“If I did that over there, they’d cut my hands off”

Muslims from Iran, Iraq, Turkey, the Philippines, Pakistan, Somalia, Guyana and Eritrea

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CITY LIGHTS

BREAKING NEWS

Copping tickets  In his latest annual financial disclosure statement, filed last month, San Diego police captain Bob Kanaski reported receiving four tickets to the Chargers–Colts game in November of last year worth a total of $900. Kanaski wrote on his disclosure form that the tickets were “provided by a fundraising event. I do not have details of the event as I received the tickets from [Assistant] Chief [William] Maheu.” Maheu was once in line to become chief of police but abruptly left the department in January of this year to work for cell phone giant Qualcomm; he did not report getting any tickets on his own financial disclosure statement.

The rub for Kanaski is that state law places a $390 limit on gifts from a single source made to public officials during a calendar year — which would seemingly place the police captain’s $900 worth of football tickets seriously over the line. In years past, an exception to the $390 limit has been made for gifts of tickets from nonprofit organizations such as Pasadena’s Tournament of Roses, sponsor of the Rose Bowl. But now the state’s Fair Political Practices Commission, which enforces the rules, is considering doing away with even that exemption.

Reached by phone this week, Maheu said he had obtained the tickets from Patti Roscoe, a convention and meeting planner with close ties to the local Republican Party and the chamber of commerce. She is also a major backer of the reelection bid of Mayor Jerry Sanders.

Maheu said Roscoe had purchased the tickets for himself as an influence peddler for a host of high-powered city lobbyists, as well as the Port of San Diego. Among the Allen Matkins attorneys is John Davies, an intimate to former San Diego mayor and ex-governor Pete Wilson and a top GOP fund-raiser, whose latest public service was chairing the so-called citizens’ panel that boosted plans to further strengthen Jerry Sanders’s already considerable mayoral powers. During the first quarter of this year, the firm’s clients included Westfield Corporation, the giant Australian shopping mall operator that owns the Horton Plaza, UTC, and Mission Valley shopping malls. Westfield paid $114,000 for lobbying services related to unidentified “approval of land-use entitlements.” If contact with public officials is any measure, the money was well spent. Among those lobbied by Allen Matkins attorneys, according to the disclosure, were Sanders, his top aide Jay Goldstone, and city council members Kevin Faulconer, Toni Atkins, Tony Young, Brian Mainscheins, Scott Peters, Jim Madaffer, Ben Hueso, and Donna Frye — in other words, the entire council.

Ms. in-the-chips  San Diego State University has been getting more than its share of bad ink lately, what with the campus drug raid last week. But at least one top SDSU executive has good news to report: a bunch of lucrative gigs on corporate boards. Of course, that may be a mixed blessing, considering the criticism leveled at UCSD chancellor Marye Anne Fox, who last December was forced to resign from the board of a North Carolina drug company after UC regents adopted a limit of three paid board seats for each campus head. The resignation left Fox still on the boards of Boston Scientific Corporation, chemical giant W.R. Grace and Co., and open-source software developer Red Hat Inc., along with six nonpaying nonprofits. Now comes San Diego State business school dean Gail Naughton, who reports getting paid between $10,000 and $100,000 from each of three outside positions: Aderans Research Institute of Georgia’s scientific advisory board; C.R. Bard of New Jersey’s board of directors; and the board of San Diego–based Sys Technologies. Naughton’s unpaid board seats, according to her annual disclosure report, include Ackerman Foundation of San Diego, Dert Tech International of San Diego, and L.A.’s City of Hope medical center.

Make $ in a Pyramid: Bet Against It

On April 25, the stock of Herbalife Ltd., which sells weight-loss and energy products through multi-level marketing, plunged by 9 percent to $40.08. On that day, San Diego fraud sleuth Barry Minkow had revealed that Herbalife’s president, Gregory Probert, did not have the MBA degree he claimed to have. Minkow, who had been betting Herbalife stock would go down, made $50,000 on the stock’s plunge.

It was legitimate: Minkow says, referring to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. But the proceeds didn’t cover $20,000 in the hush-hush tax haven of the Isle of Man. When Minkow went on the attack, Usana’s stock was selling for $61.19. Now it is a bit above $20. Minkow made $60,000 on that one, but the proceeds didn’t cover the cost of the Usana investigation, which unearthed two San Diegans at the top of the company with phony bios. They resigned. Usana has sued Minkow and his institute; the case is still in court, but Minkow seems to have the upper hand, even though
Boards Go Green

By Dorian Hargrove

On the afternoon of April 3, barefoot surfers ran down the concrete steps at Swami’s in Encinitas toward ideal surf conditions. The waves were chest-high and clean, with not even the slightest breeze present. To add to the near-perfect conditions, only a dozen surfers were in the water. As serene as the conditions appeared down below, the vibe in the parking lot was intense. Surfers opened trunks, ransacked through gear and ran on the cement steps. The vibe in the parking lot was intense. Surfers opened trunks, and ran through gear for surf accessories. While some hopped about, showing a foot through their wet suits, others applied sunscreen to their tanned faces.

Eventually, all grabbed a scented bar of wax and rubbed it across the top of their surfboards. They applied the wax in a circular motion, the better to get bumps to form. The more bumps of surf wax, the better the traction for the surfer.

Artist Wade Koniakowsky, 53 years old, was waxing his 7-foot, 6-inch old-school tri-fin.

"When I first started surfing, 40 years ago, we used straight paraffin wax," he says. "It was made by the oil company Gulf. Now I use..." he sifed through a backpack he’d taken from the rear of his gold Lexus SUV, "now I use this.

The wrapper read "Sticky Bumps." That bar of surf wax was made on the other side of I-5, less than ten miles away, at Sticky Bumps headquarters in Carlsbad. John Dahl owns Sticky Bumps and its parent company, Wax Research. Dahl has been making surf wax since 1972, when he set up a makeshift factory in the back yard of an old house next to Swami’s surf break.

Sticky Bumps is now one of the largest surf wax manufacturers in the world. According to Dahl, depending on the time of year, anywhere from 12,000 to 20,000 bars of wax are produced each day at the Carlsbad facility. The company’s main competitor is Mr. Zogs Sex Wax, based in Santa Barbara. The two companies vie for the top spot in the $20 million-per-year industry.

"It’s like a tennis match — it goes back and forth, but probably it’s about neck-and-neck right now," says Dahl.

But the surf wax industry is in the midst of a sea change. Regular bars of surf wax are petroleum based and contain synthetic rubber with heavy alcohol agents, or tackifiers, for extra stickiness. A new type of surf wax, called “organic,” is flowing onto the market.

The organic wax is 100 percent natural, nonpetroleum based, and made from a combination of beeswax, soy, and vegetable waxes. Even the packaging is made from 100 percent recycled paper, and the ink used is made from soy.

The first company to make an organic wax brand, Mattoon, is owned by Matt Mattoon. The company is based in Sunset Beach, California. Mattoon began distributing his organic wax to stores in 1998, and his is the largest organic brand on the market.

"Every time you need to wax up your surfboard, there really is no need to put a glob of chemicals and oil on the top of your board for traction when abundant natural products exist that naturally biodegrade within 24 hours," Mattoon claims. "Most paraffin-based waxes are the byproduct of crude oil, and the tackifiers and agents used for stickiness in the mainstream waxes tend to be harsh chemicals and agents that may irritate the skin."

Torrey Trust, a 23-year-old environmental activist and founder of Surf eCo, a surf school devoted to using green products, is happy to see the movement toward more eco-friendly surf wax. "Most people do not check what ingredients are in regular wax and, therefore, do not realize that the wax is made from petrochemicals and other toxins that can be very dangerous when they rub off a surfboard and end up polluting the ocean and drowning coral reefs."

The harm, however, that petroleum-based surf wax does to the environment has yet to be proven. "There are not any studies that I am aware of that show a surfer’s impact on the ocean," Trust says. "Therefore, people just don’t know."

Bill Hickman is the chapter coordinator of the San Diego Surfrider Foundation, a nonprofit environmental organization. "Just like plastic, and most petroleum-based products, most wax does not biodegrade," he says. "It just breaks into smaller and smaller pieces, which can then be ingested by marine life. A little wax usually comes off your board when you surf, and sometimes discarded bars can make it into the water."

According to Dahl of Sticky Bumps, the biggest potential damage to the environment comes from manufacturing the traditional surf wax. "We’ve always had environmental concerns and basically made a big effort in the materials used as well as in the process itself," he says. "The way you heat petroleum products and not let vapors out is important, and we use an extensive system to control that. It’s all steam-jacketed boilers, where we never overheat anything and put emissions out. Being green is not only the product you use but also the process."

Sam Sciortino, the 32-year-old co-owner of Famous Surf Accessories Company, based in Oceanside, believes that the switch over to organic surf wax is not only about the environment but is a social choice as well. "The amount of pollution that surf wax puts on this world doesn’t exist," he says. "The biggest plus of doing a surf wax organically is that it lessens our dependence on foreign oil, and because of that there’s a huge demand out there now."

Despite the dispute about the benefits, surf companies are riding the environmental swell toward a more eco-friendly surf wax. Famous Surf Accessories released its natural, 100 percent petroleum-free surf wax in January at the Action Sports Retailer trade show at the San Diego Convention Center.
Ticket to tyranny (continued from page 6)

read in part: "As the former San Diego city auditor, my statutory responsibilities render an annual opinion on the adequacy of the City controls over financial reporting. My ability to express that opinion was severely curtailed after the 'strong mayor' form of government was implemented. As the auditor, I now worked for the mayor and was told I needed to be a 'team player.' The conflict between this concept and the auditor's code of professional ethics was the reason I resigned from City employment. The objectivity, honesty, and openness that results from the city auditor being free from the fear of retaliation by the mayor's office serves not only to benefit the City organization, but ultimately serves the best interests of the taxpayers."

Under Prop. C, the city auditor would report to a new audit committee made up of two councilmembers and three "public members." A screening committee would recommend candidates for those public-member posts; the Mayor's Office would play a role in that screening.

Not surprisingly, the downtown business establishment and Union-Tribune favor this rigged system. Councilmember Donna Frye knows what happens in San Diego when so-called outside experts get named to such posts: those experts are usually tied to the establishment.

That's exactly how San Diego got Prop. C. Sanders named a bunch of real estate lawyers and lobbyists, along with establishment lackeys, to the Charter Review Committee. Hardly surprisingly, it recommended that the mayor get more power, including the ability to play a major role in naming the auditor. Prop. C "allows the mayor to be involved in the selection directly of the auditor," as well as the firing of that auditor, says Frye. "It would be like Duke Cunningham appointing the person who audits his IRS returns."

Says Todd, "Don't be fooled by Proposition C. It is a veiled attempt by the Mayor's Office to maintain control over the selection and supervision of the city auditor. Only an auditor free from the political pressures of the Mayor's Office can serve the City and its citizens."

The auditor should be elected or named by the council. But that would be democratic. ■

Pyramid bet (continued from page 6)

the case is being tried in Utah. As a result of Minkow's charges, the Securities and Exchange Commission probed Usana, eventually dropping the matter. The agency began investigating Herbalife last year, and that probe is still pending.

Herbalife's business is seemingly booming. But the company makes its money recruiting salespeople; actual product sales are not as important, says Minkow, He says the same of Usana. That's what makes both of them endless chain schemes, he says.

"The biggest risk facing Herbalife is the high level of regulatory scrutiny to which it is subjected, particularly in foreign markets where its multi-level marketing approach is not widely accepted," says Morningstar, the stock-rat-

ing firm. "We give the firm an F for stewardship," partly because of the Cayman Islands incorporation.

Minkow, who is quoted in newspapers such as the Wall Street Journal and appears on TV shows such as 60 Minutes, is both world-famous and world-infamous. In 1987 he was sentenced to 25 years in the slammer for perpetrating a fraud in which he inflated sales by 90 percent. He has written books on the experience. While in prison, he got religion and was sprung in 7 years. He is now senior pastor for Community Bible Church in Mira Mesa. He splits his time between saving souls and chasing crooks. But "sadly, no trade [bet on a stock receding] has ever come close to covering the cost of any investigation," so the church has not reaped any of the profits. ■
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San Diego Board of Education 2003-04
Boards go green
continued from page 7

San Diego Convention Center. “We debuted the wax at the trade show, and we’ve already sold a thousand cases since that time,” says Sciortino. “It took about two years of trying to perfect the wax to get it to a point where it lasts longer and the quality is better. Now people are surfing three or four times without waxing again.”

Organic surf waxes have been around for a number of years, yet until recently, they never had a big impact on the surf wax market. One reason was the difficulty of making a high-quality organic wax. “We just couldn’t get it to bead up the right way, because organic waxes are really oily and stick the right way, because the ingredients being all-natural, the batches of soy and beeswax vary in consistency and in compatibility with other ingredients. “You know, soy wax is a really greasy wax, and it didn’t really work that well,” says Sciortino, “so we had to start using combinations of soy wax, vegetable wax, and beeswax and start mixing everything together.”

The additional time and effort drives up the cost. A regular bar of wax sells at most surf shops for around one dollar and is typically applied each time before surfing. Most eco-friendly bars of wax sell for nearly three times more and are usually applied with the same frequency.

“This wax will go in the shops for retail at about three bucks, because it costs about 80 cents to make it, and then we have to package it and ship it,” Sciortino says.

While most of the companies producing organic brands of surf wax, such as Famous, are newer and smaller businesses, industry giant Sticky Bumps is also hopping on board. In March, the company shipped over 94,000 bars of its no-hydrocarbon, soy-based surf wax overseas. The formula, and it will cost a lot more, but it will be better on the environment. It will leave no carbon footprint — the buzz word for the day.”

Dahl, however, is not trying to compete with his own brand. His company’s soy product is for surfers willing to pay the extra price. He expects that the majority of wax sold will be the original, petroleum-based wax.

“People really have to make a conscious choice about whether they would like to help the environment or save money,” says Trust of Surf&Co. “More people now are realizing their impacts on the environment and are choosing eco-friendly alternatives. Less than five years ago, I doubt that very many people would have paid almost double the price of surf wax for an option that protects the environment and the ocean.”

Matunas wax is the cheapest of the all-natural waxes on the market. Bars sell for around $1.50, barely higher than the price for petroleum-based surf wax. “With the volume we’re putting out,” says Mattoon, “we got the price down to where it is almost cheaper than any regular wax.”

Both Dahl and Sciortino, however, are skeptical. “I know what goes into making the organic wax,” says Sciortino, “and if you do it like we do, the right way, printing on 100 percent recycled paper and using all-natural products, there’s just no way. It’s not possible.”

According to Mattoon it’s a matter of finding the right connections and using the right ingredients. “We’ve been doing this wax for almost ten years. We don’t have any cost for packaging, all of our labels are from wind-powered factories up north, plus probably about 40 percent of the ingredients used in our wax comes from my family’s farm. At the end of the day, I’m paying way less than any of the other brands out there, and that’s why I can sell the bars for $1.50.”

Despite the high price of some organic brands, surfers appear open to using them.  Artist and surfer Koniakowsky likes the changing tide of eco-friendly consumerism. “Surfers haven’t been that great about creating products with a sustainable type of vision,” he says. “Just look at surfboards and the foam they use. But I’d be into using an organic wax. There’s a lot of hype though, and I think you should do some research to make sure it really is green. I’m in graphic design, and sometimes it takes more work and exhausts more energy to recycle a single sheet of paper than it does to chop down a tree.”

The King’s Criminal of the Week:

According to the Associated Press, a Malaysian man tried to bribe a police officer after he was pulled over for drunk driving. But when the officer administered the breath test, the man passed.

The breathalyzer found he was under the legal blood alcohol limit, so he was only arrested on a charge of corruption. He reportedly tried to bribe the officer with 50 ringgit, which is equivalent to $15 dollars. He got a fine of 1,000 ringgit, equivalent to $300 dollars.

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Letters

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

Blood Boil
I’ll be the first to admit that the Reader has published some pretty asinine stories in the past, but the one you not only decided to print but also give the cover was enough to make my blood boil (“Confessions of a Phony Navy Wife,” May 8).

It is bad enough you chose to glorify this disgusting, fetid, foul skank of a leech, but to have her further this insult by degrading the uniform I proudly wore for over 20 years of my life makes me physically ill.

How dare you publish an article that glorifies much that is wrong about the narcissistic, me-first element of today’s society? How dare you insult the honor of all who have worn that uniform with the mindless drivel of this self-absorbed dreck of human debris?

What I would give to wipe the smile off the face of that two-legged, whoring garbage can.

Peter J. Fonte
AME1, USN(ret)

Lost My Respect
I read your cover story “Confessions of a Phony Navy Wife” (Cover Story, May 8) with interest since I am planning on becoming a real Navy wife in the future. I moved to San Diego to do my medical residency and subsequently met my boyfriend/future fiancé, who is completing his medical residency with the Navy. We are anticipating his deployment in a year and struggling ourselves with the pressure of whether to get married before his deployment or wait until we could be together permanently after he returns.

Obviously the financial benefits of being married are much better than staying single, as Ms. Young points out, not to mention the privileges provided from being a Navy wife, but we are lucky enough to not have to worry about financial difficulties, given our future careers in the medical profession.

I thought she did a good job of pointing out how single people are punished and military marriages in general undergo more stress due to the demands of the Navy. However, I firmly disagree with her sweeping statement that ended the article: “The military brings out the bad in them.” While the military may put people in uncomfortable positions with difficult personal life decisions, I believe that every person in the military owes it to themselves and the people they are serving to do the right thing, and they have not lost their free will to make ethically correct decisions.

She lost my respect by implying that people can use the military as an excuse to “do bad things” just because things didn’t turn out the way they thought they would.

Name Withheld
by Request

Tubby Loser
Would you go into battle dependent on a lying trailer trash such as the tubby loser you featured in your very questionable cover story (“Confessions of a Phony Navy Wife,” May 8)?

I sure as heck would not want to have her watching my back.

Come on, you can come up with better stories than this.

Tom Schiff
via email

Stooped Low
That was a poor article to place on the front of the Reader (“Confessions of a Phony Navy Wife,” May 8).

It was tasteless and inaccurate.

The article was poorly researched, poorly written, praised fraudulent activity, and bashed the very institution that is responsible for her having the ability to talk in public.

She falsely attacked a constituency that is part of San Diego’s economy and who has many family members that live here.

For a paper that has been a solid part of San Diego’s eclectic corner, it is sad that the Reader decided to follow the path of other non-chronicles of any of interest to readers. It is a poor job of pointing out how losing readership is not often, as the Reader stooped low rather than reaching up.

Dana Pacifica
Cardiff-by-the-Sea

Navy Not So Bad
I read the Reader not often,
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but I do read it. I just finished the lead story of the May 8 issue, “Confessions of a Phony Navy Wife,” and while it gave some good information, I felt that it was a bit too easy for the reader to understand what was going on. I’ve been out of the Navy for approximately 30 years, and my experience was nothing like hers. I know a lot of married people that were in the military had absolutely no relationship like she says we had. I just think that this article was below the Reader and you’re better paper than to publish stuff like this.

Dave Barker
Chula Vista

Refund Request
Maggie Young should request a refund of her journalistic class tuition (“Confessions of a Phony Navy Wife,” Cover Story, May 8).

I was amazed at the narrative from this apparent piece of white trash (a picture is worth a thousand words) regarding her part in the conspiracy against the federal government and the Navy to commit fraud for economic gain, right up until page 30.

There the story jumps the track, and without any preliminaries, she does the right thing and confesses to NCIS agent Darmita Brown that she had committed a violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). She later tries to offer the specious argument that if some sailors choose to break their marriage vows by having sex with people other than their spouses, why shouldn’t she be paid to have an exclusive platonic relationship with her coconspirator?

Perhaps she made the fortunate error of being indiscreet while shooting her mouth off to shipmates about successfully gaming the system, and they dumped a dime on her, which led to her successful prosecution. Unfortunately, the American taxpayers are still out the $31,025.10 she stole while receiving the unauthorized BAH payments (minus the $4000 fine).

Hari Seldon via email

Credit CardSpeak
I’m writing in response to May 8’s cover story, “Confessions of a Phony Navy Wife.” While I understand this young woman’s position, mine is quite simple: What she did was not only wrong; it ruined the sanctity of marriage, especially in the military.

A big difference between her and those fellow sailors she mentioned in her story was her conscious decision to marry for money. As a veteran and a Navy wife, I’ve seen both sides. But in a country where the divorce rate is almost half, we all have to make the conscious choice to stand by our decisions, whether it is joining the military or getting married, no matter how grim the results may be. This is the very right she was serving her country to defend.

Furthermore, I wonder if she ever took a moment to step outside the box and explore other options. Did she ever consider finding roommates and living off base? Did she use every resource the Navy had to offer to her advantage, such as free education and training? Did she bother to think how advantageous her military experience would be for her once she got out and applied for a civilian job? No. She decided free food and a roof over her head wasn’t enough and the Navy “owed” her. She did the un honorable thing in a community where honor can sometimes be the only thing you have left at the end of the day. Let this be a lesson to those service members who try to defy the core values their branch tried to instill in them.

Cost of an apartment in San Diego: $1452
Marriage certificate: $100
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Sarah Gist via email

Paradise Lost And Found
It was with interest I read your story about the University House at Black’s Beach (“How UCSD Spent Over $500,000 on a Home Remodel That Never Happened,” Cover Story, May 1). As a teen growing up in...
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Three o’clock in the morning. Looking out a second-story bedroom window. This is the Charlie Simmons/Sheree Dohner once-abandoned barn, now, after more work than I care to think about, transformed into an honest-to-god estate, 15 miles west of Fairbanks, Alaska. It’s May 6 and never gets dark. That diffused all-night light (you can read a book off it) is what I’ve missed most.

It’s been 19 years since I lived in Fairbanks, and I’m back on a two-week farewell tour. I loved Alaska and that has stayed with me, but like everything else, love fades. There is no chance I’ll ever return here to live and very little chance I’ll be back for another visit.

So, I want to soak it in this time. I’ve acquired a $49 RCA Small Wonder camcorder as witness. The beast takes shockingly good video and records equally good sound. Imports directly into iDVD. The idea is to video-everything.

I planned on arriving May 6. Wanted snow on the ground, barren trees, no tourists, and no mosquitoes. Over the next seven days, spring will explode, snow will melt, buds and then leaves will rocket outward from abeyant birch, poplar, alder, willow, and aspen tree branches. This is one of the great shows on earth.

As I hoped, the day after I arrived the temperature popped up to 65 degrees and sunshine. That was Wednesday. By Friday, tiny green buds appeared on one million tree limbs. By Saturday, those buds are tiny green leaves. On Sunday, the fetus leaves, still small, are ten times bigger than they were a day previous. That’s three days. Three more days and Fairbanks will be transformed.

I drive around in the cheapest Alaska Airlines/Hertz Rent-a-Car deal I could find. I’ve agreed not to drive on unpaved roads, which is like going to Maui and promising not to look at the ocean. My Hertz yow lasted less than ten minutes once I left their parking lot. I don’t know anyone who lives on a paved road.

I lived here for 25 years, and every mile, corner, and back-road rut coughs up memories. Many local monuments are as they were. A long list of saloons, schools, churches, grocery stores, Laundromats, diners, junk yards remain in place. There are blocks of wood-heated 1920s log cabins, right out of Robert Service, still serving as somebody’s home, in downtown Fairbanks. Most of Second Avenue (notorious during pipeline days), is as it was. Although I must note the sad demise of the Flame Lounge, the Polaris Building, Cottage Bar, Tommy’s Elbow Room, and the legendary Savoy Bar.

But, these are memories of a kind you would have if you returned to Des Moines after a quarter century. Here is the house where you first had sex, over there is where you smoked your first joint, and there your first drunk, first job, first car, first serious fistfight…in other words, this is where I was young, much like the place where you were young.

What’s different about Fairbanks is that so much of it happened in the dark, at 40 below, and far from America.

Frontier is different things to different people. If you were brought up like my host and friend, Charlie Simmons, who is third generation Alaskan, raised on homestead land, 14 miles out from Fairbanks, when Fairbanks had a population of 9,000 and 14 miles was a far, far way to go, when living in a tent with mom/dad/brother/sister through Arctic winters was real, I don’t think romance of frontier would be in your working vocabulary.

But, for those of us (none born here, by the way, and most raised middle-class white) who came up in the 1960s and 70s from San Diego or New York or Boston or Buffalo, Fairbanks was like no other place under American jurisdiction. Unless you’ve been here or one of the few places in the world like it, you can’t imagine the scale of wilderness. How close it is to you, how far it goes on once you’ve stepped into it and what it does to you when you live nearby.

But, that was then and those times are as dead as 40-cent-a-gallon gas. Now, I arrive at Fairbanks International Airport wearing tan khakis, a close haircut, dragging a packed-to-the-tits doublewided Samsonite suitcase, a twice-too-big computer briefcase stuffed with cameras, prescriptions, tape recorders, ibook, polo shirts, and socks. Plus, one Sherpa nylon pet carrier holding Margaret Rose, my miniature Dachshund. If I had a pair of Bermuda shorts and a beach ball I would have need of nothing.

There is no way back and only a fool would look for one. I drive to old haunts and video, play with Chas and Sheree, then do what I do at home. Tai chi, sit, look at birds. After that I watch leaves being born.
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Founded locally: following Aimee Semple McPherson’s visit to San Diego in 1935
Senior pastor: Mark Slomka
Congregation size: about 450 on a given Sunday
Staff size: 15, including school
Sunday school enrollment: about 100
Weekly giving: n/a
Annual budget: n/a
Singles program: small groups
Dress: casual to semi-formal
Diversity: mostly Caucasian, but mixed
Sunday worship: 10 a.m.
Length of reviewed service: 1 hour, 40 minutes
Website: faithcommunity.org

Mothers got more than just a mention at Faith Community’s Sunday service, but they weren’t the main attraction. The music leader paused in the midst of the opening 30 minutes of hymns to ask “a special blessing on the mothers present.” “There’s no one like a mother,” he prayed. “Thank you for your own mothers — a fine Christian woman.” Pastor Mark Slomka showed a couple of Mom-ish YouTube videos — “The Mom Song” and a two-year-old belting out a song “Our Father” — and talked about healing within strained mother-child relationships: “No one ever gave birth and thought, ‘I want to bring someone into the world that I can screw up.’ It’s important that we extend grace. Because something broke along the way.”

That was the real focus of the service — healing. I got a taste of it before things even got started. “It’s a sweet church,” said the kindly pastor. People can go to him, and the church pays him — the church’s counselor. People can go to him, and the church pays him — the church’s counselor. People can go to him, and the church pays him — the church’s counselor.

“Pastor Slomka at the outset. “We have activity groups, growth groups, and ministry groups.” He talked about upcoming group activities, including homebuilding in Ensenada. And he invited a congregant to talk about the upcoming Christian Principles of Freedom seminar, which would focus on “His Dwelling Place: A Teaching and Healing Ministry for God’s People.” The seminar would offer “insights about the spiritual roots of disease affecting the Christian spirit, soul, and body.” Last year’s attendees included two neurologists, one of whom had just emailed to say that “for the past six months, I have been consistently praying with many of my patients regarding issues of pain, bitterness, fear, rejection, and other negative thoughts and emotions commonly used by the enemy to separate us from ourselves, each other, and from God. It has been my experience that these thoughts have a significant negative effect on our bodies and our health. I personally have seen healing of a chronic neck pain that I had for over 15 years after dealing with my own anger and bitterness.”

“I’ve put down that this is an unusual Mother’s Day message because it is, I think, rare. And I’m talking about ‘Mom. PG-13,’ explained Slomka as he began preaching, “but I thought it was an appropriate time to visit on these themes.” The Scripture he chose — Genesis 38 — did involve a mother, but hardly one in the mold of the “fine Christian woman” mentioned earlier. Tamar, defrauded of her rights as a widow by her father-in-law Judah, disguises herself as a prostitute and gets pregnant with Judah’s twin children. Judah, upon learning she is pregnant, is all set to have her burned for immorality. But then Tamar, dejected and then sexually used, reveals that it is her father of the children in her womb, and Judah repents. “God’s prevailing grace in the story is that there are no unwanted pregnancies in God’s eyes,” concluded Slomka. The first-born twin, Perez, “is the great-grandfather of David...and, of course, it is through David’s line that we trace the human lineage of Jesus.”

The theme Slomka took up was the community’s role in creating a culture that honors “the dignity and the nobility and the beauty with which God has crowned everyone” — in particular, women who were not yet mothers — indeed, not yet married. He quoted a writer who argued that “there is incredible pressure upon Christian women to be what she calls ‘virgin-whores.’ A Christian man who engages with a Christian woman is looking for her to have all the innocence, purity, and virtue of a virgin, and yet be as sexually active and adventurous as what you find in pornography. It’s a crushing expectation.... That Christian men men have this approach...is an indication that something is horrifically broken.” It was something that the church community needed to heal. “We need to learn to be a community that prizes modesty, purity, and restraint, and we must reject legalism and prudishness as false alternatives.”

Among other things, Slomka praised the intergenerational mixing in other cultures — “setting the example to each succeeding generation on how relationships are done. There is something healthy about that.”

What happens when we die?

“I believe every human being will appear before God,” said Slomka, “and God will judge the hearts of men and women as to faith and the extent to which we have responded by faith. And if we want to be on our own, then we will be.”

— Matthew Lickona

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“Cleanliness and order are not matters of instinct; they are matters of education, and like most great things, you must cultivate a taste for them.”

I stumbled into my La-Z-Boy as I finished reading this quotation from Benjamin Disraeli. Library books lay strewn across the living room. Overflowing baskets of toys towered in the corner. Laundry sat abandoned in the bathroom, and papers were everywhere. I felt I was failing my children when it came to instilling in them habits to keep a clean home.

I grew up in a home of mixed parent modeling. Mom was clean but messy: bathrooms and kitchen were always immaculate, but piles of reading material and knickknacks were scattered everywhere. Dad, on the other hand, kept his stuff tidy; undies were folded and stacked in his dresser, his workshop had not one tool out of place. The outcome for the kids — half are tidy, half live a bit more, shall I say, free-spirited. I am the latter. But last week I set out to change that, and I turned to my information go-to girls.

“A place for everything and everything in its place,” is my mother-in-law’s motto.

“When in doubt, throw it out,” chimed Margaret, “assuming the thing doesn’t have sentimental significance, of course.” I grow up in a home of mixed parent modeling.

I’ve become rather mercenary with note cards. I enjoy throwing the bills into the fire pit. “I just took all of them out of their cases and put them into albums and, wow, did that make a difference. Now that whole mess is contained in two books. I also try to once a day clean off the tops of bookshelves and other places that seem to be a catch-all for clutter. If you do a little each day, it doesn’t end up being so overwhelming.”

Overwhelmed used to be Shawn’s word for her closets. “But now, every time I go to my closet, I put away five things. That has made a huge difference in the mess.”

“Ruthless is the word I would use,” Erica explained about her decluttering techniques with the kids’ rooms. “About three times a year, I go into their rooms with two bags — one for trash, one for give-away items. For toys such as stuffed animals, I lay them all out on the floor and have each child pick their two favorite ones. „But my real downfall is papers,” moaned Erica. “If company is coming over, I’ll throw all the papers on my desk and that will be the one area of the house that is messy.”

Meg shared her clutter problem. “Certain things are out of reach for my kids, such as pens. I have a drawer that I put pens in periodically, but the real source of them is somewhere else. Because they just need to keep it in one place. Maybe the Kelly household should post them around the house for inspiration.”

Kids’ clothes are always a trial, changing seasons and sizes, “Marg continued. “You can assign yourself a drawer a week to go through. And clear storage bins are a must. I store out-of-season clothes in the office closet. I don’t want to think about it.”

Sarah echoed the “place for everything” with the kids’ rooms. “About three times a year, I go into their rooms with two bags — one for trash, one for give-away items. For give-away items. For toys, we have vacation toys at our home,” she touted. “I’ll take about two-thirds of my kids’ toys and send them on vacation by packing them up into my closet. After half a year, I’ll take them out again, and they are like new for the kids.”

Margaret added one final gem from her friend Cynthia. “Even if an item is good and useful, you might give it to somebody who has less than you do. Cynthia thinks it’s a moral fault to hoard things that she isn’t really using that other people could use. Having that mindset of doing a charitable act and practicing a little detachment made it easier for her to declutter.”

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Heaven and Hell

Life is divided into the horrible and the miserable.

— Woody Allen

I led David to the nose of the ferry — it was a gusty day and the sea was choppy, so the ride was sure to be thrilling, and I didn’t want to miss a bump. The only other people who chose to sit in the bow were two older couples traveling together. When the boat pulled out of the Los Angeles Port and reached full speed, anyone attempting to stand was tossed about like jeans in the dryer. The two men and two women chatted and laughed about the tumultuous ride for a bit until one of the women grew quiet. Complaining of motion-sickness, she fixed her eyes on the horizon with laserlike intensity. When the novelty of the real-life roller coaster wore off, I turned my gaze to the book in my hands, silently thanking the fates that I’m not one of those people who gets ill from reading on planes, trains, cars, or, in this case, boats.

The passengers settled into their seats for the hour-long ride to Catalina Island. All, that is, but one. He appeared to be the oldest among them (like, 80-something). To over-come the constant roar of the motor (and his probable impaired hearing), the man spoke in a near shout that was impossible to tune out. He and the seasick woman sat in the very front row, their backs to the prow, facing the rest of us. Evidently uncomfortable with silence, the man never let more than three beats go by before he continued his bellowing thread about his days during The War. He was a loud and annoying encyclopedia of facts — the total number of troops sent to Saipan, the number of Marines lost on Iwo Jima, and how many Japs were killed. Yes, he called them “Japs.”

