Grace Carroll is the kind of girl you’d trust for a scoop on the San Diego scene. She’s pretty, blonde, smart. She tends bar in one of La Jolla’s hottest restaurants, where the clientele isn’t much older than the twentysomething chef, who may have been the first here to foist celery foam on culinary early-adopters.

“I can’t believe you haven’t been.” Carroll’s voice lowers to conspiracy level as she pours our drinks. “The space is totally amazing. Sometimes I go just to hang out.”

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The new deadline for the puzzle to arrive at the Reader office by mail, fax, or hand delivery (we have a mail slot in our front door) is Monday at 7 am.
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**BREAKING NEWS**

**Big Blues**

It’s been a very good San Diego election cycle for Linden Blue, proprietor with his brother Neal of General Atomics, the La Jolla defense contractor responsible for the Predator unmanned aerial vehicle and other nifty implements of 21st-century warfare. A loyal member of the GOP, Blue backed the successful reelection bid of San Diego mayor Jerry Sanders, as well as the entire Republican slate for city council and city attorney. Why Blue — who gives huge sums to congressional campaigns — is so interested in local politics has been a mystery, since his main customer at General Atomics is the federal government. Maybe the fact that he dates Ronnie Froman, the ex–rear admiral and former top aide to Sanders, has something to do with it. In any case, neither he nor Neal seems to have real estate interests here, aside from their big GA campus on Torrey Pines Mesa.

But it’s another story in the high-end Colorado ski town of Telluride, where the brothers, originally from Denver, own 572 acres on the so-called Valley Floor, between the main highway, 145, and the San Miguel River. The property, pristine meadowland that clings to soaring mountains at the end of the valley, is just outside town limits. The Blues bought the land in 1983 and sought to build a hotel, golf course, 22 houses — each at least 8000 square feet — and a shopping mall there. The mammoth proposal set off a decades-long fight with townpeople.

In 1993, Telluride voters approved creating an open-space fund to buy the property, and in 2002, the electorate voted to condemn the land. Two years ago, the town rejected a settlement to preserve 90 percent of the property in exchange for letting the Blues develop the rest. In the meantime, the Republican state legislature, friendly to the Blues, passed a law that barred “home rule” towns such as Telluride from condemning property outside their limits for open space. Using that statute, the Blues took Telluride to court, but a state appeals panel subsequently ruled that the law was unconstitutional. The Blues appealed, and last week the Colorado Supreme Court issued the presumably final word: voting 6-1, justices said the town could take the property.

The Blues declined to talk to reporters, but if the brothers were piqued by the court’s decision, they could take solace from the fact that they will be picking up a check for $50 million once the condemnation classes. Only $25 million is coming from the town. The rest will be paid by a wealthy group of neighbors called Friends of Telluride. Actress Daryl Hannah is a member.

**Fly like an Egyptian**

La Jolla’s Blue brothers aren’t the only locals in the business of making unmanned aerial vehicles. In fact, San Diego is such a hub of UAV development that last week it hosted the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International’s “Unmanned Systems North America 2008” conference. And one visiting journalist pulled a bit of the curtain from the traditionally stealthy business of automated war making. “Taking a pre-AUVSI-show tour through Northrop Grumman’s UAV lab in Rancho Bernardo, California, we come across what looks like a stealthy cruise missile with ‘Allah is Great’ stenciled on the nose.” Wait, what? wrote Aviation Week’s Bill Sweetman. “It’s actually a Model 324 Scarab reconnaissance UAV, a unique truck-mobile, jet-powered system that Teledyne Ryan designed back in the 1980s for Egypt, which still uses them and periodically returns them to California for maintenance and upgrades.”

**Updates**

Former Union-Tribune enterprise reporting editor Susan White has departed the paper and is now in New York working as an editor for a new foundation-funded website that debuted last week, promising to deliver in-depth reporting of the national scene. Dubbed ProPublica.org, the operation boasts “the largest news staff in American journalism devoted solely to investigative reporting, with roughly 25 fulltime reporters and editors.”

Another recent San Diego addition to ProPublica’s talent bank: Joaquin Sapien, an ex-writer for the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Public Integrity who earlier this year landed briefly here as biotech correspondent for Voice of San Diego nonprofit news site. … The financial disclosure statement of presumptive GOP presidential nominee John McCain values “Residential Property, La Jolla, CA,” owned by the senator and wife Cindy, at greater than $1 million. No other details are provided.

— Matt Potter

The Reader offers $25 for news tips published in this column. Call our voice mail at 619-235-3000, ext. 440, or fax your tip to 619-231-0489.

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**Greed, Gambling Society**

By Don Bauder

From superior product engineering to reckless financial engineering: that’s how America has declined from a society that makes goods to one that shuffles money around — obsessively gambling with excessive debt. This is the gist of two new books that have recently been on the New York Times best-seller list: Bad Money: Reckless Finance, Failed Politics, and the Global Crisis of American Capitalism, by Kevin Phillips, and The Trillion Dollar Meltdown: Easy Money, High Rollers, and the Great Credit Crash, by Charles R. Morris.

Since last fall, the federal government and Federal Reserve have thrown hundreds of billions of dollars at the U.S. economy and the credit markets, largely to bail out financial institutions that are too deeply in debt. These two books will help you understand where your tax money is going and why you are suffering from an anemic dollar and high inflation.

I asked four San Diego market pros about the books’ gloomy conclusions and got some interesting opinions. They agree the authors make good points but disagree with some of the findings.

Phillips points out that in the last 30 years, the percentage of the U.S. economy devoted to finance has doubled to 20, while the percentage devoted to manufacturing has halved to 13. We now have “Wall Street socialism,” he says. The money changers say continue gambling with borrowed money. If it stumbles, taxpayers will pick up the tab.

The Federal Reserve even has a Plunge Protection Team that arranges an artificial manipulation of stocks when they tumble hard, according to Phillips. Also, the government understates the inflation rate; this permits the Federal Reserve to print money.

---

**Neal Obermeyer**

They love free markets, but actually, corporate giants, including those on Wall Street, work hand in glove with the federal government in a mercantilist arrangement to avoid the discipline of truly free markets. The Federal Reserve was bailing out Bear Stearns customers — other Wall Street firms — when it put up $29 billion so JPMorgan Chase couldn’t buy Bear hurriedly before Asian stock markets opened. Stocks have risen moderately since that March caper. Of course they have: the Federal Reserve has told Wall Street to
Giovanni Cornejo had his head under the hood of a car when he first heard the commotion. He looked up and saw a woman at the Shell station across the street trying to hold a man upright.

“I heard a frantic screaming,” he says.

The guy was falling down. She was trying to hold him up on his feet.” At first Cornejo thought it was a prank, especially since no one at the busy station was helping the frantic woman. She ran toward people pumping gas. She “sounded angry” as she yelled for help, Cornejo says.

Cornejo called to his fiancée, Céline Weiler, who was inside the office of his used-car lot. Weiler came outside. The man had slumped to the ground, and the woman was slapping his face. Cornejo still judged the situation to be a prank, or maybe the man was drunk or had had a seizure.

But Weiler says she saw “both eyes rolled back in his head,” and she could hear gurgling sounds, as though he couldn’t breathe. “I was pretty sure he didn’t have much life left in him. There wasn’t much of a pulse at all when I got there.”

People began to come over, and the women asked for help. No one replied. No one helped. “She was trying to give him mouth-to-mouth,” says Weiler. “But I could hear the blood gurgling.” One of the bystanders suggested putting the victim onto his side to clear his air passages. The two women rolled him over, and that was when all the blood came out of his mouth,” Weiler says. “He was pretty much drowning in his own blood.”

Then a female store clerk walked over, saying she had called 911.

The San Diego County Sheriff’s Department crime report states the call came in on May 14, 2008, a Wednesday afternoon, at 17:17:00 (5:17 p.m.); the reporting deputy was Ray Abdou. The stabbing victim is listed as William Baker Jr. Records show his home address as Olive Avenue, only three streets from the stabbing scene.

Sheriff’s deputy Sergeant David Martinez says that employees of the Shell station at 936 East Mission Road in Fallbrook made the 911 call, responding to “independent witnesses doing business at the store, who went inside to report the stabbing,” which apparently happened in the driveway area of the gasoline station.

Inside the station’s convenience store, customers and counter personnel can view at least nine screens showing live video surveillance of the property. However, the assault occurred during a busy time at this refueling spot on the main thoroughfare of downtown Fallbrook.

Employees of the Shell station declined to comment for this story.

Sergeant Martinez estimated that the patrol car carrying Deputy Mayne arrived at the scene within “a couple minutes” after police received the call. The backup car carrying Deputies Abdou and Crowley arrived shortly thereafter.

“I would estimate maybe about eight minutes a patrol car came up,” Weiler says, adding that time moved slowly. She says the patrol car “came quickly,” tires screeching. The officer jumped from the vehicle, immediately went to his trunk, and put on gloves. Weiler says the deputy knelt down, checked vital signs, and took over applying CPR. He asked Weiler “to stay to answer some questions.”

The public information officer for the North County Fire Protection District, John Buchanan, says the Fallbrook fire station got the dispatch call at the same time the police did, and paramedics were dispatched.

The victim was pronounced dead at 3:35 p.m. Buchanan, says his records show the victim suffered one stab wound, two inches off center, to the left side of the chest.

Sergeant Martinez says that witnesses at the Shell station, including the victim’s girlfriend, described a man and a woman fleeing the scene in a gray Honda Civic. One witness was able to provide a partial license plate number to deputies, who broadcasted a BOLO, “be on the lookout,” to all deputies in the area.

Buchanan says his records show a male suspect wearing a gray T-shirt lying next to the man, wadded it up, and applied pressure to his blood-soaked chest.

Cornejo called to his fiancée, Céline Weiler, who was in shock. Weiler asked, “Who?” The woman replied, “It was a guy and his girlfriend in a gray Honda Civic.” Weiler says, “To me, the impression I got, they were strangers.”

In these early moments, law enforcement suspected the situation was a botched car-jacking. Sergeant Martinez says, “There were conflicting reports at first, he says, as to whether the attacker and victim knew each other.

Sheriff’s deputy Peter Alvarado and his canine partner Quandro were in a marked cruiser on Highway 76, south of Fallbrook, when Alvarado saw a gray Honda Civic. He turned on his red lights and sirens, but the Honda failed to stop. The pursuit made for a strange chase on the clogged single-lane road, with the fleeing suspects, a female driver and a male on the passenger side, traveling south on Oceanisde. After crossing into the city of Oceanisde, the car pulled over; then the male suspect fled on foot.

Sergeant Martinez describes the male suspect as white, with tattoos and shaved blond hair. He says that Quandro “made contact with the suspect, and the deputy apprehended him. The female suspect was detained when backup units arrived.”

Carmina Bunnell, the alleged driver of the getaway vehicle, was questioned by authorities, but she was found to be “very cooperative,” according to Sergeant Martinez, and was later released.

Travis Sean Hopkins was arrested and held on charges of murder in the first degree and robbery. It is alleged that he robbed William Baker Jr. of his backpack, stabbed him, then fled the scene.

Hopkins, born April 26, 1983, has a court record. Current court documents regarding Hopkins refer to “juvenile adjudications.”

The first adult convictions appear in the public record in December 2001, when Hopkins was 18 years old; these are continued on page 11.
CITY LIGHTS

Greed, gambling
continued from page 6

at a prodigious pace, thus propping up stocks. Phillips notes that some call former Fed chairman Alan Greenspan a “serial bubbler” — when the stock market bubble burst in 2000–2002, Greenspan lowered short-term interest rates to 1 percent to get a housing bubble going. Now Ben Bernanke has pushed short-term rates down to 2 percent. Look out for another bubble.

In the mid-1980s, public and private debt was 135 percent of the total economy. Now it’s a record 335 percent. The major villains are bewilderingly complex derivatives — all $500 trillion-plus of them sloshing around the world. The derivatives are essentially unregulated — in fact, many go unrecorded. Indeed, the reckless financial engineer-

ing is based on the University of Chicago/Austrian School belief that government regulation inhibits the economy. In the 1980s, that laissez-faire mentality took over from the Keynesian, pro-oversight approach that had been dominant since the 1930s.

Morris believes the Chicago/Austrian School is in its last throes among economists; even financial executives are calling for deregulation. (When their own money is at stake, they want to know where it is.) Wall Street’s obsession with exotic mathematicized instruments is at the root of the turmoil. These derivatives could implode. Like Phillips, Morris keeps contumaciously on Greenspan’s attempts to prop up the stock market, the excessive money and credit creation since the mid-1980s, and the wealth and income imbalance (for example, the richest 1 percent control 51 percent of the money in the stock market).

“They’ve had their day and we’re phasing them out,” says Bernanke. “The economy will grow more slowly. There is less cash flow to service that debt.”

The Chicago/Austrian free market approach may be sinking for now, says Bob Snigaroff, president and chief investment officer of Denali Advisors, money managers.

“Somebody said that we are all Chicago School on the way up and Keynesians on the way down,” says Snigaroff. “We all get exuberant when times are good, and there is a tendency for institutions and individuals to stretch the limit. Then we do need the occasional recession to keep everybody honest. That is the period we are in now.”

Arthur Lipper III of Del Mar, a veteran of Wall Street and international investing, is a believer in the free market. If there is such a thing as a Plunge Protection Team, it only works on the short term. “Any government meddling is distorting and frequently only postpones the natural direction of the markets,” says Lipper.

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**Greed, gambling** continued from page 7

But it’s a question of timing. These are bear arguments now, but they are bear arguments too soon.

**Never in Fallbrook**

listed as California Penal Codes 245(a)(1), assault with a deadly weapon likely to produce great bodily injury, and 11927(c)(8), indicating that the assault conviction would count on Hopkins’s record as a strike under the Three Strikes law.

In November 2003, Hopkins was arrested and charged with possessing and being under the influence of heroin. He pled guilty to one charge of possession, a felony. Probation was granted on January 23, 2004. Five months later, on June 29, 2004, probation was revoked due to violation of the conditions of probation, and a bench warrant was issued.

The superior court in Vista also has files with the name of the victim, William Baker Jr. These date back to 2004. Baker’s most recent legal troubles are listed in a felony complaint filed on September 7, 2006, when Baker was charged with possessing heroin, a hypodermic needle and syringe, with possessing and being under the influence of heroin.

Upon his arrest, Hopkins appeared taller and heavier in court than the five feet eleven inches and 160 pounds that sheriff’s records give as his description.

On May 29, at a readiness hearing, Hopkins appeared more contrite and humble.

When deputies brought him into the courtroom, dressed in a bright orange jail jumpsuit and shackled at the waist and wrists, he made a kiss toward three people who described themselves as “friends and family.”

“IT’s really, really sad that something like that would happen in Fallbrook,” says Celine Weiler, the Good Samaritan. “It’s really a peaceful place. It’s really a family-oriented community.”

It’s ten days after the stabbing. Weiler is sitting in the modest office of her fiancé’s car lot. Heavy gray storm clouds move in over us, unusually threatening.

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LETTERS

We welcome letters pertaining to the contents of the Reader. Phone them in at 619-235-3000, ext. 466, address them to Letters to the Editor, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803; fax them to 619-251-0489; or use our web page at SDReader.com/letters. Include your name, address, and telephone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Where Was Mom?

I just had a comment about that article about Jadean, the girl that got killed in the car accident (“There’s Been an Accident,” Cover Story, June 5). It really pisses me off about parents these days who don’t accept responsibility for their own actions. Yeah, that kid who’s 26 had no business screwing around with 15-, 16-year-old girls. He’s pretty sick. But the mother, if she was a little bit more involved in her daughter’s life, actively, as she was once she was killed, maybe she would have never been with that 26-year-old boy to begin with. But instead, she was drunk at some other woman’s house instead of being with her kid and getting into her kid’s business, like taking the journal and reading it. Should have been more involved. You know, the truth.

Josh

No Punched Ticket


The driver for many of the anti-military, anti-JROTC people is that they didn’t get their ticket punched in the U.S. military!

Gerald Dobbs
San Diego

Just Like The Rape Of The Northwest

Responding to the May 29 Reader article on the Sunrise Powerlink proposal (“Will These Keep the Lights On?”), I’ll never forget the destruction of the natural world that I witnessed as a Forest Service employee during the timber-harvesting era in the Pacific Northwest.

Retired now, in the San Diego backcountry, I oppose the Powerlink proposal, one reason being that clear-cutting will be difficult to avoid where oak woodland obstructs the route. Then road building: there will be maintenance roads, and not a few.

David Hogan’s comment in the article, “Sunrise would require the cutting of probably thousands of mature oak trees,” is no exaggeration. At the PUC hearing in Borrego Springs on May 12, Powerlink supporters wore green, showing a lack of education concerning what will be involved in building a power line of this size. They are misguided, unaware of the extent of the damage implied by such a proposal.

Wreaking such havoc would negate any benefits derived from future renewable sites in the desert.

Standing below one of the backcountry slopes slated for a possible corridor, I remembered the Northwest and recalled the sadness, a sadness which many of us experienced: a sadness these “green” people at Monday’s hearing know nothing about, and neither does the governor, whose background is acting, not that of someone who worked where entire forests had been removed from the face of the earth — myself.

Greg Coursen
Wynola Springs

Comments from Reader Website

Comments are not edited for spelling, punctuation, or grammar.

Cover Story

Published June 11

Posted by AHester on June 13, 8:10 a.m.

What an awesome write-up!

Allen Fisher is truly an inspiration to everyone, not just the newbies. He leads with his heart and what he knew of her daughter’s death. What? Why didn’t the police investigate any of this? Why was a 26 yr old man not responsible for a minor taking off her seat belt? Why Joe Blow citizen gets pulled over, we are responsible and nobody has died in those situations. I also have a problem with the local Ramona law enforcement’s desire to protect Doug Garcia. Why do cops always seem to only believe the first story and not the whole story? Is Doug Garcia’s family a big deal in Ramona? Why did law enforcement look the other way on all of the stories of underage girls he had dated? Dude, not only do you have a possible manslaughter charge go unpunished, but the possible possession of controlled substances AND statutory rape charges. Sounds to me like typical Ramona “Towny” b.s.

Furthermore, the icing on the cake is when Mr. Garcia pays someone to serve the restraining order on the anniversary of Staci’s daughter’s death. What? Dude, Doug Garcia, do you know what Karma is? That’s the most horrible thing I have ever heard of.

Cover Story

Published May 28

Posted by paul on May 28, 2:13 p.m.

consider the testimony of Barry Butler, a PhD expert in Stirling solar tech.

continued on page 68
Who are you spending your Friday nights with?

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Lisa Purdum
Marilyn Grove
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San Diego Reader
June 19, 2008

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You might need eight solid every night, but not an albatross. They’re Xtremes of the bird world in many ways. Snoozing is one of them. But so is flying, size, reproduction, and on and on. They don’t “sleep” on the wing, but traveling thousands of miles or several days without rest; for all we know they are out very much, so sleep isn’t an urgent necessity. Unlike all other birds (except the swift), the albatross is designed for soaring — gliding — without any effort on the bird’s part. Scientific studies have shown that a soaring albatross has about the same heart rate as a resting albatross.

So how does an albatross motivate if it doesn’t flap its wings? It relies on its extreme sensitivity to air currents coming off ocean waves and other sea-level currents. They are such efficient soaring that they can take maximum advantage of air-current energy. For instance, they gain altitude from certain updrafts that come from the front of a wave. Once aloft, they have a 22:1 glide ratio; the bird moves forward 22 feet for every foot of altitude lost.

So when does an albatross sleep? When it’s not at its nesting site, it naps while resting on the water. At least that’s science’s best guess. They long thought the birds must sleep on the wing, since they’re aloft for so many hours. There’s a school of thought that thinks an albatross sleeps the same way dolphins do, one brain hemisphere at a time, always keeping part of the brain alert for danger. The jury’s still out, but it’s 11 to 1 in favor of the sleep-on-the-water theory.

They have plenty of time to sleep when they’re at the nesting site. At best, they lay one egg once a year. More likely every two or three years. (The eggs weigh anywhere from 1 to 22 pounds, depending on species.) Parents incubate it for about two months. The chicks mature slowly and spend years at the nesting site. They might not reproduce until they’re preteeners or even teenagers. No surprise, with such a low reproduction rate, albatrosses are threatened. They can’t overcome the problem of overfishing, which has reduced their food supply; floating ocean trash; fishing nets; and other man-made things.

Matthew Alice:
What can I get if I eat my own boogers? Not somebody else’s. My mother said I can get sick from it.

— Joshua, via email

Hi, Joshua. Most doctors, including our own staff quack, Dr. Doctor, would say Mom’s right on. Boogers are made up of germs and bacteria that your nose hairs and nose goo have filtered out of the air, so if you swallow them, you run the risk of illness. After all, the whole idea of boogers is to keep bad stuff out of your body. Most snout-encrusted nose bugs are dead, but some might still be living.

There is one infamous doctor in Austria who thinks outside the booger box. He sees nose goo as a potential vaccine against diseases. He claims we’d all be healthier and happier if we spent more hours digging away than eating what we come up with. Sez the doc, expose our bodies to the germs and we’ll develop an immunity to the diseases. He doesn’t have a large professional following. But he does have all the earmarks of a mythical figure, batted from blog to blog around the Internet as a real doctor, when it might be a made-up story, for all we can tell.

Either way, eating boogers carries some risk. You actually are in most danger from too-enthusiastic nasal excavation. It’s very possible for you to break the skin inside your nose and introduce infection from your germy hands. Infections in the nasal area are one of the most likely to spread to the brain.

Grandma demands equal time here. She’s our etiquette master, and she says what your mother is really saying is, “Stop picking your nose! It’s a disgusting habit that no one should do in public, and I don’t want the neighbors thinking that I let you do that. I’ll be humiliated!” So maybe you should do what King Tut did. The ancient Egyptian was so pampered, he had on his staff a personal nose picker. At least that’s what the archaeologists say.
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San Diego Reader
June 19, 2008

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Sui Generis

Greg Budney is curator at Macaulay Library of Natural Sounds (Cornell University).

Among birders, this is authentic fame, as good as it gets. He’s been working at the library since 1980. Budney’s job is like no other — flying to Hawaii to record the last two alaka (Hawaiian crow) living in the wild. The landowner gave him one day to work. And then the recording expedition to South America and so on, 28 years of it.

Budney, 51, is married and has one young son. He stands under six feet, has a wrestler’s build, clean-shaven, and blond hair. I ask about his gear.

“Mostly digital gear, these days,” Budney says. “It’s lighter. Longer run times. You’re not constrained by the length of the media. You can get a card that holds eight hours. There’s no more running out of tape. Microphones are pretty much the same, although some techniques have changed. New types of stereo.”

I ask, “How about range? Can you record farther away from the bird?”

Budney says, “The same distance. The trick is knowing how to operate your equipment. And it depends on what you’re trying to record, how loud the sound is, and what the environment is like. One of the reasons we go to a place like this [Yuba Pass, Sierra County] is that it’s relatively quiet. Not all that quiet, but relatively quiet. If you stand outside with a pair of headphones on and listen through a microphone, you’re going to hear none, everywhere.”

“I’ve noticed, on your website [bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna], there are birds pictured with no sounds attached.”

“Some of the sounds we’re after on North American birds aren’t sounds one commonly hears,” Budney says. “You might hear it once every few years. If you’re well prepared and conditions are right, you’ll stand a better chance of getting it.”

Make your luck. “Say, you figure this bird is going to wait. Right now, we have a team up in the Canadian Arctic working on a species that is poorly represented. You can imagine not that many people go to the Arctic to record.”

“You need bird sounds of every male, female, juvenile, mating, calling, alarm…”

“Right,” Budney says. “Adult, juvenile contact calls. There are some vocalizations given by adults, but you don’t hear them often. Some species aren’t that numerous. Last year, we made the first recordings for the archive of the gray-headed chickadee. It’s a species that’s also found in Siberia. I believe there is one other recording by a Canadian recordist. Now, we have some excellent stereophonic gray-headed chickadee. That was an endeavor. There are only one or two good locations in Alaska to record this.”

I want his job. “How many places in the world do you do?”

“There are not many places devoted to recording and archiving bird sounds. Of our scale, there is really only one other archive in the world. We have 175,000 individual specimens, individual birds or flocks of birds. And the closest collection, I believe, is the British Library’s wildlife section.”

“How big?”

“About 150,000 recordings.”

“It must get lonely when you want to stop by the neighborhood pub and talk shop?”

“That’s one of the great things about doing a course like this. [Once a year Budney teaches a natural-sound recording course in Sierra County, California. People fly in from all over the world.] We’ve run this course for 19 years. The camaraderie is one of the outstanding things. We get people up at five in the morning, we’re putting equipment in the vehicle, and, ten after five, every day, we’re driving off.”

Budney usually has 20 students in his course. There is a “Ugandan fellow, a British fellow working on rock and tree hyraxes, which are a relative of the elephant, very interesting small mammals that have great vocalizations. The Israeli institutes have sent us a dozen or so. New Zealand has sent five students.”

“Time to go. “What do you do for fun?”

“Bird reporting.” We laugh. “One of the most exciting things about doing this is the intimate experiences you have with wildlife. You engage in a very intimate way with a particular individual and their behavior. You really delve into that animal’s life. The nighthawk comes booming in. You see it interact with another bird. You see it land on a tree. You’re trying to get that recording and it’s being harassed by a Steeler’s joy, and it just goes on and on and on. That’s what makes this so much fun. You have to use great field craft. You have to be stealthy.”

“We have some excellent stereophonic gray-headed chickadee.”

The Vegas Line can be found at SDRreader.com Under “Stories” in menu bar, click on “Sporting Box.”

SportingBox

By Patrick Daugherty

Under “Stories” in menu bar, click on “Sporting Box.”

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“We have some excellent stereophonic gray-headed chickadee.”

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Sermon content .................. delivery ..................
Liturgy .............................. Music congr 10 generation of the Devil...
Snacks .............................. Architecture ..................
Friendliness ......................

Bayview Baptist Church
Encanto

SHEEP AND GOATS
PLACES OF WORSHIP REVIEWED

DENOMINATION: National Baptist
Address: 6134 Benson Avenue, Encanto, 619-265-9463
Founded: December 1963
Senior pastor: Timothy J. Winters
Congregation size: 2500
Staff size: about 50
Sunday school enrollment: about 200
Annual budget: n/a
Weekly giving: n/a
Singles program: yes
Dress: casual, mostly semisport to formal
Diversity: mostly African American
Length of regular service: 2 hours
Website: bayviewbc.org

The Reverend Terry Brooks took up the theme of a church in tribulation in his sermon, "The Church with a Blank Check." He read from Revelation 3—a message to the church in Philadelphia, which had used what little strength it had and had remained faithful. He says, "I have set before you an open door. He's giving us access to unlimited possibilities, and I can encourage my pastor with the same words that Jesus wrote to the church in Philadelphia. When a man of God steps out in faith, it's the job of the enemy to make him think he's made a mistake... But, thank God we have a man of God that has stuck with it—just because you haven’t arrived does not mean you’re not on your way! You get to have faith to walk when you can’t see your way! I thank God for a pastor who can say, 'Then when you’re taking the heat, don’t let God take a back seat!'" He said, 'I will make you a pillar!' Long after we’re all gone, they’ll still be speaking the name of Timothy J. Winters!" Again and again, Brooks’ preaching rose to a crescendo; again and again, the shouts from the congregation opened him out: "All right, all right!" That’s good!" "Come on!"

What happens when we die? "According to the Scriptures," said Winters, "we who have accepted Christ as our savior are taken to be with the Lord — absent from the body; present with the Lord — to await the resurrection. Unbelievers, the Scripture says, go to a place called Hades. After the judgment, their final resting place is called the Lake of Fire."

— Matthew Lickona

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BestBuys

- Eve Kelly

My folks have been retired for five years, and they’re spending their golden years on the road. There have been trips to China and Peru and a train tour of Canada. This year, they’re sticking closer to home — an RV tour of California with the Kelly clan.

“We’re a small company,” said Tom Franks, Director of Comfort Coach RV in Oceanside (760-554-7390; rvrentalandiego.com). “Each of our coaches is privately owned. Not only do you have a rental company maintaining and managing the coach, but you’re the owner, who has a vested interest in maintaining it. And because these are privately owned coaches that people have purchased for themselves, they’re loaded with features and amenities — nice upholstery and cabinetry, in-motion satellite receivers, surround-sound speaker systems...”

Franks said, “We carry both Class A and Class C. The Class C is the most popular family coach. It’s made on a van chassis and drives like a van. There’s a bed above the driver’s head and a queen-sized bed in the bedroom, and the sofa folds into a double bed, so it can sleep up to eight. The Class A slept six people, but Franks suggested that it was a step up.”

“Class A is a bus-style coach, so you sit up above the traffic and enjoy a great view. It will have more slide-outs, so you’ll have more living space.”

Neither model, said Franks, is difficult to drive, and neither requires a special license — you just need to be at least 25 years old. “You’ll be sitting up higher and more to the left than you’re probably used to. You need to allow additional braking distance, and because you don’t accelerate as quickly as a car, you need to allow additional time to get into traffic. We give renters a complete orientation and make sure they know how to operate everything.”

Rental starts with an online perusal of Comfort Coach’s inventory. “Every coach is up on the website, with floor plans available for viewing. We provide as much information as possible about each coach. People find the RV they are interested in and fill out a quote request, or they call and ask questions. Then we set up an appointment for them to come and see the coach at our storage area in Oceanside.”

Cost varies by coach, but Franks provided some estimates. “We generally require a three-day-minimum rental. A Class A will run $200 to $250 a night, depending on whether it’s low or high season. Class C might run you $119 to $225 a night. Class A luxury models cost between $280 and $345. Rental guests get 100 miles free per rental night and four hours of generator use. After that, it’s $4.40 a mile and $4 per hour of generator use.” Linens and kitchen equipment are provided by the renter, but they are available for a fee if needed. Finally, Franks noted that the RV must be returned with its fuel and propane tanks full, and there is a sanitation tank cleaning fee of $50 to $125. Also, renters are required to get an insurance binder from their own insurance company or they can purchase insurance “on a daily basis for about $20 a day.”

Norm’s RV, Inc. in Poway (858-679-2250; normsvr.com) also has its inventory online. “We have a company-owned, uniform fleet made by Fleetwood, the largest manufacturer in America. That means we have more than one of each particular coach. If something should happen to the unit you’ve reserved, we’ll have another one just like it. You won’t end up with something that might have the wrong number of beds or be the wrong size for the campground space you’ve got reserved.”

“We handle the maintenance, and our technicians go to factory-certified training every year. We replace all our units every season, and we put a cap of 15,000 miles on each coach before we pull it from service. Some are pulled at 60,000 miles.”

As for price, “We’re kind of the maverick in how we charge for miles. We don’t give free miles per day because we don’t believe there’s such a thing as free out there. We charge you for the miles that you use. If you take a week and go to local beaches and put on only 20, 30 miles, there’s no built-in mileage charge in your daily fee to worry about. Every possible charge that we could possibly charge you is listed on the website as part of our rate calculator. There are the basic charges, and then the optional charges.”

I checked out a 24-foot Class C Jamboree, which ran $139 per night with a three-night minimum, plus $.29 per mile for the first 100 miles, with the price-per-mile increasing after that. Then there was a $1.50 state licensing fee, a $500 security deposit, and a $62 AlohProvision Package fee — toilet tissue, fresh water, exterior wash, and initial chemical treatment on the holding tank. Extras included an unlimited generator use ($6 per night), portable TV/DVD units ($5 per night), bicycle rack ($3 per night), and a dish-and-sheet package ($139 per trip). Moving up a notch, a 33-foot Class A Southwind Double Slide is $199 per night. All the other costs were the same, except that the Aloh package ran $82.

“We don’t give free miles per day because we don’t believe there’s such a thing as free out there.”
Now it’s a MONTHLY neighborhood writing contest.

Last year the Reader held a writing contest. Topic? Your neighborhood. Over 600 San Diegans submitted entries, and the winners were printed in the September issues of the paper.

Starting in June 2008, the Reader will hold a monthly neighborhood writing contest, and at the end of each month the best entries will be awarded prizes.

Entries must be submitted through and will be published on the Neighborhood pages of the SDReader.com website.

If space allows, we will publish entries in the printed version of the Reader.

1st place ..... $500
2nd place .... $250
3rd place ..... $100

Deadline is the last day of each month (June 30 for this month).
Money awards to be paid by the 10th of the following month (July 10 for June entries).

Photos and YouTube links to videos are welcome but not necessary to win.

Go to SDReader.com/neighborhoods, find your neighborhood or campus, and follow the instructions to create a blog.
Mac Down

The poets have been mysteriously silent on the subject of cheese.

— G.K. Chesterton

It was not an invitation — it was a challenge. It didn’t say “Mac and Cheese Party,” it said, “Mac and Cheese Off!” According to the notice, this was a “mac off/mac down,” which meant we really had to bring it.

Unlike me, David is not a competitive person. He gets no pleasure from feeling better than anyone else; he wasn’t in this for the glory. He is, however, a perfectionist. Whether adjusting the lighting in our home prior to a friend’s visit or selecting the ideal tone for one of his photographic creations, David does not desist in his efforts until he has convinced himself that he has done his very best. For the perpetually impatient (i.e., me), such dedication can be crazy-making. But as much as I huff and puff while my partner is attending to details, I am often delighted with its fruits of his labor.

