bedroom, 1 and 2 stories. Amenities. Pool, park-like grounds, parking. Near town, shops, bus. 743 South Magnolia Avenue. Call 619-579-0174, 619-464-1818.

**EL CAJON.** Gated community park. Trailers for rent, different sizes. From \$450-8850. Plus utilities/deposit. Conveniently located, close to trolley, bus, shopping. No pets. 619-334-0591.

EL CAJON. Cajon Villas. \$785, 1 bed-room. \$100, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. \$1325, 3 bedroom. Pool. Parking. Air condition-ing. No pets. 933 Peach Avenue. 619-447-9193.

447-9193. EL CAJON. \$995. Deposit \$900. \$200 move-in bonus! 2 bedroom, 1 bath, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave. Laundry, parking, available now. 1070 South Sunshine Street. Call Michael, 619-727 619-619-730

597-6100; 619-7/8-8444.

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Downstairs. New carpet, paint. Assigned parking. Laundry. No pets. Available now. 506 Emerald Avenue #4. Agent, 858-514-8201

B201.

EL CAJON. \$850. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs. Carpet. Dishwasher. Laundry room. One assigned parking. No pets. Available now. Section 8 OK. 1423 Peach Avenue. Phillips Realty, 619-291-

EL CAJON. \$705. 1 bedroom. El Cajon's best maintained property with beautiful courtyard and sparkling pool. No pets. 1072 East Madison Avenue. TPPM, 619-444-1614. www.fourwindsapts.info

444-1614. www.nourwindsapis.inio.
EL CAJON. \$755.1 bedroom. Attractive well maintained property with beautiful courtyard. Gated access and quiet location. 340 Orlando Street. TPPM, 619-818-9939. www.northwindapts.com.

Separation of the second of th

9/22: www.paimtowers.com.

EL CAJON. Beautiful condo. Great carpet, paint, central air/heat, spacious living, bedroom areas. 2 assigned parking. Pool, playground. Jacuzzi. 589 N. Johnson #232. Agent, 619-471-2201.

ENCINITAS. \$1695. 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo in Village Park on green belt. Washer/dryer, carport, community pool and tennis. 760-753-4101.

ENCINITAS. Treat yourself to this elegantly furnished 1 bedroom at Moonlight Beach. Walk to shops, restaurants, Coaster. Gourmet kitchen, washer/dryer, dishes, linens. \$2195/month. 760-753-4101

ENCINITAS. \$900 & up. Sick of roommates? Cozy beach trailers in quiet park. Near beach, Coaster, restaurants, shops. 152 North Coast, Highway 101. 760-753-4101.

ENCINTAS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex with large deck and garage. Washer/dryer hookups and granite countertops. \$1595. 1 year lease. No pets. 760-753-4101

ENCINITAS. \$1195, 1 bedroom. \$1410, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Balcony or patio. Skylight. Small complex. Assigned parking, laundry. New paint. Bright and airy. Garden setting. 1-1/2 blocks to beach. Close to shopping, freeway, Coaster. No pets/smoking. 760-929-1950.

Smoking, 760-929-1950.

ENCINITAS/LEUCADIA. Secluded, large
bedroom with skylights, fireplace, big
deck and hardwood floors. Nonsmoking,
\$1265 includes utilities. 273-D Hillcrest
Drive. 858-755-6560.

ESCONDIDO. Move in special: half off first months rent! \$895-\$1695. Tired of apartment living? Beautiful 1, 2, & 3 bedroom manufactured homes offer spectacular hilltop views. Full-sized washer/dryer, some small yards. Peaceful community sorry no pets. 1924 Sheridan Avenue 760-745-1677.

ESCONDIDO. Call for specials! Spacious 1 bedrooms from \$835, deposit \$400. 2 bedrooms from \$995, deposit \$500. Great floor plan. Pool, spa. Covered parking. Laundry. RV parking. Cats are welcome. 640 West Lincoln Street. 760-489-8989.

**ESCONDIDO.** 2 bedrooms, \$1150-\$1200. Resort style living. \$200 off first month's rent! 1960 East Grand Avenue. 760-489-6932. www.melrovarcherties.com royproperties.com.

FASHION VALLEY. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, 2 walk-in closets, central heat/air,

balcony, pools, tennis, clubhouse. Non-smoking. Cat OK. Year lease. \$1650. 619-

FASHION VALLEY. The Courtyards \$1250. 860-square-foot 1 bedroom condo, underground parking, resort-like: pool/spa/sauna/tennis/gym. Lease. No pets/smoking. ETS Realty, 858-560-5564. FASHION VALLEY/USD. \$1200. 2 bed rashiun VallEY/USD. \$1200. 2 bed-room, 1 bath, lower unit, built-in book shelves. New carpet, refurbished bathrooom. Front loader washer and dryer in unit. Street parking or garage for additional \$100/month. View of the bay. Cat OK. Available mid-February. 5319 Mildred Street #B. www.centrecity.net. 619-296-6699.

GASLAMP QUARTER. Spacious 1 bed-room condo. \$1600. \$1000 move-in in-centive! Patio. Granite. Dishwasher, microwave. Stacked washer/dyer. Air conditioning. \$800 security deposit. 858-050 4000.

GOLDEN HILL. \$875. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Fenced patio. Off-street parking. Convenient location. 3357 B Street. No pets. Hughes Management, 619-239-1639

GOLDEN HILL, (2) Charming 1 bedroom, 1 bath \$795/\$850. Hardwood floors. Great neighborhood, laundry on-site. Available now. No dogs. 2412 E Street. 619-857-3706.

619-857-3706.

GOLDEN HILL/DOWNTOWN. Up to 1/2 month off! Military special! Free application fee! 1 bedrooms from \$1120. Large 2 bedrooms, 2 bath townhomes from \$1685. Views Controlled access. Washer/dryer. Microwave Central air. Deck. Spa. Barbecue. Parking. Pet friendly! Golden Pacific, 1015 19th Street. 1-800-433-6156. www.pacificiliving.com. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2028.

www.screader.com/news/rentz0z8.

GOLDEN HILL. \$1600. 3 bedroom, 1 bath townhome. Contemporary setting, newly remodeled, 1300 square feet. 2 minutes to Downhown. Garage. Laundry facility. Security entry. 619-247-7327.

GOLDEN HILL. \$1575. Cityscape. Nice 2 bedroom condo. Dramatic Downtown views! 3rd floor, granite, stainless appliances. Cat OK. 1233 22nd Street #14. Agent. 619-469-7790. www. stmanproperties.com

westmarproperties.com.

GOLDEN HILL. Ugly but goodie! Studios
and 1 bedrooms, \$775+. Ceramic
tile/new carpet, new paint, garbage disposal, dishwasher, off-street parking
available. Pet OK with deposit. 619-231-

GOLDEN HILL, \$1195\_2 bedroom\_1 bath dolden Hill. \$1195. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. Large kitchen, new appliances/carpet/paint/blinds, dishwasher, garbage disposal, private patio, parking. Pet OK with deposit. 2949 B Street. 619-231-8723.

Clean, quiet, secure. If you can find one better; rent it. 623 19th Street. Call 619-

HILLCREST. Spacious 1 and 2 bednoms! Berber carpet, fireplace, spa, gym, intercom, elevator. Sorry, no pets. Hillcrest Summit, 4134 4th Avenue. See photos at www.WexfordLiving.com. 619-299-0047.

299-0047.

HILLCREST. \$795. Sunny studio in charming, gated Spanish building. All new windows. Nice, recently remodeled kitchen with gas stove. Ceiling fan. Tile shower. Laundry on-site. Cat OK. 1830 Robinson Avenue. Call 619-298-1961.

HILLCREST. Hillcrest Palms. Senior complex. 55+ living! \$900. 1 bedroom apartments. Gated community. Convenient location. Near hospitals, restaurants, shopping. No pets. 4042 Albatross Street. 619-574-0784.

httLCREST. On desirable 8th Street.
Quiet 1 bedroom 1 bath roomy condo in small well-maintained complex, enclosed-security parking. Dog OK on approval. \$1300/month, \$850 deposit. Landlord references required. 619-400-7659; 760-765-1542.

HILLCREST, \$960, 1 bedroom, 1 bath Gated, laundry, 1 parking space, dishwasher, air conditioning. No pets. 1033 Robinson. Call Rachel, 619-295-1210.