For 55 minutes, I wanted nothing more than for that guy to fall mute. Even the people traveling with him seemed fatigued by his clamorous monologue. But having been inculcated with the adage “respect your elders,” my brain would not allow my mouth to tell an old man to shut his goddamn yap. So, instead, I did what any respectful young woman would do in my position — I glared at him. It was my hope that his spectacle-free eyes could focus as far away as my face and that, notting my displeasure, he would shut his goddamn yap. I could have sworn that, on a few occasions, he looked right at me, but either he was numb to the daggers I was blasting at him from over my book or he reveled in their sting, because he never let up.

I’ve always considered myself a direct person. But despite my willingness to speak my mind in most situations, I shy away from unpleasant confrontations, even if I end up suffering further as consequence of my reticence. It wouldn’t be so bad if I could actually brush things off and simply let more than three beats go by before I continued my bellowing thread about my days in the military.

The first two evenings at Two Harbors on Catalina Island were quiet and blissful. David had planned the trip to be just that — he wanted to take me away from all the hullaballoo of home, to a place without Internet, TV, or phones, where we could hike through the hills spotting bison, stand watching the waves lap at the sand, or just sit in our room looking over the sapphire-blue harbor, sipping wine we’d purchased from our favorite seller in L.A. a few days before. For two days, we walked and lounged and romanced — it was a taste of heaven.

If I have learned anything from dual-ism, it is that for every heaven there is a cor-
responding hell. On the third day, as if in punishment for our scandalously selfish and corporeal activities, David and I were cast into our own personal Hades. On that day, the harbors were besieged with children, as there was a regionwide Little League championship being held there over the weekend. A few groups of boys and their male parents (mothers were conspicuously absent) were staying at the same bed-and-breakfast as David and me. Though we feared the worst of them, the children turned out to be harmless, shrieking imps that were easy enough to avoid or intimidate into silence. The worst came in the form of one of the chaperones, a man who was Satan incarnate, evil lord and premier antagonist. He and at least a half-dozen feral boys shared with us a wall that was as audibly opaque as vellum. I could hear them breathing.

We did not suffer much the night they arrived — they were tuckered by the time they got in at 11 p.m. The torment began the following morning, at 6:30 a.m., Lucifer began yelling at the children. Not the usual kind of parental yelling one might overhear, but really mean shit, like, “You’re a moron; you’re not even supposed to be here!” to a kid I assumed was not his blood, and “You idiot, why are you wearing those socks? Stupid moron!” The yelling didn’t stop. David and I sighed heavily and complained to each other, and still, the assault continued unabated. I stood and stomped around, thinking that since their footsteps vibrated in our room, mine might give the man pause. But here’s the rub — if a person doesn’t stop to think that screaming at dawn might offend neighboring guests, or to consider whether spitting such vile things at kids who couldn’t have been more than seven years old might be unnecessary and/or damaging, he sure as hell is not going to have some kind of epiphany prompted by the sound of a few footsteps. After all, this was the Beast of the Underworld I was dealing with.

I wanted to rail into him, to humiliate and emasculate him in front of the children. I could tell from the brutish and juvenile things he was shouting at kids that it would be easy for an adult with a substantial vocabulary and a shred of psychological insight to make short work of him. But I didn’t want a scene, and from what I had heard so far, it was probable that Beelzebub would end up taking out his embarrassment on those poor wretches, demonstrating his strength in order to compensate for his weakness. So I muttered, “Jesus” under my breath and continued stamping, to no avail. David, lying on the bed, looked as exasperated as I felt. I needed to be more direct.

I stepped up to the wall and slammed my fist against it in three deliberate thumps. The Prince of Darkness scrambled across the floor, and his voice fell, but I could still hear every word: “Shush, shh, I said be quiet, dammit!” When he was finished shushing and I was sure I had his complete attention, I spoke in a forcible tone, emphasizing every word so as to be sure he realized just how thin that wall was, “Can you please keep it down.” It was not a question. As I suspected, the devil turned out to be no more than a dog, and the yelling ceased. I climbed back into bed beside a grateful David, and realized, with relief, that my proverbial hand had finally stopped burning.

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What’s it like, being Muslim in San Diego?

The question arose for me earlier this year when I decided to hit Ocean Beach on maybe the worst night of the winter. It was Wednesday, the end of market day. Rainstorms exploding in off the Pacific, marquees flapping, most market folks packing up, re-boxing their fruit.

Muslims from Iran, Iraq, Turkey the Philippines, Pakistan, Somalia, Guyana, and Eritrea
We got to talking. These laughing guys were all students. All Muslim. All living a double life. Studying by night, selling samosas by day at the various farmers’ markets around town, including here and at UCSD. I’d always known the Somalis were an outgoing group. Somalia embraces the longest seaboard in Africa. They’re coastal people who have survived strangers with different cultures landing on their shores for millennia.

“I mean,” I say to Hamza, “you study, you take this business up hill and down dale six days a week, you go to class, you pray five times every day, and you still manage to get to a mosque on Fridays?”

“Oh sure,” said Hamza. “Why don’t you come? We have good food there… 54th Street.”

But not the guys in the black tent near where Bacon crosses Newport. From inside the gust-wrenched canvas, half a dozen men shouted to scurrying passersby to come on in for the ultimate hand-warmer. Guled and Mohammed and Abdi and Hamza and a bunch of other young Somali men were selling the thing I’d weathered the storm to find: samosas, the Middle East and India’s great snack gift to the world. Ah, yes. Down in three gulps. A beef, a vegetarian, and a Californian adaptation (cream cheese and pineapple), all enclosed in hot, golden, flaky pastry.

This Veil Is My Liberation
There are maybe 100,000 Muslims living in San Diego County (many in North County), mostly Arab, according to, well, the FBI, as quoted by the Union-Tribune. More than many identifiable demographic groups, they’re a prosperous, businesslike bunch, people like Charles G. Abdelnoor, the longtime city clerk. But many of the more recent Muslim immigrants have come from hard times in the Horn of Africa: Somalia, Eritrea, Tigre, Sudan. They tend, like immigrants from Mexico and Central America, to be from the poorer levels of society who take on the jobs that require doing rather than communicating. Saudis, Iranians, Palestinians, Pakistanis, and Indians have penetrated the larger San Diego business and professional world. Somalis and Eritreans, meanwhile, seem to have cornered the taxi-driving market.

“I chose to carry the passport of this country.”

Muslim students answer the call to prayer at San Diego State University.
If anywhere seems like Little Mogadishu, it’s up on El Cajon around 54th Street. Women in long robes, some with their faces covered, form part of the scenery. You get used to it. Somali restaurants may not be a dime a dozen, but if you know where to look, places pop up with odd names like Coffee Time Daily or Taste of African Cuisine. Inside, it’s mostly young men with their taxis parked outside, or old men with magnificent creamy-white beards and beautifully carved walking sticks.

Mainly, it seems these eateries service single men who have come here without their families or who have lost them. Which means they are just the tip of the Muslim iceberg, because most family-oriented Muslims are at home living the life you never see on the street. But Fridays, at lunchtime, mosque brings everybody out, older men, often in their white cotton robes, veiled women in their finest patterned red and gold and black and blue ankle-length dresses. Even though they’ll be worshipping in separate parts of the mosque, this is when society congregates, does its bonding.

So on Friday I turn up at the 54th Street Somali community center, in the Safari Market, part of a shopping plaza just off El Cajon Boulevard. What must have once been a supermarket has now become a collection of Somali shops selling everything from traditional women’s clothing to cell phones and includes a Somali restaurant called African Spice, which the somosa guys also run. At the other end, a white-washed hall has become the “Masjid Al Huda” (“Mosque of Guidance”). This is 1 of at least 16 mosques in San Diego, including the impressive main, domed masjid at the Islamic Center of San Diego on Eckstrom. Plus one in Tijuana.

I shake hands with Guled and Mohammed and Abdi and Hamza, and oh my…a gal dressed in robes, not just with a scarf covering her hair, but a blue silk veil covering her entire face and forehead, except for a slit for her eyes. At first you think Thousand and One Nights, then you think, What kind of religion believes God would want to shut off the beauty of youth with this sheath? Plus, you think, Hasn’t she broken some social contract here? Everybody else has exposed their faces, their identities, their vulnerabilities, but she doesn’t have to! She can hide behind the anonymity of a mask, in the name of God! Such
a simple act can provoke complex emotions.
Then you think, Isn’t all this your typical Westerner’s rush to judgment?
“This is my sister, Hamdi,” says Hamza.
“Would you like to sit with us, talk?”
We go find a table in an area set aside for African Spice, the restaurant. The walls are orange and white with washed green. Beyond the white trellis protecting this section, I notice a couple of middle-aged Somali ladies at Barako Fashion Shop. One of them chatters into a cell phone she has wedged in her hijab — her headscarf — beside her ear, while both hands caress a silky sheet of blue cloth. Huh. Hands-free. Score one for Muslim hijabs.
Hamdi sits opposite me, those two eyes glowing out through the slit. Their other brother Mohammed brings us drinks. I have a delicious mango mix. Hamdi has tea. Of course I have to ask the obvious question about the severe veil, the hidden face, so shocking to unwary San Diegans: Why wear it?
“I came here [to the U.S.] when I was in sixth grade,” Hamdi says. “From the Ogaden, outside present-day Somalia. I wasn’t very knowledgeable about Islamic religion. So, hamdala [‘Thank the Lord’], when I was a freshman in college, I started practicing. One of Islam’s main purposes is to try to do as many good deeds as possible. In Islam we say a smile to a person is charity. It’s considered a good deed. This [veil] is called the niqab, and it’s something that’s considered as a good deed if a person wears it for the sake of Allah. And that’s why I decided to wear it, to do good deeds, and to please my creator.” But…Hamdi is 20 years old, beautiful, if those eyes are any indication, and, well… I appeal to her brother Hamza.
“Do you agree with this?”
“Yes, of course,” he says, protective as any brother would be. “When she put it on, I knew she was going to get a lot of stares, and people looked at us funny, and it comes with it. [But] it’s something that will benefit her more than bring her harm, in my hopes. The protection is with her Lord. So we really didn’t have much to say about the problems because it was her choice. Some of the elders were against it since we are in the West. But you don’t always have to assimilate to the new place you come to. You can keep your culture. [Though] this is not even our [Somali] culture. It’s more religious. Pious women wear this, ones

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Hamdi is studying nursing at Grossmont, and no, she doesn’t wear the veil while she is working.

“This two years since I first put it on have been interesting,” she says. “It’s been a little bit more shocking. I was in a supermarket, and a woman was appalled. She looked at me and said, ‘Why are you wearing a veil?’ And I said, ‘Well, it’s my liberation, because I feel that perhaps any man. This is the greatest liberation.’”

But didn’t her parents object?

“At first my mom was hesitant, because she felt that maybe somebody might take it the wrong way and try to harm me or say foul words to me. But I think over time now she’s becoming accustomed to it.”

That’s when a kind of rustle goes through the place. I hear a call.

“Allahu Akhbar.”


“Will you please excuse me,” Hamdi says. Oh yes. Women pray separately from men. Another thing I need to ask her about.

Issa Means Jesus.
Musaa Means Moses.

It’s around one o’clock. “Follow us,” says Mohammed. We walk down past the Waamo Wireless store to a little station where dozens of guys are taking their shoes off. “Don’t forget your gift to Masjid Al-Huda,” says a sign near a big box with a slit in it for donations. I take my shoes off. Amazing how intimate that one gesture makes the experience feel.

I follow Guled into this large white hall where rows and rows of men, some in shirt and trousers, others in white caftans, line up facing a bearded imam in white garb who stands at a lectern beside a kind of hooped sentry box. I discover that this is a mihrab, a sanctuary, set in the qibla, the wall that always faces Mecca. And it turns out that in some branches of Judaism, the same word, mihrab, is used to describe “a room for private worship.” In fact, the closeness of Judaism, Islam, and Christianity starts hitting me now, left, right, and center. I stand between Guled and...
a guy named Issa, which, it turns out, means “Jesus” in Arabic. His neighbor is named Musa, which means “Moses.” Now we start the ritual prayers affirming that Allah is the one God, and Mohammed is his final, but not his only, messenger. Jesus, Islam believes, was a messenger too. And Moses. We go down on our knees, touch our foreheads to the rolled-out mat for the longest time, pray, and then set back on our heels. At the end of each sequence we sit cross-legged.

Then the imam, Saad El-Degwy, launches into a sermon. He has a powerful voice and switches from Somali to classical Arabic — Islam’s equivalent of Latin in the Roman Catholic Church — and then into patches of English.

“The feast of Al-Hurrār, which we call Ashura: This is a very special day for all Muslims. Before Islam, Jews and Christians, especially Jews, showed respect to Ashura and considered it as a day of festivities…”

I had had no idea that Ashura (“tenth” in Arabic, also called “the Little Fast”) is the day on which the martyrdom of Husayn ibn Ali, Mohammed’s grandson, is marked, especially by Shiites Muslims, but also, according to Sunni Muslim tradition, the day Mohammed fasted with neighboring Jewish communities to express gratitude to God for the liberation of Moses and the Israelites from pharaoh.

The imam heads his sermon further into surprisingly familiar territory, like Noah and his ark landing on Mount Judi (the same, many say, as Mount Ararat). It turns out Ashura also celebrates the day Noah set foot outside the ark. I shouldn’t be surprised at the commonalties, but I am. Islam, Christianity, and Judaism are closer relatives than I ever imagined.

Before we troop out at the end, I ask Hamza where his sister Hamdi has spent the service. He points up to a walled-off upper-level room within the hall. Its white walls are peppered with small openings, big enough, apparently, for sound but not sight to penetrate.

“The women’s area,” he says.

We Don’t Know a Lot about Our Religion
For Hamdi, being sectioned off from men to pray is part of the Muslim identity.

“The definition of a Muslim in the Arabic terminiology,” she says afterwards, “is one who submits. And in Islam, it is the person who is submitting to the will of the one who created him or her.”

How committed is Hamdi to Islam? Very.

“One of my goals is to memorize the Koran, and the Koran is composed of more than 6000 verses. I read classical Arabic. There are millions and millions of butifz people who have memorized the Koran. I have memorized more than 100 pages. I still have 25 chapters to go. I think one of the greatest phenomena of Islam is that you can take a reciter from China, a reciter from Indonesia, a reciter from Pakistan, a reciter from Africa, and they will all be reciting the same Koran, without any changes.”

So are there other San Diego Muslim women like her?

“Yes. Because there is so much negative perception of Muslim women in the media, a lot of them are starting to realize, ‘Hey, we don’t know a lot about our religion. We need to know about it in order to see, is this really true, what the media are saying?’ And that’s how I felt. When I was in high school in Minnesota, I used to wonder all these things about the Islamic religion, like, ‘the women are oppressed’…encouraged me to learn about my faith.”

Did all this make her resent her adopted country?

“Growing up in this country, facing prejudices was a challenge. But I see myself as a bridge-builder,” she says. “Loving this country and meeting some of the greatest people I have ever met in my life, I want to not exclude myself. In order for people to respect each other, they don’t necessarily have to believe in the same things, but at least to be informed about one another’s beliefs and to respect those beliefs. I think that’s one of my major goals.”

* * *

We’re just out from a meeting of the Ogaden Student Youth group that Hamza invited me to. They’re trying to make the
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In the speeches, I asked a group of girl students about dating. They burst into giggles. They had names like Farhiya (“Happy”); Iddo (after the celebration of Eid’s first day, marking the end of Ramadan); Faiza (“Gain, Strengthen”); and Ifrah (“Giving Happiness”). “Dating is not allowed in Muslim families,” says Farhiya. She’s studying for a BA in teaching. “If you’re going to try dating,” says Faiza, “you would have to be secretive.” “I have talked to my mom,” says Ifrah. “I asked her, ‘Will you make me marry?’ At 23 you’re usually married. So rather than finish my education, I’ll marry. And I know who. We grew up together. He’s my age. He’s Muslim. He has to be Muslim.”

She will expect a typical wedding. Read: huge. “On the first day, only the men have to be there,” Ifrah says. “Your father signs the papers, gives you away. I don’t have to be there. On the second day it’s traditional dancing, with old women leading the way. On the third day it’s men and women dancing to everything from traditional music with accordion and drum to Somali rap.”

“I’m Gonna Teach You to Eat Muslim-Style…” says Duali Karie. Duali’s African American and a “revert” because Muslims believe we’re all born into the family of God, which is the Muslim family, and then some leave for other religions and beliefs. I’m sitting with Duali here in African Spice, trying to learn how to make everything happen with four right fingers and a thumb. “This is the first rule,” Duali says, learning into his meal. “Eat with your hands. The feel, the touch is almost as important as the taste. Eating with knives and forks divorces you from the feel of the food. But only bring it to your mouth with your right hand. Your left is reserved for unclean things, even though we wash our hands before every meal, of course.”

He has ordered me up a combo plate of baked goat meat, roasted chicken breast, salad with ranch dressing, a pile of spaghetti, and another of basmati rice. Spaghetti has been a Somali staple since Italy’s fascist dictator Mussolini invaded and occupied Somalia. Basmati rice echoes Somalia’s monsoon trade with India. And the goat tells you these guys’ families lived in the hills of the interior plateau, where either goat or camel was the delicacy du jour. Oh, and the banana that comes with the meal? You squash it into everything. That’s as Somalia as you can get. Somalis say U.S. bananas have nowhere near the sweet taste of theirs, from the legendary land of Punt.

“And when it’s time to take a drink,” Duali says, “don’t worry if your right hand is wet or covered in rice. Guide your drink with your left hand, but lift it with the knuckles of your right hand, eating hand.”

Duali says he became a Muslim almost by chance. “I was friends with Mohammed in Minneapolis. My family was big on Christianity. Mom made sure we went to the Evangelical Mighty Fortress Tabernacle every Sunday and every Wednesday. But I was confused about Jesus being the Son of God. The Holy Trinity. Then one day, it was January 25, 2003, it happened. I was at home, eating pepperoni pizza. My brother and a Muslim guy came to my house to pick me up. One thing that attracted me about the religion was they only believed in one God, the same God that I believe in, except I believed that Jesus was also the Son of God. And they [answered] my question that I’d always had and no one could answer, about this Trinity in Jesus. They said He was only a messenger of God. The things that He did were true, but He wasn’t the Son of God. That day me and my brother became Muslims together. We went to the [mosque] and the imam. But I didn’t know anything about the Prophet Mohammed. So I was saying, ‘Y’all worship Mohammed like we worship Jesus.’ And they said,
'But [Mohammed] is just the messenger of God.'

And then he asked me, 'Do you believe there is just one God?'

'And I go, 'Yeah, I believe there's one God.'

'And what about the Prophet Mohammed? Do you believe he's a prophet?'

' I could believe he's a prophet.' It made sense.

'Do you believe he's a prophet?

'I could believe he's a prophet.'

'But [Mohammed] is just the messenger of God.'

'So what?"

'And the voice echoes off the campus buildings. Seagulls scatter loudly. Crows caw in trees. Then, after a long, raucous minute, silence returns, except for the breeze sifting in the palm fronds.

‘Ash-hadu allah illallah.

‘I bear witness that
Do You Have Type 2 Diabetes?

If you have been living with diabetes, controlling your blood sugar may be a problem. In fact, type 2 diabetes is quickly becoming one of the world’s biggest healthcare problems. Medical researchers at Diabetes and Endocrine Associates are studying an investigational formulation of FDA-approved BYETTA® to assess its effectiveness on lowering blood sugar and its effect on weight.

To pre-qualify for this research study, you must:

- Be 18 years of age
- Be diagnosed with type 2 diabetes
- Be on a stable dose of Metformin

Qualified participants will receive at no cost:

- Study-related medical evaluations, medications, lab tests, glucose meter and test strips
- Reimbursement for time and travel will be provided.

To learn more, please contact Lori or Denise at: Diabetes and Endocrine Associates 619-466-4899 or: dmendo1@pacbell.net

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Worry Too Much?

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

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

For more information, please call: 1-877-UCSD-SHY (1-877-827-5749)
or e-mail: veryshy@ucsd.edu
Visit our website at: www.veryshy.org

Healthy Volunteers

are needed for a vaccine research study. Call us to find out the details & to see if you qualify.

Participants receive up to $650

Please call for more information 866-291-2321

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
world, making their pilgrimage. But all of us were in unison. We had one common goal, which was to fulfill one of the pillars of our religion, and to try to purify ourselves."

He felt especially close to those who spoke English or Urdu — his family comes from Pakistan. “They’re the ones you can talk to and share those moments with. But I had experiences where I was sitting next to somebody in front of the Ka’bah (the black cube-shaped shrine near the center of the Great Mosque in Mecca).

We didn’t share the same language but shared the same smiles and shook hands and tried to [indicate] where we were from. You bond with them because you are all there for one purpose.

“I was 20 at the time — I felt like, wow. Why am I so lucky to be out here? You see these old people, so skinny and so old, and their beards down to their chest almost. I looked at them and I saw, this was their first and last opportunity to be here. And they looked so fulfilled. And this was probably one of the last things they were hoping all their lives to do before they died. And here I was, barely starting a life.”

Dannesh says returning to San Diego was like landing on Earth after a trip into space. “One of
Do You Have Type 2 Diabetes?

If so, the Profil Institute for Clinical Research invites you to participate in a research study of an investigational medication.

To qualify, you must be:
• 18-75 years of age.
• Managing your Type 2 Diabetes with oral medications. Not insulin.

You may be compensated up to $1,690 for time and travel. Two overnight stays are required.

For more information, call 619-409-1262

ACNE? Why Me?!

We are conducting a research study evaluating an investigational medication for acne.

We are looking for participants who are:
• 12 years or older with moderate to severe facial acne
• In good general health

Qualified participants will receive:
• Skin examinations by Stacy Smith, M.D., Sandra Adsit, M.D., Vera Morhenn, M.D., all Board Certified Dermatologists
• All visits and study treatment at no cost
• Reimbursement for time and travel
• No health insurance required

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

Research Studies

Are you currently being treated for chronic pain?
Have you discussed your condition with a pain specialist?

If so, you may qualify for an Opinion Research Study. The study is taking place on Thursday, May 22, at our offices in Mission Valley.

You will be compensated up to $100 for your time.
For more information, please contact:

619-308-2961 ext. 324
Are you a Good Sleeper between 21 & 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 skilled and experienced 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.

---

I Sleep, I Wake Up, I Sleep, I Wake Up...

Having trouble staying asleep? A new research study of an experimental medication may help put you to sleep.

You must:
- Be 18-65 years old
- Be in good general health
- Wake up multiple times during a typical night’s sleep

Qualified participants receive at no charge:
- Study-related experimental medication
- Study-related test

You may be compensated for your time and travel.

---

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

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

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

If you participate, there is no cost to you… instead:
- You receive up to $400 for your time and travel.
- You receive no-cost study-related medication and study-related medical care.
- No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.
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Speaking to authority figures?
Always worried about what other people think of you?
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http://nas.psy.sdsu.edu

CENTER FOR UNDERSTANDING AND TREATING ANXIETY
6386 Alvarado Court, Suite 301, San Diego

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.

To find out if you qualify for study participation, please call Marni at 858-794-7867 or visit our website at: www.pearsoncenter.org for more information.

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.

such a good thing, because nobody’s going to say that we’re not allowed to do that.”

Dannesh’s future? “I have to study abroad in order to graduate. I’ll study in Syria, study some Arabic in September. After I come back [and graduate], I might [get into] international business, emphasizing finance, and since hopefully I’ll be fluent in three languages — English, Urdu, and Arabic — I may look into some kind of financial institutions that do business both here and in places like the Gulf, like Dubai.”

Does he feel there’s any real philosophical difference between the three Middle Eastern religions? “I’d say fundamentally no, but in practice yes. We prophets [who] finished the delivery of God’s sending His messengers upon Earth.”

One thing he finds hard to deal with is the evident prejudice Holly-

“We treat our women with immense respect.”

Seeking patients for a research study for Type 2 Diabetes

Dr. Sunder Mehdiali and his associates at the VA Medical Center are looking for volunteers to take part in a research study to assess safety and tolerability of a study drug for Type 2 Diabetics with presumed non-alcoholic fatty liver disease.

Participants will: • Attend six study visits in 6 weeks
• Inclusion criteria: • Male or female from 18 to 75 years of age • Diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes • Must agree not to participate in a conception process (i.e., active attempt to become pregnant or to impregnate, sperm donation, in vitro fertilization)

Qualified participants will be compensated for participation up to $1000.

To see if you qualify, or to learn more about the study, please contact Catherine Delue at:
858-552-8585 ext. 6740

Weight Loss Research Study

Are you overweight or suffering from obesity?
Are you in overall good health?
If you answered yes to both questions and are available for study-related visits for a year, you may be eligible.

Dr. Sunder Mehdiali and his associates at UCSD are looking for overweight/obese men and women to take part in a weight loss research study to assess the safety and efficacy of Lorcaserin Hydrochloride.

Duration: • 62 weeks total: 6 weeks for screening followed by 52 weeks on study medication plus a 30-day post-study telephone contact and periodic follow-up visits
If you meet the following criteria you may be eligible to participate

Inclusion Criteria:
• Male or females aged 18 to 65 years
• Must agree not to participate in a conception process (i.e., active attempt to become pregnant or to impregnate, sperm donation, in vitro fertilization)
• Body Mass Index (BMI) is 30.0 to 45.0 kg/m² with or without a comorbid condition (e.g., hypertension, dyslipidemia, CV disease, glucose tolerance, sleep apnea or 27 to 29.9 kg/m² with at least one comorbid condition
For more information please contact
Jackie Raceles: 858-552-8585 ext. 4384 or Catherine DeLue at ext. 6740
Qualified participants will be compensated for participation up to $900.
INSOMNIA

Do you or a loved-one have trouble sleeping?

If you or a loved one are between the ages of 18 and 64 and have had trouble sleeping for 3 months or more, you may qualify for a 7-week research study of an investigational new drug’s effects on sleep disturbances. Qualifying applicants will receive the study drug or placebo (sugar pill) and all study-related medical treatments at no cost, as well as compensation for time and travel.

Participants must:
- Be in good health
- Be between the ages of 18 and 64
- Have a history of primary insomnia for at least 3 months

For more information, please contact:
Maricela Juarez, CRC
Dr. Steven Drosman
619-542-0593

GERD Clinical Research Study

Fed up with Heartburn?

If this happens more than 3 times a week...

Learn more about a clinical research study for GERD (Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease). Frequent heartburn may be a sign of this more serious condition.

Qualified participants will receive study-related medication and exams by a specialist at no cost. Participants may also be compensated for time and travel.

To learn more, call:
858-277-7177
MEDICAL ASSOCIATES RESEARCH GROUP
www.marginc.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. 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

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

Are you living in the shadow of bipolar depression?

We’re working to bring future treatment options to light.
As a person with bipolar I, you know what it’s like to live with the darkness of depression. So you may want to know about this clinical research study examining an investigational drug for bipolar depression compared to a placebo, an inactive substance, when used in combination with a mood stabilizer. If:
- You are at least 18 years old • You have a history of at least one bipolar manic or mixed episode
- You have been diagnosed with bipolar I and are currently experiencing a depressive episode
- Participation may last up to 12 weeks, and includes study-related care and monitoring from specialists in bipolar I, access to a mood stabilizer, and potential access to investigational medication, all at no cost.

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
Except…you worry about these people who will watch something like this and all of a sudden associate Muslims with that. It kind of scares me. The Kingdom shows the Muslims in Saudi as just crazy, bloodsucking killers, taking out Americans, shooting little kids, shooting American mothers. It would make you grind your teeth if you watched it. As an American, you’d be, like, ‘Damn these people!’ even though you’re just watching a fictional movie, because of the current events in the Middle East. And actually I was talking to a good friend of mine, a freshman, an American, a white kid. We were talking about the movie, and he told me how it made him upset to see the Americans get killed. He really, really said this. He said, ‘Now, I know that people over there are like this in Saudi Arabia.’ And I was just, like… ‘It’s only a movie, that’s not the way it is.’ But it’s hard…”

Before You Kill the Animal, You Face It toward Mecca
Dannesh says he went through a party phase, when he busted out, “traveling a little bit here and there,” staying at the houses of friends who were involved in “all sorts of crazy things, living that lifestyle for just a couple of days,” till he came to the realization that “that was not how I wanted to be.”

So what do he and other Muslim friends do on a Saturday night? “Sometimes we just hang out at somebody’s house and chill and watch a movie, go to a coffee shop, or cafes. But personally, I try to stay busy with being productive and try-

---

**Schizophrenia Research Study**

Now enrolling participants for...

...an investigational medication trial to treat impairments of thinking and memory in adults diagnosed with schizophrenia.

To see if you or someone you know qualifies, call (858) 566-8222

The California Neuropsychopharmacology Clinical Research Institute, LLC "CNRI, LLC"
Body Dysmorphic Disorder

Are you preoccupied with a defect in your physical appearance, spending hours a day worrying about it or looking in the mirror? Do you groom excessively or try to camouflage your flaw? Do you avoid having people see it?

Dr. Sanjaya Saxena from the UCSD OCD Program is looking for people who are excessively concerned about a physical flaw to take part in a study that is providing:

* 12 weeks medication
* Brain imaging scans
* Diagnostic evaluation
* Neuropsychological evaluation

Study participants must:

* Be age 18-65
* Not be on any medications that affect brain functioning
* Not have any active medical conditions
* Weigh less than 280 lbs.
* Not have a history of chronic alcohol or substance use
* There is NO monetary compensation for participation.

For more information call Dr. Jennifer Sumner at: (858) 534-8056

Normal Healthy Adults Wanted for Research

Dr. Sanjaya Saxena from the UCSD OCD Program is looking for healthy subjects to take part in a study that is providing:

* Monetary compensation
* Brain imaging scans
* Psychiatric evaluation
* Neuropsychological evaluation

Study participants must:

* Be age 18-65
* Not be on any medications that affect brain functioning
* Not have any active medical conditions
* Weigh less than 280 lbs.
* Not have a history of chronic alcohol or substance use
* Not have a history of psychiatric disorders

For more information call Dr. Jennifer Sumner at: (858) 534-8056

Compulsive Hoarding and/or Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

Are you a packrat, hoarder, clutterer? Are you concerned about repetitive thoughts or fears that make you feel anxious? Do you check or repeat things over and over again? Do you have excessive concerns about symmetry and order?

Dr. Sanjaya Saxena from the UCSD OCD Program is looking for people who have problems with hoarding, saving, or clutter and/or those with obsessions and compulsions to take part in a study that is providing:

* 12 weeks medication
* Brain imaging scans
* Diagnostic evaluation
* Neuropsychological evaluation

Study participants must:

* Be age 18-65
* Not be on any medications that affect brain functioning
* Not have any active medical conditions
* Weigh less than 280 lbs.
* Not have a history of chronic alcohol or substance use
* There is NO monetary compensation for participation.

For more information call Dr. Jennifer Sumner at: (858) 534-8056

Going again... and again... and again...... Is OVERACTIVE BLADDER your problem?

A 12-week clinical research study is underway for men and women with urinary frequency and urgency, using an investigational oral medication. If you suffer from the embarrassment of way too many trips to the bathroom or the loss of urine before you make it there, you may be suffering from Overactive Bladder.

To possibly qualify:

* Male or female, 18 years or older
* 8 or more voids and at least 1 episode of urgency per day

Participants may receive at no cost all study-related:

* Examinations and consultation by a board-certified physician
* Labs, EKG, and all study medications
* Compensation for your time and travel

Interested, call: 619-521-2841

Medical Center for Clinical Research
ing to have work to do. I go to the gym and tire myself out, doing school-work and gym."

Would that socializing be boys and girls together? "It depends who you're with, if you like women, how strict the people you hang out with are. I hang out with different groups. Sometimes I'll be with Muslim guys who won't hang out with girls. Or sometimes, with people who are a little more laid back, there'll be some girls there, you know? And I like going to the hookah places. [Islam doesn't approve of smoking, but hookahs have traditionally been tolerated.] I love the flavor, and it's just so peaceful. Sometimes we discuss each other's experiences to help each other."

Music is also a delicate issue. "I'm a hip-hop fan, but the religion is touchy about music. In some circles, anything beyond the single beat of a drum is not permitted. The worst is if it's made for gathering and drinking or making you want to dance with females."

And if it's food, he tries to go to a suitable place. "You know halal? There are only so many places where they have meat that was killed the proper way, so that it becomes permissible for us to eat it. Like kosher for the Jews. These types of places attract Muslims, because then they feel they can eat the meat. If they go to McDonald's, Rubio's, or any other place, they'll usually choose vegetarian or seafood."

What does halal involve?

"Basically, before you kill the animal, you have to face it towards Mecca — that's probably the hardest thing — and then you have to say, 'In the name of Allah,' and then when you kill it, you have to cut a certain vein, so it carries out the most blood from the animal. It makes for cleaner meat. There's a website which shows where you can eat halal. It's zabihah.com. You enter the zip code of any place in America, and it'll show you restaurants, markets, and ratings. Like 'This place claims to be halal, but it might not actually be halal.'"

So how tough is it, I ask, being Muslim in San Diego, with all its different requirements, and in the face of a national wariness?

"I don't think it's tough anymore," Dannesh says. "Because once you get over yourself, and you don't think that everybody's looking at you, staring at you, once you get over that little hump, that little hump that's insecurity, then all of a sudden nothing's hard. You rise and fall between you and the guy up there who is watching over you."

But doesn't the religious law of Islam, the Sharia, frighten him?

"When I was in Saudi Arabia, I was thinking back when I used to be a kid and how sometimes I'd go into the grocery store and steal candy bars. And there, over in Saudi, I was thinking about that... 'If I did that over here, they'd..."
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The skin is treated to a deep, mechanical exfoliation that gently resurfaces the outer layers of the skin, removing damaged cells and stimulating the skin’s natural cell-regenerating process. This in turn promotes the development of healthy cells, collagen and elastin, followed by lymphatic drainage and oxygenation of the treated area.
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Farzad Yaghouti, MD
Medical Director

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cut my hands off.”

So that’s the way to go? “Not completely, but at the same time it’s their laws. You don’t totally think that their way is stupid either.”

What about treatment of women in some Muslim countries? No vote, kept behind walls, behind veils, subject to “honor killings”?

