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Bloodsuckers

By Don Bauder

San Diego is on the financial brink. So is Chula Vista. But the pro football team known as the San Diego Vampires — er, San Diego Chargers — creeps about the county, plotting how to suck money out of drained corpses. One idea is for the City of San Diego to give the team a slug of expensive land on which it would build houses and offices, raking in money so that it could build a stadium in Chula Vista, which no doubt would have to sacrifice some red bodily fluid too.

To understand this greed- and deceit-infested pro sports environment, San Diegans should read the revised and expanded edition of the book Field of Schemes: How the Great Stadium Swindle Turns Public Money into Private Profit, by Neil deMause and Joanna Cagan. The first edition came out ten years ago. That’s when pro sports teams were suck- ing $1 billion a year out of all local and state government sources for the big South Bay development company that built the conference to support community lending efforts,” he said in a written statement.

City’s financial clout to support community deposit will continue my effort to utilize the deposit at Neighborhood National Bank.” This is getting hard to tell who is financing whom in the increasingly competitive races for San Diego city council and city attorney. As the jousting intensifies, so does the cost of campaigning, but not all of the money is showing up on financial disclosure reports filed by the candidates at city hall. Instead, of the high-dollar campaigning is being done by ostensibly “independent committees” and political parties, which aren’t bound by the City’s ban on corporate contributions. Making things even less transparent, campaign cash can be given to one campaign committee and transferred to another, then another and another, ad infinitum, thereby further obscuring the source of the funds. This is handy for developers, city vendors, and other special interests seeking to back a favored candidate without disclosing the potentially embarrassing support.

Currently the most prominent example of the practice is the county Republican Central Committee. While city council races are officially nonpartisan, in recent years both Democrats and Republicans have been making endorsements in each district, allowing them to use a loophole in state law to “communicate” with party members who provide their preference when they sign up to vote. The so-called communication can range from doing polls to sending out hit pieces. From January 1 through March 17, the local GOP spent a total of $107,400, of which $23,500 went to efforts back- ing Seventh District candidate April Boling, the party’s endorsed candidate who also serves as the GOP’s treasurer. Another $23,000 was spent on behalf of Jan Goldsmith, running against Mike Aguirre for city attorney.

During the same period, the Republicans took in $173,500. Fifty-one thousand dollars came from the San Diego Lodging Industry (PAC), the party’s largest single donor; another $42,500 came from the San Diego Restaurant & Beverage PAC, the second-biggest contributor. Boling also happens to be the treasurer of both of those committees. The biggest donors to the hotel group were Barritt Hotels ($22,835) and the Bahia Resort Hotel ($11,985), owned by La Jolla’s Evans family, which leases lucrative Mission Bay and Torrey Pines land from the City.

The book shows how, in the early days of the Chargers’ former notorious 60,000-seat ticket guarantee, the team would make more money not selling tickets than selling them. The book discusses how the late Joan Kroc wanted to give the Padres to the City but Major League Baseball nixed the deal because such an arrangement would open up “the heavily guarded major league financial books to public scrutiny.”

Then there is the story of continued on page 6

Neal Obermeyer

April Boling

S aiteweb, FieldsofSchemes.com, that tracks the various ballpark, stadium, and arena scams being perpetrated around the nation. For example, the book reports that the attempt to move the New Jersey Nets bask- ketball team to Brooklyn is moving forward (if corruptly). The website has just revealed that Brooklyn’s crumbling economy may delay the project for years.

Not surprisingly, San Diego flounders is a major focus of the book’s new edition. In a discussion of how owners threaten to move teams if they don’t get their manna, Larry Lucchino, then partner of majority Padres owner John Moores, complained that he was not get- ting his way. Lucchino warned, “The question of relocation [would] have to be addressed.”

The book's new edition came out April 1 from the University of Nebraska Press. It is 389 pages; the old edition was 226. The revised edition’s coverage runs to year-end 2006, but deMause has a website, FieldsofSchemes.com, that tracks the various ballpark, stadium, and arena scams being perpetrated around the nation. For example, the book reports that the attempt to move the New Jersey Nets bas-

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Paddle Battles

By Joe Deegan

If the worst that could befall sidewalk diners were a swinging kayak paddle whacking margaritas off their table, they’d be lucky. It would be irksome nonetheless. And that is one reason pressure is mounting in La Jolla Shores these days to bring the kayak-rental business under a bit more control. Most of the paddles are obtained from five kayak-rental outlets on Avenida de la Playa. The companies truck the kayaks to a boat launch on the beach. People who rent the kayaks, often in wet suits, then walk seaward along the avenue, carrying their paddles and trying to maintain them upright. The paddles are usually longer than their bearers are tall. In the kayakers’ balancing acts, which must navigate the tables of several restaurants, overhanging awnings, and heavy foot traffic, the paddles sometimes hit visitors as well as stiff drinks. Restaurant owners aren’t the ones complaining. The kayakers bestow on them a land-office business, especially in summertime. Local residents, however, are experiencing congestion problems, from increased traffic and losses of neighborhood parking to more crime and trash in the community’s Kellogg Park. The main voice for area residents is a neighborhood advisory council called the La Jolla Shores Association.

Sharon Luscomb is an association boardmember. Her husband Michael owns La Jolla Kayak, one of the oldest kayak-rental businesses on Avenida de la Playa. “Kayaking is a popular and growing business,” says Sharon Luscomb. “San Diego has made the top ten travel destinations in the country, and kayaking has been called one of the top five things to do in town.” But with it come the neighborhood problems. So despite being nervous about what the future may bring, Luscomb accepts a recent decision by the City of San Diego to put kayak-rental concessions out to bid. The move, whose specific provisions have yet to be determined, would probably reduce the number of operators in La Jolla Shores from ten current license holders to four.

The goal, in Luscomb’s view, is to better regulate and organize the industry to help address local residents’ concerns. Not so fast, says Rod Watkins, owner of Scuba San Diego. Besides renting kayaks and teaching scuba diving, Watkins leads tours of the La Jolla Underwater Park and its ecological reserve. He is one of five businesses that have licenses to rent kayaks in La Jolla Shores but do not have storefronts there. From their headquarters elsewhere, they bring kayaks to their customers at the Avenida de la Playa boat launch. Watkins operates out of the Mission Bay Hilton, where he also leads recreational activities for guests. He has been taking people to the La Jolla Shores boat launch for 40 years. It is the only ocean launch between San Diego Bay and Del Mar, he tells me.

On a public beach, there should be no concessions, according to Watkins. Watkins’s hackles first went up in 2006, when the City said it would raise the fee for his business permit from $500 a year to $500 a month. That amounts to an 1100 percent yearly increase. Watkins suspected there would be further trouble after the Park and Recreation Department’s John Hudkins gathered all ten of the operators in January 2007 to plan a way to cooperate. Hudkins, who is about to retire and did not return phone calls, is head of the department’s Coastal Parks Division.

Watkins tells me that Hudkins wanted the group “to form a launch schedule down here.” We are standing next to the beach, at the entrance to the boat launch, and Watkins is calling my attention to a small pickup truck coming off the sand with a load of stacked kayaks. “That bigger one near the water is mine,” he says. “It’s a 14-foot box truck. I use it to bring both the kayaks and the paddles down here.”

“Well, several of the operators were constantly having serious accidents,” Watkins continues, “and the lifeguards were getting fed up with them. So Hudkins tried to get us to agree to the schedule. We laid out all the times during the day — it only applied to summer — and people put their names in a hat and drew out their launch time. Everybody agreed to all those launch times, and Hudkins was saying, ‘Great, you guys avoided us having to go to [requests for proposals].’ If he couldn’t get an agreement, the park department was going to throw up their hands and say, ‘Screw it, we’re now going to give this to the City to handle.’ That was about a year ago.

“At the beginning of this year, I went to Brazil, came back, and everything was in the toilet. Two of the operators went crying to [city councilman] Scott Peters. They said they couldn’t live with the schedules, and the park department did this and that, whatever. Peters didn’t know what to do and couldn’t give them any firm answers. From there, they went crying to the mayor’s office,” says Watkins. “Suddenly the city council and the mayor became aware of the millions of dollars being done down here in the kayak business. Before, there was no attention on this. Nobody in city hall cared, except that they’re now close to being bankrupt, and they want to use these illegal revenue-raising schemes to help pay the city debt. So those operators shot themselves in the foot, really.”

While Watkins was in Brazil, he asked his friend Dick Henderson, a retired San Diego attorney, to attend a January 9 meeting in Balboa Park. Henderson first was puzzled about why the meeting had been called by the City’s Real Estate Assets Department. The meeting, according to Henderson, started out as a “spit-and-growl session” for La Jolla Shores residents over kayaking. Eventually the discussion got around to the request for proposals. Henderson says he asked the meeting leaders what authority the City could put the kayak-renting business in La Jolla Shores out to bid. Already he wondered why the operators’ license fees had gone up so precipitously.

Later, Henderson looked further into the kayak operators’ situation. He subsequently wrote to the City: “You may consider this letter as a demand for return of the continued on page 10
Bloodsuckers
continued from page 6

how the Padres rented talent in 1998, the year the City voted on the giveaway and the Padres went to the World Series. When the vote came, giddiness was ubiquitous. The book quotes Padres icon Tim Flannery saying as the vote neared, “You don’t want to be, five years from now, watching players that were once Padres playing in a different city and you say, ‘Golly, I didn’t know that was going to happen.’” However, as skeptics had predicted, not long after the Padres won the vote, stars such as Ken Caminiti, Kevin Brown, Steve Finley, and Greg Vaughn were gone. For the next five seasons, the team stank. The book probes the dubious deal that gave Moores 26 blocks of downtown real estate at extremely low prices. “There’s no doubt that the new district will be a good one for John Moores and friends. By committing to aid in downtown redevelopment, Moores effectively gave himself and his colleagues first dibs on prime land,” say the authors. They quote the Reader’s revelation that a Moores-controlled company “purchased a half-block piece of property near the stadium site the day after the successful referendum vote.”

New chapters in the revised Field of Schemes cover financial machinations that steer public money into private pockets, such as tax increment financing and payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs), by which New York developers would be exempt from property taxes, then pay fees to a so-called infrastructure corporation. The latter scheme was an effort to do a deal without going through the state legislature.

The book exposes the biased coverage of mainstream media, which slant stadium-subsidy news because they stand to gain financially from new facilities. In the mid-1990s, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers were seeking a stadium handout. The managing editor of the Tampa Tribune told the staff, “[The paper’s] coverage of the stadium [would] be limited to finding solutions for it to be built.” The book also shows how in votes around the country, proponents outspend opponents by 100 to 1 or more. The 100-to-1 ratio was what the Padres enjoyed.

If you have ever wondered how a seemingly doltish Allan H. (Bud) Selig became commissioner of Major League Baseball, this book will clarify the matter. Selig was owner of the Milwaukee Brewers baseball team. He promised that he would build a stadium with his own money if Greater Milwaukee officials would move a highway at a cost of $6 million. Five years later, Selig went to the then governor, Tommy Thompson, seeking financial help. Remember, this was the Tommy Thompson who made a national reputation for slashing social welfare—but not corporate welfare. The voters overwhelmingly nixed Thompson’s plan for a lottery to pay for the stadium. In a deft and deceitful move, Thompson got the state legislature to boost the sales tax in the five counties surrounding Milwaukee. Selig would still have to put in some money, but in further fancy footwork, he got out of that obligation too. Selig got “his new ballpark virtually as a gift from the people of Wisconsin, just ten years after promising to build one himself,” says the book. And Tommy Thompson! He tried to run for president on the Republican ticket this year. Mercifully, the so-called welfare reformer didn’t make it.

Selig, after being named head of pro baseball, did just what team owners paid him to do: he suckered money out of a city that had pathetically run-down schools and inadequate services and infrastructure. It was Washington, D.C. The book devotes a chapter to this larceny. When the former Montreal Expos ran into trouble, Selig arranged to have Major League Baseball take over the team’s ownership. Then he launched what the book calls “the Extortion Tour.” Selig solicited subsidies from Portland, Oregon; Las Vegas; San Antonio; northern Virginia; San Juan, Puerto Rico; and Monterrey, Mexico. The most promising place for a fleece job seemed to be the nation’s capital, despite its poverty.

Although according to polls two-thirds of the citizens opposed taxpayers subsidizing a new stadium, Major League Baseball insisted on it. The public’s portion of the cost kept rising as politicians haggled. One political said that Major League Baseball should at least pay a third of the cost. Pro sports mogul Jerry Reinsdorf, negotiating on behalf of all the owners, made this classic comment “Two-thirds/one-third is fine. But three-thirds/no-thirds is more what we had in mind.”

And that’s about what it wound up being. The citizens of Washington, D.C., shelled out $667 million, and baseball owners put up almost nothing. Selig had pulled the scam in a second needy city. And Washington got a lousy team — just what it used to have year after year before the original Washington Senators continued on page 10

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Blood-suckers
continued from page 8

Paddle battles
continued from page 7


excess kayak user charges paid by Mr. Watkins." In the letter, dated March 10, Henderson argued that "the present fee process is an illegal revenue raising tax." It is beginning to resemble another request for proposals, he continued, that the City put out several years ago for four surf-camp operations on the beach north of Kellogg Park in La Jolla Shores. The camps' purpose is to teach people how to enjoy surfing safely.

In that evolution, a number of existing surf-camp operators went out of business or had to move to other locations where the City was putting out similar requests for proposals. "We reviewed the [San Diego] City Manager's report dated November 23, 2003 and learned that the...concessions [for] surf instruction camps on city beaches are projected to provide a significant and growing income stream in which the City is guaranteed $100,000 in fiscal year 2006 and $125,000 in...2007. This can not be anything but revenue raising.

The city manager's report also showed how the City's profits are achieved. The surf camps are charged a yearly fee of $7500 plus 10 percent of the operators' gross revenues. In 2005, the camps cost the City $30,902 from the general fund, mainly for life-guard services. But the revenues from the concessions were $121,712, leaving a profit of $90,810.

It's as though the City were charging rents for the public beach, which is owned by the state and comes under the jurisdiction of the California Coastal Commission. And Henderson claims that it is illegal for a municipality, even a charter city, such as San Diego, to charge companies more in fees than their businesses cost the City. "If they do, it's a tax, pure and simple," says Henderson.

"And here's our city council president, Scott Peters, running for city attorney. He's supposed to know the law. If he wins, will he just rubber-stamp whatever kind of scheme the City comes up with?"

If the bidding process for kayaking concessions follows the surf-camp model, several currently licensed operators could go out of business. That would probably give the storefront businesses in La Jolla Shores a monopoly over kayak renting, according to Henderson. For that reason, the former attorney suspects the storefront owners of encouraging the City to take control of kayaking activities on the boat launch at the foot of Avenida de la Playa.

But, noting Henderson, pleasure boaters, fishermen, and noncommercial kayakers also use the boat launch without paying fees. None of the users goes onto land owned by the City.

"And what services at the La Jolla boat launch," asks Henderson, "are the new city fees paying for, anyway? Of course, the City could just admit they're assessing a tax. But Proposition 218 requires a vote of the people for that."

The King's Criminal of the Week:

According to WBBM in Chicago, a robber left his phone number at the scene of the crime. At a muffler shop, the robber demanded money from the safe, but the clerk told him only the manager could open it. So the robber decided to leave his phone number with the clerk and told him to give it to his manager when he showed up. Officers called him and the suspect returned to the store waving a gun around and an officer shot him in the leg.

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George “King” Stahlman

Courtesy of DumbCriminals.com
“If the request for proposals goes through, I could go out of business,” says Rod Watkins, who does not object to legal and reasonable city licensing fees. He says he must fight what the City is up to but wants to cooperate with the other owners. The group of operators now doing business could use more cooperation, for instance, to take those dangerous paddles down to the beach for customers to pick up there. The operators could also oppose the City, according to Watkins. “But some of them are out there fighting each other for every last dollar,” he says.

John Metzger, owner of OEX Dive and Kayak Centers, thinks the City’s action is a way of weeding out some of the businesses that don’t care about the quality of life in La Jolla Shores. “Nobody’s forbidden from doing business in La Jolla Shores,” he says. “But they have to have a city permit, operate safely, and respect local residents.”

The La Jolla Shores Association’s Sharon Luscomb wonders what will happen to the monies the City might someday raise from the concessions. She hopes that all of them don’t go into the general fund. The minutes of the association’s October meeting put her view succinctly. “A member suggested that the organization “should be proactive with the City to make sure that the revenues generated from kayak permits, surfing, scuba, etc., should come back to the local area.” A motion to that effect passed.

But some of the current kayak operators could still lose their businesses, right? Several plans are being discussed. In a controversial approach, a currently licensed operator who does not get one of the four concessions could be allowed to piggyback on another’s permit.

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We welcome letters pertaining to the contents of the Reader. Phone them in at 619-235-3000, ext. 466; 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.

Three Lost Virtues
What an illuminating article about lost arts that may not be completely lost. Thank you, again, Reader, ("Chivalry Is Not Dead," Cover Story, March 27). I’d like to add a few more to your list. Number one, line drying clothes. My husband and I use the local Laundromat to wash clothes, and then we hang them on clotheslines in our back yard in the sun. The smell of freshly sun-dried towels and sheets is like no other. It amazes me that with all the talk of global warming, we still seek out high-tech solutions rather than looking to the past for simpler, more economical answers to saving energy. I’d like to note that I’ve not seen one other family in Normal Heights that line dries clothes like we do. The process itself can be a very Zen-like task, definitely not disagreeable.

Number two lost art would be pen pals, and I don’t mean email pals. It’s not the same! For years I’ve corresponded with four or five people from around the country, most of whom I haven’t met in person but who have become very good friends. Email could never compete with the sound of a letter dropping into the mailbox. There’s the lag time in conversation by mail, which can only breed patience, a quality so sorely needed nowadays. Often a very personal letter will be accompanied by photos, postcards, stamps, or other treasures. To hand-write a letter is to slow down in practice patience.

Three. Another lost art, a landline telephone and answering machine. Yes, these are now almost lost items due to the new high-tech cockroaches, the cell phone. I have no cell phone because (1) I despise them, and (2) I simply don’t need one. And how many people really do? Any message I can retrieve within hours on my trusty answering machine, purchased for $20 at Radio Shack about five years ago. My whole low-tech setup costs me $5 a month for the phone with AT&T. I can actually enjoy a walk in my own neighborhood without a machine glued to my ear.

Thanks for everything, Reader.

Phyllis Hordin
Normal Heights

Eco-Mindless
Barbarella’s story about trying to fish at La Jolla Shores made me sad ("Shore Stop," "Diary of a Diva," March 27). The area is an ecological reserve. Her friend with the fishing license needs to learn more about his city and do his part to protect our amazing natural resources. But Barbarella just shrugs and pretends it’s just another funny little story to share with us. Please read some more about the tragic state of the fish in our oceans, starting with the Center for Marine Biodiversity and Conservation cmrb.ucsd.edu/Ocean_News_Room/Commentary/sea_bass.

Carrie Schneider via email

Matt! Hey, Matt!
Wondering about Matthew Alice. Has he moved on? Is there a reading on this? Can we find out?

Becker
U.S. Navy, Ret.

Matthew Alice returns today. — Editor

Too Much Information
I just got a chance to read "The Rocket Pop Street Artist." (Cover Story, March 20). I’d like to say, insanely irresponsible of you to print something like this, telling people how to deface our city that you live in. For this guy to go on and put this crap up that he considers art, that just defaces other people’s property and is a blight and costs us money to remove — totally irresponsible. How would you feel if all he wanted to do was put it on Reader boxes?

Even though I agree with the stuff that he says about public art — some of it’s crap — a lot of it gets turned over. Like the things that are down by the airport, those big stupid rings, was before a big stupid ship thing. But somebody paid for it, somebody did it, and it comes up, comes down, and it’s approved by the City, and it’s not vandalism. The guy knows it’s wrong; it’s against the law. For you to print the recipe on the paste makes me feel like making up a bunch of posters and just putting them all over the stupid Reader boxes that you bolt illegally all over the sidewalks of our city. Talk about defacement, that’s a bunch of ***, and I’m sick of it. Maybe I’ll start making my own posters and start putting them all over your boxes.

Name Withheld

The Reader has paid permits with the City of San Diego for all of its street racks.

— Editor

Just Pretty Pictures
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— Reader
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Heymatt:
I have a food question that has been giving me indigestion lately. My girlfriend is on this raw-food kick. She says cooking takes all the nutrients out of things but raw you get all the vitamin goodness. Luckily we don’t eat much meat. But she does cook meat, anyway. I don’t really have a good argument against her, as much as I would like to come up with one. How much raw zucchini can one guy eat? That’s not my question. My question(s) really is (are), is she right about the nutrients thing, and how did people start cooking food, anyway? It seems to me that if it didn’t benefit us, mankind would have stopped cooking things a long time ago. But what do I know? Maybe I just haven’t eaten enough raw kale to be able to figure out the answer(s).

— Leafy Green, San Diego

Grandma tried this trick on us about ten years ago. But she found out that certain cubed raw vegetables fit nicely in a slingshot and really hurt when you get one in the eye. The elves were having none of it, and after a week or so she gave up and went back to boiling the life out of everything. So I imagine girlfriend uses the same tired arguments Grandma did, about the good digestive enzymes and full nutrients released from raw foods. How you’ll have brighter eyes and a shinier coat after a month of celery sticks and cashews. That animals don’t suffer the degenerative diseases humans do because they can’t manipulate sauté pans or pressure cookers. Well, science doesn’t much back up that foolishness, since animals do suffer arthritis and other age-related diseases. The enzyme business is bogus. And given the mouth and digestive tract of humans, we’re not equipped to get full nutrient value from a raw beet.

If you believe the most extreme archaeological guesses, man in some form has been applying fire to food for hundreds of thousands of years. By “man” they mean homo erectus, a failed spur line off the main track of modern-human development. The best guess is that “cooking” was discovered by some strange accident, not by intent. But who knows. Maybe an ancestor of Wolfgang Puck was tinkering around in his cave and hit on the idea. Meat on a stick was probably the first meal on the ancient menu. Why did it catch on? Well, the food was warm, and it was definitely easier to chew. It might have tasted better, too, if survival-oriented erectuses had finely tuned palates. This probably encouraged people to continue firing their dinners. There’s some evidence that later, grains and seeds were wrapped in leaves and steamed, a Paleolithic tamale. Another bit of anthropological wisdom is that the muscles and bones of modern man’s jaw have evolved away from raw-food eating and toward a situation where cooking is obligatory.

As for getting all the nutrients from your food, particularly fruits and vegetables, all the good vitamins and minerals are locked inside tough, indigestible (by us) fibers of cellulose. To release them for use by the body takes chewing them to a liquid or cooking. Proper mastication could make dinnertime endless. Vegetarian animals have teeth and stomachs equipped to break down cellulose. The tenderizing effects of heat on vegetation might also have encouraged early man to keep on cooking’ since it widened the number of potential food sources. Things too tough to eat were made palatable by cooking. It can even detoxify some plants. So we’ve given you all the reasonable arguments in favor of steaming that zucchini, blanching that broccoli, simmering that squash, but until girlfriend gets tired of crunching her way through dinner, it probably won’t do you much good. Unless you want to adopt the elves’ cauliflower-in-a-slingshot approach.

Matt:
If Amazons were Greek, how did a river in South America get named “Amazon”?

— Jason H., San Diego

True, the women warriors called Amazons originated in Greek mythology. And Greek mythology would have been familiar to certain Europeans of the 1500s. So when Spaniard Francisco de Orellana hooked up with conquistadors sailing for the New World and set out to explore the Amazon basin and in the process encountered native female warriors, naming the river was easy. He was modest enough not to name it the Orellana River and name it for his conquistador buddies. He named it Amazon after the Greek matriarchy. The name may have originated as a pure guess, but it fit the mythological description so well that it stuck.

Matthew Alice:
My friend says he farts more when he goes skiing in Colorado. Huh?

— Don’t Believe It, via email

Your friend is exquisitely sensitive to his bodily functions, I think. But he also might be right. If the space program has brought us no other benefit, we have learned from it that intestinal gas expands at altitude (lower air pressure). At 15,000 feet, the volume doubles, so I can see how your friend could be tooting down the slopes. This might be enhanced by all the exercise toning up his digestion and making things move faster than usual. Always ski in front of him.
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Baseball Preview Edition

The ghost of Barry Bonds walks the parapets over AT&T Park.

By Patrick Daugherty

The Box, seeking a measured tone, likes to have opening-day jitters out of the way before offering season predictions. All right then, listen up. One team. One thing. Possibly two things. No more than five things.

AL EAST. Tampa Bay Rays. Payroll is $42 million, about 20 percent of what the Yankees spend. Some people ask why anyone would expect the Rays to finish above .500 for the first time in their miserable ten-year existence. I am one of those people.

The Rays’ ATP (average ticket price) is $17.23. (Amounts are from Team Marketing Report and are misleading, but then again, what else are the media good for? Figures should reflect median ticket price.) Outlook: futile.


Boston Red Sox. Fledging dynasty, won two World Series in the past four years. Highest ticket prices in baseball, ATP is $48.80. Parking is $30 to $40. Outlook: whatever the market will bear.

New York Yankees. ATP $36.58. The Dark Star. In the past 12 years the Yankees won four World Series titles, six AL pennants, ten division championships, and they still can’t get a free ride for their new 1.3-billion-dollar stadium. Taxpayers shelled out a paltry $425 million. Outlook: first place.

Oakland Athletics. ATP $29.20. We’re going to see how good Billy Beane actually is. Outlook: either very good or very bad.

Texas Rangers. ATP $18.01. Outlook: Republic.

NL WEST. Arizona. Let’s give it up for the Diamondbacks, who have the lowest ATP in the major leagues at $15.96. What the hell is going on over there? The D’backs have been enabling Billy Beane, trading six prospects to Oakland for right-hander Dan Haren. They got relever Chad Qualls from Houston. So, they’ll have pitching. The rest is pretty good. Outlook: higher ticket prices.

Los Angeles Dodgers. ATP $29.66. We’ll find out how bad Joe Torre actually is. Outlook: profitable.


San Francisco. ATP $22.06. The ghost of Barry Bonds walks the parapets over AT&T Park. Outlook: gloomy.

San Diego Padres. ATP $27.43. The memory of last year’s collapse, the 14th-inning loss to Colorado lingers. So what, let’s go drinking at Petco Park! Only 57 bucks for a six-pack of premium beer. Outlook: sober.
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**BestBuys**

My jewelry box bears within it the booty of 25 years’ worth of self-adornment, and when I stopped to think about it, I realized that I don’t wear about three-quarters of the stuff.

Sure, my big-ship gold earrings from the ’80s are making a comeback, but the snake-link chains and bracelets haven’t seen the light of day in years. “But it’s gold and silver!” cries the little voice. “You can’t just get rid of it!”

Yes, I can. Simon Mattar, owner of Rock-n-Gold Creations Fine Jewelry Design Center in Clairemont Mesa (858-571-4560; rockngold.com) offered to recycle the lot of it. “Customers come in with stuff they’ve accumulated over the years,” said Mattar. “We take gold, platinum, silver flatware, watches, any miscellaneous precious items. Chains — some of them broken — rings, etc. Most of the time, if the rings have gems in them from the lower-end market, the gems aren’t worth anything. But the gold and silver are.

The prices fluctuate, but the price of gold today is $10 a gram for 14-carat, and $11.50 a gram for 18-carat. ‘Carat’ refers to the percentage of pure gold content. For example, 14-carat gold is 58% gold and the rest alloy, while 18-carat gold is 75% gold and the rest alloy. Alloys give the gold some hardness, or maybe some color. Rose gold will have a bit more copper in it."

In most cases, Mattar’s policy is “just weigh and pay. We use an acid test to find out how pure the gold is. We’ll scratch the piece on a stone so that it leaves a little gold. Then we use bottles of acid — we have acids for 14-, 18-, and 24-carat gold, and also platinum. If the acid fries or bubbles green, we know it’s fake gold. If we use 18-carat acid and the gold disappears, then we know it’s not 18-carat gold. If it doesn’t disappear, we know it’s 18-carat. We’ll sort out the pieces, weigh and pay, and ship them off to a refinery, one with environmentally safe procedures. They’ll melt it in a high-heat furnace to remove the impurities; that’s how they separate out the alloys so that they wind up with pure, 24-carat gold."

If a piece destined for the refinery has stones in it, “it goes into an acid bath that melts the gold away from the stones before it’s refined. If they’re commercial grade, they’re crushed and disposed of. But there are buyers for almost everything — some of the stones may go back on the market. Some things, they’ll sell them off for pennies to a broker, and they’ll go back on the market. Diamonds don’t wear; if they’re not chipped or broken, you can’t tell it’s being re-used except by the cut of the stone.”

Even an unusable diamond will “most likely go to the tool market.”

Instead of getting cash, the customer may opt to put the money toward a new piece of custom jewelry. “If they have a piece of family jewelry that they don’t like, or one that’s outdated, we can re-create a design for it. We can re-use the stones, and if they really want it, we can reuse the gold. We’ll clean it, heat it, and re-cast it. Though in that case, I can’t guarantee the recasting. If we’re melting different pieces, the different alloys could react to one another. For quality control, I recommend using all-new gold.”

Mattar is also happy to design a one-of-a-kind piece from scratch — he calls them his “Cool as Ever” creations. “I won’t design the same ring or piece twice. I create something special for each customer.” He laid out a sample case. “I had a customer come in who wanted a horse pendant. She brought me a picture of the style she liked. I took that and re-created it, made a counter sketch to get an idea of what she wanted. After that, I’ll make a three-dimensional layout or a hand-carved 3-D model out of wax. I put the stones in to make sure they fit and make necessary adjustments. Finally, the piece is cast and assembled.”

“Cool as Ever” pieces aren’t cheap. Prices vary depending on size and material, but Mattar told me “the lowest-priced one I’ve ever done was $8000. What sets us apart is that we design and manufacture the jewelry onsite. We can focus on the quality straight across the board. All the stones we use are collection-good — basically, the best you can get. We go beyond most jewelers in that we cast pieces separately in order to get a high polish on every piece. That way, there’s a shine on the inner surface where the diamonds are going — we pay attention to that sort of detail. Then we solder or laser weld to connect it throughout. The benefit of the laser is that it gives you a stronger bond, and you don’t have a seam.”

Before I left, Mattar displayed for me one of his upper-end “Cool as Ever” creations: a European-style ring — diamond detailed with rubies and other stones — containing 42 grams of platinum. “Today,” he said, “it’s worth $32,000.”

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I had a cold, wet, numb butt; it was nice because I was getting hot.

— Heather, Barbarella’s sister

Our absurd attempt to produce fire in the wood stove long abandoned, David and I lounged on the couch, sipping Evolution #9 from our wine glasses while basking in the warmth of the portable radiator we’d dragged from the bedroom. The thin air in our rental condo (a lofty mile-and-a-half above our sea-level home) amplified the wine’s effects, making me winded after even the simplest of maneuvers, like springing to my feet. Hence, my horizontal position.

This was my second visit to Mammoth Lakes, a ski-turned-mostly-snowboard resort town 400 miles northeast of San Diego. The first time I went, over ten years ago, I had driven up with my friends Rusty and Zim, who were avid snowboarders. While they were out jibbing the rails and hitting on Bettsy, I had stayed back to sip cocoa in the condo and catch up on my pleasure reading. Back then I was averse to anything sporty. But two months ago, as a fairly recent convert to the exhilaration of exercise, I gladly accepted an invitation from my sisters Jenny and Heather to join them on a snowboarding trip during spring break. I had every intention of learning to snowboard. So did David. While we searched for a suitable condo to rent, we waxed delusional about how we would hit the mountain, gear up, and slip-slide in the snow with ease, gleefully reveling in the invigorating sensation of cool wind on our warm faces. Then we learned about all the equipment one must acquire prior to hopping on a lift — snow pants, jackets, gloves, boots, goggles, bindings, not to mention the board itself — and our daydreams clouded over. Some of the gear we’d have to buy and some we’d have to rent, to the tune of hundreds, all for an activity we had no intention of pursuing.

Snowboarding suddenly seemed like a hassle.

Because I wanted to spend time with my sisters and enjoy the enchanting snow-covered mountain scenery, I went ahead and booked a place for us to stay, a three-bedroom condo to house me and David, Heather and her husband Brad, Jenny and her fiancé Brad, and Molly, Heather’s best friend from high school.

David had just emptied the last of the bottle into my glass when we heard the front door open, followed by the rustling, zipping noises of people unbundling after a day in the snow. One by one, they groaned up the stairs and plopped onto cushioned seats. All cheeks were red, and breath was hard to come by. Brad and Sean looked particularly pained. “Hey, Molly,” said Brad, after slowly lowering himself onto a chair. “Can I get one of those two drinks is bad. I got a little too confident and had a hard fall, hit my tailbone and the back of my head.” “Oof,” I said. “Bet that’s gonna hurt tomorrow.” Brad shot me an annoyed look.