HILLCREST. \$1200. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Laundry, parking. Storage. 4226 Cleve-land Avenue. Call 619-255-4944 or 858-

490-1600. **HILLCREST.** \$950. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. \$975 1 bedroom 1 bath. Vaulted ceilings. Walk to Balboa Park and shopping. Park-

ing. Laundry. Move in special \$250 off 1st months rent OAC. Available now. 3820 8th Avenue #1 and #5. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

HILLCREST. 1/2 off first month! \$1100. 1 bedroom. Patio. New carpet. Ceiling fan, microwave. Gated entry. Garage. Lush garden setting. Laundry. No pets. 3914 Centre. 619-787-1519.

MILLCREST. \$1195. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs in duplex. Older, Spanish-style building with nice, shared lawn area. Convenient location. No parking. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Available 3/1. 3753 Fourth. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com

delsolpm.com.

\*\*HILLCREST. \$975. One bedroom, lower apartment, with new carpet and paint. Decent closet space. Charming 9-unit complex has onsite parking, laundry, locked gates but no pets or smoking. 3928 Third Avenue, worth seeing! Call for appointment, 858-571-1181.

HILLCREST. \$950. 1 bedroom in charming, old-fashioned building. Corner unit. Hardwood floors. 9-foot ceilings. Bay window. Stove, refrigerator, laundry facility. Near shopping and 163. No pets. 619-

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.

httl.CREST. Quiet deluxe 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1300. Gated, fireplace. All appliances, washer/dryer, skylight, patio, 2 parking spaces. Cats OK. No smoking facility. 3680 Alabama Street. Available mid-March. 619-269-5237.

HILLCREST. \$785. Studio. Lovely garden courtyard with fountain. Walk to Uptown Village. Hardwood floors, blinds, on-site laundry. No pets. EOH. 619-299-8746.

Haundry. No pets. EOH. 619-299-8746.

HILLCREST. \$1525. Spectacular 2 bedroom. Come and enjoy Hillcrest living at it's best in the beautifully remodeled Park Towers Building. Our 2 bedroom units have gone through an extensive remodel in excess of 30K. Full ceramic tile countertops, dishwasher. Micro hood, range and refrigerator included. Italian ceramic tile floors with granite accents. Crown moldings, ceiling fans and mirrored wardrobes. Full tile bathroom. All new fixtures and window treatments. Property features a pool, gated access with intercom, covered off street parking and on site laundry. \$800 deposit and one year lease required. Available March 1. Move 10.3563 Sixth Avenue at Upas Street. Call the resident manager at 619-542-0377.scott@hendershawandassociates.

HILLCREST. Remodeled, luxury with HILLGREST. Hemodeled, luxury with garage! All redone granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, maple wood cabinetry. Community sundeck courtyard with water-wall. 1 bedroom, \$1295/month. Month to month. Lease option available. 4077 3rd Avenue. Sorry, no pets. Call Nicol at 619-807-7053.

HILLCREST. Newly remodeled, pool, washer/dryer. Month to month. Barbecue, clubhouse featuring a pool table, flat screen TVs and bar. Granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, maple wood cabinetry and large storage rooms. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath \$1495/month. Sorry, no pets. Lease option available. 1030 Robinson Avenue, San Diego. Call Nicol at 619-807-7053.

at 619-807-7053.

HILLCREST. Newly remodeled, pool, washer/dryer. Month to month. Barbecue, clubhouse featuring a pool table, flat screen TVs and bar. Granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, maple wood cabinetry and large storage rooms. 2 bedroom, 2 bath \$1795/month. Sorry, no pets. Lease option available. 1030 Robinson Avenue, San Diego. Call Nicol at 619-807-7053.

8U/-/053.

HILLCREST. \$1025. Upper 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Gated complex, all appliances, washer/dryer, underground parking, elevator. Near all. Cat OK. Section 8, 4155 Georgia Street #106 & #207. 619-297-7662.

HILLCREST. \$1000. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, built-in bookshelf, laundry on site, cozy dining area. Large bedroom. 1224 Penn-sylvania Avenue #4. www.centrecity.net. 619-296-6699.

HILLCREST/UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath \$1595. Fire-place, washer/dryer, deck, upstairs unit Central air. Oversize 2 car garage. 619-260-1570.

HILLCREST/BALBOA PARK. \$1275. 1 bedroom. Large 900 square feet. Forma dining room with built-in buffet. Stove, re-frigerator. Wood floors. Small garage. En-

# RENTALS



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San Diego Reader February

try system. Quiet 4 unit property. On the park. Cat OK with additional deposit. Available 3/10/08. 1634 Upas. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com

2071; www.delsolpm.com.

IMPERIAL BEACH. \$1475-\$1525. Newly remodeled 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath cor dos. Steps to beach. Heated pool, views All appliances. 1111 Seacoast #2, #20 and #35. Agent Bill, 619-823-1674.

IMPERIAL BEACH. \$995. Large 2 bed room, 1 bath. \$100 off first month! \$800 deposit. Laundry. Courtyard. Water/trash paid. Gated. No pets. 750 11th Street. 619-423-4610.

IMPERIAL BEACH. \$850-\$995. Beautiful 1 bedroom on beach. View. Refrigerator. Stove. Pet? Laundry facilities on premises. Off-street parking. Available now. Seacoast Drive. Call 619-424-9233.

IMPERIAL BEACH. \$1150. 2 bedroom

3673.

KENSINGTON, \$825. Clean 1 bedroom, upstairs. Gated complex. Stove, refrigerator. Laundry facilities, off-street parking. Water/trash paid. No pets. Available now. Call 619-971-1145 or 619-579-8027.

KENSINGTON. \$1295. Extra large 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, skylights, fully equipped kitchen. All amenities, coin laundry, off-street parking. No pets. Call 858-456-2098.

KENSINGTON. \$950. 1 bedroom, 1 bath Parking, laundry. Available 03/07/08 4118 Adams Avenue #1. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

LA COSTA/CARLSBAD. \$1200. 2 bed-room, 2 bath. Move in special. Cats OK with deposit, no dogs. Assigned parking. Quiet street off of La Costa Avenue. 760-

LA JOLLA VILLAGE. \$1350. Small 1 bedroom. Steps to beach and Downtown. Small view. Year lease. Laundry facilities. Mike Stalsby, 858-344-1033.

LA JOLLA, Studio. \$1050/month with lease. One off-street parking space, on site washer/dryer. 7509 Herschel Avenue, 858-551-6281.

LA JOLLA, SOUTH. Luxury 1 bedroom/2 bedrooms starting at \$1540. Steps to beach, balcony, pool, spa, views, controlled access. No pets. Nonsmoking. Office at 5060 La Jolla Boulevard. Open Monday-Saturday, 9am-5pm or call TPPM, 858-483-7412 for information.

www.casadelmar.info.

LA JOLLA/UCSD, \$1475, 2 bedroom, 1
bath. \$500 off! New carpet. Balcony.
Near shops. \$500 deposit. No pets. 8849
Villa La Jolla Drive. 858-457-4509.

LA JOLLA, Village Studio. \$1375. Split
level: living, kitchen, balcony below, bedroom, bathroom, walk-in closet above.
Gated entries, secure garage parking.
Call Jolla Studio. Amazina bagaina Con-

Call JOILA. Studio. Amazing location. One block to Starbucks, beach and bus. Prospect Street. Kitchen with appliances. Walk-in closet, laundry. \$1195-\$1450, includes utilities. 858-336-0252.

LA JOLLA. Ocean block studio and 1 bedroom, \$1159/up. Walk to the shore/surf. Pool, laundry. Lush and tranquil living. Call for tour. 858-536-1900.

qui iivrig. Cali for four. 858-536-1900. **IA JOLLA.** \$1025. studio. \$1495. 2 bedroom. \$300 off first month! Garden setting. New windows. Laundry. Walk to shops. No pets. 7555 Herschel Avenue. 858-459-1102.

