I never inhale

Story begins on page 24
## Reader

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### Advertising

San Diego Reader: September 25, 2008

San Diego Reader

619-235-3000

[San Diego Reader website](http://www.sandiegoreader.com)

San Diego's First Beer Drinkers
See page 147

All-You-Can-Eat Lobster Served Nightly!

San Diego's best buffet is now serving whole steamed Maine lobster every night of the week. While you're there, indulge in Alaskan King crab legs, fresh-rolled sushi and jumbo shrimp along with delicious grilled steaks, gourmet Italian, Mexican and Asian cuisine and decadent homemade desserts. Plus, when you join the Players Club your first buffet is free! Treat yourself to the best every night, only at Valley View Casino!

Valley View Casino

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ValleyViewCasino.com

1-15 TO VALLEY PKWY EAST • VALLEY CENTER, CA

WHILE THE CHOICES AT OUR BUFFET MAY VARY, YOUR AGE DOES. GUESTS MUST BE 21 OR OLDER TO ENJOY THE CASINO, RESTAURANTS AND CONCERTS.
Advance gratification

View the entire menu before you get to the restaurant.

www.SDReader.com
Click on Food & Drink > Restaurant Menus
L A S I K

“Having the doctors in the top 1% of the country in your own backyard – you can’t ask for anything better.” – Shaun Phillips, pro football player

The truth about LASIK prices

Global Laser Vision

All prescriptions
- Our low price of $599 is for ANY nearsighted prescription without astigmatism. In our ad prices you will not see words such as “Prices As Low As…” or “Prices Starting At…” All procedures can be financed with $0 down, 0% interest (OAC).

Top 1% of Refractive Surgeons
- Our surgeons are Harvard- and UCSD-educated Refractive (LASIK) Surgeons Specialists who are recognized as being in the top 1% of their field in the United States.

50,000 local surgeries
- Dr. Yaghouti and Dr. Lakhani have performed over 50,000 surgeries in San Diego.

Personal care
- You can always see your surgeon before and after your surgery. Our dedicated surgeons, Dr. Yaghouti or Dr. Lakhani, are at Global Laser Center Monday through Saturday. Our friendly staff is knowledgeable and always available to assist you.

Our thorough eye exams are always complimentary
- No hidden fees or charges ever.

Do they have a variety of lasers available?
- Yes! We use the latest technology and leading-edge equipment such as the VISX Star S4 Excimer® lasers equipped with Wavefront and Iris Registration Technologies – offering you 98% 20/20 vision after one year (FDA clinical trial using VISX Custom LASIK). We also offer All-Laser Intralase with 60Hz Fourth Generation Technology.

How long have they been established in San Diego?
- Global Laser Vision is not only the top LASIK Center, but the only center in San Diego that does both LASIK and IntraLase. They have been in operation since 1997.

Our surgeons are Harvard- and UCSD-educated Refractive (LASIK) Surgeons Specialists who are recognized as being in the top 1% of their field in the United States.

How many patients realistically qualify for the advertised price?
- Make sure the advertised low price is not just to get you in the door. In some cases only a very SMALL percentage (less than 1%) of patients qualify for the low price.

Are the surgeons Refractive Surgery Specialists?
- The independent surgeons affiliated with some centers may or may not be Refractive Surgery Specialists.

Is your surgeon always available before and after your surgery?
- We have our surgeons available before and after your surgery, to make sure you have the best possible care. Our surgeons are Harvard- and UCSD-educated Refractive (LASIK) Surgeons Specialists who are recognized as being in the top 1% of their field in the United States.

How do they have a variety of lasers available?
- Are there different laser options available to tailor to patients’ vision needs?

Do they have a variety of lasers available?
- Yes! We use the latest technology and leading-edge equipment such as the VISX Star S4 Excimer® lasers equipped with Wavefront and Iris Registration Technologies – offering you 98% 20/20 vision after one year (FDA clinical trial using VISX Custom LASIK). We also offer All-Laser Intralase with 60Hz Fourth Generation Technology.

Our low price of $599 is for ANY nearsighted prescription without astigmatism. In our ad prices you will not see words such as “Prices As Low As…” or “Prices Starting At…” All procedures can be financed with $0 down, 0% interest (OAC).

Are there different laser options available to tailor to patients’ vision needs?
- Available only at the center on the day of surgery. Be aware of surgeons who may not be available for post-operative care should the need arise.

If you have a history of refractive surgery, you may not be a candidate for LASIK.

Patient needs to be aware of centers that come and go.

Are they part of a corporate chain?
- At many of these corporate-run LASIK centers the surgeon is available only at the center on the day of surgery. Be aware of surgeons who may not be available for post-operative care should the need arise.

Now Accepting VSP Insurance!

|$0 Down, 0% Interest until 2010 (OAC) |

Global Laser Vision Now Offering:

Contact Lens Exam only $85
- Includes eyeglass prescription, fitting, follow-ups, and solution kit. (Toric and gas perms slightly higher.)

Eyeglass Exam only $55
- 1-800-438-5274

Call for a Complimentary Consultation

1-800-GET-LASIK


MEET DR. YAGHOUTI
- Retractive Eye Surgery specialist from Harvard University.

MEET DR. LAKHANI
- Retractive Eye Surgery specialist from UCSD Medical Center.

6950 Friars Road
Suite 100
Across from Fashion Valley Mall
Se Habla Español
Promo Code: RDR0925

GLOBAL LASER VISION INC
MEDICAL CENTER, INC

$0 Down, 0% Interest until 2010 (OAC)

TWO WEEKS ONLY!
Offer expires October 11, 2008.

Standard LASIK
Scanning Laser or Flying Spot Eye Tracker Technologies
Regularly $5990 per eye (savings of $1081 per eye)

$599.00*
Per eye - any nearsighted prescription with no astigmatism

All-Laser (blade-free) Standard Intralase
Scanning Laser or Flying Spot, Eye Tracker and Intralase 60Hz Fourth Generation Technologies
Regularly $2000 per eye (savings of $801 per eye)

$2700* PER MONTH OR 1199
Per eye - any nearsighted prescription

All-Laser (blade-free) Custom LASIK Intralase
VISX Star S4 IR™ with Wavefront CustomVue®, Variable Spot, Eye Tracker, and Intralase 60Hz Fourth Generation Technologies
Regularly $2850 per eye (savings of $1051 per eye)

$4000* BEST DEAL
PER MONTH OR 31799
Per eye - any prescription

MEET DR. YAGHOUTI
- Retractive Eye Surgery specialist from Harvard University.

MEET DR. LAKHANI
- Retractive Eye Surgery specialist from UCSD Medical Center.

6950 Friars Road
Suite 100
Across from Fashion Valley Mall
Se Habla Español
Promo Code: RDR0925

GLOBAL LASER VISION INC
MEDICAL CENTER, INC

$599 per eye applies to Standard LASIK, any nearsighted prescription with no astigmatism, and $100 per eye for astigmatism ($899 per eye). $199 per eye applies to Standard Intralase (All-Laser Standard LASIK), any nearsighted prescription. $1799 per eye applies to Custom Intralase (All-Laser Wavefront Guided Custom LASIK), any prescription (San Diego location only). All offers are for new patients only with no prior history of refractive surgery. Offers valid at San Diego location only. Cannot be combined with any other offers. No cash value. Must present coupon at time of consultation. Offer cannot be applied retroactively to prior procedures. Some restrictions may apply. Financing is based on 60 months at 11.99% per month (OAC). Surgery must be performed by 10/11/08.
Even the best seat in the house isn’t good enough if you can’t see the game.

Experience High-Definition LASIK
Low monthly payments! Easy to qualify!
$0 + 0% + 18
MONTHS INTEREST DOWN

Mihir Parikh, M.D.
• LASIK & Corneal Specialist
• Chargers Team Ophthalmologist
• Featured in “Top Doctors” • S.D. Magazine 20-28
• America’s Top Ophthalmologist • Consumer Research Council
• Over 10,000 procedures performed

Trust your vision to the

Chargers LASIK Center and Team Ophthalmologist

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Local: 858-450-4213
www.neweyes.com

“LASIK made me a better football player. Thanks, Dr. Parikh!”
Quentin Jammer, #23
San Diego Chargers CB
First-Round Draft Pick 2002

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For Individuals and Families

Age* Male Female
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1 106 106
2-18 67 67
19 63 63
25 72 101
30 90 112

Call for rates based on your age.
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Save up to 70% on select items!

Sofa & Loveseat $696

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San Diego Reader September 25, 2008 5
Gamy Banks

By Don Bauder

Are you entrusting your money to banking houses or sportin' houses? The United States is in its worst credit crisis since the Great Depression, as shotgun marriages are arranged and financed by the government. Investment and commercial banks are regularly taking multibillion-dollar write-downs because of their gambling addictions. But the once-staid institutions continue another addiction: paying big money to get naming rights on pro sports facilities—a dubious marketing play for financial companies, which should be advertising their safety, not their sporting nature. Actually, in paying big bucks to put their names on sports facilities, financial institutions have been subliminally admitting that they are gamblers, not fiduciaries.

The New York Mets (baseball) are drawing up a 20-year, $20 million-per-year deal with Citigroup, a hedgehogged of financial institutions that is addicted to the same thing as the Mets are—errors. Elizabeth Ody of Kiplinger.com calls Citigroup “The Bad Boy of Finance.” The company is involved in every kind of money manipulation “and appears to have made big mistakes in most of them,” she says. On September 10, U.S. Senate investigators charged that Citigroup and other Wall Street firms have been helping offshore hedge funds avoid U.S. taxes.

The New York Yankees have fleeced taxpayers to get a new stadium. Now Bank of America is finalizeing a deal, said to be for $20 million a year, by which the bank could post its logo and signs all over the park. B of A bought the worst mortgage dog of all, Countrywide. The deal was originally considered a bargain, but now it looks questionable. Not having had enough, B of A then agreed to buy Wall Street’s Merrill Lynch, which did the original financing on San Diego’s downtown ballpark. B of A already has its name on the stadium in which the Carolina Panthers (football) play. It could become one of a few companies whose names are on more than one facility.

Of the 70 pro stadiums, ballparks, and arenas in the United States and Canada, 20 sport the names of financial institutions. That sum was 21 until last year. Subprime lender Ameriquest had the rights to the Texas Rangers’ (baseball) field until 2034. In early 2006, Ameriquest settled a class-action suit with the attorneys general of 49 of the 50 states over allegations of predatory

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CITY LIGHTS
Road’s End
By Ernie Grimm

Organizers of the semiannual Rosarito-Ensenada Fun Bicycle Ride recently announced that the September 27 event would be their last. As with Baja tourism in general, participation in the ride has been declining. In April, it dipped below the 5000-rider mark, which organizer Gary Foster says is his break-even point. City officials and business leaders in Rosarito are scrambling to keep the lucrative event alive. They believe it is the latest victim of “bad and unfair” media coverage of Baja California.

Foster, a trim, clean-cut man of 43, sits in a coffee shop at a table overlooking Cass Street in Pacific Beach. Dressed in a blue surf-shop T-shirt and gray jogging pants, he speaks almost too softly to be heard over the hiss and gurgle of the cappuccino machine.

“Are you like to come work for us?” Foster asked, knowing how to do it, so would only other guy in the U.S. who knows how to do it anymore. You are the business, and we know that [Dickson] doesn’t want to do it anymore. Are you the only other guy in the U.S. who knows how to do it, so would you like to come work for us?”

And I said, “I don’t want to work for you, but if you are looking for a partner or you want to sell the business, I am interested.” So I worked as a partner, and we set up two for-profit businesses. One is in the U.S., Bicycling West. That is the one that I work for. And Bicycling West operates as basically an advertising firm. We do sports marketing, advertising in all media, from Internet to direct mail to bulk distribution of brochures. The second company is in Mexico, and it is called Paseo Ciclista Rosarito Ensenada. And that company owns everything in Mexico, the intellectual property, the name of the event, the trademarks, the logos, all artwork, it gets the permits for the ride, posts the ride, collects the revenue, all that stuff. So the event pays Bicycling West. I bought in at 50 percent of each company.”

Foster won’t divulge the amounts he paid to buy into the companies or how much money he’s made from the event. He bought in at 50 percent of each company. “I bought in at 50 percent of each company. "This has been my only job for the last five years. I’ve bought a house five blocks from the beach in PB, and I have four kids. My wife works too—we’re two-parents-working family. So I’ve done all right. Not as much as when I was a director in telecom. But it’s also a lifestyle business. In

An archive of City Lights stories can now be searched on the Internet at SDReader.com
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lending and bait-and-switch tactics. Soon it closed all its branch offices and stopped taking loans. Then it quietly withdrew from the Rangers deal.

In San Diego, the naming rights of the football field belong to Qualcomm, a very good telecom company. The baseball stadium bears the name of Petco, supposedly a pet-supply retailer. But you might even call it a doggy financial concern. In 2000, two buyout firms bought Petco, then a publicly held company, and took it private. Then they brought it public again, and the insiders reaped fortunes in an economically meaningless move. Later, a competitor offered top money for the company but didn’t want to retain Petco’s brand. So in 2006, Petco was taken private a second time by the same firms, at a price well below what the competitor had offered. The buyout specialists have loaded the company with debt. Petco shareholders have been neutered — Wall Street’s specialty.

Charlotte-based Wachovia Corporation is the fourth-largest U.S. banking chain. The Wachovia Center is home of the Philadelphia 76ers (basketball) and the Flyers (hockey). But Wachovia is flying low now; its loan portfolio is loaded with stinkers. Its stock has taken a beating.

KeyBank has its name on KeyArena in Seattle. The Seattle SuperSonics (basketball) are deserting for Oklahoma City. A women’s pro team will still play in the arena. The bank is ailing as the result of the mortgage meltdown; as losses mount, it has sliced its dividend in half. But its stock has dropped by much more than half.

The Conseco Fieldhouse is home to the Indiana Pacers and Fever (men’s and women’s basketball). Stephen Hilbert, a former encyclopedia salesman, built Conseco by buying small insurance companies, adding a casino along the way. Hilbert had a grand lifestyle, paying himself $119.4 million in 1997. He couldn’t resist buying Green Tree Financial, whose head, Lawrence Coss, paid himself $106 million in 1996. The marriage of the profligate fellows was a disaster. Conseco went into bankruptcy in 2001, emerging after shedding $6.6 billion in debt but not shedding its naming rights.

The Cincinnati Reds (baseball) play in Great American Ball Park. Great American Insurance is a unit of American Financial Group, a highly diversified money machine put together by Carl Lindner, formerly a close associate of junk-bond king Michael Milken, who went to the slammer for his predations. For years, American Financial employed lawyer Charles Keating as executive vice president. Yes, that Keating: the one known for the Keating Five scandal. Keating got dubious favors from five U.S. senators. One was John McCain.

The Detroit Tigers (baseball) play in Comerica Park, named for a bank that spent 158 years in Detroit, then last year moved its headquarters to Dallas. Downtown Detroit does that to people. In early September, Standard & Poor’s cut its outlook on Comerica stock to negative, and now analysts are saying it may have to cut its dividend.

The Arizona Diamondbacks (baseball) play at Chase Field, formerly Bank One Ballpark. Bank One was purchased by JPMorgan Chase in 2004, and the ballpark was rechristened. Early this year, our country’s financial policy makers proclaimed that the Dow Jones Industrial Average would plunge 2000 points if Wall Street’s Bear Stearns went bankrupt. So the Federal Reserve threw in $29 billion, and Bear was sold for a cheap price to JPMorgan Chase. Now JP has Bear’s old woes: trillions of dollars in shaky derivatives.

Some financial institutions are doing better than the teams they represent. PNC Financial Services is doing well, thank you. The same cannot be said for the Pittsburgh Pirates (baseball) who play in PNC Park. Similarly, M&T Bank Corporation is doing fine. The bank’s name is on the stadium in which the historically so-so Baltimore Ravens (football) play. In one case, the bank and the team are both doing fine. Mellon Arena is home to the winning Pittsburgh Penguins (hockey). Bank of New York Mellon, partly because it manages money for rich folks, is doing well. Bank of New York Mellon was founded in 1784 by Alexander Hamilton. Mellon is the latecomer: it was founded in 1869.

TD Banknorth Garden in Boston is where the Celtics (basketball) and Bruins (hockey) play. The arena has had 34 names since construction was announced in 1993. It was FleetCenter when the rights were owned by Fleet.
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Bank, which was then purchased by Bank of America. Then, one-day naming rights were auctioned on eBay, and there were some dandy names offered, such as Yankees Suck Center. In 2005, TD Banknorth, the American subsidiary of Toronto-Dominion Bank, purchased the rights.

Other foreign financial institutions pay to play the game. London’s HSBC Holdings, the world’s largest banking group, has its name on the Buffalo Sabres’ (hockey) arena. Citizens Bank is a unit of Royal Bank of Scotland. Citizens Bank Park is where the Philadelphia Phillies (baseball) play. RBC Center is home of the Carolina Hurricanes (hockey). RBC is a division of Royal Bank of Canada. The New York Jets and Giants (football) talked about selling naming rights to their new stadium to Allianz, a German financial firm once tied to the Nazis. New Yorkers screamed and the talks ended.

As the U.S. economy deleverages (sheds debt), financial institutions are consolidated, and many fail, foreign ownership will increase. But will financial institutions realize they should be advertising safety, not gaminess, and stop buying sports naming rights? I doubt it. ■

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telecom, I was working 60, 70, 80 hours a week and traveling. I had 80 employees and a $41 million budget. But I never got to see my kids. Now I’ve been working a normal 40-hour week or less. In the middle of the day, if my ten-year-old son says, ‘Dad, I want to take a bike ride,’ we hop on the bikes and take a ride. It’s been nice. I’m going to miss that.”

The business grew, Foster says, through 2006, and then in 2007, the business fell off, and it was just not something we could overcome. We had been averaging 7500 people, but in the April 2008 ride, we just had, we had between 4900 and 5000.”

Five thousand riders, each paying a $35 entry fee is $175,000. Seems like plenty of money, especially twice a year. But, Foster says, “Our event is a destination event. We are pulling people from the U.S., about 75 percent from the U.S., primarily coming from L.A., Orange County, and San Diego. When most people go across the border, they want to feel safe, and they want to feel that if something happens, they are going to get the same level of care that they would get if they fell off their bike up here. So what we have done, ever since I worked for Dave, we’ve always provided life-flight helicopters and airplanes to bring people up. So if someone has a critical injury on the course, we can actually pick them up right on the course in Mexico by helicopter, come across, touch down at Brown Field and clear customs, and bring them right to a hospital here in the U.S.”

Asked if they have ever had to use that service, Foster answers, “Almost every event we have, something happens. Cycling is the most dangerous sport of all the popular sports.”

Foster also hires U.S. paramedics to go down and be on call. And, because of Mexican law, they can’t use volunteers to staff any aspect of the ride. “So at the water stops, people handing out T-shirts, people handing out numbers and registrations, they are all paid employees. In Mexico, you can’t use someone as a volunteer the way you can here.”

On top of medical and staff costs — Foster won’t divulge how much they are — there’s a federal revenue tax on the registration fees. And the cities of Rosarito and Ensenada each charge a per-rider tax, a practice Foster describes as a very counterproductive way of thinking. If you look at the Rock ’n Roll Marathon, the model they use is, every time they go to a new city, the city pays the company to bring the event to them because it generates tourism. So what happens is, Rock ’n Roll doesn’t have to make any money on participation because they are getting so much from the cities.

But for us down there, we do it upside down. We go down there, we have to pay the city to put on the event. Every police officer that is stationed along the route, we have to pay his salary for the day. It adds up, and it’s cost prohibitive.”

Ron Raposa, public relations director for the City of Rosarito, says, “I blame the demise of the bike ride on American media coverage of Baja, “including things like the recent cover story you ran in the Reader” (“Greetings from Tijuana,” August 7).

Asked what the economic impact of the ride has been for Rosarito, Raposa doesn’t have dollar figures but offers, “Well, we had 5000 to 7000 participants plus friends and family members that came down, that stayed in hotels and ate in restaurants and spent money in Rosarito and Ensenada twice a year and created a great deal of publicity for the area. It’s a wonderful event with wonderful people. They never had a problem with anything down here, and we never had a problem with them. We’d like to see it continue, and we still hope that some way might be found. If it can’t continue, we’re going to miss it. There’s no question about it. As for the exact economic impact, well, we get over a million visitors a year here, and we’re starting to see a recovery in tourism this summer, so it’s not going to kill us. But we’re sure sad to see it go. It’s extremely sad, and it truly is the result of bad and unfair U.S. media coverage, and I put the Reader cover story in that category, I can’t say it any more sternly. Twenty-seven years, 375,000 participants, and never a single serious crime among them. But the U.S. media are simply scaring people away with biased, unbalanced, and unfair reporting.” ■
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Where Are The Bags?

I have spent at least a thousand hours in the ocean and have not seen a plastic shopping bag yet (“Plague of the Urban Tumbleweeds,” Cover Story, September 11). I bring my swimmer’s goggles when the swell is small and poke around on the bottom when there is no surf. I see sand, rocks, normal ocean fauna. My diving friends have never reported ocean rocks covered with grocery bags in La Jolla or any other place.

Bill Manson, via email

Bill Manson replies: Mr. Baker should watch the river mouths of the county and the many outfalls scattered around San Diego Bay. As for La Jolla, according to Captain Moore (featured in the story), plastic bags certainly get caught in the kelp but don’t necessarily stay because of high-energy wave action. After being read the letter, Moore says, “It’s nice that [Mr. Baker] has had a good experience and hasn’t had his dive ruined by trash, but that’s not the experience of many other people.” For general evidence, he suggests checking his website, algalita.com (look at the “trashed photo gallery”).

And by the way, Moore reports from his latest survey (carried out early this year in the Central North Pacific) that the ratio of broken, degraded plastic pieces, so easily mistaken by fish for surface zooplankton, is soaring. He had previously measured degraded plastic pieces as outweighing plankton by 6 to 1. Now, he says, they outweigh plankton by 46 to 1.

Responsible

Re “Gray, Gray, Gray” (Letters).

This is in response again to Dale Anne Thompson, who on September 17 responded to my letter dated September 11, which is a response to hers dated August 7, regarding Lawrence Welk. You stated that I must be ashamed of Lawrence Welk, since I did not put my name at the end of my letter. This is in fact not true. I do not put my name on any of my submissions due to the fact that I do not want my abusive husband to know that I am still in the area, and I have to be careful. I do, however, accept your apology that you gave last week. Thank you.

Name Withheld by Request via email

“Seasons Go” (Movie Review, September 4), by Duncan Shepherd. Without hesitation and question, I proceeded to view The Dark Knight on three separate occasions. Be aware that these three occasions were within no more than a two-week period. Shepherd firmly states how the movie would not have done so well without Heath Ledger’s “premature death.”

Did Shepherd even see the eminent spectacle that is Batman Begins? Even if the popularity didn’t soar until it hit DVD. The Hulk and Iron Man combined (total of $451 million) did not gross even close to what The Dark Knight did alone ($504 million — missed it by $53 million —ouch!). Enough said. Ledger, Bale, and Eckhart all reigned supreme on the big screen. I think I will go see it for my fourth time now, AMC Fashion Valley — 8:30 p.m. — who’s with me?

Stephen Steigler
SDSU Student
Mission Beach

Got History?

Just a note to thank you for including “Unforgettable: Long-Ago San Diego” in the Reader. It’s truly great! To have something, tiny as it is, to remind every out-of-state implant that’s moved here of what this

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Heymatt: Sometimes I don’t sleep for a couple of days. I have a friend who told me that I could die from lack of sleep. I can’t believe that, but this friend is always throwing around facts and he sounds pretty knowledgeable. Is it really possible to die from lack of sleep? — No Snorer, via email

Here’s a little quiz, brought to you by the good folks at the Matthew Alice Rumba Academy and Research Emporium. What is the most common source of bad facts? Stuff just made up on the spot? No. Old wives’ tales? Nope. Urban myths? Uh-uh, Mom? Close, but no deal. “Educated” big-mouth friends? You betcha. So, if you’re on your toes (not likely, after 48 hours of sleep deprivation), you can predict our answer to your question.

A top-notch sleep researcher at UCSD has said he’s never seen a report of anyone dying solely from a lack of sleep. That’s not to say people haven’t been so debilitated by sleep deprivation that they haven’t done something stupid or risky and died as a result of their actions. One of the areas affected by sleep deprivation is the frontal lobe, responsible for good judgment and risk assessment, and studies have also shown that we’re not really aware of our impairment, so we do dumb stuff. Like drive. Sleeplessness strains the brain, and nothing we do in that state is very efficient. Or smart. Even a loss of one night’s sleep makes test subjects slower and less sharp even at simple things such as speaking and typing. Neurons misfire and we look like goofs.

When we sleep, we’re pretty unresponsive to external stimuli, but our brains are ticking away like mad. Proteins are being reorganized to help boost pooped neurons; brain connections made during our waking hours are being edited and reorganized. As a result, lack of sleep limits how much information and how many skills a person can retain. Sleep-deprived test subjects also suffered from weakened immune systems. The number of white cells decreases, and the remaining cells are less active. Lab rats kept awake for two to six weeks all died, and their deaths were a result of wrecked immune systems.

But our brains are prepared for our crazy life patterns. MRI studies have shown that overworked, sleep-deprived brain areas will occasionally shut down, a state the professionals call “microsleep.” While that area is chilling out, a backup area of the brain takes over. Of course, the backup is less efficient at the job and might be busy doing its own thing, so again our performance is poor.

For the record, the longest sleepless stretch was achieved by a high school student who managed to stay awake 11 days. He was pretty much a blubbering mess by the end of the experiment, but he didn’t suffer any permanent damage, like death, say. But there are diseases that have sleeplessness as a symptom. A man suffering from Morvan’s chorea chugged along for 27 dreamless days.

Our friends at UCSD have also looked at the question of the optimal number of sleep hours per night. They took the sleep and life histories of 1.1 million people and found that those who slept eight or more hours had an increased risk of dying within the study time. Seven hours was optimal. Even five hours rated higher than eight. But less than four hours a night again raised the risk of death. The professors had no clear explanation for why this should be true. So, No Snorer, from all the science so far, looks as if you can stay up a night or two and not keel over. But you’ll probably look like a bumbling, stuttering fool for a while, until your brain recovers.

Hey, Matt:
Tell me about Tumco, the old mining town in east Imperial County. My friend says there’s a vertical shaft out there that goes straight down 2000 feet, and the place is listed somewhere as the most dangerous mining site in the West. True? We’re planning an adventure.

Dang. More friend facts. An evil that must be stamped out. Anyway, about delightful Tumco.... A rubble-strewn desert ghost town since 1914 or so. The best-looking features are the graveyard and the cyanide vats. Gold was discovered there about 1884, and the place boomed along under a variety of names (Gold Rock, Hedges) until all the mines finally became economically impractical early in the 20th Century. One of the last owners was the United Mines Co., ergo Tumco. At most, the population was 500 or so, but it had all the trappings of a juicy mining town, what with all the saloons, bar girls, company store, etc. They actually hauled a lot of gold out of the area for a while, and the Tumco mines were pretty famous. What the desert hasn’t demolished, vandals have, so there’s not much left but crumbling foundations and its niftiest, most adventurous feature, lots of open mine shafts. During its heyday, the mines themselves were no more dangerous than any others. Today, if you’re not sharp, you could become part of the geology. That’s about its only danger. Deepest mine shaft? About 2000 feet.
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**The Vegas Line**

**NFL – Week 4 (Home Team in CAPS)**

<table>
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<th>Favorite</th>
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<th>Underdog</th>
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The red zone  
By Anthony Gentile

Mission Hills not as big, but...  
Posted September 18, 2008, 10:52 p.m.
This season Mission Hills (San Marcos) doesn’t have the size or experience of last year’s team that made it all the way to the Division II final. So far that hasn’t mattered as the Grizzlies are off to a 2-0 start.

After a successful season in Division II last year, the Grizzlies are now in Division I. Realignment places them in an Avocado League that features fellow unbeaten La Costa Canyon and Escondido. This jump, however, doesn’t seem to be a concern. “I think it’s a good step for our school, and I think we’re ready for it,” senior quarterback D.J. Zapata said.

Head coach Chris Hauser said the change in divisions won’t be visible until the playoffs. He said that there is little difference between the top two divisions in the county. “I think because of Helix and Oceanside in Division II and Lincoln on the verge and Eastlake dropping to Division II this year, they’re pretty equal,” Hauser said.

Mission Hills opened the season on Sept. 5 with a 27-14 home win over Temecula’s Great Oak. But their biggest win thus far is their 26-14 win at San Marcos last Friday, a win that means bragging rights in their city.

Bonita Vista grounds Mission Bay  
Posted September 20, 2008, 1:18 a.m.
Starting the season off with a game in Hawaii and a bye week, Bonita Vista has been somewhat of an unknown this season. After their 21-6 win at Mission Bay on Friday, the Barons can’t hide anymore.

“We were outmanned, we were outplayed, we were outmatched, and our kids won. So that should tell you something,” said Bonita Vista head coach Carl Patrick.

The Barons grounded the Buccaneers’ spread offense that averaged 39 points in the first two games of the season. Mission Bay’s top touchdown came from their defense, when Dillon Baxter intercepted a pass and took it 97 yards for a score in the fourth quarter.

“We had no rhythm and we certainly couldn’t pass protect very well,” said Mission Bay head coach Wilke Massen.

On the offensive side of the ball, the Bonita Vista running back tandem of Ibrahim Hassan and Bryan Montreuil carved up Mission Bay’s defense. Hassan carried the ball 24 times for 162 yards and two touchdowns.

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“For more than 30 years,” said Vision pastor Patti Paris in her introduction, “Mother Antonia has lived in a small, cold cell in Tijuana’s La Mesa prison, where she ministers to some of the most maltreated inmates on earth. But before she received her religious calling — a calling that arrived in a dream wherein she promised Christ she would never leave Him — “this Catholic nun was a blonde, Beverly Hills socialite who had been married and divorced twice and raised seven children.”

An appreciative gap went up from the congregation.

Paris continued: “With the tragic events that are unfolding, Mother Antonia hasn’t had much sleep.... I invite you to listen to this courageous and inspiring servant who answered the call of God.” And with that, the 82-year-old sister took the podium.

The tragic events Paris mentioned began on September 15, when a riot broke out at the La Mesa penitentiary; at least four inmates died in the ensuing melee. Mother Antonia was not inside at the time. “I said, ‘Let me go in,’” she said from the podium. “I know I can do something to stop the violence.” But they wouldn’t allow me in.... They were afraid for my safety. But the prisoners wouldn’t have hurt me. I’m not afraid. When you love, you don’t have anything to be afraid of.

Love casts out fear, the Bible tells us, and I love the men there.... I can go into the cells and cellblocks, see the men, pray for them, bring them hope.”

But, she added, “That doesn’t mean I’m in accord with them. That doesn’t mean I’m not going to show them what’s wrong and try to calm something down that’s evil and wrong. It just doesn’t stop me from loving them.” She lamented the loss of the prison’s kitchen, laundry room, art room, classrooms, music room, library, and computer room — all burned in the riots. “Rage takes love completely out of your heart. Everything that was destroyed was for them, for the very men themselves.”

The tragedy continued two days later, on September 17. According to the San Diego Union-Tribune, “Female inmates began to riot just before 1 p.m. More than a dozen women climbed on top of the prison’s building no. 7, where they are housed, and began to break lights and scream to a throng of people on the sidewalk outside. They shouted that they were being beaten and that there were dead and injured inmates inside. Rioting then spread to other buildings.”

This time, Mother Antonia was inside. “They bolted my door. They were firing shots against the outside of my wall. They were firing to frighten everybody; making noise with guns, the helicopters overhead. I don’t know how many bullets were shot over three and a half hours of shooting, but there were 17 dead after this, and only two bodies have been claimed. The sisters, God bless them, bury the dead that are not claimed. But why? Mexican families always come to claim their dead. Why? Because they were deported. They didn’t live in Tijuana. About 300,000 people were deported from the U.S. into Tijuana since 2006. What do you do when there are 300,000 people in a city without jobs, without credentials, without families? I’m hoping that the riot will move the government to take deported people and send them to their homes, all over Mexico. It’s better than to have them live in rage and murder people...and murder themselves. Self-hate is terrible.”

Mother Antonia’s mention of political policy was born of personal events — the unclaimed bodies of the dead — and her talk hewed close to the personal and to the prosaic. She begged the congregation not to shame anybody — “It’s a terrible thing to do to people. People will forget many things, but they do not forget being shamed.” She called the tongue “a deadly weapon” and said that “the tongue caused this riot to start again. The men had calmed down, and the women were yelling, ‘Help us!’ and nothing was happening to them. Then the men broke through walls and started more fires, and pretty soon you had 17 dead because of. ‘I love the tongue. The tongue destroys; it takes away hope.... Jesus said, ‘Don’t worry about your hand being dirty. Worry about the dirt that’s on your heart; that speaks through your mouth.’”

She had some notion of what caused the women to cry out. “They’ve been victims of rape, of beatings, of pornography. Of being bought and sold. Of being treated like trash. They had a chance to explode themselves, to say, ‘Now I’m going to be in control. Nobody’s going to take me and do what they want with me.’ So have pity on them.” (This came in the midst of a cry against pornography; “Many good people, especially men, have become addicted to pornography with the Internet. Porn is satanic; it’s evil. It enters the brain and it doesn’t leave. The devil never sleeps. Evil doesn’t sleep. But neither does good, and good is much more powerful than evil.”)

Against all this, she set love. “Love is patient. Love is kind. Those two things — patience and kindness. There are three ways to get to heaven. ‘Be kind’ is the first one.” It was also the second and third. She told a story about a priest talking to an old woman who said, “I’ve lost my faith in God. You must convince me that there is a God and that He loves me.” The priest said, “I can’t tell you that. But I’ll tell you who can. Go out and do acts of mercy, and you will know that there is a God, and you will know that God loves you.” She urged her listeners to love. “Listening to a gabby relative was ‘a holy hour.’”

So was visiting the old and alone. “As long as you have to do something for somebody, you’re blessed. Give thanks to God that you can do that.”

— Matthew Lickona
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“If a man cuts his face shaving in the morning, we can clean that up.”

-EVE KELLY

It’s been a while since I’ve seen my husband Patrick’s impulsive side. But last week was our anniversary, and he surprised me with a trip to Italy. “Last-minute deal on the package — tremendous bargain,” he whispered, assuring my immediate anxieties about money.

“But we leave in two weeks.” Bang! — the anxiety returned.

“But, honey, what about our passports?” I asked.

Here’s what I got from the Community Service Center program, Clairemont location (858-581-4111; seven locations around San Diego). You must apply in person. Applications are available here or at the State Department’s website. Complete them in 12 and don’t sign it. Bring proof of citizenship, such as a previous passport, an original birth certificate, original naturalization certificate, or a certificate of Consular Report of Birth Abroad. You will also need proof of identity, such as a current driver’s license.

And two passport photos. For payment, we take personal checks or money orders; the cost is $75 for the passport fee, payable to the U.S. Department of State. And there is an execution fee of $25, payable to the City Treasurer. For children 15 and younger, the passport fee is reduced to $60, but the execution fee is the same. Processing takes four to six weeks, but for an additional $60 fee, it can be expedited and processed in three to four.

Not good enough. My toes were still twitching with anxiety. I called A Official Passport (three San Diego County locations; aofficialpassport.com). Joe, at the Escondido location, proved most helpful. I told him I needed a new passport for Patrick and a renewal for myself. You just bring in your old passport, as long as it’s not more than five years old. We do the photos here for $12.95, and I walk you through the application. It’s a one-stop service. Then you pay for postage, which is $26, for a total of $38.95. (Plus the government fee of $75.)

For Patrick’s new passport, he said, “You need to bring a birth certificate and a driver’s license. You get your photos and application here; we walk you through the process, and you go just a few blocks to the post office to finish it. The normal processing time is about a month.”

“But I need it in two weeks.”

“No problem,” Joe assured me. “We can get them both in six to seven days. Call our San Diego location and ask to reserve an emergency slot to come in for the seven-day passport. You and your husband should come in at the same time; that way, we can save on mailing expenses. You bring your old passport and have your husband bring his birth certificate and driver’s license. If there’s been a name change due to marriage since you were last issued a passport, bring your original marriage certificate as well. And bring your travel itinerary, with your names on it. And your checkbook. You’ll fill out everything here, online, with one of us right there. Then you’ll be sent next door to the Midway post office to get a sealed envelope. There are eight or ten passport agencies around the country; we’ll send it wherever there’s an opening. Sometimes it’s L.A., sometimes it’s Denver or Houston. How it works is the agents there have a commercial license. They sit around and bid on emergency passport slots. It’s a delicate process — you have to have an appointment or they won’t bid on it. And they have to have your itinerary to show there’s some reason why you need the emergency slot. We reserve the slot in your name, FedEx the information to the agent, and the agent goes to the front of the line and mails that passport through in your name.”