“I worry that people might think that [women are not treated well] and therefore reject Islam because of that. We treat our women with immense respect and hold them so dear in our societies and our families and within our circle of friendship. They are so strong, the sisters and the mothers in our community who have maintained a strong faith and wear their hijab properly. I just have so much respect for them. More so than for any man with a nice beard.”

But…honor killings?

“It does…worry me,” says Dannesh. “I don’t know sometimes what to make of it. I think it goes both ways, for men and women. Because if a man is known to [commit] adultery, he has to endure the punishment as well. But we live here in America, so we don’t have to worry about that too much.”

Of course, honor killings are definitely not sanctioned by Islamic law. They have tribal cultural roots but occur most notably in Muslim-majority countries. According to the United Nations Population Fund, perhaps 5000 occur worldwide every year, some even among immigrant families in Europe and the U.S. Relatives may kill a woman who “dishonors” the family by, for instance, refusing an arranged marriage, being the victim of a sexual assault, seeking a divorce, committing adultery, or becoming pregnant out of wedlock.

Will he raise future kids as Muslims? “Definitely. Because I feel like this life here is like a temporary adobe mud hut. I want them to have this foundation, so that they can keep going with it and be the best person that they can be.”

So, big breath: Did he ever talk about 9/11 and Nawaf al-Hazmi and Khalid al-Midhar, the two hijackers who spent time here in San Diego?

“I never talked to anybody about that. I would hope that we would not advocate it and be against it, because I don’t think it was the right way to go. Killing an innocent person doesn’t resolve somebody else’s [bad] actions.”

It’s an awkward subject. Al-Hazmi and al-Midhar, 2 of the 19 hijackers, who lived here in the Parkwood Apartment

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Dr. William F. Groff

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complex in Clairemont for a while, were apparently introduced to mosque-going members of the Muslim community, at least to some of those who attended the main mosque at the Islamic Center of San Diego on Eckstrom. But not, of course, as “future hijackers.”

Dannesh would have been around 14, 15 at the time and living elsewhere in Southern California. Does he remember that day? “Oh yes. I remember eating breakfast with my father, watching ESPN SportsCenter, and they interrupted SportsCenter to make a little [announcement] about the building, and I was out of it. It was so early in the morning. My father was ‘Change the channel!’ We watched the news, and in awe. Then you go to school and...I do remember one person coming up to me. Like, he was a friend of mine, because I was friends with most of the football team. This was high school in Irvine. He was the biggest guy in the team and he came up to me and it was just, like, ‘Look what you people did!’ And then the people around us were laughing it off, and he was kind of laughing about it too. He didn’t mean anything, he didn’t want to hurt me, but it was a statement made. After, it was cool. There have been a few things, like somebody saying, ‘Go bomb something,’ but you try to let them go.”

Dannesh hasn’t stood idle on this, though. He decided to do something to build bridges. He has created a website: salaamtohumanity.com. “I’ve been trying to do something like this to help make a difference, help spread Islam. We did some relief work when we originally started. Some money we raised we sent over to orphans in Iraq. Now I want to work on restoring the words ‘Islam’ and ‘Muslim,’ so when somebody in the West hears it...
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color pictures of the Turkish seaway busy with ships. They slide past churches and mosques, such as the Hagia Sophia. A big decorated Turkish brass tray hangs on one wall, and beautiful blue-and-white-decorated Turkish plates are dotted around the tables.

“My baklava is lighter and more refreshing than others,” Cevdet says, as Sarka proffers a plate of puffy-pastry savory-flavored ones. I nab one stuffed with beef, peppers, parsley, and cumin. “And we have a far greater variety than, say, Greek baklavas.”

Cevdet makes it clear that with Turkey, a determinedly secular state, the Islam practiced there is less strict than elsewhere. “It is a great thing if you do your prayers five times a day,” Cevdet says. “But in modern life sometimes you don’t have the time for it. You don’t become an infidel just because you didn’t do your [prayers]. You can be a modern man and be a Muslim.”

That’s what he’s doing with his baklava too, it seems. The last one Sarka handed me, Mozzarella Delight, is his invention: “Turkish-Italian fusion.” On the other hand, your basic baklava predates Islam by more than 1000 years. “They’re 3000 years old,” says Cevdet.

Sarka is another “revert.” She converted to Islam shortly after the two were married, here in California. She’s originally from the Czech Republic but met Cevdet on vacation in Turkey.

A few months and many emails later, they were both in San Francisco and Cevdet proposed on the Golden Gate Bridge.

What about the religion problem? “I didn’t really convert like ‘I want to be like my husband,’” says Sarka. “I had already become a born-again Christian in Prague. But then I met Cevdet, and I didn’t have a plan. He believed in God. That was most important to me. And he didn’t have a problem with me being a Christian. He didn’t think, ‘Oh, you will go to hell, because you are a Christian,’ because he knew from the Koran that’s not true. “So then I started reading, and the more I read, the more I believed this [the Koran]. I saw that I couldn’t call myself Christian [anymore] because that’s not what I believe. So once you believe this, you become a Muslim, which means a believer.’ And I believe in God.”

But that didn’t mean dropping out of mainstream American society. “We have two boys now, three and five, and we can’t deny them the fun part of celebrating occasions like Christmas.”

They married in 2001, before 9/11. “When 9/11 happened, I was an American citizen,” says Cevdet. “People who proclaimed themselves Muslim should not have ever done anything like this. But even before that, I was in New Jersey during the first attack on the World Trade Center, and one of...
my karate buddies walked up to me, very offensive, very aggressive, and said, ‘Do you support this stuff?’ And I’m, like, ‘How come you expect me to support something like this? First of all, this was not my country [that did this]. Turkey is the strongest ally of the United States, especially now that it’s wrapped up in NATO. I grew up in a country admiring the United States. I chose to carry the passport of this country. I took the oath. Okay?’ ”

By the end, Cevdet is quite emotional. But, both in the U.S.’s sometimes bellicose liberal democracy and Islam’s all-enveloping embrace, he sees an underlying harmony of values.

“The Koran indicates that time spent on productive thinking is the best form of worship. In Islam, the ink of a thinker is one thousand times better than the blood of the martyr.”

The Mental Leap from Muslim Majority to Muslim Minority

Dr. Khaleel Mohammed is an associate professor in SDSU’s Department of Religious Studies. He stands beside his paper-packed desk in his office at the College of Arts and Letters. His window looks over the leafy-shaded winding trails of campus that lead right up the hill to the amphitheater. He’s dapper, casual in long jean shorts and shirt but intellectually intense.

Dr. Mohammed worries about the bedrock values of all three “Abrahamic religions.”

“The fact of the matter is these three religions share the same inherent aura of violence,” he says. “Jesus is the most peaceful of all the prophets. But the office that Jesus was supposed to fulfill was not a peaceful one. He was supposed to be the Messiah, the one to fulfill the [work of] David by repelling the Romans. So because he rejected that role, the Jews rejected him.”

Violent religions? Look at the historical record, Mohammed says. “God gives Israel to Abraham [and commands the killing of] all the Canaanites. Then Mohammed comes, and his thing is the battle against the disbelievers of Arabia: Kill them wherever you find them after war has been declared. And look at the legacy of the Crusades, look at the legacy of colonialism, justified by false claims of Christianity.”

But Dr. Mohammed comes from a different Muslim background than most. He grew up at the farthest limits of Islam’s reach, in non-Muslim Guyana, the only English-speaking nation in South America. “My family was
Muslim," he says, "but a Muslim in Guyana is quite different from one in, say, Pakistan. My ancestors came from India, so at some point there were Hindus in our family. Now I have Christian, Hindu, and Muslim kin. It's a society where there's a lot of intermarriage."

Mohammed went to Canada when he was 17, then in 1982 got a scholarship to Saudi Arabia to pursue Islamic law, where he studied original texts in classical Arabic, then returned to Canada to do his master's and doctorate in religion, to Brandeis near Boston for Jewish and Islamic studies, and finally here to San Diego State to teach Islamic studies.

The guy, in other words, is super-qualified on the subject. Especially since, in Saudi Arabia, he got to read the actual original text of the Koran. "Most Western Muslims...learn the Koran through translation or through exegesis [interpretation]. When you are in Saudi Arabia you get to read the text itself," he says. Significance? All those interpretations that have layered, one upon the other, over 14 centuries, are cleared away. The severity and inflexibility regarding such issues as clothing, women's rights, and punishment, he says, largely evaporate.

An unwillingness of Islam to adapt, particularly in the West, worries Mohammed. "Having been brought up in Guyana, the way that we practiced Islam then, I saw no problem between the religion and a Western lifestyle. And even now, as I practice Islam — my family and I are observant Muslims — we still see no disjoint between our lifestyle and American lifestyles. The problem is that in America, the image of Islam has changed radically from the '60s to now. Before 1966, when the borders were sort of open, Islam in America was defined by a purely American expression, with people like Malcolm X, Elijah Mohammed. Whether one agreed with his view of Islam or not, the point is that Islam was viewed through American lenses. After the '60s, when Middle Easterners and Pakistanis started coming in large numbers, Islam comes to be defined by immigrants. They're coming from places where there is political upheaval, such as Pakistan, such as the Middle East. And so when they come here, they have this radical outlook that pits their religion against the West. And it's a politicized Islam we see for the most part. "Strangely, the American concept of human rights plays into this problem, because in Pakistan, for example, one can be prosecuted for simply saying something against Mohammed. One comes to the United States and sees freedom of speech to the point that now you can dress however you wish, say whatever you wish, and you have rights for religious minorities, and things that they were not even allowed [to do]..."
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in their own Muslim countries, in the name of Islam, they’re allowed to do. In the United States, which is amazing, that makes them say, ‘Oh well. We have absolute freedom now. And since they have not been accustomed to living as a minority, they cannot make that change. So they try to bring their so-called ‘Islamic norms’ and impose them on American beliefs. They cannot make this mental leap from Muslim majority to Muslim minority. You have Muslim taxi drivers, I think it’s in Michigan or Chicago, saying they will not pick up fares now who have whiskey in them or [other] alcohol. That is absolutely nonsensical. We have Muslim women saying that if they join the police force they still want to wear the hijab.”

These are strong critiques of his religion. So what of those accusations by fellow Muslims that he is too liberal?

“Yes, I get accused of working for the CIA, of working for the Mossad. This is an accusation that I will get among certain Muslims. I’m prepared for it, because . . . I went to Israel. I argued with many Israelis. So I’m not worried about it, although there are elements among the Muslims who portray me as an Israeli stooge. Some of them don’t wish to speak to me.”

Strange, he prefers that.

“It’s because those people who keep away from me [might otherwise] be frequenting my home. I have little children at home. I do not wish [them] to be listening to America.” What I can tell you is that America happens to be not only the most powerful country in the world but that right now, in America, you have the top Islamic scholars also living here. Scholarship on Islam has been happening in America since long before the Gulf War and coming up with books and concepts that

“We have to show people who we are.”

Ironically, he also feels this is a good time to be a Muslim academic in America. “What I can tell you is that America happens to be not only the most powerful country in the world but that right now, in America, you have the top Islamic scholars also living here. Scholarship on Islam has been happening in America since long before the Gulf War and coming up with books and concepts that
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But in this troubling era for Islam, doesn’t he also see a growing retreat into conservatism?

“Well, certainly, you find on campus right now, there are some women who cover their faces. The funny thing about it is the Koran never expresses that sentiment. It tells the Muslim women…to wear a certain form of outer garment to [identify] themselves as part of the Islamic culture. When you dressed a certain way — which was following the Jewish norm, actually — your head was [covered] and the breasts were covered. You were basically sending a message: ‘I’m not a promiscuous person.’ The Koran adds this legislation ‘so that they might be known and not molested.’ It was a social [admonition]. It has nothing to do with personal piety. And yet [a student like Hamdi covers her face] and comes up with this wonderful [spiritual] interpretation, which is nonetheless not Koranic.”

I Can’t Wear Shorts Like Bill Clinton Used to Wear.

“Dr. Mohammed does not represent the mainstream, ” says Edgar Hopida, a Filipino American who once considered entering the Catholic priesthood but who instead converted to Islam. He’s now the San Diego-based public relations director of the Washington DC–headquartered Council of American-Islamic Relations (CAIR).

“Dr. Mohammed wants to secularize Islam, make it palatable for the American audience. [Yet] mainstream Muslims practice their religion, pray five times a day, go to Friday prayers, fast during Ramadan month, go to the pilgrimage [to Mecca] when able, and they don’t eat pork.”

These are rules, he says, unchanging, from Saudi Arabia to San Diego.

But one thing has changed for American Muslims: From being self-contained communities, “kind of like with the early Jewish communities [in the U.S.], keeping to themselves, very isolated,” post-9/11 Muslim America has started reaching out to the majority. “We realized that we have to show people who we are. If not, others will define us,” says Hopida.

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“My son got called insults like ‘camel breath.’”

Ahmed-Ghosh is perhaps typical of the educated Muslims of northern India and Pakistan, reflecting the matured Mughal (Persian-based) civilization that produced great scholarship and such exquisite architecture as the Taj Mahal. As with Dr. Mohammed, it’s no big deal that she has mixed religions in her immediate family. Her husband is Hindu. But after 9/11 they suffered the same backlash as many. “My son got called insults like ‘camel breath’ and was told to ‘go home’!” — in his soccer league. I’m lucky to be in an academic institution. I’m somewhat insulated from that kind of thing,”

When I ask about face-covering she says,

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eyes and laughs.

“Western male fantasy! On the night of my first class, I showed a film called Hollywood Harem, where the projection of the veiled woman, in the Hollywood films of the '20s to the '60s, was really playing out the male fantasy. On the one hand, the belly dancer, scantily clad, but on the other hand, the veil also. And now what we're seeing is a shift, where the veil is seen more as a sign of oppression, not as the exotic. Because it fits into our political agenda. But I think it is a very Western male fantasy, and that is why we saw it in the media, and we saw so much writings about it by Westerners when they colonized [South Asia and the Middle East].”

She calls around to see if Dalal Alfares is in the building. “She’s a very interesting girl,” Ahmed-Ghosh says. “And proof that one size doesn’t fit all in feminism. Culture counts, too.”

Half an hour later, Dalal Alfares and I are walking down the Avenue of Arts, heading toward the library. She wears the long green-and-brown dress and headscarf, but she says that doesn’t prevent her from being feminist. “Yes,” she says. “When I heard the call to prayer from up there on the balcony, it was so unexpected, here, at San Diego State, I got goose bumps.”

We talk about growing up asking questions in conservative Kuwait. Surely, being a feminist in the Middle East could be a hazardous occupation?

She hesitates a moment. “I feel so embarrassed telling you these things. I’m caught in a position where, as a Muslim woman, do I raise the conflicts in my community, or do I defend them? I’m always caught in this bind.”

But, she says, she couldn’t help questioning things growing up.

“I questioned why my father preferred my brothers over me. Like, ‘If I’m older and smarter, why does my younger brother get to go to mosque and I stay at home?’ Or why were women not able to vote in Kuwait (until they gained the right in 2005)? And I would get the stare, like ‘Are you crazy? This is the way things are.’ ”

So does she think Islam, the religion, supports the relegation of women to secondary status? “Yes. Most religious and political leaders would go back to religion to reinforce their power. And those [religious] texts will always perpetuate patriarchal meanings and goals. And so would the fathers of the tribe and the families. Arab families tend to [favor] the males.”

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**San Diego Reader**
May 15, 2008

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Gaggle of tourists from the Old Town Tour bus come ambling along in shorts and floppy shirts. Then a group of two young couples approaches, chatting away brightly and confidently in California accents. The men are dressed in check shirts and long shorts. Their partners? Fully swathed in voluminous black robes, like traditional Iraqi women or 15th-century nuns.

It does clang, here at the beach. But one thing you can understand: Part of the problem for communities like San Diego is future shock. Identity, culture, a sense of a coherent community — challenges to all of these things are just, it seems, coming at us too fast. You wonder if the fabric of society can handle all the strains.

Scene Two: I’m hurrying out of America Plaza, trying to catch up with a trolley at the Santa Fe depot, when, right by the giant, glossy Luis Jiménez sculpture Border Crossing, I spot a tourist grabbing her camera and clicking away. The scene she’s shooting is a pair of cabdrivers, side by side, on their knees, on a piece of cardboard by a blue plywood construction wall. Praying. They lean onto their foreheads, quietly vocalizing the prayer.

“Interesting,” the lady says. She turns to me. “I’m a radio journalist from Germany. We have the same phenomenon. Now I see it’s starting here. In Germany we have issues with Muslim teachers and pupils wanting to wear the headscarf. I have written and broadcast pieces saying we should ban that. I think if they come to the West, they must be prepared to learn the language and dress appropriately. We don’t want societies within societies. Europe wants to remain Europe.”

Hmm. But I thought in Europe — and in both Americas — women wore head coverings in Roman Catholic churches. The Pope himself wears a skullcap. Should we ban turbaned Sikh teachers? Kilted Scottish pipers? It may be unfair to point out, but Germany has a past in which, in the worst imaginable way, the state tried to eliminate an entire minority culture that was “different.” How far do you go in the cause of sameness? John Stuart Mill, Alexis de Tocqueville, and Thomas Jefferson have all warned of the “tyranny of the majority.”

The cross-light turns green. The German journalist, her friend, and I hurry across. As I enter under the arches of the Santa Fe Depot, I can just hear a faint voice from behind the taxicabs.

“Allahu Akhbar!”

— Bill Manson
SAN DIEGO, I thought I lived in a paradise, and Santa Barbara truly is a magical place to grow up; however, when my uncle, William D. McElroy, became chancellor of UCSD, I visited him at the University House and found a new "paradise." I spent several summers living in the University House, mowing the lawns of the mansions around La Jolla Farms and surfing Black’s and the Shores. It would be a shame to let this architectural gem disappear. It is my hope that all attempts will be made to retrofit the house, and a slice of history will remain intact. Mark Heinze via email

That Old House

Thank you very much for your excellent article on UCSD’s University House (“How UCSD Spent Over $500,000 on a Home That Never Happened,” Cover Story, May 1). I have been interested in this project for some time and came up with the idea of involving the This Old House TV and magazine people in it. I think they might be interested in remodeling it within the parameters that have been imposed. I feel that they might welcome surmounting...
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the Indian-burial-grounds problem as well as the cliff-location problem. They traditionally work with local architects, planning commissions, etc. They could perhaps find common ground with the La Jolla Historical Society, UCSD, etc. The project would have national TV and magazine coverage and be great publicity for the university and the city. I have tried contacting the university and the city. I have tried contacting the society was interested but not willing to help me contact This Old House. Perhaps you or your readers can help.

Alan M. Blank
via email

Fish Mill
I enjoyed the article about San Diego’s aquarists; however, there was one part of it that was a little disturbing (“No One’s Ever Told Me That I Look Like a Fish,” Cover Story, April 24). If a person raises a warm-blooded animal in a sparse environment for the sole purpose of producing offspring, they’re usually referred to as being the owner of a mill — puppy mill, kitten mill, etc. Why then would someone think it was fine to keep fish in a deprived environment for that purpose? It’s clear that many of the aquarists believe that in their homes, their fish deserve as natural a habitat as possible. Why then would they obtain their fish from someone who keeps their breeding stock massed in bare aquariums? This didn’t make much sense to me, and as I said, I did find it a little disturbing. It sounds to me like that guy is operating a fish mill, for want of a better term, and I hope that he seriously considers the hypocrisy of that.

Tamara Jessup
Downtown

God’s Clubs
I appreciate your efforts in enlightening the readers on the different denominations/practices/sects (“Sheep and Goats”), but after all your efforts, do you truly believe religion is “unifying” and not just “all about me”? It is the nature of humankind to “fear” and be suspicious of “others” not in their immediate cultural and/or mind-set, so as long as there are different religious “clubs,” there will never be “peace,” because “clubs” require “power leaders” who “interpret God’s will” but engulf the masses in arbitrary perceptions of “others.”

Rob Hudnall
via email

False Nectar
I know why the bee colonies are collapsing (Local Events, January 17). It’s because the Indian-burial-grounds problem as well as the cliff-location problem. They truly obtain their fish from someone think it was fine to keep fish in a deprived environment for that purpose. I know why the bee colonies are collapsing (Local Events, January 17). It’s because of all the soda, energy drink containers, etc., that are littered all over the place and then picked up by scavengers who then drain the liquid into the soil. This is the false nectar that is screwing up the bees.

Thomas Smirnoff
via email

Comments from Reader
Website

Cover Story
Published May 7
Posted by mbolivar on May 8, 1:34 a.m.

Excellent story depicting a reality that needs to be uncovered. We cannot allow for criticism to be absent from our lives just for the sake of institutions. It should be the other way around: Institutions modified to meet the demands and expectations of critical, engaged citizens…

I loved the mystery that puts together irony, fine prose and self in the sort of Journalism that inspires me? It is the nature of human beings who then drain the liquid into the soil. This is the false nectar that is screwing up the bees. I am sorry for those on ships. Barracks may suck, but it doesn’t drive as many to marriage (there’s like a whole percent or two less guys getting married for Army Bah. maybe.)

Posted by whogasa on May 8, 7:10 a.m.

Good story about how the military works in regards to marriage and how to “use the system.” I am
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Aqua Bella Buy 3, get 1 free
Aqua Day Spa Body scrub and massage $30
Aram Eyewrks Opt Contacts-exam, lens, supply $59
ashtophyios.com Free custom hypnidos CD
Beauty Salon Free haircut with purchase
Beauty & Body Lounge $10 Brazilian wax
Beauty by Judy $200 off a full head of hair extensions
Beauty Forever Permanent brows $199
Bee Tan Salon Free Music Tan
Bella Pelle Medical Spa $25 off treatment
Body By Gin Yoga Studio $30 off yoga class
Brazilian Wax La Jolla Brazilian wax is $35
Carole & Debbie Hair Shaping Free designer haircut (45 value)
Center for Age Management $50 off any service
Cheuky’s Touch Massage Sports massage $39
Chula Vista Yoga Center 10% off tuition
Coastal Dental Arts $1,000 off Implant
Continuum Aesthetics 10% off any service
Cosmetic Laser & Skin Rejuvenation $100 per unit
Dedicated Dental Teeth cleaning, exam
and x-rays $49
Derm Aesthetic Free medical microdermabrasion
Dimension Salon $12 off chemical services
enigma, professional piercing 55 off body piercing
Extreme Smile Makeover $1000 off treatment
Face Beautiful $50 off Rhinoplasty
Family Dentistry Free teeth whitening

Dr. Rubenoff $599 ZOOM! Advanced Power
Global Laser Cosmetic Botox $178 (per area)
Global Laser Vision Standard LASEK $599 per eye
Glau Med. Skin Care Free underarm laser hair removal plug.
Dr. Michael Goldsmith Optometry $20 off eye exam
Hair Addiction Hair extensions only $59.99
Hair by Don-Raul Hoffer 15% off retail hair products
Famam Haron, DDS Lumineers – Save $100 per tooth
Hilarios Optical 20% off any purchase
Dr. Robert M. Howard Eyewear Plus 6 pr. contacts for $149
Junior Iamn 20% off haircut
LCT Spa Free brow wax
ELHT $50 off hair transplant
Indigo Salon 45% off any service
Indigo Salon $70 IPL Peel
Inner Balance Massage 1-hour massage $30
Inner Balance Skin Care $45 Microdermabrasion
ITAN Free body wrap
Jenfer Calon Salon & Spa $35 off any spa package
Jenfer Calon Salon Body wraps $52
William S. Echternac Jr. Dental exam $30
Kari Hayden & Associates 20% off contour wrap
Karo’s Salon Permanent eyelashes $99
Kayo Clinic $35-IPL laser treatment
Karson Salon $100 off IPL Peel
Dr. Robert Kerney, MD $100 off Botox/Restylane
La Jolla Cosmetics $275 off purchase of $500 or more
La Jolla Cosmetic Laser Clinic 10% off Fraxel
La Jolla Hair Clinic 10% off hair replacement
Laser Clincia Laser hair removal $40
Lara Beth 20% off permanent makeup
Dr. George Lebow $10 off mobile chiropractic visit
Life Medical Spa 20% off Fraxel II

LifHale $25% off weight loss system
Lucky Spa $20 off 1-hour massage
Phil Lin, CA $45 colored contact lenses
Massage Envy 1-hour massage $39
Medispa Free laser hair removal
Med-Med $10 off medical marijuana evaluation
Mesa Family Dentistry $200 off Invisalign
Mind Body Partnerships SpA package $179.99
Howard Miller, MD., & Associates Laser hair removal $95
Murphy Frasier Chiropractic $25 off any treatment
My Nash & Skin Care Spa Refresh body spa $150
Nails Touch Gently 50% off manicure/pedicure
Naomi Spa $20 off 1-hour massage
New Look MD $1750 hails transplanted $199
Non-Surgical Spine Care Center Free consultation
Optimum Condition $2 for 1 personal training
Oshun #1 Spa $10 off message
Pacific College of Oriental Medicine Acupuncture $20
Padiha Family & Cosmetic Medicine $50 off Botox
Pasha Skin & Spa $45 facial, massage or microdermabrasion $45
Pretty Kitty $20 Brazilian wax
Rejuve Med Spa & Wellness $99 free $10 facial
The Relaxing Spa 1-hour massage $45
Revive Moolavam experience $10
Revive Salon & Spa $100 off 1-hour teeth whitening
Revive Young Free haircut with purchase of color or highlights
Ross Med Hair Restoration Free 90-day supply of Propria
Salon 950 Dentistry Free dental exam
Dr. Sadat $50 off Botox or filler
Salon Soleil $10 off pretion haircut
Salon D7 Free designer haircut
S.D. Skin, n 1-hour facial $35
S.D. Wax Queen $35 Brazilian wax

Dr. Selby Contacts & exam $122
Shumway Plastic Surgery $50 off Botox or Restylane
Skin Science $50 off single hair removal
Skin Trade $10 off waxing
Soft Touch Dental ZOOM $249
Sonya of London Head-to-toe treatment $149
South Coast Tan Free Mystic tan
“Spa For One” Sanctuary $25 off MicroDermal Tone trimm
Spa Urban Retreat Professional Aveda massage $49
Spa Clips $3 off MNP haircut
Suzann Hypnotherapy 50% off hypnotherapy session
Suddenly Simmer Free Healthy Airbrush Tan with any
Double MineralFlit Burner wrap
Sundown Dentistry ZOOM teeth whitening $199
Syner Chi Day Spa IPL Photofacial $125
Tanya at Salon D $50 off haircut or $10 off updo
Touch of Health $10 off 1-hour massage
24 Hour Fitness 7 days of fitness free
Dr. Jeffrey A. Umansky $500 off any major surgery
The Undercabinet Free Brazilian bikini wax
Urban Skin Care Brazilian wax $30
V2 Nail Bar Salon 15% discount on any service
Val Chiropractic Wellness Center $25 off laser treatment
Vero Liposculpture Center Laser hair removal $49
VPL Salon & Day Spa Two 1-hour massages $199
Viva Wellness Med. Group Botox $39
Vivre Beau Free Lumina light therapy treatment
Walden Aesthetic Skin & Body Spa 15% off any service
Dr. Weiss Med Spa $50 Laser hair removal $189
Wellness & longevity $50 off initial consult
West Coast Eyecare Complete optical exam $39
Whiter Acupuncture 10% off acupuncture
World Spa 3 spa treatments $149
Amy Yado To up $30 off hair extension
Yoga One 3 month unlimited yoga
you and lies to you and then they expect you to walk a fine line to help yourself? The lie to you to get you in and then give deserving people very crappy jobs and you only stay so you don’t end up in the brig. I don’t think what she did was fraud. People get married for many reasons and money is just one in the long list of things. The military has Article 134 (if memory serves me right) that is the catch-all for anything they think you’ve done wrong but they can’t find anything in the previous 133. It’s basically a way to get you on charges but not knowing what to charge you with. That’s high standards!

Posted by epearya on May 8, 9:18 a.m.

Kudos to you, my dear!!!

As a military wife, who married for love (not money). I am aware of the attitude of What happens on deployment, stays on deployment. In addition to the dozens of births post-deployment, there are also dozens of divorces, caused in infidelity of both civilians and service members. That is to say, that the military is not concerned with the how or why of a situation, but what it looks like to the public. As a USMC spouse, it seems like everything is classified information. If that is the case, my relationship is too. Stop focusing on my home, and pay attention to the so-called war…

Posted by spätigirl30 on May 8, 12:17 p.m.

I say BULL. This is a matter of ethics. The “everyone else is doing it so why shouldn’t I?” defense doesn’t fly.

Posted by jingjing on May 8, 8:36 p.m.

Well, technically she didn’t break any rules. Who is anyone to say what she did was morally wrong? Marriage is a legal thing and nobody can tell her why she has to get married. Nobody said it had to be love. You can’t make her feel an emotion. I myself was in the navy and I saw a lot of marriages, a ton of divorces, and nearly everyone cheated. The majority of the time, the driving force for people to get married was money.

She called the navy right out. At least she didn’t rape or cheat on anyone. So many horrible crimes are pushed under the rug and ignored. Sometimes the truth pisses people off; everything she said is real and happens all the time. Those who haven’t been what she’s been through can’t judge her until they’ve been through it as well. Fantastic story! Don’t be so ignorant, people!

Posted by republyf on May 8, 3:08 p.m.

There are reasons that certain military things are supposed to remain unspoken. Inability to keep things quiet is why women were not allowed in the military for so long. God forbid we...
end up with one as a president...

Posted by sosocallocal on May 8, 7:36 p.m.

AD NAUSEUM. It is a disgrace that this would get published, let alone get a cover story. The piece is whimsy, and (at best) show cases her caliber as a sordid opportunistic person in uniform. Many military marriages fail, however, the author was never in a legitimate marriage, so she could never understand the pressures that exist in that situation. She complains about the Navy not paying her enough, however she fails to mention that she would have been compensated had she MADE RANK. Rank has its privileges, single BAH (one that doesn’t require a marriage) is one of them. Don’t blame the Navy for your lack of information at the time of enlistment. Don’t blame the Navy for your lack of discipline and the fact YOU COULDN’T CUT IT in the military. Don’t be upset that you got caught. Had you pulled this stunt at any other job, you would have been charged with FRAUD (a felony in most cases). I can go on and on. Thanks “MAGGIE” for perpetuating the myths that the good people in the military work hard to counteract. They already are faced with a severe anti-war sentiment, and to top it off, people out there think they give their lives in Service simply because they are in the military to do anything else. As author Stephen King recently put it:

“I don’t want to sound like an ad, a public service ad on TV, but the fact is if you can read, you can walk into a job later on. If you don’t, then you’ve got, the Army, Iraq, I don’t know, something like that. It’s, it’s not as bright. So, that’s my little commercial for that.”

To add insult to injury, it is also very poorly written. Go figure.

Posted by smela07 on May 8, 8:02 p.m.

It’s interesting that no one has picked up on the idea that the government puts a price on marriage (and discriminates against single people) by paying married military personnel more than single person. At what other government agency does a married woman make more than a single woman, just because she’s married? At what company does a married man make more than a single man, just because he’s married?

The government should get out of the business of valuing a marriage. Just pay all personnel the same wage, by rank and years in service. Of course, you won’t see many married military personnel or spouses arguing for this point...The benefits are sometimes even more insidious than BAH: many married military personnel are easily allowed to use the excuse of familial obligations (school play, kid’s t-ball game, wife’s girls’ night out) to regularly skirt out of work early, to avoid week-end watches that are too frequently dumped on single people, etc...

Good story Maggie. And it IS well written. After all, it must be a good story if it has so many people talking. Ignore the resentful tone of some of the comments, and keep plugging away.

Posted by superstar on May 8, 8:59 p.m.

Plenty of people have, in the past and present, gotten married for financial reasons. Some don’t marry similarly or jointly based on the fact that they need to either file separately or jointly based on the bottom line. They entered into such a contract and it should have been respected by the military. Marriage as an emotional and procreative bond is for the churches and similar, which have zero standing in government and military affairs. Yes, they took advantage of the system but so do many taxpayers who choose to either file separately or jointly based on the bottom line.

Posted by kwn73 on May 9, 5:41 p.m.

smela07 - Very good point of view.

I agree that people should be financially set before they get themselves into a marriage, but it is that extra BAH money that tempts a lot of the young people out there today. Your idea would take that out of the equation and I bet that we would see less people getting married and we would see people concentrating on what is more important, like getting promoted. Doing it the way that we are now gives people in the service the easy way out to earn extra money. Great idea, you should send it to a congressman to take back to Congress.

Posted by miketango on May 10, 2:00 a.m.

so it’s so surprising how you didn’t mention that the command that started the investigation on you wasn’t the USS HIGGINS, in fact it was you shore command. since you did become a corpsman and get away from your “slave work” as a deck seaman. you also failed to mention that you, yourself had an affair with a married man before you were “married” and that the reason that you didn’t have any chemistry with your husband is because he was gay, it’s amaznig how so many people can talk so much crap about the navy, what did you do while you were in? nothing… you didn’t go to school while you were in. never heard you talk about wanting to be a JO.

true some people do get married for money, true people cheat, but who are you to judge? when you’re away from home a lot people do a lot of things that they wouldn’t normally do. and that’s right, “what happens on deployment, stays on deployment”, why would you go back and tell someone’s spouse bad things about their husband or wife? for what? what does that get you? a peace of mind knowing that you just made someone’s homelife that much worse? as far as living on the ship… you could’ve have got an apartment with other single sailors onboard. just like college students do. hell, you should be happy to live onboard and not in a box with a man that thought it was okay for you to puke up your dinner.

so, all this boils down to… if you’re going to tell the truth, tell the whole truth and not something that’s completely biased.
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### True Lagoon

**Celebrity Fishing at Agua Hedionda**

In June 2000, the highly invasive *Caulerpa taxifolia* — the aggressive algae which has destroyed thousands of acres of the Mediterranean Sea — was discovered (in the Agua Hedionda Lagoon), most likely dumped into the lagoon from a household aquarium," says David Mirisch, who produces celebrity fund-raising events. "The eradication of the algae from the lagoon is an ongoing project. It has been curtailed, but they have to keep having divers go down to be sure that it has not grown back."

