

SAN DIEGO WEEKLY

VOLUME 37 / NUMBER 8

FEBRUARY 21, 2008

Reader

To live and die in Oceanside

**Posole
Tri-City Thunder Hills
Deep Valley Bloods
Mesa Locos
Deep Valley Crips
Crook Mob Gangsters
Insane Crip Gang
Center Street Gang
South Oceanside Posse
Krook City Bloods
Westside Crips**

Story begins on page 24

About that scorpion on your shoulder... See Best Buys

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J.P.

"Raw is just the next step."
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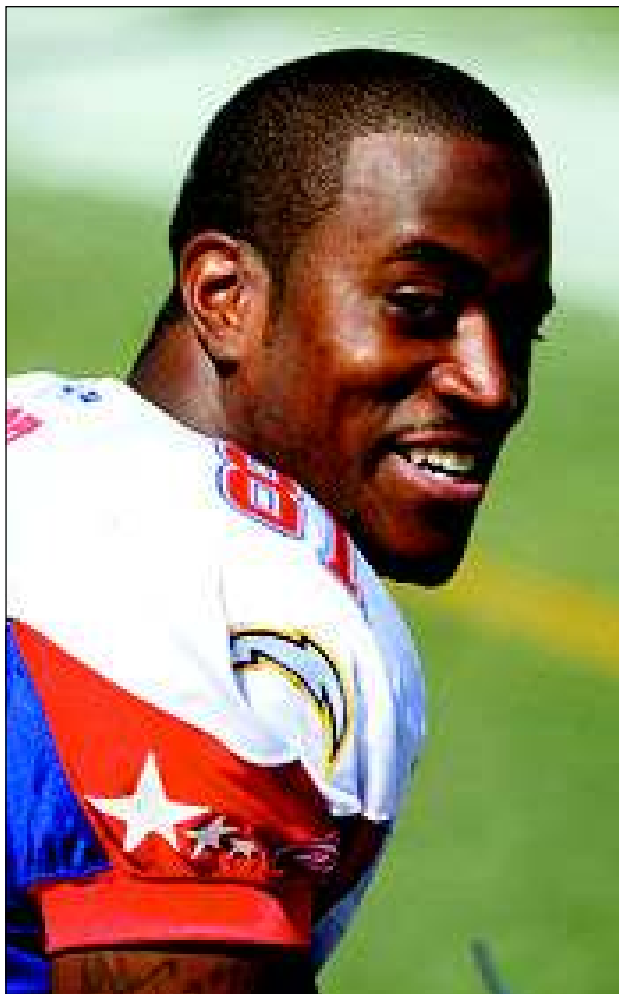
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Thank You, San Diego for Voting YES on Props 94-97



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On Election Day, more than 414,000 San Diegans and 4.1 million Californians voted to overwhelmingly approve Sycuan's Gaming Compact, Proposition 96. All four Indian Gaming Agreements will bring more than \$9 billion in new revenue to the State's General Fund over the next 20 years.

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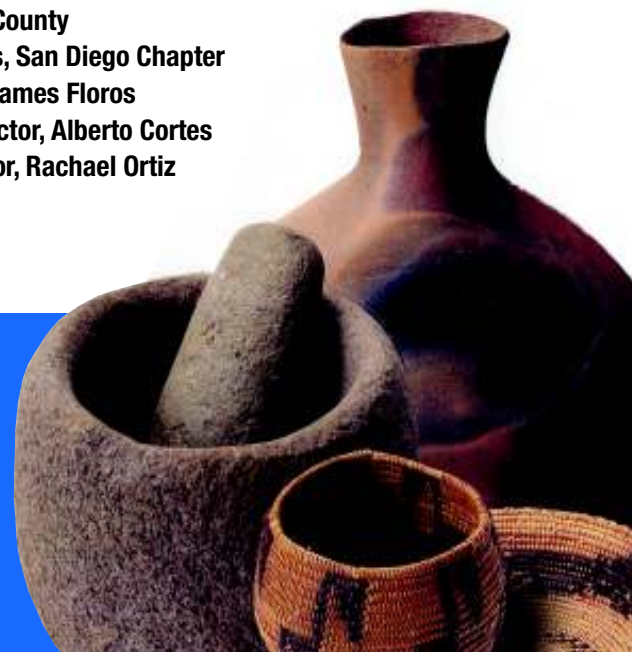
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BREAKING NEWS

Schmoozing with Sanders A big new raft of San Diego city lobbyist registrations are in, and, not surprisingly, many of the most prosperous influence peddlers also happen to be big financial backers of GOP Mayor **Jerry Sanders's** reelection bid. Topping the list is the law firm of Cooley Godward Kronish; nine members of the firm gave a total of



Doug Manchester

\$2880 to Sanders on the same day, December 18 of last year. According to Cooley's lobbying filing, the company's clients include **Doug Manchester's** Manchester Financial Group, developer of the controversial Navy Broadway hotel and retail project at the foot of Broadway; **Aaron Feldman's** Sunroad Centrum Partners, the outfit connected with the Kearny Mesa office tower at the heart of the biggest scandal so far faced by the Sanders administration; and Zeps, LLC, which is working on a student housing complex on 55th Street near San Diego State University. Zeps is owned by **Robert Zeps** of Rancho Santa Fe; he's the wealthy avowed atheist who last year sponsored a \$200,000 seminar at La Jolla's Salk Institute featuring some of the world's most famous nonbelieving scientists, including English biologist **Richard Dawkins**.



Richard Dawkins

Cooley's website boasts that it's "a national law firm for the converging worlds of high technology, high finance and high-stakes litigation." It has aggressively protected the interests of its local clients, suing the City of San Diego over its attempts to stop Sunroad's over-height office tower and talking directly to city redevelopment officials in the case of Manchester's efforts to build Navy Broadway. ... One lobbyist who probably doesn't have to bother to knock on the mayor's office door has also filed under the city's new disclosure requirements, which mandate that registrants reveal whether they've performed political assistance for the city's elected officials; **Tom Shepard**, who is one of the mayor's top strategists, listed himself as a principal of Public Policy Strategies and disclosed he had provided "campaign consulting services" to Sanders over the previous two years. Besides Sanders, his clients include the Barona Indian tribe and Authorized City Towing.

Out of the lobby Back in November, we reported here that San Diego County district attorney **Bonnie Dumanis** spent a total of \$35,680 in the second quarter of last year lobbying the state legislature on various bills, including those to boost funding for gang abatement and increase criminal penalties for repeat hit-and-run drivers. (Budget issues killed the latter, according to its sponsor, Democratic Assem-



Gail Stewart-Brockman

blywoman **Lori Saldaña**.) Most of the cost of the lobbying, \$31,341, was attributed to paying part of the salary of **Gail J. Stewart-Brockman**, a former TV reporter who is the D.A.'s "Special Assistant" for "Legislation and Social Media." Five nights at the Hyatt Sacramento across from the Capitol, at a daily average of \$270, rounded out the budget. But the D.A.'s influence-peddling days are apparently through, as the office's lobbyist registration was terminated late last year. ... Whichever way the tight race between **Hillary Clinton** and **Barack Obama** for the Democratic presidential nomination turns out, someone in **Dave Winfield's** family is sure to win. The ex-Padre slugger, who lives with his wife **Tonya** in the ritzy Bel Air section of Los Angeles, is now employed by the Padres as "vice president and senior advisor." In August, Tonya gave \$2000 to Clinton; in September, her husband contributed \$2300 to Obama.



Dave Winfield

Dreamy Republican Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger** has lately been picking up big pieces of change from San Diego County fat cats. The governor's "Dream Team" committee collected a bunch of large checks here on the first week of February, including those from such luminaries as Padre owner **John Moores** (\$25,000), Qualcomm mogul **Irwin Jacobs** (\$25,000), and Barratt American CEO **Mike Pattinson** (\$10,000). ... Termed-out GOP Assemblyman **George Plescia** of Del Mar has been spending some of his leftover campaign cash on personal travel, food, and lodging. Expenses included \$5532 at the Fairmont Hotel in Wailea, Hawaii, for the "Pacific Policy Conference"; \$1443 at Miami Beach's South Beach Marriott and \$1514 at Miami's Tantra restaurant; \$2079 for airfare on American Airlines between San



Irwin Jacobs



John Moores

Diego and Miami; and \$5700 for airfare on United Airlines for a September junket to China. On that journey for Assembly members, he was joined by fellow Republican from Solana Beach **Martin Garrick**, as well as Democrat **Bonnie Garcia** of Cathedral City. Plescia's campaign kitty was also used to pay for the food and booze tabs of his campaign fundraisers: \$1687 at the San Diego Wine Company, \$4327.23 at L Wine Lounge in Sacramento, \$1954.50 at Spataro in Sacramento, \$572.20 at Buccella in Napa Valley's Yountville, and \$862.25 at the Napa Valley Lodge, also in Yountville.

— 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.

Brash Cash

By Don Bauder

San Diego's ruling class has no class — and worse, no shame. The well-heeled developers, hoteliers, and casinos that manipulate the mayor and his fellow puppets do so in broad daylight. The overlords collect slush funds, and if city council won't do their bidding, they threaten to spend the loot on initiatives to achieve their self-enriching ends. It's bullying by big money. "It's very reflective of what's wrong with San Diego," says mayoral candidate **Steve Francis**.

Not surprisingly, the current tyranny threat is on behalf of Mayor **Jerry Sanders**. Local lawyer/power broker **John Davies**, whose law firm represents a slew of real estate developers, is cochairman of a grossly misnamed slush fund, **San Diegans for City Hall Reform**. Davies was also chairman of Sanders's charter review committee, which was packed with lobbyists, lawyers, and assorted lackeys representing developers. That committee

recommended that the voters give various autocratic powers to the mayor, such as the ability to appoint the auditor.

This committee also wants an arrangement whereby the council would need a three-



Steve Francis

fourths vote to override a mayoral veto. There are very few precedents for such an authoritarian threshold. "And they want it now," says **Norma Damashek**, president of the League of Women Voters. "Their major push is for this veto override. And they want the mayor appointing the auditor. It is the mayor's books that the auditor audits."

Last month came what

Damashek calls "the real low point" in recent city council history. Davies told the council that his group of insiders "had reached the end of their threshold of pain." Davies' group didn't like council thwarting its totalitarian designs. He threatened that his **San Diegans for City Hall Reform** might have to go the initiative route to do an end run around council.

The group had done this before. It was formed in February of 2006. Its initial interest was in passing Propositions B and C in November of that



John Davies

year. It thought the council was moving too slowly. Proposition B was a good measure: voters would have to approve new benefits for city workers. It passed overwhelmingly. Proposition C was not noxious in theory: it mandated that private companies could compete with municipal departments for City work. This approach can work in a clean

continued on page 8

Read Don Bauder's San Diego blog every day! Go to **SanDiegoReader.com** and click on "Blogs" at top of page.

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

Neal Obermeyer



Strife Span

By Joe Deegan

You want to construct an addition to your house that requires a building permit.

Wouldn't it be wise to get the permit before

buying a detailed architectural plan? The San Diego City Council is proceeding with the Regents Road bridge over Rose Canyon the other way around. The council admits that, after one failed environmental impact report, a new one is required. Yet last October 16, councilmembers approved spending \$4.8 million for "full engineering and design of the bridge." They say planners will look at the next environmental impact

west. But Rose Canyon now divides Regents in two, so that motorists cannot use the road to drive back and forth between the southern and northern ends of the community. As far back as the mid-1980s, University City's community plan called for both widening Genesee and connecting the two sections of Regents with the bridge. But the City soon realized that paying for both would be too expensive. Local residents then began



Willow tree catkins

report later.

Proponents argue that the new bridge would be the best solution to relieving north/south traffic on Genesee Avenue, which already crosses Rose Canyon on a bridge. The reason? Regents Road runs parallel to Genesee about a half mile to the

veying over which one to choose.

Former District One councilmember Harry Mathis was a proponent of the bridge, and in the mid-1990s, he created a 15-member citizens' committee to evaluate it. As part of its work, the committee studied an opinion

written by Frank Belock, then the City's assistant director of engineering and capital projects. Belock argued, largely on the basis of traffic studies, that the bridge should not be built. So the committee voted 12 to 3 against the bridge and in favor of the Genesee widening. But it also asked Mathis not to do anything further about solving Genesee's traffic problems until improvements on and near I-805 near Nobel Drive were completed.

When Mathis termed out in 2000, his replacement, Scott Peters, created another public committee to study alternatives to solving Genesee Avenue traffic. I speak with two members of that committee, UCSD physics professor Dan Arovas and Debbie Knight, president of Friends of Rose Canyon.

"The committee divided sharply over which project to choose," remembers Arovas. "But we reached strong consensus on the criteria by which to evaluate them. From a dozen or two criteria, we voted three as having the highest priority: to relieve Genesee traffic, to minimize impacts to the natural environment, and to minimize cost. And by all three of these criteria, the bridge turns out to be a lousy project."

Nevertheless, plans for the bridge moved forward, including a contract the City awarded to Project Design Consultants to write an environmental impact report. That report took three years to complete, cost \$1.8 million, and now sits on the shelf. In late 2006, Friends of Rose Canyon filed



Debbie Knight

a lawsuit declaring that the document downplayed the impact to the canyon. Last spring, the city council brought the lawsuit to an end when it admitted that the contractor's effort was flawed. The city council promised to require a new environmental impact report. Only in the last several months has the City put out a request for proposals to write the new environmental impact report.

Should the City widen Genesee Avenue instead? The latest estimates indicate that the widening would cost the City \$24 million as opposed to \$46 million for the Regents Road bridge over Rose Canyon. The difference might be worth it if the bridge will divert significant amounts of Genesee traffic onto Regents. Dan Arovas says it won't.

"In the interests of full disclosure, however," Arovas continues, "I first want to admit that I live close to where the bridge would be built. Most bridge proponents live along the Genesee corridor. There is NIMBYism on both sides. So I decided to study the numbers for a more objective picture."

The first environmental impact report contained a 2003 traffic study that examined University City intersections and Genesee road segments under five situations: the current state of Genesee traffic; and projected traffic in 2030 with the Rose Canyon bridge, with the Genesee widening, with no project, and with both projects.

Arovas shows me a group



Genesee Avenue

of tables from the traffic study. For road segments, such as Genesee between Nobel and Decoro Street, he says, "dividing the average daily trips by the number of lanes gives you a figure, which is translated into a letter grade, much like we used to get in school." An A grade means the traffic is smooth sailing, while E is too congested, and F is practically intolerable. "Traffic engineers say that D or better is acceptable. It's E and F that they want to avoid," according to Arovas.

The 2003 traffic study showed that the bridge would give four segments of Genesee two Ds, an E, and an F, while the widening would give them all Cs. In a more detailed

breakdown, the bridge would create on Genesee one better situation and the widening ten better situations.

The intersection studies focused not on average daily trips but on delay times at peak hours, once in the morning and once in the evening. The studies had to consider 12 possible movements at each intersection: turning right, turning left, and going straight, from four possible directions. The results were not as dramatic, though similar to the

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Site for proposed Regents Road bridge in University City

Brash cash

continued from page 6

city, but it's questionable that it will work in a corrupt and cronyistic city like San Diego. It, too, passed overwhelmingly.

To muscle B and C into enactment, San Diegans for City Hall Reform raised \$1.2 million through December 31 of 2006. From whom? Silly boy. Here are some of the

donors: the Lincoln Club of San Diego (the Republican money machine); the Associated Builders & Contractors of San Diego; San Diego Board of Realtors; Atlas Hotels; Barratt American; H.G. Fenton; Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, casino operators; San Diego Lodging Industry Association; Grubb & Ellis real estate; Murphy Development; M.W. Steele Group (architectural wheeler-dealers); ConAm Manage-

ment; San Diego Restaurant & Beverage trade group; Pardee Homes; Collins Development; La Jolla Development; Doug Wilson Companies; John Burnham commercial real estate; Corky McMillin Cos.; Viejas Tribal Government (another casino operator); and to no one's surprise, Sunroad Enterprises.

Among the law firms chipping in were Neil Dymott, Luce Forward, Milch & Wolf-

sheimer, and Higgs Fletcher. Among individuals plunking bucks into the pot were Roy Bell, Arthur Brody, Mel Katz, Nicole Clay, and Malin Burnham. The heavy hitter for 2006 was the Republican Party's Lincoln Club, donating \$94,000.

"When John Davies went before the city council with his recommendations of the Charter Review Committee, he was saying, 'Here's what

we want. If you don't pass these, we will do an initiative,'" says activist Mel Shapiro. "It's basically saying, 'We're the Republican Party, we run the City, we will do exactly what we want because we have the money. The Republican Party [and the Lincoln Club] is basically a laundry for the developers and hotels. They call their goals 'reforms.' I call them 'power grabs.'"

Once the election was over,

the group declared it was now a "general purpose" committee and raised another \$94,168.05 in 2007. Almost 20 percent of the money raised in 2006 and 2007 went to two groups that work for Sanders, fundraiser Freeloove Consulting and campaign strategist Tom Shepard & Associates.

Francis is listed as a big donor to San Diegans for City Hall Reform, but that's misleading, he says. "I gave money initially. I was a supporter of B and C. Then I discovered it was nothing more than a fund to promote Jerry Sanders," he says. He gave \$10,000 to the committee, then another \$110,000 outside the committee. "I saw Freeloove and Shepard taking 20 percent off the top. They are running the Sanders campaign."

Nor does he approve of Davies making threats to give the mayor dictatorial power. "It's outrageous," says Francis. "Davies was head of the mayor's committee that [was packed with] lobbyists. Then Davies hooks on with the committee that raises unlimited developer, hotelier, and casino money and uses that to push through the mayor's program. Connect the dots. It is the height of arrogance."

Francis has appeared before the council to denounce the proposal for a three-fourths veto override, noting, "A 75 percent mayoral veto override would hand to the mayor an executive power greater than [that enjoyed by] President Bush."

At the end of last year, the San Diegans for City Hall Reform Committee had \$36,826.42 in cash. On January 31 of this year, it said its new mission is promoting "accountability, checks and balances in city government."

"That's a joke — like saying war is peace and black is white. What they want is checks written to themselves and the balances in their checking account," harrumphs Steve Erie, professor of political science at the University of California, San Diego, who is writing a book, *Paradise Plundered: The Crisis of Growth Politics in San Diego*. "Their agenda is to gouge the public. This is the best little town that money can buy."

In 1958, J. David Greenstone, then a young political scientist, studied San Diego's political structure. His one-

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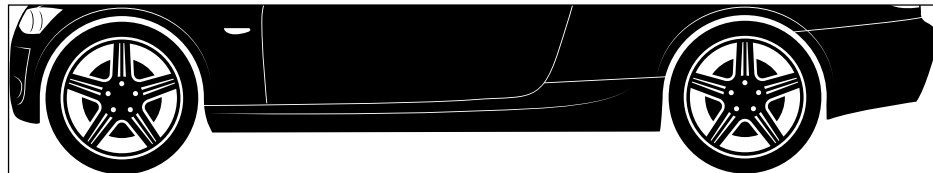
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Brash cash

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word description: “adolescence.” Back 50 years ago, Los Angeles was run by the Committee of 25, a group of power brokers working for their own financial aggrandizement rather than the good of the city. But Los Angeles changed and now has democratic representation and true checks and balances giving average people a voice in government. “But San Diego hasn’t changed,” says Erie. “This is the most gullible town I have ever known. I can’t believe that voters actually swallow this stuff.”

Explains Jim Mills, former president pro tem of the California State Senate, “The developers are in control of San Diego, and they know it. If they don’t get things the way they want them, they will take other means to achieve their ends.”

“It is naked,” says Francis. The developers, hoteliers, and casino operators “don’t care. Their arrogance is stunning.” ■

Strife span

continued from page 7

segment studies. In studies of 24 intersections in University City, the Genesee widening did better than the Rose Canyon bridge 13 times, while the bridge did better than the widening 4 times. A table for the total stretch along Genesee from State Route 52 to Eastgate Mall shows the widening producing a 13.9-minute delay with the bridge yielding a 16.1-minute delay.

Of all the tables Arovas displays, my favorite is called “seconds commute time saved per million dollars spent.” It shows that the widening would save drivers 17.1 seconds per million dollars to the bridge’s 7.9.

“There are lots of ways you can slice the numbers,” says Arovas. “Looking at all of them, I don’t see how anyone could say that the bridge would be a superior project to the widening. But during the city council’s first discussion of the bridge in August 2006, there was embarrassingly little discussion of the traffic information.” The council’s eventual decision to go ahead with the bridge “was really justified on the basis of so-called overriding considerations, which are supposed to allow them to skirt [the California Environmental Quality Act] and choose a less effective project.”

Those overriding considerations were emergency services. The City “trotted out Fire Chief Tracy Jarman to talk about them,” says Arovas. “And that was interesting, because, first of all, emergency services were not addressed in the first environmental impact report. Second, back when our committee met, improving emergency services was one of the criteria we considered, but they were ranked low. That was before the Cedar Fire, by the way, and it certainly would have been appropriate to rank them higher. Still, the City did nothing until about two weeks before the city council meeting when Chief Jarman made her appearance.”

Jarman presented to the council comparisons of emergency response times to south University City from fire stations in La Jolla, Clairemont, and north University City. Not surprisingly, they showed substantial time improvements when the bridge linked the northern and southern Regents Road sections. Only one problem. “Her numbers were wrong,” says Arovas.

Since Jarman had sent out her numbers before the council hearing, Arovas had been

able to check them with his automobile odometer. He also recruited a friend to do the same on his odometer. Finally, Arovas consulted a colleague who is a specialist in “spatial information systems” at the UCSD Supercomputer Center. “So we had the right numbers and knew that Jarman was mistaken,” says Arovas.

“In some cases,” he continues, “the distance that Jarman said the fire engines would cover using the bridge would be shorter than if they flew, that is, shorter than the straight-line distance. Something wasn’t adding up. In fact, all her numbers weren’t adding up. She was basically off by a factor of three.”

At the August 2006 council meeting, Arovas detailed his corrections to the distances Jarman was citing. Toward the close of the bridge discussion that day, Jarman came forward once more and admitted that her numbers were incorrect. She nevertheless recommended building the bridge, saying that it would still offer some improvement in emergency response times in south University City.

“And that’s true with some routes,” admits Arovas. “But the real emergency response problem we have in our community is not poor road connectivity. It’s the lack of a fire station. Recently, information came out about a number of San Diego communities that will soon get new fire stations. But south University City wasn’t one of them. If the City is serious about giving us better emergency response, they could build a fire station. That would do a hell of a lot better than another bridge over the canyon, and it would cost less too.”

And then there are the bridge project’s environmental effects. Proponents like to say that a bridge will only span Rose Canyon, not damage it.

To demonstrate why that’s not true, Friends of Rose Canyon president Debbie Knight takes me on a walk. At the terminus of Regents Road on the canyon’s southern edge, we descend a narrow path that has a hill on its right. A Regents Road bridge would need a 700-foot road that lops off the top of that hill. The road would lead to the bridge’s southern jumping-off point overlooking the canyon. From there, an 860-foot bridge is to span Rose Creek and the railroad tracks running north of it.

“There would have to be a lot of cut and fill,” Knight tells me. As we walk farther into the canyon, she gives me a little background on its habitat protection. Currently, Rose Canyon’s habitat would seem to be shielded three times over, first, as a preserve of San Diego County’s Multiple Species Conservation Program. Second, the City in 1998 received a state grant for the canyon’s habitat restoration under the aegis of the California Wildlife Protection Act. The area is especially rich in bird life. And third, the City has dedicated Rose Canyon as an open-space park.

Dedicated open-space parkland is the highest level of protection in San Diego. “But there’s a giant loophole in it,” says Knight. “Normally, to do anything in a dedicated open-space park, you need a vote of the people of San Diego. The exception is that the city council can put a road through dedicated parkland. So how the City approaches this is really a bellwether for whether they care about San Diego’s open-space parks in general.

“In accepting the 1998 state grant for riparian restoration here,” Knight continues, “the City committed to preserve this area in perpetuity.” She points out how, under the program, the banks of a small

streambed at the base of the hillside to our right have been cleared of *Arundo donax*. It resembles bamboo and is an especially pernicious invasive species found in California riparian habitats. “Now, gradually, it is being replaced by these willows you see here below,” says Knight. “And willows are a native species.

“For the bridge,” says Knight, “they would be doing lots of cut and fill, cutting away the hillside, filling in this finger canyon where we are walking, and putting through a major road. The State told the City the only way they can get around their agreement is to get an act of the legislature. With these grants, that’s almost never happened, maybe once in 15 years. The contractor, Project Design Consultants, then got the City to write a letter to the state parks department saying, ‘Oh no, we’re not going to [damage] the area.’ Well, that’s ridiculous. Yes, they are. Project Design Consultants wrote the first environmental impact report, which was so bad that the City had to put it on the shelf and agree to do another one. So having done such horribly bad work for the City, having wasted millions of dollars, who gets the contract to do final design for the bridge? The City is now giving it to Project Design Consultants, in violation of state conflict of interest laws. That also rewards the company for its earlier bad work. I mean, nobody of sound mind would do this in their own life. It’s crazy; they need to have their heads examined.

“Now the new environmental impact report is supposed to be written at the same time that Project Design Consultants does the final design. And it’s possible that the final design will be done before the environmental report. The City’s schedule shows that the final design, which starts first and cannot be changed, will finish simultaneously with the environmental impact report. That way they can go to construction the minute the report is done. But it’s possible that the final design will be done before the environmental impact report,” says Knight. That’s because the final design work has already been commissioned, whereas the City has yet to award the contract to write the new environmen-

tal impact report.

The fate of the last environmental document suggests that the \$4.8 million the City is spending for final design may well go down the drain, since it is quite possible that no adequate environmental document will ever lead to constructing the Regents Road bridge.

Friends of Rose Canyon has noted that starting final design before completion of an environmental impact report amounts to pre-committing to the Rose Canyon bridge. “And the California Environmental Quality Act forbids pre-committing to projects,” says Knight. “But the City just wants to shortcut these pesky legalities.” So in December, her organization filed its second lawsuit to stop the City from moving forward.

If the bridge is such a bad solution, I ask, why does the city council keep supporting it? Does a big majority of people in University City prefer the bridge over the Genesee widening? “Scott Peters keeps telling us that the community is evenly split,” Knight answers. “But he’s ignoring the 800-pound gorilla in the room. The Evans family that has so many hotels in San Diego also owns the Marketplace shopping center at the corner of Governor Drive and Regents. For a time Anne Evans was head of the chamber of commerce. Her family has contributed heavily to Mayor Sanders’s political campaigns. They are also using John Kern as a lobbyist. [Kern is the former chief of staff for Mayor Dick Murphy.] If the Regents Road bridge goes through, many more cars will be driving by Marketplace, which is only two blocks from Rose Canyon.

“Just recently,” Knight tells me, “the courts awarded attorney fees to the law firm that argued our first lawsuit. Usually, courts award only part of what the attorneys ask for. But this time they awarded the full amount, \$450,000. Do councilmembers care? The City is just going to take the money out of developer impact fees. That’s a cookie jar they have. But developer impact fees have been set aside for parks and libraries and such. They’re not for the city council to compensate wasting money on illegal projects.” ■

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LETTERS

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

Correction

In the January 24, 2008 City Lights article "The Principal's Principles," the following statements have been disputed by an attorney for the subject of the story, Michael Rood:

1) "Alexandria Melchior thought of Rood as her advertising representative at the paper and had been meeting him regularly for at least a year.... He usually came during schooltime hours."

The Reader has been informed that Ms. Melchior realizes that she was mistaken and that it was not Mr. Rood that she had

been meeting with. Melchior has provided the Reader with a statement saying she had not met with Mr. Rood before the article was published.

2) "'When I complained, someone at the paper called back and said they had fired him.'"

The Reader has been informed that Rood was not fired, but was re-assigned duties.

3) Quoting KOGO talk show host, Steve Yuhas, "There were several emails about ads that the principal sent from his school district email address."

Mr. Rood's attorney advises the Reader that this statement by Yuhas is not true.

4) "The evidence showed, said Yuhas, that on school time the principal had been negotiating ad prices for an adult gay magazine, discussing editorial matters, and representing himself as an 'associate publisher' of the publication."

Mr. Rood's attorney advises the Reader that this statement by Yuhas is not true.

Fantastic Artwork

Dear Reader,

The cover artwork for "Ollie's Big Bike Ride" (February 7) was fantastic! Very, very well done! Kudos to the artist. I hope to see more of this person's work.

Perry Wright
La Mesa

Mystery Remains

The feature story for February 7, 2008, "Ollie's Big Bike Ride," was thoroughly enjoyable. The author did a really good job of keeping it entertaining, informative, and also relevant. San Diego does need more bike paths and bike lanes! Last year I began commuting the 3.5 miles to work on my one-speed beach cruiser during the early morning so I could let my wife sleep awhile before she uses our only car to commute downtown from El Cajon. I have grown to love it! Your descriptive words took me along on every mile of your journey from North Park to the Glider Port.

Another cool feature of the February 7 issue: I learned Ollie's full name (Anthony Olivieri) for the first time, both in the cover

article and in his regular feature, "Remote Control King." Until now, I thought "Ollie" might be a *nom de plume* or a pseudonym.

Which reminds me... I've been a fan of the Reader since I moved to San Diego in June 1990. My favorite feature has always been "Straight from the Hip" by Matthew Alice. A few weeks ago I noticed a distinct change in the writing style. Just as great as ever, but it's "less elves, more facts" these days. For years we readers have tried to solve the mystery of who Matthew Alice really is. ("His" name does not appear on the list of contributors on page 2.) Must this/these fine writers(s) die before they get due recognition for their amazing work as "Matthew Alice"?

Steve Terry
El Cajon

Bleached And Baptized

I'm just wondering if I can ever expect to read a review about a place of worship that isn't Christian in the "Sheep and Goats" section of the Reader. I recall someone writing a similar editorial in the

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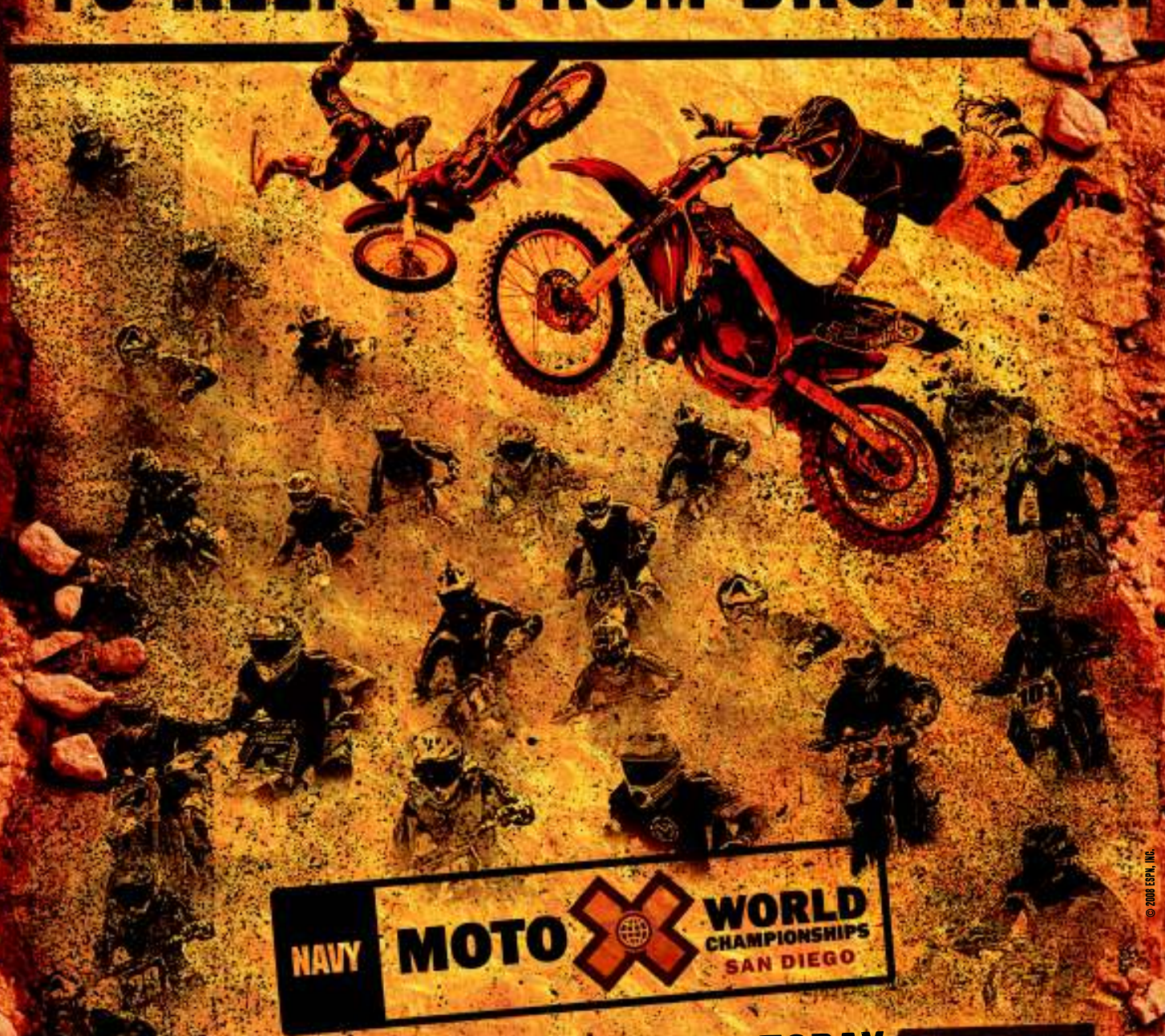
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past, which incited a review of one or two Jewish temples I believe. Kudos for that, but just in case the column writer is unaware, there also exist houses of worship that — gasp — are for neither Christians nor Jews. Like Islamic centers and mosques and temples for Hindus, Buddhists, Hare Krishnas, scientologists, etc. And yes, in San Diego — bleached and baptized as it is.

Sara Mostafa
via email

Catfight

In regards to the "The Principal's Principles" (City Lights, January 24), I was disappointed by the poor journalism. Instead of doing some investigative re-

porting, the article merely reported on a catfight between a gay newspaper and a radio personality. Who is to say whether the principal was selling ads on school district time or not? Mark Twain has a 12:45 p.m. dismissal every Wednesday. I'm really surprised Deegan didn't dig a little deeper to try to get to the bottom of the story.

Nichole White
Imperial Beach

Not Funny

Once again I see a letter complimenting "Shoehorn Technique" (February 14). As I remember when I quit reading it years ago, it was too wordy, hard to look at, and most of all, not funny. So I thought I'd give it another chance. Much to my surprise, it was too wordy, hard to look at, and most of all, not funny. Are these complimenterers related to the author? Give me "Red Meat" with Milkman Dan harassing the eight-year-old girl any day.

Steve Hubbard
via email

Thanks For The Presence

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she has provided and to the presence of David for keeping me from the unsavory thought of being a 61-year-old groupie.

Steve
via email

Them

This is in response to the article on the homeless ("I'm as Big as a Vons," Cover Story, January 31). There was a response from Ocean Beach (Letters, February 14). I was told that a psychotherapist from Australia visited San Diego a while back. He stated that there they do not have the homeless problem comparable to us. It's forced rehabilitation from off the streets. And he quoted, "For those who do not want to cooperate, we have a place for them."

Name Withheld
by Request

Comments from Reader Website

Cover Story Published February 13

Posted by MikePhace on Feb. 16, 5:09 p.m.

I would say that I was out having a drink with someone from work or an old friend who was in town visiting the area. That's too easy of a question to answer....

I like the service and I would utilize it if I didn't have any cute female friends. Women are very weird....when they see a guy with a cute female or a few cute females they become disarmed and curious. If you roll up with dudes the only women you will have luck with is girls on the rebound or barflies....all of which are nothing to take home to mom.

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An Excellent Look

Annoying clock buzz. It's 3:30 a.m. and hunting-trip dark outside. Get up, shower, make lunch, make coffee for the thermos, pack gear.

This is my second birding trip. Regulars will recall last November's jaunt to the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. I witnessed a few of the 3,000,000 ducks and 1,000,000 geese who roll into the marsh every year to freeload at taxpayer expense.

I'm ready for another go-around, this time to Merced National Wildlife Refuge by way of Mercy Hot Springs. The aforementioned hot springs is located on Fresno county road J-1. One travels along I-5 to Pilibos Ranch, exits onto West Panoche Road, drives on longer than you want to, then turns right on Little Panoche Road and continues until you see the hot springs. Harder to do than to write. Hint, a road sign informs, "Next services 76 miles."

There are 15 automobiles and one truck in this birding caravan, which is a lot of iron to put on a two-lane, no-shoulders county road. Above is a spotless blue sky. It's 34 degrees but feels like 60 in the sun. No wind. Hills are lush, emerald green. California in February.

We pull over opposite Clough Canyon (*yellow-billed magpie, American kestrel, starlings, western bluebird, northern flicker*). Thirty-six people climb out of 15 cars.

Everybody gathers on one side of the road to look at a ferruginous hawk. Somebody calls out, "steller's jay," and everybody walks to the other side of the road. Two ranch hands drive by in a beat-up Ford truck, mouths hung open, giving form to the universal sentiment, "What the fuck is this?"

We mount up and drive. Michael, our leader, sees out of the corner of one eye, about 100 yards off the road, a Lewis' woodpecker, something I wouldn't have spotted using binoculars. He has the caravan turn around, drive back, and park. Besides the woodpecker, I learn two things. Mistletoe berries are 30 percent fat by weight. The birders' phrase "Excellent look" is used when you get close and the bird doesn't move (*White-breasted nuthatch, oak titmouse, California thrashers, spotted towhee, Cassin's kingbird, Lincoln's sparrow, red-tailed hawk*).

Just where you turn right onto J-1 is the Panoche Inn. Seems like 40 miles in every direction is ranch, and then there's this bar, with dirty black linoleum floor, one pool

table, 20 bar stools, half full at noon. I smack my lips and think, *Now, this is a bar.*

Mercy Hot Springs is guarded by two sagging, ravaged wooden buildings and a parking lot with too many signs, each one announcing, "Guests must register." Six workers stand around an ancient dry husk of a swimming pool; another three lean against a pickup truck loaded with bags of cement.

Thirty-six birders circle a cottonwood tree. Thirty-six binoculars point upward. We are, at most, 15 feet from tree trunk. The tree is not that tall, maybe two stories high, but it's thick with interlacing branches. Someone says, "Owls."

There is a long-eared owl perched no more than 20 feet away. I slowly move my field glasses left, right, up, down, exploring the tree. I count 11 owls. One tree, 11 owls, and I must have missed another dozen. Take note, pilgrim, we stand before the El Dorado of owls!

If you lived somewhere like Mercy Hot Springs and you see owls every day, you've stopped paying attention to them long ago,

and then one February afternoon you look out your window and there are 36 people who have driven 300 miles with their binoculars, and they're circling a nondescript tree, packed tight together like penguins, dressed in their khaki pants and Tilley hats, every one of them looking up at the same spot on the same tree. That's got to be creepy.

Sunday morning, 7:30 a.m. in the San Joaquin Valley (*American coots, bittern, ruddy ducks, white-tailed kite, Virginia rail*). Mist rises off the ground. It's 39 degrees, and the sun is already high. This is flat-as-a-tabletop farmland. I drive past fields of spring wheat, alfalfa, broccoli, flip on country-music radio, max up the volume and listen to "Cleaning This Gun."

The Merced National Wildlife Refuge features a five-mile auto trail. Our caravan, about a mile in, pulls over and people get out of their cars. There is a cheer, "Eagle, eagle, eagle!" I walk up the line of birders and, at line's end, lift my binoculars, look up, and there he is, a bald eagle. I mutter, "So, that's why they put him on dollar bills." After a lifetime of pictures, seeing a bald eagle in the flesh is like seeing one for the first time. What a magnificent animal. Second thought, *What's he doing out here?* I picture bald eagles soaring above Mount Rushmore, not perching on a tree stump in the middle of a marsh.

Of course, they do eat road kill.



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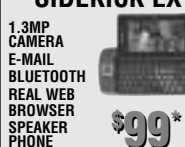
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Denomination: Roman Catholic

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Founded locally: 1939

Senior Pastor: Edward Brockhaus

Congregation size: 4000 families

Staff size: 30

Sunday school enrollment: 700

Weekly giving: about \$15,000

Annual budget: about \$1 million

Singles program: yes

Dress: casual to formal

Diversity: very diverse

Sunday worship: 7 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. (Spanish), 5:30 p.m., 7 p.m. (Spanish)

Length of reviewed service: 1 hour

Website: stjohncross.org

Besides the usual loincloth, the crucified Christ hanging in the front of the church was draped with a purple stole, which draped over His chest as it ran from one arm to the other, and which signified the 40 days of Lent. The opening hymn caught the mournful tone of the season, with a dollop of drama added by wind chimes:

"Save your people, O Lord/Show us the way to come home/We have been wandering far from your love/Save your people, O Lord."

More drama came courtesy of a shimmering cymbal roll during the plea for mercy, a modern overlay on the more ancient effect produced by the choir's use of Latin:

"Kyrie, eleison."

(Lord, have mercy)

The blend of modern and ancient, the swaying between formal Latin and loose, emotive contemporary, persisted throughout the Mass.

"Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis." (Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.)

And:

"Mortem tuam annuntiamus Domine/et tuam resurrectionem confitemur/donec venias" (We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection, until you come.)

Serving as a sort of counterpoint to:

"In these days of Lenten journey/we have seen and we have heard/the call to sow justice/ in the lives of those we serve/We reach out to those who are homeless/ to those who live without warmth/in the coolness of evening we will shelter their dreams..."

Or maybe it wasn't so much a blending or a contrast as it was a both/and. Consider the difference between Monsignor Edward Brockhaus's homily and the prayers that followed. The Gospel told the story of the Transfiguration, when Jesus became radiant on the mountaintop and was seen conversing with Moses and Elijah — the law and the prophets. Brockhaus's lesson was, "We need to pray before we make important decisions, and we need to consult other people." Jesus, on his way to Jerusalem to be crucified, did indeed draw apart with a chosen few to pray and conversed with those who had come before. Later in the Mass, however, the scene was presented with a different

emphasis: "On your holy mountain, He revealed Himself in glory in the presence of His disciples. He had already prepared them for His approaching death; He wanted to teach them through the law and the prophets that the promised Christ first had to suffer and come to the glory of His resurrection."

The prayers of petition asked for "pastoral bishops and faith-filled theologians," and implored aid "for prisoners and those held captive by sin." They were followed by the Building Together prayer, asking for generous donations to the parish building fund.

And again, in the prayers during the Liturgy of the Eucharist: "Lord make us holy," implored Brockhaus. "May this Eucharist take away our sins, that we may be prepared to celebrate the resurrection." Later, he said that "Lent is above all a time of reconciliation," and along with a plea for reconciliation with God, he petitioned that "in that new world, where the fullness of your peace will be revealed, gather people of every race, language,

and way of life to share in the one eternal banquet with Jesus Christ the Lord."

And finally, the Eucharist itself. "This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world," said Brockhaus, holding up the chalice and bowl. A high and formal pronouncement, but then came the business of distribution and a team of Eucharistic ministers: stepping behind a screen to wash their hands before taking their places and, afterward, tapping the sides of the bowls to ensure that every uneaten morsel made it back into the ciborium.

The next day was President's Day, and before we left, an older gentleman from the choir stepped up to the mike. He read the First Amendment, with its governmental guarantee of religious freedom. He ran down a tally of presidents by religious affiliation: "We've had eleven Episcopalians, seven Presbyterians, four Unitarians,

four Methodists, four Baptists, three Disciples of Christ, three who failed to state, two Quakers, one Congregationalist, and one Roman Catholic." And, he concluded, "There have been nine attempts on presidents; four of them successful. May their souls rest in peace."

The Mass closed with "America the Beautiful." Besides asking God to "shed His grace on thee," it also implored Him to "mend thine every flaw/Confirm thy soul/In self-control/Thy liberty in law."

(A final, formal note: The Roman Catholic Church still maintains its rule against consuming meat on Fridays during Lent, and during the announcements after Communion, the congregation was invited to attend a dinner of fish and chips, hosted by the Knights of Columbus, every Friday in Lent at 5 p.m., followed by Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m.)

What happens when we die?

"I hope I'll be with the Lord," said Brockhaus.

— Matthew Lickona

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—EVE KELLY

I'm not too many years shy of 40, and the anchor tattoo on my ankle has been with me since I was 21. The guy and that ship sailed many years ago, and I've reached a point in my life where I'm no longer interested in an ankle-based conversation piece.

Michael Speaker, clinic manager at Tattoo Laser Removal Clinic overlooking Mission Bay (858-272-2021; trlaser.com), told me that people have tattoos removed for all sorts of reasons. "Hand tattoos are popular candidates for removal; people call them 'jobstoppers.' Every time you put your hand out, you've got whatever it might be showing on top of your hand, and it could cost you a job. Sleeve tattoos, which run all the way from the shoulder to the wrist, are becoming more popular for taking off — people get into a working profession like the police department. Or maybe you're just at the point where you want to be able to see yourself in a cocktail dress without a scorpion on your shoulder." And sometimes, people don't want to be tattoo-free; they just want a change of scenery. "They come to us, and we fade the tattoo they have so it can be covered up with a different tattoo and not show through."

Removal is a process, said Speaker, and it starts with a consultation. "We tell the patient, in realistic terms, what we can and cannot do. We'll discuss your health history and look for immune deficiencies. We use a state-of-the-art-laser, which breaks down the tattoo ink into tiny particles. Then your body takes the ink away. The closer the tattoo is to your heart, the better the circulation, so the lower down the tattoo is on your body, the harder it is to work on. If you have a name on your chest and another on your ankle, I guarantee the name on your chest will come off quicker."

Skin tones can also present difficulties. "The laser removes color. We can work on a lot of ethnic skin — Spanish, Filipino, Korean — but we cannot do African-American skin. There are two problems: one, you end up with a white or pinkish spot where the tattoo was; two, the possibility of keloids, which is a type of scarring specific to African Americans." Among colors, "red and black are the easiest to remove, while green and sky blue are the most challenging." And sometimes the ink itself is problematic.

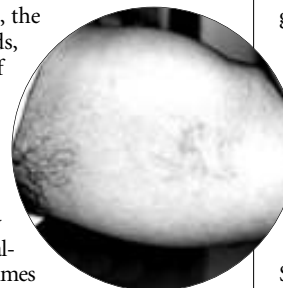
"We're running up against chrome tattoos that glow in the dark. When a laser comes in contact with ink that has a metallic base, it can actually turn it darker. Before we do any treatment, we'll test the ink. We can usually still get it off, but it's going to take much longer. And if I find it's unworkable ink, I'll refer the patient to a good cosmetic ink person. They have a removal technique where they perforate the skin to leach out some of the ink. The laser is the gold standard, but if it's not going to work, it's good to give people another option."



1



2



3

"Hand tattoos are popular candidates for removal; people call them 'jobstoppers.'"

Speaker lets the patient know that "when you're doing tattoo removal, time is your friend. Most tattoo removals require between five and ten treatments, though we've had plenty that came off quicker. Each time we work on your tattoo, it's going to fade, but we recommend a minimum of 6 weeks between each treatment, and most of the time, 8 to 12 weeks. The area needs time to heal between sessions. So, it typically takes about a year to a year and a half to get the majority of tattoos off. Someone else might be willing to use a really powerful laser and take your tattoo off in fewer treatments, but you can get a ghost image of where the tattoo used to be."

On the matter of price, "We look at a tattoo, figure out how much time it will take and what's involved, and price it accordingly. Treatments are going to range from \$250 to \$850. But if you're going to need more than five treatments, we'll reduce the price after the fifth, as a good-faith gesture."

We're trying to get your tattoo off as quickly as we can."

Next come the sessions themselves. "Often, we apply a topical numbing agent — which looks like hair gel — two hours before the treatment. The patient can take off during that time; we suggest that they eat something."

The topical gel reduces your pain by about 60 percent. We also use a modified Zimmer C6 Cryo cooler, which blows cool air on the tattoo while we're working on it." For small tattoos, the nurse practitioner might kill the pain with an injection of lidocaine. "We use that only for small tattoos, because too much lidocaine can make the patient antsy. But if we do use it, you won't feel a thing." The experience varies person to person, said Speaker. "Plenty of people laugh and communicate, but some are more concerned. The pain is generally no greater than it was getting the tattoo; except when you get the tattoo, you feel a more lingering, vibrating effect that you get used to. For the laser, getting snapped with a rubber band is a good analogy. But we haven't had any trouble with someone not being able to get through the removal."

Sessions are scheduled for one-hour periods. "We really take our time. Patricia Rubin, our laser operator, is a nurse practitioner who is board certified in dermatology, and she's very thorough. She doesn't go back and forth like an Etch-a-Sketch; she actually traces out the tattoo as it was put on you. And the Q-Switched Nd:YAG laser that we use doesn't put out as much heat as other lasers — too much heat can cause scarring or lightening of the skin." And after each session, "we provide a customized home-care kit for the patient, things like antibiotic ointment and nonstick bandages."

Columns archived at SanDiegoReader.com

1. Michael Speaker
2. Tattoo on arm
3. Same arm after tattoo removal

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

Reading



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

Say What



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by Barbaraella

Brotherly Love

Our siblings. They resemble us just enough to make all their differences confusing, and no matter what we choose to make of this, we are cast in relation to them our whole lives long.

— Susan Scarf Merrell

I sat at a table in the shade, sipping a latte and listening to the desperate whine of the massive Great Dane tethered to the bench behind me. Like most Saturday mornings in San Diego, the air was warm

and the sun shone brightly in a cloud-free sky. People at other tables were enjoying the summery February weekend in their own ways; they read in silence or chatted about the perfect weather in low voices, like reverent parishioners marveling at a glorious temple. Amid the normalcy that was the patio at Peet's Coffee & Tea, there sat two loud, vivacious, contradictory men — one with a full beard, the other clean-shaven; one straight,

one gay; one Republican, the other Democrat; one with a career in military-war-gaming, one with a career in landscape design; one my father, the other his younger brother.

"I don't understand how you can have something that gets to be the size of a human being that only lives for seven years," said Uncle Jimmy.

"Great Danes only live for seven years?" I asked, saddened by the idea of the beauty behind me expiring before its time.

"Well, they don't *drop dead* right at seven," he answered. "That's the average. Ooh! Hang on a sec." He flipped open his buzzing phone and Dad rolled his eyes at me conspiratorially, as if to say, "Yes, Jimmy, we know

you're popular."

"Hello?" Uncle Jimmy said into the phone. "Oh, *hi*. I'm sorry, but I don't want to talk to any losers in New York, I'm in *Southern California*." He caught my eye and shot me an impish smile, then continued into the phone, "Oh, oh, it's raining there? Yeah? What's the *temperature*?" When he was finished taunting his friend, my uncle returned his attention to the table. "What was I talking about?"

Dad seized the opportunity to poke fun at his brother and said, "Uncle Jimmy had a stroke; it's hard for him to remember things. He was actually having the stroke *while* getting his hair cut, which is why it looks like that."

"Well your hair looks like it's thinning," Uncle Jimmy retorted.

"I have the guy thin it out when he cuts it because it gets too thick," Dad shot back. It was the truth — like their father, my dad, 58, and Uncle Jimmy, 49, both have full heads of thick, lustrous hair.

Uncle Jimmy burst out in a staccato of mocking laughter, as if to say, "Believe what you want, man, but you're going bald."

"That noise he's making is also a tragic result of the stroke," Dad said to me. He did a great job of looking honestly sympathetic as he shook his head at his brother's "ailment."

Uncle Jimmy stretched his arm to

show some love to the whining dog by massaging its muzzle. He launched into a story about hitchhiking with a few of my cousins from Bay Ridge to Breezy Point, an Irish-Catholic beach-bungalow community in Queens. "These kids were beautiful — blue eyes, blond hair. They were prime rape children," he said of my cousins, his sister Carol's kids, who are only a few years younger than him. "At first, we tried to be discriminating — if a car looked sketchy we'd pass it up. But after standing there for two hours on the side of the freeway, if a nude person with blood on them and holding a knife pulled up, you'd get in. Nothing ever happened to us, though."

"Hey, see that building over there?" Dad asked. Uncle Jimmy and I craned our heads in the direction Dad was pointing. "That's going to be turned into condos."

"That's amazing, Cliff," Uncle Jimmy said slowly, the words heavy with the weight of his sarcasm. He suddenly sat up in his seat, and I caught a glimmer of mischief in his eyes. "Did I tell you about your father with the chocolate pudding?"

"There's nothing wrong with ravioli and Hunt's tomato sauce," Dad interjected. "I like my pudding."

"Right, almost as much as you love a free meal," Uncle Jimmy taunted. For a few minutes, they playfully argued, talking over each other's words to weave a verbal tapestry of functional dysfunction, each

"After standing there for two hours on the side of the freeway, if a nude person with blood on them and holding a knife pulled up, you'd get in."

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sentence an amusing thread punctuated by a tiny dig.

When they happened to take a breath at the same time, I jumped in, “You mean that he likes the pudding or that he can’t stand to share it?” I can think of nothing that brings my father greater gastronomic pleasure than a meal of ravioli (from a frozen bag), a can of Hunt’s tomato sauce (which he blankets with pepper, garlic powder, onion powder, and oregano), and a box of Jell-O chocolate pudding (prepared on the stove and chilled in the fridge).

My father’s face was a mixture of embarrassment and pride as Uncle Jimmy told the oft-repeated story of how my dad, as a teen,

would strive to be the last person awake in his family — it was only after Dad was sure of his three siblings’ slumber that he would creep into the kitchen of the two-bedroom, one-bath apartment in Brooklyn and make his pudding, joyous in the knowledge that he would not be pressed to share his beloved chocolate goo.

“I don’t know why everybody’s so obsessed with my eating habits,” said Dad.

“Perhaps because they’re so strange,” I suggested. “You know, the whole ‘things on the plate can’t touch each other,’ and how onions freak you out.”

“Hey,” said Uncle Jimmy, in a satirical tone,

“you want to know something about that building over there?”

“I’d rather hear about the new condos than listen to the details of the kidney stone you passed at the JFK airport,” I teased.

“But seriously, honey,” Uncle Jimmy said, “It’s very rare that four siblings — Mr. Single Gypsy, Ms. Married with Six Kids in Staten Island, a lesbian, and a gay man — can go to Ireland and have a really wonderful time.” A few years ago, Dad and Uncle Jimmy made the trip with their older sisters, Aunt Carol and Aunt Diane. When I asked him what he meant by my father being a “gypsy,” Uncle Jimmy said, “He lived in his own world. He was a gypsy in his sense of

self and his being always very self-sufficient. He was in his own little spaceship, but it happened to be in our apartment.” My grandparents never left the compact apartment in which they raised four children. I asked my uncle if the tight quarters made him closer to his brother. “We weren’t close at all,” he said. “I was a little brat baby and he was out of there.”

“Well, I got married when I was ten,” Dad said. “So we actually weren’t living together for long.”

“Long enough for me to learn not to try and touch your pudding,” said Uncle Jimmy.

“You guys are so horrible,” I said. “You tease each other ruthlessly.”

“There’s an expres-

sion, Barb,” said Uncle Jimmy. “It’s called ‘Irish wit.’ What happens is, I tease your dad and your dad teases me, and we laugh about it. We learned that from Grandmere. When we lost our mother, we lost a chunk of humor.” Dad nodded in silent agreement, and Uncle Jimmy continued, “Irish wit is a wonderful neutralizer for painful or uncomfortable things happening. You really lose out in life if you can’t laugh at yourself. But,” he said of my grandmother, “if there was a theme and a vein that she pushed for, with all of her sarcasm and joke, it was kindness. Your father, he may be cheap and hoard his pudding, but he is generous and kind with those cancer

children. I have a saying: ‘Generous people are happy people, grateful people are happy people, and victims are never happy.’”

“Jesus, you *are* brothers,” I said. “That sounds exactly like something Dad would say.”

“You get out of life what you put into life,” said Dad. For the next 20 minutes, while I slowly finished my coffee, and as people went about their Saturday mornings, I listened as the straight man and the gay man, the Republican and the Democrat, the gypsy and the footloose and fancy free, exchanged aphorisms that, despite the vast differences between the men voicing them, were nearly identical. ■

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The Back Gate

The area around the Oceanside pier and boardwalk glistens, picture perfect: palm trees, silver

sand, blue water, and crowds of people. It's easy to see how this town got its name. But there's a lot more to Oceanside than its ocean side.

To the north is Camp Pendleton, a border that marks Oceanside as the unquestionable end of San Diego County. North of that is frontier.

You can drive east, away from the ocean, covering five long miles on Highway 76, deep into the San Luis Rey Valley, past an indoor shooting range, an airstrip, an old drive-in theater, greenish fields, various neighborhoods, and countless shopping centers, and you'll think you've entered another city. But you haven't. You're still in Oceanside.

Turn left on College, right on North River Road, and you've reached the last civilian outpost before the back gate of Camp Pendleton. The maps call this neighborhood Mesa Margarita, but everyone knows it as the Back Gate.

The people who live in the \$400,000 houses of the Back Gate will tell you that it's basically a good neighborhood. The place looks average enough and quiet enough to a casual passerby, with careful landscaping and green lawns.

Although...there are an awful lot of high front-yard fences...

Joanne Rush has called the Back Gate home since it was built in the late 1960s. She works as the community assistant at San Luis Rey Valley Resource Center, a little storefront operation on Vandegrift Boulevard,



"I was a gang member once," Tommy Romero says. "Now I want to give back."

right at the front gate of the Back Gate. Rush, who is white, has been at the center for over 14 years.

Her husband is a Vietnam veteran. The history of the neighborhood dates to that war, when the mostly L-shaped, sin-

gle-story houses of the Back Gate were built for the wives of soldiers. "We have 32 houses on my street," Rush says, referring to Ann Street. "And when I moved in, there was only one man who lived here."

Today, the Back Gate has earned a different reputation altogether, as a hotbed of gang activity.

But Rush, and many other Back Gate residents, suck their teeth at that. "The press always portrays it as such a bad

neighborhood," Rush says. "But we're good people and we work hard. We're just waiting for someone to take notice of that."

Samoans, Part 1: A Cultural Connection

Everyday Samoan language sounds like spoken song, pouring out like liquid: an ongoing flowing flooding of open vowels.

Samoan traditional clothing is showy and colorful, everything reminiscent of bright flowers.

We've all seen Samoans playing football in the NFL. Their body type lends itself to athleticism. As a people, they are generally huge and implausibly agile.

With nearly 5000 Samoans, Oceanside is home to the second largest concentration of Samoans in the United States. The majority of these Pacific Islanders live

in and around the Back Gate area.

Many of the Samoans here are descendants of U.S. Marines who were stationed at Camp Pendleton. The first wave came in the 1940s, during World War II, and now four generations call Oceanside home.

At the annual Oceanside Samoan Cultural Celebration last summer, over 200 attendees listened to traditional music, participated in traditional and not-so-traditional dancing, and watched and competed in cultural activities such as banana-peeling contests.

It was a festive scene, and many seemed to connect deeply with the activities. For example, all of the traditional contests pitted grandparents against grammar-schoolers; sometimes, a younger kid won.



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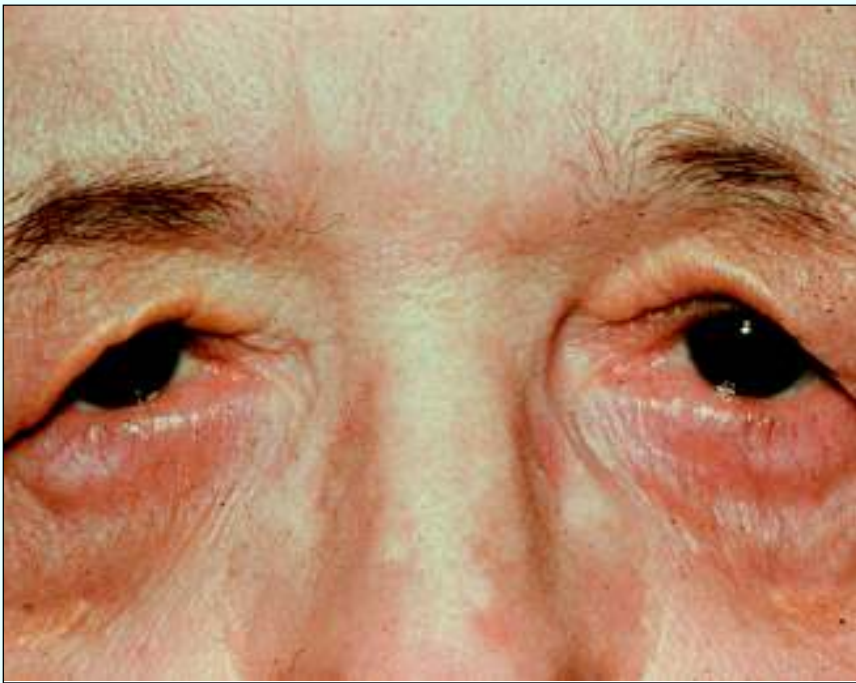
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Samoans, Part 2: The Pressures

"Samoan kids are just the most respectful kids," says Joanne Rush. She's seated at a plastic indoor picnic table at the Resource Center. "They help clean up, even without being asked. And if they're vacuuming, after playtime is done, they don't just drag the vacuum around. They move the furniture and they make sure to do a really good job. I've never had a Samoan kid talk back to me or use foul language. And they seem to be pretty much like that with the other kids as well."

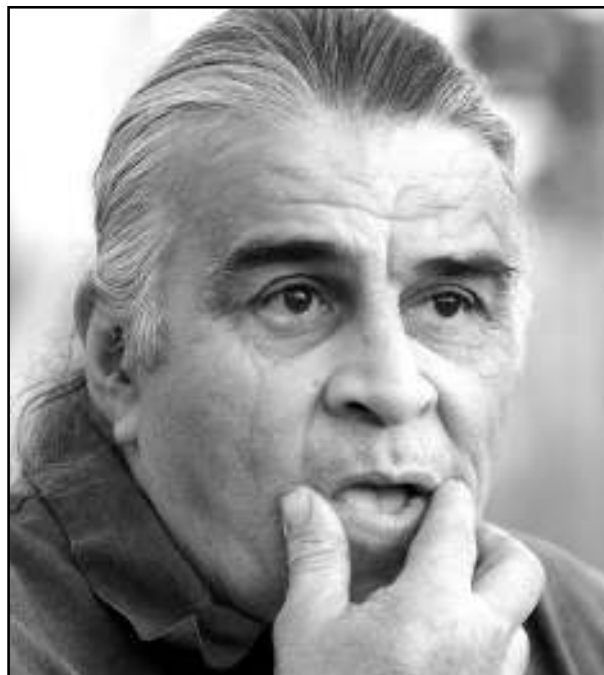
Wayne Godinet, a senior advisor for the Oceanside Samoan Cultural Committee, agrees. "These fourth-generation

kids are getting so good at riding the fence," he shakes his head. "When the sun goes down, they can hang with the bad crowd, and in the morning, they're real good at meeting their family duties. I mean, some of these kids change into their colors on the bus on the way to school."

Perhaps the biggest and most high-profile gang in the Back Gate — the Deep Valley Bloods — is over 90 percent Samoan.

One may be led to wonder how such a God-fearing, respectful, and tradition-minded people could also make up a criminal organization like a gang.

A school bus driver took an unofficial survey



Roy Vallez returned to Oceanside and started up Gangland Ministries

of Back Gate kids, asking his young commuters what they could ever want with gangs and gang life. The over-

whelming response? Protection, protection, protection.

Out of the Mouths of Babes

Dereck, 13, attends Jefferson Middle School. Next year he'll go to Oceanside High.

"I don't need protection from a gang," Dereck says. "God's my protection."

But what about the pressure from your peers?

"If someone says, 'Hey, take a smoke,' or something like that, and if I don't want to do it, then they call me names and make fun of me," Dereck says. "But it doesn't bother me. They want to call me names, they can call me names. But I'm not going to go that way."

Why do other kids go that way?

"I think because of

the way they grew up," Dereck says. "Maybe the people they look up to are involved in gangs."

Jonathan, 20, is in the Navy and lives in the Back Gate.

"I usually stay inside, so I don't see much," says Jonathan. "I'm not really an outgoing person. I like playing video games, so...but I've heard gunshots before. And sometimes I'll come home, and I'll see cops around, with their lights flashing, and then I read stuff in the newspaper. But that's not very often. It's not, like, all the time or anything."

Chad, 19, graduated from Carlsbad High School and has friends in Oceanside.

"I think it's the drugs

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that messes up kids' heads," Chad says. "Drugs make people do crazy things, and they start going against each other. It creates competition. When I was 13, a lot of my friends started using PCP and acid, and they started giving it to me for free. And then after, like, half a year, once I was already hooked, then they wanted to start charging me for it. So that's how they got me. And how are you going to get money when you're 13? So I had to start stealing and stuff. I did what I had to, because I was just up in my head. I wasn't thinking about anyone else at the time. So I actually went with the skinhead crew for a little while. It messed up a lot of my relationships with friends and my family. But I got out of that a couple years ago, and I'm trying to change some of my buddies around now."

At the mention of gangs, one kid runs his hands back and forth over the top of his head and says, "I don't feel right talking about that."

Another kid won't

give his name or age but does say, "My friends have mugged people right in front of me, but I don't get involved. We'll be walking, and they'll pull out a knife and try to take someone's money. Whenever that happens, I just want to get out of the scene."

Israel, 16, goes to El Camino High School. He lives in the Back Gate.

"I don't really go out that much," Israel says. "My parents insist on me staying inside. Especially at night. Back when that cop died, that was crazy. And when they killed that kid. That was bad, too. But otherwise, I guess I hear cop cars and gunshots sometimes from my house, but not all that much. I'm pretty used to how it is here, though."

This is where I live. I don't feel unsafe. This is my home."

Back Gate Shootings

The main street running through the Back Gate is Vandegrift Boulevard. Many of the other streets in the area, including Arthur, Gold, and Charles streets, either cross Vandegrift at some point or run closely parallel to it.

ON VANDEGRIFT BOULEVARD:

Aug. 19, 2006 — A man in his 30s is shot near Camp Pendleton's back gate about 3:00 a.m. and walks into a hospital 12 hours later for treatment.

March 14, 2004 — A 23-year-old man is shot at a convenience

store around 1:30 a.m. He survives.

ON ARTHUR AVENUE:

June 10, 2006 — Two men, aged 23 and 24, are shot after arguing with men in a sedan while in front of a home near North River Road. They survive.

Oct. 15, 2005 — Jimmy Malo, 27, shoots at and misses three Ocean-side police detectives as they patrol a street in an unmarked vehicle. Authorities call Malo a gang member, but a jury disagrees. He's convicted of attempted voluntary manslaughter and assault with a firearm and faces up to 26 years in prison.

July 23, 2005 — Jonathan Cobb, 19, of Menifee, fires three shots

at the home of a rival gang member, hitting no one. Cobb pleads guilty to shooting at an occupied home and is sentenced to eight years in prison.

April 22, 2005 — A 17-year-old is shot in the leg while crossing a parking lot in the 600 block of North Redondo Way. The teen goes to a friend's house on Arthur Avenue and calls for help.

March 14, 2004 — Shortly before 6:00 a.m., shots are fired into a garage door, hitting a 41-year-old Oceanside woman. She survives.

ON GOLD DRIVE:

Dec. 20, 2006 — Officer Dan Bessant is fatally shot while on an unrelated traffic stop. Gang members Meki Gaono, 17, and Penifoti "C.J." Taeotui, 16, plead not guilty in adult court and await trial.

June 9, 2005 — Rusty Seau, 16, is fatally shot in a fight with a rival gang. Tony Lessie, 17, is convicted of murder, as an adult, and sentenced to 40 years to life in prison.