LA JOLLA. \$1100. Large studio, full bath-room and kitchen with dining area. Great room and kitchen with dining area. Great closet space. 396 Kolmar Way #5. www.centrecity.net. 619-296-6699.

centrecity.riet. o 19-290-6699. **LA JOLLA.** \$1400. Luxury 1 bedroom condo. Enclosed patio, open floorplan, granite, washer/dryer in unit, cabana/pool, parking. Near freeways/shopping. Available now. 858-277-3410.

Available now. 858-217-34 10.

A JOLLA. \$1050. Studio. Remodeled. Partial ocean view. Controlled access. Pool. Secured parking. Laundry. No pets. Steps to beach. Available 3/4. 6655 La Jolla Boulevard. 858-882-7494.

LA JOLLA. Condo. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhouse. \$2395/month. 1 year lease. All appliances. 2 car garage. Call for appointment, Michael, 858-597-6100 x321.

LA JOLLA. \$2400. Nice 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhome. All appliances. 2-car garage. Pool. Pets negotiable. Available bath townhome. All appliances. 2-car garage. Pool. Pets negotiable. Available immediately. Near UCSD. Alta Vista Prop-erties, 858-274-3600.

erties, 858-274-3600.

LA JOLLA. \$1295. 1 bedroom in the Boardwalk complex, near UCSD. Parking. Laundry in unit, fireplace. Pool, spa. No pets. Available now. Call Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.

LA JOLLA. \$875. Studio, 1 bath apartment, month-to-month lease, close to Windansea Beach. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-

LA JOLLA/WINDANSEA Beach. \$1850. 2 LA JOLLA, WINDANSEA Beach. \$1850. 2 bedroom, 1 bath with fireplace and garage. One block to surf and sand. Garden courtyard. No pets. 326 Palomar Avenue. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

LA JOLLA/BIRD ROCK. Quaint cottage. Charming 1 bedroom, 1 bath starting at \$1500. Close to beach. Laundry facility. Off-street parking. Cat OK. Walking distance to the village. Toll free: 1-800-490-6372. www.pacificliving.com.

LA JOLLA/UTC. Remodeled 3 bedroom. 2-1/2 bath townhouse. New appliances. Tile floors. Double garage. Patio. Pool. \$2490. 8267 Caminito Modena, La Jolla 92037. Available mid-January. 858-405-

LA JOLLA/UTC. \$1645. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, 2-car parking included, pool, Jacuzzi, sauna, business center. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

LA MESA AREA. \$950. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, remodeled interior. Clean, quiet, secure. On-site laundry and parking. Close to freeways and SDSU. This one is good! Available now. If you can find one better, rent it! 7240 El Cajon Boulevard #22. Rachael, 619-804-1044.

# **Free Classifieds!**

LA MESA. \$920/up, 1 bedroom. \$1220/ up, 2 bedroom. Across Grossmont Cen-ter, trolley, Costco. Quiet, spacious units. Pools. Mellmanor Apartments, 8750 Mell-manor Drive. 619-461-1940.

LA MESA. \$795 rent. \$600 deposit, OAC Large 1 bedroom detached cottage. Large 1 bedroom detached collage. Open daily 3:30-6pm. No pets. At 4855 Jessie Street (east of 73rd). 619-299-

LA MESA. \$1195. rent. \$600 deposit OAC. Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath town OAC. Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath town-house duplex. Patio. No pets. Open daily 3:30-6:00pm at 4857 Jessie Street. 619-

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.

LA MESA. \$870. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Dishwasher. Pool. Parking. Laundry. No pets. 5436 Vincetta Court. Call 619-462-8896. www.kandrproperties.com.

LA MESA. \$975. Large 1 bedroom condo. Walk to Lake Murray. New carpet and appliances. No pets/smoking. 564 Lake Park Way. Agent, 619-469-7790. www.westmanproperties.com.

LA MESA. \$860. Village area 1 bed-rooms, upper and lower units available in great location. Lots of storage, ceiling fan, water and trash paid. Off street parking, on-site laundry. 8276-8288 Orchard Av-enue. 619-838-0386 or 619-460-8011.

AMESA. \$770, studio, \$350 deposit. \$920, 1 bedroom, deposit \$450. Air conditioning. Dishwasher. Carport. Storage. Pool. Gated. No pets. 5435 Morengo Avenue. 619-698-7926. villaknollsapts.com.

LA MESA. \$795 includes utilities. Spa-cious studio, private bedroom area, patio newer carpet, barbecue area. Garage in-cluded. Call 619-462-1550.

cluded. Call 619-462-1550.

LA MESA. \$1225. 2 bedroom. Classic 2 bedroom apartment. Great location. Available for your consideration is the classic 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment located in a small quiet complex. Current cated in a small quiet complex. Current ownership has installed new windows, reinished the original hardwood floors, added ceramic tile countertops and new winyl floors in the kitchen and bath. Enormous kitchen with a walk-in pantry. Large living room and spacious bedrooms with ceiling fans. Current upgrades to include new paint in designer colors, new light fixtures and new blinds. Includes one off street covered parking space, property has on-site laundry and is close to shopping and restaurants. Available March 1, 2008. Sorry, no pets. 8006 Fairview Avenue. Photos available upon request. Call Scott.

619-846-6615.scott@hendershawandassociates.com

hendershawandassociates.com nendersnawandassociates.com

LA MESA. \$1075. 1/2 off first month. Extra
large upper 2 bedroom, 1 bath, extra
large balcony, air conditioning, laundry,
off-street parking. Pet negotiable. 6006
Lake Murray Boulevard #E. 619-804-

LA MESA. 1 bedrooms, \$890/up. Spacious apartments. Near Grossmont Center. Great neighborhood. Convenient to all! Villa Morocco. 5545 Morro Way. Available. 619-985-3500.

LA MESA, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1200, Ask about move-in special! Upstairs. Free credit check. Pool, saunas. Off-street parking. On-site laundry. Close to down-town La Mesa, trolley, shops and free-ways. Cats welcome. Crestview Apartments, 4515 3rd Street. 619-465-

LA MESA. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1100 square feet, beautifully refurbished, air conditioning, pool, parking. 24-hour laundry room. \$1375. No Section 8/dogs. 619-

464-5557.

LA MESA. Very large apartment homes in a lush garden complex. Lots of storage space. Near all. No Section 8. 1 bedroom, 1 bath \$925, 2 bedroom, 2 bath \$1125-\$1195. Community pool. 619-697-3285. For photo, floor plans, map and directions, see website: www.sdreader.com/news/rent1035.

news/rent1035.

LA MESA/CASA DE ORO. 1 bedrooms, \$945-\$995. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1195. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1195. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1325. Air/heat. Huge patios/balconies. Gated access and parking. Small pet OK. Elegant, sculptured courtyards with flower gardens, fountains, gas lamps, park benches. Charming, New Orleans ambiance. 3903 Conrad Drive. 866-894-6343. www.sdreader.com/paws/rent1017

LA MESA/FLETCHER PARKWAY. Supe spacious 1 bedrooms. \$995. \$250 move-in incentive. Award winning community. Pool and spa. Great location. No pets. Open Saturday 9am-5:30pm. 5500 Morro Way. TPPM, 619-884-7900. www. mesa.com.

**LEMON GROVE.** Great location, near trolley/shops. Spacious first floor 1 bedroom ley/shops. Spacious first floor 1 bedroom, 1 bath. \$820. Laundry on-site. No pets. Good credit required. Leave message,

LEMON GROVE. \$800. 1 bedroom. bath. Nice, spacious, upstairs unit. Close to all. Laundry. Small backyard. Available now. 3320 Vista Avenue #7. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

LEMON GROVE. \$1395. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, complete remodel that includes carpet, paint, kitchen countertops. On-site laundry includes 2 washers and 2 dryers for this 6-unit complex. Super clean, quiet and secure. Secure tuck-under parking. If you can find one better; rent it. 3262 Buena Vista #4. Rachael, 619-804-1044 or. leff 619-713-1044 or Jeff 619-713-1044.

**LEMON GROVE.** \$750. Studio with full kitchen and bath. Utilities included. 7614-7620 Pacific Avenue. 619-281-4698.

LINDA VISTA. \$685-\$1200. Studios with utilities included, 2 bedrooms, 3 bedrooms. Laundry, gated parking. \$400-\$800 deposits! No pets. Astro Vista Apartments, 2249 Ulric Street. 858-565-6400.

