Artists are the worst people

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The Disreputable Inherit the Earth

Hubris and horse manure go together. Just look at the national economic scene: in the past half century, America has turned economic logic on its head, with the gamblers grinning all the way. Now we face the consequences. It’s true of San Diego too. The old values have been arrogantly jettisoned. Now the piper wants his money.

Let’s begin with the national picture. Fifty years ago, derivatives were almost unknown, and for good reason. People knew them to be gambling instruments, not investments. Back in the old days, guys with green eye-shades and fat cigars peddled puts and calls from smoke-filled offices that were often shared with bookies. It was not a reputable business.

Then in 1973, the Chicago Board Options Exchange was born. It sold these instruments — the puts, calls, straddles, swaps — on an organized exchange. Initially, respectable people cocked an eyebrow at this wide-open gambling. (Derivatives are not assets or investments but bets on the direction of a stock, bond, or other financial instrument.)

Derivatives expanded exponentially and so did hubris. Financial companies claimed they had discovered a magic method for handling risk. Derivatives known as credit default swaps would guarantee a company’s debt. These swaps were then traded over the counter, almost totally unregulated.

Deregulation was critical to this new mentality. The old walls between banks and brokerage houses were torn down. Bank-reserve requirements were loosened; after all, banks had bank computerized risk models and new tools — such as derivatives and offshore hideaways — that lessened the need for those stuffy old reserve requirements of yore. Thus arose the shadow banking system, which resembles a Ponzi scheme.

Remember when banks referred to themselves with words like “trust”? Back then, it was not a sin for a bank to be conservative, cautious. Now the face value of global derivatives is more than a quadrillion dollars. The U.S. government is going broke bailing out institutions like Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, as well as the banks and investment banks that are tied to derivatives. Then when the bankers were drooling over a $700 billion taxpayer bailout, they bitterly opposed the House of Representatives’ passage of a bill to give credit cardholders more rights. The Federal Reserve fears the interconnectedness of the derivatives that caused the chaos; that is another way of saying that these crapshoot gambling chits of 50 years ago now control the financial world. Bear Stearns, Merrill Lynch, Fannie and Freddie, AIG, Lehman Brothers — their woes were continued on page 6.
Kenneth Reisig belongs to a bevy of volunteers who post retail gasoline prices on sandiegogasprices.com. The resource belongs to GasBuddy Organization Inc.’s collection of websites that allow consumers to compare gas prices in cities all over the United States. “It’s not that hard to post prices,” Reisig writes in an email, “and it would be nicer if a few more people would take the little bit of time to help out.”

Reisig lives in San Carlos and keeps an eye on three gas stations at the corner of Lake Murray Boulevard and Navajo Road. “Competition plays a great role in prices,” he says. “Apparently the person [who] makes the decision to raise or lower the prices for the Exxon station goes home at a certain time on Friday night, and then Chevron will go out and lower their prices to stay lower on the other two stations.”

But Reisig usually buys his gas elsewhere. Sandiegogasprices.com has a map of the lowest prices in town that allows him to find the stations he frequents at the most opportune time. “I have a Shell credit card,” he says, “where I get a 5 percent rebate. So I tend to watch the Shell stations to see what they are doing. This is where it’s nice to have San Diego gas prices around. Even though I don’t go past the Shell stations as often as [the stations] on Lake Murray and Navajo, I can get on the Internet and see what the price is before I make the drive to the Shell station.”

Without the rebate Reisig gets with his credit card, he is 24 hours, with some coming in only an hour or two earlier. On the last day I looked, there was not a Shell, Chevron, or Mobil station among the lowest priced. On the highest-priced list, there were five Shell stations, three Mobils, and two Chevrons.

Across San Diego County, prices can vary over a dollar. Early last week, the lowest price for regular unleaded was $3.48 at an Arco station in Imperial Beach, while the highest was $4.69 at a Shell on the corner of Euclid Avenue and Division Street in National City.

Vicki De Mull, another gas buddy, lived in the Fallbrook area until July, when she moved to Ramona. In her view, the move took her from the most expensive gas-price area to the least expensive. “In Fallbrook and Bonsall,” De Mull tells me by phone, “I think it’s the low volume of gas sold that’s responsible for high prices. The lowest price was at an AM/PM station, and it was higher than at most of the stations in Ramona.” De Mull cites greater competition among Ramona’s stations as the reason for its low gas prices.

“I wouldn’t call it exactly a gas war,” says De Mull, who has been posting to sandiegogasprices.com for two years and says she follows a strict budget, “although the Stars station took their diesel prices real low a little over a month ago. [Sandiegogasprices.com reports on prices for diesel and premium gasoline as well as regular unleaded.] So a truck company in Chula Vista brought almost its entire fleet up here and pumped all night. The manager at Stars told me they spent over $12,000.”

A comparison of two Valero station prices, however, indicates that volume and competition aren’t the only factors governing gas prices. Early last week, the Valero in Ramona offered regular unleaded for $3.69, while the price at the Coronado Valero was $3.99. An additional cause for the difference was likely “zone pricing.” Oil companies establish zones of higher and lower prices based on numerous criteria, including average income in an area.

Jason Toews, who co-founded GasBuddy Organization Inc., in 2000, tells me by phone from his headquarters in Minnesota that zone pricing can cause price variations of as much as 20 to 30 cents per gallon. “A lot of zone pricing is simply what the refiners think the market will bear in an area,” he says. “If it’s an affluent neighborhood, people tend to be a little less price sensitive and a little more focused on factors like a convenient location or a station having a nice car wash.”

Is the proximity of some stations to the border, I ask, likely to affect prices? I am thinking of Imperial Beach, where gas wars have kept prices lower than the rest of the county. Wouldn’t Pemex prices in Tijuana tempt at least some drivers to fill empty tanks? Toews cites hassles, such as having to go through customs, as making gas prices on the other side of a border unlikely to influence consumers.

For an external perspective on GasBuddy’s efforts in San Diego, I call Charles Langley, an oil industry analyst for the local Utility Consumers’ Action Network. “Boy, I’m glad you called,” he tells me. Langley carries a bit of resentment toward GasBuddy for commercializing an idea that he says he and his brother Robert launched as a non-profit effort in 1996. “We had the first cheap gasoline website in the country at fueltracker.com. Last year, the webmaster, who happened to be my little brother, died unexpectedly. We were able to keep the site limping along for about six months, and then everything imploded. I’ve recently been rebuilding the website. It will be running again soon.”

Langley does agree with Toews about the heavy hand that zone pricing lays on gasoline markets. What keeps prices low in some areas, however, is a large number of independent stations, which the major companies have to compete with. According to Langley, local independents commonly get their gas from a “spot market” in Los Angeles, which is created by brokers buying up the surplus gas of refiners and “splash blending” a little ethanol into it. The process can bring the wholesale price for the independents down as much as 30 cents. “What often happens,” Langley tells me, “is that a brand name refinery like Unocal, Shell, Chevron will subsidize one of its dealers in a very competitive market like Ramona so that that dealer can underprice his gasoline and they can use it to slowly strangle the independent guys to death.”

“The message is that, if you, Mr. Independent Dealer, price your gas more than two cents below the nearest Arco, you will be disciplined. If you go too low, we are going to hurt you. You are vulnerable, and you better watch out. We’ve got the money to sell gas at what for you would be a ten-cents-a-gallon loss. Even Costco totes the line. If you go and look at an Arco and a Costco, the Costco will be two cents cheaper than the nearest Arco, unless there’s been a rapid price change. Sometimes you’ve got to give them a few hours to react.”

Inherit the earth
continued from page 6

all tied to derivatives, most of which are deliberately so complex they are impossible to understand.

Thus did derivatives climb out of dank bookie joints and come to dominate the world financial structure. But even though the government bails out the malefactors, $100 million a-year executives still prefer deregulation. They want the government to hand them money but not tie their hands in any way. Hubris and horse manure go together.

Just look at San Diego. In 1996, the city hosted the Republican convention. The idea was to tout then-Mayor Susan Golding for the U.S. Senate. Golding’s money manipulator, Jack McGrory, found a source of lucre for supporting the convention: the pension fund. It was tapped. When the labor unions found out, they screamed. So they were promised more bene-

fits. The city council gave workers the ability to purchase, at a below-cost price, benefits for which they had not worked. When the mistake was discovered, employees were given several months to purchase credits at the actuarially inaccurate rates. People piled in, and the City lost $146 million. Employees also got the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP), which is egregious double-dipping. Employees at age 55 say they will retire in five years. They continue getting their salaries, but in addition, 90 percent of their highest one-year salary is deposited into their personal account each year, drawing 8 percent annual interest and cost-of-living adjustments. Then they retire with both an annuity and a lump-sum payment from the DROP account.

With astonishing hubris, officials declared this manna wonderful. They seemed surprised when a huge deficit arose. Then they illegally concealed the deficit in bond prospectuses. “They thought we could increase the benefits and decrease the contributions and there wouldn’t be a deficit,” says City Attorney Mike Aguirre, who is being attacked for going to court to try to do something about it.

The developer Sunroad decided to defy the Federal Aviation Administration by placing a tall building too close to an airport. Mayor Jerry Sanders, who had received major contributions from Sunroad and its owner, tried to help. They were thwarted, but not before Sanders’s ethics czar wrote a hilarious study attempting to whitewash the mayor’s role. “They ignored the fire problem,” not following suggestions of a fire chief who resigned in frustration, notes Aguirre. “And they ignore the water problem, although we are more dependent on water from elsewhere than other cities,” says Aguirre. But all along, the Sanders administration has assured the public that both the fire-protection and water problems are under control. Yes, horse manure inexorably follows hubris.

Just as derivatives came to dominate international finance, redevelopment came to dominate and distort the local real estate scene. It started with the state telling cities that it would let them take a much larger percentage of the tax increment if they did redevelopment in so-called blighted areas. Prevarication became the main tool of governments: downtown San Diego was declared blighted. The City set up the Centre City Development Corporation and Southeastern Economic Development Corporation, and their missions were to line the pockets of developers by twisting the definition of blight.

One organization’s core mission is dishonest, there are going to be scandals. An audit has found that Carolyn Smith, president of Southeastern Economic Development Corporation, authorized more than $870,000 in sometimes fraudulent extra pay to herself and her subordinates between 2003 and 2008.

When Nancy Graham was named head of Centre City in late October of 2005, the search committee boasted that it had “conducted a well-defined and thorough national search,” according to a news release. Yeah, it was thorough. The South Florida media at that time were full of stories about Graham’s conflicts of interest with a private developer named Related. I had a Reader column hitting on those conflicts in November of 2005, before she arrived. The California wing of Related was named to do a big project at Seventh and Market. In April of this year, I asked Graham if she had any conflicts of interest. “I have intentionally stayed away from this deal. I was at some meetings where we were not able to reach agreement,” she snapped, adding that she was getting annoyed with “unfortunate rumors or conspiracy theories that get started around here.” It later came out that she had accepted money from Related in 2007 while receiving $248,000 a year from Centre City. She resigned and left San Diego; the project was canceled. Aguirre is prosecuting her.

But Sanders reappointed three Centre City boardmembers who hadn’t done their due diligence on Graham, and the council agreed by a 7-to-1 vote. Donna Frye dissented, saying Centre City needed an ethical overhaul.

When she was running for mayor against Sanders in 2005, Frye said that Centre City should pay back $100 million that it owed to the City. Sanders “said it would kill a cash cow; he was all gloom and doom about the idea,” recalls Frye. But in his new budget, he is asking for money from Centre City, “and everybody says what a great deal.

continued on page 10

The King’s Criminal of the Week:

Woman calls cops after buying “fake” cocaine.

A woman called local police to help “get her money back” after she was unhappy with the crack cocaine she had bought. She called police after she purchased what she thought was a $20 piece of crack cocaine. She told officers she broke the rock into three pieces and smoked one, only to discover the rock was “fake.” She asked the officers to get her money back.

The woman took the officers into her kitchen and showed them the alleged “fake” rock, at which time they arrested her for possession of cocaine.

If you are the criminal of the week, Call “KING” STAHLMAN BAIL BONDS

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George “King” Stahlman
It’s better to know me and not need me than to need me and not know me.
Inherit the earth
continued from page 8
idea he has. I find it entertaining," chuckles Frye, who sees Sanders’ biggest problem as "the failure to deal with the financial problems."

San Diego’s basic fault, says Frye, is that "it continues to reward bad behavior," just as Congress rewards Wall Street’s bad behavior. It takes hubris and buckets of horse manure to do that.

Gas trackers
continued from page 7
"and they can raise or lower that price floor at will. For Arco, which is a cash-only station, the enemy has always been these little unbranded independents, and they’d love to see them go. They just see them as ticks on the belly of the big-oil cash cow."

Langley tells me that the Utility Consumers’ Action Network "used gas spotters to move the stuff through the pipeline," says Langley.

Today, people want to use the Internet to find the best gas prices they can. By helping them do that, saniegogasprices.com has become a great commercial success, says Langley. "Saniegogasprices.com is not a nonprofit organization," he explains. "And I’m troubled by some of the products that have been advertised on their website, such as fuel-saving devices. When people go to a cheap-gas website, it’s because they’re hurting financially. Then they see the advertisement for a pill that’s going to magically give them 40 miles per gallon."

Such ads aren’t the only kind on the site. It also displays ads for credit-card companies — and even Nordstrom, which doesn’t seem to figure, given the site’s appeal to people who are supposedly in financial pain.

Strict financial limitations, however, do characterize the lifestyle of Dawn DuRall. She is a mother of three, and her husband is disabled. DuRall uses a minivan for errands, school pickups, and trips to the doctor. She also works full time in Point Loma. The DuRalls live in North Park. "I post prices on saniegogasprices.com for gas stations along or near University Avenue in North Park and in Point Loma. But I’ve recently been using buses and the trolley to go to work. What I discovered when gas prices reached $3 a gallon was that it’s more economical to use public transit than drive our minivan. And we don’t have enough money right now to buy a more fuel-efficient car."

DuRall uses the saniegogasprices.com map to find the lowest prices she can before making a trip across town or even out of town. "For instance," she tells me, "when we want to go to Los Angeles or Orange County, I don’t have to rely on gas just off the freeway in Tustin, where it’s real high, but can locate a station three or four blocks further away that’s more reasonable."
HOURS: Monday-Saturday 9:00 am-7:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am-4:00 pm. Limited quantities available. First come, first served. Financing available. Not responsible for misprints.

Visa, MasterCard, American Express and ATM accepted. No credit/bad credit—qualify in 15 minutes (OAC). Some restrictions apply. See store for details.

Installation charges not included.

Authorized Sony dealer.

Installation charges not included.

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Authorized JL Audio dealer.

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LETTERS

We welcome letters pertaining to the contents of the Reader. Phone them in at 619-235-3000, ext. 466; address them to Letters to the Editor, Box 58503, San Diego CA 92186-5803; fax them to 619-231-0489; or use our web page at SDRreader.com/letters. Include your name, address, and telephone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

A Puzzle, A Dog, And A Smoke

I just wanted to let you know that I enjoyed reading the article entitled “I Never Inhale” (Cover Story, September 25) as I was sitting on my balcony. As a golfer, I can say that while smoking, I have not had any negative effects on my game. I now understand why you say the Reader puzzle is a joke. I think it’s quite funny.

D.L. C. Cournoyer via email

Seven-Year Survivors

My husband and I (both in our 60s) have lived in Mexico for several years. We have a cliffside beach home that would cost several million in the U.S. (cost us $385,000) and are surrounded by beautiful mountains and ocean bays, see dolphins and whales from our balcony. We are 200 miles south of the Arizona border in San Carlos, very close to Guaymas (state of Sonora). We travel by car on the toll road from here to the border on a monthly basis to visit family, and I have traveled it alone several times.

Last year we visited 25 states of Mexico, covered 7000 miles, sleeping about half the time in the back of a van. We never once felt in danger and had the time of our lives. The crime here is minimal, although I have to admit there have been some recent news articles regarding capture of drug dealers. However, we feel very safe, and as my husband says, “even feel safer here than in Phoenix.” At least no school shootings!

Moving Targets

Reading the article “Road’s End” (“City Lights,” September 25), I had to laugh. Of course participation in the Rosarito Ensenada Fun Bicycle Ride is done. Who wants to get shot at, raped, kidnapped, or worse while riding your bike? City officials and business leaders in Rosarito think they have received bad and unfair media coverage? I guess in their mind, the truth hurts — business that is.

To blame you and the rest of the media for hurting Mexican tourism is a joke. They need to take a step back and look at themselves in the mirror. There’s so much crime and corruption down there, they should only be blaming themselves. The public relations director for Rosarito, Ron Raposa, better start looking at all the crime in his city as reason for the demise of the bike ride instead of so-called biased, unbalanced, and unfair reporting. Who the hell wants to go to Mexico??

D.S. via email

Seven-Year Survivors

My husband and I (both in our 60s) have lived in Mexico for several years. We have a cliffside beach home that would cost several million in the U.S. (cost us $385,000) and are surrounded by beautiful mountains and ocean bays, see dolphins and whales from our balcony. We are 200 miles south of the Arizona border in San Carlos, very close to Guaymas (state of Sonora). We travel by car on the toll road from here to the border on a monthly basis to visit family, and I have traveled it alone several times.

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Nicely phrased “all comprehension fees,” by the way, and I love the idea of your trying to communicate your question in sign language!

We’re Cornball Rednecks

What was the point of this article (“Foreign Tourists Invade,” Cover Story, September 18)? Was it ghost-written by the San Diego Visitors’ bureau? You picked four or five tourists who enjoyed San Diego, with the typical comments about the weather, beaches, etc. But how about the other side of the story? When I have visitors or relatives over, within a day or two I hear the same complaints about the sweltering heat, lack of things to do, the inadequate “downtown,” mediocre restaurants, and lack of significant culture. My Asian relatives from Hawaii say they feel “uncomfortable in this redneck town.” (Now, there is an angle worth investigating, don’t you think?) As you know, a basic rule of good journalism is to present both sides of the story. Otherwise you end up with a biased and probably boring article. The article was bland pap; tell us the dirt on San Diego, what people really think; then you have a story with edge and interest. To blather on about the so-called weather and the beaches is preaching to the converted. We have seen this propaganda countless times; who cares?

The truth of the matter is that anyone who has lived in a real city knows what a cornball place this town is. If you are a jock, like to work out, follow the silly sports teams, think beer and burritos are gourmet dining, then you will probably fall in love with San Diego. The rest of us just suffer in silence.

Rico Gardner Mission Hills

“Sporting Box” Surprise

Kudos to Patrick Daugherty’s very funny article, “A Word About Electrical Safety” (“Sporting Box,” September 18). I’m cutting it out to use as a sort of model of just how funny good writing can be, in hopes that I’ll eventually have a potential author to show it to and say, “Read this and understand, (you heathen)!”

You deserve a medal, for starters, for coming up with such a witty title. (For pre- reasons that elude me now, it really cracks me up.)

Then, the winding, roundabout pace of your article is somehow exactly right, as is your use of repetition, which seems to me is probably hard to do (i.e., “before that we were college students, travelers, pipeline laborers, college students, and travelers”).

Nicely phrased “all comprehension fees,” by the way, and I love the idea of your trying to communicate your question in sign language!

Finally, “with the electrical season coming on” is just a brilliant way to end your piece; it reminds me of The Goon Show or Monty Python at their best.

So, I never bothered reading anything in the Reader’s “Sporting Box” feature before — it just seemed too boring for words. From now on, though, I’m going to have to take a more considered look at every corner of the @#$%&/¥*# Reader, before it finds its inevitable way into the recycling bin.

Mark Allen via email

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Dear Matt:

They’re already starting to advertise for old people to get flu shots this year. It’s starting to piss me off. I don’t get the flu in the winter. Why do they have a vaccine for old people for flu, when many, many more people get colds every year? It makes more sense to eliminate colds. Why hasn’t anyone come up with a cold shot?

— Achoo, via email

A cold vaccine? Oh, poor baby. Crazy from the sniffles? Sneezing got you low down? Tickly throat made you swoon? Well, suck it up. No head-cold shot on the medical horizon in your lifetime. Researchers would say they have enough on their plates, what with all the conjuring of preventive vaccines for the serious and deadly things that take up their days. At last count, there are 16 different cold viruses. Nothing wrong with a bit of germy air. Tackling them one by one would be futile. Every year in the U.S. about 36,000 people die from influenza. When was the last time you saw a headstone that read, “Here lies Walt, dispatched in his prime by what he’d insisted was the worst head cold anyone ever?”

The flu virus appears in only three forms, A, B, and, um, oh yeah, C. Type A is the one that hits most people. One thing type A is good at is mutating — continually tweaking its internal structure a bit. This is why today’s vaccine is most effective on yesterday’s virus. As fast as they research, science guys are always a year behind. But any type-A vaccine is better than no type-A vaccine, so doctors still strongly recommend that certain populations get a shot every year. The true flu virus invades the whole respiratory system and hits it much harder than does the cold virus. It also causes a high fever and general fatigue. Healthy people can eventually shake it off, but old or compromised people might not be able to.

So, what about stomach flu, you ask. Well, you didn’t ask, but I’m going to answer it anyway. So, stomach flu. Is that just the regular type-A influenza virus with a bad sense of direction? In fact there’s no such thing as stomach flu, which won’t stop us from using it as an excuse to call in sick to work, though. What we call stomach flu physicians call gastroenteritis — a severely twitchy and irritated gut. Caused by bad bacteria from things like spoiled food or funky water.

Best way to avoid both cold and flu viruses? Wash your hands. Wash ‘em like you’re OCD. Viruses can lurk on hard surfaces for several hours. And avoid sneezers and coughers. Good advice even after flu season, I’d think.

Dear Straight from the Hip:

This may be a strange question, but it must be asked on my part. Over the year I have noticed a strange plant disease. It is bright orange, so it’s hard to miss. It can grow on bushes and trees, killing its hosts in a matter of weeks. I have seen it on the way to Barona, coming home from Carlbad, on Telegraph Canyon Road, 94 to Dulzura, and close to my home in Chula Vista. Since I have seen it first up north, it was a curious thing to see. What maybe I could do to stop the spread.

— Curious Spreading, Chula Vista

The creepy, bright-orange-colored spider web that spreads over bushes along our roads is called dodder. Like nature’s own Halloween decorations. It is a parasitic plant and dang hard to get rid of. It’s not likely that you’ll end up with the stuff around your house, it’s mostly an agricultural and wild-area pest. But if you have a good host plant and a seed wanders by, you might get dodderized.

From a distance, what we see is a thick mat of pale green, yellow, or orange stems covering the host. Up close we’d see bunches of small white flowers that produce tiny but tough seeds each, from spring through fall. Thousands of them. We’d also notice that the dodder stem has wound around the stem and branches of the host plant and at intervals has sent suckers (haustoria) into the host’s vascular tissue. They’re sucking out the juicy juices.

So, what to do about it? If the dodder’s established, you have to cut down the host plant below the first haustoria attachment. The evil suckers left inside the host can regenerate a whole new dodder plant if you just rip off the stems of the old plant. Put the whole mess into plastic bags, seal them, and dump them. Professionals can light a controlled burn if the infestation is widespread. There are some biological and chemical controls too.

The sneaky thing that you might not notice as you’re chopping down your infested plants is that dodder seeds are hitching a ride on your shoes and clothes. So when you’re through dodderizing your plants, strip off all your clothes and burn them before you leave the area so you don’t spread a trail of seeds behind you. And expect to have to do this year after year unless you replant nonhost plants. Dodder never sleeps.

— Matthew Alice

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

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

By Patrick Daugherty

Old School

The Dalles, Oregon, is found on the south bank of the Columbia River, 85 miles upstream from Portland. Today’s population of 12,000 is about what it was 20 years ago. They grow cereal grains, sweet cherries, apples, and wheat hereabouts. I’m in town to attend the 90th birthday celebration of Doris Anderson, mother of my best friend and, on occasion, a stand-in mom for me.

The Dalles is an unusual town to an outsider because so much of it is intact. The downtown, surrounding homes, and high school look untouched from 50 years ago. The small, paint-chipped J.C. Penny’s is still open for business. Tony’s Clothing still sells the finest “town and country” apparel. The StitchNiche and Klindt’s bookstore are ready to welcome you. Out on the west end of town there is the sinkhole of Staples, Kmart, all the crap, and wheat hereabouts.

The town’s bowling alley is Columbia Recreations Lanes with the big, early Vegas-style neon sign running across its front façade. Inside, the decor is Bowling Museum. Think Atari computer, disco glitter ball, rugs featuring Dayglow bowling pins and bowling balls. There are eight lanes on the ground floor and eight more on the second floor. The man behind the counter is Bob Wright, 56. He looks retired military, with a linebacker’s torso, close-cut grey hair, and big white mustache. He’s been working here since 2004.

I ask, “What’s your normal Saturday night like?”

“From April through October everybody works in the fields, 7 days a week, 12 hours a day. They usually come in on Sunday afternoon and then go to school on Monday. We don’t have anybody in here on Saturday nights anymore. It’s gotten really scarce. We have regular leagues during the fall, and they’ll go all the way to May 31. And there’s a girls team and a boys team from high school. We used to have their trophies down here, but now that bowling is becoming a college sport, we’ll have to move them upstairs into the second or third highest score. It’s a bunch of trophies and things.”

Wright takes me upstairs and down a narrow hallway into a workroom to look at pin-setting machines. This is a 1950s country mechanic’s shop. Tin ducts overhead, work tables, parts bin, the feel of oil and grease and the sound of big machinery. Everything is well-used.

The noise is terrific.

Wright says, “I started out as a pinsetter. You’re supposed to walk back and forth along the machines (There is a small plywood walkway over the bank of pinsetters), and make sure that the pins don’t jam. These are the old machines. The distributor bar is all ball bearings. Sometimes the little cotter pin on the ball bearing will break, or the felt breaks. Usually, it’s a spring or a belt.”

We talk for awhile and then turn and retrace our steps along the hallway. Wright stops before a framed poster. The poster reads, “Marvel Heroes Bowling Club. Bowl and Get Your Favorite Marvel Heroes Bowling Ball & Bag.” There are depictions of Spider-Man, Iron Man, Incredible Hulk and Fantastic Four. Wright says, “It is a piece of history. Marvel Heroes for the kids. You get a superhero ball, a duffle bag, and everything else for bowling the season.” Wright studies the poster, says, “Matter of fact, if you want that you can have it.”

“Well, sure Bob, I’d love to have it.”

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**The Vegas Line**

NFL – Week 5 (Home Team in CAPS)

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**Find Sporting Box online at SDReader.com**
Helix and Otay Ranch play even through final whistle

By Anthony Gentile

San Diego Reader
October 2, 2008

The Red Zone can be found at SDReader.com
Under “Stories” in menu bar, click on “Sports” then “High School Football”

The Highlanders and Mustangs tied Friday night 19-19.

“My team absolutely needs a break out of you. The team’s under adversity — you better strike,” Van said. “So I had to come through for my team.”

For Helix senior receiver and defensive back Travon Van, the tie did not feel so good.

“I hate a tie — I’d rather lose,” said defensive back Travon Van. “I can’t stand it.”

Otay Ranch junior quarterback Juan Leary: “It’s not as disappointing as a loss. We had our mistakes here and there, but all in all it was a good game,” Leary said.

In his third start as varsity quarterback, Leary finished 13-for-25 with two touchdowns and an interception. He picked up big gains on the ground by running the option.

Both teams matched one another’s big plays. Both teams also matched one another’s miscues, including missed field goals and extra points in both halves.

