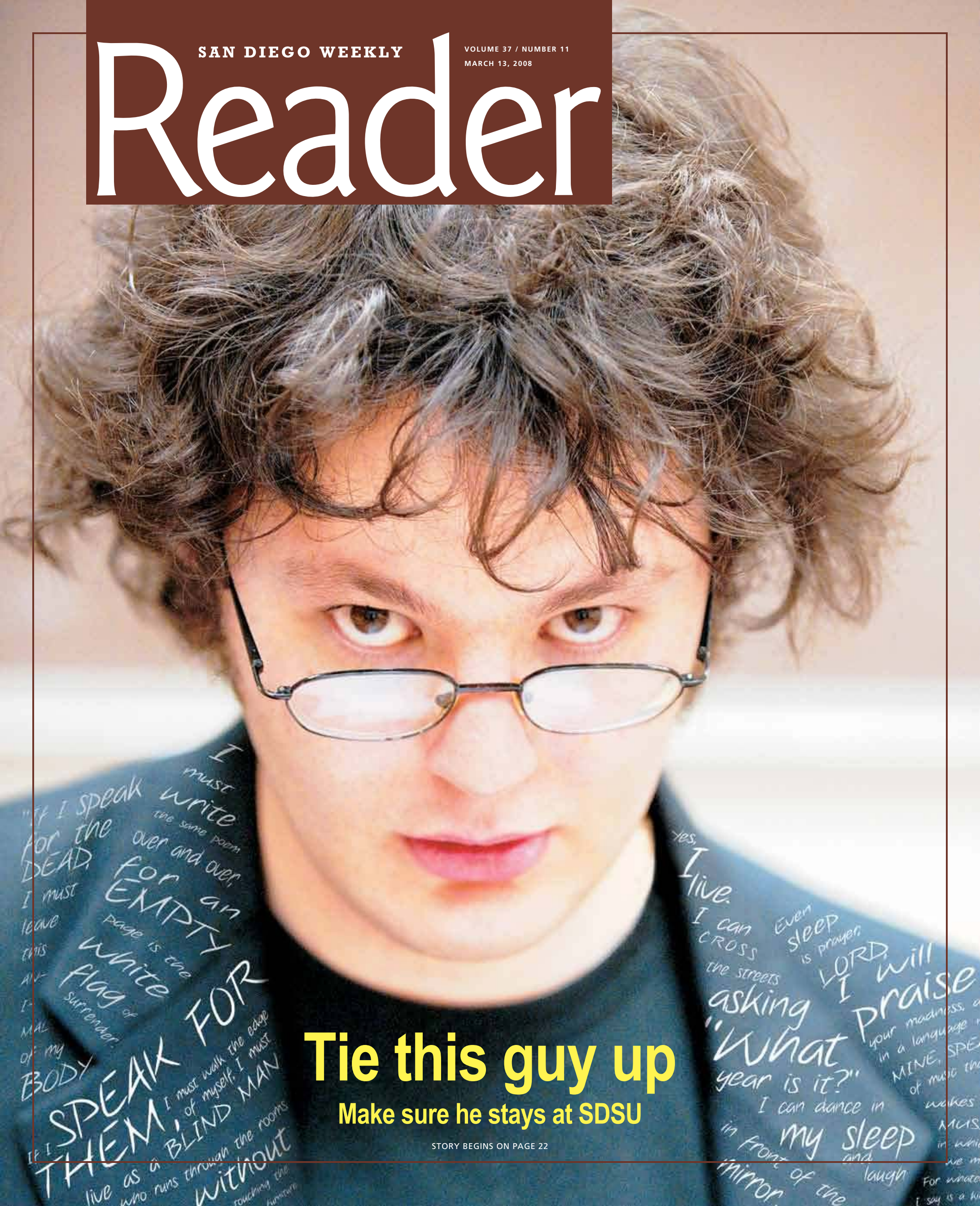


Reader

SAN DIEGO WEEKLY

VOLUME 37 / NUMBER 11
MARCH 13, 2008



Tie this guy up

Make sure he stays at SDSU

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Brian Sheerin

**Mower might need you.
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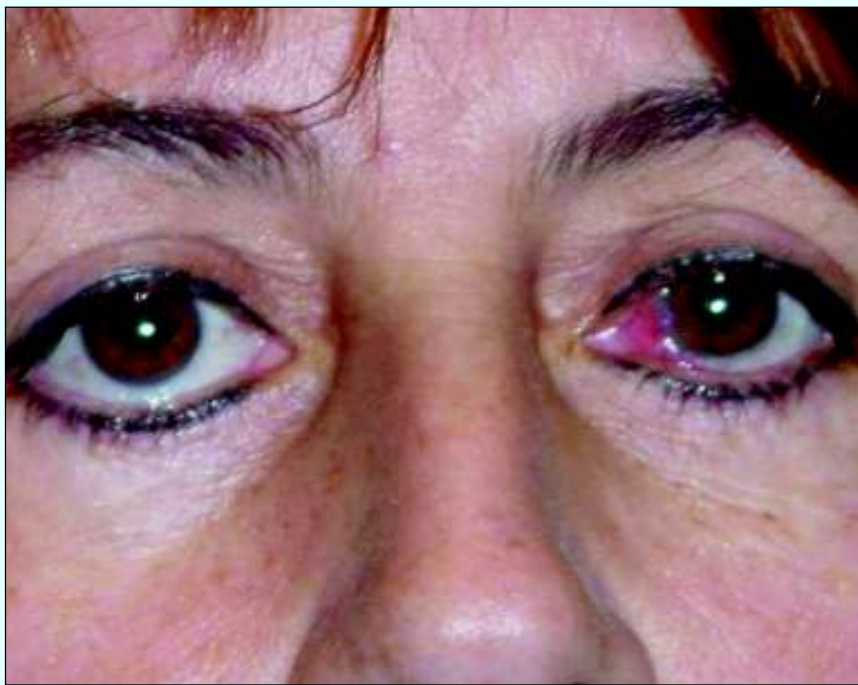
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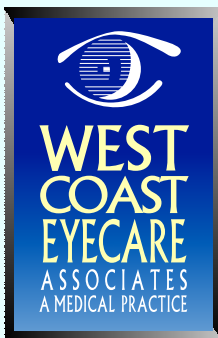
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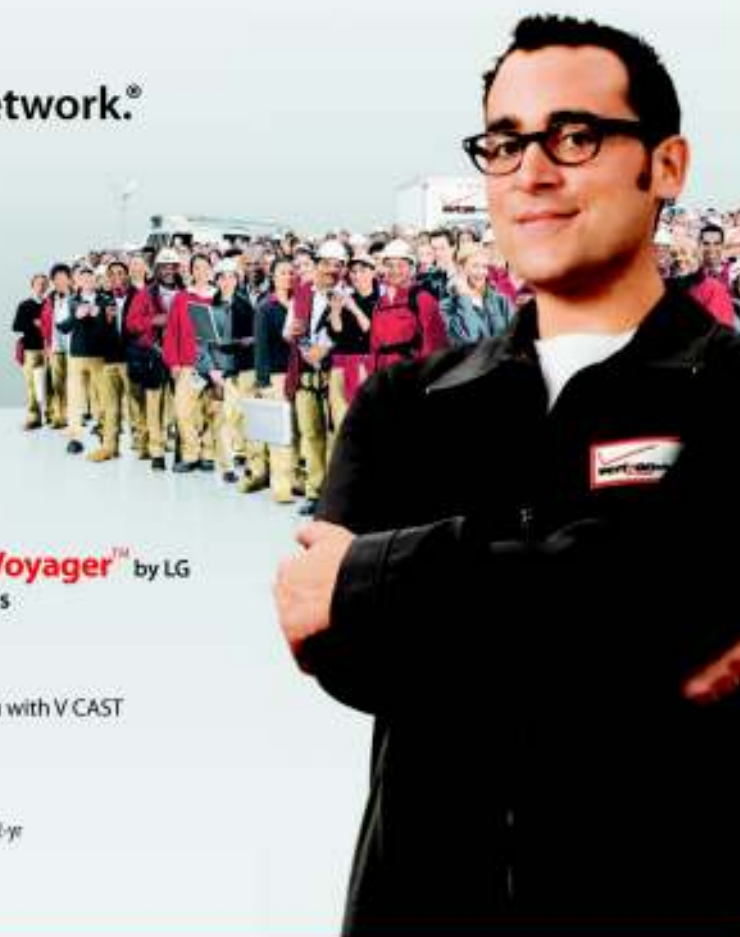


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BREAKING NEWS

Taxing education It's March, and that means it's again time for San Diego State



Stephen Weber

University Month, when the taxpayer-funded institution flexes its public relations muscle and shows off to local denizens what all that money is ostensibly buying, other than rowdy mini dorms and noisy traffic jams. With the state budget crisis worsening seemingly by the minute, it seems appropriate to review the salaries of SDSU's bigwig administrators, who take home far more than the county's median household income of less than \$50,000. Thanks to a new web service just mounted by the *Sacramento Bee*, citizens can look up the compensation of virtually every state employee, including those of Cal State, where a large number of administrators pull down well more than \$200,000 a year.

On SDSU's well-heeled list is white-bearded president **Stephen Weber**, with a base salary of \$299,435. (His executive assistant, **Lena Rodriguez**, also doesn't do too badly, picking up \$106,002.) Vice president for business and financial affairs **Sally Roush**, whom many see as the real power behind the sometimes-befuddled Weber, isn't far behind him at \$230,004. Provost **Nancy Marlin** earns \$235,002. **Doug Myrland**, who runs the university's KPBS broadcast arm, also somehow finds himself nestled comfortably in the school's well-paid administrative ranks at \$218,004. **Mary Ruth Carleton**, V.P. of university relations and development, gets \$225,000; student affairs vice president **James Kitchen** earns \$200,004.

A rung or two lower, business dean **Gail Naughton** makes \$195,000, and university PR man **Jack Beresford**, the brains behind the annual SDSU month, gets \$110,268. By comparison, urban planning expert **Nico Calavita**, a professor, only makes \$93,240. Similarly, rhetoric and writing prof **Cezar Ornatowski** gets just \$91,104.



Gail Naughton

Of course, with the state's hemorrhage of red ink, there's no reason to limit the search to the city's academic institutions. Judges are also included on the list, but they don't get paid nearly as much as the crew at SDSU. **Jan Goldsmith**, on leave to run against incumbent **Mike Aguirre** and a raft of other contenders for San Diego city attorney, makes \$178,788.96, as does his wife **Christine**, also a state judge. Other state employees in equally responsible positions make do with a fair amount less. **Pedro Orso-Delgado**, head of the Caltrans District 11 office here, gets \$126,240.

Piggybanks Padres owner **John Moores** continues to pour cash into the legal defense fund of departing California Senate president pro tem **Don Perata** of Oakland, under investigation by the feds relating to alleged kickbacks from consultants to his various campaign committees. On February 28, Moores added another \$25,000 contribution to the \$50,000 he'd already given last fall. Termed-out Perata will soon be giving up his Pro Tem post; Senate Democrats elected **Darrell Steinberg** of Sacramento to succeed him after Perata's ballot bid to extend legislative terms, also backed by Moores, failed at the polls.

Stretches You know the political season is in high gear when candidates file their ballot statements, describing their personal achievements, with plenty of hyperbole thrown in for good measure. San Diego city councilman **Brian Maienschein** touts a "record of accomplishments" worthy of Superman, including completion of State Route 56 and preserving "over 11,000 acres of open space from development." He also says he established Teen Court. "For this I received the District Attorney's Crime Victims Award." Not to be outdone in the business of working civic miracles is Maienschein's council colleague **Scott Peters**, who is also seeking the city attorney's job. Peters says he's been busy "restoring fiscal discipline, creating high-wage jobs, protecting our neighborhoods and safeguarding our quality of life." City attorney candidate



Brian Maienschein

Jan Goldsmith, who recently moved into the city of San Diego from Coronado, says he was the "recipient of Brightest Star for Children award from The California Children's Lobby" and notes he is a "Former Mayor of Poway, a well run city with no pension deficit." Dark



Scott Peters

horse **Amy Lepine**, who is listed as a "Consumer Advocate, Civil Litigator," takes a touchy-feely approach to the job. "I will encourage creative thinking and problem-solving. I will facilitate the open dialogue among all parties, the People and City Hall." Incumbent **Mike Aguirre**, in whose direction the rest of the field is aiming its heavy artillery, says he has stopped unnamed people he calls "They" from doing a variety of unsavory deeds. A couple of examples: "They want YOU to Pay the \$1.2 Billion Pension Deficit. MIKE SAID NO!" and "They Allowed the Dangerous Sunroad Building to Threaten the Safety of OUR Neighborhoods. MIKE GOT IT STOPPED!"

— 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.

City Hot to Sell Bonds, but Investors Will Be Cool

By Don Bauder

Tax-free municipal bond prices plunged in late February. The market has since stabilized a bit but remains nervous. The

positive side of the collapse is that the interest rates investors receive on these bonds have been enticingly high. Munic-

structural projects, have become "a very good buying opportunity" for investors, exults Philip Fischer, municipal strate-

make moves that alienate investment professionals, such as scheming to have the auditor appointed by the mayor, when the auditor would be auditing the mayor's own books.

"I don't see the mayor or staff being major-league quality when it comes to negotiating ratings with the rating companies, insurance coverage with the insurance companies, and cost [bond yield] with the underwriters," says Peter Q. Davis, retired San Diego banker. He worries that "any attempt to reenter the market will be painfully more

CHART 1: Diverging yields

Muni vs. Treasury yields

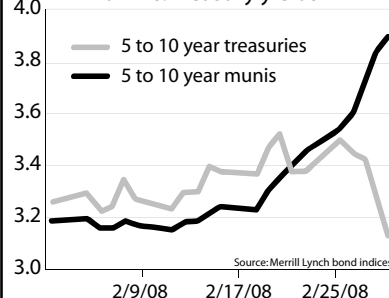
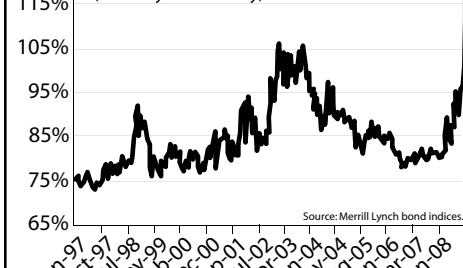


CHART 2: Record high municipal yield ratios

Muni/Treasury yield ratio (5 to 10 year maturity)



ipal bonds (lovingly called "munis"), which finance such things as state and city infras-

gist for Wall Street's Merrill Lynch.

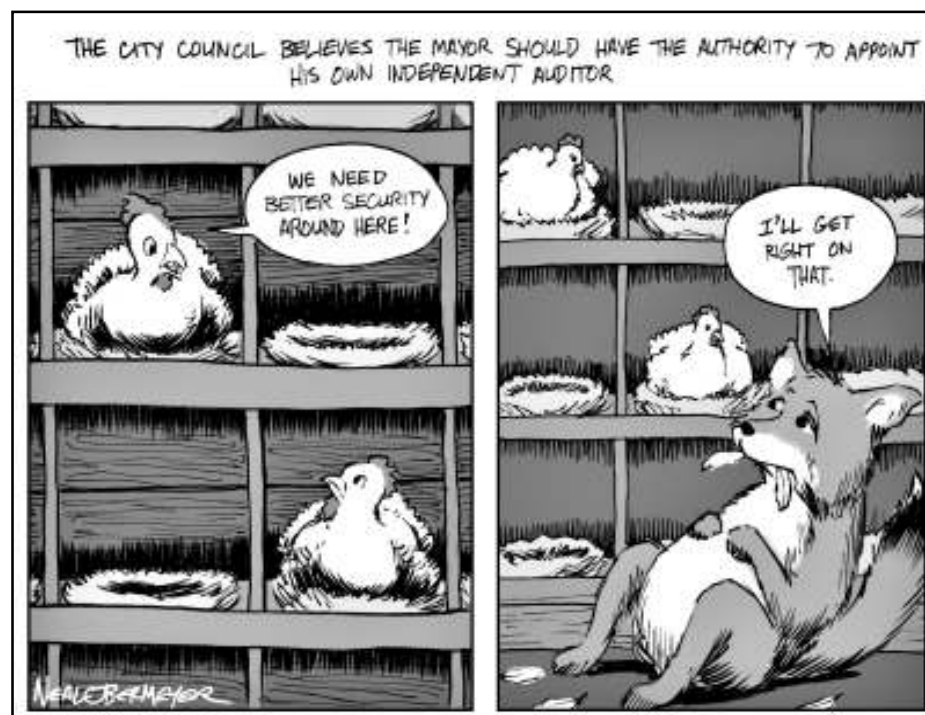
But it is decidedly *not* a good time for financially decrepit San Diego to sell municipal bonds to finance needed infrastructural projects. The City would have to pay excessively high rates. It would have difficulty getting insurance and possibly couldn't get it at all. Its books are still a mess, and it continues to

expensive than it needs to be." San Diego lacks "qualified representatives."

Mayor Jerry Sanders keeps promising that San Diego's reentry into the muni bond market is right around the corner. He made such statements in 2006, in 2007, and in his State of the City address on January 10 of this year, points out Steve Francis, his mayoral

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Neal Obermeyer



Keep on Truckin'

By Ernie Grimm

For decades, Tijuana's eastern colonias have sprung from the chaparral faster than the municipal government can provide services to them. The resourceful residents in these neighborhoods have long brought electricity to their shanties by running their own wires to the nearest power pole. Other services are harder to improvise. One of them is trash removal, and Daniel Covarrubias Ramírez, a 37-year-old



Hugo César Fletes Pérez

native of Guadalajara, saw a business opportunity in that fact. So he bought an ancient dump truck and started asking residents if they'd pay him 50 to 100 pesos a week to haul away their trash. About 4000 customers took him up on the offer, more than this aging vehicle could handle. He needed another, bigger truck. "Some friends who also have trash-

removal businesses told me to come down here and get a loan," explains the short but powerfully built Covarrubias.

"Down here" is a corner office on the third floor of Tijuana's square, fortresslike city hall. The office belongs to Hugo César Fletes Pérez, director of the municipal government's MiCrédito small business loan program. For the moment, Fletes has surrendered his oversized leather office chair to Covarrubias, who seems ill at ease sitting behind the ample cherrywood desk. Dressed in a sage green silk dress shirt unbuttoned to midchest, snug black jeans, and pristine white leather cowboy boots, the balding, red-goateed Covarrubias sits upright and forward, not wanting to look too comfortable in the chair or to rest his elbows on the desk. He continues his story. "After my friends told me about the program, I came down here and spoke to the licenciado," he nods toward the office door, where the bulky, clean-shaven Fletes leans on the jamb. "I proposed the sanitation project that I had and told him how the truck I had was too old and too small. I showed him what neighbor-

hoods I had an authorization to work in. And I got the loan. It was a loan in record time."

With the 30,000 pesos (a little under \$2800) he was loaned, Covarrubias was able to buy a newer, bigger truck. Would he have been able to continue in business without the loan from MiCrédito? "Not for long," he answers. "Now I've got a newer truck, and I'm having a new engine put in the old truck. So I'll have two trucks."

Covarrubias's trash-collection business is just the kind of enterprise MiCrédito wants to help, Fletes says. "It's a viable project," he explains. "It's a proven business with a good chance of success, and it will also help improve the quality

of life of the citizenry. That's the kind of business we like to lend to."

MiCrédito was started in June 1999 during the administration of Mayor Francisco Vega. The municipal government put 2 million pesos (about \$186,760) into a trust, and the federal government matched it. From those 4 million pesos, they've given out "about 2000" loans since the program began. "We publicize it through the local media—print, television, and radio. That's how people hear about us. Then they come here and request information. And they have to fulfill certain requirements. They need to show a copy of their voting card, a copy of their birth cer-

tificate, proof of residency, and a copy of their mortgage, if they have one. They need to make a presentation as to how they're going to use the money. They give us a map that shows their location. And they show us the city permits. If they don't have the necessary permits, we help them cut through the red tape to get permits."

At the time of its inception, the MiCrédito program, Fletes says, "was focused on helping single mothers, seniors, and disabled people. We give them support by consulting with them on how to create their own businesses so they can earn a living for themselves. And we also support them by giving them a

microloan. The loan can be up to 30,000 pesos."

In June 2006, the municipal government initiated a second program within MiCrédito. "It's focused toward young entrepreneurs," Fletes explains. "These loans can be up to \$50,000 pesos [around \$4700]. We don't simply give them the check. We do follow-ups to see that the business is successful. And we also get support from the University of Baja California and the chamber of commerce when it comes to checking up on the businesses."

Asked what types of businesses the program has lent to, Fletes waves his hand as if to say, "You name it." "Cyber cafés, lots of grocery stores, taco carts, bookstores... They're mostly from the eastern part of the city, though we get them from all parts of town. The only thing we won't lend to is the unlicensed market. They have to have the appropriate permits."

Not that everybody who asks gets a loan. "We had a man in here today," Fletes suppresses an impish grin, "who said he wanted to import a new wall-building product that isn't cement or drywall. It's some kind of new product he said is being used in Canada. Whatever it is, it hasn't

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Daniel Covarrubias Ramírez



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Verence Villanueva Ponce

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOE KLEIN

San Diego Reader March 13, 2008 7

Hot to sell bonds

continued from page 6

opponent. But four years after the City's credit rating was suspended, and a year and a half after Kroll Inc.'s stinging report suggested remedial measures to cleanse the books and the ethical stain, San Diego still can't sell bonds. On one day, Sanders will talk about the financial progress the City

is supposedly making and on the next day reveal a massive four-year deficit. "It's such garbage, such spin," says Francis. The bond markets aren't fooled. City Attorney Mike Aguirre and the mayor argue publicly about what items should be disclosed. Francis agrees with Aguirre: "You should err on the side of overdisclosure," he says. "This is not a good time to be entering the muni bond market.

We haven't put past audits together," and the deficits are huge, says Francis.

The market calamity of late February further delays reentry. What happened was largely technical. Hedge funds and other institutions that gamble on exotic combinations of securities got caught in a squeeze and had to unload their bonds. Yields (the interest rates investors receive) soared as bond prices dropped.

(Bonds are like two buckets in a well; when prices go up, yields drop, and vice versa.) As Merrill Lynch's Fischer points out, munis normally yield about 85 percent of what supersafe U.S. Treasury bonds yield. That's because investors don't pay state and federal taxes on income received from munis. When the gamblers were forced to sell, munis were suddenly yielding 125 percent of what Treasury bonds were

yielding. Market professionals said they had never seen anything like it. People rushed to buy munis. The buying pressure raised prices and lowered yields, calming things, but "the market turmoil may continue," says Fischer.

Warning: Davis points out that some specialty corners of the market have been evincing illiquidity. "Brokerage firms are calling customers and saying, 'Your earnings are still

good, and your security is good. But you can't have your money back — just yet.' Liquidity concerns can scare folks, particularly mom 'n' pop investors."

The companies that insure muni bonds are in chaos. Several years ago, they diversified out of muni bond insurance — a very profitable business — and began insuring portfolios of mortgages. Uh-oh. There are stink bombs in those portfolios, as everybody now knows. The muni bond insurers probably don't have the money to pay. Some moneybags are rushing to prop up the insurers; ultimately the federal government may have to bail them out, although that is only being discussed privately now. One of the troubled insurers, Ambac, backed the ballpark and several other San Diego bonds. If Ambac loses its AAA rating (a real possibility), those San Diego bonds will also lose their AAA ratings.

Could San Diego get insurance? Good question. Could it sell bonds without insurance? Probably. But it would have to pay a stiff price, with a rating that might be down in the slough close to junk bonds. The State of California's recent \$1.75 billion bond offering had no insurance. Across the country, since the beginning of this year, only 39 percent of long-term munis have carried insurance, down from 65 percent during the same period of last year, according to the online news service MarketWatch. Some municipalities now even consider insurance a hindrance in hawking their bonds.

San Diego's financial and ethical problems are well known. The Securities and Exchange Commission slammed the City for concealing its pension liabilities in bond prospectuses. Two of the councilmembers singled out for complicity in that mendacity are running for city attorney. As that news makes it across the country, San Diego will likely become a national laughingstock again.

On March 3, the council voted 5 to 3 to put a measure on the June ballot that would permit the mayor to appoint the internal auditor in consultation with the audit committee, whose members the mayor would help select. Councilmember Donna Frye, who

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Hot to sell bonds

continued from page 8

argued strenuously against the move, says, "If it is perceived by the public and by investors in the market that the mayor has the ability to change or pressure the internal auditor, that has an impact on how believable the audit results will be." Aguirre also opposed the power grab, saying it was analogous to lawyers appointing their own judges. (Of course, some say that in San Diego, establishment lawyers do name the judges, but that's another topic.)

The last time the City's bonds were rated by the agencies, back in 2005, San Diego was barely investment grade, with BBB-plus and BBB-minus ratings. The 2005 certified financial statement, the last one approved, showed that auditors saw material weak-

nesses in the City's financial procedures. In the draft of the 2006 audit, still being circulated, the pension fund had a very low 78 percent funded ratio, according to Mark Blake, chief deputy city attorney.

On February 14, Andrea Tevlin, independent budget analyst who works for the council, said in a study that the City has a structural deficit, or one that is "marked by persistence," with expenditures exceeding revenues year after year. To balance the budget, the City utilizes one-time fixes such as selling land, snatching tobacco-settlement revenues from the library, and using general fund reserves. "One-time revenues should not be used to fund ongoing expenditures," says Tevlin. Without reform, "municipal services will continue to erode," she says. Tevlin's study is a public document that rating agencies and investors can

access.

The stark absence of competence and ethics got San Diego into this mess. Retired banker Davis is still concerned about both. He worries that in lining up a bond sale, "the City would have to agree to large up-front fees and an extended lock-in period [a guarantee of a certain interest rate for a long period] before a refinancing would be allowed."

All told, says Davis, "Entering the market seems a logical move as soon as the City has its ducks in a row and can borrow." But how long will it be before those quackers queue up? "I sat through Mayor Murphy's sale of ballpark bonds to Merrill Lynch [the interest rate was an astonishing 7.5 percent on insured bonds], and while I'm no longer sitting around the campfire with city staff, I sense a similar debacle when the City does again enter the market." ■

Keep on truckin'

continued from page 7

been approved for use in Mexico, so of course I couldn't give him a loan."

Fletes's office receives dozens of requests weekly. The ones he doesn't rule out immediately are decided on by "a technical committee comprising representatives from the city and federal governments. They analyze each proposal and decide on the feasibility of each project or presentation. And we have a target number for loans we give out in a year. This year it's... Olga," he calls to the accountant in the next room, "what's the quota of loans for this year?"

"Two hundred seventy," Olga yells.

What are the repayment terms?

"If the loan is to restock or replenish your inventory," he

says, "it's 12 months. But if the loan is to start the business or to purchase new machinery or equipment for the business, it's 18 months. The interest rate we charge on loans for young entrepreneurs is 12 percent annually. For the single moms, seniors, and disabled, it's based on the market rate, which is currently around 7 percent."

By comparison, Mexican banks offer small business loans at 22 to 30 percent.

"Right now, it's a little less than 2000 pesos [about \$187] per month," Covarrubias says of his payment, "but it'll go down each month."

Verenice Villanueva Ponce, a 52-year-old single mom who lives in the Presidentes section of east Tijuana, received a 15,000-peso loan (about \$1400) in January to start a perfume retail business out of her house. "My payment is 1400 pesos [about \$130] a

month, but it will be about 100 pesos [about \$9.30] less each month."

Villanueva and Covarrubias are among the conscientious loan recipients who are actually repaying their loans. "Right now, we have 2.5 million pesos [about \$233,000] of loans that aren't being repaid," Fletes says. "Some of that is owed by people who made some payments and then stopped. The rest is people who never paid. We have legal proceedings pending on these cases. Because when we loaned them the money, they signed a note saying they'd repay. Legally, we have three years to collect on that note. The problem with that is, in many cases, in order to be paid, we might have to repossess their businesses or their merchandise or their houses. We would legally have to go over there and do it. We would be the villain in the movie if we did that. It wouldn't look good for the municipal government, so the administration does not want to get involved in that." ■



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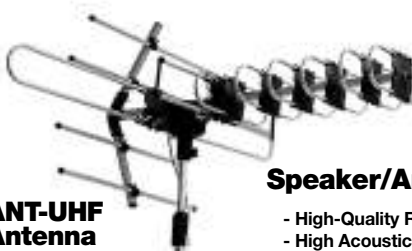
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Bad Government, Bad Press

Re "The Rise and Fall of the Copley Press" (Cover Story, February 28), I would have liked more of a discussion of the Copley Press's support of city hall that was under the control of the mob and now by the developers. They all have corrupted city hall, democracy, and San Diego taxpayers. Recent examples of a bad government supported by a bad press include attempts to discredit the city attorney and lack of account-

ability for the city budget.

Roger Newell
College Area

A Federal Gig

The quotation in "Don't Tax Me, Bro!" — "The reporting rule is that if you pay someone \$600 or more over the course of the year, you must issue a Form 1099" — is incorrect ("Blurt," February 28). The actual law specifies receipt of "income" or "wages" of \$600 as the minimum for filing returns.

These are custom-defined legal terms that mean "earnings derived from the exercise of federal privilege." So, unless musicians work for the feds ("taxpayer"), they are not obligated to pay the "income tax." Crooked lawyers, accountants, and judges lie about this in order to help the IRS collect from non-taxpayers through fraud and force (jail, confiscation).

Bands are conned into volunteering to pay. How? By being advised to agree with perjured W-2 and

1099 testimony when they file their own 1040/540 testimony. For nonfederal earners, the true figure to put on the 1040/540 would be zero wages, except for bank interest. Correct the false W-2 and 1099 testimony with Form 4852 (3525 for CA), and send those instead. See www.losthorizons.com for details.

Pat Palmer
Normal Heights

Hope on the Horizon

As an Oceanside resident, I was reluctant to pick up this issue due to my own preconceived thoughts as to what your cover story would entail ("To Live and Die in Oceanside," Cover Story, February 21). I presumed that it would chastise the Oceanside community for producing a youth that has been a menace to society. Luckily, I gave in and I read the entire article, and I'd like to express my utmost gratitude to your editor and author for a job well done. Your sources

continued on page 66

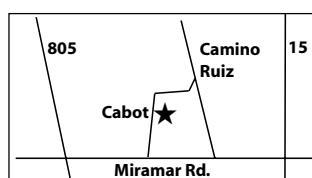
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Long Ago And Far Away

My connection to gymnastics is watching a 14-year-old Bulgarian girl do backflips once every four years. Turns out, I'm not the only one.

I found this on the CBS College Sports Web page: "In 1969 approximately 230 collegiate gymnastics programs existed. Today, only 19 (men's) NCAA programs remain in the U.S." Listen up, people, there's been a plague, a national die-off of male gymnasts.

I have Edward Franz on the phone. "Wanted to talk to you about gymnastics at San Diego State."

Franz says, "Well, what's going on at San Diego State is that there are zero gymnastics."

According to Franz's Web page, he's been teaching at SDSU since 1965. The page notes the usual publications list, professional associations, and then, "The SDSU Aztec Gymnastics Program is completing its 37th year of continuous operation under my direction. As one of the auxiliary programs in the Department of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences, the Aztec Gymnastics Program continues to serve the youth of the San Diego community."

"We used to have," Franz says, "and for 39 years I had, what was called the Aztec Gymnastics Club. It was a community-based program where we trained young gymnasts and competed nationally."

Sounds good. "I read there were 230 collegiate gymnastic programs in 1969 and 19 men's programs today."

Franz says, "Yeah, gymnastics have declined drastically over the years."

"Why?"
"Primarily because of the size of facilities that need to be set up permanently for training. The cost of equipment, finding qualified coaches, etcetera, etcetera. In San Diego, you go back a number of years and every high school in San Diego had a boys' team. Gone. Every junior college in San Diego had a women's team. Gone. Gymnastics in schools has declined drastically. Men's NCAA gymnastics is down to a handful of teams. The NCAA doesn't even sponsor a men's national meet."

I think, *Did gymnastics become uncool?* I ask, "Did students stop participating?"

"We had plenty of participants," Franz says. "You've got all these age-group programs around the country, YMCA facilities, private gymnastic centers, cheerleading centers. That's very, very big. So, we had the numbers, but in the academic environment, gymnastics had a drastic decline. When Title IX came along it was, 'We've got to have more women participating.' You take a varsity women's gymnastics team and you'd have 12 girls

on that team, compared to a crew team where they've got 60 girls for soccer or volleyball. They went for sports that had *big numbers*."

Franz spits out the words "big numbers" like a piece of bad meat. I ask, "But, why cut gymnastics? Why not water polo?"

"Setting up a gymnastic meet is a major operation for sports athletic departments. Moving equipment into the big gym, floor systems, bars, beams, mats, blah, blah, blah," Franz says. "It's easy to throw a soccer ball out on the field."

"Do you still run the auxiliary program?"

"What?"

"Your Web page says, 'The SDSU Aztec Gymnastics Program is completing its 37th year of continuous operation under my direction.'"

"I was the director of the auxiliary program in gymnastics until 1993."

"Everything stopped in '93?"

"Everything stopped, gone. In 1993, the department...the dean...they converted the gym to a 500-seat lecture hall and moved some academic classes to Peterson

Gym. Took over the gymnastic facility. And that was the end of that. No gymnastics on this campus since 1993."

I decide not to pursue the "What's the deal with your website?" inquiry. Instead I ask, "What have you been doing?"

"Well, I teach full-time in the department; I'm a faculty member. That [gymnastic program] was not part of my faculty assignment, so it didn't affect my position on campus."

"Are you involved with amateur gymnastics?"

"I'm no longer involved in gymnastics at all. Not since '93."

"Do you follow the sport? Do you know which school has the best team?"

"No, I don't follow the sport that carefully anymore. I don't know what the college teams are right now." Silence. "I was dedicated to that program for 39 years, and it's hard, all of a sudden, to have somebody hand you a piece a paper that says, 'You have to clear all the gymnastics equipment out of the gym,' and give you a couple weeks' notice to do that. You say, 'What?'"

"It was a very big program. They were primarily girls. There are always more girls involved in gymnastics and cheerleading. We had a very, very active girls team program at all age levels. Lots of recreational kids came. Gym was operating all day on Saturdays, three o'clock to nine, Monday through Friday. And all of a sudden it was gone."

"How many kids did you have in the program?"

"About 900 kids."
"NINE HUNDRED!"

"You have to clear all the gymnastics equipment out of the gym."

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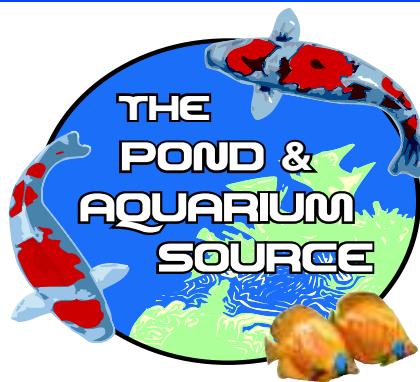
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SHEEP AND GOATS

PLACES OF WORSHIP REVIEWED

Denomination: Southern Baptist
Address: 9626 Carlton Hills Boulevard, Santee, 619-449-1269
Founded locally: 1993
Senior pastor: Phil Herrington
Congregation size: 800
Staff size: 12
Sunday school enrollment: 300
Annual budget: about \$900,000
Weekly giving: n/a
Singles program: yes
Dress: casual to semiformal
Diversity: mostly Caucasian
Sunday worship: 9 a.m., 10:45 a.m.
Website: pathwayscommunitychurch.org

A pretty country quilt lay across an old four-poster bed on the stage at Pathways Community Church. The bed had been there throughout the church's "Sexual Revolution" series — in which "revolution" was defined as "a sudden change for the better." A doggie bed sat on the floor at the foot of the four-poster — representative, in the words of Pastor Phil Herrington, of where we go when we get out of "God's bed...the marriage bed," and start "living our way instead of God's way — when we depart from His design."

But that part came later, after an extended series of hymns from the tight pop band — the wash of sound from the keyboard, piano, bass, electric and acoustic guitars fading suddenly to highlight two voices, backed only by wind chimes and maracas, then gradually building again, energizing the early-morning crowd. The old hymn "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" received a breathy, almost romantic update: the chorus remained the same, but in the verses, lines such as "O'er us sin has no more dominion/ For more than conquerors we are!" were replaced by, "Isn't He beautiful?/ Outshining sun and stars/ It's indescribable/ How breathtaking You are."

"As a society," said Michael, introducing the pastor, "we've become kind of mixed up in this dichotomy of what good and right and pure sex is. There are just so many deluded messages about what God's intent is, and sometimes we get led astray... What Pastor Phil is going to talk about today is what happens if you've messed up God's grand design for glorious sex...because God allows do-overs."

More hymns, and then the lead singer turned to the projection screen and said, a little wryly, "Here is the will of God." "For this is the will of God," read the text, taken from Paul's letter to the Thessalonians, "that you become holy; that you keep away from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own body in holiness and honor.... In this matter, no one should violate the rights of his brother or take advantage of him...for God did not call us to impurity, but holiness."

Herrington then launched into a pedagogical barrage against sex outside of the "life-uniting covenant called marriage." The overarching goal was to place sex within God's plan for humanity: "God wants us to operate by His design.... If we do that, He says that that's when we experience real life — we become totally alive. There's a mystery, an energy, a depth that's reserved for the covenant of marriage." He noted that Adam and Eve were naked but not ashamed: "In the context of marriage, nakedness assumes intimacy, and intimacy means to be fully known, and we want that intimacy with others — in the context of marriage." Sexual sin, on the other hand, "is damaging, and it's powerful. Sin is sin to God, but the consequences here are deep because the sexual nerve is woven so deeply into the fabric of who we are. Sex is not just sex; it's a soul-connected thing."

He warned about premarital sex's power to cloud judgment, to infiltrate the soul. "That

whole world abuses the image of God in you and in the other person. You strip them of their humanity and yourself of your humanity when you get naked outside the context of where God intended you to get naked.... You're trashing this gift He's given you."

Besides His design, Herrington stressed God's forgiveness — and practical steps to deal with sex. Talk of dating habits, of a willingness to be sanctified — "set apart" — and of modesty: "you're also responsible for the sanctification of other people. You've got to decide for yourself where faith and fashion collide."

He quoted the Beatitudes: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." "You want to see God? You want to live a life of purity? You may have to make a radical decision. Stay away from

people who are causing you to stumble.... You may have to resign from your job.... You may have to move out of your neighborhood or your apartment complex. You may need to throw your computer away or put a blocker on it. You may need to show up to Celebrate Recovery and say, 'Hi, my name is So-and-So, and I have a problem with sex, and I need help.'"

The service closed with a song written by the band's lead singer, which he felt was appropriate to the occasion: "I want to draw near to You/ Make You the reason for my life/ Surround me with your arms/ Capture me in your love..."

What happens when we die?

"If we have accepted Christ into our lives and asked His forgiveness for our sin," said Herrington, "then we go to heaven. Our souls go to heaven, and we receive our resurrected bodies at the Second Coming."

— Matthew Lickona

Columns archived at SDReader.com



PHIL HERRINGTON

**Pathways Community Church
Santee**
★★½

Sermon

content.....★★½
delivery.....★★★★

Liturgy.....★★½

Music

congregational.....★★
band.....★★★★

Snacks.....no snacks

Architecture.....★★½

Friendliness.....★★½

Poor to satisfactory.....(none)

Good.....★

Very good.....★★

Excellent.....★★★★

Extraordinary.....★★★★



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—EVE KELLY

"When I was a child in Mayo," said my Irish mother as we drove along the Embarcadero, "my aunt used to send me down to the village pub to buy 'a pint for the washing.'"

"For laundry?" I asked, wondering what cleansing powers a pint of beer could offer.

"No, for the deceased," she chided, wondering whose daughter I was.

"I never quite knew whether the pint was for washing the body or for numbing the senses of the person doing the washing," she continued.

"And to think that a bartender would give a seven-year-old a pint to bring home," she laughed.

My great-aunt Mary was the village undertaker. Not on an official basis, but everyone in town brought their dead to her to prepare them for the wake. And my mom played an integral part in the process.

The whole conversation brought on a terrible thirst. Nothing quite like talk of death and Ireland to draw one to the drink. So the following day, I bought out every variety of Irish beer that Beverages & More offered. And that evening, my father Bill, hubby Patrick, and friends Bernice and John gathered around the fireplace. With the Clancy Brothers crooning from the corner, we had ourselves a tastin'.

"I will work for beer," announced John, pouring a mug of Murphy's Stout (\$5.99 for a four-pack of 16-ounce cans). The stout was as dark as coffee, casting a shadow on the floor when held up to the lamp.

"I almost get a smoky bacon taste from it," noticed Bernice.

"What I like about stout is the head; it's like drinking a cappuccino," added Patrick. "This is a very clean stout — almost too clean — not as bitter as some stouts."

"I measure my beer by whether or not it leaves me wanting another," explained John, admiring the tan-colored head on the next glass, a Guinness Extra Stout (\$7.99 for a six-pack of 12-ounce bottles). "And I like to gulp my beer, and I couldn't gulp this," he added.

"This is a meaty beer," Bernice said. "You can see why people call it a meal in a glass. It's totally bitter in the center of the palate, whereas the Murphy's Stout spreads out, tastes more...wet."

The Beamish Draught Irish Stout (\$5.99 for the four-pack of 14.9-ounce cans) was noticeably sweeter and smoother, "but I like the carbonation of the Guinness Stout better," offered Patrick.

Smithwick's Irish Ale (\$8.49 for a six-pack of 12-ounce bottles) featured a dark amber color that elicited "oohs" and "aahs." "The most enchanting color," stated Patrick. "The smell is ripe but not skunky," added Bernice, "and it kind of sits in the mouth."

"This would be the beer to have with corned beef or a fat burger," said Patrick.

The Guinness Draught (\$7.99 for the six-pack of 11.2-ounce bottles) was the surprise failure of the evening. "Tastes like burnt

"What I like about stout is the head; it's like drinking a cappuccino."

coffee," grimaced Dad, "and it has no head on it."

"Flat and bitter," noticed Bernice, "nothing like the Guinness Stout, which had tang and bubbly effervescence."

"This goes over the edge of bitterness," complained Patrick.

"It has a wet-dog smell," added John. We tossed the bottle straight into the garbage and plunged ahead.

Wexford Irish Cream Ale (\$8.99 a four-pack of 14.9-ounce cans) sparkled with a liquid amber color but failed in the taste department. "Tastes like it's been skunked," said Patrick.

"If I'm celebratin' St. Patty's Day and not expectin' to wake up for a day, this isn't the beer I'll be drinkin'," said John, who by this point was speaking with a brogue, despite the fact he's an Italian who grew up in Tacoma.

Murphy's Red (\$6.99 for a six-pack of 12-ounce bottles) was a crowd favorite, especially its carbonation.

"It's the sexy redhead," touted Bernice.

"These beers are tasting better and better," smiled Dad.

John bestowed his highest praise: "I could drink nine of these."

The last cap to be popped was the Harp Lager (\$6.99 for a six-pack of 12-ounce bottles). "It doesn't hold a head," noticed Dad.

"But it's very clean tasting — the lightest beer we've had this evening," added Bernice.

"A good drinking beer for a hot summer's day," continued John, "but it's brewed in Canada," he added, reading the bottle in shock.

A quick perusal of the bottles informed us that they were all posers except two, the Smithwick's and the Beamish, which were the only ones brewed on the Emerald Isle.

"As if the Irish haven't suffered enough injustice, and now Murphy's is brewed in England," moaned Bernice.

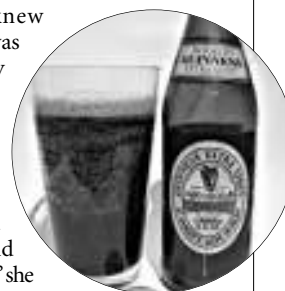
"Perhaps they like it that way," countered Patrick, "to have the English doing their work for them for a change."

We lined up our favorite atop the hearth: Guinness Extra Stout for a dark stout beer; Murphy's Red for a medium-bodied beer (Smithwick's Ale following closely behind); Harp Lager as the choice for a lighter beer.

The following day, I spoke to Gary O'Neil, bar manager at The Field. He said one of his favorite beers is the Smithwick's. Asked about stouts, O'Neil touted the spectator-sport aspect of drinking the dark beers. "When you pour it and you see it settling, it has that look of it turning itself over. Stouts tend to be really, really light compared to other beers; they just look and feel thicker than what they are. Once you get over the head, the creamy top part, the body part is fairly light."

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1. Guinness Extra Stout
2. Smithwick's Irish Ale



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Are you in the *Reader*?

The screenshot shows the San Diego Reader website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like 'Job Giant', 'Useful Guides', 'Classifieds', 'Coupons', 'Tickets', and 'Blogs'. Below this is a search bar and a main menu with 'HOME', 'STORIES', 'NEIGHBORHOODS', 'EVENTS', 'MUSIC', and 'MOVIES'. The main content area features a section titled 'LOCAL BANDS/PERFORMERS' with a sub-header 'The Prayers'. To the left of the band's name is a photo of the band members. To the right, there's a 'Discography' section with a table listing their releases. Below that is a 'Band Members' section listing Brandon Welch (Vocals) and Brian Hill (Drums). Further down is an 'Ex-Band Members' section listing Andrew Miller (Guitar) and Willy Graves (Bass guitar). There's also an 'Upcoming shows' section which currently shows 'None scheduled'. At the bottom of the band profile, there's an 'Influences' section listing various artists like Peter Perrett, Phil Spector, and the Ramones. On the left side of the band profile, there's a 'History' section with text about the band's formation and a quote from the lead singer.

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LOCAL BANDS/PERFORMERS

The Prayers

The Skinny

Genres: Pop, Punk, Reggae / Ska

Sound Description: NoJazz electroacoustic jam band, with a touch of psycho surf.

RIVL: The Ramones, the Clash, the Vultures, the Muslims, Robyn Hitchcock, Alex Chilton, Big Star, They Might Be Giants, Delta Spirit, Grand Ole Party.

Web site: <http://www.myspace.com/thepriingsprayers>

Formed: 2006 San Diego

History

Before they ever played a show, the Prayers received offers of sex and death threats via MySpace. But because three members of the new pop/rock outfit were in the Plot to Blow Up the Eiffel Tower, sex and violence were expected.

"I'm sure a lot of Plot fans will hate the Prayers, but a lot of Plot fans are morons," says vocalist Brandon Welch. "A lot of Plot fans hate the Plot whenever we step outside of the boundaries they build up for us in their heads, so yeah, I'm sure a lot of them will hate us."

The Prayers emerged after Welch met Andrew Miller (formerly of Gasoline Please) and "formed mutual man-crushes on each other," says Welch. The two searched San Diego for a rhythm section before borrowing Plot bassist Willy Graves and

Discography

Name	Year/Label
God Save the Prayers	2007

Band Members

Brandon Welch: Vocals
Brian Hill: Drums

Ex-Band Members

Andrew Miller: Guitar, Acoustic, Guitar, Electric
Willy Graves: Bass guitar

Upcoming shows

None scheduled

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Influences

Peter Perrett, Phil Spector, Robyn Hitchcock, the Ramones, Smokey Robinson, Joe Strummer, Mick Jones, Alex Chilton, Syd Barrett, Brian Wilson, Edwyn Collins, Arthur Lee and Love, Billie Holiday, Spirit, Randy California, Lennon/McCartney, the Vultures, the Muslims, Delta Spirit, Grand Ole Party

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SAN DIEGO WEEKLY
Reader



by Barbarella

The Secret

The Secret is not just a moronic hymn to greed and selfishness; it nastily suggests that victims of catastrophe are the authors of their misfortunes.

— Catherine Bennett

In case any bubble dwellers happen upon this page, allow me to give away the secret to the universe, as explained in the frighteningly popular movie and book, *The Secret*. Here it is. Ready? You can get whatever you want, as long as you really, really want it. Shhh, now don't go telling the secret to other people, because they might want the opposite of what you want, and then

I left her house
feeling like a
parishioner of the
Rock Church who
had just scored
another touch-
down for God.

you'd all get nothing, and wouldn't that suck? At least, this is what I've gleaned from people who have actually seen the movie. I refuse to suffer through a viewing. I only made it ten minutes into *What the Bleep Do We Know?* — a kind of documentary, kind of fantasy film that implied human brains have the capability to reshape reality into any form people wish it to take.

It wasn't the subject matter that bothered me (reshaping reality is easy, I've done it myself — all you need is a sugar cube that's been soaked in lysergic acid diethylamide); what pushed me to the edge of apoplexy was the sheer quackery of the "scientists" interviewed.

I am a skeptic. I used to think that being skeptical made me smarter. But recently, someone I love and respect has shown me how arrogant I've been — that it's one thing to disbelieve, and quite another to condemn believers. I used to think that having facts on my side made me "right." What I've learned is, being "right" has nothing to do with the facts.

My sister Jane was the first person to invoke *The Secret* in my presence. We

were discussing Jane's hopes to have someone clean and organize her garage when she made the comment, "It's like the secret, you know, I'm putting it out there." When I asked her what she meant, she answered, "It's the magic formula — ask, believe, receive."

"That's a fallacious formula if I ever heard one," I snapped. Jane took my strike in stride and asked me if I wanted more coffee. But I felt compelled to fully explain myself. "Positive thinking is great; it keeps you from getting depressed, but you create the life you want by *doing* things, not wishing for them. The formula should be 'ask, do something, and your chances of receiving increase.' You're not a successful businesswoman, wife, and mother because you sat around visualizing your career and family; you're successful at those things because you took the necessary steps to achieve your goals and worked your ass off to get where you are. If I want a Mini, I'm not going to visualize the car into my garage, I'm going to go out and buy one."

"You're right," said Jane, smiling impishly. "I am successful."

By the time I'd finished my second cup of coffee, I felt as though I'd convinced Jane to see the errors of *The Secret's* ways, and I left her house feeling like a parishioner of the Rock Church who had just scored another touchdown for God. After all, I reasoned, New Age thinking is just another

doctrine. They may have replaced the word "God" with "universe," but the underlying belief (that some unknown power is mapping the way and we must have faith and submit to the will of that power, or "go with the flow") is the same, no matter which word is used. "Putting it out to the universe" and hoping to get what you want seems no different than praying, and to me, praying is as effective to a situation's outcome as plucking petals from a flower and saying "He loves me, he loves me not" is an accurate way to gauge someone's feelings. It was my deep belief that the harder one hopes, the more bitter the disappointment one suffers when faith proves, as it does more often than not, to just not be enough. I thought I had saved Jane. It was only after I tried to save my father that I realized the extent of my hubris.

One cold, gray Monday afternoon, I was staring at the rain pelting my office window when Dad called. He wanted to tell me how much he enjoyed Monique Marvez's standup-comedy act. He had found her so funny that when he got home from the show, he looked her up on YouTube and suggested I do the same. He chuckled as he relayed some of the jokes he could remember and then mentioned how delighted he was to hear the comedienne reference some of his "Science of Mind" principles, one of which maintains that positive thinking can physically alter the composition of water

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molecules, a concept made mainstream by Masura Emoto, one of the “scientists” interviewed in *What the Bleep Do We Know?*

When Dad mentioned that Monique had brought up the water-crystal thing (that water molecules become beautifully symmetrical if you shoot good vibes at them and distorted and ugly if you project negativity), I couldn’t resist the urge to melt his perfect snowflake. “Dad, you know that’s B.S., right? That guy Emoto has been debunked a hundred times.”

“No, I haven’t read much about it, but I still like the idea,” Dad said. Returning to his initial reason for calling, he said, “Anyway, I liked Monique a lot. She’s hilarious. I wish you could have been there. Look, honey, I have to run,

I’ll call you later.”

But I wasn’t done. As soon as we hung up, I did a few quick Web searches and emailed Dad a handful of articles ridiculing Emoto’s theory. Dad was gracious in his response, “If you don’t believe it then it won’t work for you, and that’s okay!”

Believing Dad’s soul was at stake, I couldn’t allow myself to let the matter drop. I aimed at a weak spot — Dad’s dedication to the kids he helps through the Make-a-Wish Foundation — and took my shot: “No amount of positive thought or prayer has even been proven to cure leukemia. If one child survives the disease, do you really believe that it is because that one child wanted to live more than the others? I do believe that positive begets posi-

tive, and that confidence begets positive results. What I don’t believe is that my thoughts — like telekinesis, or words that only have the meaning we give them — can change the formation of a water crystal.”

I waited with bated breath for his response, nervous that I may have gone too far and offended him, excited that doing so might help me achieve my goal of saving him. Finally, the message arrived: “Honey, I’m taking vacation time for the rest of the day to take one of my Make-a-Wish kids, Michael, shopping for some things that will make his transition easier. My positive thoughts will not bring back his leg or make the cancer that pervades his body go away. In my mind, though, every drop

of rain that falls today anywhere near us will contain water molecules that look like beautiful snowflakes. How do I know that? I don’t. Of course I don’t. I can’t see water molecules; never have — at least not first-hand. Seen pictures of ’em. So, since I can’t really see them, I can imagine that they are in any shape I so desire. Some of them even look like Sophia Loren, in my parallel Universe. I like it there (here); no, I LOVE it in my parallel space. It works incredibly well for me. I am in the flow and the ride couldn’t be any easier because I just ‘let it go.’ Barb, out beyond the ideas of rightdoing or wrongdoing there is a field — I’ll meet you there. I’m there, Honey, holding out my hand. Take it when you are ready. Ciao Bella!

Love, Dad.”

Consumed by my mission, I had broken my life’s creed: Don’t tell me how to live my life and I won’t tell you how to live yours. Dad responded to his daughter’s audacious attack with patience and wisdom. Staring at my

father’s words on my laptop screen was like gazing into a mirror through which I could see the disfigurement of my own soul. As I read his words over and over, a secret was revealed to me, one that Dad had known all along: I still have a lot to learn. ■

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George “King” Stahlman

The King’s Criminal of the Week:

According to the Associated Press, police are investigating an armed robbery in which the robber tried to hold up a man at “spork-point.” The robber tried to grab a man’s watch by slashing at him with a weapon. The victim said he pulled out a pocketknife, but police said the wounds are more consistent with that of a spork. The man was found several blocks from the scene drunk and carrying several sporks, which, along with wearing an “FBI: Female Body Inspector” T-shirt and holding a burrito like a cigarette, is consistent with being drunk in public.

Courtesy of DumbCriminals.com

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Odesa: it doesn't sound like a particularly Russian word. Maybe Spanish, or Italian. Actually, it was named after Odysseus, the hero of Homer's (if Homer existed) great epic poem, *The Odyssey*. Any word, when it begins with an open *o* sound, immediately attracts my attention, probably because I have unusual onomatopoeic pleasure-firings in the synapses of my brain. Metrically, it would scan as an amphibrach, the middle syllable getting the stress. Don't worry, I'm not gonna get all prosodic on your asses. The word Odessa is tasty, balmy. It's also a city in Ukraine in the former USSR, about as far south as you can get.

A port city on the legendary Black Sea, it has always been noted (after St. Petersburg and Moscow) for its writers and for its wonderful soup of cultures — Russian, Yiddish, and Ukrainian. It's long been a center for Russian and Yiddish folklore, out of which comes the indispensable fiction writer Isaac Babel. Here's a good piece of general wisdom and writing advice from that master: "No iron can stab the heart with such force as a period put just at the right place."

Alexander Pushkin (who died in a duel in 1837 at age 37) is arguably the greatest 19th-century poet in any language. Though I think our own Walt Whitman, who published the

first edition of *Leaves of Grass* at age 37 in 1855, pound for pound, a few decades Pushkin's junior, could have gone 15 rounds with him, easy. Pushkin was exiled to Odessa for a little over a year for

annoying the czar. This happened often in Russia, well into the 20th Century. A good deal of the 19th and much of the 20th Century was tough for Russian writers. If it wasn't the czar then it was the gottdamn commies! One could be sent to the gulag for something one had written if it upset the czar, and later, Stalin and his crew. And after that time...

Again, I'm not going to get all Stalin on your asses, but Stalin, unlike most paranoid dictators unencumbered by a conscience, had a soft spot for writers — some of them. There's the famous story, perhaps apocryphal, very likely not, of Stalin calling up Boris Pasternak (at the time Russia's greatest living writer) and

Young men's poetry begins with a broken heart.

MUSICA HUMANA

PHOTOGRAPH BY ALAN DECKER



San Diego Reader March 13, 2008 23

Ilya Kaminsky: "You need to look at language like it's your lover's body."

asking him what he knew about the poet Osip Mandelstam, who had written negatively of Stalin. The poem, usually given the imposed title "The Stalin Epigram" in English, didn't name Stalin directly, and it wasn't published, only passed from mouth to ear to mouth (two rounds to likely spies). Here are a few lines from that poem: "the ten thick worms of his fingers/ his words like measures of weight,/ the huge laughing cockroaches of his top lip,/ the glitter of his boot rims."

Stalin was worried about what poets were writing! I remember writing some fairly critical things about Ronald Reagan (though not by

name either): not a peep, no FBI agents following me around, I didn't even get audited by the IRS. The story goes: Stalin wants Pasternak's opinion of Mandelstam's poetry. Calls him up at 2:00 a.m. Pasternak's shaking in his pajamas. Pasternak speaks highly of Mandelstam's poetry, but not too highly. He knew if he said Mandelstam was a great poet (which he was), Mandelstam was a dead man: he was still young and unknown enough that a bullet could be put in the back of his neck without raising much of a fuss. If he said he was a lousy poet, ditto, likely that night. So, Stalin sends Mandelstam into

exile in 1932, first in Voronezh and later, to the Far East where he died, essentially, of starvation and disease. No

the man. Problem solved. Stalin said something like that. Imagine Pasternak standing there holding the black phone

dying he was terrified and kept saying he heard wolves howling.

Mandelstam's wife, Nadezhda, had memorized all but a handful of her husband's poems by the time of his first arrest, in case his manuscripts were destroyed, which they were. When asked why she didn't also memorize that extra handful, she said, "Because he wrote them to another woman." Her two memoirs of the Stalin years, *Hope Against Hope* and *Hope Abandoned*, bear monumental witness to those times.

Anna Akhmatova is another great 20th-century poet associated with Odessa. Born there in 1889, her first long

poem, "Near the Sea," was written about the city. "Anna of all the Russias," she was called, reverently. She managed to avoid death or the gulag (though her son did not) during the Stalin years but suffered deprivation, constant surveillance, was unable to publish, etc. Her main crime: she wrote personal poems, love poems. It was Soviet Realism or nada. To keep her son alive and get him out of the gulag, she forced herself to write a few poems in praise of Stalin. That must have been a bitter pill to swallow, humiliating for her, but her readers understood.

Before I take us from Stalinist Russia to

"For the last 200 years there were only two places where literature happened: St. Petersburg and Moscow."

official account of his death was recorded, but he died around 1940. Man's a problem? Kill

after the line from the Kremlin goes dead. I was happy to read somewhere that as Stalin lay

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San Diego, California, and introduce you to the poet Ilya Kaminsky, I want to tell you a bit more of where Kaminsky was born and raised — you guessed

sia, it's pretty close.

It is a city rich in multiculturalism, combining Russian, Ukrainian, and Yiddish influences, particularly in its language and folklore.

“Sign language does not have a word for silence, you know.”

it — Odessa — until 1993, when at the age of 16 he came to America. Odessa's climate is temperate. It ain't exactly Palm Beach, but compared to the cold associated with most of Rus-

Russian and Yiddish songs and poems written around or about Odessa abound. The songs often portray a rare city, more impressive than Vienna or Paris. A city that embod-

ies progress, a sense of carefree freedom, but a place that is also dangerous: an ideal place for a poet to be born and raised.

I asked Kaminsky about Odessa. He started by saying, “Russian literati are pretty Nazi in their snobbishness about location. For the last 200 years — pretty much the only years of full-time literary activity in the country — there were only two places where literature happened: St. Petersburg and Moscow. Moscow was the city associated with Tsve-taeva [Marina, another one of Russia's greatest poets — she hung herself during the Stalin era after years of exile, despair, hunger, and

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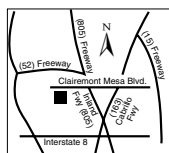
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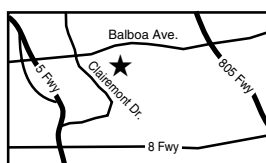
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grief], Pasternak, and later Yevtushenko [Yevgeny] and Voznesensky [Andrei]. St. Petersburg was the city of the old lit glory, from Pushkin and Lomonosov to Akhmatova, Blok, Mandelstam, and later Brodsky [Joseph, who came to America in the 1970s after being convicted in the Soviet Union of being a “parasite on society,” i.e., he was a poet]. Moscow and St. Petersburg poets could not stand each other — famously Brodsky and Yevtushenko.” (Yevtushenko visited and toured America several times in the ’70s and ’80s and emigrated to the U.S. in the ’90s and is on the faculty of the University of Tulsa.

Brodsky, not too many years after winning the Nobel prize in literature in 1987, died of heart disease, a chain-smoker to the end.)

After mentioning these literary feuds and squawks, Kaminsky said, “But that sort of thing happens in every country.” Quite right, Professor Kaminsky. My favorite American literary dustup was when Ernest Hemingway (who was wearing pajamas at

the time) punched Wallace Stevens in the face. I am also amused by the story of Hart Crane tossing his typewriter out a second-story window because it would not write a letter in perfect Spanish (a language of which he knew about six words) to the president of Mexico because he was hot about something.

Then, when Kaminsky was 16, his father and his family were

not fun, to put it mildly, to be a Jewish kid in the Ukrainian high school at that time, or now. But that is how things were then. My brother left for the USA first. He fell in love with a woman who was going to America — they love each other, they must live together, they got married. They wanted to have kids. So, they left. My father said, back then, if you want to go, go, but we are not going. And so at that

He came to SDSU on the strength of Dancing in Odessa.

granted political asylum in the U.S. This is how Kaminsky explains it: “The reason my family got asylum has, to be honest, nothing to do with me. It would be silly of me to claim other people’s medals. I was 16 years old, I was dating girls, so Odessa was a place like any other for a 16-year-old who was discovering the streets and does not know the alternative. It was an exciting time. Yes, it was

time my family stayed.” This was all matter-of-fact, and then he said something that both did and did not surprise me. “My father was pretty well-to-do. He was able to bribe the Soviet police, so being Jewish was not so much of a problem in 1991. The problems began a few years later. USSR fell apart. My father had many friends, some of them from childhood, who were journalists. He

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was a businessman — involved in things as different as a brush factory to the filmmaking industry — but his friends were mostly writers. He had money, they didn't.

"They came to our house for parties often, he tried to help them out. It was a feeling of

festival, in a way. When USSR fell apart there was an air of freedom, and the journalists and writers were the first who thought everything is permitted, they can now write about any sort of corruption. They thought the pen can win battles, and so on. In Ukraine, more so than in Russia — although it is pretty much the same in Russia now — the old bureaucracy stayed in power, even though they changed party affiliations.

"So when the journalists wrote about corruption, they were killed on the streets. It was pretty shocking. Pretty immediate. My father's good friend was Boris Derevyanko, a curious

man, editor of the major newspaper in Odessa, who was also an opera theater historian. He wrote about corruption. He published a book about opera in Odessa. He was shot."

I had to think for a moment about those last three short declarative sentences. There's something about that middle sentence being the middle sentence that contains a knot of truth about being human: we are, some of the time, probably more often than not, failed, miserable, and odious creatures.

Kaminsky: "The problem for my father was that it really looks bad on paper when you are a Jewish man who



PHOTOGRAPH BY ALAN DECKER

Kaminsky: "I like teaching because I like people, and because I like to share secrets."

has friends who write about the government. And he helps them with money. Plus, being Jewish backfired then —

when the state collapsed, there was no police to bribe."

No police to bribe? I had to remind myself I

wasn't in a Kafka story. This past summer I was in Prague, and it happened to be the 75th anniversary of Kafka's




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death. There wasn't a peep about it in the papers. I asked a senior Czech writer about this, and he explained simply, and a little sadly, that the Czech people have mixed feelings about Franz Kafka: even though he lived in Prague most of his life (and wrote all his great books there), he wrote in German (there were hundreds of thousands of ethnic Germans in Czechoslovakia then), and he was a Jew.

Kaminsky again: "It was all in the street. That

you are Jewish is written on your face. As they say in Russia, 'We beat you not in your passport, we beat you in your face.'"

I wanted to know more about his coming to America, and he said, "I can only speak for myself, since my family came to a place only a few immigrants ever come to: upstate New York. If we came to Brooklyn, we would be a different story. But in upstate New York, when our plane landed and the cab took us to our apartment, it was snow-

ing, it was Saturday, and there were *no people on the streets* [emphasis

never before experienced the situation when you drive down

"My father was pretty well-to-do. He was able to bribe the Soviet police."

his]. Coming from Odessa, which is pretty cosmopolitan, I honestly

the street in the broad daylight and there is *not a single human being*

walking. My first experience of USA was surreal. Like there is an atom bomb attack and everyone's just disappeared. It's a lonely country. Of course, I got used to it."

Sounds different from most immigrant arrival stories. His mother and his brother now live in Los Angeles. Tragically, his father died about a year after immigrating to the U.S. The causes were natural. If he had stayed in Odessa, the causes might not have been.

Kaminsky is tall (6'3", at least) and, like many tall people, stoops a little, is a few pounds past lanky and, like many poets I know, somewhat heterodox in his attire — his teaching-day shirt tucked in front, untucked in back, unironed, and open three buttons over a standard white under-shirt. His wife buttoned a few of the buttons for him before we left for class, and by the time we got there they were undone again. He was, rightly, oblivious to this.

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He has a big, slightly goofy grin and somewhat disheveled dark hair. I know a brilliant senior American poet who shaves himself in what one of my friends affectionately refers to as "the crop-rotation method." In other words, he misses whole swaths of his cheeks and

chin, and always in different places. Theodore Roethke once lost a pair of his pants for several weeks. Eventually, he found them on his desk. Kaminsky lives with his wife, Katie Farris, a fiction writer, whom he met at one of his poetry readings. Their modest apartment, in the North

Park area of San Diego, is spare and filled with light. I asked him how he and Katie met, and he said, "You will laugh, but our first conversation was about Kafka. When I read I had much accent, and not many folks at that moment could understand me. But ironically she had been

studying Russian for quite some time. So, I thought: here is a beautiful, smart woman who can actually understand what I say? A gift of the gods!" She too is tall, very slim, and lovely. They clearly adore each other. Farris is a vegetarian and served us a delicious vegetarian lunch. I

asked Kaminsky if he was a vegetarian. "Only when I eat with her," he said. He referred to himself at one point as a "really lucky bastard" to have met her.

During my brief visit to his apartment, I failed to ask if I could see his study. Most writers' studies are filled with books. I love looking at writers' bookshelves. (Who said this: "Show me a writer's library and I will tell you his biography"?) I learned later that Kaminsky's study was in his garage, which made me regret even more not asking to see it.

I asked him how the June gloom was this year. He hadn't heard of it, or didn't notice, or it

wasn't so bad. He was also unfamiliar with the grunion run. San Diegans, teach him the lore of the Southland!

By the time you read this, Kaminsky will be 31. The teaching job I alluded to above is at SDSU, where he is an assistant professor of English and creative writing.

He happens to be severely hearing-impaired. "I got the momps [I'm leaving the spelling the way he wrote it, because I think the word should be pronounced and spelled that way — it's more onomatopoeically accurate. Webster's take note!] when I was 4. I never really think of myself as hard of hear-



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ing. Silly but true. Why? Because I don't know the alternative, really. What does it mean to fully hear? Does anyone

One of the highest compliments a poet can receive is that he or she has a good ear. It means that the music, the

"I don't think poems are heard so much as lived through. They are experiences, pieces of life on the page."

fully hear? What does it mean to be fully deaf? Sign language does not have a word for silence, you know."

rhythms, the cadences of the poetry are strong. All great poetry is musical, and the music of each great poet is distinct, as

Mozart is from Beethoven. Kaminsky's ear is terrific.

I asked Kaminsky if it were possible for him to talk about how he hears his own poems and others'. In his head? His answer could have been given only by a real poet:

"Not in the head so much as in the shoulders, legs, hands, chest, brows, ears, hair. You know. Exactly the same way you feel when you read poems that make you go nuts." The "go nuts" he is talking about is how Emily knew she had read a great poem: it felt like the top of her head was taken off. A.E. Housman put it a little differently. He said that if he was shaving and he read a real line of poetry, he would cut himself. Me, I have to settle for the old goose bumps and, sometimes, that electric eel running up and down my spine. For people who love poetry it's like a narcotic. But free. Though usually hidden in objects called books, which are sometimes further hidden in places called bookstores and libraries.

Then Kaminsky said, "I don't think poems are heard so much as lived through. They are experiences, pieces of life on the page. Elizabeth Bishop wrote 'One Art' over 20 years ago. A crunky [again his spelling and, I believe, more accurate for Bishop] old lady. Didn't like people much. But her poem moves my lips when I wake in the middle of the night. It tells me how to go on when I forget I should. Is that something we hear? Sure. But it is more."

Indeed it is. Here's another thing about Kaminsky to keep in mind, particularly when you consider his hearing loss — the reality of his coming to America at 16 and speaking little English. It seems he left a

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girlfriend or two behind in Odessa, and what that will do to a young man's heart does not even come close to what we usually call "broken." I have a theory: all young men's poetry begins with a broken heart. Kaminsky graduated from high school, college (University of Rochester), and a prestigious (Georgetown) law school, all by the time he was 24. I asked him, on a scale of 1 to 10, how well he spoke English when he first came to the U.S. He said, "When I came to U.S., I did not speak English. So, on a scale of 1 to 10, it is 0."

He practiced law for a few years in the San Francisco Bay Area. I asked him about that. "Well, let me be honest. My not practicing law is no great loss for the American legal system. I worked as a law clerk for the National Immigra-

tion Law Center, and after that for the Bay Area Legal Aid. It was a fantastic experience for me, in many ways. Real people, especially in the time at Legal Aid; real people, with real stories, came in hour after hour, day after day, and everyone's face had different wrinkles, and they all carried a piece of

(there is certainly no duller language on earth), it must have seemed wonderfully workable after growing up in the Soviet system. Though he obviously loved this work and felt he could do some good in it, there were problems:

"Things got a bit complicated for many

Kaminsky's class was relaxed, it was loopy.

paper that somehow fucked up something in their days. It was an incredible experience being able to add a piece of paper to another and write up or speak up on someone's behalf and really see how their day was changed."

As screwy as the American legal system is

public-interest organizations when Arnold S. became our governor. He is a lot more liberal right now than he was a few years ago, when he just began. A lot of funds were cut, programs replaced, and so on. I got lucky — I found a teaching job [more specifics about

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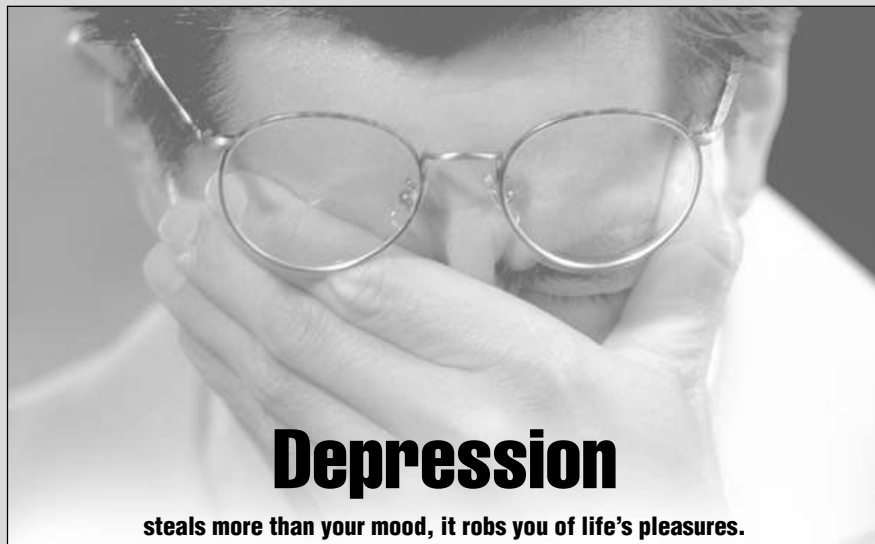
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this soon] within a year. Not everyone was that lucky. It pains me to think about these brilliant legal professionals who had to go home and watch TV because a certain program was cut or funds got redirected. But that is what happened. It is better now, I imagine, politically, but a lot of programs that were changed it will take years to streamline again."

So this is how a Ukrainian poet from the

city of Odessa came to live in San Diego. He got his appointment at SDSU because he's a poet and on the reputation, the strength, of his first book, published when he was only 28, called, appropriately, *Dancing in Odessa*. It won the Dorset Prize and was published by Tupelo Press, one of the best independent publishers of poetry in the country. It also picked up a couple of other prizes after publication.

It's an astonishingly good book, not just a good first book, or a good book by a young poet, but an astonishingly good book. Period. I could go on about why I think so, but this is not a book review. If it were, the last sentence of the review would be "Read this book!"

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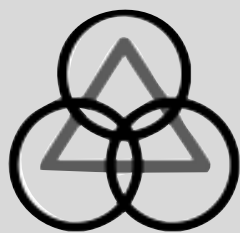
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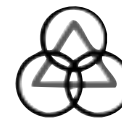
If he or she is 18 years of age or older and has had Schizophrenia for more than one year, he/she may be eligible to participate in the research of a new investigative treatment!

A clinical research study is being conducted to evaluate Paliperidone Palmitate, a long-acting, injectable medication in the treatment of subjects with Schizophrenia.

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tionary, looking up words as fast as he can. He finishes high school, college, and law school in less than a decade. Practices law for a few years. Gets a college teaching job — and I bet there were 300-plus applications for that position. Publishes, in a language other than his mother tongue, a first-rate book of poems.

I attended his class of graduate writing students at SDSU. Before the seminar, Kaminsky

and I talked for a while on a balcony off the hallway of his classroom's building. We were looking over rush-hour traf-

highway was a deep canyon and the town of La Mesa. The brush and the trees looked incredibly dry. It was a few

“Chicks dig poetry,” I tell my male students.

fic on I-8. He teaches an early-evening class because many of his students work and/or have families. Across the

weeks before the October fires.

I recently listened to a recording of the class. It was a diverse group, mostly younger people, but also a few older. I refer to students of mine who happen to be, say, over 35, as “full-fledged adults.” I stretch the limit a bit on the age around which one is supposed to reach maturity. When I hit 35, I extended my own schedule to 45. When I hit 45, I extended it to 55. Now, having just turned 61, I’m thinking 65 might be the right age for maturity. That is, after

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all, when the gummint starts giving you back some of the money they've been siphoning from your paycheck since your first paycheck.

I bring up age

because I am almost twice as old as Kaminsky. I've been teaching poetry reading and writing in colleges and universities for about 35 years. I've published 11 books of poetry. Most of

my friends are writers and teachers of writing and literature. I've taught thousands of classes myself and been in the classroom with many of the best teachers of writing and litera-

ture in the country. Point I'm getting to is: Kaminsky's class was a revelation (I've seen it all!) to me. It was a blast, it was relaxed, it was loopy. He sat in a big office chair at the head

of the seminar table, swiveling this way and that, tilting back sometimes, leaning forward — he teaches with his whole body.

He'd go out on a limb about something

having to do with a particular poem, and just when that branch was about to bend he'd leap up to a higher limb, then another branch, then he'd jump to another tree. It might have seemed random to a civilian, but his teaching mind moved the same way the best poets' poems move: filled with leaps and turns, surprising yet inevitable. Kaminsky would move from a Polish poet to a Greek poet to an American poet, different decades, different cultures: one poetry.

He said to his students, "It's a super learning aid to listen to books talking to each other." Meaning, one poet in one age, one culture, is writing about the same human business as another poet in another age, another culture. In this same context he said, "You can have a conversation with a dead writer." At one point, he had the whole class stand up and stretch, loosen up. He quoted Theodore Adorno, who said, "After the Holocaust how can there still be poetry?" And then he quoted the former U.S. poet laureate, Mark Strand, who said, "After the Holocaust, how can there be lunch?" I think Strand was saying, after the Holocaust we need poetry to go on, maybe more than ever. Kaminsky mentioned William Carlos Williams' famous dictum, "No ideas but in things." I've always more or less agreed with that and argue against abstract language, though not abstract thought. Kaminsky does not agree with Williams, believing that "All good poems have ideas." I think all good poems may not start with ideas, but all good poems end up discovering ideas or what might be called their themes. I don't like to use the word "idea" or "meaning" when talking about poetry. I like

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Frost's word for it: "ulteriority." I want to know what's human and alive and authentic about a poem. Talking about attentiveness again, Kaminsky said, "You need to look at language like it's your lover's body." I wish I'd had teachers like him.