Once we’d officially accepted the cheese challenge by RSVP-ing, we set about researching recipes. After typing “mac cheese contest winner” into Google, David came across the link for the national Tillamook Macaroni & Cheese Recipe Contest. He reviewed ingredients and procedures; I gauged each recipe’s potential by keeping track of which images of the finished product inspired the most salivation. The process worked — in the end, we had both narrowed it down to the same two recipes. Because we assumed a good portion of the 20-odd challengers were sifting through the same recipes we liked and then tweaking the combo in our own way to avoid any possibility of committing the ultimate party faux pas — bringing the same dish as someone else.

Despite my being about as adept at cooking as I am at quantum physics, I decided I wanted to assist my man in his cheesy undertaking. In my attempt to open the carton of heavy whipping cream, I’d mangled the top so much that David had to rip it open from the other side. While David handled the shredding of four kinds of cheeses, I managed to get a small carton of whole milk open. While David diced onions, minced garlic, shelled shrimp, chopped jalapeños, and rendered fat from imported Hungarian bacon until it was dense and crispy, I measured half a teaspoon each of salt and pepper. We were a team.

We’d been instructed to deliver our creative contribution hot, so as soon as David had whisked the heavy glass baking dish from the oven, we were on the road. He’d set the molten mac on a metal tray so that it wouldn’t melt through his thighs as he held it on his lap in the car. After parking, I laughed at the comical sight of David running across the busy urban street wearing giant red chili pepper oven mitts and carrying a steaming casserole.

Shortly after entering the contemporary loft-style building that had been designed and decorated by our artist and architect hosts, David and I were handed a ginger beer cocktail in a glass that had been rimmed with Pop Rocks. David placed our contest entry in the oven, along with three others, to keep it warm until the moment of tasting. We enjoyed conversation with other guests until a dozen or so of the competitors’ best had been placed side by side on a long counter, at which point our hostess explained the rules.

Beside each dish was a small bowl, into which guests were to drop either a gold-painted piece of bowtie pasta or a black-painted macaroni shell. Every person received three gold, one black, and was told to choose three favorites and one least favorite. At the end of the night, there would not only be a winner — there would also be a loser.

David and I were astonished that no one else had come across any of the recipes we’d reviewed during our research. Each dish was an original take on the classic comfort food. Some had even named their creations. The “Hot Bastard” lived up to its spicy moniker, and the “Mock and Cheese” surprised and delighted with its bold absence of macaroni and its inclusion of Ritz crackers and chunks of sweet pineapple. One plate contained salmon, another mushrooms, and many had some kind of crunchy breadcrumb topping. Because most stuck to rigatoni or elbow macaroni, the wagon wheel pasta quickly grabbed a visual edge. One woman brought a “deconstructed” mac and cheese; we were invited to skewer large pieces of rigatoni on long, thin forks and dip them into the liquid cheese bubbling in a fondue pot. My favorite was the hot dog wrapped in bacon and sprinkled with Kraft macaroni and cheese. It tasted like my childhood, only better.

My favorite was the hot dog wrapped in bacon and sprinkled with Kraft macaroni and cheese. It tasted like my childhood, only better.

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homemade cheesecake and a crust made from vanilla wafers.

A few more dishes arrived, and as the evening wore on, gold and black macaroni were deposited in favor or aversion. I considered dropping a black shell into the bowl next to the salmon mac and cheese because I don’t much care for fish, but then that didn’t seem fair. In the end, I broke the rules and pocketed the condemmatory shell. David, however, had no problem picking a loser. Clearly, he wasn’t alone — no problem picking a loser.

I was on the verge of gag reflex. I was not alone. The look on my face, a combination of postmodern and avant-garde of all the cheese-inspired entries, it was also the only one to trigger my gag reflex. I was not alone. Just as I was thinking of how nasty it would be to sip the stuff, Ame declared that before the loser could claim her consolation prize, everyone sitting on the sofas surrounding the coffee table had to take a swig of the ghastly goo (which, we were told, was made using the powder packets from two boxes of Kraft Macaroni and Cheese and some kind of liquid that was rumored to be alcohol, though no one seemed quite sure). David was quick to stand before the bottle reached the couch upon which we sat. The blood vessels in my head, and in an uncharacteristic show of solidarity, I was taking a little sip.

Noting the look on my face, a combination of baby-eating-broccoli and woman-encountering-dead-body, Gretchen gave me a bottle of ginger beer; in return, I passed her the unhyalr concoction. Like children swapping spit or blood to become symbolic siblings, everyone sitting obeyed Ame and touched their lips to the Mac and Cheeseade. When the ritual had been completed, the mad scientist behind the emetic potion was awarded several boxes of Kraft Macaroni & Cheese and made to sit on a whoopee cushion.

Everyone cheered as the fourth, third, and second places were awarded dried macaroni and glitter-decorated “medals.” With hands and voices, people simulated a drum roll, and Ame solemnly raised the kindergarten-style medalion for the winner. Before this night, my idea of a good mac ‘n’ cheese had been Velveeta shells or Kraft’s thick and creamy. As Ame approached me with the first-place medalion and an iridescent bag containing fine cheese and sparkling wine, I couldn’t help but feel proud. Sure, all I did was measure a few things and stir in the shrimp, but I had helped create something that people liked.

Okay, so it had nothing to do with that. I’d rather stub my toe than touch raw food. Sure, I take pleasure in bringing joy to others, but the real reason I was happy was because I was on the winning team. I jumped up with Queen’s “We Are the Champions” playing in my head, and accepted my award with a teary heartfelt speech. Then I popped open the sparkling wine and shared the spoils with my vanquished opponents. Meanwhile, David, content that he had done his best, simply smiled, allowing me to bask in the glory. ■

To get an online version of this column, go to sdreader.com. You can print it, email it to friends, and get other columns and stories by Barbarella.
No shushing in this library

his insider tip we get with our sauvignon blanc is not about a club, microbrew pub, or boutique. It's a library. The Mission Valley Branch of the San Diego Public Library.

Last year more than half of all Americans visited a library at least once, according to a new report by the Pew Internet and American Life Project. But the real kicker is this: the age group most likely to use a library is none other than Carroll's tech-savvy, wired-from-the-womb Generation Y (18 to 30 years old).

An informal survey of San Diego State University undergraduates in Katie Hughes's writing and composition classes offers a variety of nonacademic ways Gen Y students use libraries: from sleeping to playing computer games, from checking out Oprah-recommended novels for "recreational reading" to researching databases for music. One student enthuses, "It seems easier to meet girls at the library than at frat parties!" And another, "When I go to the library to study, 'cruising' is always expected."

Out at Chili's for lunch, I spot a guy who looks like a skater, Howard Dunson, 25, reading a newspaper at the bar. I ask him about libraries. He answers that reading and browsing city libraries — Linda Vista and Mission Valley — are "hobbies" of his librarygoing is his "leisure." An older sister turned him on to libraries when they were kids. "Reading keeps you on track," Dunson says. "I look for what catches my eye. Other languages. Math. A book on car engines. Last time I was there, I picked up a book on the human brain and learned a bunch on it that's cool."

Any doubt that Gen Y is the cohort caring Miss Daisy's bookmobile down the information superhighway is dispelled when I check out new libraries across the county, specifically the one in Encinitas, which opened in February.

Two girls share a chair, a mouse, and the giggles.
Getting this library built was a community soap opera: on the city books for ten years, construction costs double original budget, fractious city council meetings, revenue juggling, bloggers who said it wasn’t green enough.

But finished, this library is worth a road trip.


Public library staffs are getting makeovers too. Younger librarians are more “high-tech information sleuths” than traditional bookworms, declares U.S. News and World Report, which named “librarian” as one of the top careers of 2008. You can spot the hipsters behind the checkout desks. Chances are they’re working on or got their graduate degree online from San José State, which has the largest library and information science program in the world. The program relies almost exclusively on distance learning, attracting 2200 online students from 12 different countries. “There’s a more relaxed feeling in libraries now,” says Cathy Straitiff, a 28-year veteran school librarian and the driving force behind San Dieguito Academy’s new media center/library, the most popular gathering place on campus. “Librarians are being taught to make a friendly place and not shh-shh-shh.”

Here in the City of San Diego, there’s a definite library scene. In the last six years, three cruise-worthy branch libraries opened — in Mission Valley, Serra Mesa, and UTC — while ground was broken for a fourth in Logan Heights, to be six times larger than the old library, currently one of the city’s smallest at 3967 square feet. The new two-story branch will feature a computer lab with 35 computers for classes or students, 31 public-access computers, “Centro Cultural” community galleria/exhibit area, a preschooler learning center, and the city’s largest Spanish-language film, book, and music collections. The mayor’s office claims that last year more than six million individuals visited city libraries. Twenty-seven percent of these visitors (1.6 million) went high-speed via library computers. A thousand San Diegans learned to read or read in English courtesy of the library’s free literacy program, READ/San Diego.

And last year, all 1.3 million of us official San Diegans, including Mayor Sanders, rapper Lil’ Wayne, and the San Diego Chargers, were invited to read the same book when the library inaugurated a citywide book club, One Book, One San Diego.

San Diego’s current library budget is $38,362,037. In the proposed budget for fiscal year 2009, which begins July 1, it drops to $35,315,605. That’s $72.81.)

The 2008 budget stated that there were no library capital improvements (remodeling, new construction) scheduled in San Diego this past fiscal year because of “the city’s inability to enter the public bond market.” However, funding for the new Logan Heights Branch Library comes from “a $5.25 million state library grant, with additional support from...
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I'm way ahead of the curve. "Creativity."

I was reading, Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*, by looking them up in a back issue of *Life* magazine. This was a startling find: real people in the pages of a novel!

I wrote my master's thesis in the main library of Mr. Jefferson's University of Virginia. Derailed in the Appalachian Mountains by marriage, I helped my husband and other community leaders start a library in our remote coal-mining town, Richlands, Virginia. My marriage ended, but the library thrived. I still check its progress online.

When I had money, I used libraries less. But always, when I moved somewhere new, which I did often, I'd use the nearest library as a kind of ballast, to orient myself in a strange place. That's how I ended up at the North Clairemont Branch Library.

From my home, the North Clairemont library is a pleasant 15-minute walk down shaded side streets. It's no library rock star. Just one of the workhorse branches of the San Diego Public Library system, not the biggest or smallest, newest or oldest. Built in 1962, it's a mostly flat box painted a clownish combo of turquoise and orange.

The library sits modestly back from the curb. Driving by, you may miss it. Yet, stop and look, and you'll see it's a small jewel, sporting the best aspects of its zippy modernist design, which is amazing since the North Clairemont library has survived two fires, including one in 1980 that gutted it.

Out front, there's room for loitering. The extended roofline and low wall running across the front of the library create a sheltered promenade; a useful transitional space (rare in cheap, new construction) that doesn't rush you in or out and is perfect for smokers, cellphone users, and teenagers. By the parking lot, on the library's shady side, are philodendrons watered to the size of
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–Kris Clark, 2/28/08

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woolly mammoths. Inside, the North Clairemont Branch Library is what you’d expect. Books, computers, fluorescent lights, institutional furniture, industrial carpet, copy machine. A bulletin board reminds us that it’s the Year of the Rat or National Poetry Month. We don’t have art like the new libraries, which have benefited from the largesse of the city’s Commission for Arts and Culture. We do have a large glass display case featuring the personal collections of North Clairemonters; in past months, Zak Hinkley’s Rubik’s Cubes or the ceramic pansies of Charlotte Eastland.

What’s overhead is less expected. Like a glassy swell at dawn, the wavy cantilevered ceiling floats over (and past) roofline windows, which give off soft, indirect light on two sides. These ’50s design elements offer respite in the multipurpose space.

Over the years I’ve recognized maybe four or five faces who seem to be on permanent staff, although it’s not uncommon to be served by an ultra-officious outside librarian, sent from the Central Library to help out in a pinch. These outsiders don’t seem as fun as our regular librarians, most of whom are the kind of women who, besides being professional, also wear toe rings and tuck flowers in their hair or streak it green for St. Patrick’s Day.

It feels odd to hang out here as much as I do and not know for sure who the regular staff is. Ironically, this information and all other levels of service — collections size, circulation, patronage numbers, and budget — is information unavailable at the library. It’s not available for any San Diego branch library, nor is a general idea of how financial decisions are made.
made within the branches.

For all I know, it may be Mayor Sanders himself, our strong mayor, who decrees North Clairemont deserving of only four full-hour adult computers or two special events per month.

No Shushing at This Library
What I do know is that something’s up at my library.

For one thing, there’s the noise.

This joint is jumping. Morning, noon, and night. Full parking lot, checkout lines six folks deep. Laundromat-style waits for the computers. It’s like the entire American public library scene compressed into a single room not much larger than a Starbucks.

Library patron and city bus driver Ron Wilkerson, 50, wouldn’t have it any other way. He plots his daily route to take his breaks at the North Clairemont library, parking his bus at the terminal across the street. Wilkerson started hanging out in libraries to stay out of trouble when he was a kid. But as libraries go, North Clairemont is special, he says, because it’s “more energetic, more family.”

These days I spot so many regulars and run into so many people I know that trips to North Clairemont library feel like stopping by my neighborhood bar — with, of course, the added benefit of being able to leave sober and with a copy of *The Letters of John Keats*, volume one (Harvard University Press 1958).

So, for instance, when I see my neighbor and surf buddy Terry Goldsmith over at the computer bank, I really must go over and say hey.

And if my fiancé Steve is with me, then he has to say hey too, which of course leads to a bit of a chat. Back in the day, we might have whispered nervously, waiting for the lady librarian with a mustache to bust us. Now, not to speak seems rude.

If you were to stand in the middle of the North Clairemont library and take a slow 360, a typical afternoon might look and sound like this:

Start with my friend Terry on computer number one. (Hey, Terry!) Sitting next to him, a La Jolla—look blonde, classy gold jewelry clanking, is word processing like crazy. (Trying to beat the clock? Computers time out in one hour. No exceptions.) Across from Terry is a black man in dreadlocks.

Next to Dreadlocks, a librarian helps an agitated woman, who looks as if she bombed banks in the ‘60s, remove the Internet filter so she can access a blocked website. (Love to see what that is.)

Waiting their turn, two young gentlemen with shaved heads and sleeve tattoos explain the computer queuing system to a stooped, elderly woman who has trouble hearing.

Emery Greene, 10, keeps his excitementamped down to library level as he plays games on one of the library’s two kid-friendly computers. (A treat his mom Rosie is allowing since these computers are faster than theirs at home.) Next to Emery, two girls share a chair, a mouse, and the giggles.

To their left, a small children’s area claims the northeast corner of the library. A little kid runs out of it shrieking full blast, “I found Nemo! I found Nemo!”

“I found Nemo!” He runs past the library tables where three Gen Y representatives — Robert, Scott, and Ishani — grab Wi-Fi for their laptops. Robert is surfing sailing...
It's standing room only. “The most exciting event we’ve had!”

“Excuse me,” Thomson says again, stepping in front of Vencion, a strapping young man with a large backpack. He's working the stacks like a pro, under the watchful eye of Yvonne Staub. She and Vencion come by bus twice a week as part of his community-based instruction at Del Sol Academy.

At the checkout desk, Linda, the pretty librarian who looks like Emmylou Harris, calmly assists a line of patrons. Charter School of San Diego student Todd Gross, 17, is up. He's checking out New York Times best seller Holy Blood, Holy Grail (944/BAIGENT).

“I found Nemo!” Nemo Boy’s mom finally tackles him by the DVDs, where Ron Wilkerson and his girlfriend Karen Larsen shop for movies.

They're joking with another man, a stranger, pretending to fight over the same DVD. The three laugh, some of the loudest, most engaging laughter you may ever hear in a library.

“Go on. Take it. That old baseball movie.” Wilkerson grins. “Seen it a hundred times.”

“You ever see The Old Man and the Sea?” Larsen asks the stranger.

“It’s Ernest Hemingway.”

Big laughter from Wilkerson. “Yeah, well, she thinks she’s a fisherman. So when we asked them for it, they had it delivered from another library and then sent us the notice it was here to be picked up.

Where else can you get that? It’s a killer deal.”

**My First Social Outing at a Library**

I often think, when the life of this little library swirls around me, that the gates of the fortress of knowledge — that “sanctuary” of William Styron’s and my past — have been stormed by the masses. But young Todd Gross disagrees. “Relaxing” is how he describes North Clairemont. For him, it’s a place where “the weight of the world just drops from your shoulders.”

Maybe this is what best characterizes today’s libraries and predicts their future: a chameleonic ability to be all things to all patrons. Certainly it’s the quality...
that makes the North Clairemont library truly public.

Our country’s first libraries weren’t public. They were private collections for an elite few. Not until 1859, when the Boston Public Library opened its doors, was there a publicly funded municipal library in the United States (or in the world, depending on your source). Inscribed above the library’s grand entrance are the words “Free to All.”

From the beginning, public libraries, even the smallest, were social places, with space dedicated to public gathering, events, and programs. The Boston Public Library was built with a palatial central courtyard and sculpture garden, which drew fashionable promenaders from the day it opened.

I had always taken my libraries straight up. Books, research, a few videos. But here I am, on a recent Saturday afternoon, at a “Local Author Event,” my first social outing at a library. The oak tables are pushed back, and 50 folding chairs fill a quarter of North Clairemont library’s precious space.

Kellen, 5, and his mom, Jane, kneel on the floor near the front. Kellen may have been sucked in by the promise of a free raffle ticket, but just minutes into the program, he’s as captivated by Debra Lee Baldwin and her table full of show-and-tell plants as we grown-ups are, many of whom arrived early, clutching Baldwin’s book.

Never mind that after the event Baldwin is selling her book ($30) and an exclusive Succulent Plant Palette and Landscaping Guide on CD-ROM ($20). It is a free event and she is giving away free plants! When does that ever happen?” Baldwin’s amplified voice is as loud as a cheerleader’s.

This is a library.

The oak tables are pushed back at noon, at a “Local Author Event” at the North Clairemont Branch Library. “A free event, and we’re giving away free plants! Why does that ever happen?” Baldwin’s amplified voice is as loud as a cheerleader’s.

Never mind that after the event Baldwin is selling her book ($30) and an exclusive Succulent Plant Palette and Landscaping Guide on CD-ROM ($20). It is a free event and she is giving away free plants, kindly donated by plant nursery Daylily Hill, which also gets plenty of plugs throughout the lecture.

No one seems to care one jot that this event is an opportunity for Baldwin to sell stuff within taxpayer-provided meeting space.

This event, nevertheless, nulls all four points of the San Diego Public Library “Mission Statement,” a succinct directive built on an acrostic, a bit of literary whimsy.

Respond to the information needs of San Diego’s diverse communities.

Ensure equal access to local, national, and global resources.

Anticipate and address the educational, cultural, business, and recreational interests of the public.

Develop and provide welcoming environments.

So here we are. Fully welcomed, having our needs and interest in drought-tolerant landscaping anticipated and met by Debra Lee Baldwin, who offers us free and equal access to information and a raffle.

Fifty people gathered on a Saturday afternoon with no other connection than their curiosity. Men, women, a gay couple, Kellen, Asian, white, black, Latino, Friends, strangers, and neighbors. Strangers feeling safe enough to speak to strangers. One man recognizes a guy that he’d met in a horticulture workshop at Mesa College, and they shake hands like old friends. Everyone cheers the first winner of the plant raffle, a single woman whom no one seems to know personally.

Last year there were more than 7000 events and classes hosted by the San Diego Public Library system, including feng shui, tax preparation, yoga for babies, meditation, knitting, opera, computer, drumming, gardening, Tibetan medicine, Michelangelo’s poetry, and U.S. citizenship. There are free music concerts, free tutoring, and homework help. Movie nights include free showings of first-run international independent and documentary films, as well as classic films in Spanish and English.

In fact, the only real
downer about library events can be not knowing about them. When I mentioned the Baldwin “Author Event” to my friend Janet Evans, she was disappointed to have missed it. She had just bought Designing with Succulents. Katie Hughes, professor of rhetoric and writing at SDSU, where Three Cups of Tea is the all-campus summer reading assignment, had never heard of the San Diego Public Library’s One Book, One San Diego program, which featured Three Cups of Tea earlier this year, nor had she heard that its author, Greg Mortenson, had been in town to speak.

Keeping up with what’s happening at your local branch is as easy as reading posters pasted on the front door or picking up flyers from the checkout desk. For events at other libraries, you can check calendars in local publications and online. The San Diego Public Library website has a calendar, searchable by location, branch, date, or kind of event. You also can subscribe to the Library Connection, an e-newsletter that promotes the cream of the crop, such as the “Author Event” in March featuring Pulitzer Prize–winner Tracy Kidder at the Central Library.

(Unlike Debra Lee Baldwin, Kidder donated proceeds from event sales of his book, Mountains Beyond Mountains, to the library.)

As an online tool, the San Diego library website is less than cool. Even with its new “Online Catalog,” it’s gray as June gloom and as unfriendly as the Library of Congress. Finding, ordering, and renewing materials online are great resources, but the links and procedures on the library website can be confusing until you master them.

This curse of information density is nothing new. You may remember your first trip to the library and facing that vast warehouse of stockpiled information manned by alternately reticent and bossy librarians, fluent in Dewey decimal, microfiche, card catalog, and periodicals index. One of the SDSU students I surveyed simply responded, “I’ve never felt comfortable in libraries.”

But here today, at North Clairemont library’s “Author Event,” the gates of the fortress of knowledge have been stormed. This is library as fun zone, and branch manager Thomerson is anything but reticent as she plays Vanna White to Baldwin’s Pat Sajak, parading succulents through the ooohing, aahing crowd.

While the amplified author tells the story of a San Diego homeowner who claimed her house was saved from the recent wildfires by its succulent garden, North Clairemont patrons browse the stacks, read, and work at the computer bank. No one seems put out by our noise. And conversely, no one seems to worry about interrupting our event. For an hour, we manage to coexist peacefully in our separate and various pursuits of information.

How cool is that?

One by one, Sharon Thomerson calls out winning raffle numbers. Young Kellen has his eye on a pot of kitten paws (Cotyledon tomentosa), but it goes quickly as winners come forward to
SYNERGY CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTER
“Together...we can make a difference!”

SYNERGY RESEARCH specializes in medication studies for

PSYCHIATRIC
• Depression
• Anxiety Disorders
• Sleep Disorder
• Bipolar Disorder
• Schizoafffective Disorder
• Schizophrenia

and many other psychological disorders and medical needs.

TRANSPORTATION AND COMPENSATION are available to qualified participants. For more information, please contact any of our friendly staff at:
1-888-619-7272

MEDICAL
• Diabetes
• Hypertension
• Osteoarthritis
• Obesity
• Alzheimer’s
• Erectile Dysfunction

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

Are you currently receiving treatment with lithium, olanzapine, Lamotrigine, 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
Together…we can make a difference.

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.

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

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
• 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

Have you or someone you know been diagnosed with Generalized Anxiety Disorder?

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

DEPRESSION
ARE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW
• SUFFERING FROM DEPRESSION
• 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER
• 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: 1-888-619-7272

www.synergysandiego.com
Do you or someone you know suffer from
Bipolar Disorder and have symptoms of mania?

If you are:
• Male or female between 18 and 65 years of age
• Currently on a mood stabilizer or an antipsychotic
• Duration of mania is greater than one week
• In good general health

You may be eligible to participate in a clinical research trial.

Participants will receive at no cost:
• Study-related exams
• Investigational drug
• Compensation for time and travel

For more information call: 1-888-619-7272

Are You Living with the Daily Challenges of Type 1 Diabetes?

The Profil Institute for Clinical Research is committed to help find a way for people with diabetes to lead a more healthy life.

Volunteers may now participate in a research study to test an investigational insulin.

To qualify, you must be:
• Age 18 to 65, with Type 1 Diabetes
• A non-smoker for at least 6 months

Volunteers may be compensated up to $2,000 for time and travel. 4 overnight stays will be required during this study.

For more information, call 619-409-1244

Research participants needed for a study of families with Schizophrenia

Has one of your family members been diagnosed with Schizophrenia?

Medical researchers at UCSD are conducting a clinical research study to evaluate whether an investigational medication alters patterns of brain activity in relatives of individuals with schizophrenia. The study drug is taken once, and is compared to the effects of a placebo. Participants must be male, at least 18 years of age, and have a brother, sister, parent or child with schizophrenia who is available to be interviewed. Certain medical conditions or medications may make you ineligible for this study.

For more information, please call: 619-543-2096 • UCSD Department of Psychiatry

Heavy drinkers not seeking treatment

Investigators at The Scripps Research Institute are currently seeking volunteers who consider themselves to be heavy drinkers and do not have any desire to stop drinking.

The purpose of the research is to learn the most effective way of studying predictors of relapse or a return to drinking.

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

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

To find out if you qualify for study participation, please call Marni at 858-784-7867 or visit our website at: www.pearsoncenter.org for more information.
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 volunteers will be compensated up to $450 depending on your level of involvement in the study. If interested, please call.

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.

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
public amenity in any community, bar none,” says Matthews. “Research also shows that when there’s a downturn in the economy, public library usage goes up. Yet because it’s an easy target for funding decision makers, libraries are often the first place to be cut to help balance the budget.”

Matthews wants to see libraries step up their fiscal self-defense. He advocates a concept from Harvard Business School called the “Balanced Scorecard,” which measures library performance in four areas: “finances, customer satisfaction, operations, and organizational readiness.” According to Matthews, the research results, like a school report card, can provide clear information a library can use to plan its future, demonstrate fiscal responsibility, and better communicate how it benefits the community.

He partnered with public libraries across the country (including Carlsbad and Chula Vista) in a pilot program made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Out of this, Matthews developed a “Balanced Scorecard” workbook for libraries, which he will present next week at the American Library Association annual conference in Anaheim.

When Matthews talks libraries, he generally means whole systems like the San Diego Public Library or community libraries like Carlsbad, which receives money directly from the City of Carlsbad, as well as county library funds. But when I ask him about the management of, say, a library like North Clairemont, which is a local branch of a large city system, he becomes more reticent. He admits that branch libraries tend not to be “transparent.” When

### Medical Center for Clinical Research

**Medical Center for Clinical Research**

- **Do you feel rested when you wake up?**
  - If not, you may qualify to participate in a research study for adults who experience problems sleeping throughout the night.

**Qualified Participants Must Be:**
- Between 18 and 65 years of age

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

### TROUBLE STAYING ASLEEP?

#### RESEARCH STUDIES

**MEDICAL RESEARCH STUDY**

Taylor Research, Inc. is looking for people who are 18 years or older who are suffering from kidney disease and may also be suffering from anemia. Qualified participants will receive $100 at the conclusion of the group. Absolutely no sales are involved; we’re interested only in your opinions. The focus groups will take place at our facilities in Mission Valley on **Wednesday, June 25.**

For more information or to see if you qualify please call:

**619-308-2961 ext. 324**

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

Do you currently have a combination of the following symptoms?
- Unusual periods of “highs” and “lows”
- Racing thoughts
- Poor attention span
- Irritability
- Excessive involvement in activities
- Unusually elevated mood
- Changes in appetite
- Rapid thoughts

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

Call 858-566-8222 for more information.

California Neuropsychopharmacology Clinical Research Institute, LLC
“CNRI, LLC”
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

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 all of the following at no cost:
• Study medication • Supervised care by medical professionals as it relates to the study
• Study medication • Medical evaluation by a board-certified medical doctor • Laboratory tests
• Study medication • 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 Schizrophrenia 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

Do you constantly worry? Every day?

Are 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

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. You may receive study medication to be used in addition to the Schizrophrenia 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

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
• You have been diagnosed with bipolar I and are currently experiencing a depressive episode

Participation may last up to 12 weeks, and includes study-related care and monitoring from specialists in bipolar I, access to a mood stabilizer, and potential access to investigational medication, all at no cost.

If you are interested in learning more about this study, please contact:
(619) 688-6565
See our website: www.ari-inc.com

You may qualify to participate in a research study testing an investigational medication for pain relief of osteoarthritis of the knee.

To qualify, you must:
• Be age 50 or older
• Have been diagnosed with osteoarthritis of the knee
• Have been taking pain medication for osteoarthritis for at least six weeks

Benefits include study-related care and lab tests, plus compensation for time and travel.

Contact us to find out if you qualify:
Medical Associates Research Group
8008 Frost St., Suite 200
San Diego, CA 92123
858-277-7177

GOT KNEE PAIN?
Don’t take osteoarthritis sitting down.

Dr. Steven Drosman
619-260-0010

Compensation for time and travel.

858-277-7177

care and lab tests, plus

of the knee.

Benefits include study-related

relief of osteoarthritis

www.marginc.com

For more information, please contact:
JoAnna Williams, CRC
Dr. Steven Drosman
619-260-0010

San Diego

June 19, 2008

Reader

www.ari-inc.com
Got Migraines??
Is Fioricet or Fiorinal...Not Enough??

Are migraine headaches interrupting your life...and medication, like Fioricet or Fiorinal, used in the past just not working? Consider this research study comparing an investigational oral medication and a presently marketed treatment for migraine headaches.

To qualify:
• Male or female, 18-65 years of age
• Have a history of diagnosed migraines with at least one episode per month
• Taken Fioricet or Fiorinal for at least one migraine recently

Participants receive at no cost:
• Examination by a board-certified physician
• All study-related medication
• Compensation for your time and travel

MEDICAL CENTER FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH
Call: 619-521-2841

Did You Overdo It?
Lower Back Strain, Sprain or Back Spasms?

We are conducting a clinical research trial with an investigational dose of a medication that has been prescribed by physicians for more than 40 years to treat these uncomfortable symptoms.

18-70 years of age.
Possibility of 4 visits within 14 days.
Qualified participants receive study-related care, study medication and may be compensated for time and travel.

Next time you have low back pain/spasms (must be within 3 days of first symptoms), please call:
QualityCare Medical Center, Inc.
840 Townsite Drive, Vista, CA 92084
760-477-2263 ext. 218

I ask why, Matthews hesitates, then answers, “If there was a concerted demand to show accountability, I suspect [branch] libraries would be responsive. By and large it’s kind of viewed as management’s prerogative, and the public’s just not interested in that nitty-gritty operational detail of the library.”

I guess he’s right. Over a glass of wine one night, when I mention to a neighbor friend that I am writing a story on the North Clairemont Branch Library but having trouble getting anyone official to talk to me about library funding, she gasps and says, “Oh, no! They’re cutting our hours again! They’re closing our library!” I assure her that this isn’t true, or at least as far as I know.

The staff I ask either don’t know or won’t tell me how funding comes to their branch libraries or, for instance, who grants their raises. Sharon Thomerson refers me to the Library Department’s senior public information officer, Marion Moss Hubbard. But after checking with the mayor’s office, Moss Hubbard, who is herself an author and co-owner of Heroic Journey Consulting, a San Diego company that “works with individuals and organizations to help them make sense of their ‘experience fragments,’ ” says she will not speak to me, nor am I permitted to speak to any city library employee. I also have no luck with Friends of the Library, the volunteer organization that supports public libraries with private fund-raising.

When it comes to library fact-finding, the San Diego City Council doesn’t fare much better, as I learned from Clairemont’s councilmember Donna Frye. She tells me that she and other councilmembers repeatedly have asked Mayor Sanders’s office for simple, one-page summaries of service levels at each branch library, to no avail. Without this information — budgets, collections size, circulation, patronage numbers, and staff sizes — it’s impossible for citizens or city council members to know the status of individual libraries, what’s getting cut, or how the city library budget is divvied up between administration, the 35 branches, and the Central Library.

“...You can’t correct the issues you’re never told exist,” Frye says.

My neighbor’s fears turn out to be justified. On April 8 Mayor Sanders announces his proposed 2009 budget, cutting over $3 million from the Library Department and 22 library personnel. But which 22 and where? We won’t know...
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.

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“I used to just grab the book, read it, and say, ‘Okay, now it’s time to go to sleep,’” says Rachel Jimenez, Lesly’s mom. “Now I become part of the story, asking questions when we read, about the author, about what the middle of the story says, about the end.”

Too soon the fun is over, and a slew of strollers lines up to check out books and videos.

“It’s important for us parents to be here,” Jimenez says, happy that her husband, Juan Carlos Gomez, was able to accompany her and Lesly on a rare day off from work. “When they grow up they’ll remember this.” That’s what the library’s counting on. In her new book for library professionals, The Thriving Library: Successful Strategies for Challenging Times (025.1974/BLOCK), Marylaine Block makes it clear that children are the Future of Libraries. “That’s where the population is,” Block writes, also noting that “services for children are strongly supported by taxpayers” and that when children come to libraries, they bring an “entourage” — parents, babysitters, siblings, and friends. “Once kids are in the door, librarians can work on their ultimate goal: to entice kids into reading.”

Luz Culp, who as Señora C leads the bilingual story time on Tuesdays, is proof this strategy works. She grew up in North Clairemont, spending her free time at the library, always participating in the summer reading program. “So I could get that blue star!” Culp says. Now she’s on the library staff, while pursuing her library science degree online from San José State. Another lifelong patron, Madison High School clerk Mary Trombley hung out at North Clairemont Library in the 1970s. “You know how, in the summer, when you thought, ‘I can’t play barefoot another day outside in the sprinkler?’” Trombley recalls fondly. “It was always ‘We could go to the library!’”

