Scott is a good friend, but not in the traditional sense of good.

We don’t see each other much, and we’ve maintained the loosest of contacts over the 30-plus years we’ve known each other. I hadn’t heard from him for about 3 years when he called me last August.

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San Diego Reader May 22, 2008
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San Diego Reader May 22, 2008
Affordable PPO Health Plans

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– Shaun Phillips, Pro football player

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CONDEMned The League of California Cities, operating out of a posh Sacramento office, is funded by cities with taxpayer dollars to lobby for legislation dear to the hearts of city councils throughout the state. The group is staunchly opposed to strict limitations on eminent domain because it would crimp the ability of cities to condemn land for redevelopment projects, such as stadiums, shopping malls, and other “civic improvements” that just happen to result in campaign contributions from developers. (The league also argues that the measure, Prop 98, is actually intended by its sponsors to abolish rent controls imposed by some California cities and that it would interfere with municipal water projects and therefore inhibit development. “No Water = No Growth,” is the one of the league’s slogans.) Though it portrays itself as having the public’s interest at heart, the league, presided over this year by San Diego city councilman Jim Madaffer, is actually a full-blown political operation and has set up a committee to raise campaign funds from the very special interests that are dependent on favorable actions by local government. Called CITIPAC, the committee raised in about $100,000 in 2007 and is on track to bring in a record sum during this year’s election season.

San Diego County-based contributors include utility giant Sempra Energy, which gave $2000; EDCO Waste and Recycling ($1500); BIOCOM PAC, a biotech industry group ($1000); and Public Policy Strategies, the outfit run by Tom Shepard, consultant to San Diego mayor Jerry Sanders ($120). All the money raised so far this year has gone into the acting vice chancellor fund for every purpose on campus, as well as other UC campuses, along with the assessment of Mercer Human Resources Consulting has confirmed the proposed salary rate as necessary to be competitive in this market,” says a report to the regents. Her predecessor, Keith Brant, who abruptly resigned a year ago this month after only eight months on the job — a move some said was due to a rocky relationship with UCSD chancellor Marye Anne Fox — made considerably less: $230,000, plus car allowance and mortgage deal. Brant’s predecessor, Jim Langley, who held the position for seven years, made only $201,900. Neuman, who will serve as the school’s chief fund-raiser and all-around PR maven, had a similar job at CARE USA in Atlanta.

Jerry’s favorite General Atomics megamillionaire Linden Blue and ex-Jerry Sanders chief operating officer Ronne Froman have been an item for more than three years now, showing up together once a month or so in the columns of Union-Tribune society writer Burl Stiff. The columnist has reported their presence at events ranging from Marti Emerald’s 90th birthday party in January 2005 to a YMCA salute to retired Copley editor in chief Herb Klein last November. But Stiff is apparently the only U-scribe to gain access to Froman, a retired rear admiral who bailed from her position as the mayor’s chief operating officer last June in the midst of an in-house investigation of the Sunroad high-rise scandal. Speculation had it that Froman left because she was unhappy with a Sanders-ordered cover-up. Froman herself isn’t talking. But General Atomics’ Blue, who runs the defense contracting company with his brother, has been a Sanders loyalist, kicking in $320 to his campaign on February 26 and March 14 of this year.

Neal Obermeyer

HOW PENSION DEBT BALLOONED

By Don Bauder

In western lore, an hombre named the Wizard of Wichita would ride into a town, stride into a saloon, take one quick look around, and unerringly identify every no-good son of a bitch in the joint. And so it is with Roger Lowenstein, author of the new hot-selling book While America Aged: How Pension Debts Ruined General Motors, Stopped the NYC Subways, Bankrupted San Diego, and Loom as the Next Financial Crisis (Penguin Press). In researching the book, Lowenstein came to San Diego and sized up the stultifying and sticker-fingered establishment, corrupt political structure, greedy unions, and standpat mainstream media that produced the pension crisis that could send the City into bankruptcy court.

Some San Diegans may argue with his interpretation, but they shouldn’t criticize his adept weaving of facts into a compelling narrative. This book will open the eyes of even those who have followed the pension crisis for years. Lowenstein galloped into town, talked with the right people, read the back-scratching was a way of life…. In effect, [San Diego officials] tapped the pension fund for every purpose that might appeal to politicians — park maintenance, policemen’s wages, new fire trucks, subsidies for sports teams."

He is at his best in describing alleged dignitaries, former mayor Susan Golding had an ambitious agenda. “She was intemperate with doubters and seemed to regard the financing of her schemes as little more than a detail,” writes Lowenstein. “Golding ordered [former city manager] Jack McGroary to figure out how to pay for it all…. no one quite understood how he did it, and that was his secret…. Council members complained they didn’t understand his machinations…. but the truth is they were happier not knowing what McGroary was up to.”

Read Don Bauder’s Scam Diego blog every day! Go to SDReader.com and click on “Blog” at top of page.

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

Neal Obermeyer

OUT TO LUNCH WITH MAYOR SANDERS AND FRANK SAIIN.

THAT KID DOESNT WANT ME!

WE’LL GET THE ETHICS COMMISSION ON HIM RIGHT AWAY!
Big War Chest, No War

By Susan Luzzaro

Some people divine the future in tea leaves, others in pork bellies. Campaign contributions are also a way of seeing what is on the horizon. Greg Cox has been a San Diego County supervisor since 1995, and he will be a candidate again on the June 3 ballot. He represents District 1, the southern part of the county, which includes Chula Vista, where his wife is mayor, and Otay Mesa. Cox’s opponent, Howard Johnson, says his campaign has only $20,000.

The total amount Cox has collected for his war chest, $280,000, is remarkable because it is so unnecessary. Why are people donating sizable amounts to a shoo-in? A look at Cox’s campaign donations between July 2007 and March 2008 is equally remarkable for what they reveal about what’s going on in his district.

Cox has never had to fight for his position as supervisor. In 1986, when he was mayor of Chula Vista, the Union-Tribune published a story titled “‘Brats’ Push South Bay to Forefront.” The brats were Greg Cox, David Malcolm, Steve Peace, and Brian Bilbray. At the time, Malcolm was a Chula Vista city councilman and California coastal commissioner, Peace was a California assemblyman, and Bilbray was county supervisor for District 1. Their titles have changed, but their connections remain. In 1995, Bilbray resigned as supervisor to take a seat in the House of Representatives. Instead of calling for a special election, the board of supervisors appointed Cox to the empty seat. There are no term limits. In 1996 and 2000, Cox ran unopposed. In 2004, Cox was challenged by Petra Barajas, who had less than $100 to spend on her campaign. Perhaps most curious is that Cox is a Republican, yet only 31 percent of his constituents belong to his party.

Sunroad Enterprises strikes the eye immediately on Cox’s disclosure statement. Five individuals employed by Sunroad gave Cox’s campaign a total of $1500, including the maximum $500 donation from owner Aaron Feldman and $250 from Tom Story, whose name was prominent in news stories about the notorious office building Sunroad put up near Montgomery Field in defiance of an FAA height ruling.

As far back as September 11, 2000, a Sunroad spokesperson told a Union-Tribune reporter that he “expects the East Otay Mesa area to be developed” and that “Sunroad will be there to capitalize on it.” In 2007, the paper reported that Sunroad owned 200 acres in Otay Mesa.

Cox has played a formative role in the creation of a business and industrial park in Otay Mesa. In 1999, Cox said San Diego needed a place where the area’s biotech firms could build production facilities and a place for NAFTA-related assembling and distribution. Otay Mesa was the place. Cox called for special tax incentives. In 2000, then-senator Peace fashioned SB 207 to give local authorities along the border the ability to sell bonds for infrastructure without the approval of two-thirds of the voters. A number of incentive programs have since been put in place in Otay Mesa.

The Recycling Marketing Development Zone is funded by the California Integrated Waste Management Board. Cheryl Peace, Steve Peace’s wife, sits on the board. Recently, a turf war has been playing out in Otay Mesa. On one side is the push to maintain industrial zoning. On the other side are companies such as Sunroad and McMillin Land Development that want to bring in large residential developments. Mark and Scott McMillin, who run the Corky McMillin Companies, and their wives each contributed $500 to Cox’s reelection campaign.

The Recycling Marketing Development Zone, which gives businesses income tax savings and other benefits to spur job growth, the Foreign Trade Zone, which “offers duty free warehousing and distribution services for importers, exporters and manufacturers,” and a Recycling Marketing Development Zone, which “allows manufacturers of recycled products and other recycling companies to take advantage of permit and financial incentives [and] low interest loans.”

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As NAFTA development increases along the border, a continued on page 10
Pension debt
continued from page 6

When McGrory ran out of accounting gimmicks, he would beg the council for a tax increase, but “the busi-
ness establishment, invariably led by the Union-Tri-
bune, almost always thwarted him.” Business-licensing fees and the hotel tax were very low by comparison with other California cities. “Overall, the revenue collected by the City amounted to only 2 per-
cent of household income — the lowest ratio of any big city in the state.” No matter.

“If the residents of this deeply conservative enclave mistrusted government, they simply despised taxes.”

Golding flew home from San Diego when McGrory ran out of soundbites and the hotel tax was very low by comparison with other California cities. “Overall, the revenue collected by the City amounted to only 2 per-
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was elected city attorney. He knew that the pension problem involved criminality. "Official San Diego was terrified of Aguirre," writes Lowenstein. "City Hall greeted him with a blackout," denying him pension-related documents. But he fought to get them. "Once he had the files, he allowed Shippone to read them..., Shippone went through the files as if she were possessed — tipping over cartons, spilling papers on the floor." Aguirre locked the door and let Shea go through the papers too. "Not yet in office a month, Aguirre was at war with the pension system, the city manager’s office, the council, and the local police." But here is Lowenstein’s punch line: "Though his tactics were heavy-handed, they fulfilled a worthy purpose. San Diego’s government had flipped around like a bat intent on avoiding the sunlight for far too long. Now its people would learn the truth." Aguirre and Shippone would be brutalized by the corrupt power structure, but they had accomplished their objectives. In his final paragraph, suggesting possible curative measures, Lowenstein writes, "The pension schemes — public and private, federal and local — described in this book have been all guilty of similar crimes. To paraphrase Michael Aguirre, they behaved like ‘credit card junkies’ who charged to the card limit and made only minimum payments.” The heroes and heroines of the San Diego debacle are prophets elsewhere but not at home. •

War chest continued from page 7

third border crossing has been proposed in East Otay Mesa, as has a toll road, SR 11, leading to it. According to a press release from the supervisor’s office, Cox traveled to Washington in 2007 to lobby for this crossing. A border toll road in Otay Mesa can only enhance investment opportunity. In May 2007, the Kearny Real Estate Company, along with Pacific Coast Capital and Judd Halenza, acquired 311 industrial-zoned acres in the area. According to the Kearny Real Estate Company’s website, their land “has a tentative right-of-way reservation of 94 acres for the future SR 11… and a new international crossing.” The website goes on to say that “Kearny professionals will use their experience to bring the Federal Government, the Mexican Government, the State of California, the County of San Diego and SANDAG to a timely resolution of the numerous challenges involved in garnering approvals and financing for the new border crossing.” The company plans to “sell land to users and other developers” as well as to build its own projects. John V. Bragg Jr., a vice president at Kearny Mesa Real Estate, contributed $250 to Cox’s campaign, and Judd Halenza Jr. gave $500. Another 162 acres adjacent to the proposed toll road and port of entry are owned by Paragon Real Estate Investments, in partnership with Shamrock Holdings. Six members of the Jinich family, who

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founded Paragon, each gave $500 to Cox’s campaign; Daniel Berkus, an investment manager at Paragon, gave $500; and Mark Schaffer, a managing director of Shamrock Capital Advisors, gave $500.

Sudbury Properties has developed the Ocean View Hills Corporate Center, a 663,000-square-foot, six-building industrial project, in Otay Mesa. Five members of the Sudbury family and four Sudbury employees contributed a total of $3150 to Cox’s campaign.

Otay Mesa is home to four correctional facilities, three government owned. The fourth, an immigrant detention center, is operated by Corrections Corporation of America. Last September, Bradley Wiggins of Corrections Corporation of America gave Cox’s campaign $250. Six months later, on March 20, 2008, a Union-Tribune article announced, “Corrections Corporation of America is proposing a mega-prison that would eventually replace the San Diego County Jail.”

This month, San Diego Metropolitan magazine refers to the Coxes as “powerhouse mates.” Campaign contributions demonstrate the entanglement of that power. While Mayor Cheryl Cox heads up redevelopment of Chula Vista’s bayfront, Supervisor Cox has collected thousands of dollars from the parties involved with a piece of potentially lucrative industrial project, a 663,000-square-foot, six-building industrial project, in Otay Mesa.

Prior to becoming supervisor, Greg Cox was a lobbyist for the San Diego County Disposal Association. Allied Waste has an exclusive trash-service contract with the City of Chula Vista, and the Otay Landfill, a subsidiary of Allied Waste, is located in Chula Vista. Edco, another collection service, picks up trash in many South Bay communities. Edco employees donated $2250 to Cox’s campaign, and Allied employees donated $800.

Allied has become the second-largest trash-handling company in the nation. Revenues in 2006 were close to $6 billion. Nevertheless, in January 2007, the San Diego board of supervisors voted to approve an Allied Waste request that the California Municipal Finance Authority “issue and sell up to $250,000,000 in tax-exempt obligations (the Bonds) and lend proceeds to Allied Waste to finance improvements,” according to the board of supervisors’ minutes.

In the second half of 2007, employees of San Diego Gas & Electric and its parent company, Sempra Energy, gave Greg Cox $6150. SDG&E has been pushing hard to get the Sunrise Powerlink project approved. Supervisor Cox and Mayor Cox have given strong public support to the controversial project.

Worth mentioning is that the Coxes have investments in three companies located on Otay Mesa: Medtronic Inc., Corpart Inc., and Ethos Environmental. Disgraced former port commissioner David Malcolm is a major stockholder in Ethos Environmental.

Do campaign contributions affect the future? Ask the Coxes. A February 1995 Union-Tribune article reported, “In the six weeks before Greg Cox was appointed to the Board of Supervisors, he and his wife made campaign contributions to three of the four county supervisors who would select him to the coveted position.” Diane Jacob, the one supervisor who did not receive contributions, said she would not have “accepted money under circumstances like that...It carries the wrong message.”
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Heymatt:
How far inland can seagulls be found? Are they looking for quieter digs, or are they just lost out there?

— Charlie Bingbang, inland

Hey, Matt:
I’ve been feeding a motley group of pigeons for a few years now. Are they gray, feathered insults to nature? Yeah, probably, but still they’re my birdies. Now for personal reasons I must abandon them in the near future. Should I worm them off birdseed or let them go cold turkey (ahem, cold pigeon)? Will they be okay?

— Bye-Bye Birdie, San Diego

Ah, seagulls and pigeons. Symbols of soaring grace versus concrete-bound clumsiness. Cool, sunny beaches; hot, smoggy cities. The romance of the deep blue sea, the depressing sight of poop-crusted statues. Cities use seagulls in their logos; nobody has a pigeon. But how about this: seagulls can hear the sound of a picnic basket being opened a mile away. I have no science to back this up, but I’d bet it’s true. The contents of the basket are immediately clawed by flocks of flapping, squawking, pecking gulls that attack you and one another to get at the sandwiches, spreading plastic and aluminum foil everywhere. In fact, the basket doesn’t even have to be opened. They know from experience where the food is, and if you leave it unguarded, they’ll invade.

Grandma lost an entire four-course meal to gulls one day when she decided to go paddle in the surf instead of laying her body over the storage bin until her armed backup arrived. Gulls simply have better PR than pigeons. There’s a whole dark side to their personalities.

Different species of gulls have different habits, but a big lot of them don’t mind a little commuting if there’s plenty of food at the destination. And of course the most popular destination for a gull trip is a landfill, however far it is from what the gull calls home. The farthest east in San Diego County is the Borrego Landfill, but that’s closer to the Salton Sea than it is to the Pacific. So they may originally be Salton gulls.

If the surrounding terrain is friendly, populations of gulls can take up residence well inland, hundreds of miles from any ocean, and raise generations of garbage eaters. And of course, despite their reputation, gulls aren’t always ocean-shore dwellers. They follow rivers and set up housekeeping around lakes, so no telling where gulls might show up if there’s enough food and security. Other delicacies on a gull’s menu are earthworms and ground bugs, so you might find gulls shuffling around on large expanses of grass and in agricultural fields, especially if the ground is damp or being tilled at the time. For the same reason, they’re pests at airports.

So gulls are aggressive scavengers equal to pigeons, I’d say. As for Bye-Bye’s feathered friends, I’m sure they’ve become like family, each with a cute little personality. And it’s great when your pals show up every day for a handout. Like a nice family dinner. And they might even recognize you on sight, before you get out the fodder. If you always feed them at exactly the same time of day, they might even be waiting for you. But once you’re gone, don’t imagine that they’re sitting around reminiscing about the good old days, when they used to hang out at Bye-Bye’s. They’ll be off to another food source. No self-respecting pigeon will hang around in a foodless environment. Cold-pigeon will not scar their tiny psyches. To quote an old song that Grandma likes to sing to the elves, “Got along without you before I met you, gonna get along without you now.” The pigeons will be whistling it as you leave.

Dear Matt:
My friend has a friend who keeps talking to her about how cool alcohol enemas are. He says they get you really drunk, but you don’t throw up or anything. He wants her to try it, but I think it’s crazy. How can an enema get you drunk?

— Anonymous, via email

It’s not crazy because it doesn’t work; it’s crazy because it’s crazy. Among some of the more adventurous drinkers or drinkers who have stomach or throat problems, a butt full of gin and tonic is the perfect happy-hour solution. The most important function of our digestive systems is to absorb nutrients to keep us alive. Apparently the colon doesn’t care which end the alcohol’s coming from. It absorbs it directly into the bloodstream. And therein lies the crazy part. When you drink alcohol the ordinary boring way, it’s metabolized by the body, so not all the alcohol goes into the bloodstream to make you tipsy. Your body probably can handle about an ounce of alcohol an hour. Drink too much, and your stomach might start rejecting the irritant, and you’re looking for a convenient bush. No such safeguards in the colon. Anything absorbable will go directly into the bloodstream. (A bum-administered Long Island iced tea will dose you with five ounces of alcohol immediately.) People have been poisoned or died from butt drinking. More have developed irritated colons and other uncomfortableness. Alcohol enemas can make you very drunk. Why is this a good thing?

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Alaska Football Edition

Wrapping up farewell visit to Fairbanks, Alaska, my hometown for 25 years. I have coffee and this morning’s Fairbanks Daily News-Miner in hand. There’s an ad about a football game in the sports section. Professional football by way of the Fairbanks Grizzlies, a first-year IFL (Intense Football League) franchise.

There has been high school football in Alaska for years, but that’s it, no college or junior college football. Apparently, the Grizzlies are playing arena pro ball at Carlson Center, a generic all-purpose sports arena built behind my back while I was out of state. Game time is 7:05.

I show up at six to nose around. Fans are already tailgating. Can report the Grizzlies got cheerleading right — very attractive. Lady Grizzlies form two lines and cheer patrons as they walk between them into the arena. This is a family crowd — say, 3000 fans — lots of kids and wives. People seem enthusiastic, happy to be here. I find Jay McDiarmid, Grizzlies co-owner, mid 30s, short black hair.

“We are considered professional,” McDiarmid says. “The players are paid $255 a week with a $35 win bonus. We have 20 players on our active roster. Right now, our team is 60 percent local kids, 40 percent out-of-state.”

McDiarmid tells me he’s a local physical therapist and when Chad Dittman (founder of the IFL) brought the team to Fairbanks, “we signed on as the team’s trainers and physical therapists. I started doing more managerial stuff for him and just said, ‘Hey, this is fun, let me get part of it.’”

Chad Dittman started the IFL five years ago. It’s a Texas league, five teams in the state, and one, tonight’s opponent, Louisiana Swashbucklers, is located 35 miles over the border. Two Alaska teams formed this year, the other being the Anchorage Wild.

Brian Stuvek kicks off for the Grizzlies. The game’s not bad, play is far above high school football. These are men on the field, late 20s to late 30s. They can run crisp plays. Quarterbacks can put heat on the ball. Blocks and tackles are hard. Runners can move. And because the field is small, and only eight men line up per side, the visual effect is speed to the point of blur.

At halftime Fairbanks is down 35 to 0. I’m in the Grizzlies locker room waiting on the coach. The room is becalmed, not even the sound of debates on concrete.

Grizzlies head coach John Fourcade comes in. He’s 47 (looks 57), gray hair, average build. Fourcade was quarterback at Ole Miss in the late ’70s, early ’80s, broke Archie Manning’s career passing record. He played four years of NFL with the New Orleans Saints, another nine years of pro ball in the usual off-brand venues. The Grizzlies guide says he’s been coach and general manager for ten years in other arena leagues, owns several Hooter’s restaurants and a golf course outside New Orleans. Bio does not compute with head coach of an obscure indoor football league’s startup franchise in faraway Fairbanks.

If there ever was an occasion for an inspirational halftime speech, here it is. Coach Fourcade takes a slow turn around the locker room and in a lilting Bayou drawl, begins, “This is such an embarrassment. I’ve been here nine weeks, and we still have players who do not know how to line up correctly and call a play. Don’t know the damn play. Don’t know what’s going on. YOU DO NOT KNOW HOW TO COME OUT OF A HUDDLE!”

“They aren’t beating us. WE’RE BEATING EVERY BIT OF YOURSELVES Offensively. Offensively we stink. We can’t pass protect. We can’t catch the football. We can’t even throw the football. I don’t know what you do offensively, if you can’t do those three.

“Let’s talk about defense. Secondary guys, STOP TRYING TO ANTICIPATE! DON’T CALL OFF NOTHIN’. We play man to man or we play sky. You have to stay in those two coverages! YOU HAVE TO MAKE SOME PLAYS BACK THERE!”

“You can’t quit. If it’s 35 to nuthin’, I don’t care. If we lose this ballgame, I don’t care. BUT WE ARE NOT GOING TO BE SHUTOUT!”

“Fumble, turn it over, fumble, turn it over, missing wide open receivers, don’t step up to the bar, don’t get protection. All I can do is call it — YOU HAVE TO PLAY IT!”

“We’ll make some adjustments on both sides of the ball, that’s part of the game. But, if we cannot cover, I don’t know what to say except I’ll bring some more [players] in tomorrow. I am sick and tired of one play, two plays, and a quick easy touchdown. IT’S UNBELIEVABLE OUT THERE!”

The Grizzlies scored 27 points in the second half. Unfortunately, the Swashbucklers scored 58 points, making the game’s final score: Swashbucklers 93, Grizzlies 27.

“You can’t quit. If it’s 35 to nuthin’, I don’t care.”

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San Diego Reader May 22, 2008

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– Carmen S., Solana Beach

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A splatter of yellow vomit, left over from Saturday night's Gaslamp revelry, baked in the Sunday-morning sun. Around it, glossy promo cards featured pictures of slightly dressed young women, advertising the weekend’s festivities.

Down the street, two youngish guys stood in front of the Keating (“San Diego’s newest and most luxurious boutique hotel”), passing out glossy cards advertising a different sort of gathering. “Jesus liked to party too!” assured the card before launching into a contemporary translation from Matthew: “Are you tired and worn out? Burned out? Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you.”

One of those guys was Vince Larson, looking every inch the hipster: skinny black tie hanging loosely over a rumpled white shirt tucked into low jeans adorned with a silver-buckled belt. I passed at the entrance to Minus 1, the Keating’s basement-level club, and on two Sundays a month, the home of Anchor Gaslamp Church.

Instead of projection screens, Anchor employed the club’s plasma TVs for its lyrical displays and bullet points. Instead of pews, red seats and cushioned high-back chairs, Anchor introduced the club’s plasma TVs for its lyric displays and bullet points. Instead of pews, red seats and cushioned high-back chairs, Anchor employed the club’s plasma TVs for its lyric displays and bullet points. Instead of pews, red seats and cushioned high-back chairs, Anchor employed the club’s plasma TVs for its lyric displays and bullet points. Instead of pews, red seats and cushioned high-back chairs, Anchor employed the club’s plasma TVs for its lyric displays and bullet points.

“God, we’re so thankful for this time to come together,” prayed Larson at the outset. “To be in a sacred place with You... as we learn to worship God and live our lives with the people around us....”

Tony and his acoustic guitar took over the mic, and he performed a couple of hymns, including “Amazing Grace.” “I always sang it very slow and methodical, like we did in the old church.

But it just occurred to me that it’s a song of celebration... how amazing is the grace....”

Larson brought a bag of empty plastic bottles up front. “You can’t save the entire world, but you can save one small spot at a time. There’s an orphanage in Myanmar that we and one other church are the sole supporters of. Our recycling becomes their food — a bag this size is equal to about the same size bag full of groceries.” Congregants were encouraged to trade in their recycling and donate or bring their recyclables to church. “You can throw it in the back of my truck,” said Larson.

Tisha, who grew up in the same church as Larson and is now “a signed, recording country-western singer,” came forward to sing Steve Richard’son’s “Daystar.” “Lily of the Valley, let your sweet aroma fill my life... Daystar shine down on me,” she crooned. But just after she sang about seeing “a world that is dying, wounded by the master of deceit,” her voice began to fail her. The congregation took up the song and covered for her. “That’s good — yes, help me sing!” she said. Larson stepped up beside her, and helped her bring it home. “The meaning is something genuine and sweet.

Then Larson introduced co-pastor Karlton Edison — “the man, the myth, the legend, attending Bethel Theological Seminary, and a chaplain-in-training with the U.S. Air Force... Just give him a warm round of applause.”

Edison preached from Matthew chapter 14 — the part where Jesus walked on the water. He stressed the application of various elements in the story to our own lives. Jesus went off to pray alone. “We need to find time alone... Prayer is that time when God becomes personal to us.”

Jesus came to the disciples during the fourth hour of the night, “the darkest hour, just before dawn... If you are going through a storm in your life... Jesus is on His way.”

Peter walked to Jesus on the water, but when he saw the winds, he began to sink and cried, “Lord save me.” “He took his eyes off Jesus... If you’ve taken your eyes off Jesus, cry out to Him. Jesus will save you out of your situation, and He’ll take you through your situation... If you have a need, bring it to Jesus, and He’ll supply them according to His will.”

What happens when we die?

“We believe in a literal heaven and hell,” said Larson, “but that’s not something we emphasize. We don’t want to sell people afterlife insurance; we just want to get people to love God. At that point, all that stuff is just going to take care of itself.”

Matthew Liconia

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**Thirty Years Ago**
The sport survives around here — in Escondido, Solana Beach, Harbison Canyon, La Mesa, San Marcos, and Eden Gardens — but that kind of cockfighting is very secretive and done on a small scale, where two neighbors each think they’ve got the meanest rooster that ever crowed, and after arguing about it for a while they put them in the pit.

**Twenty-Five Years Ago**
Almost two years ago, when he was 18 years old, Birch had left his home and family in Orange County in search of a simpler life among the Mexican peasants who live along the Rio Santo Tomás, which is usually not much more than a small stream as it winds through the valley on its way to the Pacific. Today he lives as the people in the area do — laboring in the fields, hunting, farming, and subsisting primarily on frijoles and tortillas.
— "JUST SEND MY MAIL TO SANTO TOMÁS," Michael Waterman, May 26, 1983

**Twenty Years Ago**
"When the time came, he pushed the syringe plunger and injected the morphine," recalls Warlick while seated in his apartment in a three-unit building he and Adams owned in Normal Heights. "I had my arms around him. I just kept whispering to him, telling him I loved him as he was dying. I felt him relaxing."

Warlick says Adams discussed taking his own life back in February of 1987, as soon as he was diagnosed with pneumocystis, a pneumonia associated with AIDS. "We really didn’t call it suicide," says Warlick.

**Fifteen Years Ago**
The entire point behind The Totalitarian Chef is the glorification of spontaneity. Jeff and Chuck follow no script. According to Chuck, when tossing around ideas for a public-access cooking show, they aimed for something extemporaneous. They wanted to videotape themselves making kamikaze runs into the kitchens of unsuspecting friends, where they'd whip up a meal from whatever happened to be on hand. "You know," says Chuck, "to show that you can make something tasty out of absolutely nothing."
— AS SEEN ON TV: "IF YOU CAN'T STAND THE HEAT," Abe Opincar, May 27, 1993

**Ten Years Ago**
I flew to San Diego two weeks before Halloween. A perfect time, I thought, to pursue the ghost of my father. I had neither seen nor heard from the old man since 1965, but I knew that he had died here on New Year’s Eve 1989.

I had prepared myself to sleuth through the recent past for traces of a man about whose last 24 years of life I knew little. Twenty-four years. That was two more than we had spent together. His years in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere in Asia and his marriage to a young Vietnamese woman must have changed my father. I would be looking for a man I only half knew.

**Five Years Ago**
Last Friday, San Diego city councilman Jim Madaffer was testifying before a federal grand jury in the matter of the city’s Cheetahs strip-club scandal; at the same hour a few blocks away in state appellate court, an attorney for the Reader was urging a three-judge panel to make public emails and other records of Elena Cristiano, one-time aide to Mayor Dick Mur-phy and the subject of another of city hall’s dark mysteries. Cristiano, who had a criminal record for shoplifting and was once arrested after a dispute with a San Diego lifeguard at a La Jolla beach, had been a waitress at Seau’s and a member of the Padres’ “Pad Squad” cheerleaders before being hired by Murphy to be his first press secretary.

