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**San Diego Is Chargers’ Problem**

By Don Bauder

The Chargers say they have a problem: Qualcomm Stadium is antiquated. Sorry, The Chargers’ problem is much broader and deeper than that. The Chargers have a problem with San Diego. Period. It’s not big enough or rich enough to satisfy the financial ambitions of the owners.

I recently had an email colloquy with Mark Fabiani, the team’s special counsel. His answers to my questions were revealing. He says the team is sedulously working to remain in San Diego. But I suspect he realizes that that is impossible, given the management’s monetary desires. I have thought for years that the rich Los Angeles market, economic and political conditions may prevent that for a while — perhaps a very long while. But unfortunately, the horrible fact is that for a while — perhaps a very long while. But unfortunately, the horrible fact is that for a while — perhaps a very long while.

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

**City/Lights**

**San Diego Reader August 7, 2008**

**Summer fun**

The Gill Action Fund, a political arm of the Colorado-based Gill Foundation, which recently named Jerry Sanders PR aide Fred Sainz its director of communications, gave $250,000 to the No on Prop 8 campaign last week. Sainz is expected to become a key player in the campaign against the measure to ban gay marriage in California. Happy Days, the 164-foot yacht of Union-Tribune publisher David Copley, is still idling lazily along the French Riviera. On July 30, six days after Copley announced the U-T was for sale, the craft was spotted pulling into the International Yacht Club of Antibes after a short voyage from Monaco. Democratic congresswoman Susan Davis continues to be an inveterate traveler. At the beginning of June, she was off to Rome with her husband Mike to attend a conference titled “Political Islam: Challenges for U.S. Policy.” For each lodging cost $2400 and sale $840. The total $14,280 tab was picked up by the Aspen Institute, a nonprofit outfit funded by big corporations and wealthy individuals, including George Soros, the billionaire backer of liberal causes. At the same time, Davis aide William Hazard also hit the road, traveling to Ankara, Turkey on a “fact-finding trip to learn more about the relationship between Muslims, Christians, and Jews,” according to his disclosure. The visit’s cost of $3020 was paid for by the Rumi Forum for Interfaith Dialogue. The weeklong trip included a “boat tour up the Bosphorus and Drum on a boat,” a stop at the Blue Mosque of Topkapi Palace; a visit to the Zulfikar Jewish Museum; lunch at the Turkish Grand National Assembly; and a visit with the Turkish minister of economy.

**Electrifying**

Sempra Energy, lobbying hard to build that controversial power line across Anza-Borrego state park, has taken it battle to the stomachs of legislators and their staffs. According to the company’s latest lobbyist disclosure statement, filed last week, lucky recipients included Dave Louden, chief of staff to GOP Sen. Mark Wyland; Cameron Durchel, director of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s San Diego office; and Tyree Dillingham, the office’s deputy director. Each partook of food and beverage valued at $75.04 during a presumably cozy session at Donovan’s, a posh San Diego steak house, on June 3. Republican Assemblyman George Plescia, no stranger to Sempra’s hospitality in the past, chiled out at L.A.’s Staples Center on June 10, his ticket, food, and beverage setting the back $322.42. On April 19, Matthew Petersroo, chief of staff to Orange County supervisor Bill Campbell, got tickets worth $114 to an Angels game. Meanwhile, brewing giant and SeaWorld owner Anheuser-Busch, soon to be taken over by multinational beer maker InBev, enjoyed a last lobbying hurrah. Pablo Espinoza, deputy director of member services in the assembly speaker’s office, got $135.00 worth of admission to SeaWorld San Antonio. Ivan Altamura, chief of staff to GOP Assembyman Mike Villines, got tickets to San Diego’s SeaWorld valued at $271.80. And Democratic Assemblyman Curren Price got an $81.90 dinner at the Park at Mason’s, a Sacramento restaurant.

**Blasts from the past**

Ex-KFMB Channel 8 TV weathercaster and part-time Mission Beach stand-up comic Larry Mendte has been making the wrong kind of headlines in his adopted hometown of Philadelphia lately. Mendte, who departed San Diego to work in Chicago after KFMB fired him in 1992 and who later anchored the syndicated Access Hollywood in L.A., is facing federal charges that he hacked into the email account of his ex-girlfriend and anchor about 537 times over a five-month period beginning in January. Mendte, who co-anchored Philadelphia’s KYW-TV news with Alycia Lane for more than four years, allegedly used the information to plant damaging stories about Lane with a gossip columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. Mendte’s motive, according to Lane’s attorney Paul Rosen, was envy: Lane, dubbed the “Latina Bombshell” by Philadelphia media, was making $780,000, $100,000 more than Mendte. “There’s no question that it was out of jealousy,” Rosen told local reporters. “Her star was climbing, while his was not climbing. . . . His conduct was designed to undermine her.” Mendte allegedly circulated information about Lane’s own mini-scandals, which included a late-night snatch with a New York City police man. (Lane was fired in January; Mendte in May.) He is expected to plead guilty when he appears in federal court on August 22. Another former San Diegan is also in hot water back East. Sean-Michael Lyons, also known as Michael Stevens Lyons, 45, has pleaded guilty to failing to register as a sex offender after he moved from California to Sussex County in New Jersey. In 1985 he was convicted by a San Diego County Superior Court jury of ten counts of lewd acts with boys between the ages of 6 and 13 and attempted child molestation. He was sentenced to 12 years in state prison. Lyons was a 22-year-old counselor at the Santa Margarita YMCA when the crimes occurred. New Jersey authorities said that Lyons was a pastor at the Damen of Molokai Chapel of the Reformed Catholic Church, which he operated out of his house in a section of Vernon. The church said he had been suspended from clerical duties; it is not affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church.

— 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.
Worldwide Spanish Slang
By Ernie Grimm

Spanish slang connoisseur Roxana Fitch grew up in Tijuana, birthplace of some of the most distinctive slang words — or jergas — in the entire Spanish-speaking world. The proximity of Tijuana, and of Mexico’s entire border region, to the United States has spawned such English-influenced expressions as llamar pa’ tres. “It’s a literal translation of the English ‘to call back,’ which in Spanish makes absolutely no sense, but people say it anyway,” Fitch says. “We borrow those words from English and adapt them, make them sound more Spanish.”

Other examples of Tijuana border slang: chiro-queer, a verb meaning to install their nose up at border slang because they think it is so contaminated with English. But if you go to Mexico City, they have their own set of slang, which is very extensive, rich, and varied. And if you go to another place, like Michoacán or Culiacán, they have their own vocabularies. Every single state has their own set of slang.”

Fitch ought to know. She makes her living with language as a translator and Spanish teacher in Bologna, a university town an hour’s drive north of Florence, Italy. But her passion is collecting slang and colloquialisms from all over the Spanish-speaking world and documenting them on a website she started in 1997, jergasdehablahispana.org.

Since she was a child growing up near Avenida Revolución, Fitch, 47, has loved language. “Like many Tijuana people,” she says, “I crossed the border to go to school and came back home for the rest of the day.” While a student at Chula Vista’s Hilltop High School, Fitch says, “I saw all the possibilities for studying languages, so I took some French and German. Then I went to Southwestern College, and then I went to UCLA, where I did some Japanese and Portuguese as well. But Italian has always been my favorite.”

It was with a degree in Italian that Fitch graduated from UCLA in 1982. After graduation, she moved back to Tijuana and "worked a little bit on both sides of the border. I taught languages and did translations.”

At the age of 29, Fitch moved to Bologna, a town she’d become enamored of six years earlier. “When I was 23, I came for the first time to Europe with my backpack. I was traveling and trying to see if I wanted to do some graduate studies over here. So I visited a lot of university cities. And I fell in love with Bologna. It’s a small town, but it has everything. It’s very lively because the university community is very strong. The University of Bologna is the oldest university in Europe.”

The idea of a Spanish slang dictionary first came to Fitch when she was having trouble communicating with Spanish speakers from other countries whom she met in Italy. “If I was speaking with a Peruvian,” she says, “or an Argentinean, we had a hard time understanding each other and talking to each other when we got down to a more familiar conversational level. When it was formal, it was fine. We could understand each other perfectly. But when we were friends and hanging out, that’s when we had a hard time understanding each other. A lot of misunderstandings arose. Sometimes the same word has different meanings, and sometimes it’s offensive. Let me just give you an example. The word bicho is generally understood in most countries as a critter, a small animal or a bug. But in Puerto Rico, bicho is the male sexual organ. You can see how misunderstandings could arise from there.”

When the Internet revolution took off in the mid-1990s, Fitch indulged her interest in languages online. “I started chatting in chat rooms, and I was focusing on the Spanish language. I encountered the same problems as usual of misunderstandings and people fighting over stupid things because they didn’t understand what the other person had meant to say. At the same time, I had started compiling a dictionary of Mexican terms for a friend of mine, a Spaniard, who was really hooked on Mexican soap operas but didn’t understand half of the things they were saying. So she used to write and ask me what does this mean and what does this other thing mean? So I started writing a glossary for her. It was very small, only about 200 terms. But I already had something. So I decided to open the website and start convincing people who are interested in the subject to help me get vocabulary from other countries as well. So I’ve divided everything by the 20 countries that speak Spanish, plus the U.S. because of the Spanglish. And it all started developing that way online. I still have some helpers who have been helping me for more than ten years and occasional helpers who come into

An archive of City Lights stories can now be searched on the Internet at SDReader.com
That's a mouthful. The Chargers virtually sold out the luxury boxes and club seats, but that's not good enough. Let's face facts: only a big, rich market could create the income stream that the Chargers' management covets. San Diego cannot provide this. First, the business mix in San Diego does not lend itself to providing whopping revenues from super-luxury boxes. San Diego is filled with capital-intensive, cerebral-ori-ented companies (biotech, telecoms) that can't afford to entertain in luxury boxes and really aren't suited to doing business at football games anyway. The real estate companies used to throw money around, but now they are struggling to survive. The big hotel owners still have money to burn, but there aren't enough of them. Similarly, the aver-age San Diegan is squeezed: the living cost of 55 percent above the nation's, but incomes are only 20 percent higher.

Bottom line: even if the Chargers built a new sta-dium, they would find that they couldn't get that much more revenue from the corporations, super rich, and average fan. San Diegans, including most companies, live on psychic income. That won't satisfy the Chargers. A new stadium would cost well over a billion dollars. The team couldn't recover those extra costs, even with a large government subsidy. And that brings us to today's macroeconomic sit-uation. Governments at all levels are ailing. The City of San Diego is one of the worst off in the nation. Chula Vista, with which the team is now having dis-cussions, is hurting. The recession will inhibit con-sumers for probably two more years. Building costs have soared. All around the country, housing markets are in desperate shape; teams' hopes of financing stadiums with revenue from condos are, frankly, shot. The credit crunch is likely to last into 2010. The National Football League could have a strike or lock-out in 2011; that prospect could cool off the building of new stadiums.

"Tax revenues are falling, governments are strug-gling," says Dennis Coates, economist at the Univer-sity of Maryland, Baltimore County. With real estate in the Dumpster, the always-specuous argument that sta-di ums spur development is a tougher sell.

Rodney Fort, professor of sports management at the University of Michigan, agrees with Coates: in the near future, the private sec-tor will have to put up more of the money. "Governments are less willing to foot the bill," he says, so the teams will have to come up with more scratch. The NFL itself might put more into new stadium deals; it has always wanted desperately to return to Los Angeles, and in that 2004 contract, San Diego promises not to sue the league, which was already talking with L.A. at the time of the negotiations.

Fabiani admits that "Today, there is no chance that the Mission Valley pro-ject could be financed." The housing market has "declined dramatically," while stadium construction costs have skyrocketed. In my judgment, that deal was a fairy tale back in 2002 when the Chargers proposed it.

Fabiani believes a deal can still be worked out in Chula Vista. But 60 to 70 percent of the houses for sale in Chula Vista are dis-tress sales. Fabiani hopes there could be a "consor-tium of universities" on the east side that could produce "a mix of development... that would include more than housing." Sorry, "A consortium of universities" is not going to spring out of the ground in eastern Chula.
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You Can Make More Money & Get a Better Job
Chargers’ problem
continued from page 8

Vista. It might get a branch of a community college or of San Diego State, but that would be a long time away, and modest at best. Eastern Chula Vista is one of the messiest housing markets in the county, Fabiani admits, “We are a long, long way from moving forward” Chula Vista.

He sums up, “The credit crunch, skyrocketing raw material costs, and [the] housing-market collapse are huge issues, and that is why completing our project in San Diego County becomes more difficult by the day.”

That is another mouthful. He is telling San Diegans to be ready for a departure, although he is not that blunt about it.

A billionaire developer named Ed Roski says he will build a privately funded football stadium in the City of Industry, 25 miles east of Los Angeles. He says he can start construction in October and claims he has financing. (He is a known dreamer/huckster, so eyebrows are always cocked at his pronouncements.) In telling me that the Chargers are not likely to keep their plans secret from San Diegans, as the contract permits, Fabiani says, “When Ed Roski announced his City of Industry stadium proposal, we proactive told the media and our fans of the long friendship between the Roski and Spanos families and about the fact that Ed Roski and Dean Spanos [have] talked about Mr. Roski’s plans for a stadium in the Los Angeles area.” But the main focus is on San Diego, Fabiani insists.

But his statement should not be comforting to Charger fans. On the other hand, NFL owners are said to be talking about cities with “stadium issues” — that is, teams that reside in cities that won’t or can’t come up with gigantic subsidies or might even think there are better uses for public funds than supporting pro teams owned by billionaires. Teams considered the best candidates for departure are the Minnesota Vikings, Oakland Raiders, Chargers, and San Francisco 49ers. In the second tier are the Jacksonville Jaguars, New Orleans Saints, Buffalo Bills, and St. Louis Rams. (The Raiders and Rams were both domiciled in Los Angeles at one time.)

My guess is the Chargers are Roski’s lead candidate. The Chargers would have to pay a penalty of more than $50 million to leave between now and 2010, but if the sum drops to $26 million in 2011 and keeps declining. In that 2004 contract, the City gave the Chargers every incentive to scam. They would like to do so. The year 2012, the year following a possible players’ strike or owners’ lockout, and possibly in a better economic/financial environment, seems logical.

Every entrepreneur wants to make more money. In the world of pro sports, there is no such thing as community loyalty, especially when such loyalty is spelled S-U-B-S-I-D-Y and financed by the government is broke. ‘Thank you, you’ll get your little credit.’ Some fine print in the back of the book. Who’s going to read that?”

Asked to weigh in on the age-old discussion of what nation speaks the most beautiful and correct Spanish, Fitch refuses to take sides. “I think they all have something. Seriously, working with the slang trends and dialects of 20 different countries, I have a way of comparing. Each has its own distinct flavor, its own idiosyncrasies, its own something that makes it special, interesting, and alive.”

That doesn’t mean she teaches slang to her students in Bologna. “We get our textbooks from Spain,” she explains, “and a lot of things they expect me to teach I won’t teach because I don’t think it’s correct Spanish. These books just assume that if it’s spoken like this in Madrid, it’s proper Spanish. But it’s not.”

As for Tijuana, “I do miss it a lot. I may be able to find a Mexican here, but more often than not, it will be somebody from Mexico City. I have never met anybody from Tijuana here. So to me, our brand of slang and colloquialisms is really special. I am fond of it because that is what I grew up with. I try to visit once a year, and when I do I find myself having to learn new terms and new uses for old terms. For example, I’m sure you’re familiar with the word guey [pronounced way]. When I left the country, the term was used to refer to men, never to women. Now, women say it to each other. Mothers say it to their children. I can’t stand that.”

Spanish slang
continued from page 7

on the website and see that a word or two is missing so they write me and ask me to include the new vocabulary. So it’s still growing. Every month I add new material to it.”

Fitch estimates that she spends 20 hours a week on the website. “Every chance I get, I’m working on it,” she says. When she was developing the site before it opened, she worked even more hours on it. “I did everything. I had no funding or anything, so I had to learn how to create a webpage. And that was way before they had programs that let you design websites at a click. I had to learn all the HTML codes and everything. It took me I don’t know how many hours to write a few sentences because of all the codes I had to include. But it was fun, and I’m really passionate about it, so I kept on even though it didn’t make me any money. It was just the satisfaction of having people go in there and say, ‘Hey, I really enjoy reading your dictionary and all the stuff you have in there. It’s been really useful.’

These days, the site makes a little money from advertisers such as Cervantes language school in Málaga, Spain, and Language Trainers in England. But Fitch says it’s not nearly enough for her to consider quitting her day job. A printed dictionary she published in 2006 has not been a big seller, though Fitch has been gratified to learn that it has been used by the Real Academia Española of Spain. “They are the authority for the Spanish language. They set the rules on grammar, vocabulary, anything to do with the Spanish language. What was really funny was that last year, I noticed that the Academia was going into my website quite frequently. I have a little program that tells me who comes in and what they’re looking at. So I noticed that they were coming in and looking at stuff, but they never sent me a message or anything to let me know. So I wrote them and asked what they were looking for and whether I could help them. After five months and no answer from them, I decided, I’m going to post all the statistics from their entries into my website. And it was really funny because I posted the proof that they were entering my website and three days later they wrote me. They admitted that they had been entering my website because they are creating a new dictionary themselves, which is called Diccionario Académico de Americanismos. It focuses on all the Spanish vocabulary that originated in the Americas, not in Spain. So they were taking material from my website, ‘getting ideas,’ as they said. They were really happy that I had my website with all its material because it quickened their process. Because I do have a lot of material. They told me they were willing to give me credit in their dictionary when it was published. The only problem is, it will be published in 2010, and before that nobody will know that in some way I contributed to that dictionary. So I decided that I needed to go to Spain and talk to members of the Real Academia Española of Spain. ‘They are the authority for the Spanish language. They set the rules on grammar, vocabulary, anything to do with the Spanish language. What was really funny was that last year, I noticed that the Academia was going into my website quite frequently. I have a little program that tells me who comes in and what they’re looking at. So I noticed that they were coming in and looking at stuff, but they never sent me a message or anything to let me know. So I wrote them and asked what they were looking for and whether I could help them. After five months and no answer from them, I decided, I’m going to post all the statistics from their entries into my website. And it was really funny because I posted the proof that they were entering my website and three days later they wrote me. They admitted that they had been entering my website because they are creating a new dictionary themselves, which is called Diccionario Académico de Americanismos. It focuses on all the Spanish vocabulary that originated in the Americas, not in Spain. So they were taking material from my website, ‘getting ideas,’ as they said. They were really happy that I had my website with all its material because it quickened their process. Because I do have a lot of material. They told me they were willing to give me credit in their dictionary when it was published. The only problem is, it will be published in 2010, and before that nobody will know that in some way I contributed to that dictionary. So I decided that I needed to go to Spain and talk to them about it. Because I’ve never received any support from them. It was just ‘thank you, you’ll get your little credit.’ Some fine print in the back of the book. Who’s going to read that?”

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<td><strong>New Pioneer</strong> 180-watt 6.5” 2-way Speakers</td>
<td><strong>$19</strong></td>
<td>First 5 Customers Per Store. Thurs., Fri., Sat. &amp; Sun.</td>
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<td><strong>New SONY</strong> 180-watt 6x9” 3-way Speakers</td>
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<td>First 5 Customers Per Store. Thurs., Fri., Sat. &amp; Sun.</td>
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<td><strong>New KENWOOD</strong> 200-watt AM/FM Detachable-Face CD Player with iPod or MP3 Player Input</td>
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<td><strong>New Rockford Fosgate 300-watt 12” Thundering Subwoofer</strong></td>
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<td>First 5 Customers Per Store. Thurs., Fri., Sat. &amp; Sun.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>New MB Quart 6.5” Midrange and Tweeter Component Set</strong></td>
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The People’s Park?
Re “What’s wrong with Balboa Park?” (Cover Story, July 31). Your author attended the introductory lecture that addressed this subject, read the accompanying report, interviewed a few officials, and prepared a report that was a précis of all that had gone before. For those who hadn’t attended the discussions, he performed a service. He was objective and allowed his speakers to outline the ostensible successes of Balboa Park. As I attended this lecture and read the reports, I don’t recall that so much emphasis was placed on the institutional needs that the author discovered.

First, I disagree that Balboa Park is all right the way it is. The people who made this statement were purposely blind on speaking on behalf of a Chamber of Commerce that wants San Diegans to believe that they are living in the best of all possible worlds. Can’t these people see! Or is it possible that visual blight has become so common everywhere in America that people cannot conceive alternatives?

Second, as with so many studies of Balboa Park, the emphasis is on the Central Mesa, where the Zoo and buildings are located. The cliché that Balboa Park is the Smithsonian of the West is again intoned. How many people have been to the mall in Washington, D.C., and studied the mistakes that have been made there? How many are aware that the Smithsonian museums are not all on the mall! How many know that the majority of them are free?

Washington, D.C., Boston, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Minneapolis, and San Francisco have greater museums than those in Balboa Park. Their collections cover all facets of art and science, ancient and modern. The architecture of buildings is compatible with their surroundings and of a high architectural order. Buildings are pleasing to look at and to move into. They are so widely spaced they do not exist cheek-by-jowl. Views from the tops are the talk of the towns. So much for the uneven collection of crowded, cramped, and unsightly museums in Balboa Park that outdo each other with banners, flags, and lights that destroy whatever architectural and aesthetic merit some of the original Spanish-Colonial buildings may have had. The 1935 additions are awkward boxes on the outside and clumsy aisles on the inside. Yet 1935 is the year historical preservationists want to recreate in Balboa Park — re-create that is with incongruous sculptures by Niki de Saint Phalle making a mockery of the architecture and history of buildings that pay tribute to the breathtaking examples of Spanish-Colonial buildings in Mexico, Central, and South America.

The focus on the Central Mesa as a tourist and money-making attraction has been the ruin of Balboa Park. Its constricted and obsolete layout is the cause of Balboa Park’s insoluble circulation problems, and it is the maw that devours whatever private or public money can be extracted to the detriment of the natural green outdoor portions of the park that line the east and west sides.

The speakers made a big fuss about obtaining public approval for whatever may happen to the park. This is not going to happen. San Diego voters have historically turned down park bonds because they saw their money going to mushrooming cultural institutions and not to picnic and festival areas, dog parks, playgrounds, and the many imaginative recreational projects that could be put into the park for the benefit of residents if the money were not always diverted away. What the City will do, as it did with the Naval Hospital, Veterans’ Center,
and other establishments that belong anywhere in the city but in a public park, is to find a way to circumvent public approval. Leasing buildings is the easiest way to do this, and each lease means a dilution of public control. Tourists and Chamber of Commerce officials will be delighted. Park-going citizens will have to seek other outlets for the improvement of their physical and mental health and for the fostering of democratic values that parks like Central Park and Prospect Park in New York City and the Commons and the Emerald Necklace in Boston have made their chief aims.

There is an irony that the chief complaint of a visitor to the park was the presence of the homeless. As leases grow, as the park becomes more and more a private domain, the homeless will go elsewhere or put up a fight. Try as the Chamber of Commerce and City Officials may, they will not disappear.

How to make the park pay for itself? Cut off subsidies to the museums and zoo. Charge for parking everywhere in the park, with special low fees for residents, build as many underground parking garages as are necessary, and stop the building of vanity fountains, so constructed that people cannot dangle their feet in the water. If the voters do not approve park improvement projects, then the park must go where it is heading. If a true benefactor occurs, his concern will be for the welfare of the people as a whole and not with the promotion of his set or his personal hobbies. Somewhere in Balboa Park there will always be grass, trees, and the earth itself to offer its warm touch and embrace to those who crave the solace it alone can give.

Richard W. Amero
San Diego

Don't Trust The Stewards

Thank you for the thoughtful article on the continued decline of our wild back-country ("Way Too Many People Live Out Here," Cover Story, July 24). Unfortunately the very agencies that are the supposed stewards of public lands (e.g., the U.S. Forest Service and BLM) have a long tradition of catering to the abusers and exploiters. Unenlightened policies have seriously degraded our natural heritage. To trust them with carte blanche to do the right thing is ludicrous. Thank you to the watchdogs for looking out for our embattled natural world.

New development doesn't just affect the immediate vicinity but spills over with no-longer-dark skies, increased and often illegal vehicular recreation, and roaming dogs, to name a few.

One factual correction. Cuyamaca Peak is not the high point of San Diego County. That distinction goes to Hot Springs Mountain, near Warner Springs, which is 21 feet higher than Cuyamaca.

Ted Caragian via email

Most Likely To Burn

We can all sit idly by and allow Mother Nature to wreak its havoc in the future, or we can actually do something demonstrable now to prevent the recurrence of such future firestorm devastation!

I wholeheartedly concur with Geoff Bouvier ("Way Too Many People Live Out Here," Cover Story, July 24) that far too many people in the aggregate "live out here," when compared to the total population of San Diego. Proportionally, however, it's actually a rather small percentage.

After this past October, 70-mile-wide County of San Diego was consumed again. The history of San Diego chronicles firestorms being a common occurrence in the late 1800s. The 70-mile-wide County of San Diego is reported to be the most fire-prone environment on earth!

What can we do? What should we do? We can make a "null decision" — a positive decision to do nothing — or if we're more responsible, we have the capability to deter and greatly reduce the impact of these
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.12 NOT GUILTY
.13 NOT GUILTY
.15 NOT GUILTY
.16 OVERTURNED DMV SUSPENSION
.17 OVERTURNED DMV SUSPENSION
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Olympics Preview

Communism has taken a hit in recent years. At one time or another, 31 countries were self-declared communist states, including such sleepers as Ethiopia, Benin, Congo, and Sudan. (France and California are omitted for technical reasons.)

Dust to dust. In fact, it’s getting hard to find the famous hammer and sickle anywhere on the planet. Red China’s house organ, People’s Daily, has zero commie symbols on its home page. You have to click through to “News of the Communist Party of China” section to see that familiar red banner rising behind a yellow hammer and sickle.

But, hey, since we’re here, let me pass on some rock ‘em sock ‘em news. How about this for a lead sentence: “A brilliant Opening Ceremony is very important for the success of the Beijing Olympic Games,” said Li Changchun, member of the Standing Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee Political Bureau, on Saturday. (You didn’t read that sentence all the way to the end, did you? That’s why communism never found a place in the United States. The Reds couldn’t conceal their hatred of the English language.)

Nowadays, prototypical one-party commie states have been reduced to five: China, Vietnam, Laos, North Korea, and Cuba. I don’t count China and Vietnam as purebred commie states because they’re getting rich and worship money as much as we do. Laos is a client state of Vietnam and belongs in the “prisoner” category of nations. So, that leaves Cuba and North Korea, numbers 156 and 157, respectively, of 157 listed nations found on the Heritage Foundation’s “Index of Economic Freedom.” The two are dead last, bottom of the fish tank, and that’s genuine old-time commie garbage.

So, what do they think about the Olympics? Follows are two breaking stories from the Korean Central News Agency.

KIM JONG IL ENJOYS PERFORMANCE GIVEN BY ART SQUAD OF KPA UNIT 757

Pyongyang, August 2 (KCNA) — General Secretary Kim Jong Il enjoyed a performance given by the art squad of KPA Unit 757.


He highly appreciated their successful performance, expressing great satisfaction over the fact that the art squad members of the unit not only created excellent works vividly reflecting the inextinguishable mental power of the servicepersons of the KPA but staged a truthful and militant performance.

OLYMPIC BASEBALL TEAM

Cuba, on the other hand, is a player. Count up the last four Summer Olympics, and Cuba has won 43 gold medals, 32 silver, and 37 bronze. They were fifth in total medals in ’92 (169 nations competed), eighth in ’96 (197 nations competed), ninth in 2000 (199 nations), eleventh in 2004 (201 nations). Cuba is a power in international sports, especially baseball. And they take it seriously.

Now comes tragedy entering stage right. On July 13, the U.S. National (baseball) Team defeated Cuba (4 to 1) in the championship game at the Olympics in Beijing.

KOREA TO COMPETE IN THE OLYMPIC BASEBALL TEAM

Pom Gi, vice-premier of the DPRK Players’ Group leaves for Beijing.

Pyongyang, August 2 (KCNA) — A DPRK players’ group led by Pak Hak Son, chairman of the Physical Culture and Sports Guidance Commission, left here today to participate in the 29th Olympic Games to be held in Beijing.

It was seen off at the airport by Kim Jong Bin, secretary of the C.C., the Workers’ Party of Korea, Kwak Pom Gi, vice-premier of the Cabinet, and athletes.

The excitement never ends in Pyongyang. The population is near hysteria due to Olympic madness. As the old hymn says, “Let’s sharpen our bayonets to annihilate enemy.”

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Which brings us to the cubadebate.org website and: REFLECTIONS BY COMRADE FIDEL: THE OLYMPIC BASEBALL TEAM

They forget that our team is now in South Korea, a country where we do not even have an embassy. There, our athletes continue to train. Anyway, they are not the ones who deserve the strongest criticisms. They will be taking part in the Olympic Games that will be held on the other side of the world, where sleeping hours and life pace are different. They have an intense program of physical training with a view to the last presentation of this sport at the Olympics, as determined by the rich and powerful masters of such games. They have not been defeated. Let’s not discourage them. Let’s send them a message of encouragement.

Why don’t we wait until the conclusion of the Olympics to engage in a full and truly democratic discussion on the responsibility of everyone involved in Cuban sports?

Everyone can hardly wait.

“Let’s sharpen our bayonets to annihilate enemy.”

The Vegas Line can be found at SDReader.com

Under “Stories” in menu bar, click on “Sporting Box.”
### It's the law!

#### EZ-Blue Portable Bluetooth

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<tr>
<th>Model</th>
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<tr>
<td>MEX-BT2600</td>
<td>$39</td>
<td>CD player with built-in Bluetooth, AM/FM, 45 watts x 4 high power detachable face</td>
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#### Pioneer AVH-PA000 DVD Navigation Receiver with Bluetooth

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<td>$199</td>
<td>DVD/CD receiver with internal amp, variable illumination, 14 watts RMS CEA-2006/50 peak x 4 channels, 6.1&quot; touchscreen, fits 2 THE DENOMINATION PIONEER pkg dash openings</td>
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#### Pioneer AVIC-F700BT Navigation Receiver with Bluetooth

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#### KENWOOD KVT-512

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<td>7&quot; Motorized Touchscreen with Variable Illumination, Fast Access to iPod Audio/Video with High-speed iPod Control, Two sets of (2V) Pre-outs, Navigation Ready (Optional KNA-G510)</td>
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#### Navigation Receiver with Bluetooth

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<td>$799</td>
<td>DVD/CD receiver with internal amp, variable illumination, 14 watts RMS CEA-2006/50 peak x 4 channels, 6.1&quot; touchscreen, fits 2 THE DENOMINATION PIONEER pkg dash openings</td>
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The website for the California Marriage Protection Act (protectmarriages.com) features a “Protect Marriage” timeline, one which incorporates both spiritual and political efforts. (The act seeks to amend the California State Constitution so that marriage will be limited to the union of one man and one woman.) On the spiritual side: “Sunday, July 27: Preach on prayer. Monday, July 28: Begin 100 days of prayer. Sunday, September 21: Preach on fasting. Wednesday, September 24: Begin 40 day fast. Month of October: Preach on marriage. On the political side: ballot, registration, and voting deadlines, along with scheduled phone-bank and door-to-door efforts, plus a youth rally and “The Call,” an all-day gathering at Qualcomm Stadium on November 1.

Also on the timeline: monthly “Pastors Conference Calls,” which are opportunities for pastors around the state to network and discuss their efforts to ensure the act’s passage. The first call linked 1600 pastors in 101 locations; the goal for the Oct. 22 call is 6000 pastors in 400 locations. I visited one of those locations — New Hope Church in Rancho Penasquitos — for the second call, held Wednesday, July 30. (By then, the number of locations in California had risen to 175.) “Politically incorrect and Proud of It” read the bumper sticker of the car next to mine; the license plate read, “RGN N ME.”

“This conversation began 15 years ago,” said one attendee to another in the church’s conference room as we waited for the call to begin. “Which companies are ‘pro-gay’? People started talking about boycotting. Then you dig down deep enough, you realize that you’d have to boycott everybody.” Our host led an opening prayer: “Father...show us what is in Your heart, what Your concerns are, what Your passion is...We ask for You to speak through the speaker, and we pray that You would protect them.”

The call began, accompanied by a video presentation. Jim Garlow, pastor of Skyline Church in Rancho San Diego, served as emcee and opened by asking me to leave: “We want to say to the enemy one thing, you are welcome to be where we are today.”

At that point, I left and went home to visit the Protect Marriage Website, which contained an outline of the call’s schedule. First up: “How to equip yourself;” including a word on legal questions and an overview of Garlow’s “10 Declarations,” made “to unite, focus, and ground us during this precarious season.”

The declarations began with the claim that “authentic inclusivity means loving all persons, without the need to compromise biblical integrity.” They defended marriage as “a covenantal union of one male and one female,” which provides the foundation for a healthy, whole family life and stressed that while “race is a fact of birth,” “a homosexual act is that — an act. Acts involve choices...It is inappropriate to compare homosexual marriages to interracial marriages.” They declared repentance for the failure of Christians to “teach and model authentic Christianity” and to “adequately sanctify marriages...The divorce rate is an abomination to God, a curse on the world and nation, and is an anathema to us.” They promised perseverance and noted that “while the church is the force for righteousness in the culture, its ultimate purpose is to glorify God by bringing persons into a relationship with the Father.”

Other topics included: “How to energize your church,” “How to mobilize your city”; “How to activate your spiritual community” and “How to educate your state.” Also, “How to please your Father” — the spiritual element was anything but background music. The website linked to a sermon given in February by Miles McPherson, pastor of San Diego’s The Rock Church. In it, McPherson said that fighting homosexual marriage was “not a civil government issue, but a spiritual issue. The attack is not from the gay lobby. Here’s who the enemy is: it’s the devil. He’s trying to normalize homosexuality. He’s trying to criminalize preaching the Word of God. In Canada, if you preach Romans 1 — that talks about homosexuality being an abomination — you will lose your license. You will go to jail.”

McPherson warned that if you “take up the Bible out of society, you have complete anarchy. If you take God and the Bible out, then murder is no longer right or wrong because God is the one who said that murder is wrong.” He also argued that when man and woman joined in marriage, “that’s the fullness of God’s image. You’re back the way [God] originally had you,” after He had “made man in His image” but before He made Eve from Adam’s rib. “Here is Satan’s intent: ‘How do I destroy the ultimate image of God? I’ll destroy marriage.’”

Garlow also preached a sermon on the website, this one introducing a brochure designed to engage the unchurched as well as the believer. The brochure explored marriage in world and American history and argued that anthropologists has found heterosexual marriage to be almost universally a “pivotal institution,” while homosexual marriage is “never the basis of a viable social order.” Further, “the historical origin of marriage is in society and culture, as a response to the needs of the family, and has only later been extended legal recognition and regulation.”

And the brochure argued for the social benefits of heterosexual marriage, concluding, “as the family goes, so goes society... Whether American society succeeds or fails in building a healthy marriage culture is clearly a matter of legitimate public concern... The problem with endorsing gay marriage is not that it would allow a handful of people to choose alternative family forms, but that it would require society at large to gut marriage of its central presumptions about family in order to accommodate a few adults’ desires.”

— Matthew McPherson...
Restlessness grows daily in the Kelly home. Midsummer boredom is percolating in my kids and threatening to boil over. Some new hobbies are needed. Pal Bernice suggested square dancing. “We danced a lot of summer nights away down South when I was a kid,” she offered at the last ladies’ night out. I was skeptical. How could an arcane style of dancing entertain my techno/media-saturated kids? But desperate times call for desperate measures, desperate times call for desperate measures, desperate times call for desperate measures.