The cost for all this expediting? “It’s $160 in government fees for the new passport” and $135 for the renewal. “Then it’s $30 each way for the FedEx shipping, $12.95 per set of passport photos, our service fee of $119 for the new passport, and $79 for the renewal.”

Rent at Express Travel Service in Mira Mesa (866-376-1125; myviapassport.com) told me that she could offer “an emergency, 24-hour, same-business-day service. That doesn’t include shipping time. If you came in on a Tuesday morning with a sealed envelope — which is needed for the new passport — and all the correct documentation, it would be at our passport agency Wednesday morning. If everything’s signed and they have no questions, it should be ready Wednesday afternoon, and you could get it back on Thursday. Exactly when would depend on what mail service you request for return. First overnight will get it here by 8 a.m.; priority by 11, 11:30 a.m. The service charge for the 24-hour same-business-day service is $175. Government passport fees are $160, and renewals are $135. “Getting it there by FedEx first overnight is $85, return prices depend on the service you order. Getting it processed in two to three business days has a fee of $150 plus the government fees and shipping four to five business days is a $135 fee plus government fees and shipping.”

Express Travel Service did not offer photos, so I called around. Kinko’s and the UPS Store (various locations) both offer sets of two passport photos for $13.95. But middle-aged vanity led me to call a specialist — if I was going on a romantic getaway, I wanted my traveling papers to look good. So I called Mark at A-1 Broadway Foto (619-234-5876; albroadway.com). “We specialize in passport photos,” said Mark. “We’ll do three or four poses, and you can choose which one you like best. It only takes five to ten minutes, and it’s $10.95 for the two photos.”

“And it’s better than Kinko’s?”

“Oh, God yes. We have samples on our front board — when you walk in, you’ll see the difference. It has to do with experience. I’ve been doing this since 1958. And as long as we’re not altering appearance, we can even do minor retouching. If a man cuts his face shaving in the morning, we can clean that up. The passport agency doesn’t have a problem with that because by the time the guy gets his passport back, his face will be healed.”

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Comfort Food

An easygoing husband is the one indispensable comfort of life. — Marie Louise De La Ramee

You know what sounds really good right now?" David looked up from the magazine in his hands. "Frozen ravioli with Hunt's tomato sauce," I said. I’m not sure what I was expecting, but it wasn’t for my beh beh’s face to sink the way it does when I say things such as, "It’s time to go to the gym." He looked...deflated. "What? What’s wrong?"

"I thought we’d made progress," said David. "I could make you something that tastes a lot better than Hunt’s tomato sauce."

"Of course you could. I just had a craving, that’s all. What’s up? You seem upset that I’m craving something."

"It’s not that you’re craving something," David said, his eyes investigating my face. "It’s that you’re craving comfort food, and if you’re craving comfort food, it means you’re distressed."

"I don’t feel distressed," I said, realizing it was a lie the words were out of my mouth. Since returning from Montreal, I’d been feeling the pressure of unaccomplished tasks, the creeping sensation of anxiety. That, compounded by some extraordinary PMS symptoms, made me a wreck. "I was just saying, it sounded good. Anyway, forget about it. Any good cartoons this week?" David held an interrogative gaze on me. Seemingly satisfied by my nonchalance, he opened the New Yorker and showed me a few select cartoons. Once we were in the throes of trying to interpret the meaning of one of the more ambiguous drawings, we’d both forgotten my hankering for Hunt’s.

Two days later, David intercepted me as I was moping around the kitchen. With a firm but gentle hand on my elbow, he guided me to a chair by the window and brought me a glass of red wine. I was well into my second glass and under my love’s watchful eye when the phone rang. I was staring out the window when David put the phone to his hip and said, "It’s Josue. He’s marinated some steaks and wants to share them with us."

"Tell him to come on up," I said listlessly. "But I don’t want any. You guys go ahead and enjoy it, though, I’m sure I can find something else to eat." David had the phone back on his ear and was asking Josue to come on up when I stage-whispered, "Steak sounds gross."

A few minutes later our friend was at the door, proffering an unnecessary but courteous knock before entering. I gulped the last of the wine in my glass as Josue set a plastic container on the counter. "You’re not going to have any steak?" he asked.

"It’s okay, we have plenty of food here," David answered for me.

"We don’t have frozen ravioli and Hunt’s tomato sauce," I grumbled under my breath, apparently loud enough for both men to hear. David looked up from the shelves of the refrigerator; I felt bad as I realized he’d been searching for something to make for me. He closed the door and sighed. I held up my empty glass, and David indulged me before pouring a glass for Josue.

"Barb, we can wait to cook the steak if you want to go to the store right now," Josue suggested.

Swaying a bit, I looked to David beseeching ly; again, he obliged. "Barb can’t drive."

I held up my glass and smiled crookedly to prove the point and said, "It’s okay, guys, there’s plenty of stuff in the house."

There was little conviction in my words, and I’m sure David sensed that I was secretly hoping for him to do exactly what he was about to do.

"You two stay here," David said. "I’ll be right back." Just before David slipped through the front door, I made an additional plea for dark chocolate. Hearing me, he sighed again and disappeared. Josue shrugged his shoulders and sat in the chair across from me. We chatted and sipped our wine for 15 minutes, at which point David returned with a handful of grocery bags. Josue and I stood and hovered around the granite island, doing what we could to help. David set a large pot of water on the stove to boil and then searched the cupboards for a good steak skillet. Josue took the lid off the plastic container, revealing the steaks as he detailed the composition of his marinade for David. I went straight to the bags and retrieved a small can of Hunt’s tomato sauce, a packet of ravioli (not frozen, but that was cool), and a bundle of Trader Joe’s dark chocolate. My spirits lifted upon seeing the comforting trinity.

I grabbed the plate David had set aside
for me and exchanged it for a green bowl, an action I assumed was innocuous until David snapped, "What, you can’t even use my plate!"

“What are you talking about? I just prefer to eat it out of a bowl,” I said.

Enlisting Josue as mediator, David said, “She had that bowl before she met me. I guess she doesn’t want to use one of mine.”

"Whoa,” I said, not to David, but to Josue. “This is just a good, sturdy bowl. I didn’t want you to argue in front of the child.” Josue laughed at that.

"Well, it's just..." I argued. "But it seems like this anchor in my arms was unable to believe my luck at his face. I chuckled, unable to believe my luck in having someone who cares for me as much as David does. Before he could misinterpret my laughing, I said, “Don’t you know that you’re my rock? I mean, how the hell could I survive as such a spaz if I didn’t have you to lean on? Come here.” I pulled him close and embraced him with all my might, recognizing with both terror and relief that this anchor in my arms was the one thing keeping me on the pretty side of sanity.

To get an online version of this column, go to sdreader.com. You can print it, email it to friends, and get other columns and stories by Barbarella.
“I’ll smoke where I damn well please.”

Double-bladed, surgical steel guillotine cutter in hand, a fellow in a Hawaiian shirt slices off a little less than a quarter of an inch, and the cap falls to the floor. It’s a clean, decisive cut; the operation is a success, and the patient — Arturo Fuente, by name — is ready to go up in smoke, courtesy of a 2000-degree torch lighter. It’s 1:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Liberty Tobacco lounge, a shelter for “battered men,” of sorts — a place where gents take refuge from wives and work, hiding out amid glorious shrouds that emanate from robustos, perfectos, and countless other configurations. But (almost) no one ever inhales.
Smoking even a small cigar to the nub takes time; moreover, it’s not always easy to find a copacetic place — hell, even a passable venue — to light up in San Diego. What with outdoor smoking bans and petulant spouses, there’s a bit of planning involved.

But Draconian laws and social opprobrium are no deterrent — cigar lovers are a determined, feisty lot, hard to “snuff out.” I must confess to bias: I love cigars and will continue to smoke them, the surgeon general be dammed. Cigar smoking is not my only vice, but if I were inclined to hide any of my “bad” habits, it would be the most difficult to conceal, a difficulty understood by anyone who’s ever fired one up. Thus, in a generally cigar-unfriendly society (with San Diego probably as unfriendly as any large American city save for Salt Lake City), a key question arises: Where the hell can one relax, openly and without shame, with others who share this “vice”?

San Diego doesn’t have a “garment district” or a “jewelry district.” It doesn’t really have a “cigar district” either — few if any American cities do — but Kearny Mesa probably comes as close as any part of town. Drab and prosaic as it may be, far off any well-beaten tourist path, this landscape of mini-malls and gas stations has just about all the components of the USDA-prescribed (or is that “proscribed”?) “vice pyramid.” It’s got strip clubs, porno book stores, and greasy burger joints (an Original Tommy’s, no less) — as well as two full-on, no-excuses smoke shops replete with lounges. If San Diego has a “Stogie Central,” this neighborhood might be it, but, in truth, the local cigar scene is wherever a guy (or rarely, a gal) sits, stands, or reclines in smoky repose, nursing a rolled bunch of dried, aged leaves.

The cigar lounge is a relatively new fixture in San Diego County; it’s a venue that benefits from both governmental and spousal forces. California laws and local ordinances (banning smoking in bars, restaurants, and even beaches) — in conjunction with wives who’d rather smell a cloying scented candle (or a decomposing cat, for that matter) than the olfactory ambrosia that is a good cigar — make lounges a viable hideaway. One might describe the typical cigar lounge as a “men’s club”; while women are not prohibited from entering — and indeed, antidiscrimination laws would kick in something fierce if that were to occur — there aren’t a lot of broads around.

I chatted with Sam Gabriel, the hospitable owner of Cigars Vera Cruz, a smoke shop/lounge in San Marcos, whose mall location — near a Nordstrom Rack and other distasteful magnets — gives cigar smokers a pleasurable interlude while avoiding the painful tedium of watching their wives try on clothes. Sam told me most of his customers are indeed men, skewed toward the age 25–45 cohort with “good incomes.” When I asked him what draws smokers to the lounge, he replied that — beyond escaping wifely censure and the weather-related vagaries of outdoor smoking — “a lot of guys come here for the social aspect.” The place is reminiscent of an old-style steakhouse, a lot of dark wood and leather; there’s espresso brewing and a wine and beer license awaiting approval by state bureaucrats. Sam told me that his goal was to create an ultra-comfortable, luxurious spot where cigar smokers could relax. But the lounge is more than an adjunct to the shop — it’s vital to keeping the whole operation afloat even as cigar smokers turn increasingly to the Internet.

Back at Liberty, owner Charlie Hennegan, regarded in many (smoke-filled) circles as one of San Diego’s certified cigar mega-mavens, is guiding a novice smoker in the at first daunting business of selecting a good stick. Regulars filter in and out — Charlie knows them all by name. In the lounge, five or six guys, who range from perhaps 30 to 60 in age, tend to their favorite smokes in front of a wide-screen TV with the news on.

This is a lazy-afternoon type of place — no booze or food, just cigars and casual banter. Charlie says it’s his version of the “old-fashioned East Coast neighborhood smoke shop.”

I asked him about Liberty’s location, which, being next door to an Ethan Allen furniture store, seems to parallel that of Cigars Vera Cruz. Charlie says it’s copacetic. “Tell your wife, ‘Here’s the credit card, honey — see you in six or eight hours.’ “ The juxtaposition is amusing: just a few feet from the lazy cloud-drift of burnt tobacco, a predominate distaff clientele salivates over high-priced bedroom sets and tasteful couches, never contemplating that — should their vigilance flag — the coveted woods and precious fabrics might someday be permeated with spent cigar smoke.

In an industry buffeted by the whims of fashion — booms and busts — as well as the unrelenting fiscal assaults by bureaucrats, Charlie is a stalwart and a stayer; he’s been selling cigars for a long time. He knows a lot about these rolled-up leaves, and if you ask, he can tell you everything you’d want to know about cigars. Like any veteran tobacconist, he’s adept at explaining arcane terms like “ring gauge” (the way a cigar’s diameter is measured, in 1/64th-inch increments), ligero (the type of leaf that gives a cigar most of its kick), and so on.

The typical Liberty smoker is a man, somewhere north or south of middle aged — no surprises there; but gender and age aside, cigar smokers are a quirky, iconoclastic bunch, and in any smoke-shop gathering, one is likely to find a maverick or two. One of the more distinctive I’ve met is “Cabbie Chris,” a Liberty regular.
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3. In which cigar shop will you find San Diego’s largest walk-in humidor, home to about 10,000 fine cigars?

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See all 10 quiz questions on page 150

MY NEIGHBORHOOD

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

Deadline for this month is midnight, September 30.
A surprising number of runners and other exercise devotees dig cigars.

perhaps not: Can one enjoy cigars even as one leads a genuinely healthy, even athletic existence? Do the protestations of "public health" types — the killjoys who constantly issue fatwas against everything from meat to fast driving — have any merit? Getting down to specifics, will cigars (again, not inhaled, mind you) "cut your wind," rendering each step of a mundane 5K run progressively slower until one comes to a standstill? As it turns out, there are a surprising number of serious runners and other accomplished exercise devotees who dig these hand-rolled bundles; I spoke to several men whose athletic prowess seems to dispel (or at least cast doubt on) the nasty notion that cigars — whatever their other drawbacks — might inhibit cardiovascular health or performance in sports. Unless he told you while strapped to a polygraph machine, you’d never know that Marty Twite was a cigar man; I mean, for God’s sake, here’s a guy who has run a 10K race in 36 minutes, a time that placed him a lot closer to the top than the bottom in his age group.

At 50, he swims 3000 yards a day. Twite, an engineer with several patents to his credit, is lean, tanned, and lithe — every bit the picture of a SoCal endurance athlete — hardly the classic portrait of the portly, sedentary fat-cat stogie-chomper sitting at the dark end of a saloon. But smoke cigars he does, albeit only occasionally. He says, emphatically, that cigars have never hindered his performance; “It’s just not an issue.”

As I nosed around San Diego’s cigar lounges, I also spoke with several accomplished tennis players, a competitive bodybuilder, and even a fair-to-middling triathlete. Largely white-collar types, 25–50 years old, they all told me that they take fitness seriously but see no reason not to enjoy cigars. The triathlete, who, for obvious “image” reasons prefers to remain anonymous, laughed when I asked if he’d ever smoked a cigar before an event. “That’s a little over the top, but hey, after the race, I deserve a cigar and a six-pack. Just don’t tell the other guys.”

If cigar smoking doesn’t exclude the healthy, does it by chance exclude the less than wealthy? Thumbing through the slick pages of Cigar Aficionado, one might think so. “CA,” as it’s known — the best-known and certainly most opulent (some would say, most pretentious) media showcase for cigars — speaks reverently of a cigar “lifestyle,” replete with Ferraris, $15,000 tourbillon watches, $500 designer ashytrays, and museum-piece cigar cutters.
For affordable<br>San Diego</p>

September 25, 2008

Laughably unrealistic. cigarette smoker — and unattainable as they would be for the average cigarette smoker — laughably unrealistic. Sure, the cigar-smoking denizens of Rancho Santa Fe and La Jolla are more likely to own a walk-in humidor than the folks in, say, Clairemont, but even the most plebeian of locals can afford a good five-dollar cigar now and then. Many smokers at Liberty (the savviest and most value-conscious of San Diego cigar smokers with whom I spoke) pay less. Willing to overlook tiny, cosmetic blemishes that often trip up big-name smokes in quality-control drills, they find "seconds," like the ones made by H. Upmann and others, more than adequate at around two bucks a stick.

Even if outlandish accommodations aren’t commonplace, it seems that San Diego’s cigar buffs aren’t reluctant to shell out cash for high-end cigars, a fact borne out at Cigars Vera Cruz, which sells a surprising number of expensive handmades. When I asked Sam what his best sellers were, he answered, without hesitation, “Padron Series 1926 and 1964, especially the #9.” I’d never before associated San Marcos with the “high life” (save Miller, perhaps), but the popularity of these Nicaraguan Padron paros (single-country-origin tobacco), at $12–$25 a pop, gave me pause.

The pleasures of small luxuries aside, one is not likely to encounter the ultra-wealthy at any San Diego County cigar smoke shop/lounge. Unless you’re downtown, at Seaport Village, or maybe Del Mar or La Jolla — it’s just a bunch of local guys — disposable incomes aside — attempting in some inchoate fashion to reconstruct a few of the social connections severed by the new “connectivities” of our times.

Part of the sociability of the cigar scene derives from the sense that cigars, as they’re marketed, are an indulgence that — while available to all — are meant to appeal to folks who appreciate the “finer things in life.” There seems to be some truth behind this construct; while not in any real sense an “elite” group, San Diego’s cigar smokers would appear to be discernibly different from their distant, desultory cousins, the cigarets. One man’s take was emblematic. Dave G. was first in cigar-speak, a corona (six inches long with a 46-ring gauge diameter) supplied by a fellow financial planner at a backyard gathering. “I’d never smoked tobacco before,” he told me. He’d always regarded cigarettes as the province of white trash, the uneducated and unsophisti- cated, the corpulent Wal-Mart shoppers who didn’t give a shit about their health. He mused, “You know, when I bought my first box of cigars, I thought, ‘Here I am, a guy with a couple of advanced degrees, “I lit up a cigar and proceeded to get very sick.”

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from a family of physicians, no less; I’d been warned about the dangers of tobacco for decades. Could I really enjoy these things? Yes, I thought, hell yes! “Nevertheless, his wife and kids still give him grief, which is why — when he tires of the stale solitude of his garage — he heads for a cigar lounge or cigar dinner. Even if your wife doesn’t condemn cigars — doesn’t require that you undergo a full-body skin transplant before you step inside the bedroom and tolerates breath that smells like the lobby of a downtown flop house — there are more than enough politicians (including some who actually smoke them) who’d like to tax cigars out of existence. If Charlie Hennegan has a nemesis, and his supremely mild manner would suggest few enemies, it’s the tax man. Charlie’s first cigar, a very mild Macanudo, did not portend a future as a “man of the world” — so I lit up a cigar and proceeded to get very sick. But after learning how to smoke without inhaling, he discovered the joys of the leaf and began the smoky trail that would take him from “green” novice to standout retailer and champion of cigar smokers.

I first met Charlie Hennegan in 1997 at a book-signing event at the Borders bookstore in Carmel Mountain; he was there in conjunction with Dale Scott, who’d penned a quirky little volume, How to Select and Enjoy Premium Cigars. By then, he’d owned Liberty (where he started as a customer) for a dozen years. Not long after that, as I became a Liberty “regular” (well, not as regular as some), I realized that Hennegan and Scott had something in common beyond cigar “aficionado” status — a live-and-let-live libertarianism that not only recognizes but celebrates the sort of visceral pleasure one derives from good food, drink, and smoke. But Charlie does more than extol the virtues of a well-made cigar; he’s actually a political activist, of sorts. Beyond his informal role as a cigar “goodwill ambassador,” he’s an advocate for an industry that he feels has been unfairly singled out for criticism and abused by outrageous taxation.

Soft-spoken, low-key, and downright courtly, Charlie doesn’t seem like a guy who’d carry a grudge; but if he has one, it might be directed at Rob Reiner and his fellow Hollywood types who’ve (successfully) urged Califor-
nia to impose, in recent years, some of America’s most onerous tobacco taxes. As vice president of CART, the California Association of Retail Tobacconists — a 350-store trade group he helped found a decade ago — Charlie has long battled sanctimonious politicos. “Over the years,” he tells me, “I’ve expended a lot of energy fighting [California ballot initiatives] Propositions 10 and 86.”

Few things in life make Charlie fume (and he’s hard to vex) like the blowhard bureaucrat who’d like nothing better than to tax cigars right out of existence — or at least make them available only to their well-heeled benefactors. Charlie also bristles at the refusal of politicians and others who, atop the high horse of “public health,” willfully fail to distinguish between cigars and cigarettes. In a peculiar way, Liberty Tobacco — with its humorous cartoons and articles posted on walls, counters, and cabinets — reminds me of an “activist” bookstore or record shop with a patriotic (but libertarian) slant, all of it filtered through a pleasant haze of burning leaves.

Second on the “most wanted” list of any tobacconist is the online seller, typified by giants like Cigar International and Thompson Cigar. Huge volume, the lack of state sales tax, efficient shipping, and most of all, avoidance of California’s massive tobacco tax have enabled Internet smoke shops to cut into the locals’ territory. But unlike some small businesses — San Diego’s nearly extinct
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If you have questions about this study or are interested in participating, you should contact:

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UCSD Department of Radiology:
619-543-5830
rhalterman@ucsd.edu

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...how about an inhaled study drug?

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- Male or female, 18-65 years of age
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• Be mistaken for medical conditions

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Depression

steals more than your mood;
It robs you of life's pleasures.

Have you lost interest in life? Feeling sad or alone? Sleeping less or too much? Are you experiencing any of these symptoms of depression?

If so, consider participating in a medical research study of an investigational drug for depression.

Must be 18-65 years old.

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Finding answers together - since 1981
ings like the Fuente “Opus X” and the Perdomo “Presidente.”

When I asked him whether the economy was hurting business these days, he replied that the tourists, notably travelers from England, Germany, and Scandinavia, are still coming in numbers. “They’re here on vacation, out to have a good time. They don’t think anything of spending 20, even 30 bucks for a cigar; for them, it’s part of the relaxing San Diego experience. Summer is ‘high season’ around here, and we expect to be busy as usual.” But can you smoke on the merry-go-round?

Like Charlie Hennegan and Harry Hunt, Sam Gabriel agreed that the Internet is a big problem for local tobacconists. Sam says that his business would be “three times” greater without the competitive disadvantages faced by California smoke shops. He explained that, courtesy of Sacramento politicians, he is forced to pay $45.13 in taxes for every $100 of tobacco he buys. This punitive tax — in conjunction with the (better-known) absence of Internet sales tax, as well as the realities of economy of scale — renders it impossible for local shops to compete on price. So the neighborhood tobacconist must rely on personalized service and ambience to create customer loyalty that, built over years, trumps price often enough to keep the shop in business.

Most San Diego-area smoke shops sell the top, nationally distributed brands, typified by high-end players like Padron 1926 and 1964, Arturo Fuente Opus X, Davidoff, and other “special occasion” sticks — many of which retail for $12–$25 a pop. Every smoke shop also offers good-quality — albeit, less-sought-after — handmade cigars for as little as $2 each. There are variations in selection, but most smokers I met say that a good smoke can be had at a number of stores, which means that competing retailers, most of whom know each other, must take other, non-tobacco measures to differentiate themselves.

“Liberty is king,” says John Davidson of Churchill Cigar Lounge in Old Town. But that doesn’t mean Churchill can’t compete. Although it’s a small shop (800 square feet) without a walk-in humidor, Davidson says it does a booming business because of its close-knit cadre of regulars, its outdoor smoking patio, and perhaps most notably, its...
extraordinary selection of prestigious wine and beer. Davidson says that on Thursday and Friday nights, it's "standing room only" as the guys, all of whom know one another, gather to watch the "eye candy" strolling by the patio — comely tourist women in Old Town for trinkets and margaritas but never cigars. That's the incongruous thing about Churchill: while located in the heart of the reconstituted, prepackaged remnants of Old San Diego, it draws few out-of-towners.

While no slouch in the premium cigar department, Churchill, according to Davidson, differs from other local cigar joints because it focuses on wine and beer connoisseurs, who stop by even if they're ambivalent about cigars. Davidson hints that wine — there are 650 bottles in the cooler — might just subsidize smoke here. With audible enthusiasm, he points to offerings like Sea Smoke pinot noir, which he says is "snapped up" at $125 a bottle as soon as word gets out that it's in stock. As for beer, Churchill boasts four Belgian ales on tap, said to be quite unusual in San Diego.

As vital as cigar lounges are to San Diego's cigar scene, a lot of smoking still takes place out of doors, sometimes out of choice; many cigar smokers crave the added relaxation that comes with solitude and, as odd as it may sound, would rather not inhale secondhand smoke, even their own. Some repair to the back yard, but often as not, the neighborhood soundtrack of screaming kids, yapping dogs, and lawn mowers make quiet reflection a joke.

In San Diego proper, and in other local municipalities, local political hacks — not content with Draconian drinking bans — have made most of the traditional outside cigar settings (beaches, parks, golf courses, and sports stadiums) off limits. Even where enforcement is spotty, there are always officious intermeddlers ready to rat out scofflaws; nonetheless, I spoke to a number of guys who said, in effect, "I'll smoke where I damn well please." On the other hand, there are still a few scenic venues, like Torrey Pines State Beach, where you can fire up a Lonsdale or Churchill without fear of Orwellian consequences — but you'll still have to fight the wind and perhaps a few dirty looks.

What about smoking while eating? The cigar dinner is another way that San Diegans take in their smoke, albeit not as frequently as during the boom days of the 1990s. (Only restaurants with outside seating areas can host...
Depressed, Low energy, Uninterested, Guilt
You are not alone...
1 in 6 people experience depression.
You may be suffering from a severe form of depression if you experience the following symptoms:
• Depressed mood or sadness
• Loss of interest or pleasure in things you normally enjoy
• Trouble sleeping and/or low energy
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• Strong feelings of guilt and/or suspicion
• Having unusual experiences such as hearing voices or sounds, or seeing things that aren’t real
Medical researchers in your area are currently enrolling participants in a clinical study evaluating an investigational drug for the treatment of a severe form of depression. Participants must be 22-75 years old and be experiencing symptoms of depression. Participation will include a confidential evaluation by a psychiatrist, all study-related visits, physical exams, and study drug at no cost. For more information, please call 760-639-4378

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Whatever you call it, Methamphetamine Addiction is very difficult to kick. North County Clinical Research is conducting a 28-week study of an investigational medication for the treatment of methamphetamine addiction.

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Compensation for your time and travel is provided. All inquires will be kept confidential.

Migraine Headache Research Study
If you have migraines, you are not alone. Contact our office to participate in an investigational research study of an inhaled study medication for adult migraine sufferers.

You may qualify if you:
• Are 18-65 years of age and have been diagnosed having monthly migraine headaches for at least one year
• Have at least in the last 6 months an average of 2 but not greater than 8 migraine headaches per month
• Can attend clinic visits every two weeks over a 1-8-week study period
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To qualify, you must:
• Be between 18 and 80 years of age
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• Between the ages of 18 and 55 • Have trouble staying asleep through the night • In overall good health

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• Have a diagnosed depressive episode within the past 5 years
• Have had a depressive episode within the past 5 years
• Be impacted by your daily life by your sleep problems

If you answered yes to all of these questions, you may be eligible for our investigational drug research study! If you qualify and choose to participate, you will receive physician consultations, study-related medical examinations, laboratory evaluations and follow-up visits at no charge. You may receive study medication, health insurance is not required and compensation for time and travel is provided.

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

“i feel controlled by my anxiety.”

If you feel this way, you are not alone.

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

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

If you are interested in learning more about this study, please contact:
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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.

To qualify, you must:
• You have been diagnosed with bipolar I and are currently experiencing a depressive episode
• You have a history of at least one bipolar manic or mixed episode

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

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

Do you suffer from Severe reflux or Heartburn?

We are looking for volunteers to take part in a clinical trial of a new study drug.

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Medical Associates Research Group Inc.
858-277-7177

This project has been approved by the Medical Associates Research Group ethics committee.

www.MARGINC.com

Is waking up tonight affecting your tomorrow?

Do you or someone you know have trouble staying asleep? Is it affecting daytime activities?

A study of an investigational medication is under way for people who have trouble staying asleep, characterized by waking up throughout the night (sleep maintenance insomnia).

To qualify for participation in this research study, you must:
• Be at least 18 years old • Have trouble staying asleep through the night • Be impacted by 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 examinations and laboratory evaluations, all follow-up visits, and you may receive study medication at no charge to you. Compensation for time and travel provided.

If you are interested in learning more about this study, please contact:
(619) 688-6565
See our website: www.ari-inc.com
leaves themselves hail almost exclusively from those banana republics, as well as from Brazil, Cameroon, the Canary Islands, Ecuador, Indonesia, and Mexico. But, for those who seek a smoke straight from the roller's table — and can't afford the tariff or hassle of trekking to Esteli, Nicaragua, or Santiago in the Dominican Republic — San Diego offers a surprising option.

Not many American cities of any size have their own chinchal, but San Diego does — downtown's Cuban Cigar Factory, which bills itself as the largest manufacturer of hand-rolled cigars on the West Coast. “Largest” is relative, of course; chinchal is a Cuban term for “small factory,” apparently slightly disparaging at one time but viewed by old-timers and revivalists alike as the mark of a tradition that refuses to die. San Diego would seem an unlikely place for a chinchal.

There were thousands of chinchales — or “buckeyes,” as they were known in some parts — in the America of 1900; eventually, though, the independent cigar makers fell by the wayside, persisting only in places like Miami’s Little Havana, Tampa’s Ybor City, and Union City, New Jersey. Although the cigar boom of the early to mid-’90s spurred a modest renewal of the neighborhood cigar-roller, the subsequent cigar “bust” has restricted the chinchales largely to locales where Cubans have emigrated en masse — and San Diego isn’t one of them.

So it seemed incongruous when the Cuban Cigar Factory opened its doors in the early 1990s, joining the Gran Havana Cigar factory across the street.

At one time, Cuban Cigar had eight rollers, largely Cuban exiles from cigar-rolling families. But the cigar business is a volatile one; even with the demise of Gran Havana — which was later bulldozed out of existence by the City of San Diego’s eminent domain–powered “redemption” assault — the place has become a one-man chinchal. According to Chrissie Avery, long-time manager, customers have increasingly sought name brands; perhaps, concomitantly, the novelty of smoking specimens “fresh off the table” has declined.

Nowadays, there’s just Julio, a veritable one-man rolling machine, a Dominican who can roll a cigar in 13 seconds (they’ve timed him) and...
Almost 24 million Americans have a life altering disease, but you would never know by looking at them. Type 2 Diabetes is a challenge affecting millions. Current research is being conducted to evaluate an investigational oral medication for Type 2 Diabetes, but your help is needed. Profil Institute for Clinical Research is seeking volunteers with Type 2 Diabetes.

**To qualify, you must be:**
- 30-75 years of age
- A non-smoker and otherwise healthy
- Treating your condition with diet and exercise alone or up to two Oral Anti-Diabetic medications, no insulin
- (If female) post-menopausal or surgically sterile

For your participation you may be compensated up to $2,850 for time and travel, and will receive study-related medical care at no cost. Ten overnight stays and some outpatient visits are required.

For more information, call
619-409-1262

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Do You Have Type 2 Diabetes? Are You Taking Insulin?

Profil Institute for Clinical Research is conducting a research study of an investigational medication for Type 2 Diabetes.

**To qualify, you must be:**
- A Type 2 Diabetic
- Taking insulin (You can be on oral anti-diabetic medications, as well)
- 18-65 years old
- Male or female (if female must be practicing an effective method of birth control)
- A non-smoker or smoke less than 10 cigarettes a day

Qualified participants will receive study-related medical care at no cost and may receive up to $4,050 for time and travel. Eleven overnight stays and five study visits are required.

For more information, call
619-409-1243
who's been known to pump out up to 1000 sticks a day (the industry average is around 300). He's been rolling his own for decades now — using over 100 different wooden molds to help shape the leaves. As many cigar-makers do, he strives to recapture the taste of pre-Castro Cuba — the stuff of legend that, in the years between the Spanish-American War and the Bay of Pigs, shouted, "Cuba libre!" to much of the world.

As is the case with most chinchales, wherever located, Cuban Cigar's smokes are mostly (save for a "vintage" line aged three to five years) "fresh" — unaged, awaiting purchase straight off the roller's table. So, I asked — notwithstanding the modest price range of $3–$7: Why would I buy San Diego–made cigars instead of the myriad well-aged products available at local shops? Avery replied that the moist, vegetal (more "plant-like") sticks were an "interesting experience" and tend to have a better draw than their aged counterparts. However, she did admit that 45 days in one's humidor might enhance them a bit.

Perhaps the most striking thing about Cuban Cigar isn't its role as a chinchal but the fact that one of its mainstays is a woman in an unabashedly male business. Chrissie smokes what she sells — two to four sticks a month. She also told me that 35 percent of her customers are women, and while perhaps half of them are buying gifts for husbands or boyfriends, quite a few are (gasp!) purchasing for their own enjoyment. True, many of these cigars are small, flavored numbers — but they're still cigars.

I asked smoky San Diegans: What does it take to be considered a "hard-core" cigar smoker? As is the case with drinking — the "heavy" indulger is often characterized as one who "partakes" more than you do. Still, as I interviewed local cigar store owners and smoke shop/lounge patrons, I uncovered a rough consensus as to what it might take to be deemed a truly dedicated cigar buff. First, there's the matter of inhalation: very few people inhale cigars, and those who do are considered weird (not to mention strong candidates for pulmonary disease). Churchill’s John Davidson told me that, in all his years in the business, he’d encountered probably "just a handful" of inhalers and that (in so many words) they were "nobs." Charlie Hennegan said he couldn’t think of anyone who’d do it voluntarily and added, “It’s your choice, but I know if I inhaled, I wouldn’t feel very good.”

Then there’s quantity, Charlie opines that two to three or more every day might put you in the hard-core category. Harry Hunt puts the daily threshold at four. In Davidson’s view, five or more cigars a day makes one “hard core”; while Tom Gabriel says you’ve got to fire up at least six to eight. Chrissie Avery (recalling the prodigious puffing of "Ivan," a former Cuban Cigar employee) puts the figure at ten. Tom Kalasha says that ten sticks a day are the minimum entrance requirement for the hard-core stogie society.

All San Diego cigar buffs seem to agree, though — ultimately, tallying the number of smokes per day is as peripheral to enjoyment as is precisely measuring the length of ash hanging from a burning cigar. It’s all about relaxation and repose, perhaps with a bit of simpatico interaction thrown into the blend, in a setting far from wives and politicians, where one is free to smoke, smoke, smoke — but (almost) never inhale.

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San Diego Reader September 12, 2006 41
Saturday Night, and everyone was going out to dinner — even the six-inch black-and-silver tarantula in the driveway, heading to our house.

It was very delicate and graceful. It sort of leaned back on its hind legs as we drove by, as if to say, “What the hell was that? Japanese anime?” Tarantula was very elegant and probably better dressed than we were.

Sometimes living here feels like that Walter Mosley book Always Outnumbered, Always Outgunned with all these predators around. They are always hungry. The wasps, the yellow jackets, the snakes, the lizards, the hawks, the birds, that pesky gopher and his family, the mosquito fish, the cat — and then there’s always the Labrador and the coyotes, just to mention a few.

So that’s a slice of life served up at the Bear Valley Café. Just another food-chain event: a thousand and one stories. We just happen to be a little closer to nature than most of the urban set of San Diego. If the prices at the market keep going up, we might be sharing whatever the cat brings in. You know those snakes taste just like chicken if you cook ’em right...and some of those mosquito fish in the lily ponds are bigger than sardines. Keep this up and we could end up on The Food Channel or else cited by Fish and Wildlife for something or other. Stay tuned.

**Last Call**

Monday night the coyotes went out to dinner at about 11 p.m. with their usual demeanor: howling and cackling down the hill and through the ravines. Only, last night, around 3 a.m., after the bars have closed and the casinos are still on a roll, there was one mournful voice, a plaintive howl. First from down near Guejito Road, then ten minutes later from the hill above the house.

The quality of the song was sad and mystifying to me. A solo, one-note call that went unanswered. I figured it hadn’t been a good hunt, and perhaps dinner was scarce.

So this morning, on the way down the grade, there was a coyote body beside the road. Death had been quick, and my 50 mph glance registered a beautiful but smaller coyote. Multihued fur. Coming back from the lake or Guejito Valley. It just didn’t make it across the road. Blinded by the headlights. Close, but not enough.

So that explained that solo cry last night. One is missing. Probably a mate; certainly a family member. One that will not hunt again.

By the headlights. Close, but not enough.

On the hill and through the ravines. Only, last night, around 3 a.m., after the bars have closed and the casinos are still on a roll, there was one mournful voice, a plaintive howl. First from down near Guejito Road, then ten minutes later from the hill above the house.

The quality of the song was sad and mystifying to me. A solo, one-note call that went unanswered. I figured it hadn’t been a good hunt, and perhaps dinner was scarce.

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So that explained that solo cry last night. One is missing. Probably a mate; certainly a family member. One that will not hunt again. And the song was sung to the stars, and their cold beauty did not answer.

