Chivalry is not dead

Neither are knot tying, handwriting, and blacksmithing

STORY BEGINS ON PAGE 22
Reader

NEWS & FEATURES

Chivalry Is Not Dead
The warrior’s code decoded. By Geoff Bouvier

City Lights
Pozies, a growth industry; hey, SDG&E, read this!
and Breaking News
Brewers are very un-hoppy

Letters

Sporting Box
One wheel, many buttes

Sheep and Goats
Ultimate freedom

Best Buys
Soccer shopping

Diary of a Diva
Flies, kelp... what fun

How Sam Became the Cooking Guy
First he ditched his biotech job. By Rosa Jurjevics

Puzzle
First he ditched his biotech job. By Rosa Jurjevics

Name This Place

Off the Cuff

Picture Story
150

Surf Diego
He rides at night

Say What?
He’s a friend of Moe and Curly

News of the Weird

Dumped
Jack Daniel, you big liar

Back When
The Hedgecock philosophy

Blog Diego
Iguanas fell from the trees

Remote Control King
Almost a Boy Scout

T.G.I.F.
Bad music, bad steak, bad TV

CALENDAR

Local Events

Roam-O-Rama
Trailmaster Schad leads the way to a hidden waterfall

What’s That You’re Reading?
Presumption of Death, by Perri O’Shaughnessy

Classical Music Guide

Art Museum and Gallery Guide

Theater Guide

Pop Music
Blurt
Club Crawler
Miki Vale lifts us up

Crasher
Dude... they were so going to ask Josh to leave

Restaurant Reviews and Guide
Another one, just like the other one
So much food, so little time
Biotech in the wine barrel

Movie Review and Guide
Flawless isn’t

ADVERTISING

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<td>MGD 64</td>
<td>64</td>
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<td>Bud Light®</td>
<td>110</td>
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<td>Michelob® Ultra™</td>
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Dollar flows

Employees of a small defense contractor headquartered in Mission Valley have created a stir in local political circles with their flurry of contributions this past fall to Third District San Diego city council candidate Todd Gloria.

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Korean-American Bryan Min, an ex-Navy nuclear engineer and current president and CEO of Epison Systems Solutions, used federal minority business preferences to build his firm, which he founded in 1998. In June of last year, Min hired Dan Dufresne away from the staff of GOP congressman Brian Bilbray to be Epison’s in-house lobbyist and director of government relations. According to lobbyist registration statements filed last year with the House, Dufresne’s job was to “contact various Congressional offices” regarding “military and procurement issues.” The registration was terminated last month.

But just a few years ago, when Dufresne could not be reached for comment.

Bye-Bye, Meter Reader

Eugene O’Neill, but eventually, the iceman went, and so did the milkman and the doctor willing to make house calls. Next to disappear: San Diego Gas & Electric meter readers. Like the icemen many decades before, the meter readers are being eliminated by technology. But not without complaints that the company was falsely boosting its revenue by overestimating some bills instead of relying on the meter readers.

Beginning in November of this year, the San Diego Gas & Electric unit of Sempra Energy will be installing meters that can be read by two-way wireless communication technology. The installation of the new meters will be complete in 2011, at which time the meter readers will be gone. There are currently 202 of them, down from a high of 230. They belong to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and will be absorbed into other areas of the company or eliminated by attrition.

Some customers will be happy to see them go. “In the summertime, I got gas bills double what they should have been,” says Jack Glattery of El Cajon (not his real name). “I had representatives of the company come out. They agreed something was wrong, but the meter readers blamed the billing department, and the billing department blamed the meter readers. Then I learned how to read the meter. I call in the numbers each month. The bill has gone from $75 a month to $39.” They wrote me a letter of apology:

However, Glattery believes he was being fleeced for years: “They owe me tons of money,” he says. “I don’t believe they were reading the meter.” He found out from a friend that the meter readings are often estimated — and overestimated.

In mid-2000, San Diego’s Utility Consumers’ Action Network, which rides herd on local utilities, filed a complaint with the California Public Utilities Commission against San Diego Gas & Electric. The local watchdog asked for a

Bye-Bye, Meter Reader

By Don Bauder

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PHOTOGRAPH BY JUDI BOWERS/BIG BEAR GRIZZLY
Panic at the Micropub

By Alastair Bland

Yuseff Cherney says his revered and super-bitter Dorado Double India Pale Ale has become too expensive, if not impossible, to make. Cherney is head brewer at Ballast Point Brewing Company, which has breweries in Linda Vista and Scripps Miramar Ranch. Dorado’s recipe uses six Northwest hops varieties, two of which — Simcoe and Crystal — are growing increasingly rare, with prices climbing in the past year from $6 per pound to $30.

“The amount of hops in a batch of that beer could

make several other beers throughout the year,” Cherney says. “You’re talking hundreds of pounds of hops that could be spread over four or five other mainstay products.”

The hop industry has been floundering for years. Worldwide, hop acreage has plummeted from 236,067 acres in 1992 to 113,417 in 2006, and in the United States from 42,266 acres to 29,435. In 1856, the United Kingdom grew 56,000 acres of this bitter blossom. Today, it grows 2400.

Kirk McHale, a brewer formerly of Pizza Port in Carlsbad, is in the process of opening a new brewpub, Breakwater Brewing Company, in Oceanside. “We’re just trying to find hops anywhere so that we can start making beer,” he says. “I’m known for very hoppy beers, and with this shortage, I just can’t do the beers that I want to do. I can still make good beer but not the bitter IPAs that are a part of my repertoire.”

IPA, or India Pale Ale, was created in England in the late 1700s for export to troops in India. High levels of alcohol and hops preserved India Pale Ale during the long sea voyage, during which other beers spoiled in the tropical heat. Today, Imperial India Pale Ales (or Double IPAs) represent the same class of beer but with even more hops and more alcohol. Other “Imperial” beers — Imperial porters, Imperial stouts, imperial pilsners, Imperial red ales—are all buffed-up versions of classic styles.

As a general rule, mass-produced, lightly flavored, cheaper beers require just one or two “high-alpha” hops varieties, and in relatively small amounts. (High-alpha hops are high in alpha acids, used primarily for making beer bitter.) Most microbrews, though, consist of at least several hops varieties, and these in sometimes huge amounts. Ballast Point’s Dorado, for example, whose international bittering units (IBUs) hover at the higher end of the scale — 80 — requires 264 pounds of dried hops for a 45-barrel batch. By contrast, Ballast Point’s Yellowtail Pale Ale requires just 18 pounds in a 40-barrel batch. Lighter beers may use even less.

Jeff Bagby, head brewer at Pizza Port in Carlsbad, brews a monster called Hop Suey Double IPA, which is over 10 percent alcohol by volume and over 90 international bittering units. Such heavy, bitter brews are popular in San Diego, says Bagby.

“If a brewery’s IPA or Double IPA isn’t their best-seller, then it’s damn near, especially in this city. We have people who get irate when we don’t have the IPA on tap, and they can’t understand why,” Bagby says.

Bagby says he plans to brew a batch of Hop Suey this year, but the following season, he predicts “things will get hairy.”

High demand and escalating prices are now driving some farmers to replant their land with hops, but this may not benefit small breweries. According to local beer makers, farmers in Washington and Oregon are replanting with the highly acidic high-alpha hops, which large breweries gobble up just as fast as they’ll grow. But craft brewers rely on aromatic varieties, which provide their brews with kaleidoscopes of flavor. Without these varieties, microbrewers may be forced to reduce their beer production, dilute the flavors of their signature brews, or even apply for vintner’s permits.

Many larger brewers have agreements with suppliers that guarantee long-term availability of the hops they need. Microbreweries and brewpubs, however, may not be protected by legal negotiations, and for those just entering the business, times may be especially tough.

Green Flash Brewing Company in Vista makes a hop-heavy India Pale Ale and an even hoppiest Imperial IPA. These beers are the brewery’s top-sellers, says brewer Chuck Silva, and so the company planned ahead last year to assure that these mainstays would not have to be compromised in flavor or curtailed in volume in 2008. Moreover, Green Flash was protected by a contract with a supplier for a share of the 2007 autumn hop harvest. But this year, says Silva, growers have been reluctant to make any promises. And what good is a contract, anyway, when farmers don’t deliver!
American breweries, there are not enough hops in the world to feed the beer industry. Many hops, he explains, are reduced post-harvest to a liquid extract of the alpha acids. At present, the world’s stockpile of acid extract is short by about 1000 metric tons. This amount, says Worona, corresponds to approximately 60 billion 12-ounce pints of beer.

As a gesture of goodwill to the struggling craft-brewing industry in America, the Boston Beer Company, maker of Samuel Adams, put up 20,000 pounds of its own hops supply for sale to United States microbrewers, according to brewer and founder Jim Koch. The hops, two varieties of European rarities — East Kent Goldings (from the United Kingdom) and Tettnang Tettananger (from Bavaria) — were to be sold back at cost and were available in 88-pound blocks, though the company limited each microbrewery to a maximum of six blocks, or 528 pounds. Almost 400 microbreweries asked to buy some, and requests were accepted until last Saturday, after which a random drawing was held.

Ballast Point, which uses about 20,000 pounds of hops per year, placed a 528-pound order with Samuel Adams. So did Green Flash. Neither brewery was selected in the drawing, although other locals, including Oceanside Ale Works and Pacific Beach Ale House, were winners.

Aromatic varieties of hops have unique aroma profiles. Amarillo provides beers with a strong citrus note; Simcoe, a zesty bitter-grapefruit character. Centennial hops are floral and piney. But other types are more highly sought by the big beer companies, and thus they’re a safer bet and an easier sell for growers. Even some relatively common varieties, though, are currently unavailable for microbrewers. For example, Coronado Brewing Company recently placed an order with a U.S. grower for Willamette hops, a moderately acidic aromatic type, and was told that the 2008 crop had already been sold. “Apparently Budweiser uses Willamette, and they jumped in early and bought every last bit of it,” said Coronado head brewer Shawn DeWitt. “There’s none left. Nothing. Budweiser even offered to buy the entire stock of hops from Hopunion, and thank goodness [owner] Ralph Olsen told Budweiser, ‘No. We won’t screw the craft brewers like that.’ ”

Even with allies on the supply end, Kirk McHale may have no hops on hand when Breakwater Brewing opens in May, but as he renovates his location and installs fermenting equipment, he’s got a backup plan. “We’re thinking of going into a lot of herbs and honey, things like dandelion, hibiscus, and yarrow to bitter the beer. We want to make mead too. That would require a vintner license, and we’re applying for that right now.”

continued from page 7

Continued on page 10
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to a lavish home with an ocean-view bathroom in the Santa Fe Valley area of Rancho Bernardo, charges the suit. Not surprisingly, "when he needed money to actually operate the Last Resort project, he raised it by selling another fraudulent Big Bear real estate investment called Wildwood," according to the suit. "Then he used the Wildwood investors' money to pay his own real estate loan obligations and to quietly repay some family members who had invested in Last Resort. He got further and further behind, and when he needed more money, he secretly sold Wildwood and kept the proceeds. He bought himself a condo in Costa Rica and began selling investments in a project there called Tranquito.

"La China is a serial Ponzi schemer and career impostor," says the suit. Investors tell Dreher that La China hasn't been seen at the club for many months. His lawyer, Steve Wilhelm, says in a statement that La China "vehemently denies the allegations" by investors, will "vigorously defend" the suit, and may pursue a cross-complaint against those who filed it. Ponzii has found its way to other corners of Southern California. In February, the Securities and Exchange Commission filed a complaint against James Duncan, Henry Montecastro, and Maurice McLeod and their firms for a fraud based largely in Murrieta but with fingers reaching throughout Southern California, including San Diego. At piety-dripping seminars, the promoters recruited investors to get in on the housing boom by speculating on homes. They would be paid annual returns of 13 to 19 percent.

But, says the commission, "they operated a Ponzi-like scheme by using money from new investors to make mortgage payments on previously purchased investment homes." To do so, says the commission, they falsified loan applications. The scheme unraveled, leaving 75 investors short of $10 million. Some were forced into foreclosures and bankruptcy.

This one was also an affiliation-group scam. The three fast-buck artists would prey on Filipinos and members of the military, according to the suit. "Then they operated a Ponzi-like scheme by using money from new investors to make mortgage payments on previously purchased investment homes." To do so, says the commission, they falsified loan applications. The scheme unraveled, leaving 75 investors short of $10 million. Some were forced into foreclosures and bankruptcy.

The utility for alleged overestimation of customers' bills, requesting restitution to customers who overpaid their bills without just cause. The company fought the charge, but eventually the two sides settled. The utility had been estimating bills for more than 6 years. It agreed to reduce the estimates to 5 per 1000 over a three-year period. The company never confessed it was overestimating bills but admitted that it was "overrelying on estimates," according to company spokesperson Rachel Laing. "Sometimes in areas that are inaccessible, the meter readers will skip reading the meter," says Michael Shames, head of the Utility Consumers' Action Network. "In 2000 and 2001, we had evidence of people's bills being estimated — meter readers not doing their job. They were giving meter readers too many meters to read," handing the company the opportunity to make excessive estimations. Now that the matter has been settled, "the complaints about meter estimations or mis-reads have gone down quite a bit."

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LETTERS

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

Welcome Mat
This is regarding the article “Great for Everybody” (“City Lights,” March 20).

When we elected Cheryl Cox as mayor, we unfortunately invited in outsiders whose goal is to control Chula Vista. The Lincoln Club, Jim Pieri, Tom Shepad, and now David Malcolm. Can Steve Peace be far behind? How do we get our city back?

Susan Watry Chula Vista

Bring In The Goons
Thank Susan for connecting the dots for the general public on bayfront development (“Great for Everybody,” “City Lights,” March 20)! Please let me know when you folks will drop the hammer on Imperial Beach political machination loyal to the Coxes!

I recently did a story on SaveIR.com about conflicts on council votes within 500 feet of a financial interest. Love to see IB get roasted for that or for the new eminent domain ordinance passed last night. It probably should have been a referendum item on the ballot, since the council voted to give power to themselves, acting as the redevelopment agency. The chamber of commerce did not stand up against the new ordinance, which will go after prime business properties and any residence they can vacate with code-enforcement goons!

The people of IB are at fault for not caring enough to forgo South Park episodes on Wednesday night to go to city council meetings. People who own property in IB are more screwed than ever!

Ed Kravitz
Via email

Where’s Dubya’s Thinking Cap?
Thanks for publishing Don Bauder’s analysis of our disintegrating dollar (“Why Plummeting Dollar Hurts You,” “City Lights,” March 20). It reminds us that the Federal Reserve is the source of inflation as well as economic depressions. But it also may help to remind readers that out-of-control federal spending by Dubya and his enablers in Congress is the root cause of Federal Reserve chairman Bernanke’s decision to debase our currency by lowering the prime interest rate.

When our president, who chose not to tax us to pay for our government’s wrongdoing, And I’m not talking about the inevitable blowback-terrorism that our foreign policy will trigger. I’m talking about prices rising every time we shop for food and gasoline. It’s called inflation, and this is how it works.

Once Dubya had dried up credit markets with his spending binge on soldiers and rich contracts to Halliburton, Blackwater, and

plummeting dollar hurts

In other words, because Dubya and his supporters embarked on an immoral rampage, many borrowers are now paying a high price. But the people who purchased overpriced real estate are not the only ones who will ultimately pay the price for our government’s wrongdoing. All of us will.

And I’m not talking about the inevitable blowback-terrorism that our foreign policy will trigger. I’m talking about prices rising every time we shop for food and gasoline. It’s called inflation, and this is how it works.

Once Dubya had dried up credit markets with his spending binge on soldiers and rich contracts to Halliburton, Blackwater, and
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Ellipsis carbohydrate beverage mix available. Great for pre and post workout.

SportingBox
By Patrick Daugherty

People fall in love. They fall in love with other people, with their pets, with the city they live in (or the city they don’t live in), with books, entertainers, crystals, artichokes, and, ranking near the top of that list are their hobbies. Or, to put the honorable and useful word hobby on the shelf and select another from the soggy bag of vernacular mush, people love their passions.

Which brings us to mountain unicycling.

Some people love to climb on a unicycle, find it especially gratifying since unicycles have no brakes or gears, and then unicycle down mountain trails, dropping off embankments, cruising forest lowlands, crossing wide streams on fallen trees, bouncing boulder to boulder on top of mountain bluffs. Those people are crazy.

To see if you agree, one of the nation’s oldest unicycle meets is happening this weekend, March 28 through March 30, in the not-too-distant city of Moab, Utah. Introducing, dear reader, the 2008 Moab Mountain Unicycling Festival (moabmunifest.com).

I have the festival’s organizer, Rolf Thompson, on the phone. “I see this is the ninth year of your festival. How did it start?”

“Nineteen ninety-nine. A lot of the features that are in unicycles now were developed by those core guys and a lot of those people come to Moab fest. One year, I counted ten of those guys. This guy had done work on the hubs, that guy had done work on the handles, this guy had done work on the seat.”

Sounds like a good time. “When I was watching unicycle videos I was struck by a couple things. First, this must be hard on the testicles. Is it as bad as it looks?”

Thompson laughs loud. “It’s not a problem. People have been nailed, but that can happen on a bike, that can happen on anything else.”

“And I was surprised how slow the ride is.”

“I was surprised people love to climb on a unicycle, find it especially gratifying since unicycles have no brakes or gears, and then unicycle down mountain trails, dropping off embankments, cruising forest lowlands, crossing wide streams on fallen trees, bouncing boulder to boulder on top of mountain bluffs. Those people are crazy.”

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"Allow yourself to simply be one with the service," read one of the suggestions in the program for the Good Friday Taizé Service at Light of Life Church. But there’s nothing like a nagging cough to remove a person from being 'at one' with anything aspiring to meditative silence. So I was indebted to the kind woman in front of me, who, with perfect sweetness and not a trace of irritation, gave me first a cup of water and then a throat lozenge. Just under 20 of us gathered in the cool blue room, rows of chairs radiating out in a quarter circle from the corner of the platform and the pulpit. The semi-abstract 'angel art' paintings hung on the wall behind us; stands of indoor greenery and a banner reading 'Love Light Life' provided up-front decor.

The text for the evening’s meditations came from the March issue of Science of Mind: A Guide for Spiritual Living — an article on "The Seven Last Words of Jesus," by Mark Anthony Lord. From the article:

"It's recorded in the Bible that while 'dying' on the cross, Jesus said 'seven last words' that 'offer a brilliant blueprint for personal transformation.' Four congregants took turns reading at the pulpit.

Forgiveness: 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.' Forgiveness sets the soul free so that we may ascend, baggage-free, into the highest consciousness. And whoever wins, that it brings happiness and prosperity and joy for our country. For cheaper gas — that one got a sympathetic laugh. Last, an old-timer from the back prayed for the church's choir, 'that it make a joyous sound for all!' Forward invited us 'to be in the silence and to be in touch with the very deepest level of your soul and know that prayer is answered. And it is answered according to the highest and the best good for all concerned, the highest good…'

Congregants then stepped forward to a table set up in front, which bore an aluminum roasting tray filled with pomegranate. They took slender white candles, lighted them from a larger candle in and placed them in the sand, announcing which of the aforementioned attributes most connected with them. 'I'll start off,' said Forward. "The word for me is 'Surrender.' Total surrender to spirit." Others followed as the cantor sang, "You are a blessing to the world."

Yes, yes, yes," affirmed Forward as song's end. "Let's just kind of revel in that awareness right now... just be still in the knowledge that we are, each one of us individually, a blessing to the world.

And that, ultimately, connects us to the whole. "You should come on a Sunday," said one woman as we left the service. "Our music minister is Daniel Hendrick — he used to sing at Lincoln Center. And you need to hear Irma preach; you need to hear her get us going."

What happens when we die?

'One: Woman, behold your son; behold your mother.' We can only awaken our spiritual power and evolution when we release ourselves from the roles of biological family, husband, wife. This statement invites us to 'behold all people as our family....'

Truth: 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' Denying feelings of being forsaken will create conflicting energy, which separates you from the possibility of feeling God in the midst of your transformation....

Surrender: 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.' To be used by God, with no attachment to the form that it takes — this is the ultimate freedom...."
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Spring is here and pal Bernice has soccer on the brain. A layer of dust has descended on her cleats in the closet. Her shoe size is a higher number, as is her jersey size; it’s been a long time since she patrolled a goal box. “I’m getting back in the game,” she announced to me last week, “and I need all new equipment,” she added. Well, the gal’s birthday is a week away. Need 1 say more?

Amy Arvizu was just the person I needed. She’s a sales clerk at Soccer Nation (760-758-1179) in Vista and a goalie. “I can tell you my favorites,” Arvizu continued. “I wear a Reusch jersey, a German brand. I love the way it fits, especially for a woman. It’s not too tight and it has air holes so you can breathe in it.”

As for padding, “there is some on the elbows, but the padding is really thin, so it doesn’t really protect that much. The long-sleeved jersey style itself will give you some protection when you are sliding or slipping. I buy the extra padding for $15 more, so that I get the full padded elbow pad. It’s kind of like what skateboarders wear; you just slip on the extra padding on the inside or outside of the jersey. That has prevented a lot of bruises and pain.”

For shorts, Arvizu prefers Reusch as well. “They’re comfortable and none of the other brands have that same breathing style. So when it gets hot, you are not sweating like a dog. There is some padding on the sides. A lot of girls don’t like the side padding because it makes them look bigger. I buy the kneepads and I try to cover my knees because that’s mainly where I fall. The pants have a thin layer of padding on the side; they can have it on the top by the thigh and then mainly on the knee.

“For the goalie gloves, which is the important thing, I wear the Diadora brand gloves made in Italy. Diadora still takes the time to actually know what the player needs: they have an excellent grip and are very well stitched. They have that European quality to them. Some gloves have what is called ‘fingersave,’ which prevents your fingers from twisting and breaking. There are some gloves that come with the fingersave and you can barely move your hands. But Diadoras have really good flexing. The palm will have the grip, so when you grab the ball, it is going to stick to the ball. The gloves run anywhere from $35 up to $109, but I wear the $75 pair. They will last two to three seasons.”

What about the fit of the glove? “The gloves should be snug,” Arvizu said. “Some people think the bigger the glove, the bigger hand you have. But that is a completely bogus idea because every time you try to save a ball, if you don’t have your finger in that space, the ball will just fly through it. The gloves need to be snug so you can feel the ball.”

Are back-up gloves recommended? “I know a lot of guys that want a backup pair to practice with, but it is not necessary.”

For shin guards, “it just depends how much a person wants to spend. I wear $5 to $10 shin guards. You can buy the expensive Nike shin guards and you’re going to get the same outcome as wearing the cheaper Joma shin guards. During the game, if someone hits you on the side, they are going to hit you on the side. There is no shin guard that goes around your whole leg. For the fit, they should fit about three inches below the knee because you want to be able to flex your knee. If the shin guard is too long, then you’re not going to be able to move.”

For cleats, “I tell goalies they need to buy a comfortable pair of cleats because they are going to be squatting a lot. People want to go for the nice looking high cleats, but when you are a goalie, you are going to notice you need something comfortable. So I go not too high on my cleats.”

I got some more soccer tidbits from Adam Jacobs, retail manager at Soccer Fanatic in Serra Mesa (858-715-6800). Gloves are supposed to have just a little bit of space so that the fingers don’t pop out of the tips, he explained. “You just want to leave a little bit of room. The purpose of the gloves is for protection but more so for grip. As you go up the line with price, they give a little bit higher quality material as far as the grip goes. The glove grips the ball a little better; it is a little softer. It’s suggested to have a game pair and a practice pair because goalie gloves will wear through pretty fast, depending on the kind of player and how often they play;”

The fingersave gloves “have a spine in the fingers to prevent them from bending backwards. A lot of people like the extra protection, but some people think it is a little cumbersome. Goalies who have dislocated or broken fingers usually swear by them, but other goalies won’t use them because they want more mobility with their fingers.”

As for cleats, “I have heard from some keepers that they wear a bladed cleat, which allows a little more lateral movement. But mainly it is personal preference.”

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BestBuys

“There are some gloves that come with the fingersave and you can barely move your hands.”

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1. Diadora goalie gloves
2. Soccer players
3. Soccer jersey

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Local Bands/Performers
As I Lay Dying

Discography

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Label</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beneath the Encasing of Ashes</td>
<td>2002</td>
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<td>Frail Words Collapse</td>
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<td>Shadows Are Security</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td></td>
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<td>A Long March: The First Recordings</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>An Ocean Between Us</td>
<td>2007</td>
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The Skinny

Genres: Alternative, Metal / Hardcore, Punk

Sound Description: Hard核心 metal sound with a progressive tilt a la Iron Maiden, and lyrics straight out of the Dead Kennedys/Fat Religions/Social Distortion school of punk 101.

RIYL: Children of Bodom, Nodes of Remitter, Deadboy and the Elephantmen, Chase Pagan, Iron Maiden, Black Flag, Dead Kennedys

Website: http://www.asilaydying.com

Formed: 2001 San Diego

History

As I Lay Dying (named after the book by William Faulkner) formed in 2001. The lineup consists of Tim Lambesis (vocals), Jordan Mancino (drums), guitarists Nick Hipa and Phil Sgrosso, and recently bassist Clint Norris, who was replaced by Josh Gilbert in May 2007.

Hipa describes the band’s music as “brutal, energetic, melodic metal”; Mancino calls it “metal with ska breakdowns.” The band signed with Metal Blade Records in 2003 and spent 2006 year supporting their album Shadows Are Security with opening slots for Slipknot and performances at Ozzfest events around the country.

“I never realized, until Ozzfest, about our utterly weird fans,” says Lambesis. “We were signing autographs...this guy brought out his two-week old baby, and he actually has us sign the baby — our autographs are right there on its body.” Jordan Mancino recalls, “The hardest thing (about Ozzfest) was getting stuck on a dirt road with our bus in the middle of the Arizona desert.”

Nick Hipa: “Lots of slops, gross old ladies walking around with

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DIARY OF A DIVA

water gives me the willies. I'm convinced parasitic microorganisms will find a way to enter my body, and who knows what kind of creatures might brush against me in those cold, dark, wild waters. I don't sunbathe, a pointless pastime that not only increases my risk of skin cancer, but also gives me a raging headache. And then there's the sand. A night at Guantanamo would be like lunching at Nordstrom's compared to the excruciating torment of the sand granules that glue themselves to my skin to chafe, abrade, and irritate.

As I inched my way closer to my friends, I made the mistake of checking out my toes. At first glance, I thought the sand was black, but when it began to undulate, I realized I was looking at flies—billions of them. I had been breathing through my mouth to avoid inhaling the putrid, salty smell of rotting kelp; but the moment I noticed the flies, I clamped it shut and suffered the stench, which was preferable to tempting pests with an open mouth. Still holding my pants as high as I could and taking slow, I-hope-sand-doesn't-get-into-my-shoes steps, I finally came to where Jen and Mike stood. Rob was several feet away in the wet sand, a silhouette against the sunset.

"Has he caught anything?" I asked.

"Only kelp," Jen answered. Mike extended his arm and offered me a clear plastic container filled with some kind of white-wine-and-ice-cube concoction. I declined, and Jen continued, "We have MasterCard as a back-up." David walked closer to the water to chat with Rob, who joked about being a vegetarian and fishing for salad.

"What's with all these flies? Something die over here?" I said.

Jen gestured toward a woman and young girl playing in the sand closer to the sidewalk. "That lady and her daughter are visiting from Texas," she explained. "When we got here, she walked up to me and asked, 'Are all the beaches in San Diego this filthy? This is La Jolla, the resort town, right? Where I'm from, people clean up the kelp every morning on the beaches.' I hadn't noticed before, but when she mentioned it, I looked down and saw all the trash and the kelp and the flies.”

"Yeah? I wouldn't know," I said. Jen and I joined David and Rob by the water, our feet making sucking noises. The only thing worse than sand is wet sand. Rob drew the long fishing pole back like a golfer and swung toward the water.

"You should try this," Jen said to me. "Yeah, no, I think I'll pass." Jen seemed as stubborn as her red hair implied.

The beach is not my scene. The thought of swimming in unchlorinated water gives me the willies. I’m convinced parasitic microorganisms will find a way to enter my body, and who knows what kind of creatures might brush against me in those cold, dark, wild waters. I don't sunbathe, a pointless pastime that not only increases my risk of skin cancer, but also gives me a raging headache. And then there's the sand. A night at Guantanamo would be like lunching at Nordstrom's compared to the excruciating torment of the sand granules that glue themselves to my skin to chafe, abrade, and irritate.

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"It’s fun, come on, I’ll show you." "I’m just not into it," I said. "What if I throw that thing and accidentally hook a bird? Or a person! Not cool.”

I seemed as stubborn as her red hair implied.

Shore Stop

Fishing is boring, unless you catch an actual fish, and then it is disgusting.

— Dave Barry

The way my friend Jen tells it, her boyfriend Rob arrived home from work an hour before sunset on Friday evening, fishing pole in hand, and said, "I’m going to catch us some dinner, wanna come along?" I got the call from Jen as she was loading the car in front of her Clairemont home. Jen told me that she, Rob, and their neighbor Mike were heading to La Jolla Shores, and then she casually tossed in a polite, "You can join us if you like.”

"Wait, let me get this straight," I said. “You’re driving to La Jolla! To try to catch a fish? Because you want to eat it? Rob just came home from work and was, like, ‘Let’s go catch dinner? That’s the weirdest freakin’ thing I’ve heard all week. Hell, yeah, I want to come.” Worried the sun would set before I could witness Rob’s demonstration of the food chain in action, I yelled to David, "Put on your shoes, beh beh, we’re going out!" as I rushed upstairs for a jacket. Ever amenable to my continuous whining, David was at the door and ready for adventure by the time I bounded back down the stairs.

The sun was low on the horizon when David and I pulled up at Kellogg Park. It wasn’t until we reached a small set of cement steps leading away from the sidewalk that it occurred to me that I would have to walk on the sand. It was too cold to remove my shoes and socks, so I grabbed my pants at the knee, hiked them up, and tiptoed gingerly across the soft earth.

The beach is not my scene. The thought of swimming in unchlorinated water gives me the willies. I’m convinced parasitic microorganisms will find a way to enter my body, and who knows what kind of creatures might brush against me in those cold, dark, wild waters. I don’t sunbathe, a pointless pastime that not only increases my risk of skin cancer, but also gives me a raging headache. And then there’s the sand. A night at Guantanamo would be like lunching at Nordstrom’s compared to the excruciating torment of the sand granules that glue themselves to my skin to chafe, abrade, and irritate.

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"Yeah, no, I think I’ll pass.”

"It’s fun, come on, I’ll show you." "I’m just not into it," I said. "What if I throw that thing and accidentally hook a bird? Or a person! Not cool.”

"I’m not letting you leave until you try," Jen seemed as stubborn as her red hair implied.
Fine, I relented. “But I’m not going as close to the water as Rob is. I don’t think I could deal if my feet got wet.”

Jen and Rob shared a look, the look of two outdoorsy people who didn’t mind getting dirty—when confronted by someone like me—a person who prefers things more “sterile,” one for whom grime is the stuff of nightmares—all they can do is shrug their shoulders.

“Didn’t you tell me you had fun that time you went fishing with your dad?” Jen asked as she handed me the pole.

“Yeah, but that was on one of those half-day boats, so I didn’t have to stand in wet sand.”

Jen rolled her eyes and gave me a brief lesson in surfcasting. I raised the pole over my shoulder and gave it a good throw, letting my thumb off the line as I did so. The un-pre-slathered lure landed in the shallow water part of the surf a few feet in front of me. I reeled it in, a laborious task, and found that I had caught a giant cluster of kelp. “I’m sorry, I can’t touch it,” I said. “When I caught a fish while out with my dad, other people took it off the hook for me.”

“That wasn’t fishing, Barb,” David cut in. “Fishing without touching water or fish is more like some video game.”

The honk of a horn backfired behind us and our heads flipped around to find a lifeguard getting out of his truck. Rob, wearing his fishing license around his neck, ran over to greet the man. “Is it okay to fish here?” I asked Jen.