There weren’t books at home, and her parents wouldn’t let her have a library card, so Trombley and her friends rode their bikes to North Clairemont to read. She laughs, remembering, “The Mouse and the Motorcycle! The best book ever written!” Trombley raised her sons at North Clairemont Branch Library. She tiled two bathrooms and slip-covered furniture using how-to library books. And she still browses the stacks for fun. The only thing different about the library almost 40 years later, she says, is that the computers are where the card catalogs used to be; otherwise it’s “all just the same.”

Except, of course, it isn’t.
Almost nothing divides people on the subject of today’s libraries more than the public computers. For some of us, computers haven’t just changed the library landscape. They’re Conan the Barbarian, conquering hero pillaging our dusty village of books. We fear computers are a sign that books (and maybe libraries themselves) will have no place in the New Age.

Ask others, and you’ll likely hear a disparaging remark about “free Internet cafés” in a tone that suggests that libraries offering public computers might as well throw in TV, beer, and peanuts. Ask computer patrons, and you mostly hear that the computers are “fine.” North Clairemont has eight computers (four that adults can use for one hour and two they can use 15 minutes, plus two computers for children). The connection is Road Runner broadband. No signup or library card necessary. Not a bad deal in a world that increasingly assumes everyone has access to the Internet for job applications, email, and sale prices.

How the debate plays out at North Clairemont is most evident in the overworked staff, who seem to regard the computers as tantamount to the changing table in the restroom. Necessary, but somebody else’s job. As posted, rule number one is “Patrons are expected to use computers without Library Staff Assistance.”

Sure enough, when I finish my first session and am not sure how to leave the computer ready for the next patron, I ask a staff person, who has no idea. Every time I’ve heard patrons request pages they’ve printed (at 15 cents a page), there have been problems. One man whose print job had not come through was told to try a different branch with better computer facilities. Todd Gross, who uses library computers daily for school assignments, emails them “to someone else’s house to print it out for free” or sends work straight to his teachers.

Look at patrons at a computer bank, and again, you see the Future of Libraries. The only thing this diverse group shares is the driven look of someone who’s being timed. (“Exceeding posted time will result in suspension or revocation of Internet privileges at this branch.”) On the other hand, the communal queue system is amazingly zen. People obey the rules and calmly wait their turn. There may be unpleasantness over the computers, but I’ve never

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Books," say Brian and Alba Pierini, a young Clairemont couple landing their first home with California native plants, guided by research from library books and hikes to the desert, accompanied by James Lightner’s San Diego County Native Plants (580.9794).

“Sports books,” says Mulapi Enjani, who learned to use a library from his middle school teacher when he and his family emigrated from Rwanda and he wanted “to learn English faster.”

One day in North Clairemont I watch a girl, maybe ten years old but small for her age, wander between the tall bookshelves of the adult section. Her red T-shirt is stretched out, her hair not recently washed. She came in with a man who might be her father and a

books she or her children want.

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boy who might be her brother. The boy went straight to the computers, the man to a reading chair where he’s fallen asleep, but the girl runs her little hand along book spines, studying them intently, pulling out a book, thumbing through it, putting it back, pulling out the next book and the next, all the way down the aisle.

How well I know the feeling! My life has been changed by the most random library books. Books I never knew I needed until I stumbled on them, aimlessly browsing. Books like The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Jams, Jellies, and Preserves (641.852) or The Joy of Laziness (613/AXT).

I doubt “aimless browsing” is quantifiable data on Joe Matthew’s “Balanced Scorecard for Libraries.” In the end, believing in any kind of future for public libraries might be a toughie if you don’t hang out in one as often as the Gen Y’ers and I do. To get it, you may have to live it.

Which probably doesn’t include Encinitas deputy mayor James Bond, who was less than enthusiastic about the building of his community’s elegant new library, calling it a potential “dinosaur” and saying that “in ten years, nobody will be making a trip to the library. We will be looking at a PalmPilot or a computer at home.”

Or Ross Dawson, the trend forecaster paid huge sums of money by the likes of Pepsi and AT&T, who predicts the death of public libraries in 2019, along with butchers, free parking, and unfenced beaches.

Or the San Diego Library Commissioners who voted not to rebuild North Clairemont library after it had been gutted by fire in 1980.

Nineteen eighty was a rough year for the North Clairemont library. It was broken into 12 times in ten months, and during the day, patrons and staff were afraid of the gangs of teenagers who milled outside. Late one October night, the library was broken into again and this time set ablaze. The building was saved, but everything inside was destroyed or damaged. The burned library sat for three months, a boarded-up, shut-down sign of Clairemont’s failure as a community. Insurance money was delayed. The City was noncommittal.

In December, determined to rebuild their library, Lee McComber and a group of citizens formed the Friends of North Clairemont Book Brigade. When the library commissioners voted not to rebuild, the brigade persisted and finally got a promise from the San Diego City Council for matching funds.

The brigade held book sales and neighborhood carnivals. They
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SECOND LEVEL, NEAR SEARS WING
wrote letters to the local papers, keeping the spirit of the library alive. Finally, 11 months after the fire, North Clairemont Branch Library opened its doors, “rebuilt so attentively to original plans that at first it even had the same inadequate number of light switches,” reported the Ramona Sentinel. It took four more years of community fund-raising to replace the collections.

After almost 30 years, I couldn’t find anyone who remembered the fire or how the library had been saved. There’s no commemorative plaque at the library. Only a scrapbook history, archived in a plastic three-ring binder full of yellowed newspaper clippings and faded color photographs.

There is a saying, a kind of Mexican nursery rhyme, I learned at the library from Señora C, when she reads aloud. On the last word of a story, as the book is slowly closed, on cue together, children, grown-ups, and Señora C say cheerily, “Y colorín colorado este cuento se ha acabado.”

It means that a story may finish, but it never truly ends.

What would the book brigaders think of their library now? Of the computers and noise? Of Miss Trish? They wouldn’t blink an eye at the City’s shenanigans. One thing for sure: they’d be darned amused to find out that North Clairemont is showing a little high style in its dotage.

This past March, the Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) held a meeting to discuss the city’s most important, and possibly threatened, modernist buildings. “The North Clairemont Library is among our favorites,” says Keith York, SOHO member and moderator of ModernSanDiego.com. San Diego architect Robert Platt’s design “communicates like a billboard, attracting onlookers and passersby to investigate what’s inside,” he says, singling out the unique “diamond-shaped fascia” that runs across the library’s front. According to York, the North Clairemont Branch Library is “among the few and best examples of Googie architecture” left in San Diego.

Googie? I do some online searches but finally strike gold at the library. There I find the definitive text, Googie: Fifties Coffee Shop Architecture by Alan Hess (725.71), and learn that Googie was an architectural style born in Los Angeles, created to stop traffic and sell services. Colorful and zany, Googie buildings were wildly popular in the 1940s to mid-1960s, in part because they symbolized the Southern California good life. They were fun buildings, projecting the “prosperity,” “optimism,” and “newness” of a time and place that looked forward, with wonder, to a bright future. — Alex Finlayson
A tall, blond-haired young man sat on a log before a small fire this cool and still February night in the Santo Tomás Valley, some 30 miles south of Ensenada. He had joined my friend and me at our campsite in a small clearing, surrounded by the large, dark forms of a grove of old oak trees. Overhead, a blanket of stars shined clearly against a black, moonless sky. The trickling sounds of a nearby stream droned hypnotically in the background, broken only by the chirp of a bird or the sharp yelp of a coyote. His name was Byron Birch and this isolated and serene valley was his home.

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 and farmers who live and work 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 is well known and well liked among the people who live in the area, and he lives as they do — laboring in the fields, hunting, farming, and subsisting primarily on frijoles and tortillas.

My friend and I, who had come to the valley for a weekend of camping, had left word earlier in the day with some of Birch’s Mexican friends that we were interested in speaking with him, and we indicated where we would be camped. That same night, without warning, he approached silently out of the dark as we were preparing our dinner on a Coleman stove — a lavish stew. His sudden greeting had startled us, but Birch quickly introduced himself and put us at ease with his gentle and friendly manner. He wore light-colored corduroy pants, a plain blue Mexi-
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can shirt, and mocassin-style shoes. With his curly hair, bronzed face, and sturdy physique, he appeared more to be the archetypal Southern California surfer than peasant farmer. And as a matter of fact, he was a surfer, living in Laguna Beach with his father and contemplating enrollment in college when he decided that “I wanted to live an artistic life. I was interested in happiness through artistic expression and I felt that an unstructured society was very supportive of this. In work, I was more concerned with sensual rather than material rewards. I thought it would be possible for me to go to Mexico, be an artist, find a home on the riverside [of Rio Santo Tomás], grow my own food, and live harmoniously with the people.”

As he recalled these thoughts, Birch leaned in toward our small campfire, which provided little warmth against the night chill that didn’t seem to affect him, despite his being coatless. He then placed a Mexican bread roll, a bolillo, directly on the fire’s red coals. Periodically during our conversation he would pick up the hot, partially singed roll, take a good bite out of it, and place it back on the fire. This he did without a trace of self-consciousness, as if this peasant custom, and others he’s acquired, had been a part of his upbringing.

My friend and I offered him something more substantial from our dinner, but he politely refused.

As Byron Birch explained his journey from middle-class suburbia to rural Mexico, his story took on a life of its own. He told of a pilgrimage, a transformation of the spirit as well as of landscape. He had been to the Santo Tomás Valley, he said, a year or so prior to his decision to make it his home. He’d gone along with several high school friends to surf the coast of northern Baja, and in the course of the trip, they had passed into the valley. They headed down a dirt road leading to the ocean, but because of the severe flooding that year, 1980, they couldn’t get through. “I was interested in the valley because of the river,” Birch told us. “I suppose I might have gone elsewhere, but this seemed like a practical choice. The houses around here [including some one-room, abandoned adobe structures] were spread far apart, and I wanted to live by myself on the side of a river. I had peaceful thoughts about this place.”

Anyone who has ever visited the valley, particularly the sylvan region toward the sea, will understand Birch’s attraction to the area. After passing the lower littoral of Todos Santos Bay and Punta Banda, just below Ensenada, Mexico’s Highway 1 winds through hilly countryside, past some small ranches, for about 13 miles. Then, at a sharp turn preceded by a road sign warning curva peligrosa, the expansive Santo Tomás Valley, perhaps 1000 feet below, dramatically comes into view. The vista from this precipitous bluff, looking south, allows a panorama of the great arroyo as it extends some three or four miles across to another steep mountain border. At the base of this lies the quiet village of Santo Tomás, little more than a store and some scattered adobes. To the east, the valley stretches for roughly ten miles before the hilly boundaries merge into the Sierra de Juárez mountain range.

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The two-lane Highway 1 curves dangerously down to the valley floor, where, almost immediately, one sees the dirt road Birch and his surfer friends had followed, veering off to the west. This dusty, bumpy road runs about 20 miles to the Pacific and La Bocana, a little fishing camp and residential colony for a few Americans. La Bocana, incidentally, was the setting for Los Angeles Times writer Jack Smith’s popular book God and Mr. Gomez, which recounted Smith’s efforts to construct a vacation dream home in Baja, enlisting the help of the Almighty and of the delightful Mr. Gomez. (Birch is acquainted with Sr. Romulo Gomez, as well as with every other Mexican in the western part of the valley, and Birch reported to us that Gomez’s oceanfront general store at La Bocana was destroyed by the high tides and crashing surf of the recent winter storms.) Driving westward down this dirt road, one first passes a cooperative farm known as the Ejido Ajosco, where a wide assortment of crops are grown, including lemons, chilies, olives, jojoba shrubs (the oil of which is used as a lubricant in machine parts and computers), wheat, beans, melons, corn, alfalfa, and barley. Cows, pigs, and other livestock are also raised here, but several hundred head of cattle were sold recently to permit greater use of the land for farming, according to Birch.

Beyond the fields and pastures of the Ejido Ajosco, which are lush green at this time of year, lie clusters of oak and sycamore, stitched together by meandering streams. The dirt road then leads to the ruins — two crumbling walls that now are surrounded by pasture land of the Misión de Santo Tomás de Aquino, built in the 1790s by Dominican Father Juan José Loriente. Farther along, a stream weaves back and forth across the road, occasionally making travel difficult for normal passenger vehicles, though the traverse today is luxuriously easy compared to the winters between 1978 and 1980, when torrential rains transformed the Santo Tomás creekbed into a raging, destructive river several hundred feet wide. As the

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road continues westward down the valley, the mountainous walls on either side begin to rise so that the valley floor is less than a mile wide, and the trees begin to thicken. It is among these shady groves and by the cool stream that Byron Birch decided to live.

In September of 1981, without a word to his family (his father is a commodities broker in Newport Beach, his mother an executive with a brokerage firm in Los Angeles, and his brother Pancho, a science student at Berkeley), Birch set out from home with the intention of living off the land. He walked, barefoot, down as naturally as he could — the narrow road continued westward down the valley.

By the time he had reached the tiny village of Chapultepec, between Ensenada and Juchitán de Zaragoza, he was, as he recounted, with characteristic understatement, “getting hungry, so I went to the little church in the village and asked them for some food. They offered me meat, but I was a vegetarian then. They gave me a hundred pesos.” (At that time, about four dollars.)

He finally did walk his way to Santo Tomás, and though he avoids making a point of the fact, the Mexican residents there recall that Birch was almost starving when they found him. “I came down to live off the soil,” he recounted, “but I soon realized, however, that that was irrational. I wasn’t worried too much about rationality — such as a house, money, those rational forms — but it wasn’t going to work because it took too long for me to grow my food!” Fortunately for Birch, it wasn’t long before he fell into the company of the Margerum brothers, Juan and Pancho, middle-aged residents of the valley whose father, a German American, had moved to Santo Tomás more than 50 years ago and had married a Mexican woman.

“I heard there was somebody living in an empty house up the road,” recalled Juan Margerum in fluent, unaccented English, “so I went up there to find out who it was. I found this kid digging in the ground with his hands, planting seeds.” Juan asked him when he’d last eaten, and Birch said it had been about a week since his last full meal. With that, Juan immediately took him home to the Margerum household. As Juan smiled at the retelling of this first encounter with Birch, his brother Pancho raised a rifle, sighted down the barrel, and—pow—pulled off a round. The bullet missed its target, one of several Super-magnum 9mm rounds that Ron Rico had carefully placed on rocks about 60 feet away, alongside the edge of the stream. The sound of the shot echoed across the narrow valley. My friend and I were speaking with Juan while standing in front of Pancho’s home, along with several family friends and relatives. The house was actually nothing more than a shack, a doorless adobe with a dirt floor. But this impromptu gathering on a sunny Saturday afternoon was an open and friendly one, and my friend and I had been made to feel welcome the moment we drove up.

We had stopped by Pancho’s house on our way to the campsite in hope of leaving word with someone that we wished to meet with the gringo Byron Birch. No sooner had we gotten out of our car than Juan had walked up and, smiling, introduced himself. He is an open-faced, gregarious man, 40 years old, of medium stature and with thick, salt-and-pepper hair. Only recently have he and his wife Alicia returned to his birthplace to raise cattle and hunt — this after having lived in Tijuana for many years. Between the crack of the rifle and the occasional ting of a bullet finding its mark in a beer can, Juan related his story of discovering Birch.
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San Diego Reader | June 19, 2008 | 57
Juan and Pancho took in the young American and a familial bond was forged at once. Birch stayed in Juan’s home for a while, and it wasn’t long before Juan was saying, “He’s my adopted son!” though there never were any legal formalities. For Birch, it wasn’t long before he was introducing himself to the people of the valley as Byron Margerum (for decades a surname of some importance around Santo Tomás). When Birch recalls those early, hungry days in the valley, his affection for the brothers Margerum is his most prominent memory. He told us of Pancho’s saying, in abbreviated English, “You come here, boy. You eat, you be strong.” And Pancho himself, with obvious fondness, says of Birch, “Is a good boy, good boy.”

Unlike his smooth, city-smart brother, Pancho knows only the Santo Tomás Valley. “I live here all my life. I born here,” he said proudly. He is a tall, with a barrel chest and a belly to match. His greatest skill is as a hunter and hunting guide, though he is also an accomplished drinker, and some say that his steady diet of alcohol has taken the edge off his sharpshooter’s eye. Birch claimed, however, that Pancho’s aim is still true, and that judgment was based on experience. Birch having often accompanied Pancho and his hounds on hunting expeditions (Birch doesn’t shoot at anything but comes along for company). Quail, dove, rabbits, and plenty of deer are the principal prey. On these outings across the rugged terrain, Pancho wears big brown boots, a cap that covers his graying hair, and flappy green fatigues with pockets around his waist and flapping across the rugged terrain, Pancho is very big-hearted and very good-natured. At the sight of a companions, he will cry out, “My friend! My friend!” and follow this with a zesty abrazo, a bear hug. Just as quickly as Pancho can burst forth with affection, however, he can succumb to sorrowful tears, such as at the mention of a departed friend or loved one. His genuine friendliness, though, is known throughout the valley, and it is the more pronounced when someone offers him something to drink — preferably distilled spirits, though a cold beer will do. My friend and I had only the cold beer to offer that Saturday afternoon at Pancho’s house, and though he was disappointed we didn’t have any stronger, his great charm lent the gift of a beer a celebratory air. We could see quickly why Birch held Pancho’s friendship dearly. (Pancho’s adobe is very close to an abandoned structure, made of cement, that Birch eventually decided to call home.)

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them where he was and what he’d done. He’s reluctant to discuss any of this in much detail, but his father, a friendly man and a concerned and loving parent, was willing to supply some details over the phone from Newport Beach. Mr. Birch first had a friend of his, a comandante with the highway patrol in Ensenada, locate his son. The officer reported that Byron was indeed in Santo Tomás and soon found that he was getting along fine and was well liked by the people of the valley. Nevertheless, his father came after him, took him back to Orange County, and had him examined by a medical doctor and a psychotherapist. There followed a brief period of time in which the wayward son reluctantly underwent hospitalization, but soon enough he had made his way back to Santo Tomás.

His father decided that the peaceful environment there might not be such a bad thing for Byron, and subsequently did not interfere with his son’s activities. Moreover, he expressed deep gratitude to Juan and Pancho Margerun for their caring for his son. The elder Birch, however, is hopeful that his son will return soon to go to college. He has visited Byron almost monthly, bringing with him food and other supplies, and in turn has received letters from Santo Tomás.

Given his complete immersion in Mexican culture, it’s not so surprising that young Birch learned Spanish fairly quickly, and he speaks the language quite easily now, having at his command an impressive vocabulary that includes much esoteric agricultural and botanical terminology. He has been somewhat less successful, he admits, acquiring the skills of a farmer. Still, whenever the subject of our conversation turned to farming, Birch’s voice suddenly filled

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with enthusiasm. As we sat around our campfire, several hours after my friend and I had met with Pancho and Juan, Birch told us, “I got all kinds of seeds! I planted beans, watermelons, rice, corn, cantaloupes…” and numerous other vegetables and fruit, rattled off in a list so quickly their names slipped past my memory. His problem was not so much the actual cultivation of these crops but rather in protecting them from the perspaticest cows, chickens, and pigs of nearby farms. (As to underscore the voraciousness of the local livestock population, a couple of pigs came bustling into our campsite as we spoke; they grunted and squealed loudly and threatened to topple the stew we were cooking on our Cole- man. A few anxious shouts and they scurried off in another direction.)

Though over the months Birch was able to feed himself — through his own efforts and also through the generosity of the Margerums — he soon found that he had underestimated his need for steady employment. In January of this year he was able to find a job as a laborer in the fields and orchards of the privately owned Rancho de los Dolores, half a mile or so opposite the highway turn-off to La Bocana. The rancho’s large white houses and barn, shaded by dozens of towering palms and eucalyptus, stand out as landmarks in the otherwise arid landscape of the eastern portion of the state.
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He labors from 7:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., usually six days per week, earning wages of about 1500 pesos each week. At current exchange rates, this is less than 11 dollars, but Birch insisted that he was paid sufficiently well for his needs.

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His need for food may be minimal, but his appetite for literature since coming to the valley has been insatiable. "Any printed matter I can find is a treasure to me," he said, and then could barely conceal his frustration when he learned that my friend and I had earlier tossed into the fire that morning's classified ads from the San Diego Union. In the last several months he has accumulated something of a library in his new home, and he often reads at night by kerosene lamp; most of his collection has come from American visitors on their way to La Bocana. And while he might not be considered well read for his age, thanks in part to these tourists, Birch has read widely. Besides Voltaire, Hemingway, and Mark Twain ("Huckleberry Finn is his favorite book), he's become familiar with Burpee's Seed Catalogue, The Sunset Western Garden Book, Darwin and His Flowers, A Grape Hand-Book, and the U.S. Government Gardening Guide. He has also read numerous Mexican cow-boy adventure stories and sentimental romance books, and in addition has made it halfway through José López Portillo's 700-page Genesis and Theory of the Modern State in Spanish.

He used to reread many times everything he had, especially the textbooks in chemistry, biology, and physics, which he allowed were so complicated that several readings were required simply to remember everything. Now that he has so many books, however, he doesn't have to resort to rereading anything that doesn't interest him.

Despite his hours spent reading, and the long days of work as a laborer at Rancho de los Dolores, Birch still finds time to write poetry and to sketch. But the daily fieldwork has curtailed another of his pastimes — exploring the countryside. Before taking the job, he would sometimes hike into the mountains and hills by himself for a week at a time, taking with him only a sack of corn. He now knows the

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San Diego Reader
June 19, 2008

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The shock of returning to the pristine wilderness, contemporarily, seemed as distant as the Milky Way that glimmered above in the dome of blackness. I asked him about the nature of the water tables that feed the streams, and other features of the land.

This knowledge of the Santo Tomás area will undoubtedly serve him well in his future plans, which include more serious farming, perhaps on the Ejido Ajusco. “I’m just a peasant worker now,” he said, “but I’m thinking of returning to Orange County where I attended college. Today he is a journeyman electrician, and presently is working in Wyoming on a natural gas project. Many of his coworkers are of Mexican background, and Byron speaks Spanish with them on the job. He is married and has a young daughter. Though he has remained a Southern Californian, he owns a small ranch in Wyoming. Through the years he has kept up his friends in Santo Tomás, visiting many times, most recently last October. Pancho passed away several years ago, but Juan still lives in the valley. — Michael Waterman

Originally published in the Reader on May 26, 1983

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**Letters**

continued from page 12

A technology who concluded: "Major reliability problems with the SAIC Stirling engine included hydrogen leakage through joints and seals, internal engine seal leakage, swashplate actuator stalls, and heater head braze joint hydrogen leaks. That means that on average once every 40 hours a problem of some type required shut down and maintenance. Nearly continuous maintenance was necessary to keep the system "available" to generate electricity. … The commercial viability of the Stirling system is unproven at this time. …there is no possible way that dish/Stirling solar can move from high cost prototype models with substantial reliability concerns to large-scale production of high reliability low-cost commercial models by 2008 and full operation of a 12,000 dish, 300 MW array by the end of 2010." Posted by paul on May 28, 2008 at 9:00 p.m.

$1.5 billion in solar panels at $3.5/watt listed by SCE would install 428 megawatts of capacity onto San Diego rooftops. Why in the world are we worst in the state when it comes to SDG&E encouraging solar panels, when we are in the best geographical position in the state to use them? Between state and federal incentive programs, long-term leases on panels and the savings in not buying new power plants, another 500 megawatts could easily be installed. That would add close to 1,000 megawatts of power right where it is needed without a single new power plant being built and without using any additional fuel to run them for the next 20-30 years.

Consider also what the existing SDG&E powerlines in the backcountry have cost us by starting huge fires burning thousands of homes. There was a 100+ acre fire in Penasquitos canyon last month that started under power lines very near where the Sunrise Powerlink is proposed to terminate. I never heard a peep on what caused the fire other than "it started under power lines on a hot and windy day". I am guessing that if there was another cause of the fire, SDG&E would have let us know.

Posted by msahmes on May 28, 8:36 p.m.

Here’s the latest scoop on SDG&E’s profits from this project: if the project is approved by the Public Utilities Commission, SDG&E stands to reap $1.3203 billion. Because of the nature of FERC rate-making, that $1.32 billion is not pro-rated, shareholders occur in the project’s 58 year life, from mid-2011 through the end of 2019.

So you do the math… does SDG&E walk away from the largest, most lucrative project that it has ever built? Not a chance.

Check out the UCAN web page (www.ucan.org) on May 30th and you’ll see how this project is a huge money-loser, isn’t needed to keep the lights on and only about 25% of the line’s capacity will be used to bring renewable power into San Diego... all based upon SDG&E’s own numbers! Posted by seahorse on May 31, 7:29 p.m.

Wow, This article really opened my eyes.

The opposition has done such a poor job of bringing this to light. They have bumper stickers that say save Anza Borego. That doesn’t really帮 people know how much of a scam this. A lot of people simply don’t care or think it is a necessary loss and do think the opposition is just about enviro nuts.

How about sending the message that this is the next Enron scam. A lot of politicians have supported this, maybe it is time to start knocking on their doors and getting them to change their position. Don’t start with the Governor, start with the locals and work up.

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“PEACE INVOCATION PERFORMANCE” Ramaz Bharuday performs for Performing Arts Series (10 a.m.). Dance followed by global altar peace and prosperity workshop (11:30 a.m.); vegetarian-aptarian buffet (12:30 p.m.). Reservations: 619-723-8291. Sunday, June 22, 10 a.m., $5. Hilltop Center for Spiritual Living, 331 East El Dorado Street. (HILLTOP)

Belly Dance Showcase Rajini and Satad Restaurant host performances every Friday. No cover. 619-338-0018. Fridays, 8 p.m.; through Friday, June 27, 2008, Satad — Downton, 828 Fifth Avenue. (DOWN TOWN)

Belly-Dance Showcase Marissa, Amanmann, Dilak, and Safina Fox perform to live music by Middle-Earth Ensemble. 619-688-9845. Thursday, June 19, 8 p.m.; $5. Claire de Lune, 2906 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

Contradance Old Twine String Band plays for contradance with calling by Chris Fage for San Diego Folk Heritage. Beginners’ dance workshop: 7:30 p.m., dancing 8-11 p.m. Wear soft-soled shoes. 619-283-8550. Friday, June 20, 7:30 p.m.; $7. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3200 Thorn Street. (NORTH PARK)

English Country Dancing Ellen calls, Steve and David provide live music for English country dancing, 8:56-7:9731. Sunday, June 22, 6-8 p.m.; $8. Jean Hart Academy of Dance, 12227 Poway Road. (POWAY)

Hip-Hop Don’t Stop! Latest dance steps taught by instructor/dancer Prince on every Thursday. 858-635-1211. Thursday, June 19, 7 p.m.; $10. Dancing Unlimited, 4569 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

Hustle Dance Party DJ plays hustle, nightclub, two-step, and requests. For singles and couples of all ages. Hustle lesson: 8 p.m. First time free: 619-275-3353. Saturday, June 21, 8 p.m.; $7. Patti Wells’ Dancetime Center, 1253 West Moreno Boulevard. (NORTH PARK)

Mambo/Salsa New York Style! Minnie Ruiz leads dance classes “with added arms, hips, and footwork styling moves in open position.” $100 for ten classes. 619-291-7722. Saturdays, 11 a.m.; through Saturday, June 28, 2008, $12. Champion Ballroom, 3580 Fifth Avenue, Suite E. (NORTH PARK)

Scandinavian Dance Party Enjoy live music for dancing. Bring snack to share. 619-281-5656. Wednesday, June 25, 7:30 p.m.; $7. Folk Dance Center, 4569 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

Tribal Fusion Belly Dance Sahrina Fox and Juliet perform to live music by Middle-Earth Ensemble with open dancing promised. 858-488-4200. Sunday, June 22, 8 p.m.; $10. Ages 21 and up. Turquoise Cafe, 857 Turquoise Street. (NORTH PARK)

Tribal-Style Belly Dancing Fusion-style belly dancing by Sarasati Modern Tribal. 619-265-7287. Saturday, June 21, 8 p.m.; Egyptian Tea Room, 4644 College Avenue. (COLLEGE AREA)

FILM

“Can’t Stop the Serenity” Screening of Serenity starring Lisa Wheden, to benefit Equality Now. 818-653-9381. Sunday, June 22, 7 p.m; $12.

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More Deaver Jeffrey Deaver signs and discusses latest in his Lincoln Rhyme series, *The Broken Window*. 858-268-4747. Friday, June 20, 7 p.m.; mysterious galaxy bookstore, 7812 la jolla. (La Jolla)

**Lectures**

**“Georgia on My Mind: Research in the Southeast States”** Pat Hall addresses North San Diego County Genealogical Society. Nonmembers welcome. 760-630-5720. Tuesday, June 24, 10 a.m.; carlsbad city council chambers. 1200 carlsbad village drive. (Carlsbad)

**“Guatemala: The Mayan World”** Travel photographer Jim Cline presents illustrated lecture for Sierra club. 619-585-3773, 619-299-1743. Friday, June 20, 7:30 p.m; joyce beer & community center, 1230 Cleveland Avenue. (Hillcrest)

**“Spiritual Enlightenment and Emotional Realities”** Steve Posner, author of *Spiritual Delights and Delusions*, plans talk. Open to all faiths and beliefs. 619-640-2020. Sunday, June 22, 10 a.m.; Shalom Spiritual Center, 4635-B Mission Gorge Place. (Mission Valley)

**“The Story of a Holocaust Survivor”** Gussie Zaks, holocaust survivor, discusses her experiences when San Diego association for Rational inquiry gathers. 619-421-5844. Sunday, June 22, 7 p.m.; joyce beer & community center, 1230 Cleveland Avenue. (Mission Valley)

**“Writing in Community”** City heights poet Jim Moreno and UPACA Center host poetry workshop for beginning or mature poets. Participants will watch the video *Voices in Wartime*, then write and read a poem. Moreno is author of *Dancing in Disson*, 619-285-9737. Saturday, June 21, 3 p.m.; 52-53 urban performing arts & creative arts Center, 8875 el Cajon Boulevard. (College area)
OUT & ABOUT

Fur Shu
Local author Paula Brown talks about her book at Muttropolis in Solana Beach, Thursday, June 19.

(SEE IN PERSON)

OUTDOORS

Cobbled Shorelines are gearing some beachgoers early this summer season, as in past years. North County beaches tend to suffer most, as the natural sand replenishment in the area is disrupted by dams blocking the flow of sediment down the larger streams and rivers. Some sand scooped up from dredging operations is being moved onto the beaches to mitigate this problem. South County’s beaches fare better. The widest beach of all, Coronado, is protected from sand loss by the jutting Point Loma peninsula, it catches some sand drifting on currents northward from the mouth of the Tijuna River.

Colorful Foliage along San Diego’s coastlineingers, despite the lack of rainfall and warmer, drier days. In the older, landscaped neighborhoods of Coronado, Point Loma, Pacific Beach, and La Jolla you’ll find oleander and hibiscus blooming in many shades, and colorful bougainvillea creeping over garden walls. Look for the magnificent clusters of red flowers adorning the crowns of the flame eucalyptus (red-flowering gum) trees.

Magnolia, the southern-U.S. native commonly planted as a decorative street tree in many of San Diego’s older neighborhoods, continues to bloom this month. Its grandiose description in some botanical books as the “queen of the flowering broadleaf evergreens” accurately gauges its oversize, white, pleasant-smelling flowers.

Summer Solstice, the time when the sun reaches its northernmost point in the sky, occurs this year at 5:49 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time, Friday, June 21. This fact should not be lost on anyone who might like to throw a TUGF summer-solstice party at quitting time that day. The summer solstice not only marks the beginning of summer for the Northern Hemisphere; it also means that the daylight hours are maximized. San Diego now enjoys approximately 14 hours of daylight, in contrast to the meager ten hours or so we experience in December. Anytime this week or next, try checking your shadow at 12:30 p.m. (the local daylight time in San Diego currently equivalent to astronomical noon). The sun is then only 10° south of the straight-up direction and casts near-vertical shadows. A lesser-known consequence of the summer solstice is that our twilight periods are longer than usual. Evening and morning twilight periods are now lasting more than 90 minutes.
**OUT & ABOUT**

**JABOTICABA TREE**
Care and feeding of rare fruit trees, Balboa Park, Wednesday, June 25. (SEE LECTURES)

**SOUTH OF THE BORDER**

*“Edipo Güey” Spanish-language comedy by Mario Cantú Toscano based on tragedy by Sophocles, with modern language, in Foro Experimental. 011-52-646-725-4307 and 011-52-646-173-4308. Friday, June 20, 8 p.m.; $35. Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes y Mina Street. (BAJ)

*Mainly Mozart Binacional Enjoy works by Mozart and Strauss, with oboe soloist Nathan Hughes. 011-52-664-687-9636. Tuesday, June 24, 7 p.m.; Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes y Mina Street. (BAJ)

*Readings Actress Lilia Azagui in performance. 011-52-664-687-9636. Tuesday, June 24, 7 p.m.; Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes y Mina Street. (BAJ)

*Summer Surfing Tournament Nearly 100 surfers from Baja California and Baja California Sur expected to compete in tournament at Playas Tres Marias in El Sauzal. Times, details: 011-52-646-119-8247. Saturday, June 21, 10 a.m.; Sunday, June 22, 10 a.m.; Playa Tres Marias in El Sauzal, 1.5 miles south of Ensenada toll gate. (BAJ)

**RESTAURANT WEEK RETURNS**

**JUNE 22–27**

San Diego’s most delicious tradition is coming back to offer extraordinary food at bargain prices. Enjoy three-course prix fixe meals at 130 of the county’s finest restaurants for only $30 or $40 per person. Get more for less! Visit SanDiegoRestaurantWeek.com for more details.

