Suicide Tourism

Tijuana has long attracted people seeking medicine and medical procedures unavailable or unaffordable in their home countries. They’ve been joined recently by people seeking the means to kill themselves. CONTINUED ON PAGE 24
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Model
Hot Water
By Don Bauder

The most attractive asset of the Warner Springs Ranch is the spring-fed, hot mineral water pool. So maybe it’s fitting that through the years, this back-country ranch has been in financial hot water. After opening in the early 1980s as a facility to be owned by 2000 tenants-in-common, rather like a country club, the ranch suffered through a succession of business failures by early developers. Now there is a bitter battle among the 1000 owners who plunk a slug of money down, plus annual fees and assessments, and extra for lodging and food. (Warner never got to the planned 2000 owners.)

With annual fees and special assessments spiraling upward, an apparent solid majority wants to see Warner Springs sold so the individuals can recover their original investment, or part of it. Most in this faction live a long distance from Warner; some haven’t visited it in years. But another group — many living near the ranch — just as adamantly want a resort timeshare company to take over the place so their own leisure lifestyle can continue as usual. Those wanting a sale claim that the board of directors is biased toward the resort timeshare concept. They are attempting to have the board removed — something they failed to accomplish in 2006.

Hostile emails are flying back and forth. “I don’t like going up there. It’s so acrimonious,” says one of the San Diego owners, Greg S. Maizlisch. “Owner, schmowner,” he says, stressing that he is only expressing his own opinion. “The owner designation means nothing because the ranch is controlled by a small group” that he calls “the Los Tules crowd,” residing in a development of that name adjacent to the ranch. “Folks like myself who live in towns and cities...” says a spokesman.

Matt Potter is on vacation.

Matt Potter is on vacation.
Don’t Ask, Just Pay

By Joe Deegan

Ever wonder why public works cost taxpayers so much? Consider the case of one small project, the new Otay Valley Regional Park ranger station and restroom. Under a joint powers agreement among San Diego County, the City of Chula Vista, and the City of San Diego, local politicians have been trying to develop the park since 1990. The land dedicated to the park extends along the southern border of Chula Vista, then north to the Otay Lakes. The Otay River, which runs through the area, was the site of a great flood supposedly caused by rainmaker Charles Hatfield in 1916.

Six years ago, the park’s joint powers authority obtained a $1 million grant from the State of California to help fund the park’s growth. The money was applied to the construction of a staging area off Beyer Boulevard and new trails. The staging area, including ranger station, restroom, and parking lot, was completed in November.

Early this year, George Hanson attended the new facilities’ opening. Hanson manages the remedial writing program at UCSD and leads Regional Park Citizen Advisory Committee. Hanson asked, “Would it be possible to get an accounting of the funds spent on the Beyer staging area? I attended the opening, and there was a sign that said it was a $1.7 million project, but [I] saw in the paper the next day that it was over $2 million and would like to see how these costs came to be.”

By early May, Hanson still had no answers. So on May 7, he emailed Robin Shifflet of the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department, which was managing the project for the joint powers authority (Shifflet is a joint powers authority staff member too). Hanson asked her for the square footage of the ranger station and restroom. He then noted an apparent leap in the project’s cost. “Finally—for now—I’ve seen a document,” wrote Hanson in a May 7 email, “that lists the final cost of the ranger station [complex] as $2,543,000. Comment?”

To explain the project’s costs, Shifflet cited in her return message the next day the use of industrial-grade materials, an interior sprinkler system, air conditioning and heating, and additional lighting “on all four exterior walls to reduce vandalism.” But she pleaded ignorance of the document containing the $2,543,000 final cost. Instead, Shifflet sent along a “summary of costs” sheet. The items “I have attached,” she wrote, “are the cost from the bid we received from Heffler [Company, Inc.] to do the work.”

There were 26 items in the summary of costs from Heffler, including building and pollution permits, earthwork, archaeological monitoring program, electrical, irrigation/landscaping, light poles and fixtures, and parking lot. Of particular interest to Hanson were $210,000 for “Pre-fab Restroom/storage room with fire sprinklers” and $437,100 for “Pre-fab Ranger Station with fire sprinklers.”

The total at the bottom of the Heffler summary sheet was $2,025,308. A check of San Diego City Council meeting minutes shows that this figure was within guidelines the council set for the project on August 8, 2006. During that meeting, the council stipulated that construction costs of the Beyer Boulevard staging area were not to exceed $2,175,396.

Let’s return to the document George Hanson says he saw placing the Beyer staging area cost at $2,543,000. He identified it for Robin Shifflet in a May 9 email. It’s a request to the San Diego City Council by Stacy LoMedico, director of Park and Recreation, and signed by the City’s then—chief financial officer Jay Goldstone, to transfer excess Mission Bay lease revenue to five city park projects. In listing Otay Valley Regional Park as the recipient of $25,000, the document states: “Including this proposal, the total cost of this project is $2,543,000.” The city council approved the item on January 8.

How did the cost of the Beyer staging area get this high?

The Hanson-Shifflet email trail gives clues. In his May 9 email, Hanson also asked, “Could you kindly explain the choice of Heffler…?” Three days later, Shifflet replied that Heffler was “the qualifying low bid for the project.”

On May 23, after a trip to South America, Hanson brought up the square footage of the buildings at the Beyer staging area. (Two weeks earlier, Shifflet had supplied the information: a 912-square-foot ranger station and 598-square-foot restroom.) “According to my arithmetic,” wrote Hanson, “one structure (the ranger station) cost $479 per square foot, and the restroom cost $352 per square foot. As the two structures we are concerned with are prefabs, it’s a puzzle to me as to why the cost was so great.

“Also… I see that the cost of the ‘Wet Utilities/ Sewer Connection and Pump’ is listed as $82,390. This cost estimate puzzles me because the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project… declares that the sewer system is immediately available there on Beyer Boulevard.”

Hanson finished by asking for a copy of the request for proposals that was advertised for the project, “at least a summary of the other bids received and staff analysis of these,” and an explanation for “the subsequent cost overrun that resulted, an increase of approximately 25%.”

On May 27, Shifflet advised Hanson to pursue these deeper inquiries through a Public Records Act request. She even supplied him with the number of the bid that Heffler won.

But the next day, Shifflet wrote Hanson that she had “to make a correction to the method of how we hired Heffler… In April 2006 the Park and Recreation Department requested the Contract Services Department to provide a sole source contract for the Beyer… continued on page 8
Hot water continues from page 6

says Stilwell, some strategies may not require a membership vote. If, for example, Highlands simply wants to buy out some of the owners, no vote would be needed. However, ownership units that were purchased for $30,000 are now being sold for $3500. The Pala or Eagle buyouts would bring much more money to those who want to sell. They say the Highlands deal is a decidedly lowball one. “In my opinion, the board owes the ownership an answer to the question of how Highlands jumped to the front of the line,” says Maizlish.

The battle is likely to rage for some time. “There are factions,” says Stilwell. “Some want to sell the ranch, others want to preserve the ranch.” But neither side “wants to see the ranch destroyed. Nobody wants to see a developer come in here and build 3000 homes and make it a subdivision of San Diego.”

Don’t ask, just pay continues from page 7

Boulevard project.… Several projects were submitted… for the use of the [$1 million grant] money but were turned down by the State. In 2005 the State agreed to the Beyer Boulevard Ranger station and trail, but the money had to be paid out by June 2007. City [and other] permits were obtained in September 2006. One of the permit conditions was that construction could not occur during the bird-breeding season. This only allowed construction to occur

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expenses, including $215,910 to the City. But $135,053 was new construction costs. Of these, $104,536 came in two project “change orders.”

The Heffler Company, Inc., of National City, founded by contractor Patrick Heffler, has completed numerous projects for the San Diego Park and Recreation Department. The company has often gone back for “change orders,” according to the minutes of the San Diego City Council.

As city council meetings, one often sees change orders approved for construction projects. After searching meeting minutes, I am unable to find approval of the change orders Heffler received for the Beyer staging area.

Costs are one thing, quality of what you pay for quite another. George Hanson tells me of a different San Diego County open-space park facility he recently visited, the Goodan Ranch/Sycamore Canyon Visitors Center, a 3200-square-foot building near Poway, opened in November to replace a center that was burned to the ground in the 2003 Cedar Fire. “The new building has a mini theater and a number of green aspects, such as solar paneling on the roof. It’s very impressive.”

(Costs increased in the Goodan Ranch project as well. When I called Mina Nguyen, spokeswoman for the San Diego County Parks and Recreation Department, she was tight-lipped about the project’s final costs. But North County Times’ reports had put the bill originally at $1.4 million, then $1.5 and $1.7 million. The most recent figure I found came from the San Diego Union-Tribune, a little over $2 million.)

Hanson says that during meetings of the Otay Valley Regional Park’s Citizen Advisory Committee, his inquiries into finances were met with less than enthusiasm. At mention of possible irregularities, he said, one member’s “whole face looked like it dropped.” In the give-and-take of the committee’s June meeting, Hanson tells me, vice chairman Kevin O’Neil admonished him that it is not the charge of members to raise such questions. It gave Hanson a new metaphor for understanding what a citizen advisory committee is. “Remember in the old days,” he asks, “those play steering wheels for kids in cars?”

Don’t ask, just pay
continued from page 8
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San Diego Reader August 21, 2008 | 11
LETTERS

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

Who Cares? I Don’t

There are so many problems with your latest issue that I don’t know where to start. “Remote Control” keeps changing locations. Why? Enough with that. Keep it in one place already.

Two people are missing from “Off the Cuff.” That is four people shy of what it should be missing. Drop that feature already. We don’t care what six people have to say about some subject. Use the space more creatively (although, I’m not sure “Say What?” works either — who cares about some slang word?).

A pop quiz? Now, your typo thing is fun. If we notice something, we win money. But a pop quiz? What is that? We aren’t in school. And when I glanced at it, I realized I knew the answer to a “Crasher” question. Then I knew another answer. I figured I’d send it in. And I see you want page numbers. Why? Why the extra work? I have to go back and see what page “Crasher” is on, just to prove I read it. You guys are nuts.

The beach booze ban stories. Who cares. These have been done to death.

Cover story on parties was great. Why not more of that?

“Club Crawler” is a nice feature. I like it better than CityBeat’s music listings for each day of the week, but why is this writer always saying things like “Steele Dan is reelin’ in the years and slowing away the time at Pala.” Okay, you know the song lyrics. We’re impressed. It doesn’t work for the piece.

On the subject of music items, why is there a “Blurt” on Cheech and Chong? They aren’t musicians.

Why is there a “Blurt” on Peter Gabriel, from a concert in the 1980s? And this Sanford, he did a great cover story about living on the street and being on drugs. Yet all those old concerts, he seemed to attend. A Cheap Trick one from a few weeks ago had him selling blood to pay for a ticket. This makes no sense. A guy with no money on the street, seeing every concert he writes about. Is it to make him the story? Or to make the story seem more relevant? Maybe an “Off the Cuff” should be done, asking six homeless people how often they go to concerts. I’m guessing they never do, but if any are like Jay, they’re begging for money — not for food or cheap wine — but for a ticket to see Cheap Trick at Canes.

Stephen Root
Clairemont

Shakedown Streets

Re “Greetings from Tijuana,” cover story, August 7. Thank you for exposing the corruption of the Tijuana police. I myself have experienced numerous...
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–Kris Clark, 2/28/08

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Be sure to check out www.sdreader.com/football to see how your favorite team is doing this season. You’re invited to participate in the “Red Zone” by sharing game predictions, wrap-ups, photos, and videos. The best football blog each week will win a $50 gift certificate to Anthology and the best photo will win a pair of UltraStar movie passes! Go online to rave about the strengths of your team and the weaknesses of your rivals and let the fanfare begin!
STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP

BY MATTHEW ALICE

Hey, Matt:
Ever see big jets flying overhead, the ones leaving a white smoke trail? They fly right over our houses daily. Whee! Say, listen… I have a certain keen ol’ hand-held walkie-talkie, good for hiking, etc. It has a good seven-mile range and heavy-duty… top notch. Can I talk to those dudes on the plane somehow? Or is that a technical no-no, edging on an illegal type of activity, as the feels like to say? We’d like to yell, er, say to them, “Hey, jet guys! See us! Straight down! We’re waving!” Is this a yes or a no-no?

— Playful Babysitters, Clairemont

Yeah, we’ve seen jets overhead, but we never had any urge to yell at them. You might have to put that dream on the shelf, I’m afraid. Your little walkie-talkie isn’t going to be much help flagging down a pilot. First of all, your device is set to transmit and receive radio signals within a limited space in the radio-wave band. If the pilot doesn’t have a transceiver set to the same frequency as yours, he’ll never hear you. But truckers or housewives might catch your greeting. Some walkie-talkies share the same frequencies as CB radios and baby monitors. Anyway, if you have the walkie and the pilot doesn’t have the talkie, forget it.

But let’s say you ambush a pilot on his way into the cockpit and ask him to take the walkie-talkie with him. Unless you have some stupendous sales pitch, he won’t do it. Airplanes are filled with devices that rely on radio waves to operate properly. And radio waves being what they are, any off-the-wall signal introduced into the mix could possibly mess up something. The odds are small, but it’s not something that can be reliably predicted. If you convince a passenger to take the other half of your device into the sky, they’ll be bounded by the flight attendants to turn it off and will be sorry they agreed to do it in the first place. No devices that transmit signals can be used when the plane is in flight. The “airplane mode” setting on cell phones turns off the transmit function.

As we said, there’s no guarantee that your walkie-talkie signal will send the plane spinning into the ground, but there was a recent interference problem that took the airline industry a year or so to fix. One of the things that works on radio signals in the Air Bus and the big Boeing planes is the emergency lock on the cockpit door, which can be activated in case someone tries to break in. One day a mechanic was working in a cockpit and using a walkie-talkie to communicate with someone outside the plane. He pushed the talk button and suddenly the safety lock on the cockpit door slid into place. It turns out there was something about that particular frequency that could lock and unlock the safety device. The manufacturers got to work fast fixing that one.

Lastly, I know the guys who made your top-flight walkie-talkie say it has a range of seven miles, but have you confirmed that? The distance is going to depend on the power supply and also the frequency your radios use. If your device has line-of-sight transmission, you might have to go to Nebraska to test it. Find someplace that has no mountains, hills, or speed bumps for seven miles and give it a shot. Odds are the manufacturer has slightly exaggerated the power, figuring you’d never be in a situation that would disprove it. So your cheery greeting to the pilot might not even have the oomph to make it to the plane. And, hey, who’s watching the kids if you fools are out watching the skies for airplanes so you can wave and yell at them?

Heymatt:
Will milk go bad sooner if someone drinks directly out of the jug? I’ve had some sour before the expiration date lately, and I think this might be the cause.

— Pat Ryan, via email

Well, Pat, Grandma Alice is ready to come over to your house and kick some butt around. What’s the deal with drinking out of the milk jug? And by the way, we’ll have to turn down that nice dinner invitation you issued. Thanks anyway. Are you not aware that there are hundreds of species of bacteria that live in our mouths? Not to mention viruses, protozoa, and fungi. Never heard that old saw about a human mouth being “dirtier” than a dog’s mouth? When did the lightbulb go on about this situation? Yes, the backdrop from drinking out of the jug will contaminate the milk and is very likely to sour it before its time. And please don’t write in again when you notice that fuzzy stuff grows on the block of cheese you put your fingers all over.

A searchable archive of past columns is available at SanDiegoReader.com

Got a question you need answered? Send an email to heymatt@cts.com or fax to 619-231-0489 or mail to Matthew Alice, c/o the Reader, Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186.

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SportingBox  By Patrick Daugherty

Democratic Convention
Sports Preview

While watching the NBC Olympics on television, quietly enjoying the 105th consecutive evening of women’s beach volleyball, I had a sad thought: This is going to end someday. Then, like the morning sun rising over the mist of a polluted Florida swamp, shines a happy thought: The Democratic Convention goes off on Monday. This means, dear reader, we can gather ’round the campfire, open the whiskey bottle, break out the banjo, and play our quadrennial parlor game, “How will the Democrats lose this presidential election?”

First, we should inventory what the Dems have to work with, beginning with the George Bush–created Iraqi war as a monument to his mindless arrogance. Then, we have corruption as a way of governing, relentless incompetence, leading players in Bush’s national security bureaucracy are liable for criminal prosecution (like the justice department, likewise the state department), an army misused to the point of exhaustion, running up the national debt to 9 trillion 500 billion dollars, a job-approval rating of 28 to 33 percent depending on the poll, a recession, $4-per-gallon gas, the Katrina debacle, an unending home foreclosures, bank closures, declining standard of living… Add this up and one would think any Republican running for president — particularly one supporting the same policies that sunk George Bush — would be doomed.

One would think wrong. McCain, whose senescence is becoming more obvious by the day, is running near even with Obama and appears to have the momentum. It’s beginning to feel so familiar, the Democrats putting together another come-from-ahead loss. Our parlor game is to puzzle out how they’ll do it this time around.

I don’t see any new tactics so far. Republicans will attack their opponent’s strength even if it’s hard to keep a straight face while doing it. So, if McCain employs lobbyists to run his campaign, attack Obama for being too close to lobbyists. If you wear $520 Ferragamo loafers, attack Obama for associating with rich empty-headed celebrities. If you own ten houses, attack Obama for being an elitist. If you started going to church three months ago, attack your opponent as being not quite a Christian. And here’s the money shot: If your opponent is black, accuse him of “playing the race card.”

The Democrats have one consistent to-the-point-of-routine reply to these attacks: cringe and cower.

So, how will the Democrats lose this time?

And to make it more interesting, I’m inserting a new rule: from now on you can’t use cringe and cower as the only reason why Dems will lose this election.

Yes, yes, I hear your complaint: “This is what the Democrats do best. What else is there if I take away their most reliable campaign tool?”

Well, how about: Cringe and cower, plus mealy-mouthed support for gay couples. This kills two birds: you still enrage Republicans, and now you’re insulting a large part of your base.

Or, cringe and cower plus support for some kind of offshore oil-drilling. You gain no Republican support because they know yours is mealy-mouthed support, and you insult another large portion of your base.

Or, cringe and cower plus support a retroactive amnesty bill for telecoms who willingly and illegally violated the law. Which is a nice way of saying they wiretapped your phone and intercepted your email.

Or, cringe and cower…okay, I admit it, this is getting harder, like trying to find a legit square for the Q on the last play of a Scrabble game. Still, we must needs push on.

Cringe and cower plus…okay, I admit it, this is getting harder, like trying to find a legit square for the Q on the last play of a Scrabble game. Still, we must needs push on.

Cringe and cower plus Nancy Pelosi and the senate guy, Harry Reid. This is the face of the Democratic Party in Congress, coming at us with all the verve and mainly self-confidence of an abused puppy. According to the Democratic National Committee, next Monday, “House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Sen. Claire McCaskill will speak about the values of the Democratic Party and the efforts to take America in a new direction and to reach out to all voters, in particular new voters, independents, and Republicans to get the country moving in the right direction again at this critical time; nightly theme will be ‘One-Nation.’” Nauseating. Clumsy.

On Wednesday, “Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid will discuss Barack Obama’s plans to make America more secure by investing in smart energy policies.” Can we wait until Wednesday?

Cringe and cower plus play defense at all times. This has the bonus of making it appear you won’t fight for the job. Ours is a bang-bang shoot-em-up culture, so refusal to fight is a cultural taboo. You’ll solidify the Republican vote against you while disheartening your voters. A twofer.

According to electoral-vote.com Obama is favored to receive 275 electoral votes, McCain 250, and 13 votes too close to call. Exactly four years ago, John Kerry was credited with 317 electoral votes, George Bush with 202, 19 too close to call.

If your opponent is black, accuse him of “playing the race card.”

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

By Patrick Daugherty
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Traces of the old tile pattern still darken the stained concrete floor at Christ Lutheran, but they don’t distract much from the surface’s overall look—that of punched, cracked earth. It’s in sharp contrast to the sanctuary, which is dominated by a mosaic depicting a bountiful orchard, nourished by a stream flowing from the foot of the elevated cross. “The stream” flows under the sanctuary table, down the stairs, and out along the central aisle of the church.

...And everything lives where the river goes,” explains a page at the back of the worship guide, quoting Ezekiel. “This water of life is the grace of God, which flows from the holy center of our hearts into a life of service for our neighbors. God fills us and sends us as a river of people into a thirsty world.

Sunday’s liturgy provided a literal (and material) example of that intention to give drink to the thirsty—in this case, Rwandan orphans, the “Children of the Road” whose families were destroyed by the genocidal upheaval in 1994. “Beyond the boundaries of race or nation, in Christ You make of us brothers, sisters all,” proclaimed the Call to Worship. The Scripture reading, taken from John’s first letter, made this familial connection a bond of love: “We love because He first loved us... Those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.” And the Gospel, taken from Matthew 25, made the love of one’s neighbor into an act of love for God: “When the Son of Man comes in glory...” He will say, “I was hungry and you gave me food, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me... Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when was it that you saw me hungry and saw me food? And the King will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’

This is why, when Reverend Paul Oas introduced the film that served as the sermon, he said, “We told the kids, ‘We’re not bringing Jesus to you — we’re finding Him in you.’” Dr. Jim Hall, a congregant, made the film during a 2007 visit to the El Shaddai orphanage in Rwanda’s capital city of Kigali. The orphanage was started by a soldier who witnessed the devastation wrought upon the Rwandan children, and Christ Lutheran serves as one of its supporters.

What began as a makeshift refugee in an abandoned warehouse has gradually been built up into something substantial and sustaining for some 400 orphans. The film documented the life of the orphanage — the older boys cooking great pots of mash over an open fire, clothes hung on junked cars to dry after washing, school, sewing, and recreation. (The play was the most affecting — Bantu singing and dancing, children keeping a balloon aloft with their fingertip.) And it highlighted recent improvements: water filters, dental and medical exams, and therapy for children suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

After the film, Tim Botko of the Rwandan Orphans Project gave a detailed account of those improvements. Botko and his partners have worked to integrate the El Shaddai community into the larger life of Kigali, and also to improve life within the orphanage. The orphanage breeds rabbits for food and has built their cages above a pond, so that their droppings will nourish populations of catfish and tilapia. The children have uniforms, which help to provide a sense of identity and community. Morale has improved, in part due to donated soccer uniforms — the orphans formed a team and managed to beat some of the neighboring schools. “We have really progressed and that could not have happened without the support of Christ Lutheran Church.”

The deep emphasis on the love of neighbor showed through in the Communion service, characterized as a “Meal of thanksgiving” in the prayer guide. The prayer over the gifts began, “Blessed are You, O God.... You have blessed us with Your goodness. You have given us our selves, our time, and our possessions. May these gifts be used in the care and healing of the sick, in the comfort and support of the sorrowing, in the comfort and strengthening of the weak, in the comfort and encouraging of the lonely, in the comforting and comforting of the widowed, in the comforting and strengthening of the sick...”

What happens when we die?
“...Our understanding is focused on the resurrection of Christ,” said Rollefson. “So, we believe that neither death nor life can separate us from the love of God in Christ [Romans 8].”

We believe that God’s love continues to reach out to us even beyond death. “We told the kids, ‘We’re not bringing Jesus to you — we’re finding Him in you.”’

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-EVE KELLY

At the family reunion swim party last week, there was an accident. Cousin Hugh jumped off the diving board into the water, and on his return to the surface another cousin dove headfirst on top of him. Hugh was pulled out of the water, disoriented, glassy-eyed, and shaky. The jumper, who must have a head of steel, swam to the side with a lump on his head, upset but not seriously hurt. Ten hours later, Hugh’s parents left the emergency room with a tired but all right son.

The incident got me thinking. I have no idea what to do in these kinds of accidents, not to mention what to do for other types of wounds. Only vague ideas on wound care and first aid float about my mind. Some professional direction on what our home first-aid kit should contain and what action should be taken for different injuries would be helpful. I got that help from our nurse friend Michael, who is also a father of four.

“If the accident knocked them out, even if they then wake up, you call 911,” explained Michael. “If the kid is crying for an extended period of time — what we call inconsolable crying — that needs to be checked out. Parents are going to know if the kid really bumped their head. Don’t wait for signs like disorientation or if the kid goes to sleep. Those are late signs of brain injury.

“Speaking of pool accidents,” Michael added, “if a child has been underwater but no one witnessed for how long and the child is pulled out and acting fine, that child still needs to be checked out to rule out ‘dry drowning.’”

We moved on to the topic of wounds and stitches. “If my child comes in with a scraped knee, I draw up saline solution with a syringe and I squirt it on the wound. Or I squirt it on gauze and scrub all the dirt out of the wound to prevent an infection problem. Then I cover the wound with gauze and tape to absorb the leaking fluids, avoid contamination, and keep it safe from pyrizing [sic] hands [Johnson & Johnson first aid gauze pads, $6.99 for 25-count of 3”x3” by 3” at Rite Aid].”

Michael suggested gauze for small wounds to allow the air to reach the wound. For heavily oozing wounds, he suggested Telfa nonadhesive bandages, which will not stick to the wound (Curdan non-stick pads with adhesive tabs, $4.99 for 20 count at Walgreens). “You don’t want to leave gauze on a heavily oozing wound because it will become part of the scab when the wound heals; it will be physically bonded to that scab.”

Michael uses Betadine ($17.99 for eight ounces at Walgreens), a brown antiseptic solution often associated with the operating room. “If I am working without gloves, I wash my hands or rub on Betadine and put rubbing alcohol on the area around the wound. You need to do something to get in between your germs and that wound.”

For a deeper wound, “Anytime there is a flap created, get that stitched. Or if there is depth to the wound, where you are not just dealing with an abrasion...there’s a slice, or there is a deep red, meaty color that you see on both sides of the wound edges and you say, ‘That is muscle right there,’ just take the kid in. Or if the wound is in a place like the hand, which you use a lot, you want those things treated because you are going to keep opening the wound and run the risk of infection. Stitches would prevent that.”

For puncture wounds, “I try to invade minimally. If there is something still in the wound and it’s bigger than a splinter, take the kid to the doctor’s office.” But for a rusty-nail puncture with an updated immunization shot, “I would cover the wound with gauze and tape and call the doctor to run that plan by him.”

On to burns, “If it is a simple burn, you’re going to cool it down with cold water; cover it with gauze and tape only if the skin looks like it is reddened and is about to open up.” Serious burns with sloughing skin need to be examined by a professional. I asked Michael for the protocol when a kid swallows something that could be toxic. “You need to get on the phone with poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for a professional. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control. Everybody should get a little refrigerator magnet that says the number for poison control.
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Child’s Pose

Yoga is difficult for the one whose mind is not subdued.
— Bhagavad Gita

Despite all the dismissive things I’ve said about patchouli-wearing chakra tweakers, I still wanted to try yoga. Though my inherent impatience inspires me to be proactive in most facets of life, I wasn’t in a rush to get the big blue exercise ball rolling on something that might take away the blanket of stress to which I’d grown so attached. When it comes to ventures such as this, I rely on my friends Rosa and Janet (each an executive in different national big-name corporations) to lead the way. Rosa had generated the email, after which Janet had offered to lend me her extra mat and thrown out a few dates. I had but to say yes and pick a day.

The class was called Yoga Fundamentals. If it were an English course, we would not be tackling sentences or even words — we’d be learning the alphabet. That suited me just fine, as yoga — like Swahili to a Tahitian — was a language of which I was only vaguely aware and had yet to encounter firsthand. Before heading to Janet’s studio of choice, Ginseng Yoga in South Park, I called Rosa to verify that I would not need socks. She mentioned something about blankets being provided — though I couldn’t imagine why I’d need one of those, I refrained from seeking clarification, figuring I’d find out soon enough.

Forty minutes before class was to begin, I parked in front of a charming strip of businesses tucked between residential streets. After about 20 minutes, I approached Janet’s car. I stopped pacing up and down the street to comfortably set eight yoga mats in the room to which we were directed. The studio to which we were directed was a boutique that sells yoga-oriented clothes, books, music, and equipment; I imagined the jewelry and paintings had been created using some special artsy yoga techniques. Something about the space made me feel like I should whisper, so I dropped my voice as I greeted the guy seated behind the counter. I filled out an information form, hesitating at the part that asked for an emergency contact. I whispered-blurted a series of questions: “Why would I need this? Do people get stuck in poses? Is passing out comment?” Janet assisted the man in explaining that it was just procedure, you know, for the great “if.” Satisfied, I jotted down David’s name and slid the form back across the counter in exchange for her in the shadow of a tree. As I stood there, I took a moment to enjoy the warm early-evening breeze coming from the direction of the setting sun, and couldn’t help feeling all Zen and shit.

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I followed Robert’s instructions and allowed my head to hang down between my shoulders. I pushed the ground with my arms and tried really hard to get my heels to join my toes on the ground, but my calves weren’t having it. After we “walked” our feet toward our hands, we remained for a moment in the “touch your toes” position, which was an easy one for me, thanks to the flexibility I’ve obtained from my daily routine of holding the complicated “face to knees so hair can dry naturally without falling flat” pose.

Robert asked us to rest for a moment, so I drooped to my bum, and then realized I was the only one. Everyone else had arranged themselves into an uncomfortable-looking “peasant groveling before the king” pose, low on their knees with their foreheads on their mats and their arms stretched out in front of them. Jarring the others with the surprising sound of my voice, I said, “Is that, like, the official resting pose? It doesn’t look very restful.”

“Child’s pose,” which is “usually the resting pose,” he said. “But for now, as this is the fundamentals class, you can rest however you like.” I smiled with relief and remained seated with my legs crossed.

We stretched in a variety of positions. Robert offered feedback as to what we were doing right and wrong, often with a demonstration that required him to remove an article of clothing — to illustrate what he meant by “pushing back the shoulders,” he lost his shirt; later, to display the correct placement of the hip during a lunge, his pants came off. I don’t know about Aaron, but the ladies seemed to appreciate the clarity of these visual explanations.

When Robert pointed to what looked like a neat pile of ponchos at one end of the room and invited us to grab three blankets each, all of the muscles I’d been working so hard to loosen clenched back up. The last thing a germaphobe such as me wants to do is climb beneath some skeezy blanket that is undoubtedly infested by the sweaty germs of inculcable yogis, many of whom probably skip showers in their efforts to save our natural resources. It took the greatest strength and concentration for me to handle the blankets. I almost yelped my relief when I realized we’d be lying atop, not under, the scratchy material. We folded and stacked them so that, like a beam, they would lift our backs from the ground. After Robert came by, pulled my shoulders down, and faced my palms to the ceiling, I was actually very comfortable.

“I’m happy this was a more informal class,” Janet said to me once we were outside. “I was worried you were going to make me laugh, and in the class I usually go to, everyone is much more reverent.”

“I can do reverent,” I said, even though I wasn’t entirely convinced I could.

“I like this class a lot,” said Rosa. While on the phone earlier, she’d told me that she didn’t like the chanting, spiritual mumbo-jumbo that she’d been forced to sit through during all the others.

“I don’t mind chanting, especially when I don’t understand the words,” I said. While driving the family from New York to California, my dad would play chants led by Gurumayi Chidvilasananda over and over on the tape deck in the VW camper. Thinking back on Dad’s Eastern spiritual exploits, it’s a wonder I hadn’t tried yoga sooner.

“Those reverberations in your chest are like an internal massage,” I explained to Rosa. “Think the chair at Divine Nail Spa, but instead of massaging your back and legs, it massages your organs. Eh?” She seemed unswayed.

I offered Janet’s mat back to her. “You’re welcome to keep it,” she said. “So you want to do this class again next Thursday?”

“I’m in,” I said, suppressing the voice in my head that balked at becoming one of those people I’ve always delighted in mocking — a SoCal chick with a goddamned yoga mat in the trunk of her car.

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Still Looking?

What do you hope to find in an online profile? Real dating only happens in the real world - not online. That’s why we’re dedicated to tried-and-true matchmaking. We spend time learning about the real you, so that your matches are like-minded singles. From a casual lunch to drinks after work, it’s high-quality dating at its finest. To start dating for success, visit us at itsjustlunchsandiego.com or itsjustlunchsandiego.com.
Suicide Tourism

And some of them are coming from 8000 miles away. It's being called suicide tourism, and Tijuana is one of its hottest destinations, so hot that one of the men who put Tijuana on the suicide tourism map now says he's directing people to Mexican border towns to the east.

Dr. Philip Nitschke could be described as the Jack Kevorkian of Australia. He's been nicknamed Dr. Death in his country for his very public championing of what he terms "end-of-life choices." He performed the first legal physician-assisted suicides in the world in 1996, when the Northern Territory, a province of Australia, legalized the practice. Within months of passing, the law was overturned, but Nitschke has remained active in the issue. He's the president of a group called Exit International and the coauthor of a book called The Peaceful Pill Handbook that details ways in which people can kill themselves peacefully and painlessly. The book, which gained notoriety when it was banned in Australia and New Zealand, offers tips on traveling to Mexico to buy pentobarbital — also known as Nembutal.

"The history of the drug is interesting," said Nitschke, reached by phone in Australia. "It used to have a bit of a role as a sleeping tablet. It was one of the barbiturate sleeping tablets, and it was implicated in Marilyn Monroe and Judy Garland ending their lives by having an overdose of sleeping tablets. But it's fallen away...it's almost a non-prescribed drug for human use. But it's still used in veterinary practice. That's the one people are seeking out in Mexico."

(Continued from front page)

Asked for pentobarbital by a customer, the woman looks a bit nervous.
Asked why Mexico, Nitschke responds, “Convenience. It’s relatively easy for people to access the country from as far away as Australia. It’s not just a matter of distance but a matter of the ability to simply fly into America and cross the border. And the cost of the travel is relatively cheap. Those are the main considerations. There have been other places. But Mexico became the most well known, and partly because we included a chapter about it in my book. What we were trying to do is take away some of the difficulty and make it a much more straightforward process in terms of obtaining what it is people need. To do that, you’ve got to make it clear what it is people are trying to do so that they’re not just wandering in a foreign country making all sorts of mistakes. They need to know exactly what they’re trying to do and that the product they’re getting is what they want. So we were able to find out what all those processes are and write about them. That book was published a couple of years ago, and since, there’s been quite an increase in the number of people traveling into Mexico for this reason.”

Recently, at Star Pet veterinary pharmacy on the west side of Avenida Revolución just south of Second, the clerk on duty, when asked for pentobarbital, said in fluent English, “We’re all sold out. We’ll get more in about a month and a half.”

The clerk recommended another veterinary pharmacy “a block and a half down Second.” On the south side of Second, between Negrete and Ocampo, stands Granero Los Alazanes. The store is stuffed with handmade wooden dog houses, leashes, muzzles, shampoo, and pet food. Behind the counter, a couple in their mid-30s watch a soap opera playing on a wall-mounted television. Asked for pentobarbital by a customer, the woman looks a bit nervous and glances at the man to her left. He nods his head almost imperceptibly, and she

“We do not send people to Tijuana because it’s not legal.”

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grabs a bottle down from a high shelf behind her. It’s 100 milliliters of Pentovet NRV brand pentobarbital. “Forty-five dollars,” she says.

Dr. Luis Guerra operates a veterinary practice in Colonia Libertad, a neighborhood that clings to the hills between the river and the border about five miles east of downtown. “What are those veterinary pharmacies doing down there in a tourist area?” he asks rhetorically. “They’re not there for pets.”