Given his hearing impairment and his accent, he is remarkably easy to understand, particularly after talking or listening to him for a few minutes. He has a rhythmic style of speaking and reading (more about that in a while), what I'd call a musical voice. He engaged his students fully in the class, asking questions, cajoling, poking, reminding them of what he'd said earlier and did they see the connection? They did. They clearly loved and respected him.

I asked him more

about teaching. After all, he is fairly new to it. He was honest. "Despite whatever they all say, teaching *does not* [emphasis his] have anything to do with one's own writing." Note: I'm not sure exactly what he meant by this — probably that it didn't have a

college teaching, but all teaching) is an art, probably the most (and that's saying something) undervalued art in our culture. He also said, "I like teaching because I like people, and because I like to share secrets." That struck me as absolutely true, but I'd

"I am lucky. I have wonderful, attentive students."

negative effect. A lot of writers who teach complain about teaching. My only response to this is: So don't teach. Please don't teach. Kaminsky continued, "It is another art." I was glad to hear him say that, and it's true that good teaching (and I don't mean only

never thought of it exactly like that. A teacher reveals secrets of the craft (I'm talking specifically now about the teaching of poetry by a poet) and also reveals how secrets, the things we discover, what we truly feel, tend to emerge (if we are hon-

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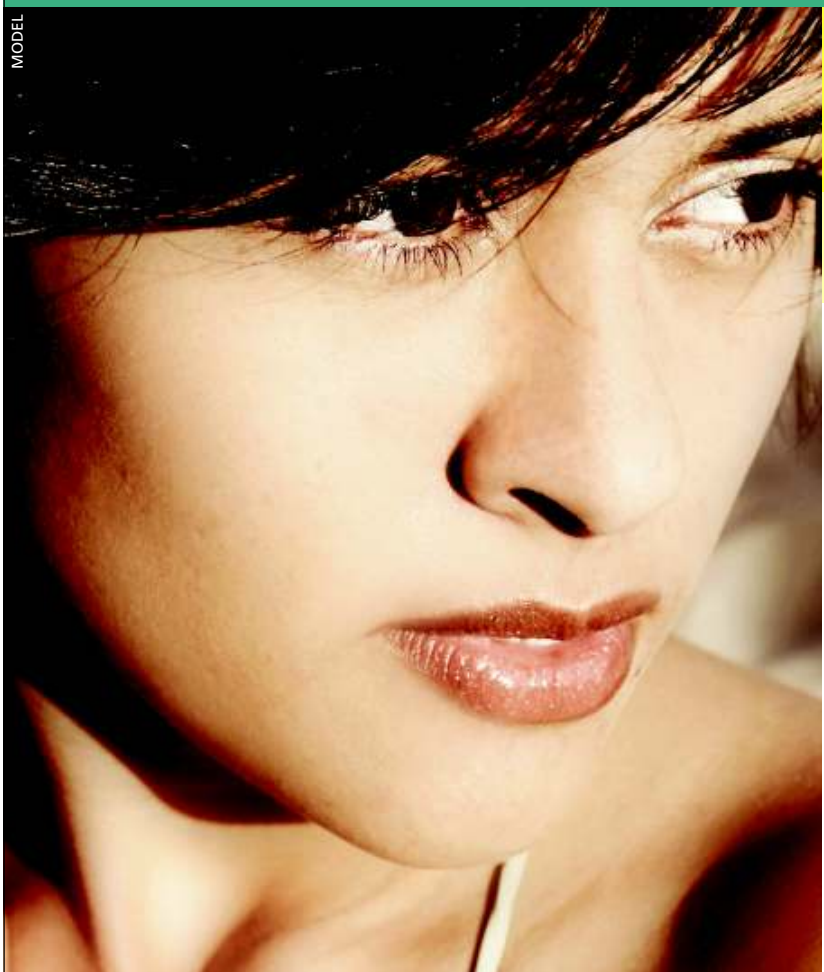
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est) when we write. I love what Robert Frost said when someone asked him why he wrote poems. He said he wrote to find out what it was he didn't know he knew. I also love what Randall Jarrell said when people asked him what he wrote about. He said, "The laughter and the tears."

Kaminsky had a universal complaint made by almost all writer/teachers: "So, it is fun for me. But I also know it takes time from what I need to do most. And yet, such joy when a student gets it, the way they think of their days as changed, the ways 'making' enters. [Walt Whitman said: "You say I contradict myself. All right then, I contradict myself."] Surely, not every student will become a wonderful poet, although I have been lucky so far with

students, but there is a great worth, I feel, in teaching them the 'making' of craft in itself, of attentiveness. I go with Celan [Paul, German poet] here, who said, beautifully: 'Atten-

until Kaminsky reminded me. I also like that he made reference to Horace, the great Latin poet, who said that poetry was a "made" thing, meaning it doesn't just happen, flow down

*"I did not tell them,
 but I would do it for
 free. It is a luxury to
 talk about things you
 love with students."*

tiveness is the natural prayer of the human soul. I love that."

So do I, and I've been quoting it to students for years, although I never could remember who originally said it

your arm like an electrical current on a direct line from Mt. Parnassus, it ain't dreamy automatic bullshit. Kaminsky knew, though it didn't come up, that the word "poet" derives from the

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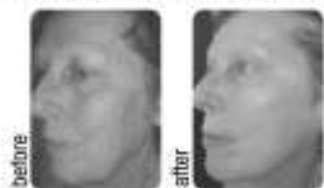
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ancient Greek: "maker."
He continued to speak about teaching at SDSU. "Well, I did not tell them, but I would do it for free. It is a luxury to talk about things you love with students. Sharing lines that can make your days brighter — what can be better?"

As I said, I earn the bulk of my living beneath the leafy shade of academe. I've been on committees making decisions *re* hiring, firing, tenure, etc., many times. If the people who make those decisions at SDSU asked for it, my recommendation would be: Tie this guy up, make sure he stays at SDSU. He will be one of the best poets of his generation. He's a wonderful teacher. He will bring honor to your university. Come to my grave in 30 years or so, or to the spot where my daughter will tell you

she scattered my ashes, and tell me that I was right.

I've ended the last class of every semester for years by saying something like, I wish all of you get as lucky as I have as far as finding a way to pay for a roof and feed your child (children) goes. Doing something you love to earn

teaching and the possibility of a greater community of writers. "I am lucky. I have wonderful, attentive students. I hope to find a way to have more of a literary community in San Diego, to bring more people together, to have more readings, conversations. If I am to stay here and live here, it

"Russians love their poetry and their poets."

your living is one of the greatest blessings in life. I call the students knuckleheads — by the end of a semester they know this as an endearment — and I tell them I hope they take poetry with them on the journey.

Kaminsky wasn't finished discussing

would be really nice to have more of that. And, I think that will happen. We will try, anyway."

I've struggled to find a few words to describe Kaminsky's overall demeanor, but believe it comes down to something as simple as this: he is a happy man (though every happy

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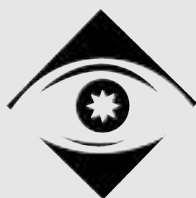
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man has his dark place), he loves his art, he loves his loved ones, he is filled with a kind of gratitude, and he loves the world — despite a million reasons not to.

Kaminsky and I were invited to give a poetry reading at D.G. Wills Books in La Jolla. I love that store. It's the only bookstore I've ever been in that has a street sign with several large-caliber bullet holes in it hanging on the wall. Not to mention thousands of new and used books. I'd read there several years before. Bookstores are to poets (all writers, almost all of whom are prodigious readers) what barrooms are to rumdums. When we first walked in, Kaminsky went right to the shelves, trying to find something new. People nuts about poetry get to know the poetry shelves of the bookstores they frequent

so well they can immediately tell if something's changed — if there are new books, if books are gone, etc. Kaminsky's got that eyeball. Within minutes of entering the store, Kaminsky had several books beneath his arm and was reading another with his free hand. At one point, I saw him write a note on his hand.

It was a warm evening, and a wide door in the back opened onto a small patio. To anyone who's never been to a poetry reading, there are two common stereotypes: 1) it will include finger-snapping and bongos, or 2) a boring old guy will mumble incomprehensible poems incomprehensibly into a page in front of an audience in deep pain, especially the man who was forced to go to the reading by his wife. The former hardly ever

happens anymore; the latter, unfortunately, still happens sometimes. Pretty frequently, however, poetry readings are quite lively affairs: funny, rapid, sexy (this gets the attention of students), and intensely alive. A concert without instrumentation.

Although I realize it is a somewhat sexist thing to say, I tell my young male students at Georgia Tech, as a way of getting them to go to the poetry readings we hold on campus, "Chicks dig poetry." One of my best students at Georgia Tech is also one of the top college linebackers in the country. He'll be drafted this spring and in the NFL next fall. Another student once told me he wanted to be in my class because there were more girls in it than most classes. I told him to pass that news around

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and let him in the class for his honesty. If I can get them to the water, lots of them turn out to be thirsty. I got a call recently from a former female student at Tech — she just married a guy she'd met in one of my classes. He isn't good enough for her (my daughter is about her age; no guy's good enough), but poetry brought them together. A student of mine, now a widely published poet, fell in love with another poet at my house at a party after a poetry reading. I have lots more anecdotal evidence of the aphrodisiacal properties of poetry. Gentlemen?

I loved hearing Kaminsky read. He passes out copies of his poems for the audience to follow along with as he reads aloud. I had heard his reading style described as operatic, and I guess it is, but it is really impassioned speech, very much in the Russian tradition of declaiming one's poetry, emphatically. Not theater, not oral interpretation, but excited, intense human speech — he would raise and lower his voice, change his pacing. His voice has the faint echo of bells tolling — joyously.

Poetry has been around at least as long as the cave paintings. Poetry existed before language: the first poets were primitive people dancing around a fire and chanting rhythmically. Their themes were probably the next day's hunt or regarding their spirit world. Every culture on earth developed poetry on its own, independent of other cultures. Like fire. Like the spear. We've always known, because our bodies told us so, that we derive pleasure from the repetition, and the variations of repetition, of certain sounds: music, poetry. Now we know that it is a truly

physiological human need, or source of pleasure. There are CAT scan machines that record the brain's pleasure centers lighting up when listening to music or the cadences of poetry.

Russians love their poetry and their poets. Always have. If you meet a Russian diplomat, or student, or waiter, or, in particular, a Russian cab driver, ask him or her to recite some of their

favorite poems. I once got a free, rather lengthy ride in a cab driven by a Russian cabbie in San Diego because he was so delighted that I knew (in English only) many of the Russian poets. Rus-

sians say that people who love to read and write poetry have "nightingale fever." Before the fall of Communism, it was not unusual for poets to draw almost stadium-

sized audiences for readings. For poets who were deemed unacceptable to the regime (if they were not exiled, or jailed, or put in phony laughing academies), there were smaller, but no less

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intense, private gatherings. There was a form of publishing called samizdat, i.e., manuscripts were passed hand to hand between readers.

Truly American and truly Russian literature began at about the same time, give or take. American poets, until Whitman and Dickinson, were really English poets, American poets writing after the English model and in the English tradition, which was only natural. But after America had been

around for a while, we started minting our own. See Whitman, whom one critic said established “an absolute discontinuation of the traditions of English verse,” and Dickinson, above. Kaminsky had this to say about Russian poetry in the 19th Century: “Russian literary life...did not begin until the 1820s [okay, so the Russkies were a few decades ahead of us in developing their national literature — we beat them to the moon!]

when Pushkin was writing his great *Eugene Onegin*, Gogol was beginning to write, and in a few years, Lermontov. Pushkin wrote in Russian — not the French language of nobility.” We agreed, generally, on this parallel, but he also reminded me that American poets had, via our literary ancestors, Shakespeare, of whom Emily Dickinson said, “Why do we need anything else?” Kaminsky said Russian poets did not have a

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Shakespeare. He referred to Shakespeare's work as our "epic." Hard to argue. For Russian literature this had a good side though. Kaminsky said, "That absence of the great literary past in the Russian language does explain, to my mind anyway, the abundance of the epic novels — Tolstoy, Dostoevsky — in the late 19th Century." The gods of literature giveth and they taketh away.

Joseph Brodsky was said to have been asked, after he came to America, what was worse — living in a society where you could be sent to the gulag for writing something that displeased the bosses, or living in a society where a writer can write anything he or she wants, as critical of the bosses as he or she wants, and nobody cares? He said the latter. I'm not sure I believe him. First of all, some people do care. And, second, he seemed pretty happy in the U.S. I once saw him drive away from a poetry reading in a BMW.

Another former student of mine, who teaches at a San Diego high school, brought a bunch of his students to the reading at the bookstore. Afterwards, some of the kids wanted us to sign their arms. Not something I've ever been asked to do before. I wrote on one: "Give this kid an A!"

Kaminsky signed a few too, in English — American English, because that is the language he writes in now. Stanley Kunitz, the great and beloved American poet, who died at age 100 just a few years ago, said of himself and of other poets, "I have a tribe, but we are scattered." Yes, true, but we sometimes gather in small groups of two or three, sometimes in much larger confabs. See the annual Dodge Poetry Festival in New Jersey,

see the Associated Writing Program's yearly convention this winter in NYC: 7500 (c'mon, that's too many; no, that's not enough!) writers!

It's not writers that are important anyway.

What's important is the writing, the poems, stories, plays, novels, etc. Immensely important. One of the last things Kaminsky said to me was: "And, about poetry, I am not sure if I had

said it before, so I want to say it now — I want to make sure it is clear how joyous the activity of writing is, how wondrous, magical. I don't want the biographical or historical to cloud that

up. Writers' biography/history, after all, is in their language." If you get a chance to read Ilya Kaminsky's poems or hear him read, do so. His poems will make you feel a little

more alive and a little less alone. And if you happen to see him on the street, he will most likely be the best poet you ever see on the street. ■

— Thomas Lux

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It's not really ink

I walked into Body Marks Tattoo and Piercing on El Cajon Boulevard, a few blocks from the 805 and right next to a strip club. At night, hookers are walking the streets. A perfect setting for ink. This is how they did it back in the day, when only sailors and prisoners got tats.

My eyes spot the Von Dutch flying eyeball. How many people have that and don't even know the history behind it? I ask the tattoo artist, Nes, if there are copyright laws prohibiting him from inking something that is trademarked. "No," he says, "but we can't display them or advertise that we do, or we'd get into trouble."

I see some amazing works of art, many of which I think would look horrible on your skin, no matter how impressive the picture is.

I look through the poster rack at a variety of symbols, animals, and nude women. I assume that animals are more popular with women, and nudes more popular with guys, although singer Amy Winehouse and writer Diablo Cody (*Juno*) both

have old-style pinup girls tattooed on their arms.

I see a woman with a butterfly tattoo on her back looking at piercings in the display case. And a guy behind me is talking about getting another tattoo on his already-covered body. He says to two other customers, "I have my kids' names. And Norwegian ruins on my back. My wife doesn't mind 'em, as long as I don't get naked redheaded chicks."

A guy sitting there says, "So, your wife wouldn't mind brunettes, just not redheads?"

The guy behind me laughs and says, "She's a little Italian gal. You don't want to piss them off. She knows I have a thing for redheads. But she's cool about the tattoos. Even if I want one on my head."

I hear a woman say that all the buzzing from the tattoos being applied reminds her of airplanes



**Nes has
tattooed
my mom.**

during World War II. She doesn't look old enough to recognize the sounds of any war but the current one. The buzzing reminds me more of killer bees finally landing in our county, but instead of

stingers and venom piercing the skin, it's tattoo ink.

I find out from talking to the artists that it's not really ink. "Most tattoo inks aren't technically inks," says Nes. "They're composed of pigments that are suspended in a carrier solution. Contrary to popular belief, pigments usually are not vegetable dyes. Today's pigments primarily are metal salts. Some pigments are plastics. There are probably

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some vegetable dyes. The pigment provides the color of the tattoo. The purpose of the carrier is to disinfect the pigment suspension, keep it evenly mixed, and provide for ease of application.”

I watch as he works on someone. He dips his needle into different inks, much the way a painter mixes colors. This is done to make some things lighter, others darker. You can get any color you can want, other than metallic colors, or glitter — which probably only affects the few women that want a

unicorn picture from their childhood.

Nes says, “I can even do tattoos that are only visible under black light.”

When I interviewed

left side of his head says “The Price is Right” with the dollar symbol. I ask why he’d do that and he says, “Nes is the one that does all my tattoos. I

He doesn’t do anything racist or gang related.

Judas Priest singer Rob Halford years ago, it was the first time I had seen tattoos on someone’s head.

A guy walks in, a friend of Nes’s. The entire

wanted *The Price is Right*, because of Bob Barker leaving, and it’s sort of my motto, my way of life.”

“You’d surely get on the show if you showed up,” I say. But he disagrees. “They’d never let me on the show looking like this.” He holds up his arms, with sleeves of tattoos. He’s probably right. Disneyland kicked out that postal worker who has his body covered in Disney tattoos (this after he refused to put his shirt on).

In one of the books on the counter, I see that some people use their bodies’ features to create part of the tattoo. There’s a guy whose nipples are the eyes for a face on his chest.

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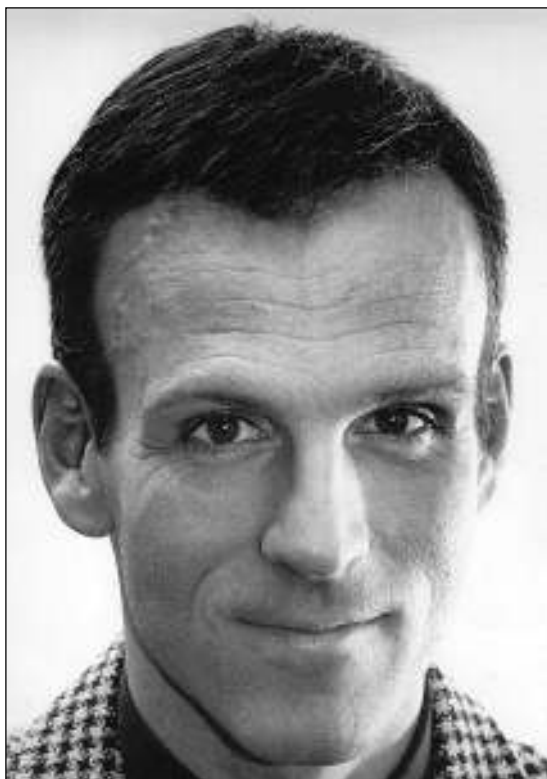
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The face is surrounded by skulls.

A sign on the wall says "Notice — No ID, No Tattoo." Aside from the obvious over-18 law, I wonder what the reason might be. Nes says, "The health department likes to be able to keep track of everything. If something breaks out, it's all documented."

I glance around the shop and see a huge picture of a guy with the tattoo "UN Armed" on his knuckles. It reminds me of being backstage at an Ozzy show, seeing his name tattooed on his fingers.

There are skateboards on the wall, and I'm told that once in a while, someone has a sticker on their board that they want tattooed.

As we talk, Nes pauses. He asks me to sign a form, seeming reluctant. I remember when a morning radio show I once worked for had us skydive live on the air. The form for that said: "If you die, your family can't sue us." It freaked me out.

This form had all the things you'd expect regarding lawsuits, hepatitis, heart conditions, epilepsy, and bleeding disorders. The part about "use of photograph of the tattoo" makes sense. Some might be reluctant. A few years ago I read a story about Detroit Pistons forward Rasheed Wallace being sued. He has a tattoo on his right arm that was

body tattooed, in my late 30s, with a woman's initials, put me in that category? I signed it.

Nes smiles. He refrains from rolling his eyes when I tell him what I want. I say, "I thought the AC/DC logo would look cool, but with my initials, and my girlfriend's." I beat him to the punch by adding, "I know you've probably done a lot of

Nes stands for Never Ending Story.

being displayed in Nike ads. The artist didn't look at this as free advertisement for his work. He was just miffed he was paid less than \$500 and that he didn't benefit from the exposure.

The form also states that you can't have any physical or mental impairments. But is someone who's mentally impaired even aware that they are? Does agreeing to have my

cover-up tattoos on names, right?" Nes says, "I've done names, and a year later, I'm doing a tattoo over that when they're dating someone else. I say 'I told you.'"

The few tattoo artists here tell me cover-ups look great. Certain things like roses work well, because there's so much going on it obscures the original tattoo. They all agree that cover-ups of previous tat-

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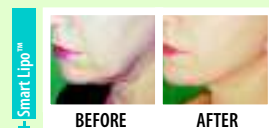
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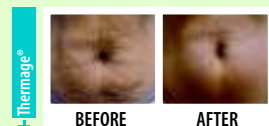
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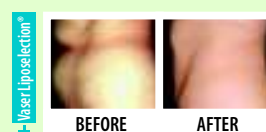
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toos are among the most common thing they do.

The tattoo is going to have our initials "KB/JB" with a lightning bolt in between. I have a huge scar across my stomach, and I want the lightning bolt to start at the scar.

Nes goes in back and draws the logo, looking at one of the album covers I brought in. He draws on tracing paper, and asks me what I think, before it gets put on my skin.

He cleans the area he'll work on and slips on latex gloves. I say, "I guess you don't spell names

wrong, if you're showing the person it first." He says, "No, I never have. I have heard of people that have done Chinese characters wrong, and it spells some-

ese form of writing) that she thought meant "mysterious." It actually meant "strange." No joke needed there.

A young African-

"I do a lot of girlfriend's and boyfriend's names."

thing completely different." I mention the story of Britney Spears in 2002. She got a kanji (Chinese characters used in a Japan-

American kid is standing nearby with his friend. He's a graffiti artist that goes by "Oper." He says, "There's a funny clip of Tupac Shakur giving shit to someone in his posse. The guy had a Chinese character, and Tupac said, 'You don't even know what that means! It probably says "two egg rolls" or something.'

I ask Oper if he wants to get into tattooing, and he says he does. He's 19, and I ask how many tattoos he has. "I don't have any yet," he says. "I haven't decided what I want. But Nes has tattooed my mom. She had 'older sister' written in Chinese symbols.

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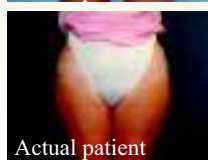
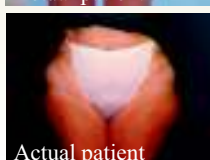
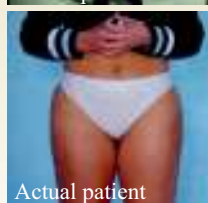
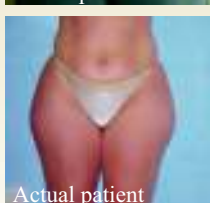
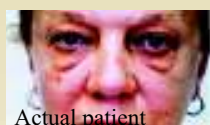
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I've drawn a few, like my cousin's skull. It's graffiti-style. And I did lilies for my girlfriend that he tattooed on her."

I asked if artists like Peter Max or Banksy have work that looks nice tattooed. Neither of them know who Max is, but Oper says, "Yeah, man, Banksy is dope. He's got great stencils."

At this point, a liquid is smeared on my skin. It's green soap, and every tattoo shop uses it, and smells like it. It's used both in the prep process and to clean the area afterward. It reminds me of an aroma you'd get in the hospital.

The tattooing gets underway. Nes asks, "How is it feeling?" and I say, "Not as bad as I thought. But I've donated 14 gallons of blood, so needles don't bother me." He says,

"Well, I just did a few little lines first, so we could ease into it."

When he kicks it up a notch, I can feel a burning and pinching sensation. It's odd to see so much stretching of the skin. I notice there's a lot of scrubbing, too. I've broken

people ideas for future work." Nes laughs and says, "That's more to take people's mind off the pain." I glance down and see blood, and I ask, "Do certain people bleed different than others?" He says, "Yeah. It seems red-haired guys with pale skin bleed a

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my arms four times over the years, and they would do that to clean an area of the skin. In tattooing, it's used to fill in an area with ink.

I notice the ceiling tiles all have different graphics. "That's a good idea," I say. "You can give

lot more."

I ask about tattoos on various races, if it's more popular in any one culture, especially with so many hip-hop artists and rappers sporting ink. "No," says Nes. "It's pretty much popular everywhere now. Maybe less so in Asian cultures."

Nes doesn't do anything racist or gang related.

Oper's friend says, "Man, I can't believe you're just talking and taking notes while this guy is tattooing you." Oper says, "Yeah. When people usually have their first tattoo, they're clutching something or squirming a lot. But it's good you aren't. Nes won't finish on someone that's crying."

I ask if it's common for people to freak out over the pain. Nes says, "Sometimes. I once was doing a dolphin on this woman. She thought it

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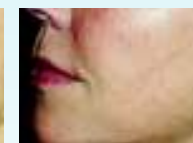
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hurt so much, she wouldn't let me finish. I had just done the tail. I tried to convince her to let me at least do the outline of it, but she wouldn't."

One thing he doesn't try to talk people out of is stupid tattoos.

"If people know what they want, they obviously think it's cool. If somebody has a real elaborate picture I might [try to talk them out of it]. Not because I can't do it, but if

it's something like a ship, with a bunch of intricate lines, they'll eventually bleed under the skin and it'll be mess. You won't be able to tell what certain things are. Lines always end up connecting if they're too close together. When you tell them it's too detailed, they usually say that's what they liked about it. Sometimes I'll try to talk a woman out of having a fairy tattooed on her stomach. I tell them it's

not going to look so good after time."

What are the most painful areas?

"Where you are getting it done, on the side and stomach, and any part that bends — like the elbow or wrist. The upper arm is probably the least painful."

I look down again, and think he should be farther along than he is. I notice beads of sweat on his bald head and ask if I'm distracting him by talking. He says no, so I continue.

I ask if he's tattooed his family, and he says, "Yeah, both my mom and dad. He has a yellowtail tuna chasing a lure. He's a big fisherman. And my mom has Hawaiian flow-

ers around her ankle. She's from Hawaii. My sister has a small dolphin on her shoulder, but I didn't do it."

The oldest person he's inked was an 83-year-old ex-Marine who wanted a panther. And regarding age and weight gain, he tells me, "You can tell an older tattoo on someone. Things have gotten so much better over the years, and yeah, tattoos do fade eventually. Weight doesn't affect things as much as you'd think. I have tattoos I got when I was 150 pounds. I weigh 250 now, and they look the same. I did all my own tattoos when I was learning. I practiced on my thighs. I'm going to wait a bit before I do more. I have

some Japanese temple guardians. I got them because they say your body is your temple."

It reminds me of how he went with the tag "Nes." Earlier he'd told me how he wanted something easy to remember and a name that nobody else had. It stands for *Never Ending Story*, which is what his body will be as he continues to ink himself.

He's been tattooing for seven years, after being an artist and having people who worked with tattoos suggesting he get into it. "I started helping out at their shops," he says, "and basically being their slave."

I ask if he notices older people looking at him differently now that he has tattoos. He says,

"Oh, yeah, all the time. Before they were visible, I didn't get those looks. So I know it's the tattoos. But then, there were girls who didn't talk to me. After I got the tattoos, they did. So I guess there is both positive and negative."

Regarding women, I ask if he's tattooed girlfriends.

"Yes, but here's the thing. I don't like girls with a lot of tattoos."

I feel a bit of pain, and my body squirms. I'm surprised this isn't happening more. Mostly, I'm able to lie still. I'm also surprised my pen still writes while I'm lying upside down.

A couple comes in, and I hear the woman tell her boyfriend about each picture and why she wants

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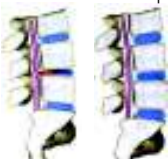
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it tattooed. I ask Nes if he ever saw the '70s movie *Tattoo*, where Bruce Dern is a vet who kidnaps a woman and tattoos her body.

I ask if tattoo artists all get along, or do they criticize each others' work.

"Some artists only do their own pictures and designs," he says. "They can be elitist and think they're better than everyone else. There are street guys that just tattoo and make money, and sort of stick to themselves. Other tattoo artists get along. I just got back from a con-

vention in San Francisco. You end up talking about it with other artists and trying to improve."

A friend of mine with tattoos has mentioned Angelina Jolie and singer Amy Winehouse having horrible tattoos. I asked Nes his opinion on celebrities.

"Yeah, some are really sucky. A few got them before they were famous. But once you have the fame and money, why not hire a good artist? A friend of mine, a great artist, is being flown to L.A. to do one for Sylvester Stallone.

He's going to do a portrait of his wife tattooed on himself."

When an actor or rapper gets big, and they have ink, does it make tattooing jump in popularity? Does it make people want that same design?

"No. And it's been pretty popular for a while now. There's a guy here at the shop that does a lot of rappers here in San Diego."

I'm looking at an award from Channel 10, realizing tattooing isn't as underground as it once was. Nes says, "Well, it all

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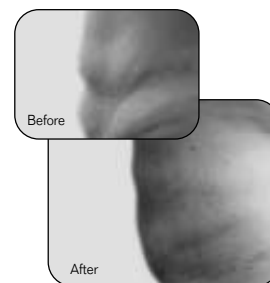
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depends. I know a girl, and her grandmother tells her that she's going to hell for getting a tattoo. Oh, here's a weird story. There was one woman I remember tattooing. She wanted the Do Not Enter sign on her lower back. I guess she thought that was funny."

I think it's lame when someone has their name tattooed on themselves. I ask Nes what he thinks, and he agrees.

"Yeah, someone's own name... I wonder what the point is. I do a lot of girlfriends' and boyfriends' names. I get bored doing tribal signs. They're so common."

Since my brother started a decade ago with a few, and kept getting more and more, I wonder if people get addicted to it.

"Yeah," says Nes. "Some people get crazy ideas on what they want. I'll sometimes do one, and they want more on it. I want to get a picture of it before they mess up what I think looks cool by crowding a lot of stuff in."

We're finishing up. I can't help but wonder what danger inks can do to the skin. I ask what the tattoo ink actually is.

"You can't be a hundred percent certain on what tattoo ink is."

That isn't comforting. Nes continues.

"Manufacturers of inks and pigments are not required to reveal the contents. A professional who mixes his or her own inks from dry pigments will be most likely to know the composition of the inks.

However, the information is a proprietary trade secret. So, you may or may not get answers, even from them."

My tattoo is being cleaned with the green soap and bandaged with something that looks like a miniature diaper. There's that hospital smell in the air, and I look down, and it's almost like I had a bullet extracted from my side.

I'm given a card with a list of rules about washing and using fragrance-free lotions twice a day. I'm not supposed to pick or scratch it. No ointments, gels, or petroleum products. And for the first ten days, no direct sun, swimming, or soaking.

I again make a joke about having a woman's initials tattooed on me. He

says, "I've had some people come in and have another thing done over a woman's name. And it is like therapy for them. Other people have bad things happen in their life, and when they come in for a tattoo, it seems to take their mind off of their problems. It's therapeutic."

I tell him my stepdad had the name of his first wife, "Judie," tattooed on his arm. He married my mom, who is named Judi. The letter "e" was easily made into a heart. It helped that the first four letters were the same.

As I walk out the door I tell Nes, "If we break up, I probably won't be back for any cover-ups. I'll just search for a woman with the same initials." ■

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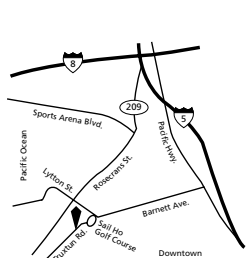
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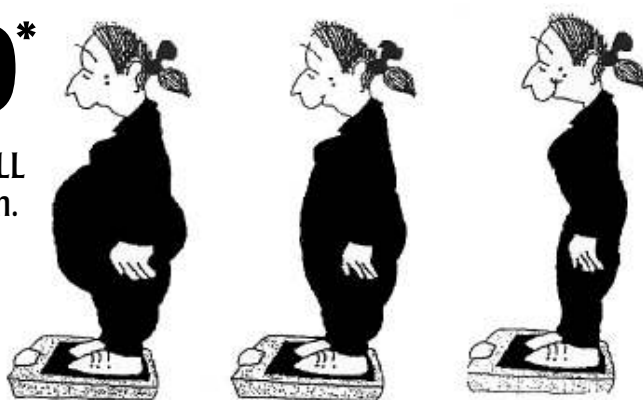
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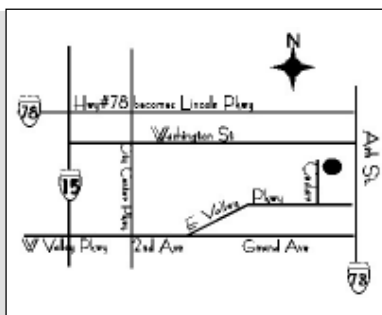


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LETTERS

continued from page 12

and the individuals that

were interviewed were well chosen and are true leaders of our community. The article conjured up a sense of hope and encouragement to

make a difference, to take a stand and promote nonviolence. The author's reflection on the Polynesian/Samoan culture was genuine and sincere and conveyed its beauty, strong convictions, and values, rather than attempting to define the Samoan culture and Samoan people by the acts of brutality of a few teenagers. I'm a firm believer in the fact that in order for us to eradicate social discrimination, we must all build cultural and societal awareness. This article helped facilitate that notion very well. Thank you once again.

Anna Sapa'u

Comments from Reader Website

Restaurant Review Published March 5

Posted by CJ on March 6, 10:09 a.m.

I could not disagree more. I love the restaurant, and went there many times. The food, service and ambience are excellent. The restaurant is Italian, but that does not mean it can't have variations in the menu. A good restaurant is not define by what kind of food is on the menu, but how good is the food. Besides, having others cuisines influence is a positive thing in my opinion.

ion. Another comment, there are no Italian waitresses at Alexander's (I happen to know one of the servers there), but Brazilian. I believe that if Naomi cannot recognize an accent from Italy, which is very different from an accent from Brazil, maybe she doesn't know Italy and their food that well...

Surf Diego

Published March 5

Posted by electric_fish on March 5, 2008, 6:34 p.m.

READER: GET OUT OF OB, MB AND PB, SAN DIEGO IS A BIG PLACE! Please reserve for those who surf too!

Posted by FriendofBee on March 9, 2008, 9:34 p.m.

maybe those are the only places friendly enough to give interviews. ever think of that? people can get pretty snobby on some beaches, quit giving them a hard time. maybe surfers should be more receptive to interviews.



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We Know We're Not White

The Making of the Mexican-American Race

Scientifically, there is nothing meaningfully different about people in different racial groups," says Laura E. Gómez, professor of law at the University of New Mexico. "Race is socially constructed; it's not rooted in biology. Race is important because of the particular history we have in this country — we had an institution of slavery based on the color of people's skin. In 1780, Congress passed one of the very first major laws — that only white people could become naturalized citizens of the United States. That left out the Chinese, Mexicans, and anyone else that wasn't white."

LOCAL EVENTS

On Wednesday, March 19, Gómez will discuss her book *Manifest Destinies: The Making of the Mexican American Race* at D.G. Wills Books in La Jolla. "For 160 years, Mexicans have been part of the United States. Sometimes the law has defined Mexican Americans as white, yet, socially, Mexican Americans have been defined as nonwhite."

On the 2000 census, the categories for race consisted of White, Black, African American or Negro, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Native Hawaiian, Guamanian or Chamorro, Samoan, and Other. According to the Office of Management and Budget's definition of race, as explained on *census.gov*, "People who identify their origin as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino may be of any race." The question preceding the one about race asks whether the citizen is Spanish, Hispanic, or

Latino. Therefore, in the eyes of the government, the terms "Hispanic" and "Latino" refer not to race but ethnicity. According to Gómez, this is a good thing.

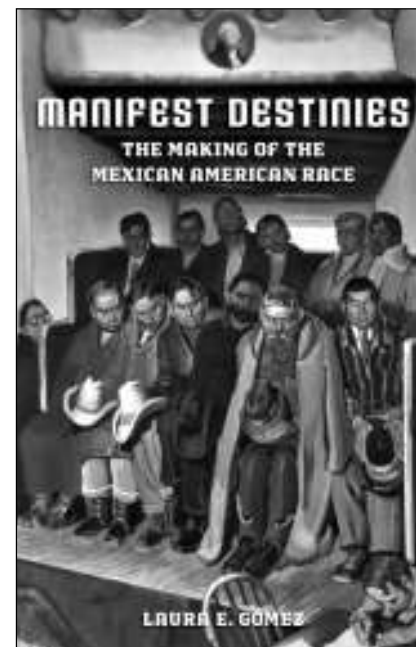
"In the 1930 census, Mexicans were counted as a separate race. That coincided with a period of economic depression. If you think back to the Depression, there was tremendous labor competition between the Mexican-American and white workers. So it was, like, let's count them and push them out. In that decade, half a million [people of Mexican descent] were deported to Mexico, including U.S. citizens."

Ignacio Piña, a U.S.-born citizen, recounted the experience to Wendy Koch for *USA Today* in 2006: "They came in with guns and told us to get out." This was in 1931; Piña was six years old. "They didn't let us take anything." According to Koch, "The family was thrown into a jail for ten days before being sent by train to Mexico," and it took 16 years to acquire the papers necessary to return to the U.S. "It's not like the data was really good," says Gómez. "A lot of people, like Cruz Reynoso [the first Mexican American to serve on the California Supreme Court] — his family were U.S. citizens, were deported to Mexico and then came back later."

Gómez has determined that two-thirds of Latinos in the country are of Mexican origin. "If we look at how Mexican Americans fill out that census question, about half of them say that they're white. But more than 40 percent of them say they're not any of the races listed or they choose a category of some other race. I think this has to do with the history — we know that we're not white, but sometimes people [answer]



Laura E. Gómez



strategically because you're going to be discriminated against if you don't say you're white, like in the 1930s' experience. Ninety-nine percent of non-Hispanics have no problem choosing a race."

After the deportations of the 1930s, "Hispanic" was deleted from the census as an option for race. "The Mexican-American leaders at that time fought and said, 'Hey, come hell or high water, that 1940 census, we want it back the way it was, because being identified as Mexican was not good for our people,'" says Gómez. An additional question allowing for Hispanic and Latino origin was added in 1980 as a result of similar lobbying by Mexican-American civil rights leaders. This allowed Mexican Americans to have the option to choose "white" as their race and indicate their ethnic heritage in a separate question.

In 1848, with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and the end of the Mexican-American War, 115,000 Mexicans became U.S. citizens. "Nobody thought Mexicans were white — a term used at that time was 'mongrels.' It was clear that they were an inferior group in the eyes of Congress, but, 'wink, wink,' we'll bring them in and not talk about it. In a sense, we're getting all that

land and California and access to Asian markets. It's little cost to pay, getting these 115,000 Mexican citizens. I call those people the first Mexican Americans."

Gómez hopes that, through an accurate depiction of history, Americans will learn from past mistakes. "It's almost eerie to think of some of the contemporary debates on immigration. For the first 60 years of the border there was no enforcement. You don't see the same kind of concern for terrorism at the northern border for Canada, even though there are larger numbers of Muslims in Canada. We're in a moment of change with how we think about race in the United States."

— Barbarella

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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 SDRReader.com by clicking on the events section.

DANCE

"Love to Dance" St. Patrick's Day celebration with music by deejay Ron Jones for adult singles and couples. Dance lessons: 6 p.m. Admission: \$10 per person, \$15 for two. 858-729-5547. Saturday, March 15, 7 p.m.; \$10-\$15. La Jolla Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 7708 Eads Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

"Nomads" Middle Eastern fusion show with the Shimmy Sisters, Danyavaad, DJ Sandbag, and guests. 619-884-7707. Thursday, March 13, 8 p.m.; \$10. Portugal, 4839 Newport Avenue. (OCEAN BEACH)

"Spring Repertoire" San Diego Ballet Company presents premieres during recitals. Program includes two new projects: a suite of dances choreographed for princi-

pal dancer Rachel Sebastian and her husband, musician Joshua Hagquist, and *Romeo and Juliet*, choreographed by Javier Velasco. 619-294-7311. Friday, March 14, 8 p.m.; Saturday, March 15, 8 p.m.; Sunday, March 16, 2 p.m.; \$20. Dance Place San Diego in NTC Promenade, 2650 Truxtun Road, suite 108. (POINT LOMA)

Cross-Step Waltz and More! Introduction to cross-step waltz (beginner level), as well as rotary waltz figures and variations (intermediate), with open request dancing until 9:45 p.m. hosted by Waltz & Such in Casa del Prado room 207. All ages. Partners not required. Donation. 619-583-9956. Friday, March 14, 7:15 p.m.; \$1. Casa del Prado, El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

English Country Dancing Judee calls and there's live music for English country dancing. Beginners' instruction at 6 p.m. 858-676-9731. Sunday, March 16, 6 p.m.; \$8. Jean Hart Academy of Dance, 12227 Poway Road. (POWAY)

Hey Wire! Band makes music, Graham Hempel calls for contradance hosted by San Diego Folk Heritage. Beginners' dance workshop: 7:30 p.m., dancing 8-11 p.m. Wear soft-soled shoes. 619-283-8550. Friday, March 14, 7:30 p.m.; \$7. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street. (NORTH PARK)

Hustle and Night Club Dance Party DJ plays hustle, night club two-step, and requests for dancing for singles and couples of all ages. Hustle lesson at 8 p.m.; open dancing 8:30-10:30 p.m. First time free. 619-275-3533. Saturday, March 15, 8 p.m.; Pattie Wells' Dancetime Center, 1255 West Morena Boulevard. (LINDA VISTA)

OUT & ABOUT

"SPRING REPERTOIRE" BY SAN DIEGO BALLET COMPANY

Friday-Sunday, March 14-16, Dance Place San Diego.

(SEE DANCE)



FILM

"Bloodtime, Moontime, Dreamtime" San Diego filmmaker Roberta Cantow plans advance screening of her new work, which includes original musical score by Bronwen Jones. Screening followed by discussion and reception (9 p.m.). Requested donation of \$20 supports film finishing, screening, festival costs. RSVP: 858-487-4945. Friday, March 14, 7 p.m.; \$20. Ages 12 and up. David and Dorothea Garfield Theatre, 4126 Executive Drive. (LA JOLLA)

"Keep Not Silent: Ortho Dykes" Three pious, religiously committed Jewish women fight for their right to love within their orthodox communities in Jerusalem. This film, winner of the Israeli Oscar for best documentary, screens for "Voices: A Women's Human Rights Film Series" hosted by

Eveoke Dance Theatre and the Cultural Worker. Deborah Hertz of UCSD's department of history leads discussion. Reservations: 619-238-1153. Saturday, March 15, 6 p.m.; \$10-\$12. Eveoke Dance Theatre, 2811 University Avenue, suite A. (NORTH PARK)

"La Strella Che Non C'è" Gianni Amelio's 2006 film starring Sergio Castellitto and Tai Ling showcased. 619-237-0601. In Italian with English subtitles. Friday, March 14, 7 p.m.; \$2. Italian Community Center, 1669 Columbia Street. (LITTLE ITALY)

"Margot at the Wedding" Noah Baumbach's "harrowingly funny" flick starring Nicole Kidman, Jennifer Jason Leigh, and Jack Black featured during Film Forum. 619-236-5800. Monday, March 17, 6:30 p.m.; San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (DOWNTOWN)

"The Future of Mud" Susan Vogel's film focuses on mason Ko-

musa Tenaepo of Mali, who hopes his son will succeed him; family members talk about town of Djenne, its buildings, their desires for the future. Screening hosted by African Arts Council. In English, Bambara, and French with English subtitles. 619-232-7931. Friday, March 14, 6:30 p.m.; \$5-\$10. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

"Women of the Silent Screen" Teeny-Tiny Pit Orchestra for Silent Films provides live music and sounds with classic short films from silent era for UCSD's Art-Power series. As *Lonedale Operator*, *New York Hat*, and other films roll, sounds from female composers of era will be heard, including ragtime tunes, salon favorites, children's piano literature. "Ladies and gentlemen alike will have a chance to help with the score this night." Screening offered in Porter's Pub at UCSD. 858-534-TIXS. Thursday, March 13, 8 p.m.; \$10. UCSD: University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (UCSD)

Latino Film Festival Media Arts Center's 15th annual Latino Film Festival with films from all over the globe runs March 6-16. Films include *Born in East L.A.*, *Cara de Queso*, *Calavera Highway*, *Coco y Nico*, *Deficit*, *Ese Beso*, *Fiesta Patria*, *Hero the Great*, *Kilometro 31*, *Los Manos de Ché Guevara*, *Ojos que no ven*, *Sangre de Mi Sangre*, *Zacarias y el Dragon de Lluvia Gris*, and many, many others. Festival includes celebrity appearances, music, parties, art, workshops. Details: 619-230-1938 x101. Thursdays, 4 p.m.; Fridays, 4 p.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m.; through Sunday, March 16, 2008,

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Mind-Bending Rock and Roll! Directors Nicolas Roeg and Donald Cammell's 1970 film *Performance* offers an "uncanny, psychedelic time capsule" of London in the 1960s, with Mick Jagger in his first movie role as a decadent rocker. 858-454-3541. Thursday, March 13, 7 p.m.; \$5-\$7. Sherwood Auditorium at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, 700 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

To the Ends of the Earth... ...and into your own backyard — time for Banff Mountain Film Festival 2008, exploring every corner of the globe. Program includes *20 Seconds of Joy*, *Trial and Error*, *King Lines: Es Pontas*, *Ain't Got No Friends on a Powder Day*, *Searching for the Coast Wolves*, *Cross-Country with the Snakes*, many others. (Different films screened each day.) Tickets: \$10 in advance, \$12 at door. 619-255-0203. Saturday, March 15, 7 p.m.; Sunday, March 16, 7 p.m.; Monday, March 17, 7 p.m.; \$10-\$12. San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

FOR KIDS

"Biology" It's topic for family science day; participants "make a free science experiment" to take

home. Included in regular admission. 619-238-1233. Saturday, March 15, noon; \$6-\$8. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

"Dino-Babies Rock with Ms. Frizzle" Discover how to use fossil evidence and take a closer look at dinosaur babies and their mothers in prehistoric times during class for those four to six years old (with an adult). 619-255-0203. Saturday, March 15, 10 a.m.; \$12-\$15. San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

"Grease!" Young Actors' Theatre senior division presents production with songs including "Grease," "Summer Nights," "Mooning," "Hand Jive," more. Tickets: 619-670-1627. Thursday, March 13, 7 p.m.; Friday, March 14, 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 15, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday, March 16, 2 p.m.; \$12-\$15. Lyceum Theatre, 79 Horton Plaza. (DOWNTOWN)

"How to Eat Fried Worms" San Diego Junior Theatre season continues with play adapted for stage by author Thomas Rockwell, for kids of all ages, through Sunday, March 16. Performance on March 15 is ASL interpreted. Reservations: 619-239-8355. Fridays, 7 p.m.; Saturdays, 2 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m.; through Sunday, March 16, 2008, \$8-\$13. Casa del Prado Theater, 1650 El Prado, Suite 208. (BALBOA PARK)

"Peter Rabbit" The mischievous bunny creates trouble in production by Puppet Express, March 13-16. Big Joe Productions presents *Animals, Animals, Animals*, March 19-23. Curtain rises at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Wednesday-Friday; 11 a.m., 1 and 2:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. 619-544-9203. Saturday, March 15, 11 a.m.; Wednesday, March 19, 10 a.m.; Thursday, March 13, 10 a.m.; Friday, March 14, 10 a.m.; Sunday, March 16, 11 a.m.; \$3-\$5. Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Road West. (BALBOA PARK)

"Smokey Joe's Café" Show highlights "the best songs" by Leiber and Stoller songwriting duo. San Diego Junior Theatre Chula Vista presents this revue of song and dance with numbers like "Fools Fall in Love," "Jailhouse Rock," "Hound Dog," "Love Potion #9," and "Stand by Me." 619-239-8355. Friday, March 14, 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 15, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday, March 16, 2 p.m.; \$5-\$10. Ages 8 and up. The Theatre on Third, 250 3rd Avenue. (CHULA VISTA)

"Spring EGGS-travaganza" "Spring is an eggs-tra special time of year when many ocean animals are hatched or born." Activities highlight wonders of reproduction in the sea, March 15-21. See egg-laying marine animals, including squids, fishes, and sharks; create a shark egg craft, listen to stories, take part in "daily activity." Prize-filled egg hunt planned Saturday, March 15, 9 a.m. Included in regular admission. 858-534-FISH. Saturday, March 15, 11 a.m.; Monday, March 17, 11 a.m.; Wednesday, March 19, 11 a.m.; Tuesday, March 18, 11 a.m.; Sunday, March 16, 11 a.m.; Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (LA JOLLA)

Animal Tales Story Time Enjoy animal stories, crafts, and of course, animals. 619-243-3432. Sunday, March 16, 1 p.m.; \$3. Ages 4 and up. San Diego Humane Society and SPCA, 5500 Gaines Street. (LINDA VISTA)

Bit o' Ireland Adults and children of Butler Fearon O'Connor School of Irish Dance perform Irish dances in full, traditional costumes. Ensemble members will discuss costumes, wigs, shoes, history of Irish dance, competitive dancing. 619-588-3718. Thursday, March 13, 5 p.m.; El Cajon Library, 201 East Douglas Avenue. (EL CAJON)

Carlsbad Multicultural Arts Festival Fifteenth annual festival runs March 9-14, with music, dance, music, storytelling, and theater from the Americas, Africa, Asia, Europe. Festival begins when Asha Baba performs "Jaliyaa." Performances of "Salsalandia," "Musical Folk Tales from Japan," "Tales Alive," "Japan in a Suitcase," taiko drumming, more, continue March 11-14. Venues include Centro de Información (3333 Harding Street), Cole Library (1250 Carlsbad Village Drive), Carlsbad Community Cultural Arts Center (3557 Monroe Street). Details: 760-434-2904. Thursday, March 13, 4 p.m.; Friday, March 14, 9 a.m.; Schulman Auditorium at Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane. (CARLSBAD)

Family Literature Night Join "lively discussion" of *To Kill a Mockingbird* led by Big Read organizer Judy Thum for students and their parents. Share ideas, discuss impact of book on your life. 760-753-7601. Tuesday, March 18,

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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

7 p.m.; Encinitas Library, 540 Cornish Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Look for Ocean Critters! Birch Aquarium at Scripps hosts Tide-pooling for Tots led by aquarium naturalist at La Jolla Shores. Required reservations: 858-534-7336. Tuesday, March 18, 1:30 p.m.; \$8-\$10. Ages 2 and up. La Jolla Shores, 8200 Camino del Oro. (LA JOLLA)

Musical Celebration of Irish-American Heritage Craig Newton plays a multitude of instruments during concert (rescheduled because of wildfires). 619-588-3718. Wednesday, March 19, 4 p.m.; El Cajon Library, 201 East Douglas Avenue. (EL CAJON)

Sharpen Your Pencil! Writers workshop for those 13-22 led by Charles Shields, author of *Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee*. 760-753-7601. Saturday, March 15, 2 p.m.; Encinitas Library, 540 Cornish Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Youth Arts Month Celebrated Student artwork showcased, along with music by Rob Thorsen Jazz Quartet, during Young Audiences of San Diego “Family Arts and Literacy” event. Families invited to create art at art stations with projects demonstrated by artists Tami Barker (mosaic), Sylvia Mejia (ceramics), Thia Nevius (gyotaku). 619-282-7599 x114. Thursday, March 13, 6:30 p.m.; Salvation Army Kroc Community Center Performing Arts Theatre, 6611 University Avenue. (COLLEGE AREA)

IN PERSON

“A Year in Ink” San Diego Writers, Ink celebrates publication of its premiere anthology with readings. Collection, edited by Thomas Larson, includes excerpts from novels and memoirs, short stories, poetry. Copies available for purchase. 619-236-5821. Monday, March 17, 6:30 p.m.; San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (DOWNTOWN)

“An Unsuspecting Trap” George Buttner signs books. 760-479-0242. Saturday, March 15, 1 p.m.; Borders Books and Music – Carlsbad, 1905 Calle Barcelona. (CARLSBAD)

Draining the Sea” Micheline Marcom discusses, signs her third novel, offering a “literary exploration of the effects of political violence as it reverberates through the Armenian Genocide of 1915, the Guatemalan civil conflict of the 1980s, and present-day Los Angeles.” Marcom was born in Saudi Arabia to an American father and

ROAM-O-RAMA

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

At 1680 feet above sea level, the summit of Mount Lee perches high above the Los Angeles Basin on the western edge of spacious Griffith Park. In addition to hosting the iconic “Hollywood” sign, the summit area offers one of the most stupendous views of the Southland’s real estate — carpets of houses, shopping centers, industrial buildings, and office towers that roll out miles and miles toward distant snow-capped peaks and the blue Pacific Ocean.

Mount Lee’s summit, although largely occupied by a fenced-off antenna installation, can be reached from below by self-propelled means — typically,



Mount Lee

walking and mountain biking. A great place to begin is the Hollyridge Trail, which starts just shy of the Sunset Ranch Stables at the north end of Beachwood Drive in the Hollywood Hills. Beachwood Drive runs north from Franklin Avenue, which itself is accessible from the Hollywood (101) Freeway in Hollywood, or from Interstate 5 via Los Feliz Boulevard.

A small dirt parking area just below the stables has room for only a few cars. There’s more space for parking one-quarter mile below, along Beachwood Drive or residential streets parallel to it.

From the dirt lot, climb briefly south to a hillside vantage point where you can gaze south over the Hollywood Hills and the L.A. Basin to the Palos Verdes Peninsula, Long Beach, and (when clear enough) Santa Catalina Island. From there, swing left and continue uphill (north) on the Hollyridge Trail. Horses and riders from the nearby stables are sometimes in view ahead; behind you is an ever-widening view of the L.A. Basin. Eventually, the tops of Los Angeles’ downtown office towers come into view.

At about 0.5 mile you reach a junction. Go left on Mulholland Trail, and follow its curvy course west until you reach the paved (but closed to motorized traffic) service road called Mount Lee Drive. Follow that road uphill to a crest where a full, 180-degree sweep of the San Fernando Valley comes into view. Keep climbing, and don’t give up until you reach the summit.

A formidable fence divides the topmost part of Mount Lee from the sheer slope below, which precariously supports the spindly looking whitewashed letters of the famous sign. Climb a rocky peaklet at the end of the service road (just shy of the antenna installation) to get a nearly 360-degree view of the landscape. Through the month of March, and perhaps into April, you’ll

probably notice a prominent mantle of snow on a rounded peak far to the east. That’s Mount San

Antonio, or Old Baldy, 10,064 feet above sea level — the highest point in Los Angeles County.

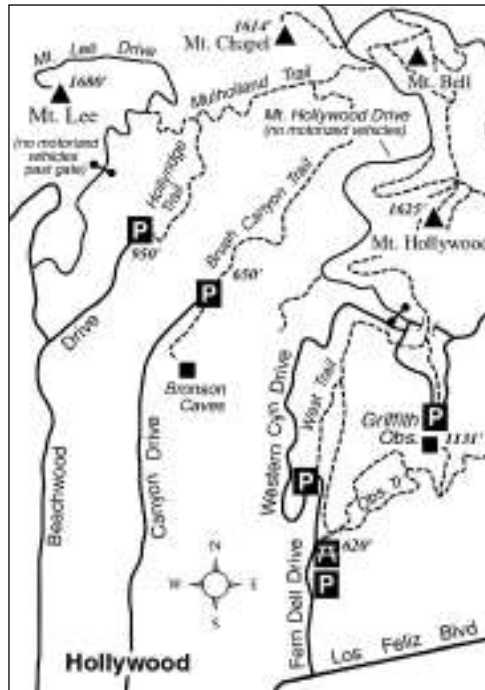
MOUNT LEE

In L.A.’s Griffith Park, climb to a perch overlooking the “Hollywood” sign and a whole lot more.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 128 miles

Length: 3.0 miles round trip

Difficulty: Moderate



an Armenian-Lebanese mother, raised in Los Angeles. 858-454-0347. Wednesday, March 19, 7:30 p.m.; Warwick’s Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

“Elton John and Tim Rice’s AIDA” J*Company Youth Theatre presents “soft-rock musical” based on Verdi’s opera of the same name, March 1-16, in Garfield Theatre. A 12-piece orchestra composed of professional and young musicians provides live accompaniment. Reservations: 858-362-1348. Sunday, March 16, 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 15, 8 p.m.; \$12-\$16. Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, 4126 Executive Drive. (LA JOLLA)

“Fearless Parenting” Adelaide Zindler discusses and signs her book. 858-618-1814. Thursday, March 13, 7 p.m.; Borders Books and Music — Carmel Mountain, 11160 Rancho Carmel Drive. (CARMEL VALLEY)

“Jigu! Thunder Drums of China” In Chinese, *jigu* means to “beat or touch the drum.” Company of 28 drummers, percussionists, and musicians hail from Shanxi Province in China. 619-239-8836. Friday, March 14, 7:30 p.m.; \$36-\$41. Birch North Park Theatre, 2891 University Ave. (NORTH PARK)

“Luann: Scenes in a Teen’s Life” High-energy musical based on popular comic strip by Greg Evans, directed by Dana Case, March 7-16. 760-744-1150 x2453. Thursdays, 4 p.m.; Fridays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m.; through Sunday, March 16, 2008, \$8-\$12. Howard Brubeck Theatre at Palomar College, 1140 West Mission Road. (SAN MARCOS)

“Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee” Charles Shields discusses Lee and her classic book, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and signs copies of his book. 760-479-0242. Saturday, March 15, 10 a.m.; Borders

Books and Music – Carlsbad, 1905 Calle Barcelona. (CARLSBAD)

“Molly Sweeney” Brian Friel’s play is next up for NVA’s 2008 Playreading Series, directed by Amanda Sitton, featuring Kristianne Kurner and Joshua Everett Johnson. 760-433-3245. Sunday, March 16, 7:30 p.m.; New Village Arts Theatre, 2787 B State Street. (CARLSBAD)

“Ocean Beach Comedy” Steven Kendrick headlines; he’ll be filming his first DVD and recording his latest CD during performance. 619-222-6822. Friday, March 14, 7 p.m.; \$5. Winstons, 1921 Bacon Street. (OCEAN BEACH)

“Tabloid Prodigy” Marlise Kast signs, discusses her book. 619-482-9883. Saturday, March 15, 3 p.m.; Borders Books and Music – Chula Vista, 878 EastLake Parkway. (CHULA VISTA)

“Tango Extravaganza at Your Library” Afternoon begins with

Argentine tango demonstration by dance instructors Isabelle Kay and Florentino Guizar; Tango Revolution, a concert by duo José Rodríguez (classical guitar) and Thomas Yee (violin) follows at 4 p.m. Audience is invited to join Kay and Guizar for an “Introduction to Tango” dance class at 5 p.m.; for all ages, neither partners nor previous experience required. Pair will also lead a “Tango Finale” with dancers from Tango Concepts of San Diego at 6 p.m. Argentine refreshments served. 858-694-3833. Tuesday, March 18, 3:30 p.m.; Lemon Grove Library, 8073 Broadway. (LEMON GROVE)

“The Climb of My Life: Scaling Mountains with a Borrowed Heart” Author Kelly Perkins talks about her illness, successful heart transplant, and mountain-climbing adventures she’s had since her recovery. 858-755-1666. Monday, March 17, 1 p.m.; Powerhouse

Community Center, 1658 Coast Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

“The Evolutionary Origins of Religion” Jay D. Glass discusses his new book with Humanist Fellowship. 619-670-4159, 619-544-0640. Sunday, March 16, 2 p.m.; San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (DOWNTOWN)

“The Vagina Monologues” San Diego Mesa College presents Eve Ensler’s play in celebration of V-Day and Women’s History Month. Proceeds benefit Center for Community Solutions. 619-388-2302. Saturday, March 15, 7 p.m.; \$10. Mesa College, 7250 Mesa College Drive. (KEARNY MESA)

A Priest and a Poet Former San Francisco Zen Center abbot Zoketsu Norman Fischer will read from his book *I Was Blown Back*, and noted poet Fanny Howe will read from her book *The Lyrics: Poems*. 858-456-1800. Friday, March 14, 7 p.m.; D.G. Wills Books, 7461 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Author Talk Adelaide Zindler discusses and signs her book, *Fearless Parenting*. 619-482-9883. Tuesday, March 18, 7 p.m.; Borders Books and Music – Chula Vista, 878 East-Lake Parkway. (CHULA VISTA)

Comic George Lopez Comedian, actor entertains with his newest material. Tickets available through Ticketmaster, 619-220-TIXS. Saturday, March 15, 8 p.m.; \$40-\$60. San Diego Sports Arena, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. (POINT LOMA)

Coping with Tragedy Lee Woodruff, co-author of *In an Instant*, discusses and signs her book, now in paperback. Woodruff’s husband Bob suffered a traumatic brain injury that nearly killed him while embedded with the military in Iraq. 858-454-0347. Thursday, March 13, 7:30 p.m.; Warwick’s Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Fantasy Adventure Author Talk Kevin Gerard plans presentation on his *Conor and the Cross-worlds* series and answers questions. 619-463-3006. Friday, March 14, 3:30 p.m.; Spring Valley Library, 836 Kempton Street. (SPRING VALLEY)

Forbidden Love! Author Irene Armenta DesGeorges was born in Sonora, Mexico, and studied at UCSD. She’ll discuss her book *Inocencia: A Woman Who Challenged Fate*, “which she recently translated into English herself to ensure an accurate translation.” 858-538-8159. Wednesday, March 19, 6:30 p.m.; Rancho Peñasquitos Library, 13350 Salmon River Road. (RANCHO PENASQUITOS)

Laugh It Up Darryl “Doc” Carter’s Allstar Comedy Jam. Reservations: Ticketmaster (619-

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220-TIXS). Saturday, March 15, 7 p.m.; \$10. Ages 21 and up. 4th & B, 345 B Street. (DOWNTOWN)

Local Author Talk Sandra Wilks discusses her book *Lorenzo Lul-laby*. 858-756-2512. Tuesday, March 18, 2 p.m.; Rancho Santa Fe Library, 17040 Avenida de Aca-cias. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

Poet, Journalist, Novelist Steven Thomas signs, discusses his debut novel, *Criminal Paradise*. 858-268-4747. Saturday, March 15, 2 p.m.; Mysterious Galaxy Books, 7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, suite 302. (CLAIREMONT)

Poetic Brew Reading sponsored by San Diego Writers, Ink, hosted by Eber Lambert. Show begins with open readings, followed by featured reader Lizzie Wann, short break, more open readings. Sign-ups begin at 6:30 p.m.; open readers have three minutes and 33 seconds of time. 619-284-3663. Tuesday, March 18, 7 p.m.; Rebecca's Coffee House, 3015 Juniper Street. (SOUTH PARK)

Poetry Reading with Henri Cole Poet Henri Cole plans reading for Hugh C. Hyde Living Writers Series in room 2203 of Malcolm A. Love Library at San Diego State University. Cole was executive director of Academy of American Poets from 1982 to 1988 and is author of *Blackbird and Wolf*, *The Visible Man*, *Middle Earth*, others. 619-594-5318. Tuesday, March 18, 7 p.m.; ages 18 and up. San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive. (SDSU)

Shifting Meanings of Race and Law Professor Laura E. Gomez discusses her new book, *Manifest Destinies: The Making of the Mexican-American Race*. Book traces origins of Mexican-Americans as a racial group in the U.S. 858-456-1800. Wednesday, March 19, 7 p.m.; D.G. Wills Books, 7461 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Why? Life coach, author Debbie Ford discusses and signs *Why Good People Do Bad Things*. 858-454-0347. Tuesday, March 18, 7:30 p.m.; Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

LECTURES

"Art and Wine of Italian Hill Towns" Wine maven Barbara Baxter of Planet Wine continues "Sacred and Profane" series. Reservations: 858-454-5872. Wednesday, March 19, 7:30 p.m.; \$25-\$30. Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, 1008 Wall Street. (LA JOLLA)

"Artists' Round Table" Artists from *Cavalleria Rusticana*/Pagliacci participate in Artists' Round Table — offering look at music, characters, behind-the-scenes work — hosted by San Diego Opera in Beverly Sills Salon of Civic Theatre. 619-232-7636. Thursday, March 13, 5:30 p.m.; San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

"Asher B. Durand" SDSU art history professor Monica Jovanovich focuses on the artist, in conjunction with current "Kindred Spirits: Asher B. Durand and the American Landscape" exhibit, for "SDMA in the 21st Century" themed "Guest Lecture Series." 619-696-1953. Friday, March 14, 10 a.m.; \$7-\$12. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

"Atticus Finch: Hero or Just a Lawyer?" Encinitas attorney

Anne Fragasso leads discussion of role of law in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, offering legal and historical perspective. 760-753-7601. Wednesday, March 19, 7 p.m.; Encinitas Library, 540 Cornish Drive. (ENCINITAS)

"Book Publishing 1-2-3" Follow a manuscript from the writer's fingers to the reader's hands during lecture by book editor Laurie Gibson, who will also divulge "three major steps of the publish-

ing process and...who has influence along the way." Question-and-answer period. 858-573-5007. Monday, March 17, 6:30 p.m.; Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

"Can We Talk About Victorian Children's Theatre?" Marah Gubar, director of children's literature program at University of Pittsburgh, presents talk as part of the Southern California Children's Literature Mini-Conference in

room 430 of Malcolm A. Love Library at San Diego State University. 619-594-5443. Saturday, March 15, 5 p.m.; San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive. (SDSU)

"Depression-Era Music" American music expert Michael Lasser presents an evening of Depression-era music in room 2203 of Malcolm A. Love Library at SDSU. He is author of *America's Songs: The Stories Behind the Songs of Broad-*

way, Hollywood, and Tin Pan Alley. Lasser is host of *Fascinatin' Rhythm* public radio program. Book signing follows. 619-594-6791. Thursday, March 13, 7 p.m.; San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive. (SDSU)

"Emperor Penguins and Warming Trends in Antarctica" Jerry Kooyman of UCSD speaks for "Global Climate Change: Species and Places" series. Talk includes computer-generated images and pho-

tographs. "How resilient are Emperor Penguins to climate changes and to the warming trends that are now occurring?" 619-232-3821. Wednesday, March 19, 6:30 p.m.; San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

"Expressive Arts Therapy – A Creative Playshop" Alessandra Colfi leads six-class series starting Monday, March 17, for beginners as well as for confident artists. Expect "a playful and meaningful

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What's That You're Reading?

NAME: ELIZABETH PIERS | **AGE:** 29 | **OCCUPATION:** BOOKSELLER
NEIGHBORHOOD: SANTEE | **WHERE INTERVIEWED:** TROLLEY SQUARE BARNES AND NOBLE



What book are you reading?

"I just finished *Odd Thomas* by Dean Koontz."

Tell me about it.

"It's about this guy who has kind of a supernatural gift. He can see spirits, and he's trying to rescue people from his hometown. He actually even sees Elvis Presley in the book — it's kind of weird. It's really interesting, what he does to save the people he holds dear. Interesting twist in the end because he talks about his girlfriend that he's

so much in love with. And through the whole book I thought that she was alive; it turns out she was a spirit."

How does it compare with other books you've read?

"I like all books that deal with suspense or the supernatu-

ral. [Koontz] is mainly who I almost always read. I've read a couple of Danielle Steel books but they're all too girly for me. So I pretty much just stay with him. This is different because his others will have creatures that are unexplainable — aliens and stuff — going off and killing people. But there's always a hero in all of his books. This book actually has a part two and three; I'm hoping to read the second one. But he has a lot of books that have to do with the supernatural and creatures and the ghost town."

Do you have any favorite characters?

"Just Odd Thomas. He didn't want any praise for what he does. He likes

to keep it on the low and not let everybody know what he's about. And then he's the hero, saving people!"

What books have been influential or inspirational in your life?

"I read Sylvia Browne. I'm skeptical, but I like the message she puts out there: that there's life after death and family on the other side and friends; that we're all basically connected and they help you along with everyday trials and stuff you need to go through. I was raised Christian, so for me to read this is kind of, *whoa*, but I'm pretty open to see what she has to say. She talks about spirit guides and your kindred and soul mates, stuff like that.

One of her first books [is *God, Creation, and Tools for Life*]. It covers everything."

Do you have a favorite author?

"Dean Koontz. Because he keeps me interested — I wish I could read it all at once."

What magazines or newspapers do you read?

"None. I try to stay away from the paper — it's depressing."

Do you talk to your friends about reading?

"No, they're not much of readers. They're too busy; they're either working two jobs or they've got kids. They don't really read much."

process of guided visualization, hands-on art making, easy movement, music and journaling." \$30 materials fee in addition to \$210 fee for class. Required advance registration: 858-793-0316 or 760-724-0319. Monday, March 17, 4 p.m.; \$210. California Foundation for International Global Arts, 320 South Cedros Avenue, Suite 500. (SOLANA BEACH)

"Gardening Inside and Out"

Kathryn Holt focuses on how to "mindfully incorporate feng shui into your garden" and creating sense of harmony and balance. Required reservations: 858-581-9934. Thursday, March 13, 1 p.m.; Pacific Beach Library, 4275 Cass Street. (PACIFIC BEACH)

"How to Discover Your Natural Talent"

Walter Holtschi explains "how all people have the ability to find their talent." Donation. 760-729-2434. Thursday, March 13, 6 p.m.; Sacred Pathway Bookstore, 300 Carlsbad Village Drive. (CARLSBAD)

"Insects: Nature's Helpers in Plant Reproduction"

Biologist Michael Klein addresses California Native Plant Society in Casa del Prado room 104. Learn basics that go into a very complex world between plants and their pollinators. 619-685-7321. Tuesday, March 18, 6:30 p.m.; Casa del Prado, El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

"Intro to Backpacking"

Clinic focusing on backpacking essentials

such as internal- or external-frame packs, proper clothing, required gear. 619-591-4924. Tuesday, March 18, 7 p.m.; REI Chula Vista, 2015 Birch Road. (CHULA VISTA)

"Judaism and Science"

David Brin — UCSD scientist and author of "future-oriented novels" including *Startide Rising* and *Uplift War* — plans lecture. 858-513-8330. Sunday, March 16, 9:30 a.m.; \$10. Ner Tamid Synagogue, 15318 Pomerado Road. (POWAY)

"Major or Indie Labels?"

Figure out which path to pursue during workshop hosted by Buddha Frog Music Publishing. Donation. 619-527-5456. Saturday, March 15, 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.; \$5. Malcolm X Library, 5148 Market Street. (SOUTHEAST SAN DIEGO)

"Meditation: The Power of Silence"

Ashirvad Zaientchick and Sujantra McKeever, who have studied with Sri Chinmoy for over 25 years, lead meditation classes. Required registration: 619-281-8945. Saturday, March 15, 10 a.m.; Sunday, March 16, 10 a.m.; Jyoti Bihanga Meditation Annex, 3351 Adams Avenue. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

"Nuts and Bolts of Research and Fact-Checking"

Learn to track down accurate information when researcher Beth Wood speaks for SD/PEN Editors Network. Wood has been researcher for *San Diego Union-Tribune* since 1985. 858-451-3266. Wednesday, March 19, 6:30 p.m.; Clairemont

Community Room, 4731 Clairemont Drive. (CLAIREMONT)

"Opera Insights Series"

Historical and cultural background, music analysis, plot synopsis, musical selections from Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana* and Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci* presented by Ron Shaheen to highlight upcoming San Diego Opera production. 619-236-5800. Wednesday, March 19, 5:30 p.m.; San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (DOWNTOWN)

"Predicting Earthquakes and Tsunamis"

Hiroo Kanamori, a geophysicist currently associated with California Institute of Technology (Caltech), discusses in Price Center Theatre his development of earthquake prediction methods, what causes earthquakes, and why earthquakes on sea floor produce tsunamis. Kanamori is recipient of 2007 Kyoto Prize in basic sciences. Admission is free, but registration is required: 858-467-1727. Thursday, March 13, 4 p.m.; University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (UCSD)

"Protected 'Islands' of Habitat in the South San Diego"

Refuge biologist Brian Collins focuses on what nesting seabirds tell us about climate change, population dynamics, and ecosystem survival in South Bay's protected habitats for Tijuana Estuary Speaker Series. 619-575-3613. Saturday, March 15, 10 a.m.; Tijuana

Estuary Visitors' Center, 301 Caspian Way. (IMPERIAL BEACH)

"Rejecting Rejection"

Learn from the rejection — and what the editors are really saying — when "multi-published author" Christie Craig speaks for Romance Writers of America. Craig will also present "Make It Happen: Attitude, Marketing, Networking to Get the Job Done." Fee includes lunch. 858-486-5280. Saturday, March 15, 9:30 a.m.; \$25-\$30. Trinity Episcopal Church, 845 Chestnut Street. (ESCONDIDO)

"Rhythms of India: The Art of Nandalal Bose (1882-1966)"

SDMA curator of Asian art Sonya Quintanilla discusses India's father of modern art and current exhibition, for North County chapter of San Diego Museum of Art. Free for first-time guests. 619-232-7931. Monday, March 17, 9:30 a.m.; St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 334 14th Street. (DEL MAR)

"The Children's Museum: Artful Exploration of Sustainability"

Presentation by Katy Hamilton, project architect with Rob Wellington Quigley, for Friends of San Diego Architecture. Talk followed by coffee, discussion. Free for students. 619-224-8584. Saturday, March 15, 9:30 a.m.; NewSchool of Architecture and Design, 1249 F Street. (DOWNTOWN)

"The Craft of Woodblock Printing"

Step-by-step demonstration of woodblock printing

process by San Diego artist Igor Koutsenko in conjunction with "Hungarian Folk Magic — The Art of Joseph Domjan" exhibition. Reservations: 619-239-0003 x405. Sunday, March 16, 1 p.m.; \$10-\$15. Mingei International Museum, 1439 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

"The Mystery behind the Book"

Charles J. Shields, author of *Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee*, shares his knowledge of the reclusive author and the writing of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. 760-753-7601. Saturday, March 15, 7 p.m.; Encinitas Library, 540 Cornish Drive. (ENCINITAS)

"Tips for Well-Used Eyes"

Research and clinical ophthalmologist Anne Hanneken, M.D., discusses changing the impact of aging on eyes and how to slow the process of macular degeneration, new treatment options. Registration: 1-800-727-4777. Friday, March 14, 5:30 p.m.; Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla, 9888 Genesee Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

"What Moves Me"

Choreographer and dancer Pina Bausch, 2007 Kyoto Laureate in Art and Philosophy, discusses how she creates dance "from the inside out." Free, but reservations are required. Friday, March 14, 3:30 p.m.; Shiley Theatre at University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park. (LINDA VISTA)

"World War II Experiences with Fourth Fighter Group"

Former POW Norman Achen de-

scribes his experiences in England for Sons of the American Revolution. Tickets include breakfast. Required reservations: 760-743-0034. Saturday, March 15, 9 a.m.; \$8-\$16. Ramada Inn, 5550 Kearny Mesa Road. (KEARNY MESA)

Best Way to Fight Terrorism?

Beyond War screens 30-minute introductory DVD demonstrating "why war is not the most effective way to fight terrorism." 858-271-7135. Saturday, March 15, 1 p.m.; Mira Mesa Library, 8405 New Salem Street. (MIRA MESA)

Get Out!

Clinic focusing on backpacking essentials such as internal or external-frame packs, proper clothing, required gear. 858-279-4400. Wednesday, March 19, 7 p.m.; REI San Diego, 5556 Copley Drive. (CLAIREMONT)

Identity Protection

Learn to take control of your personal information and avoid identity theft during workshop hosted by San Diego Metropolitan Credit Union. 619-278-5724. Thursday, March 13, 11:30 a.m.; San Diego Metropolitan Credit Union, 9212 Balboa Avenue. (KEARNY MESA)

Lively Up Your Garden!