March 16, 2004 —

(story continued on page 32)

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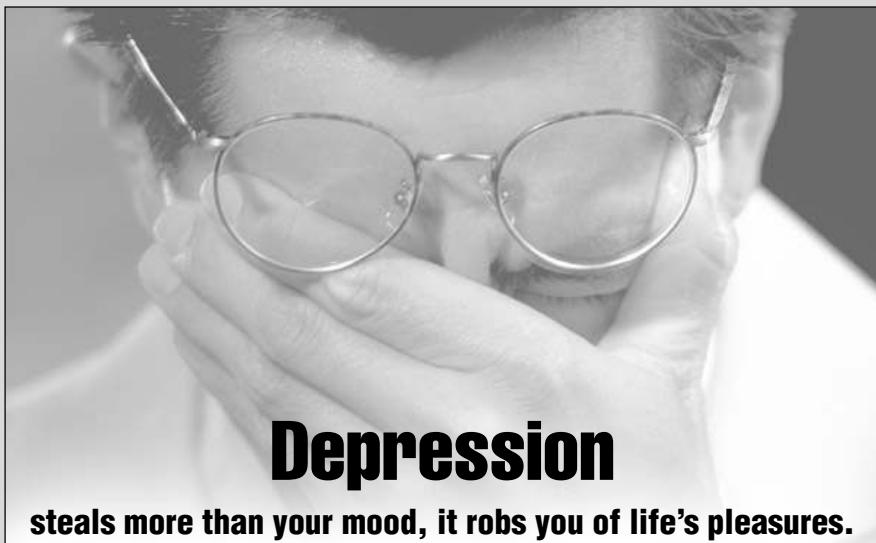
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Schizophrenia

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

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

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To live and die in Oceanside

(story continued from page 29)

Lacy Charles Black, 26, fires at a former gang member and his sister in front of their home. The brother is hit four times and survives. The sister is unhurt. Black is convicted of attempted murder and sentenced to 65 years to life in prison.

ON CHARLES DRIVE:

March 16, 2004 — Shots are fired into a house, missing a 34-year-old man inside.

Sources: Oceanside Police Department and the *San Diego Union-Tribune*.

Benevolent Street Soldier #1



Joanne Rush was a short jog from the spot where Rusty Seau died in June 2005

PHOTOGRAPH BY ALAN DECKER

Salilo Moimoi is a huge fellow with a recognizably Samoan body type: round yet jutting face, thick neck, broad shoulders, enormous arms and

legs, and big hands. He wears his dark hair pulled back in a ponytail. His goatee has begun to show strands of dignified gray. "It all started out for

me in the deep valley, looking for a place of belonging, you know," Moimoi says. "I never hung out with my parents much. So I ran the streets

and found people that were lonely like me, I guess."

Moimoi sits at a cement picnic table in John Landes Park. It's Saturday morning. He's here to participate in a public antigang event called Victory Outreach. But now he's gazing off into the green trees with a look of reminiscence.

"And then I got into a gang, the Deep Valley Bloods," he says in a tone that implies he knows how stupid that decision was. "I was about 13 or 14. And me and my other friend, I'm not going to say his name, but we were the youngest out of the whole crowd. The jump-ins were crazy. On Arthur Street, we used to make two lines. And you'd have

to run down the middle. You'd have to make it to the other end to get jumped in. And there was, like, 18 of them every time, to jump you in, to become a gang member. They'd kick you, punch you, and you'd be crawling through the line, and the best thing to do, I learned, was just run. Keep your hands up, and fight back, and run. Because once you fall, you're not going to make it."

He manages a pained smile. "It was pretty raw. It was so raw that my uncles were in it, you know. And me and my other friend, we were the youngest ones there when we got jumped in."

Moimoi is telling about his time as an OG, an original gangster. He's one of those OGs who went away and then came back to the neighborhood where he used to

RESEARCH STUDIES

Are you currently diagnosed with **Bipolar Disorder** and receiving treatment with Lithium or Depakote?

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

You may qualify to try an investigational medication while participating in a research study and be reimbursed \$50 for your screening visit if screening and continuing the study as an outpatient, \$50 for each inpatient hospitalization day you are in the study (excluding day of hospital discharge and any stabilization days) and \$100 for each outpatient visit (excluding screening visit).

Total reimbursement will not exceed \$1400.

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

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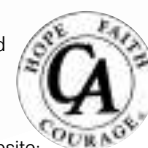
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www.CASanDiego.org



Do you have psoriasis?



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

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

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865 Third Avenue, Suite 100
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You may qualify for this
study if you:

- Have Type 2 Diabetes
- Are between the ages
of 18 and 65
- Are managing your
diabetes with diet or oral
medications (e.g., metformin)
- Are not using insulin therapy
- Are either post-menopausal or
surgically sterile (if female)

Profil

Institute for Clinical Research, Inc.

bang. Only Moimoi's come back with a definite goal and purpose.

"After I was jumped in, we moved to Vista," he says. "And that's where I live now, which is ironic. We used to do beer runs at the 7-Eleven right there in the valley. Now I'm sober and I'm drug-free and I'm living there again, you know. It's like God brought me back to the place where I started. To help the people in the community where I hurt so many people."

Moimoi continues his story, as ten or so volunteers set up chairs and

tables for the Victory Outreach. Moimoi has volunteered to help by emceeing the proceedings.

"So I went to Vista," he says, "and ended up seeing one of my friends that I hadn't seen in a while, and he was a Blood. And me and him were, like, the only two Samoan gang members at Vista High at that time. And he's doing life in prison right now, without possibility of parole. Anyways, I went the wrong way. I was playing football for Vista High School, and I was pretty

good. I guess I didn't think it was what I wanted to do. So I had my status as a gang banger — we were called the Valley Bloods, but it's the Deep Valley Bloods now — even though I was in Vista, and the Bloods were in Ocean-side, I was still affiliated with them, but not as much, so I made some new friends too. And I got caught up doing drugs, violence, you know, and then I started going to jail."

Moimoi mentions going to jail as if it were just another after-school

activity.

"I ended up doing home invasions," he says, with a sigh. "We were robbing Pizza Huts and stuff like that. Because we had drug habits now, and none of us worked. We did crystal meth. And if it wasn't that, we were drinking beers. But we had to support our habit. And none of us had jobs, so we had to go do some licks, you know."

Moimoi says there was little planning involved for his law-breaking activities.

"It was just off the top," he shrugs. "Well,

we'd always have some inside scoop about who did what at where, you know. We knew that they were counting the money at night, and they'd come out the back to take out the trash and stuff like that. And a lot of us got busted for things like that. I didn't, but..."

They had one gun that got passed around, and anyone could use it for a lick if they needed it.

"But not everyone would use the gun, because some guys were scared, you know," Moimoi says. "But we were desperate, because

we had to support our drug habit."

Just in case the sensational things Moimoi has been saying have started to sound a little too gangster-glamorous, he checks himself.

"I'm not proud of any of the things I did, by any means," he says. "I thank God that He intervened and changed my life around. I give that testimony not to brag about what I did, but to indicate how powerful God is. Because nothing could change me. I did all sorts of programs, and nothing worked. I did 7

RESEARCH STUDIES

Smoking too much pot?

WE WANT TO HELP YOU STOP!

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

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

or visit **www.pearsoncenter.org** for more detailed information.



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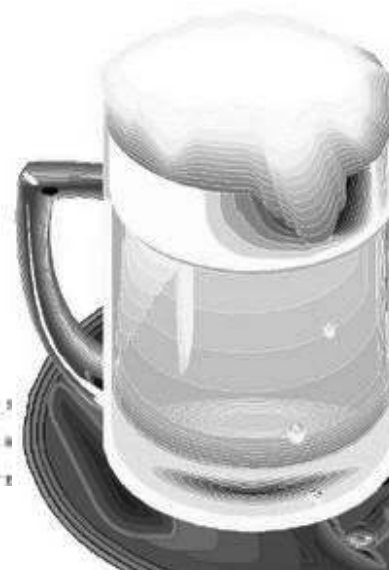
Researchers at The Scripps Research Institute are working to develop new treatments for people with alcohol problems.

Is your current alcohol use causing problems with your family, your work, your life?

If you want to stop drinking, The Pearson Center for Alcoholism and Addiction Research is conducting a clinical trial to help you reach that goal.

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Or visit: www.pearsoncenter.org



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- Being the center of attention?
- Going to social events and meeting new people?



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



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Visit our website at www.veryshy.org

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Trouble with dating? Parties? Public speaking?
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Confidential help is available. You may be eligible to

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Anxious?

Are your worries excessive and uncontrollable? Do you experience fatigue, insomnia, irritability?

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as part of a clinical trial of a computerized treatment program at the San Diego State University Psychology Department.

Center for Understanding and Treating Anxiety

Call: (619) 229-3740
http://nas.psy.sdsu.edu

If you take daily medicine to fight chronic pain, you may be at risk for ulcers.

Researchers in your area are studying an investigational medication that may provide pain relief and reduce your risk of gastric ulcers. You may qualify to enroll if you:

- Have a condition requiring daily non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) therapy for at least six months
- 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 study-related 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**

Medical Associates Research Group

Alzheimer's Disease

FEELING HOPELESS? A new investigational medication is available as part of a research study.

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 • Medical evaluation by a board-certified medical doctor • 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



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

Are you:

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

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

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

(619) 688-6565

See our website: www.ari-inc.com



Is your current Anxiety medication not working?

Are you:

- Currently taking one of the following: Cymbalta, Lexapro, Paxil or Effexor for the treatment of Generalized Anxiety Disorder?
- Still feeling nervous, tense or "on edge" most of the time?
- Still having trouble sitting still or finding it impossible to simply relax?
- Between 18 and 65 years of age?
- In overall good health?

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

For more information about this study, please contact:

(619) 688-6565

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



Tired of the weight? A Type II diabetic?

Are you:

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

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

For more information about this study, please contact:

(619) 688-6565

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



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



years in prison for attempted murder. I got 14 years, but I served 7. And I know it was all a part of God's plan. He had a job for me to do, and that's what I do now. When I got out of prison, I went to Victory Outreach Ministry in Escondido. They had a recovery home, 24-hour supervised. I finished it. And that place restored me. There was just a lot of hurt and pain that I was going through, you know. And they restored my family. My parents didn't want anything to do with me no more at all. They'd

taken all my pictures down and thrown them in a closet."

Moimoi's father is a *matai*, or family chief. In Samoan culture, all family business is directed and facilitated in a hierarchy beginning with the *matai*.

Moimoi says, "My dad's a talking chief for our family. So I'm next in line to take his standing. But that was all out the window. And my son didn't want nothing to do with me no more. When I went to do my seven years, I got arrested right in front of him. He was,

like, 3 years old, you know. Just the whole ordeal was traumatic." Moimoi was 25 when he went to jail. "It just went on for such a long time. And I think I went to prison because it was part of God's plan to get my attention."

Now Moimoi is a minister for Victory Outreach himself.

"I'm restored now," he says. "My morals, my family, my goals, one hundred percent. I'm back on track. And the program at Victory Outreach, they teach you how to get plugged into things

that help you not go back to your old ways. And the main thing is God. God's got to be number one. And number two is family, and number three is your ministry. Ministry, meaning, what are you doing now that you're out? And this is why I'm reaching out to the community at any cost, you know."

It turns out that Moimoi has a real gift with a microphone and a sense of humor about his own past.

At the beginning of the outreach, after 30 people have shown up, he

enthusiastically takes the mike and bellows, "Give it up for the Oceanside Police! Come on, everybody. Give it up for these guys. They're the ones who kept me from jumping through your back window when you were on vacation."

He will tell a part of his compelling story to the assembled crowd, before he passes the speaking duties to others.

Victory Outreach Church is a ministry made up mostly of recovery homes, for people recovering from drugs, alcohol, prison, and

gangs. The ministry has been organizing outreaches for gang members and potential gang members about every month for the past year.

Over the course of the next two hours, there will be testimonies, announcements, educational skits, informal talks, children's activities, and both live tunes and music from a deejay.

Everything at the outreach — food, equipment, live music, everyone's time — is donated.

After being the center of attention for a while,

RESEARCH STUDIES

Are you taking one of these medications?



Seroquel (Quetiapine)
Risperdal (Risperidone)
Zyprexa (Olanzapine)

Medical researchers at UCSD are currently conducting an outpatient research study investigating an experimental drug (AZD3480) for cognitive deficits (problems thinking). We are looking for people aged 18-55 with schizophrenia who smoke cigarettes.

AZD3480 is an experimental drug not approved by the FDA. This drug is under investigation and being compared to a placebo (an inactive tablet like a sugar pill).

For more information call:

1-866-UC PRICE
(1-866-827-7423)

Medical evaluations and study drug will be provided at no cost. Eligible participants will also receive financial compensation for time and travel.

Low Back Pain

Do You Wake Up to Pain?

If low back pain has you reaching for medication on most days, you may want to consider taking part in a research study. This study is comparing doses of two approved medications to see if they can improve chronic low back pain.

As a qualified participant, you will receive study medication and study-related care at no cost, and may be compensated for time and travel.

All participants will receive medication for their low back pain.

To qualify, you must:

- ☐ Be at least 18 years of age
- ☐ Have had moderate to severe low back pain for three months or more
- ☐ Take medication for low back pain at least four days a week



Low Back Pain
RESEARCH STUDY

Please call: 760-639-4378
North County Clinical Research

DEPRESSION

is a common and treatable illness. However, finding the right treatment for each individual can be difficult. If you are currently taking a Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor (SSRI) for your depression and find that you are still depressed, you may qualify for a research study at the La Jolla VA for treatment-resistant depression.



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 vegetables.

For more information, please call one of our study staff at the La Jolla VA:

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

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**



CLINICAL RESEARCH

Bipolar Disorder • Depression • Schizophrenia

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

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

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

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

(858) 694-8350.

Clinical
Research Center
SHARP Mesa Vista
Hospital

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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 experimental 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 ENROLLMENT

- 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

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.

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

Teens & Migraines Is your child suffering?

Teen migraine clinical research study

To qualify, your teen must be:

- Ages 12-17
- Diagnosed with migraines or experiencing moderate to severe headaches that:
 - Last 2 hours or more
 - Occur 2 to 8 times per month for at least 6 months
- Accompanied by a parent or guardian to each study visit

Participating teens receive at no cost:

- A comprehensive medical evaluation as it relates to the study
- Study medication
- Ongoing study-related care by medical professionals

Compensation for time and travel may be provided.

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



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entertaining and educating the crowd, Moimoi returns to the picnic table at the corner of the park to talk some more.

Does he keep in contact with any of the OGs from his day?

"Oh, yeah," Moimoi says. "All the time. There's very few left, though. Most of them are spending life in prison, and, gee, I could say about nine died already. From my era, I'd say about five are good family men now. And there's probably five more who are in and out, in and out."

He means in and out of prison.

"My nephew was somehow linked to this shooting of [Oceanside Police Officer] Dan Bessant," Moimoi says. "And he's in prison for that right now. He called me after that happened, and he told me, 'Bro, we really need to do something about this.' And

that's my nephew, that's my sister's son, who got caught up in that stuff, you know. And that's what really gave me the oomph to do what I'm doing now, you know, helping out. It's what really opened my eyes. Because it was so close. It's in my backyard now. And what are you going to do? You just going to throw dirt over it and pretend like it never happened? Or are you going to react?"

Another thought pops into Moimoi's mind.

"The thing that's really sad," he says, "is these kids are looking to find a place. They want a place where they can be loved and where they can feel wanted. That's the main thing. They want to feel accepted."

So, to feel accepted, they walk through a line of "friends" who try to beat the crap out of

them?

"That's an oxy-moron, isn't it?" Moimoi agrees. He laughs, a rumbling through his great barrel chest. "But you know what that means. That means you'll take anything to be a part of what they are."

Moimoi waves his arm across the park, toward the volunteers for the outreach, who are now breaking things down, and toward some of the kids who have shown up that day, many of whom are now playing basketball. On Moimoi's forearm is a tattoo, the word "Uso." *Uso* means "brother" in Samoan.

"One thing these kids need is another idea in their heads," Moimoi says. "They need to think about what they want to be when they grow up. It's like Junior Seau. We all grew up the same way, but he always wanted to play basketball and foot-

RESEARCH STUDIES

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
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ball. And instead, we went over there and did whatever we were doing, acting dumb. Stealing beers from 7-Eleven.”

Moimoi sighs again. “The problem,” he concludes, “when you’re out in your madness and running amok — no one’s saying anything to teach you different. I admit I probably wouldn’t have listened when I was a kid, but at least if someone was saying something — like this Victory Outreach message — it might have made me think twice.”

How Do You Prioritize?

Is it God, country, family, self?

What if you don’t believe in God?

What if you’re displaced from your country? Then is culture second, or even first?

What if you have no family?

Where do strangers come in? When, in our prioritizing, are we supposed to consider the needs of others?

And what about the earth?

What is a person supposed to think of first?

“It has to be God first to beat this gang thing,” says Wayne Godinet. He couldn’t have more conviction in his voice. “With the Samoans, blood is thicker than water. And, perhaps unfortunately, blood is also thicker than the truth, sometimes. It’s family first, then culture, and then God. But it has to be God first.”

Godinet himself is Samoan. There are seven kids in his family. And he, like most Oceanside Samoans, is the descendant of a U.S. Marine.

“Often,” says Godinet, “the tendency among Samoans, when something bad happens,

is to say, ‘Oh, they’re from that family and that church and that village.’ But then when something good happens, it’s like, ‘That’s my cousin,’ or, ‘He goes to my church.’ But all that has to stop. We have to realize that as a community we’re part black, part white, part Mexican, part everything, and we have to try to love everybody.”

Samoans, Part 3: A Cultural Disconnect
Wayne Godinet never lets it be forgotten that the subjects he’s talking about are touchy ones. “Keep in mind, I speak only for my immediate family, and for the Samoan Cultural Committee, that small group that I’m affiliated with. These are only my own opinions. I don’t speak for the Samoan community at large or for the culture at large.”

Godinet is careful with his words because of



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the high stakes and high sensitivities involved.

"This is such a sensitive situation because we live so close to all of this," he says. "We have to drive by OGs every day on our ways to work."

That being said, Godinet is bold enough to paint an interesting cultural picture from his own experience.

"Samoa being traditional," he says, "you don't see so many of the prob-

lems there with the youth. Especially in Independent Samoa, but also in certain parts of American Samoa. Because over there, it's more of a communal mindset, like an extended family. Every-

body supports each other. Now, they do the same thing here, but it's hard here because in a village it's more controlled, and church is an everyday venue there. You're connected to your family."

Godinet, 54, has been involved with the Ocean-side Boys Club for 18 years.

"Over here, our kids are going to public schools, many of them, and it's a capitalist soci-

ety," he says. "You snooze, you lose. So it's pretty aggressive. And you have all the high-tech instruments here, and you've got the television. We don't have the kind of programming in Samoa that you have here. And then you have the peer pressure. And the lure of a gang for some of the young kids that I see is extremely strong. And a lot of our kids are confused."

There's a sadness to Godinet's voice and his demeanor, not exactly hangdog but close. But there's also fire behind the sadness, and hope.

"For the kids who are still caught up in the traditions," he says, "that lure is not as strong. The church and the family and the community can work almost as well here as it does back there. And that's why I give a lot of credit to some of the churches."

Godinet himself grew up in east Oceanside and always resisted the temptations of gangs.

"Our Samoan community has a lot of problems anyway," he acknowledges. "And where I see most of the problem is in the third and fourth generations that we have here. Because there's such a disconnect with the old traditional values of the first generation. So I think it's incumbent upon my generation, the second generation of Samoans here in Oceanside, to bring the elders and the youngest members of our community together onto a common ground of understanding."

Hail, Hail, the Gangs Are All Here

"It's not just Samoan gangs that we have here in Oceanside," Lieutenant Joe Young says. "In fact, they make up only a very small percentage of the gang activity in this town. We have Hispanic gangs and black gangs as well. And then we also have



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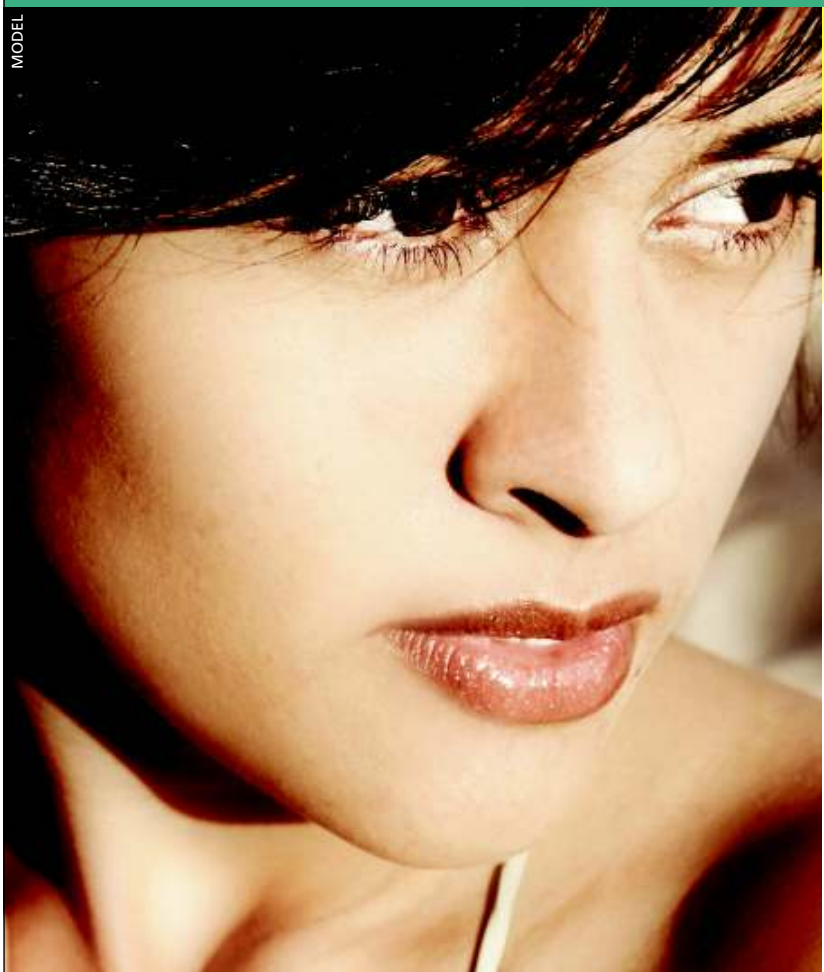


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gangs that consist of different races.”

Lieutenant Young heads the Oceanside Gang Unit: nine dedicated officers whose expertise is this one specialized area of law enforcement.

He launches into a daunting list.

“We have Posole, which is a Hispanic gang,” he begins. “We have Mesa Locos, which is Hispanic. We have Tri-City Thunder Hills, and that’s a combination of different ethnicities. We have a gang called Deep Valley Bloods, which is

mostly Samoan. We have Deep Valley Crips, which is mostly black. We have another Crip set, which is called the Insane Crip Gang, which is mostly black. We have a gang that goes by the letters CMG, which is Crook Mob Gangsters, and that is mostly black also. We have Center Street, which is a Hispanic gang. We have Krook City Bloods, which is mostly Samoan, but there’s others in there also. We have South Oceanside Posse, which was the original name, but they go by South Oceanside now, and

they’re a combination of races also. And lastly, we have another Crip set, the Westside Crips, and they’re majority black. That’s 11 gangs that are currently active in Oceanside.”

And how many members are in those gangs?

“If you were to combine all the numbers together,” Lieutenant Young says, “for all the gangs, we are looking at roughly 600 members. The smallest gang, South Oceanside, has only 3 known members, and the largest, Posole, has about

200. The Samoan gangs, the Deep Valley Bloods, have about 50 members, and Krook City has less than half of that, maybe 20.”

Lieutenant Young reports that some factors seem to contribute to gang activity in an area. “Low-income housing, because there is a socioeconomic impact on it; failure in schools; broken homes; and, in some cases, that type of gang activity is firmly entrenched in their families, so it’s what the kids are used to seeing, and they carry that on.”

What are the police doing in the Back Gate in particular to keep the gangs at bay?

“We have three injunctions now, against Posole, Center Street, and Mesa,” Lieutenant Young says. “And we’re very happy with how well those injunctions have worked. Injunctions are court-ordered, issued and signed by a judge, and they prohibit documented members of a specific gang from doing a laundry list of things in their own neighborhoods. So these individuals were served papers

that prohibited them from doing things like hanging out together within the boundaries of that injunction. And we’ve severely hampered the ability of those gangs to function in the ways they used to. Now, we haven’t done this with the Samoan gangs, because they’re a little more spread out and transitory in nature. But Posole is firmly entrenched in a particular neighborhood.”

He goes on. “In the Back Gate in particular, we have done some different things. We’ve done

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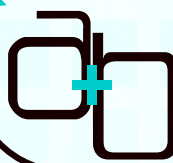
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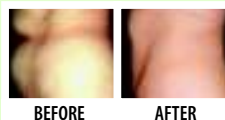
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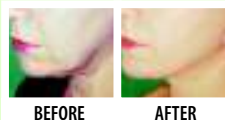
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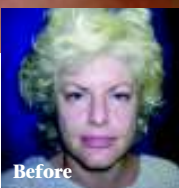
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wiretaps, for instance. But I have to tell you, wiretaps are very labor-intensive. Because once you go down that path, you have to monitor phone lines, and in some cases there's multiple phone lines that you have to monitor for hours on end. And when you devote resources to those types of things, it takes away from your ability to get out there on a daily basis and be more proactive at the street level. So wiretaps are done, but not very often. What is done often out in the Back Gate are probation checks and parole checks. We might look for something as minor as curfew violations or violations of other conditions. We're also striving to maintain a high-visibility patrol. At any given time, we have at least five officers in the Mesa Margarita area and maybe two or three in the Back Gate patrolling at any

given time."

Then Lieutenant Young changes his tone. "Everybody knows that the responsibility of law enforcement is to suppress crime," he says. "But to really make an impact in law enforcement, you have to do more than suppress. You have to intervene, and you have to prevent. So that's the triangle of community-oriented policing that we swear by up here in Oceanside: suppression, intervention, prevention. Before, maybe five or ten years ago, we were relying on other agencies for intervention and prevention. But you can't do that and have successful community-oriented policing. So now we're going into the schools, we're going into the neighborhoods, and we're showing them a different side of us. And we're making a difference. I think you're going to see

very little gang influence over these Oceanside neighborhoods anymore."

Lieutenant Young also stresses that there is something the average citizen can do to curb the influence of gangs.

"We've instituted a hotline," he says, "so people can call us anonymously with tips about gang activity in their neighborhoods. That number is 760-435-4985. That's the Oceanside Gang Police Hotline."

What Are Bloods?

Detective Gordon Govier has worked in the Back Gate since 1999 as a gang-suppression officer, neighborhood-policing officer, and gang detective.

"Prior to having the Deep Valley Bloods, the Deep Valley Crips were already established," Govier says. "The Deep Valley Crips are primarily

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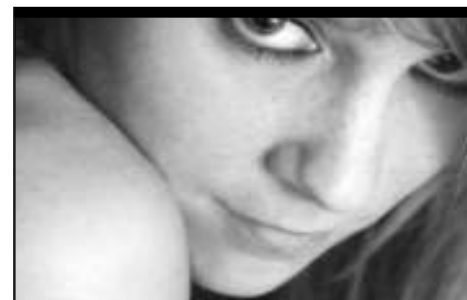
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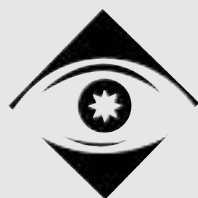
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an African-American gang. And it's just a normal progression that the Samoans (who were defending themselves against these Deep Valley Crips, who were African-American) would become Blood gang members, because they would be the opposite gang. So that's basically how they came about."

Govier has given expert testimony on the Bloods and Crips in superior court.

"Originally," says Govier, "and this is going back to the mid-'80s, the Samoan gang members called themselves the Valley Boys. That evolved, once the Crips became prevalent, into the Deep Valley Bloods."

How did they "become" Bloods? Did they just start calling themselves Bloods?

"More or less, yes," Govier says. "They began calling each other 'Blood.'

And they started to adopt the traditions associated with Blood gang sets: wearing of the color red and the typical way of how Bloods speak to each other. Bloods will usually avoid use of the letter c, as a form of disrespect to Crip gang members. So, rather than saying that they're 'kickin' it,' when they're hanging out, they'll say 'bickin' it.' Instead of saying 'that's cool,' they'll say, 'that's bool.' It's very common that they adopt that language. I know that from wiretaps that I've listened to, jail calls, and things like that. When they write, they will either avoid use of the letter c completely, so, for instance, they'll call a movie a 'flick,' but they'll spell it 'flikk,' or, what they'll do is they'll use a small letter c and a big letter K, because that represents 'Crip killer.' And they'll take any opportu-

nity they can get. Bloods will often wear a red Calvin Klein T-shirt with the small c and the big K, because, first of all, it's red and they're Bloods, and second of all, it says cK and they're Crip killers."

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Lieutenant Joe Young doesn't wear a police uniform to work. He doesn't drive a standard police car. He's a plainclothes officer. It allows him to operate "a little more under the radar."

Tonight, Young's in jeans and a pullover, driving his white Chevrolet Grand Prix. Underneath, the pullover hides a badge, gun, handcuffs, and a radio. Inside the car are a police radio, siren, and "wig-wag" colored police lights on the passenger's windshield visor.

Lieutenant Young spends most of his

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worknights in the office of the Oceanside police station on Mission Avenue. But tonight he's out patrolling through the Back Gate.

At dusk, the streets of the Back Gate look like any other suburban streets. A carpenter unloads the back of his truck after a hard day's work. Three kids throw a football in the waning light. A woman walks along, alone, holding a few DVDs under her arm.

There's no graffiti anywhere and little

garbage. Winding around the sleepy streets of the Back Gate, all you might see are a couple of abandoned shopping carts and a candy wrapper or two. And even those might not be there the next time you drive through. This community obviously takes pride in its appearance.

"You look at the condition of a lot of these houses," Lieutenant Young says, "and you can really tell how much these people take care of their yards. It's not that run-down look that we used to see. And that's encouraging to me."

Lieutenant Young himself is half Samoan. His hair has receded somewhat, and his face has an inherent friendliness, as though he's always ready to smile. The only thing that might give Lieutenant Young away as a police officer is his mustache.

"I guess we're looking for any suspicious activity," Lieutenant Young says, sailing along Vandegrift Boulevard with both hands on the steering wheel. The street lights of the Back Gate have just come on for the night. "Really, what I'm looking for is someone I've never seen before. Maybe that's the person I'd stop and talk to, just to get to know them and let them know who I am."

Lieutenant Young makes it clear that he knows more about what he's looking for than he can legally say. "By now, I know a lot of the gang members, and I know where they live."

And where do they live?

"I'll tell you what," Lieutenant Young says. "I'll drive really slowly down this street, and you tell me which houses have gang members living in them."

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But not one house stands out. There's no garbage in any of the yards, no show of gang colors, and no driveways with souped-up Hummers or lowriders.

Lieutenant Young makes a few slow tours around the neighborhood. Night has fallen fully now, and Young's Grand Prix turns off Vandegrift Boulevard, making a right onto Gold Drive. Then it's an immediate left on Arthur Avenue. He eases along at cruising speed. Right on East Parker Street, across Leon Street, and down toward Melba Bishop Park.

The streets are quiet. Very quiet. But not eerily so. There's a kid on a bike who just bought something, and he's riding home with a white plastic bag draped over his handlebars. There's a couple putting some boxes into the trunk of their car.

What about all the horror stories? What about the stories of police officers driving around here and being shot at in their cars?

Easing down Arthur Avenue at 20 miles per hour, Lieutenant Young reaches a dead end. As he turns the car around, he says, "As we speak, we're right at the point where officers have been shot at. We just passed it. But you didn't see any hesitancy on my part. I'm okay with driving down the street, and I'm okay with waving at everybody. Do they know my car? A lot of these guys know my car. But it's not about trying to be sneaky or anything. I just don't think it's like that anymore. That's stuff that has happened, but it's more the exception than the rule."

Then, pulling slowly away from the dead end on Arthur, he says, "It's really night and day around here. And that's a cliché, I know, but it really is just night and day, the difference between what it's like now on the streets of

Oceanside and what it was like back in the '80s and early '90s. I mean, it's not like the radio is silent nowadays; there's still stuff going on. But nothing of the magnitude or depth of what it used to

be. It all goes back to our model of community-oriented policing: suppression of crime, yes, but also intervention and prevention."

To be sure, the police radio isn't silent, but few

calls interrupt Young's words. "Car on fire with no one in it," for instance. But over the course of many evening hours, that's about it. A minor drug arrest in downtown Oceanside. "Those are my

vice guys," Young says, proudly.

Whenever a police car passes, Young says, "There goes a good guy."

Four marked patrol cars and as many more unmarked ones are

pounding the Back Gate beat, even as Young speaks.

Passing by Luiseño Park, Lieutenant Young stops and says, "That's a great example of the city's commitment to provid-

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ing positive things for the kids." He's gazing at tennis courts with bright lights, a couple of ball fields, and a playground. "Ten or 15 years ago," he says, "this was nothing but weeds."

The parks around the Back Gate are indeed large and impressive, with good facilities and excellent upkeep.

Later in the evening, the lieutenant heads to Melba Bishop Park. This huge green network of fields, playgrounds, and courts has a state-of-the-art gymnasium at one end. Young parks the Grand Prix outside the main building and walks inside.

The gym is heated, well lit. Dozens of tiny kids are having basketball practice on the lacquered wooden courts. Lieutenant Young smiles as he looks across the sea of little dribblers

and shooters. He utters a single word: "Prevention."

Benevolent Street Soldier #2

One of the leaders of Victory Outreach Ministry, Tommy Romero, isn't Samoan. But he is from the Back Gate. And he knows about gangs.

"I arranged a few years back to have my son's apartment raided by gang members," Romero says, indicating quite a twist on the theme of concerned parenting. "I wanted to scare him away from the gang life, and I decided to try to educate him in my own way."

But when Romero showed up at his son's apartment an hour after the planned raid, he was more than surprised.

"They were all partying together." He shakes his head. "My son and the gang were drinking and laughing like old friends.

And I was, like, 'What's going on?' And they told me my son was already connected. He sold them their dope. I had no idea he was so far gone."

Romero's son was eventually arrested. Three times. After a prison stay, he reformed himself.

Today, Romero's boy is on a Victory Outreach mission in New Zealand.

"You'd be surprised," Romero says. His smile lifts his graying mutton chops.

"They've started copying our ways in New Zealand, copying our rap videos," he says. "Now they have motorcycle gangs and Crips and Bloods and the whole thing. My son's down there helping out."

Romero knows about the gang life because he's lived it himself.

"I was a gang member once," he says. "And now I just want to give back. We took so much

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from the neighborhoods, and now I want to give some of that back."

Benevolent Street Soldier #3

Roy Vallez, 58, grew up in Oceanside, and he helps out a lot of kids in the area.

"I moved away for about 19 years," he says, "and when I came back 2 years ago, I decided to get involved, because this wasn't the Oceanside that I knew. It was just a mess when I came back. The Oceanside I left was a community of one. Not a community of different races destroying each other's lives."

Vallez moved away to travel around the country doing prison ministries. He's a devout Christian. And now he's returned to Oceanside and has started up Gangland Ministries.

"It's just something I thought God wanted me to do," Vallez smiles. "I was over in the 'hood, dealing

with a lot of the kids, and they kept asking me who I represented. And I kept telling them, 'Oceanside.' But then I was in prayer one night, and God said, 'No, you represent Me.' So I came up with Gangland Ministry, and I printed up shirts that said, 'Who do you represent?' And I listed all the areas: Posole, Crown Heights, the Deep Valley, the Tri-City, the Bloods, the Crips... or Jesus. And then I'd go out and ask the kids questions. You know, do you believe in God? Do you know any of the Ten Commandments? And every gang banger knew one commandment, and that was 'Thou shalt not kill.' And then I'd ask them, 'Well, why do you kill then?' Mostly I'd just get real dumb looks."

Now Vallez is trying to make a difference in Oceanside. It seems to be working.

"We just enrolled our

first boy in Palomar College," he says, proudly. "He was involved in a stabbing about a year and a half ago, but he wasn't carrying a weapon, he was with two guys who were. So we worked with him and got his head on straight, and he graduated from high school last year. He's a real good kid. But he doesn't have a family, no mother and no father, and he actually had to raise his own eight-year-old brother. So he's a real good kid, and we helped get him into Palomar College absolutely free."

Rest in Peace: Officer Dan Bessant

"The most incredible thing, I think, about the night Dan Bessant died was all the police cars," Joanne Rush says. "It was just incredible. I've never seen anything like it. There were hundreds of them. Hundreds."

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Wayne Godinet remembers the days leading up to Bessant's murder in December 2006.

"When Officer Bessant was shot and killed," Godinet says, "he had just been named as a liaison to work with the Samoan community. But the thing was, his wife was pregnant, he was going to have a baby, so he was taking some time off to be with his wife. So in that interim period, we were anxiously waiting for him to join our effort

in the Back Gate, you know. And then when he did get back, I remember it was on a Wednesday, and I'd been waiting to talk with him, but I decided to wait till Thursday. I wanted to give him one day to get acclimated back to work. And that Wednesday night, his first night back, was when he was shot and killed."

Godinet remembers his cell phone ringing off the hook.

"I didn't know it was him that got shot,"

Godinet says. "But then I heard who it was, and I was, like, 'Oh, man. He just had a baby.' And then I got down there, and they were trying to go into homes in Back Gate. Some of the homes were Samoan. I knew some of the families and was able to call in and peacefully get them to come out and deal with the SWAT situation on that night."

Bessant's murder turned out to be the catalyst for the recent thrust to eradicate gangs from

the Samoan culture in the Back Gate.

"After that, some of the guys I grew up with who were involved in faith-based organizations and outreach had contacted me about how they could help and what they could do. We just decided we had to do as much as we could. But we also realized we had to do it locked arm in arm, culture to culture. And bring faith and a message and resources into these neighborhoods. We had

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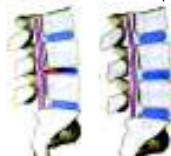
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to become like street soldiers fighting against the whole gang mentality. So Dan Bessant's death was a terrible, terrible thing. But we're trying to make something positive come out of it."

Rest in Peace: Rusty Seau

Joanne Rush was just a short jog from the spot where Rusty Seau died in June 2005. She'd known

him since he was a little boy.

Rush has witnessed an awful lot in her 14 years at the San Luis Rey Resource Center. Shootings in the parking lot. Dramas that have even spilled in through the doors. She's never feared for her life, she says, but she's also grown accustomed to some pretty harsh things.

"I've heard gunshots

over 50 times in my life," Rush said. She's jolly-seeming, but in a quiet way, with big, thick glasses and short gray hair. She's a grandmother with grandkids who are often afraid to go to the bathroom at their own school.

By now, when Rush hears the reports of guns in the distance, she does one thing: she prays.

"When Rusty died,"

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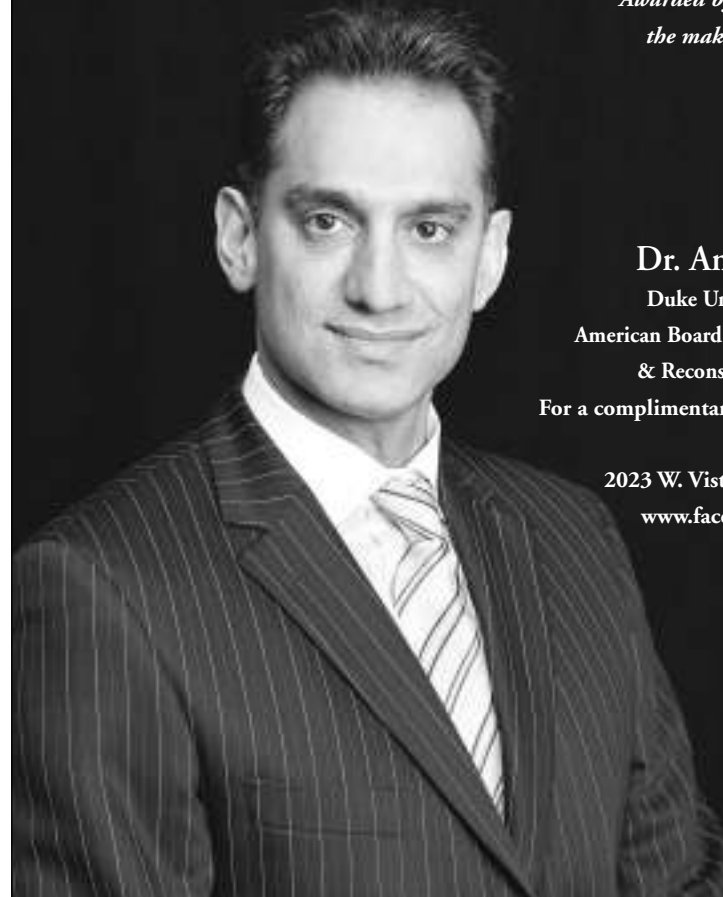
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Rush says, "someone ran in and told us what was going on. And we shut the center down and ran around the corner. It was right here on the corner of Gold and Vandegrift. I don't think Rusty was shot there. I heard he ran after he was hit, but that's where he fell. At first, a lot of us thought he'd been hit by a car. It was the middle of the day, and it was all so visible. We were all standing there, but Rusty's family couldn't even approach him, because it was a crime scene. Can you imagine watching your son die in

front of you and not being able to go to him one last time to tell him that you love him?"

Rest in Peace: Michelle Tate

Most people trace the current gang violence to the 1990 murder of Michelle Tate, a 14-year-old black girl shot in the very same parking lot where the Resource Center now stands, on the corner of Redondo and Vandegrift. Tate was killed by a Samoan gang member.

A year later, Akeli "Junior" Kelly was con-

victed at age 21 of second-degree murder and sentenced to 22 years to life in prison.

"That started the whole tit-for-tat," Wayne Godinet asserts. "We've never been on an even keel since that day. And it was almost 20 years ago!"

Rest in Peace: Murdered in the Back Gate

Pearl Seau, killed 11/12/02; Jessie Watson, killed 8/31/04; Joaquin Pruitt, killed 6/29/05; Timothy Edward Lindsay, killed 11/3/95. ■

— Geoff Bouvier

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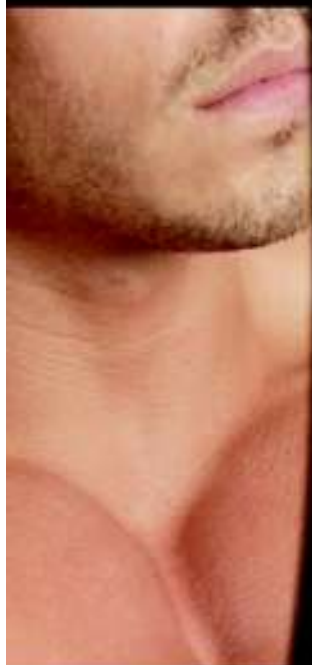
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African Luck

Koffi Kouakou is the first member of his family to read and write.

The first to ride in a plane.

The first to leave Côte d'Ivoire.

The first to leave Africa.

The first to drive a taxi.



Koffi Kouakou

Forty years old, he looks 20 years younger. He speaks English with a French accent. He laughs easily and often. "All my life I've heard that I'm lucky. Côte d'Ivoire gained independence from France in 1960. In 1966, the government opened the first school that there'd ever been in Zere, my village, where there are only about 200 people. It was an elementary school and the cutoff age was six. I was seven. My uncle very much wanted me to go to school, and so

he took me to a judge who decided how old I was. The judge looked at me and said, 'I think this boy is six years old.' And so I was able to go to school. Everyone said I was lucky. That's how I became the first member of my family to read and write." Zere is in southern Côte d'Ivoire, a few miles from the border with Ghana. Kouakou says that most people in Zere raise coffee or cocoa. They tend goats and sheep, cows, a few chickens. Depending on the sea-

son, their staple food is either rice, yams, or manioc. Jungle and forest surround the village. There are elephants, antelope, lions.

"Growing up, the most wonderful thing was the jungle. That's where we went to play. We hunted. We chased animals. We explored. There was always something to do. In the forest, you could see the sky through the trees. But in the jungle, you couldn't. The trees were so high. So even when the sun was very hot, it

was cooler in the jungle. We spent all day long there, playing."

Kouakou belongs to the Koulango-speaking people, a subgroup of the Aboron, a large tribe that extends from southern Côte d'Ivoire into Ghana. "The border between the two countries is artificial, a creation of the colonial powers. You have Aboron speakers on both sides of the border. Sort of like here, where you have Mexicans living in America and Mexicans in Mexico. They

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speaking the same language and share some of the same culture. Ghana was an English colony, and for me, that turned out to be a good thing.

"When I was a boy I was playing soccer and I injured my shoulder, and so I was taken to a hospital in Ghana, which was just a few kilometers away. The student doctors there liked me. They thought it was interesting to talk with an Aboroon from Côte d'Ivoire. Because Ghana was an English colony, they also spoke English. They started teaching me English. I had a lot of opportunity to practice. It was there in Ghana that I really started to be interested in English. When I got home, I began reading all the English books I could find. I was lucky to go to Ghana.

"What happened is that

"I come from a matriarchal society, so your mother's family, her brothers, your uncles, are often more important than your own father."

when I went to high school, there were three American men there from the Peace Corps. And there was one named Steve. On the first day of English class, Steve told a story about a poor man who decides to hang himself. He climbs up in a tree and throws down his clothes to the ground, and just when he's about to hang himself in the tree, a man runs up and takes his clothes. The man who was going to hang himself thinks, 'Well, there are people in the world more poor than I am. Maybe I shouldn't hang myself.' What happened is that I didn't get to hear all the story because the headmaster at the school called me to his office. By the time I got back to Steve's class, he was giving an exercise. Steve said, 'I want you to write in your own words the story that I just told you.' After I came back from

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Ghana, I read many books in English, and in one of them was this story about the man who was going to hang himself. I already knew the story. So I wrote down everything I remembered, and Steve thought I was a brilliant student. He thought what I wrote all came from my imagination. I became his best student. And because of that, when he left Côte

d'Ivoire, he invited me to come and visit his family in Washington State. So, again, I was very lucky.”
As Kouakou talks, he drives slowly down El Cajon Boulevard. We pass the Arab markets, the Vietnamese markets, the Somali markets, the Chinese herbalists, the Mexican *birria* restaurants.
“So many people,”

Kouakou says, waving his hand out the window. “From all over the world. Can you believe it?” He is taking me to African/Caribbean Food Market at 4811 El Cajon Boulevard, a touchstone for local sub-Saharan Africans.
“I went to visit Steve’s family in Washington. They paid for everything. They lived in a small village named Kelso. Before I got there, everyone knew I was coming. They even told the people at the newspaper. So they interviewed me. I was in the Kelso newspaper. There was a college there, and they wanted me to stay and study. But I thought, ‘No, I better go back to Africa and finish my high school.’ I got to see America for the first time.”
We pull up in front of African/Caribbean Food Market. Inside, the owner,



Grace Bempong, from Ghana, greets us. She hands me a business card. “We’ve been here two years,” she says. Behind her hangs a hand-lettered sign: “We now have fresh cola nuts!” The cola nuts, smooth, pink, pebblelike, sit in Ziploc

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bags in an African basket on the counter. "You wash them off, you chew them," Grace explains. "They keep you awake. In Africa students chew them so they can study. It's what they use in America to make Coca-Cola."

Packages of manioc flour, other unusual flours, and dried herbs I'd never heard of line the shelves of Grace's tidy shop. "We get Nigerians, Ivorians, Ghanaians. They come from as far away as Escondido, Poway, Mira Mesa," she says.

She and Kouakou exchange pleasantries. It's late in the afternoon. Kouakou says he needs coffee. He takes me to the Starbucks in Kensington. Walking through the front door, he inhales deeply. "Mmmmmh! Good coffee! Can you smell it? Good coffee!"

When he sips his cup,

"As an African you think that you're going to have a lot in common with black Americans. You don't. They really don't like us."

without cream or sugar, he sighs. He relaxes.

"My father," he says, "died when I was very young. I come from a matriarchal society, so your mother's family, her brothers, your uncles, are often more important than your own father. I was raised by two uncles. It's that way in Africa. Our families are very large. You're never alone."

"When I came back to Zere from Washington, I found out my grandfather, my mother's father, had died. He fought in the war of independence with the president of Côte d'Ivoire. The president came to his funeral. And so I told the president, 'My grandfather has taken care of me all my life. If you want to help me, you should give me some money for my education.' He did. He gave me \$10,000."

"I went to school in Paris

for a while. My uncle wanted me to study there so I could become a pharmacist, which is a very important job in rural Africa. But I was in Paris only two years, and I saw that it was impossible to get a job there. Impossible

for a French person. Even more impossible for an African. And so I came to visit Los Angeles with some French friends, and we drove down to San Diego. We went to Horton Plaza. It was the most amazing thing: I met

a guy there who I went to high school with in Côte d'Ivoire. He was in San Diego. And I took that as a sign. It was so unusual. So impossible. I decided to stay.

"A week or so later, this guy takes me to look for a job

at the Jack in the Box on Rosecrans, and to my surprise, they hired me immediately. I worked there for a while, and my friend was driving a cab. One day he showed me his pay stub. He was making in a single day

what it took me a week to make at Jack in the Box. That was it. I decided I should drive a taxi.

"I started doing that, and I started studying computer science at City College. I got a degree there,

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but I want to go on and get my master's. But driving a cab, it's impossible to finish anything.

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a lot of money. I bought it from an Iranian guy.

"I was married for about two years to an American girl, a white girl. But that didn't work out. We're divorced now. It's difficult to understand these things. As an African you think that you're going to have a lot in common with black Americans. You don't. They really don't like us. So, in 1998, I went back to my village and I met there this girl I knew in high school. We always

kept in touch. We sort of lost touch while I was married. But when I was there in my village I saw her again and we had a nice time. And I brought her here to live with me. You have to make a new life.

"I'm building a house in Africa. I save my money. I send it back. I'm also supporting — I don't know — I guess about ten people. My uncle, the one who made sure I went to school, he's 80. He can't do much. I have

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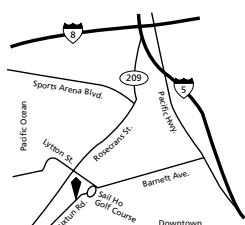
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4655 Cass Street, Suite 406, Pacific Beach, 858-273-5423

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A Doctor's Weight Loss Clinic **\$55 off initial fees**

A Dream Smile **ZOOM! Advanced teeth whitening \$199**

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Laser Clinique **\$100 off Juvéderm**

Lasting Beauty **20% off permanent makeup**

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LifeWalk **25% off weight loss system**

Lucky Spa **\$20 off 1-hour massage**

Philip Levy, OD **\$25 off eyeglasses**

Massage Envy **1-hour massage \$39**

Medi Mar **\$10 off medical marijuana evaluation**

Mesa Family Dentistry **\$500 off Invisalign**

Howard Milstein, MD, & Associates **Laser hair removal \$95**

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the rest of my family there. You have to understand, in Africa, the family is very tight. You really can't leave it. So that is why I'm building a home there. I want to go back.

"I've been back three times. When I go back, I like to go out in the jungle. You know, the village isn't the same. All my old friends are grown up, and we're supposed to do grown-up things. They say, 'Why do you want to go to the jungle?' I go because that's what I miss

about Africa. I go and spend the whole day wandering around.

"You don't forget those things. It's something very special. That's why I want to go back someday. In the village, they all think I'm a big man, a big success. I live in America. They all think I'm rich. They want to come to America. And I tell them, 'You know, in many ways you're better off here [in Africa]. Some people make it in America. Some people don't. And if you get sick,

and you don't have your family, you die in the street.' Because I have seen it here. People who have no family, and they die on the street. My uncle is 80 and his health isn't good. Here, you put old people in homes where they die alone. My uncle has his family. In Africa we may be very poor, but it's very unusual to die old and alone." ■

—Abe Opincar

Originally Published in the Reader on November 9, 2000

HEALTH AND BEAUTY



couple enjoys aromatherapy hot tub...



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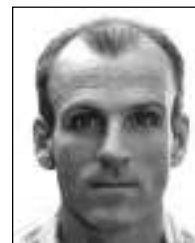
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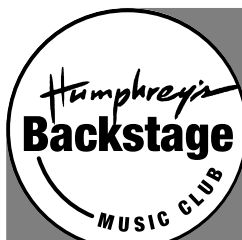
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Thursday, February 21
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Friday, February 22

6 pm • Soul, R&B
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9:30 pm
Dance & Disco

Makai



Saturday, February 23

5 pm **Challenged Athletes Foundation
Singles Auction and Silent Auction**

9:30 pm • Latin Rock

**Viva
Santana**



Sunday, February 24

8 pm • Smooth Jazz

Hank Easton

with host **Tayari**
& **DJ John Phillips**



Monday, February 25

8 pm • Blues Guitarist

**Sean
Costello**

Tuesday, February 26

8 pm • Dance R&B

DJ John Phillips

Wednesday, February 27

8 pm • Rock 'n' Roll

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Photo by Matt Lewis.

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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.)

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

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Poway Mint Under Threat

Lopez Canyon Trash Pick-Up

People who camp out there are not wilderness people, they're more like transients and drug addicts," says city ranger John Garwood. "We've found needles and pipes. The most common [items found] are plastic bottles, vegetable cans, batteries, pots, and stuff. About the strangest thing I've found is a television." Once a month, Garwood leads a volunteer trash pickup in López Canyon, 2000 acres of land in Mira Mesa that is part of the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. The next cleanup will take place on Sunday, February 24.

LOCAL EVENTS

"There's a guy who lives right off the rim of López Canyon, Neil Meyer," says Garwood. "He's enthusiastic about cleaning up López because that's pretty much his back yard." Meyer, who has lived in the area for ten years, says, "I spend a lot of time in the canyon with my dog and by myself, walking, running, or riding a bike." Though he has always noticed a significant amount of trash in the canyon, it was only within the past year, Meyer says, that he realized "part of the problem was homeless camps."

Initially, Meyer tried to get the police involved, "but the police were very slow to respond." As a member of the Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Reserve (a volunteer organization), Meyer "initiated some trash pickups with rangers' help so we could drive down there with trucks." When Meyer encounters people camping in the preserve, "I tell them, 'Next weekend we're going to be down here, and anything

left behind, we're taking.' I give them a chance to take what they want and get out of there."

Most of the larger items, like couches or computer monitors, are dumped by people off the Camino Santa Fe Bridge just north of Mira Mesa Boulevard. Volunteers make as many trips as necessary, and smaller refuse is taken to a Dumpster at the ranger station on Mercy Road by Black Mountain Road. Computers, plastic bottles, cans, and other recyclables are brought to a nearby recycling facility, and some loads are occasionally brought to the landfill on Convoy.

"I live in the area, but even if I didn't, this has always been one of my favorite areas with lots of great wildlife and the largest population of deer in San Diego," says Ryan Moccock, a biology teacher at Poway High School. "I like to get the kids involved, because we sometimes talk about nonnative species like the eucalyptus trees and how they affect the environment." Moccock has offered extra credit to students in the past for assisting in cleanup efforts. "They're hiking through the vegetation, seeing deer droppings. I get poison oak just about every time I go out there, but I like to wear shorts and short sleeves."

The most unpleasant discovery, along with syringes and other drug paraphernalia, has been human waste. "[People camping in the area] collect [the waste] in containers so they don't smell up their campsites, but they leave [the containers] behind," says Meyer. "Homeless people would bottle their urine, and when my students found that, I heard lots of screeches," remembers Moccock.



Altered view of Lopez Canyon

Moccock says it's a "never-ending battle" against people using the canyon as a giant Dumpster. One night he was drawn outside of his home by a loud noise. "I saw this guy dumping huge bags of concrete, throwing it out as fast as he could. I'm afraid to yell at the guy because it's the middle of the night and, who knows, he'll know where I live and stuff." The cement could interfere with local wildlife. "At the bottom there's a creek, and it drains through the entire canyon."

"We have an endangered plant, the willowy monardella — another name for it is the Poway mint," says Mike Kelly, president of the San Diego Conservation Resources Network. "It's a highly endangered sub-shrub [one to three feet tall]. Its entire home range is between 805 on the west, 52 on the south, Scripps Poway freeway on the north, and 67 on the east. The plant is not found anywhere outside of that very small area."

Threats to the Poway mint include erosion caused by building development, dumping of trash, and invasive plants like wild chrysanthemum, mustard, and filaree. "From the 1970s to 2008 there has

been continuous development, sending storm water into López Canyon at a rate, volume, speed, and force that it never had prior to the 1970s," says Kelly. This runoff is also a major contributor to the trash problem. "The City of San Diego storm drains empty into all these canyons," says Meyer. "They're a natural depository for water [and trash] coming off of these streets."

Moccock says the regular cleanups do help. "When I initially moved in three years ago, there was trash like you wouldn't believe; it hadn't been addressed in a long time. But now I see trails growing in with native plants and more deer droppings, which means they're now moving into areas they weren't in before."

— Barbarella

Volunteer Trash Pick-up in López Canyon
Sunday, February 24
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Meet at López Ridge Park,
7245 Calle Cristobal
Mira Mesa
Info: 858-538-8066 or penasquitos.org



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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

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 SDReader.com by clicking on the events section.

OUTDOORS

“Babelesque” Bellydance Superstars perform a “cross-section of tribal, Egyptian, and cabaret styles...taking an ancient art form into the mainstream” with “new choreography, costumes, and production.” Reservations: 619-570-1100 or Ticketmaster (619-220-8497). Sunday, February 24, 3 p.m.; \$30-\$55. Balboa Theatre, 854 Fourth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

American Latin and Ballroom Dance Party DJ plays Latin, ballroom, and requests for dancing for singles and couples of all ages. West Coast swing lesson at 8 p.m. First time free. 619-275-3533. Saturday, February 23, 8 p.m.; Pattie Wells’ Dancetime Center, 1255 West Morena Boulevard. (LINDA VISTA)

English Country Dancing Janet Arnold calls for English country dancing. 858-676-9731. Sunday, February 24, 6 p.m.; \$6. Jean Hart Academy of Dance, 12227 Poway Road. (POWAY)

Presidential Request Night Wear red, white, and blue for dance honoring Presidents Lincoln and Washington. Bring food to share. 619-281-5656. Saturday, February 23, 8 p.m.; \$4-\$6. Folk Dance Center, 4569 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

The More the Merrier Community band makes music, JoAnn Koppany calls for San Diego Folk Heritage contradance. Beginners’ dance workshop: 7:30 p.m. Wear soft-soled shoes. 619-283-8550. Saturday, February 23, 7 p.m.; \$7. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street. (NORTH PARK)

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

The 2600-mile Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), which was intended to hit as many high points as possible along its mountainous route between the Mexican and Canadian borders, takes an anomalous detour into the Anza-Borrego Desert within San Diego County. At the time this segment of the PCT was built (1980s), a shorter, high-elevation route following the forested Volcan Mountain crest to the west was unavailable due to a large parcel of private property in the way. As a result, the PCT was circuitously routed down from the Laguna Mountain



Agave and cactus along Pacific Crest Trail

crest to Scissors Crossing, then up and over the dry San Felipe Hills toward Warner Springs. The excessively winding, 24-mile stretch between Scissors Crossing and Highway S-22, featuring no water, furnace-like heat at times, and only marginal camping spots, challenges the patience of anyone who tries to follow it all the way — including the Mexico-to-Canada “through-hikers,” who typically travel this section in April.

For those with an interest in botany, however, the San Felipe stretch of the PCT — at least the initial couple of miles upward from Scissors Crossing — is rewarding, especially after winter rains bring sufficient moisture to the desert.

From Scissors Crossing (the intersection of Highways 78 and S-2, which is 12 miles east of Julian), drive 0.2 mile north on S-2 from Highway 78 to a large parking lot on the right, which is a staging area for the PCT. From the northeast corner of that parking lot, hike north up a wide, sandy wash for 0.1 mile. On the left you’ll find the PCT trail tread cut into the hillside. Climb up to it, go left and steadily ascend for the next two miles on a winding course through an excellent cross-section of mid-level desert vegetation, mainly of the succulent and prickly variety.

Look for and try to identify the following common desert plants: teddy-bear cholla, buckhorn cholla, hedgehog cactus, prickly-pear cactus, barrel cactus, ocotillo, Mojave yucca, desert apricot, jojoba, juniper, and agave. The cactus plants plump up with abundant rainfall and shrink during periods of drought. After periods of rainfall, the normally dry and stony slopes wear a fresh coat of tender grass, highlighted by annual and perennial wildflowers of a dozen hues.

As you climb upward, the sound of traffic on the highways below mutes,

and the cinemascopic view takes in the long sweep of the aligned San Felipe and

it’s worth going for a casual hike. The view potential and the botanical interest of the

SAN FELIPE HILLS

Explore a botanically rich segment of the Pacific Crest Trail in the arid San Felipe Hills of Anza-Borrego.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 72 miles

Hiking length: 4 miles round-trip

Difficulty: Moderate

Earthquake valleys below, and the parallel Volcan Mountain crest. The generally linear alignments of landforms are due to the parallel Elsinore and Earthquake Valley faults, which underlie the area.

After about two miles of upward travel, the trail crosses a small wash and begins to level out. You’ve gained 700 feet of elevation and come about as far as

trail ahead do not improve.

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.



FILM

“Girl Shy” Enjoy this 1924 Harold Lloyd flick when silent-film expert, pianist Philip Carli shares information and provides piano accompaniment in Little Theatre room 3601. 760-795-6613. Saturday, February 23, 7:30 p.m.; MiraCosta College, One Barnard Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

“Harold and Maude” Hal Ashby’s 1972 black comedy starring Bud Cort and Ruth Gordon is featured during “POP! Thursday” party blending “photography and film with drinks and music.” 619-238-

7559. Sunday, February 24, 6 p.m.; Museum of Photographic Arts, 1649 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

“He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not” Audrey Tautou stars in this 2002 French film directed by Laetitia Colombani, showcased during International Film Series in room 201 at MiraCosta’s San Elijo campus (3333 Manchester Avenue); film repeats at 7 p.m. on Oceanside campus. 760-795-6612. In French with English subtitles. Friday, February 22, 1 p.m.; MiraCosta College San Elijo Campus, 3333 Manchester Avenue. (CARDIFF)

“He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not,” Again! Audrey Tautou stars in this 2002 French film directed by Laetitia Colombani, showcased during International Film Series in room 3601. 760-795-6612. In French with English subtitles. Friday, February 22, 7 p.m.; MiraCosta College, One Barnard Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

“Iron Ladies of Liberia” Documentary screening for Film Forum explores how “Africa’s first freely elected female head of state,” Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, president of Liberia, runs her fledgling presidency. 619-236-5800. Wednesday, February 27,

6:30 p.m.; San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (DOWNTOWN)

“Mumblecore” Cinema Lounge Series hosted by Sushi Performance and Visual Art promises “film and video that is outside of the mainstream.” Pay what you can. 619-235-8466. Tuesday, February 26, 7 p.m.; Basic Urban Kitchen and Bar, 410 Tenth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

“The Jane Austen Book Club” Kathy Baker, Maria Bello, Jimmy Smits, others star in this 2007 film showcased during “Romance”-themed Carlsbad Library film series. 760-602-2026. Wednesday, February 27, 6 p.m.; Schulman Auditorium at Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane. (CARLSBAD)

“The Nines” John August’s unique 2007 film starring Ryan Reynolds, Hope Davis, and Melissa McCarthy is featured for Film Forum series. 619-236-5800. Monday, February 25, 6:30 p.m.; San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (DOWNTOWN)

“The Photographers” Documentary focusing on “renowned photographers of *National Geographic*” screens in conjunction with current “In Focus: National Geographic Greatest Portraits” exhibit. Film is unrated; some imagery may be inappropriate for young children. 760-434-2904 or 760-602-2021. Sunday, February 24, 1 p.m.; Sunday, February 24, 2 p.m.; Sunday, February 24, 3 p.m.; Schulman Auditorium at Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane. (CARLSBAD)

“Uncounted” How were Americans cheated during 2004 and 2006 elections, and how have “enraged” voters turned their anger into citizen activism to safeguard the vote? Find out when this documentary is screened by Current Events Theater. 619-933-1526. Sunday, February 24, 2 p.m.; Rancho San Diego Library, 11555 Via Rancho San Diego. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

Sounds of Silents Silent-film expert, pianist Philip Carli shares information and provides piano accompaniment when *Exit Smiling* (1926), starring Beatrice Lillie and Jack Pickford, is screened in room 204 at MiraCosta’s San Elijo campus (3333 Manchester Avenue). 760-795-6613. Friday, February 22, 7:30 p.m.; MiraCosta College San Elijo Campus, 3333 Manchester Avenue. (CARDIFF)

The Boys versus the Babes! Enjoy the Laurel and Hardy flicks *Chickens Come Home*, *Beau Hunks*, and *It Happened One Day* when Saps at Sea Tent — local chapter of Laurel and Hardy fans — gathers. 619-417-9032. Saturday, February 23, 7 p.m.; \$6. Trinity Presbyterian Church, 3902 Kenwood Drive. (SPRING VALLEY)

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FOR KIDS

"Disney's Aladdin, Jr." Young Actors' Theatre junior division, with actors in grades one-seven, presents production with classic Disney songs, February 23–March 2. Tickets: 619-670-1627. Saturday, February 23, 2 p.m.; Sunday, February 24, 1 p.m.; Saturday, February 23, 7 p.m.; \$12-\$20. Sherwood Auditorium at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, 700 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

"The Little Engine That Could" Big Joe Productions take stage through Sunday, February 24. Next up: *Rumplestiltskin* by Millie Patterson's Weaver's Tales, February 27–March 2. 619-544-9203. Wednesday, February 27, 11:30 a.m.; Wednesday, February 27, 10 a.m.; Friday, February 22, 10 a.m.; Thursday, February 21, 11:30 a.m.; Friday, February 22, 11:30 a.m.; Thursday, February 21, 10 a.m.; Saturday, February 23, 11 a.m.; Saturday, February 23, 1 p.m.; Sunday, February

24, 1 p.m.; Sunday, February 24, 2:30 p.m.; Sunday, February 24, 11 a.m.; Sunday, February 24; Saturday, February 23, 2:30 p.m.; \$3-\$5. Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Road West. (BALBOA PARK)

A Class for the Birds! Create a rustic bird feeder, "make some recipes only a bird would enjoy," then have a snack yourself during Secrets of the Garden program for those four and older (with an adult). 619-660-0614. Monday, February 25, 6 p.m.; \$12-\$15. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

IN PERSON

"A Day in Tuscany" Dario Castagno discusses and signs his second book. 858-454-0347. Tuesday, February 26, 7:30 p.m.; Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

"Giant Bohemian Garage Sale" Circus and performance art celebrated

when Zirk Ubu performs in parking lot. Troupe includes cast members with talents in circus and sideshow arts (sword-swallowers, aerialists, body-balancers, clowns), others "specialize in storytelling through masks, shadow-puppetry, or movement, and dance." Donation. 619-519-4755. Sunday, February 24, 3 p.m.; \$5. Clark's TV and Appliance, 4611 North Avenue. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

"Music, Language, and the Brain" Aniruddh D. Patel discusses his new book, which "challenges the widespread belief that music and language are processed independently." Patel is a senior fellow in theoretical neurobiology at Neurosciences Institute. 858-456-1800. Saturday, February 23, 7 p.m.; D.G. Wills Books, 7461 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

"The Story Drum: Taiko and Tales from Japan" Storyteller Katy Rydell pairs up with the all-female Japanese-American performance ensemble Shin3 for a program of Japanese performing arts including

taiko, storytelling, traditional folk music and dance for Storytellers of San Diego. Performance takes place in Manchester Conference Center. Suitable for adults, children over 12. 619-298-6363. Saturday, February 23, 7:30 p.m.; \$10. USD: University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park. (USD)

Author Appearance Meet Michael Dowd, who will be on hand to "visit informally with customers," then sign books (*Thank God for Evolution*). 858-270-8642. Saturday, February 23, 5:30 p.m.; Open Door Books, 4761 Cass Street. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Author Signing Del Mar author Paul L. Woodring signs copies of his novel *Inventions*. 760-497-0242. Saturday, February 23, 1 p.m.; Borders Books and Music - Carlsbad, 1905 Calle Barcelona. (CARLSBAD)

Get Rolling! Author Shawn Rohrbach gives advice on bicycling, signs *Open Your Heart with Bicycling*. Rohrbach "is originally from the Seattle area, where he rode 12 months out of the year, including commuting

during the winter." 619-482-9883. Saturday, February 23, 2 p.m.; Borders Books and Music - Chula Vista, 878 EastLake Parkway. (CHULA VISTA)

Greed, Corruption, Love The musical *Urinetown* presented by 25 students of Coronado School of the Arts in Performing Arts Center, February 15–23. "Musical combines social commentary with large doses of humor." 619-522-4050. Thursday, February 21, 7 p.m.; Friday, February 22, 7 p.m.; Saturday, February 23, 7 p.m.; \$12-\$15. Ages 10 and up. Coronado School of the Arts, 650 D Avenue. (CORONADO)

Literary Reading World Literary Series continues with reading by performance poet Edwin Torres, author of *The All-Union Day of the Shock Worker* and other books, in Grand Salon (room 113) of M. Gordon Clarke Field House. Parking fee. 760-750-8077. Thursday, February 21, 7 p.m.; CSU San Marcos, 333 South Twin Oaks Valley Road. (SAN MARCOS)

LECTURES

"American Empire and the War Against Evil" Christian feminist theologian Rosemary Radford Ruether speaks for "Burke Lecture-ship on Religion and Society" in Pepper Canyon Hall room 109. Lecture is based on her latest book, *America, Amerikkka: Elect Nation and Imperial Violence*. 858-534-0999. Monday, February 25, 8 p.m.; UCSD: University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (UCSD)

"American Folk Art: Challenging Artistic Sensibilities in the 21st Century" American folk art and outsider art authority Roger Ricco, co-owner of Ricco/Maresca Gallery in New York, speaks in celebration of museum's 30th anniversary. 619-239-0003 x405. Saturday, February 23, 4:30 p.m.; \$10-\$15. Mingei International Museum, 1439 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

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What's That You're Reading?