Last night at 3 a.m., a lone coyote howls. A curious two note, one note, and an extended howl, repeated several times. Enough to wake the Labrador, who woke me just in case I didn’t hear the coyote. There was no response to this song of the night. It was repeated several times, and it was solo.

The body beside the road was gone yesterday. •

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There are also unnatural silences. Something you wanted to say was interrupted by someone and did not come into being. It is the echo of the biblical parable about the plowman scattering seeds. Only a few fall on fertile ground; the rest are lost: the wind carries them away, the rains fail, untimely frost comes. Someone you love is not speaking to you, and you don’t know why. You leave messages on his telephone device, and you hear his recorded voice telling you that he’ll “get back to you as soon as possible.” But the message is never returned. You talk to his friends, and they are evasive. My son, my firstborn, the artist with his moods, the funny one who makes everyone laugh, the one for whom I fought bitterly with his father, is not speaking to me right now.

What has happened is a shift in relationship between father, son, and absentee mother. For many difficult years, I played the role of the buffer between two bucks locking each other with their horns. The arena was most often the dining room during our evening meal. And because the verbal abuse from the older male so devastated the younger one, I intuitively sided with the latter, even when he had obviously incited his father with righteous indignation. It is as natural as stepping on your brakes on a dark road when your car headlights are reflected in two terrified eyes. You swerve off the straight course of the road — anything to avoid killing a creature. No, it is not rational, but neither is having a baby.

The role I played in this triangle came to an abrupt stop when I recently left San Diego for a teaching position in Monterey for a year. The two were left to redefine their relationship (so I hear from his father). They teamed up; a team united against me. Is this my story or my “prodigal” son’s? Is this my silence, or his? The Scriptures don’t concern themselves with the mother’s feelings toward her estranged child, only the father’s joy upon his return. Is it possible that he sees me as the prodigal mother, after his father and I were divorced five years ago and I have since remarried? Through this chasm I’ve come to understand the shock of the recognition that we are extensions of each other, although I had the misfortune of being born as a female into a world that relegated our sex to the function of being cheerful, practical, and superficially amusing.

Above all, to keep our mouths shut on major issues. My husband and his peers, all physicians throughout San Diego, were convinced that women in the late ’60s, after such personalities as Betty Friedan and Germaine Greer had published their views on feminism, had lost sight of their primary function as women (meaning me in particular) and that they (meaning me in particular) talked too much. The fact that women talked at all was too much. I unfortunately had majored in philosophy and literature, both grounded in language.

I see my son as the person I used to be

---

**Something to remember**

Silence is the necessary time for renewal.

The finale of a great symphony is followed by the resplendent moment just before the applause, when the entire work resounds like a golden coin dropped into a silver chalice. I’ve known silences when thoughts seem to have thought and written themselves. Even the minute pauses between beautiful words, like the spaces between pearls on a string, afford meaning: they illuminate each other in a network of relationships.

There are also unnatural silences. Something you wanted to say was interrupted by someone and did not come into being. It is the echo of the biblical parable about the plowman scattering seeds. Only a few fall on fertile ground; the rest are lost: the wind carries them away, the rains fail, untimely frost comes. Someone you love is not speaking to you, and you don’t know why. You leave messages on his telephone device, and you hear his recorded voice telling you that he’ll “get back to you as soon as possible.” But the message is never returned. You talk to his friends, and they are evasive. My son, my firstborn, the artist with his moods, the funny one who makes everyone laugh, the one for whom I fought bitterly with his father, is not speaking to me right now.

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ored cliché that “boys will be boys.”

One Christmas we loaded up four little children, our own and two neighbors’, on the back of our gentle mare Chacha, decked out in red ribbons and Christmas bells to create the illusion of authentic Christmas, and went from door to door caroling to the accompaniment of my baritone recorder, a relic from my childhood in Germany, where I was born during the war. 

I remember my first school year only vaguely: children were ruled by stern but caring nuns. I was obedient, on the fringe of circumstances that obligated my mother to concern herself with raw survival for herself and her five children. The flip side of my shyness was a kind of private world I had invented for myself, a world that was full of furry animals. For in the years following Germany’s defeat, such necessities as food were so scarce that having a family pet was a luxury. I would dream that I would have a kitten (I had even named it Mitzi) and keep it in my room, take it to school, and seat it on the chair next to me during classes. It would be taken for a stroll in the doll carriage around the garden of the old, well-preserved house in which we lived for a time in a little town on the Rhine near the Dutch border. During that time, my father worked in Hanover as a physicist. Transit systems were still erratic, and so he came home so seldom that his occasional visits with us seemed like an intrusion.

One day, after I had come home from school and placed my leather book bag into the kitchen where my mother was, she told me in a mysterious voice to go into the parlor. When I asked her what was in the parlor, she whispered “a kitty.” I tiptoed into the formal room where we children were normally not allowed, and there, curled up on the pale blue satin divan, was the gaunt figure of a man sleeping — my father, who had unexpectedly come home. I remember standing there a long time, watching him, awed, intimidated, and slightly disappointed that the “kitty” I had envisioned as red striped turned out to be this man.

During those few days he was with us, I would try to get his attention from his mathematics books and notes by anthropomorphizing the abstract symbols dancing across the pages, inventing dialogues and a course of action for them, like the ones I was familiar with from my story books. A certain symbol seemed to be standing on one leg, like Rumpelstiltskin, and I attributed the same sinister characteristics to it. The attraction between the mathematician-father and the dreamer-child was based on a curious selective affinity: we were light years apart in consciousness but found a common world beyond talk. While he pretended that he did not know I was there, I watched him silently while he was working on his math problems — understanding nothing of what he was doing, yet understanding.

What did Andrew experience when his father returned after the long separation imposed on us by circumstances that had sent his father to a MASH hospital in Vietnam? Andy (I’ve changed his name in this story) was little enough not to have a clear idea as to who this stranger in uniform was.
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During the months of his absence, I had been an indulgent parent. Everywhere I went, my babies went—an indulgence born from necessity. After my husband’s internship in Philadelphia was completed, we came to San Diego, where he was initiated into navy life prior to being assigned duty in Vietnam in 1965. I had no family here and few acquaintances. We lived in a small but attractive A-frame house in Clairemont, and I filled those days with outings to the zoo, the beach, Scripps Aquarium, and Balboa Park. One day I had promised them a picnic, but this plan was canceled by rain. Nevertheless we picnicked: we spread our blanket over the king-sized bed, passed out paper plates and cups, put on our beach clothes, and rigged up the standing lamp from the living room with a yellow floodlight in lieu of the sun that would not come out for us. When Andy’s dad came back, these funficial games came to a stop. Gone were those long evenings past normal bedtime when we three would curl up on the day bed in the guest room with quilts, mugs of hot chocolate, and Graham crackers, and the family cat Mishka to watch the Johnny Carson show. Their father, understandably, demanded proper bedtime. I don’t think he comprehended that their habits were the extension of my loneliness and served to keep my nagging fear, the fear that he might never return from this fearsome eight months away from the shores of our country, on the periphery of my thoughts.

Now that he was back, he was obviously the intruder into their cozy microcosm. Surely they were not entirely delighted with his commitment to some “long-overdue discipline.” It had not occurred to me before that they were “bad.” I never thought that undivided time and attention could “spoil” a child. Consequently, their habits were the extension of my loneliness and served to keep my nagging fear, the fear that he might never return from this fearsome eight months away from the shores of our country, on the periphery of my thoughts.

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sophisticated, almost comically adult way of talking was the anathema to the imperative that children should be seen and not heard, especially after 8:00 p.m., and was met with typically childlike impudence. My husband, determined to re-establish himself as the authority figure, set up a list of house rules. It was intended to be in their best interest, as was the decision to move to La Mesa: children are supposed to have space, room for play, clean air, good schools within walking distance, and safe streets.

We became suburbanized. If my husband’s busy schedule as a young physician permitted, weekends were planned around the poolside. We always insisted that our friends bring their children also. Summers we played round-robin tennis, we barbecued, we took our annual cultural pilgrimage to Carmel’s Bach festival, and went to Europe every other year for a month while the boys were farmed out to their grandparents. Winters we packed up for ski vacations in Utah and California’s Sierra Nevada. Both our boys were expert skiers by their tenth year.

While the other mothers drove their children to the obligatory Little League, Pop Warner, and Bobbie Sox practices and Cub Scout meetings, I chauffeured mine to violin and piano lessons, youth rehearsals in the park, and whatever art workshops for children were sponsored during the summer months. Everything evolved around the activities of the children, and we mothers in our station wagons were essentially means to their end.

Ever since then, I’ve asked myself if this really was in their best interest. Did we perhaps create a generation of children who saw their mothers as chauffeuring devices and their fathers as blank checks? Everything had been handed to them. Their parents virtually arranged their dinner time around Little League games, their school athletic activities, and their orthodontia appointments. Even their teachers were a commodity to them. Each mother, determined to get her offspring into the gifted program, would invariably hold her child’s teacher responsible for mediocre grades. Ironically, a lot of these “gifted” children struck me as incredibly mediocre. We were bent on reshaping the world, instead of preparing our children for the world.

But even then we could not spare them from the reality of drugs lurking around the corner. First it was so subtle that it was a temptation to ignore the whole matter as the first few sprinkles of raindrops might be the downpour may never occur. But drugs were ubiquitous.

During the early ‘70s, when Andrew was still in grade school, my husband and I came home from a concert one evening to find our medicine cabinet in a state of disarray. I suspected the babysitter, particularly since soon after, on another occasion, we found her drunk in a puddle of her own vomit on the couch. After that we...
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and it dawned on me only much later that they were not smoking cigarettes. I did, however, relay what I had witnessed to the boys’ parents out of purely parental concern. Their reaction was unanimous denial: they had questioned their sons, who insisted that they had not smoked pot or drunk beer. Their boys were church affiliated and therefore did not lie. The case was closed.

About a week later, I found my mailbox torn off and lying in a nearby ditch. Soon after, our tenderly-raised koi were floating belly-up on the surface of the lily pond, obviously poisoned. One day my husband came in with our Burmese kitten, which he had found fatally shot through the head with a pellet gun under the orange trees. A favorite activity among the boys was to raid barely ripe avocados from our trees at nighttime, in their haste breaking off delicate branches. I could have sworn that I bought my own fruits on the corner of Avocado and Fuerte Drive sold by the same boys.

And then, gradually, I noticed Andy becoming more secretive. His grades dropped, and he became surly and noncommunicative. Once I overheard on the telephone, “Well, can’t you get hold of your grandma’s birthday money tonight?” a reference to a fifty-dollar gift from my mother, which I had insisted he put into his savings account. This was the beginning of his high school involvement in drugs. I was so anxiety-ridden that I wondered to what extent it contributed to my progressive estrangement from my husband, or was I confusing cause and effect? Was Andy’s problem the result of the rift between his father and me when I discovered that he had been chronically unfaithful? (I won’t digress into a psychological analysis here, although all of us did consult with a psychologist.)

The final blow came when we received a phone call during Andy’s senior year: our son was at the El Cajon police station. Apparently, he had leaned up with a group of boys, the ring-leader and driver of which had lifted a bottle of hard liquor from his father’s supply. They were arrested in a parking lot passing the bottle around and shouting obscenities when a policeman found them. My husband, after picking up Andy at 1:00 a.m., declared that he was through with him, ready to kick him out. And I was heart sick unto death.

Should I have sided with his father? How do you throw out a child, confused, troubled, with no place to go? I was prepared to decide that if I had to choose, I would choose my son — all the while assessing that perhaps I had not really been a “good” mother. It occurred to me that we had given him “things” and invariably turned him into a consumer at the expense of any spiritual insights.

One April afternoon, as I was talking among the trees in the garden, all this came to me in a single moment, a moment as pristine as the air that day. I remember it had just rained; that spring had been unusually wet, and there was a rainbow over the canyon. The moment was bathed in pure light and so still that you could hear the silence. I was inspecting the
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avocado trees below and the orange trees on the second level for pests, then the vegetables, berries, and fruit trees on the third terrace, and I met with our resident skunk munching on the strawberries. Come to think of it, I haven’t mentioned all the animals that took up residence with us over the years. There was a baby raccoon that someone had dropped off once; he hadn’t been weaned, and we nursed him to maturity before depositing him at Wildcat Canyon. There were two ducks, the result of giving in to a whim against my better judgment on Easter. These two downy golden fluffballs grew up to discover that our pool could be reached by flying over the gate; they found their eventual permanent home in the duck pond by Anthony’s Fish Grotto off Highway 8. For a while we had a rosy boa constrictor on the premises who was friendly enough to slither onto the back patio, much to the horror of some of our more timid visitors. There was a bantam rooster named Chanticleer who habitually attacked our cross-eyed Siamese cat, and a yellow sheepdog who one day tried to cross Avocado Boulevard while my son and his friends “sold” avocados and was fatally hit by a car.

Yes, it looked like paradise, but a paradise rotting at the center. Our personal lives were elsewhere: my son’s...
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was with his drugs, mine with my graduate studies (I had enrolled at UCSD after encouragement from the psychologist I was seeing), my husband’s with one or the other beach community hospital — or mistress. On top of everything, he had taken up surfing, while a hired pool cleaner continued to clean our pool, which no one used anymore. The admiring comments of friends and visitors about how beautiful this place was had only elicited a sense of guilt in me. If this was so idyllic, why was everyone so dissatisfied?

Early in our marriage, we had lived in a gently rundown brownstone house in the heart of Philadelphia near Jefferson Medical University. Walking was the most efficient method of getting about. The park near our house was full of university students, business people...
on their lunch breaks, and young mothers pushing baby carriages. There were bookstores and coffee shops, and, contrary to what people say about city folks, my neighbors were friendly. I guess I am essentially an urban spirit. I love the excitement of city life. I had been declared an insomniac by my husband, yet in Paris, where we stayed in a hotel in one of the noisiest parts of the city near the Champs-Élysées, I would open the window and go to sleep to the lullaby of roaring traffic that never lets up.

On my birthday in 1980, we moved to the beach; our neighbors on Sunset Cliffs Boulevard were a cross section of all kinds of people: old people who had lived there for forty-five years, young singles, people with children, career women. The day we settled in there, I already felt better. The streets were full of joggers, cyclists, and, yes, tourists going for a stroll. You could actually walk to the post office or to the neighborhood store to buy a carton of milk. That first summer, I talked to more strangers on the cliffs across from our house, many of whom were foreigners visiting California, than I had all those years in La Mesa.

Is this a happy ending? Yes and no. Andy enrolled as a student at SDSU upon graduating from Point Loma High School and made a clean break with drugs when he joined the University cycling team. He is also a very talented artist, living near the campus. Unfortunately, I could not save my marriage. I am since then remarried — happily, I should say. Andy is learning to become friends with his father, although I wish it weren’t at my expense. The consequent silence between us is possibly two-sided; what I’ve experienced as an unnatural rift between us is most likely a period of renewal for him. When the time is right, he will know where to find me, I am sure of it.

Before I left for Monterey last spring, I took a drive out to the old neighborhood. The hillsides, which later in the summer burn to a terra cotta brown, were still green. The eucalyptus trees gave off a pristine yet intoxicating fragrance; the avocado trees were in their prime, covering the ground in front of the circular driveway like green cupolas. The acacias lining the left side up to the pool level were in full bloom, the magnolias on the uppermost terrace serving as a natural fence on the north side were in bloom, as were the almond and plum trees. I did not recognize the family name on the mailbox; the people who bought the house from us must have sold it since then. Many of the families who lived there when we did have been split by divorce and another set of families has moved in. Nothing much had changed, really, except that the street that I remember teeming with children was deserted. But it could be that school had not let out yet. As I sat in my car on the street at the bottom of my former driveaway, wondering if someone would come by whom I’d recognize, I experienced the taste of salty tears in the back of my throat. It passed quickly, and no one came by. Yes, the place was beautiful, but my husband and I have already decided that we will live in Hillcrest or Kensington when we return to San Diego this fall.

— Susanne Kimball

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San Diego Reader September 25, 2008 57
LETTERS
continued from page 12

Kudos to Jeff Smith. Please keep doing your research and writing. And, yes, I am a California native and moved to North County in 1955.

Jens Morrison
San Marcos

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

Pop Music, by Jay Allen Sanford
Published September 17
Posted by ymmmsari from September 17, 5:19 p.m.
Hey Josh,
If Kenny Loggins said to you, “Young man, don’t you ever stop playing, you’ve got something special,” all I can say is wow.
I hope to hear you one day soon performing at Lestat’s.

Diary of a Diva
Published September 17
Posted by alanes on September 17, 5:19 p.m.
Great story. I’ve always liked the poodle character but the hairstyle was off the wall. With all the poodle owners I know I can’t believe it took this long to learn the logical reasons for the cartoon look. The remaining question: these dogs are not used for hunting anymore—why keep the ridiculous ‘do’? (I think they look great in their natural coat.)

City Lights, by Don Bauder
Published September 17
Posted by Anon92107 on September 17, 12:24 p.m.
The conclusion, as of last night that is, is that in the last eight years the republicans have brought communism to America while the democrats watched and did nothing to stop it.
However, make no mistake about it, the greediest and most corrupt Americans who brought about all of these astounding failures we are experiencing seemingly on a daily basis include both republicans and democrats, so the biggest problem we have to solve is how to restore American Democracy.
We most desperately need a true leader in Washington once again who possesses ethics, integrity, and the ability to build consensus to achieve a vi...
sion to do the right things for Americans and end the tyranny over all of our institutions by the greedy and corrupt.

Posted by stupidflanders19 on September 17, 2:13 p.m.
I think this was W’s fault because then pay attention to global banking problems he was too busy creating tsunamis in South Asia errr... flooding New Orleans with global warming errr... lighting fires in Southern California. If only he spent more time in the oval office with interns maybe none of these messes would have happened.

Posted by tirlem on September 17, 2:27 p.m.
Sounds to me like this entire housing financing gig the banking and mortgage industries came up with was essentially one big Ponzi scheme.

Posted by JohnnyVegas on September 17, 3:16 p.m.
"Sounds to me like this entire housing financing gig the banking and mortgage industries came up with was essentially one big Ponzi scheme."

This was well known 4 years ago. Me, my friends, my real estate buddies, we all know it was a bubble.

Builders were selling 85-90% of their new housing with sub prime mortgages 04-06. Only 10-15% would have qualified with normal 20-30% down financing.

So this is not a case of did the major players know—they certainly did, they went ahead and did the bad deals because of little/no regulation and greed. That simple.

If I read the market correct, then many others also did.

BTW-I loved the article Don, really hits home.

Posted by jcsuperstar on September 17, 4:21 p.m.
Nicely presented article on something many of us understood and also something that you, Don, had warned about a number of times in the past.

As for the politics some like to front on this, it runs across the aisle. It is not exclusive to a party but is in the very essence of our current political system. Politics is the a mix of the dog and pony show misdirection and the legal apparatus of criminal-level wealth redistribution. I know such talk has traditionally been dismissed as “commie” talk, as if speaking against Corporate culture is an affront to flag waving American free enterprise. That’s why we continue to struggle with where we set the line for monopolies.

Anyway, you have the money running politics. We all know it and some are better tuned into the depth that money control is than others. You also have the finance sector greed. It is aligned with corporate greed and corruption but does differ with it too on monumental scales. At the micro level, nearly every entity in the sector is a predator looking for a scheme or angle to skim more for himself. There are plenty who do nothing more than economically unproductive repackaging of securities, arbitrage trading, currency trading, etc. The veneer of the industry is a enormous collage of obfuscation. It is the natural gradient money takes. Go as far as you can in your self interest without getting into personal trouble. The metric for success in the industry is that in a nutshell.

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(Apologize, in advance to my typos which I know I always make.)

Posted by Anon92107 on September 18, 2:21 a.m.

The question is “Who” is going to be the True Leader that we must have ASAP?

Obviously McCain can’t even pick competent campaign advisors, his economic adviser Carly Fiorina was fired as the worst COB/CEO in HP history and her mouth is still running amuck like a Palin think alike perpetuating the Bush administration’s mindless mentality.

Obama appears to be much more knowledgeable, and he was brought up in the real world of hard knocks for sure, but he has yet to demonstrate True Leadership accomplishments. But this is nothing new in a congress that has had absolutely no true leaders at all for over eight years or we wouldn’t be in the trouble we are in today. We can only assume that Obama has a much better understanding of derivative corruption and greed than McCain.

Damn, “1,000,000,000,000” sure is an astounding huge number of zeroes. We’ve come a long way since Ev Dirksen’s era of corruption and greed quantified merely by “A billion here, a billion there, and pretty soon you’re talking real money”.

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Surf City Squash Tournament

Ivy and Concrete

Surf City Squash Tournament

Squash is associated with Ivy League schools and expensive athletic clubs,” says Renato Paiva, executive director of Surf City Squash. “But that image is changing. Right now there are 55 colleges in the country (with squash teams). In five years, with the urban squash movement, there will be more kids playing squash than college squash players.” The movement to which Paiva refers began 13 years ago when former professional squash player Greg Zaff created SquashBusters, a nonprofit “youth-enrichment program” for underprivileged kids. Like its predecessors, Surf City Squash is based on a three-tier system: academics, community service, and squash.

The ball used in squash is smaller than a racquetball and does not bounce. “In racquetball the ball comes to you. In squash, you’ve got to chase it,” explains Paiva, who was once a squash champion in Brazil. On Saturday, September 27, and Sunday, September 28, Surf City Squash will host its first team tournament. “We’ll have 16 teams of five players each,” says Paiva. “The number-one player on each team is a professional player, and the number-five is a Surf City Squash kid. The three players in the middle are all adult club members (of San Diego Squash).”

According to Paiva, enlisting the support of club members was difficult at first. “It’s around $10 a month for membership, just for squash. Imagine if you are a member of a squash club, and you start to see poor kids playing there — all the glamour of the sport, it’s not there anymore. They didn’t want to share the courts, didn’t think the kids were good enough. They still don’t allow them to play on open-court times. [Members] liked to be politically correct and donate some money, but ‘Don’t let me see them,’ you know? Now it’s different. Now we have a majority of members who are donors; a lot of members are volunteers. They support every single event we do.”

Students are recruited from Preuss School at University of California San Diego, a college-preparatory charter school. “The good thing about that school,” says Paiva, “is that all of the students are part of a free- or reduced-cost lunch program, which proves they’re underprivileged, and the other criteria to be at that school is that none of their parents could have gone to a four-year college.”

Paiva says the choice of squash over other sports is crucial to furthering his students’ education. “If I did this program with soccer, those kids would have to be a superstar to get into college (on a soccer scholarship). But as a squash recruit, your chances are so much better.” Prior to joining Surf City Squash, Paiva recruited squash players for Harvard.

Last year, 9 of the 60 students who tried out were accepted for the squash program. “There was this one girl who couldn’t hit the ball, and her grades were just okay,” says Paiva. “This girl was into fighting her peers at school; her behavior with teachers was horrible. Her average grade was a C. For some reason she enjoyed the sport, and now she’s our team captain and earning a 4.0 (GPA).”

“I come from City Heights,” says Reyna Pacheco, the 14-year-old student to whom Paiva refers. “In the apartment I live in, there was nowhere you could sit down if you came to my house. I never had a hundred-dollar racquet or shoes to go in the court.”

Pacheco’s stepfather works in construction, and her mother stays at home to care for her brothers and sister. “As long as I have somewhere to live, something to eat, it’s enough for me,” she says. “But squash is giving me more than that. I’ve gone to Boston and Philadelphia for nationals and summer camp. Before, I never thought I would step on an airplane. For me, it was like a dream come true.”

Pacheco’s friends at school call her a “squash freak,” but, she says, “They respect me.” The biggest change in Pacheco’s life since she began playing squash has been her outlook on time. “Before, I had all this time to go and watch TV and do nothing with my life, but now I spend all my time doing homework or playing squash. I make every minute in my life really worth it.”

Of the community service she must do as part of the program, Pacheco most enjoys feeding the homeless. “We went downtown, and my job was to put food on the plates. I’m really short, but I felt ten feet tall that day.”

— Barbarella

Surf City Squash Tournament
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Fairytale castle near Harrah’s Casino. 4 chambers with Jacuzzis, balconies, TVs, bathrobes, chocolates, pool table, breakfast, snacks. Voted most romantic getaway. Near wineries. Weddings only. 760-749-3306. www.cupidscastlebnb.com

**Big Bear Cool Cabins**
Cabin or luxury home on or near the lake. Fireplace, BBQ, TV, kitchen, hot tub and more. Professional housekeeping, towels, and linens are included. Pet-friendly. Check rates and book online: www.bigbearcoolcabins.com or 800-550-8779.

**Mountain Getaway, In-Room Jacuzzis. 619-766-4288**
www.LiveOakSprings.com
Sunday-Friday, $129 includes breakfast. Sweetheart Package: Sunday-Friday includes: breakfast for 2, dinner for 2, therapeutic massage, $209. Fine dining & cocktails. Lodge: La Porta Casino – fees money! Room giveaway: 2-story, fireplace, A-frame cabins, air, HBO, microwave, refrigerator. Certain restrictions apply: Live Oak Springs Resort: Go to 6172 Old Highway 80 (80 minutes east of downtown San Diego, 2 miles south of I-8). Give her the gift of love; she deserves it!

**Reduce Your Stress!**
For a relaxing getaway, we have cabins from $74 plus tax! Southern California’s 2nd best kept secret – 6200’ in the sky! 11 individual log cabins, fireplace, kitchen. Reservations: Edelweiss Lodge, 951-699-2787, www.1edel.com

**Rosarito Beach Hotel**
Mexico’s Legendary Resort From $69 A Night
With the August 2 Grand Opening of our 271 units, 17 story Pacifico Tower, the Rosarito Beach Hotel became Baja’s largest and most historic resort! Weekly room rates start at $89. For reservation, call toll free 1-800-343-8582. RosaritoBeachHotel.com. Valid Sun. through December 22, 2008.

**$12/Person Catalina Getaway**
Roundtrip cruise for 2, $1 night hotel, +2 island box or beach tours for couples who qualify and attend a 2-hour tour and immediate presentation near home. No obligations. Call 7 days. Bonus $40 gas card for 14 40-760-758-3839 $51.

**San Diego Reader Calendar**

**LOCAL EVENTS**

**How to Send Us Your Listing**
Submissions 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 EVENTS, Box 85003, San Diego CA 92186-0003. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SDReader.com by clicking on the events section.

**DANCE**

**“Egyptian Nights” Belly-dance Show**

**Belly-Dance Show**
Belly-dancers Tasciana and Sabrina Fox perform live MidEast fusion music by Middle Earth Ensemble. 858-488-4200. Sunday, September 28, 2 p.m.; $10. The Turquoise, Café-Bar Europa, 873 Turquoise Street, PACIFIC BEACH.

**Contradance the Night Away!**
Steve Barlow calls, the Old Twine String Band makes music for dance hosted by San Diego Folk Heritage at 8 p.m. Beginners’ dance workshop: 7-30 p.m. Bring food/beverages to share during (optional) potluck supper, 6:30 p.m. Wear soft-soled shoes. 619-281-8580. Saturday, September 27, 6:30 p.m.; $7. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street, www.bellydance-sd.com.

**English Country Dancing**
Ellen Riley calls for English country dancing. Beginners’ instruction at 6 p.m. 858-676-9731. Sunday, September 28, 2 p.m.; $6. Jean Hart Academy of Dance, 12227 Poway Road, Poway.

**Learn to Belly Dance**
Ledaiana leads “Belly-Dance Basics: Fun with Belly Dance” (7-8 p.m.), followed by lessons in using zills and combos (8-9 p.m.). $60 for six-week workshop, $120 for both levels. Registration: 619-435-9119. Tuesdays, 7 p.m.; through Tuesday, October 6, 7 p.m.; through October 14, 6:20-120. Bambooya Yoga and Bodywork Center, 1127 Lama Avenue. (continued)

**Learn to Salsa**
Six-week session imparts basics of salsa dance technique. No previous experience or partner required. Registration: 619-299-6387. Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., through Tuesday, October 22, 8 p.m., $25. Ages 10 and up. Metro Dance, 5034 Metro Street, Suite B, www.mrtndance.com.

**Postmodern Roma?**

**Ride On!**
“Trolley Dances 2008” presented by Jean Isaacs San Diego Dance Theater and Metropolitan Transit System. Annual site-specific dance project kicks off at Har- ard Center, offering trolley tour on green line with “scenic views and provocative performances alongside the San Diego River.” After switch to blue line in Old Town, performances continue downtown to Santa Fe Depot. New works by Isaacs, with additional choreography by Terry Wilson, Monica Bill Barnes, Anthony Rodriguez, Katie Sturino-Nollot. Tours are two hours long. Reservations: 619-223-1803. Saturday, September 27, 10 a.m.; Sunday, September 28, 10 a.m., $10-$30. Hazard Center trolley station, Hazard Center Drive at Frazier Road. (MISSION VALLEY)

**So You Think You Can Dance Live Tour**
For your “favorite stars perform live on stage,” with “hit routines from the TV show as well as original pieces created just for the tour.” 619-224-4171. Sunday, September 28, 7:30 p.m.; $55-$54. San Diego Sports Arena, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. (POINT LOMA)

**Social Dance Party**
DJ plays swing, Latin, ballroom, and night-club for singles and couples of all ages. Cha-cha lesson: 8 p.m. Open dancing: 8-10:30 p.m. First time free; 619-273-3533. Saturday, September 27, 8 p.m.; Patti Wells’ DanceTime Center, 1235 West Morena Boulevard, near ramen.

**The Tame Two-Step**
The polka and its “tamer cousin” the two-step have been around for over 160 and 130 years, respectively. Learn both when Waltz & Such convenes dance class in Casa del Prado room 207 (beginners: 7:15 p.m., intermediates: 8 p.m.). Open request dancing follows until 9:45 p.m. All ages. Partners not required. Donation: 619-583-9956. Friday, September 26, 7:15 p.m.; $1. Casa del Prado, El Prado. (MIRA MESA)

**Pacific Coast Skydiving**

* Scenic flights over the ocean and downtown San Diego
* Jump from altitudes over 2 miles above the ground
* Ask about RVT video technology

Call or go online for reservations.
(619) 661-0194
www.pcskydiving.com

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Gift certificates available.
*Must purchase $70 video ($195 total cost). Weekdays only. Add $20 for weekend jumps.

**RIDE ON!**
Trolley Dances by Jean Isaacs San Diego Dance Theater, Hazard Center trolley center, September 27 and 28, October 4 and 5.

(SEE DANCE)

Photography by Manuel Rodriguez
Barona Valley Ranch Resort & Casino received the highest numerical score among casinos with a minimum of 2,000 slot machines in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2008 Southern California Indian Gaming Casino Satisfaction Study. Study based on responses from 1,766 gaming players who visited an Indian casino in Southern California between December 2007 and June 2008. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of consumers surveyed in May-June 2008. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com.

Must be 18 years of age and a Club Barona member to participate. Winner must claim tanker prize by 9pm the following day. Prizes will be awarded with gas cards. Barona reserves the right to modify or cancel the promotion at any time without notice.

BARONA’S

Tanker-a-Day

$800,000 GREAT GAS GIVEAWAY

One lucky player will win $20,000 in gas EVERY DAY, now through September 27.

And at our Grand Finale on Sunday, September 28, we’ll give away $20,000 in gas to at least ONE WINNER EVERY HOUR beginning at 4pm. A minimum of 7 winners will EACH drive away with $20,000 in gas!

For more details, visit Barona.com or a Club Barona Booth in the casino. New Club Barona members receive five FREE entries into the next eligible drawing.

Barona Valley Ranch Resort & Casino received the highest numerical score among casinos with a minimum of 2,000 slot machines in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2008 Southern California Indian Gaming Casino Satisfaction Study. Study based on responses from 1,766 gaming players who visited an Indian casino in Southern California between December 2007 and June 2008. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of consumers surveyed in May-June 2008. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com.

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J.D. Power and Associates ranked Barona “Highest in Satisfaction in the Southern California Casino Gaming Experience.”
USA Dance Ballroom Party Ballroom, Latin, swing, salsa. All ages, ability levels, singles, couples. Casual dress. Fourth Saturday each month. Lessons at 7 p.m., dancing from 8–11 p.m. 760-525-5124. Saturday, September 27, 7 p.m. $7. Synergy Dance Zone, 7480 Miramar Road. (MD M431)

FILM

“San Diego Asian Film Festival Selects” Enjoy live debate music, the animation short Prehistoric Times, and Magazine Gap Road, a film juried by San Diego Asian Film Festival. Post-screening conversation with Gene Huh, founder of San Diego Times. "San Diego Asian Film Festival. Screenings each day at 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., and 5 p.m. at MiraCosta’s San Elijo campus; film repeats at 7 p.m. on Oceanside campus. 760-757-2121 x7375 or 7886. In Japanese with English subtitles. Friday, September 26, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; MiraCosta College; San Elijo Campus; 3333 Manchester Avenue. (MD 786)

The Visitor Survivors of Torture, International hosts screening of Tom McCarthy’s film “to help community members learn about the immigrant detention system and connect them with ways to get involved locally.” An American college professor and a young immigrant couple grapple with treatment of immigrants and legal process post-9/11. Screening in Peace and Justice Theatre followed by a panel discussion including Haza Slimani, one of film’s lead actors. 619-278-2400. Tuesday, September 30, 7 p.m.; ages 13 and up. Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, University of San Diego, 5998 Alcala Park. (SDU 513)

Rainbow Song Shunji Iwai’s 2004 film showcased for Internatinoal Film Series in room 204 at MiraCosta’s San Elijo campus; film repeats at 7 p.m. on Oceanside campus. 760-757-2121 x7375 or 7886. In Japanese with English subtitles. Friday, September 26, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; MiraCosta College; San Elijo Campus; 3333 Manchester Avenue. (MD 786)

San Diego Natural History Museum, 7188 El Prado. (BALDIA PARK)

San Diego Film Festival 2008 Enjoy nearly 100 American and international features, documentary, and short films; filmmaker seminars and panels, parties. Films include The Lucky Ones, Angels & Airwaves: Start the Machine, The Last Cup, Portrait of Equality, La Americana, Uncounted, many, many others. Borders Books and Music Gaslamp is site for festival will call, box office. Cost: specific locations, details: 619-382-2588. Thursday, September 25, 5 p.m.; Friday, September 26, 6 p.m.; Saturday, September 27, 11 a.m.; Sunday, September 28, 11 a.m.; Border Books and Music Gaslamp; 668 Sixth Avenue. (MD 786)

FOR KIDS

"Blue’s Clues Most Spectacular Place" Amiable host Steve stumbles around looking for the next piece of evidence to lead him to the “most spectacular place” when La Jolla Senior Theatre opens season, September 12–28. For all ages. 619-239-8355. Friday, September 26, 7 p.m.; Saturday, September 27, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.; Sunday, September 28, 2 p.m.; and 4 p.m.; $10–$15. Firehouse YMCA Community Center, 7877 Herschel Avenue. (BALDIA PARK)

San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado. (BALDIA PARK)


Enigma: A Magical Mystery Children’s author Graeme Base reads from, signs his newest book “that will puzzle and entertain young readers.” 858-454-0347. Tuesday, September 28, 4 p.m.; Warwick’s Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (SD 734)

Pocahontas! Company Youth Theatre opens season with this musical adventure, through September 28. Production is filled with Native American lore that stays true to the traditional legend. “Reservations: 858-362-1348. Thursday, September 25, 7 p.m.; Saturday, September 27, 8 p.m.; Sunday, September 28, 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.; $12–$16. David and Dorothy Garfield Theatre, 4126 Executive Drive. (SD 734)

The Little Pigs and Other Funny Stories "The big bad wolf is the antithesis" when Millie Patterson’s Weavers’ Tales perform September 24–28 and October 1–5. Curtain rises at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Wednesday–Friday and at 11 a.m., 1:30, and 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. 619-544-9203. Thursday, September 25, Friday, September 26, Saturday, September 27, Sunday, September 28; Wednesday, October 1, 10 a.m.; 83–85. Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Road West. (MD 786)

Fall Family Fun Check out live plunkton under a microscope, create an art project to take home, enjoy short cruise on San Diego Bay aboard historic Pilgrim Maritime Dancers will perform aboard HMS Surprise (1 and 2:30 p.m.), activities on upper deck of ferryboat Berkeley. Adults pay regular admission; children must be accompanied by adult to enter. 619-234-9133. Sunday, September 27, 11 a.m.; San Diego Maritime Museum, 1506 North Harbor Drive. (SD 786)

Nature Hike for young naturalists led by naturalist D.J. Summers promises easy hike along Jack Creek Meadow loop trail, followed by plant/animal craft at picnic area. Reservations: 760-839-4680. Saturday, September 27, 10 a.m.; Daley Ranch, 3024 Lu Honda Drive. (SD 786)

Playhouse Disney Live! You’re invited to the Mickey Mouse Clubhouse as Mickey and pals plan a music party for his friends; the Little Einsteins set off on musical mission around world to find a song for the party. Ticketmaster: 619-220-TIXX. Friday, September 26, 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. $21–$38. San Diego Sports Arena, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. (SD 786)

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

Miss the crowds—visit SDMA on Thursday nights until 9 p.m. FREE ADMISSION

Summer in Bloom. Georgia O’Keeffe.
Frightnights begin Friday, Sept. 26!