"The Flower Girls" share their unique approach to potting plants in unusual containers to "put a little zing in your garden" for MiraCosta College Horticulture Club, meeting in building 7000. Visitors welcome. 760-729-8172. Saturday, March 15, 12:45 p.m.; MiraCosta

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(OCEANSIDE)

Mouse and Keyboard Skills
Become comfortable with mouse and keyboard during class for beginners. 619-660-5370. Saturday, March 15, 9 a.m.; Rancho San Diego Library, 11555 Via Rancho San Diego. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

St. Patrick's Day Feast Chef Elizabeth of Elizabeth's Kitchen teaches how to make colcannon, a winter-vegetable casserole, Mulligatawny stew, and Barm Brack farmer's bread. Recipes and tastings on offer. 619-255-0203. Saturday, March 15, 10 a.m.; \$25-\$33. San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Taking the Mystery Out of Backpacking Clinic focusing on backpacking essentials such as internal or external-frame packs, proper clothing, required gear. 760-944-9020. Tuesday, March 18, 7 p.m.; REI Encinitas, 1590 Leucadia Boulevard. (ENCINITAS)

Venture into a Vortex? Fred Gunn, director of Paranormal Science Institute, examines "Mysteries of Sedona" for Mutual UFO Network (MUFON). 760-753-2456. Sunday, March 16, 6 p.m.; Sizzler, 3755 Murphy Canyon Road. (MISSION VALLEY)

Who Was Vladimir Fedorovich Dzhunkovsky? Professor Richard Robbins discusses the life and career of the head of Russia's internal security apparatus under the tsar, who held many positions, and was probably a consultant to the Soviet secret police after Bolshevik Revolution. Talk for San Diego Independent Scholars presented in room 111A of Chancellor's Complex at UCSD. 760-751-3094 or 760-603-8930. Saturday, March 15, 1:30 p.m.; UCSD: University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (UCSD)

OUTDOORS

Longer and Sunnier Days this late-winter season are triggering the emergence of bright green leaves on sycamore, liquidambar, and other decorative deciduous trees around San Diego. Cruise down 163 through Balboa Park to appreciate the vernal splendor of the sycamores growing in the landscaped center divider. Or walk across the Cabrillo Bridge and look down upon the same.

Mexican Coral Trees or "naked corals," are showing their stuff this season by bearing and baring scarlet, flame-like flowers on the tips of their twisting, leafless branches. Commonly planted as park and freeway landscaping, this and other species of coral are blooming along Freeway 94, Interstate 5 through Oceanside, along Harbor Drive near the airport, at the San Diego Zoo, on the lawns in front of San Diego City College downtown, and on the San Diego State University campus. The bloom may continue into late spring, when the naked corals will cover themselves with eight-inch-long leaves, just in time to provide shade for the warm months.

African Daisies are bursting into bloom around San Diego, especially along the freeway embankments. The name refers to a wide variety of species belonging to the genuses *Arctotis*,

OUT & ABOUT

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Dimorphotheca and *Osteospermum*, with flowers ranging in color from yellow, orange and white to purple. These hardy ground covers require little water except when in active growth, and help to hold soil in place during heavy rains.

Afternoon Low Tides of -0.8 feet occur on Monday, March 17 at 1:53 p.m.; and on Tuesday, March 18 at 2:27 p.m. These strongly negative tides are good for observing marine life in the lower intertidal zones. In April and continuing through summer, the lowest tides will happen only during the pre-sunrise hours. Not until October will the strongly negative tides again coincide with the afternoon hours.

The Big Dipper, an abbreviated version of the larger constellation known as Ursa Major (the Great Bear), hovers nearly straight overhead during evening hours from March through June. The seven stars of the dipper — all but one classified as "second magnitude" in brightness — can be distinctly seen on clear evenings, even from light-polluted city locations. The two stars at the end of the bowl of the Big Dipper point downward toward a lone, second-magnitude star: Polaris, the North Star, which perpetually marks the direction of true north.

Audubon Society's Silverwood Sanctuary Learn of unique features of chaparral vegetation community. Guided walks offered by reservation on Sundays, 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., at the sanctuary. 619-682-7200. Sunday, March 16, 10 a.m.; Silverwood Sanctuary, 13003 Wildcat Canyon Road. (LAKESIDE)

Enjoy Gardening? Want to work with others to help save rare and endangered plants? Learn more about gardening with California native plants and meet other like-minded gardeners. No experience necessary. Tools, water, snacks provided. 619-297-7380. Sunday, March 16, 9 a.m.; Point Loma Native Plant Reserve, Mendocino Boulevard and Greene Street. (POINT LOMA)

Migrating Swallows? Head out to bird watch with Audubon Society birders, led by Barbara Moore. To reach trailhead, take Highway 52, exit left to Mast, turn left just after you cross bridge at Fanita Parkway. Park on Lake Canyon Drive (at corner of Lake Canyon). No parking fee. 858-755-7133. Saturday, March 15, 8 a.m.; Santee Lakes, 9040 Carlton Oaks Drive. (SANTEE)

Native Plant Walk Discover or revisit California native plants during easy one-hour walk in Del Rey Canyon led by Dave DiDonato and Betsy Cory of Califor-

nia Native Plant Society. Park on street, meet at Sunridge Park sign. 619-656-8669. Thursday, March 13, 10 a.m.; Sunridge Park, East J Street and Beechglen Drive. (CHULA VISTA)

Put 31 Candles on the Cake! Walkabout celebrates 31st anniversary with "The Way It Was and Is Today, Part 1." Walk is a casually paced, narrated visit to past and present, with stroll to down-

town landmarks. See before and after photos in Nancy Hendrickson's book *San Diego Then and Now*. Starts in front of Balboa Theatre (at Fourth Avenue and E Street). 619-231-7463. Friday, March 14, 3 p.m.; Balboa Theatre, 854 Fourth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

The Wearing of the Green Trail guides in green shirts lead interpretive walks through green foliage. 619-668-3281. Saturday,



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Wedding Guide,
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March 15, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, March 16, 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday, March 19, 9:30 a.m.; Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Tidepooling for All Explore Swami's Beach when naturalist from Birch Aquarium at Scripps leads outing in search of native marine life such as hermit crabs, sea hares, and sea anemones. Required reservations: 858-534-7336. Sunday, March 16, noon; \$8-\$10; ages 2 and up. Swami's Beach, 1298 South Coast Highway 101. (ENCINITAS)

Trail Work Continuing in Paso Picacho Campground area. Bring work shoes, gloves, hat, water, snack. Registration: 858-278-3280. Saturday, March 15, 9 a.m.; Paso Picacho campground, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, Highway 79, five miles north of I-8. (JULIAN)

Tree Time Offshoot Tours offers hour-long guided tour highlighting various Balboa Park trees.

619-235-1122. Saturday, March 15; Balboa Park Visitors' Center, 1549 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Waterfall Hike Take moderately paced loop hike with naturalist Linda to Carson's Crossing and waterfall. Bring water, wear hiking boots. 858-484-3219. Sunday, March 16, 4 p.m.; Peñasquitos Preserve kiosk, Park Village Road and Camino del Sur. (RANCHO PENASQUITOS)

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

"Anacleto Morones" Juan Rulfo's play presented for all ages. 011-52-664-687-9636. Friday, March 14, 7 p.m.; \$10. Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BAJA)

"Isla de Bobos" Ana García Bergua discusses new book. 011-52-664-687-9636. Thursday, March 13, 7 p.m.; Centro Cultural

2-Hour Segway tour for two guests only \$75

Exciting 2-hour guided tour of the Gaslamp, the Bay and Balboa Park on brand-new Segways! Expires 3/26/08.



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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BAJA)

“Los Caminos mas Transitados” Photography exhibition by Don Bartletti documenting immigration in our times. 011-52-664-687-9636. Friday, March 14, 7 p.m.; Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BAJA)

Maná in Concert 011-52-664-608-4692. Friday, March 14, 9 p.m.; \$20-\$120. Estadio Caliente, on Boulevard Agua Caliente.

Spicy Music! Sargento García in concert, with “delicious and fresh mix of Cuban and Jamaican rhythms, from reggae, ska and ragga to salsa, son, and cha-cha.” 011-52-664-680-2631. Saturday, March 15, 11 p.m.; Planeta Tijuana

at Multikulti, at Avenida Constitución and 7th Street. (BAJA)

Tecate Score San Felipe 250 More than 250 cars, trucks, motorcycles, ATVs attempt to complete 232-mile desert course within official ten-hour time limit. On Saturday, the race start is 6 a.m. for motorcycles and ATVs, followed by trucks and cars around 9:30 a.m.; start line is at San Felipe arches on Highway 5 on outskirts of town. Finish line is just south of the arches, directly behind Tecate building. Awards are Sunday at 10 a.m. in front of the Beachcomber on the malecón. 818-225-8402. Saturday, March 15, 6 a.m.; Sunday, March 16, 10 a.m.; Ensenada arches, on Highway 5. (BAJA)

SPECIAL

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raise funds for art student awards program. Art auction with work by local artists including David Beck-Brown, David Fobes, Adriene Huges, Augusto Sandroni, Maura Vazakas, others; samples from local restaurants and wineries, live music. 619-644-7109. Sunday, March 16, 2 p.m.; \$25. Hyde Art Gallery at Grossmont College, 8800 Grossmont College. (EL CAJON)

“A Taste for the Arts” Combines current museum exhibition entitled “Innocence Is Questionable” with food from Mi Guadalajara, drinks, demonstrations, and interactive activities. Fee includes museum admission. RSVP: 760-839-4120. Sunday, March 16, 7 p.m.; \$5. California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 North Escondido Boulevard. (ESCONDIDO)

“Biosciences Day” Local scientists in biotech and biology research industries return for a “day all about DNA, fluorescent proteins, brain anatomy,” more. Experts on hand from Salk Institute, Scripps Research Institute, and UCSD. Compare brain specimens to see what makes mammals different from reptiles, watch zebra fish glow, use real bioscience tools. 619-238-1233. Saturday, March 15, 11 a.m.; \$6-\$8. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

“CPR Saturday” The 17th annual American Red Cross CPR Saturday promises “hundreds of instructors and volunteers who will teach CPR to thousands of San Diegans.” Classes begin on the hour, starting at 7 a.m. All participants who successfully complete the course will

OUT & ABOUT

COMIC GEORGE LOPEZ

San Diego Sports Arena, Saturday, March 15.

(SEE IN PERSON)



receive certification at no cost. Children aged 5 to 11 can participate in basic aid training and “Whales Tales” water safety training while their parents receive CPR training. 858-309-1275. Saturday, March 15, 7 a.m.; Ages 5 and up. San Diego Community Concourse, 202 C Street. (DOWNTOWN)

“Easter Pawty” Dogs encouraged to uncover hidden plastic eggs filled with dog treats during “Eggstravaganza Easter Party,” and Jen Petit from Fuzzle will be on hand taking photographs. 858-755-3647. Sunday, March 16, 2 p.m.; Muttropolis Solana Beach, 227 South Cedros Avenue. (SOLANA BEACH)

“Medieval Easter Feast” Chef Bernard Guillas demonstrates recipes including crown of rack of lamb Renaissance, root vegetables,

more. Donation benefits Mama’s Kitchen. Reservations: 888-424-3663. Saturday, March 15, noon; \$10. Macy’s Mission Valley Home Store, 1555 Camino de la Reina. (MISSION VALLEY)

“Myths and Misconceptions About Evolution” Humanist Association of San Diego gathers to examine some of the lore. 760-445-8112. Sunday, March 16, 1 p.m.; ages 18 and up. Joyce Beers Community Center, 1230 Cleveland Avenue. (HILLCREST)

“Realpolitik and the United Nations: De Jure versus De Facto” P&R Discussion Group gathers to ponder the topic. 619-370-1027. Thursday, March 13, 7 p.m.; The Other Side Coffee House, 4096 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

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“Sacred Earth and Healing Arts of Tibet Tour” Seven Gaden Shartse monks from Gelugpa order of Tibetan Buddhism will create a traditional sacred sand mandala for public viewing, March 12-16. Opening ceremony is March 12, 7 p.m., following a service. Mandala remains on view through March 16, with dissolution ceremony following 11 a.m. service. 760-753-5786. Thursday, March 13, 10 a.m.; Friday, March 14, 10 a.m.; Sunday, March 16, 11 a.m.; Seaside Center for Spiritual Living, 1613 Lake Drive. (ENCINITAS)

“The Growing Income Gap Between Rich and Poor: What Are the Causes?” North County Agnostics gather to examine growing income gap. 760-445-8112. Monday, March 17, 7 p.m.; Oceanside Mission Library, 3861-B Mission Avenue. (OCEANSIDE)

2008 International Alpaca Odyssey Show is held annually under International Alpaca Show rules, featuring alpaca judges from around the world. 858-793-5555. Friday, March 14, 9 a.m.; Saturday, March 15, 8 a.m.; Sunday, March 16, 8 a.m.; Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

California-Friendly Plant Sale Vendors from throughout Southern California sell their water-wise wares, including California natives, salvias, succulents. Compost bins for sale by Solana Center, master composters on hand to answer questions, lectures, more. 619-660-0614. Saturday, March 15, 9 a.m.; Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

Dog Days Continue AKC Del Sur Kennel Club dog show. Free for spectators; \$25 to register dog in show. 858-793-5555. Friday, March 14, 8 a.m.; Saturday, March 15, 8 a.m.; Sunday, March 16, 8 a.m.; Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

House of Ireland Lawn program with costumes, music, dance, and ethnic foods (for sale). 619-234-0739. Sunday, March 16, 2 p.m.; House of Pacific Relations, 2125 Park Boulevard. (BALBOA PARK)

Lunch in the Park with Laura Lippman Mysterious Galaxy Bookstore hosts lunch with author Laura Lippman celebrating publication of her new novel, *Another Thing to Fall*. Proceeds benefit Words Alive. 858-268-4747. Sunday, March 16, 11:30 a.m.; \$75. The Prado, 1549 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Lux at Night View art exhibits, take studio tours, enjoy music, and refreshments. Current artist-in-residence is Los Angeles landscape painter Astrid Preston. 760-436-6611. Wednesday, March 19, 7 p.m.; Lux Art Institute, 1550 South El Camino Real. (ENCINITAS)

Marston House Easter Egg Roll Easter egg hunt at Marston House, with games, music, holiday-themed craft making, Geranium George plant sale, ground floor tours, refreshments. Fee for family of four: \$10. 619-232-6203 x129. Sunday, March 16, 11 a.m.; \$3-\$5. George White and Anna Gunn Marston House, 3525 Seventh Avenue. (HILLCREST)

Psychic Fair and Metaphysical Conference Lectures, tarot, palmistry, numerology, other psychic arts featured. Admission is free; \$20 per reading. 619-298-3422. Saturday, March 15, noon;

Sunday, March 16, noon; Alexandra's Bookstore, 3545 Midway Drive, suite G. (POINT LOMA)

Ranunculus Rainbows The Flower Fields with nearly 50 acres of giant ranunculus flowers are blooming again, open for tours. Visitors may stroll pathways or take wagon ride (\$4 general). Exotic plant sale, sweet pea maze, poinsettia display, American flag of flowers. 760-431-0352. Thursdays, 9 a.m.; Fridays, 9 a.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m.; Sundays, 9 a.m.; Mondays, 9 a.m.; Tuesdays, 9 a.m.; Wednesdays, 9 a.m.; through Sunday, May 11, 2008, The Flower Fields, 5704 Paseo Del Norte. (CARLSBAD)

Rev It Up and Go! San Diego Auto Swap features classics, hot rods, cycles, and high-performance vehicles on display (in conjunction with Kobey's Swap Meet). Vehicles on display and for sale, along with "acres of parts and accessories." 858-484-9342. Sunday, March 16, 7 a.m.; San Diego Sports Arena, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. (POINT LOMA)

SOHO Historic Home Tour Weekend Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) presents weekend of historic home tours including "A Guide to San Diego's Tiki Modern Architecture," "San Diego's Historic Tile," "Bungalow Courts"; lectures. Whaley House Museum complex is event headquarters. Details, fees, registration: 619-297-9327. Friday, March 14, 10 a.m.; Saturday, March 15, 10 a.m.; Sunday, March 16, 2 p.m.; \$30-\$65. Whaley House Museum, 2476 San Diego Avenue. (OLD TOWN)

Stamp-Collecting Show Stamp and cover dealers offer their wares. 619-218-7835. Sunday, March 16, 10 a.m.; Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road. (KEARNY MESA)

The 29th Annual St. Patrick's Day Open Reading Enjoy Irish poetry and prose; read your favorite passages from Joyce, Yeats, Swift, Shaw, Wilde, others. As always, "Messrs. Guinness and Harp will officiate the proceedings." 858-456-1800. Monday, March 17, 7 p.m.; D.G. Wills Books, 7461 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

The Easter Lilies Are in Bloom Again Three hundred fragrant Easter lilies on display among the

OUT & ABOUT

"JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA" Birch North Park Theatre, Friday, March 14.

(SEE IN PERSON)



permanent collection Friday, March 14, through Wednesday, April 16. 619-239-0512, 619-235-1100. Fridays, 10 a.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.; Sundays, 10 a.m.; Mondays, 10 a.m.; Tuesdays, 10 a.m.; Wednesdays, 10 a.m.; through Saturday, April 19, 2008, Botanical Building, El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

The Games People Play Board game benefit for Heifer International. Play variety of strategy and party games. Donation: \$10. 619-204-8834. Friday, March 14, 8 a.m.; \$10. Tea N More, 7380 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (CLAIREMONT)

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)

You'd Best Wear Green! The 28th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade "Honoring Service and Rescued Animals" gets underway at 11 a.m. at Sixth Avenue and Juniper Street, proceeds up Fifth to Upas, finishes at Sixth Avenue and Laurel Street. Enjoy floats, marching bands, Irish step dancers, Irish bands, and more. Family festival follows, at Sixth Av-

enue and Laurel, with Celtic Heritage Village, Irish music and dancing, food, craft booths, kids' area (until 5:30 p.m.). 858-268-9111. Saturday, March 15, 11 a.m.; Balboa Park, Park Boulevard at Presidents Way. (BALBOA PARK)

SPORTS

"The Dressage Affaire" "Elegant tête-à-tête between horse and rider" featured during competition, boasting "exceptional footing, renowned judges," competitors including Debbie McDonald, Hilda Gurney, Guenter Seidel, Steffen Peters, Sue Blinks, Leslie Morse, Jennifer Hoffman. 866-933-7469 x703. Saturday, March 15, 8 a.m.; Thursday, March 13, 8 a.m.; Friday, March 14, 8 a.m.; Sunday, March 16, 8 a.m.; Del Mar Horsepark, 14550 El Camino Real.

Roller Derby Double Header! Diego Rollers versus Angel City Derby Girls in bout one. Bout two promises competition between San Diego All Stars and Angel City Derby Girls All Stars (7 p.m.). All ages. Tickets: 858-560-9278. Saturday, March 15, 6 p.m.; \$12-\$18. Skateworld, 6907 Linda Vista Road. (LINDA VISTA)

St. Patrick's Day Run 28th annual 10K run, 2- and 4-mile fun run/walks, in Mission Bay Park. Registration: 6 a.m. south of Hilton Hotel. 619-298-7400. Saturday, March 15, 7:30 a.m.; \$15-

\$33. Hilton San Diego, 1775 East Mission Bay Drive. (PACIFIC BEACH)

MUSEUMS

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

Bancroft Ranch House Museum Bancroft Ranch House Museum houses indigenous Indian artifacts and memorabilia of early settlers in the area, run by the Spring Valley Historical Society. The home, built in 1863, was registered as a National

Historic Landmark in 1962 and is on a spot where Kumeyaay Indians camped more than 1000 years ago beside the spring that later gave the area its name. 9050 Memory Lane, 619-469-1480. (SPRING VALLEY)

Barona Cultural Center and Museum 1095 Barona Road, 619-443-7003. (LAKESIDE)

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

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

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

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

Coronado Museum of History and Art "Talismans of the Turkoman: Traditions of a Warrior Tribe," opening Friday, March 14, contains items ranging from small earrings to a large, ornamental camel hanging used in wedding processions, as well as "magical children's garments" known as *elek*, whose function was to protect children from "the evil eye." Exhibit is built entirely from a private collection of materials gathered almost 40 years ago in Afghanistan. Through Monday, May 26. Ongoing exhibits explore the overall history of Coronado, Navy and Army, Tent City, and the Hotel del Coronado. 1100 Orange Avenue, 619-435-7242. (CORONADO)

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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

Flying Leatherneck Museum

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

Gaslamp Museum of Historic San Diego

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

Heritage of the Americas Museum

More than 100 Chinese jades of the Late Neolithic (4300-2500 B.C.) through the Ming periods (A.D. 1368-1644) are included in "The Stone of Heaven: The Enduring Art of Jade Age China." From ancient times, jades in China were treasured as talismans, worn on the body either as final adornments in death or as ornaments in life. See a

rare and valuable jade burial suit of the Han dynasty (206 B.C. -A.D. 221), one of only about two dozen that have been excavated in China. The suits were made of more than 2000 square and rectangular plates of jade sewn together with threads of gold, silver, or bronze (depending upon the status of the wearer). On-going.

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

John DeWitt Historic Museum and Library

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

Junípero Serra Museum

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

The museum interprets the Native American, Spanish, and Mexican periods of San Diego's

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

La Mesa Depot Museum

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

Magee House Museum

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

Museum of Making Music

"The Violin in America: Old World Tradition, New World Sound" explores the transplanting of European violin-making traditions to American soil by 19th and 20th century immigrants, how communities in New World added innovation to tradition. Exhibition showcases significant violins from 1700s to present day. Closes Sunday, September 7.

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

National City Depot San Diego Electric Railway Association operates museum in this historic Santa

Fe depot with exhibits, video displays, trolley equipment, restored passenger car from National City and Otay Railroad. 922 West 23rd Street, 619-474-4400. (NATIONAL CITY)

Olaf Wieghorst Museum

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

Ramona Pioneer Historical Society and Guy B. Woodward Museum

Complex of historical buildings includes the Verlaque House (the only Western adobe home of French provincial design still in existence), wagons, antique exhibits, and artifacts. There is a cowboy bunk house, women's clothing and accessories from 1700 to 1800, a ranch blacksmith shop and tack room. The Casey Tibbs Memorial Exhibit is dedicated to Tibbs, a local resident who was a world-champion rodeo rider. The Bancroft Memorial Rose Garden is on the grounds. Rare documents, historical exhibits, books, photographs, and a research library are also part of the complex. 645 Main Street, 760-789-7644. (RAMONA)

San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum

Museum onboard the decommissioned USS *Midway* is open for tours, now berthed at 910 North Harbor Drive. Exhibits include Navy jet simulators, carrier and flight deck touring, captain's sea cabin, pilot house, navigation bridge. Admission fee includes audio guide. 910 North Harbor Drive, 619-544-9600. (DOWNTOWN)

San Diego County Sheriff's Museum

The 150-year history of

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

San Diego Model Railroad Museum

Museum celebrates American railroads with "the largest permanent operating model railroad and toy train exhibit" in North America. Four scale-model railroads of the Southwest, the "San Diego County Relief Map" exhibit, and an interactive toy train. There is a multimedia presentation on railroading, an operating railroad semaphore signal, and interpretive displays on railroads and model railroading. The museum is downstairs in the Casa de Balboa building. 1649 El Prado, 619-696-0199. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Natural History Museum

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

"Photography at the Poles" features images of the Arctic and Antarctic by leading National Geographic photographers in the museum's Ordovery Gallery. Look for landscapes, mass breeding grounds of king penguins, wildlife. Closes Monday, April 14.

The permanent exhibit "Fossil Mysteries" showcases last 75 million years in Southern California and Baja California region, a time known for its rich fossil record.

Highlights include life-sized models of Albertosaurus, Lambeosaurus, a sea cow, megalodon shark, more.

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

Veterans Museum and Memorial Center

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

Wells Fargo History Museum

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

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Calendar

CLASSICAL MUSIC

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CLASSICAL

Musica Dolce Camarada chamber music orchestra performs. Tickets and more information: 619-231-3702. Neurosciences Institute (10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive), 6 p.m., Thursday, March 13. (LA JOLLA)

UCSD Wind Ensemble Maestro Robert Zelickman directs winter concert including Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" with soloist William Fried, Bernstein's "Glitter and Be Gay" showcasing soprano Sarah Felong, other pieces. 858-534-3229. Mandeville Auditorium at UCSD (9500 Gilman Drive), 8 p.m., Thursday, March 13. (LA JOLLA)

Chamber Music for Cello and Piano Erica Erenyi (violinello) and Emily Helvey (piano) perform Astor Piazzolla's "Le Grand Tango" and "Sonata for Violoncello and Piano in G Minor" by Rachmaninoff 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, March 13. (SAN MARCOS)

Further Surprises Listen to Haydn's "Surprise Symphony," along with "Operation for the Removal of a Stone" by Marin Marais, Beethoven's "Irish Songs," and "Concerto for Theremin" by Linda Kernohan during concert by San Diego Chamber Orchestra. Reservations: 858-350-0290. St. Paul's Cathedral (2278 Sixth Avenue), 7:30 p.m., Friday, March 14. (HILLCREST)

Spotlight on the Masters Take in an all-Chopin program hosted by Mainly Mozart when pianist Jeremy Denk performs. Program includes "Barcarolle in F Sharp," several "Mazurkas," "Étude No. 1 in A Flat" and "Étude No. 7 in C-Sharp Minor," "Ballade No. 4 in F Minor," "Sonata No. 3 in B Minor," "Sonata No. 3 in B Minor," others. 619-239-0100. Neurosciences Institute (10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive), 8 p.m., Friday, March 14, and Saturday, March 15. (LA JOLLA)

"A Salute to Richard Rodgers" Winter pops concerts by San Diego Symphony, guest singers Anne Runolfsson and J. Mark McVey, and conductor Marvin Hamlisch. Rodgers wrote music for 40 Broadway musicals, from *South Pacific* and *The King and I* to *The Sound of Music*. Reservations: 619-235-0804. Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street), 8 p.m.,

OUT & ABOUT

"THE LANGUAGE OF MUSIC"

San Diego Symphony family concert, La Costa Canyon High School.



Friday, March 14, and Saturday, March 15. (DOWNTOWN)

Pipe Organ Concert Chelsea Chen, described as "winner of many awards, locally and internationally," is final performer of season for pipe organ concert series. 619-442-8201. First Church of Christ, Scientist, La Mesa (8262 Allison Avenue), 7:30 p.m., Friday, March 14. (LA MESA)

Harp Concert Ah-Rim Kim, a doctoral student in prestigious harp department at Indiana University, plans concert for American Harp Society. 858-578-3093. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library (9005 Aero Drive), 1 p.m., Saturday, March 15. (KEARNY MESA)

"The Inward Gaze" Steven Schick leads La Jolla Symphony and Chorus in concerts boasting Chinary Ung's "Inner Voices," "Symphony No. 6" by Schubert, "Andante for Strings" by Ruth Crawford Seeger, and Stravinsky's "Symphony of Psalms." 858-534-4637. Mandeville Auditorium at UCSD (9500 Gilman Drive), 8 p.m., Saturday, March 15; 3 p.m., Sunday, March 16. (LA JOLLA)

"The Language of Music" Family concert by San Diego Symphony, conductor Philip Mann, pianist Andy Leu, mime Rosemarie Ballard, and sopranos Michelle Kei Ishuu and Pamela Laurent in David H. Thompson Performing Arts Center. Guest pianist Andy Leu is junior at Rancho Bernardo High School; he was winner of 2007 San Diego Symphony's Young Artist Competition. Listen for selections by Bizet, Brahms, Ives, Prokofiev, others. Concert is free, but advance tickets are required. To reserve seats, call 619-615-3944. La Costa Canyon High School (3451 Camino de los Coches), 2 p.m., Saturday, March 15. (CARLSBAD)

Guest Organist Jackson Borges in concert. 619-702-8138. Spreckels Organ Pavilion (2211 Pan American Road), 2 p.m., Sunday, March 16. (BALBOA PARK)

"The Language of Music" Learn the way music speaks to us all, no matter what language we speak, during Family Festival concert hosted by San Diego Symphony. Orchestra conducted by Philip Mann, with guests Monique Mead (concept, narrator, violin), mime Rosemarie Ballard, Andy Leu (piano), sopranos Michelle Kei Ishuu and Pamela Laurent. Reservations: 619-235-0804. Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street), 2 p.m., Sunday, March 16. (DOWNTOWN)

Music for Solo Cello Listen for selections by Piatti, Hume, Ganassi, de Machaut, and Becker, as well as "the most technically demanding of the six suites" by J.S. Bach when cellist Charles Curtis performs. 619-236-5810. San

Diego Public Library (820 E Street), 2:30 p.m., Sunday, March 16. (DOWNTOWN)

"From Baroque to 20th Century" "Pleasure of Your Company" chamber music series continues with concert by flutist Lori Bell and pianist Diane Snodgrass featuring works by Telemann, Honegger, Mendelssohn, Hindemith. Bell is a six-time Grammy nominee. Donations welcome. Reception follows. 858-538-8158. Scripps Miramar Ranch Library (10301 Scripps Lake Drive), 2:30 p.m., Sunday, March 16. (SCRIPPS RANCH)

The Vienna Boys Choir Choir was founded in 1498 by Emperor Maximilian I and has been entertaining audiences "with their purity of tone, musical depth, and distinctive charm" ever since. Tickets: 619-570-1100. Balboa Theatre (854 Fourth Avenue), 3 p.m., Sunday, March 16. (DOWNTOWN)

State Symphony of Mexico This orchestra will play Bernstein's "Candide Overture," "Concerto in D Major" by Tchaikovsky with Joan Kwuon on violin, Beethoven's "Symphony No. 5 in C Minor" and "Sinfonia India No. 2" featuring Carlos Chavez. 800-988-4253. California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard), 7 p.m., Sunday, March 16. (ESCONDIDO)

Spotlight on Chopin Take in an all-Chopin program hosted by Mainly Mozart when pianist Jeremy Denk performs. Program includes "Barcarolle in F Sharp," several "Mazurkas," "Étude No. 1 in A Flat" and "Étude No. 7 in C-Sharp Minor," "Ballade No. 4 in F Minor," "Sonata No. 3 in B Minor," others. Reception (5:30) followed by concert (6:30). 619-239-0100. The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe (5951 Linea del Cielo), 5:30 p.m., Sunday, March 16. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

Tango Revolution Classical guitarist José Rodríguez and violinist Thomas Yee perform selections by Paganini, Piazzolla, Vivaldi, along with traditional tango and jazz. 858-755-1404. Solana Beach Library (157 Stevens Avenue), 2:30 p.m., Monday, March 17. (SOLANA BEACH)

Tango, Again "Tango Revolution" presented when classical guitarist José Rodríguez and violinist Thomas Yee perform selections by Paganini, Piazzolla, Vivaldi, along with traditional tango and jazz. 760-753-4027. Cardiff-by-the-Sea Library (2081 Newcastle Avenue), 4:30 p.m., Monday, March 17. (CARDIFF)

Still Time to Tango Classical guitarist José Rodríguez and violinist Thomas Yee present "Tango Revolution" and perform selections by Paganini, Piazzolla, Vivaldi, along with traditional tango and jazz. 858-673-4697. 4S Ranch Library (10433 Reserve Drive), 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 18. (RANCHO BERNARDO)

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

"Living Under the Trees" Opening reception for exhibition by activist/artist David Bacon. Exhibit — on display through Thursday, April 17 — is series of large color photographs documenting daily experiences of Mexican farm workers in California. Art talk: Monday, March 31, 9:30 a.m. 619-388-2829. Mesa College Art Gallery (7250 Mesa College Drive). 4:30 p.m., Thursday, March 13. (KEARNY MESA)

Back on Track Grand-opening reception for Off Track Gallery's "bigger, brighter, better" location with art work on display by San Dieguito Art Guild members, food, live music. 760-942-3636. Off Track Gallery (500 Second Street). 5 p.m., Friday, March 14. (ENCINITAS)

Surf's Up! Surf photographer David Pu'u and surf artist Wade Koniakowsky are featured during event. Koniakowsky will conduct a painting demonstration. 858-539-2680. Waveriders Gallery (10373 Roselle Street, suite 100). 6:30 p.m., Saturday, March 15. (CARMEL VALLEY)

"Jewish Women: A Lifetime of Art" Opening reception for exhibition of work by "eight mavens of the San Diego Jewish community" including Lenore Simon, Shirley Lichtman, Perla Fox, Grace Phillips, Lee Rushall, Beatrice Sokol, and Muriel Roston. "Light Years," a photography exhibition by Jeffrey Roth, runs concurrently through Friday, May 16. 858-362-1154. Gotthelf Art Gallery at Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center (4126 Executive Drive). 8 p.m., Wednesday, March 19. (LA JOLLA)

ART MUSEUMS

California Center for the Arts, Escondido Museum. "Innocence is Questionable" is comprised of work by six renowned San Diego-based artists: Jean Lowe, Ernest Silva, Raul Guerrero, Iana Quesnell, May-ling Martinez, and Yvonne Venegas. Each artist is recipient of 2006/2007 San Diego Art Prize. Through May. 340 North Escondido Boulevard, 760-839-4120. (ESCONDIDO)

Mingei International Museum. "Hungarian Folk Magic — The Art of Joseph Domjan" includes several of this master woodblock printer's pieces, along with objects from other cultures of the folklore images Domjan often portrayed.

"Exhibition is an expression of the power of art to endure war, politics, and disaster and to rise, phoenix-like, from the ashes." Closes Sunday, October 5.

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

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

Masterworks from permanent collection are gathered in "The Beauty of Use — Mingei International Museum at 30," showcasing significant objects from many cultures shown in relationships highlighting similarities and differences among them. Museum has formed a collection of mingei now comprising 17,000 objects from 141 countries such as collection of 19th-Century African tribal currency, group of masks including example of Amazonian feather work, ritual objects, selection of monumental containers. Closes Sunday, May 11. 1439 El Prado, 619-239-0003. (BALBOA PARK)

Mingei International Museum — North County. "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)

Oceanside Museum of Art. "Masterpieces of San Diego Painting: Fifty Works from Fifty Years, 1900–1950" focuses on "museum's mission to promote and foster an appreciation for the art and artists of the San Diego region." Guest curator Bram Dijkstra assembled selection of paintings from private collections and museums including celebrated "plein air" painters such as Maurice Braun, Charles Fries, and Charles Reiffel, as well as neo-surrealist Ethel Greene and accomplished group of early modernists including Belle Baranceanu. Closes Thursday, June 26. 704 Pier View Way, 760-721-2787. (OCEANSIDE)

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)" 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 nonviolent struggle for independence from colonial rule through his association with Mahatma Gandhi. Closes Sunday, May 18.

"Inside the Wave: Six San Diego/Tijuana Artists Construct Social Art," opening Saturday, March 8 and closing on Sunday, June 22, features six artists from San Diego/Tijuana region working within alternative cultures to produce thought-provoking works engaging issues of everyday life and materialism. Artists bulbo, Brian Dick, Adriene Jenik, particle group, Zlatan Vukosavljevic, and Allison Weise produce works including sculptures made of found industrial objects, photographs, documentary videos, and interactive digital media. 1450 El Prado, 619-232-7931. (BALBOA PARK)

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Rescue the Monkey! “I need a hero to come in and save me,” says Alma Felan, owner of the Hot Monkey Love Café. “To buy [the café]

place. I spent over \$100,000....

“Even before I opened I had two city officials go to the Bank of America next to me and badmouth me. They told the bank manager that I was going to bring all these undesirable people.”

Felan says a neighbor who lives about 100 feet away filed

to the DA’s office. We had to pay a fine of \$1000 and have 18 months of probation.”

Felan says she stopped having amplified music after 10 p.m. “Then [the neighbor] started harassing me at six in the evening. One citation was for 8:20 p.m.”

Felan wants to know why “eight to ten” SDPD officers would be stationed at her parking lot “...when nobody

harassment]. I’m talking to lawyers [about a lawsuit].”

A call to code-enforcement officer Mike Wiley about Felan’s charges was not returned.

Felan, 42, says she may go back to school.

“It might take ten years, but I want to become a strong politician. I will make sure these laws change. It is hurting everybody.”
— Ken Leighton

who was lighting his beard on fire throughout the whole set.



PHOTOGRAPH FROM MOWERMUSIC.COM

SHEERIN SEEKS MOWER PERSONNEL

It was a place where there was ventilation, but all you could smell was this guy’s beard and, after about three songs of it, we just got on the mike and told this guy we’ve had about enough of it. And I don’t really know what the point of it was. I mean, dude, you burned your own face.”

Other recent tour tales: “The dog throwing up on the guitar player, [and] we had a wheel fly off heading into Vegas at about 60 miles an hour. It was on our trailer, so here we are driving down the road with only three wheels. It was gnarly.”

Contact mowerinfo@yahoo.com to find out which six Mower songs players

blurt

the inside track

and continue what we have done. I don’t want to sell it to just anyone who will just give me my investment back.”

Felan opened the original Hot Monkey on El Cajon Boulevard, in the College Area, in 2002. The venue showcased up-and-coming rock, hip-hop, and salsa artists. After a protracted fight with a neighbor over parking access, in 2006 she moved about ten blocks away.

“Before I came, it was empty. I remodeled the whole

noise complaints incessantly, and she suspects the code-enforcement officers “pressured neighbors” to file complaints.

“[The neighbor] bothered me from my opening day. I started getting citations [for noise complaints]. We hired a security company. [The neighbor] complained that noise was escaping from the roof. So, I spent over \$20,000 for a new roof and another \$6000 on soundproofing the inside and they were still not satisfied. We ended up going



PHOTOGRAPH BY DEREK PLANK

FELAN WANTS ANSWERS

is doing anything wrong.... Kids really need an outlet. Do you want them to sell drugs or become couch potatoes?”

Felan says she is fighting back.

“I’ve already filed a complaint [regarding police

must audition with. The band is currently recording its third full-length album, planned for release later this year. They appear at ‘Canes April 5.

— Jay Allen Sanford

Ike’s Kings After living in Northern California for four years, blues singer Earl Thomas is moving back to San Diego to join Ike Turner’s band, the Kings of Rhythm. (Turner died in San Marcos on December 12, 2007.)

Guitarist Seth Blumberg,



PHOTOGRAPH FROM MYSPACE.COM/IKENDKINGS

IKE AS AN ORIGINAL KING

bassist Armando Cepeda, keyboardist Leo Dombecki, sax player Ryan Montana,

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Calendar MUSIC SCENE

blurt

continued

and drummer Bill Ray are the Kings of Rhythm. The band played with Turner on *Risin' with the Blues*, which won the Best Traditional Blues album at last year's Grammys.

"Ike would want us to continue on," says Bill Ray. "We're like a fraternity. We all went through the ringer that was Ike."

"He was a pariah," says Thomas. "He was like O.J. Simpson. Most people think he's only the character in the movie [*What's Love Got to Do with It*]. But he was so much more. He was a genius musician."

Ray says Europeans were a lot kinder to Ike.

"We were never looked down on in Europe, that's why Ike always liked to play there. The crowds there never judged him. They looked at him as the man who created rock and changed our culture." In the U.S., "People would always sneer at him, but he'd always smile back.... People wouldn't let him live down his worst mistake, his worst moment in life."

Ray was in Turner's house when he died.

"[H]e was surrounded by his closest friends. That screwed me up for a couple months.... Ike said he was tired and he just wanted to go."

The Kings of Rhythm with Earl Thomas debut April 6 at Winstons.

— Ken Leighton

Blues for Liberty

Guitarist Joe Wood, a member of seminal Orange County punk band TSOL, moved to Leucadia last year. He says he legally acquired the TSOL name with drummer Mitch Dean in 1988 or '89, as other members left the band. (Wood joined TSOL in 1983, four years after the band formed.)

Wood says he has allowed a reconstituted TSOL to use the TSOL name to tour and record.

"Every six months or so they do a farewell tour like they are never ever gonna play again. Then after six months or so they run out of



JOE WOOD, DONE WITH TSOL

money and get back together. The last time they announced a farewell show, my phone started ringing off the hook. I was offered \$5000 [by an agent] to play under the name TSOL, and I turned it down....

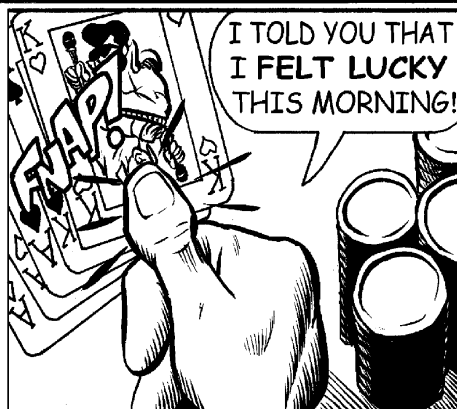
"When you go back and play as TSOL, all anybody wants to hear is the old stuff. I wanted to play more eclectic blues and mix it up rather than play the same old songs. That's why I bowed out of the whole TSOL thing."

Wood has fronted a bluesy roots-rock trio called

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the Lonely Ones for five years. The three-man project includes Wood's music mixed with blues classics. He describes the trio as a cross between Stevie Ray Vaughan and the Doors.

Joe Wood and the Lonely Ones appear every Wednesday at the Flying Elephant in Carlsbad (free admission, all ages).

— Ken Leighton

The Business of Rock

La Jolla-based music-photography retailers Morrison Hotel Galleries signed a lease on February 29, taking over the Manhattan space previously occupied by legendary New York punk club CBGB. In addition to galleries in La Jolla and Los Angeles, this will be its third location.

According to Rich Horowitz (who founded Morrison Hotel Gallery in 2001 with record exec Peter Blachley and photographer Henry Diltz), the new gallery will open by April if all goes according to plan. The first major exhibition will take place in May, featuring the works of photographer Bob Gruen and will include a selection of photos shot at CBGB.

"We had read that the

[CBGB] space was becoming available, so we checked on it," says Horowitz, who cofounded the local Off the Record shop in 1978. "Turns out we were already on the realtor's list of possible tenants because of the music connection."

The area formerly occupied by the club has been renovated into a 3000-square-foot storefront. Horowitz says, "We kept the walls of the bathroom intact, as is. With all that graffiti and history up there, it's the coolest thing."

In related news, last week, Morrison Hotel Galleries inked a deal with Sony Music to represent their photo archive. Over 100 years' worth of unpublished images from the vaults of Columbia, Mercury, BMG, Epic, and dozens of other music labels are included. Plans are for theme shows based around the photographs with the possibility of book collections in the future.

— Bart Mendoza

Leave Britney Alone!

"After watching the lyrics come true with Paris Hilton, Lindsey Lohan, and Britney Spears, I decided to pull the song from the Web," says singer/songwriter Scott

Wilson of "She Won't Stop," his ode to fame for fame's sake.

"Everybody's wet dream/ Save it for the big scene/ It's headed for the big screen... Doesn't make a difference to me."

Last month, "She Won't Stop" hit number one on the Big 50 list at aicmusic.com.

"Independent Artists

Company is a website that features indie musicians and has a number of radio stations on the site," says Wilson. "You can sell your downloads

with no upfront cost, and you get 100 percent of the profits, unlike on *Snocap*, which takes 39 cents out of every sale." The Big 50 is a list of songs on the IAC site with the highest traffic.

"The reason I pulled the song was because I thought that nothing good could come from profiting off someone else's suffering," says Wilson. "I was looking at a picture of Paris Hilton in

the back of a police car crying, and I know that inspires laughter in a lot of people, but for some reason I felt really sorry for her....

"I personally think that there's a spiritual dimension to all of this. Britney Spears, Lindsey Lohan, and even Paris Hilton were studying Kabbalah shortly before all this stuff went down for all of



LEAVE PARIS ALONE TOO!

them, and I think it's a dangerous cocktail to be messing around with the power of God when you're involved in the kinds of antics that those three are up to."

— 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

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This Week In Music

Thursday 13

SoCal troubadour big Jake Smith, aka the **White Buffalo**, roams into Casbah tonight. The singer/songwriter travels with a trio to flesh his alt-country blues, reminiscent of Waylon Jennings and acoustic Dylan with Smith's singular vocal style. Sample *The White Buffalo E.P.*, esp. "Love Song #1" for a tall pour. P.B.'s acoustic roots rockers **Carbine** will warm the Middletown stage.... Couple more folkie sets across town at Ken Club, where local quartet **River City** flows demos down Adams Ave. Melodious **Old Man Hands** split the bill. Check the Simon & Garfunkel vibe off Old Man's debut *Under the Weight of Night*.... Reggae's dub doctor **Mad Professor** crossed over to Motown and Massive Attack in the '90s. The London mixmaster behind the *Dub Me Crazy* series brings his board to Belly Up, where he'll hook up with San Diego reggae rootsman **Elijah Emmanuel**.... Kid club Soma books kid rockers **Angels & Airwaves**, feat. former blink frontman Tom DeLonge. Word is last year's Airwaves disc *I-Empire* will get film treatment. **Meg & Dia**, the **Color Fred**, and **Ace Enders** open.

Friday 14

Kawabata Makoto delivers Japanese collective **Acid Mothers Temple/Melting Paraiso U.F.O.** to Ché Café. Guitarist Makoto and A.M.T. are best known for sonic squall and psych-rock bliss-outs, where volume and ferocity meld to ambient melody. Stick yer head into *Recurring Dream and Apocalypse of Darkness* samples, due to drop April 8. Portland prog rockestra **Danava** split the bill.... Blues mid-dlemen **Tommy Castro** (SF) and **Bill Magee** (SD) throw down at Belly Up Friday night. The



ACID MOTHERS TEMPLE AT CHÉ CAFÉ

guitarist/singers play fat Strats in the Chicagoland style, so put on your dancing shoes. Castro's out to tout his latest, *Painkiller*.... 'Nother kind of stomp going on at Zombie Lounge, as the UniHeights hot spot props rockabilly, staging honky-tonk heavy hitters the **Palominos**, **Psycho DeVilles**, and the **Handsome Devils**.... Downtown at 4th&B, Bay Area boy-ee **Too Short** (aka Too \$hort) rocks the mic with West Coast rap. The "undisputed Godfather of Bay Area hip-hop" is shilling spank-ing-new disc *Get Off the Stage*. Oakland homies **Keak da Sneak** and **Tash** (tha Alkaholiks) on the bill.... *For Lovers, Dreamers & Me*, Brooklyn R&B chanteuse **Alice Smith** strides into Casbah. Hooky tunes, and the lady's got pipes — an edgier Macy Gray.... *End of the Hits* CD release for piano-pop act **bill** at Whistle Stop. Ex-No Knifer **Ryan Ferguson** opens and **DJ Robin Roth** spins a Pussy Galore joint round the sets.... In the 'hood: **Spell Toronto**, the **Megas** (Megaman cover band), **Sub Rosa**, and **Causeway** alt-rock the Beauty Bar... **Roman Spring**, **Airlines**, and **Secret Apollo** launch at Ken Club... And **Baja Bugs** cover the Beatles with guac and hot sauce at Bar Pink Elephant.

Saturday 15

Second course of Japanese noise rock this weekend as Osaka experimentalists the **Boredoms** hit the beach at 'Canes. The avant artists — on 7/7/07 the band performed under Brooklyn Bridge with 77 drummers — have been dubbed "Pacific Rim's answer to Sonic Youth." Have a look-listen at last year's CD/DVD *Live at Sunflancisco* to see why. **Human Bell** in support.... American noiseniks **Explosions in the Sky** rain down on Soma. Explosions is touring behind last year's *All of a Sudden I Miss Everyone*, which explains why the Austin quartet's going round the globe. Along their world travels, the band will be curating this year's All Tomorrow's Parties in the UK. Have a look at the bill they've built for the May music fest: *explosionsinthesky.com*.... Ché stages local indie kids the **Lanterns**, who will be off on a Left Coast swing this month. Check the

post-core quartet's e.p. samples and expect big things from 'em this year. With **Day Sleeper** and **Scarlet Symphony**.... Doors man **Robby Krieger** joins L.A. jam band **Particle** at House of Blues.... O.C. reggae rockers



NADA SURF AT HOUSE OF BLUES

Common Sense hit Belly Up with L.A.'s "world beatniks" the **Bone Daddys**.... And **Dirty DJ Tony Sua** spins sins at Pink Elephant.

Sunday 16

Reggaeton continues at Belly Up this weekend with spiritual St. Croix rastas **Midnite**, who'll be joined by O.B. jahmen **Vegitation**. **DJ Carlos Culture** spins between sets.... Tower Bar's calendar posts "the **Rafter**" Sunday night. *Sex Death...Music for Total Chickens?* Your guess is as good as mine. Give 'em a call.... "Knit it! Knit it good!" at Whistle Stop's knitting fest. DJs spin be-bop cookers to crochet by.

Monday 17

St. Paddy's day sets: you've got Irish punks and Latin drunks at Casbah — **Downs Family** and the Mario Escovedo Experience aka **MEX**.... Americana man **Shawn Mullins** pulls out the roots at Belly Up. The acoustic cat just premiered his latest Vanguard disc, *Honeydew*, at SXSW. Mullins will be joined by country-soul singer Pieta Brown. The Iowa flower's out behind last year's collection *Remember the Sun*.... Whistle Stop's calling it **St. Punkrock's Day**, as punk-rock DJs spin Brit spit.... And **Lady Dottie and the Diamonds** will hold their Monday post at Tower Bar.

Tuesday 18

Brooklyn band **Nada Surf**, popular for '90s anthem "Popular," hit their stride when Cars front-man/producer Ric Ocasek took 'em in studio. Since that '90s run, the trio has had more misses than hits. Enter Deathcab driver Chris Walla, who joined the Barsuk indie artists for 2005's *The Weight Is a Gift*, a change in sound and sensibility for Nada songsmith Matthew Caws. Caws and crew dropped crit-hit *Lucky* last month under the guidance of another golden-boy producer, John Goodmanson, suggesting there may be more behind the board than in front. Judge for yourself when the producers' pop project plays a Casbah-sponsored set at House of Blues. L.A. gazers **Sea Wolf** (yes, another "wolf" band) warm the crowd.... A couple Pitchfork-praised Canadian indie acts — Pitchfork loves Canucks — **Born Ruffians** (an "anti-power trio") and **Cadence Weapon** ("hip-hop bricolage") hit Casbah post-SXSW. Catch 'em 'fore they fly north.... Belly Up will screen über jam band the **String Cheese Incident's** *Hi-Def Live at Red Rocks* flick.

Wednesday 19

Flavor-of-the month **Vampire Weekend** tour their highly touted s/t debut, a collection of Afro-pop à la Paul Simon, through Casbah. The natty NYC youngsters do the Strokes clean, and your girlfriend looves them. Portland nu-wavers **Yacht** and SanDago's odd-pop act the **Rafter Band**



VAMPIRE WEEKEND AT CASBAH

will set the stage.... Nature boy **Bon Iver** is out of the woods at Ché Café. Check *For Emma, Forever Ago* samples. The acoustic songsmith's voice will freak...you...out — Iron and Wine for love-lorn zombies. With **Phosphorescent** and the **Paddle Boat**.... Fresh from SXSW, **Birdmonster** lands at new North Park night nest U-31. The rising SanFran rock band will preview material from a sophomore disc due to drop this summer.

— Barnaby Monk

<p>THURSDAY • MARCH 13</p> <p>THE WHITE BUFFALO</p> <p>THE BLACKOUT PARTY</p> <p>CARBINE</p>	<p>THE Casbah</p> <p>COCKTAILS • LIVE MUSIC • 21 w/ID</p> <p>2501 KETTNER BLVD. • 232-4355</p>	<p>SUNDAY • MARCH 23</p> <p>ASYLUM STREET SPANKERS</p>
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<p>SATURDAY • MARCH 15</p> <p>WEST INDIAN GIRL</p> <p>WENDY DARLING</p> <p>a.m. vibe</p>	<p>FRIDAY • MARCH 21</p> <p>DYNAMITE WALLS</p> <p>HOTEL SAINT GEORGE</p> <p>THE SOFT LIGHTES</p> <p>THE FOCUS GROUP</p>	<p>TUESDAY • MARCH 25</p> <p>STEVE POLTZ</p> <p>TRUCKEE BROTHERS</p>
<p>SUNDAY • MARCH 16</p> <p>THE GIFT CURSE</p> <p>TIM AND THE 23s</p>	<p>SATURDAY • MARCH 22</p> <p>THE SILENT COMEDY</p> <p>OR, THE WHALE</p> <p>SILVERBIRD</p>	<p>THURSDAY • MARCH 27</p> <p>CD RELEASE SHOW</p> <p>ARCHWAYS</p>
<p>MONDAY • MARCH 17</p> <p>ANTI-MONDAY LEAGUE PRESENTS</p> <p>ST. PATRICK'S DAY</p> <p>THE DOWNS FAMILY</p> <p>MEX</p> <p>THE TIGHTEN UPS</p>	<p>FRIDAY • MARCH 28</p> <p>RED SPARROWES</p> <p>RUSSIAN CIRCLES</p>	<p>SATURDAY • MARCH 29</p> <p>HOSTILE COMBOVER</p> <p>HIALEAH</p> <p>MODERN RIFLES</p> <p>SUS HIJOS</p>
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<p>Aventura</p> <p>March 16</p> <p>Katt Williams</p> <p>March 28</p> <p>RBD</p> <p>April 6</p> <p>Eddie Vedder</p> <p>April 15, 16</p> <p>Daniel Tosh</p> <p>April 18</p> <p>Kanye West</p> <p>April 20</p> <p>Def Leppard</p> <p>April 26</p> <p>Avril Lavigne</p> <p>April 30</p> <p>Michael Bublé</p> <p>May 2</p> <p>Juanes</p> <p>May 3</p> <p>Alicia Keys</p> <p>May 7</p>	<p>George Lopez</p> <p>March 15</p>	<p>Vicente Fernandez</p> <p>May 24</p> <p>WWE</p> <p>June 1</p> <p>The Cure</p> <p>June 3</p> <p>Gary Allan</p> <p>June 4</p> <p>David Sedaris</p> <p>June 30</p> <p>Robert Plant & Alison Krauss</p> <p>June 30</p> <p>Dave Matthews Band</p> <p>August 22</p> <p>"The Wiggles Live"</p> <p>April 1</p> <p>"Celtic Woman"</p> <p>May 9</p> <p>"Cats"</p> <p>June 3-8</p> <p>US Open Golf</p> <p>at Torrey Pines June 9-15</p> <p>Padres</p> <p>2008 Season</p>
<p>The Police</p> <p>May 26</p>	<p>Lisa Lampanelli</p> <p>May 10</p> <p>Joe Jackson</p> <p>May 11</p>	<p>Margaret Cho</p> <p>May 16, 17</p> <p>Megadeth</p> <p>May 20</p>
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Revolutionary Stepladder

"I must be honest, Grease is my favorite movie, damn it."

Many hip-hop artists describe themselves as activists, but Southeast San Diego native Bennie Herron fits that bill more than most. With a master's degree in social work and a bachelor of arts in psychology from SDSU, Herron is committed to working in the Voz Alta project, a local nonprofit volunteer group whose outreach programs are geared toward teaching African-American and Hispanic youths about social and cultural solidarity and self-respect. In addition, Herron created and coordinates From a Boy to a Man, described online as "an emotional and academic awareness program for African-American males between the ages of 12 and 17."

In his younger days, Herron was all about street dancing, an urban art form that — in the days of breakdancing — could often be a revolutionary stepladder out of ghetto life and poverty. In the mid-'90s, he joined the spoken-word/performance-art collective the Taco Shop Poets, described as "dedicated to community empowerment through the arts. The Taco Shop Poets seek to bring poetry to the people of San Diego who often gather in taco shops, not cafés."

"Art is all about the truth," says the self-described "70s soul child." Herron's politicized Taco Shop performances have often included elements of guerilla theater, intended to foster a sense of community with his audience by emulating the same sort of education-entertainment as contemporary children's television. He would

whisper a "secret" to an audience member and have patrons pass it along in "whisper waves." Sometimes Herron would tear pages from books and pass them to attendees to read aloud in short segments, composing a spontaneous "collage poem."

Herron's recording career began in 1997 with a self-released vinyl EP *Low Cal*, followed by several other "underground releases," as he calls them. A full-length album, *Churches and Liquor Stores*, was released in 2001 on the indie label On 1 Entertainment.

LISTS

JAY ALLEN SANFORD

WHAT'S IN YOUR CD PLAYER?

1. J Dilla, *Donuts* ("His production was so progressive; he filled a void that hip-hop needed.")
2. Match'd Frantic, self-titled ("The lyrics and beats are crazy.")
3. Kanye West, mix tape ("It's old, but I love the raw feel.")
4. Prodigy, *Return of the Mac* ("His lyrics and the beats are so vintage; it reminds me of the Kool G Rap era.")
5. Freestyle Fellowship, *Innecity Griots* ("It's old, but it's timeless.")

DESERT-ISLAND DVDs?

1. *Grease* ("I must be honest, *Grease* is my favorite movie, damn it.")
2. *The Wiz* ("So soulful and nostalgic, it reminds me of my family good vibes, man.")
3. *Beat Street* ("A classic...need I say more?")

4. *Requiem for a Dream* ("This movie is dope, and the artistic style is crazy.")
5. *Angel Rodriguez* ("An indie flick with a real simple story that draws you in...it reminds me of my childhood.")

MOST ADMIRED ENTERTAINER?

"Richard Pryor. To watch a man evolve and grow under the limelight is amazing to me. He overcame so much and opened so many doors for artists today."

BEST CELEBRITY ENCOUNTER?

"I met Burt Ward, the real Robin from the original *Batman* TV show, at a comic convention here in San Diego. It was the best because at the time I was really into *Batman* and the new movie was being made during that time."

SEXIEST LOCAL PERFORMER?

"Tanya Johnson is a theater actress in San Diego...she really does it for me."

MOST VISITED WEBSITE?

"BBC World News. Just the facts, man."

TOP FIVE GUILTY PLEASURES?

1. Shoes
2. Hats
3. More shoes
4. Cheesy food
5. Shoes

BEST THING YOU EVER WON?

"I won \$200 in a writing contest while I was attending Cal State Northridge during my undergraduate studies. It was right on time...I was able to buy some real food."

TWO THINGS YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT?

"Two things I could not live without are my wife-to-be Tanya Johnson and my family's love."



Bennie Herron

FAVORITE POST-MILLENNIUM HOBBY?

"I don't play video games, but I am an Internet-head."

BEST ADVICE YOU EVER RECEIVED?

"My mother, Pat Herron, told me, 'You meet people for a reason, a season, or a lifetime.'"

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THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

4th & B: 345 B Street, Downtown, 619-231-4343. *Friday*, 7 p.m. — Too Short. Rap. \$30-\$45.

710 Beach Club: 710 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-483-7844. *Thursday* — Surfshot Presents. A night of bluegrass/country/rockabilly music. Features performances by Blackout Party and Old Devil. *Friday* — Sublime Tribute. Features performances by 40 Oz. to Freedom, Elephants in Mud, and Agave. Punk/reggae/rock. *Saturday* — Led Zeppelin and Aerosmith Tribute. Features performances by Dazed & Confused and Aeromith. Northstar opens. *Monday* — Superunloader. Alternative/rock/blues.

AcousticMusicSanDiego: 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal

Heights, 619-303-8176. *Saturday*, 7:30 p.m. — Incendio. Ethnic fusion/flamenco. \$15-\$45.

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

Anthology: 1337 India Street, Little Italy, 619-595-0300. *Friday, Saturday, Sunday* — Flora Purim and Airto.

Beach Grass Café: 159 South Coast Highway 101, Solana Beach, 858-509-0632. *Sundays*, 6 p.m. — Sambajazz. Brazilian and American jazz.

Beaumont's: 5662 La Jolla Boulevard, La Jolla, 858-459-0474. *Thursday*, 8 p.m. — Greg Feldman. Covers/standards. *Friday*, 8:30 p.m. — Mark Fisher and Friends. Covers/standards/rock. *Saturday*, 9 p.m. — The Jones Revival. Covers/standards/rock.

Beauty Bar: 4746 El Cajon Boulevard, Kensington-Talmadge, 619-516-4746.

Friday — Spell Toronto, the Megas. Sub Rosa and Causeway perform. Alternative/pop/rock. \$5. *Saturday* — Strychnine Rock n' Soul Review. With Thee Atomic Werecat, Slick, and Danny G. An evening of rockabilly, punk, and soul music. \$5. *Monday* — Inglewood. Rock/hip-hop group. *Wednesday* — Deadly Syndrome, Trespassers William. Immovable Objects also perform. Indie/folk rock/alternative.

Belly Up Tavern: 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.

Thursday, 9 p.m. — Mad Professor and Elijah Emanuel. The grand king of dub meets roots reggae. \$14-\$16. *Friday*, 9 p.m. — The Tommy Castro Band and the Bill Magee Blues Band. Blues guitar. \$16-\$18.

NOTE

BY WILLIAM CRAIN

One night I was flipping channels on TV and came across someone interviewing shred-guitar hero Joe Satriani. Satch was talking about how his music expresses his innermost feelings. At that moment the TV editors cut away to show the guitarist in the middle of one of his instrumental numbers, playing one of his insanely fast solos. I laughed out loud. It sounded like a record playing at the wrong speed or like a CD skipping. Whatever it was, if that represented Satriani's private emotions, I thought the guy needed serious psychiatric medicine.

Saturday, 9 p.m. — Common Sense. \$12-\$14. *Sunday*, 9 p.m. — Midnite and Vegetation. Roots reggae. \$20-\$22. *Monday*, 8 p.m. — Shawn Mullins. Singer-songwriter. \$13-\$15. *Wednesday*, 8 p.m. — Tristan Prettyman. San Diego singer-songwriter. \$15.

Brick by Brick: 1130 Buenos Avenue, Clairemont, 619-275-LIVE. *Thursday* — Psychostick, Better Left Unsaid. Take This to Your Grave also performs. Metal/hardcore. *Saturday*, 8 p.m. — Agent Orchid. Also featuring the Wet Spots and the Hell on Heels Burlesque Revue. \$15. *Wednesday* — The New Dayze, Sirens of Shipwreck. Dogsmile also performs. Funk/rock/alternative.

I don't get that feeling from **Explosions in the Sky**, an instrumental band from Texas that is becoming famous for its emotional music and powerful live shows. Listening to Explosions in the Sky can be scary or sweet or calming or exhilarating, but it's always musical.

Like Mogwai, to whom the band is often compared, Explosions in the Sky finds most of its power not in Satriani-like technical prowess, but in dynamics, the gradual or sudden shift from quiet to loud and back. But unlike many of their closest peers (some of whom will be playing at this spring's All Tomorrow's Parties festival in England, for which Explosions in the Sky is this year's curator), the Texans don't pretend to be post-rock. On their website, the band members declare themselves a rock 'n' roll band. In fact, last year's *All of a*



Sudden I Miss Everyone sounds like a distillation of some of the most distinctive strains of rock from the past 45 years. I hear touches of the Cocteau Twins and Trail of Dead, the Dirty Three, and even a hint of Dick Dale.

EXPLOSIONS IN THE SKY, Soma, Saturday, March 15, 7 p.m. 619-226-7662. \$14.

Cafe Lamaze: 1441 Highland Avenue, National City, 619-474-3222. *Fridays*, 7 p.m., *Saturdays*, 7 p.m. — The Sandy Chappel Quartet. With Burnett Anderson, Robert Sebastian, and Hank Young. Standards/jazz/blues. *Sundays*, 7:30 p.m. — Burnett's Bliss. With Robert Sebastian and Scott Wallingford. Jazz/standards/blues.

The Calypso Café: 576 North Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-632-8252. *Thursday*, 7:30 p.m. — Michael Tiernan and the Band. A night of acoustic music.

'Canes: 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-488-1780. *Thursday*, 8 p.m. — Negative Filter, Mursic. Tainted Society and

October Burning also perform. Alternative/rock/metal. \$6. *Friday* — Brother Ali. Hip-hop/funk/soul. *Saturday* — The Boredoms. Experimental/electro/noise. *Wednesday*, 8 p.m. — Local Band Showcase. Hector's Revenge and Motus & One Inch Punch headline. \$10-\$12.

Carlsbad Community Cultural Arts Center: 3557 Monroe Street, Carlsbad. *Saturday*, 7 p.m. — North County Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Benefit Concert. Johnny Vernazza performs. 619-885-8846. \$10.

Carvers: 11940 Bernardo Plaza Drive, Rancho Bernardo, 858-566-2400. *Friday*, 8 p.m., *Saturday*, 8 p.m. — Crossroads.

The Casbah: 2501 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-HELL. *Thursday* — The White Buffalo. Blackout Party also performs. Acoustic/rock/bluegrass. \$10. *Friday* — Alice Smith. Rock/pop/soul sounds from her new album, *For Lovers, Dreamers, & Me*. \$15. *Saturday*, 8 p.m. — West Indian Girl, Wendy Darling. A.M. Vibe also performs. Alternative/experimental/noise. \$12. *Sunday* — Tim and the 23's. Joined by guests. \$5. *Monday* — The Downs Family, Mex, The Tighten Ups. St. Patrick's Day show presented by Anti Monday League. \$10. *Tuesday* — Born Ruffians, Cadence Weapon, Inberst. Indie/pop/hip-

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hop. \$10.
Wednesday — Vampire Weekend. Indie rock.

Cheers: 2475 Main Street, Ramona, 760-789-0270.
Tuesdays, 5 p.m. — Mike Gardner. Rock.

Christ United Presbyterian Church: 3025 Fir Street, South Park.
Sunday, 4 p.m. — “Morning Has Broken.” Gospel music concert showcasing Martin Luther King Community Choir, San Diego, led by Ken Anderson, with soprano Dale Fleming. Reception follows. 619-239-2346.

Ché Café: 9500 Gilman Drive, B-0323C, La Jolla, 858-534-2311.
Wednesday, 8 p.m. — Phosphorescent, Bon Iver. The Paddle Boat also performs. Acoustic/folk/soul. \$5.

Claire de Lune: 2906 University Avenue, North Park, 619-688-9845.
Saturday, 8:30 p.m. — The Chris Klich Jazz Quintet. Jazz.

Coyote Bar and Grill: 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad, 760-729-4695.
Thursday, 6 p.m. — Billy Watson. Blues/soul/jazz.
Friday, 6 p.m. — Restless Natives. Rock/blues/reggae.
Saturday, 3 p.m. — Michele Lundeen & Blues Streak. Peter Hall opens. Blues/soul.
Sunday, 2 p.m. — Jerome Dawson. Johnny “B” Blues opens. Blues/jazz.
Wednesday, 6 p.m. — Northstar. Classic rock.

David and Dorothea Garfield Theatre: 4126 Executive Drive, La Jolla, 858-362-1348.
Monday, 7:30 p.m. — San Diego Jewish Music Festival. “Rafi Malkiel Ensemble: A Musical Journey from New York to Tel Aviv” is first concert in festival. Jerusalem-born composer, trombonist Malkiel leads quintet in original compositions and “unique arrangements fusing jazz and Latin American standards with Afro-Caribbean rhythms.” \$14-\$19.

Dirk’s Niteclub: 7662 Broadway, Lemon Grove, 619-469-6344.
Friday, Saturday — Full Xposure.

Dizzy’s: 200 Harbor Drive, Downtown, 858-270-7467.
Friday, 8 p.m. — ESP. Jazz quintet. \$10-\$15.
Sunday, 4 p.m. — Rick Helzer and John Stowell. Rick Helzer (piano) and John Stowell (guitar), with Ellen Weller (woodwinds), Bob Weller (piano), and Mark Dresser (bass). Jazz. \$10-\$15.
Wednesday, 8 p.m. — Nate James. British soul singer performs an acoustic show. Local indie/soul/jazz singer Steph Johnson opens. \$10.

Dream Street Live: 2228 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-8131.
Thursday — John January & the Mags. Alternative rock.
Friday — Unset, Wickhead, Mniyic, Six Reasons. Hard rock.
Sunday — A New Forward, Miggity Gigs, Secure Sounds. Alternative rock.
Wednesday — Sound Escape, Veronica May & the To-Do List. Plus Feeling Love Jones, and Kongos, both from South Africa. Alt-rock.

Dublin Square: 554 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-239-5818.
Monday, 2 p.m. — Adrienne Nims, Raggle-Taggle. A blend of jazz, Celtic, and Latin music.

Epicentre: 8450 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa, 858-271-4000.
Friday — Driving East, Parade the Day. Joy in Tomorrow, Shining Through, and Sierra Leon Perform. Indie/rock/pop. \$7-\$9.

Fannie’s Nightclub: 9143 Campo Road, Spring Valley, 619-698-2204.
Thursdays, 8:30 p.m. — Cory Wilkins. Alternative/rock/blues.

Gallagher’s Pub & Grill: 5046 Newport Avenue, Ocean Beach, 619-222-5300.

Saturday, 8 p.m., *Monday*, 8 p.m. — Fiffin Market. Local band performs a mix of acoustic, pop, and traditional Irish folk music.

Gaslamp Quarter: Downtown.
Monday, 4 p.m. — Miller Lite ShamRock 2008. Live music on two stages by Young Dubliners, Raggle Taggle, Down’s Family, Stuart Martz Band, others; Irish dancing, food, and libations. 619-233-5008. \$25. Ages 21 and up.

George’s on Fifth: 835 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-702-0444.
Fridays, 6:30 p.m., *Saturdays*, 6:30 p.m. — Peter the Prince of Piano. Piano/pop.

The Handlery Hotel and Resort: 950 Hotel Circle North, Mission Valley, 619-298-0511.
Friday, 8 p.m. — The Citizen Band. Americana rock/bluegrass/acoustic.
Wednesdays, 5 p.m. — Christopher Dale and Friends. Acoustic pop/rock.

Hennessey’s Tavern - Gaslamp: 708 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-239-9994.
Sunday, 8 p.m. — Fiffin Market. Local band performs a mix of acoustic, pop, and traditional Irish folk music.

Hensley’s Flying Elephant Pub and Grill: 850 Tamarack Avenue, Carlsbad, 760-729-4996.
Thursday, 8 p.m. — Skelpin. Irish folk jam band.
Friday, 7 p.m. — Jackson United. Punk/rock/surf.
Saturday, 7 p.m. — Help. Beatles

tribute band.
Sunday, 11:30 a.m., *Monday*, 1:30 p.m. — The Blokes. Rowdy Celtic. Skelpin also performs Irish folk jams.
Tuesday, 8 p.m. — Nathan James & Ben Hernandez. Roots/acoustic/blues duo.
Wednesday, 7 p.m. — Joe Wood. Blues/rock/soul.

House of Blues: 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-299-2583.
Friday, 7 p.m. — Noches Rockeras. \$12.
Saturday, 8 p.m. — Particle.

\$17.50-\$27.50.
Tuesday, 7 p.m. — Nada Surf. \$17.50.

Humphrey’s Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-224-3577.
Friday, 6 p.m. — West of 5. ’70s to modern rock. \$5.
Saturday — Steely Damned. Steely Dan tribute band. Covers/standards/rock.

In Cahoots: 5373 Mission Center Road, Mission Valley, 619-291-8635.

A large poster for the VIEJAS CONCERTS IN THE PARK event. The top half features the text "VIEJAS CONCERTS IN THE PARK" in a stylized font. Below this, the name "RILO KILEY" is prominently displayed in large, bold, white letters. Underneath, it says "SPRING TOUR 2008" and "PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS". The date "MAY 15" is written in a large, handwritten-style font. A black banner with white text reads "ON SALE FRI. MAR 14 @ 10a". Below the banner is a photograph of the four band members of Rilo Kiley sitting on a wooden bench. The bottom of the poster contains ticket information: "TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE VIEJAS GIFT SHOP CHARGE BY PHONE 619.220.TIXS :: TICKETMASTER OUTLETS PRINT YOUR TICKETS TODAY! TICKETFAST™ AT TICKETMASTER.COM" and "JUST OFF I-8 EAST AT WILLOWS ROAD :: 619.659.1996 FREE PARKING :: ALL AGES WELCOME FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION, GO TO VIEJASENTERTAINMENT.COM".

Calendar

MUSIC

Wednesdays, 7 p.m. — KSON Night. Country western dance bar.

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.

JP's Pub: 10436 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Tierrasanta, 858-576-2509.

Friday, 9 p.m. — Blue Rockit. Blues.

Jack's La Jolla: 7863 Girard Avenue, La Jolla, 858-456-8111. Piano Bar. Every day of the week at 6 p.m. in the Ocean Room.

Jimmy Love's: 672 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-595-0123. *Thursday* — Masterpiece.

Jazz/R&B.

Friday — Superfunk Fantasy.

Performs dance hits of the '70s, '80s, and '90s.

Saturday — The M-80s. '80s cover band performs dance, pop, rock, and top 40 hits.

Sunday — Masterpiece. Jazz/R&B.

Monday, 2 p.m. — St. Patrick's Day Party. The Incase Trio performs Irish sing-alongs.

Tuesday — Mystique.

Jazz/funk/R&B.

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. — The Soul Revue. Jazz, dance, and top 40.

Joe 'n Andy's Hole in the Wall:

9344 La Mesa Boulevard, La Mesa, 619-589-8684.

Friday, 7 p.m. — Punkfest. Features performances by Empires, the Abrasives, and London Calling.

Alternative/punk.

Kadan: 4696 30th Street, North Park, 619-640-2500.

Mondays, 9 p.m. — Mayhem

Mondays. Punk rock every

Monday. Live bands and resident DJ Nate Horror provide the tunes.

The Kensington Club:

4079 Adams Avenue, Kensington-Talmadge, 619-284-2848.

Thursday — River City, Old Man Hands. Indie/folk.

Friday — The Roman Spring, the Airlines. Secret Apollo also performs. Indie/garage/soul.

Saturday — Jezebel, Operator X. Punk/metal.

Kensington Library:

4121 Adams Avenue, Kensington-Talmadge, 619-533-3974.

Saturday, 2 p.m. — Concert of Celtic Music. Adrienne Nims and Raggle-Taggle perform. 619-533-

3974.

The Kraken:

2531 South Highway 101, Cardiff, 760-436-

6483. *Thursday* — The West Coast Blues Band. Blues.

Friday — The Salt Lickers.

Saturday — Blue Heat.

Sundays, 4 p.m. — The Blues

Brokers. Blues/soul/rock.

Wednesday — Jeff Moore and the Witch Doctors. Down-home

Americana blues rock.

La Costa Resort and Spa:

2100 Costa del Mar Road, Carlsbad.

Monday, 7 p.m. — Adrienne Nims,

Raggle-Taggle. A blend of jazz,

Celtic, and Latin music.

La Jolla Library:

7555 Draper Avenue, La Jolla, 858-552-1657.

Saturday, 2 p.m. — Distinctive

Sounds. Pianist James Gordon Williams and bassist Mark Dresser.

858-552-1657.

Lestat's Coffee House:

3343 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-282-2848.

Sunday — Flimz, Richard Julian.

Acoustic/folk.

Lyceum Theatre:

79 Horton Plaza, Downtown, 619-858-0322.

Monday, noon — Sue Palmer and

! NOTE

BY DAVE GOOD

"Their music isn't revolutionary," says my friend of **Vampire Weekend**, "but it's light and silly, and it makes me smile listening to little blips of it." There is an impressive shock wave of fan-driven hype surrounding this Manhattan band, formed in 2006 by four students at Columbia University. Much of the hype was generated by Internet downloads and live gigs, and all of it was cooking well in advance of the release of their self-titled CD earlier this year. The music press has called their sound Afro/preppy/new wave. Vampire Weekend denies the preppy part of that tag, but for the record, the band modeled Perry Ellis and Ralph Lauren apparel for their spread in *Spin* magazine.

Vampire Weekend is a second-generation's interpretation of the bands that first made an industry of world music. Think Talking Heads and Peter Gabriel, minus the save-the-world rock politics of the '80s. In its place there is a warped kind of irreverence: "Can you stay up/ To see the dawn/ In the colors/ Of Benetton?"

Even with the inclusion of islander and Afro beats, Vampire Weekend's music is sensually spare and pop-art simplistic. I'm reminded a bit of a William Eggleston photograph. He made sport of memorializing the everyday kind of middle-class things that go ignored. That's Vampire Weekend, a collective focus on ordinary world-beat licks and old-pop hooks and riffs from the everyday world. The result is a mashup of the obvious and the simple, a music that sounds as if it may have sprung from some indigenous culture, blended with a strange Cape Cod sensibility. When held up



to the light of public scrutiny, Vampire Weekend, like Eggleston, has proven that the ordinary can be funny and entertaining. It was a clever gamble, and it will be interesting to see how long it plays out.

VAMPIRE WEEKEND, The Casbah, Wednesday, March 19, 8:30 p.m. 619-232-4355. Sold out.

company mini-concert. 858-454-5872.

Mas Fina Cantina: 2780 State Street, Carlsbad, 760-434-3497.

Wednesdays, 8 p.m. — Mike Gardner. Rock.

McCabe's Beach Club: 1145 South Tremont Street, Oceanside, 760-439-6646.

Fridays, 4:30 p.m. — The California

Rangers. Country music.

MiraCosta College Theatre:

One Barnard Drive, Oceanside, 760-795-6815.

Friday, 7:30 p.m., *Saturday*, 7:30

p.m. — Oceanside Jazz Festival.