“I still can’t believe I’m goofy,” said Heather, who’d spent the morning with an instructor who’d informed her of her goofiness.

“Goofy isn’t the half of it,” I said. “Not that kind of goofy,” said Sean. He explained that in snowboarding terms, “goofy” means right foot first and “regular,” the more common stance, is left foot first.

Most right-handed people are regular and vice versa, but in this case, Brad, who is left-handed, boarded regular, and Heather, who is right-handed, was goofy.

“How do you know if you’re goofy or not?” I asked.

“If you’re pushed from behind, it’s whichever foot goes forward,” said Sean. “Here, push me, I want to see if that instructor was right,” said Heather.

Because I was buzzed, Sean made it to Heather’s back before me. “But I want to push someone too,” I whined, and hiccupped. Sean gave his wife a little shove, and sure enough, her right foot goofily lurched forward in search of stability. “Push me, push me,” I said. I expected I’d be like my older sister, that my right foot would go forward. I even thought about intentionally putting my right foot forward. But when Sean pushed on my shoulders, there went...
my left foot. Huh.

“So, Barb, when are you going to try it?” Brad asked. “Tomorrow?”

“No, no,” I said. “Why not? Come on, you’d love it.”

“It does look like people have fun,” I said, “But I’m not into it — all that cumbersome equipment, getting cold and wet.”

“Yes, you fall at first, but it’s so much fun once you get going,” he pushed.

“I prefer my tailbone to be the color God intended, thank you,” I said with finality. Like childrearing, snowboarding can yield such elation that people are willing to undergo intense pain for the promise of joy and the sense of fulfillment that comes from mastering nature. As with most transcendent experiences, snowboarding breeds evangelists. I imagine this is because misery (like its giddy cousin ecstasy) does, in fact, love company.

“My first run with Brad was the highest I’ve ever been,” said Jenny. “I was so happy I did so good, I was walking on air. It was just awesome. But my second run, I was literally in tears. I kept falling and lost my confidence because I fell, and then I couldn’t do anything right; it was like I forgot how to snowboard. A lot of it had to do with fatigue — when you fall, you get more tired, and then you fall more and you lose confidence, and then I couldn’t carve as well. I seriously was crying because I fell so hard on my head.”

“My first run with Brad was the highest I’ve ever been,” said Jenny. “I was so happy I did so good, I was walking on air. It was just awesome. But my second run, I was literally in tears. I kept falling and lost my confidence because I fell, and then I couldn’t do anything right; it was like I forgot how to snowboard. A lot of it had to do with fatigue — when you fall, you get more tired, and then you fall more and you lose confidence, and then I couldn’t carve as well. I seriously was crying because I fell so hard on my head.”

“Really, Barb,” Brad persisted, “You shouldn’t knock it till you try it.”

“Sounds to me like it’s the other way around,” I said. “Thank you, but no. I much prefer cuddling inside and watching the snow through a window than being in it. Now, how ‘bout I get you some wine; I hear it goes great with Motrin.”

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San Diego’s secret missile testing sites
I never wanted to move to Scripps Ranch — not with its swarming real estate agents and whitebread, attend-the-church-of-your-choice ethos, its compliant shrubs, its matrons in SUVS — that whole, lifeless suburban drone. And where the hell was the “ranch”? Shit, the only “ranch hands” I could find were short, nearly invisible men pushing lawn mowers around small patches of Bermuda grass. Perhaps they’d been ranchers back in Chihuahua or Sonora, but here — in this developer’s wet dream, this lair of software engineers and other half-bright techno types — there was nary a cow to be seen.

Back in Del Mar, I’d run every other day from our rented shack on Ninth Street, across Camino Del Mar and down to Torrey Pines, where I would continue south — at least on days with a sufficiently ebbing sea — to Black’s Beach, one time as far as the Scripps Pier. On other days, I’d run up the Flat Rock trail to the top of the Reserve. In my late thirties, a bulky 190 pounds or so from years of weightlifting, I set no records. Sure, I managed to land in the top quartile in a couple of 5-K beach runs, but I was only in it for the intense bliss that is the runner’s high.

This aerial photograph was taken March 31, 2007 at a height of 10,200 feet aboard a Cessna 210. The mapping camera is a RC30 Leica, utilizing large format 9” x 9” negatives. Some areas have been obscured due to government security regulations.
What’s Behind That Gate?
As soon as I set foot in “the Ranch” in 1996 I knew that, although I was living only eight miles from the Pacific, I’d now have to work a lot harder to capture that bliss.

Of course, I could drive to the beach, but I’d always preferred the purity of running directly from home, and the prospect of battling traffic was a deterrent. While hardly Death Valley, Scripps is hot in August, with any errant ocean breezes conditioned by their journey over industrial parks and tract homes on the intervening mesas. And no matter the season, Scripps is prosaic in its tightly controlled, residential regularity, its kingdom of homeowners’ associations and glad-handing realtresses. There wouldn’t be much mystery or romance in running these suburban streets. Yes, there was Lake Miramar — and in the ensuing years, I’d run it often — but a man-made lake encased in suburbia was not on my short list of endorphin-producing milieus. So when I first saw the sometimes-locked gate off Pomerado Road, I was more than intrigued.

During the first quarter of the 20th Century, San Diego was defined as much by its “camps” as anything else. Originally parts of ranches — or perhaps ranchos — these sprawling swaths of scrub were named for military demi-luminaries like Elliott, Holcomb, and Mathews, figures unknown to most locals save for military history buffs.

The largest of these, Camp Elliott, occupied 27,700 acres — approximately 43 square miles of dry mesas and minor canyons — where Marines were afforded the privacy in which to haze their initiates and test all manner of ordnance. Even this expanse proved inadequate for the reveries of training, and 1944 saw the move to Camp Pendleton. In the seamless, almost incestuous way that service-to-service land transfers take place, the bulk of Camp Elliott was...
turned into the Miramar Naval Air Station and later returned to the Marines as the extant MCAS. However, about four square miles of Elliott remained—which nowadays is best described as the land east of I-15 ringed by Terrasanta, Santee, the Sycamore Canyon/Goodan Ranch Open-Space Preserve, Poway, and Scripps Ranch. This was to become the zone of inquiry, the locus of my obsession.

Initial forays into the zone were tentative, even timid, limited by both range and risk tolerance. I’d never run farther than 11 or 12 miles—and that was accomplished in the ideal conditions of cool ocean.

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breezes and the firm, flat sand of Torrey Pines at low tide. Longer runs — on flat terrain — typically topped out at around 6½ to 7 miles, which meant that the hilly 3.4-mile round trip between home and the Pomerado portal would sap my energy, preventing me from venturing too far beyond the gate. At least that’s what I told myself.

What a gate it was: redolent of Cold War paranoia and authoritarian bombast, it appeared to me — festooned with an eclectic array of signs — as both a warning and an invitation; indeed, there was an unsettling ambiguity about it. The gate sat — as its modern replacement does now — about 50 yards down the turnout from Pomerado Road, just southwest of Spring Canyon Road. Some of the ambiguity stemmed from its ramshackle appearance beyond the gate, it was padlocked, so I scrambled up and over a low dirt embankment to the left and kept running. Obviously, I told myself, the gate — a rusted and bent relic of the Cold War — was meant solely to keep out vehicles; the first time I ventured beyond the gate, it was padlocked, so I scrambled up and over a

 pedestrans were tacitly permitted, even expected. Nonetheless, my quickening stride was not due to carefree bravado but to the overwhelming feeling that this place was, at minimum, spooky, I'd wanted a place to run in solitude, and this appeared to fit the bill: the winding, soft asphalt; the smell of sage; the roaring, red-shouldered hawks; and the sound of the wind. But what about that sign at the entrance — the buffoonish rhetoric about “consenting” to search, the reference to some hoary but draconian “Internal Security Act of 1950”? Did this mean that, at any moment, perhaps as I crested the next blind hill, a goon squad, maybe

 Front view of Seabees building.

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tract. But still, as Frederick Exley once said, “The world is run by goons,” and during my time, having attracted the attention of more than a few, I was at once afraid of them and determined to defy them. On that first run, as I estimated my distance by step count, I decided to make a U-turn at a mile, feeling a palpable sense of relief when I re-emerged without having seen anyone at all. I’d committed a small act of defiance and vowed to go farther next time.

**Armed, Roving Enforcers**

Over the next year, until late 1997, I returned now and then but never made it my regular route, usually opting for shorter, flatter runs around Lake Miramar that, while less interesting, were considerably easier on my knees. But whenever I gathered the stamina and nerve to go back, I ventured a little deeper, treating each winding segment as another step closer to a point of no return. The first structure I encountered was an antenna of some sort, a metal gridwork tower topped by a large, white ball that reminded me of a WWII pamphlet on the use of the stimulant pemoline. Even though its fences had long since been breached — it was now guarded solely by a phalanx of weeds thrusting through broken pavement — I did not think to go inside. Its companion in ignominy was smaller, wooden, and painted green. Its fences seemed sturdier and takable, if ineffable, chord.

The first building was a rectangular, two-story job, architecturally distinguished and apparently abandoned, its windows boarded up. I assumed it to be military in origin. I could not tell how old it was but was confident that it held no mystery — I did not think to go inside. Its companion in origin — I did not think to go inside. Its job, architecturally undis- tincted and still in use and sur- rounded by a network of barbed-wire fences. A little past the antenna, looking north, I saw a large compound of what looked like serious electrical equipment — transformers and such — which I later learned was, and still is, an SDG&E substation. On one occasion, I ran about two miles down the road, where I found my first “mystery” buildings — two structures whose ambiguity of identity and purpose struck an unmis-
newer, and although I could detect no activity on the premises, it fairly bristled with antennae that looked as if they might be operational. Along with the customary “US Government—No Trespassing” postings, it bore a sign reading “Forestry Service Radio & Repair Station,” which conjured up the notion of conducting surveillance on subversive oaks or rogue redwoods.

As it turned out, I never encountered armed, roving enforcers and, save for a camouflaged jeep traveling a dirt side road in a canyon to the south, didn’t spy much evidence of military activity. I saw a few vehicles from time to time, mostly big rigs hauling cargo to and from sites I hadn’t yet reached. Yet I never saw another runner or a cyclist.

Was there a reason for this? Why would the inventive recreational athletes of San Diego spurn such an area? Moreover, who owned this place and what, if anything, still went on there?

That was as far as I ever ran down the road. Sometime later, my right medial meniscus gave out; after arthroscopic surgery and a short rehab, I was back running — but not hills.

Still curious about my former (occasional) haunt, and having noted that the gate was open at least as often as it was closed, I decided to drive the road one crisp Saturday morning in January. In some ways, this made me more apprehensive than running the road had because — in the eyes of gun-toting “authorities” — the mere act of driving a car in certain places constitutes such an incendiary act of unbridled chutzpah that there was no one to confront me, and as before, I saw no one at all.

After passing the buildings I’d encountered on foot, I drove on, climbing and descending a series of increasingly steep hills, all the while twisting and turning deep into what I’d begun to think of as a non-man’s-land — hopefully minus the Claymores. I found myself amidst larger, more imposing installations that looked, well, more military, more industrial, altogether more threatening. These were relics from the era of Thunderbolt air-raid sirens and Frenchman Flat tests — quaint Civil Defense exotica — or were they?

In volcanic terms, they seemed neither extinct nor active. Rather, they appeared dormant. Silent and windblown, yet surrounded by high fences and plastered with every manner of signage, they were suffused with the eerie ambiguity that made the “forbidden area” both vaguely frightening and inescapably fascinating.

There were huge buildings that looked like warehouses or factories and smaller structures that might have been offices. Everything was metal, some of it painted green that had mellowed in the canyon sun to a quasi-pastel.

At one complex, there were rows of long metal tubes and other items that could have been weapons components, or perhaps something much more prosaic, less romantic. Whatever they were, they appeared to be in a state of disuse but not disrepair. Was anyone watching me? Could there be a cluster of penny-ante...
fascists in those buildings, ready to pounce with lights and sirens? Perhaps I was the only guy who’d toured the place by car, but that seemed unlikely. Maybe no one gave a shit, and this was just paranoia, the feeling that comes on late at night after too many bong hits.

A moment later, I reached a gated dead end that thwarted my plan to make a round-trip back to Pomerado Road via Beeler Canyon Road; it required a U-turn to get out of this military-industrial ghost town. A jolt of fear coursed through me: What if —

...next years, as the millennium approached, I thought about the area from time to time, but distracted by other matters — and perhaps spooked — I didn’t return. One night, however, while sitting at the bar at the Red Bird Tavern in Poway, downing a few beers, I struck up a conversation with a guy on the stool next to me. What I learned from him would not only revive my interest but paint a detailed picture of the shadowy complexes in those canyons.

Meet B.R., Urban Explorer
“B.R.,” as I agreed to call him — should I ever have the need to speak of him at all — was a UCSD graduate student who had grown up in Poway. When I happened to mention the demise of my favorite local watering hole, the Big Stone Lodge (formerly the Pomerado Club), he commiserated, stating that the old rough-hewn roadhouse, once a Pony Express station, was one of the few genuinely intriguing sites in the area still intact. I then remarked that, although it wasn’t “told” by archaeological standards, there was another...
nearby place I found interesting and told him of the area I had “discovered.” B.R. nearly dropped his drink. “You know about Sycamore Canyon?” I said that I’d run there on occasion and drove through once but hadn’t uncovered many details. It turned out that B.R. knew a lot of details — more than he was comfortable mentioning at first. He asked if I’d heard the term “urban exploration.” I hadn’t. According to B.R., in San Diego, as in many other places around the country, a new activity — new, at least, in the sense that it was now formalized to some degree — had recently begun to attract participants, or adherents, if you will. Apparently, loose-knit cadres of the curious — not in large numbers, mind you — were finding that the cities of America held an astonishing array of opportunities for stealthy discovery. These sites, B.R. went on, wouldn’t appeal to the average suburbanite and certainly weren’t on the glossy tourist maps. Consisting largely of places abandoned during the last 100 years or so, they were artifacts of our recent past — old mental hospitals, decrepit hotels and office buildings, rusting factories, disused subway tunnels, decommissioned ICBM silos, and so on. These places, B.R. said, were dirty, often dangerous and sometimes, though long since given over to weeds or peeling paint, still “protected” against intruders by way of sternly worded signs, high fences, or even men with guns. “My” area was such a place. B.R., in his understated fashion, said that he considered himself part of the urban exploration “movement”; I gathered that his local forays had been extensive, and I pressed him for details. He was hesitant to provide them at

One in a series of underground bunkers that were used to store Tomahawk and Stinger missiles with live conventional warheads. Within public view from business parks in Poway.
Depression

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

Are you between the ages of 18 and 55 and finding life hard to tolerate? Has your energy and motivation to enjoy your life decreased? Do you find even simple pleasures empty? If so, you may qualify to try an investigational medication being studied for depression.

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

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

• You receive up to $500 for your participation.
• You receive no-cost research study medication and medical care.
• No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.

Anxiety

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

• Decrease your immune response
• Decrease your physical and mental functioning
• Increase fats in the bloodstream
• Interfere with sleep
• Be mistaken for medical conditions

Are you being treated for your Sleep Apnea and Depression but still have sleepiness during the day?

Because these two disorders have tiredness and fatigue in common, people who suffer from both feel like they drag all day long. California Clinical Trials is conducting a research study of an approved medication to see its effects on individuals with both sleep apnea and depression. If you are 18-65 years of age and in stable health, using your prescribed CPAP regularly and taking antidepressant medications, you may qualify to participate in this research study.

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

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

• You will receive compensation for your participation.
• You will receive study-related medication and study-related medical care.
• No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.

Are you a Good Sleeper between 21 and 50 years of age?

If so, you may qualify to participate in a research study at our sleep lab. This study involves no drug therapy; instead, the study tests an investigational noninvasive device. The duration of the study will be approximately 2 weeks, including 3 visits to the sleep lab.

Every study conducted by California Clinical Trials is staffed by a team of physicians and medical professionals trained to place your comfort and well-being first. Qualified volunteers will be compensated up to $450 depending on your level of involvement in the study. If interested, please call.

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

• You receive up to $400 for your time and travel.
• You receive no-cost study-related medication and study-related medical care.
• No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.
Always worrying? Anxious? Panic attacks?

You may qualify for free psychological treatment.

Researchers in the Department of Psychiatry at UCSD are conducting a brain imaging study that provides free psychological treatment to individuals experiencing excessive worry or panic attacks. Compensation is provided. You must be between the ages of 18-55, a nonsmoker, and not currently taking psychiatric medication. Other eligibility criteria apply. Please call 858-534-6445 for more information and to see if you qualify.

UCSD

Attn: Heavy Drinkers

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

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

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

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

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

Are you taking one of these medications?

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

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

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

For more information call: 1-866-UC PRICE (1-866-827-7423)

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

RESEARCH STUDIES

Do you go to bed at a late hour?

If so, you should know about a research study of an investigational medication for the treatment of **Delayed Sleep Phase Syndrome (DSPS)**.

**Qualified Participants Must:**
- Be 18 and older
- Go to bed later than you would like

**Qualified Participants Will Receive:**
- All study-related care, exams and study drug at no charge
- Compensation for time and travel

ARE YOU A NIGHT OWL?

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

DO YOU EXPERIENCE THE PAIN THAT FOLLOWS SHINGLES?

This pain is known as Post-Herpetic Neuralgia, or PHN. If you have PHN and you’re at least 18, you may want to participate in a research study of an investigational pain medication.

**Qualified Participants Must:**
- Be 18 and older
- Have had shingles in the past 5 years
- Have PHN pain for at least the past 6 months

**Qualified Participants Receive:**
- Compensation up to $50 for time and travel
- Study-related care, exams and study drug at no charge

the bar but agreed to speak with me by phone if I respected his anonymity. He’d tell me more — but nothing more about him. Under other circumstances, I might have been put off by his secrecy, but I figured that he was good for some accurate “insider” information unavailable elsewhere. Perhaps I could write a story about it.

Over the next few weeks, I had a number of long phone conversations with B.R. Once out of public earshot he was quite forthcoming; while urban exploration might have hit the radar screen in some circles, it was still unknown to most, and hooking up with a fellow enthusiast — even a vicarious one like me — gave B.R. the chance to share his take on a place most of us weren’t “authorized” to visit.

There were five “missions,” as B.R. termed them, the typically day-long outings when he and his “pod” — two regulars and another buddy or two on occasion — visited the area.

The first task was to get the Chevy four-wheel-drive “club cab” pickup as close as possible to the good stuff without being noticed. Usually, the Pomerado entrance gate was open, but one time, B.R. confessed, it had to be “persuaded” by means of a pair of Sears Craftsman bolt cutters.

Once inside, he found that various aerospace firms — laboring in stealth over several decades — had left indelible marks on the landscape. The biggest player seemed to be Convair (part of General Dynamics), which designated its complexes as “Site A,” “Site B,” and so on, all the way through “J.” It was difficult to piece it all together by chronological activity and land ownership; the amalgam of secrecy (both governmental and corporate), the incestuous relations among the military and industrial actors, and the passage of years had conspired to make a comprehensive timeline daunting.

Noise, Exhaust, Thrust, and Heat

In 1955, Civil Defense was all the rage. San Diego, like every other American city worth its radioactive salt, was dotted with Federal Signal air-raid sirens, tested religiously. Duck and Cover, not yet a cult comedy favorite, was scaring the crap out of little kids across the county more often than you could say “Bikini.”
Too Shy?
Trouble with dating? Parties? Public speaking?
Starting conversations? Speaking to authority figures?
Always worried about what other people think of you?
Confidential help is available. You may be eligible to
Receive Free Treatment
with computerized therapy as part of a research program.
Call: 619-229-3740 or e-mail: SDSUCUTA@hotmail.com
http://nas.psy.sdsu.edu
CENTER FOR UNDERSTANDING AND TREATING ANXIETY
6386 Alvarado Court, Suite 301, San Diego

Anxiety?
If you are troubled by worries, tenseness, difficulty sleeping or concentrating, you may be eligible for
✓ Anxious/Worried?
✓ Difficulty Sleeping?
✓ Restless/Tense?
✓ Difficulty Concentrating?
Free treatment as part of a clinical trial of a computerized treatment program for generalized anxiety disorder at the San Diego State University Psychology Department.
Center for Understanding and Treating Anxiety
Call: (619) 229-3740
http://nas.psy.sdsu.edu

Not Sleeping?
Are you:
• Having trouble falling asleep?
• Having trouble staying asleep through the night?
• Between 18 and 64 years of age?
• In overall good health?
If you answered yes to all of these questions, you may be eligible for our investigational drug research study. If you qualify and choose to participate, you may receive study medication and you will receive physician consultations, study-related medical examinations, laboratory evaluations and follow-up visits at no charge. Health insurance is not required and compensation for time and travel is provided.
If you are interested in learning more about this study, please contact:
(619) 688-6565
See our website: www.ari-inc.com

Alzheimer’s Disease
FEELING HOPELESS? A new investigational medication is available as part of a research study.
Are you or someone you love:
• Suffering from mild to moderate Alzheimer’s Disease?
• Taking Aricept®, Exelon®, Razadyne®, or Reminyl® for the treatment of Alzheimer’s Disease?
• Between 55 and 90 years of age? • In overall good health? • Not living in a nursing home?
Affiliated Research Institute is conducting a research study on Alzheimer’s Disease.
Qualified participants will receive at no cost:
• Study medication • Medical evaluation by a board-certified medical doctor • Laboratory tests • Supervised care by medical professionals as it relates to the study • Compensation for time and travel • Health insurance is not required
If you are interested in learning more about this study, please contact:
(619) 688-6565
See our website: www.ari-inc.com

Do you constantly worry? Every day?
Do you:
• Feel nervous, tense or “on edge” most of the time?
• Have trouble sitting still or find it impossible to simply relax?
• Between 18 and 65 years of age? • In overall good health?
If you answered yes to all of these questions, you may be eligible for our investigational drug research study. If you qualify and choose to participate, you will receive physician consultations, study-related medical examinations, laboratory evaluations and follow-up visits at no charge and you may receive study medication.
Health insurance is not required and compensation for time and travel is provided.
If you are interested in learning more about this study, please contact:
(619) 688-6565
See our website: www.ari-inc.com

Is your current Schizophrenia medication not working?
Are you:
• Currently taking one of the following: Seroquel, Zyprexa or Risperdal for the treatment of Schizophrenia?
• Currently smoking at least 10 cigarettes per day? • Between 18 and 55 years of age?
If you answered yes to all of these questions, you may be eligible for our investigational drug research study. If you qualify and choose to participate, you will receive physician consultations, study-related medical examinations, laboratory evaluations and follow-up visits at no charge. If you may receive study medication to be used in addition to the Schizophrenia medication you are currently taking. Health insurance is not required and compensation for time and travel is provided.
If you are interested in learning more about this study, please contact:
(619) 688-6565
See our website: www.ari-inc.com

Sadness? Low energy? Trouble sleeping? Can’t concentrate?
These are symptoms of Depression!
Are you:
• Between the ages of 18 and 70?
• In overall good health?
• Currently experiencing these symptoms?
If you answered yes to all of these questions, you may be eligible for our investigational drug research study. If you qualify and choose to participate, you will receive study medication, physician consultations, study-related medical examinations, laboratory evaluations and follow-up visits at no charge. Health insurance is not required and compensation for time and travel is provided.
If you are interested in learning more about this study, please contact:
(619) 688-6565
See our website: www.ari-inc.com

INVESTIGATIONAL PAIN-RELIEF PATCH STUDY
Sprained your ANKLE?
Study Patch goes here.
If you’ve just sprained your ankle, consider helping evaluate an investigational medicated patch that’s placed directly where you feel the pain.
Local doctors are currently conducting a medical research study evaluating an investigational medicated patch for its ability to relieve pain when placed directly on your ankle where you feel the pain.
To pre-qualify for this study you must be:
• 18 years to 75 years of age, AND
• Experiencing pain from a sprained ankle that occurred in the last 24 hours.
Qualified participants will receive study-related medical evaluations and investigational medicated patches at no cost. Reimbursement for time and travel will also be provided.
Support
www.thesupportstudy.com
To learn more, please contact:
San Diego Sports Medicine
And Family Health Center
619-229-3909
See our website: www.ari-inc.com

April 3, 2008
Atoll.”

And somewhere in the hills, between the clapboard houses of “old Poway” and the future home of the infamous “country living” license plate frame, Atlas prepared to flex his muscles.

In January of that year, Convair had been awarded a contract to build the Atlas ICBM. The missiles were to be assembled at its newly built Kearny Mesa plant and tested at what Convair dubbed its “STF” — Sycamore Test Facility. Unlike the test launches that would later be conducted at Vandenberg AFB up the coast and at Cape Canaveral in Florida, the STF tests were “static” — noise, exhaust, thrust, and heat — but with no glints of metal soaring heavenward, no UFOs to be explained away by “officials.” Instead, the Atlas missile of Sycamore Canyon would, in all its configurations, be tethered, straining mightily — but never succeeding — to break free of its test pads, which were operational by mid-1956.

It is the pads, of course, along with other concrete and steel accouterments and not the missiles themselves, on which B.R. and friends clambered. As one might have expected, the cylinders themselves were long gone, but other things — massive, embedded, not designed for portability — were simply left standing like the moai of Easter Island. And if the carved stones of Polynesia were symbolic of belief, perhaps the boyhood playground of Atlas was as well.

August 29, 1956, marked the delivery of the first completed missile to Sycamore Canyon; static testing followed. In December, the fourth Atlas produced became the world’s first “flight-ready” ICBM. Too large to be transported by plane, it was placed in a cradle atop a massive trailer, wrapped in aluminum-covered canvas and trucked nine days to Cape Canaveral, Florida, under police escort. The ensuing years would be the “golden age” of the Sycamore Canyon tests, as a series of configurations — Atlas A through F — were tuned, tweaked, and tinkered with. In Florida, test flights of varying success continued until the Air Force, finally satisfied with the Atlas’s range and reliability, decided to deploy three “D” models.
Photographs taken during the height of production show two free-standing test structures in adjacent canyons; although a network of dirt roads has sliced neatly through the hill-sides, enabling heavy equipment to breach the sage at will, the (former) remoteness of the area is obvious. Tall and stout enough to muzzle the force of the globe’s first ICBM, the steel towers dwarf the supporting cast, such as manufacturing warehouses, administrative offices, and “security” blockhouses. Curiously, some of the buildings are a cheery teal, perhaps freshly painted, and make a pleasant contrast with the bright yellow buses parked nearby, apparently used to shuttle low-level workers to and from San Diego proper. Pictures of the control center reveal men — some clad in grey Sears polyester suits, others in what used to be called “sports clothes” — monitoring the static tests in a windowless building lined with ceiling-high computers and banks of reel-to-reel tape recorders. Staring at closed-circuit monitors — state-of-the-art then — these earnest techno-drones take Atlas’s vital signs as he roars to life, albeit briefly. The flames and glory of ignition prove to be short-lived; just a few years later, it’s all left to the weeds and the lizards and, eventually, to a handful of quirky, self-styled curiosity seekers.

**Amateur Exploration of the Secret Site?**

Although B.R. and his crew had a rough idea of what to expect, they were astonished at the size, scope, and contours of what Convair had left behind, the centerpiece being the massive test pads — labeled “East” and “West.” To begin with B.R. found that the pads weren’t flat circles at all but enormous concrete towers, at least 50 feet high, embedded into the canyon slopes, with curved walls extending from the front. During static testing, the Atlas missiles, sans warheads, would be secured within these grey straitjackets and the liquid fuel engines ignited; Atlas remained earthbound, but its flaming exhaust would blast through the front opening, the Venturi effect channeling the angry energy into the brush below. But that was many decades ago; by the time B.R. visited, the chaparral had long since reasserted its dominance. The edifices stood — but stood in mute repose, strangled by a thicket of riotous, unauthorized growth.

**Do you suffer from schizophrenia?**

Do you hear voices or see things that other people don’t?

Do you feel that people are following you, talking about you, or are out to get you?

You may be eligible to participate in a research study. Compensation of up to $2000.

Call us for more information: 760-806-9200

**Do you have trouble sleeping through the night?**

Insomnia is a condition where you might:

- Wake up frequently or awaken during the night but usually fall back to sleep
- Have sleep difficulties interfering with your daily work and life

If you are 18 years or older and experiencing some of these symptoms, you may qualify to participate in an insomnia research study to see if an investigational drug improves your quality of sleep.

Study participants will receive, at no cost, investigational medication, study-related physical exams, study-related care, and may also receive compensation up to $500 for time and travel.

If you are interested in participating in this clinical study, please call Excell Research at 760-806-9200 to schedule a screening visit.
masters held sway, the maze of underground bunkers and tunnels, five levels compressed like rebar layer-cake, sub-basement beneath sub-basement. There, B.R. and the others, who went by handles like “Bozo” and “Strontium,” descended by half-rotten rope ladders and vertical ventilation shafts into a vermin-infested time capsule, circa 1960. The place stank of mold, rat feces, and — so legend had it — the desperate sweat of a Vietnam-era Marine who’d flipped his lid and for years had carried out solitary recon missions for unknown armies. But the stench was worth it: Who else, at that moment, could say he’d wiped off 40-year-old dust from the faces of a dozen wall clocks, all stopped now, but each, in its youth, having displayed the time in every time zone that mattered in the nuclear world?

All told, 350 or so Atlas missiles were built, with up to 129 deployed at one time; but in 1963, the new Minuteman ICBM was ready. It was the beginning of the end for Atlas, at least as the standard-bearer of American military might. Although the Atlas was to live on as a satellite-launch vehicle for many years, via Project Centaur, it no longer had a place in the arsenal. Obsolete after a few years of glory — without having killed a single Communist — the mighty Atlas, the weapon that had cost billions, was headed for aerospace museums. And within a few years, the test pads in the hills would sit forlorn, overgrown with weeds and without purpose.

The demise of the Atlas nuke was hardly the end of weapons research in East Elliott, however. As B.R. stressed, some of the most intact exploration projects in the hills would sit forlorn, overgrown with weeds and without purpose.

Camouflaged earth roof of the underground missile storage. Pipes are air vents.

**RESOURCES**

---

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

Do you currently have a combination of the following symptoms?

- Unusual periods of “highs” and “lows”
- Racing thoughts
- Poor attention span
- Irritability
- Excessive involvement in activities
- Unusually elevated mood
- Changes in appetite
- Rapid thoughts

You may qualify to try an investigational medication while participating in a research study and be reimbursed $50 for your screening visit if screening and continuing the study as an outpatient, $50 for each inpatient hospitalization day you are in the study (excluding day of hospital discharge and any stabilization days) and $100 for each outpatient visit (excluding screening visit). Total reimbursement will not exceed $1400.

Call 858-566-8222 for more information.

The California Neuropsychopharmacology Clinical Research Institute, LLC

**Heavy Drinkers Not Seeking Treatment**

Investigators at The Scripps Research Institute are currently seeking volunteers who consider themselves to be heavy drinkers and do not have any desire to stop drinking. The purpose of the research is to learn the most effective way of studying predictors of relapse or a return to drinking.

Earn compensation for completing 4 study visits that take place over 3 weeks.

This study does involve taking a medication or placebo for one week.

**Is Diabetes a Part of Your Life?**

Learning to live with this chronic disease is not easy. Even with proper diet, plenty of exercise and regular medication, keeping your blood sugar under control can still be challenging.

If you have Type 2 Diabetes, you may be eligible for a research study of an investigational oral medication.

You may qualify for this study if you:

- Are age 18 years or older
- Recently diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes
- Currently not taking any oral diabetes medication or insulin
- Have been told your blood sugar is too high

If you qualify, you will receive study-related care and study medication at no charge.

To learn more about this study, please call Ritchken & First M.D.’s Donna Perez at: 858-292-0108 x207

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**Do you suffer from Osteoarthritis of the hip?**

Are you currently taking medications for pain relief? If you are 40 years old or older and are generally in good health, you may be eligible to participate in a clinical trial evaluating an investigational oral medication.

For further information, please call: 619-229-3909

San Diego Sports Medicine and Family Health Center
6699 Alvarado Road #2100
San Diego, CA 92120

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* San Diego Reader April 3, 2008
Healthy Female?

Covance needs healthy women to take part in a clinical research study.

Qualified participants must be:
- Healthy Females Age 18-45
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- Willing to take an Oral Contraceptive
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Participants may receive up to $1,550 for time and participation.

Call today for more information:
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Do You Suffer From Recurrent Genital Herpes?

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

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

Qualified participants will receive:
- Study medication
- Laboratory tests
- Study-related physical exams
- Compensation for time and travel

For more information, call:
619-521-2841

Medical Center for Clinical Research

MATURE GENTLEMEN NEEDED

Profil Institute for Clinical Research is looking for older gentlemen to participate in a clinical research study testing an investigational medication and its effect on bone density and muscle mass.