Mirisch is producing the First Annual Celebrity Fishing Tournament at Agua Hedionda Lagoon in Carlsbad on Saturday, May 17. "We're raising money to keep that Caulera down where it should be and to help the Discovery Center, where kids can come up and take tours," he says. For $100, contestants can fish from one of 15 privately owned boats alongside a participating celebrity. After the tournament, a VIP luncheon will be held at the Discovery Center for people to meet and greet the celebrities (including Christopher Knight of The Brady Bunch, Christopher Atkins from *The Blue Lagoon*, and Adrienne Curri from America's Next Top Model).

"*Caulerpa taxifolia* was declared eradicated on July 12, 2006," says Eric Munoz, president of the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation. The eradication, says Munoz, cost "over a million dollars a year." The seaweed is more harmful than other invasives because, as Munoz explains, "it is an aquarium version of a natural plant and thus has no natural predators. It’s like Frankenstein — it was genetically engineered in the 70s — and they made it to be a plant that’s easy to take care of." To eliminate this “killer seaweed,” divers covered the colonies at the base of the lagoon with plastic tarps and injected chlorine underneath.

The species that felt the brunt of the infestation were the eel grass beds. "Those eel grass beds are very important habitats for nursery grounds, lobster and bass — all kinds of fish and critters that live in the lagoon," says biologist Steve Le Page. "When those beds were affected and being taken over by *Caulerpa taxifolia*, we were losing all those habitats." Fishing was temporarily banned to protect eradication efforts. "They didn’t want people to put anchors down or hooks that might snag the tarps," says Le Page. "The beds are coming back strong, and the latest surveys have shown most of the eel grass is back where it should be."

Though gray smooth-hound sharks and leopard sharks frequently enter the lagoon in search of food, Le Page says their presence does not necessarily indicate that the lagoon is healthy, “sharks are very opportunistic. They’ll come into an unhealthy lagoon because there’s a lot of things dying that they can eat.”

Le Page says that Agua Hedionda is now “a very healthy lagoon” with a wide range of fish and invertebrates. Seals and sea lions will make their way into the lagoon. “We actually had a little baby seal come in and grow up in the outer lagoon,” says Le Page. “He took a real liking to me. He would follow me around and tug at my fins — he almost became like a pet.”

According to the lagoon foundation, invasive species are not the greatest threat to the well-being of the ecosystem. “The greatest threat that the lagoon faces right now is the steward of the lagoon leaving — not having anyone capable of maintaining the tidal prism [or volume of water] in the lagoon," says Le Page. Prior to 1952, the lagoon was no more than a foul-smelling mudflat. "That’s how it got its name — *aguahedionda* means ‘stinky water.’" The lagoon was built for the use of the Encina Power Station, which first dredged the area and has taken responsibility for maintenance dredging every two years since.

"When the power plant came, they needed to build an intake structure," says Le Page. "They needed to have a reservoir of water and enough tidal flushing to keep the lagoon mouth open."

Now that the plant is scheduled to begin decommissioning some of its units, Le Page fears that without a private entity to take an interest in dredging, the lagoon will disappear. "He, like other members of the foundation, hopes to see plans for a Carlsbad desalination project go through. "Having a private entity being the steward of the lagoon is far better than having local, state, or federal government being steward," says Le Page. When the *Caulera* outbreak was discovered, $300,000 was needed immediately in order to save the lagoon. "The only way that was going to happen was if a private entity was taking control of the lagoon. If you had state, local, or federal government, it would have taken months to get the money."

— Barbara Dunlop

### Celebrity Fishing Tournament

**Saturday, May 17**

7 a.m. to 1 p.m. (lunch reception 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

**Discovery Center at Agua Hedionda Lagoon**

1580 Cannon Road

**Carlsbad**

Cost: $35 entry fee in advance ($45 day of tournament), $100 entry fee to fish on boat with celebrity, $35 for non-contestants/VIP luncheon

Info: 760-632-7770 or aguahedionda.org or hollywoodknights.com
**DANCE**

**“Bellydance: Philosophy and Technique”** Leilainia leads “Bellydance Basics: Fun with Bellydance” (7-8 p.m.), followed by lessons in “using the dance to get into your body” (8-9 p.m.). “Workshop is great for intermediate dancers, yo- yo, and all who have awareness of their body and movement.” $120 fee is for six weeks. 619-884-7707. Tuesdays, 7 p.m. through Tuesday, May 20, 2008, 610-5120. Bamboo Yoga and Bodywork Center, 1127 Loma Avenue. (858)265-8847.

**“In Studio”** San Diego Ballet Company presents annual dividend with “progressive performances” by troupe members in many of the stu- dios created and/or arranged for the evening by artistic director Javier Ve- lucio. 619-294-7311. Saturday, May 17, 6 p.m.; $55. Dance Place San Diego in NYC Promenade, 2650 Truxton Road, Suite 108. (POINT LIMA)

**“Revolutions”** Students from de- ntures, props, and theater pres- ent dance pieces created in re- sponse to the video pieces in this University Art Gallery exhibition. Directed by Yolanda Smith. 858- 354-2107. Thursday, May 15, 7 p.m., University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JUNA)

**“Roots of Raqs”** Sohaila’s tenth annual “dance extravaganza.”

**Bellydancing** Mariana, Lauren, Mimi, Christiina perform to live music by Middle-Eastern Ensemble. 619-234-8141. Friday, May 16, 8 p.m.; Al Bustan, 801 C Street. (DOWNTOWN)

**Faculty Dance Concert** See original choreography in variety of styles by Palomar College’s dance faculty. 760-744-1150. May 16, 8 p.m.; Saturday, May 17, 7 p.m.; Sunday, May 18, 8 p.m.; $8-$12. Howard Bruback Theatre at Palomar College, 1140 West Mission Road. (SAN MARCOS)

**Hustle Dance Party** Plays hul- ttle, nightclub, two-step, and takes requests. For singles and couples of all ages. Hustle lesson. 8 p.m. First time free. 619-275-3333. Saturday, May 17, 8 p.m.; $7. Pattie Wells’ Dance Center, 1255 West Mornora Boulevard. (VISTA)

**Nobodys Business** Band plays for contradance with calling by Martha Wild for San Diego Folk Heritage. Beginners’ dance work- shop: 7:30 p.m.; dancing 8-11 p.m. Wear soft-soled shoes. 619-281-8550. Friday, May 16, 7:30 p.m.; $6-$7. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street. (SAN DIEGO)

**Souls...Green Evoke Dance Theatre presents dance theatre performances by emerging chore- ographers Enicha Ashore Moore and Yvonne Hernandez, May 8-June 1. When someone has taken great care to love, grow, and nurture something that means the world to them and then presents it as a gift to you, what will you do with it?” Understudy cast performs Thursdays, May 15 and May 22. Walk up tickets are pay-what-you-can one hour before showtime. 619-238-1153. Thursdays, 8 p.m.; Fridays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m.; through Sunday, June 1, 2008, 812-210. Tenth Avenue Theatre, 930 Tenth Avenue. (SAN ANDREAS)

**Bellydance Showcase** Ana, Marula, Theresa, Zaharah Sim performs in honor of 2008 Festival of India co-founder John Bilelziyan. 619-688-9845. Thurs- day, May 15, 8 p.m.; $5. Claire de Lune, 2905 University Avenue. (SAN DIEGO)

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**Laughlin Area**


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FOR KIDS

"Breathing in a Changing Climate" Uncover link between air pollution, climate change, and our lungs during family day activities. Scripps researchers will set up real-time experiments. Included in regular admission. 858-534-FISH. Saturday, May 17, 11 a.m. Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2000 Exposition Way. (LA JUNA)

“Sunday Stories” Celebrate Water Awareness Month during water and water-conservation-themed story times. 619-702-4200. Sunday, May 18, 11 a.m. Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.; Sunday, May 18, 11 a.m. 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.; Wednesday, May 21, 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.; $3-$5. Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Road West. (LA JUNA)

The B.R.A.T.T. Patrol! Author Jennifer Hall reads from and signs her young readers’ book “about a group of neighborhood children who... create a detective agency.” 619-441-0480. Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.; Sunday, May 18, 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.; $3-$5. Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Road West. (LA JUNA)

Animal Tales Story Time Enjoy animal stories, crafts, and of course, animals. 619-243-3432. Sunday, May 18. Explore The Wonderful World of Puppets Around the World with Big Joe Productions, May 21-25. Curtain rises at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Wednesday-Friday, Saturday, May 17, 11 a.m.; Sunday, May 18, 11 a.m. 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Thursday, May 15, 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.; Friday, May 16, 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.; Saturday, May 17, 11 a.m.; 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.; Sunday, May 18, 11 a.m. 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.; Wednesday, May 21, 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.; $3-$5. Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Road West. (LA JUNA)

Sonic Puppies! Company Youth Theatre wraps up the current season with the comedy Disney’s 101 Dalmatians Kids, May 8-18. Reservations: 858-362-1348. (EL CAJON)

Sleeping Beauty Weaver’s Tales presents hand-puppet show through Saturday, May 17, 11 a.m.; Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2000 Exposition Way. (LA JUNA)

Carnival Rides

Queen Mary’s 101 Dalmatians Kids, May 8-18. Reservations: 858-362-1348. (EL CAJON)

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

Also and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park consists of over 4200 acres of shallow canyons, sandstone rock formations, narrow strips of oak and riparian woodland, and hillsides draped with aromatic sage-scrub vegetation. Subtle visions press against the park’s narrow, boundary, so this “wilderness” is wild only in a relative sense. A grand, loop-tent-mile tour of the park can be fashioned mainly of trails that reach deep into Wood Canyon and travel along its rim, featuring a view of the Pacific Ocean.

You may start at the park’s primary trailhead, a large parking lot alongside the AMWA (Also Water Management Agency) Road, just west of Alaca Parkway, a major road in the city of Laguna Niguel. Adjacent to this lot, the Orange County Natural History Museum offers visitors a modest introduction to the area’s plants, wildlife, and geology.

The saddle trail departing the parking lot takes you swiftly downhill along the wide floodplain of Also Canyon. You follow the shoul-
der of the AMWA access road for about 0.7 mile, then dives on a trail that stays within a short distance of the road. The glimpses you get of weathered outcroppings of 15-million-year-old sandstone on hillsides to the north are intriguing. You ignore too much of that sandstone later at close range.

At 0.4 miles you arrive at a major junction, with restrooms and benches, where the two canyons — Also and Wood — join. Head north on Wood Canyon Trail and you soon spy, on the left, Cave Rock, a series of “wind caves” poking a sandstone ledge. Check out that outcrop, then continue north on the Wood Canyon Trail until, at 2.2 miles, you find and follow the side trail on the left leading to Dripping Cave. This impressive overhang, tucked into a narrow ravine, was the sup-
teted hideout of 19th-century stagecoach and livestock thieves. Holes bored into the cave’s walls once held pegs used to hang supplies, and the black color of the cave’s ceiling is evidence of past campfires.

Retrace your steps for a few paces and veer left on the narrow trail going northeast. You contour across a steep hillside, pass some elaborately sculpted sandstone formations on the far side of a ravine, and drop precariously onto the flat floor of shallow Mathis Canyon. Turn left on the Mathis Canyon Trail and stay right at the next split. A 500-foot, no-nonsense climb atop a narrow ridge ensues. This may be eased by the pauses you take to admire the ever widening views of Wood Canyon — an island of green and gold amid an endless suburban tapestry spreading inland.

At 2.8 miles, the sweady ascent ends as you reach the West Ridge Trail, a wide, graded fire road coming down from Laguna Beach’s “Top of the World” neigh-
bondor. Turn right (north) and enjoy fine views of the sharp gash of Laguna Canyon to the left and the more gentle watershed of Wood Canyon on the right. At 5.2 miles, find and follow the narrow Lynx Trail on the right (very steep in a couple of spots) down a ridge and into upper Wood Canyon.

At the bottom of the Lynx Trail, turn right on the Wood Canyon Trail. Close ahead, veer right on the Oaks Trail, a parallel trail down the canyon for hiking only traffic (if you are on a mountain bike, stay on Wood Canyon Trail). Following a narrow strip of oak woodland along the Oaks Trail, and later the Coyote Run Trail, you reach — after nearly two miles of travel in shady Wood Canyon — Mathis Canyon Trail. Veer left across Wood Canyon’s tiny creek and to hook up with the Wood Canyon Trail again. Continue south to the Also-Wood canyon conflu-
ence, and from there return to the Alaca Parkway trail head the way you came.

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

ALISO AND WOOD CANYONS

Take a comprehensive hiking or mountain-biking tour through Orange County’s Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 75 miles

Hiking or biking length: 10 miles

Difficulty: moderately strenuous

Hiking or biking length:
Distance: 75 miles
Difficulty: moderately strenuous
“Dynamic Diva Millionaire Weekend” Elon Bomani, described as a “self-made millionaire, natural living mentor and inspirational speaker,” speaks and signs books. 619-819-7838. Friday, May 16, 5:30 p.m.; Malcolm X Library, 5140 Market Street. (SOUTHEAST SAN DIEGO)

“English Wills and Probates” June Hanson speaks for England/Wales Interest Class sponsored by British Isles Genealogical Research Association. Nonmembers welcome. 619-583-8352. Wednesday, May 21, 10:30 a.m.; LDS Family History Center, 4195 Camino del Rio South. (MASON VALLEY)

“Evolution in Action: Bugs and Bytes” Richard E. Lenski, professor of microbial ecology at Michigan State University, conducts research exploring genetic mechanisms and ecological processes that underlie evolution. Lenski speaks in Summer Auditorium at SIO (one-half block south of Naga Way). 858-534-3624. Thursday, May 15, 3 p.m.; Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 8602 La Jolla Shores Drive. (LA JOLLA)

“Identification Protection” Learn to take control of your personal information and how not to fall victim to identity theft. 619-278-5724. Thursday, May 15, 11:30 a.m.; San Diego Metropolitan Credit Union, 9212 Balboa Avenue. (KEARNY MESA)


“Jewish Composers/Jewish Music in the 20th Century” UCSD professor Steven Cassedy presents three conversations from the piano for San Diego Jewish Music Festival. Each of Cassedy’s lecture-recitals includes emphasis on music written for piano and include both demonstration and performance at piano. Jerome Kern and George Gershwin are subject on May 20; series concludes with consideration of Ernest Bloch and Darius Milhaud on May 27. 858-362-1348. Tuesday, May 20, 7:30 p.m.; $9-$12. Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, 4126 Executive Drive. (LA JOLLA)

“Parallel Visions” San Diego Museum of Art docent Mary Kay Gardner discusses how the works of painters and photographers have influenced each other over time for North County chapter of SDMA. Free for first-time guests. 619-232-7931. Monday, May 19, 6:30 p.m.; $12-$16. San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado. (MESA)

“Polar Bears of Churchill, Manitoba” Lecture and slide show by world traveler Christa McReynolds for Sierra Club. 619-299-1743. Friday, May 16, 7:30 p.m.; St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, 334 14th Street. (DEL MAR)


“Day in Pompeii” Lecture and slide show by world traveler Christa McReynolds for Sierra Club. 619-299-1743. Friday, May 16, 7:30 p.m.; St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, 334 14th Street. (DEL MAR)
One Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Hellhole Hike A San Diego County Parks docent plans “an invigorating two-hour hike.” Bring sturdy shoes, hat, sunscreen, water. 760-749-5320. Saturday, May 17, 9 a.m., Hellhole Canyon Open Space Preserve, 19324 Santee Lane. (VALLEY CENTER)

Miner’s Loop Trail Naturalist-led walk along trail on north face of Black Mountain Park. See flowers, great views, and learn about historic arsenic mine. Meet in parking-staging area. Wear hiking boots, bring water. 858-484-3219. Saturday, May 17, 9 a.m.; Carmel Valley staging area, Carmel Valley Road (1/4 mile east of intersection with Black Mountain Road). (RANCHO PENASQUITOS)

Native Plant Walk Last native plant walk of season offered by California Native Plant Society. Learn about local native plants from plant and wildlife experts Dave Flintner and Paul Hormick. To reach trailhead: from I-5 drive west on La Jolla Parkway, continue onto Torrey Pines Road (past Prospect), left on Exchange Place, right on Country Club, left on Romero, left on Brodiaea Way, left on Encelia Drive. Park near gate at end of street. 619-501-3789. Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m.; La Jolla Natural Park, Encelia Drive at Brodiaea Way. (LA JOLLA)

San Diego River Walk Join Walkabout adventurers for walk at moderate pace over flat, paved surfaces with views of river. Meet leader Gracie at trolley stop behind Sammy’s. Bring water. 619-231-7463. Sunday, May 18, 4 p.m.; Sammy’s Woodfired Pizza — Mission Valley, 1620 Camino de la Reina, (MISSION VALLEY)

Tree Time Offshoot Tours offers hour-long guided tour highlighting various Balboa Park trees. 619-235-1122. Saturday, May 17, Balboa Park Visitors’ Center, 1549 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

“Brain Show” Hypnotic entertainment by Gerardo Navarro and Elizabeth Cazessüs. 011-52-664-864-8609. Friday, May 16, 8 p.m.; $10. Multiforo ICBC, Avenida Centenario #10151, in Zona Río. (BAJA)

Community Garage Sale Saturday, May 17

Over 150 homes participating!

Don’t miss out!

Community Garage Sale
Saturday, May 17
8 a.m.-4 p.m • Heritage at Otay Ranch

From I-805 take the Telegraph Canyon Road or Olympic Parkway exit and head east. The community is situated between Heritage Road and La Media in Chula Vista. There will be signs to help direct you to the community.

You are invited to join us for the launch party of the (new!) SDReader.com

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tivities, food (for sale). 619-239- 2001. Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m.; Sunday, May 18, 10 a.m.; San Diego Museum of Man, 1530 El Prado. (M 100).PARK)

It’s C-Note Time! Summer “C- Note Event” and sale begins with premiere May 15-17, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. “C-Note Night” is May 17, 5 p.m., when original artwork is available for $100, $200, or $300. Pieces are replaced as they’re sold. 619-236-0011. Thursday, May 15, 10 a.m.; Friday, May 16, 10 a.m.; Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m.; San Diego Art Institute: Museum of the Living Artist, 1439 El Prado. (M 211).

Landmarked Homes of Kensington Tour Step inside five historically designated, conserved homes in the Kensington area, including one by architect Richard Requa. Docents on hand in each home to provide information and directions to next house. Also on tap: lectures by historian Ron V. May of Legacy 106 (11 a.m.) and preservation architect David Marshall (1 p.m.). 858-866-4422. Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m.; Kensington Community Church, 4737 Malborough Drive. (M 194).

LUX at Night Explore artist Julie Heintz’s exhibit and her newly finished work, Self-Portrait as Another Growth, completed while in residence at LUX. Also on offer: music, cocktails, merriment. 760-436-6611. Wednesday, May 21, 7 p.m.; LUX Art Institute, 1550 South El Camino Real. (M 341).

Mad Hatter’s Tea Party Moors UCSD Cancer Center hosts healthy tea high tea and fine art and craft; continued with hills; the Del Sur course open to all cyclists. Three courses up and down hills and coast of North County San Diego. The Del Dos course is 37 miles long, moderate with hills; the Del Sur course is 66 miles long (moderate/difficult); and the Dos Picos course is a 62-mile ride, with hills. Entry fee: $40. Take part in registration: 6 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 17, 7:05 a.m.; 858-354-4006. Monday, May 17, 2:30 p.m.; $50. Ages 21 and up. 615 Camino Del Mar. (M 371).

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**Symphony Exposed**
San Diego Symphony and host Navi Melka focus on Anton Dvořák’s “New World Symphony” for this series. Reservations 619-235-0804. Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street), 7:30 p.m., Thursday, May 15.

**“From the New World” Jacob’s Masterswork series season finale promises San Diego Symphony, conductor Jahja Ling, and guest artists. Horacio Gutierrez (piano) performing Dvořák’s “Symphony No. 9” from the “New World.” Also on tap: Sheng’s “The Nightingale and the Rose” and “Piano Concerto No. 1” by Tchaikovsky. Reservations 619-235-0804. Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street), 8 p.m., Friday, May 16. 6 p.m., Saturday, May 17.

**Organ Concert** Civic organist Carol Williams plans concert in Spreckels Organ Pavilion. 619-702-8138. Spreckles Organ Pavilion (2311 Pan American Road), 7:30 p.m., Sunday, May 18.

**“Pleasure of Your Company”** Violinist Ordway Lovit and local pianist Irina Bendetsky perform for chamber music series. Program features works by Handel, Beethoven, Brahms. Reception follows 8:30 p.m. 838-518-4156. Scripps Miramar Library (10501 Scripps Lake Drive), 2:30 p.m., Sunday, May 18.

**Flamenco Fire** Camarada performs for music series, with Beth Ross-Buckley (flute), Fred Benedetti (guitar), and Gloria Lanauz dancing. Offering 619-297-4366. First United Methodist Church of San Diego (2111 Camino Del Rio South), 4 p.m., Sunday, May 18. 619-232-7978.

**Saturday Sing** Sacred and secular selections promised when handbell and hand-chime performers entertain. 858-273-1480. St. Mark’s Episcopal Church (4227 Fairmount Avenue), 6:30 p.m., Sunday, May 18. 619-232-7978.

**By the Great Harry!** La Jolla Renaissance Singers re-create music, sacred and secular, composed by and about Henry VIII. Program includes “Mass for Four Voices” by Thomas Tallis. 760-224-8223. St. Mary’s Star of the Sea Church (609 Pier View Way), 3 p.m., Sunday, May 18. 760-224-8223.

**Concert for a Cure** Music by Gerald Finzi, Ralph Van Wart, and others may be heard when Sergeant Paul Beaudieu (baritone) is accompanied by Sheldon Rosenbaum in concert benefiting the Palomar Medical Cancerski. Donation 760-753-1026. Bethlehem Lutheran Church (925 Balboa Drive), 7:30 p.m., Sunday, May 18.

**Mozart!** Cheryllyn Latino (soprano), Jodi Marcia (soprano), Aleksandr Argamzin (tenor), William Nolan (baritone), and Ruth Lopez-Yanes (piano) perform for California Foundation for International Global Arts. Reception at 4:30 p.m., concert at 5 p.m., tickets 619-316-1963. (San Diego Mission). 760-753-1026. 1306 S. Mission Valley Ave, San Diego, CA 92113.

**Seshadri’s Students** Students of USC masterclass teacher Seshadri Ramadorai’s three conversations from UCSD professor Steven Cassedy presents three conversations from the piano for San Diego Jewish Music Festival. Each of Cassedy’s lecture-recitals includes emphasis on music written for piano and includes both demonstration and performance at piano. Jerome Kern and George Gershwin are subject on May 20, series concludes with presentation of Ernest Bloch and Darius Milhaud on May 27.

**Dresser’s Bass Students** in Recital Conversations at UCSD “show why their big instrument is meant for bigger, better things than in the old days of jazz and classical music.” 858-534-3229. Mandeville Recital Hall at UCSD (9500 Gilman Drive), 8 p.m., Wednesday, May 21.

**Gregorian Chant Workshop**
An introduction to sung prayer Saturday May 17 2008
St. Margaret’s Catholic Church 4300 Ocean Side Blvd. Oceanside, CA 92056 760.941.5560 Workshop led by Mary Ann Carr Wilson and Fr. Stephens Pedrano, O.S.B.

### Art Galleries

**“Surroundings”** Opening reception for collection of new artwork by Nicole Straub, David Rudolph, and Jenny Wundt. Each artist approaches their surroundings through different mediums and techniques to create a unified statement about time, place, and environment.

**“S” from San Francisco”** Opening reception for Alan Diparte, Nanda Palmieri, Michael Garvich, Anthony Record, and Amy Wilson Faville. Exhibition of all new work may be seen through Saturday, June 21. 858-459-3917. R.B. Stevenson Gallery (7661 Girard Avenue, Suite 201) 5 p.m., Friday, May 16.

It’s a C-Note Time! Summer “C-Note Event” and sale. Original artwork is available for $100, $200, or $300; pieces are replaced as they’re sold. Through May 619-236-0011.

**“The World at Large/Love Without Borders”** Exhibition opens with reception for more than 18 artists; proceeds benefit International Humanity Foundation helping “kids on the fringes.” 619-267-9126.

**“Coastal Color”** Reception for more than 40 works of art by members of San Diego Art Guild, exhibiting works in varied styles available at 609-633-2600. Center City Art Gallery (305 South Volunteer Avenue), 2 p.m., Saturday, May 17.

**What’s a “Molecular Artist”?** Opening reception for exhibit of original pieces and giclees by Paul Dollahs, described as a “California surf and molecular artist.” 858-372-7760.

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Art of Play: Kinetic Toys of the World — closing Sunday, June 29 — features objects that move when manipulated. See kites from many countries, pull-and-push toys, antique mechanical banks, puppets, wooden toys, 155 West Grand Avenue, 760-735-3335. (OCEONDI)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown “Maya Lin: Systematic Landscapes” features recent sculptures, drawings, large-scale installations exploring “landscape as both form and content, as well as the role technology plays in visualizing and transforming our world.” Exhibitions centers on three large-scale installations; each puts viewers into a “distinctive relationship to the scale and shape of the land.” Also featured are a series of sculptures based on water volumes of inland seas, large drawings of landscapes and river shelves, and images of Lin’s recent earthworks and architectural projects. Through June. “Cerca Series: Nina Katchadourian” and “Cerca Series: Joshua Mosley” presents video works created in the past three years. Katchadourian exhibits the multichannel works “Accent Elimination” (2005) and “Zool” (2007). Mosley’s mixed-media installation combines computer animation, stop-motion animation, digital sound, sculpture, the artist’s music and dialogue. On view through Sunday, July 6. Find the museum directly across from the Santa Fe Railroad Depot. 1001 Kettner Boulevard, 858-454-3541. (MCMOD)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla Selections from “Skeet McAuley: The Garden of Golf” showcases six large-scale photographic works ranging in date from mid-19th to early 20th Century closes Sunday, July 6.

In “Humanitas-Images of India by Fredrick Roberts,” the artist pictures people in India, Myanmar, Cambodia, Bhutan, Thailand, China as they go about their lives, selling water or herding camels. Through Sunday, September 7. 1649 El Prado, 619-238-7539. (ZONDA)

Ocean Side Museum of Art "Masterpieces of San Diego Painting: Fifty Works from Fifty Years, 1900-1950" focuses on "museum's masterworks and their relationship to the city of San Diego through time. Also included: Geometric Self-Portraits, an installation utilizing medical-imaging technologies to depict his own body from the inside out; and Heads and Nudes, a work. Through Sunday, June 22. 704 Pier View Way, 760-721-2787. (OCEONDI)

San Diego Museum of Art "Rhythms of India: The Art of Nandalal Bose (1882-1966)” is described as the “first comprehensive traveling exhibition outside of Asia to survey the expansive repertoire of Bose… the father of modern art in India.” Exhibit boasts close to 100 of Bose’s finest paintings, executed in variety of styles and media, revealing how Bose contributed to success of India’s nonviolent struggle for independence from colonial rule through his association with Mahatma Gandhi. Closes Sunday, May 18. "Inside the Wave: Six San Diego/Tijuana Artists Construct Social Art,” 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. Audio bubbly, Adrian F. Duke, Adrienne Jenik, particle group, Zlatan Vukosavljevic, and Allison Weiss produce works including sculptures made of found industrial objects, photographs, documentary videos, and interactive digital media. 1450 El Prado, 619-232-7931. (BALDO)

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

Mingei International Museum—North County More than 50 items are included in “Artful Armadillos,” on display through Sunday, September 7. The pieces are created from materials including wood, ceramics, metal, and shells, from collection of Kata Rina Reel-Cate.

"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 collection began with first- and second-generation Japanese-Americans who continued traditions of bonsai and raku. The “Chinese Woodblock Prints in the Style of the Ten Bamboo Studio” are likely from a 19th-Century edition of Treatise on Calligraphy and Painting of the Ten Bamboo Studio. Prints are noteworthy for technique of printing using multiple blocks. Both exhibits are ongoing.

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

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

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

The only showing on the West Coast!

Tickets are on sale now online www.xdmnm.org, at the Museum or by phone: 877-946-7777.

A DAY IN POMPEII

FEBRUARY 15 THROUGH JUNE 15
the inside track

people arrested in SDSU’s federal drug sting. Lomack was charged with selling cocaine and having marijuana plants and ecstasy in his home. “He got a lot of charges dismissed,” says DeLeague singer/rapper Dune Murderous. “The bail was $253,000; now it’s down to $35,000… The raid happened at the house in Clairemont that we all used to live at.”

Defamation League was scheduled to play tomorrow at UCSO’s annual Sun God Festival. “I’m confident they are not playing it now,” says a person close to the band. “Chas needs to get his legal issues taken care of before they play any more shows.” Lomack was bailed out of jail and released last Saturday. — Ken Leighton

Megan John Mayer May 25
Megadeth June 1
The Cure June 3
Brad Paisley June 5
Death Cab for Cutie June 19
311/Snoop Dogg June 27
Marco Antonio Solis June 27
David Sedaris June 30
Robert Plant & Alison Krauss June 30
American Idol Live July 7
Toby Keith July 11
Mexico vs. Argentina June 14

The Police May 26

George Michael June 17

Gene Simmons, What Happened?

Wondering what a case would cost.

One person had a Simmons mask; others had posters, albums, and CDs.

When Simmons arrived, a bunch of blonde women exited his Hummer limo. A spokesman yelled into a bullhorn. “If anyone wants to go into the limo with Gene before this starts, you can buy a case of Frank’s.” The can cost me $2.68. I was waiting for his first appearance on College Avenue. Everyone was told, “If you don’t buy a can of Frank’s, Gene will just say hi to you. If you want his autograph, buy some cans of Frank’s.”

A few people brought guitars to have signed (no basses…one was acoustic).

He said Simmons took the guitar out of its case, played it, and asked if it was for him. It wasn’t. Greg asked Simmons if he’d like to invest in his company, Rock Star Guitars. Simmons told him, “I’m a receiver, not a giver.”

After a few minutes of small talk, Simmons asked Greg if he wanted him to sign the guitar. Greg said no and started to leave. Simmons then invited him to a party to be held later that night, saying, “Don’t bring a woman with you. You’ll be in the VIP area with me.”

When Greg got out of the car and photos were taken, the spokesman for Frank’s told him he wouldn’t be getting a VIP ticket. A woman in front of me got Simmons’s autograph. He looked at her chest and said, “Wow, those are nice.” I walked up and told Simmons, “I loved the movie Runaway. You should do more films.” He said, “I will be. Tonight, back at the hotel.”

I asked him to sign a CD and then I said, “My mom is insane. She insists you sign this.”

Simmons said, “What’s your mom’s name?”

“Judi.”

“Oh, yeah, yeah,” he smiled and said, “I remember her.”

— Josh Board

Cult Bandleader on the Roof “We played on the rooftop of the venue,” says local ’70s cult bandleader Gary Wilson of an April 26 gig at Sunset Boulevard’s Eighteen-Thirty club. “We went on about 12:45 a.m. I’m surprised the cops didn’t stop us, but that’s good.”

Wilson’s return to the spotlight comes over 30 years after the release of his best-known record, 1977’s You Think You Really Know Me. “‘After going over my request for comment. Jennifer Perkins, who handles promotions for Gringos, did not return a

On a Kick Gringos Cantina in Pacific Beach advertised a Cinco de Mayo party for weeks; the restaurant intended to hold it in their parking lot — very close to the beach — on Saturday, May 3. Because they held a similar event last year, bar management proceeded with contracting for fencing, a stage, and a FA system in order to host local reggae band High Tide. Two days before the party, the police department said it wouldn’t be happening.

Greg Wilson and Some Girlfriends

Roots, and Questlove. A documentary film (You Think You Really Know Me: The Gary Wilson Story) hits DVD in June, with a release party planned for the Knitting Factory in NYC. Wilson’s new CD, Lisa Wants to Talk to You, comes out July 15.

“It’s all new material,” he says, “recorded in my home studio…no computer.”

Rarely seen live and almost never photographed without masks of plastic and duct tape, Wilson still works the night shift at a local adult bookstore. Asked about the recent media attention, he recalls his equally eccentric and reclusive mentor, John Cage. “After going over my

GARY WILSON AND SOME GIRLFiENDS

On a Kick—Jay Allen Sanford

MUSIC SCENE

Gary Wilson, known record, 1977’s based Cry Baby Records. Copies of the original LP editions sell online for $200 and up.

Now considered an indie-punk pioneer, Wilson’s followers and fans include Beck (who mentions his name in “Where It’s At”), Thievery Corporation, and up.

Copies of the original LP editions sell online for $200 and up.

Now considered an indie-punk pioneer, Wilson’s followers and fans include Beck (who mentions his name in “Where It’s At”), the scores and talking with Mr. Cage about my ideas, he looked me in the eye and said, “Gary, I wasn’t able to afford to live off of my music till I was 50 years old. I think the same will happen to you.”

He was right.” — Jay Allen Sanford

On a Kick — Jay Allen Sanford

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“Really Know Me.”

Gary Wilson, known record, 1977’s based Cry Baby Records. Copies of the original LP editions sell online for $200 and up.

Now considered an indie-punk pioneer, Wilson’s followers and fans include Beck (who mentions his name in “Where It’s At”), the scores and talking with Mr. Cage about my ideas, he looked me in the eye and said, “Gary, I wasn’t able to afford to live off of my music till I was 50 years old. I think the same will happen to you.”

He was right.” — Jay Allen Sanford

On a Kick — Jay Allen Sanford

Gringos Cantina in Pacific Beach advertised a Cinco de Mayo party for weeks; the restaurant intended to hold it in their parking lot — very close to the beach — on Saturday, May 3. Because they held a similar event last year, bar management proceeded with contracting for fencing, a stage, and a FA system in order to host local reggae band High Tide. Two days before the party, the police department said it wouldn’t be happening.