“I didn’t see a No Fishing sign among all the other ‘No signs,’” she replied. Mike pulled the help from the hook while the rest of us watched Rob laugh with the lifeguard and then raise a pair of binoculars to look in the direction the guard’s finger was pointing. I turned my eyes to the shore, where sandpipers were hopping along and probing the wet sand with their long pointy beaks. I followed after them for a few minutes, pretending I was reporting live for Animal Planet. Golden peach- and rose-colored light glinted off the waves as the sun dipped into the ocean. I watched the colors shifting in the sky and the iridescent twinkling of the water, and for a moment, forgot about the smell, the flies, and the sand, and inhaled deeply.

Rob returned and explained that apparently we were standing in a protected area (exactly what was being protected, I don’t know, but the popular guess was some rare species of fly). The lifeguard had admitted the signage was poor with regard to the No Fishing rule. Under all the red “No” signs was fine print on a small black-and-white posting that, half-a-tiny paragraph down, said something like, “The taking or possession of sea life or artifacts is prohibited.” Nothing about fishing specifically, which was how everyone had missed it in the first place.

“So,” I said, trying to suppress my smirk. “Where do you want to eat?”
Chivalry is not dead. Neither are knot tying, handwriting, and blacksmithing.

Seemingly everything has been called a “lost art.” Spelling, conversation, keeping a secret, note taking, listening, and even (why not?) hollering. One string of online text even refers to the lost art of blogging.

What constitutes a lost art? Is it a talent that was once universal but has now grown out-moded and become the practice of specialists? Such as knot tying?
Or is a lost art an activity that Dad used to teach his son or Mom passed down to her daughter but now no moms or dads have time to teach anymore? Such as etiquette?
Is a lost art a capability that has been marginalized by technology, such as wilderness navigation (by GPS and MapQuest) or calligraphy (by the printing press)?
And think about this. How many millers, tanners, smiths, or coopers do you know? Not people named Miller, Tanner, Smith, or Cooper. Instead, the lowercased practitioners of bygone trades: millers of wheat, tanners of leather, smiths of iron, and makers of barrels. Have you ever met anyone who knows how to mill or tan or smith or coop?
And what ever happened to the art of chivalry? Did it really die?

Chivalry Isn’t Dead
A girl on a red bicycle comes to the intersection of Gresham and Garnet in Pacific Beach. Midday traffic clogs the streets. A man in a white car slows down and stops and extends his hand. He smiles and motions for the girl on the red bicycle to go first.

“People have this perception that chivalry was lost in the past,” Scott Farrell says, speeding back up in his Honda Accord after the girl has ridden across. “Or that it doesn’t have anything to do with us today. Or it’s kind of absurd. So I came up with this notion of putting together an educational program that looked at the ideals of chivalry, both in their authentic sense, as a warrior’s code, and to look at how that warrior’s code still kind of affects us today. It still really shapes our image of what a hero is and how someone acts who has a sense of duty and responsibility.”
Farrell works as a writer, educator, and actor. He’s been involved in historical reenactment groups, Renaissance fairs, Shakespeare festivals, and medieval tournaments for nearly 30 years. For one of his main educational jobs, he puts on a full suit of medieval armor and visits schools to demonstrate a bygone time and talk about history.

Chivalry, according to Farrell, is the understanding that somebody with a greater sense of power, authority, and strength has a greater responsibility. And what that means is, you don’t use your power to impress people or to enrich yourself, but you use it to make the world a better place.

“At the core of chivalry,” Farrell explains, “is the need to get away from the sense that one is the center of the world and, in everyday interactions, to look at ways to find a place to help somebody out. Even if it’s just to open a door or carry a package or stand when somebody enters the room. Those little acts of courtesy are a way to break out of that mentality of thinking that...”
you’re the center of the universe. And so there is a sense of ’I am the strongest kid on the block,’ but chivalry teaches that it puts a greater responsibility on the strong person to be careful, to be fair, to be honest, to be just. And in today’s world — and this is why chivalry seems dead, as they say — we kind of almost have developed the reverse of chivalry: the stronger you are, the less the rules, the less you should have to worry about the rules, the more you can bluster through the world and do what you want. But that’s really a recipe for anarchy, on some level.”

Farrell has distilled the code of chivalry into seven knighthly virtues: courage, justice, generosity, mercy, nobility, faith, and hope.

“Whereas many of us think of chivalry in the sense of opening the door for a lady or putting your coat down over a puddle,” he goes on, “I find it much more appropriate to consider chivalry in terms of how you treat other people in traffic, for instance. Do you go through traffic and cut people off and think you have a right to be rude and create dangerous situations? Or do you realize that you’re not the most important person on the road and other people have to get places too? That’s a much more contemporary way of seeing chivalry being applied today, rather than looking for the manners of 50 years ago in today’s world.”

Where will we find examples of chivalry in today’s world? “I think the environmental movement these days is bound on our sense of chivalry, our sense of protecting those that cannot protect themselves,” Farrell says. “Well, the planet cannot protect itself. And so, our sense of sacrifice is kind of born in that sense of chivalry.”

He thinks a moment. “A lawyer that does pro bono work is chivalrous,” he says. “A teacher that stays after school to help the students.” And then Farrell taps the steering wheel of his Honda.

“Behind the wheel of a car, someone’s real character really comes out,” he says. “And we don’t think about it, but we get behind the wheel of a car, and we’re driving a weapon that puts most of the weapons of a medieval knight to shame. And we think nothing about blazing down a little residential street at 50 miles per hour.”

As Farrell talks, it’s clear that he’s focused on his road courtesy: He drives about five miles per hour under the speed limit, doesn’t change lanes without a blinker, and doesn’t get mad when he gets cut off.

It may be a fanciful connection, but the car is the modern horse, and the word “chivalry” comes from the word for “horse.” “Chivalry isn’t dead,” Farrell asserts. “I think that people just don’t recognize anymore what chivalry is. And I think that people who say that chivalry is dead are looking for a chivalry that would have been appropriate in our grandparents’ day, but they don’t recognize how essential these ideals of chivalry still are in our world. I think we still expect chivalry out of our heroes and our role models, and we’re pretty disappointed when we find that they don’t have it. You know, we could talk about everything from Enron to Michael Vick and how disillusioned those situations make us.”

Farrell thinks a great place to see chivalry in action (or in inaction, as it were) is at an informal sporting event.

So he drives toward the Pacific Beach Recreation Center, where athletes gather for pickup basketball.
player on the other team. They recognize that the best competition brings out the best in you.”

Farrell elaborates on this idea. “The medieval knights made games out of warfare in order to inculcate these ideals of chivalry in an aggressive, fast-moving, combative culture. I mean, sure, it’s easy to be chivalrous when you’re sitting at court with the ladies, sipping a cool drink and having a conversation.”

Eventually, one of the basketball players drives to the hoop and scores and lets out a yelp of self-satisfaction, smiling and sticking out his tongue as he runs back down the court.

“The best warriors are ones who don’t brag about themselves,” Farrell says, chidingly. “As Geoffroi de Charny, a 14th-century French knight, says, ‘If you live your life right, other people will talk about you. It’s not your job to talk about yourself.’”

Farrell has read dozens of old chivalry books, and he has a dream of writing and publishing a book about modern chivalry some day, but he’s finding that publishers aren’t interested in the subject.

“We can say that chivalry is dead and bemoan the fact that not everybody was chivalrous back then. We can say that not everybody is an honorable competitor, but that’s just human nature,” Farrell says. “The fact that the books on chivalry back in the Middle Ages indicates that not everybody was chivalrous back then either.”

**Tied Up in Knots**

“For the real history of knot tying,” Darrell McNurlan says, “you have to look at sailing.”

McNurlan’s sitting on the Blue Note, a 48-foot sailboat in the Harbor Island marina. Waves lap, and sun glints off the harbor water. The only sound besides wind in your ears is the intermittent clank of rigging as boats loll in the water.

McNurlan, 53, is ex-Navy. He used to work on submarines. He teaches classes in traditional sailing and knot tying through Harbor Sailboats on Harbor Island. He also markets a DVD called Basic Knot Tying that runs on PC or Mac. It comes with a two-foot length of rope and teaches the “eight knots that every sailor needs to know.”

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Upon arrival, somebody grabs it, they decorate rope work on it you grab ahold of that. It starts to rock or shift, and it goes over. That’s a decent knot the sailor ties is useable. But almost every boat they have a binacle. That’s where the compass is, and the wheel’s attached to it, and they have a stainless-steel grab rail that kind of goes over. That’s a handhold, so if the boat starts to rock or shift, you grab ahold of that. Well, stainless steel gets wet and slippery. So I do decorative rope work on top of that, so when somebody grabs it, they get a firm grip. So even though it’s decorative, it’s got to be useful.”

He gives another example.
“Most able-bodied seaman would have a ditty bag,” McNurlan says, “and the ditty bag was pretty much like their résumé. Because, they’d take an old piece of canvas, and they’d stitch it. So the flat seams and round seams that they’d put this thing together with are the same skills they need to repair sail. And they’d stitch and sew these grommets in there and tie these fancy knots with the ropes at the top, and it was like a way of showing what they could do when they’d go on a new ship, like a résumé.”

McNurlan wears jeans and an Interna
tional Guild of Knot Tyers T-shirt and looks right at home in a base
ball cap and sunglasses. In fact, he lives on a boat: a 33-foot Cheoy Lee clipper in a Chula Vista marina. Today, onboard the Blue Note, his graying hair blows out from under his hat in the bay breeze.

“There are so many knots,” McNurlan says, emphasizing the “so.” He mentions a book that lists over 2000 of them. “A lot of knots are just variations on a theme,” he says. “But then a lot of them are just very unique knots.”

What are the basic knots that any knot tyer should know?
““For today’s sailing,” McNurlan begins, “there’s about five or six basic knots that they use on a sailboat or even on a power boat. For example, one of the things sailors do for a temporary eye is tie a bowline.” And as he speaks, he demonstrates. “So you take the bitter end and you tie it over the top. This is the bitter
There’s also the cleat hitch,” McNurlan says, tying another knot. “Besides your other knots, you’ve got hitches and bends,” he says. “So if you’re tying the rope to some other object, then it’s called a hitch. Like you’re hitching up your horse. And bends are tying two ropes together.”

“It’s impossible not to notice McNurlan’s hands. Thick, short fingers, abundant calluses, a map of wrinkles, big knuckles — so much character in those hands.”

“This is a reef knot, which laymen call a square knot,” McNurlan begins another demonstration, holding his strand of rope between his hands. “A reef knot is, another knot. “And then, even when this one gets real tight, you’ve still got that little loop that you can roll back and be able to untie it.” Another flash, and the knot’s untied.

“That’s the thing about knots is you have to be able to untie them,” he says. “So you see this little piece going over the top here, you just roll that over, and it opens the whole thing up and loosens it. So no matter how tight it gets, you can keep working it loose and untie the knot.”

“This is an overhand knot,” he says, starting to tie again. “This is the one that people usually throw into a line when they want to put a knot in the end of it.” He ties the knot in a flash. “Then you just take an extra twist in it, and come out, and it becomes a figure-eight knot.” Another flash, another knot. “And

McNurlan has taken a length of rope and made it into something else. It looks like sleight of hand. Like an illusion. It looks like magic.

“It’s impossible not to notice McNurlan’s hands. Thick, short fingers, abundant calluses, a map of wrinkles, big knuckles — so much character in those hands.”

“This is a reef knot, which laymen call a square knot,” McNurlan begins another demonstration, holding his strand of rope between his hands. “A reef knot is,
when the winds get too strong, you reef your sail. You reduce your sail area by lowering the sail down and tying off a certain lower section of it, and you reset it so you can handle a higher wind without overpowered the boat. So they have lines that come out of the sail that you tie around the gathered material. And that's called reefing. You tie reef knots in the reef lines. And it's right over left, left over right, and you have the reef knot.

Although the rest of us might think of knot tying as a lost art, McNurlan says that the real lost art is decorative knot tying. "Sailors still use all these practical knots every day," he says. McNurlan says. "But very few people remember how to tie the decorative knots anymore."

McNurlan shows off an elaborate piece of weaving that he's done. "One of the more difficult knots to tie is a star knot," he says, holding his own star knot in his hand. "It's just the way it's woven. It comes back and turns and goes about maybe ten different directions at once. So once you get it all tied, then you have to work all the way through. A lot of the time, with knots, especially the decorative ones, you tie it loose, and then once you get it to where the knot's tied, then you have to go back through and tighten it up and cinch it down."

A finished Turk's head looks like a bunch of Princess Leia hairdos clustered in a ball. "Knots are being developed all the time," McNurlan says, although he's never developed a knot of his own. "People are still looking for ways to deal with rope. And the one fascinating one that's just come about recently is called an icle knot. Now, an icle tapers to a point down at the end, and this guy figured out a way to tie a rope around a tapered object that will not slide to the point. Which is a very tricky thing to do. And I had someone show it to me, but I haven't learned how to do it."

McNurlan estimates that he can tie 15 or 20 different knots off the top of his head. Otherwise, he says he could use diagrams and be able to tie just about any knot there is.

"So, like I say, sailors couldn't read and they couldn't write," McNurlan says, smiling. "But when it came to rope, they really knew their business."

Kung fu weapons, belt buckles, railings, fire screens, and decorative sculptures.
beauty in the eye of the beholder?

“Quite so,” she agrees.

So one person’s calligraphy could be another person’s scrawl?

“Exactly so,” Hull says, and her eyes twinkle from behind her rectangular glasses.

“But,” she says, qualifying herself, “this really is an art form. It’s about the consistency and the perfection.”

Her body is relaxed. Her face is relaxed.

There is nothing about Susan Hull that isn’t perfectly relaxed as she leans forward in her secretary’s chair and focuses on the white piece of paper in front of her. An unusual-looking pen is poised in her right hand.

Classical music soars in the background. Hull concentrates. Her arm flows in little circles, hovering over the page in front of her. She’s writing showy letters and using her entire arm to enact most of the strokes. At this moment, she looks a lot like a transcribing monk or some kind of specialist in a kung fu movie scripting Chinese characters. The only

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March 27, 2008

San Diego Reader
sound besides the wood-winds and strings is the lush dragging of that strange pen across the white paper on the desk in front of her.

After writing a few more lines of beautiful text, Hull sits back and lifts her pen.

That pen. It looks like an alien machine or little spaceship. It looks as though it’s supposed to do something other than just write. There’s an oblique hinge or jog or joint, where the shaft turns up before the tip comes down.

And what are these crazy-shaped calligraphy pens called?

“This is a pen,” Hull says. And it becomes apparent that all she’s going to say.

A pen? That’s all?

She laughs. “I don’t mean to disappoint you, but, yes, it’s just a pen. This is your staff, or your penholder; this is your nib, or tip. The nib is made of two pieces. The top part is copper, and the bottom part is steel. The space in between the two pieces of the nib is what creates your reservoir, and that’s what holds the ink.”

She presses the nib to the paper and begins to write again.

A few minutes later, Hull has scripted five words.

Hull estimates that she can address between 6 and 20 envelopes in an hour, depending on the letter style. “Usually 12 envelopes in an hour and I’m happy,” she says. That’s five minutes to write out the average address.

Hull is entirely self-taught. “When I started, there were no classes,” she says. “So I learned out of books.”

Since then, she’s gotten a degree in fine art and has taken calligraphy classes in college and through the local calligraphy guild, San Diego Calligraphers. Hull also teaches calligraphy now and then.

“I teach very slowly and one step at a time,” she says, “I teach you how to hold and use the pen, understand how to read an instruction manual, break the alphabet down into elements, how to move your hand, don’t turn your hand, keep your shoulders down, and keep your breath good. You know, it’s almost a Zen experience.

“I actually think the lost skill is thinking.”

You keep your work in front of your body, where your energy is. And then you show you the basic strokes.”

Hull demonstrates. “You have the lead-in stroke,” she begins, drawing her pen gradually along the white page. “You have the vertical stroke, you have the crescent stroke, you have the diagonal stroke. So any alphabet can be broken down into elements. And o is the mother of the alphabet. So if you want to know what an alphabet looks like, you go to the letter o. If it’s round and fat, then the alphabet is round and fat and gets a certain amount of space. If it’s pointed and squishy and leaning over to the side, then the alphabet is pointed and squishy and needs this much space. So that’s your basis.”

She writes some more.

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If you are suffering from Postherpetic Neuralgia (pain after shingles), you may be eligible to participate in a research study. Study medication and study related exams are provided at no cost. Qualified participants will be compensated for time and travel.
the treadle, and the power works the machine's foot machinery called a eight-foot-high piece of orange. Pulls out a long, thin orange flame — and humming and spewing to his forge — a small, visual information. Of weird and wonderful messy at all. It's a wealth lean, and still other worktables, other objects on the walls, objects litter lean, and still other objects sit in piles on the floor. But the space isn't messy at all. It's a wealth of weird and wonderful visual information.

Browne strides over to his forge — a small, barrel-like cylinder that's humming and spewing orange flame — and pulls out a long, thin steel rod. The last three feet of the rod glow orange. His face is red and intense as he holds the glowing metal under an eight-foot-high piece of machinery called a power hammer. Browne works the machine's foot treadle, and the power hammer thunders down on the glowing steel. Flecks of metal fly off and cool into silvery dust on the workshop floor. He’s honing the rod into an arrowlike point, spinning it and hammering.

Next, Browne uses a small, handheld hammer and an anvil to bend a second heated rod into a curve. He’s working the two rods at once — flame, mechanical power hammer, handheld hammer, flame, repeat. One rod goes into the forge, and the other comes out. The heated air above each orange rod shimmers.

It’s remarkable how flexible the hot steel becomes, almost like butter.

Next, a swift wire brushing, and then he plunges the shaped rod into a vat of cooling water. It hisses. A puff of steam, and the piece is solid steel again. But now it’s a long metal leaf for...
Browne’s forge operates at a working temperature of around 2000 degrees Fahrenheit. “Yellow heat,” he calls it. “That’s where steel becomes the most malleable. And I keep two or three bars in the forge at a time, because when one starts to cool down, you have to heat it up again. You have only a certain amount of time, a couple of minutes, maybe, to work this stuff. So you have to be focused. You can’t think of anything else.”

The forge uses propane and takes about 15 minutes to attain a working temperature. “I was surprised about how much information there was on the Internet about forge building and forge design,” Browne says. “Mine’s called a pipe forge. It’s basically a 12-inch-diameter steel pipe lined with ceramic fiber and coated with high-tech refractory coating, which reflects most of the heat back inside. Then I got off-the-shelf plumbing parts...
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Browne's other main piece of machinery is the power hammer. "It's an industrial forging hammer," he says. "It's probably from the '30s or '40s. I got it for a song. It was sitting in a field, not being used." This 3400-pound machine is driven by a belt and has a motor in the back. When you tap the foot treadle lightly, the hammer hits lightly, and if you step down heavily, then it pounds steel harder than any human could, a 100-pound ram coming down with thousands of pounds of force.

Says Browne, "Back in the '20s, '30s, and '40s, everything was made with a power hammer like that one, by people doing just what I'm doing. Back before we cast everything in big hydraulic machines that can cast stuff out in the thousands."

Browne sounds more straightforward than bitter as he talks about machines replacing people in the blacksmith industry. "What I do in here, you know, there are actually companies now that have machines that just press these things out. Press, it's done. And then guys will take those components that are made by machines and that have no remnant of a guy's hand making it, and they just use an additive method, and they weld it in. So they take all these components, and they arrange them ten different ways, and they say, 'Well, would you like the gate with the scrolls this way, or that way, the leaves this way or that way?' and they weld it together. But anything you can draw, I can make, because I make everything by hand. So I'm not limited to the components available off the shelf. What I do is unique. And there's a segment of the marketplace that still wants that. They want something handmade."

Browne doesn't fit the movie-fueled cliché of the blacksmith: long beard, loincloth, dirt all around him, forging a sword next to a fire pit in a thatched shack.

He laughs. "Back then, they had one guy who was sort of directing the show with his small forging hammer. And where he would hit, and as hard as he would hit, there'd be two other guys with sledgehammers following him. This was called striking. And so, he would hit, and these guys with big hammers would hit, and he'd hold it and direct the show. And that was called hammering with a striker. Well, then they realized quickly that if you're working by yourself, then you need something more, like the mechanical power hammer I have. I mean, that's a four-pound hammer that I'm working with.
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over there. And I can swing that for an hour or two before I get pretty exhausted. But the power hammer is a hundred-pound ram coming down with force, and it can run all day and never get tired. Now, it’s not automatic. You still have to direct the show. You have to have the metal positioned to be hit in the right place at the right angle, and so on.”

Browne works with steel mainly, but he also shapes copper, brass, and bronze. “Everybody has a picture of what the blacksmith is,” he says, “and I’m not even sure that’s what I am, to be honest. I embrace a lot of the techniques, hot-working metal, and I rivet things together, and I do a lot of things that blacksmiths do, but I also employ modern welders and grinders, and I’m not opposed to making money and making my life easier in some ways too.”

Browne says it was a struggle to build a clientele, but now he’s booked six months ahead with various metal-crafting jobs.

And he makes all sorts of cool things besides gates. “I think I’m an artist first and a blacksmith second,” Browne says, and he has the work all around him to prove it: kung fu weapons, belt buckles, railings, fire screens, and decorative sculptural pieces as well. “The blacksmithing is just the medium for me. You know, it could be clay, it could be painting, but for me, I express my artistic views through steel.”

Mind Your Manners
Having lunch with an etiquette specialist is like writing a letter to your English teacher. Like talking politics with a politician. Debating spirituality with a priest. You can’t help being a little intimidated.

Will you slurp your soup? Talk with your mouth full? Use the wrong fork?
And if you’re a gentleman having lunch with a lady, should you stand up every time she stands up or sits down?
Elaine Swann shows up for lunch at Tapenade restaurant in La Jolla with her husband Chris. She’s almost exactly on time for the appointment. She smiles her way into the room, makes eye contact, speaks clearly, and extends her hand in greeting.

Swann is San Diego’s etiquette lady. She’s a regular guest on News in the Morning on NBC. She also has a radio show, The Elaine Show, every Monday evening from 6:00 to 7:00 on 1000 AM, KCEO.

How does one become an etiquette expert?
“Well, you can be forced into it, like I was,” Swann says laughing. “No, I’m joking. It was because my mom sent me to charm school. Maybe it was just something that my mom saw in me, I don’t know.”

Swann grew up in Oceanside, the middle child of five. She was the only one who went to charm school. “I was kind of like Susie Home-maker growing up.” She laughs again. “Charm school was a natural fit.

So I enjoyed it. I was that child, for example, who was coveting my mom’s china.”

Now Swann makes a comfortable living thanks to etiquette. Besides the radio and television gigs, she also writes books and columns.

“Really the business part of it for me,” she says, “just has to do with sharing. I actually started out volunteering, which is what catapulted me to actually sharing it with other people outside of just myself and my family.”

Swann, who is quite pretty — angular cheekbones, nice white teeth, dark black skin, and exotic eyes — almost became a model. She even moved to New York City to pursue it.”

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we could just do that and being considerate. If about the other person more about thinking itself, "Swann says. "It's way beyond the table little tickets."

"Okay!" Swann says. "I like that. My husband's a musician."

Swann's husband Chris has been sitting quietly all this while. Is it a challenge for Chris to live with the etiquette lady?

"I love it," he says. And then the etiquette lady answers for him.

"Chris is the perfect gentleman," she says. "Because his dad taught him well. So when I got him," and she laughs heartily, "he was already very good."

It must be difficult to be the etiquette lady. Does Swann realize that she is socially intimidating?

She laughs again. "People ask me, 'Are you going to correct my manners?' And no, I'm not, but I know the whole time people are watching me and watching my manners. So it works both ways. People are apprehensive about their own manners around me, and I know they're also watching what I do like hawks."

Swann is usually loath to tell people what she does for a living. "I'm an etiquette coach" and then politely field the inevitable questions.

"It's okay, though," Swann says, half under her breath. "I'm always gathering material for my next book."

Swann's first book, *Girls Have Style at School*, is directed toward teenage girls.

"No one would debate that etiquette has become a lost art. How did that happen? "A couple things are happening, in my opinion," Swann begins. "Number one, technology. Technology is really taking away the personalization that we had in communicating with each other. So we're kind of disconnected from the face-to-face thing, and we're forgetting how to interact with each other. Also, etiquette isn't being passed on. Either we have two-parent homes where both parents are working, and so they're not able to take that extra time out, or we have one-parent homes where the one parent has to do enough work for two, and so they're not able to take the extra time with their children."

Swann does etiquette coaching for businesses and schools. In the schools, she asks the kids how many times a week they sit down for dinner with the family. "Most

---

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blue sky, in the bright sun.

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Jan Urban, an organic chemist by trade, is the president of San Diego Orienteering, a club that has around 100 members.

In orienteering races, you are given a map (and you bring a compass) and a small electronic card, and then you line up as in a conventional race and then run off into the hills. Runners usually start a minute or two apart and begin the race alone. The object is to find “controls,” e-punches attached to flags — and they must be found either in a certain order or within a certain time — and to run your card through each e-punch. Whoever finds the most controls within the allotted time or reaches the finish line fastest after finding the controls in the right order wins the orienteering race.

“This is a sport which I would say is really big in Europe,” Urban raises his eyebrows. “Pretty much everybody knows of that, and a lot of people do it. This summer I went to O-Ringen in Sweden, and that’s probably the biggest race in the world. Something between 15,000 and 25,000 people race there every year.”

Urban stands well over six feet tall. He wears gray sweats and Adidas sneakers. His hair is short, and he has on small, round, European-looking sunglasses. It’s morning, but his chin shows a light-colored five o’clock shadow.

“When I navigate, basically, let’s say, if I want to go here...” Urban points to a tiny dot on the map in his right hand. “I can decide I can go on top of the hill, and then run over the ridge, and at the other side it should be there. Or I can go around on the road and then go up from the other side. Or sometimes, if I look for something major, like a lake or a road, then I can just run straight and use it as a ‘catching feature,’ and I know it will catch me right there, and then I can turn, and from there, it will be easy to find. So that’s one navigation technique. You look for what they call ‘attack points.’ You look for big features which are close to the small features you are actually looking for, and then you can go on bearing and pace count from there.

“Once you learn the linear features,” he continues, “like roads and hills and creeks, and you learn how they relate to the map, then the next step is to learn to judge distance.”

Urban’s thick Czechoslovakian accent makes it sound as though his tongue is catching on his teeth when he speaks English, especially when he says...
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that they don’t want to navigate. They don’t want to think. They just want some screen and a pointer that says, ‘You are here,’ and then they go there. You know? Often, what we get for these races is military people, or Boy Scouts, and they do quite bad too, unless you get a military person who did orienteering. Because they just have that idea of taking bearing and pace count and going. And that essentially doesn’t work. It works when you are on a ship and everything’s flat and you can, on the sea, have straight direction. It works for the airplanes. But if you are on foot, you cannot really even hold the straight direction if you go sideways through the hill. You have to deviate here and there. If you go on bearing and pace count for half a mile, you end up at some point, and you know that within hundred meters of you is a control. It’s not really useful information. Part of it, for useful navigation, is picking something in the map. You know, you use a compass, but what you use it for is basically just to orient the map. You know which way is north, and you align your map that way. But that’s for bearing. What you want to do more, you want to associate features in the map with features which are out there. So, I see here, on the map, is a lake with an island. And I can see it over there. I see there is a loop in the parking lot, and I can see it there. I can see the road here. I see contour lines, and I look there, and sure enough, there is a major hill there.”

Urban uses his orienteering techniques in everyday life for navigation purposes, yes, but he maintains that the quick problem solving he’s learned is even more useful in general planning and decision making. “It’s taught me that I have only so much time to make a decision or else the opportunity may be gone,” he says. “It also teaches independence. If you get lost, there is no one to blame, no one to sue, and no one to help you. While you’re out there, trying to find your way, it’s your responsibility. It’s your business. And you have to live with the consequences.”

Does Urban get lost while driving? And if he does get lost, will he stop to ask directions? “Actually, I don’t get lost that much,” he says. “But if you do orienteering, it’s not so much that you don’t get lost, but you recognize that you’re lost, and you know how to recover from that. A lot of time, with beginners in orienteering, they think, ‘I’m not lost, it must be just around the corner.’ You know that attitude? But that’s part of being good at navigation, is realizing the moment when something’s not right and then recovering from that and getting back on course.” — Geoff Bouvier
On the day of filming, Zien’s crew—Jorge Corrales, the cameraman, and Michelle Witek, the production manager—assembles midmorning. They’re dressed stylishly but casually in jeans and T-shirts, and they confer around Zien’s dining table, discussing the particulars of the day’s shoot. The theme, they collectively decide, is “stuff you can make when you get home from a fancy dinner and the food was really terrible and you come home really hungry.” Zien, it seems, has been to many of these and is well equipped with solutions; an omelet, “red beer” (a mixture of beer, Clamato, Worcestershire sauce, and pepper), Frito chili (mixed right in the Fritos bag), and Fabulous Jane’s Sweet and Sour Motor Home Meatballs. Witek records the selections in a binder emblazoned with the Sam the Cooking Guy logo, executed in a jaunty, handwritten-style font.

She and Corrales set up the lights, two big boxes lined with white reflective material and lit with a single bulb, as Zien, who is going to enter in a suit as though just returning from a party, rushes upstairs to change. Karla Gascoigne, Zien’s assistant, spruces up the kitchen, getting it ready for the shoot.

The kitchen is the main set, unless the show is taken on the road, and it is not what Zien refers to as the “traditional cooking-show

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The kitchen usually found in a TV studio equipped with all the bells and whistles. Zien’s, while large enough for a family of five, is smaller than one might expect for a professional cook, with marble-top counters and hand-brushed red walls. It’s elegant but user-friendly, a style that lends itself to the laid-back format of the show. A thick, round butcher block sits center stage, next to a half-moon-shaped knife-holder that houses the various-sized knives that Zien uses during the shoot. At the back of the kitchen, ornamental jars filled with pickled items and condiments and bottles of vinegars line a small shelf above the stove.

“When I decided to do this cooking show, around the end of 2001, I went looking for another kitchen to shoot in,” Zien says. “I never dreamt I could use my own. And it was a week before the first shoot and I was sitting here and I hadn’t found a kitchen yet and I looked up one day and said, ‘The show is about cooking for regular people. I’m a regular guy, I have a regular kitchen, I’m going to use my kitchen.’”

This, it turns out, suits Zien just fine — “Look how far I have to go for work!” he jokes — and if someone happens to come to the door, they become a part of the episode, giving the show an improvisational air.

The kitchen set is a hub of activity. Witek and Corrales fiddle with the lights as Gascoigne scrubs down the white porcelain sink. Zien, in his suit and trademark chunky black glasses, changes a light bulb in the bank of tracks over his head. He mumbles in mock annoyance that Emeril Lagasse, the celebu-chef of the Food Network, never has to do his own scut work. Zien unplugs the phone on the counter, and Carla gives the butcher block one more once-over with a dishrag, and they’re ready to go.

“It’s clear from the first take that Zien has this down to a science. His banter is well timed, quick but never rushed. He makes his entrance in suit and flip-flops and does a few takes of flipping on the kitchen lights, miming that he has just come home from a wretched formal affair. Once this is done, he changes into a plain green T-shirt and fires up the stove. He begins the show with his goat cheese and frozen spinach omelet. “I quit my biotech job to try this travel idea…and we were a month away from going and shooting some demo footage when 9/11 happened.”

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to make a proper omelet,” he says, addressing the camera; Corrales steady his shot while Wittek watches the monitor, taking notes as the shoot progresses.

With only one chance to capture the actual cooking process, Corrales follows Zien to the stove to peer over his shoulder, then returns to the butcher block as Zien tilts his pan toward the camera to show off the finished product.

After the camera stops rolling, Zien fries up another omelet and dishes it out to the hungry crew. It’s delicious egg flavored by the spinach and goat cheese but not too goopy. And, as Zien promised, it took under six minutes to make.

Though no one would ever know it, there was a time when Zien did not consider himself much of a cook.

We are sitting on his back patio after the shoot. Zien says, “I cooked a little bit here around the house, but my wife Kelly did most of it.” He was “less than thrilled” with his biotech job and a few years ago began to seek a way to come up with something to job, and I decided I had to make a proper omelet,” he explains, “shooting complicated places and making them not look complicated, and we were a month away from going and shooting some demo footage when 9/11 happened. Nobody was traveling anywhere. I had no job, because I’d just quit, I had no go-to job, and I decided I had to come up with something else I could do, and in a hurry.”