There was a period later in history where square dancing’s popularity waned only to be rescued by someone more synonymous with the march of progress than the preservation of tradition. “Henry Ford saved square dancing back in the early 30s,” explained Schmidt. “He brought it back and made it more sophisticated, with people wearing tuxedos as they danced.”

Again, I was skeptical. But Schmidt’s story checks out. According to many websites dedicated to the art form, square dancing was a personal pastime of the automobile tycoon, and its revival and promulgation became a project of his. According to save-squaredancing.com, “believed square dancing taught social training, courtesy, good citizenship, along with rhythm. [He] felt it should be a part of every school’s teaching of physical education.”

School boards around the country agreed and implemented a square dancing program developed by Ford. “To start off,” Schmidt continued, “basic moves take approximately a half a year to get down. In square dancing, you are evolving off of the basic move; it is progressive dancing. You take a move and you are doing several different things. From basic you move to the mainstream and that takes another two to three months. To move to the plus [level], it takes about a year to a year and a half.” After plus level there is advanced 1 and 2, then challenge 1, 2, and 3. “Challenge levels are for people who are bored with other stuff; they want to do a little bit more.”

The most common dance in the United States right now is the mainstream. On the West Coast, it has gone to the plus, which is a little more involved.”

I can see hubby Patrick’s head spinning with all the different levels and steps to be learned with square dancing. “If you have an angel with you for the first few weeks, they can usually pull you through it.” An angel is an experienced square dancer who already knows the moves. “You always have an angel at your side — that is how they start out the class. You go over the basics, the same moves for three weeks in a row, and then they give you two or three more moves, which they do for a few weeks, and that is how you learn.”

The cost: “[Dance] is probably one of the most reasonably priced things you can do. Our class is only $3.50 a week. And the club level is around $4 or $5 per night.”

To get an online version of this column, go to sdreader.com. You can print it, email it to friends, and get other columns by this author.
The Reader's monthly neighborhood writing contest

Entries must be submitted through and will be published on the Neighborhood pages of the SDReader.com website and in the following month in the printed version of the Reader:

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

Deadline is the last day of each month (August 31 for this month).

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.

Online Club Coupons at SDReader.com

Here’s a sample of the great deals available!

2-for-1 admission
Before 9 pm only. Excludes national acts and special events. Offer expires August 31, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month.

Brick By Brick
Live music and cocktails. Must be 21 with valid ID.

The Reader Coupons
619-235-3000

Tio Leo’s Lounge
Cocktails and live music. Must be 21 with valid ID.

The Reader Coupons
619-235-3000

The Aero Club Free WiFi
Brick By Brick 2 for 1 admission
In Cahoots 2 for 1 cover
Lucky 7 Match $5 off speed dating

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8
WAR OF THE WORLDS
ABC 8:30 P.M.

Tom Cruise teams up with the white-mohawked, fang-y, scaly, green gremlin-after-it-eats-past-midnight to fight aliens. Since the gremlin is small, Tom must carry it throughout most of the film, but he uses it as a close-distance weapon, hurling its terrifying face at oncoming attackers. I can’t remember the grotesque goblin’s name in the movie, but in real life they call it “Dakota Fanning.”

SAVAGE PLANET
PBS 10:00 P.M.

My new PBS show is called Savage Spaniex. I drink a lot of iced tea, hit up the neighborhood Chinese buffet for a pre-workout meal of congealed and drying kun po shrimp (“No, this one. Under the heat lamp here. Thank you.”), and then I do a spin class. No air-conditioning. It’s August. And I’m wearing a too-small leotard. Only.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

XXIX SUMMER OLYMPICS
NBC 8:00 P.M.

Now we’re talking. The events listed are “swimming, beach volleyball, and gymnastics.” Hot
molasses in the morning, the swimsuit mother lode! Oh, I love all of those events. Wait. What's it say here? “Men's event, men's event, men's event.” Why, you dirty, no-good, sons of...!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10
XXIX SUMMER OLYMPICS
NBC 8:00 P.M.
Two days in a row with this. NBC, you are pissing me off. I want to see some women's volleyball, and all you're showing me is men's synchronized diving. About the only thing gayer than men's synchronized diving would be a big, bright party hat made out of French raspberries and cake.

MONDAY, AUGUST 11
HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL:
GET IN THE PICTURE
ABC 8:00 P.M.
Let's put Vanilla Ice, the New Kids on the Block, and Ricki Lake in a room with a one-way mirror, then march these lime-sucking teenagers through to observe the basket of sadness that ensues. "This is what you're working for, kids. Someday, you too will be a 40-year-old part-time clown with nicotine-stained fingers and one friend. And your friend is imaginary. And he's also your cousin, so he kind of has to be your friend even though he doesn't want to be."

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12
THE SECRET LIFE OF THE AMERICAN TEENAGER
FAMILY 8:00 P.M.
Watching a kid tie on a Lone Ranger mask and cry under his bed because the other kids called him a fat dork doesn't sound like an interesting show at all. You'll have to at least wait until these teens are in their 20s before you start flashing police and huffing Lysol. Wait. Hey, wait. Maybe other people did things differently than... Oh, I get it.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13
THE INTERNATIONAL DANCESPORT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2007
PBS 8:00 P.M.
If "Dancesport" is a real thing and there was a championship for it a year ago (way to stay current, PBS), then "Salad-Bowl of Vermouth Drinking and Eight Hours of Airwolf Rerunsport" is a real thing and I've just won the 2008 championship. Stick it, PBS. Put your lips around it not once but twice, then stick it.

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 Ollie.
I had told Jen to be ready at 8:15 a.m. At 8 a.m. she was folding laundry in her garage and, from the look on her face, not the least bit surprised to see my car pulling into her driveway. David and I waited patiently as Jen put away clothes and gathered her things. Okay, so David waited patiently. I followed Jen from room to room, apologizing for my hyper-punctuality while simultaneously trying to hurry her out the door with passive-aggressive questions such as, "Are you sure there’s nothing I can do to help you finish getting ready?" When I backed out of the driveway, David sitting behind me and Jen riding shotgun, the orange digital display above the steering wheel read 8:04.

I had given Jen as little information as possible: dress comfortably in layers and expect to be away from home until late in the evening. I’d also told her not to eat breakfast because I wanted her to be hungry for our first stop — Krispy Kreme. David and I led our friend into the diner-like joint and up to a window through which she could view the doughnut-making process. We watched as a variety of Willy Wonka–style contraptions and conveyor belts dropped sticky doughnuts into boiling oil, flipped the dough to fry the other side, and finally, bathed the tasty round cakes in a milky sugar-glaze waterfall. Though her preference runs to bacon ‘n’ eggs, the educational aspects of the breakfast more than compensated for its sickly sweetness.

Jen guessed the next event on the agenda — a morning movie — as soon as I exited on Friars. I revealed our objective was the 10:05 showing of WALL-E. Jen, my veteran movie buddy, seemed not the least bit bothered that I brought her to the mall at 9 a.m. — 30 minutes before the theater was open. David, Jen, and I window-shopped back and forth past the long line outside the Apple store. "If they’d ordered the damn iPhone 3G online when it was released two weeks ago," I quipped, "they wouldn’t need to waste three hours in line on a Friday morning." After leaving the theater around noon, the three of us walked past the line once more, tsk-ing aloud at the poor planners like a trio of church ladies.

"Now what?" Jen asked.

"Now lunch!" I answered.

While Jen enjoyed her Double-Double at the Mission Valley In-N-Out Burger, I explained to her that the theme of the day was childlike frivolity. Of all my friends, Jen is the one with whom I can watch bad horror movies, hit up the arcade, and simply geek out like a preadolescent. David and I had crafted the day’s itinerary not so much in honor of Jen’s birthday (which had come and gone three weeks earlier), but more to demonstrate our appreciation for her friendship.

Obligatory gifting is one of the reasons I stopped celebrating Christmas and Hallmark holidays like Valentine’s Day and why I avoid baby and bridal showers. I don’t have to think about anything; I didn’t have to plan anything. I just get to go along on this great ride with two of my favorite people.”

When we pulled into Boomers, Jen was bouncing in her seat with anticipation. “Are we going to play miniature golf? Can we do the go-carts too?”

“We’re going to do all of it,” I said. In her excitement, Jen skipped to the entrance. It was a weekday, so the place was not too crowded. The summer sun was high in the sky, so we shed our outer layers before collecting our clubs and brightly colored balls.
lecting our clubs and brightly colored balls. After we sunk our balls into the holes of 18 miniature obstacles, we assaulted the go-cart track. Strapped into my cart and pushing my small pedal to the metal, I laughed as I rounded each corner and felt the rush of air caress my skin.

Had I known the bumper boats came with long-range water guns, I’d never have pushed away from the rail. Fortunately for me, my burning skin found the cool water blast from Jen and David’s guns more refreshing than maddening. Still, I just about lost it when they blew $10 worth of coins working up a sweat with Dance Dance Revolution and Percussion Master; we found our humidity with Beatmania, but not before I kicked David’s ass at air hockey.

Making our way through Boomers took less time than I’d planned, so David and I improvised the next stop. We brought Jen back to our place, where we kicked back with a glass of wine and went head-to-head in the strategic board game Blokus.

After “letting” Jen win every round, we set off for the last planned event. “Okay, I give. I have no idea where we’re going for dinner,” Jen said as I drove past the airport.

“We told you, we’re taking you to Mexico and selling you into slavery,” said David.

“There’s no way you’d ever get this one,” I said. “It’s so off your beaten path; I’ve never even been there before.” I waited until I’d turned left past Humphrey’s by the Bay on Shelter Island before announcing, “While gazing upon a spectacular vista of the city lights sparkling across the bay, we’ll be dining at... Bali Hai! Oh, and we’re going to have some crazy Hawaiian drinks, too.”

“This is awesome,” Jen said after we’d taken our seats against the giant window in the restaurant. “This has been the most wonderful day. So easy, no stress — all fun. Just great. Thank you.”

“We’re happy you think so,” said David, raising his mai tai. I lifted the giant ceramic tiki head that contained my slushy girl drink. “Thanks for being a great friend,” I said. “Oh, and happy belated birthday.”

We dined our wild Hawaiian libations. A moment later, after glancing out the window, Jen said, “Hey, there’s a sea lion!” David and I followed her gaze and watched in silent awe as the animal materialized and dove once more, its flipper feet slipping into the shimmering water. As I stared at the ripples, I marveled at how cool it was to be so close to such wonderful creatures. The sea lion was pretty awesome too.

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Greetings

ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF CALENDARIOUS LANDIN
A mile east of the Tijuana International Airport is an area police call El Fin del Mundo, the End of the World, where drug-cartel assassins dump their victims. Both Mexican and American citizens have been found there. On December 18, 2004, according to Sergeant Tom Bulow of the San Diego County Sheriff’s Department, San Marcos resident Noé Chávez García was
lured to Tijuana by two acquaintances who shot him several times and left him in this corpse-disposal zone. He survived his wounds to tell his story to the FBI and Mexican officials. His is a rare case — he lived.

“A total of more than 4,800 Mexicans were slain in 2006 and 2007,” reports the Washington Post on March 16, 2008, “making the murder rate in each of those years twice that of 2005. Law enforcement officials and journalists, politicians and peasants have been gunned down in the wave of violence.”

“What affects one side affects the other,” Mayor Jerry Sanders tells USA Today on February 5, 2007. “We’re literally one region with a fence down the middle.”

“The murder rate in Tijuana is certainly not more than about 500 per year,” states USBorderPatrol.com, which is not an official government web-site. Maintained by “supporters of the United States Border Patrol,” apparently Minutemen-friendly watchdogs, the site has an in-your-face manner that a government site cannot. It asks, “Of course, when is a body count an actual body count?” and adds, “This is the number of people discovered on the street, in cars, in houses, or mysteriously plopped at Tijuana’s city dump within a dozen miles or so of the city center. The 500 does not include the vast numbers of ‘others’ who find their way into shallow graves scattered across the 10,000 square miles of desert sands from Tijuana to the Sea of Cortez.”

A Violent Timeline
1985 — Miguel Angel Félix Gallardo, a former police officer from the Pacific coast state of Sinaloa, is the first Mexican drug czar to link up with Colombia’s cocaine cartels. He is known as “El Padrino.” “He and other druglords shared the Tijuana corridor,” writes Time magazine.

February 9 murder of Enrique Camarena, an undercover agent for the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Reagan administration pressures Mexican authorities to take action.

April 8, 1989 — Miguel Angel Félix Gallardo is apprehended in Sinaloa. The New York Times reports, “Hours after he was arrested… army troops…rounded up the entire city police force — about 300 men — for questioning about possible links to Mr. Gallardo, who American officials believe smuggled as much as two tons of cocaine into the United States each month.” Many police officers defect from the force.

1990–1993 — Gallardo’s organization breaks into two factions:

• Hand-Selected Corals, Fresh & Saltwater Fish
• 1000’s of Healthy, Colorful Koi
• Experts in Filtration Systems
• Everyday Discount Pricing
• 28,000 Gallons of Fish and Invertebrates
• Full Line of Aquarium & Pond Products

15% of Tijuana’s 2300 police officers work for the cartels.

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the Tijuana cartel, led by his seven nephews and four nieces, the Arellano Félix family; and the Sinaloa cartel, run by former lieutenants Héctor Luis Palma Salazar and Joaquín Guzmán Loera. Both organized-crime syndicates engage in kidnapping, ransom, assassinations, and drug transportation. “Into Tijuana roared the seven Arellano brothers,” states a Time article, describing the brothers as “handsome Benjamin, their CEO; chubby Ramón, the enforcer; finance-whiz Eduardo, 44, the money launderer; and the eldest, Francisco, 51, the gregarious, cross-dressing pitchman who, say officials, cemented the clan’s top-drawer political and police alliances, usually out of his Mazatlán discotheque, Frankie O’s.”

December 3, 1993 — Francisco Rafael Arellano Félix (aka “El Comandante Mon”) is arrested by Mexican Federal Judicial Police in Tijuana. The Mexico City newspaper Reforma notes he was once arrested in San Diego in 1980 for selling 250 grams of cocaine to an undercover Drug Enforcement Administration agent. He is incarcerated on drug charges, for illegal arms possession, and for complicity in the murder of Catholic Church cardinal Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo as the cardinal stepped out of his car at the Guadalajara airport.

March 23, 1994 — At a campaign rally in Tijuana, presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio is killed by bullets to the head and abdomen. An article, “Mexico’s Fiesta of Assassins,” posted at meta-religion.com, states that “the first official explanation has it that the gunman, Mario Aburto Martínez, is a deranged gunman, Mario Aburto Martínez, is a deranged loner craving notoriety,” although “a preponderance of evidence does indeed point to a conspiracy: Colosio’s autopsy would show that he had been shot twice and that bullets had entered opposite sides of his body. Videotapes of the shooting show that Colosio did not turn after the first shot, which suggests a second gunman.”

Tijuana police arrest a second man on March 23, caught running from the rally with blood on his clothes. According to the Federal News Service, Tijuana’s municipal police chief, José Federico Benítez López, has posted his men at the rally in defiance of “PRI operatives, who counseled him to let them handle security.” The man Tijuana police arrest, Jorge Antonio Sánchez, tests positive for powder burns. However, federal authorities release him. “According to the weekly news magazine Proceso,” the Federal News Service article continues, “Sánchez turned out to be an agent of the Center of Investigations and National Security (CISEN), Mexico’s counterpart to the CIA.”

April 28, 1994 — Police chief José Federico Benítez López is assassinated “in a meticulously planned ambush on a Tijuana street,” according to the Federal News Service. Not satisfied with the official explanations of the Colosio assassination, and against political party objections, Benítez has been investigating Colosio’s PRI security team, looking for other conspirators. “He discovered that the team leader, José Rodolfo Rivapalacio, was a former state police commander who had been accused of torture by the federal government’s human rights commission… whose own daughter described him as ‘a very violent man’ who beat his wife and children, and who San Diego police suspect of hiring a hit man in a botched attempt to mur-

"Mexican soldiers report that they are offered money, drugs, and prostitutes."
der his estranged wife in the United States.” Benítez’s files on Rivapalacio disappear from police headquarters days before Benítez is gunned down. Anna Cearley of the San Diego Union-Tribune reports that shortly before his death, Benítez apparently turns down a $100,000 bribe from drug traffickers.

January 3, 1997 — Baja California state prosecutor Hodin Armando Gutiérrez Rico is shot more than 100 times outside his home and then run over by a van. Tijuana paper Frontera reports that this is “just one in a string of unsolved murders of law enforcement authorities over the past year. It was the eighth killing in 11 months of prosecutors or police commanders involved in drug-related investigations.” Government reports state there were 800 murders in Tijuana in 1996, 75 percent of them executions between drug traffickers.

A former commander of the federal police, Rodolfo García Gaxiola, is believed to have ordered
five years ago,” notes the Los Angeles Times. “She had been driving him to San Diego, where Hodoyán was to enter the U.S. federal witness-protection program.”

September 18, 1997 — In a press release issued by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Ramón Arellano Félix is named as the 451st person added to the FBI’s Ten Most Wanted Fugitives list and “has been charged in a sealed indictment in U.S. District Court, Southern District of California, with Conspiracy to Import Cocaine and Marijuana.”

October 1997 — Mexico’s federal attorney general’s office freezes the assets of Aero Postal de México after seizing a shipment of cocaine from one of its planes. The Arizona Daily Star reports that “Mexican federal officials suspect the cargo-carrying company of transporting drugs for the Tijuana-based cartel of the Arellano Félix family, an unidentified official told Reforma. Aero Postal’s owner, Jesús Villegas Covall, became one of the principal allies of the organization in the transfer of drugs outside Mexico.”

September 17, 1998 — Ramón Arellano Félix orders a hit that results in the mass murder of 18 people near Ensenada. The Los Angeles Times reports that the hit was punishment for “rival, upstart drug traffickers who failed to pay the Arellano Félixes for transit rights through the Baja corridor.” Eighteen men, women, and children are lined up and executed one by one.

February 27, 2000 — Tijuana’s police chief, Alfredo de la Torre Marquez, is murdered. The New York Times reports that “gunmen in cars ambushed and killed [the police chief] as he drove on a highway, Dozens of bullets hit him.” Governor Alejandro González Alcocer of Baja California claims the violence and drug traffic are out of control because many federales are on the cartel’s payroll. “The drugs are coming in by land, sea and air,” González tells the New York Times. Attempts to combat trafficking are compromised, he says, stating, “We worry that if we try to coordinate operations with [the federales], our plans will be communicated to the traffickers.”

March 12, 2000 — Mexican soldiers apprehend Jesus Labra Avilés (aka “El Chuy”), the Arellano Félixes’ “financial mastermind,” according to Frontline, at pbs.org, “as he watched his son play football in Tijuana.” A few days later, Labra’s lawyer, Gustavo Galvez Reyes, is found tortured and slain.

May 4, 2000 — The Arellano Félix cartel’s top lieutenant, Ismael Higuera Guerrero (aka “El Mayel”), is arrested during a raid on his beachfront home in Ensenada. The Frontline website notes, “Following his arrest, federal prosecutors in San Diego unsealed an indictment against Higuera, accusing him of...
drug trafficking and money laundering. [He] also faces a homicide charge in a Baja California state court for his role in the 1994 slaying of Tijuana’s [police chief] Federico Benítez López. He has also been linked to the slayings of the three anti-drug agents in Tijuana...as well as the murder of Tijuana’s police chief, Alfredo de la Torre Márquez.”

May 11, 2000 — The U.S. Department of Justice sends out a news release unsealing a ten-count indictment charging Benjamín Arellano Félix and his brother Ramón. A $2 million reward is offered for information leading to the arrest of Ramón.

February 10, 2002 — Ramón Arellano Félix is killed in a gun battle with police in Mazatlán, Sinaloa.

March 11, 2002 — The U.S. Department of the State announces, “On March 10, the Government of Mexico arrested Benjamín Arellano Félix... [who] was named on the Department of Treasury’s drug kingpin list” and adds that this “is the most significant arrest ever of a wanted drug trafficker in Mexico. It also advances the bilateral Mexico-U.S. effort to dismantle a violent and powerful transborder criminal organization.” With Ramón dead and Francisco Rafael and benjamin in custody, the youngest brother, Francisco Javier, becomes leader of the cartel. Analyzing the situation, Strategic Forecasting, Inc., at stratur.com, suggests “that a shake-up in the administration is what was needed to make the family business more lucrative.” Mexico refuses to extradite Benjamin to the United States.

June 22, 2004 — Editor and reporter for Tijuana’s “muckraking” tabloid Zeta, Francisco Ortiz Franco, is gunned down two blocks from state police headquarters. He had been writing about the drug trade and the Arellano Félix cartel’s turf battles. The assassination takes place outside his doctor’s office in downtown Tijuana. He has two children with him.

Joel Simon and Carlos Lauría, on the Committee to Protect Journalists website (cpp.org), describe the incident: “[Ortiz] buckled 11-year-old Héctor Daniel and 9-year-old Andrea into the backseat, walked around the car, and got in. Before he could start the engine, a black Jeep Grand Cherokee pulled alongside, and a man wearing a black wool ski mask jumped out. The gunman fired four times from a .380-caliber handgun through the driver’s side window, hitting Ortiz Franco in the chest, head, and neck and killing him.
instantly, according to the editor’s widow, who has reviewed the case file. The killer climbed back into the Jeep Cherokee and sped away. The murder took mere seconds.”

June 28, 2004 — The U-T reports that Jaime Ocampo, a suspected hit man for the Tijuana cartel, is arrested in Rosarito Beach. “He and his wife had moved into a brand new house in a rapidly growing east Chula Vista subdivision where homes go for $600,000 to $1 million.”

April 27–May 4, 2005 — Comandos Negros, “or Black Commandos, are part of a dark season of violence that has set new standards for brazenness and frequency in this crime-weary city” of Tijuana, reports the Los Angeles Times. On April 27, “waving AK-47 rifles, the black-hooded force of 10 assailants barged into [a] hacienda-style restaurant” in Zona Rio, kidnapping Adolfo Fregoso, owner of the upscale Carnitas Quiroga Restaurant. On May 4, ten men dressed similarly converge on Club Campestre and grab 30-year-old Iván Escobosa. “Escobosa was dragged off the staircase entrance...at an hour when many parents are dropping off their children for swimming and tennis lessons. A club supervisor said Escobosa’s screams were heard in the chandeliered dining room nearby,” according to the L.A. Times story. Both these men, who have drug-smuggling connections, are later found dead, “tortured, strangled and shot execution style.”

August 17, 2005 — At the United Nations, Mexican president Vicente Fox tells the Bush administration to stop complaining...
Anxiety doesn’t just stress your mind. We now know it can…

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Finding answers together - since 1981
about Mexico’s record in the drug war; he requests assistance to fight dominant cocaine cartels.

June 21, 2006 — Three police officers in Rosarito Beach are beheaded: Ismael Arellano Torres, 36, Jesus Hernandez Ballesteros, 42, and Benjamin Fabian Ventura, 35, are "slain after an armed group surrounded their cars... in a remote part of the city," reports the U-T, adding that while their bodies are recovered in Rosarito, their heads are found in Tijuana.

August 14, 2006 — The U.S. Justice Department announces that the United States Coast Guard has apprehended Francisco Javier Arellano Felix in the waters of Baja California Sur on his yacht, Deck Holiday. While Francisco Javier is being moved to San Diego’s federal detention center, the San Diego Harbor is heavily patrolled by the Coast Guard and Harbor Police, in case the Arellano Felix family’s private mercenary army attempts a rescue, according to the Associated Press.

September 16, 2006 — Francisco Rafael Arellano Felix finishes his sentence in a Mexican prison; he is extradited to the United States to face charges.

September 24, 2006 — The body of Miguel Angel Ramos Pintado, a cousin of former Institutional Revolutionary Party presidential candidate Roberto Madrazo, is found near Tecate. Ramos has been missing since September 14. The U-T reports that his daughter, Nadia Karina Ramos Robles, a contestant for the Miss Mexico beauty contest, withdraws from the pageant.

August 7, 2008

RESEARCH STUDIES

Are you anxious?

Finding it hard to focus or concentrate?

Tense, tired, or on edge?

Having difficulty sleeping?

19 million Americans experience symptoms of anxiety. If you are 18 years or older you may qualify for a clinical research trial currently being conducted by Synergy Clinical Research Center. Study participants may receive compensation for their time and travel. Investigational study drug and study-related doctor’s visits are at no charge.

For more information, please contact the study physician’s office listed below:

Synergy Clinical Research Center
1-888-486-9150
See our website at: www.synergysandiego.com
Office hours: 9-5

Athlete’s Foot Study

“San Diego Sports Medicine and Family Health Center” is currently enrolling people with visible signs of athlete’s foot to participate in a research study. This study will compare an investigational generic cream to an already marketed cream and a placebo.

You may be eligible to participate if you:
- Are 12 years of age or older
- Have burning, itching or redness on your feet or between your toes
- Can visit our office 3 times in 6 weeks

Study participants will receive:
- Foot exams
- Up to $90.03 dollars for participation
- Study drug or placebo

For more information call “(619) 229-3909”

Attn: Heavy Drinkers

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

Is your current alcohol use causing problems with your family, your work, your life?
If you want to stop drinking, The Pearson Center for Alcoholism and Addiction Research is conducting a clinical trial to help you reach that goal.

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

Call: 858-784-7867 (STOP)
Or visit: www.pearsoncenter.org
2006 — Julieta Martínez reports in *El Sol de Tijuana*: “Despite the enhanced police presence in Tijuana, an armed commando kidnapped five persons, four men and a woman, in broad daylight…in front of the city’s Pacific Industrial Park.”

January 3, 2007 — Newly elected Mexico president Felipe Calderón sends 3300 army troops and federal police into Tijuana to help combat drug violence and weed out corrupt police officers.

January 5, 2007 — Suspecting corruption, President Calderón orders 2000 Tijuana police officers stripped of their guns so the weapons can be matched to recent homicides. Police are issued slingshots and bags of ball bearings. This incident makes international news, from the BBC to NPR to China’s Beijing-based news service Xinhua, which opens a January 23 article: “In the Old Testament of the Christian Bible a young boy named David killed a giant enemy warrior named Goliath with a stone hurled from a sling. Tijuana, Mexico police may be praying they will be so lucky.” Most officers refuse to patrol their usual routes, staying home, quitting, or joining the drug gangs, reports the Associated Press. Those who show up for work (around 60) stick close to the army troops and federales. Cartel members broadcast threats and ridicule over police radios.

January 13, 2007 — The Tijuana cops get their guns back, and they are patrolling once again.

February 3, 2007 — If President Calderón does not have enough problems with the drug cartels, Prensa Latina — the Latin American news network — reports that he is “a president under siege,” opposed by factions within his party. “Calderón has not only had to face his political adversaries but also the ‘friendly fire’ from within his own Partido Acción Nacional (PAN). It is even said that his worst enemy, the most aggressive and unscrupulous, is the PAN, whose president Manuel Espino is a furious nationalist who also leads the Christian Democrat Organization of America.”

April 18, 2007 — Tijuana police engage in a shootout with drug traffickers near the downtown bus station. “Police tried to stop a truck carrying two alleged Arellano Félix gunmen suspected of plotting to attack members of a rival [Milenio] cartel,” reports the Associated Press. One suspect is killed, and another, Javier Estrada Domínguez, is wounded. The injured gunman is transported to the General Hospital in Rio Tijuana, a quarter mile from the U.S.-Mexico border. Four armed men storm into the hospital looking for Estrada. A second gun battle breaks out between police and this gang of four. Two state officers are killed. Twenty

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**RESEARCH STUDIES**

**do you suffer from Schizophrenia?**

Do you have trouble concentrating?

Are your thoughts slow and disorganized?

Have you been on a stable dose of Risperdal, Abilify or Invega?

If so, and you are between the ages of 18 and 55, you may be eligible to participate in a research study. Compensation of up to $1100.

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Diabetic Foot Ulcer Study

Dr. James Longobardi at Absolute Foot Care is participating in the MATRIX clinical study to evaluate the therapeutic effects of Excellarate™ in patients with chronic diabetic foot ulcers. Excellarate is an investigational product that is designed to stimulate wound healing. If you have been diagnosed with Type I or II diabetes, requiring insulin or other agent to control your blood sugar, and have had a foot ulcer for 6 weeks or more, you may be eligible for this research study. To learn more about the MATRIX study, please contact (866) 447-4848.

PI: Dr. James Longobardi
Protocol Number NA 00012739

Breast Tenderness Is a Common Problem

Breast tenderness is one of the most common complaints in women, especially those of reproductive age. If you are a woman between the ages of 18-45 and have cyclical breast tenderness and regular menstrual cycles, you may be interested in a clinical research study.

Qualifying participants will receive the following at no cost:

- Study-related medical exams
- Study-related laboratory tests
- Study medication

Health insurance is not required and you may be compensated up to $550 for time and travel.

For more information or to see if you pre-qualify for this research study, please call:

858-505-8672
8010 Frost Street
Suite 301
San Diego, CA 92123
in courts. The Mexican Constitution and the law prohibit torture, and Mexico is party to several international anti-torture conventions, but courts continue to admit as evidence confessions extracted under torture. Authorities rarely punish officials for torture, which continues to occur in large part because confessions are the primary evidence in many criminal convictions. U.S. citizens have been brutalized, beaten, and even raped while in police custody. Since the beginning of 2002, 21 U.S. citizens have died in Mexican prisons, including five apparent homicides.

September 17, 2007 — Francisco Javier Arellano Félix pleads guilty in a San Diego federal court to “operating a continuing criminal enterprise and conspiring to launder monetary instruments,” according to the Department of Justice. The plea deal includes lifting the death penalty.

September 24, 2007 — Gunmen fire automatic weapons from several vehicles, attacking a post manned by federales in the Francisco Villa neighborhood. The battle lasts ten minutes. One civilian passerby is killed, two others wounded, and two federal agents are injured. “The windows of seven government vehicles and the metal fence of a nearby school are destroyed by the storm of bullets,” Frontera states, reporting that citizen Alfredo Luna Raye, walking with his girlfriend in front of the targeted building, is killed when he enters the line of fire. His girlfriend is wounded.

Two hours before the Francisco Villa assault, officer Ricardo Rosas Alvarado, assigned to a “special intelligence unit,” is murdered in a parking lot in Tijuana. Baja California state policeman Carlos Horacio Morales Méndez is also murdered.

The Associated Press reports that 680 additional federales are dispatched to Tijuana.

September 25, 2007 — A Tijuana police officer is arrested by U.S. Customs and Border Protection for attempting to smuggle cocaine worth $50,000 across the border. The 35-year-old Mexican cop resists arrest as agents try to handcuff him. He attempts to flee back into Mexico and is apprehended before he makes it, Customs and Border Protection states in a news release.

September 27, 2007 — Five hundred additional army troops are dispatched to Tijuana.

“Millions of people across the world live their lives with a constant burden of anxiety, where their excessive worrying occurs for no apparent reason, or is triggered by the smallest or most insignificant of incidents.

We are currently looking for people to participate in a research study for an investigational medication for Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD). You may qualify if you are between 18 and 65 years of age and have been diagnosed with GAD or regularly experience the symptoms associated with the condition, including chronic anxiety, muscle tension, restlessness, prolonged sleep disturbance, and even pain.

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

Is waking up tonight affecting your tomorrow?

Do you or someone you know have trouble staying asleep? Is it affecting your daytime activities? A research study of an investigational medication is underway for people who have trouble staying asleep, characterized by waking up throughout the night (sleep maintenance insomnia).

To qualify for participation in this research study, you must:
- Be at least 18 years old
- Have trouble staying asleep through the night
- Be impacted in your daily life by your sleep problems
- Be 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

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 the 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.

- 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

For more information on any of these studies, please contact:
(619) 688-6565
See our website: www.ari-inc.com
For more information call: (858) 566-8222
The California Neuropsychopharmacology
Clinical Research Institute, LLC
“CNRI, LLC”

Suffering from Allergies?

Generations of men and women have helped in the development of new medical advancements for those who need it most. You could help too.

To qualify for this research study you must:

• Be a healthy man or woman age 18 to 65
• Have a history of Allergies or Allergic Rhinitis
• Be willing to make overnight stays

Females must be surgically sterile or postmenopausal.

Participants will receive all study-related exams at no cost and may receive up to $3,625 for time and participation.

Think you can help? Great! Then call 866-818-3253 or visit TestWithTheBest.com today.
Please Reference Study 6688-565

GOT MIGRAINES? ...how about an inhaled study drug?

Have your migraines become more difficult to treat? A clinical research study is underway to evaluate an inhaled migraine therapy in men and women with at least a 1-year history of migraine (with or without aura). All participants will undergo pulmonary function testing and echocardiogram, both included with other study-related procedures and study medication, at no cost to the participant.

Possible participants must be:
• Male or female, 18-65 years of age
• Migraine history of 2-8 migraine headaches per month
• Willing to undergo pulmonary testing and echocardiogram

Participants will receive at no cost:
• Examination and consultation with a board-certified physician
• All study-related medication, labs, EKG, echocardiogram, chest X-ray, and pulmonary studies
• Compensation for your time and travel

Interested, call:
(619) 521-2841
MEDICAL CENTER FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH
MISSION VALLEY

• Schizophrenia
• Bipolar Disorder
• Major Depression

We may currently or in the future have inpatient and outpatient research studies involving investigational medications for the conditions listed above. Qualified participants will be compensated for time and transportation up to $50.00 per day for each overnight hospital stay and up to $100.00 for each outpatient scheduled visit. (Some restrictions may apply to screening visits, inpatient stabilization days, and/or hospital discharge day visits.)

For more information call: (858) 566-8222
The California Neuropsychopharmacology
Clinical Research Institute, LLC
“CNRI, LLC”

Seeking patients for a research study for Type 2 Diabetes

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

Participants will: Attend six study visits in 6 weeks
Inclusion criteria: • Male or female from 18 to 75 years of age • Diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes • Diagnosed with Fatty Liver Disease (Non-alcoholic) • Must be willing and able to give written informed consent

Qualified participants will be compensated for participation up to $1,000.
To see if you qualify, or to learn more about the study, please contact Catherine Delue at: 858-552-8585 ext. 6740
in front of her boyfriend. They're in Mexico after evacuating their home during the San Diego wildfires. The Associated Press covers the story, stating, "Lori Hoffman and her boyfriend, surf school owner Pat Weber, were robbed at a beach south of Ensenada…. [They] were in a recreational vehicle when they were attacked by two men wearing masks and combat boots. The attackers shot up the RV when Weber initially refused to open the door and then terrorized the couple. Hoffman said she was sexually assaulted in front of her boyfriend before the men fled with $8,000 worth of laptop computers, jewelry, tools, and Weber's guitar."

November 5, 2007 — Francisco Javier Arellano Félix is sentenced to life in prison. The Imperial Valley News reports, "At the sentencing hearing at federal court in San Diego… U.S. District Judge Larry A. Burns also ordered Arellano Félix, 37, to forfeit $50 million and his interest in a yacht, the Dock Holiday."

At a press conference, acting deputy attorney general Craig S. Morford states, "Francisco Javier Arellano Félix will spend the rest of his life in prison for leading a violent Mexican drug cartel that was responsible for trafficking hundreds of tons of cocaine and marijuana, and committing countless acts of violence and corruption."

November 2007 — An El Cajon family claims they are held hostage in a Tijuana carjacking. The Associated Press reports that "Christopher and Debra Hall, their 16-year-old son and 21-year-old daughter were returning from taking part in the Baja 1000 off-road race when a car with flashing red lights and a siren pulled up behind them as they entered Tijuana…. [Ten] men jumped out of two cars. Five got into their pickup truck and pointed guns at their heads. The men then drove the truck into isolated hills." One of the men orders the family to get on their knees. They think they are going to be executed. They are let go and cross back into the United States "with just the clothes on their back," according to San Diego police.