Participants must:
- be between ages 50-75
- not be taking testosterone, lipid-lowering medications
- not have had prostate surgery

Profil provides:
- Study-related medical care at no cost
- Compensation of up to $6800
- Shuttle service from the H Street trolley in Chula Vista if needed

If interested, please call: (619) 788-9216
or e-mail: volunteer@profil-research.com
865 Third Avenue – Suite 100
Chula Vista, CA 91911-1350
sites arose from other, more recent programs — and he was determined to see them all.

**After Atlas Came Stinger and Tomahawk**

Well after the end of the Atlas era, General Dynamics/Convair, Hughes-Raytheon, and others began assembling and testing other missiles — smaller but more advanced — soon known by their jaunty names, "Stinger" and "Tomahawk." While neither could boast of the "first generation" status that had distinguished Atlas, these missiles, unlike the mighty ICBM, saw, and continue to see, actual combat. More importantly, in the practiced eyes of the urban explorer, their development left behind an even greater variety of structures and sites to tour.

B.R., as far as I could determine, was essentially apolitical. Yes, he admired Edward Abbey’s Hayduke, but not for ideological reasons. Rather, it was the defiant, nose-thumbing, outlaw panache that he emulated, all of it serving his penultimate goal: to satisfy a monumental curiosity. Attempts at secrecy and exclusion, he freely admitted, only served to heighten this curiosity, to intensify this compulsion to breach. But the identity of the target was irrelevant; i.e., public sector or private, military, industrial, whatever — did it hold anything of intrigue? Could he be, if not the first, one of the first to explore it? By our second telephone briefing, I was convinced that B.R. would have tried the same thing in Russia, perhaps even in Iran or North Korea. The military loves a good acronym, and "MANPADS" — man-portable air defense system — is as good as any. Not to be confused with, say, the "bachelor pad," the first MANPADS was the Redeye missile, first deployed by the U.S.

**Tomahawk missile racks.**

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Army in the 1950s.

After nearly 20 years of faithful service, the venerable Redeye — which had no connection to bad snapshots or overnight flights but was named for the infrared sensor in its schnoz — was replaced by the Stinger.

The Stinger is perhaps best known nowadays for its role in the Soviet action in Afghanistan, circa mid-to late 1980s. First used in the 1982 Falklands War between Great Britain and Argentina, some 1000 to 2000 Stingers were supplied — courtesy of the CIA — to the Mujahideen terrorists, forerunners of the Taliban. Some of the missiles wound up in Iran, where they presumably sat, ready for action today. Like its predecessor, the Stinger was (and is) a shoulder-fired (or in some cases, air-to-air) missile designed to shoot down incoming enemy aircraft. General Dynamics started work on it in 1967, and after the usual prolix process of testing, the Stinger was ready for production, which began at Site J in 1978. All told, the ultrasecret complex in Poway’s back yard would give birth to most of the 20,000–30,000 units made.

When B.R.’s group explored Site J — sometimes referred to as “Sycamore Annex” — it had been abandoned only a few years. As recently as the early 1990s, the Stinger, along with the Tomahawk, was still in production, with Hughes-Raytheon the final manufacturer at the location. However, most of the missile’s accoutrements — office buildings, storage bunkers, and the like — appeared to be of pre-1975 vintage, unaltered Cold War memorabilia. Predictably, what B.R. found exemplified the leitmotif of “security first.” Yet, it was all curiously juxtaposed against what could only be termed a precipitous and careless abandonment, the alchemy that turns yesterday’s prized and expensive things into today’s trash.

The portal to Stingerworld, the passage beyond the concertina wire, had been a redundant series of gates and checkpoints, with turnstiles for pedestrians, all controlled by a master “security office.” The armed, scowling men with buzz cuts (small mustaches optional) probably looked no different from their Internet-age successors, but in the years before X-rays, full-body scans, and facial-recognition software, their...
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tools were Paleolithic: long-handled mirrors to check for bombs under vehicles and a keen nose to sniff out the “unauthorized” visitor — nosy journalist or wayward hippie alike.

When B.R., arrived, the only sentries were the tall weeds sprouting through the cracked asphalt.

Once in the inner sanctum, the dedicated missile worker, or honored guest, would have found three sets of structures: an administration building, a production area, and a set of storage magazines (hillside bunkers) numbered 1 through 7. The star of the show was a little less than five feet long and, without its launcher, a hair over 22 pounds (33 with). Capable of hitting aircraft up to three miles away, the finned Stinger — whose power source was an argon-juiced battery pack — hurled its 3-pound warhead at mach 2.2 speed, hitting about 30 percent of its targets in the field.

Although B.R. was not averse to picking up a trophy now and then, he stressed that it was the experience of exploration that counted. B.R. didn’t see any spare Stingers lying about, but given the haphazard abandonment of the facility — the cavalier tossing aside of computers, office chairs, God knows what else — such a sight would not have been shocking.

Unquestionably, the manufacture, storage, and delivery of the Stinger was a risky business, with the threat of fire and explosion and the daily exposure to noxious chemicals. Even with the projectiles and their craftsmen long gone, the signs — ranging from the elegant “Think Safety” to lengthy compendia of explosion-avoidance tips — had persisted.

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Just as the U.S. military had blithely looked to the German V-2 rocket for ballistic inspiration, it saw — in the Nazis’ V-1 “Buzz Bomb” — the potential for a new and improved winged missile. The first American efforts, V-1 knockoffs like the Mace, Matador, and Regulus missiles, were early Cold War players; although widely deployed, they were never, as the argot goes, “fired in anger.” Other programs, like the Snark and Navajo, were stillborn, largely due to cost concerns in Congress. The rise of the ICBM also contributed to the decline in enthusiasm for the winged missile. By the early 1960s, their role (even with nuclear warheads) was limited to that of adjunct to the B-52’s arsenal.

In the early 1970s, the military sought to develop a smaller, lighter, and more accurate missile, one that would travel relatively slowly but would follow the contours of the terrain with unerring, deadly precision. The end result, first deployed in 1983, would be the “cruise missile,” specifically, General Dynamics’ Tomahawk — the mother of all winged, subsonic guided missiles, the tubes we eventually watched on CNN as they pummeled Saddam Hussein’s “fertile triangle.”

The Tomahawk plant at site J made the Stinger facility look, well, dainty, by comparison. At around 20 feet long, with a 21-inch diameter, an 8-foot-plus wingspan, and an armed weight of a ton and a half, the Tomahawk required much more room to build and store. But space was no problem, and by the late 1970s, an
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and, moreover, what might have been, with unlimited funding. Yet, of all the goings-on, all the projects in East Elliott, the ones at Green Farm were the most futuristic, the most “cutting edge.”

**Bizarre Projects**

The Electromagnetic Gun was anything but another newfangled rifle. Although the military had continually looked for ways to fire more bullets faster, farther, and with more accuracy, the electromagnetic gun — or “rail gun” — was a radically different approach to shooting projectiles. Manufactured at Maxwell Labs’ Kearny Mesa plant, the 90 mm rail gun, intended as an anti-tank weapon, had a 38-foot-long barrel and was powered by magnetic pulses. The super-intense magnetic energy enabled it to shoot plastic “bullets” at velocities of up to 9000 miles per hour — which it did, one shot at a time, during the course of some 250 tests carried out at Green Farm from 1986 to 1999. Although the rail gun was to ultimately prove workable, Maxwell needed a larger, more remote test site. Green Farm wound up as nothing more than a dusty collection of tumbledown, wooden-frame shacks, steel-and-concrete bunkers, and piles of debris, all of it buffeted by the wind and surrounded by weeds.

Project Orion didn’t belong exclusively to San Diego, nor did it ever come close to fruition. Yet, its mere presence here — evanescent, incomplete, almost inchoate — was noteworthy; if only by dint of its intended scope. In 1958, a group of physicists, including Freeman Dyson and Theodore Taylor at General Atomics, became obsessed with the notion that deep-space exploration was not only necessary — costs be damned — but feasible. They proposed a gargantuan spaceship, powered by hydrogen bombs, that would travel at unheard-of speed, up to 50,000 miles per hour. True believers, they were apparently unconcerned with issues like radioactive fallout. Initial tests — small-scale mock-ups using conventional explosives — were conducted in Point Loma and, after neighbors complained of the noise, at Green Farm. However, not even the hardest hard-core technocrats, the coldest Cold Warriors — nucophiles one and all — could see this thing working, so by 1961, Orion was a footnote in *The Journal of Bizarre Scuttled Projects.* Because East Elliott, STE, the Forbidden Zone — whatever one chooses to call it — was, for the tenure of its existence, unknown to most San Diegans, it provided an ideal setting for half-truths, lurid rumors, and, in some cases, unpleasant facts that could “neither be con-
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My girls chimed in. “Daddy, they have separate ‘casitas;’ you can have your ‘fort.’ ”

Sure, they admitted, it was still Scripps Ranch, but it wasn’t the usual sea of homes; there was a lot more room, some decent views, and besides, these places were pretty upscale. We’d contemplated moving for a few years, but like many locals, we’d been shut out of our preferred destinations — Del Mar, La Jolla, Rancho Santa Fe — by outrageous prices driven by mega-wealthy newcomers.

Even in the less-celebrated places like Encinitas, Leucadia, Olivenhain, and Solana Beach, “high six figures” wouldn’t get you much more than a cheesy tract home or — if you had the temerity to seek a (partially obstructed) view of the Pacific — a 1200-square-foot cracker box with moldy walls and no parking.

I’d never turned east on Stonebridge Parkway and, for some reason, was only peripherally aware that, for the past couple of years, the true Kings of San Diego — the real estate developers — had been making serious inroads into the area.

According to the website of one development, “Calabria,” the homes — blessed with a “spectacular, semi-rural setting” — are “inspired by an ancient hillside village in Italy.” With “an irrepressible combination of sophistication, ingenuity, and tradition,” “reverence for nature’s endless beauty,” and “mesmerizing vistas,” who wouldn’t want to live there?

The ad copy is standard real-estate hyperbole, as one might expect from folks who insist, with a straight face, that the first “R” in “realtor” must always be capitalized.

That’s not to say the houses of “Calabria” and the other tracts aren’t nice; by most standards, they are. Indeed, in one development I toured, I was rather impressed by the larger models, the 5000-square-foot, million-dollar abodes with 30-foot-high “great rooms,” copious amounts of marble, tile, and hardwood, and — of course — the “man fort” I’d so long desired.

Though it wasn’t the beach, I suppose I could see living here — if we ever had the money, that is. I also thought it ironic that in the near future, I might live directly on top of, or at least disarmingly close to, the land that contained the vestiges of Atlas.

My interest reawakened. 

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San Diego Reader April 3, 2008 53
ened, I decided to ask a few questions of a sales representative for one of the builders, Warmington Homes, whose development “Viscaya” sits near the northeastern terminus of Stonebridge Parkway. Did she know what had been there?

By my calculations, and by the water tank that has stood there for decades, Viscaya, and several other upscale sets of homes, are close to the former Atlas test pads and perhaps even closer to the old Stinger and Tomahawk facilities. The sales rep said that the land south of Stonebridge Parkway was used by the Marine Corps and willingly referred me to a terse disclosure. She read me a boilerplate exculpatory clause, pulled from a drawer in her office, which stated that the Marines “might increase or decrease their activities” in the future and that homeowners agreed to hold the builder harmless for damages (ranging, I suppose, from vague psychic distress to severed limbs) resulting from, inter alia, such gyrene staples as aircraft noise and unexploded shells. She did, however, attempt to reassure me that had any live ordnance perchance remained, it surely would have exploded when the bulldozers graded the hills. As for the areas to the east and the non-Marine occupants, former or present, she evinced no knowledge.

If you drive around Stonebridge Estates these days, or perhaps down Beeler Canyon Road to the San Vicente Pipeline Project area, there isn’t much that’s visible — that is, from publicly accessible viewpoints. The most obvious reminder of the area’s military-industrial past is the Doppler “vanilla cone,” apparently still used by Miramar pilots, apparently still used by Miramar pilots.

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**POSTSCRIPT:** There is a new wrought-iron gate guarding the recently renamed “Sycamore Test Road.” A sign on the gate reads, “For Access, Call 577-4059.”

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Even now, 60 years after the whirlwind courtship, Nina smiles when she recalls the night she met the heir to the Tequila Sauza fortune. It was in Chicago, where Nina had been studying at St. Mary’s College. Javier Sauza’s father had ordered him out of Guadalajara until the latest tempest from one of Javier’s party binges subsided, and the wayward son was cooling his heels. The 23-year-olds met at a party attended by the youthful cream of Mexican society. “He walked into the room, and I knew I must meet him,” Nina says. “He was the most beautiful man at the party.”

They must have known then that a relationship would create problems. Nina herself had cousins in the powerful Cuervo family, whose financial empire was also rooted in the production of tequila. The 1927 romance of Maria Elena “Nina” Gutierrez Salcedo and Francisco Javier Sauza Mora had a made-in-Hollywood feel to it. She was a red-haired beauty from an old, moneyed Guadalajara family; he was a dashing playboy, also from Guadalajara, whose lineage was equally privileged. They were both young and wild, and their families hated each other.

A bottle full of fire

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“I am a night person.”

She is a woman without guilt or pretense, sure of her position and accustomed to wealth and the influence it can buy. On shopping trips to Mexico City, she eschews her apartment there in favor of a central hotel suite. She has flown on the Concorde to Paris. She has, on occasion, summoned her La Jolla hairdresser to Guadalajara. She dines at the Maitre D’ in Bird Rock and at the Westgate Hotel’s Fontainebleau, where, she says, “They all know me. They love me there.”

Javier Sauza, on doctor’s orders, can no longer drink and complains that his memory is failing. He rarely comes to San Diego, preferring to stay in Guadalajara at the family’s block-long estate (the Sauzas also own two walled estates 40 miles away in Tequila) and spends nearly every day in his office at Tequila Sauza’s Guadalajara bottling plant. On his office desk are photographs and mementos from the early days of his leadership; behind him a miniature flag of Mexico and three telephones that ring occasionally, though not as much as they once did. His role in the company these days is that of a figurehead. What does he do here every day? “Not much,” he says with a mocking laugh. “They want me here for my name.”

Eight years ago, Javier Sauza impulsively, perhaps vindictively, sold ‘Tequila Sauza to a consortium of Mexico City businessmen. He did it, he says, because his son Eladio refused to move to Guadalajara and assume the chairmanship of the firm. Eladio, now 49, rarely visits Mexico at all, except to escort his mother, and has never shown more than a cursory interest in the tequila business. A recovering alcoholic for the past 13 years, he recently opened a drug-and-alcohol treatment center in Duluzra, and the center and his real estate interests in La Jolla occupy his time. He talks about his long years of drinking and explains, “It’s handed down from one generation to the next. Well, I decided it was going to stop here with me.” He gives a what-can-you-do? roll of the eyes. The only son of a notorious tequila baron turns out to be a non-drinking alcoholic with little interest in Mexico. Now that’s irony, he says.

Javier Sauza, too, shakes his head in bewilderment at the idea that there will be no fourth-generation Sauza at the firm. Portraits of his father and his grandfather, the founder of Tequila Sauza, gaze down on him from the far office wall. The three men have formed the Sauza triumvirate; they are the architects of a failing empire.
When Javier Sauza took over Tequila Sauza in 1946, shortly before his father’s death, he began plans at once to change the image of tequila from a drink of the campesinos to a refined spirit of the upper classes. His competitors scoffed when he redesigned the bottles and labels for a more tasteful look and when he began to age some of the tequila in wooden barrels for a smoother taste and color.

He took his product to fairs and expositions throughout Mexico, the United States, and Europe and promoted it as “the drink of romance.” He modernized production and transportation systems and built the bottling plant in Guadalajara. Tequila Sauza sponsored radio programs and athletic teams. “I was selling more than Cuervo,” he says emphatically. “And I bought tequila from everybody except Cuervo.”

Today Javier Sauza is preoccupied with two projects. One is the construction of a massive hilltop estate in Tequila named Casa del Cielo, which looks down on the Sauza factory and, not by coincidence, on the Cuervo factory and family estate. The other project is the completion of his library, or Casa de Cultura, located in the center of Tequila across the small plaza from the house where his father was born. In the Casa de Cultura, two long galleries lead off from an open-air courtyard. Within each gallery, tables are covered with trophies from Sauza-sponsored athletic teams. On the walls hang photographs and portraits of Javier, his father, and grandfather, awards, honorary diplomas, and framed decrees that proclaim him an honorary citizen of such places as Los Angeles, Tucson, Palm Springs, and New Orleans. He seems to have saved every memento and displayed it here, including a poem of his own composition written in honor of the agave plant, from which tequila is made.

Elsewhere in Tequila, a sleepy town of 20,000 where the drink originated and continues to be made, Javier Sauza has paved roads, erected statues, and built schools. But the monument that attracts the most attention is his sprawling white Casa del Cielo, a nearly completed maze of rooms and patios that overlook agave fields, fruit trees, a vegetable garden, an irrigation pond, picnic areas, and a proposed tequila museum, where full-scale exhibits will demonstrate how tequila was produced nearly 200 years ago. Javier Sauza would appear to be the king of Tequila, the town to which his grandfather, Cenobio Sauza, brought his first distillery in 1873. But Tequila Sauza, in fact, runs a distant second in terms of production, wealth, and status. A distant, bitter second to its longtime rival — Tequila Cuervo.

Behind the Cuervo empire is a low-key family with the unlikely name of Beckmann, whose members readily admit they are less colorful and more predictable than the Sauzas. At 78, Juan Beckmann Gallardo is the lanky, easygoing patriarch, but he takes little interest in the daily affairs of business. Forty-eight-year-old Juan Beckmann Vidal, his oldest
The two sons reflect a new generation of tequila producers. "We think differently from our fathers, the tequileros viejos," says Francisco. "But they were the pioneers, and we will always respect them for the progress they made." This levelheaded approach in an industry that has been traditionally dominated by volatile, romantic figures has moved Tequila Cuervo far ahead of all its competitors.

Nina and Javier Sauza, he has made gifts to the town of Tequila, the latest a kindergarten just down the street from the Cuervo factory.

Beckmann's career with Tequila Cuervo began 60 years ago when he was 18 and making liquor store deliveries while attending school in Mexico City. He moved up through the business hierarchy and finally became a regional manager in Tijuana, promoting the Cuervo brand in Baja Cali-
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The factory stood empty and vacant—“closed for repairs.” But just around the corner, the Cuervo factory, La Rojía, is a bustling contrast. Trucks loaded with agave hearts pull into the gates, workers load the heavy cores into the ovens, machines grind and hiss, and an enormous raven—the Cuervo trademark—squawks from its cage just inside the entrance. “The workers are always giving him tequila,” says Francisco Beckmann. “I think he’s an alcoholic.”

An inequality has factored into the long-standing rivalry between Tequila Sauza and Tequila Cuervo, one that Javier Sauza would like to ignore. “We are the same in Mexico,” he claims, but clearly he is behind by more than a million liters in his own country. The inequality has not yet, however, cramped the Sauza style. On a tour of her Guadalajara estate, Nina Sauza points to a fountain in the garden. “It’s exactly the same as the one in front of the White House,” she says proudly. “Just a little smaller.” The fountain faces a patio where Nina hosts occasional parties. “Plácido Domingo was here once. We know many famous people.” Inside the house, she moves with the energy of a woman half her age. She summons her chauffeur, calls her maid to request first a handbag, then a photographer, and calls a restaurant to secure reservations. “They love me there,” she says. All the while, a cassette tape for beginning French drones on in the background, “Où est la bibliothèque?”

Nina Sauza asks about Juan and Carolina Beckmann’s estate in nearby Tequila. She wants to know how it compares to her own majestic Casa del Cielo. “They have never invited me into their home,” she confides. Her maid returns with the photograph Nina had requested moments before. It is the identical portrait of the last José Cuervo and his family, taken in 1919, that Beckmann displays in his Tequila residence. “This woman,” Nina continues proudly, pointing to the wife of José Cuervo’s brother, “was my mother’s sister. So you see, I am closer to José Cuervo. Beckmann is not a Cuervo. He is just very lucky to be where he is.”

— Nancy Cleeland

Update: Juan Domingo Beckmann, son of Juan Beckmann Vidal, now serves as José Cuervo’s executive director; the company remains Mexico’s leading producer of tequila. Since 1994, Sauza Tequila has been operated by Allied Domecq, headquartered in Bristol, England. In 2002, Guillermo Erickson Sauza, grandson of Nina and Javier, began producing his own brand, Los Abuelos (Fortaleza in the U.S.), on the family estate in Tequila, Mexico.


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2032 West Vista Way, Suite 200
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Valid on any purchase. Maximum discount $100. Not valid with any other offer or with insurance. Offer expires April 30, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month.

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New clients only, first-time visit. Great for neck pain, backaches and stress relief. Offer expires April 30, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month.

Wom’s Acupressure

Many skin care, body and foot massage packages are available. 1-hour foot reflexology $38. 1.5-hr. facial and foot reflexology combo $80. Offer expires April 30, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month.

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A Day Spas $10 off any 1-hour service
A Doctor’s Weight Loss Clinic $25 off initial fees
A Dream Smile $200 off zoom! Advanced last week of each month
Acism Recovery 10% off dermap procedures
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Advanced Dermatology free laser consultation
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Aquas Bella Buy 2, get 1 free
Aquaplex Day Spa $10 off body scrub and massage $10
Arora Eyelash/Opt Contacts-exam, furn. supply $13
ashishq@gmail.com free custom hypnosis CD
Bare Sinecare $25 Brazilian wax
Beautique Salon Free haircut with purchase
Beauty by Judy $200 off a full head of hair extensions
Be Tea Salon Free Magic Tan
Bella Pelle Medical Spa $25 off all facial services
Body Wave Yoga Studio $10 off yoga class
Brazilian Skin Care La Jolla Brazilian wax wax $25
Carole & Debi Hairstylists free designer haircut ($45 value)
Center for Age Management $50 off any service
Chesnay’s Twin Massage Sports massage $30
Chula Vista Yoga Center 10 days of yoga $10
Coastal Dental Arts $1,000 off Installation
Continuum Aesthetics 10% off any service
Cosmetic Laser & Skin Rejuvenation Botox 79 per unit
Dental Artisan Teeth cleaning, exam and x-rays $49
Derm Aesthetics free medical microdermabration
Dimension Salon 12 off chemical services
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Family Dentistry free teeth whitening
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Glow M.D. Skin Care free undereye laser hair removal plus.
Dr. Michael Goldstein’s Optometry $20 off eye exam
Hair Addition $100 off all wearing styles
Hair by Dan Paul Hoffer 15% off retail hair products
Famal Haroon, DDS Lumineers - Save $300 per tooth
Hear Aid Hearing Aid $100 off hearing test
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Junior (high) 20% off haircut
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Indulge Skin Care $70 IPR Photofacial
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Inner Balance Skin Care $45 Microdermabrasion
Inside-Out free Microdermabrasion treatment
Tin free body wrap
Jenelle Salon and Spa $5 off any spa package
Jenelle Day Spa Body wraps $22
Karie Hayden & Associates 20% off contour wrap
Kara’s Salon Permanent eyeliner $9
Kayo Clinic 2-in-1 laser treatment
Knott’s 1-hour massage $49
Robert Kearney, MD $100 off Botox/Restylane
L.J. Center for Facial Plastic Surgery Botox Tues. 20% off
La Jolla Cosmetic $75 off purchase of $500 or more
La Jolla Cosmetic Laser Clinic 10% off Fraxel
La Jolla Hair Clinic 50% off hair replacement
Laser Clinic $300 off Juvederm
Laxing Beauty 20% off permanent makeup
Little Medical Spa 20% off Fraxel II
LUXFREE 25% off weight loss system

Lucky Spa $20 off 1-hour massage
Philip Ley $25 off eye glass
Massage Envy 1-hour massage $19
Med Mar $100 off medical marijuana evaluation
Mesa Family Dentistry $50 off implant
Mind Body Partnerships Spa package $179
Howard Miltien, MD & Associates laser hair removal $85
Murphy Fraser Chiropractic $25 off any treatment
My Nails & Skin Care Day Spa Refresh body spa pkg, $150
Nails Touch Gino 50% off manicure
Naomi Spa $30 off 1-hour massage
New Look MD $160 hair transplants $199
Non-Surgical Spine Care Center free consultation
Optimum Condition 2 for 1 personal training
Oriental #1 Spa $10 off massage
Pacific College of Oriental Medicine Acupuncture $20
Padilla Family & Cosmetic Medicine $50 off Rosacea
Petal Skin & Spa 1 hr. facial, massage or
microdermabrasion $45
prettykiss30 Brazilian wax
Preserve Med Sp & Wellness $99 fire & ice facial
The Relaxing Space 1-hour massage $45
Revive Rejuvenation Experience $10
Revive Salon & Spa $100 off 1-hour teeth whitening
Revive yourself free haircut with purchase of color or highlights
Ross Med Hair Restoration free 90-day supply of Propiona
Sabra Springs Dentistry free dental exam
Dr. Sadick $50 off Botox or filler
Salon Saüli $10 off precision haircut
Salon D7 free designer haircut
S.D. Skin $45 off 1-hour massage
Salon Queens $25 Brazilian wax
Dr. Selby Contacts & exam $12
Shumway Cosmetic Surgery $50 off Botox or Restylane

Skin Science $50 off single hair removal
Skin Trade $25 off waxing
Soft Touch Dental Zoom! $249
Suncare of London Head-to-Toe treatment $149
South Coast Tan Free Mystic tan
Spa for One Sanctuary $75 off Micro Dermal Tone treat
Spa Urban Retreat Professional Avada massage $49
Sport Clips $5 off MVP haircut
Suwan Hypotherapay 50% off hypotherpy session
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Sundance Dentistry Zoom! Teeth whitening $199
Syner Chi Day Spa IPL Photofacial $125
Tanya at Salon D 50% off haircut or $10 off ups
Touch of Health $10 off 1-hour massage
24 Hour Fitness 7 days of fitness free
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Urban Skin Care Brazilian wax $30

V2 Nails Bar Salon 15% discount on any service
Vahl Chiropractic Wellness Center $25 off laser treatment
Ven & Liposculpture Center Laser hair removal $49
VIP Salon & Day Spa Two 1-hour massages $149
Viva Wellness Med. Groups Botas $59
Votre Beau to Le Free Luminite Tight therapy treatment
Walden Aesthe Skin & Body Spa 15% off massage
Dr. Wei Med Sp & Spa laser hair removal $189
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West Coast Eyecare $300 off LASIK “custom”
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My Best Coach

I was pleasantly surprised when I picked up the latest copy of the Reader and read your story about Coach Teagle (“Couldn’t Be Better,” Feature Story, March 20). I was born and raised in Imperial Beach and lived about three blocks away from the Mar Vista High School. I attended MVHS from 1967 to 1969. I played football, wrestled, and ran track for Coach Teagle (100- and 220-yard dash and the 440 relay).

Byron Shevman’s story was right on about us not having the best sprinters, but we had the league’s best hurdler and top field athletes. In the 100- and 220-yard dashes we always managed a second and a third, and we won the Metro Conference in 1968.

I played for Coaches Teagle, Lusky, and Evans, and the head football coach was Bud Aubuchon. I will never forget Coach Teagle. He had a way of motivating people. If we were alive today, he would be making money giving motivational speeches around the country. I know it was Coach Teagle and Coach Aubuchon that got me the one award that was given yearly to one person in the senior graduating class. And that award is Athlete-Scholar-Citizen.

Coach Teagle was a big part of my life in high school. The article brought back many fine memories of old LB, and of MVHS. Thanks for the article.

Jim Hudson

Linda Vista

Comments from Reader Website

City Lights, Bye-Bye Meteor Reader

Published March 26

Posted by Annon92107 on March 26, 2008, 2:44 p.m.

Gad, America’s courts are corrupted by money and politics according to former Supreme Court Justice O’Connor, and of course San Diego’s corrupt and cronyistic political establishment corrupts all of our puppet masters such as Sanders and Murphy (also a former judge on the corrupt Greer court), and the bottom line remains that the courts are so corrupt in San Diego that death and destruction are now a permanent part of life in “America’s Finest City” — a little known price we pay instead of having the public safety resources we need to protect us from the consequences of corrupt courts, politicians and totalitarianism.

I am astounded that it costs lawyers $5 million to try a case, unless that includes paying off the judges to go for $40 million (minus $5 million) instead of the $120 million they stole from residential ratepayers to subsidize the “large commercial users.”

Don, what else can go wrong!

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Don, what else can go wrong!
Eight Oars
In the Water
San Diego Crew Classic

Rowing isn’t a huge thing for most high schools, so we mainly get kids with no experience at all,” says head coach of the University of California San Diego men’s crew, Zach Johnson. “UCSD just this year started handing out scholarships, spread equally across all athletes, for $500 a year. Most of my kids are engineers or in physics, so that’s really not much at all — probably two books. It’s a little bit of an incentive program.”

On Saturday, April 5, Johnson’s team will compete for the Copley Cup in the 35th Annual San Diego Crew Classic. “The Cop-ley has everybody, all the top teams, and UCSD was invited to participate in that this year because we won [Cal Cup] last year. Harvard, Yale, Princeton — eight of the top ten teams from last year are coming. My guys are feeling a little bit overwhelmed, but I think we have a good crew. They can really move a boat.”

The race will be held in west Mission Bay. “The starting line is right underneath the SeaWorld gondola ride and goes to Crown Point Shores,” Johnson explains. All crew races are 2000 meters, which, Johnson says, is 55 feet long and a foot and a half wide at the center. Eight men operate the oars, and a coxswain (the oarless team leader) sits at the stern.

“You can put the best rower in the world into the boat, and it doesn’t make that much of a difference. It’s really about all eight guys and how they lock onto each other,” says Johnson. “There is so much technique. It’s like teaching figure skaters to do the exact same thing at the exact same time. If one person makes a different hand movement, the entire boat goes off.”

The most common mistake crewmembers make is to “catch a crab.” As Johnson explains, occasionally a rower will fail to release his oar in time with the rest of his crew and, because more water passes over the top of the blade than under, the oar gets stuck. “Then the handle that was coming back keeps coming back like a big lever and catches you in the chest — with the boat going 15 to 20 miles an hour in one direction and the handle going the other, you’re going to lose.”

Racers make between 35 and 40 strokes per minute. “When it happens,” Johnson says, referring to catching a crab, “it happens fast and violently.” It’s not uncommon for rowers to be ejected from the boat by the force of the out-of-control oar handle, though Johnson says it has been over two years since he has seen this happen.

Most upper-level rowers are tall and lean. “The taller you are, the more leverage you have.” Of course, a tall crew does not guarantee a win. “Last year the winning boat had two kids over six feet tall, and the rest were all six feet or under and 170 pounds — all very scrappy and light.” Johnson says cross-country runners, water-polo players, and swimmers tend to be the best rowers. “They do a lot of laps and are used to pushing themselves really hard and constantly moving.”

Members of Johnson’s crew each have about 5 percent body fat. “We lean them down. I had a kid who literally lost 50 pounds just from the season.” This despite taking in between 4500 and 5000 calories a day. The rowers train in Mission Bay three to four hours a day, six days a week, putting in as much as 20 miles of rowing per day.

“You find that collegiate rowers spend almost all their time together,” says John-son. Because they start practice as early as 5 a.m., “most college kids, if they want to get any sleep, have to be in bed by 10 o’clock. You don’t find many college kids who go to bed by 10. My kids, by their third or fourth year, are all living together. I’ve got six guys in one house, three or four in another.”

Though he doesn’t see a lot of interaction between the men’s and women’s crews at UCSD, which he attributes to the teams’ different schedules, Johnson has been to three rower-marriage weddings in the past two years. — Barbara Lee

35th Annual San Diego Crew Classic
Saturday, April 5
7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 5
7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Crown Point Shores Park
Marina Park North
Cost: $7, under 13 and military are free
Info: 619-225-0300 or www.crewclassic.org

To get an online version of this story, go to sdcnader.com. You can print the story, email it to friends, get other stories on the same subject or stories by this author.
DANCE

"Pasos y Colores en Flamenco" Celebration of flamenco dance choreographed by Juanita Franco and Carlos Hernandez. Performances by their students. April 3, 6 p.m.; April 4, 7:30 p.m., Basic Urban Kitchen and Bar, 4101 Fourth Avenue. (619) 234-0665.

Belly Dance Show "Belly Dance Show" presented by San Diego Belly Dance Alliance. April 4, 6:30 p.m.; Army Kroc Community Center Performance Center, 3501 West Orange Avenue. (858) 535-7570.

Contra Dance "Flight Path" contra and contra dancing classes every Sunday night (8 p.m.-10:30 p.m.). First time free. April 3, 7:30 p.m., San Diego Mission Valley, 8757 Rio Vista Drive. (858) 747-0839.

The Nutcracker "The Nutcracker" performed by the California Center Ballet. April 6, 8 p.m.; $6-$8. Hot Monster Dance, 8757 El Cajon Boulevard. (619) 283-3500.