If you want to live, you will obey!

Dare to experience Navy life aboard a floating city at sea! Imagine undergoing an operation in the middle of a typhoon or getting that tattoo scraped off before you get home!

- Over 60 exhibits including the operating room!
- 25 restored aircraft
- Optional flight simulators
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Limit 4 per coupon
Expires February 27, 2009
Not valid for special events

Admission includes a powerful self-guided audio tour narrated by Midway sailors
A Guide to Unexpected San Diego and Beyond | By Jerry Schad

A rambling patch of newly acquired open space that goes by the long-winded name of Michael D. Antonovich Regional Park at Joughin Ranch spreads over a south-facing slope that culminates in a 3,747-foot summit called Oat Mound. On this trip, you drive about halfway up the mountain (as measured from the San Fernando Valley floor) and then hike up to the mountain top, which technically lies on private property. Hopefully you’ll take it on a trip to the day, when the ever-widening view gets ever more stupendous as you climb.

To get to the trailhead, exit the 1-8 Freeway at De Soto Avenue in Chatsworth. The northern extension of De Soto is called Browns Canyon Road. Follow this narrow, twisty road around some Outlook houses, up along the Browns Canyon stream, and then up a steep hill to the main Antonovich Park entrance. There’s a lower parking lot, but continue about 0.4 mile farther to an upper lot just shy of where the road is blocked to public traffic.

Now you’re ready to trudge on, uphill and sometimes very steeply so, on the same road. By 0.6 mile, you’re at the parking lot of a Los Angeles Police Department training facility, and the sharp increase in elevation gain so far has yielded a significantly wider panorama of the vast, flat, and densely populated San Fernando Valley below. Above the training facility, the concrete and landscape assumes a more impressionistic character, with wild grasses — mostly wild oats, after which the peak above was named — chaffing in the breezes of this current dry season, or bending in a supple fashion in the zephyrs of springtime.

At 1.0 mile you traverse a cattle gate and temporarily enter a parcel where cattle graze contentedly. Soon, after crossing a second grade, you’re back in Antonovich parkland, where the ascent quickens. The valley view to the south now assumes a pseudo-aerial character, and the green or golden (depending on the season) slopes seem to roll sensuously upward, down, and sideways.

At 2.0 miles, alongside a heliport (a large flat spot for fire-fighting helicopters to land), you start to get a view to the north, which consists of miles of ridges sparsely dotted with valley oaks, and an occasional rooster plover swooping to extract the very last drop of crude oil remaining in the permeable strata far below.

Here going a bit farther to a second heliport, this one on the right, which offers perhaps the most comprehensive vista so far. After contemplating the scene and taking a deep pull from your water bottle, it’s time to return, using the same route.

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

OAT MOUNTAIN

Climb Oat Mountain in the Santa Susana Mountains for a spacious view of the San Fernando Valley.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 152 miles

Hiking/biking length: 4.6 miles round trip

Difficulty: Moderately strenuous

Lectures

“Alvarex vs. Lemon Grove Board of Trustees” Helen Ofleidt focuses on the 1931 desegregation case in commemoration of Hispanic History Month. Lecture accompanied by photo-graphic display. 6:19-6:30 p.m., Friday, September 26, 2 p.m., Lemon Grove Library, 8073 Broadway. (COMPASS)

“Are Libraries Necessary?” Wendy Gay presents her opinions when San Diego Association for Rational Inquiry meets. 4:31-5:45 p.m., Saturday, September 27, 7 p.m., Joyce Beers Community Center, 1250 Cleveland Avenue. (HLCREST)


“Everyday You Wanted to Know About Insects...but were afraid to ask” answered by entomologist Tracy Ellis when Friends of Hillcreek Canyon Open Space Preserve gather. Learn about insects of the preserve, as well as some in backyard gardens, groves. 7-6.40-3-320. Saturday, September 27, 10 a.m., Valley Center Library, 29200 Cole Grade Road. (VALLEY CENTER)

“Floral Design with David Root” Root demonstrates design process using unusual plant mate-
rial and containers, then create your own floral arrangement to take home. Bring a floral knife, clippers, wire cutters, scissors; all other materials provided. Required advance registration: 760-436-6298. Sunday, September 28, 2 p.m.; $55–$60. Quail Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Dr., La Jolla. (858) 458-8398.

*Get Real!* Local horticulturist, garden writer Nan Sterman divulges “30 (or More) Best and Most Beautiful Waterwise Plants for Your Garden.” She will also sign copies of her new book, California Gardner’s Guide Volume 2. Thursday, September 25, 7 p.m.; Encinitas Library, 540 Cornish Drive, Encinitas. (760) 458-7383.


*Pondering the Vice Presidency* Pulitzer Prize-winning Washington Post reporter Barton Gellman offers in-depth examination of Dick Cheney’s role and what it means for our future. Book signing follows. Thursday, October 1, 1 p.m.; California Plaza, 1250 Second Avenue, Suite 258, San Diego. (619) 458-7383.
West of the mountains the air sinks as it rushes toward the coast, heating (by compression) about 5/12 degrees Fahrenheit for every 1000 feet of descent. During a full-blow Santa Ana, gale-force winds rake the foothills downward of the mountain passes, and San Diego's coastal communities often experience temperatures that are among the nation's highest.

Escaping the Heat of this season's first couple of Santa Anas will not be easy — if you can't be inside air-conditioned buildings at any rate. Along the coastline, where temperatures may reach the 90s, taking a dip in the surf solves the problem. inland, the furnace-like heat is moderated only by increases in altitude. Here, for the high places of the county — the mile-plus heights of the Palomar and Laguna Mountains, for example. You could climb a couple of the county's loftiest peaks: Cuyamaca Peak (6232') in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, or Boucher Hill (5438') in Palomar Mountain State Park. On peaks such as these during a Santa Ana wind episode, the thermometer registers about 25-30 degrees lower than in the lowlands. Since the early phase of a Santa Ana sweeps away atmospheric water vapor and air pollution, hundred-mile vistas in every direction may be yours to enjoy.

The Smoggiest Days of the Year are most likely to occur during the next several weeks. Persistent temperature inversions (warmer air overlying cool marine air) are frequent this time of year. These inversions conspire with the mountainous topography of East County to trap locally generated air pollution under a low-lying lid. During the worst episodes, San Diego County’s coastal area is the hapless recipient of additional smog sneaking down from the Los Angeles Basin. This often occurs when a Santa Ana wind condition begins to weaken. L.A. smog blown offshore by a Santa Ana may get pushed back our way when the normal sea breeze returns.

The Zodiacal Light, which can appear as a diffuse, pillar-shaped glow in the eastern sky for up to an hour before dawn, will be quite conspicuous at dark locations this weekend and through the next two weeks (September 27 through October 10). The subtle glow is caused by the sun's light reflecting off dust particles floating in space as part of our solar system. In the sky, this reflected light appears superimposed along the string of constellations we know as the zodiac, and especially those zodiacal constellations closest to the direction of the sun. An old name for this phenomenon is "false dawn" — a good description of the effect under clear and very dark skies.

"Shun the Sun Mystery Tour" Rant the heat — plan naturalist Kathleen Flanagan for early-morning hike from La Honda Drive parking lot. Expect a fast-paced, strenuous walk of about seven miles and a lot of map reading. Bring a minimum of two liters of water, wear layered clothing. 760-839-4680. Friday, September 26, 6:30 p.m.; Daley Ranch, 3024 La Honda Drive. (SAN DIEGO)

Aubudon Society Bird Walk Bring binoculars and drinking water to explore Tecolote Canyon. 838-581-9944. Saturday, September 27, 9 a.m.; Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road. (SAN DIEGO)

Basic Birding Tom Troy leads basic birding program with emphasis on identifying birds by sight and sound and using binoculars, spotting scopes, field guides. Directions: 760-967-4815. Saturday, September 27, 8:30 a.m.; Buena Vista Audubon Society Nature Center, 2202 South Coast Highway. (CLARKE MENT)

Birding at Batiquitos Explore Batiquitos Lagoon for birds with Barbara Moore of Audubon Society. 858-753-7133. Saturday, September 27, 8 a.m.; Batiquitos Lagoon Nature Center, 7380 Cabrillo Lane. (CARLSBAD)

Clean and Green Team Event River cleanup at Mission Valley Preserve in "celebration of National Public Lands Day." Remove trash, debris from river. Registration: 619-297-7300. Saturday, September 27, 9 a.m.; Mission Valley Preserve north side, 5305 Friars Road. (MISSION VALLEY)

Desert Garden Tour Bizet trees, cacti, succulents showcased when Offshoot Tours hosts its monthly hour-long guided stroll through desert garden. 619-235-1122. Saturday, September 27, 10 a.m.; Rabbits Park Visitor's Center, 1539 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Explore San Clemente Canyon (West) Canyoneers hike near streambeds sustaining huge sycamores and this riparian habitat. Easy. 619-255-2020. Sunday, September 27, 8 a.m.; Marian Bear Memorial Park, Highway 52 and Regents Road. (CLARKE MENT)

Find Gold See golden leaves and flowers during guided walks along San Diego River. 619-668-3281. Saturday, September 27, 9 a.m.; Sunday, September 27, 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday, October 1, 9:30 a.m.; Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN DIEGO)

Help Restore a Habitat Remove invasive plants and help plant native vegetation for wildlife calling this area home. Volunteers meet at park's entrance gate for a quick project orientation, then pick tools and get to work. All ages, abilities welcome. Wear long pants, boots, gloves, sunscreen. 619-258-0093. Saturday, September 27, 8 a.m.; Batiquitos Lagoon Nature Center, 7380 Cabrillo Lane. (CARLSBAD)
or sturdy shoes, hats, gloves and tools provided. 619-682-7210. Saturday, September 27, 9 a.m.; Border Field State Park, 1580 Monument Road. (IMPERIAL BEACH)

Sea Kayak Adventures Birch Aquarium at Scripps hosts sea kayaking adventures. Participants learn basics of ocean kayaking while discovering wonders of La Jolla State Marine Conservation Area and learn about current Scripps research within reserve. Beginners welcome. RSVP: 858-350-6159. Saturday, September 27, 9 a.m.; $60. Ages 10 and up. Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (LA JOLLA)

Trash Pickup in López Canyon Help clean trash out of natural areas in López Canyon. 858-551-8066. Sunday, September 27, 9 a.m.; Lopez Ridge Park, 7245 Calle Cristobal. (MIRA MESA)

Visit Kumeyaay Grinding Rocks And walk to historic Old Mission Dam with trail guide. 619-668-3281. Saturday, September 27, 8:30 a.m.; Kumeyaay Lake Campground entry station, Two Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

“Citizen Artists Making Emphatic Arguments” La Casa del Tunal Art Center opens to public with reception for this exhibition “examining environmental justice” curated by Adolfo Nodal. Opening events include tour of facility, food from the rooftop café, music on rooftop performance space and observation deck, green lab, and gardens. Art exhibition continues through December. 011-52-664-687-9636. Saturday, September 27, 5 p.m.; La Casa del Tunal Art Center, Chapo Marquez 133, Colonia Federal. (MIRA MESA)

The Beauty and the Beast Comedy for the whole family. 011-52-664-687-9636. Saturday, September 27, 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.; Sunday, September 28, 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.; Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BORDER)

Bicycle with 5000 Friends! The final Rosarito-Ensenada 50-Mile Fun Bicycle Ride here. Ride starts in front of Rosarito Beach Hotel, ends with finish-line fiesta in Ensenada. 011-52-644-174-0033. Saturday, September 27, 10 a.m.; $45. Rosarito Beach Hotel, Boulevard Benito Juárez #33. (BORDER)

Cubo! CECUT celebrates opening of its new addition, Cubo.” Artists from Tijuana and San Diego participate in grand opening. 011-52-664-687-9636. Sunday, September 28, 7 p.m.; Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BORDER)

Harvest Festival Tour three wineries — L.A. Cetto, Baron Balche, and Rancho Dona Cup. Tickets include lunch. Reservations: 011-52-664-681-2735. Saturday, September 27, noon; $75. L.A. Cetto Winery – Valle de Guadalupe, km 73.5 on Ensenada-Tecate Highway 3, in Guadalupe Valley. (BORDER)

International Jazz Festival Ensenada 2008 Gilbert Castelanos, Cosmologico, Ensenada Jazz, Tico’s Band, Neto Lizarraga, Son de Aca, Contrapunto, and Blues Y Tequila perform on waterfront at giant flagpole. 011-52-644-176-3005 or 011-52-644-177-1195. Sunday, September 28, noon; Plaza Ventana al Mar, Boulevard Costero at Alvaro Street. (BORDER)

Kinki Rock concert: 619-734-2333. Saturday, September 27, 11 p.m.; $25. El Foro, Seventh and Avenida Revolution, downtown. (BORDER)

Tropical Time! Enjoy tropical music by Sonora Santanera and Neto Lizarraga Orchestra. 619-498-0023. Saturday, September 27, 8 p.m.; Mezzanine Show Center, Boulevard Insurgentes, 3a Etapa Zona Río. (BORDER)

SPECIAL

“An Autumn Affaire” Reception for painter Rita Shulak, featured artist during September. Exhibit includes more than 40 pieces. 760-753-7376. Thursday, September 25, 6 p.m.; Encintas City Hall, 395 South Vulcan Avenue. (ENCINITAS)

“Beyond the Reef, Island Voyagers” 14th annual San Diego Pacific Islander Festival promises cultural booths, foods, crafts, artifacts, entertainment. 619-699-8797. Saturday, September 27, 9 a.m.; Sunday, September 28, 8 a.m.; Ski Beach, Ingraham Street and Vacation Island Road. (PACIFIC BEACH)

“Breakfast for Dinner” It’s the theme for monthly family vegan potluck. See Kurt Russell in Big Trouble in Little China, and bring vegan breakfast foods to share. “Dress in your pajamas (seriously)!” Dinner at 7 p.m., movie at 8 p.m. 858-534-2311. Monday, September...
What's That You're Reading?

NAME: EDEN GANNON | AGE: 19 | OCCUPATION: RESTAURANT HOSTESS
NEIGHBORHOOD: SHERMAN HEIGHTS | WHERE INTERVIEWED: CITY COLLEGE

BY SONIA ELIOT

What are you reading?
“Breaking Dawn, by Stephenie Meyer.”

What's about it?
“It’s a romance novel about a young woman, Bella, and a vampire, Edward. It’s part of the Twilight series. This one is different from the rest because it’s written from two perspectives. Bella’s best friend is Jacob, and he’s a werewolf, and he doesn’t like vampires. The others are only from Bella’s perspective, but this one also has Jacob’s perspective. He’s still in love with Bella, and he’s trying deal with the fact that Bella is married to this vampire, and now this vampire has impregnated her, and the abomination in her womb is killing her. He’s angry. Bella loves Edward and wants to keep the baby because it’s her symbol of her love for Edward, and also she wants to become a vampire so she can live with Edward forever. He’s a hero, and he’s very noble — he was born in the 19th Century, so he has a lot of these old-school manners. He’s very chivalrous.”

Who is your favorite character?
“Bella — she’s the protagonist, and she’s very easy to relate to. Meyer documents the high school experience, and I’m just out of high school. Bella is very free-spirited, and she gets into a lot of trouble. She doesn’t quite fit in, but she fits in with these misfits, who are a bunch of good-looking vampires.”

Compare this to other books you’ve read.
“The closest thing I can think of is a more mature version of Harry Potter. The vampires and werewolves aren’t in a separate world; they exist in this world. They go to school; they go through all the steps of being a human being. But they’re superhuman.”

What book has been the most life-changing for you?
“The Things They Carried, by Tim O’Brien. I’ve always been so anti-war, and nobody close to me has ever been in the military. But I’m from Chicago, and it seems like probably one out of five people I meet here from San Diego is somehow related to the military, and the book has given me an appreciation for the different people around me — not even necessarily just soldiers. It’s in diary form, and he talks about seeing his best friend step on a grenade and die. Then he goes from that to talking about one of his best friends who came back here and ended up killing himself. Nobody really appreciated him or the work he did over there; everybody he knew had moved on with their life.”

Who are your favorite authors?
“I really like Nicholas Sparks — he’s a romance novelist. He wrote A Walk to Remember and Message in a Bottle. I like the way he writes and the way he approaches characters — it’s a very easy read, and within the first five pages, you already have a sense of who they are.”

What magazines or newspapers do you read?
“I’m a Chicago Tribune girl. I go online to read it. I’ll generally read about 20 articles a week all the way through. And I read Cosmo and the trashy magazines when I’m waiting in line at the grocery store.”

Do you talk to your friends about reading?
“Oh, yeah. We talk about the news, especially. But since getting into the Twilight series, I’ve approached coworkers and started discussing it. We talk about the different characters, why they appeal to each of us.”

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What's That You're Reading?

NAME: EDEN GANNON | AGE: 19 | OCCUPATION: RESTAURANT HOSTESS
NEIGHBORHOOD: SHERMAN HEIGHTS | WHERE INTERVIEWED: CITY COLLEGE

BY SONIA ELIOT

What are you reading?
“Breaking Dawn, by Stephenie Meyer.”

What's about it?
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Mission Hills Heritage. Influence of first Native American peoples and later settlers, as well as modern revisionist period of George Marston, John Nolan, Roland S. Hoyt, others discussed. The 90-minute walking tours explore original sites of first mission and presidio (fort) as well as the modern (1929) Serra Museum by William Templeton Johnson and present landscaping.

Donets lead walking tours of Presidio Hill and Park, starting at 1 p.m., departing from Presidio Park Arbor every 15 minutes through 3 p.m. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Day-of-event tickets available at corner of Presidio Drive and Gossy. 619-497-1193. Saturday, September 27, 1 p.m.; Sunday, September 28, 10 a.m.–11 a.m.; Presidio Park, 2811 Jackson Street. (OLD TOWN)

Museum Day Smithsonian magazine hosts fourth annual event with free admission to 14 participating county museums for Smithsonian readers and Smithsonian.com visitors. Attendees must present Smithsonianmagazine’s Museum Day admission card to gain free entry to participating institutions. Saturday, September 27, 10 a.m. California Center for the Arts, Escondido Museum, 340 North Escondido Boulevard. (£50DAY)

New American Comfort Food Chef Matt Gordon of Urban Solace demonstrates sweet corn spoon bread, brined pork chop with braised Swiss chard, more. 619-299-9811 x42331. Saturday, September 27, noon; $30. Macy’s Mission Valley Home Store, 1335 Camino de la Reina. (MISSION VALLEY)

Prowlers Ol’ Timers Picnic 61st annual show open to all special-interest cars; “Prowlers Pick” award, food, music, vendors, “cracklefest.” 619-447-5600. Sunday, September 27, 9 a.m.; Bates Nut Farm, 15954 Woods Valley Road. (VALLEY CENTER)

Quarterly Book Sale Music, books on a variety of subjects, CDs and LPs, along with crafts by local artisans on offer during sale. Live music featured throughout day. 858-454-5872. Saturday, September 27, 10 a.m.; Point Loma Library, 3701 Voltaire Street, (POINT LOMA)

San Diego Bonsai Club Fall Show “Enjoy the ancient art of bonsai in a quiet, beautifully presented exhibition” in Casa del Prado room 101. Learn about bonsai, shop at sale. Demonstrations at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Thursday, September 25, 11 a.m.; Sunday, September 28, 11 a.m.; Norway Hall, 2006 East Vista Way. (£50DAY)

San Diego Fish Club Odin and Sons of Norway Lodge host Viking Festival 2008. Viking log toss competition, axe throwing, fake flinging, battle cry competition, Viking battles and encampment, live music, arts and crafts, foods. Two-day pass: $11. 760-760-2492. Saturday, September 27, 11 a.m.; Sunday, September 28, 12 noon; Norway Hall, 2006 East Vista Way. (£50DAY)

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Make Space in Your Tack Shed! Stories of Tres Nog horse rescue organization benefit from 2008 Cowboy Swap Meet. Space for sale: $30. 619-659-1545. Saturday, September 27, 10 a.m.; Point Loma Library, 3701 Voltaire Street. (POINT LOMA)

Museum of Pacific Relations, 2125 Park Boulevard (BALBOA PARK), Horses of Tir Na Nog horse and Arts Library, 1008 Wall Street. (LA JOLLA)

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A Dismal End... San Diego Padres host Pittsburgh Pirates for final regular-season baseball games. Games broadcast on radio station XPRS (1090 AM), XEMO (860 AM) in Spanish. Tickets: 619-795-3009, 877-377-2784. Friday, September 26, 7:05 p.m.; Saturday, September 27, 7:05 p.m.; Sunday, September 28, 1:05 p.m.; $8.55. Petco Park, 100 Park Boulevard. (SAN DIEGO) 

Understanding Plato is the goal of a Mori & PBR Discussion Group meet. 619-370-1027. Thursday, September 25, 7 p.m.; Filter, 4096 30th Street. (ENGLISH)
San Diego Reader September 25, 2008

Opening Frights start September 26!

September 26 - November 1

Scream Zone

The Del Mar Scaregrounds

Friday & Saturday, September 26 & 27
Friday-Sunday, October 3-5
Thursday-Sunday, October 9-12 & 16-19
Every night October 23-November 1

Sunday-Thursday 7-11 pm
Friday & Saturday 7 pm-midnight
For info: 858-755-1161
www.thescreamzone.com

critically acclaimed
(and the movies aren’t bad either)

- vapor distilled purity
- electrolyte enhanced hydration
- perfect with popcorn

What if this was your house?
This concert is here to help.

October 4, 2008
Lakeside Rodeo Grounds
12 noon - 10 pm

Celebrate our heroes,
give help to our neighbors.

It's time for the people to help the people. The government has done what it can, and it's still not enough. These are only two of hundreds of families in need.

Who is benefitting from the concert?

To Purchase Tickets:
www.rocsd.net
800-595-4849

The Black
5017 Newport Ave.
Ocean Beach

Wild Bill's Western Emporium
1235 Broadway, El Cajon

Information: 619-972-7263

Presenting:
Badfinger
Canned Heat
Strawberry Alarm Clock
Big Brother and the Holding Company
Electric Prunes
Sky Sunlight Saxon
The Seeds
The Rose Garden

Vendor booths available!

September 26 - November 1
SAN DIEGO'S 45TH ANNUAL
Cabrillo Festival
Where cultures come together and history comes alive.

Sunday, September 28
11 am-3:30 pm
Ballast Point, Naval Base, Point Loma
(south end of Rosecrans)

- Free admission • Historical reenactment
- Live music • Delicious food • Exciting dancers
- Cultural vendors • Fun for the entire family

Be a part of history and welcome 16th-century explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo as he steps ashore on Ballast Point, Sunday, September 28.

For more information call:
619-557-5450 ext. 0
or 619-222-6786
CabrilloFestival.org

SAN DIEGO FILM FESTIVAL 08
Sept. 25-28, Gaslamp Theatre

buy $10 of smartwater at henry's and bring your receipt to the box office to get a 2 for 1 ticket to the San Diego Film Festival!
(while supplies last)

smartwater
critically acclaimed (and the movies aren’t bad either)
vapor distilled purity electrolyte enhanced hydration perfect with popcorn

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CLASSES FOR ALL AGES!


"Big Brass" Westwind Brass opens season with "tribute to London's Philip Jones Brass Ensemble (PJE)." Listen for works by Ger- vaise, Susato, Abreu, Strauss, Lennon and McCartney, others. Open sesame for Athenaeum mini-concert series. 858.454.5872.


GALLERIES

ART LISTINGS


Mingi International Museum — North County (155 West Grand Avenue, 786-7353. (MUSEUM)

"Repertoire for a Changing Planet" uses contem- porary art to investigate relationships between fragile ecosystems and human communities depending upon them. Collabora- tive multimedia exhibition featuring work sent eight artists to UNESCO World Heritage sites around globe to complete mini-residencies. Features new work informed and inspired by their experiences in these diverse cultural and natural re- gions. Exhibition features new commis- sioned works by Mark Dion, Ann Hamilton, Ilia Manganese-Ovalle, Marcos Ramírez ERR, Rigo 23, Dario Robleto, Diana Thater, and Clive Bones. Opens Sun- day, February 1, 2009.

"Your Memory is Your Image of Perfection," curated by MCASD assistant curator Lucy Sanomón, presents photographs and video works from different cultures and periods created by women artists of Southern California and Baja Calif- ornia. Exhibition investigates the subject of memory through as- sociations, oppositions, and over- laps amongst photographic gen- eres. This exhibition includes a free show of documentary photography to ma- nipulated photography." Artists include Eleanor Antin, Uta Barth, Andrea Bowers, Sharon Lockhart, Ana Machado, and Yvonne Vente- gos. Through December 29. Kettlehouse, 858-454-3411 (MUSEUM)


Museum of Photographic Arts "Picturing the Process: Land- scape Through Time" continues, opening February 1, 2009. "— includes se- lections from MPA's permanent collection, exploring ideas and is- sues related to landscape." Writing about the exhibition is said to illustrate "the connections between photography and literacy using the photographic arts as in- "DAMNING! Gorgorillous Millard Sheets and His Southern Califor- nia Legacy" offers a "comprehensive look at his impressive career from the 1920s to the 70s." Over 40 prints, including color photos; oils, etchings, lithographs, and drawings; provide viewers with introduction to Sheets's work. In the early 1930s, Sheets helped de- fine a movement known as Southern California Regionalism, painting surfing scenes near his home in Clairmont, California. Through Sunday, January 4, 2010. 4010 V Street, 619-454-3720 (MUSEUM)

San Diego Museum of Art Tour "exhibition usually held (including neighborhood), including works by John Baldessari, 04 works of art, including paintings and sculptures, oppositions, and over- laps amongst photographic gen- eres. This exhibition includes a free show of documentary photography to ma- nipulated photography." Artists include Eleanor Antin, Uta Barth, Andrea Bowers, Sharon Lockhart, Ana Machado, and Yvonne Vente- gos. Through December 29. Kettlehouse, 858-454-3411 (MUSEUM)


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Oceanside Museum of Art "The Vibrant Edge: Paintings of Karl Benjamin from the 1960s, ’70s, and ’80s — closing on Sun- day, October 19 — "thunderous" west coast this West Coast painting icon be- came known as one of the found- er fathers of Hard Edge." Ben- jamin, whose oeuvre spans more than half a century, says, "Color is the subject matter of painting." "DAMNING! GORGORILLOUS Millard Sheets and His Southern Califor- nia Legacy" offers a "comprehensive look at his impressive career from the 1920s to the 70s." Over 40 prints, including color photos; oils, etchings, lithographs, and drawings; provide viewers with introduction to Sheets's work. In the early 1930s, Sheets helped de- fine a movement known as Southern California Regionalism, painting surfing scenes near his home in Clairmont, California. Through Sunday, January 4, 2010. 4010 V Street, 619-454-3720 (MUSEUM)

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Blood, Sweat, and Beers  Sirhan Sirhan
founder Jason Blackmore wasn’t at the San Diego Music Awards last week when
his band won the Best Hard Rock Album award. He assumed his “balls-out hardcore rock band” would continue to get the hometown cold shoulder.

“When we got signed to a label [Anodyne, in 2007 — home of the Meat Puppets], no one seemed to care that we were home,” Blackmore suggests that when we got signed to a label [Anodyne, in 2007 — home of the Meat Puppets], no one seemed to care that we were from Kansas City.”

“It didn’t get one single CD in all the Best Buys, but we sold a lot. Our record label [Anodyne, in 2007] gave us the hometown cold shoulder. Their record was all over the radio. They were like, ‘They were paying four years ago.’”

Blackmore is buoyed by the condition of Alex Organ, his drummer. Two years ago, Organ woke up with numbness in his left hand. “I didn’t know if I had a stroke or HIV or what,” he said at the time. After $25,000 worth of tests, Organ said he was told he had contracted multiple sclerosis. For a while he couldn’t tie his shoes. For a couple of shows, he taped his drumstick to his hand with duct tape. Blackmore says Organ can now hold both sticks.

“He has stabilized,” says Blackmore. “It hasn’t gotten any worse. But the doctors say it will not get better. He could always have a relapse, but he is doing everything he can to remain healthy.”

— Ken Leighton

Tough Blow  “If anyone tries to sell it, I will certainly know about it,” says uilleann-pipe player Tim Foley, whose instrument was stolen on September 6. “There’s a lot of eyes and ears on the lookout there.”

Foley, who plays for local Celtic fusion band Skelpin, had left his equipment in his car overnight rather than bring it inside a home in La Jolla where he was house-sitting. The next morning he found his car window smashed. A guitar amp and his pipes — which were in a “black, hard-shell, electric-guitar-looking case” — were taken. The thieves left behind his iPod, $1000 worth of microphones, and a Martin acoustic guitar. Foley isn’t sure if he was targeted.

“I had just come from a show, so you never know,” he says. “I’m thinking they thought they were stealing an electric guitar and didn’t know what they actually took. My fear is that they tossed the pipes in a Dumpster somewhere.”

The loss hits harder than most thefts because of the relative rarity of the instrument.

Together as the Uilleann Pipers Club of Southern California. He’s hopeful that another member will be able to find him a used replacement set. While Skelpin continues to record a new album, Foley is using a borrowed chanter (the part of the pipes that makes the melody) from a fellow club member. To get a new set of pipes will cost approximately $5000 and a lot of patience.

“You have to contact a maker and arrange to have

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bassist Larry Verne of Blue44. All three albums by the Encinitas band were recorded live in concert, with no tracking or overdubs. “We’re centered around the live setting is a key ingredient in the music. Audience energy influences the mood and direction the band takes — from a key change to a shift in feel.”

Verne says true jam bands suffer when recorded without an audience. “A studio environment is much more one-dimensional and, in our view, imposes a measure of control; it’s the antithesis of live performance…”

“There’s an element of risk with live recordings that’s frightening and exciting, which heightens the sensibilities and fuels creativity. There are as many reasons things can go wrong as there are people in the room. Drawbacks are that the recording fidelity isn’t as good, the sound of laughter or breaking glass may insert itself at an inopportune moment, and the mix and volume levels can be less than perfect.”

Blue44’s three albums — So It Goes, Unfiltered, and The Vault — are all single-take “pure concert performances, the latter recorded at On Broadway, downtown. “The building used to be a Home Federal Savings and Loan, and the space includes a room in the lower level that used to be the bank vault.”

Blue44 appears Thursday evenings at Ipastone’s Z Bar in the Del Mar Plaza.

— Jay Allen Sanford

Multiple Fetuses Okay

“If things in the music biz continue to fall apart,” says Manganista singer Matt Rhea, “maybe we’ll have [X-Ray Babies] to fall back on. People may stop paying for music, but they’ll never stop having babies.”

Rhea explains: “My wife Rachel and I just started a new company called X-Ray Babies. When expecting parents go in to get an ultra sound, the doctor will give them a bunch of black-and-white photos of the images. We’ll take one of those photos, and we turn it into a colorful framed piece of art, kind of reminiscent of Andy Warhol’s pop art. I made one of these for my wife when she was pregnant with our first son. She loved it, and we quickly realized I had stumbled across the perfect baby-shower gift. Soon, she had me start making them for all our friends who were pregnant. After a few weeks, we decided to start an actual business out of it, and now here we are.”

The Rhelas can make portraits from ultrasounds shot during any month of the pregnancy. The three-frame announcements must be done 20 minutes before the performance.” They want — on call — an ear, nose, and throat doctor, an internist, a chiropractor, and “a certified licensed experienced massage therapist.”

Dressing-room requirements include three dozen towels (“bath size”), and another dozen towels must be placed around the stage. After the band finishes their set, the dressing room needs a dozen bottles of bed-down Samuel Adams beer (“no Budweiser”). The band buses need 12 quarts of Gatorade (“assorted”), two quarts of Martinelli’s apple juice, two half-gallons of chocolate milk, three six-packs of beer (“Sam Adams or Corona”), and a case of nonalcoholic beer. The crew buses get four cases of spring water, two gallons of whole milk, four quarts of cranberry juice, and two cases of Dr Pepper.

At this writing, Atlas Tickets on Kemper Street is selling seats in orchestra row
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10/27 Tom Morello: The Nightwatchman – On sale tomorrow @ noon!

11/14 Gradvation • 11/15 Stripes & Lines • 11/19 Rodney Crowell Trio
11/28 & 29 English Beat • 12/13 Cash’d Out

10/26 SB Lifeguards Benefit w/Young Dubliners
10/27 Sonya Kitchell & The Slip – venue change
10/28 The Mountain Goats & Kaki King
10/29 Evritarian
10/30 Cowboy Mouth
10/31 Halloweeen Heat 80s Heat & Metro
11/7 Secret Machines
11/7 Killer Williams
11/7 Roger Clyne & The Peacemakers

11/8 Stepping Feet
11/10 As Evening w/Little Feat
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11/13 Galactic
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Thursday 25

“Touch Me I’m Going to Scream.” Gig to get to this week is one of this summer’s supergroups. Louisville’s My Morning Jacket heats up SDSU’s Open Air Theatre tonight. MMJ are riding a wave of press and chart success behind this year’s blues-chart topper Evil Teen. Alligator Records signed the team for this year’s Saturday night at 8p. Jim James has pop tendencies, hinted at on major-label debut It Still Moves and drawn carefully on sophomore smash At Least Now. Recommend a dip into those waters and double-live CD/DVD Okonokos for the rawkin’ longhairs’ live sizzle and grit.... Out of your price range? Check out the trick triple bill at Casbah, featuring Latin lounge cat Federico Aubele. The Argentinean guitarist/singer is out to tout his latest, Panamericana, a title that aptly describes Aubele’s dance-y blend of boleto and dub. He’s on tour with South American ambient Natalie Clavier. And local acousticat Joel P. West sets the stage. Recommend checking out West’s Dust Jacket disc. Get to dustjacketproject.com and earn a free burn of the up-and-comer’s catchy collection.... Indie kids Exfriends and Paddle Boat drift into Beauty Bar. Give a listen to Exfriends’ SDMA best-pop nominee Joy of Life for a taste.... Or check out your head against Adam Gimbel’s “pop quiz” Musical Pursuit at Whistle Stop. Bring a team. Ante up. Winners take all.

Friday 26

Pall Jenkins’ Black Heart Procession brings the saw, the blanking cosmos, and dark pop to Casbah Friday night and the Adams Ave. Street Fair on Saturday night. Not a lot from the Black Heart boys since ’09’s The Spell spun out, but Jenkins has kept creeping round the edges with garage-dub group Mr. Tube and the Flying Objects. Glad to see the hometown hits’ve resurfaced. Looks like if the band’s next booking is December’s ATP in the U.K. Casbah’s destined-for-sellout date includes opening acts John Meeks and Little White Teeth, with NothingIn! in the Alan Lounge. (Or catch Black Heart free at 3rd Street Saturday night at 8p.) House of Blues goes old-school Texas blues with the Smokin’ Joe Kubek Band, featuring the badass vox of B(no) King. Blues hothouse Alligator Records signed the team for this year’s blues-chart topper Blood Brothers. Sign it. That gig’s upstairs on the side stage, while comic Joe Rogan (Fear Factor, Ultimate Fighting Championship) yaks it up on the floor. Seems upside-down.... Anyway, round town: the Urinals take Bar Pink with “punk habu.” The I.A.