November–December 2007 — Many news outlets report that violence is escalating in Tijuana as rival gangs try to take over drug routes operated by the Arellano Félix family. In other border cities, notes the El Paso Journal — such as Ciudad Juárez, Reynosa, and Nuevo Laredo — similar turf wars are fought between rival gangs who perceive the end of the

---

**Are YOU Postmenopausal?**

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Covance San Diego is looking for women who are:

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- Age 40 - 65
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TestWithTheBest.com or 866-818-3253

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**Are You a Healthy Individual?**

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**You may qualify if you are:**

- 18-45 years old.
- A non-smoker for at least 1 yr.
- Not currently taking prescription medications.
- In good health with no major medical problems.

You may be compensated up to $750.

For more information, call 619-409-1273

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Profil
Institute for Clinical Research
Arellano Félix cartel. The region south of the Texas border is dominated by the Gulf cartel’s private army, Los Zetas.

“Led by Heriberto Lazcano, Los Zetas are a highly disciplined mercenary squad composed of former elite Mexican troops, including officers trained by the U.S. military before they deserted,” according to the Washington Post. Anticipating battles with the Mexican armed forces, Los Zetas have stocked safe houses with antitank missiles, assault rifles, and grenade launchers — weapons believed by the Mexican government to have been stolen from the U.S. Army.

December 1, 2007 — Jorge Ramos is sworn in as the new mayor of Tijuana. A new police chief, Jesús Alberto Capella Ibarra, takes over the force. Capella is nicknamed “Tijuana Rambo” after he fights his way out of an assassination attempt before taking office. Richard Marosi of the Los Angeles Times reports, “The bullet holes pock-marking the walls of his home were just three days old when Alberto Capella Ibarra took over the police force of this violence-plagued city. Twenty gunmen dressed in black had swarmed his yard in the middle of the night, and he’d fought them off, firing an automatic rifle.” Capella admits to the press that an estimated 15 percent of the city’s 2,300 police officers work for the drug cartels, earning wages as bodyguards, kidnappers, and assassins. “We have the enemy in our house,” Capella dramatically tells the international press.

The L.A. Times describes Capella as “a chubby, soft-spoken 36-
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Farzad Yaghouti, MD
Medical Director
year-old with no police training…. He moves around the city in a six-car convoy with 20 bodyguards. He can’t even stop at a taco stand without scaring off customers who fear gunmen will drive up and blast away.”

Both Ramos and Capella wish to make the city “look safe” so tourists will return. Reports state that tourism has declined 90 percent; many businesses are suffering, and poverty is rampant. “The violence is marring a city that has been going through an architectural and artistic renaissance,” reports the Associated Press. The New York Times notes that desperate people agree to become “mules,” ingesting drugs to smuggle across the San Ysidro and Otay borders at $500 a trip.

December 1, 2007 — The Associated Press states, “Masked bandits have attacked and robbed Baja California tourists at least seven times in recent months, acting with para-military precision.” The decline in tourism has become critical.

January 1, 2008 — Veteran Tijuana police officers Jesús Alberto Rodríguez Meraz and Saúl Ovalle Guerrero hatch a get-rich-quick plan that goes south. During the New Year’s festivities, reports Mario Gonzáles-Román in his blog at securitycornermexico.com/index.php, the officers pilfer one ton of marijuana from the Arellano Félix cartel. But before they can sell the booty, they are kidnapped. Four days later their bodies are found.

January 2, 2008 — Al Jazeera foreign correspondent Franc Contreras writes from Morelia, in southwest Mexico, that a growing number of musicians are also being caught in the crossfire between drug cartels and Mexican authorities. No one is safe, not even an honest mariachi.

January 8, 2008 — Reuters reports that 1000 federales are dispatched to Tijuana as reinforcements.

January 14, 2008 — Assassins converge on the Loma Bonita neighborhood of Tijuana. Their target: “easygoing” district police commander Margarito Saldaña, 43, according to the Minneapolis-St. Paul Star-Telegram. The killers enter the Saldaña house. The family is sleeping. Using AK-47s, the bad guys shoot and kill Saldaña, along with his wife Sandra and 11-year-old daughter Valeria. The Washington Post notes that the “gunmen violated a rarely broken rule of Mexico’s drug cartel underworld: Family should remain free from harm.”

January 15, 2008 — The assassins hunt down and kill two other Tijuana...
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San Diego Reader August 7, 2008 43
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police officers and “mistakenly” (according to various news reports) kill a three-year-old boy and his mother.

January 17, 2008 — As Tijuana mayor Jorge Ramos attends a memorial for three slain police officers, a battle breaks out in another part of the city between members of the Mexican army, the federales, and local police and members of the Arellano Felix cartel. The three-hour gunfight occurs in La Mesa, a middle-class neighborhood. One suspect is killed, and six bodies — gagged, blindfolded, and shot in the head — are found in a house.

“That night, my mother called from San Ysidro looking for me,” writes Daniel Hernández in his blog, danielhernandez.typepad.com, “and left a message with the worried but calming voice that parents usually reserve for news that is sad and frightening. She said the city was ‘turning into Baghdad.’ On Friday morning, commuters in the Mexico City metro huddled around station newstands to read the screaming headlines: ‘Tijuana burns with killings,’ ‘War in Tijuana,’ ‘And now, even kindergartens.’ That last one referred to startling images of small schoolchildren in gray uniforms rushing away from the shootout, their little hands clasped over their ears.”

January 19, 2008 — In the upscale Indepencia neighborhood of Tijuana, Mexican federales raid a home that they believe has been used as an urban battle training center for Arellano Felix gunmen. They find “two armored pickups at the home, along with two other vehicles that had hidden compartments,” according to the U-T. A weapons machine shop and a below-ground shooting range are discovered, along with 30,000 spent cartridges “collected in bins along one wall.”

February 1, 2008 — Francisco Rafael Arellano Félix is released from the Texas prison. “He received a six-year sentence, which he began serving in January, and was paroled” weeks later, according to Reuters. He received credit toward his U.S. sentence for time served while awaiting extradition in Mexico. “Because his case dates back to 1980, he was eligible for parole under laws that were on the books at that time,” states Reuters. With the cartel weakened, he is expected to take a hands-off “godfather” role rather than take over from his sister Enedina.

February 7, 2008 — Mexican soldiers confront on El Mezquiro Ranch outside Miguel Aleman, west of Reynosa. The
Associated Press reports the recovery of “89 assault rifles, 83,355 rounds of ammunition, and plastic explosives capable of destroying multiple buildings.” Also found, two days later in nearby Nuevo Laredo, are eight military uniforms used as disguises. According to numerous news agencies, this and other evidence leads many to believe that the cartels have infiltrated border police forces, including Tijuana’s, with spies and operatives.

February 9, 2008 — Reuters and the Associated Press run stories saying that a Mexican army senior officer commanding troops in Baja California confirms that the Arellano Félix cartel is trying to bribe Mexican soldiers. “The officer said that drug gang members are trying to buy off the military so they can continue shipping drugs. Soldiers reported that they are offered money, drugs and prostitutes.”

February 15, 2008 — Six bodies are found with signs attached to them that include information such as the phone number and address of the Mexican army office set up to receive tips about organized crime,” reports the Austin American-Statesman. These “narco-messages,” sometimes carved into the body’s flesh, are intended to scare local residents from reporting tips.

February–March 2008 — The Arellano Félix family seems to be losing its foothold on Tijuana, notes the New York Times and many other news outlets. Enedina Arellano Félix refuses to share territory with the Sinaloa cartel. The numerous arrests of nearly 30 key players in Tijuana hinders the organization. Officials claim various Tijuana smugglers are breaking away from Arellano Félix and teaming up with the Sinaloa cartel, which took over Mexicali drug routes in 2007.

March 3, 2008 — Helicopters are in the night sky; army troop transports rush down Avenida Constitución; federales in trucks, machine guns mounted in the bed, swerve through traffic. They converge on a nearby suburban residence. In the distance, gunfire can be heard. Suspects in a barricaded house fire upon an army patrol unit, sending “residents of a well-to-do neighborhood diving for cover late Sunday and early Monday for more than five hours,” says the U-T. One person is killed. Soldiers recover rifles, shotguns, handguns, bulletproof vests, ski masks, and uniforms with the insignia of various Mexican police agencies. The final unnerving discovery is a blue jacket labeled “ICE,” for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement unit.

March 4, 2008 — The U-T reports that “a female between the ages of 16 and 18 was among the five shooting victims found early Tuesday on a rural road in eastern Tijuana.… The four others, all males, ranged in age from 18 to 30, according to a statement from the state
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Office report estimates is Mexico’s $23 billion a year drug trade.”
April 4, 2008 — Los Zetas, formed by Mexican army deserters, join forces with the Juárez cartel to wage battle against the army. Two hundred people have been killed in Juárez since January 1, reports the Las Cruses Sun-News. Various Mexican newspapers state that people are worried that Zeta commandos may set their sights on Tijuana to disrupt the military presence there so the Juárez cartel can take over what is left of the Arelano Félix territories.

April 14, 2008 — The U.S. Department of State issues the following travel alert: “Recent Mexican army and police force conflicts with heavily-armed narcotics cartels have escalated to levels equivalent to military small-unit combat and have included use of machine guns and...
fragmentation grenades. Confrontations have taken place in numerous towns and cities in northern Mexico, including Tijuana in the Mexican state of Baja California, and Chihuahua City and Ciudad Juárez in the state of Chihuahua. “Armed robberies and carjackings, apparently unconnected to the narcotics-related violence, have increased in Tijuana and Ciudad Juárez. Dozens of U.S. citizens were kidnapped and/or murdered in Tijuana in 2007. Public shootouts have occurred during daylight hours near shopping areas.

“Criminals are armed with a wide array of sophisticated weapons. In some cases, assailants have worn full or partial police or military uniforms and have used vehicles that resemble police vehicles. “Criminals have followed and harassed U.S. citizens traveling in their vehicles, particularly in border areas including Nuevo Laredo, Matamoros, and Tijuana. “In recent years, dozens of U.S. citizens have been kidnapped in Mexico and many cases remain unresolved. Moreover, new cases of disappearances and kidnapping-for-ransom continue to be reported. No one can be considered immune from kidnapping on the basis of occupation, nationality, or other factors. U.S. citizens who believe they are being followed should notify Mexican officials as soon as possible. It is preferable for U.S. citizens to stay in well-known tourist destinations and tourist areas of the cities with more adequate security, and provide an itinerary to a friend or family member not traveling with them. U.S. citizens should avoid traveling alone as a means to better ensure their safety. Refrain from displaying expensive-looking jewelry, large amounts of money, or other valuable items."

The advisory recommends that “travelers avoid areas where prostitution and drug dealing occur.” April 16, 2008 — Banners and posters urging Mexican army soldiers to defect and join the cartels start to appear around Juárez and Tijuana. Citizens are offered jobs as well. The American Chronicle reports, “Mexican drug cartels are now advertising for young men to step up and come and join their ranks to fight the Mexican army. The ads and banners [promise] those who join will make good money, have food and a place to stay, even while in training.” Michael Webster writes at borderfirereport.net that these training camps employ military commandos from Afghanistan, and “Iran is believed providing at least some of the money for this recruiting and training program. The training camps are teaching hit and run [guerilla] techniques.” Advertisements for recruits appear on the Internet as well. “Reforma, a leading Mexican newspaper,
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for the Mexican State Public Safety Department, tells the press, “They are under pressure and turning on each other.” The Los Angeles Times reports that one of the bodies had three letters written on it with a marker: “Traidor, Enemigo, Objetivo,” or “Traitor, Enemy, Target.” The first letters of the three Spanish words spelled “Teo,” the nickname of Teodoro Garcia Simental, leader of one of the warring factions.

May 8, 2008 — CNN reports that the chief of the Federal Preventive Police, Edgar Eusebio Milian Gomez, is shot nine times, “including in the throat” at 2:30 a.m. in Mexico City. Police arrest Alejandro Ramirez Baez for the assassination. Later, Jose Montes, a federal officer, is arrested in the conspiracy.

May 15–18, 2008 — Doctors at public and private hospitals and clinics in Tijuana systematically stop seeing nonemergency patients to protest the rise in violence against medical professionals in the region. “Three hundred to 400 people, including doctors, engineers, lawyers and other professionals, gathered in the glorieta where the statue of Cuauhtemoc stands,” reports the U-T.

May 19, 2008 — Three hundred additional law enforcement officers are sent to Tijuana. May 20, 2008 — Mexican marines shoot and wound in the eye Pfc. Joshua Kendall Monnett from Camp Pendleton. Reports claim he was driving a vehicle near a Rosarito checkpoint. The Mexican military claims Monnett would not stop his car. Officials from Camp Pendleton state Monnett has family in Rosarito and was not there on official business.


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During my trip, my mother sent me an e-mail with a link to a San Diego local news website. The header read, ‘Four Americans Shot Dead Near Rosarito Beach,’ dated Sunday, the day we left the city to come back home.

Four bodies were found near a car outside Rosarito along with an identification card belonging to one of the victims: a woman from La Mesa, California. All four were shot in the head.

May 21, 2008 — A demonstration protesting the wave of kidnappings is held in Tijuana, USA Today runs a photo of Diana Sánchez Lavenant wiping away tears. She is the 21-year-old sister of Guillermo Sánchez Lavenant, who was kidnapped on April 20 and is still missing.

May 22, 2008 — Texas Cable News reports that Mexican police officers are starting to seek...
protection and sanctuary in the United States.

May 23, 2008 — "A U.S. State Department report on 'non-natural deaths' of U.S. citizens abroad says that 128 Americans were victims of homicides or 'executions' in Mexico between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007," writes CNSNews.com. A total of 667 Americans were killed in Mexico by non-natural causes during that period. "The State Department says the report 'is based solely on cases reported by American citizens to our posts abroad,'" which leaves open the question of how complete or accurate it may be. Twenty-nine of the 128 murders occurred in Tijuana.

May 23, 2008 — The BBC reports that the drug cartels have stopped fighting one another and have joined forces to battle the Mexican army.

May 27, 2008 — Jo Tuckman from the U.K.'s Guardian visits the Tijuana morgue and offers these observations: "A coal-black scarcely human form lies near the body of a young man riddled with bullets. Next to him is another corpse with a single gunshot wound and signs of torture. Half a dozen other bodies lie on slabs and on the floor. Workers struggle to force a fat man into a hardboard coffin destined for the common municipal grave for the unidentified. One arm hangs over the edge. The stench is overpowering." The morgue's administrator, Federico Ortíz, tells the Guardian that 1,021 bodies have come through the morgue between January and April, more than double the number in the first four months of 2007.

June 7, 2008 — The Los Angeles Times points out that many of Tijuana's upper middle class are leaving the city and relocating in the suburbs of San Diego, mostly in Otay Mesa, Nestor, and San Ysidro. The article states, "Real estate agents, business owners and victims groups estimate that more than 1,000 Tijuana families — including those of doctors, lawyers, law enforcement officials, Lucha Libre wrestlers and business owners — have made this move in recent years as the drug-fueled violence has worsened." Guillermo Alonso Mena, a professor of cultural studies at El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, tells reporter Richard Marosi, "San Diego is the only place you can forget the sense of insecurity and fear. There, you can breathe. Psychologically, crossing the border relieves the stress."

June 8–9, 2008 — After a lull in homicides in May, seven people are killed in Tijuana and three near Rosarito Beach over the weekend; one is a police officer. Five of them appear to be cartel executions. "In the case of the Tijuana police officer," reports the U-T, "the 16-year veteran was off-duty at a bar when he argued with a patron, who fired five shots from a .40-caliber handgun... In two other cases, an 18-year-old..."
man was killed after arguing with someone at a quinceañera party, and a 45-year-old woman was shot in the back during a carjacking.

June 19, 2008 — Reuters reports that a record number of San Diegans are risking the dangers of Tijuana to take advantage of the cheaper gas prices. A retired California engineer tells a Reuters reporter, "It's worth taking the risk even with the violence. I know they could kill me or kidnap me, but the cost of filling my tank in the United States is just too much. " Diesel fuel is half what it is in the United States, regular gas $1.40 a gallon cheaper. Tijuana police now patrol the gas stations to quell violent outbursts from motorists waiting up to two hours in long lines.

June 21, 2008 — At a baptism party held at a Tijuana event hall known as "the Little Rascal," the Mexican army carries out a raid and finds ten members of the Arellano Félix gang. According to an Associated Press report, "A total of 61 people were arrested in the sweep...including the band hired to play the party and three city police officers." Also seized are "various rifles and handguns, police uniforms, 460 grams of methamphetamine and 5,000 rounds of ammunition."

June 25, 2008 — Mexican authorities acquiesce to U.S. demands for the extradition of Benjamín Arellano Félix ("El Min"). The Washington Post notes, "Mexico's Attorney General's office said Arellano Félix will be tried in a Southern California court on charges of smuggling tons of cocaine into California between 1990 and 2000."

July 5–7, 2008 — Six charred bodies, one still on fire, are found in an alley on the eastern side of Tijuana on the morning of July 7. Baja California's deputy attorney general Salvador Ortiz Morales tells news outlets that some are shot, some beaten, some have their heads wrapped in plastic, one is in handcuffs. "It's a situation that obviously worries us," Ortiz says. This is, according to Reuters, "two days after suspected drug hitmen in southern Mexico dumped a severed human head inside a black bag in the tourist city of Oaxaca, along with a threatening message for Mexican law enforcement." Adding to the toll, eight other bodies are found in Tijuana over the deadly weekend. Ortiz indicates that a Tijuana police officer is the chief suspect in a triple shooting. In addition, ten decapitated bodies are found throughout the Pacific coast city of Cali-
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The BBC reports, “Mexico’s most wanted man, Joaquín ‘Shorty’ Guzmán, is trying to win control of smuggling routes into California.” NPR claims, “State law enforcement officials say 272 people have been murdered in Tijuana so far this year,” whereas the Los Angeles Times puts that number at 260 and Reuters puts it at “some 300 people.” The total count across the nation for drug-related homicides is 2000 compared to 1410 last year, according to Mexico City’s El Universal, although Reuters contends the 2008 body count is 1700.

The conflicting numbers lead news outlets to question the reliability of the Mexican government’s reports, which seem to be a result of bad record keeping, erroneous interagency communication, the high turnover of government employees, and the Mexican government’s dislike of the international media attention, which inevitably has a negative effect on the tourist trade. One journalist who has been covering the Tijuana beat contends that “if the police or army comes across a body and removes it before the press gets wind, that body will most likely go unreported.”

“In a city with a large tourism economy, Tijuana city officials are scrambling for solutions,” states the Los Angeles Times, noting officials “blamed the media for sensationalizing recent crimes.” Victor Clark Alfaro, director of Tijuana’s Bi-National Center for Human Rights, tells UPI.com, “In reality, the violence isn’t targeting tourists. It’s between drug traffickers, criminals and police. But the tourist doesn’t know the difference.”

July 16, 2008 — The

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I check my money, three 20s are missing. I had $240; now I have $180. I realize what they did — while the younger one distracted me with questions and insults, his partner lifted $60.

October 1, 2006 — I tell a contact at the San Diego Police Department about the theft. “All the times I’ve been in TJ, I’ve never been rousted by the cops there,” I say. He tells me I am lucky I did not get my ass kicked. He has been working the border beat, he tells me, and there has been a rash of Americans coming back beaten up and robbed by the local police or men dressed as such. This reminds me of a young woman I once knew, a former SDSU student. She and two friends, drunk in Tijuana, were stopped by the police; she said they had the choice of going to jail or providing sexual favors to the officers. They happened to have $250 among the three of them, which the police accepted instead.

December 10, 2006 — I have never seen Tijuana so empty, like a ghost town. On a Friday, usually the busiest time, the main streets in downtown are empty of clubgoing tourists and police. I cannot walk down a single block without being grabbed by barkers from clothing shops, bars, pharmacies, even fast-food establishments such as Burger King and McDonald’s. People are desperate for money. Troop transports and Humvees with gun mounts drive down the streets.

December 11, 2006 — In the Rio Verde bar, the music is a narrocortrado —

an evolution of the noroito folk corrido custom, which uses acco-
durion-based polka, with a loud thump-thump of bass as a rhythmic base. Cor-ido lyrics are usually about the poor and desti-
tute or noble banditos; the narrocortrado focuses on drug smugglers — their adventures, experiences, and killings. Narrocortrado

lyrics refer to specific events and assassinations, including dates, places, and names of the killers and the killed. Gangsters commission new songs that document and glorify a drug deal turned violent or a slaying and the reason for it — betrayal, theft of drugs, being a witness or an informant. Thousands of years ago, soldiers and warriors lived for the day when a song or poem

would be composed about their battles and killings.

It is 4:00 a.m. in the Rio Verde. On the small, circular stage, drunken men bounce up and down, polka-style, with women young and old whom they have paid $1 a song, the women standing on the feet of the men, holding on, as they move fast in a semicircular dance to music whose lyrics extol murder, dis-

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July 2, 2008 — At a restaurant in Tijuana I snag my slacks on a nail under a table. My slacks rip at the knee. When I cross the border, a customs agent points at my torn pants and asks, “Were you hurt down there, sir?” I say no, there was a snag. “If you were hurt or attacked, you should report it,” the agent says. I insist it was just a snag. “Don’t be afraid to report it,” the agent says.

July 6, 2008 — Ken Ellingwood of the Los Angeles Times writes, “Mexico is considered the most dangerous Latin American nation in which to be a journalist, and one of the riskiest in the world.… Reporters have been seized, held for hours and beaten.… In a macabre twist on public relations, journalists have been pressured to publicize decapitations or other violent acts. Drug gangs view such publicity as a way to scare rivals and enhance their own standing in the underworld.” I think about these things when I step through the metal turnstile gate that delineates Tijuana from the rest of the world.

— Michael Hemmingson
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LETTERS
continued from page 14

firestorms in the future. How and where do we begin? Before the start of the 2008 regrowth period, we should establish a fixed, three- to five-mile-wide firebreak inland, north to south, border to border. We’ve already unnecessarily dillydallied for far too long in seriously addressing our omnipresent firestorm problem.

All of the unpopulated areas in this strip would be made sterile — similar to what the Romans did (salted) to the city of Carthage after Carthage was destroyed — and maintained permanently without vegetation. In addition to ground-control operations, crop duster-type airplanes and other aerial firefighting types of equipment would/should blanket the remainder of the terrain.

In addition to the 2.9 million citizens who deserve this protection, San Diego also has the largest population of endangered animal species and plant life in the U.S. Preventing these firestorm disasters would be for their survival too!

We all know the cycle of nature’s fire rampage will roar back again in San Diego County. We can do nothing and have history keep repeating itself, or with stellar leadership by implementing the foregoing plan it will significantly reduce future San Diego firestorm threats. Time is of the essence.

Fred Harden III via email

It Sounds Bad
After reading “Off-Road on Private Land” (“City Lights,” July 24), I felt I had to respond. My sons and I have been off-roading at Ocotillo Wells for years, and I taught them to be responsible desert users. Two years ago I was speaking with an old friend who has a trailer at Ocotillo Wells and is out there almost every weekend. She told me that some “Iranian guy” had bought some property and was fencing off popular off-road sites. She related how her and her partner were tearing down the fences and vandalizing his property, and others were organizing to do the same. I was incredulous! This was a side of her I had never seen before. I asked, “So this guy legally bought land and is trying to protect it, and you’re vandalizing his property to drive him out?!” She got quiet with how bad that sounded.

Now I see that the gentleman received no help from our legal system (what a big surprise) and is now guilty of protecting his own land! This is a travesty of justice. Mr. Inn

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John Cox via email

Comments from Reader Website
Comments are not edited for spelling, punctuation, or grammar.

Movie Review
Published July 23
Posted by clarkjohnsen on July 28, 8:05 a.m.
First, a word about Duncan in general. When I visited San Diego nine or ten years ago and first picked up a Reader, I was impressed with the whole paper and especially by the movie reviewer. Not only that, but also included in that issue was a compendium of synopses of his past reviews, all very informative even in their shortened form, and all very amusing as well. I picked up a half-dozen copies to take home to Boston.

In the two weeks I spend in San Diego each year, I always make sure to find at least three issues. Then, I discovered Duncan Shepard on line.

And today, I can speak!

While I am aware that around San Diego he is sometimes thought to be “Too picky.”, “Too, oh I don’t know, intellectual?”, “Too biased against successful movies.” and so forth,

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San Diego Reader August 7, 2008 68
Everyone complains about PowerPoint

We do something about it

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Enter the PowerPoint Live User Conference, the finest instruction in the world for presentation professionals, and it is here in San Diego this fall. You’ll learn much more than just how to avoid ugly slides—you’ll learn how to be more productive and efficient, how to craft a better message, and how to deliver that message more effectively. If everyone attended PowerPoint Live, the program would not have such a bad reputation. You can escape that fate by reserving one of our remaining seats today.

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Meet the program developers and make suggestions about future versions.
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Charity Checkers
A Night of Board Games

Some people will flat out tell you, ‘I don't want anything too hard,’” says Kathryn Smith. “With most people, you can just kind of tell what games they’d be good at. I had one crowd come in, and I knew they’d be good for Baldur’s Gate — they were creative and lively with their stories.”

Smith hosts a monthly “Board-Game Benefit” at Tea N More in Kearny Mesa, the next to take place on Friday, August 8. At each meeting, game players are asked to donate $10 toward Heifer International, a non-profit organization that provides livestock to poverty-stricken families around the world. Smith, who works as a statistician for San Diego Gas and Electric, donated to the organization for five years before starting her monthly benefit.

“I especially liked that it seemed to be helping people help themselves, and it was long-term help,” says Smith. A recipient of a Heifer donation later gifts the first offspring to another family.

They had an example in a magazine of people who’ve done fundraisers on their behalf. One person does bike-a-thons, one chef does a dinner. For me, I like games.”

The most popular game at the monthly meetings, which has an average attendance of 15, is Taboo, a word-guessing game similar to the television game show Password. “We usually put maybe three people on a team,” says Smith. Having three people instead of two lessens the pressure on each individual. Because the game takes place in a popular café, including “a fair amount of UCSD students,” Smith’s crew simply says the word “buzz” rather than using the loud buzzer that comes with the game.

Smith will often begin the evening with a game of Scattergories. In this game, players roll a 20-sided die that has a letter on each side. Players use the letter that comes up to begin as many words as they can think of that fit into a selection of categories. “I use Scattergories as a filler game because it’s very short — you can play for only 20 minutes.”

Most evenings feature one main game such as Settlers of Catan, a board game where players attempt to take over an island by building roads, settlements, and ultimately cities. A typical round of Settlers of Catan, devised by German dentist Klaus Teuber in the early 1990s, may run an hour and a half. “I definitely have to be careful — I wouldn’t bring a [longer] game like Monopoly,” says Smith.

Smith estimates that she has raised about $800 for the charity. “What I usually do is ask people to write a personal check to Heifer because a lot of them don’t know how much to put. I wouldn’t bring a [longer] game like Monopoly,” says Smith.

Regarding her charity of choice, Smith says, “They recently got a $42,800 donation grant from the Bill Gates Foundation to expand in Africa. That makes me feel good, because you know the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has done their research.”

Smith likes the crowd her monthly benefit has drawn. “I get a couple regulars now,” she says. “One woman came…she was a mentor for Big Sisters, and she brought her mentee. One person works for the teenage shelter in Hillcrest. I had another high school girl — she was trying to organize a Heifer group at her high school. Many of them are already actively volunteering or donating in many ways.” Once a group of four showed up after seeing Smith’s ad on craigslist. One donated $100. Though some are drawn by the charity, others come just for the games. Matthew Coombs, an accountant, discovered the group on meetup.com and attended his first board-game benefit last month.

“I was generally looking for any kind of meetup or something social,” says Coombs. He played Taboo and Settlers of Catan, the latter of which he had played only once before. Coombs, in his late 30s, says most of the other game players appeared to be in their mid-20s.

Most evenings of game playing run until around 10:30 or 11 p.m., though on some occasions, says Smith, “We’ve stayed until midnight, when it’s gone really well.” — Barbarella

Local Events

Join the Relay For Life on the Embarcadero
Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 16-17

Join our fight against cancer! Form a team of friends, family members, and coworkers for 24 hours of a fun-filled, inspiring, and enriching event. On Saturday morning we celebrate our courageous cancer survivors. At dusk, we remember those we lost to this disease and honor those who are now fighting it with a candlelight luminaria ceremony.

Join today by visiting our website: www.sdrelayforlife.com 1.800.ACS.2349 • www.cancer.org

Relay For Life on the Embarcadero
Embarcadero North
Downtown San Diego

Local live bands
10:30 am to 8:30 pm
Relay For Life is alcohol- and smoke-free.

Contact Jennie Norfleet:
(619) 682-7454 jennie.norfleet@cancer.org

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

August 7, 2008

Reader

events section. Submit information online at to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SDReader.com by clicking on the events section.

OUT & ABOUT

“The POWER OF OCEAN WAVES” Birch Aquarium Museum, Monday, August 11

(SEEN LECTURES)

Dexter Ardoin and the Creole Rambler’s Band Group plays for Zydeco dance with lesson by Gayle Boy offered every Thursday. Beginners’ dance lessons at 7 p.m., open dancing to recorded tunes from 8-10:30 p.m. 619-857-8409. Thursday, August 7, 6 p.m.; $10-$15. Dance North County, 535 Encinitas Boulevard, Suite 100.

Nobody’s Business This band makes music, Martha Wild calls for contra dance hosted by San Diego Folk Heritage (8 p.m.). Beginners’ dance workshop: 7:30 p.m. Wear soft-soled shoes. 619-283-8550. Saturday, August 9, 7:30 p.m.; $7. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street.

Salsa This Summer! Six-week session imparts basics of salsa dance technique. No previous experience or partner required. Register in advance. 619-278-6771. Monday, August 11. 7:15 p.m.; $1. Casa del Prado, El Prado.

Social Dance Party DJ plays swing, Latin, ballroom, and nightclub for singles and couples of all ages. Tango lesson: 8 p.m. Open dancing: 8-10:30 p.m. First time free. 619-275-3533. Thursday, August 14, 8:30 p.m. Patti’s Dancetime Center, 1255 West Morena Boulevard. $5 couple.

Swing Dance Party Enjoy jitterbug, East Coast, Lindy hop and more. No partner required. Casual dress. No experience needed. 619-291-3775. Monday, August 11, 8 p.m., 54 Pacific Beach Women’s Club, 1721 Hornblad Street.

How to Send Us Your Listing: Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday the work 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 potentially a phone number (including area code) for public information to READER EVENTS, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SDReader.com by clicking on the events section.

Now—September 2008 6 to 9 p.m.

Experience live music and San Diego’s best ocean views—inside and out—at Birch Aquarium at Scripps this summer.

Wednesday, August 20

SHAWN MULLINS
Folk Rock/Americana singer-songwriter

Wednesday, September 17

SARAH BORGES AND THE BROKEN SINGLES
Rootsy, barroom country and American rock

RSVP: 858-534-4109
Ages 21 and up; 6-9 p.m
Public: $20/concert
Aquarium Members: $15/concert
Walk-in Admission: $25/concert

 greenhouse...Sustainability begins at Birch.

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$10 private dance lesson for First lesson only.
- Salsa
- Swing
- Latin
- Ballroom
- European-trained dancers

FILM

“Trぶte to George Clooney”
See Ocean’s Eleven when it’s showcase during ongoing Carlsbad Library film series. Ann Zivotsky of North County Times leads pre- and post-film discussions. 7:60-2026. Wednesday, August 13, 8 p.m.; Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane. (SAN DIEGO)

Film and Wine Series Wine expert Barbara Baxter introduces wines that relate to movies featured on-screen; selected films are from Athearnus Music and Art Library’s collection, each one is released to wine in some way. Series begins with Hitchcock’s classic 1946 movie Notorious and “some choice” Argentinean wines. On August 14, see Anthony Quinn in Zorba the Greek (1964); enjoy a white and red Mediterranean wine. Series concludes on August 21 with A Good Year (2006), set on a vineyard in Provence with Russell Crowe and Marion Cotillard; expect a glass of French wine of that region. Series fee: $30 for members, $45 for non-members. Reservations: 858-454-5872. Thursday, August 7, 7:30 p.m.; 512-817. Athearnus Music and Arts Library, 1088 Wall Street. (SAN DIEGO)

DANCE

Cajun and Zydeco Dancing Zydeco dance with lesson by Gayle Boy offered every Thursday. Beginners’ dance lessons at 7 p.m., open dancing to recorded tunes from 8-10:30 p.m. 619-857-8409. Thursdays, 7 p.m.; through Friday, 5 p.m. Ages 21 and up. The Leo’s Lounge, 5302 Napa Street.

Cha-Cha and Charleston Explore basic cha-cha (beginner level) 7:15 p.m. and Charleston for intermediates (8 p.m.) during Waltz and Such dance in Casa del Prado room 207. Open request dancing follows until 9:45 p.m. All ages. Partners not required. Donation. 619-583-9956. Friday, August 8, 7:15 p.m.; $1. Casa del Prado, El Prado.

English Country Dancing Jude Pronovost calls for English country dancing. Beginners’ instruction at 6 p.m. 858-676-9731. Saturday, August 9, 7:30 p.m.; $4. San Diego Folk Heritage. 3325 Zoo Drive.

Swing Dance Party DJ plays swing, Latin, ballroom, and nightclub for singles and couples of all ages. Tango lesson: 8 p.m. Open dancing: 8-10:30 p.m. First time free. 619-275-3533. Thursday, August 14, 8:30 p.m. Patti’s Dancetime Center, 1255 West Morena Boulevard. $5 couple.

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Save hundreds on dining, rooms, golf and more! Also, the card has access to phone numbers, TV information and assistance in English.

Quinn in Zorba the Greek (1964); enjoy a white and red Mediterranean wine. Series concludes on August 21 with A Good Year (2006), set on a vineyard in Provence with Russell Crowe and Marion Cotillard; expect a glass of French wine of that region. Series fee: $30 for members, $45 for non-members. Reservations: 858-454-5872. Thursday, August 7, 7:30 p.m.; 512-817. Athearnus Music and Arts Library, 1088 Wall Street. (SAN DIEGO)

Mouth Watering! Director Ang Lee’s Eat, Drink, Man, Woman is featured for the “OMA Culinary Cinema” series. Cinema Society of San Diego president Andrew Friedenberg introduces film with background on actors, director. Featured chef is Ting Tsai of Chin’s Oceanside. Pre-film reception (5:30 p.m.), film screening (6 p.m.), dinner (8 p.m.). Reservations: 760-435-3721. Saturday, August 9, 5:30 p.m.; $65-$75. Oceanside Museum of Art, 704 Pier View Way. (OCEANSIDE)

$10 private dance lesson for First lesson only.
- Salsa
- Swing
- Latin
- Ballroom
- European-trained dancers

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San Diego International Film Festival

Serving Up Spaghetti (DOWNTOWN)

Movies at the Park
Catching Madigan during event hosted by Center City Development Corporation at Petco Park's Park at the Park. Please bring donations canned food for San Diego Rescue Mission and St. Vincent de Paul. 619-235-2200 Saturday, August 9, 7 p.m.; Petco Park, 100 Park Boulevard. ( downtown)

San Diego International Children's Film Festival's outdoor screening showcasing more than 100 short films from around the world made for children, teens. One-hour programs combine animated, live-action, and documentary short films clustered for different age groups. Filmmakers will attend, answer audience questions. 760-470-2481. Festival repeats August 23 at San Diego Library. Saturday, August 9, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday, August 10, 10:30 a.m., Museum of Photographic Arts, 1499 El Prado, Balboa Park. ( downtown)

Screen on the Green

Serving Up Spaghetti
Enjoy director Sergio Leone's 1649 El Prado. a.m.; Museum of Photographic Arts, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday, August 10, 10:30 a.m.; San Diego Library. Saturday, August 9, 11 a.m.;不同 age groups.