Zien was back to square one. Instead of travel, he decided to try a cooking show.

“There seemed to be an opening there,” he says. “Like I thought there was an opening with travel. Travel always looks like Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous kind of stuff, expensive, complicated, something that regular people can’t do, and I felt that cooking was sort of the same.”

Zien called up his crew, and they got to work shooting a demo. Once it was completed, he began to send it around to TV stations.

“I just asked everyone I knew, ‘Do you know anybody in the TV business?’” he says. “I never got anybody that anybody knew really, really well, but I got a few names of people that I sent my tapes to.”

The response was disappointing.

“This guy at Tribune Media, he said on the phone, ‘You don’t have a fucking chance,’ which was very hard to hear.”

Zien sent the demo out to a few more stations in San Diego, and his show was accepted by the local Fox affiliate. In 2002, they began airing two-minute segments in San Diego, and his show was accepted by the local Fox affiliate. In 2002, they began airing two-minute segments.
twice a week. The County of San Diego station, County Network Television, offered to pick up a half-hour version. A year and a half ago, Cox took over the show and has aired it ever since.

“The county is government,” Zien says, explaining the switch in venue. “It’s not a commercial venture. The opportunities, unfortunately, with a commercial station, are greater. This is a career, so I was trying to grow myself, and that meant all kinds of things. [Cox was] going to put the show on before the Padre games and build the audience and...” He pauses. “It was tough, because the people that worked on the show, mostly one person at the county, was great,” he continues. “I loved her work, we did great shows together, and you know, it’s not like I left there mad at anybody, it was just time to grow. That’s all it is.”

Zien’s success has snowballed. Last year, he was approached by the Discovery Health Channel, which broadcasts nationally on cable networks. They were interested in doing a version of his original, more health-oriented show. The result is Just Cook This with Sam the Cooking Guy, still shot in Zien’s kitchen, only with a different crew.

“It’s not that the recipes at the supermarket, you’d be better off.”

Just Cook This shoots several shows at a time, occasionally in exotic locales. Two months ago, they shot in Hong Kong, which was, ironically, the first destination for Zien’s thwarted travel show. The audience for both versions of the show, Zien says, is quite varied.

“A couple stopped me over the show and has aired twice a week. The County of San Diego station, County Network Television, offered to pick up a half-hour version. A year and a half ago, Cox took over the show and has aired it ever since.

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“A couple stopped me

“I don’t know if more guys watch other cooking shows, I just know that my style is just sort of normal.”

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**Actual patient before**

**Actual patient after**
Sriracha (rooster sauce), and you’ve got a meal. “It’s great,” Zien says. “I really like salmon. It’s good for you, there’s not a lot of fat in it, and the fat that is there is the right kind of fat. I could eat salmon almost all day long.

“I just want people cooking,” he continues. “I eat something and I say, ‘That’s really simple, I think there’s a simple way to make that.’ I just want people cooking. And a lot of the emails I get are from people saying, ‘Never used to cook, and I’ve been watching you a while now and I can’t believe the stuff that I can do.’ And that’s the greatest thing somebody could say.”

In addition to the two versions of his show, Zien has also been named the spokesman for Newcastle Brown Ale — both last year and this year — and is featured in a promotional booklet that includes cooking suggestions as well as photo-advertisements for the beer. He has authored a book, Just a Bunch of Recipes, that comes out in March and has a grilling device featured at Target stores, the Aroma FlipGrill. There is also a full line of Cooking Guy merchandise — T-shirts, sweatshirts, even knives emblazoned with his logo — available on his website.

The collective empha-

“it’s not that people can’t [cook], they just don’t. They don’t think they can.”

Sis is to just get out and cook.

“It’s not that people can’t [cook], they just don’t. They don’t think they can,” he says. “They watch too many fancy cooking shows, where people use perfect everything, ingredients that come from bizarre little specialty stores. I’m not trying to say I’m a chef, ‘cause I’m so not. I’d say most chefs in San Diego, or anywhere, could totally offer around a set of bamboo skewers.

“I don’t try to make things complicated,” he says. “I try to make it easy, big in taste, small in effort. Four, five ingredients, and I make it look pretty and I make it taste great, and I make something you would want to make yourself.

He pauses.

“And that,” he concludes, “is what it is.”

— Rosa Jurewives

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continued from page 12

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In response to Edna Foss’s letter of March 20.
Way off!! I am not sure if I am more surprised at her ignorance or that of the Reader for printing such crap, but everyone is entitled to an opinion — right or ignorant.

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Keep It To Yourself

In the rest of the spying-and-military-industrial complex, there was only one way to keep a lid on the economy without admitting guilt or insanity: increase the money supply. But this causes the value of the dollar to plunge. So why do it? Because it lets the government repay its debts with dollars that are worth less than those originally borrowed. And that’s where the Federal Reserve and Ben Bernanke come in. They help the government pull off this nasty trick on the public. How? The Federal Reserve purchases treasury securities (called U.S. Treasuries, which are government bonds). As a result of this purchase, the money supply increases. This makes more of it available for loans at lower rates of interest. That’s what it means when the Fed announces a cut in the prime interest rate. But it also does something else, and it’s not pretty. Since there has been no overnight increase in the productivity of American workers, there are no additional goods and services available compared to before the interest-rate cut. So now there is more money chasing after the same amount of goods, and prices rise. Inflation.

Inflation is basically a shell game in which the government cheats us of the value of our money to cover up its spending sprees. It’s an easy way out for politicians who don’t want to be blamed for economic disasters. They know that public schools churn out turnips by the truckload, so the populace won’t catch on. You can see the result in the pitiful candidates that remain floating on top of the toilet bowl in the presidential race. The Democratic candidates have either surrendered their Constitutional war-making authority to Dubya (Hillary) or have voted the funds to keep the mass-murder in full swing (Obama), and Republican John McCain of S&L bailout fame can’t wait to

start slaughtering innocent Iranians while keeping the evil war in Iraq going for 100 years more. Only Ron Paul spoke out consistently against our murderous foreign policy and on behalf of monetary solvency. But too many of us were busy slapping stupid Orwellian yellow ribbons on our cars or cheering the president as he led the choir of pseudo-Christians in their vile one-minute hate. As H.L. Mencken once said, Democracy is the theory that the common people know what they want and deserve to get it good and hard.

Lawrence M. Ludlow via email

Would the government give us a cut in the prime interest rate? No. That’s what it means when the Fed announces a cut in the prime interest rate. But too many of us were busy slapping stupid Orwellian yellow ribbons on our cars or cheering the president as he led the choir of pseudo-Christians in their vile one-minute hate. As H.L. Mencken once said, Democracy is the theory that the common people know what they want and deserve to get it good and hard.

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Eliminate or reduce prescription medication dependency when Adolf Eichmann was justifiably executed. Jewphobes are about as ignorant as they are hate-filled. As most Jewphobes do, Foss focused on Israel and left out the following countries in the region and North Africa that have the death penalty: Algeria, Chad, Egypt (rape, murder, treason, and organized drug trafficking), Ethiopia, Libya (high treason, attempting to forcibly change the government, and murder), Morocco, Bahrain, Brunei, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait,

the United States is not afraid of Israel, but the USA is afraid of Saudi Arabia.

Second, some states in the USA have the death penalty, but not all of them. Why blame the entire nation?

Third, capital punishment was abolished in Israel in 1954 with the exceptions of conviction for treason during a time of war and genocide. We know how Jewphobes love to twist the term “genocide.” They play that one often. Israel has not carried out an execution since June 1, 1962,

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3 Procedure
4 Cost
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5 Recovery
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2 About blepharoplasty
3 Who is a candidate?
4 Your eye exam
5 After surgery

1 Face-lift
2 About our office
3 Procedure
4 Cost
5 Recovery
6 Benefits

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2 About our office
3 Procedure
4 Cost
5 Recovery
6 Benefits

1 Liposuction
2 About body sculpting
3 Who is a candidate?
4 Your examination
5 After surgery

1 Face-lift
2 About our office
3 Procedure
4 Cost
5 Recovery
6 Benefits

1 Breast Lift
2 About our office
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5 Recovery
6 Benefits

1 Liposuction
2 About body sculpting
3 Who is a candidate?
4 Your examination
5 After surgery

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For Men & Women

Before

After

Most newspapers are brainwashing machines, and most people who read newspapers daily are brainwashed. They think it’s their own opinion, but it’s really the newspapers’ and the magazines’. The threat to world peace exists because the U.S. and Europe continue to let anyone and everyone into their lands. Terrorism hurts us from within our own borders. They can’t blow us up if they don’t get in, and we also wouldn’t have the excuse or reason (whichever you believe) to go stomping around in foreign lands.

Of course Europe will point the finger at the U.S. for threatening world peace. They’re brainwashed by socialism (as the U.S. is by consumerism), and if you look around in Europe (especially France) you’ll notice quite a bit of Islamics. Offending them has proven to cause riots and fatalities.

If Europe offends the U.S. it brings insults from George Bush, and that’s about it.

As for the U.S. being afraid of Israel, it’s more like we’re in bed with Israel. If you haven’t noticed, Judaism has a lot of influence and power in this nation. That’s just a simple fact. We will rub their back just the way a newspaper will rub the back of the people that it’s in bed with.

Anyway, you could replace the state of Israel with the People’s Republic of Ocean Beach and they’d probably still blow it up. The Middle East has always been on fire no matter who’s stomping around.

As far as the death penalty, what’s the matter with it? If we can have abortion we can have the death penalty — usually by

Dear Ms. Edna Foss (Letters, March 20),

The Washed Brain

I have no further thoughts. Give me a rat’s behind what she thinks (if she thinks).

Dennis J. Foss

L剩下的o-nuts (a good thing).

U.S. troops have been killed in Iraq. Also, Israel does divulge information, and any moron knows that they have nukes (a good thing).

Michael Fuentes
via email

THE THINGS THEY KNOW NOTHING ABOUT

Most newspapers are brainwashing machines, and most people who read newspapers daily are brainwashed. They think it’s their own opinion, but it’s really the newspapers’ and the magazines’. The threat to world peace exists because the U.S. and Europe continue to let anyone and everyone into their lands. Terrorism hurts us from within our own borders. They can’t blow us up if they don’t get in, and we also wouldn’t have the excuse or reason (whichever you believe) to go stomping around in foreign lands.

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Dennis J. Foss
I think the U.S., Israel, and the rest of the world outside of Europe practice the death penalty, Ms. Foss. Interesting the practice the death penalty, Is-rael, and the rest of the world outside of Europe.

Mr. Morgan, a prominent columnist, was also the edi-
torialist or fellow publishers and exposing them for what they are. I think San Diego would be a much better city if we had a news-
paper that had the courage to do the right thing, unlike the Union-Tribune and the Copley Press. Morgan intro-
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Reader Coupons 619-236-3000
I just wanted to say I really enjoy the "Crasher" column. Time is short.

Reader

Excellent story and hope to receive a complete treatment in the future. Please keep the column going on for years…Halloween. I like whatever's particularly good.

Name Withheld

He was later fired, San Diego Evening Tribune.

With the June election approaching, and the race what it is, I look for-
minutes long. ‘Nuff said. Lots of great songs don’t make for great karaoke.

Oh yeah, to avoid accusations of false advertising, anyone expecting to show up and sing Achy Breaky Heart should be forewarned: it was banned forever two nights ago in our first ever election. If you disagree with where a song is, you can nominate it to be promoted or demoted. Isn’t America great? For more info, check http://www.TooCoolForKaraoke.com. Thanks for the article, Reader!

City Lights, by Don Bauder

Published March 19

Posted by electric_fish on March 20, 2008, 8:35 a.m.

It amazes me that our government will bail out inept companies that don’t know how to do business but in the same turn will layoff teachers and neglect basic needs of the society (roads, schools etc.).

Posted by ddbauer on March 20, 2008, 12:19 p.m.

Exactly. It shows where the priorities are. This is one of several reasons why, adjusted for inflation, average incomes have been flat since the year 2000, while the incomes of those in the top 1 percent and 1/10th of 1 percent have zoomed. I cannot tell you why the public does not get aroused. People should be storming the Bastille. But they don’t seem to care. The distribution of wealth and income is back where it was in the Robber Baron days. Back then, Populists and Progressives protested vehemently. Not now.

Cover Story
Published March 19

Published March 19

Posted by Joaquin_de_la_Mesa on March 19, 2008, 2:39 p.m.

I love this: “Bronzed food – have you ever seen bronzed food? It looks exactly like rotten food, only grosser than the real thing.”

Hurrah for the RPSA!

Diary of a Diva
Published March 19

Published March 19

Posted by Mare92104 on March 21, 2008, 7:39 p.m.

I guess that would depend on how you define the word ‘karaoke’.

Love the video diaries. I can’t stop laughing, you kill me!
There is a kind of goofy stereotype of birdwatchers, that birders always have that funny hat and something like a fishing vest with all those pockets,” says biologist Tom Troy. “I don’t have one, but a lot of birdwatchers have fishing vests because you might have a little notebook of some kind with a pen or pencil, your guidebook, binoculars, lens-cleaning tissue — all these things loaded into your vest with all the pockets.”

Troy says most birders are of retirement age. “But there is a competitive group of younger birdwatchers who take this very seriously — they’re serious listers who travel long distances and spend a lot of money.” A “lister” is a birder who keeps track of every species observed.

Troy has seen an increase in women joining the ranks in the past few years. “Believe it or not, for women, birdwatching is the number-two favorite pastime, after walking,” says Troy. “Baby boomers are all becoming older and looking for things to do, but the main reason [the pastime is on the rise] is because it’s inexpensive — you can become a birdwatcher for $50 or less. That would buy a pair of binoculars and a bird identification book. “You can’t learn to play golf or ski for $50.”

On Saturday, March 29, Troy will teach “Basic Birding” at the Buena Vista Lagoon Landing in Carlsbad. The lagoon — a 223-acre wetland located between Carlsbad and Oceanside — was made an official reserve in 1969, the “first ecological reserve in all of California,” says Troy.

Of the 19 lagoons between Los Angeles and the Mexican border, Buena Vista is the only freshwater lagoon. “The reason the Buena Vista Lagoon is freshwater is that in the 1970s they built a dam at the mouth where it would normally open into the ocean. They built that huge mall, the Plaza Camino Real. The wetlands are a natural sponge, a cushion that slows down water movement. So, when they built that plaza and the El Nino rains came, it was a mess. There was a lot of flooding and lots of erosion, so they built a dam.” The lagoon is popular among anglers, who can be seen standing on the “fishing bridge” to catch bass, catfish, and bluegills.

Among the bird species that rely on the wetland habitat is the light-footed clapper rail, which is on the endangered list. The clapper rail, Troy says, “is a little bird that is very secretive and hides around the cattail reeds probing for food. It has kind of a long beak and a little fat body. For the average person, it’s a little chicken-like bird. It’s one of the symbols of the lagoon because they’re found here and not anywhere else.”

The mascot of the Buena Vista Audubon Society is the ruddy duck. During this bird’s mating season (May to August), the male ruddy duck’s black bill turns an opaque sky blue. Breeding plumage can sometimes be confusing for beginning birders. “One time a bunch of volunteers for the Audubon Society were in the Nature Center folding newsletters, and in comes this lady in a jogging suit, and she is livid,” remembers Troy. “She said, ‘I can’t believe what they’ve done! Someone has captured a bunch of little ducks and painted their bills a bright blue color! I don’t get it! Who can I call about this?’ We were laughing and said, ‘It’s okay! This is breeding season — those are just male ruddy ducks trying to attract the female, and that’s just how they get.’ She laughed and said, ‘That’s really it? Well, you learn something every day.’”

One duck has recently begun surprising even longtime birders. Western grebes — diving ducks with sharp bills for spearing fish — are known to feed each other during breeding season. “But lately,” explains Troy, “we’ve had small flocks of western grebes going through elaborate mating behaviors — strengthening that pair bond — every month.”

Perhaps the most exciting mating ritual to witness, says Troy, is that of the male hummingbird, which flies straight up, “way high in the sky,” quickly turns, and then “dive bombs — comes all the way down, almost to the ground — then back up again.”

Most beginning birders are attracted to vibrantly colored feathers. “There are few true colors,” Troy says of plumage. “Most colors are reflected light. If you have a cloudy day, everything looks drab. But we [once saw] a hummingbird a little ways away, and when he would turn his head in the sun, it would send off this flash of red like neon that was captivating, almost like a beam of light out in a dark ocean. Those are what I call a crowd-stopper — a thing that interrupts binocular pep talk. You never know what nature’s going to throw your way.”

— Barbara

Basic Birding class Saturday, March 29 8:30 a.m. Buena Vista Lagoon Landing (see website for directions) Cost: Free Info: 760-967-6915 or bvaudubon.org
**DANCE**

**Collaborations ‘08** Four San Diego choreographers present their dance: 619-542-0071. Saturday, March 29, 2 p.m., and 8 p.m.; $10-15. Hot Monkey Love Café, 6871 La Jolla Cove Way. (College Area)

**First View** Caliterra Ballet Company presents dance inspired by abstract art and innovative creations. General admission company Opus M shares the bill 858-506-6741. Saturday, March 29, 2:30 p.m.; Friday, March 28, 8 p.m. $8-$10. Balboa Theatre, 854 Fourth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

**Argentine Tango Dance Party** DJ plays Argentine tangos, waltzes, polkas, contradances, and more (following instruction in English Country Dancing). Hosted by Waltz & Such in Casa del Prado, El Prado. 619-583-9956. Friday, March 28, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.; $9-$12. Casa del Prado, El Prado. (JUNIPER)

**Contra Dancing** Chris Page calls. Ranting Banisher makes music for San Diego Folk Heritage dance. Beginners’ dance workshop 7:30 p.m.; dancing 8-11 p.m. Wear soft-soled shoes. 858-283-8550. Friday, March 28, 7:30 p.m.; $7. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street. (NORTH PARK)

**English Country Dancing** Chris and Ellie call for English country dancing. Beginners’ instruction at 6 p.m. 858-676-9731. Saturday, March 30, 6 p.m. $6. Joan Hart Academy of Dance, 12227 Poway Road. (POWAY)

**Ragtime and Redowa** Learn a choreography of authentic ragtime, two-step figures (beginner level), as well as some Redowa/minueta variations (intermediate level), 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 28, 7:15 p.m.; $1. Casa del Prado, El Prado. (JUNIPER)

**The Lives of Others** Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck’s film is set before fall of Berlin Wall in East Germany, where the Stasi eavesdropped on people’s secrets. Take in the 2006 film during International Film Series in room 3621. 760-795-6612. In German with English subtitles. Friday, March 28, 7 p.m.; www.sandiego.edu/iff. Thursday, March 27, 7 p.m.; $10. La Paloma Theatre, 471 South Coast Highway 101. (ENCINITAS)

**LunaFest!** Lunar film festival featuring diverse lineup of short films by, for, and about women. Bill includes Make a Wish, My Other Mother, Detia Ana/Mr. Ana, Dakun Ashi, Breaking the Boundaries, Hoppin’ Bee, The Gourmet 760-636-7469. Thursday, March 27, 7 p.m.; $10. La Paloma Theatre, 471 South Coast Highway 101. (ENCINITAS)

**SD Indie Music Fest IV** Independent music, film, art, featured along University Avenue (between Ray Street and 28th Street). Among films: Reversing the Reapers of War. The Devil Came On Horseback. Freeheld. Made in LA. Over 70 acts including Beth Hart, James Manster, Hu Huh Her, Paul Abbott, Semi-Precious Weapons. 619-239-8836 x2. Saturday, March 29, noon; Birch North Park Theatre, 2891 University Ave. (NORTH PARK)

Up for a “Fizzy New Wave Homage”? Christopher Honore’s “giddy Valentine” screens for Film Forum. In French with English subtitles. 619-236-3821. Wednesday, April 2, 6:30 p.m.; San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (DOWNTOWN)

**The Diary of Anne Frank** From 1942 to 1944, Anne Frank, a young Jewish girl, lived in hiding in an attic with her family and four friends in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam. The drama is next production for the Jolanda San Diego Junior Theatre, March 21-30. 619-239-8355. Friday, March 28, 2 p.m.; Saturday, March 29, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday, March 30, 2 p.m.; $10-$15. Ages 12 and up. Freehouse YMCA Community Center, 777 Herschel Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

**The Tortoise and the Hare** Gaston Montoire presents his comical new show through Sunday, March 30. Next: The Three Billy Goats Gruff by Old Fashioned Kite Flying Puppeteers. Curtain rises at 10:30 and 1:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. 619-544-9310. Thursday, March 27, 10 a.m.; Friday, March 28, 10 a.m.; Saturday, March 29, 11 a.m.; Sunday, March 30, 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 2, 10 a.m. $3-$5. Marie de Ville, 461 El Cajon Blvd., El Cajon 619-442-9428.
**NEWSDAILIES**

**IN PERSON**

**“Curse of the Spellmans”** Lisa Lutz signs her new book, in which Izzy Spellman and family are back for another comedic caper. 858-268-4747. Friday, March 28, 7 p.m.; Borders Books and Music Carlsbad, 1965 Calle Barcelona. (CARLSBAD)

**Fantasy Author Raymond E. Feist visits with fans, signs his new epic fantasy, Wrath of a Mad God. 858-268-4747. Sunday, March 30, 2 p.m.; Mysterious Galaxy Books, 7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Suite 302. (CLAR EMPTY)

**Good Buy, Big Read! Big Read “grand finale” with Dixieland jazz, southern-style refreshments, readings from To Kill a Mockingbird, presentations of Found Poetry. 760-753-4747. Saturday, March 29, 2 p.m.; Recinto Library, 540 Cornish Drive. (ENĐTWP)

**Intimate Ibsen** Ibsen Theatre continues year-long Ibsen cycle of readings. Third reading is Ibsen’s Ghosts. Postshow discussion led by Ibsen scholar/translator Anne Charlotte Hans Harvey. Reservations suggested: 619-374-6894. Monday, March 31, 7 p.m.; Ibsen Theatre, 79 Horton Plaza. (DOWNTWP)


**Ocean Beach Comedy** Local comedians plan show benefiting Lupe Lutz signs her new book, in which American Road West. 858-293-5555. Saturday, March 30, 7 p.m.; Borders Books and Music Mission Valley, 1972 Camino del Rio North. (MISSION VALLEY)

**Poetry Unlimited** Art and Music Featured poet is Sylvia Levinson, whose “poems address a spectrum of life experiences.” Music by Do-

**Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Road West. (BALboa PARK)**

**“Tots and Tales”** Interactive story time for preschoolers with crafts and animals. Reservations 619-243-3432. Thursday, March 27, 10:30 a.m. $3. Ages 2 and up. San Diego Humane Society and SPCA, 5550 Gaines Street. (LINDA VISTA)

**Author Signing** Bridget Kirkhoff signs Blessings and Hardships. 760-479-0424. Thursday, March 27, 7 p.m.; Borders Books and Music Carlsbad, 1965 Calle Barcelona. (CARLSBAD)

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

SOMETIMES the intimacy of a small, hidden waterfall is more aesthetically rewarding than the thunder of a famous one. Such is the case with Holy Jim Falls. Tucked into a short, steep canyon draining the southeast flank of Santiago Peak (the high point of the Santa Ana Mountains in Orange County), the falls are seemingly remote but relatively easily reached on foot. The last stretch of trail lead- ing to the falls may be a little overgrown with poison oak, so wear long pants and a long-sleeved shirt. The last few miles of driving up along the bottom of Trabuco Canyon to the trailhead is an adventure in itself, not one to be under-taken by low-slung automobiles. Risols and potholes are the norm. From Trabuco Canyon Road, at the easternmost end of O’Neill Regional Park in Rancho Santa Margarita, turn east on the rough, unpaved Trabuco Creek Road. Pro- ceed 4.7 miles to the Holy Jim Trailhead, on the left. Along the way you’ll pass various cab-ins on leased Cleveland National Forest land — in beautiful groves of oaks and sycamores. After 4.7 miles you arrive at the Holy Jim Trailhead on the left. Park there, and don’t forget to post your National Forest Adven- ture Pass on your car. On foot, proceed up the road heading north into Holy Jim Canyon, passing more cabins beneath the shel- tering trees. A century ago this canyon was home to settlers who eked out a living by raising bees. One beekeeper, James T. Smith, became so famous for his curing habit that he was popularly named “Cussin’ Jim.” Other nicknamees bestowed on him included “Lynn Smith,” “Greasy Jim,” and “Sal- vation Smith.” Dignified government cartographers later gave a new one, “Holy Jim.” After 0.5 mile of hiking you come to a sturdy steel gate. Beyond, a narrow trail continues upstream, crossing the creek seven times in 0.7 mile. Typical moisture-loving native trees, ferns, and chara-pal shrubs line the canyon, but you’ll also see naturalized fig trees and a purple-flow- ered ground cover called vinca (or periwinkle), the latter two introduced by the early settlers. Just after the last stream crossing, the trail switches back sharply to the left and begins ascend-ing west the slope of the canyon. Leave the main trail at this point and continue straight up the bottom of the canyon on an even narrower trail. After about 400 yards you’ll come to the shallow pool and grotto at the base of the falls. Above it the water cas-cades about 18 feet over a broken cliff.

This article contains information about a publicity owned recreation or wilderness area. Trails and pathways are not necessarily marked. Conditions can change rapidly. Hikers should be properly equipped and have safety and navigational skills. The Reader and Jerry Schad assume no responsibility for any adverse experience.

HOLY JIM FALLS

Holy cow! Check out mini-majestic Holy Jim Falls in the San Diego Mountains.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 83 miles

Hiking length: 2.8 miles

Difficulty: Moderate

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Petasquamino Library, 13350 Salmon River Road. (RANCHO PENASQUITOS)

Focus on Argentina Barry and Corrine Smalley present illustrated lecture for Sierra Club 619-388-1773, 619-299-1743. Friday, March 28, 7:30 p.m. Joyce Beers Community Center, 1200 Cleveland Avenue (ENCINITAS). GALLERY TALK Artist Ernest Silva leads talk in conjunction with “Immacence Is Questionable.” Included in museum admission. 760-839-4120. Wednesday, April 2, 2 p.m.; California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 30 North Escondido Boulevard. (ESCONDIDO)

OUTDOORS

India Hawthorn, one of the most common flowering shrubs used in landscaping as hedges and dividers in San Diego, is blooming best right about now. The plant, which has several varieties, covers itself with blossoms ranging in hue from pinkish white to vivid pink. Yuccas of two varieties are in bloom in San Diego County from now through May. Year after year, the Mojave yucca (Yucca schidigera) sends up a brilliant flower stalk of white, waxy blossoms from the same base — a rosette of dagger-like leaves. The shimmering, white exclamation point that unfolds above “Our Lord’s Candle” (Yucca whipplei), on the other hand, is a prelude to the plant’s imminent death. Mojave yucca is widely distributed along southern California’s coastal strip and throughout the higher elevations of the Anza-Borrego Desert. Our Lord’s Candle prefers the scrubby coastal foothills and the drier slopes of the Palomar, Cuyamaca, and Laguna mountains. The two yuccas coexist with each other in a few areas like Torrey Pines State Reserve and Anza-Borrego’s high-desert areas. Orchard trees, now their flamboyant best in front yards and public spaces throughout the city, are showing off their large, orchid-like flowers in shades of pink, purple, and maroon. Orchard trees thrive in areas with a mild winter climate, hence their popularity in Hawaii, southern California, and Arizona. The Sticky-Sweet Odor of citrus blossoms is wafting on the spring breeze this year, as it has been in every year since the 1870s, when the county’s first commercial citrus grove was planted. Oranges and lemon groves began to produce fruit. From early plantings in areas like National City and Lemon Grove, citrus groves spread east and north as urbanization proceeds. Officers in the county’s first commercially planted plantations moved west, including the modern-day city of San Diego. Some of the early orchards were located in the area that is now the city’s downtown. The Sweet-Sour Odor of citrus blossoms is wafting through the San Diego skies.

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$33

Romantic Mountain Getaway

Overnight price for two people:

Sunday-Thursday: Breakfast for 2, dinner for 2...

Weekend Specials

Overnight price for two people:

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encouraged. Today, a car or bicycle trip through Rancho Santa Fe, Pauma Valley, and the outskirts of Escondido, Vista, and Fallbrook induces a pleasant reminiscence of San Diego County’s agricultural past.

Basic Birding Tom Troy leads basic birding program with emphasis on identifying birds by sight and sound and using binoculars, spotting scopes, field guides. Directions 760-967-0415. Saturday, March 29, 8 a.m.; Buenavista Audubon Society Nature Center, 2502 South Coast Highway (CARLSBAD)

Every Walked in a “Disturbed Finger Canyon”? Join Canyoneers at noting a lake Murray (on Baltimore Drive) to see cholla, prickly pear, brass buttons, mosquito fish, laurel sumac, mixed in with caster beans, pepper trees, fennel. Directions 619-255-0203. Sunday, March 30, 8 a.m.; Lake Murray Reservoir, 3040 Kiowa Drive. (LA MESA)

Get to Know the Natives California Native Plant Society sponsors easy walk through Juniper Canyon led by Dave Flitter and Paul Horneck. Identify, discover, discuss native flora’s names, uses, ecological roles. 619-581-3789. Saturday, March 29, 10 a.m.; Juniper Canyon trail head, Juniper Canyon at 53rd Street. (SOUTH PARK)

Harlequins on Bladerped? Why are colorful bugs on this plant? Learn this and more during guided nature walks. 619-668-3281. Saturday, March 29, 9 a.m.; Sunday, March 30, 9 a.m.; Wednesday, April 1, 9 a.m.; Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Juniper Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Tour del Dia Offshoot Tours offers an hour-long guided stroll highlighting the Park Palisades area of Balboa Park. 619-235-1122. Saturday, March 29, 10 a.m.; Balboa Park Visitors’ Center, 1349 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

What Are Fairy Shrimp? Find out during hike in search of tiny freshwater shrimp living on mesa tops in puddles of early spring. 858-484-3219. Sunday, March 30, 3 p.m.; Carrol Mountain trail head, Fairport Way and Shorepointe Way. (CAMEL VALLEY)

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

“Exploring Limits” Lecture by Karla Wheelock, the first Mexican woman on Everest. 611-52-664-681-7000. Thursday, March 27, 7 p.m.; $20. Grand Hotel Tijuana, Blvd. Agua Caliente 4500. (TAM)

“La Mujer en el Cine Actual” Lecture by Ezev Avendano. 011-52-664-687-9366. Friday, March 28, 7 p.m.; Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (TAM)

“Los Monologos de la Vagina” Actors from Tijuana perform. 011-52-664-687-9366. Monday, March 31, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.; $15-30. Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (TAM)

“Tribute to Ines Arredondo: 20 Years” Readings in honor of Arredondo. 011-52-664-687-9366. Thursday, March 27, 7 p.m.; Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (TAM)

Claude Bolling’s Anthology Orchestra of Baja California plays chamber music. 011-52-664-687-9636. Thursday, March 27, 9 a.m.; $15. Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (TAM)

Lobster Lunch Tour Baja California Tour’s outing includes lobster feast at Pala de Langosta in Puerto Nuevo, shopping at artisan’s market in Rosarito Beach, bakery stop in Tijuana. Tour departs from Kings Inn. Reservations: 858-454-7166. Thursday, March 27, 9 a.m.; $79. Kings Inn Tijuana, 1333 Hotel Circle South. (BAY SHALE VALLEY)

Ricardo Montero in Concert Proceeds benefit General Hospital Mexicali. 011-52-686-564-1100. Friday, March 28, 8 p.m.; Auditorio Municipal, Boulevard Agua Caliente. (TAM)

“Let’s Talk About It: Jewish Literature” Series continues with Michael Chabon’s wonderful Yaddish Policemen’s Union in West Com- merson room 201 (next to parking structure #4). Ellen Zyroll leads discussion. 858-494-2484. Sunday, March 30, 1 p.m.; San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive. (SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA)

“Mystics of the 1960s” What truly came out of that decade? P&R Discussion Group gathers to discuss. 619-370-1027. Thursday, March 27, 7 p.m.; The Other Side Coffee House, 4096 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

“Relove” Gala Meet cast and crew of Relove, a “new independent film to be shot” in San Diego during the coming summer. Enjoy appetizers and “a good show” while supporting the film. 707-364-7255. Saturday, March 29, 7 p.m.; $25-$30. St. Columba Catholic Church, 3327 Glencolum Drive. (SIERRA MESA)

“The Sun and the Solar System” Illuminated during “The Sky Tonight” planetarium show. View real sky through telescopes (weather permitting) after show. 619-238-1233 Wednesday, April 1, 7 p.m. $8. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (MACEDO PARK)

“Womensexhibit” San Diego Mesa College Museum Studies presents this exhibition on display through March in Learning Resource Center, L2 Art corridor, and L1 foyer. Featured paintings, drawings, photographs, sculpture, book art, and mixed-media pieces “explore female-oriented issues” in honor of Women’s History Month. 619-388-2829. Thursdays, 7 a.m.; Fridays, 7 a.m.; Saturdays, 8 a.m.; Mondays, 7 a.m.; through Monday, March 31, 2008, Mesa College, 7250 Mesa College Drive. (MACEDO PARK)

Balkan Song Workshop Mary Ann Downs reviews/teaches an hour of traditional Balkan dance songs. All- requet dance program follows at 8:30 p.m. Fees: 619-281-3566. Saturday, March 29, 7:30 p.m.; Folk Dance Center, 4598 14th Street. (SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA)

Belgian Beer Party More than 75 Belgian and Belgian-style ales including golden ales, strong ales, trappist ales, lambics, fruit and wheat beers, and others available for sampling during two sessions. Tickets include a Belgian beer glass and tasting tickets (for ten four-ounce samples); additional tickets: $10; 70-720-7507. Saturday, March 29, 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. $45. Pizza Port Carlsbad, 371 Carlsbad Village Drive. (CARLSBAD)

Book Talk and Treats Librarians “tantalize literary taste buds with rec- ommendations and reviews of new books.” 858-733-1666. Friday, March 28, 3 p.m.; Del Mar Library, 1309 Camino del Mar. (DEL MAR)

Books to Good Homes Book sale with half-off prices. 619-466-5270. Saturday, March 29, 10 a.m.; Lemon Grove Library, 8073 Broadway. (LEMON GROVE)

Neo-Slave Narratives Series of book discussions on novels written by contemporary African-American writers revisiting and revising the “slave narrative” genre and addressing authors with history, race, and identity in contemporary America. Focus on Charles Johnson’s Snof- catcher with author and UCSD liter- ature professor Camille F. Forbes. 619-236-5821. Wednesday, April 2, 6:30 p.m.; San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (DOWNTOWN)

Earth Day Celebration Learn how to save the environment during festival with interactive and educa- tional events for adults and children. Plant sale, spring garden planting tips dispensed by horticulturist Friar

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What’s That You’re Reading?