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If sisters were free to express how they really feel, parents would hear this: “Give me all the attention and all the toys and send Rebecca to live with Grandma.”
— Linda Sunshine

David staggered out of bed at 7:30 a.m., half-asleep, to placate the ringing phone. I pulled the comforter over my head and almost slipped back into unconsciousness when I heard David’s voice through the haze of down and cotton: “Yes, Maria, she’s right here.” I instinctively clutched the phone as it was pressed into my hand. “Hi, Mom,” I croaked.

“My hand is sore, it’s killing me,” she said.

“What? Why?” I remained horizontal as the fog of sleep began to clear. “It’s sore from signing autographs,” she joked, prompting us both to laugh. The previous morning, Mom had joined me for a short spot on the news to highlight some local Mother’s Day events. This sore-hand bit was a continuation of her kidding sentiments the evening before her big television debut, when she’d called to say, in an exaggerated Old Hollywood drawl, “I’m ready for my close up, Mr. De Mille.”

When our chuckles had tapered off and our vocal chords were fully awake, Mom got down to business: “Can you and Jenny drive up to Heather’s together? Everyone can meet there at noon and we’ll leave from there in Heather’s car.”

“Sure, no problem,” I said. “Now I think I’ll go back to sleep for a bit.”

“Okay, honey, I’ll see you soon,” said Mom. I was about to doze off again when a potential problem occurred to me. Without looking at the keypad, I dialed Jane’s number.

“Yo,” Jane answered.

“Yo,” I said. “Hey, we’re all going up in Heather’s car? Do you think we’ll fit?”

“Her car is a lot cleaner than mine,” said Jane. “So, yeah, we should be fine.”

“Do you think you guys are really going to be there by noon?”

“Mom and I are going straight to Heather’s from Bella’s dance class, so we shouldn’t be held up.”

“Awesome. See you soon,” I said, and ended the call.

I then called Jenny to determine what time I should pick her up. Over the next two hours, Jenny called Heather, Mom called Jenny, Mom called Jane, Mom called Heather, Jane called Heather, and I called Jane, Jenny, and Mom once again for good measure. “Jesus,” David said between calls. “A simple trip to a store in Irvine and your family places more calls and makes more plans than preceded the invasion of Iraq.”

I only smiled in response; it’s not like any reason I gave was going to make sense to the über-logical man in my life. David looked like he was about to say something else, but the high-pitched trill of my cell phone silenced him. I laughed as I answered; David rolled his eyes and returned to his desk.

At 1:30 p.m., seven females (five adults, a four-year-old, and a one-year-old) packed into one minivan in San Marcos. The next day was Mother’s Day, and Mom decided she’d like to celebrate by having the women of the family go to Irvine to pick up Jenny’s wedding dress from a specialty bridal store. Jenny, the clan’s token blonde, is to be married to her longtime boyfriend, Brad, in July. I was looking forward to a day with my sisters, mother, and nieces, but I was also glad for the opportunity to see how normal women like my sisters go about the whole wedding thing — picking up the dress is one in a series of momentous events to occur over the next few months. I was either too young or living out of town to be involved in the hubbub preceding both Heather’s and Jane’s weddings. For my own nuptials (at the county courthouse, squeezed between errands on a Wednesday morning exactly one year ago), I wore jeans.

Jane, Jenny, and I sat hip to hip in the very back of the van. In front of us, Bella and Olivia were strapped into those kiddie safety seats, and in front of them, Schoolhouse Rock played on a flip-down screen; “Conjunction Junction” blasted from speakers on either side of us in the back. Heather drove, and Mom rode shotgun. Bella craned her neck to take inventory of the vehicle and then squealed, “Nana!
All of your daughters are here, Nana!” The child’s astuteness and truth of her comment seemed to please my mother, who smiled and said, “That’s right, Bella. All my daughters are here. And all my granddaughters.”

“Bella, you’re a big girl now,” Jane said to her daughter. “And you’re on a big-girl outing.” Bella beamed in response.

A moment later, Jane slapped my arm, pointed to the truck passing by on my left, particularly to the creepy-looking guy in the passenger seat, and said, “TYB!”

“Really, Jane?” Jenny asked, and Jenny’s guys in the next car.”

“I’m your cowboy hat. Yo,” said Jane.

“‘TYB!’” After that car, “Why are you braking so hard?”

“Didn’t you say you wanted to take a nap; are you too tired to drive?”

“Why don’t you pull over and let Mom/Jane/Barb/Jenny drive?”

“Mom,” Heather whined in exasperation, “Make them stop!”

“Settle down back there,” said Mom, as if she still held dominion over her brood.

When torturing Heather got old, Jane opened one of the bridal magazines on her lap; Jenny and I looked on from either side as she slowly flipped through the pages. The magazine was filled with pictures of gown-adorned models barely old enough to marry in the red states, and first-time brides’ questions answered by self-proclaimed wedding experts. “Oh, here’s a good one,” said Jane, pointing to a question at the bottom of one page. “How and when do I distribute the gifts I purchase for my bridal party?”

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Scott is a good friend, but not in the traditional sense of good
He later moved in with a girl in our circle of friends, and they split up after he went to Colorado and learned massage therapy with a Far Eastern bent. Little by little we lost contact. He moved to Calistoga and did massage for a fancy spa. Then he tried and discovered that he liked crystal meth. What he didn’t realize until quite recently was that he was bipolar, and when he was up, he went way up. You know the down side.

About ten years ago he called me. He had moved back down to Oceanside and was living with his mother. She was retired and slowly failing, and he was her nurse for a long, long time till she passed away three years ago. In the seven intervening years he had only called once. But it was just the same as it always had been: he dropped a few names, I busted his chops, we laughed and swapped stories.

When his mom died, Scott decided that he wanted to re-pursue his dream of being a musical performer. He played OK guitar, and rudimentary piano, and he’d saved a bit of money living with his mom, so he wanted my advice on keyboards and PAs to buy. I guided him in a certain direction and found that he pretty much didn’t take my advice. Later on, I realized that he would always agree that my advice was sound and then never take it.

“He can’t give his brother, who’s about to save his life, $50?”

“Where’ve you been all this time?” “Oh, around here,” he said casually. “I worked as a swing-shift maintenance guy at that motel over by Orleans.” I asked. “How did that go?”

“I never made it to New Orleans,” he admitted sheepishly. “What the hell?” I was flabbergasted.

“Could you store it for me for a while?”

“How did it go?”

“It comes to keyboards — more. He’s like me when spending about $1700 and been talked into did that go?” I asked. “How Orleans?”

“They’ve been in my PA, “ he said casually. “And I’m going to go for only $10 per month. It’s the most affordable Nationwide texting available! All for one flat rate.”

“Mmm hmm. So you worked for a year and a half. Does that mean that you’ve been off work that long, too?”

“It turned out that he had. He had been on physical disability but had failed to follow up on any “regrooving” — training for some new position where he didn’t have to be on his feet much. His money had eventually run out, and he’d run into a few days without food or shelter. About six weeks before this particular call, he’d checked himself into a psychiatric clinic declaring that he was suicidal. “They won’t put you up unless you say you want to kill yourself,” he said. “I really don’t want to,” he confided, “but after a while you learn to play the game.”

It turned out that his bipolarity had been diagnosed about six months before, and he was on medication. Of course, since he was unemployed, Medicare was picking up the bill for the docs and the meds. He was still having a lot of trouble with his right knee — he thought he’d probably need surgery. The state had judged that he was now mentally disabled. Unfortunately, it would not give him enough money to really live on — only $800 a month. Enough to stay in a halfway house in a more or less structured

“Where’ve you been all this time?”

“Uh-huh.”

“Orleans?” I asked. “How did that go?”

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“I never made it to New Orleans,” he admitted sheepishly. “What the hell?” I was flabbergasted.
“I can’t live there anymore,” he said. “It’s run by two old Russian women and they’re tyrants, czars I guess you’d say. They won’t let you have a lady friend over, they take advantage of all the people over there who don’t really know what they’re doing, and they’re just in it for the money. I called the cops on them, and Social Services is going over to investigate.”

“So where are you going to live?” I asked.

“Not sure for now,” he answered. “But don’t worry about me. I can take care of myself.”

I made arrangements to pick up and store his stuff. After that is when the real lunacy began.

He started out staying in a Motel 6 with a friend he had met at the halfway house. With only $800 a month coming in, we both knew that he couldn’t live in a motel for long. He lent his friend one of his guitars for a while, and he did something that after a few incidents annoyed my wife and me — he brought his friend over to our house.

“I don’t want any strangers in my house,” my wife said, adamantly. “A lot of those people have problems with drugs.”

“Yeah, I know,” I said. I brought up the subject with Scott.

“A man’s gotta have friends,” he replied. “This guy’s all right — you’ll see.”

Well, after the guy disappeared with Scott’s guitar, we both saw. “I guess you were spot-on with him,” Scott admitted. “I’m surrounding myself with the wrong kind of people, and I guess I don’t always make the best decisions.”

By now, Scott had met with the Social Services people about the czarist regime and had moved out of the Motel 6. He went to stay with...
his dad for a couple of days. The problem was that his dad was just as bipolar as he and was furthermore in a lot of pain from some relatively ineffective hernia surgery from 18 months earlier. After his dad had broken up with his mom, he had never called or gone to see her, not even when Scott was living with her or through her long downhill slide. “My dad’s a hateful, bitter man who thinks I’m worth less than shit,” Scott explained.

I wasn’t too hopeful about what would happen between Scott and his dad this time around.

It only lasted 36 hours. Scott was back on the street without a nickel to his name. He called his brother, who owns an $800,000 house in Oceanside, and asked him if he could stay with him for a day or two. His brother said “yes” and then mentioned that he’d been diagnosed with cancer and he might need a stem-cell transplant. The doctor wanted to run some tests on Scott and see if he would be a compatible donor.

“Is this the same brother that wouldn’t lend you $50 the last time you asked him?” “I only have one brother,” Scott said.

Well, Scott is as soft-hearted as he is soft-headed, and he agreed to go through the tests for his brother’s sake. In the meantime, he wanted to know if I wanted to buy any of his musical equipment. I really didn’t have any use for it but offered to try to sell it for him. Long story short, after about a month of eBaying it, I netted him about $800 for the keyboard and the amp. This money I parcelled out to him over a period of a few weeks. I did this for two reasons: so he wouldn’t spend it all at once (a tendency he has, a sort of “Friday night rich” mentality); and eBay, when you first start out, doesn’t let you withdraw everything from your account right away — the limit is $500 a month.

Through his homeless shelter and mission contacts, Scott managed to pick up an old Ford Mustang and an RV. The Mustang ran OK, but it burned oil. The RV didn’t run at all, but it was virtually free: Scott got it for about $75. It was like an oversized van with a sleeper over the cab. He had to do a little work on it, and the inside was so filthy I was sure it was disease-ridden (I wouldn’t go in). Scott had visions of camping out for $15 a night somewhere or else parking it out in Vista on some side road in the hills. These ideas were pretty much pipe dreams, because he had nothing but trouble with it.

He was driving with one of his “friends” in Carlsbad one night. He didn’t wait at an intersection long enough, pulled his Mustang out into the street, and was smashed by someone coming faster than the speed limit but who had the right of way. The cops and the insurance adjuster agreed that Scott was at fault, and they paid off the other driver’s claim. The Mustang still ran, but the doors wouldn’t shut properly. Scott decided to park it on a side street for a few days and live and drive around in the RV.

He had gotten the RV running a bit with a new battery. It wouldn’t lock properly though, and he was worried about losing the few pos-
sessions he had left, especially his remaining guitar. I went over to the hardware store and got a new deadbolt, which I got to work on the door after an hour of intense wrestling. So now he felt pretty safe in it, and he drove it down to Carlsbad Beach State Park. He stayed there a few days, manage to get to a parking spot, as the vehicle weighed so much. I told him later that he should have kept begging till he got about ten guys to help him or at least called me so I could try to push it with my truck, but reason doesn’t figure into a lot of his decisions. He left it. It got Scott would be giving bone marrow for the transplant, but it turns out that he gives stem cells from his blood in a similar medical scenario.) This lasted only one day. Scott’s brother’s wife Lucy turned on him viciously. She accused him of using them and being a loser with no prospects for the future. Scott and she got into a shouting match, and Scott was back on the street. Again he asked his brother for a $50 loan till his next disability check came in. Again his brother refused.

“He said he had a lot of bills to pay and he couldn’t afford it right now,” Scott told me. “What bills?” I asked.

“Well, it seems that Lucy’s dog got sick and needed a $4000 operation.’’ I became furious.

“You mean he can pay operation.”

Scott went to live with his brother for a while. The tests had come back, and his blood was compatible, so he figured, “This guy’s getting my stem cells, he’ll be happy to put me up.” (I had thought that these confrontations.

then drove down to Encinitas for something with another of his “friends.” Uh-oh. The RV stalled in the middle of the intersection of Encinitas Boulevard and Coast Highway. It had no reverse, so by the time Scott got it restarted, he couldn’t towed away. It was impounded.

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I was beginning to think Scott enjoyed these confrontations.

...
$4000 for a dog’s operation, but he can’t give his brother, who’s about to save his freaking life, $50?”

“Apparently,” Scott answered, quite calmly, I thought.

“If I were you,” I advised, stupidly thinking that any advice I gave Scott would be treated differently from the advice I’d given him before, “I would tell him that it should be at least as worth- thy as his freaking dog.”

“I’ll think about that,” Scott said. His tone was the one he always uses with me: believable.

At this point I should say that Scott really was trying to get back on his feet. He had several ideas on how to make money; he was keeping a notebook outlining the things he had to do each day to keep his life on track; he was looking around for opportunities. None of these ideas eventually worked out, but he did try.

I had offered to put up some money for him on a monthly basis if he was serious about finding a job and settling down. This might not be as foolish as it appears on the surface. I wouldn’t give him money under any other circumstances, so it wasn’t as if I was throwing it away, and I would only pay it directly to the landlord. Scott thought about it but politely turned me down. “I’m still planning on going to Louisiana,” he said. “So I don’t want to make any commitments to stay anywhere for more than a month or two.”

I was giving less and less advice — what was the use?

With that in mind, he had two ideas to make some dough: massage, or driving a cab.

“So my brother says I can stay on his boat for a little while,” he said the next time he called. “He’s got a boat down in Oceanside harbor.”

“That’s cool,” I said. “Why weren’t you staying on it before?”

“It’s technically not legal,” he admitted. “You have to have a permit to live on the boat — it’s an extra $75 a month.”

“That wouldn’t be hard for you with $800 coming in.” I was thinking, Hey, this could be an answer to Scott’s problems.

“There’s a six-month waiting list,” he said. “My brother says it’s usually no big deal as long as you don’t make a big fuss. He and his new wife lived on it for six months before they moved into their house.”

So now he needed help getting his stuff out of the RV and into his brother’s boat. I have a truck, so we drove over to the impound lot, where the very nice man on duty let us take our time going through and getting out his stuff. I was amazed that the watchman let us in: Scott didn’t have his driver’s license. In the three months since he’d come back into my life, he’d lost his license twice.

Now he was sure it was there in the RV, so I waited with the watchman while Scott rummaged around in the still-uncleaned RV. The place was a bacterium paradise. I peeked my head in the door once or twice, but no way was I
“He called me and said he was going to kick my ass!”

guitar — and that was worth about $125. We packed up the truck and left the RV behind: good riddance. We drove down to the harbor and unloaded the four boxes, three bags, two laundry baskets, and guitar — all he owned. He had plenty of time, so I let him transfer the stuff into the boat on his own.

Two days later, I got a phone call. “They kicked me out,” he told me. “What the hell are you talking about?” I asked. “You said that no one cared as long as you didn’t raise a ruckus.” “Apparently I raised enough of a ruckus to piss off one son of a bitch,” he said, bile in his voice. “I was playing guitar down by that coffeehouse there — in a public area — and that asshole manager said that if he caught me playing around there again he was going to call the cops. So I said, ‘Go ahead, this is public property.’ Well, he called the cops on me.” “But they didn’t know that you were living on the boat, did they?” “No, not then. But they came, and I told them that the manager was bugging me for no reason. Then they asked me my address, and I gave them my brother’s. Then they called my brother’s house, and his wife told them I didn’t live there.” “Don’t you think that these confrontations you’re having are not only at least a little your fault but that they’re also doing you harm?” I said. “Not at all,” he maintained. “That asshole had no right calling the cops on me, and I’m going to be right back there on Saturday night, busking for a living.” He paused. “You do know it was going to call the cops on his own.

It took about 45 minutes, and when I saw the junk that Scott went through, the pitiful things he’d kept, it really saddened me. He was 57 years old and had nothing of value except his guitar — that was worth about $125. We packed up the truck and left the RV behind: good riddance. We drove down to the harbor and unloaded the four boxes, three bags, two laundry baskets, and guitar — all he owned. He had plenty of time, so I let him transfer the stuff into the boat on his own.

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what ‘busking’ means, don’t you?”

Scott loved these little word games. I said, “It means opening your guitar case and letting people throw money in it, right?”

“Um, yeah,” he admitted, a little deflated that he couldn’t show off his knowledge. “Well, I usually make about $40 on a Saturday night, so I’ll be back there this weekend. The lady that manages the restaurant right near where I play likes my music. She gives me free coffee and a sandwich or something, so that asshole can go to hell!”

As much as I was hoping that Scott was the victim in all these dealings, I was beginning to think that he enjoyed the confrontations. My son told me that he’d dealt with a lot of tweakers — meth users — before, and mostly they wear out their welcome at their families’ by badgering them for money or stealing stuff and pawning it — like that. “Man,” I told Scott, “all I know is that you’re starting to make a habit of burning your bridges. Now you can’t use your brother’s boat, you can’t stay with your dad, and you can’t go back to that halfway house. Now what? You don’t have enough for a motel!”

“I’ll go back to my brother’s and see if he can lend me some money,” he said. “I still have my bus pass” (the one piece of advice I’d given him that he’d followed was getting a monthly bus pass) “so I can take the bus there.”

The next morning, Scott was knocking on my door at 6:30. My wife answered, as I was asleep. She got him a hot cup of coffee — he was freezing and wet — and he started thawing out at the table.

He’d gone to his brother’s house, and the wife and he had gotten into another shouting match, and he’d left. He had caught a late bus, but it was raining, and he got soaked as he worked his way up to the Carlsbad church where he’d gone for aid before. There was no one around to let him in or get him some help, so he slept on the landing, out of the rain but not the wind.

We got him fed and dried out. He showered. We talked. I was giving less and less advice — what was the use? — but I did help him prioritize his next few days. His car and RV were both barely drivable and in one impound or another. It was going to be another day or two before his next disability check came in. I had sold his amp, so I had $100 to give him. It lasted two days. (I later sold his keyboard for $625, and that money helped. But Scott went through pocket money like it was bus fare, whether it was $10 or $500.)

“What happened to the $100 I gave you two days ago?” I asked.
SYNERGY CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTER
“Together…we can make a difference!”

Do you or someone you love suffer from Alzheimer’s Disease?

If you are:
• Male or female between 50 and 85 years of age
• Fluently read and speak English
• Are in good general health

You may be eligible to participate in a clinical research trial for an investigational new medication.

Participants will receive at no cost:
• Study-related exams • Investigational drug
• Compensation for travel-related costs to attend study visits

For more information, please call
toll-free: 1-888-486-9150

Are you 65 or older and have high blood pressure?

Have you been diagnosed with, or think that you may have, high blood pressure?

If you are 65 years of age or older, you may qualify for a research study of investigational medications to treat high blood pressure.

If you qualify you will receive, AT NO COST, study-related:
• Physical exams
• Laboratory tests
• Investigational study medications, and
• Compensation for time and travel

For more information, please contact:
1-888-486-9150

Have you or someone you know been diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder?

Are you currently receiving treatment with lithium, olanzapine, Larnotrigine, or valproic acid? Are you currently experiencing depression? You are not alone!

Synergy Clinical Research is conducting research studies for Bipolar Disorder with Depression. All study-related procedures will be provided at no cost. Participants will be compensated for time and travel after each completed visit. We understand…

Call Synergy Clinical Research toll-free at: 1-888-486-9150

Worry Too Much?

If you worry excessively, can’t relax; have persistent anxiety, tension, nervousness; have difficulty sleeping, concentrating, worrying about how you’ll deal with each day; or upset stomach and muscle tension, you may have Generalized Anxiety Disorder.

You may qualify for a no-charge medical research study to test an investigational medication for the treatment of anxiety. All inquiries are confidential and no insurance is requested. Study-related evaluations, blood test, study-related pills and exams are at no cost and you will be compensated for visit, travel and expenses.

For more information, please call
toll-free: 1-888-486-9150

DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW SUFFER FROM MAJOR DEPRESSION WITH UNUSUAL SYMPTOMS?

• HEARING VOICES
• PARANOIA

You may be eligible to participate in a clinical research trial for an investigational medication.

Participants will receive at no cost:
1. Study-related exams
2. Investigational drug
3. Compensation for time and travel

For more information call:
1-888-486-9150

NOW ENROLLING Clinical Research Study Schizophrenia

Do you know someone who has been diagnosed with Schizophrenia and is experiencing difficulties due to tolerability problems or adherence to a daily oral medication therapy?

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

A clinical research study is being conducted to evaluate Paliperidone Palmitate, a long-acting, injectable medication in the treatment of subjects with Schizophrenia. This open-label, long-term research study is now enrolling subjects, and volunteers from this area are needed to participate!

For more information, please contact:
1-888-486-9150

www.synergysandiego.com
Save 10% with ad. Lose Weight as low as $10/day

We have new and innovative medications and regimens to help you lose weight without depleting your body of the nutrients it needs and help you feel satisfied. Bioidentical hormones, lifestyle and nutrition training and vitamins B-12 injections are important contributors to your well-being and helpful in increasing your energy, heightening your metabolism and feeding your nervous system. Let Dr. Sterner develop an individualized program just for you.

Call 619-543-1061

Medical Marijuana Evaluations
Free verification card provided with every recommendation.
Legitimate and affordable. Dr. Sterner has 10 years’ experience working with medical marijuana patient needs.

For 24-Hour Recorded Information Please Call: 619-442-4215

Dr. Sunder Mudaliar and his associates at UCSD are looking for Type 2 diabetic volunteers to take part in a research study exploring insulin dosing regimens necessary to achieve better glucose control with insulin pump therapy.

Participants will:
• Attend 11 visits in approximately 16 weeks
• Inclusion criteria:
  • Males or females 18 to 75 years of age
  • Diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes mellitus
  • Has an A1C of 7.0% to 10.5%
  • Body Mass Index (BMI) of 25 to 40 kg/m2
  • Currently on a stable regimen for at least 3 months with 2 or more oral antidiabetic agents, basal insulin with or without oral antidiabetic agents, or basal-bolus insulin with or without an oral antidiabetic agent
  • If female, you must NOT be pregnant and agree to take precautions to ensure pregnancy will not occur

Qualified participants will be compensated for participation up to $650. To see if you qualify, or to learn more about the study, please contact: Catherine DeLue at (858) 552-8585 ext. 6740

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
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 physicians and medical professionals trained to place your comfort and well-being first.

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

You may be compensated for your time and travel.

858-571-1188
Toll-free 800-571-1188
www.cctstudy.com

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.

858-571-1188
Toll-free 800-571-1188
www.cctstudy.com

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.
that the cabbie paid the company $80 for the use of the cab, and any money he made over that was his pay.

Scott, being low man on the totem pole, started with a couple of 12-hour day shifts. There aren't many people in need of cabs during the day. He went from 4:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and barely made $40 the first day, more or less $3 an hour. After a few days of this, he decided to go for a 24-hour shift, figuring that he’d pick up some tipsy bar folk and make money that way.

The by-now-inevitable phone call came the next morning. “He called me and said he was going to kick my ass!” he screamed into the phone.

“You called the cops?” I asked.

“Hell yes,” he said. “He threatened me. If those cops can come when someone calls them on me, they sure as shit can come when someone is coming after me.”

“Don’t you think you’re kind of burning another bridge?” I asked.

“I don’t give a crap! That company is worthless! The cars are pieces of shit, the money thing is all screwed up, and the guy is a tyrant. His dad...”
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

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

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

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:
JoAnna Williams, CRC
Dr. Steven Drosman
619-260-0010

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 have been diagnosed with bipolar I and are currently experiencing a depressive episode
• You are at least 18 years old • You have a history of at least one bipolar manic or mixed 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

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
was real nice — he's the one who started the company. But the son is an asshole. I can't work for them."

I had bought Scott a secondhand bike for getting back and forth to the restaurant parking lot for the cab job. With that, and his bus pass, he still could get around all right. Money came in every two weeks, but only $395, and it was gone shortly after arrival. He wasn't using any meth. But he was still a soft touch to anyone with a hard luck or convincing story. One of his friends sold vitamins — $125 for a month's worth. You know where this is going. He bought a month's worth and had ordered another for later. He hadn't wanted to let his friend — a lady — think he couldn't afford it. He'd given someone $10 because he liked the way they played guitar. He was incorrigible.

Scott went up for the stem-cell transfer. I tried to convince him to hold out for the $4000, but it was no use. "Steve," he said, "he's my brother. Even if he doesn't give me another penny the rest of his life, I can't say no." The procedure went well. Scott had a nice room up there for about a week, and he took full advantage of it: he took walks through the nearby horse country; he enjoyed unhurried meals with a new L.A. Times to read; he talked with the nurses and doctors in his charming albeit name-dropping way. It was quite therapeutic for him.

His brother gave Scott his truck to use for a while. He drove it down to Oceanside and within a day had misplaced the keys, causing his sister-in-law to have to come back down from L.A., where she had remained with her husband after the procedure. She used her key to move the truck before it was towed from where Scott had parked it. She accused him of being too irresponsible to have it, and she had him leave it at her house. She went back to the City of Hope. Scott stayed at that house with his niece and nephew for one more day. Then the sister-in-law called from L.A. and told him that she wasn't comfortable having him stay there and she wanted him out by morning. He called me and apprised me of the situation. While we were talking, he was periodically interrupted by his nephew, who was yelling curses at him and calling him names. Scott was responding in kind, and it was not an
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

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 Women
Ages 45-65
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:
* 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

ADOLESCENT DEPRESSION

Are you or an adolescent you know:
• Suffering from depression?
• Are between 12 and 17 years of age?
• Have had symptoms for greater than 2 months?

You may be eligible to participate in a clinical research trial for an investigational new medication.

Participants will receive free of charge:
1. Study-related exams
2. Investigational drug
3. Compensation for time and travel

For more information, call: 1-888-486-9150

SYNERGY CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTERS
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.

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Research Opportunities

**Are you overweight?**

**Do you have elevated blood pressure?**

Dr. Robert Henry and his associates at the VA San Diego Healthcare System/UCSD are currently conducting a research study on Losartan Potassium compared to placebo and its effects on insulin sensitivity in people who are overweight and have elevated blood pressure.

**You may qualify if you are:**

- Male or female between the ages of 18-75
- Currently have mildly elevated to high blood pressure and are being treated with at most one high blood pressure medication
- Non-diabetic with impaired Fasting Glucose (blood sugar)

Participants will receive a medical screening at no cost by board-certified physicians and have the option to enroll in a research study after screening. Compensation up to $800 will be provided to participants who qualify for the research study.

If you are interested please call:
**(858) 552-8585 ext. 2884**

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**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](http://www.pearsoncenter.org)

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**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

Call: 858-242-2348 or visit [www.CASanDiego.org](http://www.CASanDiego.org)

---

**Volunteers needed for Down Syndrome study!**

Eisai Inc. and Pfizer Inc. are currently sponsoring a clinical research study to find out whether an investigational study drug (donepezil HCL) will benefit children with cognitive impairment associated with Down Syndrome.

**Do you know someone:**

With Trisomy 21 Down Syndrome • Between the ages of 10 and 17 • Residing in the community with a caregiver and • Have no unstable health conditions

If so, they may qualify to participate in this study.

Qualified participants will receive all study-related care at no cost and may be reimbursed for reasonable travel expenses.

If someone you know meets the above criteria and they are interested in participating in this clinical research study, please contact:
**UCSD Pediatric Research Center**
7910 Frost Street #360, San Diego 92123
Aimee Canepa, RN,CPNP • 858-246-0010 • acanepa@ucsd.edu
over. "Hang in there. I'll see you at the train station in an hour and a half."

I caught up with Scott at the prearranged time, and he seemed in fairly good spirits, all things considered, and there was a lot to consider: he was homeless, and practically penniless; he had a bad left knee and could barely walk; his mother was dead; he had been rejected roundly by his only living relatives and their kin; he'd been badgered by the police. With his luck, I was surprised they hadn't arrested him.

"Where to now?" I asked him, loading up the stuff that had been in the depot locker.

"We'll put that stuff in your storage, if that's OK with you," he said. "Sure."

He got himself up into the truck and we left.

"You know, Steve," he said, "this could have been one of the most depressing days of my life. But it isn't. And you know why?"

I hadn't a clue.

"Because I can hold my head up high and say I did the right thing. I saved my brother's life. His bitch wife can scream at me all she wants — God knows she's got my brother wrapped around her little finger — but she can't change that fact. I admit I was feeling a little down here at the train station. But I sat in the sun for a few minutes and tried to connect with the universe — kind of a Buddha thing — and I started to feel better." "Where are you going to stay tonight?" I asked.

"Oh, probably the shelter. Or maybe I'll just roll out my sleeping bag in the bushes somewhere. As long as it doesn't rain, I'll be fine."

— Steve Reid

---

**Research Studies**

Do you have Type 2 Diabetes and are not using insulin?