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August 7, 2008

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Yes, It Is Safe To Visit Baja California, Mexico

A Letter From Rosarito’s Mayor & Testimonials

Dear Friends,

Some of you have asked us if it is safe to visit Baja, California and Rosarito Beach.

The honest answer to the question is ‘yes.’ For decades, millions of Southern Californians and others have visited us safely to enjoy fishing, surfing, our food and culture, as well as breathtaking beauty.

They can and do continue to do so. Also, scores of thousands of expatriates have chosen to call Baja home — 14,000 in Rosarito alone — because they feel comfortable and welcome here.

The safety question has arisen largely because of the constant publicized robberies of visitors in 2007 throughout all of Baja. It was a very low incidence among millions of visitors, but even that is not acceptable, and all of Baja has taken steps to increase visitor safety more.

In Rosarito, we have created a special tourist police force, a citizens’ watch program for tourist areas and a 24-hour ombudsman office for visitor assistance. There was not one major crime reported this year during a busy Rosarito-Ensenada Bike Ride, Spring Break, Memorial Day and Fourth of July weekends.

Baja is also experiencing a challenging time as it cracks down on drug cartels that use Baja routes to smuggle drugs into the United States. But the struggle is between rival cartels and authorities. It does not involve our valued visitors.

Some of you might think that my statements here are influenced by the need this region has for tourism. It is true that more than 50 percent of Rosarito’s economy is dependent on tourism. But if I did not believe this area was safe for visitors, I would not say it was. One of the reasons I ran for mayor last year was to make the region even more secure and comfortable for our visitors.

My request of you is this. Speak to your fellow Americans who visit Rosarito and Baja, or ones who have chosen to call it home, to get a first-hand perspective on our area. We are ready to welcome you with open arms and to make your trip to beautiful Baja safe and enjoyable.

Very Best Wishes,
Hugo Torres, Mayor
City of Rosarito Beach

Rosarito-Ensenada Bike Ride: 27 Years, 375,000 Participants And Not A Single Violent Crime

September 27, 2008 will be our 28th anniversary and the 50th running of the ride. We’ve hosted 375,000 participants, including 90,000 from Mexico and 280,000 from the United States. We have never received a report of a participant being the victim of a violent crime during our event weekends.

In April 2008 we hosted 5,000 participants, including 3,000 from the United States, and the event was incident-free. The added security measures at the federal, state, and city levels were visible and effective.

We’re looking forward to our ride on September 27th and expect about 7,500 riders.
Gary Foster, Organizer.

A Plea For More Balanced Reporting From An Expatriate Living in Rosarito

As 10-year resident living halfway between Tijuana & Rosarito, defending Baja has become routine. Our expat community was excited and optimistic when the new governing regimes declared a war on drugs. This, of course, did not make the drug cartels happy and retaliation has been swift and sometimes spectacular.

Has my life changed? Not much. I continue to travel back and forth across the border on a regular basis without incident. I continue to shop in Rosarito, Tijuana and to drive down the coast to Ensenada without incident. The biggest challenge my fellow expats and I have is allaying the fears of our family and friends when the read the headlines and stories (many of which are embellished of just plain untruths) of the dire consequences for anyone venturing down to Baja.

My plea to the media, check your facts, stop recycling the same “news” over and over, keep things in perspective and be fair and balanced in your reporting. As for my fellow Baja friends and I, we will continue to enjoy our life below the border, we live here and we know the truth.

Anne Hines, President of the United Society of Baja California
Lectures

“FamilySearch.org and FamilySearch Labs” These newly updated and revised LDS genealogy websites by genealogist Ann Montgomery for Computer-Oriented Genealogy Group sponsored by North San Diego County Genealogical Society. Nonmembers welcome. 760-967-8835 Tuesday, August 12, 10 a.m.; Carlsbad City Council Chambers, 1200 Carlsbad Village Drive. (CLAREMONT)

“German Genealogical Research Questions and Answers” Ren- baud Hoefer, a professional genealogist from Bavaria, speaks for German Research Association. 619-276-4660. Thursday, August 7, 10 a.m.; Te- colote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road. (CLAREMONT)

“Late Summer Plumeria Trimming and Shaping to Enhance Next Year’s Blooms” Plumeria expert Bud Gillot speaks for Southern California Plumeria Society. 619-461-9942. Saturday, August 9, 10 a.m.; War Memorial Building, 3332 Zoo Drive, mesa area. (CLAREMONT)

“Malcolm Rogers and the Museum of Man” San Diego Museum of Man curator Phil Hoog and caretaker Adrian McGuire. Why are these crops actually easier to grow than their warm-season counter- parts? Plant forum follows. 760-295-7089. Monday, August 11, 6 p.m.; Surfside Race Place at Del Mar Fairgrounds. Why are these crops actually easier to grow than their warm-season counter- parts? Plant forum follows. 760-295-7089. Monday, August 11, 6 p.m.; Surfside Race Place at Del Mar Fairgrounds. 2260 Jimmy Dun- rante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

“The Secret Life of Cool-Season Crops” Horticultural con- sultant, writer Pat Welsh focuses on growing and harvesting winter crops for San Diego Horticultural Society in Surfside Race Place at Del Mar Fairgrounds. Why are these crops actually easier to grow than their warm-season counter- parts? Plant forum follows. 760-295-7089. Monday, August 11, 6 p.m.; Surfside Race Place at Del Mar Fairgrounds. 2260 Jimmy Dun- rante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

“When Disaster Strikes: Wild- fires 2007” Carlsbad Fire Chief Crisp and disaster prepared- ness team from Scripps Encinitas offer “look into the 2007 wildfires and lessons learned.” Expect in- formation on how to prepare for

Chinese Food Festival
Saturday and Sunday, August 9 and 10, on Avenue Revolution. (SEE SOUTH OF THE BORDER)
The $8.95 lunch (or dinner) buffet.
Monday-Wednesday, August 11-27
Diamond Card members eat for free. Platinum Card members receive 50% off ($4.47), Gold Card members, 30% ($6.27), and Classic Card members, 20% ($7.16). Special buffet prices are valid for one guest at least 18 years of age.

Club Barona discounts apply for member and one guest daily. Guests under 18 years of age will be charged regular price.

Play with your Club Barona Card for your chance to win one of our three Power Payout Progressives, all the way up to $250,000!
We’ve given away more than $2 Million to over 1,500 random winners! For current progressive amounts and winner updates visit Barona.com

This summer play twilight, all day long.
Monday - Thursday: $80
Friday and Sunday: $100
Saturday: $125
Club Barona discounts of 20% or more apply. Special summer twilight rates valid through September 7, 2008.

Barona shuttle available from several areas. VISIT BARONA.COM FOR DETAILS

Barona Valley Ranch Resort & Casino reserves the right to modify or cancel a promotion or special event at any time without notice.
future disasters and this year’s fire season. 800-727-4777. Wednesday, August 13, 4 p.m.; Lomas Santa Fe Country Club, 150 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Solana Beach.

Art Talk: Yvonne Venegas and Kerry Tribe discuss their work, featured in “Memory Is Your Image of Perfection” exhibition. “Venegas uses photography to investigate sharpening social and economic contrasts in Mexico.” Tribe works primarily with video, film, installation. 858-454-3541 x198. Thursday, August 7, 6 p.m.; Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown, 1001 Kettner Boulevard. (www.mcasd.org)

Sculpture Demonstration: Sculptor Lynn Forbes plans demonstration. 760-942-3636. Thursday, August 7, 1:30 p.m.; Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. (www.qbg.net)

Shakespeare in the Garden Talks: Actors, directors, academics offer “in-depth perceptions of the Shakespeare plays in the Old Globe Shakespeare Festival season” for public in Old Globe Plaza. Focus on All’s Well That Ends Well on Sunday, August 9, and Romeo and Juliet on Sunday, August 10. 619-23-4GLOBE. Saturday, August 9, 7:15 p.m.; Sunday, August 10, 7:15 p.m.; Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way. (oldglobetheatre.org)

OUTDOORS

Asian Pacific Historic District Tours: Led on second Saturday of each month, starting at Chinese Historical Museum. Required reservations: 619-338-9888. Saturday, August 9, 11 a.m.; 82, Chinese Historical Society and Museum, 404 Third Avenue. (www.cchs.org)


Clean It Up: Beach cleanup hosted by Coastkeeper. Meet on sand at end of Tamarack Avenue. 619-758-7743. Saturday, August 9, 9 a.m.; Tamarack Beach, Carlsbad Boulevard at Tamarack Avenue. (www.coastkeeper.org)

Coastwalk Sunset Hike: Enjoy three-mile hike. Wear sturdy hiking shoes, bring flashlight for return hike. 858-722-2115. Friday, August 8, 6:30 p.m.; Mission Bay Visitors’ Center, East Mission Bay Drive and Clairemont Drive. (www.sdmc.org)

Composting Class: Learn to create a less toxic yard, garden care, with backyard composting. Registration: 619-409-9090. Saturday, August 8, 10 a.m.; Chula Vista Nature Center, 100 Gunpowder Point Drive. (www.cvnature.org)

LA JOLLA TO SOLEDAD PARK:
Climb from the bottom to the top of La Jolla, by foot or by low-gear bike.
Distance from downtown San Diego: 12 miles
Hiking/bike length: 6 miles round trip
Difficulty: Moderately strenuous

ROAM-0-RAMA:

Get Summertime Blues? Look for tiny, blue fruits on elderberry trees during guided walks near Old Mission Dam. 619-668-3281. Saturday, August 9, 8:30 a.m.; Kumeyaay Lake Campground entry station, Two Father Junipero Serra Trail. (san carlos)

MTRP Rocks! 100-million-year-old plutonic igneous, volcanics, and sedimentary rocks pointed out during guided walks. 619-668-3281. Saturday, August 9, 8:30 a.m.; Sunday, August 10, 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday, August 13, 9:30 a.m.; Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (san carlos)

Palm Walk: Offshoot Tours offers its monthly hour-long guided stroll exploring structure, growth habits, landscape value of palm trees. 619-235-1122. Saturday, August 9, 10 a.m.; Balboa Park Visitors’ Center, 1549 El Prado. (balba park)

San Diego Field Ornithologists: Expert birders lead bird walk on easy trail winding along Tecolote Creek. Bring binoculars, drinking water. 858-581-9944. Saturday, August 9, 9 a.m.; Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road. (www.sdfound.com)

Tracking Walk: Easy tracking walk for everyone, starting at Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Adobe Ranch House. Learn to track animals, discover their environment. 858-484-3219. Saturday, August 9, 8 a.m.; Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, 12020 Black Mountain Road. (www.sdfound.com)

Trail Repair Work: Continuing in Paso Picacho Campground area. Bring work shoes, gloves, hat, water, snack. Registration: 858-566-7389. Saturday, August 9, 8 a.m.; Paso Picacho campground, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park,
Operation Homefront and the Jim Beam Bourbon Company would like to thank the following participants for their support in the 1st Annual Bowling Tournament held on July 7, 2008 at Vista Entertainment Center.

Baja Betty’s
Callahan’s
Capozzoli’s
Claim Jumper
Cowboy Star
Coyote Bar & Grill
Deco’s Nightclub
Dini’s Bistro
Haunted Head Saloon
Hilton Garden Inn
Jumping Beam Café
La Jolla Brew House
Lamp Post Pizza
North Bar
Oggi’s Carmel Mountain
Oggi’s Point Loma
Pounders
Q Restaurant & Sports Bar
San Giorgios Lucano
Shadow Ridge Country Club
Southern Wine & Spirits
Sunset Lounge
The Shore Club
Vista Entertainment Center

With their great help and commitment, we raised $9000 to aid Operation Homefront in its mission to serve the troops and their families.

For more information about Operation Homefront and how you can help, visit: www.operationhomefront.net/socal
**SPECIAL**

**“Gulliver Macaw’s Celebration of Life”** Gulliver, an American-born blue and gold macaw, was stranded in South Pacific after a shipwreck in 2007. He’s being re-leased from USDA quarantine on August 9, 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. $10-$15. Ages 7 and up. Mingei International Museum — North County, 155 West Grand Avenue. (619) 557-1050.

**“Mugs of the Mesas”** Exhibit of prehistoric ceramics from David W. May American Indian Collection associated with ancestral Pueblo people of the Four Corners region of southwestern United States. Photographs of Cliff Palace at Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado included. Exhibit was curated by USD anthropology professor Tim Cross, designed by Paul Johnson, with photographs by William Lile. Viewing continues in the May Gallery — located in Serra Hall 214 — through Tuesday, September 23. 619-260-4238. www.mingei.org. (Mingei)

**“Kindred Spirits”** Exhibition of fine art by photographer George Friedman and painter Barbara Segal, celebrating "the creativity of two people who have spent a lifetime together as artists and as husband and wife." See show through Friday, August 15 in Mission Trails Regional Park Art Gallery. 619-668-3280. Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Fridays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sundays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; through Friday, August 15, 2008, Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (San Diego)

**“Making Mosaics: Inspiration from Niki de Saint Phalle”** Mingei International Museum hosts class for creation of mosaic inspired by work of de Saint Phalle for Second Saturday series. For those seven and older, as well as adults. Materials provided. Reservations: 760-735-3535. Saturday, August 9, 10:30 a.m.; $10-$15. Ages 7 and up. Mingei International Museum — North County, 155 West Grand Avenue. (Second Saturdays)

**“Over the Top!”** Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus hits town, August 6-10. “See puppy dog fly and jump, Asian elephants skip, hop, and groove, and one courageous man” standing with a pack of Bengal tigers. One hour prior to each performance, learn circus skills, see athletic performers getting “Circus Fit,” and see animal open house (for all ticket holders). Tickets available through Ticketmaster. 619-220-8487. Thursday, August 7, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, August 8, 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, August 9, 11 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, August 10, 1:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.; $16-$82. San Diego Sports Arena, 5050 Sports Arena Boulevard. (Ringling Bros.)

**“Pooch) Practice Makes Perfect”** Helen Woodward Animal Center hosts dog and cat clinics in preparation for third annual “Surf Dog Surf-a-thon” taught by Rob of San Diego Pet Training. Bring your canine pal and towel, boards provided. Be prepared to spend time in water with your dog. Reservations: 858-756-4117, 858-242-1909. Saturday, August 9, 10 a.m.; Dog Beach Del Mar, at western end of Via de la Valle. (Hillcrest CityFest)

**“AfroCabs: Trunk Show Chic African crafts prom"**

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August 10, 10 a.m.; Hillcrest, 3737 Fifth Avenue. (HILLREST)

**Etch-A-Sketch August exhibit in Geisel Library (lower level, west wing).** Focuses on this 1960s toy. Stop by USCD Arts Library to borrow an Etch-A-Sketch, create a sketch on the toy and it will be placed in exhibit case. Visit throughout August to see ever-changing gallery of sketches. 858-822-5738. Thursdays, 8 a.m.; Fridays, 8 a.m.; Saturdays, 8 a.m.; Sundays, 8 a.m.; Mondays, 8 a.m.; Tuesdays, 8 a.m.; Wednesdays, 8 a.m.; through Sunday, August 31, 2008, USCD Arts Library, Geisel Library, 9500 Gilman Drive. (SOED)

**Fiesta Del Sol San Diego 2008** This street “Festival with a Cause” celebrates “history, diverse cultures, and engagement of the people of San Diego.” Children’s village, music on two stages, mural painting, civic booths, arts and culture pavilion promising art-walk, art competitions, live graffiti art, spoken word by Los Bilingual. Sunday, August 10, 11 a.m.; Saturday, August 9, 11 a.m.; 696-9474. Saturday, August 9, 11 a.m.; 696-9474. Sunday, August 10, 11 a.m.; Saturday, August 9, 11 a.m.; 696-9474. (SANDIEGO)

**Game On Board game benefit for Heifetz International with variety of board games in noncompetitive setting. Donation. 619-204-8854. Friday, August 8, 8 p.m.; 810 Tea N More, 7380 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (EDMONTON)

**Hillcrest More Super Sundays Hillcrest Association and Hill Johnson host art walk featuring local artists. Participants walk through a four block portion of Hillcrest from Normal Street to Richmond Street) to view art, enjoy entertainment, chat at featured restaurants. 858-299-3330. Sunday, August 10, 2 p.m.; Hillcrest More Super Sundays, 1400 University Avenue at Normal Street. (HILLREST)

**House of Peru** Lawn program of songs and dances at International Cottages. 619-843-0739. Thursday, August 10, 2 p.m.; House of Pacific Relations, 2125 Park Boulevard. (EDMONTON)

**How Best to Elect a President?** Present your ideas when P&R Discussion Group meets. 619-370-1027. Thursday, August 7, 7 p.m.; 549-1501. (LA JOLLA)

**Kaleidoscope Explosion 2008** Designs in Shell Gallery celebrates 192nd anniversary of invention of kaleidoscope with exhibit in Plaza del Paseo Courtyard (just inside Juan Street entrance). More than 30 American kaleidoscope artists working in many media exhibit their work. 619-534-9412. Friday, August 8, 10 a.m.; Saturday, August 9, 10 a.m.; Sunday, August 10, 10 a.m.; Designs in Shell Gallery, 2741 Calhoun Street. (LA JOLLA)

**Lemon Festival** Chula Vista celebrates its lemon-growing heritage with live entertainment on two stages, art displays, rock-climbing wall, community dance performances, lemon contests, carnival rides, vendor booths. 619-299-3330. Sunday, August 10, 2 p.m.; Hillcrest More Super Sundays, 1400 University Avenue at Normal Street. (HILLREST)

**Orchid Auction** Palomar Orchid Society hosts annual auction with all types of orchids, many in Bloom now. Preview at 11 a.m., auction at noon. 760-732-0055. Saturday, August 9, 11 a.m.; Woman’s Club of Carlsbad, 3302 Monroe Street. (CRANBROOK)

**Pelican and Sea Lion Kayak** Discover many varieties of birds living in Mission Bay during San Diego Natural History Museum outing. Explore bay after introductory paddling lesson. Paddle by a great blue heron nesting site on way to a favorite area for sea lions. 619-255-0203. Saturday, August 9, 9 a.m.; $20-$65. Ages 6 and up. San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado. (SAN DIEGO)

**The Great San Diego Hunt Prepare for capers, codes, buried treasure, evil adversaries, quirky gadgets, and adventure; race through streets of San Diego, solving riddles while competing against other teams on search for fabulous rickety prizes.” Competitors follow “an ancient treasure map,” solve clues to find gold, win race. Actors are “planted” along course, to help (misdirect) teams. Event starts by the water. 888-702-9039. Saturday, August 9, 2 p.m.; 858. The Fish Market, 730 North Harbor Drive. (SANDIEGO)

**Sail San Diego Board** Skates celebrate new store with demo by Volcom Skate Team in parking lot; following demo, all-star team of skaters hangs out inside shop to sign autographs. 619-399-7959. Saturday, August 9, 2 p.m.; Westfield Plaza Bonita, 3038 Plaza Bonita Road. (SOLANA BEACH)

**Snorkel with Sharks!** Adventures among harmless leopard sharks and smooth hound sharks during outing hosted by Birch Aquarium-Museum. Reservations: 858-534-7336. Sunday, August 10, 8 a.m.; $30. Ages 10 and up. La Jolla Shores, 200 Camino del Oro. (LA JOLLA)

**Taylor Hay Day** Partake in 3- or 5-mile run/walk at Miramar Lake, followed by benefit concert featuring Slater Dan Band and Run for Cover at Ruly’s Music Lounge in Point Loma. Proceeds benefit nine-year-old lymphoblastic lymphoma cancer victim Taylor Hay. Saturday, August 9, 4 p.m.; Miramar Lake.

**Turquoise Show** “simple, straightforward” 30-mile bicycle ride hosted by Knackeredbikers includes ride up coast to Java Hut (just past Swami’s), with (probable) lunch at Rabilo’s in Solana Beach (bring money). 858-272-4710. Sunday, August 10, 9 a.m.; Trophy’s in Costa Verde shopping center, 4282 Esplanade Court. (LA JOLLA)

**Vandals Gallery** San Diego native director Ang Lee’s Eat, Drink, Man Woman is featured for the “5MA Culinary Cinema” series. Cinema Society of San Diego president Andrew Friedenberg introduces film with background on actors, director. Featured chef is Ting Tsai of Chu’s Oceanside. Pre-film reception (5:30 p.m.), film screening (6 p.m.), dinner (8 p.m.). Reservations: 760-435-3721. Saturday, August 9, 5:30 p.m.; $60-$85. Oceanside Museum of Art, 704 Pier View Way. (GULF SHORES)

**San Diego's Largest Craft, Bead & Jewelry Fair**

**San Diego Padres** Baseball following a road trip with stops in New York and Colorado, the Padres host Minnesota Twins in PETCO Park. Games broadcast on radio station XPRS (1090 AM), XEMO (860 AM) in Spanish. Tickets: 619-795-5000, 877-574-2784. Tuesday, August 12, 7:05 p.m.; Wednesday, August 13, 7:05 p.m.; $5-55. PETCO Park, 100 Park Boulevard. (MONTREZI)

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Thoroughly Modern Millie
San Diego Junior Theatre, Casa del Prado Theatre, through Sunday, August 30. (see for kids)

Coronado Museum of History and Art
Ongoing exhibits explore the overall history of Coronado, Navy and Army, Tent City, and the Hotel del Coronado. 1100 Orange Avenue, 619-435-7242. (coromoa)

Flying Leatherneck Museum
Museum is dedicated to Marine Corps who provided air support, from the propeller-driven fighters and bombers of the 1940s to the modern jets and helicopters currently in use. Static displays of a variety of aircraft are included, along with equipment, insignia, paintings and photographs, scale models, and a research library. The museum is located in building T-2002, at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Miramar Road (Marine Corps Air Station), 858-693-1723. (usa mesa)

Gaslamp Museum of Historic San Diego
Glimpse San Diego's colorful past at the museum, where displays highlight Wyatt Earp's San Diego days, the Peg Leg Gold Leg-end, the first maps and photographs of Old Town and “New Town,” early military history, the naval disaster in 1932 at Point Honda, and more. 413 Market Street, 619-237-1492. (downtown)

Heritage of the Americas Museum
More than 100 Chinese jades of the Late Neolithic (3400-2500 B.C.) through the Ming periods (A.D. 1268-1644) are included in “The Stone of Heaven: The Enduring Art of jade Age China.” From ancient times, jades in China were treasured as talismans, worn on the body or as final adornments in death or as ornaments in life. See a rare and valuable jade burial suit of the Han dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 221), one of only about two dozen that have been excavated in China. The suits were made of more than 2000 square and rectangular jade pieces sewn together with threads of gold, silver, or bronze (depending upon the status of the wearer). Ongoing.

The museum features art and artifacts from South and North America, concentrating on the utilitarian and decorative artistry of crafts workers from ancient cultures. The museum also features wings dedicated to natural history, archaeology, education, anthropology, and fine art. Find the museum on the Cuyamaca College campus. 12110 Cuyamaca College Drive West, 619-670-5194. (sdsu)

John D.Witt Historic Museum and Library
Museum and library, operated by the Alpine Historical Society, is located in the 1897 home/office of Dr. Sophronia Nichols. She was the first doctor in Alpine and the first female doctor in the East County. Indian artifacts from the Kingery family are displayed in the museum. The museum also displays exquisitely crafted traditional Native American art, a heritage of the Americas.

Concordance of the Americas: A Heritage of the Americas
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MUSEUMS

Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum
The museum located, collects, documents, and preserves historical gas, steam, and horse-powered equipment related to agriculture and the general development of America. The collection is made up of equipment used in lumbering, mining, oil-drilling, and construction industries. Blacksmith and wheelwright shop, country kitchen and parlor, steam-operated saw mill, and 1/3-scale train. 2040 North Santa Fe Avenue, 760-941-1791. (mira mesa)

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

Barona Cultural Center and Museum
1095 Barona Road, 619-443-7003. (theres)

Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography
More than 60 tanks contain marine life of Pacific Northwest, California coastline, Mexico’s Sea of Cortez, and South Pacific. The La Jolla Kelp Tank is a two-story-high tank with giant kelp plants and nearly 30 species of local marine life. “Feeling the Heat: The Climate Challenge” examines science behind climate change; “Art of Deception” explores undersea camouflage; “Wonders of Water:” water display includes three interactive stations. The Lynne and Howard Robbins Shark Reef Exhibit features a 13,000-gallon shark tank with black tip, white tip, bamboo, and wobbegong sharks. 2300 Expedition Way, 858-534-FISH. (la jolla)

California Surf Museum
“From the Brown Mercury to SLRER — A Glimpse of 100 Years of Surfing Culture in Southern California” celebrates influence of surfing on California lifestyle. Display features collection of unique surfboards, movie posters, record albums, vintage beachwear, assortment of photographs. Significantly surf culture personalities from each decade are highlighted. 223 North Coast Highway, 760-721-6878. (oceanside)

Chula Vista Nature Center
Interactive living museum devoted to the endangered Southern California coastal wetlands, located in Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge. Visitors can use a Bioscope/Scope to view animals macroscopically, use a Wentzscope for views of microscopic organisms found in the “Sweetwater Soup,” and interact with computerized videos exploring how tides affect the bay in the “Moons, Tides, and the San Diego Bay” exhibit. Pet sharks and rays in the David A. Wergeland Shark and Ray exhibit, see bowfin, brow, rainbow trout, and migratory birds, and enjoy the xerophytic gardens. Visitors meet a shuttle bus at the Bayfront E Street Trolley Station or at the center’s parking lot at the foot of E Street and Bay Boulevard. 1000 Gunpowder Point Drive, 619-409-5903. (chula vista)

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San Diego Model Railroad Museum celebrates American railroads with the largest permanent operating model railroad and toy train exhibit in North America. Four scale-model railroads of the South-west, the “San Diego County Relief Map” exhibit, and an interactive toy train. There is a multimedia presentation on railroad operating, an operating railroad semaphore signal, and interpretive displays on railroads and model railroad building. The museum is downstairs in the Casa de Balboa building. 1649 El Prado, 619-486-0199. (Balboa Park)

Ramona Pioneer Historical Society and Guy B. Woodward Museum
Complex of historical buildings includes the Verlaque House (the only Western adobe house of French provincial design still in existence), wagons, antique exhibits, and artifacts. There is a cowboys bunk house, women’s clothing and accessories from 1700 to 1800, a ranch blacksmith shop and tack room. The Casey Tibbs Memorial Exhibit is dedicated to Tibbs, a local resident who was a world-champion rodeo rider. The Bancroft Memorial Rose Garden is on the grounds. Rare documents, historical exhibits, books, photographs, and a research library are also part of the complex. 645 Main Street, 760-789-7644. (Ramona)

San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum
Museum onboard the decommissioned USS Midway is open for tours, now berthed at 910 North Harbor Drive. Exhibits include Navy jet simulators, carrier and flight deck touring, captain’s sea cabin, pilot house, navigation bridge. Admission fee includes audio guide. 910 North Harbor Drive, 619-546-9600. (www.usmidway.org)

San Diego County Sheriff's Museum
The 150-year-old history of the sheriff’s department is highlighted at the museum, which is located “just feet away” from the original cobblestone jail site, built in 1850. The museum boasts artifacts, photographs, equipment, uniform forms, and vehicles, along with exhibits from each of the departments making up the organization such as crime scene, K-9, court service, detentions, crime lab, bomb squad, and many others. 2384 San Diego Avenue, 619-260-1850. (Old Town)

Water: How We Live" explores culture, history, and future of water. Exhibit includes hands-on activities, live animals, “captivating imagery.” Through November.

“Water: How We Live” exhibits sculpture by acclaimed Shona sculptor, as well as masks, jewelry, and baskets; all the artwork is for sale. Exhibit includes “an open enclosure with African lizards,” exhibits of various African insects, fish, frogs, snakes. Through Sunday, October 12.

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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 complete description of the event, in- cluding the date, time, cost, the contact phone number, and a phone number (including area code) for public information to READER CLASSICAL MUSIC, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186- 8580. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SDReader.com by clicking on the events section.

CLASSICAL LISTINGS

“Baseball Goes Pops with Dave Winfield” Padres legend Winfield hosts salute to America’s favorite pastime with a ballpark’s worth of baseball music with con- ductor Robert Thompson and San Diego Symphony for Summer Pops concerts. Evenings conclude with fireworks. 619-235-0804. Em- baceradeno Marina Park South (206 Marina Park Way), 7:30 p.m., Fri- day and Saturday, August 8 and 9. ($20-80)

It’s SummerFest Time! “SummerFest Commissions: Music of Our Time” presented when La Jolla Music Society’s musical extrav- aganza continues with concert of se- lections by Huang Ruo, Kaja Saat- also, Christopher Rouse, Steven Mackey. Reservations: 858-459- 3728. Birch North Park Theatre (2811 University Ave), 7:30 p.m., Friday, August 8. (GOLD PARK)

Fourth Annual International Youth Symphony Concert features performances by promising musicians from 15 different coun- tries with students of the San Diego Youth Symphony and Con- servatory. Program includes re- ditions of Mozart’s “Symphony No. 45” and the “Symphony No. 3” by Beethoven. 619-233-3232 x115. California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Es- condido Boulevard), 7:30 p.m., Friday, August 8. Also at Point Loma Nazarene University (3900 Lomaland Drive), Grill Recital Hall, 8 p.m., Saturday, August 9. (SILVER $)

Classical Guitar Concert Villa Music welcomes classical guitarist Christopher Metallick in concert, playing works by Benjamin Veredery, J.S. Bach, J.K. Mentz, Du- san Bogdanovic, Nikita Koshkin. Program includes “several original compositions for solo guitar.” Re- ception follows. Donation. proceeds benefit Villa Musica Schol- arship fund. 858-405-2691. University Lutheran Church (995 La Jolla Shores Drive), 8 p.m., Saturday, August 9. ($20-50)

Organ Concert Civic organist Carol Williams in concert. 619-792- 8138. Spreckels Organ Pavilion (2211 Pan American Road), 2 p.m., Sunday, August 10. (BRONZE $)


“Pops Goes Classical!” Famous works by Mozart and Handel performed by San Diego Symphony and conductor Matthew Garbutt for Summer Pops concert. Evening concludes with fireworks. 619- 235-0804. Embarcadero Marina Park South (206 Marina Park Way), 7:30 p.m., Sunday, August 10. (GOLD PARK)

“Pops...and All That Jazz!” Fifth annual pops concert on green planned by San Diego Chamber Orchestra, led by Jung-Ho Pak; guests include “local legends” Dave Scott and Bill Watrous. Bring lawn chairs, blankets, picnic dinners. 800-988-4253. Grape Day Park (321 North Broadway), 7 p.m., Sunday, August 10. (SILVER $)

British Concert Organist Interna- tional Summer Organ Festival continues with concert by David Briggs. 619-702-8138. Spreckels Organ Pavilion (2211 Pan American Road), 7:30 p.m., Monday, August 11. (BRONZE $)

Expect Unusual Music! Con- cert of virtuoso duet music for lute and violin from 18th-century Ger- man Baroque period promised when Baroque lutenist Robert Barto joins violinist Victoria Marin in recital. Program boasts duos by Sylvius Weiss, Bernhard Hagen, and J.S. Bach from unpublished manuscripts, performed on period instruments. Reservations: 858-454-3872. Athenaeum Music and Arts Library (1008 Wall Street), 7:30 p.m., Monday, August 11. (LJolla)

IT’S SUMMERFEST TIME! Classical pleasures through Sunday, August 24. (SEE CLASSICAL MUSIC)

GALLERIES

“A History of My Feelings” Opening reception for Adam Jus- tic Luther exhibition, guiding “us through a history of emotion as only he can portray it.” Show closes Friday, August 29. RSVP 619-795-3704. Colosseum Fine Arts (2400 Ketner Boulevard, suite F-109). 6 p.m., Friday, Au- gust 8. (LITTLE PARK)


“Figuratively Speaking” Open- ing reception for exhibition of work created by 16 contemporary fiber artists, inspired by the human form. Reception promises perfor- mance by Jean Isaacs San Diego Dance Theater company member. Annie Boyer, who has choreo- graphed an original work based on a quilt in the exhibition, Red- work Figures, by Maggi Ropecki Hilme: 619-546-4872. Visions Art Quilt Gallery (NTC Promenade, Liberty Station, 2825 DeWay Road, Suite 100). 5 p.m., Saturday, Au- gust 9. (GOLD PARK)

“Influences” Artists reception for members of West Coast Drawing and “guest artists influential to their art.” Exhibit closes Sunday, September 14. 858-598-1200. Art Institute of California-San Diego (7600 Mission Valley Road). 6 p.m., Saturday, August 9. (SOUTH PARK)


“Project 57” Opening reception in honor of Charles “Chuck” Leslie Walker, benefiting Lory Body De- mentia Association. The many fea- tured artists painted on a 5’x7” wood panel. Entry fee for recep- tion: $10. Closes Saturday, September 6. “Sub Urban” Gallery fea- tures works priced under $100; the “Alley” is filled with work by more than 30 artists. In addition, more than 16 artists have work on view in 14 artist studios. 760-781- 5779. Distinction Gallery (317 East Grand Avenue). 6 p.m., Saturday, August 9. (GOLD PARK)

“Unsung Angles and Mu- sicals” Closing reception for Les LeVeqe and Canadian visual/ video artist Ho Tyan’s “The Yellow Pages.” Tam’s “pivotal video” re- flecting on identity politics and other projections and runs in con- tinuous loop. LeVeqe’s videos play in main gallery on four mon- itors. 619-501-0879. 4 Walls Gallery (3813 Ray Street). 6 p.m., Saturday, August 9. (GOLD PARK)

ART MUSEUMS


Mingel International Museum "Hungarian Folk Magic — The Art of Joseph Domjan" includes several of this master woodblock
The Chinese Woodblock Prints in the Style of the Ten Bamboo Studio are likely from a 19th-Century edition of Treatise on Calligraphy and Painting of the Ten Bamboo Studio. Prints are noteworthy for technique of printing using multiple blocks. Both exhibits are ongoing. 1439 El Prado, 619-239-0003. (Museum Park)

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

Art of Play: Kinetic Toys of the World — closing Sunday, September 14 — features objects that move when manipulated. See kites from many countries, pull-and-push-toys, antique mechanical banks, puppets, wooden toys.

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown
“Memory Is Your Image of Perfection,” was curated by MCASD assistant curator Lucia Sanroman and presents photography and video works from museum’s collection created by women artists of Southern California and Baja California. Exhibition “investigates the subject of memory through associations, oppositions, and overlaps amongst photographic genres that range from straight documentary photography to manipulated photography.” Artists include Eleanor Antin, Uta Barth, Andrea Bowers, Sharon Lockhart, Ana Mendieta, and Yvonne Venegas. Through November. 1001 Kettner Boulevard, 858-454-3541. (Downtown)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla
“Evasive Signs: Bruce Nauman Works with Light” is said to focus on Nauman’s moons and light-room installations created over the first two decades of his career (1965-1985). On view through Sunday, August 31, exhibition presents provocative body of work in which artist grapples with questions of how perception is shaped by light and space. 700 Prospect Street, 858-454-3541. (La Jolla)

Museum of Photographic Arts
“Flush: The Portraits of Gary Schneider,” continuing through Sunday, September 14, includes John in Sixteen Parts, a set of black-and-white fragments of Schneider’s partner’s face seen through time. Also included: Genetic Self-Portrait, an installation utilizing medical-imaging techniques to depict his own body from the inside out; and Heads and Nudes, where the South African artist uses exposures of up to three hours to explore and transform the flesh of friends and family.