NAME: VERONIQUE KAPLINSKY | OCCUPATION: STAY-AT-HOME MOM
NEIGHBORHOOD: RANCHO PENASQUITOS | WHERE INTERVIEWED: STARBUCKS, POWAY

BY SONIA ELIOT

Tell me about the book.
“It is a legal thriller. It is about an arson in Carmel Valley. Two boys went into the hills. I think they meant to catch the arsonist in order to get the reward money, but it went badly and one was found dead and burned. The other is alive and is accused of being the arsonist [but] they were just after the arsonist, actually.”

Were you prompted to read the book because of the fires here last October?
“No, not at all. A friend just gave me the book a few weeks ago and I really liked it.”

Is this the sort of book you usually read?
“I read a lot of different things. I like a lot of thrillers, but I do read literature as well.”

Do you have any favorite characters?  “I like the protagonist, the lawyer. She is a woman on her own with a teenage son who’s had a kind of rocky life: a single mom, then remarried, and then her husband died. She’s very strong, very smart, a little bit of a risk taker, I like her.”

How would you describe the author’s writing style?
“It’s good. I think it is well-written, easy to read, fast.”

How does this book compare to other thrillers that you’ve read?
“One writer I really like is Elizabeth George [BBC’s “Inspector Lynley” author]. She’s from England. Her books are of the same genre, but are a little bit deeper in the analysis of character. Nevada Barr is one writer that I’ve read because she is a park ranger and so each of her stories takes place in a different national park, which is kind of nice. I like reading about the parks.”

Who is your favorite author?
“As far as thrillers are concerned, Elizabeth George, because she is more in-depth compared to a lot of others in terms of developing the characters.”

What magazines or newspapers do you read?
“It is a legal thriller. It is about an alcoholic mom, then remarried, and then her son who’s had a kind of rocky life: a sibling rivalry takes place in a different national park, which is kind of nice. I like reading about the parks.”

Are you the kind of person who reads articles to the end, or just the first couple paragraphs?
“To the end. Yes.”

Do you talk to your friends about reading?
“Yes, quite a lot. I have a lot of friends who are good readers and we share, we trade books.”

What are your conversations like?
“No, I think we mostly focus on whether it’s an interesting subject, whether you would like it, whether it is well-written. For example, with me, I like the outdoors. It’s not so much about the characters, more about the genre, or ‘this is very good, you would like it.’”

James Lockman, recycling vendors and exhibitors, crafts for children, horticultural tours, more: 760-772-3651 x146. Sunday, March 30, 11 a.m.; Mission San Luis Rey, 4070 Mission Avenue. (OCEANSIDE)

Fred Hall’s Fishing Tackle, Boat, and Travel Show promises boats, all manner of fishing gear, vendors’ booths and seminars. Free for those under 15. 805-389-3339. Thursday, March 27, 1 p.m., Friday, March 28, 1 p.m.; Saturday, March 29, 10 a.m.; Sunday, March 30, 10 a.m.; $10-82. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Gaslamp Art Showcase Event promises artistic works in unique settings throughout Gaslamp Quarter on Fifth Avenue, between B and K Street and between K and L Avenues. Themed activities include Reflection Art Show on Fifth Avenue under Gaslamp Archway, Syggrass Art Exhibit within Gaslamp Quarter venues, and Kaleidoscope Art Tour in fine art galleries, rooftop lounges. All activities free except for Kaleidoscope Art Tour ($10 fee includes wine and appetizers for adults 21 and older), 619-233-5227. Saturday, March 29, noon; Gaslamp Quarter. (DOWNTOWN)

Herb Festival and tomato mania! Festival and spring plant sale with lectures, demonstrations, herb walks, herbal products on offer. Lucinda Houston, author of The Herb Garden Cookbook and Tequila! Cooking with the Spirits of Mexico, lectures and signs books, Andy Lopez, a.k.a. the Invisible Gardener, presents “Don’t Panic, It’s Organic: We Can Make a Difference” lecture on Saturday, 760-436-3036. Saturday, March 29, 9 a.m.; Sunday, March 30, 9 a.m.; Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Open-Case Days Ever wanted to open a museum exhibit case and play instruments on display? Museum opens its violin exhibit cases to allow professional and amateur musicians the chance to play on selection of acoustic and electric violin from today’s top makers. Offered last Monday of each month, by appointment only: 760-438-5996 x1212. Monday, March 31; Museum of Making Music, 5790 Vista Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Puppy Fun Class Have a new puppy? Have questions? Workshop helps prevent and manage unwanted puppy behaviors before they become problems: Topics: digging, chewing, housebreaking, nipping, barking, training house, proper nutrition. Pups must be current on vaccines, under 16 weeks of age. Required reservations: 619-299-7012 x2273. Saturday, March 29, 9 a.m.; $35 San Diego Humane Society and SPCAI, 3500 Gaumer Street. (LA MESA)

Ranunculus Rainbows The Field of Flowers with nearly 50 acres of giant ranunculus flowers are blooming again, open for tours. Visitors may stroll pathways or take wagon rides ($4 general). Exotic plant sale, poinsettia display. American flag of flowers, 760-433-0532. 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. (ENCINITAS)

Sample and Advice! Five Countryside celebrates one-year anniversary with samples and training advice from Whole Dog Training. “Pet and people psychic reader” Sindi Sones of Wild and Tame Communications will answer questions about guest’s pets (pets do not have to be present to receive reading). 619-463-1134. Saturday, March 29, 10 a.m., Pow Country, 5652 Lake Murray Boulevard. (LA MESA)

Spring Fling Doggie Café Take your friendly, on-leash dog to socialize with other canines. Trainers offer training tips on keeping dogs calm, civilized around distractions. Donation. Spring photographs of your dog available ($5). Reservations: 619-299-7012 x2230. Friday, March 28, 6 p.m.; $10. San Diego Humane Society and SPCAI, 3500 Gaumer Street. (LA MESA)

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

Celebrating our annual
Antique Street Faire
This Sunday only, March 30, 2008 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
100 vendors displaying genuine antiques & collectibles.
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Inland Rail Trail Ride Park in short-term lot and join Knickerbockers for 30-mile adventure. Expect ride on part of new trail system to Palomar College, North County streets, more. Bring money for lunch at Coscina del Charro 760-747-8622. Sunday, March 30, 9 a.m.; North County Transit Center, West Valley Parkway and West Grand Avenue. (PUBLIC EVENT)

Kayak El Capitan Reserve Reserve is nesting site for spotted sandpipers, willow flycatcher, great egrets; excursion sponsored by San Diego Natural History Museum. Fees include equipment, paddling instruction. Reservations, directions: 619-255-0203. Saturday, March 29, 9 a.m.; $20-$65. Ages 6 and up. San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Museums Diego Museum of Man, 1350 El Prado, 619-239-2001. Friday, March 28, 6 p.m.; $5-$20. San Diego, March 29, 8:45 a.m.; Doyle Park, Big Lagoon Ride Wednesdays, 10 a.m.; through Sat-Mondays, 10 a.m.; Tuesdays, 10 a.m.; 619-235-1100. Fridays, 10 a.m.; Saturdays, 9:45 a.m.; Sundays, 7 a.m. $8-$57. Petco Park, 100 Park Boulevard. 877-374-2784. Monday, March 31, 10 a.m.; Sunday, April 27

Wedding Guide A free, 24-hour line for planning your wedding.

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Lips Show biz

Chula Vista Heritage Museum The museum features glimpses of Chula Vista’s past, exhibits feature lemon packing crate labels, photographs of downtown Chula Vista, doors and adobe blocks from the original Star newspaper building, and relics from the Otay Watch Company. 3011 Third Avenue, 619-427-8902. (CHULA VISTA)

Creation Museum A museum contrasting the evolution and creation world views. 19946 Woodside Avenue North, 619-448-0900. (Santee)

Gemological Institute of America Museum Permanent exhibits include displays depicting science and art of gemstones and history, lore and cultural significance of jewelry. Reservations are required. 5345 Armada Drive, 800-421-7230. (CARLSBAD)

George White and Anna Gunn Marston House Historic house sits on five acres of landscaped grounds with a formal English Romantic garden. Built for civic leader and department store founder George Marston and his family by San Diego architects William Hebbard and Irving Gull, the Marston house design is in keeping with the early 20th-Century American Arts and Crafts period, emphasizing simplicity, function, and natural materials. 3527 Seventh Avenue, 619-298-3142. (MIRACLE GROVE)

Heritage Walk Museum The museum includes the restored Victorian House, the city’s original Santa Fe Train Depot, a railroad car with mobile train, working blacksmith shop, and a barn. Find Heritage Walk in Grape Day Park.
San Diego Reader Calendar
LOCAL EVENTS
321 North Broadway, 760-743-KNOW (5699)
March 27, 2008
House of Pacific Relations
International Cottages are open every Sunday, noon–4 p.m., presenting history and traditions of 30 ethnic groups. On fourth Tuesday of each month, Children Around the World videos screened in Hall of Nations, select cottages open. 2125 Park Boulevard, 619-234-0739 (TANDEM)
J.A. Cooley Museum An eclectic collection of items — including displays on phonographs, coin-operated electric trains, and 20 other types of collections — is featured at the museum. The current featured attraction is an “Industrial Product Collecting,” with examples of the historical progression of auto technology from 1886–1915, “some classics and a concept car.” 4233 Park Boulevard, 619-296-3112. 619-233-4692.
Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park, old adobe buildings were once vacation retreat and working ranch of actor Leo Carrillo. Tours on Saturdays (11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m.) and Sundays (noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m.) Flying Leo Carrillo Lane, 760-476-1042. (CALMIR)
Marine Corps Recruit Depot Museum Houses a historic building, the museum features five permanent galleries with artifacts, uniforms, vehicles, weapons, and photographs depicting Marine Corps history. The museum is located in Building 315, 619-749-2993, just inside Gate 6, off Pacific Highway. Witherby Street and Hancock Street, 619-524-6038. (DOWNTOWN)
San Diego Air and Space Museum Technological advancements made in aircraft production over the last century are showcased in “100 Years of Aircraft Engines,” including a functional reproduction of the 1903 Wright Flyer Engine; a Roll-Royce liquid-cooled Merlin V-12 that powered the Spitfire and P-51 Mustang fighter, and a rare German Junkers Ju88, one of the world’s first operational jet engines. Concurrently, see “The History of Commercial Aviation in America.” A new section of the exhibit celebrates the 40-year history of PSA, with original graphics, a re-creation of the airline’s first ticket booth at Lindbergh Field, and uniforms and memorabilia donated by former employees. Ongoing. “P-51 Mustang” celebrates the legendary Air Force fighter used during both World War II and Korea. “Escape from Dino Island” is theme for motion simulator ride. Films are shown daily in the IMAX theater. 1875 El Prado, 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)
San Diego Air and Space Museum Planetarium is scheduled to release exhibitors who walk through a re-creation of the airline’s first ticket booth at Lindbergh Field, and uniforms and memorabilia donated by former employees. Ongoing. “P-51 Mustang” celebrates the legendary Air Force fighter used during both World War II and Korea. “Escape from Dino Island” is theme for motion simulator ride. Films are shown daily in the IMAX theater. 1875 El Prado, 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)
San Diego Maritime Museum “The War through Steichen’s Eyes — Combat Photography in the Pacific 1943–45” features 50 photographs taken by renowned war photographer Edward Steichen and photographers under his supervision; many famous images of World War II featured. Additional photographs, documents, artifacts chronicle the life of this accomplished photographer. Through July. “San Diego’s Navy,” based upon book by same name written by Bruce Linder, is said to be “the only comprehensive exhibit depicting the extraordinary contributions the Navy has made to the history of the San Diego region.” The museum features permanent exhibits documenting the history of San Diego’s waterfront and the building of the West Coast by sea, the old San Diego–Coronado ferryboats, the tuna fishing industry, Michigan and the World War II aircraft carrier, the Aircraft carrier is permanently on exhibit; see artifacts, costumes, props used in making of the flick. Also open for touring: a B-39 Soviet attack submarine, among the largest conventionally powered submarines ever built. This Project 641/Footsor class diesel-electric submarine was designed to track U.S. and NATO warships throughout the Earth’s oceans. There are also nautical exhibits, ship carriage, model building ships in bottles, woodcarvers, complete research library. 1306 North Harbor Drive, 619-234-9153. (SAN DIEGO)
San Diego Museum of Man “People, Prints, and Politics: China 1920–1986,” opening Saturday, March 29, features work by Chinese artist and scholar Xian Rang Yang from Shandong Province. Yang utilizes Chinese art of woodblock printing to create compelling portraits, landscapes, depictions of cultural activities, political posters. “Art and Expression: The Legacy of Our Collections” highlights 17 key collections, relates stories of the collectors, how collections came to museum, their significance in preserving history of past generations. Objects include pottery, baskets, beadwork, jewelry, woodcarving, folk art, katsinas, bone and ivory implements, shields, textiles. In “Art in Contemporary Art from Ghana and Zimbabwe,” museum has partnered with artists from Ghana and Zimbabwe to showcase paintings and sculpture by accomplished African artists. Permanent anthropology exhibit “Footsteps through Time: Four Million Years of Human Evolution” features life-size human scale weaponry, vegetarians, and preserved example of a prehistoric hand axe. William Heath Davis House Museum “House of Pacific Relations International Cottages are open every Sunday, noon–4 p.m., presenting history and traditions of 30 ethnic groups. On fourth Tuesday of each month, Children Around the World videos screened in Hall of Nations, select cottages open. 2125 Park Boulevard, 619-234-0739 (TANDEM)
San Diego Living Museum
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 4/9/08.
Learn to Dance with the best in San Diego!
Free lesson
1st private or group lesson. Exp. 4/5/08.
Balloon • Latin • Salsa • Swing taught by European-trained dancers
Also featuring: Wedding packages
Thursday night dance parties
Mummy & Baby Dance Boot Camp
12120 Alta Campl. Ste. 410 D Ranch Bernardo • 858-451-3775 DanceMotionStudios.com
DanceMotionStudios • DEVOTION TO MOTION
Bach Collegium San Diego A Chorus and Period Instrument Ensemble Ruben Valenzuela • Music Director First Annual Bach Collegium San Diego Benefit Gala and Silent Auction Celebrating J.S. Bach’s 323rd birthday!
Saturday, March 29, 2008 St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church • 743 Prospect Street • Jolla Master of Ceremonies: John Polhamus $50 per person Wine and hors doeuvres 6 p.m • Silent Auction 7 pm Further information: 619-341-1726 or www.bachcollegiumsd.org
2-Hour Segway tour for two guests only $75
Valid for tuition only. Become fully certified! Learn to scoot now. Expires 4/10/08.
2 for 1 SCUBA LESSONS
Valid for tuition only. Become fully certified! Learn to scoot now. Expires 4/10/08.
2-Hour Segway guided tour of the Gaslamp, the Bay and Balboa Park on brand-new Segways! Expires 4/9/08.
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OUT & ABOUT

CAMERATA IRELAND AND CONDUCTOR BARRY DOUGLAS
Sunday, March 30, Bob Burton Center.

(SEE CLASSICAL MUSIC)

“Irregular Pearls” Rebel plays selections by Rossini, Biber, Schmelzer, Purcell, Telemann, Leclair, Mancini, and Vivaldi for San Diego Early Music Society. A previously undiscovered recorder concerto by Vivaldi is one of the gems featured in this eclectic mix of music. $10 student rush tickets available one hour before concert. 619-291-4324. St. James by the Sea Episcopal Church (734 Prospect Street), 8 p.m., Friday, March 28. (AA JADA)

“SWAN Day Marathon” Athenaeum celebrates SWAN Day (Support Women Artists Now Day), described as “a new international holiday created by the Fund for Women Artists,” with San Diego’s women musicians. Donations go directly to the artists, who include the Sue Palmer Quintet, the Galliards, Coral MacFarland Thurt, the Amarcicello Piano Quartet, musicians from San Diego Symphony, San Diego Chamber Orchestra, others. Donations $5-$45. 48704-4324. Athenaeum Music and Arts Library (1008 Wall Street), 10 a.m., Saturday, March 29. (AA JADA)

“Rising Stars” Concert by “young and talented students” in CMDT Tchaikovsky Auditorium. 858-259-3508. California Institute of Music (3346 Industrial Court), 6 p.m., Saturday, March 29. (CUMB VALLEY)

Jacobs’ Masterworks Concert San Diego Symphony, conductor Edoardo Camming, and pianist Bill Wolfgram perform “Alto Sprach Zarathustra” by Strauss, the “Festive Overture” by Shostakovich, and Beethoven’s “Piano Concerto No. 5 (Emperor)” in Emporer. Reservations: 619-235-0084. Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street), 8 p.m., Saturday, March 29. (CEMEX)

Faculty Recital Pianist Tatiana Roitman Mann plays pieces by Brahms, Liszt, Mozart, and Bartók, in French Park of Founders Hall. 619-260-4171. University of San Diego (1998 Alcala Park), 8 p.m., Saturday, March 29. (CEMEX)

Organ Concert Civic organist Carol Williams in concert. 619-702-8138. Spreckels Organ Pavilion (2111 Pan American Road), 7:30 p.m., Sunday, March 30. (SD JADA)


“Crowning Achievements” Miramar College’s North Coast Symphony Orchestra and North Coast Concert Choral join with more than 100 musicians to perform Mozart’s “Coronation Mass in C Major” and “Pastoral Symphony No. 6” by Beethoven. 760-795-4815. Miramar College Theatre (One Barnard Drive), 7:30 p.m., Saturday, March 29, 2 p.m., Sunday, March 30. (CEMEX)

Keyboard Conversations Why did Beethoven write a love poem to Elise? How was Robert Schumann’s music affected by his love life? Pianist, raconteur Jeffrey Siegel combines musicianship with commentary on composers and their compositions, concludes with question and answer session. 800-988-4253. California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard), 2 p.m., Sunday, March 30. (CEMEX)
“Senses” Opening reception for art featuring new works by artists who reside in Brokers Building Gallery. Show will also be open for viewing on Saturday, March 29, noon-7 p.m., during Gaslamp Art Walk. 619-504-1954. Brokers Building Gallery (402 Market Street). 7 p.m., Friday, March 28. (DOWNTOWN)

“The Mermaid Show” Mixed-media exhibition “celebrating the iconic imagery of mermaids in many forms” opens with reception. Enjoy art by 20 San Diego artists through Saturday, March 29. Next Door Gallery (2963 Beech Street). 6 p.m., Saturday, March 29. (SAN DIEGO)


“Hello, I Love You…” Opening reception for gallery and exhibit show, curated by Jazmyn Work and featuring art by female art collective Gertrud Power, continues through April 6. 218-263-211. Junc Boutique and Gallery (2205 Fern Street). 6 p.m., Saturday, March 29. (DOWNTOWN)


FusionGlass Spring Show FusionGlass Spring Show and hat contest. See distinctive glass creations by Paul Ferdnads and Debbie Solan. To participate in hat contest, decorate any hat, in any style; you need to wear the hat on your head. 619-461-4440. FusionGlass Company (8727 La Mesa Boulevard). 6 p.m., Saturday, March 29. (La MESA)


“Off the Streets, Onto Canvas” Second graffiti art contest opens. Judge is Jack Quick of Rhino Art. All entered artwork will be auctioned. 760-503-0836. Gallery Square (3014 North Coast Highway 101): 2 p.m., Saturday, May 23. (LA JOLLA)

“Ancient Stargazers and Modern Mountains” Opening reception for exhibition by Del Mar photographer, mathematician, scientist Michael Vander Vorst. Exhibit promises “dramatic landscapes of the mountains and ancient ruins of the American West, as well as images of the night sky capturing heavenly shapes in color and details not evident to our unaided eyes.” Closes Saturday, May 3. 619-722-3348. Oceanside Photo and Telescope Underground Photographic Gallery (918 Mays Avenue): 2 p.m., Sunday, March 30. (DOWNTOWN)


“Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla In the roomed ‘Green Room’. Marissa IL the space seems to recede in all directions, as if the walls were mirrors. Floor-to-ceiling and wall-to-wall windows allow you to see the whole space as if it were a kaleidoscope. Just one example of the ways in which the gallery is designed to interact with the viewer.” Closes Saturday, May 3. 619-407-8636. San Diego Museum of Art (1439 El Prado). 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Thursday-Sunday. 619-299-7000. (BALBOA PARK)

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Dancing in the Dark

Based on the classic MGM musical! The Band Wagon

Book by Douglas Carter Beane

Music by Arthur Schwartz

Lyrics by Howard Dietz

Directed by Gary Griffin

Old Globe Theatre

Featuring the film score that has become legend. Packed with hits like “A Shine On Your Shoes,” the quintessential ode to show business, “That’s Entertainment,” and the unforgettable title song “Dancing in the Dark.”

TICKETS ON SALE THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 30 AT 10AM!

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BEETHOVEN, AS I KNEW HIM

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And the Return of

Hershey Felder as MONSIEUR CHOPIN JUNE 11-22

Hershey Felder as GEORGE GERSHWIN ALONE JUNE 25-29

THE OLD GLOBE

BROADWAY'S BEST AND SAN DIEGO'S FINEST

DANCING IN THE DARK

One Week Added! Must Close April 20!

One Week Added! Must Close April 20!

Hersey Felder back by popular demand

“Critic’s Choice.

DANCING is a seriously fun new musical.”

San Diego Union-Tribune

“A good old-fashioned musical with contemporary humor, big-wow dance numbers and a strong cast. ‘DANCING’ is the kind of smart crowd-pleaser that Broadway doesn’t make anymore.”

North County Times

MARCH 30 AT 10AM!
San Diego Reader

Calendar

Theater

A Little Night Music
Cygnet Theatre inaugurates its new space, at the Theatre in Old Town, with Stephen Sondheim’s waltz-space, at the Theatre in Old Town, APRIL 6. P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. THROUGH APRIL 6.

Love Crazy
In this sequel to Michael Wulffhart’s Momsey’s Gad Boy, or... Wulffhart’s In this sequel to Michael Anderson about problematic relations, and the comedy takes “a laughing look at the difference between men and women.” Open-ended run.

Mama’s Gad Boy, or...Wulffhart’s In this sequel to Michael Anderson about problematic relations, and the comedy takes “a laughing look at the difference between men and women.” Open-ended run.

Miss Julie
Sledgehammer Theatre stages August Strindberg’s drama, says director Josh Chambers, about “the inevitable victory of the anarchic impulse over the mediocre — a victory of will and imagination over the celebrated, the tenured, and the acclaimed.”

II’ll Never Fall
San Diego TheatreSports: An off-shoot of Johnstone’s TheatreSports artistic director Gary Kramer says the two compare like “rugby and American football.”

Funhouse
A cross between improvisational theater and Family Feud, The Funhouse combines improv with an audience participation format.

Free Improv Night
Three nights of laugh-out-loud, unpredictable comedy for the price of two. $25 for one night, $50 for all three nights.

Where There’s a Will... There’s a Wake
He cordially invite you to pay your respects to our beloved Don Shoeleone.

San Diego Theatresports: The Funhouse
A cross between improvisational comedy and Family Feud, The Funhouse combines improv with an audience participation format.

Mama’s Gad Boy, or...Wulffhart’s In this sequel to Michael Anderson about problematic relations, and the comedy takes “a laughing look at the difference between men and women.” Open-ended run.
competitive scene-making, with the audience awarding points to the winning team. Purists might balk at the absurdity 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 more hits than misses, and their performance is different bits. The winner gets a banana, the loser a “forfeit.” Their variety show, “funny, it’s art.”

Rent

March 27, 2008

San Diego

Where There’s a Will…

There’s a Wake

GRANTVILLE. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. OPEN-DIARY.

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**Baby Band Blues**  
Louis XIV is on tour supporting Slick Dogs and Ponies, the band’s second Atlantic album. Released January 29, 2008, the album charted at No. 158 on the Top 200 album chart. One insider says that Atlantic has some big priorities to break certain artists. “Unless you’re a band that has a formulaic rock sound, it is nearly impossible to get your song in the top ten on the alternative airplay chart,” says the insider. “Unless you sound like Seether, Puddle of Mudd, or Linkin Park, it’s hard to get airplay on alternative radio anymore. We called it corporate rock in the ’70s; Seether is today’s Foreigner.”

The Louis XIV single “Air Traffic Control” has yet to reach the Radio & Records alternative airplay chart; rankings are based on playlist data from among the 80 alternative stations across the country.

Ted Volk, who writes for Hit magazine, says FM94/9 and L.A.’s Indie 103.1 are 2 of the “12 or 13 pure alternative stations left in the country” and that it is hard for left-of-center artists to get a hit on alternative radio. “Silverstein Pickups was one band that sneaked through.”

Volk says the 1991 arrival of Nirvana launched the golden age of alternative radio. “The number of alternative stations went from 20 to 90.” He says alternative radio’s salad days lasted until the arrival of “Nookie” by Limp Bizkit. “That’s when Korn and other male-dominated artists took over. Male-dominated bands tend to do better in Middle America. It’s very hard for bands like Louis XIV to cut through now.”

Glenn Fukushima handles publicity for Atlantic. He would not comment on whether Atlantic had priorities to break certain artists. The last date of Louis XIV’s U.S. tour is April 10 at the House of Blues.

— Ken Leighton

**Bad Big C**  
Brassy blues diva Candye Kane has been diagnosed with a rare neuroendocrine tumor, a form of pancreatic cancer. On February 22, Kane was admitted to the Scripps Encinitas emergency room with abdominal pain. The symptoms had been recurring a few times a year and had sidelined Kane several times. Over the past few years, hospital visits were added to tour dates in Belgium, Holland, Nebraska, Indiana, and New Jersey. A tour of Germany was canceled in 2004.

“The good news is that [these] tumors are not as aggressive or deadly as [standard] pancreatic cancer,” Kane said in an email to friends and family.

“Usually [doctors] have diagnosed the pain as acid reflux,” Kane stated. “I personally thought the pain was gallstones. On this ER trip, they gave me a CAT scan and found a 3.4 cm tumor on my pancreatic head.” Complications from a biopsy landed Kane back in the hospital on March 10, but she is now recovering at home. Surgery is scheduled at UCSD’s Cancer Center in early May. In the meantime, Kane is going ahead with plans for a March 26–May 3 European tour. “I am going because [my doctor] says they can’t operate on me now anyway because I still have pancreatitis, which was caused by my biopsy.” Tour dates are booked through November, but an East Coast tour set to start May 7 has been canceled.

A series of benefit concerts is planned, with a show set for May 5 at Humphrey’s Backstage Lounge, headlined by Sue Palmer, a former pianist in Kane’s band. Additional fund-raisers will be held in Huntington Beach, Tacoma, Pittsburgh, and Austin.

**Party Poopage**  
An anonymous letter sent to a handful of city departments and the state bureau of Alcohol Beverage Control has put a stop to Mission Bay Boat & Ski Club concerts organized by Cathryn Beeks. She alleges the letters were
Featuring
Tom Petty
Tom Leadon
Randall Marsh
Mike Campbell
Benmont Tench

Live In Concert

MUDCRUTCH

April 22

VIEJAS CONCERTS
IN THE PARK

April 29

4 Ticket Limit - On Sale Friday, March 28 at 10AM

Ticket buyers receive 6 downloadable tracks from the new album!

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE VIEJAS GIFT SHOP
CHARGE BY PHONE 619.220.TIXS :: TICKETMASTER OUTLETS
PRINT YOUR TICKETS TODAY! TICKETFAST™ AT TICKETMASTER.COM
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FREE PARKING: ALL AGES WELCOME
FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION, GO TO VIEJASENTERTAINMENT.COM
BEAKS IS NOT THE PROBLEM
I think, basically, the bar was cited for not charging nonmembers more for drinks.

Officers arrived after performances by the Blonde Brothers and Mother Grundy and shut the show down before Sam Bybee, Justice Fingers, and the Boston-based Grass Gypsies had a chance to play. Beeks says there was an audience of more than 150 people.

"[The club is] supposed to charge guests a little bit more for drinks," Beeks says. "That was the infraction, from what I understand. But [the club] couldn't produce a cabaret license, and that's why the music was shut down. I've got shows booked there throughout the year. The Boat & Ski Club is trying to work with the city to get the music back."

The club retained an attorney to help the club meet city requirements, which might include getting an entertainment permit (formerly known as a cabaret license).

SDPD Sgt. Howard Lahore with the vice department, which issues entertainment permits, says the permits are issued on a case-by-case basis and no new licenses are being considered in the beach area at this time.

The unsigned letter, which was sent to Councilwoman Donna Frye, Mayor Jerry Sanders, and Gary Jones at the city's Real Estate Assets Department (which controls the club's lease), characterized the shows as wild, out-of-control parties.

"This club is not a nice place to be around," the letter states. "The frequent barroom brawls with property damage and obscenity yelling has forced many decent members to quit."

Nobody at the ABC would comment on this matter.

— Larry Harmon

No Drug-Dealing Nonsense

In February, Lil Niqo played an international rugby tournament at Petco Park that included teams from 16 countries. The rapper — a third-grader at Pepper Drive elementary in Santee — has had a few good breaks in his career. His mom, Nique Heard, worked in artist development at LaFace/BMG Records in Atlanta from 1993 until 1997. Nique and Niqo and his two younger brothers moved back to San Diego because of the availability of specialized surgeons. ["Niko] has CIP, or chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction," says Nique. "He's had six surgeries to date. It isn't something you can just go in and fix."

She says kids Niqo's age usually weigh 80 pounds but that Niqo weighs in at 53.

Lil Niqo says he won't rap about the mean kids at school. "I do get mad, but I don't want to show it on them. Then they are gonna think they are the role model and that they can be more mean."