Otay Ranch responded with a pair of touchdown passes from Leary to senior running back Jordan Jenkins. The second of the scores was a 30-yard strike that put the Mustangs ahead 19-12 with 4:44 remaining — a lead that didn’t last for long.

Just 21 seconds after falling behind by seven, Helix evened the game at 19 on a 77-yard touchdown pass from Highlanders quarterback Ty Culver to Van.

The ball changed possession three times in the final 4:27 of the game, but neither team could manage any more points.

Friday night scoreboard

Westview teams up for hot start

Westview has started the season 3-0 for the first time since 2004. The reason for their early-season success is no secret.

“We’re all close. We’ve bonded really well,” said junior quarterback Tommy Hansen.

Playing as a team helped Westview overcome sticky situations in their first two games of the season.

Against Francis Parker on September 5, the Wolverines trailed 17-0 to start the game and scored 10 points in the final quarter for a 27-24 win.

The following week against Granite Hills, Westview trailed 20-7 in the first quarter. They quickly overcame that deficit to take a 21-20 halftime lead but again had to rally in the fourth quarter, outscoring the Eagles 16-0 en route to a 37-27 victory.

“Westview teams of the past have just given up when they got behind. We haven’t,” said senior wide receiver Steven Sousa.

After the two dramatic wins, Westview crushed University City 59-13 on September 19. Though each of the Wolverines wins has been distinctly different, they do have one thing in common — they were all played at home.

“It’s going to be strange going on the road this week,” Woodward said about Westview’s game at Orange Glen next Friday.
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SHEEP AND GOATS
PLACES OF WORSHIP REVIEWED

Christian Church of Lemon Grove
Lemon Grove
★★

Denomination: Independent Christian Churches
Address: 6970 San Miguel Ave, Lemon Grove, 619-465-1888
Senior pastor: David Skates
Congregation size: about 300
Staff size: 6, including part-time
Sunday school enrollment: 112, including adults
Annual budget: n/a
Weekday giving: n/a
Singles program: young adult program
Dress: casual to semiformal
Diversity: majority Caucasian, also Hispanic and African American
Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m.
Length of reviewed service: 1 hour, 30 minutes
Website: ccfg.org

“New Eyes for New Hearts” was the theme of the service at Christian Church of Lemon Grove. On the stage, four tall boxes wrapped to look like presents made splashes of bright color in the mostly gray room and heralded the church’s new motto: “Commit [to Jesus]; Connect [with his church]; Learn [to grow]; Give [back what He’s given].”

A little ways into the service, the band showed from their wind-and-brass groove and got slow and sentimental: “Open our eyes Lord! We want to see Jesus/ To reach out and touch Him/ And say that we love Him...”

Before Communion, a speaker mediated upon that desire and that sight. “We were created in His image, but sometimes we don’t understand all the ramifications of that.”

One such ramification: “We should think and act like God. He’s a God of loving relationships... He and Christ and the Holy Spirit have always coexisted. I believe God wants us to have a similar lifestyle” — a loving relationship with Him, with our families, and with our church. “If it’s all about God, these relationships will glorify Him...To be in this designed relationship with all these different groups requires us to be in obedience to His commands... I challenge each of us to study God’s word, to learn the rules of living the life we were designed to live...and focus on the love of God.”

During the sermon, Pastor Skates pointed out another way to learn those rules — by putting on Christ. “Jesus wants to work on all of us, so we can have His vision. The vision to see reality, to see the truth in the midst of the lies that we’re surrounded by in this world.”

(Earlier, he had mentioned the importance of defining marriage as “one man and one woman.”)

The choir sang: “Be thou my vision... Be thou my best thought.”

But more than intellectual sight, Skates dwelt upon seeing others through Jesus’ lens of compassion. He talked about “spiritual myopia, where we see only what’s up close — ‘It’s all about me!’ Spiritual lazy eye, where we see the problem but we don’t do anything. And spiritual dry eye, where we see the problem and it doesn’t break our heart. We lack compassion.” And compassion, said Skates, was Jesus’ hallmark — so much so that He is the only actual person to whom it is applied in the New Testament. “It’s the strongest word they had in the original Greek to describe being deeply moved.” Skates ran through several examples of Jesus’ compassion — toward the sick, the confused, the blind, the demon-posessed, the hungry, the grieving, and even the sinful. (“Her many sins have been forgiven,” He said of the woman who washed His feet with her tears, “for she loved much.”)

To help gain this compassionate sight, the church had scheduled a Faith in Action Sunday for October 12. Children’s Sunday school would be held at a park, where others might see and hear. A cleanup project was scheduled at the home of a single mother. More cleanup at a restaurant that trained homeless teens. Visits to shut-ins. And outreach to prisoners through the Kairos ministry. “Is there anyone here who cannot pray?” asked the organizer. No one raised a hand. “Right. So pray for us. We have specific dates to let you know the time to stop and pray for us. Prayer is very important for this program. But so are the letters, so are the cookies, so is the prayer chain...”

Last year, this church sent more Agape love stuff — the letters, the cookies, the prayer chains — than any of the other churches. This makes a difference to these prisoners. Kairos has a better than 50 per cent success rate of turning these guys’ hearts around and bringing them to the love of the Lord. Gays in the prison system know that Kairos makes a difference because Jesus makes a difference.”

Before the collection, a congregant offered this prayer: “As we go into our pockets...we are doing a powerful thing. You are paving the way for us as we do this to further your great kingdom. I just pray that you use us, use the money we give You, in any capacity You can.”

At the end of the service, the choir sang: “May our homes be filled with dancing/ May our streets be filled with joy/ May injustice be made slow and sentimental... Our money we give You, in any capacity You can.”

Kingdom. I just pray that You use us, use the money we give You, in any capacity You can.”

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

Photos and YouTube links to videos are welcome but not necessary to win. Go to SDRReader.com/neighborhoods, find your neighborhood or campus, and follow the instructions to create a blog.

Deadline for this month is midnight, October 31.

BestBuys

“The Statue of Liberty was one of my best homespun costumes,” replied sister Nancy. “I dyed a sheet of gray-green color and wrapped it in toga form around me. Then, from foam board, I cut out the crown, and I carried a cardboard torch. I also made a clown costume for my daughter from felt and pom-poms,” she continued. “I loosely stitched felt triangles to the collar of a white sweatshirt and pom-poms down her front. I wrapped a party hat in felt and glued pom-poms on that and tied pom-poms to her shoes. She was the cutest clown ever.

And my husband went as Madam,” she added. “He wore a toga and painted his skin gold.”

“Once Halloween I went with a bunch of my friends as the holiday of Christmas,” said Julie. “One guy took a cardboard box, cut holes out for his head and arms, and wrapped it in wrapping paper. And he had a huge gift box on his head. Another friend dressed in brown and attached fresh boughs from a pine tree all over his body. Halfway through trick-or-treating, he was complaining of being sticky from sap. And another friend dressed up as Santa Claus. It was fun to see people’s reactions when they opened their front door to a different holiday.”

“There are a couple rules in our house,” explained sister Meg. “The costume has to be homespun, and if you are dressed up as a person, you have to pick a historical or famous person. I think you might as well combine a little learning with all the fun. One year we had Cleopatra, with a sheet wrapped around her, heavy black eyeliner, and dyed black hair. Another year we had an Annie Oakley and a Marie Antoinette. We had found a Marie Antoinette wig at a garage sale; how can you pass that up? Another year, my daughter went as a hobbit. She fashioned a corn-cob pipe and wore a vest and a cape, and she glued fuzzy brown fur to her shoes for the hairy feet. She happened to be going through — how do you say this nicely? — a short, squat stage, so the idea worked.”

If her kids don’t want to be historical figures, Meg lets them be inanimate objects. “My son was a Lego once. He took a cardboard box and glued tuna cans to the top and spray-painted the box red. Another time, he went as dice, spray-painting the box white with black dots.”

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David was both appreciative and apprehensive when I offered to help him. He desired my company while tackling the dreaded grunt work, but he worried about the extent of my involvement, probably because I’d made that comment about donning my “no-mercy hat” as we got into the car. David wanted an assistant, not a director, but he knew the chore ahead would be less miserable for both of us if I were allowed to take control.

When David signed the lease for a studio in East Village over a year ago, the 600-square-foot space was to serve the dual purpose of office and storage. The plan was for David to move his computers, desks, and photographic paraphernalia to the studio, thereby expanding the area of our home where we entertain guests. Even with all his work equipment in the studio, there would be room left over for all of the stuff currently squeezed into a 70-square-foot storage closet we own on another floor in our building, thus freeing that space to store frequently accessed items such as wine, toolboxes, candles, and other items now squirreled away in bathroom cabinets and hall closets.

I had assumed the moving would begin as soon as the ink dried on the lease. But I had forgotten about all the crap in the 400-square-foot garage beneath our old apartment in Kensington, which David had continued to maintain about all the crap in the 400-square-foot garage beneath our old apartment in Kensington, which David had continued to rent after we moved into our condo. Because that lease was up and the new one had begun, David simply moved the two-car garage’s worth of boxes and crates to the studio. And there the load sat, untouched and unsuspected, for one year.

“ ‘It’s like unclogging a drain,’” David said, as we stood surveying piles of boxes and cardboard cylinders containing large photographs. “And this studio is the ball of hair.”

“So, like, everything’s going to flow once this is cleaned out? You’ll move your stuff out of the living room and storage unit over to here, and we’ll actually have a dining table for the first time...ever?”

David bristled a bit when I mentioned the dining table, our lack of which has been a thorn in our side for years, but he still didn’t want to throw it away now, we’ll have less to move back and forth later.”

“You want to throw my things in the trash?” David said this in a heartbreaking, tone of voice.

“Look, I’m just trying to help,” I said, hoping to guilt him into acquiescence. “Remember that organizing seminar we went to a few years ago? What did she say?” Rather than waiting, I supplied the answer. “She said if you haven’t used it in five years, it’s got to go. I bet if I chucked half this stuff, you wouldn’t even know what was missing.”

David sat on the floor and began...
unloading a large box; I stood beside him and sifted through a crate. Every few seconds, I would hold up an item and say, “You don’t need this. Trash!”

I’d wait for him to nod before placing it in the big white plastic bag. David grumbled here and there, but an hour in, I’d filled three large bags and broken down four boxes. It all seemed so simple and easy. But that was before David happened upon a box filled with my stuff, things I’d forgotten I’d had, but which, upon seeing, I couldn’t live without.

“What are you going to do with two packages of magnets?” David asked.

“They don’t even stick to our fridge.”

Stumped for an answer, I went on the offense. “You’re one to talk, or did you not notice that you’re holding a box filled with your stuff?”

“Whoa, now, each one of these has a story,” he said, before insisting I explain how much it’s worth.”

“Okay, I get the rocks are cool; I have a little collection of pretty things on my desk too. But these tapes — what did you call them? Betas? Right out.”

We agreed to keep the dominoes and two sets of Scrabble (to add to the four we have at home).

We also opted to hang on to the handcrafted box David’s sister Michelle had made for him and the beautiful blown-glass oil lamp. We made ourselves swear that we’d find a place at home to display them, or else they, too, must go.

I was perplexed by a collection of strange, gearlike contraptions and suggested we toss the whole shebang. “No, wait, these are the alternate pedals that go with my bike, and I might need them for when I sell it,” said David. I gave him a “Yeah, right, you’re going to sell the bike you’ve had for 20 years” look, to which David snapped, “I’ve even begun researching how much it’s worth.”

I raised my brows.

“Remember what she said — it’s only worth something when you sell it.”

“Come on,” David said, “I didn’t give you a hard time about those colored pencils, even though you never drew. And what about the electronic piano you haven’t played since we moved?” I sighed my understanding and returned my attention to the heap I’d been working on.

“Yoo-hoo,” I trilled a few minutes later. When David looked my way, I waved an old tennis racket back and forth. “When was the last time you played?”

“Don’t remember, do you. Okay. Goodwill bag?”

David hung his head and, in the softest voice he’d used all day, he said, “I know it makes no sense, but I can’t get rid of it, not yet.” Before I could ask why, he continued, “It’s not particularly sentimental, and if we do start playing, I know that any cheap, modern racket at the store is probably better than that one. It’s just that I remember playing with that racquet, and a part of me thinks that I won’t be able to play well with another one.” That was more introspection and explanation than I’d expected, so I relented and set the racquet not in, but beside the trash bag.

After three hours, we called it a day. There was still an overwhelming amount to organize, and plenty of things from which we needed to detach if we were to clear some serious space for all those other things we hang on to and want to put there. After he lowered his dusty body into the car, David said, “You know what I just thought? Imagine how liberating it would be to completely purge everything.”

“Mother Teresa did that; she seemed pretty peaceful,” I said.

“I mean, to just completely let go. Of all of it.”

“That’s all very Zen, beh beh,” I said. Then, in an impulsive flash, I actually thought it was a good idea. “Let’s do it, then. Seriously, I’ll get rid of yours and you get rid of mine, and that way it won’t be so hard, and we’ll just lose everything in both storage areas.” I could tell from the manic energy coursing through my veins that my eyes were probably wet and wide, my nostrils most likely flaring.

For a beat, and not one instant more, David seemed to consider my proposal. Then, looking at me the way you’re supposed to look at someone who just said something preposterous, he said, “Now, that’s just crazy talk.”

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Artists are the
"He’s restored that villa to a fare-thee-well. That’s the trouble with Americans; all that money and no taste."

— Jonathan Trevanny, *Ripley’s Game*

I: Acquisition

This story begins with an ending: an estate sale in a Hillcrest apartment, scanning the rooms of the deceased, picking through what was left behind. I once heard that Hillcrest used to be referred to as the Gay Nineties, "since everyone there was either gay or ninety."

This particular apartment almost certainly belonged to one of the latter category — everything dim-lit and draped, full of heavy furniture and frilly knickknacks, a bygone elegance gone to seed. And a painting, beat to hell but still displaying the artist’s skill: a painting of a saint, bedecked with robes and halo, writing at a desk while an attendant angel held his inkwell. A writer’s painting — even if you didn’t subscribe to the whole angels-and-haloes scenario, it was a short imaginative jump to seeing the thing as depicting a visit from the Muse. The saint’s hand was raised in surprise as he lifted his head from his paper and beheld the angel, bearing a feather-pen of another color. "Oh, I didn’t see you there! What’s that? Try writing this way? Why, thank you!"
“Sixteenth-century Spanish Colonial,” read the tag. "$400.”

“How much will you take for the painting?” asked the man running the sale, his voice slippery with confidence ease. “How about $75?”

The man’s voice picked up a little grit. “Oh, no. I couldn’t let it go for less than $300. A man came in just a while ago and said he’d pay $500. He said it might appraise for $5000.” (This was some time ago, when Antiques Roadshow was at its cultural peak.) Risible as the claim was, I didn’t argue. I wanted the painting — not for appraisal, but for me. I paid the $300.

For years, the painting hung in my foyer in all its low-rent glory, a sad testament to the fear of becoming bourgeois: “See, I may own a gen-u-ine old-fashioned oil painting in a big gilt frame, but it’s okay — look at that gash in the canvas! Look at the flaking paint! See the ragged edge down there at the bottom! For heaven’s sake, it even looks like somebody ran a strip of duct tape over half the saint’s face! See here, how the canvas is flattened, how the colors are less faded, how bits of paint have been lifted away!”

But when, two years later, you’re driving the kids down to Baskin-Robbins in La Mesa, and there, just across the street, you see the gold-lettered sign for Harrison’s of London, Art & Frame Restoration, Art & Antique Conservation — well, how is a body, bourgeois despite all fears, to resist money for materials. They’d use any damn thing, I had a painting once that was done on two pieces of plywood; it looked as though the artist had fetched them out of the dustbin.”

Harrison says, “We’re trying to get the painting to talk to us.”

What’s more, “Those men in the 1800s were making their own varnishes and their own cleaners. Eighty percent of the paintings in museums are finished or restored improperly.”

Some are even begun improperly. “When an artist paints,” says Harrison, “he gets his achievement out of that last day on the easel. For the artist, that’s the end of the painting’s life. But it’s not, really; it’s the beginning of its life. A hundred years later, you might get something like this old German painting.” He gestures at a nearby easel displaying an image of a landscape. Near the top, the hazy blue sky is bulging out, doing an impression of a wind-shield after some poor soul’s head has slammed into it. “This is what we call ‘cupping’ — there’s air gotten underneath.”

Harrison points to the tiny lines radiating out from the bulge’s center. “And this is what we call ‘the spider’s web’ — very soon, it’s going to go out in a circle and start cracking, and the paint will fall off. It’s because it was ill prepared. The undercoat is not even gesso.” Without the animal glue — “the only glue that can be regenerated with water” — in the gesso, the paint has little hope of...
clinging to the canvas for over a century’s worth of expansions and contractions brought on by changes in temperature and humidity.

But the trouble, in my painting’s case, did not come in the beginning, nor in the finishing. And it had never been restored — not really. A session under a black light convinces Harrison

“Feel this — it’s like cement.”

that whatever paint remains on the canvas is original. Newer stuff, laid over the original varnish, would have shown up as dark patches, he explains. The golden vine trailing along the saint’s robe and cloak appears black under the light, and Harrison guesses that, while original, the vine was painted on after the initial painting had dried — a kind of dramatic overpaint of the church, virtually sitting in water. It’s been cut down — you wouldn’t get an artist cutting off the bottom of the tablecloth like this.”

And after it was cut down, it was glued onto a frame. Not wrapped around a proper stretcher, with blocks at the corners that allow for manual expansion and contraction, but glued to a fixed wooden rectangle. “That’s not good. It’s almost too tight. If anything fell against this, it’d go straight through. The canvas moves all during the day and night.” If the frame can’t be adjusted as the canvas shrinks...

Whether it was the too-tight canvas that caused the great right-angle tear in the painting, we shall never know. But the tear is there and patched by a couple of pieces of brown linen glued to the back of the canvas. “Feel this — it’s like cement,” notes Harrison, tapping the fibers of the original canvas where they are stuck to the linen backing. Farther up, a small hole has received similar treatment.

The back of the canvas also sports an odd symbol that runs off the edge — more evidence for the cut-down theory. Harrison is stumped as to the symbol’s meaning, and it bothers him. But the...

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biggest mystery, the thing that remains stubbornly silent when Harrison says, "We’re trying to get the painting to talk to us," is the tape. It’s gone now, but its former placement is plainly visible on the painting’s face — long, overlapping rectangles of damage, the flaked paint and brighter colors bearing witness to a protective covering that took a toll when removed. But a gummy residue on the backside makes it pretty clear that the tape put there in the first place. Its path covers no crack, no fault or tear. A mystery.

Finally, says Harrison, "It’s been scrubbed. Look at the nubs of the canvas" — bare and brown amid the red of the robes. "A painting can have up to seven layers of paint — the last two or three are glazes, to get the depth of color. Those are gone here."

Restoration will mean, to some extent, replacing what has been removed. "We don’t want to repaint the original," says Harrison. "We’ll never get it back to 100 percent, but we may be able to get it back to 80 percent." To do that, he says, "You’ve got to know colors," know the way they’ll blend when layered and glazed. "You can use black, seal it, put a thin layer of white on, and you’ve got gray — the black bleeds through. Then you can start working with your other tones — your blues and purples. The biggest job in restoring — and this takes years of training — is that you’ve got to figure out how the artist mixed the paint, how he painted, what kind of brush he used. I remember, back when I’d just gotten out of the army, I got an oil painting by Stanfield, a well-known English marine painter. Somebody had put a cigarette through it. Stanfield always did beautiful sunsets, and it took me weeks to get the color of the evening sky. I was going with whites and blues, and then by sheer luck, I put a touch of black in there one night, and bang. "Some paints are thick," he continues, "and leave great lines on the canvas. And some are flat and runny. I’ll use a glass palette, and I’ll keep all my warm colors in one place and my cold colors in another place. You put a nub of each color you need in the center, and you keep playing with them. You can always see where you’ve done work, because you did it. But many people can’t."

But painting is a long way off. (In fact, Harrison won’t even be the one to do it. He’ll retire to Colorado before the painting is finished, and the job will fall to his successor at Harrison’s of London, Teresa Brunston.) Before the glorious edifice can be made new, there is the matter of the unseen foundation. Before poppy oil, pigment, and glaze, there is good old malt vinegar, a trade secret Harrison brought with him from England.

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**Do you have high LDL (BAD) cholesterol?**

We are conducting a research study to evaluate the effectiveness and safety of an investigational cholesterol-lowering medication. Men and women of at least 18 years of age with high cholesterol may qualify.

*If you qualify, you will receive at no cost:*
- Study-related medication (including placebo)
- Study-related physical examination
- Study-related laboratory tests
- To find out if you qualify or for more information, please call:
  San Diego Sports Medicine and Family Health Center
  Clinical Studies Department • 619-229-3909

**Attn: Heavy Drinkers**

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

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

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

Call: 858-784-7867 (STOP)
Or visit: [www.pearsoncenter.org](http://www.pearsoncenter.org)

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**CLINICAL RESEARCH**

**SCHIZOPHRENIA • DEPRESSION • BIPOLAR DISORDER**

Researchers at Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital are currently enrolling men and women into inpatient and outpatient studies.

*Eligible participants may receive all study-related care at no cost, and may be reimbursed for time and travel.*

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

To learn more, please call the Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital Clinical Research Center at **(858) 694-8350**.
TREATED FOR SLEEP APNEA & STILL SLEEPY?

Are you being treated for sleep apnea with a CPAP machine and still sleepy or tired during the day? If so, and you are 18-55 years old, you may qualify for an inpatient research study in our state-of-the-art sleep clinic and receive an investigational medication.

If qualified, there is no cost to you. Instead, you receive:

• Compensation up to $5520
• Study-related medication/medical care
• Study conducted in Glendale, CA

CALL TODAY: 858-571-1188 Toll-free 800-571-1188
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Anxiety
doesn’t just stress your mind.
We now know it can...

• Decrease your immune response
• Decrease your physical and mental functioning
• Increase fats in the bloodstream
• Interfere with sleep
• Be mistaken for medical conditions

If you are between the ages of 18 and 50, you may qualify to take part in a research study of an investigational medication for Generalized Anxiety Disorder.

Every study conducted by California Clinical Trials is staffed by a team of skilled and experienced physicians and medical professionals trained to place your comfort and well-being first.

If you participate, there is no cost to you...instead:

• You receive up to $400 for your time and travel.
• You receive no-cost study-related medication and study-related medical care.
• No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies.

Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder

Are you between 18 and 60 years of age and do you have a history of:

• Excessive preoccupation with germs or cleanliness?
• Constantly counting or checking things?
• Uncontrollable repetitive behavior that causes you anxiety when you try to stop it?
• Repetitive, intrusive and unwanted thoughts?
• Hoarding to the point that it creates problems in your life?

If you answered yes to any of these conditions, you may have Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) and may qualify to participate in a medical research study of an investigational medication for OCD.

Every study conducted by California Clinical Trials is staffed by a team of skilled and experienced physicians and medical professionals trained to place your comfort and well-being first.

If you qualify, there is no cost to you...additionally:

• You receive up to $500 for your participation
• You receive no-cost research study-related medication and medical care
• No reports are made to employers, schools, or insurance companies

858-571-1188 Toll-free 800-571-1188
www.cctstudy.com
III: The Picture-Repairer: A History

Easter, 1945: A country village in Sherwood Forest, to which Harrison and his family had been evacuated. "I was 14, and they put us out of school — the teacher was still at war, and we had no chance of staying on. I remember my mum saying, 'What do you want to do?' I had no idea. But I had always been good at drawing, so she took me down to the Nottingham School of Art. That was a good job, going to an art school. Pleased me to no end. It was a Monday morning, drizzling. My mum booked me in, and as we walked down the corridor, there was a hyacinth — I can still smell it; every year, I have to buy at least one. We got to the room, and there were quite a few easels. The lecturer said, 'Come on up,' so I worked my way up between the easels, and there, at the front, was a nude woman. I'd never seen one before. I thought, 'Well, you can't go wrong here.' And the lecturer said, 'Go, sit over there, and draw this model your way.'"

Harrison's art school idyll lasted only a few weeks. "My dad was a coal miner, and he always said, 'You'll never go down a coal mine.'" (Though the hazards of the job probably wouldn't have killed him — Harrison, compactly built and large of knuckle, seems to possess a kind of bulldog indestructibility.) "One day, he came in and said, 'I've met a picture-repairer.' They call them restorers now, but they were workmen in those days — my mentor, Bill Mullins, wore a flat cap and overalls. Dad said, 'I'm putting you in as an apprentice for seven years. I'm going to pay him, and you'll have two and sixpence a week pocket money.' And so the course of Harrison's life, for the next 63 years, was set.

"I settled in quite nicely," he recalls, "and after a few months, Mullins put me in the Guild, which was a godsend. The Guild was like a mother; it looked after you. They didn't teach you, but they made sure you were taught. They sent me to Italy when I was a teenager. I was in Siena, working with this old man. He had me up on this ladder, working on a figure set into a wall; we were going to take the gold off, seal it, and re-gild it. I said, 'When was this gold put on?' He said, 'About 500 years ago.' I nearly fell off the ladder. This runs through me all the time: they always said, 'You're not really interested in the client; you're not interested in the money; you're not interested in you. You're interested in the piece.' I was touching something that had been gilt 500 years ago."

During his Siena sojourn, "We used to go and sit on a little bank under a tree just off the main square for our lunch. He used to bring a little bottle of wine and some crispy bread and some cheese, and his wife..."
sent some for me. While he was eating, he used to scratch at the clay and put it in his box. "Later, "He took me down to Pompeii, " to work on restoring a mural. "At one point, he said, 'Get me some raw sienna.' I'm a typical British kid; I'm going through his beautiful box of paints, looking for a tube of raw sienna. And he's laughing at me. He got down, took a piece of the clay and a mortar and pestle, and ground it with some poppy oil. We made our own raw sienna. It's the old school."

Harrison's stay with Mullins lasted 22 years. When his mentor died, "He left me all his little mixtures, his little recipes for cleaning solvents. You've got to clean the old varnish but won't touch the paint. A lot of people think you can patch it without cleaning, but you can't. When you patch colors to dirty colors, it looks like a scab. You've got to clean it."

"Those little mixtures are still with us on the day I return to the studio to check on Harrison's progress in cleaning up my saint, stored in brown glass bottles alongside industry cleaners with names like RVR6 Varnish Remover and SVR12 Synthetic Varnish Remover and C1123 Smoke Cleaner. And Murphy's Oil Soap. And malt vinegar."

"Little dabs of labeled masking tape dot the surface of the canvas — Harrison is testing the effects of various cleaners. First up: saliva. He licks his thumb and rubs it on the canvas; the colors bloom under the damp sheen. "My old mentor used to say, 'It's the strongest solvent you've got.' This is what it will look like when varnished. The colors will come out. I'm just getting through the dust here."

"Had one of my children licked a finger and rubbed my fancy oil painting, I would have scolded them. Now, all I can do is wince and trust that the man knows what he's doing. His mentor was a workman, and so is he, and so maybe it's not surprising that I keep thinking he's handling my work of art like a slab of meat, turning it, rubbing it, picking at its surface with his thumbnail. I have to remind myself that he has reverence for "the piece," that he knows what it can't be."

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**UCSD research study on Schizophrenia and Schizoaffective Disorder**

Are you taking a medication like Seroquel, Zyprexa, Geodon or Abilify? Would you like to try something new? UCSD is conducting a research study on the effects of an investigational drug called Lurasidone, not approved by the FDA.