Guerra says he’s heard about people coming to Mexico to obtain pentobarbital but says none have ever come to him asking for it. “I wouldn’t sell it to them if they did,” says Guerra, a gregarious man in his mid-50s with thick black hair and the gray-flecked brush mustache common to middle-aged Mexican men. Dressed in...
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Guerra says he understands why someone who wanted to die would want to use pentobarbital, because of the peaceful nature of death caused by the barbiturate. “They would fall asleep and not wake up.”

In his veterinary practice, Guerra administers pentobarbital by injection in order to tranquilize and anesthetize animals before he performs surgery on them. “I give the proper dosage, and the dog goes to sleep. If I give any more, the breathing will stop.”

Though he knows the death would be peaceful, Guerra doesn’t think pentobarbital makes a good suicide drug because “I think it would take more than one dose, and somebody has to help at that point. Let’s say I wanted to do it by myself. As I inject myself, I start getting drowsy, and most likely, before I finish a fatal dosage, I’m asleep. If I tried quickly to inject enough to be fatal, there are two risks: the needle might pop out or you might get a huge concentration of the liquor in one spot, and that doesn’t bring about the desired effect.”

“That’s right,” says Nitschke, “so you don’t inject it. You drink it. It comes in 50- or 100-milliliter bottles, and in a 100-milliliter bottle you get six grams. I’ve never seen anyone drink six grams of that and finish their whiskey, if they’re drinking whiskey afterwards.”

Part of the reason The Peaceful Pill Handbook was banned in Australia and New Zealand was because of the helpful hints on traveling to Mexico to obtain pentobarbital with the intent to bring it back to Australia. “You can’t legally import the drug into Australia,” Nitschke says. “It’s a class A drug, as they say here, the same as heroin.”

But it’s not only Australian law that Nitschke’s suicide-tourist countrymen are breaking, it’s U.S. law as well. Exit International and The Peaceful Pill Handbook suggest that people stay in U.S. cities such as San Diego, cross into Mexico, and cross back into the U.S. carrying the pentobarbital, which is illegal. An Australian television news report from April 2008, available on YouTube (youtube.com/watch?v=EheK5vm1nOE), shows a seriously ill couple from Australia traveling to San Diego, checking in at the Harborside Inn on Grape Street in Little Italy, enjoying a few sights in San Diego, and conferring with Nitschke in their hotel room as to where in Tijuana to find the suicide drugs they want. Next, they’re in Tijuana buying the pentobarbital at a veterinary pharmacy on Revolución. A sign hangs in the window of the pharmacy. It says: Australian Veterinary Supplements. They make their purchase, cross back into the U.S., and fly back to Australia. Asked if he’s aware of the illegality of crossing the U.S. border with pentobarbital, Nitschke chuckles. “Look,” he says, “we understand that you’re crossing several boundaries there. And we’ve had a couple of instances where people have been picked up at the U.S. border. We’ve had, interestingly, no example of people that have been picked up at the Australia or New Zealand port. But elderly people think, ‘What have I got to lose?’ And quite possibly they

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Nitschke’s suicide-tourist couple from Australia enjoy a few sights in San Diego, and confer with Nitschke in their hotel room as to where in Tijuana to find the suicide drugs they want. Next, they’re in Tijuana buying the pentobarbital at a veterinary pharmacy on Revolución. A sign hangs in the window of the pharmacy. It says: Australian Veterinary Supplements. They make their purchase, cross back into the U.S., and fly back to Australia. Asked if he’s aware of the illegality of crossing the U.S. border with pentobarbital, Nitschke chuckles. “Look,” he says, “we understand that you’re crossing several boundaries there. And we’ve had a couple of instances where people have been picked up at the U.S. border. We’ve had, interestingly, no example of people that have been picked up at the Australia or New Zealand port. But elderly people think, ‘What have I got to lose?’ And quite possibly they...
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have a lot to lose, but they do it anyway. You’ve got an increasing number of elderly folk who are prepared to take this chance. That speaks for itself.”

Faye Girsh, vice president of the Hemlock Society of San Diego, knows that Exit International has been publicizing the Mexico option for its members. “But we do not send people to Tijuana, because it’s not a legal thing to do,” she explains. “We want people to be able to die peacefully, and quickly, and gently, and with certainty, and those drugs are a way to do it. But we don’t want to jeopardize people’s legal status. We support legal physician-aided dying. We’re also very supportive of the Final Exit Network, an organization that was founded by me and some other people in 2005. [Final Exit] provides support to people who have terminal or hopeless diseases who are considering hastening their deaths. If they qualify for the program, then our volunteers, who are called exit guides — I am one — go to their home to talk about options. If they decide to hasten their dying, the exit guides are with them when they do it, although they can’t provide physical assistance and they can’t provide the means.”

Girsh describes the experience as “peaceful, quick, and certain. Generally, loved ones are there. Generally, these people are extremely sick, not always terminal but sometimes terminal. When a death is planned that way, there’s often less grieving, less trauma than when a death occurs after a long period of suffering or when it occurs suddenly, of course. Most of the people that I’ve worked with have had hospice care, but it’s not enough, so they choose to hasten their death.”

Asked what death-hastening methods she recommends, Girsh responds, “Well, the best drugs are really not available to people, and that’s why they go to Mexico. The best drugs are short-acting barbiturates. Pentobarbital — Nembutal, we call it.”

But because of the illegality of importing and possessing pentobarbital, Girsh favors another option, “Inhalation of inert gas.”

Nitschke describes the gas-inhalation method, in which a plastic bag full of helium is worn over the head, as “very quick, very peaceful. It requires no drugs. It’s completely lawful. You don’t need any help, and suicide is not a crime. But you’ve still got to mess around with cylinders of gas, there needs to be some way to control the flow of the gas, and you’ve got plastic bags over their heads. Many people do it, especially when they realize that it’s as peaceful, quick, and reliable as it is. [The Hemlock Society] is very keen on that [method]. I think if they were honest and asked their own membership, ‘Do you want a plastic bag over your head or do you want to drink this little drink?’ they’d find 90 percent of people would say, ‘I’d rather drink the drink, thank you very much.’”

But the trick is acquiring the drink. And for the mostly Australian, New Zealander, and British membership of Nitschke’s Exit International, the easiest option is to travel to the U.S. and make a brief foray into Mexico to obtain the pentobarbital. “My usual route,” says Nitschke, “is through Los Angeles and then down. But increasingly, nowadays, we’re more inclined to travel across to other cities in Mexico rather than into the increasing scrutiny that Tijuana is being subjected to. We’re increasingly suggesting the El Paso, Laredo, Mexicali options.”

— Ernie Grimm
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AMERICAN ICARUS:
BEACHEY COMES TO SAN DIEGO
(Part Two)

“Death was always my opponent,” said Lincoln Beachy at a celebration in his honor, “and I gave tremendous odds.” He spoke at the Olympic Club in San Francisco, May 12, 1913. In three years he had risen from a fledgling pilot who’d smashed three planes trying out for Glenn Curtiss’s flying school to “the greatest birdman of all.”

by Jeff He’d flown over and down Niagra Falls and Smith between skyscrapers on Chicago’s Michigan Avenue, tapping the tops of cars with his wheels. Often practicing over Coronado’s North Island, he perfected the art of “aerobatics,” inventing at least ten unimaginable stunts.

One became known as the “dip of death.” From 5000 feet, Beachy shot straight down and pulled out at the last second. Twenty-two pilots died trying to imitate the maneuver. Shortly before he spoke at the Olympic Club, newspapers called Beachy “the Pacemaker of Death” — and accused him of murder.

At the end of his speech, Beachy declared that he’d never fly again. He didn’t fear dying but dreaded “the blame and remorse for the death of brother aviators who went crashing into eternity trying to ‘out’ Beachey Beachy.”

“I am tormented with a desire to loop the loop in the air,” he added. But were he the first to fly a complete circle, others “will be taken to death in trying to do the same thing because I have done it.”

Beachy got the idea of looping from Hugh Robinson. While testing planes for Glenn Curtiss’s flying school at North Island, Robinson went to the circus in San Diego. He watched a clown in a rusty jalopy swoop down a track, from the top rear of the tent, and into a giant metallic hoop. Going at least 40 miles an hour, the car went up, upside-down, around, and out — a circle — then stopped dead, without brakes, inches from the bleachers.

Robinson urged Beachy and Eugene Ely, one of Beachy’s few friends, to catch the act. They did, in Riverside. On the ride back, Ely was amazed not at the loop but how fast the car had stopped. Eight ropes had been stretched across the end of the track, each with bags of wet sand at both ends. A meat hook on the rear axle caught the ropes: 16 weights lugged the jalopy to a standstill.

Ely was the first pilot to take off from a ship, but landing on one stumped him until he saw the meat hook gather the taut ropes. On January 18, 1911, using a “tail hook” designed by Robinson, Ely became the first pilot in history to land on a ship: the USS Pennsylvania, in San Francisco Bay.

Nine months later, Ely crashed in Macon, Georgia, and became one of the 22 pilots who died attempting the dip of death. Days later, Ely’s wife shot Beachy a letter: “God punish you, Lincoln Beachy! Gene would be with me now if he had not seen you fly!”

Her “prodding and nagging” took his life, Beachy retorted, but he confessed in private that Ely’s death began his thoughts of retirement.

On September 21, 1913, four months after Beachy’s announcement, Adolphe Pegoud looped the loop at Marseilles, France. The news made international headlines and struck Beachy like a heart attack. (Unknown to the world, a Russian named Petr Nesterov had looped on September 9 at an aerodrome in Kiev. But censors refused to publicize or even allow him to repeat the “fool-hardy death loop.”)

Beachy telegraphed Curtiss, demanding the “smallest, strongest, and fastest” biplane the company could build. It needed twice the strength of his former craft — beams, turnbuckles, wire cable stays — but it could not be too heavy. Pegoud flew a monoplane with a “tractor” propeller mounted behind the pilot and an eight-cylinder, water-cooled motor. To withstand the stress of inverted flight, Curtiss’s engineers designed one-piece wings and covered them with doubled layers of shellacked canvas.

Beachy abandoned his old-school approach in one regard: to hold him in when upside-down, he added safety belts, two nailed to the seat bottom, which crisscrossed his lap, and a shoulder strap.

He tested the machine on October 7, 1913, at Hammondsport, in the Finger Lakes region of New York. Although the way for the wartime practice of parachuting from a machine shot down in combat.

“Me, I stick to my old formula,” boasted Beachy. “Give me enough power and I’ll fly a barn door upside-down.”

Curtiss built a biplane with a “pusher” propeller mounted behind the pilot and an eight-cylinder, water-cooled motor. To withstand the stress of inverted flight, Curtiss’s engineers designed one-piece wings and covered them with doubled layers of shellacked canvas.

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A M E R I C A N I C A R U S :  
BEACHEY COMES TO SAN DIEGO
(Part Two)

Hans Christian Adamson: “It’s hard to imagine today the adoration that followed Lincoln Beachey everywhere…. He was Lindbergh at his prime, he was all the stars of stage and screen combined, with a strong touch of Superman thrown in.”

Henry Serrano Villard: Adolphe Pegoud was also “the first pilot to leave a plane in flight”; he “paved the way for the wartime practice of parachuting from a machine shot down in combat.”

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the flight was supposed to be a secret, Navy pilots training in the area got word and came to watch. Lieutenants Bellinger and Richardson brought their girlfriends, sisters Ruth and Dorothy Hildreth. To get a better view, all four inched up a hangar ridgepole.

Even before a mechanic cranked the propeller, the plane felt too heavy to Beachey. The extra buttressing and large, blaring motor, like a gigantic dentist's drill, made it seem not lighter than air, but more like Ely's tail-hook plane.

As he took off, Beachey realized this clumsy, blunt-winged toad would never loop. It could barely lift. At the end of the runway, he had to yank the stick back full to his chest to clear a stand of oaks.

He flew over Lake Keuka, turned, and came back to land. But the plane was so bulky the question became, how? The sole possibility, he realized, was to swoop down fast, at over 70 miles an hour, so the engine wouldn't stall. But that speed would fry his wheels and could mean certain death.

Beachey practiced landing approaches in the air but after several experiments realized that a crash was inevitable. Witnesses below, thinking that he was preparing to loop, shouted approval each time the test plane roared overhead.

As Beachey approached the runway, the engine sputtered, the plane dipped. He hit the throttle. A wire twanged above him. The wings veered toward the hangar. In a blind panic, the lieutenants and the Hildreth sisters scrambled down the ridgepole.

Too late. Beachey's right wing speared the roof. The plane spun, cartwheeled, and slammed into the ground with an iron thud. The remains looked like warped monkey bars.

As he unhooked the safety harness that had probably saved his life, Beachey recalled people scurrying down the pole. A crowd, forming at the hangar, confirmed his worst fear: Dorothy Hildreth had sustained serious injuries; Ruth Hildreth had fallen to her death.

"She's dead, Linc," said Beachey's mechanic Arthur Mix. "You killed her."

Beachey, several witnesses attest, limped behind the hangar and vomited.

---

Profil Institute for Clinical Research invites you to participate in a research study involving an investigational insulin for people with Type 1 Diabetes.

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To qualify for this research study of an investigational drug you must be:

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• Age 40 to 70
• A non-smoker
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Please Reference Study 6114-584

9665 Chesapeake Dr., Ste. 200
San Diego, CA
The tragedy, writes Don Dwiggins, “left Beachey numb inside, not with the chill of fear. That was gone...” but with “a sense of futility, of inevitability, that edged his flying technique with an almost morbid desire to see how far he could go.”

It also confirmed a “loathing, a hatred of the sea of upturned faces that had lured him to go too far.” Beachey became convinced that people came by the tens of thousands not to see him carve graceful, death-defying shapes and figures in the air but to watch him flail and burn.

Three weeks later, Curtiss's engineers rebuilt and refined the test plane. It felt right, said Beachey, but since winter was coming, he ordered the plane crated and shipped by train to California. “We’ll pull the first loop at the San Diego meet on Thanksgiving Day,” he said. “Tell the newspapers!”

Along with “Pacemaker of Death,” two other accusations hounded Beachey: that he was insane, “the California Flying Fool”; and that he was a fraud, his heroics mere tricks. (One reason he performed lower to the ground than any of his rivals was to prove that his art was genuine.)

His train pulled into the San Diego depot on November 15, 1913. As the ferry shipped the crates to Coronado, he checked into the U.S. Grant Hotel and phoned the newspapers. “The Genius of Aviation”—his preferred title—“is here to loop the loop. I will stay at North Island for about a week or ten days. I want to have the stunts down letter perfect by the time I show them to the public.”

On Sunday the 16th, Beachey made an inch-by-inch inspection of the assembled biplane. He checked every Roebling wire cable and turnbuckle. Finally, he climbed in and ordered workers to start the 100-horsepower engine. Eight men had to hold the wings. The machine, making such a raucous blare it gave them earaches, warmed up.

Beachey climbed to 3000 feet, shut off the engine, and nose-dived out of the sky. The crew, along with nearby Army pilots who’d ceased work to watch, held their breath. Then, only 200 feet from disaster, somehow Beachey leveled off. He rose, did a second dip, this time with a double spiral, and landed.

Beachey made three flights that day. What seemed miraculous to onlookers were actually his basic stunts: letter Z’s and S’s, controlled tailspins, and perpendicular flybys over the field, the low wing, inches from the ground, raising a wake of dust. He concluded his day with a dip of death so swift that the San Diego Union received numerous calls asking if yet another Army plane had crashed at Rockwell Field.

“This was plain flying today,” Beachey told awed reporters. “I’m not taking any chances and will not go to the limit until I know just what the limit means.” He pronounced the plane fit to try the “somersault stunt” in the near future.

But before looping the loop, he first had to master flying upside-down.

On November 18, around 4:00 p.m., Beachey spun his cap backwards and yelled at a photographer, “Grease up your camera, and keep your eyes open!” He took off into blus-
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A research study is underway for men with significant difficulty urinating or who have a weak stream caused by benign prostatic hypertrophy, or BPH. Qualified participants will receive investigational intramuscular injection medication.

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4) No history of prostate surgery or prostate cancer

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2) Medication, laboratory studies, and EKG
3) Compensation for your time and travel

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Medical Center for Clinical Research

Women’s Health Care is conducting a clinical research study for women who experience the uncomfortable symptoms of breast tenderness.

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
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San Diego, CA 92123

Once they removed the bodies, workers burned the blood-splattered shambles on the spot.

When he flew belly-up, a “rush of metallic discs” trickled past his head. Searchers found only four five-dollar gold pieces. But since he’d promised to loop at North Island on Thanksgiving, the advertising was priceless.

On November 24, Beachey took a picture of himself flying upside-down. But a tragedy grabbed the...
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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.

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Qualified participants will receive at no cost:
• Study medication • Medical evaluation by a board-certified medical doctor • Laboratory tests • Supervised care by medical professionals as it relates to the study • Compensation for time and travel • Health insurance is not required

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

Is 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 • Having trouble staying asleep through the night • Be impacted in your daily life by your sleep problems

If you qualify and choose to participate in this study, you will receive an initial consultation, study-related medical examinations and laboratory evaluations, all follow-up visits, and you may receive investigational medication at no charge to you. Compensation for time and travel provided.

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See our website: www.ari-inc.com

Are you living in the shadow of bipolar depression?

We’re working to bring future treatment options to light.
As a person with bipolar I, you know what it’s like to live with the darkness of depression. So you may want to know about this clinical research study examining an investigational drug for bipolar depression compared to a placebo, an inactive substance, when used in combination with a mood stabilizer. If:
• You are at least 18 years old • You have a history of at least one bipolar manic or mixed episode • You have been diagnosed with bipolar I and are currently experiencing a depressive episode

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

If you are interested in learning more about this study, please contact:
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“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 $90.00 dollars for participation
- Study drug or Placebo

For more information call *(619) 229-3909*

**Research Opportunities**

**Are You Overweight?**

Do You Have Elevated Blood Pressure?

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

You may qualify if you are:

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

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

If you are interested please call:
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**Do You Get Anxious in Social Situations?**

Do you:
- Get very NERVOUS around people?
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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.

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Please Reference Study 6688-565

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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

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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

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Why Me?!

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

We are looking for participants who are:

- 12 years or older with mild to moderate acne
- In general good health
- Able to attend up to 5 clinic visits over a 12-week period

Qualified participants will receive:

- Skin examinations by Dr. Stacy Smith and Dr. Sandra Adsit, board-certified dermatologists at Therapeutics Clinical Research
- All visits and study treatment at no cost
- Compensation for time and travel

---

Acne? Why Me?!

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call:
858-279-SKIN (7546)
The next day, however, he changed his mind. — Jeff Smith

Next time: Beachey loops the loop

SOURCES:


Mix, Arthur, “My 82,000 Miles with Lincoln Beachy,” U.S. Air Services, January 1929.


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On average, Lindbergh Field (also known as San Diego International Airport) performs 620 operations a day: 310 departures and 310 arrivals.

All 620 of these operations are performed, whether planes are coming or going, over several San Diego neighborhoods.

Despite this, some of these neighborhoods — the worst affected include Banker’s Hill, Loma Portal, and Ocean Beach — are well developed and populated with a mix of rental apartments, condos, and single-family homes.

"From the end of the runway to the ocean is right at three miles," says Dan Frazee, the director of Airport Noise Mitigation for the San Diego County Airport Authority. "[But] the noise impact area is .92 miles...[it has] just under 10,000 dwelling units and a population of just under 23,000."

The planes fly disarmingly low over Banker’s Hill, especially, as they land at Lindbergh not far away. Shayna Banfe and Emilie Schneider’s apartment, a white, airy loft with a small patio, is no exception. The planes pass overhead and swoop downwards past their back French doors; the sound is both low- and high-pitched, a deep rumble accompanied by a reedy, mechanical whine. The planes skim past the apartment’s skylight, casting a shadow on the couch below.

Deciding whether to live directly under passing aircraft was something Schneider and Banfe had to discuss when they went apartment-hunting three months ago.

"If we went to the balcony, I could guess which plane was what from the way they sound."

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"We actually talked about it," says Schneider. "We said, 'It's a little bit risky, but it's just more fun out here.'" So far, Schneider and Banfe are enjoying their apartment just off Fourth Avenue. They considered living in Golden Hill, in a house Banfe describes as "cute" and "tucked away," but ultimately decided Banker's Hill was more for them.

Before moving in, the duo wasn't certain what to expect. "We weren't totally sure how bad it was," Banfe says, "because when we came [and looked at the apartment] we said, 'We have to make a conscious effort to hear it.' But we didn't. We were just trying to [get] examples of what it really was like, but we just sort of went for it without totally knowing."

The typical aircraft, according to Mechanical Engineering Magazine, generates an average of "150 decibels at a distance of 100 feet." For this reason, Lindbergh enforces a strict curfew, disallowing planes from departing from 11:30 p.m.–6:30 a.m., ensuring that the late-night and early-morning hours remain noise-free. Airlines that break curfew are fined $2000 for their first violation, $6000 for their second, and $10,000 if all violations fall within a six-month period.

The curfew, while it may limit the number of flights out of Lindbergh, does not, however, limit planes flying in. Aircraft may arrive at any time of night, as mandated by the federal government. "They say, 'You are a 24-hour operation,'" says Frazee. "There's only one airport I'm aware of that has both an arrival and departure curfew, and that's John Wayne [in Orange County]."

Frazee estimates that the planes in question, which as they fly over Banfe and Schneider's loft are on arrival, can come as close as 400 feet from a given building when landing at the San Diego International Airport.

Still, when searching for their apartment, Banfe and Schneider remained undeterred by the flight path. They are now comfortably settled in beneath it. "Everyone I talked to when we were trying to decide [if] we would live in the flight path, they said you get totally used to it, it's just like city noises and stuff," says Schneider, speaking of friends who live in Ocean Beach. "I don't think they understood how close we are," she adds.

The planes are more than close enough for Selin Bahar — who lives not far away, on Fifth Avenue, just off Hawthorn — to be able to distinguish each carrier by the noise of its aircraft. "If we went to the balcony, I could guess which plane was what from the way they sound," she says.

While Bahar is used to living with constant noise, she concedes that there are times when it does bother her, such as when she's trying to watch a movie. She puts a positive spin on it: "[The noise] bothered me until I realized that, when I hear the planes, it's always a reminder that there is life out there, and people are traveling, and traveling is a big part of me," she says. "So even if I can't go home to Turkey and visit my family, I know that there's this possibility that one of them could get on a plane or that I could get on a plane and go back."

Others cope in different ways. Eventually, they say, the noise from the planes...
fades neatly into the background. Gary Sehnert, who has lived in the flight path since the late ’80s, explains how he got used to it after only a few weeks.

“Every time a plane went over, I convinced myself I was sucking up the energy of the engines as they got louder,” he says, “and after a little while, it worked. You do get used to it, I think. You learn to punctuate your conversations and keep the remote handy when watching TV, to turn up the volume and then back down.”

Even so, Sehnert, who lives on West Ivy Street, was unsure of how he would cope with the noise when he first moved.

“I wasn’t sure I could handle the planes,” he says. “The view was neat and all that, and it’s a neat location. I really wanted it to work.”

And it has. In 1998, Sehnert purchased his house, which is just up the street from where he lived his first years in San Diego. His home, ironically painted a periwinkle-blue “infinity and beyond” color, is in the middle of a hill, with a dramatic view of the harbor. The planes fly directly overhead at a distance that he estimates is less than the length of a football field.

Sehnert can’t say enough good things about the neighborhood.

“I’ve got great restaurants [and] the bay,” he says. “When I got home from law school [in the ’80s], every day I used to take a walk down by the harbor, or in Balboa Park, or wherever. I can see downtown, but it’s fairly nice residential streets down here.”

While the noise is considerable from inside his home, it passes quickly.

“Ninety-five percent of the time,” Sehnert says, “the planes are landing over us, and from the first time you hear them until the time they’re gone, it’s about 15 seconds. When they’re landing they’re gunning down, their engines are slowing, but when they take off, they’re full throttle. It’s much louder, and it’s much longer. I know what it’s like because occasionally they do take off from the other side of it, in terms of how bad it is, I usually don’t even notice when they fly over, unless they’re particularly loud.”

He pauses. “In terms of actual impact, once you get used to them, they’re really not there,” he says.

“For me, it’s almost...
become white noise," Kirsten adds. "You just kind of get adapted to it."

In Loma Portal, it’s louder still than in Ocean Beach, as the planes are lower in the sky.

Bob Wilder lives in a Craftsman home on Elliott Street, right under the path of the departing planes. He bought his home in the ’80s as a fixer-upper, with full knowledge that it was beneath the flight path.

“I knew that these houses were valuable,” he says simply. “I knew the planes were loud, but I had no problem with them.”

When asked why he chose to live in such a noisy part of town, he replies, “Location, location, location… People aren’t worried about those planes because we’ve got the cutest little schools and things down here. My kids walked to school. Walked right up a very safe street, with the little gas lamps, right up to Loma Portal. I felt safe with them walking to school.”

Chris, a 30-year homeowner, lives just southwest of Chatsworth Boulevard. His house is a pretty, white Monterey Colonial with well-kept front and side yards.

“When I came to San Diego,” he says, “I decided to live in the Point Loma area. In 1976, I noticed that housing prices under the flight path were about 20 percent lower than outside of the flight path. My wife and I therefore felt that by buying here we could afford a larger and more attractive house, one that better met our requirements.” He pauses. “I always hoped that the airport would move because they were talking about moving it just as seriously 30 years ago as they are now.”

Until recently, the Airport Authority was thinking of moving to a new location. In 2006, the Miramar Plan proposed to move the airport over by the Miramar Marine Corps Air Station. "Proposition 1A" passed in 1994, but the plan was never put into action. Re-proposed in 2006, it was rejected by voters, even though, according to the Union-Tribune, Lindbergh is expected to exceed its capacity for both planes and travelers by 2015 and 2022, respectively.

“The flight path will not change,” says Peninsula Planning Board member Suhail Khalil, “[because] with a single runway, [the] Federal Aviation Administration allows only two flight paths for safety reasons…. San Diego International Airport doesn’t have the space to add a second runway… nor is it a feasible long-term solution to the airport’s maximization of Lindbergh Field.”

According to Jay Shumaker, an architect and Peninsula Planning Board member, “The short-term plan for Lindbergh is the same short-term plan that was developed years ago. Add a few gates and parking. They’ve also planned to move the rental cars off the waterfront. To the short-range plan, I have no objection. San Diego must stay in the game economically.”

Some, however, disagree with how the airport is handling its current situation. Lance Murphy, a Point Loma resident, argues that the airport, as it reaches its physical limits, will pose more and more of a problem.

“As the airport gets closer to its capacity, they’re going to have more and more unplanned excursions,” says Murphy. “That is dangerous. First and foremost, I don’t want to be near an airport that’s dangerous. And...
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August 21, 2008
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San Diego
August 21, 2008
Reader
is wonderful. “I got good stuff; all my stuff it, and I was happy then. So he knew exactly how to do
sent over a good painter, and I called the main guy and he
the job who weren’t painters. I had them fire a few guys on
didn’t close correctly. My
and stuff — their windows
away at work — and some
owners who were going to be
neighbors who talk about
ers, ” he says. “I had a lot of
laborers and some bad labor-
ers,” he says. “I had a lot of
neighbors who talk about
not getting very good work.
But I got good work because
I was here all the time. Home-
owners who were going to be
away at work — and some
of these are widowed women
and stuff — their windows
didn’t close correctly. My
labor was good because I
had them fire a few guys on
the job who weren’t painters.
I called the main guy and he
sent over a good painter, and
he knew exactly how to do
it, and I was happy then. So
I got good stuff; all my stuff
is wonderful.”
Shenkert is also happy
with the work, even consid-
ing the tribulations that
came along with it.
“I’m so thankful for
what they did,” he says. “They
did about $70,000 worth of
work to the house. They
furred out the inside of all the
exterior walls with these big
metal furring strips, they put
in insulation and new dry-
wall, and then they painted
it. Now central heating and
air conditioning. The wiring
was very old, so they rewired
the house. It was just an
incredible windfall.”
Chris is thankful for
what the Quieter Home Pro-
gram has done. “[The aircraft noise] used to be much worse,” he
says, “A, because the house
wasn’t quieted, so obviously
there was more noise, and
B, because the airplanes used
to be noisier. Now there are
more airplanes, but they’re
less noisy.”
Since 1990, when the
Airport Noise and Capacity
Act was passed by Congress,
planes have become quieter.
The act, put in place with
the specific goal of hushing
aircraft noise pollution,
required a phaseout of older
planes and a fresh set of tech-
nical regulations for newer
ones to follow. All planes
over 75,000 pounds had to
comply with the regulations
by December 2003.
“The air carriers had to
do one of three things,” Fransz
explains. “They either had
to buy newer, quieter air-
planes, or they could re-
engine their airplanes with
newer engines that were qui-
ter. They could [also use]
what are called ‘hush kits,’
which are like mufflers
around an engine that qui-
et it down.”
The Quieter Home
Program does, however,
come with a catch. Each
homeowner is required to
sign an avigation easement,
an agreement that, accord-
ing to the Quieter Home
Program’s website, “limits
the homeowner’s ability to
initiate legal action against
the airport authority for
aircraft noise-related issues.”
This, according to Penin-
sula Planning Board mem-
ber Sahal Khalil, poses major
problems.
“The Quieter Home Program
is a wonderful program that
allows the airport to add as
much noise as they want,” he
says. “The easement is in perpetuity, mean-
ning that it will transfer to the
next owners indefinitely. This
is something property own-
ers under the departure or
arrival flight paths must look
into very closely before sign-
ing. The Federal Aviation
Administration does not
require property owners
under flight paths to sign
avigation easements in order
to take part in the Quieter
Home Programs; the Quieter
Home Program earmarks
funds available to property
owners to retrofit windows
and doors to comply with
soundproof standards. The
only reason the Airport
Authority may have for
requiring property owners
to sign avigation easements
before granting funds for
the Quieter Home Program
is if the flight paths or noise
levels eventually may change.”
Avigation easements,
according to Murphy, are
also required for those apply-
ning for building permits
within a certain area of the
flight path — even for remod-
eling a kitchen.
Some, however, didn’t
mind them either way.
“We don’t own the air
over our house,” Wilder
explains. “We signed [that]
away because new windows
and doors have to comply
with soundproof standards.
It’s a matter of common
law that the government can’t
force us to accept a
problem that we didn’t
realize was there in the first
place.”

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and new doors were a lot more valuable than airplane noise. Air conditioning, heating, everything. insulation.”

He pauses.

“So that’s that,” he says. Others, Wilder backtracks, were less happy about it than he was. “Some people did not want to do that,” he says. “Some people had already installed new windows and doors, and they didn’t need that, they just wanted the airport to keep their agreement to limit the noise. And they didn’t. They brought in FedEx — FedEx is loud — they brought in their cargo carrier—type planes, and then there are some big passenger planes.”

There are also those living in the flight path who do not have the luxury of the Quieter Home Program retrofittings or anything else. Bahar, who lives in a building with well over the six to ten dwelling units the program denotes as a cutoff, is sure her apartment has not been safeguarded against noise.

“There’s nothing like that,” she says. “Oh, my gosh, it is so loud. The walls shake!”

— Rosa Jurjevics

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San Diego Reader August 21, 2008

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**LETTERS**
continued from page 12

shakedown attempts by Tijuana police, who are a criminal gang in their own right. I have traveled down there for 20 years. It is worse than ever. Americans minding their own business walking in tourists areas can expect to be searched and harassed by T1 cops. My advice to Americans, there is nothing down there worth losing your constitutional rights.

Dan Tanna via email

Our Addicts’ Demands
This article is sensationalist and in bad taste (“Greetings from Tijuana,” Cover Story, August 7). It misleads people about Mexico. Is it possible that 19 Latin American countries (south of your border) produce drugs to satisfy the demand of your millions of addicts and “Americans” share no blame? Come on! You are the biggest drug consumers in the world, and your government has its hands deep in it. It is not fair. The end of the world is the USA. We will see it, soon! I am nothing but a normal “drug free” citizen.

Was the Reader meant for sensationalist articles?
Guillermo Rodriguez via email

We’re Outta Here
After having a house for 22 years in Mexico, in between Rosarito and Ensenada, I was really appreciative of that article on Tijuana (“Greetings from Tijuana,” Cover Story, August 7). I sold my house a year and a half ago, and the reason I did was because I got hassled by the cops constantly. I’ve never been in a Mexican jail or prison or anything like that; I’m 50 years old. But between the cops and the thieves when you’re not there at your house, I’d had it. I really appreciate the story.

Chuck Cadena
Older, Wiser

I wanted to thank you and the writer of this article for getting the news out about the dangers in Mexico (“Greetings from Tijuana,” Cover Story, August 7). You hear bits and pieces of this on the lame stream media outlets, but definitely not all that should be reported. I know it’s all about one thing, money. Money from advertisers that say come to Baja, explore the museums, and enjoy the culture, etc. Thank you, thank you, thank you for revealing the ugly truth. Hopefully some tourists will have read this article and changed their plan to go down south for some cheap crap. You probably have saved some lives. Would you like 80 rounds of AK-47 with your smelly leather goods, sir? I used to go down there when I was young and stupid; now I’m so glad I wised up. Keep on reporting on things that really matter.

DS via email

Watts Is North Of The Border
Re “Greetings from Tijuana,” by Michael Hem-
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San Diego Reader August 21, 2008 53
Greetings, Michael,

December 12, 2007 —

Peter Landesman wrote in the LA Weekly: “The average American has a 1-in-18,000 chance of being murdered. In this area of [South Central] Los Angeles” — two hours north of San Diego — “the chances are 1 in 250.

“On New Year’s Eve so much automatic weapons fire pours into Watts’ airspace that LAX air traffic control must divert the flight path of incoming planes. The U.S. military sends its medics to train at local trauma hospitals because the conditions in their trauma units so resemble live warfare…. LAPD Chief William Bratton declared the Jordan Downs–Nickerson Gardens area ‘the most violent community in the country. This is now the most dangerous place in America.’ ”

“The modern American gang was born here” — the Bounty Hunter Bloods and Grape Street Crips. “At last count, Los Angeles County had more than 714 gangs and 80,000 gang members. That makes one of every hundred county residents either a hardcore soldier in a gang or an ‘associate’ — the getaway drivers, lookouts, ‘cookers’ (people who know how to turn cocaine into crack) and ‘hooks’ (people who direct customers to drug houses) — or an ‘affiliate,’ a gang member with no specific duties.…. “Every yard, doorway, shop and parking lot is the fiefdom of one of Watts’ 65 gangs and their roughly 15,000 hardcore gang members. In that area alone, gang members shoot 500 people a year, and kill 90. Nearly every citizen living there is enjoined by membership or affiliation; those who try to stay out of the life incur their local gang’s wrath, sometimes with fatal consequences.” The paramedics wear Kevlar vests.

“It wasn’t always this way. Originally, L.A.’s street gangs were social and support organizations for immigrants and packs of neighborhood pals. Mostly their crimes were petty, and scores were settled with fists…. All that changed forever in the late 1980s, when crack cocaine hit Los Angeles and neighborhood affiliation became secondary to what all the gangs now really wanted: a piece of the drug business.” Does it sound familiar?

“In America’s urban ganglands, and in L.A. in particular, the ferocity of the thugs has surged; gang members, their victims and police long on the gang beat tell me the fighting has become more codeless, more arbitrary and more brutal than ever.

“And it is everywhere. According to the Department of Justice, today America has at least 30,000 gangs, with 800,000 members, in 2,500 communities across the United States. (Gang experts at the University of Southern California claim the number of American jurisdictions with gang problems has reached 4,000.) Federal, state and local law
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enforcement across the country agree that street gangs connected to or mimicking the L.A. model have become a national epidemic.” It is “spreading to formerly safe middle-class communities, or, ‘to a neighborhood near you’…” The bigger and more dangerous portion of the country’s 800,000-odd gang members are disaffected and marginalized youths looking to identify with something.”