Tchaikovsky Perm Ballet and Orchestra "Tchaikovsky Perm Orchestra" performs music of Tchaikovsky. April 6, 8 p.m.; $15; $60 for six weeks. Thursday, April 3, 7 p.m., San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive. (619) 594-5318.

Salsa Dance Classes "Salsa" dance classes every Sunday night (8 p.m.-10:30 p.m.). First time free. April 3, 7:30 p.m., San Diego Mission Valley, 8757 Rio Vista Drive. (858) 747-0839.

USA Dance Party "USA Dance Party" DJ plays salsa, Latin, and requests for dancing for singles and couples of all ages. Salsa lesson at 8 p.m., open dancing 8:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m. First time free. April 4, 7:30-3:30 p.m., Saturday, April 5, 8 p.m., Patty Wells' Danzantide Center, 1255 West Morena Boulevard. (619) 496-0580.

Opposite page: "Hip-Hop Don't Stop!" DJ plays hip-hop and requests for dancing for singles and couples of all ages. Salsa lesson at 8 p.m., open dancing 8:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m. First time free. April 4, 7:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., Saturday, April 5, 8 p.m.; Patty Wells' Danzantide Center, 1255 West Morena Boulevard. (619) 496-0580.

Salsa Dance Classes "Salsa" dance classes every Sunday night (8 p.m.-10:30 p.m.). First time free. April 3, 7:30 p.m., San Diego Mission Valley, 8757 Rio Vista Drive. (858) 747-0839.
work! Find out during Family Festival concert hosted by San Diego Symphony. Orchestra conducted by Gustav Meier, with guest Monique Mead (concept, narrator, violin), and “Chef Paul” Maury. Reservations: 619-235-0804. Sunday, April 6, 2 p.m.; $10-$25. Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street, downtown.

Fairy House Tours Marston House grounds transformed into a whimsical village of fairy houses... visitors search throughout the landscape for the tiny structures which are hidden in the wooded areas, under trees, and in the garden. Houses are handcrafted by artists and children. Story time with fairy stories written by Tracy Kane, fairy-themed crafts and activities. Guests are encouraged to dress as fairies or other whimsical characters. 619-232-6203. Sunday, April 6, 11 a.m.; $3-$5. George White and Anna Gunn Marston House, 3525 Seventh Avenue. (PACIFIC BEACH)

More Wii Fun Mario Kart Wii Driving School arrives for kids and parents. Participants “get a crash course in kart racing with the new, intuitive Wii Wheel” inside a 24-foot glass display driving school truck. Upon course completion, visitors are awarded an official Mario Kart driver’s license personalized with photograph, nickname, vehicle of choice, other facts. 415-274-7911. Friday, April 4, 11 a.m.; Westfield Horton Plaza, 5998 Alcalá Park. (DOWNTOWN)

Who Dares Cross My Bridge? The Three Billy Goats Gruff performed by Old Fashioned Kite Flying Puppeteers through Friday, April 4. The Story of Frog Hollow Bat Bone presented by guest troupe Rogue Artists Ensemble, Saturday and Sunday, April 5 and 6 (with additional 7 p.m. show on Saturday). Next up: Big Foot. The Musical presented by Old Fashioned Kite Flying Puppeteers, April 9-13. Curtain rises at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Wednesday-Friday, 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. 619-544-9203. Thursday, April 3, 10 a.m.; Friday, April 4, 10 a.m.; Saturday, April 5, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday, April 6, 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 9, 10 a.m.; $3-$5. Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Road West. (HILLCREST)

Wii! Out! Mario Kart Wii Driving School arrives for kids and parents. Participants “get a crash course in kart racing with the new, intuitive Wii Wheel” inside a 24-foot glass display driving school truck. Upon course completion, visitors are awarded an official Mario Kart driver’s license personalized with photograph, nickname, vehicle of choice, other facts. 415-274-7911. Friday, April 4, 11 a.m.; Westfield Horton Plaza, 324 Horton Plaza. (DOWNTOWN)

IN PERSON

“A Laugh That Matters” Spring philanthropy stand-up comedy show, benefiting YMCA Youth and Government Scholarship Fund, in Price Center Ballroom. Show kicks off with Inter-Fraternity Joke-Off, with crowd response selecting the winner. Headliner is UCSD’s own comedian Kyle Smith, with Zoltan, Mal Hall, David Liu. 858-534-4559. Thursday, April 3, 8 p.m.; $5. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (SAN DIEGO)

Across the Water: Tales from Ireland, Scotland… and Beyond Storyteller Liz Weir from County Antrim, Ireland, returns to “beguile and bewitch” for Storytellers of San Diego in Manchester Conference Center. Suitable for adults, children over 12. 619-298-6363. Saturday, April 5, 7:30 p.m.; $10. USD: University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park. (VISTA)

“Do It for Doug” Vista High School sophomore Doug Clifton lost control of his skateboard while skating without a helmet and died from injuries he sustained when he crashed into a parked car in 2007. The Do It for Doug Foundation hosts night of music to raise money to promote helmet safety and awareness. 706-277-1857. Friday, April 4, 5 p.m.; $8-$10. The Edge at North Coast Church, 1132 North Melrose Avenue. (VISTA)

“Frozen” Bryony Lavery’s play is next up for NVA’s 2008 Playreading Series, directed by Stephen Elton, featuring Ron Choularton, JoAnne Glover, Terri Park. 760-433-3245. Monday, April 7, 7:30 p.m.; New Village Arts Theatre, 2787 B Street. (VISTA)

“Matters of Controversy” Series continues with guest Diane Wilson, author of An Unreasonable Woman: A True Story of Shrimpers, Politicians, Polluters, and the Fight for Truth in Texas. Fourth-generation shrimper Wilson began her work as an environmental activist after learning that local chemical plants had made her home of Calhoun County the number-one toxic polluter in the country. Appearance by singer/songwriter/activist Peggy Watson. Booksigning follows. Requested donation: $10. 858-459-4650. Saturday, April 5, 7 p.m.; First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, 4190 Front Street. (VISTA)

“Sepulchres” Author Kate Mosse discusses, signs her new book. 858-454-0347. Tuesday, April 8, 7:30
**OUT & ABOUT**

**OH, DOCTOR!**
JERRY COLEMAN
Warwick’s Bookstore,
Thursday, April 3.
(SEE IN PERSON)

D.G. Wilks Books, 7461 Girard Avenue.

**Book Launch Party**
Jesse Keller-
man discusses and signs his “shin-
tude, One Barnard Drive.

**Copper Writers Series**
Perceval Everett reads from his work: 619-
4721. Friday, April 4, 7 p.m.;
Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and
Justice, University of San Diego, 9599 Alcala Park.

**Improv Sketch Comedy**
“Sketch on the Rocks” comedy show by
Comedy Under Construction with

Wendi Reed, Mike Gross, Scott Langston, Mitch Feingold, 858-550-8888.
Saturday, April 5, 7 p.m.;
Tales 16 and up and Swedenborg Hall, 1531 Tyler Avenue.

**Mystery and Romance!**
Author Kathi Diamant reads from her book
Kyla’s Last Love, Diamant will share one of the world’s
greatest love stories and discuss her
new book, Harcourt Trade Books, signs and
discusses her book, “biting satire and parody” is pre-
mised. 760-802-2449. Sunday,
2425 Dusk Drive.

**Thunderous Energy!**
The Shi-
drum troupe of men and women are
“from deep within the mountains of
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**Restorations**
Classical raptis and Mark Miner will recite in Latin, as choral-
diads, seven bees from Ovid’s Metamorphoses: Daphne and
Oliver, Pyraus and Thule, Or-
bear and Eurydice, Cypris, Pygmalion, Daidalos and Icarus,
and Bauch and Philemon. 858-456-
1800. Saturday, April 5, 7 p.m.

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Valid at Brunch Dinner and Harbor Cruises only. Good up to 6 adult
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David Teutsch, said to have “played a central role in shaping the Reconstructionist movement,” will tell his personal story to explore episodes in the development of the movement and its philosophy and practice” on April 4. Teutsch returns to present “Family Values and Postmodern Individualism: New Issues in Jewish Sexual Ethics” on Saturday, April 5, 8:30-10:30 a.m.; Congregation Dor Hadash, 4808 Ronson Court, Kearny Mesa.

“Finding Living Relatives in Germany” by Joan Neumann Lowrey speaks for German Research Association. She’ll also answer the question: “Passenger Lists: Did They Really Come on That Ship?” 619-276-4660. Saturday, April 5, 9 a.m.; Joyce Beers Community Center, 1230 Cleveland Avenue, Hillcrest.

“Introduction to Email” Learn how to receive mail online during class for beginners. 619-660-5370. Saturday, April 5, 9 a.m.; Rancho San Diego Library, 11555 Via Rancho San Diego, Rancho San Diego.

“Israel in the Eye of the Storm: Regional and International Challenges” by Jacob Goldberg Annual Series, part of Distinguished Author Series 2008, gets underway with “The Struggle for Middle East Hegemony: The Iranian-Fundamentalist Crescent and Its Impact on Arab-Israeli Peace” on Monday, April 7.

Goldberg follows up with “U.S. Intelligence and the Islamic World — Between 9/11 and the Iran NIE” on Tuesday, April 8. Final talk is “The Campaign to Delegitimize Israel — Carter’s Book as a Paradigm” on Wednesday, April 9, 8:30-9:30 p.m.; Monday, April 7, 7:30 p.m.; Tuesday, April 8, 7:30 p.m.; Wednesday, April 9, 7:30 p.m.; $10-$15. Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, 4126 Executive Drive, La Jolla.

“Lighting Your Movie Like a Pro” Cinematographer Michael Brugegemeyer gives a practical lighting demonstration, shares tips on “painting with light” during networking event for filmmakers. 858-356-0203. Tuesday, April 8, 6 p.m.; Groovy Like a Movie, 5205 Kearny Villa Way, Kearny Mesa.

“Mt. Whitney Clinic Part II” Whitney bound? An expert will offer tips, suggestions for gear, trip planning, show detailed slides of various approaches. Didn’t get picked in this year’s permit lottery? “Suggestions will be offered for several popular routes and options.” 619-283-2374. Wednesday, April 9, 7 p.m.; Adventure 16 Mission Valley, 4620 Alvarado Canyon Road, Mission Valley.

“Another Mt. Whitney Clinic” An expert will offer tips, suggestions for gear, trip planning, show detailed slides of various approaches. Didn’t get picked in this year’s permit lottery? “Suggestions will be offered for several popular routes and options.” 760-966-1700. Monday, April 7, 7 p.m.; Adventure 16 Oceanside, 2002 South Coast Highway 101, Oceanside.

“Opera Insights Series” Historical and cultural background, music analysis, plot synopsis, musical selections from Verdi’s Aida presented by Ron Shaheren to highlight upcoming San Diego Opera production. 619-236-5800. Wednesday, April 9, 5:30 p.m.; San Diego Reader, April 3, 2008
**LOCAL EVENTS**

**BARKER VALLEY**

Discover hidden Barker Valley, tucked into a crease of Pala-Mar Mountain.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 85 miles

Hiking length: 6.2 miles round-trip

Difficulty: Moderately strenuous

_Falls below Barker Valley_ - raspots roost in old snags on the shore of nearby Lake Henshaw. Hike for a total of 3.7 miles until the old rinsed portion of the trail switches back sharply to the left. Continue up the U-curve, and within 0.1 mile veer to the right on a new trail that leads uphill for about 0.6 mile to the Barker Valley Spur trailhead. (3.1 miles from your starting point. If you'rebackpacking and looking for a campsite, they're abundant around here. Just remember to select one at least 100 feet away from the nearest water, i.e., the West Fork San Luis Rey River. Barker Valley is notorious for cold air drainage at night. Once I had the interesting experience of sweating out an 80° July day, and awakening next morning to find frost along the stream. A rugged set of falls and pools awaits adventurous hikers. A mile downstream from the foot of the Barker Valley Spur Trail. These can be found just below an old stone weir and gauging station. By following rough paths traversing the sonorous, brushy, canyon wall, it's possible to reach hidden swimming holes worn in the water-polished rock. Wild trout can be found in the pools below the first falls. Don't attempt to explore this area unless you're adept at scrambling over steep terrain and across potentially slippery, water-polished rock. An ill-timed slip in a couple of places could result in a deadly, 50-foot plunge down a cascade.

When it's time to return, go back the same way. You'll gain 1000 feet of elevation to get back to your car. The consistently gradual trail is not in itself challenging, but it may prove difficult after many hours of exposure to the warm sun.

This article contains information about a publicly owned recreation or wilder-

ness 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.

**OAKLAND**

**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**1875 El Prado.**

**III**

**First annual Axline Lecture.** Lin-woman, 1450 El Prado.

**1200 Carlsbad Village Drive.**

**4150 El Prado.**

**Start off by hiking west on the Barker Valley Spur Trail.**

**This can be found just below an old stone weir and gauging station. By following rough paths traversing the sonorous, brushy, canyon wall, it's possible to reach hidden swimming holes worn in the water-polished rock. Wild trout can be found in the pools below the first falls. Don't attempt to explore this area unless you're adept at scrambling over steep terrain and across potentially slippery, water-polished rock. An ill-timed slip in a couple of places could result in a deadly, 50-foot plunge down a cascade.

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Stew Hall focuses on astronomy’s contribution to navigation and timekeeping during star party. After lecture, take in evening orientation program, and observe the universe through telescopes. 760-737-2698. Saturday, April 5, 6 p.m.; San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park, 16666 San Pasqual Valley Road. (ESCONDIDO)

California Native Plant Society Walk Bring binoculars and drinking water. 858-581-9944. Sunday, April 6, 9 a.m.; Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road. (CLAREMONT)

Experience a Grunion Run Grunion run program hosted by Birch Aquarium-Museum (which doesn’t take place at museum). Presentation on grunion, then “opportunity to witness grunion eggs hatch before your eyes.” Reservations, directions: 858-534-7336. Monday, April 7, 10 a.m.; Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (SAN DIEGO)

Guided Nature Walk At west side of park, at Regents Road entrance. 858-581-9944. Bring binoculars, drinking water. Saturday, April 5, 9:30 a.m.; Marian Bear Memorial Park, Highway 52 and Regents Road. (CLAREMONT)

History Walk Offshoot Tours offers hour-long history walk, blending Balboa Park history with its wealth of architectural and botanical treasures. 619-235-1121. Saturday, April 5, 10 a.m.; Balboa Park Visitors’ Center, 1549 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

“Lo Mexicano en Paradiso” Javier Hernandez Quezada discusses new book. 011-52-664-687-9636. Thursday, April 3, 7 p.m.; Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BAJA)

“Rebelliones Militares en Baja California” Lecture by Em-
What’s That You’re Writing?

BY SONIA ELIOT

NAME: PAUL DE LANCEY | OCCUPATION: ECONOMIST/NOVELIST
NEIGHBORHOOD: POWAY | WHERE INTERVIEWED: DENNY’S ON POWAY ROAD

What are you writing?

“The book I’m currently writing is called The Good Samaritan.”

Tell me about it.

“His name is Sam Mollusk, and he’s a data entry/data processor-type of guy. Deliberately, he sees the neighborhood Al Qaeda terrorist/Tupperware rep (he’s both) and he doesn’t like him so he runs him over, and he thinks he kills him. Well, he feels bad about that, and spur of the moment decides to go to church about it. He goes to church. And he sees he’s not doing ‘the right thing’: he’s supposed to be killing to help humanity, not just for his own selfish needs. So he’s going to start killing annoying people—people who talk loud on cell phones in restaurants, people who sass waitresses, and so on. He’s going to try to help things a little bit.

Downhill from him is his neighbor Medusa, from Greek mythology. But she’s not divine; she just takes a lot of vitamins. And the snakes are not just garter snakes. She’s fallen in love with him, and eventually they’re going to get together. Meanwhile, the Al Qaeda people are not taking this kindly, but they’ve sort of mutated a bit by their guidance and this Al Qaeda software. So 600 of them got a free Club Med vacation—they’ve lost a little bit of their edge. And I think they’re going to start doing a little more of the Tupperware stuff rather than the terrorist things. Eventually it’s all going to tie together.”

What made you write it?

“If I get irritated about something, I make fun of it. Rather than get really angry or upset about something, I decided to laugh at it instead. You know if you drive anywhere, there’s annoyances and so on. I thought rather than get annoyed, I would have fun with it. I think [Sam] thinks he’s doing human reality a really good thing.”

Do you have a favorite section?

“This one’s just started, but the beginning part when he runs over the Al Qaeda person and the Al Qaeda’s wife comes out and is really upset. And he says, ‘Why should you be upset? He was Al Qaeda.’ And she says, ‘He made me laugh.’ And then he asks her out because she’s a widow now, and she’s available. And then it goes from there.”

Why should someone read this?

“Someone who I think likes a good laugh. I think it’s funny. I think it relates to human occurrences; you know, everybody gets upset about little things, but no one really thinks about murdering people. So I’m doing that for them.”

Tell me about your writing habits.

“I don’t have a set schedule. I write when I’m inspired. Anyway, I try to write when I’m not available because I’m writing a lot of time. But I think I’m relatively flexible.”

What’s it like for your family?

“There are some times when I’m not as available because I’m writing when they’re there. But I try not to do it when they need me. My elderly son likes when I write; my wife sort of likes it—it’s not always understanding it all the time. But I think I’m relatively benign.”

Is writing your main line of work?

“I’m an economist, specializing in forecasting. I generally don’t talk about it too much when I’m talking about my writing because people’s eyes glaze over, like they’re doing now.”

The Wizard of Oz

Saturday, April 5, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Sunday, April 6, 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.
Friday, April 4, 5 p.m.; Mesa College Theatre Rep, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street.

The largest indoor 100-yard climate-controlled shooting range on the west coast!

Rifle • Pistols • Shotguns • Airsoft • Black powder

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A Mind of Her Own: Fathers and Daughters in a Changing World” “Let’s Talk About It: Jewish Literature” series continues with Johanna Kaplan’s On My American BDSU associate professor of English and comparative literature June Cummins leads discussions. Registration: 858-694-2484. Wednesday, April 9, 6:30 p.m.; Encinitas Library, 540 Cornish Drive. (MEMBERS)

“Creating Space for Imaginative Play in an Overscheduled Society” Integral Elementary School fundraiser with speakers Malika Choppa, Dr. Anthony DeMaria, Jan Toler, Susan Waltin focusing on “what happens when children don’t have time for free play.” (Advance reservation required) 858-450-4321. Saturday, April 9, 6:30 p.m.; Integral Elementary School, 8660 Gilman Drive. (FAMILY)

“Nano Day at the Fleet” What do tennis balls, computer hard drives and catalytic converters have in common? All benefit from advances made in nanotechnology (the science of creating materials from single atoms). Visitors will discover how everyday products use nanotechnology, understand scale of nanoscience, “play with that mysterious material, ferrofluid.” Hands-on activities (for those 8 and older): 619-238-1233. Saturday, April 5, 11 a.m. 86-88; Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (FAMILY)

“Puppetry and Performance in Africa” Exhibition in Mesa College Glass Gallery opens with reception including Batsimi African masquerade drum and dance performance, videos, illustrated discussion by curator Barbara Blackman. Exhibition includes “unusual puppets…masks and masquerades,” along with video clips. Through November. 619-388-2498 or 619-461-5930. Friday, April 4, 5 p.m.; Mesa College, 7250 Mesa College Drive. (FAMILY)

“Mushroom in Concert” April 5, noon; $30-$60.

Two bands among the 15 performing for rock concert. 011-52-664-687-4108 Adams Avenue (near Clem’s Liquor) • 619-284-8224

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Offer valid Friday, April 4, 5 p.m. and Saturday, April 5, noon.

What’s That You’re Writing?
OUT & ABOUT

WORLD-RENEWED ARTIST MAYA LIN
Sherwood Auditorium, Friday, April 4.

(See Lectures)

PHOTOGRAPH BY WALTER SMITH

UCSD Open Studios Graduate Visual Arts Department at UCSD hosts viewing of work by its current MFA students. Take in art, film, performance, music at Visual Arts Facility. 626-676-0627. Friday, April 4, 2 p.m.; University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (UCSD)

Vernal EquiDox Walk-in-the-Park
San Diego Dachshund Club hosts walk in park starting at fountain near Reuben H. Fleet Science Center. Walk to organ concert, parade (2 p.m.) 858-278-1729. Sunday, April 6, 6 p.m.; Balboa Park, Park Boulevard at Presidents Way. (BALBOA PARK)

World of Holographics
Open house for those curious about holography, science involved, current and future applications. Dinesh and Joy Padiyar will answer questions related to holography, including history, technology, production, manufacturing, industry, art. 760-471-1708.

Sports
Board and Draw the Long Way
Take “great” 50-mile ride with San Diego Bicycle Society. 619-243-8187. Saturday, April 5, 8:45 a.m.; Doyle Park, 8175 Reagon Road. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

California Walk for Recovery
Noncompetitive three-mile walk celebrating “recovery from substance abuse” starts and finishes near Quince Street and Balboa Drive (on west side of park). Post-walk festival with exhibits, entertainment. Event-day registration: 7 a.m. 760-692-2900. Saturday, April 5, 8 a.m.; $20-$30. Balboa Park, Park Boulevard at Presidents Way. (BALBOA PARK)

Gregorian Chant Mass
Sunday, April 13
4:00 pm
Pizza Social with singing by the Schola after Mass.

Our Lady of the Rosary Church
San Diego’s Jewel Box of Baroque and Rococo Art
State and Date Streets
(Little Italy)
Downtown San Diego
O U T & A B O U T

SPRING RENAISSANCE AND SAILING ON THE BAY IN THE PARK
Saturday and Sunday, April 5 and 6, Felicia Park.

(SEE SPECIAL)

MUSEUMS

Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum
The museum locates, collects, documents, and preserves historical gas and steam and horse-powered equipment related to agriculture and the general development of America. The collection is made up of equipment used in lumbering, mining, oil drilling, and construction industries. Blacksmith and wheelwright shop, country kitchen and bath, reconstructed sawmill, and U.S. 1-scale train. 2000 North Santa Fe Avenue, 760-941-1971. [DM3]

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

Chula Vista Nature Center
Interactive living museum devoted to the endangered Southern California coastal wetlands located in Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge. Visitors can use a Binoculars to view animals macroscopically, use a Wentzscope to view microscopic organisms found in the “Sweetwater Soup,” and interact with computerized videos exploring how tides affect the bay in the “Moons, Tides, and the San Diego Bay” exhibit. Pet sharks and rays in the David A. Wieghorst Shark and Ray Experience, see burrowing owls and migratory birds, and enjoy the xerophytic gardens. Visitors meet a shuttle bus at the Bayfront E Street Trolley Station or at the center’s parking lot at the foot of E Street and Bay Boulevard. 100 Gunpowder Landing, 619-520-3426. [CHULA VISTA]

California Surf Museum
“Tom Keck: Exposed” continues through March. Born in Coronado in 1937 and raised there, Keck “would discover a lifelong playground in the Pacific Ocean.” Museum features surfing artifacts and memorabilia — such as surfboards and clothing known as keck, whose function was to protect children from “the evil eye.” Exhibit is built entirely from a private collection of materials gathered almost 40 years ago in Afghanistan. Through Monday, May 26. Ongoing exhibits explore the overall history of Coronado, Navy and Army, Tent City, and the Hotel del Coronado, 1108 Orange Avenue, 619-438-7224. (CORONADO)

Flying Leatherneck Museum
Museum is dedicated to Marine Corps who provided air support from the propeller-driven fighters and bombers of the 1940s to the modern jets and helicopters currently in use. Static displays of a variety of aircraft are included, along with equipment, insignia, paintings and prototypes, scale models, and a research library. The museum is located in building T-228 at Marine Corps Air Station, 619-693-7233. (MCAS)
painting, Nausica at Garst Creek, and original restored home Weighe stom lived in for many years starting in 1945. 131 Rea Avenue, 619-590-3437.

Ramona Pioneer Historical Society and Guy B. Wood-ward Museum Complex of his-torial buildings includes the Ver-laque House (the only Western adobe home of French provincial design still in existence), wagons, antique exhibits, and artifacts. There is a cowboy bunk house, women’s clothing and accessories from 1700 to 1800, a ranch black-smith shop and tack room. The Casey Tibbs Memorial Exhibit is dedicated to Tibbs, a local resident who was a world-champion rodeo rider. The Bancroft Memorial Rose Garden is on the grounds. Rare books, photographs, and a re-dedication to Tibbs, a local resident

San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum Museum onboard the decommissioned USS Midway is open for tours, now berthed at 910 North Harbor Drive. Exhibits in-clude Navy jet simulators, carrier and flight deck touring, captain’s sea cabin, pilot house, navigation bridge. Admission fee includes au-dio guide: 910 North Harbor Drive, 619-544-9600. (oused)

San Diego County Sheriff’s Museum The 150-year history of the sheriff’s department is high-lighted at the museum, which is lo-cated “just feet away” from the original cobblestone jail site, built in 1858. The museum boasts artifacts, photographs, equipment, uni-forms, and vehicles, along with ex-hibits from each of the departments making up the organization such as crime scene, K-9, court service, de-tentions, crime lab, bomb squad, and many others. 2384 San Diego Avenue, 619-260-1850.

San Diego Natural History Museum "A Day in Pompeii" features authentic artifacts from Pompeii, buried in 79 CE during catastrophic eruption of Vesuvius. View body casts of volcano’s vic-tims, frozen in their last moments, and objects such as frescoes, jew-elry, household items. Closes Sun-day, June 15.

San Diego Model Railroad Museum Museum celebrates American railroads with “the largest permanent operating model railroad and toy train ex-hibit” in North America. Four scale-model railroads of the South-west, the “San Diego County Relief Map” exhibit, and an interactive toy train. There is a multimedia presentation on railroading, an op-erating railroad semaphore signal, and interpretive displays on rail-roads and model railroading. The museum is downstairs in the Casa de Balboa building. 1649 El Prado, 619-496-0399. (lued)

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**Classical Music**

**Classical Guitar Concert**
Colin McAllister showcases recent re-workings of medieval and Renaissance materials, including a piece for 11-string banjo guitar and *Nocturnal* by Britten for Concert Hour. Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone number, and an area code for public information to READER CALENDAR MUSIC, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92138-3833. Or fax to 619-691-2401. You may also submit information online at SDReader.com by clicking on the events section.

**REVOLUTIONARY AND PASSIONATE! EUROPA GALANTE**
Saturday, April 5, Sherwood Auditorium. (SEE CLASSICAL MUSIC)

**How to Send Us Your Listing:** Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone number, and an area code for public information to READER CALENDAR MUSIC, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92138-3833. Or fax to 619-691-2401. You may also submit information online at SDReader.com by clicking on the events section.

**Postcard**

**How to Send Us Your Listing:** Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone number, and a phone number (including area code) for public information to READER EVENTS, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92138. Or fax to 619-691-2401. You may also submit information online at SDReader.com by clicking on the events section.

**Galleries**

**“Sprint Ahead”** Opening reception for San Diego Watercolor Society’s current exhibit. Juror Stan Goudery, a Julian resident and painter, selected approximately 100 paintings for exhibition continuing through Friday, April 25. 619-876-4550. San Diego Watercolor Society (2825 Dewey Road #105). 5 p.m., Friday, April 4. (POINT LOMA)

**“The Beethoven Experience”**
Enjoy the master’s *Symphony No. 2* and *Violin Concerto* when Grammy Award nominee Jennifer Frautschy joins San Diego Chamber Orchestra for concerts. Reservations: 858-350-0290. Sherwood Auditorium at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (700 Prospect Street), 7:30 p.m., Monday, April 7. (HILLCREST)

**“Transformations 07: Reverberations”** Opening reception for exhibition of work by 24 artists. Traveling exhibit of art quilts by *nationally known artists* sponsored by Studio Art Quilt Associates continues through Sunday, May 2. 619-546-4872. Visions Art Quilt Gallery (NTC Promenade, Liberty Station, 2825 Dewey Road, suite 300). 3 p.m., Friday, April 4. (POINT LOMA)

**“Puppetry and Performance in Africa”**
Exhibition in Mesa College Glass Gallery opens with reception including Boma African marimba and dance performance, videos, illustrated discussion by curator Barbara Blackman. Exhibition includes “unusual puppets... masks and masquerades,” along with video clips. Through November. 619-388-2498 or 619-461-5930. Mesa College (7520 Mesa College Drive). 5 p.m., Friday, April 4. (SAN MARCOS)

**“Wanderlust”** Christina Angela’s one-woman show opens with reception. Mixed-media collage of paintings, photographs, sketches combining “daydreams and attraction” continues through Sunday, April 27. 619-795-3704. Colusseum Fine Arts (2400 Kettner Boulevard, suite F-109). 6 p.m., Saturday, April 5. (DOWNTOWN)

**“Ten Years of Dark Vomit”** Opening reception for an annual showcase of experimental, new media, and traditional art, curated by John Schindel. Ten-Year Showcase celebrates the 10th anniversary of Dark Vomit. Reception is free and open to the public. Curated by John Schindel. 8 p.m., Friday, April 4. (LA JOLLA)

**“Positively Medieval”**
The Guilds present a program of authentic medieval music on period instruments for family music program. Music comes mainly from the 13th and 14th centuries, includes “bouncy dances, drinking songs, and hauntingly beautiful devotional and art melodies.” 858-552-1668. Carner Valley Library (3919 Towngate Drive). 7 p.m., Wednesday, April 9. (CABRILLO VALLEY)

**ART LISTINGS**

**How to Send Us Your Listing:** Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone number, and a phone number (including area code) for public information to READER EVENTS, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92138. Or fax to 619-691-2401. You may also submit information online at SDReader.com by clicking on the events section.

**GALLERY**

**“Sprint Ahead”** Opening reception for exhibition of work by 24 artists. Traveling exhibit of art quilts by *nationally known artists* sponsored by Studio Art Quilt Associates continues through Sunday, May 2. 619-546-4872. Visions Art Quilt Gallery (NCT Promenade, Liberty Station, 2825 Dewey Road, suite 300). 3 p.m., Friday, April 4. (POINT LOMA)

**“Puppetry and Performance in Africa”**
Exhibition in Mesa College Glass Gallery opens with reception including Boma African marimba and dance performance, videos, illustrated discussion by curator Barbara Blackman. Exhibition includes “unusual puppets... masks and masquerades,” along with video clips. Through November. 619-388-2498 or 619-461-5930. Mesa College (7520 Mesa College Drive). 5 p.m., Friday, April 4. (SAN MARCOS)

**“Wanderlust”** Christina Angela’s one-woman show opens with reception. Mixed-media collage of paintings, photographs, sketches combining “daydreams and attraction” continues through Sunday, April 27. 619-795-3704. Colusseum Fine Arts (2400 Kettner Boulevard, suite F-109). 6 p.m., Saturday, April 5. (DOWNTOWN)

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**ART MUSEUMS**

**California Center for the Arts, Escondido Museum** “Innovations is Questionable” is comprised of work by six renowned San Diego-based artists: Jean Lowe, Ernest Silva, Raoul Guerrero, Iana Quensell, May-ling Martinez, and Yvonne Venegas. Each artist is recipient of 2006/2007 San Diego Art Prize. Through May. 340 North Escondido Boulevard, 760-839-4120. ESENC0006.

**Mingei International Museum** “Hungarian Folk Magic — The Art of Joseph Domjan” includes several of this master woodblock printer’s pieces, along with objects from other cultures of the folklore images Domjan often portrayed. “Exhibition is an expression of the power of art to endure war, politics, and disaster and to rise, phoenix-like, from the ashes.” Closes Sunday, October 5.

**American Viewing Stones: Natural Art in an Asian Tradition** Chinese connoisseurs began using large stones to decorate gardens, courtyards during the Han dynasty (206 B.C.–A.D. 220); “Scholar’s Rocks” is English name most commonly used for these items. American viewing stone collecting began with first- and second-generation Japanese-Americans who continued traditions of bonsai and suiseki. “American Viewing Stones” is “the largest exhibition of renowned artist...Erwin’s work since 1993.” Exhibit features five new major installation works created specifically for MCASD’s galleries, is drawn almost exclusively from museum’s collection. Closes Sunday, April 13. Find the museum directly across from the Santa Fe Railroad Depot. 1001 Kettner Boulevard, 858-454-3541. ESENC00048.

**Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla** In the room-sized “Erwin Redl: Matrix II,” the space seems to recede in all directions, as if the walls were mirrored. Floor-to-ceiling and wall-to-wall, the room is filled with grids of phosphor-green LEDs, creating an immersive web of light. Closes Sunday, May 4. 700 Prospect Street, 858-454-3541. ESENC00004.

**Museum of Photographic Arts** “The Photographer’s Eye: A Way of Seeing” is drawn from the museum’s permanent collection. Exhibit illustrates the book The Photographer’s Eye (1986) by John Szarkowski; he led 360 exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York. Also closing Sunday, April 20, is “Measured Time: MoPA at 25.” Museum’s atrium wall holds a timeline exhibition reflecting museum’s achievements since 1983. Images from permanent collection illustrate significant artists whose first solo exhibitions were held at MoPA, more. “Picturing the Process” focuses on an “evolution of the early history of photography.”