NAME: ALAN ALZONA | **AGE:** 24 | **OCCUPATION:** CLOTHING STORE MANAGER
NEIGHBORHOOD: SCRIPPS RANCH | **WHERE INTERVIEWED:** UTC LA JOLLA



What are you currently reading?

"I'm reading *Sex, Drugs, and Cocoa Puffs*, by Chuck Klosterman."

Tell me about it.

"It's not really based on anything — it's, like, pop culture compared to actual life. In one chapter, he talks about *The Real World* on MTV; in another, he goes on tour with a Guns N' Roses tribute band; and then there's a chapter where he's coaching a Little League team. It's random, but he's a really brilliant writer. I can really relate to the stuff in it because

I'm all about pop culture as well."

Do you have a favorite chapter?

"Probably the one where he goes on tour with the tribute band. Each member of the band has to fit the character of the real band members — the Axl Rose guy hits on every girl in every bar and invites them to the show. There's a debate about kicking the Slash guy out of the band because his hair isn't long enough. And

the band members talk about how they enjoy making music for people when it's not really their music. They're totally comfortable being a fake band. But then they were trying to do the after-party thing and get the girls to go back to their hotel room and it didn't work because they weren't Guns N' Roses. It's ridiculous."

Tell me about the style.

"Klosterman uses a lot of profanity. He writes like he's talking to you — it's not overly intellectualized."

What book has been most life-changing for you?

"Probably *God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything* by Christopher Hitchens. I was raised an atheist — my father is an atheist as well. The book opened my eyes to a lot of stuff; I wasn't

educated in any religion, and Hitchens showed how religion poisons things. I'm not trying to talk trash about any kind of religion, but it does affect a lot of things, and it has caused a lot of horrible stuff in this world. He touches on everything: how, basically, it's the reason for wars and all that other stuff. He's really educated about religion, and he talks about all of them, not just Christianity. The more I read of it, the more I can grasp the world as a whole."

Who are your favorite authors?

"I didn't get into books until last year, so it would have to be Klosterman. I also want to read more Hitchens."

Do you talk to your friends about reading?

"My ex-girlfriend got me into reading. She gave me *Sex, Drugs, and Cocoa*

Puffs for Christmas. She also gave me the Hitchens book. She is the most amazing girl in the world, and she is all about the reading. She basically built my taste for literature."

What magazines or newspapers do you read?

"*The Reader*, *944*, and *Vice*. *Vice* is one of my favorite magazines; they cover streetwear, art, music, and everything. My favorite section is the "Do's and Don't's." They'll have random pictures of people on the street and really funny captions. They'll talk about how an outfit is totally Eurotrash. Sometimes, they're inappropriate. There's one where a guy is wearing shorts that are so short that you can see pretty much everything. And *944* gives me really great suggestions for restaurants.

"Animal Cruelty Lecture" What can you do for an abused or neglected animal? Find out when Sergeant Shari Olson presents talk covering animal-related laws and what kind of action can be taken to help victims of animal abuse. Registration: 619-243-3424. Thursday, February 21, 6:30 p.m.; \$10. San Diego Humane Society and SPCA, 5500 Gaines Street. (LINDA VISTA)

"Beginning and Refresher Genealogy Class" Six-consecutive Monday night course offered by North San Diego County Genealogical Society begins February 25. Non-members welcome. 760-757-0528. Monday, February 25, 7 p.m.; Cole Library, 1250 Carlsbad Village Drive. (CARLSBAD)

"Celebration of Hope and Healing" Survivors of Torture International gather to hear Carlos Mauricio, a torture survivor from El Salvador who was "working as a professor at the University of El Salvador when he was abducted and taken to National Police Headquarters...detained and tortured for nearly two

weeks." The "expressive arts group" Owl & Panther visits from Tucson to join the event, which concludes with live music performances, dessert reception. 619-278-2421. Sunday, February 24, 2 p.m.; \$50. Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park. (LINDA VISTA)

"Cooking Inspired by Pompeii" Recipes to "rock your world with explosive flavor" presented by chef Elizabeth of Elizabeth's Kitchen, including Chicken Vesuvius, more. Recipes and tastings included. 619-255-0203. Saturday, February 23, 10 a.m.; \$25-\$33. San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

"English Civil Registration" "English Interest Class" group gathers, sponsored by British Isles Genealogical Research Association. Nonmembers welcome. 619-583-8352. Wednesday, February 27, 10:30 a.m.; LDS Family History Center, 4195 Camino del Rio South. (MISSION VALLEY)

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Place:	San Diego County Library (Vista Branch) 700 Eucalyptus Ave., Vista, CA 92084
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“Food for Life” Nutrition and cooking class “designed for cancer prevention and survival” continues with “Planning Healthy Meals; Antioxidants and Phytochemicals” presented by Tracy Childs. RSVP: 858-450-5990 x243. Tuesday, February 26, 11:45 a.m.; Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center , 10905 Road to the Cure. (CARMEL VALLEY)

“Forensic Genealogy, Part 3: The DNA Detective” Former NASA scientist, genealogist, author Colleen Fitzpatrick addresses North San Diego County Genealogical Society. Learn “how the use of DNA testing is becoming increasingly important in genealogical research.” Nonmembers welcome. 760-630-5720. Tuesday, February 26, 10 a.m.; Carlsbad City Council Chambers, 1200 Carlsbad Village Drive. (CARLSBAD)

“God, Religion, and Atheism in America” Jai Ghorpade, professor emeritus of business at SDSU, speaks for Atheist Coalition of San Diego. He will discuss also “his recent experience running a pro-atheist editorial in the *San Diego Union-Tribune*.” 619-342-7388. Tuesday, February 26, 6:30 p.m.; North Park Recreation Center, 4044 Idaho Street. (NORTH PARK)

“International Intervention in Humanitarian Crisis” Gillian Sorensen of United Nations Foundation discusses how to balance national sovereignty with human rights. Sorensen served as assistant secretary-general for external relations on appointment by Secretary-General Kofi Annan from 1997 to 2003. Talk is in IR/PS room 3201. 858-822-5297 Monday, February 25, 7 p.m.; UCSD: University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (UCSD)

“Is Black History Relevant in the 21st Century?” Panel of scholars, educators, journalists will focus on the question for Black History Forum moderated by Princeton University ombudsman Reverend D.A. Graham and SDSU professor Shirley Weber. Audience participation. Reception follows. 619-239-2346. Saturday, February 23, 1 p.m.; Christ United Presbyterian Church, 3025 Fir Street. (SOUTH PARK)

“Making of the Modern World” Stanley Chodorow, professor emeritus of history, discusses “Church and State in the High Middle Ages” in Great Hall of Eleanor Roosevelt College. 858-534-0999. Wednesday, February 27, 7 p.m.; UCSD: University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (UCSD)

“Marine Environments Through Time” Explore this changing ecology by examining fossil marine invertebrates and the invertebrate collections during class led by Scott Rugh. “San Diego fossil record indicates that for most of the last 70 million years much of San Diego was underneath an ancient bay.” 619-255-0203. Wednesday, February 27, 6:30 p.m.; \$15-\$20. Ages 16 and up. San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

“Mulch, Compost, Fertilizer!” Water Wise Series continues with examination of benefits of mulch, compost, fertilizer. 619-660-0614. Saturday, February 23, 1 p.m.; \$15-\$25. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

“MySpace or Your Space II” Discussion of privacy issues in popular online forums such as MySpace and Facebook led by award-winning science fiction writer David Brin (*The Transparent Society: Will Technology Force Us to Choose Between Freedom and Privacy?*). How will blog

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postings affect students’ future job prospects? Would an online code of conduct protect individual privacy or restrict freedom of expression? Included in regular gallery admission. 619-238-1233. Wednesday, February 27, 3:30 p.m.; \$6-\$8. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

“Nutrition Solutions for Common Challenges During Treatment” Talk by Vicki Newman, R.D. Reservations: 858-822-2236. Wednesday, February 27, 3:30 p.m.; Moores UCSD Cancer Center, 3855 Health Sciences Drive. (LA JOLLA)

“Parrot Personalities” Parrot Education and Adoption Center seminar, followed by “Parrot Safety” at 2:45. Room D-6. Reservations: 619-287-8200. Sunday, February 24, 1 p.m.; \$15. Marina Village Conference Center, 1936 Quivira Way. (PACIFIC BEACH)

“Politics of Science: The War on Choice” Vanessa Cooney, grassroots coordinator of Planned Parenthood, speaks for San Diego Association for Rational Inquiry. 619-421-5844. Sunday, February 24, 7 p.m.; Joyce Beers Community Center, 1230 Cleveland Avenue. (HILLCREST)

“Sustainable Cities in the Desert: the Case of San Diego” Alliant International University professor David A. Bainbridge presents lecture, digital images for Sierra Club. 619-585-3773, 619-299-1743. Monday, February 25, 7:30 p.m.; Joyce Beers Community Center, 1230 Cleveland Avenue. (HILLCREST)

“The End of Exceptionalism in War Crimes” Ambassador David Scheffer of Northwestern University Law School focuses on American exceptionalism, which as a “concept has run its course in the sphere of international criminal justice,” in IR/PS room 3201 at UCSD. 858-822-

5297. Thursday, February 21, 4 p.m.; UCSD: University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (UCSD)

“The State of the City’s Nursery” Mike Rasmusson from City of San Diego’s Nursery addresses Mission Hills Garden Club about “the nursery’s ongoing projects, the functions they perform in the maintenance and beautification of the city’s parks, and what their plans are for the future in light of ongoing water shortages.” 619-260-8312. Wednesday, February 27, 6 p.m.; Mission Hills United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw Street. (MISSION HILLS)

“Vesuvius: A Killer Volcano” Learn why and how volcanoes differ in eruptive style when Pat Abbott of San Diego State University explores “eye-opening lessons” of Vesuvian eruptions. “Has Mt. Vesuvius finished producing killer eruptions? No, and today millions of people live in the danger zone.” 619-255-0203.

Monday, February 25, 8 p.m.; \$12-\$16. San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

“Violin in America” Panel discussion with David A. Lusteran, William M. Townsend, Joseph Curtin, and Benoît Rolland offering “whirlwind tour of the past, present, and future of violin and bow making.” What inspires makers to devote their lives to this mythic instrument? Reservations: 760-438-5996 x212. Saturday, February 23, 2 p.m.; \$7-\$10. Museum of Making Music, 5790 Armada Drive. (CARLSBAD)

“Woodpeckers of Southern California” Buena Vista Audubon Society meets to hear Oregon naturalist and self-described “woodpecker specialist” Steve Shunk, author of forthcoming *Peterson Reference Guide to Woodpeckers of North America*. Shunk will discuss lives and times of local woodpeckers, help with identification of nine species calling Southern California home. Attendees will also have opportunity to sign up for his guided walk on following Saturday. 760-439-2473. Wednesday, February 27, 7 p.m.; Ages 12 and up.

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

“World Travel 101” Hostelling International USA provides tips and resources for independent travelers including packing tips, personal safety, budgeting, cultural awareness, more. 619-338-9981. Wednesday, February 27, 7 p.m.; Tuesday, February 26, 7 p.m.; REI San Diego, 5556 Copley Drive. (CLAIREMONT)

2008 Russell Lecture Influential artist Robert Irwin is this year’s speaker, in conjunction with current exhibition, “Robert Irwin: Primaries and Secondaries,” a survey spanning over five decades of his work. 858-454-3541. Thursday, February 21, 7 p.m.; Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla, 700 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

Bead It Learn to make a hand-woven beaded amulet necklace; complete instructions from start to finish. Materials not included in fee. 760-726-8390. Sunday, February 24, 11 a.m.; \$40. Kindred Journeys, 510 North Coast Highway #101A. (OCEANSIDE)



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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

Book Arts Lecture Victoria Rabinowe presents dream-inspired artists' books, paintings, drawings, and digital animations investigating "realm of enchantment, the landscape of myth, and the genius of the night mind." 858-454-5872. Friday, February 22, 7:30 p.m.; Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, 1008 Wall Street. (LA JOLLA)

California Friendly Landscaping City of San Diego offers "Residential Low-Water Use" gardening class focusing on garden design for homeowners, benefits of using California-friendly plants, sprinkler system basics for homeowners, introduction to irrigation scheduling. Registration: 619-533-4136. Saturday, February 23, 9 a.m.; Ages 18 and up. Montgomery Waller Park, 3020 Coronado Avenue. (CORONADO)

Encinitas Streetscaping Project to enhance the North Coast Highway 101 corridor includes workshop with presentations by consultants and input requested by community. (Part two of workshop includes walking tour of project area, presentations, brainstorming, on Saturday, February 23, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.) 760-633-2714. Thursday, February 21, 6 p.m.; Oakcrest Middle School, 675 Balour Drive. (ENCINITAS)

First Aid for Dogs and Cats American Red Cross class covers treatments for pet emergencies including choking, shock, poisoning, and broken bones. Required reservations: 619-243-3424. Saturday, February 23, 1 p.m.; \$55. Ages 12 and

up. San Diego Humane Society and SPCA, 5500 Gaines Street. (LINDA VISTA)

Get the Singin' Skinny! Donizetti's bel canto-style lyric opera *Mary, Queen of Scots* illuminated by musicologist Ron Shaheen. 760-434-2904. Saturday, February 23, 10 a.m.; Schulman Auditorium at Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane. (CARLSBAD)

Get to Know Filipino Food Chef Larry, TV personality and "three-time Culinary Olympics Gold Medalist," explores history and influences of Filipino food and its place among the great ethnic cuisines in Hall of Nations of House of Pacific Relations. He will also offer sampling of Filipino food. Donations appreciated. 619-804-8424. Saturday, February 23, 2 p.m.; House of Pacific Relations, 2125 Park Boulevard. (BALBOA PARK)

How's Your Heart? Sandra Levin of WomenHeart discusses risk factors, warning signs, prevention of heart disease in women. 858-581-9931. Wednesday, February 27, 6:30 p.m.; North Clairemont Library, 4616 Clairemont Drive. (CLAIREMONT)

Insight Seminar for "The American Plan" Seminar with actors, designers, directors offered for each Old Globe Theatre production; artists from all phases of production process plan "lively exchange of ideas and insights that enhance the theatergoing experience." 619-23-GLOBE. Monday, February 25, 6:30 p.m.; The Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego County Archaeological Society Group meets to hear Russ Collett speak about a paper he wrote with Richard D. Schultz entitled "Complexity in the Upper San Luis Rey River: Testing True and

OUT & ABOUT

HAROLD AND MAUDE
at POP Thursday party,
Museum of
Photographic Arts,
February 21

(SEE FILM)



Waugh's Model of San Luis Rey Settlement." Event takes place in Los Peñasquitos Ranch adobe. 858-538-8066. Tuesday, February 26, 7:50 p.m.; Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, 12020 Black Mountain Road. (CARMEL VALLEY)

OUTDOORS

Audubon Society Bird Walk Bring binoculars and drinking water to explore Tecolote Canyon. 858-581-9944. Saturday, February 23, 9 a.m.; Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road. (CLAIREMONT)

Basic Birding Tom Troy leads basic birding program with emphasis on identifying birds by sight and sound and using binoculars, spotting scopes, field guides. Directions: 760-967-6915. Saturday, February 23, 8:30 a.m.; Buena Vista Audubon Society Nature Center, 2202 South Coast Highway. (CARLSBAD)

Canyon Favorites Hike Naturalist Pat Watkins leads moderately paced hike to Carson's Crossing and

the Preserve's waterfall, starting at kiosk. Bring water, sun protection, and wear good footwear. 858-484-3219. Saturday, February 23, 3:30 p.m.; Peñaquitos Preserve kiosk, Park Village Road and Camino del Sur. (RANCHO PENASQUITOS)

Desert Garden Tour Bizarre trees, cacti, succulents showcased when Offshoot Tours hosts its monthly hour-long guided stroll through desert garden. 619-235-1122. Saturday, February 23, 10 a.m.; Balboa Park Visitors' Center, 1549 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

El Cuervo Adobe History Hike Anthropologist Will Bowen leads hike to El Cuervo ruins; learn about controversy over who built it, check out the old roundup corral. Bring water and sun protection, wear good footwear. 858-342-8856. Sunday, February 24, 3 p.m.; Los Peñasquitos Canyon trailhead, 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard. (CARMEL VALLEY)

Gardening for Wildlife Workshop San Diego Audubon Society is conducting workshop on creating wildlife-friendly gardens using native plants, saving water, pro-

viding natural habitat for wildlife. Two-session workshop includes how to select, plant, maintain native plants. Second class is March 1, 1-3 p.m. Fee includes one-gallon native plant. Registration: 619-682-7200. Saturday, February 23, 9 a.m.; \$30. Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road. (CLAIREMONT)

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 February. Wear hiking or walking boots. Bring binoculars or spotting scopes if you have them. Heavy rain cancels. 760-789-3992. Saturdays, 9 a.m.; through Saturday, February 23, 2008, Wildlife Research Institute, 18030 Highland Valley Road. (RAMONA)

Live Entertainment Look for mating rituals of shorebirds during guided nature hike. 619-668-3281. Saturday, February 23, 8:30 a.m.; Kumeyaay Lake Campground entry station, Two Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Love Is in the Air and on the Trails! Mating fauna may be glimpsed during guided walks among sunflowers and sagebrush during guided nature walks. 619-668-3281. Wednesday, February 27, 9:30 a.m.; Saturday, February 23, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, February 24, 9:30 a.m.; Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Trash Pickup in Lopez Canyon Join city ranger John Gardwood to clean trash out of Lopez Canyon. Work begins in Lopez Ridge Park, proceeds down into Lopez Canyon. 858-538-8066. Sunday, February 24, 9 a.m.; Lopez Ridge Park, 7245 Calle Cristobal. (MIRA MESA)

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

"Fiesta de las Estrellas" Institute of Astronomy of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México invites public to view lunar eclipse through its telescopes, which are found on the open-air Plaza de las Artes de Centro Estatal de las Artes (CEARTE). 011-52-646-173-4307 or 011-52-646-173-4308. Thursday, February 21, 8 p.m.; Centro Estatal de las Artes, Boulevard Costero and Avenida Club Rotario. (BAJA)

"Gardel Sin Gardel" Tango music played by Orchestra of Baja California. 011-52-664-687-9636. Thursday, February 21, 8 p.m.; \$15. Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BAJA)

"Gumaro de Dios, El Canibal" Alejandro Almazón discusses new book. 011-52-664-687-9636. Thursday, February 21, 7 p.m.; Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BAJA)

"Historia Natural de Baja California" Lecture by Francisco Aranda Manteca. 011-52-664-687-9636. Wednesday, February 27, 7

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p.m.; Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BAJA)

“Oedipo Güey” Premiere of this play aimed at junior high and high school youths. 011-52-664-687-9636. Tuesday, February 26, 8 p.m.; \$12. Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BAJA)

“The Young Scene” Concert series with students of classical and electric guitar from the Academy of Pro Música Ensenada, performing in Sala Ernesto Muñoz Acosta. 011-52-646-173-4307 or 011-52-646-173-4308. Wednesday, February 27, 7:30 p.m.; Centro Estatal de las Artes, Boulevard Costero and Avenida Club Rotario. (BAJA)

A “Friendly Game” Soccer match between Mexico and Paraguay. 011-52-664-683-6348. Wednesday, February 27, 3 p.m.; \$20-\$40. Estadio Caliente, on Boulevard Agua Caliente.

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

Rock Concert Bye Sami performs in Box Underground at El Foro. 619-734-2333. Saturday, February 23, 9 p.m.; El Foro, 7th and Avenida Revolución, downtown. (BAJA)

SPECIAL

“Artwist” Event hosted by Mind-Fill Entertainment and Jon Block promises art and photography displays, exhibits of local music and film, food. 619-846-7180. Monday, February 25, 6:30 p.m.; The Ritual Tavern, 4095 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

“In Land of Heart’s Desire” Reception for exhibition of images by photographer Tony Gleaton with

OUT & ABOUT

“BABELESQUE”

Bellydance Superstars,
Sunday, February 24
Balboa Theatre

(SEE DANCE)



music by classical guitarist José Rodríguez. Exhibit closes Friday, March 28. 760-643-5100. Sunday, February 24, 2 p.m.; Vista Library, 700 Eucalyptus Avenue. (VISTA)

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 23, 10 a.m.; \$30-\$40. La Jolla Cove Bridge Club, 1160 Coast Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

Beer Tasting “Free Parks and Beaches” hosts beer tasting. Entry fee includes 12 six-ounce tastings; guess the name of each beer during contest. Money raised benefits FreePB.org and its efforts to protect San Diego parks and beaches. 858-483-7844. Saturday, February 23, 2 p.m.; \$10-\$25. 710 Beach Club, 710 Garnet Avenue. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Dog Days Silver Bay Kennel Club of San Diego’s AKC All-Breed Dog Shows are terrific fun to watch. Agility trials, vendors. No unentered dogs are allowed on show grounds. 619-588-0507. Saturday, February 23, 8 a.m.; Sunday, February 24, 8 a.m.; Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Get Reading! Grand opening of new Encinitas Library. Ceremony at 9 a.m., with children’s activities all day long, refreshments, performances by Nels and the Peanut Butter Cookies Band, Moonlight Beach Ukulele Strummers, Jimmy Patton, Peter Sprague, and Jack Tempchin. 760-633-2600. Saturday, February 23, 9 a.m.; Encinitas Library, 540 Cornish Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Is the U.S. an Empire? If so, is it in decline? Share your opinion with P&R Discussion Group. 619-370-1027. Thursday, February 21, 7 p.m.; The Other Side Coffee House, 4096 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

La Jolla Surf Bowl A dozen teams from regional high schools take part in fast-paced competition. Students in this round-robin, double-elimination format contest will answer questions prepared by national researchers and educators. They will be asked three types of questions during the regional competition: toss-up, bonus, team challenge. Spectating included in museum admission. Call for times: 858-534-FISH. Saturday, February 23; Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (LA JOLLA)

Opening Reception and Art Show Local band Crash Encore releases their new music video, *Stormy*

Weather, in an art show setting, with paintings by local artists Spencer Tiscareno and Mikaelanne Collins on display and for sale. Band will perform an acoustic set. Everyone in attendance will receive DVD of music video. 619-269-3764. Saturday, February 23, 7 p.m.; \$20. Buzz Clothing, 630 Tenth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

Pup and Circumstance Canine Companions for Independence hosts graduation ceremony — when humans graduate with their new, highly skilled dogs. 760-901-4300. Saturday, February 23, noon; Mission San Luis

Rey, 4070 Mission Avenue. (OCEANSIDE)

Stamp-Collecting Show Stamp and cover dealers offer their wares. 619-218-7835. Sunday, February 24, 10 a.m.; Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road. (KEARNY MESA)

The Most Knowledgeable Yoga Teacher in the World? Yogiraj Bikram Choudhury presents lecture/posture clinic/master class. Learn philosophy of yoga, explore all 26 postures of Bikram’s beginning hatha yoga class, with demonstrations and individual corrections. Open to everyone, even those who have never done any yoga. 619-220-6886. Saturday, February 23, 9 a.m.; \$200. Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina, 1380 Harbor Island Drive. (DOWNTOWN)

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 23, 9 a.m.; North Chapel at NTC, 2881 Roosevelt Drive.

Victorian Tea Alpine Woman’s Club hosts 15th annual Victorian Tea. Harp music, array of antique period clothing on display. Victorian dress is optional. Reservations: 619-722-1032 or 619-445-4235. Saturday, February 23, 3 p.m.; \$25. Alpine Woman’s Club, 2156 Alpine Boulevard. (ALPINE)

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. (LA JOLLA)

SPORTS

“Walk for Life” Fifth annual 5K benefiting Cardiovascular Disease Foundation. Day-of-event registration at 8 a.m. 888-249-9575. Sunday,

TALENT UPDATE

Justin Bruening from Escondido had success with Abercrombie & Fitch and *All My Children*. Currently, he has replaced David Hasselhoff and is the new “Knight Rider.” Justin was discovered at McDonald’s in Escondido by SCI Scout Sue Nessel.

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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

February 24, 9 a.m.; Magee Park, 258 Beech Avenue. (CARLSBAD)

First Bout of the 2008 Season! Hard Corps and Diego Rollers of San Diego Derby Dolls meet up. All ages. All-skate session at 8:30 p.m. (rent skates and roll with teams). Tickets: 858-560-9278. Saturday, February 23, 6 p.m.; Skateworld, 6907 Linda Vista Road. (LINDA VISTA)

Get Kayaking! Lessons and tours of Lake Murray Reservoir — learn “about this important watershed.” After an introductory paddling lesson, explore reservoir by kayak and hear history, discover area wildlife. Proceeds benefit San Diego River Park Foundation. Fee includes kayak, life vest, paddling equipment, introductory lesson, launch fee, tour guides. 619-282-3520. Saturday, February 23, 9:30 a.m.; Saturday, February 23, 1 p.m.; \$40-\$65. Ages 10 and up. Lake Murray Reservoir, 5540 Kiowa Drive. (LA MESA)

San Diego Enforcer Football Season gets underway for this non-profit charitable organization made up of San Diego County public safety personnel. 619-212-0005. Saturday, February 23, 5 p.m.; \$5. Cathedral Catholic High School, 5555 Del Mar Heights Road. (DEL MAR)

MUSEUMS

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

Campo Railroad Museum Campo Railroad Museum, showcasing more than 130 years of American railroad history and technology through static and operating exhibits, the museum includes cabooses, steam and diesel locomotives, track motorcars, 1880s “Jim Crow” segregated passenger cars. Interpretive 1.5-hour train rides offered each weekend (11 a.m., 2:30 p.m.) over portion of the San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railway. 31123-1/2 Highway 94, 619-465-7776. (CAMPO-POTRERO)

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

OUT & ABOUT

PIANO SERIES

Emanuel Ax for La Jolla Music Society, Friday, February 22, Sherwood Auditorium

(SEE CLASSICAL MUSIC)



Chula Vista Heritage Museum

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

Creation Museum A museum contrasting the evolution and creation world views. 10946 Woodside Avenue North, 619-448-0900. (SANTEE)

Gemological Institute of America Museum

Permanent exhibits include displays depicting science and art of gemstones and history, lore and cultural significance of jewelry. Reservations are required. 5345 Armada Drive, 800-421-7250. (CARLSBAD)

George White and Anna Gunn Marston House

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

Heritage Walk Museum

The museum includes the restored Victorian House, the city’s original Santa Fe Train Depot, a railroad car with model train, working blacksmith shop, and a barn. Find Heritage Walk in Grape Day

Park. 321 North Broadway, 760-743-8207. (ESCONDIDO)

House of Pacific Relations

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

J.A. Cooley Museum An eclectic collection of items — including displays on phonographs, clocks, electric trains, and 20 other types of collections — is featured at the museum. The current featured attraction is an “Industrial Product Collection,” with examples of the historical progression of auto technology from 1886–1915, “some

classics and a concept car.” 4233 Park Boulevard, 619-296-3112. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park

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

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Museum

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

Museum of San Diego History

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

Parsonage Museum of Lemon Grove

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

“The Art of The Treganzas” boasts hammered copper and brass artifacts, paintings, drawings, and Arts and Crafts furniture created between 1906-1935 by this pioneer Lemon Grove family. In “Lemon Grove: 1892-1935,” homes and families of pioneer fruit growers are shown in rare photographs, along with artifacts, in this display detailing agricultural roots of the town. 3185 Olive Street, 619-460-4353. (LEMON GROVE)

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

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

Ongoing exhibitions include “Origins in Space: Spin-Offs in Science and Technology,” “So WATT! An Illuminating Look at Energy,” “Aging for All Ages,” “Kid City” (for preschoolers), “TryScience!” “Escape from Dino Island” is theme for motion simulator ride. Films are shown daily in the IMAX theater. 1875 El Prado, 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

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

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

“P-51 Mustang” celebrates the legendary Air Force fighter used during both World War II and Korea. The museum’s Mustang is painted in the red-tail livery of the Tuskegee Airmen, who distinguished themselves flying bomber escort and ground attack missions during World War II. The museum offers exhibits of over 65 aircraft — including an

RQ-1K Predator UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) on indefinite loan from the National Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, which “saw action over the Balkans in the late 1990s”; a replica of Spirit of St. Louis, a Fokker Scourge (or Fokker Eindecker E-III), a World War I Spad VII, flight deck of the USS Yorktown, and a Lockheed Blackbird spy plane — 1400 scale models, 10,000 aviation-related items, and memorabilia from Montgolfier hot-air-balloon era to Space Age, along with an International Aerospace Hall of Fame. The museum is located in the Ford Building in the Palisades area. 2001 Pan American Plaza, 619-234-8291. (BALBOA PARK)

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

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

San Diego Automotive Museum “High Art: Concept Cars and Automobile Design,” continuing through Wednesday, March 26, includes vehicles from General Motors, Nissan, Chrysler, Mazda, Honda, Volvo, and Art Center College of Design. More than 80 automobiles and motorcycles from horseless carriages to future prototypes are included in the museum’s permanent collection. Find the museum near the Starlight Bowl. 2080 Pan American Plaza, 619-231-2886. (BALBOA PARK)

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

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

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

The museum features permanent exhibits documenting the history of San Diego’s waterfront and the building of the West Coast by sea, the old San Diego-Coronado ferryboats, the tuna fishing industry, and the military. The museum fleet consists of the 1863 bark *Star of India*, the 1898 San Francisco ferryboat *Berkeley*, and the 1904 Scottish steam yacht *Medea*. The HMS *Surprise*, used in film *Master and Commander*, is permanently on exhibit; see artifacts, costumes, props used in making of the flick. Also open for touring: a B-39 Soviet attack submarine, among the largest conventionally powered submarines ever built. This Project 641/Foxtrof class diesel-electric submarine was designed to track U.S. and NATO warships throughout the Earth’s oceans. There are also nautical exhibits, ship carpenters, model building, ships in bottles, woodcarvers, complete research library. 1306 North Harbor Drive, 619-234-9153. (DOWNTOWN)

San Diego Museum of Man “Edward S. Curtis Refocused” offers Native American insight into Curtis’s photo documentation of their lives. Curtis is famous for his photographs of recreated scenes of traditional life and ceremony, for portraits of tribe members wearing historic garments. Exhibition features prints of his photogravures taken in locations throughout U.S. and Canada and examines some controversial elements of Curtis’s

work, techniques he used.

“Art and Expression: The Legacy of Our Collections” highlights 17 key collections, relates stories of the collectors, how collections came to museum, their significance in preserving history of past generations. Objects include pottery, baskets, beadwork, jewelry, woodcarving, folk art, katsinas, bone and ivory implements, shields, textiles. In “Artists Speak: Contemporary Art from Ghana and Zimbabwe,” museum has partnered with artists from Ghana and Zimbabwe to showcase paintings and sculpture by accomplished African artists. Permanent anthropology exhibit “Footsteps through Time: Four Million Years of Human Evolution” features “more than a hundred touchable replicas of early humans, primates, and futuristic cyborgs (part human, part machine).” 1350 El

Prado, 619-239-2001. (BALBOA PARK)

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

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

Indians indigenous to the valley. 16666 San Pasqual Valley Road, 760-737-2201. (ESCONDIDO)

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

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

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Hell-Bent Voracity

"If the subject moved, its multiple image also described a space-time dimension."

Why is it that the most intimate, mysterious performance photographs are of jazz musicians? Maybe because two things get exposed at once: the expressiveness of the body (Mingus knitting his brow, Charlie Parker sweating, Roy Haynes grinning) and the interiority of improvisation. A Roy DeCarava photo of Coltrane shows both but adds, far left in the frame, a wraith that is Elvin Jones's clouded shape. The gleaming highlighted neck of Trane's tenor sax runs our gaze from Jones's ghost to the picture's darkest part, Coltrane blowing in half-cropped profile, his face like a mask. A random moment caught by the lens? Sure, because that's what comes naturally to photography. A concentrate of orphic power passing through mortals? Absolutely, because this is a slice of time exposed and sized for its revelatory power.

The photographic image becomes a "picture" the instant when "the flux of changing forms and patterns is sensed to have achieved a balance and clarity and order." Those are John Szarkowski's words in his catalog essay for "The Photographer's Eye," a foundational exhibition he mounted in 1964 at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. It's also the title of a peculiar exhibition at the Museum of Photographic Arts in Balboa Park. Before I get to the peculiarity, let me get to Szarkowski, who during his 1962–1991 tenure as director of the department of photography at MoMA, curated career-making exhibitions of Robert Frank, Walker Evans, Lee Friedlander, William Klein, William Eggleston, and other now-canonical photographers. His taste and judgment crafted an official version of modern photographic history the same way MoMA's first director, Alfred H. Barr, shaped our view of the course of 20th-century painting. Szarkowski's transparent, unfussy, vernacular style imitated the qualities he most admired in photographs. He was himself a pretty good photographer: by 1958 he'd already published a stately photo-essay on Louis Sullivan's Chicago architecture and another on Minnesota life and culture that, strange to say, ended up on the *New York Times* best-seller list.

He didn't entirely give up photography during his many years at the museum, but he produced virtually nothing for public view until he retired, when he picked up where he'd left off.

"The Photographer's Eye" configured patterns of relatedness among photographs by Paul Strand, W. Eugene Smith, Edward Weston, and other major figures, along with the less exalted, including that ubiquitous snapshotting bumpkin, "Photographer Unknown." The five sections of Szarkowski's brief text were a Pentateuch of straight photography: "The Thing Itself," "The Detail," "The Frame," "Time," and "Vantage Point." He said things that, though now commonplaces, remind us how and why photography is an art. He says, for instance, that every photograph "describes a discrete parcel of time; this time is always the present." One section of the exhibition proved how the present could be stretched by long exposures, when "if the subject moved, its multiple image also described a space-time dimension." Thus, a dog in a Civil War photo appears to have two heads.

In MoPA's current exhibition, the curator Carol McCusker reconsiders and illustrates Szarkowski's five categories with images drawn exclusively from the permanent collection. Only a few of the pictures appeared in the original 1964 show, and the connection between Szarkowski's precepts and the images they direct us to is over-conceptualized. That said, McCusker's eye is so unerring that this doesn't detract from the quality of what she's chosen. In the room elucidating "The Thing Itself," a photo of a chewed-up, corroded War Department license plate rhymes with its adjoining picture of a wrecked ancient typewriter whose few remaining keys look like busted teeth. Next to this rhyming couplet are three pictures of clusters bursting at the seams: scruffy boys brandish (to William Klein) their baseball cards, while the girls with them blow bubbles; Anthony Friedkin's *Four Convicts, Folsom Prison* features the hardest guys I saw in Balboa Park that day, complete with Illustrated Man tattoos and attitude to spare: one con wears a zipper scar



Coney Island, ca. 1954, Leon Levinstein

The Photographer's Eye: Ways of Seeing the Permanent Collection
Museum of Photographic Arts, 1649 El Prado, Balboa Park
Through Sunday, April 27. For additional information, call 619-238-7559.

down his breastbone — heart surgery or knife fight; and a saloon photograph by Michael Smith (American photographers love taprooms) rubs our noses against a New Orleans back-bar shelf choked with a motley line-up of bottles, vintage snaps of tipsy patrons, and a forest of dollar bills Magic Markered with the names and places of origin of those who spent them ("Donald Ridge: Terra Haute, IN"). Each manifests Szarkowski's claim that "[a photograph's] most fundamental use and its broadest acceptance has been as a substitute for the thing itself — a simpler, more permanent, more clearly visible version of the plain fact."

Under the rubric "The Detail," Szarkowski exhibited pictures of hands belonging to a stout American Legionnaire, a stockade prisoner, a zoo visitor feeding an elephant, a mourner at an Italian shrine, and Jean Cocteau, along with war photos about which he said, "From the reality before him [the photographer] could only choose that part that seemed relevant and consistent; intuitively, he sought and found the significant detail." Under this category the MoPA show in-

cludes DeCarava's Coltrane picture plus some constellated images of people's backs. The most comic (and enigmatic) is Joel Meyerowitz's extreme close-up of a plump, well-dressed man whose neck seems not to belong to his body: it's just a piggy cylinder connecting hat to coat. "The Detail" includes the strangest image in the show, Eugene de Salignac's *Painters on the Brooklyn Bridge Suspenders Cables, October 7, 1914*, which depicts workers like insects caught in crosshatched webbing that bells out at us from a distant point, the painters shrinking into the photograph's depth like figures in a Magritte painting. At first I didn't know what I was seeing, then I couldn't tell if it was actual or manipulated. It's something surreal that's not surreal, like Terry Etherton's weird pseudo-diorama shot of fluorescent light (a perfect Ben-Gay green) washing poisonously over gas station pumps.

Szarkowski, as I said, was a photographer, though his images lack the cranky pushiness and hell-bent voracity of work by photographers he championed. McCusker honors him by including five elegant images in her show. She follows



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his predilections in her own choices and reminds us that while a photograph's edges constrain an instant's debris flooding through time and space, it also pressurizes its contents into a stark coherence. Some artists create pressure zones within pressure zones. In 1982, while Times Square was being rehabbed into the mini Las Vegas strip it is today, Jan Staller took a fabulous picture of an abandoned apartment room smeared with bordello reds. We see a worn lounge sofa, a big square wicker basket, a fatigued Christmas tree, and LP albums spread on the floor like a collapsed house of cards. The windows, frames within the picture's frame, concentrate our attention on their own contents, which are (framed) neon billboards. This feverish image, stuffed with stuff, pressures into existence an insufferable emptiness and soured good cheer. Danny Lyon, who became famous for the best biker series ever made, the 1960s' *Bikeriders*, rattles our nerves with different means: he situates us at the near end of a New York subway car in 1979, before the IRT cleaned up its act. The walls and plunging perspective



Hand in Hand, 1956, Ruth Bernhard

scheme squeeze the contents of the frame, seats packed with the messy variety of New York faces and every surface choked with fat, assaultive graffiti. It's a coherent image of a city hostage to incoherence.

A few photos offer time stilled and time streaming. We see seasons mocked by long exposures, humans blurred to look like clouds amassing. One uncanny color picture, Birney Imes III's 1986 *Riverside Lounge*, issues straight from Friedlander's, Frank's, and Evans's vernacular interiors, especially those above-mentioned honky-tonks and bars. Next to a pool table in a garishly lit, keenly detailed room stands a translucent specter of a (very



Water Into Goblet, 1934, Harold Eugene Edgerton

real) patron holding a cue stick, and next to him stands an even ghostlier, barely *there* doppelgänger. For a different sort of eeriness, see Stephen Shore's image of a small Montana town. Four people stand around an intersection; the streets look abandoned, as if emptied by an epidemic; store signage teases us to ask who comes or goes. No moving traffic; only one parked vehicle; unoccupied meters up and down the street like trail markers to a long-since-departed band of travelers. It's as empty an image as can be, yet it's both fraught with something about to happen and saturated with depletion — a dead town that doesn't yet know it's dead. ■



Bricklayer's Mate, 1928, August Sander

ART LISTINGS

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

GALLERIES

"Botany and Maalang: Neo Pop-Surrealism" Closing reception for painters Martin Facey and Lek Namnath. 760-757-5368. Kruglak Gallery at MiraCosta College (One Barnard Drive). 6:30 p.m., Thursday, February 21. (OCEANSIDE)

"How Low Can You Go?" Exhibition opens with reception for more than 20 artists showing over 100 pieces of art. All works are priced \$500 or less. Show closes Sunday, March 9. 619-295-5393. Limbo Fine Arts Gallery (1432 University Avenue). 7 p.m., Saturday, February 23. (HILLCREST)

"Transparent Faces...y el mar mediterraneo" Opening reception for sculptor Shari Winicki.

View 41 pieces inspired by artist's recent beachcombing experiences in southern Spain through Saturday, March 22. 760-765-1676. Santa Ysabel Art Gallery (30352 Highway 78). 4 p.m., Saturday, February 23. (JULIAN)

Arnaud International Artists' reception for exhibit continuing through Saturday, March 1. Featured artists include Albert Dolmans, Marla Epstein, Stefan Duncan, Madeline Sherry, many others. 760-941-7639. Rancho Buena Vista Adobe Gallery (640 Alta Vista Drive). 1 p.m., Sunday, February 24. (VISTA)

ART MUSEUMS

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

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

Masterworks from permanent collection are gathered in "The Beauty of Use — Mingei Interna-

Spring Classical Music Concerts @ SDMA



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February 26, Tuesday
7:00 p.m., Hibben Gallery
\$20 members/\$25 nonmembers/\$10 students

San Diego Symphony's principal flutist Demarre McGill and violinist Kate Hatmaker return to SDMA with their ensemble to perform an all-French program inspired by Henri Toulouse-Lautrec.

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Images: LEFT San Diego Symphony String Quartet, RIGHT Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, *Jane Avril* (detail), lithograph, 1893. Gift of the Baldwin M. Baldwin Foundation, 1987:103.

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ART

tional 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. (BALBOA PARK)

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

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

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

“Rhythms of India: The Art of Nandalal Bose (1882–1966),” opening Saturday, February 23, is described as the “first comprehensive traveling exhibition outside of Asia to survey the expansive repertoire of Bose...the father of modern art in India.” Exhibit boasts close to 100 of Bose’s finest paintings, executed in variety of styles and media, revealing how Bose contributed to success of India’s non-violent struggle for independence from colonial rule through his association with Mahatma Gandhi. Closes Sunday, May 18.

“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)

CLASSICAL LISTINGS

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CLASSICAL

Duets and a Waltz for Eight Hands Four South Korean pianists perform music by Mozart, Brahms, and opera *Faust* 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 21. (SAN MARCOS)

“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. 619-239-8836. Stephen & Mary Birch North Park Theatre (2891 University Avenue), 7:30 p.m., Friday, February 22; 7:30 p.m., Saturday, February 23; 2:30 p.m., Sunday, February 24. (NORTH PARK)

Mainly Mozart Spotlight Series Enjoy an all-Schumann program when Ida Kavafian (violin), Andrew Shulman (cello), Anne-Marie McDermott (piano) perform. Program includes “Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 2 in D Minor,” the “Fantasiestucke for Cello and Piano,” and “Piano Trio No. 1 in D Minor.” 619-239-0100. Neurosciences Institute (10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive), 8 p.m., Friday, February 22; 8 p.m., Saturday, February 23. (LA JOLLA)

“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), 8 p.m., Friday, February 22; 2 p.m., Sunday, February 24. (DOWNTOWN)

Cuarteto Casals Founded in Madrid in 1997, quartet performs for UCSD’s ArtPower series. Program includes Haydn’s “String Quartet No. 33 in D Major,” “Hommage à Mihály András, 12 Microludes for String Quartet” by György Kurtág, and Beethoven’s

“String Quartet No. 9 in C Major (Rasumovsky 3).” 858-534-TIXS. Mandeville Auditorium at UCSD (9500 Gilman Drive), 8 p.m., Friday, February 22. (LA JOLLA)

Piano Series Grammy Award-winning pianist Emanuel Ax takes stage for La Jolla Music Society. Program includes “Piano Sonata No. 2 in A Major” and “Piano Sonata No. 21 in C Major (Waldstein)” by Beethoven and Schumann’s “Humoreske” and “Papillons.” Reservations: 858-459-3728. Sherwood Auditorium at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (700 Prospect Street), 8 p.m., Friday, February 22. (LA JOLLA)

“Carlsbad to Karlovy Vary Vocal Competition” Opera singers vie for selection to represent Carlsbad at International Antonin Dvorak Vocal Competition in the Czech Republic next November. Preliminary rounds (10 a.m.) followed by finals (2 p.m.). 760-434-2920. Schulman Auditorium at Carlsbad City Library (1775 Dove Lane), 10 a.m., Saturday, February 23. (CARLSBAD)

“The Violin in America: Old World Tradition, New World Sound” New exhibition exploring “the transplanting of European violin-making traditions to American soil” opens with reception (6 p.m.) and concert by Hutchins Consort and Anne Akiko Meyers (7 p.m.). Required reservations: 438-5996 x212. Museum of Making Music (5790 Armada Drive), 6 p.m., Saturday, February 23. (CARLSBAD)

“Salute to the Wild West” San Diego Symphony, led by Matthew Garbutt, performs Copland’s “Rodeo,” Ferde Grofé’s “Grand Canyon Suite,” “Cowboy Overture” by John Williams, themes from television shows. 858-748-0505. Poway Center for the Performing Arts (15498 Espola Road), 8 p.m., Saturday, February 23. (POWAY)

Organ Concert Recital by civic organist Carol Williams. 619-702-8138. Spreckels Organ Pavilion (2211 Pan American Road), 2 p.m., Sunday, February 24. (BALBOA PARK)

“Rachmaninoff — Letters and Notes” Narration on life of the Russian composer is interwoven with his music for piano and voice by Joanne Regenhart (narrator), James Frimmer (piano), and Janelle DeStefano (mezzo-soprano) for winter concert series. Listen for “Sonata No. 2 in B-Flat Minor,” “Prelude, G-Sharp Minor No. 12,” *Lilacs, In the Silence of the Secret Night*, much more. 619-236-5810. San Diego Public Library (820 E Street), 2:30 p.m., Sunday, February 24. (DOWNTOWN)

Celebrity Orchestra Series Czech Philharmonic Orchestra and conductor Leos Svárovsky play Dvorak’s “Carnival Overture,” “Czech Suite in D Major,” and “Symphony No. 9 in E Minor (From the New World).” Reservations: 858-459-3728. Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street), 8 p.m., Sunday, February 24. (DOWNTOWN)

Spotlight Series Enjoy an all-Schumann program hosted by Mainly Mozart when Ida Kavafian (violin), Andrew Shulman (cello), Anne-Marie McDermott (piano) perform. Program includes “Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 2 in D Minor,” the “Fantasiestucke for Cello and Piano,” and “Piano Trio No. 1 in D Minor.” 619-239-0100. St. Elizabeth Seton Church (6628 Santa Isabel Street), 2 p.m., Sunday, February 24. (CARLSBAD)

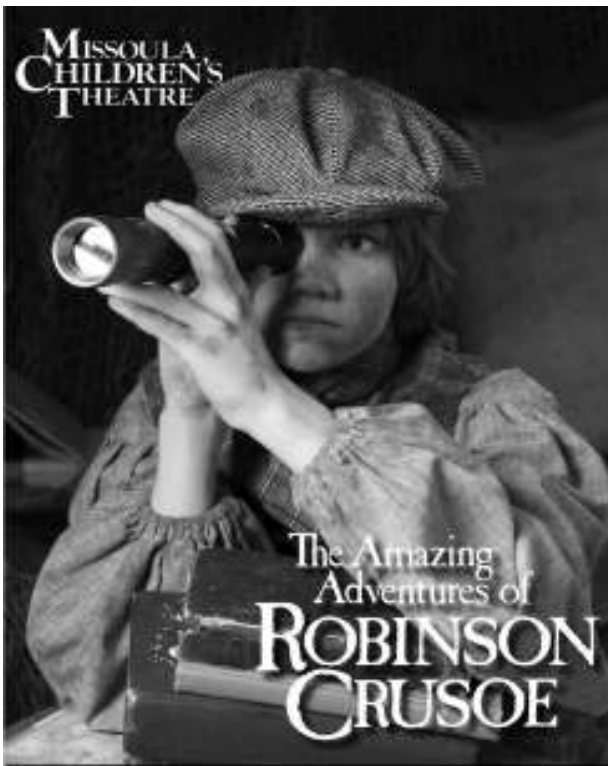
“Piano Phase” Pianist and Palomar College artist-in-residence Peter Gach teams with fellow faculty pianist Ellen Weller and other guests for “a series of rousing duets in various styles.” Expect to hear Steve Reich’s “Piano Phase,” “19:18” by Weller, three new compositions by Johnathan Fadner in Palomar College Performance Lab (room D-10). 760-744-1150 x2453. Palomar College (1140 West Mission Road), 2 p.m., Sunday, February 24. (SAN MARCOS)

Spotlight on Schumann Enjoy an all-Schumann concert hosted by Mainly Mozart when Ida Kavafian (violin), Andrew Shulman (cello), Anne-Marie McDermott (piano) perform. Program includes “Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 2 in D Minor,” the “Fantasiestucke for Cello and Piano,” and “Piano Trio No. 1 in D Minor.” Reception (5:30) followed by concert (6:30). 619-239-0100. The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe (5951 Linea del Cielo), 6:30 p.m., Sunday, February 24. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

“Art of Elan: The Red Series” All-French program, inspired by Henri Toulouse-Lautrec’s *Moulin Rouge-La Goulue* (1891), planned by San Diego Symphony’s principal flutist Demarre McGill and violinist Kate Hatmaker. Listen for “Piece pour flute seule” by Jacques Ibert, Albert Roussel’s “Serenade,” “String Quartet in F Major” by Ravel. 619-696-1969. San Diego Museum of Art (1450 El Prado), 7 p.m., Monday, February 25. (BALBOA PARK)

UCSD Undergraduate Performers’ Forum Students perform “an eclectic program” ranging from a jazz combo to music created on the *guqin*, a traditional Chinese instrument. 858-534-3229. Mandeville Recital Hall at UCSD (9500 Gilman Drive), 8 p.m., Monday, February 25. (UCSD)

red fish blue fish UCSD’s resident percussion ensemble performs a new piece by Adam Wilson, John Cage’s “Inlets” (for 13 conch shells), and Ginastera’s “Cantata para America Magica,” with featured vocalist Stephanie Aston, conductor Rand Steiger. 858-534-3229. Mandeville Auditorium at UCSD (9500 Gilman Drive), 5 p.m., Wednesday, February 27. (LA JOLLA)



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Jerry Herman and Michael Stewart's *Hello, Dolly!* had the requisite chops for a long Broadway run. Add in the Hall of Famers who eventually played the lead, including Carol Channing, Pearl Bailey, and Ethel Merman (who turned down the original Dolly), and you insure immortality.

Not by design, but *Dolly!* also hit Broadway when it was most needed. The musical opened January 16, 1964, less than two months after the JFK assassination. The country was shattered, and along came Dolly Gallagher Levi, a garrulous meddler who could fix everything from faulty plumbing to varicose veins to deflated egos; she could heal and make connections and could banish, if only for an evening, the woes of shaken spectators.

And "Holy Caboodles" is this musical innocent! Cornelius Hackl, 33, and Barnaby Tucker, 19, work 16-hour days for "rich, friendless, and mean" Horace Vandergelder. They want to make a memory, have one unforgettable experience. So they'll don their Sunday best, play hooky from the store, and spend a day, and their savings, in New York. If things really work out, Cornelius will not only have a good meal, be in danger, and go broke, he'll also get to "kiss a girl."

Cornelius aims for the stars. Barnaby'd have a perfect day if he could see New York's famous stuffed whale.

Of course Vandergelder (*geld*, in German, means money) can't allow such frivolity. He's such a hoarder of goods — and emotions — that even "weeping is a waste of water." He says if someone has to live hand to mouth, they'd better be "ambidextrous." Vandergelder's just a few humbugs short of Scrooge, but he, too, has caught the frivolity bug and is off to New York to find a mate. New York milliners for whom a hat with ribbons down the back is risqué, Irene Molloy and Minnie Fay have been respectable for years. Adventure calls.

Though probably inaccurate, or just my projection, it's hard not to see a leap from the uptight '50s to the freewheelin' '60s in the musical, since everyone opens up and sheds an old skin — even Dolly, who's been clinging to her departed hus-

band and a bygone past.

Jeanne Reith's late-19th-Century costumes for Lamb's Players accentuate the constriction: the women are corseted and covered from hat to toe, the men bow-tied and vested, and both sport so many layers of clothing that the stuffed whale may be more mobile. But combine the apparel with Colleen Kollar Smith's click-your-heels choreography, and a transformation occurs. The cast spins and leaps about as if released from bondage.

Kerry Meads plays Dolly not as a myth, or star vehicle, but as an actual person with a special gift she isn't quite sure how to manage (Meads's ensemble instincts may have toned the part down, but it's an interesting take and makes things a bit more in doubt). Meads has vocal difficulties, especially with the score's steep intervals, but has an engaging rapport with the audience.

Though he could put more mudge into Vandergelder's curmudgeonness, David Cochran Heath scores as the parsimonious burgher from Yonkers. Lance Arthur Smith and Colleen Kollar Smith, real-life husband and wife, combine for the stirring "It Only Takes a Moment," the epicenter of the musical's shift from life battered down to sailing free.

Mike Buckley, who designed the excellent, micro-realist set for *Fences* at Cygnet, gives *Dolly!* a brocade façade that, when warmed by Bill Kickbush's lighting, becomes an apt backdrop for Yonkers or Manhattan's posh Harmonia Gardens restaurant. In a special cameo, Leonard Patten scat-sings Louis Armstrong's version of the — zap-adoop-mm — title song.

* * *

FIELD NOTES:

1.) PAYING TRIBUTE: At our awards ceremony last month, the San Diego Critics Circle honored the Old Globe's, and now the world's, Jack O'Brien (who, among future projects, will direct Andrew Lloyd Webber's sequel to *Phantom of the Opera*). The video tribute to O'Brien is now on the website: sdcriticscircle.org. It includes the voice of Tom Stoppard (whose presence



David Cochran Heath, Kerry Meads in *Hello, Dolly!*

Hello, Dolly! Music and lyrics by Jerry Herman, book by Michael Stewart
Lamb's Players Theatre, 1142 Orange Avenue, Coronado

Directed by Robert Smyth; cast: Kerry Meads, David Cochran Heath, Jon Lorenz, Ralph Johnson, Erika Beth Phillips, Lance Arthur Smith, Steve Limones, Erik McEwen, Colleen Kollar Smith, Season Duffy, Bryan Barbarin, Rocky De Haro, Perry Lee, Kurt Norby, Leonard Patton; scenic design, Mike Buckley; costumes, Jeanne Reith; lighting, Bill Kickbush; sound, Patrick Duffy; choreography, Colleen Kollar Smith; musical direction, G. Scott Lacy
Playing through March 16; Tuesday through Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Matinee Saturday at 4:00 p.m. Matinee Sunday at 2:00 p.m. 619-437-0600.

validates all our parking stickers) and a musical number, by Melinda Gilb and Steve Gunderson, that's a royal hoot.

2.) BAD NEWS, GOOD NEWS: Live theater's so transitory that when a quality production has

to close, the loss feels palpable. We've already had three first-rate shows this year, and two ended last weekend: New Village Arts's *This Is Our Youth* (with a splendidly detailed performance by Joshua Everett Johnson) and Ion's stark, spellbinding

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Pillowman, which was just beginning to get the audiences it deserved. (Henry Miller said, "The role of an artist is to inoculate the world with disillusionment." By that definition, Martin McDonagh, author of *The Pillowman*, is a major artist).

The good news: Cygnet has been able to extend its run of *Fences* through March 2. If you get a chance, go. Treat yourself. ■

THEATER LISTINGS

Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith. Information is accurate according to material given us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last-minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.

A Shayna Maidel

North Coast Repertory Theatre presents Barbara Lebow's drama about one family's tale of survival and hope following the Holocaust. David Ellenstein directed. NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DRIVE, SOLANA BEACH. THROUGH MARCH 23; SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 7 P.M., 858-481-1055.

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 ingV@nue-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, a.k.a. 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 AVENUE, 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., WEDNESDAYS, 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 multifaceted creations. Mention a negative and a positive jumps to his defense (and vice versa). Wilson says with Troy, "You got to take the crooked 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; THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M., SUNDAYS, 7 P.M., 619-337-1525.

H.M.S. Pinafore

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 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, NORTH PARK. THROUGH FEBRUARY 24; THURSDAYS, 7:30 P.M., FRIDAYS, 7:30 P.M., SATURDAYS, 7:30 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2:30 P.M., 619-239-8836.

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 ORANGE AVENUE, CORONADO. THROUGH MARCH 16; THURSDAYS, 7:30 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 4 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M., TUESDAYS, 7:30 P.M., WEDNESDAYS, 7:30 P.M., 619-437-0600.

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one for each month of 2008. This month's: *A Doll House*. DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BOULEVARD, UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. ; MONDAY, 1 P.M., SATURDAY, 6:45 P.M., SUNDAY, 1:45 P.M., TUESDAY, 7 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 7 P.M., 619-220-0097.

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 BROADWAY, 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

Improvitational comedy, making up funny stuff on the spot, is difficult enough. Years ago, however, Keith Johnstone thought it'd be more exciting if gone competitively. He got the idea from pro wrestling ("where Terrible Turks mangled defrocked priests while grannies waved their handbags"). National Comedy Theatre, an offshoot of Johnstone's TheatreSports (artistic director Gary Kramer says the two compare like "rugby and American football"), resembles an athletic event more than an improve. Teams wear uniforms and compete on ActroTurf. Using suggestions from the audience, they play "Emotional Sympathy," "Blind Line," and "Freeze Tag," with judges awarding points to the best scenes. Klunkers and groaners get booed; quick wit rewarded (one of the most refreshing parts of the contest: people acknowledge failure, abundantly, then forget it). It makes for a lively, often funny evening. And Gary Kramer is one talented comedian.

Worth a try.

MARQUIS THEATER, 3717 INDIA STREET, MISSION HILLS. OPEN-ENDED RUN; FRIDAYS, 7:30 P.M., FRIDAYS, 9:45 P.M., SATURDAYS, 7:30 P.M., SATURDAYS, 9:45 P.M., 619-295-4999.

Oklahoma!

The Welk Resort Theatre stages Rodgers and Hammerstein's ageless musical about the opening of



Fences

the Oklahoma territory and the blooming of love. WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DRIVE, ESCONDIDO. THROUGH APRIL 6; THURSDAYS, 1:45 P.M., THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 1:45 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., TUESDAYS, 1:45 P.M., WEDNESDAYS, 1:45 P.M., 888-802-7469.

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

The Theatre, Inc., stages Dale Wasserman's adaptation of the Ken Kesey novel about life, and power tactics, in an asylum. Douglas Lay directed. ARK THEATER, 899 C STREET, DOWNTOWN. THROUGH MARCH 30; FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M., SUNDAYS, 8 P.M., 619-216-3016.

Permanent Collection

Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company presents Thomas Gibbons's drama about a clash between art experts, one African-American, one Caucasian, over eight pieces of African art. Seema Sueko directed. TENTH AVENUE THEATRE, 930 TENTH AVENUE, DOWNTOWN. THROUGH MARCH 16; FRIDAYS, 7:30 P.M., SATURDAYS, 7:30 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M.,

Rhubarb, or How to Play with a Rollergirl

Moxie Theatre stages Esther Emery's comedy about two completely opposite female roommates, plus "punk rock, mystic oracles, roller derby, some 'adult' language, and a healthy dose of vegetables." Delicia Turner Sonnenberg directed. LYCEUM THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN. THROUGH MARCH 9; SAT-

URDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M., 619-858-0322.

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; THURSDAYS, 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, it's art."

Worth a try.

FUNHOUSE, 6822 EL CAJON BOULEVARD, COLLEGE AREA. OPEN-ENDED RUN; FRIDAYS, 7:45 P.M., SATURDAYS, 7:45 P.M., SATURDAYS, 9:45 P.M., 619-846-6978.

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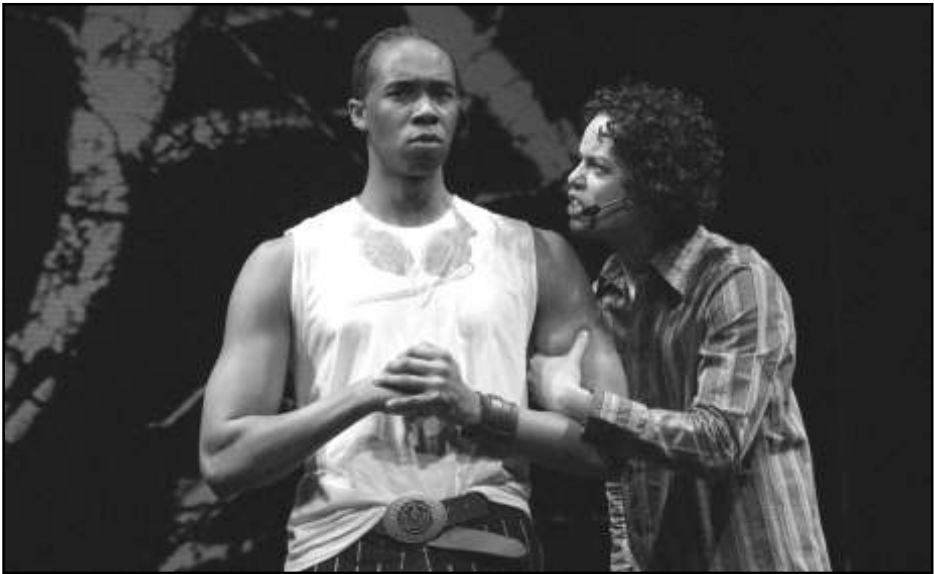
The Seven

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; THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 2 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., SUNDAYS, 2 P.M., SUNDAYS, 7 P.M., TUESDAYS, 7:30 P.M., WEDNESDAYS, 7:30 P.M., 858-550-1010.

Tango

It takes about two minutes to see why UCSD Theatre and Dance named Gabor Tompa head of its MFA directing program. His staging of Slawomir Mrozek’s surreal satire opens with three people playing cards. Amid cigarette smoke

and an almost frozen stillness, they wager like fiends. It’s like listening to a 78 rpm record played at 33 1/3. In that brief opening, Tompa sets the tone and establishes dynamic relationships for a play that, in lesser hands, can stumble at every turn. A tango combines dominance with assent. As a play, *Tango* follows the rise of a dictator in a society become, to his eyes at least, too permissive, “too disgustingly tolerant.” Twenty-five-year-old Arthur’s a zealot with a “missionary complex.” His parents are postrevolutionary, sort of (as parts of them still cling to the old ways). The play becomes a tango, without assent, between Arthur’s “cast-iron principles” and his family’s liberation. The script combines the bizarre with serious philosophical debates and could become too heavy-handed and theory-driven. In Tompa’s hands, the opposite happens: it’s funny! And the debates get performed with such passion that the ideas — about order and freedom and social responsi-



The Seven

bility and the solutions for each - become urgent. As Arthur, who changes from an idealist with anomie to a menace, Brandon Taylor is foremost among equals in a strong, versatile cast. What does a room look like that hasn’t been cleaned in 15 years? Answer: Nikki Black’s newspaper-strewn set, the

walls the color of cream gone sour. Like the play, Steven Sakowski’s expert lighting combines genres: from bright and chipper to cold shafts to heated, stage left, and blizzard conditions, right.
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To celebrate V-Day, the national campaign to raise awareness and end violence towards women, On-Stage Productions presents Eve Ensler’s compelling series of monologues, on February 22, and her new work, *A Memory, a Monologue, a Rant, and a Prayer*, on February 23. All proceeds benefit Casas Seguras in Chula Vista.
ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE, 291 THIRD AVENUE, CHULA VISTA. THROUGH FEBRUARY 23; FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., 619-422-7787.

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

Mystery Café Dinner Theatre presents James Pascarella and Will Roberson’s interactive comedy, set in a 1920s speakeasy where suspicion shrouds every “gangster, game, and dame.” Pascarella directed.
MYSTERY CAFE, 505 KALMIA STREET, HILLCREST. OPEN-ENDED RUN; FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 8 P.M., 619-544-1664.

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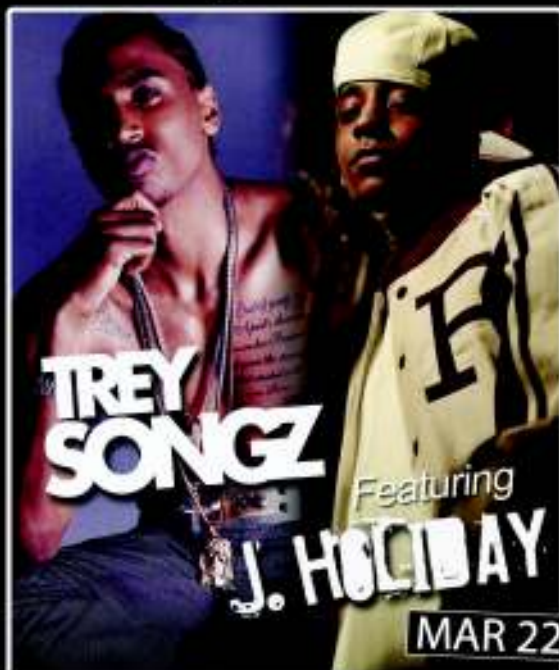
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MUSIC SCENE

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Hard Case “There is no single person who has the juice to book major acts [at 4th&B],” says an insider who suggests that the 1500-

4th&B general manager Harleen Stamps Jr. says AEG, Live Nation, and radio station KIFM have booked the venue to host shows by such artists as Blake Shelton, Richard Elliot, and Bob Saget.

“We just had Legendas de Banda and Rodrigo y Gabriela [which were booked by independent promoters],”

Broadway or Stingaree are now the DJ destination venues of choice, but he would welcome dance or electronica promoters.

— Ken Leighton

Grammy Slammy As I Lay Dying’s song “Nothing Left” earned a 2008 Grammy nomination for Best Metal Performance. One band member refused to attend the February 10 ceremony, while the others decided to go.

“I am not able to have even my wife come with me unless I pay \$600 for her seat,” posted singer Tim Lambesis on the band’s blog a few days before the ceremony. “Our label, management, and parents can’t go unless they pay \$300 for seats that are nowhere near where we sit.

Basically, all the people that deserve to enjoy this ‘special’ moment along with the band are unable to do so....

“Not only is some out-of-touch elite committee telling us what they think good music should be, but then they try to make the artists they nominate pay a ridiculous amount for the event....”

Guitarist Nick Hipa attended, posting this explanation on his blog:

“I don’t think it’s right to demonize the Grammy society. They’re not telling us what is and isn’t good music, I think they’re casting votes on who is doing what they do well, or maybe standing out the most. Now, obviously they all don’t know much about metal, because I can’t think of a single awesome thing [co-nominees] King

Diamond or Slayer did this year.

“I do think it’s unfortunate that we would have to pay such large amounts of money to bring



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHIAS BAUER

HIPA WON'T DEMONIZE GRAMMYS

guests.... I understand Tim’s reasoning not to go, our opinions on the matter differ, but I harbor no ill-will or bitterness towards him. Only respect for standing by his convictions.”

Slayer won the Best Metal Performance Grammy.

— Jay Allen Sanford

Fing and a Prayer Fing, a North Park electronic/funk/rock band, released their 11-song CD *Making Love with Fear* last year. The insert features a photo of each band member, including bassist James Balmer, who is pictured in a hospital bed.

“I met James at the ashram at Pacific Beach,” says lead singer Pascal Dickinson. “He was a Hare Krishna devotee. He lived there for three years. We both worked

at Dr. Jefe’s [piercing studio] from 1999 to 2000.”

The two played in a local rap-core band named Swan. Dickinson decided he was finished with the Tool school of rock in 2005 and formed Fing with guitarist Brannon Blosser. Bassist Balmer followed Dickinson. After a December 2006 Fing show at the Alibi, life changed for Balmer and Dickinson.

“These two girls asked if they could get a ride home with James and I. We said sure. I asked Angie if she wanted to sit in the front and she said no.... We took the off-ramp from north 163 near Washington Street. I think there was some confusion whether we should take 8 east or 8 west. We hit a dip, and the car started spinning.”

The accident left the other female passenger with minor injuries. “It killed Angie.... It gave me a concussion and a severe whiplash.... It put James in a coma for 18 days. He suffered axon shearing; that’s where your brain twists inside. It sheared nerve endings that control his motor skills. They thought he was going to die.”

Balmer recuperated at Sharp Cabrillo Skilled Nursing Center for six months before moving to his parents’ house in San Marcos.

“His speech is severely inhibited. It’s hard for him to pronounce words sometimes.... He comes down and stays with me on weekends. We’re planning on him moving in with my

girlfriend and I when he gets a little better.”

On February 11, Balmer was sentenced for his involvement in the accident.

“He pleaded guilty to vehicular manslaughter. He received a \$10,000 fine, three years’ probation, and 500 hours of community service. They don’t consider him a flight risk.”

Dickinson says part of the accident report was not true.