Saturday 27

Busy, busy bands Saturday night as Powerchords unplug from the Adams Ave. thing (do your own legwork on that one, adamasvenueonline.com/ StreetFair/) and hook up at Bar Pink with hot shots the Sess. Both SDMA nominees. The Powerchords are a Chula Jaena-based pop-punk band celebrating their CT release for new one I Think I’m Gonna.... Sounds like kid sweat.... Rafter headlines night number two at Chef’s Disorientation Party. Dude’s Atmospheric Kitty catalogue is a pop smorgasbord. Check out his new EP Sweaty Magic yet? It’s a very un-Rafter-like dance disc. But then, what is Rafter-like?.... The Fist of God Tour (17) comes to House of Blues, featuring electro-punks MSTRKRFT and K Records guns Calvin Johnson.... Long Beach hardcore crew TSOIL brings the sounds of liberty to Casbah. The Hollowpoints and Authentic Sellout in support.... And some memorableitty-bitty ditties: the Widows and Braaïnšt at the

Sunday 28

Gonna be a Ra Ra Riot at Casbah Sunday night as Synaet’s NY’s indie-pop party band tours the Knob Line through town. Chicago dance-rock duo Walter Meego and Berkeley indie-pop quartet Morning Benders join the tour.... Rap royalty Tallib Kweli, David Banner, and Little Brother hit the beach at Cars. SoCal skate punks Agent Orange and Dr. Know make a house call at House of Blues.... Pop experimentalists Fantastic Magic do the trick to close out Chef’s Disorientation Party.... Local blue-funk jam band Tightenspunup lish it down at Bar Pink.... While folkies Greg Brown and Bo Ramsey get all singer-songwritersly at Belly Up.

Monday 29

Hey, man, nice shot: Filter and People in Planes land at Casbah’s Anti-Monday melee. Cleveland industrial quartet Filter just dropped their fourth studio effort (in 15 years?), Anthems for the Damned. Eh. Welsh alt-rockers PAP are touring the world behind sophomore set Beyond the Horizon. Eh eh.... Monday Night Football (Baltimore at Pittsburgh.)

Tuesday 30

Blues-rock singer, slider, singer Johnny Winter and local guilt guy Bill Magee throw down at Belly Up Tuesday night. Winter’s got a couple Grammy noms for work with other artists but enough industry cred to choke a Wikipedian. And for you completists, this year the Texas native dug deep to release three bootlegs from his ’70s heyday.... Pattern Is Movement, the Cave Singers, and Swim Party will make a splash at Casbah with odd-pop-n-roll. Philly duo PIM this year dropped critical curiosity All Together, a collection of operatic piano pop over free-style beats. Real interesting. Like pumped-up Grizzly Bear or shake-n-bake Radiohead. Check the Space takes before ordering.... In the ‘hood: Beauty Bar books a Big Sky Art Collective event featuring Charles Musket, the Illuminants, and Old Palominos.... And, Holy Shite, Radio Room fills a buzzy Tuesday bill with punk/rock acts Daygo Abortions (Vancouver, BC), the Accused, Basura, Titanarum, the Resonaments, and Nuclear Tomorrow.

Wednesday 1

NYC gypsy punks Gogol Bordello roll the caravan to 4th&B behind last year’s super Taranta, a 14-song pileup of Balkan beats, American punk, and frontman Eugene Hütz’s “pleasant screams.” This eight-piece sidehow needs to be seen to be believed.... From the other end of the musical spectrum, Icelandic experimental ambienters Sigur Rós take the stage at Copley, courting Med Sul / Magna Við Spilum Endalaust (to wit: With a Buzz in Our Ears We Play Endlessly). “Gogolbedgook” is the lead single, if yer interested.... Belly Up books psych-pop pepers the Dandy Warhols with A Place to Bury Strangers. Diggies indeed.... U.K. epic-song witches Sian Alice Group will play Casbah. The sextet is out to tout Social Registry debut 59:59. Epic. Fantastic Magic sets the stage.... Santa Barbara’s Fat Wreck Chords records Lagwagon spin the pit at House of Blues with pop-punk trio Macs. While Cleveland psych-rock couple Mr. Gnome gets a leg up on Bar Pink’s stage to Deliver This Creature.

— Barnaby Monk
Friends Like These

“We can’t pay you much, but we can pay you in love — and cans of Pabst Blue Ribbon.”

The Modlins wear suits and skinny ties and play what they call “oldies-influenced indie-pop.” That may lead you to assume that the band plays obscure cover tunes from the early 1960s, but the Modlins play their own music.

The band has released two full-length CDs, Here’s to Being Happy and last year’s With Friends Like These — the latter of which just won Best Pop Album at the 2008 San Diego Music Awards.

Eric Killian plays right-handed guitar, Matt Sheridan left-handed guitar, with Stoph Rhanor on drums and Alex Smith on bass.

“Basically, the Modlins are always looking for roadies,” says Alex, when asked about employment woes in America. “We can’t pay you much, but we can pay you in love — and cans of Pabst Blue Ribbon.” He adds, “We’d love it if someone else was paying us to do this whole thing for a living. In the meantime, we’ll settle for not breaking up and a few free beers along the way.”

WHAT’S IN YOUR MUSIC PLAYER?

Matt: “What’s in your music player?” Eric: “Guy from the Killers.”

WHAT’S STUCK IN YOUR HEAD?

Alex: “Something Is Not Right with Me” by the Cold War Kids. I just listened to their new album on MTV.com.”

WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO PERFORM?

For roadies,” says Alex, when asked about employment woes in America. “We can’t pay you much, but we can pay you in love — and cans of Pabst Blue Ribbon.”

WHAT’S THE BEST THING YOU’VE EVER DONE WHILE DRUNK?

Best advice ever been given...

Eric: “Always wear a raincoat.” Thanks, Mom.”

What song is stuck in your head?

Alex: “ ‘Always wear a raincoat.’ Thanks, Mom.”

What’s in your music player?

Matt: “What’s in your music player?” Eric: “Guy from the Killers.”

WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO PERFORM?

Eric: “ ‘Swim Party, because their new album

WHAT’S THE BEST THING YOU’VE EVER DONE WHILE DRUNK?

Eric: “ ‘Swim Party, because their new album

The Modlins

San Diego Music Awards.

Eric: “ ‘Swim Party, because their new album

Best/Worst gig?

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Sean Price, Clay Pigeons, Styles
Monday

$18-$20.
show. Glam-rock. $10.

Arts, Escondido:
California Center for the
Jazz/standards/blues.
Scott Wallingford.
Bliss. With Robert Sebastian and
Sundays

Fridays and Saturdays
Avenue, National City, 619-474-

The Calypso Café:
4253. $24-$42.
Pop/jazz/folk rock. 1-800-988-

Canes:
Sunday
Lundeen a Trois. Blues/funk/rock.
Thursday
632-8252.

The Casbah:
David Banner. Hip-hop/rap. $35.
Saturday
Nothingful. Indie rock. $15.
Meeks, Little White Teeth, and
Heart Procession. With John

The Cave Singers.
Tuesday
$16.
People in Planes. Alternative rock.
Monday

the Hollowpoints. Punk rock. $15.
Saturday
8:30 p.m. — Ra Ra Riot
and Walter Mingo. Indie
rock/electro/pop. $8-$10.
Sunday, 8 p.m. — Filter and
People in Planes. Alternative rock.
$16.
Tuesday, 8:30 p.m. — Pattern Is
Movement and Swim Party. With
the Cave Singers.
Indie/experimental/rock. $8
Wednesday, 8:30 p.m. — The San
Alice Group. Progressive/indie
rock. $8.

Chateau Orleans:
26 Turquoise Street (near Cass),
Pacific Beach, 858-488-6744.
Friday, 6:50 p.m. — Robin Henkel.
Blues/jazz guitarist.

Chesapeake:
Che Café: 9500 Gilman Drive, B-
3323C, La Jolla, 858-534-2311.
Friday, 8 p.m. — Paul Barbeau
and Good Luck. Acoustic/folk/pop.
The Flying Bridge: 1105 North Coast Highway, Oceanview, 760-722-1151.
Friday, 7 p.m. — The Lounge Butchers.

Georges on Fifth: 435 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-702-0444.
Fridays and Saturdays, 6:30 p.m. — Peter the Prince of Piano.

The Handleys Hotel and Resort: 950 Hotel Circle North, Mission Valley, 619-298-0511.
Friday, 8 p.m. — Barbada Nesbitt. Acoustic/blues/country.

Hennessey’s Tavern - Gaslamp: 708 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-239-9994.
Saturday, 9 p.m. — Quantic Psychodelic rock/jam band.

Hennessey’s Tavern - PB: 4610 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach, 858-483-8847.
Friday, 9 p.m. — Willie Reggae. Saturday, 9 p.m. — Modern Day Moonshine. Blues/funk/rock.

Hensley’s Flying Elephant Pub and Grill: 850 Tamarack Avenue, Carlsbad, 760-729-4996.
Thursday, 8 p.m. — Filth Thieving Bastards. Folk/punk/rock.
Monday, 8:30 p.m. — The Blokes. Rowdy Celtic, bluegrass, and surf.

Hilton San Diego: 1775 East Mission Bay Drive, Pacific Beach. Thursday, 7 p.m. — Bill Shreve, Steve Smith, Mark Smith. Jazz standards on the Acqua patio.

Hornblower Cruises: 1066 North Harbor Drive, Downtown, 619-686-8715.
Friday, 6:30 p.m. — West of 3. Covers classic to modern rock. $66.

House of Blues: 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-289-2583.
Thursday, 8 p.m. — Republic of Letters and Echo Revolution. With Runway. Indie rock.
Friday, 7:30 p.m. — Smokin’ Joe Kubek & Benjie King. Texas blues duo. $15.
Sunday, 6 p.m. — Four Agent Orange, Dr. Know. Punk/surf/metals. $13.
Wednesday, 8 p.m. — Lagniappe and MXP4. With Only Crime and TAT. Punk/pop/hardcore. $15.

Humphrey’s Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-224-5577.
Saturday, 9:30 p.m. — Rockola. Classical rock. $12.
Monday, 7 p.m. — Michele Linder & Blue Streak. Blues/funk/rock.

Humphrey’s by the Bay: 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-224-5577.
Thursday, 8 p.m. — Kenny G. Smooth jazz. $50.
Friday, 8 p.m. — Seal. "Million Dollar" show. $80.
Sunday, 8 p.m. — Etta James & the Roots Band. Blues/soul/jazz. $55.

Huller’s Pub: 1105 North Coast Highway, Oceanview, 619-595-0123.
Now serving breakfast for the college and pro games!

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san diego reader
september 25, 2008

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Thursday, september 25
rockin’ johnny white presents
jen knight
one lonely robot
sirens of shipwreck
groove theory

Friday, september 26
sprung monkey
mower

sunday, september 28

sony presents

TALIB KWELI
DAVID BANNER
LITTLE BROTHER
All backed by the 10-piece Rhythm Roots All-Stars

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1
never say die presents
eken is dead
Lisa the lush
fighting for nineveh

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

AkaDEMIX • KANARI
the moviegoers
steel foundation
elements of earth

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

the aggrolites
dirty heads • cipes & the people

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8
Canes & Poly Underground present
natural vibrations

TRIBAL THEORY • HI ROOTS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9
Nacalifa
samba choppS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

BLOWFISH
An official event for the San Diego Asian Film Festival featuring
Blue Scholars
Far East Movement • Paul Dateh
Ashley Robles • DJ icy ice

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11
Andre Nickatina presents
the grouch & eligh
(of the living legends)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

The b foundation
HIGHTIE
Josh Fischel
A conscious few

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

Stranger
Project: out of bounds
TOMORROW’S BAD SEEDS

SundAy, october 25
Sean heal presents
devin
the dude

10/19 souls of mischief • 11/1 dead man’s party (Oingo Boingo Tribute)
11/7 Collie Buddz • 11/8 Jedi Mind Tricks • 11/13 Method Man & Redman
11/15 Wild Child (Doors Tribute) • 11/19 Mest • 11/26 The Melvins

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Canes Sunday, September 28

Sony presents

hiphoplive

TALIB KWELI
DAVID BANNER
LITTLE BROTHER
All backed by the 10-piece Rhythm Roots All-Stars

First 1000 concert-goers will receive a FREE pair of Sony EX earbud headphones at the venue.

hiphoplivetour.com
Main Stage Bar at Valley View Casino: Thursday, 7 p.m. — Firefly: Classic rock.
Friday, 4 p.m. — Lady Dottie & the Diammonds: Blues/soul/rock. Saturday, 9 p.m. — Old School: Covers/standards.
Mulaney’s Wagon Wheel: 8861 Magnolia Avenue, Santee, 619-448-8550. Saturday, 6 p.m. — Joe & the Sting Rays: Covers rock and country hits. $5.
Nancy’s Pub: 426 University Avenue, City Heights, 619-280-5834. Sundays, 5:30 p.m. — The Steam Herp Blues Band: A blend of traditional blues, swing, and rock. Ages 21 and up.
Neurosciences Institute: 1040 John Jay Hopkins Drive, La Jolla. Thursday, 5:30 p.m. — The Hutchins Consort: With Shaoudum Al-Bayati: Classical/world fusion. $15-$30.
North Bar Sports and Spirits: 201 West El Norte Parkway, Escondido, 760-480-8228. Thursdays, 6 p.m. — Mike Gardner: Rock.
Gelato: 16300 Nyemii Pass Road, Valley Center, 866-843-9946. Friday, 4 p.m. — Dave the Butcher, Uncle Junkie: Rock/punk/indie.
Saturday, 8 p.m. — The Four Kings: Funk/rock.
Monday, 8 p.m. — Mystery Train: Pre-inaugural blues jam.
O’Harleys Sports Bar & Grill: 13437 Community Road, Poway, 858-486-7422. Saturday, 8 p.m. — The City Limits Band: Country/rock/blues.
Ocean Beach People’s Organic Foods Co-Op Deli: 4765 Voltaire Street, Ocean Beach, 858-224-1387. Friday, 5:30 p.m. — CasbahTickets.com.
Phra Ram No. 9: 3705 Avocado Boulevard, La Mesa, 619-670-9099. Friday, 6 p.m. — D.R. Auten and Gas Lamp Jazz Band.
RT’s Longboard Grill: 1466 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-270-4030. Thursday — Stepping Feet: A Dave Matthews Band tribute.
October Wildfires

1-year anniversary community benefit party to promote healing

Love and Roll Productions Benefit Concert Series present:

With very special guests:

Dokken • Sweet • Asia featuring John Payne

**Friday, October 24, 2008 • 6:00 pm**

at Qualcomm's practice field

Benefit concert for the victims of the October wildfires. Autograph signing 5-6 pm by Enuff Z'nuff, Bullet Boys and surprise guests

Tickets on sale at: Ticketmaster, Guitar Trader, Albertsons (Poway, RB, Carmel Mountain & Escondido)

$50 general admission • $65/$75 reserved seats • $100 premium seats (first 10 rows)

VIP Packages and tickets available at: loveandrollproductions.com

$250 includes Meet & Greet, premium seats.

For more info call: 858-395-3473 or e-mail: loveandrollproductions@yahoo.com

**Saturday, October 25, 2008 • 7:00 pm**

at 4th & B

Enuff Z'nuff, Bullet Boys and surprise guests

Tickets available at: loveandrollproductions.com

Spreading love through music.

Benefit for the
RB United Recovery Center

Rancho Bernardo United is a coalition brought together by the Rancho Bernardo Community Foundation to identify and meet our community's after-the-fire needs.
Sunday, 9 p.m. — Astra Kelly, Deaf Zero, Fight the Fear. Acoustic/alternative/rock.
Tuesday, 9 p.m. — Dayglo Abortions, the Accused, Bauza. With Titanarum, the Resentments, and Nuclear Tomorrow. Alternative/punk/rock.
Ramona MainStage Theatre: 626 Main Street, Ramona, 760-789-7008. Saturday, 8 p.m. — Cash’d Out. A tribute to Johnny Cash.
Rosie O’Grady’s: 5402 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-284-7666. Tuesdays, 9:30 p.m. — Bdb’s Jazz Jam Session. Modern jazz classics and standards every Tuesday, with Bryan Whelan, Doug Walker, Laurel Grinnell, and friends.
The Round Table Cocktail Lounge: 1723 Euclid Avenue, City Heights, 619-264-6000. Tuesdays, 6 p.m. — Charlie Blue. Blues.
San Diego Sports Arena:
3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma, 619-224-4171.
Friday, 6:30 p.m. — Playhouse Disney Live! Kids get to sing along with Mickey and his friends. $21-$58.

San Diego Sports Club:
1271 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-299-7322.
Saturday, 9 p.m. — Stick It in Your Ear Productions. Live bands every fourth Saturday of the month. $5.

San Dieguito United Methodist Church:
170 Calle Magdalena, Encinitas.
Saturday, 7:30 p.m. — “Tribute to Woody Guthrie.” Country Joe McDonald for San Diego Folk Heritage concert. 858-566-4040. $18-$22.

Seaport Village:
849 West Harbor Drive, Downtown.
Sunday, 1 p.m. — Nova. Covers/standards/dance.

Second Wind (Navajo):
8515 Navajo Road, Santee, 619-465-1730.

Sevilla:
555 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-5979.
Thursday — Orquesta Salsa Caliente. Salsa.
Sunday — Orquesta Primo. Latin/mariachi/Tejano.

Soma:
3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma, 619-226-7662.
Friday, 7 p.m. — Modessa, Etched in Red, Damcyan. With Ruines Ov Ahdallon, Sentinel, and Legathia. Metal/rock/thrash. $8.
Saturday, 7 p.m. — Chasing Claymores. CD-release show with Two Word Name, Flux Theory, and more. Alternative/rock. $8.

South Park Bar & Grill:
1946 Fern Street, South Park, 619-696-0096.
Thursdays, 9:30 p.m. — Open jazz jam.

St. John of the Cross:
8086 Broadway, Lemon Grove, 619-466-3209.
Sunday, 3:50 p.m. — Robin Henkel. Blues/jazz guitarist.

Stage Saloon:
762 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-225-3359.

Terra:
900 Vermont Street, Hillcrest, 619-293-7000.
Thursday, 6 p.m. — Robin Henkel. Blues/jazz guitarist.

Tiki House:
1152 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-273-9734.
Thursday — The Road Dogs. Blues.
Friday — Mild. Garage/blues/soul.
Saturday — Stoney Dudes.
Tuesday — Trent Hancock.
Acoustic/pop/indie.
In the mid '90s, when every other musician in the music-rich city of Portland, Oregon, was cultivating a lo-fi sound and a low-budget, DIY aesthetic, the Dandy Warhols sounded, dressed, and acted like rock stars. In the early days they were known more for their onstage nudity and prolific partying than their music, but by the time the Dandy's released 23 Tales from Urban Bohemia in 2000, their talent was undeniable. Three years later the band released the heavily electronic Welcome to the Monkey House, and their songs were all over trendy youth TV shows — which to modern artists is what being all over the radio was to earlier generations.

Then something weird happened. Digs! — an enjoyable documentary contrasting the relatively professional Dandy's with their shambolic rivals the Brian Jonestown Massacre — hit DVD players and quickly drew a following. Problem was, Digs! more or less advanced the idea that Dandy Warhols singer Taylor Taylor will never be as weirdly compelling as BJM madman Anton Newcombe. The fact that Taylor-Taylor narrated the movie suggested that he believed it, too. He responded by releasing the weirdest Dandy's album yet, Odditorium or Warlords of Mars. It was a disaster of Newcombe proportions.

Now the Dandy's are back, doing what they do best, with Earth to the Dandy Warhols. It sounds like a sequel to 23 Tales from Urban Bohemia, and that's great. See, the thing that Digs! didn't tell you is that, no matter what kind of tragic charm Newcombe may have, the Dandy's professionalism has always made them not merely more commercial but better in just about every way.
Ché Café: 9500 Gilman Drive, B-1032C, La Jolla, 858-534-2311.

October 3 — Vitamin X and Broken Needle.
October 10 — Genghis Tron, Yip Yip, Clap! Brks.
October 11 — 7 Generations, Masterpiece, All Is Fleeting.
October 17 — Chinese Stars and the Awesome Brothers.
October 18 — Verge, Killing the Dream, Built to Last.
October 19 — The Paddle Boat and Agent Ribbons.
October 24 — Gary Wilson, Christmas Island, Mark Lewis.
October 31 — Cattle Decapitation.

Concerts at Valley View Casino: 16300 Nyemii Pass Road, Valley Center, 866-843-9946.

October 5 — Earth, Wind & Fire.
October 15 — Randy Travis.

Copley Symphony Hall: 750 B Street, Downtown, 619-235-0804.

November 15 — Viva El Mariachi Festival.
November 24 — The Australian Pink Floyd Show.

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

October 17 — Weezer.
October 29 — Neil Young.
October 30 — Rise Against, the Alkaline Trio, Thrice.
November 25 — New Kids on the Block.
December 15 — Metallica.


October 16 — Jimmy Buffett.

October 3, October 4 — Phat Daddy.
October 10, October 11 — The Bull Dogg.
October 17, October 18 — Nemesis.

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

October 5 — Serenati.

Epicentre: 8450 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa, 858-271-4000.

October 3 — The Guze, the Demeanors, Stereo Upset.
October 4, October 5 — “Next Big Thing.”
October 24 — Hellowoodbye.
November 7 — The Material and Blameshift.
November 15 — A Cursive Memory and So Long Davey.

Hard Rock Café: 801 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-615-ROCK.

October 2 — The Donnas.

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

October 3 — James.
October 4 — Mindless Self Indulgence.
October 8 — Yngwie Malmsteen.
October 10 — Santogold.
October 11 — Chris Cagle.
October 12 — The Kings of Leon.
October 13 — Gavin DeGraw.
October 14 — White Lion.
October 16 — Jorge Celyedon & Jimmy Zambrano.
October 17 — Led Zeppagain.
October 18 — Mariela.
October 19 — Streetlight Manifesto.
October 20 — Tech N9ne.
October 21 — SNN Nation.
October 22 — Alison Moyet.
October 23 — Bayliss.
October 28 — Matt Nathanson.
October 29 — Umphrey’s McGee.
October 30 — Apocalyptica.
October 31 — Jack Mannequin.
November 1 — The Damned.
November 2 — Cobra Starship.
November 5 — Ingrid Michaelson.
November 6 — The Expendables.
November 8 — Los Enanitos Verdes.
November 12 — Joe Satriani.
November 14 — The Kottonmouth Kings.
November 14 — Melissa Ferrick.
Calendar


After a sliver of success from his 2005 release Little District, Mike Pinto embraced the island sound and Southern California life, moving to Ocean Beach from Philadelphia. For his November 2007 self-titled album, Mike found drummer/guitarist Chuck Trenee, a session player who has toured with Bad Brains and Urge Overkill. The accomplished musician’s addition to this record can be felt in the high-quality snapiness of the sound.

Guitarist, Mike plays beach-jam music — the same as dozens of other bands in the area — but his emotion-laden voice (best heard on “Backburner”) and classic-rock inspired guitar riffs (featured prominently on “Get Me Down” and “Full Speed”) set him apart from the usual Wednesday-night-at-Winstons reggae-inspired surf rock.

Thankfully, Mike avoids affecting a fake Jamaican accent, and instead of the standard weary lyrics of marijuana usage and dancehalls, he employs catchy writing to deliver stories, not unlike hip-hop. His best lyrics come on track eight (“You could cut the tension with a dull machete”) and track three (“My sound’s hotter than your upstairs attic”).

TO GET YOUR LOCAL CD REVIEWED, PLEASE MAIL IT TO: Music Editor, Hometown CDs, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY!

Sept. 25: Salsa Caliente
Sept. 26: Orq. Primo
Sept. 27: Su Sabor Latino
Sept. 28: Orq. Primo

Early Sunday Salsa before 8 pm.
Complimentary Tapas Buffet by Valerie. Live Band starts @ 8 pm.
Dance Lessons @ 6:45 pm

Sunday, October 5:
Orq. Primo

Sept. 28:
Orq. Primo

Thursday, October 2:
World of Dance
Tribal Audition

Friday, October 3:
Purple Rising
(Clown/Purple Flag Route)

Roly Poly

Saturday, October 4:
Band Mixes. Label presents:
"PROJECT INDEPENDENT"
THE VICTORY OF REASON
SILENCE BETRAYED
CAUSTIC FELON
ONE THEORY
AUDIK

Tuesday, October 7:
The Plastic People of the Universe
(From the Czech Republic)

Little Cow
Forest Day

Friday, October 10:
Rival Schools
Innaway

Saturday, October 11:
The Modlins
Spero Lumina
The Shambles

Sunday, October 12:
Salsa Caliente
Angel Lebron y Su Sabor Latino

Wednesday, October 11:
Wednesday, October 12:

The Original Wailers
W/ guests
Tribal Seeds
Tribe of Kings

September 25 • 21+
"Recreating The Grateful Dead Experience"
An evening with
Dark Star Orchestra
September 26 • 21+

The Mother Hips
With very special guest
BOB SCHNEIDER

October 18 • 21+

WAVE HOUSE BAR & GRILL:
Open Daily - 12:00pm - 8:00pm

North Shore Café:
Serving breakfast and lunch on the boardwalk
Open Daily - 7:00am - 5:00pm

Flowboarders Pizza:
Pizza, Pasta, Sandwiches and more.
Open daily at 12:00am

Sunday Brunch:
Every Sunday at Bar & Grill
10:00am - 2:00pm

Waves:
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877.550.9283 | 3125 Ocean Front Walk

WWE HOUSE BAR & GRILL:
Open Daily - 12:00pm - 8:00pm

North Shore Café:
Serving breakfast and lunch on the boardwalk
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Vip call: 619-807.4481 • joe@cafesevilla.com
555 4th Avenue ~ Gaslamp Quarter
Yo, DJ!

Talk About a Star

I was living in Seattle [in 2005], across the street from the Space Needle...in the shadow of the Space Needle, really — no sunlight, and rain to boot; it made me want to sleep a lot. It was Bumbershoot weekend; that’s a huge outdoor music festival every year at the Space Needle. I was chilling in my apartment, thinking about a nap before I had to emceee later when — holy hell — the loudest and rowdiest band in the universe was blaring through my window! I would have been annoyed if they had not been so amazing.

Flogging Molly literally got me off of my ass and pulled me across the street to see one of the most memorable live shows of my concert-rich life. Infectious and charismatic do not even begin to describe it. I was envious of the energy these guys and gal could emit for such an incredible length of time. Every song was instantly likeable and out-of-control good. They even have a real Irishman to add to the authenticity. Not to mention a line-up of phenomenal musicians. Combining traditional Irish music and full-on punk and making it sound so good gave me chills. I will never forget that day.

When I get off the air at 2 a.m., Flogging Molly’s the only thing that keeps me from swerving off the road when I drive home at ungodly hours. After chilling for four hours [playing cuts for the Big Sonic Chill program], I need a good dose of Irish punk. Give me a mandolin and fiddle mixed in with some good punk and I’m a happy kid.

Flogging Molly plays Sunday, September 28, at Viejas Concerts in the Park

Henry, Fridays and Saturdays, 10:30 p.m. DJ Steve Harty. 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4995.

The Kensington Club: Wednesday, 9:30 p.m. DJs Adam Zenot, Albert Cameron. Spin punk, hardcore, metal, and more. 4079 Adams Avenue, Kensington-Talmadge. 619-284-2484.

Miami Grill: Friday, 8 p.m. DJ Da Wizzrd and Icaro. Mixes salsa, merengue, cumbias, and more. 4545 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla. 858-552-0668.

Moondoggies Pacific Beach: Saturday, 9 p.m. What’s Good DJs Enigma and Cisco. Hip-hop, Rh&B, and Top 40. 431 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-485-6550.


Scolari’s Office: Wednesday, 10 p.m. Culture Mix DJs spin Latin, reggae, funk, and more. 3936 30th Street, North Park. 619-296-3346.

Sevilla: Fridays, 9:30 p.m. Blasian Hip-hop and reggae with Blasian’s 989. 555 Fourth Avenue, Downtown. 619-233-5979.


Whiskey Girl: Fridays and Saturdays, 9 p.m. DJ Marc Thresher. Mixes music videos. Sundays, 9 p.m. DJ Famous Dave. Mixes music videos. Mondays, 9 p.m. U Call it Mondays. With DJ Marc Thresher. Tuesdays, 9 p.m., Wednesdays, 9 p.m. DJ Famous Dave. Mixes music videos. 600 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-236-1616.


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Saturday 9/27
Live Music + Rock
Joe’s Birthday Bash!
Featuring:
APESQA
FRONT YARD
named under reagan
ABIGAIL'S ATTIC
RHYTHM WRITERS
NARSIL

Sunday 9/28
NFL Football!
Big Screen! Big Sound!
Build-Your-Own Bloody Marys
Beer & Drink Specials
Free Popcorn

Monday 9/29
Monday Night Football!
Big Screen! Big Sound!
$2 U-Call-It 4-6 pm
$1 Off Drinks till Close
Free Popcorn

Wednesday 10/1
Live Music + Rock
SUNDAY GIRL BIRTHDAY SHOW

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San Diego Reader September 25, 2008
105
A friend scored a pair of tickets to the Chargers’ final preseason game against Seattle. I don’t care much about preseason, but it would give me a chance to check out the Seahawks running back I have on my fantasy-football team and crash a couple tailgate parties.

I offered to pay for parking, but as we pulled up I was shocked to see it was $25. My friend was shocked to see I only had $11 in my wallet. He paid, we parked, and we crashed.

The closest tailgate party was all women. Neither of us had a problem with this scenario. We walked up and started talking.

I found out that a few of the women’s husbands have season seats. They gave the wives the tickets for this game so they could get a taste of the partying and fun. My friend leaned to me and said, “Boy, they got suckered. The preseason games that nobody cares about are the ones the husbands give up.”

Since most of them were drinking, I asked if they had a designated driver. One woman asked, “Are you an undercover cop?” I heard a laugh and something about a DUI.

I looked across the lot and saw a cop telling two people that they couldn’t have bottles. They then told two guys to stop throwing a football around. The tailgating rules. “You can only use your parking space. You aren’t allowed to have bottles.”

The cops will pour out anything you have in bottles. The women told me that her husband made fun of her during a Padres game because she said that they’d “scored a point” instead of a “run.” Another gal corrected her, saying that you are allowed to take two spaces. The first woman said, “What is this, a test? I failed high school.”

One woman told me that she was from Seattle, but her husband wouldn’t let her wear a Seahawks shirt because “he was afraid of me getting my ass kicked.”

The women had a large spread of food and drink at their spot. One woman said, “You don’t want to drink in there; the beer is too expensive.” Another told us that the best deal for beer is the Wild Animal Park. “You can get a 64-ounce beer in a summer cup for $7.50. You’re looking at paying around $10 for a beer in here.”

One woman told me that she was from Seattle, but her husband wouldn’t let her wear a Seahawks shirt because “he was afraid of me getting my ass kicked.”
kicked.”

One of the ladies told me that they brought a bucket and toilet paper because the lines are too long in the bathroom. I wasn’t sure if she was joking until she held up the bucket.

They offered us more beer, but we decided to hit another tailgate.

We approached a group of about 75. A guy named Bob came over and told me that he does this for his clients every year. He handed me his business card — real estate.

He smiled and said, “I got four sales out of the party last year. I get three sales today.”

I saw a bucket of Red Vines and several desserts on the table and was tempted to sneak over and grab some, but Bob wouldn’t stop talking to me about his business.

A woman came over and said, “A few of us are from the Poway Elks Lodge. We have 18 members.” She then offered us sliders, which we accepted. She said, “I’ll get some off the grill.”

I looked at my friend and said, “Those other women didn’t offer us any food...did they?”

We ran into a guy who came by the last tailgate party selling newspapers. He said, “You don’t want to buy one now, do you?”

A few kids came by selling candy, which reminded me to grab a dessert. I didn’t know if Bob would think it was weird that I came over to his tailgate, chatted him up about his business, and then scammed some food. But, hey, it’s what crashers are supposed to do.

Elk lady came over and told us that she ran out of burgers. I asked Bob about cooking for all these people. “Oh, well, I got my mom here to help with that.”

I said, “My mom would probably come to a tailgate party to cook, but she’s not going to do it.”

The game was starting, and my friend suggested that we go in. I felt defeated having left there without a single Red Vine, but we sat next to two women who offered to share their food with us. My buddy ended up with a phone number. I ended up getting kicked by the guy behind me. I got sick of listening to this guy sound off as if he knew football. Three times I heard him say, “Julius Jones used to play for the Cowboys.” And whenever he’d break down a play on the field, he’d get it completely wrong.

I wondered if the guy who gave his wife a hard time for calling a run “a point” would turn around and correct this guy. Or do we just do that to the ones we love?

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San Diego Padres Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 24</td>
<td>Los Angeles Dodgers</td>
<td>7:10 PM</td>
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<td>September 25</td>
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<td>September 27</td>
<td>Colorado Rockies</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 30</td>
<td>Los Angeles Dodgers</td>
<td>7:10 PM</td>
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Crash your party? Call 619-235-3000 x421 and leave an invitation for Josh Board.

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

Of all the “charity eat-a-thons” in this town, my favorite by far is the Chef Celebration, a series of extraordinary banquets crafted by some of the county’s top chefs and held at several of the finest (and most comfortable) restaurants in the area. At each dinner, five chefs collaborate on a five-course menu, each taking on one or two dishes. It’s fun for them to work together, and fun for us to eat the brilliant results. The price per dinner is $65, plus beverages and tip, with $35 of that amount tax-deductible as a charitable contribution. (What a deal!) An optional matched wine-flight of two-ounce pours for each course is $18. For more menu information and reservations, please contact host chefcelebration.org.

As a foodie, I have many reasons for loving this event — most of them somewhat selfish. Not only are these dinners probably the best restaurant meals you’ll eat all year, but the Chef Celebration raises money for a cause that ultimately benefits the whole San Diego dining public. The money goes into a scholarship fund that sends midlevel working chefs with at least two years of restaurant experience (typically cooks, line chefs, and sous-chefs) to the CIA (Culinary Institute of America) in Napa for a week, to take intensive courses in culinary areas and techniques where they feel a need for more education. When they return, they bring their new skills and ideas to your table. Among the early scholarship beneficiaries were Damaso Lee, who went on to become head chef at Trattoria Acqua (and host-kitchen of one of this year’s dinners), and Hanis Cavin of Kensington Grill, who at that time was working at Deborah Helms’s now-defunct Mixx, a homey, bohemian sort of place in Hillcrest. “I chose to go to Greystone in Napa Valley,” Cavin recalls, “and I took an advanced charcuterie course. For a chef, it’s pure heaven, because it’s working with all the less-desirable pieces, learning how to make them desirable. I had an excellent teacher. Made you really see the potential of every piece of product, whether it be a scrap of celery or the cheeks of a cow — that all of it can be edible. Of course, that attitude stayed with me and helped me in the rest of my career. It helps you stay in business. Instead of throwing away business. Instead of throwing away something, you say, ‘Maybe I can make a soup of this or a pâté out of that.’ I lucked out and ate out at French Laundry that week. It’s really hard to go up against that week in my life. It exposed my eyes to everything that can happen with food and to people as old as I am now still feeling the passion for cooking, still loving what they do every day — as I still do.”

In the early years, some of the scholarships were for longer periods, farther afield: One chef went to the New England Culinary Institute, another to Paris. They never returned. (How ya gonna keep ’em down on the farm after they’ve seen Paris?) Now, the foundation’s board of directors probes candidates closely for a commitment to work here. They’ve also made a formal alliance with the CIA for a 15 percent reduction in tuition and room and board, and the scholarships are exclusively for study there. The banquets themselves are true delights — calm, comfortable, exquisitely delicious. They aren’t society events — they’re foodie events. You don’t need to flash designer duds nor conform to the socialite norm in some pricey pastel suit from Saks. (You’re just going to a nice restaurant.) Nor do you have to jostle with the hungry hordes, as you do at those vast charity eat-a-thons with dozens of chefs serving wee bites to huge crowds balancing small paper plates in one hand, wine glasses in the other, with nowhere to sit, and frantically competing for celebrity-chef nibbles. Those events can be interesting — but they’re not particularly happy meals; in fact, some of the food served can be remarkably disappointing. Here, in contrast, you reserve a table for whatever time you want dinner, sit down, and enjoy five courses of amazing, luxurious dishes that are generally not on the regular menus. At the Celebrations, the
teams and menus, not everybody could get to them all,” says Rossman. “We actually had complaints where people said there were just too many. So this year we scaled back to do just five dinners. There are always a lot of problems with the details that go into this. We start planning it in April, and we try to meet once a month. The other problem is that it’s run by chefs, and we don’t have a whole lot of free time for marketing and so forth. It’s a difficult undertaking.