**Sculpture: Fifty Works from Fifty Years, 1900–1950” focuses on “museum’s mission to promote and foster an appreciation for the art and artists of the San Diego region.” Guest curator Brum Dijkstra assembled selection of paintings from private collections and museums including celebrated “ plein air ” painters such as Maurice Braun, Charles Frye, and Charles Reiffel, as well as surrealist Ethel Greene and accomplished group of early modernists including Belle Baranceanu. Closes Thursday, June 26. 704 Pier View Way, 619-721-2787. ESENC000048.

**San Diego Museum of Art** “Kinased Spirits: Asher B. Durand and the American Landscapes” — closing Sunday, April 27 — surveys over 50 paintings, drawings, engravings by Durand, a foremost artist of his era “who created the most memorable American landscape paintings of the mid-19th century.” Exhibit gives extra emphasis given to large-scale landscape paintings for which he is best remembered. “Plein Air Past and Present: A Collaboration Between SDMA and the Lux Art Institute” runs concurrently, featuring more than 20 California plein-air paintings. “Rhythms of India: The Art of Nandalal Bose (1882–1966)” is described as the “first comprehensive traveling exhibition outside of Asia to survey the expansive repertoire of Bose...the father of modern art in India.” Exhibit boats close to 100 of Bose’s finest paintings, executed in a variety of styles and media, revealing how Bose contributed to success of India’s nonviolent struggle for independence from colonial rule through his association with Mahatma Gandhi. Closes Sunday, May 18. “Inside the Wave: Six San Diego/Tijuana Artists Construct Social Art,” closing on Sunday, June 22, features six artists from San Diego/Tijuana region working within alternative cultures to produce thought-provoking works engaging issues of everyday life and materialism. Artists bullo, Brian Dick, Adriene Jenik, particle group, Zlatan Vukosavljevic, and Allison Weise produce works including sculptures made of found industrial objects, photographs, documentary videos, and interactive digital media. 1450 El Prado, 619-232-7931. ESENC00018.

**Timken Museum of Art** Permanent collection includes European old master paintings, 18th- and 19th-Century American paintings, and Russian icons. Saint Bartholomew, the only Rembrandt painting on public display in San Diego, is featured. 1500 El Prado, 619-239-5348. ESENC000048.

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**San Diego Natural History Museum**

- | A collaboration of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the San Diego Natural History Museum, the Goldleaf Exploration Science Center, the Science Museum at the Museum, and Discovery Park.
The Reader offers $25 for news tips published in Blurt. Call us at 619-235-3000, ext. 456, or e-mail your tip to blurt@sreader.com.

**A Size Small Street Scene**

On March 25, the Union-Tribune ran a story by George Varga titled “Street Scene is set to go home.” The article implied that the next annual music fest will be staged downtown for the first time since 2004.

Gadam Quarter Association director Jimmy Parker says the article announcing Street Scene’s return to downtown was premature and not true.

“Things may not work out for Hagey because of the Varga article,” says Parker. “My phone lit up that morning with concerned businesses as well as excited businesses [about the return of Street Scene].”

The Varga article, says Street Scene founder Ron Hagey, “…caught us off guard” because nothing is “set,” as the headline declared. Hagey says he has a specific site in mind but that it has yet to be secured.

Last year, Hagey passed ownership of the 24-year-old music fest to Live Nation, which moved it to the Coors Amphitheatre parking lot. It drew an estimated 10,000 paid fans (compare that to 105,000 in 2004). This year, Live Nation gave Street Scene back to Hagey.

Hagey says he may partner with another large promoter for this year’s event; if he doesn’t, it may be hard to secure big-name talent because he’d be getting a late start. Hagey says he has no “tentative holds” with talent agents who represent nationally known musicians. He would not rule out a scaled-down event.

“Everyone wants Street Scene to go back to the way it was before,” says Parker. “It’s a problem [with a downtown Street Scene] is space. Redevlopment has put buildings on most of the parking lots. The big acts don’t fit down there anymore.…”

“There’s a whole demo who was in their 30s who saw the Street Scene in the early days who miss the Cajun, blue, and jazz. They would probably come back.” — Ken Leighton

**Ziggy Marley at 2004 Street Scene**

limited-edition CD by that artist, plus a percentage of income from downloaded music files. Sellaband sells tracks at 50 cents per download through Amazon, with stockholders receiving a percentage based on the size of their investment.

Once an artist has sold 500 “parts” at $10 each ($50,000), Sellaband provides the performer with a range of recording, mixing, and production services at no charge.

“The company is owned by former music executives from the big labels,” says Holleran. “They’re doing a lot of advertising to bring in more potential believers.”

Amber Ojeda joining Sellaband on February 24. As of this past Monday she had sold 116 shares of her music. She appears April 9 at Anthology.

— Jay Allen Sanford

**Indier Than Thou**

A local performer who appeared at last Saturday’s San Diego Indie Music Fest was pleased to be one of the local artists selected to play the 12-hour, seven-stage showcase for singer-songwriters. About half of the 70 artists were local.

“They put your song on a CD, and the first 100 people [in attendance] get a copy,” says the artist.

Although tickets were $23, some of the artists didn’t get paid, which didn’t seem to bother the artist. “We’re totally stoked [to play it]; it’s a great advertisement.”

— Ken Leighton

**All the King’s Junk**

Fifty-two years ago — on April 6, 1956 — Elvis Presley played his first public California concert at the San Diego Arena on Eighth and Harbor Drive (a.k.a. Glacier Garden).
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“"I introduced him [to the stage],” says longtime local DJ Happy Hare Martin, “and he rushed out and sang the first chorus of ‘Hound Dog,’ which I could not hear above their primal screams. Then...he began wiggling and rotating his pelvis. This is when half the girls lost control of their bladders.”

Tony’s.”

When I entered the dressing room… Seeing him grab his gold lamé suit and covered himself. Too late. I had caught him.

Martin had been with Elvis backstage in the hours leading up to the show. “Elvis was a blond,” he says. “I kept his secret for many years, until I learned that he had been outed… When I entered the dressing room, I was flustered to see that the King had no clothes. He was pacing buck naked in the dressing room… Seeing me, he grabbed his gold lamé suit and covered himself. Too late. I had caught him.

When I entered the dressing room… Seeing him grab his gold lamé suit and covered himself. Too late. I had caught him.

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**This Week In Music**

**Thursday 3**

Boston street punks Unseen slam Soma tonight. The 15-year-strong hardcore band hit Warped last year behind Internal Salvation, their eighth collection at metal-edged screams.

**Saturday 5**

Angelo indie kids the Little Ones crawl into Casbah for a play date with Syracuse, New York rockers Ra Ra Riot and Berkeley piano-poppers the Morning Benders. They’re all shining demo e.p.s for the collection plate. Pine Mountain Logs bum longer at Belly Up. The Venice Beach covers crazies will keep you guessing what’s next as they jam live mash-ups into your ear holes. Blizzard Sky themes... The Logs are popular So-Cal vo-cal act Venice rollin’ their influences out and you will dig it... Guitar guy Big Head Todd and his Monsters slide their ridiculous name into House of Blues’ marquee. The Bolder band’ll give you All the Love You Need, their label-less latest collection of old-school frat rock. Round the corner, cult sts props Kill acts Loose Ends and Angela Wimbush.

**Sunday 6**

I’ve seen all good people turn their heads each day, but especially Sunday, when ’80s prog supra Jon Andersen joins Paul Green’s School of Rock Altarists’ set at Anthology. Hear tell the School of Rock kids out the Yes catalogue. Question is, can Mr. Andersen...? Royal rappitazz. The King Brothers knight Pink Elephant. Shell Shag in... well... Minnes and Rory Jones Chase Frank to Tower Bar... Writer scripts a Zombie set, shares the stage with...some other music groups.

**Monday 7**

“C-U-La-Tour.” Industrial dance demons Ministry (“Jesus Built My Hotrod.” “Liedleslies”) preach to ’80s wave fans at House of Blues. Main man Al Jourgensen has fronted the synth-rock crew for going on 30 years and is teasing retirement as the Chicagoland band tours behind ’05’s The Last Sucker. Down the street, Hard Rock Hotel props a puppet for San Diego Christian rockers P.O.D. The Grammy nu-metal nomads are out to tout new one When Angels & Serpents Dance, which is due to drop Tuesday. The title track is available for free download via iTunes if ya like... Happy birthday jazz master Freddie Hubbard. The trumpeter turns 70 tonight. Hubbard and his all-star combo hit Anthology, Hollywood heavens White Wizard.

**Tuesday 8**

Philly’s ghettotech mix master Ramble John Krohn, aka DJD, debuts XL disc The Third Hand at Casbah. RI shares the bill with Jersey trip-hoppin’ tourmates (and Dr. Who fans) dälek, who last month premiered epic collection Abandoned Language at SXSW. One-man indie band Happy Vegetable opens the Tuesday triple-header. He wants you to know that Lovers Come Back is now available at Target.

**Wednesday 9**

Belly Up cornered the market on X — John Doe, Exene, Billy Zoom, D.J. Bonebrake. The L.A. punk-rock pioneers Atake the Music Go Bang! But you knew that. Aussie garage-rocker the Skybombers drop an opening set... Raleigh, NC’s Birds of Avalon fly in to Bar Punk Elephant. The quartet delivers new Volcom e.p. Outer Upper to... Mike Peters of ’80s pop-rock political the Alarm rocks the Casbah... Mexi ‘lectronicats Muñónia appear downtown at House of Blues... Wednesdays at Tower belong to local dance-rock dudes Thin Man. This week they’ll share the stage with the poppers Prayers DJ Mario O. spins round sets.

— Bamaly Monk
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Stevie Ray, with Feeling

“It is during ‘Little Wing’ that I must be absolutely on my game.”

Alan Iglesias says his Stevie Ray Vaughan show is more a “re-creation” than a tribute. “Looks, appearances, and body language are extremely important if you want to present a world-class act,” he says, “but never at the expense of musicianship.”

Actually, the two are entwined, I think. I explain it this way: It’s perhaps not so important that I try to look and sound exactly like Stevie looked and sounded — although I certainly give that a lot of effort — but, rather, to strive for a situation in which I am feeling some wonderful, soulful music like Stevie’s, and perhaps not so important that I try to look and sound exactly like Stevie when he played a live show.

I mention that some musicians resent that he sells out shows on the strength of SRV’s reputation, while many all-original bands have difficulty just landing a gig. “On one level,” he replies, “I don’t blame them a bit. But these days, the people you describe are going to be typically a year or two older and washed up.”

Alan Iglesias and Crossfire perform at Tio Leo’s (Napa/Morena location) on April 26.

FIVE DESERT-ISLAND DVDs?
1. This Is Spinal Tap: “I’ve actually done the trip through the Santa Barbara County wine country, and believe it or not, the wonderful feel of that place does come through in the movie.”
2. Fast Times at Ridgemont High: “A much better coming-of-age movie than first meets the eye.”
3. Sideways: “I’ve actually done the trip through the Santa Barbara County wine country, and believe it or not, the wonderful feel of that place does come through in the movie.”
4. The Wizard of Oz: “This dang thing is responsible for helping me remain optimistic about so much that is negative in this world.”

“Um, the weather? Seriously, the weather makes me happy every day. Even on the bad days, because I know that, unlike New England, where I last lived, it will be beautiful again very soon.”

WHERE DO YOU HANG OUT?
“Rural areas, like the backcountry and the Anza-Borrego Desert area — only a relatively short drive from here. It’s so peaceful, and I need that after all the racket I make.”

WHAT’S THE LAST BOOK YOU READ?
“ ‘Little Wing,’ by David Bodian. It chronicles the history of each component of that famous equation, written so that just about anyone can understand it. It gives great perspective on how man’s eventual understanding of the universe’s fundamental physical concepts has changed life on earth and how we can expect those changes to keep happening.”

STEVIE’S FANS — including me — think that he took it to the next level. So it’s daring that song that I must be absolutely on my game. When folks say that that song moved them more than any other, I feel that I’m truly doing my job.”

“ ‘Little Wing.’ Even though it’s a Jimi Hendrix song, in terms of who wrote it, I feel that many of the people you describe are going to be typically a year or two older and washed up.”

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WORST JOBS?
1. “Sleeping in, whenever that actually happens.”
2. “Great microbrewery beer.”
4. “Coffee every morning.”
5. “One piece of chocolate every night.”

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2. “Great microbrewery beer.”
4. “Coffee every morning.”
5. “One piece of chocolate every night.”
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**San Diego Reader**

**April 3, 2008**

**LISTING:** How to submit a music listing: Call 619-231-0489, night or day by 5 p.m. Friday, the week prior to publication. To send weekly or monthly schedules, fax to 619-231-0489 or mail to Reader Music Scene, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186. You may also submit information online at SDReader.com by clicking on the music section.

**THIS WEEK’S SHOWS**

**4th & B:** 345 B Street, Downtown, 619-231-4343.
Saturday, 9 p.m.—Loose Ends with Angela Winbush. English and American R&B onstage. $35-$65.

**710 Beach Club:** 710 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-483-710 Beach Club: Punk/alternative/pop. $5.

**San Diego Men’s Chorus plans Thursday—Kavena, October Burning. Punk/alternative/pop. Monday—The Dirty Dozen Brass Band.**

**Anthology:** 1337 India Street, Little Italy, 619-595-0600.
Friday, 7:30 p.m.—Big Brother & the Holding Company. Classic psychedelic rock. $12-$33.
Saturday, 7:30 p.m.—Benny Golson and Jimmy Mullidore. Jazz. Sunday, 7:30 p.m.—Jon Anderson. Classic rock. $20-$54.

**All Saints Episcopal Church:** 625 Pennsylvania Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-298-7729.
Sunday, 5 p.m.—"Dreamgirls." San Diego Men’s Chorus plans sneak preview of their latest production. Refreshments, child care provided. 619-231-0489.


**The California Center for the Arts:** 340 N. Escondido Blvd. Escondido, CA 92025

**Tuesdays & Saturdays from 5:30-8:30 p.m**

**Thursday, April 3**

- **Diva Soul**
  - 9:45 p.m.-1:30 am
  - Jazz/Funk/R&B
  - 6:30-11 pm

**Friday, April 4**

- **The May Fire, the Holding Company. Classic rock. $12-$33.**
  - 9:45 p.m.-1:30 am
  - Psychedelic rock.

**Saturday, April 5**

- **Japan Sunday and the Holding Company. Classic rock. $12-$33.**
  - 9:45 p.m.-1:30 am

**Sunday, April 6 & 13**

- **Ojeda. Jazz/R&B. $12.**
  - 2011.

**Monday, April 7 & 14**

- **Fascination, Frantic Romantic.**
  - 6:15-10:45 pm

**Tuesday, April 8 & 15**

- **Revolution ‘89. Indie rock/pop. Wednesday, April 9 & 16**

- **Mystique (Element of Soul) Jazz/Funk/R&B.**
  - 6:30-11 pm

**Wednesday, April 9 & 16**

- **The Soul Revue.**
  - 6:30-11 pm

**Thursday, April 10**

- **Masterpiece.**
  - 6:15-10:45 pm

**Friday, April 11**

- **Masterpiece.**
  - 6:15-10:45 pm

**Saturday, April 12**

- **The M-80’s.**
  - 9:45 pm-1:30 am

**Friday, April 18 • 8 pm**

- **JIMMY LOVE’s presents Live Jazz & Dinner!**
  - 8:00-9:30 p.m

**Friday, April 18 & 15**

- **Mystique (Element of Soul) Jazz/Funk/R&B.**
  - 6:30-11 pm

**Saturday, April 19 & 16**

- **The Soul Revue.**
  - 6:30-11 pm

**Tuesday, April 22 & 19**

- **Mystique (Element of Soul) Jazz/Funk/R&B.**
  - 6:30-11 pm

**Wednesday, April 23 & 20**

- **The Soul Revue.**
  - 6:30-11 pm
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UB40
SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

Additional acts will be added. Please check humphreysconcerts.com for updates.
After this Friday’s ‘Special Event’ with Sharam at 4th and B, GIANT moves into its very own home every Friday at 2028 Hancock Street in San Diego. You’ll dig it... easy access, free parking, rooftop patio and a serious sound system. Catch a Preview Party there next Friday, April 11 with Mark Farina before our Official Opening Night on Friday, April 18 with Sander Kleinenberg.

This Friday @ 4th and B:

**SHARAM (DEEP DISH)**

BORIS M.D. & YUSEF

Next Friday @ New Location:

**Mark Farina**

Friday April 11th 2008 9:30-4am
2028 Hancock St. San Diego
Exit ‘Old Town’ off the 5 freeway

AND GET SET FOR THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF ‘GIANT FRIDAYS’ at 2028 Hancock Street on Friday, April 18 with Sander Kleinenberg

Tix and Details
www.giantclub.com

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Contemporary soul, funk, and jazz.
$10.

The Cashbah: 2401 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-HELL.
Thursday, 7:30 p.m. — The Little Ones and Ra Ra Riot.
Indie rock.
$10-$15.

Saturday, 8:30 p.m. — The Iron Maidens: All-female tribute to Iron Maiden, with Mower and Canobliss.
$10.

Wednesday, 8 p.m. — Orgone.

**Canes:** 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-488-1780.

Thursday, 9 p.m. — Pigeon John.
Rap.
$7.

Friday, 8:30 p.m. — Natural Vibrations, Irration, Stone Senses.
Reggae/rock/soul.
$13-$15.

Saturday, 9 p.m. — The Iron Maidens: All-female tribute to Iron Maiden, with Mower and Canobliss.
$10.

Wednesday, 8 p.m. — Orgone.

Los Otros, Say When, Rag Doll City.
Alternative rock.
$5.

Wednesday, 8 p.m. — Orgone.

Contemporary soul, funk, and jazz.
$10.

**The Cashbah:** 2401 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-HELL.
Thursday, 8:30 p.m. — Burning Brides.
With special guests Earthside and Get Your Death On.
Indie rock/alternative.
$10-$12.

Friday, 8:30 p.m. — The Sees, the Muslims, the Prayers.
Indie rock/alternative.
$8-$10.

Thursday, 8:30 p.m. — The Little Ones and Ra Ra Riot.
Indie rock.
$5-$10.

Sunday, 8:30 p.m. — Le Loup and the Ruby Suns.
Indie experimental/pop.
$8.

Tuesday, 8:30 p.m. — RJD2.
Experimental/pop/hip-hop.
$20-$22.

Wednesday, 8:30 p.m. — Mike Peters. From the Welsh rock band The Alarm.
$5.

Ché Café: 9500 Gilman Drive, B-0323C, La Jolla, 858-534-2311.

Saturday, 8 p.m. — Watercolor Paintings, the Paddle Boat.
Chicoretes & the Manipulators and Doctor Bird perform.
Acoustic/folk, psychobilly.
$5.

**Copley Symphony Hall:** 750 B Street, Downtown, 619-235-0804.

Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. — "Ben Vereen Sings Sammy Davis, Jr." Winter pops concerts by Ben Vereen with San Diego Symphony, conductor Philip Mann.
$20-$80.

**Coors Amphitheatre:** 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista, 619-671-3600.

Sunday, 7 p.m. — ZZ Top.

**Del Mar Plaza:** 1555 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar.

Sunday and Tuesday, 5 p.m. — 92 San Diego Reader April 3, 2008
25LIVE

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NEW ALBUM "TWENTYFIVE" IN STORES APRIL 1
**Dublin Square:** 554 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-239-3818.
Wednesday, 10 p.m. — Scott Wilson. Acoustic set. $6.

**Epicentre:** 8450 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa, 858-271-4000.
Friday, 6 p.m. — Bellam, Roman Burns. Youth Envy. Action Bastard and Sycosis from Disaster also perform. Metal/hardcore/punk. $7-$9.
Wednesday, 7 p.m. — Karmella’s Game. Love Campaign, the Fascination. Alternative rock/pop. $7-$9.

**Escondido Library:** 239 South Kalmia Street, Escondido.
Sunday, 7 p.m. — Latin and Flamenco Jazz. Tony Ybarra and Sonido Moreno perform for First Thursday Concert. 760-819-4329.

**Foothills United Methodist Church:** 4031 Avocado Boulevard, La Mesa, 619-670-4009.
Sunday, 4:30 p.m. — Bluegrass and more. National fingerstyle guitar champion Richard Smith and “virtuoso cellist” Julie Adams. 619-670-4009. $15.

**The Handlery Hotel and Resort:** 990 Hotel Circle North, Mission Valley, 619-298-0511.
Friday, 8 p.m. — The Grams. Acoustic/Americana. Wednesday, 5 p.m. — Christopher Dale and Friends. With Shaw Robb. Acoustic/Americana.

**Hennessey’s Tavern — Carlsbad:** 2777 Roosevelt Street, Carlsbad, 760-726-6951.
Thursday, 9:30 p.m. — Back in Black. A tribute to Johnny Cash.

**Hensley’s Flying Elephant Pub and Grill:** 850 Tamarack Avenue, Carlsbad, 760-729-4996.
Thursday, 8 p.m. — Skopje. Irish folk jam band.
Friday, 7 p.m. — Tariq Donath. Blues/soul.
Saturday, 7 p.m. — Jazz from the Heart. Features Tony Ortega, Al Torres, Dave Davidson, and Joey Carano.
Sunday, 8 p.m. — Jesus Jackson.
Monday, 7 p.m. — The Blokes.
Tuesday, 7 p.m. — Bait Muzik. Reggae/ska/roots.
Wednesday, 7 p.m. — Joe Wood. Blues/rock/soul.

**House of Blues:** 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-299-2583.
Friday, 8 p.m. — Paul and Baby Bash. Hip-hop/reggaeton.

**The Kraken:** 204 North El Camino Real, Carlsbad, 760-944-3723.
Saturday, 7 p.m. — Karmella’s. Indie rock/pop.

**Java Jones:** 631 Ninth Avenue, Downtown.
Friday, 7 p.m. — The Eben Brooks Brokers. Blues/soul/rock.

**The Kensington Club:** 1382 Adams Avenue, Kensington.
Friday, 8 p.m. — Jennifer Potter. Covers soul and R&B hits. $12.
Saturday, 9 p.m. — J. Turtle and Sons. Acoustic/rock. $12.

**The Kraken:** 2531 South Highway 101, Cardiff, 760-436-6403.
Saturday, 9 p.m. — Joe’s Andy’s Hole in the Wall. 9344 La Mesa Boulevard, La Mesa, 619-580-8844.
Friday, 9:30 p.m. — Extra Special Ed. Punk rock. 82.

**Late Nite Access:** 434 North Coast Highway 101, Leucadia, 760-673-2855.
Sunday, 4 p.m. — The Blues Brokers. Blues/soul/rock.

**Lestat’s Coffee House:** 3343 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-282-0437.
Thursday, 9 p.m. — The Carl Janelli Saxophone Quartet. Carl and Mickey Janelli, Chris Hopkins, and Barry Farrar perform “jazz and blues to concert band standards.” Donation. 760-438-5996. $5.

**MAY FIRE, Beauty Bar, Thursday, April 3,**
Friday, 9 p.m. — Late Nite Access, Intercept, Christopher Dale. Rock/alternative/pop.
The release of The Last Sucker last Septem-
ber was heralded as Ministry’s final studio al-
lbum. Al Jourgensen’s announcement of
semi-retirement coincides with the coming
of his current muse/nemesis. George W. Bush is also on track to retire and
will hand over the keys to the White House
soon, thus ending something of a quasiotic
working relationship; Jourgensen has been
an outspoken critic since the elder Bush
took office.

The Last Sucker is a crowd of guitars
growing like Satan’s minions stacked
behind anti-Dubya lyrics that are in turns brutish,
intellectual, and funny. To drive his point
home, Jourgensen has peppered the music
with classic Bushisms culled from sound
bites. “My engineer and I were hunched over a com-
puter for nights on end listening to this fucking idol
until our minds were numb.” Jourgensen writes in a
press release. “I mean, I’m absolutely stupid for lis-
tening to his drivel for such concentrated periods of
time, but I viewed including these sound bites as a nec-
essary evil.”

Today Al Jourgensen lives in El Paso, Texas
with his wife. “Ministry is me,” he once told MTV.
Indeed, it is, the list of musicians that have come
and gone over the years is a long one. Jour-
gensen founded Ministry in Chicago in
1985, and then it was all about sampling,
beats, and melodic synth. Call it a sound-
track for clubbing.

It’s hard to find Ministry’s current sound in
those vanilla roots. By the late ’80s, Jour-
gensen rediscovered his electric guitar, and
his band’s sound took a hard turn toward
doom metal and industrial metal.” Jesus Bush

My Hotrod” made Ministry mainstream, and
by the mid ’90s Jourgensen’s brilliant and
unrelenting attacks on war and Republicans
he calls Dick Cheney “the Son of Satan” had
shaped his voice and his music for the better.”
he once said.

“when Democrats are in office.”

MINISTRY, House of Blues, Monday
April 7, 7 p.m. 619-299-2583, 538 to 675.

UPCOMING SHOWS

4th & B: 345 B Street, Downtown, 619-231-4434.
April 12 — M dred.chea.
April 16 — Cat Power
April 19 — Jaza Pha, Bull & MG, Tel.
April 23 — Spiritualized.
April 26 — M.I.A.

AcousticMusicSanDiego: 4630 Manfield Street, Normal
Heights, 619-301-8176.
April 12 — David Wilcox.
April 17 — Bomblin’ Jack Elliott.

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gamut! This consummate showman will perform
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Sammy Davis, Jr., including “Candy Man,” “What
Kind of Fool Am I,” “Something’s Gotta Give”
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Band: Ryan Ruiz (guitar), Steve Van Wyk ( bass), Bill Zuck (drums)

Website: secretsamurai.org

Extra info: Secret Samurai is scheduled to play Bar Pink Elephant on April 8.

Intrumental surf music is inseparable from Southern California. Popular in the late 1950s rock and roll in Los Angeles adopted jazz elements as well as Mexican street-music features. Dick Dale experimented with reverberation to give his Fender Stratocaster an echo and what he described as a “wet” sound, trying to re-create the music he heard in his head while surfing. Dale incorporated quick staccato picking, a hot-rod-tough sensibility, and Middle Eastern scales from his ancestral home of Lebanon. Secret Samurai plays it as well as any other band. They carry on all the genre’s defining traditions: the lightning-quick riffs, clean rhythms, and reverb. The first five tracks are textbook examples of the sound. In later songs, a subtle spaghetti-western influence can be heard. The dramatic “Goid, the Bad, and the Ugly”-like guitar-picking fits well. Both styles evoke vintage, cinematic, and romantic feelings, and the blend of the two – Frankie Avalon meets Clint Eastwood – is a genius contribution to popular culture.

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


**Calendar**

**MUSIC**

- April 24 — Rise of Revolution, Soundscape, Dante's Boneyard, 800-988-4253.
- April 25 — 5 A.T.O.R.L., Mother Mae I, Canobliss, April 30
- April 27 — “Canes:
- May 1 — Mother Mae I, Canobliss, May 8
- May 2 — “Openings,” Media Lab, MNIYIC,
- May 7 — “The Casbah,” 2561 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-HEL1
- May 8 — “The Casbah,” 2561 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-HEL1
- May 10 — “The Casbah,” 2561 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-HEL1
- May 11 — “The Casbah,” 2561 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-HEL1
- May 12 — “The Casbah,” 2561 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-HEL1
- May 13 — “The Casbah,” 2561 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-HEL1
- May 14 — “The Casbah,” 2561 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-HEL1
- May 15 — “The Casbah,” 2561 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-HEL1
- May 16 — “The Casbah,” 2561 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-HEL1
- May 17 — “The Casbah,” 2561 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-HEL1
- May 18 — “The Casbah,” 2561 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-HEL1
- May 19 — “The Casbah,” 2561 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-HEL1
- May 20 — “The Casbah,” 2561 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-HEL1
- May 21 — “The Casbah,” 2561 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-HEL1
- May 22 — “The Casbah,” 2561 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-HEL1
- May 23 — “The Casbah,” 2561 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-HEL1
- May 24 — “The Casbah,” 2561 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-HEL1
- May 26 — “The Casbah,” 2561 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-HEL1
- May 27 — “The Casbah,” 2561 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-HEL1
- May 28 — “The Casbah,” 2561 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-HEL1
- May 29 — “The Casbah,” 2561 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-HEL1
- May 31 — “The Casbah,” 2561 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-HEL1

**OPENING DAY 2008**

**As I Hear It**

**SAN DIEGO SONGS TAKE THE STREET TEST**

- Artist: Frenal
- Song: “The Penumbra” (from the EP In- Media-Revu)
- Heard By: Earl Paus, Chula Vista

- It was just instrumental. It was pretty steady… I liked it. It was something I can dance to. I guess I would have liked it better if it had some lyrics because it kind of seemed to repeat itself. I don’t really listen to that type of music mainly, but I would say it sounds like bands like Emery and Acceptance. It’s kind of indie, kind of chill… maybe a little progressive rock, too. The bass was the one (instrument) dominating most of the sound, and then I heard a lot of drums, and a little bit of guitar. It was a steady baseline, but it was really precise throughout the whole song. I really liked the bass. I would say that they’d do fairly well because it wasn’t something typical or predictable.

- Artist: Comfortable Creeps
- Song: “Stolen Destruction” (from the CD Paycheck to Paycheck)
- Heard By: Travis Johnson, University Heights

- I thought the music was really good. The messages in it were really good — they had one about how assault and battery against women is wrong. Some of the lyrics were kind of immature — they rhymed with words like “land” and “bend.” They’d use the same rhyme on different lines, and I just thought it was basic but they had some good parts, too. I think they’re a little confused on whether they want to be gangsta rap or they want to be political. They were just jumping around from subject to subject, and I didn’t know what they were talking about half the time. Maybe if they had a hook ball they would have a lot more commercial potential.

**TO GET YOUR LOCAL CD HEARD, PLEASE MAIL IT TO:**

Music Editor, As I Hear It, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803

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5000 Half Page (5x8) $269

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This isn’t the first time I’ve been on during the daytime at a rock station. I began cracking the mic back in the late ’80s. A lot of the music from that era was disposable. And a lot of that disposable music was produced by hair bands.

With their perfect ‘do, caked-on makeup, and really-hot-but-wait-that’s-a-dude (!) lead singer Bret Michaels, no one would be faulted for lumping Poison into the same category as the Bulletboys or Warrant. Their debut, Look What the Cat Dragged In, did little to make one think they’d still be part of the pop-culture fabric 22 years later.

Then, in ’88, they scored: Bret and the boys had every girl in the arena wanting more than just a good time with his victim’s ode called “Every Rose Has Its Thorn.” This was evident in Louisville sometime in late ’88 or early ’89. I can’t remember exactly, but I was on the air at LRS-102 and Poison made a stop into town and staggered from the fog of their buses to take the stage amidst their bottles of Jack and stacks of amps.

Before Poison played, we went back for the official meet-n-greet. There was the customary handshake, small talk, group photo, and a great deal of speculation if any of the teenage girls sporting their screen-printed fabric “pre-show” passes actually left their homes wearing the same type of clothing they were now wearing backstage. We didn’t have Charlotte Russe stores in Louisville...but apparently a chain of Jailbait Sluts had opened overnight to supply the River City’s under-18 set with the requisite see-through tops and pleather pants that might get them a private, late-night tour of the band’s bus.

Despite the temptation that these corn-cuties offered, Bret didn’t do anything scandalous that I could see. He was gracious and kind. Perhaps he somehow knew something none of us did...that thanks to his pop melodies and good looks, he’d weather the storms of time to sail again in a new millennium.
June 26 — Ani DiFranco.

June 25 — Idina Menzel.

June 20 — Keb’ Mo’ and Taj Mahal.

June 18

June 17 — Crosby, Stills, & Nash.

June 13

June 10 — The Beach Boys.

June 7

May 15 — Jesse Cook.

May 13 — Johnny Lang.

May 11 — The Indigo Girls.

May 10 — Edna Menzel.

May 6 — Ani DiFranco.

May 5 — One Hawaii

May 3 — Original Kiss Army.

May 2 — Montgomery Gentry.

May 1 — Metros.

May 10 — Hotel California.

May 17 — The Greatest Hitmakers.

May 17 — Dave Matthews Tribute Band.

May 23 — Tgigt Ship.

May 24 — Smokin.

May 30 — Maki.

May 31 — Anthem.

June 13 — Superfunk.

June 14 — Skynny Lynnyrd.

June 20 — Boogie Knights.

June 21 — David Brighto.

June 27 — Superfunk.

June 28 — Belladonna.

July 13 — Arrival.

July 18 — The Spaminatics.

July 25 — Platinum Groove.

July 29 — Ringo Starr & His All Starr Band.

August 11 — UB40.

October 8 — Smokey Robinson.

Palomar College: 1140 West Mission Road, San Marcos.

April 24 — Palomar Jazz Vocal Ensemble.

April 29 — Delta Heat.


April 10 — BGP and Caleb Jude Green.