“The CHP reported that he had above a .08 alcohol reading, but they never tested him. They just wrote it in there. Neither he nor I drank that night. They found THC in his system from two weeks earlier, when he was in Amsterdam.”

Dickinson says Balmer



PHOTOGRAPH FROM CD LINER

BALMER, DURING HIS HOSPITAL STAY

cowrote songs on the CD.

“He recorded all the bass lines before the accident.... People don’t know what is up with that picture [on the CD art]. I wanted him to know...his spot in the band is reserved for him until he says he can’t or won’t resume the position.”

Fing (myspace.com/fingband) appears April 19 at Soma.

— Ken Leighton

blurt

the inside track

capacity venue has created the best business plan it could, considering the competition; unlike the Belly Up, House of Blues, or Canes, 4th&B will not have its own in-house talent buyer or promotion staff. It is now a for-rent venue, available to outside promoters who are willing to pay rental, security, and production costs up front. The house will keep all receipts from the bar, while the renter gets the door.

The insider speculates that 4th&B owner Ali Nilforushan may see the arrival of the Hard Rock Café’s new 800-seat venue as increased competition, prompting him to step back from the financial commitment required to promote shows.

“I hear [Hard Rock Café has] already booked Black Eyed Peas,” says the source. “The Hard Rock will get a lot of major-name acts, and that’s just one more competitor.” (House of Blues is a block away from 4th&B.)

says Stamps. “Those shows were packed.”

Regarding the club’s past success booking Latin artists



BLACK EYED SWEET PEAS (FERGIE) COMING SOON?

and DJ headliners, Stamps says, “The market has become pretty crowded. DJs or promoters who might be looking to come here might think that if they come here and we do 300 or 400, the place looks pretty empty.” He says the much smaller On

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The Generous GOP

Before playing a recent show at Schubas in Chicago, Grand Ole Party stopped their tour van in Rock Island, Illinois, to record an informal

session at Daytrotter's studio. *Daytrotter.com* is enjoying a growth spurt after taking on a new majority partner who runs *wolfgangsvault.com*, the Internet database offering thousands of performances taped by late concert promoter Bill Graham.

Daytrotter attracts around 25,000 visitors daily and has provided over two million downloads. In the company's third-story studio above a pizza parlor, Grand Ole Party performed "Dirty Spirit Rag," "Look Out Young Son," and two other songs. Other locals among the 200 or so bands who've performed Daytrotter sessions include Delta Spirit, Raymond Raposa of Castanets, and Rafter Roberts.

Bands don't sign contracts with Daytrotter; the agreements are oral, with no money involved. The website hosts the sessions, but performers own the recordings and all reproduction rights to

them...after they've been posted on *Daytrotter.com* for four months.

Daytrotter's new majority partner (53 percent) is Bill Sagan, who paid five to six million dollars for the Bill Graham archives in 2003. His *wolfgangsvault.com* website is being sued by Carlos Santana, surviving members of the Doors, Led Zeppelin, and



GRAND OLE PARTY MAKES NOISE IN ROCK ISLAND

others over alleged trademark and copyright transgressions.

— Jay Allen Sanford

On the Soggy

Ground Floor August Christman doesn't understand why he keeps "hitting a brick wall" as he organizes all-age shows under the name Skank Out Productions. Christman, 23, says that his bands — mostly local ska — draw big hassle-free crowds.

"We always sell out Soma [side stage]. Our last show there [January 29 with the Toasters and Buck-O-Nine] had 50 people waiting outside to get in." Christman says the usual financial arrangement is one dollar a head, which is split up between the bands he brings in. ("Bands are willing to play for next to nothing for the exposure.")

"I've done shows at the Hot Monkey Love Café [near SDSU], but that place is

OVERHEARD IN SAN DIEGO: CASBAH



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pretty touch-and-go, as far as sound complaints. They have a neighbor who keeps complaining, so they asked everyone to start playing acoustic [after 10 p.m.]. (Calls to Hot Monkey Love were not returned.)

Although Christman says his shows do well at Mira Mesa's all-age Epicentre (where bands get two dollars per ticket sold), he says,



PHOTOGRAPH BY DEREK PLANK

CHRISTMAN GETS AROUND RED TAPE

"...every time I've had a problem with the staff. If you go out to smoke, they won't let you back in. Once, they gave me a date; I booked the

bands and made posters and they canceled it. I asked them why and they said it was because we didn't have contracts signed. I tried for days to come by and get them signed." (Facility manager Jerry Figueroa said he was not aware of specifics about that canceled show.)

Christman says he found a way around the red tape and big expenses that usually discourage promoters from doing shows at UCSD.

"When you hook up with a school organization that will sponsor you, you're golden. We hooked up with a club called One Earth One Justice. They let us do an outdoor show January 18. We had a band called Deal's Gone Bad from Chicago who were on tour, and they just needed a place to play, so they played for free.

"It had just rained all week. I was worried about having all the electrical equipment on damp grass. I went around on my skateboard and grabbed 30 of those mats they put in front of classrooms, rolled them up, and cruised down the hill with them. We put them on the grass and used them as our stage. Because the show was part of the Party with a Purpose event on campus,

the sound system and the lights were supposed to be powered by solar panels and bicycles. We got the bicycles to power one light. We ended up plugging in to outlets."

— Ken Leighton

Eat It, Drink It When Marilyn Manson appears at the House of Blues on Monday, February 25,

"All personnel stationed in areas requiring light should possess a working flashlight, none to exceed eight inches in length...under no circumstances

is a flashlight to be used as a weapon."

Dressing-room requirements for Marilyn Manson himself include a fruit tray ("strawberries and watermelon"), a bag of Doritos ("white corn"), a jar of Pace salsa ("medium"), French onion dip ("fresh from deli, if possible"), two packs of Dentyne Ice gum ("peppermint and spearmint"), and two bags of Haribo Gummi Bears.

Drinks: a six-pack of Hansen's cherry vanilla soda, a bottle of champagne ("Cristal, Moët"), and five assorted Kool-Aid packs ("sweetened").

The band bus requires a dozen bottles each of Smirnoff Black Ice and imported beer ("no



FEED THE BOY, ALREADY! (MANSON)

Heineken"), a box each of Pop Tarts and Nature Valley Oatmeal Raisin Bars, an assortment of Hostess cakes ("Ding Dongs, Ho Hos, Twinkies, etc."), and a large Camembert cheese. (From *thesmokinggun.com*)

— 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

Miguel Bose

March 2

Rufus Wainwright

March 4

Def Leppard

Apr. 26

Avril Lavigne

Apr. 30

Juanes

May 3

Alicia Keys

May 7

Lisa Lampanelli

May 10

Joe Jackson

May 11

Margaret Cho

May 16, 17

Megadeth

May 20

George Lopez

March 15

Kanye West

April 20



Foo Fighters

March 3

Vicente Fernandez

May 24

The Police

May 26

The Cure

June 3

Gary Allan

June 4

David Sedaris

June 30

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club crawler

This Week In Music

Thursday 21

Double dose of punk'd art rock and likely double bill of the year as **Liars** and **No Age** roar through Casbah. These L.A. bands released two of '07's strongest collections, landing top ten on a majority of last year's indie-crit



LIARS AT CASBAH

lists. The three-piece Liars relocated to Berlin to record their last two discs, departures from earlier dance-punk rhythms into more experimental tones and tunes — the effects-heavy drum textures on 2006's *Drums not Dead* and the pop deconstruction through hammering repetition of last year's *Liars*, the band's tastiest to date. No Age rises from the L.A. art scene of club/clubhouse The Smell, where you can have a vegan breakfast and a \$5 haircut while bands rehearse. Guitarist Randy Randall and drummer/singer Dean Spunt are two founders of that visual, sonic collective (incl., Lavender Diamond, Abe Vigoda, Silver Daggers, Mika Miko), surrounding crowds with art and sound. No Age's Fat Cat debut *Weirdo Rippers* is a collection of the duo's singles and e.p.s. The disc's fuzzed-out, amp'd up charge has been described as "surfy psychedelia" by the critic who wrote, "The songs have thumping heartbeats. Each and every one. All the jangling feedback loops and cymbal submersions in the world can't hide that." Liars and No Age are loud, but a good loud — leave the earplugs on the bed stand.... If you miss the door to that one, New York punk progenitor **Marky Ramone**'s playing downtown at belo and heavy-metal heads **Queensryche** and **Dokken** will be rokken House of Blues.



NO AGE AT CASBAH

Friday 22

The brothers Alvin bring back the blast, as original line-up of L.A. bar band the **Blasters** drops in on Belly Up. Give a listen to 2002's live reunion disc *Trouble Bound* for an update. It may be 4/4 blues rock to your feet, but brother Dave, a Grammy winner (Best Traditional Folk Album, 2001), can pen a tune. **Hacienda Brothers** and honky-tonk DJ **Gonzo** open.... Wanna get yer roots rock on closer to home, dig the gig at Tower Bar, where La Mesa lounge lizard and former Beat Farmer guitarist **Joey Harris** and his new crew the **Mentals** will turn it out and turn it up.... Zep heads can't wait for the reunion tour? Catch L.A. apers **Led Zepagain** at House of Blues. Don't forget your air guitar.... Music's back at the Ché Café, which's running a sound system benefit this weekend. (They want the one that goes up to 11.) Friday night's punk lot includes **Cathead**, the **Americans**, and **All or Nothing Hardcore** (L.A.). Check out Saturday's surprise below.... Jimmy Lavelle's **Album Leaf** mines sonic soundscapes for the drone-pop conscious at Casbah. Solid bill with **Kill Me Tomorrow**, **Manuok**, and **What Laura Thinks and Feels**.... San Fran she-soul sisters **Her Grace the Duchess** take the Gossip a side-step and one diva further. Check their MySpace samples and prepare to get funk'd up at Bar Pink Elephant.... Get wet at Whistle Stop with **Swim Party** or Rolling Ston'd at the Ken with **Roses on Her Grave** and the **Swedish Models**.

Saturday 23

San Diego shriek punks **Locust** swarm the Ché Saturday night. Last year's *New Erections* continued the quartet's flights of rapid-fire screamo and time-sig experiments à la Blood Brothers. Locust tour Pacific Rim next month, so catch 'em while you can. Local Ramoners the **Atoms** on the bill.... Metal-edged alt-rock quartet **Weatherbox** tour debut *American Art*, a collection of buzz-saw guitars and languid indie vox, through teen scene Epicentre. **Jet Lag Gemini**, **Shining Through**, and **Anglin** share the Mira Mesa stage.... Hot-shit locals the **Sess** rock North Park's Bar Pink Elephant Saturday night with dance-y punk-n-blues. Grab the new single, give them pancakes.... Missed the Van Halen show at Sports Arena? Catch trib act **Atomic Punks** at Belly Up. Hear tell the Hollywood band nails the Hollywood band.... Hometown perennials **FLUF** and buzz band **Buckfast Superbee** visit grungy alt-rock on a Casbah crowd. According to their website, Buckfast's got a Pall Jenkins-produced disc in the hopper. Matt Curreri and his **Ex-Friends** serve up

country-fried pop appetizers.... Out of the garage and into the Ken Club: surf-rock sets with the **Widows**, **Monsters from Mars**, and **Thee Cormans** at the end of Adams.

Sunday 24

Grammy winners **Bone Thugs-n-Harmony** drop in on House of Blues Sunday night. Last year's *Strength & Loyalty* went gold for the Cleveland hip-hop crew, which garnered an AMA for Favorite Rap/Hip-Hop Band, making 2007 one of the 20-year-old band's best years. Openers include L.A. trip-hop duo **Jupiter Rising** and *Native American Hustlers* **Dago Braves**.... Jazz-n-blues crooner **Earl Thomas** will belt 'em out at Belly Up's Benefit Concert for NCCS Food Bank. O.C. chanteuse **Amber Ojeda** and Santa Fe singer/songwriter **Justus Ewing** perform in support.... 94/9 props a locals-only showcase at Casbah. The radio-broadcast sets feature **Get Your Death On**, **Inigo**, **War Stories**, and **Frantic Romantic**. Show's free, as is the grub.... Citizen Video will screen cult classic *Badlands* (Martin Sheen, Sissy Spacek) at Whistle Stop Sunday afternoon at 4p. Afterward, stick around the Stop for **Night of the Cookers**, jocks spinning vinyl bop.

Monday 25

Belly Up's booked sleeper sets of the week, as the mayor of Americana, **Jay Farrar** (Uncle Tupe, Son Volt), makes his annual Solana Beach stop. This isn't a Son Volt set. Farrar's stretching his stage legs with a solo outing before Volt tour behind last year's *The Search* commences. Check the takes on *Stone*, *Steel & Bright Lights* to sample Farrar's live fare. Fellow Gob Ironite **Anders Parker** sets the stage. With these two splitting the bill, expect to hear some of Gob Iron's '06 debut *Death Songs for the Living*.... Twee-poppers **British Sea Power**



JAY FARRAR AT BELLY UP

dropped an arena-rock record couple weeks back called *Do You Like Rock Music?* The Rough Trade disc is a departure for the Brighton quartet, garnering mixed reviews round indie webland — more heady than heavy seems to be the common denominator. Pitchfork scored the disc a "U.2." **British Sea Power** sails into Casbah, their first stateside

gig of the tour, with UK kids **Colourmusic** and likeminded locals the **Modlins**.... Trick triple bill as local indie acts **Old Man Hands** and **Red Pony Clock** set the stage at the Ché for "Denver's Dylan" **Bad Weather California**.... Goth-rock wonk **Marilyn Manson** powders his nose at House of Blues.

Tuesday 26

Prog-rock guitarist **Adrian Belew** slides into Belly Up Tuesday night. The Kentucky native is best known for his years fronting King Crimson, but in the biz, the technical



ADRIAN BELEW AT BELLY UP

virtuoso is the studio cat to call, as have Zappa, Talking Heads, Bowie, Tori Amos, Paul Simon, Trent Reznor.... Belew is touring his new "power trio" with brother/sister rhythm kids **Eric** (20) and **Julie Slick** (21), whom Belew was wowed

by at an '06 Paul Green School of Rock concert. Last year, the Adrian Belew Trio released debut *Side Four*, the band's first live takes of Belew compositions, including hit "Beat Box Guitar," which earned Belew a Grammy nomination for Best Rock Instrumental.... Good week for guitar junkies, as progressive jazzman **Pat Metheny** checks in to Anthology for two nights.... Winston's in O.B. stages men in black **Cash'd Out**.

Wednesday 27

New North Park nightspot U-31 hosts **This Holiday Life's** CD release party for *The Beginning of the End of the World*. The Encinitas pop-rock quartet are taking it cross country. Wish 'em luck. **Andrea Hamilton**, **Writer**, and **Red Letter Agent & the Daylights** in support.... 'Nother CD release cross town at Casbah, where Portland duo **Helio Sequence** touts SubPop collection *Keep Your Eyes Ahead*. Fellow Portlanders **The Builders and the Butchers** and locals **Calico Horse** (Emily and Patti from Clockwork Army) set the stage.

— Barnaby Monk

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ALL AGES
APRIL 16

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The Hits
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FEBRUARY 22

BADFISH
tribute to
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FEBRUARY 29

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murder by death
HEN MACHINE
ALL AGES
MARCH 12

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Jay Aston
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Calendar

CONCERTS

Angie Stone, Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room, Wednesday, March 26, 8 p.m., 5000 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

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

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

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

APRIL

Bad Manners, House of Blues, Tuesday, April 1, 8 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Beto Cuevas, 4th & B, Wednesday, April 2, 7 p.m., 345 B Street, Downtown. 619-231-4343.

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 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma. 619-226-SOMA.

Morcheeba, 4th & B, Saturday, April 12, 7:30 p.m., 345 B Street, Downtown. 619-231-4343.

The Mother Hips, Belly 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.

Flyleaf and Seether, Viejas Casino Concerts in the Park, Saturday, April 19, 6:30 p.m., 5005 Willows Road, Alpine. 619-445-5400.

John Mayall & the Bluesbreakers, Poway Center for the Performing Arts, Saturday, April 19, 8 p.m., 15498 Espola Road, Poway. 858-748-0505.

NOTE

BY DAVE GOOD

"I don't mean to be nosey," says David Letterman during an interview with **Marilyn Manson**, nonplussed by the vampirish figure seated before him, "but do you have chrome teeth?"

Marilyn Manson, a stage name combining Marilyn Monroe with serial killer Charles Manson, is Brian Warner from Canton, Ohio. In 1989, Warner was a rock journalist. He wrote poetry and lived in Florida. He formed a band called Marilyn Manson and the Spooky Kids. They recorded *The Manson Family Album*, which was not well received by fans of the Spooky Kids' high-wattage theatrical performances. After an overhaul supervised by Trent Reznor, the CD was rereleased as *Portrait of an American Family*, and by 1994 the

Spooky Kids had shortened their name to Marilyn Manson and were selling in the platinum figures. The band's success seemed to grow in direct proportion to their increasing public image as a collective of dark and controversial degenerates.

Theories circulated that Marilyn Manson's music may have influenced Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, otherwise known as the Columbine shooters; Congress once studied the possible impact on youth culture of Manson's lyrics. But ask Manson about this (Michael Moore interviews him in *Bowling for Columbine*), and he comes off as just another social critic. "Sex, sex, sex!" Manson screams in one song — "And don't forget the violence!" MTV once called Manson "the only true artist" and compared him to other shock rockers like Alice Cooper. But the MTV argument was that, unlike Cooper, Manson never breaks character and, if you set aside his brilliant



MARILYN MANSON

songwriting and the androgynous Goth look, that Brian Warner has truly crossed over to some dark side for the sake of his art. This rhetoric may be misguided, but still, I have to wonder what it's like to be Marilyn Manson.

MARILYN MANSON, House of Blues, Monday, February 25, 7 p.m. 619-299-2583. \$60.

Kanye West, San Diego Sports Arena, Sunday, April 20, 7 p.m., 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma. 619-224-4171.

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.

Spiritualized, 4th & B, Friday, April 25, 8 p.m., 345 B Street, Downtown. 619-231-4343.

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

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

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

Ghostland Observatory, House of Blues, Thursday, May 15, 8 p.m., 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-299-2583.

Megadeth, Cox Arena, Tuesday, May 20, 5:30 p.m., 550 Campanile Drive, College Area. 619-594-6947.

Hal Ketchum, Belly Up Tavern, Thursday, May 22, 8 p.m., 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. 858-481-9022.

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.

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FEBRUARY 22

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3/22 The Presidents of the United
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3/25 Bob Schneider
3/29 The Avett Brothers
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3/30 Salsa Sunday
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4/5 Pine Mountain Logs
4/9 X
4/11 The Mother Hips & New Monsoon

4/12 The Mother Hips & Jackie Greene
4/13 Charlie Musselwhite
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Calendar CONCERTS

The Police and Elvis Costello, Coors Amphitheatre, Monday, May 26, 7:30 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.

Calendar CLUBS

DJ

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

Air Conditioned Lounge: *Thursdays:* Too Cool for School. Old-skoool hip-hop and '80s music, funk freestyle and new wave. Ages 21 and up. *Fridays:* Junior the Disco Punk. Old skool, rare grooves, funk, and disco, with opening set by DJ 1979. *Saturdays,* 9 p.m.: The

Air Conditioned Cocktail Party. "Dance in your dazzling duds." Come in cocktail attire and get 2-for-1 cover charge. Ages 21 and up. *Sundays:* Guest DJ Night. Guest DJs to be announced. Ages 21 and up. *Mondays:* DJ 1979. Hip-hop, funk, and soul. Special guest joins DJ 1979. Ages 21 and up. *Tuesdays,* 9 p.m.: Big Sonic Chill. "Ethereal dream-pop bliss" sponsored by San Diego's Local 94.9. *Wednesdays:* Club Nigel. Steve West and DJ SG spin the '80s. 4673 30th Street, Normal Heights. 619-501-9831.

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

Bar West: *Friday:* Beatnick. Spinning soul/hip-hop music. Ages 21 and up. *Sunday:* Fresh One. Ages 21 and up. *Saturday:* DJ Sid Vicious. Ages 21 and up. *Thursday:* Craig Smoove. Spinning house/hip-hop/mashups. Ages 21 and up. 959 Hornblend Street, Pacific Beach. 858-273-WEST.

Beauty Bar: *Thursdays,* 10 p.m.: Soul Survivors. Thursday nights with DJ Rob Hostetter and Daniel Sant. Ages 21 and up. *Saturday,* 9 p.m.: DJ Corey Biggs. Adam Salter, Eric Diaz, Lord Nelson, and Rockwell spin electronic/new wave/house music. \$5. Ages 21 and up. *Tuesdays,* 9 p.m.: DJ Heather Hardcore. '80s dance party every Tuesday. Ages 21 and up. *Wednesdays,* 10 p.m.: DJ RatStar. Spinning soul and hip-hop on Wednesday nights. Ages 21 and up. 4746 El Cajon Boulevard, Kensington-Talmadge. 619-516-4746.

NOTE

BY WILLIAM CRAIN

Last week I interviewed Stan Ridgway of Wall of Voodoo, and something he said has been nagging at me: "The music that I always found to be most valuable to me when I was younger were songs that I didn't really like at first." I like his word choice: "valuable."

What Ridgway said made me give the **Liars** another chance. The band first entered public consciousness as one of the leading lights of the much-hyped New York scene of 2001. The Liars had the cool sound of the time, dance-punk, and at the time singer **Angus Andrew** had the coolest girlfriend in the world, Karen O of the Yeah Yeah Yeahs.

(Her sublime hit "Maps" was written about him.) But the Liars took a weird turn and started recording experimental music on concept albums about artistic doubt and historic witch-hunting. I wasn't the only listener who was left completely mystified.

I'm glad I reconsidered. The self-titled album *Liars* released last fall is a return, if not to exactly dance-punk or even rock, at least to riffs and rhythms that are a little easier to understand. It's not a retreat, though, because the music shows the influence of years of studio trickery and avant-garde ideas. It's just that this time around, the Liars ditched the high concept in favor of high energy.

So, thank you, Stan Ridgway. I think the Liars could be valuable to me if I keep listen-



LIARS

ing. I don't know if I'm ready to tackle that album about witch-hunting again, but I'll think about it.

LIARS, The Casbah, Thursday, February 21, 8:30 p.m. 619-232-4355. \$14.

Belo: *Friday:* Dubfire. He is one-half of the Grammy Award-winning duo Deep Dish. DJ Dubfire spins house, electro, techno, and industrial music. Ages 21 and up. *Thursday:* Marky Ramone. Ages 21 and up. 919 Fourth Avenue, Downtown. 619-231-9200.

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

'Canes: *Sundays,* 9 p.m.: Reggae Sundays. Moulin Rouge Ent. presents Club Seduction. Live reggae, hip-hop, and R&B performances every Sunday. Featuring DJ Alonzo, Baby Crown, and Big Daddy on the turntables.

Ages 21 and up. 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780.

Coyote Bar and Grill: *Fridays,* 10:30 p.m., *Saturdays,* 10:30 p.m.: DJ Steve Hasty. Spinning every Friday and Saturday night at the Coyote Bar & Grill. 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4695.

The Filling Station: *Fridays,* 9 p.m., *Saturdays,* 9 p.m.: DJ Dance Party. Dance to your favorites! Over 65,000 songs for your pleasure. Ages 21 and up. 9522 Miramar Road, Mira Mesa. 858-578-0757.

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: *Saturday:* Boogie Nights. Every Fourth Saturday, with DJ Sandra T. Disco-house, electro, funk. *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.

The Kava Lounge: *Saturday,* 9 p.m.: Trans Europe Express. European techno/new wave/house music. 2812 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy. 619-543-0933.

Live Wire: *Thursday,* 9 p.m.: Skull Kontrol. First and Third Thursday of the month, with DJ Mario O. Ages 21 and up. 2103 El Cajon Blvd, Normal Heights.

Moondoggies Pacific Beach: *Saturdays,* 9 p.m.: "What's Good". DJs Enigma and Cisco. Hip-hop, R&B, and Top 40. 832 Garnet



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Thursday, February 21
8 pm • Jazz Vocalist

Jesse Davis



Friday, February 22

6 pm • Soul, R&B
Electric Soul

9:30 pm
Dance & Disco

Makai



Saturday, February 23

5 pm **Challenged Athletes Foundation
Singles Auction and Silent Auction**

9:30 pm • Latin Rock

**Viva
Santana**



Sunday, February 24

8 pm • Smooth Jazz

Hank Easton

with host **Tayari
& DJ John Phillips**



Monday, February 25

8 pm • Blues Guitarist

**Sean
Costello**

Tuesday, February 26

8 pm • Dance R&B

DJ John Phillips

Wednesday, February 27

8 pm • Rock 'n' Roll

Marie Haddad
with **Allied Gardens & Static Halo**

UPCOMING SHOWS

Sunday, March 2

**Michael
Ward**

Saturday, March 8

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Duarte**

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Whiskey Girl: *Fridays*, 9 p.m., *Saturdays*, 9 p.m.: DJ Marc Thrasher. Music video mixes. Ages 21 and up. *Sundays*, 9 p.m.: "10 Spot Sundays". DJ Famous Dave mixes your favorite music video requests. Ages 21 and up. *Mondays*, 9 p.m.: "Manic Mondays". DJ Marc Thrasher mixes the best of the '80s and '90s music videos. Ages 21 and up. *Tuesdays*, 9 p.m., *Wednesdays*, 9 p.m.: DJ Famous Dave. Mixes music videos. Ages 21 and up. 600 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-236-1616.

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.

Beaumont's: 5662 La Jolla Boulevard, La Jolla, 858-459-0474. *Thursday*, 8 p.m.: Ryan Hiller. Acoustic. *Friday*, 8:30 p.m.: Mark Fisher and Friends. Covers/standards. *Saturday*, 9 p.m.: Josh Fischel. One of the original members of Bargain Music

Coyote Bar and Grill: 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad, 760-726-4695. *Thursday*, 6 p.m.: Citizen Band. Americana rock/bluegrass/country. Ages 21 and up. *Friday*, 6 p.m.: Eight Twenty Band. Performs a mixture of rock and Latin music. Ages 21 and up. *Saturday*, 6 p.m.: Roots to Rockets. Performs modern rock hits. Bands they cover include Green Day, Audioslave, Nirvana,

Tiki House: 1152 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-273-9734. *Friday:* Meld. Garage rock/blues/soul. *Saturday:* Agave. Performs a hybrid of Latin/Tejano/rock music. *Wednesday:* Guava Belly. Four-piece jam band out of San Diego, California. Performs a mix of rock, reggae, and funk music.

***Canes:** 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-488-1780.
Thursday: Frontyard, Red Channel Revue. Love & Groove, Project Out of Bounds also perform.
Rock/reggae/rap. Ages 21 and up.
Friday: Rockin' Johnny White's Award Showcase. Features performances by Foil, Blue Sky Blonde, Sirens of Shipwreck, and Children of Nova. Local rock/alternative/indie music. Ages 21 and up. **Saturday:** Criminal Element Presents. Hive spinning

Dream Street Live: 2228 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-8131. *Saturday*, 8 p.m.: Thrillrazr. Attic of Love, Handguns & Heroine, and guests perform. Local band, Thrillrazr, performs in their debut show. Enjoy a night of punk, rock, and metal music. \$7. Ages 21 and up. *Wednesday*, 9 p.m.: Metal Lounge. Features local metal bands.

Humphrey's Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-224-3577. *Monday:* Sean Costello. Blues/soul/rock. Ages 21 and up. *Wednesday,* 8 p.m.: Marie Haddad, Allied Gardens, Static Halo. Allied Gardens is Michael Tiernan's side



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Calendar CLUBS

BEACHES

(continued)

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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.

Vigilucci's La Jolla: 909 Prospect Street, Suite 209, La Jolla, 858-454-9664. *Thursday*, 7 p.m.: Batista & Castellano. Mediterranean fusion/ flamenco/ acoustic. *Saturday*, 7 p.m., *Saturday*, 7 p.m.: The Ian Tordella Trio. Modern jazz with Jeff Denson and Joey Carano.

Winstons: 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822. *Thursday*: Salvador Santana. A mix of hip-hop, funk, rock, and Latin music. Ages 21 and up. *Friday*: Stranger. Reggae/blues/rock. Ages 21 and up. *Saturday*: Elijah Emanuel & the Revelations. Reggae/ska/rock. Ages 21 and up. *Saturday*, 7 p.m.: Scott Wilson. Alternative. \$5. Ages 21 and up. *Saturday*, 7 p.m.: Paratrooper. Alternative/rock. \$5. Ages 21 and up. *Tuesday*, 9 p.m.: 4th Annual Cash Only. A Tribute to the Music and Legend of Johnny Cash. The last three years have been sold-out

shows! Features performances by Cactus Jim Soldi, Cash'd Out, Eve Selis, Joey Harris, Chuck Schiele, the Palominos, Tornado Magnets, the Cash Kings, the Band in Black, and Nisha Rose. \$12. Ages 21 and up.

CENTRAL

Chasers Cocktail Lounge: 3615 El Cajon Boulevard, City Heights, 619-280-9379. *Saturday*, 9 p.m.: Bumbklaatt. Titanarum, Nuclear Tomorrow perform. Metal/hardcore/punk.

Dick's Last Resort: 345 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-231-9100. *Thursday*, 7 p.m.: The Scott Carter Duo. Scott Carter is also the bandleader of Scott Carter and New Breed. Has opened up for top performers such as Hootie & the Blowfish, UB-40, Eek-A-Mouse, Common Sense, and the B-Side Players. Indie/acoustic/alternative. *Friday*, 7:30 p.m.: The Siers Brothers. Covers hits from classic rock, Motown, '70s disco, and R&B. *Saturday*, 7:30 p.m.: Private Domain. Rock/alternative/reggae. *Sunday*, 6:30 p.m.: The Ideas. *Tuesday*, 6:30 p.m.: The Dregs 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.

Across the Street: 4601 Park Boulevard, University Heights. *Friday*, 8 p.m.: Gayle Skidmore and Vanja James.



Album: *The Bankhead Press* (2007)

Artist: The Bankhead Press

Label: Timeless Takeover

Where available/price: CDBaby.com for \$8, M-Theory in Mission Hills for \$6, or at live shows for \$5.

Songs: 1) Searchin 2) Shame 3) Julia 4) Lay It Down 5) Deep Down in It 6) Constantly

Band: Jake Bankhead (bass), Joe Amato (guitar), Mike Press (drums), Aaron Irwin (percussion), Tim Felten (piano, organ), Rod Hubbard (vocals)

Website: thebankheadpress.com

Extra info: The Bankhead Press is scheduled to play the Tower Bar on February 29.

Drummer Mike Press, who I previously panned in this column on his solo project, settles into a band that shows off his talents. While

Press occupies his role professionally, the band isn't focused on drumming. Press, Joe Amato on guitar, and Aaron Irwin all do fine jobs

Beauty Bar: 4746 El Cajon Boulevard, Kensington-Talmadge, 619-516-4746. *Friday*, 9 p.m.: DJ Mike Czech, the Kindness Kind. Ultraviolet and Hyper Crush perform. Hip-hop/electro/rock. \$5. Ages 21 and up. *Saturday*, 9 p.m.: Danger Danger. One-year anniversary hosted by Jack Greene and May Star. Also *Urb* magazine's 100th-issue-release party. The 87 Stick Up Kids perform. \$5. Ages 21 and up. *Tuesday*, 9 p.m.: Crash Engine. A rock/indie band originally from Eugene, Oregon.

Also features a performance by Army Navy. 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-

at their appointed tasks, but this is a stinky organ, soul vocals, and rowdy bass-lover's band.

Rod Hubbard's voice registers somewhere between Aaron Neville and a choir of angels. Tim Felten, on the keys, trades jabs with bassist Jake Bankhead, driving the melodies. Everything rolls in a tight ball. Although the lyrics aren't stellar, they are solid. With inspired Smokey Robinson or Marvin Gaye-esque words to accompany the rhythms, the band would be near perfect.

The Bankhead Press offers itself as the "back when Stevie Wonder was good R&B" salvation to the masses who seek an alternative to cookie-cutter whine punk and coffeehouse faux-folk. The band takes its place among vener-



The Bankhead Press

able San Diego acts such as Psydecar and Wise Monkey Orchestra, which offer straightforward R&B, reggae, ska with a twist of funk seemingly squeezed from the crotch of James Brown's jumpsuit. That's funky.

TO GET YOUR LOCAL CD REVIEWED, PLEASE MAIL IT TO:

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22

The Reaganomics

9:45 PM-1:30 AM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

The Reaganomics

9:45 PM-1:30 AM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28

MASTERPIECE

6:15-10:45 PM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Diva Soul

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Calendar CLUBS

CENTRAL

(continued)

Monday nights, you can have fun playing a round of Wii bowling! Ages 21 and up.

The Casbah: 2501 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-HELL. *Thursday:* The Liars, No Age. Experimental/pop/punk. Ages 21 and up. *Friday:* The Album Leaf, Kill Me Tomorrow. Manuok, What Laura Says Thinks & Feels perform. Garage rock/punk/pop. Ages 21 and up. *Saturday:* fluf, Buckfast Superbee. Matt Curreri & the Ex-Friends perform. Rock/alternative/indie. Ages 21 and up. *Monday:* British Sea Power. Indie/alternative/pop band from the United Kingdom. Ages 21 and up. *Wednesday:* Helio Sequence. Ages 21 and up.

Dizzy's: 200 Harbor Drive, Downtown, 858-270-7467. *Friday,* 8 p.m.: A Fork in Time. Poetry and jazz take center stage at Dizzy's. Featuring poet Steve Garber, multi-instrumentalist Dave Curtis, singer/songwriter Gregory Page, and drummer Danny Campbell. \$10. *Saturday,* 8 p.m.: Mike Garson. Longtime music director of David Bowie. Performs with his trio featuring Bob Magnusson (bass), Bill Mintz (drums), and special guest Lori Bell (flute). \$15.

Epicentre: 8450 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa, 858-271-4000. *Friday,* 7 p.m.: Sound of Surrender. The Variety Show, the Crashing Marbles, Primavera, and a Dull Science perform. Local bands come together for a night of indie/alternative/pop rock music. \$7-\$9. *Saturday:* Weatherbox. Jet Lag Gemini, Shining Through, and Anglin performs. Pop/rock/alternative. \$7-\$9.

The Handlery Hotel and Resort: 950 Hotel Circle North, Mission Valley, 619-298-0511. *Friday,* 8 p.m.: The Christopher Dale Trio. Acoustic pop/rock. *Wednesday,* 5 p.m.: Christopher Dale and Friends. Acoustic pop/rock.

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 up.

Hot Monkey Love Cafe: 6875 El Cajon Boulevard, College Area, 619-469-4113. *Saturday,* 9 p.m.: Gerardo Pablo. Contemporary singer and songwriter celebrates at his CD-release party. \$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.

Kadan: 4696 30th Street, North Park, 619-640-2500. *Saturday:* Boogie Nights. Every Fourth Saturday, with DJ Sandra T. Disco-house, electro, funk. *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. *Thursdays,* Lilith Velkor, The Loaded. Indie/punk/grunge. Ages 21 and up. *Friday:* Roses on Her Grave. Swedish Models, Desert Diamonds perform. Alternative/rock/garage. Ages 21 and up. *Saturday:* The Widows. Monsters from Mars, Thee Cormans also perform. Punk/surf rock/garage. Ages 21 and up. *Wednesday:* The Muslims. Alternative/pop/punk. Ages 21 and up.

Lestat's Coffee House: 3343 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights,

as i hear it

BY BRIAN CARVER

Artist: **Jeff Bloom**

Song: **"Peace on Earth"** (from the CD *New Style*)

Heard By: **Robert Jaquez**, Skyland Hills



Robert

I thought the overall message of the song was pretty positive: "peace on Earth." As far as the lyrics, maybe [they were] a little too clichéd or explicit. The song itself was your regular kind of reggae beat. It had a nice jazzy element to it with the trumpets. The guitar work was pretty awesome, too. Whoever was on the guitar was tearing it up. I dig positive music, so I can imagine listening to that, maybe at a bar — definitely in a relaxed setting. I like my protest songs more edgy and angrier, though. It fit the genre really well. It all depends if you like reggae or not. If they get people to think differently — which I'm guessing is the message of the song — then they'll have had some sort of success.

SAN DIEGO SONGS TAKE THE STREET TEST

Artist: **Emery Byrd**

Song: **"Busy Doing Nothing"** (from the CD *Mrs. Young versus the Modern Ones*)

Heard By: **Wilson Pulido**, El Cajon



Wilson

I thought it pinpointed a problem in society that I think we should be aware of. A lot of times we're too concentrated on ourselves and don't care about the people around us. I think a good way of putting that message out is through song. It wasn't too loud, offensive, or "in your face." It had a catchy beat. It started off well. I liked the drums. I would say it would be "alternative." I don't see it as a hit song because there's so much music out there to compete with. [That song] would probably remind me of my responsibility to my parakeets. I have some parakeets at home, so I might think about making sure they get fed.

Artist: **Gustavo Aguilar**

Song: **"Dirac's Theory"** (from the CD *Unsettled on an Old Sense of Place*)

Heard By: **Rebecca Treadwell**, Downtown



Rebecca

I thought it was very interesting. At first it was like a Caribbean beat, but then he interpreted it to be like Indian tablas. It sort of reminded of Ravi Shankar. I would imagine [Aguilar's] live performances to be amazing, with a lot of incredible energy going into it — really interesting beats and syncopation. It was strictly instrumental. I know that there are plenty of people out there — especially in San Diego — who are interested in "avant-garde" music, so I definitely think it has potential; but, as far mainstream [success], probably not. I could see myself sitting with friends with a glass of wine, having a conversation, and having that [song] be part of the experience.

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619-282-2848. *Saturday,* 9 p.m.: The Robin Henkel Band — with Horns!. Award-winning guitarist Henkel and bandmates Dave Castel de Oro, Troy Jennings, Rod Ratelle, and Phil Rowley cook up a feisty blend of blues, funk-infused jazz, swing, and steel-guitar music. \$8. *Sunday,* 9 p.m.: The Donnis Trio. An evening of acoustic rock and folk music. \$5.

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.: Kindle to Ember. A local band that performs reggae/roots/dub music. Also features a performance by Bredren. Ages 21 and up. *Saturday,* 9 p.m.,

Sunday, 9 p.m.: Emergenza Music Festival. A weekend of rock, pop, alternative, and funk music. Saturday night features performances by J.D. Combes & the Soul Stealers, Sound Sector, the Morning Riot, the Apes of Wrath, Given Life, Ruben Angel, Exit Theory, and the Luxurians. Ages 21 and up. *Mondays,* 8 p.m.: Mystery Train. Pro-invitational blues jam on Monday nights. Ages 21 and up. *Tuesday,* 9 p.m.: Another Zeke Productions Presents. A night of punk/reggae surf/garage music. Features performances by Deadites Revenge, Nuthin Speshl, Zombie Surf Camp, and the Abrasives. Ages 21 and up. *Wednesday,* 9 p.m.: Moontucky Risin. Local bluegrass/psychedelic/classic rock band. Also includes performances by Starcrossed and the Chris Leyva Band. Ages 21 and up.

Ramada Inn: 5550 Kearny Mesa Road, Kearny Mesa, 619-596-9777.

Wednesdays, 6 p.m.: Keith Jacobson. Smooth jazz saxophone.

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

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

San Diego Sports Club: 1271 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-299-7372. *Friday,* 8 p.m.: In Every Breath. CD-release party. Featuring live performances by In Every Breath, Born Tonight, and special guests. A free CD with flyer and merchandise giveaways. Ages 21 and up. *Saturday:* Stick It in Your Ear Productions. Live bands every fourth Saturday of the month. Ages 21 and up. *Tuesdays,* 9 p.m.:

acoustic open-mike night. Unplugged talent every Tuesday. Ages 21 and up.

Sevilla: 555 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-5979. *Thursday,* 8:30 p.m.: Club Salsa. Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday night. Salsa Caliente performs a mix of salsa, cha-cha, merengue, and cumbias. Includes salsa dance lessons by Vanessa. Ages 21 and up. *Sunday:* Sunday Salsa. 2007 Grammy nominee Charanga Cubana performs. Ages 21 and up. *Mondays,* 9 p.m.: rock en español. Ages 21 and up. *Tuesday:* Club Salsa. Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday night. Performance by Orquesta Primo. Includes salsa dance lessons by Vanessa. Latin/mariachi/tejano. 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.

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Sundays

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Calendar CLUBS

CENTRAL

(continued)

Ages 21 and up. *Saturdays*, 8:30 p.m.: open blues jam. with Will Jackson. Ages 21 and up. *Sundays*, 6 p.m.: original music modern jazz series. Every Sunday, with Doug Walker, Tim Nunnink, Nick Tocco, and Nathan Hubbard. *Tuesdays*, 8 p.m.: The Friend, Sibley, Hilton Trio. Jazz. Ages 21 and up.

Static Lounge: 634 Broadway, Downtown, 619-544-1609. *Thursday*, 8 p.m.: Urban Underground. Featuring the Beat Down Emcee Battle: \$100 to the winner. Blame One, Vision, Davy Jones Locker, Scarred IV Life, and Mikey Mo the MC perform. Rap/hip-hop. \$8-\$12. Ages 18 and up. *Friday*: Club Pop Noir. Every fourth Friday of the month, Maystar's *Club Noir* featuring DJ Groundfloor and DJ Edgartronic. Indie/electroclash/dance music. Ages 18 and up.

Tio Leo's Lounge: 5302 Napa Street, Clairemont, 619-542-1462. *Thursdays*, 7 p.m.: Cajun and Zydeco Dancing. Zydeco dance every Thursday night, with lessons by Gator Boy starting at 7 p.m. \$5. Ages 21 and up. *Friday*: Sue Palmer & Her Motel Swing Band. Blues/soul. Ages 21 and up. *Saturday*, 9 p.m.: "Listen Local" Showcase. Features performances by Fat City Reprise and Keith Harman. Rock/alternative/funk. \$6. Ages 21 and up.

Tio Leo's Mira Mesa: 10787 Camino Ruiz, Mira Mesa, 858-695-1461. *Thursday*: The Robin Henkel

Band. Blues/funk/jazz. Ages 21 and up. *Saturday*: Electric Soul. A mixture of smooth jazz, funk, and rhythm and blues. Ages 21 and up.

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

U-31: 3112 University Avenue, North Park, 619-584-4188. *Monday*, 8 p.m.: City of Industry. For locals in the hospitality industry. *Tuesdays*: U-31 Karaoke. Ages 21 and up. *Wednesday*, 7 p.m.: This Holiday Life. CD-release party with special guests: The Daylights, Red Letter Agent, Writer, and Andrea Hamilton. Tickets only available at the door. Alternative/indie/rock. \$5. Ages 21 and up.

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

EAST COUNTY

Dirk's Niteclub: 7662 Broadway, Lemon Grove, 619-469-6344. *Friday, Saturday*: Full Xposure. A five-piece group that covers a selection of rock and dance music, from standards to the hits of today. Ages 21 and up. *Sundays*: Karaoke. Every Sunday night with Lisa Marie. Ages 21 and up.

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

Second Wind (Magnolia): 8528 Magnolia Avenue, Santee, 619-596-8350. *Mondays*, 9 p.m.:

Second Wind Karaoke. Weekly event. Ages 21 and up.

Second Wind (Navajo): 8515 Navajo Road, Santee, 619-465-1730. *Thursday*: Slowhand. An Eric Clapton and Cream tribute band. Local band, Heathen Culture, also performs. Rock. Ages 21 and up. *Tuesday*: T-Wizz, Rich White Males, T.F.L..

Thornton's Irish Pub and Grill: 1221 Broadway, El Cajon, 619-447-5665. *Friday*, 8 p.m.: Hugh Gaskins & the G String Daddies. CD-release party. Blues/soul/rockabilly.

V Lounge: 5000 Willows Road, Alpine, 619-445-5400. *Sunday*, 10 p.m.: Paradise. A seven-piece, San Diego-based band that blends elements of Afro-Cuban rhythms with rock, jazz, funk, R&B, and Latin music idioms to create a sound all their own. The music of Paradise has spanned two decades since its formation in 1991. From playing the club circuit in San Diego to opening for Santana, Paradise continues their legacy of electrifying performances.

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*: Blizzard. Local acoustic/alternative/rock band. Members include Chris Leyva (lead vocal, guitar), Gerardo Baladon (lead guitar, vocals), Sebastian Reyes (bass), Todd Newman (keyboards), and Francesco

Yo, DJ!

Talk About a Star



Queensryche plays House of Blues tonight, February 21

I saw Queensryche at the Sports Arena in the early '90s, when *Operation: Mindcrime* came out. I wasn't even in radio back then. There were two things I noticed about the crowd: a lot of military and...how many people were drunk and just doing lots of illegal stuff. I think security was a lot more lax back then.

Singer Geoff Tate has this amazing voice. His aunt was an opera singer, and he has a lot of range

Bucchioni (drums). Ages 21 and up. *Saturday*: The Merkaba Bandits. A four-piece band that performs indie/classic rock/western swing music. Members include Alexander Gruenburg (lead vocals, guitar), Michael Loreto (bass), Ryan Sieloff (lead guitar), and Marco Piro (drums). Ages 21 and up.

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

The Kraken: 2531 South Highway 101, Cardiff, 760-436-6483. *Thursday*: The Charles Burton Band. Performs a mixture of blues, swing, and jazz. Members include Charles Burton (guitar, vocals), Steve Wells (bass), and Paul Jeffery (drums). *Saturday*, 9 p.m.: Live Wire. The Live Wire band plays a mix of your favorite rock hits from the '60s through today. Ages 21 and up. *Wednesday*: Jeff Moore & the Witch Doctors. Down-home Americana blues rock.

McCabe's Beach Club: 1145 South Tremont Street, Oceanside, 760-439-6646. *Fridays*, 4:30 p.m.: The California Rangers. Performs country music every Friday.

himself. I was near the front, and this one guy was so drunk, he just passed out and fell right on the floor. Security had to drag him away. The singer just looked down at him briefly and kept on talking. Even his speaking voice almost sounded operatic as he said something like, "Our tour has been a great success. And we want to thank the people of San Diego."

There was something a bit odd about a singer with that voice, thanking the people of San Diego, as I see one of those people passed out right next to me and being dragged away.



DJ: CLINT AUGUST
Station: ROCK 105.3 FM
Shift: WEEKDAYS, 3:00-7:00 P.M. (WITH SIDEKICK B.C.)

Ocean House: 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad, 760-729-4131. *Friday*, 9 p.m.: West of 5. A local band playing a varied selection of '70s to modern rock.

NORTH COUNTY INLAND

Carvers: 11940 Bernardo Plaza Drive, Rancho Bernardo, 858-566-2400. *Friday*, 8 p.m., *Saturday*, 8 p.m.: Night Shift. A five-piece band that covers classic and modern rock, blues, and funk. They perform the hits of Michael Jackson, Led Zeppelin, Carlos Santana, Aretha Franklin, and more!

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Rockin' Johnny White presents

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SATURDAY, MARCH 15

BOREDOMS



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3/22 **Tainted Love (80's Tribute)**
3/28 **GZA/Genius**
3/29 **B-Side Players**
4/10 **Authority Zero**
4/11 **Sick Puppies**

4/13 **Meat Beat Manifesto**
4/17 **Helmet**
4/19 **Seedless 4/20 Party**
4/28 **The Breeders**
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FRI. FEB 29
Bedford Grove anglin'

Aquaculture
Heaven Is For Sinners
The Wrong Trousers

SAT. MAR 1
THE DAJJAL PERSONA
THE 25TH HOUR
ORAS - NAME
A LEGEND UNKNOWN
WITT

THURS. MAR 6
THIS IS HELL
Elysia • Ruiner
SOLDIERS • TERRORSPELL

FRI. MAR 7
AIZEN
(FORMERLY MEDIA LAB)
CAGE • DAEMOS
UNDER THE STONE
MORDIUM

THURS. MAR 13
AVA
ANGELS & AIRWAVES
TICKETMASTER - SOMA BOX OFFICE - LUNATIKS

SAT. MAR 15
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WED. MAR 19
PORTUGAL THE MAN
FOXY SHAZAM
WILD ORCHID CHILDREN
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FRI. MAR 21
BOULEVARD FRIDAY PRESENTS
THE AP TOUR

THE ROCKET SUMMER
ALL TIME LOW
THE MATCHES • SONNY
FOREVER THE SICKEST KIDS

SAT. MAR 22
MOTHER MAE I
DISCORD
DYING REGRET
ONE THEORY
IMMOLATED SERAPHIM

FRI. MAR 28
TOKYO POLICE CLUB
EAGLE BEAGAL • WE BARBARIANS

SAT. MAR 29
THE LOVED ONES
FLATLINERS
COBRASKULLS

WED. APR 2
THE WARRIORS
The Ghost Inside
Stray From The Path
Fate

THURS. APR 3
THE UNSEEN
A WILHELM SCREAM
EVAGUATE • SAYARA

FRI. APR 4
STREETLIGHT MANIFESTO
SAT. APR 12
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Calendar

CLUBS

NORTH COUNTY INLAND

(continued)

Cheers: 2475 Main Street, Ramona, 760-789-0270. *Tuesday, 9 p.m.:* MoonDance. Classic rock/rhythm and blues/soul cover band.

The Filling Station: 9522
Miramar Road, Mira Mesa, 858-
578-0757. *Thursdays, Sundays,*
Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays:
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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.: 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. *Wednesday*, 9 p.m.: Fear the Fat Guy. 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.

R. O'Sullivan's: 118 East Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-737-0954. *Thursday*, 9 p.m.: Joe Wood & the Lonely Ones. Blues/rock/soul. Ages 21 and up.

SOUTH BAY

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.:
Laguna. 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. Ages 21
and up. *Friday*, 9 p.m.: The
Offbeats. Perform a range of classic
rock music. Influences include the
Beatles, the Dave Clark Five, the



Jay Farrar, February 25, Belly Up Tavern

Kinks, the Searchers, and the Rolling Stones.
Covers/standards/rock. Ages 21 and up. *Saturday*, 9 p.m.: Harmony Road.

CA 92186-5803. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the events section.

MORE MUSIC

"Harlem of the West"
Musician Hollis Hassell shares his memories and plays "great jazz hits" of mid-20th Century. 760-749-1305. Thursday, February 21, 6:30 p.m.; Valley Center Library, 29200 Cole Grade Road. (VALLEY CENTER)

“Rock for Justice” Benefit concert for Loose Change to Loosen Chains, a student-led campaign where students collect change to rescue victims of modern-day slavery. Bob Goff from Restore International is guest speaker, followed by youth bands Mannequin, Shadowtree, Anglin. 760-994-9947. Friday, February 22, 3:30 p.m.; Ages 12 and up. North Coast Calvary Chapel, 7188 Avenida Encinas #105. (CARLSBAD)

Black History Gospel Awards Celebration Recording artist and Grammy-nominee Tonéx is guest, along with Cheryl Dearing and Blessed. 760-586-4982 Saturday, February 23, 6 p.m.; \$15-\$30. Higher Dominion Worship Center, 2136 Industrial Court. (VISTA)

Hillbilly Gothic? The Earl Brothers perform for San Diego Folk Heritage; Tanya Rose and the Buffalo Chip Kickers open. 858-566-4040. Saturday, February 23, 7:30 p.m.; \$12-\$15. San Diegoito United Methodist Church, 170 Calle Magdalena. (ENCINITAS)

Jazz at the Athenaeum
Classic jazz trio of Warren Vaché (cornet/trumpet), Howard Alden (guitar), Nicki Parrott (bass) perform for series. 858-454-5872. Thursday, February 21, 7:30 p.m.; \$18-\$23. Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, 1008 Wall Street. 858-454-5872. (LA JOLLA)

Jazzy! Jazz vocalist Carl McFarland Thuet performs for Athenaeum's mini-concert series.

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MORE MUSIC AND VENUES

HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTING: *Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday the week prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone number, and a phone number (including area code) for public information to READER MORE MUSIC EVENTS, Box 85803, San Diego*

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858-454-5872. Monday, February 25, noon; Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, 1008 Wall Street. 858-454-5872. (LA JOLLA)

Presbyterian Choral Festival
Choirs from Solana Beach
Presbyterian Church, Christ United
Presbyterian Church, Westminster
Presbyterian Church, Point Loma
Community Presbyterian Church,
and Cabrillo Singers join for an
evening of praise and celebration.
Each choir will sing three
selections, then the choirs combine
for "Come Let Us Sing" by Gabrieli
"Soonah Will Be Done" by William
Dawson, and a hymn concertato.
Offering. Reception follows. 619-
223-1633. Sunday, February 24, 4
p.m.; Point Loma Community
Presbyterian Church, 2128
Chatsworth Boulevard. (POINT
LOMA)

Tentacle Sessions Pop-culture “musical mastermind” DBR and laptop artist DJ Scientific present “hybrid of electronica, hip-hop, and classical music” for UCSD’s ArtPower series at The Stage at Porter’s Pub. Program includes “Sonata for Violin and Turntables.” 858-534-TIXS. Thursday, February 21, 8 p.m.; Thursday, February 21, 10 p.m.; \$12. UCSD: University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. 858-534-2230. (UCSD)

The Strange Woods This folksinging ensemble led by guitarist and singer Jim Hinton brings "array of instruments including a didgeridoo" to play Celtic fusion in concert. 760-631-7055. Saturday, February 23, 3:50 p.m.; \$10. Palomar Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1600 Buena Vista Drive. (VISTA)

Up for Some Topical Songs?
 “What’s funny about war, poverty, ignorance, bigotry, neo-conservatism, homophobia, greed, lust and fear?” Roy Zimmerman, who’s “been writing satirical songs for 20 years,” answers the question during AcousticMusicSanDiego concert. Reservations: 619-303-8176. Saturday, February 23, 7:30 p.m.; \$15-\$40. Normal Heights United Methodist Church, 4650 Mansfield Street. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)



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Fri., Feb. 22 • \$7/\$9
Sound Of Surrender
The Variety Show
The Crashing Marbles
Love You Long Time
A Dull Science

Sat., Feb. 23 • \$7/\$9
Weatherbox
Jetlag Gemini
Shining Through • Anglin

Fri., Feb. 29 • \$7/\$9
Get Back Loretta
The Silent Comedy
Scarlet Symphony • Paper Mache
To Talk Panda

Sat., March 1 • \$7/\$9
Endure The Fall
His Irate Life • Terrorspell
Wages Of War • Northwall

Fri., March 7 • \$7/\$9
Long Live Logos
The Softlights • The Hanks
The Fascination
The Burning of Rome

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Shining Through • Sierra Leon

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Crasher

KNOCK KNOCK

by Josh Board

I went to North Park for a Super Bowl party. Getting there an hour before the game started scored me seats in front of the big screen. They had another TV set up in the garage, but when I went out there to grab a Coke, I saw that the picture wasn't clear. The crowd of eight watching it didn't seem to mind. I almost knocked over a woman's drink by the refrigerator door and apologized. As I walked back to the living room, I wondered why she didn't move it before someone else did the same thing.

The clock above the TV said 3:00, and I was glad that it was later than I thought. But, when I looked at my cell phone ten minutes later, it said 2:30. I looked back up at the clock, and it still said 3:00. I wondered why so many people complain about Christmas lights being left up months after December, yet nobody complains about people who have VCRs always flashing 12:00, those who ignore daylight savings, or who hang clocks that don't work.



One guy debated with me when he found out I was rooting for the Giants. He said, "How could you, after what Eli did to the Chargers?" I said, "Yeah, I thought Eli saying he wouldn't play for the Chargers was bush league. But he had a



Top left: Mike (left); Bottom left: Bill (right)

players I don't care for. Really, unless you're from New England, you should be rooting for

"If I meet a guy, he is going to have to know how to cook because I don't know how."

few points. And, I look at the Giants as the lesser of two evils. The Patriots were caught cheating. Their coach is a known jerk. They have a number of

the Giants."

His response was, "Wouldn't you like to see Junior Seau get a ring?" I thought about it, and said, "No. Not

really. Everyone likes to say that. I would've loved for Tony Gwynn to win a World Series. I thought he was a class guy. And, I did play basketball with Seau a few times. He was nice enough. But, I don't always like him celebrating after he makes a tackle. I didn't like him saying he was retiring, then graduating, and all that other garbage. For him to latch on to a team that's already won a few Super Bowls...what kind of accomplishment is that?"

Though my girlfriend and I had great seats in terms of the view, we soon realized that we were closest to the door. Every time someone knocked, we weren't sure what to do. The first time, the people knocked and immediately came in. The second time people arrived and knocked, they didn't come in. They knocked again and my girlfriend opened the door and said, "Hi. I don't live here, but come on in." The woman said, "Yeah, I know," and walked right by her. My girlfriend said, "Okay, that's the last time I'm opening the door for anyone." I said, "Now you know how some of us guys feel when we hold the door open for women we don't know and we aren't acknowledged."

One lady arrived and was introducing everyone to Pang Pang, a foreign exchange student from China. I thought about introducing myself to her as "Josh Josh."

I overheard her talking to a guy named Mike. She was saying the kitchens here are a lot different than in China. She

Steve Trevino

(Mind of Mencia,
The Daily Buzz)

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Thursday, February 21

**CRIMSON REIGN
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Friday, February 22

"ROCK THIS TOWN"

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Saturday, February 23

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Sunday, February 24

**"ACOUSTIC ALLIANCE"
CHRIS CLARKE**

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Thursday, February 28

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Friday, February 29

**SEVERED ROOTS
MIDNIGHT REIGN
SOUNDESCAPE
THE YELLOW GUNS**

Sunday, March 2



**THE MOTHER TRUCKERS
SICSTRING OUTLAWS
THE TORNADO MAGNETS**

Wednesday, March 5



**NICOLE ATKINS &
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Friday, March 7

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Crasher

explained that in China the kitchens are closed off and separate from the rest of the house to protect the house from cooking steam and oil. As most people say about their homeland cooking, she added, "Every part of the dish is fresh and prepared from scratch."

One thing she said that surprised me was that Chinese dishes have a very light flavor. She added, "If I meet a guy, he is going to have to know how to cook because I don't know how."

She told us that while she was in China, she had an exchange student from Sweden. Since he was so tall, in the food lines, they always piled food on his plate. She would get two small, cooked carrots, and he'd get a stack of them.

As the game neared halftime, Patriots owner Bob Kraft was shown on screen, and a woman

asked, "Does he have to wear a tie?" Someone responded, "No, he owns the Patriots. If it was me, I'd choose not to wear one." Someone else said, "I'd wear a zoot suit."

Everyone got quiet when the commercials came on. As a political ad played, we wondered how many of these would cut into the funny commercials we were expecting.

I asked one guy who he thought the best team in football history was. "We might be watching them right now. They're 18 and 0." I said, "I'd take the '70s Steelers over them." Someone else said, "What about the 49ers in the '90s?" I said, "Yeah. I think they're better, too. The Pats are a close third."

Someone mentioned a picture frame that had photos that kept changing. My girlfriend thought it was cool. I liked the concept, though I thought it should stay on each photo a bit longer. And we shouldn't see the cord hanging from the picture frame — it looked like a laptop showing photos of their trip to New York.

Bill told us some interesting stories about that trip and how he tried

to convince his wife to stand next to the naked cowboy, but she didn't know who he was.

Someone asked if there was also a naked Indian. I said, "That could work. A full headdress and a dream catcher strategically placed."

It's fun at Super Bowl parties to hear guys explaining football to women who aren't sure what's going on. It was funnier to hear them explaining it to Pang Pang, who was really confused.

When a quarterback spiked the ball down to stop the clock, one guy said, "Why is it legal to do that, yet they'll call intentional grounding if he throws the ball away before he gets sacked?" The same guy brought up another good point when Tom Petty played at half-time and sang "American Girl."

"Hillary is using that song in her campaign. But if you listen to the words, it's not a happy song." I said, "Yeah, the same thing happened when Bush was using 'Born in the U.S.A.' People use songs and don't even know what they mean."

I saw a woman writing

something on a piece of paper. She was asked, "Are you working on a play?" She said, "It's a recipe for something someone brought." My girlfriend leaned in and said, "I hope not the dip. It tasted like yogurt with peppers in it. Disgusting!"

When the commercial came on that showed inflatables from a parade fighting over an inflatable Coke, everyone laughed. I decided that Super Bowl commercials aren't that funny. They're cute, but much like a crowd at a comedy club, everyone is expecting funny, and so they are more willing to laugh at the smallest amusements.

Another commercial had lizards dancing to a Michael Jackson song. Again, the crowd erupted with laughter. I said, "This explains why Martin Lawrence movies make hundreds of millions of dollars." ■

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The Devil in the Details

Among the many new restaurants opening along the formerly starved 30th Street corridor, the one that's generated the most buzz is Urban Solace, a giant hit with all the local food blogs. When it had been open long enough to presumably have its act together, I set forth with my posse (Samurai Jim, ex-chef James, witty Fred) for some hoped-for solace, or at least dinner.

Neighbor to a new upscale shoe store and a high-class dive bar, the restaurant's exterior looks transported from the French Quarter, with a lacy iron balcony overhanging the entrance and an iron-fenced outdoor dining patio to one side. Indoors, you step into a bar-lounge with comfortable couches separated by a glass wall from the long, narrow dining room. Even with its hard flooring and unclothed tables, the dining room's sound level maintains that elusive balance point between lively and loud that so many restaurants strive for but cruelly exceed: a bright party sound that still permits conversation. On a midweek night, a singer-guitarist seated by the front window roamed from flamenco-pop to Latin-pop to Leon Redbone-ish old-timey bluesy pop. (At the weekend brunch, there was a good little bluegrass band.)

Every restaurant has an off night sooner or later, and it's sort of tragic when the "off" happens just when a restaurant critic is in. I hit not just one but two off nights (although one was during the day). Given the blog raves, the high praise in smaller papers, and the crowd of evident regulars that the chef greeted by name, I'm sure the restaurant's performance at these meals wasn't typical. (It *couldn't* have been!) In any event, the chef-owner knows my quibbles, sounded sincerely aghast at the worst mishaps, and will be (as they say) taking steps. Still, I have to write about the restaurant I ate at, not the restaurant I wanted to eat at.

Service was highly problematic at both meals, with many glitches. At the first dinner, we bought glasses of wine at the bar and brought them to our table when seated. That was fortunate, because for unknown reasons (prohibitionism? oenophobic panic? irritable bowel syndrome?) our original waiter couldn't take our wine orders but flapped off to enlist another server to handle that task. Then both waiters vanished, never to be seen again (not at our table). After a reminder, a third server, who more or less stuck with us thereafter, finally brought our white (a tasty Marsanne blend from Cline), af-



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE KLEIN

ter a reminder, just as we finished our bar quaffs — about halfway through the appetizer course.

Here, ya gets no bread with one meatball, or even with no meatball. You can order biscuits with honey-butter as an inexpensive side dish, but (as at the Laurel group) the chef really doesn't want you to stuff yourself on starch before you've even ordered. We began instead with Seared Albacore Chop Chop — raw tuna, avocado, lime juice, cilantro, and pine nuts assembled into a mellow So-Cal-Mex version of ahi poke, with thin russet-colored house-baked crackers (made of pizza dough) for crispness. There's no soy sauce or any other Asian substance in the mix because the chef emphatically doesn't want to do fusion; he wants to do pure, simple American. The result is pleasing, if not riveting.

Pan-roasted mussels were fresh and tender in a smoked tomato butter — a thick but light tomato sauce, which lacked any detectable butteriness. "Butter — or more butter, anyway — is precisely what this needs," said ex-chef James, "to pull it all together and give it the luxurious mouth-feel it needs."

Sweet potato fries were perfect — long, skinny, moist strips of red Garnet yams, with a Maytag blue cheese-butter-milk dip. Lightly fried, the yams maintained their sweet, lush character. "Ah, that breaks da mouth," said James, in the argot he learned when heading the kitchen at a Fijian resort.

Crispy Skillet Shrimp and Chile Grit Cakes looked and sounded better than they tasted. Prettilly presented in their shells, the shrimp were crisped but a tad overcooked, and not especially flavorful in themselves, despite a festoon of multicolored bell pepper strips, a rub of gumbo filé (sassafras), and a bed of solid grits studded with serrano chile bits. The dish circulated, garnering mere nibbles, like Duncan Hunter's run for president.

A soi-disant "creamy" tomato-fennel soup was acidic, made with canned tomatoes since fresh ones are rarely ripe in winter. "But they're obviously not Muir Glen's roasted tomatoes — those are sweeter and mellower than this soup," I speculated. (They were, in fact, Italian Romas.) "This maybe needs a swirl of actual cream to smooth it out," I added. James said, "I'd put in some sugar,

REVIEW NAOMI WISE

Urban Solace

★★½ (Good to Very Good)

3823 30th Street (south of University Avenue), North Park, 619-295-6464, fax: 619-29-6465, urbansolace.net.

HOURS: 11:30 a.m.–10:00 p.m.; Friday–Saturday: 11:30 a.m.–11:00 p.m.; Sunday: Brunch 10:00 a.m.–2:45 p.m., dinner 5:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

PRICES: Appetizers and salads, \$4–\$11; entrées, \$11–\$16; sandwiches, \$9–\$11; lunch entrées, \$7–\$14; brunch entrées, \$6.50–\$10.50.

CUISINE AND BEVERAGES: American comfort food with Southern touches. Mainly California wine list, affordable and venturesome, lots by the glass; serious beer list.

PICK HITS: Sweet potato fries; albacore chop-chop; hanger steak; cheesecake. Brunch: Portobello Benedict; French toast; grits. Good bets: marinated Jidori chicken, hamburger.

NEED TO KNOW: No reservations, call ahead to go to top of waiting list. Heated outdoor patio. Sound level lively but not painful. Live music (folkish) during dinner and Sunday brunch. Plenty for lacto-vegetarians; four entrées adaptable for vegans — specify vegan when ordering. Service can be disorganized.

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

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too, to cut the tartness," at which point Fred chimed in, "I love eating with you foodies. Mentally remaking the soup — your imaginary version tastes better than the real one."

When our appetizers arrived, we put in orders for entrées and a red wine with the latest of our waiters. Entrées arrived, but no wine. We inquired. Our waitron vanished temporarily, and another approached to say that our wine choice was sold out. We chose a substitute (Banging Red, a Bordeaux-style blend gone wild, with Zin added to Cab and Merlot). It arrived soon — but as a powerful young whippersnapper, it would have been better if brought and opened half an hour earlier,

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Calendar

RESTAURANTS

when we originally ordered a red. (In fact, none of the ever-changing cast who served us in passing seemed particularly personable, professional, or knowledgeable about the foods or wines. Yes, it's a relatively inexpensive restaurant, but — where did they get these people? And is anybody in charge of directing traffic?)

The fennel-infused buttery crust on a Maine lobster and artichoke pot pie was delicious, and so were the artichoke hearts, but the lobster meat (not frozen, as I'd originally guessed, but actually from fresh live "culls") was so upstaged by the supporting players that we could barely taste it. Maybe artichokes just don't play well with others. ("Imagine this with braised fennel and leeks instead of artichokes," I murmured, mentally defending the lobster against the veggie bully.)

The menu announces: "All meats cooked to the temperature you request." That is, unless your server is somehow inconvenienced by your request. We asked for our cinnamon-brined pork chop cooked to 135°F, which would be medium-rare, rosy and moist. Our waiter *du moment* went away briefly, returned, and told us that the chef cooks it to 145°F and lets it rest for five minutes to finish cooking internally. That's how it arrived — well-done, tough, white all the way through. (When I told the chef, he was appalled: Like me, he's a fan of Bruce Aidells's meat cookbooks, which specify the lower figure as ideal, as well as quite safe with American commercial pork.) The accompanying cinnamon-shallot gravy was good, the braised chard was nice, and the corn spoon bread was passable. (It, too, needed more moisture, less time in the oven. Spoon bread is a great treat when done right — soft and succulent, almost puddinglike.)

Char-grilled hanger steak was pretty good, rare as ordered. It's not the pricey Brandt beef the restaurant uses for its cheeks and burgers but comes

from a larger, cheaper purveyor (using Brandt would nearly double the price) — and it's noticeably less flavorful. The more serious disappointment was that the celeriac mashed potatoes served with it had too much potato and not nearly enough of the haunting flavor of celery root, and also not enough dairy (cream, butter, even milk) for the luxurious smoothness I'd hoped for. (Ever since tasting the spectacular version that Brian Sinnott served at Molly's — he's now at 1500 Ocean — I've craved a repeat.) As for the braised Brandt Farm beef cheeks, James and I both wished for more red wine in the braising liquid to give the sauce greater depth (something more like Pascal Vignau's beef cheek bourguignonne at Savory). But maybe the service was making us cranky.