The value of the Celebration sometimes only reveals itself in hindsight. Indirectly, one Celebration helped sow the seeds for a quiet revolution in San Diego dining that we’ve almost come to take for granted: In 2002, Moore and colleague Deborah Schneider (now head of food operations at the Del Mar Racetrack) focused the event on bringing together San Diego chefs with local North County farms growing organic or sustainably produced produce. Many of the top chefs were already trekking to Chino Farms, or local farmers’ markets, of course, but at the next level down, too many exotics were still immune to the California Cuisine revolution of the 1970s. They remained completely in thrall to Sysco, the giant restaurant-supply company, and the results of that dependency contributed to San Diego’s well-deserved reputation as a culinary backwater. The farm-to-table Celebration seemed to be a genuine consciousness-raising event, a turning point in spreading Bay Area-style fine ingredients and locavore cuisine much more widely and deeply. Today, instead of finding the fire, flavorless “Sysco Veggies Medley” on nearly every plate, we find the names of Crow’s Pass, Connelly Farms, Valdivia Farms, et al. on the menus and enjoy the vibrant tastes of real, fresh food.

**2008 Chef Celebration Schedule**

**Wednesday, October 2: Terra**
419-293-7088, terracomm 1270 Cleveland Ave., ste K, San Diego CA 92103
Jeff Rossman, Terra Restaurant
Colin MacLaggen, Avenue 5
Victor Jimenez, Cowboy Star
Joe Magnanelli, Laurel
Chris Walsh, Bistro

**MENU**

**AMUSE**
Basil Flan, shallot rings, curry oil (Jeff Rossman)

**FIRST COURSE**
Roasted ugupe salad with heirloom tomatoes, opal basil vinaigrette, and balsamic gelee (Chris Walsh)

**SECOND COURSE**
Marinated hirunuma, tempura Dungeness crab, bamboo rice, green curry (Joe Magnanelli)

**THIRD COURSE**
Duck confit and foie gras tortellini, bitter greens, candied pecans, English Stilton, port reduction (Colin MacLaggen)

**MAIN COURSE**
Dry-aged beef strip loin, oxtail ravioli, wilted greens, Bordelaise sauce (Victor Jimenez)

**DESSERT Duet**
Quince tarde tatin, butternut squash ice cream (Jeff Rosman)
Gorgonzola cheesecake with grilled figs and zinfandel-Telicherry peppercorn syrup (Chris Walsh)

**Tuesday, October 7: Bernard’O**
858-487-7171, bernardorestaurant.com 12457 Rancho Bernardo Road, San Diego CA 92128
Patrick Ponsaty, Bernard’O
Vincent Grumel, Vincent’s Sireno
Steven Rojas, El Bizcocho
Jonathan Freyberg, Bernard’O
Loïc Laffargue, Barona Resort & Casino

**MENU**

**AMUSE**
Kumamoto oyster and Santa Barbara sea urchin, passion fruit, orange-blossom water, compressed cucumber (Steven Rojas)

**SECOND COURSE**
Blackened scallop with candied orange, micro-green salad (Vincent Grumel)

**MAIN COURSE**
Pheasant sous vide stuffed with foie gras, cardamon, and chestnut mousse, black trumpet mushroom, pheasant reduction (Patrick Ponsaty)

**CHEESE COURSE**
“Black Butterfly” Roquefort bleu cheese, sauterne apple, walnut bread, honeycomb (Jonathan Freberg)

**DESSERT**
Pre-dessert
Green apple/lemon sorbet, lemon confit, apple and lemon chips

**DESSERT**
Crostiollant chocolate, confiture de fraises, black Mission fig, chocolate crispy, milky jam ice cream, caramel fleur de sel, gianduja chantilly (Loïc Laffargue)

**MIGNARINES**
Small sweets

**Tuesday, October 14: Pamplemousse Grille**
858-792-9090, pgrille.com 514 Via de la Vela, Solana Beach CA 92075
David Malareky, Oceanaire Seafood Room
Tommy DiMella, Pamplemousse
Ryan Harris, Pamplemousse
Paul McCabe, J. Taylor’s L’Auberge Del Mar
Jim Phillips, Barona Resort and Casino

**MENU**

**AMUSE**
Fall heirloom compressed squash, julian apple pearls, bacon

**FIRST COURSE**
Bouquet of local lettuces, warm Cabriles vinaigrette

**SECOND COURSE**
Duck schnitzel, pear-apple chutney, duck confit ravioli, saba reduction

**MAIN COURSE**
Loafoast of lamb, braised shoulder, prosciutto-wrapped Boston scallops, black Mission fig, balsamic syrup

**DESSERT**
Vanilla bean panna cotta, buttersweeet chocolate-orange cake, passion fruit sabayon

**Tuesday, October 21: Trattoria Acqua**
858-454-0709, trattoriaacqua.com 1298 Prospect Street, La Jolla CA 92037
Damaso Lee, Trattoria Acqua
Tony DiSalvo, Jack’s La Jolla
Jason Knubb, Nine-Ten
Orion Ballet, Azul La Jolla
Amy DiBaise, Roseville

**Schedule**

**2008 Chef Celebration**
Treating guests to a taste of real, fresh food.

**Wednesday, October 2:** Terra
**Thursday, October 3:** Bernard’O
**Friday, October 4:** Pamplemousse Grille
**Tuesday, October 7:** Bernard’O
**Tuesday, October 14:** Pamplemousse Grille

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Panini with a Private Eye

‘Course I have to go spend five minutes in the tree house. It’s so Peter Pan.

I came before crack hit the streets,” says the Mother of East Village. “That’s how long I’ve been here.”

Which means that Gloria Poore arrived in the 1960s, when this part of town was Centre City East and nothing but scrubby factories and houses with peeling paint. But she had this idea: she wanted to make lofts out of the unused warehouses. She lobbed City Hall. She ended up writing the ordinance that finally — in 1985 — made lofts legal. That’s why they call her the Mother of East Village.

So I’m yakking away with her — and her panini, the best I’ve had for the longest time — inside her modest two-story wooden Victorian house. It’s painted matte-black outside, with a wicked little red neon sign that says “Cafe Noir.” It has a deck with tables under black umbrellas in front and a plaque on the wall naming this a historic monument: “Hitt House, 1886.” Above that, a sign in the front window says “2-Buck Beer.”

Man. What miracle saved this from the developer’s axe, so close to the ballpark? Inside’s pretty tight, but with all-red walls and tabletops and black floors and white walls, it’s, like, New York coffee-cool. Plus, on the blackboard behind the counter, what I really want to see is a little list of food. “Hot panini, $6.50; grilled quesadilla, $6.50; gourmet mac ‘n’ cheese, $7; and soup du jour, $5.”

A guy sits with a can of that Belgian beer. Bud — heh-heh — playing chess against himself. Wayne. Turns out he’s homeless. Next to him, a smartly business-dressed gal waits for a takeout panini. I order a large coffee ($2) while I work things out here.

“The panini has grilled chicken with artichoke and hanbrites and Parmesan and cream cheese inside,” says Sam, the barista. Mmm. Sounds pretty delicious. They have a “mac ‘n’ cheese” too, which has sherry and spinach or pesto. “Or sometimes caramelized onions,” Sam says.

“And we have fabulous soups. The other day we had an African sesame peanut soup. Today it’s coconut Thai.”

It’s five bucks too.

That’s when this guy Matthew comes in. He orders the chicken panini to go. Turns out he used to work for United Airlines. Flew everywhere, man. Knows food. “It tell you, I keep coming back for this panini,” he says. “It’s superb.”

So heck, I order one. Sam takes it from the fridge, nukes it in the microwave, then squeeze it into a lidded grill machine. And what a taste. Really. The roasted artichoke, chicken, cheese, and cranberries make one heckuva combo. Who knew artichoke could taste so good!! The beautiful big square bun with the crispy outside comes from Bread on Market. Plus two quarters of orange add a tart tang to it all. The coffee’s a great espresso. Reckon I’ll try one ($1.75). Vanessa, the other barista, pulls it for me.

“You ought to come on game days,” says Gloria. “For them we make pulled-pork sandwiches on a Hawaiian sweet roll ($8) with our own Carolina-style barbecue sauce. It’s a vinegar-based, so we add a secret ingredient: espresso coffee. It gives the sauce a smoky close. We don’t serve

wow — a Japanese Zen-looking courtyard with an odd-angled gazeblo tree house and an entertainment area with open kitchen and hanging chairs. “This used to be horse stables and a blacksmith’s shop,” she says. “And that” — she points to a concrete building guarded by two giant stone frogs — “was to be the Latonia Hotel. It was a room-and-board for colored people only, one of the few places they could stay downtown. That’s how it was. Now my husband and I live in a part of it.”

She picked up the whole compound for $175K about 25 years ago; now it’s worth $4–$5 million.

Her husband Ben’s memorabilia occupies another big chunk of the back building. Turns out he’s been a private investigator all his life, and the guy has created what is maybe the world’s only PI museum. Gloria shows me attached cases loaded with electronics, Watergate relics, spy cameras from around 1900... it’s incredible.

“If people want to see it,” Gloria says, “just have Sam or Keanu ask me.”

By the time I get back to the house I just have to have some of that red Thai coconut soup. Dee-lish. Coconutty, spicy, bumping with baby corns, tomatoes, and onions. Each slurry comes with a sharp but sweet taste. Sam tells about how Gloria makes all her baristas go for a three-day coffee course at Caffè Calabria (the coffee roasters), where they learn how to pull the perfect espresso. Reckon I’ll try one ($1.75). Vanessa, the other barista, pulls it for me.

“And we have fabulous soups. ‘The vegetarian combo and our Arizona-style barbecue sauce. It’s vinegar-based, so we add a secret ingredient: espresso coffee. It gives the sauce a smoky close. We don’t serve

much food here, but I want what we do serve to be memorable.”

So far she’s scoring ten for ten, in my book.

Man. ‘Course I have to go spend five minutes up in the tree house. It’s so Peter Pan. I come back down and into the main house again. Wayne’s still there. He invites me to play a game of chess with him. I bring my espresso over. Half an hour later his two rooks have my king cornered. But I’m enjoying this. I look out through the door and up the stairs. Was that Japanese kid’s ‘voices I heard laughing? And horses’ hooves clattering in the courtyard?”

The Place: Cafe Noir, 447 Ninth Avenue (between Island and J), East Village, near ballpark, 619-235-0075

Type of Food: American

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Choose from potato skins, wings of fire, mini burgers, mozzarella sticks, garlic cheese bread, onion rings and macho nachos. Happy Hour 3-7 pm and 9 pm-close in the bar and patio only.

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- **Tuesday > 3 YOU-CALL-IT WELL DRINKS**
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**50% off dinner**

Buy one dinner entrée and two drinks and get 50% off second entrée.
Dine in only. Valid after 3 pm daily. Present coupon when ordering. One coupon per table. Expires 10/9/08.

**THE OLD MILL CAFE**

3949 Ohio Street • North Park
1/2 block north of University
Order to-go: 619-294-3804

You could win $500

To show how much we appreciate your business, we are giving away $500 to one lucky customer. One entry per meal. Next drawing: 9/25 at 5 pm.

**All half-bottle wine list**

★★★★

“Don’t bore, explore”
- Naomi Wise, S.D. Reader

Wine Spectator “Award of Excellence”

Dinner Tue.-Sat. @ 5 pm
Sun. brunch 10 am-2 pm
127 University Avenue
Hillcrest • 619-543-9340

**THE BEST NEW HAPPY HOUR IN TOWN!**

50% off appetizers

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To show how much we appreciate your business, we are giving away $500 to one lucky customer. One entry per meal. Next drawing: 9/25 at 5 pm.
Raise the Bar
Wine Spectator had recently been duped into honoring the wine list at a fictitious restaurant.

I figured there would be a lot of riesling. That’s why I bought a chardonnay — but it’s a different sort of Australian chardonnay, the Lindemans Composition.”

You don’t often hear sentences like that — someone explaining that they brought chardonnay as a counterpoint to the abundance of riesling, then rushing to make clear that it’s an unusual (read: lean and mineral-y) example of the varietal. That is, unless you’re at a gathering of sommeliers, such as the one hosted by master sommelier/corporate wine director/sommelier in attendance.)

And there was a lot of riesling — someone had brought the ’06 Dönnhoff Schlossbocckelheimer Felsenberg Spatlese. (Go ahead, read it out loud — it’s delightful.)

Damon from the German wine shop Truly Fine Wines blind-tasted a willing somm on a bubbly: “It’s got to be Sekt.”

“It is Sekt.”

“It’s pretty rich. It doesn’t taste like riesling.”

“It is riesling. A ’99 from Gutziel.”

“Wow. The dosage is so dry.”

And someone else had brought several bottles of ’89 Auslese from Bert Simon. Auslese is a weighty wine, rich and often sweet — the sort many folks would drink at the end of a meal, if at all. But the sommeliers opened with it, and Osterland approved.

First, he’s friendly to the notion that you “start with your best wine first. Appetite is very fragile; you don’t stay hungry for more than 30 minutes. So I want to give people the very best wine in the first 30 minutes.” The unspoken premise: it’s easier to focus your attention on what you’re consuming when your appetite is sharp. It’s why Osterland’s party began at one o’clock in the afternoon — “by then, if they haven’t had a big breakfast, people are ready to enjoy.” (It’s also why the fare consisted mainly of appetizers. “After the third bite,”

notes Osterland, “most people are into eating mode; they’re starting to shovel. So when you entertain, why not serve portions that allow for three bites before you move on to a new dish? If they really want more, they can come back to it.”)

Second, he’s happy to start sweet. “People will come to my house and say, ‘I brought a bottle of d’Yquem!’ — only they’re breaking out their sweet Sauternes at the end of the meal. ‘I’ll say, ‘Take it back, and bring it over on some Sunday afternoon, and we’ll start with it. That’s what they do at Château d’Yquem.’ I don’t care if it’s sweet — it’s sweet with enormous acidity.”

Meaning: it’s balanced. “What’s important to me is that people understand that I don’t care what your favorite flavors are; I just want you to know that when you taste a wine, the wine sweetness, sourness, and bitterness are either harmonizing or one of the elements is outstanding — a rough edge.” It’s the sort of thing he tries to teach at the corporate dinners he orchestrates — pairing two vintages of the same wine to illustrate the way one excels the other, thanks to superior balance.

Back to the party: sommeliers and wine directors milled and mixed, sipped and (sometimes) spat, compared notes and shared gossip. Wine Spectator had recently been duped into honoring the wine list at a fictitious restaurant. “Why even apply for the award anymore?” someone spat, compared notes and shared gossip.

Wine Spectator

and someone associated with it. (Excludes retail.)

3-course meal $14

100% Vegetarian

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

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transferred to a pair of enormous "Flamingo" decanters — another Riedel contribution.

“I crossed my fingers that it would taste good,” Osterland told me later. Luck, it seems, was with him. “I couldn’t believe that after 21 years a Sterling cabernet would be in that good a condition. I’m sure the big-bottle format helped, but it says a lot for Sterling and their ability to make wines that stand up.” Best of all: “It was a pretty wine, a Bordeaux-style, elegant wine.” An Osterland sort of wine. “When I open a bottle of great Bordeaux, often, I’ll have people sitting in front of me who haven’t ever had one. And I’ll get this reaction: ‘Eddie, does this wine really do anything for you?’ And I’m going, ‘Oh, man — you just moved to my B-list.’”

Osterland’s take on the power vs. elegance question is a charming one — and also deeply practical. “Those big, high-alcohol, high-extract wines… take no prisoners. They beat up food.” It’s not that it’s wrong to like those wines; it’s that they don’t do their job at table. “It’s the same thing as enjoying fish with lemon juice; the acidity amplifies the flavors in the fish. If a wine doesn’t have the requisite acidity, it has trouble doing anything for the food.” That is, if you’re actually using it as a seasoning. “I see people eat three or four bites of swordfish, grab a glass, and drink down their wine. I say, ‘Imagine if you were eating your swordfish and you realized you forgot to put the lemon juice on and so you picked up the lemon and squeezed it into your mouth.’ That’s precisely the way I see the average

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**All-You-Can-Eat Sushi Bar $23.95 per person**

With this ad. Expires 10/8/08. Up to 5 persons. Reg. $25.95.

**Lunch Daily 11:30 am-2 pm**

**Dinner Daily 5-9 pm**

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

**Nigiri Sushi:** Albacore, Amaebi Avocado, Clam, Crab, Eel, Egg, Inari, 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, Tempura Shrimp, Vegetable, Yummy, Firecracker, Seafood Dynamite, Shrimp

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From our regular menu only. Expires 10/10/08.

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**Old Town’s original border pub**

**Free burger**

Buy one burger, get second burger of equal or lesser value free. Dine-in only. With this ad. Exp. 10/31/08.

Open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner.
American consuming food and wine, tell people: ‘You put salt and pepper on your food, don’t you?’ Why don’t you try having the food in your mouth and drizzling just a little bit of wine in there? Everyone gets it, and it works very well.

### RESTAURANT LISTINGS

The Reader’s Guide to Restaurants are arranged listings written by our reviewers Ed Rudolf, Barbara David, Andree Martin, Shari McCullough, Mac Nish, Eleanor Wynder, Nanie Wax. Each issue contains only a fraction of almost 900 reviews. A complete searchable list is available online at SanDiegoReader.com. Price estimates are based on the latest available information for a midrange entry. Inexpensive: $10; reasonable: $10 to $19; expensive: $20 to $29; very expensive: more than $30. Please call restaurants in advance for reservations.

### BEACHES

The Australian Pub
1014 Grand Avenue, Point Loma, 619-223-2701. A great place to take your kids after a day at the beach. "The Paddington Bar," owned by a true-blue Aussie, offers heaps of good Aussie food. Try the pub grill (grilled chicken breast with pickled gherkin sauce and cheese, "run over" between two pieces of sour-dough) or the Aussie Burger (half-pound patty, with a fried egg, cheese, bacon, grilled onions, beef, pineapple, and a side of steak fries). And for an "outback experience," order up Vegemite (a lovely brown paste) and a traditional crème brûlée. The service is attentive, friendly, and knowledgeable, in a nautical setting with dark wood paneling, dim lighting, and only a moderate noise level. Cigar room off to the bar. Open Monday through Saturday: Very expensive. — N.W.

Hancock Street Café
3354 Hancock Street, Point Loma, 619-298-2806. If you spot Marilyn, Elvis, and Lady Liberty1 waving at you from the sidewalk, you’re here. They are life-size fiberglass look-alikes, but Marilyn is real, and his restaurant is a live home to jazz pianist Herbie Hancock. Marsha has full bar, Sunday brunch, and a side of steak fries. The eatery is open even a little stage where you’re welcome to perform. The food’s Italian home-cooking. Marsha is from New York and knows his pasta. You can usually expect a good pasta, special, and spaghetti and meatballs. Sometimes he’ll even throw in a bottle of red wine. Here among the little factories and auto shops of Loma Portal may be San Diego’s most popping cultural phenomenon. Well worth investigating, even if you just want to eat. Open daily; 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.R.

P. F. Chang’s China Bistro — La Jolla
4510 La Jolla Village Drive, University City, 858-438-9077. Okay, you’re in a mood for Chinese. How about a variety of appetizers, including your own Asian people among the waitstaff. But the busy mall Chinese chain (pangasius) (each of the restaurants) has a certain cool. These reproduction Chin Dynasties here are really something, as are the bits of the Great Wall and the terra cotta warriors sequestered inside. The food? The spicy ground chicken and eggplant was too salty for our taste, the Sichuan from the Sea shrimp too spicy, and the Cantonese roasted duck not enough duck. Yet, there are jewels, if one searches for them. And — not piano, guitars, and drums inside— Great Wall of Chocolate dessert will knock you over. Lunch and dinner. Moderate. — E.B.

### Free Thai Lunch or Dinner

**With equal purchase and two beverages (max $10), Valid Sun.-Thurs. With coupon. Expires 10/30/08. Not valid with other offers.**

**Free Thai Lunch or Dinner**

**With purchase of another dinner entree of equal or greater value being bought. One coupon per table. Not valid with other discounts. $18 max. value. Dine-in only. Expires 10/9/08.**

**Half-price bottled wines Monday and Tuesday**

**Weekend Brunch/Lunch**

**11:30 a.m.-4 p.m.**

**Free Thai Lunch or Dinner**

**With purchase of another dinner entree of equal or greater value being bought. One coupon per table. Not valid with other discounts. $18 max. value. Dine-in only. Expires 10/9/08.**
From the United States use the prefix 011-52 when calling Mexico.

La Espadanya

Avenida Sanchez Taboada 41813, Baja, 644-634-1448.

It’s not only one word of Spanish, it’s learn this one. Bariose. Because this place does the greatest oxen-cooked leg of lamb ever. The meat tastes as if it were cooked in wine, garlic, and herbs, but the owners insist it’s just Tostado lamb baked slowly in its own juices with a bit of oregano. But most folks come here for beef — steaks and the popular beef fillet, stuffed at a big flame-and-smoke display counter BBQ grill. Vegetarian upon request. About 10 tarts, tarts is the place where the local middle classes come for their cross-border fix. Think Tijuana’s version of Mission Valley. Still, it’s charming, and you can have fun. For instance, don’t forget to ask them to ring the bells set in their espadanya (bolo set in the mission frontage) above the great arched wooden en- trance of the place; they flash maconitos they’re great for celebrating your 21st birthday, Mom getting her degree — whatever. Open for breakfast, lunch, dinner, seven days. Moderate. — E.B.

El Rodeo

Boulevard Salinas 41064, Baja, 644-686-5640. This 30-year-old steak haven sits on traffic-drowned Salinas, but climb onto its porch and you’re at some Sonoran desert ranch, oga-ri and all. Inside’s dark wood and brick, wagon wheels, lariats, rifles, longhorns, and gargous-loads of cattle-ranch food. Entree prices include a delicious soup of roast beef, beans, baked in their own soup juices, a quesadillas, a salad, two breads (most fabulous of all are the house-made coleslaw, a roll, and dessert — like the delicious pineapple pie available Mon- days for all too low a price. The menu also offers fried chicken, burgers, and steaks, but 90 percent of customers still order that same old chicken pie. Seven days. Cash only. Inexpensive. — E.B.

CENTRAL

El Agave

2304 San Diego Avenue, Old Town, 619-220-0662. The menu celebrates three great pre-Hispanic nations — Aztec, Mayan, Nahua with discrete adumbrations of France, Spain, and Italy. It’s (the history of Mexico on a plate.) Among the high- lights are the five different Oaxacan mole (plus a sad from Chiapas), local- sal on sal in tamales (hibiscus) sauce, and a unique appetizer; chiloteshocolte, ovals of blue corn masa topped with a sort of “mushroom” that grows on corn ears. (In English it’s called “corn omeut,” but it tastes much nicer than that sounds.) The bar stocks at least 1700 topka and makes a food-friendly on-the-rocks margarita with fresh fruit juices. Reservations recom- mended. Whiskey accessible difficult (steep ryal). You’ll find updine, un- usual Mexican specialties in an im- mense Spanish-style dining room or on a small heated balcony. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate. — N.O.

Anthology

1337 India Street, Little Italy, 619-295-0100. This quickly multi-净值stairship of dishes pleasant, user- friendly, modern-American cuisine (local produce, natural meats, won- derful dishes) concocted by consulting calorie-Bud Quayle. But when good musicians are cooking’ on stage, the beer on tap turns into more back- ground music for the mouth. A great date venue for jazz lovers. $15 mini- mum (easy to meet on beverages alone) or $15 or $5 when there’s live music. No cover charge on Wednesdays and Sun- days — otherwise ticket prices (bought separately) vary, plus $15 to $20 min- imums (easy to meet. Wine list is long and wide-ranging but starts high and in- teresting, and desserts are worth ev- ery calorie. Beverages include denim lavender lemonade, root beer choices, and an intelligent wine list at moderate markups, most available by the glass. Messed street parking daunting. No reservations except large groups. Mod- erate. — N.O.

La Casita

2275 24th Street, Downtown, 619-531-0043. We’re talking northern India here, right? That means lots of lamb, potatoes, creamy sauces, tandoor- baked breads, chicken, and lots of the south’s mouth-scalding heat. At least in its daily buff. Bombay’s a lot less spicy (though their衰 is — patio — creamy, chesey spinach pasta) — delivered a surprising punch.) The buffet includes tandoor, assorted of pains (lentil-batter fritters), mock duck, chicken tikka, and Judy The Big Kitchen. For those who prefer no sauce — on a rice and mashed potatoes, mixed with substantial breakfasts, svelte bistro opened? In a bright and beautiful setting with small tables, but seating, and a patio, you’ll find light and lovely Mexican-style bistro fare with substantial breakfasts, svelte lunches and dinner. All substitutions bar nibbles. Don’t miss breakfast’s peach eggs with a green hibiscus blender. All specials keep the menu interesting, and desserts are worth ev- ery calorie. Beverages include denim lavender lemonade, root beer choices, and an intelligent wine list at modest markups, most available by the glass. Messed street parking daunting. No reservations except large groups. Mod- erate. — N.O.

Baja Exotic Cuisine of India

3975 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-298- 3155. We’re talking northern India here, right? That means lots of lamb, potatoes, creamy sauces, tandoor- baked breads, chicken, and lots of the south’s mouth-scalding heat. At least in its daily buff. Bombay’s a lot less spicy (though their衰 is — patio — creamy, chesey spinach pasta) — delivered a surprising punch.) The buffet includes tandoor, assorted of pains (lentil-batter fritters), mock duck, chicken tikka, and Judy The Big Kitchen. For those who prefer no sauce — on a rice and mashed potatoes, mixed with substantial breakfasts, svelte bistro opened? In a bright and beautiful setting with small tables, but seating, and a patio, you’ll find light and lovely Mexican-style bistro fare with substantial breakfasts, svelte lunches and dinner. All substitutions bar nibbles. Don’t miss breakfast’s peach eggs with a green hibiscus blender. All specials keep the menu interesting, and desserts are worth ev- ery calorie. Beverages include denim lavender lemonade, root beer choices, and an intelligent wine list at modest markups, most available by the glass. Messed street parking daunting. No reservations except large groups. Mod- erate. — N.O.

Free

Dinner

Buy one entre and two beverages and receive one of equal or lesser value free. Excludes buffets and specials. Maximum discount $12. With coupon. Expires 10-8-08.

$10.95 Indian dinner buffet

Reg. $15.95. Hillcrest Sun.-Wed., Tue. Vegetarian • Miramar 7 nights a week

50% off on Mon. & Tues.

Reg. $15.95. Choose from over 30 items: vegetarian, non-vegetarian, and Indian fusion. With coupon. Expires 10-8-08.

$7.95 Lunch buffet


$10.00 Champagne Brunch Buffet

Reg. $11.95. Sat. & Sun. 11 am-3 pm

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For cruising schedule, call 858.539.7779

The Bahia Belle runs Friday and Saturday nights. Cruises begin at 6:30pm.

$10.00 PER PERSON

$49.50 for a bagel with cream cheese and a small coffee

Buy 6 bagels, get 6 free.
Chive 558 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-232-4488. Here you'll find a new cuisine for the upscale residential neighborhood rising around the restaurant. Diners can choose an
adventurous meal on an evening of in-
spired comfort food. Urban multi-
culinary fusion dishes dance to
chic with remake classics and the occasional dockle French luxury. A "gazing menu" features small
bits for folks on a diet or on the run. The menu changes seasonally. — N.W.

Dobson's 956 Broadway Circle, Downtown, 619-231-6771. This
revered downtown restaurant offers class
and comfort, geared for people who
enjoy eating well. The food is good, of-
ten very good, as with chicken liver
pudding, Mediterranean blue mussels,
and, when available, the crusty but
virile soft-shell crab. Their sweets,
and, when available, the crude but
delicious chocolate soufflé are always
on the menu. — M.N.

La Doña 116 W. Broadway, 619-232-7288. Most
Indian restaurants share nearly identi-
ical traditional menus (vomits)
Gourmet India, in contrast, serves au-
theur regional delicacies you won't
find at the clones. Don't miss the
highly Southern Californian (although
offered on. And if you want to be disgustingly
frugal, try the salmon plate with
the hot appetizers. Kushi-age, a variety
(spicy fried chicken) stand out among
the carmel panregional menus (yawn).

Happy Hour Specials

Spicy Scallop Roll $2.99 Philo Temari $2.99
Spicy Tuna Roll $2.99 California Roll $2.99
Salmon Skin Hand Roll $1.49 California Hand Roll $1.99

Night 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Mackerel • Albacore
Snapper
Shrimp • Squid

Salmon Baked Muscles 3 pc. $2.99 Seafood Sash $1.99 • Edamame $0.99

Large Sake $2.49 • Draft Beer $1.99
Add $0.99 for Sake Bomb

Fishing about the horrible service you received at dinner last night?

Get it off your chest at sdreader.com

Post your own review of any of the
900+ restaurants listed on sdreader.com

We will pick three favorite comments each week and the winners will each receive a $25 gift certificate to La Jolla Broughwe.

We’ll also print your personal review in the next issue of the Reader.

Go to sdreader.com/restaurants to start venting

The Linkery 3794 30th Street, North
Park, 619-255-8778. The artisanal
"slow food" cuisine here features
fresh ingredients and made-from-scratch
preparations including fresh-baked breads.

Happy Hour

Closed Mon. • Happy Hour 4-7 pm
Sun. & Wed. (4 pm-close)
Saturday: ESPN Game Plan
$10 pitchers
College Games
$3 drafts/margaritas
Monday Night Football: Football/Brunch
Crab Races
$5 drinks/margaritas & great food specials!

Spring Chicken $12
3½ drinks/margaritas & 3 courses
3 courses and 3½ drinks/margaritas & great food specials!

Champagne Punch
$10 per person
$2.50 mimosa
Crab Races
$5 drinks/margaritas & great food specials!

Join us for Football/Brunch
San Diego State University Campus
College Games
SUN. NOV. 18
THURS. 2-8 PM
We will pick three favorite comments each week and the winners will each receive a $25 gift certificate to La Jolla Broughwe.

We’ll also print your personal review in the next issue of the Reader.

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50% off entree
Buy one entree, get second of lower value 50% off.
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www.awashethiopian.com

$8 special

One sushi roll, small salad and small combo beer. Some restrictions apply. One per customer. Must present coupon.

P.B. Mika Sushi
1154 Garnet Avenue • P.B.
Revealing, resembling a

1128 25th Street, Golden Hill, 619-238-0272. This used to be an
abandoned property. Now the swamp
covered glassdowndoor is the coolest, if (reportedly) ghost-ridden, coffee-
eater hang-out in Golden Hill. Its
garden is lush and tropical, and on its
wooden deck laptops unfurl, essays get written, relationships get worked out. The menu is light, the name leaves the breakfast sandwich (scrambled egg, cheese, fruit) is the Wrenchi (an
Ethiopian calabash), the roast turkey sandwich with ham, cream cheese, and

SandyChile.com

Jade Theater 701 C Street, Downtown,
619-814-5125. The fusion menu here mixes flavors from all over Asia
(particularly Southeast Asia), under the
eye of long-time partners Gene and
Monty. The first floor is a bar, the
lower floor is a nightlife evolving a
fun Shanghain of the 1930s, and the
spicy, salty dinner room (plus party
rooms) is upstairs (with ele-
vator access), overshadowing the action. The granting is grand here. Hot sashii-
evices are called "Taste" and appetizers are called "Taste," and those are the
flashiest, happiest dishes on the menu.
Standouts include the signature Jade
shadate box, the Hikakai scallop on
kim chi panakes, the spicy fried cafe-
latte with two dips, and the depth-
 bomb bisque included in a Maine lob-
ster "triggy" plate. Many entrees are on
the sweet side; two of your best don't like dessert before dessert are the mar-
ganed menu and the slow cooked con-
ster (rib/eye). Chef's prix-fixer dinners
for up to 30 can be customized to
rather expensive venues. Rooms get loud around 5 p.m., when DJ downscrews
creeps up the lounge music. Business-
casual dress, but many women wear
more date filings. Reservations vital.

Jimmy Carter's Café 3172 Fifth Avenue, Banker's Hill, 619-239-8178. Opened
in 1944 as a 14-stool lunch counter. Now, you swoop in under the market canopy and
rush red shirted shoes, deep

blue carpet, blond wood, paintings, and
a half-wall of wine. You're thinking
"business class," but don't be fooled. We're
talking coffee shop/espresso, es-
presse with the all-day breakfasts and
sandwiches, not to mention the burgers
with a salad tossed in. It's across the
street from an retirement condo com-
plex and at dinner, says the owner, "We
come to eat." While there it's a carte
classe, affordable three-course fixe
menus (with a regular entree for each
day of the week, Brum style) are the
order of the day — e.g., tasty barbecued pork on Saturday, roast lamb or pot roast Sunday. Open daily.
Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W.

Ikeda Restaurant 2490 Fenton Park-
way, Mission Valley, 619-283-6166.
Central Asia for San Diego's 10,000
 Soviets, they say. They come to taste open-
 faced sandwiches, salmon, shrimp, and meatballs again. This restaurant inside Sweden's wildly suc-
 cessful home interiors chain is a great
introduction to Swedish tastes. The food's
too more sensible than being, of course.
But healthy — beef and pork for the
meatballs are guaranteed hormone-
free. You eat the meatballs with
Swedish lingonberry (not cranberry)
sauce, soiled in a, the deep open-
faced sandwich, the salmon plate with
potatoes and broccoli, and the Grodal
Los (cured salmon) are always
on. And if you want to be disgustingly
frugal, try the salmon plate with
the hot appetizers. Kushi-age, a variety
(spicy fried chicken) stand out among
the carmel panregional menus (yawn).

Izakaya Masu 282 Stockton Drive
4199, Mission Hills, 619-942-
4593. This comfy, middle-class eatery has a
salmon, glazed mero and the surf and turf (lob-
buster b) included in a Maine lob-
ster "triggy" plate. Many entrees are on
the sweet side; two of your best don't like dessert before dessert are the mas-
ganed menu and the slow cooked con-
ster (rib/eye). Chef's prix-fixer dinners
for up to 30 can be customized to
rather expensive venues. Rooms get loud around 5 p.m., when DJ downscrews
creeps up the lounge music. Business-
casual dress, but many women wear
more date filings. Reservations vital.

Julie's 1012 8th Avenue, Downtown,
619-238-0187. - N.W.
local and international craft beers and soft drinks (e.g., Mexican Coca-Cola) and a wide assortment of international wines are available by the glass. Soft drinks include Mexican Coca-Cola (made with cane sugar, not corn syrup). Small parking spot behind restaurant. Vegan and gluten-free menu items. Dinner Tuesday through Sunday until 11 p.m. Moderate. — N.W.

**Masses de Especiales Cuisine of India**
729 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 858-535-3333. This tiny restaurant offers delectable Indian cuisine. Some dishes are repeatedly mopped with a marinade, making them appealing to the area’s many Indian diners. The fare is authentic! — M.N.

**The Faithful Order of St. Francis**
1142 Garnet Ave., 858-233-5144. The Faithful Order of St. Francis is a community of men and women who live according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Through prayer, work, and community, the members experience the presence of Jesus Christ in a contemplative dimension and serve the poor, the sick, and the imprisoned. — E.B.

**Richard’s**
844 Eastlake Parkway • PACIFIC BEACH • (619) 270-8810

If you’re in the mood for great European food in a comfortable setting, Richard’s is the place to go. The menu offers a wide variety of choices, from classic dishes to more modern creations. The service is excellent, and the atmosphere is warm and inviting. — M.N.

**The Healthy Alternative for Lunch and Dinner**
8200 Middlefield Road, Sunnyvale, 415-747-2080. The Healthy Alternative for Lunch and Dinner offers healthy, flavorful options for those looking to eat well without breaking the bank. The menu includes salads, wraps, soups, and more, all made with fresh, high-quality ingredients. — E.B.

**Mikko**
4530 Mission Boulevard (at Fairyglen), Pacific Beach • 858-487-2700
Mon. Sat. Noon-10 pm; Closed Sundays; - Take-Out Available

**The Ultimate Alternative for Lunch and Dinner**

**Free Entrée**
Buy one entrée and get second entrée of equal or lesser value FREE. Dine in only. With this ad. One coupon per party. Not valid with other offers. Expires 10/9/08.

**30% of sushi**
Dine in only. 5-item minimum order per party. Selected items only.

**Sushi**
- Tempura
- Teriyaki
- Noodles

**Low cholestrol, low fat, no MSG**
1025 Carlsbad Village Drive

**Tropical Star**
6136 Balboa Avenue, Clairemont, 858-488-5900. A modest café and bakery offers Puerto Rican and Latin American food and groceries. The menu includes traditional dishes, good authentic inexpensive food. Some menu items are closed Monday through Saturdays, closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — E.W.