To find out if you may qualify and how to participate, call: 1-866-UC PRICE (1-866-827-7423)
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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**RESEARCH STUDIES**

**Another Migraine...**

Once again, you have to cancel your plans because you feel miserable!! Migraine headaches can not only affect you, but everyone else in your life.

Pacific Research Network is a dedicated research clinic that is currently studying an investigational inhaled medication to assess its effectiveness in treating migraines. Participation in the study and associated medications, lab work, and physical examinations are at no charge. Compensation up to $450 is provided to qualified participants for their time and travel. In addition, you may qualify for one year of treatment with this medication, following the initial 8-week program. Call to speak with a staff member about this program and to schedule an appointment.

Pacific Research Network
619-294-4502
www.prnsd.com
**Are you 65 or older, have high cholesterol and have been told that you are at risk for a heart attack or stroke?**

Consider joining a clinical study to evaluate two approved medications for lowering cholesterol in elderly patients.

As a participant, you will receive study-related:
- Care and study medication
- Lab tests
- Diet and lifestyle counseling
...all at no charge

**Scripps Whittier Diabetes Institute**

Call the Scripps Whittier Diabetes Institute at 858-626-5639 for more information and reference clinical study #NCT00535405.

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**do you have HEPATITIS C?**

At Medical Associates Research Group, we conduct clinical research studies for Hepatitis C...

...and have conducted over 20 hepatitis studies in the past 10 years.

Participants may receive the following at no charge:
- Study-related medication
- All necessary medical evaluations and physician visits by board-certified gastroenterologists
- Additional monetary compensation for time and travel

**Medical Associates Research Group, Inc.**

For more information, please call:
858-277-7177
www.MARGINC.com

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**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 in your daily life by your sleep problems

If you qualify and choose to participate in this study, you will receive an initial consultation, study-related examinations and laboratory evaluations. All follow-up visits, and you may receive study medication at no charge. 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

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**Sadness? Low energy? Trouble sleeping? Can’t concentrate? These are symptoms of Depression!**

If you or someone you know is:
- Between the ages of 18 and 55
- Currently experiencing a depressive episode
- Have had a diagnosed depressive episode within the past 5 years
- In overall good health

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

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

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**“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:
(619) 688-6565
See our website: www.ari-inc.com

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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.

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

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

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

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**Do you have HEPATITIS C?**

At Medical Associates Research Group, we conduct clinical research studies for Hepatitis C...

...and have conducted over 20 hepatitis studies in the past 10 years.

Participants may receive the following at no charge:
- Study-related medication
- All necessary medical evaluations and physician visits by board-certified gastroenterologists
- Additional monetary compensation for time and travel

**Medical Associates Research Group, Inc.**

For more information, please call:
858-277-7177
www.MARGINC.com

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**For more information on any of these studies, please contact:**

(619) 688-6565
See our website: www.ari-inc.com
"How much did you pay for it?" I asked.

"Three thousand dollars."

"I was trying to be tactful, but Pat burst out laughing. It was a chocolate box top. You know how they impress a printing on chocolate boxes? There were brush marks pressed into the cardboard. I said, 'You'd better get your money back.'"

He tells other stories — of Thomas Kinkade prints being taken for costly masterworks, of gallery owners proudly displaying computer transfers, even of a collector asking his opinion of a Mona Lisa, wholly innocent of the original's existence. "This is the American public," Harrison says, wondering. "I wrote home once and said, 'I could be a millionaire....'"

But, he says, he also wrote, "These people are like five-year-olds,' and I meant it in a complimentary way. They're thirsting, grasping for knowledge — and it's improved over the last 20 years. There were just a lot of things in our genes over there, because we'd lived with it. I gave a talk to the Picture Framers Association 15 years ago, and they didn't know about acidity in paper. They didn't know about fungus in paper. They were putting size in their conservation materials."

Harrison went back to work, a long way from Victorian England. "I moved into a space on University Avenue, and a very nice lady walked in with a painting of an Arab boy — a Spanish-style thing. I didn't want to restore it, really, but I did it. Years later, I was watching The Pirate with Gene Kelly and Judy Garland, and she smashed that painting over his head.

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

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

• A postmenopausal or surgically sterile female (for at least 12 months)
• Age 40 to 70
• A non-smoker
• Willing to make overnight stays

Participants will receive all study-related exams at no cost and may receive up to $1,000 for time and participation.

Think you can help? Great! Then call: 866-818-3253 or visit: TestWithTheBest.com today.

Interested, please call:

619-521-2841

Medical Center for Clinical Research

Are you anxious?

Finding it hard to focus or concentrate?

Tense, tired, or on edge?

Having difficulty sleeping?

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

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

Synergy Clinical Research Center
1-888-486-9150

See our website at: www.synergysandiego.com

Office hours: 9-5
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
• Problems with concentration, memory, and/or making decisions
• 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

Crystal, Meth, Tina...

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.

If you are age 18 or older and have methamphetamine dependency challenges, we urge you to call now. Participation in this study may just change your life. You will receive study-related procedures and study medication at no cost.

Start making your change right now and call us for more information at: 760-639-4378

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

Do you have Chronic Plaque Psoriasis?

Therapeutics Clinical Research is conducting a clinical research trial using an investigational medication in patients with moderate to severe chronic plaque psoriasis and who are currently having a sub-optimal response to systemic or phototherapy treatment. Your participation in this study would last for 16 weeks plus a follow-up phone call. While in the study, you will receive physical exams, blood tests, tests for your disease and study medication at no cost to you.

Subjects who may be eligible to participate in this clinical trial include the following:
• Men or women 18 years of age or older
• Must have a diagnosis of chronic plaque psoriasis for at least 6 months
• Women cannot be pregnant or breastfeeding
• Subjects must currently be taking and having a sub-optimal response to a systemic or phototherapy treatment for psoriasis

No health insurance required!

Call us at: 858-279-SKIN (7546) or e-mail us at: psoriasis@therapeuticsresearch.com

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
• Qualify for and complete an 8-week study, you may qualify to participate in a one-year study

Qualified participants may receive compensation for time and expenses. Call our office today for a confidential screening.

North County Clinical Research (NCCR)
Guiding the way to research that makes a difference.

760-639-4378

Where is your focus?

...on your overactive bladder?

Overactive bladder makes it difficult to perform daily activities. You do not know when the sudden, strong urge to urinate will happen.

The Women’s Overactive Bladder Study is a research study testing the safety and effectiveness of a new delivery method of an overactive bladder medication for women. Qualified participants:
- are women age 18 and older
- are experiencing overactive bladder symptoms with urgency for over 6 months
- have not had three or more urinary tract infections in the past year

Qualified participants will receive study-related exams, lab tests and study drug at no charge.

For more information, please call: 1-888-312-7966 or visit www.WomensOABstudy.com

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

• HEARING VOICES
• PARANOIA

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

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

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

SYNERGY CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTERS

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Do you suffer pain caused by Cancer that has spread to your bones?

Doctors at UCSD are participating in a clinical trial studying the use of a new treatment for palliation (pain relief) of painful bone metastases (tumors) using Magnetic Resonance-Guided Focused Ultrasound Therapy. This is a completely noninvasive (without surgery) therapy to relieve pain. Patients who have been diagnosed with bone metastases and for whom radiation therapy is not an alternative, who have up to three painful bone metastases with one much more painful than the others, and who are able to undergo an MRI imaging exam are eligible to participate in this study.

If you have questions about this study or are interested in participating, you should contact:

Bob Halterman, CCRC
UCSD Department of Radiology:
619-543-5830
rhalterman@ucsd.edu

---

Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS)

...can't eat without runnin' to the bathroom!!
...bloating...uncomfortable...
...abdominal pain

A research study is underway for men and women, 18 years of age or older, suffering from diarrhea-predominant irritable bowel syndrome. For those women previously diagnosed or who suffer with abdominal discomfort, bloating, and episodes of diarrhea or watery stools daily, this research study using an oral investigational medication may interest you.

**Participants may receive at no cost study-related:**
- Colonoscopy (if not performed in the past 2 years)
- Examination and consultation by a board-certified physician
- Lab studies, EKG, and study medication
- Compensation for your time and travel

Interested, call:
Medical Center For Clinical Research
(619) 521-2841
Do you feel depressed?

Announcing a medical research study for people with depression.

Depression isn’t just feelings of sadness – it can affect the way you see the world. Your body may feel constantly fatigued, and your mind may dwell on thoughts of worthlessness and guilt. If you are currently depressed and not taking an antidepressant, you’re invited to see if you may qualify for a medical research study to determine the effectiveness and safety of an investigational medication for the management of Major Depressive Disorder. If you qualify, you’ll receive investigational study medication, medical exams and lab tests at no charge. Financial compensation for time and travel may also be available.

To learn more, visit www.DoYouFeelDepressed.com or call an area physician listed below:

Synergy Clinical Research Center
1-888-486-9150

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

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

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

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

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

I’VE HAD TYPE 1 DIABETES SINCE I WAS A CHILD.

I hope to help others like me in the future by participating in a clinical research study now. Profil Institute for Clinical Research is currently looking for Type 1 Diabetics to participate in a research study evaluating an investigational inhaled insulin.

To participate, you must:
• Have Type 1 Diabetes (diagnosed for at least one year)
• Be 18-60 years old
• Be a non-smoker
• If female, use birth control

If you qualify and choose to participate, you will receive study-related medical care at no cost and you will be compensated up to $1,400. Three overnight stays are required.

For more information, call Profil at 619-409-1244.

Profil
Institute for Clinical Research
**Schizophrenia or Schizoaffective Disorder?**

You may qualify to participate in clinical research involving an investigational medication. Qualified candidates will be compensated for time and transportation up to $950.00.

Call (858)566-8222 for more information.

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

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**Research Studies**

**Heavy drinkers not seeking treatment**

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

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

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

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

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in my case. "A high percentage of my work is through amateur restorers," he says to me at one point, telling stories of paintings smeared by Windex rubdowns. And even in his own shop, he grants that "things do happen occasionally, I'm being very careful; this is why you do things an inch at a time." While we've got it flipped faceup, he brushes more solvent onto the patch from this side, and it seeps through a crack in the hide-stiff linen. 

Tap tap, scratch scratch, prod prod. Harrison is a busy man — pieces regularly come in from New York collectors and from a fire-damaged restaurant, from cowboy enthusiasts, connoisseurs, and the merely sentimental. He gets to my saint when he can, and eventually, he gets it clean. But 63 years in the business is enough, and it's his longtime assistant Teresa who relines it and mounts it on a stretcher, pulling it taut around the wooden slats with pliers and pounding in fresh brass tacks. "I've never stopped working in the whole of my life," Harrison tells me. "We brought a container of antique English furniture over 25 years ago for me to work on in my spare time. We've still got it, and we're going to send it up to Colorado, where we've bought a house. And I'm going to settle down to paint. I've got so many paintings that I've just started."

Before he moves, however, he does one last job for my saint — filling in the nasty gash below his knee, the great tear that brought on the stubborn patch in the first place. Now it's backed with fresh new canvas; it just wants filling in.

Dozens of empty Fancy Feast cat food tins line a standing set of shelves in the workspace on the other side of the wall from Harrison's showroom; a client brings them. They're not really empty, of course; they just don't contain cat food anymore. Very little is empty in the workspace, save for a few broad surfaces upon which Harrison may lay his canvases. Everything else is racks of projects in progress, photos of completed projects, paintings for sale, frames, drawers full of papers and molds, shelves packed with sprays and jars and powders and tools and tapes and paints...and cat food tins. He uses them to store all manner of items, some more obviously useful than others: rusty tacks, corks whose springy bodies help to lodge a painting firmly into its frame, screws and thumbtacks and buttons...Harrison finds an empty tin and places it on the dull metal circle of a coffeemaker — not, however, the same coffeemaker he keeps on the same counter and actually uses to make coffee, coffee that is poured into dainty cups whose bright floral pattern matches that of the accompanying saucers and is then drunk black. (An electric teakettle and toaster share the counter...
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to do this,” explains Brunston. “A lot of it was born out of being really bored as a kid. I would make things, entertain myself. I always liked working with my hands, and I started painting with oil paints in high school. And I love old things, fixing things up rather than buying new. They don’t make things like they used to. I used to paint with oil paints in my hands, and I started always liked working with art with her restorative impulse. “My daughter was learning how to surf, and she wasn’t driving yet. So I would spend a long time on the beach, just sitting there. And one day I opened my Bible and my notepad and just kind of sewed.”

Brunston says that “meeting Roy was a miracle, an answer to my prayers” — the happy union of her urge to make art with her restorative impulse. “My daughter was learning how to surf, and she wasn’t driving yet. So I would spend a lot of time on the beach, just sitting there. And one day I opened my Bible and my notepad and just kind of...
started writing stuff down. ‘What do I love to do? What do I wish I could do?’ And at the top, I put ‘Art restorer.’ I didn’t finish college, so I thought that was a lost cause, but it wasn’t long after that that I met Roy. I talked to him and asked if he ever gave classes. He had seen me work; he knew I wasn’t afraid to get dirty. I used to get manicures, but I don’t anymore — all this stuff that you’re in. He always said a good framer would make a good restorer, and he agreed to take me on as his apprentice. I had to pay him, and I worked a second job to be able to do that. I left for a while because of some allergic response I had to the working conditions. “The former apprentice was happy to become the master, training Brunston as he had been trained decades earlier — no college necessary. “I trained her for about five years, and then she left me. And then she came back. She’s had about seven years’ experience. You run into people who want to become art restorers overnight. Once, I had this girl write me, and she had a good résumé — she was coming out of Pepperdine. I phoned her, and she’d been lecturing in museums on the restoration of paintings. I said, ‘What experience have you had in actually restoring paintings?’ She said, ‘I haven’t yet.’ I said, ‘I’m sorry, love; I don’t believe in paper. I want to know what you can do with your hands.’ “Brunston began in 2001, and Harrison had just the project for her. “The longest I’ve ever spent on a painting was four years. I almost admitted defeat. This postman — he’s a lovely person, and he collected baseball stuff. He’d found this oil painting of a baseball player on the Internet, but they hadn’t told him that it was all cupped. When it arrived, 60 percent of the paint was at the bottom of the box. You’ve got to earn your rent, and I was getting frustrated, and then Teresa joined me. I said, ‘Now I can earn the overhead, and you can work on that baseball player and take your time.’ And it worked.” The baseball player was Brunston’s first completed restoration, the product of a solid month of painstaking work. Now the Picture-Repairer is gone to Colorado, leaving behind his name on the shop and the woman he trained to replace him. His workspace, once a riot of detritus, a labyrinth fathomed only by its maker, is comparatively bare and open. My saint is propped up near the front of the shop, so that the light from the...
I’ll match the colors well where I’ve filled it in. But look closely, you can see they’re varnished. If you know how the colors will be a layer of varnish. And then there — you can get a better match. It helps the color blend and do the highlights. It will look when they dry, knowing how the colors will be a layer of varnish.

You try to follow the strokes of the artist. “The texture is different. When we get the final coat of varnish on, it will blend in.” 

Brunston is repainting — infilling. “I don’t know what the light is going to be like in someone’s home or office, so I try to work with true colors, natural light. Normally, when you’re painting, you use pointillism, little dots of color. You don’t want to cover what the original artist painted, you just want to fill in the missing paint.” But out toward the edges of the painting, amid the red curtains that surround the scene, “There was a lot of missing paint, and a lot of discoloration. So I’m not doing as much pointillism there.” Instead, she is allowing herself quarter-inch brushstrokes with a tiny sable brush. “They have the best hairs for holding and distributing paint. The length of hairs, the flexibility of the bristles, and the type of stroke you use will determine the way the paint appears. You try to follow the strokes of the artist.”

In this case, there aren’t really any strokes to follow — the paint is too thin, and the texture of the canvas is visible throughout. But that suits Brunston just fine. “I don’t like to keep too much paint on my brush at a time. I prefer to do several thin, translucent layers — put in a base color, and then go back and do the highlights. It helps the color blend in — you can get a better match. And then there will be a layer of varnish. It’s a matter of experience, knowing how the colors will look when they dry, and then again when they’re varnished. If you look closely, you can see where I’ve filled it in. But I’ll match the colors well enough that someone just looking at the painting won’t be able to tell.”

In amid the curtains, “There was a little bit of red undertone, but so much of the paint had lifted. I’m mixing umber into the crimson, darkening the red. I don’t like to use a lot of black; it can make things look dull. I’d rather use blue or green. And I don’t use a lot of white, because it can make things look chalky. As you go along, you have to change the color slightly, even in a tiny area like the face. It’s amazing how many colors are actually in there — and they’re funny colors. Purples and grays and browns.” The face offers another testament to her skill — there more than anywhere, the ravages of the tape had been apparent. Not only because of the flaked-off paint but also because of the change in texture and brightness from one side of the face to the other. Now, the difference is all but invisible, the result of new paint judiciously applied to both sides of the border between taped and
Watching Brunston work, I am conscious of the quiet. Part of it is the serenity brought on by the newly opened space. But part of it is Harrison’s absence. “I like the quiet,” says Brunston, “and I like what I do. I take things that have been forgotten or neglected, cast off or abused, and bring them back to their former beauty, which is like what God does to us. That’s one of the driving motivations for me.”

VI: “Art is cheap, framing is expensive” — Tom Weller, Culture Made Stupid

When Harrison was reminiscing about his happy days in the Guild, he mentioned that there was another Guild devoted entirely to framing and frame repair and that they too had mothered him and seen to his training in their art. “We used to have to hand-carve the rosettes on broken frames. But then silicone came out — it’s another way the guilds were pushed out.” Suddenly, “As long as you had a mirror image of the rosette on another part of the frame,” you could simply take a mold and cast a new piece. “It picked up every mark, every line of the grain, and it saved all that carving.” And because it all got coated with a fresh layer of gold leaf, the repair was completely invisible.

Sometimes, however, the damage is deep enough that the old ways prove necessary. Brunston shows me a mirror frame that simply gave way all along the bottom, splitting into shards and dropping the mirror to the floor. Her husband, a contractor, has cut out a wooden backing and screwed it into a stable section of the original frame. For her part, Brunston has pieced together enough of the shards to get a sense of the original pattern and will now carve the decorative front of the new base out of wood putty. Again, the gold leaf will cover the line between old and new material.

My own frame was undamaged. But it was also ugly — brown glaze mashed onto gold leaf with smudgy, circular brushstrokes. Bourgeois that I am, I can see that sticking my newly magnificent painting back into its old frame would be akin to serving Château Margaux in a Dixie cup.

So I’m delighted to see that Brunston has spruced it up: stripping and preparing the wood, pressing new sheets of (imitation) gold onto its surface, and then brushing on a new layer of varnish to tone down the gold’s showy glow.

— Matthew Lickona
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I arrived in San Diego on the 4th of July, 1979, on a Greyhound bus I had boarded in Louisville, Kentucky, after two previous bus changes out of Port Authority. I was 27 years old, fresh out of Riker’s and I was in opioid withdrawal. My mother and stepfather had recently moved to Chula Vista and my sister, Margie, was living in that South Bay city. However, I was about to pay a visit to a total stranger just about ten or fifteen miles south and across the International Border. Junkies can smell heroin. Once I was in Tijuana, it was all of 30 minutes before I connected and had a jackhammer in my arm full of the ever-so-needed heroin that my body, mind and spirit craved and needed.

The year 1914 heralded two very significant events in this country. The United States entered WWI, a war that lasted for four years. We told ourselves we won then packed and left. The second event, with at least as far reaching consequences, was the Harrison Act, the first War on Drugs; in particular, opium and its derivatives such as morphine and heroin. Coca leaves were included in this prohibition. This was called the Harrison Act. Not law, but Act and at first, appeared to be no prohibition at all.

Hastily scrawled note in margin of manuscript:

Had addiction been defined by the American Medical Association (as it did decades later) as a disease, the world would be dramatically different today."

The above are all excerpts from Heroin Chronicles, an unpublished work-in-progress by 56-year-old Rick Ortiz. I met Ortiz in the summer of 2005, “in the rooms,” as they say in anonymous-recovery circles. Like myself, Ortiz was a recovering alcoholic, but with many years of sobriety and recovery from the use of narcotics. He was a substance abuse counselor at facilities from Rancho LaBri (an expensive resort-style rehab) to Donovan Prison. A former amateur “Silver Gloves” boxer, and born in the Bronx, Ortiz learned that I was a writer and had published books. He introduced himself and told me of the “chronicles” he had asked him the question most writers fear most: “How’s the book coming?”
been working on for some years. He asked for advice on publication and showed me pages of his manuscript — including the following:

Collectors at the Internal Revenue Service imposed a special tax on those involved with the manufacture, production and distribution of products and by-products of the poppy flower and the coca leaf as well as physicians and pharmacists. Patent medicine salesmen and/or manufacturers were exempted. The bill was also a law to maintain order and a relatively short period of time is impossible to calculate.

More deaths, to say nothing of lives ruined, imprisoned and callously damaged have resulted from Harrison's puritanical crusade in the past hundred years than the sum total of casualty lists of every war fought by this country in a commensurate period of time. Not hundreds of thousands, but millions. This says nothing of statistics impossibly to obtain by polling anonymous organizations like Narcotics Anonymous or Cocaine Anonymous, to name two.

Both gritty memoir and extended essay, the nonfiction work-in-progress has grown in the three years since I first met the author. Recently, we became neighbors in Hillcrest and reacquainted ourselves. Rick Ortiz is of Puerto Rican descent, has a New York accent never softened by his nearly 30 years in San Diego, and while some may find the ex–New Yorker’s raspy, hoarse boxer’s vocal delivery a bit rough, I found it cinematic, as if he had stepped out of a 1940s Wallace Beery film. I recently updated that assessment to having stepped from any of several, more recent Al Pacino movies. Ortiz is a born sto-

“I’m not a conspiracy theorist, but if we have the technology to knock a man to the moon, why can’t we eradicate the coca leaf?”

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San Diego Reader October 2, 2008
hundred dollars, lay on the floor along with a few fallen bags.

“¡Oye maricón! ¿Yo le meto un pepaso a este puta!” He was threatening to shoot the woman tied up in a chair; the translation being, “I’ll pop a cap in this whore.” I’ll forever remember his jagged-looking teeth, jaundiced eyes, the sweat-streaks on his face, the odor in that apartment of cabbage, singed cotton and the carbon-smoked hot metal of spoons or the jagged bases of cans. I couldn’t in a million years tell you what his partner looked like. My focus was out-the-door. I rarely looked at the shooter but it took only moments to embed his face in memory. Not long ago and 38 years later I had some spoiled food left out for too long and it reminded me of that morning in Spanish Harlem, the stench in that apartment and the yellow-eyed killer all as if I were watching it in living color once again. P .T.S.D. in Hi-Def. ¡Oye maricón!… That woman had been shot and was dead before he had finished the profane, insulting sentence. She had taken a large caliber bullet to the chest fired from a chrome-plated revolver.

It was loud. My right leg shook uncontrollably and I remember putting all the weight I could on it to hide that shaking. It was a kind of fear that gripped me that I had never before experienced….
knew that her picture was in that photo album that lay on the counter-top or the kitchen table. The filthy floor, the dirty door to the refrigerator. Images so vivid, my eyes focused on them rather than the showerer and the dead woman, considerably older than her mate, her leg and arm, she bled profusely, and her pastel robe soaked in blood... "No, me mates..." The man sobbed. Hypnotic. In that moment I was fully in touch with mortality as never before. Never until that moment. That crazy shit happened to other people. I was too hip, slick, and cool to be caught up in this kind of drama. Hip, that was my jacket, man. Not criminal, not junkie, not dead. I was 18 and living in the volatile world of heroin addiction. People were being killed every day. Two years into the game, and I had managed to do a short stint on Riker’s Island and the Bronx County Jail and Detention Center. I had witnessed violence, had been a participant on both ends: street fighting with baseball bats and knives. I’d been stabbed but never seriously back then. . . .

“[No me mates’ito!]" The sobbing man was begging for his life and he tells them where the dope is. Right there, in the kitchen in a Bustello coffee can. The jagged-fanged man asked me how much dope I was there to buy. One dime and I was sixty-five cents short. I also had a few subway slugs, back in the day those slugs worked

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in pay phones and turnstiles. Chubbs was buying two bags for $18 and John Boy just one. That was considered a good fix in those days, though there was never such a thing as enough. It’s not a word in the vocabulary of addicts until they arrive at that address and look up, stunned.

Chubbs knew the other guy, the partner whom I had no vision of at all. Why he is a blank has, most likely, a psychiatric explanation that is none-too-difficult. I have never been, in any way, curious. No me mates BANG BANG.

There were a few pastelles on the floor. Faceless took all our money but gave Chubbs the pastelles. We were told to get out as they left as well. We did as I waited for a bullet to the back.

I still hear that pitiful sob and that phrase in Puerto Rican–accented Spanish in endless variations while dreaming. Please don’t kill me! And then BANG BANG. I don’t know where those shots landed but—he was killed.

37 years later I have quite a collection of horrifying memories but none measure up to that morning. Smells, sounds, images and cold piss and the relief my pastelles provided from them….

Two years later John Boy was dead from an overdose. Five years later and Chubbs stopped talking about it too; he was dead from a gunshot wound to the head. No details provided. BANG BANG.

When I first read this, my instinct was to advise Ortiz, as I once had been advised, “Get that bang bang tone out of your style.” I decided against it.

In Ortiz’s apartment are stacked research materials and boxing magazines, as well as magazines about salsa music; his father, José Ramón Ortiz, was a famous figure in Puerto Rico and the US as a salsa-music innovator. Rick hosted a radio program in Highland Park, Illinois, while working for his father at that station, WVVX-FM. The research includes several pages of the Harrison Act, a lengthy Consumer Reports document from the 1970s on that legislation, and brochures from the Harm Reduction Coalition in New York. One of them is called “Hi is for Heroin,” and includes information such as: “Contrary to popular belief, heroin itself does not cause serious, long-term health problems….” and “Despite feeling like you’re going to die, withdrawal almost never kills anyone and is rarely harmful to a healthy person. It can be harmful, however, to people with HIV/AIDS. It can also be harmful to the fetus.” Despite such passages, the brochure is in no way an apologia for or an indictment of the drug’s use. Here, also, is information such as, “A Safety Manual for Injection Users.” These were the top handful of materials in his disorganized pile.

As I read over the above sentences, I began to laugh a little, then went into a bad imitation of William Burrough’s voice. I sounded...
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more like the CO in the old Phil Silver show, Sergeant Bilko, an actor whose name I cannot remember. The quote (approximate) was from Burroughs’s cameo appearance in the 1980s movie Drugstore Cowboy.

“Drugs have been systematically scapegoated and demonized in this culture,” I intoned. “The idea that anyone might use narcotics without disastrous consequences is anathema to these idiots.” This produced some laughter, mostly mine.

Interviewing Ortiz, he told me, “I don’t think the public is that foolish. I think our intelligence has been insulted for such a long period of time. I’m not a conspiracy theorist, but if we have the technology to knock a man to the moon, why can’t we eradicate the coca leaf? The poppy? We still have the ability to do that, like Colombia? Millions of millions of casualties annually because of cocaine. If it was oil, the only thing left there would be banana peels.”

To say Ortiz speaks with an animated passion might be understatement. He is burly and mustachioed, with the features of a bushy-browed conquistador, escapist that he is. His face bears some traces of that boxing career, but his arms, legs, and torso display scars from gunshot wounds, stab-wounds, and a history of IV drug usage, including several old abscesses. A populist voice in the wilderness, possibly, but he bears bodily evidence that he knows whereof he speaks.