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**Inaugural Exhibition, Part II** Opening reception for Satellite Inception, an exhibit of work by Gaye Bisilu, Leigh Cole, Nico Herbst, Zac Monday, and Claire Zitron. Exhibit of sculptures, paintings, photographs, videos, drawings, more, continues through Monday, June 23. 619-343-0993. Friday, June 20, 7 p.m.; the Kava Lounge, 2012 Kettner Boulevard. (little tiny)

**Summer of Sports** San Diego County Fair runs June 14-July 6. Numerous competitions and exhibits, including fine arts, live-stock, children’s art, gems, minerals, home arts, fun zone with rides, games; commercial exhibits; food; contests (bubblegum blowing, pie eating); many concerts, Closed Mondays, June 23. 858-795-5555 or 858-755-1161. Thursdays, 10 a.m.; Fridays, 10 a.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.; Sundays, 10 a.m. Mondays, 10 a.m.; Wednesdays, 10 a.m.; Thursdays, 6 p.m.; Sunday, July 6, 2008, Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (sdfair.com)

**Urban Blight to Urban Bright** San Diego Architectural Foundation hosts tours of historic Gaslamp Quarter. Learn about area’s architectural evolution from 1880s dirt streets and saloons to current restorations and adaptive reuse projects. Tours begin at Arts Tix booth. 619-232-1385. Saturday, June 21, 10 a.m.; 815-9462. Sunday, June 22, 10 a.m.; 815-9462. Oceanview Museum of Art, 704 Parvis Way. (sdarch.org)


**Who Signed That? Signed and Inscribed Books** Rare book exhibit in Whangseong Room showcases over 100 signed and inscribed books by various authors, book artists, illustrators, publishers, people associated with literary work. Among the famous: Samuel Clemens, the writer and his wife Charina London, Ray Bradbury, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Herbert C. Hoover, 619-236-3807. Thursdays, 1:30 p.m.; Fridays, 1:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 1:30 p.m. Mondays, 1:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m.; through Tuesday, September 2, 2008, San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (sdlibrary.org)

**Big Ray’s Classic Car and Cycle Show** San Diego Auto Swap features classics, hot rods, cycles, high-performance vehicles on display (in conjunction with Kober’s Swap Meet). Vehicles on display and for sale, along with “auto parts and accessories.” 858-484-9432. Sunday, June 22, 7 a.m.; San Diego Sports Arena Boulevard. (pontoon.com)

**Crazy for Cupcakes** Les Dames d’Escoffier International plan cupcake fun. Demonstrated recipes include pink velvet cupcakes with fudge cream cheese frosting, Boston cream cupcakes, more than eight others. Donation benefits Culinary Arts Program, Tomorrow Project. Reservations: 858-825-9979. Sunday, June 22, 1 p.m.; $30-$35. Macy’s Mission Valley Home Store, 1555 Camino de la Reina, San Diego (missionvalleymacy.com)

**Dr. Sketchy’s Anti-Art Show** Bring your drawing implements for sketching of model Melissa as “Naughty Marie” Antoinette. Drink, draw, compete in “silly contests.” Donations: 619-736-7891. Saturday, June 21, 1 p.m.; $10. Ages 21 and up. Bluefoot Bar and Lounge, 3404 30th Street. (bluefoot.com)

**Find Your Inner Drummer** LifeWorks Spiritual Center hosts summer solstice celebration with guided imagery, drumming with Melissa Rodriguez Trio, “magical spiritual messages.” Donations: 858-815-9462. Sunday, June 22, 10 a.m.; Carlsbad Senior Center, 799 Pinto Avenue. (garden.com)

**Gendel’s Incompleteness** Theorems. Said theorems are “of considerable importance to the philosophy of mathematics.” Explore with P&R Discussion Group. 619-370-1027. Thursday, June 19, 7 p.m.; the Other Side Coffee House, 4096 30th Street. (sdcafe.com)

**Hall of Flames Cajon Classic Cruise season continues.** Wednesdays through September 24. 619-401-8888. Wednesday, June 25, 2-4 p.m.; Prescott Promenade, 2112 1/2 Main Street. (sdcafe.com)

**Harvest Fair** Celebrate 100 years of the Model T during antique en- gine and tractor show with blacksmith and wheelwright demonstrations, antique-equipment parade (daily, 1 p.m.), vintage skills, food, music, displays of antique cars and steam engines. Live music by Rayo Brothers (June 21, 2-4 p.m.) and J.D. Crawford (June 22, 2-4 p.m.). Saturday, June 21, 9 a.m.; Sunday, June 22, 9 a.m.; Del Mar Fairgrounds in De Luz Canyon, 40635 De Luz Road. (fallbrook.org)

**Lavender Is Blooming!** Visit Lavender Fields, where Hovey and Grees are being harvested and yellow lavender is being distilled. Fresh lavender bundles $40. This is the last year the fields will be open to public. 760-742-1489. Saturday, June 21, 10 a.m.; Sunday, June 22, 10 a.m.; the Lavender Fields, 12460 Keys Creek Road. (lavenderfields.com)

**Meet “New Americans”!** New museum — opening Saturday, June 21 — celebrates contributions of America’s diverse immi-grant population. Opening ex- hibits are “Becoming American: Teenagers and Immigration, Photographs by Barbara Beirne” and “A Contemporary Story: Perspectives by Immigrant and Refugee Artists.” Beirne plans gallery talk as part of opening celebration (1:30 p.m.), 619-255-4898. Saturday, June 21, 11 a.m.; New Americans Museum in NTC Promenade, 2823 De Rue Drive, Suite 102. (pointcom)

**Plant Yourself** San Diego Master Gardeners plant sale in Casa del Prado room 101. Experts on hand to offer advice. 858-694-2860. Sat-
urday, June 21, 10 a.m.; Casa del Prado, El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Psychic Fair and Metaphysical Conference Lectures, tarot, palmistry, numerology, other psychic arts featured. Admission is free; $20 per reading. 619-298-3422. Saturday, June 21, noon; Sunday, June 22, noon; Alexandra’s Bookstore, 3545 Midway Drive, Suite G. (PORT LAMA)

Rods and Woodies Classic Car Show Cruise night series begins with “eclectic mix of classic cars” displayed along Coast Highway 101 by hosts from Little Guys Street Rods Car Club. Music by Morning Glass. 7:00-9:30 p.m. Thursday, June 19, 5:30 p.m.; Encinitas Smog, 682 South Coast Highway 101. (ENCINITAS)

Stamp—Collecting Show Stamp and cover dealers offer their wares. 619-218-7835. Sunday, June 22, 10 a.m. and 10 a.m.; Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road. (BALBOA PARK)

Summer Solstice 2008 Wine and ale tasting, food from over 20 restaurants on offer. Reservations: 858-755-1179. Thursday, June 19, 5 p.m.; $40-$50. Powerhouse Community Center, 1659 Coast Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Taste of Adams Avenue Over 20 restaurants, pubs, eateries offer samples of their culinary creations. Self-guided tour, or use Old Town Trolleys. 619-282-7329. Sunday, June 22, 11 a.m.; $20-$25. Adams Avenue, at 34th Street and Adams Avenue. (INLAND BORDER TOWNS)

Ticket to Tepotz Pastic South-west Railway Museum train excursion to Tepotz, Mexico. Optional lunch and one-hour Teco Brew tour, or side tour to Tama Vineyard after arriving in Teco. 619-465-7776. Saturday, June 21, 10:30 a.m.; $23-$25. Campo Depot, State Highway 94 & Forrest Gate Road. (INLAND BORDER TOWNS)

Traditional Tea Ceremony Urasenke tea instructor assistants present demonstrations. Learn history of tea ceremony, learn how to serve tea in a traditional way. Included in garden admission. 619-232-2780. Saturday, June 21, 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.; Japanese Friendship Garden, Pan American Road. (DEL MAR)

Wakeboard Rail Jam Party Seaforth Boat Rentals celebrates completion of renovation with professional wakeboarders, live music, fishing seminars, demos, contests, sailboat rides, vendor booths, more. 619-223-1681. Saturday, June 21, 10 a.m.; Seaforth Boat Rentals, 1641 Quivira Road. (SAN DIEGO BAY)

“Go Skateboarding Day” Turn Yeto Inc. teams with Overload for this year’s event, promoting “everything from skating to dunk tanking.” Some professional riders will be on hand. 619-232-7523 x122. Saturday, June 21, noon, Chula Vista Skate Park, 1301 El Camino Avenue. (CHULA VISTA)

Bonita Road Runners Group hosts 24th annual 5k run walk, 1k kids’ fun run. Race-day registration: 6:30 a.m. 619-585-1803. Saturday, June 21, 6 a.m.; $10-$35. Rohr Park, 4548 Swettwater Road. (CHULA VISTA)

Elfin Forest Bicycle Ride San Diego Bicycle Touring Society offers guided fun run, 1k kids’ fun run. Race-day registration: 6 a.m. 858-552-1803. Saturday, June 21, 6 a.m.; $10-$35. Rohr Park, 4548 Sweetwater Road. (CHULA VISTA)

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Iron Girl Del Mar Women’s 10K and 5K Race starts and finishes on fairgrounds; the courses move out of the fairgrounds and use Pacific Coast Highway for an “out and back course.” Race-day registration 6:7-15 a.m. 727-942-4767 x232. Sunday, June 22, 7:30 a.m.; $35-$50. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Mt. Helix and Beyond Thorful mile bicycle adventure with Knickknickers up to Mt. Helix, out to El Cajon over Singing Hills, through Rancho San Diego, over to Casa de Oro, back to shop. Bring money for lunch at Sunrise Deli. 619-741-7169. Sunday, June 22, 8:15 a.m.; Ye Old Bicycle Place and Cafe, 6792 University Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

No Brakes, No Gears! Tuesday night bicycle racing season continues with racing in many categories. Free for spectators. 619-573-4953. Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.; through Tuesday, September 30, 2008. San Diego Velodrome, 2221 Moyle Field Drive. (BALBOA PARK)

Save $10 per person on any of our Segway Tours! Exciting guided tours of the Gaslamp, Embarcadero, Coronado, Balboa Park, La Jolla, Old Town and Rancho Santa Fe are available on brand-new Segways! Expires 7/2/08.

$2700 REWARD King Kong was stolen from his Chula Vista home late February 2008. He is a 4½-year-old Tibetan Mastiff, about 30” at the shoulder, and weighs 140 lbs. King Kong was a rescued dog and is missed very much.

If you have any information that can lead us to him, please contact John at 831-818-5688 or keepmoving4ward@yahoo.com. We are also taking pledges to increase the reward.

Abortion Silent and Secret Pain

“He would have been three years old. But I aborted him. I keep track of how old he would have been. Will I ever get over it?”

Rachel’s Hope After-Abortion Healing Workshop
3888 Paducah Dr., San Diego, CA 92117
July 11-13, 2008
Donation $45 • Scholarships available Rosemary Benefield, RN, MA, MPC (858) 581-3022 (Confidential) www.RachelsHope.org
Pads Baseball
Detroit Tigers
arrive for interleague games against San Diego Padres, June 20-22. Interleague games continue with visit by Minnesota Twins, June 24-26. Games broadcast on radio station XPSR (1090 AM), XEMO (960 AM) in Spanish. Tickets: 714-695-3000, 877-374-2784. Friday, June 20, 7:05 p.m.; Saturday, June 21, 7:05 p.m.; Sunday, June 22, 1:05 p.m.; Tuesday, June 24, 7:05 p.m.; Wednesday, June 25, 7:05 p.m.; curs-857. Petco Park. (BAYTOWN)

Plantation Walking Horse Show
Horse show: 760-728-3362. Saturday, June 21, 8 a.m.; Sunday, June 22; Del Mar Horsepark, 14550 El Camino Real. (BAYTOWN)

Surf and Sun Andalusian Horse Show
Horse show: 808-458-3027. Saturday, June 21, 8 a.m.; Sunday, June 22; Del Mar Horsepark, 14550 El Camino Real. (BAYTOWN)

U.S. Open Elite Taekwondo Championship Tournament
Competition with judging in form of American railroad history and technology through static and operating exhibits, the museum includes cabooses, steam and diesel locomotives, track motors, 1888’s “Jim Crow” segregated passenger cars. Interpretive 1-3/4 hour train rides offered each weekend (11 a.m., 2:30 p.m.) over portion of the San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railroad. 31213-12 Highway 94, 619-465-7776. (Woodside) 

Chinese Historical Society and Museum
For centuries, Chinese and Japanese artists have used intricate seals carved with their names in ancient script to authenticate paintings and calligraphy. The Charm of Woodcut Seals and Chinese Calligraphy by Teng-Yao (Terry) Sun — continuing through July — showcases enlarged leisure seals carved into wood, making the traditionally diminutive art more accessible to public.

San Diego Museum of Art
See artifacts from San Diego’s Chinese and Chinese-American history, culture, and art. Current museum exhibits include a 1920s warship’s bed, exhibits on Chinese footbinding and Chinese-American veterans. The museum is in a building originally built in 1927 for the Chinese Mission. Adjacent to the building is an Asian garden with koi pond and waterfall.

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Chula Vista Heritage Museum
Exhibits feature the cultural and historical aspects of Chula Vista’s past. Exhibits feature a lemon packing crate label, photographs of downtown Chula Vista, doors and aero blocks from the original Star newspaper building, and relics from the Otay Water Company.

Creation Museum
A museum contrasting the evolution and creation world views. 1934 Woodsdale Avenue North, 619-488-0900. (Santee)

Gemological Institute of America Museum
Permanent exhibits include displays depicting science and art of gemstones and their cultural significance. 3525 Seventh Avenue, 619-298-3000. (BAYTOWN)

Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park
The museum features five permanent galleries with exhibits, uniforms, vehicles, weapons, and displays depicting Marine Corps history. The museum is located in building 26 at MCRC, just inside Gate 4, off Pacific Highway. Witherby Street and Hancock Street, 619-524-6038. (UNION TOWN)

Marston House Museum
Historic home sits on five acres of 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 keeping with the early 20th-Century American Arts and Crafts period, emphasizing simplicity, function, and natural materials. 3527 Seventh Avenue, 619-298-3142, (UNION TOWN)

National Museum of the United States Air Force
The museum is located in the Caso de Balboa building, 1649 El Prado, 619-232-6203. (BAYTOWN)

Parsonage Museum of Lemon Grove
“The Sanka Brothers General Store” is recreation of store said to have “kick-started the post-agricultural economy of Lemon Grove.” Exhibits include post office, array of domestic and farm artifacts, photog-raphs, furnishings.

San Diego Air and Space Museum

San Diego Museum of Art
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San Diego Children’s Discovery Museum
Exhibits include displays depicting science and art of gemstones and their cultural significance. 3525 Seventh Avenue, 619-298-3000. (BAYTOWN)

San Diego Natural History Museum
“Place of Promise: Stories of San Diego” lets visitors “walk literally” around “San Diego,” a map of county extends from wall to wall across the floor. Also featured in ongoing exhibit are two large 1930s murals by artist Charles Reiffel and a 1910 San Diego streetcar.

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San Diego Archaeological Center
“A Letter from the Ocean Hotel: Victorian Lady Traveler’s Adventures in San Diego, 1888” includes glassware, dishes, bottles, personal items dating from late 1880s that were excavated from a block in East Village area downtown in 2002.

The museum is dedicated to "curation of archaeological projects and sharing them with the public.” 16666 San Pasqual Valley Road, 760-291-0370.

San Diego Automotive Museum “Motocross America: The Early Years,” continuing through July. "Artists Speak: Contemporary Art from Mexico to Peru" showcases museum’s collections of Mexican, Central American, and South American archaeological objects. Rare gold and jewelry, exotic figurines, intricate stone work, and pottery from the ancient world are on display, as well as a crystal skull, on loan from a private collector.

"Art and Expression: The Legacy of Our Collections" highlights 17 key collections, relates stories of the collectors, how collections came to museum, their significance in preserving history of past generations. Objects include pottery, baskets, beadwork, jewelry, woodcarving, folk art, katsinam, bone and ivory implements, shields, textiles.

"People, Prints, and Politics: China 1920-1940" features work by Chinese artist and scholar Xian Rang Yong from Shandong Province. Yong utilizes Chinese art of woodblock printing to create compelling portraits, landscapes, depictions of cultural activities, political posters. Closes Sunday, October 19.

Gods and Gold: Ancient Treasures From Mexico to Peru" museum has partnered with artists from Ghana and Zimbabwé to showcase paintings and sculptures by accomplished African artists.

Permanent anthropology exhibit "Footsteps through Time: Four Million Years of Human Evolution" features "more than a hundred touchable replicas of early humans, primates, and futuristic cyborgs (part human, part machine).” 1530 El Prado, 619-239-2001.


SEE SPECIAL

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A silk thread seams together the Irish poet William Butler Yeats, the tarot, feminism, and Alfred Stieglitz, the photographer whose impresario activities in the early 20th Century promoted American modernism and the careers of Charles Demuth, Charles Sheeler, Stuart Davis, and other innovative painters. The thread is Pamela Colman Smith, an illustrator who in 1907 had the first one-woman show at Stieglitz’s 291 Gallery in New York. Stieglitz cooked up many theories about art and sexual consciousness. Attracted by what he felt was a child’s unsullied and uncompromised awareness, he was partial to art like Colman Smith’s, whose illustrations have a few, coy simplicity that suggested to Stieglitz a child’s “pure” vision of things. When Colman Smith met Yeats, himself caught up in the late 19th-century Celtic revival and the redisclosure of Irish folk tales, he introduced her to the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, a society that studied the occult. Colman Smith, in turn, designed a set of tarot cards in the decorative knights-and-maidens style of Pre-Raphaelitism, cards so often reproduced that they’re now recognizable to all of us.

You can sample Colman Smith’s art and see the exemplar of that tarot deck at Georgia O’Keeffe and the Women of the Stieglitz Circle, an exhibition currently at the San Diego Museum of Art that features women promoted by Stieglitz. Quite apart from their quality as artists, they figured in his vision of the feminine in art and life that crystallized finally in his relationship with O’Keeffe, whose work he began sponsoring in 1906. When he rejected pictorialism in favor of a harder-edged, naturalistic, straight photography, and his feminine ideal turned from the nurturing, protective mother type toward the woman-child that O’Keeffe would come to represent, he and Käsebier inevitably parted ways.

In a probing catalog essay accompanying the exhibition, Kathleen Pyne describes this new woman-child model as “a complex creation possessed of an adult sexuality, yet energized by innocence, ‘clean,’ as Stieglitz liked to say, of the guilt and secretiveness of bourgeois femininity. If Stieglitz’s notions sound patronizing and naïve, we have to remember that artists, male and female alike, were trying to dissolve obsolescent conventions and create new ways of thinking about art and sexuality. Stieglitz read Freud and “sexologists” such as Havelock Ellis and Edward Carpenter, and he wanted to introduce these vestigations of sexuality, gender, and the unconscious into the space where art was made.

The woman whose imagery and personal independence advanced Stieglitz’s ideas, and whose work, along with O’Keeffe’s, is the most compelling in the exhibition, is Anne Brigman, an middle-aged woman who says her strongest erotic feeling is for the natural order: she can experience a sustained, nearly climactic thrill just by sitting against a California live oak or standing in a grove of redwoods. Brigman visualized that feeling, an unboundaried Artemis-like bonding with the natural order that sometimes looks like struggle or strife. Brigman’s photos don’t have the playfulness of Colman Smith’s pictures, the voluptuous splendor of O’Keeffe’s paintings, or the stateliness of Katherine Nash Rhoades’s work (another of Stieglitz’s projects), but she’s the boldest, most self-exposed and confessional of them all, and her photographs present a woman’s inner life in stark, raw, but harmonious images.

Her Minor, the Pain of All the World is a modernist veronica. A woman’s oval face, nearly submerged in bituminous shadow, looks like a composite of several species of sorrow. Brigman sees the feminine as a depository for the knowledge of suffering. (She went through an agonizing divorce and was emotionally torn up by her desire to express female sexuality as experienced not by the male imagination but by her own self.) In 1906 she began making nudes posed against natural settings in the Sierras, though “against” isn’t quite the word. Her models — herself, her sister, a friend — appear as fleshy grafts on trees, bending to the tree’s form. Brigman’s The Dying Cedar, where she strikes a “Grecian,” Isadora Duncan pose, her raised breast swaddled between the tree’s striated, contorted, uncosci- dous pulse, or the valley of her arms rhyme with the tree’s rising boughs, torment and ecstasy rushing indistin- guishably one through another. In 1913, after she and Stieglitz parted ways, she made a state- ment about womanhood that’s really a declara- tion of feminist poetics: “Fear is the great chain which binds women and prevents their develop-
ment, and fear is the apparently big thing which has no real foundation in life. Cast fear out of the lives of women and they can and will take their place in the scheme of mankind and in the plan of the universe as the absolute equal of man.

From 1912 to 1916, Stieglitz mounted four exhibitions of children’s art at his 291 Gallery (so named after its address on Fifth Avenue) that reflected his increasing attraction to a new model of the feminine: the child-woman. O’Keeffe served as his prototype, and the SDMA exhibition includes his most famous photographs of her. Much more interesting than Stieglitz’s specimen photos, though, are O’Keeffe’s own pictures. Her iconic imagery, the billowing labilial flower petals that swell through the picture space with an almost palpable blend of fleshiness and airiness, and the abstract landscapes with their hot reds and glassy blues racing or jagging across a horizontal pitch, are exhibited close to the earlier, “girlish” work that so attracted Stieglitz.

O’Keeffe had taught elementary school and believed that children’s frontal attack and boldness of line and color were a pure intuitive expressiveness, an unself-conscious streaming of perception and feeling. She developed in a very short time from a primitivist to the Georgia O’Keeffe whose performances elicit spectators’ oohs and aahs. In 1915 and 1916, she produced drawings and watercolors of abstract landscapes saturated in atmospherics; they owe something to the work of artists Stieglitz was exhibiting, to Rodin’s delineate washes of nudes and dancers and Arthur Dove’s auroral semiabstractions. O’Keeffe’s signatures forms — vulval, tissued, aerated — were already settling into place. But in 1917 she also made an intentionally crude picture of a yellow house sided by two out-of-ratio sunflowers. It’s an homage to the children’s art she admired but also the state of a pictorial blatancy she never wanted to give up, never would give up, even as her art became technically more refined and her theme of the sexuality of the natural order more elaborated. The house picture shares its wall with the most pleasure-giving thing in the show, a thinned-out watercolor of a red canna lily that floats on the paper as a rad, unmediated flush of sexual desire.

ART LISTINGS

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

GALLERIES

“Ties” Opening reception for display of encaustic paintings by Robert Treutel, joined in exhibition by Gary Galligan and his “Screen Paintings.” Closes Saturday, August 2. 619-231-3900. Sanayspace at Art Academy of San Diego (840 G Street). 6 p.m., Thursday, June 19. (DOWNTOWN)


“Capturing the Cosmos: A Personal Journey” Opening reception for exhibition by noted sky photographer Dennis Mammana. View Mammana’s collection of images celebrating his four decades of capturing the cosmos from locations all over planet through Sunday, August 3. 760-231-0103. Oceanside Photo and Telescope Underground Photographic Gallery (918 Mission Avenue). 6 p.m., Sunday, June 21. (MEERHOF)

Fujiko Isomura Solo Exhibition Meet the artist during reception. Work by this artist “combines iconic images from both Japan and America.” Through Thursday, July 3. 619-462-5760. Gallery La Mesa (8808 La Mesa Boulevard). 3 p.m., Saturday, June 21. (LA MESA)

“Plein Air XIII: Gettin’ Out There” Thirteenth annual plein air landscape painting exhibition opens with reception for artists. The term plein air refers to a painting painted outdoors on location. See the works by 15 artists — including James Hubbell, Annie Dower, Stan Gouday, Ken Roberts, Stan Sowinski — through Sunday, August 10. 760-765-1676. Santa Ysabel Art Gallery (3032 Highway 78). 4 p.m., Saturday, June 21. (JULIUS)

Summer in Bloom. Georgia O’Keeffe.

View more than 80 works by iconic artist Georgia O’Keeffe and the important women modernists who paved her way. SDMA is the only West Coast venue for this unique exhibition that is the first to present works by these pioneering artists together.
**Death of the Zombie**

“I heard from one of our customers that the Zombie Lounge was going to be for sale,” says Chris Heaney, owner/operator of the Zombie Lounge on El Cajon Boulevard. “I want to have a really good sound system so that after [touring bands] play here to 30 people they will leave with a good taste in their mouth and want to play here again.”

Heaney will give four Kadan bartenders the opportunity to have a stake in bar ownership at the Radio Room.

“We set up a venture-capital account at Kadan where dedicated employees could invest $200 a month. I got the idea from the Antique Grove Café across the street. It gives me an opportunity to take bartenders to the next level,” Heaney says, “I'm not kidding because what music fan would admit to being half-care about retirement accounts.”

Heaney and Hall bought the Spirit Club and renamed it Brick by Brick in 1994. He says he left five years later because Hall moved to Florida. “I may not want to deal with the [third] partner.”

— Ken Leighton

**Take Note, High-Five Idiots**

Steve Weinberger wants to keep you from embarrassing yourself at the next concert. In his new book *No Air Guitar Allowed*, Weinberger runs down nearly every humiliating move and bad rock stereotype that can be found in San Diego’s dingiest rock club and largest venue. He does his best to keep ticket buyers from becoming the Wasted Guy, the Bro-Magnon, That Bitch (which always leads to a girl fight), a High-Five Idiot, or a Make-Out Couple.

“Number one, I'm the biggest geek in the book. I've made all these concert fools myself,” Weinberger says, and he's not kidding because what music fan would admit to being half of a Make-Out Couple at a 1990 Richard Marx concert? In the book, Weinberger describes being mesmerized by Marx's mallet and "tourniquet-tight acid-washed jeans."

While *No Air Guitar Allowed* is great at triggering readers’ concert memories, the best parts of the book are the “This Magic Moment” sidebars, in which he describes his run-ins and embarrassing moments while reviewing concerts. In the sections scattered throughout the book, he addresses the Cure’s Robert Smith’s makeup, uses Kip Winger as a haircut model, ponders who would see Foreigner returning to the rock arena for the first time in 20 years to stay away from marijuana; yesterday’s dried-out doobie doesn’t have the potency of today’s sticky, green chronic, he warns, so one puff could send the toker on a “Carlos Castaneda–style vision quest.”

He also advises the kids to appreciate parents who will fight traffic to haul them to a show and more than likely pay for their ticket.

— Larry Harmon

**It Started with Karaoke in Krakow**

“As a singer, I sound like Elvis Presley, no matter how hard I try not to,” says James Kruk, who disbanded his former group Fake Booby Judy and became, for a time, one of Poland’s top Elvis impersonators. “The Elvis show happened from a karaoke contest in Krakow [around 2004],” says Kruk, who was teaching English in Poland at the time. “I went up on stage and the crowd went crazy, like I was really Elvis. They made me sing every Elvis CD they had, and the crowd loved it. I was shocked! I won the karaoke contest that night…. The prize was some...
KING KRUK

San Diego
June 19, 2008
Reader.com

dinner when the tour stopped shows, though," says Kruk.
for rehearsals and for some appear in it. "He was around authored the play but didn't
touring the U.S. as Elvis in traveling deus ex machina, to famous.
meeting Pablo Picasso in a about Albert Einstein Picasso at the Lapin Agile,
wife, Kruk spent two years job. That was around $70 U.S.
says Poles didn't pay much Russian champagne.

Comedian Steve Martin "Elvis shows up as a time-
Before settling in San What I got was 200
talked to the neighborhood before game since 2003.
But his steady gig ended

A couple of weeks ago,

That Tin Fish didn't have a

They all said, 'There is nothing we can do' when we know there is something they can do.... The owners of the Tin Fish talked to the mayor.

On June 8, Rathburn says he got good news from CCDC junior planner Lorena Cordova.

"She said she had spoken with her supervisor, Brad Richter, and he said that the area we were performing in is not subject to conditions of the neighborhood use permit.

On June 10, Rathburn says Tin Fish owner Jerry Levy called him with the worst news.

"The cops told them the only way they would grant Tin Fish an entertainment permit is if we took [live music] inside. If you've ever been to Tin Fish, you know that is impossible [because of its size]."

On June 11, the situation changed again.

"I called [SDPD Lt. Kevin Ammon and explained my case all over again. We were at a stalemate. I said, 'Thank you very much, and we'll just have to keep trying.' Then, 20 minutes later he called back and said, 'What we're going to do is allow you to play tonight and we're sending someone down to assess the situation.' To my surprise, he showed up in person. He talked to the owners. The owners....said he signed off on the issue and I had my job back."

— Ken Leighton

Divine Dough

Because money from both major and indie labels is drying up, bands have had to get creative to raise funds. Eve Selis offered six "levels of participation" to help fund the recording of her new album Angels and Eagles.

With a $15 donation (the "Cherub" level), patrons received a prerelease copy of the album; $2000 donations from "Archangels" earned them ten CDs, eight tickets to a "VIP Party," eight T-shirts, and tickets to the May 31 release concert.

Archangels were also invited to record a vocal part for the album. According to Selis, 35 donors helped contribute to the album's recording, with three Archangels among them. In total, over $10,000 was sent in by fans.

"Donations took about a month to trickle in," says Selis. "They seemed to show up at just the right time, when we needed to pay a guest musician or the studio bill." Selis and her band head to Norway July 5 to begin a three-week tour of Europe.

"In the past we would borrow money from fans and then take the next two years paying everyone off," says Selis. "Then when it was time to record a new CD, we'd start all over. With donations, that allows us to use money from sales to help promote, tour, and try to get radio airplay."

Selis says she will likely use this method of funding for any future releases. Having allowed non-bandmembers to contribute backing vocals, would she be open to having someone play guitar in exchange for a donation?

"Heck, we would have considered anything as long as it was legal."

— Bart Mendoza

CONTRIBUTORS
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This Week In Music

Wednesday 25
DIY debut Ani DiFranco will deliver her punk’d folk to Humphrey’s by the Bay Wednesday night. DiFranco has never signed to a major, running her own recording joint, Righteous Babe Records, on which she’s released 19 discs in her 20-year career and garnered Grammy for Best Recording Package for 2004’s Evolve. Look for her latest, Red, Letter Year, this summer. In the mean time, check out the Live in Babylon DVD for a show pre-serve. NYC pop song-writer Ingrid Michaelson tours Girl and Boys through House of Blues. Local musician, SDMA winner Greg Laswell opens. Laswell runs 20 Inch Records, working with Michaelson, Anya Marina, and Minnie Driver. Sufi’s up at Belly Up, where surf-rocker Gary Hoey and Top Dog split the bill. San Diego punk-rock act A Scribe Amidst the Lions do the CD release thing for their latest. Sunset City, at Casbah. Appropriately enough, Pen and Ink support the Scribes.

——Barbary Monk
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Rock That Bares Its Soul

“They were all hammered and talking about all the DUIs they got out of by being a cop.”

Nautical Disaster plays bluesy pop with a dose of '60s new wave to keep things club-worthy. The three-piece rose from the ashes of the Daffodils, who split in July 2006. “Everything was going great,” says singer-bassist Jaye Furlonger, who has a master’s degree in history and works as an architectural historian. “We were playing the Casbah every other month, we’d just recorded a great demo, and we had a live radio broadcast lined up on 94.9 in a month’s time. Then our singer-guitarist decided that he just wasn’t having any fun anymore.” Along with fellow Daffodil Beezeley and occasional cohort Grimis Apparatus (who trade off on drums, guitar, and vocals), Furlonger formed Nautical Disaster.

“We hope to inspire a return to that brand of rock that bares its soul, gets drunk, and passes out on your couch,” says Furlonger. “Only to make you delicious coffee in the morning.”

The group’s pirate-themed debut album, Sev’n, features tales torn from Capt’n Reub’s Diary of Debauchery: Songs concern psychotic love, botched potential, late-night misdeeds, serial-killer stalkers, Napoleon undead, time travel, drinking debts, and — says Furlonger — “a long, sad, drunken train ride that you hope to God never ends.”

WHAT’S IN YOUR MUSIC PLAYER?

Jaye Furlonger:
1. The MCS, Kick Out the Jams: “A hard-rocking, high-energy band with infectious grooves playing classic Detroit rock.”
3. Jeebilee and the Barracudas: “My favorite local band — plays dark punk and soul, with excellent musicianship and a raw, stripped-down sound.”