Almost anywhere in America a migrating gang-banger lands, he is fairly sure to find a receptive supply of recruits. “Trying out gangs is becoming more and more popular”… “Now gangs are fads, it’s cool to be a Crip and Blood,” report experts, or, say, part of the MS-13 (Mara Salvatrucha). Will those Americans have ties across the border? Sure do. Crime is not apart from globalization.

“Shootings have become so routine in parts of Los Angeles that most never make the newspapers or television, leaving much of the community oblivious to the magnitude of what is happening on the streets,” wrote Kenneth B. Noble in the New York Times.

It is outrageous the level of corruption in Mexico. Society is taken as a hostage. I never had any problem south of the border, crossing at least twice a week for the last six years. Neither had I any when I visited Sabato Rodia’s Watts Towers (or Nuestra Pueblo). After all, it is Tijuana, Michael. It is cynical to say that the situation is very different down there. Scary, isn’t it? I.G. via email

Drug Hunger
Your August 7 cover article on Tijuana murders (“Greetings from Tijuana”) was time-compressed from more than 20 years, making it look worse than it is, which nevertheless is pretty bad. My wife and I, both U.S. citizens and Anglos, lived in Colonia del Río for 17 years, ending last month, and all our children grew up there. The murders got closer to home in the last few years (since Mayor Hank brought his Mexico City police friends, aka gangsters, up north). My family learned caution but was never fear-ridden. My daughter completed Tijuana high school.

The solution to this problem is trivial and obvious, and someone needs to say it. Ninety percent of the murders are drug-trade related. The issue, as in all the third world, is money. Legal dollars only come in the form of loans, imposed on an ever-poorer populace whose raw-material wealth is (except for oil) in long-term decline. The only dollars that don’t have to be paid back twice are the ones from America’s soft underbelly, its drug hunger. All third world countries including Mexico should legalize drugs and their export, and tax them. The

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United States should concede this lost war and make drug trade among adults a misdemeanor, punished only by loss of any rights to get welfare or collect on insurance, including medical insurance. Income based on the drug trade will drop sharply and then stabilize, and young people in Tijuana and Afghanistan can begin to look elsewhere for hope. The members of the U.S. drug culture will either snap out of it or die, attended cheaply by trainee nurses and medical students. Chicago saw all this long ago, in Prohibition and its aftermath.

I don’t propose this because I love George Soros — much the contrary. I’m just sick of the superior legalistic attitude of Anglos, left and right, citizens of this country that kills babies day and night. Here, a paralyzed woman, Terri Schiavo, was tortured to death at the wish of her husband, with police and judges protecting the torturers. And I’m supposed to get all huffy and puffy about people illegally making themselves stupid with chemicals?

Stop the damage. Ditch the senseless laws. Open the floodgates and let the sludge roll, until it peters out and reduces to a trickle. Turn the page.

Larry Dickson
National City

The Language Of Politics

Mr. Hemmingson paints a violent and bleak portrait of our neighbor, using rapid-fire entries of compiled newsbriefs from cited international sources (“Greetings from Tijuana,” Cover Story, August 7). You may say he is unfairly showing us only the nefarious side of Tijuana, but you can’t say he’s missing the facts. But what’s been happening down there is nothing new. Mexican border history is replete with cycles of brutality that come with political changes and power vacuums. Remember the last one?

Back in 1994, right after Pablo Escobar’s death and the Mexican drug cartels’ growing independence from the Colombians and competition with each other, during the peso crisis and incipience of NAFTA (that illegally signed “treaty” was supposed to bring Mexico “out of the third world and into the first.” At least that’s what the Clinton administration said, looks like Bubba fooled us again. Damn, that Willie was slick!), the DEA declared the entire border region a “high-intensity drug trafficking area,” while Mexican investors made a run for the border because the peso had fallen so low. The area was ripe with violence and corruption just like we’re seeing now. Which brings me to Mr. Hemmingson’s mention of one particular event that went down that turbulent year: the Colosio assassination.

While it may be true that there was a PRI-led conspiracy involving another gunman, what is known and officially documented is that the gun found on Mario Aburto Martínez upon his arrest immediately after the shooting was a Brazilian-made .38 revolver that was traced back to a 1977 purchase from a now-defunct gun store in Northern California.

The previous year, in ’93, a drug raid in Baja netted 179 weapons from their good neighbor to the north, including four M60 U.S. military machine guns. The year before that, there were over 5000 guns identified by Mexican authorities as from the U.S. and in Mexico illegally. These facts are real. I uncovered them while researching old newspaper clippings and DEA reports for another project. And I found (as Mr. Hemmingson alludes) that nearly all of the weapons in Mexico are smuggled in from the United States. Very rarely will you find private individuals who own a gun legally. It’s nearly impossible there. You see the great irony here? Why doesn’t Lou Dobbs, or better yet, Duncan Hunter?

Lax U.S. gun laws on dealers and purchasers have contributed a great deal to the bloodshed down south. The gangs know that. They know where to go shopping for their hardware. And it’s pretty easy for them to sneak contraband into Mexico. Many Mexicans I’ve spoken with have expressed frustration with the U.S. government for allowing this to continue. When I explain to them that our government is too busy being worried about their countrymen and women coming into the U.S. illegally, they laugh at the irony. Like, we export our workers that prop up your economy, and in return you allow our thugs to import guns to kill us. It’s a never-ending quest.

That brings me to my second point, Mexico’s other big export: drugs. Until recently, the U.S. was the world’s most coveted drug market. (With the falling dollar, the bulk of that market has shifted to Europe via trampoline countries like Guinea-Bissau.) We, in the land of the free, have more people on something than anyone else, yet some of the world’s most draconian drug laws. Despite repeated studies and evidence that show treatment to be far more effective than incarceration for assuaging addiction, we continue to have the world’s largest prison population and incarceration rate. Meanwhile, the market for drugs has not shrunk. And as long as it exists, there will be suppliers. You see, here we let the market decide.

I’m not suggesting that the U.S. is to blame for all of the woes illustrated in Mr. Hemmingson’s article. No. It’s a much more layered and complex issue than that. It involves the massive restructuring of the entire global economic model, reinventing international relationships rooted in histories of aggression, and the old question of personal freedoms versus governance. These are topics we won’t hear about during this election. We’ll only hear meaningless babble about walls and guest-worker programs. Until the language of politics in this hemisphere quits pandering to lobbyists and ephemeral demographics and gets to...
substantive dialogue involving genuine long-term solutions to the preposterous economic disparity that makes second-class citizens out of neighbors, things will not change. The violence will continue.

Bryan Varela via email

The Mess We Created
It tears me up to hear what is happening to our neighbors across our border (“Greetings from Tijuana,” Cover Story, August 7), and I lay a large part of the blame on decades-old policies that began right here in America and have spread all over the world. Mayor Jerry Sanders’ quote, “What affects one side affects the other,” bears this out, whether he realized it or not at the time.

What we need are tougher drug laws. What I mean by this is that we need to toughen the penalties for crimes committed while under the influence of drugs. This can include anything from injuring someone else or their property while operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, to stepping off the sidewalk and into traffic while strung out on heroin and getting run over by someone on a bicycle, to getting into an altercation with someone else while under the influence of methamphetamines, and so on.

What we don’t need are laws that criminalize the substances in question. This only creates black markets that drastically increase the prices for drugs, most of which come from easily grown plants. With this huge profit potential, it’s no wonder that gangs on both sides of the border are flourishing in the streets. It’s not just the estimated 15 percent of Mexican police that have been corrupted by these policies; the incentive is so high that U.S. DEA agents are routinely found guilty of dealing in the very substances that they are supposed to be fighting against.

The mess it has created south of our border is likely much worse than those of us who don’t travel there even know. With the falsely inflated financial incentive to grow marijuana, coca, poppies, etc., more and more farmers are either giving up food crops in favor of drug crops or are being forced out of farming altogether by the cartels and the forces behind the “global economy.” What was once a flourishing agricultural society is now being overrun by drug lords, multinational food-producing conglomerates backed by companies like Monsanto, and — ironically enough — proponents of the North American Superhighway, which will connect Mexico, the USA, and Canada and provide a streamlined path for the drugs to reach their destination. Is it any wonder that illegal immigration is so rampant? People are being forced out of their own country just to escape this situation.

Evidence of the failures of these policies is so overwhelming and their reasoning so flawed as to be nearly
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The FDA turns a blind eye to the side effects of many of these drugs. Big pharmaceutical companies literally get away with murder every day, and yet someone smoking a little marijuana can be thrown in jail for doing something that harms nobody else? What is wrong with this picture? It’s obvious that some of our elected officials not only don’t have our best interests in mind but are out to control us. This has to change.

Vincent Mross via email

Twice An Hour
Nonsense

I read with interest the “Blurt” story on the concert from years past (“Defiling Jack’s Place,” August 7). I wasn’t sure why a story would run on an event so long ago but read it with curiosity. I was even more interested when it mentioned the station I worked at. It stated that this station (101 KGB-FM) played the Pat Travers song “Boom Boom (Out Go the Lights)” “at least twice per hour.”

Another piece of the puzzle is in the answer to the question “Who or what is trying to be controlled?” As adults, do we not own our own bodies? Do we not have the right to choose what goes into them, and into our children’s bodies as well, as long as we are not willfully harming them? A recent New York Times article pointed out that prescription drugs may cause as many as three times as many deaths as illicit drugs.

This statement is a complete fabrication. That song was played often. Just as I imagine, since their format is still “classic rock,” it gets airplay often. At no time did our station play a song twice in an hour. Unless it was a comedic song used in a morning show bit, that was/is unheard of. Maybe Alan Freed would do it if he got a kickback. Maybe another 50 DJs would do it if there weren’t many new releases, so the new Buddy Holly track was in heavy rotation. Although I doubt that would warrant twice-an-hour airplay.

I have a feeling this was a journalist trying to make the story more interesting. If it’s a journalist remembering facts wrong, well, maybe stories need to be written more accurately. Or contact someone at KGB and ask about old playlists and rotation of songs, just a thought.

Dean Goss
San Francisco

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There are so many contradictions in your August 7 column on your friend’s birthday (”Play Date,” ”Diary of a Diva”). You mention that you don’t buy gifts for birthdays or baby showers because you shouldn’t be told when to buy something but that you should do those things “just because.” Why in your video do you sing “Happy Birthday”?

And why is this all taking place a few weeks after this woman’s birthday? Why didn’t you take her to the big day (wow…doughnuts for breakfast and In-N-Out for lunch) six months earlier?

The other problem is that you lie. You said in a number of columns that you would never marry David. You didn’t believe in marriage. And then you got married. So as much as you claim to hate birthday celebrations, I bet you are one of those people that relish the attention on your birthday. Oh, wait, according to you, there would be no birthday celebration on your big day.

Now you claim you don’t believe in birthdays as a gift-giving occasion, yet you are taking this woman out for her birthday. And you claim to hate birthday celebrations on your big day. Basically, you make no sense.

It’s just an excuse for you to write and video about what great people you and David are for doing something for this woman. Yes, it is nice. But you did it for her birthday. And you did it for other motives. Keep your grammar.

Susan Carter Ensicitas


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Altered States Research Group 877-544-2774

Dear Susan,

You said “seemed to play at least twice per hour.” Mea culpa.

I am wondering how a local ordinance to ban or restrict a home business such as a vacation rental is reconciled with existing state law on supporting the need for more “microenterprises” for spurring economic growth (see http://www.microbiz.org/ for CAMEO: California Association for MicroEnterprise Opportunity, complete with California State Assembly whitepapers…)

Excellent story except for one thing: I would dearly love to be proved wrong on this and get the details, but I’m quite sure Houdini gave up tightrope walking when he was a kid. Houdini walking a tightrope at Niagara Falls is an oft-repeated myth, almost always a mix-up with the Great Blondin.

Glad you liked the story.

Jeff Smith

The other problem is that you lie. You said in a number of columns that you would never marry David. You didn’t believe in marriage. And then you got married. So as much as you claim to hate birthday celebrations, I bet you are one of those people that relish the attention on your birthday. Oh, wait, according to you, there would be no birthday celebration on your big day.

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Glad you liked the story.

Jeff Smith
Diary of a Diva
Published August 13
Posted by ebrphoto on August 13, 12:45 p.m.
I LOVE Project Runway! I watch too much TV and am not ashamed to admit it - usually that is, until in the presence of a holier than thou anti-TV-ite. I think the DVD solution you’ve hit upon is probably the best one for limiting consumption. Still, in our house the newest TV is the one we inherited from my husband’s grandmother 6 years ago... no big, fancy screens for us! Wonder why we’re still glued to BBC TV? Oh, b/c the original, British “Ramsay’s Kitchen Nightmares” is RIVETING! Not to mention “You Are What You Eat” and “How Clean is Your House”. Gotta love those Brits!

Posted by SDdancer on August 13, 6:27 p.m.
Project Runway is one of my favorite shows! What a great idea, perhaps I’ll copy your idea and have friends over to enjoy delicious dishes and great interactions. Another favorite of mine is Groomer Has It. Thanks for all your great articles. Keep up the good work.

Davee
Posted by HelenaHandbasket on August 16, 12:24 a.m.
I have gone through phases. In addition to following Project Runway for a couple of seasons, I’ve been through the Mythbusters phase, the Cesar Milan phase, the Project Runway phase, and (no, I’m not ashamed to admit it) the Dog the Bounty Hunter phase.

But now I’m in the of TV entirely phase. I’m sick of the hype of television. I just canceled my cable TV a couple of weeks ago and am currently going through withdrawal. But you know what? I’ll get over it. It’s too darn expensive and life is too darn expensive now. I’m finding time to do other things. Besides, TV these days is really nothing more than an advertise-
ment delivery system. Have you ever timed the ratio of commercials to actual TV show? Try it, and you’ll see what I mean.

In time I think I’ll be perfectly happy with just Netflix.

Blurt
Published August 13
Published August 14, 6:53 a.m.
Well, actually, I probably would have said Pete's. He had said, "I go swimming".
I was there as well. You had better seats but mine were very good. I went because I saw him something like 6 months earlier at the Convention Hall and he blew my mind and made me feel good. Like he had done in '71 when I saw him with a music video while visiting Boise. I had missed Lamb Lies Down on Broadway tour while living in SF and never forgave myself. I was keyed up for the SD State gig big time.

He came out and announced that because of the technical equipment, the show would have to be cancelled if the rain didn’t let up. So we all sat there and thought positive thoughts for about 40 minutes before Peter came out again and said we’re going to try it now. The Call, always a joy, sang about Nightly Military Raids and other songs of unity. Then came peter...

His live album had just come out, perhaps two months before. We knew the score. The lighting was excellent and very state of the art. Floor panels that lit up, the piercing spot before his Lay Your Hands On Me, all the area lights and mood setting. Terrific.

The best? Matched against the Wall, Tommy, Zagg Stardust, on and on... Who knows. Gabriel was so good. My question is, is anyone still laying down with the same quality and stage presence? U2’s hootenanny was abysmal. Who can do what the others did, these days? No judgement, just honest curiosity. And no, I would not go see Pete surf today, let alone smell his socks.

Feature Story by Josh Board
Published August 13
Posted by tasus on August 14, 12:13 p.m.
Hopefuly the people who drink on the beach will actually go out and vote against this ban. Unfortunately the people that show up at the polls are usually older families that no longer have much of a social life, and therefore do not drink on the beach. These people make more money, pay more taxes, and have more influence over the politicians. It simple socioeconomics. Families with children from other places moved to the beaches during the housing boom and changed the fun, freewheeling culture the area has enjoyed for many years. Please do not take away any more of my rights, VOTE AGAINST THE BOOZE BAN!

Cover Story
Published August 6
Posted by Vinduh on August 11, 11:36 a.m.
Lindaa22 still doesn’t see the point of the article. It seems obvious to me. The author is telling the readers that TJ is a very dangerous place. It has gun battles between the drug cartels, and assassinations of police and journalists. Kidnapping for ransom is a routine occurrence. And then there are the daily shakedowns of visitors by a) the police, b) those who claim to be peso but are really ordinary street thugs. (A famous situation is an American college girl, alone, who is detained until she empties her bank account via ATM, and gives the proceeds to her captors, so that she can leave.) Our local mainstream media do not report on that sort of everyday crime because, after all, it is a foreign country and the crime is petty. “Petto” unless you’re the victim, when it becomes downright terrifying.

For as long as there has been a Tijuana, it has been a tourist attraction. Visible poverty, foreignness, and the dark side of the place have always been a sort of perverese attraction. It started with illicit boozing, moved on to illicit gambling and illicit sex-for-hire. Nowadays it is all about undergraduate boozing, pharmaceuticals, and “bargains.” But if you’re going to visit there, it needs to be done with eyes wide open. No, it’s not a Spanish-speaking amusement park, sort of south-of-the-border Magic Kingdom. People will keep visiting there, but in smaller numbers, until the city is really cleaned up—something that may be long in coming.

Go figure.
Posted by cepoole on August 11, 1:18 p.m.
I too have been scared off by threats and robbery in Tijuana. A once monthly visitor to the border town, I will not set foot on Mexican soil until I am thoroughly assured it is safe again. The last three times I have visited TJ and the surrounding areas, I have been robbed by Police twice, once in broad daylight, once about 50 feet from the turnstiles coming into Mexico. I ended up paying a total of about 220.00 for slipping off of a curb while walking (to avoid a donkey painted as a zebra) and when a couple of “officers” at the border crossing line, believed I had recently solicited sex and drugs from a prostitute. I was in my car coming from a day trip to Puerto Nuevo, with my wife and two friends, we had not even been in TJ that day.

In the Mexican town of Puerto Nuevo (Rocky Point) I was drug out of the car and beaten by “policia”, pepper sprayed, handcuffed. He even said, “I go swimming”.

I have visited TJ and the surrounding areas, I have been robbed by Police twice, once in broad daylight, once about 50 feet from the turnstiles coming into Mexico. I ended up paying a total of about 220.00 for slipping off of a curb while walking (to avoid a donkey painted as a zebra) and when a couple of “officers” at the border crossing line, believed I had recently solicited sex and drugs from a prostitute. I was in my car coming from a day trip to Puerto Nuevo, with my wife and two friends, we had not even been in TJ that day.

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Bellies and Hornpipes

“Celebrate Dance” Festival

American Tribal Style is an inclusive belly-dance form,” says dancer Sandi Kay. “The dancer in the lead position can cue the dancers on what move they’re going to do next, so every dance ends up being an improvisational dance even though it can look quite choreographed.”

Carolina Nericcio, the woman credited with creating this particular offshoot of belly dancing, explains the name on her website: “The word ‘American’ made it clear that it was not a traditional version; ‘tribal style’ described that the dancers were working as a group with a ‘tribal’ look.”

Tribal San Diego Style is one of over 60 dance organizations participating in the three-day Celebrate Dance Festival at Balboa Park this weekend. Cues associated with tribal style, Kay explains, can be anything from placement of the hands to a turn of the head that signals the next move to other dancers.

“What is really neat — and I’ve experienced this — is you can go to some other part of the United States or Australia or England, and if any of those people have learned American Tribal Style, you can get up and dance with people you don’t even know, and it can still come off looking choreographed.”

Kay has mastered over 30 cues and their related moves, though she says there are well over 50.

Whereas tribal dancing is about hips and hands, Irish dancing is all in the legs. “The soft-shoe dance is equivalent to a very vigorous ballet, but the knees stay tight and the upper half of the body stays fully erect and the arms stay down,” says Rori Ritchie, an instructor with the Rose Academy of Irish Dance.

“The soft shoes are known as gilles. The hard shoe, known as the hard shoe, is just crazy — it’s loud, and you slam everything which is usually an audience pleaser.” In the past, nails were used to make the clacking sound in the heels and toes of hard shoes. Today a fiberglass-and-plastic mixture is used.

“A slip jig is like a ballet dance; it’s very graceful looking, with lots of leaps.” The difference between jigs, reels, and hornpipes is the timing of the rhythm. “Each piece of music has its own personality, and we try to portray its personality in the dance.”

“All dance is interpretive,” says Joya Powell, artistic director for the Ayoji Llewop Body Politic dance company. “It’s trying to portray something in an open way so that everyone can pretty much get something from what they’re seeing.” Powell classifies dance, which begins without music so the audience hears only the sound of struggling breathing, was created to demonstrate how racial tension is due to a lack of education and should not be blamed on individuals.

“It’s a duet,” explains Powell. “It’s about looking at yourself. We can place blame on everyone else, but we need to actually look at ourselves as a nation and say, ‘What is it that we have not done, and what is it that we can do?’ And if we don’t do anything, we’re pretty much hanging ourselves.”

— Barbarella

12th Annual Celebrate Dance Festival
Friday, August 22
6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Saturday, August 23
11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Sunday, August 24
Noon to 9 p.m.
Casa del Prado Theater
Balboa Park
Cost: Free
Info: 619-238-1153 or evecobo.org/cdf.htm

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Belly-Dance Showcase Aloih Lotus, Brania, Jennifer, and Shalimar perform live music by Middle-Eastern Ensemble. 619-688-9845. Thursday, August 21, 8 p.m.; $15. Claire de Lune, 2906 University Ave., La Jolla. 619-454-1456. (NORTH PARK)

Bharata Natyam Dance Divya Devaguptapu plans short lecture and demonstration, then presents a traditional Bharata Natyam repertoire. This spiritual dance, grounded in bhakti (devotion), originated in state of Tamil Nadu and has been “nurtured in its temples and courts since ancient time.” Suggested reservations: 619-238-0003 x400. Saturday, August 23, 8 p.m.; $15. SBCP Center, 1301 Park Boulevard, La Jolla. 619-238-0003 (SBCP).

Celebrated Dance Festival More than 60 regional dance companies, groups, collectives, solo artists gather to perform together and present workshops inside Casa Del Prado Theatre and outdoors on fountain stage and Lily pond stage. 619-238-1153. Friday, August 22, 6 p.m.; Saturday, August 23, 11:30 a.m.; Sunday, August 24, noon. Balboa Park, Park Boulevard at Presidio Way. (BALBOA PARK)


Ragtime-Era Tango Learn to lead and follow American ragtime-era tango (beginners 7:15 p.m.; intermediates 8 p.m.) during Waltz 8 Such dance class in Casa Del Prado room 207. Open request dancing follows until 9:45 p.m. All ages. Partners not required. Donations: 619-385-9956. Friday, August 22, 7:15 p.m.; $1. Casa del Prado, El Prado, (El Prado)

Sand This Summer! Six-week session imparts basics of salsa dance technique. No previous experience or partner required. Registration: 619-299-6387. Thursdays, July 30—August 27, 7:30 p.m.; through Thursday, August 21, 2008, $75. Ages 8 and up. Metro Dance, 5304 Metro Street, Suite B. (UNIVERSITY) 619-298-1424.

Scandinavian Dance Party Enjoy live music for dancing. Bring snack to share. 619-281-5656. Wednesday, August 27, 7:30 p.m.; $5. Claire de Lune, 2906 University Ave. (NORTH PARK)

Social Dance Party DJ plays swing, Latin, ballroom, and night-club for singles and couples of all ages. Tango lesson: 8 p.m. Open dancing: 8-10:30 p.m. First time free. 619-275-9331. Saturday, August 23, 8 p.m.; Pattie Wells’ Dance Center, 4509 30th Street. (PARK HILLS)

The More the Merrier Community band makes music (bring your instrument and sit in). Steve Barlow calls for contra dance hosted by San Diego Folk Heritage (8 p.m.). Beginners’ dance workshop: 7:30 p.m. Bring goodbehavior, ages to share during (optional) potluck supper, 6:30 p.m. Wear soft-soled shoes. 619-283-8550. Saturday, August 23, 6:30 p.m.; $7. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3010 Thorn Street. (TENNESSE)

Two-For-One Wednesday Enjoy live music for dancing at “The Melt” with English subtitles for Film Festival screening of "The Melt." Mike Nelson, Bill Corbett, and Mary Hudson introduce the movie, “Soft Serve: An Irreverent History of Ice Cream.” 619-933-1526. Sunday, August 24, 1 p.m.; Light of Day Club, 1106 17th Street. (HARRIS PARK)

San Diego Undersea Film Festival Enjoy 15 different digital films each night; presentations limited to five minutes. Subjects range from sharks to shipwrecks, shot all over the planet. Jurors were John Moore, Hans Bervich, Natasha Stenhock. 619-804-9056, 838-558-7278. Friday, August 22, 7 p.m.; Saturday, August 23, 6 p.m.; Sunday, August 24, 1 p.m.; $15. Qualcomm Hall, 5775 Morehouse Drive. (MIRA MESA)

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Two-For-One Wednesday Enjoy live music for dancing at “The Melt” with English subtitles for Film Festival screening of "The Melt." Mike Nelson, Bill Corbett, and Mary Hudson introduce the movie, “Soft Serve: An Irreverent History of Ice Cream.” 619-933-1526. Sunday, August 24, 1 p.m.; Light of Day Club, 1106 17th Street. (HARRIS PARK)

Film and Wine Series Wine expert Barbara Baxter introduces wines relating to movies featured on-screen, selected films are from Antheneum Music and Art Library’s collection, each one is related to wine in some way. Series concludes with A Good Year (2006), set on a vineyard in Provence with Russell Crow and Marion Cotillard; expect a glass of French wine of that region. Reservations: 858-454-5872. Thursday, August 21, 7:30 p.m.; $12-18; Antheneum Music and Arts Library, 1008 Wall Street. (LA Jolla)

Philippine Cinema Showcase Opening Night Philippine Cinema Showcase begins “its year-long, 365-day showcase of Philippine films” with 2007 Academy Award nominee Donal, by Adolfo Alot Jr. Ticket price includes reception, film, after-party. 458-965-1264. Friday, August 22, 6:30 p.m.; $15. Ages 13 and up. Clula Vista 10, 555 Broadway (PARK HILLS)

San Diego Undersea Film Festival Enjoy 15 different digital films each night; presentations limited to five minutes. Subjects range from sharks to shipwrecks, shot all over the planet. Jurors were John Moore, Hans Bervich, Natasha Stenhock. 619-804-9056, 838-558-7278. Friday, August 22, 7 p.m.; Saturday, August 23, 6 p.m.; Sunday, August 24, 1 p.m.; $15. Qualcomm Hall, 5775 Morehouse Drive. (MIRA MESA)

Transforming Transformers Artists “formerly known as Mystery Science Theater 3000” offer commentary to turn Transformers “into the comedy we all know it to be.” Mike Nelson, Bill Corbett, Kevin Murphy introduce the movie, partake in the libations, including case of Stone Ruination IPA with Chinook and Columbus hops. Film screens on 11.5-foot-wide screen outdoors. Bring lawn chairs, blankets, and “get comfy.” 760-471- 0
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**LOCAL EVENTS**

**999. Wednesday, August 27, 9 p.m.** ages 21 and up. Stone Brewing World Bistro & Gardens, 1995 Citracado Parkway. (EVENTENDED)

**Warm Up Your Vocal Cords**


**FOR KIDS**


Disney's High School Musical

This "musical rumble between the brainiacs, the thespians, and the jocks" boasting over 75 young county actors is presented by ACT San Diego. 619-544-1000. Friday, August 22, 7 p.m.; Saturday, August 23, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday, August 24, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

**Wedding Guide**

A free, 24-hour line for planning your wedding.

**Call 619-235-9797** and press the 4-digit extension (in bold type) of the topic or adventure that interests you. Or go online at SDReader.com/wedding.

**Planning Tips**

Bakers 5015

Bridal Attire 5012

Bridal Shoes 5210

Caterers 5014

Ceremony Sites 5016

Clergy 5112

Consolations 5118

Decorations 5113

Dye Jocks 5110

Florists 5105

Formal Wear 5103

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Invitations 5114

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Limos & Valet 5120

Musicians 5109

Photographers 5108

Reception Sites 5017

**Don’t Let the “French” In**

Weathervane's menu is based on modern French cuisine and features a selection of "mouth-watering samples," discusses "provocative and controversial" culinary food, and "provides an opportunity to explore the multiple aspects of culinary food." Join Evans Kilgore, author of Owlish Interests? 858-757-3037. Saturday, August 23, 8 p.m.; Sunday, August 24, 8 p.m.; $30. Ages 18 and up. University City Playhouse, 5469 Casino Way. (LA JOLLA)

**Mission Impossible**

Premises presents an all-improved comedy show based on audience suggestions,创意 show to think as well as laugh... upbeat and classic... suitable for families. 858-581-0850. Saturday, August 23, 8 p.m.; $12. Mission Impossible 1334 Maple Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

**Squakey-Clean Comedy**

Matt Agusto, Naveed Mabhub, and Rahim perform for family crowd. 858-343-1457. Saturdays, 7 p.m. Naveed’s Comedy Club at Bella Rama Pizza, 7805 Sports Arena Boulevard, Suite 100. (LA JOLLA)

**Thriller Author**

Chris Grabenstein signs, discusses Hall H. 858-286-4747. Friday, August 22, 8 p.m.; $18. Mysterious Galaxy Books, 7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Suite 302. (LA JOLLA)

**LLECTURES**

**“Budget Travel 101” Hostelling International leads workshop for independent travel on a budget, including packing tips, cultural awareness, personal safety, etc. 619-283-2374. Tuesday, August 26, 7 p.m.; Wednesday, August 27, 7 p.m.; Adventure 16 Mission Valley, 4620 Alvarado Canyon Road. (MIRANDA VOLLEY)

**“California Dreaming”**

Professional genealogical author, instructor Gina Philpott-Gregg, discusses California county and city repositories, archives, and public and private libraries, historical and genealogical societies, museums and other California resources when North San Diego County Genealogical Society gathers. Useful to those with or without California ancestors. No members welcome. 760-630-5720. Tuesday, August 26, 10 a.m.; Carlsbad City Council Chambers, 1200 Carlsbad Village Drive. (CARLSDAN)

**“Dutch Oven Cooking 101” Bog Ernst from International Dutch Oven Society cooks up “mouth-watering samples,” discusses selection, care, accessories, recipes, more. RSVP 619-285-2374. Saturday, August 23, 10 a.m. Adventure 16 Mission Valley, 4620 Alvarado Canyon Road. (MIRANDA VOLLEY)

**“Eye of the Thunderbird. Writing in Community”** City Heights poet Im Moreno and UPACA Center host poetry workshop for beginning or practiced poets. Participants will watch movie The Invisible Children, then write and read a poem. Moreno is author of Dancing in Disent. 619-283-9177. Saturday, August 23, 3 p.m. $25. Urban Performing Arts and Creative Arts Center, 6875 El Camino Boulevard. (COLLEGE AREA)

**“Five Flavors of Health”** Herbal educator Charlotte Toppin leads workshop including plant identification walk, discussion of nutritional and health value of “functional food” plants, and the five flavors of health—sweet, sour, bitter, salty, and pungent. Toppin said to indicate the food’s health value. Learn to make salad of wild greens and herbs with fresh dressing, more. Registration required. Call (760) 436-3036 x206. August, 23, 9 a.m.; $35. Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. (ENCINITAS)

**“Is War Necessary?”** Judith Hand, author of A Future Without War is featured speaker San Diego.
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San Diego Humane Society and SPCA, 5500 23rd Street. (sandahs.org)

Sanzingdui and the Ancient Shu Culture of Sichuan — described as “one of the most significant archaeological finds of the 20th Century” — was discovered in 1929 when a farmer digging in a ditch found jade artifacts outside of Chengdu, Sichuan. Professors Joseph W. and Jennifer Taschek will summarize their contributions to a conference in Chengdu examining the anthropology of Shu culture using the Maya, Olmec, and other ancient civilizations as models to discover significance of the Sanxingdui discovery. 619-338-9888. Saturday, August 23, 2 p.m.; ages 10 and up. Chinese Historical Society and Museum, 404 Third Avenue. (chshsm.org)

“Sustainable Energy Workshop” — Center for Sustainable Energy plans program focusing on climate change, impacts on our water and energy supply, wildfires, public health, greenhouse gas emissions, new environmental laws (AB123), tips to reduce personal carbon footprints, more. 760-804-1909.

Wednesday, August 27, 7 p.m.; City of Carlsbad Faraday Center, 1635 Faraday Avenue. (carlsbadca.us)

“Telepathic Communication with Animals” — Wonder what your pet is thinking? Learn about telepathic communication from “animal communicator,” author, consultant, teacher Brigitte Noel. Lecture aims to help “you strengthen your relationship with all living creatures,” covers how intuitive communication with animals takes place, when it works (and doesn’t), and why. Registration 619-243-3424. Thursday, August 21, 6:30 p.m.; $12. San Diego Museum of Man, 1300 Park Avenue. (sandiego.org)

“The Philippines Revealed” — Former House of the Philippines president Sam S. Belo relates “exciting history and geography of the Philippine Islands, including the peoples, languages, and historic events which forged this island nation” at House of the Philippines, 1630 8th Avenue. Sunday, August 24, 4 p.m.; House of Pacific Relations, 2125 Park Boulevard. (sandahs.org)

“The Protea Species: Exotic Options for Drought-Tolerant Gardens” — Walter Potoroka, owner of 1Cabin4U, leads morning tour to discuss the protea species exhibited at Water Conservation Garden, later sharing history, characteristics, and care of these plants in our garden. Limited number of plants offered for sale. Reservations: 619-860-0614 x10. Saturday, August 23, 9 a.m.; $25. Ages 12 and up. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cyramaca College Drive West. (cyramaca.org)

“Watercolor Workshop” — Helen Shaffer Garcia presents “contemporary approach to watercolor focusing on botanical elements.” Class spends portion of time painting in gardens. Materials list supplied upon registration. Required advance registration: 760-436-3036 x208. Sunday, August 24, 9:30 a.m.; $45-375. (sandiego.org)

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**LOCAL EVENTS**

**THUNDERSTORMS** have visited the Imperial Valley and parts of eastern San Diego County over the past several weeks. The seasonal arrival of thunderstorms from the east and south, more or less typical for late summer and autumn, brings a great diversity of weather and vegetation. On the desert floor, for example, the spiny ocotillo can grow an instant oasis of green leaves after a storm, only to drop them two to three weeks later if no further rain arrives. The distribution of specific kinds of vegetation. On the desert floor, for example, the spiny ocotillo can grow an instant oasis of green leaves after a storm, only to drop them two to three weeks later if no further rain arrives.

**SHORE BIRDS** migrating southward are beginning to arrive in San Diego County. Through fall and winter various ducks, sandpipers, and plovers will be spotted in increasing numbers in the county’s remaining coastal wetlands. Best bird-watching spots include the Tijuana River estuary, south San Diego Bay, the San Diego River flood channel, Palaikesquitos Lagoon, San Eljio Lagoon, Batiquitos Lagoon, and Burna Vista Lagoon.

**BANKER’S HILL STROLL**

Explore San Diego’s Banker’s Hill neighborhood, by city streets and historic footbridges.

**Distance from downtown San Diego:** 2 miles

**Length:** 1.5 miles round trip

**Difficulty:** Easy

**WHEN:**
- Sunday, August 24, 11 a.m.; Chula Vista Nature Center, 1000 Gunpowder Point Drive (CHULA VISTA)
- Sunday, August 24, 10 a.m.; Balboa Park Visitors’ Center, 1549 El Prado (SAN DIEGO)

**GET READY!**
- Composting Class: Learn to create a less toxic garden, care garden, with backyard composting.
- Reservations: 619-409-5900. Sunday, August 24, 10 a.m.; Chula Vista Nature Center, 1000 Gunpowder Point Drive (CHULA VISTA)

**SOUTH OF THE BORDER**

“**And You, Where Are You From?**” Norma del Carmen Cruz from Instituto de Historia Universitaria de Baja California, plans lecture on migration to Baja California in first half of 20th Century. 011-52-664-687-9636.