For dessert, a butterscotch pudding was airy and subtle, with a velvety texture and gentle taste. A cheesecake garnished with caramelized apple slices was light, too, if a little more substantial.

I returned a few days later for Sunday brunch with the Lynnester, Cheryl, Michelle, and Sue. The phone was partly out of order that day, so we couldn't do a call-ahead and had a 20-minute wait before being seated. No big deal — but then the real waiting began: for coffee, for drinks, for a chance to order, and finally, endlessly, for food.

Drinks first: The restaurant has a beer and wine license, but apparently the owners expected to get a full liquor license, because the written brunch menu offers rum drinks with numerous fruit flavors. They've got the fruit syrups, but — no rum. If you want booze for breakfast, you'll have to content yourself with wine, beer, a mimosa, or else champagne with a bit of pomegranate, mango, etc. flavoring. No mojitos after all.

As we sipped, blood sugar plummeting, we eyed the beautiful golden Benedict at a neighbor's table and envied the huge, handsome hamburgers heading for the patio. Eighty minutes after arrival, the Lynnester checked her watch: "It's after 2:00. I've got dinner reservations for 6:15 tonight,

hope we'll be done in time." Cheryl said, "I hope the food will be worth the wait." Urban solace? Urban nightmare. Ninety minutes after our arrival, when the waiter refilled our coffee cups for the third time, one of us asked in the weak and failing voice of a starved Dickensian orphan, "Please, sir, will our food be coming soon?" "Two minutes," he promised. Five minutes later, he returned with loaded plates, a mere 95 minutes after our arrival, 75 minutes after we were seated.

I assumed the delay was because the kitchen was backed up, but it seems to have been another service problem. "Usually, that doesn't happen, even if the restaurant is full," chef-owner Matt Gordon told me later, "because the brunches are such fast-dish orders, the kitchen can get them right out. So this implies that something went wrong along the way — the ticket [the order] was lost, or some kind of miscommunication."

The dish most worth waiting for was the Portobello Benedict. The base is a pair of house-baked biscuits, stacked with spinach, portobello slices, and perfectly poached eggs, topped with smoked-anchovy (mild chile) hollandaise. It was flawless and fabulous, eliciting groans of pleasure as each of us tasted it.

Coming close was the butter-pecan French toast, large soft slabs of egg bread topped with buttery browned-sugar syrup and a host of whole pecans. Alongside were a few bites of what the menu describes as "maple/turkey/bacon/sausage." It's not a series of choices, but an all-in-one sausage (or Churkendoose) whose full name is "maple turkey chicken bacon yam sausage," and it's made by Bruce Aidells.

Lynne and Michelle both liked the Monte Diego well enough — a baked version (rather than deep-fried or grilled) of a Monte Cristo, with fontina as the cheese — but I was a bit disappointed by its austerity. The stuffing had much ham but little cheese (more goo, please!), and the baked French toast surrounding it seemed dry as well. The plate is supposed to include grilled pears and strawberry-currant jelly. The jelly had a fine, dark fruitiness, but —

where were the pears? Send in the pears! Was it pear jelly instead? Or did the server finishing the dish forget to add the fruit?

Warm cheddar and chive biscuits with "Southern country gravy" is the menu description of the dish I most wanted to try, even if it's the unhealthiest thing you could ever eat (pig fat! flour! cream! A bad-carb-cholesterol nuke!). But it proved not quite Southern after all. The biscuits are on the larger, softer side (more Midwest than Deep South), and although there's some loose bulk sausage in the gravy, along with those sliced Aidells links, it's not the typical sage-laden breakfast sausage my mouth was set for when I saw the word "Southern." (The chef seasons the bulk sausage with various chile powders instead.) As the plate circulated, the gravy did cool and congeal into authentic Deep South wallpaper paste — but sorry, I still wanted a hint of sage in my glue.

Another Southern item came off very well: breakfast grits (basically, polenta porridge). Cheryl and I both love them, so we ordered the day's special of scrambled eggs with bell pepper, fresh chiles, and sausage, with "traditional grits" served on the side in a ramekin. Smoothly lump-free, the grits were the highlight of the plate. Thing about grits is, they're not gritty at all, but light, soft and soothing, true rural solace. "I've never liked grits before," said Sue, in her faint British accent. "But now I see that they can really be quite delicious." Lynne said, "I've never *had* grits before. I like 'em!" The scrambled eggs were also silky and light — not so easy to pull off when the kitchen is slamming. Nonetheless, by ordering this dish, we had to sacrifice the chance to try a Brandt beefburger — and with Brandt's well-raised beef, fearing neither evil nor E. coli, I'd ask for it really rare, the way I like burgers and never get them anymore.

From all I'd heard about Urban Solace, I expected a three-star — and I have a feeling that when everything's going right, it's exactly that. I did like the restaurant, which seems to have a lot of heart and a warm, neighborly feeling. And almost

every dish came "this close" to being what it could and should be. It's only that the kitchen and, more direly, the dining room, were beset at both my meals by a nasty little gremlin — that notorious devil in the details.

ABOUT THE CHEF

With 17 years of cooking experience, Urban Solace co-owner and executive chef Matt Gordon has long wanted to open his own restaurant. "I started cooking in high school at local restaurants," he says, "and was going to college in Arizona for a political science degree and just kept cooking because I needed to make money. I found if I learned more, I could make more. I continued getting better jobs through college, until I had a sous-chef position. I also played in a rock 'n' roll band, and we were doing fairly well, but our singer graduated and said, 'I'm moving to San Francisco,' and the rest of us said, 'Okay, let's go for it!' I stayed in my field, cooking, and after about a year of working there I was an executive chef at a restaurant. It was '96, the dot-com boom, and I just was in the right place at the right time."

He started at Gordon Bier-sch (which was still small) and then worked at Jesse Cool's renowned Flea Street Café in Menlo Park. But when he met his future wife and started thinking about marriage and kids, he realized "I was making nothing and would be forever and decided I needed to give the corporate thing a shot. I opened the Cheesecake Factory in San Francisco, which is one of the hardest things I've ever done. I certainly learned a lot about business! I did it for about a year, and then I decided, 'No, no!' I went on to an executive chef position at Scott's Seafood for about three years.

"My wife and I were living out near the beach in a really cold, foggy part of town, and in 2001 we were kind of over the jobs that we had, so we just picked up and moved to San Diego on a whim." Matt went to work for a large corporate catering operation. "I told myself that it was the last job I'd have before I worked for myself." But when one of his mentor-chefs from

Flea Street started opening restaurants in Sonoma County and asked him to run the new Willi's Seafood and Raw Bar in Healdsburg, "I was ready for a change, so we moved back north again. After living up there for about a year and having our first child, my wife and I realized we didn't want to live there. Serendipitously, my business partner here called me up and said, 'What are you doing? Because I really want to do something.' I talked to some of my potential investors at that point, they said okay, and we moved back down and opened Urban Solace.

"We decided to find a location that we liked and could afford as a first restaurant and then decide what would fit there.... When I first moved here in 2001, the Asian-fusion trend was just kicking in, but after being in San Francisco in the '90s, it felt like 'been there, done that' — everywhere I worked, we did that." Returning from Healdsburg, he found the local restaurant scene vastly improved, "But it seems that the great majority of the hot new places are still that fusion thing, whether Cal-Med-French, or Cal-Asian-Spanish or whatever. I just wanted to do something that was a little different — you know, back-to-the-roots comfort food. We have no truffle oil, no soy sauce, none of that stuff! And it's kind of hard, because I *like* playing with those things. But I decided to pigeonhole myself here, and it's worked out well.

"The Southern influence was not really intended. I was thinking 'American comfort food' and the South is where a lot of that food originates from. It wasn't until we'd been open a couple of weeks and people started asking me, 'Did you spend time in the South?' — 'No-o-o' — that I thought about it. It was kind of a happy accident. But I don't want to be a Southern restaurant. I want to do some Pacific Northwest comfort food in spring, when the salmon is running and the berries are good. I really do want us to be an all-American restaurant. Our food's not really complicated, we just buy good products and do as little to it as possible." ■

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Before Tamed Fire

"I grew up in Rhode Island and always wanted to be a chef, but I was also lactose intolerant."

In case I haven't mentioned it lately," says Debbie the bus driver through her microphone, "I love my passengers. Yee-haw!"

Hey, it's okay. This is the 35, the O.B. bus. People are allowed to be spontaneous.

Debbie drops me right where I want to go. Newport and Cable. The Wednesday farmers' market. Trying to buy local. Support San Diego, right?

The tents fill up the street. So does live music and lively talk. Everybody's yapping, while the farmers yell to sell their cauliflowers and lettuces, and a llama-shaped inflatable bounce-room echoes with kids' shouts. Real live llamas stand nearby, waiting to have kids plonked on their backs. It's starting to feel like a regular South American *mercado*.

But it's the first tent gets my attention. White, with a green-and-red sign hoisted along its side. "Peace Pies."

'Course I have to investigate. I mosey up to the tent. The two dudes working the counter fit the part. J.P. and Jeff. Specially J.P., who's somewhere there in the middle of a big ol' beard and reggae-style knitted hat. Looks rangy, thin, like a gentle-but-hungry lion.

"So what's Peace Pies about?" I ask. "They're to promote peace, in a healthy way," Jeff says. I think he means if you eat organic pies, you won't be full of poisons that make you wanna rush off and kill someone. Or make a preemptive strike on some unsuspecting country.

I look over the selection. Just in case I decide to test the theory. Something for Carla, perchance? "Organic, vegan, gluten-free," says J.P. "And all raw. So the enzymes are alive." At the far end of the counter I spot what seems to be a

piece of quiche, and next to that, pizza, with a brown base you'd swear was baked pastry. It's spread over by some kind of hummus, with cucumbers and little tomatoes and spinach leaves on top. "Cashew hummus pizza," says J.P. "It's \$3 a slice. You'll be surprised how it fills you up."

Next to the pizza is a wrap, a big, veiny collard leaf wrapped around a tahini-looking paste. All of these are \$3 a slice each. On the near end, I see sweet vegan things, like \$2 cinnamon rolls, a banana-berry coconut pie, a banana-carob coconut pie, an apple pie (all \$3 a slice). What I don't understand is how they can look so normal when they haven't been cooked.

So, guess I'll cave. First up, I've gotta taste this quiche. I worry it'll be purest cardboard. I hand over three Washingtons, take a bite, and try to sort out the flavors. It's...savory, in a nutty, pleasant sort of way.

"The crust on the quiches is mainly puréed onions," says J.P. "And then we use ground flax seeds to bind it, as well as a little bit of ground-up sunflower seeds. And then we dehydrate it overnight at 100 degrees. Then we grind up the cashews, similar to the hummus. It makes, like, a cashew cheese. We use cashews, fresh bell pepper, fresh onions, sea salt, lemon juice, and then fresh spinach. So we grind that all up, stuff the quiche crust with the filling, and then the top is decorated and garnished up nice and pretty."

Who knew? I tell you the first effect: it does fill you up a lot quicker than you expect.

But still room for a collard wrap. I order one. Another three bucks. It has a beautiful "pâté" that makes me think, well, tuna salad. "We use sunflower seeds for our base," J.P. says. He also uses flavorings like fresh dill and dulce —

seaweed.

Mmm. This is all so fresh and tasty. And then I go a little crazy and order a slice of the pizza. It doesn't have the same flavor burst. I mean, it's still nutty, but...Maybe, because I'm getting full, a) the "pastry" flavors seem pretty much the same, and b) my, how those seeds, maybe sunflower, stick in your teeth. It's good, and you know it's doing you good, but you start to pine for some other flavor.

So I figure, how's about something sweet now. I ask for a slice of banana-carob coconut pie (\$3). Boy, what a relief. Easy on the teeth, rich, squelchy with coconut shavings and carob flavoring. Okay, now its coconut shavings are clogging ye interstices. But it's worth it.

Ya gotta hand it to J.P. He's a one-man movement trying to save us from our greasy-spoon selves. He's a chef, an alum from O.B. People's Organic Foods Co-op on Voltaire, someone who understands the hell of allergies and other limitations. "I grew up in Rhode Island and always wanted to be a chef, but I was also lactose intolerant. That's how I became vegan and organic and began searching for alternatives and going raw."

He says he doesn't just talk the talk. He chews the chew. Eats what he preaches. "Today, I have had a couple of collard-green wraps, two bananas, and two slices of banana-berry pie. I'm full."

He buys nothing from regular supermarkets. "Vons?" he says. "Vons will never see me."

This gig at the O.B. market is haphazard, though. They haven't secured a permanent spot. And they don't have their own kitchen to prepare these dishes. Right now, Stephanie's Bakery on Voltaire lets them prepare their food two



J.P.

nights a week, but J.P. is working on finding his own location. They sell at the Hillcrest and North Park markets, too.

But will these guys always be fringe? Actually, Jeff trades stocks by day, so he ain't no way fringe. And J.P. thinks people are gradually accepting vegans and vegan ideas as mainstream. "Raw's just the next step. Sure, we can survive on it. How do you think our ancestors got along before they tamed fire?"

Love it. The lion raws. ■

The Place: Peace Pies, O.B./Hillcrest/North Park farmers' markets, 619-618-6960

Type of Food: Raw, vegan, organic, gluten-free

Prices: Cashew hummus pizza, \$3 slice; collard wrap, \$3 slice; raw quiche, \$3 slice; cinnamon rolls, \$2 each; banana-berry coconut pie, banana-carob coconut pie, and apple pie, all \$3 slice

Hours: O.B. Market, on Newport between Cable and Bacon, Wednesdays, 4:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. Also at Hillcrest market, DMV parking lot, 3960 Normal at Lincoln, Sundays, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.; and North Park market at University and 32nd Street, Thursday, 2:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

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Riskiest Money

"I read it, and I liked it, but I wasn't exactly sure what to do with it."

J. Todd Harris is a movie producer. That means that he gets films made. "I'm just like any other guy that goes and tries to find projects and tries to find financing and a director and a writer and actors," he says. "Producers have no discernible skills, so they just kind of take advantage of everybody else's." For a guy with no discernible skills, he's had a remarkable run of success, producing some 32 films since 1995's *Denise Calls Up*. Along the way, he's been involved with broad comedy (*Dudley Do-Right*), horror (*Jeepers Creepers*), romance (*Happy Hour*), and even gritty drama (*Urbania*, which played Sundance in 2000).

But one film Harris hasn't been able to get made — not yet, anyway — is a big-screen version of *Gilligan's Island*. Happily for him and fans of Little Buddy, he's working with an intellectual-property company that has as one of its aims just that, and it was in that context that he met Ross Schwartz, son of *Gilligan's* creator Sherwood Schwartz. And in 2005, Schwartz the Younger gave Harris a copy of *Bottle Shock*, a script he'd written about the Paris tasting of

1976, when California wine scored a highly symbolic (but also literal) victory over the mighty French.

Recalls Harris, "I read it, and I liked it, but I wasn't exactly sure what to do with it." Then he remembered the Lhormers: he had gone to college with Marc and to business school with Brenda, and the two had gone on to run the Sonoma Valley Film Festival, which featured a number of Harris's projects. "They told me, 'If you ever find a movie that we could do up in

here in the Napa-Sonoma area, let us know.' I sent it to them, and they liked it, and they thought they could raise some money. And they had just programmed a film called *Marilyn Hotchkiss' Ballroom Dancing and Charm School*," directed by Randall Miller and written by Miller and his wife Jody Savin (the film had previously played at Sundance). Marc and Brenda thought Randy and Jody would be good directing and producing partners on *Bottle Shock*.

Miller and Savin, says Harris, "liked the script but thought it needed to punch up the romance — you really don't want to have a

wine movie without a love story. And they heightened the father-son relationship, which I think is a very relatable element. They wanted to do certain things — they were used to doing their own material. So we made a deal with them, and we started doing fundraisers."

Cut to October of 2006, when Del Mar wine collector Robert Baizer and his wife Diane Jacob headed north to Napa to harvest grapes for the Napa Valley Reserve. Explains Baizer, the Reserve is "a winemaking club with a vineyard located in St. Helena, founded by Bill Harlan of Harlan Estate. That fall, we invited our good friends Ralph and Gail Bryan of La Jolla to join us as our guests. While hand-sorting berries on the conveyor line at Napa Valley Reserve, Ralph mentioned to me that he had received a terrific screenplay from Todd Harris." (The connection: Todd's wife Amy Powers, who wrote the lyrics to *Zhivago*, a musical developed at the La Jolla Playhouse, where Bryan and Baizer had served as producing partners on the original production of *Jersey Boys*.) "As we picked out raisins and twigs from what would ultimately make our 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon, Ralph told me the story of *Bottle Shock*. After hearing it, I knew I needed to read the screenplay myself."

Read it he did, and in December, Robert and Diane headed north to Napa again, this time to meet with the creative team behind the film. They were impressed that Miller and Savin had already broken into Sundance and that they had managed to attract a killer cast for an indie, one that included John Goodman, Danny DeVito, and Marisa Tomei. So, "Diane and I de-



Alan Rickman as Steve Spurrier

cided to provide the seed capital — the very first, and riskiest money into a film, allowing it to commence preproduction." Further, the two "hosted a get-together at Arterra in April of 2007 to educate interested friends in San Diego about what we were doing."

The event was one of several, says Harris, picking up the story. "We went to Napa, San Francisco, San Diego, Palo Alto, even Costa Rica. We did presentations with nice wine, with the director and some of his past work, and with our track record and vision for the film."

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NEWS 8

Miller had managed to attract Alan Rickman and Bill Pullman, with whom he had worked before, and “it gave us the momentum we needed to raise the money so we could shoot in the summer.”

They shot over five weeks in August and September of 2007. By early November, they had a rough cut to submit to the judges at Sundance. “Out of the 3600 films that apply, they take 125.” On the night before Thanksgiving, they decided to take *Bottle Shock*. “We had five screenings, and it played to 1500, maybe 2000 people. An amazing number of people stayed for the Q&A after the film. Now, we’ve got three or four different companies making offers. In a perfect world, the film will be in the theaters between late summer and early fall. It can be a nice alternative to the goofy end-of-summer films and slip in there before the ultra-prestige films of the fall. It’s an unabashed crowd-pleaser, which was unusual for Sundance — no drugs, no sexual confusion, no living in the gutter.”

The Hollywood Reporter went so far as to call it “‘Rocky’ for wine aficiona-

dos,” a film that “gives crowd-pleasers a good name.” (Particularly hopeful, in my opinion, was their assessment of Rickman as English wine merchant Steve Spurrier, the man behind the Paris tasting: “One of his juiciest roles in recent years...able to satirize British haughtiness without falling into caricature.” From the trailer: “You think I’m an asshole. I’m not, really; I’m just British and, well, you’re not.”) Says Harris, “I think their review was pretty spot-on.”

Note: As part of its annual Vintage fundraiser, the SanDiego Museum of Photographic Arts is hosting a Judgment of Paris Rematch Dinner, beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 11, 2008. The dinner, which will use “updated vintages,” will be held at the museum and catered by the Pamplémousse Grille. In addition, *Bottle Shock* director Randall Miller will be on hand for a discussion about shooting a film in wine country and for a Q&A. Cost is \$575 per person (\$475 tax deductible). See mopavintage.com for more information. ■

RESTAURANT LISTINGS

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

BEACHES

A.R. Valentien 11480 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, 858-777-6635. A superb choice for a splurge: Chef Jeff Jackson cooks up a daily changing menu of California cuisine emphasizing the natural flavors of peak, in-season produce and top-quality well-raised meats and wild seafood. Not only is the food delicious and quietly inventive, but it’s relatively healthy, with less fat, salt, and “bad carbs” than at most restaurants. Note that all dishes on the “chef tasting” dinner are also available solo. The setting (a *country inn* on a golf course) is beautiful, the warren of dining rooms quiet and romantic unless packed. Validated valet

parking, free self-parking; full bar with steeply priced wines, moderate-price cocktails. Reservations essential for weekend and holiday dinners. Open three meals daily. Very expensive. — *N.W.*

Brockton Villa 1235 Coast Boulevard, La Jolla, 858-454-7393. Pretty and romantic, this sprawling cottage perches above La Jolla Cove and offers heated terraces as well as semi-enclosed tables indoors to admire the view. The culinary masterpiece is “Coast Toast,” served until noon — the French toast of your happiest dreams, puffy and airy with a lovely orange flavor. (And the coffee is excellent.) Lunchtime features sandwiches on flavorful Bread & Cie breads while dinner runs to San Diego international-eclectic cookery that can be hit-or-miss. Affordable wines and corkage. Steep stairs to all dining areas. All nearby pay parking is uphill in a garage under Trattoria Acqua or up on Prospect. Unisex restroom. Open three meals Tuesday through Sunday; breakfast/lunch Monday. Moderate to expensive. *N.W.*

California Pizza Kitchen — La Jolla 3363 Nobel Drive, La Jolla, 858-457-4222. Two Beverly Hills lawyers started this chain in 1985 to exploit “the premium pizza segment.” Some 150 restaurants later, guess it worked. The place is all shiny chrome, glass, etched palm trees, golden wood and black furniture, and two pizza ovens with real logs burning inside. The Original BBQ chicken pizza, the chain’s first hit, is still their top seller. It has barbecue sauce, smoked Gouda and mozzarella cheeses, BBQ chicken, red onions, and cilantro. The BBQ chicken chopped salad is good too, as is the jambalaya. If you’ve got a sweet tooth, but are embarrassed to order Hawaiian pizza, try

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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.*

Cheese Shop 2165 Avenida de la Playa, La Jolla, 858-459-3921. Used to be the Cheese Shop had 100 varieties of cheese from all over. No more. “The cheese trade is dead,” says owner Phil Schutz. They still have all-cheese sandwiches with mixes of provolone, Monterey Jack, Cheddar, Swiss, Muenster, Danish Havarti, or Norwegian Jarlsberg. But today this small, busy cafe is more famous for its “overstuffed” meat sandwiches. The leg of lamb, top round beef, and roast pork loin are all spit-roasted right beside you as you walk in, to waken your taste buds. Cheeses like crumbled Greek Mizithra add tang to the taste. If you’re into salami and ham, try the foot-long. Inexpensive. Other location: 427 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp, 619-232-2303, open daily breakfast to

late lunch, with delivery to downtown addresses. — *E.B.*

The Cookie Lady Café and Bakery 7596 Shingle Lane, La Jolla, 858-456-1640. Pretend you’re going to Tapenade, then veer off up Shingle Lane. You come to a sunny brick patio with mosaic tables, trees, plants, and a little Curiosity Shoppe-looking place. Ask for Joan, the Cookie Lady. Think Hermione Gingold (“There’s no business like show...”). She’s so bursting with life you’ll almost forget to eat. Yes, this is soup-and-sandwich land, and good in both departments. A half-and-half turkey sandwich (and it’s real turkey, roasted here each morning) and Italian wedding soup will overstuff you. Best of all: your total here is about what you’d pay for the tip next door. Open daily except Sundays. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Great Khan’s Mongolian Festival 4545 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla, 858-678-0950. This is a chain that stretches almost as far as the Mongolian Empire, but that’s because the idea is good. One meal, plenty of it, and guaranteed fresh because it’s either frozen (curled shavings of beef, chicken, turkey, pork) or raw (veggies including cabbage, celery, broccoli, cucumber, green peppers, carrots, mushrooms, pineapple, water chestnuts). Stuff as much as you can into your bowl and hand it to the chef to braise on the huge hotplate, and add noodles. Bonus: gallery view of skaters or an ice hockey match while you eat. Open lunch through dinner weekdays, earlier closing weekends. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Gringo’s 4474 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach, 858-490-2877. With better cooking than you’d guess from its name, this ambitious spin-off of the local Moondoggies chain serves the sort

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of Mexican cuisine you might find at a seaside resort in Cabo or Puerto Vallarta — skillfully prepared with good, fresh ingredients, just a bit dumbed-down in the flavors. The chile verde, say, is beautifully seasoned, if barely *picante*. Given the surefire location at the hub of PB party town, the food is actually better than it needs to be. A vast list of tequilas, interesting margaritas, and a sensible wine list emphasizing affordable, food-friendly Chilean bottlings add to the draw for a lively young crowd that revs the decibels to a roar on weekends. Three meals daily, brunch available Sunday. Moderate. — N.W.

Harry's Coffee Shop 7545 Girard Avenue, La Jolla, 858-454-7381. When Harry Rudolph II opened Harry's back in 1960, his idea was simple: to create a down-home eatery and soda fountain where all La Jolla — rich, poor, Brahmins, and gardeners — could mix and meet with plenty of good eats. Everyone from Joan Kroc to Junior Seau to Brooke Shields has been spotted here, along with regular folks who've been coming in for three decades. Now Harry III reigns quietly among a dozen whirling dervish waitresses at lunch. The big ham steak and eggs is a favorite breakfast, as is the simple, rich "Hot Creamy Oatmeal" with strawberries. Pecan pancakes and thin, crisp waffles ring true to many Easterners (though Harry offers thick Belgian-style waffles, too), and for lunch, turkey burgers and the bacon-loaded British Burger are popular. At the counter, the banter between been-here-forever waitresses and

customers sounds like family life. Nice sidewalk patio, too. Breakfast and lunch daily. Long lines on weekends. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Marrakesh 634 Pearl Street, La Jolla, 858-454-2500. The North African fare of Morocco is like no other in the world — influenced by Arab cuisines, but more intense and sheerly hedonistic. At this Moroccan restaurant, the fare is arranged into a nightly five-course prix fixe feast, with superb lentil soup (*harira*), a salad plate, *bastilla* (a chicken-filled filo pie), an entrée, and finally mint tea poured from on high to accompany almond baklava perfumed with orange-flower water. The setting and service are dramatic — tented ceilings, low banquette seating at carved round tables, belly-dancing interludes, servers in fezzes. (You're the Sheik of Araby.) A short list of entrées (a maximum of two choices per table, to be shared) features fine chicken (or lamb) with olives and preserved lemons; moist, fatless duck; lamb with couscous; and rather dry fish. You can request the dreamy lamb with honey, an extravaganza that includes fruits, almonds, sesame, and cinnamon. Lunch and dinner daily; reserve for weekends. Moderate. — N.W.

Piatti Ristorante 2182 Avenida de la Playa, La Jolla, 858-454-1589. If this is a chain, then tie me up, tie me down! Piatti started in the Bay Area and retains that foodie ethos, giving chefs at the local branches freedom to produce splendid, classic Italian menus including multi-regional starters, interesting pastas, and thin-crust pizzas. The quality of ingredients and cooking is beyond suspicion. You are almost guaranteed a tasty meal. This is one of a few local eateries to offer sweetbreads to those who love them. Ravioli *al limone*, prosciutto-grilled romaine, and key

lime-raspberry tart are among the favorites. Californian-Italian wine list, full bar. Plenty for vegetarians, plus some vegan dishes (varying seasonally). Reservations essential — beg for patio seating in good weather to avoid the indoor din. Lunch and dinner, seven days. Moderate to expensive. — N.W.

Ranchos Cocina — Ocean Beach 1830 Sunset Cliffs Boulevard #H, Ocean Beach, 619-226-7619. At both locations of this delightful mini-chain you'll find healthy, creative Mexican and vegetarian cuisine in cheerful, tropical-style settings burgeoning with plant life and craft objects. A big plus: zero attitude. You don't have to be vegi-virtuous to enjoy full-flavored combinations that are as creative as they are wholesome. Try anything with lobster or calamari steak — in fact, all the seafood here is pristine. And sample something with the housemade mole sauce of a zillion ingredients. Actually, try...anything. (Well, the chicken breast is as dry here as everywhere else. Try anything else.) Open daily breakfast through dinner. No reservations, but call ahead for large parties. Inexpensive. — N.W.

The Surfside 4527 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach, 858-273-2979. In the evenings, it's a "scene" here — for good reason. You'll find fresh sushi, sashimi, and "California coastal cuisine," i.e., fun and flavorful fusion-y tapas, many of them going for half-price during weeknight happy hours. You can actually reserve for the sushi bar (it'll put you at the head of the line), where the chefs are unusually friendly. They shine on simple, pure Japanese sushi, although they make the usual "party rolls" too. Most seafood is of fine quality (except the *toro*, which seems to have problems). For those preferring a tapas-style sit-down meal,

there's a breezy, informal dining room with large windows looking out on the street, plus a small private dining room for parties. At least four Japanese beers and more than a dozen sakes available. Reservations urged for large groups. Parking is tight; just one handicapped slot in front lot. Inexpensive to low moderate. — N.W.

Sushi Ota 4529 Mission Bay Drive, Pacific Beach, 858-270-5670. What becomes a legend most? This renowned sushi bar offers seafood of exceptional quality, perfect tart-sweet rice, tight wraps, and disciplined creativity. And beauty, of course, such as the aji sashimi, a whole small Spanish mackerel bent into the shape of a swelling sail. These joys don't come easily. First, reserve. Then find the place, tucked into the corner of a minimal mini-mall on the east side of the street, marked with the large 7-Eleven sign (opposite Rubio's). Don't waste your time with the California roll ilk; instead, snoop on your neighbors' choices (particularly those of Japanese customers), watching for off-menu extravaganzas. A printed Omakasa menu at the tables (the equivalent of a lavish chef's tasting dinner) of either sashimi or sushi will feed one person royally or two lightly for under \$30. Cooked dishes are dull except for seafood miso soups and *chawan mushii* (custard broth with ginkgo nuts). Alas, when Ota-san's away, his elves may play, so best bet is to go late in the week, when the master's most likely to be present and keeping an eye out. To be served at the counter by Ota-san himself, reserve one month ahead. Lunch Tuesday through Friday, dinner daily. Moderate. — N.W.

La Taverna 927 Silverado Street, La Jolla, 858-454-0100. Reservations are a necessity at this tiny trattoria, especially

if you'd prefer the relative quiet of the roofed sidewalk patio to the din of the cute but cramped dining room. Look for Italian cooking styles ranging from Tuscan, which showcases pastas with simple fresh sauces, to meatballs and red sauce. Highlights include chef-owner Mary Ann Vitale's house-made Sicilian-style fennel sausage, and if the feather-light potato gnocchi is on special, just say "yes." Save room for a slice of house-made layer cake. Moderate. — N.W.

Trattoria Acqua 1298 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-454-0709. This popular restaurant has charming decor, with arched doorways dividing a warren of white-painted, high-ceilinged rooms and terraces arranged around a tiled, heated courtyard. The seasonally changing menu could be called "avant-garde Italian," a style that more than pushes the Italian envelope with assorted international influences. The food can be divine — or dismaying. Given Acqua's "destination restaurant" status, there's a surprising air of bean-counting that manifests itself in oddly lightweight silverware, waiters unclear about proper wine service, and, at times, tired veggies. Desserts, though, are superb. Full bar with extensive, wide-ranging wine list that includes half bottles as well as choices by the glass. Walk-ins accepted but weekend reservations advised. Restaurant is two floors down from Prospect, with validated parking in underground garage on Coast Boulevard. Elevator access from both directions (Acqua's stop is the first floor). Lunch or brunch and dinner seven days. Moderate (pastas) to very expensive. — N.W.

Tutto Mare 4365 Executive Drive, La Jolla, 858-597-1188. The modern Italian cuisine here emphasizes pasta and fresh seafood from the mesquite

grill or oak-fired oven. Lunch hours roar with chic crowds from the surrounding office buildings, but the kitchen is most on its toes then, too. Pastas come with fresh-tasting sauces, and substantial seafood salads are available. Entrées (whether seafood or meat) may be overcooked by the fierce wood fires, and most come with minor variations of the same lemon-butter sauce and a one-size-fits-all veggie medley. Full bar, interesting wine list, good happy hour nibbles. Complimentary valet parking. Call for careful directions (very hard to find). Extremely noisy. Lunch and dinner weekdays, dinner weekends. Pastas and salads moderate, entrées expensive. — N.W.

BAJA

From the United States use the prefix 011-52 when calling Mexico.

Cien Años Calle Jose Maria Velazco #1407, Baja, 664-634-3039. This lovely, comfortable, dressy-casual "destination restaurant" serves extraordinary Mexican haute cuisine, graced with a brilliant variety of sauces based on elaborations of Mexican ingredients, including tropical fruits, nuts, and above all, a vast variety of chile peppers, each with its own distinctive flavor (not all of them spicy). You could eat here a dozen times and not begin to exhaust the possibilities. Just a few of the treats are mushrooms steeped in beef marrow, crocodile meat minitacos, posole with crab meat, and an irresistible beef and shrimp stew. (Food critic Ruth Reichl consumed a meal of exotic Aztec delicacies, including ant roe and mescal worms, and you can try them too when they're in season.) The

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La Costa Calle Galeana #8131, Baja, 664-685-8494. Even after four decades, fisherman-singer Adrian Pedrin Aramburo's seafood place looks fresh, with its blue-and-white floor tiles, polished brass portholes, and varnish. Some seafood combos can be costly, but most fish and oyster dishes are reasonable. Everybody seems to go for fileted sea bass — the baked "Catalina" with mushroom cream sauce, or "Olivia," stuffed with octopus and shrimp, are really good. So are "Madrazo" oysters, with chipotle and bacon. But you can't go wrong with the less expensive whole fish plates, like the charcoal-broiled "Sarandead" (just watch out for the bones). Each entrée comes with soup, hors d'oeuvre, salad, rice, and coffee, plus a Kahlua-based drink-dessert. Bonus: the owner's charming menu inserts. Vegetarian upon request. Open daily, late breakfast through dinner. Moderate to expensive. — *E.B.*

La Fonda Baja Highway 1, Km. 59, Baja, 646-155-0307. It's hard to imagine a better start to the day, in any sweeter ambiance, than at La Fonda ("The Inn"), which offers Mexican and American breakfast dishes and a lavish Sunday brunch buffet with both. Arrive early for patio seating under a straw umbrella with a full-out ocean view. The bilingual menu is written on chalkboards and dinner choices change nightly, featuring American and Mexican seafood entrées and deluxe meats aged in-house. Vegetarian upon request. Most staffers speak some English. Full bar, including Baja-grown wines. Open daily, three meals, starting about 9 a.m. Inexpensive to moderate. — *N.W.*

La Leña Agua Caliente Boulevard #11191, Baja, 664-686-2920. The nicest thing about La Leña ("The Fire Log") is its view. You come off noisy, fume, traffic-racked Agua Caliente into this quiet, dark-wood, creamy-yellow walled room and a full view of...country! Actually, a green golf course studded with trees. In the middle of Tijuana? Golfers thwack balls, giant mowers look like *Star Wars* creatures. So no surprise that you get country-club type eating: open-grill *charro* food for well-to-do *charros*. Old-style BBQ steaks, surf-and-turf combos, and big slabs of Mexican-cut *filete cabreria*, which are flabby but tender. Most arrive at your table sizzling on black iron hotplates. Servings are generous (meals come with soup or salad and you get a free appetizer such as shredded beef and tortillas) if not remarkable. Or even especially Mexican — their hamburger is darned tasty. Vegetarian upon request. But the atmosphere is a great break from the raucous TJ we all know and (sometimes) love. Lunch and dinner daily from 11 a.m. until late. Moderate. — *E.B.*

Manzanilla Riveroll 122 (off Lopez Mateo), Baja, 646-175-7073. At this art-filled, very "Euro" bistro, a pair of gifted, classically trained chef-owners are pioneering "new Mexican cuisine," creating sophisticated combinations of superb local products and traditional Mexican flavors. Fresh-caught seafood, local-grown vegetables and mesquite smoke from the wood-burning grill are featured players on the seasonal menus; a spectacular rib-eye steak, tender and intensely beefy, is also a constant. Little wonder this has become the destination restaurant south of Tijuana. Vegetarian upon request. The menu is in Spanish, but owners Benito Molina and Solange Muris Evans speak fluent English, as do some wait staff. (The only communication problem will be the exotic music blasting on the sound system.) Reserve for weekends, especially during tourist seasons. Full bar featuring tequilas, Baja vintners. Wednesday through Saturday, late lunch through dinner, until midnight. Moderate. — *N.W.*

Original Ortega's Calle Principal (next to Casa de la Langosta), Baja. In Puerto Nuevo, next to Casa de la Langosta, on the first street to your left (Calle Principal) after entering town through the entry gate. Open since 1952, this is the original "Lobster Village" restaurant, and not much has changed. Eventually Ortega's grew into



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Calendar

RESTAURANTS

an octopus with multiple arms in Puerto Nuevo and Rosarito Beach, all pretty similar. The menu is longer than most, with numerous starters (including a tasty ceviche and an excellent tortilla soup), varied seafood entrées and *antojitos*, desserts, and even fancy coffees (including “Viagra,” which features reputedly aphrodisiac Damiana herbal liqueur). The spiny lobsters (once local but now from who-knows-where) are first fried in lard, then finished off on the grill, and served with a greasy-tasting melted “Kitchen Maid” margarine blend, frijoles, rice, tortillas, and salsa. Vegetarian upon request. Full bar, English menu, staff marginally bilingual. Moderate to high, but with low-moderate specials. No reservations, cash only. — N.W.

Señor Frog’s Via Oriente 60 C6, L4, Zona Río, Baja, 664-682-4962. Normally this is a moderately priced eatery, but Tequila Tuesdays promise as much food and drink as you can handle for one cover charge (\$15, last time we checked in). Food includes a buffet with good fish tacos, *birria* (stew, usually beef), pork, *chicharron*, *carne asada*, ceviche, on and on. House beers and Mexican liquors including tequila are in the deal, too. Refill your plate and glass as often as you want, truly. Only caution: if a sombrero-totin’ *charro* comes up offering tequila shots from his bandolier, you’ll pay. “Free” food and drink 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesdays only. Other days, inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

CENTRAL

24-Hour Valley Kitchen Family Restaurant 875 Hotel Circle South, Mission Valley, 619-819-1017. Great when everything else is closed. The place feels like a Midwestern chain eatery: all carpets, dark-wood walls,

etched glass. Prices are a little up there, but hot French dip is great and burgers are generous. Best news may be that if you feel like breakfast at midnight, no problem. Ask for the pork chops, two eggs, hash browns, and biscuits and gravy. Chops are crumbed and buried in hash browns. Splosh on lots of applesauce, and leave room for the biscuits — their bacon-fat gravy will have you licking the plate. Bonus: You can sit here with a book and a coffee all night long if you like. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

Adams Avenue Grill 2201 Adams Avenue, University Heights, 619-298-8440. The frequently changing menu tries to embrace several disparate styles and can’t quite get its arms around any of them. The dishes are often ambitious; a few soar, but many falter due to flaws in conception, execution, or both. Largely ho-hum wine list needs selections with enough sweetness to stand up to items featuring Asian spice — where are the Rieslings? Still, the place seems full of happiness and friendliness: yellow and orange walls, plenty of smiles amid the bustle. Soups receive lavish attention, and sometimes live up to their billings. As to treats, the generous, marvelous lavender-infused crème brûlée makes this a dessert destination — pause to sniff a spoonful before slipping it between your lips. Lunch and dinner daily, breakfast weekends. Inexpensive to moderate. — A.M.

Anthony’s Fish Grotto — Downtown 1360 North Harbor Drive, Downtown, 619-232-5103. If you don’t want overcomplicated food, Anthony’s oblige. Fish and chips is still the simplest and the best. Or Mama’s Platter, cod combined with batter-fried calamari, shrimp, oysters, scallops, and clam strips. Anthony’s has been up and running for six decades now, with the buying power to get the pick of the catch. The menu offers 18 different seasonal fish to choose from, plus — if you’ve got the bread — delicious lobster dishes (in season) like lobster thermidor with a creamy, winery sauce. No reservations. Open daily, lunch through dinner. Moderate. — E.B.

Asian Bistro 414 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-296-4119. The historic building has been freshly redecorated, keeping only the overhead sign that used to mark a one-time Chinese “dive.” Now the eclectic pan-Asian menu emphasizes Thai flavors — the owners and kitchen staff are Thai, including executive chef “Miss Songri” (who put Celadon on the map), working in a more casual vein here. Don’t miss “Atomic Hog’s Wings” (small pork shanks) or the Louisiana fried buster crab dish named “Jumping Jarvis.” The beer and wine lists are international and affordable. Lunch and dinner, serving until 3 a.m. nightly. Lunches inexpensive, dinners moderate. — N.W.

Athens Market 109 West F Street, Downtown, 619-234-1955. Alex Spanos and lots of local hotshots come here for honest Greek home cookin’. Yes, it’s classy — white table cloths, linen napkins — but you can fill up on just a bowl of *fakae*, owner Mary Pappas’s “secret recipe” lentil soup, and an appetizer, like *spanakopita* (spinach and cheese pastry pockets). Entrées come with rice, roast potato, a vegetable, soup or salad, and French bread and butter — all at a darned good price. Oh, and don’t despise the gyro. Meat flavor’s great, and it takes a football player to empty this plate. Lunch and dinner Monday through Friday, dinner only Saturday, closed Sunday. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

Avenue 5 2760 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-542-0394. Chef-owner Colin MacLaggan offers a short, tasty menu of creative, seasonal, French-influenced California cuisine in a chic, classy-casual neighborhood bistro. Be sure to ask about daily specials. Desserts are all house-made, including baked *fromage blanc*, a charming cheesecake. The adventurous international wine list is loaded with interesting bottles at low markups. Full bar. Extremely loud when crowded. Reservations urged. Lunch Tuesday through Friday, dinner Tuesday through Sunday. High moderate. — N.W.

Bambu Bistro 3882 Fourth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-299-9727. How many American chefs do you know who ac-

tually went to Asia and learned by working in traditional restaurant kitchens of Vietnam, Indonesia, India? Chef Alexandria did. The result is her Asian fusion cuisine. The Bistro is huddled in the corner of a strip mall, but you can still eat under exotic umbrella lampshades (inside) or tropical palapas (outside). The food is fresh, original, and often tasty. Dishes to try include Chinese Chopstick salad (shredded chicken, fried rice noodles, mandarin oranges, toasted almonds), Indo-Chinese burrito with steak (beef, rice noodles covered with a sesame and lime sauce), Drunken Noodles (chicken, steak, shrimp, salmon, or tofu), and Sea Salad (glass noodles, wild salmon, greens). Lunch and dinner six days, closed Sundays. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Borrego 4280 El Cajon Boulevard, City Heights, 619-281-1355. This bright, über-cool eatery offers dishes from the state of Hidalgo, Mexico, where lamb eating is a tradition. In dishes like the Lamb Special (lamb taco, quesadilla, cactus salad, rice) the rich taste of lamb cooked in maguey leaves comes through beautifully. Lamb *mix-iote* (a spicier, smokier variation, with the lamb cooked inside the thin maguey skin) is also a must-eat. Or, just to get hooked on the whole lamb thing, slurp their luscious broth (with lamb, garbanzo beans, rice). If you’re feeling adventurous, try lamb *pancita* (lamb’s organs cooked inside its own sewn-up stomach). Saturday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Tuesday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Closed Monday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Bread and Cie 350 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-683-9322. At least 20 breads emerge daily from this bakery’s 10,000-pound French stone hearth oven. Most are dense, crusty, and delicious French or Italian peasant breads, including the outstanding anise-fig and black-olive loaves that are served in many top local restaurants. Scones, brownies, muffins, banana bread, and cookies are the sweet side of the house. Focaccia pizza and sandwiches (many with thick-sliced bread and rather thin fillings) are available to take out or eat on the spot — inside

the café or on the sidewalk patio. Open daily except Christmas, breakfast through early dinner. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Café on Park 3831 Park Boulevard, Hillcrest, 619-293-7275. Okay, it’s trendy, from the rusty spoon-and-fork sign at the door to the PC industrial interior (concrete walls, exposed plumbing). But don’t expect PC food. The plates are huge and overflowing with fodder. Breakfast scrambles are popular with add-ons such as smoked salmon, artichoke hearts, or Brie cheese. Health nuts choose the Park Porridge stuffed with apples, raisins, and honey. But the prize may be the dish that Placerville, California, miners ordered when they came down from the mountains with pockets full of gold: the Hangtown Fry — luscious marinated sautéed oysters scrambled in eggs. Three meals daily, with break 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (Line at door on Sunday.) — E.B.

Chipotle 734 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-209-3688. 11 other locations in San Diego County. Hard to believe: This chain that McDonald’s acquired cleaves firmly to the original vision of the chef who founded it: naturally raised tender meats in authentic marinades made on-premises — it’s quality all the way, and way better than most local “Berto’s” (which often use cheap meat marinated by their meat-jobbers). The fresh-grilled *carne asada* is splendid, the *carnitas* outstanding. And it’s “have it your way” with a wealth of choices as to what you get — burritos, tacos, bowls, fajitas — and what goes into it. You can eat indoors or outside (or take-out), drink margaritas, beer, or soft drinks, and park for free (if a slot’s open). Open 10:45 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Rock-bottom prices. — N.W.

Cilantro Live! 3807 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-325-1949. Founder Christina Guzman believes raw is beautiful. “The secret is in the enzymes,” she says. Cook food and you kill them. “There is so much more life in [live, uncooked] food, you need eat less of it.” Maybe just as well, because these raw dishes don’t come cheap. So, how to eat vegan, raw, and not gag? Start

with the surprisingly strong-tasting “heavenly taco.” The tortillas (made out of dehydrated veggies) are filled with nut “meat” (almonds, walnuts) plus sun-dried tomato, chipotle, and avocado. Has a bit of molasses taste. Now try the Fortuna sunflower-pumpkin pâté wrap. You’re on your way. Open daily Sunday to Thursday, midday to 8:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday until 9:30 p.m. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

Las Cuatro Milpas 1857 Logan Avenue, Logan Heights, 619-234-4460. This isn’t a restaurant, it’s a legend. The same Estudillo family has been serving old-fashioned Mexican food here for three generations — seventy years. Rice, beans, pork tacos (they don’t serve beef), pork tamales, chorizo with eggs — that’s about it. So how come they have lines outside every day? Blame a potent mixture of sentiment and the lard they refuse to abandon. Folks say that lard flavor is the real Mexico. Also famous: their Saturday *menudo*. Warning: go easy with their deep wine-colored hot sauce. It’s room-rocker strength. The name? From a famous mariachi song, “The Four Cornfields.” Open morning to mid-afternoon, Monday to Saturday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

DMood 4628 Park Boulevard, University Heights, 619-297-6663. This delightfully decorated bistro offers eclectic Middle Eastern cuisine that’s primarily Persian but offers touches of North Africa, India, Southern Europe, and the U.S. Don’t miss the splendid appetizer sampler (a full array of luscious Middle Eastern tapas), the pomegranate-glazed game hen stuffed with basmati rice and fruit, or the skewered lamb. The daily fresh fish gives talented chef Cecilia Tajonar a chance for creative play. Persian ice creams in sexy flavors (rosewater, orange blossom, pistachio) are among the dessert choices. Live entertainment at many brunches and weekend dinners provide vibrant cultural experience. Interesting teas (including Persian and Moroccan); okay wine list; full bar. Reservations urged for large groups (call after noon). Street parking. Street patio in front and courtyard in back for al fresco dining



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East Village Tavern and Bowl 930 Market Street, Downtown, 619-677-2695. "Tavern" says it all. This is a big, rowdy but not brawly, street-open, multiscreen sports bar. Half drink, half food, half bowling alley. East Villagers are making it their local because the kitchen's open late, plus, on a date, rolling those balls helps break the ice. The food's surprisingly good. List top-per: steak sliders. Imagine three New York strip steaklets, caramelized onions, and melting Gorgonzola tucked into a Hawaiian sweet bun. A perfect strike. Then there's the pretty good Don't Mess With Texas burger, a *Panino Cubano*, and even chicken wings brined in salt, water, and herbs that have their own taste. Open daily 11 a.m. to 2 a.m.; weekends, breakfast from 9 a.m. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Edgewater Grill 861 W. Harbor Drive, Downtown, 619-232-7581. An easy walk from the Convention Center, the dining room is spacious and handsome, and the view from the crowded dining terrace is optimal (the bay, the Coronado Bridge, a park, etc.). The menu, though, is convention-centered — like a Howard Johnson's for the 21st century. The fare features middle-of-the-road faux-fusion salads, seafood, grilled steaks, pastas (most with shellfish), and individual pizzas, plus daily fin-fish dishes listed on a card in a plastic holder on the table. The lighter dishes are the most successful — this is not a bad place to "graze" on appetizers and a mini-pizza when you're starved for a view. Difficult wheelchair access to terrace. Open daily, breakfast

through dinner. Entrées high moderate to very expensive. — N.W.

La Fachada 20 25th Street, Logan Heights, 619-236-8566. The thing about La Fachada is: You can have anything anytime. This restaurant near the trolley's 25th Street stop is Mexican but has Anglo food too — maybe because the cops' Central Division HQ sits across the road. Great not-quite-morning place for breakfast at, say, 3 a.m. They do a pretty good Western omelet breakfast with cheese, bell peppers, onions, and ham, bacon, or sausage. They also have great Caldo Siete Mares and Vuelva a la Vida, tasty soups laden with seafood. But the best fun is in the evening up to 11 p.m., when an outdoor kitchen operates, mostly serving tacos to eat under a big white garden canopy. Open 7 a.m. to 3 a.m. (Friday and Saturday open 24 hours). Inexpensive. — E.B.

Fat City Steakhouse 2137 Pacific Highway, Little Italy, 619-232-9303. In the Deco "pink palace" at the edge of downtown, the USDA Choice steaks (and one velvety Prime cut) are cooked over mesquite charcoal, which lends them a deliciously smoky campfire flavor. Don't like beef? You can choose nicely grilled chicken, pork, or salmon; two vegan pastas; or scampi. The appetizer list is mainly trite pub grub, but the fry cook does a great job with calamari. And in fair weather, the lush garden dining patio is a little piece of Eden. Full bar, rather basic wine list. Casual ambience, above-average wheelchair access from large, free parking lot. Dinner daily 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W.

Ichiban 1449 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-299-7203. Is this Paris or Tokyo? At night, the cafe outside glows like a Van Gogh painting, except the

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Calendar

RESTAURANTS

customers are eating sushi and drinking green tea, not red wine. The best values are at lunch, with weekday specials like Bento combos (sushi rolls, crab, salmon, rice) and filling soups overflowing with veggies and thick *udon* noodles. Healthy? You betcha. The miso soup (with every dish) made from soy and seaweed is a great daily iodine fix. Number One — that's what "ichi-ban" means. Open daily until 9:30 p.m., lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Joe's Crab Shack — Downtown 525 East Harbor Drive, Downtown, 619-233-7391. Joe's is silly with crab-shack ambience (campy nautical paraphernalia on down to souvenir gimme caps), but the food's not bad. You can choose buckets of steamed, barbecued, or garlic crab (of various subspecies), or go for fried or grilled seafood or steaks, or salads. Grown-ups may prefer the patio to the rockin', raucous interior. Full bar, not much wine. Inexpensive to low moderate. Also in Mission Valley, Oceanside, and Pacific Beach. — N.W.

Khyber Pass 523 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-294-7579. The room's very modern, but Afghan cuisine is full of history, carrying echoes of both Persian and Indian foods, with even a hint of Greek (Alexander the Great conquered the region). Dinners feature kebabs, tandooris, curries, and some unique regional specialties. Flavors are exotic but oddly comfortable to the cosmopolitan palate. Among the don't-miss items are the outstanding *aushak* (spring onion ravioli) and *mantu* (ground-meat ravioli) — both with lively yogurt sauces — and *zamodd chalow*, a spicy lamb-and-spinach stew. Save room for the sexy desserts. Can be noisy inside; small sidewalk patio. Private dining room upstairs bookable for parties. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Moderate. — N.W.

Kous Kous Moroccan Bistro 3940 Fourth Avenue, Suite 110, Hillcrest, 619-295-5560. This could be the ideal neighborhood restaurant — if you love exploring Middle Eastern cuisines. The Moroccan specialties at Kous Kous are delicious, authentic, and healthful, and the witty, entertaining staff treat you like guests at an informal dinner party. Unlike most Moroccan restaurants in the U.S., the menu is à la carte rather than prix fixe, and seating is at normal chairs and tables, not floor cushions, so you can focus on the food and not some *Arabian Nights* fantasy. Start with a lively Chutney Sampler appetizer plate of *mezze*, Moroccan style, and if *b'stila* is on the menu, don't pass up this treat of minced chicken in a cinnamon-dusted filo crust. Entrée highlights include Lamb Tagine, slow-braised, greaseless fall-apart shanks with prunes, almonds, Moroccan seasonings and a touch of honey, and Chicken Mu'hammer, a tenderly braised half-chicken with quartered green olives and slivers of salty preserved lemons. All entrées come with lively, flawless couscous. Kebabs (filet mignon, shrimp, etc.) also come with a mixed green salad served with refreshing, lemony dressing. For dessert, house-made choices include refreshing fresh berries with orange liqueur and rosewater and a creamy crème brûlée, plus pastries from Bread & Cie. Dinner nightly. Reservations urged for weekends. Restaurant is below street level, elevator is left of the staircase to Martini's. Moderate. — N.W.

Lotus Thai — Hillcrest 3761 Sixth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-299-8272. This restaurant has taken a giant step up from standard Thai eateries. Most of the menu consists of the usual dishes, but each branch also offers a selection of chef's specialties. Some of these are more authentic; others are more creative than the norm. The chefs are from northern Thailand, and something in their cooking hints of their region — a certain zestiness, a love of strong citrus and fresh herbs that speaks of the Ping River and the hills of Chiang Mai. Well-chosen, affordable wine list, Asian and American beers, and cocktails based on *soju* (Asian lower-proof rice

liquor), including a yummy rambutan cosmo. Noisy when crowded. Reservations recommended for Hillcrest on weekends. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Low moderate. — N.W.

Marie's Café 3016 University Avenue, North Park, 619-220-0142. One of the last old-time diners in town. Marie and son Erik took over in 2002. It had already been operating for 50 years as Johnny's. They kept the tradition but created a sparkling kitchen and a reputation for generous servings. Try the three-egger breakfast omelet with Italian sausage, avocado, and olives. If Erik's smokin' up some ribs (you'll smell them half a block away), grab them. And forget fries. Go for the "side" salad, a huge dish of romaine, with tomatoes, red onions, cheese, croutons, and bleu cheese dressing. Go ahead. Mess yourself up. Open 24 hours Wednesday through Saturday; from 8 a.m. till 3 p.m. Sunday and Monday; till 8 p.m. Tuesday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Mediterranean Cafe and Lounge 1352 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-515-2233. Don't come early. You'll be all alone. Turn up around midnight, and you'll see just how social the Lebanese can be. Meals are spread over a couple of hours with lots of conversation, probably finishing with a baklava, Turkish coffee, and a *sheesha* — water pipe (much cheaper by the hour here than down in the Gaslamp; best flavor: rose). They have the whole panoply of Middle Eastern and Greek food, but the best deals are probably the single lamb skewer on a roll of pita bread with hummus, tomato, lettuce, and pickles, or the meat pie on pita. Open 5:30 p.m. to 3 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 5:30 p.m. to 4 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

Mission — North Park 2801 University Avenue, North Park, 619-220-8992. "Urban assault food for a revolutionary people," say the wait staff's black T-shirts. But the food here is less revolutionary than halfway between health-nut and greasy spoon. Still, their "conscientious cuisine" is generous, good-looking, and intelligent, if a little middle-class timid. Breakfasts are big

here. The delicious chicken-apple sausage and eggs comes on a foot-wide plate loaded with unskinned rosemary potatoes, scrambled eggs, and scrumptious baked-on-the-spot rosemary bread. Pancakes and French cinnamon toast are popular staples, as is the Zen Breakfast (scrambled egg whites, braised tofu, brown rice, with veggies). The roast beef hash can be chewy. Check out the "Chino-Latino" dishes (lunch only) like the mild-but-still-delicious ginger sesame tofu with brown rice and peanut sauce, which comes with a plethora of jicama-type veggies. The interior has an arty, post-industrial, coffeehouse feel. Open daily, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Ocean Room and Lounge 630 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-501-6550. Sometimes you don't want a temple of haute cuisine, merely an easygoing place for folks to meet — especially if there are oysters involved. Ocean Room fills that bill handily, one of the few Gaslamp joints where you can enjoy a conversation without straining over the noise. The fare is mainly Mediterranean-style seafood, with a few nods at Cajun cuisine. Pleasant dishes include mussels *mariniere*, "Cajun" seafood pasta (with sub-Cajun spice levels), seafood pan roast, and Fanny Bay oysters on the half-shell. Or try the oyster shooters. Valet parking, bar for single diners, casual feel. Dinner nightly. Expensive (but less than average for the neighborhood). — N.W.

Ono Sushi and Pacific Spice 1236 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-298-0616. If you are searching for huge portions, fresh tasty food and reasonable prices, don't overlook this colorful Japanese/Pacific Rim cafe. Excellent specialty rolls, entrées, appetizers. Very crowded weekends; lively young crowd. Dinners nightly; open for lunch Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.W.

Pete's Quality Meats 1742-1/2 Indiana Street, Little Italy, 619-234-1684. Pete's Meats was just a butcher's shop until Pete's daughter and sister-in-law got the idea to set up a grill there. Now aficionados line up for Sicilian specialties like Italian-sausage sandwiches,

steak sandwiches, and especially *spitini* — veal rolled around two cheeses, onions, tomatoes, pine nuts, currants, parsley, prosciutto, and bread crumbs. Pete stuffs all of that into a hot bun with marinara sauce, sauteed peppers, and onions as packing. Nuff said? Inexpensive. — E.B.

Pho Hoa Hiep — Linda Vista 6947 Linda Vista Road, Linda Vista, 858-268-8406. This *pho* (soup) place of the brothers Hoa and Hiep is a clean, busy eatery near hi-tech offices. It's popular at lunch and dinner, partly because of frequent two-for-one deals. Try the #1, *Dac Biet Xe Lua*, an extra large bowl of soup filled with rare steak slices and well-done brisket, flank, tendon, and tripe along with mint and bean sprouts. A popular breakfast *pho* is French bread with beef juicy cube soup. They also have rice dishes. And try the traditional fruit drinks, maybe the *Xam Bo Luong*, a combination of loganberry, black dates, seaweed, and lotus seeds in syrup. Lunch, dinner daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Popeye's Chicken & Biscuits - Clairemont 1737 Euclid Avenue, Clairemont, 619-527-6565. This is the one major national chain to cling firmly to a regional American identity: Wherever you go, if you find a Popeye's, you'll be eating Louisiana flavors. But some flavors travel better than others in fast-food translations: The spicy, crisp fried chicken and air-light drop biscuits are fine as can be. The étouffé (whether of chicken or crawfish, when available) is surprisingly decent. The gumbo, offered at some locations, is weird — flavors aren't bad, but it's more like a Creole risotto, with wet rice instead of liquid (where's the soup?). Dirty rice and jambalaya are nasty and dry. Food quality varies subtly from branch to branch, as does the attitude of the counter-persons. Open daily, three meals. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Rama 327 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-501-8424. This large, handsome restaurant is the younger brother of Celadon in Hillcrest. It's named for the king of Thailand and offers Thai cuisine fit for royalty, made with top ingredients (including Chino Farms produce). The menu includes all the

popular favorites but adds authentic dishes rarely found locally, such as chicken and squid with flat noodles and caramelized palm sugar, and a wicked Thai version of Chinese twice-cooked pork — a fat-fest made with unsmoked bacon. Soups and curries are based on freshly made coconut cream of swoony richness. The extensive wine list, unusual in this genre, offers affordable, food-friendly choices plus an interesting reserve list. Full bar. Lunch Monday through Saturday, dinner nightly. Moderate. — N.W.

Rei Do Gado Churrascuria 939 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-702-8464. The meats just keep on coming at a Brazilian *rodizio*: skewer after skewer of *churrasco* (Brazilian barbecue), a near-endless procession of rotisserie-grilled meats and poultry. At each table there's a wooden cone with one end red and the other end green. Turn the green side up to start the servers parading to your table, offering you tastes cut from long spoils of salty, simply seasoned pork, poultry, ribs, sausages, and numerous cuts of beef. Turn the cone red side up to take a break from the protein parade. The gargantuan spread includes a buffet in the front of the restaurant with a changeable array of alluring side dishes, salads, fruit, and such intriguing hot entrées as seafood in coconut milk, with exotic but oddly comfortable flavors. There's always a potful of *feijoada*, the national dish — slow-cooked, meaty black beans (in a somewhat bland version, which you can live up with a splash of hot sauce). No matter how often you eat here, you'll never have the same meal twice. Reservations advisable for weekends. Full bar (have a Caipirinha). No doggie-bags. Lunch and dinner daily. Moderate (considering the food amount). — N.W.

Los Reyes 2496 Broadway, Southeast San Diego, 619-231-0716. Smaller branch at 47th and Market. If you've ever craved those fabulous Mexican fish soups that can be such energy restorers, these strip-mall Mexican restaurants have a great one. It's *Caldo 7 Mares* (Seven Seas Soup) and it comes as a big bowl of savory red fish soup clunking with giant crab legs, clams, chunks of



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white fish, shrimp, the pink and purple suckers of octopus, and vegetables. It's also called *Vuelva a la vida*: "Return to life." On a hot day, their Cocktail Campechana (shrimp and octopus in a light, spicy tomato broth) will return you to life, too. Four brothers and one sister from Michoacan run the place. A very Michoacan dish is *carnitas* — pork shoulders. Or try their gringo lunch deal of a bacon cheeseburger with fries and a can of soda. The prices make this a tightwad's paradise. Three meals daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Sadaf — Downtown 828 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-338-0008. You worry — those formal fixtures and black-tux waiters, the gold-encrusted paintings, and the crisp, pink table linens all scream "expensive!" Actually, prices are easygoing, especially at lunch. After the basket of complimentary bread, try skewers of chicken or ground filet mignon with rice or salad, or *al-balou polo* (rice, dried cherries, and chicken). Pistachio-and-rosewater ice cream is a great finale. Nonspecials and evening meals cost more, but at any price this is real Persian food, with typical riotous herbage and sybaritic spicing. Turns into a nightclub after dinner, but the food's better at this La Jolla flagship. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

Saigon 4455 El Cajon Boulevard, City Heights, 619-284-4215. You're in a big glass palace here. It's especially good on Sundays, when three- or four-generation Vietnamese families gather for lunch. Gaggles of waiters hover a glance away, but take your time. The menu has over 250 items on it. Default choice: *pho*, the famous, filling soup-meal of Vietnam where beef cooks in the soup. Another safe bet is stir-fried crispy or soft egg noodle with seafood and assorted vegetables. "33" Vietnamese beer is on hand to make Saigon lovers sentimental. Open daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Sevilla 555 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-5979. This site has three faces: a crowded but civilized tapas bar for spontaneous snacking, a romantic dining room with serious Spanish entrées, and a basement nightclub dishing out assembly-line paella. The best food is upstairs. You can get tapas in the

restaurant and entrées at the bar, and in either case the choices are varied, interesting, and highly cosmopolitan, executed with wonderful consistency. Be sure to look for something that includes potatoes; the humble spud gets Cinderella treatment here. No reservations (or wheelchairs) at tapas bar; reservations strongly recommended for dining room. Dinner daily. Moderate. — N.W.

St. Tropez — Downtown 926 Broadway Circle, Downtown, 619-696-8695. 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), crêpes, quiche, onion soup gratinée, or chicken-filled puff-pastry. Omelets are rather weighty. Some of the sandwiches offer Mediterranean flavors — try a *pan bagnat* (*salade 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.

Sushi Itto 441 Washington, Hillcrest, 619-291-6060. Don't come here looking for Japanese food. This is *Mexican* sushi, from a chain based in Mexico City that's dedicated to creating rolls for Mexican tastes. Nearly all the party rolls feature cream cheese and avocado and most include a shot of hot spice and some fake crab (*surimi*), too. In their own way, they're fun, so long as you're prepared to give up any puristic standards and go with the flow. But don't bother with the plain *nigiri* — the rice lacks classic sushi seasonings (and is often dry), and the seafood is too mediocre to be appealing in simple preparations. Rock-bottom prices, though. Another branch is in the Gaslamp at 409 F Street, 619-237-1037. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Terra 3900 Vermont Street, Hillcrest, 619-293-7088. Co-owner Jeff Rossman, formerly in charge of the front of the house, has moved into the kitchen to serve as chef at this comfortable neigh-

borhood spot, serving venturesome, if uneven, tropical-influenced American cooking. You can settle in a spacious southwest-tinged dining room or people-watch from a sheltered outdoor patio (with smoking permitted). Generously sized tapas can serve as appetizers or as a sustaining bite before venturing into Trader Joe's across the street. The dinner menu changes seasonally, featuring barbecue items during the summer, comforting fare in colder weather, and special dinners on all major holidays. Good wine list with several flights available, full bar with tropical cocktails (Pisco Sours, Caipirinhas, etc.). Reservations advised, especially for weekends, holidays and special events (e.g., Sunday "blues and barbecue" during the summer). Saturday and Sunday three meals, weekdays lunch and dinner. Moderate. — N.W.

Trieu Chau 4653 University Avenue, City Heights, 619-280-4204. This is as near as you'll come to eating breakfast in Phnom Penh or lunch in Vientiane. Cambodians come in the morning to talk politics and play Cambodian chess. At lunch, Laotians replace them. Maps of "Kampuchea" decorate the walls, as well as long-distance telephone ads. The menu includes Chinese, Khmer, and Lao dishes. In the morning, ask for "*djak kvai coffay dok ko*" — fried bread with Cambodian coffee, the standard French-Khmer breakfast. Later in the day, you might try pan-fried noodles with broccoli and beef or shrimp and gravy ("*koitiow bahat sai kho*"). If in doubt, ask for Kathy, who speaks Chinese, Khmer, Lao — and English. Open daily, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Turf Supper Club 1116 25th Street, Golden Hill, 619-234-6363. At this cozy saloon (a landmark since 1950, "re-established" in 1998), if your meat's done wrong, it's your own fault. Every night's an indoor cook-out, as patrons huddle by the communal fire-pit tending their steaks (a choice of three ritzy cuts, well-marinated in garlic and olive oil), burgers, chicken breasts, or portobello mushrooms; others choose the veggie kabobs or teriyaki skewers of beef, chicken, or fish. And that's the menu. The only side dish is a simple

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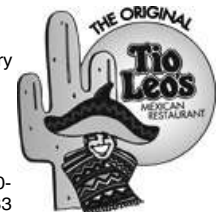
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Offer also good at these locations: Del Mar: 3510 Valley Center Dr., 619-350-1468 • Mira Mesa: 10787 Camino Ruiz, 619-695-1461 • Mission Gorge: 6333 Mission Gorge Rd., 619-280-9944.