Greg Wilson and Some Girlfriends

Roots, and Questlove. A documentary film (You Think You Really Know Me: The Gary Wilson Story) hits DVD in June, with a release party planned for the Knitting Factory in NYC. Wilson’s new CD, Lisa Wants to Talk to You, comes out July 15.

“It’s all new material,” he says, “recorded in my home studio…no computer.”

Rarely seen live and almost never photographed without masks of plastic and duct tape, Wilson still works the night shift at a local adult bookstore. Asked about the recent media attention, he recalls his equally eccentric and reclusive mentor, John Cage.

“After going over my
High Tide manager Chris Behar says, “They had this exact same event last year. It’s right across the street from the 710 Club, so it’s a pretty rowdy neighborhood to begin with. But the city is on a kick to really crack down on anything alcohol-related on the beach.”

“Since the beach booze ban took effect in January, High Tide bass player Chris Murray was cited for having an open Heineken on the beach (he paid the $250 fine). The band subsequently recorded “Ban the Ban,” and last week they released it on iTunes. The band broke up when Salas moved to L.A. Since then he’s worked as guitarist/musical director for Terence Trent D’Arby and Soul II Soul lead singer Lamya. The Lamya gig drew three finalists. “For some reason they missed Daughtry, he said, ‘I love that kid,’ so I got him to come up to audition.”

Salas says other guitarists trying out included musicians who had played in Everlast and Suicidal Tendencies. They were all told to play their version of Zeppelin’s “D’yer Mak’er.”

“So Josh shows up barefoot, with his guitar but no pick. He plays this hippie Grateful Dead stoner music. It was not Josh’s best moment…. I pulled Chris [Daughtry] aside, and I told him Josh is kind of weird and different but he’s cool. I didn’t tell him he was my friend from Carlsbad.”

Salas says because Daughtry warmed up to Steely, Steely was asked back the next day as one of the three finalists. “I told him, ‘You gotta play it Midwest rock style.’ He came back the next day with his guns loaded; he wore shoes and he didn’t bring his piece-of-shit Japanese guitar.”

But then Salas got a call from 19 Entertainment’s point of view. “He called up and said, ‘Your fucking friend is 37 years old,’ click. I was told to only have people between 22 and 26 audition. Josh looks 25, but he was 37 at the time. One guy was kicked out because he lied about his age. Stirling told him, ‘I hate liars. Pack your shit and leave.’”

“You know we are live on the radio on KGB-FM 101.5, which makes it even more important that you sing and show all the folks out there what they missed.” The ensuing cheers peaked the volume meters into distortion.

“After the approximately one-hour set, Roxy operators were reportedly dismayed to find graffiti on the theater’s walls that included Marilyn Monroe and W.C. Fields. A brief article in the San Diego Union didn’t specify the nature of the messages, other than to say they were “amorous.””

“Sting tells the crowd, “Nice to be in San Diego. I thought it would be warm. It’s too cold for us.” Near the end of the night, during “Roxanne,” he announces, “You know we are live on the radio on KGB-FM 101.5, which makes it even more important that you sing and show all the folks out there what they missed.” The ensuing cheers peg the volume meters into distortion.

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“All of the five musicians backing Jordin Sparks last week, three are locals, including Salas, drummer Mike Bedard, and bassist Jara Harris.”

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**Thursday 15**

"Like a robot making love to a tree," says odd-pop duo Ghostland Observatory about dousing dance-y funk jams with electronica and pop hooks. But the pair’s known more for their unusual pose in their boy-girl band ghostly haunts House of Blues tonight and the L.A.-born Austin named ‘em band of the year last year. Projected Space hits from ’88 Traity Moped disc Robotique Magistique or have a look at debut DVD Live from Austin, TX, an Austin City Limits performance, for a prevue.

**Friday 16**

The legal team of Santos, Sanfillipo, & Ware re-lives their ’90 heyday as alterna-rock outfit Lucy’s Fur Coat (“Treasure Hands!”) this weekend. The local might’ve been nappar at Casbah Friday and Saturday nights. Santos’s Coolest Band in America opens Friday. Thin Man on Saturday. Both nights’ve been sold… Left more live love round town, though: Soul sister Pattie Austin arrives at Anthology for two nights. The singer won a Grammy this year for hit jazz disc Avant Gorshwn: The Harlem songstress first hit the stage at the Apollo in 1952 at age four. The Grammy is her first… Qualcomm opens up the yard for a “Concert on the Green,” featuring radio hits Offspring, Pennywise, and Jimmy Eat World… Rapper Flo Rida of Opa-locka, holeared, delivers Mal at Sunday to 4AM… Long Beach punks I Am Ghost will animate at Soma with a long list of like bands… Tyler, TX, boy-girl band Eisley plays pop at House of Blues. Last year’s Combinations suggests the babies are teething… The “official” Eisley afterparty at Beauty Bar with electronic trio BoyOK (A.J.) and Aerodrome (Bureau, OR… Miami madmen Blowfly link up the Zombie with Antisex and Homeless Sexuals… Price of Dope players Pocket groove Whistle Stop… And it’s Josh Tree times three, as Barnett and Chris host their annual high desert hijinks Friday through Sunday. Check Web address joshtreemusicfestival.com for performances and particulars.

**Saturday 17**

Gift of Gab and Chief Xcel are Blackalicious, a back Bay hip-hop duo that helped put Oakland on the rap map. Check out last year’s vid 4/20 Live in Seattle (get the down low on the duo). Ingleside’s indie MC Pigeon John kicks off the Belly Up bill and DJ Car Gar spins round sets… LA’s party band The Dawn’s new hit disc Perfect World spins a set with local Johnny Cash kid Cash’d Out and barroom rockers Dirty Sweet at Mama’s Point on the beach… Prepare for Inhaste’s new disc, a disc of melody-rich sunshine pop — a departure from their usual sardonic… Jazzal Jesse Davis will croon till you swoon at the Manhattan in La Jolla’s Empress Hotel. And check it in gohands.com Saturday mornings to hear the 50 institution spin from his eclectic collection… Hard-rocking hometowners Long and Short of It launch Flight of the Mallard at the Pink Elephant… Copenhagen experimentalists Efterlång and Starfallen(|JO|) join forces at Casbah for the Danish Dynamite Tour…

**Sunday 18**

“Summer of ’69” is long gone, but 48-year-old Canuck Bryan Adams will bring it back to a crowded Belly Up during a solo set in support of his eleventh disc, 77 (!), which dropped last month — “Customers who bought this also bought Whitesnake, Madonna, Asia.” Ouch. Your broker’s got the proxey book on this one, as this “very special evening” has sold out… UK indie kids the Kooks will visit House of Blues behind their Virgin Records vinyl record Kink. Berkeley pop punks Morning Benders open. The Benders’ debut falling through ‘N Canc smacks of Paul Simon’s good year a little bit. Woulda been a good show to see if IT WASN’T SOLD OUT… Good thing Motor City garage greats the Dirtbombs will be kicking it up at Casbah. Go get We Have You Surrounded glued in yer carousel, like, now, and book a sitter — the Terrible Twos and Dan Sartain share the Middletown stage. Pant Hoots play Mal… Leela live punk rock at Ch Café. The campus collective’s staging Brit bad boys Leatherface up hip, with Paint It Black. Dead to the Last, Lossy Life, and Northern Towns in support.

**Monday 19**

The Kills’ new hit disc Midnight Bloom is out on Domino. It’s no No Wow, but go see Richard Ashcroft and barroom rockers the Violent Femmes at Sartain Friday, and the band of the year last year. The legal team of Santos, Sanfillipo, & Ware re-lives their ’90 heyday as alterna-rock outfit Lucy’s Fur Coat (“Treasure Hands!”) this weekend. The local might’ve been nappar at Casbah Friday and Saturday nights. Santos’s Coolest Band in America opens Friday. Thin Man on Saturday. Both nights’ve been sold… Left more live love round town, though: Soul sister Pattie Austin arrives at Anthology for two nights. The singer won a Grammy this year for hit jazz disc Avant Gorshwn: The Harlem songstress first hit the stage at the Apollo in 1952 at age four. The Grammy is her first… Qualcomm opens up the yard for a “Concert on the Green,” featuring radio hits Offspring, Pennywise, and Jimmy Eat World… Rapper Flo Rida of Opa-locka, holeared, delivers Mal at Sunday to 4AM… Long Beach punks I Am Ghost will animate at Soma with a long list of like bands… Tyler, TX, boy-girl band Eisley plays pop at House of Blues. Last year’s Combinations suggests the babies are teething… The “official” Eisley afterparty at Beauty Bar with electronic trio BoyOK (A.J.) and Aerodrome (Bureau, OR… Miami madmen Blowfly link up the Zombie with Antisex and Homeless Sexuals… Price of Dope players Pocket groove Whistle Stop… And it’s Josh Tree times three, as Barnett and Chris host their annual high desert hijinks Friday through Sunday. Check Web address joshtreemusicfestival.com for performances and particulars.

**Wednesday 21**

As the quietest crew to ever come out West Hollywood, it’s weird to say the Radar Bros. have mellowed since their eponymous debut Singing Hatcher (1999), but there it is. Stiltland, Jim Munum pens pretty thought-pop that holds your attention. (“Musical ketchup?”) The trio’s out to bust this year’s Floyd-y orbit-rock Auditorium. The Radar roll into Casbah with L.A. acoustiic Aaron Kyle, aka the Switch. Quebecois punks CPC Gangbangs shared a bill with John Reis’s Night Marchers in Boston a couple weeks back. Reis musta dug their din because the Canadian crew’s hollering it all to his Pink Elephant Wednesday night. Their Space samples four-on-the-floor scrape and thump with blown haunt vox. Rocket from the Great White North? — Ramatul Mook

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“I actually buy them as opposed to pirating them like everybody else. I don’t pirate.”

Cory Oliver lives in Pacific Beach and attends High Tech High Media Arts in Point Loma. He is 16 and plays guitar in Oden’s Fist, a band he formed with school friends a few months ago. They are a metal band and have thus far played at a few school functions.

Oliver owns an iPod Touch. “I definitely listen to it every day. I listen for about 15 minutes in the morning on my way to school and then again after school. They cost about $200.” His is an eight-gig model. “It doesn’t have a camera or phone capability.” He says he has owned it since December. “I painted my grandma’s fence. I got $300 bucks for that. I said, ‘I’m gonna have to buy myself a new iPod.’ ”

Oliver demonstrates how it works. “Here’s the album that’s currently playing.” He points to the video display, which is currently displaying a picture of an album cover. “You flip it sideways as he does, the album art animates as if the album cover is opening, and you can see all the track listings.”

He has previously owned an iPod Nano and a Zune. Of the Zune, he says that it “wasn’t really user friendly.”

Downloads: “I actually buy them as opposed to pirating them like everybody else. I don’t pirate because as a musician and an artist, I believe in artist integrity. You can download someone’s music for free, but where would that get both of you?”

It gets you free music, I say.

“Yes, it gets you free music, but there are inherent risks, like, people could attach viruses to songs that can screw up your computer. And usually you won’t get the best sound quality as if you were downloading from the source.”

Preferences? “I listen to a lot of stuff,” Oliver writes in an email, “a lot of metal (power metal, nu-metal, alternative, grunge, hardcore, industrial, metalcore), techno, trance, electro, ambient, EBM, trip-hop, power noise, rock, screamo, emo — those are the terms, I guess. A lot of stuff.”

Oliver later tells me that his favorite genre is metalcore. “It’s a mix of hardcore metal, but there’s a lot more rhythm and a lot more harmonics.” He asks for the names of some of his favorite bands. “All That Remains, August Burns Red, Parkway Drive. One of the most prominent things about metalcore songs is their lyrics. Their songs tell stories, and their lyrics have meaning. Not like old metal. How metal started out, how it used to be in the ‘80s and ‘90s, was, like, soundtracks for B-grade slashers — not that I minded it. But metalcore has a way more set tempo.”

Oliver says he found metalcore in the tenth grade. “I was 15. My friend Justin got me into strictly hardcore bands. I thought, ‘This is really cool. If I had to listen to just one genre for the rest of my life, this is the music I would listen to.’ ”

I ask if his life would be harder without the iPod. “To be honest, I could live without it. I didn’t really learn about this stuff until I got older, so I haven’t exactly based my life around it. I asked my friend that same question — ‘If you didn’t have your iPod, what would you do?’ She said it’d be the end of the world. I said, ‘It’s just an iPod.’ ”

“Music is my life. I don’t think I could live without that, but I could live without my iPod. I know people who listen 24-7. They never take their earbuds out.”

Top Ten on Cory Oliver’s iPod Touch:
1. All That Remains, “We Stand”
2. August Burns Red, “Composure”
3. Parkway Drive, “Romance Is Dead”
5. Sabrepulse, “Horizons” (remix)
7. Lostprophets, “Rooftops”
8. 2Times Terror, “Forever Mine”
10. Aphex Twin, “Avril 14th”
2 dinners at Humphreys Restaurant and one suite, junior suite

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THURSDAY, MAY 15

JAMES BROWN
SATURDAY, MAY 17

CRAIG FERGUSON
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
RANDY KAGAN
FRIDAY, MAY 30

JULIET RICHARDSON
FRIDAY, JUNE 6

KEM
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
N'DAMBI
THURSDAY, JUNE 12

JONNY LANG
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
DAVE BARNES
FRIDAY, JUNE 13

WANDA SYKES
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
KEITH ROBINSON
SATURDAY, JUNE 14

KEM
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
N'DAMBI
THURSDAY, JUNE 12

JONNY LANG
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
DAVE BARNS
SATURDAY, JUNE 14

CROSBY, STILLS & NASH
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

KEB' MO' TA MAHAL
THURSDAY, JUNE 19

INDIGO GIRLS
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
BRANDI CARLILE
FRIDAY, JUNE 20

IDINA MENZEL
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
MARTIN JOHNSON
FRIDAY, JUNE 27

ONE HAWAII TOUR
FEATURING KEALI'I REICHEL,
NA LEO & AUGIE T.
FRIDAY, JULY 2

JASON MRAZ
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
SUSAN TAYLOR
FRIDAY, JULY 17

TIM REYNOLDS
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
STEVE ZIMA
SATURDAY, JULY 18

TONIGHT!
JUNE 26 & 27 • 7:00

TREVOR NOVAK
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
SHELBY ANDERSON
FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

MAY
Thursday, May 15 • 8:00
JESSE COOK
Friday, May 30 • 8:00
CRAIG FERGUSON
with special guest
RANDY KAGAN
JUNE
Saturday, June 7 • 7:30
BEACH BOYS
with special guest
RUSSELL T. NAIZ
Tuesday, June 10 • 7:00
ERYKAH BADU/ THE ROOTS
Thursday, June 12 • 8:00
KEM
with special guest
N'DAMBI
Friday, June 13 • 7:30
JONNY LANG
with special guest
DAVE BARNS
Saturday, June 14 • 8:00
WANDA SYKES
with special guest
KEITH ROBINSON
Tuesday, June 16 • 8:00
CROSBY, STILLS & NASH
Wednesday, June 18 • 7:00
KEB’ MO’ TA MAHAL
Thursday, June 19 • 7:30
INDIGO GIRLS
with special guest
BRANDI CARLILE
Friday, June 20 • 7:30
IDINA MENZEL
with special guest
MARTIN JOHNSON
Friday, June 27 • 7:30
ONE HAWAII TOUR
featuring Keali’i Reichel,
Na Leo & Augie T.
Friday, July 2 • 7:00
JASON MRAZ
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
SUSAN TAYLOR
Friday, July 17 • 8:00
TIM REYNOLDS
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
STEVE ZIMA
Saturday, July 18 • 8:00
TONIGHT!
JUNE 26 & 27 • 7:00

JESSE COOK
THURSDAY, MAY 15

CRAIG FERGUSON
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
RANDY KAGAN
FRIDAY, MAY 30

JULY
Tuesday & Wednesday
July 1 & 2 • 6:00
BOB WEIR & RODG/ GOV'T MULE
Sunday, July 13 • 8:00
TOM JONES
Wednesday, July 16 • 7:30
CHRIS ISAAK
with special guest
Nicole Atkins
Thursday & Friday
July 17 & 18 • 8:00
HIPPIEFEST: A CONCERT FOR PEACE & LOVE
with Jack Bruce of Cream, Eric Burdon & The Animals, The Turtles featuring Flo & Eddie, Melanie, Badfinger featuring Joey Molland and Jonathan Edwards
Sunday, July 20 • 6:30 & 9:00
GEORGE CARLIN
Tuesday, July 22 • 8:00
FEIST
Wednesday, July 23 • 7:30
DOOBIE BROTHERS
Friday, July 25 • 8:00
FRANKIE VALLI & THE FOUR SEASONS
Sunday, July 27 • 7:30
RINGO STARR & HIS ALL STARR BAND
featuring
Colin Hay, Billy Squier, Hamish Stuart, Edgar Winter, Gary Wright & Gregg Bissonette
Monday, July 28 • 7:00
DEREK TRUCKS & SPUTAN TESCHI
SOLD OUT
Soul Stew Revival
with special guest
Scrapomatic
Wednesday, July 30 • 8:00
DANA CARVEY
Thursday, July 31 • 7:30
EMMYLOU HARRIS
with special guest
Jimmy Gaudreau and Moondi Klein
August
Friday, August 1 • 8:00
DOLLY PARTON
SOLD OUT
Sunday, August 3 • 7:30
PAT BENATAR & NEIL GERALDO
Friday, August 8 • 7:30
HUEY LEWIS & THE NEWS
Wednesday, August 13 • 8:00
BRYAN ADAMS
with special guest
Brenden Foster & the Band
Thursday, August 14 • 8:00
JOE COCKER
Friday, August 15 • 8:00
TOWER OF POWER
Monday, August 18 • 8:00
GIPSY KINGS
Tuesday, August 19 • 7:30
STEVE WINWOOD
Sunday, August 24 • 8:00
BILL MAHER
Tuesday, August 26 • 7:30
LUCINDA WILLIAMS
SEPTEMBER
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
ALAN PARSONS
LIVE PROJECT
SAT., SEPTEMBER 13 • 7:00
AIR SUPPLY
with special solo performance by
Graham Russell/ CHRISTOPHER CROSS
THURS., SEPTEMBER 25 • 8:00
KENNY G
SUN., SEPTEMBER 28 • 8:00
ETTA JAMES & THE ROOTS BAND
OCTOBER
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3 • 7:30
AMERICA
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5 • 7:30
CECILIO & KAPONO
FRIDAY & SATURDAY
OCTOBER 10 & 11 • 7:00
RUSSELL PETERS & FRIENDS
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19 • 7:30
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Sunday, 2 p.m.—The Kingston Trio. Enjoy songs such as “Tom Dooley” and “MTA.” $37.55.

**Birch Aquarium at Scripps:** 2300 Expedition Way, La Jolla, 619-534-4109.

Wednesday, 6 p.m.—Green Flash Concert Series. DJ mix, open series with rock music with “Reggae Latin rhythms.” Tickets include concert, aquarium viewing, food for sale from Rock Bottom Restaurant and Brewery. $90 for entire season. Reservations: 858-534-4109. $20-$25. Ages 21 and up. The Bitter End: 720 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-388-9300.

Thursday, 9 p.m. — Riversego, Eclipse 79, the Lost.}

Sunday, 9 p.m.—Jesse LaMonaca and Sven-Erik Saltholm. With Jesse Norsen. Alternative/electronic/soul.

Tuesday, 10 p.m. — Dust N’ Bones. A tribute to Guns N’ Roses.

**BlueFire Grill:** 2100 Costa del Mar Road, Carlsbad, 800-854-5000.

Thursday, 6 p.m.—Adrian Nims & Spirit Wind. Contemporary jazz/global music.

**Brick by Brick:** 1130 Burns Avenue, Clairemont, 619-275-LIVE.

Thursday — Action Andy & Hu Haunted Henky Tonkers. With Bobby Sanchez Combo and Jimmy Dean & the Sausage Kings.

Country/rock.

Friday — South. Indie rock/acoustic.

Saturday, 8 p.m. — My Middle Finger. FM Revolver, Hydrosive. With Bed of Nails and Sierra Leone. Metal/hard rock. $10.

Sunday, 8 p.m.—Sweet Joyce Ann and Mary Dolan. Acoustic/folk. 88 Tuesday, 8 p.m. — Arm the Angels, Paper Mache, Mary. With Broke City. Alternative rock. $10.

Wednesday, 8 p.m. — The John Corbett Band. Country. $15.

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

Friday, 7 p.m., Saturdays, 7 p.m.—The Sandy Claptrap Quartet. With Burnett Anderson, Robert Sebastian, and Hank Young. Standards/jazz/blues.

Sundays, 7:30 p.m. — Burnett’s Bliss. With Robert Sebastian and Scott Wallingham. Jazz/standards/blues.

**Gaston Swimming Club:** 726 46th Street, Pacific Beach, 619-235-3000 x405.

Tuesday, 6 p.m. — Willovealot. Jazz.

**Gaslamp:** 4550 Mission Street, Normal Heights, 619-595-0300.

**Beach Grass Café:** 1130 Buenos Aires, La Jolla, 619-388-4140.

Thursday, 9 p.m. — Blackout Party. Bluegrass/country/rock. $6.

Friday, 9 p.m. — Goldfish and (Society) Coverstandards/bank.


Monday, 8 p.m. — Murder by Death, Doss, Gasoline Heart. Indie/rock/acoustic. $10-$12.

Tuesday, 8 p.m. — The Proclaimers.

Wednesday, 8 p.m. — Soul Serenade. With Steph Johnson, Ernest Luis, and Jimmy Patton. Jazz/standards/jazz/blues. $10-$12.

**Birch Aquarium at Scripps:** 2300 Expedition Way, La Jolla, 619-534-4109.

Wednesday, 6 p.m.—Green Flash Concert Series. DJ mix, open series with rock music with “Reggae Latin rhythms.” Tickets include concert, aquarium viewing, food for sale from Rock Bottom Restaurant and Brewery. $90 for entire season. Reservations: 858-534-4109. $20-$25. Ages 21 and up. The Bitter End: 720 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-388-9300.

Thursday, 9 p.m. — Riversego, Eclipse 79, the Lost.

Friday, 7:30 p.m. — Brian Lynch. Jazz. $12-$35.

Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. — The Midnight Ramblers. A Rolling Stones tribute. $10.

Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. — Busie Ledet & the Zydeco Playboys. Zydeco/blues. $12-$24.

**Athenaeum Music and Arts Library:** 1010 Wall Street, La Jolla, 858-454-5872.

Monday, noon — Reggae for Lunch. Shame and Scandal take stage for Athenaeum’s mini-concert series.

**Ave Playhouse:** 830 Main Street, Vista, 760-724-2110.

Sunday, 7 p.m. — Sunday, 8 p.m. — “Memories.” Great American music by famous groups of the ’30s and ’40s. Performers include the Harmonettes, Sheryl Goodman, Lisa Hightower and Maureen Fleming, and Tim Gill Orchestra.

**Balboa Theatre:** 854 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-570-1100.

Sunday, 7 p.m. — Sunday, 8 p.m. — “Rhythm.” Great American music by famous groups of the ’30s and ’40s. Performers include the Harmonettes, Sheryl Goodman, Lisa Hightower and Maureen Fleming, and Tim Gill Orchestra.

**Barbados:** 4650 Manchester Street, Normal Heights, 619-381-8176.

Saturday, 7:30 p.m. — Prince DuBate.

American Legion Post 310: 465 47th Street, Southeast San Diego, 619-264-1919.

Sunday, 6 p.m. — Will0akrest. Jazz.

**Anthology:** 1337 India Street, Little Italy, 619-595-0300.

Friday, 7:30 p.m. — Saturday, 7:30 p.m. — Patti Austin. R&B. $13-$19.

**Antojitos:** 1319 India Street, Little Italy, 619-595-0300.

Saturday, 7:30 p.m. — Prince DuBate.

**Arista:** 143 South 84th Street, Southeast San Diego, 619-226-4035.

Sunday, 7:30 p.m. — Will0akrest. Jazz.

**Antology:** 1319 India Street, Little Italy, 619-595-0300.

Saturday, 7:30 p.m. — Prince DuBate.

**Arista:** 143 South 84th Street, Southeast San Diego, 619-226-4035.

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Saturday, 7:30 p.m. — Prince DuBate.

**Antology:** 1319 India Street, Little Italy, 619-595-0300.

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Saturday, 7:30 p.m. — Prince DuBate.
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Sunday, May 15:
9 a.m. — The Dirtbombs, Dan Sartain, the Terrible Two.
Monday, 9 a.m. — The Kills, Child Ballads, Early Jones.
Tuesday, 9 a.m. — Destroyer and Devon Williams. Pop rock:
$12.
Wednesday, 9 a.m. — The Radar Brothers and Le Switch. Indie rock:
$10.
Thursday, 9 a.m. — Lucy’s Fur Coat and CBA. Alternative rock/po: $20.
Friday, 9 a.m. — The Dead City Dirtbombs, Dan Sartain, the
Terrible Two.
Saturday, 9 a.m. — The Howls, Tim Shaw. With Lighter Objects.
Experimental/pop rock. $20.

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May 15 & 16 • 8 & 10:30 pm
Friday & Saturday

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Thursday, May 15:
4:30 p.m. — The Jaime Vafe Jazz Quartet.
5:30 p.m. — The Jaime Vafe Jazz Quartet.
6:30 p.m. — The Jaime Vafe Jazz Quartet.
7:30 p.m. — The Jaime Vafe Jazz Quartet.
8:30 p.m. — The Jaime Vafe Jazz Quartet.
9:30 p.m. — The Jaime Vafe Jazz Quartet.
10:30 p.m. — The Jaime Vafe Jazz Quartet.

Saturday, May 16:
4:30 p.m. — Fleas and Lice, Mouth Sewn Shut. Indie and
Doomday Hour perform.
5:30 p.m. — The Jaime Vafe Jazz Quartet.
6:30 p.m. — The Jaime Vafe Jazz Quartet.
7:30 p.m. — The Jaime Vafe Jazz Quartet.
8:30 p.m. — The Jaime Vafe Jazz Quartet.
9:30 p.m. — The Jaime Vafe Jazz Quartet.
10:30 p.m. — The Jaime Vafe Jazz Quartet.

Sunday, May 17:
4:30 p.m. — The Jaime Vafe Jazz Quartet.
5:30 p.m. — The Jaime Vafe Jazz Quartet.
6:30 p.m. — The Jaime Vafe Jazz Quartet.
7:30 p.m. — The Jaime Vafe Jazz Quartet.
8:30 p.m. — The Jaime Vafe Jazz Quartet.
9:30 p.m. — The Jaime Vafe Jazz Quartet.
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Sunday, 8 p.m. — Fleas and Lice,
Mouth Sewn Shut. Indie and
Doomday Hour perform.

Power Hour 4-5 pm — $2 U-Call-Its • $1 off drinks till 7 pm

Friday, May 16:
4:30 p.m. — The Dead City Dirtbombs, Dan Sartain, the
Terrible Two.
5:30 p.m. — The Dead City Dirtbombs, Dan Sartain, the
Terrible Two.
6:30 p.m. — The Dead City Dirtbombs, Dan Sartain, the
Terrible Two.
7:30 p.m. — The Dead City Dirtboms,
Dan Sartain, the Terrible Two.
8:30 p.m. — The Dead City Dirtboms, Dan Sartain, the
Terrible Two.
9:30 p.m. — The Dead City Dirtboms, Dan Sartain, the
Terrible Two.
10:30 p.m. — The Dead City Dirtboms, Dan Sartain, the
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Terrible Two.
8:30 p.m. — The Dead City Dirtboms, Dan Sartain, the
Terrible Two.
9:30 p.m. — The Dead City Dirtboms, Dan Sartain, the
Terrible Two.
10:30 p.m. — The Dead City Dirtboms, Dan Sartain, the
Terrible Two.
El Cajon Library: 201 East Douglas Avenue, El Cajon, 619-548-3718. Wednesday, 5 p.m. — Music at Library. Adrienne Nims and Raggle-Taggie perform.

Epicentre: 8450 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa, 858-271-4000. Thursday, 7 p.m. — Life or Death and Wages of War. With Uprising A.D., the Homefront, and Five Victims Four Graves. Hardcore punk. $7-

Friday Punk. $7-$9.

Victims Four Graves. Hardcore A.D., the Homefront, and Five and Wages of War. With Uprising

Wednesday, 9:30 p.m. — The Band in Black. A tribute to Johnny Cash.

Hennessey’s Tavern — Gaslamp: 708 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-239-9994. Sundays, 3 p.m. — The Bill Shreve Duo. Jazz.

Hennessey’s Tavern — Carlsbad: 277 Roosevelt Street, Carlsbad, 760-729-6951. Thursday, 9:30 p.m. — The Bill Shreve Duo. Jazz.

Hennessey’s Tavern — Carlsbad: 277 Roosevelt Street, Carlsbad, 760-729-6951. Sunday, 1:30 p.m. — The Adicts. British punk band formed in ’75.

Howard Brubeck Theatre at Palomar College: 1140 West Mission Road, San Marcos, 760-744-1150. Monday, 8 p.m. — Palomar Jazz Ensembles. Four O’clock and Seven O’clock Ensembles present big band jazz, directed by Gunnar Biggs. 760-744-1150 x2453. $8-$12.

Humphrey’s Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-224-3577. Thursday, 9 p.m. — The Bill Magre Blues Band. Blues/soul/rock. $8-

Friday, 8 p.m. — Electric Soul and Rising Star. Soul/R&B/disco. $5-$12.

Saturday, 6 p.m. — Lindsay White. Acoustic. $5.

Sunday, 8 p.m. — Matt Marshall. Smooth jazz. $12.

Monday, 7 p.m. — Chet Cannon. With Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue. Blues/soul/rock. $8-

Tuesday, 7 p.m. — 52nd Street. A tribute to Billy Joel. $8.

Wednesday, 8 p.m. — The 145th Street Deluxe Blues Band. Blues/rock. $5.

Humphrey’s by the Bay: 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-224-3577. Thursday, 8 p.m. — Jesse Cook. Flamenco/Latin/jazz. $36.


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MAY 24
MAY 20
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9p-1a
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The best of the Kooks’ material has teenage lust and drama written all over it. Singer Luke Pritchard wrote some of the songs that ended up on their debut recording inside. Inside out when he was 15 or 16. ‘‘Me and my girl/ Are going out for some air/ And I will do my best/ Just to get under her skin.’’ The Kooks’ message has resonated with many, maybe because most of Pritchard’s material on that first CD centered on one of rock’s favored subjects, that of love lost.

The Kooks are British and they are young, and those are significant terms of endearment to a body of fans that has caused sales of the band’s two CDs to hit multiplatinum level. The Kooks came together as an art-school project and took their name from an old David Bowie song. Their videos are as rife with iconic rock images as their song structures are with iconic rock sounds trade-marked eons ago by the Kinks, U2, and Duran Duran. As rock ages, distinctions blur. Power chords as old as dirt ring behind images of the Kooks walking in a crosswalk or the band performing live on a rooftop. If the Kooks are a hit machine, then Pritchard is the new maven of the three-minute pop song even though he writes in the road-tested style of the blues, meaning that verses repeat over 12 bars. It does not hurt that the Kooks have cultivated a look (post-modernist) tailor made for paparazzi. Will the Kooks saga last? The odds are not in their favor. Even though their songs are monumental hits at present, they also suggest impermanence. Best to take note of their supernova as it passes and enjoy it while it lasts.

THE KOOKS, House of Blues, Sunday, May 18, 7:30 p.m. 619-299-2583, 617-50.
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The Round Table Cocktail Lounge: 1723 Euclid Avenue, City Heights, 619-284-6000. Tuesdays, 6 p.m. — Charlie Blue.

Schulman Auditorium at Carlsbad City Library: 1775 Dave Lane, Carlsbad. Thursday, 7 p.m. — The Duree Group: Join One Hot Minute when “Rock the Library” family concert series continues. 780-602-2084.

Sevilla: 535 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-3979. Thursday — Orquesta Primos. Saturday, 9 p.m. — Rock en Español.


Soma: 5350 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma, 619-226-0XMA. Friday, 7 p.m. — The Riddler. Saturday, 8 p.m. — An Acoustic Alliance. (guitar), Kirk Cumming (guitar), Brandon O’Connell (keyboard), Hattersley (vocals, keyboard), Brian Darnell (keyboard, guitar, vocals), Evan Hesse (guitar), James Hood (guitar), Chris Wilson (guitar), Kirk Cumming (guitar), Brandon O’Connell (keyboard), Alexi Pu (vocals)

Extra info: Steven Ybarra’s CD-release show — free! — will be at Grace Chapel of the Coast in Oceanside (102 N. Freeman St.) on Saturday, May 17, at 7:00 p.m.

A lot of music produced in San Diego drifts away from being an expression of humanity and relies on formula to be pleasing rather than evocative. Steven Ybarra’s new disc also smacks of standards instead of creativity. And while Love Love Love lyrics strive for consensus rather than confrontation, who among us would argue against “love”?

Ybarra’s unclouded devotion to a single motif (check the title for a hint) and pat phrases (linking the Lord for love, staring into the eyes of a loved one, and hearts — oh, so many hearts) obstructs his guitar work, which is tops. While his voice carries a bit of soul and sass, those qualities seem manufactured, as is the tenderness of too many San Diego acts. (Jason Mraz, I’m looking in your direction.)

Even in the love-gone-wrong song “Please, Please,” Ybarra’s delivery lacks ferocity and pain; his voice tends toward the tepid and regulated. (It’s certainly not Big Joe Williams begging his woman, “Baby, Please Don’t Go.”) Ybarra’s project handles tumultuous and dangerous emotion — love — with the most surface of treatments and the safest skillful playing.

To get your local CD reviewed, please mail it to: Music Editor, hometown CDs, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 89303, San Diego, CA 92186-5803.