**GET SHADE?**
- Bring work shoes, gloves, hat, water, snack. Registration: 619-382-6109. Saturday, August 23, 8 a.m.; Paseo Picacho campground, Cuyama Rancho State Park, Highway 79, five miles north of I-8 (JULIAN)

**GET IN SHAPE IN STYLE!**
- Summer Clearance Sale
- Select items. Must present ad. Expires 8/31/08

**ROAM-O-rama**

**A GUIDE TO AN EXPECTED SAN DIEGO AND BEYOND | BY JERRY SCHAD**

With two steep ravines spanned by quaint footbridges, scores of wellkept, historically significant homes, and mature landscaping, Banker’s Hill is a monument to the elegance of the past. The work of early-20th-century architects is evident throughout the area. Much can be seen on the following 1.5-mile walk, which begins on Spruce Street at First Avenue and continues to Balboa Park.

**Start by walking east on Spruce Street. Past Third Avenue, on the right, is a low building designed by William Hebberd in 1913 and apparently styled after the longgone San Diego Cable Railway powerhouse. The cable car line went into operation in 1889, carrying passengers from downtown through Hillcrest to Adams Avenue.

**Walk south on Fourth (there’s a sidewalk on the east side only) until you reach the Quince Street footbridge (1900), built across one of the deep ravines pene trating the Banker’s Hill neighborhood. Walk on the wooden planks and catch sight of San Diego Bay and Point Loma.

From Quince, turn right at Second Avenue. At the northeast corner of Second and Quince, and again at the northeast corner of Second and Redwood, compare classic revival styles. The residence across Second Avenue at 1386 Red wood is one of the earliest (1898) results of a partnership between William Hebberd and Irving Gill. The camphor tree on the corner is one of the largest in San Diego.

A left on Redwood to First brings you opposite Irving Gill’s Bishop’s Day School (1908), now the Self-Realization Fellowship. The Gill-designed wing wraps around an older Tudor structure and epitomizes Gill’s philosophy of simplicity and — using his own phrase — “monastic severity.”

New head north on First, go left on Spruce, and go left again on Front Street, a dead-end. The fine old houses here, some designed by Richard Requa, have a view over the canyon edge, but that view is screened at street level by tall trees.

Go back to Spruce and head west to walk across the suspension footbridge, built in 1912 to give access to the streetcars on Fourth Avenue. Stand in the middle of the swaying bridge, 70 feet above the canyon floor, and feel the breeze sweeping up-canyon from the bay.

On solid ground again, turn left on Brant Street, another dead-end. The house at the end (3100 Brant) was designed by Hebberd in 1907 after his partnership with Gill ended, but retains some of Gill’s influence. Back on Spruce, at the southeast corner of Spruce and Curlew, is a 1914 design by Requa and Frank Mead influenced by Mediterranean and North African imagery. To the north a half block, at 3226 Curlew, you’ll find a 1912 Edwardian house designed by Hebberd.

Across the street, at the southeast corner of Curlew and Thor, is an interesting Palladian-style mansion dating from 1927. To poke fun at passersby, the plaque here reads “On this site in 1897 nothing happened.” Zigzag on Thor, north on Brant, east on Upas, and north on Albarrosa.

On the east side of Albarrosa are some of the Gill “canyon houses,” dating from 1912-13 and designed to blend harmoniously with the natural landscape.

Around the corner, at the west end of Walnut Avenue, is a seemingly out-of-place Queen Anne Victorian house. Built in 1892 at Fourth and Walnut, it was moved to this site in 1911. To conclude your walk, go east on Walnut to either First or Second and head south back to your starting point. Second Avenue is preferred, as it is the quieter of the two streets.

**OUTDOORS**

San Diego County over the past several weeks. The seasonal arrival of thunderstorms from the east and south, more or less typical for late summer and autumn, brings a great diversity of weather and vegetation. On the desert floor, for example, the spiny ocotillo can grow an instant oasis of green leaves after a storm, only to drop them two to three weeks later if no further rain arrives. The distribution of specific kinds of vegetation. On the desert floor, for example, the spiny ocotillo can grow an instant oasis of green leaves after a storm, only to drop them two to three weeks later if no further rain arrives.

**SHORE BIRDS** migrating southward are beginning to arrive in San Diego County. Through fall and winter various ducks, sandpipers, and plovers will be spotted in increasing numbers in the county’s remaining coastal wetlands. Best bird-watching spots include the Tijuana River estuary, south San Diego Bay, the San Diego River flood channel, Palaikesquitos Lagoon, San Eljio Lagoon, Batiquitos Lagoon, and Burna Vista Lagoon.

**Jasmine’s Thick, Sweet Odor**
- Jasmine thrives in the night breeze this time of year, especially throughout the older, well-landscaped neighborhoods of San Diego. The exotic odor is produced by the flowers of true jasmine (genus Jasminum), as opposed to the so-called “jasmine” (genus Trachelospermum) which blooms in the late spring and early summer.

**The Milky Way** appears at its most glorious during August summer evenings free of moonlight.
- This year, these favorable evenings fall from August 22 through early September.
- You’re invited to join the mountains or the desert to see the Milky Way clearly; too much artificial light, insect repellent. 858-342-7951. Saturday, August 23, 10 a.m.; Balboa Park Visitors’ Center, 1549 El Prado (SAN DIEGO)

**Dining and massage**
- Balboa Park Visitors’ Center, 1549 El Prado (BALBOA PARK)

**Romantic Mountain Getaway**

**Just $99**
- Two nights (Fri. & Sat.), breakfast for 2, therapeutic massage
- Packages: 
  - Weekend Specials: 2 nights (Fri. & Sat.), breakfast for 2, massage & $338
  - Summer Clearance Sale
- Select items. Must present ad. Expires 8/31/08

**Get in shape in style!**
- Summer Clearance Sale
- Select items. Must present ad. Expires 8/31/08

**Get Ready!**
- Composting Class: Learn to create a less toxic garden, care garden, with backyard composting.
- Reservations: 619-409-5900. Sunday, August 24, 10 a.m.; Chula Vista Nature Center, 1000 Gunpowder Point Drive (CHULA VISTA)

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Enjoy music, ceremonies, presentations in Mexico, the United States, "Del Otro Lado de la Linea" Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (Tijuana)


Alberto Vazquez In concert. 011-52-664-688-1080. Saturday, August 23, 9 p.m.; Grand Hotel Tijuana, Boulevar Agua Caliente 4501. (Tijuana)

Manu Chao Chao — who ‘sings in the English, Spanish, Galician, Portuguese, French, Arabic, and Wolof languages, often mixing them in the same song’ — in concert. In concert. 011-52-664-688-1080. Saturday, August 23, 7:30 p.m.; Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (Tijuana)

The Art of Making Preserves Chef Bernard Guillas dispenses “cans” and “cannots” for preserving fruit and canning vegetables for long term storage. Recipes include Hubarb straw- berry jam, papayas and chilli pepper, more. Donation benefits Share Our Strength. 619-299-9811 x4231. Saturday, August 23, noon, 10. Macy’s Mission Valley Home- lery Home Store, 1553 Camino de la Reina. (Mission Valley)

Urban Blight to Urban Bright San Diego Architectural Founda- tion hosts tours of historic Gaslamp Quarter. Learn about area’s architectural evolution from 1860s dirt streets and saloons to current restorations and adaptive reuse projects. Tours begin at Arts Tix Kiosk. 619-232-1385. Saturday, August 23, 10 a.m., $8-$15. Horton Square, 225 Broadway. (Downtown)

Who Signed That? Signed and Inscribed Books Rare book exhibit in Geiselman Room showcases over 100 signed books by various au- thors, book artists, illustrators, publishers, people associated with literary world. Among the famous: Samuel Clemens, Jack London and his wife Charmian London, Ray Bradbury, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Herbert C. Hoover. 619- 236-3807. Thursday, August 21, 1:30 p.m.; Fridays, 1:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 1:30 p.m.; Mondays, 1:30 p.m.; Tues- days, 1:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m.; through Tuesday, September 2, 2008, San Diego Public Library, 820 I Street. (Downtown)

(Pooch) Practice Makes Perfect Helen Woodward Animal Center hosts dog surf clinics in preparation for third annual "Surf Dog Surfathon" 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: 858-736-4117 x4121. Saturday, August 23, 10 a.m.; Dog Beach Del Mar, at western end of Via de la Valle. (Del Mar)

Definitions of History PRR Dis- cussion Group gathers for discus- sion. 619-370-1027. Thursday, Au- gust 21, 7 p.m.; Other Side Coffee House, 4903 30th Street. (Kensington-Talmage)

Etch-A-Sketch August exhibit in Geiselman Library (lower level, west wing) focuses on this 1960s toy. Stop by UCSD Art Library to bor- row 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- 822-5758. Thursdays, 8 a.m.; Fri- days, 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, UCSD Arts Library, Geisel Li- brary, 9500 Gilman Drive. (La Jolla)

Festival of Sail Board ships from all over world; more than 20 tall ships and other vessels scheduled to appear. Festival kicks off with parade of tall ships on San Diego Bay on August 20, 10 a.m.; view parade from North Island, Shelter Island, Harbor Island, or along Embarkadero from Coast Guard Station to Seaport Village. Live music, food, vendors, educational booths, activities. Also on tap: cannon battle sails (Friday-Sunday, $65 general); 1914 pilot boat bay cruises ($3); America’s Cup boat tours ($99 gen- eral); boat tours. 619-234-9135. Thursday, August 21, 9 a.m.; Fri- day, August 22, 6 a.m.; Saturday, August 23, 9 a.m.; Sunday, August 24, 9 a.m.; San Diego Maritime Museum, 1306 North Harbor Drive. (Downtown)

Fishnet Follies Burlesque Revue Show features Myrrs M’onnaor, Holl’ on Heels, Sully Savage, and Smoothini “the ghetto Houdini.” Hosted by Reverent Reverend Lamp Richard. Night includes Pete Stew- art, Black Hondo, and five DJs. Party starts 10 p.m.; tickets at 11:30 p.m. 650-922-3310. Friday, August 22, 10 p.m.; $10. San Diego Sports Club, 1271 University Avenue. (Bay Ho)
Fun at Firehouse (Brewery) Jennifer Alexander discusses how she brees beer and also runs a nonprofit foundation. Enjoy a tour of their brewery, tasting of beer paired with pizza and "valuable career advice." Reservations: 760-635-7583. Wednesday, August 27, 6 p.m.; Ages 21 and up. Firehouse Brewery, 10306 San Diego Mission Road, mission valley.

Funky Car Frenzy Cajun Classic Cruise nights continue. Cruise nights offered on Wednesdays through September 24, 6:19-8:35. Wednesday, August 27, 5 p.m.; Prescott Promenade, 211-12 East Main Street. (415)

Gem Faire Nearly 100 manufacturers, wholesalers, importers offer jewelry, gems, beads, crystals, silver, minerals. Weekend pass: $5. 6:30-9:35. Friday, August 22, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, August 23, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, August 24, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Jamul Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (619) 740-0477.

Kruise 4 K9’s House of Hungary Mission Road. 6 p.m.; $25. Ages 21 and up. Firehouse Brewery, 10306 San Diego Mission Road, mission valley.

Palomar Observatory Tours Guests get close look at famous 200-inch telescope, hear astronomy lecture, view sky through multiple telescopes atop Palomar Mountain (weather permitting) during event sponsored by Reuben H. Fleet Science Center. Fee includes round-trip bus transportation, with San Diego and Escondido pickups. Reservations: 619-238-1231. Saturday, August 23, 3 p.m.; $65-$75. Ages 10 and up; Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (619) 238-6224.

Psychic Fair and Metaphysical Conference Lectures, tarot, palmistry, numerology, other psychic arts featured. Admission is free; $20 per reading. 619-298-8412. Saturday, August 23; noon. Mission Valley Marriott, 11000 Reading Rd. (619) 298-8412.

Surfing for a Cure The 15th annual Moores UCSD Cancer Center Luau and Longboard Invitational includes longboarding surfing contest (free), on beach near Scripps Pier (8 a.m.). “Longboard surfing legends compete with our own local surfers,” including Rusty Preisendorfer, Skip Frye, Robert August.

Wanted Models Search is on for models from all around the world, competing in this year’s contest (free), on beach near Scripps Pier (8 a.m.). Sunday, August 24, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. (858) 795-5000, 877-374-2784. (858) 795-5000.

Musicals

2008 Stay Classy Fire Run This 4-mile run/walk from La Jolla to Pacific Beach benefits San Diego Fire Rescue Foundation, 619-298-7400. Sunday, August 24, 8 a.m. $33. Prospect Street at Girard Avenue, Prospect Street at Girard Avenue. (858) 740-7400.

31st Annual World Bodysurfing Championships Competition by 350-400 bodysurfers from around the world, competing in their respective age divisions. Men’s and women’s grand champi- ons crowned on Sunday after- noon. 310-457-2321. Saturday, August 23, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Ocean Beach Pier, Mission Ave and Pacific St. (619) 457-2321.

Saki’s 10th Anniversary Party Join Saki’s at their 10th anniversary party for 28-mile ride to Jolly Roger in Ocean- side harbor area. Bring money for food. 310-453-3887. Saturday, August 23, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Cottonwood Creek Park, 95 North Vulcan. (619) 485-7400.


Sports

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Major events for the weekend can be found in the San Diego Reader Calendar...
Coronado Museum of History and Art  “Public Eye: A Focus on Community Art,” on display through mid-October, provides look at “the variety of pieces, some commissioned, which have been on display in our community.” Exhibit boasts “colorful and imagi-
native” models, photographs, and sculptured pieces, including a decora-
tive bench from 2003 Bench-
mark project, information on some of Coronado’s 38 pieces of public art, much more.
Ongoing exhibits explore the overall history of Coronado, Navy and Army, Tent City, and the Ho-
tel del Coronado. 1100 Orange Avenue, 619-435-7242. (CORONADO)

Flying Leatherneck Museum Museum is dedicated to Marine Corps who provided air support, from the propeller-driven fighters and bombers of the 1940s to the modern jets and helicopters currently in use. Static displays of a variety of aircraft are included, along with equipment, insignia, paintings and 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. (MIRAMA)

Junipero Serra Museum “Commemorating 75 Years: The Serra Museum” is said to “re-
member the events leading up to the dedication of Presidio Park and the Serra Museum” on July 16, 1929. The exhibit includes a “visit back in time to 1929.” The museum interprets the Native American, Spanish, and Mexican periods of San Diego’s history and contains Spanish Colonial furnishings, art, and arti-
facts. It’s located at the site of the West Coast’s first European settle-
ment: 2722 Presidio Drive, 619-
297-3235. (SAN DIEGO)

La Mesa Depot Museum Located in a restored 1894 wooden train station, exhibits include orig-\ninal telegraph and telephone equipment, pet-belled coal stove, period furniture. The adjacent freight train display features 1923 steam locomotive, 1957 refrigerator car, 1941 caboose. La Mesa Boulevard and Spring Street, 619-
465-7776. (LA MESA)

National City Depot San Diego Electric Railway Association operates a museum in this historic Santa Fe depot with exhibits, video dis-
plays, trolley equipment, restored passenger car from National City and Otay Railroad. 922 West 23rd Street, 619-474-4401. (NATIONAL CITY)

Olaf Wieghorst Museum Displays paintings, prints, and bronzes by Olaf Wieghorst and features exhibits of other artists’ American West art. Admission includes Admission includes admission to the Brown Mercury to SL8ER – Tony Hawk’s Boom Boom

La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art “The Serra Museum” is said to “re-
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**ART LISTINGS**


**Mingei International Museum** “Hungarian Folk Magic — The Art of Joseph Domjan” includes several of this master woodblock printer’s pieces, along with objects from other cultures of the folklore regions. Exhibition features new work informed and inspired by his quest to understand his culture. View through Sunday, September 14 — “Picturing the Process: Landscapes, Portraits, and Signs: Bruce Nauman Works with Light” is said to focus on Nauman’s use of form and space. 858-535-3555. (ESCONDIDO)

**Museums of Contemporary Art** San Diego, Santa Ana (BALBOA PARK) — North County — Mission Valley (7007 Friars Road). 619-239-5548. 

**Oceanside Museum of Art** “Ancient Marks: The Sacred Origins of Tattoos and Body Marking” features over 100 images and photographs by documentary photographer Chris Ramier focusing on bodies with traditional body modifications from around the world. View through Sunday, September 17. 619-238-7539. (OCEANSIDE)

**Timken Museum of Art** Permanent collection includes European old master paintings, 16th and 17th-Century American paintings, and Russian icons. San Bartolomeo, the only Rembrandt painting on public display in San Diego, is featured. 619-239-5548. (SAN DIEGO)

**How to Send Us Your LISTINGS:** Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday the week prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone number, and a phone number (including area code) for public information to READER CLASSICAL MUSIC, Box 65803, 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.
27-year-old Miguel Leon-Fregoso. In a July 30 SignOnSanDiego story, it was written that “Leon-Fregoso was at the Air Conditioned bar on 30th Street” and was leaving the club around 1 a.m. when he had an altercation with suspect David Barron, 25, of Spring Valley.

According to the press release emailed by the San Diego Police Department, Leon-Fregoso was shot in the alley on the 4600 block of 30th Street, behind the bar. “[N]o one told me that [the suspect or victim] were in the bar,” says John. “He was shot behind the bar. The detective made a point to ask all the staff if they had seen anything unusual — any disturbances, altercations, or disagreements — there was nothing here that night.”

Leon-Fregoso was shot in the head and died after being taken by ambulance to a hospital. Detective made a point to ask all the staff if they had seen anything unusual — any disturbances, altercations, or disagreements — there was nothing here that night.”

A summit of the club. The male died from his wounds, but his girlfriend survived. The SDPD press release said the two had just left a bar near 30th and Adams, but didn’t specify if the couple was leaving Air Conditioned or Kadan, which is directly across the street. The suspected shooter, Michael Mason (also suspected of committing a 2005 home-invasion murder in Southeast San Diego), was recently arrested in Las Vegas after being profiled on America’s Most Wanted.

Great, Until the Shooting “The Static Lounge show was great, until that shooting during the last set by Cherry Chuck Gang,” says 40x Chris of Masterpiece Entertainment, who helped promote the August 7 “DayGo Unity Concert.”

“We got Bloods and Crips all performing on the same bill,” Kaya told this reporter before the event. Kaya’s record label, On Fyre Entertainment, held the DayGo Unity show, hoping to “unite the divisive local factions in the hip-hop community.”

A fight inside the venue spilled onto the sidewalk shortly after 1 a.m. While several patrons were being separated, gunshots were fired and an off-duty police officer working security was shot in the neck. He received a non-life-threatening wound.

“As a promoter, we were trying to take every precaution to ensure safety,” Kaya said via email after the shooting. “It was some young knuckleheaded females who jumped off the b.s., throwing drinks and stuff. That set the [meltdown] off. We had the music stopped, security intervened, the crowd was segregated, and the show continued... but the alcohol got the best of a few and some were disrespected.

“So when the females started fighting again, it went all bad. I was on stage with Tiny Doo and the rest of the Cherry Chuck Gang, and we were showing love to the other side (Crips)…

Next thing you know, females [were] at it again; now everyone involved [was] trying to get outside, then gunshots. Unbelievable.”

Show attendee ZeeMN says, “The guy who shot [the guard] wasn’t part of the fight inside…. He got kicked out and went somewhere for a half hour or so. Then, [while] the guards were tussling out front, the guy [who’d been bounced] shows back up with a gun and just empties it — bang bang — into the [group of] people there.”

Police took two men into custody for questioning. At this writing, no charges have been filed, though a third man is being sought by police...

— Jay Allen Sanford

THIN ROOM with DJ Sem and DJ Fabio

852 FIFTH ave SD 619.235.ONYX

for guestlist: vip@onyxroom.com

AUGUST 21 THURSDAY

AUGUST 23 SATURDAY
October 15
Open Air Theatre
On Sale Thursday, August 21 at 4pm

October 30
Cox Arena

The Roots
Gym Class Heroes

Weezer
in concert

Angels & Airwaves
Private Preludes

San Diego Reader
August 21, 2008
79
X1FM's alternative stream showed 42 listeners (44th place). Regular Shoutcast.com readings over the past two months showed that X1FM never topped 100 listeners. “They were expecting this phenomenal surge of listeners, but it never happened,” says an insider. X1FM general manager Raul Sanchez and Kaleydan did not respond to a request for comment.

Cantore responded via email: “The radio insider, like the writer of this piece, is a complete ass-hat and has no idea what he is talking about. A deal was not signed and my departure had nothing to do with numbers. Regarding numbers, shoutcast, or any freeware, [they] represent a minuscule percentage of the actual audience listening/watching the X1FM network (traffic is driven internally).

Regardless, it saddens me that anyone would try to disparage an uptown operation that is doing a lot of good in the community.”

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San Diego Reader • October 2004

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X1FM music director Rauld Enrique said an announcement about Cantore’s replacement would be coming soon. He says that X1FM is also going to launch two new channels: reggae and hip-hop.
Black went back to the business of deconstructing American roots music with all-rock turnings. The prolific artist is out to tout his 17th studio collection in 15 years, Sen Fingers. But check out 93.0 if you need a comprehensive catch-up.... Afterward, road-rage it back into town, where Canadian collector Broken Social Scene will take down House of Blues. BSS exploded in 2002 with the release of eponymous Arts & Crafts disc You Forgot it in People. Theamura, catchy collection holds up brilliantly, and far outshines anything they did before or since, and they are all-recommended records. Note it this supergroup kills live.

Portland trio Menomena sets the stage with their own brand of odd pop,...if the big room sells out, don't kick yourself too hard, Sondre Lerche is playing upstairs in the Voodoo Room. Lerche is a leadback, “Bright Eyes” indie kid from Norway who knows his way round a song. At 25, he's already got five Astralwerks discs. Check out '04's Faces Down for his high-water mark or the soundtrack to Hollywood flop Dan in Real Life for a compendium of the kid's hits.... Hispans Blueberry presents descent Dio-Ragger Bob Log III on a thriller playing Casbah sets with Scott H. Biram and Left Lane Cruiser. Don’t miss one-man band Pant Hoots in the Atari Lounge.... Or try the ideologies: Red Ponys at Bar Pink...and M-Theory joins the Anti-Monday team with the pink flamingo, the karate kid, and William S. Burroughs. Afterward, Drugstore Cowboy, Reservoir Dogs, and Under the Influence of... Putah Hoots and... Or try the sliders: Bar Pink...the Atari Lounge.... Capeche?..... And House of Blues conjures Kurt Cobain, with Nirvana tributes Nevermind Dirxy Frank, a Pearl Jam jam, opens.

Thursday 21

San Diego Reader journalist Jeremy Engh is showcasing at Cashab tonight. The 34-year-old Seattlite is considered one of the progenitors of today's emo sound from the heart-on-sleeve, hand-wringing rock of his former band and his faux-brit tahette. Since going solo in 2000, the singer/pianist/painter has label-hopped through four studio releases, eventually creating his own joint, Lewis Hollow Records, for '06's World Waited. Indeed. Recommend somesolo debut Return of the Frog Queen for a taste of Engh's strengths and weak-kneeses. Our own frog queen Ania Marina sets the stage... For over 45 years, jamazan big band Tools and the Maytals have been recording and visiting the globe behind their blend of roots reggae and ska, gospel, R&B, and rock. Fred "Toots" Hibbert formed the band in Kingston in 1962, and after years of critical praise and cult love won a Grammy for Best Reggae Album, True Love, in 2005. The Maytals roll into House of Blues behind last summer’s hit "Your Light," which also received a Grammy nod.... Speaking of Grammys, nine-time winner Sheryl Crow aisle at Valley View Casino. The pop stars latest A&M monster is called The pop star’s latest A&M monster is called One of this year’s Four O’Clock Thursdays highlights is this week's report? (’04-'05 (how’d '03-'04 (how'd '02-'03('01-'02). 'Sconny roots-rock band The Reverse Cowboys ride out to San Diego’s August 21, 2008
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Guilty Pleasure? “Cigarettes, Burger King french fries, and of course midget porn.”

With a band name like Moontucky Risin, you might expect to hear Southern-fried or Cajun-cooked rock, perhaps with a side of bluegrass or a pinch of rockabilly. And that’s what listeners got, back when co-founders Jason Wiley (guitar/vocals) and Aaron Luke (drums) were still based in Lafayette, Indiana.

“We were called eillousness then,” says Jason, “named after the federal agent who went after all the moonshine bootleggers. We played kind of swampy, barroom, foot-stomping music, and we wore stuff like overalls onstage. But then, as we evolved into more of a jam band, we’d do things like wear psychedelic hippie shirts under the (overall) bibs.”

After the name change and a move to California, Jason says, the group’s sound became “organic groove rock. With jam bands, there’s so much going on musically that there’s never an opportunity to get bored. Nothing’s ever the same twice, from classic rock riffs to intricate psychedelic jams, from bluegrass to fusion, to songs that run 45 minutes or an hour. Whatever the situation and the day and the mood calls for.”

Drummer Aaron Luke says newer jam bands on the so-called “tie-dye circuit” have had more influence on Moontucky Risin than evergreens like The Grateful Dead and New Riders of the Purple Sage.

“Take a group like Umphrey’s McGee,” says Jason. “They’re the epitome of a present-day jam band. Their music pushes several boundaries and genres, and to top it off the musicianship is incredible, all six players. A lot of older bands weren’t technically that precise or trained.”

Moontucky Risin performs at Canea on Thursday, August 21. Jason and Aaron answered our queries along with lead guitarist Dana Spaulding (originally the band’s keyboardist) and bassist Jay Lauterwasser.

WHAT’S IN YOUR MUSIC PLAYER?

Jason Wiley:
1. Pink Floyd, The Dark Side of the Moon. “David Gilmour is one of my favorite guitarists, and every time I listen to this I hear something new. The simplicity of the songs, yet with such feeling and emotion, has never been duplicated.”
2. Phish, A Live One. “The pinnacle of jam bands playing complicated, orchestrated music with mind-blowing jams that only God-gifted musicians could pull off.”
3. The Derek Trucks Band, Songlines. “Derek is one of those rare guitarists that, when you hear him play, you instantly know it’s him, and that’s something I strive for in my own music. This album is blues-meets-jazz fusion — it’s intense, it’s grooving, and it’s interesting the whole way through.”
4. Bob Dylan Live, 1966 — The Royal Albert Hall Concert. “His insights are still relevant today, and this show takes you from the fragileness of him singing alone with guitar and harmonica to playing with his full band.”
5. Thievery Corporation, The Richest Man in Babylon. “I’ve been getting more and more into electronic dance music lately.”

Aaron Luke:
1. Phish, Slip, Stitch, and Pass. “I’ve had this album since it was released in 1997, and yet it’s still a mainstay in my rotation.”
2. Umphrey’s McGee, Live at the Murat. “Their music always gives me a release from the daily grind, plus it’s recorded in Indianapolis, Indiana — my home state.”
3. The Derek Trucks Band, Soul Serenade. “The man can play a slide guitar in a way that makes it sound easy, like you could do it yourself.”
4. Traffic, The Last Great Traffic Jam. “Until recently I hadn’t given an honest effort to listen to Traffic, one of the original jam bands, but after getting this album I’m sold.”
5. The Raconteurs, Consolers of the Lonely. “I really dig Jack White’s guitar work in a real band setting. I can’t stand the White Stripes because the drumming is awful at best.”

Jay Lauterwasser:
2. Frank Zappa, Buffalo. “This was the touring band comprised mostly of the same players on Zappa’s album Joe’s Garage, which was one of my favorite Zappa bands.”
3. The Shins, Chutes Too Narrow. “I love all things the Shins, but lately this is the disc I most identify with.”
4. Steely Dan, Aja. “Usually my favorite Steely Dan album, although that’s a hard decision to make.”
5. The Beatles, self-titled [a.k.a. The White Album]. “You can never go wrong with the Beatles.”

DESSERT-ISLAND DVDs?
Jason:
2. The Matrix. “I totally resonate with the message that mass amounts of people go through life unaware of things as they really are instead fo-cusing on things that really don’t matter.”
3. The Big Lebowski. “Because the Coen Brothers are geniuses.”
5. Dumb and Dumber. “Something about the line ‘That John Denver guy’s full of shit’ gets me ev-ery time.”

Aaron:
2. Ghostbusters. “I can almost quote this entire movie from beginning to end.”
3. Garden State. “Great soundtrack.”
5. Moby’s Pyramids of Brian. “I can watch it over and over again and still laugh.”

FAVORITE PERFORMER OF ALL TIME?
Jason: “Their influence on Moontucky Risin than evergreens like The Grateful Dead and New Riders of the Purple Sage.”
Aaron: “Umphrey’s McGee really takes the audi-en-cence to another place when you watch them.”
Jay: “Frank Zappa is kind of like comfort food for my ears. He was an amazing musician and com-poser, and he had a knack for putting together some of the best groups of musicians.”

LISTS
JAY ALLEN SANFORD

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3. Garden State. “Great soundtrack.”
4. The Empire Strikes Back. “The best of the original three movies.”
5. Moby’s Pyramids of Brian. “I can watch it over and over again and still laugh.”

BRUSH WITH FAME?
Jason: “Once ate salmon pasta right next to Jose Canseco up in L.A.,... he seemed like a douchebag.”
Aaron: “I was in L.A. at the Roxy watching a friend’s band play, and Jay of ‘Jay and Silent Bob’ was outside hitting on a couple of girls. I heard one of the girls say, ‘Why would I go anywhere with you? You aren’t even famous.’”

SEXIEST LOCAL PERFORMER?
Jason: “There’s this girl Karin Carson who sings old-school jazz at a bunch of local places. I had a chance to hang with her a while back, and she sang Stevie Wonder’s ‘My Cherie Amour’ softly to me over drinks after one of her shows.”
Jay: “Anya Marina, because there’s something about her singing voice that’s just, well, you know.”

LAST BOOK READ?
Jason: Killing Yourself to Live, Chuck Klosterman. “The book is about how the greatest career move any musician can make is to die early and what this means to and about all of us regular folk. [The author] takes a road trip to all the spots famous musicians have died, from Kurt Cobain’s house to the swamplands where Lynyrd Skynyrd’s plane crashed.”
Aaron: The Kite Runner, Khaled Hosseini. “The book is told from the perspective of a boy grow-

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ing up in Afghanistan and the many different tragedies that have taken place there — from the monarchy tumbling to the Soviet invasion to refugees escaping to the U.S. and into the reign of the Taliban regime.”

Jay: Soul Music, Terry Pratchett. “It happens in a different universe, where the world is a great big disc being carried by four elephants on top of a flying cosmic turtle, and a band has to learn how to rock and roll with trolls and dwarves in this odd world.”

Dana: Into Thin Air, Jon Krakauer. “The true story of a Mount Everest expedition that was caught in a massive storm.”

FAVORITE MAGAZINE?

Jason: Men’s Health. “It’s great turd-room reading, chock full of pointers on working out, eating healthy, dressing classy, and impressing the chicks. It’s like having a dad who actually knows the answers on how to be cool and successful but who doesn’t nag you to get a job.”

Aaron: Creativity. “I’m a video-game designer, and this magazine has a lot of good tips about the industry.”

Jay: Paste. “It’s a well-written music magazine that doesn’t just focus on the flavor of the month.”

MOST VISITED WEBSITE?

Jason: craigslist.com. “I seriously think I’ve got an addiction to searching for that used guitar or amp or pedal at a steal.”

Aaron: MLB.com. “All things baseball.”

Jay: wikipedia.com. “They know everything, and it’s all true!”


GUILTY PLEASURES?

Jason: “Cigarettes, Burger King french fries, and of course midget porn.”

Aaron: “Cigarettes (I smoke them like it’s my job), burgers (I eat too damn many of them), and beer (I can’t ever seem to throw in the towel before it’s too late).”

Jay: “Las Vegas, multiplayer online role-playing games, Wild Cherry Pepsi, speeding in my car, and eating veal.”

WHERE DO YOU HANG OUT?

Jason: “Cowles Mountain, Torrey Pines, Sunset Cliffs, Red Fox Room, and Borders. I love the outdoors, old people, and catching up on my Britney Spears gossip.”

Aaron: “Hamilton’s Tavern (SouthPark), because it’s a beer drinker’s paradise. They have so many good beers, and there’s never enough time in a day to drink them all.”

Jay: “Our practice space, because that’s where I get to play music with my friends.”

Dana: “Ocean Beach. Just because.”

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Calendar

MUSIC SCENE

SEPTEMBER 12TH, 13TH, 14TH

Yonder Mountain String Band
Bassnectar • Particle
Mountain featuring Leslie West & Corky Laing
Melvin Seals & JGB • Gram Rabbit

Tom Freund • Cubensis • ON THE ONE • Izabella
Mojow and the Vibration Army • Vegetation
Alfired Howard and the K23 Orchestra • Delta Nove • PUJA
The Frequency • Interstate Blues • The Nate LePaine Band
Beth Preston • Still Time • Chi Club • Blackbirdz
4 Minutes til Midnight • Techno Hillbillies
Grand Canyon Sundown • Red Warrior Drum Group Jalopy
The Glenn Smith Band • Cheap Thrills • Outpost • Haywire
Left Hand Monkey Wrench • Tefflon • The Naked Sun
The Maykers • Stolen Rose • Dogegirl • Mike Lux Band • OB3
Shafter Wasco • Funky A • A Dull Science • Compass Rose • O.T.I
Christopher Hawley Rollers • Pangea Collective
Off Track • LA 5 • DJ Smitty J • Linda Sublett • Destructo Bunny
Mind World Stepper • DJ Atom Matter • Radius
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- **REO Speedwagon** October 2, 2008
- **Chicago** October 26, 2008

Jethro Tull
August 14, 2008

Gladys Knight and Al Green
September 21, 2008

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**MUSIC**

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#### THIS WEEK’S SHOWS

**710 Beach Club:** 710 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-483-7844.

**Friday:** PM Revolver and Aspina With Hydrokite. Alternative rock. Saturday — The Lou Dog Trio. A tribute to sublime with Elephants in Mud and Gaddify Reggae/rock/metal. Wednesday, 9 p.m. — Young Mass and O.C.T. Hip-hop/rap.

Adams Recreation Center:

- 3491 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-235-1149.
- 1791.
- 3925 Ohio Street, North Park, 858-509-0632.
- 1476 Encinitas Boulevard, Encinitas, 760-942-2750.
- 998 West Boulevard, Kensington-Talmadge, 619-516-4746.
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**Calendar**

**MUSIC**

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**Monday**
- 8 p.m. — Matthew Sweet. With the Northern Set. Alternative rock/pop. 8 p.m. — Johnny Winter. Country/rock/blues.

**Tuesday**
- 7 p.m. — The Dance of Love. Night life. 7 p.m. — The Juanes Experience. Latin rock.

**Wednesday**
- 8 p.m. — Blue Monday. Rock/soul/jazz.

**Thursday**
- 8 p.m. — The Kitchen Floor. Pop. 8 p.m. — The Blue Ridge. Folk/bluegrass.

**Friday**
- 8 p.m. — The Northstar Session. Alternative rock.

**Saturday**
- 8 p.m. — The Northstar Session. Alternative rock. 9:30 p.m. — Steve Miller Band. Classic rock.

**Sunday**
- 6 p.m. — The Dave Matthews Band. With Robert Earl Keen. 10 p.m. — The Dave Matthews Band. With Robert Earl Keen.