“The Vibrant Edge: Paintings of Karl Benjamin from the 1960s, ’70s, and ’80s” — continuing through Sunday, October 19 — “illuminates how this West Coast painting icon became known as one of the founding fathers of Hard Edge.” Benjamin, whose oeuvre spans more than half a century, says, “Color is the subject matter of painting.” 704 Pier View Way, 760-435-3720. (Ocean Beach)

Oceanside Museum of Art
“Ancient Marka: The Sacred Origins of Tattoos and Body Marking” features over 100 black and white photographs by documentary photographer Chris Rainer reflecting “humanity’s efforts to forge identity, beauty, storytelling, and sacred beliefs.” Closes Sunday, August 24.

“The Vibrant Edge: Paintings of Karl Benjamin from the 1960s, ’70s, and ’80s” — continuing through Sunday, November 9 — showcases works from SDMA’s collection. The early- to mid-20th century pieces offer historical framework allowing consideration of how artistic styles changed over time, reflect upon active participation of women in the social and political currents of the period. Artists included are Mary Cassett, Käthe Kollwitz, Isabell Bishop, Barbara Hepworth, Leonora Carring- ton. Exhibit includes “Spatial Gestures,” focusing on abstract works by contemporary women artists acquired by museum between 2006 and present. 1439 El Prado, 619-239-7931. (Balboa Park)

Timken Museum of Art
Permanent collection includes European old master paintings, 16th- and 19th-Century American paintings, and Russian icons. Saint Bartholomew’s, the only Rembrandt painting on public display in San Diego, is featured. 1500 El Prado, 619-239-5548. (Balboa Park)

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Sunday, August 10
4:00 pm

Our Lady of the Rosary Church
San Diego’s Jewel Box of Baroque and Rococo Art
State and Date Streets (Little Italy)
Downtown San Diego
Hip-Hop Away  “The Jumping Turtle is a mainly metal place,” says rapper Bryan Mason of the San Marcos venue. “They are getting national headliners thousands of dollars. I wish they were that cool with hip-hop.”

Mason, who has performed as “Jedi,” “Bionic,” and “Booster,” says the Jumping Turtle devotes one Thursday a month to hip-hop. “They give you $10 tickets to sell. You get to keep $10.”

Mason says the artist’s take bumps up once you sell 50 $10 tickets. (“Then you get to keep a dollar a ticket.”)

Mostly because Mason doesn’t agree with the club’s pay structure, he recently booked his own show at the Cow Shed, another San Marcos music venue. “They are going to pay structure, he recently booked his own show at the Cow Shed, another San Marcos music venue. “They are going to pay $200 worth of tickets, you get nothing; if you sell 19 tickets and give them cents of every ticket you sell to sell. You get to keep 50 hip-hop.”

“Bionic,” and “Booster,” says performed as “Jedi,” “Bionic,” and “Booster,” says the Jumping Turtle devotes one Thursday a month to hip-hop. “They give you $10 tickets to sell. You get to keep $10.”

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over attendees being restricted to the stands. The regulation had been circumvented for a 1976 ZZ Top concert by constructing stairs from the field to the plaza level. However, this caused the Sports Arena to sue San Diego on the grounds that the City had promised “no competition” upon the arena’s construction.

For the August ’79 event, the City installed temporary ramps up to the stadium’s plaza level, reasoning the Sports Arena couldn’t sue unless the stadium built permanent equipment for competing events. The concert stage was built in sections on movable rollers, again to avoid “permanent fixture” accusations, at a cost of around $25,000. I spent the night before the show sleeping in a bulldozer amid parking-lot construction being done near the stadium. Thanks to $15 earned by selling blood plasma the day before, I scored a ticket and walked in just as all 50,000-plus attendees were shouting the chorus to Travers’s hit “Boom Boom (Out Go the Lights),” which KGB was playing at least twice per hour at the time. UFO had just lost Michael Schenker, but they did a decent set that included “Doctor Doctor” and “Too Hot to Handle.”

Cheap Trick’s Dream Police album was about to be released, and they debuted “Need Your Love” and “I Know What I Want” from that record. They stole the show from headliners BOC, whose laser show had recently been legislated out of existence for purportedly being dangerous.

Nearly 100 people were arrested (‘many in the parking lot, for trespassing, scalping, drugs, and being drunk in said a noise-abatement official at the time, “we did not find the noise levels universally unacceptable.”

— Jay Allen Sanford

Organically, If You Will Acoustic guitarist Shawn Rohlf has played Sunday mornings at the Hillcrest farmers’ market for 11 years. “It’s the most difficult gig of the week for any musician,” says Rohlf, who’s fronted the 7th Day Buskers for six years. “In one case, a band member showed up late with no instrument. He went back home to get it. Ends up, he went to the wrong house because he forgot he had moved two weeks earlier. Finally, he arrived back at the market an hour later with a completely different instrument than the one he normally plays. He apparently didn’t own a key to his new house and just grabbed whatever he could find in the garage…”

“Having to teach [new bandmates] the fine art of setting up the EZ Up tent can be comical. I know many of the folks waiting in line to get a crepe find it quite amusing at the time,” says Rohlf. “Since then, I have been inviting a variety of different musicians to sit in with me, and just as the Buskers came to be, there is now a new group, forming sort of ‘organically,’ if you will.”

— Dorian Hargrove

Now Listen Up “Dance, like words, is a form of expression, a way of explaining who we are,” says Adelaide of the Shimmy Sisters, a belly-dancing duo she formed in 2006 with her sister Leilaniya. “A dance can tell stories in a language that is sensory and more abstract than the human brain can break down…” Through the dance, one can speak and say things that may be too personal, deep, or [too] buried to make out in words.”

The Shimmy Sisters perform monthly at Portugalia in O.B., with the Middle Eastern–flavored band Danyavaad backing them with electric sitar and tribal drumbeats. Performances include swordplay, glowing hula hoops, still walkers, yoga contortionists, live snakes, “fire fingers” (flaming fingernails, essentially), and occasional live psychic readings.

“Originally,” says Adelaide, “as a rite of passage, mothers taught this dance to their daughters, a gift of the heart. Furthermore, dance feels good; we love and enjoy it as a gift to others and ourselves. Opening and dancing from the heart helps posture, self-confidence, and our capacity to love…” Danyavaad is completing a ten-song CD package that will include an instructional DVD with belly dance and sitar lessons.

— Jay Allen Sanford

CONTRIBUTORS
William Cran, Dave Good, Larry Hamou, Michael Hemmingson, Ken Leghorn, Ron Leybo, Bert Mendoza, Derek Plank, Eric Rife, Jay Allen Sanford, David Stampone

Radiohead August 27
Jack Johnson August 30
Alejandro Fernandez September 12
Art Laboe September 12
Counting Crows/ Maroon 5 September 13
Janet Jackson September 29
Luis Miguel September 27
Recontraes September 29
Santana September 30
Sigur Ros October 1
The Mars Volta October 1
Jordin Sparks August 9

“Phantom of the Opera” thru August 10
Neil Diamond October 7
Sara Bareilles October 9
Jimmie Buffett October 10
Frank Caliendo October 10
Jason Mraz October 16
Madonna November 4
Carrie Underwood November 4
Alanis Morissette November 10
Sarah Brightman November 15
Ringling Bros Circus August 6-10

“Think You Can Dance” September 20

Dave Matthews August 22

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JACKIE GREENE ROCK
8/29

DAVE MASON ROCK
8/30

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October 26, 2008

Willie Nelson
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Gladys Knight and Al Green
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Thursday

**86**

Peruvian-born Felipe Coronel is Harlem hip-hopper Immortal Technique. I.T. rap politics, calling out U.S. concern in South America and the Middle East on his latest, The 3rd World. Check the track “Bin Laden (Tell the Truth)” for his bent. The rap landed him on Al Jazeera news, allowing the activist a world forum to discuss American homelands and foreign policy. I.T. and his “first lieutenant,” Dj G.J. Joe, demonstrate battle rap at Belly Up tonight. Diabolic, Dj Artistic, and Da Circle round out the recommended beats bill. North County’s Matt Curreri & the Frerinds make up at Casbah tonight. Check their Space takes for new City Salvage disc Joy of Life, easy one of the tastiest indie-pop collections to come outta here this year. Rafter and Country, England’s Don’t Move set the stage. Bar Pink (nee Pink Elephant — they dropped the pachyderm from their monkey books experimental folks Manuck and Drew Andrews. Drew Andrews has signed to Chicago label Minty Fresh, which’ll release debut Only Mirrors in the fall. In the mean, get to North Lacey for ‘08 Euro-tour e.p. I Could Write a Book... Couple Sac-town trios, the prog-y Ribhal and power-pop-y Lite Britte, are nabbed by Chasers. Local indie kids the Lanterns and Witt open the sets. Banner, Dr. Acula & the Exfriends, Showbroad, The Hotness, and Seconds from Disaster III play a bill at Soma.... While SoCal punks Agent Orange drop on Canes, with Critical Me and the Uprising.

Friday

San Fran covers band Me First and the Gimmes promise to play nice at House of Blues. The Gimmes revvie radio pop and rock to crunchy punk riffsage and machine-gun vocals. Give a listen to their Space takes of Simon & Garfinkel’s “The Boxer” and John Denver’s “Country Roads.” Ouch. They’re out to tout new Fat Wreck record Boxer” and John Denver’s “Country Roads.” Ouch. The Gimmes rewire radio pop and rock to crunchy punk riffage and machine-gun vocals. Give a listen to their Space takes for new City Salvage disc Joy of Life, easy one of the tastiest indie-pop collections to come outta here this year. Rafter and Country, England’s Don’t Move set the stage... Bar Pink (nee Pink Elephant — they dropped the pachyderm from their monkey books experimental folks Manuck and Drew Andrews. Drew Andrews has signed to Chicago label Minty Fresh, which’ll release debut Only Mirrors in the fall. In the mean, get to North Lacey for ‘08 Euro-tour e.p. I Could Write a Book... Couple Sac-town trios, the prog-y Ribhal and power-pop-y Lite Britte, are nabbed by Chasers. Local indie kids the Lanterns and Witt open the sets. Banner, Dr. Acula & the Exfriends, Showbroad, The Hotness, and Seconds from Disaster III play a bill at Soma.... While SoCal punks Agent Orange drop on Canes, with Critical Me and the Uprising.

Saturday

Like amni, babies, too much good stuff Saturday night. Omaha emo-punk quintet the Faint bring crit-hit dance jams disc The Faintimation to Soma. Ex-Blood Brothers Jaguar Love set it up... We’re brown and drawn and coming to your town. Costa Mesa’s Manic Hispanic cater Casbah to Manic-flavored punk. Recommend a listen to the ressure of Manic’s eponymous debut The Mesudos incident for a primer. With Authentic Sellout and the Crime. At 11:30 Casbah time there’s a Faint after-party featuring Depressed Buttons (Joel and Todd from the Faint). It’s a free set with your Soma stub, $5 w/out.... Thingamabob! The Rob Mueley Roots Rock Reggae Festival hits the infield at the Del Mar track. Show features Bob’s boys Ziggy and Julian. Common Sense kicks it off at 6p. There’s also a beer brouhaha boasting 50 different drinks. Free admit with paid track tax. ...Since yer already up there, Steve Poltz and the Cynics and Sara Petite get acoustic at Belly Up.... Don’t like the slumming Yummiy stuff, get your “powervenience” on, as Bay Area bad boys Vitamin Piss stream into Chi’s Café alongside Spring Break! Cheap Art, Restrained, and the Separation... Back downtown, Chasers stages IDM soul bros. Jamuel Saxon with Hockey Silverleaf, and Blue Skies for Black Hearts... But the gig to get to, ya’ll, is the trick triple bill at Tower Bar, deejay John Denver’s “Country Roads.” Ouch. The Gimmes rewire radio pop and rock to crunchy punk riffage and machine-gun vocals. Give a listen to their Space takes for new City Salvage disc Joy of Life, easy one of the tastiest indie-pop collections to come outta here this year. Rafter and Country, England’s Don’t Move set the stage... Bar Pink (nee Pink Elephant — they dropped the pachyderm from their monkey books experimental folks Manuck and Drew Andrews. Drew Andrews has signed to Chicago label Minty Fresh, which’ll release debut Only Mirrors in the fall. In the mean, get to North Lacey for ‘08 Euro-tour e.p. I Could Write a Book... Couple Sac-town trios, the prog-y Ribhal and power-pop-y Lite Britte, are nabbed by Chasers. Local indie kids the Lanterns and Witt open the sets. Banner, Dr. Acula & the Exfriends, Showbroad, The Hotness, and Seconds from Disaster III play a bill at Soma.... While SoCal punks Agent Orange drop on Canes, with Critical Me and the Uprising.

Sunday

Silent Comedy screens after Or the Whale and Hotel St. George check in at Casbah. Vaudeville rokins Silent Comedy are on a Left Coast swing behind their s/t e.p. — this band is chock full of chops. Show the SanDago sextet some love... Punk-rock assassins Sirhan Sirhan take out Bar Pink... Hip-hop MC’s Nas and Talib Kweli visit House of Blues.... There’s plenty for those in the knowsey at Belly Up, featuring Natalie “the Floacist” Stewart and Latanya Lockett. DJ Sachama spins round sets... They say you want a Plastic Revolution. Beauty Bar delivers. Gunpowder Sunset kicks it off.... Raga Brits UB40 will be in town for a few, spillin’ “Red Red Wine” at Humphrey’s Sunday and Pala Monday.

Monday

With Blood and Guts and Happy Rain, the Lanterns light up Casbah’s Anti-Monday thang. With Apes of Wrath and Laserwolf & Thunderbolt, whose promo we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!” With the Promos we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!” With the Promos we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!” With the Promos we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!” With the Promos we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!” With the Promos we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!” With the Promos we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!” With the Promos we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!” With the Promos we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!” With the Promos we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!” With the Promos we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!” With the Promos we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!” With the Promos we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!” With the Promos we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!” With the Promos we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!” With the Promos we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!” With the Promos we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!” With the Promos we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!” With the Promos we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!” With the Promos we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!” With the Promos we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!” With the Promos we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!” With the Promos we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!” With the Promos we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!” With the Promos we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!” With the Promos we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!” With the Promos we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!” With the Promos we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!” With the Promos we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!” With the Promos we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!” With the Promos we simply can’t not print: “Short children’s songs played out of amplifiers but a completely stupid stupid face!”
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Hot Mess

“I constantly laugh and crack jokes about people with no fashion sense. I really can’t help it.”

I’ve always enjoyed music and singing,” says singer/songwriter Jodi V, “but I grew up in a religious household, so singing anywhere else but at church was not an option.” Her first public performance was at age seven with her rendition of “These Words I Sing for You,” a bilingual song composed by her father for her mom. She sang for a dozen friends and family members on her neighbor’s porch.

“At the age of 18,” she says, “I was given a bit more freedom, so I took advantage by collaborating with local hip-hop artists and producers that I met through mutual friends.”

While singing hooks for rappers and producers in exchange for studio time, Jodi posted her own four-song demo on MySpace. One of the rap groups she performed with also has a MySpace page, which they used to send a “friend request” to Rotation Music, a record label based for over 20 years in Laguna Beach. Label heads weren’t impressed by the hip-hoppers, but they did like the photo of Jodi V they saw on the rappers’ MySpace.

“I was approached through MySpace by [label owner] Allan Gomez,” says Jodi. “He offered to help me release my first album.” Distributed by label heavyweight Universal, Jodi V’s provocatively titled debut Seed of Love is set for release September 9.

WHAT’S IN YOUR MUSIC PLAYER?

“I’m bumping Colbie Caillat’s Breakthrough and breaks down hit songs so you can learn what complete strangers. There’s also ‘Intervention’, Sundays at the Hard Rock Hotel, which is a cool spot to party it up during the day. There’s always a beautiful crowd.”

WHERE DO YOU HANG OUT?

“I love the Turf Club on the corner of C and 25th Street. It’s a bar and grill where you can talk to complete strangers. And ‘The Notebook’.

TWO FAVORITE WEBSITES?

1. MySpace.com: “You can find old friends, new friends, old lovers, new lovers, family, and music. You can even get signed by a major record label!”
2. YouTube.com: “Staying up on Saturday night until two in the morning watching videos is way better than a potential D.U.I.”

THREE GUilty PLEASURES?

1. “I constantly laugh and crack jokes about people with bad fashion sense. It’s mean, but I really can’t help it.”
2. “Being late. I like my five extra minutes.”
3. “Eating a lot of Mexican candy. I had an ulcer two years ago from it, but I just can’t stop.”

BRUSH WITH FAME?

“I got to see Xzibit, MC and host of Pimp My Ride, backstage at one of his concerts. I thought it would be cute to ask him to ‘officially pimp me,’ but he refused. He must get that all the time.”

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LISTS

JAY ALLEN SANFORD


BEST “I WAS SO BUZZED” STORY?

“I have too many funny stories... I’ll keep it short and PG rated. After clubbing one night I let my friend push me around in a shopping cart. It was hilarious — until he bit a crack and I flew out. I was wearing a skirt, so it was a hot mess!”

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR FIRST JOB.

“The first job I ever worked at was the corner deli. I made lots of sandwiches, and I remember making a hot turkey sandwich for a fellow employee. I was wearing a skirt, so it was a hot mess!”

1. I constantly get told that I come off as intimidating or snobby, but the truth is that I’m sweet and very interested in what you have to say.

OTHERThings You WOULD KNOW OR GUESS?

“I constantly get told that I come off as intimidating or snobby, but the truth is that I’m sweet and very interested in what you have to say.”

DESSERT-ISLAND DVDs?

“The Sweetest Thing is the funniest chick flick ever, but no one will watch it with me because I always rewind it to my favorite parts at least five times in a row. There’s also The Notebook. C’mon, you know you love it, too. And probably The Wizard of Oz or Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, though I admit they’re a little creepy. They’re for those days when I’m in a sily mood.”
**This Week’s Shows**

**4th & B:** 345 B Street, Downtown, 619-231-4433.
Saturday, 7:30 p.m. — DJ Quik. Hip-hop/funk/3-p.m., $25.

**AcousticMusicSanDiegos:** 4650 Manchester Street, Normal Heights, 619-303-8176.
Saturday, 7:30 p.m. — Jim Kerenek. Enjoy ‘60s folk, jug-band music.

**Anthology:** 1337 India Street, Little Italy, 619-595-0300.
Friday, 7:30 p.m. — Larry Carlton. Jazz guitarist. $26-$32.
Saturday, 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. — The Midnight Ramblers. A Rolling Stones tribute. $14-$18.
Tuesday and Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. — The Fabulous Thunderbirds. Blues/rock.

**Bahia Resort Hotel:** 989 West Mission Bay Drive, Mission Beach, 619-448-0515.
Friday and Saturday, 6 p.m. — Adrienne Nims & Spirit Wind. With Jim Laur and Warren Bryant. Contemporary jazz/global music.

**The Bar Pink Elephant:** 829 30th Street, North Park, 619-364-7394.
Friday, 10 p.m. — Muck & the Mires. Garage rock.

**Barona Valley Ranch Resort & Casino:** 1932 Wildcat Canyon Road, Lakeside, 619-443-2300.
Thursday, 8 p.m. — The Gold Dust Band. Covers country and classic rock.

**Beach House:** 2530 South Coast Highway 101, Cardiff, 760-753-1231.
Sunday, 5 p.m. — Adrienne Nims. Contemporary jazz/global music. Wednesday, 6 p.m. — Firefall. Jazz.

**Beauty Bar:** 4746 El Cajon Boulevard, Kensington-Talmadge, 619-516-4746.
Wednesday, 8 p.m. — No Go. Indie rock. $5.

**Belly Up Tavern:** 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.
Thursday, 9 p.m. — Immortal Technique. Hip-hop. $20-$22.
Friday, 9 p.m. — Rub-A-Dub Friday. Live reggae music. $5.
Saturday, 9 p.m. — Steve Poltz & the Cynics. With Sara Petite. Soul/pop/rock/$8.

**Bistro D’Vine:** 3709 Aliso Avenue, Rancho San Diego, 619-660-2222.
Thursday, 6 p.m. — Brian Mangold and Inprana. Alternative rock/metal/punk. $15.

**Brick by Brick:** 1130 Barons Avenue, Linda Vista, 619-275-3483.
Thursday, 8 p.m. — Etched in Stone and Weapons of Fate. With Precio de Sangre. Metal/hardcore. $5.
Saturday, 8 p.m. — Mary Magdalun and Inprana. Alternative rock/metal/punk. $15.
Sunday, 6 p.m. — Acoustic Alliance. With Astra Kelly, JAC, Derek Duplessic, Leder, and more. Acoustic/folk/pop/$8.
Wednesday, 8 p.m. — Garrison Starr and Deren Race. With Lauren DelRose & the Kates. Folk rock/pop indie. $10.

**Cafe Lamezu:** 1441 Highland Avenue, National City, 619-474-3222.
Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m. — The Sandy Chappel Quartet. With Burnett Anderson, Robert Sebastian, and Hank Young. Standards/jazz/blues.
Sunday, 7:30 p.m. — Burnett’s Bliss. With Robert Sebastian and Scott Wallingford. Jazz/standard/blues.

**Calavera Hills Park:** 2997 Glengrove Drive, Carlsbad.
Friday, 6 p.m. — Oliver Mihucuzi and Black Spirit. Indie-pop promosed for TGIF Jazz in the Parks series. 760-614-2904.

**Canes:** 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-488-1780.
Thursday, 8 p.m. — Agent Orange and Critical Ms. With the Uprising. Punk/surf. $12-$15.
Friday, 9 p.m. — The Concrete Project. CD-release show with the Kneeholeys, Rare Form, and After School Special. Hip-hop/rock/soul. $8.
Sunday, 2 p.m. — Roots Vision. Reggae.

**The Casbah:** 2501 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-4335.
Thursday, 8:30 p.m. — Matt Carreri & the Eustroids and Rafter Roberts. With Don’t Move. Folk/rock. $6.
Friday, 7 p.m. — Joshua James and Cory Chisel. Indie/folk/soul. $8-$10.
Friday, 10 p.m. — Transfer and A.M. Vibe. With Fever Sheaves. Alternative/rock. $10-$12.
Saturday, 8:30 p.m. — Manic Hispanic. With Authentic Sellout and the Crime. Punk rock. $12-$14.
Sunday, 8:30 p.m. — The Silent Comedy and Or, the Whale. With Hotel St. George. Indie/folk/rock/soul. $10.
Monday, 8:30 p.m. — Lanterns and the Apex of Wrath. Indie/pop/rock. $5.
Tuesday, 8:30 p.m. — The Austin James Band and Long Live Logos. Alternative/pop/rock. $5.
Not a good sign, I suppose, when tales of drug abuse crop up in the third paragraph of a press release — and when thrown such a bone, most of the rock press will take the bait. Aside from Ringo Starr’s declaration that Year Long Disaster is one of the top ten bands to watch in 2008, details of YLD’s Hollywood size boozes, crack, and heroin problems lead most of the stories about the band. These details (and an obscure quote from the late avant painter Salvador Dalí) are offered up as if drugs alone could be inspiration enough to start a rock and roll band. In this case, perhaps it has.

If Motohead and W.A.S.P. spat out a child, it would sound a lot like Year Long Disaster. YLD is not a blast from the past so much as they are Europe and experiencing a resurgence on these shores. It’s high time we caught up with our past.

YEAR LONG DISASTER, Beauty Bar, Tuesday, August 5, 10 p.m. 619-516-4746. $5.


The Lumberyard Shopping Center: 937 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 619-987-1277. Friday and Saturday, 6 p.m. — Keith Jacobson. In the central courtyard, between St. Tropez Bakery & Bistro and Bubby’s. Gelato. Smooth-jazz saxophone.

The Marquee: 835 23rd Street, Golden Hill. Friday, 7:30 p.m. — Bushwaulla, Michael Tiernan, Kenny Eng. With A Beautiful Noise. Acoustic/folk rock/pop. $5.

McCabe’s Beach Club: 1145 South Trenton Street, Oceanside, 760-439-6686. Fridays, 4:30 p.m. — The California Rangers. Country.

The Metaphor Cafe: 258 East 2nd Avenue, Escondido, 760-747-1882. Thursday, 7:30 p.m. — The Howl and Longrady. With Midnight Hour and Austin Nicolai. Indie/rock/pop. $5.


Or, the Whale — that’s how they write it — is a seven-piece band from San Francisco with some country and folk instruments (banjo, acoustic guitar, pedal steel) mixed in with distorted guitars, drums, some vintage-looking keyboards, and other rock elements. Two men and two women sing, sometimes solo, often in harmony — whether it’s tender, folky harmony or rock-style wailing. The lyrics are literate. There’s a song about pioneer psychologist William James, and the band name, of course, comes from Moby Dick. Tying in with that 19th-century aesthetic, the band members often pose in vintage clothes for sepia-toned publicity photos.

So on first glance or first listen you could easily write off Or, the Whale as a clone of the Decemberists or a lot of other bands on the indie scene today. That would be a mistake, because there’s something about Or, the Whale that warrants closer listening. A closer look, too. You can see and hear what I mean in the Or, the Whale live videos on You-Tube. The band members sway and shuffle on stage in a kind of spontaneous dance. Every song starts out a little sloppy and lumbering, but a little more than halfway through, suddenly the song will take off as the band starts rocking out. The guitars and drums sound great, the pedal steel sounds beautiful, and all of the vocals seem to get louder and more powerful and emotional. You’d be a robot if you didn’t find yourself a little moved by it. I don’t know how they do it...they get better and better as each song goes on.

By William Crain

OR, THE WHALE

O’Connell’s Pub and Grill: 358 East Main Street, El Cajon. Friday, 6 p.m. — The Corvette. Doo-wop and Motown tunes for Thursday...

Taste of Italy
1/2 price pizzas
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from 4pm-8pm
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Happy Hour 4pm-8pm
$3 Wells, Wine & Drafts
$3 off Appetizers... no less than 1/2 regular price

Live Music...
6pm-10pm

3pm-9pm
Happy Hour...
$3 Drafts, Wine & Wells... 1/2 price drinks
$5C Appetizer menu (with purchase of beverage)
1/2 price regular Appetizers


Prescott Promenade: 211 1/2 East Main Street, El Cajon. Friday, 6 p.m. — The Corvette. Doo-wop and Motown tunes for
Concerts on the Green. 619-401-8838.


Rosie O'Grady’s: 3402 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-284-7666. Tuesdays, 9 p.m. — Bubba’s Jazz Jam Session. Modern jazz classics and standards every Tuesday, with Bryan Whelan, Doug Walker, Laurel Grinnell, and friends.


Spreckels Organ Pavilion: 1723 Euclid Avenue, San Diego, 619-239-0512. Sundays, 6 p.m. — Coronado Big Band. Swing and jazz for Twilight in the Park summer concert series. 619-239-0512.


Soma: 8350 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma, 619-226-7662. Thursdays, 9:30 p.m. — Open jazz jam.

Sunday, 6 p.m. — Original Music Modern Jazz Series. Every Sunday, with Doug Walker, Tim Nunnink, Nick Tosco, and Nathan Hubbard.

Stage Saloon: 762 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-255-8635. Fridays, 8:30 p.m. — Bruce'n. Jazz, blues, and pop for Twilight in the Park summer concert series. 619-239-0512.

T kontrol

Trolley Barn Park: 1900 Adams Avenue at Florida Street, University Heights. Friday, 4 p.m. — Sue Palmer & Her Motel Swing Orchestra. Boogie-woogie and swing for Summer in the Park concert series. 619-297-3366.

UCSD Arts Library, Geisel Library: 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla. Friday, 8 p.m. — Beadon Diction. Performs an 8-minute experimental piece entitled “Music for Libraries.” The composition implements high-powered speakers to induce sympathetic vibrations from the Carillon’s chimes.
San Diego Reader


**Friday**

Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822.

**Saturday**


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**UPCOMING SHOWS**

1st Street Bar: 636 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-944-0213.

August 16 — The Gold Dust Band. September 13 — Misty & the Mohyis.

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**THE CASBAH**

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

**August 16** — The Hayriders.

**Bistro D’Vine:** 3709 Avocado Road, Rancho San Diego, 619-660-2222.

**August 14, August 21, August 28, September 4 — David Burrett.

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

**August 14 — Yesterday’s Papers and Lessons from Zeke.**
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FRIDAY, AUGUST 8TH

FRIDAY NIGHT SHAKEDOWNS

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$3 KAMIKAZI SHOTS & FEATURED BOTTLED BEERS ALL NIGHT

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San Diego Reader, August 7, 2008

**Calendar**

**MUSIC**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 7**
- **THE UPRISING** • CRITICAL ME

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 8**
- **the concrete project**
- **(LP Release Party)**
- **THE KNEE-HIGHS** • RARE FORM • AFTER SCHOOL PROJECT

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 9**
- **Loudspeaker presents**
- **THE FEELINGS MUTUAL** • IRRADIO • THE FASCINATION • THE NAPOLEON COMPLEX

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13**
- **Never Say Die presents**
- **INBERST** • DON’T SAY VEGAS • ENCRYPTIONS IN BLACK • DEAF ZERO • SCARY GARRY

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 14**
- **Just Rich Entertainment presents**
- **Mental Groove featuring**
- **VOKAB KOMPANY** • ANTI CITIZENS • OTC • FORMULA ABSTRACT • THUMTAC • JAY WAT • DJ WHITE CHOCOLATE

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 16**
- **Early Event 12-7 pm**
- **Lunch & Dinner**
- **SATURDAY, AUGUST 16**
- **Late Show - 9 pm Doors**
- **Stay Classy & The Bands will Benefit Present - Vice Vice Baby Featuring**
- **MIKE PINTO • HI-Stereo** • REPUBLIC OF LETTERS • BUSHWALLA • QUEST-CE QUE C’EST

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 15**
- **SPRINGSTEEN (Bruce Springsteen)** • JUMPING JACK FLASH (Stones Tribute)

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 21**
- **RHYTHM & THE METHOD** • MOONTUCKY RISING • FOUR SECONDS FOREVER

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 23**
- **Mixmaster Showcase**
- **with very special guests**
- **TBA**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 29**
- **Canes & FineLine** • present**
- **Canes & RockHill present**
- **LITTLE BROTHER** • WYLD BUNCH • DJ D-ROCK • SONGS OF Z90 • TBA

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 30**
- **Canes & RockHill present**
- **ISTANPUNISH** • DIARRHEA IN ROUGH• ANTI CITIZENS • OTC • FORMULA ABSTRACT • THUMTAC • JAY WAT • DJ WHITE CHOCOLATE

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 30**
- **Canoes & Fineline** • present**
- **Canes & Fineline** • present**
- **Melvins** • BIG BUSINESS

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 30**
- **Canes & RockHill present**
- **LITTLE BROTHER** • WYLD BUNCH • DJ D-ROCK • SONGS OF Z90 • SIGHPHUR ONE

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5**
- **ATOMIC PUNKS** • DAMAGE INC. • JUST LIKE PRIEST • (Metallica Tribute) • CHAOS • CHASER • THE WIDOWS

Upcoming:
- 9/6 Cash’d Out • 9/11 Ekolu • 9/13 B-Side Players
- 9/18 Thriving Ivory • 9/20 Tainted Love
- 9/26 Sprung Monkey & Mower • 10/3 The Aggrotites

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(3 blocks south of Genesee, 1 mile north of USD)

**Canes!**

3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-488-1780.
August 19 — Radiostar.
August 20 — Maddox Revolution.
August 21 — Eric James Poyen and the Flowerthief.
August 21 — Cathryn Beeks Showcase.
August 28 — New Colossus and Dreamtide.

**Brick by Brick**:
- 1130 Buenos Avenue, Linda Vista, 619-275-5483.
- August 14 — Rhythm & the Method and Roush Blue.
- August 15 — Gunnar Date and Lead Bums Red.
- August 16 — Authentic Sellout and the Revenge.
- August 17 — Bad Karma
- August 21 — Mad Mirtigan.

**California Center for Sustainable Energy**:
- 1690 Balboa Avenue, Clairemont.
- October 18 — Linda Furl & Lee Lessac.

**California Center for the Arts, Escondido**:
- 340 North Escondido Boulevard, Escondido, 800-988-4253.
- September 26 — Rickey Lee Jones.
- October 22 — Amy Grant.
- October 28 — Vince Gill.
- November 15 — The Preservation Hall Jazz Band.

**Campus Lot - Ace Parking**: Imperial Avenue & Park Boulevard, Downtown, 619-233-6624.
August 23 — SoCo Music Experience.

**Canes!**

3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-488-1780.
August 14 — Thumtac, JayWat, Anti Citizen.
August 15 — Lights, Jumping Jack Flash, Springsteen.
August 16 — Michael Palmer and Lambs Blood.
August 17 — Project Out of Bounds.
August 20 — Inhale.
August 21 — MoonluckKaz and Rhythm & the Method.
August 22 — Katchafire.
August 24 — Tomorrow’s Bad Seeds.
August 27 — Ben Johnston.
August 28 — The Melvins and Big Business.
August 29 — Stranger, High Tide, Psydecar.
August 30 — Little Brother and Wylde Bunch.
August 31 — Atomic Punks.

September 4 — The Theory of Funkativity.

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featuring Peter & Gordon/
Gerry & The Pacemakers/
Gary Lewis & The Playboys
Friday, August 8 • 7:30

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Michael McDonald
with special guest
LeRoy Bell
Wednesday,
August 13 • 7:30

Joe Cocker
Thursday,
August 14 • 7:30

Tower of Power
Friday,
August 15 • 8:00

Gipsy Kings
Monday,
August 18 • 8:00

Steve Winwood
Tuesday,
August 19 • 7:30

Hootie & The Blowfish
with special guest
The Drew Davis Band
Monday, August 25 • 7:30

Lucinda Williams
with special guest
Buick 6
Tuesday,
August 26 • 7:30

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complimentary cocktails & exclusive entry to the preview hour from 10am - 11am
CHILL Kick back in the 944 live lounge (it’s their birthday!)
SWIM URB pool party from 2pm (bring your bikini)
EAT Lunch available by the pool all day
SIP ABSOLUT goodness
CATWALK Runway shows starting at 12 noon
LISTEN Music programmed by DJHERE and friends
READ Pop up art, design & fashion book store:
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**September 5 — Guttermouth and Chaser.**

**September 6 — Cash’d Out.**

**September 11 — Ekoh.**

**September 13 — The B-Side Players and Agua Dulce.**

**September 17 — Thriving Ivory and Glacier Hiking.**

**September 20 — Tainted Love.**

**October 3 — The Aggrolites and Dirty Heads.**

**October 11 — Andre Nickatina.**

**October 16 — Strangers.**

**October 24 — Lights.**

**The Casbah:** 2501 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-4355.

**August 4 — Calico Horse, Collenrose, Swim Party.**

**August 15 — Xiu Xiu and Carla Bozulich.**

**August 16 — Ilya and Student Film.**

**August 16 — War Stories.**

**August 19 — Wendy Darling.**

**August 21 — Jeremy Enigk.**

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

**August 23 — Beachwood Sparks.**

**August 24 — El Vez.**

**August 25 — Buddy Akai and Head Like a kite.**

**August 26 — Circa Now and Whiskey Circus.**

**August 27 — HiFi Colossus and the Littlest Viking.**

**August 28 — Kill Me Tomorrow and Max Fields.**

**August 29 — Get Back Loretta and Boomintrukz.**

**August 29 — Neil Halstead and Spoon.**

**August 30 — Polvo and Trans Am.**

**August 31 — Manual Scan and Self-Made Men.**

**September 1 — Southern Culture on the Skids.**

**September 3 — The Wombats and Pop Noir.**

**September 5 — Transfer, Calico Horse, Swim Party.**

**September 6 — Witch and Earthless.**

**September 9 — Bodies of Water and Throw Me the Statute.**

**September 10 — Tom Baxter and Charlie Wooton.**

**September 13 — The B-Side Players and Agua Dulce.**

**September 14 — Calico Horse, Collenrose, Swim Party.**

**August 23 — Monsters from Mars, James Rabbit, Da Bears.**

**August 29 — Matt & Kim and Best Friends.**

**September 5 — Graf Orlock, Zann, Lefc Lo.**

**Copley Symphony Hall:** 700 B Street, Downtown, 619-235-0804.

**October 1 — Sigur Ros.**

**Cox Arena:** 550 Campanile Drive, College Area, 619-594-6947.

**September 12 — Alejandro Fernandez.**

**November 25 — New Kids on the Block.**

**Del Mar Thoroughbred Club:** 2201 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar, 858-755-1141.

**August 22 — Black Francis.**

**August 29 — Steel Pulse.**

**August 30 — Devo.**

**September 3 — The English Beat.**

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

**August 14 — Vans Warped Tour.**

**August 22 — The Dave Matthews Band.**

**August 27 — Radiohead.**

**August 30 — Jack Johnson.**

**September 12 — Old School End of Summer Jam.**

**September 13 — Counting Crows and Maroon 5.**

**September 21 — Luan Miguel.**

**September 27 — Third Day and Switchfoot.**

**September 30 — Carlos Santana.**

**October 16 — Jimmy Buffett.**

**Cheech & Chong:** Light Up America... Tour 2008.

**Friday November 28 — Copley Symphony Hall.**

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**Embarcadero Marina Park South:** 206 Marina Park Way, Downtown.