Volunteers are needed for a research study of an investigational medication conducted by Profil Institute for Clinical Research

To qualify, you must be:

- 18-65 years of age
- Managing your Type 2 Diabetes with only diet and exercise, or metformin.
- (If female) post-menopausal or surgically sterile.

You may be compensated up to $3,675 for time and travel. This study may be up to nine weeks, and some overnight stays are required.

For more information, call 619-409-1244

---

Do you have facial acne?

We are looking for volunteers to participate in a 12-week research study of an investigational topical medication for acne.

Those who qualify for the study will receive at no cost:

- Study-related medical evaluations by a dermatologist
- Study-related medication
- Reimbursement for time and travel may be provided
- Participants must be at least 12 years of age

To find out more about the study, please contact:

University Clinical Trials
619-202-0173 or univct.com

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**Clinical Research**

Researchers at Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital are currently enrolling men and women into inpatient and outpatient studies. Eligible participants may receive all study-related care at no cost, and may be reimbursed for time and travel.

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

To learn more, please call the Sharp Mesa Vista Clinical Research Center at (858) 694-8350.
When I got a ticket recently, I decided to go to court and fight it. My friend Janna had just gotten out of a ticket (the cop didn’t show up and it was thrown out).

Seven years ago, I got a ticket on Carmel Mountain Road, and fighting it didn’t work. The officer pulled me over and politely asked why I was in a hurry. We made small talk, and I signed the ticket. It wasn’t until I got home that I noticed he had given me a ticket for going 60 mph in the 35 mph stretch of the road. I was going 48, tops.

In court, I couldn’t believe what was happening. First, the bailiff read a list of cases in which the officers didn’t show up. Those seven people got up, smiling, as their cases were dismissed. When it came time to hear the others plead their cases, I was in awe. One lady was a tall, pretty blonde in a military uniform. She said she would never do anything to jeopardize her job. “The only reason this cop gave me a ticket is because of the ten-foot California boa in my car.” The judge, looking surprised, said, “A snake?” The officer clarified, “I had a ride-along in my car. We spotted her (the blonde woman) drinking in the parking lot of 7-Eleven, and her and her friends got into a vehicle with open containers, so I pulled them over. She wasn’t drinking, but I told her she was still responsible for the cans in the backseat. She claimed she couldn’t see what people were doing in the backseat. When I noticed the snake back there, I figured, if there’s an animal that large, she is probably well aware and looking back there often.” The woman pleaded, saying that

“EARTH TO MR. DECARLO, I GAVE YOU EXTRA TIME. WE AREN’T GOING TO SET UP A PAYMENT PLAN FOR YOU.”

People always talk about fighting traffic tickets in court. But what does it really mean to “win”? It’s not as if you won a trip to Hawaii. It’s not as if the state pays you back for the two different days you took coming to court and the hours you spent or time you took off work.

Winning merely means that you don’t have to pay. It’s more like a tie.

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All our services are offered to men and women and administered by a physician in our state-of-the-art facility. Bring a friend and both receive an additional 10% off.*

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RELIEVE EXCESSIVE SWEATING FDA-approved treatment starting at $200 per underarm.

SMARTLIPO® $400 OFF Laser-assisted liposuction. Dissolves fat, tightens skin, minimally invasive, less discomfort, with faster healing and superior results.

PAIN-FREE LIP AUGMENTATION $449 Dental block and anesthesia included.

MESO-SLIM® $359/area Patented fat and cellulite reduction.

HAND REJUVENATION $200 OFF Treats age spots and restores youthful appearance.

Call for details.

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888.557.3630

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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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**Microdermabrasion**

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A woman with her hand on her hip. Her body swayed like an angry lover on Jerry Springer. She said the cop was hiding behind a billboard and that wasn’t fair. She was ticketed for going 85 mph on the 94 freeway. As she yelled, the judge looked through a book. He said: “In that stretch of freeway, and at 5:30 a.m., when you were speeding, there’s not a lot of traffic. I don’t think it’s unsafe for you to go that speed, so I will let you off.” The lady continued to yell, claiming the officer followed her for a long time before pulling her over. The judge said, “Ma’am, I don’t think you understand. You won.” She seemed confused, I think all of us were. This, I thought, might be the nicest judge on the planet.

Only two guys didn’t get out of their tickets. One was speeding on the 56, wearing in and out of traffic. He said, “Your Honor, I never speed. Ever. I want you to call my wife. She will tell you.” The judge angrily said, “Are you crazy? I’m not going to call your wife. You could’ve brought her here or brought a written deposition from her.” The guy’s story got weirder. He said he was rushing to get his son to soccer practice. The judge said, “So, it sounds like you were speeding.” The guy said, “No. I went the speed limit, but I was in a hurry. I would not jeopardize the life of my son by speeding.” The judge rolled his eyes, sighed, and said, “What is it you want?” The guy responded, “To not pay this ticket. I wasn’t speeding.” The judge said, “If I had a nickel for every time I heard that in my court… I believe you were speeding. Would you like to take traffic school, so this doesn’t go on your record?” The guy (who never speeds) said, “I can’t, because I took traffic school a few months back for another speeding ticket.” The judge said, “I will let you take traffic school.” The guy threw his fist in the air and said, “All right! Cool! That’s what I wanted, because…well, I really was speeding.”

I was the last case. The officer in my case introduced himself by saying how long he’d been on the force. The previous officer had had “2 years on the force”; another had “1 year as a highway patrolman, and now 3 years as a police officer.” My officer said he had “19 years on the force.” He listed his police accomplishments, one of which was that he was a sharpshooter, which made him sound like the Rambo of cops. Finally he said that he’d spent the last 8 years as a regular cop (which was more years than all the other officers). Things got worse when he told his version of...
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use of cell phones, as well as another sign that warned against threats of verbal or physical abuse: such things would be taken seriously.

The bailiff had many hand gestures that got his points across quickly, without being loud in the courtroom. A few times he had to put his hand on his head, to signal to guys to take off their ball caps. One guy was wearing flip-flops and a bathing suit, with hair that looked as if it hadn’t been combed in days. Another guy kept his sunglasses on.

The judge was James L. Duchnick, who was very friendly and funny. One guy had gotten two tickets while driving without a license, and the judge lectured him. He talked about possible jail time but was friendly. When an old lady didn’t have her driver’s license with her, he asked her kindly to go to her car and get it. When it was clear that a person’s first language was Spanish, he would say a few words in Spanish.

I was surprised at one exchange with an older Latino. The guy claimed he couldn’t afford to pay his ticket and wanted a payment plan. The judge told him he’d have an extra 60 days to pay. The guy insisted on paying a small portion each month until it got paid. The judge said, “Earth to Mr. DeCarlo, I gave you extra time. We aren’t going to set up a payment plan for you. Why don’t you take a small amount, set it aside each week, and when you have the full amount, you can come in here, bring a big Mexican hat, dance around it, we’ll have a burrito, and the matter will be taken care of.” Everyone laughed, including Mr. DeCarlo.

One fairly young woman said she has had two heart attacks and couldn’t pay the ticket. The judge told her to stop having heart attacks. He then smiled and said, “Are we going to have you around long enough to pay this ticket?” I couldn’t believe he would say things like this, without fear of someday ending up in court himself.

An interpreter went up to an older Latina sitting in front of me and was explaining the process to her in Spanish.

I glanced over and saw my friend Sal, who happened to be in for his third ticket in a year.

It was finally my turn. When I was asked whether I was guilty or not guilty, I got nervous. I remembered as a teenager getting a “fix-it” ticket on my Mustang and sending in the ticket after the headlight was fixed. The court never got it. A notice came that told me I had a court date, which I ignored, followed later by a notice saying there was a warrant out for my arrest. The judge in Vista, for that case, said, “You know how many times a person has told me their payments got lost in the mail?”

I was fined $250. Judge Duchnick asked whether I wanted a quick trial or one in 60 days. I told him I had no preference, and he said I had to pick. I went with 60 days. I thanked him. He seemed surprised and thanked me in return.

In preparation for my court appearance, I went back to take pictures at the scene. My ticket was for turning right on a red light. There was a sign that said I couldn’t. I took pictures of all the
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In court, a bailiff asked, “Who is here for the camera ticket, for the light in Poway?” Five people raised their hands, and he took them into a room to show them a video. He came back out, and ten minutes after our scheduled time, he started explaining the rules. He said when the judge says our name for roll call, to loudly answer. He said, “So when he says ‘John Smith’…” A guy then yelled, “Here.” The bailiff said, “What? What are you talking about?” The guy said, “I’m John Smith.” The bailiff looking confused, said, “Oh, I should’ve used the name John Doe as an example.”

The crowd was more dressed up this time. One guy was putting a tie on as he walked in. The women wore fancy dresses. One guy did have on a Hawaiian shirt and blue jeans. I had opted for a sports coat and slacks. I figured a suit and tie would look as if I was trying too hard. The bailiff asked one guy near the front, “How often am I going to keep seeing you here?”

The officers were then brought in. I wondered why they hadn’t been brought in earlier. Was it so we wouldn’t give them the stink eye? It gave us a false sense of security, the idea that maybe our officer wouldn’t show up.

One officer had his cell phone a year earlier, he didn’t qualify. The judge said, “When?” He replied, “Now.”

Damn. The cop would now see my ace in the hole. I walked over, saw my officer, and said sarcastically, “Nice to see you again.” He sneered and took the card-board. He was polite when he handed it back to me a few minutes later.

A female judge came in to the bungalow, and we were asked to stand. Things got started quickly. The guy before me was a teenager who wanted traffic school, but because he had gotten a ticket a year earlier, he didn’t qualify. The judge asked the officer if this kid...
was polite during the stop, and the officer said yes. He was next. The officer put a chart on the chalkboard and explained that he had been dressed in his police uniform “like I am now.” I wondered why that was necessary. Are there people coming in here claiming they didn’t know that the person with the black-and-white car and flashing lights was a police officer?

When it was my turn, I explained how there was only one sign. I lied, saying that I did not see the sign and that that is a poor excuse for a motorist. I thought admitting that would score me brownie points.

I said I felt it necessary that the street have a bigger sign, or another one added, the way all the surrounding streets had.

The judge was writing things down. She asked the officer if there was only one sign. He said yes. She asked him if there was a struck-through arrow. He said no. I was liking this. She was handed my cardboard, and she mentioned that the sign did look small. She handed it to the officer, to ask if it was the area I claimed it was. He said it was. I told her how the officer told me that pulling out when the light is red impedes traffic. But I explained that all the lights were red, with cars waiting, so nobody had to yield for me.

She smiled occasionally and nodded in agreement at the things I said, while glancing down at my photos. She told me she would reduce the $180 fine down to $50. She asked if I would like traffic school. Aware of my ticket from a few years back, I needed to keep points from accumulating on my driving record. I took traffic school. She told me there would be a $28 fee to transfer some records, and then I’d have to pay the driving school. I asked the price, and she said it would be cheaper because my offense was a “level 2.” She guessed around $40 (for my previous ticket, I was told $200). And for some reason, I started telling her about that previous ticket, where I went through a red light because a guy in a bicycle next to me did, and I wasn’t paying attention. Why she didn’t tell me to shut up, I don’t know. But she just smiled and said they don’t have different laws that take into account why you ran a red light.

The bailiff handed me a list of driving schools and said, “If you take the one that’s online, I would suggest you do it soon. Sometimes it takes them three weeks to send out the certificate.”

I glanced at the list and saw “California Jammin,” “Comedy Traffic School,” “Pizza 4U,” “Joy of Motorcycling.” A few were given in Spanish, and there was “Gay Community Traffic School.” I wondered if there was a traffic school for singles. Would people try to get tickets to meet other singles? Or if you went to the one that served pizza, would anyone talk about how bad the pizza delivery drivers are? Do we, as a society, have such a short attention span that we need all these bells and whistles for traffic school?

Life was simpler when those bells and whistles, and an old baseball card, were attached to our bicycles.

— Josh Board

San Diego Reader
May 22, 2008

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We Love the Game of Beer Pong

The fluorescent light from the Budweiser lamp made the cigarette smoke appear as if it were dancing in the back room of McMurphy’s Pub in La Mesa. By the end of league night, puddles of beer and cracked plastic cups covered the four eight-foot-long regulation sized tables.

A small crowd of adults, ranging from their early 20s to mid-30s, gathered around one of the tables to watch the final, most anticipated matchup of the night.

On one end of the table, Phillip Weisburd and A.J. Driscoll, aka the “Frat Boys,” set up ten cups in triangular formation and carefully poured each cup a quarter full with beer from a large pitcher. Weisburd and Driscoll, members of San Diego State’s Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity, are the first-place team in San Diego’s only competitive beer pong league.

On the opposite end of the table, a 22-year-old Marine, David Marsceau, of the third-place Shutout Kings, coached his replacement teammate, Robert Barriga. “Just concentrate, man. We can take these guys!”

His usual partner couldn’t attend because of martial-arts training at Camp Pendleton the following morning.

Marsceau and friends make the 40-mile trek from Oceanside every Wednesday night to the small, newly remodeled pub.

Ronny Rader, the 29-year-old organizer and co-founder of sdbeerpong.com, anticipated the matchup. “This one should be a good one. Both of these teams are pretty good shit-talkers.”

The talking, more like yelling, came mostly from short and scrappy Marsceau. “Hey, you guys have heard when people say they’re on fire, right? Well, I’m on it, right now!” he said over the combined noise of intoxicated patrons, jukebox music, and the sounds of a college basketball game on the big screen behind the beer pong tables.

The game is among college-aged youth. It consists of teams tossing a Ping-Pong ball into each of the ten cups belonging to their opponents. With each successful throw, the beer is consumed and the cup is removed from the table. First team to eliminate all of their opponents’ cups wins.

Unfortunately for Marsceau, the talking didn’t have much effect on the Frat Boys of Phi Psi. They were the ones on fire, missing only 3 of their 13 total shots. Within five minutes, the Frat Boys had shut down the Shutout Kings.

Rader and fellow SDSU alum Casey Webster formed the San Diego Beer Pong League last January while the two were trying to...
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figure out ways to entice patrons to their friend Kory McMurphy’s bar.

On January 17 they organized the first tournament at McMurphy’s Pub. That day 18 teams competed for free entry into league play. Though the competition was much tougher than expected, the Frat Boys from Phi Psi won the tournament and a spot on Wednesday’s beer pong league.

Rader and Webster had a feeling that the response would be positive, though not to this degree. “The tournament was a lot larger than we had hoped. I knew beer pong was popular with the younger crowd, but I didn’t realize that even after the college years, people still play in their garages. The league allows these groups the opportunity to get out and meet up with people who have similar interests.”

The plan worked. On Wednesday nights the back room of the bar is filled with beer pong enthusiasts. They range from fraternity members, to Marines, to tattooed and pierced-lipped community house garages and into busy bars and national tournaments.

In January, the oldest beer pong accessory website, BPONG.com, held the third annual World Series of Beer Pong at South Point Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. Over 296 teams paid the $1000 entry fee and competed in the four-day tournament. The winners were given a check for $50,000.

Jeremy Hughes and Michael Orr, better known by their beer pong moniker — Chauffeuring the Fat Kid — were the win-
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Hughes remains modest in regard to their current skill level. “We’re not even as good as we used to be. When we were back in college, man, we were probably twice as good as we are now. We still play on weekends in our house. We have three tables and we invite people over and play, but back in college we were playing every night during the week.”

Unfortunately, the 50 grand didn’t go very far.”We both carried some credit-card debt and student loans that some of the money went to. Besides that, I personally bought a bed. I’ve been sleeping on the floor since we’ve moved out here.”

While having a good night’s rest is a healthy decision, some experts believe that competitive beer-drinking games are an unhealthy choice. Drinking games have been said to contribute to excessive drinking, commonly associated with drunk driving and sexual assault, as well as other social issues. In a recent study published in the January issue of Alcoholism: Clinical & Experimental Research, co-authored by San Diego State University’s J.D. Clapp, findings showed that drinking games are associated with higher levels of drinking. More importantly, it revealed that participants’ blood-alcohol concentrations are higher than those that don’t participate in drinking games.

According to World Series winner Hughes: “It depends on the individual. Whether it’s with beer pong or cards, if an individual’s going to binge drink, then they’ll binge drink. At the tournament there’ll be some drunk kids, but they’re always at the back. The ones serious about the game and about winning.”

Billy Gaines, co-founder of beer pong accessory website BPONG.com and organizer of the World Series of Beer Pong Tournament, attributes the gaining interest in beer pong to the love of the game and not the opportunity to drink excessively. “We got into it because we love the game of beer pong. I don’t know why, but there’s something about the game. I think it’s really the competition. The media misrepresents the game so often. It’s not about chugging. We’re focused on the positive aspects, the socialization and the competition aspects of it.”

Webster, of the San Diego Beer Pong League, agrees. He says that the option to replace the beer with water is available to everyone. “I haven’t seen anyone using water yet, but they can.”

He also weighed in on the issue of excessive drinking. “It’s clear people are going to socially drink, whether they are playing games or not. Surprisingly, we find that a lot of teams in our leagues keep their drinking at reasonable levels. There is nothing worse than letting your teammate down in double overtime because you are too drunk to focus.”

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Model
tention. Yet, I see MC Chas Lomack — dreadlocks and all — who though involved seems to be the only supporting visual you saw fit to show in your paper regarding the event. It’s an insult to the intelligence of your readers, and you seriously dropped the ball. Better luck next time.

Storm Cloud (manifest) via email

The View From Disneyland
Only in city hall doublespeak is a $50,000 salary increase for councilmembers not a pay increase but a salary adjustment (“Little Pay, Big Deal,” “City Lights,” May 8). It’s only a pay raise when it’s for policemen, firemen, janitors, etc.

Don’t they live in a wonderful world? Sort of like Disneyland on the Bay.

Ron Engelhart
Clairemont Mesa

Basher Basher
I cannot believe the Reader’s choice for its May 8 cover story (“Confessions of a Phony Navy Wife”), let alone its publishing. The image alone, of a Navy “basher” distastefully wearing a sailor’s uniform, is downright disrespectful to all in the military. I cannot believe some of the cover story’s claims either. Publishing a story that makes false claims of the Navy backstabbing and bringing “out the bad in people” tarnishes the Navy’s image and discourages those in—

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interested in enlisting. It leads me to believe that the Reader does not support our troops, even though it is published in a military town and it is circulated to all San Diego bases. I have been in the Navy for nine years and seen a lot of poor choices people make — none of which were influenced or encouraged by the Navy.

ENS Enicnas
USN

Recognize The Truth
I just finished reading Maggie Young’s story (“Confessions of a Phony Navy Wife,” Cover Story, May 8), and it really moved me. I was in the Navy too, and much of what she said is so true. While reading it, it brought back a lot of memories and issues that I was dealing with. It was a great story, and thanks for expressing it.

Joey via email

Something’s Missing
Clearly there is much more to this story than the writer admits (“Confessions of a Phony Navy Wife,” Cover Story, May 8). It is a little disappointing that her story was not better scrutinized.

GEB via email

Sea Plus
She may think she had a tough time living aboard ship (“Confessions of a Phony Navy Wife,” Cover Story, May 8). I was a single first-class petty officer living on a nuclear submarine. My bunk and locker space was about half of hers; plus, the last year I was at sea we had 315 days at sea.

Clancy Sloan
Senior Engineer

Badly Dressed
The phony Navy wife is just another example of someone blaming someone else for their own problem story (“Confessions of a Phony Navy Wife,” Cover Story, May 8). She enlisted on her own and then didn’t like sleeping aboard ship, so she committed fraud with a phony marriage. She took the taxpayers’ money so she could be more comfortable. It’s a good thing she didn’t
join the Marines and have to live in a foxhole. And I question her cover picture. Not only does she dishonor the uniform, she is wearing a good conduct medal. I doubt she earned anything for good conduct. She should be in a prison jumpsuit, both for her fraud and for wearing a medal she didn’t earn.

Bob Werner via email

Maggie Young responds: A good conduct medal is earned after a sailor does three years of consecutive good behavior. I went to Captain’s Mast January 9, 2007, three days after my three-year mark. I wore my good conduct medal to be funny and ironic. My fraud charges were dropped because technically I broke no rules. There is nothing in any Navy regulations or the Uniform Code of Military Justice that states you must marry for a particular reason.

Please Pass The Listerine

Just wanted to say this is a good article calling the military out on some of their imperfections (“Confessions of a Phony Navy Wife,” Cover Story, May 8). I have been a wife of a service member now for 15 years and have volunteered my time to the military. Their commands know, as they have people who report to them and talk. The commands cover it up because it will look bad for them and their future commands, but this is not to say there aren’t some good ones out there, because there are. You have your officer’s wives shipping alcohol to Iraq in bottles of Cepacol or Listerine. They set up rules about no drinking at certain times, and yet their enlisted personnel have noticed the commander coming in through the gates a little too intoxicated. So if there is bitterness from this gal, I don’t blame her at all.

One of the biggest complaints in the military is how they receive their promotions. There is always a big secret as to why you were not promoted. I know as civilians if we are doing bad, they call us on it and say, hey, improve here and there and maybe we will give you that promotion. This is not the way it works with the military. My husband, who has been a victim of this, has served for
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2023 West Vista Way, 760-726-6451 www.face-beautiful.com

$20 off 1-hour massage
New client only. 1-hour massage includes your choice of hot tub, body shampoo, sauna or steam room. Offer expires May 31, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month.

Naomi Massage Center
3960 4th Avenue, San Diego, 619-299-9519

$500 off Invisalign
Reg. $3400-$4900. Offer expires May 31, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month.

Mesa Family Dentistry
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5450-C Clairemont Mesa Boulevard #11, San Diego, 858-583-6789

Free Brazilian bikini wax
Buy 1 Brazilian wax, get second free. Or 25% off any other waxing service. First-time clients only. Offer expires May 31, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month.

The Undercarriage
A fine waxing establishment.

1951 4th Avenue, 1st floor, Banker’s Hill, 1-888-241-4971 www.theundercarriage.com


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Carole & Deb Hair stylist Free designer haircut ($45 value)
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Dr. Rabinder Gill $199 ZOOM! Advanced Power
Global Laser Cosmetics Botox $218 (per area)
Global Laser Vision Standard LASH $59 per eye
Glaxo M.D. Skin Care Free underarm laser hair removal plus
Hair Addiction Hair extensions only $599.99
Farnar Haroun, DDS Lumineers - Save $300 per tooth
Hilltops Optical 20% off any purchase
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Junior Ilano 20% off haircut
L.C.E. Spa Free brow wax
LIFT $50 off hair transplant
IndiJew Skin Care $79 IPL Photofacial
Inner Balance Massage 1-hour massage $50
Inner Balance Skin Care $45 Microdermabrasion
It’s Free body wrap
Jennielle Salon and Spa $5 off any spa package
Jennielle Day Spa Body wraps $52
William S. Kachle Jr. Dental exam $39
Karie Hayden & Associates 20% off contour wrap
Kaya Clinic 2 hour laser treatment
Knotstop 2-hour massage $49
Roberta Kearney, MD, $100 off Botox/Radiesse
La Jolla Cosmetics $5 per purchase of $50 or more
La Jolla Cosmetic Clinic, 10% off Fraxel
La Jolla Hair Clinic 50% off hair replacement
La Jolla Laser Clinic Laser hair removal $49
Dr. George Lebeau $20 off mobile chicoplastic visit
Life Medical Spa 20% off Fraxel II
Lifetek 23% off weight loss system
Lucky Spa $20 off 1-hour massage
Philip Levy, OD, $45 colored contact lenses
Med Lounge Free laser hair removal
Med MD $10 off medical marijuana evaluation
Mesa Family Dentistry $500 off Invisalign
Mind Body Partnerships Spa package $179.99
Howard Miltz, MD, & Associates Laser hair removal $95
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Pretty Kitty $30 Brazilian wax
The Relaxing Space 1-hour massage $45
Revive InsulinResistance experience $10
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Dr. Sadat $50 off Botox or filler
Salon Sausalito $10 off precision haircut
Salon D’s Free designer haircut
S.D. Wax Queen $25 Brazilian wax
Dr. Selby Contacts & exam $122
Shumway Cosmetic Surgery $50 off Botox or Radiesse
Skin Science $50 off single hair removal
Skin Trade $10 off waxing
Soft Touch Dentist Zoom 21 $249
Tanya at Salon $50 off haircut or $10 off ups
Touch of Health $10 off 1-hour massage
V 2 Nail Bar Salon 15% discount on any service
Wendy Liposculpture Center Laser hair removal $49
VIP Salon & Day Spa Two 1-hour massages $109
Wella Wellness Med. Groups Botox $39
Your Beauty free Lumiere Light therapy treatment
Zen Wellness Longevity 50% off initial consult
Zen West Coast Eyecare Complete optometric exam $39
Won’t Acupuncture 10% off acupuncture
World Spa 3 spa treatments $149
Yoga One 1 month unlimited yoga
and be able to afford decent near future.

Young’s publications in the hope to see more of Maggie Young’s presentations in the near future.

Gerardo G. Aguiñiga Coronado

Our Thoughts In Print

A generally well-written piece about a very significant military — not just Navy — issue (“Confessions of a Phony Navy Wife,” Cover Story, May 8). The system of rewarding for all of their sacrifice, never forsaking them or punishment — how do we correct or stop this type of negative behavior? I wish her good luck!!!!!!!!!!!!

Name Withheld

Hot Air Balloon

Duncan Shepherd, in his review of Flight of the Red Balloon (Movie Review, May 8), maintains that a film consisting of artistically designed camera shots can be engaging. Apparently he doesn’t require that these visual exercises actually tell a story. After waiting an hour and a half for some sort of meaningful event, I decided that the dramatic high point of the movie had to be the turning of the heroine’s piano. Flight of the Red Balloon is an empty, tedious, colossal bore.

Andrew J. Crane via email

A Trip To Roam

I enjoy reading every one of Jerry Schad’s installments of “Roam-O-Rama.” I lived in the San Diego area for 21 years before moving to Orange County in 1995 and twice a month, on average, spent at least a Saturday (if not a full weekend camping) in the mountains or desert. I am familiar with most of the places he covers and long to get back down there at every opportunity.
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What sensationalistic though. Though the article seems balanced for the most part, the bias of the author is still evident.

Blurt
Published May 15
Posted by Karl on May 16, 1:11 p.m.

I am not sure I understand the purpose of this article. Is there not enough new local music that we need to talk about what happened at a concert 29 years ago? Each week does Blurt have a concert from 40 years ago listed? A past show might be interesting to a few people, but I think the majority of us are curious about the now.

Posted by Donny on May 16, 2:58 p.m.

Maybe some of us that were around back then want to hear about this kind of stuff!

When I read this story it brought back great memory’s of that night!

Thanks Jay!

Cover Story
Published May 8
Posted by vanillabean on May 13, 12:48 p.m.

It is unfortunate to see those cast judgement on a lifestyle they have never lived. If you have lived it an survived then you are one of the lucky ones. We forget those who have lost their lives aren’t always the ones who are fighting on the battle field or dead. You sacrifice a lot to serve and you expect a little respect in return. It is a hard life with as many benefits as downfalls. And there is a constant battle here at home and most don’t even know about it. My story was a little different and yet in a way the same. I too witnessed the hypocrisy of the United States Military. The code states Honor, Courage and Commitment. But sometimes the only way to survive the system is to make it work for you when it won’t stand behind you when you need it the most. Otherwise, what good are you going to be when your country needs you the most?

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Fallbrook, the Beautiful

They Don’t Clap Between Movements

I believe that in the history of the Fallbrook Music Society you would find a group of people who moved here, who enjoyed music and arts, and thought, ‘Boy, it’s a pain to have to drive to Los Angeles, Orange County, or San Diego to hear really good music,” says Bob Leonard, executive director of the Fallbrook Chamber of Commerce.

The Fallbrook Music Society was founded 30 years ago when the town’s population was less than 15,000 (today it is 40,000). To raise the funds needed to schedule the first three concerts ($23,000 in 1978), founders spent two months calling every person in the Fallbrook phone book to ask for contributions. “They actually had to wait until after their work — one was a real estate agent, the other a financial adviser,” says Brenda Montiel, president of the society.

On Sunday, May 25, the Fallbrook Music Society presents the Redlands Symphony Orchestra, which will perform “America the Beautiful,” highlighting the works of great American composers. As part of the performance, Jon Robertson, conductor and music director of the Redlands Symphony Orchestra, will also perform Gershwin’s “Rhapsody in Blue” with the orchestra.

The Bob Burton Center for the Performing Arts in Fallbrook seats 532. “This is a theater that was built on the campus of Fallbrook High School, so it became part of the district, but it was voted to be the community theater as well as the theater used by the school,” says Montiel. “When they built this theater, they brought in an acoustician.”

Montiel says that acoustic curtains and the curvature of the structure enhance the sound of the performance. “What it does is allow the performers on stage to hear one another. Often in theaters with poor acoustics, when a group will perform you get a large sound from the orchestra, but you don’t hear what’s happening with some of the inner voices, like flutes and trombones.”

The Fallbrook Music Society provides lodging for musicians in one of Fallbrook’s three small hotels. For one recent performance, 30 of one hotel’s 50 rooms went to members of a symphony. “All these groups are never performing groups that may perform in Carnegie Hall in New York and then fly out here to Fallbrook,” says Montiel. Some past and upcoming groups to perform for the society are the Chamber Orchestra Kremlin, the Franz Liszt Chamber Orchestra from Budapest, the Orchestra of Camerata Ireland, and the Aulos Ensemble from New York.