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**Food, Music, Art & Friends**

- Thurs., 8/21: Skelpin
- Fri., 8/22: Taryn Donath and Peter Hall
- Sat., 8/23: The Dirges
- Sun., 8/24: Brit-Pop DJ
- Mon., 8/25: Pain Records Party
- Tues., 8/26: Special Guest
- Wed., 8/27: Joe Wood

**Sneak Peek**
- Sun., 9/14: Cranky George from the Pogues

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**The Filling Station**

- 9522 Miramar Rd. (858) 578-0757
- Dancing • Pool • Karaoke
- Food • Fun • DJ
- Rock band every night until 9 pm
- Free Nacho Bar coming soon!
WIN FREE TICKETS
To register go to www.sandiegoreader.com/news/contests/ and click on the AEG Live logo!!!
The Field Irish Pub and Restaurant: 544 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-232-9840. Thursday, 8 p.m. — Monday, 8:30 p.m. — Eamon Carroll. Traditional Irish music.


Gallo’s at the Marina: 550 Marina Parkway, Chula Vista, 619-422-5214. Sunday, 5 p.m. — The Rhythm Jacks. Rhythm and blues.

Georges on Fifth: 835 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-702-0444. Fridays and Saturdays, 6:30 p.m. — Peter the Prince of Piano. Piano/pop.


The Harp: 4935 Newport Avenue, Ocean Beach, 619-222-0168. Tuesday, 7 p.m. — Chet & the Committee. Blues.


Hennessey’s Tavern - PB: 4650 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach, 831-483-8847. Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. — Adrienne Nims and Raggle Taggle. A blend of jazz, Celtic, and Latin music.

Hilltop Center for Spiritual Living: 331 East Elder Street, Fallbrook. Friday, 7 p.m. — Anton Mierak and Michael Mandrell. Acoustic/world. $15.

House of Blues: 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-299-2583. Thursday, 7 p.m. — Van Hunt. R&B/soul/rock. Friday, 7 p.m. — Broken Social Scene. Indie rock/experimental. 8:30-1:30. Saturday, 7 p.m. — Sondre Lerche. Pop/rock/folk. $15. Sunday, 6:30 p.m. — Eddy Grant. Reggae/pop/rock. $12-$22. Sunday, 7:30 p.m. — Detroit Live. Rock/punk/metals. $10. Tuesday, 8:30 p.m. — Nevermind. A tribute to Nirvana. $9. Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. — Toast the Wet Sprocket. Alternative rock/pop. $22-$57.


Humphrey’s by the Bay: 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-224-3577. Monday, 7:30 p.m. — Hostie & the Blowfish. Alternative/pop/rock. Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. — Lucinda Williams. Buick 6 openers. Rock/Alternative/country. $42.

Jimmy Love’s: 672 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-395-0123. Wednesday, 8:30 p.m. — The Soul Revue. Jazz, dance, and top 40.


Le Papagayo: 1002 North Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-944-8252. Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. — Freestyle Jazz.


Little Italy Spaghetti: 1953 India Street, Little Italy, 619-398-2974. Saturday, 9 p.m. — Willovealot. Smooth jazz.

The Lumberyard Shopping Center: 937 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 619-987-1277. Friday, 8 p.m. — Saturday, 6 p.m. — Keith Jacobson. In the central courtyard, between St. Tropez
Calendar

**MUSIC**

Bakery & Bistro and Bubby’s Galato. Smooth jazz saxophone.

Mandeville Auditorium at 9500 Gilman Drive, UCSD.

Sunday, 5:30 p.m. — Indian Ocean. Indian fusion/rock/jazz. $20-$100. The Marque: 835 25th Street, Golden Hill.

Friday, 7:30 p.m. — Fiffin Market, Pullman Standard, Aaron Bowen. With Alex Esther. Acoustic/pop/rock. $5. McCabe’s Beach Club: 1145 South Tremont Street, Oceanside, 760-439-6664.

Friday, 4:30 p.m. — The California Rangers. Country. Saturday, 5 p.m. — Fleetwood Mac. A Fleetwood Mac tribute. Mcp’s Irish Pub and Grill: 1107 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-2280.

Sunday, 5 p.m. — The Stüttts. Rockabilly/jazz/roots. Tuesday, 8 p.m. — The Taylor Harvey Band. Bluegrass/rock.

Molly Malone’s: 1270 Main Street, Ramona, 760-788-9050.

Friday, 9 p.m. — Coldfire. Rock. Saturday, 9 p.m. — Metal Brigade. Traditional blues, swing, and rock. Ages 21 and up.

Love and Roll Productions Benefit Concert Series present: MATTHEW SWEET, Belly Up, Monday, August 25, 8 p.m. 858-481-8140. $20 advance; $22 door.

For more, visit matthewsweet.com.

By William Crain

A few years back, rock critic Chuck Klosterman listed Matthew Sweet as one of the most accurately rated (as opposed to over or underrated) artists in rock history, saying, “Every Matthew Sweet album has only one good song, and that song is utterly perfect.” As examples Klosterman listed “Sick of Myself,” “Girlfriend,” and “Where You Got Love.” He’s right about those songs, but he’s wrong about the albums — Sweet’s filler is better than most artists’ singles. And his best albums have little or no filler.

The buzz on Sweet’s new album Sunshine Lies, his tenth, is that it’s a power-pop masterpiece. And it is. The only problem — if it is a problem — is that a number of Sweet’s albums could be described the same way. Sweet is such a master of a certain kind of guitar pop song — ’60s-flavored but with modern production values, featuring a wild guitar solo and beautiful vocal melodies concealing depressing lyrics — that it’s easy to take him for granted.

In the years since his early ’90s commercial heyday, even Sweet himself has sometimes seemed a little bored by his solo career. He’s taken up work as a producer, helped create music for the Austin Powers movies, and formed two different supergroups, one with Bangles Susanna Hoffs and another with singer-songwriters Pete Droge and Shawn Mullins. He’s also taken up pottery, and, judging by his website, he’s as excited about that as he is about music. Still, Sunshine Lies does not sound at all like the product of someone who has lost the passion to create great music — it’s the work of an artist rediscovering some of his strengths, working at the peak of his power.

MATTHEW SWEET is the frontman of the band Matthew Sweet and the Bazookas, as well as a solo artist. He was a member of the band The Ziggens, and has worked with artists such as Tom petty and the Heartbreakers, and has also produced albums for other artists. His music is known for its catchy hooks and intricate guitar work. 

Morgan, MD: Matthew Sweet, a 9th grade teacher in San Diego, was on the southbound 79 in Carlsbad at 3:15 p.m. when he was hit by a car. He died in the hospital.

[Editor: This is a placeholder for additional content that will be added in the future.]
Live Nation

ON SALE MONDAY, AUGUST 25 AT 10AM!

www.neilyoung.com

ON SALE MONDAY, AUGUST 25 AT 10AM!

www.neilyoung.com
He was sitting outside a coffee shop downtown with a shopping cart and a paper sign that read, “Need help/ Homeless/ And ugly.” He had a thick Southern drawl, a friendly manner, and a shopping cart. “Could you see about this?” he asked me. “I’ve got a radio, and it means all the world to me to hear that music.”

Right then I knew where he was coming from. Music was what he lived for. It defined him. It made his bad days into good days. Music worked the same magic for me, too, though long ago. Rock radio was my lifelong throughout adolescence, but via the dumbing down that commercialization brought on, rock music became less and less relevant, and eventually I stopped listening.

Radiohead revived all that for me. They made it safe to like pop music again, although at first I didn’t get them at all. I thought “Creep” was self-indulgent and gratuitous. I still do, Early Thom Yorke was weird, angry, and depressing, and for a short while his band splattered along from one strange release to the next. And yet there was something of a rock deconstructionism going on in their music that was savory. Indie radio stations heard it and played all the Radiohead they could get their hands on, but OK Computer was the album that made Radiohead mainstream. Less grunge-meets-Queen, it generated an uncommon atmosphere that compelled me to listen to it, in whole or part, almost daily for the next several years. As for my homeless friend, I haven’t seen him in a while, and I don’t know if he ever got his radio fixed. I hope he has.

RADIOHEAD, Cricket Wireless Amphitheatre, Wednesday, August 27, 7:30 p.m. 619-672-3900. $25.00 to $55.50.
as i hear it
by brian carver

SAND DIEGO SONGS TAKE THE STREET TEST

Artist: Slightly Stooped
Song: “The Fruits” (from the CD Slightly Not Stoned Enough to Eat Breakfast Yet Ss Stooped)
Heard By: Marlon Hendred, Mission Hills

It’s one of those songs that’s in a 3/4 time signature, so it kind of keeps going around and around…like an Irish jig or something. I thought I’d want to hear that song in the context of the rest of their album: how it fits in with the songs before and after it. It’s almost a little bit of a throwback sound…kind of like the Muse. It was guitar, bass, and drums. I didn’t hear anything like a star or mandolin. Is that something that you might hear on 91X or 94.9? I kind of doubt it. Songs that are in that time signature are not that easy to pull off. I don’t know if it would work as a hit song. It kind of makes me back to the few years after high school — hanging out and going on a ski trip.

I thought it was pretty good, but it’s not like I’ve never heard it before. It’s pretty repetitive. It sounded kind of like “Pass the Dutchie” but in a different key. It sounded like San Diego surf rock. I would definitely compare them to Sublime or High Tide. I definitely heard guitar, a reggae bass line, drums, and someone singing. He was singing something about “the police don’t let people be who they be.” I think it was pretty poppy; the chord progression was kind of mainstream. It was the reggae for everyone. It’d appeal to more people than classic reggae. I think that song would go well with a back-yard barbecue or someone smoking a bowl…something chill.

Artist: Suburban Kommer
Song: “Lares and Penates” (from the CD Option B: To linger, Remain, or Persist…)
Heard By: Kevin Walsh, Mission Valley

Artist: Laura Roppé
Song: “Mama Needs a Girls Night Out” (from the CD Girl Like This)
Heard By: George Cranford, Mission Hills

I’m probably not the right kind of person for this kind of music. It seems like ‘pop country.’ It’s the same stuff I’ve heard from Shania Twain — I wouldn’t know if it was her or Laura Roppé, honestly. I guess she’s a good storyteller in the way that she writes her lyrics. She’s got good structure, in terms of songwriting. The lyrics were about a single mom struggling to raise her kids and how she needs a night out. I understand that, but I don’t feel like I’m not a single mom. I’m a 25-year-old dude who listens to progressive rock. I could see some 36-year-old mommy listening to that at her vanity as she gets ready to go out on a Thursday night to Cahoots.

TO GET YOUR LOCAL CD HEARD, PLEASE MAIL IT TO:
Music Editor, As I Hear It, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803

Calendar

The Alley

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The BOATHOUSE
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August 28 — Chet & the Committee.

East Village: 13th & K Streets, Downtown.
September 19, September 20 — Street Scene.

Embarcadero Marina Park South: 306 Marina Park Way, Downtown.
August 29, August 30, August 31 — “1812 Tchaikovsky Spectacular.”

Encinitas Library: 540 Cornish Drive, Encinitas.
September 7 — Rack of Bones and Friends.

Epicentre: 8450 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa, 858-271-4000.
August 28 — Orangello.
August 29 — A Shattered Hope and Inviato.
September 5 — Bamboo.
September 12 — Sherm the Band and Unknown Motive.
September 13 — The Crashing Marbles and Six Reasons.

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

Fannie’s Nightclub: 9143 Campo Road, Spring Valley, 619-698-2014.
August 29, August 30 — Laidstone.

The Field Irish Pub and Restaurant: 944 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-222-9840.
August 28 — Eamon Carson.
The Flying Bridge: 1105 North Coast Highway, Oceanside, 760-722-1151.
August 30 — The Lounge Butchers.

The Handlery Hotel and Resort: 950 Hotel Circle North, Mission Valley, 619-299-0511.
August 29 — Alyssa Jacey.
August 31 — Lady Dottie & the Diamonds.

Hennessey’s Tavern — PB: 4650 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach, 858-483-8847.
September 19 — Hugh Gaskins & the G String Daddies.

Hensley’s Flying Elephant Pub and Grill: 510 Tamarack Avenue, Carlsbad, 760-729-4996.
September 14 — Cranky George.

Hornblower Cruises: 1366 North Harbor Drive, Downtown, 619-686-4715.
September 5, September 12, September 19, September 26 — West of 5.
October 3 — Z-Bop.
November 7 — The Bayou Brothers.

House of Blues: 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-299-2583.
August 29 — Chris Cornell.
August 30 — La Grange.
September 3 — Moreau.
September 6 — Shinedown.
September 11 — DJ Flex.
September 12 — Cerati.
September 13 — Reluctation.
September 14 — Black Rebel Motorcycle Club.
September 18 — The Fratellis.
September 22 — Lila Downs.
September 26 — Smokin’ Joe Kubek & Benisi King.
October 4 — Lagwagon and MeP’s.
October 4 — Mindless Self Indulgence.
October 12 — Chris Cagle.
October 12 — The Kings of Leon.
October 16 — Jorge Celedón & Jimmy Zambrano.
October 17 — Led Zeppelin.
October 19 — Streetlight Manifesto.
October 20 — Ted Neeley.
October 23 — VNV Nation.
October 25 — Bayside.
October 28 — Matt Nathanson.
November 1 — A Shattered Hope.
November 12 — Joe Satriani.
December 4 — Five Finger Death Punch.

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Also appearing at Valley View Casino:

Bill Cosby
Friday, September 5
Earth, Wind & Fire
Sunday, October 5
Randy Travis
Wednesday, October 15

August 29 — West of 5.
The Jumping Turtle: 1660 Capistrano Road, San Marcos, 760-741-7778.
September 4 — Nature of the Beast.
The Kensington Club: 4079 Adams Avenue, Kensington-Talmadge, 619-284-2948.
August 30 — Republic of Letters and A.M. Vibe.
September 13 — Sayin’ Ivy.
The Kraken: 2531 South Highway 101, Cardiff, 760-436-4483.
August 28 — Chill Boy.
August 30 — Stevi Lynn & Triple Threat.
August 30 — Ghost Riders and the Travel Agents.
October 4 — The Farmers.
The Lake Wohlford Cafe: 2548 Lake Wohlford Road, Escondido, 760-749-6585.
September 3 — The City Limits Band.
Little Italy Spaghetti: 1953 India Street, Little Italy, 619-384-2974.
August 30 — Willard.
The Lumberyard Shopping Center: 932 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 619-987-1277.
August 29, August 30 — Keith Jacobson.

Committee.

Christopher Cross.
September 16 — Lindsey Buckingham.
September 21 — Muju Schejch!
September 25 — Kenny G.
September 28 — Sean.
September 28 — Eliza James & the Roots Band.
October 2 — David Byrne.
October 3 — America.
October 5 — Cecilia & Rapone.
October 9 — Duffy.
October 19 — Gordon Lightfoot.

Fannie’s Nightclub: 540 Cornish Drive, Encinitas.
September 13 — Air Supply and

October 3 — Duffy.
October 19 — Gordon Lightfoot.

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J.P. Miller, VP of Operations
**Backstage at the Bitter End**

**Thurs Aug 21st**
8pm -&nbsp;&nbsp;Eric James Polyn
The Flower Thief
Katie Leigh
Cheeky
Nothin SpeshL

**Sun Aug 31st**
9pm -&nbsp;&nbsp;Decades Party!
70’s, 80’s and 90’s Radiorstar @ 10pm

**Mon Sept 1st**
9pm -&nbsp;&nbsp;Killer Karaoke

**Tues Sept 2nd**
10pm -&nbsp;&nbsp;Radiorstar

**Thurs Sept 25th**
8pm -&nbsp;&nbsp;Cathryn Beeks Showcase
(4 Bands TBA)

**Wed Sept 3rd**
10pm -&nbsp;&nbsp;Maddox Revolution!

**Mon Sept 8th**
9pm -&nbsp;&nbsp;Killer Karaoke

**Tues Sept 9th**
10pm -&nbsp;&nbsp;Radiorstar

**Wed Sept 10th**
10pm -&nbsp;&nbsp;Maddox Revolution!

**Thurs Sept 27th**
10pm -&nbsp;&nbsp;Maddox Revolution!

**Fri Sept 11th**
8pm -&nbsp;&nbsp;Cathryn Beeks Showcase
(4 Bands TBA)

**Mon Sept 14th**
9pm -&nbsp;&nbsp;Killer Karaoke

**Tues Sept 15th**
10pm -&nbsp;&nbsp;Radiorstar

**Thurs Oct 9th**
8pm -&nbsp;&nbsp;The Bitter End Anniversary Party!

**Thurs Oct 16th**
8pm -&nbsp;&nbsp;Mal Hall Comedy Special

**Thurs Oct 23rd**
8pm -&nbsp;&nbsp;Cathryn Beeks Showcase
(4 Bands TBA)

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**McBee’s Beach Club**

South Tremont Street, Oceanside, 760-459-6646.

October 11 — Hootie & the Blowfish

**McP’s Irish Pub and Grill**

1107 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-5280.

August 29 — The Taylor Harvey Band

**Milano Coffee Company**

8685 Rio San Diego Drive, Mission Valley, 619-223-5056.

August 31 — The Hip Replacements

**Neurosciences Institute**

10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive, La Jolla, 858-486-7226.

September 13 — Slightly Stoopid and Pepper

September 24 — The Raconteurs

September 25 — My Morning Jacket

October 2 — The Mars Volta

October 31 — Jason Mraz

**The Par Lounge at San Vicente Resort**

24157 San Vicente Road, Ramona, 760-789-8290.

August 29 — Moon Dance

**Patrick’s II**

428 F Street, Downtown, 619-233-3077.

August 28 — The Bill Mage Blues Band

August 29 — Missy Andersen

August 30 — Soul Diego

August 31 — 14th Street Deluxe Blues Band

**Patrick’s Irish Pub**

13114 Poway Road, Poway, 858-486-0764.

September 26 — The City Limits Band

**Petco Park**

406 Pier View Way, Downtown, 619-223-5056.

September 26 — Radiostar

Tues Sept 9th
9pm — Killer Karaoke

Mon Sept 8th
10pm — Maddox Revolution

**Pete’s Place**

8330 La Mesa Boulevard, La Mesa, 619-464-9335.

August 30 — The Farmers

**Pine Avenue Parks**

3205 Harding Street, Carlsbad, 760-602-7513.

September 21 — Cowboy Jack

**Portugalia**

4839 Newport Avenue, Ocean Beach, 619-222-7678.

September 5, October 3, November 7, December 5 — Dan Aykroyd & the Shinnymo Sisters

**Pounders**

125 West Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-739-1288.

September 15 — Hear No Evil

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**Jeremy Enigk**

August 21, The Casbah

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**San Diego Reader**

August 21, 2008

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**San Diego Reader**

August 21, 2008
Thurs., August 21  ■  8 pm • Blues/Swing
Buick Wilson Band

Fri., August 22  ■  6 pm • Celtic Music
Skelpin
9:30 pm • Disco/Dance
Rising Star
Sat., August 23  ■  6 pm
Original Songwriter
Patti Zlaket
9:30 pm • Blues Guitar
Dennis Jones

Sun., August 24  ■  8 pm
Smooth Jazz
Reggie Smith

Mon., August 25  ■  9:30 pm
Rock, R&B
Scott Carter & New Breed
Tues., August 26  ■  9:30 pm
Classic Rock
Citizen Band
Wed., August 27  ■  8 pm
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John Lee Hooker Jr.  Larry McCray  Ronny Baker Brooks

Upcoming Shows
Saturday, September 6
John Lee Hooker Jr.

Saturday, October 4
Ronny Baker Brooks

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For more information on upcoming events visit sdreader.com
San Diego Reader
August 21, 2008
105

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RUNHONEY

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22
Poly Underground presents
KATCHAFIRE
IRATION • TRIBAL THEORY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23
Mixmaster Showcase

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28
Canes & Fineline present
MELVINS
BIG BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27
Never Say Die presents
BEN JOHNSON
KNIGHTS OF MONTE CARLO
ELVIE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29
STRANGER
PSYDECAR
HIGH TIDE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30
Canes & Rockhill present
LITTLE BROTHER
WYLD BUNCH • DJ D-ROCK OF Z90
SIGHNUR ONE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31
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DAMAGE INC. JUST LIKE PRIEST
(Judas Priest Tribute)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
GUITERMOUTH
VOODOO GLOW SKULLS
CHASER • THE WIDOWS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
Poly Underground presents
EKN
AGUA DULCE • DJ UNITE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
Organika presents
MICHAEL PALMER
LAMB'S BLOOD
JAH ROOTS HI-FI

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I got a call in 1987 to open for John Fogerty at a Vietnam vets benefit in Washington, DC. Well, I am one of those people who believe Fogerty is the American songwriter and whose recordings continue to reflect the American experience more than any other contemporary artist. So, yeah, I like the guy. I immediately said yes.

In the year preceding this event, however, Fogerty, because of legal snags and bitterness toward his former label, was not performing the oldCCR [Creedence Clearwater Revival] stuff. I remember thinking how ironic it would be to have him skip songs like “Fortunate Son” and “Who Will Stop the Rain” while in DC for vets and families of a conflict still very much alive in their hearts and minds. It bothered me, puzzled me.

The event was scheduled for July 4th, and as the day approached, many people made a sojourn to the still-new DC. Well, I am one of those DC. I got a call in 1987 to open for John Fogerty at a Vietnam-vets benefit in Washington, DC. I knew I was going to have to open the show.

As I walked along the solemn path, I looked up and saw John Fogerty. Modestly dressed, he was walking alone, as though he were taking it all in. He reached up and touched a name, took a step back. I didn’t say anything to him, and from what I could tell, he went unrecognized.

The next day he performed for thousands of Americans. My role had been reduced to an emcee, but I didn’t mind. Even though I never got to meet him, all was cool. Especially when for the first time in years, Fogerty blasted through songs like “Fortunate Son” and “Who Will Stop the Rain.”
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THE ACTUAL PROOF
THURSDAY 8/28
SUNDAY 8/24
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L.V. McCREE • CALS
LIFE OR DEATH
KARMATIC
ASYLUM • MOWER
MALADYRANCY • PHOBIA
IMPARED • ILOGISTIC • MARUTA
OBSCURED SECRECTIONS
THE SPONSORSHIP SHOWCASE
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AGENT STEEL • NIHILOST • IMMOLATED SERAPHIN
EXMORTUS • WILLIE PSYCHO • BONDED BY BLOOD
SENTINEL • AUDIRU • REAPER
INTO ETERNITY • PSYOPUS
DEATHRIDDERS (featuring Neil Turbin, formerly of Anthrax)
WAR FROM A HARLOT’S MOUTH • ANIMAL CORPSE
DEATH COMES IN THREES • STILETTO SILHOUETTE
LEFT TO VANISH • F**K THE FACTS
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INTO ETERNITY (CD release party):
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I'm sure most guys can say they've never had a drink thrown in their face or been slapped by a woman in a bar. Those are things you see in sitcoms. But I had one of those things happen to me.

My girlfriend and I had met up with my buddy Gerald. He had a few female friends who were involved in a beauty pageant going on at the Beauty Bar. A blonde that was all over Gerald kept buying us drinks. Gerald went to the bathroom, and to score points with my girl, I said, “You women are just as pretty as most of these women. And you have brains and personality to go with the looks.” When Gerald came back, this blonde, who had had a lot to drink, said, “Josh just told me I was hotter than all these women.” I didn’t want him thinking that I put the moves on her when he was away, so I said, “No, that’s not exactly what I said.” She turned to me with an angry look and said, “You don’t think I’m hot?” She then hauled off and smacked me in the face. It made a loud sound and shocked the hell out of me. A few people around us wondered what was up. I wanted to punch her. But Gerald was laughing, so...whatever.

I asked the blonde woman, Nikki, if she founded the group. She told me that she took it over five years ago. The event we were at was not a dive bar; it was on the rooftop of a fancy hotel in East Village.

The event we were at was not a dive bar; it was on the rooftop of a fancy hotel in East Village. She told me that they all belong to a group called the “Dive Bar Club.” She told me about their next event. I didn’t make it to the next few, but I did eventually catch up with them.

“I could smell your car pull up downstairs, bro.”

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The event we were at was not a dive bar; it was on the rooftop of a fancy hotel in East Village.

She told me that they pick a place to go to during happy hour and that it involves a bunch of builders and contractors who can network. Nikki said proudly, “We’ve had engagements come out this, business deals. People can be themselves in a casual atmosphere.”

I met a woman named Pamela who started a lingerie company. She was telling me about it when a couple of guys interrupted us.

Another guy came over to greet his friends. He had a lot of cologne on, and one guy said, “I could smell your car pull up downstairs, bro.”

I heard Nikki talking about graphic design, and she mentioned that she liked to paint. I then watched as she peured a guy’s drink into her martini glass. Gerald said, “That move looked weird.” I said, “I think it’s classy drinking beer from a martini glass. I bet she extends her pinkie when she sips it.” She flipped us off and moved on to talk to some other friends. I preferred that to being slapped.

I heard some guys talking about the height of a building. I asked them about the Sunroad building in Kearny Mesa that was supposedly too high. One of them said, “Oh, yeah, it was 20 feet that had to be cut off that building. They weren’t about to change the flight patterns because of it. There’s a lawsuit for $45 million over that.”

I asked him what he thought the outcome of the case would be. “What do you think? The City is going to have
Another guy told me about a building in Miramar that was higher than 120 feet, but a deal was worked out under the table. A new radar system ended up being purchased, and they changed the flight path of the jets.

I heard a guy tell his friend that he needed a graphic artist. Someone heard this and said, “I’m a graphic artist.” A woman nearby said, “How graphic do you get?”

I overheard two women talking about their rules of dating. One said, “I don’t date anyone under 30. They’re not cooked yet. No military. I support them, but I won’t date them. No mama’s boys. Nobody with a hang-up on their ex. If they talk about that on the first date, I’m outta there. Nobody that is into wrestling or plays video games for hours.”

Those rules seemed reasonable.

As I headed out to my next event that evening, I saw a bunch of guys surrounding a black car at a stop sign. I thought someone must’ve been hit. The guy at the car was over 6’5”, and I saw that he was signing autographs. It was Padres pitcher Chris Young.

There was a woman sitting in the passenger seat as he signed. One fan took off his shoe and asked him to sign it. Surprisingly, no cars had come up behind him and gotten mad. The one time I did see a car pull up, it went around him. I asked Young if it was weird to be signing like that, and he said something about being asked to sign recently at a Target store.

As I continued walking, I glanced back and saw him finish signing for the ten fans around him.

There would be more autographs signed at the next event I went to — Cheech and Chong reunited. They would be on stage for the first time in 27 years at the Comedy Store in La Jolla.

I had purchased tickets thinking this was the case, as the ads read, “Tommy Chong and very special guest.” I had hoped it was Cheech Marin but was skeptical. When we got up there and saw the limos and heard people asking if there were extra tickets for sale, we figured Cheech was there.

I saw Dangerous Dick, a former KGB and Free FM DJ. I called him over. He said, “Oh, do you want to crash this? I can probably get you in.” I said, “Damn, that would’ve saved me $50 on tickets.” I showed Dick an album I’ve had since I was a kid and asked him if he could get it signed. “Yeah. I’ve been hanging out with them after the shows. I’m emceeing this.”

Someone pulled up out front in a truck that looked just like the vehicle in Up in Smoke. It had marijuana leaves painted all over it. People in line took photos next to it.

The first show Cheech and Chong did took a long time to let out. They were signing autographs and taking photos with fans.

Dick came out with my signed album, which I put back in my car.

Cheech and Chong weren’t that funny. They did many of the things taken straight out of their movies. But it was still great to be there and witness these comedic legends. Especially when I had planned on seeing George Carlin at Humphrey’s, and he died a month before the show. And Bernie Mac just died at age 50. Comedians seem to be dropping like flies.

Tommy Chong’s wife Shelby, whom he had met when she was in their movie Nice Dreams, was selling shirts and posters and told us it was $20 to take our picture and get things signed. We paid it. And we asked them to pretend to smoke a joint for the photo. Dick was taking the pictures.

I didn’t have anything for them to sign, and they ran out of the posters they were selling for $5. I had a basketball keychain and I said, “Hey, why don’t you guys sign this. You have the song ‘Basketball Jones,’ so…”

Cheech laughed as he tried to fit his signature on the small object. Chong looked at it strangely and I said, “Come on, you’ve probably been asked to sign weird things before. I saw you sign rolling paper outside of 4th & B ten years ago. And you’ve probably signed a number of bongs over the years.” He smiled and said, “Yeah, that’s true.”

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UNKNOWN MALICE MAD DOG DISEASE THE BOMBTOPS
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Indian Cuisine 101

Samuel Jim confessed recently he’d never eaten Indian food. Curries, yes — his mother cooks them Japanese style. But he didn’t know a Samosa from a pakora, a poori from a naan.

Well, we can’t have that, can we? Not in my posse! I started looking around for an interesting Indian restaurant, and the universe responded with a scattering of favorable reviews and blog postings for the Gaslamp’s Royal India. It’s owned by a pair of Sikh brothers, Sandeep Singh and Jagdeep Singh. According to the website, they learned to cook at their mother’s knee, Singh and Jagdeep Singh. According to the website, they learned to cook at their mother’s knee,”

Singh and Jagdeep Singh. According to the website, they learned to cook at their mother’s knee, Singh and Jagdeep Singh. According to the website, they learned to cook at their mother’s knee, Singh and Jagdeep Singh. According to the website, they learned to cook at their mother’s knee, Singh and Jagdeep Singh. According to the website, they learned to cook at their mother’s knee, Singh and Jagdeep Singh. According to the website, they learned to cook at their mother’s knee, Singh and Jagdeep Singh. According to the website, they learned to cook at their mother’s knee, Singh and Jagdeep Singh. According to the website, they learned to cook at their mother’s knee, Singh and Jagdeep Singh. According to the website, they learned to cook at their mother’s knee, Singh and Jagdeep Singh. According to the website, they learned to cook at their mother’s knee, Singh and Jagdeep Singh. According to the website, they learned to cook at their mother’s knee, Singh and Jagdeep Singh. According to the website, they learned to cook at their mother’s knee, Singh and Jagdeep Singh. According to the website, they learned to cook at their mother’s knee, Singh and Jagdeep Singh. According to the website, they learned to cook at their mother’s knee, Singh and Jagdeep Singh. According to the website, they learned to cook at their mother’s knee, Singh and Jagdeep Singh. According to the website, they learned to cook at their mother’s knee, Singh and Jagdeep Singh. According to the website, they learned to cook at their mother’s knee, Singh and Jagdeep Singh. According to the website, they learned to cook at their mother’s knee, Singh and Jagdeep Singh. According to the website, they learned to cook at their mother’s knee, Singh and Jagdeep Singh. According to the website, they learned to cook at their mother’s knee, Singh and Jagdeep Singh. According to the website, they learned to cook at their mother’s knee, Singh and Jagdeep Singh. According to the website, they learned to cook at their mother’s knee, Singh and Jagdeep Singh. According to the website, they learned to cook at their mother’s knee, Singh and Jagdeep Singh. According to the website, they learned to cook at their mother’s knee, Singh and Jagdeep Singh. According to the website, they learned to cook at their mother’s knee, Singh and Jagdeep Singh. According to the website, they learned to cook at their mother’s knee, Singh and Jagdeep Singh. According to the website, they learned to cook at their mother’s knee, Singh

Samosas and baked, Royal India’s, with a flaky pastry, were apparently fried. We bit in. The filling was mashed potato and peas. Joining the posse for the first time was Anton, a young Chinese-ethnic Indonesian, accustomed to high spicing (“when my mother cooks Indonesian-style”) at home. “I thought Indian food would have more seasoning than this,” he said. “Are these always so bland?” “No,” I answered in a hollow tone resembling the “thud” my computer emits when it’s about to crash to blue screen (or used to, anyway, before XP). “Why don’t they cook it the authentic way?” he continued. “Do they think Americans won’t like it?” “Maybe,” I said. “Maybe in the Gaslamp, they assume most people won’t know any better.”

Instead of a pervasive, ground-spice mixture (e.g., turmeric and other powdered spices), the mashed potatoes were lightly studded with whole spices — coriander seed, cumin, black and yellow mustard seeds, and perhaps a few cardamom pods. Just then, Michelle remarked on the effect: “I’m biting into little solids that turn into sand in my mouth. Is that typically Indian?” “Yes,” I told her. “In the north, especially, Indians enjoy whole spices to bite into for a sudden full hit of the spice flavor.”

When ordering entrees, the question of how much spice you want is usually asked. Anton and I could both handle authentic heat. Jim, maybe. Michelle, from small-town Pennsylvania — probably not. I hedged our bets, ordering most dishes “medium” but asked for the Madras curry “eight on a scale of ten,” assuring beautiful Liya, the waitress, that I’d spent some time in Kerala and Chennai (Madras) and really meant it.

Well, the Madras curry arrived at a heart level of maybe 2.5. “But this isn’t spicy at all,” I said, tasting. Liya overhead and hastened to bring some table hot sauce, but that’s not the same as having the spice properly cooked into the dish from the start (and she knew it, too, and commiserated). Curries are typically cooked in flavor layers — first you saute a select group of aromatic spices; next into the skillet go garlic and/or ginger (if using) and hot peppers and perhaps more spices. Then you start adding heavier ingredients — onions, other aromatics, later meat and veggies. You get the idea. Hot pepper (whether fresh or powdered) typically goes in early, and in sufficient quantity to play a strong but integrated role among the flavors. It’s not hot to be hot; it’s hot to taste fabulous combined with everything else. So a mild Madras curry isn’t a Madras curry; it’s a San Diego curry. Adding hot-pepper paste after it’s cooked does it no good at all.

You can order most of the non-veg curries with a choice of flesh — chicken, lamb, shrimp, fish, or lobster. For the Madras curry I chose shrimp (Chennai is just off the East Indian coast), and the shrimp were tender. The curry was bright red, tomatoey, not bad but for the uncharacteristic mildness. The spices in it were whole and crunchy, as in the Samosas.

The other curries had a heat level of one, and...
what most other restaurants charge for it. Since I don’t like beer, I chose a nice “Indian mojito” ($10) instead of wine to see me through the meal, and my friends shared a couple of tall bottles of tasty, authentic Taj Mahal beer ($10 each).

To complete the course in Elementary Indian Cuisine, I ordered us a dessert of gulab jamun (often spelled jamun). Waitress Liya described it accurately as “like little donuts soaked in cardamom syrup.” Precisely. But I’ve had more tender, luscious versions; this one reminded me of packaged gulab jamun mix. And then, missing from the syrup was the classic top-off of fragrant rosewater — the difference between merely tasty and irresistibly sexy.

So, exquisite Liya, I won’t be back after all. I’d almost rather put forth the effort to do it myself from my dozen Sahni and Jaffrey and other gurus’ cookbooks — I’ve already got the spices, right down to the nigella and asafetida, just not the time or energy. Don’t get me wrong. The food at Royal India is refined, classy, greaseless — good! Two stars means...good! The flavors are clear, not muddy. Nothing tastes like cheap buffet curry-sludge — in fact, if I wanted a lunchtime Indian buffet, this is probably the place I’d choose for it. But my local favorite remains Gourmet India at the entrance to the Horton Plaza garage because their menu is more interesting and regional, and their cooking is bolder and more authentic. Alternatively, for southern vegetarian, I like Madras up on Black Mountain Road.