Festival hosted by Frequency, the

MiraCosta College vocal jazz

ensemble, joined by Los Angeles

jazz vocalist and pianist Kate Reid, along with top high school and college vocal ensembles from around the country. 760-795-6815. \$10-\$15.

Molly Malone's: 1270 Main Street, Ramona, 760-789-9050.

Friday, 9 p.m. — Strive Roots. Metal/reggae/ska.

Museum of Making Music:

5790 Armada Drive, Carlsbad, 760-438-5996.

Friday, 7 p.m. — Jazzy Heavy-Hitters! Pianist Hal Galper and

guitarist John Stowell in concert.

Required reservations: 760-438-

5996 x212. \$8-\$15.

Tuesday, 7 p.m. — Tokeli. Live

recording session with 2007 SDMA

"Jazz Album of the Year" artist. \$8-\$15.

Nancy's Pub: 4246 University Avenue, City Heights, 619-280-

5834.

Sundays, 5:30 p.m. — The Steemin

Heep Blues Band. A blend of

traditional blues, swing, and rock.

Ages 21 and up.

Neurosciences Institute:

10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive, La Jolla, 858-626-2000.

Tuesday, 8 p.m. — Pianist/vocalist

Eliane Elias is joined by bassist

Marc Johnson and drummer Billy

Hart. 858-454-5872. \$24-\$29.

North Bar Sports and Spirits:

200 West El Norte Parkway,

Escondido, 760-480-8228.

Thursdays, 6 p.m. — Mike

Gardner. Rock.

O'Connell's Pub and

Nightclub: 1130 Morena Boulevard, Clairemont, 619-276-

5637.

Friday, 8 p.m. — Arroyo, Joey

Harris and the Mentals. Tornado

Magnet and 2nd Row 3rd Palm

Tree perform.

Rock/blues/Americana.

Saturday, 8 p.m., *Sunday*, 8 p.m. —

Emergenza Music Festival. A night

of rock/hip-hop/roots music.

Features performances by Draind,

the Kneehighs, Tim Shaw, May

River, Staring at Strange, Welcome

to Nothing, Project: Out of Bounds,

and Dive Bomber.

Mondays, 8 p.m. — Mystery Train.



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Calendar

MUSIC

Pro-invitational blues jam on Monday nights. Ages 21 and up. *Monday*, 9 p.m. — St. Patrick’s Day Bash. A night of rock/funk/bluegrass music. Features performances by Brain Buckit and TapWater. *Tuesday*, 9 p.m. — Another Zeke Productions Presents. A night of rock/experimental/electronic music. Features performances by Extinct Animals, the Dumps, and the Verso.

Ocean House: 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad, 760-729-4131. *Friday*, 8:30 p.m. — Live Wire. Live Wire Band plays a mix of your favorite rock hits from the ’60s through today.

Old Town State Historic Park: 4002 Wallace Street, Old Town. *Saturday*, 1:30 p.m. — United States Coast Guard Academy Chorale. Enjoy music from visiting chorale and sip a root beer float or indulge in an ice cream sundae during event hosted by Boosters of Old Town. Donations encouraged. 619-220-5422.

Over the Border: 3008 Main Street, Chula Vista, 619-427-5889. *Sunday*, 8 p.m. — Kinky. \$30.

Pala Casino: 35008 Pala Temecula Road, Pala, 877-946-7252. *Saturday*, 8 p.m. — Sinatra, Bennett, & Me Starring Michael B. Levin. Tribute to Frank Sinatra and Tony Bennett in the Grand Cabaret Room.

The Par Lounge at San Vicente Resort: 24157 San Vicente Road, Ramona, 760-789-8290.

Friday, 8:30 p.m. — Joey & the Sting Rays. Covers rock and country hits.

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

Patrick Moore Gallery: 2400 Kettner Boulevard, suite 103, Little Italy, 619-756-6483. *Saturday*, 6:30 p.m. — “Irish Airs and Dances.” Camarada plans “rousing St. Patrick’s Day celebration” showcasing rhythms and melodies from the Emerald Isle. Listen for tunes including “Danny Boy” and “She Moved Through the Fair.” Photography exhibit of Irish landscape complements musical offerings. Evening begins with wine tasting and hors d’oeuvres reception (6:30 p.m.), followed by concert (7 p.m.). 619-231-3702. \$40-\$50.

Patrick’s II: 428 F Street, Downtown, 619-233-3077. *Thursday* — Len Rainey and the Midnight Players. Blues/jazz/soul. *Friday* — Michele Lundeen and Blues Streak. Blues/soul. *Saturday*, 2 p.m. — Big Mo Blues. Missy Andersen also performs. Blues/soul. \$5. *Sunday* — Ronnie Lane and the Twisters. Blues/rock. *Monday*, 4 p.m. — St. Patrick’s Day Celebration. Features performances by Ronnie Lane and the Twisters and the Bill Magee Band. Blues/rock. *Tuesday* — Chet Cannon and the Committee. Blues. *Wednesday* — 145th Street Deluxe Blues Band. Blues/funk.

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

Rancho Bernardo Inn: 17550 Bernardo Oaks Drive, Rancho Bernardo, 858-675-8500.



Album: *Here’s to Curiosity* (2007)
Artist: Invictus
Label: Self-released
Where available/price: iTunes for \$5 and *interpunk.com* for \$6.
Songs: 1) Lost in Sounds 2) It’s a Leopuradon 3) The Ground Is Not Your Friend 4) You’re Speechless 5) A Million Faces in One
Band: Jason Webber (vocals), Josh Webber (bass), Haydn Hoffman (guitar), Jason Kruse (drums)
Website: *invictus.com*

In theory, at least, a mixture of power pop and nu-metal with a dose of electro-dance synthesizer from Poway *should* cause all those unfortunate enough

>hometown CDs

BY OLLIE

to be within amp range to cover their ears and scatter like startled mice. But (!) Invictus kind of pulls it off, in no small part because of the band’s clear talent.

Hoffman’s specialty of fast, classically structured picking combines well with Kruse’s rapid-fire drumming, and their union roots the band in the tradition of heavier rock. Without the Hoffman-Kruse pedigree of authenticity (like a stamp that reads “This Is Still Rock and Roll”), the band would be a major disaster caused by too much experimentation.

They’re a bit more “plastic” than “metal.” Jason Webber’s vocals oscillate between Linkin Park-ish sing-screaming and soft “group hug” emo sensitivity, which could cause a few eyes to roll. Rock purists will hate the inclusion of a pop synth and the turnarounds in tempo for dance-y hand-clapping, but it adds palata-



Invictus

bility for young Poway fans. Because of the odd conglomeration of styles, the band brings a lot of freshness and innovation to a sometimes staid musical landscape.

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

Schulman Auditorium at Carlsbad City Library: 1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad. *Friday*, 7:30 p.m. — “The Best of Broadway: Cole Porter to Lloyd Webber.” Vocalist Lisa Fishmann sings tunes from musicals including *Guys and Dolls*, *Evita*, *Aida*, *Cabaret*, and *Oliver!* for North County Series hosted by La Jolla Music Society. 858-459-3728. \$5-\$30.

Second Wind (Magnolia): 8528 Magnolia Avenue, Santee, 619-596-8350. *Thursday* — TNT. *Thursday* — Reverse Cowgirl Junkie, SO3. Blues/rock.

Sevilla: 555 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-5979. *Thursday, Sunday* — Club Salsa. Features a performance by Orquesta Primo. Latin/mariachi/Tejano. *Mondays*, 9 p.m. — Rock en Español. *Tuesday, Wednesday* — Club Salsa. Features a performance by Orquesta Primo. Latin/mariachi/Tejano.

The Shout House: 655 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-231-6700. *Thursdays*, 7 p.m., *Fridays*, 6 p.m., *Saturdays*, 6 p.m., *Sundays*, 7 p.m. — Dueling Pianos. Rock and roll sing-along dueling pianos. \$5-\$10. Ages 21 and up.

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Soma: 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma, 619-226-SOMA.
Thursday, 7 p.m. — Angels & Airwaves.
Friday, 7 p.m. — Silverstein. Post-hardcore. \$15.
Saturday, 7 p.m. — Explosions in the Sky. Instrumental post-rock band. \$14.
Wednesday, 7 p.m. — Portugal the Man. Indie three-piece from Wasilla, Alaska. \$12.

South Park Bar & Grill: 1946 Fern Street, South Park, 619-696-0096.
Thursdays, 9:30 p.m. — Open jazz jam. Ages 21 and up.
Fridays, 7 p.m. — The John Kopecky Trio. Jazz. Ages 21 and up.
Saturdays, 8:30 p.m. — Open blues jam. With Will 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.

Spring Valley Library: 836 Kempton Street, Spring Valley, 619-463-3006.
Thursday, 4 p.m. — Contemporary conga player Jaime Lopez. 619-463-3006.

Surf N' Saddle: 123 West Plaza Street, Solana Beach, 858-755-9474.
Friday, 9 p.m. — Lifelike. Rock.

Tiki House: 1152 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-273-9734.
Thursday — Guava Belly. A local four-piece jam band performs a mix of rock, reggae, and funk music. Ages 21 and up.
Friday — Hoo Doo Blues. Blues/rock/swing. Ages 21 and up.
Saturday — The Nards. Americana/pop/classic rock. Ages 21 and up.
Wednesday — Pushing Rope.

Country/punk/bluegrass. Ages 21 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. \$5. Ages 21 and up.
Friday — The Fremonts. Blues.
Saturday — Sue Palmer & Her Motel Swing Band. Blues/soul.

Tio Leo's Mira Mesa: 10787 Camino Ruiz, Mira Mesa, 858-695-1461.
Saturday — The Hype. Covers the hits of the '60s through the '90s. Blues/pop rock/rockabilly.

VFW Hall: 136 Chambers Road, El Cajon.
Saturday, 6 p.m. — PaddyBash. Dannicus Live performs with guests Jason and the Punknecks. Donation. 619-447-0356. \$10.

Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room: 5000 Willows Road, Alpine, 619-445-5400.
Friday, 8 p.m. — Gavin Degraw.

Vision Center for Spiritual Living: 11260 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Tierrasanta, 619-303-6609.
Sunday, 10 a.m. — James Higgins in Concert. Recording artist and "California notable vocalist" performs popular and spiritual songs. 619-303-6609.

Whistle Stop Bar: 2236 Fern Street, South Park, 619-284-6784.
Friday, 9 p.m. — Bill with Pussy Galore. CD-release party for Bill with Ryan Ferguson. Pussy Galore DJs spin dance tunes. Alternative/pop/rock.
Monday — St. Punkrock's Day. Hoist a Guinness while punk-rock DJs take turns spinning the classics. Ages 21 and up.

Winstons: 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822.
Thursday — Society! Blues/funk/rock.

Friday — One Drop, Gadfly. Local bands perform reggae/rock/ska music.
Saturday — Pink Floyd. Pink Floyd tribute band.
Mondays, 9 p.m. — The Electric Waste Band. "Celebrating the music of the Grateful Dead for over 17 years." \$7.
Tuesday, 9 a.m. — Bayonics. Electronica.

WorldBeat Cultural Center: 2100 Park Boulevard, Balboa Park, 619-263-7911.
Friday, 8 p.m. — "DrumSTRONG2." San Diego Taiko, in conjunction with Super Sonic Samba School, presents concerts combining traditional and modern styles of taiko (Japanese drumming). \$4-\$10.
Saturday, 8 p.m. — Midnite, Keys of Creation. Roots reggae. \$14.
Sunday, 5 p.m. — "DrumSTRONG2." San Diego Taiko, in conjunction with Super Sonic Samba School, presents concerts combining traditional and modern styles of taiko (Japanese drumming). 619-757-6210. \$4-\$10.

Zombie Lounge: 3519 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park.
Friday — The Palominos. With the Psycho De-Villes and the Handsome Devils. \$5.

UPCOMING SHOWS

4th & B: 345 B Street, Downtown, 619-231-4343.
March 22 — Ryan Shaw and Doc Powell.
March 26 — Blue October.
March 28 — Above the Law.
April 2 — Beto Cuevas.
April 4 — Jazze Pha, 8ball & MJG, Tela.
April 5 — Loose Ends with A'ngela Winbush.
April 12 — Morcheeba.



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Calendar MUSIC

April 16 — Cat Power.
April 25 — Spiritualized.

710 Beach Club: 710 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-483-7844.
March 20 — Inglewood.

AcousticMusicSanDiego: 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights, 619-303-8176.
March 23 — Cheryl Wheeler.
March 27 — Janis Ian.
April 3 — Susan Werner.
April 12 — David Wilcox.
April 17 — Ramblin' Jack Elliot.
April 19 — We Five.
April 25 — Hot Club of Cowtown.
May 17 — Prince Diabate.
June 13 — John Gorka.
June 20 — Roy Book Binder.
July 11 — Chad & Jeremy.
July 15 — John Keawe.
August 2 — Belinda Gail & Curly Musgrave.

Anthology: 1337 India Street, Little Italy, 619-595-0300.
March 21, March 22 — Herb Alpert and Lani Hall.
March 28 — Diane Schuur.
April 17 — Lee Ritenour, Patrice Rushen, Alex Acuna, Brian Bromberg.
May 9 — Janis Siegel.
May 23 — Poco.
May 24 — Karla Bonoff.
May 30, May 31 — Sonny Landreth.
June 26, June 27, June 28 — Keiko Matsui.

Athenaeum Music and Arts Library: 1008 Wall Street, La Jolla, 858-454-5872.
May 7 — Oregon.

Balboa Theatre: 854 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-570-1100.
March 20 — "In the Mood."

Bar Leucadian: 1542 North Coast Highway 101, Leucadia, 760-753-2094.

May 17 — Live Wire.
May 24 — Illicit Behavior.

Beaumont's: 5662 La Jolla Boulevard, La Jolla, 858-459-0474.
March 21 — Mark Fisher and Friends.
March 22 — Ken Satterly and Friends.
March 27 — Greg Feldman.
March 28 — The Luke Daniels Band.
March 29 — December's Children.

Beauty Bar: 4746 El Cajon Boulevard, Kensington-Talmadge, 619-516-4746.
March 20 — The Giraffes, Vacation.
March 21 — The Dollyrots, the Bangkok Five.
March 23 — Film School, Ariel.
March 25 — Let's Go Sailing.
March 27 — The Chores, the Prids.
March 28 — Action Jackson Presents.

Belly Up Tavern: 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.
March 20 — The Itals.
March 21 — Built to Spill.
March 22 — The Presidents of the United States of America.
March 23 — Steve Earle.
March 25 — Bob Schneider.
April 2, April 3 — The English Beat.
April 9 — X.
April 10 — Del the Funky Homosapien.
April 11, April 12 — The Mother Hips.
April 13 — Charlie Musselwhite.
April 20 — The Gin Blossoms.

Birch North Park Theatre: 2891 University Ave, North Park, 619-239-8836.
March 22 — Jazz Series: NEA Jazz Masters.
March 29 — SD Indie Music Fest.
April 24 — The Klezmatics.
June 21 — The Kenny Burrell

as i hear it BY BRIAN CARVER

Artist: **Get Back Loretta**
Song: "Girlface" (from the CD *Over the Wall*)
Heard By: **Candis Krueger**, Golden Hill



Candis

I love that song so much. It's so good. It's better live, but it's good on CD. It's one of those songs that you would much rather be with someone that you care about listening to, and it's even better if you've just broken up and you're listening to it on your floor crying. [Get Back Loretta] are good friends of mine. They're amazing; I would recommend them to everybody. I don't know who I would compare them to...I would just go with "indie." They fit well with the people I've seen them play shows with. They play a lot with Silent Comedy. I would love to hear them on the radio.

SAN DIEGO SONGS TAKE THE STREET TEST

Artist: **Desert Diamonds**
Song: "That Girl" (from *myspace.com/desertdiamonds*)
Heard By: **Vincent Pham**, Pacific Beach



Vincent

It had a very catchy intro. Other than the fact that he kept saying "that girl," I couldn't really pay attention to the lyrics. It had a very "rock" setup with the percussion and the electric guitar. You could hear the acoustic in the background with the bass. I could see it playing on the radio. It's kind of like the Beatles' music; it's just music that you listen to. The Beatles in their early days were known for making pop music, but later in their "hippie" days they were putting out albums that you really just put on a record player and listened to. It's kind of reminiscent of that.

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

Artist: **Oaks**
Song: "River" (from the CD *Bravo!*)
Heard By: **Michael Heidick**, North Park



Michael

I didn't really like the singer. The music sounded good, but it sounds very familiar. [It's] kind of like "alternative-metal." It sounds like they could have very easily gone a lot harder with the "metal." It sounded like a metal band, but they weren't going all out. The singer sounded like the singer from the Offspring. He wasn't whining but has one of those voices that sound strained, which I don't really like. The guitar, I liked. [I listen to] mostly alternative. I like the Smashing Pumpkins a lot. If I was driving along and it was on the radio, I probably wouldn't change the station.

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March 31 — New Model Army

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MAR 23 SWING COMPETITION	5p-9p	MAR 28 CRUSH	9p-2a MAGIC 92.5
MAR 29 SWING COMPETITION	5p-9p	MAR 29 80z ALL STARS	9p-2a

THE V LOUNGE	MAR 13 JUST PRESS PLAY	5p-9p	MAR 14 SHELLE BLUE	10p-1:30a MAGIC 92.5
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Calendar

MUSIC

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April 9 — Los Otros, Say When, Rag Doll City.

California Center for the Arts, Escondido: 340 North Escondido Boulevard, Escondido, 800-988-4253.
March 29 — “The Belle of Broadway.”
April 11 — Julio Iglesias.

'Canes: 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-488-1780.
March 20 — Two Word Name, Mad Martigan.
March 21 — Organika Music Presents.
March 22 — Tainted Love.
March 26 — Delancey, Ricksha.
March 28 — GZA/Genius.
March 29 — B-Side Players.
April 3 — Pigeon John.
April 4 — Natural Vibrations, Iration, Stone Senses.
April 5 — The Iron Maidens.
April 11 — Sick Puppies.
April 17 — Helmet.

Carvers: 11940 Bernardo Plaza Drive, Rancho Bernardo, 858-566-2400.
March 21 — 145th Street Deluxe Blues Band.
March 22 — The Cat-illacs.
March 28, March 29 — Night Shift.
April 5 — The Hype.
April 18, April 19 — Laguna.

The Casbah: 2501 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-HELL.
March 20 — Kool Keith, Black Kenan Bell.
March 21 — Dynamite Walls, Hotel Saint George, the Soft Lightes, the Focus Group.
March 22 — The Silent Comedy; Or, the Whale; Silverbird.
March 23 — The Asylum Street Spankers.

March 25 — Steve Poltz, the Truckee Brothers.
March 26 — Pennywise, Good Guys in Black.
March 28 — Red Sparowes, Russian Circles, Holloys.
March 29 — Hostile Combover, Hialeah, Modern Rifles, Sus Hijos.
April 3 — Burning Brides.
April 8 — RJD2, Dalek.
April 13 — The Supersuckers.
April 19 — Dengue Fever.

Chasers Cocktail Lounge: 3615 El Cajon Boulevard, City Heights, 619-280-9379.
March 21 — Yakuza.
April 18 — Mystery Hangup.

Coors Amphitheatre: 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista, 619-671-3600.
April 6 — RBD.
April 26 — Def Leppard, REO Speedwagon, and Styx.
May 9 — Celtic Woman.
May 24 — Vicente Fernandez.
May 26 — The Police and Elvis Costello.
May 29 — Kenny Chesney and Leann Rimes.

Copley Symphony Hall: 750 B Street, Downtown, 619-235-0804.
May 9 — Vladimir Spivakov and the Moscow Virtuosi.

Cox Arena: 550 Campanile Drive, College Area, 619-594-6947.
April 30 — Avril Lavigne and Boys Like Girls.
May 2 — Michael Bublé.
May 20 — Megadeth.
June 3 — The Cure.

Dizzy's: 200 Harbor Drive, Downtown, 858-270-7467.
March 20 — Toni Price.
March 21 — Peter Sprague and Friends.
March 26 — Mesa College Jazz Ensemble.
March 27 — The Gilbert Castellanos Quartet.

Dream Street Live: 2228 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-8131.
March 20 — Razner, Crimson

Reign, Dead on the Dance Floor.
March 21 — Back Alley Hooligans, Counterlaunch, Squirrely Arts.
Dublin Square: 554 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-239-5818.
March 31 — Colin Clyne.

East County Performing Arts Center: 210 East Main Street, El Cajon, 619-440-2277.
May 16 — Tamburitians.

Epicentre: 8450 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa, 858-271-4000.
March 20 — The Lisps, These United States.
March 21 — Stereo Summer, the Real You.
March 27 — The Shys, the Prayers.
March 28 — Empire DJ Productions Presents.
March 29 — Elvie, Little Man T.

The Handlery Hotel and Resort: 950 Hotel Circle North, Mission Valley, 619-298-0511.
March 21 — The Christopher Dale Trio.
March 28 — Barbara Nesbitt.

Hensley's Flying Elephant Pub and Grill: 850 Tamarack Avenue, Carlsbad, 760-729-4996.
March 25 — The Blokes.

House of Blues: 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-299-2583.
March 24 — Ace Frehley.
March 26 — Collective Soul.
March 29 — The Black Keys.
March 30 — A Flock of Seagulls and Dramarama.
March 31 — Citizen Cope.
April 1 — Bad Manners.
April 2 — Les Claypool.
April 4 — Pitbull and Baby Bash.
April 5 — Big Head Todd & the Monsters.
April 7 — Ministry.
April 9 — Moenia.
April 10 — Louis XIV.
April 11 — Yellowcard.
April 13 — Say Anything.
April 14 — Tech N9ne.
April 15 — Nekromantix.
April 16 — Thrice.
April 18 — La Quinta Estacion.
April 20 — Symphony X, Epica, Into Eternity.
April 21 — Super Diamond.

Humphrey's Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-224-3577.
March 20 — Willie J. Laws.
March 22 — Johnny “V” Vernazza.
March 28 — NovaMenco.

Yo, DJ!

Talk About a Star



Shawn Mullins plays the Belly Up Tavern March 17

We had a private listener concert on January 31 with Shawn Mullins at the Hard Rock Café downtown. It was 10:30 p.m., and we decided to go get something to eat. He was with Kip, his road manager, who is the tallest white guy on the planet who is not playing basketball. He and Mullins were squashed into the backseat of a Toyota Rav 4 with two guitars and equipment. They had to sit, uh, very close to each other.

We went over to Mary Jane's, on the bottom floor of the new Hard Rock Hotel, but it wasn't open. We walk around downtown, and we see all these lights on at Petco Park. We go over, and they

are taping a Sports Center commercial. They had a huge balloon that was keeping the place lit. We talked to security, and they ended up giving us a behind-the-scenes tour. It was great seeing the ballpark this way.

Mullins told a few great stories... In 1998, his song “Lullaby” hit big.... He was on TV and a huge celebrity back in Atlanta. Up to that point the only car he drove was his touring van... It had duct tape holding mirrors up, and one of the fenders. It needed a paint job; a real white-trash car. He had purchased a new Volvo, but it was in the shop. His wife asked him to drive to the store, so he just drove his old tour van. He gets out in the parking lot, and a guy was staring at him for the longest time. The guy finally said, “You're Shawn Mullins, ain't you? What the fuck is up with that van? I'm one of your biggest fans... You can't be driving that van...you should be ashamed driving that thing around. You're a big celebrity.”



DJ: SEAN
Station: 102.1 KPRI
Shift: 5:00–10:00 A.M. WEEKDAYS (WITH MADISON), AND VARIOUS TIMES DURING THE WEEKEND



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Thursday • Mar. 13
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No cover!

Friday • Mar. 14
Spell Toronto, The Megas Sub Rosa, Causeway
\$5

Saturday • Mar. 15
Strychnine Rock 'n' Soul, Revue with the Atomic Werecoat, Slick & Danny G!
\$5

Sunday • Mar. 16
Hear This! with DJs Hippo, J Blo & Myson King! No cover!

Monday • Mar. 17
Inglewood LIVE!
St. Patrick's
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all night! No cover!

Wednesday • Mar. 19
Deadly Syndrome, Trespassers William, Immovable Objects & The Union Line
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Witch Doctors.
March 28 — Live Wire.
March 29 — Bill Magee.
April 2 — Jeff Moore and the Witch Doctors.
May 23, June 20 — Live Wire.

Lestat's Coffee House: 3343 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-282-2848.
March 23 — The Slants, the Strangers Six.

McCabe's Beach Club: 1145 South Tremont Street, Oceanside, 760-439-6646.
June 28 — Live Wire.

Museum of Making Music: 5790 Armada Drive, Carlsbad, 760-438-5996.
April 5 — The Carl Janelli Saxophone Quartet.
June 7 — Rack of Bones Trombone Choir.

Neurosciences Institute: 10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive, La Jolla, 858-626-2000.
March 29, March 29 — Athenaeum Jazz.

April 19 — Zimbabwe Day.
May 5 — Westwind Brass.

O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub: 1130 Morena Boulevard, Clairemont, 619-276-5637.
March 21 — Critical Me, Chaser.
March 22 — Emergenza Music Festival.
March 25 — Another Zeke Productions Presents.
March 28 — KPRI Homegrown Hour Presents.
March 29 — Someday Assassin.

Ocean House: 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad, 760-729-4131.
April 18 — Live Wire.

Pala Casino: 35008 Pala Temecula Road, Pala, 877-946-7252.
March 22 — Queen Nation.
March 29 — Journey Unauthorized.
April 4 — Superfreaks.
April 5 — Led Zepagain.
April 11 — Metro.
April 12 — Chicago Tribute

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MAY 30 ALL AGES*

PARTICLE
featuring Robby Krieger
of the Doors
MARCH 15 ALL AGES*

nada surf lucky
SEA WOLF
MARCH 18 ALL AGES*

Candlebox
The Black Sabbath
GOLDEN STATE
MARCH 20 ALL AGES*

ACE FREHLEY
THE TREUS
ROCKET
ORIGINAL LEAD GUITARIST
OF KISS
TOUR...2008
MARCH 24 ALL AGES*

COLLECTIVE
S • U • L
MARCH 26 ALL AGES*

A FLOCK OF SEAGULLS
DRAMARAMA
Gene Loves Jezebel feat
Michael Aston
When in Rome
Real Life
MARCH 30 ALL AGES*

CITIZEN COPE
MARCH 31 ALL AGES*

BAD MANNERS
LONDON
APRIL 1 ALL AGES*

LES CLAYPOOL
TIM FITE
APRIL 2 ALL AGES*

PITBULL BABY BASH
BITE DOWN
BRAVES
APRIL 4 ALL AGES*

BIG HEAD TODD
AND THE MONSTERS
APRIL 5 ALL AGES*

Ministry
MEET THE NEW LOOK
APRIL 7 ALL AGES*

moenia
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APRIL 9 ALL AGES*

LOUIS XIV
APRIL 10 ALL AGES*

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Spill
Canvas
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TREATY OF PARIS
APRIL 11 ALL AGES*

APOCALYPTICA
APRIL 12 ALL AGES*

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MANCHESTER ORCHESTRA
WEATHERBON
APRIL 13 ALL AGES*

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with special
guests ILL RISE
PAUL WALL
APRIL 14 ALL AGES*

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4/16 DAVID FORD
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4/17 A CURSIVE MEMORY/
MEDIC DROID
(HOB DELTA ROOM)
4/18 LA QUINTA ESTACION
4/20 SYMPHONY X
4/21 SUPER DIAMOND
4/24 LAVELL CRAWFORD
(SHOW MOVED! 4TH & B TICKETS WILL
BE HONORED)

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FINGERS
5/1 THE SLACKERS
(HOB DELTA ROOM)
5/15 GHOSTLAND
OBSERVATORY C
5/16 EISLEY
5/18 THE KOOKS
5/23 NIGHTWISH
5/28 THE NATIONAL C
6/7 DEAD KENNEDYS

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4/6 RBD with La Nueva Banda Timbiriche
Coors Amphitheatre
4/18 Daniel Tosh • Spreckels Theatre
4/30 Avril Lavigne with Boys Like Girls
Cox Arena
5/3 K.T. Tunstall • Spreckels Theatre

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SATURDAY, MARCH 15

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HUMAN BELL

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

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SATURDAY, MARCH 22

Tainted Love (80's Tribute)
DJ DEMON

FRIDAY, MARCH 28



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DJ DEMON

THURSDAY, APRIL 3



PIGEON JOHN

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

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FRIDAY, MARCH 14

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

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FRIDAY, MARCH 21



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RASHI (Tribe of Kings)
IRIE EYES
CHUNKY ROOTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

Rockin' Johnny White presents
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FUZZ HUZZI

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

B-SIDE
PLAYERS



ISRAEL MALDONADO BAND
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FRIDAY, APRIL 4

NATURAL VIBRATIONS
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FRIDAY, APRIL 11

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4/13 Meat Beat Manifesto	4/28 The Breeders
4/17 Helmet	5/2 SOJA
4/19 Seedless 4/20 Weekend - Diego Roots	5/4 Blind Melon
4/20 Seedless 4/20 Weekend - Michael Prophet	5/7 Melvin Seals



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Calendar MUSIC

Authority.

April 17 — Alejandra Guzmán.

April 19 — Fantastic Diamond.

April 25 — MVPs.

April 26 — Draw the Line.

Palomar College: 1140 West

Mission Road, San Marcos.

March 20 — "Our Sweet Home."

Patrick's II: 428 F Street,

Downtown, 619-233-3077.

March 20 — Blue Four.

March 21 — TomCat Courtney.

March 22 — Alan Iglesias and

Crossfire.

March 23 — The Dave Camp Trio.

March 24 — Nathan James and Ben

Hernandez.

March 25 — Blue Largo.

March 26 — Shelle Blue.

March 27 — Blue Four.

March 28 — The Bill Magee Band.

March 29 — Len Rainey and the

Midnight Players.

March 30 — Shelle Blue.

March 31 — The Bayou Brothers.

Poway Center for the

Performing Arts: 15498 Espola

Road, Poway, 858-748-0505.

April 19 — John Mayall & the

Bluesbreakers.

The Red Parrot Lounge at

Casino Pauma: 777 Pauma

Reservation Road, Fallbrook, 760-

742-2177.

March 22, April 18, April 25, May

10, May 30 — MoonDance.

SDSU: San Diego State

University: 5500 Campanile

Drive, SDSU, 619-594-5200.

April 10 — "Common Chords."

May 5, May 5 — Gamelan.

San Diego Sports Arena:

3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point

Loma, 619-224-4171.

April 20 — Kanye West.

May 3 — Juanes.

May 7 — Alicia Keys.

San Diego Sports Club: 1271

University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-

299-7372.

March 22, April 26, May 24 — Stick

It in Your Ear Productions.

Sevilla: 555 Fourth Avenue,

Downtown, 619-233-5979.

March 20, March 23, March 25,

March 26, March 27, March 30 —

Club Salsa.

Soma: 3350 Sports Arena

Boulevard, Point Loma, 619-226-

SOMA.

March 21 — The Rocket Summer.

March 28 — Tokyo Police Club.

April 3 — The Unseen.

April 4 — Streetlight Manifesto.

April 11 — Family Force 5.

April 12 — Panic at the Disco.

April 13 — Animosity, First Blood,

For the Fallen Dreams.

April 16 — The Subhumans.

May 17 — Emmure.

Spreckels Theatre: 121

Broadway, Downtown, 619-235-

9500.

April 15, April 16 — Eddie Vedder.

May 5 — K.T. Tunstall.

Static Lounge: 634 Broadway,

Downtown, 619-544-1609.

March 28, April 25, May 23 — Club

Pop Noir.

Tio Leo's Mira Mesa: 10787

Camino Ruiz, Mira Mesa, 858-695-

1461.

March 20 — The Robin Henkel

Band.

March 22 — Electric Soul.

May 3 — MoonDance.

Valley View Casino: 16300

Nyemii Pass Road, Valley Center,

866-843-9946.

April 11 — Creedence Clearwater

Revisited.

May 15 — Trace Adkins.

May 17 — Bonnie Raitt.

July 15 — Styx.

July 15 — Chris Isaak.

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the Park: 5005 Willows Road,

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ELEPHANTS IN MUD
AGAVE

THURS.
03/20 COMEDY/ROCK
THE DATELESS LOSERS
ALISON GILL
AND
INGLEWOOD

SAT.
03/15 3-7PM
NORTHSTAR
ZEPPELIN &
AEROSMITH TRIBUTE
DAZED N CONFUSED
&
AEROMYTH

FRI.
03/21 BELLIGERENT
PRESENTS:
DANTE'S BONEYARD
KILL THE COMPLEX
&
d*FROST

MON.
03/17 ST. PATRICK'S
DAY
ROCK
SUPER UNLOADER

SAT.
03/22 NATIONAL TOURING
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UPCOMING:

3/20: LADY DOTTIE &
THE DIAMONDS

3/21: ELIJAH EMANUEL &
THE REVELATIONS

3/22: CASH'D OUT



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Tuesday, March 18

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SHAWN MULLINS



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TRISTAN PRETTYMAN



WHITLEY
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Thu 3/20 • 9:00 PM

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HELVATIA
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STEVE EARLE



ALLISON MOORER
Sun 3/23 • 8:00 PM

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Mon 3/24 • 8:00 PM

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MANUOK
"INVA DE SIVA" ALBUM RELEASE SHOW
Thu 3/27 • 9:00 PM

THE AVETT BROTHERS



JESSICA LEE MAYFIELD
Sat 3/29 • 9:00 PM

SARA PETITE



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SIOBHAN O'BRIEN
Sun 3/30 • 4:00 PM

SALSA



Sun 3/30 • 8:00 PM

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APRIL FOOLS' DAY
COMEDY SHOW



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COMIC STANDING)
CHRIS
CLOBBER
KAREN
RONTOWSKI
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PAUL THORN



W/GUEST
Wed 4/2 • 8:00 PM

JUST
ADDED!

4/4 **Boogie Nights – Metalsnake** • 4/14 **John Cruz** • 4/15 **Asleep At The Wheel** – On sale Friday @ noon!

4/18 **Elijah Emanuel & The Revelations & Ooklah The Moc**

4/22 **The Twinkle Brothers w/Dela Grant** • 4/23 **Led Ka'apana & Mike Ka'awa**

5/1 **Mike Doughty** • 5/19 **Murder By Death** – On sale Friday @ noon!

5/20 **The Proclaimers** • 6/13 **Young Dubliners**

4/3 **Halfway to Halloween Party! w/DJ Frances & DJ FishFonics**

4/5 **Pine Mountain Logs**

4/9 **X**

4/10 **Del the Funky Homosapien**

4/11 **The Mother Hips & New Monsoon**

4/12 **The Mother Hips & Jackie Greene**

4/13 **Charlie Musselwhite**

4/19 **Cash'd Out**

4/20 **Gin Blossoms w/Matthew Moon**

4/24 **Dark Star Orchestra**

4/26 **Yonder Mountain String Band**

4/27 **Victor Wooten**

5/2 & 5/3 **The English Beat**

5/4 **Shelby Lynne**

5/5 **"Reggae de Mayo" –**

John Brown's Body

5/14 **Kathleen Edwards**

5/22 **Hal Ketchum w/Bastard Sons**

of Johnny Cash

5/25 **Don Carlos**

5/31 **Ladytron w/Data Rock**

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3/30 & 4/6 **ORQUESTA PRIMO**

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Mar. 16: **SALSA CALIENTE**
Mar. 18: **Orquesta Primo**
Mar. 19: **Walter II y Rumbaney**
Mar. 20: **Salsa Caliente**
Mar. 23: **TABACO Y RON**

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Calendar MUSIC

Alpine, 619-445-5400.
April 19 — Flyleaf and Seether.
May 3 — Unwritten Law.

Viejas Casino DreamCatcher
Show Room: 5000 Willows
Road, Alpine, 619-445-5400.
March 22 — Trey Songz.
March 26 — Angie Stone.
April 4 — Bret Michaels.
April 20 — Ratt.

Whistle Stop Bar: 2236 Fern
Street, South Park, 619-284-6784.
April 4 — Atoms, the Vision of a
Dying World.

Winstons: 1921 Bacon Street,
Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822.
March 21 — Elijah Emanuel & the
Revelations.
March 26 — Mike Pinto and the
Mashers.
March 27 — Drunkin Punkin
Idiots.

Zombie Lounge: 3519 El Cajon
Boulevard, North Park.
March 21 — Joe Buck Yourself.
March 22 — Creepy Creeps and
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DJ

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Saturdays, 9 p.m.: The Air
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for-1 cover charge. *Sundays:* Guest
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guest joins DJ 1979. *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
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Street, Mission Hills. 619-295-8743.

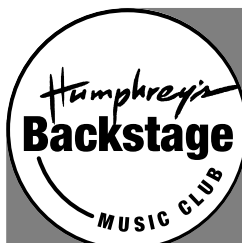
Beauty Bar: *Sunday:* Hear This!
With DJ Hippoh, J Blo, and Myson
King. *Thursdays,* 10 p.m.: Soul
Survivors. Thursday nights with DJ
Rob Hostetter and Daniel Sant.
Ages 21 and up. *Tuesdays,* 9 p.m.:
Trans Am Tuesdays. New wave '80s
dance party with DJ Heather
Hardcore. *Wednesdays,* 10 p.m.: DJ
RatStar. Spinning soul and hip-hop
on Wednesday nights. Ages 21 and
up. 4746 El Cajon Boulevard,
Kensington-Talmadge. 619-516-
4746.

Bluefoot Bar and Lounge:
Saturday, 9 p.m.: Diamond Cuts
Presents. A night of hip-hop, '80s,
and old-skool music. Features DJ
Ductape and Trevor Young. 3404
30th Street, North Park. 619-235-
8466.

Brass Rail: *Friday:* Club Fashion
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Brick by Brick: *Friday:* Evol
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Buenos Avenue, Clairemont. 619-
275-LIVE.

Camel's Breath Inn: *Fridays,*
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Friday, March 14

6 pm • Rock **West of 5**

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Saturday, March 15

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Reggie Smith

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& DJ John Phillips



Monday, March 17

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Tuesday, March 18

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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. 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach. 858-488-1780.

Coyote Bar and Grill: *Thursdays*, 10:30 p.m.: DJ Earl Henry. *Fridays*, 10:30 p.m., *Saturdays*, 10:30 p.m.: DJ Steve Hasty. 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4695.

The Filling Station: *Fridays*, 9 p.m., *Saturdays*, 9 p.m.: DJ Dance Party. 9522 Miramar Road, Mira Mesa. 858-578-0757.

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

On Broadway: *Saturday*: 4 Strings. Spins trance/progressive/electronica. *Friday*: DJ Benny Benassi. Grammy Award winner spins electro/house/mashups. Also features Superfox on the turntables. 615 Broadway Avenue, Downtown.

Onyx/Thin: *Saturday*: Virgin Tears. Rags and BDP on the turntables. Rock/electro/techno. *Thursday*: 4 the DJ and Entourage Present. Cruise Control. Alex Peace spins house/techno/hip-hop. Opening sets by Xcite and Xavier M.D. 852 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-235-ONYX.

Riley's: *Fridays*: Hip-Hop Night. Local deejay spins hip-hop music every Friday night. 2901 Nimitz Boulevard, Point Loma.

Side Bar: *Friday*: Jalil. Spins hip-hop/rock. *Saturday*: DJ Cobra. Spins dance/mashups. *Thursday*: DJ Ikah Love. Spins hip-hop/house. 536 Market Street, Downtown. 619-696-0946.

Static Lounge: *Friday*, 9 p.m.: Electric Shock. With DJ Death Metal Brian, Moody Moore, Skandar, and Johnathan Brae. House/techno. \$5. 634 Broadway, Downtown. 619-544-1609.

The Bar Pink Elephant: *Mondays*, 9:30 p.m.: Grown Folk Music. Features the Husky Boy All Stars DJ Buddha and Duse. Hip-hop/soul. 3829 30th Street, North Park. 619-564-7194.

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

Whiskey Girl: *Fridays*, 9 p.m., *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. *Mondays*, 9 p.m.: Manic Mondays. DJ Marc Thrasher mixes the best of the '80s and '90s music videos. *Tuesdays*, 9 p.m., *Wednesdays*, 9 p.m.: DJ Famous Dave. Mixes music videos. 600 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-236-1616.

Whistle Stop Bar: *Saturday*: Transport. Indie dance night with DJs Gabe and Saul. *Sundays*: Night of the Cookers. Every Sunday, listen to classics and favorites from personal jazz record collections. Ages 21 and up. *Friday*, 9 p.m.: Bill with Pussy Galore. CD-release party for Bill with Ryan Ferguson. Pussy Galore DJs spin dance tunes. Alternative/pop/rock. *Tuesdays*, 9 p.m.: Friends Chill. Board games and mellow grooves every Tuesday night. Candyland, Connect 4, Operation, Atari and Nintendo on the big screen. Ages 21 and up. 2236 Fern Street, South Park. 619-284-6784.



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FRI. APR 11

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SUN. APR 13

ANIMOSITY

FIRST BLOOD
FOR THE FALLEN DREAMS

THURS. APR 17

A SKYLIT DRIVE

DANCE GAVIN DANCE
OH SLEEPER
BEFORE THEIR EYES
FOUR LETTER LIE
MEMPHIS MAY FIRE
THE HOTNESS

FRI. APR 18

THE HAVEN

MAN WITHOUT WAX
BANK

58 - 7PM - LUNATIKS

WED. MAY 28

CINEMATIC SUNRISE

DAPHNE LOVES DERBY
MY AMERICAN HEART
ALIVE IN WILD PAINT

LEAP DAY

by Josh Board

I heard from a friend of a friend about a leap-year party in Clairemont. I brought a few of my friends who are in their late 20s. I didn't think there was much of a difference in our knowledge of pop culture — I'm only ten years older — but when I brought up Jack Lemmon, my friends didn't know who he was. When I mentioned the movie *The Odd Couple*, one of them said, "There was a movie of that before the TV show?" Another said, "I thought Walter Matheau and him were just in the *Grumpy Old Men* movies." As I was about to bring up Billy Wilder films, I stopped myself, not wanting to sound 30 years older than them.

As we pulled onto Convoy, I sang the song "Convoy." Only one person in the car knew the song, and she said that was just because Bart sang it once on *The Simpsons*.

We stopped at a liquor store for booze, and I sat in the car watching them grab bottles of wine and beer. Someone who stayed in the car with me said, "Look at all those people



preparing to get drunk." The first two guys that walked out, older Latinos, were carrying jugs of water and chips. The second guy to leave had red hair. I heard from the back seat, "Look at that Irish dude. He got alcohol!" I said, "First, we don't know that he's Irish. Second, we

"I won't tell you what it looks like you're doing with that thing in your mouth."

don't know that it's booze. It's wrapped up in a brown bag."

As we watched to see how many people left the store with booze, we were surprised by the number of people who stopped



near the door to look at the fuzzy dice. I wouldn't have figured those to be impulse items.

Of ten people leaving, our

friends were the only ones who went in for alcohol and the only ones who didn't peruse the fuzzy dice.

When we arrived, I discovered that it was a surprise party.



Top left: Kristina and Chris; Top right: Erica, reading Daniel's shirt; Bottom right: Tim, the submarine mechanic (left)

I was glad that we showed up late and didn't walk up as the surprise guest arrived. I asked someone if he was born on a February 29. "I'm not sure, but that would be a trip. Do you just have a birthday every four years, or what?" A woman responded, "They can choose to celebrate it on the first of March or on February 28." The two of them ended up having a debate about it.

I was standing in the living room, which was packed with

people, when I saw a guy named Daniel whom I had met at a party a month ago. He was wearing a shirt with Chinese characters on it. One of my friends is half-Japanese. I said, "Can you read that?" She laughed and said, "That's funny." Daniel looked surprised, "You're Chinese?" She said, "No. I'm half-Japanese. But I can read Chinese." The shirt read, "Now accepting applications for Chinese girlfriend." Daniel said, "I thought the shirt was funny, and Chinese girls usually giggle. Guys ask where they can get one."

I walked out into the backyard and was surprised by how large it was. The house was a small three bedroom, two bath, and the big back yard and deck worked perfect for their packed party.

There was a selection of booze and a kegerator.

I poured a Coke and lit a cigar. My friend Mike had given me a bunch that had a ring size of 70, which are the thickest you can buy. Someone said, "I won't tell you what it looks like

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you're doing with that thing in your mouth."

I noticed that several of the women were casually checking out the guys. At most parties, you don't notice people checking each other out, especially women.

When I went into the kitchen to look for a knife, a woman who appeared to be drunk said, "Be careful with that knife." I smiled, and she said really loud, "It will cut you up!"

I heard a few people talking about marriage proposals. A guy said, "The only time a woman can propose is on leap year." Someone else said, "No, it's the only time a man can't refuse." They argued and a woman said, "That was back in the early 1200s. It's not like that anymore, so you don't have to worry. The man could be fined a pound or a silk gown if he refused. I think it moved to leap day when guys bitched that it was a whole year." A Greek woman said that in their culture it's bad luck to get engaged during leap year.

There was a big, white dog walking around that looked sad. If you called it over, it walked slowly and reluctantly. Sometimes it went in a different direction right before you'd pet it. Other times, it would stand there, wag its tail a few times, and then walk away. Someone asked, "What's the dog's name?" The response from someone else was, "If it had a ten-inch steel penis, I'd call him Sparky." Another person said, "That joke was lame. Oh, but I got a good one. A baby seal walked into a club..."

I talked to a Navy sub-

marine mechanic named Tim. I asked if he was always interested in sub-marines, if he sought that out as a career. "No. When I signed up, they gave me a test. They test everyone and see what areas they'd work best in. I was already a good mechanic." He also told us how his dad served and fixed subs in World War II.

I overheard Daniel talking to a few attractive women. The subject was swimming. He was a swimmer in high school and had won several awards. I mentioned how difficult it was for me to do the butterfly stroke. Daniel said, "It just takes practice, like any sport." I said, "Yeah, but if you don't do that well, you could drown. Some sports, learning to do them can be

painful. I have to think pole vaulters have sore asses when they're learning." Someone said that pole vaulters practiced in padded surroundings before going out onto the field. Another guy said, "Don't all kids learn to do that, just in the process of growing up? You run and balance yourself on the poles you stick into the ground." We all looked at him like he was crazy. I then brought up a story that I read years ago about three prisoners who escaped by pole vaulting over a barbed-wire fence. Someone said, "Talk about a sore ass."

I overheard a group of guys talking about how nobody rides the bus. A guy named Chris said, "I once saw Les Claypool [of the band Primus] on a bus. He signed my bus pass." The

story seemed odd — a rock star on a bus that isn't a tour bus. But I didn't question it. He then started rolling his own cigarettes. A few people thought they had pot in them, but he carried a tin with tobacco in it. I overheard someone say, "That looks cool, rolling your own cigarettes." His friend replied, "It looks like a hassle to me. But, it's cooler seeing that than someone spitting chewing tobacco into a tin." ■

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The Italian Cooking of Joy

Attention, all New York expats and other lovers of indulgent, exuberant Italian food: That terrific “secret” Mulberry Street restaurant you loved and still miss has been found again — in a La Mesa strip mall. There, a Sicilian-born chef-owner (just like those in Manhattan’s best trattorias and osterias) turns out a multiregional menu of full-flavored food that gladdens the heart with a warmth and joy you can taste in every bite.

Even in Manhattan’s Little Italy, Antica would easily be a top local restaurant — at least it would be when I lived there, back in the Eocene when Mario Batali was in knee pants. Whatever sent the Lynnester venturing out from Hillcrest to the mysterious East, once again she served as the one-woman scouting party for our eating posse. When her glowing word reached my ear, off we went, with her mom Mary Anne and Ben-the-stew. I’d just eaten at Alexander’s in North Park and was grateful to have my expectations recalibrated before going into print on that one. Yes, Alexander’s is good “neighborhood food,” but Antica is so much more — ambitious, imaginative, wildly generous.

I hear that some people think I don’t like Italian food. *Au contraire*, I love it too well to readily accept the debased versions served in our own Little Italy and the Gaslamp — where high rents and the “one-night stands” of the convention and tourist trades encourage short-staffing, shortcut cooking with ready-made products, and cheap ingredients. I do like Osteria Pescatore in Del Mar, Firenze and Via Italia in Encinitas, Vivace in Carlsbad, Piatti in La Jolla, Primavera in Coronado, and even Del Medici in the Gaslamp. They all have integrity — but what I feel is liking, and not quite love. What’s missing? That quality that the old TV ads (for some nasty frozen thing, no?) used to call *abbondanza* — abundance. By which, I don’t mean a big meal, but that lyrical Italian sense of the fullness of life, somehow speaking through the food. And also warmth and hominess, a way of making you feel welcome without requiring that you dude up in your best clothes to go eat pasta. In San Diego, when you manage to find the hominess, it’s usually at some spaghetti-and-meatball joint



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE KLEIN

where the food is dismal.

Antica, at last, really does it for me. *This* is Italian food — absolute feel-good food — and once you taste it, nothing less will do.

The room’s decor hints at a rustic farmhouse but more saliently evokes an Italian restaurant; that is, it has classic sienna-and-white walls picturing drawings of Italian scenery, and thin, neutral carpeting underfoot to keep down the racket. We ate there on a crowded Friday, when a large wedding rehearsal party was upping the noise and upsetting the routine, and still, both the kitchen and the servers performed adroitly with very few glitches. Even the party noise blew by us once we plunged into the food.

Francisco Basile, the Sicilian-born chef, has cooked at the seaside resorts and the mountain ski towns of Italy, and he knows how to make a dinner taste like a luxury vacation. Contrary to some early “reviews” (e.g., those written by the ad manager of the *Union-Tribune*), the

menu is not Tuscan (with that area’s austere purity) but covers the whole multifaceted boot of Italy, from chic Milan down to rugged Sicily — but if I can judge from the similar cuisine of New York’s Little Italy, the coast near Naples probably has a special spot in the chef’s heart.

Lynne and Ben’s favorite appetizer here is the *frittura mixta* of barely battered, airy calamari rings and tentacles, shrimp, and artichoke hearts. The dip, happily, is a light garlic-cream sauce rather than the standard pedestrian marinara that overwhelms the delicacy of the other flavors. (Those who ask for marinara can get it.) It is all good — and it stays good, the kitty-bag contents still crisp and light at home the next day.

The most spectacular appetizer we tried was a frequent special, a portobello mushroom lushly stuffed with moist crabmeat, topped with a thin layer of Parmesan and bread crumbs for a touch of crispness, plated over steamed baby

Trattoria Antica ★★★★ (Excellent)

5654 Lake Murray Boulevard, La Mesa, 619-463-9919, anticatrattoria.com.

HOURS: Lunch Tuesday–Friday, 11:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m.; dinner nightly, 4:30–9:30 p.m., until 10:00 p.m. Saturday–Sunday.

PRICES: Appetizers, \$8–\$13; soups and salads, \$6–\$8; pasta and risotti, \$12–\$18; vegetable sides, \$6; entrées, \$16–\$28 (for Choice-grade filet mignon or New Zealand rack of lamb; most dishes under \$21). Lunch slightly lower.

CUISINE AND BEVERAGES: Indulgent multi-regional Italian cuisine made from scratch with fine ingredients. Solid Italian-Californian wine list of about 50 bottles at reasonable markups, ten choices by the glass.

PICK HITS: Take your pick, but consider *frittura mixta*, *bocconcini* with prosciutto, crab-stuffed portobello (frequent special), lobster ravioli, penne Mazzini, *vitello alla Romana*.

NEED TO KNOW: Reserve for dinner, especially on weekends, or you’ll be sorry. Patio seating in good weather. Sound level lively, not painful. Five lacto-vegetarian pastas and risotti including one vegan, one vegan-adaptable.

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

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

spinach, and finished with a touch of buttery lobster stock. I dare not describe the sheer sensuality of the dish in a free paper, as it would edge on porn that kiddies might read. (Contrast and compare to Alexander’s, last week, where button mushrooms had a dryish crab stuffing masked by overbaked, rubbery provolone. Sorry, North Park, but La Mesa has the better deal — at better prices, too.)

Bocconcini (fresh mozzarella) with silky-salty imported San Daniele prosciutto is equally lavish. This is not the standard Gaslamp shortcut of throwing some cheeseballs and fancy

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NEWS 8

ham on a plate with a few snips of raw greenery, but a layered baked delight atop more baby spinach, making a full and rounded array of complementary flavors.

The only disappointing appetizer paired mussels and clams in white wine sauce. The sauce was fine, but on that terribly busy night, the shellfish were a little overcooked. On the other hand, the Italian bread we were dipping into the sauce was freshly house-baked, as always, and still exuding the heady aromas of yeast and wheat.

Let's digress for a moment to consider wine. White or a red? Whoops — the list includes my favorite Italian white, the rich and full-bodied Lacryma Christi de Vesuvio (from Campagna, the Naples area, near the ancient city of Pompeii). This is the quaff for disdainers of dishwasher Pinot Grigios and Soaves, drinkers who want some sunshine in their mouths and plump "legs" running down the glass. For a red, we went with a good mellow Montepulciano, Ben's fave (and I like it too).

Pastas are too good here to choose just one to share as a mid-course. Instead, we selected two pastas and two entrées for our main dishes. Penne Mazzini is Lynne's pet pick, with artichoke hearts and that fine prosciutto in cream sauce. It's a lively, luxurious combination of pleasantly bitter and salty flavors smoothed by the lush fat of the cream. It's simple but never palls — the assertive flavors keep your mind and mouth involved in every forkful.

Lobster ravioli is a class act all the way, with housemade pasta (not the typical purchased pockets of most local restaurants) accompanied by precious seasonal asparagus. The pasta is the deep coral of tomatoes (or lobster shells, the more likely coloring agent), cooked al dente but not chewy. The pockets are well filled with lobster meat mixed with cream — you can actually taste the lobster for a change! — aswim in a light coral cream sauce with a distinct shellfish undertone (that rich lobster broth again), topped with a sprinkling of cooked fresh herbs. Maybe it's not actually better than sex, but I'd have to try both within an hour and compare them to decide.

Vitello alla Romana is a layered version of the classic saltimbocca alla Romana (veal scallops with prosciutto, sage, and cheese). I actually find Antica's rendition (similar to a memorable version from my favorite place on Mulberry and Grand in Manhattan) superior to saltimbocca. The latter has small pieces of the ingredients wrapped together and can be overly salty and dry if the balance isn't perfect. Here, instead, the veal scallops are laid flat and topped by the prosciutto and swoony melted fontina in a winey

sauce. The veal is white but doesn't taste like baby formula. And it's only one element of a harmonic trio of ingredients singing lead, with the sauce as the backup chorus. It comes with creamy mashed potatoes and long slices of zucchini and carrots, cooked semi-crisp. The same vegetables came with the evening's special entrée of local sea bass, correctly cooked tender (not dry) and brightly sauced with tomatoes, capers, and white wine.

I'd have loved to try one of the dishes with Italian sausages — the Health Department won't let the restaurant make its own, but the chef buys from the best local source, Pete's Meats.

We were way too full for dessert — but since Lynne's a regular by now, we all received espresso cups of — can I go Chaucerian on you for just a coupla secs, *please, please?* — "swich licor of which vertu engendred is the flor" — that is, such sweet liquid (flavors of licorice, vanilla, mocha) that made us happy (if no more virtuous or flowery than usual). Don't know what it was, but sipping it was a privilege. Maybe it was some sort of enchantment potion — let's just call it "bella Italia." If so, I'm glad to fall under its spell.

Note: The chef and his wife are going to Italy for two and a half weeks on March 19. So if you don't want to trust the kitchen — you probably can,

you know — go there before or after. In any event, *please* reserve, or you'll be waiting out in the rain for an hour! (And even if it's not raining, it's still an hour.)

ABOUT THE CHEF

Francisco Basile comes from a small town near Palermo, Sicily. His voice is deep and warm, with a heavy accent, his manner is charming and witty, and his shape betrays a certain enjoyment of good food — not a bad thing in a chef. I asked how he started in the cooking business. "I went to a culinary school in Palermo," he said, "but they just teach you the basics. Then it's up to you, you start determining your own future. You learn from chefs, and then there's the creativity. Because I love what I do. I cook from my heart. I love the flavors.

"I worked seasonally — in summers I worked in the beach areas, and in winter I worked in the ski resorts up north. And when I was 23 years old, I came to the States. My first stop was Huntington Beach, California. I worked in a place called Mangia, Mangia, where the owner was from my home town. It was a mamma 'n' papa style of cooking, like spaghetti and meatballs. But I don't want to bad-mouth them because I got my green card [immigration visa] from them. I worked a couple of other places in Orange County — more

spaghetti and meatballs.

"And then I came to San Diego. Panevino offered me a job there. [*Note:* That was at Osteria Panevino's height, when it gained a reputation for excellence.] Then my cousin in Bonita offered me a job at Buon Giorno, and finally I opened my place here seven years ago — they've been seven beautiful years. Yes, I'm a happy man, I have a beautiful wife, Marta, who runs the front of the house at the restaurant. I have a beautiful little daughter. And now I have Naomi Wise interviewing me." (Didn't I say he was a charmer? Don't worry, the review was already written.)

I asked him about the philosophy behind his cooking and his restaurant. "I believe in simplicity," he said. "With just garlic, good tomatoes, good oil, you can cook wonderful food. As long as we have good ingredients, we can do anything — but simplicity is my motto. And when the people come to my house, my restaurant, I want them to feel like they're coming home. I want them to feel like friends and not just customers. So long as they respect me and they respect my employees, they get all the respect from us. We treat everybody equally, whether they come for a salad with a glass of wine or a filet mignon and a bottle of Brunello. It's all the same for me. I want people to feel welcome when they come to my house." ■

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Under the Sailfish

Good enough to make Ralph Rubio pull his hair out. The first stuffs me to the, uh, gills.

A bit my arm, I sucked the blood/ And cried 'A sail! A sail!' "

I swear, that's how I feel right now. Like Ye Ancient Mariner. Been cruising Imperial looking for that ceviche place I discovered 'bout

a year ago. Love the smell of ceviche in the morning. Got off the trolley at 25th and Commercial, hoofed it up past God's Way Church of Deliverance, when hey hey! Spied a little pointy-roofed house painted blue on the bottom and fresh-varnished planks on top with — can you believe —

a way-big model galleon, sailing full tilt above the entrance. Must be a 74-gunner. She's surrounded by nets and lifebelts and real-life fishing rods hooking crabs and lobsters. The sloping roof looks as if it were under a water spout when it stopped, splattered with flotsam and jetsam: flip-pers, fish, nets, wet suits, water skis, life jackets. At the apex of the roof, a sailfish arches towards the sky. Beautiful. I'm betting that fish is real. Ranchero music bubbles out from a couple of speakers on the wall. La Invasora radio.

"Mariscos Tito's," the sign says. "Since 1969."

Oh yeah? This is new. And definitely not the place I was looking for. But hey, I'm going in anyways.

As I pass through the four tables in the little forecourt, I hear roosters crowing next door. Aah. Already feels like country. The sign above the counter says, "Los unicos tradicionales cocteles de Tijuana ahora aquí en San Diego." Underneath, a translation: "Unique traditional cocktails now here in San Diego." Meaning seafood cocktails, for sure. They've been going since 1969 in Tijuana.

It all looks fresh and new. Cream tile floor, varnished pine skirting, white walls and ceiling, blue rafters, and nets, ship's wheels, life belts,

and lobsters hanging everywhere.

Right now, it's just me, a guy in a kitchen area beyond the counter, and a deep fryer going *whoosh!* Like he just shucked a basket full of raw fish into it.

"Yes, my friend? A cocktail?" he says. "Or our special for today? Two fish tacos for the price of one."

I check the cocktails. Choice of shrimp, octopus, calamari, sea snails, or oysters. Fourteen dollars for large glass, \$10 for medium. Not quite in that income

bracket yet. Then I look under the "Tacos of the Sea" section. Fish taco, \$2. And buy one, get one free? A buck each. Wow. Except, almost forgot why I was on this campaign in the first place. Ceviche. Ah yes. Ceviche Tostada Shrimp's \$4.50, fish is \$3.50.

"So you're Tito?" I ask.

"No. I'm Moises. Moises Xoxocotla. It's an Aztec name. My grandfather's."

Wow. What a great name. He pronounces it "Zococotla."

"So this place is new?"

"Yes, this is new, but in Playas, Tijuana, we've been going 40 years. I'm just up here two days a week. The rest of the week I manage our place in Playas. I've been with them 25 years. I have 30 people working for me down there."

"So this is, like, a chain?"

"Well, we have several places. This is our second in San Diego."

Man. That's about the third eatery chain that's moving north. I love it. Taco Bell needn't feel so guilty about heading south.

"So, cocktail? Very healthy."

"Not today. But I'll have the shrimp ceviche tostada."

And, okay, greedy, but can't pass up the two-

for-\$2 deal. "And the fish tacos." Heck, that's only \$6.50.

I sit down at one of the little round tables. After chips and salsa, Moises brings not ceviche, or fish tacos, but a bowl of soup. Part of the deal. Chunks of fish, onions, carrots, and I don't know what all else. Ohmygod it's delicious. My slurping almost drowns out La Invasora.

Next, it's the ceviche. Mmm. I lower my nose over it. Fresh, lemony, cilantro-y, with some softening hint of a creamy ranch-type dressing.

Of course ceviche's interesting. Traditionally it's raw shrimp marinated in lime juice. They say the acid in the lime "cooks" the flesh, firms it up, and turns it opaque. But it has that deep lime-cilantro flavor and chunks of tomato and peppers and onion to make it more *picante*. Three slices of avocado on top add a little moist lushness to the whole mix, contrasting with the dee-lish toasted tortilla crackling underneath.

I'm about to splot a little Tapatío hot sauce on when Moises shakes his head.

"For wimps?" I ask.

He nods. "Use that Salsa Huichol. It's from Nayar." His eyes tell you we're talking heat, from Nayarit. I splot warily. I know that stuff.

Then, oh man, Moises brings out the fish tacos. Deep-fried but delicate chunks of fish held



Moises

like alien life forms in giant seed pods — curled corn tortillas, that is, with lettuce, toms, and a creamy sauce good enough to make Ralph Rubio pull his hair out. The first stuffs me to the, uh, gills.

Moises' wife Xochitl — she's known as Xochi ("Zoshi") — packs the second for me to go. This'll be for Carla, and I'm making a private bet. She'll have us back down here for more so fast, I won't even be hungry.

I pay up.

"Is the sailfish for real?"

"Of course," says Moises. "It was caught off Cabo."

"You caught it?"

"But of course."

I half believe him. He has that kind of craggy face — could be the Ancient Mariner himself. ■

The Place: *Mariscos Tito's, 2711 Imperial Avenue, 619-696-9709. Also at 220 South Euclid Avenue #180, 619-263-5199, and in Tijuana and Poza Rica, Veracruz*

Type of Food: *Mexican seafood*

Prices: *fish taco, \$2 (regularly on special at two for \$2); shrimp taco, \$2.50; marlin taco, \$4; mixed tostada, \$7; shrimp ceviche tostada, \$4.50; fish ceviche tostada, \$3.50; sea salad (mixed seafood), \$7; fish soup, \$8 (\$13 large); cocktails, e.g., shrimp, octopus, sea snails, oysters, \$10 medium, \$14 large; mixed aguachile, \$14*

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Exotic Fraternity

"They haven't made it out of their own ghetto yet, which is a great shame."

Oh, now this is a fun idea for a story: an American wine critic — one of those make-it-or-break-it critics in the mold of Robert Parker — winds up murdered, pickled in a vat of wine, and then hung out like a scarecrow over a vineyard in France. Years later, Enzo MacLeod, a (mostly) retired Scottish forensics expert, pries open the case and starts digging around. What do you know — our man discovers that there were plenty of people with reasons for wanting super-critic Gil Petty dead. Some of those reasons are obvious: in the words of one wine-maker, "There are those of us who produce the wine, and there are others who leech off of it. Those who produce nothing but fancy words, impose their tastes, and fill their pockets." To such a man, Petty represented "a system that serves only one man's taste. That wants to deliver something as unvaryingly predictable as cola." But MacLeod finds other reasons as well, some of them only tangentially related to wine.

In the novel — titled simply *The Critic* by author Peter May — Petty had gone to Gaillac to give a comprehensive assessment of that region's wines. *Half a moment — Gaillac?* Even a semi-serious Francophile might raise a quizzical eyebrow at that one.

May is sympathetic. As he told the dozen or so fans who gathered to hear him speak at Claire-

mont's Mysterious Galaxy bookstore recently, "They've been making wine there since before the Romans arrived. They have wonderful wines — at exceptionally good prices — that people outside the area just don't know about. They

haven't made it out of their own ghetto yet, which is a great shame." All the more so because it wasn't always this way. "In the Middle Ages, the wines of Gaillac were drunk by the royal households. The problem was that the vineyards were situated on the River Tarn — that's how they trans-

ported the produce out, because the roads weren't reliable. The problem was that the Tarn runs into the River Garonne — the Gaillac wines had to go through Bordeaux. The Bordelaise didn't like the competition, so they put barriers across the river and charged fees to go through the locks. Basically, they strangled the competition. Phylloxera really put the tin lid on it. It's really only in the last 30 years that there's been a renaissance — a new generation of young winemakers," trying to convince the world to try wines made from Braucol and Duras.

May discovered the region because it's about two hours south of where he's living these days, and in 2005 he and his wife paid a visit to their annual festival. It was after a day of touring that culminated in following a tiny sign to Domaine Sarrabelle — a winery that wasn't on any of their

maps — that May decided he needed to write about the place. He came back for the crush, picked grapes, and generally poked around. For his efforts, he was made a chevalier of the *Ordre de la Dive Bouteille*, "a brotherhood," says May, "of Rabelaisian wine lovers which dates back into history." (And if *The Da Vinci Code* taught us anything it was that, when it comes to murder mysteries, the inclusion of an exotic fraternity never hurts.)

"It was a joy to research and write," May told his bookstore audience. "There are over 120 producers in the Gaillac region, and they produce over 1000 wines. I'm not sure if I tasted them all, but I had a damn good go at it. I love the character of Enzo, because he gives me a chance to do stuff like this. A critic recently described him as being one of the most unusual investigators in the mystery genre today — something like a cross between James Bond and Inspector Clouseau. That made me laugh — he's just kind of human, you know?" ("Human" here meaning that he has a chronically roving eye and a tendency to put away one too many glasses of good red wine. It does lend a certain comic drama to the proceedings. Someone really *does* make an attempt on his life in a vineyard, but his drunken attempt later in the book to avoid a repeat attack seems to have been nothing more than a panicked stumble away from a stray cat.)

Dedicated imbibing aside, it's clear that May



Peter May

has done his homework. As MacLeod investigates Petty's murder, he also uncovers a pretty good portrait of the current state of the wine world. Sometimes this or that aspect is revealed through this or that character's pontification, but in other places, the detail is woven neatly into the story. Decoding Petty's tasting notes becomes important to the case, and that leads to a focused investigation into sensory analysis. But perhaps my favorite trick is the way May manages to make terroir — that elusive yet persistent notion regarding a wine's "sense of place" — an element in the proceedings. Petty (and a subsequent victim) are pickled in wine — wine that ends up, undigested, in their stomachs. Identify the wine, realizes MacLeod, and you've got a lead on where the bodies were stored prior to display. So, he sets out to profile the wine's "multi-elemental composition":

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 10 am to 4 pm
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 Assorted Salads • Freshly Made Sushi Rolls • Omelet Station

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Crisp Waffles with Warm Maple Syrup, Whipped Butter, Glazed Strawberries and Chantilly Cream

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Assorted Breakfast Pastries,
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 Rum-Glazed Bananas, Fresh Berry Compote and Chantilly Cream
 Chef's Selection of Petite Fancy Pastries

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 Adults \$55.00 • Children \$17.95 • Children 4 and under are free

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“Each grape,” MacLeod explains, “contains a unique and distinctive pattern of trace elements. These are absorbed by the grape through the movement of elements from rock, to soil, to grape, influenced of course by the solubility of inorganic compounds in the soil. But the point is, the multi-elemental pattern of a wine will reflect the geochemistry of its provenance soil — that is, the soil that it’s grown in. It will match it as accurately as a fingerprint.” The sense of place finds a place in forensics.

MacLeod brings the wine, along with a variety of vineyard soil samples, to the labs of California. There, his old friend Al MacConchie tells him that “Wine is science. What we consider good, we can quantify scientifically.” As MacConchie sets about analyzing the soil samples and the wine, MacLeod muses, “MacConchie was exploding it all. The myths, the mysticism, and two thousand years of tradition. His secret for success was a marriage of Sili-

con and Napa Valleys; his wines constructed from the building blocks of molecules. And Enzo couldn’t help but wonder if in all this science, the fundamental human component might be missing. The instinct, flair, and sophistry of which Bonneval had spoken. That element impossible to define by maths or science — the personality of the winemaker.”

May doesn’t dispute the accuracy of the scientific analysis — MacConchie’s results turn out to be right on the money. But there is surely a quiet defense of “the fundamental human component” in the fact that the accurate analysis leads to a mistaken conclusion.

(Note: Gaillac’s obscurity proved useful for May’s literary purposes, but like a good chevalier, he has done the wines of his region a service. Thanks to his efforts, shipments from Domaine Sarrabelle [and others] will be arriving in the States sometime this year.) ■

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

Azul La Jolla 1250 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-454-9616. The flagship of the local Brigantine chain serves ambitious, Japanese-influenced, California-global fusion cuisine on a daily changing menu in a room with a panoramic ocean view. But you need not stuff your shirt to dine here — garb runs to resort-casual and the atmosphere is family friendly. There’s even a low-priced kiddie menu. The wine list is friendly, too, with merciful markups and plenty by the glass and half-bottle. Full bar. Short staircase down to restaurant; elevator to the right of entry (ask for directions for wheelchair access when calling to reserve). Valet parking. Very noisy. One vegetarian entrée, but all food restrictions accommodated to order. Lunch Tuesday through Saturday, dinner nightly, Sunday brunch. Very expensive. — N.W.

Bare Back Grill 4640 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach, 858-274-7117. This may be the first New Zealand food place in town, but that’s not what keeps the customers coming in. It’s BBG’s claim that most of their meat is certified organic. The owners guarantee hormone-

free beef and lamb, both from New Zealand. So, what to eat? Burgers, burgers, burgers — all kinds — from Prime NZ Angus to lamb burgers with wasabi dip. They also offer chicken. Decor inside is strictly Kiwiland, from the all-black rugby shirt on the wall to the declaration of food principles. People who had given up on hormone-treated meat are coming here for their first burger in years. Open seven days, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Broken Yolk Cafe 1851 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-270-9655. Breakfasting PBers love this place for three reasons: its sundeck, its 26 different four-egg omelets (which you can split with your partner, no extra charge), and the challenge of omelet #27. This dozen-egg “Broken Yolk Cafe Special” comes stuffed with a mountain of mushrooms, onion, cheese, chili, plus home fries and biscuits. If you can down it in an hour, pay nothing — you’ve got huevos. If you can’t, the yolk’s on you — \$19.99. My advice: split a 4-egger. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Bully’s La Jolla 5755 La Jolla Boulevard, La Jolla, 858-459-2768. Despite the plasma TV sports screen, this place is 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 over the edges. Or go bonkers and order the 32-ounce cut (available in Mission Valley) — just to watch your neighbors’ eyes bug out. Not flush? Try the “Bully Burger,” French Dip sandwich, or calamari sandwich. Lonely? Go to the horseshoe-shaped Low Bar. Lunch and dinner daily. — E.W.

C-Level 880 Harbor Island Drive, Downtown, 619-298-6802. California-Mediterranean comfort food with a Southern Low Country accent from Chef Deborah Scott; same menu lunch and dinner. Alas, the restaurant’s name also gives away its grade — the food’s okay but not spectacular, although the gorgeous heated patio at the edge of the bay does plenty to sweeten the pot. Your visiting aunt will swoon over the view and enjoy the food. Vast wine list with plenty by the glass, wide range of prices but some steep markups; good beer list. Full bar with creative cocktails. Ample free parking. No reservations except for large parties. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate to expensive. — N.W.

Fairouz Café and Gallery 3166 Midway Drive, Point Loma, 619-225-0308. Seek out this family-owned-and-operated restaurant for wonderful Lebanese and Greek food. The owner, a noted artist, displays his paintings on the dining room walls. The extensive menu offers excellent lamb, stuffed grape leaves, and a wide selection of exotic vegetarian meals. Copious all-you-can-eat buffet available at lunch or dinner in addition to the regular menu. Given 24 hours, this café will prepare an astonishing Lebanese feast at low cost. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate. — E.W.

The Fishery 5040 Cass Street, Pacific Beach, 858-272-9985. Pacific Shellfish Seafood Company founder Judd Brown got his start as a commercial fisherman. He doesn’t fish anymore, but he does everything else — supplying product to top-tier restaurants, retailing glistening specimens to hungry shoppers and serving patrons who want to dine in amid the icy-blue walls and gorgeous trophy fish. The Fishery’s menu is equally extensive, covering SoCal basics (excellent mahi-mahi burrito), lunchtime standards

(sandwiches, fine malt-dredged fish and chips), sushi, and an ambitious lineup of dinner-time entrees, some of them whimsically creative (tortilla-encrusted Mexican black bass). If ambition occasionally outstrips execution, an obsession with freshness helps compensate, and you get the sense that things are getting better all the time. The wine list is relatively inexpensive and carefully selected. Casual atmosphere. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate to expensive. — A.M.

Great Moon Buffet 1840 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-273-6868. This is one of the classier Chinese all-you-can-eat buffets in town. They boast a glittering chandelier hanging in the octagonal entrance, plus over 150 items daily. Certainly they have great surf-n-turf, like prime rib and jumbo shrimp or mayonnaise mussels. Or Japanese charcoal-grilled eel with sesame seeds on rice (*unagi-zushi*). It tastes salty yet caramely too. Eel-icious. Or Chinese baked crab meat on crab shell. Add crab legs, and maybe some roast duck. Cramming? Feast today, fast tomorrow. Dessert fruits include loquats, pineapple, peach, longan. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — E.B.

JRDN 723 Felspar Street, Pacific Beach, 858-270-5736. It’s a day at the beach: Befitting a restaurant digging its feet into the sand, the food here is fresh, fun, and unfussy, featuring sustainable seafood, natural meats (including truly tasty spice-rubbed steaks), organic/local produce, and a separate sushi bar. The dishes cover the waterfront, ranging from mac ’n’ cheese to die for to a sexy, fruited gazpacho to swoon over. The chic interior, relaxed atmosphere, and great grazing draw an exuberant, youngish crowd. Creative cocktails are part of the charm, along with a venturesome wine list with plenty by the glass. Tables (reservable) on

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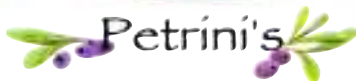
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Kabuki Sushi Restaurant 4475 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach, 858-270-1986. This place has a unique system of delivering tempting dishes to you via boats floating along a mini-canal that surrounds the sushi bar. You take food off and pay according to the plate size. The sushi chefs — they can be a show in themselves — have the usual panoply of sushi, sashimi, nigiri. The dragon rolls (crab, shrimp tempura, eel, avocado) and spider roll (soft-shelled crab) are tasty too. It's young and crowded here — is that because you don't have to sweat the menu, just grab what you like off the boat and chew? Open for lunch and dinner Tuesday to Saturday; dinner only Sunday; closed Monday. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

Karinya Thai 4475 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach, 858-270-5050. Think of the movie *The Beach*, with a bunch of Leo DiCaprio look-alikes getting off on the coconut curries like *gang ped*, *panang*, and *kang kari*. Or noodle dishes like the famous *pad thai*. But they're in the right place: Karinya remains true to its Thai origins. The *tom yum kung* (hot and sour shrimp soup) is a meal in itself. Steaming away with its fierce little charcoal fire at your table, the hot pot holds plenty of shrimp, and you can taste the essential mushrooms, lemon grass, ginger, lime juice, cilantro, and of course *nam pla*, Thai fish sauce. A nice counterpart to the hots of the soup are the Fresh Spring Rolls, filled with tofu and vegetables and mint. Another sizzler: *pad talay*, a saute pan full of mussels, shrimp, squid, and other seafood in a great spicy sauce. The recipe's from Koh Samed, an island like the one featured in *The Beach*. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

La Jolla Brew House 7536 Fay Avenue, La Jolla, 858-456-6279. Don't expect to see the beach. Do expect to taste some good beers made right here and good solid food, such as the prime rib sandwich (which goes great with their

Russian Stout) or the roasted potato. Or maybe best of all, the buffalo burger — big, hefty, and low on cholesterol. You'd call this a family, multi-generational sports bar eatery. Nice mix. It's La Jolla, so it's not dirt cheap, but the guys here seem really interested in making interesting brews and good food to accompany them. Open for dinner seven days; lunch Tuesday through Sunday. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

Mardi Gras Café 3185 Midway Drive, Point Loma, 619-223-5501. The Creole cooking at this café/grocery, to eat in, take out, or have catered for your next party, is sound and tasty, if deliberately underseasoned (just add salt and hot sauce to taste). You can also buy the real and rare ingredients from the freezer, deli case, and grocery shelves, including Cajun *tasso* (spiced ham), *boudin blanc* (rice sausage), and crawfish sausage when it's in season. Daily brunch through early dinner. No alcohol, everything available for takeout. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Michèle Coulon Pastries 7556-D Fay Avenue, La Jolla, 858-456-5098. The daughter of Don Coulon (retired chef-owner of The Belgian Lion restaurant) presides at this delightful little café/bakery. (Look for it behind the octagonal sandwich shop that fronts its mini-mall.) Every ingredient is fresh and of top quality. Cakes are light, moist, rich, and available as wholes, slices, and even "miniatures," plus you can choose tarts, chocolates, ice creams, and breakfast pastries. Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Moderate. — N.W.