Lil Niqo has recorded ten songs for Kids Rap Radio, Vol. 3, a CD series of popular hits remade by preteen artists. The album, due out by August, is distributed by MusicWorld/Sony Records. To see a Lil Niqo video, go to myspace.com/lilniqo.

— Ken Leighton

Woof! "I wasn't mentally stable on that first record," said Tom DeLonge recently to the Ventura County Reporter; DeLonge referred to the 2006 Angels and Airwaves disc We Don't Need to Whisper. "I was spun out on painkillers and wasn't focused on health and the real me."

Prior to the album's release, according to DeLonge, painkillers prompted statements concerning his "best band on the planet," "best album in the history of the universe," and how A&A are "better than the Beatles, Jesus, and sex."

"I wasn't sober, that's why. I was fucking with things, but I had no clue how to communicate, because I was spun out on painkillers. It caused a lot of controversy, which I knew would happen. It was rad but also a time bomb ready to explode."

Internet wags are still buzzing over World Trade Center conspiracy statements made by DeLonge while playing DJ in a mock takeover of 91X.

"It's so weird how our own government did it to us; 9/11 was not perpetrated by a bunch of people that just learned how to fly planes," DeLonge claimed on the air in 2006. "The buildings came down in a fashion extremely similar to a controlled demolition of a building…. [Vice President Dick] Cheney knew that the planes are coming in, and he capped the order to leave it alone, so it could hit [the towers]."

— Jay Allen Sanford

CONTRIBUTORS
William Craig, Dave Good, Larry Harmon, Michael Hemminger, Ken Leighton, Evan Loyola, Bart Mendolia, Derek Plank, Eric Rife, Jay Allen Sanford, David Stampone
Thursday 27

There's gonna be a pop-rock sock-hop at all-age Epicenter tonight as local up-and-comers the Prayers and the Sess meet at the Mira Mesa music hall to throw down throw-back rhythm-n-rock. Single Screen Records reports Sess debut 10 p.m. Call it a night — San Clemente power-pop act the Shys (nee Gun Shys) are headlining, and you have school in the morning... Soul-jazz quartet Pocket (ex-Price of Dope) will cook Pink Elephant. The SDMA nominees have yet to follow through Beauty Bar.... Local blues-rock trio Hard Voodoo stage. That one's a happy-hour set — reggae. They'll premiere old-school jams collection GZA's gonna cover hit disc — Rhinocerous, though the combo has been in studio and were expected to drop something last year. In the mean, catch 'em combo has been in studio and were expected to drop something last year. In the mean, catch 'em.

Friday 28

Canadian quartet Tokyo Police Club are getting set to drop their anticipated Saddle Creek debut Elephant Shell, featuring hit single "Your English Is Good." Give a listen at their Space page and check out how much of this tour has already sold out. Polka(black but Soma with Eagle Seagull and We Barbarians. Wu Tang's Gary "the Genius" Crobot, aka GZA, Canadian Garage, Scholars, Anti Citizen, and DJ Demon open.

Saturday 29

House of Blues books lil' the week with post-punk puritan Jay Reatard, who's touring must-have Blood Visions as well as celebrating his recent Matador signing. The Memphis manic promised the NYC label six seven-inchers this year. Mr. Reatard sets the stage for blues-stomp duo Black Keys, who next week release Attack & Release via Nonesuch. "04's Rubber Factory remains the Akron act's high-water mark and a tough one to top. Classic cat Kim Simmonds and his revamped British blues band Savoy Brown (b. 1965) will rock socks at Humphreys Backstage. Last year the guitarist released his 30th original disc under the Savoy Brown moniker, Steel. ..... Bell Up serving "grunge-fuzz-surf-gone" act The Red Keys with punk puritan Black Keys, who next week release Attack & Release via Nonesuch. "04's Rubber Factory remains the Akron act's high-water mark and a tough one to top. Classic cat Kim Simmonds and his revamped British blues band Savoy Brown (b. 1965) will rock socks at Humphreys Backstage. Last year the guitarist released his 30th original disc under the Savoy Brown moniker, Steel. ..... Bell Up serving "grunge-fuzz-surf-gone" act The Red Keys 29

Nots pluck pedals at Bar Pink Elephant. The farfisa rocks right through in Black and White. Every Red Head Shines toward the Red Sun, so sayeth L.A.'s post-rock dream team Red Squirrels. That new release circles over God Speed, if ya like. Proggy Chi-town duo Russian Circles and L.A. trance jammers the Holloids set the Casbah stage.... Locals only. "Look Out Young Son." Grand Ole Party, the Muslims, and Red Feathers fill a trick triple bill at Che Cafe. If you go to Amazon to check up on G.O.'s debut Humanimalism — "Customers who bought this also bought...nobody paradise...Mountain Gosh." Huh.

No Cover EVER!
Strength in Numbers

“Our society is not set up so that everyone eats or housing is affordable for all.”

Miki Vale hails from Oxnard, California, making her musical debut on The Awakening, a 2004 compilation album from SGM (Sleeping Giant Music). In 2006 she collaborated with fellow Oxnard hip-hop artist Kankick for a 7” single from Ramp Recordings called “Yes Yes (Suite 3).”

Last year Vale cofounded San Diego’s Upliftment Project, which stages music and art events to raise money for charities. “The project grew from a desire of myself, my partner Niomie, and several of our peers to help with some of the social imbalance we see going on all over the world,” says Vale. “Though we’re all struggling to get by as individuals, we recognize that there is strength in numbers and that we can be more effective by, first, bringing attention to the needs of those who are less fortunate and second, raising funds to help,” says Vale.

“I think it’s important that, as humans, we should do what we can to help other humans…it’s unfortunate that our society is not set up so that everyone eats or housing is affordable for all, so I believe it’s left up to us as individuals to ensure that we help uplift each other if we are in any position to do so.”

Miki Vale appears April 3 at the Static Lounge.

Guilty Pleasures?
1. “Hall Date. More addiction than pleasure.”
2. “Happy hour at Ichiban on University. More pleasure than guilt.”

Dream Lunch Date?
“I’d like to sit down to sushi and sake with Oprah. I think if she heard some of my ideas, she’d be down to be a sponsor.”

Favorite Websites?
1. “accesshiphop.com. Lots of underground hip-hop and info on local shows.”
3. “myspace.com. I can spend hours listening to all the independent music on there. I prefer it over the radio.”

What’s In Your CD Player?
1. “Talib Kweli, Eardrum. One of the hottest albums Talib has put out in a long time.”
2. “Kankick, untitled mix tape. I love it ‘cause it’s very mellow, and his beats are nice background music to relax to.”
3. “DJ Niques, Spoonful of Soul. His song selection is divine, bass-heavy, soulful hip-hop.”
4. “Blu & Exile, Below the Heavens. This stays in constant rotation; Blu is one of my favorite emcees right now.”
5. “Ill Scott, The Real Thing. This album is sexy — not a single track worthy of the fast-forward button.”

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Worst Job?
“Babysitting my high school English teacher’s four children, all under five. Their parents would leave, and those kids would turn into little Tasmanian devils.”

Biggest Political Concern?
“My main concern with the presidential race is the emphasis on external factors, like making history by voting for the first woman president or for the first black president. I think the emphasis should be on voting for the first president with integrity or the first president with enough love and compassion for the people that they are truly able to be a voice for the people. We need a president who is more concerned with tackling and rectifying issues in this country such as homelessness, health care, and education. Why should there be any cutbacks in our schools if billions are being spent on Bush’s war?”

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THIS WEEK’S SHOWS

4th & B: 345 B Street, Downtown, 619-231-4343.

Friday, 7 p.m. — Above the Law. Rap. 6:30-8:35.

Wednesday, 7 p.m. — Beto Cuevas.

710 Beach Club: 710 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-483-710 Beach Club:

Wednesday, 7 p.m. — Beto Cuevas.

ArtisticMusicSanDiego:

4650 Manfield Street, Normal Heights, 619-303-8176.

Thursday, 7:30 p.m. — Jemis Jan. Singer-songwriter.

The Alley:

421 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad, 7-47-1173.

Thursday, Fridays, Saturdays — The Love Rangers. Dance music.

Anthology: 1337 India Street, Little Italy, 619-995-0300.

Friday — Diane Schuur. Jazz piano/vocals.

Sunday, 7:30 p.m. — Ignacio Berros. Jazz percussion. $12-$33.

Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. — Bill Shreve. CD release party. Jazz. 38.

Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. — Simon Petty, Greg Johnson, Seth Rothchild. The British Empire Tour. $10.

Atheneum Music and Arts Library: 1008 Wall Street, La Jolla, 858-444-5872.

Saturday, 10 a.m. — SWAN Day Marathon. Celebrate SWAN Day (Support Women Artists Now Day). Donations go directly to artists, who include Sue Palmer Quintett, the Galliards, Coral MacFarland Thwait, Amarcord Piano Quartet, musicians from San Diego Symphony, San Diego Chamber Orchestra, others. Donation. 858-444-5872. $5.

Beach House: 2350 South Coast Highway 101, Cardiff, 760-733-1321.

Saturday, 7 p.m. — Adrienne Nims & Spirit Wind. With Jim Lair. Contemporary jazz/global music.

BeauMont’s:

5612 La Jolla Boulevard, La Jolla, 858-459-0474.

Thursday, 8 p.m. — Greg Feldman. Covers/standards. Saturday, 9 p.m. — December’s Children. Rock.

Beauty Bar:


Friday — The Cheers and the Prids. Indie/pop/punk. $5.

Friday — Pattern is Movement and Swim Party. With Joanie Mandell.

Indie/experimental/ acoustic music. $5.

Monday, 9 p.m. — Devon Sproles and Natalie D’Napoleon. A blend of folk, jazz, and country.

Wednesday — The Trade and Eclipse 79.

Belly Up Tavern:

143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-481-8410.

Thursday, 9 p.m. — Ease Around the Sun. With Qu'Est-ce Que C'est and Mannusk. Local indie/experimental/folk bands.

Saturday, 9 p.m. — The Avett Brothers and Jessica Lea Mayfield.

Folk rock/country. $8-$10.

Birch North Park Theatre:

2891 University Ave, North Park, 619-239-8836.

Saturday, noon — SD Indie Music Fest IV. Independent music, film, art, featured along University Avenue (between Ray Street and 28th Street). Over 70 acts including Beth Hart, James Masster, Hei! Hei! He! Paul Abbott, Semi-Precious Weapons. Among films: Reversing the Ripples of War, The Devil Came on Horseback, Freeheld. Made in L.A. 619-239-8836 x3.

The Bitter End: 770 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-338-9300.

Thursday, 9 p.m. — Soundsbong, the Dapper Dans, One Lonely Robot. Alternative rock/rap.

Brick by Brick: 1130 Burnos Avenue, Clairemont, 619-275-2345.

Live.

Thursday, 8 p.m. — E.X.P. Jimi Hendris tribute band.

Friday, 8:30 p.m. — Silent Lune, Sandellar, Four Kings. Plus guests. Alternative/ reggae/rock.

Sunday, 8:30 p.m. — Idaas, Dayzero. Unstable. $5.

Monday, 8 p.m. — New Model Army with Vale. Punk rock. $12-$15.

Wednesday, 8 p.m. — Homme. Alternative/metal band from Los Angeles.

Cafe Lamas: 1441 Highland Avenue, National City, 619-474-3222.

Fridays, 7 p.m., Saturdays, 7 p.m. — The Sandy Chappell Quartet.

With Burnett Anderson, Robert Sebastian, and Hank Young. Standards/jazz/blues.

Sundays, 7:30 p.m. — Burnett’s Blue. With Robert Sebastian and Scott Wallingford. Jazz/standard/blues.

California Center for the Arts, Escondido: 340 North Escondido Boulevard, Escondido, 800-888-4233.

April 4, Saturday, 8 p.m. — “The Belle of Broadway.” Susan Egan is known for her work in theater, film, television, music. Her Broadway credits include Thoroughly Modern Millie, Cabaret, Triumph of Love,
El Cajon Library: 201 East Douglas Avenue, El Cajon, 619-588-3718. Saturday, 2 p.m. — Celebrate Iranian New Year and Spring. Concert by Domoh Music Ensemble, which seeks to “make Persian music accessible to young and non-Persian audiences.” 619-588-3718.


Fannie’s Nightclub: 9143 Campo Road, Spring Valley, 619-698-2204. Thursday, 8:30 p.m., Thursdays, 8:30 p.m. — Cory Willis. Alternative/rock/blues. Friday — Stem. Rock. Saturday — LSD Productions Presents. Local punk and metal bands.

First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego: 4190 Front Street, Hillcrest, 619-298-9978. Saturday, 7:30 p.m. — Emma’s Revolution. Concert by songwriters Pat Humphries and Sandy Opatow, whose “anthems...shed light on environmental and social issues around the world.” Donation. 619-298-9978. $8-$10.

Gallagher’s Pub & Grill: 9046 Newport Avenue, Ocean Beach, 619-222-5300. Friday, 9 p.m. — Modern Day Moonshine. Blues/soul/rock.


The Hendry Hotel and Resort: 930 Hotel Circle North, Mission Valley, 619-298-0511. Friday, 8 p.m. — Barbara Nebbit. Acoustic/blues/country.

and State Fair, and she debuted as the original Belle in Disney’s Beauty and the Beast. 800-988-4253. $35.

The Calypso Café: 576 North Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-632-8252. Thursday, 8 p.m. — Captain Kirk & The Beam Me Up Scotties. Friday, 8 p.m. — Jeff Moore, Dean Smith, Billy Thompson. Blues/funk/jazz.

Rock/roots/Americana. $6.
Hennessey’s Tavern - Gaslamp: 716 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-220-3994.

Hensley’s Flying Elephant Pub and Grill: 850 Tamarack Avenue, Carlsbad, 760-232-4966.

Friday, 4:00 p.m. — Taryn Donath. P. Hall opens. Blues/soul. Saturday, 7 p.m. — Jamie Mainthorn and the Small Fox Mountain Boys. Blues/guitar. Americano. Sunday, 8 p.m. — Shelton. Irish folk jam band. Monday, 8 p.m. — Adrian Domain. Acoustic. Tuesday, 7 p.m. — Raiz Musik. Reggae/ska. Wednesday, 7 p.m. — Joe Wood. Blues.

Hot Monkey Love Cafe: 6875 El Cajon Boulevard, College Area, 619-466-4113.

Friday, 7 p.m. — Nody. Marlon Dane, Kim Llerenas. Alex & Sam perform. Pop/R&B/soul. $8-$10.

House of Blues: 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-299-2583.

Thursday, 6:00 p.m. — Modern Day Machines. Blues/indie/rocker. Friday, 7 p.m. — Noches Rockeras. $12.

Saturday, 7 p.m. — The Black Keys and Jay Restard. $21 Sunday, 6 p.m. — A Flock of Seagulls and Dramarama. ‘80s new wave, pop rock, and alternative music.

Monday, 7 p.m. — Citizen Cope. A mix of folk rock, soul, and hip-hop. Tuesday, 8 p.m. — Bad Manners. Two-tone ska.

Wednesday, 8 p.m. — Les Claypool. Tim Fite also performs a blend of folk rock and hip-hop.

Humphrey’s Backstage Music Club: 2341 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-224-3577.

Thursday, 8 p.m. — The Buck Wilson Band. Blues/soul. $5.


Sunday, 8 p.m. — Jose Molina. Smooth jazz. $12.

Monday, 7 p.m. — Nathan James & Ben Hernandez. Rootso/vacuum/blues duo.

Jimmy Love: 672 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-595-0123.

Thursday, 6:15 p.m. — Masterpiece. Jazz/R&B.

Friday, 9:45 p.m. — The Pop Rocks.

Saturday, 9:45 p.m. — Diva Soul. Dance/show-band that performs classic to modern hits.

Sunday, 6:30 p.m. — Masterpiece. Jazz/R&B.

Monday, 6:30 p.m. — Insight. A mixture of Latin, jazz, and soul music.

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. — Mystique. Jazz/hip hop/R&B.

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. — The Soul Revue. Jazz, dance, and top 40.

The Jumping Turtle: 1660 Capistrano Road, San Marcos, 760-741-7778.


Monday — Reggae Infusion Irie Time. Various reggae bands perform.

Wednesday — Action Bastard and Black Seven.

The Kava Lounge: 2812 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-544-0933.

Monday, 9 p.m. — Burns & 1. Host a night of hip-hop and live art. Features Mary Jane, Sherehe Rose, and Monica Hui. $5.

The Kensington Club: 4079 Adams Avenue, Kensington–Talmadge, 619-284-2048.

Thursday — Kennedy’s Curse. Alternative.

Friday — Vitro, Paperplanes, Rory Jones. Indie pop/rock.


Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center: 4126 Executive Drive, La Jolla, 619-585-5179.

Saturday, 8 p.m. — ’Celebrating Israel at 60.’” Atlantic Conservatory Symphonic Band and Choir, consisting of 55 instrumentalists and 15 singers aged 14 to 18, performs Israeli music as well as standard classics. 858-362-1348.


Thursday — Brenda Xu and Delancy. Acoustic/alternative.


Miracoast College Theatre: One Bernard Drive, Oceanside, 760-795-6815.

Friday, 7:30 p.m. — Faculty Guitar Recital. Favorite pieces — old and new musical gems — performed by instructors and guests. 760-795-6815. $8-$10.

Molly Malone’s: 1270 Main Street, Ramona, 760-789-9050.

Friday, 9 p.m. — VIP. Rock.

Mulvaney’s Wagon Wheel: 8863 Magnolia Avenue, Santee, 619-448-8550.

Saturday, 7:30 p.m. — Joey and the String Rays. Covers rock and country hits. $5.

Nancy’s Pub: 4246 University Avenue, City Heights, 619-240-5834.

Sundays, 5:30 p.m. — The Steerin’ Hard Blues Band. A blend of traditional blues, swing, and rock. Ages 21 and up.

Neurosciences Institute: 10640 Iahn Hopkins Drive, La Jolla, Friday, 8 p.m. — “Zither Traditions of the World.” Koto, kantele, qanun, and hammered dulcimer in spotlight, with music from Finland, Japan, America, Middle East. 619-688-0688. $15-$18.

Saturday, 7 p.m. — Saturday, 9 p.m. — Athenarum Jazz. Charles Lloyd Quartet plans two concerts celebrating Lloyd’s 70th birthday and marking his first local appearance since 2003. 858-454-5872. 324-529.

O’Connell’s Pub and Nightclub: 1130 Morena Boulevard, Clairemont, 619-276-5637.

Friday, 9 p.m. — KPRI Homegrown Hour Presents. A night of rock/indie/rock. Features performances by Astra Kelly & the 46s, Anna Tree, Saba, Guava Belly, and the Big Time. Megah Show.

Saturday, 9 p.m. — Someday Assassin. A Scribe Amidst the Lions and Dad Pigems perform. Alternative/indie/funk.

Monday, 8 p.m. — Mystery Train. Pre-invitational blues jam on Monday nights. Ages 21 and up. Wednesday, 9 p.m. — Chip Conrad & the Concrete Feet. Rock/indie/country. Every first Wednesday of the month. Ages 21 and up.

O’Connors Pub?: 8758 La Mesa Boulevard, La Mesa, 619-463-7675.

Friday, 9 p.m. — The Gold Dust Band. Covers/standards. $5.

Oceana House: 1300 Leucadia Boulevard, Carlsbad, 760-729-4131.

Saturday, 9 p.m. — Boogie Nights. Dance party. $10.

Pala Casino: 15080 Pala Temescal Road, Pala, 787-946-7232.

Saturday, 8 p.m. — Journey Unauthorized. A tribute to Journey in the Grand Cabaret room.

Pasquale on Prospect: 1250 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-636-0722.

Sundays, 6 p.m. — Stage & Jazz/rock/blues and blues.
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Jay Reatard is the questionable stage name of prolific Memphis resident Jay Lindsay, who has been recording and releasing music for about ten years as a solo artist and with the Reatards, the Lost Sounds, Destruction Unit, and many other bands. When he was just 15, Lindsay’s home recordings caught the attention of Memphis garage-rock heroes the Oblivians (whom he had first seen as openers for San Diego’s own Rocket from the Crypt), and the band helped Lindsay, now christened Jay Reatard, to release his first singles. At first, Reatard’s music took second place to his onstage antics, but after a keyboard playing bandmate told him to cool it, he developed some chops. It turns out he has a real talent for writing hooks and a flair for singing them in a sort of fake British accent.

In a New York Times blog about the South by Southwest festival, Ben Sisario wrote off Reatard with a review that read, in its entirety: “Pretty standard garage-punk.” It’s easy to see where Sisario got that idea: Reatard’s songs are fast, short, loose, and clearly rooted in old-school punk and ‘60s garage rock. (Not to mention recorded on the cheap.) But his catchy choruses and unexpected rhythmic touches make Reatard’s garage-punk pretty great, actually.

After the triumph of last year’s Blood Visions (which featured 15 songs in under 30 minutes), Reatard signed to New York’s Matador Records for an unusual deal whereby he will release six singles over the course of a year. The first is scheduled to come out next month, and collectors are writing their pants in anticipation.

BY WILLIAM CRAIN
I tell Justin Sullivan that without rock, I might not have survived adolescence. I tell him that my 1980’s teenage alienation was overwhelming, that rock lyrics put better words to my black anger than I could. Sullivan understands what I am telling him.

“I go onstage every night,” he says via cell phone from Manchester in the U.K., where he is en route to a Neil Young concert, “with the thought to save people’s lives, to save people’s souls.” He talks about the passion that punk brought back to ’70s rock by returning to a crude three-chord bashing about. “The point of it all is to make something happen in the music that people will never forget.”

While I have Sullivan on the phone, I want to ask him about all of the hype and the comparison that the music press is making between his band New Model Army and the Clash (“not even Joe Strum- mer has much on Sullivan,” crow one rock writer), but I haven’t the nerve. It’s not an accurate comparison, and that sort of publicity leads one down a doomed path: If you go to a New Model Army expecting a Clash rehash, you’ll leave disappointed. The Clash and New Model Army are both U.K. punk bands and both heavily political, but the similarly ends there. In their day the Clash might have roared louder and helped introduce rock-reggae to Brit punks, but the Army are a guitar-based grind of punk stained blue with hints of soul, jazz, and ’60s-era psychedelia. I think fame separate the Clash from their message—eventually, they became iconic. But if the Clash’s fire burned hotter, eventually it burned out, and New Model Army soldiers on to this day. “Not an overnight phenomenon,” reminds Sullivan. “I’ve been at this going on 28 years.”

NEW MODEL ARMY, Brick by Brick, Monday, March 31, 8 p.m. 619-275-5483. 912 to 925.
Birch North Park Theatre:
2891 University Ave, North Park, 619-239-4830.
April 9 — Rag Doll City.
April 11 — The Klezmatics.
April 13 — Mother Mae I, Canobliss.
April 14 — The Von Bondies.
April 15 — Anti-Monday League
Faverman
From Comedy Central
May 5
— Vetiver, Astra, Johnathan Wilson.
May 9 — Cash’d Out
May 11 — The Woggles and the Prayers.
May 15 — Destroyer and Devon White.
May 17 — The Von Bondies.
May 20 — French Kisses.
May 23 — John Compton and Adam Z.
May 25 — The Woggles and the Prayers.
May 29 — The Heavy.
May 31 — The Sess, the Muslims, and Bartenders Bible.
June 2 — The Heavy.
June 3 — The Sess, the Muslims, and Bartenders Bible.
June 5 — The Von Bondies.
June 6 — The Sess, the Muslims, and Bartenders Bible.
June 7 — The Sess, the Muslims, and Bartenders Bible.
June 8 — The Sess, the Muslims, and Bartenders Bible.
June 9 — The Sess, the Muslims, and Bartenders Bible.
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June 30 — The Sess, the Muslims, and Bartenders Bible.
July 1 — The Sess, the Muslims, and Bartenders Bible.
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July 3 — The Sess, the Muslims, and Bartenders Bible.
July 4 — The Sess, the Muslims, and Bartenders Bible.
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Ché Café: 9500 Gilman Drive, B-0323C, La Jolla, 858-534-2311.
April 5 — Watercolor Paintings, the Paddle Boat.
April 11 — Trash Talk, Trapped Under Ice.
April 18 — Have Heart, Violation, More Than Words.
May 7 — Fen Knight, Ex Reversie, Joshua Emery Blatchley.
May 17 — Flas and Live, Mouth Sewn Shut.
May 23 — Parenthetical Girls, Powerful Power, Au.

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.
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Copley Symphony Hall: 750 B Street, Downtown, 619-239-0804.
April 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.
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**Calendar**

**Music**

**The Flower Fields**: 5704 Paseo Del Norte, Carlsbad. April 12 — Fandin’ in the Flowers.

**House of Blues**: 1035 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-299-2583. April 14 — Piffball and Baby Bash. April 5 — Big Head Todd & the Monsters.


**Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center**: 4126 Executive Drive, La Jolla. April 4 — Chabad Live.

**Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center**: 4126 Executive Drive, La Jolla. April 6 — Potpourri Concert.


**Neurosciences Institute**: 10460 John Hopkins Drive, La Jolla. April 19 — “Zimbabwe Day.”

**O’Connell’s Pub & Nightclub**: 1130 Morena Boulevard, Clairemont, 619-276-5637.


**Paway Center for the Performing Arts**: 5018 Espola Road, Poway, 858-748-0505. April 19 — John Mayall & the Bluesbreakers.

**Rimac Arena**: 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla. May 8 — The Used.


**Schulman Auditorium at Carlsbad City Library**: 1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad. April 11 — Mayas and Bolga Zohdeehms.

**Second Wind (Magnolia)**: 8528 Magnolia Avenue, San Diego, 619-596-8350. April 3 — Hugh Gaskins & the G String Daddies.


**Spreckels Theatre**: 123 Broadway, Downtown, 619-233-9500. April 19 — John Mayall & the Bluesbreakers.

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**House of Blues**: 1035 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-299-2583. April 14 — Piffball and Baby Bash. April 5 — Big Head Todd & the Monsters.


**Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center**: 4126 Executive Drive, La Jolla. August 4 — “The Prince of Kosher Gospel Music.”

**Lestat’s Coffee House**: 3343 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-282-2848. April 19, April 30 — The Eben Brooks Band.

**McCabe’s Beach Club**: 1145 South Tremont Street, Oceanside, 760-419-6416. April 12 — Fleetwood Max. June 28 — Live Wire.

**Mira Costa College**: One Bernard Drive, Oceanside. April 6 — “Poetry Poem Concert.”


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**Calendar**

**MUSIC**

- **April 15, April 16** — Eddie Vedder.
- **May 5** — K.T. Tunstall.
- **April 12** — Triumphant Over Hardship.
- **May 8** — Duran Duran.
- **May 17** — Bonnie Raitt.
- **August 14** — The Gipsy Kings.
- **May 3** — Unwritten Law.
- **May 15** — Trace Adkins.
- **July 15** — The Temptations and the Four Tops.
- **February 28** — The Robert Cray Band.
- **September 28** — Bo Bice.
- **April 4** — Bret Michaels.
- **April 20** — Ratt.
- **April 19** — Flyleaf and Seether.
- **May 18** — The Robert Cray Band.
- **June 4** — Gary Allan.
- **June 27** — Cyndi Lauper, B-52s, Joan Jett & the Blackhearts.
- **March 29** — Lof ва Sess.
- **April 11** — Creedence Clearwater Revisited.
- **May 15** — Trace Adkins.
- **May 17** — Bonnie Raitt.
- **July 15** — The Temptations and the Four Tops.
- **August 14** — The Gipsy Kings.
- **April 19** — Flyleaf and Seether.
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- **May 15** — Rilo Kiley.
- **June 4** — Gary Allan.
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**MARCH 2008**

**Ikon Saturdays**

Explore and Experience Multiple Rooms with an Exciting Mix of Music and Visuals!
There were a couple of video-release parties I hit downtown. The first was for a band called Crash Encore. It was a video-premiere party for their song “Stormy Weather” at the Buzz Clothing Warehouse on Tenth Avenue.

Since it was starting at 7:00 p.m., I figured I could hit this before going to my next event. They were asking for $20 at the door, with the proceeds benefiting a company called Boobs On the Move, which was raising money for a three-day breast-cancer walk. One of the flyers I saw said they were shooting for $40,000.

There were paintings on the walls from local artists named Spencer Tiscareno and Mikee-Lanne Collins.

There was a table set up with salad and some appetizers. And the bar was serving up free drinks. As I put a tip in the jar on the bar, I thought it was odd that they didn’t say the tips were on the bar, I thought it was odd that they didn’t say the tips were going to the charity. That’s usually the norm at charity events.

The place was dimly lit, with candles everywhere, and a DJ was spinning a lot of cool old rock tunes by the Stones, Hendrix, Lou Reed, T. Rex, and Love.

As I went outside to smoke a cigarette, my girlfriend went and put $10 in a jar at the door. I could hear bowling pins from the nearby East Village Bowl. A woman came out to bump who said “I have these American Spirits.” The woman got upset and said, “One guy was smoking menthols, which I hate. And now those Spirits, which I don’t like either.” I wanted to say, “Then why didn’t you come with your own smokes?” Instead, I just asked one guy, “I hate to be one of those girls, but can I get a cigarette?”

a cigarette from someone. She asked me, “I hate to be one of those girls, but can I get a cigarette?” He said he was smoking his last one. She asked me. And then she asked another guy, and I was apologizing for the way I looked. A surfer walked by and said, “Dude...we’re so going to ask you to leave then.” He laughed as he walked in. I followed closely behind.

Like the previous party, they had art on the walls. A guy standing by a painted surfboard told me he was the director of the film. As the TVs had the video playing, I asked how many hours of footage they got to make the video. He told me around 135 hours, all with San Diego surfers.

There was a guy with his arm in a sling. I figured it was a surfer with some grumpy injury. I asked him if he crashed on a monstrous wave. He said, “No. I crashed on my bike doing something I’ve done a bunch of times. But this time, it didn’t go right.”

Since we didn’t eat at the previous party, my girlfriend and I went to the table that had all the food. We were piling it on our small plates and I heard someone say, “What’s that?” I looked over and saw that it was a kind of meat. His friend said, “It’s probably salami.”
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THURSDAY, MARCH 27</td>
<td>Rockin' Johnny White presents B-SIDE PLAYERS</td>
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<td>FRIDAY, MARCH 28</td>
<td>IRON WORKS ONE THREAD • TOP DOG FUZZ HUZZI</td>
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<td>SATURDAY, MARCH 29</td>
<td>B-SIDE PLAYERS ISRAEL MALDONADO BAND DJ UNITE</td>
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<td>FRIDAY, APRIL 4</td>
<td>THE IRON MAIDENS MORRIR (All-female tribute to The Meters)</td>
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<td>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2</td>
<td>NSD presents THE VARIETY SHOW THE FUNKY KICKS • LIVID RARE FORM</td>
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<td>SATURDAY, APRIL 5</td>
<td>BEDPOST BUZZARDS</td>
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<td>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9</td>
<td>NSD presents NATURAL VIBRATIONS IRATION • STONE SENSES</td>
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<td>FRIDAY, APRIL 11</td>
<td>9IX presents SICK PUPPES THRIVING IVORY SAVING ABEL • THE STRANGER'S SIX</td>
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<td>SUNDAY, APRIL 13</td>
<td>Auto Immune Tour MEAT BEAT MANIFESTO plus RAZ MESINA'S BADAWI</td>
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<td>SATURDAY, APRIL 19</td>
<td>MEAT BEAT MANIFESTO plus RAZ MESINA'S BADAWI</td>
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<td>SUNDAY, APRIL 20</td>
<td>AUTO IMMUNE TOUR MEAT BEAT MANIFESTO plus RAZ MESINA'S BADAWI</td>
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<td>MICHAEL PROPHET SCIENTIST &amp; special guest DJ</td>
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<td>Arm The Angels Collie Buddz &amp; The Grouch Wild Child (Doors Tribute)</td>
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<td>4/20 Weekend</td>
<td>Roof Top Restaurant &amp; Premier Music Venue Outdoor Oceanfront Dining</td>
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Crasher

Course of the evening, I heard about ten people ask what it was. A few were grossed out, but most still put it on their plates. I guess free food outweighs someone wondering what it is.