LINDA VISTA. 2 bedroom, 1 bath town-house, \$1075 and single level corner unit, \$1125. Deposit \$900. Freshly renovated interiors, some backyards, assigned parking. Great location. Please, no pets and no Section 8. Office at 2451 Ulric Street. 619-249-9585.

LINDA VISTA, \$995, 2 bedroom, 1 bath 2-story. Brand new paint, carpet, counter-tops! Don't miss out! 6512 Kelly Street. Manager, 619-820-2584.

LINDA VISTA, \$1195, 1/2 off first month Extra large, upper 2 bedroom, 1 bath, large private patio, appliances, new carpet, vinyl, paint. Laundry. Across from USD. Pet negotiable. 5651 Mildred Street

#B. 619-804-3325.

MIRA MESA. \$1050. 1 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs condo near Miramar/Mesa College. Parking space. Laundry facilities Pool. Water/trash included. First/last required 610, 267, 3744

MISSION BAY, EAST. \$815 rent. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. \$500 deposit. Laundry. Assigned parking. Cat OK. Close to I-5. 1450 Morena Boulevard. Call 619-890-4340.

MISSION BAY/BAY PARK. \$855. Spacious studio in fantastic location. Bay view. Controlled access. Laundry. Open Sunday 11am-12pm. 2821 Morena Boule-vard #5. TPPM 619-275-1352.

MISSION BEACH. Large 3 bedroom, 3 bath townhome on quiet bayside court. Recently remodeled, 2-car garage. Long term lease. \$2875/month. 858-488-3539.

MISSION BEACH. On the boardwalk! MISSION BEACH. On the boardwalk Newly renovated 2 and 3 bedrooms. Luxury units for rent. Granite, Stainless steel appliances. Travertine tile. Everything newl Private balconies, new pool, security building/parking. 3790 Riviera Drive. From \$2750. Manager at 858-270-0860.

MISSION BEACH. \$1150. Cute 1 bed-room cottage with garage. Super private. Close to beach and bay. Available now. Westbourne Company Realtors, 858-488-

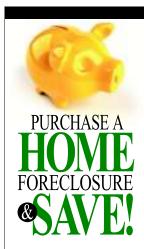
MISSION BEACH. \$950. Studio. Balcony. Fireplace. New carpet/paint/windows. Laundry room. Parking. 100 feet from bay. 3630 Bayside Lane. Available now.

ISSION BEACH. Half block to ocean!

Super clean 1 bedroom with parking. Nonsmoking. No pets. \$1200. Available now. Call 562-445-7493 or 979-848-6765.

MISSION BEACH. \$1225. Clean, cute 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Garage. Steps to the beach. No pets. Year-round lease. Water paid. 619-234-4621; 858-566-0072.

MISSION BEACH NORTH. \$1295. Newly refurbished 1 bedroom, 1 bath duplex Shared laundry/storage. Steps to ocean 720 San Jose Place. Available 3/1. 858



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MISSION BEACH. Ocean front. \$2100. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. On the sand with in-credible ocean views. Tile floors. Street parking. Open Saturday 11:30am-12:30pm. 703 Sunset Court. TPPM, 858-

MISSION BEACH, \$900, 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, refrigerator, stove. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com.

MISSION BEACH. 1 bedroom. Walk to beach and Bay. Wood floors. 1-car beach and Bay. Wood floors. 1-car garage plus additional parking. 3625 Mission Boulevard. \$999. 858-568-5081.

MISSION BEACH. \$725. Studio. Steps to Bay! Includes utilities. Excellent condi-tion. No pets. 3264 Bayside Lane. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

MISSION HILLS/HILLCREST. Newly re modeled 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. 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-

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@sbcglobath. net. Please call today, 619-220-0707. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2032.

MISSION HILLS/NORTH Historical residential area. Half off 1st month's rent of \$1160/month on immediate move-in. 2 bedroom apartments. On-site laundry,

quiet. No pets. 619-298-6436. MISSION HILLS. Studio apartment, \$825. Historic building. Charming, private, light view, hardwood floors, washer/dryer. . One year lease. 619-980-6700.

MISSION HILLS. \$750. Studio in great location with shared back yard. Close to freeway access. 3006 Eagle Street. Leasing Unlimited, 760-436-7273.

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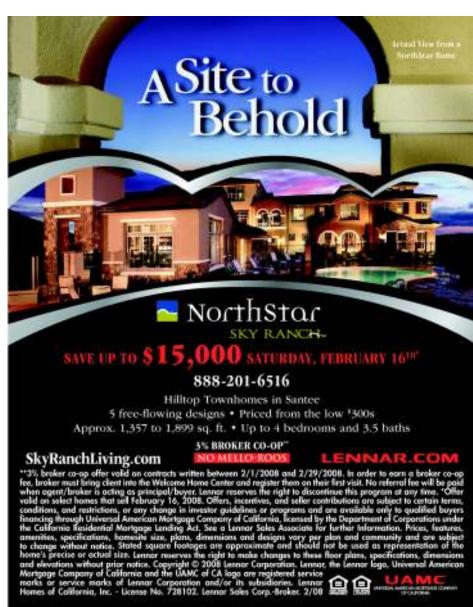
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March. 619-540-4246.

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enue. 619-222-6427.

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### **LEAD STORY**

- Mayor Grace Saenz-Lopez (Alice, Texas, pop. 19,000) and her twin sister were indicted in January for hiding evidence in a dognapping case. Saenz-Lopez had agreed to baby-sit a shih tzu but, alarmed by the dog's sickliness, she kept it and told the owners that it had died. When it was spotted at a local grooming service, Saenz-Lopez and her sister allegedly began a cover-up that included the mayor's once pretending to be her sister. The mayor told her lawyer that if not for her husband, she would go to jail "for the rest of [my] life" rather than give the dog back. Most recently, Saenz-Lopez reported that the dog had run away, but many of her constituents are skeptical.

### **Great Art!**

- Samina Malik, 23, was convicted in a British court in December and given a suspended ninemonth sentence for having amassed a large collection of how-to books on terrorism. She came to authorities' attention as the self-described "lyrical terrorist" who writes poetry glorifying the Islamic mujahadeen fighters who specialize in beheadings. (From her "How to Behead": "Tilt the fool's head to its left/ Saw the knife

back and forth/ No doubt that the punk will twitch and scream/ But ignore the donkey's ass/ And continue to slice back and forth.")

- In January, the Centre for Recent Drawing art gallery in a London, England, suburb scheduled a series of 55 works by artist Jordan McKenzie, 40, called "Spent," even though they consist merely of canvases onto which he had ejaculated and covered with carbon sprinkles. McKenzie maintained that the works were "heartfelt and delicate."

## **Police Blotter**

- The Austin (Texas) Police Department announced in January that it had suspended officer Scott Lando, 45, based on preliminary indications that he had been hiring a prostitute while on duty. According to a search-warrant affidavit (disclosed in the Austin American-Statesman), Lando had paid for the woman's services in part by giving her free reign over part of Mrs. Lando's closet, declaring that his wife "would never miss" some of the items.

- Chutzpah: (1) Georgia Ann Newman, 36, was arrested and charged with battery on a police officer after she not only spit on a Charleston, W.Va., officer but, as he was leading her away, wiped her nose on his uniform shirt. (2) Teresa Walker, 44, was arrested in Cincinnati in October in the course of a minor traffic stop because, while the ticket was being written, she allegedly called the police department on her cell phone to complain that the officer was writing too slowly. She later denied the officer's charge that she had threatened to "shoot" him if he didn't speed it up but only to "sue" him.

## **Turning Their Lives Over to Sat-Nav**

- Satellite-navigation is a boon to drivers, but reports are accumulating of incidents in which drivers turned over too much discretion to the technology. For example, in January in Bedford Hills, N.Y., a visiting Silicon Valley computer technician obeyed his car's global positioning system and wound up, stalled, on railroad tracks, where a passing Metro-North train smashed into it (after the man had exited).

### **Medical Personnel with Issues**

 (1) In October, Syracuse, N.Y., dentist George Trusty was sued in federal court after a drill bit snapped off and lodged near a patient's eye, allegedly because Trusty was dancing to the song "Car Wash" on the radio while tending to the patient. (2) In January, former Skokie, Ill., eye-doctor's assistant Joseph Vernell Jr. was sued after a patient complained that, in a dark room "exam," Vernell was detected licking her toes. He explained that he was actually "checking [her] sugar level."