**August 15, August 16 — “Broadway Here and Now.”**

**August 21 — “The Machine: A Pink Floyd Tribute.”**

**August 22, August 23 — “Daydream Believer ...Davy Jones.”**

**August 29, August 30, August 31 — “JBJ2 Tchaikovsky Spectacular.”**

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

**August 15 — The Variety Show and Silent Armada.**

**August 21 — I Am Ghost, Eyes Set To Kill, the Urgency.**

**August 22 — The Haven, Notomo Sensory, Goodnight Caulfield.**

**East Village:** 13th & K Streets, Downtown.

**September 19, September 20 — Street Scene.**

**Ellen Browning Scripps Park:** 1133 Coast Boulevard, La Jolla.

**August 17 — Benny Hollman’s Big Band Explosion.**

**August 24 — Tavaz.**

**August 31 — The Heroes.**

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**Friday November 28 — Copley Symphony Hall.**

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**August 15 — The Variety Show and Silent Armada.**

**August 21 — I Am Ghost, Eyes Set To Kill, the Urgency.**

**August 22 — The Haven, Notomo Sensory, Goodnight Caulfield.**
2008 Del Mar Summer Concert Series

Free concerts with track admission

**Four O’Clock Fridays**
- The Bravery  
  August 8
- Black Francis (The Pixies)  
  August 22
- The Wailers  
  August 15
- Steel Pulse  
  August 29

**Saturday Infield Concerts**
- Roots Rock Reggae Fest  
  August 9
- Devo  
  August 30

- Heineken

**Closing Day in the Paddock**
- English Beat  
  September 3

Band line-up subject to change.
For more info call (651) 755-1141 or visit delmarscene.com
Please drink responsibly.
San Diego Reader August 7, 2008

VANS WARPED TOUR '08

AUGUST 14

DAVE MATTHEWS BAND

with special guest
Robert Earl Keen

FRIDAY
AUGUST 22

SARA BAREILLES

SPECIAL GUESTS
MARC BROUSSARD
Ellie Goulding

RAY LAMONTAGNE

new album GOSSIP IN THE GRAIN
coming October 14

SPECKELS THEATRE
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Jack Johnson

with special guests
Rogue Wave

Culver City Dub Collective
Featuring Paula Fuga

Saturday, August 30

Slightly Stoopid + Pepper // September 6 // SDSU Open Air Theatre
Xavier Rudd // September 6 // 4th and B
Magic 92.5 Old School End of Summer Jam hosted by Art Laboe
September 12 // Cricket Wireless Amphitheatre
Alejandro Fernandez // September 12 // Cox Arena
Mazon // Counting Crows // September 13 // Cricket Wireless Amphitheatre
Rancid // September 19 // Soma

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Alamo, Inc. and street price subject to change. Service charge not included. Admit one. No refunds.
**Calendar**

**MUSIC**

August 28 — Orangello
August 29 — A Sharrowd Hope and Bullets over Hollywood
September 6 — Bamboo
September 12 — Shem the Beard, Bucket of Fish, Unknown Motive
September 13 — So Long Davie.

**Escondido Library:** 239 South Kalmia Street, Escondido
September 4 — Cali and Delene
October 2 — T.K. Gardiner
December 4 — Peter Sprague.

**The Flying Bridge:** 1105 North Coast Highway, Oceanside, 760-722-1351
August 13 — Sounds Perfect.

**Gallagher’s Pub & Grill:** 5046 Newport Avenue, Ocean Beach, 619-222-3301
August 15 — Fifth Market.

**Hennensys’ Tavern — Gaslamp:** 508 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-239-9994
August 20 — Brooklyn & Bradley.

**Hennensys’ Tavern — PB:** 4050 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach, 838-483-8847
September 19 — Hugh Gaskins & the String Daddies.

**Hilltop Center for Spiritual Living:** 331 East Elder Street, Fullerton
August 22 — Anton Mizerak and Michael Mandrell.

**Hornblower Cruises:** 722-1151.
August 15 — Nevermind.

**Humphry’s Backstage Music Club:** 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-224-3377
August 16 — Viva Santana
August 16 — West of S.
August 20 — The Robin Henkel Band
August 29 — Rockola.

**Humphry’s by the Bay:** 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-224-5577
August 14 — Joe Cockr
August 15 — Tower of Power
August 18 — The Gipsy Kings
August 19 — Street Winnod
August 20 — Hootie & the Blowfish
September 4 — Lucinda Williams
September 12 — The Alan Parsons Live Project
September 13 — Air Supply and Christopher Cross
September 16 — Lindsey Buckingham
September 21 — Mouf Soulchild
September 25 — Kenny G
September 28 — Era James & the Roots Band
October 2 — David Byrne
October 3 — America
October 5 — Cucalo & Kaponos
October 19 — Gordon Lightfoot.

**Island Sports and Spirits:** 101 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-3456
August 15 — Misty & the Mobys.

**JF’s Pub:** 10464 Clairmont Mesa Boulevard, Tieraasanta, 858-576-2509
August 29 — West of S.

**Janie’s Cocktails:** 606 E Street, Chula Vista
August 15, August 16 — LyDiaia.

**Java Jones:** 631 Ninth Avenue, Downtown
August 15 — Inigo Figuration and Ron Cretzer.

**The Jumping Turtle:** 160 Tulipe Road, San Marcos, 760-741-7778.
August 19 — Brave Citizens and One Hot Minute.
August 21 — Angelic Dimension, Trixie Jason Gare.

**Koehler Kraft Boat Yard:** 2002 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-222-9053
August 20 — The San Diego Concert Jazz Band.

**The Kraken:** 2531 South Highway 101, Cardiff, 760-436-6483
October 4 — The Farmers.

**Le Papagayo:** 6483 Highway 101, Cardiff, 760-436-9626.
August 15 — Critical Me.

**Lester’s Coffee House:** 334 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-282-5657
August 14 — Amy Kuene and Migs
August 15 — Courtney Bowden
August 17 — The Robin Henkel Band
August 27 — Nathan James and Robin Henkel.

**Mandeville Auditorium:** 9500 Gilman Drive, UCSD
August 24 — Indian Ocean.

**The Marquee:** 1130 Morena Blvd, San Diego, CA 92117
August 27 — John Fogerty.
August 28 — Poison.
September 13 — JACKfest II Undercover
September 17 — Kid Rock
September 21 — Ana Gabriel.

**Mcabee’s Beach Club:** 1145 South Tremont Street, Oceanside, 760-439-6646.
August 23, October 11 — Hootwood Max.

**Memorial Park Bowl:** 375 Park Way, Chula Vista.
August 17 — The Scott Martin Band.

**Moonlight Beach:** 200 B Street, Encinitas.
August 17 — The Laurie Morvan Band.

**O’Connell’s Pub and Nightclub:** 1130 Morena Boulevard, Linda Vista, 619-226-5637.
August 15 — Critical Me.
August 16 — One Inch Punch and the Empire State.

**O’Harley’s Sports Bar & Grill:** 1347 Community Road, Poway, 858-486-7422.
August 22 — Fifth Market, Pullman Standard, Aaron Bowen.
October 8 — The Bill Magee Blues Band
October 15 — The Nik Simon Band
October 16 — Shari Puerto and the Rhythm Addicts.
October 17 — Ronnie Lane & the Twisters.
October 18 — Nathan James & Ben Henderson.
October 19 — Rainer & the Midnight Pier.
October 20 — Blue Four.
October 21 — The Road Dogs.
October 22 — Aunt Kizzy’s Boys.
October 23 — Family Style.
October 24, October 25 — The Bayou Brothers.
October 26 — Blue Largo.
October 27 — Shubb White.
October 28 — The Bill Magee Blues Band.
October 29 — Missy Andersen.

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**Song:** “Wet Bird” (from the CD Sunken Cities)
**Headed By:** Richie Lauridsen, Golden Hill

**Artist:** Architect Sketch
**Song:** “Bulgarian Robbery” (from the CD Communication in Cases for Which No Other Form Is Applicable)
**Headed By:** Amanda Brinkman, Golden Hill

**Artist:** Charlie Imes
**Song:** “On an Island” (from the CD On an Island)
**Headed By:** Corey Wallace, San Francisco

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**Dancing with The Love Rangers**

**5$ COVER AFTER 9 PM THR. & SAT.**

**DRESS CODE ENFORCED AFTER 9 PM**

**NO HATS, JERSEYS & BAGGIES, OR CLOSETS, PLEASE**

**SUNDAY, AUG. 10**

**Chet Cannon & the Committee**

**Monday, Aug. 11**

**Taryn Donath & Mojo Rising**

**Tuesday, Aug. 12**

**Taryn Donath & Mojo Rising**

**Wednesday, Aug. 13**

**Delta Heat**

**428 F Street • Downtown • (619) 233-3077 • www.patrickskill.com**

**Saturday, Aug. 9**

**Alan Iglesias & Crossfire**

**A Loving Tribute to Stevie Ray Vaughan**

**708 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-222-5300**

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**Dancing with The Love Rangers**

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**$2.25**

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**LIVE MUSIC IN THE GASLAMP**

**NO COVER SUN-THURS.**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 7**

**Blue Four**

**“Chicago Blues Muz”**

**Friday, August 8**

**Michele Lundeen & Blues Streak**

**“The Dream of Steam”**

**Saturday, August 9**

**Alan Iglesias & Crossfire**

**A Loving Tribute to Stevie Ray Vaughan”**
August 31 — 145th Street Deluxe Blues Band.
Petco Park: 100 Park Boulevard, Downtown, 619-795-5000.
November 4 — Madonna.
Pounders: 125 West Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-739-1288.
September 13 — Hear No Evil.
Poway Center for the Performing Arts: 15498 Espola Road, Poway, 858-748-0505.
September 15 — Judy Collins and Leo Kottke.
Prescott Promenade: 211 1/2 East Main Street, El Cajon.
August 15 — Bill Magee.
August 22 — The Coolrays.
August 29 — The Variations.
September 5 — The Mar Dels.
Qualcomm Stadium: 9449 Friars Road, Mission Valley, 619-283-0460.
September 6 — Bob Dylan & His Band.
October 24 — Great White.
RT’s Longboard Grill: 1466 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-270-4130.
August 15 — Aaron Blith.
August 16 — Stepping Feet.
August 22 — Da Groove.
August 23 — 6one9.
August 30 — The Jones Revival.
San Diego Civic Theatre: 1100 Third Avenue, Downtown, 858-570-1100.
September 5 — The Cat-illacs.
October 24 — Great White.
RT’s Longboard Grill: 1466 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-270-4030.
August 16 — Stepping Feet.
August 22 — Da Groove.
August 23 — 6one9.
August 30 — The Jones Revival.
September 20 — Janet Jackson.
September 26 — Playhouse Disney Live!
October 5 — Panic at the Disco and Dashboard Confessional.
October 7 — Neil Diamond.
November 8 — Carrie Underwood.
December 1 — Celtic Thunder.
San Dieguito United Methodist Church: 170 Calle Magdalena, Encinitas.
August 30 — Caji and Salomé.
September 6 — Peggy Watson.
September 20 — Peter Sprague and Fred Benedetti.
September 27 — “Tribute to Woody Guthrie”.
Seaport Village: 849 West Harbor Drive, Downtown.
August 17 — The Cat-illacs.
August 24 — The Bayou Brothers.
August 31 — Nova.
September 7 — The Bayou Brothers.
September 14 — Barbara Jameson & Two Deep.
September 21 — The Cat-illacs.
September 28 — Nova.
Second Wind (Navajo): 8515 Navajo Road, Santee, 619-465-1730.
September 25, October 23 — LyDExia.
Sevilla: 555 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-5979.
August 26 — Charlie Chavez y Su Alma Truco.
August 27, September 3 — Walter II and Orquesta Rumbany.
September 7 — Angel Lebron y Su Sabor Latino.
September 10 — Charlie Chavez y Su Afro Teco.
September 16 — Walter II and Orquesta Rumbany.
August 15 — KillWhitneyDead and Cannifix.
August 16 — Knights of the Abyss and Burning the Masses.
August 17 — Heavy Heavy Low.
June 21 — A Dull Science, Hello Marquee, Let Live.
August 28 — Stick to Your Guns and Winds of Plague.
August 30 — The RX Bandits and Portugal the Man.
San Diego Reader August 7, 2008
Love and Roll Productions Benefit Concert Series present:

Great White

With very special guests:
• Sweet • Asia

Friday, October 24, 2008 at Qualcomm’s practice field
Benefit concert for the victims of the October wildfires. Sponsored by RB United Recovery Center.

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Spreading love through music.
Through the Eyes of the Dead.
September 5 — Play the Fox.
September 6 — Canobliss and Sicarus.
September 12 — The Rocket Summer and the Secret Handshake.
September 13 — Kate Voegele and Virginia Coalition.
September 19 — Rancid.
September 21 — August Burns Red, a Skylit Drive, Sky Eats Airplane.
November 2 — Maylene & the Sons of Disaster.
November 8 — Citizen Cope.
August 31 — Blu, Miki Vale, Pac-10.
Sycuan Casino Showcase Theatre: 5469 Casino Way, El Cajon.
September 4 — Foghat.
Tiki House: 1152 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-273-9734.
August 15 — Joey Harris & the Mentals.
August 16 — The Nards.
August 19 — Trent Hancock.
August 20 — Mick Overman.
August 23 — Pushin Rope.
August 26 — Trent Hancock.
August 29 — The Tornado Magnets.
August 30 — Meld.
Tio Leo’s Lounge: 5302 Napa Street, Linda Vista, 619-542-1462.
August 15 — Federal Funk.
August 16 — The Red Elvises.
October 25 — The Farmers.
V Lounge: 5000 Willows Road, Alpine, 619-445-5400.
August 26 — Sebastian Bach.
September 14 — Sister Hazel.
November 1 — K-Ci and JoJo.
November 7 — The Spinners.
Wave House: 3125 Mission Boulevard, Mission Beach.
August 21 — The Bohs.
September 6 — Unwritten Law.
September 26 — The Dark Star Orchestra.
October 18 — Bob Schneider.

Entertainment 7 Nights a Week • Call for Latest Lineup

Friday, August 8 • 7-10 pm
UFC Fight Night
Join us for fun & games! Call for details.

Saturday, August 16
Luke Food and drink specials! Call for details.

Karaoke Nights Every night
David Kelly’s All Star Entertainment
(Best Host 5 Years Running)
Over 35,000 songs on an awesome sound system.

Mondays
$2 Kamikazes Rock band till close

Tuesdays
Game Night, Nintendo, X-Box & board games
Game shot specials! Rock band till close

Wednesdays
Premium Beer $3.50/pint

Thursdays
Customer Appreciation
51.75 Pints & 96 Pitchers after 7 pm • FREE Pool at 7 pm.

Friday & Saturday Nights
DJ Dance Party 9 pm-1 am
Dance to your favorites – Over 65,000 songs
for your pleasure! Sat. – $3 Bloody Marys

Sundays
Free Pool All Day $3 Mimosas
“Your Friendly Neighborhood Bar”
1542 N. Coast Hwy.
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Happy Hour
4-7 pm daily
$2.75 Wells
$2.50 Beer-of-the-Month
4 Regulation Pool Tables
Shuffleboard • Darts
Monday Pool Tournament 8:30 pm

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LIVE MUSIC
NO COVER CHARGE

Thursday, August 7
Soul Plow
Happy Hour
Midnight to close

Friday, August 8
Kaptin Kirk

Saturday, August 9
Lizard Fish

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Wireless Internet & TVG
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Air conditioned for your comfort
www.secondwindbars.com

ATM & credit cards welcome.

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

Thursday, August 7
Going Blind
Friday & Saturday, August 8 & 9 • 9 pm

Classic Rock

6 One 9
Sunday, August 10
The Rattle Snake Aces
Ride The Sun

New
Every Monday
Karaoke
Tuesday, August 12
L.A. Productions presents
Blues Wailers
Wednesday, August 13
The Reverend Stickman
Exit Theory • Fuzz Huzzi

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

Thursday, August 7
Rhythm Red
Friday & Saturday, August 8 & 9 • 9 pm

Classic Rock

Serious Guise
Sunday, August 10
Process For Engine • Toreback

Wednesday, August 13
Damcyan • Kavena
Pool Tables • Dart Boards • Free Parking
Hot Spot & Lotto • Free WIFI Access
I made the mistake of trying to go to a party in the Hillcrest area during the Gay Pride Festival. Not that there's anything wrong with that...other than road closures and parking problems!

My girlfriend and I found our location and someone was leaving as we pulled up. When I saw a pedicab with two heavy-set women starting to roll backwards, I jumped out and helped push them up the hill.

A couple of guys whistled and hollered about how good my legs looked. The ladies in the pedicab laughed. I said, “I’m glad you’re enjoying the fact that I’m being treated like a piece of meat back here.”

When we walked up to the “Thanksgiving in July” party, we couldn’t believe the length of the table. It was probably 800 feet long.

My girlfriend felt guilty that we showed up without any food. The email invite said that they’d supply the main course and suggested that guests bring side dishes. I asked what I could bring, and they told me not to worry about it.

When we overheard a few people complaining that there was no apple pie, my girlfriend ran to the store to pick one up, along with a few two-liter sodas.

I asked Connor about the party permit. “It was easy to get. The only thing we couldn’t have was a dunk tank. We had to notify the fire department and agencies like that. We had to get signatures from the neighbors. It wasn’t permission from them, so that was weird.”

I looked around and wondered how the neighbors would get out of their driveways with tables in the street. And there was a blow-up “Moon Bounce” football nearby, and I asked them if I could borrow their ball.

I did a trick shot where I had the basketball in one hand and a football in the other. I put both into the basket, which ended our game. Sandy said, “You’re lucky I’ve been drinking all afternoon.”

I could smell cotton candy in the air. It reminded me of being at a fair. I found out that the hosts had rented a machine. Someone said, “It only cost $55. And $5 for the tubs of stuff to make it. Each carton makes 70 sticks.” As one woman made herself one, she said, “It’s not as good as I remembered.”

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I saw a guy in a blow-up sumo-wrestler costume and remembered overhearing a woman who had spotted him earlier that said to her friend, “I think some guy is wearing a big turkey outfit. It reminds me of him. He was wearing a big turkey outfit when Paul Simon wore one.”

The sumo wrestler had trouble negotiating the front gate, but when he finally made it out, he challenged someone to a wrestling match.

As he tried to climb into the Moon Bounce, he fell. The kids were smart and had scattered from the area. When he tried to climb in a second time, he fell over the side and landed on a bunch of balloons that popped. The crowd had a good laugh at him. On his third attempt, it was the Moon Bounce that popped.

As it was deflating, one guy explained how to re-inflate it. He used a lot of technical terms, and someone said, “You sure know a lot about Moon Bounce.” The guy replied, “Well, in college we had to. I just can’t remember where I put it. My cup needs a GPS device.”

I glanced over and saw that the guys throwing the football had gotten creative. One made a catch and dove into the Moon Bounce. When he threw it back, the other guy made his catch after jumping onto the table. I wondered if anyone would think it was gross that his foot was on the table.

A few partners were dressed as pilgrims, and there were others dressed as Indians. One Indian girl was shooting arrows at people. When she had trouble with her shot, a guy next to her said, “I can put an apple on my head. Maybe that will help.”

There was some dispute as to how Thanksgiving in July got started. This was the third year they’d done it, and it was their biggest, with more than 100 people. Connor and his band the Reees had been together since the eighth grade. He said, “I had the idea. We couldn’t really spend Thanksgiving together because some would go back to Virginia and another went back to Portland. A few went back East. We thought we’d just do it in July, when all of us were in town.”

More cotton candy was passed around. I commented that all the leaves on the ground reminded me of Thanksgiving, but the cotton candy reminded me of a carnival. Adam told me about a carnival in North Dakota. He was ten years old, and a guy working a ride was singing “Paradise City” but changing the words to “big titties.”

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Adam said, “I was only ten. I don’t think this guy realized, or even cared, that kids could hear him singing these lyrics.”

A few guys at the party had ridden their bikes to San Diego from North Carolina. It took them 45 days. Patrick said, “Well, we cheated a little bit. We took another bus part of the way. We did end up riding well over 20,000 miles.”

When we sat down to eat, the band played the national anthem and every-
When the Linery moved north and Sea Rocket took over its former quarters, I could barely contain myself. Seafood in North Park, less than ten minutes from home via my favorite scenic “Secret Freeway” (Presidio Drive, through Balboa Park!) And not just any seafood, but ultra-fresh seafood caught mainly locally — including sea urchin — served with equally virtuous local produce! Yes! They didn’t have to beg for my attention: Four weeks after the opening I was impatiently waiting the owners to ask: “Are you ready for prime time yet? If not yet, then when?”

They said they weren’t. They were still learning where to buy fish, whom to buy it from, how to cook it best. Another five weeks along, and their choreography still needs work, but the food is coming right along. When I heard that my implacable acquaintance, foodie princess Ariana (a (blonde version of Anton Ego of Ratatouille), was eating there regularly and raving about the cooking, I figured they were as ready as they needed to be.

Now, if you care deeply about service, decor, and comfort, hop off at least a half-star from the rating. But Sea Rocket offers some extremely fine dishes (particularly their sea urchin presentations), and it’s such a sincere, ethical, ecologically minded (and affordable!) restaurant, bringing a desirable local and unadorned — with sustainably raised or organic local produce, cooked with Mediterranean influences. About 18 mainly Southern California wines, all available by glass or bottle; 16 bottled craft beers, plus others on draft. $10 wine-corkage fee.

**Pick Hits:** Sea urchin in the shell, sea urchin bisque, grilled sardines, fluke, seared Baja scallops, any dish with Carlsbad mussels.

**Need to Know:** Half-price beers, wines, and grilled sardines at tables as well as bar during happy hour, 5:30-7:00 p.m. daily. Very noisy room. Two lacto-vegetarian entrées, two vegan salads. Many tables and chairs are bar-height, so reserve (and specify) to snag a normal-height table, if that matters. (Also, sea urchins and oysters not always available; call to check.) Small parking lot behind restaurant, access on Upas Street via narrow alley/drainway to the left of the fast-food parking lot.

Ratings reflect the reviewer’s reaction to food, ambience, and service, with price taken into consideration. Menu listings and prices are subject to change. Go to SanDiegoReader.com to find hundreds of past reviews.

North (Park) Sea

**Review**

NAOMI WISE

Sea Rocket Bistro

★★★½ (Good to Very Good)

3382 30th Street (Upas Street), North Park
619-235-7049, searocketbistro.com

**Hours:** Open daily from 5:30 p.m. “until everyone’s fed” (about 10:00 p.m. weeknights, 11:00ish on weekends).

**Prices:** Soups and salads, $4–$12; seafood starters, $9–$15; entrées, $14–$22; desserts, $7; locally baked bread, $1.00.

**Cuisine and Beverages:** Seafood — local and unadorned — with sustainably raised or organic local produce, cooked with Mediterranean influences. About 18 mainly Southern California wines, all available by glass or bottle; 16 bottled craft beers, plus others on draft. $10 wine-corkage fee.

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per the menu, is “a ratatouille-style mixture of seasonal vegetables.” Lynne loved it her first outing but was disappointed this time around with the vegetable mix, which wasn’t as exciting or perhaps not as adeptly cooked. Obviously, Sea Rocket is still having consistency problems. The fish was yellowtail (last time it was halibut). It wasn’t bad but was slightly overcooked.

By dessert “our” waiter had already asked if we wanted dessert — he explained that they had changed the dessert menu and were offering free dessert for the evening due to some dishes being slightly oversalted and overcooked.

It was halibut). It wasn’t bad but was slightly overcooked.

For me (unless they spring for some sound-baffles and carpeting — hey, starting today, everybody goes to Sea Rocket every week and drench them in money so they can redecorate!), but the food’s already universally interesting, and some dishes (e.g., the sea urchins and those divinely simple grilled sardines) are exceptional. Of course, I don’t mind a bit that the restaurant is openly devoted to the methods and mission of the slow-food movement. At the risk of seeming insufferably earnest: Global warming, soaring oil prices, salmonella from unsourced factory-farmed tomatoes and peppers — these are just a few scary signs of what a pleasure-middle-aged Argentinian chef Ben. Right again. The dough for the “molded” empanadas de carne (baked empanadas) is tougher and much less buttery than pie or tart crust, and here it was rolled out too thick. It’d be better, in a dessert, to use the very short and rather different dough for Chilean-style empanadas de tuna (fried empanadas, in which the dough separates itself into thin, buttery layers, like strudel or croissants). That could be a knockout, not a knockoff.

Basic question: Will I go to Sea Rocket, sustainable seafood, the planet, good for our bodies — and, wow! They taste great, too.

Rather than include a chef interview this week, let me suggest that you visit the restaurant’s website and click “blogs.” You’ll find videotapes of diving for urchins, fishing for bass, and hunting great white whales, along with vast amounts of information.

You’ll find videotapes of diving for urchins, fishing for bass, and hunting great white whales, along with vast amounts of information.

Voted one of San Diego’s best Japanese/Sushi Restaurants for the past 9 years.

Centfentis’ Restaurant
3836 La Mesa Boulevard • 619-461-4434
In the heart of downtown La Mesa

Snow Crab Every Night
All-you-can-eat buffet
seafood/sushi bar Hawaiian barbecue dim sum

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Snow Crab Every Night
All-you-can-eat buffet
Health Food On a Bun?

“The cows roam the prairieland, 10,000 acres. It makes a difference to the meat.”

Y

appeal. It’s okay to eat burgers again!”

This is our neighbor Lisa. She’s yelling it from the balcony of her apartment.

Us burger-lovingburgers, Carla and I, gather ’neath her balcony.


“Burgers fed on grass?” Carla asks.


I’m about to ask what da heck she’s talking about when Linda’s cell phone starts blasting out “Hello, Moto. Hello, Moto…” She gives a little “for you to find out” grin and disappears.

“First time,” she says. “I’m interested, and so’s Carla. “Why don’t you try it?” she says. “It could be our secret to a healthy life.”

So, at San Diego State I board my stretch limo — okay, the #11 bus — and jump off ten minutes later smack-dab in deepest Kensington.

Inside, it’s a different story — I have to join the line waiting to order. The place looks fresh, cool, like it was designed to feed Kensington’s understated middle-class carnivores. White walls, mostly, with orange stripes scootin’ round the place.

“Hello, Moto. Hello, Moto…” She gives a little “for you to find out” grin and disappears.

“Course, I should be studying the wall menu, not the walls, except it’s pretty simple, and if you’re here for burgers, there is only one choice. It’s the grilled Burger Lounge Burger, with “Tallgrass” grass-fed beef, plus the usual: bun, lettuce, tomato, raw or grilled onions, melted cheddar or American cheese, and a spot of “house-made” Thousand Island dressing. Costs $6.95.

That’s it, except for a turkey burger or a veggie “quinoa” burger (each $6.95) and “crispy chicken tenders on a stick,” with BBQ sauce. That’s $6.95, plus a couple of $7–$8 salads. But come on, who’s not here for the grass-fed beef?

I order my Lounge Burger from Jessica at the register. “Cheddar or American?” “Cheddar.” “Raw or grilled onions?” “Grilled.” “Anything on the side?”

“Okay. Oh, this is what all the “premium” burger places are doing now: making the fries a separate order. Good marketing ploy. “Twice-cooked” fries are $3, or a cardboard pot of half-and-half fries and onion rings is $5. Okay, $4.95. But they say one’s born every minute. So I’ll be a sucker. I order the half-and-half. Right now my burger’s costing $12. Gonna have to be good.

By the time Jessica has brought it all out, the place is bulging with people and the line’s out the door. All the sidewalk tables buzz with Friday-night fervor. Here inside, a guy and a gal sit down next to me. Matthew and Kristina. He’s a sound engineer, she’s an artist. He’s ordered onion rings ($3.95), she’s ordered the veggie burger and a Bundaberg ginger beer ($2.95). “I’ve been vegetarian,” he says. “But Kristina’s got me on to fish, to give me more energy. Except, no fish here, so I’ll stick to onion rings.”

Jessica brings my burger on a white, squarish china dish. Aha. Kind you’d see in a sushi joint. The burger patty is one big chunk, squarish, too. I chomp in. There isn’t any one distinct flavor — except good and meaty. Mostly, it’s juicy. Ooh. So juicy. Very sexy. The slippery grilled onions help, and so does the bun, baked from their own recipe, they say.

It tastes a little yeasty, of mollases. That’s good.

Tall guy named Sky — coincidence? — brings my tower of fries and onion rings. I have to ask, “Are these burgers really good for you?”

“Well, the meat all comes from the Red Buffalo Ranch in Kansas,” he says. “The cows are grass-fed, 10,000 acres. It makes a difference to the meat. It’s definitely much healthier. Lower in cholesterol, higher in vitamins, 25 percent higher in protein than the grain-fed cattle they raise in feedlots.”

“Ooh. So juicy. Very sexy. The slippery grilled onions help, and so does the bun, baked from their own recipe, they say. It tastes a little yeasty, of mollases. That’s good.

The Place: Burger Lounge, 4116 Adams Avenue, Kensington, 619-384-2929; also at 1101 Wall Street, La Jolla (858-456-0196), and soon (around August 11) at 925 Orange Avenue, Coronado (619-435-6835)

Type of Food: Burgers

Prices: Lounge Burger (with grass-fed beef, raw or grilled onions, melted cheddar or American cheese), $6.95; turkey burger, $6.95; veggie “quinoa” burger, $6.95; chicken tenders on stick, $6.95; Caesar salad, $6.95; vegetable salad with ricotta, $7.95; fries, $2.95; half-and-half fries and onion rings, $4.95

Hours: 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., daily

Bus: 11

Nearest Bus Stop: Adams at Kensington Drive (near Kensington Library)

If you’re here for burgers, there is only one menu, not the walls, except it’s pretty simple, lime-green and brown settees.
Half-price Sushi Rolls

SanDiegoReader.com. A complete searchable list is available online at SandiegoReader.com. Priced estimates are based on the latest information available for a midrange entry. Inexpensive: $10 or less. Moderate: $10 to $29. Expensive: $30 or more. Please call restaurants in advance for reservations.

BEACHES

Broken Yolk Cafe
1551 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-270-9655. Brekfasing P.B.ers love this place for three reasons: its sundeck, its 26 different four-egg omelets (which you can split with your partner, no extra charge), and the challenge of omelet #27. This dozen-egg Broken Yolk Cafe Special comes stuffed with armfuls of mushrooms, onion, cheese, chili, plus home fries and biscuits. If you can down it in an hour, pay nothing — you’ve got bonus. If you can’t, the yolk’s on you — $19.99. My advice: split a four-egger. Inexpensive. — E.B.

C-Level
880 Harbor Island Drive, Downtown, 619-298-6802. California-Mediterranean comfort food with a Southern Low Country accent from Chef Deborah Scott; same menu lunch and dinner. Also, the restaurant’s name also gives away its grade — the food’s Okay but not spectacular, although the gorgeous heated patio at the edge of the bay does plenty to outshine the pot. Your visiting aunt will oozion over the view and enjoy the food. Vast wine list with plenty by the glass, wide range of prices but some steep markups; good beer list. Full bar with creative cocktails. Ample free parking. No reservations except for large parties. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate to expensive. — E.B.

SipZ
9450 Scranton Road, Suite 114A, Sorrento Valley, 858-457-1103. Despite the Bully Burger, French Dip sandwich, and the challenge of omelet #27. This dozen-egg Broken Yolk Cafe Special comes stuffed with a mountain of mush-

Philadelphia cheese steak

$6.49

New customers only. One per person. Delivery available. So authentic that we’ve trucked in our meat from South Philly since 1984!

Alex’s Brown Bag
San Diego’s King of the Philly Cheese Steak
2850 Fifth Ave., Ste. 171 (between 4th & 5th on Maple)
619-231-2912 • alexsbrownbag.com

Ethiopian Sampler Plate For 2 Only $16.99
Includes free appetizer.

Enjoy 1 Entrée and 1 Vegetarian Item
With coupon. Expires 12/1/08.

Appetizer & entrée Special
Saturdays 5-7 pm

Habak Ethiopian Restaurant
2421 (110th Ave) Between 46th & 48th Sts.
(619) 575-4273

HAPPY HOUR

4-7 PM MON.-FRI.

Voted the best Mexican Food

25% off entire check

Open 11:30 am daily (excludes alcohol)

No take-out. Not valid with Happy Hour or any other discount. Valid for 2 to 4 people. One check, one coupon per table, every day. Offer expires 12/31/08.

3-course meal $14

100% Vegetarian

Enjoy healthy and fresh Thai, Vietnamese, Chinese, Italian and sushi entrées. All dishes are 100% vegetarian, most dishes and all desserts are vegan.

Burger Madness Thursdays
$4.95 1/2-lb. Burger & Fries
$2 off all pitchers

3-course meal $14

100% Vegetarian

Enjoy healthy and fresh Thai, Vietnamese, Chinese, Italian and sushi entrées. All dishes are 100% vegetarian, most dishes and all desserts are vegan.

Half-Price Appetizers
Tuesday-Sunday 5:30-7 pm

Agedashi Tofu
Fried tofu in soy bonito broth sauce

Baked Crab Agi-Zushi

Feast today, fast tomorrow. Dessert items include loquats, pineapple, peach, longan. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Grill, a Classic American Bar & Grill
6738 La Jolla Blvd., (858) 454-0369 • PARKING

Happy Hour 4 pm-close
Monday-Friday
For daily food & drink specials:
www.thelocalsandiego.com

Friday and Saturday
Never a Cover!

The Surfside

1065 Fourth Ave. (between Broadway and C St.)
619-231-4447
Kabuki Sushi Restaurant

Kabuki Sushi Restaurant is a vegetarian entrée, but vegetable sides plus a venturesome wine list with pachcho to swoon over. The chic interior, delivering tempting dishes to you via boat and chew? Open for lunch and dinner Tuesday to Saturday, dinner only Sunday; closed Monday. Inexpensive — E.R.

Mandarin Garden 1450 Midway Drive, Point Loma, 619-223-5581. The Crooked cooking at this cushiony, to eat in, take out, or have catered for your next party, is sound and tasty, as deliberately understated (just add salt and hot sauce to taste). You can also buy the real and rare ingredients from the frontier, deli case, and grocery shelves, including Cajun sauce (sambal udang), Swiss blanc rice sausages and crawfish sausage when it’s in season. Daily brunch through early dinner. No alcohol, everything available for takeout. Inexpensive — N.R.