**El Zarape 462 Park Boulevard, University Heights, 858-612-1652.** This little Mexican restaurant on a sunny stretch of Park Boulevard is proof that not all taco food shop food is equal. Try a shredded beef or chicken taco or tostada and you’ll know what we mean, with their generous mound of juicy, slow-cooked meat, topped with their unusual scallop burritos, vegetarian enchiladas, and well-prepared soups. We go for the tostada. The El Zarape is dependable, serving Mexican with solid, homemade, handmade flavors. Three meals daily. Inexpensive. — N.W.

**NORTH INLAND**

**Abbey’s Real Texas BBQ — Kearny Mesa**
3633 Clason Boulevard, Kearny Mesa, 858-279-4727. Texas barbecue consists of three major styles: Central style (dark-colored, moist, clean brisket and light batter); and a fully packed approximation of a molasses (albeit with a kast iron pit fall for item to Connie’s Grocery); b, and mexican style; Coca-Cola (closed 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday). Inexpensive. — N.W.

**The Pearl**
1410 Rosecrans, Point Loma, 619-224-1131. The Pearl is a little gem of a bar at the corner of South Mission Boulevard, and it’s all about fun! You can eat and drink in a tiny wood-paneled room finished wholly with high bar tables and bar stools. Concerts, karaoke, DJ, live music are some of its props — including a very expensive in restaurant. — N.W.

**San Diego Artisan Bakers**
151 Industrial Escondido near the San Mar- ciano Boulevard, Escondido, 760-740-5963. This European-styled, handmade store specializes in pastries and breads. Be sure to try the sourdough bread at this store. The bakery makes its own breads and pastries. — E.B.

**The Broken Yolk Cafe**
2229 Micro Place, Escondido, 760-489-2722. Sand Crab Cafe (home of the Chipotle) owns this fun, funky dive in the wide world of industrial Escondido near the San Marco- ni Boulevard. A visit offers the promise- desh, preshuckyourself to balk at prices with耐心 and eating them with your hands. (Bibs are optional.) Everybody eats in the party spirit. There’s a huge list of appeti- ers, salads, soups, and main courses, often at bargains prices. Entrées include some more exotic forays, cooked with authentic Hong Kong cooking — creative and multi-regional, filtered through the refined wisdom of the genuine Cantonese style. The seafood in the large family that runs this eatery is her specialty — there are distinctive dishes from the owner’s family recipes: he’s mom’s Peruvian galanga, traditional kibbe — and his dad’s Lebanese kibbe — a huge list of appetizers, soups, salads, sandwiches, pastries, and more. — E.B.

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Juanita’s Taco Shop

San Diego, CA 92101

Ph: 619-232-4022

www.juanitastacos.com

Open daily, lunch and dinner

Juanita’s Taco Shop is known for their fresh, flavorful, and authentic Mexican cuisine. Their menu includes a variety of tacos, burritos, and other traditional dishes. The atmosphere is casual and welcoming, with friendly staff and a lively ambiance.

Dine, Drink & Dance Like the Greek Gods

EAST COUNTY

Compino Diner

1307 Deerry Rd., Escondido

Escondido, CA 92025

Ph: 760-747-5611

Compino Diner is a classic American diner known for its hearty breakfast scrambles and delicious homemade pies. The diner has a vintage feel with neon signs and colorful decor, making it a must-visit for breakfast lovers.

SOUTH BAY

Café 1134

1134 Orange Avenue, San Diego

San Diego, CA 92101

Ph: 619-232-2112

Café 1134 is a cozy, family-owned cafe located in downtown San Diego. They serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner with a focus on fresh, locally sourced ingredients. The menu includes dishes like eggs benedict, pancakes, and waffles, as well as a variety of salads and sandwiches.

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In Bulk

The promise of unintended hilarity remains frustratingly unfulfilled.

We can easily tell when summer’s over. In lieu of the lazy pace of one mainstream blockbuster and an also-ran, plus perhaps one or two “alternatives,” we get seven, eight, nine new movies per week, Oscar hopefuls and box-office hopelesses. Here are some of them, some of last Friday’s, some of this Friday’s.

Ghost Town. Director David Koepp once made a pretty good straight ghost story, Stir of Echoes, and with this he has made a pretty good comic ghost story. A misanthropic dentist (bringing to mind the always-looking-down-in-the-mouth punch line) has a near-death experience under general anesthesia for a colonoscopy, which for some reason leaves him with the ability to See Dead People, as well as Hear Dead People, beseeching him en masse to act as a John Edward-esque medium to finish off their unfinished business. Much, indeed too much, of the comedy consists of the worn-out routine of the hero talking out loud to people only he can see. (Not in that category of material is the perfect comic timing of Kristen Wiig as a spray-tanned surgeon, and perfect comic inflection of Aasif Mandvi as the upbeat dental colleague.) Two things, though, will help see you through to the surprisingly spiritual and sensible ending. One is the dour, Ricky Gervais in his first Hollywood starring role, a bit more constraining than his self-fashioned TV roles in The Office and Extras, but still permitting his patented blend of the crusty and the crumbling, the tetchy and the touching, and also permitting a spot of romance. Rolypolies have feelings, too. The second thing, even steadier in influence, is the warm lighting and wide palette of cinematographer Fred Murphy, a name you can trust.

Lakeview Terrace. Neil LaBute’s neighbor-from-hell thriller, no more than mildly provocative by his toughest standards (In the Company of Men, Your Friends and Neighbors, et al.), details the escalating ill will between a newly arrived interracial couple (Patrick Wilson, Kerry Washington) and the long-ensconced, widowed black policeman next door (Samuel L. Jackson), who has definite ideas of propriety and its enforcement. Reasonably graded and reined-in buildup; unreasonably frenzied and drawn-out ending. The beginning of the end involves perhaps the neatest telephone gimmick since Wait until Dark, and the raging Southern California brush fire serves effectively as both a plot device and a symbol. The photography could use a hosing-down.

Towelhead. The directing debut of the screenwriter of American Beauty, Alan Ball, concerns itself, in a bland beige image, with the sexual experiences of an Arab-American eighth-grader in suburban Houston during the first Gulf War, and with little else. Sex and the Single-Minded Girl: pubic shaving, first period, girlie magazines, masturbation, molestation, defloration, orgasms, condoms, tampons, or in sum, more and in greater detail than you’d care to know. The heroine’s ethnicity adds a couple of extra ingredients (a Medieval father, racism), and the emergence of characters and their personalities, along with the formation of relationships and alliances between them, imparts a rudimentary narrative interest. Summer Bishil, twenty years old in real life (should you be worried about the groping and disrobing), plays the lead role with a docile inhibition that painfully underlines the...
**The Duchess.** Fine costume piece. Yes, the costumes are fine. The piece as a whole is only fairish, a predigested potage of 18th-century siren, bloodbath cold-bloodedness, paramours, bastards, the malevolent male heir, all of it “based on a true story.” Rachel Portman’s music, much more than Saul Dibb’s direction, creates the frequent illusion of something better than fairish. And Keira Knightley, unashamedly surrounded by Ralph Fiennes, Dominic Cooper, Hayley Atwell, Simon McBurney, and Charlotte Rampling, commands the screen with force and nuance and bone structure. The camera, as they say, loves her. I like her myself.

The Pyjama Game, American summer-film filmmaker Chris Smith (American Movie, The Yes Men) has here directed and photographed, shakily, a fiction film in Hindi; centered around a spaghetti-thin menial at a hotel in Goa who greedily eyes a paraisodical pool house, longs for a rightful dip in the pool, wangles part-time employment there as a landlady, and hangs out on his off hours with the rebellious daughter of the gloomy man of the house. Poky, putteruy, but steeped in flavorful atmosphere. And the character, while not particularly insinuating, are individuals, not types.

Choke. Black comedy, a bit too openly pleased with itself, a bit too openly on quirkiness, revolving around a confessed sex addict and his demented mother, played (respectively) by Sam Rockwell and Anjelica Huston. The broadest smiles, the nearest things to audible laughs, are apt to be elicited by the tourist-trap Colonial Village where our protagonist works as an “historical interpreter,” especially by the earnest efforts of his overbearing boss (Clark Gregg, who also is making his directorial debut) to stay at all times, and under all provocations, in character: “Well, what do you thou go?” Rockwell, sounding disturbingly like Owen Wilson, acts more as a smile-suppressant. The general level of facetiousness is right up his, or for that matter Wilson’s, alley, but it’s a very narrow alley.

If the calendar weren’t crowded enough already, we have film festivals stacked up like hurricanes in the Bicentennial year of 1976, holed down as “a bunch of kicks taking on the French,” has been freely fictionalized into a chopper comedy (or so we intuit from the prodding music), boast- ing bright photography, a spotty period atmosphere, a fanny vinoicultural backdrop, and, apart from Freddy Rodriguez in a small role, an assemblage of oddly unap- precientable people: the stereotyped snob (Alan Rickman), the tacitless capitalist (Bill Pullman), the dippy hippie (Chris Pine), the blithe blonde (Rachael Taylor), the snoopy barmy (Eliza Dushku), among others. Directed by Randall Miller. 2008.

Burn after Reading — The Coen brothers revisit their favored stupidity theme: Lebowski, Raising Arizona, Barton Fink, Fargo, The Big Lebowski (that one above all). O Brother, Where Art Thou?, the secondhand Yard- killers, at least the Llewelyn Moss protagon- ist in No Country for Old Men. Back to the well once more. The placement of this timeless theme within the Washington, D.C., intelligence community a, however, highly strategic, calculating, revitalizing, resonating, and, well, intelligent. (The memorable line from the original Mauchonian Candidate swims up from the depths: “Intelligence officer! Stupidity offi- cer is more like it.”) The central theme has been interlaced with secondary themes of deception, discontentment, self-delusion, double lives, so that while the film is un- mistakably a comedy, it’s a pretty deep one. And regardless how repetitive the theme, there is no slacking off in technique and ex- ecution. The fast hour and a half is consis- tently, unintestingly funny, with only a rare lapse in taste (a homemade marital aid, a couple of splashes of Scream-esque gore) and never really a lapse in tone. And al- though the regular and reliable Roger Ebert has been replaced with Emmanuel Lubecki (Children of Men, note- worthy!), the cinematography doesn’t suf- fer, with its crystal-clear air, its fine-line focus, and its styre-like camerawork, angling slightly upwards, attacking from all sides, intermittently cutting a path in a spur of purposeful fluidity. George Clooney, Frances McDormand, Brad Pitt, Tilda Swinton, John Malkovich, Richard Jenkins, David Rasche, J.K. Simmons. 2008.

Bangkok Dangerous — Bangkok tedious, too. An introspective hit man (“I’d like to meet someone, but it’s tough when you live out of a suit case”) trains a pick- pocket as his successor, and moors over a beautiful, malevolent pharmacist, only to go on to a big job before retirement. The Pang Brothers’ English-language remake of their own 1999 action film has a blash image that rams human flesh into fish flesh. Nicolas Cage, Shiloh Fernandez, Charlie Yeung. 2008.

Bottle Shock — Unpalatable promo for California wines, more broadly a paean to good American know-how and a chance, at the same time, to stick it to the French, the British, the Old World. A com- petitive wine tasting in the Bicentennial year of 1976, holed down as “a bunch of kicks taking on the French,” has been freely fictionalized into a chopper comedy (or so we intuit from the prodding music), boast- ing bright photography, a spotty period atmosphere, a fanny vinoicultural backdrop, and, apart from Freddy Rodriguez in a small role, an assemblage of oddly unap- precientable people: the stereotyped snob (Alan Rickman), the tacitless capitalist (Bill Pullman), the dippy hippie (Chris Pine), the blithe blonde (Rachael Taylor), the snoopy barmy (Eliza Dushku), among others. Directed by Randall Miller. 2008.

The Dark Knight — Fashionably “dark” comic-book movie, the first one to think of putting the darkness right up in the title — a synonym, that, for ‘the bat man,’ as he is frequently and unfamiliarly referred to, or simply Batman to you and me. Aside from the title, the second installment in Christoph Nolan’s restyling of the DC Comics superhero comes no points as a trailblazer. It would earn none even were it the first installment, although we must acknowledge that this trend-follower sets itself apart as an exceedingly oppressive, grinding, grueling comic-book movie, the first one to think of the title, the second installment in Christopher Nolan’s restyling of the DC Comics superhero.

The Dark Knight — Conventional Hollywood “biopic” on an unconventional subject: the ignored, ridiculed, and campily canonized director of Plan 9 from Outer Space. The disparate, or nonexistent, of the central figure liberates the film to engage in the kind of myth-making in which the “biopic” once engaged with impurity, but which has been much curbed since the coinage of the term “docudrama.” If ever Tim Burton (in the possessive case) ought to have been part of a movie’s title, this surely would have been the one. Tim Burton’s The Nightmare Before Christmas. Tim Burton’s The Nightmare Before Christmas.

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Flying to the Moon — Badly drawn houseflies (general conformity and consistency of troll dolls) now sway aboard Apollos 11. The 3D computer animation may escape the screen, it can’t escape the insipidness. With the voices of Trevor Gagnon, David Gore, Philip Bolden, Christopher Lloyd, and (as himself) Buzz Aldrin, directed by Ben Stassen. ★★

Ghost Town — Reviewed this issue. With Ricky Gervais, Greg Kinnear, Téa Leoni, and Billy Campbell, directed by David Koepp. ★★★

Lakeview Terrace — Reviewed this issue. With Samuel L. Jackson, Patrick Wilson, Kerry Washington, and Ron Glass, directed by Neil LaBute. ★★★

Mamma Mia! — The Catherine Johnson stage musical brought to the screen under its stage director, Phyllida Lloyd: a roman tic-comic bubble about a scheduled wed ding on a Greek island, to which the bride to be, unknown to her mother, has invited the three men who are sex candidates to be her biological father. (All three prove to be remarkably unscrupulous and acquisitive guys.) But that’s a mere pretext for the players at short intervals to waffle tones from the ABBA songbook. Among the things that might be said about the movie are (a) that ABBA, infectious though they can be, are not exactly the Beatles, as witness the latter’s similar use in Across the Universe; (b) that another and better wedding movie, Muriel’s Wedding, had already successfully plundered the ABBA songbook, without asking its cast to do the singing; (c) that this cast for the most part are not singers (Pierce Brosnan in full throat looks as if his head’s about to explode), although no apologies need be made for Meryl Streep, who, beside her lusty belting, supplements her usual emotion-plumbing with some poppy physicality; (d) that the natural settings, clearly, brightly, sunnily photographed, somewhat temper the inherent campiness, and (e) that this tempering, in a work of such fragile artifice, is not necessarily a good thing. To get down to a couple of specifics, the “Super Trooper” number on the eve of the wedding is a definite high point, and despite the shortage of competition for high points, the closing credits are well worth hanging on for, providing two higher points in the form of encore — twin peaks, if you please — with Strep and her bosom buddies (the blissfully confident Christine Baranski and the indomitably
pluckily Julie Walters) stepping off the Greek island and onto a secluded concert stage, in disco-era Vegas costumes. With Amanda Seyfried, Colin Firth, Stellan Skarsgard, and Dominic Cooper. 2008.

Man on Wire — Filmmaker James Marsh takes a novel approach to the topic of the World Trade Center, a caper documentary (to coin a genre) on the forty-five-minute funambulist stunt undertaken in 1974 by the Frenchman Philippe Petit, walking a tightwire between the Twin Towers. The events of 9/11 are never mentioned, but they’re an irrepressible subtext in the found footage of the site before and during construction, and in the cloak-and-dagger planning and execution of the covert assault on the Towers. One still photo of the wirewalker posed in midair even captures an overdive — at a safe clearance — in the same frame. Because so much of the film consists of present-day talking heads interspersed with black-and-white reenactments and authentic archive footage, there’s something of a kick cloy about the omission. Certainly the enormity of the later crime needn’t be introduced in mitigation of Petit’s mischief. But the disappearance of the Towers from the face of the earth would serve to underscore the singularity, the unapproachability, of the stunt. Perhaps that goes literally without saying. And yet, if the Towers meant so much to Petit from the first moment he learned of the project (spectacularly ripping a page out of a magazine at the dentist’s office), then it would be only natural to solicit from him something in the way of an epiphany. The documentary’s function as a caper thriller, meanwhile, is to balance a success. The narrative information doesn’t always come in the best order or fullest form, and it comes with a good many interruptions and side trips, but the details of the operation will often, for one reason or another, boggle the mind. And although the undimmed history, along with the manifest survival of something larkish, something perhaps starring Michael Crawford and Judy Geeson circa 1983, with Jamie Bell, Sophia Myles, Caruin Hinds, and Claire Forlani, proceeds, however, into repellence, incoherence, and tedium. With Kiefer Sutherland, Paula Patton, Amy Smart, and Jason Flomynge, directed by Alexandre Aja. 2008.

Mister Foe — The journey to manhood of a young Scottish voyeur who stumbles upon a dead ringer for his dead Mummy, only nearer his own age — an uninviting and unconvincing Oedipal kink fest. The cartoon credits sequence, jammed in tawdrily and abruptly, creates the false expectation of something larkish, something perhaps starring Michael Crawford and Judy Geeson circa 1983. With Jamie Bell, Sophia Myles, Caruin Hinds, and Claire Forlani, directed by David Mackenzie. 2008.

My Best Friend’s Girl — Romantic comedy with Kate Hudson, Dane Cook, Jason Biggs, and Alex Baldwin, directed by Howard Deutch.


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My Best Friend’s Girl — Romantic comedy with Kate Hudson, Dane Cook, Jason Biggs, and Alex Baldwin, directed by Howard Deutch.
Bargain showtimes are in parentheses.

CENTRAL
CLAIREMONT
Town Square 14 6031 Clairemont Drive (858-273-1234)
Burn after Reading (R) Fri. (12:00, 12:30, 1:15, 2:45, 4:15, 4:45, 6:45, 8:15)
Burn after Reading (R) Fri. (1:15, 2:45, 4:15, 4:45, 6:45, 8:15)
Burn after Reading (R) Fri. (4:15, 6:45, 8:15, 10:15)
Burn after Reading (R) Fri. (12:00, 12:30, 1:15, 2:45, 4:15, 4:45, 6:45, 8:15, 10:15)
Burn after Reading (R) Fri. (1:15, 2:45, 4:15, 4:45, 6:45, 8:15)
Burn after Reading (R) Fri. (8:15, 10:15)
Burn after Reading (R) Fri. (12:00, 12:30, 1:15, 2:45, 4:15, 4:45, 6:45, 8:15)
Burn after Reading (R) Fri. (10:15, 12:30, 3:20) 7:25, 10:10
Burn after Reading (R) Fri. (1:15, 2:45, 4:15, 4:45, 6:45, 8:15)
Burn after Reading (R) Fri. (12:00, 12:30, 1:15, 2:45, 4:15, 4:45, 6:45, 8:15)
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Burn after Reading (R) Fri. (11:15, 1:30, 4:00) 6:15, 8:30
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Burn after Reading (R) Fri. (11:00, 1:30, 3:00, 4:30, 6:00, 7:30, 9:00, 10:30)
Ottay Ranch 12
San Dieguito Parkway at Olympic (858-538-2362)
Burn after Reading; Eagle Eye; Ghost Town
The House Bunny; Ignor; Lakeview Terrace;
Miracle at St. Anna; My Best Friend's Girl;
Nights in Rodanthe; Righteous Kill; Tropic Thunder;
The Women

Palm Promenade 24
770 Dempsey Road (858-538-2582)
Babylo in A.D.; Bangkok Dangerous; Burn After Reading; The Dark Knight; Death Race; Disaster Movie; Eagle Eye; The Family That Preys; Fly Me to the Moon;
Forever Strong; Ghost Town; The House Bunny; Ignor; Journey to the Center of the Earth; Lakeview Terrace; The Lucky Ones; Miracle at St. Anna; Mirrors; My Best Friend's Girl; Nights in Rodanthe; Righteous Kill; Star Wars: The Clone Wars; Tropic Thunder; The Women

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

POWAY
Poway 10
13475 Pinyo Road (858-646-9623)

Eagle Eye (PG-13) (10:45 14:30 14:45 16:45 17:45)
1:00 3:45 7:30
Burn after Reading (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:00 2:00 4:00)
Eagle Eye (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:00 14:30 17:00 19:30)
Rogue Planet (PG-13) (12:30 2:30 4:30 7:30)
Sesame Street: Abby in Wonderland (G) 10:30 am Sat.-Sun. only.

NATIONAL CITY
Plaza Bonita 14
3030 Plaza Bonita Road (858-538-2402)
Burn after Reading; The Dark Knight (PG-13); Eagle Eye (PG-13);
The Family That Preys (PG-13); Ghost Town (PG-13); The House Bunny (PG-13); Ignor (PG-13); Lakeview Terrace (PG-13); Mamma Mia! (PG-13); My Best Friend's Girl (PG-13); Nights in Rodanthe (PG-13); Righteous Kill (PG-13);
Star Wars: The Clone Wars (PG-13); Tropic Thunder (PG-13);
The Women (PG-13)

IMPERIAL BEACH
South Bay Drive In
2170 Coronado Avenue (619-632-2277)
Call theater for program information

NORTH INLAND
CARMEL MOUNTAIN
Carmel Mountain 14
16200 Carmel Mountain Road (858-674-9770)
Burn after Reading; Eagle Eye (PG-13); Ghost Town (PG-13);
The House Bunny (PG-13); Igor (PG-13); Lakeview Terrace (PG-13); Mamma Mia! (PG-13); My Best Friend's Girl (PG-13); Nights in Rodanthe (PG-13); Righteous Kill (PG-13);
Star Wars: The Clone Wars (PG-13); Tropic Thunder (PG-13);
The Women (PG-13)

ENCINITAS
La Paloma
471 South Coast Highway 101
(760-486-5826)
Mamma Mia! (PG-13); Man on Wire (PG-13)

LA COSTA
La Costa 6
6911 El Camino Real at Avenida Del Mar
(760-399-8221)

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...The incomparable Samuel L. Jackson is riveting to watch!”

-Oliver Stone, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

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San Diego Reader — MOVIES

REY 16: RANCHO SAN DIEGO 12; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; Santee Drive In (TOWN SQUARE 14)

Star Wars: The Clone Wars — Or in the order the words appear on screen and in the ads, Star the Clone Wars Wars. It fills in events on the timeline between parts two and three of the second cycle in George Lucas’s space saga. If, from this remove, that’s still of concern to anyone. Under the guiding hand of Dave Filoni, the full computer animation, as opposed to the extensive but partial computer animation in the abbreviated cycle, nudges the action ever farther into the universe of the video game. If, again, that’s of any concern. Best let the zealots fight it out. 2008.

Tell No One — If this doesn’t give us what we expect and want from a French thriller, we expect and want from a French thriller, it boasts the sort of plotting and cockamamie beyond the realm of all probability, it boasts the sort of plotting and delaying tactics whose effect is to engage our interest: François Cluzet, the Gallic Dustin Hoffman, in looks at least, if not also in nudity intensity, as the doctor who believes he has lost his wife to a serial killer, and comes to find out, on the eighth anniversary of the event, that he may not have lost her for good; Marie-Josée Croze (the Canadian) as the absent wife; Kristin Scott-Thomas (the Brit) as an uptight lesbian; the formidable Nathalie Baye as a high-priced and all-business attorney, François Bertin as the dogged, 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 not a hint of a knee-jerk, shoulders the brunt of the absurdity. 2007.

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User Reviews — MOVIES

Best user comments from Reader website

Burn After Reading 2008

Actually, I found this to be a major drop-off in quality from previous Coen efforts (well, on pace with the strange Man Who Wasn’t There). Maybe it needs another viewing.

First of all, I detected a bit of a Homeric nod with regard to the CD-ROM, the principal MacGuffin of this thing. We aren’t really told what exactly is on the CD, so when Pitt and McDormand discover it, the assumption is that only the “mem-wah” is present on it. However, in the scene in the law office, when the paralegal realizes its missing, we are then told that the CD contains (also contains?) financial records.

At that scene, I was scratching my head — “Were there two CD-ROMs?” I asked myself. Mr. Shepherd perhaps explains what happens a bit more clearly than the Coens did themselves. I’m not sure we’re ever told exactly what the CD was supposed to contain.

Also, Pitt’s and McDormand’s herky-jerky performances, endearing at first, became a bit tiresome after repeated exposure. The Coens, usually such sure-footed directors vis-à-vis their actors, seemed to be giving everyone a freer rein in this one.

The funniest part of this movie! Carter Burwell’s overdone, percussion-laced score, perfectly satirizing the usual government intrigue/spy/thriller sort of “suspense music.”

By joeb 1:56 p.m., Sept. 17, 2008

Burn After Reading 2008

Duncan’s effulgent praise for the Coen bros. reminds me of Fox News anchors’ reflexive defense of the Bush administration. He holds up a few golden nuggets he’s managed to scrounge from a played-out mine and cries “Tareak!” Burn after Reading is a pedestrian, uninspired effort that is rarely funny, often tedious, and continuously mean-spirited. Playing for laughs the violent murders of two characters, one involving repeated thrusts of a hatchet, are indeed “lapses in tone” that leave a decidedly bad aftertaste in what is falsely marketed as a “screw-ball comedy.” The direction isn’t particularly noteworthy, given the Coens’ famous use of storyboards, and the dialogue isn’t as clever as they obviously intended to be. Carter Burwell’s excellent score is wasted.

By filabuster 2:59 p.m., Sept. 18, 2008

Burn After Reading 2008

I would exclude Llewellyn Moss from the gallery of Coen brothers morons. Moss’s actions may have been unwise, but he was no dope. And speaking of morons and dopes, I must strongly disagree with Duncan’s opinion of Brad Pitt’s performance in BAR. Pitt is a black . . . pip in the center of the film. I found him entirely unconvincing playing the foil; although his performance suggests that he may well be a fool. We now know that the Coens cannot coax a fine performance from every or any actor. There are, apparently, limits to their rehabilita-

tive skills. Burn After Reading at times appears to be a work of someone other than Joel and Ethan trying make a Coen brothers’ film; but the final debriefing redeems the shaky spots that came before it. Four stars seems right.

By Mudhead 4:02 p.m., Sept. 18, 2008

Two free UltraStar movie passes awarded to the three best user reviews each week. To write a User Review, visit SDReader.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.

Beg to differ with Duncan’s latest movie review?

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Each week we will pick our three favorite movie comments. Winning comments will be printed in the next issue of the Reader, and winners will receive two free UltraStar movie passes.

Go to sdreader.com/movies to find a flick you feel strongly about from among the 7000 movies Duncan Shepherd has reviewed over the years.
Tropic Thunder — Major-studio satire on a major-studio Vietnam War epic. The slipshod 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 comedians; Jack Black), and the hip-hop gangsta (Brandon T. Jackson) are but a tepid warm-up to the topper, one of the multiple Oscar-winning thefts from Down Under (Robert Downey Jr.), a monastery love story called Satan’s Alley, a ton-pretty piece aimed at the art circuit: the narrator’s clipped phrases, pregnant pauses, and pensive tones are dead-on. 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 grant in the grant. His only competition for acting honors comes from outside the jungle (though Nick Nolte has his moments as a wisened 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 puffed middle as a Harvey Weinsteinian bullying studio boss. (Funny notion: his everyday tough talk goes beyond anything ever heard by a cutthroat Asian heroin dealer and tough talk goes beyond anything ever heard by a cutthroat Asian heroin dealer and hostage taker.) If nothing else, the raging megamogul serves as a full-coverage mask for the actor’s chronic overacting. Similarly, the gag-splitting, blood-splattering gore in the movie — at least the gore in the movie-within-the-movie — is more made palatable through satire. Through it, you can have a retrospective laugh at the pretensions and tentment and self-ignorance. He can lay it out as a pattern, not as an isolated instance.

The complicating appearance of Penelope Cruz as the ex-wife, shrewdly put off till just past the halfway point, is a potent pick-me-up in a flagging narrative, a powerful physical, sensual, passionate presence that deliciously shows up the callow blankness of Scarlett Johansson and Rebecca Hall. With Javier Bardem, Patricia Clarkson, Kevin Dunn, Chris Messina. 2008. ★★

The Women — Update and opening-up of the old Clare Boothe Luce play, memorably put on screen by George Cukor in 1939 (unmemorably by David Miller in 1956), still an all-female cast despite countless scenes in the street, in a department store, in a restaurant, in a hospital — it gets a bit ridiculous. The luster, even overlook- ing the wan photography, is lacking. Meg Ryan, Annette Bening, Debra Messing, Jada Pinkett Smith, and Eva Mendes (the first two hog most of the screen time) hardly match the incandescence of Joan Crawford alone, never mind the added luminos of Nira Shearer, Rosalind Russell, Joan Fontaine, and Paulette Goddard. And the checklist of feminist talking points gives it a rather grim and driven agenda. Where went the humor? Cloris Leachman, Debi Mazar, Candice Bergen, Bette Midler, Carrie Fisher; written and directed by Diane English. 2008. ★★

Towelhead — A couple of Iowa mis- sionaries in China take the long and scenic route home on the Beijing-to-Moscow rail line, and along the way fall in with drug runners. Director Brad Anderson tames his shaky camera for some recognizably Hitchcockian suspense sequences. With Emily Mortimer, Woody Harrelson, Eduardo Noriega, Kate Mara, and Ben Kingsley. 2008. ★☆

Frank’s Place — Between the silver and stage, actor Frank Cady did time as a New York printing shop worker, a Washington, D.C., government employee, a Mexico City restaurant manager, and a Los Angeles bar owner and manager. In 1968, Frank bought the old Union Hotel in Hollywood, and with his brother-in-law, Roger Cady, rebuilt the old place into Frank’s Place. It was open only 1,275 nights, but during those years the place became one of the touchstones of the celebrated counterculture of the time. Frank was co-owner, manager, and developer. It was a haven, and virtually anyone who was anybody wanted to be there. The place was famous for the silver screen, the literary world, the music business. The list of those who frequented the place was a who’s who of the time. Among the many who did so were Frank Capra, Buster Keaton, Spencer Tracy, Humphrey Bogart, John Wayne, John Huston, Anthony Quinn, Orson Welles, and Frank Cady’s own daughter, Patti Cady, who was a dance critic for Time magazine. In the beginning of 1970, Frank sold the place to a financier in New York. After that, the place closed its doors. With Frank Cady, Richard Kline, Patti Cady, and John Cuddy. 1970. ★★

The Illusionist — A young woman, in a trapeze act, badly needs to find a man with a gift of拉着 and illusion. She finds him in the form of a German immigrant. He is a master of the art in his own right; he was a notable performer in the 1920s, a time when the art was at its height. However, his gift is fading with the years. He must now rely on the art of illusion to carry him through the rest of his life. With Edward Norton, Paul Giamatti, Potel Coogan, and Colin Firth. 2006. ★★

The Lucky Ones — From the Director of “The Illusionist.”淋巴炎, a comment on the plot of the old Clare Boothe Luce play, memorably put on screen by George Cukor in 1939 (unmemorably by David Miller in 1956), still an all-female cast despite countless scenes in the street, in a department store, in a restaurant, in a hospital — it gets a bit ridiculous. The luster, even overlooking the wan photography, is lacking. Meg Ryan, Annette Bening, Debra Messing, Jada Pinkett Smith, and Eva Mendes (the first two hog most of the screen time) hardly match the incandescence of Joan Crawford alone, never mind the added luminos of Nira Shearer, Rosalind Russell, Joan Fontaine, and Paulette Goddard. And the checklist of feminist talking points gives it a rather grim and driven agenda. Where went the humor? Cloris Leachman, Debi Mazar, Candice Bergen, Bette Midler, Carrie Fisher; written and directed by Diane English. 2008. ★★

The Man From Nowhere — A couple of Iowa missionaries in China take the long and scenic route home on the Beijing-to-Moscow rail line, and along the way fall in with drug runners. Director Brad Anderson tames his shaky camera for some recognizably Hitchcockian suspense sequences. With Emily Mortimer, Woody Harrelson, Eduardo Noriega, Kate Mara, and Ben Kingsley. 2008. ★☆

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Three Damned Characters

“Everything that exists is born for no reason.”

Picture hell. For those who live in Pacific Beach and work nine-to-five jobs, hell arrives every Thursday afternoon. College students schedule their classes Monday through Thursday. Come that afternoon, especially in the “Kill Zone” around Mission Boulevard, music gets loud. Then choruses of popped tops and cries of “yaaaaa, dude!” herald yet another four-day blow.

Ph hell is cyclical. The forever-after variety comes from the Bible via Dante’s Inferno: crackling flames, impish demons prodding pitchforks, flaming lakes, the damned screaming as if all the prisons in the world let out an everlasting howl.

In No Exit, Jean-Paul Sartre envisioned a hell without God. His characters sin and are punished, but the torments aren’t medieval horrors. In fact, compared to Hades, Sheol, the underworld, or Dante, Sartre’s hell looks downright doable, at first.

It’s a drawing room furnished in the Second French Empire style: a chair and two divans, a marble statue on the mantel. The colors clash, especially the red and spinach-green divans, but that seems minor. The building’s like a hotel. It has at least three stories and many rooms, even a valet — some sort of minimum-security hell, you imagine, as if whatever power sends people here is soft on sin.

For Diversionary Theatre, scenic designer Jungah Han papers the walls, window, and fireplace with garish, white and grayish-beige stripes. Even these don’t look so bad until you realize that Sartre’s people will see them for all time. And they will never sleep. And will always have their eyes open. And must be to-gether 24/7. Then the stripes become bars and the room a cage from which there is no exit.

As the play unfolds, it becomes clear that Sartre’s hell is cyclical. The forever-after variety described roles. These are the people they wanted to be like. Then, like wax melting in extreme heat, hell slowly peels away veneers. Cradeau, Inez, and Estelle become not themselves but what Sartre called “the Other,” which is everything that exists for no reason (“L’enfer, c’est les autres”).

Cradeau was executed for his antiwar beliefs, Inez, a postal clerk; and Estelle, a young society woman, Cradeau’s a coward, Estelle’s a murderer, and Inez admits she needs to “see people suffer to exist at all.” This room is no mistake, she says. Everything’s been planned, down to the clashing colors. This place is real, she says, because we haven’t been.

They call death “absence.” The euphemism is apt because they abandoned their authentic beings and need the opinions of others for self-validation.

As the play unfolds, it becomes clear that even if there is no divine plan in Sartre’s universe, everyone outside an authentic self. Cradeau utters the famous line, “Hell is other people” (“L’enfer, c’est les autres”). But this doesn’t mean it’s you hounded by everyone else. In Sartre’s hell, you don’t exist at all; you are merely other people against other people.

REVIEW

JEFF SMITH

No Exit

Directed by Esther Emery; cast: Steven Lone, Kevin Morrison, Monique Gaffney, Rhiana Bao re; scenic design, Jungah Han; costumes, Jennifer Brawn Gittings; lighting, Jason Bieber; wig, hair, and sound design, Missy Bradstreet.

Playing through October 5; Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m., Sunday at 7:00 p.m.

Monique Gaffney, Rhiana Baure, Steven Lone in No Exit
THEATER LISTINGS

Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith. Information is accurate according to material given us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last-minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.

All Shook Up: The Ultimate Tribute to the King
Old Town Temecula Community Theatre hosts a touring tribute to Elvis Presley, "tribute artist" Mark W. Curran, a six-piece show band, and the Memphis Soul Sisters.
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855-635-8484. SUNDAY, 2 P.M.

All’s Well That Ends Well
Most of Shakespeare’s romantic comedies begin with an arranged marriage: the female’s father chooses for her. But what if the marriage is the female’s choice? Most of Shakespeare’s romantic comedies begin with an arranged marriage: the female’s father chooses for her. But what if the marriage is the female’s choice? Most of Shakespeare’s romantic comedies begin with an arranged marriage: the female’s father chooses for her.

All’s Well That Ends Well, 1383 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK, 619-234-5523. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 8 P.M. THROUGH SEPTEMBER 28.

Back Back Back
The Old Globe Theatre stages the world premiere of Itamar Moses’s seriocomedy about steroid use in sports. Davis McCallum directed.
OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1383 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK, 619-234-5523. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 2 AND 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 7 P.M. TUESDAYS, 7 P.M. WEDNESDAYS, 7 P.M. THROUGH OCTOBER 26.

Boomers
Lamb’s Players Theatre reprises one of its most popular shows. In this salute to the Baby Boom generation, when a guy sings a snippet from "Big Girls Don’t Cry," a woman counters with "It’s My Party and I’ll Cry If I Want To," as if Lesley Gore wrote the song in response to the Four Seasons. Now in its fourth — fifth? — version, Boomer has grown a great deal since it premiered in 1993. It’s added social dimensions (the "Me Decade," self-centeredness. And life moves on). When a guy answers a dead man’s cell phone and finds her life turned upside down. (Buld wrote A Clone House, performed last year at the SD Rep.) Bart DeLorenzo directed.
LAMB’S PLAYERS THEATRE, 5944 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, NORTH PARK, 619-239-0808. FRIDAYS, 7:30 P.M. SATURDAYS, 7:30 P.M. SUNDAYS, 7:30 P.M. THROUGH OCTOBER 5.