Beezeley:
2. Spoon, Gimme Fiction: “Britt Daniel and company are pretty damn near perfect.”
3. Gimms Apparatus: “Right now there’s a Vice Records mix CD mixed by Flosstradomas: It has the Black Lips, the Panthers, a couple of Charlotte Gainsbourg tracks from her new CD, and of course Interpol.”

DESSERT-ISLAND DVD?

Furlonger: “Dig!, a documentary about the dual careers of the Brian Jonestown Massacre and the Dandy Warhols. It’s fascinating and can be watched and enjoyed over and over again.”

Beezeley: “If I could only choose one, it’d have to be Buffy the Vampire Slayer — Collector’s Edition, a complete manual on how to function in this modern world.”

Apparatus: “Well, if I’m alone on this island, I really wouldn’t care about the movies. Unless I can cherry-pick from a boxed set, like Star Wars, episodes two through six.”

BAND YOU’D MOST LIKE TO SEE REUNITE?

Furlonger: “None. Bands break up for a reason. Any bands I might ever have wanted to see re-united I already have, like X and Blondie, who both still put on amazing shows.”

Beezeley: “Red Red Meat. But I’ll still play Tim Rutti’s solo project Califone any day of the week.”

Apparatus: “The Misfits. Glenn Danzig, get your head out of your ass and make it happen.”

LETTERMAN OR LENO?

Furlonger: “They seem like nice men, but Leno is totally unfunny, and I have better things to do than watch either of them. They’re a little boring, and I don’t really care about the guests they have on their shows. Except maybe, very occasionally, some of the bands.”

Beezeley: “Neither. Way past my bedtime.”

Apparatus: “Kimmel has better live music acts than either of them.”

WORST COVER SONG?

Furlonger: “I Shot the Sheriff” by Bob Marley, as covered by Eric Clapton. No one really believes either of them.”

Apparatus: “Neither. Way past my bedtime.”

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Tuesday, June 24

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Wednesday, June 25

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STRANGER
BW from Ooklah the Moc
56 HOPE

SATURDAY, JULY 9
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After Party
KINGSPADE
MOONER • THE PRICKS

SATURDAY, JULY 19
Revolting Summer Surf Series
After Party
WOLF PARADE
MOONER • THE PRICKS

SATURDAY, JULY 26
WILD CHILD
(Doo-Bea Tribute)
DIRTY LESLIE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2
DEAD MAN’S PARTY
(Origin Of Beige Tribute)
MURSIC

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7
DANCEHARD DOG
WAXY
JUNIOR REID
& THE REGGAE ANGELS
ANDREW WADABLOOD
LAMB’S BLOOD

FRIDAY, JUNE 20
40 OUNCES TO FREEDOM
(Soulive Tribute)
THE ORANGE VELVETS

THURSDAY, JUNE 26
U-ROY
CORNELL CAMPBELL
SISTER I-LIVE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27
METAL SNAKE
ESCAPE (Journey Tribute)

THURSDAY, JUNE 28
GUAVA BELLY
WASTING JUNE
MANIC DIFFUSION

FRIDAY, JULY 5
PIVIT
AGENT 51

SATURDAY, JULY 12
ARM THE ANGELS CRITICAL ME

FRIDAY, JULY 18
BABES IN BIKINIS FINALS
CANOBLISS
SIX REASONS
LEDD BURNS RED

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2
JUNIOR REID
& THE REGGAE ANGELS
ANDREW WADABLOOD
LAMB’S BLOOD

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7
THE UPRISING CRITICAL ME
Calendar

MUSIC

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THIS WEEK’S SHOWS

4th & B: 345 B Street, Downtown, 619-231-4343.
Friday, 7:30 p.m. — The Game. Rap. $25. Sunday, 8 p.m. — Billy Idol. Alternative rock. $55.

710 Beach Club: 710 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-484-7844.

Friday, 7:30 p.m. — Roy Book Binder. Blues picker, storyteller, singer, songwriter. $15-$25.

Anthology: 1337 India Street, Little Italy, 619-595-0300.
Friday, 7:30 p.m. — James Cotton. $16-$45.

Belly Up Tavern: 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-5872.
Thursday, 7 p.m. 858-454-5872.

Birch North Park Theatre: 2891 University Ave, North Park, 619-239-8836.
Saturday, 7:30 p.m. — The Kenny Burrell Quartet: Jazz. With Mike Wolfdorf, Bob Magnusson, and Duncan Moore. $31-$41.

Bird Park: 28th and Thorn Streets, North Park.
Saturday, 5:30 p.m. — Skelpin. Irish fusion for summer concert series. 619-921-2079.

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The Bitter End: 770 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-338-9300. Thursday, 9 p.m. — Sheila Sondergard and Michael Tiernan. With AK & the 47’s and Citizen Band. Folk/bluegrass/rock.
Sunday, 9 p.m. — The Lost. Punk/rock/poetry.

Brick by Brick: 1130 Buenos Avenue, Linda Vista, 619-275-5483. Thursday, 8:30 p.m. — Witt, the Shush, One Lonely Robot. Alternative rock/pop. $5.
Friday, 8 p.m. — Waiting for Decay and New Day Mile. With Silent Armada and Sonic Ritual. Alternative rock/met. $7.
Saturday, 8 p.m. — No Control. A tribute to Bad Religion. The Gabba Gabba Heys also perform a tribute to the Ramones. $10.
Tuesday, 8 p.m. — In Perfect Agony. Hardcore/metal. $12.
Wednesday, 8 p.m. — Gone to Oblivion and Counter Launch. With After School Special and Livid Virus. Alternative rock/met. $10.

Friday, 9 p.m. — 40 Oz. to Freedom and the Orange Velvets. With Bag of Toys. $12.
Sunday, 2 p.m. — A Conscious Few. Rock/rap/hip-hop.

Friday, 8:30 p.m. — Sea Wolf and the Jealous Girlfriends. With Patrick Park. Indie pop/rock. $10-$12.
Saturday, 8:30 p.m. — The Long & Short of It. With Caboose, Archons, and Browntown West. Punk/hardcore. $5.
Monday, 8:30 p.m. — Frightened Rabbit and Oxford Collapse. With the Austin James Band. Pop/indie. $8.
Tuesday, 8:30 p.m. — Boris and Torche. With Clouds. Hardcore/metal. $12-$14.
Wednesday, 8:30 p.m. — A Scribe amidst the Lions. CD-release show with Old Devil and Red Ivy Suspect.
Alternative/experimental/rock. $6.

Wednesday — DJ Tim Pyles.
Ché Café: 8550 Gilman Drive, B-032, La Jolla, 858-534-2311. Thursday, 7:30 p.m. — Citizen Fish, Bumbblakatt. Introspect. With Joshua Fittner. Electro/punk/ ska. $10.


Monday, 8 p.m. — Bird Names and Lithi Velkor. With the Essential Bummer. Experimental rock/indie. $5.

Tuesday, 8:30 p.m. — The Album Leaf and James Saxon. Garage/punk/rock. $10.

Coyote Bar and Grill: 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad, 760-729-4055.

Thursday, 6 p.m. — Bottani Brothers. Classic rock.

Friday, 6 p.m. — Hot Rod Lincoln. Acoustic/root/rockabilly.

Saturday, 3 p.m. — Red Lane and Full Moon. Rock/blues.

Sunday, 2 p.m. — Streamers and Fish & the Seaweeds. Americans/rock.

Wednesday, 6 p.m. — Northstar. Classic rock.

Croce’s: 802 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-4355.
Monday, 8 p.m. — Monsoon. Jazz.

Del Mar Fairgrounds: 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar, 858-755-1161.

Thursday, 7:30 p.m. — Dwight Yoakam. On the Grandstand Stage.

Country.

Thursday, 11 a.m. — Micky Dolenz. On the San Diego Showcase Stage.

Thursday, 9 p.m. — The Clay Colton Band. On the Coors Light Rock-On Stage.

Covers/standards/rock.

Friday, 9 p.m. — Satisfaction. A tribute to the Rolling Stones on the Coors Light Rock-On Stage.

Friday, 7:30 p.m. — Earth, Wind, & Fire. On the Grandstand Stage.

R&B/jazz/funk. $25-$165.

Saturday, 5 p.m. — The Doodledrops. On the Grandstand Stage.

Saturday, 9 p.m. — In Color. A tribute to Cheap Trick on the Coors Light Rock-On Stage.

Sunday, 7:30 p.m. — Los Huracanos del Norte. Mexican motocho group on the Grandstand Stage.

Sunday, noon — Bridget Brigitte & Ian Corbet. With Wendy Patrick, Danielle Bruce, and guests on the Flower Show Stage.

Saturday, 5 p.m. — Lady Dottie & the Diamonds. On the Coors Light Rock-On Stage.

Cover/blues/rock.

Tuesday, 9 p.m. — The Band in Black. A tribute to Johnny Cash on the Coors Light Rock-On Stage.

Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. — Cartel. On the Grandstand Stage. Alternative rock.

Wednesday, 9 p.m. — The Hank Show. A tribute to Hank Williams on the Coors Light Rock-On Stage.

Dizzy’s: 200 Harbor Drive, Downtown, 858-270-7467.

Thursday, 8 p.m. — Shep Meyers and Bob Magnuson. With Tam McMahon and Frank Perowsky. Jazz. $15.

Saturday, 8 p.m. — Frank Catalano. Jazz saxophonist. $15.

Ellen Browning Scripps Park: 1313 Coast Boulevard, La Jolla.

Sunday, 7 p.m. — Rockola. Rock and roll for La Jolla Concerts by the Sea. 858-454-1600.

Epicentre: 8450 Miramar Boulevard, Miramar, 858-271-4000.

Thursday, 7 p.m. — Islands and Sebastian Grainger. With the Broken Spindles and Caysonsmith. $7-$9.

Friday, 7 p.m. — Seconds from Disaster and Ration the Truth. With Shoot’ em in the Head, a Legend Unknown, and THEDAYsetfire. Metal/hardcore. $7-$9.


Friday, 7:30 p.m. — Sunburns and Tums.

The Handleys Hotel and Resort: 950 Hotel Circle North, Mission Valley, 619-298-0511.

Friday, 8 p.m. — The Citizen Band.

American/indie/folk country.

Sunday, noon — The Pool and Lady Dottie & the Diamonds. Covers/blues/rock. $5.


Wednesday, 5 p.m. — Christopher Dale and Friends. Acoustic/pop/rock.

Hawthorn’s Restaurant: 2895 University Avenue, North Park, 619-295-1688.

Tuesday, 6 p.m. — Dan Papula. Solo jazz guitarist.

Hennessey’s Tavern — PB: 4859 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach, 858-483-6847.

Wednesday, 8 p.m. — Adrienne Nims and Fanggle Taggle. A blend of jazz, Celtic, and Latin music.

Hensley’s Flying Elephant Pub and Grill: 850 Tamarack Avenue, Carlsbad, 760-729-4996.

Friday, 7:30 p.m. — The Doogood Conservatory Charity. With Earthless and Red Octopus. Psychodelic/alternative/rock.

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

Thursday — Modern Day Moonshine. Blues/rock/stage.

Friday — The Old 97’s. Rock/alternative/country.

Saturday, 7 p.m. — Marc Cohin. Pop/rock/indie. $33-$40.

Sunday, 7:30 p.m. — Detour Live. Rock/punkmetal. $10.

Wednesday, 7 p.m. — Ingrid Michaelson. With Greg Laswell. $12.

Humphrey’s Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-224-3577.

Thursday, 9:30 p.m. — Indie by Design. $5.

Friday, 9:30 p.m. — Crush. Covers R&B and soul hits. $12.

Saturday, 3 p.m. — Dave Humphries. A benefit concert for autism with the Baja Bugs and Tornado Magnet. $5.

Saturday, 9:30 p.m. — Detroit
Sunday, 8 p.m. — Reggie Smith. Smooth jazz. $12.
Monday, 7 p.m. — Michele Lundgren & Blues Steak. Blues/funk/rock.
Tuesday, 7 p.m. — The Johnny Eager Band. Blues/rock. $5.
Wednesday, 9:30 p.m. — Indie by Design. $5.

Humphrey’s by the Bay: 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-224-3577.
Thursday, 7:30 p.m. — The Indigo Girls. Folk-rock duo. $10.
Friday, 7:30 p.m. — Edna Menzel. Pop. $45.
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. — Ani DiFranco. Folk rock. $50.

Jimmy Love’s: 672 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-595-0123.
Friday, 9:45 p.m. — Diva Soul. Covers classic to modern hits.
Saturday, 9:45 p.m. — The Pop Rocks. Covers classic to modern hits.
Sunday, 6:30 p.m. — Masterpiece. Jazz/R&B.
Monday, 6:30 p.m. — Insight. A folk rock duo.

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Every Tuesday 6:30-7:15 pm.
Coupon applies to session only. Shoes rental and Hubie rental extra.
Family Fun Saturday & Sunday
$7 All Day • 1:30-6 pm

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Every Tuesday 6:30-7:15 pm.
Coupon applies to session only. Shoes rental and Hubie rental extra.
Family Fun Saturday & Sunday
$7 All Day • 1:30-6 pm
mix of Latin, jazz, and soul music. 

Tuesday, 6 p.m. — Mystique Jazz/funk/R&B.

The Kensington Club: 4079 Adams Avenue, Kensington—Talmadge, 619-284-2848.

Friday — Jezlhel and the Verus. With Someday Assassin. Indie rock/alternative.


The Kraken: 2533 South Highway 101, Cardiff, 760-436-6483.

Thursday — Frankie Dee & the Funk Nation Band. Blues/standards/funk.

Friday, Friday, 9 p.m. — Live Wire. Covers/standards/rock.

Saturday — Ghost Riders and the Funky Phx. Funk/R&B/soul.

Sundays, 4 p.m. — The Blues Brokers. Blues/soul/rock.

Wednesday — Jeff Moore & the Witchdoctors. Down-home American blues rock.


Friday — Jane Lui and Aaron Bowen. Acoustic/punk/rock.


Sunday — Fever Sleeves and Witt. Indie rock/pop.

The Lumberyard Shopping Center: 1937 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 619-987-1277.

Tuesday and Saturday, 6 p.m. — Keith Jacobson. In the central courtyard, between St. Tropez Bakery & Bistro and Bubby's Gelato. Smooth-jazz saxophone.

Lyceum Theatre: 79 Horton Plaza, Downtown, 619-588-0322.

Monday, 7:30 p.m. — "A Musical Tour of the Jewish Calendar." Benny Friedman and Isha-rona Kashir. and the 8th Day perform for Lipinsky Family San Diego Jewish Arts Festival. Evening begins with Jewish Men's Choir. 619-544-1000. $18-30.

McPh's Irish Pub and Grill: 1107 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-5280.

Thursday, 9 p.m. — Genealogy. Friday, 9 p.m. — The Taylor Harvey Band. Bluegrass/rock.

Saturday, 9 p.m. — Mystique. Jazz/funk/R&B.

Monday, 8 p.m. — Steve Brewer. A one-man band.

Tuesday, 8 p.m. — Jackson & Jusa. Wednesday, 8 p.m. — The Taylor Harvey Band. Bluegrass/rock.

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

Friday, 9 p.m. — The Hype. Blues/pop/rockabilly.

Sunday, 9 p.m. — Metal Brigade. Metal/rock.

Neurosciences Institute: 10440 John Jay Hopkins Drive, La Jolla.

Saturday, 4 p.m. — "For the Love of Music and the Blues of Love." Notables present their "big concert." Donation. 858-456-9470. $10.


Thursday, 9 p.m. — Buddy Aki and the Frail. Electric rock/indie.

Friday, 9 p.m. — The Bloody Hollies and Radio Moscow. With the Four Kings. Blues/punk/psychadelic.

Saturday, 9 p.m. — SweetTooth. CD-release show with Deadline.

Friday, Barbara Nesbitt, Christopher Dale, and more. Alternative rock/blues.

Tuesday, 8 p.m. — Four Seconds Forever and the Coast. Alternative rock/blues.

Wednesday, 9 p.m. — Toreback. Gakkots on Parade, Thrash/closer, and Detonated. Rock/punk/metal.

Open Air Theatre at 5500 Campagnile Drive, College Area, 619-394-6947.

Friday, 7:30 p.m. — Death Cab for Cutie. With Rogue Wave. Indie rock/pop.

Pala Casino: 35008 Pala Temecula Road, Pala, 877-946-7252.

Friday, 9 p.m. — Boogie Knights. In the Grand Cabaret.

Saturday, 9 p.m. — David Brighton. The Grand Cabaret. A tribute to David Bowie.

Prescott Promenade: 211 1/2 East Main Street, El Cajon. Friday, 6 p.m. — Beena's. Enjoy a variety of music for Concerts on the Green. 619-401-4058.

Rosie O'Grady's: 3402 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-284-7666.

Tuesdays, 9:30 p.m. — Bihbah's Jazz Jam Session. Modern jazz classics and standards every Tuesday, with Ryan Whelan, Doug Walker, Laurent Grenfell, and friends.

The Round Table Cocktail Lounge: 7133 Euclid Avenue, City Heights, 619-264-6000.

Tuesdays, 6 p.m. — Charlie Blue. Blues.

Salt Creek Park Recreation Center: 2710 Otay Lakes Road, Chula Vista.


San Diego Civic Theatre: 1100 Third Avenue, Downtown, 858-570-1100.

Tuesday, 7 p.m. — Widespread Panic. Rock/blues. $37.

The Sky Box Sports Grill: 4805 Clairemont Drive, Clairemont, 858-274-7299.

Friday, 9 p.m. — Red Light Behavior. Covers classic rock.

Saturday, 9 p.m. — Monsters of Rock. A multi-metal tribute act. $5.


Thursday. 7 p.m. — Mariz Dibgy and Eric Hutchinson. With Justin Nozuka. Pop/alternative/soul. $12.

Friday, 7 p.m. — The Almost and Emery. With Easy on the Coast and Army of Me. Alternative/pop/indie.

Saturday, 7 p.m. — Somato. Sensory. CD-release show with

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**San Diego Sports Arena • November 8**

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San Diego Reader • June 19, 2008 56
Montreal’s Unicorns had good songs, but they were one of those indie pop acts that gets by mostly on goofy charm. Their cheap-sounding instruments, unpolished playing, and silly onstage puppet shows were part of their appeal, and the whole act was appealing enough that they actually hit the Top 40 in Canada. Still, after the Unicorns broke up, few people expected the band’s Jaime Thompson and Nick Thurborn to go on to something as musically adventurous as their next project, Islands.

The new band’s 2006 debut Return to the Sea was a high-spirited and eclectic mix of sounds and styles from a large pool of players. It was warmly received by fans and critics, and it seemed that Islands was headed for big things. But by the time the band’s second album, Arm’s Way, was released last October, Thompson had left Islands, and Thurborn’s musical ambitions had run away with him.

Arm’s Way is full of catchy vocal hooks and impressive arrangements, but it’s so packed with ideas that by the time you get to the abrupt change from purdy indie pop to Latin dance in “J’Aime Vous Voir Quitter,” you’re exhausted. And that’s just the third song.

To be sure, it’s better to have too many ideas than not enough. But Arm’s Way blurs the line between hypercreativity and madness. Though Thurborn’s voice sounds about blood and guts and car crashes in almost every song, “The capillaries of the community/ are hemorrhaging on every- thing,” he sings at one point, sounding like a lunatic on a city street. Let’s hope he reconnects with his old goofy charm soon.
Shows listed below are FREE with Fair admission unless otherwise noted. A limited number of reserved seats are available for free shows.

**JUNE 19**
- Dwight Yoakam (Country - Dinner Package)
- Doodlebops Live! (KIDS MUSIC)

**JUNE 20**
- Earth, Wind & Fire - Dinner Package
- B.B. King - Dinner Package

**JUNE 21**
- An Evening with Fergie
- Sugarland (Paid Show)

**JUNE 22**
- Boston (Paid Dinner Package)
- Dwight Yoakam (Country - Dinner Package)

**JUNE 23**
- Doodlebops Live! (Kids Music)
- Fergie (An Evening)

**JUNE 24**
- Third World (Reggae with Pink Floyd Laser Spectacular)
- Dwight Yoakam (Country)

**JUNE 25**
- Third World (Reggae with Pink Floyd Laser Spectacular)
- Dwight Yoakam (Country)

**JUNE 26**
- B.B. King (Paid Dinner Package)

**JUNE 27**
- Fergie (An Evening)
- Sugarland (Paid Dinner Package)

**JUNE 28**
- Third World (Reggae with Pink Floyd Laser Spectacular)
- Dwight Yoakam (Country)

**JUNE 29**
- Intocable & Los Horoscopos de Durango (Latin - Sponsored by Cerveza Tecate, Telemundo 33, 106.5 La Nueva and 102.9 Recuerdo)

**JUNE 30**
- “Weird Al” Yankovic (Musical Satire - Dinner Package)

**JULY 1**
- Joan Osborne (Rock)

**JULY 2**
- Little Big Town (Country)

**JULY 3**
- Sugarland (Dinner Package)

**JULY 4**
- “Weird Al” Yankovic (Musical Satire - Dinner Package)

**JULY 5**
- Joan Osborne (Rock)

**JULY 6**
- Intocable & Los Horoscopos de Durango (Latin - Sponsored by Cerveza Tecate, Telemundo 33, 106.5 La Nueva and 102.9 Recuerdo)
- Alacranes Musical (Latin - Sponsored by Cerveza Tecate, Telemundo 33, 106.5 La Nueva and 102.9 Recuerdo)

**JULY 6**
- Dwight Yoakam (Country)

**JULY 7**
- War (Punk, Soul, R&B)

**JULY 4**
- “Weird Al” Yankovic (Musical Satire - Dinner Package)

**JULY 5**
- Joan Osborne (Rock)

**JULY 6**
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**JULY 7**
- War (Punk, Soul, R&B)

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Del Mar Fairgrounds ~ I-5 at Via de la Valle
By Dave Good

The Smithereens spent the first few years of their career developing a formula and the next two decades touring behind it. Some have correctly identified the celestial hierarchy of their harmonies as a postcard to the Byrds; I can almost hear Roger McGuinn singing on “A Girl Like You.” With their best days behind them and no major hits on the horizon, the Smithereens continue to tour the country based on the momentum of the solid-gold foundation that they laid via platinum album sales and their superb arena performances of days past. They hail from the strength in numbers middle class, and the people they sing about could be anybody: “My girl, she’s extraordinary/ My girl, she’s different from the rest/ She is truth combined with fiction/ A lovely contradiction.” But you’ll only see the part of her she wants you to see. Sweet, simple melodies, uncluttered by deep thoughts.

Even through the volume of their live performances can approach that of a small nuclear explosion, the Smithereens are among the most intelligent rock bands I have ever heard. Their cover of the eponymous “I Want to Hold Your Hand” reactivates not one bit of that old Beatles magic. It is a competent cover that reeks of wholesomeness, and when the Smithereens sing it you believe the song is really about wanting to hold a girl’s hand.

But sometimes — and maybe I’m reading too much into this — the Smithereens will craft a lyric or two that hints at a darker reality: “Woke up on a groovy Tuesday/ Even my girl’s hand. But sometimes — and maybe I’m reading too much into this — the Smithereens will craft a lyric or two that hints at a darker reality: “Woke up on a groovy Tuesday/ Hang my mind out on the line.” Based on that alone I want to take them out and buy them rounds of drinks — just to see what might come of it.

Smithereens, Anthology, Saturday, June 21, 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. 619-595-0300. $38 to $45.

By DAVE GOOD

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Smithereens, Anthology, Saturday, June 21, 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. 619-595-0300. $38 to $45.
**Restaurant & Nightclub**

**Deco's**

**With a South Beach Flair**

**Thursday | June 19**

Rock Hill Ent. & Skilet Presents

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DJ's Fingaz & D-Rock Spinning the Livest Music

**Friday | June 20**

Rob Zoom Presents

**Friday Night Shakedown**

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DJ's Rage, Dubz & R-Type with Special Weekly Rotating 2001 Shookers

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**Saturday | June 21**

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**Hootie & The Blowfish**

Wednesday, August 20 • 7:30

**Idina Menzel**

Friday, June 20 • 7:30

**Ani Difranco**

Thursday, June 19 • 7:30

**Indigo Girls**

With Special Guest Brandi Carlile

Thursday, June 19 • 7:30

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2241 Shelter Island Drive
### Calendar MUSIC

**The Casbah:** 2501 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-233-4355

**June 26** — Grand Archives and Sera Cahoone

**June 27** — Fleet Foxes and the Dutchess & the Duke

**June 28** — Raveen Oliver and A.M. Vibe

**June 29** — The Napoleon Complex and a Beautiful Noise

**June 30** — Swim Party and the Honey Clay People

**July 1** — The Moeby Lemon and the Muslims

**July 2** — We Are Scientists

**July 4** — The Constantines and Modern Rifles

**July 5** — The Creepy Creeps and Batar-Zan

**July 6** — Retribution Gospel Choir

**July 7** — Port O’Brien

**July 8** — The Modey Lemon and Earlimart and the Parson

**July 10** — Calico Horse and Silverbird

**July 11** — Scarlet Symphony and Vision of a Dying World

**July 12** — The Parker Mob and IFK

**July 14** — The Fascination and the Feeling’s Mutual

**July 15** — Aspects of Physics and Followers

**July 17** — Eastmid and the Parson Red Heads

**July 18, July 19** — Grand Ole Party

**July 20** — Chuck Ragan and Josh Hanon

**July 21** — Lucero and Jessica Lee Mayfield

**July 23** — Rocky Volotado

**July 24** — Howlin Rain and Earthless

**July 25** — The Life & Times

**July 27** — Japanese Sunday, Syndicate, Fever Sleeve

**July 31** — Jay Reatard and Cheap Times

**August 1** — The Hold Steady

**August 2** — Buckfast Supercheese

**August 3** — Thao & the Get Down Stay Down

**August 4** — Norman

**August 5** — Matt Curreri & the Exifriends and Paul Carreri

**August 6** — Joshua James and Gary Chisol

**August 8** — Transfer and A.M. Vibe

**August 9** — Manic Hispanic

**August 10** — The Silent Comedy and Oh, the Whale

**August 13** — Octopus Project

**August 15** — Nan Xia and Carla Boulouch

**August 16** — Dru and Film School

**August 22** — Bob Log III and Scott H. Biram

**August 24** — El Vez

**August 26** — Shearwater and Yoko

**September 1** — Get Back Loretta

**September 3** — Polvo and Trans Am

**September 5** — Southern Culture on the Skids

**September 10** — Walter Mosog and School of Seven Bells

**September 17** — Dr. Dog

**September 21** — Miles Hunt, Wayne Hausen, Lisa Dreyer

**September 25** — Federico Aubele

**October 2** — Quinton & Ms. Franklin

**Ché Café:** 9500 Gilman Drive, B-3, La Jolla, 858-534-2311

**June 28** — Ipanami and BoomSnake

**July 11** — Die Young and Lie & Wait

**July 12** — Bumbklaatt, Thou, Leech

**July 15** — Earthless and Mythical Beast

**July 16** — Ghost Mice and Heathers

**July 19** — Laterns

**July 21** — Peter Walker

**July 25** — July 27: Sunday night, Syndicate, Fever Sleeve

**July 31** — Jay Reatard and Cheap Times

**Stage**

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**Stages**

HOMETOWN CDs

BY OLLIE

**Album:** Tipper!!! (2008)

**Artist:** Hotel St. George

**Label:** self-released

Where available/price: Taang! Records downtown, Thrifty

**Date:** June 28

**Cost:** $6

**Tracks:** 10

**Tracks:** "It's the Blues 2) Waiting on a Miracle Ain't Like Waiting on a Train 3) Hit It in Your Guts 4) Tell Yourself"

**Band:** Matthew Binder (vocals, guitar), Brian Rely (guitar, keyboard, vocals), Erik Vynjak (bass, vocals), Simon Leader (drums)

**Website:** myspace.com/hotelsstgeorge

**The local-band amoeba splits and reforms again, this time with former members of Vinyl Radio and A Week’s Worth. Singer Matt Binder and bassist Erik Vynjak founded Hotel St. George last fall, and the band has since shared the main stage with the solid local boys in Writer as well as perennial threats to national breakout, Louis XIV.**

**Hotel St. George combines punch-in-the-gut garage-rock guitar work with fierce glam vocals — simple and tasty. In the horse race to see which indie act signs a contract first (….the Frantic Romantic on the inside, around the corner comes the Modlins, and down the straight-away trots Roxy Jones…), Matt Binder’s Bowie-esque voice might put Hotel St. George in front by a nose.**

**But while the band shows grit and dedication, their arrangements may be too sim-**
### Event Listings

**Embarcadero Marina Park South**: 206 Marina Park Way, Downtown.
- June 27, June 28 — “Stayin’ Alive — The Bee Gees Tribute.”
- July 11, July 12 — “Motown Magic.”
- July 14 — Harry & the Potters and Katsumoto.
- July 15 — Robert Plant & Alison Krauss.
- July 17, July 18 — Hippiefest.
- July 22 — Feist.
- July 23 — The Doozie Brothers.
- July 25 — Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons.
- July 27 — Ringo Starr & His All Starr Band.
- July 28 — Derek Trucks & Susan Tedeschi.
- August 3 — The Heroes.
- August 24 — T.K. Gardner.
- August 27 — Liquid Blue.
- August 29 — T-Fox & the Fox City Band.
- August 30 — The Eve Sela Band.

**The Kraken**: 2331 South Highway 101, Cardiff, 760-436-6483.
- June 26 — ZZ Top.
- July 3— Lynyrd Skynyrd.
- July 10 — Bob Weir & Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band.
- July 11 — Robert Plant & Alison Krauss.
- August 14 — Joe Cocker.
- August 15 — Tower of Power.
- August 16 — The Doobie Brothers.
- August 17 — The Ronettes.
- August 18 — Huey Lewis & the News.
- August 19 — Steve Winwood.
- August 20 — The Doobie Brothers.
- August 21 — Steve Winwood.
- August 22 — Jimmy Buffett.
- August 23 — Tower of Power.
- August 24 — Steve Winwood.
- August 26 — Steve Winwood.
- August 27 — Red Light Behavior.
- August 28 — Etta James & the Muscle Shoals Rhythm Section.
- August 29 — The Motet.
- August 30 — The Motet.
- August 31 — T.K. Gardner.

**Culver City Dub Collective**: Featuring Paula Fuga

*With special guests*

**Saturday, August 30**

Cricket Wireless Amphitheatre
On Sale June 21 at 10am!

*An individual action, multiplied by millions, creates global change.*

**Humphrey’s By the Bay**: 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-224-3577.
- June 26 — One Hawaii Tour.
- June 30 — Robert Plant & Alison Krauss.
- July 1, July 2 — Bob Weir & RatDog.
- July 13 — Tom Jones.
- July 16 — Chris Isaak.
- July 17, July 18 — Hippiefest.
- July 22 — Feist.
- July 23 — The Doozie Brothers.
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- August 30 — The Eve Sela Band.

**San Diego Radio Times**: June 18, 2009

103
Yo, DJ!

Talk About a Star

The Tiki House in Pacific Beach is a very surf-friendly venue. I’ve seen surf bands from around the world tear it up behind the pool table and on the stage built for a one-man band. I recall seeing Surf Report many years ago, Ruhan and Rick alternating lead-guitar duties. At the max, the Tiki holds maybe 60, 70 people. This particular night was pretty packed. Most were probably Tiki regulars with the usual handful of diehard surf fans in attendance to see the band. Surf Report (now disbanded, with two members in Secret Samurai) had a way to get the crowd very involved in the music. Well into their first set, one of the non-surf enthusiasts couldn’t handle the lack of a lead singer any longer and jumped onstage and grabbed the mic with both hands.

The band played on as if oblivious to the new member of the band. He went into some sort of improvisatory rap in classic lead singer fashion. After a couple verses of unintelligible lyrics, Mr. E (on drums) leaned back and cut the mic. The guest singer carried on for another minute or so, unaware that his minute of fame had ended. I seem to recall he was not thrilled about losing his new job and was escorted from the bar.

Secret Samurai plays the Tiki House tomorrow, June 20

Tickets for “Upcoming Shows” available at Ticketmaster & Humphreys. All shows are 21 years and up.

Contact:
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July 13 — Summer Slaughter 2008.
July 14 — A Change of Pace and Houston Call.
July 15 — Destroy the Runner and Seven Year Tree.
July 17 — Kill Hannah and Mystic Droid.
July 18 — Finch.
July 19 — The Hoodoo and the Blood Countess.
July 20 — Cate Is What We Aim For and Ac Enderes.
July 22 — State Radio and Rose Hill Drive.

July 24 — Terror, Warriors, Death Before Dishonor.
July 25 — This Is the Hospital and a Legend Unknown.
July 27 — The Alkaline Trio and American Steel.
July 31 — Jon McLaughlin.
August 2 — Plane Without a Pilot.
August 6 — The Hush Sound and the Cab.
August 7 — The Banner, Dr. Acula, David Costa.
August 8 — Shai Hulud, Full Blown Chaos, Woe of Tyrants.
August 9 — The Last Second.
August 15 — KillWhite/Dead and Carnifex.
August 20 — Anthony Green, Good Old War, Person L.
August 28 — Stick to Your Guns and Winds of Plague.
August 30 — The RX Bandits and Portugal. The Man.
September 19 — Randic.