### **Least Competent Criminals**

- Too Late: According to police in Honolulu in January, it was Ellis Cleveland who robbed four banks within a five-day span, and that's what an officer said to him as they arrested him. Responded Cleveland, "Four. I didn't do four. I only robbed three banks. But it doesn't matter because I'm not talking to you guys. I want a lawyer." Police later said that Cleveland was not counting the attempted robbery on Dec. 31 of the Bank of Hawaii because, after three different tellers tried unsuccessfully to decipher his holdup note, Cleveland gave up and walked out empty-handed.

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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I met Paul online, and it wasn't long before we were talking on the phone, engaging in the most introspective, enlightening, and enjoyable conversations I've ever had, replete with deep discussions about the world, about people, with lots of laughing, crying, and crackling of ice cubes. Sometimes our talks would last for hours, literally. To say Paul gave "good phone" is an understatement.

Our first few dates were spent attending a movie, a show, or a sporting event — stuff like that. This was well and good, except for the fact that on these excursions, Paul would often seem to ignore me. Total silence from him — before, during, and after the date. Oh, sure, he would nod occasionally, so as not to appear like he was dead, but that's all I got.

I soon realized that what he wanted and expected from me was that I become an expert at mind-reading. Once I did, everything fell into place. Mind-reading allowed me to quickly ascertain that there were many things that annoyed the heck out of him but that I shouldn't expect him to share any of these annoyances with me (or anything else, for that matter), as it was clear he was uncomfortable

"feebangs," as he would call them. Yes, I'm serious — he actually had trouble saying the word "feelings." I should mention that Paul had

talking about his feelings. Or his

two teenage sons — obviously old enough to stay home alone when Paul and I would venture out. But when he became uncomfortable with me (usually immediately after we had sex), he would use the excuse that he "needed to get home to the boys." It seemed that the better and more intimate the sex, the sooner he needed to get home.

Paul would often talk about how much he'd like to meet a woman and spend his life with her. He said this with all sincerity, and I believed him. He also admitted that he lost interest in a woman as soon as it was apparent she was interested in him. To his credit, he did acknowledge that this was destructive and that he was becoming increasingly frustrated at his inability to conquer this destructive trait. So he gets an "A" for acknowledgment.

Of course, Paul required quite a lot of "space" and said to me several times that what he needed was a woman who was comfortable allowing him that. This woman was also expected to be available and happy when he returned from his "distant" mood (which could last for weeks), with no "annoying" questions as to why he'd been gone. This was crucial, Paul said, or "things just wouldn't work."

Paul also had a drinking problem. It would start out fun, sharing a bottle of fine wine with him, but then he'd drink so much that he would pass out.

As if all of this wasn't enough, I'll add one more thing: Paul enjoyed surfing the Internet, spending most of his time on various dating sites. Sometimes he would tell me about some of the women that

he was attracted to and say that he hoped I didn't "have a problem with that." He did this during the entire time we were dating — which, believe it or not, lasted four years.

By now you must be wondering why in the world I tolerated this arrangement. For four years, no less. Believe me, I'm still wondering that myself. I guess I thought that something was better than nothing, but I don't know why I thought I had nothing if I wasn't with a man.

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bath. Laundry available. Available 3/15/08. 4320 Campus Avenue #5. www. cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

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# In the Reader

# **Thirty Years Ago**

Dear Matthew Alice:

How did the word "pot" come to stand for marijuana? Does it have anything to do with the old joke about people "going to pot"? Julie Simms, North Park

No. "Pot" is derived from the Spanish phrase, potación de guaya, which refers to a very potent drink made with wine and the seedpods of cannabis.

—STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP, Matthew Alice, February 16, 1978

### **Twenty-Five Years Ago**

I doubt that I could make you appreciate the revulsion I felt while reading Francesca Da Leo's enchanting little tale, "When Opposites Attract." Da Leo couldn't have chosen a more inappropriate title. She and her lover were very much alike; in addition to their mutual addiction to pain, they were the most selfdestructive pair I've ever had the misfortune to read about.

I read her article with the same kind of morbid fascination that captures one when reading similar tales of the wondrous, convoluted, and bizarre. Call me old-fashioned, call me passé, thrown out with leisure suits, Sonny Bono, beehive hairdos, and other bygones, but I was brought up believing in relationships where the partners didn't try to kill each other.

-LETTERS: "DA LEO TAKES A BEATING,"

Randy Opincar, February 17, 1983

### **Twenty Years Ago**

Commodore Dave Rosier and the old salts at the Kona Kai Yacht Club figured it was a joke, an inside job, so they didn't panic when their America's Schooner Cup trophy was heisted from the Kona Kai's Shelter Island clubhouse last December. They admit that the club hadn't treated the big brass trophy with the sort of respect due the winners of the Kona Kai's annual charity yacht race.

—CITY LIGHTS: "THE PURLOINED TROPHY," Paul Krueger, February 18, 1988

### Fifteen Years Ago

It was January 1963 and my Great & Good Friend (Henry Luce's apt phrase) Audrey Hepburn was here on a semi-secret getaway weekend. Up in Tinseltown she and Cary Grant were making Charade, an imitation-Hitchcock comedy-thriller directed by Stanley Donen. The film was supposed to have been shot on location in Paris, but because of budget problems (Cary's salary!) the studio decided to economize and film it all on a soundstage in

Universal City.

"It's all soo diresome," Audrey sighed over drinks at the top of El Cortez.

—SAN DIEGO CONFIDENTIAI: "WHEN AUDREY HEPBURN CAME TO TOWN." The Old Flack.

February 18, 1993

### **Ten Years Ago**

It can now be considered official. Titanic, nine consecutive weeks as America's Number One Movie, is a phenomenon, a status recognized by a "Column One" piece in the Los Angeles Times. My favorite remark to surface from the struggles of fans and pundits to understand the Significance of the phenomenon came from a 30-year-old professional woman: "I want what they had. [They being Jack and Rose, Leonardo and Kate.]" This edged out a couple of other cockle-warming remarks from, first, the Internet correspondent who testified, "After seeing this movie, I'm a completely different person. I respect life more." ---MOVIE REVIEW: "AS DEEP AS IT GETS,"

Duncan Shepherd, February 19, 1998

### **Five Years Ago**

Poet Quincy Troupe, forced to quit his professorship at UCSD after it was revealed he had lied about graduating from Louisiana's Gram-



bling State University, is making a comeback of sorts. He's on the poetry-reading circuit, latest stop Kansas City, where he told a reporter for the Star that he was kicked out of college for fighting with the locals. "I went [to Grambling] with a friend of mine, and you know, people in Kansas City and St. Louis, we dress real well. We were really hip dressers, and I knew about [jazz] and Charlie Parker and all that stuff, and they didn't like that we were getting all the girls."

-CITY LIGHTS: "HE'S BACK," Matt Potter, February 13, 2003

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\$2500/best. 619-742-3909.

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619-602-8803. 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.

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UNIFORMES, Pumas Unam, 14, completos de futbol, modelo 07-08, azul marino/oro, manga larga. Nuevos. \$450/best. Llama hoy, 760-631-3926.

WEIGHT SETS (2), standard steel, 150lbs., with bar, dumbbell, handles, curl bar, Olympic 7' bar with weights, \$50 each. 619-462-8131.

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SHOTGUN AND RIFLE SHELL boxes, pre-1960. One and two-piece boxes, empty or full, manufactured by Winchester, Pe-ters, Remington, Western, Federal, Robin Hood, Defiance, etc., for private collec-tion, 888-565-1756.

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nogany wood, all original fabric. In good shape. \$600. Call 619-876-7988.

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# GARAGE SALES

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CLAIREMONT. Moving sale. February 16-17, 8am-2pm. All must go. 3355 Moraga

Place.

OLD TOWN. Garage sale. Saturday, 2/16, 9am. TV, collectibles, electronics, knick-knacks, sporting goods, tools, hardware, holsters, clothing, household goods, leather goods, purses. 4111 Mason

Street.

PACIFIC BEACH. Massive garage sale. Saturday, Sunday, February 16-17, 8am-1pm. Moving to Europe, everything goes, from furniture to electronics and kitchenware. 1441 Reed Avenue.