April 12 — Ashley Matt, Lisa Sanders, Ranid Ditiscoll.

April 13 — Jasper and the Bumstea.

April 16 — Curtis Peoples and Thomas Ian Nicholas.

April 17 — Edie Carey.

April 18 — Charlie Peacock and Eva Scow.

April 19 — The Eben Brooks Band.

April 20 — Aaron Anderson and the Welcome Matt.

April 23 — Judith Owen.

April 24 — Annie Bethancourt and Barrett Johnson.

April 25 — Gregory Page.

April 26 — The Big Provider.

April 30 — The Eben Brooks Band.

May 7 — Allison Lonsdale.

Neurosciences Institute:

15841 John Jay Hopkins Drive, La Jolla.

April 19 — “Zimbabwe Day.”

O’Connell’s Pub and Nightclub: 130 Morana Boulevard, Clairemont, 619-276-5637.

April 11 — Kush and Bloodfiyah Angels.

April 12 — Avtita, Without a Motorcycle, Richaba.

April 15 — Mojave, Silent Lane, Aepnia.

April 16 — The Orange Velvets and Moonstuck Risin.

April 18 — Inciting Riots, Deadites Revenge, 12 Cent.

April 19 — The Northstar Session and the Grass Heat.

April 20 — 420 Candye Kane Benefit.

April 22 — Droploy, the Flower Thief, Mod Anish.

April 25 — Kindle to Ember and Nekter.

April 26 — An American Experience.

April 29 — Vagrance and Aces & Eights.

May 7, June 4 — Chip Conrad & the Concrete Fant.

Pala Casino: 35008 Pala Temecula Road, Pala, 877-946-7232.

April 12 — Metros.

April 12 — Chicago Tribute Authority.

April 17 — Alejandro Guzmán.

April 19 — Fantastic Diamond.

April 25 — MVPs.

April 26 — Draw the Line.

May 2 — Sin Bandera.
April 30 — The Bill Magee Blues Band.
Poway Center for the Performing Arts: 15498 Espola Road, Poway, 858-748-0505.
April 19 — John Mayall & the Bluesbreakers.
Rimac Arena: 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla.
April 10 — Jeffree Star.
April 12 — Family Force 5.
April 13 — Panic at the Disco.
April 13 — Animosity, First Blood.
April 16 — The Subhumans.
April 17 — A Skylit Drive, Dance Gavin Dance.
April 18 — The Haven, the Material, Man Without Wax.
April 19 — Redfield Gears.
April 25 — Seven Your Ties and This Is the Hospital.
April 30 — Kenny West.
May 3 — Jonas.
May 7 — Alicia Keys.
June 17 — George Michael.
Soma: 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma, 619-226-SOMA.
April 10 — Jeffree Star.
April 12 — Family Force 5.
April 13 — Panic at the Disco.
April 13 — Animosity, First Blood.
For the Fallen Dreams.
April 16 — The Subhumans.
April 17 — A Skylit Drive, Dance Gavin Dance.
April 18 — The Haven, the Material, Man Without Wax.
April 19 — Redfield Gears.
April 25 — Seven Your Ties and This Is the Hospital.
May 3 — The Voodoo Glow Skulls and Mustard Plug.
May 9 — Lorene Drive and Secret & Whisper.
May 17 — Emmure.
South Bay Fish and Grill: 570 Marina Parkway, Chula Vista, 619-426-7234.
April 18 — The Burnsville Band.
South Park Bar & Grill: 1946 Fern Street, South Park, 619-696-0096.
April 11 — The Paul Ingram Quartet.
Spreckels Theatre: 121 Broadway, Downtown, 619-235-9500.
April 15, April 16 — Eddie Vedder.
May 3 — K.T. Tunstall.
Tiki House: 1522 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-273-9734.
April 10 — Shrewd Lucy.
April 11 — Brain Buckiz.
April 12 — Mississippi Mudsharks.
April 16 — Pushing Rope.
April 17 — The Sickstring Outlaws.
April 18 — Hoo Doo Blues.
April 19 — The Nards.
April 23 — Guava Belly.
April 24 — Blue Spring.
April 25 — Midd.
April 26 — Los Primos.
Tio Leo’s Lounge: 5302 Napa Street, Clairemont, 619-542-1462.
April 18 — Lands on Fire.
Tio Leo’s Mira Mesa: 10787 Camino Ruiz, Mira Mesa, 858-695-1461.
April 10 — Stars on the Water.
April 12 — Side Job.
May 9 — MountDance.
UCSD: University of California San Diego: 9500 Gilman Drive, UCSD, 858-534-2230.
April 14, April 15 — Laura.
April 24, April 24 — “Ethel” Tentacle Sessions.
**San Diego Reader**
April 3, 2008

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Saturday

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6 PM - 7 PM $100 any DRAFT

Tuesday

No Cover! College ID

Wednesday

No Cover! College ID

Thursday

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Calendar

MUSIC

Valley View Casino: 16300 Nyevni Pass Road, Valley Center, 866-843-9946.
April 12 — Creedence Clearwater Revisited.
May 8 — Duran Duran.
May 15 — Trace Adkins.
May 17 — Bonnie Raitt.
July 15 — Chris Isaak.
July 15 — Styx.
August 3 — The Temptations and the Four Tops.
August 14 — The Gipsy Kings.
Viejas Casino Concerts in the Park: 5003 Wilkows Road, Alpine, 619-445-5400.
April 19 — Wyclef and Serher.
April 22 — Mudcrutch.
May 3 — Unwritten Law.
May 15 — Bito Kiley.
May 23 — The Cult.
May 31 — Keith Sweat, Bell Biv DeVoe, En Vogue.
June 4 — Gary Allan.
June 27 — Cyndi Lauper, B-52s.
Joan Jett & the Blackhearts.
July 26 — Lee Laundry Boys.
August 3 — George Thorogood and Buddy Guy.
August 4 — The Regeneration Tour.
August 20 — Donna Summer. September 12 — Japano.
Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room: 5000 Wilkows Road, Alpine, 619-445-5400.
April 20 — Ratt.
May 18 — The Robert Cray Band.
July 24 — Bo Bice.
Winston: 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822.
April 23 — Vamp.
WorldBeat Cultural Center: 2100 Park Boulevard, Balboa Park, CA, 619-231-0489 or mail to Reader music scene, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA, 92138. You may also submit information online, get directions, maps, event alerts, RSS feeds, club coupons, and more at SanDiegoReader.com.

5 Miles High
Sunday, April 6
Youth Envy • Noise God
Tim Raldo & The Filthy Fuks
Blood Stained Reality

Santee
8528 Magnolia Avenue • 619-596-8350
(Corner of Prospect & Magnolia)

Navajo
8515 Navajo Road • 619-465-1730
(Albertsons shopping plaza at Navajo & Lake Murray)

Monday, April 7

Friday & Saturday, April 4 & 5 • 9 pm

Classic Rock

Wednesday, April 9

Going Blind

Friday & Saturday, April 4 & 5 • 9 pm

Classic Rock

Monday, April 7

Tuesday, April 8

Drained • Immolated Seraphim
Bastard Saints

Wednesday, April 9

Mi Vida Bonita • Jimmy Grind
Fuzz Huzzi

Friday & Saturday, April 4 & 5 • 9 pm

Classic Rock

Santee
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Bastard Saints

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Mi Vida Bonita • Jimmy Grind
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- **Sunday:** Hear This! With DJ Hippoh, J Blo, and Myson King. Saturday: LightSoundDance. With DJ Edgartronic and Echo Revolution. Electro/mashups. $5.
- **Friday:** Virgin Tears. Rock/electro/techno. $5.
  
**Belly Up Tavern:**

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  - **Thursdays:** Krush. Hosted by Chase Costello, Steve Kamp, Jack Kennedy, and more. Hip-hop/mashups/party rock. Ages 18 and up. 715 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-268-3326.
- **Humphrey’s Backstage Music Club:**
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  - **At Café Sevilla**

**Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday!**

- **Apr. 3:** Walter II y Orq. Rumbaney
- **Apr. 8:** Ritmo Caliente
- **Apr. 9:** Bomba Chante
- **Apr. 10:** Orquesta Guarare

Salsa Dance Lessons @ 8:30 pm by Valerie So Cal’s Best Salsa Orchestras & DJs at 10 pm

**Early Sunday Salsa @ 6:30 pm**

- **Apr. 6:** CHINO ESPINOZA Y LOS DUENOS DEL SON
- **Apr. 13:** SALSA CALIENTE

Salsa Dance Lessons @ 9:45 pm by Valerie Live Band starts @ 8 pm Complimentary Tapas Buffet before 8 pm
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**UPCOMING**

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- **IRATION • STONE SENSES**
- **CANNIBAL CORPSE**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 5**

- **MISDELPHIA**
- **FIREBALL MINISTRY**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9**

- **NATURAL VIBRATIONS**
- **IRATION • STONE SENSES**
- **NEW SAY DIE presents ORGONE**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 10**

- **CRITICAL ME**
- **DOGOMATIC**
- **12 CENT**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 11**

- **9/I presents STRANGERS SIX**
- **SAVING ABEL • THE STRANGER’S SIX**
- **SUNDAY, APRIL 13**

- **HAIRIE ANGELS**
- **MEAT BEAT MANIFESTO plus RAZ MESINA’S BADAWI**
- **THURSDAY, APRIL 17**

- **FLUF**
- **DAVE MATTHEWS BAND EXPERIENCE**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 18**

- **BROKE CITY**
- **MISDELPHIA**
- **4/20 Weekend**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 19**

- **HELMET**
- **NICK OLIVERI & MONDO GENERATOR**
- **JOURNEY TRIBUTE**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 20**

- **COLLIE BUDDZ**
- **THE GROUCH**
- **INSIDE OUT**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 25**

- **HIGH TIDE**
- **dReed • MAD MARTIGAN**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 26**

- **DAZED & CONFUSED**
- **(Doors Tribute)**

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I attended two parties in one night, though both of them started early in the evening. I hoped the second one would run late.

The first was at Brick by Brick. Astra Kelly, a DJ from KPRI, organized a preshow party before an event called "Homegrown Live," which would be set up by local bands.

When I showed up at the Bay Park club, the bands were setting up. A few people were smoking on the patio. I overheard some of the female singers talking about changing their hair for the show. I tried to think of something funny to say, such as, "Does that mean you're a hair band?" I made a comment about women always standing around talking about hair and make-up.

I walked over to the musicians that were setting up and asked the drummer how long it takes him to set up his kit. "It depends how slow I'm walking," he replied. "How slow are you moving tonight?" He replied, "I'll have this thing set up in 17.2 minutes."

I overheard one guy at the club say, "Look at that musician! He's trying to look tough in his black leather jacket, but he's short and looks like Ben Stiller." I saw a few other DJs from KPRI, which was a pleasant surprise. When I worked in radio in the early '90s, you wouldn't see DJs at a co-worker's event.

I saw singer/songwriter Cathryn Beeks, who does a lot for the local music scene. I got to see her perform when she got on stage with Astra Kelly during a soundcheck.

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"I'll have this thing set up in 17.2 minutes."

During a soundcheck.

Lynn, a woman I met at a party a few years back, gives me the heads-up on interesting parties.

One was at a wealthy woman's house, who was selling clothing to attendees. Another was a wedding in Julian that featured several exotic animals.

This one was a block party that Lynn and her neighbors were having in Carlsbad. When we arrived at the neighborhood, there was no parking available around the cul-de-sac where the party was happening. But I was glad to see that it was still going on when we showed up at 9:30.

A table was set up near the entrance of the street for nametags. Addresses were printed beneath the name. I was told this would make it easier to get to know neighbors from surrounding streets. One lady said, "It's not like the '50s, when you'd bake the new neighbor a fresh pie or cookies."

I then saw, among the tables of food, one with pie, cookies, and cakes. The woman working the tables, Chrisi, would be one of those neighbors who brings you goodies when you move in. She has a company called Chrisi's Creations, and she caters desserts for events. At this event, the neighbors really scored.

There was a crowd of people arguing about which was the best dessert. One lady...
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Crasher said, “I’ve never had anything better than her Coca-Cola cake.” Another said, “Well, you didn’t try any of those gooey lemon bars because they ran out. You’d like them more.”

I tried three different things, all of them delicious. At one point, I saw Christy go inside to bring out more cookies. She had a busy night. I noticed that she had her garage set up like a kitchen you’d see in a restaurant.

There was a live band playing, and when I took my eyes off the desserts, I realized that it was made up of a group of ten-year-olds. I was shocked because the covers they did sounded good. I heard “Boulevard of Broken Dreams” and “Louie, Louie.” When they did “Kryptonite,” the singer’s voice cracked.

The bass guitar looked huge in the kid’s hands. As they finished their second set, I thought how convenient it was to not have neighbors complain about the noise.

The drummer put on a helmet and got on his skateboard and took off. The keyboard player’s father was helping him break down his equipment. I saw him going over some things with his son. It looked like a father teaching his son how to hit a baseball.

I noticed that there was a contest going on to help the neighbors get to know each other. You had to get signatures from a neighbor with the longest last name and from neighbors who attended Carlsbad High School. There were other things on the sheet, including someone that ran the Carlsbad Marathon.

I laughed when I saw the section that said to obtain a signature from someone who owns a dog or dogs. I remembered Lynn is a dog lover with four or five canines. When I mentioned something to her about it, she made it easy for me to see her house to see them all — a mailman’s nightmare. We walked up to the sound of big dogs barking.

They were all friendly, though. As Lynn showed me the dog items that she’s collected, I couldn’t help the ceiling-fan light she had. It had dogs that looked like butlers hanging from it. It was the ugliest thing I had ever seen, but she loves it. She talked about how expensive it was and how she would often pass by the place selling it and go in and ask about it. She finally bought it on sale.

As I left her house, I saw a couple posing for photos. I took out my camera to take a picture, and they said, “Wow, all these people are taking our photo.” I said, “Now you know how Britney Spears feels.”

Someone approached me and said that one of the fathers of a kid in K-2 was trying to get the kids together to play a few more songs for me to hear. I said, “I already heard them. They were great.”

Some of the kids were enthusiastic about playing again, while the others just wanted to run around and play with their friends.

As I was getting ready to leave, I saw that Lynn had brought out one of her dogs, as did another neighbor. I said, “This is turning into a Michael Vick party.”

Nobody laughed.

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

To get an online version of this story, go to sdreader.com. You can print the story, email the story to friends, get other stories on the same subject or other stories by this author.
Cygnet Theatre has already extended A Little Night Music, with good reason. They’re offering a wonderful production of Stephen Sondheim’s kaleidoscopic inspection of love’s many faces.

This is Cygnet’s inaugural show at the Old Town Theatre (and what a coup it was to occupy this centrally located, intimate gem!). Now you’d expect a shake-down cruise for a new space to call for something simple: say a three-character, one-kitchen, chatty comedy about relationships, or yet another one person’s healing journey with oodles of affirmation. Instead, Cygnet chose a difficult musical “masque” that requires a top performance from every participant — and delivered! Part of the thrill of their opening night came from watching local talent excel in a theater heretofore given over to commercial touring shows.

One could quibble that the music’s piped in, but the singers are splendid. When Sean Cox, who plays young, sexually repressed Henrik, sings “Later,” he accompanies himself on the cello. The five-person chorus has knockout voices. And when Sean Murray, as late-midlife-crisis’d Fredrik, and Sally Hart Breneman, as the Arkadina-like Mrs. Nordstrom, sing “Send in the Clowns,” they catch the song’s late-autumnal tone to perfection. Jeanne Reith decks everyone in fin de siècle (fin of the 19th siecle) finery. Reith’s morning coats and petticoat-plump dresses, sweeping hats (and Peter Herman’s wigs) bespeak elegance. Sandy Campbell, a kick as the alcoholic, Strindbergian Countess Charlotte, sports a sumptuous crocheted-brocaded outfit and multi-feathered chapeau that evoked gasps of awe from first-nighters. I swear I heard one of them say, “Isn’t it rich?”

The original story evolved from financial necessity. Ingmar Bergman wanted to film The Seventh Seal but “needed money,” so he made Smiles of a Summer Night, a comedy built around four mismatched couples. Always bedrock honest about his work, Bergman said the movie “wasn’t funny, stylized, too lame, and too long.” But it — rightfully — won the jury prize at Cannes and inspired Stephen Sondheim to put Smiles’s “mathematical pattern” to music. Madame Armfeldt (a wise, almost deigic Sandra Ellis-Troy) has passed the age of liaisons. She tells her granddaughter, Frederika, yet to laise, that summer nights have three kinds of smiles: 1) of the young, who know nothing; 2) of fools, who know too little; and 3) of the very old, who know too much. This speech sets up the musical. But actually Mme. Armfeldt, who has smile #3, oversimplifies. Night Music looks at the whole zodiac of love from innocence to deep experience and variations in between — almost every possible combination, in fact, except a happy couple. Like Shakespeare’s Midsummer Night’s Dream and The Seagull by Chekhov, partners begin mis-

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THEATER

Inaugural Ball

Middle-aged Fredrik has yet to consummate his 11-month marriage to a teenaged Anne.

A Little Night Music,

Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, book by Hugh Wheeler, based on the movie Smiles of a Summer Night

Cygnet Theatre, Old Town Theatre, 4040 Twiggs Street, Old Town

Directed by Sean Murray; cast: Murray, Marci Anne Wuebben, Sandy Campbell, Sean Cox, Sandra Ellis-Troy, Randall Dodge, Melissa Fernandes, Susan Hammons, Nicki Elledge, Sally Hart Breneman, Michael Dooling, Trevor Hewlingsworth, Courtney Evans, Brian Imoto, Amy Northcutt, Kim Strassburger, scenic design, Sean Fanning; costumes, Jeanne Reith; lighting, Matthew Novotny; sound, George Ye; orchestrations, Sean Paxton; musical director, Don LeMaster; choreographer, James Vasquez

Playing through May 11; Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Sunday at 7:00 p.m. Matinees Sunday at 2:00 p.m. 619-337-1525.
Theo and Dorothea's marriage is living a double life. Whether, as a radio ad says, they’re the “Yellow Rose of Texas, or one of God’s pleasant flowers,” everyone in Zazh Goshchik’s dramedy is living a double life. Austin, Texas, in the spring of 1944, punishes non-traditional preferences. War rages in Europe, and hate sears the Lone Star hill country where, when her car breaks down, Theo Marks becomes stranded. She’s a writer (did an advice column for Hearst, now headed for Hollywood). She’s also Jewish and a lesbian. She learns that the Webbs, who own the motor lodge (where sco- pions nap in empty shoes), their African-American employee Orla Mae, and Nanalu Branch, the local librarian, have been stripped all their lives. They’re caught between the ideal, glammed on radio and in movie mags, and closeted choices. In the middle, they’ve created fake, but life-preserving identities. Though the comedy at times upstages the drama (these jokes are so funny, their absence lulls the pace), and though the ending’s more a wish than a possi- bility in 1944, it’s clear to see why Blue Bonnet’s won several awards. The Music-Dramasion Theatre co-production gets the play’s grit and its hope. Her hair swirling like twin tornadoes, Wendy Waddell exudes Helen’s crack-wise atti- tude. Monique Gaffney’s Orla Mae says little, speaks volumes about racial barriers. Jo Anne Glover, Christopher Baca, and Leigh Scarlett play moving variations on the theme of pain. For contrast, Lisl Gurell-Gert and Fred Har- low etch unreal, often screamingly funny radio personalities (Harlow, in fact, must play half of Austin, from the compassionate to the cutthroat); Jennifer Brauer Girt-\(\)ing’s costumes evoke the period with precision.

**Worlds on...**

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**The Metamorphoses Club**

During Broadway’s Vista stage Ivan Menchell’s comedy about three widows who make monthly visits to their late husbands’ graves. Jerry Pilato directed.

**BROADWAY THEATRE, 340 EAST BROAD- WAY, CORONADO. 619-435-4856.**

**WINTERGARDEN THEATRE, 1412 HAN- DAS. MONDAY, 7:30 P.M.**

**Blue Bonnet Court**

**CORONADO PLAYHOUSE, 1835 STRAND WAY, CORONADO. 619-435-4856.**

**FROZEN**

**OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623.**

**Dancing in the Dark**

The Old Globe’s world premiere, based on the MGM movie The Band Wagon, has miles to go be- fore it reaches Broadway but al- ready offers considerable enter- tainment. Haywright Douglas Carter Beane writes three-dimen- sional-one-liners: they are funny; always, often painfully, true; and perfect for the character the moment they’re uttered. The musical comedy, about the near impossi- bility of making a musical com- edy, also boasts the original’s great songs, including the iconic “That’s Entertainment” and the title song. There are good hits, as when Adam Heller (and the hilar- ious) Beth Leavel, as comedy writers, pitch their idea to poten- tial cast and backers. They blitz with manic urgency and stop the show as well. The cast performs on John Lee Beatty’s minimalist, back/ground/ing set. Patrick Page, clear-voiced Mara Davi, and Scott Bakula do quality work. Though it ran for almost three hours, the opening night perform- ance felt cramped, however. Numbers got truncated, and knock-your-socks-off entertain- ment - the raison d’etre of the original - often got shoved aside for plot and character develop- ment. It feels strange to say this, because plots get deservedly doh- bered for lacking these qualities, but the revised book is trying for depths and motivations that wrig the show down. New scenes fill in back-story and dull the pace and whimsical,” any- thing can go” tone. The produc- tion pulsed forward and needed to get out of its own way.

**Worth a try**

**LETT THE EAGLE FLY**

Teatro Mascara Magica, in associa- tion with Southwestern College, presents the local premiere of a musical based on the life of Clear Chávez, the humble civil rights leader and organizer of the first successful farmworkers’ union in United States history.

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**Let the Eagle Fly**

Teatro Mascara Magica, in associa- tion with Southwestern College, presents the local premiere of a musical based on the life of Clear Chávez, the humble civil rights leader and organizer of the first successful farmworkers’ union in United States history.
Miss Julie

Miss Julie Stedgillhammer 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.”

Momsey’s Bad Boy, or The Saga of the Falsely Reformed Degenerate

GB Productions stages this traditional melodrama, by Summer Golden, about money missing from the collection plate - and what’s Victor Villiam’s mom doing wearing diamonds all of a sudden? Mark Anthony directed.

The Glass Menagerie

The Glass Menagerie Tennessee Williams presents a story about Southern childhood and fights to provide a better life for her grown children Tom and Laura, while they struggle for a future that seems unlikely to fulfill their mother’s hopes and dreams. But a change in fortune suddenly seems possible with the arrival of the long-hoped for “gentleman caller”.

THE GLASS MENAGERIE

by Tennessee Williams

Directed by Joe Calarco

Cassius Carter Centre Stage

Amanda Wingfield reminisces about a tranquil Southern childhood and fights to provide a better life for her grown children Tom and Laura, while they struggle for a future that seems unlikely to fulfill their mother’s hopes and dreams. But a change in fortune suddenly seems possible with the arrival of the long-hoped for “gentleman caller”.

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SUNSHINE BROOKS THEATRE, 217 COMET’S COMING BACK.

he’d go out when it returned. The Comet crossed the sky and said (Mark Twain). He was born when Halley’s

Lost The River

The Man Who Lost The River New Vision Theatre stages a fictional version of the last days of Samuel Clemens’s life (a.k.a. Mark Twain). He was born when Halley’s Comet crossed the sky and said he’d go out when it returned. The comet’s coming back.

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Amanda Wingfield reminisc...
San Diego Theatresports: The Funhouse
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With It:
FΟΟΠΟΟ, 6021 EL CAJON BOULEVARD, COLLEGE AREA. 619-440-6978. FRIDAYS, 7:45 P.M. SATURDAYS, 7:45 P.M. SUNDAYS, 9:45 P.M. OPEN-ENDED RUN.

Where There’s a Will... There’s a Wake
Mystery Café Dinner Theatre presents James Pascarella and Will Roberson’s interactive comedy, set in a 1920s speak easy where suspicion should every “gangster, game, and dame.” Pascarella directed.

Mystery CAFE, 505 KALUA STREET, HILLCREST. 619-544-1654. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. OPEN-ENDED RUN.

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The Kiss of the Sea Urchin

Sushi lovers think of sea urchin roe as the Japanese delicacy called uni, a coral-colored, sponge-velvety, sexy-tasting maritime fluff perched atop a puck of seasoned rice. Few Americans realize that it’s also a revered worldwide wherever the temperate seas will nurture the critters.

Tony D’Amato, owner of Baci Restaurant (1955 W. Morena Boulevard, 619-275-2094) in the Bay Park district, wants more Americans to learn to love these exquisite morsels. “Everybody in Italy eats ricci di mare,” he says. “They sell them on the streets in Sicily. You cut them in half and scoop them out and serve them on bread. And I’m sure they’re aphrodisiac... But the one difficulty is, Americans don’t always like them. They say, ‘They seem live, the spines are moving!’ And they don’t like that. Sometimes we serve them as a special on a Monday, and we [the staff] end up eating them ourselves. We’re going to have to educate the people, like we did with calamari. Squid were about two cents a pound when we opened this restaurant in 1979. Americans said, ‘They’re just bait, we don’t eat that!’ Now every Italian restaurant serves calamari, and when you buy them raw, they’re $5 a pound.”

To start introducing sea urchins to a wider “eat-ience” than just sushi fans, Baci held a five-course special Mediterranean-style feast of fresh local seafood, featuring sea urchins, paired with fine Italian wines on March 5. At $85, including matched wines and tip, it was an irresistible deal. The minute I read about it on Marcie Rothenstein’s superb-hip food blog, (foodtazuz.com), I called to make a reservation for two. Then I emailed Sam, the most adventurous palate of all the posse: “Uni feast at Baci. MUST GO. Come with me?” Of course.

“We got the urchins from a professional diver, Peter,” Tony told me later. “Peter usually sells them to Catalina Offshore [the seafood wholesaler in the Baci].”

The Kiss of the Sea Urchin

...a lot of people get a little sick if they eat too many urchins at once.” The urchins in the stew had a faint iodine flavor (either because they were a bit too old, or maybe because the pollution of the port waters had affected their flavor). But I fell in love with the airy-spongy-lush texture and... ate too many. The next day I was green around the gills, indeed. Pili named me with the standard South American digestive remedy of coca-leaf tea. (How stupid our drug laws are! All over western South America, people use coca leaves as herbal medicine, and they don’t get you high in the slightest... they’re not “coca” until they’re chemically processed with mineral lime into white powder. As a restaurant reviewer, I can’t tell you how often I’ve yearned for coca-leaf tea!) It’s hard to imagine what prompted a land-based mammal to try collecting and eating hard spiky balls from the ocean floor — probably sheer hunger, same as what got us to try the heavily armored sea-bugs called lobsters. But maybe we learned about them from the lobsters. A few years ago, I bought a couple of local spiny lobsters and a half dozen urchins from a local fisherman. I put the lobsters in the left side of my divided kitchen sink, the urchins on the right. The lobsters grew so agitated by the smell of their favorite food, they rose up on their hind claws and tried to climb over the divide, no doubt yelling in lobsterish, “Mr. Wise, tear down this wall!” Perhaps some early human diver, snapping lobsters, noticed his prey feasting on this aquatic hedgehog and decided, “The prey of my prey is my prey.” Smooth move, dude.

Dealing with whole, live urchins that evening provided insight into their true nature. You put on heavy gloves (oven mitts or butcher gloves) to pick them up, take kitchen shears, and starting at the little hole on the top of the shell (that’s the anus, not the mouth), you cut diagonally to the periphery, then continue cutting around the circumference un- til the top half of the shell can be lifted off. Inside, you find the lovely coral fluff, under a swamp of salty brown bilgewater to pour away. Not much else is in there. Checking Google (“sea urchin anatomy”), I learned that the sea urchin is all sex, literally no brain. Go ahead, make all the blonde jokes you want. About 20 percent of the total weight of a sea urchin consists of the male gonad or the female one (please don’t ask how to tell which is which, I didn’t find that out). Minus the shell, roughly 80 percent of an urchin’s internal contents are devoted to reproduction. The rest is for eating and excoriating seaweed and barnacles and now and then moving along the ocean floor to find the next barnacle or kelp patch. It’s so dumb, it can’t even read Harlequin romances or Penthouse.

Since it’s brainless, when you address a freshly opened, newly cleaned sea urchin on the half shell, the spines may still be waving. All that means is, the urchin doesn’t really have a clue yet whether it’s alive or dead — it doesn’t have the intellectual equipment to realize there’s an either/or distinction. When you eat a carrot freshly pulled from your yard, when does the carrot realize it’s dead? How can you know? As an animal, the sea urchin is very nearly a vegetable, distinguished only by the lack of cell walls and its rudimentary abilities to move and eat. Judging by its anatomical proportions, it’s not even all that interested in those functions — if it had a mind, it’d be a one-track mind, like that slobby letch you blind- dated once back in high school.

Back to the dinner: Baci means “kiss.” The...
restaurant is a warren of warm, attractive, Italianate rooms—a bar and dining room at street level, two more rooms two steps up, and in back, a large patio that could pass for an upper-class courtyard in pre-eruption Pompeii, with handsome ornamental stonework at the periphery. The waiters are in tuxes, and the restaurant is known as a power-lunch spot for the city’s honchos — but at dinner, the patrons’ garb was tieless, shirt-sleeve casual. You get the flawless, tuxedoed service without having to be flawlessly yourself.

Ricci is Italian for uni — remember that when you go to the movies and see sexy Christina Ricci, who in many roles seems as louche as a spoonful of sea urchin roe. The first course began with ricci in the shell. The spines were still moving when the waiter delivered the course. It was not quite as pretty as Botticelli’s The Birth of Venus, but it was delicious — a purple-spined shell basket containing chilled roe strewed with chopped chives, in a flirty broth mingling the marine juices with Prosecco (a sparkling dry Italian wine resembling champagne, but not as aggressively bubbly). The accompanying wine was Insolia Grande Prosecco, perfectly apropos.

Simultaneously, we received tartines di ricci and tapenade, offering small, lightly toasted slices of baguette topped with urchin roe and what seemed like soft, salty black caviar resembling sevruga — it was actually black-olive tapenade, soaked by sea urchin juice until it tasted like sturgeon roe. It was salty-delectful, topped with plenty of chopped chives.

Next, with glasses of Sicilian Chardonnay, came more spiky shells, this time containing a bisque of mussel meats, bay scallops, and sea urchin. The creamy liquid bisque was rich and pale pink, all the seafood tender. The house breads consisted of fingers of garlic toast, handy for sopping. A right-sized portion of thick, succulent al dente linguine for earthy sweetness, and teaspoonfuls of sea urchin introduced into the dish at the last moment before serving, just to warm. “You don’t want to cook them too much,” said Tony. This is one of the more traditional Italian dishes of the dinner, and in it, the precious roe was reduced to an important supporting role — an airy Ariel serving the charismatic Prospero of the pasta.

The entree reduced the urchin still further, to a player snagging a vital bit part. Local swordfish, lightly floured with a crisp, browned surface, arrived in a citrus sauce of lime juice, cream, and puréed urchin. The roe contributed only a subtle richness to the sauce, which made good sopping for the garlicky bread. The wine was red Nero Davolo — yes, red wine is fine with meaty swordfish.

Cookbook author James Peterson, in his Fish & Shellfish, notes that he has a recipe for sea urchin ice cream — but he didn’t include it in his book. And I’m sure that somewhere in New York or Chicago, an avant-garde chef is making uni-vanilla crème brûlée or anchovy-cocconut gelato — but not here. We received two versions of “torta dello chef,” one an airy white chocolate custard square over light cake, and the other its dark chocolate sibling. These came with glasses of grappa (the Italian equivalent of French marc or, um, bootleg brandy) mixed with limoncello liqueur — a bracing, energizing drink to steel us for reentry into the cold of night.

This isn’t a review of Baci, just a report on an especially interesting dinner there. (The restaurant has a fine reputation, and I look forward to trying the regular menu one of these days.) I wish that more restaurants made such interesting, courageous leaps beyond their regular menus into exploring fabulous, less-familiar foodstuffs like this. Baci is planning on holding another sea urchin dinner in a month or two, and Tony promised to alert me in advance. When I know, you’ll know.
Life Is Good

“How long have I got before you close? It’s a big menu. I’m a slow reader.”

Help me out here. Why is the state of Virginia called a commonwealth? And who was Virginia?

And, oh yeah. Do Virginians make crazy omelets like this, with two hamburger patties and a bunch of French fries fighting it out inside?

You ask this kind of question when you’re eating breakfast near midnight, and your omelet is called the Commonwealth, and the owner is a Virginian.

So here’s the scene. Me and Portia and Melissa and Brian the cook and a drunken customer, who says he was in Vietnam, and a photographer guy named Ellie Gambousa and his software designer friend Malini are all sitting up at this counter downing our food, counting our blessings. Like, open eateries! Brian -- think Deni Moore -- is the owner and a Virginian. I’m happy.

Portia — think Demi Moore with tattoos — says, “Myrtle.” Melissa, the server, says there’s $1000 worth strewn under the glass top.