Attendance averages around 450 people and is growing. About 75 percent of the audience is from Fallbrook; most of the remainder are from San Diego County.

According to Leonard, the archetypal audience is very receptive and actually quite knowledgeable, says Robertson. “For one thing, they don’t clap between movements, which is a major sign that they’re used to these kinds of performances.” — Barbarella

Redlands Symphony Orchestra presents “America the Beautiful” Sunday, May 25 3 p.m. Bob Burton Center for the Performing Arts 2400 S. Stage Coach Lane Fallbrook Cost: $37 adults; $10 students Info: 760-728-4056 or fallbrookmusicsociety.org

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

**“UCSD Up-and-Coming Student Film Fest 2008”**

Matt Salager and the Dirty Beats play “eclectic and electrical musical pieces,” followed by ArtPower! Film’s inaugural juried student film fest in Price Center Theater. Ten films will be recognized for outstanding achievement. Discussion with panel of media industry experts follows. Donation. 858-534-3353. Thursday, May 22, 7:30 p.m. San Diego Pacifica Graduate Institute, 355 Encinitas Boulevard, room 200.

**USA Dance Ballroom Party**

Balloons, Latin, swing, salsa, more. All ages, ability levels, singles, couples. Casual dress. Fourth Saturday each month. Lessons at 7 p.m., dancing from 8-11 p.m. 760-525-5124. Saturday, May 24, 7 p.m., 57. Synergy Dance Zone, 7480 Miramar Road. (NIA MESA)

**FILM**

*What Would Jesus Buy?*

DiCillo’s 2006 “wicked lark” of a satire/horror film screening. 858-534-3353. Thursday, May 22, 8 p.m. Stone Brewing World Bistro & Gardens, 9500 Gilman Drive. (SDU)

*Born Into Brothels: Calcutta’s Sex Workers* (2004)


*Delirious* (2004)


**ERASED!**


**Harold and Maude**

Cult classic showcased for “Stone Late-Night Movie.” Cameron Crowe’s Vinyl Films Records recently released first official version of film’s soundtrack — on limited-edition vinyl — and they’ll be on hand to award a copy to Harold and Maude trivia contest winner. Film screens on 1.5-foot-wide screen outdoor in Bing’s lawn chairs, blankets, and “get comfy.” 670-471-4999. Wednesday, May 28, 8 p.m., Bing’s, 6663 La Jolla Village Drive. (SDU)

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**FOR KIDS**

“Sunday Stories”


“Tots and Tales”

Interactive story time for preschoolers with crafts and animals. Reservations: 619-243-3432. Thursday, May 22, 10:30 a.m.; 53. Ages 2 and up. San Diego Humane Society and SPCA, 5500 Gains Street. (SDU)

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**IN PERSON**

**We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball**

Author Kadir Nelson, Saturday, May 24, D.G. Wilts. (SEE IN PERSON)
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“Interimde Floral Arranging: Exhibition Tape” San Diego Floral Association hosts class for those with basic background in floral design led by Kathy Taylor de Munier at Casa del Prado, room 104. Participants create “exhibition table designs for flower shows” One in a five-foot section in a niche. Reservations, supply list: 619-232-5762. Tuesday, May 27, 9:30 a.m.-2:35 p.m. Casa del Prado, El Prado. (BALboa PARK)

“Chinese 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 includes both demonstration and performance at piano. Series concludes with consideration of Ernst Bloch and Darius Milhaud on May 27, 8:30-11:30. Tuesday, May 27, 7:30 p.m.-9:30. Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, 4126 Executive Drive. (LA JOLLA)


“Settlement and Ceremony at Landing Hill: A Place Remembered” Andrew Yorke addresses San Diego County Archaeological Society, focusing on results of Hellman Ranch archaeological project in city of Seal Beach, describe major findings at Landing Hill, and consider them in light of regional models of Southern California prehistory. 858-538-0935. Tuesday, May 27, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Reservations: 858-538-0935. Tuesday, May 27, 7:30 p.m.-9:30. Lawesa Hot Springs Resort, 13222 Camino de la Reina. (LA JOLLA)

“Sex and the Single Parrot” Parrot Education and Adoption Center seminar at 2:30 p.m., following a look at “Avian Diseases: The Four Ps” at 1 p.m. in room D-6. Reservations: 619-287-8200. Sunday, May 25, 1 p.m. Martine Village Conference Center, 1936 Quivira Way. (PACIFIC BEACH)

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“The Art of Ancient Greece and Rome” Art historian James Greböl presents lectures exploring artistic achievements of these ancient cultures from Bronze Age through the fall of the Roman Empire, illustrated with images of the key monuments and sites. Reservations: 858-454-3872. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.; through Thursday, May 22, 2008, $12-$17. Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, 1008 Wall Street. (LA JOLLA)

“The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Family Tree Maker, Part 2” Dorothy Miller focuses on advantages and disadvantages of newly revised version of the widely used computer genealogy software program for North San Diego County Genealogical Society. Nonmembers welcome. 760-630-5720. Tuesday, May 27, 10 a.m.; Carlsbad City Council Chambers, 1208 Carlsbad Village Drive. (CARLSBAD)

“The Zoro Butterfly Garden” Maureen Austin, founder and executive director of Center to Help Instill Respect and Preservation of Garden Wildlife (CHIRP) plans illustrated lecture and brings butterfly larvae to next Mission Hills Garden Club meeting. Austin helped Alpine become first town certified by National Wildlife Federation as a wildlife habitat. Social (6 p.m.) followed by meeting (6:30 p.m.). 619-299-7944. Wednesday, May 28, 6 p.m.; Mission Hills United Church of Christ, 4070 Lackada Street. (MISSION HILLS)

Claim a Revolutionary War Ancestor? Daughters of the American Revolution host genealogy workshop; learn to organize family records, gather information from family members, secure certificates, search federal census records, more. RSVP: 858-535-8032. Saturday, May 24, 11 a.m.; La Jolla Library, 7555 Draper Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

“San Diego Reader” May 22, 2008

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Fresh Lavender Baskets
Learn to weave fresh cuttings into fragrant baskets. Students wander among lavender fields to harvest materials for baskets. Technique taught in class can later be used to weave other fresh plants such as Dusty Miller, rosemary, peppermint. Easy project, suitable for beginners. 588-407-1489. Sunday, May 25, 10 a.m.; $60. The Lavernfer Fields, 12460 Keys Creek Road. (VALLEYSIDE)

Mental Health Awareness Luncheon
Elyn R. Saks speaks about her lifelong struggle with paranoid schizophrenia for Mental Health Committee of Jewish Fam-ily Service of San Diego. Saks is currently associate dean and professor at USD’s School of Law, author of The Center Cannot Hold: My Journey Through Madness. Reservations: 858-637-3231. Wednesday, May 28, 11 a.m.; $42. Doubletree Hotel San Diego, 7490 Hazard Center Drive, ocean valley.

Plunging Into the Unknown!
Improvvisational performances on tap. 858-534-3229. Wednesday, May 28, 8 p.m., Mandeville Recital Hall at USD, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

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ROAM-O-RAMA
Parched several hundred feet up on a rocky slope north of Escondido, Dixon Lake stores drinking water and serves as a recreational resource as well. The lake’s camping facilities, picnic grounds, playgrounds, boat rentals, hiking trails, and fishing opportunities are enough to draw a steady stream of visitors seven days a week.

To get there from San Diego, exit Interstate 15 at El Norte Parkway in north Escondido. Drive three miles east and make a left turn (north) on La Honda Drive. Drive one mile uphill to the end of the road, where you will find the Dixon Lake entry station. Just short of the lake entrance, you’ll notice the parking lot/staging area for the Daley Ranch preserve, which these days is a major magnet for hikers and mountain bikers.

Dixon Lake itself offers just enough trail mileage to make a stop here worthwhile for hikers. Using paths along the shoreline and a dirt access road that swings upward onto a slope, you can piece together a leisurely loop offering consistently nice views of the lake, plus more distant vistas of the mini-metropolis of Escondido and (sometimes) the coastal cities and ocean beyond. In recent years, trail maintenance has been scarce at Dixon Lake, and some former designated footpaths have disappeared. Nevertheless, the following route should work.

Just beyond the entry station, find and follow the Jack Creek Trail, which goes south past a grassy picnic area, descends steeply to join the strip of riparian vegetation alongside Jack Creek, and emerges at Dixon Lake’s northernmost cove (0.2 mile into the hike). Along the way you’ll notice several common native plants — backuskeed, manzanita, chamise, California sagebrush, black sage, ceanothus, laurel sumac, toyon, willow, and live oak — and some non-native (planted) acacia and eucalyptus trees. The flowering of blue-blossoming ceanothus shrubs may be over by now, but the delicate, red monkey flower plants should remain in bloom at least through May.

Once you reach the cove — a serene spot with a great view of the lake’s northernmost cove (0.2 mile into the hike). Along the way you’ll notice several common native plants — backuskeed, manzanita, chamise, California sagebrush, black sage, ceanothus, laurel sumac, toyon, willow, and live oak — and some non-native (planted) acacia and eucalyptus trees. The flowering of blue-blossoming ceanothus shrubs may be over by now, but the delicate, red monkey flower plants should remain in bloom at least through May.

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“Catalina eddy,” in which moist marine air drawn inland from the area around Santa Catalina Island forms low clouds over a wide area. In the absence of Catalina eddy condi-
Fiesta Island Beach Cleanup Saturday, May 24, 9 a.m.; Fiesta Island Road, meet in dirt parking area just after your turn. (Turn right after you turn onto Fiesta Island Road.) Wear closed-toed shoes. 619-758-7743.

Desert Garden Tour Bizarre trees, cacti, succulents showcased when Offshoot Tours hosts its monthly hour-long guided stroll through desert garden. 619-235-1122. Saturday, May 24, 10 a.m.; Balboa Park Visitors’ Center, 1549 El Prado. (VAU) Press

Discover Downtown Escondido Walking tour led by Escondido History Center, starting at southeast corner of Grand and Broadway. 760-743-8207. Tuesday, May 27, 6 p.m.; Draper’s and Damon’s, 101 El Prado. (ESCOND) Press

Fried Eggs Over Easy! Last chance to gaze on white matilija poppies with yellow “yolks” during guided walk in Mission Trails Regional Park. 619-668-3281. Saturday, May 24, 9:30 a.m.; Kumeyaay Lake Campground entry station, Two Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

“Irregular Verbs” Tour of Balboa Park Discover Downtown Escondido Walking tour led by Escondido History Center, starting at southeast corner of Grand and Broadway. 760-743-8207. Tuesday, May 27, 6 p.m.; Draper’s and Damon’s, 101 El Prado. (ESCOND) Press

Head for the Hills Trail repair work continues in Foso Picacho area of Cayumaca Rancho State Park. Bring work shoes, gloves, hat, water, snack. Registration: 619-851-2285. Saturday, May 24, 9 a.m.; Cayumaca Rancho State Park, 40 miles east of San Diego. (ESCOND)

Relax — Go Native! Enjoy interpretive walks on trails lush with native plants. 619-668-3281. Saturday, May 24, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, May 25, 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday, May 28, 9:30 a.m.; Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

“The Young Scene” Concert Series Under direction of Maestro Luis Salazar, the Pre-Orquesta del Centro de Estudios Musicales of UABC School of Arts performs Beethoven’s “Symphony No. 1” in Foro Experimental. 011-52-646-173-4307 and 011-52-646-173-4308. Wednesday, May 28, 7:30 p.m.; Centro Estatal de las Artes, Boulevard Costero and Avenida Club Rotario. (BAJA)

Save $30 enjoying the biggest thrill of your lifetime!

First Corrida of the Season Matadors Leonardo Benítez, Uriel “El Zapata” Moreno, and José Mauricio meet up with bulls from Los Encinos for first bullfight of season. 011-52-664-686-1219. Sunday, May 25, 4 p.m.; Monumental Bullring by the Sea. (BAJA)

International Book Fair Author appearances, concerts, activities, Friday, May 23-Sunday, June 1, between 7th and 8th Street on Avenida Revolución. 011-52-664-684-8609. Friday, May 23, 10 a.m.; Saturday, May 24, 10 a.m.; Sun-

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SDUIS San Diego University for Integrative Studies 800.234.7041 or 619.297.1999

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**LOCAL EVENTS**

**SPECIAL**

“A Day in the Life of Carlsbad and Karlovy Vary” The Carlsbad Sister City program award-winning photographs showing life through eyes of European and American teens from May 19-30. Exhibition is result of competitions in which teens in Carlsbad and sister city Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic, submitted photos based on “A Day in the Life” of their hometowns. 760-434-2904. Thursdays, 9 a.m.; Fridays, 9 a.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m.; Mondays, 9 a.m.; Tuesdays, 9 a.m.; Wednesdays, 9 a.m.; through Friday, May 30, 2008, Cole Library, 1230 Carlsbad Boulevard. (CARLSBAD)

**Fiesta** kicks off on Saturday with Calabaceado Dance Festival (4:30 p.m.), 11th annual State Fair of Baja California, competition based on history of Baja California. Competitors register in advance. See website for details. (Point Loma)

**Orquesta de Baja California Symphony directed by Iván del Prado with horn soloist Jon Gustely Symphony directed by Iván del Prado with horn soloist Jon Gustely. Learn how these unique fish run? Ponder and expound with the Library will hold annual sale; 75% off rare books, items on offer include audio books, CDs, video; 619-535-3974. Monday, May 26, 10 a.m.; Kensington Library, 4121 Adams Avenue. (KENSINGTON/TALMADGE)

**SDReader.com** Launch Party Join us for the launch party of the new SDReader.com at the Beach bar on the roof of the W Hotel. Sip Tommy Bahama rum cocktails and mingle with Reader staffers while X1FM’s Chris Cantore deejays. Raffles! Drinks! Tunes! Personalities! All we ask in return is an RSVP. Send it to: rsvp@SDreader.com. Wednesday, May 28, 7 p.m. Ages 21 and up. W 1027. Thursday, May 22, 7 p.m. The Other Side Coffee House, 4096 30th Street. (KENSINGTON)

**Dig It!** Sixth annual Lebanese food festival, May 23-25. Enjoy tastes of Lebanon, along with live music, dancing, performances all day, variety of booths. 619-337-1350. Friday, May 23, 5 p.m. Saturday, May 24, 9 a.m.; Sunday, May 25, 9 a.m. St. Sphynx Catholic Church, 750 Medford Street. (CLARKSON)

**Ethnic Food Fair** Enjoy food from over 30 nations (for sale), along with native costumes, ethnic music, songs, dancing. 619-234-0739. Saturday, May 24, 10 a.m. House of Pacific Relations, 2123 Park Boulevard. (BAJA)

**Get Ready to Rub It!** Third annual “San Diego Rubik’s Cube Competition” promises “cube masters” tackling competitive events — solving the puzzle in less than 30 seconds, or while blindfolded. Admission for spectators is included in paid museum admission. Competitors register in advance, pay fee. 619-238-1233. Saturday, May 24, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Reden H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (BAJA)

**Knee Slapping and Toe-Tappin’ Valley Center Western Days 2008 run May 23-25. Events begin on Friday with bank robbery (5 p.m.), carnival (6-10 p.m.), “Marshall’s Posse Showdown,” honorary mayor’s race. Free. Organizers plan Rotary Club pancake breakfast in front of Valley Center Pharmacy (7-9:30 a.m.; $3-5 adults, $2 kids), “God Bless America” parade (10 a.m.), carnival (noon-11:30 p.m.), sheep dog trial, “Marshall’s Posse Showdown,” music by CBS’S O/O (7 p.m.). General admission to Saturday’s events: $3. On Saturday, local performers take stage all day (10 a.m.-5 p.m.), festival (10 a.m.), sheep dog trials, more “Marshall’s Posse Showdowns,” carnival (10 a.m.-5 p.m.). Sunday admission: free. 760-749-8472. Friday, May 23, 5 p.m. Saturday, May 24, 7 a.m. Sunday, May 25, 10 a.m.; Valley Center Community Hall, 28244 Lilac Road. (VALLEY CENTER)

**Memorial Day Book Sale** Kensington/Normal Heights Friends of the Library will hold annual sale; items on offer include audio books, CDs, video; 619-535-3974. Monday, May 26, 10 a.m.; Kensington Library, 4121 Adams Avenue. (KENSINGTON/TALMADGE)

**Open-Case Days** Ever wanted to open museum exhibit case and play instruments on display? Museum opens its violin exhibit cases to allow professional and amateur musicians the chance to play on selection of acoustic and electric violins from today’s top makers. Offered last Monday of each month, by appointment only. 760-438-5996 x212. Monday, May 26; Museum of Making Music, 5790 Armada Drive. (CARLSBAD)

**Reader** La Misión Fiestas Family-style country festival is held at site of San Miguel Arcangel de la Frontera Mission (take La Fonda exit from Tijuana Ensenada free road). Fiestas kick off on Saturday with sports contests (8 a.m.), rodeo contests (3 p.m.), folkloric dancing (4 p.m.), 11th annual State Calabacado Dance Festival (4:30 p.m.), cowboy camp, bonfire, and dance (8 p.m.).

Sunday’s festivities include civic parade (10 a.m.), inaugura- tion ceremonies (noon), folkloric dance groups (12:30-5 p.m.), a cabalgata (procession of costumed horseback riders, 2 p.m.), rodeo (3:15 p.m.), performance of Na- tivo, a music and dance produc- tion based on history of Baja Calif- ornia (5 p.m.). Event concludes with live music for dancing (8 p.m.-midnight). 011-52-664-682-1697. Saturday, May 24, 10 a.m.; Sunday, May 25, 10 a.m.; San Miguel Arcangel de la Frontera Mission, at km 65.5 on Tijuana-Ensenada free road. (TAM)

**The Quail at Lake San Marcos** Singles Parties Starting Thurs., 6/19 The Quail at Lake San Marcos 1035 La Bonita Dr. North County Singles Parties Hosted by Darlena (669) 859-6166 www.singlesinsandiego.com

**ACTIVE SINGLES!**

Get involved in the sports you love while meeting other active, healthy singles! Over 30 events, including weekend covering every sport social activity imaginable! Upcoming Events: Amsterdam/Budapest, Hungary, and Peru Helsinki, Finland, and for sale, along with “acres of parts and accessories.” 858-484-9342. Saturday, May 27, 7 a.m.; San Diego Sports Arena, 3508 Sports Arena Boulevard, more info. Breaking Through TelMagica 2008 art and music festival with music by more than 30 indie bands, camping, healing booths, fires in designated areas. Admission — $20 per day, $65 for five days — includes access to all stages and galleries, camping, parking, use of facilities. 619-786-9227. Thursday, May 23, 2 p.m., Friday, May 23, 2 a.m.; Saturday, May 24, 6 a.m.; Sunday, May 25, 6 a.m.; Monday, May 26, 6 a.m.; $20-300. Institute of Perception, 1 Railroad Street. (JACKSON BORGER TOWNS)

Celebrate Memorial Day Day of Remembrance ceremonies in- clude music, wreath tribute, speeches, cannon and rifle salute, baggage music, readings. Keynote speaker is Brigadier General An- gela Salinas. 619-533-2084. Mon- day, May 26, 8-4:30 a.m., Fort Rose- crans National Cemetery, Catalina Boulevard. (POINT LOMA)

Critical of Kant? How important is Immanuel Kant to Western thought? Ponder and expound with P&R Discussion Group. 619-370-1027.

**Single? Join the Club!**

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Imagine finding the love of your life this weekend! Imagine yourself at our singles party this weekend... imagine you arrive to meet and talk with quality singles. You are amazed at how fun and easy it is. Finally, you have discovered the best way to meet singles specially over 35.

Every week The Social Place hosts a singles party that gives you a chance to meet more singles in one night then you could meet on your own in an entire year.

This week our Singles Place will be on... Saturday, May 24, 2008 7:00 PM at Mr. Chint's Fortune Coop 4191 Rancho Bernardo Rd. Suite 115 San Diego, CA 92128

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Come to the party this week... you don't want to miss it!


1-800-236-6602.
Boys of Spring

The Washington Nationals are in town for games May 22-25. Boys of Spring runners will have to jog or walk to keep up.

MUSEUMS

House of Pacific Relations International Cottages are open every Sunday, noon-4 p.m., presenting history and traditions of 30 ethnic groups. On fourth Saturday of each month, Children Around the World videos screened in Hall of Nations, select cottages open. 1125 Park Boulevard, 619-234-0738, museum.org.

J.A. Cooley Museum An eclectic collection of items — including displays on phonographs, clocks, electric trains, and 20 other types of collections — is featured at the museum. The current featured attraction is an "Industrial Product Collection," with examples of the historical progression of auto technology from 1886-1915, "some classics and a concept car." 4233 Girard Avenue, 619-298-3142.

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Museum Housed in a historic building, the museum features five permanent galleries with artifacts, uniforms, vehicles, weapons, and photographs depicting Marine Corps history. The museum is located in Building 56 at MCSD, just inside Gate 4, off Pacific Highway. Witherby Street and Hancock Street, 619-524-6038.

Marston House Museum Historic home sits on five acres of landscaped grounds with a formal English Romantic garden. Built for civic leader and department store founder George Marston and his family by San Diego architects William Hebbard and Irving Gill, the Marston house design is in keeping with the early 20th-Century American Arts and Crafts period, emphasizing simplicity, function, and natural materials. 3223 7th Avenue, 619-298-3142.

San Diego Hall of Champions Ongoing exhibits include "Bird Watching — Tony Hawk in Flight," "Surfing in San Diego," exhibits of baseball card art, fencing, local rugby history. The museum is located in the Casa de Balboa building, 1649 El Prado, 619-232-6705.

San Diego Zoo Safari Park A 100-foot-tall Korean War-era tug boat built in 1951 is open for tours at museum. Boat is docked at the harbor in front of the San Diego Hall of Champions and Safari Park. Harbor Drive, 619-200-7417.

San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park Commemorates the clash (on December 6, 1846) during the Mexican War between the U.S. Dragoons, bolstered by sailors and volunteers from San Diego, and California militiamen. Narrated slide show screens through the day, telling the story of the war in Mexico and California. Self-guided tour recounts the events of the battle and profiles the leaders of the forces and also describes the lives of the Indians indigenous to the valley. 16660 San Pasqual Valley Road, 760-737-2201.

Big Lagoon Ride Join San Diego Bicycle Touring Society riders for 50-mile “fun ride.” 619-362-2882. Saturday, May 24, 8:45 a.m.; Dyk Park, 8175 Regent Road. (EARLY A.M.)

Boys of Spring Cincinnati Reds are in town for games May 22-25. Next up, the Washington Nationals arrive for games May 27-29. Game broadcast on radio station XPRS (1080 AM), XEMO (860 AM) in Spanish. Tickets: 619-795-5000, 877-374-2794. Thursday, May 22, 7:05 p.m.; Friday, May 23, 7:05 p.m.; Saturday, May 24, 7:05 p.m.; Sunday, May 25, 1:05 p.m.; Tuesday, May 27, 7:05 p.m.; Wednesday, May 28, 7:05 p.m.; 88-357. Petco Park, 100 Park Boulevard. (CTT)

No Brakes, No Gears! Tuesday night bicycle racing season continues with racing in many categories. Free for spectators. 619-573-4933. Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.; through Tuesday, September 30, 2008. San Diego Velodrome, 2221 Morey Field Drive. (BALBOA PARK)

Ready for a Steep Summit Climb? San Diego Trail Run Series continues. “Old pros can expect to run the entire distance...most runners will have to jog or walk through passes.” 619-890-6067. Saturday, May 24, 8 a.m.; 525-840. Black Mountain Community Park, 12115-A Black Mountain Road. (SOUTHERN COAST)

Region-One Arabian Horse Show Competition runs May 28-30. 619-993-1409 Wednesday, May 28, 8 a.m.; Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, (MID-WINTER)

Showpark County II Horse Show 858-481-9085. Saturday, May 24, 8 a.m.; Sunday, May 25, 8 a.m.; Del Mar Horsepark, 14550 El Camino Real. (DEL MAR)

Spinnin’ Wheels Meet up with Knickerbiker bicyclists for approximately 25-mile ride starting in Trophy’s parking lot. Show up and help determine route, lunch spot (bring money). 619-785-7427. Saturday, May 24, 9 a.m.; Trophy’s in Costa Verde shopping center, 4822 Esplanade Court. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

Singles Parties for 30 Plus, 2 Nights a Week! A Comfortable, Safe Environment with Great Music and Fun People. For singles over 30 • $1 admission

Tuesdays
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8881 Balboa Ave.
The Brothers of the Little Oratory in San Diego

& CHORUS BREVIARIAN SAN DIEGO

May 2008 Events:

Sunday Afternoon, May 25, 4:30 pm
1st Vespers of the Feast of St. Philip Neri
Office of Evening Prayer and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament (Approximate length of service, 45 minutes)
Fr. Reginald Defour, C.S.S.P., Hebdomadary

Monday Morning, May 26, 8:00 am
Missa Cantata
for the feast of St. Philip Neri (Extraordinary Form)
Fr. Reginald DeFour, C.S.S.P., Celeb.

St. Anne’s Catholic Church
621 Sycar St., San Diego, CA 92113
(Parking is on-street)

For further information see our blogsite at: sandiegooratorians.blogspot.com
Visit our website at: www.chorusbreviarium.com
Or call Director John Polhamus at: 858-997-8636

ART LISTINGS

San Diego Reader

May 22, 2008

HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTINGS: Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday the week prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone number, and a phone number (including area code) for public information to READER CLASSICAL MUSIC, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SDReader.com by clicking on the events section.

CLARINET

Violinist Onir Hildred
Concert promises some of Hildred's favorite modern music. 858-344-3229. Mandeville Recital Hall at UCSD (9590 Gilman Drive), 8 p.m., Thursday, May 22. (LA JOLLA)

Blended Coloratura Reporters! All-Italian operatic aria program planned by 18-year-old soprano Al- legra Fujii. She will attend the International Institute of Vocal Arts in Chiari, Italy and Dolora Zajick International Institute of Vocal Arts. READER CLASSICAL MUSIC, 819-702-8138. Spreckels Organ Pavilion (2321 Fan American Road), 2 p.m., Sunday, May 25. (LA JOLLA)

“A Symphony Salute to America” Poway Community Symphony Orchestra performs works by American composers. Selections include Copland’s “An Outdoor Overture” and “Sketches from Rodeo,” Scenes from Porgy and Bess by Gershwin, “Rhapsody in Blue,” “Variations on America” by Ives, “Poum” (with flute solo) by Griffis, Copland’s “Rodeo,” Bernstein’s “Four Symphonic Dances” from West Side Story, and Fallbrook Music Society. 760-451-8644. Bob Burton Center for the Performing Arts (2400 South Stagecoach Drive), 3 p.m., Sunday, May 25. (PALLADIAN)

“Jewish Composers/Jewish Music in the 20th Century” USCSD professor Steven Caseady presents three conversations from the piano for San Diego Jewish Music Festival. Each of Cassey’s lectures-recitals includes emphasis on music written for piano and includes both demonstration and performance at piano. Series concludes with consideration of Ernest Bloch and Darius Milhaud on May 27, 8:36-1348. Lawrence Famil- i ty Jewish Community Center (4126 Executive Drive), 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 27. (LA JOLLA)

WATERCOLOR

Fujiko Isomura Solo Exhibition Solo show opens with reception this artist combines iconic images from both Japan and America. Through Friday. May 23, 619-482-3766. Gallery La Mesa (8808 La Mesa Boulevard). 6 p.m., Friday, May 23. (LA JOLLA)

AQUATIC WATERCOLORS! Artist Tracy Taylor visits gallery to paint with Wyland. 805-748-7477. Wyland Gallery (1025 Prospect Street). 4 p.m., Saturday, May 24. (LA JOLLA)


AQUATIC WATERCOLOR ARTIST Tracy Taylor paints with Wyland. 805-748-7477. Wyland Gallery (1025 Prospect Street). 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 24. (CARLSBAD)

ART MUSEUMS


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

American Viewing Stone: Natural Art in an Asian Tradi- tion” Chinese connoisseurs began using large stones to decorate gar- dens, courtyards during the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 200). “Scholar’s Rocks” is English name for natural stone; artists were “interested in re- defining the identity of the modern woman and exploring the changing themes of femininity in modern society.” On view through Sunday, September 28. (2005) and 2007 (LA JOLLA)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown “Maya Lin: Systematic Land- scapes” 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.” Exhibition centers on three large-scale in- stallations; each puts viewer into “a distinctive relationship to the scale and shape of the land.” Also featured are a set of sculptures based on water volumes of inland seas, large drawings of landforms and river shores, and images of Lin’s recent earthworks and archi- tectural projects. May 24. Through June.


Find the museum directly across from Santa Fe Railroad Dr. 101 Kettner Boulevard, 858- 454-3541. (DOWNTOWN)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla “Elia- see Brings: Bruce Nauman Works with Light” opening Sunday, May 25, “focuses on Nauman’s neon and light-room installations created over the first two decades of his career (1965-1985).” On view through Sunday, August 31, exhibition presents provocative body of work in which artist grapples with questions of how perception is shaped by light and space. Selections from “Skeet McCauley: The Garden of Gold” showcases six large-scale photo- graphs of golf course landscapes in San Diego region. McCauley has used photography to study the relationship between today’s consumer-driven culture and the natural environment. Closes Sunday, June 22. 700 Prospect Street, 858- 454-3541. (LA JOLLA)

Museum of Photographs Art “Flesh: The Portraiture of Gary Schneider,” continuing through Sunday, September 14, includes John in Sexton Parts, a set of black-and-white fragments of Schneider’s partner’s face seen through time. Also included: Ge- netic Self-Portrait, an installation utilizing medical-imaging tech- niques to depict his own body from the inside out, and Heads and Nudes, where the South African artist uses exposures of up to three hours to transform the flesh of friends and family. “Picturing the Process” focuses on “an evolution of the early his- tory of photography.” Exhibition including photographic works ranging in date from mid-19th to early 20th Century closes Sunday, July 6.