**Brick by Brick**

**Friday, May 16**

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**Saturday, May 24**

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JESSIE BAYLIN KEMISTRY

**Sunday, May 25**

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Saturday — Electric Soul. Smooth jazz/funk/R&B.
U-31: 3112 University Avenue, North Park, 619-384-4188.
Saturday — Rodrigo y Gabriela. Guitarists from Mexico.
V Lounge: 5000 Willows Road, Alpine, 619-445-5405.
Thursday, 8 p.m. — Trombone Shorty.
Sunday: 7 p.m. — The Finches. Surf rock.
UPCOMING SHOWS
4th & B: 345 B Street, Downtown, 619-231-4443.
June 22 — Billy Idol.
June 26 — Montecito.
September 16 — Vintage.
Torch Song: 2100 Park Boulevard, Balboa Park, 619-234-9974.
Saturday — The Robert Cray Band.
September 21 — The Smithereens.
September 28 — Agua Dulce. Latin/soul.
September 29 — Montecristo.
Café Sevilla Night Club: 2241 Shelter Island Dr. • 619-224-3577
Tickets for “Upcoming Shows” available at Ticketmaster and Humphrey’s.
All shows are 21 years and up.

Bill Magee
Thursday, May 15
9 p.m • Chicago Blues

Lindsey White
Saturday, May 17
9:30 p.m • Smokin’ Blues

Jimmy Thackery & The Drivers
Monday, May 19
7 p.m • Blues Chet Cannon
3:30 p.m • Blues Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue 

Tuesday, May 20
7 p.m • Rock
52nd Street
Tribute to Billy Joel

Wednesday, May 21
8 p.m • Chicago Blues

Jimmy Loves Live
Thursday, May 15 & 22

DJ Mylar Spinning in the Lounge Downstairs
9:45 pm-1:30 am

The Reagonomics
9:45 pm-1:30 am

The Reagonomics
9:45 pm-1:30 am

The M-80’s
9:45 pm-1:30 am

SUPERFUNK FANTASY
9:45 pm-1:30 am

The Reagonomics

SUPERFUNK FANTASY

The Reagonomics

SUPERFUNK FANTASY

The M-80’s

SuperFunk FANTASY

UPCOMING SHOWS
4th & B: 345 B Street, Downtown, 619-231-4443.
June 22 — Billy Idol.
June 26 — Montecito.
September 16 — Nick Cave & the Bad Seeds.
710 Beach Club: 710 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 619-483-7844.
May 22 — A-HA.
May 24 — Aerosmith.
May 24 — Cru Williamson.
June 13 — John Gorka.
June 20 — K.J. Denhert.
June 27 — Chico Freeman. Blues.
Laguna’s: 1337 India Street, Little Italy, 619-395-3050.
May 23 — Poco.
May 24 — Kala Bonoff.
May 25 — Buck Rice Lee Jones.
May 26 — Jack Costanzo.
May 28 — Sara Boustros.
May 30, May 31 — Sunny Landford.
June 1 — The Ernie Watts Quartet.
June 4 — K.J. Denhert.
June 9 — Metro.
June 6 — Jefferson Starship.
June 8 — Jamie.
June 10 — The Cedar Walton Quartet.
June 11 — Nadus John.
June 13, June 14 — Ivan Lins.
June 15 — The Diva Band.
June 16, June 17 — Kurt Elling.
June 18 — Hiromi.
June 20 — James Cotton.
June 21 — The Smitherens.
June 22 — The Five Selis Band.
June 24 — Janiva Magness.
June 25 — Transfer and Fast Computers.
June 26, June 27, June 28 — Kreko Matsui.
July 2 — Les Dudek.
July 3, July 4, July 5 — Ottmar Liebert and Luna Negra.
July 12 — Howard Jones.
July 13 — Cindy Blackman.
July 18, July 19 — Rita Coolidge.
July 23 — Rachel Price.
July 26 — Sophie Millman.
July 31, August 1 — Stanley Jordan.
August 6 — Dabbe Toure.
August 16 — Straus & Farah.
August 20, August 21, August 22, August 23 — Steve Tyrell.
August 29, August 30 — Dave Mason.
Avo Playhouse: 303 Main Street, Vista, 760-724-2110.
July 11 — Ferrera/Bitch Concert.
Balboa Theatre: 854 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-570-1100.
May 22 — Benefit Jazz Concert.
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June 30 — Aceyalone, 88-Keys.
— Dilated Peoples,
June 29 — Atomic Punks.
June 28 — The Album Leaf.
June 25 — Gary Hoey.
— Dead Man’s Party.
June 21 — The Drive-By Truckers.
June 20 — Cash’d Out.
June 14 — The Young Dubliners.
June 13 — Final Warning.
— Shooter Jennings.
June 9 — Junior Brown and Rosie
June 7 — Switchfoot.
June 6 — The Fiery Furnaces.
June 1 — The Bitter End:
— Appalachia Waltz Trio.
May 31 — Abigail Washburn & the
May 30 — On the One and Blue
May 29 — The Ideas.
May 28 — Buck-O-Nine and
May 27 — Coventry band and Magic Dick.
May 26 — Donita Sparks.
May 25 — Bedford Grove, Maystar, Jamel Saxon.
May 24 — Matt & the Nuclear
So and So’s.
May 23 — Barnes and Outlaw Nation.
May 22 — Mark O’Connor’s
happachula Waltz Trio.

Belly Up Tavern:
— Robert Parker.
June 5 — Michael Tiernan.
May 29 — 415 South
June 4 — The Von Bondies and
— The Tommy Castro
September 30 — Johnny Winter.
September 23 — Railroad Earth.
July 24 — Venice.
July 20 — Wolf Parade.
July 19 — Ariel Pink and Fantastic
July 11 — Van Buren and Outlaw Nation.
July 7 — The Kenny Burrell
July 6 — I’m A Lover.
July 5 — The ideas.
July 4 — The Von Bondies and
— DropJoy, Caca Fuerte,
July 3 — The Bennetts.
June 27 — Sound Escape and
— 40 Oz. to Freedom and
— Andre Nickatina and
June 26 — The Sandman.
June 21 — Cash’d Out.
June 20 — The Drive-By Truckers.
June 19 — The Von Bondies and
— Teenage Bottlerocket.
June 18 — The Black Keys.
June 17 — Mad Sin.
June 12 — The Tommy Castro
June 11 — The Bitter End:
— L.C.A.
June 10 — Jimmie Van Zandt.
June 9 — Alejandro Escovedo.
June 8 — The Drive-By Truckers.
June 7 — Cash’d Out.
June 6 — The Fiery Furnaces.
June 5 — Shooter Jennings.
June 4 — The Drive-By Truckers.
June 3 — Jen Knight and One
June 2 — Jen Knight and One
June 1 — Oak.
I thought the music was really good. The guy could play guitar and sing really well. I could imagine if he were to sing a "normal" song it would be great. The lyrics were fun, though, I think he was just singing the theme song for the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles cartoon show. The music was totally different than what’s on the theme song, I’m really into acoustic music like Jack Johnson and John Mayer, but what it really reminded me was open-mic night. I go to a lot of open-mic nights. It was an original sound. You have to acquire the taste for acoustic music, I can definitely see him coming up with original songs or even doing covers and becoming mainstream.

I thought it was a perfect example of how the San Diego hip-hop scene is growing. Basically, we’ve been seeing refreshing new things off of the backstreets and it’s been pretty exciting, actually. You see bands like the Upstarts coming to form here and bringing really good beats and rhymes — putting San Diego on the map. They have a little bit of a jazz thing going, it’s real smooth; maybe like a mixture between Crazy Town and Tha Alkaholiks. It seemed like the song was just about having a good time — going out, partying a little bit...kicking back and not letting things stress you out. These guys seem pretty down-to-earth.

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

Artists: Three Day Old Beaver
Song: “TMTM” (from myspace.com/threedayoldbeaver)
Heard By: Tad Wurzt, College Area

San Diego Songs Take the Street Test

Artists: The Upstarts
Song: “Time’s Right” (from the CD The Know How)
Heard By: Rex Brookhart, Pacific Beach

Artists: Jason Mraz
Song: “Make It Mine” (from the CD We Sing, We Dance, We Steal Things)
Heard By: Jennifer Mitchell, National City

He has a nice voice, but it sounds too [adult] contemporary to me. I like bands more like Nada Surf, Arcade Fire, and Wolf Parade. I can’t think of anybody to compare him to off the top of my head. It’s like something I would hear on a soft-rock radio station while I’m at the dentist. I didn’t really understand what he was singing about. I was listening more to the music in the background. There were a lot of horns — I think I heard a saxophone. If it’s played on MTV or the local radio stations a lot, maybe it would have a chance to [be popular]. It was kind of like a relaxed, happy song, I would give it a four or five out of ten.

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May 24 — Detroit Underground.
May 26 — The Robin Hinkel Band.
May 28 — The Dead Preachers.
May 29 — Fish & the Seaweeds.
May 30 — Crash.
May 31 — Rockola.

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July 23 — The Beach Boys.
June 10 — Erykah Badu and the Roots.
June 12 — Kem.
June 17 — Courtney, Stills, & Nash.
June 18 — Keb’ Mo’ & Taj Mahal.
June 19 — The Indigo Girls.
June 20 — Idina Menzel.
June 21 — Ani DiFranco.
June 26, June 27 — One Hawaii Tour.
July 3 — Robert Plant & Alison Krauss.
July 4, July 5 — The Gipsy Kings.
July 6 — Chris Isaak.
July 7 — Hippiefest.
July 22 — Feist.
July 23 — The Doozie Brothers.
July 25 — Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons.
July 27 — Ringo Starr & His All Starr Band.
July 28 — Derek Trucks & Susan Tedeschi.
July 31 — Emmylou Harris.
August 1 — Dolly Parton.
August 4 — Huey Lewis & the News.
August 6 — But Scaggs.
August 8 — Peter & Gordon.
August 10 — UB40.
August 11 — David Sanborn and Lee Ritenour.
August 12 — Paolo Nutini.
August 13 — Michael McDonald.
August 14 — Joe Cocker.
August 15 — Tower of Power.
August 18 — The Gipsy Kings.

July 31 — Chromo.
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Manedeville Auditorium at 9500 Gilman Drive, UCSD. May 31 — UCD Gospel Choir.


O’Connell’s Pub and Nightclub; 5130 Morena Boulevard, Clairemont, 619-276-3637. May 23 — Kindled to Ember. May 24 — Motus, Fight the Fear, Station Thrice.

Round Table Pizza: 1161 East Washington Street, Escondido. 760-489-6191. June 3 — The Bladerunners. July 5 — Mill Creek Boys.

San Diego Civic Theatre: 1100 Third Avenue, Downtown, 858-570-1100. June 24 — Widespread Panic.

San Diego Harley-Davidson: 5800 Kearny Mesa Road, Kearny Mesa, 858-616-6999. September 6 — Hugh Gaskins & the G String Daddies.


San Diego Symphony: 700 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-481-3541. May 31 — Eve Selis.

Schuman Auditorium at Carlsbad City Library: 1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad. May 29 — Breman Court.

Second Wind (Navajo): 8515 Navajo Road, Santee, 619-463-1730. May 22 — The Burnsville Band.

Sherwood Auditorium at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego: 700 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-481-3541. May 31 — Eve Selis.


May 27 — Breathe Carolina and the Millionaires.

May 28 — Cinematic Sunrise.

May 30 — A Legend Unknown and Foreever Days Forgotten.

May 31 — Muse and Daredveil Jane.

June 1 — Nightmare of You and the Graduate.

June 6 — Ellieia and See You Next Tuesday.

June 7 — Strung Out and Authority Zero.

June 11 — The Matches and Scissors for Lefty.

June 13 — No Lifeguard on Duty and the Amalgamated.

Rock Bottom - La Jolla: 4890 Villa La Jolla Drive, La Jolla, 858-450-9277.

Round Table Pizza: 1161 East Washington Street, Escondido. 760-489-6191. June 3 — The Bladerunners. July 5 — Mill Creek Boys.

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June 11 — The Matches and Scissors for Lefty.

June 13 — No Lifeguard on Duty and the Amalgamated.
June 14 — Scream the Prayer Tour.
June 19 — Marié Digby and Eric Hutchinson.
June 20 — The Almost and Emery.
June 22 — The Human Abstract and Eyes Set to Kill.
June 24 — The Mad Caddies.
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July 14 — A Change of Pace and Houston Call.
July 27 — The Alkaline Trio and American Steel.
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August 27 — Saba and Sweetness.

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U-31:
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MAY 16

FRIDAY, 5/16
112
San Diego Reader • May 15, 2008
I went up to Fallbrook a while back for a Fallbrook Film Factory event called the Comic and Animation Filmfest. I had met Dean LeCrone at a previous party, and he had made a documentary called Dean LeCrone vs. the Mutants of Comic-Con, which satirized the people who attend Comic-Con.

I brought my friend Bonnie. We were both dressed up, and as we approached the Mission Theater, we saw a couple dressed as Batman and Robin. She said, “They’re going to look at us and be able to tell we’re city folk.”

We then saw a couple of Stormtroopers acting as security guards.

There was red carpet leading into the entrance of the theater. I overheard a lady say, “They didn’t splurge on this thing. It looks like it’s just a red cloth.”

A few nice sports cars drove up. I asked Bonnie if one was a Viper. “All I know is it’s red and sporty.” A limo rolled up and a kid got out of it wearing sunglasses and looking cool as he waved to the crowd. The boy was Dean’s son.

Listening to people around the theater was interesting. The guy in the Robin costume told a Stormtrooper, “You have to try and look menacing.” I’m not sure how you do that when your entire head is covered by a mask. Holding the gun helped, though.

I heard a tall woman say to her friend, “...but we’re still best friends.” Her friend responded, “I’ve never been friends with a guy after a relationship ended. I don’t care about some jerk wanting to maintain a friendship.” The tall woman didn’t reply.

I overheard one couple talk about how they got engaged in Julian. I said to Bonnie, “Everyone proposes in Julian or some beach in Del Mar. I wonder if anyone has ever proposed in Fallbrook.” She replied, “Yeah, probably Fallbrook residents.” I laughed and said, “There should be a designated place people go for divorces the way they go to nice places to get engaged.” She replied, “They do. They’re called courthouses.”

As we walked in, I ran into a Marvel Comics artist named Matt Lawrence. He also does illustrations for No Fear. We had met at a previous party and chatted a bit. A Stormtrooper walked by us and I mentioned his voice sounding like someone working the Burger King drive-thru. Matt said, “I think it sounds more like Charlie Brown’s teacher.”

There was a 14-year-old kid I talked to named Daniel. He had won two awards at the Temecula Film Festival. We talked about scholarships that director Steven Spielberg offers young filmmakers.

The first short film shown was titled Turn Off Your Cell Phone. It was cute. Then there was one called When Bananas Go Bad 2: Yellow Fever, which was very funny. The closing credits said, “No bananas were harmed in the filming. Okay, maybe a few.”

When Tahnee Gehm’s movies started, a guy behind me had his cell phone go off. I wanted to turn around and say, “Didn’t you pay attention to the first film we saw?”

Tahnee’s films were funny. She draws cartoon creatures. In one of the animated films called The DVD and Sock Stealing Grem- lins, she has them stealing DVDs, CDs, and socks that you lose and can never find.

The sound effects she made with her mouth were hysterical and added to the animation. Tahnee is in her first year of college and already her film was better than the ones I see at the annual Festival of Animation In La Jolla.

The main feature was Dean’s film about Comic-Con. In the film, he walked around interviewing costumed geeks who attend the convention. A lot of it was funny. There were the usual jokes about guys in their 40s living in their parents’ basements.

One older guy went into his entire life story and how he worked on airplanes. There were clever edits in that segment that showed Dean falling asleep as he held the mic. Then it cut to Dean at home going to bed and the guy was still talking.

An older lady who was interviewed in Dean’s film was
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Crasher
wearing a nametag that read “Darth Vera.” She said she was Darth Vader’s grandmother. Her voice was raspy, and I leaned into Bonnie and said, “I wonder if she talks through a hole in her throat from too many Pall Malts. It certainly gives her more of a Darth Vader sound.”

As we shuffled off of the theater and into a library nearby for a reception, Bonnie looked at a few guys in costumes. She said in a robotic voice, “Are we nerds? Yes, that is affirmative.”

I grabbed some punch and cookies and talked to Donna, one of the people who run the Fallbrook Film Factory. I didn’t realize how many small films they make and how elaborate the process was.

I was introduced to the blonde that Dean was with. I found out she sang the songs in his movie, which included “Fever,” “My Heart Will Go On,” and my personal favorite, “Mutant Love.”

Dean told me about his car catching fire and how everything he had in it burned. He said, “That’s why I don’t have a cell phone now.” I told him, “The last two times someone told me their cell phone was broken it was because it dropped in a toilet.”

There were a few pieces of art on the walls. A drinking fountain had a $500 price tag on it. I wondered if it was a piece of art and then someone told me that’s how much money they needed to raise to put up a fountain there.

Cartoonists were drawing caricatures of people. Tahnee was showing her portfolio and we talked about her characters. I told her I liked their eyes and then wondered if that sounded like a line.

Bonnie and I got tired and said, “It was really a pleasure to meet you. We leave, and this guy was saying, “Well, we have to get to the store before it closes.”

After 30 minutes, I could tell Bonnie wanted to leave, and this guy was saying, “I can give you this CD if you want it.”

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**This Holiday Life**

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**Monday, May 19**

**Friday Night Gunfight**

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**Saturday, May 20**

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That Breathless Charm

A few days before the grand opening of the splashy new Dish restaurant-nightclub in Hillcrest, I decided to check out one of its forerunners. Dish had been bombarding my email with publicity releases that glimmered with Tinkerbell sparks about how this would be a pioneering venue where gays and straights would (gasp) mix and mingle.

That’s new! Pub-jeze. Top of my head, I flashed on the “Dish” of Manhattan in the late 1960s, Max’s Kansas City (where my cousin Peg waitressed), a Warhol-crowd favorite where every conceivable earthly gender (and possibly some extraterrestrial life forms) tramped in for dinner. (Afterwards: dancing to the juke at the Broom Street Expressway, or maybe the newest Charles Ludlam play from the Ridiculous Theatrical Company.) At least in big cities, there probably have always been a few all-inclusive bohemian venues where everybody mixes it up.

One of our own long-term institutions of comfortable mixing and mingling is Hillcrest’s Inn at the Park dinner house in the Park Manor, a charming old Hillcrest hotel. (A rooftop venue called Top of the Park serves lunches on week-ends.) About a year ago, chef Anthony Wilhelm was promoted to executive chef, and his upgrades to the menu afforded another good reason to check it out.

The attractive, well-populated bar faces the dining room across a wide aisle. The bar includes a piano, with live musicians every night after dinner. (Afterwards: dancing to the juke at the Broom Street Expressway, or maybe the newest Charles Ludlam play from the Ridiculous Theatrical Company.) At least in big cities, there probably have always been a few all-inclusive bohemian venues where everybody mixes it up.

The bread was crusty and good and also included skinny breadsticks. The kitchen was all out to take too readily to innovation. I’d have to call the charcuterie plate items are purchased-lookup. Service was attentive, competent, smart. Food? Well... It’s not “foodie” food to astonish or thrill or impress, more like background music for the piano tunes. With a little added mango here and chipotle there, it’s an update of the faintly Continental comfort food that you might have eaten, pre-1970 (or in Sacramento even today), at the “nice” college-town restaurant when your parents came to visit. The regular crowd at the Inn is conservative in its tastes, meat-and-potatoes guys, and they don’t take too readily to innovation. I’d have to call the style Log Cabin Republican Cuisine.

The bread was crusty and good and also included skinny breadsticks. The kitchen was all out to take too readily to innovation. I’d have to call the charcuterie plate items are purchased-out, we skipped it. The most satisfying appetizer was calamari fritto misto — tender, crusty fried squid, delicate zucchini rounds, and just-right crisp-tender broccoli clusters, with two dips — a smooth pink chipotle aioli with a little sting of heat, and a thick, Kaffir-lime avocado sauce with a lash of spice.

That evening, though, there were several odd glitches in kitchen perfor- mance. A steamed artichoke filled with a spinach-lemon-Stilton fondue was a surprising slip-up: The artichoke was drastically undercooked. The leaves were stiffly resistant to leaving the nest, and the heart was harder than Dick Cheney’s. The sauce, although vaguely pleasant, was blander than a morning talk-show host.

A crab-and-avocado tower and a grilled prawn and mango salad were nearly identical: Both had mango here and chipotle there, it’s an update of the faintly Continental comfort food that you might have eaten, pre-1970 (or in Sacramento even today), at the “nice” college-town restaurant when your parents came to visit. The regular crowd at the Inn is conservative in its tastes, meat-and-potatoes guys, and they don’t take too readily to innovation. I’d have to call the style Log Cabin Republican Cuisine.

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The bread was crusty and good and also included skinny breadsticks. The kitchen was all out to take too readily to innovation. I’d have to call the charcuterie plate items are purchased-out, we skipped it. The most satisfying appetizer was calamari fritto misto — tender, crusty fried squid, delicate zucchini rounds, and just-right crisp-tender broccoli clusters, with two dips — a smooth pink chipotle aioli with a little sting of heat, and a thick, Kaffir-lime avocado sauce with a lash of spice.

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An entree special featured beef tenderloin, chipotle béarnaise, soft-shell crab, spicy mashed potatoes, and veggies (which I’ve already forgotten). The beef, properly rare, was a tad tough for a tenderloin. The other ingredients seemed incoherent, a bunch of good stuff flung together almost at random — more like a bad imitation of John Cage than the artfully complex melodies of Cole Porter.

Seeing white truffle shaved sea scallops on the menu led Jim and Jonathan to quiz me about the difference between black and white truffles. (No, I don’t have 800 free words to go into it right now — there are meatier issues ahead.) The dish itself didn’t help to illu-
minate the distinction, as there wasn’t enough white truffle flavor (from oil) to even notice. The scallops, though, were sweet and tender, complemented by fava beans and applewood-smoked bacon. Their starch was “forbidden black rice,” which looked like a shorter grained wild rice but proved hard and grainy, as though reverting to the raw state. (Needed more cooking or, especially, more liquid.)

The same rice also came with scared duck breast, so it seems the mysterious tabou has been lifted by the ghost of the Last Empress, the High Pooh-pooh, whoever. The duck was tender and enjoyable, flattered by a cherry-rhubarb coulis. Cabernet-braised, balsamic-glazed short ribs were tender, too, but oddly dim in flavor — which goes against the grain, since this is usually a meaty-tasting cut, and the Cabernet and balsamic have been deepened its allure. Instead, this rendition seemed more like Mom’s, if Mom had bought the short ribs only because they were on sale.

The house specialty (fit
tingly enough, the Log Cabin food ethos) is old-fashioned prime rib roast beef, for a bargain price of $23 — a rar-
ity on current restaurant menus, and usually much more costly if you do find it. It’s the most popular dish of all with the regulars at the Inn. Back in December or wet January, we’d probably have jumped on it in a New York minute.

Instead, I quizzed the waiter and learned that the grade of the roast beef is mid-
dling choice — a necessary compromise to keep the price reasonable. Jim and Jonathan asked me what the question was all about, so I figured you might also like to know; prime rib is a cut of meat (the center rib roast), whereas USDA Prime is a grade — so “prime” has two very different meanings. The USDA meat grades are determined according to how much fat-marbling there is in the meat — the fat makes it tender and adds deep meat flavor (what the Japanese call umami), Japanese Wagyu, as fatty as foie gras, can be cut with a fork. USDA Prime has the most marbling of Ameri-
can standard beef. Two grades lower, USDA Select is your typical supermarket beef, with little fat and a tendency toward toughness. Choice grade cov-
ers a wide range between Prime and Select — the higher grades of Choice are terrific, rivaling Prime, but lower Choice is only a bit tastier and tenderer than supermarket beef. The restaurant’s cooking method is dead-on right for middle-Choice: It’s roasted slow, low, and long at 225 de-
grees to emerge rare and juicy. Wish we’d ordered it — but we were more attracted to other dishes.

Desserts cover the water-
front between American comfort, Continental, and newfangled. Skipping the chocolate extravaganza, we gravitated to the simple Ameri-
can blueberry crumble and the fusion-y lime coconut cream brûlée. The crumble had a few blueberries and a whole lot of mushy granola. No, just no. The crème brûlée was highly acidic and lively with a strong lime flavor and a fine hard slash of caramelized top-
ing. It’s a wake-up call at the end of dinner.

So, okay, the food’s nice (but for those weird glitches), if nothing to write home about. But the scene is sweeter than a treat to find one right here in a town.

Executive chef Anthony Wil-
son slid into his profession via a high school dishwasher job. “I was about 17, and I was working in a place in Cincin-
натi, Ohio. It was kind of an upscale bar-pub, and I was just very, very, very intrigued by the kitchen. I was intrigued by the food. I went to the culinary program at Cincinnati State Uni-
versity, and then I worked in La Maisonette in Cincin-
натi, which was the longest five-star-rated restaurant in U.S. history.

“My ex-wife was in the Navy, and that’s what brought me to San Diego. She ended up moving back to Chicago, while I stayed here, working at the Inn for about four and a half years. I was here for almost three years as a sous-chef and then was pro-
moted to executive chef. I asked how bound he was to the proverbial gay taste for comfort food. “I like to take each menu progressively,” he says. “But I also have a clien-
tele here that I have to appease. So I have to take baby steps to introduce new flavors — they like their steak and mashed potatoes and their roast beef. But I’m starting to do some special wine dinners upstairs with pretty innovative menus, although we’re still sticking mainly to the meat, the filet — but we are actually having some fun here. I spent a lot of my time upstairs doing ban-
quets.” (Note: The hotel is a prime venue for weddings and other special occasions. Chef Anthony oversees the food at all those functions, as well as lunches at Top of the Park, of-
ten working seven days a week, 12 hours a day.)

“Asked his philosophy of cuisine, he says, “I love to use the best ingredients I can afford. Farm-to-table, prefer-
ably. It’s the new hot thing. I do have a limit here as to what I can spend, being a hotel restaurant, but I love to use the freshest ingredients that I can and put love into it.” After five years in San Diego, he has a certain yearning to move to the burgeoning food scenes of Vancouver or Seattle, but meanwhile, he’s a fan of the farm-to-table cuisine of Mar-
et Restaurant, Bianca, and the Better Half.

“I think San Diego is defi-
nitely improving. It’s trying to find itself. I know a lot of fine dining in San Diego are still mediocre at best — it’s not even near the caliber of restau-
ruits you find in New York, Chicago, even San Francisco. But San Diego is definitely on the right track.”

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Hank had been on about this for the longest time. He’s a carpenter and wannabe carver, and he reckons the carving of the horses in the carousel at Seaport Village is the best. In the world. Period.

And tonight, when we’re on the orange line trolley heading for 12th and Imperial, he suddenly jumps up. “Seaport Village, pal. The carousel. Let’s go look. Now.” I mean, yes. I jump off with him. But I’m gonna admit this up front. I always have trouble with set-piece places like Seaport Village or Disneyland. Everything’s designed to hit your cute button.

We walked around the Hyatt Hotel’s grand entrance and up into Seaport Village’s West Plaza. And suddenly, all you’re hearing is voices, the bubble of conversation, kids laughing, one or two restaurant exhaust fans rattling. That’s about it. The amazing thing is, you’re in a car-free environment. Rare in this town. Amazing how all the tensions fall away.

Not with Hank, of course. He’s all fired up. “Aha!” he cries. He’s spotted the carousel. It’s even turning. Has kids and grown-ups riding the horses.

“Charles I.D. Looff,” says Hank, reading off a plaque, like he was discovering his own “Aha!” He’s spotted the carousel. It’s “Looff carved these in his middle period, his most intricate.”

Hank keeps up the commentary. “Looff carved these in his middle period, his most intricate. ‘Charles I.D. Looff,’ says Hank, reading off a plaque, like he was discovering his own “Aha!” He’s spotted the carousel. It’s “Looff carved these in his middle period, his most intricate.”

“Sign here for adults to ride, not kids.”

“Look at this detail. Charles I.D. Looff, man. The fact is, I only have about ten bucks on me right now. There’s no shortage of food around here, but mostly it’s beyond my sorry excuse for a budget.”

“Seven-five-four, 754! Chicken fillet burger and fries?”

The amplified voice comes from behind an arch up in this little pink-tiled plaza behind us. The plaza’s dotted with big ole ficus trees and a couple of palms and Caribbean-looking brown-and-cream-tiled houses with outside stairs and stubbed out walls and arches. One has a sign painted on it: Burger Lovers This Way!

Over the arch, another says, San Diego Burger Company. Beside it, a bunch of pictures show the choices. I see the standard 1/3 lb. burger is $4.50, the cheeseburger’s $5.50, the double-patty “burger burger,” $6.99, and a delicious-looking avocado-bacon cheeseburger with guacamole oozing from every pore corner goes for $6.99. The most expensive thing is the $7.99 double bacon cheeseburger (single’s $5.99). Then they have variations on the theme, like the vegetarian garden burger ($5.99), turkey burger ($5.99), and chicken fillet burger ($5.99).

The place is basically an orange Mexican-tiled counter alongside a yellow-painted courtyard with tables and a protective wall with a mural of a sea vista. “I’m gonna get me a burger,” I say to Hank. “Sure, be my guest. If you want to turn into a laardvark — hey! Laardvark. That’s good.”

“Whatever. So now I pass under the arch, through the courtyard, between the blue mosaic-topped concrete tables, and up to the counter where this guy Gabriel is taking orders. He leans in to a big mike.

“755, your double bacon cheeseburger is ready.”

“That’s the avocado-bacon cheeseburger.”

“Anything with that?” Gabriel asks.

And then I realize I have a problem. I look again at the menu board. Burger’s $6.99, but…argh! French fries don’t come with it. A two little cardboard tray of ’em costs $3.50. Drinks cost about that again. Before you can say “tourist trap,” you’ve doubled your outlay.

“Fries?”

“Uh, no,” I say. “Something to drink?”

“Uh, no.”

When my avo-bacon cheeseburger comes, in its little cardboard tray, it doesn’t look anywhere near as high piled or colorful as in the picture. (But when does it ever?) I check under the lid. It does have everything they promised, including grilled onions, lettuce, bacon, and lots of oozing guacamole. And it’s definitely juicy. Which is just as well, because I don’t have a danged thing to drink, and I’m too embarrassed to ask for water.

Very stupid. Very male. Carla wouldn’t give it a second thought.

But what I find is, it provides its own liquids. It’s a juicy piece of meat with good slippery onions. I down it sitting at one of the tables in the ficus plaza, resisting ye old gut’s calls for a drink to slurp. I look about me. Okay, this place is cute, specially at night. I see the inky bay waters through a gap in the buildings, and beyond, a sweeping light beam that has to be North Island’s naval lighthouse. I’m starting to like this place.

“For Chrissakes,” says Hank. He’s just come up from the carousel. “Would you stop feeding your face and come look at this horses?”

He points out the life in the horses’ faces and their body movement. “And see! They were designed for adults to ride, not kids.”

Of course we end up riding the danging things. Hank keeps up the commentary. “Looff carved these in his middle period, his most intricate. Look at this detail. Charles I.D. Looff, man. The Picasso of the carousel! Are you listening to me?”

Actually, I’m thinking of all who’ve ridden these ponies before us over the 113 years since their first spin, in Fairpark, Texas, Hank says. Plus, as our horses swoop up and down, I’ve gotta concentrate on keeping my avocado-bacon cheeseburger where it belongs.

The Place: San Diego Burger Co., 879 West Harbor Drive, Suite G, Seaport Village, 619-239-7901

Type of Food: American Prices: $3.50 per burger, $4.50, cheeseburger, $5.50; double-patty “burger burger,” $6.99; avocado-bacon cheeseburger, $6.99; single bacon cheeseburger, $5.99; double bacon cheeseburger, $7.99; vegetarian garden burger, $5.99; turkey burger, $5.99; chicken fillet burger, $3.99; small container of French fries, $3.50; cheese fries, $3.99; regular burger combo with fries, small soda, $8.99

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RESTAURANT LISTINGS

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

BEACHES

Barbarella 2171 Avenida de la Playa, La Jolla, 858-434-7333. This popular restaurant sits nestled in an English garden just blocks from the beach. You can dine amidst the flora at street-side tables, in the michling patio, or in the small dining room. Once you’re seated, the friendly staff provides fresh-out-of-the-oven sourdough wheat bread to nibble on. The menu changes daily, offering fresh fish, steak, chicken, pastas, soups, and pizzas, all cooked with a twist of imagination that delivers on the flavor. For instance: pizzas topped with smoked salmon, crème fraiche, chives, and fiddle capers. Or delicate Alaskan halibut served over creamed spring onions with capers. Or delicate Alaskan halibut served over creamed spring onions with capers. Or an old girl’s club, or just a happy place where the term “a nice piece of meat” isn’t a bad thing! The menu of the “old boys’” steakhouse genre gives way to sherry cherry wood. When you get the fried cheese, it’s Brie, rolled in panko bread crumbs and served al mondo. And the wine list boasts for more than just house Cabernet and Bordeaux — over 100 of the far-flung offerings are available by the glass, and you can assemble your own three-glass tasting flight. Prime steaks are the main event, perfectly cooked and well-seasoned. Try the Key Lime pie for dessert — custardy, and rich enough for dinner. Valet parking. Dinner nightly. Very expensive. — A.M.

Humphrey’s by the Bay 2241 Shelton Lane, La Jolla, 858-434-3577. Most dinners at this once-concert venue restaurant sit at the prix fixe price point, however, because they guarantee good seats for the concerts at the next-door amphitheater. But better food emerges once the music-mavens leave the premises. The kitchen features fine seafood, juicy meats, and prime steaks with seasonal veggie garnishes. Preshow prix fixe upper moderate, à la carte expensive/very expensive. — N.W.