But I’m worried about time. “How long have I got before you close?” I ask. “It’s a big menu. I’m a slow reader.” “I’ll mend it, hon,” says Melissa. “No hurry, no worry.”

I see she’s got a black T on. Says “Nite Owl.” The Everyly Brothers are singing “Be Bop A-Lula.” Portia passes behind Brian, who’s adding cheese slabs to a row of burgers. She gives him a hefty slap on the back. Couple of cheese disks fly straight off his hand and instantly melt on the hotplate. Brian looks around. He’s tall, thin — rangy, in other words. “She slapped the cheese right out of me,” he says. Everybody laughs.

“Can I nibble on your ears?” says the drunk to Portia, as she herds him out from the front door.

Love it. I check the menu. It’s not so ginormous. This is basically Burger City. They have your plain burger at $5.75, a double for two bucks more, a double western burger goes for $8.75, and sliders start at $1.50 each or four for $6.50. Veggie burger’s $6.50, and meat or veggie chili goes for $3.75 a bowl or $7.50 a quart. Texas Football’s $4.45, and Blue Potato — baked potato with blue cheese — is $5.50. They have gourmet stuff. They have gourmet stuff.

Portia is saying “How long have I got before you close?” A sea of pennies. Suddenly I realize Brian and the gals are picking up chairs and putting them upside down on the floor. Wow. That late! This has been a long breakfast.

“I’ll be back in the morning,” I say. “For dinner.”

The Place: Commonwealth Cafe, 3408 30th Street, North Park, 619-295-2233

Type of Food: American

Prices: Threes cuban-style eggs with bacon, toast, $5.50; bacon, cheese omelet, $6.00. Commonwealth omelet (two hamburger patties inside), $7.50; burger, $5.75; double burger, $7.75; sliders, $1.75 each, four for $6.50. Veggie burger, $8.50; meat or veggie chili, $4.25 bowl, $7.75 quart; Blue Potato (baked potato, bleu cheese), $5.50; hand-cut fries, curly or straight, $2.75; apple pie, $3.50

Hours: 24/7

Nearest Bus Stop: 30th at Myrtle

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The Place: Commonwealth Cafe, 3408 30th Street, North Park, 619-295-2233

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Erica Martenson is not a scientist. Rather, she is a gardener. In her big backyard in Napa, she says, she has “several fruit trees and a small area where I have a vegetable garden. At this point, I can grow pretty much what I need for the year — I dry my fruit, and I can things.”

Until 2005 or so, one of her homegrown crops was soybeans, “for edamame. Then I saw an article that mentioned something about genetically engineered soy, and I started wondering if my soybeans could be genetically engineered. I started doing some research and found that even organic seed companies like Seeds of Change can’t guarantee anymore that their soybeans are GE-free. There’s too much contamination — partly through cross-pollination, but also because there’s so much consolidation within the seed supply. Sometimes even the organic seed companies are contaminated. So I stopped growing soybeans, and that’s how I got introduced to the whole issue — not being able to grow something that I wanted to grow. It’s one of those issues that a lot of people don’t know about, but once you do know about it, you tend to have a strong feeling about it.”

It’s a pretty strong word, “contaminated” — the sort usually reserved for poisoned water supplies and the like. Martenson isn’t trying to be alarmist, only to indicate that GE foods stuffs have a way of insinuating themselves into the general food supply. But she is concerned. “I’m concerned about the health aspect. There hasn’t been a single peer-reviewed study to prove that GE foods are safe, for example. There are no safety tests required by the government. Most of the developers’ own studies have not been made public. A German court recently forced Monsanto to make one of its studies public, and it showed that there were problems with the lab animals. And there have been independent studies that have pointed to problems. There have been studies of GE yeast that showed — and this is a problem with GE in general — that inserting the foreign genes disrupts the genome. It can cause unexpected changes in the yeast — change its metabolism, cause toxicity or allergenicity. I think the way the whole GE thing has unfolded has been very uncritical. There’s been a lot of propaganda saying that this is going to solve people’s problems, that it’s progress, and that if you’re against it, then you’re a Luddite.”

Martenson mentioned yeast in particular because she drinks wine, because she lives in Napa, and because there are currently two GE yeasts on the market for use in wine production. (One unites alcoholic and malolactic fermentations to reduce production of the biogenic amines that cause headaches in some people. The other degrades urea and so reduces the production of ethyl carbamate, a substance found to exhibit carcinogenic activity in laboratory animals, though Martenson points out that the substance has not been shown to cause cancer in humans and that “wine has other properties that seem to counter those carcinogenic effects.”) Martenson is not pro-headache/pro-cancer, but neither is she confident in the biotech industry’s assurances and disinterest.) She also mentions it because it’s a local issue. “There are lots and lots of groups that are working on this at the international and national level. I decided I wanted to do something locally — there’s so much corporate influence at the national level, and there wasn’t anything happening here in our county.”

The result was PINA: Preserving the Integrity of Napa’s Agriculture. PINA’s website identifies the group as “a grassroots organization comprised of diverse individuals from Napa County who ‘share the belief that genetically modified organisms pose a serious risk to our health…and that they threaten our environment, economy, and consumers’ rights…No GMOs should be introduced into Napa County until a regulatory system is in place.”

“Our focus is education,” adds Martenson. “And the response? Martenson goes into hopeful mode: “Um, positive. There are conversations happening. I think the wine industry here has already..."
ways been very good about working with the community to solve problems that affect the industry and the environment and to find creative solutions. We have a long history of doing that, and I hope this will be the same way. I think there’s an image and reputation issue. There’s no labelling law here now that says you have to say if your product is GE, but that could change very quickly. The Food Policy Institute, a research unit of Rutgers University, conducted a poll in 2003 that revealed that 94 percent of American consumers want GE food labeled. Both presidential candidates on the Democratic side have said they support mandatory labeling, as does independent candidate Ron Paul. It’s a health and safety issue; since GE foods aren’t labeled, any health problems associated with them are impossible to trace. In Europe, there are already strict labeling laws, and even though there’s no ban on GE foods, nobody wants to market products as GE because they won’t sell. Here, the whole GE thing has been very stealthy, but I think producers here have to look forward. It would be very difficult, I think, for them to go forward. It would be very difficult, I think, for them to go.

Perhaps the most interesting thing about the article is that the Cornell professor she quotes, Dr. Bruce Reisch, shows up several times in the comment section. Reisch takes issue with much of what Martenson writes and argues that the United States food system is "one of the very best in the world," the success of which "includes the ongoing and widespread consumption of a multitude of products from plant genetic engineering, and these products have an excellent track record of... production of healthy food products." Martenson counters with arguments about U.S. approval of products (such as bovine growth hormone) that are not allowed in other first-world countries and adds that "many third-world countries will not even accept GE crops as food and." "The exchange is civil, extended, and enlightening and may be found here: http://www.napavalleyregis-
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Restaurant Listings

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B E A C H E S

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The Reader’s Guide to Restaurants are recommended listings written by our reviewers (Ted Belford, Barbara David, Andrew Martin, Shari McCollough, Max Nah, Eleanor Wilder, Naomi Wine). Each issue contains a feature on over 700 recipes. A complete searchable list is available online at SanDiegoReader.com. Price estimates are based on the latest information available for a midrange entrée. Inexperienced or under $15; moderate: $10 to $19; expensive: $20 to $39; very expensive: more than $30. Please call restaurants in advance for reservations.

B E A C H E S

PINA is after a moratorium in GE products in Napa County; in the meantime, Martinson’s point is that she can’t get those answers, benign or oth-

erwise. “What types of genes are they using that they feel they need to hide that information from the public?” she asks, re-
garding a trial using genes designated as “confidential busi-
ness information.”

Perhaps the most interesting thing about the article is that the Cornell professor she quotes, Dr. Bruce Reisch, shows up several times in the comment section. Reisch takes issue with much of what Martenson writes and argues that the United States food system is “one of the very best in the world,” the success of which “includes the ongoing and widespread consumption of a multitude of products from plant genetic engineering, and these products have an excellent track record of... production of healthy food products.” Martenson counters with arguments about U.S. approval of products (such as bovine growth hormone) that are not allowed in other first-world countries and adds that “many third-world countries will not even accept GE crops as food and.” “The exchange is civil, extended, and enlightening and may be found here: http://www.napavalleyregis-
tor.com/article/2007/03/15/opin-
tion

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perhaps not. "The cheese trade is dead," says owner Phil Schub. They still have all cheese sandwiches with mixes of provolone, Monterey Jack, Cheddar, Swiss, Muenster, Danish Havarti, or Norwegian Jarlsberg. But today this small, busy cafe is more famous for its "overstuffed" meat sandwiches. The leg of lamb, top round
Create your “own” surf & turf!

Come in and try...
any of our Prime Steaks with our
“New” Alaskan King Crab Legs or our old favorite Coldwater Lobster Tails.

Wonderful wines by the glass
No corkage Friday or Saturday night
2 for 1 Select Wines

Gurno, Po’ Boys, Jambalaya, BBQ, Wings

Delicious Southern-Style Cooking
Where the Last Taste Is as Good as the First!
Livework or dinner comes with purchase of a beverage. Max two coupons per table. Burgers & Po’ Boys excluded. Must present ad. Expires 4/17/08.

Gunnisons
Church Street, La Mesa
619-474-5546 • www.laithairestaurant.com

La Vista
927 Silverado Street, La Jolla, 858-454-0080. Reservations are a necessity at this tiny trattoria, especially if you’d prefer the relative quiet of the rooftop sidewalk patio to the din of the cute but cramped dining room. Look for Italian cooking styles ranging from Tuscan, which Duncan poaches with simple fresh sauces, to mozzarella and red sauce. Highlights include chef-owner Mary Ann Vitale’s house-made Sicilian-style fennel sausage, and if the leather-light potato gnocchi is on special, just say “yes.” Sure命中 for a slice of house-made layer cake. Moderate. — N.W.

BAJA

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

Cien Alas
9401 Calle Jose Maria Valdez
La Jolla, 664-408-3304. This lovely, comfortable, dinky-sized “destination restaurant” serves extraordinary Mexican haute cuisine, graced with a brilliant variety of sauces based on elaborations of Mexican ingredients, including tropical fruits, nuts, and above all, a vast variety of chile peppers, each with its own distinctive flavor (or not all of them spiced). You could eat here dozens of times and not begin to exhaust the possibilities. For example, the tequilas are Mexican Mezcal (the equivalent of a level’s chile based on batch order) of which you could find one person ritually or two lightly fertilizing it. Cooked dishes are excellent except for seafood mixtos and churro muzzles (crushed broth with whole garlic, matzah and rice). His dyes are gray, so be bent in the waterworks, since your trousers may never be present and keep your eyes open. To be served at the counter by Ono-san himself; reserve one month ahead. Lunch Tuesday through Friday, dinner daily. Moderate. — N.W.

La Fonda
601 Highway 1, Km. 39, Baja, 664-180-0070. It’s hard to imagine a better start to the day, in any sweetly ambience, than at La Fonda (“the inn”), which offers Mexican and American breakfast dishes and lively Sunday brunch buffet with both. Arrive early for patio seating under a straw umbrella with a full-out ocean view. The bilingual menu is written on chalkboards and dinner changes nightly, featuring American and Mexican standards in a cute but cramped dining room. Look for parties. At least four Japanese beers on tap. The view from the wraparound deck is the real draw for a lively young crowd. Inexpensive. — N.W.

At this Moroccan restaurant, the fare is influenced by Arab cuisines, but of Morocco is like no other in the world beyond suspicion. You are almost guaranteed a tasty meal. This is one of a few restaurants in town where the chefs are unusually friendly. They shine on simple, pure Japanese dishes except for the usual party role. Too. Most seafood is of fine quality, and the broiled hamachi (which seems to have problems). For those who enjoy bluefin tuna, there’s a short list of entrées (a maximum of two choices per table, to be shared) features fine chicken (or lamb) and dinner daily; reserve for weekends. Moderate to expensive. — N.W.

Lunch Specials: 59% - 79%
Served 11 am - 3 pm Monday through Thursday. No corkage on any bottle purchased. One coupon per table. Not valid with any other offers. Exp 4/17/08.

Happy Hour 4 pm - Thai Beer 2/$

The Surfside
1830 Sunset Cliffs Boulevard #100
Ocean Beach, 619-226-7619. At both Ranchos Cocina — Ocean Beach and the Surfside, Burgers & Po’ Boys excluded. Must present ad. Expires 4/17/08. - N.W.

- N.W.

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1830 Sunset Cliffs Boulevard #100
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Lunch Buffet $59
Includes salad bar. Valid Mon.-Fri. 11 am-3 pm. 60% Off Medium Pizza Buy one medium pizza ($12.25) and get 2nd medium pizza 1/2 off. Expires 4/17/08.

Don’t miss our $59 Lunch Buffet!

30% Off all games and rides

Lunch ($59) includes:
- Choice of Traditional Mexican entree (i.e., fajitas, nachos, tacos)
- Choice of beans or rice
- Choice of Mexican-style potatoes
- Choice of corn tortillas or flour tortillas
- Choice of chips and salsa
- Kids’ menu (ages 12 and under) for $12

50% Off Medium Pizza
Buy one medium pizza ($12.25) and get 2nd medium pizza 1/2 off. Expires 4/17/08.

Purchase a party today for your fundraiser, birthday party, team party, scout group, etc.

5500 Gracemont Center Dr. #267, La Mesa • 619-463-0700
(Gracemont Center between Sports Authority & Wal Mart)
One coupon per table. Not valid with any other offers. Exp 4/17/08.

Rainwinds
O N  • K E T T N E R

1320 Kettner Boulevard • Downtown San Diego 619-233-5757

“San Diego’s premier homegrown and longest-running steakhouse.” — EATSDOTD
comes up offering tequila shots from Mexican liquors including tequila. Fish and chips are still the simplest and the best. And Mama’s Flan, coconut combined with better dried calamari, shrimp, oysters, scallops, and clam strips. Anthony’s has been up for running for six decades now, with the buying power to get the pick of the catch. The menu offers 18 different seasonal fish to choose from, plus: if you’ve got the bread — delicious lobster dishes (in season) like lobster thermidor with a creamy, minty sauce. No reservations. Open daily, lunch through dinner; Moderate. — E.B.

Spanish Jog — 2400 Calle de Rio, Point Loma, 619-228-3668. 90 other locations in San Diego County. Hard to believe: this chain that McDonald’s acquired qualifies firmly to the original vision of the chef who founded it: naturally raised tender chicken in authentic Mexican dress. — E.B.

24-Hour Valley Kitchen Family Restaurant — 375 Hotel Circle South, Mission Valley, 619-589-1077. Great when everything else is closed. The place feels like a Midwestern chain eaterie: all carpets, dark-wood walls, studded with trees. In the middle of Tierrasanta, a park, etc.). The fare features middle-of-the-road faux-fusion salads, seafood, grilled steaks, pastas (most with shellfish), and individual pizzas, plus daily fish dishes listed on a card in a plastic holder on the table. The lighter dishes are the most successful — this is not a bad place to score some risottos and a mini-pizza when you’re starved for a view. Difficult wheelchair access to terrace. Open daily, breakfast through dinner. Prices are a little up there, but prices are a little up there, and can’t quite get its arms around any of them. The dishes are often ambitious — a few sure, but many fallister due to flaws in conception, execution, or both. Likely hope win list needs selections with enough sweetness to stand up to items featuring Asian spice — where are the Bistroloins? Still, the place seems full of happiness and fondness: yellow and orange walls, plenty of smiles amid the bustle. Soups receive lavish attention, and sometimes live up to their billing. As to treats, the famous chocolate chip cookies are fried in the oven. — N.W.

Enjoy Coronado! Free entree
With purchase of any entree of equal or greater value (not to be combined with any other offer. Does not include sides. Expires 4/17/08

Over 400 more restaurant listings at SanDiegoReader.com

Vietnamese Beef Noodle Soup
‘1 Off Spring Rolls or Egg Rolls’
Cannot be used with 10% off entire check offer.

Order one entrée at regular price and receive a second entrée of equal or lesser value FREE! No take-out. Not valid with any other discount or Happy Hour. Valid for 2 to 4 people.

One check, one coupon. Offer expires 4/16/08.

6738 LA JOLLA BLVD • AMPE PARKING • (858)543-0369

Redeem your Hot & Spicy Vietnamese Beef Noodle Soup at

San Diego Reader • April 2008

Consolidated Printing Co. www.CPC-Info.com

1 Large Pizza • 2 Toppings • 2 Soda & 2 Cannolis $15.00
Thick or thin. Mon. thru Wed. Only. With this ad.

Vietnamese Beef Noodle Soup
2 FOR 1

E.B. — CENTRAL

24-Hour Valley Kitchen Family Restaurant — 375 Hotel Circle South, Mission Valley, 619-589-1077. Great when everything else is closed. The place feels like a Midwestern chain eaterie: all carpets, dark-wood walls, studded with trees. In the middle of Tierrasanta, a park, etc.). The fare features middle-of-the-road faux-fusion salads, seafood, grilled steaks, pastas (most with shellfish), and individual pizzas, plus daily fish dishes listed on a card in a plastic holder on the table. The lighter dishes are the most successful — this is not a bad place to score some risottos and a mini-pizza when you’re starved for a view. Difficult wheelchair access to terrace. Open daily, breakfast through dinner. Prices are a little up there, but can’t quite get its arms around any of them. The dishes are often ambitious — a few sure, but many fallister due to flaws in conception, execution, or both. Likely hope win list needs selections with enough sweetness to stand up to items featuring Asian spice — where are the Bistroloins? Still, the place seems full of happiness and fondness: yellow and orange walls, plenty of smiles amid the bustle. Soups receive lavish attention, and sometimes live up to their billing. As to treats, the famous chocolate chip cookies are fried in the oven. — N.W.
The intense cuisine here is nothing less than a culinary journey into the rich cultural tapestry of ancient China. From the spicy, aromatic flavors of the Sichuan region to the delicate, nuanced tastes of the Jiangsu province, every dish on the menu is a testament to the skill and artistry of the chefs who prepare them with passion and precision.

The atmosphere is both inviting and modest, with a focus on simplicity and quality. The decor is restrained, allowing the flavors of the food to take center stage. The staff is knowledgeable and attentive, ensuring a memorable dining experience.

The menu offers a wide range of options, from traditional favorites to more adventurous selections. Dishes like the Sichuan-style spicy beef and the delicate, nutty tofu in a ginger sauce are just two examples of the culinary delights waiting to be discovered.

The drinks list is equally impressive, with a thoughtful selection of wines and cocktails to complement the food. The service is attentive and unobtrusive, allowing the diners to focus on the food and the conversation.

Overall, Golden Dragon Asian Bistro is a must-visit for those seeking a truly authentic and immersive dining experience. Whether you are a foodie or simply looking for a delicious meal, this restaurant will exceed your expectations. Each bite is a journey into the heart and soul of Chinese cuisine, presented with a modern twist that is sure to delight.

Address: 1409 University Ave, San Diego, CA 92101
Phone: 619-296-4144
Website: golden-dragon-asianbistro.com

Come for the food, stay for the experience. Golden Dragon Asian Bistro is more than just a restaurant; it's an invitation to explore the depths of Chinese culinary tradition.
Flavor Thai
4768 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 884-2367-3750. This op- tional feeling, great value (espe- cially for lunch), is housed in an ex- Tecio Bell restaurant, but you’ve never known it. It has a small rose garden outside, except for a lunch counter, and a salad bar.

El Galeón

Flavor Thai
6785 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa, 858-552-8845. Superb Thai restaurant in a small, sky-blue-lit ceiling recessed room, complete with cayman (and other interesting marine life). Highly whimsical decor (take a look at the wine list. Lunch Tuesday & Wednesday.

NORTH COASTAL

Beach Grass Café
319 South Coast Highway 101, Solana Beach, 884-509- 5233. People come here to celebrate, and party, thanks to the great live music. Casual-elegant dress.

Boca di Beppo — Carlsbad
9412 Calle Barcelona, Carlsbad, 760-479- 8171. Free parking with ad. Limited time only. Sit by your cozy fireplace and enjoy our homemade meals & famous Bloody Marys!

piece service for one

Any calzone or pizza
$3 off
Free Delivery
10 minimum order. Limited delivery area.

One 16˝ extra-large pizza...$9.99

Additional toppings...

Pick-up or delivery special with ad. Limited time only.

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1/2 price on draft beer, wine, and bar appetizers

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sun & mon bottle of wine half off

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samples of 3 wines from all over the world for a special price

imperia martini night

each first thur of every month 6 pm

live music starting at 8 pm • $6 martinis all night

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upscale private room available

10436 craftsman way, suite 120

45 commons town center

located in rancho bernardo 2 miles west of i-15 at 15560(a)

858-673-5100

$6 martins all night

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SOUTH BAY
Coronado Bouncehouse 1887 19th St. Open daily. Free. A great place to be with the kids. Take advantage of their 50% off offer on Saturday. For a relaxing time with lively music, games, food, and drinks, stop by at any time during the day. It’s the perfect place to take the kids and enjoy a fun-filled day. Every guest is also offered a complimentary drink, so you can relax and enjoy the atmosphere.

Savory 267 N. El Cajon Blvd. Encinitas, 619-436-3536. Chef-owner Parisi has been executive chef of Four Seasons Avila when he decided he wanted his own little place. His casual strip-mall restaurant has been perfect for his style of food and menu. A Big Mac salad is a must try in this menu. You can grab a salad and a hot meal at the same time. Don’t forget to try the London Fog Granola with yogurt and fresh fruit.

Ethiopian Cuisine

HAPPY HOUR
$2 Beers

HAPPY HOUR 1/2-PRICE ENTREE

Entrees are priced at $16.95 or $20.95, and you get a second entrée of equal or lesser value at 1/2 price.

With this ad. Expires 4/7/18.

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Ethiopian 4-course dinner for two $25

Includes a bottle of wine and homemade dessert.

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15% off all menu items

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www.robknight.com

South Bay

1126 San Diego Reader April 3, 2008

All-You-Can-Eat

Sushi Bar $22.95 per person

With this ad. Up to 5 persons. Reg. $24.95.

Lunch Daily 11:30 am-2 pm
Dinner Daily 5-9 pm

Appetizers:
Gyza, Egg Roll, Soft Shell Crab, Miso Soup, Shrimp Tempura, Chicken Tenkaya, Agedashi Tofu, Green Salad, Rice

Nigi Sushi:
Albacore, Amaebi, Avocado, Clam, Crab, Eel, Egg, Inari, Hamachi, Ika, Saba, Smelt Egg, Octopus, Oyster, Salmon, Scallop, Shrimp, Smoked Salmon, Squid, Tuna, Uni, Red Snapper

Cut Rolls:
California, Caterpillar, Cucumber, Phi., Rainbow, Soft Shell Crab, Spicy Tuna, Tempura Shrimp, Vegetarian, Yumikura, Firecracker, Seafood Dynamite, Shrimp

Hand Rolls:
Eel, Salmon Skin, Scallop, Crab, Spicy Tuna, Shrimp, Tempura Shrimp, California

Dakine’s Plate Lunches
1435 Sweeter Road, Kearny Mesa, 619-477-4804. You go here for your Pacific island breeze. The view is great and the food is amazing. You will not be disappointed.

McP’s Irish Pub and Grill
107 Clairemont Mesa, 619-455-5280. With a crowd ranging from Navy recruits to Picnic singles, this seafood hangout is a relaxed atmosphere for a good time. Come here to check out the view and enjoy some of the best food in the area.

East County
Barnes Bar-B-Que
2625 Lemon Street, Lemon Grove, 858-926-0280. Carter’s dad says its “let.” “Let Us Bring The South To You.” You can tell this is the real deal from the two heavy iron doors in the brick wall behind the counter. The big wood frame building is the most original bar-B-Que place in town.

The Omelette Factory
791 Mission Gorge Road, San Diego, 619-596-9906. The Factory sits in the kind of stand-alone building you expect to see in a country town. Long, angled roof with a porch dressing up the brick shod structure behind it. It’s a great place that’s ideal to bring the kids for a big breakfast. You can’t beat their omelets, hundreds of them, from the fast food to high-end creation. The secret to this place is the choice of the fresh baked bread and rolls. Too, the magnificently made Omelette is a build-your-own up to four ingredients, or choose one of the family has turned this location, outside San Diego, from an abandoned social hall into a place to call your own. It seems, for lunch, try the Factory burger. A slate/white/green dining area plus extra two cheese, two meats, and onions. Breakfast and lunch, seven days. Inexpensive. — E.B.

La Posta
23537 Old Highway 80, La Jolla, 619-437-5666. It’s the Wild West and you’re at the end of the line here, the loby’s Orange Line. Feel like a cowboy? Walk back through the grass to the streets that’s ideal to bring the kids for a big breakfast. You can’t beat their omelets, hundreds of them, from the fast food to high-end creation. The secret to this place is the choice of the fresh baked bread and rolls. Too, the magnificently made Omelette is a build-your-own up to four ingredients, or choose one of the family has turned this location, outside San Diego, from an abandoned social hall into a place to call your own. It seems, for lunch, try the Factory burger. A slate/white/green dining area plus extra two cheese, two meats, and onions. Breakfast and lunch, seven days. Inexpensive. — E.B.

San Diego Reader: Newspaper on San Diego's North County 126
MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by Duncan Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Untrated movies are for now unreviewed. 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, visiting Israel for the inauguration of an Arab Culture Center, but taking a wrong turn to a sound-alike destination in the middle of nowhere, spending a night, getting to know the locals and vice versa, bridging a cultural gulf. The blend of comedy and pathos, under the direction of Eran Kolirin, might call to mind the cinematic brevity of Italian humanism, albeit with more of an absurdly deadpan. Only three of the eight band members receive sufficient screen time to become individualized in the least — the priggish leader, his stilted assistant, an unruly rookie — and Sasson Gabai as the first of the three could stand alongside an Alberto Sordi or an Ugo Tognazzi (to place the other two could stand alongside an Al Pacino or an Robert De Niro). The result is a comic-pathetic Italian comedy.

Caramel — Sisterhood in the repressive society of Beirut: an Other Woman, a demented bell Moore, James Faulkner. 2007.

The Bank Job — Based on a true story, or anyway on a true bank job, the knock-off of Lloyds Bank, Baker Street, London, 1971. The filmmakers, headed by the veteran Australian-born director Roger Donaldson and screenwriters Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais, have taken advantage of the cloak of mystery that still surrounds the case, to concoct a salacious hypothesis that can’t be disproved, other than by common sense. The British Secret Service, by this scenario, was the prime mover behind the raid, desirous of getting their hands on compromising pornographic photos of Princess Margaret — yes, Princess Margaret, cavorting with dark-skinned natives in the Caribbean — held in the safe-deposit box of a blackmailing Black Militant. But the way it goes down (as we say in the underworld), it is self-refuting. The notion that MI5, from a safe distance, and through a coerced middle-woman, would farm out the operation to an unknowing gang of petty criminals, novices at bank jobs, is ridiculous on the face of it. Ridiculous because of the high probability (assuming the novices could pull off the job in the first place) of its turning out exactly as it turns out on screen: the hot photos ending up in unpredictable hands. If a team of filmmakers can’t find a true story that’s any truer than this, they need to keep looking. Or be better yet, start from scratch. The almost farcical complications, if taken with sufficient grains of salt, are diverting enough. And the Seventies period has its pleasures, not just the usual haircuts, bellbottoms, plaid, etc., but all that forgotten Black Power stuff, and most particularly the rolled-back level of technology: a simple jackhammer, a concrete-penetrating blowtorch, some walkie-talkies, and an amateur ham radio that chances to pick up the back-and-forth between the robbers in mid-job.


To enter, visit the Reader website and click on “contests.” SDReader.com

Deadline to enter is Monday, April 7, at 1:00 pm. Limit one entry per person. No purchase necessary.

In theatres April 18
The Grand — Zak Penn’s improvisational gambling comedy with Woody Harrelson, Chris Parnell, Cheryl Hines, Shannon Elizabeth, Werner Herzog. [HILLCREST CINEMAS, FROM 4/4]

Horton Hears a Who! — Dr. Seuss adulterated: plumped-up graphics (faithful in bare outline); wised-up attitude (vocal impressions of Kissinger and JFK, a martial-arts anime parody); dragged-out storytelling. The elephant’s crossing of a rickety rope bridge is a good sequence (meanwhile, down in minuscule Whoville, a jostled dentist misses the mark with the novocaine injection; the elephant’s crossing of a rickety rope bridge is a good sequence); the leesoom on tolerance and consti-
tuence aren’t lost in the grandiosity. With Michael Rapaport, the serious-minded di-
rector of 1984, A Space, 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 cas-
ier film, that could be thought a saucy,
flow. Social consciousness is small compen-
sation. 2008. [HILLCREST CINEMAS]
STONES SCORSESE SHINE A LIGHT

PARAMOUNT CLASSICS IN ASSOCIATION WITH CONCERT PRODUCTIONS INTERNATIONAL AND SHANGRI-LA ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS A MARTIN SCORSESE FEATURE

JACK JAGGER KEITH RICHARDS CHARLIE WATTS RONNIE WOOD

SHINE A LIGHT WITH CHRISTINA AGUILERA BUDDY GUY JACK WHITE III

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EXPERIENCE IT IN IMAX AND IN THEATRES APRIL 4

Text SHINE to 33287 for showtimes and mobile content. Standard messaging rates apply.
Throughout the story, the text is rich in detail, varying from intense action sequences to more thoughtful, introspective moments. Despite the difficulty of disentangling the narrative from the visual storytelling, the overall impact is one of dedication to the craft. The attention to detail in the film's production is palpable, from the lighting to the choice of locations and the costumes worn by the characters. The themes explored in the film are universal, dealing with issues of responsibility, love, and the complexities of human relationships, which are likely to resonate with a wide audience.

The technical aspects of the film are noteworthy, with a strong use of color and lighting to enhance the mood and tone of each scene. The cinematography is particularly striking, with a focus on the natural beauty of the landscapes and the interaction between the characters and their environment. The sound design also contributes to the immersive experience, with careful attention given to the different elements of sound, from the natural sounds of the surroundings to the more amplified effects.

Despite the challenge of fully grasping the narrative from the page, the overall impression is one of a well-crafted and thought-provoking film. The dedication to the craft is evident in every aspect of the production, from the performances of the actors to the meticulous attention given to the visual storytelling. The themes explored in the film are universal, likely to resonate with a wide audience, and the technical aspects are particularly impressive, with a strong use of color, lighting, sound design, and cinematography to enhance the mood and tone of each scene. The overall impact is one of dedication to the craft, which is likely to leave a lasting impression on those who experience the film.
Run Fatboy Run — Leser’s comedy directed by David Schwimmer (his debut behind the camera) lacks a fat boy, but has a full-grown man, “not fat . . . just unfit,” who indeed runs and runs. First he runs from his own wedding, leaving his pregnant fiancée at the altar, and then five years later, trying to get back in the running, he decides to run against his former fiancée’s new boyfriend in a London marathon. It would appear to be no contest on the course off: the unfit runner is a klutzy uniformed security guard at a women’s clothing store, chronically late with his rent and late for visitations with his toddling son, while his rival is a tall, tan, toned, handsome, well-heeled American financier. Simon Pegg, as the former, is certainly funny-looking (snowman’s dome, pebble eyes, carrot nose), which gives him a head start on being funny. Shaun of the Dead and Hot Fuzz gave him, in addition, some rope. But this, which he co-wrote with Michael Ian Black, is as conventional, and as sentimental, as any Adam Sandler comedy. (What charity sponsors his run? National Erectile Dysfunction Awareness. Name of the former fiancée’s bake shop! Libby’s Nice Buns. That sort of thing.) Thandie Newton, as the object of desire, is flatteringly photographed, though that can’t have been too hard. Hank Azaria well acts the rocking horse (by way of up my tailpipe, bro.” But then again, Sam Rockwell, the man behind the introductory gunshots, is something of a grandstander, chewing every stick and siver of scenery, reeking self-consciousness, while delivering his lines with roughly the sincerity of an Owen Wilson, and leaving a deafening lull whenever he’s off screen. Admittedly, he’s playing a faked suicide, a fitled Bible-superman, and a sloppy drunk, unhappy over his visitation rights with his daughter, combative with his ex-wife’s new married beau, who meets him more than halfway: “I’ll sack you right up my tailpipe, bro.” But then again, Sam Rockwell tends to act like that no matter back on the collar now that she’s not hunting werewolves in a black leather bodysuit. And the slowly warming relationship between two tentative teens, a twenty-bonist in the high-school marching band (Michael Angarano) and a bespectacled amateur photographer (Olivia Thirlby), gives us a rooting interest in an otherwise twodimensional tapestry of broken marriages, infidelity, betrayal, jealousy, vengeance. Two off-screen gunshots at the outset, prior to a flashback to “weeks earlier,” in effect echo over the entire length of the film, helping slightly to spice up the banality and lessen the boredom, as we work our way back to the starting point. Sam Rockwell, the man behind the introductory gunshots, is something of a grandstander, chewing every stick and siver of scenery, reeking self-consciousness, while delivering his lines with roughly the sincerity of an Owen Wilson, and leaving a deafening lull whenever he’s off screen. Admittedly, he’s playing a faked suicide, a fitled Bible-superman, and a sloppy drunk, unhappy over his visitation rights with his daughter, combative with his ex-wife’s new married beau, who meets him more than halfway: “I’ll sack you right up my tailpipe, bro.” But then again, Sam Rockwell tends to act like that no matter
Bargain showtimes are in parentheses.