In “Humanitas: Images of In- dia by Fredric Roberts,” the artist pictures people in India, Malay- mar, Cambodia, Bhutan, Thailand, China as they go about their lives, selling water or herding camels. Through Sunday, September 7. 1649 El Prado, 619-238- 7559. (BALBOA PARK)

Oceanside Museum of Art “Masterpieces of San Diego Paint- ing: Fifty Works from Fifty Years, 1900-1950” focuses on “museum’s mission to promote and foster an appreciation of the art and artists of the San Diego region.” Guest curator Bram Dijkstra assembled celebrating painters’ life and work, including celebrated “plein air” painters such as Maurice Brazil Prendergast, William Glackens, and Held. 858-489-4551. 858-722-8412. (OCEANSIDE)

San Diego Museum of Art “Artists of San Diego: From the 18th to the 20th Century” exploring the “relationship between today’s consumption-driven culture and the natural environment.” On view through Sunday, September 28.

“Rhythms of India: Art of Nandalal Bose (1882-1956)” described as the first comprehensive traveling exhibition outside of Asia to survey the expan- sive repertoire of Bose...the father of modern Indian art.” Exhibition boasts close to 100 of Bose’s finest paintings, executed in variety of styles and media, revealing how Bose contributed to success of In- dia’s nonviolent struggle for in- dependence from colonial rule through his association with Ma- hatma 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 every- day life and materialism. Artists bulbo, Brian Dick, Adrienne Kiefer, particle group, Zlatan Vukosavl- jevic, and Allisaur Weise produce works including sculptures made of found industrial objects, photo- graphs, documentary videos, and interactive digital media. 1450 El Prado, 619-232-7931. (BALBOA PARK)

Timken Museum of Art Permanent collection includes works of European master painters, 18th- and 19th-Century American paintings, and Russian Icons. Bartholomew, the only Rembrandt painting on public display in San Diego, is featured. 1500 El Prado, 619-239-5348. (BALBOA PARK)

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FRIDAY, JUNE 13 • 7:30

WANDA SYKES
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
KEITH ROBINSON
SATURDAY, JUNE 14 • 8:00

COMING SOON

COMING SOON

COMING SOON
Brandon Cruz (formerly of ABC’s Courtship of Eddie’s Father and ex-singer for Dr. Know), Ron "Skip" Greer, formerly of the Bay Area–based Wynona Riders, will front when the band appears June 7 at House of Blues.

DJ Steve West played Dead Kennedys records on 91X when they were first popular; he now plays them on his Resurrection Sunday show. He thinks a Dead Kennedys sans Biafra is bogus. "Ask any Dead Kennedys fan, and they’ll tell you that it’s all about Jello. He was the driving force behind the band.”

West uses the “key member” test to determine if it’s okay for one ex-member to go on and perform under the band’s moniker. For instance, he says the recent appearance of lead singer Buster Bloodvessel as Bad Manners at Brick by Brick was fair because he was the essence of that British band.

“Same thing with Mike Score of Flock of Seagulls. [But] if you had members of Pearl Jam playing without Eddie Vedder, you’d have to call it ‘Members of Pearl Jam.’ You really don’t have Pearl Jam without Eddie Vedder.”

West gives a pass to local Dave Wakeling, who played in the English Beat. (“Dave has always been the front man.”) What about Ranking Roger, Wakeling’s fellow singer in the English Beat and General Public?

“It was my understanding that Roger could use the [English Beat] name in England, but Wakeling can use it in the U.S. … They aren’t talking. When I spoke to Wakeling last year [on the radio], he suggested they were going to patch things up. But I guess they haven’t.”

— Ken Leighton

 Dispatches from Crackerville

Report by the San Diego Repertory Theatre is generating controversy online. An upcoming production of The Princess and the Black-Eyed Pea musical was seeking "AFRICAN AMERICAN singers, actors, dancers, and musicians" for what was described as "a soulful musical comedy set in the imaginary African kingdoms of Torel and Kheba.”

The point of contention among online respondents is the requirement that all participants — including the "seven musicians needed" — be African American. The play’s characters include King Kemo ("a hip poet with the rhymes to show it”), Queen Zuba (“the ultimate Queen Bee”), Robin ("castle freeloader”), and a harmony girl-group featuring "Labelle," "Latisha," and "Lashaun.”

“I can understand wanting an all-African American cast,” posted one respondent (from "Crackerville”), “but the musicians too? Tell me how that’s NOT racist!”

Blurt

Cambodia” and “California Uber Alles.” Though the band still tours, lead singer/songwriter Eric “Jello” Biafra “Boucher has not played a Dead Kennedys show since 1986. In 2000 and 2003, Biafra lost court cases against the other original members who went on without him and who now have the right to use the Dead Kennedys name.

Since parting ways with Biafra, the band has been fronted by two people, including former child actor — Jay Allen Sanford

Batty

Last month, the Guana Batz played a sold-out Belly Up show opening for Mike Ness. Last week, the Escondido-based band accepted an opening slot on two dates of Rancid’s upcoming fall tour.

Guana Batz bassist Johnny Bowler admits that the 26-year-old British-born psychobilly band nearly passed on this career surge. “When Tiger Army first...”
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Both started families and military. ‘While I’m fully aware that many female soldiers have died in the Iraq war,’ he says, ‘I regret to say I can’t honor them in this way.

Cut Teeth on Ratt
Fairfield Fats Band guitarist George Davis is probably best known by his artistic alias Geo, a longtime local-concert-poster artist whose work centers around hard-rock shows. ‘I began by doing a banner many years ago for a high school friend,’ Davis says, ‘Stephen Pearcy, for his band Mickey Ratt, which later became Ratt. I dabbled a bit with art but didn’t get real serious until the Fairfield Fats Band…that’s where I first started doing flyers for parties and shows, and then friends started asking me to design logos and posters for their bands too.’

Davis also worked on Fox TV’s early ’90s ‘Attack of the Killer Tomatoes’ cartoon, for which he produced animation and several other local theater mainstays. For each show with Leigh Scarritt and several other local theater mainstays. For each show during the two-week run, Boucharde plans to honor a different fallen soldier from the war. This is not a passive-nond type of honor,’ he says. ‘The soldier actually becomes an integral part of the audience, a spotlighted seat is reserved for him, and that night’s show is dedicated to him. The final scene brings the audience onto the battlefield with that soldier. Boucharde sought families to lend their memories and photos of departed loved ones via the local chapter of Iraq Veterans Against the War and craigslist.

Davis cites Fillmore concert posters and the underground comics of Rick Griffin as early inspirations (‘Okay, and maybe my first

Playboy magazine’). ‘When I started doing posters and flyers, it was mostly metal shows, which is stuff that I totally get. Drawing hot chicks, demons, skulls, barbarians, wizards, and dragons? It doesn’t get any better than that!’

A gallery of Geo’s poster art can be seen at myspace.com/tikigeo.

— Jay Allen Sanford

CONTRIBUTORS
William Colón, Dave Good, Larry Harmon, Michael Hemmingson, Ken Lighthall, Ryan Loyko, Ratt, Medora, Derek Plank, Eric Rife, Jay Allen Sanford, David Stampone

Harney Sushi is coming to Oceanside Pier in June...

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San Diego
May 22, 2008

This Week In Music

Thursday 22
Boston’s “Brechtian punk cabaret,” the Dresden Dolls, will camp up House of Blues tonight behind No Virginia, which dropped Sunday. The new collection is aptly titled Stages Country Crooner.

Saturday 24
L7’s punk pioneer Donita Sparks dropped her first solo disc, Transmogrify, in February. “Comes with dance rock and dark pop.” L.A.’s blonde bomb and her band the Stellar Moments play Casbah Saturday night with Roses on Her Grave and Revenge Club. If you get a chance to talk to Ms. Sparks, ask her about the Coalition of Artists and Stake Holders (CASHP) and how she and Kristen Hersh plan to change the biz… if you miss the door at Casbah, UCSD collective Chi-Cafe stages a thick triple bill featuring Chicago’s wishful plinker Owen, Ashworth, aka Casitone for the Painfully Alone, local psych-folks the Donkeys, and Angelino duo Foot Foot… Bely up stages county crooner Mal Ketchum, who’s got a new disc, a greatest hits thing. Bastard Sons of Johnny Cash set the Solana Beach stage.

Friday 23
Ian Astbury and Billy Duffy convene the Cult at Viejas’ Concerts in the Park Friday night. The UK hard-rock act, best known for their acid-laced ‘80s hit disc Love (“She Sells Sanctuary”), signed to Roadrunner last year to release head banger Born to This. Check out lead single “Dirty Little Rockstar”…. Get yer French Kicks at Casbah. The brothers Stumpf and their NYC quartet released second Vagrant full-length Swimming on Tuesday. More pop than punk this time out. Certainly more pop than hometown heroes and contemporaries the Stripes and Walkmen, speaking of whom, L.A.’s answer to Hamilton Leithauser, Weather Underground, opens the sets…. SanDiego ska punks Buck-O-Nine and hip-core crew Sprung Monkey prop party rock out at ‘Canes beach club…. In the urs: gypsy-rockers Mad Juana ride the Pink Elephant… Eugene, OR, power trio Floater and locals Vocoder lay it down at Brick by Brick… Beat boy Microphone Mike and his dance troupe appear at Beauty Bar… While Bankhead Press delivers smooth soul to Whistle Stop.

Sunday 25
It’s a holiday Monday eve at Casbah, which means you miss the door at Casbah, UCSD collective Chi-Cafe stages a thick triple bill featuring Chicago’s wishful plinker Owen, Ashworth, aka Casitone for the Painfully Alone, local psych-folkies the Donkeys, and Angelino duo Foot Foot… Bely up serves homegrown alt-rock sets by Dynamite Walls, Stripes and Lines, and This Holiday Life.

Tuesday 27
Hank III & Ajasjack deliver loud-ass country drunk to House of Blues. Hank’s latest, Dam Right, Country Proud, is due to drop in late ’08. In the mean, check the metal-edged country of Straight to Hell. “Parental advisory”…. Indie experimentalist Ariel Pink pairs our own odd-poppers Paddle Boat and Fantastic Magic at Casbah. Prepare to be hypnotized…. Everett, WA, boy-girl piano-pop group the Parenthetical Girls ((GRRRLS)) join Japan’s strummy soloist PWRFL Power at the Chi.

Wednesday 28
The National tours House of Blues Wednesday night. Before their Rarities Banquet sophomore set The Boxer landed on critics’ ’07 year-end lists, most at #1, the Brooklyn quintet couldn’t get arrested. Stick “Mistaken for Strangers” in yer ears. On Thursday night in L.A., the National will embark on a world domination tour with Modest Mouse and a revitalized R.E.M. Folkie Ferraby Lionheart in support. Gonna be thee gig this week…. Eee: The Blood Brothers meet Pretty Girls Make Graves in Jaguar Love. The trio brings scream-pop to Beauty Bar’s back yard…. Lagwagon alt-rockers Ladyhawk land at Casbah. Saddle Creek’s sad songsmiths Niva Denova open that one…. Candye Kane and Sue Palmer reunite the Swingin’ Kings. The Kings’ll rule Belly Up with boogie and blues…. Latin lounge lady Sacha Boutros sings a supper set at Anthology, and Starline Theory indie rocks it the rest of the night…. All-ages Some stages solid punk-pop sets by Cinematic Sunrise, Jet Lag Gemini, My American Heart, and Daphne Loves Derby — Batality Monk.
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The Sound Is Music

“Why should your country take care of you when you don’t take care of your country?”

San Diego’s Trummerflora Collective is intended to “provide a network of support for San Diego’s experimental and improvised music community.” The musicians seem very sincere, and most have extensive academic credits, but I confess I don’t always “get” the more experimental and outside Trummerflora “sound artists,” as they call themselves.

I’ve tried listening to stuff like “The Whisper Chipper” (syncopated loops of a wood chipper, chipping wood), but I’m always left scratching my head. It can’t be that I’m too old to appreciate the music—most Trummerflorans seem older than me. I like experimental pre-Trummerflora musicians like John Zorn, Captain Beefheart, John Cage, and even Philip Glass (in small doses) and Brian Eno (even smaller doses). Is the secret in seeing it performed live? If you’ve caught a show by someone in the Trummerflora Collective, please let me know: Was it sweety sublime, akin to the music of the spheres? Or did it sound like bees living in your head? And what is a “sound artist” exactly? Does making armpit noises or burping the alphabet qualify you as one?

Born in Yokohama, Japan, Marcos Fernandez is a founding member of the Trummerflora Collective (and co-creator of “The Whisper Chipper”). He’s long been active in San Diego as a performer, producer, and curator. He’s performed in Japan, Hong Kong, Mexico, Canada, and all over the U.S. as a solo improvisor, phonographer, and percussionist/sound artist with various ensembles. Fernandez also runs the artist-based labels, “merflora musicians like John Zorn, Captain Beefheart, John Cage, and even Philip Glass (in small doses)” and Brian Eno (even smaller doses). Is the secret in seeing it performed live? If you’ve caught a show by someone in the Trummerflora Collective, please let me know: Was it sweety sublime, akin to the music of the spheres? Or did it sound like bees living in your head? And what is a “sound artist” exactly? Does making armpit noises or burping the alphabet qualify you as one?

WHAT’S IN YOUR CD PLAYER?

1. Hoahio, Peek-a-boo: “This trio of Japanese women artists presents highly inventive and entertaining music that ranges from new wave-tinged pop to open improvisations.”
2. Robert Wyatt, Comic Opera: “Wyatt’s been a favorite of mine as percussionist, singer, composer, and progressive for many years. This is his newest, and I’m glad he’s putting out stuff more regularly again.”
3. K.K. Null, Chris Watson, Z’ev, Number One: “A beautiful collaboration by three artists who are masters of their respective genres: noise, phonography, field recordings, and percussion. They create some amazing spaces using unexpected combinations of textures.”
4. Sketch Show, Audio Sponge: “Haruomi Hosono and Yuukihiro Takahashi [ex-YMO] reunite to serve up some sweet synth-pop that is both nostalgic and up-to-date with tons of warm and rich analog sounds. There’s even a nice tribute to Brian Wilson and a cool video on YouTube.”
5. Phew, Our Likeness: “One of my favorite female voices. Phew paints fractured images in collaboration with Jaki Liebezeit and others in another of her stark ’90s albums recorded at Conny Plank’s famed studio. Very musical and existential.”

DESSERT-ISLAND DVDS?

“A Clockwork Orange and Blade Runner are two insightful works, as any good speculative fiction ought to be. Akira Kurosawa’s Dreams is poetry in motion. Pier Paolo Pasolini’s The Canterbury Tales captures the bawdiness of Chaucer’s classic. And Down by Law, because it’s a sad and beautiful world.”

MOST UNDERRATED EXPERIMENTAL MUSICIAN?

“Aren’t all experimental musicians underrated? I guess I’ll have to go with Robert Wyatt, who’s definitely underrated here in the U.S. From his work with Soft Machine and Matching Mole to his continuing solo works, he’s created so much incredibly human and personal music.”

LAST BOOK READ?

“The Cat That Lived a Million Times by Yoko Sano. This is a children’s book about a proud cat who finds happiness in love and humility.”

FAVORITE MAGAZINE?

“The Wire. It covers the gamut, as far as music is concerned.”

MOST VISITED WEBSITES?

“I must admit I’m a YouTube junkie. I visit MySpace a lot more than I care to admit, since I have to maintain all my pages. For my news I go to the L.A. Times website and Wikipedia for random information. And Netflix, to add movies to my queue.”

INSTRUMENT YOU MOST WISH YOU PLAYED?

“I wish I played the piano. Like, really play it, because there’s such incredible harmonic and rhythmic complexity in there.”

FINISH THIS SENTENCE: “I LIVE IN SAN DIEGO BECAUSE…”

“...I’m complacent, and inertia has set in.”

WORST JOB?

“Playing background music at some event because your job is to be sonic wallpaper.”

BIGGEST POLITICAL CONCERN?

“Lack of political concern: i.e., why we’re in this quagmire to begin with. Why should your country take care of you when you don’t take care of your country? As one foreigner said to me recently, ‘You have an American passport, but you know America’s not going to protect you.’”

Marcos Fernandez
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8p-11p
THIS WEEK’S SHOWS

710 Beach Club: 710 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-480-7844.
Thursday — ADHD. Punk. Saturday — Aeronym. A tribute to Aerosmith. Pyromania also performs a tribute to Def Leppard.

Thursday, 7:30 p.m. — Chris Williamson. Singer-songwriter performs, following opener Nicki Randle (of Tonight Show band). $25.

Anthology: 1337 India Street, Little Italy, 619-595-0300.
Saturday — Karla Bonoff. Pop rock. $16-$36.
Sunday, 7:30 p.m. — Rickie Lee Jones. Pop/jazz/folk rock. $22-$68.
Monday, 7:30 p.m. — Jack Costanzo. Latin. $12-$36.
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. — Sucha Bootnos. Jazz. $10-$30.

Balboa Theatre: 854 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-570-1100.
Thursday, 8:30 p.m. — Gerald Albright and Phil Perry. Benefit jazz concert. $45-$60.
Thursday, 8:30 p.m. — Benefit Jazz Concert. Council for Supplier Diversity presents concert by Gerald Albright and guest Phil Perry. $47-$82.

Friday — Black Seven. Punk rock. Saturday, 9 p.m. — Elicit Behavior. Classic rock.

Beach Grass Cafe: 129 South Coast Highway 101, Solana Beach, 858-509-0632.
Thursday, 6 p.m. — Semisi & Fulaula. Reggae/world. Sundays, 6 p.m. — Sambajazz Brazilian and American jazz.

Beachside Bar & Grill: 806 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-842-9788.
Saturday, 8 p.m. — The Michael Tiernan Trio. Acoustic.

Thursday — Scarlet Symphony and Red Feathers. With Jared Salom. Experimental/punk/electro. $5.
Friday — Microphone Mike and Letron. Hip-hop/electro. $5.
Saturday — Delta Fusco. Electro pop/rock. $5.
Monday — The Physics of Meaning. With the Black Hollies and a Beautiful Noise. Punk/soul/indie. $5.
Tuesday — Airplane to Garcea and Dubconious. Indie rock/pop. $10-$12.

The Bitter End: 770 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-338-9300.
Thursday, 9 p.m. — Soundbowl and Lessons from Zeke. Alternative rock.
Saturday, 9 p.m. — Cody Marks and Donovan Nugent. American/folk rock.
Tuesday, 9 p.m. — The Cash Kings. A tribute to Johnny Cash.

Brick by Brick: 1100 Burnsdale Avenue, Linda Vista, 619-275-3483.
Thursday, 8 p.m. — Gravestay BBQ and Gangsta Cun-Job. With Whole Hog, Southern rock/metal/blues. $8.
Friday, 9 p.m. — Floater. With Vocoder. Rock $10.
Saturday, 8 p.m. — Teitur and the Crocodiles. Indie rock/pop. $10-$12.
Wednesday, 8 p.m. — DropJoy, Caca Fuerte, the Prism. Indie rock. $5.

Cafe Lamaza: 1441 Highland Avenue, National City, 619-474-3222.
Fridays and Saturdays, 7 p.m. — The Sandy Chappel Quartet. With Burnett Anderson, Robert Sebastian, and Hunk Young. Standards/jazz/blues.
Sundays, 7:30 p.m. — Burnett’s Bliss. With Robert Sebastian and Scott Wallingford. Jazz/blues.

Casa: 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-488-1780.
Thursday, 8 p.m. — Ian Knight and One Lonely Robot. With Deny the Silence and Sirens of Shipwreck. Pop/rock/soul. $7.
Friday, 9 p.m. — Buck-O-Nine and Sprung Monkey. With One Pin Short. Sk8/alternative/reggae. $15.
Saturday, 9 p.m. — Cash’d Out and Grumpy Circus. With Mystery Train. A tribute to Johnny Cash. $15.
Sunday, 9 p.m. — Atomic Punks. A tribute to Van Halen. Monsters of Rock also perform. $15.
Monday, 2 p.m. — Aqwa Dulce. Latin/soul.
Wednesday, 8 p.m. — Sound Escape and Vanity Affair. With Madera and Dead on the Dancefloor. Rock/punk/pop. $10.

Thursday, 8 p.m. — Keith Jacobson. Smooth-jazz saxophonist.

Thursday, 8:30 p.m. — The Von Bondies and Die! Die! Die! With Transfer. A blend of indie, punk, and pop rock. $10-$12.
Friday, 8:30 p.m. — French Kicks and the Weather Underground. With the Parson Rodgers. Indie pop and garage. $12.
Saturday, 8:30 p.m. — Donita

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Grunge fixed a lot of rock’s problems in the early 1990s. Much as Van Halen led us back from Euro-synth hell in the ’80s, grunge overtook the wimpy pop rock of the day and found a waiting fan base among Gen X listeners. Grunge was a lifestyle statement unto itself, complete with funny clothes and an unfortunate dark side — heroin. It died a sudden, hard death for no particular reason that I could discern. While it lasted, for me grunge was a resurrection of all the sounds and attitudes that were key during my garage/punk/rock adolescence, along with self-deprecating humor and supersized power chords in a complete with funny clothes and an unfortunate dark side — heroin. It died a sudden, hard death for no particular reason that I could discern. While it lasted, for me grunge was a resurrection of all the sounds and attitudes that were key during my garage/punk/rock adolescence, along with self-deprecating humor and supersized power chords in a

**Gruntley’s on Fifth**
835 Fifth Avenue, downtown, 619-702-0444.
Friday and Saturdays, 6:30 p.m. —
Peter the Prince of Piano.
Piano/piano.

**The Guild Restaurant and Lounge**
1805 Newton Avenue, Logan Heights, 619-584-7384.
Friday, 7:30 p.m. —
Simbossa Trio.

**The Handley Hotel and Resort**
990 Hotel Circle North, Mission Valley, 619-298-0511.
Friday, 8 p.m. —
Barbara Szabo.
Acoustic/blues/country.

**Gaslamp Quarter**
700 Island Avenue, downtown, 619-702-0444.
Friday and Saturdays, 6:30 p.m. —
Lady Dottie & the Diamonds.
Covers/blues/rock.

**MAYFIELD**
Lestat’s, Thursday, May 22, 9 p.m. 619-282-0437.

OF THE POST-GRUNGE BANDS, **Mayfield** is of more than passing interest. A lot of good, solid rock comes out of Australia, and this band is no exception. In the few years that they have been performing, Mayfield has toured Europe and the U.K. aggressively and is now getting around to doing the same in the U.S. There’s not much information available about this band, so I turned to the music press — I was astonished to read what seems like apologies for the simplicity and brevity of their songs. Then there were the comparisons to Nirvana and the Doors. That I can see: Mayfield’s writing is three-chord tight and has that same thrash-and-burn economy of notes and scarred-earth vocals as their grunge forefathers Kurt Cobain and Eddie Vedder. Late ’80s grunge found traction among the disenchanted with its return to rock’s basics and an attitude of mockery, rage, and a sort of watchdog eye on the Republican right. Mayfield is in the same pocket. On their MySpace page the band writes, “Mayfield speaks of a generation robbed, a generation tied to, a generation out of faith.” I can relate.

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**MAYFIELD**
Lestat’s, Thursday, May 22, 9 p.m. 619-282-0437.
**Friday**, 7 p.m. — Cool Fever. Blues/soul/rock. $8.

**House of Blues**: 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-299-2193. Fridays, 6:30 p.m. — Modern Day Moonshine. Blues/funk/rock.

**Another Rock**: 2619 3rd Avenue, Downtown, 619-325-4445. Friday, 6:30 p.m. — Adrienne Nims and Mike Stewart. Contemporary jazz/global music.

**Lyceum Theatre**: 79 Horton Plaza, Downtown, 619-858-0322. Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. — “Trent at 60.” Zeji Ozeri and an all-star band perform “the Holy Land’s most unforgettable songs” for San Diego Jewish Arts Festival. Also on tap: Israeli food, photography exhibition. 619-544-1000. $18.

**Mandeville Auditorium at USD**: 9500 Gilman Drive, USD. Tuesday, 8 p.m. — USCSD Gospel Choir. Gospel maestro Ken Anderson leads choir through program of gospel, spirituals, blues, other African-American music. 619-534-3228.

**The Living Room — Old Town**: 2241 San Diego Avenue, Old Town, 619-354-1123. Friday, 8 p.m. — The Stilettos. Lead singer of the Stilettos.

**O’Connell’s Pub and Nightclub**: 1100 Morena Boulevard, Linda Vista, 619-276-5637. Friday, 9 p.m. — Kindle to Ember and Breeden Band.

**Reggae Roots Club**: Monday, 7 p.m. — Motus. Fight the Fear, Staticline Thetic. With Candy Aislynn. Rock/metal/indie. Mondays, 8 p.m. — Mystery Train.

**Jimmy Love’s**: 5757 Mission Center Road, Mission Valley, 619-291-5373. Tuesday, 8 p.m. — The Kensington Club.

**The Kensington Club**: 4079 Adams Avenue, Kensington—Talmadge, 619-284-2848. Friday — The Donkeys, Pen & Ink, Derek Papa. Indie/psych/rock.


**The Hop**: 8403 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla, 858-458-3403. Friday, 9 p.m. — The Robin. Covers various genres from the '60s through today. $5.

**Wednesday night special**: 7863 Girard Avenue, La Jolla, 858-456-8111. Piano Bar every day of the week in the Ocean Room.

**Adams Avenue — Old Town**: 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-354-1123. Friday, 6:30 p.m. — The Stilettos. Lead singer of the Stilettos.

**Howls**: 8500 Girard Avenue, La Jolla, 858-458-3403. Friday, 9:30 p.m. — The San Diego Blues Band. Bluegrass/rock.

**Second Street — Old Town**: 1250 1st Street, Ramona, 760-789-9050. Friday, 9 p.m. — Joey & the Sting Rays. Covers rock and country hits. $5.
BY WILLIAM CRAIN

The music blog, Idolator recently posted an item called “Three Indie Rock Nightmares.” My favorite: “I’m stuck in a world where indie rock has slowly transformed from amateurish, enthusiastic rock with zine-fueled anti-consumerist, small-community leanings to anonymous art-folk twaddle by musicians who can think of no greater accomplishment than getting their song into a phone ad or winning a PLUG Award. And I can’t wake up.” Sound familiar? Fortunately, there is still Casiotone for the Painfully Alone to remind us of the intimacy of what indie rock used to be and to reassure us that change is okay.

Owen Ashworth started CFP more than ten years ago as a home-recording project, and, if the name he chose for it was tongue-in-cheek, it was also spot-on. He wrote tender songs about longing and loneliness, mumbled them to the accompaniment of battery-operated keyboards recorded them by himself on a crusty four-track machine, and at first released them on his own label.

Ashworth’s music was a tribute to Daniel Johnston, the Mountain Goats, and all the other underground music that inspired him, but it soon grew into something more. Over the years Ashworth’s CFP recordings started to sound clearer, his songwriting grew stronger, and he began to look more comfortable onstage. A couple of years ago he began recording and performing with a live band backing him. That might have been the end of something special, but Ashworth’s songs haven’t lost their charm. When you hear a song as good as “Toby, Take a Bow,” you have to admit that Ashworth deserves a backup band, he deserves good recording quality... hell, he deserves a song in a phone commercial.

CASIOTEONE FOR THE PAINFULLY ALONE
Chô Café, Saturday, May 24, 8 p.m. 858-534-2312
Performing Live at Valley View Casino!

THE WORLD'S #1 BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN & THE E STREET BAND TRIBUTE SHOW!

Wednesday, June 18
Billy Idol
Monday, June 23
Jay Leno
Thursday, June 26

And For the Encore – Hit a Jackpot!
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Tickets Available Now at valleyviewcasino.com or at ticketmaster.com!

And Get Up Close & Personal – Enjoy the Concert from the Loge!

UPCOMING SHOWS
4th & B
345 B Street, Downtown, 619-231-4343.
Wednesday, June 25
Billy Idol
Wednesday, June 25
Chris Isaak
Thursday, June 26
Styx
Thursday, June 26
The Temptations & The Four Tops
Sunday, August 3

Gypsy Kings
Thursday, August 14
Bill Cosby
Friday, September 5
Randi Travis
Wednesday, October 15

San Diego Reader, May 22, 2008

Birch North Park Theatre: 2981 University Ave, North Park, 619-239-8836.
June 21 — The Kenny Burrell Quartet.
August 2 — Mark O’Connor’s Appalachian Waltz Trio.
October 19 — Gaelic Storm.

The Bitter End: 770 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-338-9300.
June 3 — Radiostar.
June 5 — Carolyn Beeks Showcase.

June 6 — Jacqueline Grace.

June 26 — Michele Lundeen a Trois.

Canes: 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-488-1780.
May 29 — A Shattered Hope and Dante’s Boneyard.
May 30 — On the One and Blue Turtle Seshion.
May 31 — One Drop.
June 1 — T-Tite Dreads.
June 5 — Living Legends and Murs.
June 6 — Hitch/pe and Subnize Soulja.
June 7 — The Rebirth Brass Band.
June 8 — Elephants in Mud.
June 9 — Cash’d Out.