Nicole Coulon Pastries 756-D Foyer Avenue, La Jolla, 619-468-5094. The daughter of Dan Coulon (retired chef-owner of the Belgian Lion restaurant) provides at this delightful little café/bakery. (Look for it behind the egret sandpiper that dots its front and mini-market.) Every ingredient is fresh and of top-quality. Cakes are light, moist, rich, and available in even “mini-ture,” plus you can choose tarts, chocolates, ice creams, and breakfast pastries. Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Modern — N.W.

BAJA

From the United States menu use the profit 51-12 when calling Mexico.

Big Boy Restaurant 9932 Agua Caliente Boulevard, Baja, 664-686-3780. Besides having excellent Mexican-American food, this Big Boy knock-off draws some of the most interesting people in Tijuana — journalists, lawyers, criminal politicians, ranchers, but Big Boy’s hearty hits. Day or night, Big Boy is loaded up. Getting food is no problem. Breakfast includes eggs, bacon, sausage, chicken or ham, plus hash brown or friends, toast, juice, and endless coffee. Nobody will object if you sit sipping the free refills till the moon comes up. But you won’t — you’ll crack and order more when you smell the popular, macho “royal” ham-burger, with two beef patties, smoked ham, onion, lettuce, tomatoes, fries, and salt. Or the chicken breast marinated in tequila with cilantro, guacamole, and beans. Vegetarian upon request. Open 24/7. Inexpensive — E.R.

El Faro de Mazatlán Boulevard Santa T_sha 99342, Playa F_mancura, Baja, 664-686-4882. We’re talking safe, reliable, middle-class fishery. The “Lighthouse of Mazatlán” is bright, blue, and white with smart varnish, teak furniture and delivers fish, lobster, oyster, squid, and shrimp dishes that are easy to like. Generous free appetizers include marlin ceviche, fried fish, and fish and albondigas soup. The increasing part is a pretty dining like the sssal smal meal. After a few closed-eye bites, it’s delicious — like eating a sliced clam. It’s great in a Carson. Look for original ways with oysters, perigu (swordfish) and others. One of the simplest, best dishes the caballero Mexican seafood, charbroiled but moist and re-ally without its butter sauce. Vegetarian upon request. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Modern — E.R.

CENTRAL

Antivedos 8464 Fourth Street, Hillcrest, 619-276-4455. Don’t look for tacos here — chef Eduardo Baeza specializes in 3-course meal; on the steak or little cow corner as in Mexico, some Antivedos is. The straight from Baja look of the crowded sidewalk deck and yellow-and-green awning helps. The menu is a big yet familiar regional potpourri. Reliable standard includes stekelet w/memi (veal in a brandy cream sauce with tomatoes), “trout and lychee” (pike e feno at pete), pale yellow-and-green pastas with thin beans and peas in a delicious rosso pesto sauce, or shellfish paella dishes like ligurian mediterranean, with clams, mussel, and golden-hued chilis. Part of the fun is bumping chairs. Think dining car on a narrow-gauge railroad — you’re that close to the next table. Lunch and dinner daily. Moderate. — E.R.

Blue Point 565 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-6662. In a handsome, plaza dining room, pristine seafood and Prime grade steaks and chops are featured in well-focus preparations highlighting Pacific Rim and Mediterranea flavors. A fine lobster bisque includes plenty of lobster, and cab-nutted tartar and durbach scallops are among the highlights of the menu. But at the conventions’ favorite, be sure to specify the denominates you prefer, especially for fish, which defaults to well-done. Valet parking mono, or inexpensive self-parking one block east at Park D. On Market. Large sidewalk dining patio. Business-casual dress looks best here. Reservations urged. Dinner nightly. — N.W.

Candelas 416 Third Avenue, Downtown, 619-702-4455. Don’t look for tacos here — chef Eduardo Baeza specializes in 3-course meal; on the steak or little cow corner as in Mexico, some Antivedos is. The straight from Baja look of the crowded sidewalk deck and yellow-and-green awning helps. The menu is a big yet familiar regional potpourri. Reliable standard includes stekelet w/memi (veal in a brandy cream sauce with tomatoes), “trout and lychee” (pike e feno at pete), pale yellow-and-green pastas with thin beans and peas in a delicious rosso pesto sauce, or shellfish paella dishes like ligurian mediterranean, with clams, mussel, and golden-hued chilis. Part of the fun is bumping chairs. Think dining car on a narrow-gauge railroad — you’re that close to the next table. Lunch and dinner daily. Moderate. — E.R.

50% Off Homemade Louisiana-style Entree! Gumbo, Po’ Boys, Jambalaya, BBQ Now serving sweet potato pecan pie! Buy one entree and two drinks and receive your second entree of equal or lesser value at 50% off. Must present ad for redemption. Expires 8/14/08.

Fix Me a Plate Café

Delicious Southern Style Cooking

Where the Locals bring their Amigos!

3332 Adams Ave., San Diego • 619-283-0355

Mission Beach: 3795 Mission Boulevard, North Park: 2801 University Avenue

858-488-4060 619-220-8992

www.CafeMilanoLaJolla.com
The Fish Market

Paletiave. Full bar. Lunch weekdays; Waller stylings and Ellingtonian riffs. Rant offers big plush booths, tall wine flights in four styles of wine, and a ranging beverage list include three-glass avoiders will find fish and poultry dishes, first meets its mate on the plate. Meat under the Cohn Restaurant Group aegis. Seafood is processed at the chain’s consistent among locations. All the raw Preparations are generally simple and mered, steamed, or panko-fried seafood, crowded, noisy, ever-multiplying restau-

There’s something fishy about these Drive, Downtown, 619-232-3474.

Dine-in only. 5-item minimum order per party. Selected items only.

EAST COAST FLAVOR!

ipswich clams straight from boston.

YOUR LATE NIGHT DINER

Open 24 HOURS - 7 DAYS A WEEK

Studio Diner

WEST COAST MEETS EAST COAST FLAVOR!

1025 Carlsbad Village Drive 760-730-0088

50% off sushi

Dine-in only. 5-item minimum order per party. Selected items only.

Mikko

Japanese Cuisine

Low cholesterol, low fat, no MSG

3836 La Mesa Boulevard • 619-461-4434

In the heart of downtown La Mesa

Voted “Best Desserts in East County”!

Free chocolate!

Buy 6 chocolate truffles, get 1 free. Expires 8/21/08.

All-you-can-eat

Japanese • Chinese • Seafood • Italian

$3 off dinner, $1 off lunch

(Dinner reg. $17.99, lunch reg. $7.99) Dine-in only. Not valid with any other offer or discount. One coupon per person. Expires 8/21/08. Clairmont location only. Over 150 dishes alternated daily!

VIP Oriental Buffet

5541 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. • 858-571-8473
(In Madison Square plaza just west of the 805)

Open Sun.-Thurs. 11 am-9 pm, Fri. & Sat. 11 am-9:30 pm

Free lunch or dinner

purchase one entre and two beverages and receive one entre of equal or lesser value free! Not valid with any other offer. Expires 8/21/08.

Dinner for two $17.95

Includes appetizer, salad and main course. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 8/21/08.

Mediterranean CAFE

Free lunch or dinner

Purchase one entre and two beverages and receive one entre of equal or lesser value free! Not valid with any other offer. Expires 8/21/08.

Twosomes Dinner Hour

Monday - Friday 5:00-7:00 pm

Buy any dinner entre and get a second entre of equal or lesser value discounted up to a max value of $12 with this coupon. 15% gratuity will be added to the total before discount. Not valid on any other specials or promotions. No tip-overs. Offer expires 8/21/08.

Studio Diner

4701 Ruffin Road • Kearny Mesa
858-715-6400 • www.studiodiner.com

San Diego Reader August 7, 2008 117
Ashoka the Great

118

Trang will remember you and everything Vietnamese fish sauce. We’re talking Bolsa on University Avenue, and every Vietnamese knows pho bo is Vietnam’s most popular quick meal, a beef rice noodle soup. At this location, Trang still makes excellent pho bo, but she has 122 other items as well, including fried catfish with ginger fish sauce, healthy (unfried) Vietnamese spring rolls, or egg rolls with mint and in which to swap them (sprinkled with rice, Vietnam, Vietnamese fish sauce). We’re talking family-style cooking. Come once and Trang will remember you and everything you ate — or even if you just passed by. — E.W.

Bolsa Vietnamese Restaurant
9225 Mesa Mesa Boulevard, #118, Mesa, 85218, 602-487-3663. The name ‘boba’ isn’t Vietnamese,” says Kim Trang. “It’s Spanish for ‘bag.’” She’s playing on size. Whatever you choose will carry you over great, generous breakfasts. Omelets aren’t Vietnamese,” says Kim Trang. “It’s Spanish for ‘bag.’” She’s playing on size. Whatever you choose will carry you over great, generous breakfasts. Omelets aren’t Vietnamese, but she has 122 different, centering on nu-

Every Sunday is pasta day, so that’s probably my favorite thing to make. I make my traditional pasta sauce with sausage. I start it in the morning because you gotta let it simmer all day. Usually it’s my wife and six-year-old daughter for dinner, and my in-laws from Mt. Helix come every other week. Nicky “Shoes” Cotrona used to always come for pasta when he was alive. He was originally from Calabria, Italy, and I knew everything I knew about pizza. A lot of the recipes at Bronx Pizza are his. He was a character and blue around back when really first-rate. Don’t overcook because it puffs up like a golden mini-super-dome. Cinnamon cinches it. The German Pancake — a foot-wide, batter-filled, five-egg paradise pelted with slices from two Granny Smith apples and baked till golden brown. — N.W.

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The daily-changing menu sports first-rate modern French cuisine (with a few German touches) by long-time chef Martin Woods. Order at will — everything’s flawless. The menu’s most exciting offerings, when crowds are sparser and the kitchen has time to stretch. The menu is delicious but ex-

American comfort level. If you don’t al-

Trang remembers you and everything you ate — or even if you just passed by. — E.W.

NORTH INLAND

What the Chef Eats

Homemade Pasta Sauce with Sausage

By Matt Gardner, Owner

Bronx Pizza, Hillcrest

Ingredients

Sauce

1/4 cup of olive oil

1 small onion

2-3 cloves garlic

1 small can of diced tomatoes

1 small can of tomato paste

1 tub of unsalted butter

1 tsp of salt

1 tsp of black pepper

1/4 tsp of nutmeg

1/4 tsp of oregano

1 1/2 cups of cooked sausage

Pasta

1 lb of fettuccine, pasta

The Weekly Panetta Plate

3996 Convoy Street, Kearney Mesa, 858-561-1740. It’s a good place for egg rolls, then come in here and order up an Ap-ple Pancake — a foot-wide, batter-filled, five-egg refrigerator pudding with slabs from two Granny Smith apples and baked till it pulls up like a golden mini-super-dome. Cinnamon cinches it. The Ger-

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What the Chef Eats

1 T oregano
1/2 cup Parmaesan cheese
Sausage (I usually get
my sausage from Pete’s)
Sausage or Mona Lisa (in
Little Italy.)

HOW TO DO IT
It’s really basic. You start
off in the morning and
put olive oil in a large skillet
over medium heat. Add
onions and garlic and if
you like, add some mush-
rooms and peppers. Then I
stir in two whole cans of
peeled pear tomatoes and
one small can of tomato
paste. Mix well. Add in the
wine, salt, pepper and
oregano. Then stir in the
Parmesan cheese until
melted. Really, you can
don’t add in whatever you
have in the fridge. Let it simmer
day long in a covered
pot or skillet.

To cook the
sausages, add them to a
large heavy skillet over
low high heat. Let cook
for 5-7 minutes on each
side before turning them,
or about 20 minutes total.
While sausages are cook-
ing, bring a large pot of
salted water to a boil and
add pasta. Cook pasta
directions to. Drain with
sausage. Top with sausage,
and serve.

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

SOUTH BAY

Lai Thai Restaurant
1430 East Plaza Boulevard
Huntington Beach
714-843-9492

Thai food that is one of the
most authentic and tradi-
tional in California.

Lai Thai serves up
specialties such as tom
yum, gaeng, and lemongrass.

This restaurant offers
an exquisite atmosphere
with a variety of dishes to
choose from.

DINE, DRINK & DANCE LIKE THE GREEK GODS
Live Lobster & Rack of Lamb
Dinner for Two $39.95

With the purchase of 3 drinks. Served with soup or salad, potato, fresh vegetables and pita bread. Valid every day. With ad. Expires 8/21/08.

LIVE GREEK MUSIC & DANCING WED.-SAT.

Five dollar daily
Dinner & concert special
Tuesday-Friday 11:30 am-5 pm.
Not valid with any other discounts.

1/2 off entree
Buy one entree at regular price and 2 drinks and receive second entree of equal or lesser value at 50% off. Expires 8/21/08.

Stop by anytime for a free stuffed potato ball
(Bring in coupon for redemption.)

Mike’s Country Kitchen
8125 Broadway - Lemon Grove • 619-589-9175

Tuesdays-Saturdays 5 pm-10 pm - Sundays 5-8 pm

Sweddey Thai
5001 C Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-8110
Tourists never to Swede’s quiet residen-
tial location is a block from the bright
lights of Orange Avenue. Their loss is the
locals’ gain. The dining room is a
quiet, lovely haven from the hustle;
the service is caring and gracious.

Even if the long list of Thai specialties
is merely standard, the kitchen, too, is
dedicated to the art of gently giving plea-
sure. The peanut sauce accompanying
the salad, for instance, is classically bal-
anced; the complex but soothing crut-
on-chicken soup can wash away all
care; and the calamari in the many
seafood dishes is clearly knife-scooped
for a couple of tender and good looks.

Good in the Jasmine rice is an
exceptionally fragrant brand. Unlike
familiar rice dishes, spiced rice
such as the house Lai Thai Fish
(usually delicious) in a delicately
crumbly sweet sauce. But you’ve got
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5001 C Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-8110
Tourists never to Swede’s quiet residen-
tial location is a block from the bright
lights of Orange Avenue. Their loss is the
locals’ gain. The dining room is a
quiet, lovely haven from the hustle;
the service is caring and gracious.

Even if the long list of Thai specialties
is merely standard, the kitchen, too, is
dedicated to the art of gently giving plea-
sure. The peanut sauce accompanying
the salad, for instance, is classically bal-
anced; the complex but soothing crut-
on-chicken soup can wash away all
care; and the calamari in the many
seafood dishes is clearly knife-scooped
for a couple of tender and good looks.

Good in the Jasmine rice is an
exceptionally fragrant brand. Unlike
familiar rice dishes, spiced rice
such as the house Lai Thai Fish
(usually delicious) in a delicately
crumbly sweet sauce. But you’ve got
leftovers from it. Lunch
deals are really cheap. Also check out
this column, go to
sdercom.com. You can print
to, email it to friends, and get
other recipes from different
local chefs.
“Best new wine bar!” — S.D. Magazine 2007
$10 off any bottle of wine Sunday-Wednesday
(Excludes retail.)

Vietnamese Beef Noodle Soup
• Crispy fried egg noodles with shrimp & vegetables
• Excellent spring rolls and egg rolls
• Stir-fried shrimp & vegetables
• Deep-fried wonton
• Fried rice with beef, chicken, shrimp or sole fillet
*Dine-in only. Not valid with any other offers, discounts or specials.
• Special rice noodle soup with beef
10% Off Entire Check
Cannot be used with 10% off entire check offer.

Alpine Inn 2225 Alpine Boulevard, Alpine, 619-445-5172. Beef lover’s heaven. Also, try the house special, the Texas burger, ground in-house and served on a Kaiser roll with steak fries. Dark interior with large booths. Very crowded for dinner on Sunday. Lunch and dinner (with inexpensive early-bird dinner) Monday through Saturday brunch and dinner Sunday. Moderate to expensive. — E.B.

Pho Lucky Vietnamese Beef Noodle Soup
770 Sycamore Ave., Ste. F
Vista, CA 92084
760-727-2738
Open 8 am-9 pm 7 days a week
Rated Outstanding Vietnamese Beef Noodle Soup in the North County Vista, CA 92083
760-727-2738

Calgon Reader.com
Calendar
RESTAURANTS
EAST COUNTY
Alpine Inn 2225 Alpine Boulevard, Alpine, 619-445-5172. Beef lover’s heaven. Also, try the house special, the Texas burger, ground in-house and served on a Kaiser roll with steak fries. Dark interior with large booths. Very crowded for dinner on Sunday. Lunch and dinner (with inexpensive early-bird dinner) Monday through Saturday brunch and dinner Sunday. Moderate to expensive. — E.B.

Downtown Cafe 182 E. Main Street, El Cajon, 619-448-5837. Surprising! Not far from Magnolia and Main, a French-style sidewalk cafe. The successful “Por Favor” eateries’ owner launched this as a kind of Mexican pa-trio restaurant, but serving gringo food. Daily, 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; summer until 9:30 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Elaine’s Coffee Shoppe 1212 South 3rd Street, Southeast San Diego, 619-264-6525. When Su Cha Yang took over Elaine’s a quarter century ago, the tune was tough part of town. No problem. Su had survived the Ko-wan and Vietnam before she came here. Now, with Southeast looking up, she is famous for her fan and her food. Most customers are regulars — judges, ministers, teachers among them — and they don’t want change. So Elaine’s remains a bright, genuine 1970-style breakfast all-day coffee shop. Breakfast: try the ham, bacon, mushroom & fritter omelet. Lunch: the pork chop sandwich, spaghetti with meatballs and garlic bread, or garlic shrimp with fried rice and egg, plus Chinese dishes including Kung Pao beef or chicken, Mongolian beef, and a good wonton soup with noodles. Cardroom open and non-Chinese food menu available 24 hours; Chinese menu noon to 4 a.m. Inexpensive. — E.B.

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All-You-Can-Eat Sushi Bar $23.95 per person
With this ad, Expires 8/31/08, Up to 5 persons. Reg. $25.95.

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

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

Night Special: Albacore, Amaebi Avocado, Clam, Crab, Calamari, Soft Shell Crab, Tempura, Shrimp, Vegetable, Yummy, Firecracker, Seafood Dynamite, Shrimp

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

Thursday’s... David de Alva
Flamenco Fusion at its best by this world renowned artist!

Food, Wine, Music & Culture direct from Spain!
Open Daily 11:00am / Banquet Facility / Catering Service
1653 Garret Avenue, Pacific Beach, • (858) 273.1218

Gospel Brunch
Sister Nun of the Above
Every Sunday • Call for seating days & reservations.
Wake Up and Make Some Joyful Noise With The Sisters of Sequoia

All-You-Can-Eat Sushi Bar $23.95 per person
With this ad, Expires 8/31/08, Up to 5 persons. Reg. $25.95.

Lunch Daily 11:30 am-2 pm
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Thursdays... David de Alva
Flamenco Fusion at its best by this world renowned artist!

Food, Wine, Music & Culture direct from Spain!
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1653 Garret Avenue, Pacific Beach, • (858) 273.1218
American Teen — Nanette Burstein’s documentary on the daily lives of Indiana high-school seniors.

Baghead — Four struggling actors, plus an unsteady camera, repeat to a remote Big Bear cabin for a weekend, to write themselves a film much like the one we’re watching: a shooting relationship thing that develops into a thriller thing. For the four actors (Brosnahanridge, Stieve Zises, Greta Gerwig, Elise Muller) and for the whistlingly writing and directing team of Jay and Mark Duplass, it serves the purpose of an audition tape. The paying customer, unable to give them a job, is apt to feel he has given more than enough. 2008.

The Bank Job — “Based on a true story,” or anyway on a true bank job, the knockover of Lloyds Bank, Baker Street, London, 1971. The filmmakers, headed by the veteran Australian-born director Roger Donaldson and screenwriters Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais, have taken advantage of the cloak of mystery that still surrounds the case, to concoct a salacious hypothesis that can’t be disproved, other than by common sense. The British Secret Service, by this time, to carry the banner and the burden of the plot. “Some men,” Batman’s father Nolan’s restyling of the DC Comics superhero earns no points as a trailblazer. It was itself, as well as Cesar Romero in the Glaringly light TV series from the Sixties — it’s self-refuting. The notion that MI5, from a safe distance, and through ham radio that chances to pick up the back-and-forth between the robbers in mid-job. A refreshingly change, all that, from the computer-age hocus-pocus of technology: a simple Power stuff, and most particularly the rolled-back level of technology: a simple jackhammer, a concrete-penetrating blowtorch, some walkie-talkies, and an amateur ham radio that chances to pick up the back-and-forth between the robbers in mid-job. And the Seventies period has its pleasures, not just the usual haircuts, bellbottoms, plaid, etc., but all that forgotten Black Power stuff, and most particularly the rolled-back level of technology: a simple jackhammer, a concrete-penetrating blowtorch, some walkie-talkies, and an amateur ham radio that chances to pick up the back-and-forth between the robbers in mid-job. A refreshing change, all that, from the computer-age hocus-pocus of technology: a simple jackhammer, a concrete-penetrating blowtorch, some walkie-talkies, and an amateur ham radio that chances to pick up the back-and-forth between the robbers in mid-job.

Brideshead Revisited — The Evelyn Waugh novel revisited, at roughly a fourth the length of the early-Eighties TV miniseries. Matthew Goode, as the self-professed atheist artist Charles Ryder, musters his way through the pages of a radical rewrite (particularly the gay abandon): first year at Oxford, the tormented Catholics of Brideshead manor, Venice, Marrakesh, and so on. A white-haired Emma Thompson as the tyrannical Catholic matriarch supplies brief relief from the tedious. With Ben Wishaw, Hayley Atwell, and Michael Gambon, directed by Julian Jarrold. 2008.

Bustin’ Down the Door — Historical documentary on surfing in the Seventies, narrated by Edward Norton, directed by Jeremy Goush. (Flower Hill 4, from 8/8; Hillcrest Cinemas, through 8/7; La Paloma: Oceanside 16)

The Dark Knight — Fashionably “dark” comic-book movie, the first one to think of putting the darkness right up in the title — a synonym, that, for “the bat man,” as he is frequently and unfamiliarly referred to, or simply Batman to you and me. Aside from the title, the second installment in Christopher Nolan’s reviving of the DC Comics superhero earns no points as a trailblazer. It would earn none even were it the first installment, although we must acknowledge that this trend-followers sets itself apart as an exceedingly oppressive, grinding, grueling, torturous experience. (The relentless, rumbling, theater-rattling background music alone could be a health hazard to anyone with mild depressive tendencies.) It requires the stock figure of the Joker — banish all memories of Jack Nicholson in Tim Burton’s 1989 edition, “dark” though it was itself, as well as Cesar Romero in the glaringly light TV series from the Sixties — to carry the banner and the burden of the post-9/11 terrorist. “Some men,” Batman’s manservant succinctly sums up the em-
Hollywood: The Golden Army — A black mark on the record of director Guillermo del Toro, whose record, which started out so clean with Cronos in his na-
tive Mexico and Mimic in the Hollywood system, looks now a bit ink-stained:
Blade II, the first and second Hellboy, and nothing else that comes close to those first two. If the panezenged Pan’s Labyrinth (immediately preceding) was itself only
clogged in its visuals, his present produc-
tion has a lot more money, more graphic
design, more CGI, more costumes, more
makeup, etc., with which to be clogged. To
try, amid the congestion, to pick out evi-
dence of his personal obsessions with sub-
terranean realms and creepy-crawly life
forms has become a joke, though not a fruitless, exercise. The pivotal scene in
the movie, irksomely jokey already, is without
doubt the drunken duel between the titular
unburned hero and his aquamarine aide-
drive, Abe, a lycanthropic sing-along to Barry
Mandow’s “Can’t Smile without You.”
(The red man is having troubles with his
combustible new bride — “I would give my
life for her, but she also wants me to do the
dishes” — and the blue man has a crush on
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et al. With a plot that links Roswell, New Mexico, to the Erich von Däniken theory of Earth, Spielberg keeps pace in that race as well. To say so is no great compliment. Cats Blanchett, Shia LaBeouf, Karen Allen, Ray Winstone, John Hurt, Jim Broadbent. 2008.● (HORTON PLAZA 14)

Iron Man — Marvel Comics superhero (vintage 1963) rezoned through present-day Afghanistan. Weapons manufacturer Tony Stark, alias “The Merchant of Death,” learns first-hand that his products sometimes land in the laps of America’s enemies, and to combat this he devises a personal suit of flying armor (a gold titanium alloy, actually, not iron), transforming himself into a sort of airborne Robocop to police the world. The current-events tie-in is fairly tasteless, given the conventional jokiness of the Portly Panda compete? (As the Tiger Warrior, inheritor of the Secret of Limitless Power, himself so anointed, in effect hitting the kung-fu lottery. With that, the filmmakers set about to purvey a dearly and wildly held fantasy: the idea that the neophyte in any field, but especially the martial-arts field, can quickly close ground on the masters by means of a remedial crash course. No matter how low your opinion of kung fu or its film genre, you would be justified in finding this insulting, to both the specified martial art and your intelligence. And animation, despite its easy defiance of physical laws, does not much soften the insult. If the Furious Five — Tiger, Crane, Mantis, Monkey, and Viper — are together no match for the rogue snow leopard, Tai Lung, how can the Portly Panda compete? (As the Tiger rightly tells him, “If you have any respect for the Portly Panda, you would be justified in finding this insulting, to both the specified martial art and your intelligence.”)

A Jihad for Love — Documentary on homosexuality in the Muslim world, written and directed by Parvez Sharma. (7/25, 8/8 through 14)

Journey to the Center of the Earth — The Jules Verne novel serves as a factual guidebook for a week of uncle-nephew bonding. The 3D effects can be a bit crude (twice we get spat in the face, once drooled in the face), and it takes a while to reach the fun stuff (the flying fish, the flesh-eating plants, the floating rocks, the lone dino), but at least the fun stuff is fun. With Brendan Fraser, Josh Hutcherson, and Anita Briem; directed by Eric Brevig. 2008.● (HORTON PLAZA 14)

Kung Fu Panda — Plump computer cartoon about a stubby panda (voice of Jack Black, reliably typecasting), an obvious aficionado of the martial arts, dissatisfied with his lowborn “place” in the family noodle business. Wanting nothing more than to witness the annointment of the new Dragon Warrior, heir to the Secret of Limitless Power, he manages by dumb luck to get himself so anointed, in effect hitting the kung-fu lottery. With that, the filmmakers set about to purvey a dearly and wildly held fantasy: the idea that the neophyte in any field, but especially the martial-arts field, can quickly close ground on the masters by means of a remedial crash course. No matter how low your opinion of kung fu or its film genre, you would be justified in finding this insulting, to both the specified martial art and your intelligence. And animation, despite its easy defiance of physical laws, does not much soften the insult. If the Furious Five — Tiger, Crane, Mantis, Monkey, and Viper — are together no match for the rogue snow leopard, Tai Lung, how can the Portly Panda compete? (As the Tiger rightly tells him, “If you have any respect for the Portly Panda, you would be justified in finding this insulting, to both the specified martial art and your intelligence.”)

Jim Carrey, Stanley Tucci, Jane Krakowski, and Wallace Shawn; directed by Eric Brevig. 2008.● (HORTON PLAZA 14)

Kit Kittredge: An American Girl — Social consciousness for kids, an orgy of benevolence, generosity, trust, fellowship, and so on, among the needy in Depression-era Cincinnati, with a few not-very-nice party poopers thrown in as object lessons. The lachrymose Abigail Breiden, in the title role of a ten-year-old cub reporter, has plenty of opportunity to promote herself as the poster Meryl Streep. With Julia Ormond, Chris O’Donnell, Max Thieriot, Glenn Close, Stanley Tucci, Jane Krakowski, and Wallace Shawn. Directed by Patricia Rozema. 2008.● (HORTON PLAZA 14)
Caterina in the Big City

In its first year, SIFF showed a remarkable range of films. For those who want to expand on their Italian-film list, I would definitely recommend: Silvio Soldini’s Bread and Tulips.

For a Few Dollars More

Clara Rossini and a single mom. Written and directed by David Gordon Green.

The Step Brothers

— As if this “franchise” were not already junked up (and joked up) enough, with the result of making it not at all funny. "Wanted: A man with no Name Trilogy” with the Good, the Bad and the Ugly. Whatever he later might have been guilty of, there are the extenuating circumstances: the poisoning of his father, the abduction of his wife, his sale into slavery, etc., not to forget the burdensome birthright of all Mongols. It makes for a tedious case, sometimes enlivened by countryside and nice riding across it, but never much by the splashily blooded. With Tadanobu Asano, Khulan Chuluun, Hormuz, Catt and Adam Mammadov; directed by Sergei Bodrov, 2007.

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2

— The story of an unlikely couple: a lonely driver and a single mom. Written and directed by David Gordon Green.

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor

— The big-screen re-
Bargain showtimes are in parentheses.

**CENTRAL**

**CLAIREMONT**

Town Square 14  
4063 Clairemont Drive (858-772-1234)

**The Dark Knight** (PG-13); **Mama Mia!** (PG-13); **Pineapple Express** (R); **The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2** (PG-13); **Space Chimps** (G); **Swing Vote** (PG-13); WALL-E (PG-13)

DOWNTOWN

Gaslamp 15  
707 Fourth Avenue (619-220-0400)

**Bustin’ Down the Door** (Not Rated); **Hancock** (PG-13); **Hellboy II: The Golden Army** (PG-13); **Kit Kittredge: An American Girl** (G); **The Last Mistress** (Not Rated); **Mongol** (R); The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (PG-13); The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2 (PG-13); **Space Chimps** (G); **The X-Files: I Want to Believe** (PG-13)

Horton Plaza 14  
Horton Plaza (619-444-3324)

**La Jolla**

La Jolla 12  
8637 La Jolla 38th Street (858-226-2262)

**The Dark Knight** (PG-13); **Get Smart** (PG); **Hancock** (PG-13); **Mama Mia!** (PG-13); **The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor** (PG-13); The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2 (PG-13); **Space Chimps** (G); **Swing Vote** (PG-13); The X-Files: I Want to Believe (PG-13)

Mission Valley 20  
7057 Frear Road (858-226-2262)

**American Teen** (PG-13); **Freaky Friday** (PG-13); **Hellboy II: The Golden Army** (PG-13); **Hancock** (PG-13); **Kit Kittredge: An American Girl** (G); **The Last Mistress** (Not Rated); **Mongol** (R); The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (PG-13); The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2 (PG-13); **Space Chimps** (G); **The X-Files: I Want to Believe** (PG-13)

**LA JOLLA**

La Jolla 12  
8637 La Jolla 38th Street (858-226-2262)

**The Dark Knight** (PG-13); **Get Smart** (PG); **Hancock** (PG-13); **Mama Mia!** (PG-13); **The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor** (PG-13); The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2 (PG-13); **Space Chimps** (G); **Swing Vote** (PG-13); The X-Files: I Want to Believe (PG-13)

**LA JOLLA Village**

La Jolla Village  
4039 Village Drive (619-220-0400)

**Brideshead Revisited** (PG-13)

**Mission Valley Fashion Valley 18**

7057 Frear Road (858-226-2262)

**American Teen** (PG-13); **Freaky Friday** (PG-13); **Hellboy II: The Golden Army** (PG-13); **Hancock** (PG-13); **Kit Kittredge: An American Girl** (G); **The Last Mistress** (Not Rated); **Mongol** (R); The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (PG-13); The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2 (PG-13); **Space Chimps** (G); **The X-Files: I Want to Believe** (PG-13)

**STATE UNIVERSITY**

Ken  
4961 Adams Avenue (619-891-0266)

**A Jihad for Love** (Not Rated)

**UPTOWN**

Hillcrest Cinemas  
2905 Foothill Avenue (858-226-3467)

**Bride Wars** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00; **Hill Ride** (PG) Fri. 2:10, 4:15, 7:40, 9:45 Sat.-Sun. 1:15, 4:15, 7:45, 9:45; **Man on Wire** (PG) Fri. 2:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:00; **Step Brothers** (PG) Fri.-Sun. 1:15, 4:15, 6:40, 9:15; **The Wackness** (PG) Fri.-Sun. 1:15, 4:15, 6:40, 9:15; **The X-Files: I Want to Believe** (PG-13)

**Mission Valley 7**

14891 Mission Center Drive (619-220-0400)

**Mission Valley**

Mission Valley 7  
14891 Mission Center Drive (619-220-0400)

**Pineapple Express** (R); **The Dark Knight** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 10:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00; **The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 10:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00; **Step Brothers** (PG) Fri.-Sun. 1:15, 4:15, 6:40, 9:15; **The Wackness** (PG) Fri.-Sun. 1:15, 4:15, 6:40, 9:15

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Bargain showtimes are in parentheses.

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The darkroom protagonist of the Margaret Lawrence novel, reviewing her life at the end, endows many authentic notes but finds no one one to one among her to one with. And the dominating flashbacks of the first half, substituting Christine Horne as her younger self (well matched physically), shut her out altogether. With Dylan Baker, Sheila McCarthy, Cole Hauser, Kevin Zegers, and Ellen Page, written and directed by Kari Skogland. 2008.  

**LA JOLLA VILLAGE**

**Swing Vote** — Neo-Capra political fable (the cousins are a large part of the “team”) about a Regular Joe in Texico, New Mexico, who, through a Byzantine conspiracy of events, holds the single decisive vote in the Presidential election, subjecting him to round-the-clock media scrutiny and personalized campaigns from both parties. The shifty-eyes of the candidates seems fair enough (even if the balance of coverage fa-
East County

EL CAJON

Parkway Plaza 18
401 Parkway Plaza (619-401-4366)
The Dark Knight (PG-13) Fri. (11:00, 12:00, 12:40, 2:10, 4:30, 6:30, 7:40, 9:00, 10:20), 10:50; 10:55 Sat.-Sun. (11:20, 12:40, 2:10, 4:30, 6:30, 7:40, 9:00, 10:20), 10:50; 10:55 Fri. (11:00, 12:00, 12:40, 2:10, 4:30, 6:30, 7:40, 9:00, 10:20), 10:50; 10:55 Sat.-Sun. (11:20, 12:40, 2:10, 4:30, 6:30, 7:40, 9:00, 10:20), 10:50; 10:55

Santee Drive In
10900 Worldwide Drive (619-448-7447)
The Dark Knight (PG-13) Fri.-Sun., 10:10, 11:10; 10:20; 4:00) 7:25, 10:20 Sat.-Sun. (11:45) 4:00, 7:25, 10:20; 4:00) 7:25, 10:20; 4:00) 7:25, 10:20; 4:00) 7:25, 10:20; 4:00) 7:25, 10:20

WALL·E

South Bay

CHULA VISTA

Chula Vista
Broadway between H and I (619-382-4214)

Pineapple Express (R) (Fri.-Sun.) 10:00, 12:50

Pineapple Express (R) (Fri.) 10:00, 12:50

The X-Files: I Want to Believe — Six years after the termination of the TV series (ten years after the mid-run movie), we find that Mulder the Believer and Scully the Skeptic have cut all ties to the FBI. Now the case that drove them back into the fold is not all that far out of this world after all, not all that far out of the workday police procedural: an abseilded female agent...
FBI agent and a pedophile defrocked priest who might or might not be psychic. The scope of the crime grows exponentially when another woman goes missing and the psychic uncovers a major cache of body parts preserved in ice, and the trail ultimately leads to some macabre mad-scientist experiments well worthy of allusion to Dr. Frankenstein. Yet we’re still in a long way short of manifestations of extraterrestrial life or supernatural entities. And that’s a relief. This modest entertainment, under the authoritative direction of series creator Chris Carter, has plenty of speed and stamina; it has palpable suspense; it has honest shocks; and it has a unifying and a resonating theme of perseverance: Mulder in his lifelong pursuit of the Truth that, in a watchword of the series, is Out There (way, way out there). Scully in her quotidien treatment of a terminally ill child, the ex-priest in his quest for redemption, and even the villains in the lengths to which they’re prepared to go in their self-serving villainy. (New watchword: Don’t Give Up.) Though you might almost wish that the movie had wiped the date clean and started over with baggage-free characters, the passing years have added an attractive weariness, a romantic Weltschmerz, to the two lead actors, especially to Gillian Anderson (“I’m done chasing monsters in the dark”—done, too, covering up the beauty spot below her left nostril), who was always the more attractive to begin with. But even the supercool David Duchovny — an odd temperature for an ardently beloved — appears to have gained a deeper layer of awareness, or else dropped an outer layer of vanity. Their mutual mis-
**Puttin’ on the Blitz**

“If a risky play only runs four nights, by the time anybody hates it, it’s gone.”