A few times they brought out sliders, which would always go quick. One of the surfer’s moms said, “Some of these boys’ moms would be disappointed to know the guys grabbed the burgers without even grabbing tomatoes, onions, or lettuce to put on them.”

“I don’t know anything about surfing, and overhearing some of the conversations was interesting. One guy talked about trying to stay on a wave. His friend kept responding to another person about it being “the sickest barrel.” I wanted to poke my head into their circle and say, “You should’ve seen the job I did parallel parking outside.” I mean, it was a tiny spot right in front of the club that I fit right into on one shot.

Another group of surfers was talking about various injuries. One said he broke his leg when his board hit him after crashing on a wave. Another guy needed stitches when he was thrown into some rocks up in Northern California. He said, “That’s not as bad as my friend’s cousin, who lost his eye. His board smashed him right in the face.” He looked at me and said sarcastically, “Have you ever had an injury like that?” I responded, “I got hit with a racquetball in the eye once. I didn’t lose it. But it just turned the same color blue as the ball. My friend had his two front teeth knocked out by a racquet during a game. I was born and raised in San Diego, but I spent more time on boogie boards than surfing boards; when they hit you, there’s no injury.”

When a few people were talking about the painted surfboards, I asked if they get used. Someone said, “Oh, yeah. They were taken out today.” I had heard there were big waves, and asked about it.

“A few of the surfers here were hitting that. They were big. And reports were that there was going to be some 50-footers...”

I heard a guy walk up to the table of food. He said to his friend, “What the hell kind of meat is this? It’s like that Letterman bit where you have to guess the meat.” He took a big piece of it, shoved it in his mouth, and between bites said, “It’s good, though.”

His friend complained that every time the wait staff brought out new food, it disappeared too quickly. An older couple sitting near the table said, “It works better if you sit by the food. You get first dibs at stuff.”

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

Columns archived at SDReader.com
No, to answer everybody’s first question, the flashy new Gaslamp Nobu is no relation to our sweet and humble Solana Beach Nobu, owned by Nobu Tsushita. For better or worse, our Nobu-sur mer merely shares its owner’s name and was established long before chef Nobu Matsuhisa’s first Japanese-Peruvian-American nuevo-sushi restaurant exploded onto the American food scene, strewing seed pods that would eventually bloom into locations wherever on the globe there is money to spare for dinner.

Debuting just before Christmas, the Gaslamp giant at the new Hard Rock Hotel is part of the huge worldwide Nobu chain, encompassing at least 18 restaurants in 14 cities, with more opening all the time. Robert De Niro was among the stars attending the opening party — he was one of the first fans of a serious little L.A. sushi joint called Matsuhisa and became a major force behind its transformation into a worldwide operation.

As an adventurous young sushi chef, finally breathing free and longing to travel after a standard rigorous apprenticeship, Nobu-san accepted a job in Lima, Peru, where a large, well-established Japanese community welcomed his way with seafood. Unable to obtain the Japanese condiments he had relied on at home, Nobu improvised his own versions, developing the Peruvian-accented Japanese cuisine that caused such a sensation when he later brought it to North America. He worked in Buenos Aires for a time but discovered that Argentines loved beef too much and fish too little, so he then moved to the other end of the world to open his own restaurant in Alaska — only to see it burn to the ground. After a stint as a hired chef in Los Angeles, he eventually opened his own celebrated restaurant there, Matsuhisa, Bobby De Niro, craving Nobu’s creations on his New York home turf, offered to serve as backer and co-owner if Nobu would open in Manhattan. The 1994 debut of the New York Nobu created the splash now felt round the world.

Early reports indicated that the San Diego Nobu was an instant celebrity scene, a site of designer jeans and of Japengo lanes showing up on Fridays with their new weekend sweetness. You had to reserve weeks ahead — so they said.

Sic transit gloria — sorry, Gloria, your 15 minutes are over NEXT! Barely three months in business, and the high-glam days are already over.

You can eat at Nobu. I can eat there. All it takes is money — and even then, there are moderate options, like a sushi or sashimi prix-fixe dinner. (Of course, the vino and the valet are still gonna getcha.) On a Wednesday, Samurai Jim was easily able to snag a same-day reservation for 6:30, although by 8:00 p.m. every table was occupied. As for the crowd, bald guy, mid-70s, bony knees peaking out between khaki Bermudas and Nike high-tops, sitting with three of his own ilk wearing longer pants; 40ish female four-some in jeans, one in a sweatshirt — looking more Macy’s than Melrose Avenue. Most men were in shirtsleeves and (at best) Dockers. Here and there, I saw an eye-candy couple, but the average age looked to be about 50, and these diners weren’t dressed like Masters or Mistresses of the Universe. (I hear that on weekends the crowd is younger and dressier, and no one would look to be over 40.)

We’d originally planned to eat at the no-reservations sushi bar, but once Jim scored a table, we went with the flow. The sushi bar is great looking — nice low stools and handsome proportions radiating good feng shui. In the dining room, the glisten is mainly on the ceiling (designer light fixtures, large copper leaves, and such) but at eye level the room could almost be a spanning-new Marie Callender’s at the mall: bright lighting, big windows onto the street, warm-brown leather(ette?) banquettes and chairs, their legs peeking out between khaki wood tables set with white napkins, wooden chopsticks, and white porcelain chopstick rests. Hard rock plays fairly loudly and seems to get louder as the evening progresses — the hotel lives up to its name. You can still converse, but you can’t stop the music.

Wines by the glass are so pricey (those I wanted were $15 and up) that we started with cocktails — more fun for the same bucks. Jim chose the Manhattan (still tasted like gin to me), and remembering Nobu’s Peruvian connections, I ordered a Paco Sour, which proved tasty but a tad on the sweet side. While we read the menu, we nibbled on edamame sprinkled with kosher salt crystals. Jim liked them because they were less soggy than his mom cooks them; I didn’t, because they were still too soggy. I was soon tempted to venture a dry nigori (fizzy unfiltered
When asked, the waiter explained that the more expensive dinner included dishes with finer ingredients, such as uni and Wagyu beef. We wanted the good stuff, so we chose the higher-priced spread.

Dinner began, before we ordered, with an amuse — a square of lightly chilled Arctic char (a fish that tastes like idealized salmon) topped with guacamole and thin orange wizps packing a spicy punch — undoubtedly Peru’s fairy prawns. "Okay, let’s go home now. That was enough flavor for a whole dinner." I teased, only half joking.

The waiter mentioned our first course as salmon tartare. It was actually much more precious: a purée of raw tuna (fatty tuna belly) served in a small ramekin over ice, smooth and soft but with a sharp bite of wasabi, topped with sensuous wasabi, teriyaki, and rice. Nobu’s signature dish, in its purest form, it seemed.

Nobu’s sushi is black cod with miso. Black cod is not a cut at all but a powerhouse, fatty fish. At Nobu it’s offered as an omakase. The rice was a bit too firm, the fish was just right. The sushi was a perfect introduction to the rest of our meal.

The second course, "The Shmoo in Lil’ Abner," a creation that was overpowered by the tuna. That’s black cod for you — the shame of the sea.

In Jewish delis in New York, smoked sable is a prized delicacy, second most expensive after smoked sturgeon.

Nobu introduced black cod with uni and uni, which, at American fusion chefs have been running with it ever since. To me, it’s no longer a novelty. I’ve even encountered it at a neighborhood brew pub (an ambitious one) in San Francisco, where uni is sold as good as Nobu’s version. Lucky Jim, younger and a newbie foodie, was awestruck. The skin is black (hence the name), not brown, and it darkens it with a marni (miso of mame) of miso of mame mix in sun thai style mame and soy. It’s a little bit of mame caramel once the skin is heated. The fish is quick broiled and then briefly baked, so that the White fish, superbly blended and topped with rice, is garnished with spears of tender white asparagus with an Asian style dressing (not butter but soy based). It’s a splendid dish; I only wish I were still a virgin for it, to taste it for the first time rather than the umpteenth time.

Dinner ended as the very tart juice, from the mandarin orange endive. On the side was a small rectangular cucumber slice, garnished with spears of tender spice dabs of incendiary wasabi, topped with sensuous wasabi, teriyaki, and rice. Nobu’s signature dish, in its purest form, it seemed.

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Killer Kabobs

“Somalis like things to tip to the sweet side. In America, everything is saltier.”

T he vapors, the vapors. Oh, man. Me thinketh I shall swoon. Unlike Bill Clinton, I inhale deeply. Rose aromas? Cardamom? Honey? It sits steaming under my schnoz here at the granite-top counter as I wait for the vittles to turn up. The vapors rise from the curved glass cup like the genie from Aladdin’s lamp.

The nearest thing to being in the Middle East? This might be it. Women customers in robes and shawls, men with worry beads, Middle-Eastern music, hubble-bubble pipes, three giant vertical spits of beef, chicken, and a lamb-beef combo rotating in front of blue flames…what more could a hungry man ask for?

I found this enclave set up in the corner of Vine Ripe, a produce and grocery market that specializes in Middle-Eastern fare. Except no hubble-bubble. They’re just decorations, according to Mahmoud. This grill is his palace. Has been for five years.

The building looks modern, with cream stucco, green canopies, bits of the wall painted purple, and bright red metal framing to the windows. The grill has this whole corner of the market, with its own outside chairs and tables.

A couple of women come in, one in a black robe, another with a head scarf. Wonder how Carla would look, dressed like that? My next thought is: What’s the big deal? Can’t we handle different styles in this town — women just, I guess, being modest? I scan the menu. Yeah, I’d use. Dee-lish.

Mahmoud, the Jordanian owner, says he gets customers from everywhere, including SDSU and Grossmont College. Maybe half come from Middle-Eastern backgrounds. Mahmoud says that the reason Muslim customers come is that the meat is halal.

“Halal means each animal is killed a certain way. Two neck veins are opened with a very sharp knife, so the animal bleeds to death. He doesn’t die of a heart attack, shock. And the meat is free of blood. Muslims believe animals shouldn’t suffer, and for each animal they kill, Muslims must ask permission from God.”

The meat’s also free range, with no hormones, Mahmoud says.

Armando the cook hands around a little sample of the chicken kabob. Ooh, yes, Lemony, spicy. But Mahmoud says it’s the fish he sells most. “Our grilled salmon is the most popular dish.” I see it’s $8.95, with sides. The sandwich goes for $6.95.

It’s kinda hard to leave. Chat’s good. A Turk-ah coffee ($1.45) would go down well. So would an hour or three contemplating life. I look out to Fletcher Parkway. Reality check. Crazy traffic.

Guess I’d better jump aboard the Rat-Race Express. Sigh. Maybe one more house tea. Catch those vapors rising from the curved glass cup. I wish…hey, maybe if I rub it….

The Place: Vine Ripe Market Grill, 8191 Fletcher Parkway, La Mesa, 619-462-9900

Type of Food: Middle Eastern

Prices: shrimp kabob, $10.95 (with basmati rice, hummus, feta salad, pita bread); beef kabob, $8.95, chicken, $8.95, salmon, $9.95; "single skewer" kabob (no sides), lamb, beef, or salmon, $5.95; chicken or kafta (ground spiced beef balls), $4.95; chicken shawarma salad, $8.95; spinach shawarma salad, $8.95; spinach pie appetizer, $1.95; hafa ghanous (eggplant) appetizer, $4.95; falafel sandwich, $4.95; grilled elahap, $9.95

Hours: 11:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m., seven days

Buses: 83, 84

Nearest Bus Stop: Parkway Drive at Baltimore (walk south on Baltimore, left onto Fletcher Parkway)

Trolley: Orange line, green line

Nearest Trolley Stop: Grossmont (about a half-mile walk)
Frakenyeast

“Labeling regulations...have contributed to the disappearance of GM food ingredients.”

F
ile Under: Fiction Is Good for You. I was reading Peter May’s crime novel The Critic, which took as a dramatic starting point the murder of a famous wine critic, one GM Petty. The hero, forensics expert Enzo Macleod, had recovered Petty’s laptop and had even managed to break into his files. There, he found Petty’s fi-
nal, unpublished editorial, “revealing for the first time the widespread use of genetically modified yeast in the production of California wines.” Wait, what? Who would invent such a notion?

Of course, it was only a novel. But then it went on to discuss “using a shuttle vector containing a chromosome integration cassette with genes for malolactic enzyme…and a sequence direct-
ing homologous recombination…” Mighty technical stuff — based on something real? The (fictional) editorial concluded: “The Food and Drug Administration in a general sense.”

Indeed, Petty’s editorial comments are taken largely from that report and include both Cummins’ comments and those he cites from the British medical journal The Lancet.

Knowing that May was a novelist who enjoyed the research end of his work, I couldn’t help asking him — was that stuff about GM yeast true? “It’s absolutely true,” said May. “My genetics man in Canada — Joe Cummins, pro-
fessor emeritus at the University of Western Ontario — had actually written a report on it.”

Cummins’ principal concern in the report, as far as I can tell, is that “the FDA letter designating wine yeast ML01 to be Generally Regarded As Safe (GRAS) indicated that the distributor of GM yeast believed that final wines were free of yeast and yeast DNA, but there was no indication that data had been gathered to support that conclusion. The view that yeast and its autodestructive products including DNA, RNA, proteins and carbohydrates were somehow lost from the wine was not supported by scientific evidence, only by the unsupported be-

liefs of the promoters and reviewers.”

He has some case. The FDA’s letter cites the promoter’s account of clarification, stabilization, and filtration as evidence that the yeast cells are removed from the finished wine. Further, the “cel-

lar material” released by autolysis while the wine is aging on the lees (i.e., dead yeast cells) “is degraded through the ac-
tion of enzymes such as proteases.” But Cummins cited a study claiming that “au-

tolysis of wine yeast leads to ribonucleotides that persist in the wine for at least nine years.”

So — there may be some quantity of genetically modified material in wine produced using GM yeasts. So? The prob-

lem, says May, is that “it’s not there on the label. There’s no specific problem that’s been identified with it. It’s a question of simply letting people know. There are a lot of people who will not touch food or drink that’s been genetically modified, and there’s plenty of research to show that they have a reason to be concerned about it in a general sense.”

Here it’s easy for a wine lover to get on his high horse. “You mean to tell me that the U.S. Gov-

ernment, which is so zealous in making sure that periodically modified materials be used in the production of California wine.” It’s not a bind-
ing statement — the Wine Institute doesn’t have much in the way of police powers — but it’s still a statement.

Or maybe it isn’t so odd. As the statement

is old and examines only one type of GM yeast. And yes, the producers of the GM wine yeast in question assured the FDA that “there should be no concern” because the potentially produced “additional proteins” will have similar amino acid sequences to the commercial yeast strain Davis S22. I’m not pretending that I’m qualified to go ringing any alarm bells. But I’d still like to be told.)

Oddly enough, the Wine Institute seems more concerned about the matter than the FDA. “The wine community is dedicated to only using prac-
tices that are beneficial and acceptable to consumers,” reads a 2006 position statement from the Institute. “Wine Institute has reviewed its po-

sition on gene technology and affirms as follows: the position of the Wine Institute is that no ge-

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Plenty of parking during Bird Rock construction!

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Or maybe it isn’t so odd. As the statement
notes, the Institute considers not only what is beneficial to consumers, but also what is acceptable. Image counts. A study in a recent issue of AgBioForum concluded that “existing evidence from developed countries shows that…mandatory labeling regulations...have contributed to the disappearance of GM food ingredients in targeted products.” Those developed countries include the entire European Union and Australia. A 2001 Greenpeace report made the case that no major wine retailer in the U.K. would sell wines made from GM grapes (they weren’t asked about GM yeasts). At the time, California was sending about $112 million worth of wine to the U.K. annually.

And even in the U.S., where there is no mandatory labeling with regard to GM foods, the times may be a-changing. A 2006 report from the Mellman Group to the Pew Initiative on Food and Biotechnology showed that “pluralities of voters favor increased regulation of GM foods,” with 41 percent of those claiming basic awareness of such regulation saying that there was too little. “It is clear,” concluded the report, “that public opinion remains largely up for grabs. How the next generation of biotech products is introduced — and their perceived benefits and risks — will be critical in solidifying U.S. consumer attitudes.”

**RESTAURANT LISTINGS**

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

**BEACHES**

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

California Modern 1250 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-481-4424. With a new name and renovated for an even better ocean view, the former George's at the Cove continues to serve Chef Trey Fisher's ambitious, healthful California cuisine based on prime, seasonal ingredients and emphasizing sustainable wild seafood, local produce, naturally raised meats and poultry. The cooking style is a little lighter now, good for carb-counters, with only small amounts of starch on the entrees. The award-winning wine list offers few bottles under $50, but many by the half-bottle or glass, including serious dessert wines. Full bar, creative "chef cocktails" with fresh fruit. Wheelchair elevator available but hidden (ask valet parking); disabled can use neighbor Paspark's men's room on same floor. Vegetarians and vegans accommodated to order. Reserve well ahead. Dinner nightly. Very expensive. — N.W.

Donovan's Steak and Chop House 4660 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla, 858-480-6666. At this excellent traditional steakhouse, the menu includes a variety of appetizers, among them a cocktail of giant shrimp with a spicy, tomatoey sauce and a large, lightly sautéed crab cake with house-made tartar sauce. The wet-aged Prime beefsteaks are seasoned with sea salt and pepper and cooked on a gas grill precisely to your order. Bleu cheese, carmelized onions, and peppercorn sauces are available at extra charge. Non-beef entrées include creamed spinach and sautéed mushrooms. Among the housemade desserts the highlights are a light, creamy cheesecake with fresh strawberry sauce and a traditional crème brûlée. The service is attentive, friendly, and knowledgeable, in a nautical setting with dark wood paneling, dim lighting, and only a moderate noise level. Cigar room off the bar. Open Monday through Saturday. Very expensive. — N.W.

Hancock Street Café 3354 Hancock Street, Point Loma, 619-292-2660. If you spot Marilyn, Elvis, and Lady Liberty waving at you from the side-walk, you're here. They are life-size fiberglass look-alikes, but Marilyn is real, and this restaurant is a living shrine to jazz pianist Herbie Hancock. Maria has pianos, guitars, and drums inside — even a little stage where you're often welcome to perform. The food? Italian home cooking. Maria is from New York and knows his pasta. You can usually expect a good-value special, like spaghetti and meatballs. Sometimes he’ll even throw in a bottle of red wine. Here among the little factories and auto shops of Lemon Portal may be San Diego's most poppin' cultural phenomenon. Worth investigating, even if you just want to eat. Open daily, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Jack's La Jolla 3860 Girard Avenue, La Jolla, 858-451-8111. This sprawling, glitzy restaurant has several venues serving steaks, seafood, sushi, and pub grub. In the Dining Room, the most formal and serious-choose. Chef Tony De Salvo prepares a menu of refined, seasona-California-French cuisine featuring highly creative combinations of luxury ingredients and local products, full of unexpected touches, e.g., a duck breast pairs delightfully with cocoa nibs. When you move on to server, dessert chef Jack Fisher is one of the town's best and boldest. An internation wine list offers plenty by the glass, although bottles run high. Full vegetarian and vegan cuisine available but hidden (ask valet parking); disabled can use neighbor Paspark's men's room on same floor. Vegetarians and vegans accommodated to order. Reserve well ahead. Dinner nightly. Very expensive. — N.W.

Lamont Street Grill 4455 Lamont Street, Pacific Beach, 858-270-3060. PB’s most romantic restaurant serves a variety of appetizers, among them a cocktail of giant shrimp with a spicy, tomatoey sauce and a large, lightly sautéed crab cake with house-made tartar sauce. The wet-aged Prime beefsteaks are seasoned with sea salt and pepper and cooked on a gas grill precisely to your order. Bleu cheese, carmelized onions, and peppercorn sauces are available at extra charge. Non-beef entrées include creamed spinach and sautéed mushrooms. Among the housemade desserts the highlights are a light, creamy cheesecake with fresh strawberry sauce and a traditional crème brûlée. The service is attentive, friendly, and knowledgeable, in a nautical setting with dark wood paneling, dim lighting, and only a moderate noise level. Cigar room off the bar. Open Monday through Saturday. Very expensive. — N.W.

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kind of, of course, to Chilled Bubbly

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California comfort food, punctuated by bold and sometimes strange Mexican/Cajun flavors, is a ramshackle establishment with several rooms and loads. Dinners come with soup or salad, and many entries are served over marzoned housemade fresh pasta. Salmon over truffle in a delicious fish cream sauce is especially fine. The huge array of desserts is housemade, too, with something for every palate. The most desirable available first course, first served are on a lovely fireplace-heated patio. Wheelchair ramp and parking in small lot behind restaurant (call ahead and they’ll save you a spot). Homey atmosphere; can get loud. Affordable wine, full bar. Open daily, dinner only. Moderate. — N.W.

P. F. Chang’s China Bistro — La Jolla

4540 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla, 858-486-9007. Okay, you’re looking at the backside of a giant horse right outside your corner window, and there don’t seem to be any actual Chinese people among the wait staff. But this isn’t Chinatown (336-plus restaurants) but a certain cool. Those reproduction Chin Dynasty horses are really something, as are the bits of the Great Wall and the terra-cotta soldiers scattered inside the food. The spicy ground chicken and eggplant was too salty, but the taste, the luscious textures were. The small shrimp dish was sweet and tender, and the Can- tonese roasted duck not that exciting. Yet there are jewels, if one searches for them. — N.W.

Portugalia

4389 Newport Avenue.

Ocean Beach, 858-223-7678. This fancy, informal room decorated with strings of Christmas lights resembles an ethnic community center — and indeed, O.B. is忠诚 to a long-term Por- tuguese fishing community. The facili-
tating menu is split between the home-
land and its former colony, Brazil, in-
cluding octopus cooked with milk and seafood dishes from tropical Asia that are rarely found locally. The array of appetizers from both countries em-
brace addictive t offer de calabresa (salt and shiitake) and risoto de amendoim (fried pastry packets filled with shrimp). For entrees, you can choose Portuguese specialties like the portuguesa de cal (calamari with fish peas) or Brazil’s Lýrio grande (spicy beef). An even African-inspired bite de manguereira (beef with shellfish). There’s also a radius option of skewed meats and seafood. Savory wine for the owner’s mom’s homemade desserts, especially panck de natal (del-
icate custard-filled pastries). Por-
tuguese wines, full bar. Not all wines always available. Service quality vari-
able. Long stays upstairs to second floor dining. Live music most nights at 8:30 p.m. Liquid, open bar and dinner Thursday through Sunday, to midnight or later except Sundays. Moderate. — N.W.

Rum Jungle Smoothies and Deli

4110 Mission Boulevard #313, Pacific Beach, 858-237-2227. Why do Brazilian restaurants have more fun? Aqui (ah-seeu)? Why do Brazilian settlers in FBI? Maybe it’s because Rum Jungle Smoothies serves up aço, the flesh of a Brazilian nut, for breakfast. The dark pur-
elike smoothie contains the same thing that grows around the Amazon River Delta. Rum Jungle adds guarana, bun-
nana, strawberries, blueberries, mango juice, and honey to make a slightly filling breakfast. Of course this beverage is low in calories, but with smoothies, too, along with sunbutter, the azucar power fruit bowl is what keeps them coming back. Open 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Daily. Inexpensive. — E.R.

Tapenade

7624 Fay Avenue, La Jolla, 858-435-7050. This is not only one of the finest restaurants in the county but in the country. Featuring sunny Provencal flavors, famed chef-owner Jean-Michel Diot has a superb sea-
sonal ingredients treated with the con-
summate care of a master chef. Among the specialities here is a sophisticated foie gras terrine, luscious free-range veal, and top-quality seafood, with garni-
mets that display an impressive bal-
cance of ventruousness creativity and rig-
tious technique. Dishes are worth the calories, matching the style and flair of the earlier courses. And you don’t even have to dress to the nines for your first-
class dinner — the sites will do in the tiny bistros. Sipping. Served lunch (including a moderate two-course prix fixe) weekdays, and dinner daily (in-
cluding bargain-priced, three-course prix fixe “sundays” dinner serves through Thursday). Otherwise, exper-
tive to very expensive, and worth it. — N.W.

The Third Corner Wine Shop and Bistro

2265 Baconst Street, Ocean Beach, 858-233-1100. A military ac-
nual, homestyle-gossip spot is first of all a wine shop selling most global offerings for just 20% over wholesale. $5 to $10 per glass of goat cheese salad, smoked duck salad, a cheese plate or a plate, or get seri-
ous with braised short ribs or duck con-
fit surprisingly paired with spicy Nudel-
ins red beans and rice. No reservations accepted, so be go to off hours or you’ll wait for a table. Comfortable lounge with fireplace for sipping. Full bar. No corkage charge after 11 p.m. — N.W.

Umi Sushi

2066 Shalter Island Drive, La Jolla, 858-525-1200. Old mansion and se-
nual neighborhood success, this large, cheer-
ful sushi bar/fish house featuring the fresh, prime prime. Sushi highlights in-
cluding several coconut-milk-swathed rolls. Dining room and patio tables are wheelchair accessible. Several vegetar-
ian choices. Full bar, good vibe. Lunch, dinner nightly. Moderate to upper moderate to expensive. — N.W.

BA J

From the United States use the prefix 011-52 when calling Mexico.

El Arrecife Colina Colima 2295, Baja, 644-200-2135. Think of it as a Mexican take on an American institution, the burger joint. In this small, upper-mid-
dle-class neighborhood, Daniel Luian Girme, Vasa serve up a little spot (“The Reef”) where he specializes in... sizes and beef burgers. Actually, octo-
burrito Thursday. Open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. — N.W.

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including several coconut-milk-swathed rolls. Dining room and patio tables are wheelchair accessible. Several vegetar-
ian choices. Full bar, good vibe. Lunch, dinner nightly. Moderate to upper moderate to expensive. — N.W.
The eats are liable to become more background music for the mouth. A great date venue for jazz lovers. No cover charge Tuesdays and some Sundays, otherwise ticket prices (bought separately) vary plus $5 to $20 minimums (cash to meet). Wine list is fine and wide ranging but starts high and escalates sharply, plus full bar with fruity cocktail creations as well as classics. Dinner only, Tuesday through Sunday. Expensive on up, if you drink anything but tap water. — E.B.

Bale French Sandwich Shop
4579 University Avenue, City Heights, 619-283-6922. Ann Nguyen started this back in 1980. Ann’s brother succeeded her, and the preciosely hardy changed — they’re incredibly low. But the taste of the sandwich is what comes in French-American heaven. The Vietnamese are special at this: they do French better than the French — with some spicy Asian touches. The BBQ Pork French sandwich delivers the immediate taste of charcuterie, galic-gyros mayonnaise, sweet barbecue sauce, carrots, onions, cucumber, and lashing of sliced pork, with the occasional heat of a green chile pepper. But above all, it’s that crunch of bread — fresh, feathery, and very — that makes this hard to beat. Add dessert of homemade banana cream pie and — voila! Open Daily, breakfast early through late. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Big Kitchen
800 Grape Street, South Park, 619-248-7589. This isn’t just a restaurant, it’s the social center of the universe — and Judy “the Beauty” Forman is its queen. Flame her for the Perri Street Circus, the House of the California beauty pageant out of town, and for dispensing unhealthy dishes like Judy’s favorite (spinach, mushrooms, chilies, and eggs). Our favorite the arroz con leche, cream cheese, and cherries omlet. Vegans love the veggie option: sautéed thinking, mushroom, onions, cilantro, brown rice, tofu, and roasted garlic. Her cooks make pretty much everything on the spot, including muffins, coffees, and pancakes. While you’re waiting, you always have their “out there” eclectic crowd, plus walls filled with pictures and bon mots like “Will Be President For Food.” Breakfast and lunch only, closed at 9:30 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Blue Water Seafood Market and Grill
3867 India Street, Mission Hills, 619-497-0734. This bright, clean and friendly on-the-rocks margarita with the beer still runs cold! If you love fresh fish market; aside from Whole Foods, very 100 years old & — N.W.

El Agave
3504 San Diego Avenue, Old Town, 619-220-0692. The menu celebrates three great pre-Hispanic cuisines — Aztec, Mayan, Nahua — with discrete admittances of France, Spain, and Italy. (It’s the history of Mexico on a plate.) Among the lights are the five different Oaxacan mole (plus a sixth from Chiapa), loco caza and in expansive tamale (habanero) sauce, and a unique appetizer, quesos cuttlefish, eggs of blue corn masa topped with a sort of “mushroom” that grows on corn ears. (In English it’s called “corn smut,” but it tastes much more like than that sounds.) The bar stocks at least 100 tequilas and makes a food-friendly on-the-rocks margarita with fresh fruit juice. Reservations recommended. Wheelchair access difficult (high step ramp). You’ll find yucca, upscale Mexican specialties in an intimate Spanish-style dining room or on a small heated balcony. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate. — N.W.

Aladdin’s Cafe — Clairemont
5420 North Miramar Boulevard, Clairemont, 838-573-0008. These cafes offer a bright, clean atmosphere for bright and clean, if a bit generic, Middle-Eastern favorites (hummus, tabbouleh, kabobs, shawarma, etc.), plus imaginative Levantine flavored pizzas and salads. There are ample choices for vegetarians. Both locations offer beer and wine. Hilcrest’s offers a more Americanized cuisine. Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W.

Anthology
337 India Street, Little Italy, 619-595-0300. This spiffy, multi-style Mexican American restaurant, it’s the social center of the universe — and Judy “The Beauty” Forman is its queen. Flame her for the Perri Street Circus, the House of the California beauty pageant out of town, and for dispensing unhealthy dishes like Judy’s favorite (spinach, mushrooms, chilies, and eggs). Our favorite the arroz con leche, cream cheese, and cherries omlet. Vegans love the veggie option: sautéed thinking, mushroom, onions, cilantro, brown rice, tofu, and roasted garlic. Her cooks make pretty much everything on the spot, including muffins, coffees, and pancakes. While you’re waiting, you always have their “out there” eclectic crowd, plus walls filled with pictures and bon mots like “Will Be President For Food.” Breakfast and lunch only, closed at 9:30 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Inexpensive. — E.R.

Central
Belly dancing • Greek dancing • Live music
1337 India Street, Little Italy, 619-595-0300. This spiffy, multi-style Mexican American restaurant, it’s the social center of the universe — and Judy “The Beauty” Forman is its queen. Flame her for the Perri Street Circus, the House of the California beauty pageant out of town, and for dispensing unhealthy dishes like Judy’s favorite (spinach, mushrooms, chilies, and eggs). Our favorite the arroz con leche, cream cheese, and cherries omlet. Vegans love the veggie option: sautéed thinking, mushroom, onions, cilantro, brown rice, tofu, and roasted garlic. Her cooks make pretty much everything on the spot, including muffins, coffees, and pancakes. While you’re waiting, you always have their “out there” eclectic crowd, plus walls filled with pictures and bon mots like “Will Be President For Food.” Breakfast and lunch only, closed at 9:30 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Inexpensive. — E.R.

Historic Tivoli Bar
4517 12th Street, Hillcrest, 619-232-6754
— N.W.

Indian Larry’s
10436 craftsman way, suite 1 20 of I-15 at camino del norte)
— N.W.

Authentic Peruvian Cuisine
Live entertainment Friday and Saturday night
Belly Dancing • Greek Dancing • Live Music
CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH EVERY SUNDAY
Kids (8 and under) eat free Tuesday nights 4-9 pm with 2 paid adult dinners

Authentic Peruvian Cuisine
Live entertainment Friday and Saturday night
Belly Dancing • Greek Dancing • Live Music
CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH EVERY SUNDAY
Kids (8 and under) eat free Tuesday nights 4-9 pm with 2 paid adult dinners

happy hour “capri style” mon-fri 5-7 pm
1/2 price on draught beer, well drinks and bar appetizers

wine lovers night sun & mon
bottles of wine half off

flight nights tues & wed
samples of 3 wines from all over the world for a special price
imperia martini night first thur of every month
live music starting at 8 pm • $6 martins all night
reservations required

upscale private room available

10436 craftsman way, suite 120
45 commons town center
(lanched in rancho bernardo 2 miles west of i-15 at camino del norte)
851-673-5100

Buy one of our specialty rolls with two drinks and get one roll free (of equal or lesser value)! Not valid with any other offers. One per table. Offer expires 4/10/08.