Michele Lundeen CDs, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803.
June 4 — Local H, the Photo Atlas, Firehorn.
June 2 — Mama Red & the North Park Band.
June 9 — Calico Horse.
June 7 — The Ting Tings.
June 8 — Firewater.
June 9 — The Quavers, Lemuria, Bomb the Music Industry.
June 10 — Detroit Cobras and Les Sans Culottes.
June 11 — Dax Riggs.
June 12 — Crystal Castles and dd/mm/yyyy.
June 13 — Ande Legacy, Dert Nasty, Baarz.
June 14 — Bartendres Bible.
June 13 — New Bloods and Crocodiles.
June 16 — Russian Circles, the Daughters, Young Widows.
June 17 — Times New Viking and Psychedelic Horseshit.
June 18 — Hayden and Haley Bonar.
June 19 — The Blakes and the Broken West.
June 20 — Sea Wolf and the Jealous Girlfriends.
June 21 — The Long & Short of It.
June 23 — Frightened Rabbit and Oxford Collapse.
June 24 — Boris and Torche.
June 26 — Grand Archives and Sera Cahoone.
June 27 — Fleet Foxes.
June 29 — The Unipolar Complex and a Beautiful Noise.
June 30 — Swim Party and the Henry Clay People.
July 1 — The Modern Lemon.
July 2 — We Are Scientists.
July 4 — The Constimmutes and Modern Rifles.
July 5 — The Creepy Czeeps and Batar-Zan.
July 6 — Retribution Gospel Choir.
July 20 — Chuck Ragan and Josh Hanson.
July 22 — Rocky Vomitaro.
July 31 — Jay Reatard and Cheap Time.
August 15 — The Creepy Czeeps and Batar-Zan.
Channel Twelve 25: 172 East Main Street, El Cajon, 619-440-1225.
Channel Twelve 25: 172 East Main Street, El Cajon, 619-440-1225.
June 7 — Original Songwriters Night.
Chasers Cocktail Lounge: 5815 El Cajon Boulevard, City Heights, 619-280-9379.
May 29 — Miss Massive Snowflake.
Cheers: 2475 Main Street, Ramona, 760-789-0270.
June 21 — Moondance.
Ché Café: 9000 Gilman Drive, B-002C, La Jolla, 858-534-2311.
May 31 — Tragedy, Blowback, Crime Desire.
June 1 — 7 Generations and Wait in Vain.
June 4 — Frog Eyes, Ramona Cordova, Francois Viret.
June 9 — Joan of Arc and 31 Knots.
June 10 — Ampere, New Trust, Loma Prieta.
June 13 — The Sex Atoms, the Power Chords.
June 14 — Resist & Exist, Old, Elive.
June 19 — Citizen Fish, Bummblaaht, Intelect.
June 20 — The Vision of a Dying World and Crocodiles.
June 21 — Bird Names and Lillith Velker.
June 28 — Japandi and BoomSnake.
July 11 — The Young and Lie & Wait.
July 15 — Ghost Mice and Heathers.
July 26 — 7 Generations and This Time Tomorrow.
August 6 — La Quee, Phoenix Bodies, Ghosstlimb.
September 3 — Graf Orlock, Zann, Leolu Acts.
SAN DIEGO SONGS TAKE THE STREET TEST

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 92116-5803

— Fran Hartshorn.
— The Double Bass Summit.
— Four Sides of Bob Dylan.
— Your Night.

I thought that it was pretty fucking intense. My whole thing is that I think there should be more bands like that in San Diego. I’m sure the lyrics are really good — the Neighbors lyrics were really good, and it’s the same singer. I work at a record store, and I’d definitely put it in the punk section. I would compare it to stuff like Charles Bronson, Drop Dead, and Jenny Piccolo — fast, thrashy punk. I saw them live at Chasers two months ago, and they blew me away. That would be good music for sitting in your room and shaking your fist, riding your bike while shaking your fist, or taking a nice, hot bubble bath while shaking your fist. Anything, but mostly shaking your fist, though.

They seemed like good musicians, but there was nothing interesting about the music. It was kind of predictable. They’re just trying to be too commercial. I can’t really say what band they would be compared to other than in that top-20 type of band. It was like post-punk, maybe power-pop. There were a lot of guitarists — that same guitar riff over and over again. Those guitarists were [in the forefront] — especially that lead guitar. Production-wise, it was really flat; they should get a new producer. The vocalist sounded very faintly like the Cure. When I hear that band, [I picture] preparing for suicide. It was not of interest for me.

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 92116-5803
**Yo, DJ! Talk About a Star**

One of the most venerable musicians of the smooth jazz format these days has to be saxophonist Dave Koz. His latest CD, At the Movies, is an intriguing journey through past movies and musicals such as

- **Dave Koz plays the Gaslamp Jazz Festival this Saturday, May 24**

*Breakfast at Tiffany’s, West Side Story, The Pink Panther, and many other epic films of a bygone era. Koz utilizes tenor, alto, and soprano saxophones to convey his interpretation of the movie experience from a musical standpoint, and the memories are priceless.*

In working in radio, I’ve had the pleasure of meeting Koz on several occasions, and one of my favorite memories was from a few years ago, backstage at his “Dave Koz Christmas” concert at Spreckels Theatre. My wife and kids were with me and just before I was about to go onstage to introduce the show, Koz asked if my kids could go onstage with me to wish the crowd Merry Christmas before I introduced him. It was a thrill for the kids, and it really set the tone for the night.

**San Diego Reader, May 23-29, 2008**

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**Calendrier**

**MUSIQUE**

**Rock Bottom - La Jolla**
- 8850 Villa La Jolla Drive, La Jolla, 858-450-9277
- May 31 — Live reggae.

**Round Table Pizza: 1161 East Washington Street, Escondido, 760-489-0191.**
- June 3 — The Hadrummers.
- July 5 — Mill Creek Boys.

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

**San Diego Sports Arena:**
- 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma, 619-224-4171.
- June 17 — George Michael.
- July 2 — American Idol.
- July 5 — Raven-Symone.
- October 7 — Neil Diamond.

**Saville Theater at San Diego City College: 1460 C Street, Downtown, 619-388-3676.**
- June 14 — “A Back in the Day Soul Music Celebration.”

**Schulman Auditorium at Carlsbad City Library:**
- 1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad.
- May 29 — Breman Court.
- June 7 — Na Pali Coast Trio.
- June 28 — Peter Sprague String Quartet.

**Sherwood Auditorium at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego:**
- 700 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-454-3541.
- May 31 — Eve Sills.

**Soma:**
- 8350 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma, 619-226-SOMA.
- May 30 — A Legend Unknown and Forever Days Forgotten.
- May 31 — Music and Daredevil Jane.

**Stage Saloon:**
- 765 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-992-7862.
- May 31 — The Disco Pimps.

**Sycuan Casino Showcase Theatre:**
- 1549 Casino Way, El Cajon.
- June 3 — Broadway Legend.

**Templar’s Hall at Old Poway Park:**
- 1414 Midland Road, Poway.
- July 12 — The Bluegrass Ramblers.

**Tiki House:**
- 3707 Park Boulevard, Pacific Beach, 858-273-9734.
- June 21 — Colin Clyne.

**Thrusters Lounge:**
- 4633 Mission Boulevard, Mission Beach, 858-485-6334.
- May 30 — Modern Day Moombah.

**Tiki House:**
- 1152 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-272-9734.
- May 29 — Blue Springs.
- May 30 — Meld.
- May 31 — Sinny Dudes.

**Tio Leo’s Lounge:**
- 5382 Napa Street, Linda Vista, 619-542-1462.
- June 21 — Colin Clyne.

**Tio Leo’s Mira Mesa:**
- 10797 Camino Ruiz, Mira Mesa, 858-695-1461.
- May 29 — Stars on the Water.
- May 31 — Side Job.

**University of California San Diego:**
- 9508 Gilmor Drive, UCSD, 858-534-2320.
- June 26 — Paul Ingram Quartet.

**Urban Solace:**
- 3823 30th Street, North Park, 619-295-4464.
- June 8 — Chris Clarke and Plover.

**Valley View Casino:**
- 16300 Nyeami Pass Road, Valley Center, 866-843-9946.
- June 18 — Bruce in the U.S.A.
- July 23 — Billy Idol.
- July 15 — Chris Isaak.
- July 30 — Styx.
- August 3 — The Temptations and the Four Tops.
- August 14 — The Gipsy Kings.
- October 13 — Randy Travis.

**Viejas Casino Concerts in the Park:**
- 5005 Willow Road, Alpine, 819-445-5400.
- May 31 — Keith Sweat, Bell Biv De’voe, En Vogue.
- June 4 — Gary Allan.
- June 7 — Day 26 and Dariate Kane.
- June 27 — Cyndi Lauper, B-52s, Joan Jett & the Blackhearts.
- July 3 — Cinderella and Warrant.
- July 12 — Roy Orbison.
- July 26 — Los Lonely Boys.

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**DREAM STREET LIVE**
- 2224 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-8611 • www.dreamstreetlive.com

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**Free Wi-Fi • DAILY HAPPY HOUR 4-7 PM • No Cover Power Hour 4-5 PM — $2 U-Call-Its • $1 off drinks till 7 PM**

**SIZE MATTERS** — Check out the remodeled stage & sound system.

- Thursday 5/22
  - DJ Dancing Urban Nights 9 pm
  - Friday Night Gunfight 7 pm

- Friday 5/23
  - Live Music • Hard Rock featuring The Victory of Reason

- Saturday 5/24
  - Honoring the Fallen 7 pm

- Sunday 5/25
  - Live Music • Rock A joyous tribute to everyone’s favorite band with special guest Uncle Junkie
  - Wednesday 5/28
  - Metal Lounge featuring Dead Serial Killers In Perfect Agony Fire BRing Rest

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August 3 — George Thorogood and Buddy Guy.
August 4 — The Regeneration Tour.
August 20 — Donna Summer.
August 30 — Melissa Etheridge.

September 12 — Jaguares.

Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room: 5000 Willows Road, Alpine, 619-445-3400.
May 29 — Sully Erna.
July 24 — Bo Bice.
July 25 — Chris Botti.

Wave House: 3125 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach.
May 30 — West Indian Girl.

Winstons: 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822.
May 31 — The CHI Club, High Tide, Major Healy.

WorldBeat Cultural Center: 2100 Park Boulevard, Balboa Park, 619-263-7911.
May 29 — Sully Erna.
July 24 — Bo Bice.
July 25 — Chris Botti.

Air Conditioned Lounge:
Fridays: DJ Junior. Disco, funk, and ‘80s music.
Saturdays: Juicy. With Mike Czech.

DJ HOW TO SUBMIT A DJ LISTING: Call 619-235-3000 x405, night or day by 5 pm Friday, the week prior to publication. To send weekly or monthly schedules, fax to 619-231-0489 or mail to Reader Music Scene, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA, 92186. You may also submit information online, get directions, maps, event alerts, RSS feeds, club coupons, and more at SanDiegoReader.com.

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**Navajo**

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

Thursday, May 22

West of Memphis • Burnsville

Friday & Saturday, May 23 & 24 • 9 pm

**Classic Rock**

**5 Miles High**

Sunday, May 25

Jesus Christ vs. The World
Bad Karma • Detonated
Rituals In Pain

Monday, May 26

New Karaoke

Tuesday & Wednesday, May 27 & 28

Acoustic Act Chris Leyva
Fuzz Huzzi Marathon

**Santee**

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

Thursday, May 22

Sammy & the Sofa Kings

Friday & Saturday, May 23 & 24 • 9 pm

**Classic Rock**

**Serious Guise**

Sunday, May 25

Random Order

Monday, May 26

Catch The Fallen

Tuesday, May 27

Aqua Culture

**Pool Tables • Dart Boards • Free Parking**

**Hot Spot & Lotto • Free WiFi Access**
Dresden Dolls, May 22, House of Blues

MUSIC


4673 30th Street, Normal Heights. 619-501-9831.

Bar Dynamite: Thursdays, 9 p.m.: DJs SG, Dubz, Teknikian. Hip-hop, old skool, and mashups. $5.


Beauty Bar: Thursdays, 10 p.m.: Soul Survivors. With DJ Rob Hostetter and Daniel Sant. Hip-hop, old skool, and mashups. $5.


Camel’s Breath Inn: Fridays, 9 p.m.: DJs SG, Dubz, Teknikian. Hip-hop, old skool, and mashups. $5.

The Camel’s Breath Inn: Fridays, 9 p.m.: DJs SG, Dubz, Teknikian. Hip-hop, old skool, and mashups. $5.


Deco’s Restaurant & Nightclub: Thursdays, 9 p.m.: DJ Earl Henry. Fridays, 10:30 p.m., Saturdays, 10:30 p.m.: DJ Steve Hasty. 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4695.

Deco’s Restaurant & Nightclub: Thursdays, 10:30 p.m.: DJ Earl Henry. Fridays, 10:30 p.m., Saturdays, 10:30 p.m.: DJ Steve Hasty. 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4695.

The Deco’s Restaurant & Nightclub: Thursdays, 10:30 p.m.: DJ Earl Henry. Fridays, 10:30 p.m., Saturdays, 10:30 p.m.: DJ Steve Hasty. 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4695.


The Filling Station: Fridays, 9 p.m., Saturdays, 9 p.m.: DJ Dance Party. 9522 Miramar Road, Mira Mesa. 858-578-0757.

Giant: Friday: Cedric Gervais. House. 2028 Hancock Street, Mission Hills.


Jack’s La Jolla: Thursdays, 10 p.m., Saturdays, 10 p.m.: Wall Street Bar. DJs and dancing. 7863 Girard Avenue, La Jolla. 858-456-4111.

Kadan: Mondays, 9 p.m.: Mayhem Mondays. Punk rock every Monday. Live bands and resident DJ Nate Horror provide the tunes. Saturday, 9 p.m.: Underground Playground. Electro, house, and dance mashups. Jack Tripper hosts with guest DJs every second, third, and fourth Saturday of the month. 4065 30th Street, North Park. 619-640-2500.


Molly Malone’s: Saturday, 9 p.m.: DJ Levi. 1270 Main Street, Ramona. 760-789-9030.

Moondoggies Pacific Beach: Saturdays, 9 p.m.: What’s Good. DJs Enigma and Cisco. Hip-hop, R&B, and Top 40. 832 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-483-6550.
**O’Connell’s Pub and Nightclub:** Sunday, 9 p.m.: Sunday Sessions. Roots/reggae. 1130 Morena Boulevard, Linda Vista. 619-276-5637.

**On Broadway:**

**San Diego Sports Club:**
- Friday: Hip Hop. 2901 Nimitz Boulevard, Point Loma. 619-255-8635.

**San Diego Sports Club:**
- Thursdays, 9 p.m.: Club ‘80s. New wave, punk, and new romantic with DJs Bryan Pollard, Roxanne Redlight, Sickboy, and Stem. 5244 1271 University Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-296-7372.

**Sevilla:**
- Fridays, 9:30 p.m.: Blazin’ Fridays. Hip-hop and reggaeton with Blazin 98.9. 555 Fourth Avenue, Downtown. 619-233-5979.

**Static Lounge:**

**Tio Leo’s Lounge:**
- Thursdays, 8 p.m.: Zydeco Dance. 5302 Napa Street, Linda Vista. 619-542-1462.

**Whistle Stop Bar:**
- Sundays: Night of the Cookers. Listen to classics and favorites from personal jazz record collections. Ages 21 and up. Tuesdays, 9 p.m.: Friends Chill. Board games and mellow grooves every Tuesday night. Candyland, Connect 4, Operation, Atari and Nintendo on the big screen. Ages 21 and up. Saturday, 10 p.m.: Dimitri Dickinson and Bath Love. $5. 2236 Fern Street, South Park. 619-284-6784.

**Whiskey Girl:**
- Fridays, 9 p.m., Saturdays, 9 p.m.: DJ Marc Thrasher. Mixes music videos. Sundays, 9 p.m., 10 Spot Sundays. DJ Famous Dave mixes your favorite music video requests.
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You can never figure out which events will bring out the partiers. A few years ago, there were several “420” parties on 4/20. This year, I didn’t hear about any. But, on Cinco de Mayo, I had plenty of places to hit.

I went to the San Diego Sports Club in Hillcrest for the first event. A tall African-American woman with orange... things in her hair was standing outside the bar inviting people to the event. She had on a Rockband T-shirt, which is the new video game they’d be playing in the bar.

There was a $10 cover to get in, and my girlfriend gave me grief when I suggested we should talk our way in. She pointed to a sign that said all proceeds were going to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. As I took out my wallet I said, “What about proceeds going to starving writers?”

One of the organizers was Hillary, whom I had met at a previous party. She’s involved in something called “Team in Training,” which trains people to run their first marathon while raising money for the Leukemia Society.

I watched as people played the Rockband game. It’s like Guitar Hero meets karaoke, but it takes an entire band onstage. You don’t need musical ability, just quick reflexes. I’m colorblind, so playing along to the colored dots would throw me off.

“I’m colorblind, so playing along to the colored dots would throw me off.

The first group wasn’t doing so hot. Midway through “My Sharona,” the word “failed” appeared on the screen and the song was stopped. As the crowd laughed, one of the hosts said, “Don’t hate. Participate.” After they attempted another song and again failed, someone mentioned the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame calling.

My girlfriend went to play Galaga in another room. I heard someone talking about which song they should do. I glanced up at the musicians, and on the screen I saw the word “bass groove.”

I talked with Hillary for a few minutes before she got on stage.

After her performance, I watched a group of guys do Bon Jovi’s “ Wanted Dead or Alive.” I hate the original version and figured I wouldn’t care for this one. The drummer was into it, throwing the sticks around his hand and raising his arms up high after certain beats.

I heard a bunch of guys making a ruckus in the other room and glanced over as they were throwing dollars into a punching-bag machine. I watched them for a few minutes and thought that I probably seemed gay.

My girl and I headed off to another event at a house in La Mesa. It wasn’t hard to find, as there were colored lights swirling out front.

I walked into the back yard where a deck was decorated as a discotheque with a spinning mirrored ball and colored lights. The host and homeowner was Mel. “Is that why you called this Cinco De Mellow?” I asked him. “Yeah,” he said, “it’s a play on words in two ways.” He told me he got the stage stuff from someone who ran a club.

The Jacuzzi was covered, and beer pong was being played on it. Around the corner, a fountain was flowing with margaritas. One woman was trying to figure out how it worked. She
Crasher said, “I just want to make sure it’s not being recycled from somewhere. I don’t want to see pipes coming from the bathroom.” I grabbed one and some tortilla chips and talked with a guy whom I’d overheard went to the Styx, Journey, Def Leppard concert. I was surprised anyone went to that, especially with Styx and Journey not having their lead singers anymore, although you could make the argument that that was an improvement. When I mentioned that to the guy, we debated whether or not Dennis DeYoung was still in Styx.

A few people started dancing when the music was turned up. A couple of kids who looked to be in their late teens asked me if I knew where the margarita fountain was. I said, “I’ll tell you if you can prove you’re over 21.” A nervous smile crept up on one of their faces.

Over at the margaritas, my girlfriend ran into a bouncer she knew. I figured if anyone was actually going to card them, he would. I went into the kitchen, where Mel’s girlfriend Julie was slaving over the food preparation. I don’t think I ever saw her outside.

She talked about her work rescuing greyhounds. She had one that was friendly with everyone at the party. I thought the dog would be more energetic and running around. Julie said, “This dog had a 2 and 58 record.” She also showed a tattoo it has on its ear, which I found out is common for dogs that race.

I ran into a woman I named Vikki. I asked about her son, who’s 15. She told me he’s in a band called Odor’s Fist. She said, “Don’t ask me what it means. I have no clue.”

I talked about old cars with a couple of mechanics. One guy had a Harley shirt on. I asked him what his mean. I have no clue.”

My girlfriend and I saw My girlfriend and I saw the dog was standing in the area. The poster with the fish had the name ‘The biggest fish, or the biggest of the groupers. She also had a ‘69 Camaro. He also likes hours and shared a story. He also shared a story. She also had a ‘69 Camaro. She also had a ‘69 Camaro. She also mentioned that to the guy, we debated whether or not Dennis DeYoung was still in Styx.

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The World Disappears

[Acting] can be truly scary sometimes, but... fear can become energy you can bank on.

What is it about acting that can grab a person’s full attention — and often hold it for a lifetime? Recently I got to dramaturge Holy Ghosts for the Sullivan Players. Romulus Linney’s drama concerns the life-and-death passions of a snake-handling cult. An actor’s devotion can be just as committed. So I asked some cast members to talk about what has become, in effect, their calling. I wasn’t looking for a definitive answer — I doubt there is one — just personal responses.

JOE NESNOW “My daughter and wife think I’m addicted to applause,” says Nesnow, 76-year-old retired Navy, “but that’s not even the frosting — or the sprinkles — on the cake. It isn’t applause. It’s when an audience is with you, hanging on every word. You can feel this tremendous emotional feedback. That’s a connection like nothing else.”

Nesnow’s been acting over 50 years. As a youngster, however, it never crossed his mind. He was a singer “and loved that applause (I’m a middle son and needed it).” When he joined the Navy just before the Korean War, the brass wanted to stage a musical comedy to entertain troops. Since the job would free him from mess cooking and fire watches, Nesnow volunteered, “thereby breaking,” he laughs, “the age-old military rule.”

What surprised him: even for long hours, acting never felt like work. “It was always exciting, creating something, making a whole life. The only real work was learning the lines.”

Although the show never made the stage, since the players kept getting shipped out, Nesnow “got hooked REAL BAD.” He took every part — just personal responses.

MELANIE SUNDERLIN Asked what she’d do if she couldn’t act, Sunderlin stopped cold. “I’d be trapped. I wouldn’t be me. I don’t want to THINK about that. Acting is my passion. It’s like air for me. I have to do it...have to do it.”

The 22-year-old former theater arts student at SDSU recalls doing grammar school projects “way above and beyond” the instructions. At Scripps Ranch High she played the sousaphone. “It’s always been there, that need, not just to show what I can do, which is part of it. It’s almost as if creative energy is something you set free. It wants to move through you and out. Otherwise it gets trapped. “I can have a really long day at work” (like most San Diego actors, Sunderlin has a full-time job, and most make a similar claim), “but even if I’m dead tired, the second I walk onstage it all goes away. It’s hard to describe, the creative juices, the wake-up. It’s like you have all the energy in the world! Plus, you forget about the world outside. It all disappears. I love that forgetting.”

When she watches a movie, a voice inside will say, “God, I want this part!” It isn’t just studying different characters and digging for details, she says, “it’s turning the audience into a story so deeply that the outside world disappears for them as well.”

MICHAEL BARNETT “I have always worn my emotions on my sleeve,” says Barnett, 49. “I couldn’t help letting them out.”

In grammar school he was a teacher’s aide, reading stories to second graders. “I began giving the characters different voices and sounds. The kids would mumble things like ‘he’s weird’ or ‘that’s strange,’ but after a while you could hear a pin drop.”

At home, he and his mother watched after- noon movies on Dialing for Dollars. She had acted in several shows and skits. When he saw how avidly she watched old movies, Barnett “realized she wasn’t just a mom. She was a girl who had dreams. And acting became mine.”

Building a hairdressing business — he’s now in such demand he asked me not to name his salon — and caring for aging family members — made him set the dream aside for decades. Seven years ago, his partner, Daren Scott, an actor, inspired Barnett to give it a try. The “pretend for real” nature of acting had an overwhelming appeal.

Some people, my brother’s one, try to erase their feelings: X might hurt, people might not like Y. But an actor’s training says, ‘Be in touch with every emotion.’ That’s so natural to me it doesn’t seem like acting. What I’ve had to learn is that and am still — is when to feel them: when to go to Level 8 at the right point, or Level 10 or 12.

Now that he’s felt the call, Barnett vows it will become “a much bigger slice of my life’s pie.”

ADAM MARCINOWSKI “Some are born with acting in the blood,” says the 30-year-old part-time high school teacher. “Some catch it at an early age, while others get plagued later.”

Six feet five inches tall, Marcinowski played tackle and tight end for the University of Washington, 1996-2000. He came to acting two years ago when he got a job as an extra on the TV pilot Viva Laughlin and “got the bug.” If I started young, it wouldn’t have been a good thing. I didn’t have the life experiences.

“Acting for me is like athletics, not so much in the physical sense but in the mental preparation and that feeling of having your stomach tangle into a million different directions. I was an offensive lineman in college. Sometimes you mess up a blocking assignment and have to make the best of the play. ‘When in doubt, fire out,’ the coaches always said. ‘Go full speed into your mistake.’

Acting’s like that. You have blocking, and if the scene gets broken up, you have to make the best of it on the spot.”

He gets a thrill from performance: “It can be truly scary sometimes, but when you channel it, fear can become energy you can bank on.”

Giving up a teaching career’s been difficult. Marcinowski struggles with his decision to become an actor every day. “But it’s a fire I can’t put out. If your path is unclear before you, then create it as you go. So I struggle. But you know what? Screw it! I’m a dreamer that can’t see my- self doing anything else. Acting is my redemption, my crowd noise, my feeling of...
whole. It scares me to death, I admit, but damn, it’s exciting!”

JO-DARLENE REARDON

“I was an extremely quiet and shy young girl,” says Reardon, now 65. She stayed home and watched Bette Davis movies. When she was 13, in the late 1950s, her parents sent Reardon to Junior Theatre to overcome her shyness. “Pet-

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Love Crazy
In this sequel to Michael Vlach’s “Crazy Love” it’s visitor’s day at the clinic. Patients tell Dr. Anderson about problematic relationships, and the comedy takes “a laughing look at the difference between men and women.” Open-ended run.

National Comedy Theatre Improvisational comedy, making up funny stuff on the spot, is difficult enough. Years ago, however, Keith Johnstone thought it’d be more exciting if gone competitively. He got the idea from pro wrestling (“where Terrible Turks mangled defrocked priests while grannies waved their handbags”). National Comedy Theatre, an offshoot of Johnstone’s TheatreSports (artistic director Gary Kramer says the two compare like “Judo and American football”), produces an event more than an improvement.

Three Days of Rain
Clybourne Park, formerly titled “Rain”, the cross countrydream shrouds every “gangster, whore, and low youth.” Others made amazing mistakes and others get booed; quick wit rewarded. It’d be more exciting if gone comedically. Years ago, how-ever, Keith Johnstone thought 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.”

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The San Diego Repertory Theatre opened.

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Sometimes change is good. Take Parallel 33. “It’s right in my neighborhood, but I haven’t eaten here in years,” said the Lynnmeter, buttering her baguette slice. “I ate here all the time when it first opened, but the menu never changed much, so I got bored.”

So, perhaps, did original chef-owner Amiko Gubbins. Reseathering the restaurant on the Web, I ran into a long-running Chowhound thread on “SD’s most overrated restaurants,” where a hundred bloggers over several years named Parallel 33, Amiko, after years of working on the cooking line and evidently tired of all her creations, finally ran away to cook for a rock star. (She’s now back in town working as chef liaison for Specialty Produce, which supplies fresh local farm goods and specialty items to most of San Diego’s top chefs.) She left her kitchen in the hands of chef Benjamin Moore. They are good hands. He has kept Amiko’s underlying concept but made the menu his own, and his food is mainly sound and satisfying.

Amiko’s mini-essay at the top of the menu explains the idea: “We wondered what unique qualities provided the Tigris-Euphrates Valley the honor as the birthplace of agriculture. Our discovery was that this noble valley shared its geographic orientation with San Diego! Naturally we followed the 33rd parallel around the globe to see what other interesting places might share our good fortune. Morocco, Lebanon, India, China, Japan and others — a swatch around the planet teeming with rich culinary... traditions.”

So the food is globally inspired, from the warmer reaches of the temperate zone (although some of the nations on the above list seem rather a stretch — surely only Japan’s southernmost island and India’s northernmost areas could squeeze into this latitude). But unlike, say, Chow Hillcrest’s transnational noodle emporium, the kitchen here doesn’t attempt to reproduce the classic dishes of any of the nationalities it touches upon. If not for the menu titles, you might not guess the food’s ethnic origins. These regions are more like exotic inspirations, the way the newfound enthusiasm for non-European art inspired the modernist painters and sculptors of early 20th century France. Translated to visual terms, the food might resemble, say, a Matisse “Moorish” odalisque, a Modigliani pseudo-primitive stone carvhal, or Picasso’s evocation of African masks in Les Demoiselles d’Avignon.

Yet most of the cooking furnishes sufficient pleasure in eating that its precise ethnic origins are beside the point. This is not gastronomophotogy, it’s dinner.

The physical setting hasn’t changed much, although there have been improvements in noise management since I last ate here eight years ago. (I remember the din more than the dinner.) You can still peek into the kitchen window from the street and watch the multiethnic cooking line, all in blue baseball caps. The interior architecture is bare-footed and functional, but the decor has sweet touches: a Ganesh wall shrine near the front door (the Hindu elephant god, fostering new enterprises by removing all obstacles), a sensuous Shiva sculpture, bunches of dried flowers, and, in a fairly recent innovation, the ceiling of the main dining room whimsically splotched with soundproofing disks of various sizes. Most nights there’s a live DJ, and the music, the night we ate there, was a grown-up, tasteful mix (world music, Chicago blues, etc.), and as the restaurant filled and conversations got louder, the music blessedly was turned softer.

The Friday-night crowd was diverse — multiethnic, multigendered, multicostumed from jeans to date-duds. It obviously included many regulars. Diners ranged from first-date couples to an extended family with kids, and even one baby. Don’t look for a kidde menu; the families here seemed happy to have their offspring learn to eat like civilized people.