Every show starts with a stack of papers,” says Duane Daniels, founder of the Fritz Theatre, “words on a page, from the script to production demands, and they’re just the tip of one humongous iceberg” — including, for the producers of the Fritz Blitz Festival of New Plays, cell phones always ringing and, they estimate, thousands of emails.

EMAIL TO THEATER COMMUNITY 7/15: “This is Duane Daniels: You’re receiving this email because you have helped the Fritz in the past. THANK YOU. Can you please help us find: B-10 flats (4 x 8, or any other size you have); 3 door units (with doors preferably); living room furniture (couch, chairs, reasonably good shape).”

For 15 years, Daniels and his company have staged the largest new-play festival on the West Coast. They accept submissions from all over California (over 1500 since its inception) and mount 10 to 12 each year: that’s 2 or 3 plays a week for four weeks — new ones, uncharted territory. Unlike other festivals, this summer’s showcases “the Best of the Blitz,” popular shows from years past, including Steven A. Lyons’ Peach En Regalia, Karin Williams — the Fritz triumvirate in the festival’s “Intimate” to bring it forward.”

The idea was for a fundraiser, but the immediacy of new work also grabbed them: a festival of what’s coming out of California’s word processors right now.” The first year they received 50 submissions and staged 11 scripts. Ginger Harris, who designed lights during the Blitz’s early years and often since, realized at once that the project was crucial: “These writers had nowhere else to submit work, or no theater with the, let’s say, ‘imagination’ to bring it forward.”

The quality of plays and productions, Daniels admits, hasn’t always been there, especially at first. “We’ve had our hits and misses. I tell the company, ‘You don’t know great theater until you see bad theater.’” But over the years, as the Blitz became known, more viable playwrights, with bad theater.’” But over the years, as the Blitz became known, more viable playwrights, with “what’s coming out of California’s word processors right now.”

Kristen Lazarian’s Push was so experimental that no one would touch it. The two-actor has 18 scenes. Act One presents the first halves of 9 scenes. Act Two gives the second halves of the 9 scenes in the same order: 1A in Act One, 1B in Two. The Blitz staged the piece in 2006. Theatre 40 in Beverly Hills will mount Push this September.

EMAIL 7/18: “The budget’s an intangible. If we have money, we spend it. If we don’t, we don’t.”

The Fritz found staging shows with short runs to be liberating. “We could take huge risks,” says Daniels, “the kind you couldn’t if you ran four to six weeks. If a risky one only runs four nights, by the time anybody hates it, it’s gone.” They also found they could use theatrical styles other than their own. “We don’t do Come Blow Your Horn, but we haven’t gone WAY out there either. Karl Gajdusek’s Dr. F’s in the Terminal Winsfits the second category. Matthew Wilder, an always-inventive director, gave this sensual drama about Frankenstein an elongated physicality, bloody effects, and nudity. “It probably wouldn’t have sold during a long run,” says Daniels, “but for four performances it was a brief smash hit.”

EMAIL 7/17: “I would like to get a master cast list started…. Also, we have postcards [for advertising]; if it’s great if you could pass your cast members a stack and ask them to please distribute them wherever.”

The Blitz has been a springboard for more than that, since the dates got moved up a month at the last minute. Originally scheduled to be August 28, the festival opened July 31 — and may be the last Blitz ever.

EMAIL 7/3: “Each Tuesday for four weeks at 10am we move our shows into the building; putting up flats and spiking. Around noon, electricians hang and focus lights. Set work continues, but it’s darker. We’ve had our hits and misses. I tell the company, ‘You don’t know great theater until you see bad theater.’”

EMAIL 7/17: “I would like to get a master cast list started…. Also, we have postcards [for advertising]; if it’s great if you could pass your cast members a stack and ask them to please distribute them wherever.”

The Blitz has been a launching pad for actors as well as plays. Peter J. Smith, who appeared in several festivals, had a regular role on the TV series West Wing. And Daniels has become, he says with a wry grin, “a celebrity guy.” Along with performing over 2000 times in Triple Espresso at the Hahn, he had an ongoing role as Mr. Clemmons, principal of the high school in Veronica Mars. Last week, he took time out from myriad Blitz duties to meet his fans at Comic-Con. “I got my first fan letter when I was 45,” says the 48-year-old. “If it takes 45 to get my next? That’s not doing too well.” Actually he receives many, and from around the world.

EMAIL TO A VOLUNTEER 6/21: “You’ll work with us on crew for week one: rehearsals 6-10 (later if you’re avail). Did I mention this is a volunteer position? Don’t worry, they all are!”

Between 2003 and 2006, the Blitz had a guardian angel. The late Craig A. Mueller, a retired airline pilot, bought 500 tickets for students to see the festival. His annual donation helped the Fritz break even. Mueller died last September. Without his contribution, the festival cannot continue.

Advertisements announce that this year’s will “absolutely, probably” be the last Fritz Blitz.

“It’s most likely quitting’ time,” says Daniels, “for several reasons. In a way, we’ve moved on. Bryan [Bevell]’s gone. Candis [Paule, casting director] has a busy career and growing family. And I live in L.A. But if it were financially feasible, are you kidding? We’d love to continue.”

Daniels is — and is not — resigned to ending the festival. Keeping busy, he confessed, hasn’t blocked an impending sense of loss, the size of which he can’t yet fathom.

“It’s a tragedy,” says Ginger Harris. “I can’t imagine that the most important new-works festival around could just die! Duane gave so many of their first chance, especially young people who can
Well — thing shows every August since Producing a hundred and some- been with us a good long while. "What would you do for some- going to stage urgent work like develop! But if the Blitz dies, who's AND places for new plays to de- the woman — Helena in for her. But what if the golden slip- comedies begin with an arranged most of Shakespeare's romantic All's Well That Ends Well 

**THEATER LISTINGS**

Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith. Information is accurate according to material given us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last-minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.

**Alice: A Wonder-Full New Musical**

New rock musical, by Lamb's Players regular Jon Lorenz, based on Lewis Carroll's classic, "filled with exhilarating dances, infectious tunes, and startling imagery." 619-588-7"A very good play with a lot to say about the inspiration of the artist."

**Altar Boyz**

The Altar Boyz is a musical comedy spoof about a fictitious Christian boy-band on his last night of their national ‘Raise the Praise’ tour. Nick De-Giaccio directed.

**All’s Well That Ends Well**

Most of Shakespeare’s romantic comedies begin with an arranged marriage: the female’s father chooses her. But what if the golden slipper were on the other foot? What if the woman — Helena in All’s Well — were free to name her mate with the King’s blessing? And what if she intended — rich young Bertram — flat refuses enforced wedding and would rather go to war than marry beneath his station? In effect, Shakespeare takes a social given of the time and dumps it on its ear. Helena persists; Bertram flees (and becomes a lying womanizer); then she really persist. At the Old Globe, director Darko Tresnjak rela- the play in Victorian times, which allows Linda Chao to dress the cast in cold, formal charcoals, the soldiers in bright red and black. Tresnjak counters the stiff-upper-lip surface with buoyant touches, includ- ing a frontal view of Michalangelo’s Captured statue. David uspie (and upstaging all below). As Bertram and Helena, Graham Hamilton and Kimberly Parker Geene are adequate. The fun’s in the secondary roles: Jim Winker’s Puck ("wrapped in damsel thinking"). Kandis Chappell, Charles Jaume, and music-voiced Celeste Caila. Bruce Turk is special as Parolles who, like Helena, be- comes a threat to the male-domi- nated social order. Over the years, audiences and critics have had a “problem” with the play. But I never have. It’s perplexities are much more likelier than most of the happy-en- ders (how many weddings have you attended where people whimper, “Give it six months” and are being optimistic?). All may be well that ends well, but at the end of All’s Well, Helena and Bertram have only just begun.

**Boomers**

Lamb’s Players Theatre represents one of its most popular shows. In this salute to the Baby Boom generation, when a guy sings a snippet from “Big Girl Don’t Cry” a woman comments with “It’s My Party and I’ll Cry If I Want To.” as if Leslie Gore wrote the song in response to the Four Sea- sons. Now it’s in its fourth — fifth — version, Boomers has grown a great deal since it premiered in 1993. It’s added social dimensions (the origi- nal was mostly about middle-class white), more period details, and a much better understanding of one’s later years (gained from experience. Authors Kerry Madsen and Vanda Eggenor are now 15 years older). Ostensibly the piece is a lecture about the generation from 1946 to 1964. A deliberately, sometimes an- noyingly, crotchety Jim Chovik re- calls major events and provides statistics, from JFK to Kent State (but leaves out Jackass State!), from hip- pies to yuppies, marriage to divorce, and beyond. Themes from TV com- mercials and shows zip past, medleys of parts of songs cluster around a theme (Vietnam, relationships), and the evening unfolds like a game of name that tune” in fast-forward. Boomers in the audience gym “oh’s” of recognition when a musical-frug- ment triggers memories. One could wish that, at least once or twice, the company would do a whole song (let Annie Rittle’s Astra-strong voice do all of “Respect” or Keith Jeffe- rson all of “I Heard It Through the Grapevine”). One could also wish that the characters weren’t so one- note (Bill Doyle’s hippie must ex-
press the same Oedipus-marinated people at least ten times. But the performances overall are quite good, as is the direction's and the four-piece band backdrop. You won't learn why the pump don't work or how good brown sugar can taste, but if you're of a certain era, Boomers will time-machine you back in a lively manner.

Worth a try.

Horton Grand Theatre, 444 Fourth Avenue, downtown, 619-234-9583. Thursdays, 7:30 P.M. Fridays, 4 and 8 P.M. Saturdays, 4 and 8 P.M. Sundays, 3 P.M. Wednesdays, 7:30 P.M. THROUGH AUGUST 31.

Cadillacs of Comedy
Carlsbad Village Theatre hosts the comedy group that vows to “take the funny business from class to class in 4.7 seconds.”

Carlsbad Village Theatre, 2808 State Street, Carlsbad, 760-434-3344. Fridays, 8 P.M. Saturdays, 8 P.M. Thursdays, 7 P.M. THROUGH AUGUST 31.

A Chorus Line
Broadway "San Diego hosts a touring production of Michael Bennett's Pulitzer Prize-winning musical about 17 dancers auditioning for a new Broadway musical, who talk of hopes and dreams and a life in the chorus. Rob Avian directed.


The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)
New Village Arts presents the Re- duced Shakespeare Company's popular road through the Bard’s oeuvre: every play gets conveyed as well as some of the sonnets, and Hamlet sprouts in 43 seconds. Rob Salas directed.


The Fritz Blitz:
Best of the Blitz
For 15 years, the Fritz Blitz has staged the largest festival of new plays on the West Coast. Each year 20 to 75 local actors perform 10 to 12 new scripts. The results have varied, but they've always been very good and discoveries. This year the Fritz concludes the Blitz (“This is it. Quiritty time.”) with the end. Probably...”) with the greatest hits of the last 15 years, including works by Fern Teetor, Jeff Kathryr, Tim West, Tom Swinn, plus Kevin Ar- tiste's popular Bob and Blue Noise and Craig Alpher's invetive State of the Art. Each receives a full production, guided by some of San Diego's finest directors. For a list of specific plays, days, and times, call 619-544-1600 or go on line at fritztheatre.com.

Where There’s a Will... There’s a Wake
We cordially invite you to pay your respects to our beloved Don Shoelene. He lived so that others would not go barefoot. Services held every Fri. at 8 P.M.

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

written & directed by James Pascarella

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The Pleasure of His Company

If you don't look too closely, this charming room comedy's a bauble and, though talky, somewhat entertaining. After abandoning his wife and daugh- ter in 1943, Hildyard "Pop" Poole has come back to San Francisco for his daughter’s wedding — to talk her out of and take her on her road-ad- venture. The play’s so undemanding you’re surprised to see the authors (Samuel Taylor and Corinna Obst Skinner) wrote the script for Hitch- cock’s Vertigo.” Judy's father hard to overlook emotional gaps (why would a daughter who’s only received those letters from her father in 15 years re- municate her absent father?), a slanted opposition between leaders, star-at-home Pothinos and hit-the-road cultural elites; and a male lead running not toward adventure but away from adulthood. In 1954, when the play premiered, Pogu would have scored points for timing. Today, he’s had the "Peter Pan Syn- drone," a spoiled kid who wants his father to help him with his opera. The Old Globe’s production has more rea- sons for skipping than seeing. Two of the latter: Patrick Page’s most successful in succeeding Pogo’sollo’s parser (at the opening night curtain, those who stood ap- plauded his performance), and Alexander Dodge’s direction. Pogo’s chef kitchen of a Victorian mansion. Nine-foot windows overlook the Golden Gate Bridge, with polished molding makes the entire room look picture perfect. Best of all, in Act One, York’s Kennedy’s writing carries an in- creasingly rosetored sunset.

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE AVENUE, BALboa PARK, 619-234-5623. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 8 P.M. THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1.

The Receptionist

Adam Bock’s Kafkaesque comedy is tricky to talk about, since everything depends on what you don’t know. It takes place in the reception room of the “northeast office” of some sort of company (what kind of the company? let’s just say they don’t make widgets). We witness daily office life. Edward Raymond, the boss, talks about letting healthy fish go and eating only the damaged ones (who re- ceive a painless bleed-out in his lov- ing hands) and how “everything there is eating something.” We finally — a secon- d in — a command, Lorraine, com- plains about her sex, a narcissist from whom she doesn’t want to be quite disconnected. And poor, beveraged the receptionist, carries on several conversations, and handles several crises, at once, while rarely completing a sentence. Bock’s sharp dialogue combines crisp patter with steep nonverbal gish, which the Cygnet Theatre production may stress to good effect. Wearing Je- nie Roth’s somber character business attire (which gain meaning as the 80- minute show evolves) and ably di- rected by Sean Murray, the cast catches the play’s comedy with precision. Melinda Gibb’s got a hot

where the magic happens

San Diego Reader August 1, 2008
Weaving.  

\textbf{Clybourne Park}  


\textbf{Theatre in the Round}  


\textbf{Theatre Review}  

By the Chicago Sun-Times. 1400 W. Jarvis Ave. 773-761-4477. TUESDAYS, 7:30 P.M. THROUGH AUGUST 31.

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THE READER PUZZLE:

RULES OF THE GAME
1) Each week we're printing a lot of EVERYONE who submits the correct answers to the previous week's puzzle. See this week's contenders below.
2) When you successfully complete a puzzle, we'll also print a brief 150-word or less message that you've written. This is optional, but it's a great opportunity for you to give a shout out to your mom, or your own hero! Each time you submit a new puzzle, you may submit a new message.
3) We're keeping track of how many puzzles you successfully complete. But your information will only be printed when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by the new puzzle deadline: 7:00 a.m., Monday.
4) Entries must be faxed to 619-231-0495 or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803, or delivered through our mail slot at 7003 India Street in Little Italy.
5) Now we're going away with Reader T-Shirts! Each week 1 contender chosen randomly! And now for the really small price:

$10.00 for 1st entry per week per person you will be disqualified.
6) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

Across
1. Opera excerpt
2. Foul
3. Falls off
4. Astronomer Sagan
5. Offer a view a point
6. River to the Caspian Sea
7. What Tonto, a Roman numeral, lover, wrote on a cake for his partner's 50th birthday?
8. Richard of "Runaway Bride"
10. Scramble for an atty-to-be
11. Make even shorter
12. Elegance
13. Clip____.(certain sunglasses)
14. "What a gas"
15. "Feed your brain."
16. "Oops! Overconfidence!"
17. "Thanks to Daphne for her help when she was laid up in bed?"
18. "I love being a winner."
19. "Me, too!"
20. "For shame!"
21. "What the heck is a watering hole?"
22. "Keep calm and carry on."
23. "Some caretakers busts"
24. "This one's for you Sue."
25. "Go Bodo!"
26. "This is your last chance!"
27. "Happy August! XOXO Will."
28. "Chillax."
29. "Any day now"
30. Four-time French Open winner Rafael
31. "What a day!"
32. "At hand"
33. "At home"
34. "Happy 50th birthday, Rose."
35. "I just love doing cross-
36. "My sweetheart Minnie needs your help."
37. "Cats rule!"
38. "Bacon!!!"
39. "Congrats Kristen on your condo entry? Hi scrabble players."
40. "Love to all.
41. "To the Editor:"
42. "When will the weather raining yet?"
43. "P-town 4 life!"
44. "One day I spent a month in Texas!"
45. "How do we rate?"
46. "This is the last time I give to you, my peace I give to you, my peace I give to you."
47. "Aren't you brothers and went solo?"
48. "Squeeze (out)
49. "One day I spent a month in Texas!"
50. "One day I spent a month in Texas!"
51. "No more snail mail! Just the fax!"
52. "No more snail mail! Just the fax!"
53. "Good morning, my dear!"
54. "Thanks for all your help."
55. "Hello to Bobby, Tisha, Adam, C. J. Muellner, Spring Valley, Marie."
Allen Glick, 1979. In the ‘70s, Glick had a real estate office in San Diego near Banker’s Hill. Around the same time (according to Wikipedia), Glick “was the front man for the syndicate-controlled Stardust Casino and Fremont Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.” Besides noting that auditors caught Glick on a skimming operation in 1979 that cost Glick his casino gig, the entry also links him to two murders.

— by Robert Mizrahi

— PICTURE STORY Photograph from the San Diego Historical Society

— Services

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OFF THE CUFF

by Josh Board

Who is your favorite superhero?

Tami Hunt
Pilots/natom
North Park

I have two choices. Can I pick two? I like Superman because he’s an alien. He’s on the outside looking in on humanity. Even though he was raised here, it’s like he’s an outsider. And I’d have to also pick Wonder Woman because she’s a strong female character. She flies her own plane. She was also a princess.

Brian Murphy
Security
San Diego

My favorite is Night Wing. He was the first Robin from Batman and Robin. They had a falling out, but he became his own person. It was a coming-of-age thing. That might be why I liked it. He was the first of those different Robins and by far my favorite.

Ashley Green
Credit Union
Orange County

My favorite is Night Wing. He was the first Robin from Batman and Robin. They had a falling out, but he became his own person. It was a coming-of-age thing. That might be why I liked it. He was the first of those different Robins and by far my favorite.

Mark Fosta
Bartender
San Diego

I like Spiderman. He doesn’t own the bad guy. And he must be bad not to. I’m sure it would be a lot easier if he could just terminate them. I guess a few different superheroes don’t kill. Some of the Marvel guys will eliminate a bad guy. I do enjoy the comics a lot more than the TV and movie versions.

Julie Thomas
Promotions
San Diego

I like this one superhero, but I can’t think of her name right now. It’s right on the tip of my tongue. She’s not one of the more popular characters. Oh, well, I can’t think of her name, so I’ll just go with Wonder Woman. I have to say one of the women characters, and she’s the only one I can think of right now. The one I wanted to pick was a Marvel character. She just wasn’t that popular.

Dave Richardson
Waiter
Carlsbad

I’m not the biggest superhero fan. I grew up with my mom’s work like Batman much. I don’t think that’s just because of the movie being out right now either. I like the fact that he doesn’t have all those powers that the other superheroes have. He’s a regular average hero that’s fight-
“On a big day, I get crushed by waves,” admits Dusty Engel, a relatively new surfer. “I was not a strong swimmer before I took up surfing. I’m still not really, and I think it affects my performance.”

His word’s day of surfing was two years ago at Bird Rock, where large waves wiped him out. He was crushed, sunk down, and barely came with any breath.

Since then, Dusty has stuck with smaller waves on his longboard, surfing for the pleasure of being able to ride. He hates fighting for a wave and the politics of localized surfing.

“I’m a lover, not a fighter. I’ve seen some crazy fights out there, and I know my place. A lot of people have been doing this way longer than me and I respect that. I love surfing in O.B. because I know I won’t get beat up if I’m on someone else’s wave. I can just do my thing and not have to deal with attitude and drama.”

As a high school teacher, Dusty encourages his students to try new things. “They think it’s cool that their math teacher is a surfer. A few of my students and we exchange tips and information. It’s a great way to connect with them on things besides academics.”

To see an online version of this column, go to surfer.com. You can print it, email it to friends, and archived columns.

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Typo Patrol Results

Issue of July 31, 2004

Sheep & Goats, page 18

Your servants in the world should be
Your servants in the world

Sheep & Goats, page 18

take comfort that we are yours

"please send cash" ($20)

Restaurant listings, page 112

Näya Market

With ad.

"This has to count" ($10)

Letters, page 62

trickles down to organizations

"5 please" ($20)

Dear sharps: Still receiving typos found in adver-
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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 error — first copy of error delivered to the Reader wins. Exceptions: imperative quotations in direct
speech, idioms of style, and spelling errors (example: “boyout” — from “Top Fuck,” 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
Type Patrol 3-Shirt: Mail to: Reader Patrol, SD Reader, Box 58093, San Diego, CA 92109 or fax to
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San Diego Reader August 7, 2003 153
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- **Contact:** AltaVistaManagement.com.

**MISSION BEACH**

- **Address:** 3109 Pacific St
- **Phone:** 619-235-8200
- **Description:** 2 bedroom, 2 bath, condo, 1000 sf. Living room, fireplace, 3 decks, 2 car garage, downtown location. $1950.
- **Contact:** AltaVistaManagement.com.

**HERITAGE PARK**

- **Address:** 1400 Island Avenue
- **Phone:** 619-220-4435
- **Description:** 1 bedroom, 1 bath, condo. 660 sf. New flooring, granite, stainless steel appliances. $1600.
- **Contact:** AltaVistaManagement.com.

**LA JOLLA**

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**LA COSTA**

- **Address:** 1111 Eagle Rock Dr
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- **Description:** 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1400 sf. Across from golf club. $2450. 1 year lease.
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- **Address:** 1200 Jolla Village Way
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**SAN DIEGO**

- **Address:** 1200 Jolla Village Way
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LEAD STORY  — The European Union allows fruits and vegetables to be sold only in prepacked sizes and colors; 35 pages of regulations include specifications for 250 varieties of the apple and rules that cucumbers must be straight and bananas curbed. In June, British marketer Tim Down complained that he was forced to discard 5000 kiwi fruit because they were 1 millimeter in diameter too small and one-fourth of an ounce too light, which he said would undermine their market price. “Improvements” in the EU system continue, according to a July Washington Post article, which notes that 10 percent of the standards on the onion and 19 amendments, the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture recently issued a report urging further refinements, using 29 pages and 43 photographs.

Great Art  — Artist Martin Fernandes exhibit in Hali- fax, Nova Scotia, in June caused a commotion because it was merely a banana on a gallery’s window sill, and Fernandes had priced it at $2500 (CAD). Actually, Fernandes changed banana every day (eating the old one), placing progressively greener ones to demonstrate the banana’s transitory nature. “We buy bananas too tem- poral, but we live as if we are not,” he wrote. Despite the steep price, two collectors placed bids on the “work,” requiring the gallery’s co-owner, Victoria Page, to get assurance from certified that “It’s a banana; you understand that it’s a banana?”

Police Blotter  — Police, including SWAT officers, were called to an apartment in Mesa, Ariz., in June after neighbors reported a fight between a man and woman that included throwing bottles and breaking things inside. When they arrived, they found only a 21- year-old man, conducting the fight by himself, alternately a high-pitched voice with a low- pitched one. He was referred for a medical exam.

— Need for Speed: (1) Ontario’s recent law against street-racing snared two noteworthy drivers in April: a 26-year-old man who was cited when he passed a marked police car while doing 178 km/hr (110 mph) and the driver of a garbage truck, racing at 112 km/hr (double the speed limit); (2) A 3-year-old girl was seriously injured in Huntsville, Ala., in May in a collision caused, said witnesses, by a speeding contest between two Coca-Cola employees of Comcast Corp., driving company van.

Government in Action!  — In May, the school board in Barrie, Ontario, notified Children’s Aid Society to intervene with mother Colleen Ledenc and her daughter Victo- ria, 11, because of suspected sexual abuse, anger- ing the conscientiousLedac, who until that point had taken extraordinary measures to protect the girl, who is autistic. Upon investigation, it was revealed that the case came from a teacher’s assistant who said her psychic had told her that a girl with a “V” in her name was being abused by a man aged 3 to 26. Ledac now refuses to trust Victoria to public schools because “they may want to take out a Ouija board or hold a seance.

Teachers Out of Control  — (1) Fifth-grade teacher Susan Roszansky, 45, was arrested in Bucks County, Pa., in January and charged with 17 counts of threatening bomb- ings and gun violence after she was assigned to teach fourth grade, instead. (2) Sixth-grade teacher Roshonda Sipp of Jackson, Miss., aroused parent’s ire. No man who worked closely among them would be most likely to die young or get pregnant while still in school or get HIV or go to jail. Then, Sipp posted the results, enraging parents whose little charmers made the lists.

Creme de la Weird  — “A person with a sneeze fetish can find erotic pleasure in those few seconds,” according to an April ABC News report, when “the eyes close as the body prepares to forcibly expel air,” but “experienced weiners” as the thrill of discovering that one’s new college room- mates has allergies and will be sneezing frequently, and many use language and suggest visions that mimick sexual behavior.

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85031, San Diego, CA 92186 or to WeirdNewsTips@yahoo.com.

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Can’t Do This

She was breaking up with me for something that was not my fault, punishing me for something for which I had no control: a tragedy, an act of God.

...had a miscarriage. The pregnancy was intentional, not the kind of “accident” many of our friends had — and like her first child was when she got pregnant with her ex-husband when she was 20.

...and had known each other for seven years and had an off-and-on thing. Things got serious when she told me that she wanted to have another baby because her daughter was 12 now and, according to her, “need[ing] me less, the way teenagers do.” Kelly had always wanted a large family, but circumstances and economics had not made it feasible. She was almost 35 and believed that if she was going to have another child, now was the time.

...procreate as well. I was hearing the male bio clock, and it was ticking loudly. I glared at coupled and singles with their newborns and toddlers in public and wondered, When Will I have that? So when she suggested that possibility, as well as a possible marriage, I was excited.

...she thought I would back away as other men in her life had. According to her, men always thought she was trying to trap them into something. “I’m happy!” she kept saying over the next five months. “I’ve never been this happy!”

...came easy. “I’m pregnant!” she said. She knew the child was a boy. She said that he came to her in a dream. He also visited me in a couple of dreams. When it was confirmed by an ultrasound that the baby was a boy it only strengthened the metaphysical and spiritual sensations we had been experiencing.

...it all came crashing down when she miscarried. In the hospital room, she looked like a stranger to me. She looked 100 years old.

...to hold her, but she rejected me. She hit me in the chest. “You bastard!” she yelled. What did I do? She hit me again, this time in the face — a punch in the mouth. I tasted blood. “Get out of here,” she demanded. “Get the hell out!”

...punched the buzzer for the nurse. I didn’t want to leave.
Two orderlies showed up. I was told that it was best that I go. The nurse said she would give my "wife" a sedative.

Kelly said later, "I know this is not fair, and I'm sorry, but it's how I feel. I can't see you anymore. It's too painful. When I see your face, I imagine what his face would have looked like. His hair...I know he would have had your hair. I can't do this."

She changed her phone number and wouldn't respond to email. Every day I had to stop myself from going over to her house and demanding better treatment, a better explanation. I understood her emotions; I felt the same sense of loss. But I didn't want to give up. Many couples had made it through this tragedy before.

I was angry — angry at her for doing this, angry at the universe for taking the baby away. I felt betrayed by her and betrayed by God. I was angry with everyone I saw in public who had an infant or small child.

 Everywhere I went I saw parents and children. It seemed that a lot of the parents were in their teens or early 20s. Many of them looked unhappy — they looked stressed, trapped, confused. I surmised that their young lives had changed with the birth of a baby, and now their hopes and dreams were derailed, replaced with economic worry and all the burden of being a young parent.

 I looked at them with envy and resentment. Here were these people who did not seem to be happy about being a parent.

 Two months later Kelly sent a text message: "Eye mizz u." Then she called. She wanted to get together. She wanted to talk. She was still quite depressed but said, "I'm dealing with life better."

 We met for lunch at our favorite restaurant in Del Mar. We had a few drinks. She was drinking fast. It was meaningless talk — we were avoiding the obvious. But I could see it in her eyes: I knew she was going to break down soon, and so would I.

 The food arrived, but we didn't touch it. I reached over the table and grabbed her hands. We started to cry. The people around us gave quick, embarrassed looks. We didn't care.

 "Let's go," I said.

 "Where?"

 "Anywhere."

 "I can't do this," she told me. "I wanted to find out if I could. I had to know, and I know I can't. I'll never be able to." She couldn't even look at me. She stared in the opposite direction, her arm out, keeping me away. Then she ran out of the restaurant and jumped into her car as if she were in an action movie, fleeing from the bad guys.

 That was two years ago. I am still grieving. No parent can get over the death of a child. There has been no healing.

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Thirty Years Ago
Three weeks ago The Unhappy Gays — the 12th book written by Reverend Tim LaHaye, president of Christian Heritage College in El Cajon — was released in religious bookstores across the country.

LaHaye, who is pastor of the 2200-member Scott Memorial Baptist Church in El Cajon, besides being a longtime critic of Farrand’s church, is firmly aligned in favor of the Briggs Initiative, which is slated for the November ballot. If it passes, the Briggs Initiative will allow school boards to fire teachers who are homosexuals.

— CITY LIGHTS: “LET’S GET THIS STRAIGHT,”
Neal Matthews, August 10, 1978

Twenty Years Ago
Shapiro and his fellow councilmembers have reason to worry that their coastal haven is being overrun. Before I-5 was built in 1967, 80,000 cars traveled through town daily on Camino Del Mar. The freeway soon absorbed all but 5000 of these vehicles, but the traffic has now surged back up to 27,000 trips per day.

— CITY LIGHTS: “THE CAMINO THEORY,”
Paul Krugman, August 11, 1983

Twenty Years Ago
Dear Matthew Alice:
My best friend’s girlfriend tries to make herself an object of deference by pretending to know more than everyone else. On a recent drive to Mexico, she stated that my putting on sunscreen was unnecessary because ultraviolet light could not penetrate the car’s window. I say she’s full of Tijuana sewage.

Sorry. Glass absorbs ultraviolet rays in the UV-B range (roughly 280 to 320 nanometers). I do hate to say it in print, but this time the know-it-all is correct.

— STRAIGHT FROM THE HF, Matthew Alice,
August 11, 1988

Fifteen Years Ago
The Secret Garden, a warm-up of the Frances Hodgson Burnett classic, is a good children’s movie. A good movie for children and also a movie good for children. A good movie, I mean, that additionally and incidentally happens to be a good one for your own entertainment. (Well, I know what I mean.) Good for them in the sense that it is a good introduction to concepts of the inner world and the outer world, living and dying, and growth and stuntedness, courage and surrender — besides a good introduction to the artistic presentation and development of these concepts: why shouldn’t children’s movies be as good artistically as anyone else?

— MOVIES: “BACK TO KINDERGARTEN,”
Duncan Shepherd, August 12, 1993

Ten Years Ago
Wasn’t it just a few weeks ago when McGwire was forecasted to hit 74 home runs this year?

McGwire never said he’d break the record. He has sense enough to know he can’t answer the questions everyone wants to ask, viz: “Will you break the record?” followed by, “How many home runs will you hit?”

No one born of woman can answer those questions, but no matter, and who cares about McGwire anyway? We just want a new record. We said he’d break the record, and if he doesn’t, well, Mr. McGwire will have to deal with that. After all, the gutless fraud may only hit 64 boomers, and if his strikeout total keeps rising and his walks mount, why, why, that cretin may well fail to hit 60.

— SPORTING FOR “THE FIRST SHALL BE LAST,”
Patrick Daugherty, August 13, 1998

Five Years Ago
If you’re heading south toward Tijuana, the next stop is City College (also San Diego High), and you are about to be bothered instead, especially on a Friday, by aimlessly milling throng, seething feral packs of the dermatologically unfortunate, cacophonous choruses of unmodulated voices all pushing decibel meters into the red. In short, gabbling, galloping hordes of noxious youth. They will be your traveling companions most of the way to Chula Vista.


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Looking around my shelf (the stuff not in storage), I see that I have four of his books. Here is Roma Eterna, a series of novellas and novelettes originally published in magazines like Asimov’s that are a kind of outline of history of a fictional Roman Empire that never fell. The book spans 2000 years and comprises ten stories, a series of narratives that together form a record of an alternate history. One, among several remarkable aspects of this timeline, is a parallel event: the Hebrews never leave Egypt, No Moses, no Diaspora, no Jesus, no Christianity. To say the resulting history is interesting says nothing; it is quietly profound. Mohammed is there, right where he should be, as Mahmod, but not for long. He is a minor irritant to the Romans and is dealt with by a gay, ex-patriot Hero of the Empire in a story by that title.

I have here his best-selling, award-winning first volume of a fantasy series, Lord Valentine’s Castle, which I have not read due to my resistance to epic fantasy of this sort. Of what sort? There is no sort of anything as sophisticated and consistently literate as Silverberg’s fiction (think Roth, Bellow, Updike, and Burgess — I’m sure Burgess must have read him and loved him); and so keep it, and I may start it today by setting aside this Julian Barnes novel, Arthur & George. It’s far too hot for 19th-century England right now.

Next to Valentine is the space opera Star of Gypsies, in which the King of Rom, that is, the Gypsies, pilots a galactic quest to return all children of Rom to their home star. If this does not sound ostensibly like deliciously rotten pulp, I don’t know what does; but this character, this character... “We Rom have always loved gold. In the old days our women used to festoon themselves with gaudy masses of gold coins, threading them on golden chains and letting them dangle down over their lovely, jiggling bosoms like so much braided garlic. You practically needed a hacksaw to get through the gold to their breasts.... And we men — oh, what tricks we played with our gold back there in Hungary and Romania and all those other forgotten places of lost Earth! The roll of gold napoleons wrapped up in a handkerchief and stuffed into your pants to make a bulge, so you’d look like you were hung like an elephant!”

I am looking forward to “traversing mysterious kingdoms and blasted landscapes, brave ghosts and monstrous apparitions” when I begin Kingdoms of the Wall, a highly ambitious looking tome even for Silverberg. I am confident this 1992 novel will see me through the dog days ahead.

In my own SF novel, Empire’s Horizon, I included — with his permission — Silverberg’s name to a list of writers who are remembered thousands of years in the future. Two others are Saint Exupéry and Shakespeare. This may seem a little excessive; Saint Exupéry is there in keeping with the novel’s imagery and atmosphere and Shakespeare and Silverberg for the joy of language.

Why spend this space in what appears to be blatant promotion of a relative? The answer would be in a previous column, in a kind of mission statement: I said something to the effect that I am hardly Mister Friday Night and more of the kind of guy one would ask, “What should I read over the weekend?” And while I have no intention of recommending books on anything like a weekly basis, I think, after this first week of August, I would be remiss if I did not at least point you toward Robert Silverberg.

I will probably read both Lord Valentine’s Castle and Kingdoms before the summer is out; and while I rarely go on single-author binges, here is an August- indicated exception. One need not ration out Silverberg titles to oneself (I do this with Graham Greene, for example), as he has been extremely prolific for decades while sacrificing no quality. My ticket, liver, and/or lungs will give out before Silverberg’s gifts are exhausted.