“On the other hand,” he said, “ask any economist worth their salt, and they will tell you that the proceeds of drug money finance virtually everything you can name: the movie industry and the record industry, for example. If we stopped dope right now, the country would not only go into a recession, it would go into a severe depression. That’s how big of a spoke narcotics is in the wheel of our economy.”

“San Diego is a major player in narcotics, just like Philadelphia, L.A. — probably more so. The reason this has been obscured is that it is a border town, agriculture, say. We’re too big. To put any shame on that, you’re messing with the powers that be. They do not want this book, for example. Not the powers that be, just people interested in the truth — or at least some perspective.

“One motivating factor that propelled me to continue with the Chronicles was that segment on the Oprah Winfrey show with the writer James Frey [author of A Million Little Pieces, My Friend Leonard, etc.]. I took exception to an embellished story about drug addiction, though I agree with you,” and here he laughs, “the book was written very well.”

I then asked Ortiz what he expected from the book: legalization? “No. It’s too late. I don’t think it should be illegal, I think it should be decriminalized. It’s too late to be made legal, but it’s not too late to change some things. The vast majority of the people in jail in this country are there on drug charges. There are an alarming number of people doing serious time for a dime of crack. It’s worse with heroin.”

“I know everyone says this, but I hope to raise consciousness, yeah. I suppose the real reason for me to write this book is that it’s my personal redemption.” — John Brizziyana and Rick Ortiz

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Health and Beauty

San Diego Reader • October 2, 2008 • 55
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LETTERS

continued from page 12

Trash The Bag

In my opinion, you did the San Diego community a real service by researching and reporting on those ghastly and omnipresent plastic bags (“Plague of the Urban Tumbleweeds,” Cover Story, September 11). The first page, explaining the gyre 500 miles west of San Diego, was shocking. Who would believe that there is a huge, floating plastic-bag patch twice the size of North America in the ocean? That was new information to me. The dangers of plastic bags to marine life I did know about already. Someone referred to in your article said that our plastic-bag problem isn’t as bad as that of the third world. Was that supposed to be an argument for not doing anything about it?

I, for one, will make my voice heard with the City of San Diego. What are we waiting for? More information? Your article did an excellent job of providing all the information we need to make a decision to just ban plastic bags. We can all get used to using our own cloth bags. Maybe when people learn that plastic is, in fact, derived from petroleum they will recognize that we can no longer afford this use.

Thank you for a most informative article.

Pat Taylor South Park

A Plate Of Plastic

I’m so glad you had “Plague of the Urban Tumbleweeds” on your cover (September 11). It’s crucial that this word gets out because I think we’re eating plastic. I mean, if animals are eating it, if fish are eating it, there’s more plastic plankton out there. I hope people wake up to this message, and thank you for putting it out there.

Melody Myer

How Rich We Are!

I like all those plastic bags all over the place (“Plague of the Urban Tumbleweeds,” Cover Story, September 11). When the supermarkets ask me whether I want plastic or paper bags, I always ask for plastic. They are so handy and cheap and come

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in all sizes and colors. We all know about the many cost-benefit studies completed showing demonstrably that plastic bags are better than paper. When I see that plastic-bag litter all over, it reminds me how rich we are. When I see the dead albatrosses on the beach with their rotting skeletons filled with bits and pieces of plastic, it reminds me how stupid that bird must have been to stuff itself with plastic — no calories there.

I liked it in Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Peru, and Brazil, plus Ukraine, Moldova, and Armenia (places I worked for 15 years) when I would see poor people carrying plastic bags and then discarding them all over — it made them feel rich too!

One great use for plastic bags is to stuff them full of other plastic bags. Great compressibility... Think of all the jobs that plastic bags create! All those car payments afforded by being able to discard those wonderful plastic bags at will. They are like flags flying, caught on airport fences, declaring how fortunate we are to have our ancestors come back to the surface again to commune with us. We should pass a law having all plastic bags printed up to look like American flags. It’s really neat running after plastic bags in the street in a good wind. They are conveniently designed to act as sails across almost everything. It’s great to be able to rip them to shreds when you are angry at yourself and the world for not recycling. Plus, you can wrap up your other garbage in them, living the great American dream as you chuck your daily bagful down the chute, listening to your garbage hit the other waste in the bin below in your four-story condominium.

Let’s hear it for those plastic bags, a great symbol of our mobile world society! Besides, they are waterproof and make wonderful toys for small children. Don’t hold your breath too long, Sammy.

Wally Greenleaf
Mission Valley

Tote Into Tote
Hey, I know what we should do with all of those plastic bags (“Plague of the Urban Tumbleweeds,” Cover Story, September 11)! We should use them to make...plastic bags! Think about it! One could weave together about a hundred of them to make one nondisposable bag. Depending on the size of the bag, one could use even more of them. People are now buying cloth or other plastic bags to reuse for groceries. Why not use the original plastic bags in such a way to make nondisposable totes? Or what about weaving them together to make laundry baskets too? The possibilities are endless. I’m going to try this, and I’ll send a pic if it works.

Lisa Miller
via email

Comments from Reader Website
Comments are not edited for spelling, punctuation, or grammar.
Blurt, “Multiple Fetuses Okay”
Published September 24
Posted by StairsAndFlowers on September 17, 7:21 p.m.

HEALTH AND BEAUTY

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Great!! I love it. It makes me want to go out and get pregnant right now!!!

City Lights, by Ernie Grimm
Published September 24
Posted by Ponzi on September 24, 12:57 p.m.

I have lived in San Diego all of my life and used to enjoy going to Tijuana, Rosarito and Ensenada. In the 1980’s.

It just feels unsafe and dirtier than I recall. The bargains are really gone, perhaps due to free trade. We can purchase things here a lot cheaper. Why do so many Mexicans come to shop at Walmart and Costco in Chula Vista? Safety? Why do so many Mexican business owners moved across the border to Otay Mesa, Bonita and the Coronado Cays? Safety?

My friends that used to go for surfing, scuba, and other sports don’t bother anymore. The Baja 500 is at risk of collapsing because of safety concerns.

Prison riots that cause their Federal Government to fire all the top prison officials. Entire police forces being told they cannot have guns. Military vehicles patrolling the streets?

I wasn’t here in the eighties, but in the last several years, local government has done everything that they can in order to make the tourist zones of Tijuana more attractive. Avenida Revolucion has been transformed into a more pedestrian friendly zone, and even Zona Norte, the red light district of downtown Tijuana has been upgraded to make it more attractive.

So far as the movements and preferences of Mexican businessmen, I am sure that some of it is because they fear kidnappings. Keep in mind that this has little to do with tourism; the average San Diegan is more likely to be carjacked than kidnapped. My guess is that most Mexican businessmen who have businesses over there are now living there because they are tired of crossing the border every day.

And one thing to remember about Mexico, it isn’t the United States, it doesn’t work the same way here, and it never will.

The prison riots have always occurred in unpredictable intervals here, they happen in the United States as well. The difference is, the Mexican press is now free to report these unfortunate incidents, where no more than twelve years ago, the government still tightly controlled much of what the press was able to report. Also note that Mexican news looks to other countries like the United States in or-

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San Diego Reader October 2, 2008 59

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The guns were taken away from the police force in order to locate arms that were used in unsolved crimes in the greater Tijuana area, by the Federal Police, in order to weed out corruption. It worked. Several cops are now in prison. The guns were returned to the other police long ago.
And the Mexican Army, while once considered suspicious, have been nothing but wonderful in the fight to keep Tijuana as safe as it can be. No system is perfect, on either side of the fence, but the federal and local governments here are continuing to take steps to make it better.
If anyone feels uncomfortable in Mexico, then I would advise them not to visit again until they feel comfortable. But if judgments are to be made only on the basis of what the American press reports, then no one will ever come here, it isn’t reported accurately most of the time.
And for those who feel brave, it’s common sense. Respect the laws here, stay in the city near other people, know that you have the same rights as anyone else, don’t let the cops intimidate you, and it probably isn’t a good idea at this time to wander out into the wilderness where you’re vulnerable.
Those days are gone for now, but there is a lot that Baja has to offer in other areas.

Diary of a Diva  
Published September 24  
Posted by bohemianopus on September 26, 3:50 p.m.
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Philly, my family and I would go to Moncuso’s on Ninth Street for lunch meat, olives, and the best Italian bread in the world.

My father and Mr. Moncuso would have a knock-down, drag-out argument every week over Mr. Moncuso’s habit of stacking the tomato cans in front of the scale so we couldn’t see the true weight of the food we were buying.

My mother felt it was her duty to stuff handfuls of loose chi chi beans in her purse to “make up” for any price discrepancies while the two men argued.

On the way home, my brother and I would “pick” the insides of the loaf of bread out, so that by the time we got home, all that was left was the crust. We would dip into the bitter Greek and Spanish olives and split the sharp provolone and mellow scamorza cheeses.

My parents would buy “extra” and keep it in the front seat so they would have enough for the “sangwitches” when we got home.

Every time I smell olives and cheese, I get all warm and fuzzy.

**Feature Story, by Lane Tobias**

**Published September 17**

Posted by bohemianopus on September 4, 8:31 a.m.

I so enjoyed experiencing the Wonderland Laundromat encounter through your eyes! You are now officially an “OBcean.”

Your insight into humanity, and life in general, was a treat for the eyes to read. This story is one that I would love to see continued should you find the gentlemen from the Wonderland Coin Laundry again.

I spent my childhood in New Jersey, so I know the feeling of reaching “Nirvana” here in OB through the most mundane of events.

I hope you win first place in the Reader’s neighborhood writing contest for this delightful slice of life!

Welcome to OB!

Pat (a fellow OBcean)

**Crasher**

**Published September 17**

Posted by joelbmartin on September 17, 3:53 p.m.

towelheadedcameljockey 9:55 a.m., Sept. 28, 2008

“petty and picky” ????
By the way, I was at this currently 4 month old party. Not only do I remember it’s correct location in OB and not PB, but also, I am the man in the first segment of the video who received no preface to Mr. Board’s question (or whoever was representing him and “rolling” for the San Diego Reader and now, YouTube.com) : What your favorite ’80’s film?

Incidentally, the San Diego Reader is NOT in possession of a model release to publish that live-action clip including myself and therefore is currently in violation of copyright law, Nudge, nudge, wink, wink… SD Reader.

Furthermore, “towel-headedjockeys” wishes to JUDGE the very people headedcameljockey” wishes to "crash". "Shall" being the operative word. I shall not “crash”.

Heading to a better party I shall not “crash”. “Shall” being the operative word.

Sincerely,
Joel B. Martin
PS - Notice the lack of cutey screen name.
Total Kick
Mixed Martial Arts Contest

Inside Alliance Gym, near downtown Chula Vista, Eric Delfierro bustles from one end of the gym to the other, sweating almost as much as the 15 mixed-martial-arts fighters he is training. Of those 15 fighters, 10 are professionals under contract with some of the world’s elite fighting organizations; the others are some of San Diego’s top amateurs.

Delfierro is cofounder of Total Combat, a San Diego-sanctioned mixed-martial-arts promoter, and he has been training fighters since 1999, when mixed martial arts was in its infancy. He and business partner Diana Ocampo have hosted over 30 events in the area, most recently at Balboa Park’s Starlight Theatre in August.

On Thursday, October 2, Total Combat will host its first event at El Cajon’s Sycuan Casino.

Brazilian professional Fabricio Camoes moved from Rio de Janeiro to San Diego five months ago after signing a four-fight contract with the EliteXC fighting organization — the first mixed-martial-arts organization to broadcast fights on network television. Camoes says that the move to San Diego allows him to train with top fighters. “San Diego is a very good place for mixed martial arts,” says Camoes. “You have many good fighters who live here and train here, and many good gyms.”

San Diego resident Patrick Speight also makes his living as a professional fighter. In June, Speight signed a three-fight contract with Affliction, another top mixed-martial-arts organization. Speight has been training in San Diego since 1999.

“Before, there was a ganglike mentality throughout San Diego because there were only a few schools in the area,” says Speight. “But once the sport started growing it became more of a ‘San Diego against everyone else’ type of thing.”

Ocampo says that during their August event in Balboa Park she received several complaints from fans about an intimidating police presence. “For our Balboa Park event there were 15 cop cars parked outside of our show. Let’s say you’ve never attended a mixed-martial-arts show, and you walk by and you see 15 cop cars — how’s that going to look?”

Delfierro, a San Diego firefighter, mentions the positive economic impact a mixed-martial-arts event can have on the community. “We do shows where our ticket sales provide about $10,000 in taxes; alcohol sales have exceeded $15,000 to $20,000. People are employed; everybody benefits. It’s just another sporting event.”

He continues, “As much as the sport is growing, it’s still in its infancy. San Diego’s conservative; it’s a conservative city. It’s weird because, like, Chula Vista is behind us. In [the city of] San Diego, we haven’t had that same backing.”

Despite some reluctance to embrace the sport, the popularity of mixed martial arts continues to rise. In early August, Ocampo penned a deal with MTV 3 to air Total Combat fights on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday mornings.

— Dorian Hargrove

Total Combat 32
Thursday, October 2
Sycuan Casino
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El Cajon
Cost: $40 to $200
Info: 619-659-3380 or totalcombat.tv
Calendar
LOCAL EVENTS

HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTING: Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday the week prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone number, and a phone number (including area code) for public information to READER EVENTS, Box 8508, San Diego CA 92178-3003. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SDReader.com by clicking on the events section.

DANCE

“Socal’s Best Dance Crew Battle Showcase” Dance battle showcase: 858-362-1348 Saturday, October 4, 5 p.m.; $15-$20. David and Dorothea Garfield Theatre, 4126 Executive Drive. (La Jolla)

Argentine Tango Class New ongoing introductory Argentine tango classes. No partner necessary. Practice time (8:30-10:30 p.m.) included with class. 619-393-1974. Friday, October 3, 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. 1107 7th School of Dance, 3980 30th Street. (North Park)

Cajun and Zydeco Dancing Zydeco dance with lesson by Gator Boy. Beginners’ dance lessons at 7 p.m.; open dancing to recorded tunes from 8-10:30 p.m. 619-857-8869. Tuesdays, 7 p.m.; $5. Tio Leo’s Lounge, 5302 Napa Street. (Linda Vista)

English Country Dancing Ellen Riley calls for English country dancing. Beginners’ instruction at 6 p.m. 858-676-9731. Sunday, October 5, 6 p.m.; $6. Jan Hart Academy of Dance, 12227 Poway Road. (Poway)

Enter the Zwiefacher Zone Learn a few basics for Oktoberfest dancing, including the “quintesentially Bavarian Zwiefacher,” at Waltz & Such 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.

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www.LiveOakSprings.com Sunday-Friday, $129 includes breakfast. Sweetheart Package Sunday-Friday includes: breakfast for 2, dinner for 2, therapeutic massage, $209. First dining & cocktails lounge: La Posa Covered-free parking! Summit getaway: 2-story, fireplace, A-frame cabins, air, HBO, microwave, refrigerator. Certain restrictions apply. Live Oak Springs Room 4, 57820 Old Highway 80 (60 minutes east of Downtown San Diego, 2 miles south of I-8). Give her the gift of love; she deserves it!


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OUT & ABOUT

SAN DIEGO WOMEN’S FILM FESTIVAL Friday-Sunday, October 3-5, Gaslamp 15. (SEE FILM)

Donation. 619-583-9956. Friday, October 3, 7:15 p.m.; $1. Casa del Prado, El Prado, (Balboa Park)

Learn to Belly Dance Leilainia leads “Belly-Dance Basics: Fun with Belly Dance” (7-8 p.m.), followed by lessons in using zills and cymbals (6-8 p.m.). $40 for six-week workshop, $120 for both levels. Registration: 619-435-9119. Thursdays, 7-8 p.m.; through Tuesday, October 14, 860-8120. Bamboo Yoga and Bodywork Center, 1127 Loma Avenue. (Coronado)

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 28, $75. Ages 10 and up. Metro Dance, 3804 Metro Street, Suite B. (Linda Vista)

PASACAT Estravaganza 2008 Concerts of traditionally based Philippine dance and song with live musical accompaniment and costumes reflecting the 7000-island republic. 619-477-3383. Saturday, October 4, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. $15-$25. Salvation Army Kroc Community Performing Arts Theatre, 6611 University Avenue. (College Area)

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 Hazard Center, offering trolley tour on green line with “scenic views and provocative performances along the San Diego River.” After switch to blue line in Old Town, performances continue downtown to Santa Fe Depot. New works by 60 dancers, with additional choreography by Terry Wil- son, Monica Bill Barnes, Anthony Rodriguez, Katie Stevinson-Nellet. Tours are two hours long. Reservations: 619-225-1903. Saturday, October 4, 10 a.m.; Sunday, October 5, 10 a.m.; $10-$30. Hazard Center trolley station, Hazard Center Drive at Frazee Road. (Mission Valley)

San Diego Civic Dance Fair Dance classes and live performances featuring San Diego Civic Dance Company. Half-hour dance classes for all levels of dancers. Shows at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., $5. 619-525- 8238. Saturday, October 4, 10 a.m.; Casa del Prado Theater, 1630 El Prado, Suite 208. (Balboa Park)

USA Dance Party Wide variety of music, first Saturday of each month. Lessons at 7 p.m. dancing 8-11 p.m. All ages. Abilities: 760-525-5124. Saturday, October 4, 7 p.m. 87, Dance North County, 535 Encinitas Boulevard, Suite 100. (Encinitas)

FILM

Body of War Screening of this Iraq War documentary by Phil Donahue and Ellen Spiro for San Diego City College International Book Fair. 619-388-3534. Thursday, October 2, 11 a.m.; San Diego City College, C Street and 14th Street. (Kearny Mesa)

L’Orchestra di Piazza Vittorio San Diego Italian Film Festival gets underway with Agostino Ferrante’s film. In Italian with English subtitles. Friday, October 3, 7 p.m.; Sherwood Auditorium at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, 799 Prospect Street. (La Jolla)

The Story of Stuff: Sierra Club Movie! Activist Night screening, along with Wild Versus Vail. Films follow “finger-food potluck.” 858-569-6005. Friday, October 3, 5 p.m.; Sierra Club, 8304 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard #101. (Heathery Mesa)


Wed.-Fri. 6:30-9 p.m.
8290 Miramar Rd.
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THIRD ANNUAL citybookfair
SAN DIEGO CITY COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR

Friday & Saturday, October 3rd & 4th
Saville Theatre, City College
Near 15th & C

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3RD
7:00 - 9:00 JIMMY SANTIAGO BACA, MARISELA NORTE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH
10:00 - 11:00 JUAN WILLIAMS
11:00 - 12:00 ROBERT V. HINE WITH MIKE DAVIS
12:00 - 1:00 HELENA VIRAMONTES, REYNA GRANDE, MELINDA PALACIO, AND JENNIFER SILVA
1:00 - 1:30 HELENA VIRAMONTES
1:30 - 3:00 HUNGER AND THIRST READING FEATURING LI-YOUNG LEE
3:00 - 4:00 THOMAS FRANK
4:00 - 5:00 PAUL RIECKHOFF
5:00 - 6:30 CAROLYN FORCHÉ
Booksellers, Vendors, Food & Art All Day Saturday
For More Book Fair Week Information Visit: WWW.SDCITYBOOKFAIR.COM

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San Diego Reader October 2, 2008 67
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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

Tlatelolco: Las Claves de la Masacre Colectivo Zapata Tinajalek 32 commemorates 40th anniversary of Tlatelolco Massacre with film screening in Arts and Letters 101. Film reexamines events surrounding 1968 massacre of student demonstrators in La Plaza de las Tres Culturas at Tlatelolco, Mexico City. Documentary is based on four years of investigation, identifying military leaders who provoked killings. In Spanish with English subtitles. 619-594-1103. Thursday, October 2, 2:30 p.m.; San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

Up the Yangtze Film highlighting "changes and costs feeling China's economic leap" screens for one film category ($5 student discount), $10 student discount), $30 for one-day pass ($5 student discount). 619-807-9004. Friday, October 3, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, October 4, 1 p.m.; Sunday, October 5, 1 p.m.; Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Road West. (BRUNDAHARM)

Become an Artist for a Day!

San Diego Italian Film Festival Festival continues with screening of Quante Cesare, promising award-winning short films for children, on Saturday, Mario Monicelli’s Le Rose del D’Urso screens on Sunday (3 p.m.), followed by David Ferrer’s Dopo Mezzanotte (6 p.m.). Enjoy La Stella che non c’è by Gianpi Smerio on Monday. Christian Bisciglia’s Agente Matrimoniale screens Tuesday. Provincia Meccanica by Stefano Mordini may be seen on Wednesday. 858-456-1735. Saturday, October 4, 11 a.m.; Sunday, October 5, 3 p.m. and Monday, October 6, 7 p.m.; Tuesday, October 7, 7 p.m.; Wednesday, October 8, 7 p.m.; Museum of Photographic Arts, 1485 El Prado, Balboa Park. (DOWNTOWN)

San Diego Women’s Film Festival Sixth annual festival promises independent films highlighting “positive messages about relevant social issues including ethnicity, class, culture, race, and gender.” On Saturday, see local short films and “Curator’s Choice” film, Expired, by Cecilia Minucchi (9 p.m.), followed by discussion with filmmaker. Closing-night film on Sunday is Andrea Kreuthner’s 1000 Journals (9:30 p.m.), followed by discussion with filmmaker. Schedule boasts 50 films including five feature-length films. Tickets $20 for “all-access pass” ($25 student discount), $30 for one-day pass ($15 student discount), $10 for one film category ($5 student discount). 619-807-9004. Friday, October 3, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, October 4, 1 p.m.; Sunday, October 5, 12 noon; $5-$10. Gaslamp 15, 701 Fifth Avenue. (COLLEGE AREA)

Kids Putting on Pets Tractizing your miniature golf game while raising funds for orphaned animals at Helen Woodward Animal Center. Kids (7-12 years old) in tournament solicit friends, family, and neighbors for pledges. Golfers, families, pet owners can enjoy family fun zone with games, “Pens in Padd” canine costume contest. 838-765-4117 x349. Saturday, October 4, 9 a.m.; $25. Ages 7 and up. Puffy’s Mini Golf at Del Mar Golf Center, 15355 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (COLLEGE AREA)

“Most Interesting Show in the World” This “upscale, offbeat variety show and tour inspired” by the Dos Equis “Most Interesting Man in the World” campaign features menagerie of performers including aerial performers, Japanese robotic dancers, acrobats, fire jugglers, Russian dancers, French burlesque singers. Jim Rose, emcee of “The Jim Rose Circus,” hosts. 858-481-8140. Wednesday, October 8, 9:30 p.m.; $15-$25. Ages 21 and up. Belly Up Tavern, 143 South Cedros Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

“Post-Chicano Stress Disorder” Enjoy Chicano spoken word with author Tomás Riley, a veteran of the Taco Shop Poets and native son, returning from Bay Area for reading and conversation at his alma mater. Reading takes place in Casa Real. 415-290-1631. Monday, October 6, 4 p.m.; ages 14 and up. San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

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Local Events

IN PERSON

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Mystery School

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In Great Explosions of Light
Scattering Particles
Across the Universe

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Imagine what we can become

OCTOBER 14-16
TUESDAY-THURSDAY

6:30PM - 9:30PM
Admission: $5 (Students with valid ID and military, free)
Sherwood Auditorium, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego
700 Prospect Street, La Jolla

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800.384.8814
A Guide to Unexpected San Diego and Beyond | By Jerry Schad

For travelers on Interstate 8 in eastern San Diego County fail to be impressed by the enormous stacks of rounded boulders thrusting skyward over the high-desert landscape.

On this hike, you'll get up close and familiar with some of those big boulder piles and enjoy a panoramic view of a deep cleft called Carrizo Gorge. You start on private De Anza Springs resort property, which you might want to call the resort (619-766-4301) for planning purposes.

To get to the trailhead, exit Interstate 8 at the Jacumba exit. Turn sharply right (west, back toward San Diego) and follow a smoothly graded, unpaved frontage road two miles to the De Anza Springs clothing optional resort. At the entrance gate, use the intercom to ask permission to hike from the property into Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Staff will likely direct you to park your car outside the resort's office building, and go inside to register and pay a small fee.

You actually "hit the trail" at a marked trailhead on the north-east edge of the resort. That trail follows a sandy wash east for about 50 yards, then veers left, joining an old jeep road swinging north. You soon pass through a gap in a wire fence marking your transition between the resort property and lands inside Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

What's the deal with the boulders here? Just the result of weathering of a rising mass of granitic rock taking place underground and on the surface. Groundwater infiltrates the joints (cracks) in the rock mass before any overlying layers of rock or soil have eroded away. Gaps open up as the rock is subject to slow decomposition by physical forces and chemical processes. Further, the mineral grains on any sharp corner of a rock surface will tend to loosen and fall away easily, thus contributing to an overall rounding effect. The stacks of rounded boulders you see are like the tiniest tips of icebergs. They will "rot away" completely in the next few tens of thousands of years. Meanwhile, more rock will rise to replace them.

At 0.7 mile into the hike, the old road tops a rise and descends a little. Ahead you can see another old jeep road climbing eastward. This is not the route either out or back, so try to avoid straying onto this when you are returning later. (Yes, this is one area where a detailed topographic map or GPS unit is useful for navigation.)

You stay left on an obscure roadbed going northwest down to a sandy wash. Go east along the north bank of the wash for 50 yards, and then cut left to resume your travel northwest. Some juniper bushes and plenty of chaparrel and desert shrubs grow among the giant stacks of boulders on both sides of the old road.

At 1.7 miles, the ascent, which has been gentle for the last mile, quickens. You zigzag up a d, south-facing slope, maintaining the same general northwest direction. Continue over a rise at 2.0 miles, descend a bit, then climb steeply to the rounded top of a ridge (peak 3316). To get the best view, don't stop here. Keep going 0.2 mile west along the ridge to its west shoulder, where a magnificent panorama opens up of the entire middle section of Carrizo Gorge. As you look down upon the San Diego & Arizona Eastern tracks precariously threading the east side of the gorge, you'll understand why the famed railroad line has long been nick-named "the Impossible Railroad."

This article contains information about public-owned recreation or wilderness area. Trails and path- ways 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.

CARRIZO GORGE OVERLOOK

Get an eagle's eye view of rugged Carrizo Gorge, home of the "Impossible Railroad."

Distance from downtown San Diego: 70 miles

Hiking length: 5.0 miles round trip

Difficulty: Moderate

Step into World of the Vision Quest

Write/direct/executive producer/novelist Deborah Pratt discusses signs The Vision Quest: Book Two: The Odyssey, following 17-year-old hero Lazur. Books available for purchase: 619-236-3554. Friday, October 3, 2 p.m.; San Diego Public Library, 282 E Street. (sanlibrarians)

Whoo, Dуд! Local young adult science fiction author Tom Kirk-bide signs Gamadin: Word of Honor, in which "a pair of surfing California teens are caught in the middle of an intergalactic war."

858-268-4747. Saturday, October 4, 2 p.m.; Mysterious Galaxy Books, 7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Suite 302. (clairemont)

Your Participation Required?

Open mike event. 858-334-2311. Monday, October 6, 7 p.m.; Ch Café, 9500 Gilman Drive, B-1032C. (claisted)

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Lectures
And Indian classical music innovator Nishat Khan returns for concert (4 p.m.), preceded by introductory talk in which he will explain ragas and how Indian classical music differs from Western system of notes. Tickets: 858-792-9439. Sunday, October 5, 3:15 p.m.; $15-$30. Neurosciences Institute, 10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive (LA JOLLA).