Over 50 roll
$1 sake Mon. - $1.25 night Tues. - Thurs. Per piece.
$29.95 all-inclusive sushi & grill
706 8th Ave. San Diego 619.232.6754

Free sushi!
Buy one of our specialty rolls with two drinks and get one roll free (of equal or lesser value)! Not valid with any other offers. One per table. Offer expires 4/10/08.

Over 50 roll
$1 sake Mon. - $1.25 night Tues. - Thurs. Per piece.
$29.95 all-inclusive sushi & grill
706 8th Ave. San Diego 619.232.6754

Historic Tivoli Bar –
over 100 years old &
the beer still runs cold!
(Lowest prices in the Gaslamp!)
— E.B.

— Beer specials each day – 1 tap! — Sunday Mexican breakfast 8:30 – 2:30 — 2 domestic drafts • Monday-Wednesday

Industry Night • Mondays 6pm-2am
3-2.50 domestic drafts • 50% off appetizers

Nightly specials not valid with any other offers.
Wi Tournament
Tues. & Thurs. 8pm-2am

Some of San Diego's best players of all ages gather to compete. Do you have skills?

1 buck buys the fries

Tuesday's $2 buckets • Thursday's $1 domestic bottles
During Wi Tournament only. Not valid with any other offers.

Band Rock Competition (video game) Wed. 8pm-2am
Come rock out! Here's your chance to become the Centofanti's Idol!

Centofanti's Bar & Grill
3850 La Mesa Blvd. • Downtown La Mesa • 619-641-4434

1105 Orange Avenue (next to MooTime Creamery) • Coronado • 619-437-6087

Vietnamese Beef Noodle Soup

* Off Spring Rolls or Egg Rolls

Cannot be used with 10% off entire check offer.

10% Off Entire Check

$14 minimum purchase.

Relax Outstanding in the Noodle Soup by Chef Don

Vietnamese Beef Noodle Soup

770 Sycamore Ave. • 847-8908
Open 8am-9pm 7 days a week

Calamari

Deep-fried wonton

*Dine-in only. Not valid with any other offers, discounts or specials.


calamari, menudo, chicharrones, menudo, pozole.

slow-roasted 1" cut

King Crab 11" as

1-lb. Alaskan Crab Legs
Every Monday

Lobster 11" as

Live from Maine
Every Wednesday

Prime Rib 11" as

Slow-Roasted 1" Cut
Every Friday
Specials start at 5 pm.
*Purchase required.

Enjoy Coronado! Freeentrée

With purchase of any entrée of equal or greater value and two drinks. Not to be combined with any other offer. Does not include sides. Expires 4/10/08

Breakfast served all day
50s-style diner
Huge burgers
Thick shakes
chances, but it’s fun anyway. Num-

ter-Asian bears and sakes, affordable

wine, full specializes in fancy cocktails.

Those with fading eyesight

chances, but it’s fun anyway. Numer-

as everywhere else. Try anything else.

(Well, the chicken breast is as dry here

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4095 30th Street

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— E.B.
La Mesa’s Best Sushi
Buy 1 sushi roll and get a second roll of equal or lesser value 50% off.

Please present coupon at time of order. One coupon per person. Some restrictions apply. Not valid with any other coupon. Expires 4/10/08.

8687 La Mesa Blvd.
La Mesa - 619-466-4470

Crunchy seasoned salads, radishes in garlicky tomato sauce, slow-cooked beans with garlic flavors. A beloved dish! Go for the goat meat hot pot or Korean street food. This is sensual, emotional, hearty food. Lunch and dinner seven days, closed Sunday. — M.N.

Spicy Thai Cafe — Rancho Bernardo
16441 Rancho Bernardo Drive, Rancho Bernardo, 858-474-4605. Thai-spicy Thai restaurant that’s not only elegant but whose food contains no MSG and very little salt. The seafood dishes rate highly. Among other diversities, they make duck and eggplant. Put Spicy Thai at the top of your list. Open daily. Lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.W.

NORTH COASTAL

101 Cafe — 63 South Coast Highway, Oceanside, 760-722-5228. This is the oldest I.T. eating establishment in Oceanside. Cooks have been flipping burgers here since 1928. This cafe is named after Route 101, the Pacific Highway. Old-timers remember when everyone from truck drivers to movie stars would stop for a bite before heading on to San Diego and Timmins. Try the avocado, bacon, and cheese. Omedeli, the oldest Original Cheeseburger with its “secret sauce,” fried fish and chips, steaks with eggs and, of course, the Good Friday special (shrimp and grits) good. You’ll find the “goy’s home” on Firefly. Open daily. Great meals until midnight. Cash only. No alcohol. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Armenian Cafe — 3126 Carlsbad Boulevard, Carlsbad, 760-720-2333. At the Original 101 in 1928, a two-story cottage with a year-round heated sidewalk overlooking Highway 101, the menu offers Armenian specialties cooked with a Lebanese accent as a menu item. You’ll find mini-pizzas, stuffed peppers, cabbage, overstuffed deli sandwiches, potatoes, onions, and cilantro, and all the other dishes. For lunch and dinner Friday and Saturday. Moderate to expensive. — N.W.

California Pizza Kitchen — Solana Beach 101, Solana Beach. 753-7710. Free delivery for North County Hilltoppers! This restaurant started with a dream in 1985 to exploit “the premium pizza segment.” Since then 106 restaurants later, they’ve grown the place. It is all about fresh ingredients, red gold yeast, perfect blend of spices, golden wood and black furniture, and you’ll see more ingredients, cash and ingredients in the kitchen. The Original BBQ chicken pizza, the first item of a list of all their top 11 selling items, has barbecue sauce, smoked meat, and cilantro. The BBQ chicken chopped salad is good here too. Enjoy the pizza. If you’ve got a sweet tooth, but are embarrassed to order a dessert pizza, try the pear and goat cheese. It has caramelized pears, caramelized onions, Gorgonzola and other cheeses, and hazelnuts. — E.B.

Corner House Cafe & Pizzeria — 11431 Sorrento Valley Road, Carmel Valley, 858-353-1815. This must be the first farm house standing in Sorrento Valley’s glassy, glossy business park. Corner House Cafe, as the name describes, the nearby century-old, yellow, two-story clapboard house with Lily’s Closet Cafe and California Pizza Kitchen. You walk into gardens and a garden of flowers, fountain, fountain, fountain. It feels like you are on the farm. If you’ve got a sweet tooth, but are embarrassed to order a dessert pizza, try the pear and goat cheese. It has caramelized pears, caramelized onions, Gorgonzola and other cheeses, and hazelnuts. — E.B.

Juanita’s Taco Shop Estilo Mexicano — 517 North Coast Highway, Encinitas, 760-753-2123. This is the place to remember their root. It’s got all the elaborately downs home cooking you could want, including all-day breakfast running from 6 a.m. till 2 p.m. It has breakfast burritos, a lightly seasoned tomato salsita. Standard orders are fine, too, and the beans taste as good as they smell. Try a “Flying Saucer” — it really takes off, with shredded meat, onions, and chiles, beans, sour cream, shredded orange cheese, and puréed guacamole riding high on an airy crispied flour tortilla. Open daily. Cash only. Lunch and dinner 11 a.m.-Saturday and Sunday. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Kealani’s — 137 West D Street, Encinitas, 760-942-5642. Tucked between a bike shop and a drugstore in the old ’20s storefronts. High on an airy crisped flour tortilla. Cheese, and puréed guacamole riding high on an airy crispied flour tortilla. Open daily. Cash only. Lunch and dinner 11 a.m.-Saturday and Sunday. Inexpensive to low moderate. — N.W.

The Original 101 Diner — 512 First Street, Encinitas, 760-753-3323. Tucked under a small canopy under the Ingleside Square parking lot, this is the place to remember their roots. It’s got all the elaborately downs home cooking you could want, including all-day breakfast running from 6 a.m. till 2 p.m. It has breakfast burritos, a lightly seasoned tomato salsita. Standard orders are fine, too, and the beans taste as good as they smell. Try a “Flying Saucer” — it really takes off, with shredded meat, onions, and chiles, beans, sour cream, shredded orange cheese, and puréed guacamole riding high on an airy crispied flour tortilla. Open daily. Cash only. Lunch and dinner 11 a.m.-Saturday and Sunday. Inexpensive to low moderate. — N.W.

Boulevard, Carlsbad, 760-720-2233. At the Original 101 in 1928, a two-story cottage with a year-round heated sidewalk overlooking Highway 101, the menu offers Armenian specialties cooked with a Lebanese accent as a menu item. You’ll find mini-pizzas, stuffed peppers, cabbage, overstuffed deli sandwiches, potatoes, onions, and cilantro, and all the other dishes. For lunch and dinner Friday and Saturday. Moderate to expensive. — N.W.

Mellow’s Deli — 2600 Via de la Val, Del Mar, 858-755-3183. This must be the first farm house standing in Sorrento Valley’s glassy, glossy business park. You walk into gardens and a garden of flowers, fountain, fountain, fountain. It feels like you are on the farm. If you’ve got a sweet tooth, but are embarrassed to order a dessert pizza, try the pear and goat cheese. It has caramelized pears, caramelized onions, Gorgonzola and other cheeses, and hazelnuts. — E.B.

Margiore doesn’t produce Southern style barbecue. The locals’ favorite French provincial restaurant offers exquisite creative cooking. Favorites from an often-changing menu include white wine plus goat cheese. Try the “suh-weet” sauce, wet ribs glazed with the mild-spicy sauce, and dry-rubbed ribs sprinkled with spice rub. The “suh-weet” sauce, wet ribs glazed with the mild-spicy sauce, and dry-rubbed ribs sprinkled with spice rub. The “suh-weet” sauce, wet ribs glazed with the mild-spicy sauce, and dry-rubbed ribs sprinkled with spice rub. The “suh-weet” sauce, wet ribs glazed with the mild-spicy sauce, and dry-rubbed ribs sprinkled with spice rub. The “suh-weet” sauce, wet ribs glazed with the mild-spicy sauce, and dry-rubbed ribs sprinkled with spice rub.

Twin Double 54.79
The Big 3 $5.49
10 pancakes, 2 eggs, 2 bacon or sausage
10 pancakes, 2 eggs, 2 bacon or sausage
10 pancakes, 2 eggs, 2 bacon or sausage

Happy Hour
ALL DAY MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 2-6 p.m.
$2.50 domestic drafts & great food specials!

Champagne Brunch
Sat. & Sun. $19.50 11 am-3 pm $2.50 mimosas

9:45 AM-2 PM
Weekend Lunch Specials
$10 pitchers (martini/margarita)
Sun. & Wed. 5 pm- close

All-You-Can-Eat Sushi Bar $22.95 per person
With this ad. Up to 5 persons. Reg. $24.95.

Dinner Daily 5-9 pm

Coriander Cafe — 6166 Pacific Coast Highway, Del Mar, 858-755-3183. This must be the first farm house standing in Sorrento Valley’s glassy, glossy business park. For lunch, the bacon-Cheddar chile relleno is outstanding, as is the Squid, Tuna, Uni, Red Snapper

9:45 AM-2 PM
Weekend Lunch Specials
$10 pitchers (martini/margarita)
Sun. & Wed. 5 pm- close

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Sun. & Wed. 5 pm- close

All-You-Can-Eat Sushi Bar $22.95 per person
With this ad. Up to 5 persons. Reg. $24.95.
### San Diego Restaurant Coupons

**Over 75 Restaurant Coupons at SDReader.com**

Here’s a small sample to whet your appetite!

**50% off entrée**
- Buy one entrée, get 2nd of equal or lesser value 50% off. Offer expires April 30, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month. Coupon not valid on holidays.

**Blue Parrot Bar & Grill**
- Champagne Brunch Saturday and Sunday. $2.50 tacos and drafts Tuesday-Friday, 2-6 pm. Live music Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

- 1093 Niagara Avenue, Pacific Beach

**Free appetizer**
- With purchase of 2 entrées. Sunday through Thursday. Offer expires April 30, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month. Coupon not valid with other offers or on holidays.

**Calypso**

- 578 North Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-432-8252

**Buy one entrée, get one 1/2 off**

**Anna's The Family Restaurant**
- Hearty, homemade cooking served to satisfy the largest appetites. A staple in Lemon Grove, stop by to see what everyone is talking about and you will see and taste why at Anna's...customers are family.

- 507 Camino del Rio South, San Diego, 619-297-0000

### Restaurants Listed

**Pacific Beach, Mission Beach & Ocean Beach**
- Atoll at the Catamaran Hotel
- The Blue Parrot Bar & Grill **50% off entrée**
- Canes **$5 off any entrée**
- Café Joie **50% off lunch or dinner**
- Costa Brava **Free tapa for lunch**
- Great Moon Buffet **10% off total bill**
- Gringo's **Free appetizer at lunch**
- Lahaina Beach House **Free breakfast**
- Moonstogies **50% off second lunch**
- Pacific Beach Bar & Grill **2 for 1 entrée**
- Pacific Rotisserie **Free entrée**
- P.B. Mike's **99¢ sake**
- Portugalia **Free entrée**
- Sasha's **$12 off second entrée**

**Midway, Old Town & Mission Valley**
- Bali Thai Cafe **Free entrée**
- Baja Bucket **$1 wine carafe**
- Rockin' Baja **Baja Bucket for two $29.95**
- Royal Spices Thai Cuisine **20% off receipt**
- Tío Leo's **Dinner combos $9.49 each**

**Uptown & North Park**
- Café Bleu **Complimentary starter**
- Cay Nhan **$4.95 Vietnamese dishes**
- Coffee House on Broadway **Free Mocha Jackson**
- Harar Ethiopian Restaurant **Free sambusaa appetizer**
- Hob Nob Hill **$2 off entrée**
- India Princess **Free dinner**
- Lips **50% off dinner**
- Old World Deli & Cafe **$2 off breakfast or lunch**
- Rudford's **$2 off any menu entrée**
- Seasons 142 **$2 off tapas**
- Vesuvio Gourmet **20% off lunch or dinner**
- The Wine Encounters **Free wine tasting**

**East County & State College**
- Anna's The Family Restaurant **50% off second entrée**
- Centifonti's Restaurant **50% off entrée**
- Fix Me A Plate Cafe **15% off any entrée**
- Golden Wok **10% off buffet**
- Greek Town Buffet **50% off 2nd dinner buffet**
- Habana **Free appetizer**
- La Fogata **50% off entrée**
- San Diego Blender **Free yogurt bowl**
- Shakey's **Lunch buffet $5.49**
- Stockdale's **50% off Southern Alabama cuisine**
- Thai Dragon House **Free Thai tea**
- Thai Taste **50% off 2nd entrée**
- Trevi Ristorante **50% off entrée**
- Windy City Beef **1/2 off menu item**

**North County**
- Calypso **Free appetizer**
- A Delight of France **Free appetizer or dessert**
- Creek Village **Freeenganaki**
- Instant **Free smoothie**
- Miko Japanese **50% off sushi**
- The Ocean House **$5 off Sunday brunch**
- Pho Lucky **10% off entire check**
- Rossi's Pizza **Free mini pizza**
- Santa Fe Cafe **50% off 2nd entrée**
- Sipz **Free vegetarian appetizer**
- Wild Note Cafe

**Downtown & Point Loma**
- Alex's Brown Bag **Philly cheese steak $5.49**
- The Boathouse **2 for 1 lunch or brunch**
- Dublin Square **2 for 1 breakfast**
- Hard Rock Café
- Hornblower Cruises
- House of Blues **20% off restaurant receipt**
- Humphrey's **Jewel Box 2 for 1 entrée**
- The Local **$3 Thursdays**
- McCormick & Schmick's **Seafood Restaurant**
- Oli Madrigal **2 for 1 lunch or brunch entrée**
- Petri's **Free entrée**
- Puerto La Bora **Free Argentinian dessert**
- RA Sushi
- Richard Walker's Pancake House **$1 off entrée**
- Rock Bottom
- Sevilla **$10 off Spanish cuisine**
- The Shout House
- Sierra Pacific **3-course gourmet dinner $34.95**
- Visions **25% off sushi**
- Xavi's **Free appetizer**

**Clairemont, University City, Miramar Rd., Poway, Mira Mesa, Scripps Ranch & Kearny Mesa**
- Boomerangs **Lunch special $8.99**
- Crazy Sushi & BBQ **50% off special rolls**
- Filling Station **Free appetizer**
- Koi Sushi **15% off all menu items**
- Lightnin' Jack's BBQ **Free BBQ**
- Mo's Island Grinders **50% off plate lunch**
- Pampas **Free empanada**
- RB Sushi **50% off sushi and rolls only**
- Sky Box Sports Grill **Burger special $7.99**
- Thai Cafe **$1 off buffet**
- VIP Oriental Buffet **$3 off all-you-can-eat buffet**

**South Bay & Coronado**
- Lai Thai **50% off entrées**

Restaurants listed without coupon offers have only menus online. Restaurants with * have multiple locations. See online menu or coupon for all locations.
hearts), and the squash enchilada dinner (melted steamed squash with corn, bell peppers, and light cheese sauce) are both more original in taste and texture than you might expect. — E.B.

L’Escale
1134 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-6715. This is one of the grandest entrances you'll ever see in a Coronado restaurant, a luxurious, gaudy, vaulted timber,dining room where the only sound is the whispering of richly dressed women. The menu's got a little bit more. But this is a Libra food, a food for all seasons…. — E.B.

La Costa Azul Mariscos Yucatan
1026 Orange Avenue, University Avenue, Solana Beach, 619-567-2700. This is a seafood place (in season) like lobster thermidor, clams, avocados, and sautéed mushrooms. From the clams (in season) to the oysters (in season), La Costa Azul's menu offers 18 different seafood offerings, including a substantial selection of shellfish, including langostinos. Thanks to the excellent seafood quality and the varied menu, Anthony's has been up and coming areas and a menu with outstanding international seafood from Sinaloa and Nayarit. The details of the Individual (mainly seafood) dishes vary from branch to branch, as does the atmosphere is grand. Open Sunday thru Thursday, 5:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; all day Sunday. Inexpensive. — N.W.

SOUTH BAY

Anthony’s Fish Grotto — Chula Vista
17068 North Island, E.B. 92111. Anthony’s Fish Grotto, now a chain, is still the simplest and the best. Or its Patio, and there’s an outdoor dining area with a upstairs and main areas. — E.B.

The Cortez
18416 Rosecrans, Chula Vista, 619-486-6141. The Cortez has sautéed salmon in a two-portion dish, served in a pepper he said nobody else had. To the Kettle's Social Central for this kind of food. Open lunch through dinner, seven days. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Mediterranean
1347 Tavern Road, Chula Vista, 619-490-9212. The pizza is the best of the best, with the sauce being absolutely incredible. Even the most demanding pizza snob will be happy here. The Kettle's Social Central for this kind of food. Open lunch through dinner, seven days. Inexpensive. — E.B.

D'Lish Pizza and Pasta
180 East 11th Street, Suite 111, Chula Vista, 619-435-1871. Also at 2260 Otay Lakes Road, Chula Vista, 619-634-6969. D'Lish Pizza and Pasta offers a variety of New York-style pizzas and pasta dishes, including a grilled cheese sandwich, which is a real crowd-pleaser. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Grand Opening: Kai Sushi
619-420-0384. Play gaucho and enjoy some of the best sushi in town. The sushi is fresh, the atmosphere is grand. Open Sunday thru Thursday, 5:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; all day Sunday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Geno's Barbecue
2754 Alpine Boulevard, Alpine, 619-481-5426. Geno’s Barbecue is located on the far South side of Alpine, near the Alpine High School. The good news: you can get good barbecue here. The bad news: it’s not worth the drive. The food is decent. The gumbo, offered at some locations, is simple, mouth-sizzlingly efficient. But some flavors travel better than others in fast-food translations. The spicy, crisp fried chicken and airy hush puppies are the best of the bunch. — E.B.

Ye Olde Bicycle Cafe
8517 University Avenue, La Mesa, 619-582-5523. This charming, warmly decorated bistro is located at the western edge of the University Manor neighborhood. The vibe in this place is friendly, and the food is good. The menu offers a good selection of soups, salads, and sandwiches. Try the grilled cheese sandwich, which is a real crowd-pleaser. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Juanita’s Mexican Food
700 North Johnson Avenue, El Cajon, 619-442-9672. The menu offers a wide variety of Mexican dishes, including: Enchiladas Suizas: pale, mush-tender, the sweetness of its bacon-wrapped king salmon. The kitchen station — such atmosphere! But it all: the Kettle’s Social Central for this kind of food. Open lunch through dinner, seven days. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Ye Olde Bicycle Cafe
8517 University Avenue, La Mesa, 619-582-4024. You’re eating in a museum. You can nibble your pachyderm piece of art with both hands. The Three Stooges used the little blackboard menu. Local kids’ sports teams cramming the waiting line are not to be confused with the kids who love the Kettle’s Social Central for this kind of food. Open lunch through dinner, seven days. Inexpensive. — E.B.

La Costa Azul Mariscos Yucatan
1026 Orange Avenue, University Avenue, Solana Beach, 619-567-2700. This is a seafood place (in season) like lobster thermidor, clams, avocados, and sautéed mushrooms. From the clams (in season) to the oysters (in season), La Costa Azul's menu offers 18 different seafood offerings, including a substantial selection of shellfish, including langostinos. Thanks to the excellent seafood quality and the varied menu, Anthony's has been up and coming areas and a menu with outstanding international seafood from Sinaloa and Nayarit. The details of the Individual (mainly seafood) dishes vary from branch to branch, as does the atmosphere is grand. Open Sunday thru Thursday, 5:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; all day Sunday. Inexpensive. — N.W.
It takes a bit of cheek to call a film Flawless. Especially a Demi Moore film. In it, she carries that affixed chip on her shoulder into the role of the sole female executive at the London Diamond Corporation (Lon Di, for short) in the year 1960, held down in her career advancement by the proverbial glass ceiling.

"Don’t give up," she dashes off a note-to-self on a 3x5 index card. "Work harder. You will win." Though she is expressly identified as American to cover for the faintness of her accent, that doesn’t prevent her from pronouncing "re-shedule," turning herself inside out to fit in. Bravely, even a touch martyrishly, she puts on, and puts up with, a coiffure and wardrobe out of the Jackie Kennedy scrapbook — and because it’s stuffy old England, exclusively in colors suitable for a funeral — not to mention putting on and putting up with a layer of old-age makeup in the present-day framing scenes, when she pulls out a manuscript of her life story under a title lifted from Kate Chopin, minus the definite article, Awakening.

Helping to sound reveille is the company’s night janitor (Michael Caine, so peculiarly cast, you keep expecting him to be unmasked as a secret agent), who sees all and knows all without being seen or known, and who pitches to her a retributive raid on the vault in the basement. He had read that aforementioned index card, and anonymously scrawled on the bottom of it, "No you won’t." Beyond a trip to the dog track (his pleasure), neither of the co-conspirators has a life, and the suffocating narrowness of the film will not be offset by its broader awareness of feminist issues or its last-minute epiphany on healthcare.

Michael Radford, the serious-minded director of 1984, Il Postino, Dancing at the Blue Iguana, among others, goes through the paces of the heist with precision, but without urgency, without tension, without excitement, without, even, clarity. In a caper film, that could be thought a sizable flaw. Social consciousness is small compensation.

Stones

The suffocating narrowness of the film will not be offset by its broader awareness of feminist issues.

MIT math whizzes who, drilled by a Mephistophelean mentor on the faculty, visit Vegas on weekends to beat the house at blackjack. The film is not able to make the frowned-upon practice of "card counting" comprehensible, much less cinematic (unless you consider fast-shuffle editing to be cinematic), but then it’s not really interested in mental acumen and application, only in the rewards and perks: a run-of-the-mill Sin City fantasy (dazzling montage of casino neon, top-of-the-world luxury suite, strip club, stacks and stacks of hoarded chips) in which the natural-born nerd can forget who his friends are, become somebody different, go around acting like a cross between Richard Gere in Pretty Woman and Michael Douglas in Wall Street. Director Robert Luketic, whose lightweight credits consist of Legally Blonde, Win a Date with Tad Hamilton, and Monster-in-Law, permits himself to be entranced by the fantasy, serving more as press agent than reporter, greasing the wheels for a smooth ride, picking compatible pop songs for tempo. Jim Sturgess, The Other Boleyn Girl’s ill-fated brother, is
Young Paul McCartney cute as the whistlebink whizwhir or in other words a fantasy figure from the get-go. (If he’s so bright, why is he piling up hundreds of thousands of dollars in the ceiling of his dorm room instead of in a bank?) Kate Bosworth is a still more distorted fantasy of the Smart Girl. And Kevin Spacey, who gets all the snappiest dialogue, puts his innate repellence to good use as the manipulative mentor, the adult authority figure who, in order to complete the fantasy, must finally be overthrown.

The most sympathetic figure, even when (perhaps especially when) he’s slipping rings onto his fingers for a when (perhaps especially when) he’s wasting only $300 per month sent home by the guardianship, fully cognizant of the immigrant ordeal is a virtual runner is a klutzy uniformed security guard at a women’s clothing store, never be taken seriously as a rival. Dy- man Moran, as the hero’s deadbeat best friends, makes a lissomely sensuous foil. Imad Jabarin, Saleh Bakri, Khalifa Natour. 2007. ★★


Under the Same Moon [La misma luna] — To be specific, the Alexandra Police Ceremonial Orchestra, an octet costumed in robin’s-egg blue, visit- ing Israel for the inauguration of an Arab Culture Center, but taking a wrong turn to a sound-silk 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, un- der the direction of Eran Kolirin, might call to mind the cinematic heyday of Italian hu- manism, 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 prickish leader, his stifled assistant, an un- ruly rookie — and Simon Gabai as the first of the three could stand alongside an Al- bert Sordi or an Ugo Tognazzi (to place him in the company of comic-pathetic Ital- ians), albeit with more reserve and deco- rum. Ronit Elkabetz, as his easygoing host- ess, makes a lissomely sensuous foil. Imad Jabarin, Saleh Bakri, Khalifa Natour. 2007. ★★

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 new unreviews. Thousands of past reviews sorted alphabetically, by year of release and by rating, are available online at SDReader.com.

The Band’s Visit — To be specific, the Alexandra Police Ceremonial Orchestra, an octet costumed in robin’s-egg blue, visit- ing Israel for the inauguration of an Arab Culture Center, but taking a wrong turn to a sound-silk 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, un- der the direction of Eran Kolirin, might call to mind the cinematic heyday of Italian hu- manism, 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 prickish leader, his stifled assistant, an un- ruly rookie — and Simon Gabai as the first of the three could stand alongside an Al- bert Sordi or an Ugo Tognazzi (to place him in the company of comic-pathetic Ital-
The Seventies period has its pleasures, and the coarse, raw, desaturated image, whether a chosen cliché or an imposed hardship, is at no point much to look at, a "same shit, different era," as somebody says. All but wiped out by the Reaper Virus, wall to wall in quarantine for twenty-five years, Scotland in 2035 retains two hostile clans, Scotland in 2035 retains two hostile clans, Scotland in 2035 retains two hostile clans, Scotland in 2035 retains two hostile clans.

Dritbit Taylor — Homeless army deserter answers a want ad to bodyguard a fat kid, skinny kid, and shrimpy kid from the high-school bully. The jokes arrive predictably, the laughs are bad. With Owen Wilson, Nate Hartley, Troy Gentile, David Duffman, Alex Frost, and Leslie Mann, directed by Steven Brill. 2008.

Crain, Mountain; Chula Vista 15; San Diego 12; Mission Valley 20; River Village 6; San Marcos 19; Santana Drive In; Town Square 14; Vista Village

Fighting for Life — Documentary by Terry Sanders on the medical aspect of the war in Iraq. (Hillcrest Cinemas, from 3/28)

Flawless — Reviewed this issue. With Demi Moore, Michael Caine, Lambert Wilson, and Joss Ackland; directed by Michael Radford. (Hillcrest Cinemas, from 3/28)

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A CHARMER!

WE CHOSE OUR FAVORITE CONTEST WINNER TO BE A DELL INSPIRON 1510!

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IT TOOK THE HEIST OF A LIFETIME TO SETTLE THE SCORE

MICHAEL CAINE

DEMI MOORE

The Elephant's Crossing of a Rickety Rope Bridge is a good sequence (meanwhile, down in miniscule Wherville, a jaded den-tist misses the mark with the novocaine needle, hits the patient in the shoulder, and turns his arm into a strand of spaghetti); and the lessons on tolerance and consis-tence aren't lost in the grandiosity. With the voices of Jim Carrey, Steve Carell, Will Arnett, Seth Rogen, and Carol Burnett, directed by Jimmy Hayward and Steve Mar-tino. 2008.

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A CHARMER!

THE TEASE IS INGENIOUS AND DEMI MOORE IS FASCINATING, DOING SOME OF HER BEST WORK EVER.

Karen Deena, ELLE

TWO UP! AN ENTERTAINING HEIST FILM. CAINE MAKES IT FUN.

Michael Phillips, Chicago Tribune

PROVOCATIVE. A SLICK AND SWIFT HEIST FILM. DEMI MOORE IS A SMOLDERING PRESENCE.

Karen Mami, BEY'S VOICE

When the battle ends, their fight begins.

"THEY ARE ALL HEROES..."

—Tom Hanks, interview in FOLLING STONE

"THIS IS AMERICANS AT THEIR BEST. MARVELOUSLY UPLIFTING."

—Robert MacNab, MACNEIL/LEHRER REPORT

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ANDY GONZALES
Director/Coordinator Arte de Latino

Three films I’d recommend are ones I’ve seen at previous San Diego Latino Film Festivals. One
is a beautiful movie called Bitter Sugar, about a couple in Cuba who meet and fall in love but the
couple just wants to leave Cuba. They have a hard time seeing eye to eye. The soundtrack is fantastic.

I really liked The City of No Limits; it holds your attention for a long time, and it has a twist at
the end. I really like films that can fool me.

El juego de Arcibel is a thinking movie; there’s not a lot of action. It’s about a man who writes a chess column and the
government thinks that the chess moves are signals he’s feeding to the antigovernment guerrillas. So he gets put in jail
and teaches the inmates how to play chess.

BITTER SUGAR (Cuba) 1996, New Yorker Video
List price: $19.95

THE CITY WITH NO LIMITS (Spain/Argentina) 2002, 20th Century Fox
List price: $14.98

EL JUEGO DE ARCIBEL (Argentina) 2003, Verneusian
List price: $14.98

NANCY MENDEZ
Festival attendee

Executive produced by Martin Scorsese, Lightning in a Bottle is a documentary/reunion of
blues singers pairing old veterans with more contemporary singers. It’s great to see singers like Macy Gray and Natalie Cole
and dreary but still really beautiful. And I have two more of

Lightning in a Bottle: A One Night History of the Blues (USA) 2004
Sony Pictures
List price: $14.94

WAKING DEAD DEVINE, filmed in Ireland, a place that I’ve been before and loved. Very good movie.

and it’s really nice to see a major cast of characters who are much older and bring out the humor of a funny story.

The Bronze Screen is a doc-
umentary that I stumbled upon when I was in a rental mood. It’s about Latino actors and film-
makers and the realities of what they’ve had to face — like

Bitter Sugar

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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 stay in pursuit of a laugh. (No, let’s not forget the Utah Jazz or the Las Angeles Lakers, but neither let’s forget they were transfers.) With Woody Harrelson, André Benjamin, Rockwell, left to fend for themselves while the red-coon eyeliner, her love shines bright. For tall white boots, skin-tight pants, and raccoon eyeliner, her love shines bright. For tall white boots, skin-tight pants, and raccoon eyeliner, her love shines bright.

Sleepwalking — Family dysfunction in the white-trash neighborhood. Charlize Theron, as her Oscar for Monster goes to carry you past the finish line. (ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 3/28)

Snow Angels — The interweave of ordinary lives in a wintry Northeastern small town has a number of attractions in it, starting with the clear bright wide-screen image, letting in a lot of décor and town-scape, albeit much of it self-satirically. With the entrance of Dennis Hopper as an abusive father and grandfather, the tsk-tsk goes to the white-trash neighborhood. Charlize Theron, as her Oscar for Monster goes to carry you past the finish line.