Ocean Beach People's Organic Foods Co-Op Deli 4765 Voltaire Street, Ocean Beach, 619-224-1387. This is the land of "organic," "cruelty-free," "environmentally safe," "shade-grown." Vegan Country. People look either disgustingly healthy, disturbingly pasty, or just plain smug. But the food tastes pretty good. And they sell it by the pound so you can mix and match. 'Course, you have to learn new words, like tempeh (cultured soy that can be made to taste like anything). And dishes have a sensible momsy East Coast feel — garlic egg-plant with beet root and onions, tempeh loaf, sweet squash and rice, millet spinach bake, shepherd's pie, "mango

madness," tempeh sausage, steamed vegetables, vegan macaroni and cheese. Bottom line: it's guilt-free. Open seven days, breakfast, lunch, dinner ("serious" breakfasts daily except Tuesday and Thursday). Inexpensive. — E.B.

The Pannikin La Jolla 7467 Girard Avenue, La Jolla, 858-454-5453. Also in Del Mar and in Encinitas. Oh, sure, the inside of this converted bungalow is cool, with its woody-green tables of different heights and cool damsels with animal temp-tattoos on their arms serving you. But here at Pannikin's La Jolla outpost, the outside's the "in" spot, with its brick and earth tones and weathered timber and sixties rainbow tables. But you have to make it through the laptop-clacking, cell phone-blabbing crowd who use this as their garden office and Very Important Meeting spot. Musicians, grad students, and school kids also show up to munch twigs and nuts and think serious thoughts. Breakfasts are mostly steamed-egg variations, including the popular Greek eggs and a filling breakfast burrito. For lunch, a mild chicken curry is a nutty treat, and "pannwiches" such as ham or tuna are fresh, generous, and worthy, though the retros among us will be looking for a salt lick all the way home. La Jolla and Del Mar three meals daily, Encinitas breakfast and lunch only. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Saska's Sushi 3768 Mission Boulevard, Mission Beach, 858-488-7311. Venerable, local steak-and-seafood joint that tries harder, from the broth-thin homemade teriyaki sauce (sweet up front, fading to bitter ginger) for the well-cooked (if mild-flavored) fish to the cut-on-the-premises aged beef. The interior's low wood-slat ceilings, driftwood beams, dim light, and red leather booths combine with the stay-up-late kitchen to make the space feel like a cozy haven, a respite from the brighter buzz of Mission Beach. The wine list runs the gamut from Cook's sparkling wine to Cristal champagne, stopping along the way at an interesting (if expensive) collection of reserves. Next door is the restaurant's serviceable sushi bar (858-488-7255) and two-story patio dining. Lunch weekdays, brunch and lunch weekends; dinner seven days. Sushi bar open nightly, 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Moderate. — A.M.

Over 400 more restaurant listings at SanDiegoReader.com

Sky Room 1132 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-454-0771. The stunning ocean view offers three essentials for a memorable evening: privacy, intimacy, and the ability to talk without the interruption of noise. The food is a feast to the eyes as well as the palate. Best bets: abalone and scallop steak appetizer, the daily soup, diver scallops, and lobster. Dinner only, with two seatings on weekends. Very expensive. — E.W.

Sportsmen's Seafoods 1617 Quivira Road, Mission Beach, 619-224-3551. Fifty years ago this restaurant-fish market was a tuna cannery, part of San Diego's late-lamented fishing industry. The same Sicilian family still owns it, and still knows everything about fish and how to cook it. The menu is devoted to the "fruits of the sea" and includes a wonderful seafood platter (shrimp, squid, clams, fish, fries, and salad). And, of course, a crispy-crunchy fish-and-chips platter. Eat outside on deck, contemplating the small ships on the bay. They buy seasonal catch from local fishboats and also sell it at their attached retail market. They're famous for smoking fish for the fishermen. Open daily, lunch/early dinner. Retail market closed Monday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

World Famous 711 Pacific Beach Drive, Pacific Beach, 858-272-3100. World Famous is as on-the-beach as it gets, right on PB's boardwalk. It has a covered porch, a side-slung patio, and low-slung ceilings, so everything feels in-



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timate. You sit at varnished inlaid wooden tables with lots of diagonal timbering and sexy blue lighting. It's often crowded and noisy. Who's gonna be picky here? You, when you're paying twenty-some bucks for a steak. On the other hand, the prime rib, surf-n-turf, and tournedos will fill you fine. If you want to beat the big prices, try the beach burger or a seared ahi Caesar salad. The view is free. Breakfast and lunch inexpensive; dinners moderate to expensive. Open daily. — *E.B.*

BAJA

From the United States use the prefix 011-52 when calling Mexico.
Big Boy Restaurant 9892 Agua Caliente Boulevard, Baja, 664-686-3788. Besides having excellent Mexican-American food, this Big Boy knock-off draws some of the most interesting people in Tijuana — journalists, lawyers, cattle ranchers, politicians, Baja's heavy hitters. Day or night, Big Boy is always busy. Gringo food's no problem. Breakfast includes eggs, bacon, sausage, chorizo or ham, plus hash browns or frijoles, toast, juice, and endless coffee. Nobody will object if you sit sipping the free refills till the moon comes up. But you won't — you'll crack and order more when you smell the popular, macho "royal" hamburger, with two beef patties, smoked ham, onions, lettuce, tomatoes, fries, and salad. Or the chicken breast marinated in tequila with cilantro, guacamole, and beans. Vegetarian upon request. Open 24/7. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*
Café la Especial Avenida Revolución #718 (down the market steps), Baja, 664-685-6654. Café la Especial was once a great favorite of American aficionados of Tijuana's bullfights at the old downtown Plaza de Toros. Summer Sundays,

fans would crowd into the café to chow down before the fights or rush back afterwards for a few drinks and a hearty meal. Inside, little has changed, not even the 50-50 locals-to-gringos ratio. Food is standard Mexican/American border fare, from tacos and tamales to *carne asada* and *bistek ranchero*, from cactus and eggs to steak and eggs. Vegetarian upon request. But the atmosphere is the real draw: the low ceiling, varnished wood, black furniture with flowers painted up and down the legs and portraits on the backs, and lots of murals of Mexico on the walls. Owner Humberto Brambila's aunt Justina started it all, he says, in 1948, with the steamed taco stand upstairs. That's still going too. Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B.*

El Faro de Mazatlán Boulevard Sanchez Taboada #9542, Plaza Financiera, Baja, 664-684-8882. We're talking safe, reliable, middle-class fish-fare here. The "Lighthouse of Mazatlán" is bright, blue, and white with smart varnished wood furniture and delivers fish, lobster, oyster, squid, and shrimp dishes that are easy to like. Generous free appetizers include marlin ceviche, fried fish, and fish albóndigas soup. The interesting part is in trying dishes like the sea snail salad. (After a few closed-eye bites, it's delicious — like eating a sliced clam. It's great in a Caesar.) Look for original ways with octopus, *pez espada* (swordfish) and others. One of the simplest, best dishes: the cabicucho (Mexican sea bass), charbroiled but moist and really better without its ranchero sauce. Vegetarian upon request. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Moderate. — *E.B.*

Malecón de Puerto Nuevo Calle Entrada, Baja. Northwest edge of Puerto Nuevo; take Calle Entrada (entry road) to the ocean-front bluff, edge right, and walk about 30 feet down a steep dirt road running seaward from the street-market on the oceanside edge of town. Look for a yellow building with blue trim and a terrace with umbrellas. Worth looking for. This great, honest little restaurant harks back to the original, uncommercialized "lobster village" before it got its capital letters and written menus. Open since August, 2002, it's owned by an active fisherman, who

serves (as much as weather permits) fresh-caught local lobsters and genuine "daily catch" with standard sides — superb frijoles, red rice, real melted butter — and that's all. The first-course ceviche, when available, is astonishingly flavorful with fish caught that very morning; in harsher weather, a hearty, warming fish chowder substitutes. Breaking from Puerto Nuevo tradition, when the lobster is fresh caught it's simply split and grilled, not lard-fried first, and all the better for it. Some staffers are bilingual. Open brunch through dinner. No reservations, cash only. Low moderate. — *N.W.*

Mariscos el Locochón Popotla Fishing Village, Baja. Five minutes south of Rosarito Beach (non-toll road), in Popotla fishing village, on dirt road next to Fox studios. There are smarter places to eat, like Puerto Nuevo. Even in Popotla, most other eateries look more like, well, eateries. The thing about Pedro García Barcelo and El Locochón is that they are what they are. His fishermen friends hand him fish straight off the boats, he sells them on a table in the sand, and if you so desire, he'll toss one into a pan of oil on a wood fire, fry a couple of corn tortillas, add cilantro, tomatoes, radishes, fried cebollitas (green onions), and presto! He'll hand you your freshest fish taco ever. Work out a price with him. He's there every day till dusk. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Mr. Fish Boulevard Agua Caliente #6000, Baja, 664-686-3603. The sign is showing its age and the concept (exotic middle-class restaurant in the middle of a parking lot) seems dated, but two-decade-old Mr. Fish is still serving good fish food. Ask for the Spanish-language menu if you can handle it — it's far more extensive than its poor English cousin. Sit outside under the palm thatch if weather permits. All the basic dishes are good, like octopus in white wine, Lucifer's Oysters with white sauce and smoky chipotle chiles, or the Mr. Fish Combination: half a lobster, fish, shrimp, and calamari. Probably the most popular gringo choice is mahi mahi in lemon-pepper sauce, but consider ordering with *salsa eneldo* — dill sauce. Also interesting: seafood fettuccine "a la Gorrachov" (with vodka) and

anything (such as the lobster Mr. Fish or thermidor) with the signature *salsa blanca*. It'll remind you of something (could it be Rubio's?). Open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days. Moderate. — *E.B.*

CENTRAL

Apertivo 3926 30th Street, North Park, 619-297-7799. This wine bar-bistro offers Italian tapasi of simple Italian classics lightened up and scaled down to medium-size portions — about the size you probably eat at home. All the condiments are on the table, so you can season or cheese your food to taste as you go instead of having a waiter waft them before you've lifted a fork. Good dishes include prosciutto-wrapped shrimp, eggplant rollatini, and for dessert, an airy lemon cheesecake mousse. Parking via alley 1/2-block west. No reservations, but for weeknight large groups, call ahead. Weekends, arrive very early or late or expect a wait. Call-in/take-out food orders okay. Check chalkboard on sidewalk for specials. Plenty for vegetarians and vegans. Sound level: roaring. Dinner Tuesday through Sunday (weekends until 11 p.m.). Inexpensive.

Arrivederci 3845 Fourth Street, Hillcrest, 619-299-6282. However you picture an idealized Italian restaurant — sprawling café; on the strada or little cozy corner as in *Moonstruck* — somehow Arrivederci is it. The straight-from-Rome look of the crowded sidewalk deck and yellow-and-white-awning helps. The menu is a big yet familiar regional potpourri. Reliable standards include *vitello bel monte* (veal in a brandy cream sauce with tomatoes), "straw and hay" (*paglio e fieno al pesto*), pale yellow-and-green pasta with string beans and pine nuts in a delicious pesto sauce, or shellfish pasta dishes like *linguine mediterraneo*, with clams, mussels, and big garlicky shrimp. Part of the fun is bumping chairs. Think dining car on a narrow-gauge railroad — you're that close to the next table. Lunch and dinner daily. Moderate.

Basic Urban Kitchen and Bar 410 Tenth Avenue, Downtown, 619-531-8869. The whole brickly, post-industrial

thing that rules the Gaslamp really works here. This ex-horse carriage repair shop is one cool hangout, left as is except for a "relaxing room" that divides the two eating/drinking areas by a metal-coil curtain and "rugs" made of old inner tube strips. But what really defines Basic is Connecticut, the state that — who knew? — gave us the pizza. Direct from New Haven comes the "thinnest pizza in the country," according to the owners. Try the mashed potato pizza with cheese melted on top, bacon, and red peppers, or the Little Neck clams. Open 11:30 a.m. to 2 a.m. daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Batter Up! 342 Euclid Avenue, Southeast San Diego, 619-262-3333. Chef-owner Mel Johnson was one of the founders of the Gaslamp's late, great Juke Joint Café. The food he serves at Batter Up! is less ambitious (so far) — but talent will tell. The food at this friendly, casual sports bar (about ten minutes from Petco via the 94) may be pub grub, but the cooking is serious. Fried fish, fried shrimp, thick sandwiches, and juicy Certified Angus burgers with creative dressings are well above the norm. Free parking in large lot patrolled by security guards. First-timers should request sauces (especially the house hot sauce) on the side until you know whether you like them. Fairly noisy inside (depending on what's on TV); quiet patio outside. Open daily, lunch and dinner, with early closing Sundays. Inexpensive.

Bay Café 1050 North Harbor Drive, Downtown, 619-595-1083. If you're hungry at the city ferry landing, you can eat in the bare-bones interior or take your tray upstairs to a handsome bayview terrace (with no wheelchair access). After a chilly crossing, try the enjoyable New England-style clam chowder, which is milky, clean, and not over-thickened, with tender clams and tiny diced potatoes. The menu features breakfast dishes, burgers, sandwiches (all served with generic fries), variations on fish and chips including prawns, plus some entrée salads. The burgers are genuinely "have it your way" — for a few extra cents each, the kitchen will add extra ingredients (Jack or Cheddar, mushrooms, grilled onions, bacon, jalapeño). Open daily, 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Bertrand at Mister A's 2550 Fifth Avenue, 12th floor, Hillcrest, 619-239-1377. Bertrand Hug's airy, open renovation of this formerly "ancient regime" eatery offers a fabled panoramic city view with a casual-chic, highly romantic ambience. Chef Stephane Voitzwinkler's modern French cuisine is a fine fit for the setting, including bistro classics and fresh inventions, emphasizing top-grade seasonal ingredients. A huge, intelligent wine list covers a full range of prices, ages, and origins, including "ripe" first-growth Bordeaux. Smoking and fair-weather dining on wraparound terrace/observation deck. Note: parking entrance on Fourth Avenue; wheelchair access via ramp to left of reception desk. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Expensive. — *N.W.*

Blue Point 565 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-6623. In a handsome, plushy dining room, pristine seafood and Prime-grade steaks and chops are featured in well-focused preparations highlighting Pacific Rim and Mediterranean flavors. A fine lobster bisque includes plenty of lobster, and crab-stuffed trout and dayboat scallops are among the highlights of the menu. But at this conventioners' favorite, be sure to specify the doneness you prefer, especially for fish, which defaults to well-done. Valet parking onsite, or inexpensive self-parking one block east at Park It On Market. Large sidewalk dining patio. Business-casual dress looks best here. Reservations urged. Dinner nightly. — *N.W.*

Buca di Beppo — Downtown 705 Sixth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-7272. People come here to celebrate, in party droves, by gobbling huge plates of "themed" Italian. Buca di Beppo ("Joe's Cellar") is a mighty national chain — but it works. Downtown's rabbit warren of low-ceilinged dining rooms is plastered with Italian photos (check out Sophia Loren, transfixed by Jane Mansfield's breasts) and crowded with customers chowing down from portions large enough to feed two or more. Try the *penne arrabiata* with its spicy sausage or the popular chicken parmigiana. Standard stuff, but what the heck — you're having fun. Don't leave without conquering the mountainous, wicked Bella

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Festa, two huge balls of ice cream on double chocolate cakes running with sambuca sauce, caramel, and nuts on an 18-inch plate. Open for lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B.*

Busalacchi's Ristorante 3683 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-298-0119. Remember Olympia Dukakis in *Moonstruck* retreating for comfort to her local trattoria? Busalacchi's has that settled, warm feel, but it's more interesting. Multi-levels create nooks and crannies for *liaisons dangereuses*, or there's the streetside casual level. Niche fountains and faux marble columns make it feel old-fashioned. Being Sicilian, they have plenty of the tomato-sauce-dominated dishes (like *torta di melanzana*, eggplant layered with mozzarella). But also try the excellent calamari piccata, a calamari "steak" bathed in butter, mushrooms, lemon, capers, and white wine. Simple but delish. Or salads like *insalata di fileto* with filet mignon, goat cheese, walnuts, eggs, and arugula. And hey, if you want to keep the budget intact, nothing wrong with *spaghetti della casa*. Lunch Monday through Friday; dinner nightly. Moderate to expensive. — *E.B.*

Café Zia 6686 El Cajon Boulevard, College Area, 619-337-3937. South Asia meets Mexico! Khaled Zia had the brilliant idea of combining wraps with chicken and South Asia's great gift to the world: chutney — mango chutney, papaya chutney, peach, apple, even a serrano chili pepper chutney. The combo works with them all. As soon as you smell the chicken strips hissing away on the grills, you're hooked. Then when they come smothered in peach or mango chutney, or cooling yogurt, along with sweet-sauced potatoes, what can you do? Do as half of San Diego State does: just say yes. Open daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Candelas 416 Third Avenue, Downtown, 619-702-4455. Don't look for tacos here — chef Eduardo Baeza specializes in *alta cocina*, a luxurious, inventive combination of traditional Mexican fare and French techniques. In a handsome Spanish-style dining room (romantic but rather noisy) with gracious service, the menu emphasizes seafood, including a signature dish of luscious stuffed Maine lobster. Plenty for meat lovers, too, with fine Black Angus cuts inventively garnished. But the menu and ingredients have been somewhat compromised over the years to accommodate the "Dude, where's my taco?" conventioners. The choices are more Dude-friendly — that is, less venture-some than they might be, and execution can be uneven. In the lounge at 10 p.m. on weekends, the music cranks up and the scene goes disco (with a cover charge for non-diners; IDs checked). Reservations advised, required on weekends; slightly dressy. Dinner nightly until 11 p.m. Interesting but expensive wine list; food expensive or higher. — *N.W.*

Cantina Mayahuel 2934 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-283-6292. Here, you're in a Latino-chic world, but don't be afraid to order simple things, like shrimp or beef tacos. Larry Auman, the owner-chef-artist, makes you feel you're in Mexico City or Veracruz with his masks and yellow-wash walls and those awesome, interesting tacos. The Caesar salad is wonderful, too. Try it with mahi mahi or shrimp. Also look for specials like chili Colorado (slow-cooked beef) or Yucatan seafood stew with salsa, habañero, and ginger on black beans and rice. For all the folk-industrial glamour, we're talking Latin-American comfort food. This cantina is what San Diego should be: bicultural. Bring both languages. Open noon to 10 p.m.; closed Monday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Dakota Grill and Spirits 901 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-234-5554. The name may hint at cowboy cooking, but look for simple mid-American comfort food at one of the many local eateries under the Cohn Restaurant Group aegis. A typical entree includes a hunk of red (or "the other white") meat cooked on a wood-fired grill, smeared with a pre-cooked sauce that, for better or worse, first meets its mate on the plate. Meat-avoiders will find fish and poultry dishes, too. Tasty taters but dull veggies come with most entrees. Desserts run to fruity favorites like cobbler, crisps, and upside-down cake. Treats from the wide-ranging beverage list include three-glass wine flights in four styles of wine, and a pleasant house brew, Dakota Pale Ale, that suits the food. The two-floor restaurant offers big plush booths, tall windowed walls, and a piano player gliding

from rinky-dink 1950s pop to Fats Waller stylings and Ellingtonian riffs. Valet parking. Full bar. Lunch weekdays; dinner nightly. High moderate to expensive. — *N.W.*

Dublin Square 554 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-239-5818. The entire pub was hand-crafted in Waterford, shipped over, and installed (by Irish craftsmen) in the Gaslamp. The exterior indeed resembles a real (but very new) Dublin pub; the interior has authentically dim lighting and spirited Irish music, including live bands (acoustic but loud) during happy hours and some evenings. If you're looking for food, too, there's a fine corned beef and cabbage, resembling the corned beef of Katz's Deli on the Lower East Side — it's that wee touch o' the garlic that does the trick. Other choices include Guinness beef stew, shepherd's pie (made with ground beef), steaks, lamb medallion, fish and chips, and grilled fish, plus standard pub grub. Lunch and dinner (including Irish breakfast anytime) daily. Moderate. — *N.W.*

Extraordinary Desserts — Hillcrest 2929 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-294-2132. Patrons looking for a quiet dessert still cling to the original charming cottage near Balboa Park. Those wanting more of a meal head for the newer Little Italy location, a vast, noisy space with industrial-chic decor and a menu of eclectic small plates — *mezze* spreads, bruschettas, sandwiches, and cheese plates. Flavors tend to be intense; some creations (such as a bacon-cured salmon sandwich and *pantelleria*, a celery-date spread) are wonderful, others are exhausting even in small portions. Both locations offer pastry cases full of desserts that live up to "extraordinary," to eat on-site or to take home. Chef-owner Karen Krasne incorporates flavors inspired by the global reach of her travels, from the cooking schools of Paris to the rice fields of Bali. The white cakes are food for angels. Wines (including champagnes), beers, fruit elixirs. Vegetarian-friendly menu. Both locations open seven days, three meals. Uptown location desserts only, all day. Moderate. — *N.W.*

The Fish Market 750 North Harbor Drive, Downtown, 619-232-3474. There's something fishy about these crowded, noisy, ever-multiplying restaurants — namely, mesquite-grilled, skewered, steamed, or panko-fried seafood, plus piscine chowders, pastas, and salads. Preparations are generally simple and consistent among locations. All the raw seafood is processed at the chain's Northern California facilities, so when the menu refers to a "local" species it merely means it's from somewhere in

the Pacific. Small retail fish market in the downtown branch offers slightly fresher products than at most supermarkets. Identical products and dishes are served in the dining room, the oyster bar, and at Top of the Market. But the sushi bar is emphatically the top Fish Market venue, with just-right rice, pristine seafood, and expert preparation. The "Ichiban Hamachi" (also available in the dining rooms) is outstanding. No reservations, but the space is vast so waits are brief. Restaurant open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate to expensive. Also in Del Mar at 640 Via de la Valle, 858-755-2277; mini-branch near Fashion Valley, 2401 Fenton Parkway, 619-280-2277. — *N.W.*

George's on Fifth 835 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-702-0444. This steakhouse is in a historic building that was once a hangout of Wyatt Earp — it now boasts faux-Victorian decor and amusing wall art. Formerly Roger's on Fifth, it was owned by former mayor-felon Roger Hedgecock; now Roger's rabbited and left it to his partner George Harrington. It's still wildly popular with conventioners on expense accounts. The menu offers Prime and ultra-Prime steaks, some of it at jaw-dropping prices — although entrées do include free vegetables. Ask for sauces on the side unless you like them thick and heavy. Some of the best items are non-beef: the cold seafood appetizers ("lobster martini," oysters, tuna tartare) and a juicy grilled pork chop. Good range of wines at normal to slightly high markups; full bar. Valet parking; cheaper lot through alley next to restaurant. Dinner nightly. Expensive to extreme. — *N.W.*

Harbor House 831 West Harbor Drive, Downtown, 619-232-1141. This two-story Midwesterner-friendly eatery caters mainly to tourist families and conventioners, but the upstairs Oyster Bar is a pretty spot to chill out and watch the sailboats over a good margarita and a plateful of iced bivalves. Upstairs preparations tend toward simple American coastal dishes; the menu includes more appetizers and the drinks include artisan beers. The downstairs main dining room features more old-fashioned "haute" preparations and has a longer wine list but no view. All foods and drinks from both venues are available by request on both floors (but not all servers know this). Parking free with validation for two hours. Reservations strongly advised for after 6:15 p.m. any evening. Accessible via elevator from main dining room, with entrance on the park (south) side of the building. Lunch and dinner daily upstairs; dinner only downstairs. Moderate to expensive. — *N.W.*



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Hawthorn's Restaurant 2895 University Avenue, North Park, 619-544-0940. When this long-standing Banker's Hill restaurant moved to spiffy (if quite noisy) new digs here, the change proved positive in every way. Menu choices are now fewer but better, with superior ingredients including varied and seasonal locally grown vegetables matched to the individual entrees. The kitchen now does more from scratch, and you can taste all these improvements on the plate. The fare is Mediterranean-American with Mexican touches. Most desserts outsourced. Wide-ranging wine list, full bar, corkage a reasonable \$15. Reservations recommended, especially on weekends. Expensive. — *N.W.*

Heaven Sent Desserts 3001 University Avenue, North Park, 619-793-4758. The developing district around the North Park Theatre desperately needed a bakery, and Heaven Sent arrived. They produce a full range of desserts, from breakfast pastries to cookies, tarts, pies, custards, and on through fancy cakes (the Tres Leches is especially good). The style is midwestern American, solid rather than ethereal. To drink: coffee, espresso, teas, hot chocolate, Italian sodas, and fruit juice. Open daily breakfast until after-dinner, past 11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. — *N.W.*

Indigo Grill 1536 India Street, Little Italy, 619-234-6802. This second — and much grander — incarnation of chef Deborah Scott's Indigo Grill expands her original Native American motif, with its focus on root vegetables, game, and roasted spices. Now, the Pacific Coastal cuisine takes in more coast than most, drawing upon ingredients and techniques from Alaska to Oaxaca. (The decor, dark and urban-primitive, follows the theme.) Unexpected combinations are a mainstay; a single dish, such as the seafood *mixto*, may span the entire distance, bringing together a multitude of flavors that work together to create a wondrous whole. Fine breads are made

in-house, as are desserts (try the decadent, crispy-creamy plantain cheesecake *flautas*). The wine list includes interesting varietals. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly; closes early Sundays, but open until 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Lunch: inexpensive to moderate; dinner: moderate to expensive. — *A.B.*

Kansas City Barbecue 610 West Market Street, Downtown, 619-231-9680. Scrumptious smells waft across the tracks at the Seaport Village trolley stop — barbecued pork and beef. And yeah, this is the joint where Tom Cruise and Kelly McGillis did their "sleazy bar scene" in *Top Gun*. And it *is* kinda sleazy, especially in the shadowy horseshoe bar, with memorabilia like hanging bras, Czech license plates, and stickers ("Grow Your Own Dope: Plant A Man"). The beef and pork ribs (or rib tips or chicken breast) are worth it. They're cooked over an oak-fueled fire. Nice long happy hour (3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., at bar only) has great food/grub deals. Open daily, lunch until late, serving until 2 a.m. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B.*

Kensington Grill 4055 Adams Avenue, Kensington-Talmadge, 619-281-4014. This long-standing, comfortable-but-sophisticated neighborhood restaurant has found a fine formula for flavorful, seasonal California cuisine with adventurous touches of Asia and Mexico. It's way beyond what most neighborhoods would expect. Well-known local chef Hanis Cavin (a big, low-key guy) proves an alpha griller, ensuring that every bite is cooked precisely until it's done, not a second longer. Almost everything is more than tasty. Most desserts come from upscale sister-restaurant Laurel, although the house-made choices are fine, too — no baby-food sweets here. Wine list is adventurous with lots of affordable choices; full bar. Small parking lot attached. Always a few dishes for vegetarians and a vegan entrée. Reservations recommended. Dinner nightly. "Early-bird" three-course dinner moderate; regular menu moderate to expensive. — *N.W.*

King's Fish House 825 Camino de la Reina, Mission Valley, 619-574-1230. To find King's in the mega-mall, go slightly west of Koo Koo Roo and follow the line of cars to the free valet parking. It's a

chain, but it's a classy chain, offering fish and seafoods of a quality that's well above average, including crustaceans from a live tank and a half-dozen varieties of pristine oysters. Generously-sized entrées come with soup or salad (including a Caesar that's above suspicion) and two hefty side dishes. The vast menu of American-style preparations changes daily to reflect the fresh catch, and includes some rotating regional specialties (e.g., New Orleans, Hawaii, New England). Don't miss the prawn pot-sticker appetizer, if available, and for dessert, the miraculously light bread pudding. The atmosphere is good-timey (with two patios and a barroom as well as a dining room), the service is enthusiastic, and the management will accommodate special requests if you call ahead. Kiddie menu available. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate. — *N.W.*

Lydia's Café and Nightclub 1628 Palm Avenue, Southeast San Diego, 619-429-3603. This easygoing dancing/eatery has a faithful following that goes back to 1957. But before you dance, eat! Check out the *birria en su jugo* (goat in its juices) with beans, rice, and tortillas, or enjoy filling snacks like *taquitos*, *cucaracha* (a corn tortilla stuffed with ham, cheese, and sour cream), or the snack Lydia says she invented: *botanas* (beans, pork, and melted cheese over corn chips). Open daily, three meals. (Call ahead for availability of the *birria*.) Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Max New York Steakhouse and Seafood 827 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-235-8500. As steakhouses go, Max is a good value, offering huge portions of fine, gently raised near-organic meat, cooked to order and offered at relatively gentle prices. You don't even have to pay extra for your veggies. For beef, there's full-flavored naturally raised Angus or butter-tender Kobe-style Wagyu beef. Or you can choose a giant rack of lamb, so tender it should be called Certified *agnus*. Sauces tend to be pedestrian; request them on the side. The classic steakhouse appetizers are done with some smart twists. Superb international wine list at below-average markups, including plenty by the glass. Full bar. Valet parking, or inexpensive lot via alley two doors north. Open nightly, until mid-

night on weekends. Upper moderate to very expensive. — *N.W.*

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant 675 L Street, Downtown, 619-645-6545. Want to hang out with the baseball elite? They graze here, next to the ballpark. But what should really draw you is happy hour. It's an awesome deal where you get a half-pound burger and fries for under two bucks. Ditto steamed mussels, chicken satay, California rolls, fish cakes, cheese plate, more. Best beverage deal: Coke or (refillable) iced tea, and the staff is sporting about you ordering multiple eats and sitting on one drink. Feel guilty? Don't. This loss leader works: From one place, in Portland, Oregon, M&S has grown to 86 locations nationwide. Happy hour Monday through Friday, 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on game days). Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Molly's 333 West Harbor Drive, Downtown, 619-230-8909. Chef Timothy Au's seasonal cuisine offers creative twists, superb local produce, and delicious flavors. Pick up a miniature menu at the dining room entrance to remind yourself of what you're eating — you'll appreciate all the more the astute combinations of ingredients. A vegetarian tasting platter is tempting even to hardcore carnies. Vast choice of California wines including half-bottles and generous pours by the glass. Sommelier Lisa Redwine, one of the best in the business locally, can be trusted to help you choose to match your food. Full bar. Reserve, even for two, or expect a wait. Free valet parking at hotel front door (Front Street entrance), validated for three hours. Open for dinner. Very expensive. — *N.W.*

Morton's of Chicago 285 J Street, Downtown, 619-696-3369. This famous Chicago steakhouse is swanky, in a manly way: dark, clubby, luxurious, and louche. You go to Morton's for great steak. Their Midwestern grain-fed beef is aged and meticulously grilled to your specifications. You can get a one-and-a-half or three-pound porterhouse, which will be juicy, marbled with flavorful fat. You can also get good fish at Morton's. The big, golden salmon fillet flakes to the fork and is moist, sweet, buttery. The pricey à la carte sides are either bad or

mediocre. The Morton's Hot Chocolate Cake is exceptional. But go for the steak. Expensive. — *M.N.*

Napa Valley Grille 502 Horton Plaza, Downtown, 619-238-5440. This restaurant at the top of Horton Plaza is staffed by professionals and the food is very good, including the excellent grilled calamari. There is an elegant hominess to Napa Valley Grille, a comforting, satisfying dining experience. Moderate to expensive. — *M.N.*

Pierre's Place 1404 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-727-4700. Guys twirl pizza dough like they were in Cirque du Soleil. Other kids run back and forth cooking, serving. Who'd guess they're all homeless teens who live and study here at the Toussaint Center? This eatery's new, smart, a mix of quarry stone, blond wood, sea-green chairs, red walls, brown leather couches, and full bookshelves. Food's good, too. You might say nouvelle Italian-Californian. Think California Pizza meets Father Joe. Interesting dishes like Florentine breakfast *panini*, Tuscan chicken *panini* (nice and squelchy with provolone, red peppers, pesto), and the Italian Special (toasted Italian roll with salami, ham *capiicola*, provolone). The "vanillages" gelato, with bits of apple pie, ain't half bad either. 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Pomegranate Russian-Georgian Restaurant 2302 El Cajon Boulevard, University Heights, 619-297-4007. Pomegranate's address is serendipitous, since the food of Deep-South Georgia is the Louisiana cuisine of the Slavic world — alive with fresh herbs, garlic, touches of hot pepper. This rustic-looking restaurant is animated with antic humor (check the multilingual graffiti on the walls) and offers unique, flavor-bomb dishes. Don't miss the world-beating beefy, herb-jungle borscht (beet soup, but it's way more than that), the Lobio bean dip, and Olivier salad. The chef slow-smokes his moist barbecued beef and pork and cold-smokes whole trout, a treat as a group appetizer or summer entrée. On weekends, there's sublimely smoky *shashlik* (a.k.a. shish kebab). The printed menu is only a hint as to what's really cooking, and regular patrons get the best off-menu choices. So become a

regular. Street parking is dire. Reservations advised for weekend dinners. Dinner nightly (service until 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday). Moderate. — *N.W.*

La Posta de Acapulco 3980 Third Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-295-8982. (Also in Lakeside and Spring Valley.) People have been coming to this orange-and-white drive-through-without-cars for 20 years. One of the main reasons is the *carne asada* burritos. Rich-tasting, fresh, generous. Folks sit around the outside benches right next to Washington Street, oblivious to the traffic. Also much loved here are the *chile verde* and the quesadilla with *carne asada*. For breakfast, think chorizo burrito. And for value, just to fill you up, you can't beat the bean tostada. You can drink *horchata*, a rice drink, or *jamaica*, made from hibiscus flower, to complete the picture. Open 24 hours in Hillcrest. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Puerto La Boca 2060 India Street, Little Italy, 619-234-4900. Argentines love their beef and they love it lean and wholesome — free-range and grass fed. That's what you'll find at this uncompromisingly authentic outpost of Buenos Aires cuisine. The great national entrée is the mixed grill (*parrillada*) for two or more — a massive meatarama featuring numerous grilled cuts of marinated beef, chicken, and sausages. Start with luscious beef or corn empanadas or, if you're feeling hungry and adventurous, *matambre* (rolled beef galantine). Not a steak lover? Try the shrimp *la boca*. Don't eat meat? There are vegetarian pastas and pizzas. Gnocchi (*Ooquis*) are served only on the 29th of each month. International, affordable choice of wines, plus Latin and U.S. beers. Full bar. Patio dining. Daily lunch and dinner hours, with dinner menu all day Friday and Saturday. — *N.W.*

Sausage King 811 West Washington Street, Mission Hills, 619-297-4301. Not too many delicatessens in the county still make their own sausages, luncheon meats, and jerky. But the German couple who runs this place does. They make an unbelievable 34 different sausages and luncheon meats, plus 10 different smoked meats like turkey, beef, Westphalian ham, Black Forest ham, and even bacon. For lunch they will make you a really cheap bun-sandwich filled with any-

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thing from home-made liverwurst to blood sausages to salami. Two would really fill you up. As with the nearby cheese shop (see Venissimo), the Starbucks at Falcon and Washington is a good place to chow down this unique sausage experience. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Sister Pee Wee's Soul Food 2971-1/2 Imperial Avenue, Golden Hill, 619-236-0470. One of the oldest, best soul food cafes in the county. Sister Pee Wee says her lunch and dinner menu depends on what she feels like cooking that day — you might find big pork ribs with mashed red-skin potatoes, black-eyed peas, collard greens and two-inch-thick corn bread, or Southern-fried chicken, or catfish fillet with all the trimmings. Sister's special is chitlins and catfish. (Call ahead about the availability of chitlins.) Breakfast includes eggs, bacon, ham, sausages, and hominy grits. Weekdays 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday to 4 p.m., Sunday closed. Inexpensive. — E.B.

El Sol Mexican Restaurant 2037 University Avenue, North Park, 619-298-0874. Miguel "Nacho" Madera cooked at Danny's Palm Bar in Coronado for 18 years. In 1994, President Clinton came to town and the Secret Service came to Danny's with a big order for burgers. Instant fame! Now Nacho has his own place and serves the same burgers with the spice recipe even the Secret Service couldn't get out of him. He also does breakfasts and the whole range of Mexican food, including seafood (*tostada de ceviche* is great). But if you want the burger, ask for his Clinton-burger with cheese, bacon, and French fries. Open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Soleil at K 660 K Street, Downtown, 619-446-6088. The fare here is simple California cuisine that won't scare the conventioners, but the outdoor dining patio is a nice spot for a light meal. The spiffy, chrome-detailed interior, with an open kitchen, offers the option of eating with strangers at long tables or booking a large party of your own — but be prepared for noise (even when the room's empty, the music is pumped up party-loud). Starters may include a seasonally available fried-calamari salad and crabby crab sticks. Desserts are witty as well as tasty; entrées are unmemorable. Long international wine list with some "finds," full bar. Service is variable. Validated valet parking. Open daily, three meals. Moderate to expensive. — N.W.

Soltan Banoo Persian Eatery & Tereem 4645 Park Boulevard, University Heights, 619-298-2801. It's colorful, small, and intimate. This two-room café pulsates with multicolored cloths, midnight blue cushions, Aladdin-shaped pitchers and samovars. What you're eating is basically Persian health food — most Persian fare is healthy food anyway. Try the pomegranate soup, made of spinach with lentils, beans, wheat, and pomegranate juice, or the strawberry tabbouleh salad. Lamb is often a part of dishes. *Ghormeh sabzi* is a lamb stew. *Koufteh-Berenji* is a ball of basmati rice with lamb, eggs, onions, and plums. The selection of teas includes Caspian, decaffeinated peach, and a few others. Lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Starlite Lounge 3175 India Street, Little Italy, 619-358-9766. No pedestrian pub grub at this lounge — nearly all the major staffers are protégés of now-departed Michael Stebner, conduit of the Alice Waters's ethos of local and natural. Chefs hang out here off duty. The seasonal menu of California-Mediterranean cuisine features naturally raised meats, house-made pasta and sausages (do try the house-made sausage plate!), and local produce. The Jidori chicken and Prime flat-iron steak are knockouts, and for dessert let your inner child commune with your outer adult over the irresistible toffee-chip ice cream sandwich. Short, smart, merciful wine list with French and California wines at way-below-average markups, scanty by the glass. Full bar with creative cocktails. About seven lacto-vegetarian dishes, bupkes for vegans. Age 21 and up only. Free parking lot attached. Dinner nightly, moderate. — N.W.

Stingaree 454 Sixth Avenue, Downtown, 619-544-0867. This huge restaurant has a nightclub on the mezzanine and an outdoor lounge on the roof. The Mediterranean food by chef Antonio Friscia comes in three plate sizes — lit-

tle, medium, and large. It's a built-in invitation to graze and share if you want to keep it light before you go dancing. The fare features premium, naturally raised meats, wild fish, and local organic vegetables. The rich international wine list is steep, but there's plenty by the glass; full bar. Friday and Saturday nights, dinner is a three- or four-course prix fixe only (your choices from the à la carte menu), but that gets you free entry into the club. Reservations advisable, urged for weekends. Dinner Tuesday through Saturday. Very expensive. — N.W.

The Strip Club 340 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-231-3140. This grill-your-own steak joint is a homage to Golden Hill's Turf Supper Club — but if Turf is a low-budget indie cult film, Strip Club is the Gaslamp's big, brassy, high-budget Hollywood remake (even though prices, like those of movie tickets, are roughly the same). It's loud and handsome, and if the USDA Choice steaks (available in numerous cuts) are not quite as flavorful as Turf's, they're still good enough for the price — and you can take them up a notch with numerous spice blends and sauces on hand at each gas grill. Other choices include burgers, chicken breast, ahi tuna steak, and meat or seafood kabobs (the shrimp is particularly good, with peppers, onions, and meaty hunks of portobello mushroom). Entrees come with salad and puffy, cook-it-yourself garlic bread, resembling hamburger buns with gigantias. Six veg and starch side dishes (including two types of gluey mashed potatoes) are available at extra cost; desserts are commercial ice cream novelties. Casual, no reservations, street-patio dining available. Over 21 only, no minors even with adult accompaniment. Dinner nightly, open until 2 a.m. Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W.

Taste of Africa Cuisine 5241 University Avenue, City Heights, 619-583-5788. This is one of the main gathering places for Somalis in San Diego, but they welcome others to sample their food, which is a combination of African, Italian, Arab, and Indian influences. Fish plays a big role in the diet of a country that boasts the longest coastline in Africa, but so does lamb and goat meat. Start with a *fadareshin*, a mixed plate of roasted goat meat, fried fish, basmati rice (the Indian influence), and a pile of spaghetti — common since the Italians came to colonize. No meal is complete without bananas, which are mixed in with pretty much everything, especially soups. Open three meals daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Tofu House 4646 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-576-6433. This stylish little eatery is proof positive that our city

has matured for its specialty ethnic foods. Tofu House is a Korean restaurant serving up specialty tofu dishes. Flavorful, healthy foods. I highly recommend the *soontofu* soups (beef, pork, seafood, or mushroom) with raw egg drop you drop yourself and a side of tasty fresh kimchi. Deliver yourself from sorrowfully generic foreign food — Tofu House serves vivid ethnic food. Open daily. Inexpensive. — M.N.

Top of the Market 750 North Harbor Drive, Downtown, 619-234-4867. The upper-crust upper floor of the downtown Fish Market (see Multiple Locations listing) has largely the same food as the downstairs, plus a few luxury items (e.g., abalone) and occasionally some creative appetizer specials. Prices are about 25% higher for identical items, in exchange for a slightly elevated view and a dressier, white-tablecloth setting that's almost "formal" by San Diego standards — flip-flops and tank tops aren't allowed on men, and collared shirts (e.g., polos) are suggested at dinner. That doesn't mean that the atmosphere is quietly gracious — the room's just as huge, packed, and raucous as the lower realms, even on the terrace. Reserve, and expect a short wait anyway. Elevator provides wheelchair access. Open daily. Expensive. — N.W.

Venissimo Cheese 754 West Washington Street, Mission Hills, 619-491-0708. Just don't ask for Velveeta here. Everything else, they've got: sixty-plus varieties of cheese, most from Europe. But a meal? Yes. You can get a baguette-style sandwich stuffed with cow cheese, sheep cheese, goat cheese, fruity, moldy, runny, stinky, any cheese in the house, same price, around five bucks. Even *Boschetto* cheese, with truffles in it, which sells at around \$30 per pound, or Napoleon's favorite, stinky *Epousses Berthaut*, or the beautifully tangy *Schloss*. Plus you get grapes or a pear to go with the sandwich. Where to eat it? Starbucks, a few doors down, usually doesn't mind. Coffee, bread, interesting cheese, fruit — it's the perfect combo. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Zensei 3396 30th Street, North Park, 619-546-6171. This much-welcomed neighborhood restaurant in a restaurant-starved neighborhood offers a changing menu of sushi, fusion appetizers, and Japanese entrees emphasizing noodle dishes. The sushi is the main draw. It's well made and based on seafood from the same fishmonger used by Ota and Nobu. The "party rolls" (such as "stuffed tomato" and "honeymooners") may not be original, but they're delicious fun. Free parking behind restaurant (enter by alley on Upas east of Jack in the Box lot).



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Calendar RESTAURANTS

Reservations advised for Friday/Saturday evenings, accepted for two or more at sushi bar, four or more at tables. Japanese and American beers, sakes, and wines. Lunch and dinner daily. — *N.W.*

NORTH INLAND

Ashoka the Great 9474 Black Mountain Road, Mira Mesa, 858-695-9749. Seek out this splendid Indian restaurant. The setting is lovely, the service excellent, and the food first-rate. Don't overlook the tandoori dishes. Numerous selections are available for vegetarians. An all-you-can-eat lunch buffet is served daily. Dinner buffet Monday and Thursday. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — *E.W.*

Bolsa Vietnamese Restaurant 9225 Mira Mesa Boulevard #118, Mira Mesa, 858-693-3663. "The name 'Bolsa' isn't Vietnamese," says Kim Trang. "It's Spanish for 'bag.'" She's playing on words here: Trang once owned *Pho Bolsa* on University Avenue, and every Vietnamese knows *pho bo* is Vietnam's most popular quick meal, a beef rice noodle soup. At this location, Trang still makes excellent *pho bo*, but she has 122 other items as well, including fried catfish with ginger fish sauce, healthy (non-fried) Vietnamese spring rolls, or egg rolls with lettuce and mint in which to wrap them (sprinkled with *nuoc mam*, Vietnamese fish sauce). We're talking family-style cooking. Come once and Trang will remember you and everything you ate — even if it was just *pho bo*. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Cabana Cove 777 Harrah's Way, Valley Center, 877-777-2457. This fun eatery brings Pacific Beach to Valley Center with its cheerful (make that gorgeous) surfer decor and a menu of classy surfer grub. With glass walls looking out on the mountains and on two curvy swimming pools, this is the only restaurant in the casino to offer views of the outer world. The eclectic menu, from surfing spots around the world, includes wonderful, smoky pork as both a taco and an entree, plus pristine seafood

choices. Full bar, creative cocktails. Breakfast Monday through Friday; lunch and dinner daily. Moderate. — *N.W.*

A Delight of France 126 West Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-746-2644. This authentic French bakery is one of the best in the region, offering daily baked authentic baguettes, brioches, quiches, and croissants, including a luscious almond croissant studded with nuts and laced with sweet almond paste. They claim to use all-organic ingredients, even the eggs, and locally grown produce. For a hearty breakfast, you can choose omelets, frittatas, French toast, and eggs. Lunch dishes include several savory tarts, a French deli plate, crêpes, salads, and sandwiches. And ooh la la, there are dessert pastries, too. Open for brunch/lunch and pre-dinner snacks Tuesday through Saturday; lunch/brunch only on Sunday. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

East Buffet 8998 Miramar Road, Mira Mesa, 858-566-1888. Curly-haired stone lions greet you outside one of the grander dining halls in the county. "The biggest buffet of San Diego" claims the menu, "with over 200 items daily." Start at the Mongolian grill. Pick your raw prawns, chicken, pork, beef, *satays*, and hand the plate-load to the Iron Chef. He'll stir-cook them on the hotplate for you. You'll need hiking boots to cover the endless rows of steaming chafing dishes. Must-eat: the fresh sashimi, like salmon and tuna — mouth-wateringly scrumptious. And try the chicken feet (they taste a bit like cow tongue, or brains). Open daily, brunch through dinner. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

The French Market Grille 15717 Bernardo Heights Parkway, Rancho Bernardo, 858-485-8055. Ambience is served in generous portions at this romantic establishment with elegant indoor dining or a charming garden setting. The wine list has over 50 selections, including several available by the glass, and the varied menu offers Gallic dishes of duck, lamb, fish, veal, frog legs, and more. Most dishes are served with the usual French cuisine sauces, but if you're dieting, they'll gladly omit sauce. Ingredients and execution of the entrées can be inconsistent (e.g., some nights the fish is overcooked or the meat is tough, other nights they're fine) but the crab-cake appetizer is always outstanding. Save room for dessert, especially the excellent crème brûlée. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Moderate. — *S.M.*

Golden Egg Omelet House 316 West Mission Avenue, Escondido, 760-489-6420. This breakfast-lunch treasurehouse is vast but cute, its brick walls and open beams festooned with knick-knacks (all for sale). This is *the* place on Sunday mornings, when three generations bond over great, generous breakfasts. Omelets are perfect — light, thin crepe-like eggs wrapped around tall mounds of elaborate fillings. Thick waffles can be topped with fresh seasonal fruit. And then there are eggs, hash, crepes, humongous burgers, and sandwiches. The potato casseroles, with a choice of a dozen fillings, are as huge in flavor as they are in size. Whatever you choose will carry you through until dinner. Reservations on weekends. In back of a mall. Easiest entry from Mission is at SDGE driveway; do not pass McDonald's. Good handicap access; sturdy high-chairs; low-salt cooking. Open daily, breakfast and lunch. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Hunan 16719 Bernardo Center Drive, Rancho Bernardo, 858-487-8131. This casual family restaurant serves the cuisines of two spicy Chinese provinces, Szechuan and Hunan — each with its own dedicated chef — but both chefs tone the spice way down to a suburban American comfort level. If you don't already know the difference between these neighboring cuisines, you're unlikely to learn them here. But you can have an enjoyable meal: Tea-smoked duck, eggplant Hunan-style, and shredded potatoes with pickled vegetables are the outstanding dishes. If you're planning on a multicourse feast, order your meal a few dishes at a time or everything will be served at once; the staff is accommodating but limited-English. Over 20 vegan entrees. Full bar, Chinese beers, generic wines. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Madras Café 9484 Black Mountain Road, Mira Mesa, 858-695-6229. In the same strip mall as Ashoka the Great, this family-friendly café features the savory vegetarian cuisine of South India. It's distinctly different from the standard North Indian menus, centering on numerous varieties of stuffed pancakes — from thin, crisp (and irresistible) crêpe-like *dosais* stuffed with vegetable curry to lacy rice-flour *aapams* drenched in coconut milk to hefty, frittata-like *uttapams*. (Try the latter with the delicious, not-too-spicy chile-onion stuffing.) Puffy *poori* bread and tamarind rice are spectacular. Order your dishes in the se-

quence you hope to eat them — that's usually how they come out of the kitchen. And don't expect hovering "Raj"-style service — it's just not the Tamil way. Seasoning is generally mild, to accommodate kiddies; spicy sauces are on the table. No alcohol. Open Tuesday through Sunday with buffet lunches and à la carte dinners. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Mille Fleurs 6009 Paseo Delicias, Rancho Santa Fe, 858-756-3085. One of the area's top destination restaurants, Bertrand Hug's beautiful room with beautiful food draws "the beautiful people" — Hollywood honchos, high-end high school graduation parties, and a steady influx of rarefied Rancho Santa Fe residents flaunting huge twinkling rocks. The daily-changing menu sports first-rate modern French cuisine (with a few German touches) by long-time chef Martin Woessle. Order at will — everything's flawless. The menu's most exciting on weeknights, when crowds are sparser and the kitchen has time to stretch. The wine list is fabulous but exorbitant even at the bottom. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Reservations recommended. Very, very expensive. — *N.W.*

Onami Japanese Restaurant 240 East Via Rancho Parkway, Escondido, 760-738-7522. This Japanese buffet offers everything from miso soup and sukiyaki to a host of salads, including several variations of *sunomono* (cucumber salad). Then there are teriyakis, sashimis, and a plethora of sushi rolls. Among the winners are the California roll with *masago*, tempura shrimp roll, guacamole roll, and Philadelphia roll. Skip the dry egg rolls and head for the corn crab cakes, teriyaki chicken, tempura shrimp, and veggies. Desserts offer fresh fruits, bite-size cake options, and go-back-for-seconds green tea ice cream. The food is fresh, the presentation artful, and the staff friendly and efficient. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Expensive. — *S.M.*

The Original Pancake House 3906 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-565-1740. Starve yourself for eight hours, then come in here and order up an Apple Pancake — a foot-wide, batter-filled, five-egg paradise pelted with slices from two Granny Smith apples and baked till it puffs up like a golden mini-superdome. Cinnamon cinches it. The German Pancake, or its kid brother, the Dutch Baby, are good oven-baked alter-

natives, as is the really, really filling mushroom omelet, which comes with three pancakes. Oh, and the Eggs Michael: sausage patties and poached eggs lost somewhere under a mushroom-sherry sauce. The whole atmosphere — striped gold-and-cream wallpaper, dainty cups, shelves of ceramic dogs — feels like it's the Fifties and your granny took you here when you were five. Okay, it's a nationwide franchise, but it's a comfy franchise, from Oregon. All-day breakfast only, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Inexpensive. Other locations at 14905 Pomerado Road, Poway, 858-679-0186; 160 South Rancho Santa Fe Road, Encinitas, 760-943-1939; 435 South Melrose Drive, Vista, 760-758-3441. — *E.B.*

Pearl Chinese Cuisine 11666 Avenida Place, Rancho Bernardo, 858-487-3388. At Emerald Restaurant's younger, prettier suburban sister, you'll find modern Hong Kong-style Chinese cuisine, including both familiar and exotic dishes. Daytimes are for dim sum (Chinese tapas), served daily until 3 p.m., plus champagne dim sum brunches on weekends. Along with standard items, the choices here leap to the latest Pacific creations, some rarely found this side of the ocean, including irresistible Shanghai soup dumplings. Dinners range from folk food to showy "gold cup" dishes. For a taste treat and visual hoot, try the sea bass with pine nuts, sculpted to resemble a dish sponge. International wine list at modest markups complements the cooking. Full bar. Frying done in corn (not peanut) oil. Reservations advised. Lunch and dinner on weekdays; three meals on weekends. Moderate, with some expensive specialties. — *N.W.*

St. Tropez — Rancho Bernardo 16625 Dove Canyon #109, Rancho Bernardo, 858-673-6824. If you love continental breakfast, these bright cafés with indoor-outdoor seating offer scores of house-baked pastries (including brioche) and good coffee. Parisian-style brunch/lunch choices embrace *croque monsieur* and *croque madame* (grilled ham and cheese sandwiches, topped with either light cream sauce or an egg), 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.*

NORTH COASTAL

Addison 5200 Grand Del Mar Way, Carmel Valley, 858-314-1900. At this gala, gorgeous restaurant a mile or so uphill from the hotel at Doug Manchester's new luxury resort, the brief menu offers dishes made with superior ingredients, executed flawlessly. However, it may be hard to warm up to the chef's palate, which seems to favor sour, tart, and acidic notes, with no concessions to culinary comfort. The creative cooking involves strange flavor-combinations, such as well-seasoned lamb shank with a goat cheese tart served over a slick of acidic lemon-sorrel sauce plus uncured housemade sausage with a purée of Japanese umiboshi, fiercely sour plums that seem to come from a different universe than the meat. Or an amuse of tart yogurt punctuated by sour quince and puckery gooseberries. It seems to be more about the chef's self-expression than about your pleasure, but many people love it — it apparently depends on what night you eat there. Service is formal, deluxe, and quite rigid: The bussers are your bosses. Dinner Tuesday through Sunday only. Reservations essential; request detailed route directions. Extremely expensive. — *N.W.*

Americana 1454 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar, 858-794-6838. Housed in a historic building, this casual breakfast/lunch joint turns into a serious dinner house at nightfall. The cooking represents the American melting pot, featuring worldwide flavors. Mornings, along with flawless eggs Benedict and utopian waffles, you can get a "Roman breakfast" of prosciutto, mozzarella, and fried egg on English muffin. At dinner, don't miss the lamb chop and eggplant appetizer or the duck breast with fig sauce. During summer, some of the veggies come from chef-owner Randy Gruber's home garden; the French fries (which don't come from his garden) are world class. To finish, a banana *tarte tatin* shouldn't be resisted. Thoughtful, reasonable wine list. Breakfast (until 3 p.m.) and lunch daily, dinner Tuesday through Saturday. Kids' menu available. Breakfast and lunch inexpensive to moderate; dinner moderate to expensive. — *A.M.*

Le Bambou 2634 Del Mar Heights Road, Del Mar, 858-259-8138. No mere "pho joint," this lovely restaurant serves the sophisticated Vietnamese cuisine of

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pre-war Saigon — and the owners' daughters serve it in the flower-bedecked dining room with grace, intelligence, and evident pleasure in teaching westerners about the cuisine. Appetizers (most of them designed for rolling with fresh herbs in lettuce leaves and eating with your hands) are varied and of superb quality. Few restaurants here do the royal delicacy of "ground shrimp on sugar cane" so well. Most of the house specialty entrées are equally accomplished. Lacqué duck, sautéed shrimps or scallops in tamarind sauce, and "Star of the Sea" curry are outstanding. The gently priced wine list abounds in the fruity whites that go so well with this cuisine, while beer-quaffers can enjoy Vietnam's own "33" brand. Lunch Tuesday through Friday, dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Low moderate. — N.W.

The Bird House Grill 250 North Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-944-2882. A great place to check out real Turkish cuisine. The inside has a fine collection of blue-and-white wall plates and blue glass eyes to ward off evil spirits. Try the house specialty, Iskender Kebab (ground meat kebab, rice, tomato sauce, and house-grown yogurt) — "Iskender" means "Alexander." Or the Kofte plate (ground meat kebab, rice, salad, pita, and tzatziki sauce). The shepherd's salad is a traditional dish brimming with fresh tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, parsley, oil, and lemon. Good healthy Mediterranean diet. Even the baklavas are less gloopy. Open Monday to Saturday, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — E.B.

California Pizza Kitchen — Carmel Valley 11602 Carmel Mountain Road, Carmel Valley, 858-675-4424. Two Beverly Hills lawyers started this chain in 1985 to exploit "the premium pizza segment." Some 150 restaurants later, guess it worked. The place is all shiny chrome, glass, etched palm trees, golden wood and black furniture, and two pizza ovens with real logs burning inside. The Original BBQ chicken pizza, the chain's first hit, is still their top seller. It has barbecue sauce, smoked Gouda and mozzarella cheeses, BBQ chicken, red onions, and cilantro. The BBQ chicken chopped salad is good too, as is the jambalaya. If you've got a sweet tooth, but are embarrassed to order Hawaiian pizza, try the pear and Gorgonzola. It has caramelized pears, caramelized onions, Gorgonzola and other cheeses, and hazelnuts. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

El Callejon Restaurant 345 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-634-2793. This is a Mexican restaurant with a difference: Instead of the standard boring border foods and combo plates, it offers a long menu of genuine, zesty

mainland dishes, some with original spins on traditional themes. Shrimp zarandados with a rich sauce of chiles and beef in cilantro sauce are some of the delights. There's even a *parrillada* (mixed grill) to serve two. The atmosphere offers more pleasures. At lunchtime, the dining room seems like a serene hacienda. Evenings the restaurant may turn into a rollicking community center, where multi-generational families and groups of friends fill the dining rooms and spill onto the sizable patio hidden in back. Mariachi band on Fridays and Saturdays. — N.W.

The Calypso Café 576 North Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-632-8252. This "Calypso" has nothing to do with Caribbean music (or food), despite its tropical tiki-hut decor. The cuisine is French, ranging from old warhorses like onion soup and coq au vin to newfangled Gallo-Cal-Italian-Pacific Rim hyphenates. The traditional dishes are generally the most successful. Mussels are the house specialty, and their rapid turnover here ensures freshness. Although there's nothing revolutionary coming from this kitchen, the cooking is generally agreeable. Dinner nightly, reservations advised. Upper moderate.

Come On In 11455 El Camino Real, Carmel Valley, 858-350-2700. Clunky name, but suave Euro-bistro feel with outside tables under trees. This is your escape to "Paree" anytime you can afford La Jolla. Actually, they keep the price of breakfasts — like two "plain and simple" steamed eggs with fresh fruit and toast, or the "Popeye" omelet, with spinach, Parmesan cheese, prosciutto ham, and diced tomato, fruit, and toast — down to a small roar. Of course, everybody in this neck of the woods is trying *not* to eat, so expect lots of fruit plates and healthy lunch sandwiches like roasted eggplant with zucchini, bell peppers, tomatoes, and mozzarella. Open daily until 9:30 p.m. Inexpensive to moderate; dinners a little more expensive. — E.B.

Firenze 162 South Rancho Santa Fe Road, Encinitas, 760-944-9000. This big, beautiful, gracious restaurant (located in the same mall as Harvest Ranch Market, just north of Rancho Santa Fe) offers both a handsome interior and a romantic fire-lit patio. The well-spaced tables are laden with huge portions of accomplished, multiregional Italian cuisine and reasonably priced Italian and California wines (with 1/2-price wines Monday nights). Vegetarians will rejoice in the two dozen meatless selections. Lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday, dinner only on Sunday. High moderate. — N.W.

Jake's Del Mar Waterfront Grill 1660 Coast Boulevard, Del Mar, 858-755-2002. Offering surf and turf by the sea, Jake's not only hugs the oceanfront, with a patio overlooking the waves, but has a smaller patio next to Powerhouse Park, with its fragrant mimosa plants, where you can walk off the calories. A branch of the well-known Hawaiian chain, Duke's, Jake's fare is competently cooked, if not inspired. The seafood may flaunt fusion-y, sugary touches, while steaks are Prime or high-grade Choice. Portions are huge — the tasty Dungeness crab cake appetizer is sizeable enough for a substantial lunch, offering loads of crab and little filler. Location is very popular with locals and tourists both, so reservations urged for any meal, essential for the à la carte Sunday brunch. Lunch Tuesday through Saturday, dinner nightly, brunch Sunday. Lunch and brunch moderate, dinner expensive. — N.W.

Knockout Pizza 2959 Carlsbad Boulevard, Carlsbad, 760-434-4468. This inside-outside cafe is your prototypical California surfer hangout. It's cream and green with maroon canvas window canopies, red-painted make-believe shutters, and three surfboards sprouting through the roof. On weekends, lines of tourists come looking for their California fix. But Kono's is known among locals, too, for generous breakfasts. Check out their PBS: Pancakes, Bacon and Scrambled eggs. Or the breakfast sandwich with eggs, bacon, cheese, and tomato on a toasted English muffin. Or the CB Burger (chicken breast, green chili, and pica sauce). Best time: foggy mornings. Chow down on their patio on the pier while you enjoy a birds-eye view of surfers appearing out of the mists below. Breakfast and lunch daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Market Restaurant and Bar 3702 Via de la Valle, Del Mar, 858-523-0007. Market occupies an odd location, way out in the boonies of far-east Del Mar, but it's worth seeking out. The menu, which changes daily, is inspired by whatever seasonal foodstuffs chef-owner Carl Schroeder (formerly at Arterra) finds at the local produce market (Chino Farms) and from the nearby seas. Despite the ambitious food and prices, vibes are "neighborhood restaurant" — people are having a good time here, and so will you. For once, the appetizers and entrées are equally good, with no letdown. At our visit, boneless beef shortribs, North Atlantic monkfish, bluenose bass, and venison chops were all imaginative, with perfectly sized portions and intriguing sides. Appetizers may include celery-root soup, Maine lobster salad, blue cheese soufflé, and a strudel of forest mushrooms and artichokes, all of them



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Calendar

RESTAURANTS

scrumptious — but the menu could be completely different when you visit, so be prepared. This is truly seasonal, local cuisine, and hurray for that. Dinner nightly. Reservations essential. Expensive to very expensive. — *N.W.*

Paul's Place 3671 Mission Avenue, Oceanside, 760-721-0124. This restaurant looks like a McDonald's or Wendy's (the building used to be a franchise) and the food comes fast, but it's no chain. The menu strikes a balance between American and Greek fare. The baked Greek half-chicken, the spiced grilled chicken sliced up on a salad with pita bread, and the gyros (all at earthy prices) mix with all-American three-egg breakfast specials with home fries. Lunch offers include meaty hamburgers, gyros with fries, or a surprisingly tasty turkey burger. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

El Q'ero 564 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-753-9050. You'll feel like a guest at an intimate party eating a leisurely dinner in this small, noisy, pretty dining room. Chef Monica Szepeszy offers personalized, home-style renditions of South American cuisines, including house-made beverages. Be sure to try the house's *chicha morada*, a tangy soft drink made from Peruvian purple corn. The fare includes numerous types of empanadas, tapas-like small plates, and full-size entrees — most from the family homeland, Peru. Desserts vary nightly and can include a cloud-like *tres leches* cake. Vegetarian and allergy-restricted diets accommodated. Lunch and dinner Tuesday through Saturday. Reservations necessary. Moderate. — *N.W.*

Ruth's Chris Steak House Carmel Valley 11582 El Camino Real, Carmel Valley, 858-755-1454. Flash-cooked steaks from the finest wet-aged, corn-fed USDA Prime, seasoned with salt, pepper, butter, and parsley, are the hallmark of this 95-location chain. If you aren't a salt offender, ask the kitchen to use a lighter touch. All side dishes are à la carte but come in portions large enough to feed two. The broiled tomatoes, caramelized with a touch of sugar, are a delight, and potatoes are offered in eight guises. A pecan-topped sweet

potato casserole, although delicious, would be better as dessert. Non-beef-eaters can choose from numerous luxurious seafood dishes, a cheese-stuffed chicken breast, grilled portobello mushrooms, and six salads. Award-winning wine list is steep but serious, with an average bottle price of \$70 and reasonable markups. The main room harbors a fabulous view of the ocean if you arrive before sunset, but it's noisy — tables upstairs are quieter. Dinner nightly; lunch Friday only. Also downtown, with equally stunning views, at 1355 North Harbor Drive, 619-233-1422. Very expensive. — *B.D.*

Sbicca American Bistro 215 15th Street, Del Mar, 858-481-1001. Though characterized as an "American Bistro," Chef Susan Sbicca ("speeka") also reveals Asian and Mexican influences in her creative menu. Set in a one-time private home a block from the Del Mar coast, this lively restaurant boasts five dining rooms, including one downstairs with a fireplace and a "wine room" upstairs for private parties. In fair weather, the outdoor rooftop patio is the best seat in the house. The menu changes seasonally, though a few perennial favorites remain. The rich, deeply flavored lobster-shrimp bisque with overtones of sweet butter pastry is worth a return visit. A thick maple-roasted pork prime rib with vanilla-scented sweet potatoes and bourbon chantilly sauce is a house favorite, although not quite as exquisite as the soup. Monday nights feature \$5 martinis; on Tuesdays and Thursdays, all bottles of wine from the fine California-centric wine list are 50% off. No corkage fee on Wednesday. Crowded during racing season. Lunch and dinner daily. Expensive.

St. Germain's Cafe 1010 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-753-5411. Despite the Parisian name, the food here is all-American. Omelets are the cafe's best-known dish — 14 variations of three-egggers (or Eggbeaters by request) served with toast or a muffin, plus tasty herb-strewn "cafe potatoes" or fresh fruit salad. But don't overlook the Belgian waffles, scrambles, pancakes, Louisiana sausages, or the three versions of expertly poached eggs Benedict with genuine hollandaise. Sandwiches run to hearty American classics (including some veg choices), and along with beef burgers, turkey burgers, and veggie burgers, there are no fewer than six twists on lean char-broiled chicken breast on a burger bun. The sheltered patio is always crowded,

but there's a large interior dining room with a separate smoothies-and-ice-cream bar. Open daily, breakfast to late lunch. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Tip Top Meats 6118 Paseo del Norte, Carlsbad, 760-438-2620. This geranium-splashed blue-and-white Bavarian chalet is more than a butcher's shop. It's a combination butcher-deli-diner. Enter through the bulging deli and listen for the shouts and clatter of serving ladies. Look for the "*Es ist Wunderbar!*" sign over the counter. Try German and American dishes like Big John's all-you-can-eat bacon, pork-link sausage, bratwurst, or ham breakfast with three eggs, home fries, and toast. Or the sausage plate: bratwurst, knackwurst, and smoked Polish with German potato salad and traditional stuffed cabbage. Owner Big John is a heavyweight Olympic boxer from the former East Germany with an M.A. in meatsciences. Generous portions abound. Friday through Sunday after 4 p.m., he roasts his famous prime rib dinner. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Trattoria Positano 2171 San Elijo Avenue, Cardiff, 760-632-0111. If you're tired of Italian restaurants, you'll be revitalized by this one. Original recipes, wonderful fresh fish, nightly specials, excellent lamb and pastas. Very warm atmosphere. A treasure. Reservations accepted for parties of four or more; expect a wait at prime dinner hours, especially on weekends. Lunch and dinner six days, Sundays dinner only. Upper moderate. — *E.W.*

Vigilucci's 505 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-942-7332. In the Land of 10,000 Trattorias, this is one of the most popular — and for good reason. The restaurant's motto, "a little piece of Italy," is actually accurate. Freshness, simplicity, and savvy seasoning — that's Italian. The pastas are luscious (try the comforting cannelloni with an unusual stewed meat stuffing) and the flavorful entrees come with honest fresh vegetables. The staff is bouncy and jokey, the wines are mainly affordable, and spirits run high. Of course it's crowded, so reserve to avoid a long, hungry wait. Other locations include Vigilucci Cucina in Carlsbad, Vigilucci's Pizzeria in Leucadia, and Vigilucci's Seafood and Steakhouse in Carlsbad. — *N.W.*

Vivace 7100 Four Seasons Point, Carlsbad, 760-603-3773. If you ever wished to eat like the Medicis did, here's the place

for it. This lovely hotel-restaurant at a gorgeous resort showcases Italian *haute cuisine* which is simpler and more natural than the French equivalent. You'll find inventive combinations of first-class ingredients, skillfully executed and beautifully presented with none of the culinary clichés of the "mamma mia" joints. Reservations urged. Valet parking free for diners. "Resort-casual" — no hats, shorts or jeans, or sandals — but room may be painfully noisy if patrons get too festive. Dinner seven nights. Four-course tasting dinner a relative bargain, but wine list may blow the budget. Moderate (pastas and risottos) to very expensive. — *N.W.*

SOUTH BAY

Bay Beach Café 1201 First Street, Coronado, 619-435-4900. The dinner menu here has California's typical dumbed-down world-appetizer array, plus salads, pastas, grilled meats, a few sautee items, and children's plates. The restaurant is family-friendly (full o' kids, actually), with a menu that appeals to the young — in the past, the chef seemed to have a sweet tooth, since almost every dish involved honey or sugar. Your server will tell you about the day's fresh-fish selections, which are more attuned to adult palates with fresh, fine-quality seafood done simply and well. Noisy inside when crowded; reserve for the lovely terrace with a view of the beach. Open daily, lunch and dinner, with weekend breakfast. Moderate to slightly expensive. — *N.W.*

The Family House of Pancakes 562 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-425-5133. This is a great place for three things: your family, your kids, and your appetite. The restaurant is famous for its "Grandma's" buckwheat pancakes, its banana-pecan pancake, and its rolled pancakes, oozing with berries and topped with cream and powdered sugar. Just try and survive their 8-12 egg omelet! Other good bets include a deluxe burger with French fries, tomatoes, and house sauce, and a grilled tuna sandwich with fries. Breakfast/lunch only, seven days. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Lai Thai Restaurant 1430 East Plaza Boulevard #E10, National City, 619-474-5546. Lai Thai started up as

the lone Thai in a sea of Filipino restaurants in South Bay, but has gained a respected place under glamorous Summawadee Bubpha. Prices are so reasonable, you feel the food shouldn't come on such beautiful platters. The soups, *tom kah* (spicy coconut), and *tom yum* (hot and sour), are especially good, as is the house Lai Thai Fish (usually tilapia) in delicious *panang* coconut-curry sauce. But you've got to push for spiciness if you want it. Lunch deals are really cheap. Also check out the Thai art on the walls, some for sale. Open lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B.*

Lizard Lounge 1301 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-437-6677. This venerable saloon, a Navy old-timers' favorite since the era when lounge lizards in leisure suits stalked the earth, now houses a good little sushi bar at one end of its spirits bar. The rice is well-seasoned, the seafood tastes sparkling-fresh, and each *nigiri* is given its own individual garnish (e.g., lemon with the *hamachi* roll). Most of the inside-out party rolls are variations of the California roll formula, with the same center of sweet crab and avocado, but there's also a lively mango-albacore roll, featuring tempura shrimp, avocado, and *ponzu*. For best seats and peaceful eating, come early; the bar fills fast and the room can get downright rowdy as the night rolls on. Street parking. Lunch/dinner daily. Moderate. — *N.W.*

Swaddee Thai 1001 C Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-8110. Tourists never stray to Swaddee's quiet residential location a block from the bright lights of Orange Avenue. Their loss is the locals' gain. The dining room is a quiet, lovely haven from the hustle; the service is caring and gracious. Even if the long list of Siamese specialties is merely standard, the kitchen, too, is devoted to the art of gently giving pleasure. The peanut sauce accompanying the *sate*, for instance, is classically balanced; the complex but soothing coconut-chicken soup can wash away all cares; and the calamari in the many seafood arrays is cleverly knife-scored to achieve sheer tenderness along with good looks. Even the jasmine rice is an exceptionally fragrant brand. Unless you specify otherwise, spicy dishes have a nice nip tuned to brave but tender *farang* taste buds. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — *N.W.*

EAST COUNTY

OGGI's 9828 Mission Gorge Road, Santee, 619-449-6441. At least ten branches all over the suburbs; see phone book for the nearest one. Is it the pizzas or is it the housemade brewskis (six ales, one lager, one stout) that make Oggi's so popular? Is it the sports-bar ambience (with multiple video screens) or just the near-ubiquity of branches that has won this chain numerous "best pizza" citations? The pizzas are American-style, with thick, slightly sweet crusts, many with elaborate toppings that sound more adventurous than they taste. (All the cheese alternatives are equally mild.) The menu also offers pub snacks, decent soups and salads, hearty sandwiches, and American-Italian entrees so mall-adapted that no *mamma mia* in Bensonhurst or North Beach would even recognize them. Full bar, lunch and dinner daily at most branches; free local delivery with minimum order. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

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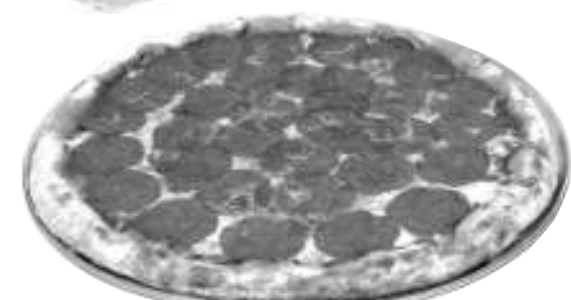
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Found in Translation

All of that unconventionality around the core of convention eats away at your confidence in the outcome.

Attention all masochists. *Funny Games* is not what it sounds like. Not fun and games, not funny ha-ha, not charades and Mad Libs. It is Michael Haneke's English-language remake of his own Austrian film of a decade ago, an unusual but not unprecedented course of action.

REVIEW

DUNCAN SHEPHERD

We would be straying well into irrelevance if we dredged up precedents like Alfred Hitchcock's *The Man Who Knew Too Much* of 1934 and 1956, William Wyler's *These Three* and *The Children's Hour*, Frank Capra's *Lady for a Day* and *Pocketful of Miracles*, Leo McCarey's *Love Affair* and *An Affair to Remember*, John Ford's *Judge Priest* and *The Sun Shines Bright*, Howard Hawks's *Ball of Fire* and *A Song Is Born*, Raoul Walsh's *The Strawberry Blonde* and *One Sunday Afternoon* or his *High Sierra* and its Western resetting, *Colorado Territory*. Closer to the point, though, the Dutch director George Sluizer did much the same thing as Haneke, in much the

same genre, with *The Vanishing*, except that in the same-named remake he did something a bit different with it to adapt it to the American market, as well as to surprise, confound, or disgust (according to taste) the admirers of the foreign version. In Haneke's case, we San Diegans never had the chance to see the Austrian original on a big screen (at least insofar as I have any record or recollection), so I must take the word of others that it has been reproduced precisely, and I must leave it to them to question the filmmaker's use of his time and energy. For the rest of us, it's brand-new.