“Beyond UFOs” (6 p.m.), book signing (7:15-8 p.m.) by astronomer, author Jeffrey Bennett examines why this question has become a hot topic of scientific research and discusses profound implications to future of our species? Event in Liebow Auditorium, Basic Science Building, UCSD School of Medicine begins with reception (5:30 p.m.), talk (6-7:15 p.m.), book signing (7:15-8 p.m.). RSVP: 858-246-0327. Thursday, October 2, 5:30 p.m.; University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive (LA JOLLA).

“Family History Trip Across the United States” Joan Line mann will discuss genealogical research sources for German Research Association meeting. Also on tap: Nancy Simonson focuses on “Genealogical Researching in Person: Out-of-Town Experiences.” 619-276-4660. Saturday, October 4, 9 a.m.; Joyce Beers Community Center, 1230 Cleveland Avenue (HILLCREST).

“Garden Club: A Good Place to Grow” Robin Fokorski, president of California Garden Clubs Inc., addresses Point Loma Garden Club. She is member of Southern California Garden Club in San Fernando Valley District, and judge of the Council of Southern California 619-564-7036. Wednesday, October 8, 10 a.m.; Portuguese Hall, 2318 Avenida de Portugal. (POINT LOMA)

“History and Science on Trial” Gerald Markowitz, public health historian and professor of history at CUNY, plans lecture in Natural Sciences building #1205. “Despite potent evidence of the dangers of their products, the lead and vinyl industries have hid information, controlled research, continued to market their products as safe, and attempted to influence the political process in order to avoid regulation.” 858-534-0491. Thursday, October 2, 3 p.m.; University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive (LA JOLLA).

“Olympic Dreams and Tlatelolco Nightmares — Mexican News Coverage, 1968” Talk by Celste Gonzalez de Bustamante hosted by Center for Latin American Studies in Hepner Hall 221. Talk commemorates 30th anniversary of the

Center for Latin American Studies at CUNY, plans lecture in Natural Sciences building #1205. “Despite potent evidence of the dangers of their products, the lead and vinyl industries have hid information, controlled research, continued to market their products as safe, and attempted to influence the political process in order to avoid regulation.” 858-534-0491. Thursday, October 2, 3 p.m.; University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive (LA JOLLA).

We cordially invite all those who are unaffiliated to worship with us at the San Diego Civic Theatre. For ticket information, order forms, and service times, please call the Synagogue at (858) 535-1111, ext. 3502.

If you’re running a business and looking for ways to improve the response of your advertising, come join us on Wednesday morning, October 8, when internationally acclaimed advertising strategist Bob McNair will share his powerful approach to getting a strong response.

This 90-minute seminar, sponsored by the San Diego Reader, will teach you a logical, step-by-step process to maximize the number of target customers seeing, reading, and responding to your ad. Each technique is illustrated by a number of real-life “before and after” case studies.

McNair’s down-to-earth and entertaining seminar has helped tens of thousands of businesses dramatically increase their sales. And many top newspapers turn to McNair to help their own advertisers get a better response, including the Washington Business Journal, the Cincinnati Enquirer, the Hartford Courant, The Oregonian, and the Toronto Globe and Mail.

His website, DesignYourAd.com, is the world’s largest advice site helping print advertising effectiveness.

We know how elusive getting a strong response in any medium can be, and we realize we’re all in this together. That’s why the San Diego Reader is providing this as a service to its business community, without any newspaper sales pitch. So come join us and learn a new way to make your advertising profitable.

Some of the topics covered in the DesignYourAd print ad effectiveness seminars:

- Why most businesses are budgeting backwards
- Where to position your logo for best reception
- Why your ad should work the very first time
- How often your ad should be running and when to change it
- Valuable things you can learn by looking at your competitors’ advertising
- How to troubleshoot a failing ad or make a good one better

 Reserve Now – Seating is limited!
 What: Free no-obligation seminar ($250 value) When: Wednesday, October 8, 8-9:30 am Where: Handlery Hotel, 950 Hotel Circle North

Now: Call to reserve your space at 619-235-3000, ask for Jane Dabye

“Design Your Ad” is a service of

San Diego Reader October 2, 2008 71
South Africa. A creator of peace-building strategies for communities affected by high levels of violence, Nhlengetwa will share her story. 619-240-7509. Thursday, October 2, 12:30 p.m.; Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, University of San Diego, 5988 Alcala Park, (San Diego). 

Art Talk: Tim Lowly plans art talk in conjunction with exhibit of paintings and drawings on display through Thursday, October 30. Works in show “suggest the artist’s tendency toward expressive distortion in works done from life.” Reception: Thursday, October 9, 6:30 p.m.; 760-757-3568. Wednesday, October 8, 4 p.m.; Kruglak Gallery at MiraCosta College, One Barnard Drive, (Encinitas).

Art Talk and Walk: Carolyn Shotts Owen-Towle, who wrote a memoir about her artist father, will plan informal art talk in conjunction with “DAMNINGGORGEOUS: Millard Sheets and Hu Southern California Legacy.” Exhibition showcases “stories of life growing up with her talented and charismatic father.” 760-435-3720. Thursday, October 2, 7 p.m.; Oceanside Museum of Art, 704 Pier View Way. (Oceanside).

Hillside Gardening: Landscape designer Connie Beck shows “how to make the most of gardening on a slope,” focusing on erosion control, plant choices, terracing, retaining walls. Required registration. 619-660-4350. Tuesday, October 7, 6:30 p.m.; $25. Water Conservation Garden, 12112 Cuyamaca College Drive West. (Cuyamaca College).

Art History Lecture series hosted by Lemon Grove Historical Society continues with registered nurse Donna Lupinacci presents “In Their Own Words: The True Stories of Nurses from 1850-1980.” 619-466-4355. Thursday, October 2, 2 p.m.; Lemon Grove Library, 8073 Broadway. (Lemon Grove).

Humorous and Tasteful Images: Art talk with Joey Kötting, who will discuss his work and his recent project, “Heads Up.” In Recital Hall at USD’s Mandeville Center. “Kötting has been using his body as the subject and the material for his art for many years.” University Art Gallery will be open for viewing of current exhibition by Shaun Gladwell. (5-6 p.m.) 858-534-2117. Monday, October 6, 6 p.m.; University Art Gallery at UCSD, 9500 Gilman Drive. (La Jolla).

Pastel Painting Demonstration: Pastel Society of San Diego hosts meeting with guest demonstrator Tony Miziani. 619-564-7508. Sunday, October 5, 2 p.m.; Pacific Beach Library, 4275 Cass Street. (Pacific Beach).

**SOUTH OF THE BORDER**

"Small" Bullfights Bullfighting action promised. 619-591-8889. Saturday, October 4, 4 p.m.; $30-$40. Ole al Arte Bullring, Zona Río. (BRA)

Hasta que la Boda nos Separe Comedy acted by Jacqueline Beacamontes and Juan Soler. 011-52-664-687-9363. Tuesday, October 7, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.; Wednesday, October 8, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.; $30-$40. Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BRA)

Entijuanarte Art Festival Art event gathers Mexican and international artists exhibiting plastic and visual arts; see work by 155 artists, eight art collectives, three galleries, live music and dance performances, conferences, discussions, meetings. "This year the festival will be enriched with... presence of modernist painter, drawer, engraver, and sculptor Jose Luis Cuevas, one of the starters of Rupture Generation in the 1950s." 888-775-2417. Saturday, October 4, 10 a.m.; Sunday, October 5, 10 a.m.; Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BRA)

La Playa Motocross Racing for motorcycles and ATVs. 011-52-661-612-2525. Saturday, October 4, 10 a.m.; $10–$30. Pista San Marino, Tijuana-Ensenada toll road. (BRA)

Margie Bermejo in concerts with music from Carlos Gardel and Agustín Lara. 011-52-664-684-9665. Thursday, October 2, 8 p.m.; Saturday, October 4, 8 p.m.; ICBC, Avenida Centenario #10151, Zona Río. (BRA)

Stairway to... Led Zeppelin plans Led Zeppelin tribute concert. 011-52-664-685-9655. Saturday, October 4, 8 p.m.; Tia Juana Tilly’s, Avenida Revolución and 7th Street. (BRA)

Take the Train to Tecate Baja California Tours hosts vintage train excursion. Fee includes transportation to and from Campo Depot, train ride to Tecate, shopping, lunch in Tecate at La Tradición. Reservations: 858-577-2417. Saturday, October 3, 9 a.m.; $119. Kings Inn San Diego, 1333 Hotel Circle South. (BRA)

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Sat., Oct. 18, 3-8 pm | Sun., Oct. 19, 1-6 pm

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Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library
Sudbury Room, 9055 San Dieguito
Modulation & Career Success Success Embodied for success in metamorphosis
Oct. 18, 11 am-12:15 pm
Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library
Sudbury Room, 9055 San Dieguito
Career Success: Success Embodied for success in metamorphosis
Oct. 22, 6:30-7:45 pm
Encinitas Library, Meeting Room
4931 E. LCG Drive
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of informants, “government re-
pression in general.” According
to his supporter’s website, “McDavid
was arrested in... 2006 as part of
the government’s ongoing Green
Scare campaign. He was convicted
of conspiracy to destroy property
by means of fire or explosives.”
858-534-2311. Tuesday, October
7, 8 p.m.; Chili Cafe, 9000 Gilman
Drive, B 0232C. (LA MESA)
GreenBuilt Tour 2008 Self-guided
tour of “green” homes and
businesses, with 20 sites to visit all
over the county. 858-272-7370.
Saturday, October 4, 10 a.m.; Sun-
day, October 5, 10 a.m.; $25.
Ocean Beach People’s Organic
GreenBuilt Tour 2008 Drive, B-0323.
858-534-2311. Tuesday, October
6, 8 p.m.; Del Mar, 10125 Torrey Pines
Road. (SOUTH PARK)

* It’s Oom-Pah-Pah Time! The 26th Carlsbad Rotary Oktoberfest promises German food, German
music (5-10 p.m.), fun, dancing, and more! Includes authentic German dinner (1-8 p.m.). Parking shuttle bus available from Westfield Plaza Camino Real (12-45 p.m. on). 760-434-
6093. Saturday, October 4, 4 p.m.; $10. Holiday Park, Chestnut Avenue at Pico Pico Drive. (CARLSBAD)

* San Diego Oktoberfest Enjoy six blocks with live music, over 300 craft and commercial booths, food, kids’ carnival, 619-303-5811. Friday, October 3, 11 a.m.; Saturday,
October 4, 11 a.m.; Sunday, October 5, noon; La Mesa Village, Spring Street at La Mesa Boulevard. (LA MESA)

* Old Timers’ Day Rabbit Kekai, “charismatic 87-year-old Hawaiian
teacher,” is guest of honor during festivities hosted by the California Surf Museum in library’s community rooms. Moonlight Beach Ukulele Strummers and Dancers provide “authentic island atmosphere.” Opt-
ional luau ($13 general, $12 for museum
members). Luau reservations: 760-721-4876. Sunday, October 5, 5 p.m.; Oceanside Library, 330 North Coast Highway. (OCEANSIDE)

* Palomar Observatory Tours Guests get close look at famous 200-inch telescope, hear astronomy
lecture, view sky through multiple
 telescopes atop Palomar Mountain (weather permitting) during event sponsored by Reuben H. Fleet
Science Center. Fee includes round-
trip bus transportation, with San

* Politically and Economically... Get ready to focus on how the E.U.
functions when PAR Discussion
Group meets. 619-436-1027. Thursday,
October 2, 7 p.m.; the Filter, 4096 30th Street. (SAN DIEGO)

* San Diego Family Fair Friends With This and other “mom-run and family-friendly” businesses host Habitat for Humanity benefit. Pony rides for kids (8-15), food and wine
tasting for the adults, live music by Patty Hall’s band “Up Songs for Kids and Families” and Semis and Trains (with this ad)
show on a 1/8 scale model railroad. 858-735-2922. Sunday, October 5, 10 a.m.; Bernardo Winery, 13335 Paolo del Valle. (SOUTH PARK)

* San Diego International Orchid Fair Thousands of species and hy-
brids, exhibits, sales, auctions, official
American Orchid Society judging.
Vendors will sell plants, pottery,
paintings, books, orchid-related products. 760-436-1036. Friday, October 3, 1 p.m.; Saturday,
October 4, 9 a.m.; Sunday, October 5, 9
a.m. Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Qual Gardens Drive. (LA MESA)

* Taste of Del Mar Events include food from 20 restaurants ($40), art
stroll with original works by over
70 artists (free, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.),
tours of the Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

* Tomato Time! Chef Timothy Au
of Mill’s Restaurant demonstrates many recipes featuring tomatoes
(11 a.m.). Later, Chef Jason Matl-
land of Arterra focuses on the
“Tomato Bounty” (2-3 p.m.). Fees
benefit local HIV/AIDS programs. 888-424-3663. Saturday, October 4, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.; $10. Macy’s Mission Valley Home Store, 1555 Camino de la Rana. (MISSION VALLEY)

* Toy Dog Fanciers Dog Show
Club from North San Diego plans dog show. 858-794-1171. Saturday,
October 4, 8 a.m.; Sunday, October
5, 8 a.m.; Del Mar Horsepark, 14550 El Camino Real. (DEL MAR)

* German Oktoberfest Festivities at clubhouse and beer garden
promise “authentic” German
food, music by Guggenbach-Baum
from Baden-Wuerttem-
berg, Germany, folksinging and
traditional dances, vendors, craft booths, kids’ zone. Free admission for active military and those under 21.
619-442-6637. Friday, October 3, 3 p.m.; Saturday, October 4, noon; Sunday, October 5, noon; German American Societies, 1017 South Mollison Avenue. (ST. AUG.)

* Scare Campaign. He was convicted
by means of fire or explosives.”
858-534-2311. Tuesday, October
7, 8 p.m.; Chili Cafe, 9000 Gilman
Drive, B 0232C. (LA MESA)

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Valid only Sunday Champagne Brunch Cruises. Hold up to six adult fares only. Not valid on holidays, special events, gift certificates or in combination with any other offer. Mention discount at box office purchase and present coupon upon boarding. Coupon code: SD10 Expires 10/31/08

* Train Song Festival San Diego Folk Heritage event promises traditional music inspired by history and culture surrounding railroads. Enjoy performances by Baja Blues Boys, Ken Graydon, Tanya Rose, Patty Hall, others. Also planned: kid’s railroad costume contest (12:30 p.m.), train stories by Steve Gregory (3-45 p.m.), train-related

* Mystic Dragon I Gift Shop and Book Store Largest selection of gifts and books of spirit in North County

* Exploring Energy for Healing & Wellness WEDNESDAY, OCT. 8 or OCT. 22 • 7-9 PM • $25

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San Diego Reader October 2, 2008
of the Late Neolithic (3400-2500 B.C.) through the Ming periods (A.D. 1368-1644) are included in “The Stone of Heaven: The Enduring Art of Jade Age China.” From ancient times, jade in China were treasured as talismans, worn on the body either as amulets in life. See a rare and valuable jade burial suit of the Han dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 221), one about two dozen that have been excavated in China. The suits were made of more than 2000 square and rectangular plates of jade sewn together with threads of gold, silver, or bronze (depending upon the status of the wearer). Ongoing.

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

John DuVitt Historic Museum and Library Museum and library, operated by the Alpine Historical Society, is located in the 1897 home/office of Dr. Sophonia Nichols. She was the first doctor in Alpine and the first female doctor in the East County. Indian artifacts from the Kingery family on exhibit. 2116 Tavern Road, 619-659-8740. (ALPINE)

Junipero Serra Museum “Commemorating 75 Years. The Serra Museum” is said to “remember the events leading up to the dedication of Presidio Park and the Serra Museum” on July 16, 1939. The exhibit includes a “visit back in time to 1769.” The museum interprets the Native American, Spanish, and Mexican periods of San Diego’s history and contains Spanish Colonial furnishings, art, and artifacts. It’s located at the site of the West Coast’s first European settlement. 2727 Presidio Drive, 619-297-3258. (OLD TOWN)

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

Maggie House Museum Maggie House Museum, built in 1887 and surrounded by rose gardens, the site includes “one of the last barns still standing in Carlsbad.” Docent and self-guided tours of historic house and gardens. 358 Beech Street, 760-434-9189. (CARLSBAD)

Museum of Making Music “Gretsch 125th Anniversary” highlights instruments spanning the company’s rich history. Through Friday, February 20, 2009. The past 100 years of American music and music making are highlighted at the museum, with over 400 vintage instruments, hundreds of audio and video clips, and an interactive stage. 5790 Armada Street, 760-434-9189. (NATIONAL CITY)

Olaf Wieghorst Museum Displays paintings, and prints by Olaf Wieghorst and features exhibits of other artist’s American West art. Adjacent to museum is courtyard with cactus gardens, 20 x 20-foot reproduction of Wieghorst’s painting Navajo at Castle Creek, and original restored home Wieghorst lived in for many years starting in 1945. 151 Rua Avenue, 619-590-5431. (LA MESA)

Ramona Pioneer Historical Society and Guy B. Woodword Museum Complex of historical buildings includes the Vie-laque House (the only Western adobe home of French provincial design still in existence), wagons, antique exhibits, and artifacts. There is a cowboy bunkhouse, women’s clothing and accessories from 1700 to 1800, a ranch blacksmith shop and tack room. The museum interprets the Native American, Spanish, and Mexican periods of San Diego’s history and contains Spanish Colonial furnishings, art, and artifacts. It’s located at the site of the West Coast’s first European settlement. 2727 Presidio Drive, 619-297-3258. (OLD TOWN)

San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum Museum onboard the decommissioned USS Midway is open for tours, now berthed at 910 North Harbor Drive. Exhibits include Navy jet simulators, carrier and flight deck touring, captain’s sea cabin, pilot house, navigation bridge. Admission fee includes audio guide. 910 North Harbor Drive, 619-344-9600. (DOWNTOWN)

San Diego County Sheriff’s Museum The 150-year history of the sheriff’s department is highlighted in the museum, which is located “just feet away” from the original obelisk/metal Jail, built in 1850. The museum boasts artifacts, photographs, equipment, uniforms, and vehicles, along with exhibits from each of the departments making up the organization such as crime scene, K-9, court service, detentions, crime lab, bomb squad, and many others. 2384 San Diego Avenue, 619-260-1830. (OLD TOWN)

San Diego Model Railroad Museum Museum celebrates American railroads with “the largest permanent operating model railroad and toy train exhibit” in North America. Four-scale-model railroads of the Southwest, the “San Diego County Relief Map” exhibit, and an interactive toy train. There is a multimedia presentation on railroading, an operating railroad semaphore signal, and interpretive displays on railroads and model railroading. The museum is downstairs in the Casa de Balboa building. 1649 El Prado, 619-696-0199. (BALBOA PARK)

Veterans Museum and Memorial Center Memorial to men and women who served in U.S. Armed Forces, Coast Guard, and Wartime Merchant Marine. Located in the former San Diego Naval Hospital Chapel (2115 Park Boulevard), the museum features original service-inspired stained glass, as well as historical murals painted by Richard DeRosset. Main exhibit hall features displays, exhibits of historic artifacts, documents, photographs, memorabilia, artwork honoring men and women who served. Museum is also home to San Diego Vietnam Peace Memorial and Veterans Memorial Garden. 2115 Park Boulevard, 619-239-2100. (OLD TOWN)

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**ART LISTINGS**

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**GALLERIES**

**28th Annual International Exhibition** Reception for artists whose original watercolor paintings are on exhibit through October. Exhibition includes variety of styles from nonobjective to realistic. Hundreds of entries from all over the world were juried for this San Diego Watercolor Society event. At 6:30 p.m. 619-876-4350. San Diego Watercolor Society at NTC Promenade (2825 Dewey Road #1015). 5 p.m., Friday, October 3. (SAN MARCOS)

**The World of Women in Classical Music** Musical performance and lecture by Anne Gray (piano) and son Adrian Gray (violin) exploring “lives and work of women who wrote, performed, and influenced the world of classical music”, son Charles Gray makes PowerPoint presentation. Listen for works by Florence Price, Lili Boulanger, Cécile Chaminade, and Eugenie Rocherolle. Donation: 619-233-7963. YMCA Down- town (50 West Broadway, Suite B), 7 p.m., Saturday, October 4. (DOWNTOWN)

**“Opus 2008” Season opening gala concert for San Diego Symphony includes Rachmaninoff’s “Piano Concerto No. 2” and “Les Préludes” by Liszt. Conductor Jahja Ling and symphony are joined by pianist Lang Lang. Reservations: 619-235-8804. Balboa Theatre (854 Fourth Avenue), 8 p.m., Sunday, October 4. (DOWNTOWN)

**Organ Concert** Vocal settings of “Psalm 1,” “Psalm 23,” and “Psalm 117” may be heard, along with works for organ by American and French composers, when organists Paul Pitman and Alison Luedec perform at 12:15 p.m. First Church of Christ, Scientist (2450 Second Avenue), 7 p.m., Sunday, October 5. (MISSION VALLEY)

**More Work for Lunch: Sonia Olivos** presents music for mini-concert. Join your lunch! 858-454-5872. Lyceum Theatre (79 Horton Plaza), noon, Monday, October 6. (DOWNTOWN)

**ART MUSEUMS**

**California Center for the Arts, Escondido** Four new exhibitions work by local artists. See “Active Duty” by Owen Mundy; “Contemporary Ruin: A Selection of Points by the Los Angeles Printmaking Society” “Untied & Severed: That Window of Time” and “Dans! Lil" Drawings”, and “Warning Signs.” prints by R.H. Brownfield and others. On issues relevant to contemporary life in America including motherhood, active duty military life, loss, and more. Through November. 340 North Escondido Boulevard, 760-839-4100. (ESCONDIDO)

**Mingei International Museum** “Hungarian Folk Magic – The Art of Joseph Djamian” in-depth studies on a wide variety of objects from museum’s David C. Copley Director. Exhibit offers “a personal, idiosyncratic selection of approximately 130 works acquired between 1993 and the present,” including works by John Baldessari, John Currin, Robert Irwin, William Kentridge, Nathan Mabry, Yoshimoto Nara, Martin Puryear, Lorna Simpson, Bill Viola, and Lisa Yuskavage. View this “cross-section of paintings, prints, drawings, video, installation art, and photography” through Sunday. (LA JOLLA)

**Museum of Photographs** “Picturing the Process: Landscape through Time and Space” – continuing through Sunday, February 1, 2009 – includes selections from MoPA’s permanent collection, exploring ideas and issues related to landscape. “Writing with Light” is said to illustrate “the connections between photography and literacy using the photographic arts as inspiration.” MoPA’s annual youth exhibition offers opportunity to recognize talented students throughout San Diego, linking the medium of photography with writing. Through January. (SAN DIEGO)

**OceanSide Museum of Art** “The Vibrant Edge: Paintings of Karl Benjamin from the 1960s, ’70s, and ’80s” – closing on Sun day, October 19. “It illustrates how this West Coast painting icon became known as one of the founding fathers of Hard Edge.” Benjamin, whose oeuvre spans more than half a century, says “Color is the subject matter of painting. “DAMNGORGEOUS: Milard Sheets and His Southern California Legacy” offers “a comprehensive look at his impres sive career from the 1920s to the ‘80s.” Over 40 works of paintings, watercolors, oils, etchings, lithographs, and drawings, provide viewers with an introduction to Sheet’s legacy. In the early 1930s, Sheets helped define a movement known as Southern California Regionalism, depicting rural scenes near his home in Claremont, California. Through Sunday, January 4, 2009. 705 2004 PR 760-735-7506 (BALBOA PARK)

**Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla** “Weighing and Wanting: Selections from the Collection” marks Hugh M. Davis’ 25th anniversary as museum’s David C. Copley Director. Exhibit offers “Weighing and Wanting: Selections from the Collection” marks Hugh M. Davis’ 25th anniversary as museum’s David C. Copley Director. Exhibit offers “a personal, idiosyncratic selection of approximately 130 works acquired between 1993 and the present,” including works by John Baldessari, John Currin, Robert Irwin, William Kentridge, Nathan Mabry, Yoshimoto Nara, Martin Puryear, Lorna Simpson, Bill Viola, and Lisa Yuskavage. View this “cross-section of paintings, prints, drawings, video, installation art, and photography” through Sunday. (LA JOLLA)

**Musical Per Formation** “Exhibition is an expression of the power of art to endure, politics, and disaster and to rise, phoenix-like, from the ashes.” Closes Sunday, October 5. (SAN DIEGO)

**“India Armoire”** Artistic selections from museum’s Stephen Harly Collection. Exhibit “reveals the luxurious diversity of Indian creative expression, presenting an evocative collection of works that are used in the daily routine of a typical Indian family objects of worship, personal and ceremonial adornment, utility, and recreation.” Closes Sunday, April 19, 2009. (SAN DIEGO)

**“Forms in Wood and Fiber: Southern California New Work”** features work of six distinguished San Diego wood artists and many California Fibers members. “This group of works explores the potential of this medium as a form of expression. The artists come from diverse backgrounds, yet are united by a deep love and respect for this medium.” Closes Sunday, October 5. (SAN DIEGO)

**“Memories of Time”** An exhibition of work by local artists. Exhibition offers opportunity to see the connections between photography and literacy using the photographic arts as inspiration.” MoPA’s annual youth exhibition offers opportunity to recognize talented students throughout San Diego, linking the medium of photography with writing. Through January. (SAN DIEGO)

** visible Places: Works by Women on Paper” – continuing through Sunday, November 30. Exhibition showcases works from SDMA’s collection. The early- to mid-20th Century pieces offer historical framework allowing consideration of how artistic styles changed over time, reflect upon active participation of women in the social and political currents of the period. Artists included are Mary Cassatt, Kathie Kollwitz, Isabel Bishop, Barbara Hepworth, Leonora Carrington. Exhibit includes “Spatial Gestures,” focusing on abstract works by contemporary women artists acquired by museum between 2006 and present. (SAN DIEGO)


**Gregorian Chant**

**Our Lady of the Rosary Church** San Diego’s Jewel Box of Baroque and Rococo Art. State and Date Streets (Little Italy) Downtown San Diego (SAN DIEGO)
Andrew MacDonald of the three-day concert event held September 12–14. “The thousands of attendees got much less than what they paid for. The list of bands that were supposed to appear..." 

Among billed bands that didn’t perform were Leslie West’s Mountain, Particle, Alfred Howard and the K23 Orchestra, DJ Lorin Ashton of Bassnectar, and the Yonder Mountain String Band. Performances by: RVW, Margaret Glaspy, and Cooper McComb. DJ Lorin Ashton and Bassnectar didn’t perform. There was no communication to the attendees at all about what was happening and who would be performing and when. There was word of a death of a family member of the organizer shortly before the festival, but it’s hard to see how that can result in no money to pay the bands.”

On the Tuesday after the festival, the main page at ranchitarocks.org included an unsigned post that read: “Due to unforeseen family circumstances, there was confusion about [performer] arrangements.... Those bands who didn’t perform absolutely refused to play, despite the fact that payment arrangements were being worked out for immediately after the event. We were all working for a cause, and we begged the performers to show good faith in us and our intentions, but they refused.”

Attendee Tony Lemans emails, “There were no bathrooms, no water for sale, and only two or three stages actually had bands off and on. This was out in the middle of the desert. If you bought a camping pass, the campground was at least a mile away [from the concert]. Nobody seemed to be in charge and there were hardly any security guards after the first day.... Warm beer was $6 per cup.” Lemans estimated there were several hundred attendees on Saturday but “less than a hundred” on Sunday.

The Ranchita Rocks concert was advertised as the second annual fundraiser for the Protect Our Communities Fund, which hopes to prevent SDG&E from building the Sunrise Power-link electric transmission line through rural backcountry.