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Café Joie **50% off lunch or dinner**
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Gringo's **Free appetizer at lunch**
Lahaina Beach House **Free breakfast**
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Pacific Beach Bar & Grill **2 for 1 entrée**
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P.B. Mika **99¢ sake**
Portugalia **Free entrée**
Saska's **\$12 off second entrée**

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***

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**
The Ocean House **\$5 off Sunday brunch**
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

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**
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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**
Seasons 142 **1/2 off tapas**
The Wine Encounter **Free wine tasting**

La Jolla

Aloha Sushi **Free sushi**
Cafe Milano **Free Comedy Store tickets**
Clay's La Jolla
Extreme Pizza **Free medium pizza**
Jack's La Jolla **Free dessert**
La Jolla Brew House **Free lunch or dinner entrée**
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Downtown & Point Loma

Alex's Brown Bag **Philly cheese steak \$5.49**
The Boathouse **2-for-1 lunch or brunch**
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Humphrey's
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The Local **\$3 Thursdays**
McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant
Olé Madrid **2 for 1 lunch or brunch entrée**
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RA Sushi
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Sevilla **\$10 off Spanish cuisine**
The Shout House
Sierra Pacific **3-course gourmet dinner \$34.95**
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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**

Restaurants listed without coupon offers have only menus online. Restaurants with * have multiple locations. See online menu or coupon for all locations.

salad — not even fries. But the meat’s a treat, especially the huge, juicy Delmonico rib eye. If you’re an utterly hopeless cook, a staffer will mind your meal for you, but you’d miss half the fun. Full bar, no reservations. Weekdays dinner only; open until 2 a.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Inexpensive to barely moderate. — *N.W.*

Westgate Gourmet Delicatessen Third Avenue, between Broadway and C Street, Downtown, 619-557-3698. This is where you take your respectable Aunt Martha for lunch. The place reeks of gentility. Green carpets, white linen cloths, fresh flowers, chandeliers, giant potted palms. It’s part of the Westgate Hotel and looks like a grocery for the rich who just can’t live without specialty olive oils and expensive wines. But prices for sandwiches, light breakfasts, and lunches are down there with the best Market Street liquor-deli. Among the menu items offered, the best deal is the soup and half-sandwich combo, especially the Friday cioppino: a tomato-based soup filled with fish such as sea bass, shrimp, and scallops. Open Monday through Friday for breakfast and lunch. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

NORTH INLAND

Abbey’s Real Texas BBQ — Mira Mesa 6904 Miramar Road, Mira Mesa, 858-566-5235. Texas barbecue consists of meat, chicken, turkey, and links that are repeatedly mopped with a marinade and cooked in a big cast-iron smoker (rather than grilled over a fire). Here they use mesquite to barbecue the poultry quickly and the brisket ve-r-r-y slowly. In addition to the usual BBQ sides (potato salad, coleslaw, beans, etc.), they offer a Caesar salad. At the Miramar branch the room is large and unadorned but very clean. Wheelchair accessible. Same menu lunch and dinner. Open daily; continuous service for lunch and early dinner weekdays; normal dinner hours weekends. Inexpensive to low moderate. — *N.W.*

El Bizcocho 17550 Bernardo Oaks Drive, Rancho Bernardo, 858-675-8500. The deluxe restaurant in this rural golf-and-tennis hideaway features upscale, creative French-California cuisine, incorporating old-is-new techniques and imaginative combinations of seasonal ingredients. The weighty wine tome starts out expensive and goes up from there, with relative bargains at the high end and some half-bottles; by-the-glass choices are just adequate. To find it: Take Bernardo Oaks Drive (a long block west of Pomerado) north to the end of the road to the RBI parking lot (with validated parking for restaurant goers). If disabled, specify when you reserve, and they’ll set up your table in an accessible area. Otherwise there’s a maze of short staircases to negotiate en route to the restaurant. Tie-and-jacket requirement now relaxed, but still very dressy. Great service, luxury resort ambiance. Dinner nightly, Sunday brunch. Very expensive. — *N.W.*

Dumpling Inn 4619 Convoy Street #F, Kearny Mesa, 858-268-9638. Hole-in-the-wall? Yes. But what a hole-in-the-wall. For those who love the Far

East and its food, finding the Dumpling Inn is a little revelation. It’s located in the busy Jasmine/Korean Market Center among Oriental herbalists, man-size-vase shops, even feng shui experts. The Inn itself is tiny but charming. Long hanging lanterns, decorative strings of scarlet and gold firecrackers, Chinese flutes, and even the odd conical straw hat. The food is serious but not expensive. Dishes like ten fish and green chive dumplings, spicy stir-fried three-ingredient lo mein (thick noodles, jumbo shrimp, calamari, and chicken plus hot red peppers) are challenging and exciting, as is the Dumpling Dinner (including hot-and-sour soup, cold cuts, shredded pork bun, pot-stickers, shrimp and pork dumplings). Don’t miss their divine jellyfish salad — crunchy-tender, bright and spicy (but not too) — you’d be hard-pressed to find its like outside of Hong Kong. Open 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., closed Monday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Flavor Thai 4768 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-268-3750. This opulent-feeling, great-value place (especially for lunch), is housed in an ex-Taco Bell restaurant, but you’d never know it. It has a small rose garden outside and ferns and plants inside. Nearly two dozen lunch specials include curries, soups, rice, and noodle dishes. Mock (or real) duck with green curry is great, as is the *massaman*, the potato curry. They set the spice heater-meter at low but respect heat requests. Check out the chef’s specials — a couple of dollars more but usually interesting, like *ho mok* (shrimp, green-shell mussel, and calamari with veggies in red curry sauce). Open for lunch and dinner seven days. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

El Galeón 503 West Mission, Escondido, 760-746-5951. Mexican seafood, along with the usual dishes, is featured in a bright coffee-shop atmosphere with comfortable booths, big windows, a lunch counter, and a salad bar. Shrimp and langostino (“squat lobster,” in fishermen’s terms) are the house specialties and are well treated. Also consider an intense little marlin taco (squeeze some lime onto this rich, strong fish), or the savory *albondigas* soup (lime it up, too). Open daily, breakfast through dinner. Inexpensive (standard dishes) to moderate (seafood). — *N.W.*

Phuong Trang Vietnamese Seafood Restaurant 4170 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-565-6750. Tired of putting up with the crowds at the popular Convoy Street restaurant? Go east, where you’ll find the same menu without the hassles. The fare centers on Vietnamese “people’s food” emphasizing numerous genres of noodle soups, but there are a handful of more elegant house specialties — including the extraordinary “Special Sauce” Dungeness crab from the live tank. (The sauce is tangy tamarind.) Call ahead to order steamed or grilled live-tank catfish. Reservations and credit cards accepted, both branches. Vietnamese beers including “33”; just two generic wines. Also bring a pad and write down the numbers of your orders to give the waiter, as staffers speak little English. Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate (higher for live-tank seafood). — *N.W.*

Rancho Valencia 5921 Valencia Circle, Rancho Santa Fe, 858-759-6216.

Nestled in the lush garden setting of the Rancho Valencia Resort is one of San Diego’s dining gems. They advertise the cuisine as California-French. Whatever. Every bite from appetizer to dessert is prepared and presented to delight Californians, French people — actually, any person on the planet with taste buds. Enjoy an entree of prime mesquite-grilled steak, fresh fish, veal, or chicken. Portions are generous, as is the wine list. Casual-elegant dress. Open daily, lunch and dinner; brunch Sunday. Very expensive. — *S.M.*

Spices Thai Cafe — Mira Mesa 6785 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa, 858-552-8845. Superb Thai restaurant that’s not only elegant but whose food contains no MSG and very little fat. The seafood dishes rate highly. Among other delicacies are duck and frog legs. Put Spices Thai Café at the top of your list. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.W.*

Sunrise Buffet 3860 Convoy #121, Kearny Mesa, 858-715-1608. “Oysters are here!” It’s what everyone here waits for. Apart from the usual array of meats, fish, shellfish, and novelties like stuffed mushrooms, stuffed clams, dragon rolls (cucumber, avocado, asparagus), and *mochi* (sticky rice cake), these plates of raw oysters in their big shells are one of the big draws. This buffet restaurant is smaller than many, but it still looks like a mega-McDonald’s eating barn inside, except for a sky-blue-lit ceiling recess *heaven*. Like McDonald’s, it attracts lots of families, maybe because it’s not just all-you-can-eat, but all-you-can-drink, too — included in the price. Lunch and dinner daily. Sunday all-day lobster buffet. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Uno Chicago Bar and Grill — Escondido 890 West Valley Parkway, Escondido, 760-480-8667. The 1943-born Uno chain made its mark by transforming the flat Italian pizza into something a little more upstanding. Deep-dish pizzas have become one of Chicago’s better-known exports. Now Uno does serious steak too, with variously sized Angus top sirloins. They come pretty much as is, but the meat itself is plenty flavorful and tender. Its expanded menu includes fajitas, ribs, shrimp scampi, and steak’n cheese burgers. Still, most lunchtime customers we saw seemed to stick to the staple: deep-dish pizzas and salads. Open daily, continuous service, lunch

and dinner. Inexpensive to moderate. 4465 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach, 858-483-4143; Fashion Valley Center, 619-298-1866; 5th and H, Chula Vista, 619-420-8660; 890 West Valley Parkway, Escondido, 760-480-8667. — *E.B.*

Vincent’s Sirino’s 113 West Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-745-3835. French-born chef-owner Vincent Grumel serves Gallic classics in an intimate, small-town bistro setting. This is a cuisine of rich dark sauces robing fine ingredients, such as a huge, flavorful veal chop (no factory calf, that). Mushrooms and vegetables (from local farmers or Grumel’s own garden) are the season’s best and sensitively treated. Desserts are worth every calorie — save room for the spectacular Bavarian. Full bar, fine wine list. Lunch Tuesday through Friday, dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Expensive. — *N.W.*

NORTH COASTAL

Beach Grass Café 159 South Coast Highway 101, Solana Beach, 858-509-0632. Formerly a branch of Parkhouse Eatery, Beach Grass has been bought by a mini-chain (with Swami’s Cafe and Honey’s), but still serves the original recipes. You could eat breakfast here daily and never get bored with the creative morning menu, which includes foamy, fresh orange juice and “Beach Benedict” with eggs and house-made hollandaise on a soft, lush crab cake. Oddly, though, the “maple” syrup and “butter” spread are both mass-market blends. Lunches and dinners feature multi-ethnic “coastal cuisine,” with the best results in seafood dishes like “Moroccan crabcakes” and the fish-n-yam chips (with fine house-made tartar sauce). Vegetable accompaniments are tasty and creative. Reservations essential for weekend breakfasts. Free parking in back via driveway to right of restaurant. Breakfast through dinner daily. Moderate to slightly expensive. — *N.W.*

Besta Wan Pizza House 148 Aberdeen Drive, Cardiff, 760-753-6707. This ever-popular North County restaurant which opened back in 1965

is a family operation all the way. Their thin-crust East Coast-style pizzas are famous locally. Also check for the big-pile spaghetti or lasagna specials if you just want to fill up. Open seven days, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Bully’s 1404 Camino del Mar, Del Mar, 858-755-1660. Despite the plasma TV sports screen, this place is 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.*

Café Zinc 132 South Cedros, Solana Beach, 858-793-5436. The Rancho Santa Fe set like to hang out here in the garden patio with their Porsches at the curb and their shih tzus under the table (dogs are welcome). Even for non-dog people, the California pepper trees and garden sculpture make this indoor-outdoor eatery a really pleasant kick-back place (which gets its name from the zinc-top bar inside). The menu, a mixture of Italian and vegetarian, offers dishes like frittata with cucumber salsa, and baked eggplant “pizzette” (personal-size pizza) with marinara, mozzarella, and Parmesan cheese. The vegetarian chili and the Zinc veggie burger (served on a La Brea bun) are tasty too. Open daily, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

La Especial Norte 604 North Coast Highway 101, Leucadia, 760-942-1040. This big, brightly lit roadhouse sports highly whimsical decor (take a look at the blue ceramic “pond” in the dining room, complete with cayman) and boasts a five-page menu, including a page of a dozen regional soups and another full page for seafood. The soups are superb — the authentic Mexico City-style chicken soup is laden with

avocados, chicken shreds, cilantro, and rice, and the savory eggplant soup includes airy little “croutons” of puffed *relleno* batter. The fresh, interesting seafood entrées outshine the relatively ordinary renditions of the standard stuffed-tortilla variations. No wheelchair access to restrooms. Open daily, breakfast through dinner. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Firefly 251 North El Camino Real, Suite B, Encinitas, 760-635-1066. At this spacious wine bar and restaurant (sharing a small mall with well-known Savory), the wine list emphasizes California boutique wineries and lesser-known bottlings from around the world, and plentiful choices by the glass make it easy to experiment with unfamiliar wines. The menu starts with a half-dozen wine-bar snacks including a cheese plate and a charcuterie plate. The most popular lunch item is a grand Cobb salad, and at dinner there’s a tasty bourbon-and-mustard-brined pork tenderloin. Desserts are a strong suit here, including a creative crème brûlée featuring white chocolate and the fragrant bergamot of Earl Grey tea. For weekend brunches, Firefly does it up big with a long, seductive array of choices, including a delicious Dungeness crab Benedict. The menu changes frequently, but this likeable spot feels like a sophisticated neighborhood restaurant where, if you’re old enough to enjoy a taste of the grape, you can pretty much come as you are. Open for lunch Monday through Friday, brunch weekends, dinner nightly. Moderate to expensive. — *N.W.*

Il Fornaio — Del Mar 1555 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar, 858-755-8876. Il Fornaio’s defensive architecture walls it off from the Great Unwashed — the tourists wandering around Coronado’s Old Ferry Landing — but it’s worth breaching if only to get your teeth into their to-die-for bread. “*Il fornaio*” means “the baker,” after all. Beyond bread, we’re talking rustic-feeling, herbal, ultra-fresh salads, and everyday Italian dishes ranging from *sfiatino con bisteccina* (thin grilled steak on a baguette with creamy dijon and salad) to a giant mesquite-grilled 22-ounce *bistecca alla fiorentina*, with lots

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Calendar

RESTAURANTS

of vegetarian and pasta dishes in between. A simple *penne alla sorrentina* — pasta tubes with a tomato, mozzarella, and basil sauce — is charming. Pizza *puttanesca* is heaven too, if you're into anchovies. Interesting regional menus from different provinces of Italy pop up during the first two weeks of each month. Most staffers seem mind-blowingly knowledgeable. Moderate. — *E.B.*

Jamroc 101 Caribbean Grill 101 North Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-436-3162. At this former site of D.B. Hacker's, you can still get great fish 'n' chips, mon. The shack by the tracks now sports bright tropical designs on its back-patio walls, and the fare is casual Jamaican (plus a couple of Cajun dishes). Check out the bargain-priced samplers, which include luscious soft-fried plantains and splendid patties (empanadas to you and me) with a choice of beef, curry chicken, or veggies. The spicing of the jerks and curry entrées are down-tuned to suit tourist tastes, but the table bottle of Walkerswood Scotch Bonnet Hot Sauce can kick that right up. Don't miss the fresh coconut water, served out of a young Thai coconut. Soca, ska, and (clean)

reggae set the mood, and there's live steel pan weekend evenings. Beer, wine, Bigga soft drinks. Open weekday nights until 8 p.m. and weekend nights until 9:30 p.m. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Pacifica Del Mar 1555 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar, 858-792-1803. The chic crowd is drawn here by Pacific Rim/California-fusion cuisine centering on seafood and organic, locally grown produce. It's quality all the way, but some nights the restaurant is a victim of its own success. The riotous overflow crowds can challenge the kitchen's capacities, not to mention diners' tender ears. (Best strategy for pleasure: Reserve for early or late on a weeknight, and ask for patio seating or Room #2.) Fun list of low-priced mini-appetizers, plus great baked oysters, seared scallops, mustard catfish, and house-cured rib eye. The award-winning wine list is half price Thursday nights, and the full bar specializes in creative martinis. Pacifica Dine-In" offers call-in take-out for selected items. Lunch and dinner daily. Early-bird dinner discount. Pacifica Breeze Cafe (a level down) offers savory dishes for breakfast through late lunch daily. Expensive to very expensive. — *N.W.*

Potato Shack Cafe 120 West I Street, Encinitas, 760-436-1282. Check out the cute potato-toon mural on the side of the building — a sign for spud-lovers to load up on portions sized for lumberjacks from the Lumberyard across the street. American fries (served

"All you can eat"), French fries, potato patties, and baked potatoes with various toppings are the heart of the menu, along with eggs, omelets, biscuits with sausage gravy, and beer-battered onion rings made from sweet reds. If size counts, consider the daunting inch-thick "manhole" pancake that's bigger than the plate. Lunch runs to "deli" sandwiches (with potatoes), or a hearty bowl of chili con carne. Arrive early weekends. Open daily, breakfast to late lunch. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Ruby's Diner 1 Oceanside Pier, Oceanside, 760-433-7829. One thing about Ruby's: You can build an appetite just getting there. It's at the end of the 1/3-mile-long Oceanside pier. (There's a \$1 shuttle tram, too.) Ruby's is part of a themed "40s diner" chain stretching from LAX to Scottsdale, Arizona. But it's still fun. Shiny Chevy Corvette-style red leatherette and chrome booths, white walls, portholes, old Coca-Cola signs, "Dewey-Warren" presidential buttons, and that view to Hawaii. Good-sized servings, too — try their omelets. Also in Carlsbad and Mission Valley. Open daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Savory 267 N. El Camino Real, Encinitas, 760-634-5556. Chef-owner Pascal Vignau was executive chef of the Four Seasons Aviara when he decided he wanted his own little place. His casual strip-mall restaurant has been perpetually packed for dinner since opening day. Here he serves a monthly changing menu of Southern French and Mediterranean cooking spotlighting seasonal local produce. Highlights include an ultra-rich macaroni-and-ham casserole. The adventurous mainly-Cal wine list is remarkably affordable, with many choices available by half-bottles and glasses (and modest corkage if you BYO). Dinner reservations urged; groups larger than ten accommodated with manager's approval. High tea Saturday afternoon. Lunch Tuesday through Saturday; dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Moderate. — *N.W.*

Tom Giblin's Irish Pub 640 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad, 760-729-7234. Occupying the whole of a handsome, sprawling, block-long Elizabethan-style building, this friendly "small-townish" saloon offers some above-average pub grub, especially the perfect, moist corned beef with firm-tender cabbage, the huge, lively salads, and the house-

baked brown bread. Boxty (Irish "peasant" potato pancakes, rarely found in California) are done up rather doughy rather than crisp to serve as "wraps" for corned beef and other dishes. Live music Tuesday through Sunday, 9 p.m. to midnight. A large, attractive heated patio next to the parking lot offers some afternoon serenity. Open daily, lunch until late. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Tony's Jacal 621 Valley Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-755-2274. Come here at night, when the mysterious low mud-brick arches with the stained-glass windows make you think Old Mexico, when the Del Mar racing bar makes you think 1930s Hollywood, and the dining patio, under the 100-year-old chinaberry tree, looks straight out of Guadalajara. Back in 1946, Tony Gonzales's wife Catalina started preparing food for fellow Mexican workers. Since then, their daughters have continued the tradition, and everybody from Liz Taylor to J. Edgar Hoover has passed through these portals. Try the "La Colonia" combination of just about anything with rice and beans. Turkey meat is big here, and the (real) crab quesadilla in a corn tortilla is delicious too. Cheapest: probably chicken strips with French fries. And "Jacal"? It means "shack." No lunch or dinner on Tuesday; no lunch Sunday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

SOUTH BAY

Coronado Boathouse 1887 1701 Strand Way, Coronado, 619-435-0155. For a relaxing good time with lovely views and tasty food to match, put on your aloha shirt and head over the bridge. The old Coronado Boathouse boasts a handsome, historic structure with architecture mirroring the nearby Hotel Del, plus enthusiastic servers, terrific water views, and satisfying mainstream American cooking. The herbed artichoke appetizer and fresh macadamia-crust ed halibut sauced with coconut milk are wonderful. The juicy roast beef here is USDA Prime (translates to melt in your mouth") and even the desserts offer some old favorites cooked with classy ingredients and imaginative twists. A perfect place to entertain your in-laws or hold your birthday dinner. Full bar. Dinner seven days. — *N.W.*

Island Wok 922 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-6835. This tiny indoor-outdoor-takeaway cafe is a standby with locals, especially the high school crowd. It serves good Vietnamese-Chinese food, and plenty of it. The owner, Xuan, makes scrumptious fresh (not fried) Vietnamese spring rolls wrapped in rice paper with shrimp, pork, or chicken and vegetables in the middle. But most customers go for the steam-table combination plates. You always get chow mein, fried or steamed rice, and a fried spring roll to start off, and then you can add entrées like orange chicken, *kung pao* chicken, or sweet-and-sour pork. Closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Jimmy's — Chula Vista 1198 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, 619-427-7161. Thank goodness for this family-friendly restaurant with good, old-fashioned American food. Their six-page plastic menu tells all — forget your diet and dig into the breakfast "Eggs and Cakes" (two eggs, three pancakes), the "Touchdown" (two eggs, two hotcakes, four strips of bacon or three link sausages), or the "Monte Cristo" hot sandwich (ham and turkey grilled on batter-dipped Texas toast with Swiss cheese, hot syrup, and French fries). Later in the day, the New York strip or sirloin steak with all the trimmings, and desserts like homemade cinnamon bread pudding with raisins and whipped cream. Open three meals, seven days. Inexpensive.

EAST COUNTY

Barnes Bar-B-Que 2625 Lemon Grove Avenue, Lemon Grove, 619-462-9206. Clayton Davis's sign says it all: "Let Us Bring Tha South to Ya Mouth." You can tell this is the real deal from the two heavy iron doors in the brick wall behind the counter and the big wood fires burning oak inside. This is Memphis-style soul food, mild and mouth watering — and cheap. Expect dollar portions, from smothered chicken or pork, neck bones and cabbage, to country yams, corn on the cob, and corn bread. Other lip-smacking dishes include chopped beef brisket sandwich, pork ribs or shoulder, beef ribs, red snapper, and hot links or ham — all with two sides and bread. Oh yes, they also serve catfish sandwiches and sweet potato tarts. Or you could just stand outside and smell the smoke. Open Monday through Sunday, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Los Michoacanos 8001 Mission Gorge Road, Santee, 619-449-9032. You get a lot for a little here. Order even one really cheap potato taco from Luis Gabriel, the owner, and you get the full treatment of tortilla chips and salsa beforehand. Then out comes this hot, crisp-shelled taco, bursting with shredded lettuce, two cheeses, and inside, the most scrumptious sautéed potatoes. It may be way cheap, but it's no way mean. Other good Mexican dishes here include the chorizo torta or the grand garlic shrimp combo. Added bonus: The place is new, bright, red and yellow, and sports a terrace looking out across the valley. Open seven days, three meals. Inexpensive — *E.B.*

The Omelette Factory 7941 Mission Gorge Road, Santee, 619-596-9686. The Factory sits in the kind of stand-alone building you expect to see in a country town: long, angled roof with a portico dressing up the basic shed structure behind. It's a great sprawling place that's ideal to bring the kids for a big breakfast. You can't beat their omelets, all 19 of them, from the Just Say Cheese (with Swiss, Jack, Cheddar, or American), to the magnificent Factory Omelette (a build-your-own: up to four meats, veggies, or cheeses). A Greek family has turned this location, outside Santee, from an abandoned social hall into a regular pit stop for half the community, it seems. For lunch, try the Factory Burger. It has two hamburger patties *plus* gyro meat, two cheeses, and onions. Breakfast and lunch, seven days. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

La Posta 32337 Old Highway 80, Julian, 619-478-5600. Is the Wild West dead? Not out here. Swagger in past the rocking chairs on the wooden porch, by the "NRA meets here, every 3rd Wednesday, 7 p.m." sign, past bows and arrows, dream catchers, lariats, and brass spittoons, and swing into a chair. Now think vintage American food. Hefty anytime-breakfasts include two eggs, hash browns, biscuits, and coffee or eggs with chicken-fried steak or a bulging veggie omelet. ("With syrup" breakfast items, such as pancakes, stop at 2:30 p.m.) Their sourdough cheeseburger with fries or potato salad is big, or delve into a bowl of chili. Folks hereabouts talk about that chili in low, reverent voices. For dinner, the rib eye steak or pork chops is good enough to make city folks swoon. Three meals daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.* EOF



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The Way It Was

The entire cast closely guards the illusion of reality.

Scouring the upcoming schedule for Landmark Theatres, from now through May, I find no mention of the current reissue of Alain Resnais's 1961 *Last Year at Marienbad*, one of the smallest handful of films that can live up to the theater chain's name. A landmark. Were you able magically to channel-surf through all the films of history, there is no other that, at any random spot in the middle of it, could be more quickly and infallibly identified. Provided, of course, you had some prior familiarity with it. (Resnais's chief collaborator on it, the novelist Alain Robbe-Grillet, and a future filmmaker in his own right, died just this past Monday, you might have noticed.) It's little wonder, though, that an out-of-the-way burg such as San Diego would get passed over in the distribution last year of the director's latest film, *Private Fears in Public Places*. The younger generation, after all, has no earthly reason to know who Resnais is, let alone how indebted they are to him, through some descending, degrading, debasing route, for the editing techniques of music videos and their spawn, the liberation from the constraining continuities of time and

REVIEW

DUNCAN SHEPHERD

space. *Marienbad* might have raised a few eyebrows as well as a few standards. Not merely was it ahead of its own time; it remains, almost half a century later, ahead of our present time, too. (The confusion and the controversy over the perfectly comprehensible ending of *No Country for Old Men* do not speak well for public open-mindedness.) In the way of reissues, meanwhile, we have lately had to content ourselves with the likes of Jean-Jacques Beineix's 1982 *Diva* and, wrapping up a week at the Ken Cinema tonight, Bruce Weber's 1989 *Let's Get Lost*, two superficial showpieces that came by, on their first go-round, well along in my Sisyphean stint at this paper, a possible sign that I have been too long on the job.

To be grateful for whatever we get, however, I am bound to say I am grateful for the next film at the Ken, Cristian Mungiu's *4 Months, 3 Weeks, and 2 Days*, an easy enough title to memorize once you take the time to note the simple numerical progression. (It's not as if it were 4... 2... 5... or 4... 1... 3....) I've been hearing about this Romanian film more or less unceasingly since it took the top prize at the Cannes



4 Months, 3 Weeks, and 2 Days

Film Festival last spring, and been wondering what could be so special about a squalid quest for an illegal abortion in the final years of the Ceausescu regime. The opening moments provide few clues: a still-life within a wavering frame, goldfish on a messy breakfast table, the handheld camera eventually pulling back without a cut to take in two polytechnic

roommates, the dishwater-blond Anamaria Marinca and the brunette Laura Vasiliu, readying themselves for the day: "It's like you're going camping." (The task isn't defined ahead of time; we have to figure it out as we go.) By the second shot, the camera reveals itself to be not just handheld but highly mobile, ambulatory, peripatetic, tagging after the central characters like

an invisible third roommate. You don't expect much from the lighting in such circumstances, and indeed you get a pervasive greeny-gray overcast that doubtless intends to comment on the bleakness of life in the Eastern Bloc. As a hard-and-fast rule, I prefer my color to be solidly inside the screen and not laid on top of the screen like a scum. I like to see the colors clearly,



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MOVIES

regardless how dull; I don't like to see them through dulling sunglasses. But I got the point. And I could tell already that this is not a film, à la *Marienbad*, that fifty years from now I could immediately identify at any random spot in it, and not only because fifty years hence I'll be reduced to dust.

Still, it's a strong film, in the mode of rub-your-nose-in-it naturalism, availing itself of the aesthetic precepts selectively followed by the Danish Dogmatists, the Iranian Abbas Kiarostami, perhaps (based on scant evidence) the Hungarian Béla Tarr, the latter-day Gus Van Sant, and above all the Belgian Dardenne brothers. Boiled down to a basic checklist: the aforementioned humanoid camera, handheld and foot-propelled; a bias towards the "integrity" of long takes, whether static or kinetic; an observance of one or more of the classical unities (the action here lasts less than a day); location-shooting only, in "natural" light; no special effects; no background music. *4 Months* toes the line, makes no missteps, and it holds interest if it doesn't quite stir excitement. I'm glad — I'm, once more, grateful — that I got to see it; I won't need to see it again.

It tells us, in passing, a good deal

about a way of life, and in particular about the foundation stone of the black market (cigarettes to abortions). Under that way of life, the not so simple business of a single woman checking into a hotel, especially if the officious clerk has a head cold or a nosy mind, can generate a thrillerish suspense. And there is a riveting set piece, really the film's centerpiece, after the supportive roommate has torn herself from her friend's bedside, post-abortion, to drop in on the birthday party of her boyfriend's mother: the long-held stationary shot of trifling table talk, with the sullenly unparticipating guest seated center-screen, a private island of misery in a heedlessly sloshing sea, rises above mere suspense to a level of metaphysical agony. The entire cast, helped perhaps by the unfamiliarity of its faces and its tongue, closely guards the illusion of reality. But Vlad Ivanov, helped most definitely by the natural dominance of his role as the outcall abortionist, unflaggingly stern yet unpredictably patient, is the clear standout. Nondescript in his physical features, casually attired in black leather jacket, striped sweater, and blue jeans, he manages to be intimidating, manipulating, and ultimately abusing without ever looming larger than life, a mundane villain.

Although the film, like *Vera Drake* a few years back, doesn't debate the rights and wrongs of abortion (just another of the facts of life), it has something for both sides of the argument.

It has, on one side, again like *Vera Drake*, a hazardous backstairs *modus vivendi* for which no one could be nostalgic and to which no one would choose to return. And on the other side it has, in a towel on the bathroom floor, an unmistakably human fetus whose exact age is told in the title, and only there. (The expectant mother is prone to waffle.) The rights and wrongs of it can't be properly debated till we've clarified what "it" is. The fetus, as "real" as everything else in the film, makes it clear.

* * *

One of the stifling things about today's movie scene is the sameness of the lineup from one multiplex to the next. So I warmed to the occasion when, last Friday, three movies opened in town to exclusive runs outside the Landmark chain: John Sayles's *Honeydripper* at the downtown Horton Plaza, George Romero's *Diary of the Dead* at the Palm Promenade in Chula Vista, and Adam Marcus's (whose?) *Conspiracy* at the Del Mar Highlands in North County. A throwback, this, to the early days of the *Reader*, before multiplexes, before video stores, before homogenization, when I would routinely range from El Cajon to Oceanside to see a film in the one place it could be seen: some B-grade exploitation film, some dubbed Italian erotic thriller, some unsubtitled Mexican melodrama, some dust-gathering decade-old Western. Admittedly, it is not unusual for the Horton Plaza to have an exclusive run, and still less unusual for John Sayles. But the Romero took me to a theater where I had never been before, our largest number of auditoriums under one roof, Auditorium #21, in specific, out of twenty-four. Neither had I ever been to the Del Mar theater, which seems to be making a practice of offering brief refuge, en route to the video shelf, to easily ignorable action films featuring such over-the-hill action figures as Steven Seagal and Jean-Claude Van Damme. (Films projected, it turns out, in digital video.) But Val Kilmer is on

my good side — for *Tombstone* and *Spartan*, he always will be — and not so easily ignored. When the dust settled at weekend's end, it wasn't the films that had afforded pleasure; it was the necessity. ■

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. ★ (LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20)

Be Kind Rewind — Comedy written and directed by Michel Gondry (*The Science of Sleep*), with Jack Black, Mos Def, Danny Glover, Mia Farrow. (DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; FROM 2/22)

The Bucket List — A feel-good death trip, directed by the crowd-coddling Rob Reiner, about two terminal cancer patients, a billionaire WASP and a blue-collar black, who bond as hospital roommates and set out together to do the things and see the sights they never had time for: skydive, car-race, get a tattoo, visit the Riviera, the Dark Continent, the Pyramids, the Great Wall, and along the way open themselves up to

epiphanies: "The stars — it's really one of God's good ones." (Although they often have a book at hand in bed or on an airplane, you can't expect a screen character to use his final months to curl up at last with *The Pickwick Papers*.) The good feelings extend even beyond the grave: the action is narrated posthumously in the first-person omniscient, implicitly settling the amicable debate on the afterlife. A fair measure of your regard for Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman would be your pain at seeing them in such pap. Perhaps the closest contact with a real concern emerges in the former's probing question to the latter: "You always had those freckles?" Sean Hayes, Rob Morrow. 2007. ● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN)

Charlie Bartlett — High-school comedy with Anton Yelchin, Kat Dennings, Hope Davis, and Robert Downey, Jr., directed by Jon Poll. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; FROM 2/22)

Charlie Wilson's War — Didactic political 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 eyelashes 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 *MASH* — so that his commitment is forever perceived as something of a pose, something within quotation marks. The job gets done all the same. Philip Seymour Hoffman, sporting a lush mustache and full head of dark hair in testimony to the character's Mediterranean ethnicity, goes Hanks one better (several better, in fact) as a disgruntled CIA spook who, irked at not getting the Finland assignment after studying Finnish, cannot even throw a tantrum without a wink. Not only does Hoffman walk away with the show, he also gets to recite the Buddhist parable whose punchline frames the entire picture, turning an ostensibly happy ending into an up-in-the-air ending, or in other words no ending at all. We know too well what happened next. With Amy Adams, Emily Blunt, Ned Beatty. 2007. ★★ (LA JOLLA 12)

Cloverfield — Vindication for the grainy, jiggly image of the handheld camcorder, the mockumentarist's best friend and a corner-cutting, cost-cutting device for any purpose. The premise — the excuse — is the making of a video souvenir at the going-away party for a Manhattan yuppie, the night before his departure to a plum job in Japan; and the product, by its very nature, is an exercise in subjective camerawork as extreme as, though not as strained as, Robert Montgomery's anomalous *Lady in the Lake*, 1946. Amateurish by design, with the camera in the hands of a conscripted novice, the evolving souvenir is all we get for the first twenty minutes of the movie, leading to suspicions of padding in what turns out to be barely an hour-and-a-quarter.

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Diary of the Dead

ter movie. It might have led also to squirms of impatience if the document had not been labelled at the top as the property of the Department of Defense, retrieved from the “area formerly known as Central Park.” You know something’s coming. What finally comes at the twenty-minute mark, revealed bit by bit, fleeting glimpse by side-long glance, proves to be a distant relative of Godzilla — the yuppie didn’t have to go to Japan; Japan came to the yuppie — a composite creature combining on a gargantuan scale the slimy squid, the plucked chicken, and the skinned calf, shedding like fleas some spidery creatures of more human dimension. (Additional aerial footage from a cable news network lends some helpful perspective.) It is quite understandable and quite realistic, in the post-Rodney King era, that the party videographer would choose to keep the tape rolling as his small circle of friends fights to survive the night (“People are gonna wanna know how it all went down”), and the shaky, sketchy 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 Reeves. 2008.

★★★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24)

Conspiracy — A very bad *Bad Day at Black Rock*, with a Desert Storm hero missing a leg instead of an arm, and a super-patriotic, super-stereotyped bad guy at the head of a war-profiteering corporation modelled on Halliburton, thinly disguised under the name of Hallicorp. With Val Kilmer, Jennifer Esposito, and Gary Cole; directed by Adam Marcus. 2008.

● (DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8, THROUGH 2/21)

Definitely, Maybe — A little girl’s first Sex Education class raises questions in her mind about where she came from, and raises the word “penis” repeatedly to her lips. The answers take the form of a “mystery love story” in which her father recounts in flashback his entanglement with the three leading ladies of his life. What’s unusual, and not uninteresting, about this juggling act is the length of time that all three balls are kept in the air. But the juggler, the beady-eyed and metallic-voiced Ryan Reynolds, is not a man who projects honesty of feeling or elicits sympathy of response. With Elizabeth Banks, Isla Fisher, Rachel Weisz, Abigail Breslin, and Derek Luke; written and directed by Adam Brooks. 2008.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKET-PLACE 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)

Diary of the Dead — George A. Romero, passing off Ontario as his Pennsylvania habitat, raises more zombies for the purpose of running them further into the ground. The tetralogy hereby becomes a pentalogy. The borrowed *Blair Witch* gimmick of filmmaking students recording the events on shaky camcorders is more expedient than plausible; and the obligatory “social commentary” — mostly on the Babel of modern media — is now more self-conscious, overt, and verbalized, especially in the first-person narration of a film-within-the-film called *The Death of Death*. But there are still touches, dabs, bloody spatters of imagination and humor.

With Michelle Morgan, Josh Close, Shawn Roberts, Amy Lalonde, and other unknowns. 2008.

★ (PALM PROMENADE 24)

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.

★ (LA JOLLA 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 being escorted by shades to the Other Side?) Her great tragedy had always been that she could not look in the mirror and see Jessica Alba, and the tragedy continues even after she regains her sight: the movie’s creepiest moment is precisely in front of a mirror. Her great blessing, by compensation, is that she could never see herself playing the violin: one moving part only, the right shoulder joint, like a cardboard-cutout puppet, the bent arm swinging back and forth on its

hinge, the rest of her body stock-still. You wonder whether Alba, to “prepare” for the part, bothered to look at concert footage of Anne-Sophie Mutter, Sarah Chang, Leila Josefowicz, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, anybody at all. 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)

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

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Cooley High

KAREN HUFF-WILLIS

Director, San Diego Black Film Festival,
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For Black History Month I would like people to see something by Oscar Micheaux, like *Within Our Gates*. He's from the 1920s, and he made wonderful films.

Then go see something with Lena Horne — like *Stormy Weather*, where she sings the title song.

Finally, check out any and all of the black exploitation movies. *Cooley High* was one of my favorites with Glynn Turman. He received our Award of Merit at our San Diego Black Film Festival. The genre also has really strong black women, like Tamara Dobson (*Cleopatra Jones*) or Pam Grier (*Foxy Brown*, *Coffy*).

WITHIN OUR GATES (USA) 1920, Grapevine Video
List price: \$19.99

STORMY WEATHER (USA) 1943, 20th Century Fox
List price: \$14.98

COOLEY HIGH (USA) 1975, MGM
List price: \$14.98



Pride

DWANE BROWN

KPBS *Morning Edition* anchor

Pride does just what the title implies: It gives you a sense of how you can overcome any obstacle with persistence and perseverance. Terrence Howard is a swimming coach determined to bring the sport to the inner city at a time when racial barriers abound.

I love the family chats around the kitchen table in the *Nutty Professor* movies. There's nothing like hearing what your family really thinks of you even if you're a brilliant scientist who needs a dose of Jenny Craig and a membership to Eharmony.com. Eddie Murphy plays multiple roles in this remake of a Jerry Lewis classic.

Speaking of classics: *Lean on Me* is just that! You almost wish Joe Clark — with his bat and bullhorn — could visit every school in America to turn around the declining state of education. The New Jersey high school principal shows tough love dealing with students, parents, and educators.

PRIDE (USA) 2007, Lionsgate
List price: \$19.98

NUTTY PROFESSOR I & II (USA) 1996 and 2000 Universal
List price: \$14.98 (two discs)

LEAN ON ME (USA) 1989, Warner
List price: \$12.98



Daddy's Little Girls

DEE (DEEBONE) J. BROOKS

Owner, Sews and Shows Community Theatre

Why Did I Get Married? is Tyler Perry's best movie to date. It's full of stars, drama, and comedy, and relationship issues that are all easy to relate to. This movie is a test of "For every good man, there is a good woman," and vice versa.

Diary of a Mad Black Woman is another Perry movie I'd pick. This movie is depressing then funny then emotional then depressing then mind-boggling then funny again. I love the roller-coaster ride. I like it because it teaches submissive women that they have options.

Lesson learned: A good man is hard to find when your standards are unreasonably high. *Daddy's Little Girls* gave snobby women a reality check and challenged them to open their eyes and hearts to men of good quality, regardless of their collar color.

WHY DID I GET MARRIED? (USA) 2007, Lionsgate
List price: \$29.95

DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN (USA) 2005, Lionsgate
List price: \$14.98

DADDY'S LITTLE GIRLS (USA) 2007, Lionsgate
List price: \$19.98

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 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)

4 Months, 3 Weeks, and 2 Days — Reviewed this issue. With Anamaria Marinca, Laura Vasiliu, and Vlad Ivanov; directed by Cristian Mungiu.

★★★ (KEN, 2/22 THROUGH 28)

Honeydripper — John Sayles, with his modicum of cinematic acumen, fantasizes a turning point in popular culture, at the Honeydripper Lounge, a roadhouse-of-blues in rural Alabama, 1950, unable to compete with the new jukebox in the joint next door, till the arrival of a train-hopping vagabond toting a homemade electric guitar. The actual turning point — the birth of rock-and-roll — comes none too soon in this heavy, gluey, sugary slice of Americana. With Danny Glover, Charles S. Dutton, Lisa Gay Hamilton, Yaya DaCosta, Gary

Clark, Jr., and Stacy Keach. 2008.

★ (HORTON PLAZA 14)

In Bruges — Writer-director Martin McDonagh, 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-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.

● (FLOWER HILL 4; 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, train-hops 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 endorse-



Jumper

ment. 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 conviction, the film can tell us next to nothing. Of the filmmaker’s, it can tell us much. And then it can tell us again. And again. With Emile Hirsch, Marcia Gay Harden, William Hurt, Jena Malone, Vince Vaughn, and Hal Holbrook. 2007. ★ (GASLAMP 15; LA PALOMA)

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-poopster 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)

Juno — A slow starter. In the title role of a pregnant Minnesota high-schooler (named after the Roman goddess of marriage, fidelity, fertility), the dry flat sardonic line-delivery of Ellen Page, the angelic avenger of *Hard Candy*, is not easy to warm up to, no matter how much we might try to see it as an adolescent defense mechanism, or how much as humble emulation of Janeane Garofalo. And the garishly colorful dialogue, from first-time scripter and former stripper Diablo Cody, often tends to push too hard (“Being pregnant makes me pee like Seabiscuit”). The heroine, interested in simply finding a good home for the baby, not in making a profit off it, finds a possible taker in the weekly *PennySaver* (“next to the exotic birds”), a neat-freaky suburban couple in the gated confines of Glacial Valley Estates. It’s there that things really begin to get interesting. Our initial arrival at the housing development is alone sufficient to convince us of Jason Reitman’s directorial bona fides: a series of static shots of anti-septic House Beautiful after House Beautiful as the car passes across the screen, left to

right, in front of each. And the prospective mother, Jennifer Garner (her piano-wire tautness put to good use), turns out to be the neater of the pair, someone who will studiously ponder “custard” versus “cheesecake” as the color for baby’s room, while the prospective father, Jason Bateman, proves to be the freakier, a stay-at-home composer of advertising ditties and a frustrated rock-and-roller. A curious, potentially dangerous after-school relationship blossoms between him and the heroine: he may be a commercial sell-out as a composer, but he’s a person who can talk music to a teenager, and he demonstrates “decent taste in slasher movies” (e.g., Herschell Gordon Lewis’s *The Wizard of Gore*, another impediment to our warming up to the heroine). Over time, the film builds, and it does so with proficiency, patience, and foresight. If the heroine is never wholly embraceable, the surrounding characters go far to compensate, specifically J.K. Simmons as her droll laconic dad, Allison Janney as her worldly-wise, even-keeled mom, and above all, Michael Cera as her shunted aside, unassertive, but ever-faithful boyfriend, the baby’s biological father, and a cooler dude than you’d ever guess from his track-team togs. And if the dialogue is unabatingly overcolored, at least the hues are spread around democratically. 2007. ★★★ (ESCONDIDO 16; FLOWER HILL 4; HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

The Kite Runner — From the Khaled Hosseini novel, directed by Marc Forster (*Finding Neverland*, *Stranger Than Fiction*), a story about a storyteller, and in large part a story truly worthy of a storyteller. The remaining parts are hackneyed and/or hokey. Main elements: two boyhood pals in Kabul, 1978, the sons of master and servant, and the psychologically penetrating betrayal of the second by the first, our evolving storyteller. Notwithstanding the graphic barbarities of the Taliban in the year 2000, the film takes a tactical and tactful approach to the Islamic topic, and the nostalgic re-creation of life in the Afghanistan of yesteryear

(handsomely photographed in the bargain) is highly beneficial: the competitive, combative, and colorful kite flying, the Pashto-dubbed print of *The Magnificent Seven* (Charles Bronson’s accent giving him away as a native Iranian), the swanky comforts of the hero’s home, the imposing figure of his principled, civilized, dignified father (ably embodied by the star of *Taste of Cherry*, Homayoun Ershadi), destined to run a gas station in Fremont after fleeing the Soviet invaders. The besetting problems of dividing a screen role between a younger and an older actor are brutally spotlighted in the scene where a Taliban bully tells the now adult hero that he never forgets a face, when in truth the face little resembles the one that the bully last saw. It is not surprising that the hero, in turn, doesn’t recognize the bully. With Khalid Abdalla, Zekeria Ebrahimi, and Ahmad Khan Mahmizada. 2007. ★★ (HORTON PLAZA 14)

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 look-alike, 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 bit-player 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. 1989. ★ (KEN, THROUGH 2/21)

No Country for Old Men — The Coen brothers’ first literary adaptation, from a Cormac McCarthy original, an overwhelmingly 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 characteriza-

tion 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; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

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 premoni-

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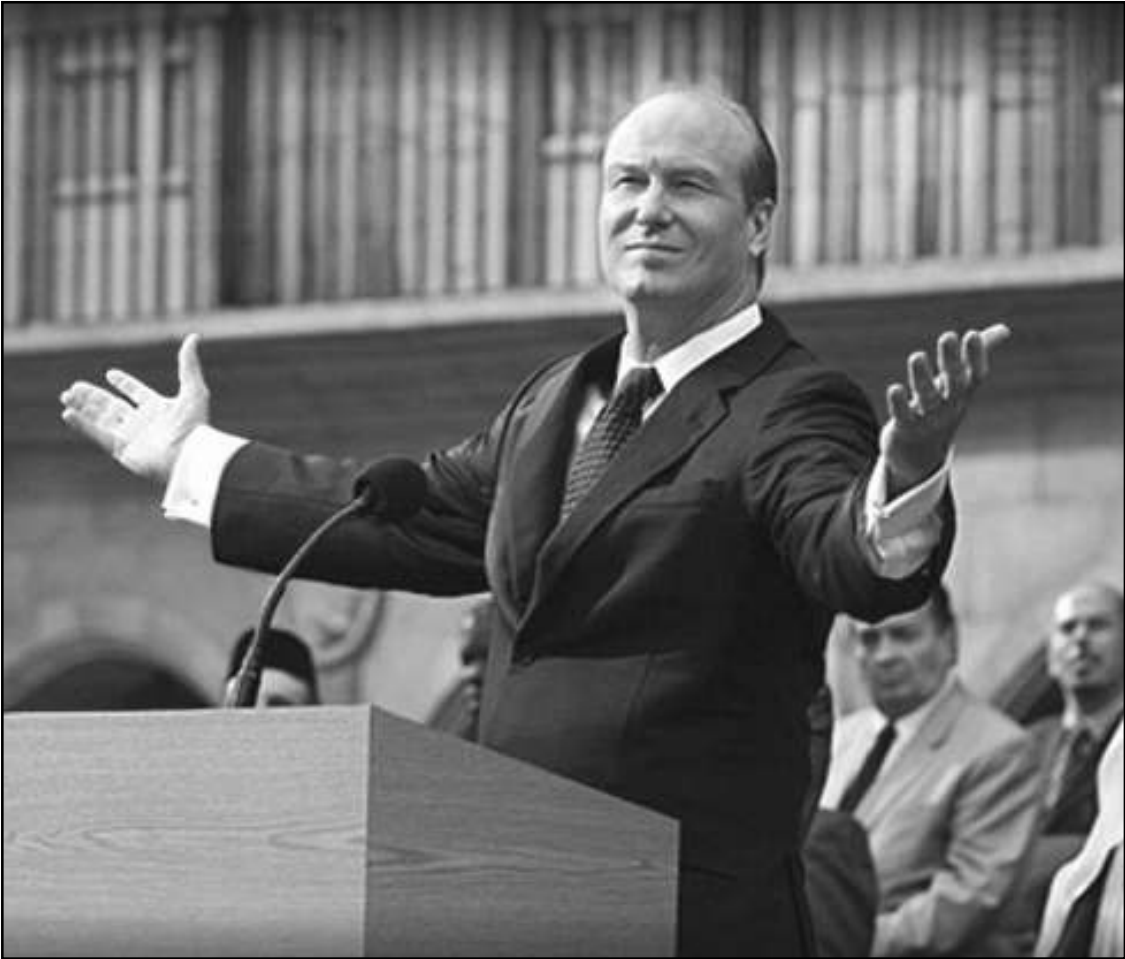
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tory music, the startling noises, the creaking hinges, the magnified eyes of the prune-faced old lady behind her coke-bottle lenses, the fingers slammed in the bathroom door and the backward jackknife into the tub, the plowed-over pedestrian and the gruesome makeup on the carcass. Through all that, we are apt to remain, in common with the rational husband and police-woman, unconvinced and unmoved. Ambiguity will have that effect. The climax, when the heroine is at last left alone in the house, nevertheless crams in two or three good shivers, but it goes on three or four steps too far. Fernando Cayo, Roger Princep, Geraldine Chaplin. 2007. ★ (HORTON PLAZA 14; 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 adolescence in Austria to escape the strictures of the Islamic Revolution, her return to her homeland as a depressed and medicated young woman, then a bride, then a divorcee, and her ultimate exile in France, stretching from the late Seventies, to put dates on it, to the early Nineties. The animation is not all that animated. With stiff movement, a flat visual field, and a black-and-white palette (but for the lightly colored framing scenes in the present tense), it is the furthest thing from the limitless taffypull of contemporary computer animation. It is in fact quite deliberately reactionary, a return to “nature” if you will, a homespun product of the human hand, staying as close as possible (notwithstanding some decorative embellishment here and there) to the naive style of the original drawings. And since Satrapi herself is credited as codirector along with a fellow comic artist, Vincent Paronnaud, we can be sure the result has her stamp of approval. The general effect, overriding any risk of trivialization, is something in the vicinity of the Brechtian “alienation effect,” something distancing, something cushioning, so that we experience such painful subjects as political oppression, imprisonment, torture, execution, etc., less viscerally and (for all the outward resemblance to a Saturday-morning TV kiddie cartoon) more cerebrally. That’s not to say the film goes in for in-depth analysis of Middle Eastern modern history. It goes at these subjects strictly from the point of view of a growing girl trying to make sense of them, and the emphasis gradually and eventually shifts to the individual. If she started out to bear witness to the events of her time, she wound up in the long run a witness primarily to the witness. And she delivers her unblushingly personal testimony with candor, with humor, with self-deprecation, and with aesthetic distance — a distance commensurate to that provided by the primitive animation. Whatever mixed feelings we might have about that animation, they fall away as it becomes merely a serviceable vehicle, frugal and no frills, to convey the unhackneyed story. A useful medium, plain and simple. With the voices of Chiara Mastroianni, Catherine Deneuve, Danielle Darrieux, Simon Abkarian, and Gabrielle Lopes. 2007. ★★ ★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS; PALM PROMENADE 24, FROM 2/22)

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



Vantage Point

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. ★ (GASLAMP 15; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24)

The Savages — Philip Seymour Hoffman in the male lead, blond and bearded, as a Buffalo drama professor at work on a tome on Bertolt Brecht. And Laura Linney in the larger female lead, brunette and bedraggled, as an unproduced dramatist at work on a “subversive, semi-autobiographical play” (as she describes it in her grant applications) inspired by the works of Jean Genet, Eugene O’Neill, and cartoonist Lynda Barry. They are brother and sister, forced into the same yoke to deal with their demented father (Philip Bosco) after his Sun City “girlfriend” of twenty years kicks the bucket and her family kicks him out. These are big performances in a small film made up of small moments, a life-is-messy comedy of small (but not few) laughs. Writer and director Tamara Jenkins, not heard from since her (subversive, semi-autobiographical) *Slums of Beverly Hills*, seeks the universal in the individual — the particulars, the peculiarities, the normal abnormalities (the lachrymosity of Hoffman, the mendacity of Linney) — which is the right way to go about it. The peculiarities needn’t have been so artsy-fartsily peculiar. With Peter Friedman and Cara Seymour. 2007. ★★ (LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

The Signal — Horror film with a no-name cast, co-written and co-directed by David Bruckner, Dan Bush, and Jacob Gentry. (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; FROM 2/22)

The Spiderwick Chronicles — An inherited Gothic monstrosity in the country-

side, 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 build-up (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. 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; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Step Up 2 the Streets — Street-dance musical with Briana Evigan and Robert Hoffman, directed by Jon Chu. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

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)

There Will Be Blood — Based loosely, so they say, on *Oil!*, a muckraking, boat-rocking, banned-in-Boston novel by Upton Sinclair (a writer partial to exclamation points in his titles), this is a kind of anti-epic, an anti-*Giant*, about a miserly, misanthropic, nothing short of murderous American oil man in the first decades of the last century: warped beyond recognition as an exemplar of the enterprising capitalist. (The accompanying music credited to Jonny Greenwood of the British rock group Radiohead, edgy, skittery, dissonant, helps set the tone: not music to Build an Empire By, such as a Dimitri Tiomkin or a Max Steiner might have composed, but instead music to Squirrel Away Nuts for the Winter By.) The hard dirty work, at the outset, of digging a well all by his lonesome is vividly and wordlessly captured by writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson, yet it’s hardly adequate to explain or excuse the character’s subsequent aberrance, and his particular animus towards a hayseed faith healer (the initially very young and insufficiently aging Paul Dano), each of whom has his own inflexible reasons for not deferring to the other: the Self-Made Man versus the Man of God. Daniel Day-Lewis, ever the risk-taker, even if the risk (immurement in Victorian melodrama) is much the same as in *Gangs of New York*, makes of the protagonist a real and repellantly compelling figure when he’s not breaking the spell with his John Huston rollercoaster cadences. (Why would this 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; MISSION VALLEY 20)

27 Dresses — Girly fairy tale to do with the proverbial always-a-bridesmaid, twenty-seven times by actual count, with a closetful of once-worn gowns to prove it,

who stands mutely by as her slutty younger sister returns home and steals her dreamy boss right out from under her nose. Screenwriter Aline Brosh McKenna and director Anne Fletcher unprotestingly accept all the romantic-comic conventions, the contrivances, the clichés, and tidy them into shape as if with a nail file and vial of varnish. Katherine Heigl, blandly beautiful whenever her face-crumpling fierceness isn’t spoiling the effect, gets an opportunity to play a more coherent character than in *Knocked Up*, and demonstrates a fine control of the light and shade of legible emotion. She keeps the blahs at bay. James Marsden, Malin Akerman, Edward Burns, Judy Greer. 2008. ★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

U2 3D — Documentary on the Irish rock band’s “Vertigo” tour, directed by Catherine Owens and Mark Pellington. (CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FLOWER HILL 4; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; POWAY 10; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 2/22)

Untraceable — The filmmakers (director Gregory Hoblit, a trio of scriptwriters) wish to “comment” on the ghoulish appetite of the American public while simultaneously feeding it. They have set up a demonic, taunting, diabolically clever (etc.) serial killer in a Portland basement, from where his tortures and murders are “streamed live” over the Internet, the victim’s demise hastened by every “log-on.” (There’s a great deal of indigestible computerese.) An ugly spectacle all around, not least in the blood-draining cinematography. Diane Lane, as a cyber-crimefighter with the FBI, takes three showers in the course of the movie, but doesn’t come out clean. Billy Burke, Colin Hanks, Joseph Cross. 2008. ● (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION VALLEY 20)

Vantage Point — Anti-terrorist exploitation to do with an apparent assassination of the U.S. President on Spanish soil on the eve of a peace accord, but an actual assassination of his look-alike: “Sir, we’ve used doubles since Reagan,” a page out of Saddam Hussein’s playbook, and the terrorists know that playbook backwards and forwards. The narrative goes over and over the same compressed sequence of events from differing points of view, until, on the sixth pass, the full story comes to light in all its laughable absurdity. With Dennis Quaid, Forest Whitaker, Sigourney Weaver, Matthew Fox, and William Hurt; directed by Pete Travis. 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; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 2/22)

Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins — Malcolm D. Lee’s comedy about an L.A. radio personality (Martin Lawrence) who returns to his Deep South roots. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Bargain showtimes are in parentheses.

Town Square 14
4665 Clairemont Drive (858-274-1234)
Call theater for program information

Gaslamp 15
701 Fifth Avenue (619-232-0400)
Call theater for program information

Cloverfield (PG-13); **Definitely, Maybe** (PG-13); **The Eye** (PG-13); **Hannah Montana** (Miley Cyrus): **Best of Both Worlds Concert Tour** (G); **Honeydripper** (PG-13); **Jumper** (PG-13); **The Kite Runner** (PG-13); **The Orphanage** (R); **The Signal** (Not Rated); **Step Up 2 the Streets** (PG-13); **Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street** (R); **27 Dresses** (PG-13); **U2 3D** (G); **Untraceable** (R); **Vantage Point** (PG-13)

La Jolla 12
8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (858-558-2262)
Be Kind Rewind (PG-13); **The Bucket List**
(PG-13); **Charlie Bartlett** (R); **Charlie Wilson's War** (R); **Definitely, Maybe** (PG-13); **Fool's Gold** (PG-13); **Jumper** (PG-13); **Juno**
(PG-13); **The Signal** (Not Rated); **The Spiderwick Chronicles** (PG); **Step Up 2 the Streets** (PG-13); **27 Dresses** (PG-13); **Vantage Point** (PG-13)

8879 Villa La Jolla Drive (619-819-0236)
Atonement (R); The Diving Bell and the Butterfly (PG-13); No Country for Old Men (R); The Savages (R); There Will Be Blood (R)

Mira Mesa 18
10733 Westview Parkway (858-635-7700)
Call theater for program information

Fashion Valley 18
7037 Friars Road (858-558-2262)
AMC Best Picture Showcase: 2008 Oscar;
27 Dresses (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:35) 2:20,
5:05, 7:45, 10:25 Sun. (11:35) 2:20, 5:05, 7:45,
10:10

7510 Hazard Center Drive (619-685-2841)
Atonement (R); Be Kind Rewind (PG-13);
Definitely, Maybe (PG-13); Hannah Mon-
tana/Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds
Concert Tour (G); Jumper (PG-13); The Spi-
derwick Chronicles (PG); U2 3D (G);
Vantage Point (PG-13)

1640 Camino Del Rio North (858-558-2262)
Atonement (R); **Be Kind Rewind** (PG-13);
The Bucket List (PG-13); **Charlie Bartlett**
 (R); **Cloverfield** (PG-13); **Definitely, Maybe**
 (PG-13); **The Eye** (PG-13); **Fool's Gold**
 (PG-13); **Hannah Montana/Miley Cyrus:
 Best of Both Worlds Concert Tour** (G);
Jumper (PG-13); **Rambo** (R); **The Signal**
 (Not Rated); **The Spiderwick Chronicles**
 (PG); **Step Up 2 the Streets** (PG-13);
There Will Be Blood (R); **27 Dresses** (PG-13); **U2**
3D (G); **Untraceable** (R); **Vantage Point**
 (PG-13); **Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins**
 (PG-13); **Witless Protection** (PG-13)

Ken
4061 Adams Avenue (619-819-0236)
4 Months, 3 Weeks, and 2 Days (Not
Rated)

Hillcrest Cinemas
3965 Fifth Avenue (619-819-0236)
In Bruges (R); Juno (PG-13); No Country for
Old Men (R); Persepolis (PG-13); 2007
Academy Award Nominated Short Films ()

1875 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-1233)
Call theater for program information

1788 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-232-3821)
Call theater for program information

Parkway Plaza 18
405 Parkway Plaza (619-401-3456)
Call theater for program information

Grossmont Center
Grossmont Center (619-465-7100)
Call theater for program information

Rancho San Diego 15
2951 Jamacha Road
Call theater for program information

Santee Drive In
10990 Woodside Avenue (619-448-7447)
The Bucket List (PG-13); **Fool's Gold**
(PG-13); **Jumper** (PG-13); **Meet the Spar-**
tans (PG-13)

Chula Vista 10
Broadway between H and I (619-338-4214)
Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG); The Eye (PG-13); Fool's Gold (PG-13); Hannah Montana/Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert Tour (G); Jumper (PG-13); Meet the Spartans (PG-13); The Spiderwick Chronicles (PG); Step Up 2 the Streets (PG-13); U2 3D (G); Vantage Point (PG-13); Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins (PG-13)

Eastlake Parkway at Olympic (858-558-2262)
The Bucket List (PG-13); **Definitely, Maybe** (PG-13); **The Eye** (PG-13); **Fool's Gold** (PG-13); **Jumper** (PG-13); **Juno** (PG-13); **The Spiderwick Chronicles** (PG); **Step Up 2 the Streets** (PG-13); **There Will Be Blood** (R); **27 Dresses** (PG-13); **Vantage Point** (PG-13); **Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins** (PG-13)

770 Denmery Road (858-558-2262)
**Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG); Be Kind
 Rewind (PG-13); Charlie Bartlett (R);
 Cloverfield (PG-13); Definitely, Maybe
 (PG-13); Diary of the Dead (R); The Eye
 (PG-13); Fool's Gold (PG-13); Hannah
 Montana/Miley Cyrus: Best of Both
 Worlds Concert Tour (G); Jumper (PG-13);
 Juno (PG-13); Meet the Spartans (PG-13);
 The Orphanage (R); Persepolis (PG-13);
 Rambo (R); The Signal (Not Rated); The Spi-
 derwick Chronicles (PG); Step Up 2 the
 Streets (PG-13); U2 3D (G); Vantage Point
 (PG-13); Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins
 (PG-13); Wildlife Protection (PG-13)**

East H Street (619-216-4707)
Call theater for program information

South Bay Drive-In
2170 Coronado Avenue (619-423-2727)
Call theater for program information

Carmel Mountain
11620 Carmel Mountain Road (858-674-9770)
Call theater for program information

Escondido 16
350 W. Valley Parkway (760-291-0119)
Call theater for program information

River Village
5256 S. Mission Road (760-945-8784)
Atonement (R); **Definitely, Maybe** (PG-13);
Fool's Gold (PG-13); **Jumper** (PG-13); **The**
Spiderwick Chronicles (PG); **Step Up 2 the**
Streets (PG-13); **Vantage Point** (PG-13)

Poway 10
13475 Poway Road (858-646-9423)
The Bucket List (PG-13); **Definitely, Maybe** (PG-13); **Fool's Gold** (PG-13); **Hannah Montana/Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert Tour** (G); **Jumper** (PG-13); **Juno** (PG-13); **The Spiderwick Chronicles** (PG); **Step Up 2 the Streets** (PG-13); **27 Dresses** (PG-13); **U2 3D** (G); **Vantage Point** (PG-13)

San Marcos 18
1180 West San Marcos Boulevard at Old
California Walk (760-471-3711)
Call theater for program information

Vista Village
Highway 78 at Vista Village Drive
(760-945-7469)
Call theater for program information

Plaza Camino Real
2385 Marron Road (760-729-7469)
Call theater for program information

Del Mar Highlands 8
El Camino Real at Del Mar Heights Road
 (858-646-9420)

Be Kind Rewind (PG-13); **Charlie Bartlett** (R); **Fool's Gold** (PG-13); **Hannah Montana/Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert Tour** (G); **Jumper** (PG-13); **The Spiderwick Chronicles** (PG); **Step Up 2 the Streets** (PG-13); **U2 3D** (G); **Vantage Point** (PG-13)

2630 Via de la Valle (858-646-9425)
Atonement (R); Definitely, Maybe (PG-13);
In Bruges (R); Juno (PG-13); No Country for
Old Men (R); There Will Be Blood (R)

La Paloma
471 South Coast Highway 101
(760-436-SHOW)
Into the Wild (R)

La Costa 6
6941 El Camino Real (at Aviara/Alga)
(760-599-8221)

Definitely, Maybe (PG-13); **Fool's Gold** (PG-13); **Hannah Montana/Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert Tour** (G); **Jumper** (PG-13); **The Spiderwick Chronicles** (PG); **U2 3D** (G); **Vantage Point** (PG-13)

Mission Marketplace 13
College Boulevard and Mission Avenue
 (760-806-1790)
Definitely, Maybe (PG-13); **The Eye** (PG-13); **Fool's Gold** (PG-13); **Jumper** (PG-13); **Meet the Spartans** (PG-13); **Rambo** (R); **The Spiderwick Chronicles** (PG); **Step Up 2 the Streets** (PG-13); **Vantage Point** (PG-13); **Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins** (PG-13); **Witless Protection** (PG-13)

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APPOINTMENT SETTER. www.monarchjobs.com. Up to \$500-\$1000+ weekly! Paid weekly. AM/PM shifts. Full, part time. Medical, dental. Near Grantville trolley. Call today, start today! Mission Valley: 619-516-4276.

APPOINTMENT SETTER/ADMINISTRATIVE. Entertainment-service industry seeks outgoing self-starter, multi-tasker for fast-paced office. Sales skills a plus. \$10/hour plus commission DOE. In person Monday-Friday, 4-8pm: 3333 Midway Drive #206, San Diego (Sports Arena area).

APPOINTMENT SETTERS. \$1500-\$3500 weekly. Pacific Home Remodeling is hiring ambitious, motivated individuals to set appointments to promote energy-efficient/green living products such as Magic Windows and Flex-On Exterior Coating—all products approved by the Department of Energy. Training plus all tools and support to insure success provided. Great pay! Growth opportunity. Call to schedule an interview: 858-866-0183. www.pacifichomeremodeling.com.

APPOINTMENT SETTERS needed for home improvement company located in City Heights. Experience in telemarketing required. \$10/hour plus 5% commission. Call 619-282-7771.

ASSEMBLERS, WOODWORKERS, Finishers, Sanders. Come work at Carvin! We also have several full time job opportunities. Walk in applications accepted every weekday, 8am-3pm. 12340 World Trade Drive, Rancho Bernardo. 858-487-1600. Fax 858-521-6031.

ASSEMBLY/WAREHOUSE. Light Industrial. Immediate long-term and temporary positions. Full benefits available immediately. Call 858-292-8562, fax 858-292-0230, e-mail help@gostaff.com, apply online www.gostaff.com.

ASSET PROTECTION OFFICERS. Guard Management, Inc. provides all training, Guard Card testing, Live Scan for GMI potential hires. Hiring full/part time countywide. Immediate placement with valid California Guard Card. Excellent compensation, growth potential to \$20.00/hour for Field Officers. Recruitment bonus, 401(k), health, professional certification. Apply: 8001 Vickers Street, San Diego (92111). Eligibility is conditional. 858-244-1896 or e-mail resume: FJohnson@GMIweb.com.

BARTENDERS NEEDED. Looking for part/full time bartenders. Several positions available. No experience required. With hourly wages and tips make up to \$300 per shift. Call 800-806-0082 x200. (AAN CAN).

BEHAVIORAL SPECIALIST, Residential Aids. Multiple positions available countywide for degreed and non-degreed professionals. Some experience necessary. \$10-\$12/hour. Requires: clean criminal check and drug screen. All shifts/days available. Delta-T Group. Call Erin: 619-330-5195; E-mail: ekrehbiel@deltatg.

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SAN DIEGO
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No experience necessary.

Compensation:

\$17.60/hour – Entry Level

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Plus medical, dental, vision, life insurance and retirement

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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.

Qualified individuals must:

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CALL CENTER and Inside Sales (Out-bound). MDI offers paid holidays after 520 hours and vacation bonuses after 2000 hours. MDI Staffing, 8316 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, #204. Fax 858-277-5621. Call 858-277-5680.

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CAREGIVER JOB WANTED. Experienced (10 years) male seeking full/part time or live-in position in North County. Own transportation. Previously worked for agency. Duke, 760-215-3329.

CAREGIVER. Monday, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, mornings 5am. Duties: range-of-motion, exercise, transfer with/Hoyer, bowel program, bathing, dressing light housework. Experience preferred, salary negotiable. Pacific Beach. 858-483-5673.

CAREGIVER. Full time/temporary. Benefits available. Will train. Apply in person at Sunrise Assisted Living At La Costa (license #374601134), 7020 Manzanita Street, Carlsbad, CA 92011. 760-930-0060.

CAREGIVER. Provide assistance to adults with developmental disabilities. Apply: Home of Guiding Hands, 1825 Gillespie Way #200, El Cajon, CA, 92020, on-line: www.guidinghands.org, call: 619-938-3057.

CAREGIVERS. Full/part time. 24-hour live-ins. Male/female. 1+ year experience, vehicle required. Caregivers, Companions, HHAs, CNAs. Leave contact information and brief experience: 619-944-3327.

CAREGIVERS. Home Instead Senior Care needs cheerful, dependable people to help seniors stay at home with our non-medical home care services. Competitive pay/training. Flexible hours. Great benefits. Central/East Jobline: 619-433-6200. South Bay/Coastal: 858-277-3722.

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CAREGIVERS/CNAs/HHAs. Hourly and live-in. Seeking caring, compassionate, dependable people with transportation. Flexible hours, competitive compensa-

tion, paid weekly. Apply weekdays: 9am-4pm. Right at Home, 8369 Vickers Street #203, San Diego CA 92111. www.rahlajolla.com. 858-277-5900.

CAREGIVERS/CNAs/HHAs. Hourly and live-in. Seeking caring, compassionate, dependable people with transportation. Flexible hours, competitive compensation, paid weekly. Apply weekdays: 9am-4pm. Right at Home, 8369 Vickers Street #203, San Diego CA 92111. www.rahlajolla.com. 858-277-5900.

CAREGIVERS/COMPANIONS. Minimum 1 year experience non-medical home care for seniors. Valid California Driver's License. Serving Santee/La Mesa/Del Cerro/San Carlos. Maureen, Visiting Angels, 619-749-7525.

CAREGIVERS/COMPANIONS. Visiting Angels, America's Choice in Homecare. Now hiring compassionate, caring Caregivers/Companions. Requires minimum 1 year experience in non-medical home care for seniors and valid CA driver's license. Serving Poway, Rancho Penasquitos, Scripps Ranch and Mira Mesa areas. Call for an immediate interview: 760-703-2192.

CAREGIVERS/HOME HEALTH/Personal Assistants/CNAs. Get paid weekly! Hourly and live-in. Compassionate and dependable. Flexible hours, competitive pay. Apply weekdays, 8am-3pm: Right at Home 858-451-5762; 16486 Bernard Center Drive #124, San Diego, CA 92128. www.rahencinitas.com.

CAREGIVERS/HOME HEALTH/Personal Assistants/CNAs. Get paid weekly! Hourly and live-in. Compassionate and dependable. Flexible hours, competitive pay. Apply weekdays, 8am-3pm: Right at Home 858-451-5762; 16486 Bernard Center Drive #124, San Diego, CA 92128. www.rahencinitas.com.