If you ever go to India, not a murderous chauffeur won’t tell you about Indian food, but forget it. This probably the place I’d choose for it. But my local favorite remains Gourmet India at the entrance to the Horton Plaza garage because their menu is more interesting and regional, and their cooking is bolder and more authentic. Alternatively, for southern vegetarian, I like Madras up on Black Mountain Road.

If you ever go to India, not an easy place to be, you may soon want to run back home or anywhere else, but as the British learned, you’ll find yourself craving its authentic food forevermore. This probably won’t do it for you. (Recommended reading: White Tiger, by Aravind Adiga. This recently published tale of a murderous chauffeur won’t tell you about Indian food, but it will tell you with relentless, angry brilliance about today’s India.)

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For North Indian food, you want to order one of the tandoor-baked breads for mopping up sauces. I chose my usual favorite, kabuli nan, a leavened bread stuffed, usually, with potatoes, raisins, and feta-like paneer cheese. Here, the stuffing consisted of shredded sweetened coconut and raisins, which struck me as relatively austere, despite its sweetness. (Try that place on Fillmore and Waller...or Gourmet India, next to the entry to the Horton Plaza parking garage.)

Unlike many Indian restaurants, Royal India offers a long list of wines, as well as cocktails and Indian beers. The bad news is that they’re screamingly overpriced. An Oregon Gewürztraminer (ideal with spicy food) goes for (gawp!) $65. The last several times I ordered this grape in restaurants, bottles were $35 and under, including authentic Trimbach from Alsace. Ferrari-Carano Sauvignon Blanc (not their Chard, their Sauv!) also costs $65 — approximately twice
**Goat Guy**

“Here, health authorities say we can’t include things like organs and the eyes.”

I’ve always been a goat guy. Yes, it’s sometimes tame, but that’s the point: goat meat’s never bland. So today I’m thinking, why not? Right here on Imperial in Sherman Heights, where a couple of roosters are crowing like there’s no tomorrow, I notice an orange-canopied sidewalk-eater’s sign. “Birria: Chivos & Chévres.” Hmm... Birria’s stew, chivo is goat, chévres is slang for cerezas, beer. So hey, guess since I’m here...though I don’t see any sign of beer...I head on in.

It’s all fresh and bright inside, with light-varnished wooden chairs and tables, green skirting, orange window frames, and white walls. And lots of photos of Tijuana from around the 1920s.

I’m a bit worried about what I’ve let myself in for. I know that chévres doesn’t come cheap. Then this young guy comes out from the kitchen area and says, “May I help you?”

They have a menu on the wall above the pine wood counter, but I grab the paper one in front of me. “Se Habla English!” it says. The front page advertises $4.95 Clamato-based drinks, $6.95 for a steak and egg for $6.95. Though they do have a half-order for $6.95.

Screw it. I’m going for the full. Because, hey, birria is birria. Why the big deal? Because from what friends tell me, it’s more than just food. It has an aura about it. An emotional thing. It’s not a little bit of national defiance. They say the word birria in, like, Spanish-Spanish, means “poor quality”—not so refined. So Mexicans adopted the word with pride because birria is a working-class dish, goat stew usually, cooked with a base of dried roasting peppers. And it’s what peppers you choose and how you combine them for the roasting that makes or breaks this dish.

“My mom does that,” Christopher says. “She’s so good. At home we kept saying, ‘Mom! We could get rich with your recipes!’ Open a restaurant!” Finally Dad opened our first one in National City. That was January 2007. Then eight months ago we opened this second one, here.

So I ask for goat birria, full order. And a Sangria Setorial—a nonalcoholic grape juice, $1.50. I sit down at a corner table. Soccer’s on the TV. France and Italy. Christopher brings out a cup of consommé soup, a round box of hot corn tortillas, and my bottle of sangria. Next he puts down a molcajete with chopped-up onions, cilantro, and a couple of half-limes inside. Then Gilbergo passes him an oval blackstone plate filled with my birria. Basically just chunks of long ‘n’ slow-roasted goat meat and ribs in a rich brown sauce. He also drops a couple of tall plastic squirter bottles.

“Salsas. They’re both my mom’s. The lighter one’s sesame. People love it.” I sip the soup. Ahh... Birria juices, mostly drippings from the slow-cooked goat, I’d say. But hiding down in the liquid are beans and onions and stuff. Deelish. I grab a steaming corn tortilla from the hot box, stick onions, cilantro, and some of the beans in it, squint the red salsa on, roll it all up, dip it into the broth, and take a bite along with a chunk of goat. Don’t know if that’s the way, but it’s a heckuva combo and taste. And, unlike other goat birria I’ve had, this doesn’t have a gamy kickback aftertaste.

“That’s my mom too,” says Christopher, “she does it Guadalajara-style. They say it’s the best in Mexico.”

Still, he says, this isn’t quite the real thing. “Here, health authorities say we can’t include things like the organs and the eyes and the head in the birria. People ask for those parts, but we just get the meat sent price.”

I finish up. Still haven’t used his mom’s other salua, though, the one with a sesame flavor. “That really goes well with our queso frito birria,” says Christopher. “It’s like an empanada. We put masa, birria, Monterey [jack] cheese, cream, marinated purple onion, and top it with Mom’s sesame salsa.”

Man. Sounds too good. And only about four more bucks. I go for it. It’s like a super-savory pastry turnover, with birria meat and cheese inside and stripes of that sesame seed sauce over the top. It’s good, but by the time I’m halfway through, I’m fit to bust.

As I waddle out, I notice the sign again. Birrias, Chivos & Chévres. “What about the cheeses—the beer?” I ask Christopher. He shakes his head. “Getting the liquor license...well, it’s taking a while.”

So now I’m at the bus stop a few steps away. Get talking with an elderly Mexican gent who’s also waiting for the Number 4. He tells me that goats only came to the Americas with Cortés, but birria goes way back. “The Aztec used deer,” he says, “or possums or armadillo or turkey. Goat’s only been on the birria menu since 1500.”

“Only” on the menu since 1500? Oh man, beautiful. And people say we have no history here.”

**The Place:** Birrias, Chivos & Chévres, 2799 Imperial Avenue, Sherman Heights, 619-236-8012, also at 2401 Highland Avenue, suite 104, National City, 619-477-7660

**Type of Food:** Mexican

**Prices:** Breakfast steak and egg, $6.95; ham and egg, $5.95; machaca, “TJ-style,” $5.95; menudo, $5.95; tacos (fish, carne asada, birria), $1.75; birria, chicken, or beef, $5.75; goat or beef/birria, $8.95 (full order), $9.95 (half-order); queso frito birria (turnover with masa, birria, Monterey jack cheese, cream, marinated onion, sesame salsa), $4.25

**Hours:** 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m., daily

**Bus:** 4

**Nearest Bus Stops:** Imperial at Hensley (eastbound); Imperial at 28th (westbound)

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“The vegetarian combo and the goat and lamb dishes were incredible!” — yjdfl

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Eritrean & Ethiopian beer & wine!

“The vegetarian combo and the goat and lamb dishes were incredible!” — yjdfl

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**Steak • Seafood • Pasta**

**Free entree**

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WINE SPECIAL $24.95

WINE SPECIAL $24.95

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Selected bottles of Argentinean wine

HAPPY HOUR

Mon.-Fri. 4:30-6:30 pm

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Serving Argentinean-style BEEF CUTS

2060 India Street (at Hawthorn) 619-234-4900 www.puertolaboca.us

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**Hours:** 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m., daily

**Bus:** 4

**Nearest Bus Stops:** Imperial at Hensley (eastbound); Imperial at 28th (westbound)
All-You-Can-Eat Sushi Bar $23.95 per person

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

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

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

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

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

Inexpensive: $10 to $19;
Price more: $20 to $39;
Very expensive: $40 or more;

Restaurant Listings

The Reader’s Guide to Restaurants are recommended listings written by our reviewers (Ed Bedford, Barbara David, Amreise Martin, Mary McCallough, Max Nosh, Eleanor Widmer, Naomi Wise). Each issue contains only a fraction of almost 900 venues. A complete searchable list is available online at SanDiegoReader.com. Price estimates are based on the latest information available for a multi-course meal. Inexpensive: below $10; moderate: $10 to $19; expensive: $20 to $39; very expensive more than $39. Please call restaurants in advance for reservations.

Beaches

L.A. Valentina — 1440 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, 858-777-6635. A superb choice for a splurge: Chef Jeff Jackson cooks up a daily changing menu of California cuisine emphasizing the natural flavors of peak, in-season produce and top-quality well-raised meats and wild seafood. Not only is the food delicious and quintessentially “in” but “bad carbs” than at most restaurants. “Relatively healthy, with less fat, salt, and calories.” — E.R.

Harry’s Coffee Shop — 7454 Girard Avenue, La Jolla, 858-454-7811. When Harry Rudolph III opened Harry’s back in 1960, his idea was simple: to create a true-down home eatery and soda fountain where all La Jolla — rich, poor, Brahms, and garbagemen — could mix and meet with plenty of good eats. Everyone from Joan Kroc to Junior Seau to Brooke Shields has been spotted here, along with regular folks who’ve been coming in for three decades. Now Harry III sports quite a menu invention, adding to a four-meal day. $799

Platti Ristorante — 2182 Avenida de la Playa, La Jolla, 858-454-1589. If this is a chain, then it’s up me, up me down! Platti started in the Bay Area and retains that foodie ethos, giving chefs at the local branches freedom to produce splendid Italian menus including multi-talent starters, interesting pastas, and thin-crust pizzas. The quality of ingredients and cooking is beyond surprise. You are almost guaranteed a tasty meal. “There’s no business like show business...” — E.R.

Great Khan’s Mongolian Festival — 415 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla, 858-478-1950. This is a chain that stretches almost as far as the Mongolian Empire, but that’s because the idea is good. One meal, plenty of it, and guaranteed fresh because it’s either frozen (buffet choice of beef, chicken, turkey, pork) or raw (veggies including cabbage, celery, broccoli, cucumber, green peppers, carrots, mushrooms, pineapple, water chestnuts). Stuff as much as you can into your bowl and hand it to the chef to be on the huge hotplate, and add noodles. Bonus: gallery view of skaters on an ice hockey match while you eat. Open lunch through dinner weekdays, earlier closing weekends. — E.R.

Gringo’s — 4747 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach, 858-490-2877. With better cooking than you’d guess from its name, this ambitious spin-off of the local Moondoggies chain serves the sort of Mexican cuisine you might find at a seaside resort in Cabo or Puerto Vallarta — skillfully prepared with good, fresh ingredients, just a bit dimmed-down in the flavors. The food’s nice, is beautifully seasoned, if barely picante. Given the师兄 location at the hub of P’Ritty town, the food is actually better than it needs to be. A vast list of topshelf, interesting margaritas, and a sublime wine list emphasizing affordable, food-friendly Chardon bottlings add to the draw for a lively young crowd that sees the dollars to a rose on weekends. Three middling, brunch available Sunday. Moderate. — N.W.

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Snow Crab Every Night
All-you-can-eat buffet

Seafood | Sushi bar | Hawaiian barbecue | dim sum (OYSTERS, DUNGENESS CRAB, RIBS & JUMBO SHRIMP SERVED AFTER 4PM)

Lunch buffet $7.99

Diinner buffet $11.99

AGE 3-6 $4.99, AGE 7-10 $7.99, MON.-THURS. 4-9:30 PM

Free drink

Buffet to go available. Lunch $3.99/LB. • Dinner $4.99/LB.

Gift certificates available. Party trays available.

10% off total bill

Free buffet

Birthday meal

With purchase of 8 adult meals and valid ID.

Expires 9/4/08. With ad. Use the valid any offer or on holidays.

“Sensational Spanish Cuisine!”

Food, Wine, Music & Culture direct from Spain!
Open Daily 11:00am - Banquet Facility / Catering Service
1653 Garret Avenue, Pacific Beach. • (858) 273-1218

Thursdays... David De Alva

Flamenco Fusion at its best by this world renowned artist!

Snow Crab Every Night

All-you-can-eat buffet

seafood | sushi bar | hawaiian barbecue | dim sun (OYSTERS, DUNGENESS CRAB, RIBS & JUMBO SHRIMP SERVED AFTER 4PM)

Lunch buffet $7.99

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Thursdays... David De Alva

Flamenco Fusion at its best by this world renowned artist!
flavored combinations that are as cre-

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flourish. For all the Texas fans—mussels

in, 2002.

Sushi Ota

years or two or three, and you can

Tomato, chipotle, and avocado. Has a bit

chicharron, tamales, mini-tacos, posole

“Gringofied” to appeal to less-traveled

pork chop medium-rare, he knows the

mores and melons. Alas, when Ota-san’s

for off-menu extravag-

ribs, nachos, watching for off-menu extrav-

Dine-in or take-out. Expires 9/4/08.

heated to an off-putting heat. Ota-san

Peruvian, Mexican, and Chinese

San Diego,. If you’re looking for an

The best dishes (e.g., pot-rocker, tom

oreos, muffins, banana bread, and

chance to empty this plate. “The best

and lots of local hotshots come here for

enjoy that food, which is so

you're looking for economy fare, this

murderous, on black iron hotplates. Servings

entrees that come out of the kitchen

king, a very nice spot — inside the café or on

refined restaurants, and the best place to

“Berto’s” (which often use cheap meat

An irresistible beef and shrimp stew.

chips, fried rice with beef, chicken, shrimp or sole fillet

chocolate cream, and delici-

September. Serves 6-8 people.

borders on crime. The

mexican cuisine.

Hillcrest, 619-299-9727. How many

Mexican chefs do you know who actually

it’s got to be somewhere. Emphatically

b mất the spot — inside the café or on the side-

114 San Diego Reader August 6–12, 2008

Flatiron Steak

The spot — inside the café or on the side-

cooking is what makes it special is the
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Our readers told us that this

Pulled Pork, Baked Beans, Sandwiches,

Tomato, chipotle, and avocado. Has a bit

pork, shrimp, beef or vegetarian with tofu

The menu at the

chicken, pork, or salmon, over mesquite

10 off

Moroccan cuisine

Alaska Crab Leg

You can’t come to San Diego and not

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Marrakesh

a whole small Spanish mackerel bent into

Chow Noodle House

tomatico's and american

star-wars

Pulled Pork, Baked Beans, Sandwiches,

3 p.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesday through

flavored combinations that are as cre-

室内 outlook is a whole small Spanish mackerel bent into

Jalapeno (Food critic Ruth Reichl consumed a

To off spring rolls or egg rolls*

La Costra

Universe Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-299-9727. How many

a whole small Spanish mackerel bent into

Dine-in or take-out. Expires 9/4/08.

10 off

la Molla

you’re looking for economy fare, this

you can tell me a story of one.

the pretty good Las topay steak slides. Imagine

minutes later. Add a price.

Get detailed directions when you

The man who never ate a bowl of rice.

You don’t have to be a gourmand to enjoy full-

comfortable, dressy-casual “destination

nights. Moderate to expensive.

770 Sycamore Ave., Ste. E & F

10% off entire check*

Outstanding Vietnamese Beef Noodle Soup — Chitcheniz

- -

nights. Moderate to expensive.

you can tell me a story of one.

the pretty good Las topay steak slides. Imagine

Get detailed directions when you

Dine-in or take-out. Expires 9/4/08.

Outstanding Vietnamese Beef Noodle Soup — Chitcheniz

heated to an off-putting heat. Ota-san

for off-menu extravag-

Dine-in or take-out. Expires 9/4/08.

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East Village Tavern and Bowl

$1 off any meal! Or $2 off any meal serves 4 or more people.

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b lost the spot — inside the café or on the side-

10% off entire check*

the pretty good Las topay steak slides. Imagine

the pretty good Las topay steak slides. Imagine

Specials require additional purchase.

$10 off

Moroccan cuisine

of sauces based on elaborations

moroccan's and american

You can’t come to San Diego and not

chicken, pork, or salmon, over mesquite

“Gringofied” to appeal to less-traveled

The menu at the

chicken, pork, or salmon, over mesquite

10% off entire check*

nights. Moderate to expensive.

brick oven.

fruits, puts above all, a vast fog of

differentiate (not all of them speak).

You can eat here a dozen times and

served extraneous Mexican

You don’t have to be a gourmand to enjoy full-

nights. Moderate to expensive.

Jalapeno (Food critic Ruth Reichl consumed a

you can tell me a story of one.

the pretty good Las topay steak slides. Imagine

10% off entire check*

nights. Moderate to expensive.

chicken, pork, or salmon, over mesquite

10 off

Moroccan cuisine

nights. Moderate to expensive.

chicken, pork, or salmon, over mesquite

10% off entire check*

nights. Moderate to expensive.

chicken, pork, or salmon, over mesquite

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chicken, pork, or salmon, over mesquite

10% off entire check*

nights. Moderate to expensive.

chicken, pork, or salmon, over mesquite

10% off entire check*
ing pork is a little piece of Eden. Full bar, rather basic wine list. Casual ambience, above-average wheelchair access from large, free parking lot. Dinner daily 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W.

**Gen Lai Sen Hakka Seafood Restaurant** 2181 San Diego Avenue, Old Town, 619-294-2074. After more than four decades in business, this father (Gen) and son (Jack) operation manages to stay fresh. The appetizer salad, with its thin-cut prosciutto and salami, will get your juices flowing. All the traditional Italian stews like real pumkin and fettuccine Alfredo are there, but go for the house specialties like Spaghetti New Orleans with shrimp, crawfish, and crab-meat, or the expensive sampa dishes. Watch! Get a simple Angel Hair Mediterranean or rigatoni with meat sauce to enjoy out on the patio. Open for lunch and dinner, seven days. Moderate. — J.B.

**Joe’s Crab Shack — Downtown** 525 East Harbor Drive, Downtown, 619-233-7391. Joe’s is silly with crab-shack paraphernalia (plastic crab boxes for menus, key chains with crabs to go in down to souvenir gimme caps), but go for the house specialties like the Louisiana fried buster (who put Celadon on the map), working in a more casual vein here. Don’t go for the house specialties like Spaghetti New Orleans with shrimp, but go for the house specialties like traditional Italian entrees like veal parmesan and fettuccine Alfredo are there, but go for the house specialties like Spaghetti New Orleans with shrimp, crawfish, and crab-meat, or the expensive sampa dishes. Watch! Get a simple Angel Hair Mediterranean or rigatoni with meat sauce to enjoy out on the patio. Open for lunch and dinner, seven days. Moderate. — J.B.

**Khan’s Cave GRILL & TAVERN** 9350 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. 858-279-9799 khanscave.com

**Lunch specials $5**

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**Delicious Menu
Every Saturday & Sunday!**

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Seaweed Salad $1.49 • Edamame $.99

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Nigiri 1 pc. $.99

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Sushi • Cocktails

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THAI BUFFET
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HAPPY HOUR SPECIALS

Spicy Scallop Roll $2.99

Philippine Roll $2.99

Spicy Tuna Roll $2.99

California Roll $2.49

Sashimi Hand Roll $1.49

California Hand Roll $1.99

Night 1 pc. $ .99

Mackerel • Albacore

Snapper • Salmon

Shrimp • Squid

Spicy Baked Mussels 3 pc. $2.99

Seafood Salad $1.49 • Edamame $1.50

Miss Sashimi $1.99

Large Sake $2.49 • Draft Beer $1.99

Add $.99 for Sake Bomb

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Longing to tell the world about the best cheesesteak in town?

Post a review for any of the 900+ restaurants listed on sdreader.com.

Each week we will pick our three favorite reviews. The winners will each receive a $25 gift certificate to Canes Bar and Grill and get their reviews printed in the next issue of the Reader.

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**User Reviews** — RESTAURANTS

**Best user comments from Reader website - issue of August 1**

**Cowboy Star, downtown San Diego**

I was very disappointed with the Cowboy Star...I read all the reviews in the Reader about how this place was supposed to be better than Ruth's Chris. The food and service were decent at best. I felt like all the service staff was fresh out of high school or college...they had good personalities but seem to lack general fine dining knowledge. The quality of my steak (NY Strip) was closer to a steak that I would find at Outback than a steak at Ruth's Chris or Fleming's. I feel that you do not need to put a sauce on a steak to make it taste better, the steak should be able to stand alone...it was a little like window dressing the steak.

2 of the 3 desserts were over cooked and left a bad taste in our mouth. The vibe in the restaurant was okay. I just would play some different music (they are trying to be fine dining restaurant, not a country bar). I would not go back....maybe worth a try if you go out to eat a lot but I would not spend my money here again. I will stick to the other steak houses downtown.

By **rich8310** 1:29 p.m., Aug 2, 2008

**Karinya Star, Pacific Beach**

When you first walk into the restaurant you first question whether or not the food will be good due to its vacantness, lack of noise, background music, and conversation of fellow diners. However, just ask to be seated on the floor, and the host will take you past the normal seating to a huge dining room (you must remove your shows before entering this floor-seating area) where tables are low to the floor but nonetheless are still comfortable thanks to the open holes to put your legs and feet under the table, and plush Asian pillows scattered around each seating area. The room is decorated in an assortment of Eastern decor, giving off a Thai Buddhist shrine feel.

The food is delicious, and can be specially ordered for vegetarians AND vegans. Spiciness can be requested on a scale of 1 to 10, but beware: this is one of the few Thai places I've been (including restaurants actualy in Thailand) where they will ACTUALLY make it spicy if you ask for it.

Prices are very reasonable considering the quality of the food.

Dining suggestions: Try the Tom Gah soup and Pad Thai with a spiciness of "7" made with vegetables and tofu.

By **La Critica** 12:56 p.m., Aug 2, 2008

**Blue Point Coastal Cuisine, downtown San Diego**

It was such a good deal for $30!! I loved the fresh oysters that I had for my appetizer! I was amazed that they served me 3 mignonettes with 6 oysters total. For the main dish, I had the dried apricot and fig stuffed pork tenderloin which was perfectly sweet and savory. However, I think it was too much food for me! I should have ordered the stuffed brout instead. But the pork was delicious nonetheless. The dessert was excellent as well. My roommate and I both had the liquid center chocolate cake with caramel hazelnut ice cream and orange anglaise. I would definitely eat at Blue Point again!!

The only con was that there were not a lot of options on the wines by the glass list. My roommate had a bottle of Mondavi chardonnay that was pretty good and perfect for her linguine...I unfortunately ordered the merlot since I am a fan of (good) red wine. The merlot was not good.

By **isyurt1** 8:09 a.m., Jul 2, 2008

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consists of the usual dishes, but each branch also offers a selection of chef’s specialties. Some of those are more au-
thentic; others are more creative than
the norm. The chefs are from northern
Asia and American, herbs that speaks of the Ping River and the hills of Chang Mai. Wine chosen, af-
fordable wine list, Asian and American beers, and cocktails based on on (Asian lower proof rice liquor), including a
yummy rambutan cosmos. Noisy when
crowded. Reservations recommended for Hillcrest on weekends. Lunch week-
days, dinner nightly. Low moderate. — X.V.

Marie’s Café 3016 University Avenue,
North Park, 619-230-0142. One of the
last old-time diners in town. Marie and
son Erik took over in 2002. It had al-
ready been operating for 50 years as
Johnny’s. They kept the tradition but
created a sparkling kitchen and a reputa-
tion for generous servings. Try the
three-egg omelet smothered with Ital-
ian sausage, avocado, and olives. If Erik’s
smokes up some ribs (you’ll smell them
half a block away), grab them. And for-
gift tins. Go for the “side” salad, a huge
dish of romaine, with tomatoes, red
onions, cheese, cre蓝ons, and bleu
dressing. Go ahead. Mess yourself up.
Open 24 hours Wednesday through
Saturday from 8 a.m. till 3 p.m. Sunday and
Monday; till 8 p.m. Tuesday. Inex-
spensive. — E.B.

Mediterranean Cafe and Lounge
1352 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-
315-2233. Don’t come early. You’ll be
tall alone. Turn up around midnight, and
you’ll see how social the Lebanese can be.
Meals are spread over a couple of hours
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bly finishing with a baklava, Turkish cof-
fee, and a sheesha — water pipe (much
dearer by the hour here than down in the
Gaslamp; best flavor: rose). They
make the whole panoply of Middle East-
ern and Greek food, but the best deals are
probably the single lamb skewer on a roll
of pita bread with hummus, tomato, le-
tuce, and pide, or the meat pie on pita.
Open 5:30 p.m. to 3 a.m. Sunday through
Thursday, and 3:30 p.m. to 4
a.m. Friday and Saturday. Inexpensive
to moderate. — E.B.

Mission — North Park 2801 Uni-
versity Avenue, North Park, 619-220-
8923. “Urban assault food for a revolu-
tionary people,” say the waitstaff’s black
T-shirts. But the food here is less revol-
tutionary than halfway between health
and greasy spoon. Still, their “con-
scienious cuisine” is generous, good-
looking, and intelligent. If a little middle-
class timid. Breakfasts are big here. The
delicious chicken-apple sausage and egg
comes on a foot-wide plate loaded with
unkilled rosemary potatoes, scrambled
eggs, and scrumptious baked-on-
the-spot rosemary bread. Pancakes and
French cinnamon toast are popular sta-
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San Diego Reader, August 21, 2008 117

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The meats and poultry are roasted on a rodizio: a near-endless procession of rotisserie-grilled meats and poultry. At each table there’s a wooden cone with one end red and the other end green. Turn the green side up to start the servers parading to your table, and it comes as a big slab of meat, chicken, turkey, and links that are repeatedly mopped with a marinade and cooked in a big cast-iron smoker (rather than grilled over a fire). Use the mesquite barbecue to purloin the prosciutto, hot links, corned beef, ribs, and chicken. In addition to the usual BBQ sides (coleslaw, baked beans, etc.), they offer a Caesar salad. At the Miramar branch the room is large and unassuming but the rotisserie grill is quite visible. Same menu lunch and dinner. Open daily. Continuous service for lunch and early dinner weekdays; normal dinner hours weekends. Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W.

Spices Thai Café — Miura Mesa 8783 Miura Mesa Boulevard, Miura Mesa, 858-352-0843. Superb Thai restaurant that’s not only elegant but whose food contains no MSG and very little fat. The seafood dishes are highly rated. Among the delicacies are duck and frog legs. Put Spices Thai Café at the top of your list. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

Sunset Bistro 3860 Convoy 4121 Kearny Mesa, 858-715-1618. “Oysters here? It’s what everyone here waits for. Apart from the usual array of meats, fish, shellfish, and noodles like stuffed mushrooms, stuffed drams, dragon rolls (cucumber, avocado, asparagus), and your basic sushi, there’s the ‘peanut' roll (cucumber, avocado, asparagus) that’s not only cheap but also very good. Every bite from appetizer to dessert is fantastic. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Uno Chicago Bar and Grill — Escondido 908 West Valley Parkway, Escondido, 619-438-8667. The 1940s theme and stained-glass windows add to the retro feel. A fun place to order a burger and fries and enjoy a couple of drinks. Open seven days, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Vince’s Habanero 1313 Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-743-8833. Vince’s has a small rose garden outside and ferns which opened back in 1965 is a famous “themed” Italian. Bucca di Beppo (“Joe’s restaurant”, “Mamma Mia”) is the model. People come here to celebrate, in a casual but slightly expensive. — N.W.

WHERE TO FIND THE BARGAINS

The best deal is the soup and half-price entrée which opened back in 1965 is a famous “themed” Italian. Bucca di Beppo (“Joe’s restaurant”, “Mamma Mia”) is the model. People come here to celebrate, in a casual but slightly expensive. — N.W.
Café Zinc **312 South Cedros, Solana Beach; 858-756-3436.** The Ranchero Café Santa Fe is like hanging out in the garden patios with their Pahresches at the curb outside. Interior is casual and menu has spicy chile rellenos. (dogs are welcome). Even for non-dog people, the California pepper trees and garden sculpture make this an inordinate story to a really pleasant kick-back place (which gets its name from the zinc-bar for inside). The menu, a mixture of Italian and Peruvian, offers dishes like frittata with cumin salad, and baked eggplant “pizzarree” (personal-sized pizza) with manzana, morcilla, and Peruvian cheese. The vegetarian chili and The Zinc veggie burger (served on a La Brea bun) are tasty. Open daily. 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Firefly **234 North El Camino Real, Suite E; Encinitas; 760-436-1036.** At this spine-tingling wine bar and restaurant (serving a small menu with well-known Savoy), the vibe is reminiscent of Cali- fornia wine country wineries and laser infrared lamps. The known bounties from around the world, and plentiful choices by the glass and known bottlings from around the world, and plentiful choices by the glass.

Bistro Firefly Café **8348 Palomar Road, Poway; 858-740-2360.** For a relaxing good time with lovely views and tasty food to match, put on your aloha shirt and head over the bridge. The old Bistro Firefly boasts a handsome, historic structure with architecture mirroring the nearby Hotel Del, plus enthusiastic service, spheric views, and satisfying main-course American cooking. The bothered article appetizer and fresh macadamia-crusted halibut seasoned with coconut milk are wonderful. The juicy roast beef at the USDA Prime (translates to “milk in your mouth”) and even the desserts offer some favorite cooked with clavy ingredients and imaginative twists. A perfect place to entertain your in-laws or hold your birthday dinner. Fall bar. Dinner seven days. — N.W.

Ruby’s Diner **5 oceanside Pier, oceanside, 760-432-7829.** One thing about Ruby’s: You can build an ap- petizer just getting there. It’s at the end of the 1/2-mile-long oceanside pier. (There’s a $1 shuttle tram, too.) Ruby’s is a part of a themed 40s-diner chain stretching from LAX to Scottsdale, Ar- tara. It’s fun. Shiny Cherry Corvettes-red adolescents-and broth, white walls, potbelly, old Coca-Cola signs, Dewey-Tarren40s-tile, and that view to make it easy to experiment with unfa- miliar items. The menu starts with a half-dawn wine bar snacks including a cheese plate and a darter plate. The most popular lunch item is a garden Cobb salad, and at dinner there’s a tasty buttermilk and mustard-brined pork tenderloin. Desserts are a stout suit here, including a creative crème brûlée featuring white chocolate and the fru- fru garnament of Earl Grey tea. For week-end breakfasts, Firefly does it up big with a long, seductive array of choices, including a delicious Dun- ganess crab Benedict. The menu changes frequently, but this likeable spot is like a sophisticated neigh- borhood restaurant where, if you’re not enough to enjoy the taste of the grape, you can pretty much come as you are. Open for lunch Monday through Fri- day; brunch weekends. Dinner nightly. Moderate to expensive. — N.W.

Pacific Del Mar **1550 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar, 858-720-1833.** The chic crowd is drawn here by Pacific Rim California cuisine and oceanfront seating on seaweed and organic, locally grown produce. It’s really all the way, but some nights the restaurant is a vic- tim of its own success. The various overflow crowds can challenge the kitchen’s capacities, not to mention the object of a similar tourist strategy for pleasure: Reuse for early or late on a weekend; and ask for patio seating or rooms #2 or #3. Fun list of low-price mini- appetizers, plus great baked oysters, seared scallops, mustard caviar, and house-cured rib eye. The spot-down- to-earth food has high standards. Dinner is for take-out or selected items. Lunch and dinner daily. Early-bird dis- count. Pacific Breeze Café (a level down) offers light dishes for breakfast through late lunch daily. Ex- pense to very expensive. — N.W.

SOUTH BAY

Coronado Boathouse **1877 South Harbor Drive, Coronado; 619-522-0355.** For a relaxing good time with lovely views and tasty food to match, put on your aloha shirt and head over the bridge. The old Coronado Boathouse boasts a handsome, historic structure with architecture mirroring the nearby Hotel Del, plus enthusiastic service, spheric views, and satisfying main-course American cooking. The bothered article appetizer and fresh macadamia-crusted halibut seasoned with coconut milk are wonderful. The juicy roast beef at the USDA Prime (translates to “milk in your mouth”) and even the desserts offer some favorite cooked with clavy ingredients and imaginative twists. A perfect place to entertain your in-laws or hold your birthday dinner. Fall bar. Dinner seven days. — N.W.

Fajitas **2220 Q East Plaza Boulevard, National City, 619-679-6794.** Filipinos often mix sweet and sa- cor, so it’s no surprise that this dessert
desert has regular dishes too, including salad, pork, ponch, and lomiy. Dis- cover principles of the dishes are made with “chocolate milk,” sagan for pig’s blood. But the pride of the place is the desserts, from the classic pork (pork) c assigned to the original coconut-corn combi) to the dish of marinated coconut cake and fried sweet plantain strawberries on a skewer. Open daily breakfast through early dinner. — E.B.

Jimmy’s — Chula Vista **1198 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, 619-427-7161.** Thank goodness for this family-friendly restaurant with good food. So many other places. Their six-page food menu includes all — forget your diet and dig into the breakfast “Eggs and Cakes” (two eggs, two hotcakes, four strips of bacon or three link sausages), the “Touche Ups” (two eggs, two hash browns of bacon or three hash browns), or the “Monte Carlo” not too bad (ham and turkey grilled on butter-dipped Texas toast with spinach cheese, hot syrup, and French fries). Later in the day, the New York strip or steak with all the trimmings, and desserts like homemade cinnamon bread pudding with raisins and whipped cream. Open three meals. seven days. Inexpensive. — E.B.

McP’s **105 Ot- tower, Coronado, 619-455-3280.** With a crowd ranging from Navy retirees to executive playboys, the partying on McP’s patio is nut- bored restaurant offers upscale, Hawai- ian food. This gorgeous, view-en- thusiastic restaurant serves the island’s traditional cuisines. Pacifica Dine-In offers to the magnificent Factory (with limited breakfast) Monday through Saturday; brunch; dinner; daily evening. Expensive. — N.W.

Peohe’s **1201 First Street, Coronado, 619-475-4474.** This gorgeous, view-en- Thusia” (“It’s easy to experiment with unfa- miliar items. The menu starts with a half-dawn wine bar snacks including a cheese plate and a darter plate. The most popular lunch item is a garden Cobb salad, and at dinner there’s a tasty buttermilk and mustard-brined pork tenderloin. Desserts are a stout suit here, including a creative crème brûlée featuring white chocolate and the fru- fru garnament of Earl Grey tea. For week-end breakfasts, Firefly does it up big with a long, seductive array of choices, including a delicious Dun- ganess crab Benedict. The menu changes frequently, but this likeable spot is like a sophisticated neigh- borhood restaurant where, if you’re not enough to enjoy the taste of the grape, you can pretty much come as you are. Open for lunch Monday through Fri- day; brunch weekends. Dinner nightly. Moderate to expensive. — N.W.

Bar & Grill **3050 Lemon Grove Avenue, Lemon Grove, 619-462-9208.** Clayton Davis’ sign says it all: “The place to eat in Orange County.” You can tell this is the real deal from the two heavy iron doors in the brick wall behind the counter and the big front window burning out the Memphis-style soul food, mild and mouthwatering — and cheap. Expect down-home portions, from a rocking chair to pork, neck bones and cat- tail, to country corn, corn, and corn. Bread. Other lip-smacking desserts include chocolate covered banana, peanut butter, goose liver, red snapper, and hot links or ham — all with two sides and bread. Oh yes, they also serve cafe sweets sandwiches and sweet potato pies. Or you could just stand outside and smell the smoke.

El Dorado Seafood & Grill **511 Palomar St. Chula Vista; 619-426-5455.** Catering available. Live Latin music every Friday, Saturday and Sunday Call for details on musician.