Three-day concert passes cost $135; single-day admission, $60. Promoter Carolyn Morrow held the event on Morrow’s 160-acre Golightly Farms horse ranch. After last year’s Ranchita Rocks event, Morrow reported losing money due to gate-crashers and dust storms that cut short many performances.

Morrow’s phone number has been disconnected, and messages left for Golightly Farms went unreturned.

— Jay Allen Sanford

Rocket Queen “For years, I drank and used drugs out of shame over it,” says Adriana Smith, known by Guns N’ Roses fans as the girl heard having sex with Axl Rose in the recording studio during the song “Rocket Queen.”

“I was dating the drummer [Steven Adler] at the time, and we got in a little tussle about whether or not I was his girlfriend.... I was boozing it up in the studio, and Axl propositioned me. Axl and I had always kind of tempted fate, and once we got together, it was like fire and gasoline.” The track appeared on GNR’s debut album in 1987. “Axl had visions of taking me on the road with them, and we’d have live sex shows behind a screen onstage. I mean, the guy’s a genius; he has crazy, over-the-top ideas.” However, Smith — then 19 — declined.

“I probably lost a lot of money, but I didn’t want to be seen as the groupie lowlife boyfriend-stealing slut.” She says the last time she met up with Rose was a chance encounter at a 1998 party. Smith’s identity remained unknown for many years. She settled in San Diego nearly 20 years ago, had a daughter, and began working as a drug- and alcohol counselor.

“I’m 15 years sober,” she says. “I went public because I’ve been trying to make my amends to my past. Axl had a girlfriend at the time, who later became his wife.... I let Axl down by shooting down his big plans, and I also let Steven down; he was really upset about it.”
Smith fronts the local band Ghost in the Graveyard, the current lineup of which makes its debut on Halloween at Bailey Barbecue in Julian.

“There’s a song on our [upcoming] CD called ‘CFM,’ “Come Find Me,” which is actually written to Axl,” says Smith. “I have no doubt that at some point we’ll meet up again. Maybe the gas will be on the fire again!”

— Jay Allen Sanford

No 16-Year-Old Girls

“I’ve been offering free music-video production, but either the bands suck or the singers who respond are 16-year-old girls,” says Shannon Wafford of Snow Productions, a local production company.

“I ran ads in the Reader and on craigslist to do free video, so I can get a good demo. The only people who reply are bands or singers that…are not original, don’t have a CD recorded, don’t have a complete band, are under 18. Have a complete band, are worth of work for free, I need to get the best all-around demo out of it.”

The 40-year-old Wafford grew up in San Diego and played in an early band with Ernie Longoria of Sprung Monkey. Wafford currently directs and coproduces the local cable show Music Patrol, an offshoot of mylocal-band.com.

“They decided to start a TV show that highlights bands and venues in San Diego,” says Wafford. “We can get 30 minutes of airtime for cheap late at night, which is perfect for our demographic. We have some demo DVDs, and they’re working on getting sponsors.”

Wafford has produced concert performances by P.O.D., Sprung Monkey, and the Iron Maidens (“With Michelle Meldrum, just before she died this year”). He also filmed a Las Vegas TV show that highlights local cable show performers.

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“I ran ads in the Reader and on craigslist to do free video, so I can get a good demo. The only people who reply are bands or singers that…are not original, don’t have a CD recorded, don’t have a complete band, are under 18. Have a complete band, are worth of work for free, I need to get the best all-around demo out of it.”

The 40-year-old Wafford grew up in San Diego and played in an early band with Ernie Longoria of Sprung Monkey. Wafford currently directs and coproduces the local cable show Music Patrol, an offshoot of mylocal-band.com.

“They decided to start a TV show that highlights bands and venues in San Diego,” says Wafford. “We can get 30 minutes of airtime for cheap late at night, which is perfect for our demographic. We have some demo DVDs, and they’re working on getting sponsors.”

Wafford has produced concert performances by P.O.D., Sprung Monkey, and the Iron Maidens (“With Michelle Meldrum, just before she died this year”). He also filmed a Las Vegas TV show that highlights local cable show performers.

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Thursday

"Bad Kids." Road-hardened Atlanta indie quartet Black Lips hit like a torrent live, as evidenced on their '06 show disc Los Valientes del Mundo Nuevo, which was supposedly recorded by John Reis in TJ. Who knows. Their 2007 studio follow-up Good. Bad. Not Evil was immediate in its punk-pop catchiness and R&B rumble, giving indie kids their Strokes and jaded critics a DIY garage group to gush for. If you haven't been indie kids their Strokes and jaded critics a DIY garage group to gush for. If you haven't been

Friday

The Frames' Glen Hansard and Czech singer-songwriter Markéta Irglová appeared in '06 art-house flick Once, a sad-sack love story saved by the community of song, particularly "Falling Slowly," the hit single from the film's Academy Award-winning soundtrack disc The Swell Season. The duo now tour as the Swell Season, and you can check some YouTube takes from last week's Austin City Limits set. Sam Beam's top-shelf Iron and Wine in support, making this Open Air Theatre bill the big gig Friday night... Too sickening sweet? Well, the doctor is in at Belly Up. Nolans piano man Dr. John brings the boogie-woogie to town behind his latest ode to home, The City That Care Forgot. Blues beauty Janiva Magness-Octops the bill. Into County political lounge bards Joey Harris and the Mentals ride with Palomino's to Whistle Stop... Icelandic experimentalists Múspinn brings Múgsþógi to Casbah for an early set (7p). Afia, dance-punk duo Data Rock drops Norwegian noise on the Midtown stage... Jazzy-gut guru Stanley Jordan plays two nights at Anthology behind his latest, State of Nature. And don't forget your Transfer Friday night, as the local country skunks bring it on home with a late set at the Little Italy supper club. America is from England? Seventies folk-pop star America ("Hone with No Name," "Ventura Highway," "Sister Golden Hair," "Tim Man," etc etc) colorize Humphrey's..... More Brits? Manchester's Smiths knockoffs James play their hit at House of Blues... Uptown sets: Austin honky-tonkers Ruby Dee and the Snakehandlers charm Bar Pink; local punk-pop trio Vena Cava'll get your blood going at Radio Room... and teenagers We Are Wolves throw down on U31. They're touring the Coast behind Total/Magique, a (get this) "post-punk landscape filled with analogue trees."

Saturday

Tommy Castro Band brings Bay Area blues to the Belly Up. The six-string Swangja will deal your dance shoes and borrow your best girl — hey, seen them? Catch up with Castro on his latest Blind Pig disc Painkiller, which won Blues Album of the Year and the man the B.B. King Entertainer of the Year at the 2008 Blues Awards... There'll be a ben- efit for the family of Pilot/Players bassist Willy Costa. Saturday night at Casbah. Willy and friends and cohorts Kill Me Tomorrow. Muslims, Crocodiles, and Wild Weekend Hella bill. R.I.P, Willy... Local roots-rockers Anna

Sunday

Casbah's Anti-Mondy meet-up hauls in Heavy Trash, featuring Jon Spencer of Pussy Galore and Blues Explosion fame. Psych-punk guitarists Spencer and Matt Verta-Ray backed by the Sadies, last year released Going Way Out with Heavy Trash, a collection of punk'd-up blues stomps and noisify rockabilly that fills in the color between White Stripes and Black Keys. With Danish dudes Trash and the City That Care Forgot? Apparently it's a music magazine.... "King of Motown," smooth Smokey Robinson, will croon till you swoon out at Pala. Love that.

Monday

Troy Band da a CD-release thing for Wait Another Day at Bar Pink.... White pop-rock peeps hula and Beautiful View da in at Radio Room.

Tuesday

Forever in blue jeans and running the kith-cool bell curve for more than 50 years, yo, Neil Diamond shines on Sports Arena Tuesday night. Believe it, the 67-year-old booty baritone still brings it live, and he's got fresh product, this year's Billboard bang Home Before Dark. Oh, he'll turn on your heart light, at right... The Plastic People of the Universe (Czech Repub.) celebrate 40 years of touring the globe through places like Brick by Brick. Yeah! No, it's a fine club, and the People's Prague rock is super cool, they're just not, y'know, Neil Diamond.

Wednesday

Indiana indie kids Margot and the Nuclear So and So's drop chamber pop on Casbah with, appropriately enough, Judgement Day and Nashville newcomer David Vanderwende. With the release of this year's symbiotic Animal and Not Animal, the So and So's were named "08 "artists to watch" by Spin. Apparently it's a music magazine.... "King of Motown," smooth Smokey Robinson, will croon till you swoon out at Pala. Love that.

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Jet-Set 'J

“I won’t go to a country if it’s scary. They tried to book me in Lebanon, and I was, like, ‘No way.’”

When asked about her stage name, DJ Miss Lisa says, “I used to be a go-go dancer, and when I was at Taxi in La Jolla [a club popular in the ’90s, gone but not forgotten], the deejay said, ‘Give it up for the lovely Miss Lisa!’ It just stuck.”

Miss Lisa started deejaying nine years ago, working on her scratches and blends at the Belly Up Tavern, focusing on old-skool hip-hop and disco. Now she’s in top demand as a deejay and finds herself spending less time in San Diego and more time booking gigs in places like Colorado Springs, Thailand, Greece, Guam, the Playboy Mansion — all over the world. How did she become a jet-setter?

“My manager sets up my gigs,” she says. “Promoters usually know about me through the Internet or word-of-mouth. I play in so many places, but I play a lot in Denver. Denver still has full-blown raves.”

Although she has played places like Serbia and El Salvador, “I won’t go to a country if it’s scary. They tried to book me in Lebanon, and I was, like, ‘No way!’ It’s not that important to me. Safety is first.”

How is music different in other countries? “House music is so much more the norm in other countries. There are radio stations playing electronic music all hours of the day. San Diego doesn’t play house on one radio station. It’s pretty sad.”

Her latest CD, Girl on Top, was released in August.

FIRST FOREIGN GIG?

“The first foreign country I played at was Singapore for a New Year’s Eve party. It was so much fun, and I was booked on international shows ever since.”

TOP FAVORITE COUNTRIES?

1. The Dominican Republic. “Because of the amazing crowd and doing a show with Vin Diesel [see below].”
2. Ibiza. “The ultimate party island!”
3. Seoul, Korea. “That’s where I was born, and it was my first time ever going back there.”
4. South Africa. “Immediately after [the gig], I flew to Tanzania and did a full-blown African safari through the Serengeti.”
5. Manila. “All the countries I’ve been to, I feel the people there are the most friendly — and the shopping is great!”

TOP FIVE SONGS IN YOUR MUSIC PLAYER?

1. “Breathe” by Kaz James
2. “Jungle Boogie” by Souldiers of Fortune
3. “I Am Not a Whore” by LMFAO
4. “In the Ayer” by Plo Rida
5. “Sushi” by Trent Cantrelle

TOP THREE WORST JOBS?

1. “Del Mar Fair. It sucked...I was pretty much a cashier for three weeks out of the year.”
2. “Typing messages for alpha-numerical pagers.”
3. “Working in a bagel shop — just an overall crappy job, and I couldn’t go to a Social Distortion concert because of it. I still remember that.”

GUILTY PLEASURES?

1. “Watching reality shows like America’s Next Top Model and Hell’s Kitchen.”
2. “Eating crappy food late at night, like bean-and-cheese burritos.”
3. “Even after all these years, I still love to party till the sun comes up.”

BEST/WORST GIG?

“One of my best gigs was when I was playing in the Dominican Republic with DJ Diamond. We had met Vin Diesel at the hotel before our show. He was super cool, and we invited him to our gig, which was like, 40 minutes away from the hotel on the beach. Not only were there 6000 people partying on the beach, but Vin actually showed up and got on the mike.”

FAVORITE WEBSITE?

“Eventvibe.com is a great nightlife site, newly revamped.”

BEST DEAD CELEB?

“Sid Vicious.”

BEST THING EVER DONE WHILE DRUNK...

“Glad you didn’t ask the worst things done when drunk. Surprisingly, I’ve played some of my best sets drunk.”

BEST ADVICE EVER GIVEN?

“To be old and wise, you first have to be young and stupid.”

BEST SAN DIEGO HANGOUT?

“I would have lunch with Prince because he seems like such a unique, mysterious, and creative person. I’d like to pick his brain to see where he gets his inspiration.”

EARLIEST CHILDHOOD MEMORY?

“Choking on a grape. It sounds pretty boring, but it was a near-death experience, man.”

Golf Tournament after-party in Palm Springs. I met him before I played, and I told him I was one of the deejays and asked if he had any requests, and he said, ‘No, I always trust the deejay.’

IF YOU COULD HAVE LUNCH WITH ANYONE...

“I would have lunch with Prince because he seems like such a unique, mysterious, and creative person. I’d like to pick his brain to see where he gets his inspiration.”

REPRINT AVAILABLE?

“Sushi for the best sushi ever, and I love Intermission, right next to the hotel on the beach. But I actually showed up and got on the mike.”

DJ Miss Lisa
BENNY BENASSI

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DJ DAN

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**THIS WEEK’S SHOWS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thurs Oct 16th</th>
<th>8pm-</th>
<th>Ian Edwards</th>
<th>Robert Lariviere</th>
<th>Mal Hall</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs Oct 23rd</td>
<td>8pm-</td>
<td>Kathryn Books Showcase</td>
<td>(4 Bands TBA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs Oct 30th</td>
<td>9pm-</td>
<td>Black Seven</td>
<td>The Lost</td>
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**Backstage at the Bitter End**

- **Thurs Oct 2nd**
  - 10pm- The Brod Dogs, The Flowerthief, Jon Garner Trio

- **Sun Oct 5th**
  - 9pm- E.J. SeaSwallow

- **Mon Oct 6th**
  - 9pm- Killer Karaoke

- **Tues Oct 7th**
  - 10pm- Radiostar

- **Wed Oct 8th**
  - 10pm- Maddox Revolution

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

- **Mon Oct 13th**
  - 9pm- Killer Karaoke

**Songs for this Week**

- **Wed Oct 8th**
  - SeaSwallow
  - 10pm- Radiostar

- **Tue Oct 7th**
  - 9pm- E. Jr.
  - 10pm- The Bred Dogs,

- **Thurs Oct 2nd**
  - BACKSTAGE
  - The Flowerthief, Jon Garner Trio
  - 7:30 p.m. — Mystic Roots and High Tide: Reggae/rock
  - 9p.m. — Sambajazz: Brazilian and American jazz

**Booking information**

- **SPRUNG MONKEY**
  - The Lost Showcase
  - Mal Hall
  - Robert Lariviere
  - 9pm- Black Seven

- **Backstage@thebitterend.com**

**SDReader.com**

Submit information online at San Diego, CA, 92186. You may also submit information online at SDReader.com by clicking on the music section.
Thursday, October 2 • 7:30
David Byrne
Songs of David Byrne & Brian Eno

Friday, October 3 • 8:00
America
with special guest Anna Troy

Thursday, October 5 • 8:00
Duffy
with special guest Eli “Paperboy” Reed

Sunday, October 5 • 7:30
Cecilio & Kapono

Saturday, October 11 • 7:00*
Russell Peters
*Friday, October 10 canceled. Refunds at point of purchase.

Sunday, October 19 • 7:30
Gordon Lightfoot
San Diego
Reader
October 2, 2008

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PACIFIC BEACH, 858-488-6744.
Friday, 6:30 p.m. — Robin Henkel.
Blues/jazz guitarist.

CHEERS: 2475 Main Street, Ramona, 760-749-0770.
Thursday, 2 p.m. — Mike Gardner.
Acoustic rock.

CHÉ CAFÉ: 9500 Gilman Drive, B-102, La Jolla, 858-534-2311.
Friday, 7 p.m. — Vitamin X and Broken Needle. With Protect the Innocent, Destroy All of Them, and Death Crisis. Punk/hardcore. $8.

CLaire de Lune: 2906 University Avenue, North Park, 619-488-9843.
Friday — Willovealot. Smooth jazz.

COMSTOCK BAR and Grill: 316 West Mission Avenue, Suite #115, Escondido, 760-746-6188.
Saturday, 8 p.m. — Live Wire. Covers classic rock and dance.

Croc’s: 802 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-4355.
Thursday, 8 p.m. — Pocket. Soul/rock/jazz/rap.

DEL MAR PLAZA: 155 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar.
Wednesday, 1 p.m. — Charlie Innes. Acoustic/jazz/pop.

Friday, Saturday — Puck Daddy. Covers/standards/rock.

Dizzy’s: 220 Harbor Drive, Downtown, 858-270-7467.
Sunday, 7 p.m. — Serenati. Classical cabaret. $10.

EDUCATIONAL CULTURAL COMPLEX: 4843 Ocean View Boulevard, Southeast San Diego, 619-327-3226.

FRIDAY, 6:30 p.m. — Robin Henkel.
Blues/jazz guitarist.

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Acoustic rock.

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Monday, 1 p.m. — Lori Bell. With Joey Curano and Rob Thorsen. Jazz/lounge.

Epazote: 155 Camino del Mar, Del Mar, 858-239-9966.
Thursday, 6-9:30 p.m. — Blue44. Jazz/Funk.

Epicenter: 8450 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa, 858-271-4000.
Friday, 7 p.m. — The Game, the Demenators, Stereo Upset. With Back of Fish and ADF. Silly/punk/rock. $7-$9.
Saturday, 11 a.m. — Sunday, 5:30 p.m. — “The Next Big Thing.” Features over twenty local bands. Alternative/punk/rock. $12.

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Escondido Library: 239 South Kalmia Street, Escondido.
Thursday, 8 p.m. — T.K. Gardner. Guitarist plays Latin and South American folk music for First Thursday Concert. 760-839-4329.

Fannie’s Nightclub: 9143 Campo Road, Spring Valley, 619-698-2204.

Hard Rock Cafe: 801 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-615-ROCK.
Thursday, 8 p.m. — The Donnas. An event to benefit the American Cancer Society’s Making Strides Against Breast Cancer and the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. $10.

Hennessey’s Tavern — GB: 700 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-239-9994.
Wednesday, 9 p.m. — Brooklyn and Marie Haddad. Acoustic/pop/rock.

Hennessey’s Tavern — PB: 4630 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach, 858-488-8847.
Friday, 9 p.m. — Ecosave. Alternative/punk.
Saturday, 9 p.m. — Roots Generation. Reggae/roots/Latin.
Tuesday, 9 p.m. — Brooklyn. Acoustic/rock.

Hornblower Cruises: 1066 North Harbor Drive, Downtown, 619-686-8715.
Friday, 7 p.m. — Z-Bop. Jazz/lounge/swing. $66.

The Mars Volta, October 2, Open Air Theatre at SDSU
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MUSIC
Now every Tuesday 7:30-10:30 pm
1145 South Tremont Street, Oceanside, 760-439-6646.
Thursday, 7 p.m. — The Soul Family Fun Saturday & Sunday
672 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-595-0123.
Every Tuesday 6:30-7:15 pm.
63. In 1968 he cofounded the J. Geils Band with Peter Wolf, keyboardist, and J. Geils, guitarist. J. Geils was a guitarist who played a unique style of music that combined elements of rock and blues. He was known for his energetic performances and his unique approach to the guitar. J. Geils was the leader of the J. Geils Band, which was one of the most successful rock bands of the 1970s.

**中文翻译**

星期六 — Red Ivy Suspect 和 Goodmen Band。另类/摇滚/流行。

KOELER KRAFT BOAT YARD:
2302 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-222-9051。
星期三，晚上 8 点 — The San Diego Concert Jazz Band。当代爵士。

THE KRANKEN: 2531 South Highway 101, Cardiff, 760-436-5483。
星期六，晚上 9 点 — The Farmers。根源摇滚/美国式。星期日，下午 4 点 — The Blues Brokers。蓝调/灵魂/摇滚。星期一 — Doug Allen。Mar Dots 乐队的主唱。

Le Papagayo: 1102 North Broadway, 101, Leucadia, 760-944-8522。
星期五，晚上 7 点 — Flounders。瓦利瓦伊视讯赌场的主要舞台酒吧。

MUSIC
每周二晚上 7:30-10:30
1145 South Tremont Street, Oceanside, 760-439-6646。
星期四，晚上 7 点 — The Soul。

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San Diego Reader October 2, 2008 95

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Train. Performs and hosts an open blues jam.


Saturday, 9:30 p.m. — Phraram 9 Blues Jam Session. Modern jazz classics and standards every Tuesday, with Bryan Whelan, Doug Walker, Laura Grimm, and friends.

The Round Table Cocktail Lounge: 1723 Euclid Avenue, City Heights, 619-284-6000.

Tuesday, 6 p.m. — Phraram 9 Blues.


Sunday, 7 p.m. — Panic at the Disco and Dashboard Confessional. Rock Band Live Tour with Plain White T’s and the Cab.

Tuesday, 8 p.m. — Neil Diamond. Rock/pop/blues. $5—$15.

Sevills: 515 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-5979.

Wednesday, 9 p.m. — Rock en Español.

Smith Rectical Hall at 500 Campus Drive, College Area, 619-596-0096.

Thursday, 9:30 p.m. — Open jazz jam.

South Park Bar & Grill: 1464 F St, South Park, 619-496-0096.

Bydah’s Jazz Jam Session. Modern jazz classics and standards every Tuesday, with Bryan Whelan, Doug Walker, Laura Grimm, and friends.

Sunday, 7 p.m. — Open Blues Jam. With Will Jackson.

South Park Bar & Grill: 1464 F St, South Park, 619-496-0096.

Thursday, 9:30 p.m. — Open jazz jam.

South Park Bar & Grill: 1464 F St, South Park, 619-496-0096.

Tuesday, 7 p.m. — The John Kopecky Trio. Jazz.

Soma: 530 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma, 619-226-5762.

Saturday, 7 p.m. — Shiny Toy Guns. With Jonetzetta, the Delta Fiasco, and White Apple Tree. Indie/electro/rock. $15.

Stage Saloon: 762 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-992-7862.

Friday — Trainswreck.

The Loft at 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, 619-231-4343.

Thursday, 9:30 p.m. — Vagabond Opera and Dandy.

South Park Bar & Grill: 1464 Fern Street, South Park, 619-496-0096.

Thursday, 9:30 p.m. — Open jazz jam.

Soul Jazz Bar: 1355 Euclid Avenue, Escondido, 760-735-2491.

Saturday, 8 p.m. — TES. World.

Tiki House: 1260 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-483-9734.

Saturday, 8 p.m. — The Secret Samurai. With the Bleeding Irish. Surf rock.

Tio Leo’s Lounge: 530 Napa Street, Linda Vista, 619-542-1462.

Friday — Shake Out. Rockabilly.

Tofino: 3000 Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-735-2491.

Saturday, 8 p.m. —UES. World.

Trio: 1355 Euclid Avenue, Escondido, 760-735-2491.

Saturday, 8 p.m. — The Secret Samurai. With the Bleeding Irish. Surf rock.

Turo Y Sus Hermanos: 5440 Clairemont Center Drive, Clairemont Mesa, 858-483-8140. $35.

November 12 — E-40.

Upright Caravan: 5440 Clairemont Center Drive, Clairemont Mesa, 858-483-8140. $25.

November 21 — Randy California.

Uprising: 5440 Clairemont Center Drive, Clairemont Mesa, 858-483-8140. $35.

November 18 — The B-52’s.

Valley View Casino: 13600 Nysum Pass Road, Valley Center, 866-443-9946.

Sunday, 7:30 p.m. — Earth, Wind & Fire. R&B, jazz, and funk.

Winston’s: 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822.

Thursday, 9 p.m. — Rock For Ever. Bluegrass/rock/psychedelic. $7.

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It was folky. When it first started off with the piano, it sounded like the intro to a Queen song. I felt that “California King” is a really witty title for the song. It definitely matches what they’re trying to sing about. It touched a whole lot on the indulgence of Southern California — like Hollywood. It’s like, a king-size bed isn’t big enough — you need a “California king.” I wasn’t quite sure what the message was. Is he saying that it’s bad to be indulgent and have all these nice things? Or is he just trying to describe a place with a lot of things? The lyrics were painting a music video in my head. It was really easy to picture what he was talking about.

The song “California King” is from the album “Chubbed Up” (from the CD titled Up). It was released on October 28.

June 20 — Navajo Civic Center, Farmer City, 815-252-2000.
July 1 — Elks Lodge, Lockport, 448-1152.
July 8 — Old popcorn factory, Chicago, 773-254-9237.
July 15 — Chicago, 773-254-9237.
August 5 — FarmHouse, State College, 814-238-1578.
August 12 — Project Ponderosa, New York, 646-808-0000.
August 19 — St. Joseph’s Church, New York, 646-808-0000.
August 26 — First Unitarian Church, Philadelphia, 215-487-3787.
August 27 — Viva El Mariachi, Austin, 512-499-9220.
August 28 — Rialto Theatre, Santa Fe, 505-982-3537.
August 29 — The Roxy, Los Angeles, 323-469-5050.
August 31 — House of Blues, Las Vegas, 702-367-5000.
September 1 — The Troubadour, Los Angeles, 310-276-9531.
September 2 — The Majestic Theatre, San Antonio, 210-227-7350.
September 3 — The Minglewood Hall, Memphis, 901-525-5910.
September 4 — The Van Buren, Little Rock, 501-525-5910.
September 5 — The Queen City, Cincinnati, 513-471-7676.
September 6 — The Larimer Lounge, Denver, 303-470-6770.
September 7 — The Crocodile, Seattle, 206-325-5000.
September 8 — The Tractor Tavern, Seattle, 206-324-8000.
September 9 — The Knitting Factory, Portland, 503-228-6642.
September 12 — The Suicide Machines, Los Angeles, 323-404-9969.
September 13 — The Roxy, Los Angeles, 323-469-5050.
September 15 — The Rave, Milwaukee, 414-273-3277.
September 16 — The Elora Castle, Monticello, 906-243-4434.
September 17 — The Crystal Ballroom, Portland, 503-228-6642.
September 18 — The Knitting Factory, Seattle, 206-325-5000.
September 19 — The Crocodile, Seattle, 206-324-8000.
September 20 — The Tractor Tavern, Seattle, 206-324-8000.
September 21 — The Independent, San Francisco, 415-856-9211.
September 22 — The Suicide Machines, Los Angeles, 323-404-9969.
September 23 — The Roxy, Los Angeles, 323-469-5050.
September 24 — House of Blues, Las Vegas, 702-367-5000.
September 26 — The Elora Castle, Monticello, 906-243-4434.
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Festival. November 24 — The Australian Pink Floyd Show.


**Dizzy’s:** 200 Harbor Drive, Downtown, 858-270-7467. November 7 — Quartet Equinox.

**Downtown Café:** 182 East Main Street, El Cajon, 619-440-5687. October 11 — The Farmers.

**Downtown Escondido:** Grand Avenue at Centre City, Escondido. October 11 — 2nd Saturday ArtWalk.

**En Fuego Cantina & Grill:** 1342 Camino del Mar, Del Mar, 858-792-6551. October 22 — Jordan Reimer and Michael Tiernan.

**Encinitas Library:** 540 Cornell Drive, Encinitas. October 12 — The Afro-Cuban Ensemble.

**Epicentre:** 4650 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa, 858-271-4000. October 24 — Hellowoofday. November 7 — The Material and Blameshift. November 15 — A Cursive Memory and So Long Davey.

**Escondido Library:** 239 South Kalmia Street, Escondido. December 4 — Peter Sprague.

**Hennessey’s Tavern - PB:** 4650 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach, 858-483-8487. October 15 — Brooklyn and Joe Cardillo.