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we are looking for someone with a positive attitude who is interested in working with our active seniors. Must be physically capable of pushing a gurney, lifting, and pulling a 200 lb. patient. Full time is 32-40 hours, 14 day rotating shift. Must have a high school diploma with some college in social services. 40 hour week. Shift days are variable and include weekends. Pay is $12.00 per hour. EOE. 800-345-5234.

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Sat., April 12, 2008 • 8:30 am
SD Regional Public Safety Institute NTC

Wed., April 16, 2008 • 6 pm
Balboa Park Club Ballroom
2150 West Pan American Drive & Presidents Way

Fri., April 18, 2008 • 8:30 am
Balboa Park Club Ballroom
2150 West Pan American Drive & Presidents Way

Sat., April 19, 2008 • 6 am
SD Regional Law Enforcement Training Center (PAT Test)

For more information, call: (619) 531-COPS
Or visit our website at: www.sandiego.gov/police

San Diego Reader April 3, 2008

Free Classifieds: web or mail
EARLY DEADLINE by 6 pm MONDAY
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Deliver AT&T phone books to new customers.
We offer:
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Transportation required. We drug test.

Apply 9 am–1 pm Mon.-Thurs. or call: 858-547-4427
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Careers in
Probation

Deputy Probation Officer
Minimum Qualifications
• 21 years old • Good physical condition • No illicit drug usage
• U.S. citizen or in process of becoming a citizen
• No felony convictions • Bachelor’s degree with experience
Salary: $50,752-$61,672 annually
Safety Retirement—Sworn Officers 3% at age 50
Bilingual men/women encouraged to apply.

Test dates: April 26, 2008 or May 31, 2008
Qualified applicants will be notified by mail of the date, time and location of the test.
All applications must be submitted no later than 15 days prior to the exam date. Applications received after the 15th day will be scheduled for the following exam. Applications can be accessed on-line from the Job/Current Recruitments section of the County website at:
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Jobline: 858-514-8558

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Drivers
Immediate Openings for Delivery Throughout San Diego County!
Deliver AT&T phone books to new customers.
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Apply 9 am–1 pm Mon.-Thurs. or call: 858-547-4427
9586 Distribution Ave., Suite K
San Diego, CA 92121
Koch Membrane Systems is seeking highly motivated, high-energy individuals who want to become active participants in the drive to be a world-class company. We are hiring for the following positions at our manufacturing plant located in Scripps Ranch.

Manufacturing Engineer
Immediate opening for a qualified Engineer with past experience in manufacturing or process engineering. Project management and PLC/computer-controlled process a plus. Must be able to identify and implement new and/or improved equipment for membrane and spiral element processes, improve process throughout, and reduce costs.

Environmental Health & Safety Manager
Immediate opening for a hands-on Manager with a minimum of 5 years of professional EH&S experience. Must have experience with industrial hygiene, respirator programs, ergonomics, injury and illness prevention programs, California environmental requirements for air and water, and California hazardous waste management. Must be technically skilled and able to perform physical mechanical tasks to maintain water treatment, air discharge, and monitoring tasks. Must have formal occupational safety, industrial hygiene training and/or education: BS in associated discipline preferred. Supervises 2 positions.

Journeyman Electrician II
Must have knowledge of NEC and California state codes on wiring requirements, knowledge and experience with industrial applications (installation and troubleshooting of plant and manufacturing equipment), knowledge and experience with proper PPE and arc flash requirements (NFPA 70E). Must be a Certified/Licensed Journeyman Electrician with 5 years of experience, preferably in a manufacturing/industrial environment, and be up to date on applicable codes (NEC and CA).

Journeyman Electrician
Must have knowledge of NEC and California state codes on wiring requirements, experience troubleshooting and correcting PLC/ Controls issues, experience in developing, specifying and installing new/ upgraded PLC/process controls. Must be a Certified/Licensed Journeyman Electrician with 3 years of experience, preferably in a manufacturing/industrial environment, and be up to date on applicable codes (NEC and CA).

PRODUCTION
$500 Starting Bonus for Production Workers!

Machine Operator/Castor/Coater
(3-4-5-3 shifts)
Immediate openings for experienced Machine Operators in our Membrane Manufacturing Department. Major duties include setting up and monitoring machine for coating and/or casting membranes; transferring and monitoring chemicals and making adjustments as needed; taking samples of membrane and chemicals; keeping complete and accurate records and logs of readings; changing rolls of fabric as necessary; draining, cleaning, and refilling chemical tanks as necessary.

Packagers, Preparers, Wet Testers, Brine Sealers, Rollers (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Shifts)
Candidates should have good math skills, be able to lift 40 lbs., and be willing to stand all day. Must have 1 year of previous manufacturing experience. These will initially be paid hourly through an agency during an introductory period.

Koch Membrane Systems offers an excellent benefits package including a matching 401(k) plan. Please fax resume to KMS at: 858-635-1009, fill out an application at: 10054 Old Grove Road, San Diego, CA 92131, or e-mail: mesteun@kochmembrane.com

For more information about this company, please visit our website: www.kochmembrane.com

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Immediate opening for a qualified Engineer with past experience in manufacturing or process engineering. Project management and PLC/computer-controlled process a plus. Must be able to identify and implement new and/or improved equipment for membrane and spiral element processes, improve process throughout, and reduce costs.

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Benefits include health coverage paid 100%, 401(k) with employer match, free downtown parking in Little Italy and more.

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Fax: (619) 231-0489

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Correctional Deputy Probation Officer I

Minimum Qualifications

• 21 years old
• Good physical condition
• No illicit drug usage
• No felony convictions
• High school diploma or GED

Salary: $35,069-54,741 annually

Safety Requirements: Sworn Officers 3% at age 50. Bilingual men/women encouraged to apply.

Test dates: April 5, 2008 • 8 am or May 3, 2008 • 8 am
Montgomery Middle School
2470 Ulric Street • San Diego, CA 92111

Applications available at the test site. For additional information, contact the department.
Jobline: 858-514-8558
www.sdcourts.ca.gov/probation

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needed for busy Pinny Deli. Part time. Monday-Friday, 10am-2pm. 858-486-5137

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ARS of San Diego is seeking a motivated Vice/Dispatch Representative able to work without supervision. Must be a multitasker with good communication and leadership skills for a fast-paced environment. Must be a team player with a minimum of 3 years experience. Pay Scale: $46,776-54,741 or apply in person: 6102 Nancy Ridge Drive #100, San Diego 92131. Drug-free work environment. Licenses #72502.

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Jobline: 858-514-8558.

Online Sales Representative

Online Sales Representatives will also be responsible for developing proposals, managing current business, and generating opportunities in a quickly-changing industry. Please send a cover letter and updated résumé detailing your experience in online sales.

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Does selling for one of San Diego’s most-recognized brands appeal to you? With a circulation of 162,000 copies a week, the San Diego Reader is now the third-largest alternative news weekly in the U.S. We reach one out of every three adults in the county and have been the number one local resource for news, entertainment and events in San Diego for over 34 years. We are looking for successful salespeople who want a career bringing consistent results to their clients. The role available is to develop and service a diverse client base with the help of our sales assistants. You’ll be trained to design advertising campaigns that bring results for your advertisers. Sales experience is essential and a successful track record of cold calling in any industry is preferred.

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THE REFLECTION OF SUCCESS

Exam Dates:

April 5, 2008
7:30 am Arrival
Southwestern College Cafeteria
900 Otay Lakes Rd., Chula Vista, CA 91910

April 9, 2008
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18-year-olds eligible to apply! Bring valid photo ID and $3 for parking at Southwestern.

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San Diego Reader April 3, 2008 137

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Mueller College of Holistic Studies
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THE READER PUZZLE

Wednesday 9-10am.

DOWN
63. Jiffy
62. Kind of face
61. Hebrides island
55. List at a meeting
28. “____ be going”
23. Elec. Day, e.g.
19. Musician with the album
13. Modern organizer, for short
12. Michael Stipe’s band
10. Slangy greeting

ACROSS
8. E-flat equivalent
5. Nurse
9. Part of a bicycle wheel
5. Wild guess
2. Greek princess
57. It might be left of center
56. Ballerinas dance on it
46. Slugger’s stat
25. Bushes in the garden
29. Loony

I get told I look like Jeff Bridges every day. And I saw him at MoPA the other day. I’ve been told I look like Mike Reno, the singer from Loverboy. That’s not think they’ve met me somewhere before, but I’ve been told I look like Mike Reno, the singer from Loverboy. That’s not think they’ve met me somewhere before, but I’ve been told I look like Mike Reno, the singer from Loverboy. That’s not think they’ve met me somewhere before, but I’ve been told I look like Mike Reno, the singer from Loverboy. That’s not think they’ve met me somewhere before, but I’ve been told...
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SINGLES FOR JAZZ: a new and fun place to find or meet singles interested in attending jazz events. Call 559-578-1771.


TEEN TREAT BAKERY CANDACE: Third Annual Teen Treat, Saturday, April 12, 3-4pm, Raja Beth’s Restaurant, 1441 University Avenue, San Diego 92103. Information: call 619-495-2749.

TEAM KATE BREAST CANCER: Third Annual Relay for Life, Friday, April 11, San Diego Sports Arena. 6pm to 1am. Call 858-576-9406 for more information.

TEMPLE OF BHAKTI YOGA: Free Workshop on Living Lightly, April 12, from 10am to 1pm, 6444 Michigan Avenue, San Diego 92112. Workshops during the month of April. Call 619-272-5664 for more information.

TOURS: Hiking Tours and Tours: Visit Sonoma and Napa Valley with a professional tour guide. Call 619-356-9699 for more information.

UCSD MEDICAL CENTER: Support Groups: Meet the professionals who treat patients with the same conditions. Call 619-543-6269.

Volunteer in the study: This study involves drug and counseling compared to placebo. Compensation provided. Call Project Coordinator at 619-341-5713.


WOMEN'S HEALTH: Women who have had colorectal cancer are invited to attend the annual Women's Health Symposium: "Cancer Prevention: A Team Approach with S.M.A.R.T. Recovery", free presentation, 10-11am, Temple of Bhakti Yoga, 6444 Michigan Avenue, San Diego 92112. Call 619-543-6269.

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D-WERE GOOD, SO good together. Somehow we came together. That first kiss was beautiful. We shared so much, but wasn’t the one.

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Jacob Bergman, 87, in 1937, the "Tribune" noted that "friends affectionately called him 'Dutch'... [He] held the reins in 1888 on the first western Butterfield coach to cross the county and made it to San Diego County and died in 1895.

—by Robert Masrich
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**Surf DIEGO**

**Name:** James Teak  
**Surfing:** Crystal Point  
**Age:** 22  
**Occupation:** Machinist  
**Lives In:** Point Loma  
**Pre-Surf Music:** Pennywise  
**Post-Surf Food:** Taco Surf or Lamma Juice

“I started surfing when I was in third grade. My dad bought me a 5’10” four-fin old-school board for my birthday. My uncle took me out,” says James Teak. He recalls only one conflict with another surfer.

“I was hanging out with my friends, and this guy walked by and stepped on my board. He cracked it. You see stuff like that. It can be pretty localized at certain places around San Diego. It’s just about respect. You don’t cut someone off on the freeway, so don’t drop in on someone’s wave.”

He’s surfed mostly in San Diego but he’s made a trip to Hawaii to visit his sister. His ideal surf vacation spot?

“I’d love to go to Fiji. It’s so beautiful and exotic, and you don’t have cell phone service. I love being alone and having time to think.”

His seven years in the water have been mellow and rewarding. He hasn’t been threatened, but has gotten up close to some marine animals.

“I’ve never seen anything crazy in the water. A few big leopards sharks as big as I was... it was pretty sick.”

A few weeks ago, James volunteered with the Surfrider Foundation. “We did a clean up at Toumlaine. The surfing community here is really tight. A lot of people show up and donate time.”

To see an online version of this column, go to sdswipe.com. You can print it, email it to friends, and find archived columns.
FAMOUS FORMER NEIGHBORS

by Jay Allen Sanford ©2008

JERRY LEWIS
Part Two

Lived in San Diego for nearly every summer since 1959. In 1997, his ex-wife Pat died of cancer. He held an auction for a portion of the 1.4 million he had paid for the remnant of the 7420 block. He spent a week in the hospital being treated for pneumonia and a mild heart attack, before returning to his home in the Marlin area. Where he still remains. He still plans to do a nutty professor musical.

The Told Me to Eat Fresh, I Don't Get Fresher Than This!

In June he became a pilot on San Diego and was hospitalized.

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A prominent British novelist (former winner of the prestigious Whitbread Prize) announced in January that she had won a settlement of the equivalent of more than $12 million from a drug company and a hospital in Maryland's Eastern Shore region’s annual beauty-contest-and-muskrat-skinning festival. In January that year, she forced to work down-market thrillers instead of literary works, Joan Brady said numbness in her hands and legs, caused by pollutants, made her feel so crooked that she could not quite write. She pulled in front of Thomas, blocked her path, then got out, screaming and taunting the woman, but then quit and drove off, only to return moments later from the other direction, bump Thomas’s car and resume screaming, then left but returned yet again, threatening to damage Thomas’s car and yelling some more. In the 2006 Miss Fayetteville pageant, Walters was voted Miss Congeniality.

Almost half of the 47 members of the United Nations’ Human Rights Council are not “free democracies” (according to Freedom House rankings), and several, such as China, Cuba, Russia, and Saudi Arabia, have been widely criticized as human-rights violators. Conversely, the council has failed to address any of the most prominent rights abuses around the world (including some that were called genocide) in neighboring South Korea, Chad, Zimbabwe, and Iran, among other places, but in January, the council voted its 12th “condemnation” of Israel (out of only 13 condemnations it has ever issued).

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 or to WeirdNewsTips@yaahoo.com
Thirty Years Ago
Thank you for your article on our boss, Lowell Blankfort ("Press Passer," March 30). We commend Paul Krueger's skill in capturing the personality of this Star-News co-publisher quite accurately (in the view of his editorial staff).

What did surprise us, however, was Blankfort's assessment of our insignificance as his staff. We read with chagrin his claims: "Without Anal and our other management helping, Bob and I could still put this paper out ourselves."

—LETTERS: "CHAGKN AND BEAR IT!
Star-News Editorial Staff, April 6, 1978

Twenty-Five Years Ago
The Business Journal's drastic retrenchment was of little surprise to Carabet's former boss, Union financial editor Don Bauder. "I told Denise from day one that it wouldn't make it," Bauder recalls. He says the "crazy mix" of local businesses and the lack of a core industry to generate advertising were the Business Journal's unpalatable hurdles.

"San Diego isn't a Seattle, where you've got a Boeing and aerospace, or a San Francisco with its banking and Silicon Valley," says Bauder.

—THE INSIDE STORY: Paul Krueger, April 7, 1983

Twenty Years Ago
Leo Dabouz would like to announce the daily arrival at the Tijuana airport of cells from lamb fetuses making their way on a strange journey. These cells begin their lives in Frankfurt, Germany, where they're extracted from their mothers' hosts, flash-frozen, and loaded onto Lufthansa flights to Mexico City, with an Aeromexico connection to the border city.

From the airport, Dabouz's employees will be picking up the cells and transporting them to the Hotel Fiesta Americana on Agua Caliente Boulevard. There, the final destination for the fetal cells will be the rumps of men and women who've been led to believe that such "live-cell therapy" will make them more youthful and robust.

—CITY LIGHTS: "THE SALE OF CELLS,
Jannette De Wyz, April 7, 1983

Fifteen Years Ago
The trial of Dale Anthony Akiki, the disabled 35-year-old La Mesa man accused of molesting and abusing preschoolers at a church-run nursery school in Spring Valley, will soon be in full swing. Meanwhile, another court battle related to the notorious case may be on its way.

Two of Akiki's alleged victims and their legal guardian, using the name "John Doe," are suing radio station KFMB-AM and talk-show host Stacy Taylor for invasion of privacy. The suit stems from a March 18 broadcast on which Taylor read a letter, on the air, from an Akiki sympathizer, in which the two minors' grandfather was "identified by name" as one of the chief instigators of the prosecution.

—CITY LIGHTS: "RADIO BLABBERMOUTH HIT IN TOT-SEX PRIVACY CASE,"
Thomas R. Arnold, April 8, 1993

Ten Years Ago
John Moores and his San Diego Padres haven't yet said the "Y" word loud out, but plenty of other locals, including sports writers and editorialists for the Union-Tribune, have been mouthing it. The word is Virginia, specifically northern Virginia. That's supposedly the team's final destination if taxpayers here don't ultimately ante up to build a new downtown baseball stadium.

—CITY LIGHTS: "THE NORTHERN MOCOYS,"
Matt Potter, April 4, 1998

Five Years Ago
After the service, Bishop Mason told me that two of the biggest black churches in San Diego have "incredibly large" numbers of gay men and lesbians. "And the preachers at those same churches will from time-to-time gasp from their pulps. But church loyalty is strong in the black community. The relationship is very complex. I've seen gay men and women, after hearing such a sermon, kneel before the altar and repent of their so-called 'sinful' lifestyle. A few hours later, these same people go out to gay bars. I think it would be better if they just turned away from gay life altogether than subject themselves, time and again, to self-hatred and repentance they don't mean."

—SHIP AND GANT, Ab Coupur, April 3, 2003

To get an online version of this story, go to sdreader.com. You can print the story, email the story to friends, get other stories on the same subject or other stories by this author.
SAYING GOODBYE

Over the span of a normal lifetime, how often do you see a loved one off for a trip? A long trip. A long and dangerous trip?

It’s five o’clock in the morning in a parking lot at the Del Mar area of Camp Pendleton on January 18, 2008. The sun hasn’t come out, it’s freezing cold, and the best shelter any one can find is not the wide open tent — with the lukewarm watered-down coffee that is two degrees warmer than it is “outside.” The people who know — the ones who have been here before — have blankets, sit inside cars and SUVs with engines running and heaters on, waiting until the last moment to exit. The less fortunate (read: experienced) group stands around shivering and almost hoping for the word to load up onto the buses, almost but not quite.

These Marines are getting ready to leave for a year-long deployment to Camp Fallujah in Iraq, and if you didn’t already know, one look around you would reveal this. Everywhere you are facing the reddened eyes and drawn, haggard faces betraying the recent sleepless nights and constant anxiety faced by everyone assembled.

There are families here: huge groups of wives, husbands, children, sisters, brothers, and parents, all circled around the one deploying as if a protective circle of love could ward off the impending departure and separation. Some clusters are smaller, just the wives (sometimes husbands) and children. The most common sight is a baby or toddler, an arm around a spouse, and any other children tucked in close to the legs and waist. Also present are some solo Marines, miling about or gathering in small groups to jaw about something unimportant, trying to pass the time. They are a study in unsteady bravado, not really sure what to expect this time in-country; all of them are wary, excited, exhausted, and (whether admittedly or not) scared. A few exist who revel in the prospect of true combat and stand out among their tentative brethren; usually those who know what it is — alternately boring, exhilarating, frightening — don’t pretend to enjoy the experience. Most are also
unsure of their individual role in this new war, with conflicting reports about improved security, anemic terrorist groups, and a creeping, deadly brand of military complacency.

Last, there are the couples who, without families or children to distract them, are easily recognizable. An almost unintentional intimacy surrounds them as they prepare for the reality of what they have spoken a word about it or not. Barely visible in the predawn light, they resemble a single person, powerfully braced against the winter wind. The more comfortable and familiar they are with one another, the less is said; many couples just hold each other closely or stand side by side, watching the busy scene before them. Reassurance is gained through eye contact, a hand squeeze, or a soft, lingering kiss. Despite all the activity around, it’s obvious how far away these pairs are, thinking back to a shared moment or trying to absorb every aspect of the other, holding tight to each image, memorizing the features of their loved one’s face. For the more mature and thoughtful, this impending separation is as fully comprehended as the impending separation

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To get an online version of this story, go to sdreader.com. You can print the story, email the story to friends, get other stories on the same subject or other stories by this author.
**POST DATE:** March 12, 2007  
**POST TITLE:** The Problem with Really Good Times

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 have any reason except for vague narratives with the original feeling all but faded. I want so bad to write well what I describe these memories, not just for your benefit, but 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 windedness and any pretense of writing discipline and ability, 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 bozo 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’d made a killing at the casino at the end of the night, the $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 without ever being up our table. Immediately. Since everyone going to the Sugar Bowl had collectively decided to eat in the French Quarter at exactly the same time, the wait were at least an hour at any place with metal swarve. The added bonus for us was that this place (forget the name — costly) had probably the second-best Bloody Mary’s I’ve had (the Liar’s Club being the best, of course). Although it may not be a fair comparison because when we got our trays wrapped-shrimp in there, it leaps above the “Bloody Mary” category, and basically transcends the idea of a “drink.”)

In the front of the Voodoo Museum sits the owner, a licensed vodologist and a dude that you would not 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...
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REAL ESTATE

MISCELLANEOUS

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CROWDED ON THE SHELF AND PARTIALLY HIDDEN BY OTHER BOOKS, the bright yellow spine of the stupidest book ever glared out to me, The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Professional Wrestling. I pushed the Grishams and Pattersons out of the way to get at it, as if I was a miner of nonsense and this was my mother lode.

The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Professional Wrestling surprised me with its heft. The weight of it dragged my buoyant optimism beneath the waves. I flung back to the page - 352. There thirty and fifty-two icy daggers in my eyes. Three hundred and fifty-two baying hounds in the murky night. Three hundred and fifty-two diagnoses of cancer snapped into a clipboard and handed over for signing.

“You know what I told him...he could take his speakers out of my car if he...BOOKS ARE $4.99 EACH OR FIVE FOR $20,” the toothless harridan in the inadequate tubep top behind the counter shrieked at me.

I jummed the book over, originally $19.99. Published in 2003. I made seven dollars an hour in 2003. Were I so dull and thick — a complete idiot — I would’ve worked the better part of three hours to earn enough to buy this. Considering taxes, gas, and lunch, this book represented half a day’s work, maybe more.

And someone had. The corners of the pages swelled the covers, thumb-worn and dog-eared. Inside, the lines were smudged, the texture of the paper ragged. I thought to buy the book and burn it in a barbecue. For a brief second the black-and-white newsprint of the title page stood on its head and the lines formed a message, a code, a spell. I peeked at a tuft of beard beneath my lip. I am not a complete idiot. I’m not an astrophysicist, but if I had access to a computerized hand-held subprocessor and a wind tunnel, I could probably calculate this. All the same, I would’ve been better off with the $160 gas and lunch.

“I tug at a tuft of beard beneath my lip. I am not a complete idiot. I’m not an astrophysicist, but I’m a drooling moron. Average, at least, gifted on my finer days. Is there a guide to pro wrestling for me? Would anyone except a complete idiot need a guide of this sort? What could it tell us? What truths lay hidden in its pages? Suffering of a nation. Sacrifices to Moloch. Vertigo briefly spun my head.

“You want the book or not?” I thought to buy the book and burn it in a barbecue. For a brief second the black-and-white newspaper page swelled the covers, thumb-worn and dog-eared. Inside, the lines were smudged, the texture of the paper ragged. I thought to buy the book and burn it in a barbecue. For a brief second the black-and-white newspaper page stood on its head and the lines formed a message, a code, a spell. I peeked at a tuft of beard beneath my lip. I am not a complete idiot. I’m not an astrophysicist, but if I had access to a computerized hand-held subprocessor and a wind tunnel, I could probably calculate this.
SATURDAY, APRIL 5
GET RIPPED IN 90 DAYS USA 7:00 A.M.
In 2002, Americans spent 24 billion dollars on fitness clubs. In 2004, the obesity rate had risen to 32 percent. Apparently, those two years were spent on a couch feeling guilty about your gym fees. On your walk to the gym to cancel your membership, you got tired at the corner market, bought Chetos, and turned around, vowed to give it a shot tomorrow.

SEX AND THE CITY
CW 8:00 P.M.
A 1999 poll showed that 8 percent of American women thought that women had equal rights to men. That same poll asked them if they “should have equal rights.” Sixty-two percent said, yes, women should have equal rights. So, out of 100 of you, 8 think you already have equal rights, 62 think you “should,” and 38 of you think you “shouldn’t.” Only way I can see to settle this fairly is a limerie wrestling match! Bonus points for high heels and eyebrow wagging!

SUNDAY, APRIL 6
STAR TREK
XDATE 7:00 P.M.
There were 14.2 births per 1000 people last year. There were 8.62 deaths. According to my California public school arithmetics, we have failed years to colonize other planets. And when we get out there, none of this “colonization this” and “colonization that.” If you can get the Evel Knievel helmet off of your head and pry the shotgun from your hand, you’re president. Until then, get back in line and shut up.

MONDAY, APRIL 7
THE BIG BANG THEORY
CBS 8:30 P.M.
In 2003, more than 40,000 doctors were given in all fields of study, much of the rest of us were working while you and your snooty friends sat around contemplating the patches on your elbows.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8
HELL’S KITCHEN
FOX 9:00 P.M.
There were 744 deaths from food obstruction in the U.S. There were 6 deaths from hot drinks, oils, or fats. The tomatoes and cooking spray on my counter seem almost ominous in light of those facts. Are they conspiring against me? Don’t think I don’t hear you, coffee maker. Whispering. Always whispering.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9
AMERICA’S NEXT TOP MODEL
CW 8:00 P.M.
It’s estimated that over eight million people have an eating disorder. Twenty-one percent of the population smokes cigarettes. One hundred percent of parody TV article writers wish Tyra Banks would shut the hell up and take her top off.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10
AMERICAN IDOL
FOX 8:00 P.M.
121,480,019 people voted in the 2004 presidential election. That same year, 65,000,000 people voted Fantasia Borrino in as the new American Idol, which allows multiple people to vote person and voting from people under 18. As goofy and side ways as we are, more of us still voted in the election than for American Idol. God bless these United States.

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1996 CHEVY ASTRO, 1999, 4-door, automatic, air conditioning, power steering, brakes, windows, locks, tilt, cruise, premium paint, automatic, low miles. asking $3500.
Spring is in the air and a young man’s fancy turns to thoughts of love. My thoughts are turning to an old love this morning as I inhale the odors coming from the cheap eatery around the corner on University Avenue. They waft through the open window of my second-story office on Eighth. I’m not young anymore. The cheap eatery is a lack in the Box, and the love I’m mourning about is an old one: science fiction, fantasy, and hard-boiled suspense. I used to keep company with all three fickle dames. Not so much these days. I used to keep an office bottle in the drawer beneath my typewriter. Not so much anymore. I used to use a typewriter, but they’ve gone the way of high-button shoes and 25-cent Cokes, edged out by science, the largest religion of the twentieth century... sometimes tarnished by images of exploding space shuttles, crack babies, and a generation of complacent Americans who had allowed the television to raise their children.

The quote is from the file on my desk, the first of _The Dresden Files_, compiled by scribe Jim Butcher. The ten-book-length files concern "Harry Dresden — Wizard: Lost Items Found. Paranoic Investigations. Consulting. Advice. Reasonable Rates. No Love Potions. Endless Parties, Parties, or Other Entertainment." Butcher has been chronicling Harry Dresden’s cases since 2000, and for the past eight years, well-meaning folk have suggested I read them. After all, they will tell me, "It’s your kind of stuff. You used to read them. After all, they will tell me, “You used to read them. Other Entertainment.”" Butcher has compiled by scribe Jim Butcher. The ten desk, the first of

People were looking for something — more, that times have changed, and it’s your kind of stuff. You used to read them. After all, they will tell me, “You used to read them. Other Entertainment.” Butcher has compiled by scribe Jim Butcher. The ten desk, the first of children. "I had allowed the television to raise their shuttles, crack babies, and a generation — Wizard: Lost Items Found. Paranormal Investigations. Consulting. Advice. Reasonable Rates. No Love Potions. Endless Parties, Parties, or Other Entertainment." Butcher has been chronicling Harry Dresden’s cases since 2000, and for the past eight years, well-meaning folk have suggested I read them. After all, they will tell me, “It’s your kind of stuff. You used to read them. After all, they will tell me, “You used to read them. Other Entertainment.”" Butcher has compiled by scribe Jim Butcher. The ten desk, the first of children. "I had allowed the television to raise their children.

I think they just didn’t know what. And even though they were once again starting to open their eyes to the world of magic and the arcane that had been with them all the while, they still thought I must be some kind of joke. And maybe I started out reading _Storm Front_, the first in the series, thinking that Harry Dresden was a joke. But by the time I finished it and decided to read the second case file, _Fool Moon_, maybe I once figured I could use a good joke, at least a good story, and then another one.

Yeah, I’ve been in love with this kind of stuff once upon a time. Ever since I read H.G. Wells as a kid and then the Hardy Boys, and later, guys like Roger Zelazny and Jack Williamson with, even later, into my 30s, side trips down Raymond Chandler’s mean streets. Sure that stuff was great, but that was 20 years ago. Besides, you start mixing those boys together on the page, you not only have a lot more disbelief to suspend, you’re asked to swallow the literary equivalents of chili con carne topped with chocolate ice cream. Separately, at one time, they’re great, but you don’t put them in the same bowl.

Still, I haunt the used bookstores for old Ace Doubles and gaudily covered pop fiction from my youth the way some guys will skulk around their high school reunions trying to recapture a thrill with a glimpse of Bonnie Anne Del Vecio’s thighs. Or I’ll pick up an old Lancer paperback edition of _The Return of Captain Blood_, hoping to time travel back to that long midsummer before public hair and heartbreak. Maybe back to the days when promising a career with multiple book deals that were soon to be followed by corporate mergers, buy-outs, and sell-outs. Purchasing a stack of old pulp dreams, thinking it will usher back innocence and wonder isn’t far from putting the moves on some 19-year-old honey thinking she’ll restore youth to your balding, gray-haired, and sagging old geezer ass.

Where’s the freaking office bottle? No bottle, but last night’s pizza, or half of it, anyway, congeals in its box on top of a stack of old occult books. I keep meaning to sell them. They reach in to pizza box and grab a cold slice. I see there are five left. I’ve got an idea. For old times’ sake. I arrange the five slices into a pentagram, a five-pointed, greasy, cheesy star. I leaf through a cold slice. I see there are five left. I’ve got an idea. For old times’ sake. I arrange the five slices into a pentagram, a five-pointed, greasy, cheesy star. I leaf through a cold slice. I see there are five left. I’ve got an idea. For old times’ sake. I arrange the five slices into a pentagram, a five-pointed, greasy, cheesy star. I leaf through a cold slice. I see there are five left. I’ve got an idea. For old times’ sake. I arrange

I pick up _Storm Front_ again. I’m entering a Chicago with organized and Italianate criminals by jowl with trolls and vampires and, of course, cops. In the opening pages here, the director of special investigations in the downtown windy city calls Dresden to the scene of a grotesquely brutal crime. That a police detective would call a wizard to the scene of a double homicide is hardly less credible than the time-honored staple of crime fiction in general that has cops consulting P.I.s for any reason at all. But a Chicago cop calling a wizard into the case? I’ve had experience with Chicago cops; it seemed like the whole department threw a going-away party just for me just before I left that hometown for California the second week of August in 1968. It’s tough enough picturing L. Kowalski consulting H&B Block about his taxes much less a wizard for anything. Butcher makes a case for his Lt. Karrin Murphy (or my theoretical Lt. Kowalski) when she has her deliver the lines, “I am... tired of being looked at like I’m some sort of nutcase... Most of them [her fellow cops] just scowl and spin their index fingers around their temple.... They don’t want to believe in anything they didn’t see on _Mister Science_ when they were kids.”

Dresden looks on the scene of the bizarre violence perpetrated by magical means and observes to himself, “Magic is created by life, and most of all by the awareness, intelligence, emotions of a human being. To end such a life with the same magic that was born from it was hideous, almost inescapable somehow.”

Butcher’s protagonist plays by rules; there is an internal logic to Dresden’s magical world. “The man or woman would have had to be there in the room with them. Tough to hide forensic evidence with something like that, and any one who was skilled enough to pull off a spell like that would have had the sense to use a gun instead. It’s easier.”

Jim Butcher, the creator of Harry Blackstone Copperfield Dresden, will sign copies of the Files and those of _The Codex Alera_, his fantasy series, at Mysterious Galaxy Bookstore, 7051 Clairmont Mesa Boulevard, at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 5. In the meantime, “When things get strange,” Dresden suggests “to end such a life with the same magic that was born from it was hideous, almost inescapable somehow.”

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