Fajitas **1730 Pacific Beach Ave. Pacific Beach; 619-426-8810.** Catering available. Authentic Peruvian Cuisine

For a relaxing good time with lovely views and tasty food to match, put on your aloha shirt and head over the bridge. The old Coronado Boathouse boasts a handsome, historic structure with architecture mirroring the nearby Hotel Del, plus enthusiastic service, spheric views, and satisfying main-course American cooking. The bothered article appetizer and fresh macadamia-crusted halibut seasoned with coconut milk are wonderful. The juicy roast beef at the USDA Prime (translates to “milk in your mouth”) and even the desserts offer some favorite cooked with clavy ingredients and imaginative twists. A perfect place to entertain your in-laws or hold your birthday dinner. Fall bar. Dinner seven days. — N.W.

Mexico Bar & Grill **100 Ot- tower, Coronado, 619-455-3280.** With a crowd ranging from Navy retirees to executive playboys, the partying on McP’s patio is nut-
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#### Restaurants listed without coupon offers have only menus online. Restaurants with * have multiple locations. See online menu or coupon for all locations.
He Grabs the Gold

Henry’s convinced he has “the milk of human kindness by the quart in every vein.”

I’ve always been fascinated by sources of artistic inspiration. What triggered Hamlet, say, or The Iliad? What alchemy transformed ambient noise into Don Giovanni? Was it something writ large: a sign in the sky, a real or imagined muse? How about something psychobiological: congeries of chemicals marauding defenseless synapses in the right brain? Or merely, as Dickens says, “an undigested bit of beef”?

Read George Bernard Shaw’s Pygmalion and you hear stately, cadenced sentences and acerbic wit. You hear Professor Henry Higgins lecturing about phonetics and social class in curlicues arc, like sudden rainbows, and become spontaneously exclamations. These nonverbal synapses in the right brain? Or what alchemy transformed am

You hear Professor Higgins lecturing about phonetics and social class in curlicues arc, like sudden rainbows, and become spontaneous exclamations. These nonverbal synapses in the right brain? Or what alchemy transformed am

Professor Higgins big, but not grandiose. He sings with clear, pointed tones and drenches the man in Shavian attitude (Henry’s convinced he has “the milk of human kindness by the quart in every vein”) but leaves just enough room for vulnerability. As Eliza, Jennifer Bowdell runs the vocal gamut from “Just yew woit, ‘enery Higgins” to “Without Starlight Musical Theatre’s got one — you hear the great songs and literate speech, but there’s another kind of music as well. Along with the various accents, from clipped Brahmin Ascot to the dropped ‘t’s of Lisson Grove, the cast shouts so many oohs and ahs and cor-Elmias you’d think you were watching the Beer Pong Championship of the British Isles. Among the many strengths of Starlight’s current staging are the characters’ spontaneous exclamations. These nonverbal synapses in the right brain? Or what alchemy transformed am

When you watch a good production of My Fair Lady — and Starlight Musical Theatre’s got one — you hear the great songs and literate speech, but there’s another kind of music as well. Along with the various accents, from clipped Brahmin Ascot to the dropped ‘t’s of Lisson Grove, the cast shouts so many oohs and ahs and cor-Elmias you’d think you were watching the Beer Pong Championship of the British Isles. Among the many strengths of Starlight’s current staging are the characters’ spontaneous exclamations. These nonverbal synapses in the right brain? Or what alchemy transformed am

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Theatrical listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith. Information is accurate according to material given, 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.

**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 her intended — rich young Bertram — flat refusen inforced wedlock and would rather go to war than marry beneath his station? In effect, Shakespeare makes a social gain of the time and damps it on her. Helena persists; Bertram flees (and becomes a lying womanizer); then she really persists. At the Old Globe, director Darcey Drexler relocates the play in Victorian times, which allows Linda Cho to dress the cast in cold, formal charcoals, the soldiers in bright red and black. Touchen counters the stiff-upper-lip surface with bawdy touches, including a frontal view of Melancholy’s genital-sized statue David upstage (and upstaging all below). As Bertram and Helena, Graham Hamilton and Kimberly Parker Greene are adequate. The fun in the secondary roles: Jim Winker’s crockety King (“wrapped in dismal thinking”), Kandi Chappell, Charles Janasz, and music-voiced Celeste Ciulla. Bruce Turk is special as Parolles who, like Helena, becomes a threat to the male-dominated social order. Over the years, audiences and critics have had a “problem” with the play. But I never have. Its permutations are much more lifelike than most of the happy-enders (how many weddings does it take to win one’s husband back?). People whisper, “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.

**Worth a try.**

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. THROUGH AUGUST 24.

**The Fritz Blitz:**

For 15 years, the Fritz Theatre has staged the largest festival of new plays on the West Coast. Each year 50 to 75 local actors perform 10 to 12 new scripts. The results have varied, but there’s always been gem and discoveries. This year the Fritz concludes the Blitz (“This is it. Quittin’ time. The end. Probably...”) with the greatest hits of the last 15 years, including works by Pena Tester, Ralf Yeager, Tim West, Tom Swimm, plus Kevin Armon’s popular Ben and Blue Notes and Craig Abbehn’s inletive State of the Art. Each receives a full production, guided by prizewinner of San Diego’s finest directors. For a list of specific plays, days, and times call 619-544-1800 or go online at fritztheatre.com.

**Worth a try.**

LYCEUM THEATRE, 710 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN. 619-234-0322. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. THROUGH AUGUST 24.

**Jerry Herman’s Broadway**

For one night only, the Old Globe Theatre presents a tribute to Broadway legend Jerry Herman, composer-lyricist of, among others, Mame, La Cage aux Folles, and Song & Dance. The Fritz Blitz: Best of the Blitz

**Worth a try.**

THEATRE CALIFORNIA, 2504 40TH ST., SUITE 111, SAN DIEGO. 619-232-3223.

**The Joy Luck Club**

During the second Sino-Japanese War, Suyuan Woo founded the Joy Luck Club with three friends to cope with the chaos around them. When Amy Tan’s novel began, Suyuan has died and her daughter, Jing-Mei “June” Woo, has been invited to take her seat at an American version of the club. The novel, and Susan Kim’s dramatic adaptation, shoots off in four directions (literally the four compass points).
and the four winds), as June and her friends and their mothers and grandmothers tell “talk stories” of fragmentation, conflict, and a shared oral cultural heritage. Ultimately, the women of June’s generation find their voices in new-grown gifts, from a past they previously avoided, that have been in their bones all along. Staging the 18-scene, tree-like structure’s vast enterprise, I wish I could report that the San Diego Asian American Repertory has pulled it off. But the night I caught the show, the production had good moments (the red dragon spectacle, for instance, and the mellifluous performances by Elise Kim Proser, Jorylita Cabato, Tiffany Louis, and Robert Borzych), but the cast overall needed to project a good third more. Loud fans behind the audience (especially the one in the balcony) drowned them out.

Ford, turns a minor character into a Falstaff-sized, green-eyed dupe. Hoffman’s opening night was, at best, okay. Hoffman gave his words more utilitarian delivery than his others to get going. And once it does, it’s mostly setups and punch lines. Shakespeare used a fascinating shortcut however he didn’t have time to develop characters, so he gave them distinct voices and turned the stage into a Babel of warped idioms. For the Old Globe, director Paul Mullins reset the play and turned the stage into a Babel of, until he draws his six-shooters to his shoulders, Jonathan McMurray looks like Wild Bill Hickock, until he draws his six-shooters and terrorizes the town. Wynn Harmon’s Casus, a French doctor in a dusty street, a dance-hall saloon, and terrorizes the town. Wynn Harmon’s Casus, a French doctor (okay, the rest of the cast) gets a turn, but the last part of the show was the best, okay. Hoffman pushed for Falstaff relishes language as much as he does capons; Hoffman gave his words more utilitarian delivery. Some individuals shine. Katie MacNichol and Celeste Cuilla, as the merry mistresses Ford and Page, harkend the show with clever and class is a favorite bit. At one point they adopt a 19th-Century melodramatic style and frolic with horses. White hair down to his shoulders, Jonathan McMurray looks like Wild Bill Hickock, until he draws his six-shooters and terrorizes the town. Wynn Harmon’s Casus, a French doctor, malaprops amusingly. Deborah Taylor, Charles Janase, and Sean Grent enhance scenes. And Bruce Turk, as Frank Ford, turns a minor character into a Falstaff-sized, green-eyed dupe.

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR

Directed by Paul Mullins

June and the four winds), as June and her friends and their mothers and grandmothers tell “talk stories” of fragmentation, conflict, and a shared oral cultural heritage. Ultimately, the women of June’s generation find their voices in new-grown gifts, from a past they previously avoided, that have been in their bones all along. Staging the 18-scene, tree-like structure’s vast enterprise, I wish I could report that the San Diego Asian American Repertory has pulled it off. But the night I caught the show, the production had good moments (the red dragon spectacle, for instance, and the mellifluous performances by Elise Kim Proser, Jorylita Cabato, Tiffany Louis, and Robert Borzych), but the cast overall needed to project a good third more. Loud fans behind the audience (especially the one in the balcony) drowned them out.

Also, many of the narrators spoke in whispers, and their voices consistently trailed off at ends of sentences, which blurred key factual information and made the stories hard to follow if one hadn’t read the book. These difficulties can be overcome, and the production could improve a great deal during the course of its run.

A saddlebag of laughs, fun and appealing!

“Excellent! Director Esther Emery has guided a beautifully balanced cast through Margulies’ subtly layered breakthrough comedy!”

SIGHT UNSEEN

NOW PLAYING!

By Donald Margulies
Directed by Esther Emery

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR

July 16, 2008

Now - September 14

DAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. THROUGH SEPTEMBER 14.

The Merry Wives of Windsor

Shakespeare on short notice: legend has it that Queen Elizabeth wanted a play featuring Falstaff in love. The Bard had, the legend says, two weeks to write the five-act comedy. The script takes longer than his others to get going. And once it does, it’s mostly setups and punch lines. Shakespeare used a fascinating shortcut however he didn’t have time to develop characters, so he gave them distinct voices and turned the stage into a Babel of warped idioms. For the Old Globe, director Paul Mullins reset the play and turned the stage into a Babel of, until he draws his six-shooters to his shoulders, Jonathan McMurray looks like Wild Bill Hickock, until he draws his six-shooters and terrorizes the town. Wynn Harmon’s Casus, a French doctor (okay, the rest of the cast) gets a turn, but the last part of the show was the best, okay. Hoffman pushed for Falstaff relishes language as much as he does capons; Hoffman gave his words more utilitarian delivery. Some individuals shine. Katie MacNichol and Celeste Cuilla, as the merry mistresses Ford and Page, harkend the show with clever and class is a favorite bit. At one point they adopt a 19th-Century melodramatic style and frolic with horses. White hair down to his shoulders, Jonathan McMurray looks like Wild Bill Hickock, until he draws his six-shooters and terrorizes the town. Wynn Harmon’s Casus, a French doctor, malaprops amusingly. Deborah Taylor, Charles Janase, and Sean Grent enhance scenes. And Bruce Turk, as Frank Ford, turns a minor character into a Falstaff-sized, green-eyed dupe.

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR

Directed by Paul Mullins

The world’s greatest love story.

San Diego’s most romantic theatre venue.

ROMEO AND JULIET

Directed by Richard Seer

“Impromptu comedy, making up funny stuff on the spot, is difficult enough. Years ago, however, Keith Johnstone thought it’d be more exciting if done competitively. He got the idea from pro wrestling (“where Terrible Turks mangled defrocked priests while grannies wore their handbags”). National Comedy Theatre, an offshoot of Johnstone’s Theatresports (artistic director Gary Kramer says the troupe is “like "rugby and American football"), resembles an athletic event more than an improv. Teams wear uniforms and compete on AstroTurf. Using suggestions from the audience, they play “Emotional Sympathy,” “Blind Line,” and “Freeze Tag,” with judges awarding points to the best scenes. Knockers and groaners

Don’t miss THE BOAT THIS SUMMER!

Rio Can Be Murder

Saturdays & Sundays

Cruise aboard the W.D. Evans at the Bahia, enjoy a fabulous meal and be part of Carnaval!!

Salt at 7:15 - $60 incl. dinner, tax & gratuity

Enjoy a Fabulous Meal, Cruise Around Mission Bay, Solve a Mystery, Be Part of the Show & Laugh Yourself Sily!


Ask about our $29 tickets (619) 23-GLOBE (234-5623) www.TheOldGlobe.org 1 GROUP SALES: (619) 231-1941 x2400

The Old Globe Arena Now - Sept 7

The world’s greatest love story.

San Diego’s most romantic theatre venue.

ROMEO AND JULIET

Directed by Richard Seer

“The Globe’s not just another convention center. I think it’s the most beautiful place in San Diego.”

DON’T MISS THE BOAT THIS SUMMER!

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“Excellent! Director Esther Emery has guided a beautifully balanced cast through Margulies’ subtly layered breakthrough comedy!”

SIGHT UNSEEN

NOW PLAYING!

By Donald Margulies
Directed by Esther Emery

NOW - SEPT 7

The Old Globe Arena

at James S. Copley Auditorium, SDMA

American artist Jonathan Waxman is in England for his first European exhibition.

A friendly visit to a former lover and her archaeologist husband becomes a gripping journey of self-discovery.

For mature audiences.

Ask about our $29 tickets (619) 23-GLOBE (234-5623) www.TheOldGlobe.org 1 GROUP SALES: (619) 231-1941 x2400
Get bored, quick wit rewar ded (one of the most refreshing parts of the contest: people acknowledge fail- ures, abundantly, then forget it). It makes for a lively, often funny evening. And Gary Kramer is one talent among many.

Worth a try.

MARQUIS THEATER, 3712 KNOX STREET, MISSION HILLS, 619-226-4999, FRIDAYS, 7:30 AND 9:45 P.M., SATURDAYS, 7:30 AND 9:45 P.M., OPENENDED RUN.

Nemesis
Compass Theatre presents Phil Johnson and Mike Sears’s “outra- geously immature comedy” about “a crazed world of maniac, ma- pathetic losers, and the women who mean them along.” Cynthia Stokes directed.

Compass Theater, 3714 SIXTH AVENUE, HILLCREST. 619-688-9210.

Sight Unseen
Jonathan Waxman’s paintings are in such demand from Park Avenue to Tokyo are buying work he’s yet to do “sight unseen.” He’s enjoyed far more than 15 minutes of fame. What he misses, as he’s having a retrospective of his work in London, is his 15 minutes of inspiration — 17 years ago. A story rarely has just two sides. Good ones, like Donald Margulies’s 1991 drama, can have a dozen. Sight Un- seen refuses to stand still. Waxman, for example, is a montage of com- peting impulses. Why has he been able to see his ex-lover, Patricia? Lord his success over her? Ask forgive- ness next? Rediscover lost inspiration? Or just connect with someone, All, and possibly, more of the above. Like Sondheim’s Merrily We Roll Along (also about an artist who has lost his way), Sight moves back in time. Given its technical experimentation (Waxman’s one of the best examples of what a de- constructed character, you’d think the play would be stiff and deper- sonalized. It isn’t. It’s alive and un- folders like a slowly turning prism, revealing new, unexpected twists. Although the Old Globe’s opening night had some rough edges, the Esther Emery-directed production served Margulies’s fascinating script. Anthony Crane (Waxman), Ron Cholutr (Nick, the ex- lover’s husband), and especially Kelly McAndrew as Patricia effec- tively probe the play’s twisting, emotional core.

Worth a try.

SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF ART, 1450 EL CAJON BOULEVARD, SUITE N, COL- LEGE AVENUE, CORONADO. 619-437-4600. THURSDAYS, 7:30 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. THROUGH AUGUST 24.

Pretty Fire
In one charade, Charlayne Woodard has lived to prove a doctor wrong. She was — too premature, she says in her solo piece: one pound, eight ounces and “blue-black.” She wasn’t supposed to live, a doctor said, and if she did, she’d never be “normal.” She’s lived, but she isn’t “normal.” She’s blessed with artistic gifts as an ac- tor, singer, and storyteller.

Nemesis
San Diego Reader, August 21, 2008
Spring Awakening

way musical based on Frank Wedekind’s 1891 play about the self-discovery and budding sexuality of three teenagers. Michael Mayer (Tony winner) directed.

BALBOA THEATRE
4040 Twiggs St., Southeast
619-470-0555
www.sandiegotheatre.net

SEAGROVE PARK, 15TH STREET AT COAST BOULEVARD, DEL MARR. 858-795-3552. SUNDAY, 5 P.M.

Spring Awakening

Simply Shakespeare: Twelfth Night
San Diego Actors Theatre, for one afternoon only, offers Shakespeare’s popular comedy outdoors “(pack a picnic and beach chair”). Patricia Elmore directed.

Mystery Cafe
737 19th St., Ocean Beach
(619) 544-0464
www.mysterycafe.org

Rave Dance Theatre
1548-sharingcenter.com

The Peo Playhouse
1050 Columbia St., Downtown
(619) 334-1099
www.peo.org

Bometric College
2846 Center St., Hillcrest
(619) 234-2473
www.bometric.edu

Salomon Theatre
2031 El Cajon Blvd., North Park
(619) 470-0555
www.onstage.itgo.com

Educational Cultural Community Theatre
4540 Queen Ave, South Bay
(619) 577-2200

Merry-Go-Montfleury
230 W. Broadway, Downtown
(619) 234-0808
www.merry-gomontfleury.com

The Pechkin Playhouse
1531 Tyler, Hillcrest
(619) 465-7469
www.improvise.net

Mystery Café Dinner Theatre presents James Pascarella and Will Roberson’s interactive comedy, set in a 1920s speakeasy where suspicions abound... “gangster, game, and dame.” Pascarella directed.

San Diego Black Ensemble Theatre
189-2240 28th St., Southeast
(619) 288-5000

San Diego Civic Theatre
1522. SUNDAY, 5 P.M.

Mystery Cafe
1390 Third Ave., Downtown
(619) 544-1000
www.sandiegorep.com

Mystery Theatre
505 Kalmia St., Hillcrest
(619) 422-7787
www.onstage.itgo.com

Seaside Park, 15th Street at Coast Boulevard, Del Mar. 858-795-3552. Sunday, 5 P.M.

San Diego Shakespeare
city of three teenagers. Michael Mayer (Tony winner) directed.

Balboa Theatre
644 7th Ave., Downtown
(619) 440-2277
www.thebalboatheatre.org

The Peo Playhouse
2031 El Cajon Blvd., North Park
(619) 470-0555
www.onstage.itgo.com

Balboa Theatre
8663 El Cajon Blvd., Ste. N, College Area
(619) 440-2277
www.ecpac.com

Thoroughly Modern Millie

San Diego Civic Theatre
1522. SUNDAY, 5 P.M.

Mystery Cafe
1390 Third Ave., Downtown
(619) 544-1000
www.sandiegorep.com

Mystery Cafe
505 Kalmia St., Hillcrest
(619) 422-7787
www.onstage.itgo.com

San Diego State University
Don Fox Theater and Experimental Theater
(619) 334-4884
http://theatresd.edu/

Mystery Cafe
505 KALMIA STREET,
rected.

Mystery Cafe
505 KALMIA STREET,
rected.

Mystery Cafe
505 KALMIA STREET,
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Mystery Cafe
505 KALMIA STREET,
rected.

Mystery Cafe
505 KALMIA STREET,
A Jungle Out There
The raging megalomania serves as a full-coverage mask for the actor’s chronic overacting.

Human pretension is generally good for a laugh. Two new comedies to do with the Creative Process, unequal in size, equally uneven in quality, equally unsteady in mood, deliver the laugh over and around constant obstacles. Tropic Thunder is the bigger one, a major-studio satire on a major-studio Vietnam War epic. The disjointed plotting, the willful misinformation about how movies are made, and the pandering to the groundlings do not close off all avenues of inspiration. Four fake trailers at the top of the movie, introducing the motley cast of the movie-within-the-movie, give a hint of the allowable latitude. The ones of the over-the-hill action star (Ben Stiller, the movie’s director and co-writer besides), the gross-out comedian (Jack Black), and the hip-hop gangsta (Brandon T. Jackson) are but a tepid warm-up to the topper, the one of the multiple-Oscar-winning thespian from Down Under (Robert Downey, Jr.), a monastery love story called Satan’s Alley, a tony period piece aimed at the art circuit. The narrator’s clipped phrases, pregnant pauses, and portentous tones are dead-on. Patrons of Landmark Theatres have heard all these a thousand times.

Downey dominates the action in the Vietnam jungle as well, his character having undergone a “controversial pigmentation alteration” to play an African-American foot soldier, emphatically putting the grunt in the grunt. Unthinkable though it would be for a white actor nowadays to perform in blackface, this is a diplomatically modest exaggeration of the depths to which a Serious Actor will go to “get into” a role, and not get out of it again until the DVD commentary is complete. (One thinks of another Australian actor, in multicolorface, who never surfaced from such depths: Heath Ledger.) Downey might be in slightly uncomfortable proximity to the drug-crazed character of Jack Black, an ugly and unfunny portrait on any account (was there ever a temptation to offer this part to Downey?), but it takes only a little effort to recall that the actor’s father was once the director of Putney Swope, a far more comfortable point of comparison: boundary-pushing race comedy. Downey, too, although often unintelligible (wallowing in the guttural), gets to recite an incisive critique of the action star’s misguided grasp of Oscar as a hayseed halfwit in Simple Jack. (We see a fake trailer of that one also, allowing a coasting Stiller to stretch himself to the danger point. Protests of advocacy groups notwithstanding, the only affront is to Oscar Graspers, and perfectly justified.) “Never go full retard,” is the belated advice from the master, holding up the prudent Rain Man, Being There, and Forrest Gump — perhaps Charly was too long ago to remember — against the foolhardy I Am Sam. Naming names.

Downey’s only competition for acting honors comes from outside the jungle (though Nick Nolte has his moments as a wizened Vietnam-vet advisor, the company’s guide to the Heart of Darkness), back home in Hollywood, where a heavily disguised Tom Cruise models a bald dome, bushy...
chest and arms, a bumpy nose, and a padded middle as a Harvey Weintein-ian bullying studio boss. (Funny notion: his everyday tough talk goes beyond anything ever heard by a plucky Asian heroin dealer and hostage taker.) As long as Cruise has become something of a joke anyway, this seems a sensible role to play, right through to the exhibitionist hip-hop dance in the closing credits. And the raging megalomania serves as a full-cover mask for the actor’s chronic overacting. Similarly, the gut-spilling, blood-squaring gore in the movie (at least the gore in the movie-within-the-movie) is made more palatable by the satire.

Through it, you can have a retro- spective laugh at the pretensions and pretenses of Apocalypse Now, Platoon, Rambo, Saving Private Ryan, what-have-you. 

Hamlet is the smaller one, a low-budget indie directed by Andrew Fleming, about a lame-duck Drama teacher at West Mesa High in Tucson, forced to share classroom space first with the cafeteria workers and then with the girl volleyballers. Taking the place of the prehual trailers of Tropic Thunder are some fake TV ads from the portfolio of the teacher’s dried-up acting career (a Jack LaLanne juicer, a herpes med, etc.), and taking the place of the “retard” critique, while offering continuing commentary on the teacher’s persistent pretensions, are the allusions to Inspirational Teacher movies, Dead Poets’ Society, Dangerous Minds, etc.

The beady-eyed, seaweed-haired Steve Coogan, who happens also to be the American Teen, is well cast in the role. His latest and last project, a musical comedy (or so he hopes), the long, long face of Karl Markovics) eases his existence in a Nazi concentration camp by suppressing his scruples and aiding the German war effort, speedily mastering the British pound, but also dilly-dallying over the U.S. dollar, theietter” (the long, long face of Karl Markovics) eases his existence in a Nazi concentration camp by suppressing his scruples and aiding the German war effort, speedily mastering the British pound, but also dilly-dallying over the U.S. dollar, the

The Counterfeiters — Stefan Ruzowitz-sky’s Holocaust survival tale, loosely based on fact, tells how “the world’s best counter-feiter” (the long, long face of Karl Markovics) eases his existence in a Nazi concentration camp by suppressing his scruples and aiding the German war effort, speedily mastering the British pound, but also dilly-dallying over the U.S. dollar, the

Simple acknowledgment: Manny Farber, b. February 20, 1917, d. August 18, 2008. I’ll try to say more, when and if I collect myself. •

**MOVIE LISTINGS**

All reviews are by Dannan Shepherd. Ratings are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unused movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of past reviews are listed alphabetically, by year of release and by rating, are available online at SDRewriter.com.

American Teen — A Slice of sociology. Documentarian Vanessa Brownson follows four principals through the stresses of senior year in Warsaw, Indiana: the Jock, the Princess, the Nerd, and the Rebel, all quite touching in different ways and degrees. Despite some stabs at MTV commercialism (animated fantasy sequences in contrasting styles), it’s in the nature of real life, as well as in the law of averages, that the events will be unsensational. You’ll have to settle for the snit of Miss Popularity when her Japanese prom theme loses out to a jungle theme (“I know it’s wrong, but I just be-lieve in getting even”) and she thereupon theme (“I know it’s wrong, but I just be-lieve in getting even”) and she thereupon

Cinema en Tu Idioma, the year-round extension of the San Diego Latino Film Festival, resumes its programs on August 21, 2008. I’ll try to say more, when and if I collect myself. •

**“FLAT-OUT FUNNY.”**

RICHARD ROEPER, AT THE MOVIES WITH EBERT & ROEPER

**“IT’S ‘SUPERBAD’ MEETS ‘SCHOOL OF ROCK’!”**

CARRIE KEAGAN, NGTV.com
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 batman,” as he is frequently and unfamiliarly referred to, or simply Batman to you and me. Aside from the title, the second installment in Christo-pher Nolan’s reimagining of the DC Comics superhero earns no points as a trailblazer. It would earn none even were it the first in a trend-follower sets itself apart as a “superhero earns no points as a trailblazer. It frequently and unfamiliarly referred to, or a synonym, that, for “the batman,” as he is comic-book movie, the first one to think of

**San Diego**

**August 21, 2008**

...banishes 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-911 terrorism. “Some men,” Batman’s Manhunter succinctly sum up the emblematic eulogy, “just want to watch the world burn.” To strive to invent some psychological trauma and topical relevance into this figure — the parched and cracked face paint, the raccoon-tail shadows, the eyes, the purple string hair, the oh-so-writhing tongue, the arachnid voice pitched somewhere between Al Franken and Bug Bunny — is not only a losing battle but a foolish one. (Heath Ledger is the vanquished.) However high Nolan might pile on the gravity, however long he might stretch out the agony, the game is not one Nolan might play, or with Heath Ledger’s tragic death, it was itself, as well as Cesar Romero in the

**GRAND JURY PRIZE**

**San Diego**

**August 21, 2008**

HOLLYWOOD S. ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 13; GASSAM 15; GROSSMOUNT CENTER: LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 17; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 15; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TONI SQUARE 14; FROM 8/22)

**Elegy** — Isabel Coixet’s filming of the Philip Roth novel, *The Dying Animal*, with Ben Kingsley, Penelope Cruz, Patricia Clarkson, and Dennis Hopper. (HILLCREST CINEMAS; FROM 8/22)

**Fly Me to the Moon** — Badly drawn houseflies (general conformation and consis- tency of troll dolls) show away aboard Apollo 11. The 3D computer animation may escape the screen; it can’t escape the naivete. With the voices of Trevor Gagnon, David Gove, Philip Bolden, Christopher Lloyd, and (as himself) Buzz Aldrin, directed by Ben Stassen. 2008.
Central Bargain showtimes are in parentheses.

MOVIE SHOWTIMES

DOWNTOWN
Gaslamp 15 (619-220-0303)

Death Race (R) • Hellboy II: The Golden Army (PG-13) • The House Bunny (PG) • Henry Poole Is Here (PG) • The House Bunny (PG) • The House Bunny (PG)

The Longshots (PG-13) • The Longshots (PG-13)

Horton Plaza 14 (619-444-FLAM)

GAMBOL 14

LONCHITA 14

La Jolla 12

LA JOLLA 12

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The House Bunny — Sonority comedy with Anna Faris, Colin Hanks, and Kat Dennings, directed by Fred Wolf.

The Longshots — Kate Palmer is a trailblazing female in Pop Warner football, with Matt Cazzen and Ice Cube, directed by Fred Durst.

The Lachrymose Abigail Breslin, testifying in the title role of a ten-year-old cub reporter, has invited his 12-year-old bosom buddies (the blissfully confident Christina Ricci and the indomitably plucky Julie Walters) stepping off the Greek island to an offbeat concert stage, in disco-era Vegas costumes. With Amanda Seyfried, Colin Firth, Stellan Skarsgard, and Dominic Cooper. 2008.

Mamma Mia! — The lachrymose Abigail Breslin, in the title role of a ten-year-old cub reporter, has invited his 12-year-old bosom buddies (the blissfully confident Christina Ricci and the indomitably plucky Julie Walters) stepping off the Greek island to an offbeat concert stage, in disco-era Vegas costumes. With Amanda Seyfried, Colin Firth, Stellan Skarsgard, and Dominic Cooper. 2008.

Mamma Mia! — Musical comedy with Amanda Seyfried, Colin Firth, Stellan Skarsgard, and Dominic Cooper. 2008.

The Sisters of the Traveling Pineapple Express (R) • Pineapple Express (R) • Pineapple Express (R)

The House Bunny — Sonority comedy with Anna Faris, Colin Hanks, and Kat Dennings, directed by Fred Wolf.

The Longshots — Kate Palmer is a trailblazing female in Pop Warner football, with Matt Cazzen and Ice Cube, directed by Fred Durst.

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Mamma Mia! — Musical comedy with Amanda Seyfried, Colin Firth, Stellan Skarsgard, and Dominic Cooper. 2008.
LA MESA
Crosspoint Center 10
5800 Crosspoint Center Drive (619-495-7160)
The Dark Knight (PG-13); Death Race (R); The House Bunny (PG); Mamma Mia! (PG-13); Mirrors (R); The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (PG-13); Pineapple Express (R); The Rocker (PG-13); The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2 (PG-13); Star Wars: The Clone Wars (PG); Tropic Thunder (R)

SANTE
Santee Drive In
5800 Westfir Avenue (619-446-7747)

SOUTH BAY
Chula Vista
1930 Broadway between I-110 and I-5 (619-388-4214)

RANCHO SAN DIEGO
San Diego 15
2001 Linda Road (858-525-3264)
Call theater for program information

Donald (PG-13) Thursday 7:00, 10:30 p.m.; Saturday 10:30; Sunday 7:00, 10:30; 12:30, 2:15
The House Bunny (PG-13) Tuesday 12:30, 2:15, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00
Death Race (R) Monday 12:30, 2:15, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00
The Long Shots (PG-13) Monday 12:30, 2:15, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00
The Rocker (PG-13) (10:15 12:45 2:15 4:30 7:45) 10:45
Fly Me to the Moon (G) Friday 12:00 2:15 4:30 7:00 9:30
Star Wars: The Clone Wars (PG) (11:00 4:30 7:30 9:30) Mirrors (R) (10:30 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:30)
Tropic Thunder (R) (11:45 2:15 4:45 7:15 10:45) Tropic Thunder (R)

Palm Promenade 24
7700 Town Tree Avenue (619-558-2262)
American Teem (PG-13) Cineplex de Soleil (Not Rated); The Dark Knight (PG-13); Death Race (R); Fly Me to the Moon (G); Hancock (PG); Henry Poole Is Here (PG); The House Bunny (PG-13) Journey to the Center of the Earth (PG); The Longshots (PG); Mamma Mia! (PG-13); Mirrors (R); The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (PG-13); Pineapple Express (R); The Rocker (PG-13); The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2 (PG-13); Star Wars: The Clone Wars (PG-13); Tropic Thunder (R) (Not Rated)

San Diego Natural History Museum
1875 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-1233)
Brideshead Revisited (PG) Fri.-Sun.; 11:00, 3:00, 7:00
Frozen River (G) Fri.-Sun.; 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:05
Planet Earth: Fresh Water (G) Fri.-Sun.; 11:00, 3:00, 7:00

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center
1500 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-7559)
Museum: Secrets of the Pharaohs (NR) Fri.; 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 8:00 Sat.-Sun.; 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 8:00; Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure (NR) Fri.; 1:00, 5:00 Sat.; 1:00, 5:00

East County
El Cajon
Parkway Plaza 18
405 Parkway Plaza (619-403-3466)
Call theater for program information

OATY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SANTA MARIA 30; TOWN SQUARE 14

SOUTH BAY
South Bay Drive-In
2700 Crenshaw Avenue (619-423-2272)
Call theater for program information

National City
Plaza Bonita 14
945 East Bonita Road (619-585-2824)
The Dark Knight (PG-13); Death Race (R); The House Bunny (PG-13); The Longshots (PG); Mamma Mia! (PG-13); Mirrors (R);
Pineapple Express — A buddy comedy, a stoner comedy, a crime comedy from the House of Apatow, about a user and his dealer — best friends — on the run from the mob. As the two dopers, James Franco mimics the classic symptoms with dedication, while Seth Rogen is content to be Seth Rogen or else powerless to be otherwise. The rampant violence and gruesome mayhem are meant to be as full of meritment as say, the poke on the computer printer or the English subtitle beneath the Asian thugs. “Prepare to suck the cock of karma.” It might be interesting as a penal experiment (for you Apatow devotees, that has nothing to do with the penis) to compel anyone amused by such stuff to sit through, in succession, George Washington, All the Real Girls, Undercover, and Snow Angels. Those are the complete previous credits of the director, David Gordon Green, instantaneous poster boy for the Indie Sellout. With Danny McBride, Gary Cole, Rosie Perez. 2008.  ● CARMEL MOUNTAIN; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS; ESCONDIDO; FASHION VALLEY; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA; LA JOLLA; MISSION MARKETPLACE; MIRAMAR; MONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA; MIRANDA 18; TOWN SQUARE 14. The Rocker — Pop music comedy starring Rainn Wilson and Christina Applegate, directed by Peter Cattaneo. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MIRANDA 18; MONT CENTER 7; MIRANDA 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; MANGO 10 Sat. & Sun. only.)

NORTH COASTAL
CARLSBAD
Plaza Camino Real 2385 Camino Real (858-466-9420) Call theater for program information

DELMAR
Del Mar Highlands B 133 Camino Real del Mar Highlands (858-646-9420) House Bunny (Pg-13) (11:30/2:15) 4:45/7:30 10:00, Death Race (R) (11:45/2:45) 5:15/7:45 10:30, The Rocker (Pg-13) (10:00/12:30) 5:30/8:00 10:30, Fly Me to the Moon (G) (11:00/1:00) 3:00/5:15/7:30/9:30, Star Wars: The Clone Wars (PG) (11:15/2:00) 4:45/7:30/9:30, Mirrors (R) (12:45/3:15) 5:45/8:15/10:45 *No 11:45 Sat, Sun Tropic Thunder (R) (Vicky Cristina Barcelona) (PG-13) WALL-E (G) 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:30, 11:00 12:15 2:15 4:15 6:15 8:15; WALL-E (G) 12:15 2:15 4:15 6:15 8:15 10:15 *No 12:45 Sat, Sun, Tropic Thunder (R) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45/8:15/10:45, Pineapple Express (R) (11:00/1:00) 4:15/7:00 9:45, Sushi Pack (G) 10:30 am Sat-Sun. only.