We of course have had, over the years, the chance to see Haneke's *The Piano Teacher* and *Caché*, and with them the chance to take his temperature: chilly in the extreme. The new film, if anything lowering the temperature several degrees further, has a good deal in common with *Caché*, the clean tidy uncluttered images, the spooky absence of mood-punctuat-



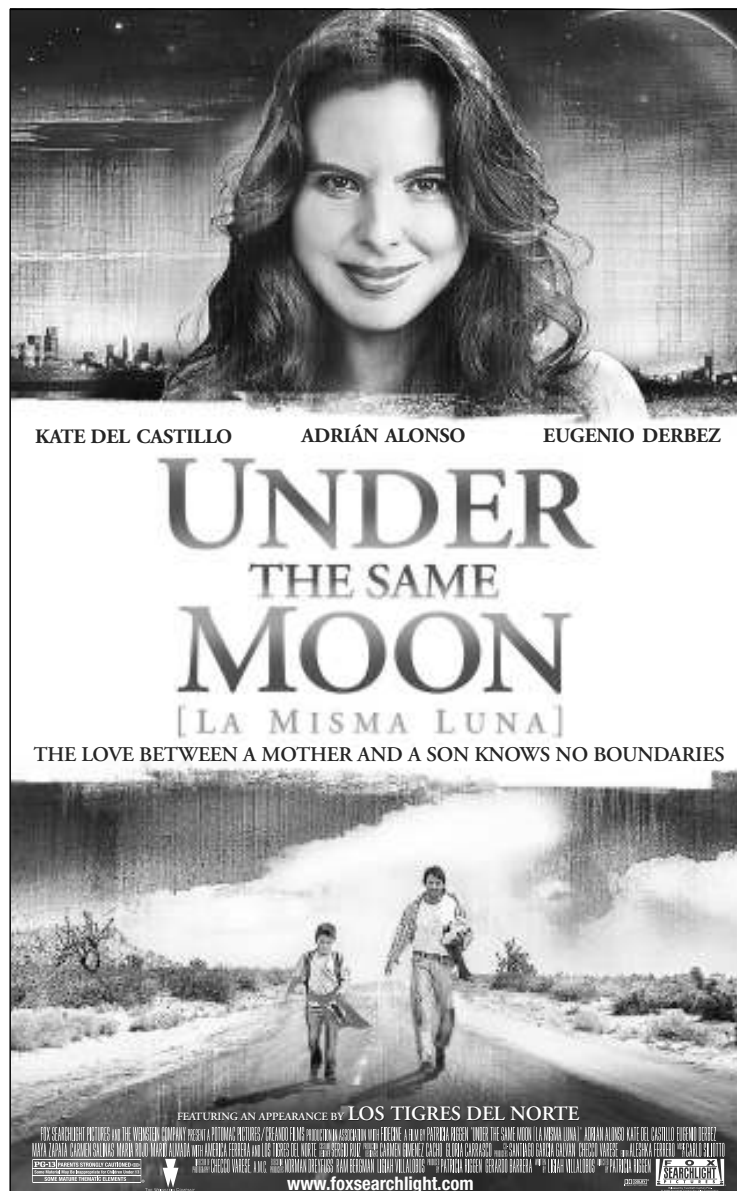
Funny Games

ing background music (the Coens in *No Country for Old Men*, not to take anything away from their daring, did not originate the strategy), and, as a basic plot premise, a civilized family unit of husband, wife, and prepubescent son, suddenly unsettled in their contentment, shaken in their stability. We encounter them (Tim Roth,

Naomi Watts, and, well able to simulate terror when required, Devon Gearhart) on the road in their SUV, towing their sailboat, the parents playing a game of Name That Tune with their opera CDs, en route to their gated vacation home on the lake. The good life. While it lasted. The abrupt interruption of Handel on the car stereo

with the shrieking cacophony of John Zorn, as the blazing title fills screen, is a forecast and a fair summary of what's ahead.

Aside from that musical cue, the first sign of something amiss, when the wife rolls down the car window outside the gate next door, is the peculiar constraint of their neighbors,



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photographed only in unrevealing long shot, slow and tentative in their responses, seeming not to remember their previous plans together, unforthcoming with any introduction to the unknown young man in their company. The young man or his duplicate soon turns up on the doorstep of our central family, ostensibly on an

egg-borrowing mission, but in actuality getting a foot in the door for the Home Invasion of every property owner's nightmares. He and his look-alike confederate (Brady Corbet and Michael Pitt, identically coiffed with unruly over-the-eye locks of hair) do not come on strong, in *Clockwork Orange*-style or even *Desperate Hours*-

style; they come on sneaky, oddly dressed in co-ordinated white gloves and white-knit tops, but well-mannered and soft-spoken, like members of the Stanford tennis team.

The tension is probably most unbearable, and most "effective" in the way of a conventional thriller, before the good manners give way to violence, before the cards are laid on the table. Once they have tipped their hand, the situation becomes somewhat static and monotonous, an extended exercise in discomfort, as the twin sadists put their victims through hoops; and the tension, in consequence, moves more into areas of style and treatment: the tension between the invaders' increasing cruelty and their continuing mild manner; the tension between the victims' unreal and melodramatic predicament and their natural and life-like reaction to it; the tension between the crude thriller plot and the refinement of the presentation, the discreetly off-screen violence, the detached and clinical viewpoint, the fastidious visuals.

All of that unconventionality around the core of convention eats away at your confidence in the outcome. You perhaps get your first real

sinking feeling when one of the sadists turns his head to the camera and addresses you directly: "You're on their side, right?" Much later, nearing the end, when he "rewinds" the film, via TV remote, to undo a turn of events he doesn't like, you can feel you're really sunk. (Just exactly whose side is Haneke on?) And sure enough, the filmmaker's disclosed interest is not at all in simply plugging some novel variables into a tried-and-true formula, but instead, while toying with your expectations and hopes, forcing you to think about your "enjoyment" of such a formula, secure in your belief that everything will come out all right in the end. (Will that forgotten knife in the sailboat ever come into play? Did the 911 operator get the message over the water-damaged cellphone? "You want a real ending, right?" the same sadist addresses the camera a second time. "With plausible plot development?") This provocative, confrontational, and, yes, sadistic thriller has, as it proceeds, a lecturing quality about it, a hectoring quality, a scolding quality. Either way — as a generic suspense film or as a lecture on the genre — it is a punishing experience. A no-fun game. And it is difficult to shake off afterwards.

* * *

My scorecard for the first week-end of the San Diego Latino Film Festival: *El Viaje de la Nonna...* sí. (Spanish for thumbs up.) *El Camino de San Diego...* sí. *Llamando a un Ángel...* no. (Spanish for thumbs down.) *La Zona...* sí y no. (Hand flat, palm downward, fingers spread, slight tremor.) *Mariposa Negra...* sí. *El Violín...* sí sí. (Thumbs way up.) Six films, six sí's. Next weekend will be the last. ■

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 SDReader.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. ★ (GASLAMP 15; LA PALOMA; FROM 3/14)

The Band's Visit — To be specific, the Alexandria Police Ceremonial Orchestra, an octet costumed in robin's-egg blue, visiting Israel for the inauguration of an Arab Culture Center, but taking a wrong turn to a sound-alike destination in the middle of nowhere, spending a night, getting to know the locals and vice versa, bridging a cultural gulf. The blend of comedy and pathos, under the direction of Eran Kolirin, might call to mind the cinematic heyday of Italian humanism, albeit with more of an absurdist deadpan. Only three of the eight band members receive sufficient screen time to become individualized in the least — the priggish leader, his stifled assistant, an unruly rookie — and Sasson Gabai as the first of the three could stand alongside an Alberto Sordi or an Ugo Tognazzi (to place him in the company of comic-pathetic Italians), albeit with more reserve and decorum. Ronit Elkabetz, as his easygoing hostess, makes a lissomely sensuous foil. Imad Jabarin, Saleh Bakri, Khalifa Natour. 2007. ★★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)


The Bank Job — "Based on a true story," or anyway on a true bank job, the knock-over of Lloyds Bank, Baker Street, London, 1971. The filmmakers, headed by the veteran Australian-born director Roger Donaldson and screenwriters Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais, have taken advantage of the cloak of mystery that still surrounds the case, to concoct a salacious hypothesis that can't be disproved, other than by common sense. The British Secret Service, by this scenario, was the prime mover behind the raid, desirous of getting their hands on compromising pornographic photos of Princess Margaret — yes, Princess Margaret, cavorting with dark-skinned natives in the Caribbean — held in the safe-deposit box of a blackmailing Black Militant. But the way it goes down (as we say in the underworld), it is self-refuting. The notion that MI5, from a safe distance, and through a coerced middle-woman, would farm out the operation to an unknowing gang of petty criminals, novices at bank jobs, is ridiculous on the face of it. Ridiculous because of the high probability (assuming the novices could pull off the job in the first place) of its turning out exactly as it turns out on screen: the hot photos ending up in unpredictable hands. If a team of filmmakers can't find a true story that's any truer than this, they need to keep looking. Or

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118 San Diego Reader March 13, 2008

better yet, start from scratch. The almost farcical complications, if taken with sufficient grains of salt, are diverting enough. And the Seventies period has its pleasures, not just the usual haircuts, bellbottoms, plaids, etc., but all that forgotten Black Power stuff, and most particularly the rolled-back level of technology: a simple jackhammer, a concrete-penetrating blowtorch, some walkie-talkies, and an amateur ham radio that chances to pick up the back-and-forth between the robbers in mid-job. A refreshing change, all that, from the computer-age hocus-pocus of *Ocean's Eleven*, ...*Twelve*, ...*Thirteen*, and their ilk. Jason Statham, Saffron Burrows, Stephen Campbell Moore, James Faulkner. 2008.

★ (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 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)

Chicago 10 — Radical nostalgia for a time when anti-war sentiment was working itself up to “the Second American Revolution.” (A long way from the current sentiment against the war in Iraq.) The Democratic National Convention of 1968 and the subsequent trial of Abbie Hoffman, Jerry Rubin, Tom Hayden, Bobby Seale, et al., are recalled in archive footage and comic-bookish animated sequences, mostly in illustration of the court transcripts. (No present-day interviews or reportorial narration.) The story is well told and well worth retelling. With the voices of Mark Ruffalo, Liev Schreiber, Hank Azaria, Jeffrey Wright, Nick Nolte, and Roy Scheider; directed by Brett Morgen. 2008.

★★ (KEN, 3/14 THROUGH 20)

City of Men — Dead End Kids on Dead End Hill, high above the beaches of Rio, a boil-down of a Brazilian TV series. Any resemblance to *City of God* is not strictly incidental. (Fernando Meirelles, the director of that other *City*, worked as co-producer on this one, directed by Paulo Morelli.) The fashion-conscious photography, colored and textured appropriately for a jeans ad, is rather at cross-purposes with the Raw Reality. And the lackadaisical narrative, picking up steam in the latter stages with the outbreak of a turf war, but concentrating at all stages on a pair of pacifistic pals (Darlan Cunha and Douglas Silva, reprising their TV roles), heads inexorably toward a resolution that, one way or another, more tragically or less, can only be schmaltzy. 2007.

★ (LA JOLLA 12, FROM 3/14)

CJ7 — Hong Kong science-fiction comedy directed by and starring Stephen Chow of *Kung Fu Hustle*.
(HILLCREST CINEMAS, FROM 3/14)

The Counterfeiters — Stefan Ruzowitzky's Holocaust survival tale, loosely based on fact, tells how "the world's best counterfeiter" (the long, long face of Karl Markovics) eases his existence in a Nazi concentration camp by suppressing his scruples and aiding the German war effort, speedily mastering the British pound, but then dilly-dallying over the U.S. dollar, theoretically affecting the outcome of the war. It is a passably interesting tale to tell, a new path through old territory, but the interest is rather in the tale than in the telling. At any number of stopping points along the path, the sights are liable to seem all too familiar (the bullet in the head, etc.), never mind the refreshing route that led there. And the coarse, raw, desaturated image, whether a chosen cliché or an imposed hardship, is at no point much to look at, a harsh thing to say about a motion picture. 2007.

★★ (FLOWER HILL 4, FROM 3/14; LA JOLLA VIL-LAGE)

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.

★ (GASLAMP 15, FROM 3/14)

Doomsday — Futuristic action film starring Rhona Mitra, written and directed by Neil Marshall.
(CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; POWAY 10; TOWN SQUARE 14; FROM 3/14)

Fool's Gold — Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson fight to out-cute one another, and out-bronze one another, as a still-in-love divorced couple on a Caribbean treasure hunt, in competition with a murderous rapper. Some of the brutality is truly brutal; none of the humor is humorous. With Donald Sutherland, Ray Winstone, Alexis Dziena, Ewen Bremner, and Kevin Hart; directed by Andy Tennant. 2008.

● (FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; MISSION VALLEY 20; SANTEE DRIVE IN)

4 Months, 3 Weeks, and 2 Days — Romanian filmmaker Cristian Mungiu details a squalid quest for an illegal abortion in the final years of the Ceausescu regime, and discloses, in passing, a good deal about a way of life, and in particular about the foundation stone of the black market. Altogether 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 Kiarostami, the Belgian Dardenne brothers, among others. Boiled down to a basic checklist: a 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 (a resultant greeny-gray overcast); 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. 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, unflinchingly 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. Al-

though the film, like *Vera Drake* a few years earlier, 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. Anamaria Marinca, Laura Vasiliu. 2007.

★★★ (GASLAMP 15, FROM 3/14; LA JOLLA VIL-
LAGE)

Funny Games — Reviewed this issue.

With Naomi Watts, Tim Roth, Michael Pitt, Brady Corbet, and Devon Gearhart; written and directed by Michael Haneke.

★★★ (FLOWER HILL 4; HILLCREST CINEMAS;
LA JOLLA 12; FROM 3/14)

Horton Hears a Who! — Computer-animated Dr. Seuss story, with the voices of

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- Ty Burr, The Boston Globe

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UltraStar FLOWERHILL 1-5 of
Via De La Valle 858/646-9429

Reading Cinemas GROSSMONT
CENTER STADIUM 10
Grossmont Shopping Center
619/465-7100 #069

United Artists HORTON PLAZA
475 Horton Plaza
800/FANDANGO #519

Landmark Theatres LA JOLLA
VILLAGE 4 8879 Villa La Jolla Dr
619/819-0236

Krikorian METROPLEX AT VISTA VILLAGE
Vista Village Dr Exit off Hwy 78
760/945-SHOW

Edwards Theatres MIRA MESA STADIUM 18
West of I-15 on Mira Mesa Blvd
800/FANDANGO #160

AMC MISSION VALLEY 20
1-8 Exit Mission Center Rd
858/558-2AMC

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AND SHOWTIMES

Edwards Theatres SAN MARCOS STADIUM 18
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800/FANDANGO #161

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-Rex Reed, THE NEW YORK OBSERVER

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-Gene Seymour, NEWSDAY



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Calendar MOVIES

Jim Carrey and Steve Carell, directed by Jimmy Howard and Steve Martino.

(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; FROM 3/14)

● (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24)

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

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 estab-

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-A.O. SCOTT, THE NEW YORK TIMES

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-A.O. Scott, THE NEW YORK TIMES

"A VERY FINE AND CURIOUSLY MOVING FILM."

-Richard Corliss, TIME MAGAZINE

"ORIGINAL, ACCOMPLISHED."

-Lisa Schwarzbaum, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

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-Jack Mathews, NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

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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. ★★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; PALM PROMENADE 24; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Married Life — Tepid adaptation of a classic John Bingham thriller, *Five Rounds about to Heaven*, moved to America, but kept in the post-WWII period, and instilled with a modern condescension to the past, along with a modern irony, drollery, jadedness. The casting and playing of Pierce Brosnan and Chris Cooper tip off the plot developments well ahead of time. With Rachel McAdams and Patricia Clarkson; directed by Ira Sachs. 2008. ★ (LA JOLLA VILLAGE, FROM 3/14)

Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day — Stagy farce under the shadow of approaching war in the London of the Thirties. An unemployed and all but unemployable governess stumbles, through a chance of mistaken identity, into the temp job of social secretary for a visiting American chanteuse. The underemployed Frances McDormand seems a little miscast in the title role, which is to say, for one thing, that her British accent is not up to her Minnesotan in *Fargo*. The cranked-up players all around her try and try to keep pace with the despotic big-band beat on the soundtrack. And fail and fail. Amy Adams, Mark Strong, Lee Pace, Shirley Henderson, Ciarán Hinds; directed by Bharat Nalluri. 2008. ● (FLOWER HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; SAN MARCOS 18; VISTA VILLAGE)

Never Back Down — A teenage Tom Cruise impersonator (Sean Faris) risks his pretty face in after-school Mixed Martial Arts, a self-labelled "quick learner" looking for retribution against the class bully. The filmmakers show their interest by continually changing the level of color saturation as if fiddling with the settings on a TV remote. With Amber Heard, Cam Gigandet, and Djimon Hounsou; directed by Jeff Wadlow. 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 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN

MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Bargain showtimes are in parentheses.

CENTRAL

CLAIREMONT

Town Square 14

4665 Clairemont Drive (858-274-1234)

The Bank Job (R); **College Road Trip** (G); **Doomsday** (R); **Horton Hears a Who!** (G); **Juno** (PG-13); **Never Back Down** (PG-13); **No Country for Old Men** (R); **The Other Boleyn Girl** (PG-13); **Semi-Pro** (R); **The Spiderwick Chronicles** (PG); **10,000 B.C.** (PG-13); **Vantage Point** (PG-13)

DOWNTOWN

Gaslamp 15

701 Fifth Avenue (619-232-0400)

Atonement (R); **Be Kind Rewind** (PG-13); **The Bucket List** (PG-13); **Diary of the Dead** (R); **Fool's Gold** (PG-13); **4 Months, 3 Weeks, and 2 Days** (Not Rated); **Into the Wild** (R); **La Vie en Rose** (PG-13); **Michael Clayton** (R); **The Other Boleyn Girl** (PG-13); **The Spiderwick Chronicles** (PG); **Taxi to the Dark Side** (R); **There Will Be Blood** (R)

Horton Plaza 14

Horton Plaza (619-444-FILM)

The Bank Job (R) Fri. (11:00, 1:30, 4:10) 7:10, 9:45 Sat.-Sun. (11:00, 1:30) 4:10, 7:10, 9:45; **College Road Trip** (G) Fri. (10:45, 1:00, 3:05, 5:10) 7:35, 9:50 Sat.-Sun. (10:45, 1:00, 3:05) 5:10, 7:35, 9:50; **Doomsday** (R) Fri. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30) 8:00, 10:30 Sat.-Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30; **Horton Hears a Who** (G) Fri. (9:35, 11:30, 12:00, 1:55, 2:25, 4:20, 4:50) 6:45, 7:15, 9:10, 9:40 Sat.-Sun. (9:35, 11:30, 12:00, 1:55, 2:25) 4:20, 4:50, 6:45, 7:15, 9:10, 9:40; **Jumper** (PG-13) Fri. (10:40, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20) 7:30, 9:55 Sat.-Sun. (10:40, 12:50, 3:05) 5:20, 7:30, 9:55; **Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day** (PG-13) Fri. (10:05, 12:20, 2:35, 5:00) 7:20, 9:35 Sat.-Sun. (10:05, 12:20, 2:35) 5:00, 7:20, 9:35; **Never Back Down** (PG-13) Fri. (10:30, 1:10, 4:05) 7:25, 10:00 Sat.-Sun. (10:30, 1:10) 4:05, 7:25, 10:00; **Semi-Pro** (R) Fri. (10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55) 7:05, 9:15 Sat.-Sun. (10:10, 12:25, 2:40) 4:55, 7:05, 9:15; **10,000 B.C.** (PG-13) Fri. (10:15, 11:15, 12:45, 1:45, 3:15, 4:30, 5:45) 7:00, 8:15, 9:30, 10:45 Fri. (9:45, 12:15, 2:45, 5:15) 7:45, 10:15 Sat. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 4:30, 5:45, 7:00, 8:15, 9:30, 10:45 Sat.-Sun. (9:45, 12:15, 2:45) 5:15, 7:45, 10:15 Sun. (10:15, 11:15, 12:45); **The Orphanage** (R) Fri. (10:20, 12:40, 3:10, 5:35) 7:55, 10:20 Sat.-Sun. (10:20, 12:40, 3:10) 5:35, 7:55, 10:20; **Vantage Point** (PG-13) Fri. (11:05, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40) 7:50, 10:05 Sat.-Sun. (11:05, 1:20, 3:30) 5:40, 7:50, 10:05

LA JOLLA

La Jolla 12

8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (858-558-2262)

Call theater for program information

La Jolla Village

8879 Villa La Jolla Drive (619-819-0236)

4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days (NR) Fri.-Sun. 1:50, 7:00; **Married Life** (PG-13) Fri. 2:20, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00 Sat.-Sun. 11:40, 2:20, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00; **Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day** (PG-13) Fri. 2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50 Sat.-Sun. 11:30, 2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50; **No Country for Old Men** (R) Fri. 4:20, 9:30 Sat.-Sun. 11:10, 4:20, 9:30; **The Counterfeiters** (NR) Fri. 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40 Sat.-Sun. 11:20, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40

MIRA MESA

Mira Mesa 18

10733 Westview Parkway (858-635-7700)

Call theater for program information

MISSION VALLEY

Fashion Valley 18

7037 Friars Road (858-558-2262)

The Bank Job (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:10) 1:55, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10; **The Bucket List** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:45; **College Road Trip** (G) Fri.-Sun. (10:30) 12:35, 2:55, 5:05, 7:20, 9:35; **Definitely, Maybe** (PG-13) Fri. (10:55) 1:50, 4:45, 7:35, 10:25 Sat. (10:20) 4:45, 7:35, 10:25 Sun. (10:55) 1:50, 4:45, 7:35, 10:25; **Doomsday** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:00) 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 10:05; **Horton Hears a Who** (G) Fri. 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50 Fri. (11:45) 12:30, 2:05, 2:50, 4:25, 5:10, 6:45, 7:30, 9:05, 9:50 Sun. (10:15) 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30; **Fool's Gold** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:30) 9:55; **Jumper** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 12:20, 2:45, 5:15, 7:40, 10:15; **Never Back Down** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:35) 1:10, 3:55, 6:40, 9:30; **The Other Boleyn Girl** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:40) 1:25,

4:20, 7:10, 10:00; **Semi-Pro** (R) Fri.-Sun. 1:15, 3:35, 6:00, 8:20, 10:45; **The Spiderwick Chronicles** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:15) 2:00, 4:35, 7:05, 9:40; **Step Up 2 the Streets** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 5:20, 10:35; **10,000 B.C.** (PG-13) Fri. (10:45, 11:30) 1:30, 2:15, 4:15, 5:00, 7:00, 7:45, 9:45, 10:30 Sat. (10:45) 1:30, 2:20, 4:15, 5:00, 7:00, 7:45, 9:45, 10:30 Sun. (10:45, 11:30) 1:30, 2:15, 4:15, 5:00, 7:00, 7:45, 9:45, 10:30; **27 Dresses** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:40) 2:30, 7:50; **Vantage Point** (PG-13) Fri. 12:40, 3:00, 5:30, 8:05, 10:40 Sat. 1:05, 3:05, 5:30, 8:05, 10:40 Sun. 12:40, 3:00, 5:30, 8:05, 10:40

Mission Valley 7

7510 Hazard Center Drive (619-685-2841)

Horton Hears a Who (G) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 Sun. (10:00, 12:15, 2:45) 5:00, 7:30; **10,000 B.C.** (PG-13) Fri. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 Sat. (12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00; **Vantage Point** (PG-13) Fri. (10:15, 12:30, 3:30) 5:45, 8:15, 10:30 Sat. (12:30, 3:30) 5:45, 8:15, 10:30 Sun. (12:30, 3:30) 5:45, 8:15; **San Diego Latino Film Festival**

Mission Valley 20

1640 Camino Del Rio North (858-558-2262)

Call theater for program information

STATE UNIVERSITY

Ken

4061 Adams Avenue (619-819-0236)

Chicago (PG-13)

UPTOWN

Hillcrest Cinemas

3965 Fifth Avenue (619-819-0236)

CJ7 (PG) Fri. 2:30, 5:10, 7:40, 10:00 Sat.-Sun. 12:00, 2:30, 5:10, 7:40, 10:00; **Funny Games** (R) Fri. 2:00, 4:40, 7:10, 9:45 Sat.-Sun. 11:30, 2:00, 4:40, 7:10, 9:45; **In Bruges** (R) Fri. 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50 Sat.-Sun. 11:40, 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50; **Juno** (PG-13) Fri. 4:30, 9:40 Sat.-Sun. 11:20, 4:30, 9:40; **No Country for Old Men** (R) Fri.-Sun. 1:50, 7:00; **The Band's Visit** (PG-13) Fri. 2:20, 5:00, 7:30, 9:55 Sat.-Sun. 11:50, 2:20, 5:00, 7:30, 9:55

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center

1875 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-1233)

Dolphins (Not Rated) Fri. 1:00, 5:00, 9:00 Sat. 10:00, 1:00, 5:00, 7:00 Sun. 12:00, 1:00, 5:00; **Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk** (NR) Fri. 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 8:00 Sat. 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00 Sun. 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00; **Island of the Sharks** (Not Rated) Fri. 7:00p.m.; **Sea Monsters 3D: A Prehistoric Adventure** (NR) Fri. 3:00p.m. Sat.-Sun. 11:00, 3:00; **Yellowstone** (Not Rated) Fri. 6:00p.m.

San Diego Natural History Museum

1788 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-232-3821)

Ocean Oasis (Not Rated) Fri.-Sun. 10:00, 12:00; **Pompeii: The Last Day** (NR) Fri.-Sun. 11:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00

EAST COUNTY

EL CAJON

Parkway Plaza 18

405 Parkway Plaza (619-401-3456)

Call theater for program information

LA MESA

Grossmont Center 10

5500 Grossmont Center Drive (619-465-7100)

The Bank Job (R); **College Road Trip** (G); **Doomsday** (R); **Horton Hears a Who!** (G); **Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day** (PG-13); **The Other Boleyn Girl** (PG-13); **10,000 B.C.** (PG-13); **Vantage Point** (PG-13)

RANCHO SAN DIEGO

Rancho San Diego 15

2951 Jamacha Road

The Bank Job (R) Fri. (10:20, 2:00, 4:45) 7:40, 10:25 Sat.-Sun. (10:20, 2:00) 4:45, 7:40, 10:25; **Be Kind Rewind** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 12:35, 3:10) 7:10, 9:45; **College Road Trip** (G) Fri. (9:55, 12:10, 2:45, 5:00) 7:25, 9:30 Sat.-Sun. (9:55, 12:10, 2:45) 5:00, 7:25, 9:30; **Doomsday** (R) Fri. (10:15, 2:05, 4:40) 7:35, 10:20 Sat.-Sun. (10:15, 2:05) 4:40, 7:35, 10:20; **Horton Hears a Who** (G) Fri. (9:35, 10:05, 10:35, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:55, 2:25, 2:55, 3:25, 4:20, 4:50, 5:20) 5:50, 6:45, 7:15, 7:45, 8:15, 9:10, 9:40, 10:10, 10:40 Sat.-Sun. (9:35, 10:05, 10:35, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:55, 2:25, 2:55, 3:25) 4:20, 4:50, 5:20, 5:50; **Jumper** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:10, 12:30, 3:20) 7:30, 10:00; **Never Back Down** (PG-13) Fri. (10:25, 2:15, 4:55) 8:05, 10:45 Sat.-Sun. (10:25, 2:15) 4:55, 8:05, 10:45; **Semi-Pro** (R) Fri. (11:50, 2:10, 4:35) 7:50, 10:15 Sat.-Sun. (11:50, 2:10) 4:35, 7:50, 10:15; **The Spiderwick Chronicles** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (9:40, 12:20, 3:05)

6:50; **10,000 B.C.** (PG-13) Fri. (9:45, 11:40, 12:45, 2:35, 4:30, 5:10) 7:05, 7:55, 9:25, 9:50, 10:30 Sat.-Sun. (9:45, 11:40, 12:45, 2:35) 4:30, 5:10, 7:05, 7:55, 9:25, 9:50, 10:30; **Vantage Point** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:30, 12:55, 3:15) 7:00, 9:20

SANTEE

Santee Drive In

10990 Woodside Avenue (619-448-7447)

Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG); **Fool's Gold** (PG-13); **Horton Hears a Who!** (G); **10,000 B.C.** (PG-13)

SOUTH BAY

CHULA VISTA

Chula Vista 10

Broadway between H and I (619-338-4214)

The Bank Job (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:45, 2:15) 4:45, 7:15, 10:00; **College Road Trip** (G) Fri.-Sun. (11:15, 1:30, 3:45) 6:00, 8:00, 10:15; **Doomsday** (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:15, 12:45, 3:15) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45; **Horton Hears a Who** (G) Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 11:00, 12:15, 1:15, 2:30, 3:30) 5:00, 5:45, 7:15, 8:15, 9:45, 10:30; **Never Back Down** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:15, 1:00) 4:15, 7:30, 10:30; **Semi-Pro** (R) Fri.-Sun. (3:00) 7:45, 10:15; **The Spiderwick Chronicles** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:30, 12:45) 5:15; **Step Up 2 the Streets** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:15, 1:45, 4:00) 6:15, 8:30, 10:45; **10,000 B.C.** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 11:30, 12:30, 2:00, 3:00) 4:30, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:45

Rancho Del Rey 16

East H Street (619-216-4707)

Horton Hears a Who (G) Fri. (12:00, 2:25, 4:50) 7:15, 9:40 Sat.-Sun. (9:30, 12:00, 2:25) 4:50, 7:15, 9:40

Call theater for program information

Otay Ranch 12

Eastlake Parkway at Olympic (858-558-2262)

The Bank Job (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:35) 2:15, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15 Sun. 2:15, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15; **College Road Trip** (G) Fri.-Sun. (10:35) 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30; **Doomsday** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:45) 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 10:10; **Horton Hears a Who** (G) Fri.-Sun. (10:15, 11:00, 11:40) 12:35, 2:10, 3:00, 4:35, 5:35, 7:20, 9:35; **Jumper** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 7:55, 10:05; **Never Back Down** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:30) 2:05, 4:45, 7:50, 10:35; **The Other Boleyn Girl** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:20) 2:00, 4:40, 7:25, 10:00 Sun. 2:00, 4:40, 7:25, 10:00; **Semi-Pro** (R) Fri.-Sat. (10:40) 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50 Sun. 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50; **The Spiderwick Chronicles** (PG) Fri.-Sun. 12:10, 2:25, 4:50, 7:10; **Step Up 2 the Streets** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 9:25p.m.; **10,000 B.C.** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:30) 12:05, 2:40, 5:15, 7:00, 8:00, 9:45, 10:30; **Vantage Point** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 1:10, 3:25, 5:50, 8:05, 10:20

Palm Promenade 24

770 Denny Road (858-558-2262)

Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG); **The Bank Job** (R); **Be Kind Rewind** (PG-13); **College Road Trip** (G); **Doomsday** (R); **The Eye** (PG-13); **Horton Hears a Who!** (G); **Jumper** (PG-13); **Juno** (PG-13); **Never Back Down** (PG-13); **No Country for Old Men** (R); **Penelope** (PG-13); **Semi-Pro** (R); **The Spiderwick Chronicles** (PG); **Step Up 2 the Streets** (PG-13); **10,000 B.C.** (PG-13); **Vantage Point** (PG-13); **Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins** (PG-13)

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The Bank Job (R) Fri. (12:35, 4:30) 7:50, 10:35 Sat.-Sun. (12:35) 4:30, 7:50, 10:35; **College Road Trip** (G) Fri. (12:15, 2:30, 5:00) 7:25, 9:50 Sat.-Sun. (12:15, 2:30) 5:00, 7:25, 9:50; **Doomsday** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:50, 3:45) 7:30, 10:25; **Horton Hears a Who** (G) Fri. (12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:55, 2:25, 2:55, 3:25, 4:20,

4:50, 5:20) 5:50, 6:45, 7:15, 7:45, 8:15, 9:10, 9:40, 10:10, 10:40 Sat.-Sun. (9:35, 10:05, 10:35, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:55, 2:25, 2:55, 3:25) 4:20, 4:50, 5:20, 5:50, 6:45, 7:15, 7:45, 8:15, 9:; **Fool's Gold** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:05, 3:40) 7:35, 10:20; **Never Back Down** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:10, 3:05) 7:05, 9:55; **The Other Boleyn Girl** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:25, 3:15) 7:10, 10:05; **Semi-Pro** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:20, 2:50) 7:20, 10:30; **The Spiderwick Chronicles** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:45, 3:55) 6:50, 9:30; **Step Up 2 the Streets** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:55) 7:40; **10,000 B.C.** (PG-13) Fri. (12:40, 2:10, 3:35, 4:40) 6:55, 8:00, 9:45, 10:15, 10:45 Sat.-Sun. (11:00, 12:40, 2:10, 3:35) 4:40, 6:55, 8:00, 9:45, 10:15, 10:45; **Vantage Point** (PG-13) Fri. (1:05, 4:10) 7:00, 10:00 Sat.-Sun. (1:05) 4:10, 7:00, 10:00

FALLBROOK

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The Bank Job (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:30, 2:15) 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 Sun. (11:30, 2:15) 5:00, 7:30; **Horton Hears a Who** (G) Fri.-Sat. (11:00, 12:00, 1:15, 2:45, 3:30) 5:00, 6:00, 7:15, 8:15, 9:45, 10:30 Sun. (11:00, 12:00, 1:15, 2:45, 3:30) 5:00, 6:00, 7:15, 8:15; **Never Back Down** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:45, 2:30) 5:15, 7:45, 10:30 Sun. (11:45,

SEEN ON DVD



Weeds

JAMES VASQUEZ

Filmmaker-actor, Daisy 3 Pictures, [readyokmovie.com](#)

Paper Moon, shot in B&W, features an Oscar-winning performance by 11-year-old Tatum O’Neal. Director Peter Bogdanovich takes his time telling this funny father-daughter story, often with long static shots, highlighting the brilliant performances.

As a child of the ’80s and self-professed Ms. Pac-Man fanatic, the documentary *King of Kong: A Fistful of Quarters* (about the battle for the Donkey Kong world record) had me laughing, crying, and feeling nostalgic. As good, if not better, than a Christopher Guest mockumentary — only real!

Weeds is a brilliantly written Showtime series featuring outrageous twists and turns. Mary-Louise Parker gives what could be considered a master class in acting.

- PAPER MOON** (USA) 1973, Paramount
List price: \$12.98
- KING OF KONG: A FISTFUL OF QUARTERS** (USA) 2007, New Line
List price: \$27.98
- WEEDS** (USA) 2005, Lions Gate
List price: \$29.98 (two discs)



The Celebration

MARK HOLMES

Producer-editor, Daisy 3 Pictures, [daisy3pictures.com](#)

Session 9: Brad Anderson’s indie tale of ghosts, insanity, and mystery, takes place in an actual Victorian mental hospital abandoned in the 1980s. The hospital is one of the creepiest locations ever set to film. The spare yet menacing sound design has to be heard to be believed. Try watching it with headphones, alone, in the dark.

The Devil’s Backbone: Guillermo del Toro’s companion piece to his much wider known *Pan’s Labyrinth*. Also set in the Spanish Civil War, it tells the story of a little boy’s ghost through the eyes of children. For fans of traditional ghost stories that rely on what isn’t seen rather than shock and gore, this is a must-see.

The Celebration: This Danish film from the Dogme movement shows what can be achieved with a good location, a group of talented actors, and a tiny camcorder. For independent filmmakers, a true inspiration.

- SESSION 9** (USA) 2001, Universal
List price: \$14.98
- THE DEVIL’S BACKBONE** (Spain/Mexico) 2001, Sony Pictures
List price: \$14.94
- THE CELEBRATION** (Denmark) 1998, Universal
List price: \$14.98



Friends with Money

CARRIE PRESTON

Filmmaker/actor/executive producer, Daisy 3 Pictures

Nothing captures the heart of regional theater and all that it entails better than the Canadian import *Slings and Arrows*. The clever, beautifully studied insights into what goes into producing a Shakespeare play are funny and moving at the same time. And the way the themes of the Shakespeare plays echo the action of the characters in the series is truly inspired.

David Lynch’s *Mulholland Drive* is the best depiction of the devastation that Hollywood can inflict on actresses. It’s haunting, enticing, and unbearable all at the same time. A surreal, cautionary tale.

As a filmmaker, I’m inspired by all of Nicole Holofcener’s films, so I recommend *Friends with Money*. I’m inspired by how undaunted she is by dialogue, relationships, and complexity of character. She stands for the idea that movies don’t have to be loud, violent, and male-centric to be effective.

- SLINGS AND ARROWS: THE COMPLETE COLLECTION (CANADA)** 2003, Acorn Media
List price: \$59.99 (seven discs)
- MULHOLLAND DRIVE** (USA) 2001, Universal
List price: \$14.98
- FRIENDS WITH MONEY** (USA) 2006, Sony Pictures
List price: \$14.94

any background music. (The Coens’ regular composer, Carter Burwell, gets credited for the exit music.) Certainly a personal touch, a personal sense of humor, comes into the local-color cameos of gas-station attendant, motel clerk, hotel clerk, trailer-park manager, etc., etc. And perhaps a somewhat unseemly humor, or at least unseemly delight, comes into the characterization of the psychopathic killer, with his robotic delivery of lines, his torturous banter, his gimmicky weapon (a compressed-air tank for blowing locks out of doors and blowing holes in heads), and above all his Engelbert Humperdinck haircut *circa* 1972 (hair humor always being big with the Coens). Tommy Lee Jones, Javier Bardem, Josh Brolin, Kelly Macdonald, Woody Harrelson. 2007.

★★★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; PALM PROMENADE 24; TOWN SQUARE 14)

The Other Boleyn Girl — Another installment in the long-running royal soap opera. Think of it as *Elizabeth: The Genesis*, an hysterical-historical story of court intrigue, concentrating heavily, and heavily-breathingly, on bedroom intrigue, the sibling rivalry over the affections of Henry VIII. The “other” Boleyn girl, as she is self-described in the dialogue, turns out to be the one we know best, Anne, second wife of Henry, mother of Elizabeth (too peewee to be played here by Cate Blanchett), and famously cleaved at the neck. A saucy young lass, so bold as to use the word “thighs” in direct address to the King, she is also, in this telling (very different from *Anne of the Thousand Days*, with Genevieve Bujold), the “bad” Boleyn girl, despite the fact that she is the one who withholds her favors till after the wedding, a bit of leverage wielded with all the calculation of the classical *femme fatale*, the man-trap, the gold-digger, the home-wrecker, the bewitcher, enticing Henry (a brawny Eric Bana) to split not just with the sitting Queen but with the Pope in the bargain, and to situate himself at the head of the Church of England. The cool, porcelain Natalie Portman, looking like the snooty girl in the front row of freshman Physics, hardly seems at first glance to fill the bill, and in the final reckoning falls far short. (The “good” Boleyn girl, the lesser-known Mary, is the one who, while still a newlywed, has an earlier stint as the King’s mistress, although the pouty Scarlett Johansson makes plain that that was a position she never sought nor desired.) The creative team — TV director Justin Chadwick, screenwriter Peter Morgan (*The Queen*), original novelist Philippa Gregory, whoever else — more or less corroborate the Crown’s smear campaign against Anne, in effect endorsing her beheading, and standing in roughly the same relation to Henry as Fox News to George W. Bush. With Kristin Scott Thomas, Mark Rylance, David Morrissey, Jim Sturgess, and Ana Torrent. 2008.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Semi-Pro — Not half-funny. Will Ferrell joins his interest in the Seventies (*Anchor-man*) to his interest in sports (*Talladega Nights*, *Blades of Glory*, *Kicking and Screaming*) in a relentlessly hard-sell comedy on the final season of the American Basketball Association before its merger with the NBA. The name of the focal franchise, the Flint Tropics, tells you how far from the plausible the filmmakers will stray in pursuit of a laugh. (No, let’s not forget the Utah Jazz or the Los Angeles Lakers, but neither let’s forget they were transfers.) With Woody Harrelson, André Benjamin, and Maura Tierney; directed by Kent Alterman. 2008.

● (CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; 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; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

The Spiderwick Chronicles — An inherited Gothic monstrosity in the countryside, newly occupied by a fatherless family from the Big Apple, houses a secret chamber and a sealed book, never meant to be read, *Arthur Spiderwick’s Field Guide to the Fantastical World Around You*. The 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.

● (CHULA VISTA 10; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Taxi to the Dark Side — Documentarist Alex Gibney, director, writer, and narrator, takes as his starting point the death of an Afghan cab driver in U.S. detention at Bagram Air Field, and the fall guys are talking to him on camera. The path of investigation, from there, stretches out to Abu Ghraib (the familiar photos uncensored) and Guantanamo, and at no point along the way do we get any idea that the Americans have ever once incarcerated a certifiable terrorist in these places or extracted through interrogation an iota of useful information. Canned clips of Bush, Cheney, and Co., fan the flames of outrage. The filmmaker’s late father, an old-school Naval interrogator in WWII, appears on screen in the closing credits. 2007.

★ (GASLAMP 15, FROM 3/14)

10,000 B.C. — Prehistoric Low Camp. The archetypal Hero’s Journey, at its earliest starting point: the outcast of a mountain clan, who appear to wear bird droppings on their faces, wending his way past woolly mammoths, giant man-eating gobblers, a saber-toothed tiger, across the Sea of Sand to the Head of the Snake and the Mountain of the God, in pursuit of the Four-Legged Demons, to rescue his blue-eyed betrothed and lay claim to the tribal White Spear. A mild hoot, undisguisedly schlocky for all its CG technology. With Steven Strait, Camilla Belle, Cliff Curtis, and (narrator) Omar Sharif; directed by Roland Emmerich. 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)

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; 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)

DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 3/14)

No Country for Old Men — The Coen brothers’ first literary adaptation, from a Cormac McCarthy original, an overflowingly bloody pulp thriller, plumped up with folksy first-person social commentary in italics, about a Texas good ole boy who

stumbles upon the internecine scene of a drug deal gone bad, makes off with a satchel of cash, and tries to ditch the implacable hired killer (among others) on his trail. Sharing the writing credit as always and sharing the directing credit as they only began to do with *The Ladykillers*, the brothers were smart to cut down the social commentary — the Decline of Western Civi-

lization 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

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On the Brink

*“Do I present myself as a character actor...?
Do I play the Latina card?”*

In UCSD Theatre’s recent staging of *The Physicists*, Michelle Diaz played Sister Boll, a monobrowed, lock-stepping head nurse at a sanitarium. Diaz made bold physical choices, including reps of one-armed push-ups. Larry Herron played Johan Wilhelm Mobius, who’s either a psychotic channeling King Solomon or a genius physicist. Third-year students in the master of fine arts program, Diaz and Herron are among the most talented I’ve ever seen at UCSD. They graduate March 22. As I watched them and recalled their excellent earlier work, including roles in *The Deception* at La Jolla Playhouse last summer, I couldn’t help wondering: where do they go from here?

The answer: a leap into the unknown. “We’re in grad school,” says Herron, 27, “next to future engineers and scientists who will make a LOT of money, while we may have to work at Starbucks for months at a time, or other odd jobs, before landing a role. But that’s not terrible to me. I have no other choice. Acting’s the only thing I get this excited about.”

UCSD provides graduates with an interim step before the leap: The Showcase or, as it’s sometimes called in private, “March Madness in May.” Each year, the three nationally top-ranked MFA programs — Yale, NYU, and UCSD — perform twice in New York and twice in Los Angeles before casting directors, managers, theater, film, and TV people. UCSD has 35 minutes, total, to

highlight its ten graduating actors. The time limit includes scenes, two and a half to three minutes each, and scene changes.

Herron: “Three minutes to set a situation, move, show a ‘side’ of your ability, and move off. You fit all these qualities into this weird little capsule.”

Each actor has two scenes at the showcase. They should avoid the obvious material, done 100 times, and any used in previous showcases. “It’s a giant puzzle,” says Diaz, 31, “getting scenes for both actors that show what each can do. And there’s something else: some of us know people in the other programs — so okay, there’s a bit of a rivalry.”

Planning began last summer. The ten third-year MFAs, says Diaz, “read, read, watched movies, looked at scripts, at mountains of material” to find scenes that work best for any sort of pairing. In September they began meeting twice a week, three hours each time, to report findings (“this scene might be good for X or Y”). The “gathering” process, a real-life Rubik’s Cube of mixing and matching, is still ongoing.

“Showcase” is a misnomer. At best, actors can only show a “side” of their abilities in a scene, not their range. For Diaz and Herron, the question becomes, which side?

Diaz: “Do I present myself as a character actor? As someone who plays strong women? My last name is ethnic. Do I play the Latina card?

INTERVIEWS JEFF SMITH



Michelle Diaz



Larry Herron

But then what: comedic? dramatic? And once you’ve picked one scene, how do you choose the second? You can shoot yourself in the foot with the wrong material. It gets REAL complicated.”

An intangible: at the showcase, says Herron, many scouts will just be “shopping” for specific types — male or female ingénues, certain character traits — to put to work right away. For that reason, “Some UCSD faculty don’t like the showcase. It isn’t the culmination of our work for the last three years.”

And they have grown: when she auditioned for the MFA program, Diaz did a monologue “big and loud and danced a salsa through the whole thing”; two years later, she performed the same monologue sitting down and “dealing with the character through myself and not as a mask.”

Shortly before the graduation ceremony, third-year students will perform their scenes before UCSD faculty, not as finished products but for feedback. If one doesn’t work, they may scrap it, try another, and rehearse the final choices until

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Calendar THEATER

May. During the entire process, from last summer until the showcase, the students will have logged in as many hours as most take to write a master's thesis.

In April, as they rehearse, uncertainty will be ever-present: Have I chosen the best possible scenes? Will I do well in the showcase? Where will I live this summer?

The event itself adds more pressure. In New York, Herron and Diaz perform once in the afternoon, again in the evening. After the latter, they'll "probably hang out backstage" and wait for the scouts to submit their marked forms. These may request head shots and bios or — the major hope — a meeting. A stage manager for each program will collect the forms, put them into packets, and bring them to the awaiting actors. Some packets may be empty.

Herron and Diaz helped third-years set the stage at the two previous Los Angeles showcases. Watching some scouts was disillusioning, says Herron: "Guy sits there with a form to fill out. Actor walks on. Guy checks a box, *even before the scene starts!*"

The showcase may, or may not, be a springboard. In the past, some actors received no responses and are now working professionals. Others got several and have worked rarely since.

"A lot could be at stake," says Herron. "But once the showcase starts, you block it out. You've got a scene partner or partners. Commit to them. That's it. No choice."

Since all their preparation points to six minutes in May, it's hard for Herron and Diaz to look beyond. But asked to name roles that call to her from the

future, Diaz said Chekhov (Masha, Arkadina down the line) and Lorca; Herron: Walter Lee Younger in *A Raisin in the Sun* and Othello. For both, live theater is their first choice. But if offered three jobs at the showcase — one in theater, one in film, and one in TV — they wouldn't necessarily choose the stage.

"Right now? I'd take the highest-paying one," says Diaz. "I'd rather do theater for the art and the love, but I'm just coming out of grad school. I have student loans, bills to pay."

"It's idealism versus reality. My undergrad goal was travel the world — Prague, Berlin, Spain — doing edgy, movement-based theater. I went to New York and did a lot of that kind of work. And stumbled a lot too. But needs change. You have to be real. Consider your future, your family, health. But," she adds in a heartbeat, "I'm still making the leap."

Diaz, originally from Miami, is leaning toward Los Angeles. If she has more responses from New York, however, "then head back East."

"Most people find it easier to know what's going to happen every day," says Herron, a Michigander uncertain where he'll be come June. "And that's cool. We all need security. But an actor can't know what'll happen even in a rehearsal, say, when a glass breaks and you've got to work with *that*."

"Most of our training is trial and error — and failure — and learning from mistakes, while this culture is infected with avoiding failure as much as possible. But there's more to be learned when you give something a shot and it doesn't work. Many actors from MFA programs may not make the next step successfully. I may not, and that's all right. I'd rather take the leap and not make it than stand on the cliff and wonder." ■

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.

The American Plan

Richard Greenberg's written a fascinating character; Lili's an Ophelia who didn't commit suicide. Possibly influenced by her German-Jewish family's experiences during WWII, she projects the Holocaust onto the world (she's convinced her mother murdered her father, for example). Lili's cried "wolf" so many times she could utter the truth unvarnished and you'd only hear a howl. In an irony so broad it becomes predictable, Lili's right. Things aren't what they seem. Her domineering mother's two-, and possibly even three-faced; her beau, Nick, could be just a gold digger after her inheritance. Like most illusion-versus-reality dramas, the play works best when the positives and negatives balance. But it also suffers from a domino effect: once you realize that what you see's an illusion you can anticipate that those to come will bring disillusionment as well, and Act Two unfolds as expected, its fatalistic payoff lacking the punch of the first act's strong setup. As Lili, Kate Arrington handles the role's emotional non sequiturs and leaps of language (she even references Ophelia, at one point, when drawn to the lakeshore of Wilson Chin's appealing, albeit Astroturfed set). Patrick Zeller, Michael Kirby, and Sharon Hope do capable work, but Lili's overbearing, elitist mother Eva gets lost in Sandra Shipley's thick German-Jewish accent and programmed affectations. She's a Tyrant, capital T, and too strident, even in her calmer scenes. We watch the reality of imitative acting rather than the illusion of performance. OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 2 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M., 2:30 P.M., 7 P.M. TUESDAYS, 7 P.M. WEDNESDAYS, 7 P.M. THROUGH MARCH 30.



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As Bees in Honey Drown
Scripps Ranch Theatre stages Douglas Carter Beane's dark comedy about wannabes to celebrity drawn. Raylene J. Wall directed.
SCRIPPS RANCH THEATRE, 10455 POMERADO ROAD, SCRIPPS RANCH. 858-578-7728. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. THROUGH MARCH 15.

Black Coffee
The Coronado Playhouse stages Agatha Christie's mystery about the theft of a physicist's valuable formula. Christie's famous detective, Hercule Poirot, appeared for the first time in this 1930 play.
CORONADO PLAYHOUSE, 1835 STRAND WAY, CORONADO. 619-435-4856. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. THROUGH APRIL 13.

Bleacher Bums
OnStage Playhouse presents the popular "comedy in nine innings" about Chicago Cubs' bleacher fans as they root against the St. Louis Cardinals. Bruce Wilde directed.
ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE, 291 THIRD AVENUE, CHULA VISTA. 619-422-7787. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. THROUGH APRIL 5.

The Clean House
Victoria Petrovich's set — an elegant, creamy-white living room with faux marble floor — is so immaculate it's the kind of place people photo-shoot rather than inhabit. To the eyes of its owner, however, a workaholic surgeon named Lane, the joint's a sty. Worse, her Brazilian cleaning lady Mathilde refuses to work. She'd rather create a joke so perfect the hearer would die from laughter. "A good joke can clean out the insides," Mathilde says, and Sarah Ruhl's play scours static living and advocates life lived with the spontaneity of laughter. Using a hybrid style that combines farce, operatic aria, and Gabriel García Márquez's "magic realism," the play jumps to unexpected places (the Arctic Circle among them) and alliances. The San Diego Rep's opening-night performance was tentative in spots (the various epiphanies could be more epiphanic, for example, and the cast could worry less about making the magic credible and just enjoy making it; in others, it reached the laughter-like spontaneity Ruhl requires). Annie Hinton stands out as Lane's sister Virginia. She's got such an obsession for cleanliness when she saw European ruins she wondered why someone hadn't swept them away. Throughout Hinton's a riot. And, as it wends its de-constricting way, *Clean House* is a very, very funny play.
Worth a try.
SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN. 619-544-1000. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 2 P.M., 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M., 7 P.M. TUESDAYS, 7 P.M. WEDNESDAYS, 7 P.M. THROUGH MARCH 22.

Dancing at Lughnasa
Early in Brian Friel's memory drama, Maggie holds what might be a butterfly in her hands. Then she releases it so fast that young Michael doesn't see it fly. "Just one quick glimpse," she says, "that's all you ever get. And if you miss that..." When Michael asks what it was, Maggie changes tone. Nothing, she says; "It was all in your mind." *Dancing at Lughnasa* is Michael's attempt, years later, to remember the late summer of 1936, when the five Mundy sisters of poor Ballybeg village, county Donegal, were still together: when they got their first "wireless" radio, and when their Uncle Jack returned from Africa after 25 years of having gone native.

Michael knows what followed (circumstances tore the sisters apart, and they went their sad, separate ways). In Michael's memories of a "time when things changed too quickly" for his eyes, "atmosphere" will be more real than "incident." In effect, the play is Michael's attempt to do the impossible: to hold a by-gone butterfly in his hands. Though opening-night performances were a bit uneven, under Esther Emery's sensitive direction New Village Arts captured the play's atmosphere —

the intrusion of pagan energy into traditional stolidity: a combination of longing and partial release (Friel has been labeled the Irish Chekhov, and *Lughnasa's* his "five sisters"). Joshua Everett Johnson and Kristianne Kurner head the cast as Michael, the soft-spoken narrator, and as stern Kate, a schoolmarm at work and at home. Amanda Sitton gives Maggie, a love-smitten realist, all the emotional weather of a late-summer day. Many of the cast's most arresting moments, on Nick

Fouch's rustic, half-indoor/half-outdoor set, and wearing Mary Larson's beige, humble costumes, come in ensemble scenes, when each becomes a note in a complex score, now harmonic, now cacophonous.
Worth a try.
NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787 B STATE STREET, CARLSBAD. 760-433-3245. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 3 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. SUNDAYS, 7:30 P.M. THROUGH MARCH 30.

Hamlet: Blood in the Brain
San Diego State University's School of Theatre, Television, and Film presents Naomi Iizuka's "stream of communication," a modern version of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, set in the 1980s and fueled by "drug dealing and drive-bys."
EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE, SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY, 5500 CAMPANILE DRIVE, COLLEGE AREA. 619-594-6884. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. THROUGH MARCH 16.

Hello, Dolly!
Not by design, but Jerry Herman and Michael Stewart's musical hit Broadway when it was most needed. It 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



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evening, the woes of shaken spectators. Every character moves from hoarding (things and emotions) to spreading around, even Dolly, who's been clinging to her departed husband and a bygone past. Jeanne Reith's late-19th century costumes for Lamb's Players accentuate the constriction. 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 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 Horace Vandergelder's

curmudgeon-ness, David Cochran Heath scores as the parsimonious burgher from Yonkers. Lance Arthur Smith and real-life wife Colleen combine for the stirring "It Only Takes a Moment," the epicenter of the musical's shift from life battened down to sailing free. In a special cameo, Leonard Patten scat-sings Louis Armstrong's version of the — zap-adoop-mm — title song.
Worth a try.
LAMB'S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 ORANGE AVENUE, CORONADO. 619-437-0600. 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. THROUGH MARCH 22.

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. 760-806-7905. THURS-



A Shayna Maidel

DAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. THROUGH MARCH 16.

National Comedy Theatre

Improvisational comedy, making up funny stuff on the spot, is difficult enough. Years ago, however, Keith Johnstone thought it'd be more exciting if gone competitively. He got the idea from pro wrestling ("where Terrible Turks mangled defrocked priests while grannies waved their handbags"). National Comedy Theatre, an offshoot of Johnstone's TheatreSports (artistic director Gary Kramer says the two compare like "rugby and American football"), resembles an athletic event more than an im-

prove. 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. 619-295-4999. FRIDAYS, 7:30 P.M. FRIDAYS, 9:45 P.M. SATURDAYS, 7:30 P.M. SATURDAYS, 9:45 P.M. OPEN-ENDED RUN.

Oklahoma!

The Welk Resort Theatre stages Rodgers and Hammerstein's ageless musical about the opening of the Oklahoma territory and the blooming of love.
WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DRIVE, ESCONDIDO. 888-802-7469. 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. THROUGH APRIL 6.

Permanent Collection

Thomas Gibbons's drama actually improves after the curtain falls. It's based on Philadelphia art collector A.C. Barnes's eccentric foundation. When he died in 1990, Barnes

willed the works of predominately white Impressionist artists to Lincoln University, a largely African-American school. And he stipulated that the paintings be displayed just as he left them, permanently. In Gibbons's play, the new director, Sterling North, is an African-American. He finds eight priceless works of African art in storage and wants to put them in one of the foundation's 23 galleries. But the will won't allow it. Lawsuits, rancor, and racist attacks follow on all sides. The play, based more on ideas than characters, unfolds in predictable stages. But to his credit the playwright doesn't cut off the questions he raises. In fact, he opens them up: Who says what is, or isn't, art? What are the modern faces/masks of racism? How multicultural, in actual practice, is multiculturalism? Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company's opening night was stiff and unsteady, the actors often playing one emotion through an entire scene (happy, sad, angry). Even reliable Walter Murray, as the new president Sterling North, was shaky at first. But when North releases his rage in Act Two, Murray became compelling. Joe Powers plays the ghost of Barnes, here called Alfred Morris, as a deft cross between a rational human being and a bourbon-drenched infant (just what was Barnes thinking when he made his will? Did he want a posthumous clash?). David F. Weiner's excellent set's almost a work of art in itself. A Cezanne sits upstage center, flanked by black, see-through screens that reveal rooms and entryways. Lit nicely by Jason Bieber, the orderly set provides a stark contrast for emotional issues, which seem to grow after the final scene's done.

Worth a try.
TENTH AVENUE THEATRE, 930 TENTH AVENUE, DOWNTOWN. FRIDAYS, 7:30 P.M. SATURDAYS, 7:30 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. THROUGH MARCH 16.

Proof

Project Vanguard presents David Auburn's drama about a math whiz, allegedly mad, and his 25-year-old daughter. Which will she inherit: his condition or his genius?
WESTMINSTER THEATER, 3598 TALBOT STREET, POINT LOMA. 619-224-6263. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 7 P.M. THROUGH MARCH 16.

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. 619-846-6978. FRIDAYS, 7:45 P.M. SATURDAYS, 7:45 P.M. SATURDAYS, 9:45 P.M. OPEN-ENDED RUN.

The Seven

Will Power's hip-hop take on Aeschylus's *Seven Against Thebes* is a "remix," combining the original with a contemporary flip. Both



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worlds exist simultaneously. Thus Oedipus is the blind Theban and an “original gangsta” (a choice that lessens his *gravitas*). Oedipus curses his sons, Eteocles and Polynices, to war against each other. Will they break their 24/7 got-your-back loyalty? Will today’s youth break the cycle of violence? As the brothers, Benton Greene and Jamyl Dobson are outstanding. They move as if in two eras at once: the stylized ritual of Theban royalty and the free-flow of today (their epic single combat, choreographed by Bill T. Jones, also combines both). Most significant: they reach the emotional core of Aeschylus’s play: a hunger for hatred (in one of the production’s most arresting scenes, Eteocles imagines an endless chain of curses, beginning with the giant shadow of Oedipus’s father, Laius, choking his son, and down to today). Under Jo Bonney’s direction, *The Seven* moves at such a relentless pace it almost does a disservice to Power’s rich language and rocket rhymes. But information overload, which here includes dazzling onstage visuals and music, is part of a remix aesthetic. Like the DJ (Chinasa Ogbugagu) who flips an old recording of the play into a new form, you must find your way, connect when you can. If you go to *The Seven* with fixed notions of what

musicals must do, it will disappoint. A stately *Carousel* it isn’t. But if you bring a willingness to let it happen — to go where the play takes you — it could surprise. ***Worth a try.*** LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, 2910 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DRIVE, UCSD. 858-550-1010. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 2 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. SUNDAYS, 7 P.M. THROUGH MARCH 16.

A Shayna Maidel
A shayna maidel, in Yiddish, means “pretty girl.” And by that definition Luisa Weiss is anything but. Gaunt and doom-eyed, she’s a survivor of Hitler’s concentration camps. She lost her husband, mother, child, and closest friend. Words like “loss” and “devastation” aren’t strong enough for her plight. But *shayna* has other, more intrinsic meanings: it’s a spark or radiant light, a kindness, a sense of hope. Somehow Luisa has kept these qualities and, amazingly, is a *shayna maidel*. Barbara Lebow’s drama highlights the polar contrasts between Luisa and her sister and father, who fled Poland and have lived, comfortably, in New York. The play is quite moving (though slow to evolve and easy to anticipate). The best parts of the

capable North Coast Rep production often come between the lines, in eloquent silences when words, and even emotions, become inadequate to express the unthinkable. Jessica John excels as Luisa, who begins the play as barely an ember and gradually reignites. Ralph Elias does first-rate work as the father (does he fully comprehend the Holocaust? Does he suffer from paralyzing survivor guilt, deep denial?). Donning Jeanne Reith’s bright rose outfits, Christy Hall does a nice turn as the sister shielded from horror. Maya Baldwin, D. Candis Paule, and Christopher M. Williams provide valuable support. As does the design work by Marty Burnett (set), Matt Novotney (lighting), and Chris Luessmann (sound).

Worth a try. NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DRIVE, SOLANA BEACH. 858-481-1055. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 7 P.M. THROUGH MARCH 23.

tick...tick...BOOM!
Stone Soup Theatre company presents Jonathan (*Rent*) Larson’s autobiographical rock musical, in which a composer, on the brink of turning 30, worries about falling

into oblivion. Lindsey Gearhart directed. 619-287-3065. ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS, 4580-B ALVARADO CANYON ROAD, GRANTVILLE. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. SUNDAYS, 7 P.M. THROUGH MARCH 30.

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. 619-544-1664. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. OPEN-ENDED RUN.

You Never Can Tell
Moonlight Stage Productions presents George Bernard Shaw’s romantic comedy about two teenaged twins, their missing father, liberated mother, and a waiter who knows all the things “you never can tell.” Jason Heil directed. MOONLIGHT STAGE PRODUCTIONS, 615 EAST VISTA WAY, VISTA. 760-724-2110. THURSDAYS, 7:30 P.M. FRIDAYS, 7:30 P.M. SATURDAYS, 2 P.M. SATURDAYS, 7:30 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. THROUGH MARCH 23.

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MiraCosta College Theatre
One Barnard Dr., Oceanside
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Mira Mesa Theatre Guild
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Moonlight Stage Productions
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(760) 724-2110 www.moonlightstage.com

The Muse Theatre
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www.themuse theatre.com

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The Imperial House Restaurant
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National Comedy Theatre
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Pine Hills Lodge
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Point Loma Nazarene University
Salomon Theatre
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Poway Center For The Performing Arts
15498 Espola Rd., Poway
(858) 748-0505 www.powayarts.org

PowPAC, Poway’s Community Theater
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(858) 679-8085 www.powpac.org

Ramona MainStage Theatre
626 Main St., Ramona
(760) 789-7008

The Rehearsal Room
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San Diego Actors Theatre
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San Diego Junior Theatre
Casa Del Prado Theatre, Balboa Park
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San Diego Musical Theatre
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www.SDMT.org

San Diego Opera
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(619) 232-7636 www.sdogera.com

San Diego Repertory Theatre
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San Diego State University
Don Powell Theatre and Experimental Theater
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http://theatre.sdsu.edu/

San Diego Theatresports
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(619) 465-7469 www.improvise.net

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(858) 578-7728
www.scrippsranchtheatre.org

6th @ Penn Theater
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Vantage Theatre
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CORRECTIONAL DEPUTY PROBATION Officer I, County of San Diego Probation Department now hiring. Test Date: April 5, 2008, 8am. Montgomery Middle School, 2470 Ulric Street, San Diego 92111. Must be 21 years, good physical condition, no illicit drug usage. U.S. citizen or becoming a citizen. Pass criminal/personal background investigation. No felony convictions. High school diploma/GED. \$35,068-\$44,740/year. www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation. Jobline: 858-514-8558.

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DELI. Pearson Deli. Sandwich making, preparation and cleaning. Wage negotiable. Full or part time. Apply: 2435 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego 92106. 619-222-2234.

DEPUTY PROBATION OFFICER. County of San Diego Probation Department is now hiring. Test Date: April 26, 2008. Qualified applicants will be notified by mail of the time and location of the test. Applications must be submitted no later than 15 days prior to exam date. Qualifications: Bachelor's degree with experience. Must be 21 years, good physical condition, no illicit drug usage. U.S. citizen 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: 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: Saturday, March 15, 2008, 7:30am arrival, Rancho Buena Vista High School, 1601 Longhorn Drive, Vista CA 92083 or Wednesday, March 19, 2008, 12:30pm arrival, Sheriff's Administrative Center, 9621 Ridgehaven Court, San Diego CA 92123. Registration by e-mail or phone is required for the Ridgehaven test ONLY at: recruit@sdsheriff.org. Detention/Courts: \$39,796-\$61,608 annual salary, plus benefits. 18-year-olds eligible to apply! Deputy Sheriff: \$49,704-\$71,099 current annual salary, plus benefits. U.S. citizen or applied for citizenship; 20-1/2 years old. High school graduate or G.E.D. required. Bring valid photo ID. Valid California Driver's License prior to appointment. Effective oral and written communication in English. EOE. Additional test dates: www.joinSDSHERIFF.net. 858-974-2000.

DIAMOND GRADER. Will train. Nonprofit institute dedicated to gem and jewelry research and learning. Build a unique career in an expanding laboratory. Work with diamonds, microscopes and computers in laboratory production environment that emphasizes quality and

precision. Paid training. Full time, entry level. Starting pay \$12.69+/hour. Strong attention to detail, basic computer skills (Windows), ability to sit for long periods, use a microscope, grasp new information quickly. Medical, dental, vision, 401(k), pension plan, vacation/holiday pay, continuing education, more. Resume to lisette.esquer@adeccona.com. EOE. Drug-free environment. For appointment: 760-931-8182. www.adeccousa.com.

DIRECTOR, PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE. We are 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 are met or exceeded for all service divisions and operations. You would develop and implement audit tools, conduct random compliance audits, provide reports and review 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: 619-282-8211; 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.

DISC JOCKEY, MOBILE. Weddings, parties, dances. Need van/truck for transportation, great stage personality, music knowledge. Experience preferred. \$25/hour plus bonuses. Bilingual a plus. Music As You Like It, 619-223-5732.

DISPATCHER. 911 Emergency, San Diego County Sheriff's Department. Looking for a challenging career in Public Safety? Test Date: March 22, 2008. Sign-up begins 6:30am. 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. Full-and part-time positions available. Must be familiar with San Diego area. Experience preferred or will train quick learner! Apply in person at Xpress Shuttle, 1065 Bay Boulevard, Suite B, Chula Vista, CA 91911.

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. Fax resume: 858-677-5479; or apply in person: 6162 Nancy Ridge Drive, San Diego (92121). Drug-free work environment. License #791820.

DOG BRUSHER/BATHER 9am-5:30pm Wednesday-Saturday. Fun, busy environment. Experience helpful. Call 858-456-1552 or apply Wednesday-Saturday: 508 Nautilus Street, La Jolla, 92037.

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.

DRIVER: WHEELCHAIR VAN DRIVER. Knowledge of San Diego County required. Start training immediately! Bring clean H-6. MedFleet Ambulance, 8912 Troy Street, Spring Valley, 91977. 619-222-2244.

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. Back-

ground 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 currently insured. Call Wednesday and Friday, 8am-5pm, 858-279-3137 x243.

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. Transportation company seeking C-Class Drivers for fixed routes. Must have good driving record and clean background. For more information, please call 619-232-4199.

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/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.

DRIVERS: MORTUARY DRIVERS. Growing transportation company has full-and part-time openings for reliable employees. Good driving record, heavy lifting and clean background check required. No felonies, no misdemeanors. Healey, Scott & Bradt. Fax resume to 619-328-6911 or e-mail hsbttrans@aol.com.

DRIVING INSTRUCTOR. Great pay, great people. Join San Diego's best team! Become a hero; teach driving. Save lives! Up to \$20/hour with commission! 619-456-7177.

ELECTRICIAN JOURNEYMAN II. Knowledge of NEC and California State codes in wiring requirements. Knowledge and experience with industrial applications

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HOTEL

Housekeeping Supervisor needed!

Rancho Valencia Resort and Spa is looking for someone with good communication skills and extensive hotel housekeeping experience to help manage our housekeeping activities. Supervisors monitor housekeeping work and check furnishings, accessories and all details to make sure guest suites are ready for the guests' arrival. Supervisors must be able to assist with cleaning as needed to meet deadlines.

Qualified candidates may send résumé to:
hr@ranchovalencia.com

Or apply in person at:
5921 Valencia Circle, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067

No phone calls, please.



RANCHO
VALENCIA
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EOE/Drug-Free Workplace

Careers in Probation

Deputy Probation Officer

Minimum Qualifications

- 21 years old • Good physical condition • No illicit drug usage
- U.S. citizen or in process of becoming a citizen
- No felony convictions • Bachelor's degree with experience

Salary: \$50,752-\$61,672 annually
Safety Retirement-Sworn Officers 3% at age 50.
Bilingual men/women encouraged to apply.

Test date: April 26, 2008

Qualified applicants will be notified by mail of the date, time and location of the test. All applications must be submitted no later than 15 days prior to the exam date. Applications received after the 15th day will be scheduled for the following exam. Applications can be accessed on-line from the Job/Current Recruitments section of the County website at:

http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov
Jobline: 858-514-8558

San Diego Police Department

NOW HIRING POLICE OFFICERS

**Become One of America's Finest
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Over 100 career opportunities including nationally recognized SWAT, K-9, Air Support, Motor, Beach, Bike, Horse, Harbor and Investigative Teams.

Test Dates:

Sat., March 15, 2008 • 8:30 am

Balboa Park Club Ballroom
2150 West Pan American Road
& Presidents Way

Wed., March 19, 2008 • 6 pm

Balboa Park Club Ballroom
2150 West Pan American Road
& Presidents Way

Fri., March 21, 2008 • 8:30 am

Balboa Park Club Ballroom
2150 West Pan American Road
& Presidents Way



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information, call:
(619) 531-COPS
Or visit our website at:
www.sandiego.gov/police**

(installation/troubleshooting of plant/manufacturing equipment). Knowledge/experience with proper PPE and arc flash requirements (NFPA 70E). Must be Certified/Licensed Journeyman Electrician with 5 years experience, preferably in manufacturing/industrial environment. Up-to-date on applicable codes. (NEC and CA). Fax resume to KMS: 858-635-1009; apply: Koch Membrane Systems, 10054 Old Grove Road, San Diego, 92131. Email: mesteban@kochmembrane.com. Visit: www.kochmembrane.com. EOE. M/F/D/V.

ELECTRONIC ASSEMBLERS. Test Technicians, Machine Programmer (CNC), Machine Operator, Quality Assurance, Production Workers, Warehouse Manager and Mail Sorters. MDI offers paid holidays after 520 hours and vacation bonuses after 2000 hours. Apply at MDI Staffing: 858-277-5680.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS: Now hiring! Competitive pay, benefits available, flexible hours. MedFleet Ambulance, 8912 Troy Street, Spring Valley, CA 91977. 619-222-2244.

ENVIRONMENTAL Health/Safety Manager. Immediate opening for hands-on manager with minimum 5 years professional EH&S experience. Requires experience with industrial hygiene, respirator programs, ergonomics, injury/illness prevention programs. California environmental requirements for air/water, and California hazardous waste management. Must be technical and able to perform physical mechanical tasks to maintain water treatment, air discharge, and monitoring tasks. Requires formal occupational safety, industrial safety, industrial hygiene education. BS in associated discipline preferred. Supervises (2) positions. Fax resume to KMS: 858-635-1009; apply: Koch Membrane

Systems, 10054 Old Grove Road, San Diego, 92131. Email: mesteban@kochmembrane.com. Visit: www.kochmembrane.com. EOE. M/F/D/V.

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 CENTER. Independent Trainers wanted. Offer your clients the advantage of our fully equipped, centrally located training studio. Details: Ian, 858-569-9911; e-mail your information: tdgonzalez@mac.com.

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 the Democratic Party. Over 20 years in business. Paid training. Performance Bonuses. Medical, dental, 401(k). Full time or part time. Convenient location. Apply at Gordon & Schwenkmeyer: 9620 Chesapeake Drive, 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.

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The best training in the industry!
We are one of the TOP 10 Brokers in the state of California and a world-class financial institution that strives to meet and exceed the expectations of our customers.

We are seeking a few dynamic, motivated and goal-oriented professionals to become part of our winning team.

If you are looking for unlimited income potential and a fun work atmosphere, let us hire and train you to achieve the career you expect.

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KOCH MEMBRANE SYSTEMS



Koch Membrane Systems is seeking highly motivated, high-energy individuals who want to become active participants in the drive to be a world-class company. We are hiring for the following positions at our manufacturing plant located in Scripps Ranch.

Manufacturing Engineer

Immediate opening for a qualified Engineer with past experience in manufacturing or process engineering. Project management and PLC/computer-controlled process a plus. Must be able to identify and implement new and/or improved equipment for membrane and spiral element processes, improve process throughout, and reduce costs.

Environmental Health & Safety Manager

Immediate opening for a hands-on Manager with a minimum of 5 years of professional EH&S experience. Must have experience with industrial hygiene, respirator programs, ergonomics, injury and illness prevention programs, California environmental requirements for air and water, and California hazardous waste management. Must be technically skilled and able to perform physical mechanical tasks to maintain water treatment, air discharge, and monitoring tasks. Must have formal occupational safety, industrial safety, industrial hygiene training and/or education; BS in associated discipline preferred. Supervises 2 positions.

Journeyman Electrician II

Must have knowledge of NEC and California state codes on wiring requirements, knowledge and experience with industrial applications (installation and troubleshooting of plant and manufacturing equipment), knowledge and experience with proper PPE and arc flash requirements (NFPA 70E). Must be a Certified/Licensed Journeyman Electrician with 5 years of experience, preferably in a manufacturing/industrial environment, and be up to date on applicable codes (NEC and CA).

Journeyman Electrician

Must have knowledge of NEC and California state codes on wiring requirements, experience troubleshooting and correcting PLC/controls issues, experience in developing, specifying and installing new/upgraded PLC/process controls. Must be a Certified/Licensed Journeyman Electrician with 3 years of experience, preferably in a manufacturing/industrial environment with experience specifying and installing PLC and other process control equipment.

PRODUCTION

\$500 Starting Bonus for Production Workers!

Machine Operator/Castor/Coater (3-4-4-3 shifts)

Immediate openings for experienced Machine Operators in our Membrane Manufacturing Department. Major duties include setting up and monitoring machine for coating and/or casting membranes; transferring and monitoring chemicals and making adjustments as needed; taking samples of membrane and chemicals; keeping complete and accurate records and logs of readings; changing rolls of fabric as necessary; draining, cleaning, and refilling chemical troughs as necessary.

Packagers, Preppers, Wet Testers, Brine Sealers, Rollers (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Shifts)

Candidates should have good math skills, be able to lift 40 lbs., and be willing to stand all day. Must have 1 year of previous manufacturing experience. These will initially be payrolled through an agency during an introductory period.

Koch Membrane Systems offers an excellent benefits package including a matching 401(k) plan. Please fax résumé to KMS at: **858-635-1009**, fill out an application at: 10054 Old Grove Road, San Diego, CA 92131, or e-mail: **mesteban@kochmembrane.com**
For more information about the company, please visit our website: **www.kochmembrane.com**

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Positions throughout San Diego County, North County and Temecula.
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SAN MARCOS (92078) • 760-591-3733 • 365 S. Rancho Santa Fe Rd., Ste. 202
TEMECULA (92590) • 951-676-3954 • 28991 Old Town Front St., Ste. 206

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SHERIFF'S DISPATCHER

No experience necessary.

Compensation:

\$17.60/hour – Entry Level

\$21.19 to \$25.76/hour – Lateral Entry

Plus medical, dental, vision, life insurance
and retirement

TEST DATE:

March 22, 2008

Sign-up begins at 6:30 am on each test date.

Where: San Diego County Operations Center

Entrance at corner of Complex Street & Topaz Way,
San Diego (Kearny Mesa area)

First come, first served. Seating is limited. Arrive early.

Bring valid picture ID.

Qualified individuals must:

- Be at least 18 years old • Be proficient in English
- Pass computer-based performance test
- Pass background & medical checks

Jobline: 858-565-5566

Website: www.sd911.com

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**“My best week since joining the program is \$17,000.”
– Anne, Single Mom, WA**

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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.

GROCERY/NATURAL FOODS. Now hiring! Demo Clerk (Del Mar) and Vitamin Specialist (4S Ranch). Great environment, competitive pay, bonus and benefits. Jimbo's Naturally! 12853 El Camino Real, Del Mar. Fax 858-793-7732. hr@jimbos.com. www.jimbos.com.

GROUP FITNESS INSTRUCTORS: Corporate, Luxury and Residential exercise environments. Locations all over San Diego. All types of classes, all days and times. A.M. STEP class and SPIN instructors especially needed now. Certification and experience required. E-mail: FitX@fixsandiego.com. Please fax resume to 858-715-8681. Call 858-715-8611.