CAREGIVERS: LIVE-INS, 2, 3, 4 or 5 days/week, \$120/day including sleep and meal periods. Weekends and hourly: 4-hour, 8-hour and 12-hour shifts, AM/PM. Top pay, flexible shifts 24/7, 401(k), production bonus, rewards for good work. Requires valid driver's license, vehicle/insurance, registration, one year of paid elder caregiving experience, eligibility to work in the United States. \$50 Hiring Bonus after 90 days of employment. Comfort Keepers, 2006 Workplace Excellence Medallion Award SDSHRM, San Diego: 619-795-6036. San Marcos: 760-598-3400.

CAREGIVERS needed immediately. 1 year experience. All shifts available. Hourly and live in. Call Assertive Home-

care Services, 3774 Grove Street, Suite L-1, Lemon Grove. 619-466-6890.

CASHIER. Immediate opening for a Cashier, 10am-6pm, Monday-Friday, no nights or weekends. \$9.50 per hour. Pharmacy in the UTC area. Call 760-835-0720.

CCTV TECH with experience for installation, service and repairs. Part time. Send resume to PO Box 983, La Mesa, CA 91944.

CIRCULATORS. Collect signatures on statewide petitions. No experience necessary. Paid 3x/week. \$10-\$30/hour. Independent contract work where/when you want. Full/part time. 619-230-9020.

CLASSROOM AIDES. Work with developmentally disabled children in non-public school. Experience preferred. Allied Gardens, Chula Vista, La Mesa. Monday-Friday, 7:30am-1pm. \$9.75/hour to start. EOE. www.vistahill.org. E-mail: steinjobs@vistahill.org. Fax resume: 619-281-0453. EOE. Apply weekdays, 9am-4pm: Stein Education Center, Attention: HR, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego CA 92120.

CLOSERS WANTED to generate leads for home improvement. No selling of products! Average income \$20-\$30+/hour, part-time! Monday-Saturday, day/evening. More info, 1-866-DRHARTY (1-866-374-2789). www.thhd.net.

CNA/CHHA. Beginners, experienced. Family Caregivers, Childcare, Home Care Aides, Drivers. Great pay! New-hire bonus! Nonmedical, in-home help for seniors, children, disabled. 12-and 24-hour shifts! Training. Flexible schedules, benefits, retirement, childcare. At Your Home Familycare. E-mail: homecarejobs@atyourhomefamilycare.com. Toll free: 1-877-903-JOBS.

CNAs AND HHAs, Caregivers/Homemakers. We offer weekly pay, flexible schedules, and training. Hourly and live-ins wanted. Apply: Right at Home, 858-451-5762; or e-mail resume: employment@rahencinitas.com.

CNAs AND HHAs, Caregivers/Homemakers. We offer weekly pay, flexible schedules, and training. Hourly and live-ins wanted. Apply: Right at Home, 858-451-5762; or e-mail resume: employment@rahencinitas.com.

COACH /VARSITY FOOTBALL. Santa Fe Christian Upper School seeking qualified applicants with solid experience as Defensive Position Coach. E-mail/call Ross Boucher: boucher@sfc.net, or 858-755-8900, x1029.

COMMUNITY TRAINING Specialist/Job Coach. \$9.75/hour to start. Assist developmentally disabled adults in the community. Behavioral and instructional programs. Implement schedules. 32.5 hours/week. Benefits. E-mail: steinjobs@vistahill.org. Fax resume: 619-281-0453. Apply weekdays, 9am-4pm, Stein Education Center, Attention: HR, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego CA 92120.

CONSTRUCTION. Immediate long-term and temporary positions. Labor, Carpenters, Drywallers, Maintenance Tech, Plumbers, Painters. Full benefits available immediately. Call 858-292-8562, fax 858-292-0230, e-mail help@gostaff.com, apply online www.gostaff.com.

CORRECTIONAL DEPUTY PROBATION Officer I. County of San Diego Probation Department now hiring. Test Date: March 1, 2008, 8am. Montgomery Middle School, 2470 Ulric Street, San Diego 92111. Must be 21 years, good physical condition, no illicit drug usage. U.S. citizen or becoming a citizen. Pass criminal/personal background investigation. No felony convictions. High school diploma/GED. \$35,068-\$44,740/year. www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation. Jobline: 858-514-8558.

CORRECTIONAL MONITOR. Want experience in the field of corrections? Monitor the activities of clients at our parolee program located in downtown San Diego ensuring the safety of the clients, the facility, and ensuring normal operations. Requires HS/GED and related work experience (\$8.25/hour). Call Human Resources: 619-282-8211; e-mail resume: hr@voa-swcal.org; fax: 619-282-8210; or mail: Volunteers of America Southwest California, 3530 Camino Del Rio North, #300, San Diego, CA 92108. EOE/Affirmative Action Employer.

COUNTER ATTENDANTS SUPERVISORS. Subway is now hiring! Full or part time, day and evening shifts. Flexible scheduling. Competitive wages. Free employee meals. Paid vacation. Tuition assistance. Apply in person. Mira Mesa: 9242 Miramar Road; 858-578-9205. Mission Valley: 2109 Fenton Parkway #1; 619-563-1940. Point Loma: 2907 Shelter Island Drive; 619-223-1900. Management applicants, fax resume to 619-688-9291.

CUSTODIAN. 1 full time position available. Must be able to lift/move 50-80 pounds. Able to maneuver tools, equipment carts to various buildings. Able to reach heights from 5'-10" with appropriate aid of ladder and reach overhead. Must pass drug/criminal background check. Apply in person, Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm or

Post free online ads with photos at SDReader.com

send information: St. Paul's Senior Homes & Services, 328 Maple Street, San Diego, CA 92103, fax: 619-239-1256.

CUSTOMER SALES/SERVICE. \$17.25 base/appointment. No experience necessary. Flexible schedules. Scholarship opportunities. Must have transportation. Conditions apply. North County/La Jolla: 760-942-1223; San Diego: 858-571-6148; Chula Vista: 619-422-0479.

CUSTOMER SERVICE. Setup and display. No experience necessary, we will train. Call for interview, 619-448-2294.

CUSTOMER SERVICE. Start the New Year with a great job! Up to \$500-\$1000+ weekly setting appointments! www.monarchjobs.com. Paid weekly. AM/PM shifts. Full, part time. Medical, dental. Near Grantville trolley. Call today, start today! Mission Valley: 619-516-4276.

CUSTOMER SERVICE/DISPATCHER. ARS of San Diego is seeking a motivated multitasker with good communication and leadership skills for a fast-paced environment. Must be a team player with a minimum of 5 years experience. Kevin, 858-677-5455 x113. kkellington@ars.com, www.jobswithars.com. Drug-free work environment. License #791820.

CUSTOMER SERVICE/TICKETS. Full-time position for detail-oriented individual with strong customer service, phone and computer skills to begin immediately. Knowledge of Tessitura and ticket subscription sales a plus. Must be able to work day, evening and weekend shifts, 36 plus hours per week. Apply to San Diego Symphony, Attention: HR, 1245 7th Avenue San Diego, CA 92101 or fax 619-235-0005.

DATABASE EDITOR. Work with manufacturer catalogs & price lists to maintain/update both product & price data for electrical/plumbing distributors. High-level detail orientation/strong computer skills required. Carmel Mountain Ranch area. Approximately \$12.50/hour. Full-time temporary position. Reply with resume: Shirley_Vaughn@TradeService.com.

DEPUTY PROBATION OFFICER. County of San Diego Probation Department is now hiring. Test Date: March 22, 2008. Qualified applicants will be notified by mail of the time and location of the test. Applications must be submitted no later than 15 days prior to exam date. Quali-

fications: Bachelor's degree with experience. Must be 21 years, good physical condition, no illicit drug usage. U.S. citizen or in process of becoming a citizen. Pass criminal/personal background investigation. No felony convictions. \$50,752-\$61,672/year. Safety Retirement-Sworn Officers 3% at age 50. Bilingual men/women encouraged to apply. Applications can be accessed online from the Job/Current Recruitment section of the County website at: <http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov>. Jobline: 858-514-8558.

DEPUTY SHERIFF and Deputy Sheriff Detentions/Courts. San Diego County Sheriff's Department. Hiring for two types of positions; take one exam, apply for either or both! Exam Dates: Wednesday, February 27, 2008, 5:30pm arrival, Sheriff's Administrative Center, 9621 Ridgehaven Court, San Diego CA 92123 or Saturday, March 1, 2008, 7:30am arrival, Southwestern College Cafeteria, 900 Otay Lakes Road, Chula Vista 91910. Registration by e-mail or phone is required for the Ridgehaven test ONLY at: recruit@sdsheriff.org. Detention/Courts: \$39,796-\$61,608 annual salary, plus benefits. 18-year-olds eligible to apply! Deputy Sheriff: \$49,704-\$71,099 current annual salary, plus benefits. U.S. citizen or applied for citizenship; 20-1/2 years old. High school graduate or G.E.D. required. Bring valid photo ID and \$3 parking for Southwestern. Valid California Driver's License prior to appointment. Effective oral and written communication in English. EOE. Additional test dates: www.joinssdSHERIFF.net. 858-974-2000.

DIRECTOR, PERFORMANCE Accountability and Compliance. Volunteers of America Southwest California, a faith-based social service non-profit is seeking a candidate to join our management team to develop and implement an ongoing contract and regulatory compliance audit program to ensure that contract performance expectations and quality assurance standards of Volunteers of America, State, County and Federal regulatory and funding agencies are met or exceeded for all service divisions and operations. Responsibilities include developing audit tools, conducting random compliance audits, providing reports and reviewing monthly, quarterly and annual financial billing reports and service performance reports for funding sources. Requires a B.A. and 3-5 years related experience. Call Human Resources: 619-228-2047; mail resume/cover letter: Volunteers of America, Attention: Human Resources, 3530 Camino Del Rio North, #300, San Diego, CA 92108; fax: 619-282-8210; or e-mail: hr@voa-swcal.org. EOE/Affirmative Action Employer.

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DISPATCHER. 911 Emergency, San Diego County Sheriff's Department. Looking for a challenging career in Public Safety? Test Dates: March 1, 2008 and March 22, 2008. Sign-up begins 6:30am on each test date. San Diego County Operations Center, entrance at corner of Complex Street and Topaz Way, San Diego (Kearny Mesa). First come, first served. Limited seating. Bring valid picture ID. Must be at least 18 years; be proficient in English; pass computer-based performance test; pass background and medical checks. No experience necessary. \$17.60/hour: Entry Level. \$21.19-\$25.76/hour: Lateral Entry. Medical, dental, vision, life insurance and retirement benefits. EOE. www.sd911.com. Jobline: 858-565-5566.

DISPATCHER. The leading reprographics company in the Nation is seeking a highly motivated individual to work in a fast paced, growing environment. Requirements: Must be familiar with Downtown San Diego and surrounding areas, must be at least 18 years of age, current DMV report from the DMV Department (K-4), proficient in reading the Thomas Guide Map Book, pre-employment physical, drug screen and lift requirements of 50 pounds. Experience a must! Benefits: weekly pay, medical, dental, life, 401k, employee incentive program. Hours available, 7:30am-4:30pm. Downtown San

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Diego. Call 619-232-8440. Fax: 619-232-8043. E-mail: careers.sandiego@ocbinc.com.

DISPATCHER/CUSTOMER SERVICE. ARS of San Diego is seeking a motivated multitasker with good communication and leadership skills for a fast-paced environment. Must be a team player with a minimum of 5 years experience. Kevin, 858-677-5455 x113. kkellington@ars.com. www.jobswithars.com. Drug-free work environment. License #791820.

DOG/CAT & OTHER PET CARE in your home. Paid "Host Families" needed for vacationing pets. Experience with animals necessary. www.pawsnplaypetcamp.com. Toll free, 888-320-PETS (7387).

DRIVER, full time. Must have 4-cylinder hatchback or 4-cylinder truck with shell. Clean DMV a must. Some heavy lifting. Courier experience a plus. Call between 10am and 5pm Monday-Friday, 858-717-1254.

DRIVER. Pizza Delivery. Stop spinning your wheels!! Deliver for the busiest delivery restaurant in Rancho Santa Fe. Deliver in one of the wealthiest areas of our

county. Don't work harder, work smarter. Many drivers averaging \$20+ per hour. Full time and part time positions are currently available. Must have a clean driving record. Call and ask for a manager and find out if you're lucky enough to qualify. 858-759-2222.

DRIVER. Vending machine route driver/delivery, full-time, excellent driving record a must. Must pass drug test. 760-753-1112.

DRIVER/COURIER. Part-time shifts available. Must have pickup with shell, mini-van or cargo van. Excellent pay, mileage and benefits! Call 858-444-2350.

DRIVERS WANTED. Requires valid CA driver's license, current H-6 DMV printout and good, safe driving skills. Must be 25 years or older. Up to \$2000 commission plus tips. Apply in person at Xpress Shuttle, 1065 Bay Boulevard, Suite B, Chula Vista, CA 91911.

DRIVERS, DELIVERY. \$11+/hour, must be at least 21, clean DMV, Class C license. Full-time positions, great benefits. Days, afternoons, weekends. Background check/drug test required. Excellent customer service skills. Apply in person: Sleep Train Mattress Centers, 9455 Cabot Drive, 92126. 858-877-2005.

DRIVERS. 100% paid family insurance! Home daily! Owner/operators drop and hook loads! CDL-A, 2 years experience, 3 points maximum! Complete Logistics, 800-373-9001.

DRIVERS. Bonus paid! Auto parts delivery with late model pickup truck, car or van. Clean DMV. Local and North County openings. \$1750 to \$2400 a month. Fuel paid. Independent contractors. 619-233-4374.

DRIVERS. Dominion Distribution is looking for part-time Drivers to deliver free publications on Mondays and Fridays. You must have truck or van and be cur-

rently insured. Call Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm, 858-279-3137 x243.

DRIVERS. Moving company looking for reliable drivers. Must be at least 21. Experience desired. Full and part-time employment. www.reliablemanmovers.com, call 619-276-1942.

DRIVERS. Must have Class B license with passenger endorsement and at least 6 months experience. Fixed route, Monday-Friday, 36-40 hours/week with benefits. Call 619-287-0628.

DRIVERS. Now hiring Patrol Drivers! \$11.00 per hour. Call now, 619-294-3200.

DRIVERS. Teams earn top dollar plus great benefits. Solo drivers also needed for Western regional. Werner Enterprises, 800-346-2818 x123.

DRIVERS. The leading reprographics company in the Nation is seeking a highly motivated individual to work in a fast paced growing environment. Requirements: must be able to drive stick-shift, must be at least 18 years of age, current DMV report from the DMV department (K-4), no more than two moving violations, no accidents at fault, proficient in reading the Thomas Guide Map Book, pre-employment physical, drug screen and lift requirement of 50 pounds. Benefits: weekly pay, Medical, Dental and life, 401k, employee incentive program, safe driver incentives. Drive company vehicles. Hours available: day and night shifts. Downtown San Diego. Call 619-232-8440. Fax: 619-232-8043. E-mail: careers.sandiego@ocbinc.com.

DRIVERS. Transportation services provider for seniors and disabled. Great pay! At Your Home Familycare. E-mail: homecarejobs@atyourhomefamilycare.com. Call toll free: 1-877-903-JOBS.

DRIVERS/TOUR BUS. Drive tour busses: San Diego and Tijuana, charters and SPAB. Class B/P/A license required. To

\$14/hour plus medical, dental, and vision benefits. Call: 619-520-5200.

DRIVERS/DELIVERY. Immediate long-term and temporary positions. Class A, B and C— local delivery. Full benefits available immediately. Call 858-292-8562, fax 858-292-0230, e-mail help@gostaff.com, apply online www.gostaff.com.

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.

ELECTRICAL TECHNICIANS able to work with installation of lamps, ballasts, fixtures and other lighting components. Experience required. Temporary to full time. Jennifer Smith, 619-477-8002, jennifersmith@ultralighting.org.

ENTERTAINMENT. Ride the wave of opportunity! Sea World is now hiring: Culinary Operations, Merchandise, Education and Park Operations. Pay rates starting at \$9/hour. EOE. Drug-free workplace. For complete listing and descriptions of the available positions: SeaWorldJobs.com. Apply in person: Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm: 500 Sea World Drive, San Diego 92109.

FINANCIAL SERVICES Marketing. Rapidly expanding financial services marketing company seeks local sales representatives. Ideal candidate will be motivated, honest, outgoing, entrepreneurial, with 4 years of college or equivalent. Call our office and leave message (or fax) 24 hours: 877-286-5339.

FITNESS CENTERS hiring Front Desk Staff, Sales Consultants and Group Exercise Instructors. Part/full time. Being Fit Fitness Centers. Mira Mesa, 858-549-3456; Clairemont, 858-483-9294; www.beingfit.net.

FITNESS TRAINER with strong fitness background. Personal training experience required. Must be able to work full/part time hours. E-mail resume: donawilson@fitnesstogether.com or call 858-451-6051.

FUNDRAISING for national charities and Democratic Party. Full-or part-time (evening and Sunday shifts). Paid training. Medical, dental, 401(k). Hourly plus bonuses, regular raises. Apply at Gordon & Schwenkmeyer, 9620 Chesapeake Drive, Suite 108, San Diego 92123-1369. Call 858-496-2100.

GENERAL. Free employment and training services for individuals with disabilities, ages 18-21 on probation or parole. Able-Disabled Advocacy, Inc., 2850 6th Avenue Suite 311, San Diego, CA 92103. 619-231-5990 x305.

GENERAL. Gain skills to succeed. Are you 16 to 21, low income, need high school diploma or GED and work experience? Turning the Hearts Center, 619-691-9643.

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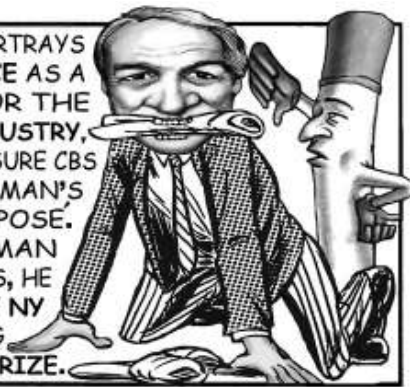
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MAID SERVICES. Relax. It's done. No nights, weekends, holidays. Merry Maids offers flexible hours, weekly pay, paid mileage. Work in teams. Insured car required. Must speak English. South Coast/ all south areas only. 619-336-1612; 619-226-2621.

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Probation

Correctional Deputy Probation Officer I

Minimum Qualifications

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- No felony convictions • High school diploma or GED

Salary:

\$35,069-\$44,741 annually

Safety Retirement-Sworn Officers 3% at age 50.

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Test date:

March 1, 2008 • 8 am

Montgomery Middle School
2470 Ulric Street • San Diego, CA 92111

Applications available at the test site.

For additional information, contact the department's

Jobline: 858-514-8558

www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation

positive attitude is more important. Truck or hatchback required with good driving record. Bilingual DJs very welcome. 3 positions available. If you know a friend who fits this description, tell them about it! Send e-mail with qualifications and contact information to saplyak@hotmail.com.

MUSIC SURVEY. No selling. Need telephone interviewers for consumer surveys for radio station. Sunday-Friday, 2:00pm-8:00pm. Up to \$10/hour. Be dependable, have basic computer/telephone skills. 619-442-5325; www.callout.com.

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OPERATOR 9800. The leading reprographics company in the Nation is seeking a highly motivated individual to work in a fast paced, growing environment. Requirements: print large format black and white documents, computer experience a plus, production knowledge a plus. Benefits: weekly pay, medical, dental, life, 401k, employee incentive program. Hours available, Day shift, 7am-3:30pm and 9:30am-6pm. Downtown San Diego. Call 619-232-8440. Fax: 619-232-8043. E-mail: careers.sandiego@ocbinc.com.

OPERATIONS MANAGER. Tile/granite knowledge. Interpret specifications, blueprints, etc.; analyze work orders, schedules, etc. 3 years' experience. 40 hours/week. MGM Stone. Fax resume: 858-558-7866.

OTR/L THERAPIST. Full time with benefits. Possible supervisor position. Competitive pay. 7760 Parkway Drive, La Mesa. Call 619-469-0124 x12.

OUTDOOR YOUTH COUNSELOR. Do you love the outdoors and helping troubled teens? Immediate openings at Eckerd outdoor therapeutic programs in North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, Vermont, New Hampshire. Year-round residential position, free room/board, competitive salary/benefits. Info and apply online: www.eckerdoutdoor.org or fax resume to Career Advisor/AN, 727-442-5911. EOE/DFWP (AAN CAN).

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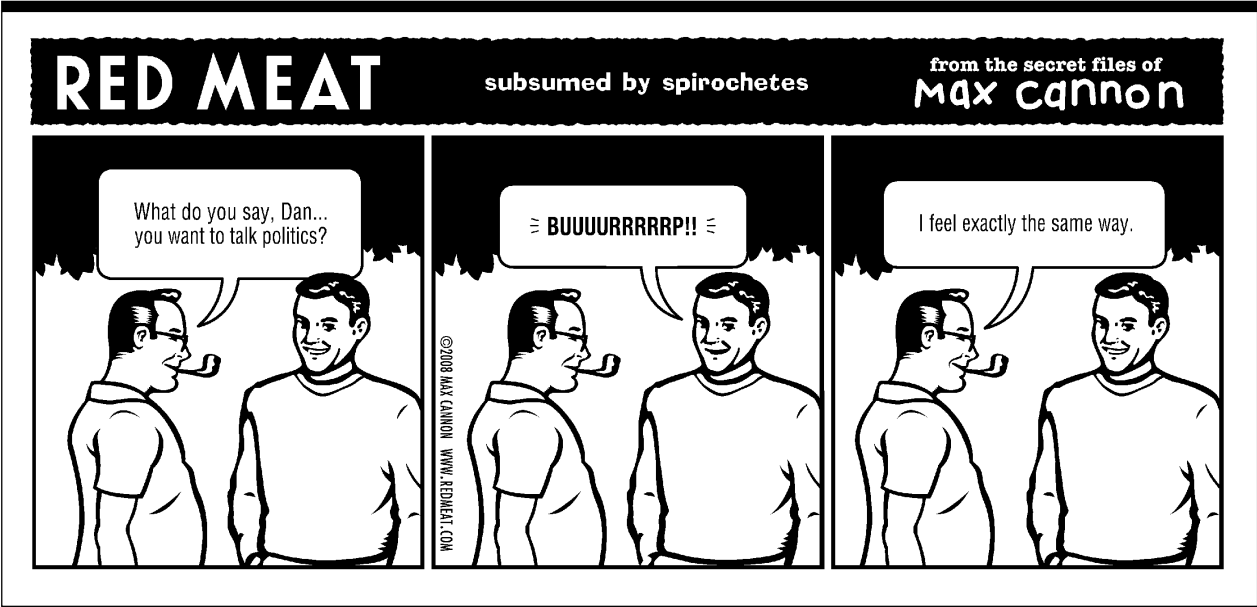
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PORTER, North County. Drug test required. Fax resume to 888-369-9229 or e-mail wmapplicants@aol.com or call 888-252-7976.

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.

PROJECT ACCOUNTANT. Come join our team and make a difference! Provide accounting services to social service programs including: A/P, A/R, processing claims, assisting with budget preparation, monitoring financial activities and variances, assisting with audits, preparation of financial reports. Requires B.A., 3-5 years of related experience, excellent computer skills, prefer experience with Great Plains and Excel (\$50,000-\$53,000). Call Human Resources: 619-282-8211; or mail resume and cover letter to: Volunteers of America, Attention: Human Resources, 3530 Camino Del Rio North, #300, San Diego, CA 92108; or fax to: 619-282-8210; or e-mail: hr@voa-swcal.org. EOE/Affirmative Action Employer.

REAL ESTATE APPRENTICE. Real Estate investment company seeks motivated individuals. Full/part time. Commission only. Will train. For interview, call 877-336-8369, ext. 4929.

RECREATION ASSISTANT for the Stein Education Center, a private special education school serving children with Autism and other disabilities. Candidates must possess 12 units of Early Childhood Education or 12 units in a related field and a valid California driver's license. Duties include supervising direct care, scheduling social and recreation activities.

ties. 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.

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RESTAURANT. Counter Help & Driver (\$9/hour, plus tips) needed. English required. Send resume: bly@citywok.com, or apply: City Wok, 718 West Washington Street, San Diego (92103). www.citywok.com.

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RESTAURANT/COOK. 1 part time available. Near bus line. Must pass drug/criminal background check. Apply in person, Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm or send information: St. Paul's Senior Homes & Services, 328 Maple Street, San Diego, CA 92103, fax: 619-239-1256.

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To assist developmentally disabled adults in the community. Behavioral and instructional programs. Implement schedules. 32.5 hours/week. Benefits.

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Work with developmentally disabled children in a nonpublic school. Experience preferred. Allied Gardens, Chula Vista, La Mesa. Monday-Friday 7:30 am-1 pm.

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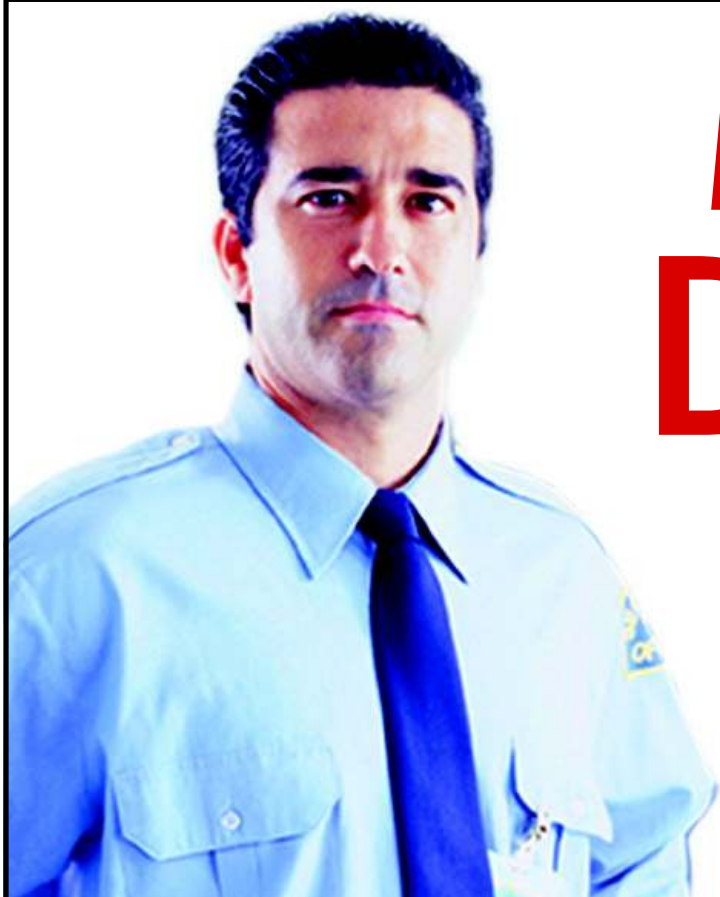


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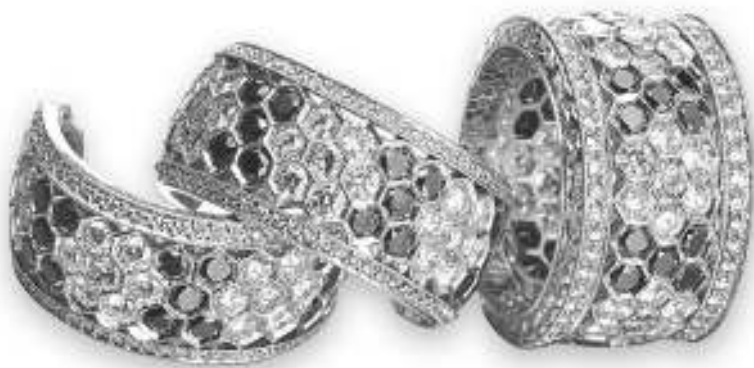
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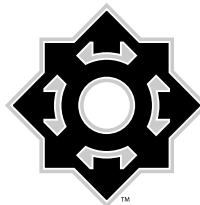
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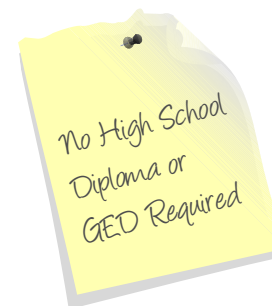
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Across

- 1. Texas' state dish
- 6. Large accounts?
- 11. Arthur of "The Golden Girls"
- 14. Spoke (up)
- 15. "____ luck!"
- 16. Atty.'s title
- 17. Vigorously attack a mizzen?
- 19. He sells Squishees to Bart on "The Simpsons"
- 20. "Enough!"
- 21. Bass ____
- 22. Eur. peak seen in Antonioni's "L'Avventura"
- 24. Backing
- 26. Level
- 27. Place some items on the back burner, perhaps?
- 33. Esau's brother
- 35. Farm soils
- 36. It may be smoked or pickled
- 37. In awe
- 38. Photographer Cartier-Bresson
- 39. Actress Pinkett Smith
- 40. Speed: Abbr.
- 41. NPR host Hansen
- 42. Dish served with kraut
- 43. Give a how-do-you-do to a muumuu?
- 46. Days gone by
- 47. Suffix with sex
- 48. Change
- 51. King of the boxing world
- 53. Husky fare
- 57. 401(k) alternative
- 58. Be able to pay for an Escort?
- 61. Interjection "used to suggest the sound of snoring": Scrabble Players Dictionary
- 62. Comedienne Radner
- 63. ____ Soleil (Louis XIV)
- 64. Help wanted abbr.
- 65. Much commerce nowadays
- 66. Pilfer

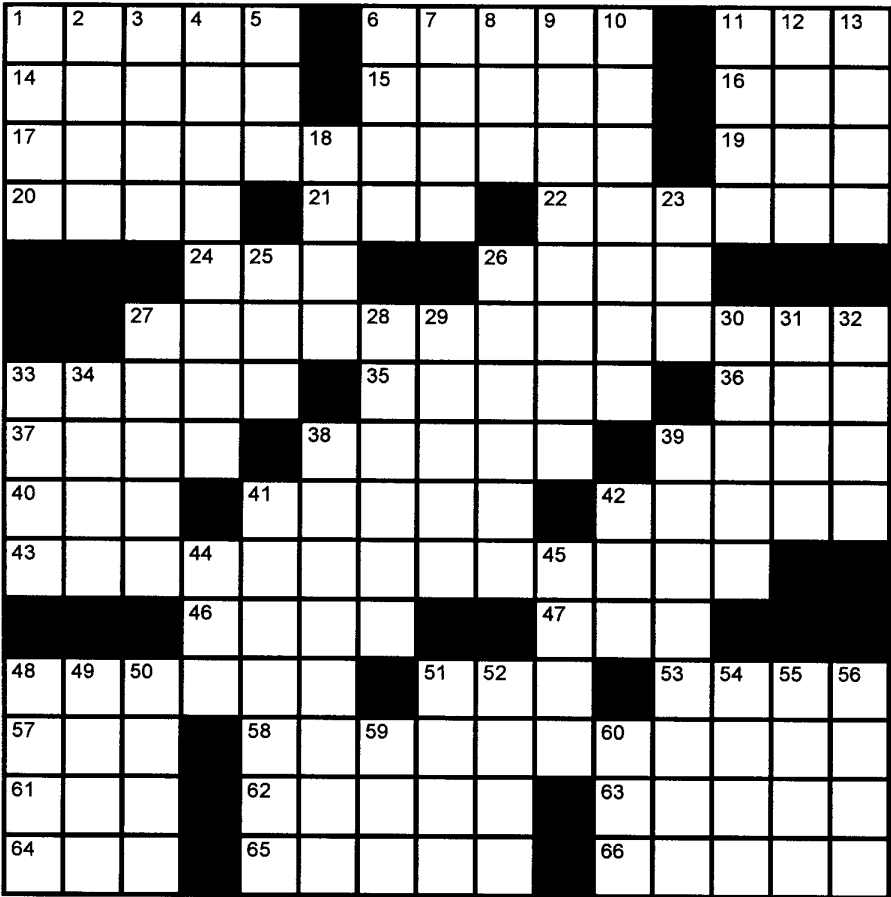
Down

- 1. 1040 experts, for short
- 2. High school subj.
- 3. ____ facto
- 4. Spring game?
- 5. Uganda's Amin
- 6. JFK-to-TLV option
- 7. Sit for a picture
- 8. "Give ____ rest!"
- 9. Hit show with a colon in its title
- 10. Certain preservers
- 11. Exhausted
- 12. Home of "Monday Night Football"
- 13. Blue hue
- 18. Actress ____ Flynn Boyle

- 23. Big Band ____
- 25. Eyeball
- 26. Choked (up)
- 27. "It'll be ____ day in hell ..."
- 28. The Braves' div.
- 29. "____ Fly Now" ("Rocky" theme)
- 30. Comes close to
- 31. People may get them before going to coll.
- 32. Israeli resort
- 33. Wake-up cup
- 34. Like some cheeses
- 38. Temper tantrum
- 39. Not many
- 41. Greenery
- 42. Film director Anderson
- 44. Sch. in Troy, NY
- 45. Watermelon leftover
- 48. Hall of Fame slugger Johnny
- 49. Rice-shaped pasta
- 50. Fog
- 51. Name in 1997 tragic news
- 52. ____ surgeon
- 54. Loughlin of "Full House"
- 55. Drama class item
- 56. Garfield's sidekick
- 59. Ga. neighbor
- 60. Green and Gore

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- 1. The prize for solving the Reader Puzzle will be a Reader T-shirt.
- 2. All entries in the Reader Puzzle contest must be received by the Reader by 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, five days following the issue date (Fax to 619-231-0489 or U.S. Mail to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803).
- 3. All entries must be accompanied by your name and address.
- 4. Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.
- 5. In the event of disputes or ties, decisions of the judges will be final and arbitrary. We've only got five prizes each week to give away, so if there are more than five winners, we'll have a lottery.
- 6. All answers must be entered in the space allowed on the puzzle page. And please, no phone calls or trips to our office.
- 7. One entry per person.



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Solution to and winners of the Reader Puzzle for 2/14/08.

There were 93 entrants. The winners are:

- 1. Cornelia Awdziejewicz, San Diego
- 2. N'namdi Afi Sikumbuzo, San Diego
- 3. Devon Peterkin, San Diego
- 4. Elissa Berver, La Mesa
- 5. Katherine Feather, San Diego

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“Girls in the water is probably the sexiest thing ever; it's hot,” says Matt. His friend agrees enthusiastically in the background.

Matt's been surfing since he was 11 years old, when he began with his best friend. Since his move back to San Diego from Orange County, he's been hitting the waves even more. His favorite break?

“Blacks is really nice; it's protected from the wind and has better waves. It's a lot of fun.”

Any battle scars?

“I got stabbed,” he says, laughing. “I got tossed over the falls on a wave and one of the fins on my board stabbed me. I didn't have stitches; I was lucky.”

What does he think of the surf environment



in San Diego?

“It's really cool, very respectful. I've seen a lot of guys out in the lineup that see a piece of trash float by and pick it up, put it in their wetsuit, and throw it away when they go in.”

He's never been hassled or had to deal with territorial surfers. Matt himself is pretty mellow and laughs through his current illness.

“I'm sick right now. I just went out surfing a

day after it rained. That might have caused it. I usually try to avoid going into bad water.”

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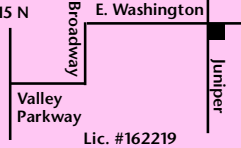
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ACTING CLASSES. Montysilverstone.com, father of star Alicia, holding classes, Del Mar and Rancho Santa Fe, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday. Check our website or call 858-759-7881.

AUDITIONS. LEGOLAND's Casting Call for musical "Journey to the Lost Temple," 3/13/07, 4-6pm and 3/14/08, 5-7pm. Bring headshot/resume/list of conflicts. Appointment only: 760-918-5388.

PREGNANT? Considering adoption? Talk with caring agency specializing in matching birthmothers with families nationwide. Living expenses paid. Call 24/7, Abby's One True Gift Adoptions, 1-866-413-6293. (AAN CAN)

WEDDING & PARTY GUIDE

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AFFORDABLE PHOTOGRAPHY and Ministerial. Married couple with over 30 years experience in wedding business teams up to cover your event. www.brianhowarthphotography.com. Call Brian or Valerie: 619-583-0411.

AMAZING DJs AND BANDS! Book your Special Event today! San Diego Parties & Entertainment. Excellent DJs, fabulous bands, specialty entertainment. Wedding/Event Coordination available. 619-315-6325.

AWARD-WINNING PHOTOGRAPHER. See your wedding day unfold on DVD. On a budget? Digital photography. Hourly rates, special events. Kidnapper of Images, Beverly, 858-736-4472; 858-274-4472.

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! Actors' Workshop Studios. San Diego's number 1 film/TV studio! Professional 3-camera set. Weekly in-house auditions with Hollywood/local casting directors, producers, agents. www.actorsworkshopstudios.com; 858-587-6666.

ABILITY THROUGH TRAINING. The Robert Wald Actor's Studio focuses on moment-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.

ACTING CLASSES. Montysilverstone.com, father of star Alicia, holding classes, Del Mar and Rancho Santa Fe, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday. Check our website or call 858-759-7881.

AUDITIONS. LEGOLAND's Casting Call for musical "Journey to the Lost Temple," 3/13/07, 4-6pm and 3/14/08, 5-7pm. Bring headshot/resume/list of conflicts. Appointment only: 760-918-5388.

AUDITIONS/INTERVIEWS. February 23, 2008, 11am-3pm. SeaWorld's Adventure Camp Facility, 500 SeaWorld Drive, San Diego 92109 (across from SeaWorld Security). Seeking outstanding performers and backstage professionals with excellent people skills. Costume Characters, Comedic Actors, Show Hosts, Hosts that sing and play guitar, Electric Guitarists, Percussionists, Bands and Group Specialty Acts, Lighting & Stage Crew, Audio and Video Crew. Must be at least 18 years of age (Costume Characters at least 16 years of age). Prepare an audition no longer than two minutes appropriate for family audiences. Bring non-returnable headshot photo and resume. EOE. Audition Hotline: 619-226-3607. www.SeaWorldSanDiegoAuditions.com.

LIVE ON STAGE! Point Loma Actors Workshop. Taste the performance high! New classes starting now. Beginners welcome. Join the fun. www.pointlomaactors.com. Sign up now. 619-225-0044.

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/INTERNET VIDEO. Females 18+. Reality-based/art photography. Excellent pay. Flexible hours. Seeking all body types/races. Open-minded a plus. Paid daily. David, 619-203-3327.

MOVIE EXTRAS/MODELS. Earn up to \$200 per day. All looks needed to work with film and TV production companies. No experience required. Call 877-282-2458.

MOVIE EXTRAS, ACTORS, models! Make \$100-\$300/day. No experience required. Meet celebrities. Full time, part time. All looks needed! Call now. 1-800-566-6103 x528. (AAN CAN)

SCREENPLAY CRITIQUE. Meet local writers for script swap/critique and work on pitching writing, directing, read thoughts, and crucial next steps. Contact Amazing Reality Productions, goreality4@hotmail.com.

START-UP MODELS. Photoshoot trip to Hawaii. Expenses paid. Start/expand your portfolio. Great scenic backdrops! freehawaiiphotoshoots.com or 858-204-8525.

TEACHERS FOR CHILDREN: Musical Theater, Hip Hop, Gymnastics, Cheerleading for ages 2-12, beginning levels. Experience required. Mobile gym program. Part time. North County. \$15-\$35/class. 760-917-4800.

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.

COUNSELING & SUPPORT GROUPS

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ABSOLUTELY ANY PROBLEM can be discussed with a professional therapist. Call for a confidential telephone assessment at no charge. MFC #37588. Ask for Patricia. 619-990-4717.

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ANXIOUS? DEPRESSED? Relationship issues? Parenting/family issues? Insurance and sliding scale accepted. Individuals, couples, children, adolescents/families. Private Mission Valley location. Phaedra Scoortis, MA, MFT, MFC-43174. 619-972-0209.

ARE YOU MAD? Learn how to manage your anger constructively. Gain power, control, reduce conflict and improve your relationships. Classes begin soon. Mission Valley. Jay Schneider, LCSW. Lic-9573. www.manageangerdaily.com. 858-538-5587.

CLINICAL HYPNOTHERAPY. "What the mind can conceive, the body can achieve." All issues addressed. Free consultation. Patricia R. Parlin, Ed.D. CHT403-250. Call 619-442-3661 or 619-504-1935.

COUNSELING/DREAM STUDY. Curious? Unsettled dreams? Training needs? Jungian dreamwork for life issues, transitions, growth. \$40/1 hour session. \$10/2 hour group. Paul Hartsuyker, MFT-15896. www.sandiegotherapists.com/hartsuyker.html. 619-269-8939.

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.

FEELING STUCK? STRESSED? Experiencing crisis? Relationship issues? Career problems? Family conflicts? Grief? Past trauma? Take back your power. Free consultation: 619-723-9244. Trish Deignan, LCSW21861.

GAY/BISEXUAL MEN. Supportive individual therapy. Depression, anxiety, confusion, addictions, spiritual/religious issues. Married, closeted welcome. Discretion, confidentiality assured. Mel Karman, PhD, MFC-12709. 619-296-9442.

MALE GROUP MEMBER NEEDED for mixed process/support group. Relationship difficulties, intimacy, self-esteem, childhood issues. Tuesday evenings, UTC area. Insurance accepted. Susan Jorgensen, MFT-22281, 858-622-0632.

MILITARY. PTSD? Battle Fatigue Syndrome? Night Terrors? Memory Loss? Difficulty Sleeping? Troubled Relationships? Former military therapist licensed trauma specialist providing free group treatment. License #MFT37234. 858-342-0181.

THERAPY FOR SHOPLIFTERS. Group or individual, in Mission Valley. For details, call Joyce Nease, PhD (license PSY17073), 25 years experience with the legal system, 619-283-5090.

NOTICES

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ADVANCEDSEXOTHERAPY.COM. PhD psychologist. PSY#14409.

AL-ANON. Grupo paz mental. Sufre por el alcoholismo en su familia? Juntas sesionan Martes, 5:30pm-7pm, y Sabados, 1-2:30pm, 3450 Bonita Road, #207, Bonita, CA 91902.

ALANON-GRUPO RENCUENTRO. Hay problemas de alcoholismo en su familia? Sesiones Lunes y Jueves de 5:00-6:30pm, 3450 Bonita Road #207, Bonita, 91902. 619-470-6955.

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.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL works for human rights. Meetings: 7pm, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. First Unitarian Church, 4190 Front (opposite UCSD Medical Center). Information, 619-283-1637.

BE A MILLIONAIRE FROM HOME! Sell Mangosteen; make lots of money! Very high antioxidant value. Significant anti-inflammatory 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 deserves. www.rambles.us, register. RAMBLES art is a journey.

CAN PRAYER THERAPY HEAL? Find solutions to problems. Achieve inner peace and balance, eliminate chronic disease pain, lose crippling fear. 858-652-0728.

CANNABIS PATIENT(S) ACT. (Association Cannabis Therapeutics.) Nonprofit. Seeks caregiver/patients with questions about cooperatives, clones, medicine, growing guidelines. Proposition 215 local guidelines. Meth kills. 619-528-0907.

FIRE VICTIMS: POTBELLED PIGS. Please help! Thanks if you've already sent donations-you're heroes! I've been working hard to get the pigs on the road to recovery. Some are injured/crippled from running from the fires. They aren't adoptable and may never fully recover. They've needed lots of vet care, and still do. If you can help, call Creekside Vet Service: 760-751-1020, 8751 Old Castle Road, Escondido, California, 92026, c/o Debi Toner's rescued pigs. Thanks for caring!

FREE EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING services for individuals with disabilities, ages 18-21 on probation or parole. Able-Disabled Advocacy, 2850 6th Avenue #311, San Diego 92103. 619-231-5990 x305.

FREE PSYCHIC HEALING. Lecture Clinic. Free readings for new visitors. Every month's first Monday, 7:30pm 1/7/08, 2/4, 3/3, by Vessa's Clairvoyant Program students. 4455 Morena Boulevard, #108. 858-509-7582.

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.

GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS 11th Annual Career Day. Wednesday, 3/19, 9am-2pm, GJ Building, Palomar College, 1140 West Mission, San Marcos. Industry speakers. Free! 760-744-1150 x2452.

NAME This Place



Last week's place: (clue: Stamped out, thank goodness) Stamp-press machine from the 1940s outside Valley Tractor & Equipment, 11478 North Woodside Avenue, Santee. The 40-ton press, which in its day stamped out metal parts (probably for aircraft), was heaved up there by company owner Rick Sather "to get it out of the way." He doesn't feel sentimental about it. "These were dangerous machines. They stamped whether a piece of metal was in there or your hand was in there. They're illegal now." (Last week's winners: R.J. McCoy, Elmer Powell, Martha Soby, Jefferson Daniels, Esther Hatchee)

Clue: Holding up well

Describe this location, name the nearest cross-streets, and win a Reader T-shirt. E-mail to NameThisPlace@SanDiegoReader.com; fax to 619-231-0489; or mail to Reader, Name This Place, Box 85803, San Diego 92186 — include your name and address. (Deadline, Tuesday, 9 a.m. In case of ties, lottery will determine top five winners.)



HELP FOR YOUR LIFE. Lonely? Dial hope 858-277-8060. Scripture, new thought, prayer, helpful messages 858-277-2389. Sunday service, 10 a.m., Linda Vista Presbyterian Church, 2130 Ulric Street, San Diego, 92111. 858-277-0523.

LOOKING FOR LOVE? Great opportunity to do something different! Motivational Speaker, Veronica Vaca, will inspire you to unchain your heart and open you up to manifesting your love. Lecture/guided meditation will uplift your spirit and hopes. Great topic for men/women. Del Mar Hilton, February 28, 7pm-9pm. Advance tickets, \$35. Door admission, \$40. 760-716-1314.

LOST/STOLEN. My purse and wallet on Tuesday, February 12, afternoon, when I returned home after shopping. Reward! I

need my credit cards, Von's card, navy discharge papers. 619-283-1767.

MEDICAL RESEARCH STUDY for people with mood swings. Investigational new, natural, nutrition-based treatment that may help you feel better. To participate contact MoodSwing.com or 619-296-6563.

MENOPAUSAL, overweight, underweight, trouble sleeping, hot flashes? UCSD studying the effects of estrogen (taken for 8 weeks) on sleeping, hot flashes, and mood in menopausal women. 5-month study. 6 overnight hospital stays required. Call 619-543-7393.

MOVIE BUFFS. Interested in watching movies then discussing it afterwards (like book clubs)? Ages 25 to mature

welcome. Please call 619-850-6075 or 858-272-8727.

OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE Anonymous 12-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 619-521-2538.

PRAYER HEALS, Discover freedom and wellness. Find out how prayer works for

you to eliminate chronic disease, pain, fear, depression. 858-652-0728.

PREGNANT/NEW MOMS. UCSD study, women ages 20-45, not using medication or smoking, are needed for a sleep/light study. Required, 4 evaluation visits + 4 overnight hospital stays, 619-543-7393.

PRIVATE COUNSELING. Your journey can be clearer, more peaceful; relationship issues, body image, self-esteem, anger. I can help. Work toward acceptance of yourself. Fee. 619-838-6817.

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Say What?



Casey Gilly | Age: 27 | Occupation: Writer | Lives: Hillcrest

Manky is when something is exceptionally unpleasant or gross. It can be applied to just about anything, like telling someone their feet smell manky or saying you had a really manky day. You can yell it at the top

of your lungs, too. People might stare, but you gotta let it out. You can even use it just to name-call; try it the next time your boyfriend leaves hair in the sink or gives you a crap drunken phone call. "Ugh...manky!" It's

a British word, so you won't have to worry about a lot of other people using it.

See the video
Go to SDReader.com
Click on Say What

RECOVERY GROUPS for men and women seeking freedom from addiction/co-dependency. Fridays, 7pm. Celebrate recovery, First Lutheran, 867 South Lincoln Avenue, El Cajon. 619-444-7444. www.recovery4u.cc.

RESEARCH STUDY. Women living with smoker needed for 9-day research study. Leave message, 619-594-8827 or email TRDRPPDASudy@projects.sdsu.edu, for more information.

RETIRED TEACHER seeks Italian-speaking person for conversation practice. 619-260-0606.

SINGLES FOR JAZZ is a new not-for-profit club for singles interested in attending various concerts and clubs in the San Diego area. Membership is free. Call 760-445-5459.

SISTER NANCY, Elijah Emanuel, party all night, 8pm-7am, at 4th and B Concert Club. Get your tickets early. Don't be late. Will be sold out.

SUPPORT GROUPS. Six groups monthly, SOSL (Survivors of Suicide Loss). Call 619-482-0297 or email soslsd@yahoo.com.

TEMPLE OF BHAKTI YOGA. Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30pm; Fridays, 6:30-7:30pm. Free. For information please call 760-787-0700.

UCSD MEDICAL CENTER needs healthy volunteers, 40-65 years old, for a research study. Payment is \$10/hour. Please call 619-543-7201.

VOLUNTEER Childbirth Assistants needed. UCSD Medical Centers Doula Program needs women to help mothers during labor. Big commitment, lots of gratification. 619-543-6269.

VOLUNTEERS. Become a child advocate. Help stop child abuse crisis. San Diego's abandoned/neglected children desperately need you. Information sessions held on Wednesday, 4/2, 4/16, 5/7. Voices for Children, 858-569-2019 or visit www.speakupnow.org.

YOU WANT TO USE DRUGS? That's your business. Want to stop using? That's our business. Call 619-584-1077, in Espanol 619-461-1984.

TRAVEL & GETAWAYS

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KIRAT TREKS ADVENTURE TRAVEL. Specializing in Nepal, Tibet, Bhutan, Northern India. 2008 promotional package: Everest region from \$2100. Including 5 star hotel, internal airfare, Katmandu

Valley tour, airport transfers. 951-977-0369. www.kirattreks.com.

TRAVEL COMPANION WANTED. Intelligent, charming lady, seeks sincere companionship for travel and friendship. Single person as well as families, even with children. Please contact Maneck, 619-235-9646.

PERSONALS

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ASIAN CAR PAYMENTS a bleak future. You have reached me. Chasing TVs sucks, too.

DAVIEBABE in Boston. "Just call out my name, and wherever I am, I'll be there . . ."

THANK YOU Holy Spirit for prayers answered. All.

WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN without dying? Rent the exciting movie "Left Behind." Pray aloud, "Lord Jesus, forgive me, come into my heart!" He loves you!

MUSIC

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6210 El Cajon Boulevard. 619-583-1431, www.apex4me.com.

AWESOME NEW PAUL REED SMITH and Taylor solid body electric guitars in stock and on sale at Guitar Trader of San Diego, 7120 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. 1-877-687-4276.

BASS CABINET, Eden 1x15 XLT, 400 watts, less than 5 hours played, \$350/best. 858-509-3778.

DRUM SET, 6-piece Yamaha Stage Custom Advantage, excellent condition, \$925/best, cash only. Scott in Poway, 858-513-0961.

EFFECTS PEDALS-100s of different kinds in stock! Fulltone, Menatone, T-Rex, Maxon, Visual Sound, Barber, Xotic, Durham. Choose from many brands. www.SuperSoundMusic.com or call 760-739-9099.

FENDER AND GIBSON amp/guitar collector sale. Jazzmaster RI, Jaguar RI, SG RI with Viola, Fender Tube amps, custom Vibrolux, Vibro Champ Silver, Reverb Box Silver. 858-414-0657.

FLUTE, TM Grassi, Milan, Italy, silver, with case, \$185. 619-466-1887.

GIBSON GUITAR SOURCE. Over 300 Gibson guitars in stock. We guarantee best prices on all Gibsons and Marshall amps. Centre City Music, 1033 Sixth Avenue. 619-338-9033. www.ccitymusic.com.

GUITARS AND AMPS. Tokai Silver Star \$599, Peavey Wolfgang Special EVH \$599, Squier Jagmaster \$199, Peavey Studio Chorus 2x10 \$199, Polytone Mini-Brute \$349, Mesa Boogie III \$1199, Musicman 112RD with EVM speaker \$649, Martin D16-GT \$699, Ovation Celebrity CC059 Nylon \$299, Ampeg SVT410-HE bass cabinet \$299. At Moze Guitars, 619-698-1185.

KEYBOARD HARD CASE with wheels, very rugged, like new, will hold keyboard up to 52" long, 16-1/4" deep, 4-1/2" thick,

paid \$230, asking only \$100. 760-942-7447.

KEYBOARD, 88 keys, Triton Extreme workstation, sampler, includes a 2-tier professional stand, Kaces-2 travel case with wheels, all manuals, pedal, dust cover. \$1200 all. 619-302-3309.

PA SYSTEM, Fender Passport Deluxe PD-500, portable, new, 8-channel mixer, patented Feedback Killer, 48-volt phantom power, selectable digital effects, 500-watt power amp, more, \$1100/best. 619-818-9056.

PIANOS WANTED! All pianos! Cash paid. Also, quality furniture and antiques. 1 piece or houseful. Bonded. Licensed. Since 1965. Same-day pickup. 1-800-840-4447. www.southcoastauction.net.

ROADCASES. San Diego's oldest road-case company. Pleasing musicians for 20 years. Bring us your best deal; we will beat all. Call Left Coast, 858-278-7888.

TECHNICS DIGITAL PIANO SX-PR53/M, awesome sound, showroom floor condition, looks/plays like new, weighted keys, all manuala, paperwork, black, with black leather bench, seat. 760-729-1995.

VIOLIN, 3/4 size, older German instrument, fine condition, great tone, has bow and case, only \$150. 858-453-2835.

MUSIC Musicians Available / Wanted

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VOCALIST/ENTERTAINER, female lead, looking to join existing band or start new band. Country music. Lots experience, amazine talent, professional but fun. Gabrielle, Purgatoree1@yahoo.com; 619-334-1467.

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...SO, TO TIP MY HAT TO THEIR SOCIALIST MOVE TO RELEASE THEIR OWN MUSIC DIGITALLY AND ALLOW THE CONSUMER TO PAY THEIR OWN PRICE, I PAID A \$5.01... MAY DAY! I HAD MY STAFF BURN COPIES, REPLICATE THE ARTWORK, AND SO ON... JUST IN TIME TO PREEMPT RADIOHEAD'S POST-HOLIDAY "TRADITIONAL" CEEDEE RELEASE THIS WEEK!

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AND THE COUP DE GRACE... I PUT THAT RIDICULOUS AUTOGRAPHED "GIVE TO RECEIVE" TEESHIRT THAT JAY Z SENT ME ON EBAY, COLLECTED \$1700 FOR IT, A TINY FRACTION OF WHICH FUNDED MY "GIFT-GIVING"... HO HO HO INDEED!

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BAY PARK. Share great home. 2 bedrooms available, awesome yard, view, pool, deck, jacuzzi. Walk to bay. Female preferred. \$500, first/last, \$250 deposit. 619-275-2528.

CARDIFF. \$650/month, share utilities. 3 bedroom, 2 bath house, large sundeck with ocean view. Close to beach. Quiet neighborhood. Available now. Keith, 760-809-3126; 619-235-2415, x14214.

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CARLSBAD. Share 2 bedroom, 1 bath, parking, jacuzzi. Steps to beach. \$750/month, \$400 deposit, utilities included. No pets. Female preferred, all welcome. Available 3/1/08. Eric, 760-889-4243.

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San Diego Reader February 21, 2008 151



Daniel Lum

Real Estate

Clairemont

I am right now. She lives in Istanbul, Turkey. She came out a year ago and was an au pair. Her father passed away, and she went back home to take care of her family. She's very practical and wants to take care of her family. But I think someone has to move, soon. I was in love a long time ago. But that didn't work out.



Michelle Moore

Student

Clairemont

My boyfriend now is the love of my life. And, I've known him since elementary school, although we didn't start dating until the second year of college. I go to UCSD. He was back in my hometown of San Jose and was actually calling me about someone else that liked me. But, I guess you can say that ended up backfiring.



Koji Chavez

Host

Clairemont

I met my love at the Semester at Sea that the University of Virginia put on. We went to visit all the Latin American countries. And, halfway into our trip, we started hanging around together. I spent all my money on our love nest in Costa Rica. She lives in Pittsburgh, and so it's hard doing the long-distance thing.



Marcus Knight

Movie Theater Employee

La Jolla

I was with this woman for about a year. We met at a conference in San Jose. That was when I lived in Riverside. We spent the entire night together during that conference, and I fell in love with her. I'm not sure how common it is for people to meet at conferences. But we eventually ended up going our separate ways.



Kameron Ng

Clerk

La Jolla

I was with a girl I loved, but it ended five months ago. We were together for two years. She came in to where I worked. She was actually a customer in here first. She was working at Baskin-Robbins and offered me an ice cream, and then we started hanging out.



Dan Plainview

Photography

San Diego

I think everyone has probably been in love at one point in their life, whether it's puppy love when you're in grade school or your first love in college. I fell in love with a girl that played on the tennis team while I was in college. We dated for two years, and when she went to Colorado to get her Ph.D., we emailed and talked on the phone every day. Before rollover minutes, I once had a \$200 phone bill. She ended up staying there, and I'm still here. I wish we could've worked it out.

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LA JOLLA/WINDANSEA BEACH. \$765-\$2350. Lovely, completely furnished room in house. Also 2 bedroom, 1 bath ocean-view cottage, new, private entrance. No smoking/drugs. 858-336-1545; 619-235-2415, x26922.

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LA MESA. Share 2 bedroom, furnished apartment. 4401 Parks Avenue and University. Close to all. \$500/month plus \$200 deposit. Female preferred. Call Michelle, 619-741-2289.

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MIRA MESA. \$565 room for rent, share bathroom, utilities included, internet included. \$250/deposit. Nonsmoking. Available immediately, 951-491-1607.

MIRA MESA. \$480, \$250 deposit, includes utilities, garage, washer/dryer. No smoking. 858-695-0975.

MIRA MESA. \$600. Single room. Large house. Safe neighborhood. Includes all utilities: electric, gas, water, cable TV. No pets. Washer/dryer. 858-699-7870; 619-235-2415, x13755.

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MISSION VALLEY. \$810 plus utilities. Female only to share 2 bedroom, 2 bath at La Mirage. Assigned parking. Washer/dryer. Internet. Resort-type amenities. Gym, hot tub/spa, pools. No pets. Available 3/1/08. Lisa, 619-252-7018.

NORTH PARK. Amazing condo with own bathroom. Modern 7-unit gated building. Quiet neighborhood. Fireplace, balcony, vaulted ceilings, laundry. \$750 plus 1/2 utilities. Cats OK. 415-370-6540.

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OCEAN BEACH. Share 2 bedroom close to beach. \$500 plus \$500 deposit. No pets, drugs, smoking, excessive drinking.

Male only. Available 3/1/08. Dennis, 619-606-6006.

OCEANSIDE. Room, private bath. All amenities in newer condo. \$695, utilities paid, \$300 deposit. No pets, no smoking. References required. Laundry in unit. 760-434-6794.

OCEANSIDE. \$600/month. Large bedroom, private entrance, deck access in 3 bedroom house, share bath. Full house privileges includes utilities. Oceanview, Jacuzzi, yard. No pets. 760-427-4422.

PACIFIC BEACH. Spacious furnished master bedroom with TV/cable, DVD, Internet, king bed, multiple dressers available now. Plenty parking. Pool, jacuzzi, tennis, volleyball. Nonsmoker. \$650.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$750/month. Own bedroom/bath. Oceanview room. Steps to beach, pool, laundry, cable, Internet, clean, balcony. No smoking/pets. Available now. 619-235-2415, x30013.

PACIFIC BEACH. Private bedroom, shared bath. Blocks from beach. 2341

Grand Avenue. \$550. Check out www.mtmrentals.com and call 619-464-6444.

POINT LOMA/OCEAN BEACH. Furnished room in newer building. Female only. Microwave, refrigerator. Laundry. Parking. 4 blocks to beach. Available now. \$600. 619-226-4010.

POINT LOMA. Room available now. \$625 plus \$400 deposit. Utilities, Internet included. Male preferred. No pets/smoking. 1-year lease. Share kitchen, fireplace, laundry, garden. 619-269-6626.

POINT LOMA. \$625. 1/3 utilities. No deposit. Near PLNU. Pool, laundry, gym, Internet, cafe. No drinking/smoking (smoking on patio only). No pets. Paul, 858-761-1736.

POINT LOMA, PARK. Room available, \$675. 4 bedroom 2 1/2 bath. Olympic pool, spa, washer/dryer, utilities included. Available March 1. Amy, 773-829-2255; Russell, 619-994-9965.

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access. No pets/smoking. Prefer female. \$800/month, 858-675-0568.

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SOLANA BEACH. Female share lovely 2 bedroom townhome overlooking golf course. Furnished bedroom/balcony with private bath. No drugs, smoking, pets. \$775 plus utilities. 858-755-5381.

SOLANA BEACH. 2 rooms available for \$975 total, in lovely quiet townhome. Private bath, balcony, garage space. Pool, jacuzzi. No smoking/drugs/pets, 858-755-0823.

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LA MESA. 3 bedroom, 2 bath plus office on mountain. Fantastic view to ocean!

2000 square feet. Garage. Family room. Fireplace. \$2595. Lease. Agent, Bill, 619-823-1674.

LAKESIDE. \$1300. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. Huge fenced yard. Laundry room in house. 1 car attached garage. Off Wintergardens. 858-560-0272.

LEMON GROVE. \$1550. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. All new bathroom, newly painted and carpeted throughout. Large fenced yard with separate storage. Garage converted into workroom. Near shopping. Pets negotiable. 619-271-2250.

MIRA MESA. Nice 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. Air conditioning. 2-car garage. Backyard. Community pool. Large grassy area across street. Available 3/1. \$1800. 1-805-530-1932.

MISSION BEACH, Bayside. Large 2 bedroom 1 bath, 2-parking spots. Master with walk-in, vaulted ceilings, balcony. \$1800/month, \$1800/deposit, Month-to-month, no credit check. Available 3/01/08, 858-518-1812.

MISSION HILLS. 3 bedroom, 2 bath home on canyon. Fireplace, hardwood floors, custom paint/wallpaper. Tiled kitchen/baths. Stainless steel. Deck, barbecue. \$3495. Jeremy, 619-793-5484.

MOUNT HELIX. \$3200. 5 bedroom, 4 bath house plus den on private 1/2 acre. Pool. Citrus trees. 2 fireplaces. Upper and lower decks with magnificent views. Must see to appreciate! 1 year lease. Includes gardener and pool service. Shown by appointment only, 619-422-8334 or 619-890-4467.

MOUNT HELIX. 6 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms home. 2 car garage. Pool, hot tub, pool table. \$2995/month. Pets ok. Available now. 619-339-4311.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. Sparkling 2 bedroom renovated top to bottom! New paint. New laminate floors. New Berber carpet. New kitchen cabinets, refrigerator, stove/oven. Stack washer/dryer. Landscaped. Off-street parking. Like new home! \$1200. 4411 39th Street. See at northcuttproperties.com. Agent, 858-505-1300.

NORTH PARK. Nice area. \$1450. Cute 2 bedroom, fireplace, fenced yard, wood floors, laundry on site. Drive by, appointment only. 3403 31st Street. 619-992-7791.

NORTH PARK. \$1425. Adorable 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage. Garage plus off-street parking. Private yard. Wood floors. Laundry. Available 4/1/08. 3172 Myrtle. By appointment, 619-742-3471.

NORTH PARK. Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. Garage. Living room. Fireplace. Large fenced yard. Pets OK. \$2500 includes gardener/water. Available 2/1/08. Appointments, 619-296-2873.

PACIFIC BEACH/DE ANZA COVE. \$2200. Cute, cozy 2 bedroom, 2 bath mobile home on the cove. Includes washer/dryer, utilities/cable. Mike, 858-456-0407; 858-344-1033.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1800. 3 bedroom, 1 bath house, 2-car parking included, refrigerator, stove, yard, approximately 1100 square feet. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

PACIFIC BEACH. Crown Point. Luxury 1 bedroom house with an extra room. Dogs welcome. Only 3 blocks to bay. Hot tub, air conditioning, and much more. Feels like you're at a resort in Hawaii. \$2095-\$2395. Make offer. 619-822-0093.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1750. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. Remodeled. Laundry onsite. Available now. No pets. 1512 Chalcedony Street. 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. 2 bedroom, 2 bath home. Excellent location. Off-street parking. Close to ocean/bay. Laundry onsite. No pets! \$2000/monthly. 858-581-2021.

POWAY. \$2150. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath house, refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, yard, patio, central air, fireplace, in-unit washer/dryer. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

SANTEE. For rent. 3 bedroom, 1 bath plus extra room, home office. Includes appliances, washer/dryer and trash. Huge backyard. Pets OK. \$1800/month, 858-518-4504.

SERRA MESA. \$1950. 3 bedroom, 2 bath house plus extra room. Fireplace. 2-car garage. All appliances. Private backyard. 3465 Angwin Drive. Agent, 619-698-1400. www.allenrealpropertyservices.com.

SPRING VALLEY. \$1575 includes water. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Optional third bedroom. 2-car garage. Fenced yard. All appliances. Washer/dryer. Pets on approval. 619-807-6730.

SPRING VALLEY. \$1495. 2 bedroom, 1 bath home with view of lake, appliances, washer/dryer, fenced yard, deck, garage, pets ok. Section 8. 9756 Ivanho Street. 619-384-9219.

VALLEY CENTER. Woods Valley. \$4000. Over 4500 square feet. 4-car garage. On cul-de-sac. Brand new, move in anytime. Nonsmoking. No pets. Call for details, Top Notch Realty, Inc., 858-715-0688.

RENTALS APARTMENTS / CONDOS

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ALPINE. \$1000. 2 bedrooms, 2 bath. Air conditioning, dishwasher. Laundry. Pool. Parking. No pets. 1319 Marshall Road. Agent, 619-298-7724.

ALPINE. \$900. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Air conditioning, on-site laundry, pool. Small pets welcome. Call 619-445-0805. www.sadaptbrokers.com.

ALPINE. 2 bedrooms, \$1290. Private garages, fireplaces, vaulted ceilings. Resort-size pool and spa. Call for special! Alpine Woods, 1829 Arnold Way. 619-445-1341.

ALPINE. 55 and up. Spacious luxury living. 1 bedrooms, \$955. 2 bedrooms, \$1205. Special: \$75 off! Creekside Meadows, 1750 Arnold Way, 619-445-2480.

BALBOA PARK/East. Forest-like setting. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. \$1700. Quiet. Fireplace, patio. Near zoo. \$1700. Carport. Gated. Laundry. No pets. Available 03/01. 619-299-1530.

BALBOA PARK. \$2200. Extra nice 2 bedroom townhouse with den. Open and bright! Garage, fireplace, large storage. Cat OK. 2233 5th Avenue. Agent, 619-469-7790. www.westmanproperties.com.

BALBOA PARK/East. Forest-like setting. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. \$1700. Quiet. Fireplace, patio. Near zoo. Carport. Gated. Laundry. No pets. 619-299-1530.

BALBOA PARK, EAST. Victorian flat studio. Treetop view of Park. Walk to all. Wood floors. Upstairs classic restored building, Southwest facing. Newly remodeled. 858-568-5081.

BANKER'S HILL/DOWNTOWN. \$1195. 1 bedroom townhouse. Very private. Spacious. Hardwood floors. Laundry on-site. Patio. Free parking. Pets OK. Available now. Call Steve, 619-696-7500.

BANKER'S HILL. \$1000-\$1200/lease. Fully restored, luxury studios with new stainless appliances, granite counters, stone tiled kitchen and bath, clawfoot bathtubs, hardwood floors, ceiling fans, top-of-the-line fixtures, on-site laundry, rooftop deck with views. No pets. Nonsmoking. 2408 Second Avenue. Call for appointment, 619-232-0153 or 858-361-8234 or 619-851-4521. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2159.

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.

BANKER'S HILL. \$1625. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with partial view. Great location, modern style, fireplace, central heating and air, washer/dryer in unit, porch.

PICTURE STORY

Photograph from the San Diego Historical Society



Abandoned bicycles in police possession, 1960. That year, the police began a drive to get owners to license their bikes — to “thwart thefts,” according to our local daily. “Owners of unlicensed bicycles may be cited.” The cost for a tag,

valid for ten years, was one dollar. Four days into the campaign, 1700 licenses had been sold (the number of bicycles in San Diego was estimated at 20,000).

— by Robert Mizrachi

YOU CAN PURCHASE THIS PHOTO AND MANY MORE AT THE SAN DIEGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY RESEARCH LIBRARY OR ONLINE AT WWW.SANDIEGOHISTORY.ORG. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 619-232-6203, EXT. 127.