Isabel’s Cantina 966 Felspar Street, Pacific Beach, 858-272-4800. This cheerful café instantly became a gathering spot for many PB-ites, including the free-spirited population of radicals. Chef-owner Isabel Cruz, who calls herself “Food Girl,” has imported much of her Mission Café menu of Latin-Asian-sorta-health food to the beach. A self-confessed “fuzzy cook,” she focuses on wholesomeness rather than authenticity. Breakfast and lunch are the main meals here and include competent eggs, luscious scrambled eggs, huge sandwiches, and weighty slabs of coconut French toast. Competent Latin-style dishes include tamales with airy masa. Devotees stabs in that direction. If your dish is too wholesome, however, rather than authenticity. Breakfast and lunch are the main meals here and include competent eggs, luscious scrambled eggs, huge sandwiches, and weighty slabs of coconut French toast. Competent Latin-style dishes include tamales with airy masa. Devotees of Southeast Asian cuisines, however, might be disappointed by the minimalist slabs in that direction. If your dish is too mild, house sauces (chili oil, salsa, chipotle sauce, etc.) are available on request. Beer and wine. Small, free front parking lot; pay lot across the street at west end of the block. Three meals daily, closed 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Inexpensive to low moderate. — N.W.
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El Nido
Boulevard Renta Jesus #76, Balboa, 661-612-1418
Heal south from San Diego for a great-ad, mexicinized steak at a bargain price — but don't stop there. Try the house specialty, quail with garlic sauce (colored by mole), or el salmone, especially the suizadita de venado (strips of meat with epazote, onion, and ham). Bottom line: Balboa is a large, bustling restaurant with live music, no reservations (except for special requests), and a bar with an inviting, cozy atmosphere. The menu is extensive, featuring dishes from all over the world, including seafood, pasta, and Mexican specialties. The prices are moderate, and the food is delicious. — E.B.

Ball Thai Café
407 Camino del Rio South, Mission Valley, 619-297-0800
Expect the unexpected. This unique restaurant splits its menu between three nations with dishes from Indonesia and Thailand, and all dishes are served in their respective borders. The menu is standard, although the soup lae sao kee's (spicy sausage), and the spicy seafood hot pot (deep-fried salmon, shrimp, crab, and scallops) are a must-try. The food is fresh and delicious, and the portions are generous. — N.W.

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The Boomerang idea is that "you'll always come back for more." Although maybe they ways come back for more. The Boomerang Gourmet Burger sits on a wooden barrel hinged with Hangar-oom bios. Go for wraps, quinoa hot dogs with sauerkraut, or East Coast-grown salmon sandwiches like corned beef, cured salmon, cotto, salmon, or bulgur, or Liver. That Hours Bodin Liveruest is da bomb. Cause you for quinoa or chicken or a cup of tertillioi sour gude gude light al-ternatives. Open breakfast through early dinner.

**Hong Kong Restaurant**
7017 Fourth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-291-9494. Where dinner nightly (early closing Sunday). Moderate. — N.W.

**Osteria**
904 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-231-1800. Possibly the most expensive restaurant in San Diego. Osteria is named for a precious, rare arbequina oil (which it serves) and attracts patrons who enjoy throwing their money around. Food: big, bold, and often a "first" in San Diego. Black, with two floors of loud ambient mu-sic, glitzy decor, and a "wine angel" who offers you tips on black wines. Add: olive oil and sea-salt bistro and signarre! scorning glass to fetch your precious bottle. Celebrities and big spenders get attentive service, others take their chances. The menu is mostly seafood, but it, too, carries the Vegas improvisation of bud hair. Too many bold find that are on every plate, and even the simplest dishes are over-tidied with freemers of fusion. Best bet is to satisfy your palate and curiosity raw oysters, the cold seafood platter, caviar (if you can afford it). Disabled access. Dining available in warm weather. Reservations for sushi bar accepted but not necessary. Open weekdays for lunch, dinner nightly until midnight, with a DJ Tuesday through Saturday. Sushi prices lower than most, entries in expensive to moderate. — N.W.

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RA Sushi will donate all proceeds from the week-long sale of select menu items to help fund cancer research.

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**Quarter Kitchen**

6003 Street, Downtown, 818-914-2000. Don’t be intimated by the reputation of this high-end hotel restaurant. Normal people can eat here, too, dressed not to the nines but in the high-fives on a Friday night, keeping in mind that the best customers can be so exquisite that entrées may be superfluous. The menu attempts to please all tastes, from haute cuisine down to pub grub, with high-end and pub fare. Wrigley’s, served with red ketchup hot dogs, is a winner. Amazingly, even carrots (in a sauce of red pepper and corn) are part of a rotating menu with even more adventurous red pepper sauce. On game days, patrons are always blown away by the sports bar just across the street offering more than 150 microbrews and other great brews. The menu includes an entry-level for-everyone menu of American-Mexican home cooking, this simple, bright, and slightly sweet. The toppings range from ordinary to exotic. The menu includes many salads and a handful of American-Mexican entrées. Continuous service, same menu service. Open early, open late. Good spot for a quick meal before or after a show.

**Northland**

3407 Convoy Street, 858-655-4000. A neighborhood favorite. They have some of the best Mexican and regional authentic Mexican food in San Diego. They have an excellent mixture of both traditional and American-Mexican cuisine. You can find the best Mexican cuisine here. They offer a variety of dishes, including traditional Mexican dishes such as tacos, enchiladas, and burritos. The restaurant also has a nice atmosphere with comfortable seating and attentive service. It’s a must-visit for anyone looking for high-quality Mexican food in San Diego.

**Sushi Bar**

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**Avalon**

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**Oil Bar**

16712 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa, 858-348-0414. You'll find a taste of Hawaii in a strip mall in a neighborhood that’s all mall. The bright little “oil” has homemade chips, a homemade sauce, and is perfect for alet, with a touch of side dishes, two for lunch and three for dinner. The Manhattan shrug-der is especially tasty, as is their "kraut" salad. This is an ideal place for families, but don’t even think of it for a romantic dinner. Daily lunch, daily lunch except Sunday (dinner all day Sunday).

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**NORTH INLAND**

**94th Aerial Squadron**

6851 Indian Avenue, Kearny Mesa, 858-560-6771. One of San Diego’s local icons is this classic American fare (stuffed pork tender- loin, farmhouse chicken) in the “Off- ficer’s mess.” Happy hour is weekdays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Fridays, the outside “Rancho” grill features chicken kebabs. The biggest attraction is the place itself. Built to mimic a WWII farm the restaurant is taken over by a bunch of Yankees flying ace, it has a garden full of antique planes and live ducks — and right outside, the real Montgomery ar- mied. Inexpensive. — E.B. Athens Market Café

11640 Camel Mountain Road, Suite 124, Carmel Valley, 858-679-2225. At this offshoot of Mary Pappas’s downtown Athens Mar- ket, sit Vicki’s, the food is just as good as if you want a big start, order the souvlaki, a choice entrée that comes with a variety of ingredients. And split it up with a friend. The meat is lightly marinated and then cooked to perfection in a clay oven. The mixed meat is good, the chicken is great, but the pork is my favorite. It’s a little spicy, but don’t even think of it for a romantic dinner. Daily dinner, daily dinner. Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W.

**San Diego Zoo**

3267 University Avenue, City Heights, 858-584-6244. If you’re looking for authentic, ethnic Mexican home cooking, this simple, bright, elegant eatery is the place. Thursday, a place for the workers, the dishes are homemade, local, simple, and basic. Open early, open late. Inexpensive. — N.W.

**Super Cucina**

3627 University Avenue, 858-679-5732. Foot- ball Junior Seau’s entrance in the downtown, Mission Valley, 858-297-6850. This little “hut” has bamboo chairs, a bamboo lattice awning offers outdoor seating a nice place to sit and talk. The menu is full of dishes that are made fresh daily, such as fried calamari, grilled chicken, and fresh fish of the day. The restaurant is a nice place to sit and talk, the food is fresh and the prices are reasonable. Inexpensive. — E.B.

**Woodstock’s Pizza**

6116 El Cajon Boulevard, 858-485-0999. If you’re looking for a tasty pizza, San Diego has several options. Woodstock’s Pizza is one of the best. They use fresh ingredients, and the pizza is cooked in a wood-fired oven. The crust is thin and crispy, and the toppings are delicious. The restaurant also offers a variety of vegetarian and gluten-free options. Inexpensive.

**Cafe Milano**

3025 El Cajon Blvd. (at 30th) • 11 am-11 pm daily

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**The Philadelphia Sandwich Com- pany**

8004 Coronado Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-571-0888. This classic luncheonette is a monument to Philly culture, including copping the phone, electric fans, and colorful customers’ outfits. The menu is equally colorful — and the cuisine, especially in two great culi- nary traditions. The hoagie and the cheesesteak. The mix-and-match bolognese is much more flavorful than — a hero — in flavor array — similar copy — with some — flavor — with some — flavor — with some — flavor — with some — flavor. The mix-and-match bolognese is much more flavorful than — a hero — in flavor array — similar copy — with some — flavor — with some — flavor. The mix-and-match bolognese is much more flavorful than — a hero — in flavor array — similar copy — with some — flavor — with some — flavor. The mix-and-match bolognese is much more flavorful than — a hero — in flavor array — similar copy — with some — flavor — with some — flavor.
La Tapatia

for the enchilada. The time to be here is Sunday. Good combination plates include the workers and maybe some ruby miners.

fair Mexican food here, sitting alongside

front. But it is in the Live Oak woods, and maybe some ruby miners. Good combination plates include the tostada and beef burrito, and burrito and enchiladas. The time to be here is Sunday morning, when those eggs are in here for the first time, cooked in a three-foot-high pot. Open daily, breakfast through early dinner. Inexpensive. — E.F.

San Diego 8000 Cornerway

San Antonio, 760-747-8286. Take a walk on the mild side at this family-owned fa-

tasteful, I recommend the jellyfish salad, especially remarkable. For the adven-
ture-seekers, I recommend the fish stew, a lovely, arbor-like stone-walled

La Tapatia 140 West Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-747-8286. Take a walk on the mil

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La Tapatia 140 West Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-747-8286. Take a walk on the mild side at this family-owned factory, in business since the 1930s. You'll find standard Mexican fare in a comfortable dining room or, in good weather, lovely, leafy-like-styled patio. The most celebrated dish is the “shrive cherries,” a large tostada covered one-third in ground beef, one-third in beef chucks, and one-third in beans, with cheese, avocado puree, and sour cream over all. Many preparations (grilled seafood, etc.) are healthy, and veggies taste fresh. Seasons are rather de-tuned, but there's a saladbar and a lovely salad on the table. Open daily, three meals. Moderate. — N.W.

Wayside Café 507 South Main Avenue, Fillmore, 760-723-9635. Locals love eating and eating in this long-buried restaurant — partially because it just isn’t found south of America. The place is used to be Magic’s Service Station. You can even sit in the old late bar to eat. Count on generous servings, especially the mountain piles of red-inked home fries as a side at breakfast. Open for breakfast and lunch daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Bubbys Gelato 937 South Coastal Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-438-3636. This tiny storefront does only a few things (sandwiches, gelato, and soda) but does them exceedingly well. The “gourmet sandwiches” really do live up to their description, with intriguing Mediterranean combinations (artichoke hearts, black olives, grilled eggplant, Gorgonzola are among the choice of ingredi-

NORTH COASTAL

Information for all the restaurants below:

* Danny Pｂℓ 760-749-9688. Take a walk on the mild side at this family-owned factory, in business since the 1930s. You'll find standard Mexican fare in a comfortable dining room or, in good weather, lovely, leafy-like-styled patio. The most celebrated dish is the “shrive cherries,” a large tostada covered one-third in ground beef, one-third in beef chucks, and one-third in beans, with cheese, avocado puree, and sour cream over all. Many preparations (grilled seafood, etc.) are healthy, and veggies taste fresh. Seasons are rather de-tuned, but there's a saladbar and a lovely salad on the table. Open daily, three meals. Moderate. — N.W.

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La Pizza Garden: Located at 1430 C Street, Coronado, 619-435-4545. La Pizza Garden is a popular spot for a quick slice or a full meal. The menu includes a wide range of pizzas, from classic margheritas to more adventurous options. The restaurant is known for its friendly service and lively atmosphere. It is open daily for lunch and dinner.

La Bella Pizza Garden: Situated at 500 E. La Jolla Shores Dr., La Jolla, 619-437-0866. La Bella Pizza Garden is a cozy family-owned pizzeria that offers a variety of pizzas, salads, and pastas. The restaurant has an inviting atmosphere and is known for its friendly service and delicious food. It is open daily for lunch and dinner.

La Casa del Zorro: Located at 2454 Pacific Beach Dr., Pacific Beach, 619-236-7919. La Casa del Zorro is a popular Mexican restaurant known for its fresh, high-quality ingredients and authentic recipes. The menu includes a variety of dishes, from tacos and burritos to fajitas and enchiladas. It is open daily for lunch and dinner.

Anthony's Fish Grotto: Located at 3455 1st Ave., Pacific Beach, 619-435-4361. Anthony's Fish Grotto is a seafood restaurant that offers a wide range of fresh seafood dishes, including fish, shrimp, and crab. The restaurant has a bustling atmosphere and is known for its fresh, high-quality ingredients and savory dishes. It is open daily for lunch and dinner.

Il Fornaio — Coronado: Situated at 1361 6th Ave., Coronado, 619-435-4545. Il Fornaio is a popular Italian restaurant known for its delicious, freshly prepared dishes. The menu includes a variety of pasta dishes, pizzas, and grilled meats, as well as a selection of desserts. It is open daily for lunch and dinner.

Gumbo, Po' Boys, Jambalaya, BBQ, Wings: Located at 1430 S. Pacific Beach Dr., Pacific Beach, 619-434-5546. Gumbo, Po' Boys, Jambalaya, BBQ, Wings is a casual eatery that offers a variety of Southern-style dishes, including gumbo, po' boys, jambalaya, and BBQ wings. The restaurant has a laid-back atmosphere and is known for its delicious, high-quality food. It is open daily for lunch and dinner.

Safi: Located at 1500 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 619-435-4545. Safi is a popular Middle Eastern restaurant known for its authentic, flavorful dishes. The menu includes a variety of dishes, from grilled meats and seafood to fresh salads and vegetarian options. It is open daily for lunch and dinner.

Parilla El Dorado: Situated at 1362 El Dorado St., Pacific Beach, 619-235-4242. Parilla El Dorado is a popular Peruvian restaurant known for its delicious, authentic Peruvian cuisine. The menu includes a variety of dishes, from ceviche and lomo saltado to pescado a la chalaca. It is open daily for lunch and dinner.

Sushi & Cocktails: Located at 1400 C Street, San Diego, 619-437-0866. Sushi & Cocktails is a popular sushi and cocktail bar known for its fresh, high-quality sushi and delicious cocktails. The restaurant has a cozy, inviting atmosphere and is open daily for lunch and dinner.

The Broken Yolk Cafe: Located at 3455 1st Ave., Pacific Beach, 619-234-0404. The Broken Yolk Cafe is a popular breakfast and brunch spot known for its delicious, homemade dishes. The menu includes a variety of breakfast and brunch dishes, as well as a selection of sides. It is open daily for breakfast and brunch.

The Little Owl: Located at 1430 S. Pacific Beach Dr., Pacific Beach, 619-434-5545. The Little Owl is a popular British restaurant known for its delicious, authentic British dishes. The menu includes a variety of dishes, from fish and chips to shepherd's pie. It is open daily for lunch and dinner.
One Down, One Up

To the 12-year-old Gerhard, scruffy Beethoven looked like a “vagrant.”

The La Jolla Playhouse’s 33 Variations, about Ludwig van Beethoven’s obsession with a paltry theme by Diabelli, concluded its run in early May. San Diego theater’s homage to the maestro continues at the Old Globe, where Hershey Felder’s As I Knew Him is having its world premiere. Variations explored the creative process; As I Knew Him looks at Beethoven through the eyes of Gerhard von Breuning, his last living friend.

It’s 1870, 100th anniversary of Ludwig van’s birth. Gerhard, whose father was one of Beethoven’s few trusted friends, prepares for a tribute to the genius. He recalls his first sight of the composer (to the 12-year-old Gerhard, scruffy Beethoven looked like a “vagrant”). He performs the miraculous “Sonata in C Sharp Minor” and the Hegelian “Sonata Pathétique” on the piano and describes incidents from the life: unrequited loves, a controlling relationship with nephew Karl, encroaching deafness, appalling living conditions — including an unempted chamber pot.

In print, Beethoven has proved larger than any single biography. To grasp the life, the mind, and the music, one should read Alexander Thayer’s two volumes, Maynard Solomon’s psychological study, Lewis Lockwood’s recent opus, and throw in J.W.N. Sullivan’s Beethoven, His Spiritual Development, which T.S. Eliot read and then wrote “The Four Quarts” for good measure.

Beethoven also proves to be much larger than Felder’s sketchy piece, which gives the symphonies short shrift — we hear snatches at best — and high-fives getting a workout from the maestro) with few mistakes. Francois-Pierre Couture’s dark, spare set includes a large open book, or piece of sheet music, a gold ribbon bookmark down the middle, on which projections depict half-real, half-glimpsed, ghostly figures. At first they resemble white ink Rorschachs — what you see is what you get — but they work well, giving the eye something to scan while the music fills the heart. Sparse, shiny props and Felder’s long gray hair and stiff, black Victorian outfit also enhance the look. The design values, and Joel Zwick’s unfussy direction, serve the show, which needs major rethinking, however. Right now it showcases Felder’s many impressive skills far more than it does Beethoven’s.

When it opened in 1998, Terrence McNally’s Corpus Christi raised as much of a ruckus as when Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice produced Jesus Christ Superstar as a double record album in 1970. McNally overlaps the traditional story of the Nazarene — or Nasarean Essene, if current scholarship is correct — with the rise and fall of Joshua, a gay man from McNally’s home town (named for the “body of Christ”).

The ruckus aside, Corpus Christi’s a kind of gay Godspell, without music, a story theater version of the traditional tale bilocated in 1950s Texas. The first act combines satires of pageants (“boy, did we party!”) with horrific homophobic cruelty. In Act Two, Joshua abandons his sexuality altogether. What follows is the predictable sequence of events; the only questions concern how the show will stage Gethsemane, Pilate’s hand-washing, the Crucifixion.

The play moves from scattered eagerness to ultimate seriousness, which explains why the Di-
**THEATER LISTINGS**

**The All Night Strut**
The Ensemble Theatre presents Terrence McNally’s controversial passion play, a contemporary retelling of the life of Jesus as if he were a gay man in 1930s Texas. Nick Amundsen directed.

**The Glass Menagerie**
The Old Globe’s “Classic Up-Close” series offers an intimate, in-the-round look at plays usually seen many rows away. You’d think Tennessee Williams’ haunted memory drama would be a perfect choice for the series. But in almost every frame, the actor Calhoun-directed production gives the distinct impression its costumes close up tightly. I can’t recommend this play.

**Corpus Christi**
The La Jolla Playhouse presents Terrence McNally’s controversial passion play, a contemporary retelling of the life of Jesus as if he were a gay man in 1930s Texas. Nick Amundsen directed.

**Diversionary Theatre**
5413 3rd Ave., Hillcrest
858-679-8085. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. THROUGH JUNE 1.

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**Corpus Christi**
The La Jolla Playhouse presents Terrence McNally’s controversial passion play, a contemporary retelling of the life of Jesus as if he were a gay man in 1930s Texas. Nick Amundsen directed.

**Diversionary Theatre**
5413 3rd Ave., Hillcrest
858-679-8085. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. THROUGH JUNE 1.
**Prelude to a Kiss**

So you fall in love. Finally, and time suddenly speeds up, really speeds up as whirlwind you’re engaged and married in a jiff. Then at your wedding this old dude, like a modern Ancient Mariner, shows up, asks to kiss the bride, and—WHAT THE? Everything’s different. But look, you said those vows about sickness and health, right? And you vowed you’d love your mate after age has taken its toll on the teeth, the hair, and the brain. And you’ve heard that, once married, people can become someone else entirely, right? But this different! Gregg Lasuca turns trauma into fantasy in his mystical-wise comedy about the absolute promise of “for better or worse” getting put to a severe test—and, at the same time, about someone facing last things and yearning for a re- lease. New Village Arts, under Delicia Turner Sonnenberg’s gift direction, offers a space, often delightful staging of the piece. Backed by Esther Emsley’s scenic design, metallic cutouts, like stems of plants that reconfigure into ocotillo-sign, metallic curlicues, like stems of ancient mariner, shows up, asks to kiss the bride, and—WHAT THE?? State Street, Carlsbad. 760-433-9500. 2230. FRIDAY, 8 P.M. THURSDAY, 8 P.M. SATURDAY, 8 P.M. SATURDAY, 2 AND 8 P.M. **The Voysey Inheritance**

A legal firm’s been absconding with trust funds for two generations, the senior Voysey tells his son and partner, who’s inheriting the company. And when the family learns that it has been turning clients’ pounds to pence and they are living a “sham happiness,” they ask, “What’s the big deal? Nobody hurt (well, at least no one in the immediate family).” Let’s stay the course, Young Edward, however, decides otherwise. David Mamet’s adaptation of Harley Granville-Barker’s 1905 thesis play, perhaps the original of our current “gloss over grave moral infractions, “illegal” for “right” and “wrong” to be entwined today. Euphemisms and entitlement have become more entrenched today. And euphemisms still reign (substituting “legal” and “illegal” for “right” and “wrong”) to gloss over grave moral infractions, for example). Mamet, and Granville-Barker, make their key points early, and both have weak second acts that trail off in a long denouement. For Lamb’s Players, Robert Smyth designed an expressive set: gorgeous, robin’s egg blue rug, patterned with what looks like chaos theory’s Mandelbrot set, and a wall of empty gold picture frames. Jeannie Reith decked everyone in somber Edwardian finery. But the opening-night performance (rare for this polished company) felt underrehearsed. Except for Jon Corrick’s fine cameo as Mr. Voysey (the corrupt patriarch who tells “no unnecessary lies”), Glenn Beddington’s semi-acute Mrs. Voysey, and Jason Heil’s often irate Major Booth, the acting was mannered and exterior, at times even indicated, rather than felt. Most characterizations were one-dimensional, including Jon Corrick’s young Edward, who could benefit from a stronger arc and more convincing fever. As Two, in particular, became so stagy that key scenes drew laughs, not gasps, from the audience. Lamb’s Players Theatre, 1142 6th Ave. San Diego. 619-544-1600. www.MysteryCafe.net. **THE GLASS MANAGERIE**

by Tennessee Williams

Directed by Joe Calarco

Cassius Carter Centre Stage Now—May 18

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 chance in fortune suddenly seems possible with the arrival of the long-hoped-for “gentleman caller.”

**Where There’s a Will... There’s a Wake**

We cordially invite you to pay your respects to our beloved Don Shoeleone. He lived so that others would not go barefoot. Services held every Fri. & Sat. at 8 PM. We cordially invite you to pay your respects to our beloved Don Shoeleone. Services held every Fri. & Sat. at 8 PM. Louchouarn — that tells the “an- cient love story through the lens of California’s surf culture.” University of California San Diego, 1205 Gilman Drive, UCSD. 858-534-2230. Friday, 8 P.M. Thursday, 8 P.M. Saturday, 2 AND 8 P.M. **Surf Orpheus**

UCSD Theatre & Dance presents a musical reimagining of the Or- pheus myth — book and lyrics by Corey Madden, music by Bruno Louchouarn — that tells the “ancient love story through the lens of California’s surf culture.” University of California San Diego, 1205 Gilman Drive, UCSD. 858-534-2230. Friday, 8 P.M. Thursday, 8 P.M. Saturday, 2 AND 8 P.M. **The Funhouse**

A cross between improvisational game, and dame.” Pascarella directed. Musical reimagining of the Or- pheus myth — book and lyrics by Corey Madden, music by Bruno Louchouarn — that tells the “ancient love story through the lens of California’s surf culture.” University of California San Diego, 1205 Gilman Drive, UCSD. 858-534-2230. Friday, 8 P.M. Thursday, 8 P.M. Saturday, 2 AND 8 P.M. **Where There’s a Will... There’s a Wake**

Mystery Café Dinner Theatre presents James Pascarella and Will Roberton’s interactive comedy, set in a 1920s speakeasy where suspi- cion shrouds every “gangster, game, and dame.” Pascarella di- rected. Mystery Café, 505 Kalma Street, Hillcrest. 619-544-6664. Fridays, 8 P.M. Saturdays, 8 P.M. Open-Ended Run.

**San Diego Theatresports:**

**The Funhouse**

A cross between improvisational comedy and Family Feud. The Funhouse combines improv with competitive scene making, with the audience awarding points to the winning team. Puns might bulk at the obviousness of comparisons used in this format, but the “game show,” on Fridays, is a kick. The 90-minute evening offers different bits. The winner gets a banana, the loser a “forfeit.” Some attempts went nowhere (improv is tough. I did it in my, as hindsight reveals, callow youth). Others made amazing twists and turns. The group has more hits than misses, and their guru, Keith Johnstone, wrote one of the very best books I’ve read about making theater. They put his pearls to good use. Their motto: “Remember, when it’s not funny, it’s art.” Worth a try.

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Mixed Bag

No idea is so puny that it cannot be put over with a pumped-up budget.

To say the least, Speed Racer is colorful. Color-overflowing, to say a little more. Color-engulfed. The live-action version of the late-Sixties made-in-Japan TV cartoon (which I never saw) is of course, in our day and age, only partly live-action: real people like Emile Hirsch, Christina Ricci, John Goodman, and Susan Sarandon inserted into a world of total artifice, a world of Madison Avenue utopianism, pop-color, ping-pong nonsequential editing, CGI landscapes, video-game action — although “action” sounds a little precise for the mere motion into which they, and we, are plunged, an Osterizer in smoothie mode. (The auto races possess no more materiality than those in the completely computer-animated Cars, and a lot less clarity.) The Wachowski Brothers, Andy and Larry, have undeniably given the movie a look, and no more deniably given the moviegoer eyestrain. While the thing might to some degree be original in its details (e.g., cut-out figures gliding laterally across the screen, superimposed at the dimension of giants), or anyway original in the new heights to which these details have been piled (even shaving off an inch or two for every “comical” chimpanzee reaction shot), it is not to any degree original in its basic strategy: to wit, no idea is so puny or puerile — an existential racecar driver born and bred for no other purpose, surname Racer, forename Speed — that it cannot be put over with a pumped-up budget, a protracted running time, a surfeit of special effects. Or in other words, no idea so puny or puerile that it cannot be sold, sold, sold. If they were honest, the Wachowskis would surely have to identify not with their individualistic hero but with the villainous corporate manipulator: “People like you,” the hero lets him know, “have way too much money.” People like the Wachowskis.

Coming from a very different place — France, to be literal about it — is OSS 117: Cairo, Nest of Spies, a démodé Bond spoof set appropriately in the mid-Fifties and shot scrupulously in the style of the period. What Hollywood production today would impose such self-discipline? Would deny itself a computer and rely on its wits? Director Michel Hazanavicius, a new name over here, evinces a fond remembrance of an era, a screen archetype, and a cinematic vocabulary, and he keeps up a mood of geniality that can blossom into an occasional chuckle, nothing more. The casual, complacent, innocent chauvinism of the Gallic superspy — a Bond, Jacques Bond, if you please — constitutes a legitimate and logical extension of the character, and constitutes at the same time effortless and painless political comment, not so démodé after all. Jean Dujardin, a paragon of self-regard, barely able to sustain forward momentum without freezing into a pose, neither overplays it nor underplays it. He plays it just right.

What Happens in Vegas, what passes these days as a “rom-com” (the very term drips with derision: not fully romantic, not fully comic), pairs perfect strangers in a drunken impulse wedding in Sin City, whence they return to Manhattan with $3 million in disputed winnings (a contrivance copied from Larry David’s Sour Grapes), and are sentenced to six months of working at the marriage before an unsympathetic judge will grant a divorce or unfreeze their assets. What ensues, under director Tom
Vaughan, is a belly-crawl to a foregone conclusion. It showcases in a secondary role Lake Bell, to whom I was delightedly introduced in the female lead of Over Her Dead Body; possibly the year's most underrated movie, not because it was any great shakes but because it was the most overhyped. (I couldn't figure out why, could only guess that people had felt misled to believe that Eva Longoria was the star of it and had failed to believe their good luck.) I remember mentioning at the time that Bell seemed the sort of actress normally expected to get no respect, or no respect at all, a clear path to the A-list, Cameron Diaz and Ashton Kutcher, are, between them, funny. The forty-four-year-old leading lady gets. The two principals, selected from an almost random group of women, are, between them, funny. Baby Mama, by contrast, is a belly-crawl to a foreboding ending, a mile away from the facile sentiment coexist unpeacefully, if not mutually destructively.

Son of Rambow, written and directed by Garth Jennings of The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, is a sweet nothing, acutely cloying, about the bonding of dissimilar English schoolboys, devil and angel, plus a slightly less adhesive French exchange student with two-toned hair and trend-setting wardrobe, all collaborating together on a video sequel to First Blood for entry in a Young Filmmakers Competition. Cartoon slapstick and tender sentiment coexist unpeacefully, if not mutually destructively.

"Son of Rambow" makes you feel like a kid again. ~ Giant

A charming British comedy. ~ USA Today

"A delightful movie." ~ People

"Bursting with unbridled imagination." ~ The Associated Press

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The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian — Andrew Adamson's fantasy film, from the C.S. Lewis novels, with Ben Barnes, George Henley, William Moseley, Anna Popplewell.

It is a passably interesting tale to tell, a new path through old territory, but the interest is either in the tale than in the telling. At any number of stopping points along the path, the sights are liable to seem all too familiar (the bullet in the head, etc.), never mind the refreshing route that led there. And the coarse, raw, desaturated image, whether a chosen cliché or an imposed hardship, is at no point much to look at, a harsh thing to say about a motion picture. 2007.

The Counterfeiters — Stefan Ruzowitzky's Holocaust survival tale, loosely based on fact, tells how the "world's best counterfeiter" (the long, long face of Karl Moxley, from the C.S. Lewis novels, with Anne Popplewell, Anna then grind on taking melodramatic ones.

Squares 14; Vista Village, from 5/16)

The Forbidden Kingdom — a bullied Boston teen and martial-arts film aficionado (Michael Angarano) gets transplanted through the Gate of No Gate to a kind of kung fu Shangri-La, where he learns to fight from the best (Jackie Chan, Jet Li), while fulfilling a prophecy of returning a magic golden staff to Five Elements Mountain, freeing the immortal Monkey King from bondage, and overthrowing the wicked Jade Warlord. Just your average modern adolescent fantasy. The film, which begins with a literal "Best Foot Forward," really doesn't feel so much like a dream as like a Prelud to a dream. Or in another word, a sepicile. Directed by Rob Minkoff. 2008.

Flight of the Red Balloon — Taiwanese filmmaker Hou Hsiao-hsien evokes Albert Lamorisse's little half-hour fantasy of 1956, not merely in the last three words of the title, but in every intermittent and un-integrated appearance of an actual red balloon, the size and strength of a beach ball, every bit as autonomous as Lamorisse's, both less active and more mysterious, more of a voyeur, a watcher, a guardian angel, a ghostly spirit. A Chinese film student in Paris, employed part-time as a nanny to a boy about the same age as the hero of The Red Balloon, ever so slightly modifies the Lamorisse film by name, and currently happens to be making her own film about balloons. (She herself never sees the autonomous balloon; only the boys does. ) Not even this, however, destroys the motif much above irrelevance. The boy's mother has her hands full of more than earth-bound matters: an absent husband in Montreal, a daughter (by a previous husband) overdue for a visit from Brussels, a troublesome downstairs tenant, a new production at the puppet theater where she voices the characters, in addition to her son's new nanny. The ingredient of fantasy is something new for Hou, and just as well it's no more than a pinch or two. The Parisian setting is of course something new too, but it doesn't disturb the Eastern eye or the Eastern pace. Hou will remain Hou, wherever he may go. (He also went somewhere new in Café Lamoure, Tokyo. An homage to Ozai in a greater degree than this one is to Lamorisse.) Facing, it scarcely bears saying, is crucial to him, though not what's usually meant by that: not fast, breathless, heart-pounding, but instead commanding and compellingly slow, so that you become aware of time ticking by, conscious of the immediate moment, undistracted by where you've headed. The pace of contemplation. And his eye rarely, if ever, faltih him. Although the color here might be a shade juicierized, the camera is forever wandering casually, as by chance, into the most exquisite compositions, patched together on a vertical plane out of shop windows, doors, street signs, posters, puppets of pedled plaster, etc., or receding in space down the crevause of a pedestrian pasageway. And it can hardly go wrong amid the clutter of the mother's crampd and lived-in apartment, the mounted masks, the bookshelves, the stacks of CDs and videos, the vases, the wall calendar, the kitchen doorframe. Anywhere the camera turns in this place, it will find a Romanian-bonanza. There's an endless ingenuity in these discoveries, and there's even a certain type of suspense in the anticipation of the next eyegrabber. Juliette Binoche, Simon Iarainu, Song Fang. 2007.

Forgeting Sarah Marshall — Comedy of hearbreak and heartrend, under the imprimatur of producer Judd Apatow, but directed by newcomer Nicholas Stoller, and written by its star, Jason Segel, who conceived for himself the role of a would-be serious composer, cranking out mood music for a network crime drama when he would rather be devoting his time to a Dracula stage musical. (When, that is, he's not devoting his time to eating Fruit Loops out of a mixing bowl on the couch.) The voca- tional aspect of the role, in any case, straightaway gets put on the back burner in favor of the personal aspect: the dumbed down ideal of the lead actress on the aforementioned crime drama. The main point of interest in the movie, fractional though it may be, is Segel's penis, a raising of stakes over the old reliable tush shot. ("Would you take a look at my penis?" is an actual line of dialogue he has written for himself. It could just as well have been the advertising slogan.) For the rest, the movie gives the game away early when the schlumy protagonist accidentally-on-purpose runs into his ex-girlfriend at her preferred Hawaiian resort, where she's cavorting with a lavishly tattooed British rocker, and where the copper-toned hostesses at the check-in desk immediately jump out at us as a ready and willing shoulder for the schlump to cry on and (b) a couple of miles prettier than the ice-sculpture Hollywood girlfriend. Russell Brand's self-absorbed rock star ("Yeah," he responds to the fan who had slipped him a demo tape, "I was going to listen to that, but then I just carried on loving my life") and Paul Rudd's dophead surfer ("When life gives you lemons, just say ‘f**k the lemons’ and ball") are funny enough for skit-level comedy, but scarcely for comedy of character. Kristen Bell, Mila Kunis, Josh Radn. 2008.