Spreckels Organ Pavilion:
2211 Pan American Road, Balboa Park.
June 28 — Paul Ingram Quartet.
July 15 — Chris Isaak.
July 16 — Boys.
August 3 — The Tractors.
August 3 — The Temptations and the Four Tops.
August 14 — The Gipsy Kings.
August 21 — Sheryl Crow.
October 15 — Randy Travis.

Valley View Casino:
16300 Nyeami Pass Road, Valley Center.
June 27 — Hot Rod Lincoln and the Heroes.
July 25 — The Parisians.
UCSD, 858-534-2230.
June 26 — Paul Ingram Quartet.

V Lounge:
5000 Willoos Road, Alpine, 619-445-5400.
July 26 — The Jaime Valle Jazz Quartet.
August 29 — Michele Lundeen & Blues Steak.

Viejas Casino:
5000 Willoos Road, Alpine, 619-445-5400.
June 19, 2008

Viejas Casino Concerts in the Park:
5000 Willoos Road, Alpine, 619-445-5400.
June 27 — Cyndi Lauper, B-52s, Joan Jett & the Blackhearts.
July 3 — Cinderella and Warrant.
July 12 — Boy George.
July 20 — Michele Lundeen & Blues Steak.
July 29 — Boys Like Girls and Good Charlotte.
July 26 — Los Lonely Boys.
August 7 — George Thorogood and The Destroyers.
August 4 — The Regeneration Tour.
August 16 — Michele Lundeen & Blues Steak.
August 20 — Donna Summer.
September 12 — Jaguares.

Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room:
5000 Willoos Road, Alpine, 619-445-5400.
July 24 — Bo Bice.
July 25 — Chris Botti.
August 26 — Sebastian Bach.
September 14 — Sister Hazel.
November 1 — K-Ci and JoJo.

Vista Library:
700 Eucalyptus Avenue, Vista, 760-443-5100.
August 10 — The Peter Sprague Trio.

Wave House:
3125 Mission Boulevard, Mission Beach.
June 29 — Sum 41.
July 3, July 4 — Umphreys Mcgee.
July 5 — The B-Side Players.
Calendar

MUSIC

July 20 — Simple Plan.
July 30 — Dave Hammond and Tribe of Kings.
August 8 — Sean Kingston.
August 23 — The BoDeans.

Winstons: 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822.
June 27 — 2Mex.
June 29 — Earl Thomas.

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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**Calendar**

**MUSIC**

**Bar Dynamite:** Thursdays, 9 p.m.: DJ K.C. Dub, Techno-techno. Hip-hop, old school, and mashups. $5. Wednesdays, 9 p.m.: Deep House Night. DJs Diario, Lil Ryan, and Johnny D spin house music. 1808 West Washington Street, Mission Hills. 619-297-9754.

**The Bar Pink Elephant:** Mondays, 9:30 p.m.: Grown Folk Music. Features the Funky Boy All Stars DJ Buddha and Duse. Hip-hop/soul. 3828 30th Street, North Park. 619-564-7194.

**Beauty Bar:** Tuesdays, 9 p.m.: Trans Am Tuesdays. Now serve ‘80s dance party with DJ Heather Hardy. 4746 El Cajon Boulevard, Kensington-Talmadge. 619-516-4746.

**Bluefoot Bar and Lounge:** Saturday, 9 p.m.: Diamond Cutz. Presents a night of hip-hop, ‘80s, and old-school music. Features DJ Duquette and Trevor Young. 3404 30th Street, North Park. 619-235-8466.

**Camel’s Breath Inn:** Fridays, Saturdays: Live DJ, Ages 21 and up. 1033 Friars Road, Mission Valley. 619-281-1722.

**Candelas:** Thursdays: DJ A.A. Deep soulful house music. 416 Third Avenue, Downtown. 619-762-4655.

**Club Anitas:** Sundays. With DJ Tommy. 3105 702-4455.

**Coffee Club Candelas:** Third Avenue, Downtown. 619-281-1722.

**Club Antzi:** Thursday, 9 p.m.: Hip-Hop Night. with DJ Dizzy D and Billy Blast. 1330 East Valley Parkway, Escondido. 760-747-2811.

**Coyote Bar and Grill:** Thursdays, 10-30 p.m.: DJ Earl Henry. Fridays, 10:30 p.m., Saturdays, 10-30 p.m.: DJ Steve Harty. 308 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4699.


**The Filling Station:** Fridays, 9 p.m., Saturdays, 9 p.m.: DJ Dance Party. 9522 Miramar Road, Mira Mesa. 619-578-0757.

**Giant:** Fridays: Paul Okenfeld. Electronic/alternative. 2028 Hancock Street, Mission Hills. 619-284-9590.

**Hamey Sushi:** Wednesdays: Han Weekly guest DJs spin house, electro, mashups, and Brit-pop. 3964 Harvey Street, Old Town. 619-295-3272.

**Hensley’s Flying Elephant Pub and Grill:** Friday: The Clean Cut, 850 Tamarack Avenue, Carlsbad. 760-729-4996.

**Inferno Young Adult Nightclub:** Fridays, 9 p.m., Saturdays, 9 p.m.: DJ Kool T. Top 40. 40 832 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-483-6550.

**Leucadia**

**JC M-80's**

**The M-80’s**

**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. Candelandy, Connect 4, and Nintendo on the big screen. Ages 21 and up. 2236 Fern Street, South Park. 619-284-6784.

**Whistle Stop Bar:** Saturdays: 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. Candelandy, Connect 4, and Atari and Nintendo on the big screen. Ages 21 and up. 2236 Fern Street, South Park. 619-284-6784.
Earlier this year I got an Evite to a “white-trash party.” I could tell these partiers would be trouble by what was written in the Evite: “We have spoken with the bus drivers and they remember us from last year. We have been told that we were ‘fucking crazy last year’ and that two of the drivers almost didn’t take the job. Yikes. That being said, there will be ZERO TOLERANCE for people fucking with the drivers or buses. This includes, but is not limited to, throwing things at or from the buses — and urinating anywhere other than your pants. Keep yourself in check.”

Why would buses be necessary at a party? Well, in true white-trash fashion, they were going to a monster-truck rally at Qualcomm Stadium.

As I drove up to the park in Clairemont where they were gathered, I heard a guy shouting through a bullhorn, which was followed by the crowd of hundreds — many of them in flannel shirts — yelling.

As I got closer, I heard the guy with the bullhorn yell, “When I say ‘monster,’ you say ‘truck!’” And when he said “monster,” the crowd yelled “truck.” This went on and on.

A girl standing next to me had a shirt that read “My boyfriend was a dirtybike.” A woman walked by with a shirt that read “Dirt Bird.”

I thought I saw a guy in a shirt that read “Jesus is my homeboy,” but when he got closer, I saw that it said “George Bush is my homeboy.”

There were a number of X-rated T-shirts. One woman with a big chest who wore a sexually suggestive shirt was being followed by a guy who wouldn’t stop hitting on her. At one point he said, “Come on, let’s go make out in the bushes. It’s a party. That’s what people do at parties.” She replied, “Yeah, well, people may do that at parties, but I’m not going to do that with you.” He put his head down and looked hurt. He looked up a few seconds later and asked, “Will you make out with her?”

Several people had blackened their teeth, and a few people had grills on their grins — those gold things rappers put over their front teeth, not the things you cook hamburgers on.

Though they did have a barbecue grill there cooking up food.

An Asian guy with messed-up hair and a sweater that didn’t fit walked by, and my girlfriend said, “Hey, this is funny: I’ve seen a few Asian people here and a few other ethnicities...yet, this is a white-trash party.”

Somedone overheard this and said, “Well, everyone is something else, aren’t they? Think about it. What does it even mean to be white? People are calling Barack Obama black. That’s fine, but he’s also half white. Yet, nobody is calling him white. They all call him black. So, when people say someone is ‘white trash,’ they don’t necessarily mean they are Caucasian. They just mean they’re sitting in a trailer, picking their toenails, and listening to Jeff Foxworthy.”

And speaking of bad cases, they had several cases of Pabst Blue Ribbon. Guys walked around passing it out. There was a huge chair made out of old beer cartons, which many people were taking pictures in.

A few people were smoking pot, so I decided to light up a cigar. I know there’s a smoking ban in parks, but I figured that only applies when you’re dealing with families enjoying the park and facilities. Although, as loud as this party was getting, I figured it was only a matter of time before the cops showed up.
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Crasher

time before the police rolled up.

About 80 percent of the crowd had sideburns. Some had them drawn on with marker. I asked one guy why he didn’t grow real ones. “I can’t grow facial hair. I wish I could. Hair just doesn’t grow on my chest or my face.” His friend said, “I can grow sideburns, but unless you’re old Elvis, who wants ‘em?”

A handful of women wore fake pregnant bellies. I overheard some of them say that they shouldn’t be drinking, right before they took a swig. One woman said, “Amy really is pregnant, and she’s not coming.”

One guy had a cast on his arm. I asked if he was wearing that for the white-trash theme. “Nah,” he said, “I actually broke my arm. I was jumping a homemade ramp on a motorcycle. I cleared the five trash cans my friends set up but crashed when I landed. It’s weird because when I hit the pavement, it didn’t even hurt. I guess it was all the adrenaline. You’d think I’d at least have some video of the jump for YouTube. But my friend who was filming...well, once I crashed, he dropped the camera to come and help me. It broke the camera and tape. I guess that’s kinda cool...nice of him and all. But, I would’ve rather we had it on video. Someone said we can fix the tape. I’m still looking into that.”

He may not have worn the cast to fit the white-trash theme, but his story sure did.

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

To get an online version of this column, go to sdreader.com. You can print it, email it to friends, or get other “Crasher” columns and stories by Josh Board.

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Lucky 7 Match $5 off speed dating
U-31 2nd drink $1
Since the last time I reviewed Chateau Orleans for Mardi Gras, 2001, it’s been through at least two changes of ownership. I wasn’t crazy about the food, and then the second-to-last owner complained that our capsule review was out of date, so we pulled the capsule and I made a mental note to go back someday.

Now summer’s coming on, and summer brings up a mad craving for Creole food, for sipping hurricanes from plastic go-cups on the street and rocking all night to Cajun two-step or blues at Tip’s, for pulling ice cubes out of my luck Dandy’s rocks to run over my face and neck. My last visit to New Orleans was a long-ago August. You have to be nuts or have some urgent half-sane reason to go to the Crescent City in summertime, and Fix Me a Plate at the easternmost edge of La Encanto, Mardi Gras Café, mainly for take-out, jazz. We’ve still got marvelous Magnolias out in San Diego. We’ve lost Bayou Bar and Grill (long I (heart) N’awlins.

The first opened years ago and failed to replace it as the taste has faded away with old age? Actually, I don’t know why there are scallops on this menu but no oysters. Or no malliers (chayote squash), which is so readily available here. Or no grits (as in grillades and grits). Or no redfish (or snapper as a substitute), no trout, no finfish but catfish. No shrimp remoulade. Sigh. You’re not in NOLA, that’s for sure.

Many appetizers are (surprise!) deep-fried things, so typical of the Deep South. When they’re good, they can be great: “purple fries” are brilliant, with battered, skin-on eggplant wedges fried in grillades and grits). Or no redfish (or snapper as a substitute), no trout, no finfish but catfish. No shrimp remoulade. Sigh. You’re not in NOLA, that’s for sure.

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Calendar

RESTAURANTS

spiked with a discreet touch of cayenne. This isn’t the way Galatoire’s cooks their fried eggplant fingers, but it’s at least as good.

Fried dill pickles, a soul food classic, are fun: Salty, greasy, bad for you in every way, they come with a ranch dip, same as the purple fries. A combo called Granny’s Goodies, however, reminds me of Pickapeppa’s Wild Bunch. The catfish nuggets are played by drawing. Jeein Strother Martin. The alligator bites are unbathed Warren Oates. But you can also order the decent Cajun popcorn (oh, rare Ben Johnson) on its own without the sleazy sidekicks. Those crawfish tails, solo, are a better bet and six bucks cheaper, too.

The finale of our appetizer ordeal was a seasonal special (Thursdays and Fridays) of crawfish. I could pontificate about it for pages. Numero uno, the boil sucks. I tactics, says Marc. By the time you start to eat the Cajun music — resist the urge to apply this same treatment to the people in the kitchen. “This recipe, he says, “is a lot like Cajun music — really simple, but with a very special quality. And I’ve never succeeded in putting it much too much garlic.” You can do a quick version of this without roux, or a slower, thicker version (which Marc calls “court bouillon”) with a roux. If two cooks will fit at your stove, you can have one make the roux and the other cook the crawfish at the same time. Serves 4-6.

INGREDIENTS:
1/2 cup cooking oil of choice, plus 3 or 4 cups more (3/4 cup) for making optional roux
1/2 cup flour (optional, for roux)
2 pounds peeled, defrosted (if frozen) crawfish tails (or peeled raw shrimp)
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
1/2 teaspoon minced garlic (at least 3 tablespoons or 6 large cloves)
1/2 small can (8-ounce) tomato sauce
Boiled rice
1. If you want a thicker version of this dish, pour 5 cups of oil into a heavy skillet, heat a little, add flour, and cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until the roux is to a medium brown. Set aside.
2. Pour 4 cups of oil (1/2 cup) into a cast-iron skillet or similar heavy pot, add the crawfish, salt, pepper, and crawfish and cook over high heat until the water is gone, stirring frequently. (If using frozen tails, this may take 25 minutes. If using shrimp, don’t cook longer than 10 minutes.)
3. Add onion, scallions, bell pepper, parsley, and garlic to crawfish (and optional roux, if using). Lower heat to medium-high and cook 5 minutes, stirring constantly.
4. Add tomato sauce and cook 5 minutes, stirring often. Add 1 cup water, lower heat, and simmer 5 minutes. Serve immediately over boiled rice.

WHAT THE CROCLE EATS

CRAWFISH (OR SHRIMP) ÉTOUFFÉE

Find the recipe for this Cajun dish on page 5.

PREPARED BY LUCY MAE WEATHERLY

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It’s an amazing feeling, sitting up to a bar watching the Padres on a bunch of great screens, including one that’s 12 feet, while the actual Padres are playing in the actual ballpark about, oh, 20 yards away. Right across the courtyard and through the gate. You can hear the crowd’s roar before it comes through the electronics. But that’s what sports bars are about. Taking reality and turning it into hyperreality. Seems these danged places are opening up all around town.

So when I was loping down Tenth, determined not to be led astray by the crowds milling around the ballpark, I just had to stop at the sign on this brand-new brick building with big yellow canopies that said “Tilted Kilt,” whatever da heck that meant. Because, I had to admit, there was something sexy about the name. Something sassy. Combining the whole Scottish-Irish thing with New World check. And, okay, the bonnie wee lassies at the door, kitted out in tartan plaid mini-kilts and bustiers with a white crop top tied around it just door, kitted out in tartan plaid mini-kilts and—cheek. And, okay, the bonnie wee lassies at the counter and behind the — wow — 38 screens hung all around the walls. Brian says they’ve got every sport, plus, hey, they have Guitar Hero, if you’re into games.

I’m looking, looking…The cup of coffee I got cost $2.35 already. So I check the appetizers. Upf is Drunkens Clams, $14.99, steamed in beer and served with garlic bread. Roasted garlic fries, on the other hand, sound great (“topped with a roasted garlic sauce”), and only $4.99. “They’re awesome,” says this guy Sean. Huh. He’s nursing a pint of microbrewery ale. “I love it,” he says, and starts ogling males. “Is that okay with you?” I say.

“Long as they’re not fat,” she says, and starts ogling males. “Is that okay with you?” I say.

“Long as they’re not fat,” she says, and starts ogling males. “Is that okay with you?” I say.

I count my pennies and, what the heck, go for it.

Tilted Kilt server gal named Ceanne brings my plate, loaded with a logjam of fries and a big golden burger sandwich, with two “longshank” split sausages lying hidden under melted provolone and a slew of grilled onions and green and red bell peppers. But it’s the sausage that comes through. Strong, really zesty, and really salty. And filling. Man, if I wasn’t working tonight, I’d be into one of their microbrews too.

And here’s the other thing. It becomes a kind of communal feast. Just this ad hoc group clustered round my corner of the bar. “Mmm, pretty good fries,” says this gal Katie, pecking at my plate, loaded with a logjam of fries and a big golden burger sandwich, with two “longshank” split sausages lying hidden under melted provolone and a slew of grilled onions and green and red bell peppers. But it’s the sausage that comes through. Strong, really zesty, and really salty. And filling. Man, if I wasn’t working tonight, I’d be into one of their microbrews too.

The real live crowd inside Petco Park whistles and hoots. Some poor Padre has done something wrong again. They’ll be whistling inside the Tilted Kilt too, but not for long. A word to Brian and they can all cancel the sad reality outside and be playing Guitar Hero. On 38 screens.

The Places: Tilted Kilt Pub and Eatery, 319 Tenth Avenue, East Village (right by Petco ballpark), 619.834.1475 (3458)
Type of Food: American
Prices: Pizza pie (cheese), $6.99; “drunkens” clams, $14.99, roasted garlic fries, $4.99; broaded onion rings, $4.99, house salad with oven-roasted vegetables, cheese, $8.99; add grilled chicken, $2.99, chili with chopped onions and cheese, $4.99; pulled pork sandwich, $8.49; half pound black Angus hamburger, $8.49; French Connection burger (with mushrooms, sweet onions, Swiss cheese, au jus), $8.99; Longhank’s sausage sandwich, $8.99, carrot cake, $5.99, cheesecake, $5.99
Hours: 11:00 a.m.—midnight, Sunday—Thursday; 11:00 a.m.—2:00 a.m., Friday—Saturday
Buses: 14, 16, 80, 929
Nearest Bus Stop: 11th and Park Boulevard (northbound); 10th and Park (southbound)
Trolleys: Blue line, orange line
Nearest Trolley Stop: 12th and Imperial
RESEARCH LISTS

The Reader’s Guide to Restaurants are recommended listings written by our reviewers (Ed Bedford, Barbara David, Annette Martin, Shari McCollough, Max Nish, Eleanor Widmer, Naomi Wise). Each issue contains only a fraction of over 700 reviews. A complete searchable list is available online at SanDiegoReader.com. For more information, call 858-686-6688.

SAN DIEGO READER.COM

SAN DIEGO BEACHES

Barbarella. 2317 Avenida de la Playa, La Jolla, 858-484-3773. This popular restaurant sits nestled in an English garden just blocks from the beach. You can dine amidst the flora at street-side tables, in the enclosed patio, or in the small dining room. Once you’re seated, the friendly staff provides fresh-out-the-oven sourdough wheat bread to nibble on. The menu changes daily, offering fresh fish, steak, chicken, pasta, soups, and pizzas, all cooked with a twist of imagination that delivers on the flavor. For instance: pizza topped with smoked salmon, creme fraiche, chives, and fried capers. Or delicate spring onions with a watercress salad. The cheerful café instantly became a gathering spot for many PB-ites, including chef-owner Isabel Cruz, who calls herself “Food Girl,” has imported much of her Mission Café menu of Latin-sorts—health food to the beach. A self-confessed “lazy cook,” she focuses on wholesomeness rather than authenticity. Breakfast and lunch are the main meals here and include competent egg, lascivious scrambled eggs, huge sandwiches, and weighty slabs of coconut French toast. Competent Latin-style dishes include tamales with airy masa. Devotees of Southeast-Asian dishes will be disappointed, however, by the simplistic stabs in that direction. If your dish is too mild, house sauces (chili oil, katsu, chipotle sauce, etc.) are available on request. Beer and wine. Monday through Sunday, lunch and dinner daily. Moderate to low moderate. — N.W.

Isabela’s Cantina. 366 Felter Street, Pacific Beach, 858-272-8400. This cheerful café instantly became a gathering spot for many PB-ites, including the forlorn population of adults. Chef-owner Isabel Cruz, who calls herself “Food Girl,” has imported much of her Mission Café menu of Latin-sorts—health food to the beach. A self-confessed “lazy cook,” she focuses on wholesomeness rather than authenticity. Breakfast and lunch are the main meals here and include competent egg, lascivious scrambled eggs, huge sandwiches, and weighty slabs of coconut French toast. Competent Latin-style dishes include tamales with airy masa. Devotees of Southeast-Asian cuisines, however, may be disappointed by the simplistic stabs in that direction. If your dish is too mild, house sauces (chili oil, katsu, chipotle sauce, etc.) are available on request. Beer and wine. Monday through Sunday, lunch and dinner daily. Moderate to low moderate. — N.W.

Kaiserhof. 2253 Sunset Cliffs Boulevard, Ocean Beach, 619-224-0366. Even on work nights, crowds fill this restaurant and biergarten, choosing down on hefty German cooking in a festive atmosphere. Flavors are authentic, but can be monotonous due to the kitchen’s reliance on commercial products (especially a heavy-flavored beef base that makes all the sauces taste alike). Good schnitzels, potato pancakes. The excellent apple strudel is the only dessert made in-house. Reservations advised, especially for patio seating. Full bar. Lunch Friday through Sunday, dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Moderate. — N.W.

Red Sails. 2614 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-223-3030. One of the city’s oldest eateries has been renovated to look like it always has, but fresher. Even on weeknights, crowds fill this restaurant and biergarten, choosing down on hefty German cooking in a festive atmosphere. Flavors are authentic, but can be monotonous due to the kitchen’s reliance on commercial products (especially a heavy-flavored beef base that makes all the sauces taste alike). Good schnitzels, potato pancakes. The excellent apple strudel is the only dessert made in-house. Reservations advised, especially for patio seating. Full bar. Lunch Friday through Sunday, dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Moderate. — N.W.

Humphrey’s by the Bay. 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-224-3357. Most diners at this resort/concert venue restaurant eat at the prix-fixe preshow dinners because they guarantee good seats for the concert at the next-door amphitheatre. But better food emerges once the musicians leave the premises. The kitchen features fine seafood, juicy meats, and Prime steaks with seasonal veggie garnishes. Preparations are pleasurable but in no way startling. — S.M.

McCullough. 2171 Avenida de la Playa, La Jolla, 858-484-3773. The friendly staff provides fresh-out-of-the-oven sourdough wheat bread to nibble on. The menu changes daily, offering fresh fish, steak, chicken, pasta, soups, and pizzas, all cooked with a twist of imagination that delivers on the flavor. For instance: pizza topped with smoked salmon, creme fraiche, chives, and fried capers. Or delicate spring onions with a watercress salad. The cheerful café instantly became a gathering spot for many PB-ites, including chef-owner Isabel Cruz, who calls herself “Food Girl,” has imported much of her Mission Café menu of Latin-sorts—health food to the beach. A self-confessed “lazy cook,” she focuses on wholesomeness rather than authenticity. Breakfast and lunch are the main meals here and include competent egg, lascivious scrambled eggs, huge sandwiches, and weighty slabs of coconut French toast. Competent Latin-style dishes include tamales with airy masa. Devotees of Southeast-Asian dishes, however, may be disappointed by the simplistic stabs in that direction. If your dish is too mild, house sauces (chili oil, katsu, chipotle sauce, etc.) are available on request. Beer and wine. Monday through Sunday, lunch and dinner daily. Moderate to low moderate. — N.W.

Café Athena. 1846 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-274-1440. With a more upscale, eye-catching decor and a longer and more serious menu than most Greek cafés, this is a popular destination, so be sure to reserve for dinner or you’ll wait a long while. The choices include good soups and appetizers (except for a sub-par taramosalata), outstanding moussaka, above-average gyros, and interesting, unusual desserts. There’s plenty for vegetarians. Rather noisy when crowded. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to low moderate. — N.W.

FREE 6-pc. Sushi Roll
with purchase of any custom-designed rolls

Large Beer & Hot Sake only $5.50 Reg. $8

10% off Entire Check
Not valid during Happy Hour. Excludes alcohol.

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With coupon. Offer expires 7/1/08. Not valid with other offers.
BAJA

From the United States use the pro-fax 602-32 when calling Mexico.
Chilu Jai Avenida Republica #1388, Baja, 664-481-4593. Eat here and out of it's surrounding by ghosts. Erol Flynn, John Huston, Rita Hayworth, Anthony Quinn, Ava Gardner, and, they say, Ernest Hemingway, who all — and drank very little — here... Plus the great stars of boxing and bull-fighting. But mainly it was a haven for Spanish artists or artists desperate for Old Country food. This is one of Tijuana’s great historic eateries, its tale written on the walls. Old border photos, Don Quijote art, fighting bull horns, brand’s brands, and a matted frame green cap with his Blood still on it. The food’s all Spanish, so paella is a big threat, soup, solid, French bread, and, then bread, but a lot that’s not appetizers, corns (pork sausages), As- sado (not Baja), a tsunami with trout, olive oil and garlic, and Galician octopus. Vegetarian upon request. Open Daily.

La Diferencia Avenida Sanchez Taboada 106B-1A, Baja, 664-534-359. Mexican haute cuisine, with inventiveness combinations of traditional flavors. The creative menu refraims the old dishes and devises new ones. Wine list centers on Baja wines (Monte Xanic and Cerro) at reasonable prices. Vegetarian upon request. Secure, free valet parking next to exterior courtyard. Menu is in Spanish (a hard-to-read hand-written, but is very fresh and very fresh) the combi—

Central

Alex’s Brown Bag 3501 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-231-2912. The rober’s Alex’s now in the Mr. A’s building is rightly famous for its Original Philadelphia cheese steak sandwich (with fried bellar peppers, onions, mustard, and provolone). Sandwiches are a treat. House specials are more inter- esting than the regular fare. Try the seafood combo (aureole de mariscos), the entrecote (short-ripped beef, cheese, and, and), or the roasted beef Monterey (cabrito tatemado). Desserts include the house pecan, mango and ice cream with syrup (Mexican chocolate), and coquitas de coco, coconuts with walnuts, green coconut, ice cream, and “burnt milk” carcass — the same meat to liquid that passes this side of paradise. Vegetarian on request. On weekends the place rocks with live parties and music. The big downside: it’s hard to find. Take Agua Caliente Boulevard one half mile past the racetrack, turn right at Las Palmas, then left at the Key del Polo sign. La Escondida entrance sign is in red near at the road’s end. Open daily for breakfast, lunch, dinner.

Chiki Jai 2417 Hillcrest Ave., San Diego, 619-231-2912. Try the coconut shrimp entrée. The dish is served golden and crunchy with vegetables, a large helping of green salad, and a light sauce. The Orange Crush is another sublime dish, served on a bed of strings in the middle of the table. The dish is served with a side of grilled beef, cheese, and, and, or the roasted beef Monterey (cabrito tatemado). Desserts include the house pecan, mango and ice cream with syrup (Mexican chocolate), and coquitas de coco, coconuts with walnuts, green coconut, ice cream, and “burnt milk” carcass — the same meat to liquid that passes this side of paradise. Vegetarian on request. On weekends the place rocks with live parties and music. The big downside: it’s hard to find. Take Agua Caliente Boulevard one half mile past the racetrack, turn right at Las Palmas, then left at the Key del Polo sign. La Escondida entrance sign is in red near at the road’s end. Open daily for breakfast, lunch, dinner.

Los Pelicanos Calle Del Cedro 115-45, Baja, 661-612-0424. This hotel dining room El Nado’s (allusion- gifter) sister, with a shorter menu and more room with parties and live music. The big downside is it’s hard to find. Take Agua Caliente Boulevard one half mile past the racetrack, turn right at Las Palmas, then left at the Key del Polo sign. La Escondida entrance sign is in red near at the road’s end. Open daily for breakfast, lunch, dinner.

Central

Alex’s Brown Bag 3501 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-231-2912.

Old Town’s original border pub $1- DRAUGHT

416 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-255-8585.

Open daily for breakfast, lunch, dinner.

La Mission 2443 San Diego Avenue Old Town 619-254-2621.

Snack, wine, and beers. On the walls are pictures of the famous cowboys and cowgirls who frequented this place. The food is a mix of traditional Mexican and American dishes. The patio is a popular spot for live music on weekends.

Weekend Brunch

Bottomless Champagne and Mimosas 7.
Steak & eggs, seafood, pancakes, omelettes, sandwiches, salads & more. Breakfast Special 9.95 with purchase.

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Specialty Cocktails from $5
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House Wines $5
Draft Beers $3

Cone Zone Eats:
Kobe Mini Mac $8
Hot Chicken Tender $7
Crispy Shrimp & Calamari $11
Chips & “Guac-ma” $6
Truffle & Parmesan Fries $6
Carnitas Taquitos $8
Corndog Mac & Cheese $6

King Crab 11” 1-lb. Alaskan Crab Legs
Every Monday

Lobster 11” Live From Maine
Every Wednesday

Prime Rib 11” Slow-Roasted 1° Cut
Every Friday

Order Saska’s Solstice Delight and receive two 7 oz. King Fillet dinners, crowned with crab meat and topped with béarnaise sauce only $39.95!
Order our traditional Christmas dinner for 10, 20, or 50.

Unlike the conch, the abalone shells are flat and semi-transparent. The shells of the larger species, such as the giant abalone, can weigh as much as 20 pounds and have a diameter of 2 feet. They are a source of food and also used for decorative purposes. The abalone is a popular ingredient in Asian cuisine. It is often grilled or BBQ’d and served with a variety of sauces. The meat is white, tender, and has a unique flavor.
Extraordinary Desserts — Little Italy 1441 Union Street, Little Italy, 619-294-7001. Patrons looking for a quiet dessert still cling to the original charming corner near Balboa Park. Those wanting more of a meal head for the newer Little Italy location, a vein, no space with industrial-chic decor and a menu of eclectic small plates — mezze, crinkles, sandwiches, and cheese plates. Flavors tend to be intense; some creations (such as a bacon-caramel sundae sandwich and patisserie, a celeriac–date spread) are wonderful, others are exhausting even in small portions. Both locations offer pastry cases full of desserts that live up to “extraordinary,” to eat on-site or to take home. Chef-owner Karen Krasnow incorporates flavors inspired by the global reach of her travels, from the cooking schools of Paris to the rice fields of Bali. The white cakes are fed for angle. Wines (including champagnes), beers, fruit distils. Vegetarian-friendly menu. Both locations open seven days, three meals. Upson location desserts only, all day. Moderate. — N.W.

The Field Irish Pub and Restaurant 1441 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-232-9840. This spirited, colorful saloon, physically transported whole from the Ould Sod, offers delicious Irish music; live music nightly, and also attempts serious Irish cooking — with some successes. Try the lovely herby buttermilk stew, or the hearty, potato-crusted round of your choice from a variety of fillings (salmón, beef, etc.). Or start the day here with a huge, carnviorish Irish breakfast local daily. Low ambient music, gloaty decor, and must traffic. — N.W.

Greystone 801 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-232-0225. The Italian steakhouse fare here centers on dry-aged Prime beef, game meats (including ex-ceptionally tender bison), lobster, and pasta as the main dishes, with indifferent starters and desserts. An impressive wine list offers rewarding California wines, and Italian bottles at $35 to $50 but rises up to the stratosphere of first-growth Bordeaux, super Tuscan, and scandalously overpriced Napa reds. Savory, sometimes-detrimental waiters push higher-priced choices. Patrons are mainly “suit” with deep discount envelopes, busy talking business or enjoying nescuchio office parties in a testosterone-heavy atmosphere. wheelchair access to the street patio and bar area only; dining rooms are up-stairs or downstairs. Reservations urged but may not be honored promptly. Drink nightly. Extremely expensive. — N.W.

Gulf Coast Grill 4110 Park Boulevard, Hillcrest, 619-289-2244. The Gu. צריך rusco, woodsy dining rooms and patio are great hangouts, like a restaurant with a noisy party atmosphere. The menu adapts to the cuisine of the South and Southeast, with an emphasis on Louisiana and a heavy hand on the salt shaker. The kitchen does best with the straight Southern dishes, turning out divine fried soft-shelled crabs, airy hush puppies, and delicious little corn muffins. If you’re deeply familiar with Cajun-Creole flavors, though, don’t look for pure authenticity — you’ll do better with jambalaya, crawfish, or the like. Fresh friendy frost is most favorable. Free parking lot left of the door. Full bar. Lunch Monday through Saturday, brunch Sunday; dinner nightly. Extremely expensive. — N.W.

Japanese Tea Pavilion 2215 Park Avenue, Balboa Park, 619-231-0160. One way or another they have been serving Japanese food here since 1935. Yes, it’s usually crowded, and most go for the cliched item, teriyaki rice bowl with beef. But the teriyaki is better with the sweet-teriyaki, sauté orange sauce with tofu frittono, and the California sandwich piled high with “kani” are most impressive, especially on the restaurant deck over a canyon. With Japanese flute music playing, the trees, and the noodles, you really feel in a Japanese space. Try kon-cha green tea for the nearest taste to tea ceremony. Open 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Inexpensive. — E.R.

Lefty’s Chicago Pizzeria 3448 30th Street, North Park, 619-290-1720. An eight-pound pizza! That’s what Lefty claims his “king of all pizzas” is pure authenticity — you’ll do better with the sauce-than with the crust. And scandalously overpriced Napa reds. An im-pressive wine list offers rewarding California wines, and Italian bottles at $35 to $50 but rises up to the stratosphere of first-growth Bordeaux, super Tuscan, and scandalously overpriced Napa reds. Savory, sometimes-detrimental waiters push higher-priced choices. Patrons are mainly “suit” with deep discount envelopes, busy talking business or enjoying nescuchio office parties in a testosterone-heavy atmosphere. wheelchair access to the street patio and bar area only; dining rooms are up-stairs or downstairs. Reservations urged but may not be honored promptly. Drink nightly. Extremely expensive. — N.W.