RUN, DON’T WALK, to see this heartfelt tale of endurance, love, and enough LAUGHS to carry you past the finish line. — 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 stay in pursuit of a laugh. (No, let’s not forget the Utah Jazz or the Las Angeles Lakers, but neither let’s forget they were transfers.) With Woody Harrelson, André Benjamin, Rockwell, left to fend for themselves while the red-coon eyeliner, her love shines bright. For tall white boots, skin-tight pants, and raccoon eyeliner, her love shines bright.

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San Diego Reader
RED MEAT

by Max Cannon ©2008

Howdy, Mr. Johnson. Sorry I’m late today, but I had to go see the dentist.

Well, you can’t be too careful when it comes to your teeth, Clyde.

Oh, it wasn’t for my teeth. I just stopped in for a quick haircut.

Nope. I got my hair cut at the dentist’s. I also got all my tools sharpened there.

That doesn’t sound like a legit dental office to me.

It probably isn’t, seen as his set-up’s in an old garage. Beats going to see the doctor, though...he’s still workin’ out of his car.

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from the secret files of Max Cannon

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San Diego Reader, March 27, 2008
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3. The chemical is cast!
4. Sewing case
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6. The prize for solving the Reader Puzzle must be purchased by the Reader by 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, five days following the issue date (Fax to 619-333-0494 or U.S. Mail to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 48316, San Diego, CA 92116-3166). All answers must be entered in the space allowed on the puzzle page.

Answer:
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4. Sewing case
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Solution to and winners of the Reader Puzzle for 3/20/08. There were 76 entrants.

The winners are:
1. Kendall Peterkin, San Diego
2. Brea Bladell, San Diego
3. Margaret Buckner, San Diego
4. Carolyn Dalton, Encino, California
5. Jennifer Vukunch, El Cajon

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Might and Main

My only autograph was Ted Allen, one of the crew on the sitcom The Golden Girls. He was the chef. Oh, wait, I just read Reba. She was in Star Trek and married to Gene Roddenberry. I got her at a Star Trek convention in Pasedena. I also got Tommy Lee's autograph. I didn't ask for it. It was just handed to me.

I got Frank Herbert, who wrote Dune That was downtown San Diego. And the author who wrote the famous living European authors. I'm getting Gene Walter to sign this book today. I also got an autograph from OJ Simpson.

I don't get autographs. Celebrities probably get too tired of signing them all the time, so I'll just shake their hands. I met Rick Fox at a Lakers game. I met Shaquil O'Neal at a Dennis's in Palm Springs. I met Nelly, the rapper. I met Cedric the Entertainer. I also met Gary Payton, but I was only six at the time.

I've never gotten anyone's autograph. I don't get people's autographs. But, when I was a kid, I did get a lot of the Collins. I lived in Boston, and we would stand outside the gardens because my dad was really into it. We got a few different fans, but I don't remember their names now. The only one I can think of that I got an autograph from was their center, Robert Parish.

The one time I got something autographed was when my company was holding a Prom Night at the picnic area of Peter Park, right behind the bullpen. My mom is a huge fan of Trevor Hoffman, so I bought a program in hopes that he would come out and sign a few things. Right before the game, he came into the bullpen and headed straight for the fans. I rushed over, right behind a few kids if they weren't the president of the company's kids. I might've pushed them out of the way. Trevor signed my program. At the top of the night, they brought Trevor out. I yelled, “We love you, Trevor!” He didn't turn around, but I know he heard me.
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You can use this image as a source of information for San Diego Historical Society: For more information, call 619-232-6203, ext. 127.

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Photograph from the San Diego Historical Society

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Gail Jones at the downtown Woolworth’s store, 1972. Jones and a friend called police, who were unable to locate the store manager. The manager of the Fashion Valley Woolworth’s showed up and let the girls out.

— by Robert Mianchi

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SurfDIEGO

Name: Jeff Marr
Occupation: Lab technician
Age: 38

Lives in: Ocean Beach
Night-surfing: Dog Beach
Pre-surf-Music: Marvin Gaye
Post-surf-food: Fish tacos

“It’s so peaceful and beautiful at night, I can literally walk out my door and be catching a wave in less than five minutes. It can be a little cold, so just make sure to stay bundled up,” says Marr.

He began surfing on his eighth birthday, on a board bought by his father in Hawaii. Jeff’s grand-parents, parents, and sister are all longtime surfers. Originally from Maui, Jeff relocated to San Diego when he was 15.

“I don’t remember a time when I couldn’t surf. My dad started us off very young and taught us to be respectful of the ocean. I spend a lot of my free time volunteering with organizations committed to environmental well-being.”

Jeff is organizing an outreach program for at-risk teens that involves surfing. His favorite surfing trip was with his church to Costa Rica.

“I spent a lot of time in the water getting to know the locals. The beaches are so beautiful and their community seemed very close-knit and familiar. And the surf was killer!”

How does the surfing community of San Diego measure up?

“It’s lovely here. As soon as my son is old enough to teach, I can’t wait to get him in the water. I am very blessed to live in a place like this where the natural resources are abundant and safe. I plan to continue our family tradition.”

In his 30 years of surfing, Jeff has seen some wild changes in the water.

“I had just paddled out at Windansea and felt something hit me in the back. I turned around thinking maybe it was kelp and saw a huge metal chunk floating in the water. It turned out to be part of the door to a car. I never figured out where it came from, I just took it in with me and threw it away.”

See the video
Go to SDReader.com
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Surfing is a way of life. A lifestyle that involves surfing. His favorite surfing trip was with his church to Costa Rica.

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See the video
Go to SDReader.com
Click on SurfDIEGO
Say What?

Million | Age: 31 | Occupation: Tattoo Artist | Lives: O.B.

The first time I heard the word Larry was when my old boss said it to me. I jumped in and he yelled, “Watch out, Larry.” I wondered who Larry was and I realized he was talking to me. I just started saying it for anyone that bugged me. If someone bugs in front of you in line you can just say “Watch out, Larry.” You can use it all the time. If someone’s buggering you or in your way, it’s a Larry. It’s always negative and funny. Actually, most of the time someone acting like a Larry is named Larry. So it works out.

See the video
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PACIFIC BEACH. Cathedral, 5 bed, 2 bath townhouse, upper level, huge deck with view of ocean, hardwood floors throughout, on-site laundry. Available first of May. 1619-1/2 Diamond. 858-272-3178.

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PARKING SPACES! Cathedrals ceiling, lots of light, 1 block to Vons. Full-size washer/dryer, 2 fireplaces, garage, wood floors, on-site laundry. Near I-5, 10 minutes to Downtown, La Jolla. Available May 1st. 3350, 3375, 3403, 3432 Pacific Beach Ave. Tel: 619-278-0031.

POINT LOMA. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, near Point Loma High School. Beautifully decorated, all new appliances. Pool, spa, sauna. Flat, ground level. $845/month, $100+ move-in special! 619-523-3969.


RANCHO PENASQUITOS. Avenida de los Lobos. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage, 2 fireplaces, washer/dryer, wood floors, on-site laundry. Steps to Sail Bay. Beautiful location! No pets. Available 5/1/08. Newly renovated 1 bedroom, 1 bath. $995/month. 3612 Kemper Avenue W. 619-692-2051.

SPRING VALLEY. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 2 car garage, 2 fireplaces, washer/dryer, ceiling fans, pool. No pets. Available immediately. 3432 Del Rey. 619-222-3178.

SAN CARLOS. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, downtown. $895/month, 2nd floor, 1-1/2 miles from S. Border Patrol station. 619-222-3178.


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SUN VALLEY, 1 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, 1 - 2 car garage, 2 fireplaces, attached 2-car garage. $1350. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage with huge deck over looking ocean. $1595, 1182 Grand Avenue. TPPM, 858-273-8657.

WE CERTIFY: Gross Polluters, Out of State, DMV Renewal. Most cars. OBDII only. Windows starting at $21.00. Starting at $65.00. Must present coupon at time of service. 7570 Caminito Mesa Blvd, Suite C (Next to Kearny Mesa Bowling Alley) 858-292-7903. Mon., Fri. 8-4; Sat. 8-3; Sun. 8-3. Call us today at (619) 696-6961. (Next to Kearny Mesa Bowling Alley) 858-292-7903. Mon., Fri. 8-4; Sat. 8-3; Sun. 8-3. Call us today at (619) 696-6961. A different experience from the start! 6219 University Ave. www.audiolandsd.com AUDIOLAND 619-267-1100 Ext. 255 South Mission Road (near College Ave.) San Diego, CA 92109

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UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 1,350. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 1st floor. Sunny, plenty of storage. $500 deposit. Available. Call 619-706-2590.


UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 1,250. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 3rd floor. Beautiful 1 bedroom, 1 bath right off 1-805. $400 deposit. Available. Call 619-597-6100.


LEAD STORY
— India’s middle class is humming with “brand Indians” obsessed with luxury labels such as Prada and Louis Vuitton, according to a February Washington Post dispatch, even though more than half the country lives in “abject poverty.” Said one super-consumptionist: “I’ll spend my whole salary for a really swanky brand and eat [stewed rice cakes] for the rest of the month.” Though animal rights activists estimate that the country has more uncared for dogs on the streets than any other in the world, Gucci dog bowls are for sale in New Delhi.

News That Sounds Like a Joke
— Toronto police announced in February that they had arrested the man who had stolen a backpack with the intention of driving it to a car wash in order to break down a wall and get at the facility’s coin machine. The call to police came from a snowplow that was hot on the backpack’s heels. — Working its way through multimillion-dollar proposals for naming rights on campus buildings in order to break down a wall and get at the facility’s comic book collection, Three partners seeking to buy the rights to the world’s first comic book shop announced on March 29-30 at Campland by the Bay, a week before the Southwest Kayak Symposium, that they had arrested the man who had stolen a backpack with the intention of driving it to a car wash in order to break down a wall and get at the facility’s comic book collection.

Government in Action
— Generous Public Servants: (1) Two Atlanta-area schools began a pilot program in January that pays students $5 an hour; plus a paltry performance bonus, to study math and science in special study halls. (2) The Times of London reports that the British government, in considering programs to reduce the number of overweight children, is studying one option of handing out shopping vouchers to kids who weigh 2 pounds overweight.

Great Art!
— In December, Edmonton, Alberta, tattoo artist Jane Jensen augmented the inked caricature of a buxom cowgirl on his own left calf with silicone “implants” in the skin under where the woman’s breasts are. However, within two weeks, the fluid went away and had to be drained.

Editorial
— The company had been shorting the quality of the Kevalr in more than 2 million combat helmets sold to the Pentagon from 1994 to 2006, and in February 2008. Sioux agreed to pay $2 million to settle the dispute. The company did not contest that the Kevalr trademark was lighter than the contract required, but the Pentagon said it knew of no troop injuries linked to the Kevalr standard trademark. In August 2007, however, while the Pentagon was still investigating, the U.S. Air Force nonetheless contracted with Sioux to produce new Kevalr combat helmets.

$25,000 donation to the school in exchange for having a second-floor men’s room named for him in a campus technology building.

S F O R T S

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Thanks to Jack

It was one of my favorite events of the year: the Brazil Carnaval at 4th/B. She and I had just met, but we danced the samba as if we had known each other forever. The loud, pulsating South American beats accompanied by the six Jack and Cokes I had consumed gave me a semblance of rhythm that I didn’t know I possessed. We danced, I spun, she dipped, we kissed. She said she wanted to get to know me better; I’m sure I said the same. I gave her my business card, which has my cell number on it, and told her to call. (My stupor did not think to get her number.) I left feeling like the biggest pimp of all time.

I woke up feeling like the biggest loser of all time. My friend Jack Daniel’s had turned on me. Last night’s memories were a jumble. I remember the drinking, the dancing, the music, the kiss. What I couldn’t remember, thanks to the alcoholic haze, was what she looked like. I assumed she was pretty, but Mr. Daniel’s had been successful in the past in causing me to slum it. Alas, I didn’t get her number, so I resigned myself to the fact that I would never know — until she called me three days later.

I was giddy and apprehensive at the same time. Our chemistry from Carnaval carried over to the phone conversation, and we set a date for the following Friday. Now, from my limited experience with the fairer sex, the pretty girls don’t chase. It’s up to the guy to initiate, and if you don’t have the number you’re out of luck. Her calling me should have been a warning, but my ego was shouting, “Of course she’s cute! You’re good looking, you’re awesome. Any hot girl would call you. She’s going to be pretty — go out there and get it!”

Despite my ego, I was still skeptical, so I decided to set the date in an area that I knew I wasn’t likely to run into anyone I know. I chose Chula Vista. I arrived early at an authentic Italian restaurant by the name of the Olive Garden to secure a table. The hostess told me that it would be a 40-minute wait, which shows you that the Chula Juarana residents know good eating. I sat outside and waited for her to arrive. I suspected she must be doing the classic hot-girl move of being late on purpose. She finally showed, wearing heels, black capris, and a white top. She smiled, I smiled back, we hugged, and I hated myself. Yes, my friends, we were kissing. (In my stupor I didn’t notice and kiss.)

It was at that time that I wished I was an even bigger jerk than I am so that I could have made some excuse and gotten out of there. But I stayed. She didn’t make it easy, though. In addition to being offensive to my eyes, she was doused in some terrible perfume, stinging my nostrils with every whiff. She was a talker, too. Everything from her work to her hobbies to her family to the time she was proposed to. Knowing that at least at some point some over-imaginative person had wanted her to marry her made me feel better about the fact that I was sitting there with her. Aside from that tidbit, I was bored.

Every time the waiter came by our table, he would smirk at me in a “Dude, are you serious?” kind of way. Plus, our order was forgotten by the cooks, which lengthened the date by 30 minutes.

I paid for dinner and walked her to her car. We exchanged good-nights, and she drove away. I shook my head, cursed life, and vowed never to let Jack Daniel’s get one over on me again.

Tell us the story of your breakup and/or date from hell and we will publish it and pay you ($100 for 500–2000 words).

E-mail story to dumped@sreader.com

Or mail to:
San Diego Reader/Date Box
85803
San Diego, CA 92186
Thirty Years Ago

A former alcoholic, Sister Winnie first immersed herself in rescue work 28 years ago when she took over the city’s oldest such haven (then 25 years old) and rechristened it God’s Extended Hand. She operated it on its original site, 441 Fifth Avenue, until escalating rent payments drove her last May to a large hall (at 429 Fifth Avenue), which she had been operating as a coffeehouse. Last month, however, fire regulations forced her out of it.

—CITY LIGHTS "MISSION IMPOSSIBLE," Jeannette DeWyze, March 30, 1978

Twenty-Five Years Ago

Forget those clean new six-plex cinemas with graffiti and littered with empty wine bottles. He’ll spend $160,000 to renovate the building inside and out, and if you give him a ten-year lease, he’ll even promise not to show a single X-rated film. (He did last this year at the Lower Fifth.)

—CITY LIGHTS "CHAIN OF MIRANDA," Paul Kruger, April 1, 1983

Fifteen Years Ago

Crips and Bloods are publicly promising a better-organized riot this time around. Rather than burning down the ghetto, their aim is to invade nearby Willshire District and Beverly Hills, spraying their semiautomatics at the classist, racist heads of well-heeled honkies. Cops that get in the way will be blown away, gang leaders boast.

—HALL, Adam Purfrey, April 1, 1993

Ten Years Ago

Mayor Susan Golding’s race for the United States Senate seat held by Barbara Boxer is over.

According to inside sources, Golding fund-raisers decided early in the campaign to target Chargers owner Alex Spanos and his associates to form the backbone of the Golding fund-raising machine. “It was hard to anybody to give money. They hoped and expected that Spanos would pave the way for the big money to come in.”

—CITY LIGHTS "GOLDING’S PAINTED MONEY," Matt Potter, April 2, 1998

Five Years Ago

Young men in the tailored insignia-less fatigues I’d come to associate with Lebanese Forces worked the corridor with the smooth precision of a well-drilled basketball team.

There were three fire teams of three men each and a squad leader. The squad leader stayed in the corridor, directing traffic. The fire teams leapfrogged from room to room. The first man tossed in a grenade and, right after the explosion, the other two went in side by side, one sweeping left, the other right, firing a long burst as they entered.

—CITY LIGHTS "DOOR-TO-DOOR DEATH," Jim Morris, March 27, 2003

PARKING LOT, 8199 Clairemont Drive, Wednesday-Sunday, 4-10 pm. Parking lot 10’ x 11’-5’. 1 pm-5 pm. Proprietor decorations on TV screens (See Kress, Women’s Fashion House), knick-knack pictures, accessories, 408th Tullis Prod., www.mtuber.com

NORTH PARK, Saturday 3/29, 7:30 am. Furniture, electronics, P150 mins, housewares, toys, clothing, handbags, books, magazines, women’s skirted gear, much more. 3093 Pacific Street, 2 mile.

OLD TOOL SWAP MEET, Free to spectators, Woodworking tools, machinary, hardware, more. Great bargains Sunday, 6-11:30 am. Room Woodworking, parking lot. 5198 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard

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San Diego Reader, March 31, 1988

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It's partly the empty chest of a lingering hangover, but at the end of weekends like this I feel like breaking down over the fact that five years from now I won’t remember anything except for vague narratives with the original feeling all but faded. I want so bad to write well when I describe these memories, not just for your benefit, but more to freeze these moments to the page as truly as I can before the color washes out. So I do the best that I can, apologize for the long-winded accounts and any pretense of writing ability, and detail everything that was able to hold on to my weary brain all the way to 12:15 on Sunday night. No small irony that the booze both amplifies the experience and shortens the half-life of its memory at the same time.

**POST DATE:** January 28, 2008  
**POST TITLE:** New Orleans Road Trip  
Tony woke up on New Year’s Day with the discovery that he had made a killing at the casino at the end of the night, quadrupling his $5 at the slots. He wouldn’t shut up about it.

After a very slow transition from pathetic lifeless mounds into animate human beings, the three of us wandered into daylight and ambled towards the restaurants of the French Quarter. For some reason, probably involving Maia, the host at one place was really nice to us and commandeered us a table immediately. Since everyone going to the Sugar Bowl had collectively decided to eat in the French Quarter at exactly the same time, the waits were at least an hour at any place with metal silverware. The added bonus for us was that this place (forgot the name — costly) had probably the second-best Bloody Marys I’ve had (the Liar’s Club being the best, of course. Although it may not be a fair comparison because when they put bacon-wrapped shrimp in there, it leaps above the “Bloody Mary” category, and basically transcends the idea of a “drink.”) Maia and I, feeling the pressure from wrap-around lines outside, rushed our menu decisions and ruined our first meal of the year. I should have started ‘08 with crawfish, the way Tony and I started ‘07 with grilled sheep’s heads. I think. It was a long time ago.

In the front of the Voodoo Museum sits the owner, a licensed voodooologist and a dude that you wouldn’t want to be your randomly assigned roommate at summer camp. We walked in as he was telling a story about how, during the Katrina riots, some carjackers were scared away by the giant python he likes to keep in his backseat. The game that night was...
POST DATE: March 12, 2007
POST TITLE: The Problem with Really Good Times

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FOR A LONG TIME, THE ONLY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD belonged to a swarm of wasps building a papery hive in the corner of an abandoned storefront. They were the only things fighting entropy here. Around the little nest, the block crumbled, bloomed with smashed bottles and flourished with more painted white initials of idiot children every day. Wasn’t long before a pack of kids smashed the nest and scattered the muddy paper in hunks across the sidewalk.

One day the shop was open. The sheets on the windows had been torn down. Inside, the little store was decorated in the fashion of a Viennese coffee shop.

“Baratoire!” the man said. “I love the fancy curlicues of baroque.”

He operated a complicated coffee machine as if he was flying a DC-10. “This is special coffee,” he said. “From Turkey, like me. Try some.”

On a shelf behind the counter he had set a sleek television. We leaned on marble, sipped our mugs, and I told him some people saw development of business in a neighborhood as bad. His place was decorated in the fashion of a Viennese coffee shop.

I told him about gentrification, higher rent, and property taxes, which his Turkish reasoning exhaustively refused, and he told me I was crazy.

On the news station we watched relief workers deliver humanitarian aid to refugees outside of Jerusalem. We chatted about the Ottoman Empire, which stretched from the Caspian Sea to Algiers and up almost into Poland and Austria. I told him about the wasps that built a nest that got knocked down.

One day the coffee shop was closed. All the windows but one were smashed and covered with plywood. I looked into the shop through the one good window and saw the empty shelf where the TV once sat, the space where the coffee machine was, and dirt clocks on the counter where the man used to lean. I crossed the street, jogging through traffic toward the orange-and-brown donut shop.

“Why wouldn’t people want nice shops?”

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WHAT I WILL AND WON’T WATCH THIS WEEK

Today we’re going to examine how my life measures up against boy Scout law. And there’s TV stuff. (Sometimes I don’t get it either; it’s weird.)

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

WALKER, TEXAS RANGER

USA 10:00 A.M.

“Trustworthy: a Scout tells the truth. He keeps his promises. Honesty is part of his code of conduct. People can depend on him.” Wow. Right out of the gate and I’m already suck’n hand tita. I hoped the boys and I would have something in common, something more than a flair for brightly colored neckwear. Let’s hope and continue.

X2: X-MEN UNITED

FRI 9:00 P.M.

“Loyal: a Scout is true to his family, Scout leaders, friends, school, and nation.” I’m not so sure about the Scout-leader bit. Not that I’m incapable of loyalty toward one, but I don’t think I know any. Although, I’m not positive about it because I know they wear regular clothes by day, but I’m fairly certain Scout leaders and I don’t go to the same parties. I’ll look around for one. There might be one in the shrubs by the mailbox.

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

MONK

USA 9:00 P.M.

“Helpful: a Scout is concerned about other people. He does things willingly for others without pay or reward.” Son of a bitch.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

SEASAME STREET

PBS 10:30 A.M.

“Courteous: a Scout is polite to everyone, regardless of age or position. He knows good manners make it easier for people to get along together.” Ah! Scene one for me. In fact, a friend and I developed the pamphlet “Drug Party Etiquette.” You know, marijuanacs goes to the left while powders are to be passed to the right. One
FRIENDS
CW 8:00 P.M.
"Friendly; a Scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other Scouts. He seeks to understand others. He respects those ideas with customs other than his own." Sure, this all looks good on paper, but it couldn’t possibly be interpreted as literal. "Friend to all"! There’s no man who lives behind a Dumpster in the liquor-store parking lot who tries to douse me with his cup of pee if I get too close. So, let’s define "all."

SUNDAY, MARCH 30
OPRAH’S BIG GIVE
ABC 9:00 P.M.
"Kind: a Scout understands there is strength in being gentle. He treats others as he wants to be treated. He does not hurt or kill harmless things without reason." Does anyone else find it odd they mentioned specifically killing harmless things in the "kind" law? You’d think killing harmless things would be the tip of the pyramid. Well, this one’s a wash. While I haven’t butchered any pigeons lately, I was curbst walking a barista yesterday. Maybe there’s an exception for immigrants and high school dropouts, of which she was both.

MONDAY, MARCH 31
BOXING
VS. 9:00 P.M.
"Obedient: a Scout follows the rules of his family, school, and troop. He obeys the laws of his community and country. If he thinks these rules and laws are unfair, he tries to have them changed in an orderly manner rather than disobey them." Right out. Obe- dent. I got your obedient.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1
JUST FOR LAUGHS
ABC 8:00 P.M.
“Cheerful: a Scout looks for the bright side of things. He cheerfully does tasks that cringe his way. Tip of the trials to make others happy.” Hey! Finally, something. I really am a chipper fellow — described quite often as a “happy drunk.” I’m almost a Scout. I can feel the glory of the sash and the glow of sun on my knees.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2
DEAL OR NO DEAL
NBC 8:00 P.M.
"Thrifty: a Scout works to pay his way and to help others. He saves for unknown needs. He protects and conserves natural resources. He carefully uses time and property." I wonder if ‘poor and lary’ and "lazy”

THURSDAY, APRIL 3
SURVIVOR: MICROnesia — FANS VS. FAVORITES
CBS 8:00 P.M.
"Clean: a Scout keeps his body and mind fit and clean. He goes around with those who believe in living by these same ideals. He helps keep his home and community clean."

Wouldn’t ‘scouting’ necessarily require a relaxed shower schedule? A defining property of “one who scouts” would be (I believe) an earthy, undecorated scent. Well, then, my friend the Scout, let us stand arm-in-arm, brother!

ATTENTION: Honda/Acura Owners
For those of you familiar with our automotive repair shop, you know to introduce ourselves. We are a family-owned and operated general auto repair business. Our goal is simple: provide top-quality service and honest auto repair. We have no interest in selling you something you don’t need. We simply believe in telling you like it is and tell you what you want done. Although our services range 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 over a decade of experience, including several years working as a shop 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 probably take this to heart when it comes to customers what he believes the problem is and how he would go about fixing it.

GreenLight Honda/Acura 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 attest to Jerry’s and our own integrity.

Jerry Battistone (Service Technician) also has many years of experience in the automotive business including audio and communications. Jerry 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 hit those mistakes! Instant fix. We do it right the FIRST time! Our standard is to our 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 e-mail us. See us and visit our website for available discount coupons.

San Diego Smog & Auto Repair Center
4644 Park Blvd. (at Adams Ave.) • 619-543-4828
HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Sat. 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
www.sandiegosmogandrepair.com

Transmission Flusher $295

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199 Park Avenue South & Monroe • 619-297-4282
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Savings of $200 on 3-year/30,000-mile Warranty

*Computer controls
(520 or RDD) $250 off
*Transmissions with overdrive $150 off
*Man & front-wheel drive $100 off

Brakes Labor Special $75 Off
*New Clutch $50 Off
Nordic Rush Labor Special $19 Off
*New Clutch $50 Off

Tune-Up Labor Special $50 Off
*Computer controls
(520 or RDD) $250 off
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Schedule an appointment now, call or visit one of our locations for more information.

Pay for this service and you will receive a $50 off coupon for a new clutch, a $75 off coupon for a tune-up or a $50 off coupon for a transmission tune-up. Give us a call for details.

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MITSUBISHI LANCER, 2005, 4-door, 6-speed, 125K miles, automatic, pearl white, gray interior, new tires, 3rd row, anti-theft, tilt, $10,500. 619-699-1066.


Olds Aurora, 1998, white, 4-door, mint condition, new tires, new brakes/calipers, automatic, very rare, 69,000 miles, $19,000. 619-699-1066.

Pontiac Grand Am SE, 2000, mint condition. All the trimmings, cruise, auto climate control, power windows, locks, mirrors, new tires, clean title, $2,500. 619-699-1066.


Volvo 1800 E, 1971, white, red leather, garaged, reconditioned, detailed, 2nd owner, excellent condition, $2,000. 619-699-1066.

Free Classifieds!


2003 Ford Ranger Supercab, 3.0 liter, 5-speed, automatic, clean title, $12,000. 661-312-6616.


1988 BMW M1, 3-door, fully loaded, air conditioning. New tires, cargo net, all service records. 997-8275.


1994 4x4 Toyota 4Runner, excellent condition, $5,500. 661-770-2424.

1997 SportTrac, 5-speed, clean title, new registration, new Michelins, charcoal leather, fully loaded, fully detailed. 858-692-1804.


2001 Honda Civic, 6-speed, automatic, 66K miles, pearl white, gray interior, clean title, $4,000. 619-808-8949.

2003 Toyota Prius, 54K miles, automatic, great condition. $6,500. 619-988-5024.

2002 BMW M3, 135K miles, black, fully loaded, meticulous owner, high performance car. 858-742-6599.

2004 BMW 325xi, 6-speed, automatic, 60K miles, black, Mint condition, $17,000. 760-751-4525.


Jaguar XK8, 2002, fully loaded, automatic, new brakes, new tires, $8,000. 619-306-8177.

Jeep Grand Cherokee, 1999, black, automatic, 4-door, loaded, new tires, new registration, new brakes, $6,000. 619-306-8177.


Land Rover Discovery, 2002, 3rd row, loaded, all the trimmings, cruise, air conditioning. Low miles, new tires, $17,000. 760-751-4525.


Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution VIII RS, 2005, 340R, 4700 miles, fully loaded, all the trimmings, mint condition. New tires. $25,000. 619-988-5024.


I was astounded at the cavalcade of raunch presented on Friday-night television.

By John Brizzolara

There is no way around it, not for several more weeks; I can’t get out, cruising on crusties to look into neat stuff to do on Fridays or weekends. I am reducied to poring over listings online and in newspapers. Or, I can write about my personal and current existential dilemma. A surprising number of readers seem to be okay with that and I presume the appeal is it ain’t me, bubba.

Let’s have a look-see. Bad Religion is playing (has played) Friday night at House of Blues. On Monday night the New York Dolls will be performing at the Key V. God knows why. They must have fans, all of whom couldn’t possibly have lived in New York City in the 1970s. For about 40 years in the ’70s, the Dolls were on Manhattan public access TV (it seemed like 24 hours a day); you couldn’t have missed them. Everyone in my band — actually everyone in my building (a population the size of Coronado) agreed, Lipstick Punk was doomed. They sucked. I didn’t know they were back together (two of them, anyway, the rest victims of spontaneous combustion and leukemia.) I can only assume this is because the film career of Buster Bondeson (David Johansen) went down the plug. But this, by the time you’re reading this, is history.

My other option, as mentioned, is to describe my Friday, yesterday, albeit one three weeks in the past now.

I actually had an early dinner at T.G.I. Friday’s, an unremarkable experience, I’m afraid. It involved a tough, $16 steak lathered in Jack Daniel’s sauce, T.G.I. Friday’s, an unremarkable experience, I’m afraid. I was there because it was one three weeks in the past now.

Frida night I read as I tried to stay awake long enough to watch a rerun of House. Eleven p.m. is officially past Old Guy Bed Time, and on pain meds it’s even later. House himself would be long passed out. I didn’t make it; but meanwhile I flipped the remote around cable channels — a novelty for me — and was momentarily inspired. Looking back and forth from the television to the stack of medical bills, I thought, I know, I’ll pitch the idea of writing a television column in my box. It’s been a few years since I did any TV coverage and there is now available stuff on the box. I could write an additional column on tube watching and start paying off these bills. It wasn’t long before I realized this was another of my bad ideas, wide-eyed and dumb. Just because I had watched almost no television in recent years did not make this a novelty for everyone else. I had no idea who these actors, actresses, American Idol contestants, or talk-show hosts were. I had no idea what TMZ meant even after watching that same titled show slick-jacked for 40 minutes.

I was astounded — and I think that’s the word — at the cavalcade of raunch presented on Friday-night television. On the heels of that thought was a wave of depression as I realized I had taken on the most prudish aspects of my father. He once wrote to a Chicago television station protesting the gyrating thighs of dance presented on Friday-night television. On the heels of that thought was a wave of depression as I realized I had taken on the most prudish aspects of my father. He once wrote to a Chicago television station protesting the gyrating thighs of dancers on a show called Hollywood to Go. Shortly after writing that letter the show was canceled, and Dad claimed credit.

Coverage of spring break around the country with loving camera work closed up on writhing, gyrating, thrusting, and nudeable athletic bodies, their taut flesh glistening with perspiration as they undulated against each other’s perfect abdomens, hips, and loins, was deeply disturbing. Music videos, even on CMT (that’s the country-music channel), seemed to mirror this rampant lust. A show called Soup seemed to focus only on the sexual activities of celebrities I’d never heard of, but they were all young and beautiful even if their career descriptions were hazy.

I was frankly,aghast that television executives would allow this stuff on the air for young people to happen across at a wholesome pajama party on a weekend night. Then I realized that this stuff was deliberately directed toward the same demographic that was videotaped and filmed; that is, those in their 20s or younger who wanted to be one of them...or, of course, those older and lecherous. Have they nothing better to do than watch themselves, Narcissus-like, on weekend nights on the tube?

I thought I might be sick. I will fire off an angry email immediately, but to whom? The young? The networks? I will start with everyone I know in their 20s, but that’s about only four people. It occurred to me that I actually know more people in the television industry than I do people in their 20s. We will naturally give more thought and I trust you will do the same.

Meanwhile, may your Fridays and weekends be more eventful than mine lately. If you want them that way.

If you want them that way.

 physics, math, art. The one thing I do have in my favor is my experience in the television industry. I have worked as a writer-producer on two different television shows (that’s the country-music channel), seemed to mirror this rampant lust. A show called Soup seemed to focus only on the sexual activities of celebrities I’d never heard of, but they were all young and beautiful even if their career descriptions were hazy.

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