**Hennessey’s Tavern - Gaslamp:** 708 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-239-9994. October 15 — Brooklyn and Joe Cardillo.


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Lestat’s Coffee House: 3343 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-282-0437. October 29 — Anna Troy, Nathan James, Olivia Pierson.

Lollicup Coffee & Tea - Escondido: 19 F Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-466-2184. October 10 — Colin Clyne.

Main Stage Bar at Valley View Casino: 16300 Nyemii Pass Road, Valley Center, 866-843-9946. October 10 — The Jones Revival.

October 10 — Lady Dottie & the Diamonds.

October 10 — Innovation.

October 11 — The Sandbox.

October 11 — Hot Rod Lincoln.

October 16 — Firefly.

October 17 — The Fabulous Pelicans.

October 17 — The Heroes.

October 18 — Federal Funk.

October 23 — Firefly.

October 24 — Metro.

October 24 — October 25 — Innovation.

October 25 — Old School.

October 31 — The Fabulous Pelicans.

Mandeville Auditorium at 9500 Gilman Drive, UCSD. October 20 — Laurie Anderson.


Open Air Theatre at 5500 Campanile Drive, College Area, 619-594-6947. October 15 — The Roots and the Gym Class Heroes.

October 31 — Jason Mraz.

Patrick’s II: 428 F Street, Downtown, 619-233-3077. October 9 — Missy Andersen.

October 14 — The Blue Four.

October 18 — Michele Lundeen & Blues Streak.

San Diego Reader October 2, 2008

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Thursday, October 2

Dust-n-Bones (Guns-n-Roses Tribute Band)

Bon Jovi Tribute Band

Friday & Saturday, October 3 & 4 • 9 pm

Classic Rock

Serious Guise

Sunday, October 5

One And Done

New

Every Monday

Karaoke

Nope, October 7

Going Blind

Wednesday, October 8

The Reverend Stickman

Sixgun South • Fuzz Huzzi

Santee

8528 Magnolia Avenue • 619-596-8350

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Dying Regret plus special guest

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Classic Rock

6 One 9

Sunday, October 5

Fuzz Huzzi

plus special guest

Tuesday, October 7

The Electric Earth Band

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**San Diego Reader**
October 2, 2008

**Calendar**

**MUSIC**

**Peto Park**: 100 Park Boulevard, Downtown, 619-795-5000.
October 4 — Madonna.

**Qualcomm Stadium**: 9449 Friars Road, Mission Valley, 619-283-0460.
October 24 — Great White.

**RT’s Longboard Grill**: 1466 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-270-4030.
October 9 — Stepping Feet.
October 10 — Flick of ’90s.
October 16 — Stepping Feet.
October 17 — YIK.
October 18 — Da Groove.
October 23 — Stepping Feet.
October 24 — four.

**Radio Room**: 3519 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park.
October 17 — Innaad Wasi.

**Gregory’s Bar & Grill**: 5950 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-270-4030.
November 25 — Suicide Silence and Emmure.
November 2 — Marlene & the Sons of Disaster.
November 3 — Hawthorne Heights.
November 7 — Miss Advisa.
November 8 — Dragonforce.
November 11 — Turistas, Powerlove.
November 12 — Minus the Bear and Annuals.
November 13 — Ludo.
November 16 — Underoath and Sосsin.
November 20 — Portugal. The Man and Earl Greyhound.
November 22 — The Faceless, Born of Osiris, Alkalol Williams.
November 26 — Shwayze and Tyga.
November 28 — The Birthday Massacre and Tub Ring.
November 29 — Pierce the Veil and Breathe Carolina.
December 6 — Rancid.

**Spreckels Theatre**: 121 Broadway, Downtown, 619-233-9500.
October 9 — Sara Bareilles.
October 12 — Juliesta Venegas.
November 1 — Ray Lamontagne.
November 8 — Citizen Cape.

**The Loft at** 1900 Gilman Drive, La Jolla.
October 27 — Song Kittel and the Slip.

**Humphreys Backstage Live**

**Thursday, October 2** 9:30 pm
Funk

**Delta Nove**

**Friday, October 3** 9:30 pm
Classic Rock

**Rockola**

**Saturday, October 4** 5 pm
Blues Guitar

**Ronnie Baker Brooks**

**Skirt Alert**

**Upcoming Shows**

**Friday, October 10**
**Saturday, October 18**
**Wednesday, October 29**

**Michael Ward**
**Johnny A**
**John Nemeth**

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

**Sunday, October 5** 8 pm
Smooth Jazz Guitarist

**Patrick Yandall**

**Monday, October 6** 7 pm • Blues

**Chet Cannon’s Blue Monday Blues Party**

**Tuesday, October 7** 7 pm • Jazz

**Jose Molina**

**Wednesday, October 8** 8 pm • Indie
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<td>DIRTY HEADS • CIPES &amp; THE PEOPLE</td>
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<td>TRIBAL THEORY • HI ROOTS</td>
<td>BLOWFISH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue Scholars</td>
<td>An official event for the San Diego Asian Film Festival</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAR EAST MOVEMENT • PAUL DATEH</td>
<td>(Doors Tribute)</td>
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<td>ASHLEY ROBLES • DJ ICY ICE</td>
<td>NEAL MORTON</td>
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<td>BLOWFISH</td>
<td>ANDRE NICKATINA (of the Living Legends)</td>
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<td>An official event for the San Diego Asian Film Festival</td>
<td>THE GROUCH &amp; ELIGH</td>
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11/7 Collie Buddz • 11/8 Jedi Mind Tricks
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11/19 Mest • 11/26 The Melvins
San Diego Reader "in the scene"

Upcoming Events
See your photos on sdreader.com & click on "Promotions."

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**Calendar**

**MUSIC**

**Theatre:** 155 East Grand Avenue, La Mesa. 619-733-3441

October 17 — Old School Band

October 17 — Dennis Jones

Tio Leo's Lounge: 5802 Napa Street, Linda Vista, 619-542-1462

October 10 — Ramzy Funk

October 11 — DJ Mac

October 25 — The Farmers

November 1 — Dave the Butcher and U.S. Drag.

Valley View Casino: 16300 Nymai Pass Road, Valley Center, 866-643-9466

October 15 — Randy Travis

Viejas Casino Dreamcatcher

Show Room: 5000 Willow Road, Alpine, 619-445-5400

November 1 — K-Ci and JoJo

November 7 — The Spinners

November 13 — Amber Ojeda

Waterfront Bar & Grill: 2044 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy. Monday — Wednesday 9 a.m. to 2 a.m.

Wave House: 3125 Mission Boulevard, Mission Beach. October 16 — Bob Schneider

Winstons: 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach. October 10 — Mover

October 11 — Cash ’n Out

**DJ** HOW TO SUBMIT A DJ LISTING: Call 619-235-3000 x405, or email djsubmissions@sandiegoreader.com. To send weekly or monthly schedules, fax to 619-235-3000, or mail to Reader Music Office, P.O. Box 8503, San Diego, CA 92118. You may also submit information online, get discount lists, event alerts, RSS feeds, club coupons, and more at SanDiegoReader.com.


Beauty Bar: Wednesday, 9 p.m.: Club ’80s. With deejays Bryan Pollard, Sickboy, Stern, and more. $2-$4. Tuesdays, 9 p.m.: Trans Am Tuesdays. New wave ’80s dance party with DJ Feather Hardcore. 4746 El Cajon Boulevard, Kensington-Talmadge. 619-516-4746.

Brick by Brick: Thursday, 8 p.m.: Noise Rock. Los Angeles DJs: Stevey T, gegen, and mashups. 1130 Buenos Avenue, Ocean Beach. 619-284-6784.


Coyote Bar & Grill: Thursdays, 10:30 p.m.: DJ Earl Henry. Fridays and Saturdays, 10:30 p.m.: DJ Steve Haisty. 300 Caisbad Village Drive, Caisbad. 760-720-4656.


Robert’s: Mondays to Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. 50th Street Bar. 218 50th Street, North Park. 619-224-1200.

Youth Hostel: Fridays, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. 3rd Street Bar. 330 3rd Street, North Park. 619-235-3000, x489. Open to the public. 18 and up.

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**Blues • Dance Rock ’n Roll**

The bar with a definite beach attitude

Pool Tables • ATM

On Broadway 101

Restaurant Row

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www.myspace/thekrakenbar

BC's BBQ: Sat. and Sun. Noon 'til Midnight

Thursday, October 2 • No Cover

CHARLES BURTON BAND

Friday, October 3 • No Cover

FLAT OUT LIARS

Saturday, October 4 • No Cover

GHOST RIDERS

THE FARMERS (Night)

Sunday, October 5 • No Cover

BLUE'S JAM anchored by the BLUES BROKERS

Every Monday in October

DOUG ALLEN (of the Mar Dels)

Wednesday, October 8 • No Cover

JEFF MOORE & THE WITCHDOCTORS

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**Adams Avenue Street Fair**

**San Diego Reader**

October 2, 2008

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**24th Annual Street Scene**

Have you been tagged by the Reader Street Team? See your photos on sdreader.com & click on "Promotions."

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**Upcoming Events**

See your photos on sdreader.com & click on "Promotions."
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 TicketMaster

Spreading love through music.
Benefit for the RB United Recovery Center
Runcho Bernardo United is a coalition brought together by the Rancho Bernardo Community Foundation to identify and meet our community’s after-the-fire needs.
I saw an ad for a CD-release party for LL Cool J. It's funny because when bands invite me to CD-release parties, they aren't really parties. It's usually the band playing a small venue for a few friends and family members, with a table set up to sell their CDs.

What was odd about this one was that LL Cool J was charging $30 to attend. It didn't say this was a concert at Harrah's Rincon. In fact, as my friend who wanted to go with me pointed out, "It doesn't even say he's going to be there."

I didn't think they'd charge $30 just to hang out on their poolside patio. And I certainly wasn't going to pay $30 for a rapper who has only three songs I like. But a female friend of mine is a fan, so I thought I'd bring her with me. And was told that cameras weren't allowed. I put it back in my car, but I put my small flip video camera down my pants. I felt as if I was smuggling contraband to a prisoner.

I went in a side door where nobody stopped me. I saw that security was tight at the main entrance, but they weren't frisking anyone. We got there before the crowd. My date said, "Oh, my God, there's Coolio!" I looked over and saw a guy with freaky hair that reminded me of Sideshow Bob from The Simpsons. She was right, though, as his jacket had "Coolio" spelled out in rhinestones.

"These trees are all bleeding. I think the koala bears on them have VD."

"Is he the one that sings 'Thong Song'?" I asked her. She laughed and said, "No, white boy. He sings 'Gangsta's Paradise.'" The poolside area filled up fast. I listened as a Latina joined her friends, who mentioned seeing Coolio. The Latina screamed, "Oh, my God! Why didn't you stop him?" One said, "Uh, and do what with him?" The response: "I don't know, had him wait until I got here." One of them then joked, "The dude had his name written on his jacket. It was weird."

"Well, maybe he thinks people forgot who he was."

I said to my date, "Rappers not only say their name in their songs but also put it on their clothes." With the crowd acting like that for Coolio, I figured the place would go insane if LL Cool J showed up.

Radio station Blazin' 98.9 was there, and a DJ was spinning near the pool, often mixing in LL songs.

I overheard two guys who were smoking cigars. One said that LL also has a new line of clothing. The other said, "It's weird that he's so popular. He stole his style. But after all these decades, from the '80s until now, he's still popular and relevant in the rap scene."

There were go-go dancers on platforms all around the pool. At one end of the pool, there were dancers behind a backlit screen that showed their silhouettes. One of the cabanas had a "reserved" sign posted and a few people partying inside.

We dropped $20 on drinks and found a seat by the fire pit. When that got crowded, we moved to a pair of comfortable poolside chairs.
The Filling Station
Pubs & Grill
9522 Miramar Rd. • (858) 578-0757
Northeast corner of Miramar Rd. and Black Mtn. Rd.

Entertainment 7 Nights a Week • Call for Latest Lineup

Saturday, October 25 • 7 pm
UFC Fight Night
No cover! Join us for fun & games.

Karaoke Nights
Every night
David Kelly’s All Star Entertainment! Over 35,000 songs on an awesome sound system.

Monads
$2 Kamikazes • Rock band till 9 pm

Tuesdays
Game Night • Nintendo & board games
Game shot specials! Rock band till 9 pm

Wednesdays
Premium Beer • $3.50/pint

Thursdays
Customer Appreciation
$1.75 Pints & $6 Pitchers after 7 pm • FREE Pool at 7 pm

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

Sundays
Free Pool All Day • $3 Mimosas

Thefillingstation.com
5-8 PM: Winstons Game Day with Nintendo Wii

7-9 PM: Karaoke OB Style

10 AM:
REDDSKINS vs EAGLES

CHARGERS vs DOLPHINS

1 PM:
BENGALS vs COWBOYS

BUCCANEERS vs BRONCOS

5 PM:
STEELERS vs JAGUARS

Free Popcorn

Beer & Drink Specials

“Race For The Cure” Benefit Show featuring:
WHISKEY DICKS
MONDAY’S ALIBI
KATYWOMPAS TRIO

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

Thursday 10/2
Live Music featuring:
ACTUAL SIZE
PLAYING YOUR FAVORITE CLASSIC ROCK COVERS
No Cover Before 9 pm

Friday 10/3
Live Music • Alt Rock featuring:
SUNDIAL PROJECT

MAD MARTIGAN
AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Saturday 10/4
Live Music • Alt Rock featuring:
FRIDAY NIGHT GUNFIGHT

JESSE PLACK
VONZELES
JOHN JANUARY & THE WAGS

Sunday 10/5
NFL Football All Day
Build-Your-Own Bloody Mary Bar

10 AM: CHARGERS vs DOLPHINS
1 PM: BENGALS vs COWBOYS
5 PM: STEELERS vs JAGUARS

Free Popcorn

Beer & Drink Specials

Monday 10/6
Monday Night Football
VIKINGS vs SAINTS

$3 U-Call-It 4-5 pm • $1 off Drinks All Night!

Tuesday 10/7
“Race For The Cure” Benefit Show featuring:
WHISKEY DICKS
MONDAY’S ALIBI
KATYWOMPAS TRIO

Now Booking: Every genre.
Call Billy or Drew: 619-222-8131. www.myspace.com/kidslam
When we walked by the front, we saw him in the weight room. That was funny, since he’s already the most muscular rapper around. He wasn’t working out, though, just hanging out.

When he walked out, about 100 women mobbed him. They were screaming as if he were Elvis. He had shades on and was stopping to take photos on his way to the pool. My date brought an album, which he signed for her.

Several fans had cameras in their cell phones, which they now had out and were using. Security, again, was very polite with everyone. They kept ushering LL to his area outside but were never pushy with his fans. It was a pleasant vibe.

As we were leaving, a guy in a yellow Lamborghini pulled up. My date said, “He’s a short white guy. I doubt he’s here for the Cool J event.”

The evening reminded us of a CD-release party we went to together for a local band called Dee Ray. I realized I hadn’t written about that one, so when I got home, I looked for my notes.

The Dee Ray party was at a mansion in the College Area. Ian, the woman who throws parties in her “house of the future,” calls herself the “party queen of San Diego.” This was the second all-out bash I’d been to at her place, so who was I to disagree?

Dee Ray was playing when we walked in. The song had the same chords as “Born to Be Wild.” When they played a second set, I thought the group sounded a lot like the Pretenders and Patti Smith, with Doors-style keyboards thrown in. The singer looked a bit like Suzi Quatro (Leather Tuscadero from Happy Days).

I went to the back patio, which was surrounded by eucalyptus trees. I overheard a guy say to his date, “These trees are all bleeding. I think the koala bears on them have VD.”

I ran into Bart Mendozia, a local musician and writer who seems to be at all local events with musicians. We talked for a while.

A woman named Lyz was pouring herself a drink, but I thought she was the bartender. She told me that she wasn’t but poured me a drink anyway. As we were talking, she said, “Oh, you’re that party crasher guy, aren’t you?”

I told her that if she did something crazy, I’d write about her. She never did, but I guess pouring me a drink will suffice.

When the band finished their set, I overheard them talking to a few people. The band members, all roommates, had also all worked at Licorice Pizza, an old record store. Their conversation led to me and a guy nearby talking about the ’60s band Love, members of which lived in Bela Lugosi’s old mansion in the Hollywood Hills.

I walked to a different section of the backyard and discovered a tree house where people were smoking pot.

I heard a couple arguing because the guy was moving to Oceanside. “If you want me to see you,” the girl said, “be prepared to give me gas money.”

I glanced in one room and saw that they had a TV set with flames flickering on the screen. It looked like a fireplace.

There was a real fireplace in the center of the living room, which a few people were lounging around.

I went outside to smoke a cigar, and a woman named Molly tripped over a board on the patio and fell into me. She laughed it off, and someone said, “Everyone trips over that.” Molly told me that she’s a local musician. I told her that she was the third Molly I’d met who’s a musician. As she was explaining what type of music she plays, someone else tripped over the same board.

I said, “If Ian doesn’t get that fixed, she’s going to be sued. And someone else will end up owning this incredible house.”

Crasher

One couple was swimming, and a security guard called the guy over to the side of the pool. My friend said, “I knew he wasn’t allowed to be in there.” The guard asked him to put some floating lights in various areas of the pool.

Security there was nice to everyone.

The event was scheduled from 10:30 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. Around midnight, we were ready to bounce, but we heard rumors that LL was “in the house.”
The Second Childhood of Suzy Creamcheese

Welcome back, Baby Boomers and suburban-raised Gen Xers, to your childhoods. Minus, of course, bed-wetting, skinned knees, dorky shoes, schoolyard bullies, mean girls, broken skates, school-cafeteria lunches. Dick and Jane, et al. Your second childhood will be free of the miseries of the original. At Maryjane’s you will eat your recherché du temps pervers just like Proust, and it may even taste slightly better than when Mom served it hot from the oven on a disposable tripartite aluminum-foil tray.

This time around, childhood will be painless because you’ll be able to look back not with anger or tears but with fond irony. A wall devoted to prints cause you’ll be able to look back not with anger or tears but with fond irony. A wall devoted to prints will be free of the miseries of the original. At Maryjane’s you will eat your recherché du temps pervers just like Proust, and it may even taste slightly better than when Mom served it hot from the oven on a disposable tripartite aluminum-foil tray.

Maryjane’s Coffee Shop

Hard Rock Hotel, 207 Fifth Avenue (2nd Street), Gaslamp Quarter, 619-764-6950, hardrock-hotel.com

HOURS: Sunday–Thursday 6:30 a.m.–10:00 p.m., weekends until 11:00 p.m.

PRICES: Starters and sides, $3–$10; sandwiches, burgers, tacos, entrée chopped salads, entrées, $6–$28 (most about $15); breakfast dishes (all day), $8–$12, desserts, $6.

CUISINE AND BEVERAGES: Baby Boomer/Gen X comfort food just like Mom’s (including from pecas). Short but smart wine list, beer, cocktails, milk shakes, and soft drinks.

PICK HITS: Meat loaf (entrée or sandwich), chicken pot pie. Other good bets: Cobb salad, Buffalo chicken salad. 

NEED TO KNOW: Valet parking (necessary on game nights at Petco); four vegetarian/vegan medium-to-main choices plus sides. Family-friendly. (Ask for menu! It’s all a kid’s meal!) No reservations needed.

Ratings reflect the reviewer’s reaction to food, ambience, and service, with price taken into consideration. Menu listings and prices are subject to change.

Go to SanDiegoReader.com to find hundreds of past reviews.

 days and two root canals. He’d spotted Maryjane’s when we ate at Nobu, and since then we’d seen some complimentary early mentions in print. Michelle was fine with it, too, and the Dow Jones had just totally crashed, so going to a really cheap destination seemed like a good idea to show solidarity with the
My favorite recipe has a corn-size portioned for an adult. Much better, and twice the served Swanson's. Yup, this is Yup, they admitted, their moms son's brand, with more crust, my mom was short of money, incurred. I knew their secret: When "where you had a crust all the ones I grew up on," said Jim, frozen versions.

I like frozen peas, use 'em my-taste. On the side are frozen peas. I sort of expect fresh veggies. The mash tastes like inter to deserve so bland an homage. The sauce is sweet and rather simple. The coleslaw is okay, crisp and sweetened with carrots rather than excess sugar. Luckily, there’s a trayful of coleslaw on top of the meat, with house-made potato chips and a so-dis-darne.

Well, Yes, I’m a food snob at the low end as well as the high end. I’ve eaten pulled pork in Memphis and at Big Nate’s Memphis BBQ and Memphis Minnie’s BBQ in San Francisco and at the late, great Big Jim’s BBQ in Excinitas. What all these places have in common is that the pork butt is smoked low’n slow for about eight hours, so it comes out tasting really smoky, and it’s served with a tangy, interesting sauce. At Maryjane’s the pork isn’t smoked, and the sauce is sweet and rather simple.

The mash is better than Mom’s — better than Michelle’s, Jim’s, and my mom’s. It’s really meat loaf, not cheap fatty hamburger meat mixed out with crumbs or cracker meal, but good, beefy ground sirloin with a bit of char at the edges. Better yet, it doesn’t have Mom’s ketchup gravy. It comes with mashed potatoes lightly laced with an elusive, nearly flavorless substance called "Wavy Gravy" in honor of the late, great San Francisco hipster-comedian — who was too flavorful a character to deserve so bland an homage. The mash tastes like instant from a box, smooth, fine-grained, lacking all potato taste. On the side are frozen peas. I like frozen peas, use ‘em myself in a pinch, but in a restaurant I sort of expect fresh veggies.

The other entrée most worth eating is chicken pot pie. It’s a perfected form of the Morton’s frozen chicken pot pies I grew up on. It has a light, crispy top crust, plenty of substantial, tender chicken-breast pieces, firm-tender carrot chunks and frozen peas, and the classic semi-viscous chicken gravy familiar from the frozen versions.

"This is so much better than the ones I grew up on," said Jim, "where you had a crust all around and could barely taste the chicken." Michelle concurred. I knew their secret: When my mom was short of money, she bought the cheaper Swanson’s brand, with more crust, more gravy, hardy any chicken. Yup, they admitted, their moms served Swanson’s. Yup, this is much better, and twice the size — portioned for an adult. Don’t get me wrong: This is not a great home-made rendition. (My favorite recipe has a cornmeal crust, tarragon, oyster mushrooms, and — well, it’s a lot better.) This is merely an improvement on a good brand of frozen pot pie.

The nightly special is called “TV dinner” and is actually served in a disposable, divided foil tray. Our waiter raved about that night’s rendition (remember, “Bad Advice” is listed on the menu, free), which featured a pulled-pork sandwich with coleslaw on top of the meat, with house-made potato chips and a so-dis-brownie.

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Anything but Dessert

“I’ve gotta be careful. Rosillo’s gonna think I’m getting serious.”

Sunday evening. Light’s fading. Wandering up Ash and Union, the echoey streets of the world above Broadway. You know, wrong side of the tracks. All the cool eateries are in the Gaslamp. Up here, especially tonight, it’s empty, clattery. You kinda watch your back. Wrong place to look for a snack.

That’s when I see this kinda industrial building behind a big metal screen with bubble-shaped cutouts. And a big sign. “Extraordinary Desserts.” Huh. Thought they were up Fifth, by Balboa Park. Maybe this is their, like, factory. I try the big pewter Buddha’s face at the end of a long three, twenty-three?”

“Counter or table?”

“Uh, one.” Damn. Getting sucked in. “How many?” says one of the über-beautiful waitresses. I think it’s either the server, Eric, or — ooh lah lah — line, or — ooh lah lah — such as chocolate macadamia torte, or lemon pra-

line, or — ooh lah lah — truffle framboise. But I’ve got one more purchase. Call it survival in-

stincts. Something sweet for Carla. Heh-heh. Sweeten her up before she finds out how much I spent on myself.

“I’ve gotta be careful. Rosillo’s gonna think I’m getting serious.”

S

with as many bits of (toasted) bread as you want. And it’s only “6.5” for one cheese. So I order the most unheard-of cheese on the list: Fromage d’Affinois aux herbes. It’s “Brie-like,” has fresh herbs, and comes from France.

I start pecking as soon as Eric clacks it on the frosted green-glass countertop. And it’s nice: herby, lightly, agreeable, but a little boring, like a girl who agrees with every damned thing you say. Still, the lightly toasted French bread slices are per-

fect, and the cheese comes with a little pot of jam that’s delicious. Turns out it’s made from dulce de leche, the Mexican caramel sauce, and — who knew? — tomato sauce.

I think I’m being pretty clever by not ordering anything to drink, except the free water ‘cause, like with the many teas, you’re looking at $6; and for beers and wines, start there and head skywards.

Then I blow it and order that feta cheese panini I’d been eyeing ‘cause I’m still hungry. Ten clams. Crazy. But it comes in a forest of fresh salad leaves and with a juicy piece of grilled eggplant, and the bread is terrific, crisp, soft, everything right.

Except the feta cheese. I think of feta as briny goat cheese: a tangy, wake-up-your-gills kinda cheese, right? But this is mild, a little afraid to speak for itself. “Is this mild cheese thing cater-

ing to our American tastes?” I ask Eric. He’s from Geneva, Switzerland. He nods. I mean, no biggie, and this panini does stuff me to the gills. Just coulda done with a little more kick. But what do I know?

Lordy. Big breath. Spent a Jackson already. Well, at least I resisted the zillion temptations,

by the many teacups, you’re looking at $6; and for beers and wines, start there and head skywards.

That’s when I see this kinda in-

I don’t think so. On the other hand, now John and his lady friend Rosillo are filling up with a straw-

berry and raspberry scone ($3.95) and a double white chocolate ice cream ($6).

“This is the kind of place you bring a girl if you want her to fall in love with you,”

John says. “It’s the atmosphere. It’s the feeling that you’re treating her like a lady, I’ve gotta be care-

ful. Rosillo’s gonna think I’m get-

ting serious.”

The server, Eric, comes up. He points out a savory menu. Great. “Bar snacks” are the cheap-
est items on the menu. They start at $6 for almonds in olive oil. Spreads range from hummus or tapatzi for $7, to a sample platter at uh, $20. Then they have salads such as mixed greens ($10) or up to a Cobb ($18). Something tells me to move. Now.

Back out that industrial door.

But at least the bruschettas start off at “3.5,” as they write the price in the menu. And it’s not that they don’t have intriguing-sounding flavors. Like “avocado with artichoke tapenade”. Tapenade! Think it has something to do with a paste: olives, anchovies, capers, that sort of stuff. Then they have fungii misti — mixed mushrooms — or, hey, “surfing goat ping pong cheese.” I try to get Eric to explain that one, but all I retain is goat cheese with mango chutney.

Whatever. I’m tempted. Yes, two bites and they’re gone, but, I tell myself, think of the taste ex-

perience. Quality, not quantity.

With panini, it looks as if you get more quan-

tity. ‘Course, they’re gone, but, I tell myself, think of the taste ex-

What’s up Fifth, by Balboa Park.

“I’ve gotta be careful. Rosillo’s gonna think I’m getting serious.”

Sunday evening. Light’s fading. Wandering up Ash and Union, the echoey streets of the world above Broadway. You know, wrong side of the tracks. All the cool eateries are in the Gaslamp. Up here, especially tonight, it’s empty, clattery. You kinda watch your back. Wrong place to look for a snack.

That’s when I see this kinda industrial building behind a big metal screen with bubble-shaped cutouts. And a big sign. “Extraordinary Desserts.” Huh. Thought they were up Fifth, by Balboa Park. Maybe this is their, like, factory. I try the big pewter Buddha’s face at the end of a long three, twenty-three?”