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DISHWASHER/DRYER, Late models, multi-function, energy savers. Dish-washer under counter or portable. Dryer can stack or rest on floor. Super deal at \$80/each. 619-461-2643.

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BED SIMMONS DREAM SLEEP, 2 years old, iron head and foot boards queen, like new \$400 858-336-0003.

BED, Sleep Number model 9000, queen, 3 months old, excellent condition, with manual, \$2800/best. Save \$1600 off new. Can deliver. 619-749-3450.

BEDS. Adjustable Craftmatic like remote control, 2 twins and 1 full size, \$100, \$200, \$300. Best offer or trade. 619-670-

BUNK BEDS. With mattress! Unused! Dark brown wood. Solid. Originally paid \$1500. Sacrifice, \$500. Call 619-277-

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Photo available. 760-729-6571.

COFFEE TABLE, heavy teak with inlaid tile top, 34x58, excellent condition, \$225. 858-748-2181.

DESKS with returns, neutral color metal, office desks \$225. Bookshelves, file cabinets, all nice shape. Complete office. Freeway close, delivery possible. City Heights, 619-280-5155.

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**Free Alignment** Check With purchase of 4 tires. Adjustments and shim additional.



8230 Commercial La Mesa (1 block west of Carl Burger Dodge) 619-466-7776



RENEE REESE

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

# THE ARMCHAIR OBSTETRICIAN

I am not a "people person." Much as I would like to say that getting pregnant with Violet has morphed me into a kinder, gentler version of myself, it hasn't. I can't stand hypocrisy, platitudes, pointless chitchat, or self-deprecation for the sake of conversation. That being said, I have had to scale down my bluntness when dealing with strangers (and some friends and family) who somehow equate pregnancy with a state in which my IQ dials down to zero and theirs dials up to near Einstein's level. Old wives' tales are just that, other people's experiences are not always emblematic of my own, and neither will have more to do with my decisions during pregnancy than my internal compass and my doctor's official medical opinion.

While we're on the topic of things you think you're an expert on:

I'm sorry to have to break this to you, but you had a 50/50 shot as to whether my baby was going to be a boy or a girl. You are not psychic if you guessed correctly. I sometimes win in Vegas, but that doesn't mean I'm pulling up stakes and becoming a professional poker player.

Violet does appear to have a full head of hair according to the tech who administered my last ultrasound. Despite your assertions to the contrary, I'm pretty sure it's the foot that is lodged in my esophagus that has more to do with my heartburn.

Thank you for your concern regarding my diet. I'm thrilled to know that you decided to forgo fish entirely when you were pregnant for fear of mercury contamination. Did you also give up red meat for fear of E. coli and chicken for fear of the avian flu? While pregnant, I have had — occasionally –

sushi, red wine, soft cheese, and deli meat that (gasp!) was not heated to steaming. I have gorged on peanut butter, spicy food, and a litany of other "forbidden" foods that my doctor, not surprisingly, has never brought up with me, much less confirmed.

I eat a lot of food that I'm sure most people have never heard of (natto, anyone?), but I did even before I got pregnant, so I doubt they count as "cravings." My husband has yet to experience the thrill of being sent to the store at 3 a.m. for strawberry ice cream, and based on the fact that I'm lactose intolerant, I think I'm going to win the "Just wait, you'll see" bet you've thrown at me.

No, I have not had any "visualization" sessions with Violet, but my husband has tried the Vulcan mind meld on her a few times (mostly to see if he can get her to kick me).

No, I don't wear, much less own, a pair of flip-flops or maternity leggings. I appreciate that you think they are the most comfortable things on planet Earth. I'm sure footed pajamas are also really comfortable, but I'm not rushing out to procure a pair of those either.

I know there are risks to an epidural, but I'll take my chances. There's also the risk that your millionth hamburger from McDonald's will be the one that clogs your arteries for good, but you don't see me giving you the evil eye for your lunch choices, now do you? If you're on the other side of the fence, don't be smug that I'm having an epidural. It

doesn't mean I have your disdain for some of the more alternative methods out there, and I'm sure that you'll be raising your eyebrows at how we choose to rear Violet, including our thoughts on Baby Einstein and how we intend to make our own baby food as opposed to relying on pureed meat in a jar (who decided that was a tasty idea?).

I do intend to breastfeed

(special coolants and/or additional

capacities extra)

(if I am able to do so), but it's not for the pious reasons you think. I've stated this in previous blogs, but let me restate it here for you: I am cheap. Why would I spend money on formula if my body can provide — for free — all the nutrition that my baby will need for at least her first six months of life? And don't even get me started on "pumping and dumping." If

my doctor has greenlit having the occasional glass of wine while breastfeeding without any contraindications, then why am I going to pay attention to your admonishments on the topic?

I don't mean to

come off like an absolute wench, but seriously, take it easy, people. Pregnant women — especially first-time pregnant women — are nervous enough as it is without you adding to it. Offer your support and understanding. But unless you've got a medical degree hanging on your wall and your specialty is obstetrics gynecology, save your advice until someone asks for it.

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DINING ROOM TABLE, Round, 49"W with

**END TABLES,** \$5, \$15. Small entertainment unit, \$10. 3 wood chairs, \$10 all. Bar chair, \$3. 2 small bookshelves, \$10 both. 760-685-8291.

\*Prices do not include tax or environmental fees. Adjustments are where applicable. Inspections are visual only. Call for vehicle-specific quotes. See store for details. Most cars. Not valid with any other offer and/or discounts. May not be used on previous charges. Present coupon at time of order. No substitutions. Prices subject to change without notice.

**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.

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LOVE SEAT, beautiful teal leather, excellent condition, \$385. 858-733-0343.

LOVESEAT, Recliner, Lazy Boy, geometric pattern, blue and tan. Good condition

MATTRESS BOX PILLOWTOP SET. New in plastic with warranty. Queen \$169. King \$239. Credit cards accepted. Can deliver. Call 800-464-6420. North County, 800-464-6490.

800-464-6490.

MATTRESSES. Save 40% or more! Mattress World in Hillcrest sells new beds at warehouse pricing lower than regular stores. Student specials. Legitimate warranties. Fast delivery or pickup. Name brands. Member of the Better Business Bureau. Authorized Seaty, Simmons, Spring Air, Aireloom dealer. Also Latex, chemical-free and Swedish style Visco-Memory! Mattress World, 1601 University Avenue, 2 blocks west of Park Boulevard in Hillcrest. www.sandiegobeds.com or email to: info@davisworld.com. Call: 619-260-8000.

PLATFORM BED, oak, includes tasteful headboard unit with tall cabinets and nightstands each side, mirrored bridge, reading lights, enclosed storage, \$350. Mattress not included. 760-703-8763.

SHELF, White wicker. Awesome for decorations or smaller things, 49"Hx20"W, 4 shelves, top smaller than bottom, \$45. 619-867-6767.

**SOFA TABLE,** wood, medium oak color. 56"Lx27"Hx16"D, nice, \$40. 619-867-

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CHINA SET, Noritake, 60 pieces, service for 8, Bamboo pattern, mint, \$399. Pictures available. Larger set(s) and service pieces available. 858-864-2708.

CORDLESS PHONE, MHZ, \$25. 619-461-

COSTUME BEAUTIFUL BELLY, Dangling costume size 10, green and silver, beads, head band, bras, skirt, scarf \$50. Chula Vista 619-422-8937.

DESK, CHAIR, 6 drawers, 38"Wx78"L \$50. Wedding dress, hat, shoes, size 8, \$100 all. Off-road tires, 18" and 21", 2 each, \$5 each. Table glass top, \$25. 858-277-7197.

**DOORS,** 2 mirrored sliding closet doors, excellent, satin gold finish, each 24-1/4"X78", 2 rollers on each, \$50. Needs track from hardware. 619-224-4820.

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4398. FIREWOOD, Oak dry split, \$390 per cord, \$200 per 1/2 cord, \$140 for 1/8 cord. Delivery included, call 858-689-0447.

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GENERATOR, Honda 1400W, excellent, \$325. Lawn mower, push, \$30. Lots of Coleman camping gear, \$45. Car cover, new, \$25. Two pet carriers, \$15. Lots of paintball equipment. 858-581-1869.