Reading the menu was an exercise in the suppression of gluttony. “Let’s have one of everything,” Cheryl chirped, voicing our universal sentiment. The staff, accustomed to “family style” eating groups, nicely staged our dinner, bringing it in groupings of dishes, like-with-like, giving us time enough to savor and taste everything before the next plates arrived.

The standout appetizer was also ki tikki, potato cakes on sliced mango with a side of dried pineapple and currant chutney dusted with curryone. The tikki are slider-sized patties of pure-comfort mashed potato (with only the subtlest Indian spicing), fired crisp outside but soft inside, plated over mango slices sprinkled with chopped cilantro. The riotous chutney alongside, with chewy, tart dried fruits, is unlike anything you’re likely to find in India but captures the spirit. The combination of mild, tart-sweet, and hot floods the senses: It’s like jumping into a fast-flowing creek on a torpid day.

Another dip into vaguely Indian flavors is the masoor dal (pink lentil) soup, thick and soothing, topped with a swirl of coconut cream and a frizz of fried shatter shivers. I was again surprised by the subtle spicing, with neither the brassy dose of cumin nor the pronounced ground coriander typical of dal in both Tamil Nadu and in the East Indian cooking of the West Indies. Indian food usually displays an in-your-face complexity resembling the Hindu temples encrusted with hundreds of sculpted gods — or the streets of downtown Madras suddenly lined, at close of day, with hundreds of street-dwelling families coming “home” to camp on the sidewalk. India is a lot of a lot-ness, including the food. So this dal is much quieter and easier to handle than that. My friends dived into the porridge like a warm bath at end of day.

A fattoush salad wasn’t the Middle Eastern version I expected (with oddly yummy slabs of soggy stale pita soaking up the dressing) but a leaner, cleaner, braiding mixture of small toasted crostons of naan (Indian flatbread) with romaine, tomatoes, cucumbers, carrots, and a dusting of sumac (a deliciously tart Red Middle Eastern spice).

Naan also replaced pita in the starring role of a Mediterranean flatbread plate. It’s similar to pita but softer, gentler, slightly sweeter — a civilized, urban upgrade of an ascetic desert bread. The dips are a fine, tangy tapenade, an ordinary hummus, and a too-ingratiating sweet mango sauce.

Our least favorite starter offered pot stickers filled with dry, lean chicken breast. “Would pork be better?” Sam asked. “Absolutely,” I said. “We’re missing the fat — eating virtue instead of flavor.” I’ve sampled some great minced-chicken dim sum in Chinese restaurants, especially in Hong Kong — but there the chefs usually substitute

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good “velveting” goo (e.g., silky, starchy slurry of cornstarch, taro flour or rice flour) for the missing pig fat.

There’s no let-down on the entrees. They are as full of life and creativity as the appetizers — not always perfect, but generally enjoyable.

Pan-seared sea scallops come with green lentils dotted with red squash, baby spinach leaves, and a maple-braised apple onion and charronelle compote. The delicate charronelle are quite lost in this world like quartered potatoes, wedges of roasted Anjou pear. Although there are four types of sweetness assembled here, they’re all distinct from each other, and none is excessive or arbitrary. Asian-cured short ribs were rather disappointing. They’re cured before cooking by a two-day dry marinade of coriander, Vietnamese fish sauce, star anise, orange, brown sugar, and salt, then braised in water and coated in a sweet soy glaze. They come with ginger-parsnip puree and thin wafers of crisp plantains. Thumbs up for ev-erything except the meat, which was tender but lacking the great “meaty” flavor (umami) of this cut at its best, slapped around a little too hastily with salt and earliness.

A friend with a superb palate who scouted this restaurant earlier went all swoony for the Alaskan halibut entree. My group didn’t order it (I can’t imagine swooning for halibut), but if you like mild fish, keep it in mind. (She recommended against the appetizer “crispy” calamari, reporting that it’s not crispy.) The chef’s special favorite is salmon with Asian noodles in a Thai-inspired con-coct broth. When I was there, the menu said it was Atlantic salmon, so I didn’t really con-sider ordering it. (Atlantic farmed salmon is so mushy, it feels untrustworthy — as if it’s going forward to deceiving.) The fish the chef is currently using is from Sitka, Alaska, pen-raisfed offshores in Washington State. That’s about the only Pacific salmon anyone’s likely to get this year; at least the cold water up there should keep the flesh firm.

The new chef doesn’t have much of a sweet tooth, so I find this quite refreshing. He’s cut at its best, slapped around for a year at Cordon Bleu while I was still working in Los Angeles. It was a great experience, but I’d tell any young cook to get some restaurant experience before they go to culinary school. The chef told me, “You can’t really call it low-cal or low-sodium… I can use ingredients that Amiko really instilled in me back.”

The only “parallel 33” country that Moore has visited has been China, for a short time, and Thailand (not offi-cially on the menu) for a longer (and of course) enchanting spell. (He’s eaten in Indian restaurants in L.A.) “The most pertinent thing about our food is the culture of the food — understanding why things are done a certain way… Seeming in Thailand how much they honor the food — that’s something that Amiko really instilled in me, to respect the food. That’s one of the main things I try to encompass in the cooking here.

“And again, making it be from San Diego as well. I try to stay away from the [gen-uinely] authentic — I use authentic ingredients, but I don’t want to make a dish verbatim. Above all, I try to have fun with it. The good thing about this restaurant is there’s enough options to cook from… I can use ingredients that other chefs can’t use, because I can mix Moroccan with Chi- nese, and even New Orleans. It’s a huge challenge, a strug-gle, but it keeps me on my toes. I’ll be honest — a lot of stuff hasn’t worked out, but it’s been fun trying.” Owner Robert Butterfield has given him pretty much free rein to change the menu (but still maintain enough of the reg-ulars’ favorites to keep them happy). “I’ve wanted to change things, I’ve wanted to make this my own food,” he says. “I wanted people to come in here and say there is somebody dif-ferent back there, not somebody just trying to recre-ate what this place has been doing. And there’s nothing more rewarding about this job than cooking something that I love and having guests tell me, ‘This is great.’

ABOUT THE CHEF
Coronado-born Benjamin Moore was Amiko Gubbins’s handpicked successor to fill her shoes at Parallel 33. He’s working under owners who wanted to retire — and would I be interested in com-ing down here and taking over? I jumped at the chance. It was a great honor to succeed her and work with Robert again [owner Robert Butterfield] at a great restaurant that I’d worked at [previously] and put a lot of time into. I thought this would be a good situation to learn more — as a young chef, that’s what I’m interested in, to learn, learn, learn.”

Moore grew up in a large family that enjoyed eating to-getherness. He learned to cook alongside his mom, but his first restaurant job as a dishwasher was a total turnoff. “But then I got a job as a prep cook at the Chart House. And it’s hard to say — but just being in the kitchen every day is what brings me back.”

The only “parallel 33” country that Moore has visited has been China, for a short time, and Thailand (not officially on the menu) for a longer (and of course) enchanting spell. (He’s eaten in Indian restaurants in L.A.) “The most pertinent thing about our food
Alex says all these tacos are…pre-Spanish.

“The cochinita pibil is Mayan.”

L

ovely? This could be it. The question turns me mid-bite into my second-ever quesotaco.

It’s a scrunch of crispy grilled cheese over little chunks of steak lost in a creamy sauce, bid

ging under avocado, with a corn tortilla lending support and a splash of red salsa ad

ding zing.

Last time I felt like this was down in TJ, eating my virgin que

zaco. I pass in beneath a canopy of

out sign hangs above the entrance. “Calaco Grill,”

down in TJ, eating my virgin que-

taco dulce, maybe. But — sigh — gotta work after this.

Alex says all these tacos are basi-

cally pre-Spanish. “The cochinita pibil is Mayan. We marinate the pork in achiote paste,

plus five different chiles that help flavor it, for 16

hours, and bake it in banana leaves.”

Turns out cochinita means “suckling pig,” and pibil means “buried.” Huh. So the Mayans used to

cook their suckling pigs in fire pits, Hawaiian-

style.

The good news is the kitchen stays open till 3:00 in the morning on Thursdays, Fridays, and

and the other good news is that three-

hour happy hour, it’s a buck off the tacos. And

appetizers like ceviche, or shrimp with cilantro

taste, which gets a kick from the lit-

turns out his mom makes all the desserts. Hmm. Maybe

he should drop a hint to her about that other La

Era cooking here,” says Alex

Martinez, the owner. “For a start, we hand-make all our tortillas fresh.”

And yes, he knows La Ermita. “One of our cooks, Angelica, came from there.”

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RESTAURANT LISTINGS

The Reader’s Guide to Restaurants are recommended listings written by our reviewers (Ed Bedford, Barbara David, Andrae and Yvonne Hafer, Shari McCallum, Max Nash, Eleanor Wilder, Naumi Wise). Each issue contains only a fraction of over 700 reviews. A complete searchable list is available online at SanDiegoReader.com. Price estimates are based on the latest information available for a midrange entree. Inexpensive: below $10; moderate: $10 to $15; expensive: $20 to $29; very expensive: more than $30. Please call restaurants in advance for reservations.

BKEACHES

Baileys 1400 Vacation Road, Pacific Beach, 858-490-6364. Take a quick trip to this Miami at the local branch of Florida’s famed new resort restaurant. Whimsical tropical décor features a monkey motif (carved in the chandeliers, peaking from the paintings) and mambos play on the speakers. But the unlisted prices for chilled shellfish may make a monkey of you unless you ask before you buy. The menu features high-quality seafood and land creatures in refined renditions including gorgeous lobster bisque, herbed sea bass, and a hunk of free-range veal. Serves are charming. The wine list is long and rather chunky. Servers are recommended listings written by our reviewers (Ed Bedford, Barbara David, Andrae and Yvonne Hafer, Shari McCallum, Max Nash, Eleanor Wilder, Naumi Wise). Each issue contains only a fraction of over 700 reviews. A complete searchable list is available online at SanDiegoReader.com. Price estimates are based on the latest information available for a midrange entree. Inexpensive: below $10; moderate: $10 to $15; expensive: $20 to $29; very expensive: more than $30. Please call restaurants in advance for reservations.

The Bar-B-Que House

2500 N.W. 7th Avenue, La Jolla, 858-551-0077. “Bull” and “Bear,” as in stock market terms. It is not surprising lots of upscale financial types gather here around sunset, but the food comes at proletarian prices. Of course the names kowtow to mighty Wall Street: the Broker Breakfast Burritos (eggs, bacon), Venture Capital Veggie Burrito, Bull Burger, Dow Jones Dog, Francheesie Dog. Best bang for the buck: the Hot Stock Burger, a half-pound patty with a splash Louisiana sauce on top. Bottom line: it’s a chew with a view. Open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., daily (bar open till 2 a.m.). Inexpensive. — E.H.

Cafe Japengo

890 University Center Lane, La Jolla, 858-450-3355. Here

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BUFFET TO-GO AVAILABLE: LUNCH $5.99L. DINNER $7.99

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Hand Rolls:

Hand Rolls:

Tempura Shrimp, California, Caterpillar, Cucumber, Philadelphia, Rainbow, Crab, Soft Shell Crab, Spicy Tuna, Tempura Tuna, Vegetable, Yummy, Firecracker, Seafood Dynamite, Shrimp

Tempura Shrimp, California, Caterpillar, Cucumber, Philadelphia, Rainbow, Crab, Soft Shell Crab, Spicy Tuna, Tempura Tuna, Vegetable, Yummy, Firecracker, Seafood Dynamite, Shrimp

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Sushi Bar $23.95 per person

With this ad. Expires 6/5/08. Up to 5 persons. Reg. $23.95.

Lunch Daily 11:30 am-2 pm

Dinner Daily 5-9 pm

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

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

Cut Rolls: California, Caterpillar, Cucumber, Philadelphia, Rainbow, Crab, Soft Shell Crab, Spicy Tuna, Tempura Tuna, Vegetable, Yummy, Firecracker, Seafood Dynamite, Shrimp

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

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“Buy one frozen yogurt or smoothie and get a second of equal or lesser value FREE. With this ad. Toppings are extra. Not valid with any other offer. One coupon per person. Expires 6/30/08.”
The highly prized fatty tuna (and the seasoned rice tastes quite salty. The sushi-bar chefs aren’t very friendly, with a delightfully miasma of egg, sake, and shimeji. Creative party rolls are especially popular here, including the amusing Tororo Roll—sweet and spicy, crunchy and spongy, with fried soft shell crab topped with grilled shiitake mushrooms, avocado, and a sake marinade. Entries are often a letdown, but diners may be satisfied to make a meal of appetizers like the toro salad with green cheese, candied pecans, and pomegranate vinaigrette; duck wontons with cardamom pomegranate sauce; and an excellent kimono martini. No reservations for the sushi bar, arrive early for the prompt seating. Lunch weekdays only; sushi bar opens at 5 p.m.; dinner reservations for the sushi bar; arrive early for seating. Moderate to expensive. — E.W.

Kono’s 704 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-483-1679. The inside-out side of sushi is your prototypical California sushi bar. It’s cream and green, with murano canard window canopies, red lacquered Bouchon, and jeweled bar stools and tables. Doabstract and great right there; there may be a slight financial consideration. Opens daily for breakfast and lunch. Inexpensive. — E.B.

The French Gourmet 1880 Torrey Pines Street, Pacific Beach, 858-488-1725. In the midst of a Barefoot Investor cocktail or café, a homey atmosphere? Make a reservation at the French Gourmet toast of state. Start off with traditionally prepared escargots or mussels. Entrees include lamb, roast chicken, seabass, and fish, with a selection for the serious eater. The pan-roasted ratatouil is gently enlivened with a champagne beurre blanc sauce and topped with crispy bread. Desserts abound, with an imported French white chocolate mousse topped with chocolate sauce, along with pastries, meringue, etc., all freshly made daily. House-made bread and lunch; daily noon Monday to Saturday. Moderate to expensive. — E.W.

Island Prime 1880 Island Highway, Del Mar, 858-483-6802. Owner Kema Schmoltz is the chef and owner (with the Cohn Restaurant Group, owners of such San Diego restaurants as) the high-end steakhouse with a bay view executive and roast beef are delicious, as you’d expect, but also enjoy its own selection of appetizers such as chilled corn with black truffle and a seafood salad. Salt runs freely, and the excellent international wine list runs deep. Order free, reserve; open daily; dinner only. Very expensive. — N.W.

Joe’s Crab Shack — Pacific Beach 4852 Ocean Boulevard, Pacific Beach, 858-274-3474. Joe’s is a lively with crab- and deep-sea ambiance (come the psycho-pathology on down souvenirs and cap), but the food isn’t bad. You can choose buckets of steamed, barbecued, or garlic-buttered; or crispy shrimp or fried or grilled or sea vegetables or or. Grilled up minnow superior the pan— the roasted is secondary. You can get the most of this. Don’t waste your palate (or money) on weak embalms when the dish is bright. The menu changes daily, but some very tasty dishes are pot-stick- ers, crab, and chicken. A special dietary request to the chef for the day. — B.D.

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fresh, thick, tasty. A meal. Their old-fash-
beef, chicken, and corn pudding) from

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or turkey) is one of the more popular
Steak Heaven (you choose: steak, ham,

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way to catch the eye of every passerby? It's a
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What the Chef Eats

OYSTERS ROCKEFELLER

B Y D E R R A C H O T T O N T, E X E C U T I V E C H E F

Island Prime, Konaoura, Indigo Grill

INGREDIENTS

Mornay Sauce
1/2 cup (1 4-ounce stick) butter
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
4 cups whole milk
3 Tardent
2 cups grated cheese blend
(Mozzarella, Asiao, Provolone, mild Romano)
salt and pepper to taste

Breadcrumbs
3-4 slices white bread or French baguette
3 T olive oil
1 T minced garlic

Mornay sauce
8 oz of fresh mushrooms blended
2 T minced shallots
1/2 cup (1 4-ounce stick) butter
2 T minced garlic
2 T minced shallots
1/2 cup (1 4-ounce stick) butter
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
4 cups whole milk
3 Tardent
2 cups grated cheese blend
(Mozzarella, Asiao, Provolone, mild Romano)
salt and pepper to taste

Butter
3-4 slices white bread or French baguette
3 T olive oil
1 T minced garlic

The Chef's secret

The sauce is not thickened with flour, but rather with grated cheese. The cheese is melted and mixed with the sauce to create a creamy, velvety texture. The addition of shallots and garlic adds depth and flavor to the sauce.

To make Mornay sauce:
1. Melt the butter in a saucepan over medium heat.
2. Add the minced garlic and shallots and sauté until translucent.
3. Add the grated cheese and stir until melted and smooth.
4. Gradually add the milk, stirring constantly to prevent lumps from forming.
5. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Serve the Mornay sauce over a bed of bread, fish, or vegetables to create a rich and indulgent meal.
What the Chef Eats

**Prepared bread crumbs**
2 T grated Parmesan

**How to do it**

1. Prepare Mornay Sauce:
   - Melt 1/2 cup butter over low heat in the bottom of a 2- quart pot. When butter is completely melted, add 1/2 cup flour and whisk together. Once flour and butter are mixed, add the 4 cups of milk and bring to a boil. Once it starts to thicken, boil for 10 minutes. Turn off the heat and whisk in the Pernod and 2 cups of cheese blend, one cup at a time. Season with salt and pepper.

2. Prepare bread crumbs:
   - Cut bread into 1/4 to 1/2 inch cubes, coat with olive oil and minced garlic. Bake at 350 for 10-15 minutes or until golden brown, let cool. Add parsley, Parmesan, salt and pepper. Place mixture in a food processor and chop into bread crumbs. (Or place crumbs between two sheets of wax paper and crush with rolling pin.)

3. Preheat oven to 400:
   - Shock oysters. Detach meat from shells and quickly rinse shells clean of any sand. Return oyster meats to a shallow baking pan or ovenproof serving dish. Top each oyster with cooked and chopped spinach. Spoon 1 cup Mornay sauce over spinach. Top with bread crumbs and Parmesan. Bake in the oven at 400 for 10-12 minutes or until golden brown. Serve immediately.

To get an online version of this column, go to sdreader.com. You can print it, email it to friends, and get other recipes from different local chefs.

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Now
May 22, 2008

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The specialty at this tourist favorite is Si-

Specialty at this tourist favorite is Si-

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SOUTH BAY

1500 Ocean
1800 Orange Avenue, Corona del Mar, 949-522-4880. A land-
down-door dining room resides within the renowned walked in Prince of Wales at the Del. Now the food’s a breeze, too —
Chief Brian Smot’s savory California-Mediterranean cuisine con-
structed with the beautiful luxury ingredients of such Anne. Haddock with vegetables on turn even sprouts into plates and
toils into mana. There’s every-
ting here, but from the pastaisi-de-brocade to the
comfortable atmosphere that’s drier but not still in the air, the
theme is someone — rather steep but not gouging,
including reasonably average top
quality from France. Validated parking;
freeparticipation with handcrafted ac-
combe when calling to reserve. The
eating on nights. — Expensive. — N.W.

The Barbecue Pit
580 East Plaza Boulevard, National City, 619-477-
2244. Outside, it reminds you of a barn;
inside, a meeting hall. Rustic timber,
knotty pine, set of Texas Longhorns on
one wall and an eight-point buck head
on the other. People have been coming
here all their lives. Two creases started
this back in 1947 at 143 Market,
downtown. Now their grandkids run this
to its sister restaurant in Fletcher Hills.
They still bark, and lots of the old
friends that you know by sight, as well as a
but. Maybe the best deal is the
deal is a “chicken special” of: chicken,
to order. The margaritas are
also known as “chicken want
“healthy!” There’s more than
300 shots available on the
table. The food is made-from-scratch home-
to the “Special
“Special
“Special

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Every Sunday

Lunch special: ‘$2 off any sandwich
11 am-2 pm. Must present coupon. Expires 6/5/08.

Dine-in • Take-out Local delivery
Sun.-Thurs. 10:30 am-10 pm Fri. & Sat. 10:30 am-11 pm

1290 University Avenue
Hillcrest • 619-574-1644
www.jacksbabybackribs.com

SOUTH BAY

1166 Orange Avenue, Corona del Mar, 949-522-4880. The bright,
betistic bistro next door to the Lamb’s
Players Theatre draws pre-theatre
crowds as well as locals — and that may
be a problem, since the rush of
service/desperate souls after the play-
groups have departed. Perhaps that’s why
there are few appetizer choices even
though we discourage dinners from
spending extra time at the table). You
could maybe be charged a “split plate” fee
for sharing a first course despite
orderings individuals. Meat and fish
choices are simply prepared with
ingredients of ordinary quality and
generic veggie accompaniments Why, then, is
this so popular? Pasta (and nothing
but pasta) is the answer — that’s what
the kitchen shines. Very many when
crowded, street tables are slightly quieter
despite heavy traffic. Lunch and dinner
daily. Reservations advised for weekend
and pro-shower dinners. Moderate (pas-
to) expensive. — N.W.

Thai Thai
5800 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-422-8453. A tiny
restaurant, yet still very pleasingly decorated,
with an absolutely stunning set of Texas
longhorns on the wall. Wonder how
the Kountry Kitchen’s still around.
You eat surrounded by gurgling
Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-944-0612.
Room (for groups of 4 to 14, advance
request assistance with handicapped ac-
cess (stairs) when calling to reserve. Din-
er nightly until 10:30 p.m. Expensive.
— N.B.

New Orleans Bistro
5801 E. Mission Blvd., El Cajon, 619-441-1359. A
restaurant is a recognized private chef who has de-
cided to put his on the restaurant. He
likes to do the classics, and I think he
likes the clientele. The menu is full of
the classics, and I think he
likes the clientele. The menu is full of
teven brussels sprouts into treats
inexorably. — N.W.

Itallic
920 East Plaza Boulevard, National City, 619-763-
2006. Outside, it reminds you of a barn;
inside, a meeting hall. Rustic timber,
knotty pine, a set of Texas Longhorns on
one wall and a set of Texas Longhorns on
the other. People have been coming
here all their lives. Two creases started
this back in 1947 at 143 Market,
downtown. Now their grandkids run this
and its sister restaurant in Fletcher Hills.
They still bark, and lots of the old
friends that you know by sight, as well as a
but. Maybe the best deal is the
deal is a “chicken special” of: chicken,
to order. The margaritas are
also known as “chicken want
“healthy!” There’s more than
300 shots available on the
table. The food is made-from-scratch home-
to the “Special
“Special
“Special

Free Dinner
Buy 1 entry and receive 1 entry of equal or lesser value free. Excludes Champagne. Max discount $12.

10% off cheeseburger and French fries
Burgers: $3.95. Hillcrest Bistro and Upstage. Miramar 7 nights a week

50% off on Mon. & Tues. Burgers, Salads, Shrimp, Sandwiches, Chicken and Tacos

Boat House Restaurant
11040 Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, 858-455-1301. A crepe maker whose
crepe mades (grilled ham and dar)
These sodas rain high
Among other deli-
cases are duck and frog legs. Put Spices
Thai Cafe at the top of your list. Open
daily for lunch and dinner. Inexpensive
to moderate. — E.B.

St. Tropez — Encinitas
9475 Coast Highway 101 (301), Encinitas, 760-
635-7300. If you love continental breakfast,
these bright cafes with indoor-out-
door seating other scores omelets baked
pastries (including croissants) and good
coffee. Parisan-style brunch/banquet
choices embrace crepe monsieur and
croque madame (grilled ham and
croque madame (grilled ham and
these sandwiches, topped with either light
crème fraiche or egg, croque, quiche,
onion grissini, or chicken-fried
puff pastry). Omelets are rather expensive.
Some of the sandwiches offer Mediterr-
anean flavors — try a pan bagnat
(salade nicoise), or a baguette or one or
two other salads. Desserts range from
cookies on up to elaborate cakes. Beer
and wine. Open daily. Breakfast
through lunch. — Inexpensive. — N.W.

Swami’s Cafe
1163 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-
944-9102. No coincidence it’s near the famous
surf break and the nail-head rail. The
locals are a collection of surfers and
skateboarders. You love the
environment? Even if you don’t, you’ll
love the veggies. Sweet potato,
Benedito or black bean burritos, but
the big emphasis is health. Try the protein
veggie wraps, with avocados, fishe,
tofu, or the Indian curry with tofu,
which is awesome — rather steep but no goug-

Thai Cafe at the top of your list. Open
daily for lunch and dinner. Inexpensive
to moderate. — E.B.

Spices Thai Cafe — Del Mar
1010 Valley Center Drive, Del Mar, 858-258-
0889. Superb Thai restaurant that’s not
only elegant but whose foods contain
no MSG and very little fat. The seafood
dishes rain high. Among other deli-
cases are duck and frog legs. Put Spices
Thai Cafe at the top of your list. Open
daily for lunch and dinner. Inexpensive
to moderate. — E.B.
Over 75 Restaurant Coupons at SDReader.com

Here’s a small sample to whet your appetite!

50% off any entrée
With purchase of an entrée of equal or greater value and 2 beverages. Valid Monday–Friday only. 1 per table. Not good with any other offers or on holidays. Offer expires May 31, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month.

The Mission: Conscientious Cuisine
North Park: 2801 University Avenue, 819-220-8992
East Village: 1250 J Street, 819-232-7662
3795 Mission Boulevard, Mission Beach, 858-488-9060
Reader Coupons 619-235-3000

$10 off any bottle of wine
Sunday to Wednesday. Offer expires May 31, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month.

The Cask Room
An unpretentious environment to try wine by the glass or bottle, plus microbrews and a limited bistro menu.
550 Park Boulevard #2104, 858-822-1808
Reader Coupons 619-235-3000

25% off sushi
Sushi bar area only. One coupon per table. Not valid with any other offers. Offer expires May 31, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month.

Visions Restaurant & Lounge
Voted "Best New Casual Restaurant" in San Diego. Late-night sushi Friday and Saturday until 1 a.m. Dinner nightly.
505 Market Street, Gaslamp, 819-501-4772
Reader Coupons 619-235-3000

50% off entrée
Buy one entrée, get second entrée of equal or lesser value 50% off. Offer expires May 31, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month. Coupon is not valid on holidays.

Lai Thai
"The Best Thai Cuisine" awarded by the San Diego Asian Journal.
1430 E. Plaza Boulevard, National City, 819-474-5456
Reader Coupons 619-235-3000

North County
Calypso Free appetizer
Greek Village Free saganaki
Mikko Japanese 50% off sushi
Pho Lucky 10% off entire check
Rossi’s Pizza Free mini pizza
Santa Fe Cafe 50% off 2nd entrée
Wild Note Cafe

La Jolla
Aloha Sushi Free sushi
Cafe Milano Free Comedy Store tickets
Clay’s La Jolla
Ginza Sushi Sushi dinner for 2 $16.95
La Dolce Vita Free entrée
La Jolla Brew House Free lunch or dinner entrée
Su Casa 20% off entire check

East County & State College
Centifonti’s Restaurant 50% off entrée
Fix Me A Plate Cafe 15% off any entrée
Golden Wok 10% off buffet
Shakey’s Lunch buffet $5.49
Thai Dragon House Free Thai entrée
Toro Sushi $3 off sushi
Windy City Bistro 1/2 off menu item

Midway, Old Town & Mission Valley
The Amigo Spot 15% off entire check
Lot 81 Restaurant & Bar 1/2 price dinner
Tio Leo’s Dinner combos $9.49 each

South Bay & Coronado
Beach ’n’ Diner Free entrée
El Dorado Seafood & Grill 50% off entrée
Lai Thai 50% off entrée

Downtown & Point Loma
Al Bustan Free dinner entrée
Alex’s Brown Bag Philly cheese steak $6.49
The Boathouse 2-for-1 lunch or brunch
Dublin Square 2 for 1 breakfast
Hornblower Cruises
House of Blues 20% off restaurant receipt
Humprey’s Jewel Box 2 for 1 entrée
Little Italy Spaghetti 2 for 1 lunch
Petini’s Free entrée
Puerto La Boca Free Argentinian dessert
RA Sushi
Richard Walker’s Pancake House $1 off entrée
Rock Bottom
Sevilla $10 off Spanish cuisine
The Shout House
Visions 25% off sushi
Xavier’s Free appetizer
Yogo Tango Free yogurt or smoothie

Clairemont, University City, Miramar Rd.,
Poway, Mira Mesa, Scripps Ranch & Kearny Mesa
Filling Station Free appetizer
Kai Sushi 15% off all menu items
Lightnin’ Jack’s BBQ Free BBQ
Lot 81 Restaurant & Bar Free lunch or dinner
Mo’s Island Grinds 50% off plate lunch
Pampas Free empanadas
RB Sushi 50% off sushi and rolls only
Sunrise Super Buffet $3 off buffet
Thai Cafe $1 off buffet
VIP Oriental Buffet $3 off all-you-can-eat buffet

Restaurants listed without coupon offers have only menus online. Restaurants with * have multiple locations. See online menu or coupon for all locations.
A Second Coming
The narrative elements seem somehow to have more heft.

As we ease into the lazy summer pace of one blockbuster per week, we also settle into the provincial screening schedule of forever lagging a week behind. Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull, opening today, but not screened before the beginning of the week, will have to wait while I catch up with last Friday’s opening, not screened till the middle of the week, two days prior. (We wee weeklies require more lead time.) I might in any case have preferred this week to be writing about Claude Lelouch’s Roman de Gare, a bigger event for me than any Indiana Jones (or for that matter, Steven Spielberg) film, opening on Friday exclusively at the Hillcrest, but without benefit of any advance screening whatever. It’s hard to quell suspicions that the number of local press screenings has started to decrease since the Union-Tribune’s dismissal of David Elliott and its reliance on syndicated reviews in his stead. (On a broader front, the sweeping squeeze on print critics rouses suspicions over every rave for Iron Man or Speed Racer or the like. Where one once suspected an overenthusiastic reviewer of trying to justify his choice of job, one now suspects him of fighting to save it.) To turn, in the meantime, to last Friday’s news...