Candide
Lyric Opera San Diego opens its new season with Leonard Bernstein’s musical based on Voltaire’s Candide. 3 Sherwood Montgomery directed.
LYRIC OPERA SAN DIEGO, 3030 STATE STREET, CARLSBAD. 760-434-5544. MONDAYS, 7:30 P.M. SUNDAYS, 8 P.M. OPEN ENDED RUN.

Dead Man’s Cell Phone
South Coast Repertory Theatre presents Sarah Ruhl’s "fantasy comedy about a woman who answers a dead man’s cell phone and finds her life turned upside down. (Buld wrote A Clone House, performed last year at the SD Rep.) Bart DeLorenzo directed.
SOUTH COAST REPUBLIC THEATRE, 655 TOWNE CENTER DRIVE, SOUTHEAST SAN DIEGO. 714-708-5555. FRIDAYS, 7:45 P.M. SATURDAYS, 7:45 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 AND 7:45 P.M. TUESDAYS, 7:45 P.M. WEDNESDAYS, 7:45 P.M. THROUGH OCTOBER 12.

Desire Under the Elms
The Old Globe Theatre stages the world premiere of Itamar Moses’s seriocomedy about steroid use in sports. Davis McCallum directed.
THE OLD GLOBE, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5523. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 8 P.M. THROUGH NOVEMBER 30.

Dining Room
A.R. Gurney, Jr.’s nostalgia-laced seriocomedy about a New England family farming an eighteenth-century New England farm. As Bertram and Helena, Graham Greene are adequate. The fun’s in the secondary roles: Jim Winker’s crookedly kind (”wrapped in delusions”), Kanda Chappell, Charles Janasz, and music-voiced Celeste Ciulla. Bruce Turk is special as Paroles 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 have never heard its perplexities are much more like those of many happy endings. (How many weddings) have you attended where people whisper, “Give it six months” and are being optimistic? All may be well that ends well, but at the ending of All’s Well. Helena and Bertram have only just begun.
J. Sherwood Montgomery

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Cadillacs of Comedy
Carlsbad Village Theater hosts the comedy group that wants to “take the funny business from crass to class in 47 seconds.
CARLSBAD VILLAGE THEATRE, 2088 STATE STREET, CARLSBAD. 760-434-5544. MONDAYS, 7:30 P.M. SUNDAYS, 8 P.M. OPEN ENDED RUN.

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Dying City
Cygnet Theatre Company stages Christopher Shinn’s drama about a year after Kelly’s husband dies in Iraq, his twin brother arrives at her apartment unannounced. **Cygnet Theatre** — 4040 30th Street, 619-234-5623. **SATURDAYS, 8 P.M.; FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. THROUGH SEPTEMBER 28.**

Fat Pig
Author Neil LaBute always cuts to the chase. **The Clore Playhouse (The Company of Men) or Onstage Playhouse.** His Fat Pig, in a tight, thought-provoking production at Onstage Playhouse, is his second of his trilogy of plays about America’s size and its influence on the body. **Onstage Playhouse — 3131 31st Street, 858-481-1055.** **TUESDAYS, 7:30 P.M.; WEDNESDAYS, 7:30 P.M. THROUGH OCTOBER 2.**

The Good Body
Eve Ensler is famous for her Vagina Monologues, which led to her Broadway hit (which she and Shinn were once linked romantically). **Ion Theatre** — 177 Cornfield Avenue, 619-234-4444. **Mondays, 7:30 P.M. THROUGH SEPTEMBER 29.**

Irving Berlin's Love a Piano
The Welk Resort Theatre presents a musical celebration featuring the music of Irving Berlin. **Welk Resort Theatre, 8860 WORTH AVENUE, BALBOA PARK.** **THURSDAYS, 8 P.M.; FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. THROUGH OCTOBER 8.**

Merrily We Roll Along
From Sam Lipsyte comes this series of staged readings with Henrik Ibsen’s “The Master Builder” as the centrepiece. **Crepidomania, 915 W. Broadway, 619-234-5623.** **SATURDAYS, 8:30 P.M.; FRIDAYS, 8:30 P.M. THROUGH SEPTEMBER 28.**

Hairdresser on Fire
Compass Playhouse’s new QPlay series (featuring plays by gay and lesbian themed) opens with Scott C. Siecle’s searingly honest “How Much Is He Willing to Put Up with when the alternative is loneliness?” **Compass Playhouse, 3704 36TH AVENUE, HILLCREST.** **SATURDAYS, 8:00 P.M.; SUNDAYS, 2:00 P.M. THROUGH SEPTEMBER 28.**

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 scrup and punch lines. Shakespeare used a sacrificing short-cutter, he didn’t have time to develop characters, so he gave them distinctive voices and turned the stage into a babel of warped idioms. For the Old Globe, director Paul Mullins reset the play in the Old West. Ralph Funicello’s versatile, stained wood sets become a dusty street, a dance-hall saloon, and a moonlit forest (okay, the relocation doesn’t work 100 percent). Demetra Bliznakova’s multilayered costumes make the transition from buck- ram to buckskin to ease. If the production has a concept, it would be “Merry Wives is goofy. We’re honoring that. Enjoy.” Mullins’s large cast communicates the fun of doing one farcical lick after another. As Falstaff, Eric Hoffman’s opening-night was, at best, okay. Hoffman pushed for emotional breadth almost to the point of straining his voice (plus, Falstaff relies on images as much as he does costumes; Hoffman gave his words more, utilitarian utilitarian). Some indi- viduals shine: Katie Foreman, Johnathan C. Ritz, and Celeste Ciuilla, as the merry mistresses Ford and Page, book- end the show with schemes and class (a favorite bit: at one point they adopt a 19th-Century melodramatic style and frolic with historically). White hair down to his shoulders, Jonathan Mc- Murray looks like Wild Bill Hick- ock, until he draws his six-shoot- ers and terrorizes the town. **North Coast Repertory Theatre, 9270 S. LAMAR SANTA FE DRIVE, SOLANA BEACH.** **FRIDAYS, 8:00 P.M.; SUNDAYS, 2:00 P.M. THROUGH OCTOBER 5.**

Memphis
Although it felt born full grown to those it blew away, now rock ‘n’ roll first hit the scene, it didn’t spring from Zeus’s — or more apt, Dionysus’s — thigh. It re- quired a small band of imperturbable disc-jockeys to cross borders and spread the feisty news. Among the original was Memphis’s Dryess Phillips, who fought off an orchestra for the music he called “red, hot, and blue.” He died of heart failure at 42 — the Elvis of deejays, Joe DiPietro and David Bryan’s Memphis pays a double tribute to the Phillips-like deejays whose hearts ran ahead of their radios and to the memory of B.B. King, Johnny Cash. At the La Jolla Playhouse, ChadKimbrell plays an Elvis-like character (i.e., Phillips), a white hipster ezer to midwife black music to the world. **The Old Globe, 1363 Old Globe Way, 619-234-5623.** **SATURDAYS, 8:00 P.M.; FRIDAYS, 8:00 P.M. THROUGH OCTOBER 1.**

The Italian Straw Hat
South Coast Repertory Theatre presents this update of the musical adaptation of book and lyrics by John Strand, music by the up-and-comers (they’ve been the classic farce by Eugene Labiche. **Scripps Ranch Theatre, 13050 POMERADO ROAD, SCRIPPS RANCH.** **FRIDAYS, 8:00 P.M.; SATURDAYS, 8:00 P.M. THROUGH OCTOBER 4.**

I Love A Piano
The Welk Resort Theatre presents a musical celebration of the great American composer of “Blue Skies,” “There’s No Business Like Show Business,” “Take Me or Leave Me,” “Somewhere My Love,” “олосе song so close to being a hit,” but Montego Glover does such standard renditions of her songs that the production trun- cates applause — for fear of ex- tending the running time by ten minutes? Memphis has many po- tential shoostoppers (the first act could cut a trim, but which of Bryan’s rafter-shakers do you cut?). DiPietro’s book fights a bat- tle between the actual and Broad- way expectations. In some ways the energized first act doesn’t pre- pare for the toms of change in the second, which shifts from striving for a dream to come true paid in time. And the conclusion’s an unsteady compromise between wave- the-rhyme big and upbeat and Philip’s exit to oblivion (why not give Huay a related task that way you get both). The book stumbles here and there, but overall the ex- cellent production is hugely enterta- ining. The first 20 minutes are so hot, in fact, if the performers kicked under them just a smidge more they’d create a fire hazard. **La Jolla Playhouse, 3230 La Jolla Village Drive, UCSD.** **THURSDAYS, 8:00 P.M.; FRIDAYS, 8:00 P.M. THROUGH OCTOBER 8.**

The Merry Wives of Windsor
from pro wrestling (“where Ter-rible Turks mangled defecled prints while granite waved their hand hangings”), National Com-edy Theatre, an offshoot of John-son’s Theatricals (artistic di-rector Gary Kramer says the two compare like “rugby and Ameri-can football”), resembles an ath-letic event more than an improv. Teams wear uniforms and com-pet with ATEEtv. Using sugges-tions from the audience, they play “Emotional Sympathy,” “Blind Date,” and “Freeze Tag,” with judges awarding points to the best scenes. Klunkers and groups get based, quick wit re-warded (one of the most refresh-ing parts of the contest: people acknowledge their failure, abun-dantly, then forget it). It makes for a lively, even funny, evening. And Gary Kramer is one talented co-ach.

Worlds a stop
MARQUIS THEATER, 2171 9TH STREET, MISSION HILLS. 619-239- 4805. THURSDAYS, 7:30 AND 9:45 P.M. SATURDAYS, 7:30 AND 9:45 P.M. OPEN ENDED RUN.

Nine
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The word of the day is “tragedy.” Pretty much because I can’t speak even basic English, but a tragedy is something that is not only a tragedy, but it also has a way of playing out in a way that seems almost inevitable. Such as when your favorite team loses, or when Cold Stone runs out of Cake Batter ice cream or you get stuck in traffic and don’t get home in time to watch re-runs of Beverly Hills 90210. You know, personal tragedies that really aren’t that bad. You can do it with other words, like “sofa,” which is a couch and a sofa.

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**Isssue of September 18, 2008**

**Sheep and Goats**
p.18 thank you, God should be thank you, God.

**Event listings**
p.67 evidence to will lead is evidence that will lead.

**67 Big Joe Puppet Productions take should be Big Joe Puppet Productions takes.**

**7.10 weapon system should be weapon systems.**

**7.97 early- to mid-20th century pieces should be early- to mid-20th century pieces**

**Club Crawler**
p.82.5. Each should be iSACH.

**648. Where The Winners Train!**

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3) When you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by the new puzzle deadline: 7:00 a.m., Monday.
4) Entries must be faxed to 619-231-0489 or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85860, San Diego, CA 92186-5860, or delivered through our mail slot at 1903 India Street in Little Italy.
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8) Entries that arrive after the deadline will not be considered.
9) No employment of the Reader and their immediate families are eligible.

Across
1. Took a hit
6. ___ Language’ (1993 sitcom star’s bestseller)
10. Celt opponent
15. Bandmate of Bob Marley
18. New Year’s ___
20. “____ Language” (1993 sitcom star’s bestseller)
25. “Woe ____!
29. War alternative
30. Island garland
32. Dive like an eagle
36. 1959 Jack Lemmon film directed by 59-Across
37. Prefix with light
40. They may be picky
41. “Omigosh!”
44. “Flexibility is the key to indecision.”
47. Better ___
48. “____ Language” (1993 sitcom star’s bestseller)
52. 2002 film “____ Mama
58. Suffix with lunch
63. Sock part
64. Intestinal parts
65. “30 Rock” or “3rd Rock From the Sun”
67. Sg’t’s superiors
69. 5-Across and 59-Across
73. Designer Jacobs
80. “Sirius XM rules!

Down
1. Prefix with light
2. Crew’s control?
3. Basinger of “8 Mile”
4. Island resort
5. Indian city of 13 million
6. Quito’s country:
7. Down 5-Across and 59-Across
8. Basketfish
9. Nick’s no.
10. E.
11. 1972 Jack Lemmon film directed by 59-Across
12. Blew off steam
13. 1960 Jack Lemmon film directed by 59-Across
14. Explorer John and others
15. Big Apple school
16. “I'll be back.”
17. “I’m in my box!”
18. “Get well Max!”
19. “Can you hear me?”
22. Breakfast hrs.
23. “Hi Bodo!”
24. “Happy 30th birthday!”
26. “Pretty cool, huh?”
29. War alternative
30. Island garland
31. “I didn’t even peek last week.”
32. Dive like an eagle
33. “LMWK in effect!”
34. 1959 Jack Lemmon film directed by 59-Across
35. Hung neighbor
36. “Go Chargers! Go Navy!”
37. USPS delivery
38. “I’ll be back.”
39. “Almost lost him!”
40. “Omigosh!”
41. “Quit cheating Santee. You can’t harden me!”
42. Disco ___ of “The Simpsons”
43. “Livin’ the dream in Lakeside — sounds way cooler than last year.”
44. “I'm in my box!”
45. “Much better ____ on The Simpsons”
46. “I didn’t even peek last week.”
47. Better ___
48. “Woe ____!”
49. “The mystery man directed by 59-Across
50. “Much better ____ on The Simpsons”
52. 2002 film “____ Mama
54. “Sirius XM rules!”
55. “I’ll be back.”
56. “I'll be back.”
57. “I'll be back.”
58. “I’ll be back.”
59. Director who once quipped “Happiness is working with Jack Lemmon”
60. USPS rival
61. Job ad abbr.
62. 1980s presidential inits.
63. Prefix with light
64. “Our 1960 Jack Lemmon film directed by 59-Across
65. “30 Rock” or “3rd Rock From the Sun”
66. Sg’t’s superiors
67. 5-Across and 59-Across
68. Certain fisherman
69. Nick’s no.
70. “I didn’t even peek last week.”
71. Prefix with light
72. lunch
73. Designer Jacobs
76. “I ain’t afraid of no ghost.”
77. “Get well Max!”
78. “Our 1960 Jack Lemmon film directed by 59-Across
79. “I didn’t even peek last week.”
80. “I didn’t even peek last week.”

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:

1. New Year’s ___
2. 1960 Jack Lemmon film directed by 59-Across
3. Prefix with light
5. Prefix with light
7. “Much better ____ on The Simpsons”
8. “Woe ____!”
10. Prefix with light
11. Prefix with light
13. Prefix with light
15. Prefix with light
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79. Prefix with light
80. Prefix with light

We cannot accept your entry without the following:
Name: __________________________
Address: __________________________
State: __________________ Zip: ______
Neighborhood/City: __________________________
Personal Message: __________________________
Dennis Roth, Santee, 7.
indicates T-shirt winner
at GODDESS TOUCH.
Intuitive healing.
massage. 4
619-379-5992.
spirit. Skilled touch to pamper, melt away
soothing massage, advanced therapeutic
massages for $260. I combine skillful,

Cheryl Warnke, Silver Sage Acupuncture, 7510
active issues. 15+ years in practice. Cheryl
of pain, athletic injuries, stress and diges-
tive issues. 15+ years in practice. Cheryl

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Feng Shui.

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CLASSICAL/SPANISH GUITAR. Professional
performer, will play at your wedding specialty, Church,
Ox the Cuff

by Josh Board

What famous person have you been told you look like?

I've always gotten because of the way I walk. Sometimes I feel like Hitler, but a few people actually had that mustache. Sometimes I've told you that when I meet him.

I've never gotten because of the way I look. I'm sure. Sometimes I feel like Hitler.

I've been told I looked like Janeane Garofalo once. That was about ten years ago. It was a guy I worked with. Maybe he meant because of my personality. I hope that is what he meant. I haven't heard it again since that one time.

Kevin

I've always gotten because of the way I walk. Sometimes I feel like Hitler, but a few people actually had that mustache. Sometimes I've told you that when I meet him.

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I've been told I looked like Janeane Garofalo once. That was about ten years ago. It was a guy I worked with. Maybe he meant because of my personality. I hope that is what he meant. I haven't heard it again since that one time.
Beautiful home. Private room with bath.

### Roommate求租
- **San Diego, South Bay**

- **San Carlos**

- **Tierrasanta**

- **North Park**

- **South Bay**
  - $675+ deposit furnished room for rent in house. Includes cable. Pets allowed. 619-403-6245.

- **TIERRASANTA**
  - $50-100/week.

- **PACIFIC BEACH**
  - $600, plus utilities. Female to share newer, spacious, fully furnished 2 bedroom 1 bath house, fully remodeled. Washer/dryer, fireplace, pool, jacuzzi, fenced yard. Near Palomar Center. 858-277-7003; 858-449-6464.

- **LA MESA/RANCHO SAN DIEGO.**

- **Mission Gorge Rd.**
  - $1850. 2 master bedroom suites with private bath and dressing room included. Garage parking, pool, jacuzzi, small gym. Walk-Ins Welcome. 858-273-9435.

- **LA JOLLA SHORES**
  - $850. Large master bedroom in beachfront multi-level condo. DirectTV. Shared amenities, 2 miles to Moonlight Beach, single family home. Near freeways, Mission Valley, Fashion Valley shopping, golf, tennis, gym. Near SDSU. Great neighborhood. 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday.

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  - $20,000 for the sale of Pleasant Mart Meadery.

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- **930 W. Valley Pkwy.**
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- **256 N. Ash Street**
  - 760-743-1421.

- **escondido@meads.org**
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- **escondido@meads.org**
  - 760-743-1421.
CITY HEIGHTS.

Small one room office, near Wonder. Agent, 619-231-2727.

Cute 2 bedroom, 1 bath, very clean, laundry, included. 2445 Morena Boulevard #208. 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday - Friday.

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CUTE 2 bedroom, 1 bath, very clean, laundry, included. 2445 Morena Boulevard #208. 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday - Friday.

GARRETSON HOUSES.

Vacation rental on the San Diego Riverfront.

BEACH HOUSES.

CUTY CAY. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, ocean view, walk to beach. New furnished. 2401 Imperial Beach Blvd. #203. 619-424-7068.
**Beyond Relaxation**

**DEL MAR. COLLEGE AREA.**

- Patio. Expansive kitchen/family room. $1795.

**CLAIREMONT/KEARNY MESA.**

- Studios from $395/week; $1195/month! Corner two story, 2 bedroom. $1400/month. 619-265-1260.
- Large 1 and 2 bedrooms in beautiful community, lock, security. $800, studio. $950, 1 bed. Upstairs. $900, 2 beds. $950, 2 baths. 5th and Island Avenue (Second and Island), 619-234-1952.
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- 155+ personal, 1 bath, 1 bed in residential hotel. $1050. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Fireplace. Washer/dryer. 770 square feet. 334-7934.
- Keenly priced apartments with sparkling pool. No pets. From now until the end of October. All new and remodeled. Pet friendly! 2761 A Street #402. v@sdcpm. 619-546-9852.
- 2 bedroom, 2 bath. $1100. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 and 2 story furnished. $1295. Extra large 2 bedroom, 1 and 2 story furnished. $1650. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. $1650. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. 1150. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. $1850. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. $1895.
- All new, remodeled. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. $2650. 4226 30th Street. 619-546-9852.
- One bedroom, 1 and 2 baths. $800, studio. $950, 1 bed. $1050, 2 beds. $1100, 2 baths. 5940 Streamview. 619-440-1050.
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- Single family home. 1 bedroom. 1 bath. $650. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. $775. Clean 1 bedroom, 1 bath. $825. Pet friendly! $775. 1 bed/1 bath. $1100. 2 bedroom. $1600.
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by E.J. Pettinger ©2008

**E.J. Pettinger’s Mild Abandon**

**September 25, 2008**

156 San Diego Reader Sunday, September 21, 2008

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**HILLCREST.** $750. Deposit $500. 1 bedroom. Everything included in lease! Great location. 2031 Park Boulevard. San Diego 92103. 619-296-3141.


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**HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

**GRAND OPENING!**

**BODYWORK**

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

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**SUNNY’S SPA**

Oriental Massage

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**YOSSI MASSAGE**

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Treat physical, psychological and emotional problems. All types of pain, athletic injuries, stress, and digestive issues. 15+ years in practice.

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Walk-in: 1703 India Street (at Date) Little Italy

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For appointment, call

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The professional weight loss system

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“...personally used this system to go from a size 14 to a size 6 in just 10 weeks.”

– Jeanne Ames, D.C.

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Recommended by doctors, sports trainers, and therapists, Mineral Spa Floatation Therapy is gaining popularity as a luxurious escape and powerful tool for strengthening the immune system and improving health. Proven benefits include:

• Stress reduction • Athletic performance enhancement

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Natural Incense
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Fast Service

Inventory updated daily!

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• Laze foot bath detox • Body treatments

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Relaxationplus

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Open 7 days a week • Visa • MasterCard
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**Inventory updated daily!**

Special Promotional Rates!

Three display ad sizes currently available.

All display ads include a free classified ad on sandiego.backpage.com

Deadline: 4 pm Monday

619-235-8200

Walk-in: 1703 India Street (at Date) Little Italy

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Buy a large Ziiing frozen yogurt and get a free small yogurt with this coupon. Expires 10-31-08.

Healthy Two

Two 24oz reg. smoothies for $7.00

Free lunch special

Buy a large Ziiing frozen yogurt and

• Get a free small yogurt with this coupon. Expires 10-31-08.

• Two 24oz reg. smoothies for $7.00

• Fresh blended juices, wheatgrass, raw detox drinks, custom mushroom, berry, pumpkin, lemon, and more

Free scalp massage & deep conditioning treatment

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**Let Us Be Your Personal Fountain Of Youth!**

• Colon Hydrotherapy • Liver Detox • Lymphatic Decongestive Therapy • Cellulite • Weight Loss

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Recommended by doctors, sports trainers, and therapists, Mineral Spa Floatation Therapy is gaining popularity as a luxurious escape and powerful tool for strengthening the immune system and improving health. Proven benefits include:

• Stress reduction • Athletic performance enhancement

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• Reduction or elimination of harmful habits

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LA MESA. 2 bedroom townhome, 2 bath, 2 car
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West Mountain View Drive. 619-282-6720.

LA MESA. $1090. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car
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LA MESA. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, 2 car
garage, gated parking. $400-$800 deposits! No
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Granite, Stainless steel appliances. Travertine
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LA MESA. $1195. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, $1220.
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$850. 1 bedroom, 1 bath.

$795 rent. $800 deposit.

$750. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath.

$650. Small, lower 1 bedroom.

NORTH PARK.

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Laundry. No pets. At 4349 Arizona Street.

4185 Texas Street #1. 619-804-3325.

2 bath. Garage. Dishwasher, fireplace, patio.

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Water/gardener included. 2909 Gunn Street.

NORTH PARK.

Plus parts. A/C extra. Most cars.

• Inspect filters

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• Install new spark plugs

$95

$34

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$25

$75

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$15

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LEAD STORY
— Italian and U.K. legal authorities have recently discarded rule interpretations based on anachronistic, stereotypical expectations of women. In July, Italy’s Court of Cassation reversed a 1999 ruling that created a legal presumption that a woman wearing tight jeans could not be the victim of rape because such jeans would be impossible to remove without her assistance. At about the same time, the British government formally removed the special, amplifying defense of “provocation” for husbands charged with murdering their wives, thus putting domestic homicide on the same footing as other homicides.

COMPPELLING EXPLANATIONS
— Jonathan Williams, 33, was convicted of murder in England’s Cockfosters Crown Court in July, as jurors rejected his explanation that the pants he had on (containing the cocaine) were not his. That explanation also failed in August in Naples, Fla., for Richard Obyde, 19, when police found a stolen debit card in his pants. In both cases, the men said they had no idea whose pants they were wearing.

— Glisl Swithaliki, 51, filed a lawsuit in London, seeking the equivalent of almost $40 million for her dismissal from the Foreign and Colonial Investment Fund, claiming she was fired illegally during an illness. However, F and C asserted in June that it found an instance during a particularly unlucky spell for Swithaliki when she interviewed for a job at a competitor while demonstrating enough energy and drive to have received an offer of employment. Swithaliki said she was using an “alternative personality” during that interview.

WHAT GOES AROUND, COMES AROUND
— According to police in Bethlehem, Pa., four kids (ages 9 to 14) grabbed a donation box in August at RiverPlace park and ran for nearby woods, with several police officers in pursuit. Three boys were caught, but the other made his escape into the woods before falling into a manure pit built by homeless people at their encampment.

— About ten years ago, reported the Chicago Tribune, British government formally removed the stereotypical, racist explanation that a woman wearing tight jeans could not be the victim of rape because no one wanted to buy his house (although the reason now seems more the mortgage credit crisis than the home’s alleged toxicity).

THE LITIGIOUS SOCIETY
— Kevin Hansen filed a lawsuit in West Bend, Wis., in August, claiming that a clamp of hair in a steaks he sliced into at a Texas Roadhouse restaurant caused “severe and permanent injuries,” pain, suffering, and “disability,” requiring “extensive medical treatment.” In fact, said his lawyer Ryan Heti to Milwaukee’s Journal Sentinel, “It’s bothered the heck out of him.” (The employee who prepared the steak was fired and later pleaded guilty to a felony, explaining that he was trying to retaliate because Hansen complained about a previous order.)

— Harry Shasha filed a lawsuit against New York City in August for $190,000, charging that his Bentley was poorly cared for at the City’s automobile impound lot in 2005. It had been confiscated after Shasha fatally struck a pedestrian (for which he was later leniently sentenced, perhaps because the pedestrian was drunk). The City claims the only damage done was from the fatal collision.

CREME DE LA WEIRD
— In July, Port St. Lucie, Fla., police stopped Timothy Placko in his car on a wooded road and discovered inside a blonde wig, rope, binoculars, a small machete, knives, gloves, two bullet casings, and a film canister that contained 18 human teeth. Also on the seat was a stack of women’s sonograms that Placko said he had downloaded from the Internet. He originally told police that he had pulled off the road to talk to a girlfriend, but then admitted he was not calling anyone. He was charged with carrying a concealed weapon.

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

REAL ESTATE ADS IN THE READER

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**BACK WHEN**

*In the Reader*

**Thirty Years Ago**
My former colleague, Jonathan Saville, has the town abuzz with his “review” of Shange’s *For Colored Girls*.

I found both the poetry and the stage production of *Colored Girls* to be ambitious, adventurous, and artistic. I suppose that makes me “white, male, liberal, and guilt-ridden.”

Last time I checked in, he was all of that, too — perhaps more on several counts.

— *LETTERS: PURPLE PROSE*, Paul Krugger, September 28, 1978

**Twenty-Five Years Ago**

Our daughter, who are two years old, pick up our phone whenever they feel like it, being bored with their toy telephones: a Princess to match Julie’s personality, and for Jeanne a business model. Those girls love phones as much as their mother does. Jane is panting to get Sprint, though I’ve held her off so far, but I expect in two years the vote will be three to one — I lose. Sometimes I wonder where those Mouseketeers of mine absorb so much commercialism.

— *THEY OUGHTA BE IN PICTURES*, Joe Applegate, September 29, 1988

**Twenty Years Ago**

On Tuesday morning, September 6, 34-year-old San Diego Dave Clark smeared his body with two pounds of lanolin and ran into the water at Shakespeare Beach in Dover, England. Nine hours and 47 minutes later, when he emerged from the rough sea at Cap Gris Nez, France, the beach was deserted.

Swimming the English Channel doesn’t mean much anymore, “not unless you break a world record” was the advice Clark heard from veteran-distance swimmer Florent Chadwick before he left for England. Chadwick, a veteran of four well-publicized English Channel swims and considered to be the world’s greatest female-distance swimmer, is now a downtown stockbroker with Smith Barney.

— *CITY LIGHTS: FROM ENGLAND TO FRANCE*, Sue Garson, September 29, 1988

**Fifteen Years Ago**

The KUSI News at Ten crew is a cast of strong, some might say florid, personalities. Unlike the sleeker, slicker 11 o’clock broadcasts on KGOK for example, KUSI’s program seems deliberately rough around the edges.

The anchors sometimes cackle, they mispronounce words then laugh at their mistakes. The feature reporters sometimes seem in the grip of some unnamable hysteria.

— *AS SEEN ON TV: “BE IT EVER SO HUMBLE”*, Abe Oparian, September 30, 1993

**Ten Years Ago**

On September 18 — the last day of KGOK talk-show host Roger Hedgecock’s annual vacation — the station filled in for him by inviting Larry Lucchino, CEO and minority owner of the San Diego Padres, to guest-host. So much of the show centered around Proposition C on the November ballot — the controversial proposal to allocate nearly $300 million of public money to build the Padres’ baseball-only stadium downtown — that one opponent of the project called the show “a two- and-a-half-hour infomercial for Proposition C.”

— *CITY LIGHTS: RIGGED MEDIA*, Mark Gabriel, October 1, 1998

**Five Years Ago**

Drop dead. That’s what City of San Diego employees, their retirement-board — and the mayor and city council — are saying to taxpayers, as well as to current retired city workers.

If the city may well have to go bankrupt or sell its public land, warns Diann Shipione, a member of the board of administration of the San Diego City Employees’ Retirement System. Many others who have studied the frightening retirement-fund deficits agree.

What very few San Diegans realize is that these egregious retirement benefits are based on a big lie: that city workers have low salaries and thus deserve generous retirement packages. In fact, their salaries are far higher than private-sector salaries. According to the San Diego Association of Governments, the average salary (not including fringes) for all San Diegans in 2001 was $36,240. The average for all local government workers was $38,997.

— *CITY LIGHTS: CITY PENSION FUNDS IN RED*, Don Bauder, September 25, 2003

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POOMO! That’s when I kick him, right in his goobers. With Feddy bent over and turning a lovely shade of heliotrope, I resume my quest.

Out of the shadows jumps the Tax Reaper. “How much did you make last year? It’s less than 250 skidillion dollars, you owe us...EVERYTHING. BWAHAHAHAHA — uh!”

You guessed it. One swift heel, right in the pits.

Having witnessed my repertoire of his accomplishments, Bender vows the Herocome-the-porkbarrelspending Monster leaps from his hiding place in the alley, armed with the only weapon capable of stopping me.

“Wouldn’t you like a tasty bit of this complimentary!?”

“Fiendish devil! You know I can’t resist Jewish baked goods. But if I eat it I will fall into a heavy slumber and my we’re-all-getting-the-twin-bed-limbo sense will be going off like a fire alarm.”

“Wouldn’t you like a bite of this tasty bagel?”

I’m on my way, Hayden. Watch out, Senator Biden. I’m not eating this bagel until your McNuggets dangle from your nostrils and Hayden’s bikini hangs from my chandelier. And I really want to eat that bagel.

WHAT I WILL AND WON’T WATCH THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

SURVIVOR CABON

CBS 8:00 P.M.

Thomas Jefferson once said, “Every countryman has the right, nay, the responsibility to watch one season of Survivor and then hate it for the rest of their natural lives.” Besides black girls, T-Keef also loved a good reality game show. I’m not making that up: it’s in the Constitution.

MY FAMILY’S GOT GUTS

NICKLEDOWN 8:00 P.M.

My family’s got chemical dependence issues and an army of jackalopes in tuchahauk masks. I win.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES

NBC 6:00 P.M.

I’m holding out for the talent and evening gown portions of the pageant. Obama’s chainsaw juggling will top McCain’s ventriloquism, and I’m poking out of the old fighter jet’s head when he tries to confuse me with their exhaustive explanations of how I’m really NOT being hoodwinked.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

THE SANTA STRangler

MSNBC 8:00 P.M.

Back at Law and Order headquarters, a field agent takes a call, hangs up, and shouts across the room: “Looks like this is a serial case. Last week’s cremation in that dungeon, and now just another body all wrapped up in the Hudson. It’s the Easter Bunny, folks.”
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
LARRY THE CABLE GUY/HEALTH INSPECTOR
COMEDY 5:30 PM.
Sometimes I wonder if I'm wrong.
It's not only not for free,
but about once per year I go ooh.
I wonder if there really is something
entertaining about Garfield,
NASCAR, pro wrestling,
and Larry the Cable Guy.
So many people
enjoy those things that those may
be something.
Then I remember
the country is filled with idiots,
and I resume happily skipping
along in my Little Bo Peep outfit.
Wow, the rest of the country
is weird.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
THE CHEETAH GIRLS: ONE WORLD 8:00 PM.
Is this about strippers? God, I hope
so. If there's one thing missing
from today's programming, it's
shows about strippers. Doctors,
lawyers, and cops I got coming out
of my ears, but single mothers
working on bad money for their
boyfriend one-buck-per-taint-shot
is a depth of society yet to be
fully plumbed.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
HALF THEIR SIZE. THE PEOPLE MAGAZINE
WEIGHT LOSS CHALLENGE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1
DIRTY SEXY MONEY 10:00 PM.
Finally, a show about Republi-
can congressmen and the
desperation of cocaine addiction
in Hollywood's privileged
nightlife scene. Or, wait, I might
be mixing my political views
with Robert Downey Jr. in Less
Than Zero. No, no, I was right
the first time.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2
VICE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE
CBS 7:00 PM.

Dirty Sexy Money
Hold steady, Hayden. Hold
steady. Narcoleptic Dingo rides
tonight!

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Adams Import Smog check $19.85

Advanced Auto Tech Catalytic converter $95

ATEC Tune-up $24.95

Audio Sport Tint 3 rear windows $50

California Motor Works & Tires Smog check $13.95

Chris’ Auto Repair Smog check $15.75

Classic Sheepskin 10% off sheepskin seat covers

Cliff Brown Automotive $10 off any service over $50

Discount Transmission & Axles Free diagnostic road test

Earl Schib Auto paint sale: any color $299.99

European Coach Free diagnostic

Factory Tire Automotive Service & Sales Premium oil change $19.95

Five Star Customs Window tint $99

**General Auto Repair Smog Check $14.95**

Greenlight Honda Acura Call $100 off factory service

International Auto Service Brake service $48 plus parts

Japanese Auto Tech Oil change and tire rotation $19.95

JFX Jesse’s Mufflers & Brakes 20% off custom exhaust

Keamy Mesa Acura & Honda Timing belts $99

Keamy Mesa Smog Check $7 off smog check

Klear-V $20 off any windshield repair

Line-X $35 off spray-on truck bedliner

Lutz Tire & Auto Repair Free bumper-to-bumper diagnostic

Mission Garage A rebuilt engines $899

Motor Machine & Supply $50 off any engine work

Oasis Trade Window Tint 10% off window tinting

Precision Motors Air conditioning service from $12.95

Precise Tires Auto Care $19.95 oil change

Premier Performance Tire & Wheel free alignment

Ray Frey Auto Center, Inc. Free car wash

San Diego Smog & Auto Repair $10 off any service

San Diego Smog Test Only $10 off smog check

Sea Side Classic Tinting Window Tint $59

Smog Clinic $26.75 Test Only smog special

Streetview Auto Sound & Security 30% off window tint

Suspension Plus Full Service Center One free stress or cut

Thao Automotive Smog check $16.75

Value Transmission $75 off clutch special

WellTech Auto Service Smog check $15.75

West Coast Auto Glass $149.95 windshield replacement

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Suspension Plus Full Service Center One free stress or cut

Thao Automotive Smog check $16.75

Value Transmission $75 off clutch special

WellTech Auto Service Smog check $15.75

West Coast Auto Glass $149.95 windshield replacement
Baldwin thinks of amniotic fluid for some reason, and this is accompanied by a phrase he hasn’t thought of in decades: meconium staining. It was why Dan was turned away at Lennox Hill Hospital on another Friday night three decades ago. Baldwin remembers it on this birthing certificate.

“No, not right now. I won’t if you say the word.” His son, every bit of 300 pounds, had dyed his hair blue a month ago. It appears a kind of cocktail — a kind ofcovers, and ripped the sheet pretty cleanly in half. One guy, about 40, went into his hands, and the whole session was about him after that. Baldwin now remembers how he had laughed, maybe aloud, and muttered glibly to himself, “It ain’t me, babe.”

Now, eight years later, as he pulls up to Dan’s building, the image of his son and his wife on the two half sheets of paper seems ridiculous. Father and son will talk about moving in together again over the weekend, make some sensible choices; Danny wounded line, in that stable phase between manic and emotionless. It is his birthday.

The light in North County is different, he thinks as the sun sets toward Japan — more watery, that makes any sense.

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