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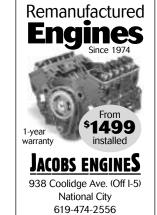
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IN ESZTERGOM, HUNGARY, I SAW FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE a dioramic representation of how human beings have managed to overthrow nature and evolution and how we've started to suck.

Inside Esztergom Castle is a boring museum of stuff that was found, reclaimed, restored — you know, all the little bits of metal and chipped vases and junk. Well, in one room of the museum, which is the interior of the castle, you can stand on a thick glass floor. Beneath your feet are these pits dug into the tan dirt. The levels of the pits, how deeply they're dug, vary throughout the room. The deepest levels were the first to be dug in that area, excavated by prehistoric people.

These people wore leather clothes, ate rabbits from around the countryside, fashioned axes and spears from chunks of wood and stone, and lived, slept, and carved the soft soil walls of their pit. The carvings creep up, higher and higher through the system of cavities; as the people built upon their own knowledge, strength, and community, generation after generation, they climbed out of the muddy holes until they dwelled upon the surface and started the process of building above-ground structures.

From the bleak beginnings of the first nomads to stop on that cliff and put their cracked grimy fingernails into the loam to the Medieval castle built up around the spot, progress is a tangible, tactile thing. You can see it, touch it.

Then it started to slide backward. You can see that, too, if you stand on the glass floor above the prehistoric pits where people who were just barely people struggled to advance the species. On that glass floor, over in the corner, sits a fat security guard in blue polyester stretch pants, sipping soda from a Pizza Hut cup, and he's enthralled, absolutely captivated by a tiny blaring television on his desk. Stains from his greasy lunch dot his black uniform shirt and tie. At the TV, he giggles wildly, and when he does he drools a little.

You can only imagine the leader of the first noble caveman tribe standing up on the glass floor with you. His mouth hangs agape, his eyes wide, and if that pit man could speak English he'd say, "THIS! I freaking slept in mud and animal carcasses. I had damn bugs in my beard and THIS is what happens?! Oh, man!"

### WHAT I WILL AND WON'T WATCH THIS WEEK

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14

# TNT 10:00 A.M.

Last week in kickboxing class, I sprained a love handle. Not to be confused with my butt-cheek injury from last year, no. This is a new development in the ongoing embarrassment that is my physical health. Watch out, American gladiators, as I come jiggling and limping to you. Oh, you're so going to get it.

# **FUTURAMA**

## COMEDY 9:00 P.M.

President Schwarzenegger announced today that Paris Hilton will head up the federal reserve. What was started in 2000, with the election of George W. Bush as our president, now known to historians as the beginning of the "great bizarre slide," culminates with the Hilton appointment. It'll all be over soon, folks. We just have to pass through this vortex of ridiculousness until we arrive on the other side, where Gore

# FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15

# **DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES**

# ABC 9:00 P.M.

Terri Hatcher has big, weird boobs. There, I said it. Everyone's thinking about it, but nobody wants to blurt it out. I mean, for ten hours a day we all sit around, wondering what kind of three-ring circus she's got going on under that tank top, but nobody's saying anything. Well, vou're welcome.

# SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16

### MY FRIEND RABBIT

### NBC 10:00 A.M.

Last week marked the beginning of Lent and also the Chinese New Year. In honor of both occasions, I've given up moo goo gai pan. I love when holidays fall on the same day. I hope Arbor Day lands on Easter this year so I can plant a bunny and see if colorful eggs and M&Ms grow. Damn, I love M&Ms.



Desperate Housewives

# MIDNIGHT MADNESS

### ESPN 9:00 P.M.

I would like to get involved with Chelsea Clinton. Because of my obsessive, nasty, frightened idea of what a relationship means, it would devolve until one of us, while sobbing recklessly, threw a cell phone at the other one's car. With razors, we'd cut hearts into our bellies that would match up when we embraced. There'd be a lot of "If I can't have you no one will!" and pills and vodka. The Secret Service would call away "code ugly" on the White House lawn and it would be beautiful anguish. Oh, Chelsea. Come to me, Chelsea!

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17

### **SHOWBIZ TONIGHT**

### CNN HEADLINE NEWS 8:00 P.M.

At some point, Britney Spears will be homeless and placing gypsy curses on passersby. She'll stalk Hannah Montana, grab Hannah's hand, spit on her feet, and scream, "You'll be me! You'll be me!" at which point Hannah will start the long, entertaining spiral into crazy. This is how Britney got it from Courtney Love.

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18

# THE BREAKFAST CLUB

# TVLAND 7:00 P.M.

There's a level of cool that I'm not sure I can reach. I mean, I'm all right. When I was a kid, I'd wear those short, green Larry Bird basketball shorts, cowboy boots, and a Darth Vader helmet. I've come a long way. But there's this "cool" I'll never be. There are incredibly thin people who really like David Bowie and the only

nutrition they ingest is from cigarettes. I can't pretend to dislike the Steve Miller Band. I just can't do it.

# TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

### THE BIGGEST LOSER: COUPLES

### NBC 8:00 P.M.

The worst thing about food is that pad underneath meat. You know what it looks like and you know what it does. It sits in that Styrofoam tray, under the steak, and waits for you. It waits for you to get hungry because it knows you'll have to touch it, and you'll hold it with your fingertips and you'll go, "Eeeee. Yeeeee," while you do it. That's its favorite thing.

# WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

### AMERICA'S NEXT TOP MODEL

### CW 8:00 P.M.

Adding to my indignity as a child were my pants. I wore Sears Toughskins and some serious jerk at Sears thought it'd be a great idea to put the size on a label outside of the jeans. "Husky," mine read. They also had an elastic waistband; the butt poofed out about four inches from everything else. Because of the fit, I had to wear them about three inches above my bellybutton and the legs stopped about mid-shin. Oh, I was a sight, boy.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21

## MOST UNIQUE MCDONALD'S

## TRAVEL 9:00 P.M.

A team of experts travels the globe in search of the "most unique McDonald's restaurant." And I weep. I weep.

# M otorcycles

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**SUZUKI SAVAGE,** 1998, 650cc, only 2K miles, perfect condition, haven't used in

several years, garaged, registration until January 2009, \$2000. Oscar, 858-581-1434.

YAMAHA ROYAL STAR VENTURE, 2000, gorgeous 2-tone red, 1 owner, 21K mi as new, steal at \$8350. 760-732-1315.

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BUICK LESABRE, 1997, excellent condition, always garaged, 75K miles, silver exterior, leather interior, automatic transmission, 6 cylinder, air condition-ing, power brakes, steering, seats, \$4995. 858-277-4039.

CHEYY LUMINA, 4 door sedan, silvergrey, good condition, 82,000 miles \$3499, 760-598-6906, rfort27@hotmail

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.

**HONDA CIVIC,** 1991. 4 speed, air conditioning, runs good, 148,000 miles. \$980 firm price, 619-200-7596.

HONDA CIVIC DX, 1997, red, 5 speed 129K miles, Pioneer CD, \$3800 cash 858-472-0499. HONDAS FROM \$500. Police impounds and tax repos. Cars, trucks, SUVs. Many makes and models! For listings, 800-495-0660 x2180.

MERCEDES BENZ SLK 320, 2003 42,801 miles. Beautifully/regularly maintained. Always garaged. New brakes. 6-disc CD. Power hard-top ble. Motivated to sell, \$22,999 858-354-5735.

MERCEDES BENZ SLK 320, 2003 42,801 miles. Beautifully/regularly maintained. Always garaged. New brakes. 6-disc CD. Power hard-top convertible. Motivated to sell, \$21,999,

MERCEDES-BENZ CLK 430, 2001 excellent, super clean, only miles, silver with black leather RENN performance package, rear sun shade, \$20,000. 619-

cylinder, 5-speed manual, low miles 73K miles, new tires, brakes/rotors power windows/locks/antenna. Some

about/poest. 858-220-4643. MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE GT, 2000. V-6. Sunroof. Original owner. Maintenance records available. Very clean, 94,000 miles. Registration paid through 2008. New battery, gasket, more. 619-448-7150.

NISSAN SENTRA, 2004, sedan, gas saver. Automatic, loaded. Excellent condition, low 50,000 miles. Financing availabe \$8988. Call Nick now 619-337-1995, other great deals at www. nicksautogroup.com.