Nonsmoking unit. Under 25 pound pet with \$500 additional deposit. 1-car garage. 2930 Columbia Street #B. www.centricity.net. 619-296-6699.

BANKER'S HILL. \$750. Studio apartment. \$200 off first month's rent! Great location. Close to all! No pets. 2027 Front Street #3. AMI Property Management, 619-697-6314.

BANKER'S HILL. Second floor 1 bedroom with Downtown views, \$925. Utilities paid. Second floor studio, \$775. Beautifully landscaped, laundry, 2142 Fifth Avenue. Available now. Agent, 619-260-1368. View at http://www.sevillamgmt.com.

BANKER'S HILL. Move-in special: 1/2 off first month's rent! \$1450, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Immaculate community, luxury apartments, corner unit, underground parking. New carpet, blinds, granite counters, cabinets and more. Close to all. 140 West Kalmia. Call 619-231-1059. sunriseliving.com.

BANKER'S HILL. \$795. 1/2 off first month. Extra large studio, wood floors, walk-in closets, full kitchen, on-site laundry. Block from Park and Zoo. Cat ok. 2241 4th Avenue #303. 619-300-9487.

BANKER'S HILL. \$850. 1/2 off first month. Large studio, wood floors, full kitchen, private patio, gated. Cat ok. 2271 4th Avenue. 619-300-9487.

BANKER'S HILL. \$1195. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath with view, large closets, appliances, wood floors, laundry on-site, parking, pets ok. 2311 4th Avenue #37. 619-804-3325.

BANKER'S HILL. Charming 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo, covered parking, pool, near Balboa Park/Downtown/Hob Nob. 2244 2nd Avenue. \$1150. 714-323-9317.

BANKER'S HILL. \$800. Garden View studio. Charming gated building with laundry, barbecue, community view deck, parking. 128 West Maple. Agent, 619-234-1994.

BAY PARK. \$825. Lovely 1 bedroom apartments. Prime location near Mission Bay. Quiet! Fresh paint. New refrigerator and stove. Pool. Laundry. No pets. Lease. 2515 Chicago Street. 619-276-1468.

CARDIFF BY THE SEA. Beach front, 2 room studio, quiet, 2-level. Spiral staircase, washer/dryer. Ocean view deck. Sunsets. Available 3/01/08. Pet ok \$1775/month. 760-436-5168.

CARLSBAD from \$1425. Beautifully remodeled 2 bedrooms. Fantastic views!

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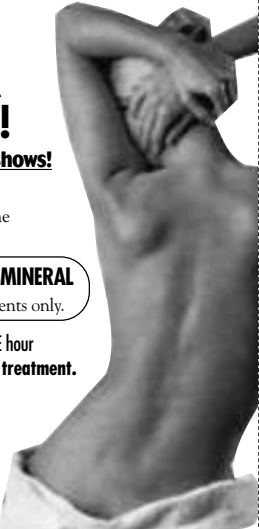
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CARLSBAD Village. \$925 with utilities. Private parking. Yard. Very nice residential area. Quiet and safe. Vaulted ceilings. Blocks to beach. 6-month lease. Available 4/1. 760-729-1406.

CARLSBAD. \$1175. 1 bedroom, 1 bath in village. Near beach, shops. Large yard. No pets. 1 year lease. 760-729-0575.

CARLSBAD. \$1380. 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath, pet OK, 2-car gated parking, pool, refrigerator, stove, microwave, yard, balcony. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

CARLSBAD. \$925, 1 bedrooms. Community laundry, off-street parking. Quiet street. No pets. 3366 Roosevelt Street. Agent, 760-434-7721.

CARLSBAD. \$925. Spacious Junior 1 bedrooms. Bright and airy. Laundry, pool, outdoor community kitchen, dishwasher. Parking. Garages also available. No pets. 1000 Chinquapin. Agent, 760-729-8681.

CARLSBAD/LA COSTA. \$1445-\$1495. Large, luxury 2 bedroom, 2 bath in beautiful garden complex with views over La Costa golf course. Fireplace, washer/dryer, air conditioning, pool, spa, sauna. 2385 Caringa Way. Alicant Views. TPPM, 760-431-7575.

CARLSBAD/LA COSTA. \$1595. Large, luxury 3 bedroom, 2 bath in beautiful garden complex with views over La Costa golf course. Fireplace, washer/dryer, air conditioning, pool, spa, sauna. 2385 Caringa Way. Alicant Views. TPPM, 760-431-7575.

CARMEL MOUNTAIN RANCH. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. 1-car garage. Vaulted ceilings, washer/dryer, beige paint. 1-year lease. Available now. \$1795. Peter, 858-663-5695.

CARMEL VALLEY. Looking for affordable luxury living? 1 bedrooms/2 bedrooms. Flexible leases; call for current rates. Near beaches, shopping, easy freeway access, quiet neighborhood! Free tennis, swimming lessons! Washer/dryer. Parking. Fitness center. Pool. No pets. The Club Torrey Pines, 12646 Torrey Bluff Drive. 1-866-354-2096. www.torrey.cc. www.sdreader.com/news/rent1206.

CASA DE ORO. Seniors 55+-. 1 bedrooms, \$650-\$675. Off-street parking, community laundry. Air conditioning. The bus stops here! 9550 Campo Road. Agent, 619-697-8432.

CHULA VISTA. \$100 off first month's rent! 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$850 with \$850 deposit. Pool, laundry room. Close to mall/freeway. Available now. 433 D Street. 619-756-1557.

CHULA VISTA. \$775/month. \$250 deposit. 1 bedroom, fully furnished, 2 blocks from Chula Vista Center. Off-street parking. Laundry room. Lots of trees. 521 Park Way. Office open daily (near Fifth and G). 619-420-5084.

CHULA VISTA. \$775. 1 bedroom. Utilities included! Parking and laundry onsite. Very clean. No pets. 318 G Street. Agent, 619-820-2584.

CHULA VISTA. \$800. Beautifully remodeled 1 bedroom in gated community. Air conditioning, community laundry. Gated parking. No pets. Near freeway and trolley. 2887 Main Street. 619-691-9377.

CITY HEIGHTS. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 600 square feet, \$750. Near SDSU. 4316 52nd Street #2. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. www.peoplehelpingothers.com.

CITY HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, 850 square feet, \$895. Tiled floors, wall air conditioner. Water, sewer/trash included. Section 8 welcome. 4316 52nd

Street #4. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. www.peoplehelpingothers.com.

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. Move-in today! From \$1205. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Large, sunny townhomes. Pool. No pets. The Gardens, 5544 Balboa Arms Drive. Call 858-278-5862.

CLAIREMONT/KEARNY MESA. Wexford Manor. Large 1 and 2 bedrooms in beautiful complex with pool, spa, laundry, air conditioning, dishwasher. Sorry, no pets. \$995-\$1295. Photos at www.WexfordLiving.com. 7870 Stalmer Street. 858-277-4843.

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/rent12035.

CLAIREMONT/MISSION BAY. "Unbeatable move-in Specials!" Up to \$250 off move on select units. Newly remodeled 1, 2 bedrooms. 1 bedroom 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/MISSION BAY. Up to \$250 off! 1 bedroom, 1 bath from \$1085. 2 bedroom, 1 bath from \$1300. Dishwasher, microwave. Tennis, basketball. Movie theatre, pool, gym, yoga lessons. Pet with deposit. Available now. Monday-Saturday, 9am-6pm. Sunday, 10am-5pm. Coral Bay Park, 3309 Cowley Way. www.CoralBayCanyonAndParkApartments.com. Call: 1-877-585-1146. www.sdreader.com/news/rent1070.

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. 619-286-3400.

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.

CLAIREMONT. \$875. 1 bedroom. Upstairs. Pool. Laundry. Off-street parking. No pets. Close to I-163. Available now. 7322 Mesa College Drive. 858-560-6204.

CLAIREMONT. \$1275. Large 2 bedroom duplex. Nicely landscaped, quiet complex. Washer/gas dryer hookups. Patio, garage. No pets. 3340 Clairemont Drive. Don't disturb tenants. 858-278-2562.

CLAIREMONT. \$795. Large studio. New carpet, fresh paint. Available 2/18. 3377 Idlewild Way. Agent, 858-560-1178.

CLAIREMONT/BAY PARK. \$1150. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, upper unit, parking available, on-site laundry, 2537 Chicago Street #10. Agent, 858-560-1178.

COLLEGE AREA/TALMADGE. Extremely large 2 bedroom 2 bath. Air conditioning. Controlled entry. All amenities. Parking. Laundry on premises. Park-like grounds. Near shops and bus. 619-287-1996. 619-461-9415.

SLOW WAVE



COLLEGE AREA. From \$1195. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condos. Balcony/patio. Gas stove, microwave. Central air/heat. Dishwasher. Washer/dryer hook-ups. Gated. Pet on approval. Near all/golf course. 619-285-3822.

COLLEGE AREA. 1 bedrooms, \$900. Fireplace. Central heat/air. Microwave, dishwasher. Balcony. Gated. Intercom entry. 4828 Art Street. Agent, 619-298-7724.

COLLEGE AREA. \$950. Deposit \$600. Extra large 2 bedroom, 1 bath, parking, laundry, close to all. No pets. Available now. 4205 49th Street. 619-564-8764.

COLLEGE AREA. \$300 off first month's rent! 1 bedrooms from \$950. Military discounts! Internet access. Gourmet kitchen. Microwave. Gas range. Air conditioning/heating. Large walk-in closet. Controlled access. Pool. Barbecue/picnic areas. Cat friendly. Parking. Walking distance to campus/trolley. Aztec Pacific, 6663 Montezuma Road. 1-800-433-6120. www.pacificliving.com. www.sdreader.com/news/rent1042.

COLLEGE AREA. \$1050. 1/2 off first month. Extra large lower 2 bedroom 2 bath with laundry, off-street parking. Near SDSU. Cat ok. 4644 Soria Drive #1. 619-804-3325.

COLLEGE AREA. \$785. 1 bedroom. Sparkling pool, on-site laundry, barbecue. Central location, near SDSU. No pets. 4333 College Avenue. 619-287-8380.

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. \$950. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, on-site laundry. Great price, will not last! Call 619-713-1044.

COLLEGE. 55+-. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Gated. \$775/month, \$500/deposit. New carpet/tile, 600 square-feet, washer/dryer, air conditioning, dishwasher, small deck, courtyard. Near bus/shopping. Move-in special! www.innorenterprises.com. 619-583-2454.

CORONADO. \$1695. Charming 2 bedroom, 2 bath, first floor. Refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, parking space. Breakfast bar, electric fireplace, pet ok. Walk to bay/library. 619-435-8550.

DEL MAR. \$1895. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, upstairs, ocean view, access to beach. Off-street parking. On-site laundry. Trash and water paid. 858-755-1135. rentals@team-scuba.com.

DEL MAR. \$1195. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, on-site parking, laundry, pool. Will be available the first part of March. 13754 Mango Drive. Call Rachael, 619-804-1044.

DEL MAR. \$1895. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, wood floors throughout! On-site parking, laundry and pool. Will be available the first part of March. 13754 Mango Drive. Call Rachael 619-804-1044.

DEL MAR. Beautiful studios and 1 bedrooms starting at \$1250. Some with ocean views! Heated pool, spa, fitness center, dishwasher, microwave. No pets. 526 Camino Del Mar. Agent, 858-755-4721.

DEL MAR. One block to ocean! 2 bedroom, 1845. 3 bedroom, \$1255. 201 Fourth Street. Call for special! 858-481-9585; mikeatla@aol.com.

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.

DOWNTOWN, GASLAMP: Gorgeous 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$2700. Cortez Hill: 1 bedroom with loft, \$2000, parking, hardwood floors, 18 foot ceilings. Great complex! www.elisabethsellssandiego.com, 619-788-2720.

lage. 1245 Market Street. For details, 1-800-351-0613. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2070.

DOWNTOWN. \$1599. Luxurious, historic El Cortez. Unfurnished/furnished. 1 bedroom corner unit. Pool/spa, gym, deck, valet parking, laundry. Excellent location near everything. Pets welcomed. 858-274-3487.

DOWNTOWN. Studios with kitchen and bath, \$625-\$700. Single room with private bathroom, \$500-\$550. No smoking or pets. 10th and E Street. Hughes Management, 619-239-1639 x103.

DOWNTOWN. Comfortable rooms, \$450/ up. Studios, \$650/ up. Near Gaslamp District. Very quiet and clean. Free cable TV, on-site laundry, vending machines, community kitchen, shared bathrooms. Near shopping, restaurants, movie theatres and Horton Plaza. No pets. Arlington Apartments, 701 7th Avenue. Hughes Management. 619-231-2385. www.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 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/news/rent2099.

DOWNTOWN. Economical furnished rooms, \$400-\$500, best price, save

money. Conveniently located on C Street trolley line, near restaurants, free cable TV, shared bathrooms, on-site laundry facilities, vending machines, elevator service, no pets, 636 C Street (between 6th and 7th). C Street Inn, Hughes Management, 619-234-4165. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2098.

DOWNTOWN. Gaslamp area. Move-in special, \$280. Community kitchen, shared bath, on-site laundry, vending machines, no pets, Star Hotel, 522 7th Avenue. 619-235-6068. Hughes Management.

DOWNTOWN. Outstanding furnished rooms, \$400-\$500. Heart of Gaslamp. Shared bathrooms. Community kitchen. Free cable TV. No pets. 843 4th Avenue. Windsor Hotel. 619-235-6068. Hughes Management.

DOWNTOWN. Attractive rooms. Shared bath. Utilities included! Near City College! \$400-\$595 per month. Weekly rates from \$125! 719 14th Street, Villa Victoria. Hughes Management, 619-231-2385.

DOWNTOWN. Furnished studios. From \$59/daily, from \$210/weekly rates! Ideal, affordable, short-term stays. Private bathroom, kitchenette, microwave, refrigerator, cable TV. Air conditioning, laundry, voice mail. High speed Internet. Food service daily. Near trolley/bus/freeway, Balboa Park, Gaslamp, West Park Inn, 1840 4th Avenue. www.westparkinn.com. 619-236-1600. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2037.

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ADOPTION DRIVE! Small dog adoption drive event this Saturday, 2/23 from 12pm-3pm at Muttropolis in La Jolla. 7755 Girard Avenue. Come meet your future lovebug!

AQUARIUM SALE at Octopus's Garden. 20H aquarium \$20; 29 for \$29; 40R \$40. Even a 60E is just \$60. Other tank specials also. Lots of healthy saltwater fish

and beautiful corals. Protein skimmers. Lighting systems, pumps, decorations and supplies at low prices at Octopus's Garden. Noon-9pm, 7 days. Call 858-576-7449.

AQUARIUMS AND PONDS! Freshwater/saltwater fish. Extensive reef animals, 9000 square feet. Low warehouse prices! Expertise not found in Southern California cookie-cutter stores! Aquatic Warehouse. 5466 Complex Street #204, San Diego. Behind Superior Courthouse, off Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. www.aquaticwarehouse.com. Daily, 10am-7pm. Saturday, 10am-6pm. Sunday, 11am-6pm. 858-467-9297.

BAN BACKYARD PUPPY MILLS. Please visit your local humane society and adopt one or more of the sweetest pets you'll ever love. They need you!

BARK-IN-THE-PARK 2. Sunday, April 6, Spreckels Organ Pavilion. Carol Williams Organ Concert and Dog Parade at 2pm for the Humane Society. Bring your doggies!

BELGIAN MALINOIS PUPPIES. For sale. Male/female, first shots, dewormed. Ex-

cellent for personal protection, working dogs or loyal family companions. \$500. Call 619-243-9531.

BUY/SELL/TRADE reptiles, amphibians, turtles, tortoises, snakes, lizards. Largest reptile selection in Southern California. Voted #1 in San Diego. Pet Kingdom, 619-224-2841.

CATS/KITTENS. 4+ months need responsible, lifetime homes. Cute, friendly, virus-tested, neutered, vaccinated, dewormed, defleaded. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 6-8pm; Saturday, Sunday, noon-4pm. PetSmart La Jolla, 8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (I-5 at Nobel). Fee. www.sdcats.org.

CATS/OLDER KITTENS. 8-12 months, Persian, Himalayan, Siamese mixes, black and white males and females, shy rescues, healthy, spayed/neutered, \$20-\$40 donation. Encinitas, 619-267-6722.

CHIHUAHUA MIX, spayed, 9lbs., 2 years, sweet, happy, lapdog, energetic, escape artist. Needs a safe, kid-free home. \$100. 619-583-5122.

DACHSHUNDS. Vernal EquiDox Walk-in-the-Park, Sunday, April 6. Meet by main fountain at 1pm, near the Science Center. Walk to Organ Concert and Parade at 2pm. www.sddc.us.

DOG ADOPTION EVENT this Saturday, 2/23, 10am-3pm. Petco in Point Loma, located at 3495 Sports Arena Boulevard. For info, call Baja Animal Sanctuary, 619-231-6960.

DOGS. FOCAS is a trusted name in pet adoptions. Call for information on a variety of wonderful rescued pets. Always altered, microchipped, vaccinated. Most \$150 donation. 619-685-3536.

FIRE VICTIMS: POTBELLIED PIGS. Please help! Thanks if you've already sent donations-you're heroes! I've been working hard to get the pigs on the road to recovery. Some are injured/crippled from running from the fires. They aren't adoptable and may never fully recover. They've needed lots of vet care, and still do. If you can help, call Creekside Vet Service: 760-751-1020, 8751 Old Castle Road, Escondido, California, 92026, c/o Debi Toner's rescued pigs. Thanks for caring!

GERMAN SHEPHERD in his golden years looking for a forever home! Tres is 9 years old and has spent most of his life at Baja

Animal Sanctuary. He is active, yet mellow and loveable. He gets along with other dogs. Contact Baja Animal Sanctuary to meet him. 619-231-6960.

GET A LIFE! Visit your local animal shelter and adopt a new best friend.

KITTENS. Manx, tabby, and 2 gorgeous Siamese mixes, all neutered males, healthy, affectionate rescues to lifelong, indoor homes, \$40 donation. Encinitas area, 760-230-1346.

KOI PONDS AND WATER GARDENS. Bring this ad in for \$5 off purchase of \$20 or more! Equipment and supplies, free water testing, service and maintenance, construction and design, commercial and residential. Koi-Koi Living Jewels' 20th year. 1975 Jamacha Road, El Cajon Monday-Saturday, 10am-5pm, Sunday 11am-4pm. 619-441-9275.

LAB PUGS AKC, Strong/playful, fully paped, born 1/01/07. Two left. Female, black, amazing for family pet or breeding. First shots, pristine shape, \$450/each, 619-334-1467.

LOST CAT. Large male gray striped tabby, green eyes, neutered, wearing white collar with name "Lebowski." Lost 1/1/08 downtown La Mesa. Please respond anytime. 619-316-5759.

LOST PARROT! Small, green derbyban parrot lost Sunday, 1/13, in Soledad Mt./La Jolla area. Named "Pablito." About 7-8" tall and talkative. Seen him? 858-488-5664.

LOVE BIRDS. Tame, sweet, hand fed, indoor raised babies, all colors, \$40. csaunders92101@yahoo.com.

POODLE PUPS, standard, healthy, beautiful. Born 11/5/07. Tails docked. Black, cream, apricot. 3 males, 3 females. AKC registration. \$1500. San Diego area. 619-944-6245. E-mail hjgarden@aol.

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TERRIER MIX, 4 years young, neutered, 8lbs., beige Toto type, happy, spirited, good with dogs, people, \$100. 619-466-0426.

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DOWNTOWN. Next to City College. \$900. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, dishwasher, granite countertops, hardwood floors. Pet OK. Broadway/14th Street, 92101. Call George: 877-605-2984.

DOWNTOWN. Beautiful building, new furnished rooms. Refrigerator, microwave, TV, cable. Starting at \$175 weekly. 920 Beech Street. Call 619-234-1952.

DOWNTOWN. \$675. Studio, 1 bath apartment, great views, all utilities paid, near Petco Park, controlled access building. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN. \$750. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, cat OK with deposit, hardwood floors, paid water/trash/gas. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN. \$1685. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths apartment, pet OK, covered parking, barbecue/picnic area, business center, spa, fitness center. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN. \$3000. 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo, 2-car garage parking, security, window blinds, fitness center, pool, spa, gym, clubhouse. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN. 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. \$1995/month. \$500 off! 1 bedroom, 1 bath. The Mark, 3rd floor. Community pool, gym, 1 parking space. Storage. Pets OK (30 pounds). Agent, 619-471-2201.

DOWNTOWN/EAST VILLAGE. 1 bedroom from \$725. Totally renovated. Vintage building. 10 blocks from water. Authentic hardwood floors. Fresh paint. New tile. New appliances. Cats OK. 619-997-1133.

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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. 619-232-3400.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. Great location! 1 bedroom, 1-1/2 baths \$1750. Banker's Hill, 2 bedroom with washer/dryer \$1650. Available now. Call 619-255-0526.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. Bright, corner studio, \$940. 9' ceilings, hardwood floors. Ideal location. Charming, secure, quiet building with laundry. 1534 Front, near Beech Street. 619-233-7428.

DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. \$99 moves you in! Live/work lofts. Penthouse, 1546 square feet, \$2750. Loft, 1463 square feet, cement floor, \$2425. Loft, 1163 square feet, carpeted, \$1720. Pets OK, parking available, keyless entry system, laundry facility, high speed Internet capability, central air/heat, high ceilings. Penthouse extras: granite kitchen countertops, Brazilian cherry wood floors, stainless steel appliances, 9 French doors. Toll free: 1-888-241-3523. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2145.

DOWNTOWN/CORTEZ HILL. \$795. Studio. Limited access building. Charming, quiet, residential neighborhood. Utilities paid. On-site laundry. No pets. EOH. 619-299-8746.

DOWNTOWN/EAST VILLAGE. Newly remodeled rooms available for weekly/monthly rentals, \$495-\$600 plus \$300-\$400 security. Controlled access, shared bathrooms/kitchens. Full size beds. Laundry facility. Patio area. Palms Hotel, 619-233-0408.

DOWNTOWN/Heart of Gaslamp. \$1800. 1 bedroom condo, furnished or unfurnished. Top floor with city view, pool, gym, parking, full-size washer/dryer in unit. Small dog ok. 450 J Street. 619-281-4698.

DOWNTOWN/EAST VILLAGE. \$1995. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, blocks from Petco Park. Scenic court unit has 2 secure parking spots. Granite countertops, washer/dryer, air conditioning, storage unit are part of this rental's benefits. No pets. Available Mid-march. 619-698-5686.

DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. Las Flores Hotel. Small, quiet. \$120/week and up. Four-week minimum. Color TV with basic cable. Refrigerator in most rooms. Secure. 619-235-6820.

DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. Move-in Specials. Live/Work Lofts in the heart of The Gaslamp! Roof decks with barbecue. Laundry on every floor. Parking available. Seven locations Downtown. Select pets OK. Visit loft leasing office: 315 Fourth Avenue. 619-231-1505 x12. www.trilogymanagement.com. Also visit www.sdreader.com/news/rent2064.

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.

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EL CAJON. 1 bedroom, \$800. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$900. Great amenities, air conditioning, laundry on-site, pool, recreation room, parking. Lushly landscaped. No pets. 294 Ballantyne. 619-334-7934.

EL CAJON. Cajon Villas. \$800, 1 bedroom. \$1000, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. \$1325, 3 bedroom. Pool. Parking. Air conditioning. No pets. 933 Peach Avenue. 619-447-9193.

EL CAJON. \$725. 1 bedroom apartment. Downstairs. New carpet, paint. Assigned parking. Laundry. No pets. Available now. 506 Emerald Avenue #4. Agent, 858-514-8201.

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.

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.

EL CAJON. \$705. 1 bedroom. Open Saturday 12-3pm. Beautifully maintained apartments with sparkling pool. No pets. 234 West Park Avenue. TPPM, 619-850-9722. www.palmtowers.com.

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, 619-291-6686.

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, 619-597-6100; 619-778-8444.

EL CAJON. \$1400/month. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. 1114 estimated square feet. Onsite laundry, pool, playground, Jacuzzi, game room. Gated. Sorry, no pets. 589 N. Johnson #232. Agent, 619-471-2201.

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. \$1195. 1 bedroom. 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.

ENCINITAS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex with large deck and garage. Washer/

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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, \$1050-\$1200. Resort style living. \$200 off first month's rent! 1960 East Grand Avenue. 760-489-6932. www.melroyproperties.com.

FASHION VALLEY/USD. \$1050 rent. \$600 deposit, OAC. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Underground parking for 2 cars. Laundry. No pets. At 5550 Mildred Street #1. 619-291-1755.

FASHION VALLEY. \$1250 rent. \$600 deposit, OAC. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Parking. Laundry. No pets. At 1330 Eureka Street #29. 619-298-5820.

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. 619-701-3549.

FASHION VALLEY. \$1100. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Huge walk in closet. Dishwasher. On site parking. Balcony. No pets. 5720 Gaines Street. 619-299-3477.

FASHION VALLEY/USD. \$1150. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, lower unit, view. Refurbished. Cat OK. Washer/dryer in unit. 5919 Mildred Street #B. www.centrecity.net. 619-296-6699.

GOLDEN HILL. \$1600. 3 bedroom, 1 bath townhome. Contemporary setting, newly remodeled, 1300 square feet. 2 minutes to Downtown. Garage. Laundry facility. Security entry. 619-247-7327.

GOLDEN HILL. \$875. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Fenced patio. Off-street parking. Convenient location. 3357 B Street. No pets. Hughes Management, 619-239-1639 x102.

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.pacificliving.com. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2028.

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.westmanproperties.com.

GOLDEN HILL. \$585. Large studio duplex. Stove, refrigerator, off-street parking. Near bus. No pets. Call 858-277-7166.

GOLDEN HILL. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Upper, quiet. Bright, dishwasher, vaulted ceilings. Patio. Laundry. No dogs. Nonsmoking. Free hi-speed Internet. \$1400. Lease. 619-239-2278.

GOLDEN HILL/SHERMAN HEIGHTS. \$1400/month. Incredibly fresh 3 bedroom, 1 bath unit in older 6 unit building with adequate off-street parking. Approximately 1100 square feet. Ceramic tile floor in bath and kitchen; new carpet also. Appliances like new. New sheet rock on walls. Call Walt, 858-270-7711 or 619-726-2733.

GOLDEN HILL. Free, one week! 1 bedroom, \$850. 1010 33rd Street. Very clean, with patio, appliances, laundry, elevator, and parking. 760-724-0558.

GOLDEN HILL. \$795. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Clean, quiet, secure. If you can find one better; rent it. 623 19th Street. Call 619-804-1044.

HILLCREST. \$750. Unfurnished studio, large unit. Murphy bed, hardwood floors, private kitchen and bath. Laundry. Clean, quiet, secure. No pets. Near bus line. 619-261-6927.

HILLCREST. \$1495. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Charming, Cape Cod style. Stove, refrigerator. huge backyard. Washer/dryer hookups. Pet negotiable. Move in special \$500 off first month. 228 West Lewis. 619-698-6911.

HILLCREST. Spacious 1 and 2 bedrooms! Berber carpet, fireplace, spa, gym, intercom, elevator. Sorry, no pets. Hillcrest Summit, 4134 4th Avenue. See photos at www.WexfordLiving.com. 619-299-0047.

HILLCREST. Hillcrest Palms. Senior complex. 55+ living! \$900. 1 bedroom apartments. Gated community. Convenient location. Near hospitals, restaurants, shopping. No pets. 4042 Albatross Street. 619-574-0784.

HILLCREST. Quiet 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. Bright 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Hardwood floors, completely remodeled, washer/dryer. Large deck, pets OK. Great location! Near shopping. \$1495/month. 619-549-2234, 619-549-4959.

HILLCREST. \$1525. Spectacular 2 bedroom. Come and enjoy Hillcrest living at

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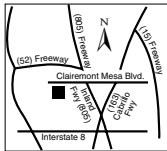


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HILLCREST. \$895. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Vaulted ceilings, walk to Balboa Park and shopping. Parking, laundry. 6-month lease. Available 03/10. 3820 8th Avenue #2. www.cethron.com 619-295-1100.

HILLCREST. Remodeled 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.

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.

HILLCREST. \$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.

HILLCREST. \$1395. 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage. Stove, refrigerator. Coin laundry. Shared lawn area. Garage. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Available 2/25. 3943-1/2 Centre Street. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

HILLCREST. \$785/up. Studios. Lovely garden courtyard with fountain. Walk to Uptown Village. Hardwood floors, blinds, on-site laundry. No pets. EOH. 619-299-8746.

HILLCREST. \$960. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Gated, laundry, 1 parking space, dish-

washer, air conditioning. No pets. 1033 Robinson. Call Rachel, 619-295-1210.

HILLCREST. \$1250. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Laundry, parking. Storage. 4226 Cleveland Avenue. Call 619-255-4944 or 858-490-1600.

HILLCREST. 1/2 off first month! \$1050, 1 bedroom, patio. \$1200, 2 bedroom, balcony. New carpet. Garage available. Ceiling fan, microwave. Gated entry. Lush garden setting. Laundry. No pets. 3914 Centre. 619-501-8447, 619-787-1519.

HILLCREST. \$1200. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Pool, canyon view. Close to all. Rec room. Cat OK. Sleepy Hollow Apartments, 4201 Sixth Avenue. 619-298-1059.

HILLCREST. \$1000. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, built-in bookshelf, laundry on site, cozy dining area. Large bedroom. 1224 Pennsylvania Avenue #4. www.centrecity.net. 619-297-6699.

HILLCREST. \$1025. Upper 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 units available. Gated complex, all appliances, washer/dryer, underground parking, elevator. Near all. Cat OK. Section 8. 4155 Georgia Street #106 & #207. 619-297-7662.

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.

HILLCREST/BALBOA PARK. \$1275. 1 bedroom. Large 900 square feet. Formal dining room with built-in buffet. Stove, refrigerator. Wood floors. Small garage. Entry 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.

IMPERIAL BEACH. \$1475-\$1525. Newly remodeled 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath condos. Steps to beach. Heated pool, views. All appliances. 1111 Seacoast #2, #20, and #35. Agent Bill, 619-823-1674.

IMPERIAL BEACH. 1 bedroom \$800, 1097 Imperial Beach Boulevard. New carpeting, freshly painted. Refrigerator and stove. Community laundry room. Assigned parking. Water/trash paid. 619-423-8289.

IMPERIAL BEACH. \$895. Beautiful 1 bedroom on beach. Refrigerator. Stove. Pet? Laundry facilities on premises. Off-street parking. Available now. Seacoast Drive. Call 619-424-9233.

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. \$775. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Move in special \$300 off first month. charming upper unit. Stove, refrigerator, hardwood floors. Pet negotiable.

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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 3/07. 4118 Adams Avenue #1. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

LA COSTA/CARLSBAD. \$1200. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Move-in special with lease. Cats OK. Assigned parking. Quiet street off of La Costa Avenue. 760-943-7590.

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, 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.

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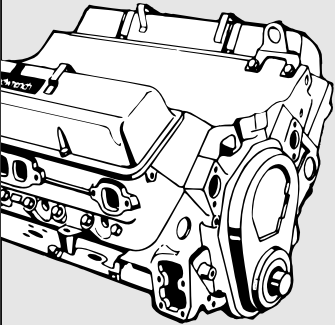
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From England with Love

I had just seen the movie *Across the Universe* about an English guy who falls in love with an American girl. It brought back all my memories of visiting England when I was 18. That night, logged onto Match.com, I was still on a nostalgia high from the movie. I wondered if they have Match in England. They do! A lot of the guys were gorgeous, but they were saying the same things American men say. I was a little disappointed. Then I came across a guy whose bio said he'd lived in San Diego for over a year and that he wanted to come back to live here someday. No way! What are the odds?

We start emailing, and we clicked. The emails became an everyday thing. Then we started talking on the phone every day — before I knew it, I was having this overseas romance that I could never have imagined. We started to make plans; he wanted to come to San Diego to live with me. We seemed to have everything in common, and time just stood still when we talked. The things he said to me over the next three months blew my mind. It was as if everything I ever wanted in a man was being presented to me in one neat package.

I fell hard, complete la-la land. No one could believe it. I had all the girls in my office immersed in this love drama that was now my life. They all wanted to read his emails and couldn't believe how open and amazing he was — not to mention good looking. We were all sure that this was fate. I see now that we were hopeless romantics, making up a lot of stuff in our heads instead of reading between the lines of the amazing emails.

The date was set, the tickets were purchased. I was beside myself. I couldn't sleep, only daydream of our first meeting with a mixture of excitement and, really, almost overwhelming fear. I couldn't help but think thoughts like, "What if he doesn't show up?" or, even worse, "What if he doesn't like me when he finally meets me?" Things started to seem strange when we talked on the phone — the reality of this situation was beginning to sink in.

Friday arrived, and I had put myself into a state of acceptance for whatever the outcome.

A friend of mine from work volunteered to be with me the whole day for moral support. Since he had lived in Ocean Beach, and I had a roommate in University Heights, I rented a room at the Ocean Beach Hotel and left my stuff there. My friend and I shopped for the perfect outfit for me to wear, and then we started my preparation. As we got closer and closer to the arrival time, I decided I needed a drink to take the edge off. We went to a bar on Newport.

Before I go any further, let me tell you a little more about Dean. His profile said that he had just returned from traveling around the world for three years. I asked him how he was able to afford this. He said that he would travel to a country, work while he was there, and then move on. Basically, he was a nomad. I thought this was great. I'm always attracted to this type of man: the nonconformist, the artist, the guy I guess I secretly wish I was like but am not. I plan everything, I'm organized, I have a secure job with a 401(k), but inside of me lives an artist, and I know this is why I am drawn to this type of man.

We arrived at the airport. It was packed, and I didn't see him. My friend and I just started laughing — this was the strangest experience ever. We walked up and down the terminal, and then I saw this guy with curly blond hair. My friend asked, "Is that him?" I said, "Yes," very quietly. She took my purse and sort of pushed me, "Go." I slowly walked over; he turned around. "Dean?" "Heather?" We hugged. After the hug I was fine. I felt at ease.

We went to the hotel room. He showered, and I sat and waited, on

cloud nine. We had sex, and it was pretty good. A little awkward, but overall it was good. He wasn't really passionate; in fact he was kind of aggressive, but I went with the moment. We got some food and brought it back to the room and then had sex again. He fell asleep pretty early. I was starting to realize that he wasn't very verbal. I wasn't getting "You're beautiful" or "I'm so glad to be with you, finally" like I had imagined. I lay awake next to him most of the night.

Saturday morning arrived, and I could feel him shut himself off the moment we woke up. We lay in that bed and watched TV from ten in the morning until ten that night! I knew it was over. It was torture trying to get him to talk to me. I asked him if he was happy to be here. "Of course," he said. I knew that he was freaking out; it was so apparent.

Sunday rolled around, and he said that he wanted to go see a friend of his in O.B. I was happy to have a breather from the situation. He was gone most of the day. Monday morning was weird — we talked a little, and then he started to look upset and said he needed to go take a walk to think. He left, and there I was, alone in that hotel room, and I started to get angry. I packed up my stuff and decided, "This is it, I have to leave, this is not going to get any better." I started smoking my brains out, trying to figure out what the hell had happened here. I started to call a cab, then I thought, "No, I deserve a damn explanation."

I waited. I sat on the balcony at the end of the hotel and stared at the ocean, freezing and smoking. Just as I decided I couldn't take it anymore, he returned. He started

fumbling around with my iPod and tried to make small talk. I could tell that he was nervous. He finally came over and sat beside me on the bed and said that he felt that he wasn't ready to commit to someone, that he's been traveling for the past three years and doesn't think he can stay in one place. He knows that it sounds cliché, but it's him, not me. He thinks that I'm an amazing person, and he respects me, but he's used to taking care of just himself, and maybe he's just meant to be alone.

Lame! I asked, "Did you not know this about yourself before you decided to fly halfway around the world to meet me?" I didn't want to show him how much he was hurting me, and I definitely didn't want him to see me cry, so after giving him a little speech I called a cab. He pulled me over to him and hugged me around the waist, his head buried in my stomach, for what seemed like forever. I realized that he was a broken and confused guy with no idea what he was doing in his life. I had fallen hook, line, and sinker into this fantasy, and so had he. The difference between us is that I had the ability to try to make it real, and he did not.

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BACK WHEN

In the Reader

Thirty Years Ago

It's 1:30 a.m. Standing beside a pair of pay phones and a silver train of piggybacked carts, you figure you're ready for Mayfair Market's morning crowd. The store lights up a quiet section of Hillcrest at night. It sits just north-west of Balboa Park, in the grid formed by Fifth, Robinson, Sixth, and Pennsylvania avenues. Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, it is the last remaining all-night Mayfair in San Diego.

—**"MAYFAIR AFTER MIDNIGHT,"** Bill Owens,
February 23, 1978

Twenty-Five Years Ago

I have only one serious question to ask Paul Krueger about his article on the Maureen O'Connor for Mayor campaign ("The Inside Story," February 10). How could he write an entire story on the organization and/or lack of it without once visiting our campaign headquarters or talking to our volunteers and staff? No one can convince me that any campaign has the caliber of dedicated and competent volunteers that we do.

—LETTERS: **"AND ONE EQUALLY SERIOUS ANSWER,"**
Colleen O'Connor, O'Connor for Mayor
Committee, February 24, 1983

Twenty Years Ago

You may speak a handful of languages. For a time, each one will possess you. Stay with you forever. On your deathbed, you may moan or cry out in several. People at your side will ask in vain for others to translate.

However proficient you have been with its verbs, genders, and tenses, a language knows you even more intimately. It has held your lips, teeth, palate, and tongue to its roof. It has breathed with you from your throat; deserted you in anger, left you sputtering, mute; embarrassed you before those you have sought to impress; returned fluidly in romance to lasso and draw a disgruntled lover back from the doorway to sit again at the edge of the bed.

—**"TIJUANA, MI AMOR,"** Abe Opincar,
February 25, 1988

Fifteen Years Ago

First off, I remain impressed by the post-punk invective of the ever-sensitive and musically eclectic Gina Arnold, whose broad-minded reviews continue to be as garish, bitchy, personal, and beside the point as those of her critical father, Rex Reed. The funny part, to me, is that there was very little mention of music in her review. We learn that the Gine-

ster has a fetishlike yen for knobby knees. We discover that she does not care for headbands.

—LETTERS: **"GINA'S WEIRD PATERNITY BATTLE**
CONTINUES," February 25, 1993

Ten Years Ago

The late Larry Lawrence's reputation may be in tatters, but that of his beloved Hotel del Coronado is barely dented from its encounter with President Bill Clinton. In fact, the Del's new owner, a pension-fund manager from L.A., is hyping the hotel's connection to the "Big Creep," as Monica Lewinsky reportedly called him, on its "new and improved" website. Actually, Clinton spent most of his time at Lawrence's beachside mansion, Crown Manor, down the street from the hotel.

—CITY LIGHTS: **"CASH VACUUM,"** Matt Potter,
February 26, 1998

Five Years Ago

When Judge William Mudd sentenced David Westerfield to death on January 3 of this year, Westerfield joined a special subset of San Diegans. Of the 616 inmates on California's death row, 21, including Westerfield, were convicted and sentenced in America's Finest City. A Linda Vista man murdered the pretty young mother of two tiny boys, cut off her head and



San Diego Reader, February 20, 2003

hands, and dumped her body near Pine Valley in 1979. A Chula Vista couple, the only husband and wife currently on death row, tortured their four-year-old niece in 1995, then burned her to death in a bathtub full of scalding water. A North County woman, angry about the men in her life, shot her four sons point-blank in the head in 1997, stopping once to reload. Who are these people in Mr. Westerfield's new neighborhood?

—**"WHAT MADE THEM KILL,"** Leslie Ryland,
February 20, 2003

Columns archived at SDReader.com

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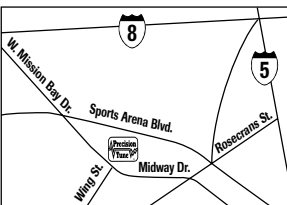


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BLOG DIEGO

POST DATE: September 17, 2007
POST TITLE: Kokeshi 101
Kokeshi is the name for a traditional Japanese doll usually representing a woman or girl. Made from wood, they are originally believed to have been created for tourists visiting hot springs in the Tohoku region of North Eastern Japan. There are two types of Kokeshi, "Traditional" (Dento) and "Creative" (Shingata). "Traditional Kokeshi" production has been handed down from teacher to pupil, from the Edo period (1603–1868) to the present day. A set technique in creation and painting style is what sets it apart from the "Creative Kokeshi," which is based on the artist's creativity. These are one-of-a-kind pieces, inspired more from the imagination than tradition. Creative Kokeshi become popular after WWII.

POST DATE: September 19, 2007
POST TITLE: My Favorite Mino
One of my favorite Kokeshi reminds me of the little boy in Yannick Puig's animation "I Lived on the Moon." The artist's name is Muhitsu Yokige. The outer wrapping of the doll is called a "mino." Sometimes actual straw is used, and other times, as in the example above, the wood is carved as a separate shell.
"[The *mino*]" is an article of clothing worn to protect the farmers and rural peoples of the mountains from rain and snow." — *Kokeshi: Wooden Treasures of Japan*
[This is] the only English language book on Kokeshi. I hope to

change that by having my own book published with all the the art from the Kokeshi group art show I'm curating.

POST DATE: October 30, 2007
POST TITLE: Vinyl Pulse & Designer Toys
In case you haven't figured it out yet, I am an admirer of the designer toy scene. Honestly though, most of the pieces are created by and for men...and I prefer more sugary sweet stuff. So I have been rather picky on what I collect, and only buy pieces that really impress me. Artists whose toys I tend to be most drawn towards are: Nathan Jurevicius (Scary Girl), Rolitoland, Tim Biskup (older stuff), Gary Baseman, Tara McPherson and J. Neth. The designer toy market is what inspired me to put the custom Kokeshi show together; I wanted to influence the scene with a little more femininity, something a little softer. But don't worry, some manly pieces managed to work their way in there... something for everyone. Vinyl Pulse just posted about the Kokeshi event and I'm quite thrilled. They have tons of updates about designer toys. Check them out.

TITLE: Twinklings | ADDRESS: 2winks.blogspot.com
AUTHOR: Christina Conway | FROM: Hillcrest | BLOGGING SINCE: September 2007

POST DATE: November 8, 2007
POST TITLE: Kokeshi Art Opening @ Subtext
THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT CAME TO THE OPENING!!! It was a fabulous night



and I am very proud of this incredible show. My warmest thank you to all those that made this project possible!

POST DATE: November 9, 2007
POST TITLE: Insight to Kokeshi Project
A while back I was interviewed by Hoa Quach, a journalist for a local Asia-based newspaper. These are my answers, unedited and off-the-cuff. Enjoy!
What made you decide to get into this?
I have been slowly collecting designer vinyl toys for the past several years, and have always

wished there were more feminine, positive images and varied art styles being applied on the toys. I grew up loving Hello Kitty back before you could easily find items with her image. Now it's everywhere, I'm a *bit* more grown up, and I want to surround myself with items that have a deeper value than just a cute character. Something you don't see every day. Don't get me wrong; I still appreciate "cute." :) I've always been a fan of tactile art, and especially love work that is straight from the artist's hands. The Kokeshi is a perfect combination of the two.

The inspiration for working on the Kokeshi was from my personal collection (a whole TWO dolls), and wondering why it hadn't been done before. It's the ultimate "designer toy." The Kokeshi group show came about when I approached a local gallery, Subtext, with my idea.
Have you done exhibits at such a large scale before?
Originally, I thought I might have around 30 artists in the Kokeshi show. But the response was so positive, I quickly saw that I could start getting many more artists if I wanted...When Subtext Gallery proposed making

the show an annual event, I could relax about not being able to include everyone I wanted this year. At final count, we have 78 artists and 85 custom Kokeshi dolls for the show. I already have a list of over 60 new artists I want to invite next year. This is the largest show I have curated, but really, I have only worked on a couple before this one, and so I do not have too many to compare it to.

POST DATE: January 26, 2008
POST TITLE: Kokeshi Today
Sorry for the serious delay on the update to the Kokeshi show from Subtext Gallery. All the unsold dolls have moved on to Nucleus Gallery and Munky King Melrose, both in the greater Los Angeles area. You can find the Kokeshi being displayed and available for sale in both shops. They are truly incredible to see in person; don't miss this second opportunity to view these mini-masterpieces. I continue to find my Kokeshi project in the news... seems artists are being inspired to create their own, and every day more and more people find images from the show on the Net. Well, in the very near future you can find a sweet article and pictures in a more physical form! *Hi*Fructose* magazine has put together a little somethin' for your reading pleasure outside of the Internet. Yay! I'm so proud! Also, I was just told that the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles has approved their very own Kokeshi show, with me playing curator. I'm thrilled to bits and bits.

Got a blog you'd like to flog? Send your best stuff — around 900 words' worth — to FlogYourBlog@SanDiegoReader.net. If we run your posts, we'll send you \$50.

Photo

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INDIAN ARROWHEADS/ARTIFACTS. Must be authentic. Call Steve at 619-985-8562.

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tom shelf, excellent condition, \$150 cash. Call for picture, 619-867-6767.

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FAINTING COUCH, authentic, turn-of-the-century antique, dark walnut with gold velvet fabric, \$675. Amy, 619-231-0030.

LAMPS, pair vintage, 32"H, shade is 17"L, crystals around the base, excellent condition, \$50 cash. Premoving sale. 619-867-6767.

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MAGNIFYING GLASS, antique brass, hand held, 10x, with stand, ornate with fine detail, 16"H, \$60. 760-635-7525.

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LEMON GROVE. Multifamily sale. Saturday, 2/23, 8am. Stainless steel electric stove, stainless steel underhood microwave, large-to-small women's clothing, collectibles, sofa, bookcase, lots more. 1680 Larwood Road.

MIRA MESA. Moving sale. Saturday/Sunday, 2/16-2/17, 9am-3pm. Sofas with recliners, tables/chairs, china hutch, and more furniture. 9055 Three Seasons Road.

OCEANSIDE. Moving sale, Friday 2/22, Saturday 2/23, 8am-3pm. Furniture, 42" projection TV, tools, clothing, upholstery fabric remnants, books. 5472 Loganberry Way, Oceanside, 92057.

OLD TOWN. Garage sale. Saturday, 2/23, 9am. TV, collectibles, electronics, knick-knacks, sporting goods, tools, hardware, holsters, clothing, household goods, leather goods, purses. 4111 Mason Street.

PACIFIC BEACH. Huge garage sale. Saturday, 2/23, 7am. Kitchen items/appliances, queen bed, linens, purses, end table set, bath items, clothing, TV. 1500 block Reed.

PACIFIC BEACH. Yard sale. Sunday, 2/24, 8am-1pm. Benefit AIDS in Africa. Lots of great stuff, clothes, appliances, furniture, music, books. Corner Roosevelt and Sequoia Streets.

SOUTH PARK. Yard sale. 2/23-2/24, 7am-noon. Plants, plants, plants, succulents, bikes, dresser, miscellaneous items. 1744 Edgemont Street (92102).

TALMADGE. Musical garage sale! Saturday 2/23, 8am-2pm. All things musical, drums, drum hardware, cymbals, guitars, speakers, amps, cables, etc. 4749 Natalie Drive, 619-341-0720.

APPLIANCES

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COMPUTER DESK, office/wall/corner unit, 7 piece, custom solid wood, natural finish, beautiful, arrange to fit space, \$900. E-mail pictures. Vista, 760-519-5926.

COUCH AND LOVE SEAT, 2 years old, look new, comfortable, with throw pillows, sand color, \$600. Glass dining table, 4 chairs, look new, \$300. tonyebarb@yahoo.com.

DAYBED/FUTON, Bunkbed/trundle-heavy duty, very universal, space saver, can separate, \$80/best/trade. 619-670-8356.

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MATTRESS SET, queen pillowtop, great shape, cost \$799 new, now \$150. Can e-mail pictures. Vista, 760-941-0541.

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CLOTHING. CC Filson, high-quality men's clothing, photographers vest and bush jacket, both like new, \$75 each. Men's small Tony Lama boots, 8-1/2D, \$75. 619-260-8482.

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. 858-277-197.

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DIAPERS, adult size, 50 cents each. 760-233-9520.

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ICE SKATES, men's 11-2/3, quality ladies' leather jacket, large, DVDs, videos, books, movie stills, autographs, derby hat, microwave oven, record albums. 619-420-1028.

JACUZZI BUBBLE SPA, by Homedics, for the bathtub, new, with remote and pillow, still in the box, \$65. 619-466-8663.

LABORATORY BENCH, Unistrut steel frame with 3'x6" table top and 1 shelf above and 1 below, ideal for electronics and light mechanical, \$95. 858-245-1643.

LAWN MOWER, gas, needs work, \$15. Electric edger, \$2. 22 plastic seed trays, \$5 all. 16 flower pots, ceramic, clay, \$25 all. 760-685-8291.

LEAF BLOWER, Echo backpack, \$175. Pool cleaning/testing tools, \$60. Microwave, \$20. Soft luggage for top of car, \$45. 619-339-7318.

LUGGAGE, bought in Paris, France, 3 pieces, never used, all on wheels, \$75. 619-466-1887.

MICKY MOUSE OLD PHONE, Collector. New in box. Antique French lord statue 13" pewter, brass teddy bear, \$15. Brass hi-top hat and small one \$15-\$45. 702-334-2350.

MICKY MOUSE OLD PHONE, Collector. Antique French lord statue 13" pewter, brass teddy bear, \$15. Brass hi-top hat and small one \$15, \$45. 702-334-2350.

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MISCELLANEOUS. Overhead projector, \$45. Gram scale, triple beam, \$45. Makita drill, 12V, \$50. Artist easle fold-up case, \$45. 619-449-8069.

MISCELLANEOUS. Extension ladder, aluminum, 30'H, \$45. Garden tools, \$7 each. Electric extension cords, different sizes, \$35 to 3 each. Cash only. 619-582-0096.

MODEL AIRPLANE, B-29 bomber, 4 engines, RC, \$95. Still in box, 619-574-7530.

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THERE'S THAT OLD SENTIMENT that the world would be monumentally better off if a list of people received a hefty ass beating. You know what I mean. Everyone has their own list. Your list might bear the name of a former or current president, boyfriend, boss, fellow commuter, or barista.

Don't be ashamed of your list. Don't pretend that you don't have a list. You may not have it written down or memorized by heart, but let a flippant, stringbean skateboarder bail off the sidewalk, cut across three lanes of traffic, and show no signal of interaction with the rest of society save his erect middle finger, and you'll think to yourself "Coming in this week at number one, with a bullet!"

The thing is, you could be right about your list. I am very sure that the world would shine a little brighter if the exclusive members of my list were handed portions of their own face. Having some formidable being or group push your head in a little imparts a lesson. Perhaps that lesson is only humility, but there it is.

Until a few days ago, I had never entertained the possibility that *my name* might fall on or even *head* someone's list. Although, it makes perfect sense. I'm a rampaging bastard most waking hours and there is that string of ex-girlfriends. You know, 1 + 1, ABC, apples and apples, all that. The concept lays in plain view, but I never bothered to look.

I couldn't believe that civilization would be better off, especially as seen from my own perspective, if a hot portion of snot, blood, and tears were dexterously forced from my head and scattered about in a vigorous manner, but it's true; the world and I are a little pinker because of the wailing I received today.

I'll spare you the details. To ease your mind a little, this wasn't a chance mishap on the streets of our city. I was in Muay Thai kickboxing class. Professionals watched, alert. Precautions were employed.

In short, I now lie back on a heap of pillows, watching television through the V of my feet. My face flourishes with a purple bruise on the cheek, and a cut bleeds from my left ear. Ice and blankets simultaneously cool and warm different parts of my aching body. I'm smiling, humble now.

Someone's list is one name shorter, and a bird flutters and flaps on the sunny fence outside my window.

WHAT I WILL AND WON'T WATCH THIS WEEK

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 21

THE VIEW

ABC 10:00 A.M.

Welcome to *The View*: a show by women for women. A show in which women cat-fight off screen, gang up to get one of the cast fired, then pretend nothing happened. We can't stand to look at each other's faces, but we hold hands and sip tea and pretend to be sisters. *The View*, the first real show about women...you just have to pay attention to the subtext and rumor.

KUSI NEWS AT 6

KUSI 6:00 P.M. (DUH, IT'S RIGHT THERE IN THE NAME.)

Mute your TV when you watch the news. Reading only the anchor people's body language you'll believe that the top stories are, "Tonight! There's a citywide sale on hairspray, orange

pancake makeup, and arrogance. Coming up! Rigor mortis attacks the living. But first! How to shake your head slightly when you talk to give emphasis to what you say!"

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 22

NBA BASKETBALL

ESPN 7:30 P.M.

I can play basketball about as well as a dinosaur can ride a bicycle. I want time to think. I need to stand there for a second to contemplate my next move, and I do not need that guy waving his arms in my face while I do it. I do like the ball, though. Yes, basketball is dumb. I should invent a game in which the people are spread apart, we're given time to think, and there's no danger of collision, but the ball is still in play — maybe rolled. Perhaps with sandwiches and naps. Yes, this is much bet-

ter. I've improved basketball immensely.

SATURDAY

FEBRUARY 23

BARNEY AND FRIENDS

PBS 9:30 A.M.

Remember Snorks? They were like this undersea version of Smurfs, only you'd have to be retarded or foreign to watch the little imposters' show or buy their tainted products. There was that one kid in class with a Snork sticker on his Trapper Keeper, but he also drank chocolate soda and ate Miracle Whip sandwiches. Gaw, those people piss me off. Later in life they occupy the cubicle next to yours and want to talk to you about cats. Ugh, Snork people.

MY DAD IS BETTER THAN YOUR DAD

NBC 8:00 P.M.

Has it come to this? In 1927, John Logie Baird, using existing technology and a little invention, built a box that received and displayed moving images. It was the first modern television. When he lay down at night I'll bet he wondered if his invention would bring education and information to poor or remote regions. This, Mr. Baird. This is what we've done with it.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 24

ULTIMATE RECIPE SHOWDOWN

FOOD 5:00 P.M.

If I had a cooking show it'd be the highest rated cooking show ever. My show would be called *Buxom Women Cook Bacon!* The premise of the show is simple and the title is surprisingly descriptive. It has everything. I mean everything. It's bacon very near cleavage. What else is there? I'll tell you what else. The occasional ninja. Bam! Take that, Emeril. With your goofy front teeth.

MONDAY FEBRUARY 25

HAPPY DAYS

CASD4 4:00 P.M.

I may have devised an end to global warming and our nation's obese-and-unemployed-children epidemic. You can run an electric heater in your chilly bathroom and an air conditioner over your sweltering bed at the same time. All you have to do is stand at your window, snap



My Dad Is Better Than Your Dad

a whip every hour or so, and scream, "Get those legs pumping, Ramón! This treadmill generator isn't going to run itself!"

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 26

THE ELLEN DEGENERES SHOW

NBC 3:00 P.M.

America needs a program featuring Ellen DeGeneres talking about her opinions and life about as much as my third-grade class needed my drunk mom to put that bag of paperclips in the birthday cupcake mix. Mmmm...made with prescription medication, homemade gin, and love. I helped!

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 27

MERV GRIFFIN'S CROSSWORDS

ABC 4:00 P.M.

Merv Griffin is one of those ubiquitous names you only partially recognize. He may have been a low-level crooner from Frank Sinatra's era or he might've breached the surface of national popularity as a nightly news anchor between the eras of Cronkite and Brokaw. You don't know. All you know is one time you heard a rumor about the length of "Merv Junior."

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 28

JUDGE DAVID YOUNG

FOX 3:00 P.M.

Oh, super. Just the other day I told my neighbor, I said to her, "You know what I'd really love? Another half hour fake-judge show because there aren't already HUNDREDS broadcast each day on a thousand channels in a dozen different languages. Cram the gavel and robe into my open mouth and stand on my face to force the wad in." That's what I said.

MOVING SALE,
aquarium/stand,
washer/dryer, TV's/stands, stereo, entertainment center, recliner, dining, coffee, and end tables, beds, dressers, bikes, vacuum, files, 619-670-7821.

NORMAN ROCKWELL PLATES. Beautiful plates, still in box with certificates. \$15/each. Call Jodi, 619-670-5734.

PLUMBING. Cobra model 99018, cable drum machine. 5/16"x35" slotted end cable \$125, still in box. 619-574-7530.

RC CAR, beautiful red Ferrari, 1/10 scale, precise, fast, \$95. Still in box. 619-574-7530.

RESTAURANT KITCHEN EQUIPMENT, Components for Protex II L3000 fire extinguisher system for exhaust hood and

Amerivent swamp cooler for makeup air system. \$750. 858-566-4231.

SCREEN DOOR, wood, 81.5"x36" frame, ranch style and brown maple stain color, new, \$80. 619-579-0592.

SHELVING UNIT, 5'x6'x17", adjustable shelves, use in den, living/bedroom, garage, \$100. Ladies' vest, small black suede leather, excellent, \$10. Painting,

watercolor, landscape, \$25. 619-434-2028.

SHOE COLLECTION. Originally \$100 prices. Size 10N. Great styles, skins, flats, boots, cheap. Must sell. Leave message, 760-753-6996.

SHOWER/TUB sliding enclosure doors, like new, 28"x54", \$45. 858-748-2181.

STEEL BUILDINGS, 30'x40'. 40'x60'. 50'x100'. Advertising discount. Prices limited. Up to 50% off. Can erect. Call Larry, 619-719-7385.

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HONDA CL100 CLASSIC, 1971, 95% restored, runs and looks great, too much to list. \$1200/best. 619-460-6024.

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Honda, Kawasaki, Suzuki, Yamaha. Credit cards accepted, low prices. House Calls Motorcycle Repair, 800-481-6531. www.housecallsmotorcyclerepair.com.

YAMAHA ROYAL STAR VENTURE, 2000, full factory loaded bike, 98hp, V-4 engine, gorgeous 2-tone red, 1 owner, 21K miles, 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 conditioning, power brakes, steering, seats, \$4995. 858-277-4039.

CADILLAC SEVILLE STS, 1993. Metallic green with Northstar system. Beige leather interior. Mind condition, all original silver wheels, new paint job. Digital dashboard. \$4500, 619-741-7557.

CHEVY LUMINA, 4 door sedan, silver-grey, good condition, 82,000 miles, \$3499, 760-598-6906, rfort27@hotmail.com.

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 ACCORD, 1998, great deal, economic car, just painted, looks new inside and out, 112K miles, Kelley Blue Book \$6095, asking only \$5600. 619-602-9703.

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KIA SPORTAGE, 2000, 4 door, good condition, 122K miles, blue, minor scratches, roof rack, power windows, tinted, tan fabric interior, automatic, alarm, smogged, \$3100. 858-869-7562.

LINCOLN CONTINENTAL, 1991. Silver, classic luxury car, low mileage, power everything. One owner, all original parts, mint condition. Must see to believe \$3500, 619-741-7557.

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MITSUBISHI GALANT ES, 1999, motivated owner, must sell, immaculate condition, expertly maintained, \$5000/best. 858-220-4643.

MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE GT, 2000. V-6. Fully loaded. Original owner. Major maintenance required to 120K completed. Very clean, 94,000 miles. Registration

paid through 2008. \$7400/best. 619-448-7150.

NISSAN SENTRA, 2004, sedan, gas saver. Automatic, loaded. Excellent condition, low 50,000 miles. Financing available \$8988. Call Nick now 619-337-1995, other great deals at www.nicksautogroup.com.

TOYOTA CAMRY, 1988. Auto, air conditioning, no stereo, 4 door, 144,000 miles. Runs good, \$1350/firm price 619-200-7596.

VW JETTA GLS, 2001, dealer maintained, registered to 8/08, passed smog, 99K miles, 4 cylinder, 5 speed, luxury leather package, air bags, tinted, \$7000. 760-315-1198.

VW PASSAT GLS, 2001. V-6, 81,431 miles, blue exterior, gray leather interior, automatic 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, original owner, 98K miles, 350 4 bbl, automatic, air conditioning, all paperwork, owner's manual, \$3000. 619-573-5047.

CHEVY MARK III 1500, 1997 van, clean title, recent smog, 163K miles, no rear seats, extra cargo space, well maintained, cruise, power, \$4200/best. Armin, 818-470-4144.

CHEVY PICKUP, 1993. 4.6 longbed V6 white, new battery, starter. CD player, alarm, runs and looks good, \$2800/best, 619-920-3362.

CHEVY SUBURBAN 1500LT, 1999. All repair records. Replaced transmission. All oil changes/tune-ups, done on time. Premium sound/wheels leather. Brakes good condition, \$8100, 760-448-5527.

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, extended, 12-15 passengers, tow, V10, very reliable, looks good, air bags, am/fm stereo, rear air conditioning, tilt, \$6000. Sandra, 619-405-7955.

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- Cliff Brown Automotive **\$10 off any service over \$50**
- Convoy Auto Repair **Tune-up \$29.95**
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- Five Star Customs **Window tint \$199**
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- International Auto Service **Brake service \$48 plus parts**
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- Lutz Tire & Auto **Free bumper-to-bumper diagnostic**
- Mission Gorge Auto **Rebuilt engines \$899**
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- West Coast Auto Glass **\$149.95 windshield replacement**
- Xpert Paint & Body **\$50 off bumper repair**

T.G.I.F.

So much comedy listed, so little in my life.

By John Brizzolara

San Diego Theatresports: The Funhouse (6822 El Cajon Boulevard) When: Fridays at 7:45 p.m. Saturdays at 7:45 p.m. Saturdays at 9:45 p.m. "A cross between improvisational comedy and *Family Feud*, the Funhouse combines improv with competitive scene-making, with the audience awarding points to the winning team. Purists might balk at the odiousness of comparisons used in this format, but the 'game show,' on Fridays, is a kick. The 90-minute evening offers different bits. The winner gets a banana, the loser a 'forfeit.' Some attempts went nowhere (improv is tough: I did it in my, as hind-sight 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, its art.'"

This is taken directly — in all its anonymity — off of an events page on the Net. So much comedy listed, so little in my life. Maybe that's why I'm snuffling around events pages. Oh, it's my job and I'm trying to do it — not with one hand tied behind my back, but with one elevated and broken foot in a cast. I can't go anywhere except vicariously. Still, I suspect I knew subconsciously that humor lurked behind these Web addresses. Maybe it is enough to know that it is going on somewhere nearby. And while one can only speculate on the degree of hilarity in store, the above paragraph offers one very

promising morsel in its last line.

I say this/type this despite the fact that I not only found *Family Feud* to be unfunny every time I checked, but pretty much all game shows except in deliberate comedy contexts. *Saturday Night Live*, for example, riffing on some game show (I forgot which) renaming whatever it was *Damn, You're Grizzled!* No idea who came up with this one, but it was perfect for guest/host Robert Duvall, who won the final round with the penultimately grizzled statement — and I must paraphrase: "On that day at Omaha Beach in Normandy in June of 1945, never did I want so badly for a God to exist; never was I so certain he did not." I'd say art and comedy dovetail perfectly right there. Another was on *Sesame Street* with a self-explanatory title: "You Bet Your Life, Really."

Which brings me to my own Chuck Barris-like *Gong Show* concept, a cross between the game show and reality television, again with a pretty self-explanatory title: "Things Can't Get Any Worse." This is an evolved, television version of the book I was compiling in the early 1970s until I was overwhelmed with what a mother lode I had tapped. The book was "Why Dwell on It? 1001 Depressing and Little Known Facts." I got 46 or 47 facts written down before I went into hibernation for the rest of the '70s, only to reemerge and find that Ronald Reagan was actually the president of the United States. The seemingly endless supply of microbiology truisms alone that I had stumbled across in a scientific encyclopedia under "parasites" had left me paralyzed. And then, at just about that same time, John Updike came along with *The Witches of Eastwick* and a passage where Daryl Van Horne, as the devil, gives a guest sermon at a New England church, taking as his text the exact pages I had been copying from. I decided this information was better off in the hands of Updike and could be easily dismissed as grisly fiction, thus preventing epidemic suicides.

"The Funhouse," it says above, "combines improv with competitive scene-making." What an opportunity for a certain ex-girlfriend. Angie would qualify, I'm sure, as a highly competitive scene-maker, and as far as improvisation, she could reinvent the past in astonishing detail as if she were a refugee from Orwell's *1984*. I have not heard from her in ten years, but that wording above somehow triggers a paranoia that I would run into her at the Funhouse and God knows how she remembers that salad-tossing incident at sea with the aerobics instructor, Tina, in 1989. She probably has it all worked out by now that it was my fault.

Rereading the promotional 'graph above, another concept occurs to me, courtesy of *Sesame Street*. What about *Family Feud, Really?* This would involve real family members pitted against each other, rather than two rival families; in other words, not the Hatfields and McCoys but Hatfields vs. Hatfields or



McCoys vs. McCoys. Ideally, the contestants would be unarmed or at least ostensibly unarmed. It would be artfully arranged every week that one or more family members produces a secreted shiv with which he may stab a sibling, spouse, in-law, or parent in the back. This would be a surprise every week just as eruptions of violence on *Jerry Springer* are a surprise every week. Of course, the stabbings (or throttlings or beatings or kickings) are the raison d'être for the game, but we conspire to pretend they are not.

A sample of this dynamic at work would be as follows:

Host: All right. Team A. First generation. You go first. Who is buried in Grant's tomb?
Dave (captain of team A/older generation): That would be the Dewey Decimal System, Bob.
Gladys (Dave's wife and team A member): You stupid son of a bitch.
Biff (team B captain and son of Dave): Look out, Dad. She's got a knife! (Reaching for it.)
Dave: Aaarrgh.... Get me my razor, son. Back pocket.
 [And so on. Theme music swells: upbeat, goofy, and very funny.]

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FORD F-150, 2001. 4x4 super crew, 5.4L, 37" BFG's, custom wheels, 110,000 highway miles. Bed extender, tow package. Clean inside/out. Must sell, \$14,500, 858-572-5671.

FORD F150 XLT SUPERCAB, 2002. 4.6L V-8, black, grille guard, running boards, bed rails, bed liner, power everything, K&N filter, new tires, awesome, \$7997. 619-246-9841.

FORD RANGER, 1994. 5 speed, air conditioning, needs shocks, runs perfectly, great little work truck or? \$1500. 619-792-6222.

FORD RANGER XLT, 2002. Dark blue. 34,500 miles. Original owner, 4-cylinder standard, air conditioning, DVD. Extra large hardshell. Excellent except for minor scratches, \$7295/best, 619-865-7088.

ISUZU RODEO, 1995, well kept SUV, excellent condition, new tires, brakes, runs great, will run forever, 4x4, snowboard

racks, good sound system, moonroof, \$3400. 805-259-6870.

JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE, 1995, 4x4 Laredo, 8 cylinder, power windows, doors, locks, mirrors, towing package, original owner, maintenance records, always garaged, never wrecked, \$3685/best. 760-765-2968.

TOYOTA 4RUNNER SR5, 1991, V-6, rebuilt, white, 4x4, new tires, reliable, nice looking, \$2450. Boat, nice 13' fiberglass open fishing boat on trailer, extras, \$675. 858-581-6223.

TRAILER, 2006 Carson flat bed, 8'x18', dual axle, 7000lbs. GVWR, 11" side rails with ramp, \$3200/best. 619-840-8604.

VW POP-UP CAMPER VAN, 1972, beautiful Westfalia, excellent condition, newer red and white paint, rebuilt engine, runs great, bed, table, sink, refrigerator, potty, \$8000. 215-284-0852.

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VW CAMPER VAN, 1966, sweet, split window, pull-out bed, table, shelves, icebox, spice rack, 1600 dual port motor, rides great, new brakes/bearings, \$11,000. 858-437-3690.

VW CONVERTIBLE, 1970. The Karman beetle a complete restoration including new pans. The engine has less than 300 miles. White, tan canvass top/interior, 619-871-1083.

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ALFA SEEYA MOTORHOME, 2003. 40', Allison 3000 MH 6 speed. XC Freightliner

chassis, leather sofa sleeper, 3 TVs. Selling due to wife's condition, \$100,000, 858-945-3145.

FORD 350 COACHMAN, 1988. Class C, 28'. Runs great, very clean. New refrigerator and tune-up, \$8000/best, 760-791-7277.

MOTOR HOME, 2002 Pleasure Way, 29K miles, below Blue Book, \$35,000 cash. 619-669-4931.

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powerful amp, 2 channel, 400 very clean watts, \$125/best. 619-920-4313.

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WANTED: Radiator for 1998 Astro 4.3. Starter for 1998 Astro 4.3. Starter for 2001 GMC Sonoma pickup, 4 cylinder. Receiver for a tow hitch. 760-233-9520.

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