GUARDS/SECURITY. Join the #1 Security Team where people make the difference. Call Securitas, the largest, most respected security company in the world! Countywide positions available. Free Guard Card training. Medical/dental/vision and 401(k), excellent working environment, free uniforms. For fastest response, apply online now! www.securitasjobs.com. Thank you for applying online! Or call San Diego: 619-641-0049; San Marcos (North County): 760-591-3733; Temecula: 951-676-3954. EOE/M/F/V/D, drug free. PPO #14827.

HAIR DESIGNERS. Busy Gaslamp salon seeking booth renters. Walk-ins available! Great urban loft environment, convenient parking. Move-in incentives. 619-231-7588.

HAIRDRESSER/MANICURIST needed for salon in Hillcrest. Full time or part time. Booth rental only. Free parking. Call Judy, 619-291-1190.

HAIRSTYLIST. Lower your expenses! La Jolla/UTC. Relaxed, established easy-going salon seeks weekly booth renters: \$200/week. Call Paul Gerard Hair Salon, 858-625-0555.

HAIRSTYLIST/ESTHETICIAN wanted for beautiful, shabby chic beach salon in Encinitas. Booth rent available. Must have clientele. Call Lisa at 760-828-7652.

HAIRSTYLIST for high-traffic, full-service Aveda Lifestyle salon. Salary plus commission. Extensive advanced education.

Call Allen at 858-457-3334 or fax 619-697-9571.

HAIRSTYLISTS. Benefits, reasonable rent. Upscale European-style Uptown salon now hiring experienced Stylists with own clientele. Can retail own products. Ample parking. Good, natural lighting! Antoine, Salon Antoine, 619-277-7747 or 619-291-7747.

HAIRSTYLISTS. Booths available in upscale UTC salon. Easy going, comfortable environment, plenty parking. 15 close. First month free/transition. Come see Salon Nobel. Gaby: 858-922-3787.

HAIRSTYLISTS/MANAGER. Color, cuts, texturizing, waxing... you can do it all. We're looking for skilled Hairstylists motivated to make money and have fun at the same time. Mira Mesa and UTC areas. Call 858-344-2332.

HAIRSTYLISTS needed for a hip, new salon. No clientele needed! Walk-in clients available. Will train. We need you now. Great benefits package includes health insurance. 858-380-5882.

HAND FINISHERS to \$13/hour. El Cajon, 1st and 2nd shifts. Production Specialists to \$12/hour; Tig Welders to \$20/hour. Temp-to-hire. Apply: www.atworkstaffing.com, 619-234-WORK (9675).

HEALTHCARE, Caregivers, Homemakers, HHAs, CNAs, and Personal Assistants. Competitive/weekly pay, flexible hours, training opportunities! Apply weekdays, 8am-3pm: Right at Home 858-451-5762; 16486 Bernard Center Drive #124, San Diego, CA 92128. www.rahencinitas.com.

HEALTHCARE: MEDICATION GIVER, part time. Must be available weekends. Will train. Benefits available. Apply in person at Sunrise Assisted Living At La Costa (license #374601134), 7020 Manzanita Street, Carlsbad, CA 92011. 760-930-0060.

HEALTHCARE: RNs, LVNs, AIDES. Join La Jolla Nurses! Looking for Home Health Aides, ongoing assignments. Also per diem work—you pick the days, hours and shifts! Competitive pay rates, excellent work assignments. Employee-owned agency—you receive shares of company stock free! State-licensed home health agency. Medical, dental and vision benefits; 401(k) plan, referral bonus. La Jolla Nurses HomeCare, 858-454-9339.

HEALTHCARE: Palomar Pomerado Health is hiring! Skilled Nursing Facilities: Certified Nursing Assistants and Licensed Vocational Nurses. General Services: Cooks, Food Service Workers, Nutrition Care Assistants, Environmental Service Workers, and Security Officer. Home Health: LVN, Home Health Aides, CNA/ Personal Care Assistants, Homemaker/ Companion/Sitter. For consideration, please apply online: www.pph.org or apply in person, Monday-Friday, 7:30am-4:30pm at Palomar Medical Center, Human Resources: 660 East Grand Avenue, Escondido, 92025 or Pomerado Hospital, Human Resources: 15615 Pomerado Road, Poway, 92064.

HOME HEALTH CAREGIVERS/Personal Assistants/CNAs. Competitive/weekly pay, flexible schedules, training opportunities. Apply weekdays, 8am-3pm: Right at Home 858-451-5762; 16486 Bernard Center Drive #124, San Diego (92128). www.rahencinitas.com.

HOME HEALTHCARE/CNAs/HHAs. Competitive pay, flexible schedules, paid weekly, training for caring, compassionate, dependable people with personal transportation. Apply weekdays: 9am-4pm. Right at Home, 8369 Vickers Street #203, San Diego CA 92111. www.rahlajolla.com. 858-277-5900.

HOSPITALITY JOB FAIR: Find a job! Build a career! SDSU Hospitality Job Fair and Career Expo 2008. Free admission, seminars and workshops! Wednesday, 4/23, 10am-2:30pm. San Diego State University Centennial Walkway. For more information, direction and to register, visit www.jobfairsandiego.com.

HOTEL CHEF AND HOUSEKEEPER. Both part-time, minimum 2-years' experience. Chef: made-to-order breakfasts Saturday-Monday 6:30-10:30am. Housekeeper: at least two days/week 8am-4pm. Downtown. Jason, 619-230-1991, jason@brittscripps.com.

HOTEL HOUSEKEEPING SUPERVISOR. Rancho Valencia Resort. Good communication skills, extensive hotel housekeeping experience. Send resume to hr@ranchovalencia.com. Or apply in person at 5921 Valencia Circle, Rancho Santa Fe CA 92067. No phone calls please. EOE/Drug-free workplace.

HOTEL. Engineer for Doubletree Del Mar. Contact 858-481-5900 or in person: 11915 El Camino Real, Del Mar.

HOTEL. Front Desk Agents for Doubletree Del Mar. Contact 858-481-5900 or in person: 11915 El Camino Real, Del Mar.

HOTEL. Housekeeping for Doubletree Del Mar. Contact 858-481-5900 or in person: 11915 El Camino Real, Del Mar.

HOTEL: Find a job! Build a career! SDSU Hospitality Job Fair and Career Expo 2008. Free admission, seminars and workshops! Wednesday, 4/23, 10am-2:30pm. San Diego State University Centennial Walkway. For more information, direction and to register, visit www.jobfairsandiego.com.

HOUSECLEANING. Weekly pay. Paid mileage. Merry Maids offers flexible hours. No nights, weekends, holidays. Work in teams. Insured car required. Must speak English. South Coast/all south areas only. 619-336-1612; 619-226-2621.

HOUSEKEEPER. High-end. 10,000 square-foot private estate. Live out. Vacuum/windows/laundry/ironing/antiques. High school diploma. Organized, follow directions. Resume/salary history: executivehousekeeping@live.com. Fax: 702-642-8713.

HOUSEKEEPERS. Immediate openings! Part time and full time. Earn up to \$462 weekly after 5 weeks full time plus tips. Paid weekly. Must have car and phone. Call today, start tomorrow! WorkWithDanas@aol.com. Dana's Housekeeping Personnel Service. 619-298-6110.

HVAC TECHNICIAN. ARS of San Diego is seeking career-minded HVAC Technician with minimum three years experience. If you like the idea of working for a national leader in the service industry, with benefits that rival the the industry standard, and have the motivation and desire to earn an income that would make many college graduates envious, fax your resume to 858-677-5479; or apply in person: 6162 Nancy Ridge Drive #100, San Diego (92121). Drug-free work environment. License #791820.

IN-HOME CARE. Caregivers and Companions. Minimum 1 year experience non-medical home care for seniors. Valid California Driver's License. Serving Santee/La Mesa/Del Cerro/San Carlos. Maureen, Visiting Angels, 619-749-7525.

INSTRUCTORS, SWIMMING. \$11-\$19/hour, North County: 760-744-7946 or San Diego: 858-273-7946.

INTERVIEWERS. Market Research/Phone Interviewers, part time. Will train. English Interviewers: \$8.50. Spanish Bilingual Interviewers: \$9. Flexible schedule. Flagship Research in Banker's Hill/Hillcrest. 619-849-1111.

JOB COACH/COMMUNITY Training Specialist. \$9.75/hour to start. Assist develop-

mentally disabled adults in the community. 32.5 hours/week. Benefits. EOE. Apply Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm: Stein Education Center, 6145 Decena Drive, San Diego 92120. E-mail: steinjobs@vistahill.org. Fax: 619-281-0453. www.vistahill.org.

JOB COACHES. Community-oriented Center for Independent Achievement is seeking dependable individuals in East County. 1:4 group ratio maximum. \$8.50-\$9.50/hour. Annual raises. Bonuses for exceptional performance. Benefits with full-time. pfcareer@yahoo.com. Fax 619-440-6864. 619-440-6802.

JOB FAIR: Find a job! Build a career! SDSU Hospitality Job Fair and Career Expo 2008. Free admission, seminars and workshops! Wednesday, 4/23, 10am-2:30pm. San Diego State University Centennial Walkway. For more information, direction and to register, visit www.jobfairsandiego.com.

LAW ENFORCEMENT. Deputy Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Detentions/Courts. San Diego County Sheriff's Department. Hiring for two types of positions; take an exam, apply for either or both! Exam Dates: Saturday, March 15, 2008, 7:30am arrival, Rancho Buena Vista High School, 1601 Longhorn Drive, Vista CA 92083 or Wednesday, March 19, 2008, 12:30pm arrival, Sheriff's Administrative Center, 9621 Ridgehaven Court, San Diego CA 92123. Registration by e-mail or phone is required for the Ridgehaven test ONLY at: recruit@sdssheriff.org. Detention/Courts: \$39,796-\$61,608 annual salary, plus benefits. 18-year-olds eligible to apply! Deputy Sheriff: \$49,704-\$71,099 current annual salary, plus benefits. U.S. citizen or applied for citizenship; 20-1/2 years old. High school graduate or G.E.D. required. Bring valid photo ID. Valid California Driver's License prior to appointment. Effective oral and written communication in English. EOE. Additional test dates: www.joinSDSHERIFF.net. 858-974-2000.

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SOCIAL WORKER ASSISTANT. Full time. ADHC experience preferred. Apply Open Arms ADHC, 540 National City Boulevard, National City 91950. Fax resume: 619-474-2773. Call 619-474-2026.

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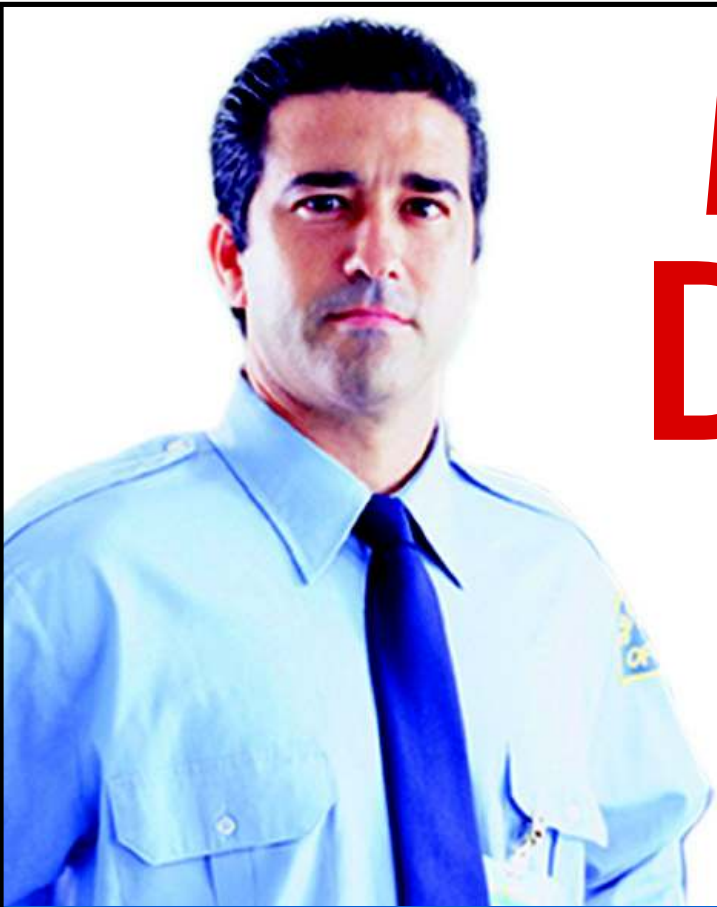
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ANXIOUS? DEPRESSED? Recovery International, self-help mental health meetings since 1937. Many suffer from nervous symptoms, fears. Voluntary offering. www.recovery-inc.org or 619-275-0364.

BE A 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.

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.

CARD GAMES. Bring lunch, join 39ers senior club, 10am-3pm. Tuesdays to play bridge, canasta or pinochle. San Diego Recreation Center. 4044 Idaho Street, 92104.

CARDIFF HEALTH ENLIGHTENMENT Networking Expo. Saturday, March 15, 5-9 p.m. Free admission. Guest speakers, exhibits. Join us! Ada Harris School Auditorium, 1508 Windsor Road. 760-632-7774.

CRAWFORD HIGH SCHOOL Class of 1967 is having a 40th reunion, Saturday, April 5, 2008. "Better Late Than Never." Casa Guadalupe (Old Town). Call or e-mail immediately to reserve a spot! Marieanne Lias, 619-287-2120 or e-mail Judy Horowitz Glenn, mej@san.rr.com.

DIVORCECARE meets every Sunday at 9am at 4926 La Cuesta Suite 203-A, Tiersanta. Special Free support group for those divorcing, divorced, or broken live-in relationship. 4926 La Cuesta, Suite 203, Tiersanta. Bruce, Bruce@sdfunding.com or 619-461-4480.

DIVORCED WITH PROBLEMS of child visitation, support payments, non-custodial rights, lawyers, and family law court?

THE READER PUZZLE

Across

- Kind of radio
- Hagar the Horrible's wife
- MTV's "____ My Ride"
- '40s White House dog
- Computer unveiled in 1946
- Jai _____
- 2002 Ice Cube movie
- "Newhart" setting
- Shea player, for short
- Bandleader's shout
- Gas station abbr.
- "Hollywood Squares" win
- 60 secs.
- 1992 Billy Crystal movie
- It's next to nothing
- "What's _____ you?"
- Boater's blade
- Part of LAPD: Abbr.
- Pool measure
- 402, on a cornerstone
- Wordsworth's "____ to Duty"
- With 31-Down, a song from "South Pacific"
- Outfielder's asset
- 1963 Jane Fonda movie
- Wedding vow
- Top prize at las Olimpiadas
- James Clavell novel "____-Pan"
- Emailing a duplicate to
- It's a dyeing art
- Stashed away
- Apt period in which to watch 17-, 26- and 44-Across, judging by their titles
- Surf sound
- In _____ of trouble
- Cookie since 1912
- Red ink amount
- Anagram of "arabs" that happens to be a city in Iraq
- A lot of Eurasia, once: Abbr.

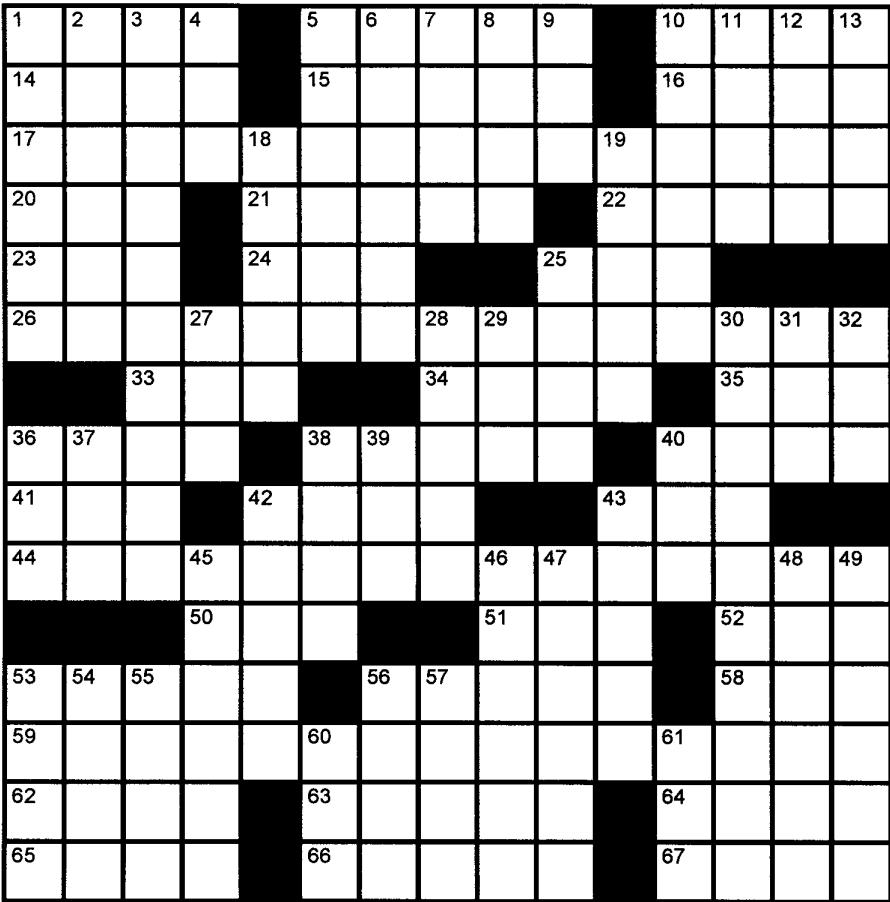
Down

- Declare true
- Eliot's "Silas _____"
- More than just pulls ajar, as a door
- Irate
- "Psst!"
- Win the heart of
- "That's _____"
- NAFTA forerunner
- It's no soft serve
- Grilled sandwich
- "Before _____ you go ..."
- Modest skirt
- Jolie's guy
- Make _____ of it
- Horned grazer
- It's not to be believed

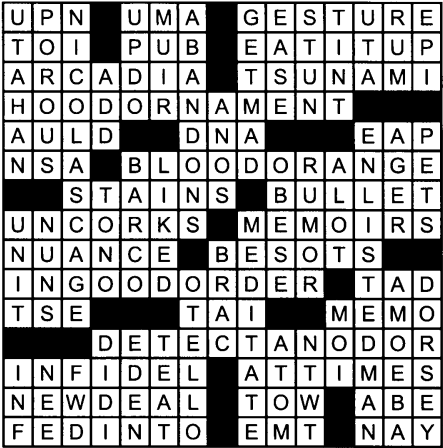
- Queen of the hill?
- Use, as one's savings
- Lawyer: Abbr.
- Baptism VIPs
- See 42-Across
- Prefix with angle
- 20% of diez
- www.harvard.____
- First word of "The Banana Boat Song"
- Manning of the NFL
- Blubber
- Scout's honor
- Greeted the day
- Roadside eateries
- Second half of a '60s peace slogan
- City northeast of Cleveland, OH
- Oscar winner Luise
- Boys and girls, informally
- ____-Alt-Del
- Designer women's shoemaker Jimmy
- Levin and Gershwin
- The _____ Men, singers of "Who Let the Dogs Out"
- Affirmative votes
- Smidgen
- Boxer's stat

RULES OF THE GAME

- The prize for solving the *Reader* Puzzle will be a *Reader* T-shirt.
- All entries in the *Reader* Puzzle contest must be received by the *Reader* by 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, five days following the issue date (Fax to 619-231-0489 or U.S. Mail to *Reader* Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803).
- All entries must be accompanied by your name and address.
- Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible.
- In the event of disputes or ties, decisions of the judges will be final and arbitrary. We've only got five prizes each week to give away, so if there are more than five winners, we'll have a lottery.
- All answers must be entered in the space allowed on the puzzle page. And please, no phone calls or trips to our office.
- One entry per person.



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by David Levinson Wilk

Solution to and winners of the *Reader* Puzzle for 3/6/08.

There were 135 entrants. The winners are:

- Vivian Eldridge, *Chula Vista*
- Janice Harrison, *San Diego*
- Steve Coover, *San Diego*
- Robert Christie, *San Diego*
- Sean Holt, *Ocean Beach*

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Meetings daily. No dues or fees. Contact www.oasandiego.org or 619-521-2538.

PATHWORK DISCUSSION. "Staying Sane in the Midst of Change" March 18, 2008. 7-9pm Eureka Street/Mission Valley. Open meeting, no fee, materials available. Please call for directions 619-296-9046.

PMS RESEARCH. UCSD researchers need women, 20-45, (not on medication, birth control, or smoking) with regular menstrual cycles for a 5-month PMS study using sleep and light therapy. 8 overnights required. Call 619-543-7393.

PRAYER HEALS. Discover freedom and wellness. Find out how prayer works for you to eliminate chronic disease, pain, fear, depression. 858-652-0728.

PREGNANT/NEW MOMS. UCSD study, women ages 20-45, not using medication or smoking, are needed for a sleep/light study. Required, 4 evaluation visits + 4 overnight hospital stays, 619-543-7393.

PRIVATE COUNSELING. Your journey can be clearer, more peaceful; relationship issues, body image, self-esteem, anger. I can help. Work toward acceptance of yourself. Fee. 619-838-6817.

PSYCHIC MEDIUM SEMINAR. Mary Rose Occhino, Hilton Resort 6/8, 1:30pm-4:30pm. Intuitive readings. Past life connection/direct to perfect future. Tickets \$100, \$75, \$55. 631-767-5291. www.celestialwhispers.com.

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

TRDRPPDAStudy@projects.sdsu.edu, for more information.

SENIOR WOMEN'S BASKETBALL. Women age 50+. Join us at Palomar YMCA, Escondido, 3-on-3, halfcourt. NCAA rules as modified by NSGA Contact Robyn: 760-471-0038 or rurban@cox.net.

SEX and/or relationship problems? Out of control? You are not alone. Call Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, a 12-step fellowship. PO Box 3791, San Diego 92163 or 619-685-7211 or www.slaa-san-diego.org.

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.


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TEAM DIRTY RED Running Club every Sunday, 7:30am. Meet: Max Muscle La Jolla, 7514 Girard, 858-459-1955 or Max Muscle Rancho Penasquitos, 9995 Carmel Mountain, 858-484-1155.

TEAM WOMEN Solana Beach. Networking group meets biweekly. Tuesdays, 11:30am-1pm. T's Cafe, 271 North Highway 101, Solana Beach 92075. 858-755-7642. Seeking new members, www.teamwomen.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.

VA/UCSD RESEARCH STUDY. Seeks participants with chronic pain. Assessment and group treatment at no cost. Compensation provided. Please call the Project Coordinator at 858-552-8585 x2904.

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.

WINNING GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS Free Workshop: 9am 3/17-3/18, PLNU

Mission Valley campus, 4007 Camino del Rio South, 92108. Information: www.sandiegosmallbiz.com. Limited space! Reserve your seat: 760-795-8740.

WRITERS (2) looking for "Chicken Soup" type pet stories for new book and toon series, with photos if possible. claudia@writersec.com or 858-693-3939.

TRAVEL & GETAWAYS

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PERSONALS

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DAVIEBABE IN BOSTON. If there is a god up there, he is the only one who knows how much I miss you and the kids.

DAVIEBABE in Boston. I should not have sat at the computer all night. I should have been watching Seinfeld with you! My stupidity.

HELP. Looking for Lindsay S. of Solana Beach in the 1980s. She worked at the Basket Case in Encinitas. She would be about 45. 760-415-0376.

THANK YOU Holy Spirit for prayers answered. SP.

THERE IS NO END to what a living world will demand of you. Being strong now helps. Pray and work for peace!

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EQUIPMENT / INSTRUMENTS

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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. Call 619-338-9033. www.ccitmusic.com.

GUITAR. Taylor 615CE jumbo acoustic/electric, flame maple and spruce, Fishman Prefix blender, TKL hard-shell case, excellent condition, \$1500. 858-277-1871.

GUITARS AND AMPS. USA Classic Parker Fly \$1399, Mexican Strat with Fast-track pickups \$329, Peavey Foundation Bass \$199, Marshall 100 Mosfet 3210 head \$375, Deluxe Fender 112 \$299, Ploytone Mini-Brute \$299, Mesa Boogie III \$1199, Musicman 112RD with EVM speaker \$649, SWR Workingmans 4004 head with 1x15 cabinet \$474. Martin 2005



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MARSHALL/KERRY KING CLINIC 6pm Thursday, March 27. Marshall amp giveaway, performance and autograph signing at Guitar Trader of San Diego, 7120 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. Toll-free: 1-877-687-4276.

PIANO, Huntington, bench with storage, great shape, moving, must sell, \$400/best offer by March 30. Can deliver. 858-568-0953.

PIANO, Technics digital, 455 sounds, 128 rhythms, 800 piano styles, like-new condition, \$1600. 858-451-6944.

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.

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STUDIO INSTRUMENT RENTALS now in Solana Beach! Vintage Hammond B-3 with Leslie, Marshalls, Fenders, drums, keyboards, PA and audio services with helpful courteous staff. 858-755-2025.

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DRUMMER, bassist, and keys needed. Maybe guitarist. lencyde is interested in samples. Contact us at mspace.com/ienband.

GUITARIST/SONGWRITER, rock/blues, seeking great band. All types of serious musical flow. Influences: classical, progressive R&B. Serious vocals. Seeking serious soulmates, serious jamming. Michael.birmingham@pizzahut.com.

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REGGAE HIP-HOP jazz/rock lead rhythm guitarist available. CD/tour credits. Pato Banton, Fully Fullwood, Majek Fashek, Myka Nyne, Scientist, Skunk Records, Tippa Irie, Dale, mspace.com/dale-hauskins or 858-401-2973.

SINGERS WANTED, mature, to start a cappella ensemble. Jazz, pop, blues, etc. Dependable, fun. Prefer read music. I

have charts. Marie, La Mesa, 619-462-2889.

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ALLIED GARDENS. \$650. Private room and bath in 3 bedroom, 3 bath view, upscale home. Near SDSU, trolley, Mission Valley. \$500 deposit, 1/3 utilities. groudco@yahoo.com.

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CARDIFF. Share large ocean view home with large deck, barbecue, fully decorated, gourmet kitchen, garage, private bath, walk to beach, market. Nonsmoker. \$1200. 760-214-1382.

CARLSBAD. Gated community, steps from beach, \$650/month, plus deposit, share utilities. Fully furnished. 760-809-5666.

CARLSBAD. Room with separate bathroom in luxury condo in La Costa area. Tremendous view. Parking. Jacuzzi, pool. Great location. Close to beach. \$800/month. 619-540-3144.

CARLSBAD. Calavera Hills. \$750. Furnished room, private bath, includes utilities. Share cozy 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhome. Near ocean, shopping, freeways. Female preferred, nonsmoker. 760-828-8828.

CARLSBAD/LA COSTA. Room with private bath (3 bedroom, 3 bath house). Kitchen/laundry privileges. \$495 plus deposit. 1/3 utilities. Female preferred. Nonsmoking/drugs. 760-744-5395.

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CARMEL VALLEY/DEL MAR. Bedroom with private bath, \$735 cable/utilities included. Spa, Pool, tennis. Best location. No smoking/drugs/pets. Available March 31. 858-792-5380.

CARMEL VALLEY. \$630. 1/3 utilities. Share 3 bedroom. Share bath. Quiet, clean, full amenities, nice yard, washer/dryer. Nonsmoker. No pets. 858-259-9083.

CHULA VISTA/EASTLAKE. \$495/month. Share new 3 bedroom 2 bath condo, pool, washer/dryer, vaulted ceilings. Includes utilities. No smoking. Available March 31. 619-807-7662.

CHULA VISTA. Furnished rooms, \$545, includes utilities. Cable access. Nice, quiet neighborhood. No drugs, smoking, alcohol, pets. East of I-805 freeway. 619-482-9478.

CHULA VISTA. Beautiful remodeled house. Private entry, private bathroom, bedroom, private living room. Shared kitchen. Washer/dryer, jacuzzi, cable, utilities. \$650/month. Female preferred. 619-227-8512.

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Tom Gardenhire
City Employee
Lakeside

I have to admit, I don't remember much. I was 15. There was a lot of Pabst Blue Ribbon involved. As big as I was, I think I had to drink about four before I felt any effects. If I drank the amount today that got me drunk then, it wouldn't do shit to me.



Shelly Brown
Programming Assistant
Banker's Hill

My first time getting drunk was when I was 17. I was visiting my brother at UCSB with my best friends. He took care of me. And then he slept with my best friend. I think she had had a lot to drink as well.



John Luttrell
Construction
Poway

I was around 14 years old, and I hung out with an older crowd. We had some homemade apple cider with Everclear in it and cinnamon. It was 190 proof. I basically fell victim to peer pressure. I was in charge of getting rid of the bottle it was in, and I broke it. And, I didn't wake up where I went to bed.



Louise Simon
Rentals
El Cajon

It was a long time ago. I was 15 or 16. And I'm 65 now. My boyfriend was trying to get me drunk to take advantage of me. He was a few years older. He had all kinds of women, but I thought he was wonderful. I probably had three beers. He'd call me "Three Beer Charlie" because I would drink one, spill one, and leave one. He ended up joining the Navy, and I married him. There was one time I drank so much, I had to go to the bathroom behind the car, and the brake wasn't on and it started to roll backwards.



Jamie Murrell
County Employee
Lemon Grove

I was 15, and it was my mom's alcohol. I'm 48 now, so that was a while ago. I took her grape Concord, which is horrible. I got caught when the school broke into my locker and found it. They suspended me for five days from Wilson Junior High over on 40th. I wasn't drunk at school, though.



Josh Zollinger
Custom Homes
Skyline

It was the week that started Christmas break in tenth grade at Madison High School in Clairemont. I was drunk and had two 40s of Olde English 800. It's horrible, horrible beer. I was outside a Mexican restaurant, and two cops were there getting snow cones. I thought they were there to arrest me, and I was talking really loud. They heard me and arrested me for underage drinking. I got grounded for a month.

CHULA VISTA. Room for rent. Large 4 bedroom, 2 bath home. \$600/month, no deposit. Utilities \$75/month. Washer/dryer, pool, jacuzzi. Pets OK. 619-254-1658.

CHULA VISTA/EASTLAKE. \$675. 1 bedroom 1 bath, washer and dryer, 1 car garage. No pets, no drugs. Quiet area, clean. 760-544-0971.

CHULA VISTA/EASTLAKE. Fully furnished. Private bath. \$650/month, 1/2 utilities, \$325 deposit. Available 3/15. 619-261-6484.

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CLAIREMONT. \$600. Nice room, private bath, laundry and pool, near Mesa College. Female only. No smoking/drugs. 858-576-7097.

CLAIREMONT/UNIVERSITY CITY. \$600. One bedroom in home. Private entrance. Private bathroom. Microwave, refrigerator, cable, telephone line. Attached studio. No pets/smoking/alcohol/drugs. 858-554-7150.

CLAIREMONT. \$775/month, \$350/deposit includes utilities, DirecTV. Available 4/01/08. Pool, parking. Furnished 3 bedroom 2 bath apartment. No drugs/alcohol. Male preferred. Call 858-278-2768.

CLAIREMONT. Room available in 3 bedroom house, share bath. Nice neighborhood. Located between all major freeways. \$550/month, utilities not included. No smoking/pets. 858-405-9878.

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CLAIREMONT. \$550, plus deposit, 1/3 utilities. Clean, quiet, 3 bedroom, 1 bath house on canyon. Washer/dryer, cable. No smoking/pets/drugs. Call Dave, 858-449-4691.

CLAIREMONT. Near Mesa College. Male nonsmoker. Walking distance to grocery and bus. Includes utilities and cable. No pets. \$550. After 5pm, 858-337-2770 or 858-353-4449.

CLAIREMONT. \$550. Share 4 bedroom 2 1/2 bath home. Covered patio with bbq. Large kitchen. Garage with storage. washer/dryer, Hi-speed internet available. 858-384-7624.

COLLEGE AREA. Near SDSU. \$550/month, \$275 deposit. Free cable TV. Furnished master bedroom, private bathroom. Gated community/parking. Free utilities. Female preferred. 619-723-5096.

EL CAJON. \$625. Large bedroom with private bath, in large completely furnished house. Very nice area. Close to shopping. No pets/drugs. Male preferred, 619-277-9447.

EL CAJON. \$450/month. Room in clean 5 bedroom house. Washer/dryer, hi-speed internet, parking, close to freeway and shopping. Male only 619-654-0146.

EL CAJON/FLETCHER HILLS. Share 3000 square foot house. 4 bedrooms. Quiet area. Close to Grossmont College. deck, jacuzzi, fabulous view. Female only \$750-\$1000/month. 619-334-0369.

ENCINITAS. Private room and bath, roommate \$599 plus utilities. Tropical yard, pool, jacuzzi, clean, quiet. Beach, lagoon, canyon. I-15. No smoke/pets/drugs. 760-436-2796, 760-445-6369.

ENCINITAS. Room in family home in quiet neighborhood. \$600/month, includes utilities. Female only. Semiprivate bath, cable. 619-584-5900.

ENCINITAS. 1 bedroom in 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath view home. Pool, tennis, near park. \$800, utilities included plus cable, wireless, washer/dryer. No smoking. 760-943-8125.

ENCINITAS. 1-2 bedrooms available, \$600 each, in 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhome. Washer/dryer, fireplace, patio, wireless Internet. 1/3 utilities, \$300 deposit. Nonsmoking. Cathy, 760-942-4113.

ENCINITAS. \$650/month. Room in clean, quiet modern house. Cable, laundry, kitchen privileges, phone line/Internet available. Deposit. Won't last long! Call 760-753-1686; 619-235-2415, x23951.

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FLETCHER HILLS. Room for rent \$650, utilities included. Spacious living space, large closet. Pool, jacuzzi. Share kitchen facilities, laundry. Ample parking. Call for showing 619-847-1282.

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KEARNY MESA. \$500, \$250 deposit, includes utilities. Furnished room. Share bath. No smoking. Available now. 858-277-2660.

LA JOLLA/WINDANSEA BEACH. \$695, \$755, \$1795. Lovely, completely furnished rooms in house. Private entrance. Also 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Nonsmoking/drugs. 858-336-1545; 858-459-3089; 619-235-2415, x16384.

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LA JOLLA/UTC. \$500/month, \$400/deposit, quarter utilities, unfurnished. Great location. Pool, fireplace, share bath. No smoking/drugs/pets. Available now. Call Tony, 619-300-5059.

LA MESA. \$530. Large corner room, 3 bedroom 2 bath house, quiet area. Includes utilities, cable TV, fast internet, washer/dryer. off-street parking, \$400/deposit. 619-589-6122.

LA MESA. \$480. Large room/large closet, quiet street. Older home, new carpeting, laundry, easy parking. Pet possible. Say phone number slowly/clearly. 619-235-2415, x10874.

LA MESA. Room available in nice 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. \$540/month. \$400 deposit, share utilities. Washer/dryer, storage. Near SDSU. Nonsmoking. Kyle, korser@cox.net; 619-414-6530.

LAKESIDE. Furnished room, \$475. Includes utilities, Cox TV and Internet, queen bed, desk, chair. Refrigerator, coffee maker. Large house, easy parking. Female preferred. No pets. 619-561-6544.

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. Furnished room available 3/15/08, \$575. Unfurnished room available now, \$550. All amenities. \$200 deposit. No pets, no couples. No calls after 9pm, 858-218-5021.

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MIRA MESA. Half off first month (\$275)! \$450 plus utilities. Bedroom in large home. \$250 deposit. Fireplace. Large kitchen. Dayroom. Dishwasher. Washer/dryer. Maid service. No pets. Tom, 619-708-4925.

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MIRA MESA. 1 regular room, \$500/month. 1 Large room \$600/month. 1 master bedroom \$700/month, \$200/deposit. Utilities included. Washer/dryer. No pets/drugs. Nyaih, 619-216-6776.

MIRA MESA. Room for \$500. Utilities and cable included. Share bathroom. \$250 deposit. No pets. Available 4/1/08. 858-693-8537.

MISSION VALLEY. Private room and bath, \$700/month plus utilities. No smoking, drugs, drama. Quiet neighborhood. Trilevel townhouse. Lots of storage. Community pool/spa. 619-417-5608.

MISSION VALLEY. \$495. Share large, quiet townhome with 2 nonsmoking males. Washer/dryer on premises. Bus/trolley nearby. Pool, spa. Available now. Rich, 619-501-5044; 619-235-2415, x24283.

MISSION VALLEY. Unfurnished room. Resort style trilevel townhouse. Private entrance/attached patio, Internet, phone, cable, parking, washer/dryer. Tennis, pools, fitness center. Male preferred. \$850. 619-929-1884.

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OCEAN BEACH. Master suite available 4/1/08. \$795/month, \$795 deposit, 1/3 utilities. Gated entry, washer/dryer, fireplace, barbecue. Great surf spot. No pets, children, smoking. JnnSalsbury@yahoo.com.

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Clue: One giant aloha

Describe this location, name the nearest cross-streets, and win a *Reader* T-shirt. E-mail to NameThisPlace@SDReader.com; fax to 619-231-0489; or mail to *Reader*, Name This Place, Box 85803, San Diego 92186 — include your name and address. Please put “Name This Place” in the subject line. (Deadline, Tuesday, 9 a.m. In case of ties, lottery will determine top five winners.)



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OCEANSIDE. Share large, custom home. Recently remodeled. Near college, train, shopping, freeways. Beautiful mountain views. Barbecue, spa, laundry. No drugs/pets. \$500. Available 4/1/08. 760-805-1325.

PACIFIC BEACH. Great bay/beach location. \$895/month, \$895 deposit. Available 4/3/08. Share 2 bedroom, 2 bath Crown Point condo. Washer/dryer. Mark, 858-220-1237; Andrew, 619-481-1156.

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RANCHO BERNARDO. Share 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Includes maid, utilities, club privileges, beautiful views, Internet access. No pets/smoking. \$800/month. 858-675-0568.

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RENTALS

COMMERCIAL

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NORTH PARK. \$225. Brand new 2 car garage, with opener. Dry storage only. No living space. 4077 Utah Street 619-698-6911. www.goldenmanagement.com.

PARK BOULEVARD LOCATION, across from Henry's Marketplace. Previously written up in the San Diego Magazine, November issue, as one of San Diego's hottest blocks to shop. Park Boulevard signage available. 2 office units with storage. First office, \$450, 120 square feet, furnished with executive desk and furniture. Second office, \$550, 180 square feet, unfurnished. Both units come with air conditioning, weekly janitorial service, and power. We are renting month-to-month or 1/2 off 1st month with 6 month lease. Ron, 858-518-9898.

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PACIFIC BEACH. Storefront/retail space for lease, \$2850/month. 1453 Garnet Avenue, approximately 1340 square feet. Good location and visibility. 858-270-4492, x203.

NORTH PARK. \$2195. Office/Retail space, approximately 1400 square feet, large reception area, kitchenette, near al. 3928 Illinois Street #101. 619-843-0796.

COMMERCIAL SPACE available. Office, retail, industrial, and warehouse space. 1,000-50,000 square feet. Tenant representation. Call John Shelton, 619-756-4700. www.sandiegotenantadvisors.com.

CARLSBAD from \$100. Garages available for parking and/or dry storage. Located in well-maintained apartment complex. 1000 Chinquapin Avenue. Agent, 760-729-8681.

CARLSBAD, DOWNTOWN. New construction, 2500 square feet retail space, next to popular restaurant. \$4500/month. Great location: 2917 State Street, Heart of Downtown Carlsbad. 760-887-2000.

PACIFIC BEACH. Office space, \$800. Second floor office, 2 rooms, ample parking. Easy access. 4455 Lamont Street. 858-270-4492 x203.

RENTALS Houses

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ALPINE. Large 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath custom home, panoramic view, Jacuzzi, 2-car garage, RV parking, private lake, clubhouse, tennis. 3 acres. \$2195. Day 619-296-6487, evening 619-933-8912.

BAY PARK CUTIE! 2 bedroom, 1 bath, garage. \$1850. Hardwood floors, resort-like backyard. Washer/dryer. Watch Sea-World fireworks! Pets upon approval. Travis 858-663-7384, Debra 858-254-5177.

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BAY PARK. \$1250. Cozy, double-wide mobile home, 2 small bedrooms, 20' deck, steps to beach, golf, pool, jacuzzi, hardwood floors, parking, laundry on-site. 619-543-0381.

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CHULA VISTA. \$1700. Spacious home, 3 bedroom, 2 bath. New kitchen, hardwood floors, washer/dryer hookups, appliances. Section 8 ok. Pets negotiable. 997 Helix Avenue. 619-698-6911. Golden-management.com.

CHULA VISTA. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath with patio, \$925. Studio, \$700. Jacuzzi, pool, laundry onsite. Lots of storage space. Assigned gated parking. Near all. 212 Palomar. 858-483-5111 x10 or apply online at www.melroyproperties.com.

CHULA VISTA. \$800. 1 bedroom in gated community. Ceramic tile, air conditioning, community laundry. Gated parking. No pets. Near freeway and trolley. 2887 Main Street. 619-691-9377.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$850. Charming, bright 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Newly renovated inside/out. Carpet/tile, washer/dryer. Gated, parking. Cats OK. Year lease. www.innorenterprises.com. 619-368-9410.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$775. 1 bedroom. New carpet. Gated building. Laundry. Parking. Available about 4/1. 4344 Van Dyke Avenue #6. Agent, 858-514-8201.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$800. Cute 1 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. Very clean. New paint/carpet. Parking. Yard. No pets. Nonsmoking. Near all. 4035 Menlo Avenue. 619-275-2648.

CITY HEIGHTS. Small 1 bedroom with private patio and recent improvements. \$625, \$500 deposit. Secure and convenient, laundry, nonsmoking and quiet. 619-521-2050.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$1500-\$1750. 2 bedroom 1-1/2 bath townhome and 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath apartment. Custom upgrades. Hardwood floors. Ceramic tile. Granite countertops. Washer/dryer in unit. Totally upgraded and ready for move-in now! \$99 move-in special! We welcome pets too! 4102 Marlborough Avenue. Call Carol at 619-283-3563. sunriseliving.com.

CLAIREMONT/KEARNY MESA. Wexford Manor. Large 1 and 2 bedrooms in beautiful complex with pool, spa, laundry, air conditioning, dishwasher. Sorry, no pets. \$995-\$1295. Photos at www.WexfordLiving.com. 7870 Stalmer Street. 858-277-4843.

CLAIREMONT. \$870. 1 bedroom, senior complex. New paint. Clean and quiet. On bus line. Laundry. No pets. By appointment only. Call 858-735-4099 or 858-560-8362.

CLAIREMONT. \$2000. Brand new, never lived-in. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath. 1325 square feet. Townhouse-style duplex. 1-car garage plus extra parking. Gated entry. 4 units available. No pets. 4439 and 4441 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. 619-299-4034.

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. 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. 888-475-7147. sdreader.com/news/rent2035.

CLAIREMONT. \$1400. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Balcony, laundry, gated, pool. 5188 Balboa Arms Drive. Call 858-541-7683.

CLAIREMONT/Canyon Rim. \$1750. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 story condo. Fireplace, garage, all appliances, community pool. 2752 Ariane Way #113. Leasing Unlimited, 760-436-7273.

CLAIREMONT. Move-in special! From \$1210. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Large, sunny townhomes. Pool. Parking. No pets. The Gardens, 5544 Balboa Arms Drive. Call 858-278-5862.

CLAIREMONT/MISSION BAY. Ask about Manager's Special. 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 duplex. \$500 off first month's rent. Garage with opener, new carpets, fresh paint, private patio. No pets. 3340 Clairemont Drive. 858-278-2562.

CLAIREMONT/MISSION BAY. "Ask about our manager's special!" 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. Pool. Coral Bay Canyon, 3309 Cowley Way. Toll free: 1-877-585-1146. www.CoralBayApartments.com. www.sdreader.com/news/rent1031.

CLAIREMONT. \$795. Large studio. New carpet, fresh paint. Available 2/18. 3377 Idlewild Way. Agent, 858-560-1178.

CLAIREMONT/BAY PARK. \$1150. Upgraded 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Upper unit, parking available, on-site laundry. No pets. 2537 Chicago Street #10. Agent, 858-560-1178. Kim, 619-684-5800 for an appointment to view the unit.

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. 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. \$100 off first month! 2 bedroom, 1 bath from \$1200. Military discounts! Internet access. Gourmet kitchen. Microwave. Gas range. Air conditioning/heating. 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. Clean, neat duplex. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Off-street parking. Close to shopping and freeways. \$1125. Call Val 619-507-2613.

COLLEGE AREA. 1 bedrooms, \$900. Fireplace. Central heat/air. Microwave, dishwasher. Balcony. Gated. Intercom entry. 4828 Art Street. Agent, 619-298-7724.

COLLEGE AREA. \$1400. 3 bedroom, 2 bath apartment in contemporary building, central air conditioning. Security, underground parking. Year lease. 4742 Seminole Drive. Call 619-469-0031.

COLLEGE AREA. \$1050. 1 bedroom, 1 bath townhouse in contemporary building, central air conditioning. Security, underground parking. Year lease. 4742 Seminole Drive. Call 619-469-0031.

COLLEGE AREA. \$795 1/2 off first month. Large 1 bedroom 1 bath, near SDSU, wood kitchen cabinets, laundry, off-street parking. Cat ok. Section 8 ok. 4644 Soria Drive #5. 619-804-3325.

COLLEGE AREA. \$775. 1 bedroom. Great complex with pool, laundry, barbecue. Central location, near SDSU and all conveniences. No pets. 4333 College Avenue. 619-287-8380.

COLLEGE AREA. 2 bedroom, 1-1/4 bathroom loft. All upgrades, granite countertops, stone flooring, and carpet. All appliances, new lighting, balcony, coin laundry on-site. 1 car off-street parking. Close to shopping and SDSU. \$1100. 619-683-9274. 6036 Estelle Street.

COLLEGE. \$950. Spacious renovated 2 bedroom, 1 bath lower-unit apartment. Off-street parking, on-site laundry. Minutes from SDSU. 4912B 67th. No pets. Move-in special. 619-565-7300, 619-980-7118.

COLLEGE. \$875. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Clean, quiet, secure. On-site laundry and parking. New paint! Close to all and next to a beautiful park! 4756 Seminole. Call Rachael at 619-804-1044 or Jeff at 619-713-1044.

COLLEGE/TALMADGE. Studio \$695. Gated, very nice. Air conditioning, patio, washer/dryer, utilities included. 619-316-0407.

DEL CERRO. \$2200/month plus deposit. 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 baths. New kitchen, carpets, wood floors. 1200 square feet. Breakfast nook. Fireplace. Available April. 619-572-4722. 619-302-2929.

DEL MAR. \$1150. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, on-site parking, laundry, pool, new paint. Super area. Clean, quiet, secure. 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! Will not last! On-site parking, laundry and pool. Will be available the first part of March. 13754 Mango Drive. Call Rachael 619-804-1044.

DEL MAR. \$1250 studio. 1 bedrooms from \$1650. Ocean views (some units). Heated pool, spa, fitness center, barbecue cook center, remote entry garages, dishwasher, microwave, more! No pets. 526 Camino Del Mar. Agent, 858-755-4721.

DEL MAR. One block to ocean! 2 bedroom with ocean view, \$1925. 3 bedroom, \$2195. 201 Fourth Street. 858-481-9585; mikeatla@aol.com.

DEL MAR/CARMEL VALLEY. New 2 master bedroom, 2 full bath condo, 5 minutes beach. Downstairs. Stainless appliances. Pool/spa. Pets OK. \$2100. 858-353-6223. miss.hanna1@yahoo.com.

DEL MAR/SOLANA BEACH. \$1185. Ask about our move-in special! Newly remodeled studios 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, EAST VILLAGE. \$500 off, 12 month lease! Low \$400-\$700 deposits! Studios, 1, 2, 3 bedrooms from \$1065. Near Petco Park, Gaslamp, Seaport Village! Rooftop terrace. Controlled access. Washer/dryer. Microwave. Patio/balcony. Walk-in closet. Air conditioning. Fitness center. Pets welcome. Entrada, 453 13th Street. www.entrada453.com. 1-888-809-1966. www.sdreader.com/rent1202.

DOWNTOWN, NORTH. \$785. Studio. Upstairs. All utilities paid. Full kitchen with stove and refrigerator. Coin laundry. No parking. Easy freeway and Downtown access. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Available 3/26. 109 West Fir. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

DOWNTOWN, NORTH. \$950. 1 bedroom. Large, upstairs. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher. Private balcony. Elevator. Coin laundry. Entry system. Parking. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Easy freeway access. Available 4/10. 215 West Grape. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

DOWNTOWN, GASLAMP: Heart of the city! New contemporary building! 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$2700. 1 bedroom with large den, \$2400. Gorgeous views! www.ElisabethSellsSanDiego.com, 619-788-2720.

DOWNTOWN, Upgrades. 2 bedrooms, both full-bathrooms, own separate patio/balcony. Washer/dryer, heating/air conditioning. 2 underground parking. 1-year lease, \$1750/month, \$1750/deposit. Available 5/01/08. 619-675-1005.

DOWNTOWN. San Diego's first hip hostel hotel. From \$49/night. From \$245/week. From \$19/bed in hostel. Free wireless Internet. Near bus/trolley. Flat screen TVs. European-style detached bathrooms. Restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. 500 West Hotel. 500 West Broadway. Toll free: 1-888-895-0875. 619-234-5252. www.500WestHotel.com. www.sdreader.com/news/rent1114.

DOWNTOWN/EAST VILLAGE. March move-in special! Only \$613-\$736/month with 12 month lease! Utilities included! Office hours: daily 8am-6pm. Near Petco Park, bus/trolley. Fully furnished. Bay

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.

DOWNTOWN. Brand new rooms near City College. Single rooms with kitchenettes from \$140/week plus deposit (long-term). Includes utilities/cable. Quiet, secure. Shared bath/laundry. Hotel Mediterranean. 619-231-8656. www.hotelmed-sd.com.

DOWNTOWN. \$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. \$1750. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths condo, 934-square-foot top-floor end unit, on-site manager, trash chute, elevators, great security. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN. \$2995. 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath 1500-square-foot townhouse, pet OK, central air/heat, in-unit washer/dryer, granite countertops. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN. 1225 Island. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Ground level, fully furnished. Flat screen TV. Near trolley, Gaslamp, Petco Park. Washer, dryer. Jacuzzi. 1 parking space. 17-foot ceilings. \$1650/month. Agent, 619-471-2201.

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/LITTLE ITALY. Corner studio, \$895. 1 bedroom \$1,095. 1 bedroom penthouse \$1,395. 9' ceilings. Secure, quiet, building with laundry. 1534 Front, near Beech. 619-233-7428.

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.

DOWNTOWN/MIDDELTOWN. Newly remodeled 2 bedroom, 1 bath in tri-plex. 1-car garage plus 2-off-street parking.

Huge deck. Washer/dryer. No pets. \$1700. 858-735-8593.

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/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/LITTLE ITALY. Great location! 1 bedroom, 1-1/2 baths offers \$1750. Banker's Hill, 2 bedroom with washer/dryer \$1650. Available now. Call 619-255-0526.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. \$2795. Brand new Aerture condo. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Storage. Hardwood floors. Huge windows. Cat OK. 1494 Union Street #604. 619-469-7790. www.westmanproperties.com.

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. Seasonal special: \$250 off first month with lease! 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, \$1995. 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. 619-698-5686.

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/GASLAMP. Las Flores Hotel. Small, quiet. \$125/week and up. Four-week minimum. Color TV with basic cable. Refrigerator in most rooms. Secure. 619-235-6820.

DOWNTOWN/SHERMAN HEIGHTS. \$675. Bright and private studio apartment in old Victorian, balcony, downtown view, access to backyard. 408 21st Street #3. Available now. 760-274-6084.

EAST SAN DIEGO. \$695. Furnished studio alcove apartment. Complete living room, bedroom and kitchen furniture. No SDG&E deposit or hook-up fee required. Near 52nd and University. 5101 Towle Court. Close to SDSU. Laundry room. Off-street parking. Low \$300 deposit. 619-281-9451.

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. \$900/up. 2 bedroom, 1 and 2 stories. Amenities. Pool, park-like grounds, parking. Near town, shops, bus. 743 South Magnolia Avenue. Call 619-579-0174. 619-464-1818.

EL CAJON. \$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 or call Pablo at 619-249-2770.

EL CAJON. \$1095. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhouse with back yard. Now offering 1/2 month free, first month.! \$1000 security deposit can be paid in 2 installments (\$997.50 to move in with good credit). Central air conditioning/heating. Cat ok with \$300 deposit. No dogs. Parking/laundry on site. Credit check (\$25). Drug free apartments. 1236 Persimmon Avenue. 619-938-3242.

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. Cajon Villas. \$800, 1 bedroom, \$1000, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1325, 3 bedroom. Pool. Parking. Air condition-

SurfDIEGO

Name: **Desiree**

Age: **19**

Lives in: **Mira Mesa**

Surfing: **Torrey Pines**

Occupation: **Graphic designer**


Pre-surf music: **the Pixies**

Post-surf food: **Slurpees**

“The first time I ever surfed was in 2005,” says Desiree, a 19-year-old Texas transplant. “I came out here to visit and my friend took me, I liked it, so I kept with it. I skate a lot, and it's different but I love it.”

Because there wasn't much surf to be had in Texas, she packed up and moved to California. Her favorite San Diego spot is Ocean Beach's Dog Beach.

“A lot of places here have a locals-only attitude, like P.B. I've been told I can't surf there since I'm not from there. I think that anyone can surf wherever they want as long as they are cool and there for the sport. I don't believe in fighting, so I left. Dog Beach is awesome because you can walk pretty far out; it's in between the two jetties, so you get two breaks. Since I'm still learning, I'm not crazy about too much open water. I stepped on a sea urchin once, and I didn't



like it very much.”

What does she think about girls in the water?

“Obviously I'm fine with it. The other girls here are really nice and always say hi. I don't notice any competition. I'm definitely not the only girl in the lineup, but I don't see too many others.”

Desiree is getting ready to haul her board on a few trips.

“I'm heading to Hawaii this year and to Australia next year. I'm excited to see Pipeline even though it might be too big for me to surf. My friend's aunt won the lottery, and they are taking

us to Australia...probably Sidney. There are a lot of great white sharks, but it will still be rad. I'm holding out for a Costa Rica surf trip.”

See the video

Go to SDReader.com

Click on SurfDiego

ing. No pets. 933 Peach Avenue. 619-447-9193.

EL CAJON. \$705. 1 bedroom. El Cajon's best maintained property with beautiful courtyard and sparkling pool. No pets. 1072 East Madison Avenue. TTPM, 619-444-1614. www.fourwindsapts.info.

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. TTPM, 619-742-7600. www.palmestates.info.

EL CAJON. \$705. 1 bedroom. Open Saturday, 12-3pm. Beautifully maintained apartments with sparkling pool. No pets. 234 West Park Avenue. TTPM, 619-850-9722. www.palmtowers.com.

ENCINITAS. Treat yourself to this elegantly furnished 1 bedroom at Moonlight Beach. Walk to shops, restaurants, Coaster. Gourmet kitchen, washer/dryer, dishes, linens. \$1995/month. 760-753-4101.

ENCINITAS. \$850 & up. Sick of room-mates? Cozy beach trailers in quiet park. Near beach, Coaster, restaurants, shops. 152 North Coast, Highway 101. 760-753-4101.

ENCINITAS. \$1175. 1 bedroom, \$1410, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Balcony or patio. Sky-light. 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. \$1495. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex with deck. 1 car garage, washer/dryer hookups. Close to all. No pets. 760-753-4101.

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. 760-489-9899.

ESCONDIDO. \$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. \$1100. Beautiful lake view, 2 bedroom, 2 bath manufactured home, kitchen, dining room, living room, large master bedroom, double closet, laundry, pool access. 760-739-5451.

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/USD. \$1250. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, upper unit, refurbished, parking. Laundry on-site. Cat OK. 5946 Lauretta Street, #10. www.centrecity.net. 619-296-6699.

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. 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/DOWNTOWN. \$975. 1 bedroom, 1 bath atop beautiful Victorian. Own private entrance. New paint. Shared yard. Laundry onsite. No pets. Call Loren, 619-997-0273.

GOLDEN HILL. Executive condo, 2 bedroom, 2 bath furnished. Large, remodeled with hardwood floors and cherry cabinetry.

Courtyard. Laundry. Parking. Near downtown/Petco Park/Gaslamp. Close to freeways. \$2500. Ramiro, 619-232-9489.

GOLDEN HILL/DOWNTOWN. Up to \$250 off! 1 bedrooms from \$1120. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, starting \$1405. Views. Controlled access. Washer/dryer in unit. Dishwasher. Refrigerator. Stove/range. Microwave. Central air. Rooftop deck. Spa. Outdoor barbecue lounge. Underground parking. Pet friendly! Military special, up to 1/2 month off! Golden Pacific, 1015 19th Street. 1-800-433-6156. www.pacificliving.com. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2028.

GOLDEN HILL. \$1595. 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. Free, one week! 1 bedroom, \$850. 1010 33rd Street. Very clean, with patio, appliances, laundry, elevator, and parking. 760-724-0558.

GOLDEN HILL. (2) Charming 1 bedroom, 1 bath \$775. Hardwood floors. Great neighborhood, laundry on-site. Available now. No dogs. 2427 E Street. 619-857-3706.

GOLDEN HILL Balboa Park. \$1290. Gorgeous 1 bedroom condo, balcony overlooking Balboa Park Golf Course. Panoramic view. Cathedral ceiling, fireplace, attic storage, light/airy. Washer/dryer. Covered, underground parking and hot water included. One year lease re-

quired; 2 year rent guarantee. Harvey, 619-233-1301.

GOLDEN HILL. \$790. 1 bedroom apartment. Cathedral ceiling. Small complex. Quiet. Gated. Laundry. No pets. Near city college. Off-street parking. 2840 B Street. 619-435-0387.

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. Bright 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Hardwood floors, completely remodeled, washer/dryer. Large deck, enclosed yard. Pets OK. Great location! Near shopping. \$1495/month. 619-549-4959.

HILLCREST. \$875. 1 bedroom cottage, covered parking, small 320 square feet, walk to Balboa Park. No pets and no smoking please. Credit check required. 619-295-8063.

HILLCREST. \$200/week and up. Refrigerators, cable TV and HBO. Embassy Hotel, 3645 Park Boulevard. 619-296-3141.

HILLCREST. 1/2 off first month! \$1025, 1 bedroom, patio. \$1175, 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. \$795. Studio. Lovely garden courtyard with fountain. Walk to Uptown

SERVICES

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HILLCREST. \$1495. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Balcony. Canyon view. Pool. Laundry. Parking. Small pets welcome! 4053 8th Avenue. 619-297-0269.

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. 3755 Fourth. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2071; www.delsolpm.com.

HILLCREST. \$1000. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, built-in bookshelf, laundry on site, cozy dining area. Large bedroom. 1224 Pennsylvania Avenue #4. www.centrecity.net. 619-296-6699.

HILLCREST. \$1250. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Laundry, parking. Storage. 4226 Cleveland Avenue. Call 619-255-4944 or 858-490-1600.

HILLCREST. Quiet deluxe 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1250. Gated, fireplace. All appliances, washer/dryer, skylight, patio, 2 parking spaces. Cats OK. No smoking facility. 3680 Alabama Street. Available now. 619-269-5237.

HILLCREST. \$950. 1 bedroom in charming, old-fashioned building. Corner unit. Hardwood floors, 9-foot ceilings, Bay window. Stove, refrigerator, laundry facility. Near shopping and 163. No pets. 619-298-3229.

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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 \$1495/month. Sorry, no pets. Lease option available. 1030 Robinson Avenue, San Diego. Call Nicol at 619-807-8075.

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. Studio, \$850. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$950. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1375. Pool, canyon view. Close to all. Rec room. Cat OK. Sleepy Hollow Apartments, 4201 Sixth Avenue. 619-298-1059.

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HILLCREST. \$1025. Studio. Ready 3/15/08. Cute and cozy studio apartment home. Beautiful custom tile in kitchen, hardwood floors, custom fixtures, unique claw foot tub and pedestal sink. 3808-1/2 3rd Avenue. Call 858-571-1970. sunrise-living.com.

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HILLCREST/UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$1150. 1 bedroom duplex, west of park Boulevard. Parking. Walk-in closets. Upgraded bath/kitchen. New appliances. Fenced yards. No dogs. 619-276-4308.

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. \$1375-\$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. Life's a beach! \$825 studio, \$1250 2 bedroom. Quiet, clean and nice. 777 Seacoast Drive, across the street from Imperial Beach. 858-277-8855. Jason.

KEARNY MESA. 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom townhome with office/den in beautiful Village Complex. Upgraded carpet/wood floors, fireplace. Sunny kitchen with GE appliances, stack washer/dryer, custom plantation shutters and great storage. Central A/C and heat. Master suite with double closets. 2 car garage with remote. Close to shopping, freeway, 10 minutes to downtown. 7619 Family Circle. \$1895. Available now. 619-683-9274.

KENSINGTON. \$1295. Extra large 2 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, skylights, fully equipped kitchen, coin laundry, off-street parking. Easy freeway access. No pets. Call 858-456-2098.

LA COSTA. \$1295. Early move-in special! Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath. End unit. Patios. Fireplace. New: hardwood/paint/stove. Parking. Laundry. No pets. 626-532-6005, 858-481-3182.

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LA JOLLA, SOUTH. Luxury 1 and 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. \$500 off! \$1475. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. \$500 deposit. New carpet. Balcony. Near shops. No pets. 8849 Villa La Jolla Drive. 858-457-4509.

LA JOLLA. Village Studio. \$1375. Split level: living, kitchen, balcony below, bedroom, bathroom, walk-in closet above. Gated entries, secure garage parking. Call Jeff. 760-522-8735.

LA JOLLA. \$1350. Luxury 1 bedroom condo. Enclosed patio, open floorplan, granite, washer/dryer, parking. Near freeways/shopping. Available now. Call for move-in special! 858-277-3410.

LA JOLLA. Studio. Amazing location. One block to Starbucks, beach and bus. Prospect Street. Kitchen with appliances. Walk-in closet, laundry. \$1195-\$1450, includes utilities. 858-336-0252.

LA JOLLA. \$1400. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Stove, refrigerator, window treatment, dishwasher. Off street parking for 1 car. Nonsmoking/no pets. 858-454-5419.

LA JOLLA. Breezy and 1/2 block to ocean studio, \$1139. Eat-in kitchen, large closet, pool, laundry. Beautiful evening sunsets. Call Dean to tour. 858-536-1900.

LA JOLLA. Tri-level townhouse with attached garage near beaches/shops. 1 bedroom with study loft, recent remodel with all appliances, pool/jacuzzi. \$1595. 214-500-8349.

LA JOLLA. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. 2-car garage. Washer/dryer. All appliances. Near park, UCSD, transit, Trader Joe's. 3327 Caminito Gandara. \$1750. 858-481-1238.

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LA JOLLA. Studio available now. Full renovated. Parking and all appliances including washer/dryer. Walk to beach. 935 Genter Street. \$1250. 619-334-6781. www.poseidonproperty.com.

LA JOLLA. \$875. Studio, 1 bath apartment, month-to-month lease, close to Windansea Beach. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

LA JOLLA/BIRD ROCK. Quaint cottage. Charming 1 bedroom, 1 bath plus den starting at \$1650. Includes granite countertops, hardwood floors, designer lighting and accent wall colors. Close to beach. Laundry facility. Off-street parking. Cat OK. Walking distance to the village. Toll free: 1-800-490-6372. www.pacificliving.com.

LA JOLLA/UTC. \$1645. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, 2-car parking included,

pool, Jacuzzi, sauna, business center. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

LA MESA. Cozy 3 bedroom 2 bath house. Private fenced yard, 2 car garage. Fireplace, hardwood floors, gardener. Quiet neighborhood. \$1950. Leave message 619-749-4578.

LA MESA. \$995. Beautiful, large, clean 2 bedroom townhouse on cul-de-sac. Newly upgraded. Parking. Laundry. New appliances. Private yard/patio. No pets/smoking. 619-954-5286.

LA MESA. \$950. 1 bedroom. Hardwood floors, new appliances, freshly painted. Laundry facilities. Garage available. Pets OK. Section 8 OK. Available now. Call Tony, 619-316-3473. e-mail: av_lopez@cox.net

LA MESA. \$795 rent. \$600 deposit. OAC. Large 1 bedroom detached cottage. Open daily 3:30-6pm. No pets. At 4859 Jessie Street (east of 73rd). 619-299-8515.

LA MESA. \$1495. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Charming condo. La Mesa Racquet n' Swim Club. Granite counters. Laminated flooring. Modern appliances. Tile back splash. Views. 858-598-1111. utopi-amgmt.com.

LA MESA. \$900, 1 bedroom, deposit \$450. \$1125, 2 bedroom, \$500 deposit. Dishwasher. Carport. Storage. Pool. Gated. No pets. Barbecues. 5435 Morengo Avenue. 619-698-7926. villaknollsapts.com.

LA MESA. \$865. Village area 1 bedroom, upper unit available in great location. Lots of storage, ceiling fan, water and trash paid. Off street parking, on-site laundry. 8276 Orchard Avenue. 619-838-0386 or 619-460-8011.

LA MESA. \$850. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Parking, pool, laundry, yard. Cat OK. 4905 73rd Street. Call 619-697-8458.

LA MESA. \$795. studio. \$1050, 1 bedroom. Lease month-to-month. Garage, laundry on-site. Cat OK with additional deposit. 5027 Guava. Call Charlene, 619-980-0238.

LA MESA. \$870. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Dishwasher. Pool. Parking. Laundry. No pets. 5436 Vincetta Court. Call 619-462-8896. www.kandrpproperties.com.

LA MESA. \$795 includes utilities. Spacious studio, private bedroom area, patio, newer carpet, barbecue area. Garage included. Call 619-462-1550.

LA MESA. \$975. 1 bedroom. Half off first month's rent! Free credit check. Pool, saunas. Off-street parking. On-site laundry. Close to downtown La Mesa, trolley, shops and freeways. Cats welcome. Crestview Apartments, 4515 3rd Street. 619-465-9934.

LA MESA. \$920/up, 1 bedroom. \$1220/up, 2 bedroom. Across Grossmont Center, trolley, Costco. Quiet, spacious units. Pools. Mellmanor Apartments, 8750 Mellmanor Drive. 619-461-1940.

LA MESA. \$950. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, remodeled interior. Clean, quiet, secure. On-site laundry and parking. Close to freeways and SDSU. This one is good! Available now. If you can find one better,

rent it! 7240 El Cajon Boulevard #22. Rachael, 619-804-1044 or Jeff, 619-713-1044.

LA MESA. \$995. Extra large, upper 2 bedroom, 1 bath, large kitchen with wood cabinets, appliances, laundry. Heart of Downtown La Mesa. Near all. Cat ok. 4610 Nebo Drive #8. 619-384-9219.

LA MESA. \$1250. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Near SDSU. Large upstairs unit. Air conditioning, balcony, pool. Laundry. Lots of storage. 6775 Alvarado Road #23. 619-698-6911. goldenmanagement.com.

LA MESA. \$1195. 2 bedroom. Classic 2 bedroom apartment. Great location. Available for your consideration is the classic 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment located in a small quiet complex. Current ownership has installed new windows, re-finished the original hardwood floors, added ceramic tile countertops and new vinyl floors in the kitchen and bath. Enormous kitchen with a walk-in pantry. Large living room and spacious bedrooms with ceiling fans. Current upgrades to include new paint in designer colors, new light fixtures and new blinds. Includes one off street covered parking space, property has on-site laundry and is close to shopping and restaurants. Available March 1, 2008. Sorry, no pets. 8006 Fairview Avenue. Photos available upon request. Call Scott, 619-846-6615. scott@hendershawandassociates.com

LA MESA. 1 bedrooms, \$890/up. 2 bedroom townhouse, \$1200. Spacious. Near Grossmont Center. Great neighborhood. Convenient to all! Villa Morocco. 5545 Morro Way. 619-985-3500.

LA MESA. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. 1100 square feet, beautifully refurbished, air conditioning, pool, parking. 24-hour laundry room. \$1425. No Section 8/dogs. 619-464-5557.

LA MESA. North of Costco: \$1350. 2 bedroom 1-1/2 bath. Air conditioning. Large unit. Bright and sunny. Extra storage, oversized private balcony. Storage closet. New carpet and paint. Upstairs unit. 2-car garage available. Small pet OK. Agent, Barbara, 619-589-0802.

LA MESA. Very large apartment homes in a lush garden complex. Lots of closet space. Near shopping and public transportation. 1 bedroom, 1 bath \$925, 2 bedroom, 2 bath \$1125-\$1200. Community pool, laundry, covered parking. 619-697-3285. For photo, floor plans, map and directions, see website: www.sdreader.com/news/rent1035.

LA MESA/CASA DE ORO. 1 bedrooms, \$945-\$995. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1195. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1325. Air/heat. Huge patios/balconies. Gated access and parking. Small pet OK. Elegant, sculptured courtyards with flower gardens, fountains, gas lamps, park benches. Charming, New Orleans ambiance. 3903 Conrad Drive. 866-894-6343. www.sdreader.com/news/rent1017.

LA MESA/FLETCHER PARKWAY. Super spacious 1 bedrooms, \$995. \$250 move-in incentive. Award winning community. Pool and spa. Great location. No pets. Open Saturday, 9am-5:30pm. 5500 Morro Way. TPPM, 619-884-7900; www.villageaptslamesa.com.

LAKESIDE. \$975/up. 2 bedrooms and 3 bedrooms, 1 bath. Off-street parking. Fenced yard. Air. Appliances. Newer upgrades. Section 8 OK. 619-449-6153.

LAKESIDE. \$750. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Spacious. Laundry, parking. Available 3/15. 12718 Mapleview Avenue #3. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

LEMON GROVE. \$800. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Nice, spacious, upstairs unit. Close to all. Laundry. Small backyard. Available now. 3320 Vista Avenue #7. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

LEMON GROVE. \$833. Extra-large studio. 576 square feet. Newly remodeled. Ample parking. Fenced yard. Laundry hookups. Water/trash paid. Pet considered. 8349 Palm. 619-403-3713.

LEMON GROVE. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Dishwasher. Patio. Laundry on site. \$1250. 7165 Central Avenue. Call 619-697-8458.

LEMON GROVE. \$1395. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. On-site laundry includes 2 washers and 2 dryers for this 6-unit complex. Super clean, quiet and secure. Secure tuck-under parking. If you can find one better; rent it. 3262 Buena Vista #6. Rachael, 619-804-1044 or Jeff 619-713-1044.

LINDA VISTA. \$685-\$1200. Studios with utilities included, 2 bedrooms, 3 bedrooms. Laundry, gated parking. \$400-\$800 deposits! No pets. Astro Vista Apartments, 2249 Ulric Street. 858-565-6400.

LINDA VISTA. Call now for a special! 2 bedroom, 1 bath townhouses, \$1075 and \$1150. Single level 2 bedroom, \$1125. Backyard, assigned parking, hardwood floors. No pets please. Office at 2451 Ulric Street. 619-249-9585.

LINDA VISTA. \$995. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 2-story. Brand new paint, carpet, countertops! Don't miss out! 6512 Kelly Street. Manager, 619-820-2584.

LINDA VISTA. \$945. Lower, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, enclosed patio, parking. No pets. 6752 Kelly Street. 619-281-4698.

LINDA VISTA. \$1195. 1/2 off first month. Extra large, upper 2 bedroom, 1 bath, large private patio, appliances, new carpet, vinyl, paint. Laundry. Across from USD. Pet negotiable. 5651 Mildred Street #B. 619-804-3325.

MIRA MESA. \$895. Upper 1 bedroom, 1 bath, great location, lots of cabinets, walk-in closet, laundry, off-street parking. Small pets, section 8 ok. 8767 Mira Mesa Boulevard #8. 619-804-3325.

MISSION BEACH. On the boardwalk! Newly renovated 2 and 3 bedrooms. Luxury units for rent. Granite, Stainless steel appliances. Travertine tile. Everything new! Private balconies, new pool, security building/parking. 3790 Riviera Drive. From \$2750. Manager at 858-270-0860.

MISSION BEACH. \$1250. Adorable, downstairs 1 bedroom. Fenced patio. Parking. Laundry facility. Appliances. Steps to sand. Across from Catamaran hotel. 750 Wavecrest Court. 858-272-9547.

MISSION BEACH. 1 bedroom, 1 bath \$975. walk to beach or bay. 3594 Mission Boulevard. Available now. No pets. 858-483-3534 ext. 29. www.cal-prop.com.

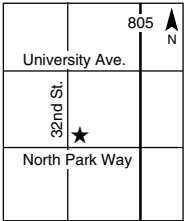
MISSION BEACH. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. \$1495. 2nd floor unit, upgraded, assigned parking spaces, laundry on site. 3550 Bayside Walk #206. 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com

MISSION BEACH. \$1995. 3 bedroom, 1 bath top floor unit with ocean view! Comes with 2 parking spaces, tile floors. 725.5 Santa Barbara Place. 858-583-3534 x29. www.cal-prop.com.

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MISSION BEACH. \$850. Studio. Balcony. New carpet/paint/windows. Laundry room. Parking. 100 feet from bay. 3630 Bayside Lane. Available now. 619-888-6604.

MISSION BEACH. \$1350. Downstairs Bayside 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Hardwood floors. Carpet in bedroom. Parking. No pets. No smoking. 803 Venice Court. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

MISSION BEACH. \$1225. Clean, cute 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Garage. Steps to the beach. No pets. Year-round lease. Water paid. 619-234-4621; 858-566-0072.

MISSION BEACH. \$900. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, refrigerator, stove. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

MISSION BEACH. Ocean front. \$2100. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. On the sand with incredible ocean views. Tile floors. Street parking. Open Saturday 11:30am-12:30pm. 703 Sunset Court. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

MISSION BEACH. \$1200. Cute 1 bedroom cottage with 1 parking space. Close to beach and bay. Available 3/10/08. Westbourne Realtors. 858-488-4800.

MISSION BEACH. 1 bedroom. Walk to beach and Bay. Wood floors. 1-car garage. 3629 Mission Boulevard. \$1022. 858-568-5081.

MISSION BEACH NORTH. \$1275. Newly refurbished 1 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. Shared laundry/storage. Steps to ocean! 720 San Jose Place. Available now. 858-740-7682.

MISSION HILLS. \$1200/up. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Laundry. Parking. Pets OK. La Paloma Apartments. Open daily, 1-5pm. 3911 Dove. 619-297-1134.

MISSION HILLS/NORTH Historical residential area. 2 bedrooms: half off 1st month of \$1175/month on immediate move-in. 1 bedroom: \$875. On-site laundry. No pets. 619-298-6436.

MISSION HILLS/HILLCREST. \$1580-\$1690, 1 bedrooms. \$2175, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Central air/heat. Dishwasher. Gas stove. Vaulted ceilings. Fireplaces. Walk-in closets. Washer/dryer. Internet access. Elevator. Gym. Cats welcome. Mission Hills Commons Apartments, 4021 Falcon Street. missionhills@sbcglobal.net. Please call today, 619-220-0707. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2032.

MISSION HILLS. \$1350. Spacious 1 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath condo. Gated. Quiet. Views! Laundry. Underground parking. Available now. Hillside Colony, 1802 McKee Street. 619-300-1152.

MISSION HILLS. \$1400. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. First floor, tile throughout. Clean, bright. Nice area on hill. Laundry. Pets OK. Deposit \$1000. 3776 Keating. 858-613-1069.

MISSION HILLS. \$1495. View of harbor. 1 bedroom condo. Fully furnished. New wood floors, paint, furniture, pool, covered parking, laundry facilities. Pets ok. Arturo, 973-495-2993.

MISSION HILLS/HILLCREST. \$940. 1 bedroom. Quiet. Pool, barbecue. Dishwasher. On-site laundry. Covered parking. No pets. EOH. 619-299-8746.

MISSION HILLS/HILLCREST. Spacious studio, newer building, hardwood floors.

\$750. Near restaurants/shops/bus. No pets. 3652 Columbia Street. 619-258-6788.

MISSION HILLS. \$1150. Panoramic harbor view. 1 bedroom in quiet fourplex. Immaculate. New paint. Privacy. Parking. Laundry. No pets/smoking. 760-789-0981.

MISSION VALLEY/USD. Move-in special! \$1400 includes water. New appliances/remodel! 2 bedroom, panoramic views, 2 parking, washer/dryer, hardwood, patio/yard. Pets OK. 858-232-9336.