Haral and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay — slender, plodding (the sequel), with delicious of political comment, possibly admissible as scientific evidence of brain damage. John Cho, Kal

SANDIEGOREADER.COM

Things take a tragic turn fairly early, and then grind on taking melodramatic ones. Capably directed (as well as photographed) by Santosh Sivan, but heavy-handedly.

With Linus Roache, Nandita Das, Rahul Bose, and Jennifer Ehle. 2008. (Jolla Village, from 5/16)
Penn, Neil Patrick Harris; co-written and co-directed by Jon Hurwitz and Hayden Schlossberg. 2008.

**Speed Racer** — A pathological playboy, busy collecting royalties on his invention of the cardboard "coffee collar," realizes he’s in love when his platonic girlfriend of ten years goes off on a business trip to Scotland and comes home engaged to a duke. (The perfect man if he weren’t a Scot.) A couple of attractive players, Patrick Dempsey and Michelle Monaghan, in monstrously off-putting roles. With Kevin McKidd, Sydney Pollack, and Kathleen Quinlan, directed by Paul Weiland. 2008.

**The Princess Bride** — First-time filmmaker Rob Reiner, who’s said to have been wanting to make a movie of the William Goldman novel for more years than he’d actually been a moviemaker, is not at this point a good enough director to cover up for a not good enough idea: he’s still tied too tightly to the TV sitcom sensibility (acquired no doubt in his years as an actor on *All in the Family*), all the way down to the clunking chauvinism of whoever happens to be talking at the moment. In fairness he does seem to keep on trying to do something a little different, only he is doing something less different here than he seems to think. The possibilities of the tongue-in-cheek swashbuckling adventure have been pretty thoroughly

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**OSS 117: Cairo, Nest of Spies**

— Pierre Salvadori’s Gallic powerhouse.

**Priceless** — Pierre Salvadori’s Gallic romantic comedy tarries a long time in making.

**Pennsylvania** — Relationship comedy with the voices of Jim Carrey, Steve Carell, Will Arnett, Seth Rogen, and Carol Burnett; directed by Jon Favreau. 2008.

**A Serious Man** — Co-written and directed by Ethan and Joel Coen.

**Horton Hears a Who!** — Dr. Seuss adulterated: plumped-up graphics (faithful in bare outline); wised-up attitude (vocal impressions of Kasinger and JFK, a martial-arts anime parody); dragged-out story-telling. 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 needle, hits the patient in the shoulder, and turns his arm into a strand of spaghetti); and the lessons on tolerance and coexistence aren’t lost in the grandiosity. With the voices of Jim Carrey, Steve Carell, Will Arnett, Seth Rogen, and Carol Burnett; directed by Jimmy Hayward and Steve Martino. 2008.

**Cop Out** — They were going to hand this one to the mobsters and the federal agents, but it’s not a movie about the mob, and to combat this he devises a personal suit of flying armor (a gold titanium alloy, actually, not iron), transforming himself into a sort of airborne Robocop to police the world. The current-events tie-ins is fairly tasteless, given the conventional sitcomness of the approach, aggravated by the couldn’t-give-a-shit affectation of Robert Downey, Jr., in the title role. With Gwyneth Paltrow, Jeff Bridges, Terrence Howard, and Shaun Toub; directed by Jon Favreau. 2008.

**Iron Man** — Marvel Comics superhero (vintage 1963) rerouted through present-day Afghanistan. Weapons manufacturer Tony Stark, alias "The Merchant of Death," learns first-hand that his products sometimes land in the laps of America’s enemies, and to combat this he devises a personal suit of flying armor (a gold titanium alloy, actually, not iron), transforming himself into a sort of airborne Robocop to police the world. The current-events tie-ins is fairly tasteless, given the conventional sitcomness of the approach, aggravated by the couldn’t-give-a-shit affectation of Robert Downey, Jr., in the title role. With Gwyneth Paltrow, Jeff Bridges, Terrence Howard, and Shaun Toub; directed by Jon Favreau. 2008.

**Iron Man** — The Documentary Film on legendary surfer Matt Archbold

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The Documentary Film on legendary surfer Matt Archbold
mapped out in such things as, coming for-
Shine a Light — Entering to a Rolls-Stone concert at the intimate Beacon Theatre in New York City. If Martin Scorsese wasn’t visible in several minutes of Raging Bull’s black-and-white footage, you’d never imagine he was behind the cut-and-cut-back old, old inter-episodes. Young, yick, mystic, mystical, modal, and with. Jack White, Buddy Guy, and Christina Aguilera.

Ellen Page is in an indie-mist comedy in an academic setting, which could make the viewer feel more virtuous when than watching a low-iron-blon- dewood comedy: “My fun’s just a little more cerebral than your fun.” (Anyone not fed up with Ellen Page in Zorba ought to have ample opportunity.) As well as in form of buffets, which can mix any mainstream comic in moneyless of pop songs. Noon Murro directed, Mark Jude Poirier wrote, first-timers both. 2008 ①【Plaza THEATRE】

San Diego, May 16, 2008 135

Squire behind him.) An apparently forte- nious intervention in a barroom brawl, saving the bacon of a shamming Hollywood action star (Tim Allen, doing for Mamet what Steve Martin did for him, and vice versa, in The Spanish Prisoner), brings about an uptown in his prospects, an offer of a cuasy position as co-producer on a big-budget Iraq War movie. Anyone famil- iar with Mamet, however, will be on the lookout for the hidden motif, the invisible pattern, the controlling intelligence. Even when there’s none there. You can almost believe that the writer-director, himself a purple belt in jiu-jitsu, came to the subject through life rather than through movies, and that he had never seen and studied his countless predecessors and competitors. Al- most. There is nothing slack, formalistic, on-autopilot about the unfilledment of the plot, it is unfailingly focused, intense, and intriguing. All the way, but not through, the end. However artfully man- nered, the climax falls into the corniest con- vention of the nonviolent hero forced at last, against all his prince’s fights, at least outside the ring. And the recurrent hauls of the onlookers is prefigured: a committed practitioner might sometimes, somehow, she do so, but never, ever, the bloodthirsty paying customer. The risk of silliness — all this solemnity about “the code of the warrior,” honor, mortality, frailty, etc. — has been present and palpable all along. But until the end, Mamet had borne it with the mesmeric deadpan of a Jean-Pierre Melville gangster pastiche. By then, he’s two hours had accured to more than two books. With Alice Braga, Emily Mortimer, Max Martinez, Joa Mestanza, Ricky Jay, Rebecca Pidgeon. 2007 ①【CHULA VISTA 10】Escondido 14; Hor- Pleas 7A; LA JUNIO VILLAGE; MIDWAY MAR- KETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20;

OCEANIDE 10; POMAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 20; SAN MUN 13; TOWN SQUARE 14

Snihansh Anby is an indie-mist comedy in an academic setting, which could make the viewer feel more virtuous when than watching a low-iron-blon- dewood comedy: “My fun’s just a little more cerebral than your fun.” (Anyone not fed up with Ellen Page in Zorba ought to have ample opportunity.) As well as in form of buffets, which can mix any mainstream comic in moneyless of pop songs. Noon Murro directed, Mark Jude Poirier wrote, first-timers both. 2008 ①【Plaza THEATRE】

San Diego, May 16, 2008 135

Squire behind him.) An apparently forte- nious intervention in a barroom brawl, saving the bacon of a shamming Hollywood action star (Tim Allen, doing for Mamet what Steve Martin did for him, and vice versa, in The Spanish Prisoner), brings about an uptown in his prospects, an offer of a cuasy position as co-producer on a big-budget Iraq War movie. Anyone famil- iar with Mamet, however, will be on the lookout for the hidden motif, the invisible pattern, the controlling intelligence. Even when there’s none there. You can almost believe that the writer-director, himself a purple belt in jiu-jitsu, came to the subject through life rather than through movies, and that he had never seen and studied his countless predecessors and competitors. Al- most. There is nothing slack, formalistic, on-autopilot about the unfilledment of the plot, it is unfailingly focused, intense, and intriguing. All the way, but not through, the end. However artfully man- nered, the climax falls into the corniest con- vention of the nonviolent hero forced at last, against all his prince’s fights, at least outside the ring. And the recurrent hauls of the onlookers is prefigured: a committed practitioner might sometimes, somehow, she do so, but never, ever, the bloodthirsty paying customer. The risk of silliness — all this solemnity about “the code of the warrior,” honor, mortality, frailty, etc. — has been present and palpable all along. But until the end, Mamet had borne it with the mesmeric deadpan of a Jean-Pierre Melville gangster pastiche. By then, he’s two hours had accured to more than two books. With Alice Braga, Emily Mortimer, Max Martinez, Joa Mestanza, Ricky Jay, Rebecca Pidgeon. 2007 ①【CHULA VISTA 10】Escondido 14; Hor- Pleas 7A; LA JUNIO VILLAGE; MIDWAY MAR- KETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20;
toucheds of fantasy, miles of slow-motion, and not least, Danny Elfman’s spooky mu-
ic, suitable for a Tim Burton tale of the bizarre. 2008.
• PELICAN CINEMAS, THROUGH 5/15

Street Kings — Director David Ayer, whose previous works include the original story for James Ellroy’s novel, stages a dirty-cop mud wrestle, stodgy, obvious, hyperbolic, and hollywood-sy, one cop drier than another, one actor better than another, making Dirty Harry look, in
relation, like new-fallen snow and making Clint Eastwood look like God. The vodka-
swigging, trigger-happy Kraus Reeser, in the lead, proves to be one of the least dirty
policers and least bad performers. With Forest Whitaker, Hugh Laurie, Chris Evans,
John Corbett, Jay Mohr, Cedric the Entertain-

Then She Found Me — Reviewed this is-
ue. With Helen Hunt, Colin Firth,
Matthew Broderick, and Bette Midler,
directed by Hunt.★★★
(HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)
21 — Takeoff from a true story, presum-
ably far, far off, about a team of MIT math
whizzes who, drilled by a Meisterstucken
mentor on the faculty, visit Vegas on week-
ends to beat the house at blackjack. The
film is not able to make the frowned-upon
practice of “card counting” comprehensi-
ble, much less cinematic (unless you con-
sider fast-shuffle editing to be cinematic),
but then it’s not really interested in mental
acumen and application, only in the re-
wards and perks: a run-of-the-mill Sin City
fantasy (dazzling montage of casino neon,
top-of-the-world luxury suite, strip club,
stacks and stacks of hoarded chips) in
which the natural-born nerd can forget
who his friends are, become somebody dif-
dent, go around acting like a cross be-
tween Richard Gere in Pretty Woman and
Michael Douglas in Wall Street. Director
Robert Luketic, whose lightweight credits
consist of Legally Blonde, A Date with
Tad Hamilton, and Monster-in-Lane, per-
mits himself to be entranced by the fantasy,
serving more as press agent than reporter,
greasing the wheels for a smooth ride, pick-
ning compatible pop songs for tempos. Jim
Sturgess is Young, Paul McCartney cute as
the whizazzar math whiz, or in other words
a fantasy figure from the get-go. (If he’s so
bright, why is he piling up hundreds of
thousands of dollars in the ceiling of his
dorm room instead of in a bank?) Kate
Bosworth is a still more distorted fantasy
of the Smart Girl. And Kevin Spacey, who gets
all the snappiest dialogue, puts his innate
repulsion to good use as the manipulative
mentor, the adult authority figure who, in
order to complete the fantasy, must finally
be overcome. The most sympathetic fig-
ure, even when (perhaps especially when)
he’s leaping rings onto his fingers for a
brass-knuckle work-over, is a Laurence
Fishburne as an old-school casino watchdog
who’s being phased out by computer soft-
ware. 2008.
• IPSION VALLEY 18; GASPAL 15; LA JOLLA 32; PALM PROMENE 24

Then She Found Me — Reviewed this is-
ue. With Cameron Diaz, Ashton
Kutcher, Rob Corddry, Lake Bell, and
Queen Latifah, directed by Tom Vaughan.
• (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS; ESCONDIDO 10; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASPAL 15; GRROSSMONT CENTER; HILLCREST 18; MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 32; MIRA MESA 18; MISLEN MARKETPLACE 12; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OAT ROCK 12; PALM PROMENE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA ROYCE 14; POOY 12; RANCH DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 8; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

What Happens in Vegas — Reviewed this issue.
With Cameron Diaz, Ashton
Kutcher, Rob Corddry, Lake Bell, and
Queen Latifah, directed by Tom Vaughan.
• (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS; ESCONDIDO 10; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASPAL 15; GRROSSMONT CENTER; HILLCREST 18; MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 32; MIRA MESA 18; MISLEN MARKETPLACE 12; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OAT ROCK 12; PALM PROMENE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA ROYCE 14; POOY 12; RANCH DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 8; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Where in the World Is Osama bin Laden? — With his wife pregnant —
optimistic premise for wanting a safer
world — Morgan Spurlock takes his cam-
era on a quixotic quest for the world’s Most
Wanted man, or more ambitiously a quest
towards peace: the elusive, fugitive Bin
Laden?
• (FLOWER HILL 4, FROM 5/16)

Young @ Heart — Documentary on a
Massachusetts touring chorus of very se-
ni citizens who perform a repertoire of
1950’s and 60’s rock and roll. Robert
Powers, VOGUE
• (CAMS MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS; ESCONDIDO 10; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 32; MIRA MESA 18; MISLEN MARKETPLACE 12; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OAT ROCK 12; PALM PROMENE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA ROYCE 14; POOY 12; RANCH DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 8; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

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by Josh Board

What’s your favorite drink?

Calvin Cantos

Student

Point Loma

I would have to be apple juice. I love it. It’s refreshing. I usually have it a couple times a week. That’s most often in the mornings, to start my day. But I’ll have it at other times, depending on what mood I’m in.

Kate Godwin

Student

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I would be Diet Coke with lime. They don’t have that flavor now, but when they didn’t, I used to put the lime in there. I would say I have one a week. Usually it’s on the weekends.
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Most vehicles.
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- **Lube chassis (if applicable)**
- **Inspect/top off all engine fluids**

**A/C Service**

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- Check wheel bearings
- Call us TODAY!

Safely at home on earth, said one resident living on burned-out lava rocks about a mile from the oozing Kilauea volcano near Kalapana, Hawaii, explaining the lure that he and his neighbors feel, having built homes by hand, collected rainwater to drink, installed solar panels for power, and planted vegetables between the rocks for food. Said one of the semi-hermit residents to an Associated Press reporter in March, “I’m more scared of people than I am a volcano.”

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 or to WeirdNewsTips@Yahoo.com


PACIFIC BEACH. $1125. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Newly remodeled. 360-223-2167.

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Point Loma. $600. 1 bedroom apartment available, starting at $600. Close to ocean, off street parking. Spa area, on-site laundry. Contact 2 south ocean drive, 1-305-765-0050. Additional 1 bedroom available beginning at $1450.


Point Loma. $825. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, 1-1/2 bath both bathrooms. All of the above have important ocean views in the entry hall. Kitchen/breakfast room and bath. The extra large master bedroom has plenty of room for a king size bed and extra furniture. New carpet and large garden views from the living room. Two blocks from center of Point Loma and recreation room. Sorry, no pets. Digital cable and high speed internet available. Call 619-226-8198. It’s a great place to live. www.donethekick.com.

Point Loma. $900. One bedroom apartment available, starting at $900. Close to ocean, off street parking. Spa area, on-site laundry. Contact 2 south ocean drive, 1-305-765-0050. Additional 1 bedroom available beginning at $1450.

Point Loma. $1150. 1st of the month. Large, upper 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, 1-1/2 bath both bathrooms. All of the above have important ocean views in the entry hall. Kitchen/breakfast room and bath. The extra large master bedroom has plenty of room for a king size bed and extra furniture. New carpet and large garden views from the living room. Two blocks from center of Point Loma and recreation room. Sorry, no pets. Digital cable and high speed internet available. Call 619-226-8198. It’s a great place to live. www.donethekick.com.

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Point Loma. $2395. Brand new, sur-


Point Loma. $475. 1 bedroom apartment, 1-1/2 bath both bathrooms. All of the above have important ocean views in the entry hall. Kitchen/breakfast room and bath. The extra large master bedroom has plenty of room for a king size bed and extra furniture. New carpet and large garden views from the living room. Two blocks from center of Point Loma and recreation room. Sorry, no pets. Digital cable and high speed internet available. Call 619-226-8198. It’s a great place to live. www.donethekick.com.

Point Loma. $500-$525. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 1-1/2 bath both bathrooms. All of the above have important ocean views in the entry hall. Kitchen/breakfast room and bath. The extra large master bedroom has plenty of room for a king size bed and extra furniture. New carpet and large garden views from the living room. Two blocks from center of Point Loma and recreation room. Sorry, no pets. Digital cable and high speed internet available. Call 619-226-8198. It’s a great place to live. www.donethekick.com.

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Point Loma. $600. 1 bedroom apartment available, starting at $600. Close to ocean, off street parking. Spa area, on-site laundry. Contact 2 south ocean drive, 1-305-765-0050. Additional 1 bedroom available beginning at $1450.

Point Loma. $675. 2 bedroom apartment, 1-1/2 bath both bathrooms. All of the above have important ocean views in the entry hall. Kitchen/breakfast room and bath. The extra large master bedroom has plenty of room for a king size bed and extra furniture. New carpet and large garden views from the living room. Two blocks from center of Point Loma and recreation room. Sorry, no pets. Digital cable and high speed internet available. Call 619-226-8198. It’s a great place to live. www.donethekick.com.

Point Loma. $725. Perfect location. Large, upper 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, 1-1/2 bath both bathrooms. All of the above have important ocean views in the entry hall. Kitchen/breakfast room and bath. The extra large master bedroom has plenty of room for a king size bed and extra furniture. New carpet and large garden views from the living room. Two blocks from center of Point Loma and recreation room. Sorry, no pets. Digital cable and high speed internet available. Call 619-226-8198. It’s a great place to live. www.donethekick.com.

Point Loma. $795. 2 bedroom apartment, 1-1/2 bath both bathrooms. All of the above have important ocean views in the entry hall. Kitchen/breakfast room and bath. The extra large master bedroom has plenty of room for a king size bed and extra furniture. New carpet and large garden views from the living room. Two blocks from center of Point Loma and recreation room. Sorry, no pets. Digital cable and high speed internet available. Call 619-226-8198. It’s a great place to live. www.donethekick.com.


Point Loma. $825. 2 bedroom apartment, 1-1/2 bath both bathrooms. All of the above have important ocean views in the entry hall. Kitchen/breakfast room and bath. The extra large master bedroom has plenty of room for a king size bed and extra furniture. New carpet and large garden views from the living room. Two blocks from center of Point Loma and recreation room. Sorry, no pets. Digital cable and high speed internet available. Call 619-226-8198. It’s a great place to live. www.donethekick.com.


Point Loma. $850. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1-1/2 bath both bathrooms. All of the above have important ocean views in the entry hall. Kitchen/breakfast room and bath. The extra large master bedroom has plenty of room for a king size bed and extra furniture. New carpet and large garden views from the living room. Two blocks from center of Point Loma and recreation room. Sorry, no pets. Digital cable and high speed internet available. Call 619-226-8198. It’s a great place to live. www.donethekick.com.

Point Loma. $850. Brand new, su-

Point Loma. $900. One bedroom apartment available, starting at $900. Close to ocean, off street parking. Spa area, on-site laundry. Contact 2 south ocean drive, 1-305-765-0050. Additional 1 bedroom available beginning at $1450.

Point Loma. $900. One bedroom apartment available, starting at $900. Close to ocean, off street parking. Spa area, on-site laundry. Contact 2 south ocean drive, 1-305-765-0050. Additional 1 bedroom available beginning at $1450.
On work days he would return home at four in the afternoon with a brown paper bag under his arm. By five he would be falling-down drunk, slurring unintelligibly, and yelling at the television. On weekends the only time he would move was to go buy more Jack.

A month after John moved in he met his future wife Janice and began spending more and more time with her, away from his drunk-on-brother. I tried to spend as much time away from home as I could. I could never bring friends over, or God forbid, an actual date. It was too scary a thought. Every time I tried to bring up the subject of Steve moving out, John would sidestep the issue and disappear, and Steve was always too incoherent to talk about it.

Then came the night when Steve freaked out. At two in the morning I was awakened to the sound of Steve yelling, “Here they come, sergeant! They’re coming over the walls!” I learned later that he thought space aliens were attacking. I armed myself with a baseball bat and slowly opened the door. Steve was napping, jumpy around and swinging a hammer at nothing but air. “Steve!” I yelled. He dropped the hammer and then looked at me as if nothing was out of the ordinary.

Without saying another word, he lay down on the bed and immediately fell asleep.

I’d finally had enough. The next day I told Steve that he had to go. He moved out a few weeks later. I found a new roommate, a Navy pilot who didn’t drink.

Three years later, my phone rang in the middle of the night. It was Steve, calling to thank me for kicking him out. “You helped me clean up my life,” he said. It was hard to understand him with the noise of the bar in the background and the slurred speech.

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Thirty Years Ago

“Got a bell at Palm and Kettner. Anybody for Palm and Kettner?”

The call means someone at that corner has telephoned for a cab. But Taiber, cruising nearby, considers the location of the call and the time of day. Then he translates the message to mean (roughly):

“Who wants to stop at a stucco apartment and take an old woman for a $1.80 ride to the market or the doctor’s office?”

—“DID SOMEBODY CALL A CAB?” Joe Applegate, May 18, 1978

Twenty-Five Years Ago

Danny and Poodle were running down D Street in Encinitas when they spotted Tim, who gave them shelter. Danny recognized Tim as one of the few punks in town and told him that he and Poodle needed a place to stay. A white Ford Fairlane was following them around the corner. They’d just pulled a dine-and-dash out of Billy Bob’s Pit Bar-B-Que on First Street, and they were hyper after leaving their plates on the patio table.

—“REQUIEM FOR A REBEL” Joe Applegate, May 19, 1983

Twenty-Four Years Ago

When a February 4 Reader story revealed Nicole Murray’s past arrests for male prostitution and told how he was advertising his services as a “transvestite counselor,” Murray’s 15-year reign as one of San Diego’s most important gay leaders was threatened. But Murray has retained his influence in the gay community, and he’s now moving to expand his political turf by challenging the city’s 300-member, gay San Diego Democratic Club in a face-off that involves state Assemblyman Peter Chacon.

—THE INSIDE STORY, Paul Krueger, May 19, 1988

Fifteen Years Ago

Is this, then, how the British felt during their Raj in India? After Liberation Day, I am experiencing a certain liberation from the weight of individual conscience. It doesn’t matter to these people if I shot their cousins or was at My Lai or held flowers of peace on the Penta-

Go. All that matters is that I am one of the race that holds the promise of riches. And I could not escape that fate even if I went about dressed in a straw hat and rags. This must be what it means to belong to a culture: the feeling that you are, inescapably, a representative of all the things you do not believe in.

Miss Hahn, secretary for a French drug firm, is recommended to me as someone who can expedite a change in my airline reservations.

Afterwards, she prods me for information about the heroes of her childhood reading: Jack London, Willa Cather, and Ernest Hemingway. She trots out all those big, term-paper questions that can never be answered:

Who are the giants of American fiction today? Is American culture a vital force for world peace?


Fifteen Years Ago

Ten wouldn’t be a first big lie to emerge during an election campaign, and it certainly wouldn’t be the first one to appear in a Union Tribune editorial, but Sunday was one of the best in the memory of many longtime U-T watchers. “No taxes paid by San Diegans will be used to build the $216 million convention center expansion,” the paper proclaimed.


Five Years Ago

Almost a decade ago, David Thatcher, chief financial officer of Peregrine Systems, was evincing superlatives about his boss, John Moores, then considering purchase of the Padres. “He’s interested in doing things top-notch,“ enthused Thatcher, pointing to Moores’s financial background. The date was December 37, 1994. You won’t find that date on your calendar. But you will find that, in the 1990s, managements of software companies made cynical references to their own fraudulent behavior, such as boosting about transactions on December 31 — swaps, Barney deals, round trips, and double-deps.


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.

San Diego Reader, May 18, 1978
The ceremony will begin in five minutes.

Rows of metal foldout chairs are arranged neatly in the center of a long rectangular room. At the far end, flanked on either side by personnel standing at parade rest, two soldiers stand on either side of a Marine; the American and Marine Corps flags are displayed behind them. The remaining open chairs rapidly fill with men in a variety of uniforms: Marines and soldiers in camouflage utilities, Iraqi police in their blue button-up shirts with dark trousers, and interpreters in tan flight suits. Despite the number of people crammed into the small space — a part of the Ramadi Government Center — almost no one is talking, Iraqi men and women in civilian dress tread the halls outside under the strict gaze of Marine guards dispersed throughout the building.

The unit’s senior enlisted Marine marches to the middle of the room and calls the formation to attention. The commanding officer takes charge and reads a posthumous promotion warrant, his voice booming over the concrete wall. He leaves after finishing the citation and the chaplain takes his place, leading the group with an invocation. Muslim and Christian alike bow their heads as the chaplain commends the valor of the military in Iraq, reaffirms the rightness of their actions, and asks God for wisdom and strength in the continuance of the mission. He finishes and the prayer hangs silently in the air for about ten seconds, then everyone snaps back to attention as the national anthem plays.

The three men standing in front of the flag display begin to move as the Marine Corps Hymn starts. The first places an M16A2 upside-down into a stand and then returns to his place. The second has a Kevror combat helmet he carefully rests on the weapon’s buttstock. The third puts a pair of boots in front of the rigid, adjusts them, and hangs a set of dogtags off the weapon’s magazine well. The display complete, they face to the right and march slowly to their places in the formation’s rear. Everyone is told to take their seats.

Scriptural passages are read by Marines in the unit; these are printed in the pamphlet.
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IF YOU'RE A COMPLETE DEBAUCHERY AMATEUR, VEGAS IS RACY. Other than that it’s about as provocative as birthday cake. Considering my 20s, gambling, booze, drugs, and women are a Monday-morning stretch and yawn. The one exotic thing Vegas offers is people-watching. Downtown Las Vegas is an open-air, free-range human zoo; the ape cage is everywhere, everywhere.

On my last trip out there, my hotel held a clown convention. I’m not kidding, clowns swarmed downtown. The one exotic thing Vegas offers is people-watching. Downtown Las Vegas is an open-air, free-range human zoo; the ape cage is everywhere, everywhere.

Out in the hot midnight air, I walked down Fremont Street, passing a Bon Jovi cover band and crowds of tourists. One especially well-dressed lady shouted “Judge Stupid.” I turned to see the reaction. The only one who heard was her husband, who lowered his head and muttered “Wrong.”

The one exotic thing Vegas offers is people-watching. Downtown Las Vegas is an open-air, free-range human zoo; the ape cage is everywhere, everywhere.

“Vet bill cost me 500 dollars last month, damned mutt,” one stogie-puffing bozo said to his horn-honking companion.

On my last trip out there, my hotel held a clown convention. I’m not kidding, clowns swarmed downtown. The one exotic thing Vegas offers is people-watching. Downtown Las Vegas is an open-air, free-range human zoo; the ape cage is everywhere, everywhere.

“Good hallucinations.” As if I needed help in that department.

seltzer bottles, and balloons from inside her bib overalls — “Hurry up! Pull this stuff out, I’ve got to piss so bad.”

daughter wants to be on American Idol. One exotic thing Vegas offers is people-watching. Downtown Las Vegas is an open-air, free-range human zoo; the ape cage is everywhere, everywhere.

“For that kind of money you’d think that dog would get up and cook me breakfast every once in a while. Or throw my chips on my lucky numbers, and sit back to listen to them bitch about their boring lives.

Huge multi-plex cinemas with jungles, princes, and 3-D hologram on it. Those were nice. It was all a little much for me. My wife was convinced I was a doctor of Major Explosion-sand-insignias and that I’d be way better: Explosionsodinosaur-sand-insignias. And I’d be a doctor or a major in some military outfit. Or both! So my whole name would be Doctor Major Explosion-sand-insignias MD, PhA, MAC. Esquire. Below my superior monkey, you lame weakling “Judge Stupid.”

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THE LINE UP
FOX NEWS 10:00 P.M.
On which Universe does Fox News report? Because I’ve watched it, and according to the logic and facts presented, they certainly don’t deal with the known physical plane we inhabit. I watch to see if O’Reilly will slip up and drop a hint that he’s in some other dimension by saying something like, “Red Kryptonite poisoning? Are magical unicorn farts the cure?” A-ha! I knew it!

SUNDAY, MAY 15
THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS (2001)
USA 7:00 PM.
Driving last week I noticed I was doing ten miles per hour under the speed limit and a line of honking cars was following me. “SHUT UP!” I yelled. “It’s dangerous there. Kids are running out in the streets and I don’t want to waste gas. OH NO! VEIREREMEMEBYAMOTHER!

MONDAY, MAY 19
ANDERSON COOPER 360
CNN 7:00 PM.
Anderson Cooper needs to go away. Not that I dislike the guy personally or professionally. In fact, I’ve never seen his show. But there are too many damned morning show teasers and magazine headlines with witty copy, like, “Up next: Anderson Cooper... three... sexy!” Oh, go to Osama’s cave. I’ve had enough of you. Take a toothbrush and an extra pair of underpants.

TUESDAY, MAY 20
RAPER
CW 8:00 PM.
Really, I’m not as clever as I think I am. I watch this show and I want to critique the dinkie writing and directing and the chickie characters, but all I can think is, “Man, that chick is hot!” I know. I know. There’s a hot chick on every show, but really, this one is so freakin’ hot! Yep. That’s me. I’m a renaissance man.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21
NATIONAL TREASURE (2004)
USA 8:00 PM.
You see, the real treasure is the time that they get to spend together. Isn’t that sweet? NO IT’S NOT! It’s stupid and crappy! I’d like to kick everyone involved in this project right in the junk. Line up! You get two swift shins to the garbage and then you can go about your normal day, albeit bunched with a little gaffe. I said, LINE UP!

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If you’ve shined this trumped-up calendar notation, no sense in feeling bad.

Did you miss Mother’s Day? Did you fail to observe it and your mother is still alive? Did I for many years, even as a child. It was, after all, my mother. Mary Jane Arbou, whom I called “Tree” to denote the inherent coolness and ordinariness of (men), coined, by Morris L. West, though possibly it was an echo of Frank or Ashley Montague (author of The Natural Superiors of Women), all of whom were favorite authors of hers. From Philip Wylie she borrowed the phrase “generation of vipers” to describe her offspring, when in mixed company or not in the mood for foul language. Knowing her own mother as I did, this remains a mystery; Jenny Calvert Arbou remains in my mind an almost Ptolomaic ideal of motherhood. Undoubtedly this is some unqualified and biased view on my part, as my grandmother made no attempts on my life and was often irrationally affectionate.

I missed my mother’s death as well. It was three months after she had died in her apartment from a heart attack or stroke — the phone bill unpaid and the phone not shut off, rendering her voiceless — that my sister consented to my being informed at all. In a family of eight children, I had, inarguably, the most problematic relationship with her and a history of excessive drinking. The logic, I assumed, was that the news would propel me into more self-destruction. I’ve never been disbursed of this notion — not by my sister or anyone else — as it was.

If you’ve shined this trumped-up calendar notation, no sense in feeling bad, if that is even the case. It is an occasion to look at the business of dying or dead. While it is not a Friday phenomenon, it is one of those unusual occasions (like Good Friday if you’re Catholic and you’re not done your “Easter obligation”) to rue the onset of the Friday before Mother’s Day, which is always also a Sunday. And, again like Easter, providing even more of a raison d’être for the concept of brunch.

It is now, three years after my mother’s death, that I am searching myself for something generous here, for my own sake if not hers. I began to weep for a moment and for the first time the other day, possibly Sunday, at the idea of her death. Alone. Within moments I was distracted with the recollection that HBO was running an episode of the John Adams biopic at night. I’d missed Mary Jane had let it be known that she wanted the Broadway show song “What I Did for Love” to be sung at her memorial service. I don’t know if it ever was, but I thought a great deal about what she might have meant. Possibly she referred to her conversion from Lutheran to Catholicism, and then to marry my father, though she was a hardly a passionate Protestant. She did, however, become an enthusiastic Catholic and introduced me (at a young age) to the work of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin and his concept of God as man in a partnership of evolution. In her later years after the death of my father, her allegiance to Catholicism waned. Certainly a lifelong commitment to raising eight children was something she did for love, no matter how well, in the end, she may have managed it. It very hard not to judge that.

I have loving memories, mostly toward the end, as an adult and certainly some from childhood, but their number strikes me as too small. As easily my failure as hers, I suppose, but children aren’t as apt to fall at love. While I was certainly a difficult child, I can’t believe I was all that unique, especially after years of speaking with other sober drunkards.

With a history of defaulting on any conventional observation of Mother’s Day and in anything like a timely fashion, I continue here to try and observe, touch my forelock inasmuch as I can — too little, too late, and with as much puzzlement as ever. My mother mythologized her own life so thoroughly it was never incumbent upon me to do so, and I am hardly it up to world. At rate, a take, possibly a Greek, to adequately mythologize the spirit of a woman who endowed so many of her children with the gift of music. I remain grateful for that gift; and if the pain of it broke my heart often, it was perhaps so that it might go on in its own way after all.