VW JETTA GLS, 2002, 4-door sedan, automatic, 4 cylinder, 2 0 liter, blue, tan

leather, sunroof, tinted windows, alloy wheels, premium sound, air bags, \$7600. 315-542-7317.

VW JETTA, 1982, diesel, as is, best of-fer, 619-988-5024.

VW PASSAT GLS, 2001, V-6, 81,431 miles, blue exterior, gray leather interior, automanual transmission, front/rear air conditioning, cruise, remote keyless entry, sunroof, \$6800.858-243-4912.

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CHEVY CHEYENNE C20, 1972, with cabover camper, 3/4 ton, origi owner, 98K miles, 350 4 bbl, automa

air conditioning, all paperwork, owner's manual, \$3000. 619-573-5047.

CHEVY MARK III 1500, 1997 van clean title, recent smog, 163K miles, no clean title, recent smog, 163K miles, no rear seats, extra cargo space, well maintained, cruise, power, \$4200/best. Armin, 818-470-4144.

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! \$9000/best. 619-670-5734.

FORD E350 CLUBWAGON, 1998, ex tended, 12-15 passengers, tow, V10, very reliable, looks good, air bags, am/fm stereo, rear air conditioning, tilt, \$6000. Sandra, 619-405-7955.

FORD ECONOLINE E150, 2006, mint condition, 4.7 liter V-8, wonderful condition, 33K miles, great traveling van for surfing, \$15,000. 858-750-9993.

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 ev-erything, K&N filter, new tires, awe-some, \$7997. 619-246-9841.

GMC SIERRA, 1993, 7.4 liter, white extended cab, long bed, 139K miles, \$5900 cash. Private parties only, 619-271-9540. **GMC,** 1975, 3/4 ton, 350 motor, smog required, \$750. 619-280-6426.

**ISUZU RODEO,** 1995, well kept SUV excellent condition, new tires, brakes

runs great, will run forever, 4x4, snow-board racks, good sound system, moonroof, \$3400. 805-259-6870.

JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE, 1995, 4x4 doors, locks, mirrors, towing package original owner, maintenance records always garaged, never wrecked, \$3685 760-765-2968

MAZDA B2300 PICKUP, 1997, 6" sus pension Prerunner lift, 90% tread 31 pension Prerunner lift, 90% tread 31-10.5-15 all terrain tires, flared front fiberglass fenders, CD, new speakers, runs great, \$2995/best. 619-207-9066.

MERCEDES-BENZ SPORT ML320. 2002 SUV, 49K miles, excellent condition, black interior and exterior, leather powered seats, sunroof, 6-CD changer, 19" wheels, warranty 2009, \$18,000. 858-412-5849.

TOYOTA TACOMA, 2002, automatic, black with tan interior, 4x4 king cab, 93K miles, great condition, Weather-guard toolbox, ready for work or play, \$11,500. 619-425-9626.

VW POP-UP CAMPER VAN, 1972, gine, runs great, bed, table, sink, re frigerator, potty, \$8000. 215-284-0852.

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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-

VW CAMPER VAN, 1966, sweet, split window, pull-out bed, table, shelves, icebox, dow, pull-out bed, table, shelves, icebox, spice rack, 1600 dual port motor, rides great, new brakes/bearings, \$11,000.858-437-3690.

# AUTOMOTIVE

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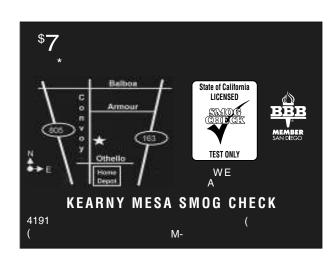
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ALFA SEEYA MOTORHOME, 2003. 40'

888-945-3145.

REVCON, 1982, 31', 55K miles, Chevy 454 engine, hydraulic jacks for leveling, full kitchen, sleeps 6. Needs a little work but runs excellently. \$8000/best. 858-731-6530

# **A** UTOMOTIVE

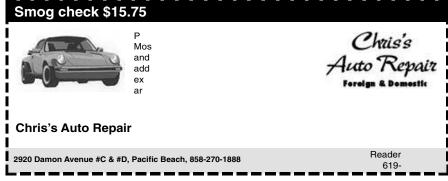






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ATEK **Tune-up \$24.95** 

Audio Sport Tint 3 rear windows \$50

Autofab Off-Road Trucks 2 free Autofab hood pin kits

Chris's Auto Repair **Smog check \$15.75** 

Classic Sheepskin 10% off sheepskin seat covers

Cliff Brown Automotive **\$10 off any service over \$50** 

Convoy Auto Repair Tune-up \$29.95

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Factory Tire Automotive Service & Sales **Premium oil change \$19.95** 

Five Star Customs Window tint \$199

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JPX Jesse's Mufflers & Brakes **20% off custom exhaust** 

Kearny Mesa Acura & Honda Timing belt \$99

Kearny Mesa Smog Check **\$7 off smog check** 

Kleer-Vu \$20 off any windshield repair

Lutz Tire & Auto Free bumper-to-bumper diagnostic

Mission Gorge Auto Rebuilt engines \$899

Mission Village Auto Care **\$10 off computerized alignment** 

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Nexus Auto Repair 15% off any service

Oasis Trade Window Tint 10% off window tinting

PAW Auto Service \$25 off 30K/60K/90K service

Pierre's Place **Brake special \$99** Precision Motors Air conditioning service from \$12.95 Precision Tune Auto Care **\$14.95 oil change** Quick Smog \$12 off any Test Only

San Diego Smog & Auto Repair \$10 off any service San Diego Smog Test Only \$10 off smog check

Sea Sides Classic Tinting Window Tint \$59

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Sound Check 15% off window tinting

Southern California Transmission \$100 off transmission rebuild

Streetnoyz Auto Sound & Security 10% off window tint

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West Coast Auto Glass **\$149.95 windshield replacement** 

Xpert Paint & Body \$50 off bumper repair



# Miniature paintings have always fascinated me.

<u>By John Brizzolara</u>

I am looking forward, many weeks down the road, to getting out on a Friday in this town, a payday for me like millions — maybe billions — of other people in the world, and taking advantage of what's out there. I've been holed up long enough in recent months, most recently with this broken ankle.

For example, just at random, I would like to visit National Comedy Theatre again if I can get in. The improvcomedy players do their thing as "an open-ended run," as it says in the listings, on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. They are located at 3717 India Street near Washington. The reason I add "if I can get in" is that a couple of years ago - maybe a bit further back — I wrote a column about the show. The director took vehement exception to a few things I wrote, though I had no intention of writing a pan review and to this day I do not believe I did. I would welcome another viewing of the show — and just not write

about it.

An example of something I would do before attending the comedy show is the miniature-painting exhibition at Spanish Village in Balboa Park. Miniature paintings have always fascinated me, and I believe the show runs through February. I would like to take this in on an early Friday evening before some good and inexpensive Thai food at Saffron, which is just next door to the National Comedy Theatre. After some live comedy, I might be in the mood for catching some young and raw rock-and-roll at the Casbah or Brick by Brick. I used to perform at the latter many years ago when it was the Spirit Club.

I would like to get out to sea again. It has been too many years since I've done that, and in all the years I have lived in San Diego I have never gone whalewatching. It is much like when I lived in New York and never went to the top of the Empire State Building or visited the Statue of Liberty. Being something of an invalid for months, I find myself regretting much I haven't taken advantage of in my 27 years in this town. Whale-watching, for example, offered by Scripps Institute and San Diego Harbor Excursions for \$15 to \$35, is available through March 31. I just might be able to get that in when the cast comes off.

During my years in New York, I would often enjoy attending plays at random, knowing nothing about them beforehand. This was usually because some waiter or waitress I worked with — who were aspiring actors — were appearing in them. I did this for a while in the 1990s here in San Diego and would like to resume the practice. Right now, for example, a play called *The* Pillowman is running at the Ion Theatre in Mission Valley (through February 16). All I know about it is from an actor friend who told me, "You would like this?



It is unlikely I will be able to do most of the above at all, but you can. Would someone out there indulge in one or two of these things for me? I am envious of those to whom so much is available here and a bit regretful of some of the criticism I have leveled at San Diego's culture.

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