Joe’s New York-Style Deli 3401 First Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-289-7646. You enter a time machine: a cavernous concrete-dusted eat that dates back to 1902, with a high ceiling, arched-shaped hanging lights, and a big old-fashioned crock-pot counter packed with cheeses, meats, and sausage meat. Old display cases carry olives, paternal. A seven-off sourdough barrel bakes with Hungarian wines. Go for wraps, jumbo hot dogs with sauerkraut, or East Coast garners sandwiches like creamed beef, dry Genoa salami, cotto salami, bologna, or liverwurst. That Boars Head liverwurst is a bomb. Caesar salad with chicken or a bowl of toasted soup are good light alternatives. Open breakfast early through early dinner daily. — E.R.

Levy’s Chicago Pizzeria 3448 30th Street, North Park, 619-290-1720. An eight-pound pizza! That’s what Lefty claims his “king of all pizzas” is pure authenticity — you’ll do better with the sauce-than with the crust. And scandalously overpriced Napa reds. An im-pressive wine list offers rewarding California wines, and Italian bottles at $35 to $50 but rises up to the stratosphere of first-growth Bordeaux, super Tuscan, and scandalously overpriced Napa reds. Savory, sometimes-detrimental waiters push higher-priced choices. Patrons are mainly “suit” with deep discount envelopes, busy talking business or enjoying nescuchio office parties in a testosterone-heavy atmosphere. wheelchair access to the street patio and bar area only; dining rooms are up-stairs or downstairs. Reservations urged but may not be honored promptly. Drink nightly. Extremely expensive. — N.W.

The Old World Deli & Café 3930 Fifth Street, North Park, 619-238-1064. This is a delight for anyone who loves northern European food. Their Great Grilled Gruben — homemade corned beef on rye with Swiss cheese, sauerkraut, Thousand Island dressing, and must ard, as is the say, genially. Also, try the sausage platter, grilled bratwursts, kidbness, sauerkraut, potato salad, spicy mustard, and rye bread. Open for breakfast and lunch six days, closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — E.R.

Osetra 941 7th Avenue, Downtown, 619-239-1800. Possibly the most ex- pensive restaurant in San Diego. Ose-tra is named for a precious, near-en dangered caviar (which it serves) and attracts patrons who enjoy throwing their money around. The atmosphere is pure Las Vegas, with two floors of loud ambient music, glitzy decor, and a “vins angels” in black ties hoisting herself around a gleaming glass tower to lick your precious bottle. Cabin-
What the Chef Eats

SPRING VEGETABLE PASTA WITH BUTTER AND PARMESAN NAGE

TREY FOSHEE, EXECUTIVE CHEF

George’s at the Cove

I cook at home just like everyone else cooks at home — I look in the fridge and see what’s in there. But I have two little girls, so I make a lot of simple pasta and fish dishes. One technique my girls really like is to take some pasta water and add some butter to it to make a simple butter sauce, or nage. Then I add veggies and whatever else is around. This is my standard kid-friendly-but-still-good-for-adults pasta that I use at home. You can use whatever vegetables you like or that are in season as well as whatever pasta shapes you like. My girls like rotelle and the bow ties.

INGREDIENTS

1 lb (1 box) pasta
6 T butter, divided use
¼ C fresh pas
¼ C asparagus, diced thin
¼ C carrots, peeled and julienne
½ – ⅓ C Parmesan Raggio, finely grated

HOW TO DO IT

Serves 4

In a large pot, boil water and cook 1 lb (1 box) of pasta according to the package directions. Before light and superb rather than heavy and conventional. Three meals daily, until midnight on weekends. Very expensive. — N.W.

Rannoush 1090 Fifth Avenue, Hill

cite, 619-235-1800. The full menu of Lebanese-Jordanian cuisine runs from mezze (appetizers) to house-made sausage and kabobs to desserts — and includes fabulous falafel that’s actually good enough to eat (especially the stuffed version). At this petite, pretty place with Scheherazade decor, all the cooking is from scratch — no nasty instant falafel mix or any other shortcuts, and you can really taste the difference. Other great dishes include vegetarian kibbeh, eggplant sausages, and shrimp kebabs. Desserts include standard Middle Eastern items such as baklava. Wines and beers include food-friendly imports from Lebanon. Lunch 11 a.m.

Buy 1 entrée, get 1 free

Lunch only, Monday-Friday. Buy one entrée and two drinks and receive the second entrée of equal or lesser value for free. Expires 7/30/08.

Buy 1 breakfast entrée, get 50% off

Buy one entrée and two drinks and receive the second entrée of equal or lesser value for 50% off. Expires 7/30/08.

*No other discounts apply.
What the Chef Eats

draining the pasta, reserve 6 to 8 cups of pasta water. While the pasta cooks, heat 2 T butter in a large pan. Add the peas, asparagus, and carrots and cook 3 to 4 minutes. Add the reserved pasta water to the pan with the vegetables and turn the heat up to high. Reduce the water so it barely covers the bottom of the pan and the vegetables are cooked. Lower the heat to low and add the additional 1/2 cup (4 T) of butter while swirling the pan to incorporate the butter into the vegetables and heat through for a minute or two. Add the Parmigiano Reggiano and serve in bowls with more Parmigiano Reggiano on the middle can include strips of pork, beef, chicken, or cheese, as well as pineapple, strawberries, or coconuts. While you’re at it, try the traditional accompaniment, the champagne-based drink: milk mixed with mass — ground corn meal — chocolate, and cinnamon. In this mainly Spanish-speaking market you can sit, walk, and pick up a few bargains too. Tamalas make a great breakfast. Three should do you. These are made by the Restaurante Quiapo urcafinate the middle of the day. Some things are alive and well in the green kitchen next to the tiny kitchen with a running gas grill. A large lattice serving the seafood is so fresh you don’t really mind. Each entree includes a choice of sides, two for lunch and three for dinner. The Manhattan hot dog is especially tasty, as is the littleroast beef. This is an ideal place for families, moderate. — N.W.

NORTH INLAND

Bamboo Hut 9172 Mesa Vista Boulevard, Mesa Mesa, 858-348-6414. You’ll find a taste of Hawaii in a strip mall in a neighborhood that’s all mall. The little “lulu” has bamboo chairs, a bamboo ceiling, bare floors, and unclothed tables, with a sushi counter next to a tiny kitchen with a running gas grill. A large lattice serving offers outdoor seating a few steps from the door. The quality of the food is all over the map, though — this is not the place to try your first Spam sushi. The seared sushi is good, though, including a fine Rainbow Roll with really sweet crab, the mein creative rolls with red to cream cheese and hot sauce. “Local food” choices include a tasty ale pole and excellent chicken livers, the last, short ribs are tough, through. Plate lunches include one to three entries (priced accordingly) with steamed or mildly garlic-roasted rice, macaroni salad, and green salad with bright or dancing to a Kraft French. Be sure they deliver what you ordered; there may be sloppies. Open seven days, lunch and dinner. Very inexpensive. — N.W.

Bistro 211 221 East Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-737-3988. This casual, festive open-of-the-Brigantine chain features Pacific coastal cuisine, an eclectic international bistro — with comfortable chairs and unclothed tables, with a sushi counter next to a tiny kitchen with a running gas grill. A large lattice serving offers outdoor seating a few steps from the door. The quality of the food is all over the map, though — this is not the place to try your first Spam sushi. The seared sushi is good, though, including a fine Rainbow Roll with really sweet crab, the mein creative rolls with red to cream cheese and hot sauce. “Local food” choices include a tasty ale pole and excellent chicken livers, the last, short ribs are tough, through. Plate lunches include one to three entries (priced accordingly) with steamed or mildly garlic-roasted rice, macaroni salad, and green salad with bright or dancing to a Kraft French. Be sure they deliver what you ordered; there may be sloppies. Open seven days, lunch and dinner. Very inexpensive. — N.W.

Casa Revolus Mexicana & Seafood Restaurant 3344 W. Broadway, Escondido, 760-480-5365. “Rev,” as the locals pronounce it, is a one-of-a-kind “luforia” dish as well as an entree. You get a huge French-style press-the-side and freshly ground mayo, cuke, and hot pepper running fresh made all evening, and for once they aren’t seasoned with salt. The beans are cooked:

- 6 p.m., dinner 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. closing on the patio or in the bar. Open
- Discount outlets nearby). On game day, sports fan and one fashionista (the hangout for mismatched couples with everyone choices including pizza, hefty portions, all, they say, on a steamed poppy-seed bun from Chicago. Other appetizers supplement the vegetables and heat through. Stir the vegetables and heat up to medium. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Uncle Joe’s Pizzeria 691 El Cajon Boulevard, 619-264-2135. The owner’s a retired Navy medic, one of the first women to serve in the Middle East combat zone. She’s named sandwiches for career stops, like “The Re- turn Trucker,” “Cowboy,” “Florida,” “Chicken breast, bacon, avocado, provolone, cheese, spinach, tomato, and onion” or “North Island Del.” (Indeed, you can have a huge, beautifully grilled poppy-seed bun from Chicago. Other appetizers supplement the vegetables and heat up to medium. Inexpensive. — E.B.

The Comiskey Park Pole (a charbroiled hot dog) and the Italian Stallion (a beef and pepperoni topping) are menu daily. Inexpensive.

What the Chef Eats

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Casa Revolus Mexicana & Seafood Restaurant 3344 W. Broadway, Escondido, 760-480-5365. “Rev,” as the locals pronounce it, is a one-of-a-kind “luforia” dish as well as an entree. You get a huge French-style press-the-side and freshly ground mayo, cuke, and hot pepper running fresh made all evening, and for once they aren’t seasoned with salt. The beans are cooked:

- 6 p.m., dinner 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. closing on the patio or in the bar. Open
- Discount outlets nearby). On game day, sports fan and one fashionista (the hangout for mismatched couples with everyone choices including pizza, hefty portions, all, they say, on a steamed poppy-seed bun from Chicago. Other appetizers supplement the vegetables and heat through. Stir the vegetables and heat up to medium. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Uncle Joe’s Pizzeria 691 El Cajon Boulevard, 619-264-2135. The owner’s a retired Navy medic, one of the first women to serve in the Middle East combat zone. She’s named sandwiches for career stops, like “The Re- turn Trucker,” “Cowboy,” “Florida,” “Chicken breast, bacon, avocado, provolone, cheese, spinach, tomato, and onion” or “North Island Del.” (Indeed, you can have a huge, beautifully grilled poppy-seed bun from Chicago. Other appetizers supplement the vegetables and heat up to medium. Inexpensive. — E.B.

The Comiskey Park Pole (a charbroiled hot dog) and the Italian Stallion (a beef and pepperoni topping) are menu daily. Inexpensive.
Over 75 Restaurant Coupons at SDReader.com

Here’s a small sample to whet your appetite!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2-for-1 entrée</th>
<th>10% off</th>
<th>$10 off Spanish cuisine</th>
<th>Free Italian peasant-style entrée</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buy one entrée at regular price and receive a 2nd entrée of equal or lesser value free. Dine-in only. Excludes daily specials and brunch. Offer expires June 30, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month. Coupon is not valid with other offers or on holidays.</td>
<td>All-you-can-eat Chinese buffet. Offer expires June 30, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month. Coupon is not valid on holidays.</td>
<td>$10 off any dining tab over $40. One coupon per table. Dine-in only. Not valid on dinner shows or with any other offer. Offer expires June 30, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month. Coupon is not valid on holidays.</td>
<td>Free entrée (breakfast, lunch or dinner) with purchase of entrée and 2 beverages. Offer expires June 30, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month. Coupon is not valid on holidays.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Beach Bar &amp; Grill</td>
<td>Golden Wok</td>
<td>Seville</td>
<td>Petroini's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>188 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-272-4745</td>
<td>Chinese buffet.</td>
<td>Bringing Spain to San Diego since 1987. The finest in tapas, Spanish cuisine and flamenco dinner shows. Open nightly from 5 pm.</td>
<td>Italian peasant-style cuisine. Pizza to die for!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pacific Beach, Mission Beach & Ocean Beach

Atoll at the Catamaran Hotel
The Blue Parrot Bar & Grill 50% off entrée
Canes $5 off any entrée
Costa Brava Free tapas for lunch
Gringo’s Free appetizer at lunch
Kirin Sushi Free crazy or spicy tuna roll
Lahaina Beach House Free breakfast
The Mission 50% off any entrée
Moondoggies Free second lunch
Pacific Beach Bar & Grill 2 for 1 entrée
Pacific Rotisserie Free entrée
PB. Miha 99¢ sake
Saska’s $12 off second entrée

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 Nate 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 25% off entrée
Chopsticks Inn Restaurant 50% off sushi
Fix Me A Plate Cafe 15% off any entrée
Golden Wok 30% off buffet
Shakey’s Lunch Buffet $5.49
Thai Dragon House Free Thai entrée
Toro Sushi $3 off sushi
West Coast BBQ & Catering BBQ combo dinner $10.99
Windy City Beef 1/2 off menu item

Uptown & North Park

Baby Back Jack’s BBQ $2 off any sandwich
The Cask Room $10 off any bottle of wine
Coffee House on Broadway Free Mocha Jackson
Harar Ethiopian Restaurant Free sambussa appetizer
India Princess Free dinner
Lips 50% off dinner
Medigrill Free lunch or dinner
Mediterranean Cafe Free lunch or dinner
New York Giant Pizza $3 off any pizza/calzone
Rudford’s $2 off any menu entrée
Sicilian Thing Pizza $3 off any pizza
Vesuvio Gourmet 25% off lunch or dinner
The Wine Encount 2 Free wine topping

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
The Waffle Spot

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
Humphrey’s Jewel Box 2 for 1 entrée
Little Italy Spaghettia 2 for 1 lunch
Petrini’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
Vision’s 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 empanada
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
Yogurt Lounge Free yogurt

Restaurants listed without coupon offers have only menus online. Restaurants with * have multiple locations. See online menu or coupon for all locations.
La Bolla Pizza Garden 173 Third Avenue, Solana Beach Open daily Moderate.
From the outside, La Bolla looks like an Italian farmidentified by our neighbors, green shutters and maroon curtains. Ask for the menu: It’s a treat to reveal this business. Their secrets are: The menu is long; hours (from breakfast until after midnight); daily, big meals, and small prices. The menu includes standards like spaghetti with marinara or lasagna, including sides of garlic bread, soup, or salad. Take advantage of a new “Favorite,” an 8-inch pizza with mushrooms, peppers, and provolone. Open daily, late. — E.B.
Il Fornaio — Coronado 1333 First Street, Coronado Pizzas and Il Fornaio’s “defensive architecture sits off of the Great Unraveled — the touring around Coronado’s Old Ferry Landing — but it’s worth braving it just to get your teeth into their-to-die-for bread. “If you mention “the bakers,” after all. Beyond bread, we’re talking rustic feeling, herbal, ultra-fresh salads, and everyday Italian deli, and it does. You’ll find do-

Bubby’s Gelato 397 South Coast Highway, Carlsbad, 760-438-3636. This tiny storefront does only a few things (sandwiches, gelato, and brunch) but they do them exceedingly well. The “gourmet sandwiches” really do live up to their designation, with intriguing Mediterranean combinations (arci-

Mary J and her café have been around for a long time. Inexpensive.

Il Fornaio — Coronado 1333 First Street, Coronado Their to-die-for bread.

The Tin Fish 8100 Imperial Beach Boulevard, Imperial Beach, 619-628-8414. At a table by this fish shack at the far end of the pier, you can watch people and pigeons as you dig into huge portions of deep-sea products, appreciated by the sea at the bill. The bill of fare features fish — fillets, grilled, chow-

Bubb’s Gelato 397 South Coast Highway, Carlsbad, 760-438-3636. This tiny storefront does only a few things (sandwiches, gelato, and brunch) but they do them exceedingly well. The “gourmet sandwiches” really do live up to their designation, with intriguing Mediterranean combinations (artichoke, feta, pesto, baguette with creamy dijon and salad) — E.B.

Mary J’s Café 1930 Cleveland Avenue, National City, 619-477-6645. Mary J’s is a real neighborhood cafe that has been going on for 40 years, and about the only thing to change is the prices. This is the real San Diego. The regulars start sitting in here early. Mary J has always been available to drink, and she'll break the big board menu above the store too. One of their most popular items is the Truckers Special (three eggs, ham, bacon or sausage, home fries, and toast), or steak and eggs with hash brown and toast. Mary J’s Son Vic, the manager, is really a sweetheart of a guy. If you want a good deal in the area, this is your place. Great food, great people.

Ethiopian Cuisine

HAPPY HOUR $2 Beers (Heineken, Beck’s, Corona, MGD, Bud, Light, Budweiser) Try our organic Ethiopian beer and wine

Ethiopian Cuisine

50% off entrees Buy one entree, get second entree of equal or lesser value free. Expire 07/3/08. — E.B.

Happy Hour MONDAY — TUESDAY — FRIDAY 2 to 6 pm $2.75 deals/margaritas & great food specials

Stop by during the O.B. Street Fair For your private group, other offers, coupons or specials. Expires 7/3/08

Champagne brunch $69.50 (11 am two) $10 pitchers (margarita/beergarden)

Open Daily 8 a.m. 8:30 p.m. • www.thebrokenyolkcafe.com

50% off entrees Buy one entree, get second entree of equal or lesser value free. Expire 07/3/08. — E.B.

Mon-Fri, Specials Twin Double $4.79 2 pancakes, 2 eggs, 2 bacon or sausage The Big 3 $5.49 3 pancakes, 3 eggs, 3 bacon or sausage

Buy one dinner or lunch entree and receive a second entree of equal or lesser value at one coupon price. One coupon per table. With this ad, valid 6/6/08.

Sushi Bar

Appetizers: Squid, Tuna, Uni, Red Snapper Egg, Inari, Hamachi, Ikura, Saba, Smelt Egg, Octopus, Scallop, Oyster, Shirimp, Smoked Salmon, Squid, Uni, Red Snapper

Cut Rolls: California, Caperburi, Cucumber, Philly, Rainbow, Crab, Soft Shell Crab, Spicy Tuna, Tempura Shrimp, Spicy Tuna, Spicy California, Yummy, Firecracker, Seafood Dynamite, Shrimp

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

Famous Homestyle Cooking Serving Breakfast All Day

$200 Off Any one menu entree of $6 or more. Limit 1 entree per person. Not valid on holidays. Dine-in only through 9/9/08.


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

MOViE LiSTiNGS

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

Baby Mama — SNL alumna Tina Fey and Amy Poehler form a babysitting pact across the class divide, the barren career woman and the fertile prole. Broad, predictable, and公路ly photographed, yet an agile and energetic playing of the angles. Strong supporting part for Steve Martin, plus potential, as a self-mythologizing health-food tycoon: “I was swimming this morning with dolphins in Costa Rica...” With Greg Kinnear and Sigourney Weaver; written and directed by Michael McCann. 2008. ★★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

Bigger, Stronger, Faster: The Side Effects of Being American — Christopher Bell’s documentary on steroid use in the U.S., mainly in athletics, and candidly in his own family (brothers “Mad Dog” and “Smelly”). Not a polished or thorough presentation, but neither is it a pat, open-and-shut presentation. It is judiciously two-sided, with a hard look at the hypocrisies of the “right” side. 2008. ★★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

Caramel — Sisterhood in the repressive society of Beirut: an Other Woman, a deflected fiancé, a closet lesbian, an aging actress, a lonesome seamstress, a demented bag lady, all in orbit around a second-class beauty shop called Si Bella (the “B” hanging upside down on the façade, the electricity prone to outages). The material encompasses professional intimacies, such as the Lebanese lesbian washing the hair of an enticing customer, or the Other Woman giving a facial wax job to an adoring policeman; and, although never heavy, it also encompasses larger sociological observations, such as the beat-cop harassment of the engaged couple parked after dark, or the difficulty of a woman without identification booking a decent hotel for an assignation, finally settling for a flea-bag and cleaning the bathroom herself. Those are all fine scenes, but they’re excelled by the scene — comic, romantic, keenly psychological — of the sympathetic policeman having an imaginary phone conversation from the café opposite the beauty parlor, making up lines to match the mood of the woman in the window: the star and director, Nadine Labaki. With Yasmin Elmasri, Joanna Moukarzel, Gisèle Assaad, and Adel Karam. 2007. ★★★ (SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY, 6/23, 6:30 P.M.)

The Children of Huang Shi — True tale of a British correspondent in China during the Japanese invasion of 1937, reluctantly assuming responsibility for five dozen war orphans. The cardboard characters, the hattering-ram dramaturgy, and the lackluster look of the thing (excepting the luminous Michelle Yeoh as a shady lady) fail to substantiate the truth of it. Testimony from actual survivors at the end unhardens your heart. With Jonathan Rhys Meyers, Radha Mitchell, Chow Yun Fat; directed by Roger Spottiswoode. 2008. ★★ (LA JOLLA VILLAGE, THROUGH 6/13)

The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian — The follow-up to The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, or as we could call it, The Lion, the Witch, No Wardrobe, maintains the medium-high standard of its forerunner, higher, that is, than the standards of such close-by epic cycles as the Lord of the Rings series and the Harry Potter series. The narrative elements seem somehow to have more heft, more harmony, more resonance, and the individual installments demonstrably stand more solidly on their own. The four Pevensie siblings, 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. A paradigmatic deliverance myth is now in progress, encompassing an exiled heir to the throne, an oppressive regime of swarthy Mediterranean types called Telmarines, and a gathering rebel army numbering among its ranks a grumpy dwarf, a swashbuckling mouse and a Trolls old hag (both bigger than life), an air force of griffons, some centaurs, some minstrels, one of whom merits a special medal of valor propping open a falling grate for an escape route as his body gets pierced by enemy arrows. If the film overall is a bit battle-heavy, and a bit long, and a bit slowed by immediate slow-motion, the climactic battle nevertheless features some galvanizing and agonizing changes in momentum, an imaginative stratagem of a subterranean cavalry charge, and the majestic intervention of a swelling water deity, bringing matters to a decisive resolution. Ben Barnes, William Mosley, Anna Popplewell, Skandar Keynes, Georgie Henley, Peter Dinklage; directed by Andrew Adamson. 2008. ★★★ (PACIFIC BEACH 17; HILLCREST CINEMAS; HILLCREST VILLAGE 17)

The Counterfeiters — Stefan Ruzowitzky’s Holocaust survival tale, based on fact, tells how “the world’s best counterfeiter” (the long, long face of Karl Markovk) eases his existence in a Nazi concentration camp by suppressing his scruples and aiding the German war effort, speedily mastering the British pound, but then dilly-dallying over the U.S. dollar, the critically affecting the outcome of the war. It is a passably interesting tale to tell, a new path through old territory, but the interest is rather in the tale than in the telling. At any number of stopping points along the
path, the sights are liable to seem all too familiar (the bullet in the head, etc.), never mind the refreshing route that led there. And the coarse, raw, desaturated image, whether a chosen cliché or an imposed hardship, is at no point much to look at, a hand thing to say about a motion picture. 2007 ★★ (GASLAMP 15)

**The Fall** — The second film by the one- name Tasman (whose surname is singularly) dif- fers by two letters from his first film, The Cell. It differs by little in other ways as well, a piquing phantasmagoria of deahed and diluted surrealism. (Suggested title for his next opus: The Pill) The story, a fiction- within-fiction wherein a suicidal stuntman of the silent era whisks away the hours in a hospital ward by spinning an “epic” re- venge tale for a broken-hearted woman. Assisted in his hints of substance and dabs of invention; but the visual style of the “epic,” a sort of fashion-shoot fotovision, is indubitably eye- glazing. The slow movement of Beethoven’s Seventh behind the opening credits, per-haps the most oft-used classical piece in movies, or perhaps second or third to Han- del’s “Hallelujah Chorus” and Pachelbel’s Canon, bodies ill for originality. With Lee Pace and Catherine Uitara. 2007 ★ (WILDEYER CINEMAS)

**The Foot Fast Way** — A ragamuffin comedy, improvisational in feel, documen- tary in technique, about a tax-loan-do-in- structor (Danny McBride) with a fragile ego and a thin veneer of machismo. Some of the notions seem viable, though they don’t really flourish. With Ben Rest and Mary Jane Bostic, directed by Jody Hill. 2007 ★ (HORTON PLAZA 14, FROM 6/20; MISSION VALLEY 20; THROUGH 6/3)

**Get Smart** — The late-Sixties TV spy spoof hits the big screen, with Steve Carell and Anne Hathaway, directed by Peter Se- gal. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 18; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PRONE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLA 6; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

**Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull** — Harrison Ford and Steven Spielberg rejoin forces, nineteen years later, for a fourth archaeological ad- venture. Ford, with his big-cat purr of a voice, remains an amiable fellow, and if he’s a bit holier-than-thou, it can be forgiven (like a wadded-up piece of paper retrieved from the wastebasket and mostly smoothed out again), and if he occasionally makes a disarming grumble or groan in recogni- tion of his advancing years, he nonetheless keeps pace with the physical action, or else his director cleverly covers for him during it, and to that he owes not a single sign of wear and tear as would demand any added sus- pension of disbelief beyond the series of stunts suggested at the outset. Spielberg, by his part, eager to show that Mantis burned no bridges, any more than Schindler’s list did, manages to sacrifice his film to the fore-mentioned of the martial arts, dissatisfied with a dentist’s point of view). Roy Scheider, John Turturro, among other wannabes, and the references action scenes are always impressive in their engi- neering while never being in the least be- lievable or involving. A fencing bout con- ducted in side-by-side steps at top speed unflatteringly focusses our attention on the filmmaker rather than on the fighters. In the end — in the accumulation — the ac- tion grows more than a little tedious. Spiel- berg’s technique is superior not only to others’ technique but also to his own taste. A good long time, needless to stress, has burned no bridges, any more than Sauder’s, and without apparently giving a damn to the world. The current-events tie-in is fairly rooted from the big city), but the questions asked have no bearing on the answers. With Edith Roberts, directed by Jon Favreau. 2008 ★★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 18; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PRONE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

**Iron Man** — Marvel Comics superhero (vintage 1966) restored through present- day Afghanistan. Weapons manufacturer Tony Stark, also “The Merchant of Death,” learns first-hand that his products some- times land in the laps of America’s enemies, and to combat this he devises a personal suit of flying armor (a gold titanium diary, actually, not iron), transforming himself into a sort of airborne Robocop to police the world. The current-events tie-in is in fact tasteful, given the conventional jokiness of the approach, aggravated by the couldn’t- give-a-shit affectation of Robert Downey, Jr. in the title role. With Gwyneth Paltrow, Jeff Bridges, Terrence Howard, and Shaun Toub, directed by Jon Favreau. 2008 ★★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 18; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PRONE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

**Jaws** — How to cope with a rogue shark, who’s choosing his meals among the sum- mertime beachgoers on a New England va- cation site, is a plausible crisis. Puffed-up horror to the proportions of a whopping fish story. The plot appears to be feuding with some fairly advanced chem- istry (the hunting party brings together a brush rationalist from the Oceanogetry Institute, a mystical miner out of Melfville, and a befuddled hydrophone up- rooted from the big city), but the questions sounded in this streamlined thriller are no deeper than “What’s next?” or “Who’s next?” on the agenda of the incrutable Great White manate. Director Steven Spielberg shapes the Peter Benchley book into a cautionary nag at human unpre- paredness, and he stirs up considerable amusement around people’s inadequacy to the threat — their initial hem-haw-dubi- ousness and ha-ha frivolity, and their even- tual holy-cow awe when they come face to face with the beast (an impressive mechani- cal contraption usually photographed from a dentist’s point of view). Roy Scheider, Richard Dreyfuss, 1975. ★★★★★ (9/21, 6/21 MUNDAY)
Bargain showtimes are in parentheses.

CENTRAL

CLAREMONT

Town Square 14

[MOVIES: 122/272-1234]

The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (PG) — Get Smart (Fp:13) — The Happening (R) — The Love Guru (PG-13) — Baby Mama (PG-13) — The Promotion (PG-13) — The Strangers (R) — You Don’t Mess with the Godfather (R) — The Unknown (PG-13) — No Country for Old Men (R) — 27:90 Villa La Jolla Drive (619-232-0400)


DOWNTOWN

Gaslamp 15

700 5th Avenue (619-232-0400)

Ballet Mama (PG-11) — The Counterfeiters (R) — Get Smart (Get:13) — Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay (R) — In Bruges (R) — The Love Guru (PG-13) — Mister Lonely (Not Rated) — Safe Haven by Any Means (Not Rated) — Sex and the City (R) — You Don’t Mess with the Zohan (PG-13)

Horton Plaza 14

(FP:13) — The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (PG) — Get Smart (Fp:13) — Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay (R) — In Bruges (R) — The Love Guru (PG-13) — Mister Lonely (Not Rated) — Safe Haven by Any Means (Not Rated) — Sex and the City (R) — You Don’t Mess with the Zohan (PG-13)

BARGAIN SHOWTIMES

LAKESIDE

Hasbro Quad (FP:13)

4800 Girard Ave (619-295-4221)

Raising Arizona (R) — Sex and the City (R) — The Strangers (R) — You Don’t Mess with the Godfather (R) — The Unknow (PG-13)

MISSION HILLS

Cinema Under the Stars

4800 Girard Ave (619-295-4221)

Raising Arizona (R) — Sex and the City (R) — The Strangers (R) — You Don’t Mess with the Godfather (R) — The Unknown (PG-13)

MISSION VALLEY

Fashion Valley 18

The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (PG-13) — Get Smart (Fp:13) — Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay (R) — In Bruges (R) — The Love Guru (PG-13) — Mister Lonely (Not Rated) — Safe Haven by Any Means (Not Rated) — Sex and the City (R) — You Don’t Mess with the Zohan (PG-13)

Mira Mesa 18

10735 West Ramirez Parkway (600-326-3264)


MISSION VALLEY 7

7100 Hazard Center Drive (619-667-2841)

Big Screen Safari (NR) — Get Smart (FP:13) — Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay (R) — In Bruges (R) — The Love Guru (PG-13) — Mister Lonely (Not Rated) — Safe Haven by Any Means (Not Rated) — Sex and the City (R) — You Don’t Mess with the Zohan (PG-13)

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10735 West Ramirez Parkway (600-326-3264)


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Mira Mesa 18

10735 West Ramirez Parkway (600-326-3264)


Mission Valley 20

2649 Canyon Dr East Ranch (619-528-6282)

The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (PG-13) — Get Smart (Fp:13) — Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay (R) — In Bruges (R) — The Love Guru (PG-13) — Mister Lonely (Not Rated) — Safe Haven by Any Means (Not Rated) — Sex and the City (R) — You Don’t Mess with the Zohan (PG-13)

MISSION HILLS

Cinema Under the Stars

4800 Girard Ave (619-295-4221)

Raising Arizona (R) — Sex and the City (R) — The Strangers (R) — You Don’t Mess with the Godfather (R) — The Unknown (PG-13)

MISSION VALLEY

Fashion Valley 18

The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (PG-13) — Get Smart (Fp:13) — Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay (R) — In Bruges (R) — The Love Guru (PG-13) — Mister Lonely (Not Rated) — Safe Haven by Any Means (Not Rated) — Sex and the City (R) — You Don’t Mess with the Zohan (PG-13)

Mira Mesa 18

10735 West Ramirez Parkway (600-326-3264)

When Did You Last See Your Father? — Anand Tucker’s adaptation of a memoir by British writer and poet Blake Morrison, probing his uncomfortable relationship with his blistering, bluffling, bully-domed dad, reviewed in flashback from the cancer-racked end. You can recognize some unfamiliar truths, but it’s a distant shadow. The particulars do not strongly pull you in — in the story, of I Never Sang for My Father. Jim Broadbent and Colin Firth are fine as father and son, although the latter character goes through two child actors as well, the second (older) physically further from Firth than the first. The family man on whom the boy had his first crush, meantime, remains the same actress, Elaine Cassidy, in his ten years as his in-law. With Juliet Stevenson, Ogier, Sarah Lancashire. 2007.

Sangre de Mi Sangre — Feature debut of writer-director Christopher Zala, an El Salvadorian drama located in Brooklyn.

The Strangers — The debut of writer-director Bryan Bertino is a lowbrow (and low-brow) Funny Games, “inspired by true events,” centered on a romantically young couple (so, don’t feel too bad for them, Lizzy Caplan, Scott Speedman: they were miserable already) terrorized by ghastly now-you-see-them-now-you-don’t masked killers at an isolated summerhouse. The grim outcome, as compared to that of Funny Games, is more blatantly signaled in a prototypic prologue (“The brutal events that took place there are still not entirely known”) as well as in the flashback structure (premeditated call: “There’s blood everywhere!”); and the assault on the viewer’s nerves, even though slow to get started (the camera has the jitters well in advance), is more blunt and aggressive, if less potent and lingering. Insanely as the ghastly torturers are not actual ghosts, their ghoul-like behavior raises the issue of their self-conscious mentality. Actual ghosts would be easier to believe, than not to mention easier to stomach. 2008.