The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian, or as we could call it, The Lion, the Witch, No Wardrobe, maintains the medium-high standard of its 2005 forerunner, higher, in my estimation, than the standards of such close-by epic cycles as the Lord of the Rings series and the Harry Potter series. Perhaps I was predisposed to this one because, even though I’ve avoided his children’s books, I have read a fair amount of C.S. Lewis — that most rational of Christians — with pleasure and with admiration, whereas I have read but a little bit of J.R.R. Tolkien without either pleasure or admiration and have read J.K. Rowling (why do all these authors go by initials?) not at all. Even without such predisposition, the narrative elements of Narnia seem somehow to have more heft, more harmony, more resonance, and the individual installments (based now on two) demonstrably stand more solidly on their own.

The follow-up to The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe (again under the direction of Andrew Adamson, his second live-action film after making his name with Shrek and Shrek 2, whose smart-ass tone he has wisely stifled) makes a pretty clean break with the Story So Far and makes only minimal demands on your recollection of it. The four Pevensie siblings (William Moseley, Anna Popplewell, Skandar Keynes, and Georgie Henley), otherwise known as “the Kings and Queens of Old,” herein return to the parallel universe of Narnia, not through the portal of a magic clothes closet but from an ordinary London subway platform (call it The Lion, the Witch, and the Tube, if you choose), but while it’s still WWII-time in England, a “few hundred” years have passed in Narnia. Ruins have replaced castles. Animals have regressed to dullness. Trees stand rooted to the ground.

A paradigmatic deliverance myth is presently in progress, encompassing an exiled heir to the throne (the titular Prince, glamorously embodied by British stage actor Ben Barnes), an oppressive regime of swarthy Mediterranean types called Telmarines (Sergio Castellitto, Pierfrancesco Favino, Damian Alcázar), and a gathering rebel army.

Win a DVD Prize Pack!

Winners will receive a United Artists DVD Prize Pack. Runners-up will receive a festival movie pass for two.

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

Deadline to enter is Friday, May 23, at 1:00 pm.
Limit one entry per person. No purchase necessary.

Check local listings for showtimes. Festival pass valid for one showing only.

United Artists 90th Anniversary Film Festival May 23-29.
Exclusively at Landmark Theatres Ken Cinema.
numbering among its ranks a grumpy dwarf (amusingly acted by Peter Dinklage), a splashbuckling mousedeer, and a Tovish old badger (both bigger than life), an air force of griffons, some centaurs, one of whom sports a special medal of valor prop-
open a fatal grapple for an escape route as his body gets pierced by en-
emy arrows.

The resurrected lion, Aslan, out of circulation for centuries, remains something of a nonescent Christ figure around whom we will avoid ques-
tions of faith and doubt. (Why can only the youngest Pevensie see him?)

The long-delayed second—his Second Coming!—does not disap-
point, as he momentarily drops his cultural faction (voice of Liam Nees-
on) and lets loose a ferocious, entering the fray very late and rallying the dor-
mant forces to the cause. The defeated White Witch (Tilda Swinton) also makes an exciting reappearance, but happily brief. If the film overall is a bit battle-heavy, and it is a bit slowed by immoderate slow-motion, and if my-
self still bridle at the martial prowess of these cherry-cheeked English schoolchildren (at least the respon-
ses are limited to just one), the climactic battle nevertheless features some galvanizing and agonizing changes in momentum, in an imagina-
tive stratagem of a subterranean cavalry charge, and the majestic in-
tervention of a subterranean wind, which helps bring matters to a decisive resolu-
tion. (More sequels can be presumed to come, where from and where to?)

There is, and will be, plenty of summer movies with less to lose. Re-
gardless of your age.

Worth a mention, a look, a thought, a plan, is the week of plunder from the a

EXCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT STARTS FRIDAY, MAY 23rd!

ROMAN DE GARE

DOMINIQUE FANNY PINON AURÉLIE ARBAND DANA

HILLCREST

124 San Diego Reader May 22, 2008

THOMAS CROWN AFFAIR

Tuesday: John Frankenheimer’s ‘The Thomas Crow
Manhattan Cowboy, Wednesday: Woody
Allen’s Annie Hall and Billy Wilder’s (again) ‘The A
Your time machine, too, to the era — not quite that far back — of repertory cinema at the Ken, a new show every day.

All reviews are by Duncan Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unreviewed stars are for new unreviewed. Thousands of past reviews sort alphabetically, by year of release and by rating, are available online at SDReader.com.

Annie Hall — Woody Allen’s approxi-

The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian — Reviewed this issue: With Ben

THE FORBIDDEN KINGDOM — A bullied Boxer turns in martial arts film an-
}
Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay — Stork comedy (the sequel), with delusions of political content, possibly admissible as scientific evidence. 1969. 

Son of Rambow — A sweet nothing, acutely cloying, about the bonding of dissimilar English schoolboys, devil and angel, plus a slightly less adhesion French exchange student with two-toned hair and trend-setting wardrobes, all collaborating together on a video sequel to First Blood for entry in a Young Filmmakers Competition. Cartoonistic and tender sentiment coexist unexplicably, if not mutually destructively. With Will Poulter, Bill Milner, and Jaime Winstone. Written and directed by Garth Jennings. 2008. 

Sons of Rambow: The Making of a Film (UK; 5/23) HILLCREST CINEMAS, PLAZA 14 (LA JOLLA VILLAGE); RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; VALENCIA 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA; EMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE) 

Speed Racer — Colorful, to say the least. Color-overloading, to say a little more. Color-engulfed. The live-action version of the last-sixties-made-in-Japan TV cartoon is of course, in this day and age, only partly live-action: real people like Emile Hirsch, Christina Ricci, John Goodman, Susan Sarandon, and Matthew Fox inserted into a world of total animation, pop color, pungent nonsequential editing. CGI landscapes, "...
OCEANSIDE
Mission Marketplace 13
College Boulevard and Mission Avenue (760-640-1900)
The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15)
Iron Man (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:15, 11:45, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45)
What Happens in Vegas (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:15, 12:00, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45)

DEL MAR
Del Mar Highlands 8
El Camino Real at Del Mar Highlands Road (760-646-4620)
The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15)
Iron Man (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:15, 11:45, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45)
What Happens in Vegas (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:15, 12:00, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45)

San Marcos 18
1180 West San Marcos Boulevard at Old California Vie (760-473-3711)
Call theater for program information

ENCINITAS
La Paloma
471 South Coast Highway 101 (760-438-2069)
Shine a Light (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 8:30 pm. The Band’s Visit (PG) Fri.-Sat. 7:30, 10:30 pm.

LA COSTA
La Costa 6
9492 El Camino Real (At Avanti/Aqua) (760-438-3099)
The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 12:30, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15)
Iron Man (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:15, 11:45, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45)
What Happens in Vegas (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:15, 12:00, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45)

FALLBROOK
River Village 6
5233 C. Mission Village (760-643-8746)
The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:15, 12:55, 3:55) 7:15, 10:45
Iron Man (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:15, 12:55, 3:55) 7:15, 10:45
What Happens in Vegas (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:15, 12:55, 3:55) 7:15, 10:45

NORTH COASTAL CARLSBAD
Plaza Camino Real
2851 Poinsettia Avenue (760-438-7400)
The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:15, 12:55, 3:55) 7:15, 10:45
Iron Man (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:15, 12:55, 3:55) 7:15, 10:45
What Happens in Vegas (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:15, 12:55, 3:55) 7:15, 10:45

FOOTNOTE
★ ★ ★

What Happens in Vegas — What happens in Vegas goes for the feel of a very 1930’s-style Capra comedy and then adds a second layer of complexity and realism, but for so long and so much of the film it feels like you’re in the kitchen with the characters, what’s the point with an illustration of Racial Profiling and the incarceration of the happy-go-lucky street music man in a detention center for illegal aliens? A bit of hot topicality to give the story... [83x379] (10:15, 12:00, 2:45, 5:15, 7:15, 10:15]

WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS — FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

What Happens in Vegas — What happens in Vegas goes for the feel of a very Capra comedy and then adds a second layer of complexity and realism, but for so long and so much of the film it feels like you’re in the kitchen with the characters, what’s the point with an illustration of Racial Profiling and the incarceration of the happy-go-lucky street music man in a detention center for illegal aliens? A bit of hot topicality to give the story... [83x379] (10:15, 12:00, 2:45, 5:15, 7:15, 10:15]

THE LANDSCAPE WITH A VIEW — FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The Landscape with a View — The 1984 film was a large-scale, Technicolor epic set in a dystopian future, with a futuristic city on a space station orbiting a moon. [83x379] (10:15, 12:00, 2:45, 5:15, 7:15, 10:15)
Advance gratification

View the entire menu before you get to the restaurant.

www.SDReader.com
Click on Food & Drink > Restaurant Menus

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Wed., June 18, 2008 • 6 pm
EVENING TEST
Balboa Park Club Ballroom
2150 West Pan American Road & Presidents Way

Fri., June 20, 2008 • 8:30 am
Balboa Park Club Ballroom
2150 West Pan American Road & Presidents Way

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Reader

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KAREN-M4W-27,

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you are adorable...It's true. You have gor-

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lar golf ball.

for Gensheng Sun told the Associated Press.) Ital-

Inadequate Game Plans: (1) In April, in

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the parents of a toddler, fought over which

night in a back room but awakened by a break-

in. He noticed that he had seen his

had his

for

You are reading it naturally.

Least Criminals

— Inadequate Game Plans: (1) In April, in demand-

the contents of his cash register, the owner

of his long record. (3) In March,

Christopher Koch, 28, became the latest to wait

outside a bank, building up his nerve to rob it,

and then finally put on the ski mask and walk up to

the door (of the Citizens & North-

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the bank had closed at noon. (Employees got Koch’s license-plate
data.

Once a Ham ...

— At March British soccer match between Blackpool and Brentford,

Jane Holland was escorting her retired dog

Fool’s Mile for a presentation when the crowd

voice evidently energized the champion racer,

who broke away.” (2) The next week in a suburb of Tampa, Fla.,

café owner Agustin De Jesus was asleep for the

night in a back room but awakened by a break-

in. He noticed that he had seen his

S#ifndef reader, May 31.

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all goods. Mail Smith’s Sfrica April

30th. Call 858-487-8600.

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GAME PLANNED IN

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Once a Ham ...

— At March British soccer match between Blackpool and Brentford, Jane Holland was escorting her retired dog Fool’s Mile for a presentation when the crowd noise evidently energized the champion racer, who broke away.” (2) The next week in a suburb of Tampa, Fla., café owner Agustin De Jesus was asleep for the night in a back room but awakened by a break-in. He noticed that he had seen his SUV by the back door with the engine running for a quick getaway, so De Jesus hopped in, drove away, and called the police. Said Leonard Levy, 55, who is a candidate for life in prison based on his long record. (3) In March, Christopher Koch, 28, became the latest to wait outside a bank, building up his nerve to rob it, and then finally put on the ski mask and walk up to the front door (of the Citizens & Northern Bank, Liberty, Pa.), kicked in the door, and the bank had closed at noon. (Employees got Koch’s license-plate number.)

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Student Vinicios Robacher, 15, said in March

reporting in an African-American Pentecostal

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I'm originally from Birmingham, Alabama, and all my slang is really, really..."Fonk nut know," which means "I don't know if you don't know an answer. Like if someone asks you a question and you just go a dumb by say, "Fonk nut know," and it means, I didn't even much know about that."
152 Sandiego Reader May 22, 2008

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Free Classifieds!

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The University of California San Diego has a system regarding on-campus housing for returning sophomores. Toward the end of the spring quarter, all freshman students seeking on-campus housing for the following year are put into a lottery. Each student in the lottery is given a sign-up time—that's when it's your turn to sign up, and you must log on to the university's housing website and find an open room to live in, whether in the dorm or in an apartment home in the university. There were only two choices: a double that you share with a roommate or a single that you have on your own for $500 a quarter more.

Having had my own room for pretty much my whole life, including my freshman year, I desperately wanted to have one again. Then I was given a late sign-up time, and single rooms were scarce. Sign-ups started at 8 a.m.; my sign-up time was 11. I watched the clock tick down, and when it came time I logged on and frantically looked for a single bedroom in both the dorms and apartment homes. Nothing. I gave up and started looking for any room that was available. I found a room in an apartment home that was central on campus, so I chose it with little regard as to who would be my roommate. I got along with almost everyone I met during my freshman year, so I wasn't too worried. My roommate was named Stephen. He was in the same boat as I, also accustomed to having his own room. I called him to introduce myself and to determine who would provide what—TV, toaster oven, etc. Not two minutes into it he drops this gem: "Do you like Asian people?" There are more subtle ways to find out if a person is racist, but I was guessing that he liked the direct approach. I didn't know how to answer. Just say,

### Roommate From Hell

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“Yes”? Oh, maybe he was joking! So I said, “Sure, I fuck Asian girls all the time. They’re great!” I was soon to learn that Stephen was a devout Christian, and telling him that I hate all things Asian would have been a better response to him than what I did say.

As a devout Christian, Stephen didn’t drink or party — fine with me, but what was not fine with was the preaching. He assumed that since I partook in normal college activities such as drinking, partying, and premarital sex, that I was evil and godless. He would tell me when and why and how my activities would lead me on an express train to hell, and in return I would tell him to shut the P&H up.

He was dedicated to annoying me. Every time my girlfriend and I got out of town, Mr. Can’t Get A Clue always seemed to be there. I would tell him in advance that I was going to have a girl over — still he showed up. One time a girl and I had “already started,” and he came into the room without knocking, parked himself at his desk, and sat there.

Saturday was on the aspect of Christianity that Stephen did not seem to subscribe to it was this: “Cleanliness is next to Godliness.” This guy was dirty. On his side of the room, clothes all over the carpet. Dirty dishes would find a home only not in the sink but on the back of his desk.

Almost every time he cooked, he would prepare kimchi (“a traditional Korean fermented dish made of vegetables with varied seasonings,” as Wikipedia puts it), and he would not open a window. Then, just to make sure the smell would permeate, he would leave the kimchi he had made on the counter. The kitchen smelled like the back of a Korean restaurant for days. I used to like Korean food, but my palate for it is now killed.

The bathroom was not safe either. Somehow he managed to shed all over the shower and bathroom sink, and he would not clean it up. Every time I took a shower after him the tub looked as if someone had just shaved a black cat.

Stephen quickly claimed the top spot on my shit list. Then I found out that he was spoiled. I bought him a present that his parents lived in El Centro, and despite the fact that their son was 19 going on 20, his parents would make the two-hour trip every weekend to drop off food, do his laundry, fix up this side of the room, and then cook him a meal before heading back that same night. As an independent person working for and paying my own tuition, washing my own clothes, and living a nine-hour drive away from what I called home in order to live completely independently, this infuriated me.

I realize now that my distaste for him was mutual. He resented my girlfriend visiting or the fact that I talked to girls at all. He slept early, I slept late, and after the first month I made sure to make as much noise as possible before I went to bed. I would tend to not shut my alarm off when I went out of town, so every once in a while Stephen would get a blast of noise at seven in the morning on a Saturday. In our complex we only had one bathroom, and if someone was showering you had to wait until the person got out of the bathroom if you had to, you know, urinate. A couple of times when I was in the shower and I heard him outside the door, I made sure to shampoo three or four more times. June could not come fast enough for either of us.

After nine long months the school year was over, and finally Stephen and I moved out. Of course his parents came to clean every nook and cranny and to pack for him. Because he finished his exams three days earlier than I, he left while I was in the library studying, so we never said goodbye. Probably for the best.

Tell us the story of your roommate from hell and we will publish it and pay you ($100 for 500–2000 words).

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ITALIANS run late; they just do. In my nine months here, I have been trying to figure out if this is due to a relaxed nature — not living by appointments and Palm Pilots and the rigid schedules of the American lifestyle I am used to — or if, in fact, their perception of time is skewed. I would be prone to answer with the latter, although I may be on the verge of discovering a method to this seeming neglect for tempo.

'Take school, for example. At the University of Florence, I was given 15 minutes of leeway to be from 5 to 7 p.m., you have 15 minutes of leeway on either end of the class — the professor will arrive anywhere up to 15 minutes late and will dismiss class anytime within the last 15 minutes. This scheduled tardiness exists within the realm of school, but in other realms it is less regimented — waiters may take half an hour to bring you your check, a friend might show up 20 minutes late to an appointment without a word of excuse, and buses, trains, and planes have no real use for such things as schedules. It is not only quarters of hours here and there that Italians dismiss as unimportant but this lackadaisical nature bleeds into months and years. Their entire university system, for example, is based on modules of semesters that make up “three years” of study. You take approximately seven classes a year and then will have a month, sometimes two, to “study” before you take your exams between modules. It doesn’t take much imagination to understand what happens when a college student is given two months off of school to follow a self-regimented study plan: the result is that hardly anyone passes their first time around. But they then are able to continue taking the exam during every exam period during their time at university, which somehow seems to stretch mysteriously from three years to five, seven, sometimes more.

The Italian vocabulary is telling of this strange vortex of time. Bambini, or babies, are considered anywhere from newborn children to teenagers, while ragazza, or...
children, are mostly college-age students or anyone under 30. Looking at the maturation process of Italian culture, these terms seem intuitive; people live at home through their college years, don’t get married until their mid 30s, and hardly ever have children anymore, not only are they referred to by a younger-sounding word, they just are younger. I came to Italy as a 20-year-old, self-sufficient, American college student. I live in my own apartment, hold down a job, and am considered an adult in most areas of life. The moment I arrived in Italy, I was immediately struck by the tendency for baristas or shopkeepers to refer to me as a bambina. “Who are they kidding?” I would think, offended to not be referred to formally as an adult. But as time has passed, I have begun to internalize the Italian culture and clock, realizing that their perceptions of me may not be so wrong—they just reflect a different set of priorities.

Earlier in the year we had an appointment with the police chief to get fingerprinted and registered as foreigners living in Italy for our visas. We arrived to the appointment over a half hour late and were then told to wait another 15 minutes for their. To be ready, or for us. On the other hand, I went to my second Florentine soccer game today and left my house at noon to make it to the three o’clock match hours early with the rest of the Florentine population in order to ensure good seats. Most people don’t marry until much later in life, but the common term to use instead of boyfriend or girlfriend to refer to your significant other is fidanzato, or fiancé. Apparently, an Italian’s love, like soccer, is serious enough to spend up time for. Certain things are worthy of their time; others aren’t. Time to them is a precious thing, not to be wasted in sitting in line at the police station, but to be spending your heart team on to victory during their family’s “fancie” that they meet you two weeks. The Italian retardation of time applies not only to everyday living but to the entire life process, which may make me a bambina for a while longer, but it also seems to draw out adulthood and old age into something that is lasting, something to look forward to as a phase of life instead of the end of all. Just walk into any café in Florence and count the number of people over the age of 70 who aren’t locked away in nursing homes or shunned out of society; they’re still actively discussing politics with their waiters, taking afternoon walks around the city, and enjoying an evening glass of wine and aperitif before heading home for a 9 p.m. dinner.

It may be nice to get a coffee in under five minutes and have an appointment with a teacher who actually shows up on time when I make it back to America, but for now, I’ll enjoy my newfound 21-year-old infancy and hope the rest can last just as long.

ayearinflorence.blogspot.com

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A P P L I A N C E S

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CONVERSATION BETWEEN GARFIELD AND SEINFELD

Seinfeld: Hey, Garfield. Looks like you’re having a tough weekend. Didn’t know you liked the sauce so much.

Garfield: You couldn’t put that together? I love lasagna, kicking a dog, watching TV, and coffee. Really, you didn’t think I pulled a corn now and then? Wow.

Seinfeld: Why, you little orange son of a…

Garfield: Don’t go blue now, Jerry. After 40 years of having exactly nothing to say, I’d hate you for all of a sudden becoming interesting.

Seinfeld: You’re one to talk. You were conceived as a marketing ploy to separate cat owners from their paychecks.

Garfield: We’ve been imprisoned. You go to the Italian place. You go to the fence to sing. You visit your girlfriend at her house.

Garfield: Have you ever been a pet?

Seinfeld: I’ve been kept by a couple very nice ladies, if you know what I mean. Huh? Huh?

Garfield: I mean have you ever been ENSLAVED AS A PET?!

Seinfeld: I was under contract with NBC.

Garfield: So was I. It’s not the same thing.

Seinfeld: Well, I did it for the money. You’ve got to be sitting on stacks of cash. I mean, you’ve been the face of pop—

Garfield: Keep me in Porsches for a while, but those potatoes are comparatively tiny. If I had your money, I’d burn mine.

Seinfeld: Have you ever been a pet?

Garfield: No, I was conceived in a prison’s conjugal-visit trailer. What’s your point?

Seinfeld: Should you be drinking scotch at 10 a.m. on a Thursday morning?

Garfield: You’re one to talk. You were conceived as a marketing ploy to separate cat owners from their paychecks.

Seinfeld: That’s America, baby. That’s entertainment.

Garfield: Easy there, Bukowski.

Seinfeld: Well, I did it for the money. You’ve got to be sitting on stacks of cash. I mean, you’ve been the face of pop—

THE SEMI-BIANNIAL COMMERCIAL ISSUE!

CAR COMMERCIAL FEATURING WOMEN SOCCER PLAYERS DRIVING TO BRAZIL FOR A REMATCH.

What they’re trying to say: This car is for sporty adventurous people!

What the commercial really says: If you’re dumb enough to watch women’s soccer, then you’re dumb enough to buy two SUVs and burn four dollars-per-gallon fuel to drive to Brazil.

KFC COMMERCIAL FEATURING COLLEGE KIDS EATING DOLLAR FOOD.

What they’re trying to say: This sandwich isn’t fit for consumption unless you are beer-addled and already diarrheic.

What the commercial really says: This sandwich isn’t fit for consumption unless you are beer-addled and already diarrheic.

MIKE’S HARD LEMONADE COMMERCIAL FEATURING LARGE MEN IN A WAREHOUSE.

What they’re trying to say: We’re not just for chicks and gay men!

What the commercial really says: There’s no combination of ingredients that’ll drive up jeans size and pack on the man boogie just like the concoction of sugar and alcohol.

VOLKSWAGEN COMMERCIAL IN WHICH A BLACK MAN BLOWS THE ALARM OF A VOLKSWAGEN TO WARN OFF OTHER POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS.

What they’re trying to say: We’re not just for white people and Asians!

What the commercial really says: Volkswagen owners, regardless of race or affluence, are irritating. Like people who put an Apple sticker on everything to show that they’re Mac users or people who do yoga at the airport. Oh, pack it in, you arrogant yuppie. Go get me a cinnamon bun and a coffee and I’ll make your [sister, girlfriend, wife, student] watch while I cram your stretchy sweat pants down your tubo hole.
PEDENIUK COMMERCIAL WHERE A YOUNG GIRL IN A GROCERY BASKET TELLS HER MOTHER "I DON'T LIKE CHICKEN! I DON'T LIKE BROCCOLI!"

What they're trying to say: Even picky kids like our product!

What the commercial really says: Bill O'Reilly is right. First, gay marriage, then total interspecies anarchy at the wedding altar.

**ELECTRIC SCISSORS AD.**

What they're trying to say: Cutting paper is hard! Try our product.

What the commercial should say: If you can cut newsprint without the aid of electric motors, perhaps the next product you should purchase is medicine. Don't call the number on the screen for dynamic scissors, seek medicine. Alert a neighbor by flopping out your front door and army-crawling across the lawn. If no one notices you, eat a begonia. Send a nearby dog to find help—anything—do anything except buy these scissors.

**CREDIT CARD AD WHERE A YOUNG WOMAN GOES TO GREAT LENGTHS TO REFRESH HER LIVING ROOM, BUT...**

"SOMETHING ISN'T QUITE RIGHT," SHE THINKS. THEN SHE YANKS HER HUSBAND OFF THE COUCH AND—"WHY THE MONEY I GOT BACK FROM THE BLAH BLAH BLAH CREDIT CARD, I REDECORATED MY HUSBAND!

What the guy in the commercial really says: You'd think a lesbian would be more interesting. But no.

**DIAMOND JEWELER AD WHERE THE GIRLFRIEND OF THE BETROTHED BRAGS ABOUT THE NAME BRAND OF THE ENGAGEMENT RING.**

What they're trying to say: Our diamond rings are so superior, women know them by name.

What the commercial really says: Kid, look at this as an investment. It's an expensive diamond, but when you get divorced from saddlesbags there, you've got a good shot at getting into the shorts of her three gold-digger friends. Pop. Done.

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Here’s a small sample to get your motor running!
“They were strict vegetarians, even shunning eggs, and throwing away any food that the shadow of an Englishman had crossed.” This is a quote from the Wikipedia entry for J. Krishnamurti, describing the man’s family. The son of an administrator for the British Raj, Idulru Krishnamurti was my second introduction to Eastern Philosophy — really, the third. The first was Mr. Brockway at Graylake School in Illinois who presented The Way of Zen, by Alan Watts, to our Eastern Civilization class sophomore year. My gurus in that area would then be primarily and more accurately: Brockway, Watts, and then Krishnamurti. Friday, May 23, at San Diego State University, on the first floor of the library addition, an exhibit, “The Mind of Krishnamurti,” will close. I became familiar with his books when I was living in Santa Barbara in the early ’70s, playing in a rock band, reading Carlos Castaneda and Herman Hesse. Krishnamurti lived nearby in Ojai (not far from the Boot and Sadle Country & Western Bar, where I was playing at the time), though I never had occasion to meet him. Born May 12, 1895, as the long day waned on the British in India, he became a young adult, “...a popular writer and speaker on philosophical and spiritual subjects. His subject matter included (but was not limited to): the purpose of meditation, human relationships, and how to enact positive change in global society. At the age of 34, he publicly renounced the fame and messiah status he had gained from being proclaimed the new incarnation of the Maitreya Buddha by the Theosophical Society, and spent the rest of his life meeting people from all walks of life and holding public talks, mostly in South Asia, Europe, and the United States. At age 90 he addressed the United Nations on the subject of peace and awareness, and was awarded the 1984 UN Peace Medal.”

In 1973, while I was playing Buck Owens tunes in Oxnard, with a paper-back copy of The Confessions of a Bachelor as well as Krishnamurti’s Notebooks in my guitar case, I already knew about theosophy and Madame Blavatsky and considered them crackpots, unlike myself. I was, after all, a sober (well, not technically) and considered seeker of spiritual truths, Magus in Theory and Practice, enlightened by the inspire of the (inescapable) Tibetan Book of the Dead had to offer, and good deals on lidos of marijuana. I had pretty much closed the door on what I considered the most well-thought-out religion in history, Catholicism. I read Tao Te Ching in about a day, employed the I Ching to plot my oddly unsellable science fiction stories, dabbed occasionally in a bit of tarot consulting with my girlfriend, and had memorized entire quotes from Gautama Buddha. “A man could be born a Mind leper in a ring of fire and know only Nirvana.” So in so it was I was glad J. Krishnamurti had dissociated himself from those theosophy nuts. Apparently they are still doing well right here in Point Loma and, for all I know, they are far less nutty than myself.

Thirty-six years later, I had lost my desire to read this story online, which I had read elsewhere in one of his books. Possibly The First and Last Freedom or The Mind of Krishnamurti, which actually is about him, not by him, though I am unsure. Wikipedia retrieves it for me.

“...you may remember the story of how the devil and a friend of his were walking down the street. When they came to a man, the devil pointed at him and said, ‘What did that man pick up?’ The friend said to the devil, ‘What did that man pick up?’ ‘He picked up a piece of the truth,’ said the devil. ‘That is a very bad business for you, sir,’ said his friend. ‘I don’t think you’ll gain anything by it,’ the devil replied. ‘I am going to try to organize it. I maintain that truth is a pathless land, and you cannot approach it by any path whatsoever, by any religion, by any sect. That is my point of view, and I adhere to that absolutely and unconditionally. Truth, being limitless, unconditioned, unapproachable by any path whatsoever, cannot be organized; nor should any organization be formed to lead or coerce people along a particular path.’

“I may be either able or unwilling to believe Krishnamurti for much of my attitude at this age, toward truth. It was after reading him, after all, when he made a complimentary reference to the works of Nietzsche, that I began reading that German philosopher and found myself inexplicably creeped out. On the other hand, it wasn’t long before I found Schopenhauer, another German (and cynic), whom I found myself nodding sagely along with as I read his depressive ramblings, eloquent as they were. In other words, it may be more or less thanks to J. Krishnamurti that I have become something like Pilate, who once asked, ‘What is truth?’ and did not stay for an answer.”

When the Indian-bolted reluctant guru closed out his (sort of) Order of the Star, he made a speech, from which this is an excerpt: “This is no magnificent deed, because I do not want followers, and I mean this. The moment you become a disciple of me, you lose all your freedom, all your capacities. You are nothing but a part of the community. It’s not a difficult thing to become a disciple of me: don’t use my name, don’t use my ideas, don’t use my life.”

“...and my knowledge is that you are doing extremely well in your work; I am aware, and was awarded the 1984 UN Peace Medal. The job is a challenging one, and I know that you are doing it with unwavering concentration.”

By John Brizzolara