POWAY
Poway 10 33475 Poway Road (858-466-9423)

Flower Hill 4 2630 Via de la Fuente (760-646-9425) Bottle Shock (Pg-13) (10:15/2:45/5:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45, Vicky Cristina Barcelona (Pg-13) (10:00 12:30 2:45) 5:15 7:30 9:45, Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants2 (Pg-13) (10:00) 12:15 2:15 4:15 6:15 8:15 10:15, Mamma Mia (Pg) (11:30/2:00) 4:45 7:00 9:30 10:30, Mamma Mia (Pg) 10:30 am Sat-Sun. only.

ENCINITAS
La Paloma 47 S. Coast Highway 101 (760-436-SHOW) Mongol (R) Fri. 6:15, 8:45 Sat-Sun. (3:45) 6:15, 8:45

LA COSTA
La Costa 6 6921 La Costa Blvd (at Avenida Alpoge) (760-399-8221)

VISTA
Vista Village Highways 78 & Vista Village Drive (760-945-7465) Cirque du Soleil DELIRIUM (NR) Sat-Sun. (12:00p.m.) STARTS FRIDAY, AUGUST 22 CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES SORRY, NO PASSES ACCEPTED FOR THIS ENGAGEMENT

ANNA FARIS FROM THE SCREENWRITERS WHO BROUGHT YOU LEGALLY BLONDE

THE HOUSE BUNNY FROM THE SCREENWRITERS WHO BROUGHT YOU LEGALLY BLONDE

THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR

THE ROCKE
**Sex and the City** — The big-screen resurrection of the beloved HBO series (1998–2004) runs, or better say saucies, two hours and twenty minutes. That’s a lot of clothes and accessories, a lot of accompanying pop songs, a lot of chattery first-person narration, a lot of superficiality, a lot of vacuity. Maybe it would help if you had followed these four boon companions — the sassy Sarah Jessica Parker, the Amazonian Kim Cattrall, the pop-eyed Kristin Davis, the pinched Cynthia Nixon — throughout their six seasons of looking for love. To be sure, there’s not much looking anymore, and yet not much relating, either: the men, now that they’ve been landed, are little more than accessories themselves. Temporaneous developments do occur: one of the baddies neglects to wash her pubes, one of them poops her pants, one of them packs on a spare bicycle tire, and the remaining one dyes her hair. (Symptoms of bigger things, but even so.) Maybe, on the other hand, it would be better to follow these baddies no further. Written and directed by Michael Patrick King. 2008.

**The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2** — Three years later, the girls have gone on to separate colleges (Yale, Brown, NYC, and the Rhode Island School of Design) and to a different director (music-video veteran Sanaa Hamri) and on to unexciting new challenges (pregnancy scares, married boyfriends, long-lost grandmothers, summer-stock roles in Shakespeare), and the loss of the prepubertal pants at the end cannot be regretted if it means no further updates. At this point Blake Lively retains her freshness, and America Ferrera shows her experience. With Alexis Bledel, Amber Tamblyn, Blake Lively. 2008.

**Star Wars: The Clone Wars** — Reviewed this issue. With the voices of Matt Lanter, Catherine Taber, James Arnold Taylor, Tom Kane, and Samuel L. Jackson, directed by Dave Filoni.

**Step Brothers** — Mainstream comedy, at the broadest point in the stream, about a pair of developmentally arrested forty-year-olds (Will Ferrell, John C. Reilly), still living at home with their respective single mom and single dad, then living together after the parents meet and marry, living first at logheadders and later in boisterous accord. Everything is pushed to extremes with the intent of making it extra, extra funny, and with the result it is not at all funny. It is to co-producer Judd Apatow rather than director Adam McKay that we are prone to ascribe the prosthetic testicles; and it’s between the scriptwriting team of Ferrell and McKay that we are obliged to split credit for lines like “I want to tell you into a little bald and shove up my vagina” and “I feel like a lightning bolt hit the tip of my penis.” With Mary Steenburgen, Richard Jenkins, Adam Scott, Kathryn Hahn. 2008.

**The Dark Knight**

By sking 4:09 p.m., Aug. 11, 2008

I had the very special privilege of seeing Bottle Shock. This is an outstanding movie, first class all around! My first thought was, “They really have a LOT of great friends!” The film has so many established stars, all supporting the going-to-be-famous young actors. The story is about the beginnings of the California viniculture, at the point where the great wines are being noticed. This story, based on fact, is so real, so bitter-sweet, and ends — or course! — with a fantastic triumph of the superlative California wines. The film is set in Napa, and is gorgeously photographed. The music was a kick, as enjoyed before on Six Feet Under. This is a love story, for family, for the earth, and for the vines. I loved it! Plus, it is funny!

By 3ikitmom 10:05 a.m., Aug. 12, 2008

**The Dark Knight**

I loved the movie! Heath Ledger’s performance was great! To see him playing the role of the Joker was different than the other roles he was in. I never would see him this way. I didn’t realize this could be Heath. It was the best! As for Maggie Gyllenhaal to take over for Kate Holmes wasn’t a good idea. I hate when movies go to sequels and the main characters are changed! As for Christian Bale as Batman, not bad at all. He’s a breath of fresh air. He did better than Val Kilmer!! My hat goes off to Aaron Eckhart too. I can’t wait for the next Batman to see his character Harvey Two-Face. Hopefully they keep the same actors in the next movie! I rate this movie as Ebert and Roeper would, two thumbs way up! Doesn’t matter how long was the movie, I just couldn’t believe it was over when it was.

By luvinbeans 11:00 a.m., Aug. 17, 2008

Two free movie passes awarded to best three user reviews each week. To write a User Review, visit SDR reader.com, go to Movies pull-down, and click on Over 7000 Movie Reviews. Find the movie you want to review and post a comment. Deadline for user reviews is 12 noon Monday.
To Kill a Mockingbird — Harper Lee’s nostalgic novel, a junior-high-school favorite, about growing up in smalltown Alabama, has a serialized quality, and some of the sequences and the very personification of the absent wife; Kristin Scott-Thomas (the British) as an unmoored, obsessed obsessive-compulsive cop on the case (exasperated, for example, at his underling’s carelessness in differentiating between the trash bin and the recycling bin); and the venerable veterans Jean Rochefort and André Dussollier as separately grieving fathers. The latter, with supreme poise and the brunt of the absurdity. 2007.

The Wackness — Summer vacation after high school and before college: a romance blossoms between a teenage dope peddler and his classmate client, and a bond of friendship forms between the former and the latter’s father, a crazy mixed-up psychiatrist. The action is set back in 1994, but that’s no excuse for the colors fading almost to ash. And while Olivia Thirlby is appealing as the girl, Josh Peck isn’t the most credible friendless virgin, a social pariah despite his superficial attractiveness (in a too-cool-for-school sort of way, sleepy-eyed, slack-jawed, froggy-throated) and despite his flourishing candy store. Ben Kingsley’s character is entirely conscious.) No less remarkable, the film is perforce populated with the strangeness of an affected, abstracted psychiatrist. The action is set back in 1994, but that’s no excuse for the colors fading almost to ash. And while Olivia Thirlby is appealing as the girl, Josh Peck isn’t the most credible friendless virgin, a social pariah despite his superficial attractiveness (in a too-cool-for-school sort of way, sleepy-eyed, slack-jawed, froggy-throated) and despite his flourishing candy store. Ben Kingsley’s character is entirely conscious.) No less remarkable, the film is perforce populated with the strangeness of an affected, abstracted psychiatrist. The action is set back in 1994, but that’s no excuse for the colors fading almost to ash. And while Olivia Thirlby is appealing as the girl, Josh Peck isn’t the most credible friendless virgin, a social pariah despite his superficial attractiveness (in a too-cool-for-school sort of way, sleepy-eyed, slack-jawed, froggy-throated) and despite his flourishing candy store. Ben Kingsley’s character is entirely conscious.) No less remarkable, the film is perforce populated with the strangeness of an affected, abstracted psychiatrist. The action is set back in 1994, but that’s no excuse for the colors fading almost to ash. And while Olivia Thirlby is appealing as the girl, Josh Peck isn’t the most credible friendless virgin, a social pariah despite his superficial attractiveness (in a too-cool-for-school sort of way, sleepy-eyed, slack-jawed, froggy-throated) and despite his flourishing candy store. Ben Kingsley’s character is entirely conscious.) No less remarkable, the film is perforce populated with the strangeness of an affected, abstracted psychiatrist. The action is set back in 1994, but that’s no excuse for the colors fading almost to ash. And while Olivia Thirlby is appealing as the girl, Josh Peck isn’t the most credible friendless virgin, a social pariah despite his superficial attractiveness (in a too-cool-for-school sort of way, sleepy-eyed, slack-jawed, froggy-throated) and despite his flourishing candy store. Ben Kingsley’s character is entirely conscious.) No less remarkable, the film is perforce populated with
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*www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/education/cps2006.html (See Table 8) ** Certifications/licences may require additional study and cost.

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**Registration:**
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**Tuition:**
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A group of children in a music class, playing instruments and singing.

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A music teacher instructing a small group of students.

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A student playing a drum set in a music studio.

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A music teacher instructing a small group of students.
Astound your friends & become famous!

THE READER PUZZLE:

RULES OF THE GAME
1) Each week we’re printing a list of T-shirt winners.
2) When you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by the new puzzle deadline: 7:00 a.m., Monday.
3) Entries that arrive after the deadline will not be considered.
4) You may submit a new message.
5) Wow! Now we’re giving away 1 slot at 1703 India Street in Little Italy.

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:

We cannot accept your entry without the following:

Name: __________________________
Address: __________________________
State: __________________ Zip Code: __________
Neighborhood/City: __________________________
Personal Message: __________________________

THIS WEEK’S CONTENDERS:

John Rosenthal, Escondido, 10.
Pamela Swain, College Area, 7.
Kori Sweigart, Alpine, 5.
Pamela Swain, College Area, 10.

Trinaise Abbott, Rancho Bernardo, 5.
Lillian Wagner, Clairemont, 5.
Iggie Guerrero, Bay Ho, 5.

Bernardo, 9.
Karen Davies, San Carlos, 9.

Pamela Swain, College Area, 5.
Lillian Wagner, Clairemont, 10.

1) Each week we’re printing a list of T-shirt winners.
2) Entries that arrive after the deadline will not be considered.
3) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
4) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

Across
1. 1970 movie whose title includes three asterisks
2. Drink on draft
3. West
4. “Mon ____!”
5. Ming things
6. Sound in a cave
8. Building wing
9. Divurn sauce
10. Relate to
11. Have ____ on one's shoulder
12. SeaWorld attraction
13. Firefighting equipment
14. “What have we here?”
15. Open 6th already.
16. Snafu
17. “How do you say, infield-fly rule”
18. “Det var inte lett den here...”
19. “How do you say, infield-fly rule”
20. “It is hard to tolerate intoler-
21. “JG — You are making all of my
22. “No bird
23. “You got to do that”
24. “Another week, another message.
25. “It is hard to tolerate intoler-
26. “Thanks Will!”
27. “Go Minnesota Twins and Vikings.”
28. “Go Kendall!!”
29. “Go on vacation? And off the
30. “Not fun!”
31. “Have ____ on one’s
32. “Hey
33. “Some 45s, briefly
34. “Chin more than
35. Relate to
36. A Reader puzzle.
37. Expedia suggestion
38. Wise guys?
39. Some 45s, briefly
40. Yikes!
41. Kama ____. 
42. French friends
43. Clears (of)
44. 1948 movie whose title includes a comma and a question mark
45. Piped up
46. Telephone
47. “Another week, another message.
48. “Sad to see you go”
49. Where JFK Jr. got his law
50. Barbecue rods
51. “San Dimas High School
52. “Gosh!...”
53. 1972 movie whose title includes a comma, a question mark and a question mark
54. Part of a giggle
55. ____ Lingus
56. Chem. contaminant
57. French friends
58. Vs.
59. Coleman and Young
60. Furniture retailer since
61. QB Rodney
62. Replica
63. Prell rival

Down
1. Radar reading: Abbr.
2. Drink on draft
3. Pine--
4. “Good” cholesterol inits.
5. Author Gore
6. Coral island
7. Actor Mineo
8. Building wing
9. Divurn sauce
10. Relate to
11. Have ____ on one’s shoulder
12. SeaWorld attraction
13. Firefighting equipment
14. “What have we here?”
15. Open 6th already.
16. Snafu
17. “How do you say, infield-fly rule”
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61. QB Rodney
62. Replica
63. Prell rival
This week's contenders:

**The Wompster**

Tom White, University City, 5.
David Castillo, Bay Park, 4.
John Stead, Mira Mesa, 4.
Carol Simpson, Pacific Beach, 3.
Mary Bradley, Clairemont, 3.

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- No side effects
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- No extreme hunger or exercise
- No side effects
- Get your body the way you want it

**NEW ORLEANS**

1400 W. Johnson St., San Diego.
If you could have any question answered, what would it be?

Emmett Logan

Retired
Elsinola

Why me? I would ask God, or whoever, why did I have a stroke at 13? I was in the hospital for two years. I had two strokes and some respiratory problems and medical conditions. I’d ask why I’m still here and kicking.

Kathi Robertson

Musician
Sydney, Australia

My question would be why they shot and killed John Lennon. Was it just some crazy guy? Was it the Beatles? I want to know why.

Alonso Lopez

Photographer
Rosarita, Mexico

I’m not sure. Why am I asking the question? Is it God? It might be a contradiction. Maybe I don’t believe in God. In my culture, Catholicism is the main religion. I’m Catholic, too. But I have so many questions I’d like to ask about that. I’d have questions about miracles. I might want to ask why doesn’t everyone have happiness and why there is suffering.

Lee Fraizer

Anastasia

Paciﬁc Beach

I wouldn’t want a question to ask. If you ask if there’s God or if God, if you ask something about alien life on other planets or some deep question, and then the question is answered — well, nobody would believe me. They’d just think I was nuts. So if any question could be answered for me, I’d ask what is the easiest and fastest way to make $10 million.

Sophie Khnaish

Anastasia

East County

I would ask about me and my loved ones and ask about the rough path we have gone through. I would want advice and to know about any future obstacles we might have to face.

Cayley Cross

Home Care
Gurnee, Illinois

I would ask if things would’ve turned out different if I had a father. I never knew him. I think I probably would’ve been the same. I had a stepfather. I just didn’t know anything about my father, and I guess I’d like to have some questions answered about how my life would’ve been different and just know more about him.
Reader Pop Quiz

This week’s questions
1. Two of Eve Kelly’s cousins collide this week in what recreational feature, sending one of them to the emergency room?
2. Who’s pants fell off accidently in Barbara's yoga class?
3. Name the dance piece described in “Local Events” inspired by ideas of intimidation of black Americans.
4. In what setting does blandness, feeling insulted, and losing job Board in the face?
5. Name one Tijuana veterinary pharmacy where a “suicide tourist” can legally obtain pentobarbital.
6. Name the dance piece described in “Local Events” inspired by ideas of intimidation of black Americans.

Answers to last week’s Reader Pop Quiz

First five correct sets of answers delivered to the Reader wins — one Reader T-shirt or $25 per entrant.

This week’s questions

1. “After earth” was the literary character? (p. 109)
2. Whose pants fell off by accident in Barbarella’s yoga class?
3. Lindbergh Field enforces a curfew against planes departing during what hours?
4. Jeff Smith rues the fact that the recently deceased local actress Priscilla Allen never got to play what literary character?
5. Fruit paste. (p. 107)
6. Pig rectum. (p. 109)

Answers to last week’s Reader Pop Quiz

Congratulations to last week’s winner, Henry Hernandez.

Rules: Pop Quiz answers must include page number the answer is found on.

First five correct sets of answers delivered to the Reader wins — one Reader T-shirt or $25 per entrant.

Answers must be submitted by Monday at 7 a.m. after the issue in question.

Mail quiz answers with page numbers to Reader Pop Quiz, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186.

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Place Ads in the Reader by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Mon-Fri.

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ROADCASES. San Diego's oldest case company. Please measure for 30 years. Our cases last a lifetime. We offer discount to musicians. Call Left Coast, 858-278-7888.


ORGAN, $950. 619-602-9463. KARAOKE SYSTEM. Speakers, 30 song books, 60 DK discs, holds 60 discs, Sony amplifiers, Pioneer original DK Karaoke system, like new, top synthesizer module, $175. 619-397-7373, 818-535-9954. All pianos! Cash paid.

MUSICIANS AVAILABLE / WANTED

PLACE ADS IN THE BEANS by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5 pm Tuesday.

NO ANSWER 760-730-3891 or 760-754-4812.


RECORD AND MASTER AT CV STUDIOS. 619-540-5827. Avalon, etc. Session musicians available, experienced engineer, Pro Tools, Mackie, etc. www.cvstudios.com, 858-276-7873.

RECORD AND MASTER AT EARTHLING STUDIOS. 619-523-3073. Two studio rooms, one 24-track, one 8-track. Studio, track, control rooms, rec room, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, kitchen, 2-car garage, full basement, pool, spa, hot tub, bowling alley, tennis court, game room. Great for recording!! Rent: $5,900 per month. 619-276-7873.

RECORD AND MASTER AT BLITZ RECORD AND MASTER AT EARTHLING STUDIOS. 619-523-3073. Two studio rooms, one 24-track, one 8-track. Studio, track, control rooms, rec room, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, kitchen, 2-car garage, full basement, pool, spa, hot tub, bowling alley, tennis court, game room. Great for recording!! Rent: $5,900 per month. 619-276-7873.


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In law, experience is important.
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- Divorce • Separation
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Law Office of Stephen Ross, 1300 Fourth Ave, Suite 203, San Diego, 619-795-8524

In order to ascertain whether they use a certain
combination of antibiotics.

In the United States, a study found that roundworms do “calculus”-type computa-
tions. (Frontiers of Science)

In Colorado, over the past ten years got not one
penny of the contributions. In fact, in 337 cases, the charity paid an additional fee on top of getting
nothing back (but did come away with the donor’s
data). (Frontiers of Science)

In California, over the past ten years got not one
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Surf Diego

Name: Yiga Mijishura
Age: 25
Lives In: O.B.
Occupation: Professional Brewer
Favorite Surf Movie: Endless Summer
Favorite Local Spot: Black's

Yiga, who has surfed since he was eight, brares the crowds for a Saturday-morning session. Having been in the water bodyboarding and swimming his whole life, he has seen his share of hassles. Today is no exception.

“The beaches are always going to be crowded in the summer. The seasonal surfers come out—people who just surf during warm weather, guys that are going to get a 6'8" and try to be Kelly Slater.” Yiga approaches the parked lots and finds.

“Just you have to surf around (excess people). It’s not this crowded in the winter, and the conditions are better.”

He approaches surfing with a serious attitude and prefers solitude to social interaction.

“Half my friends, half my friends, but surfing is a solo thing for me, for my own better.

Like, how people say it’s a ‘church’? It’s good for my body, good for my soul. If friends wanna go surf when I’m going out, I’m all for it, but I don’t call anyone up anymore.”

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

San Marcos
Female wanted to share a 3-bedroom, 2.5 bath condo with room and daughter $500. $400 deposit. All utilities included. Pool, Jacuzzi. Call 619-347-5257.

San Marcos

San Diego
Private, large, almost whole house in the front yard in Highland Hills off Mission Gorge Road. Private pool, includes electricity, water, dish, cable. $950. 619-444-3035. 16-25.

San Diego
Rancho Mission Viejo

San Diego
South Park

Terra tranza
Near stadium, 1 bedroom with private bath, air conditioning, pool, Jacuzzi, Intern phone, gated community. $550 plus utilities. 619-950-1740.

TERRASANTA
Near stadium, 1 bedroom with private bath, air conditioning, pool, Jacuzzi, Intern phone, gated community. $550 plus utilities. 619-950-1740.

To see an online version of this column, go to sdreader.com.
The secret behind the amazing promotion. So what’s the catch? Or better yet – how can you do this?

Well, here’s how it works...

This is done in conjunction with major national oil companies like Texaco, Sunoco, Chevron, Gulf, Citgo, Mobil, Hess, Esso, Exxon, Wal-Mart, Super America, BP and many more. You go to a website and register the certificates by picking out the gas brand you would like to frequent. For example, I have a BP that is close to my work so I would pick out BP. By so doing, I indicate that I will purchase $100 worth of gas a month for the period of the promotion. $100 of gas nowadays is quite easy to spend & much, much more.

Just stop in either

FTS AUTO SERVICE Center Location

• Have any service totaling $200-$300 and receive a $100 certificate.

• Have any service totaling $300-$450 and receive a $250 certificate.

• For service totaling $450 or more, receive a $500 certificate.

Gas Promotion Certificate! It’s that simple! But hurry in – we have only a limited supply of certificates available!

DON’T MISS OUT!

San Diego’s Most Complete

30K/60K/90K Services $249 4-cyl.

Most cars & light trucks. Ask for details. Includes:

• Mechanic time 1x
• Drain & refill radiator • Replace air filter
• Install spark plugs (premium plug type) • Inspect brakes • Clean & adjust rear brakes • Change engine oil • Change oil filter • Top off fluids • Change master cylinder brake fluid • Check suspension • Check charging system & battery
• Check belts • Clean battery terminals • Check radiator, radiator cap & all hoses • Inspect four tires • Check tire pressure • Adjust tire air pressure
• Inspect fuel filter • Check differential fluid • Check manual transmission fluid

Looking for quality? There is a difference. Compare our service with other shops.

Premium Oil Change SYNTHETIC Blend Oil

• Up to 5 qts. of SVO-30 oil

• New oil filter • Check fluids

• Check tires w/44+point inspection

$14.95

With any other service

Plus $3 EPA. Most cars.

We can handle all your service needs:

Brakes, shocks, struts, bushing, batteries, hoses, cv axles, factory scheduled services & much, much more.

$500 FREE GAS

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Brakes, shocks, struts, bushing, batteries, hoses, cv axles, factory scheduled services & much, much more.


LAKESIDE. $1100 2 bedroom. 2 bath. Full kitchen. 2 1/2 bath. Beautifully furnished, air conditioning, pool. 1 car garage. 4982 Happy Valley Rd, 619-298-5404.

LA MESA. $595. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. Conditioned, washer/dryer in unit, pool, pool area. 7485 Blackhawk St., 619-452-2266.

LA MESA. $650. 1 bedroom. Slider, sliding glass door, all amenities. Seacoast Drive. 619-424-9233.

LA MESA. $995. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Conditioned, refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, balcony, patio, fireplace, 1 car garage. 2950 San Diego Blvd, 619-424-9233.

LA MESA. $995. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, $1195-$1445. EXPENSES INCLUDE: water, trash, gas, electric. See manager for details. 3940 7th Ave, 619-424-9233.


LA MESA. $595. 1 bedroom. Washer, dryer, refrigerator, stove. All utilities included. Cathedral City, 760-778-0551.

MISSION BEACH. $3750. 2bed/2.5bth villa at 4225 Market Street, www.forrealestate.com/property. 619-843-3924.

MISSION VALLEY. $750. 1 bedroom. 619-296-4993.


MISSION HILLS/HILLCREST. $1195. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 7391 Village Dr. 619-275-8091.


MISSION VALLEY. $850. Studio. Internet, cable. 805 North. 619-296-0410.

MISSION VALLEY. $1200. 2 bedroom. 2 bathrooms. 2-car garage. 7016 Navajo Road. 619-804-3325.

MISSION VALLEY. $1350. 2 beds/2.5 baths. 1300 square feet. 7111 La Jolla Blvd. 619-296-1134.


MISSION VALLEY. $2800. 3-bedroom 3.5-bath. Spacious single level home with full basement. 11 1/2 acres with pool, spa, covered parking. 5651 Palm Garden Dr. 619-296-3373.

MISSION VALLEY. $3100. 3-bedroom 2.5-bath. Near UTC. 1111 x193. 619-234-7572.

MISSION VALLEY. $3400. 3-bedroom 2-bath. Includes parking, laundry, pool, spa, fitness room. 6780 Friars Road #248. 619-367-3333.


MISSION VALLEY. $4250. 2 bedroom. Utilities included. Next to UTC. 5132 El Cajon Blvd. 619-296-5599.

MISSION VALLEY. $4500. 3 bedroom. Utilities included. Next to UTC. 5145 El Cajon Blvd. 619-296-5599.

MISSION VALLEY. $4700. 3-bedroom 3-bath. Utilities included. 5115 El Cajon Blvd. 619-296-5599.

MISSION VALLEY. $5000. 4 bedrooms. Utilities included. 5122 El Cajon Blvd. 619-296-5599.

MISSION VALLEY. $5250. 4-bedroom 4-bath. Utilities included. 5135 El Cajon Blvd. 619-296-5599.
PACIFIC BEACH. Bright & breezy 2 bedroom, 1 bath, $925. Linoleum. Pets OK. 1257 Mead St. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH. Unit #107, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, $1100. 12th floor. Large balcony, great views, fireplace, parking. 7069 Girard Ave. 858-490-1800.


PACIFIC BEACH. Large studio, $1125. Onsite laundry. Large patio facing the bay. 1671 Chalcedony Street #5. TPPM, 858-484-0744.

PACIFIC BEACH. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, $895. Pet under 30 pounds OK (OK with management). 2003 Pacific Beach Dr. 858-292-9793. 2041 Ocean Front Walk. 858-560-1178.

POINT LOMA/SUNSET CLIFFS. Studio. $1100. 1 bedroom. $1200. 2 bedroom. $1350. 2 bedroom/2 bath. $1500. 3 bedroom. 615-895-3333. 5085 Point Loma Blvd. 619-229-4378.

SAN DIEGO/CHULA VISTA. Cat OK. Lisa, 760-473-4487.

SOUTHEAST SAN DIEGO. 1 bedroom. $850. 2 bedroom. $950. 3 bedroom. $1050. 1420 Reed Ave #2. Agent. 619-632-4931.

SOUTHEAST SAN DIEGO. Studio, $600. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. $850. 1255 S. Robertson. 619-243-6363.

TALMADGE/COLLEGE AREA. 2 bedroom. 1 bath. Half block to Sail Bay. $900. 1008 Nebbia Dr. 619-408-2080.
Mission Gorge Auto Repair
Complete Auto Service Center • 619-282-9011
5999 Mission Gorge Rd. # A, San Diego 92120

4-year/30,000-mile warranty

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**Condos**

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day.

**FOUR BEDROOMS!**

$995 per month. Large 2-story townhouse, 3 beds, 2-1/2 baths, 2-car garage, enclosed patio and balcony. Great location, quiet neighborhood. 619-565-1362.

**NO MONEY DOWN!**

3 Bedroom, 2-bath townhouse in the heart of Mission Valley! 619-694-6051.

**5 BEDROOMS!**

North San Diego County. 5 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, 2-car garage. A must see! 619-344-6729.

**REAL ESTATE**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

PLACE AD IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Mon-
day through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tues-
day.

**ATTN: FIRST TIME HOMEBUYERS**

How to purchase a home for as little as $1,000 down! Talk to Pam McCullough, Realtor. 619-394-7292.

**FURNITURE AND APPLIANCES FROM A PRIVATE ESTATE**

100% Custom Upholstery, 100% custom, 100% new, 100% new. Call Pam McCullough, Realtor. 619-394-7292.

**FISHING GEAR**

Huge selection of fishing equipment. Visit our website for our full inventory. San Diego Reader, PO Box 1753, San Diego, CA 92112. www.keywestmarina.com (SAN-CASTLE)

**TICKETS**

PLACE AD IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Mon-
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day.

**CHARGERS TICKETS!**

$40 face value, $30 each. 817-729-7255.

**EXERCISE BIKES**

Scheer Air Dry, full digital console, excellent condition, $100 to $200. Call 619-271-9121.

**ROLLERSKATES**


**SILICONE RATED**

Power steering fluid, both blue and red. Call 619-694-6051.

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Power steering fluid, both blue and red. Call 619-694-6051.

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I AM LOOKING for a person who knows carpentry. Esince you are in the trades, you should be able to give me a quote. I need to change a wall in my motorcycle shop. Can you do it too? Please call at your earliest convenience.

WHERE ARE YOU when I need you? My name is Bruce Springsteen. This is a commercial. I am recording my new album, "West Village Sessions," which will be released on February 26. I'm in the studio now, with producer Jon Landau, recording a song called "The Rising." It's a record about life in New York City, about the people who live here. And it's about me, my life, my family, my friends. It's a story of hope and despair, of joy and pain. But mostly, it's a story of love. I hope you'll listen and feel the same way I do. Bruce Springsteen, recording "The Rising," for Columbia Records. Coming soon. Stay tuned.

WHAT I WILL AND WON'T WATCH THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

THE VIEW
ABC 10:00 A.M.

To make it on the rest of us, everyone who contributes nothing to society except a lowering of the national IQ average should be named "Corky." At the DMV and swap meets, you could address everyone as "Corky" without the bother of introduction. The Five Corkies, would run quite a bit smoother as well.

BATTLEGROUND EARTH: LUDACRIS VS. TOMMY LEE
TLC 8:00 P.M.

Battles over what? Nobody cares vs. huh? I've seen a preview for this. It's about a rap star and his rock counterpart distributing ecological knowledge and tips by traveling across the country in buses powered by their own need for attention, recycling sedans and growing crops of pathetic on windowills.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

AMERICA'S TOUGHEST JOBS
NBC 8:00 P.M.

Oil-drilling, logging, as well as driving long-haul trucks on icy roads are all listed here. Conspicuously missing is Mike Myers's joke writer. Okay, Mike, this time we're going to write something funny. "NO! I want midgets and farts!" Mr. Myers, we've been over this. Everyone has seen this joke. "NO! Fart midgets!"

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

BRATZ
2XTV 2:00 P.M.

Ladies, you must be gentle with me. I've taken a lifetime to realize I hold a certain charm. Women are attracted to the because, much like the Beets doll of a science-handed blind girl, I'm still cute, but quite damaged.

BLUE COLLAR COMEDY TOUR: ONE FOR THE ROAD

COMEDY CENTRAL 8:00 P.M.

In Russia, the audience makes comedians laugh. In Russia, TV watches...
Furniture

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 386-261-5555. We will accept ads until noon Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5 p.m. Tuesday.

ARMCHAIR. Country style, glider with motor delivery: $1,700-$1,800. 858-767-2544.

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Save with Auto Coupons at SDReader.com

Here's a small sample to get your motor running!

10% off sheepskin seat covers

Cool in the summer, warm in the winter. Offer expires August 31, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month.

Classic Sheepskin

We have dash covers, floor mats, baby rugs, slipcovers, saddles, boots and more.

20% off custom exhaust repair

With this coupon. Offer expires August 31, 2008. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month.

JPK Jesse's Mufflers & Brakes

Performance exhaust, catalytic converters, dual exhaust, complete systems.

San Diego Car Stereo Up to $250 instant rebate

San Diego Smog & Auto Repair $0 off any service

San Diego Smog Test Only $0 off smog check

Sea Side Classic Tinting Window Tint $59

Smog Clinic $26.73 Test Only special smog check

Southern California Transmission 100% off automatic transmission rebuild

Streeter's Auto Sound & Security 20% off window tint

Sunsplash Plus Full Service Center One free shock or strut

Thoro Automotive Smog check $16.75

Twisted Dreams Racing 25% off 30K/60K/90K scheduled service

Value Transmission $75 off clutch special

Weltec Auto Service Smog check $15.75

West Coast Auto Glass $19.95 windshield replacement

Xpart Paint & Body $30 off bumper repair

San Diego, CA 92122

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We San Diegans are a self-congratula-
tory lot; the weather itself is, to us, a
kind seal of approval on our meritocracy.
After 28 years here, I see it much this
way if I don’t think about it too thoroughly:
My first and pretty much only shot across
the bow at what has become my town
is our apparent lack of humor when it
comes to us. Not much criticism of our
paradise is brooked in casual conversa-
tion on elevators downtown, at the water
cooler, and never during weekend recre-
tional activities. And why should it?
We host America’s Finest Fridays and
America’s Finest Weekends.

In a recent conversation with a
neighbor from the Bronx, he was grop-
uling for a word to describe a certain unfor-
tunate attitude about us and eventually
hit upon the word “entitlement.” It is as
it said, by virtue of our finding our-
selves here one way or the other some-
one, somehow, and everywhere owes us
respect, the right of way, and the freak-
ing parking space. Know what I mean?
I do, in a way. Nathanael West put
it very well at some length in his short
Hollywood novel The Day of the Locust.
While he was talking about Los Ange-
les, he may as well have been talking about us and all Californians who, after
some life-upheaving hassle, made our
way here and found ourselves cheated
in some unidentifiable way. I stand by
this, especially after meeting the pro-
portionately few native Californians and
San Diegans who suffer no such sense
of being screwed.

I resisted this town for years and for
typical New Yorker reasons, but no longer. Within four years of moving here I
would find myself at regular intervals looking around me and seeing that it
was good.

The weekend I have planned for this third of them in August will be a quiet
one. It may involve the beach if I can swing it, a number of paperback books, and
a swimming pool among friends. Other props likely to play a role will be a bor-
down of Yankee accent and what I will assume to be an adoring audience of bimi-
cad college girls at either pool or outside. Some kind of barbecue is hardly out of
the question, liberally peppered with intelligent conversation among smart
professionals, some artists, teachers, and at least one family member. I say this
with reasonable confidence after making only the most tentative plans with a few
relatively new Californians but folks who have been here long enough to assure
me that one way or another, some version of this idyllic scene will materialize.

This, after a conversation consisting only of phrases such as:

“Well, I’ll play it by ear.”

“Are you okay with me taking your guitar to the beach?”

“Whatever. Maybe we’ll do some billiards in the rec room after lunch.”

“Something light.”

“Chicken.”

“Something.”

“You gonna drive or Rick?”

“We’ll go with the flow.”

Had this conversation taken place 2000 miles to the east, no information would
have been exchanged, no commitment from anyone to even show up.
Nothing would have been established, and the weekend would still be a ques-
tion mark. Here, it’s a done deal, time and place being left to a cell-phone call
on Friday, maybe Saturday morning, and this is assumed. No phone call is
necessary.

“I don’t know. What am I? A wedding planner?”

“Don’t get that one.”

“No.”

“What am I? A wedding planner?”

“Who knows?”

“I’ll pick up something we can enjoy.”

“What about a movie?”

“Sure, if we’ve got time.”

“Whatever. Maybe we’ll do some billiards in the rec room after lunch.”

“Chicken.”

“Whatever. Maybe we’ll do some billiards in the rec room after lunch.”

“Something.”

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“Whatever. Maybe we’ll do some billiards in the rec room after lunch.”

“Chicken.”

“Whatever. Maybe we’ll do some billiards in the rec room after lunch.”

“Something.”

“I don’t know. What am I? A wedding planner?”

“Don’t get that one.”

“No.”

“I’ll call you back?”

“When?”

“I don’t know…you know.”

Being vague is not feeling entitled. It is, when you think about it, an evolved
sense of faith. Presumption may be unwise, but look at the record. For every mis-
erable weekend I’ve spent in 28 years here, I can point to hundreds more that have
more or less fulfilled the promise of California extended to me in Annette Funic-
ello movies 45 years ago in Chicago.

So I am unlikely — as Donald Sutherland did at the end of the film ver-
sion of Locust — to stomp to death an elaborate boy singing “Jeepers Creepers” at the rec-room premier of whatever it is I select at the video store for that
day. Even if mushroom clouds sprout in the Middle East or our own skies are apocalyptically raining ash, and Obama cracks during a speech to the
Daughters of the American Revolution — deranged on hashish and
begins shouting, “May the rivers flow red with the blood of the infidel!” — I
am reasonably assured of yet another of America’s Finest Weekends. I may reg-
ister as a Republican after all.

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