The Visitor — Takeoff from a true story, presumably far, far off, about a team of MIT math whizzes who, drilled by a Mephistophelean mentor on the faculty, visit Vegas on week-ends to bet on horse races. The film is not able to make the involved-upon practice of “card counting” comprehensi- bly, much less cinematically (unless you consider fast-shuffle editing to be cinematic), but then it’s not really interested in mental acumen and application, only in the rewards and perks: a run-of-the-mill Sin City fantasy (dazzling montage of casino neon, top-of-the-world luxury suite, strip club, stacks and towers of thousand dollar chips) in which the natural-born card-nerd will forget who his friends are, become somebody different, go around acting like a card shark between Richard Gere in Pretty Woman and Michael Douglas in Wall Street. Director Robert Luketic, whose lightweight credits consist of Legally Blonde, Win a Date with Ted Hamilton, and Monster-in-Law, per- mits himself to be enchanted by the fantasy, serving more as press agent than reporters, giving us a smooth ride on the smooth- riding customizable pop songs for tempers. Sturgess is Young Paul McCartney cute as the whistling dark-haired boy with a fantasy figure from the get-go. (If he’s so bright, why is he piling up hundreds of thousands of dollars in the ceiling of his dorm room instead of in a bank?) Kate Bosworth is a still more distorted fantasy of the Smart Girl. And Kevin Spacy, who gets all the snappiest dialogue, puts his innate repudiation to good use as the manipulative mentor, the adult authority figure who, in order to complete the fantasy, must finally be overthrown. The most sympathetic fig- ure, even (perhaps especially even) his dipping rings onto his fingers for a brainless-klutz -work-over, is Lawrence Fish- born as an old-school casino watching who’s being phased out by computer soft- ware.

The Unknown Woman — Giuseppe Tor- nature’s uncharacteristic stab at a gaffe, an erotic thriller Italian-style — or, as the genre was ingenuously known in its Sixties and Seventies heyday, a “sex-thrilling.” The film begins in a fog of intrigue — a comedy Ukrainian immigrant, bedevilled by brief, Putting Man in Sin City, whence they return to perfect strangers in a drunken impulse wedding in Sin City, whence they return to Manhattan with $3 million in disputed winnings (a contrivance copied from Larry David’s Sex and the City), and are sentenced to six months of working at the marriage be- fore an unsympathetic judge will grant a di- vorce or enforce their debts. The entire film is a belly-crawl to a foregone conclusion. Lake Bell, consigned to the secondary role of the boom buddy, the heroine’s confi- dante, the romantic hopeless, is funny three or four times, all the chances she gets. The two principals, selected from the A-list, Cameron Diaz and Ashton Kutcher, are, between them, funny never. They both look as though they were left too long in the oven. Rob Corddry, Queen Latifah, Dennis Miller; directed by Tom Vaughan. 2008.

The Visitor — Deep absorption, at the start, in the enclosed world of a dour Con- necticut college professor, the classrooms, the private office, the school basketball games, the empty hours at home at which, to fill the void left by his late wife, a concert pianist, he tries desultorily to master the instrument himself, late in life. Then a reluctant change of scene, when he is forced out of his orbit, under departmental order, to attend a De- veloping Nations Conference in New York City, where he finds his usual apartment occupied by two squatters, a musician from Syria and a jewelry designer from Senegal, husband and wife, Muslims both. The ini- tial shock gives way to starchy hospitality and the world of his holidays expands little by little, exposing the touching and amusing spectacle of an introverted man opening up, taking a stab at writing, attempting something new, discovering, that the African drum (which his head moved like a bobbled bobble-head) is more his instrument than the classical piano. The film takes a fine turn before the halfway point with an illustration of Racial Profiling and the incurrence of the happy-go-lucky street musician in a detention center for illegals: a bit of hot topicality to give the writer-producer’s, etc.); his pursuit, in America, of his secret identity (he never shows as much curiosity as the writer-producer’s); his pursuit, in America, of his secret identity (he never shows as much curiosity as the cinematic), invites more of this comparison with the Mitchell catalogue; his sexual predilection for grateful old bikies, or, rather (and the same) the writer-producer produced pretty yarns, Pallonnin affirms for peaceful coexistence, and the hypocritical stigmatization, since somebody has to be the bad guy, the corpo- rate money-grubber — anybody, to be more particular, besides those altruists at Happy Madison Productions and Snack Pictures. Just as Sanders’s accent could seem a sufficient comic bass, John Turturro could seem an adequate comic adversary as a Palestinian terrorist and fast-food en- trepreneur, but this would be hard to verify on the laugh-meter. There are good-sized parts, too, for an all but unrecognized greaseball painted Rob Schneider, Lane Kazan, Nick Swardson, and Emmaudelle Chriqui as a Palestinian cutie-pie, and bit-tered-up in-laws for Shelly Brennan, Chris Rock, Kevin Nealon, Mariel Carey, and John McEnroe — and not enough laughs to go around, even were they airdropped in a state of grace. Directed by Dennis Dugan. 2008.

Waterworld — One of the most expensive film projects ever in Hollywood, Waterworld, a dissonant quartet, resolving into sweet- ness. All of them in their separate ways are painfully affecting. The outcome, al- though far from happy, could more plausibly have been a lot further from it. A state- ment is made after all, if only a quiet one. Written and directed by Tom McCarthy. 2008.

What Happens in Vegas — What passes in the early 21st Century as a “rom- com.” (“The very term drops with: not fully romantic, not fully comic.” It pairs perfect strangers in a drunken impulse wedding in Sin City, whence they return to Manhattan with $3 million in disputed winnings (a contrivance copied from Larry David’s Sex and the City), and are sentenced to six months of working at the marriage be- fore an unsympathetic judge will grant a di- vorce or enforce their debts. The entire film is a belly-crawl to a foregone conclusion. Lake Bell, consigned to the secondary role of the boom buddy, the heroine’s confi- dante, the romantic hopeless, is funny three or four times, all the chances she gets. The two principals, selected from the A-list, Cameron Diaz and Ashton Kutcher, are, between them, funny never. They both look as though they were left too long in the oven. Rob Corddry, Queen Latifah, Dennis Miller; directed by Tom Vaughan. 2008.

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Up the Yangtze — Canadian filmmaker Yung Chang documents the impact of the Three Gorges Dam hydroelectric project in China.

Up in the Air — A wondrous work. The Strangers — The debut of writer-
SUNFLOWER for a backer’s audition

The Lipbalms are vacationing in Is-
Golden Boy

New Village Arts stages Clifford Odets’s drama about Joe Bonasa, a boxer-violinist, torn between making money in the ring and ruining his hands. Joshua Everett Johnson directed.

NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 1345 OBER AVE, CARSON, 813-637-6000. THURSDAYS, 7:30 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 4 AND 8 P.M. SUN- DAYS, 2 P.M. THROUGH JULY 13.

The Hit

Lamb’s Players stages Mike Buckett’s romantic comedy about love, antics, and attempted assassination. Robert Smyth directed.

LAMB’S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1303 KALMIA ST., HILLCREST, 858-560-5114. SATURDAYS, 3 AND 8 P.M. SUN- DAYS, 2 P.M. THROUGH JULY 13.

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Worth a try. Jackson's tight direction, this show commit the act. Under Charmen condition where impulsive suicides could ratchet up the desperation a notes so even-tempered that control. At times Dempsey hits production. Jo Dempsey's doomed Theatre Company, of Lemon “the quiet.” The brand-new Ascen- chine, milk deliveries). Then Jesse raises her father's pistol from a shoe box. She's killing herself back from the point of no return. Thelma urges her daughter to pull back from the point of no return. Studies show that — as in ‘Night Mother and Kroetz’s Request Programme (recently at Lion Theatre) — many suicides aren’t impulsive acts. Instead, the person becomes calm, even organized. It’s as if having found a kind of clarity, termination’s the most rational choice. Norman offers reasons for Jesse’s decision but leaves out a defining one. She just needs to go. Thelma, whose life’s been a floor-to-ceiling misery, has several rea- sons for saving her daughter, among them not being left alone in “the quiet.” The brand-new Ascen- sion Theatre Company, of Lemon Grove, has staged a gritty, capable production. Je Dempsey’s doomed Jesse is in complete, unanswered control. At times Dempsey hits notes so even-tempered that they’re eerie. Joan Westermold could ratchet up the desperation a bit more, but in the end reaches the condition where impulsive suicides commit the act. Under Charen Jackson’s tight direction, this show merits a much larger audience than when I caught it. Worth a try.

A Number

Caryl Churchill’s 70-minute drama unfolds like a hall of slowly warp- ing mirrors. The play opens with Salters, in his early 60s, talking to his 35-year-old son, Bernard. They refer to people and things. And things as people. Bernard, it turns out, is Salter’s son once-removed. He’s B2, a copy of the original, closed by “some mad scientist.” And B2 isn’t the only one. For ex- perimental reasons, or some Andy Warhol proliferation fetish, the sci- entist made 20 Bernards. Salters says they’re just duplicates, “things,” calling to mind the cyborgs in Blade Runner. B2 disagrees: they’re every bit as human as the original. They just weren’t first. In five terse, packed scenes, A Number combines nature with nurture. Different clones become different Bernards in a Rashomon of replication. For Cygnet Theatre, Francis Gehee plays B2 (sensitive, nervous), Bernard (the original: a thug, his tattoos the mark of Cain?), and Michael Black (who fell, so to speak, far from the tree). Whether hopping backwards on the leather sofa or doing violence to an or- ange, Gehee’s sharp, physical perfor- mance shows how different a similarity can be. As the various Salters (he’s the dad with each son), Douglas Jacobs vended on the Adrian, early on opening night, but became moving as Salter pays the price for playing God. Salters’ differences open up a counter- theme: Churchill suggests that each of us may be multiple, may already have “a number” of selves within us. As she did with Yefman at Cygnet, director Esther Emery took a script with no stage directions and filled it with theatrical life. Junghun Han’s midnight blue set, tile squares from floor to ceiling, could be a lavish, ancient Roman bath. Exposed caulsing creates groupings. As the play’s theme takes hold, the clusters come to re- semble chains of molecules.

Worth a try.

The Lyceum Theatre at Horton Plaza

DOWNTOWN. 619-524-0322. THURS- DAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATUR- DAYS, 5 AND 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 AND 5 P.M. THROUGH JULY 13.

Science-Squared

Bob, say unexpected things. His repertoire includes magic tricks (demolishing a newspaper, clamp- ing it together, and undoing the pristine original), a quasi-mystical blackboard with key words em- bedded, and, the highlight, a cigarette in each ear performing “Dancing Banjos” from Deliver- ance. On opening night Dubac blasted through the evening as if he had a plane to catch. His char- acters’ accents often blurred the jokes, the punch lines in particu- lar. Unlike most stand-up comedi- ans, Dubac wants his audience to think. His show would be even better if he gave them time to do it.

Worth a try.

DYSON THEATRE — ROLLANDO, 5863 EL CARON BOULEVARD, SUITE N, COL- LEGE AREA. 619-335-4856. THURS- DAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATUR- DAYS, 5 AND 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 AND 5 P.M. THROUGH JUNE 29.

Robert Dubac’s Male Intellect: The Second Coming!

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Worth a try.

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1) Each and every week we’re going to make a list of EVERYONE who submits a Reader puzzle with the correct answers to the previous week’s puzzle. And we’re printing it, too! See the list of this week’s contenders below.
2) Whenever you successfully complete a puzzle, we’ll also print a brief 100-word or less personal message that you’ve written. This is optional, but it’s a great opportunity for you to express yourself to our readers.
3) One entry per person per week or entry without the following: your information will only be printed. We cannot accept your entry without the following: Name: _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
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Matthew Ward
Age: 25
Occupation: Barista
Lives: Chula Vista

I came up with a term because I hate the term “beauty,” I think it doesn’t rhyme unto the tongue as well. But “beauty” describes something so gayy. It’s just, anything that is a huge task to overcome is “beauty.” My brain is so messed up that I forget actual words and make up my own, like “snood.” Them’s an actual thing called a snood but I use that word to describe anything I can’t think of...kind of how the Smurfs used “smurfy.”

To see an online version of this column, go to sdreader.com. You can print it, email it to friends, and find archived columns.
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NAME This Place

Clue: The palace of Shangri-Las?

Describe this location, name the near-est cross-streets, and win a Reader T-shirt.
E-mail to NameThisPlace@SDReader.com; fax to 619-231-0489; or mail to Reader,
Name This Place, Box 5803, San Diego 92112 — include your name and address. Please put “Name This Place” in the subject line. (Deadline, Tuesday, in case of ties, lottery will determine top five winners.)

Last week’s place: (clue: Yowler at the third jewel’s theater?) Life-size sculpture of a coyote at the amphitheater in Mission Trails Regional Park, 1 Fr. Junipero Serra Trail, off Mission Gorge Road. It is one of a half dozen animal sculptures created by El Cajon artist Robert Berry. The park, which preserves 5760 acres as they were before Cabrillo arrived in 1424, is called the city’s “third jewel,” after Balboa Park and Mission Bay. Last week’s winners: Norma Whiting, Cheryl Old, Kimra Demkowski, Ofelia Gutierrez, Raul Flores

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**Typo Patrol Results**

**Issue of June 12, 2003**

**Local Events**

- **Art listings**
- "Heading should be "Art", not "Classical Music"

**Typo Patrol Results**, page 131

- **Header should be “Art”, not “Classical Music”**

- **"Canes should be "Canes”**

- **Sheep and Goats, page 18**

- **Creation”**

- **"Somehow should have space between quotation marks"**

- **All found by Linda Cox, San Diego**

- **“Send money. $30”**

You must send in a copy of the printed error — either the actual page or a copy of the page. Only one award per Reader. First copy of error delivered to the Reader wins. Exceptions: improper grammar in direct quotations, slang, idiosyncracies of style, and playful spellings (example: "beeyootiful" — from “Tin Fork,” June 5 issue). Typographical errors found in stories and listings (sorry, no ads or blogs) must be submitted by Monday, 7 a.m. after the issue in question. We’ll pay $10 to the first person to point out the error. (Or choose a Reader Typo T-Shirt! Mail to: Typo Patrol, SD Reader, Box 85850, San Diego, CA 92188 or fax to 619-231-0489; or deliver to 1703 India St., in San Diego (yes, we have an after-hours mail slot).
It went once. It was an old lady who didn’t charge you. She had this bank account. She was so old and creepy. She shuffled cards seven times. She told me about my past and things from my future. She said someone cared about me in the hospital almost dying. My mom had a tumor, so I believed what she was saying. She said I’d meet a guy that was tall and dark, but he’d be no good for me. Two weeks later, that happened. I believe this woman was a real psychic.

I’ve been to them. And, I’m an active spiritualist for the past few years, and it’s very important to use this ability with positivity and attention. There are different psychics with different styles of doing readings. A legit psychic would want the best for you and would never rip you off. I promote self-improvement in my clients and help them realize their own spiritual abilities because everyone has them.

Have you ever been to a psychic? I believe this woman was saying. She said I’d meet a guy that was tall and dark, but he’d be no good for me. Two weeks later, that happened. I believe this woman was a real psychic.

I haven’t ever been to one. I have other things to spend my money on. I do believe in what they say, though. I know some people think they lie or they’re just trying to rip people off. And probably some like that. But I do think there are ones out there that know what they are doing.

If you ask me. If there were they tellers, and if there were they’d be no good for me. Two weeks later, that happened. I believe this woman was a real psychic.

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San Diego Reader June 13, 2008 157
by JENNIFER HERRING | MIRA MESA

You almost kind of expect to have some bad dates in your 20s. I’ve had my share: Still Living at Home Guy, Always on His Cell Phone Guy. Just Not Ready For a Relationship Guy, and most frightening of all: Disney-Obsessed Guy. But because the dating pool seems to shrink significantly as we age, I think there is something especially horrific about a bad date after age 30. I thought I had a more finely tuned Loser Radar by this point, but this one slipped by me.

I met him at a coworker’s wedding. We were the only two singles at a table where all the happily married were cornering job promotions and baby photos. He had piecing blue eyes and a wicked smile. It was “like at first sight.” We chatted all night, and I was actually excited about a first date for the first time in a long time.

He picked me up right on time, and we drove to a local seafood restaurant. As we approached the entrance, he patted his pockets and took back toward the car. “Oh, crap, I forgot my wallet,” he said. It was 7 p.m., and I was starving, so I said, “It’s no problem — I can pay.”

He was shocked and went on about how it just wasn’t right for a girl to pay on a first date. He wanted to drive 20 miles back to his house to get his wallet. I told him, “Look, you can pay me back later. It makes you feel better, but seriously, let’s eat.”

He finally relented but began pouting. He just wouldn’t let it go. I rarely drink, but at that point I seriously considered ordering shots for both of us. He ordered an iced tea, so, okay, no alcohol. When he began acting out his sour mood with rudeness toward the restaurant staff, I knew that there would be no second date.

After the meal I just wanted to go home; Mr. Pouty-Pants had

Dropped
other plans. He said he wanted to go somewhere else to chat. I was about to say, "It's late, and I should be getting home," but when I looked at my watch I saw it was only 8:30 p.m. It didn’t seem as if it was going to be easy to get him to take me home, so I asked where he wanted to go. He replied, “You decide. After all, you’re paying.” Ah, those shots are looking even better right now.

I selected an Irish pub across the street. If I had to stay on this day, I was going to need a drink. At the pub he finally loosened up. We talked, and maybe it had something to do with the Jose Cuervo, but he started to seem more like the guy I had met and liked at the wedding.

I thought, okay, maybe he behaved badly at the restaurant because he felt sorry for me. I started to warm up to him again.

He drove me back to my house and asked to use the bathroom before heading back out. I took the opportunity to grab a breath mint and freshen up a little. I walked him back to his car — and he got in without so much as a glance.

Hello? Are you kidding me? I was a good sport about paying for dinner. I was witty and entertaining. And I was making myself available! I couldn’t help myself — I blurted out, “I don’t even get a goodnight kiss!” I should have known better.

He got out of the car and came to me with his tongue hanging out like a Saint Bernard. I still gag when I think about that kiss.

What happened the next day? Thank goodness, absolutely nothing. No flowers, no phone call, no emails, no texts. I never had to deal with him again. I did hear later through a mutual friend that he was so embarrassed about the way the date had gone that he couldn’t bring himself to talk to me again.

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All my adolescence I spent here. In Mauritius. This island is
my friends are all married. Most of them, anyway. Those that aren’t yet are either committed or engaged.

Whenever I go visit a friend, the mother or aunt or grandmother asks me: “Are you single?” I answer, “No, I am FitEna.”

Of course I don’t say that, but I wish I could. Too bad I am such a polite, good- mannered girl (sigh).

I worry them. They ask me “Why? You’re a girl. You must marry!” I sigh again and shrug. I quit sighing the day they started thinking I was desperate because no one proposed to me. Now I scowl and shrug.

Some grandmas call me a spinster. I am 24 years old. Hilarious really, if it wasn’t so irritatingly sad.

I had this friend. B was her name. We did three classes together. From form 2 (back when I was English ignorant) up to form 4. In form 3 we get to choose our subjects. I was in no particular section.

I took English, French, Maths — all compulsory — Arabic, Commerce, Economy, Accounts, and Home Economics. What Home Economics had to do with all the other subjects, I don’t know; I just loved eating and cooking and wanted to know what I shouldn’t be eating in order to lose weight put on from eating the food I loved cooking.

Anyway, B and I were in Home Economics together. We did mock exams every two weeks with the help we cope with the real exams and also to master time management to make good use of the two hours allotted to us to do our cooking, setting up, serving, and washing up.

My friends are all married. Most of them, anyway. Those that aren’t yet are either committed or engaged.

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I had this friend. B was her name. We did three classes together. From form 2 (back when I was English ignorant) up to form 4. In form 3 we get to choose our subjects. I was in no particular section.

I took English, French, Maths — all compulsory — Arabic, Commerce, Economy, Accounts, and Home Economics. What Home Economics had to do with all the other subjects, I don’t know; I just loved eating and cooking and wanted to know what I shouldn’t be eating in order to lose weight put on from eating the food I loved cooking.

Anyway, B and I were in Home Economics together. We did mock exams every two weeks with the help we cope with the real exams and also to master time management to make good use of the two hours allotted to us to do our cooking, setting up, serving, and washing up.

My friends are all married. Most of them, anyway. Those that aren’t yet are either committed or engaged.

Whenever I go visit a friend, the mother or aunt or grandmother asks me: “Are you single?” I answer, “No, I am FitEna.”

Of course I don’t say that, but I wish I could. Too bad I am such a polite, good- mannered girl (sigh).

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We were assigned questions such as, "Your mother is sick. She has a deficiency of calcium and suffers from high blood pressure. Prepare and serve her an appropriate breakfast." I hated those questions. My favorites were the ones where we had to prepare stuff for a birthday party or a summer buffet. Those were great. You cook almost whatever you want. Home Economics was super.

We had to start and end it all in two hours. Not a minute more. You lost marks if you took more time.

So, B once had an easy question. She had to prepare a meal for four teenagers. All she had to do was to bear in mind the fact that they were in the process of growing up and needed extra proteins etc. Her Time Plan (we have to submit it prior to the cooking) was fine. Mrs. O., the teacher, said, "Go," and we started. I baked a cake that day. A sponge cake. Finger-licking good fruit-and-whipped cream sponge cake. That was the dessert. For the meal I prepared a salade de crous- cous, grilled spicy chicken, tomato chutney, creamed lentils, and a fruit cocktail.

Mrs. O. beams at me when she came over to my already-set table. And I'd already done all my washing up. "Bravo," she said to me. I went to sit and watch my fellow classmates at work.

What was B. doing? I learned it soon enough. Mrs. O. started yelling at poor B. Why? Because B. was still in step 1 of part 1 of her first dish — not meal, dish! She was deep-frying a drumstick.

You won't believe this (even I couldn't), but this girl had been frying chicken the whole two hours and done nothing but nada, zilch apart from that. And some of it was burnt. You know what! The year after, she did not come to school. She'd gotten married during the holidays. Unbelievable.

I wonder sometimes what her husband, if he's still alive and hasn't starved to death, looks like.

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Thirty Years Ago

“Larry was so nice at first,” Mary sighed, recalling the nights she had spent in his warm embrace. “But then he started getting weird. He bought a big German shepherd and brought him to bed with us. He built a torture chamber in our basement — whips and chains and branding irons. He brought his friends over for orgies. He tied me up and beat me and raped me.”

“Oh, Mary!” Kathy consoled her. “That sounds terrible!”

“Well, it wasn’t that bad. I just thought I’d better leave before it got worse.”

— “A PINCH OF PORN,” Janet Lane, June 22, 1978

Twenty-Five Years Ago

When the disco fad began to subside toward the end of 1979, the Bacchanal in Kearny Mesa was the first of the local nightclubs to switch back to live rock music. A much-ballyhooed “Disco Sucks” party was held featuring the hard-rock tunes of Bzts and several other local bands, and disco records — predominantly by black, or black-sounding, artists like Donna Summer, Gloria Gaynor, and the Bee Gees — were smashed on the stage. But as trends tend to do, things started to reverse themselves around the start of this year.

And the Bacchanal, which two weeks ago adopted a five-night-a-week disco format, is one of about a dozen local nightclubs that have already made, or are contemplating making, the switch back to recorded music.


Twenty Years Ago

Dear Matthew Alice:

Why do polar bears have black skin?

Liz Spencer, College Area

Polar bears are the most efficient solar-energy converters that can be found anywhere. The most surprising thing is not that their skin is black, but that their fur is actually made of hollow, clear tubes that only appear to be white in reflected light.

— STRAIGHT FROM THE HILL, Matthew Alice, June 23, 1988

Fifteen Years Ago

The independent backyard installer is the highest-paid carpenter in San Diego County. A skilled baseman can easily install 1000 feet a day. At 20 cents a foot, that’s 200 bucks. On a hot day a baseman can make twice that.

Say you live in an apartment complex that has 150 units. Figuring on an average of 225 feet per unit, total footage would equal 33,750 feet, roughly 6-1/3 miles. That’s just one lift of base. I’ve installed over 150 lifts in the past 20-odd years, about 18 train-car loads.

— “HE CRAWLED 700 MILES,” Anonymous, June 24, 1993

Ten Years Ago

I don’t know what I’d been thinking, why I thought going to a Cambodian restaurant the day after Pol Pot’s death would be a reasonable thing to do. The chunk of pig blood wedged in the ladle, tiny crumps of it floated in the suddenly forlorn broth. Everything I knew, or thought I knew, about Cambodia came rushing down on me: The Killing Fields’ Haing Ngor writhing in a slimy pit of rotting corpses, the grinning skulls piled in the postgenocide wire-service photos out of Phnom Penh, Henry Kissinger.

— RESTAURANT REVIEW: “DISCOMFORT FOOD,”
Matthew Luckena, June 25, 1998

Five Years Ago

Like many hackers, David Nakamura Hulton goes by more than one name. His other one, is hi.kari. Some people say you shouldn’t ask a hacker what his handle means. Handles aren’t always meant to be serious. Sometimes they’re designed to foil any journalist who assumes a handle is a window into a hacker’s soul.

The Starlight Ballroom is on the ninth floor of downtown’s Bristol Hotel. If this seems like an odd place for a weekend hacker conference to hold its opening party, maybe it isn’t any other than a hacker conference in the first place.

— “IF FOR HACKER,” Jeanne Schinta, June 19, 2003

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The City is a Procrustean Bed for Man’s Wildness

His heart and eyes disfavor straight line and timidity. Children know this. Set a child down on grass, and he’ll strip his shirt off, pick a rock up, and throw it. He’ll try to harm an animal, and he’ll smear mud on his face because for the past two million years the kiln forged his cells to do exactly that.

Put him in a stiff shirt and set him in the square of a classroom at the rectangle of a desk so that he may watch another broken mouth scratch at a chalkboard. Which is what school teaches. The lesson is not triangles. The lesson is to stand still.

But it doesn’t work.

Every once in a while an astronaut does a set of diazepam, loads a pellet gun, and pulls onto the interstate to follow a false love to Florida, like trying to carry a bucketful of vapor. A senator cruises alleyways for a Bogie of magic crystals and a friend with hairy wrists and chest to share it with. In her declining years, a once-forelady’s widow finds comfort in the care and feeding of 212 housecats.

We are wild things kept in a cage.

Do you think you can get up onto your roof? Get to the highest point of your house. If you can, stand up there tonight. See if you can spot Orion or Coma Berenices or the tallies comet that flies through Perseus the Hero. My wager is you will only see other people on their houses, hanging onto antennas and looking through high-tension wiring to the false furnace where our city lights end and where we cannot see the celestial.

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To the top of the house, to the highest limb of the bough. Dig in the side yard?

That opening bit was weird. I know.

WHAT I WILL AND WON’T WATCH THIS WEEK
TUESDAY, JUNE 19
SUPER WHY!
PBS 9:00 A.M.

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SICK and TINSEL

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SICK and TINSEL
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**SUNDAY, JUNE 22**
**AMERICAN REWIND**
CW 11:00 P.M.

Ugh. Sundays suck. You know you have to work in the morning. It’s like when you were a kid and the Holograms was the last Saturday-morning cartoon. And you either had to sit through it or start your chores. So you sat there in your tighty-whities with your mouth all torn up from two bowls of Cap’n Crunch’s tiny meteorites of pain and you pretended like Gil Joe was still on. Stupid Sundays.

**MONDAY, JUNE 23**
**THE MOLE**
ABC 10:00 P.M.
ABC, you already tried this. The Mole was a museum-sized failure and here you are trotting it out in front of us again like it’s your prized pony. But that pony’s got a weird rash and it smells and, frankly... I’ll say it—the hair on its butt isn’t clean. I mean, we can all clearly see that pony’s behind, and there are not supposed to be dreadlocks under a pony’s tail, we all know that. Let’s try harder, ABC.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 24**
**I SURVIVED A JAPANESE GAME SHOW**
ABC 8:00 P.M.
Man, I hope this is cool because I love Japanese game shows. I love Japanese game shows as much as Jimmy Dean loves sausages. And that’s saying something. You know he sits on his front porch at night listening for cicadas and getting a breakfast link as if it were a dog’s head. (It’s funny because sausage is greasy. His band would be all greasy.)

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25**
**AFI LIFE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: A TRIBUTE TO WARRIORS BECKETT**
USA 9:00 P.M.

Wednesday continues its reign of blandness over the other nights of the week. When the nights of the week have a party, Wednesday is the one that brings egg salad. Saturday night is like, ‘It’s a freakin’ party and you brought egg salad!’ What are you, my grandmother? Is this a bingo parlour? I brought a leg of Heineken, for cryin’ out loud. Friday scored three eight balls of coke and you brought egg salad.

Super, Wednesday. Thanks a heap.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 26**
**LAW AND ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT**
USA 10:00 P.M.
Mariska Hargitay’s so tasty she makes me want to slap someone. Mariska, go out with me! Let me buy you dinner; we can even get expensive food, like Red Lobster or Black Angus. We can share a talbouy of Pabst Blue Ribbon. Then I’ll ride my bicycle past your house every night for three weeks. You can tell your brother to answer the phone and say, “Look, we told you already. We’ll call the cops.” Ah, the Sturm und Drang of new love!

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I have faith in the principle that the flimsiest excuse for a means of escape will do when it is needed.

By John Brizzolara

As I begin this I am looking out the back door onto the rain-stattered deck, which in turn looks out on a common garden area and its foliage blowing and scraping to me in the wet fins of sudden wind. It is a Friday afternoon some weeks prior to the appearance of the column, and this chill, Friday afternoon may already have become a distant memory lumped in with those of last winter’s. These kinds of days are among my favorites and the kinds of days on which I find it most enjoyable to work. In another era I might be fondling my asl as I ply my quill over parchment. The flame from an oil lamp might be withering from the monole in my right eye; and of course I would be, and I am, smoking a pipe. This imagery — as absurd and pretentious, almost comic as it is — may be primary in what attracted me to the profession of writing, as little as it has to do with any of it. That, and the jacket photo of Mickey Spillane on one of his typing collections with a title like The Erection Set, or something like it. He is wearing a snap-brim hat and leveling a .45. It seemed cool back then and was the mind of was nine.

Though I do not have a conventional nine-to-five job these days, I am hardly unusual. Millions more workers than ever are doing what I do, which is working from home by computer. Still, after years of conditioning and what can typically be described as shit job experience, I find that weekends mean pretty much the same thing to me as they did when I was working in a foundry in Illinois melting down 45-pound flywheels over a vat of molten zinc. Leisure. Writing is still considered a leisure activity in this puritanically informed and still Calvinist-influenced-work-ethic zeitgeist. Since the days of Thomas Hardy and further back, novel writing, for example, was denounced from the English pulpit as a frivolity and worse, certainly worse than novel reading, which was, at best, frowned upon. Something of this still lingers, and it is hard to correct for it by visiting the new-release tables at Borders.

At the moment, I am in the process of writing a novel. I often am, but it is rare for me to get past the point I’ve reached on the present one, where it announces itself as something other than a nice try with no cigar on the horizon. With nothing to dictate otherwise, I find myself reserving hours during weekends for this. I do work on the thing during the week, but there is some voice in the superego that only truly signals the green light somewhere around Friday afternoon. I think I have written here before that an early concept I had for a memoir title (I was in my 20s and had few experiences to document, but some of note) was “Lust for Leisure.” I even drew the jacket cover, which was pretty much the image I described earlier, except my rendering featured an eye patch and a monocle. It is only after business hours that my subconscious seems to allow any real work.

Real work, for me, seems to involve committing passages like this to the laptop screen:

“Lord Firemount straddled the beast he had named Mudgloom and pat the sentient animal’s scaled, muscular neck. The triple moons had aligned over the featureless plain and stained the granite, sand, and occasional outcroppings of ancient, rune-carved stone a kind of pink and jet and amber. The few clouds above the swordman and his winged reptile-bird companion were tattered streamers of gaseous violet.”

No, it is not some sword-and-sorcery epic. This is a depiction of a mind in the midst of a schizophrenic drug admission. I do not mean to suggest undergoing a psychotic break in rehab. Alonzo’s fantasy self is the heroic swordman Lord Firemount and provides both myself and Alonzo with therapeutic escapism.

As for the reader? Who cares? Theoretically, I do, if I hope to sell the thing; but I have eminent faith in the principle that the flimsiest excuse for a means of escape is needed when it is needed. This is possibly not the best attitude, but I have no choice. The scene and its style also serve to point up the utility of schizophrenia (drug and alcohol use, as well) while holding up a mirror to our own undeniable need to improvise reality when the present one to us is untenable.

The working title on this thing is Crossroads, after the name of the fictional facility. Eric Clapton actually opened a rehab/resort in, I think, the Bahamas with the same name, and that’s acknowledged. It is far from the first thing I’ve lifted from the title. He also neatly describes the book, I think: a point where a crowd of characters’ lives and realities converge.

Nothing like a little shameless self-promotion, though I really have nothing to promote at this point. It all has to do with Leisure, its utility and purpose and why I love it. Hardly any different from discussing your weekend landscaping project or your ongoing rebuilding of a ’57 Chevy in your garage while standing around the water cooler at the office on Monday morning when you’re supposedly working.

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