MISSION VALLEY/USD. Newly remodeled, 4 bedroom, 3 bath townhouse-style. 4-parking spaces. Large living room, 2 huge balconies with panoramic view, hardwood/carpeting, washer/dryer in unit, dishwasher. Private yard. Pets OK. \$3000 (includes water). 858-232-9336.

MISSION VALLEY. Spring-time special! From \$375/weekly, Renovated fully furnished studios/suites! Pool, spa. Full kitchen. On-site laundry. Complimentary continental breakfast. Off-street parking. Free high speed Internet, cable-80 channels, HBO! Near SDSU, Qualcomm, more! Days Inn & Suites, 5343 Adobe Falls Road. 1-800-492-9471; 619-287-1911. SanDiegoHotelsDaysInn.com. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2139.

MISSION VALLEY. Beautiful 2 bedroom 2 bath condo. Corner unit, 1,256 square feet, dishwasher, washer/dryer, easy freeway access, pool/jacuzzi, available 4/1, \$1800/month. 619-281-6882.

MISSION VALLEY. Huge 1 bedroom, Washer and dryer, fireplace. Large patio, pool, spa and more. www.ApartmentFindersInc.com. 619-296-2787.

MISSION VALLEY. Brand new 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms, 3 bedrooms from \$1505. Furnished apartments available. Gated parking garage. Courtesy patrol. Washer/dryer. Fitness center. Movie theater. Pool/spa. Pets allowed. Steps to trolley, restaurants and shops! Village at Morena Vista, 5395 Napa Street. Toll-free, 1-888-571-0840. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2153. villageatmorenavista.com.

MISSION VALLEY/TALMADGE. Receive up to \$500 off first month! Military discounts! 2 bedrooms special from \$1395! Gated. Pool, spa. WiFi access. Outdoor billiards, barbecue lounge. Fitness center. Computer lab, printer. Laundry center, flat screen TVs! Parking. Pet friendly! Mission Pacific, 4454 44th Street. 1-800-372-9146. www.pacificliving.com. www.sdreader.com/news/rent1010.

MISSION VALLEY. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath. \$1500. 10250 Caminito Cuervo. Resort living. Light decor. Central air, pool, spa tennis, sauna, fitness. No pets. 619-563-6656.

MISSION VALLEY. \$2500. 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Dishwasher, microwave, washer/dryer, covered parking. 5805 Friars Road #2105. Available now. 619-640-7530. www.sdforrent.com.

MISSION VALLEY/West. \$860. Unique studio near best of San Diego. Upgraded, short lease, laundry. High ceilings. Gated, landscaped courtyard. No pets/smoking. www.info101.net. 619-297-3000.

MISSION VALLEY/COLLEGE Area. \$500 off first month! 1 bedrooms from \$960! 2

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bedrooms from \$1400. Minutes to shopping, dining, transit, SDSU. Gated community. Pool/spa. On-site laundry. Fitness center. Carports available. 4929 Collwood Boulevard. 619-287-3020. collwoodpines.rasnyder.com.

MISSION VALLEY. \$1060. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, parking included, fitness center, fireplace. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

MISSION VALLEY. \$1050. Large 1 bedroom condo. No pets. Nonsmoking. Parking. Balcony. Dishwasher. Carpet. Nice. Quiet. Pool. Gym. 1621 Hotel Circle South, #E215. Juno, 619-275-3455.

MISSION VALLEY, EAST. \$1100. Condo-quality 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Garage. Fireplace, air conditioning, oak kitchen, skylights. Keyed entry. 6755 Mission Gorge Road. 619-379-9518.

NATIONAL CITY. \$750/month. 1 bedroom fully furnished. Low \$150 deposit. No SDGE deposit or hookup required. 624 East 24th Street. Office open daily. 619-474-3787.

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NORMAL HEIGHTS. Totally remodeled! Spacious, upstairs 2 bedroom, 2 bath plus huge bonus room. Attached 2-car garage. Gated. Laundry onsite. No smoking/pets. \$1600 plus deposit. Available now. 4454 Cherokee Avenue, 92116. Agent: Barbara, 619-405-9493.

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NORMAL HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, \$1050. Large kitchen, new

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paint. 2-car garage. On-site laundry. No pets; nonsmoking. Mr. A's Property Management, 619-697-1888.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$735 1 bedroom, 4263 42nd. \$695 2 bedroom, 4133 37th. Very nice, on-site laundry. No pets. 760-672-0425.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 1 bedroom, \$845/month plus deposit. Quiet building. Parking, laundry. 4722 33rd Street. Call 619-282-6910.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$825. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Parking, laundry, gated. Quiet complex. Available now. 4515 35th Street #4. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$750. Studio. Laundry. Newly refurbished. New appliances. Available 4/1. 3825 Adams Avenue. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$875. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Laundry, gated. Available 4/10. 4665 34th Street. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1000. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Detached cottage. Laundry. Available 4/10. 4577 Park Blvd. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$995. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs. Laundry on-site. Available 4/10. 4582 39th Street. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$795. 1 bedroom. \$200 off first month's rent! Close to shops. On-site laundry and parking. 4655 33rd Street #1. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1025. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs. Gated. Laundry. Parking. No pets. 4379 Swift Avenue #1. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

a schwiggler. If you call someone on a different phone number or block your number you're trying to out-schwiggle them. It's meant to be funny, but you can also say it for someone that is trying to be devious or mildly

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NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1170. Lower 2 bedroom, 2 bath, all appliances, walk-in closet, air conditioning, laundry, off-street parking, storage. Cat ok. 4469 Kansas Street #3. 619-804-3325.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$795. Sunny, new 1 bedroom. Upstairs. Off-street parking. Security gate. Storage closet. Laundry. Lush patio. Clean, quiet complex. Owner/resident manager, 619-339-5494.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 1 bedrooms \$795. Large units separate dining area. Off street parking. Gas stove, refrigerator. Close to all. No pets. Agent, 619-296-3189.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 3 bedroom, 1 bath \$1650. Hardwood floors, tall coved ceilings, faux fireplace, formal dining room, yard, gardener, parking. No pets/nonsmoking. 4448 35th. Agent, 619-296-3189.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$775. Studio. All utilities included. Coin laundry. Parking. Pergo floors. Custom paint and fixtures. Close to freeways. On-site manager. Cat friendly! Available now.

3185 Madison Avenue. Call Shawna 559-392-3874. sunriseliving.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. two 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartments, senior/disabled/Section 8. Quiet, new carpet/paint, coin laundry, elevator, street parking. 3628 Monroe. 619-269-3487.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 4774 33rd Street, #7. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Dishwasher, air conditioning, and washer/dryer. Off street parking. No pets. \$1050/month, \$995 deposit. www.timcassidy.com. Cassidy, Broker, 619-275-LIST.

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NORTH PARK. \$775. 1/2 off first month. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, all new appliances, new carpet/paint/vinyl. Laundry. Pet negotiable. Section 8 ok. 4325 Texas Street #2. 619-804-3325.

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NORTH PARK. \$850. 1 bedroom duplex. Secluded unit, off street parking. Private yard. Stove. refrigerator. Move in special \$300 off first month's rent! 3731 Cherokee Avenue. GoldenManagement.com 619-698-6911.

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OCEAN BEACH. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, \$1150/month. Completely renovated. No pets. Parking on site. Blocks to beach. 4811 Del Mar Avenue. Call Agent, 619-820-2584.

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PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$1875. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Large, upstairs end unit. Remodeled. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave. Coin laundry. Parking. No pets. Shared courtyard. Available 4/15. 1554-1/2 Diamond. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2495/rent, \$2200 deposit. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer/dryer in unit, fireplace, balcony, tandem garage, enclosed patio. 1550 square feet. 1448 Diamond Avenue. Available 3/15. Call Ed, 858-597-6100.

PACIFIC BEACH. Studio, \$695/month. Off-street parking. Laundry available. Close to Mission Bay. 3503 Del Rey Street. Call 858-272-2889.

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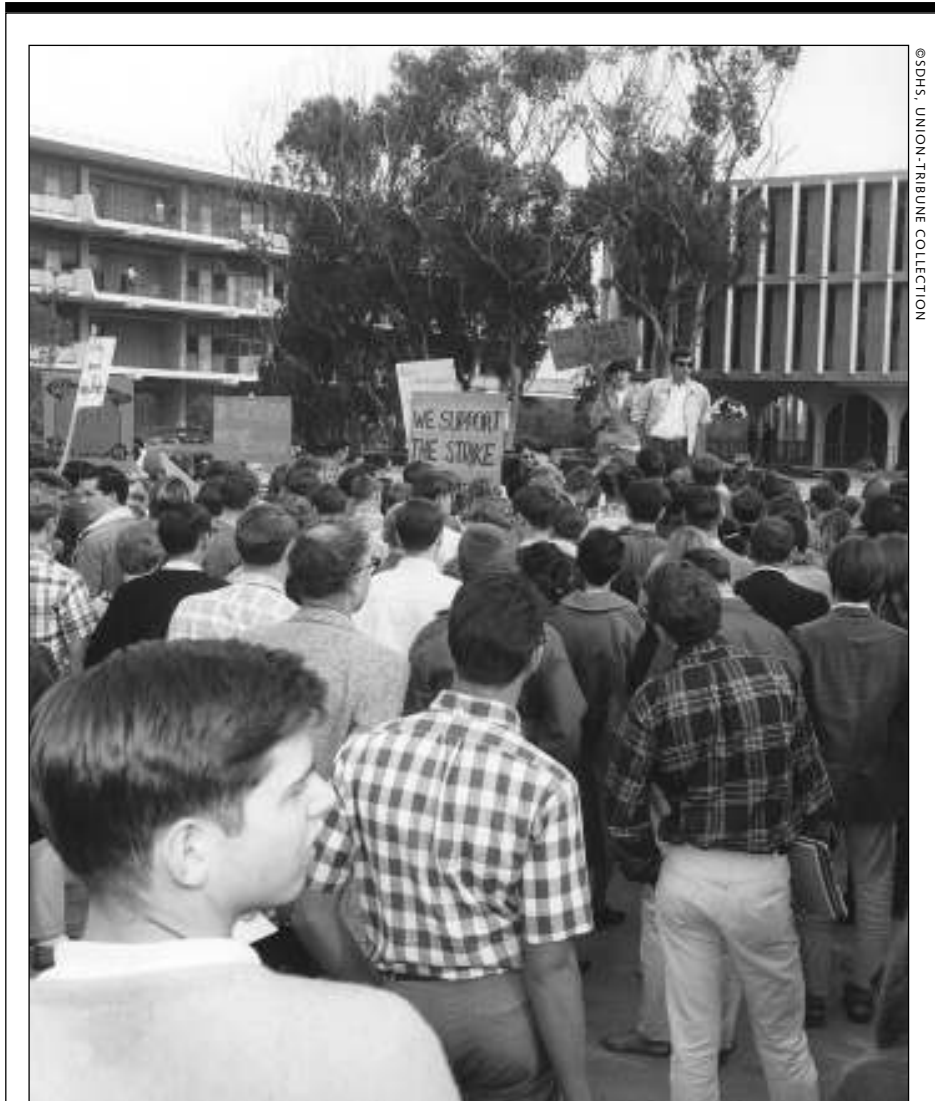
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PACIFIC BEACH. \$2600. 3 bedroom, 3 bath townhouse. \$1250 deposit. No pets. Laundry, fireplace, patio. Available 5/2/08. 1150 Thomas Street. 1 parking space. 858-336-7997.

PICTURE STORY

Photograph from the San Diego Historical Society



Protest at UCSD, 1966. That's Lowell Bergman onstage (with sunglasses). A student of philosopher and social critic Herbert Marcuse, Bergman went on to become a producer on *60 Minutes* (where his exposé on the tobacco industry inspired the *The Insider*, a movie in which Al Pacino played the Bergman role).

In an interview at *postel service.com*, Bergman explains why he went into journalism: “The spark was the incessant appearance of editorials in the *San Diego Union-Tribune* demanding that the University of California regents fire Marcuse.”

— by Robert Mizrachi

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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!

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DOG ADOPTION EVENT. Saturday, 3/15, from 10am-3pm. Petco, Carmel Mountain Ranch, 11160 Rancho Carmel Drive. For more info, call Baja Animal Sanctuary, 619-231-6960.

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In the early '80s, at 19, I enrolled in a culinary school in Hyde Park, New York. I'd planned on finding an apartment off campus, but after getting lost and stuck in a traffic jam in downtown Poughkeepsie, I lost my nerve.

The woman in the housing office was miffed that I expected a room in one of the dormitories after having neglected to turn in my application in a timely manner. She huffed and puffed around and finally handed me a questionnaire which was to indicate the type of roommate I would be. I suspected that — no matter how I answered — she would try to find the most unsuitable roommate possible for me.

No one was in the dorm room when I moved in. The cluttered space was about 200 square feet. It was furnished with three beds, two dressers, and three desks. The bottom bunk was made up with a frilly white bedspread and covered with stuffed animals. The top bunk was serving as a storage unit for a lot of crumpled clothing. The single bed was unmade. I unpacked my suitcases and piled my possessions onto the empty desk.

Muriel showed up later that afternoon;

Room of Exile

Shelly breezed in after dark. Neither woman seemed pleased to meet me. Muriel was a short, rotund woman with granny glasses, frizzy hair, and a fiancé who called her every night at 8 p.m. She would talk to him on her pink princess phone. Shelly was a petite, busty, bleached blonde with a boyfriend that she visited every weekend in New Jersey.

I started off on the wrong foot with Shelly when I asked for permission to remove her clothes from the top bunk. She glared at me and then marched off to go wash her chef's whites for class the next day. I guess I was clueless as to dorm etiquette; I assumed that I was entitled to one of the beds.

I was still on California time and tired and anxious about starting culinary classes the next day. I

piled Shelly's clothes on her side of the room and went to sleep. There was no going back after that bold move — my very existence seemed to enrage Shelly.

At least Muriel was cordial. She would tell me these saccharine stories about her fiancé, Jeffery. Apparently he made a ton of money working for the FBI. The stuffed animals on her bed were all presents from him, each one prompting another tale of how perfect and wonderful Jeffery was. He was a god who walked the earth. I feigned interest but did appreciate her attempt at friendship. Muriel assured me that Shelly would come around eventually. And maybe she would have — if I hadn't pissed off Muriel, too.

My second week of school,

Muriel informed me that Jeffery was visiting and that I'd need to find someplace to spend the weekend. I hadn't made friends with anyone in my class, and besides, out of 32 students, only 6 were women. I told Muriel that I didn't feel comfortable asking any of them to let me sleep on their floor. I didn't have a car or money for a hotel room. Angry, her wire-rimmed glasses balanced on the end of her nose, Muriel declared that I was being unreasonable.

After hearing of my dilemma, several of my male classmates offered to let me stay in their dorm rooms (wink, wink). I declined. On Friday, Muriel gave me a piece of paper with a room number scribbled on it. One of her classmates was going to be out of town, and I was to stay in that person's room. It was my problem to figure out how to gain entry — no key was provided. After my night classes let out, I reported to my assigned room of exile. No one answered the knock. I

Roommate From Hell

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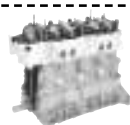
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went back to my own room.

Muriel was furious — I'd interrupted a candlelit night of romance. Muriel's girth was barely covered in her pink nightie. Her frizzy hair was in neat, little-old-lady curls and her face carefully made up. Jeffery was a giant man; he had to twist his head sideways to sit on the edge of the bottom bunk. What else could I do? I scaled the frame to the top bunk and hunkered down under the covers.

After some grumbling about what a thoughtless bitch I was, Muriel turned her radio up full blast, and the two lovebirds got busy. Their combined weight and movement caused the flimsy metal frame to buckle and roll. The noisy mattress springs squeaked for what seemed like hours. I was horrified that the bed would collapse and I'd end up pressing flesh with Muriel and Jeffery. They finished, and their snoring accompanied the tinny sound of the radio until dawn. I crept out of the room at first light.

I spent the day sleep-deprived and resentful, alternating between studying in the library and wandering through the woods along the Hudson River. I overcame my embarrassment and asked a classmate for refuge for Saturday night. I don't think the lovers left the room all weekend. When I returned at one point to get a change of clothes, I saw Jeffery in his tightie whities. It was a frightening sight that is still burning my retinas 25 years later.

After that weekend, Muriel joined forces with Shelly, reminding her at every opportunity that I was a worthless human being. The bulk of their two-woman act was performed as they would get ready for morning classes, complaining in loud whispers, slamming drawers, and flipping the lights on and off while I pretended to be asleep. Then I had the room to myself until noon. Muriel was too fat to hike back to

the room between classes, but Shelly popped in occasionally to smoke a joint or pop some pills with her drug buddies. I tried to be out of the room in the one- to two-hour timeframe between when their day classes ended and my night classes began.

Jeffery wasn't scheduled to visit again for several months, and Shelly began entertaining night visitors. She came up with a combination of pills that allowed her to stay up all night, get to her morning classes, and then sleep all afternoon. At first the parties consisted of a group of men who sat on the floor drinking Jack Daniel's, passing a hissing green glass bong, and listening to Jimi Hendrix or the Doors on the record player Shelly kept on her dresser. They engaged in the kind of chatter that seems profound and witty when you're wasted but is annoying as hell to listen to when you're not. I could never come up with the courage to drive the inebriated imbeciles out of the room, so I fumed in silence and choked smoke. On the occasions that I went to my room during class breaks and woke Shelly up at two or three o'clock in the afternoon, she would complain bitterly about my lack of consideration.

But Shelly's late-night parties weren't as bad as her late-night make-out sessions. After an exhausting day of being screamed at by the European chefs that I was paying to teach me how to cook, I'd be awak-

ened in the dark of night by the smacking, sucking sounds of drunken lust from Shelly's side of the room. The woman apparently had magnificent breasts; that was the most frequent compliment slurred in her honor.

After six weeks I begged the woman in the housing department to let me switch to another room. I was sick of making eye contact with all of Muriel's creepy stuffed animals while I did homework. I was mad at having to keep my toothbrush and hairbrush at my desk so that they wouldn't be knocked to the floor by my roommates every morning as they competed to see who could make the most noise. And even though I asked them not to, they would turn off the heater every morning. On top of all this, Jeffery would soon be arriving for another visit. The opportunity to witness him streak across the room, the majority of his pudgy self exposed, was not something I wanted to experience again.

Even though a class graduated every three weeks and the parking lot was jammed with moving vans on those days, the housing director claimed that she couldn't honor my request until I'd been at the school for an entire quarter. I had about ten dollars' spending money per week. During the weekdays I ate all my meals in the campus dining hall and collected soft rolls and leftovers from the dessert buffets to eat on

the weekends. I had no choice but to wait. Living in Poughkeepsie wasn't an option.

When the arbitrary deadline came and I was allowed to switch rooms, I was elated. I didn't tell Muriel or Shelly. I enlisted several of my classmates to help me move my stuff to my new dorm room while my roommates were in class. I was tempted to exact vengeance by doing something juvenile, such as putting all of Muriel's stuffed animals on Shelly's stained bed, but I didn't.

All six of the women in my cooking class kept the same roommates for their tenure at the school. They knew each other's secrets and went to bars and celebrated holidays together. I was a little disappointed that my new roommate and I didn't become good friends, but I was grateful that she let me put my clothes in the closet and my toothbrush in the bathroom. She didn't have a hissy fit if she found a hair in the bathroom sink. Best of all, I never saw her boyfriend naked.

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LEAD STORY

— The divorce of Anton Popazov and his wife, Nataliya, is about to go through, but the couple are still under contract with the Moscow State Circus, where their act includes Nataliya’s shooting an apple off of Anton’s head with a crossbow. The *Times of London* asked Anton during a show in Sheffield, England, in February whether he was afraid. “I still trust her because Nataliya is very professional,” he said. “[T]he show must go on.”

Can’t Possibly Be True

— Two Park Vista High School girls who admitted that they swiped money off the table of a Girl Scout selling cookies at a supermarket in Boynton Beach, Fla., in January told WPBF-TV later that they had no remorse. Said one (on camera): “We went through all that effort to get [the money]. We got all these charges [against us], and we had to give the money back. I’m kind of pissed.” Added the other, “I’m not sorry. I’m just pissed that I got caught.” The victim’s mother said that the girls returned to the supermarket

the next day and taunted the little girl.

— In February, a court in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, sentenced Briton Keith Brown, 43, to the standard four-year minimum term in prison for violating the country’s “zero tolerance” drug laws, even though the only drug found was a “speck” (0.003 grams) of cannabis caught in the tread of his shoe and discovered only because the Dubai airport uses sophisticated drug-detection equipment. Previously, a Canadian man was imprisoned for “possession” of three poppy seeds (from a bread roll he had eaten at Heathrow Airport in London) that had fallen into his clothing as he prepared for a flight to Dubai.

Inexplicable

— In January, Shafkat Munir, 26, was sentenced to 12 months in jail for an attempted hoax in Lancashire County, England, in 2007 after receiving three speeding tickets. Rather than pay the fines, totaling the equivalent of about \$350 (and retain his license, since his record was otherwise clean), Munir created his own death certificate to get the

charges dismissed. Said an official, “I have never known anyone to go to such lengths [over speeding tickets].” The judge also revoked Munir’s license.

Unclear on the Concept

— On Nov. 30, for a social-justice project at Cheektowaga Central High School (Buffalo, N.Y.), students spent an 18-degree night in cardboard boxes on the school’s lawn, in supposed solidarity with the area’s homeless population. According to a *Buffalo News* report, the suffering students brought DVD players to watch movies inside their boxes, ate donated Dunkin’ Donuts and pizzas, and ducked into the school’s heated gym whenever they got too cold or bored.

Names in the News

— Arrested in October for vehicular assault in Tacoma, Wash. (after which he told a police officer that he had “definitely had a few”): Mr. Glen Alan Casebeer. The victim of a vehicular assault in McMinn County, Tenn., in January (in which his wife allegedly tried to run him over): Mr.

King Money Tarzan Jenkins. Arrested for DUI near Bursleson, Texas, in January (after crashing into a house): Mr. Bryan Scott Moron. Falsely accused of kidnapping a 17-year-old girl in Oshkosh, Wis., in November: a previously convicted sex offender, Mr. Pheuk Kue.

Thinning the Herd

— A 39-year-old man fell to his death while trying to slide down a banister in the Hollywood & Highland Center mall in Los Angeles in January. Three more people died recently as a result of disrespecting railroad tracks: a 42-year-old man, hit by a train on tracks near Burlington, Ill., while listening to his iPod (September); a 31-year-old man, hit by a train in Berkeley, Calif., while talking on his cell phone (November); and another man, hit by a train in San Leandro, Calif., also while on his cell phone (December).

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

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ONE DAY with any repair over \$350.

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Plus disposal fee. With appt.



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POINT LOMA. \$1500. New fixtures, cabinets, carpet. Covered parking. Washer/dryer. Balcony, corner unit. Nice breeze. View of pool/spa. Close to, free-ways, beaches. 858-200-7511.

POINT LOMA. Beautiful 1 and 2 bedrooms from \$1275. Sparkling pool and spa, view deck, outstanding fitness center, media room. Gated parking. Gorgeous complex! No pets. 3950 Leland. Agent, 619-223-1390.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT. Coldwell Banker Property Management, a full-service property management company, specializes in all beach areas. For a complete list of services, please call 858-488-2228.

RANCHO PENASQUITOS. \$1300-\$1350, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. \$600 off with 6-month lease! Low \$500 deposits! Newly remodeled. Air conditioning. Pool, spa. Carport. No pets. Rancho Villas Apartments. 858-484-0744.

RANCHO PENASQUITOS. \$1200. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Tiled floors throughout. All appliances. Central location. Near all. 10351 Azuaga #97, 92129. 619-698-6911. goldenmanagement.com.

RANCHO PENASQUITOS. \$1550. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Tiled floors throughout. All appliances. Central location. Near all. 10351 Azuaga #97, 92129. 619-698-6911. goldenmanagement.com.

SAN CARLOS. Super special! 2 bedroom townhouses. \$1375 and up. Stove, dishwasher, garage, large patio, pool, laundry facilities. Lakewood Villa Townhomes,

8492 San Carlos Drive, San Diego. 619-469-3585; 619-944-0671.

SAN MARCOS. \$1550. 931 estimated square footage. Beautiful 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath condo. Wonderful kitchen with granite countertops, stainless steel appliances. Pets OK. Agent, 619-471-2201.

SAN YSIDRO. \$950/mes. 2 cuartos, 2 banos con propio garage. Segundo piso, completamente remodelado. No mascotas. 123 W Oliver Drive #7. Unidad #1. 619-690-1069.

SANTEE. \$1150. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo, 900 square feet, pool, garage, water/sewer/trash paid. 9849 Mission Greens Court #3. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400, www.peoplehelpingothers.com.

SCRIPPS RANCH/SABRE SPRINGS. \$1500. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Cathedral ceilings, central air, washer/dryer, 1-car garage, fireplace, patio, pool/spa. Small pet. 858-229-5039.

SHERMAN HEIGHTS. 532 21st Street #2. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$725. 1/2 off first month's rent! dc@sdcpm.net. SDCPM, 619-220-4840.

SOLANA BEACH. \$1315. Newly remodeled 1 bedroom. Upstairs apartment home located just around the corner from Del Mar beaches, race track, and close to Cedro's Design District. Our community is perfect for the Southern California lifestyle. Open kitchen, breakfast bar, walk in closet, ceiling fans, balconies. Pets welcome. This will go fast so call to

day! If interested please call 858-755-1466.

SOUTH PARK. \$1100. Large 1 bedroom. Large patio and closets. Laminate floors. Kitchen has dining area. No dogs. 619-300-1365.

SOUTH PARK. \$750. Studio. Half off deposit! Gated complex. Laundry. Cat OK. 2865 A Street. Call 858-490-1600. www.kandrproperties.com.

SOUTH PARK. Cute, spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. 1644 Grove Street. \$975. \$700 deposit. \$200 off. Laundry. Near Balboa Park. Big City. 619-584-5900.

SOUTH PARK. \$645/rent. Studio. \$400 deposit. Laundry facilities available. Close to Balboa Park/stores. No pets. Big City Property Management. 619-584-5900..

SPRING VALLEY. Half off first month, OAC! \$1050. 2 bedroom. \$1299. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Spacious. Laundry, balconies, pool. Military accepted. Espanol. 619-857-0365.

TALMADGE. \$1095. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Gated, garage, laundry. Section 8 OK. 4454 Dawson Avenue #6. AML Property Management, 619-697-6314.

TALMADGE/KENSINGTON. \$250 off first months rent! Deluxe 2 bedroom, 1 bath at \$1035! Large closets, built-in shelving, ceiling fans, separate dining room. Refrigerator, stove, dishwasher. Covered parking, courtyard, on-site laundry. Pool, spa with poolside WiFi. Outdoor billiards, barbecue lounge with WiFi. Fitness center, computer lab! Pet friendly. Call for appointment. 619-282-1191. www.pacificliving.com.

TALMADGE/COLLEGE AREA. 1/2 month free! \$785, 1 bedroom. New carpet/paint.

Quiet complex. Laundry, parking, gated, 4420 Estrella Avenue. 619-253-2290.

TALMADGE/COLLEGE. \$750. 1 bedroom downstairs unit. Refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, on-site laundry, storage closet. No pets. Optional parking. Available now. 4492 Estrella. 858-538-5013.

TIERRASANTA. \$845. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Senior complex. Gated, quiet complex, recreation room with activities, on-site laundry. Next to shopping, bank, pharmacy and more. Cat OK. Section 8 OK. 4906 La Cuenta Drive. www.centrecity.net. 619-296-6699.

TIERRASANTA. \$1895. 4 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhome. Unit includes refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, microwave. Washer/dryer hook-ups. Community pool/spa. www.utopiamanagement.com, 858-588-1111 x193.

UNIVERSITY CITY. \$1695. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, cedar wood closet interior, built-in microwave, large patio, full-size washer and dryer, community pool and jacuzzi. www.centrecity.net. 3945 Camino Calma. 619-296-6699.

UNIVERSITY CITY. 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse. \$2250/month. 1 year lease. All appliances. 2 car garage. Call for appointment. Michael, 858-597-6100.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$1150. Completely refurbished, big lower 2 bedroom apartment in small, quiet complex. New ceramic tile and carpets. Eat-in kitchen with back door to very large private patio. Small pet considered. 4519-1/2 Georgia Street. Available March 15. For appointment to see, call Broker, 619-548-4599.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$795. Studio, 1 bath. Laundry available. Available 3/15. 4320 Campus Avenue #5. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. Huge upstairs 2 bedroom, \$1050. Quiet, gated 8-unit building. Covered parking, laundry on-site. Available April 1. 4464-1/2 Oregon Street. Agent, 619-260-1368. View at http://www.sevillamgmt.com.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 1 bedroom, 1 bath senior or disabled community apartments. \$695. Move in special: 1/2 off second month's rent. On-site laundry, gated community, close to bus lines. Small pets OK! 4086 Swift Avenue. Agent, 858-560-1178 for additional information. Roberto, 858-688-0396 to schedule an appointment to view the unit.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$695. Small 1 bedroom cottage at back of property. Quiet, private. 4482 Georgia Street. Good credit/references. No pets. 619-585-9471.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 1 and 2 bedrooms, \$750-\$895. Nonsmoking. Appliances. Carpets. Off-street parking. Laundry room. Deposit/credit check required. Onsite manager. 4338 Mississippi Street. 619-884-4322.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 1/2-off first month's rent! 4585.5 Arizona Street. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$800. dc@sdcpm.net. SDCPM, 619-220-4840.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$895. Extra large 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Gated, all appliances, shared garage, patio, new paint, laundry. Near all. 4550 Louisiana. 619-804-3325.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$995. Large, upper 2 bedroom, gated, new flooring, paint, blinds and ceiling fans. Laundry. Off-street parking. Section 8 ok. 4452 Louisiana Street #9. 619-804-3325.

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bedrooms, \$1349. Town Park Villas, 4633 Governor Drive. 858-453-0441.

UTC/LA JOLLA 4 bedroom 2 bath, beautiful condo, 1 car garage. Patio, refrigerator, washer/dryer. Tennis, pool. Near shopping. No pets. \$2300/negotiable. 858-573-0239.

VISTA. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$850. Jacuzzi, parking, gated, laundry. Open house Saturday, 10am-1pm. \$200 off move-in special! 322 Hillside Terrace. 760-941-9006. www.melroyproperties.com.

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With coupon only. Plus \$8.25 for certificate and \$3 transfer fee. Retest free when repair done on site. VIP service, 2 machines. No appointment necessary. Most 4-cyl. cars only. 1995 and older \$7 extra. European cars extra.



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With free brake and 32-point inspection.

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Complete transmission flush by Trans Tech 2000 flush machine, unique in its class, flushing 100% of old fluid out and adding new fluid in. Labor only. Most 4-cyl. cars. Ask for details.

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Most 4-cyl. cars. Freon extra.

ENGINE FLUSH \$49⁹⁵

State-of-the-art engine flush machine built by Bilstein. Complete engine oil flush from top to bottom.

Labor only. Most 4-cyl. cars. Ask for details.

MAJOR SERVICE 30K/60K/90K

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As low as

\$139⁹⁵

Includes:

- Install spark plugs
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- Change engine oil and filter
- Inspect brakes
- Clean & adjust rear brakes
- Check all belts
- Replace air filter
- Inspect suspension
- Transmission service—drain and refill
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FREE “CHECK ENGINE” LIGHT DIAGNOSTIC

With repair on-site.



COOLANT SERVICE \$29⁹⁵

Includes 1 gallon of coolant. Most 4-cyl. cars. Dex coolant extra.

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Most 4-cyl. Inspect filters, replace copper core plugs.

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Most 4-cyl. cars. Front or rear. Install new pads or shoes. Resurface rotors or drums.

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BACK WHEN

In the Reader

Thirty Years Ago

"Jacumba Hotel, Ida here."

"Hello, I'd like a reservation for this weekend."

"Sorry, honey, we're filled up. We've got two groups coming in — the glider club and the A.A. — plus all the regulars."

"Not even room for one?"

(Fumbling of the receiver, thrashing of papers.) "Well, maybe I can make room for you, honey. Rates are 12 dollars a night, including three meals a day. If you can't be at the table at meal time, you better plan on eating someplace else."

"I'll be there."

— **"A QUIET STREET AND AN OLD HOTEL,"**

Steve Sorensen, March 16, 1978

Twenty-Five Years Ago

A.W. Coggeshall came here when the city was young, just 42 years after Alonzo E. Horton founded New San Diego. That was in 1909, the same year that Horton died. Like Horton, Coggeshall as a young man clerked in a grocery store and was an outstanding athlete; like Horton, as soon as he could he started buying land, in what by then was downtown San Diego. Unlike Horton, Coggeshall has given no land away, has built no grand buildings, doesn't live in a mansion, and has never run

for public office.

— **"CAN YOU SPOT THE MILLIONAIRE IN THIS**

PICTURE?" Amy Chu, March 17, 1983

Twenty Years Ago

After reading "Coyote: Confessions of an Illegal Alien Smuggler" (February 25), I would like to comment. The illegal-alien problem cannot be ignored any longer by the residents of San Diego, the South Bay, and the communities closer to the border, like Imperial Beach, Otay, and San Ysidro.

My personal solution to control the illegal invasion here is a big wall along the borders of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. I would like to suggest a name for it — "The Enchilada Wall."

— **LETTERS: "THE WALL,"** Jose A. Puentes, Chula Vista,

March 17, 1988

Fifteen Years Ago

The state senate is set to vote today on whether to confirm San Diego attorney John Davies as a member of the University of California's Board of Regents. Davies was nominated to the post by his old friend, Governor Pete Wilson. Critics say Davies is a poor choice in a culturally diverse university system.

One example they site is his ownership stake in San Diego radio station KIFM, which

is being investigated by the Federal Communications Commission for not meeting minority hiring standards.

— **CITY LIGHTS: "WILSON BUD SNAGGED IN RACIAL**

JAZZ CASE," Dirk Sutro, March 18, 1993

Ten Years Ago

Larry Lawrence, the late owner of the Hotel del Coronado and Bill Clinton's onetime ambassador to Switzerland, achieved posthumous ignominy when it was revealed that his wartime service in the Merchant Marine was a hoax, and his body was exhumed from Arlington National Cemetery.

A major player in the "Gravegate" scandal was Lawrence's ex-aide, Norma Nicolls, who came forward to testify that Lawrence had asked her to conduct research on Merchant Marine ships of the World War II—era, apparently in an effort to place himself in the midst of a North Atlantic battle.

Nicolls also became a confidante to columnist Arianna Huffington, who has used Nicolls as a key source in her in her ongoing coverage of the Lawrence scandals.

— **CITY LIGHTS: "LARRY'S BEST GAL,"** Bill Manson,

March 19, 1998

Five Years Ago

In March of 1964 I was the Senior Advisor of a



San Diego Reader, March 16, 1978

patrol of four Americans and a platoon of Jarai Montagnard tribesmen. We were out hunting for the population of a Jarai village that the Viet Cong had kidnapped to use as slave labor in the jungle.

"No g'pow! No g'pow!" g'pow being Jarai for gun. Probably the only thing that saved two of them was that my troops had to shoot wide to avoid hitting me. But they hit one of them and blood ran down his back as he ran.

— **CITY LIGHTS: "CHIMPS WITH NUKES,"** Jim Morris,

March 13, 2003

Columns archived at SDReader.com

looks Tecolote Canyon. 3 bonus rooms downstairs. Covered patio. 1400 square feet. \$385,000. Roger, owner, 858-571-7376.

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PACIFIC BEACH. Rent to own. French doors open to balcony. Second level. Washer/dryer in unit. Granite, stainless. Parking space. Approximately \$3000/month. Purchase: \$498,000. 858-761-5650.

SANTEE. Gorgeous total remodeled 4 bedroom 2 bath. Granite countertops. New cabinets, tile, travertine. Check out, www.9761mstblvd.com, for pictures and more details. \$365,000. Owner 858-472-1013.

SANTEE. Mobile home, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, senior park, central heating/air conditioning. Space rent \$485. 2 pets OK. Open house: Sundays, 1-4pm. \$48,000. 619-442-4514.

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DEL MAR. Lovely, sunny 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with pool and Jacuzzi. Monthly interest \$1695. \$15,000 down. APR only 5.9%. Call Agent, Elizabeth, at 619-286-5813.

DOWNTOWN. Studio condo. Discounted 12th floor. Balcony with views, parking. \$7760 down required. Buyer to finance balance of \$250,884. 858-272-2760, tricken@san.rr.com.

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Notch Realty Inc. for details. 858-715-0688.

UTC-GORGEOUS REMODEL! Spacious 3 bedroom townhome. Double garage. Gourmet kitchen. Fireplace. High ceilings. Open house: Saturday, 12pm-4pm. \$690K. 7125A Calabria Court. Agent: Sean, 866-473-7325.

REAL ESTATE

MISCELLANEOUS

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Most cars.

Plus parts. A/C extra. Most cars. All vehicles welcome. Call for a quote for your vehicle.

Free alignment inspection!

(With appointment, please)

Computerized Alignment

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Thrust Angle

4-Wheel Alignment \$49⁹⁵

Set toes to specs.

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Plus labor. Most cars.

Maintenance Tune-up

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AS LOW AS 4-cyl.

Install plugs. Premium plugs extra.

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Call for details.

Free brake inspection! BRAKE SPECIAL

FROM **\$79⁹⁵** Most cars.

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Synthetic Oil Available

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EL CAJON. \$225,000. Office space, re-modeled in Airways Business Center, 1,500 square feet. Travertine floors, granite countertops, back storage area. Motivated seller, Paul 619-954-5233; 619-448-9900.

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IDAHO/NORTH. Land. Beautiful forest, lakes, rivers and streams, tremendous wildlife. Great hunting and fishing. Horseback riding. Skiing nearby many parcels with photos, <http://nidland.com>.

MIRA MESA. Great time to be a buyer or seller! I can help. Bill Lumsden, Keller Williams Realty. 858-457-9400; email: BarnacleBill@kw.com; website: <http://Bill.Lumsden.YourKWAgent.com>.

MIRA MESA. Buying or selling a home? Military PCS move no problem! 23 years of active duty. Keller Williams Team. <http://Bill.Lumsden.YourKWAgent.com>. BarnacleBill@kw.com. 858-457-9400.

MISSION VALLEY. Terrace professional office. Flexible ranging from 200 to 3000 square feet. Full time and onsite staff, great location. Leasing agent, Merrily, 619-285-9000. www.MissionValleyTerrace.com.

OREGON/UMATILLA. 303 acre Umatilla buffalo ranch. Nice 2100 square foot custom log home, 6000 square foot shop, buffalo corrals, 125 acre irrigated circle with water rides, 270 acres of rock, all rock are leased under mining permit. Minutes from town, 541-567-2833.

ZERO DOWN ALL AREAS or cash out for any reason. Credit scores to 300. Foreclosure, bankruptcy OK. No out-of-pocket costs. Loans available. Ron, 408-461-0406, www.weneedaloannow.com.

TICKETS

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EVENING WITH Charles Phoenix show, Friday, 3/14, 8pm, Emerald Ballroom, Westin San Diego, 400 West Broadway. Purchase tickets here: <http://web.memtberclicks.com/mc/quickForm/viewForm/do?orgId=vra&formId=39268>.

LIFT TICKET for Snow Valley, good any day, \$20. Ocean Beach, 619-408-0022.

PADRE TICKETS. Three partners seeking fourth. Two seats, Toyota Terrace, home games, 20 games (every 4th home game), 4th row, halfway between home/first base. Exclusive Toyota Terrace box access. Pay \$49/ticket (face value, \$62). Gary, 619-807-4371.

SPORTS

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AB-DOER II, complete, perfect condition, with videos, \$50. 619-466-1887.

AIR RIFLE, RWS model 34, 177 caliber, wood stock, \$175. Still in box. 619-574-7530.

BOAT, 20' 1978 Gulf Stream with trailer, OMC 800 stern drive, 350 engine, runs well, hull in great shape, in saltwater only, \$3500. 619-850-2852; 760-494-8774.

GOLF POLE CARTS, 2. With woods, irons, and retractable side seat. Hers \$35, his \$55. 619-469-9325.

KAYAK, great condition, Wave Sport XXX, white water kayak, 7'10"Lx24.25"Wx44 gallon, paddler height 5'9", paddler weight to 190lbs., concave deck with foot bumps, \$250. 619-971-8394.

KAYAKS FOR SALE. Closeout sale on all leftover 2007 model Cobra Tourer and Expedition kayaks. Includes used demonstrator models and new display kayaks from 15' to 18'. New prices from \$995 to \$1700. Closeout prices on complete packages from \$595 to \$895. Some used trade in kayaks, 10' to 13' also available priced from \$250 to \$500. Visit our website at www.kayaksd.com or call San Diego Sailing Center at 858-488-0651.

POOL TABLE, Olhausen 8' Monarchet, new cover and cushions, has Ping Pong table shell, includes move and set up, beautiful, \$1300. Lew, 858-794-0676.

SAILBOAT, new, wood, North Sea Cutter, 40'x14', rebuilt Volvo engine, deal of a lifetime, \$13,000/best. 619-203-3153.

SNOWBOARD BLOWOUT SALE 25%-75% off selected new and used snowboards, boots, clothing and accessories. Why rent this year when you can buy at these prices? Trade in other sports and fitness equipment to save even more money. Play It Again Sports, Pacific Beach, Tierrasanta, College Area. 858-490-0222, www.playitagainsd.com.

SOFTBALL LEAGUE Wants individual players for new 2008 seasons in San Diego and South Bay. 619-517-5781.

SOFTBALL PLAYERS. We need a 3rd baseman and a left fielder. 619-295-0385.

SOFTBALL TEAM WANTS, An infielder and fast outfielder. 619-517-5791.

SOUTHWEST KAYAK SYMPOSIUM. March 29-30 at Campland by the Bay, Mission Bay, San Diego. Lessons, demos, information. Huge sale on kayaks and accessories. www.aqua-adventures.com 619-523-9577.

SURFBOARDS. Brand new triple stringer, tail block 9.0 Wave Weapon Eliminator, just \$550; was \$975. 200 boards in stock, 40% off! 38 used boards from \$80 and up. Call 760-809-8642.

TENNIS LEAGUE. Intermediate to advanced skill levels. Join the year-round fun at the #1 League in San Diego. Leagues starting now. 858-794-1800; www.tennisleague.com.

TENT, Coleman, 10'x10' Sundome, sleeps 4, never out of box, \$80/best. 619-466-1887.

UNIVERSAL GYM, squat station, chest station, 2 pulley stations, adjustable bench, Olympic bar and dumbbells, 400lbs. of plates and weight rack, \$350. 858-354-6286.

PHOTO

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CANON UC-1 8mm camera, \$200. Pat, 619-540-5604.

CANON UC-1, 8mm camera, \$200. Pat, 619-540-5604.

STUDIO STAND, Foba, heavy duty, professional, excellent condition, was in storage most of the time, \$1000/best. 619-274-1900.

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A+ COMPUTER TECH SUPPORT. Repairs, upgrades, installations, virus/spyware removal, website design, music, networks, cable/DSL, video, etc. A+/MCP certified. 24/7 onsite. \$25/hour. 858-793-0398.

COMPUTER CIRCULATION CENTER. Buy, sell, trade. Laptops, PCs. Repairs, upgrades, virus/spyware removal. 24-48 hour turnaround. 9350 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, San Diego 92123. Call 858-573-0411.

COMPUTER HELP? Call the best! Fast, friendly, reliable. Repairs, upgrades, training, cable/DSL, networks, wireless! \$35/hour plus \$10 onsite. Music recording. 858-735-6680.

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PRINTER, Epson 440 Stylus color, supports Windows 98, new, never out of box, \$30. 858-344-1188.

TOTAL COMPUTER. Commercial service. We do everything. Installation, set-up, training, repair, networking, telephones, wiring, upgrades. \$20 in-home diagnostics. 619-941-1809; cell, 619-607-0221.

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BIKE UNIVEGA ALPINA, professional mountain bike, 18 speed, 18.5 inch frame. Good working condition with good Knobby Tires \$100. 619-296-9415.

LA JOLLA. Grand old home. 4 bedroom 4 baths. Front/rear yard. Shores/beach views. 2 car garage. Guest studio. 1501 Torrey Pines Road. Available as residence, special events, assisted living. Fix-up in progress. Can accommodate your needs. \$6,000 per month. Mike Stalsby Platt Realty Call 858-344-1033.

MOUNTAIN BIKE, full suspension, fits 5'2"x5'8" height, excellent condition, burgundy color, \$150. 619-437-8739.

WANTED / TRADE

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CASH for Walt Disney autographs, original animation/comic art, vintage Disney items, Disneyland items, any type vintage comics, autographed photos (no sports), movie items, 619-465-3090.

FISHING TACKLE. Collector wants for his personal collection wooden lures, reels, miscellaneous by Heddon, Pflueger, Creek Chub, South Bend, Shakespeare, to name a few. 619-972-3488.

INDIAN ARROWHEADS/ARTIFACTS. Must be authentic. Call Steve at 619-985-8562.

OLD TOYS AND TRAINS. Lionel, American Flyer, Marx, Aurora, Corgi, Dinky, Hot Wheels, Matchbox, slot cars, Buddy-L, Smith-Miller, Structo, Tonka. Old plastic vehicles: Pyro, Renwal. Dave, 858-756-2411.

RECUMBENT BICYCLE Or trike wanted, higher end preferred. Call Guy, 619-464-2131.

SCRAP GOLD WANTED! Cash on spot! Broken, scrap, dental. Gold & Precious Gems of San Diego: 3439 University, 619-283-1228, 5423 El Cajon Boulevard, 619-582-4068. www.SellUsYourScrapGold.com.

SHOTGUN AND RIFLE cardboard shell boxes (pre-1960), duck and game calls, hunting and fishing badges (pre-1940) and paper licenses (pre-1930). Phone 858-565-1756.

SMALL BOAT WANTED, 8 feet long or less, row or sail. 619-656-2831.

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

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ANSTEAD'S AUCTION. We buy antiques, collectibles, household furniture, appliances, TVs, home electronics, pianos. Prompt service. Local buyers. Licensed/bonded. Serving San Diego since 1971. 619-233-3148; 1-888-722-2002.

CAMERA, Kodak autographic folding camera, Daguerretype. Schaeffer fountain pen. \$50 each. 619-297-7636.

Attention: Honda/Acura Owners

For those of you not familiar with our automotive repair shop, we'd like to introduce ourselves. We are a family-owned and -operated general auto repair business. Our goal is simple: provide top-quality service and good, honest auto repair. We have no interest in selling you items/services you don't really need. We simply believe in telling you like it is and you tell us what you want done. Although our name suggests only Honda and Acura repairs, we are a general full-service repair shop specializing in Hondas and Acuras.

Jerry Sample, Jr. (General Manager) is an ASE Master Technician who is also **Acura/Honda factory-trained.** With well over a decade of experience, including several years working as a top mechanic at a well-known local Acura dealership, you can be assured of top-notch quality service. Jerry takes pride in what he does. His diagnostic skills are well-known throughout the industry. Often when customers are unable to achieve satisfaction elsewhere, they are directed to Jerry for an analysis. He thrives on a good challenge. Jerry will also take the time to explain to customers what he believes the problem is and how he would go about fixing it.

Greenlight Honda Acura Care prides itself on quality and service. We are proud to have more than 1,000 customers in San Diego and surrounding areas. The loyalty of our customers attests to Jerry and his crew's integrity.

Bryan Bettencourt (Service Technician) also has many years of experience in the automotive business including audio and communications. Bryan is the "go-to" guy for all your electrical needs. He complements Jerry in every way. Together, Jerry, Bryan and their team are a formidable group of technicians, ensuring that you walk away a satisfied customer. Some repair shops take shortcuts and often cover up problems with a temporary fix. We know...we fix their mistakes!

Bottom line: **We do it right the FIRST time!** Our standard is to use factory parts and perform quality work...just at a more reasonable cost.

We look forward to meeting you and having the opportunity to do business with you. Stop by and check us out, give us a call or an e-mail. Be sure and visit our website for valuable discount coupons.

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Includes:
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Includes:

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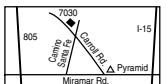
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A SMILE FROM A VEIL

I am dumb when it comes to girls. My friends are quite good at involvement with them, but their company hasn't had a great deal of effect on me; they often think I am not interested because I am either too much of a geek with my computer and stuff, or I love to sleep more in the world of fantasy while they enjoy the butterflies flying here and there, dancing, gossiping, singing... In my culture, though, there are too few women for men to try their luck on.

Peshawar lies in the North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan, and due to its Pukhtoon culture that is not as modern — though it is — as the other cities of the country, interaction between men and women seems a bit awkward, though those who are doing it are doing it well. When I shifted to Peshawar three years back for study, I was a town-raised boy who went to the best modern schools in early childhood and learned to cross the barrier that is laid in the Eastern culture. But that school turned out to be a hard nut to crack, and I was forced into a local town school that was not as good as the former, and that is when things went bad. Fewer were the girls around in class and school and less was my interest in them as I thought of myself as “high.” I passed out of my metric and went to college in another city before I realized I'd started liking someone for the sake of liking. It was too late.

Now that I live on campus, the environment is as good as

it can be, the couples and triples (yes, we have them here) are having fun all around me. When I have free intervals during lecture hours, I lie alone or with a group of friends who mostly have good ties in the girls' section, and they often leave me alone when they get a “come to the lawn” message. When they move out, I think, *Why don't I have friends?* But coming back to the college time, it's too late again. I know I am not much interested, but it's not as though I don't have a heart that beats — I am still a teen at heart, though I will turn 21 soon.

I am a big-time Facebook and Orkut addict. I find many women online, but then they are either too young for me or live and study hundreds of miles away, and they added me up on their buddy list because they thought I was a decent yet naughty “lad.” Some live thousands of miles away, usually on different continents, and chances for one-

to-one interaction are nil. So, where do I stand? Ah, thank God my interests in music (I've started taking guitar lessons) and Internet are keeping me alive, or else I would be still burning in the wood and ashes of frustration and desperation. The music and Internet are probably the things that are keeping me far away from what I now on the eve of Valentine's Day wish I



should have been.

Valentine's Day is probably being celebrated today and the Teddies and Roses must have been on fire by now in Australia, at least while I am writing all this. Tomorrow Valentine's will be

celebrated in the university where a stall for chocolates, roses, pizzas, etc. is planned to be installed just to help the day be more colorful. I think I am not in love, but just for the sake of it I really want to rose someone this time. She's someone who wears *abaya* and a stylish *hijaab*, looks pretty modern and decent with the Arabic outfit she has on, and speaks good English.

This is all that I know about her — no name, no class, nothing else, but I still want to go over and sing the Pink Floyd song “I Need a Smile from a Veil” to her and make my day. Since I've never tried this before, I am really scared of a severe rejection, as my ego

and respect are both at risk. Time will decide whether my ego won or my heart did, but I hope that whatever happens, happens for the best for me and for everyone.

funbie.com/blog/

CLOCK. Old Craftsman mantle clock, 1930s, Seth Thomas, wind up, works fine, \$100. 619-437-8739.

DOLLS. Diana and Prince Charles in wedding outfits, excellent condition, 18"H, never displayed, \$500/best. Leave message, 760-599-9772.

FAINTING COUCH. authentic, turn-of-the-century antiques, dark walnut with gold velvet fabric, \$675. Amy, 619-231-0030.

PAINTINGS. Museum quality. Extra large oils. Must sell, must see! Court-ordered. 10-paintings, \$14K value. Sacrifice \$500/all, 760-231-9531.

SURFBOARD. Classic old Caster surfboard, looks great, stylish shaping, hardly used, 6'10"Hx20-1/2"W, \$250. 619-437-8739.

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GARAGE SALES

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CARLSBAD. Multifamily yard sale. Saturday, 3/15, 7am-noon. Furniture, dining sets, art, mirrors, nursery furniture, leather couch, patio furniture, aquariums, sports. Fern Place and Columbine Drive.

CLAIREMONT. Garage sale. Saturday, 3/15, 7am-noon. Treasures galore! Something for everyone. 2030 Garfield Road (off Milton and Moreno Boulevard).

CLAIREMONT. Garage sale. Saturday/Sunday, 3/15-3/16, 7am-3pm. Lawn mower, credenza, women's midage clothing, refrigerator, miscellaneous furniture. 6929 Forum Street (Auburndale, left to Forum).

LA JOLLA. Garage sale. Saturday, 3/15, 8:30am-2:30pm. Furniture, appliances, cables, electronics, printer, scanner, rocking horse, kitchen items. Miscella-

neous galore! Park Row at Torrey Pines Road.

LA MESA. Estate sale. 3/14-3/16. Antiques, collectibles, bedroom, living room, dining room sets, entertainment center, Oriental rugs, knickknacks. Resmar Place at Lomo Del Sur. 619-337-5220.

MISSION BAY, Saturday and Sunday, 3/15/08, 3/16/08, 8:30am-1:30pm. Household items, clothes, plants, bedding. Mission Bay Mobile Home Park. 2727 De Anza Road T-9.

OCEAN BEACH. Moving sale. 3/15-3/16, 8am-3pm. Sofa sleeper, TV, dresser, air conditioner, new age books, household miscellaneous, vintage jewelry. Alley behind 4684 Long Branch. 619-226-6248.

POINT LOMA, Antiques, furniture, collectibles, tools, Tommy Bahamas shirts, adirondack chairs/table, bathroom sinks/faucets, toys, books, much more. 4603 Lotus Street, 7am-12noon, 3/15/08, 619-226-6476.

SPRING VALLEY. Garage sale. Saturday, 3/15, 8am-noon. Household items, electronics, bicycles, speakers, etc. 2990 Morgandale Court.

APPLIANCES

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DISHWASHER/DRYER. Late models, multi-function, energy savers. Dishwasher under counter or portable. Dryer can stack or rest on floor. Super deal at \$80/each. 619-461-2643.

KITCHEN RANGE, 30"Wx36"H, cream and black, 4 burners, oven, broiler, clean, \$80. Chula Vista, 619-422-8937.

WASHERS AND DRYERS. Guaranteed. \$100-\$195 each. Over 200 to choose from. In-shop/in-home service and we sell parts. Stoves, refrigerators, dishwashers, too. Can deliver. Calwest Appliance Exchange, 619-723-1545.

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IPOD CHARGER, Apple power adaptor model A1003, includes firewire cord. \$25/new, 619-574-7530.

IPOD, Shuffle dock, allows easy access, 4' cord. \$10 new. 619-574-7530.

TV, 36" Sony FD Trinitron Wega flat screen, awesome, excellent physical condition, color/sound like new, surround sound, picture in picture, remote, manual, \$300/best. 619-851-3285.

TV, COLOR, 27", with remote, like new, excellent picture, \$99, 619-461-4805.

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BED \$100 ABSOLUTE BARGAIN! The Furniture Warehouse now open to the public. We sell warehouse direct. Come see our large showroom. We have over 70 sets in stock from \$89! 995 Bay Boulevard, Chula Vista, 91911. Open 11am-7pm daily. Closed Monday. Credit cards accepted. Legitimate warranties in writing! Fast delivery. Call 619-426-2727. www.furniturewarehouse.com.

BED \$169 A BARGAIN. A Ortho Pillowtop Queen, new in plastic with warranty, mattress/box. All sizes. Credit cards accepted. Can deliver. 800-464-6420. North County, 800-464-6490.

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MY DAD STILL LIVES IN OUR HOMETOWN OF SONORA. Folks call the area different things, depending on what they want to sell you. It's "God's Country" if the license-plate frames on the new cars at the local Chevy dealership are to be believed. Signs in town all bear something to the effect of "The Mother Lode" or "Sierra Foothills." One proud "Welcome to Sonora!" sign on the edge of town also touts it as "Queen of the Southern Mines," whatever the hell that means.

Sonora is quite a bit like San Diego in that the local politicians are crooked and act for the sole benefit of their own interest, but don't leave much of a trail. In both gorgeous cities, we the tolerant and forgiving denizens possess no other options except the silent suspicion that we're getting screwed.

My dad retired last week from his job as a maintenance-crew laborer for the City of Sonora. Up until Friday afternoon, he trimmed hedges in parks, paved streets, and repainted intersections. "I know what this city pays for things," he says. "That 'Queen of the Southern Mines' sign cost us \$1200. I picked it up and put it in myself. It's a two-foot by four-foot sign; you tell me how that's worth more than a hundred bucks. That new road up to Phoenix Lake cost millions; half of that went to developers, who are friends of city council members. But their own names aren't on any receipts, of course."

My dad crosses his legs out in front of him and watches the TV news through the V of his feet. A pretty brunette holds a microphone and says, "Workers broke ground on a new stoplight today, a project that should be completed by next week and cost the city over 14 thousand dollars." The ol' man drinks beer from a can and grumbles.

To catch my flight back to San Diego, my dad drives me two hours to Sacramento, the closest airport. Crumbling parts of the 5 North rattle and beat us so much that our kidneys ache. Migrant Mexicans cut grapevines in vineyards along the freeway. We pass a sign that welcomes us to Sacramento. A limousine passes us.

"Nothing you can do about it," my dad says.
"What's that?" I holler over the wind in the cab of the pickup. "You mean the roads?"
"Yep. Nothing you can do."

BED, twin mattress and box spring, excellent condition, includes frame, \$90. 619-813-6288.

BEDS. Adjustable Craftmatic like remote control, 2 twins and 1 full size, \$100, \$200, \$300. Best offer or trade. 619-670-8356.

CHAIRS. 2 oak dinette-high counter chairs, upholstered brown beige, seat 30"H, backs, cost \$200, sell \$49. Lemon Grove, call before 9pm, 619-466-6754.

CHINA CABINET, mahogany, Duncan Phyfe style, lighted display case, with 3 shelves, drawer, enclosed storage on bottom. Store value \$895. Yours for \$600. Photo available. 760-729-6571.

COMPUTER DESK, office/wall/corner unit, 7 piece, custom, solid wood, natural finish, beautiful, 80"H, arrange to fit space, \$850. Can e-mail photos. Vista, 760-941-0541.

COUCH AND MATCHING, Loveseat, sage in color, fabric is Chenille. Excellent condition, \$850. Call Jill 858-792-4689.

DINING TABLE, glass top with gray tint, measures 5'x3', with rounded corners, sturdy black metal legs and 4 padded chairs, \$200. Larry, 619-584-2336.

ENTERTAINMENT CENTER, fits 40" TV, beautiful whitewashed solid oak, 21"Dx45-1/4"Wx74"H, some minor scuffs, cabinets below, CD racks and storage area, \$250 cash only. Sheri, 760-635-1554.

FURNITURE. Save 40% or more! Order from manufacturers' catalogues and save. Factory direct store. Solid cherry, maple, oak or pine, American made Vermont craftsmanship or imported. San Diego's best home furnishings source since 1960. Member of the Better Business Bureau. Al Davis Furniture, 1601

University Avenue, 2 blocks west of Park Boulevard in Hillcrest. www.davisworld.com or email to info@davisworld.com. Call 619-296-1221.

FUTON/BUNK BED, metal black matte finish twin bunk bed over full-size futon, includes deluxe 8" full futon mattress and twin mattress, \$400/best. Lakeside, 619-390-8377.

LOVE SEAT RECLINER and 2 recliner chairs, multicolor with tan, slate blue, green, excellent condition, \$450. 760-980-7100.

MATTRESS and box spring, queen pillow-top set, great condition, paid \$800 new, asking \$150. Can e-mail photos. Vista, 760-519-5926.

MATTRESS BOX PILLOWTOP SET. New in plastic with warranty. Queen \$169. King \$239. Credit cards accepted. Can deliver. Call 800-464-6420. North County, 800-464-6490.

MATTRESS, box spring, queen size, double pillow top, 15" of comfort in between, excellent condition, \$175. 619-445-5898.

MATTRESSES. Save 40% or more! Mattress World in Hillcrest sells new beds at warehouse pricing lower than regular stores. Student specials. Legitimate warranties. Fast delivery or pickup. Name brands. Member of the Better Business Bureau. Authorized Sealy, Simmons, Spring Air, Aireloom dealer. Also Latex, chemical-free and Swedish style Visco-Memory! Mattress World, 1601 University Avenue, 2 blocks west of Park Boulevard in Hillcrest. www.sandiegobeds.com or email to: info@davisworld.com. Call: 619-260-8000.

MOVING SALE! With mattress! Unused! Dark brown wood. Solid. Originally paid \$1500. Sacrifice, \$350. Also furniture including tables. Call 619-277-9326.

MOVING SALE. 4 vintage lamps in pairs, best offer, cash. 619-867-6767.

MOVING SALE. White wicker love seat, matching smaller coffee table, vintage white wicker chair and matching round table, \$75 for both. Cash. 619-867-6767.

MOVING SALE. White wicker desk, matches love seat and other wicker!

have. Use desk as vanity, \$50 cash. 619-867-6767.

MOVING SALE. Rug, light gray with leaf pattern, approximately 8x5, wonderful condition, no wear areas, \$25 cash. 619-867-6767.

RATTAN VINTAGE, Newer tables, chairs, sets. Lots of rattan vintage 6 strand set and kitchen tables, chairs, bar stools 3 for \$99. Oceanside cell 360-941-72972.

RATTAN. 3-piece set, glass top end and coffee tables, matching beige print 3-cushion sofa, excellent condition, \$700. 858-483-0059.

SOFA, \$100. Coffee and 2 end tables \$75 (set). Dinette set for 4, \$200. All 3 items \$300/best. Call 619-585-8359.

SOFA, excellent condition, taupe suede, 7'x36", recently purchased, asking \$400. 619-437-8739.

SOLID PINE DRESSER, 7' with 9 drawers and 1 cabinet \$100, 760-791-7277.

DESK, rollout, nice, \$65. Car cover, expensive, new, \$25. Tires, 13", some new, \$8 each. Garden swing, \$18. Iron dumbbells, 200lbs., \$45. Camping gear, \$35. 858-581-1869.

DOORS, 2 mirrored sliding closet doors. Excellent, satin gold finish, each 24-1/4"x78", 2 rollers on each, \$50. Needs track from hardware. 619-224-4820.

FREE DIRT. Clean, no rocks or weeds. Native La Jolla soil. Large or small amounts available, any quantity OK. La Jolla area, 858-459-9358.

HONDA GENERATOR, 1400W, excellent, \$275. Lawn mower, push, \$30. Rug, Chinese, 7-1/2'x9, thick, \$65. Medical walker, chair, toilet, cane, \$65 all. Fountain, 4'H, heavy, \$75. 858-581-6223.

ICE SKATES, men's large. Microwave oven. Ladies' large leather jacket. Guitar. Records, 33-1/3s and 45s. Videos, DVDs, movies, books, magazines, autographs of celebrities. 619-420-1028.

JEWELRY EQUIPMENT. Bench and hand tools with all equipment needed to manufacture and repair jewelry. \$1000. Call 619-922-9302.

LAMP, copper arm swing light, \$145/best. 619-296-7185.

LUGGAGE, bought in Paris, France, 3 pieces, never used, all on wheels, \$75. 619-466-1887.

MAGNIFIER, Clarity AF Flex Video (CCT), closed circuit TV unit provides support who needs vision assistance. Clarity magnifies 4-60 times onto 20" TV, \$850. 760-591-0997.

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.

MISCELLANEOUS. Bissell spot lifter upholstery cleaner, cordless, \$25. Golf clubs, bag, and balls, 3 woods, 7 irons, \$20. 13 old Fisher Price toys, \$50 all. 619-282-9581.

MODEL AIRPLANE, B-29 bomber, 4 engines, RC electric, \$95. Still in box, 619-574-7530.

MOVING SALE, Aquarium/stand, refrigerator, washer/dryer, freezer, dishwasher, microwave. TVs/stands, stereo, beds,

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AMAZING SALE: GAMING SUPPLIES, cards, high quality chips \$20/100. Casino blackjack tables with tray, chips, shoe, \$1000 value, 4 at \$500 each. Local pickup. 619-957-7250. fastschool@sbcglobal.net.

BED'S A PILLOWTOP MATTRESS Box Set. New in plastic with warranty. Queen \$169. King \$239. Credit cards accepted. Can deliver. 800-464-6420. North County, 800-464-6490.

BOOTS, men's size 9F, tan leather, \$10. GE waffle iron, also cooks bacon, etc., \$5. Wood shelving unit, 5'x6'x17", adjustable, multipurpose, use anywhere, \$100. .

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, 36"Wx59"L, \$25. 858-277-7197.

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Front-wheel drive extra.
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Oil Change

\$14⁹⁵
Most 4- cyl. cars. Includes new filter, EPA, up to 5 qts. oil.
Some oil filters extra.

Basic Tune-Up

with oil change

4- cyl. **\$35⁰⁰**
6- cyl. **\$39⁹⁵**
8- cyl. **\$49⁹⁵**
Most cars. Includes new plugs and new oil filter. *Inspect* cap, rotor wire, air filter. Some oil filters extra. Some cars labor extra. Platinum plugs extra. *Must* present coupon at time of service. Coupons may not be combined with any other offers. Expires 3/19/08.

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her desk and lift up the front of her skirt a little. "Just checkin' this, Granny. Don't mind me."

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

THE GURU

USA 9:00 A.M.

Coincidentally, I've named the hairy patch of skin between the crack of my can and my lower back "the Guru." When a coffee jockey or gas-station immigrant yells, "Get out of my shop! I'm tired of you stealing little things you don't even need, weirdo!" I drop my pants a couple inches and yell, "Hey, Cat Stevens, speak to the Guru!"

AMERICAN MASTERS

PBS 9:00 P.M.

PBS, of course, drags its feet on recognizing anything modern in its series chronicling America's best artists, writers, and musicians. When, PBS, when will Foreigner receive this honor? Sure, half of them are British, but who else made us feel like a Jukebox Hero? Who else recog-

nized the stars in our eyes? Until this program is produced, I will keep on rockin'. Yes, I'll keep on rockin', baby.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

OPRAH'S BIG GIVE

ABC 9:00 P.M.

Oh, cram it in your clingy yoga pants. I could really do with less Oprah. I don't mean she needs to lose more weight, I mean she needs to shut her generic, pontificating, mega-rich champagne hole. Even worse than Oprah, and worse than the women who idolize her, are the men. I'd like to beat every Volkswagen-driving, tofu-loving, Macbook-devotee faux-male in Oprah's audience over the head with a copy of *In Pursuit of Reason* and scream, "YOU ARE A DISGRACE TO US! YOU NEED TO STOP!"

MONDAY, MARCH 17

NEW AMSTERDAM

FOX 9:00 P.M.

It seems the kitschy, blunt gags of a modern immortal won't stay dead.

Like Connor McCloud before him, and every Dracula story before that, this elbow-and-wink plot just won't stay dead. We've cut off its head, buried it, and burnt the remains, but this season we'll be treated, once again, to drollery about 617 ex-girl-friends, 945 years, and 5762 previous deaths. It would please me to no end to see this sheet lie quietly in the morgue after it's final shuffling off.

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

IT'S THE EASTER BEAGLE, CHARLIE BROWN!

ABC 8:00 P.M.

I love the holiday classics. My favorite Charlie Brown special episodes are "It's Madonna's Birthday, Charlie Brown!" "Put That Cookie Down, It's the Holy Month of Ramadan, Charlie Brown!" and "Look at the Humdingers on That One! Throw Her Some Beads! It's Mardi Gras, Charlie Brown!" Ah, that one's the best. I remember it from when I was a kid.



Lipstick Jungle

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

DINNER: IMPOSSIBLE

FOOD 10:00 P.M.

I'm going to come up with a cooking show called "Last Days of Rome," in which I eat until I vomit three times, then get fitfully drunk, pull up my toga, and throw my sandals at the camera. The parting scene each night will be a rambling screed where I'm too close to the camera and I say things like, "I'm going to learn to play the gui-

tar (hiccup) because, you know, for...chicks just don't dig you unless you play guitar."

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

DON'T FORGET THE LYRICS!

FOX 9:00 P.M.

Shut the TV Off and Read a Damn Book, You Stupid Masses, Inebriated by Flashing Lights and Lulled into Complacency by the Unentertaining Opiate of Humdrum TV! is the way better show.

daybed, dressers, recliner coffee/end, dining table/chairs, vacuum, bikes 619-670-7821.

OVERHEAD PROJECTOR, \$45. Gram scale \$45. Vacuum Kirby G7 \$350, all attachments. 619-449-8069.

PAINT SUPPLIES, Airless, tarps, rollers, tape machine, much more, everything \$400. Leave message, fantastic deals, 858-755-9353.

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PLANTS, TREES. Jade tree, chicken and egg, elephant tree, other succulents. Brazilian pepper, loquat, pittisporum. \$1-\$10. 619-280-9083.

POOL CLEANING TOOLS and testing supplies, \$50. Luggage carrier, straps to top

of car, \$40. Microwave, \$20. 619-339-7318.

RADIO CONTROL CAR, beautiful Ferrari, 1/10 scale, precise and fast, \$95. Still in box. 619-574-7530.

SILVERPLATE and aluminum, large collection, must take all, \$2 each. Great for art, arrangements, etc. Unusual pieces. Cardiff, leave message, 760-753-6996.

SPA FOR SALE with power jets. 84"x84", seats 5, new, 2 covers and chemicals \$1295. Pool World, 2687 National Avenue, San Diego. 619-239-2384.

SPA/HOT TUB. Deluxe 2008 model. Neck jets, therapy seat. Never used! Warranty. Can deliver. Worth \$5950, sell for \$1950. 858-530-0980.

TELESCOPE, Meade model 285, never used, assembled, \$285. 619-449-9153.

TOOLS. Porter-Cable belt Sanders, Porta-Band saw, Senco nail guns 760-941-9371.

WEAVING LOOM, Le Clerc, 49" Nilus model, folding, new condition, \$295. La Jolla, 858-459-8857.

WEDDING GOWN, Size 5, cost \$1200, will sell for \$300/best, 619-466-1887.

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Most vehicles. Trucks, vans & European cars extra. Limited time offer. Must bring DMV renewal notice.
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Radiator Flush
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\$19⁹⁵ 4-cyl.
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'Check Engine' light on?



Computer diagnostic
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SUZUKI CALVACADE LXE, 1986 touring motorcycle, GV1400, 1360 cubic inch, brown, looks good, runs well, currently registered, salvaged title, \$1200. 619-392-3958.

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.

YAMAHA ROYAL STAR, 2000, 2400 miles, red, all extras, like new, bags, pipes, windshield, originally \$19,000, sacrifice \$8500. 619-277-3200.

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ACURA LEGEND, 1993, looks and runs great, deluxe model, leather, sunroof, premium sound. 760-481-4763.

ACURA LEGEND L, 1991. Red, 70,300 miles. 1 owner. Maintenance records available. Looks/runs great. Power everything. Leather, sunroof, air, cruise control, spoiler, \$5,500. 858-673-4461.

AUTO PAWN LOANS. Secured by vehicle and title. All vehicles, cycles, boats, RVs and heavy equipment welcome. Fast and friendly service. Call 619-464-2131. www.deerhornautopawn.com.

CADILLAC, 1996. One owner 60,000 miles. First \$5000, 760-468-4065.

CHEVY CAMARO SS, 1968, 396 big block, 350 turbo trans, automatic, black on black, 18K miles. \$5800. Contact david68@live.com.

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T.G.I.F.

“Captain Burt Dirk fondled the hilt of his vibra-blade...”

By John Brizzolara

I am not alone this Friday. Much of the county — certainly North County, where I am holed up, my foot encased in fiberglass and elevated — is rendered nearly as immobile as I am. It is, in a way, perversely reassuring that I am at one with, I figure, thousands of San Diegans on this last weekend in February, people who would otherwise be out tonight in a lust-for-leisure activity-seeking mission to leave the work week behind. Now, so much of the town and county, my fellow citizens and neighbors, are forced onto my turf, curled up with a book — or in my case, a stack of them — listening to wind’s lash of rain at the windows and rising to the challenge: how well can you entertain yourself? Or, really: to what extent can you abide your own company on a Friday night?

“This year is the worst in the four years I’ve been here. It’s been a pretty rough winter,” said Jiliana D’Amato, who works at the Harbor Pelican Deli and Mart at the Oceanside Harbor. “It was just raining. But pretty soon, the palm trees were just bending over.” — “Another Storm is Expected Tomorrow,” by Robert Krier: *U.T.* staff writer, 2/23/08. This appeared Saturday morning with the lead, “Get ready for a rerun of yesterday’s wet, blustery conditions.”

Certainly this is a valid topic on the subject of Fridays and Friday nights. Sooner or later we all encounter a wet and likely a somewhat discouraging one. Myself, I am hardly discouraged. If anything, I must monitor myself for any deranged cackling and the muttering to myself of *welcome to my world*.

In my son’s apartment in San Marcos, there is no shortage of reading material, though it is almost exclusively

fantasy and science fiction, much of which I have supplied to him over time. I have probably more than the usual capacity for this kind of thing (having written the stuff for some years), but even I will cry “Uncle!” after a number of sentences along the lines of, “Captain Burt Dirk fondled the hilt of his vibra-blade and ran a palm over his cleft chin. ‘The Dragonoids of Altair IV will wish they never heard the name Dirk!’” And so it was an act of artistic mercy that one of my son’s friends retrieved from his mother’s house a copy of *A Million Little Pieces* by James Frey. An Oprah Selection.

I had never heard of the book. I was unaware of the sales figures or the huge controversy surrounding the thing.

After removing the Oprah sticker, I scanned passages such as, “If you do what the book [Alcoholics Anonymous] says, you will be cured. If you follow their righteous path, that path will lead you straight to redemption. If you join the club, you’re the lucky winner of a lifelong supply of bullshit. Meetings full of whining, complaining, and blaming. Praise Be the Glory. I want to get down on my knees.... Near the end, there is a section of testimonials.... They were all alcoholic disasters, they all found God, they all started dancing the Twelve Step, they all got better. As with most testimonials like this that I’ve read or heard or been forced to endure, something about them strikes me as weak, hollow, and empty. Though the people in them are no longer drinking or doing drugs, they’re still living with the obsession. Though they have achieved sobriety, their lives are based on the avoidance, discussion and vilification of the chemicals they once needed and loved. Though they function as human beings, they function because of their Meetings their Dogma and their God. Take away their Meetings and their Dogma and they have nothing. Take them away and they are back where they started. They have an addiction.”

The passage echoes my own worst thoughts, mostly unexpressed. It is a sentiment I have heard from others in the program about their early days in AA, usually accompanied by self-deprecating laughter. Reading this, I sense a sickly smile on my features, as if after throwing up. I may have said aloud, “Let it rain.”

Rather than escape in any form — from the rain, pain in my foot and leg, certain oppressive, existential facts of my life these days — this looks to be nearly 500 pages, maybe half a pound of concave mirror with its own gravity field, drawing me in, down, unable to turn away, bitterly muttering to myself with a half-mad half-smile, *God, yes*.

Before settling in to read, I check the weather online.

“Beaches from the border to Silver Strand State Beach in southern Coronado are closed because of contaminated sewage from the Tijuana River. A general advisory warning against water activities for 72 hours after rainfall remains in effect for all coastal waters.”

Returning to the sofa, foot draped over the arm of the thing, I open the book at the beginning. My suspicion is that Mr. Frey will eventually embrace Alcoholics Anonymous by the end of his story. My guess is that Oprah would



otherwise have withheld her imprimatur. I don’t know yet. If so, I’m willing to defer to James Frey. At 150 pages or so (as I write this) I am certainly with him so far.

Fast forward, three days later: I was wrong in my suspicion. Over the past two days I have watched Frey on YouTube, dipped into the Smoking Gun website, and checked out the hysteria surrounding Frey’s use of fictional techniques and flat-out fiction, neither of which went unnoticed by me. Neither of which do I care greatly about. For every transparent fiction in James Frey’s story, there are three truths. I would have liked to have seen Oprah turning on her creation, Frey, as celebrity and best-selling author when (after her Harpo cronies expressed — I don’t know, hurt? betrayal?) she summoned Frey onto the carpet of national television for a sound drubbing and to account for his use of license and invention. If I do get to see it, it may well inspire me to amputate more stickers from copies in bookstores and restore the artistic integrity of the original cover design.

If it remains unclear in any way, let me spit it out. I would and will defend, and vigorously, James Frey’s depiction of his experiences the way he needed to tell it, pausing now and then to applaud the end result.

Rewind to Friday night: It seems the rain will return in force on Sunday. I have prayed for the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, and hefting *A Million Little Pieces*, I am okay with that.

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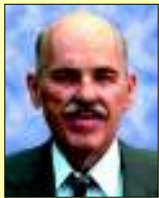
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