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1/2 OFF DRAFT BEERS + 2 WELL SHOTS
of this delightful mini-chain you'll find healthy, creative Mexican and vegetarian cuisine in cheerful, tropical-style settings basking with plant life and craft objects. A big plus: zero altitude. You don't have to be vegги-averse to enjoy full-flavored combinations that are as creative as they are wholesome. Try anything with lobster or calamari stã – in fact, all the seafood here is pristine. And sample something with the house-made mole sauce of zillion ingredients. Actually, try: anything. (Well, the chicken breast is as dry here as everywhere else. Try anything else.) Open daily breakfast through dinner. No reservations, but call ahead for large parties. Impeccable. — NW.

Red Marlin Hyatt Regency Mission Bay Spa and Marina, 1441 Quivira Road, Mission Beach, 619-224-1234. When you’re getting vacationing relatives or friends in town or just wish you could take a vacation yourself, this view-en- closed, indoor-outdoor seafood dining room is a great escape, offering beauti- fully executed food that appeals to all palates. Emphatically a “hotel- chain restaurant,” Red Marlin features a caution menu of light California fusion cuisine featuring fine unadulterated ingredi- ents. What makes it special is the flaw- less cooking and creative touches by Chef de Cuisine Danny Bannister. If you like your Kurobuta pork chop medium- rare, he knows the secret of perfection. And his blue crab cake is all crab, barely any filler. The Raw: The hotel company’s remodeling plans severely skimped on signage, so the stand-alone restaurant is hard to locate (and so is its ramped whisk-haired entrance). Get detailed directions when you call to re- serve, as there’s ample free parking at the restaurant’s truck door that can see you a long trek through the grounds. Good wines at all prices, full bar. — NW.

Sushi Ota 4329 Mission Bay Drive, Pacific Beach, 858-270-5670. What be- comes a legend most? This renowned sushi bar offers standout of exceptional quality, perfect tart-sweet rice, tight wraps, and disciplined creativity. And beauty, of course, such as the ari sushi, a whole small Spanish mack- erel bent into the shape of a swelling bell. These joys don’t come easily. First, reserve. Then find the place, tucked into the corner of a minimal mini-mall on the east side of the street, marked with the large 7-Eleven sign (opposite Ru- ba’s). Don’t waste your time with the California roll ilk, instead, swoop on your neighbor’s choices (particularly those of Japanese customers), watching for off-menu extravaganzas. A printed omakase menu at the tables (the equi- valent of a chef’s tasting dinner) of either salmon or sushi will feed one per- son readily or twofold for under $50. Cooked dishes are dull except for seafood miso soups and dumpling rolls (crusted with ginji nut). Alas, when Ota-san’s away, his elves may play, so best to go when the master is present and keeping an eye out. To be served at the counter by Ota-san him- self, reserve one month ahead. Lunch Tuesday through Friday, dinner daily. Moderate. — NW.

BAJA

From the United States use the prefix 011-52 when calling Mexico.

Cien Años Calle Jose Maria Velasco 4140, Baja, 664-656-3019. Thirllively, comfortabe, dren-cas “destination restaurant” serves extraordinary Mex- ican haute cuisine, graced with a brilli- ant variety of sauc is based on sim- pli- cations of Mexican ingredients, including tropical fruits, nuts, and above all, a vast variety of chili peppers, each with their own distinctive flavor (not all of them spicy). You could eat here a dozen times and never begin to exhaust the possibilities. Just a few of the treats are mushrooms steamed in beef mar- row, crocodile meat mini-tacos, poodle with crab meat, and an irresistible beef and shrimp stew. (Food critic Ruth Rei- chick consumed a meal of exotic Asian delicacies, including ant roe and mescal worms, and not only loved them but “say they’re in season.”) The wine list is de- voted wholly to ambitious Baja variet- ales, you’re also welcome to BYO. Bar choices include damiana and hibiscus liquors. Menu and staff are bilingual.

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Sushi Ota 4329 Mission Bay Drive, Pacific Beach, 858-270-5670. What be- comes a legend most? This renowned sushi bar offers standout of exceptional quality, perfect tart-sweet rice, tight wraps, and disciplined creativity. And beauty, of course, such as the ari sushi, a whole small Spanish mackerel bent into the shape of a swelling bell. These joys don’t come easily. First, reserve. Then find the place, tucked into the corner of a minimal mini-mall on the east side of the street, marked with the large 7-Eleven sign (opposite Ruba’s). Don’t waste your time with the California roll ilk, instead, swoop on your neighbor’s choices (particularly those of Japanese customers), watching for off-menu extravaganzas. A printed omakase menu at the tables (the equivalent of a chef’s tasting dinner) of either salmon or sushi will feed one person readily or twofold for under $50. Cooked dishes are dull except for seafood miso soups and dumpling rolls (crusted with ginji nut). Alas, when Ota-san’s away, his elves may play, so best to go when the master is present and keeping an eye out. To be served at the counter by Ota-san him- self, reserve one month ahead. Lunch Tuesday through Friday, dinner daily. Moderate. — NW.

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La Leña

Aguas Calientes Boulevard
41195, Hita, 646-688-2920

The most

thing about La Leña (“The Fire Log”) is its view. You come off main, funny, traffic-tracked Aguas Calientes into this quiet, dark-wood, creamy-yellow walled room and a full view of...countryside! Actually, a green golf course studded with trees. In the middle of Ti娟/Callier's waffle wall, black goose hovers look like fur raincoats. So no surprise that you get country club-type eating: open grill, charbroiled food for with-to-do charras. Old-style BBQ steaks, turf-and-turf combos, and big slabs of Mexican-cut filet salsiva, which are flabby but tender. Most arrive at your table steaming on black iron hotplates. Servings are generous (meals come with soup or salad and you get a fine appetizer such as shredded beef and tortillas) if not remarkable. Or even especially Mexican — their hamburger is dainty tasty. Vegetarian upon request. But the atmosphere is a great break from the raucous TJ or all know and (sometimes) love. Lunch and dinner daily from 11 a.m. until late. Moderate. — E.R.

Señor Frog's

Via Orientale 60 C-14, Zona Rio, Hita, 646-662-4992.

Not much is a moderate priced forestry, but Tequila Tuesdays promise as much for food and drink as you can handle for one cover charge ($15, last time we checked it). Food includes a buffet with good fish tacos, fajitas (stew, usually beef), pork, fish/seafood, came asada, cemita, on and on. House beers and Mexican liquors, including tequila, are in the deal, too. Refill your plate and glass as often as you want, tridy. Only caution: if a sombrero-totin’ charro comes up offering tequila shots from his bandolier, you’ll pay. Free food and drink 3 p.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesdays only. Other days, inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

Vegetarian on request. Reservations strongly advised, ask for directions. Moderate. — N.W.

La Leña

Aguas Calientes Boulevard
41195, Hita, 646-688-2920

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Trieu Chau

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Trieu Chau
I got into cooking as a way of self-defense growing up. I worked in restaurants in high school and stayed in it through college, as a sous chef. I majored in environmental politics in college, but during my junior year, I realized I already had a career — cooking.

After we left San Francisco, what we missed about all the neighborhoods we lived in were the great bistros. We wanted to bring that to San Diego. At Urban Solace, we try to buy as much responsible foods as possible, and our goal is not to have just a menu filled with common dishes that don’t know. Accessibility was one of the fundamental values in opening our restaurant.

I really have to credit my wife with home cooking. I learned that if you start feeding your kids different things, they’ll eat it. I really try to cook breakfast every day for our kids (aged 3 and 1) because that’s our time together.

I make really simple things like eggs and toast. My favorite dishes are comfort foods like roast chicken. One of my guilty pleasures is a chocolate cake. It’s a surprising cake because it has beets and buttermilk and vinegar. I was just talking to a guy at the bar who was eating it and he ate a very large portion by himself.

Let butter sit out until soft and take eggs out of the refrigerator and bring to room temperature. Melt chocolate in the microwave until smooth. Heat for 60 seconds and then, if needed, in 20-second intervals. Let chocolate cool.

Preheat oven to 325° and liberally grease two 9” cake pans and coat with flour. Shake off excess flour.

In the mixer with whisk attachment, cream the butter, eggs, sugars, and vanilla. Whip for 5 minutes. Slowly drizzle in the melted chocolate.

In a separate mixing bowl, sift the flour, cocoa, and baking soda. Add the salt to the mixture and mix.

What the Chef Eats


| 9 oz softened butter |
| 2 cups packed brown sugar |
| 1 cup granulated sugar |
| 1 T vanilla |
| 3 1/4 cups cake flour |
| 1/4 cup cocoa powder |
| 1 T baking soda |
| 1/2 tsp salt |
| 1 T cider vinegar |
| 1 cup buttermilk |
| 2 T’s cup pureed cooked beets (fresh is best but canned can be used) |

Melt together in the microwave until smooth. Add the vanilla and buttermilk and mix until homogenous. Add the cake flour and cocoa, mix until smooth. Heat for 60 seconds. I mean “shack.” No lunch or dinner on Sunday; no lunch Sunday. Inexpensive. — E.R.
What the Chef Eats

with hands to incorporate the cocoa powder and flour to an even-colored mix. Add the tablespoon of cider vinegar to the buttermilk.

On the lowest speed of the mixer, add the flour and the buttermilk-vinegar mixture to the batter alternatively as follows: 1/3 of the flour, then 1/3 of the buttermilk, 1/3 of the flour, 1/3 of the buttermilk, and then the remaining flour. Mix to incorporate. Add the beet puree and mix to incorporate.

Divide the batter between the cake pans. Bake at 350° until a toothpick comes clean out of the center. Cool for 10 minutes and then flip onto parchment-lined plates to cool completely. If they are not going to be assembled into a cake, wrap with plastic. Frost when cool.

C R E A M C H E E S E F R O S T I N G
2 lbs cream cheese
2 lbs unsalted butter
1 tsp powdered sugar
1 tsp vanilla extract
1 tsp kohlrabi salt

Let the cream cheese and butter come to room temperature. Place all ingredients in a mixer with whisk attachment. Start on low speed to incorporate the powdered sugar. Turn to high speed and whip for 1 to 3 minutes until the frosting takes on a slightly pearl-like sheen. If too soft to frost cake with, let chill for 20 minutes. Chill the two cakes. Place the first layer on a cake stand. Spread about a 1/4-inch layer of frosting evenly over the surface. Place in refrigerator or freezer for 20 minutes to harden the frosting slightly. Place the second cake top on and evenly frost the entire thing.

The cake needs to be served at room temp, but the frosting will sag if it’s warm!

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

Prepared with care, e.g., halibut in a lush, saucy Frangelico-touched macadamia brown butter. A chocolate shell filled with macadamia-nut ice cream may be worth the calories, too. Full bar. Reservations advised. Lunch (with limited breakfast) Monday through Saturday; brunch Sunday. Dinner nightly. Expensive — N.W.

E A S T C O U N T Y

Barnes Bar-B-Que
2625 Lemon Grove Avenue, La Mesa, 619-462-9206. Clayton Dave’s signs it as “Let Us Bung The Souths Ya Mouth.” You can tell this is the real deal from the two heavy iron doors in the brick wall behind the counter and the big wood fires burning oak inside. This is Memphis-style soul food, mild and mouth-watering — and cheap. Expect dollar portions of roasted chicken or pork, neck bones and cabbage, to country yams, corn on the cob, and corn bread. Other lip-smacking dishes include chopped beef brisket sandwich, pork rib or shoulder, beef ribs, red snapper, and hot links or lunch — all with two sides and bread. Oh yes, they also serve catfish sandwiches and sweet potato tarts. Or you could just stand outside and smell the smoke. Open Monday through Sunday. Lunch and dinner. Inexpensive — E.B.

Jimmy’s — Mission Gorge
863 Mission Gorge Road, San Diego, 619-596-8994. We’re in the end of the line here, the trolley’s Orange Line. Feel like a tourist? You walk back through the grass to the streets of San Diego. Thank goodness for this family-friendly restaurant with good, old-fashioned American food. Their six-page plastic menu tells all — the short, the sweet and the spicy. The primer for your day is in the break-fast “Eggs and Cakes” (two eggs, two pancakes), the “Touchdowns” (two eggs, two hotcakes, four strips of bacon or three link sausages), or the “Monte Cristo” hot sandwich (bacon, turkey, ham, and brie with toasted Texas toast with Swiss cheese, hot sauce, and French fries). Later in the day, the New York strip or sirloin steak with all the trimmings, and desserts like homemade cinnamon bread pudding with raisins and whipped cream. Open three meals, seven days. Inexpensive — N.W.

Los Michoacanos
8001 Mission Gorge Road, San Dieguito, 619-449-9332. You get a lot for a little here. Order one really cheap chili potato taco from Luis Gabriel, the owner, and you get the full treatment of tortilla chips and salsa beforehand. Then out come the hot, crisp-shelled tacos, busting with shredded lettuce, two cheeses, and, inside, the most scumptious-sounding potatoes. It may be why cheap, but it’s no mean feat. Other good Mexican dishes here include the chorizo tacos or the grand garlic shrimp combo. Added bonus: The place is new, bright, red and yellow, and sports a terrace looking out across the valley. Open seven days, three meals. Inexpensive — E.B.

The Omelette Factory
7941 Mission Gorge Road, San Diego, 619-396-9060. The Factory sits in the kind of stand-alone building you expect to see in a country town: long, angled roof with a portico dressing up the basic shed structure behind it. It’s a great sprawling space that’s ideal to bring the kids for a big breakfast. You can’t beat their omletes, all 19 of them, from the Just Say Cheese (with Swiss, Jack, Cheddar, or American) to the magnificent Factory Omelette (a build-your-own: up to four meats, veggies, or cheeses). A Greek family has turned this location outside Santee from an abandoned social hall into a regular pit stop for half the community, it seems. For lunch, try the Factory Burger. It has two hamburger patties plus gooey cheese, two cheeses, and onions. Breakfast and lunch, seven days. Inexpensive — E.B.

Ramon’s Smokehouse BBQ
1730 Alpine Boulevard, Suite 110, Alpine, 619-445-1008. The smell of mesquite wood burning under fresh-cut beef is beyond resistance. The scent Texas recipe dishes crosses. Go Sunday morning, especially when chef Harold Aprons dance around the pit-grilling fire, disparring into the clouds of fragrant smoke to flap the racks of beef and pork ribs. In good weather you can cut out back next day to an authentic chuck wagon. Inexpensive. — E.B.

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Nigiri Sushi:
Albacore; Arame; Avocado; Crab; Eel; Egg; Inari; Hamachi; Ikura; Saba; Smelt Egg; Octopus; Oyster; Salmon; Scallop; Shrimp; Smoked Salmon; Squid; Tuna; Uni; Red Snapper

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

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

8657 Villa La Jolla Dr., Suite 125 La Jolla • 858-550-0861
(near AMC 12 Theatres)
Blinded by the Light

The racial issues feel tacked-on rather than built-in.

Here’s another bucketful. Blindness. Serious-minded science fiction, allegorical as you like, about an epidemic of “the white sickness,” a new form of sightlessness that plunges the sufferer into blinding light instead of traditional darkness. We experience this from the point of view, so to speak, of several dozen people left to their own devices in pigpen quarantine, so that we have little idea how widespread the problem is — the population in quarantine hardly seems unmanageable — and no idea of developments and discussions in the outside world. Within this hermitage, factions form, oppressors emerge, war erupts. (Lapse in serious-mindedness: the chief oppressor, the possessor of the lone gun, breaks out in a Stevie Wonder song. It could as well have been a Ray Charles or a Jose Feliciano.) One of the shut-aways, known only to her infected ophthalmologist husband whom she has refused to abandon, remains unaccountably immune to the disease, setting her up in the future as literally “a leader of vision.” This is Julianne Moore, practically the queen of serious-minded science fiction, with Children of Men, The Forgotten, and Safe to show for it. (Not so much Next, Evolution, or The Lost World: Jurassic Park.) The arty photography indulges in a lot of white-out effects to convey subjectively the sensation of “swimming in milk.” But even in its straightforward narrative duties, even before the first onset of the disease, it has a quality of overexposure that erases color and detail. We might have been disposed to interpret this as a critique of trendy cinematography — a cinematic epidemic of partial blindness — if director Fernando Meirelles hadn’t favored it in other contexts: City of God and The Constant Gardener. And the storytelling has a slow-going, groping, bumbling manner that suggests, if not quite blindness, at least a lack of focus and precision, an inability to hit a nail on the head. The seriousness of the situation, particularly the squalor of the living conditions, is clear enough. The drama of it is blurred.

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To enter, visit the Reader website at www.sdreader.com and click on “contests.”

Deadline to enter is Friday, October 3, at 1:00 pm. Limit one entry per person. No purchase necessary.

In theaters October 10
An American Carol — Politicalized update of Dickens’ Christmas Carol, starring Kevin Spacey, directed by David Zucker. (CHULA VISTA 12; ESCONDIDO 16; HUNTING PLAZA 14; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 10/3)

Appaloosa — Reviewed next issue. With Ed Harris, Viggo Mortensen, Renée Zellweger, and Jeremy Irons; directed by Hart. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALSAMP 16; GROSSMINT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JUNIO 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 10/3)

Battle in Seattle — Stuart Townsend’s docudrama on protests against the World Trade Organization, with Andre Benjamin, Woody Harrelson, Charlize Theron, Ray Liotta. (GALSAMP 15; FROM 10/3)

Beverly Hills Chihuahua — Canine comedy, directed by Raja Gosnell, with the voices of Drew Barrymore, Andy Garcia, George Lopez, Church Marin, Paul Reubens, and Latin superstars George Lopez, Cheech Marin, Paul Rodriguez, Kevin Farley, directed by David Zucker. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALSAMP 16; GROSSMINT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JUNIO 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 10/3)

Burn After Reading — The Coen brothers revisit their favorite50s and 60s themes. Ending with a post-apocalyptic story of a CIA, bringing with her a touch of naturalness and, by way of The Bridges of Madison County, a flood of positive associations. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALSAMP 16; GROSSMINT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JUNIO 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 10/3)

Children of Men — In an artistic criterion, he might have enjoyed the cinematography as a work of art. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALSAMP 16; GROSSMINT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JUNIO 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 10/3)

Hilary Chardiet — A comedic film about a secondhand store owner with a passion for collecting antiques, who finds himself running a barbershop in Little Italy. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALSAMP 16; GROSSMINT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JUNIO 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 10/3)

The Lucky Ones — Contrived road movie wherein three wounded vets from the Iraq War, strangers to one another stranded at a shut-down airport, drive westbound in a rental car: a latter-generation The Best Years of Our Lives, better thought of as Our Lives (2007). (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALSAMP 16; GROSSMINT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JUNIO 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 10/3)

Blindness — Reviewed this issue. With Julianne Moore, Mark Ruffalo, Gael García Bernal, Alice Braga, and Danny Glover; directed by Fernando Meirelles. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GALSAMP 16; GROSSMINT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JUNIO 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 10/3)

When I was counting up the looms… well, hell. When I was counting up the looms… well, hell. When I was counting up the looms… well, hell. When I was counting up the looms… well, hell.
Blindness

FROM FERNANDO MEIRELLES THE ACCLAIMED DIRECTOR OF THE CONSTANT GARDENER AND CITY OF GOD

THE DARK KNIGHT
A SAGA FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "AIRPLANE!"

BY ROBERT CARY

THE FILM IS A TRIUMPH!

"Staged With Stunning Passion and Skill." - Owen Gleiberman, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

ANDRE BENJAMIN JENNIFER CARPENTER WOOD/HARRISON MARTIN HENDERSON PAYLIOTTA CONNIE NIELSEN MICHELLE RODRIGUEZ CHANNING TATUM CHARLIZE THERON

A NEW AMERICAN COMEDY FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "AIRPLANE!" AND "THE NAKED GUN"

LAUGH LIKE YOUR COUNTRY DEPENDS ON IT!

AN AMERICAN CAROL

THE WHOLE WORLD IS WATCHING

www.blindness-thefilm.com

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Valley 18; Grossmont Center 13; Mission Marketplace 13; Mission Valley 20; Otay Ranch 12; Palm Promenade 24; Parkway Plaza 18; Plaza Bonita 14; Poway 10; Rancho Del Rey 16; Rancho San Diego 15; River Village 13; San Marcos 18; Santee Drive In; Town Square 14; Vista Village)

**Elegy** — An aging but actively tomatting Columbia professor develops an erotic obsession with a “thirty-odd-year” younger Cuban student, who, in his eyes, resembles Goya’s Maja. (Penelope Cruz, the student, actually played Goya’s Maja in Volaverunt, and here repeats the desnuda pose.) Isabel Coixet’s rendition of the Philip Roth novel, The Dying Animal, is slow, pensive, adult, and cultured, if a bit overdependent on facile avenues of expression: first-person voice-over and classical mood music from Satie and Pärt (yes, “Spiegel im Spiegel” again, for at least the seventh time in the decade). Ben Kingsley, even apart from the polished dome, is well able to impersonate an egghead. With Patricia Clarkson, Dennis Hopper, Peter Sarsgaard. 2008.

★★

**Flash of Genius** — Greg Kinnear as the inventor of the intermittent windshield wiper, suing the auto corporations for stealing his idea; directed by Marc Abraham.

(Carmel Mountain; Fashion Valley 18; Flower Hill 4; Gaslamp 15; Grossmont Center; La Jolla 12; Mission Marketplace 13; Mission Valley 20; Otay Ranch 12; Palm Promenade 24; Poway 10; Town Square 14; From 10/3)

**Flow: For Love of Water** — Alarm-sounding documentary by Irena Salina on the world’s dwindling supply of clean water, the pollution of it with toxins and the privatization of it for profit. Hard lessons taught by talking heads in a fuzzy digital image. And among its many musical manipulations, the film hops onto the “Spiegel im Spiegel” bandwagon, helping to make Arvo Pärt a household name. 2008.

★

**Fly Me to the Moon** — Badly drawn houseflies (general conformation and consistency of troll dolls) stow away aboard Apollo 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. 2008.

●

**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
An all out fun experience that will make you fall in love with the magic of movies.

-A WILD, COMING OF AGE COMEDY REMINISCENT OF THE EARLY JOHN HUGHES FILMS-

-A WILD, COMING OF AGE COMEDY REMINISCENT OF THE EARLY JOHN HUGHES FILMS-

-NICK & NORAH'S INFINITE PLAYLIST-

[NICK & NORAH'S INFINITE PLAYLIST]
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to be, unknown to her mother, has invited the three men who are sole candidates to be her biological father. (All three prove to be remarkably uncouth and acquisition-oriented.)

But that's mere prelude for the players at short intervals to warble tunes from 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 threat looks as if he's about to explode), although no apologies need be made for Meryl Streep, who, besides her lusty belting, supplies her usual emotion plumbing with some puffy physicality.

d) that the natural settings, clearly, brightly, plausibly photographed, seem to temper the intensecamp.

To get down to a couple of specifics, the "Super Trupei" number on the eve of the wedding is a definite high point, and despite the shortage of competi-
tion for high points, the closing credits are well worth hanging on, providing two higher points in the form of encors —

twin peaks, if you please — with Streep and her bosom buddies (the blissfully convicted Christine Baranski and the incomparably puckish Julie Walters) tripping off the coast and onto a secluded concert stage, in disco-era Vegas costumes. With Amanda Seyfried, Colin Firth, Stellan Skarsgard, and Dominic Cooper. 2008.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ CARMEL MOUNTAIN

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 laminabond stunt undertaken in 1974 by the Frenchman Philippe Petit, walking a tightrope 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 con-
struction, and in the clack-and-dagger plotting and execution of the covert ass-
ault on the Towers. One still photo of the wirewaker poised in mid-air even captures an aerial jet — at a safe clearance — in the same frame. Because so much of the film consists of present-day talking heads (interviews with black-and-white re-
enactments and authentic archive footage), there's something a bit coy about the omis-
sion. 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 un-
reproachable, 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 (sur-
reptitiously ripping a page out of a maga-

zine at the dentist's office), then it would be only natural to solicit from him something in the way of an elegy. The documentary's function as a capper thriller, meanwhile, is on balance a success. The narrative infor-
mation doesn't always come in the best or-

dest or finest 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, baffle the mind.

And although the unimpeded history, along with the manifest survival of the talking heads, would seem to pull down a ceiling on the suspense, anyone with the slightest touch of schmuphasia will not, the climax, be able to keep palms dry. 2008.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ (LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

Miracle at St. Anna — Reviewed this is-

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Miracle at St. Anna — Reviewed this is-

dion with Mr. Peck on the motor scooter.

When I was excited to see Helen Hunt make her directing debut with Then She Found Me, adding one more woman filmmaker to Hollywood — one step forward! The movie is made in its last 30 seconds.

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BANDEIREADER.COM

Calendar

Tropic Thunder — Major-studio satire on a major-studio Vietnam War epic. The slipshod plotting, the wilted misinformation about how movies are made, and the pandering to the groundlings do not close off all avenues of inspiration. Four fake trailers at the top of the movie, introducing the motley cast of the movie-within-the-movie, give a hint of the allowable latitude. The ones of the over-the-hill action star (Ben Stiller, the movie’s director and co-writer besides), the gross-out comedian (Jack Black), and the hip-hop gangsta (Brandon T. Jackson) are but a tepid warm-up to the topper, the one of the multiple-Oscar-winning thespian from Down Under (Robert Downey, Jr.), a minstrelsy love story called Saint’s Alley, a tone poem piece aimed at the art circuit: the narrator’s clipped phrases, pregnant pauses, and portentous tones are dead-on. Downey dominates the action in the Vietnam jungle as well, his character having undergone a “controversial reclamation alteration” to play an African-American foot soldier, emphatically putting the grunt in the grunt. (If nothing else, the raging megalomania serves as a full-cover mask for the actor’s chronic overacting. Similarly, the gut-spooling, blood-squirting gore in the movie — at least the gore in the movie-within-the-movie — is made more palatable by the satire. Through it, you can have a retrospective laugh at the pretensions and picnics of Apocalypse Now, Platoon, Rambo, Saving Private Ryan, what you will. With Steve Coogan, Danny McBride, Matthew McConaughy. 2008.

The Lucky Ones

User Reviews — MOVIES

Best user comments from Reader website

Nights in Rodanthe 2008

Nights in Rodanthe was an interesting movie, touching at times, with an interesting storyline but not strong. What caught most people was the ending. But to me it was the same old thing, without going into details. To me it was obvious what was going to happen. I would prefer a new twist instead of what I thought was going to happen. Didn’t bring tears to these eyes. You be the judge. Richard Gere and Diane Lane did a good job with a few scenes that didn’t make any sense. I pretty much agree with Duncan on this one. What really got me was the fact that in the filled theater, most people had tears flowing in the end, which amazed me. By richind 9:54 p.m., Sept 24, 2008

The Women 2008

I was skeptical at first, as the reviews were mixed. I love the actresses, so I decided to spend my hard-earned money. Annette Bening was awesome, and I found myself laughing out loud. A lot of the movie was about rich women shopping and getting a manicure at whim. But I liked the story, as it was uplifting and mostly about friendships, good and bad. As a female, I think all women, young and old, should see this movie and decide for themselves. The final scenes were true to life, very funny, and I felt good as I left the theater. By bradley 1:40 p.m., Sept 26, 2008

Charlie Wilson’s War 2007

For those less bureaucratically adaptable types among us, who have “walked the walk” and understand it’s all done with a wink, this movie is an effron riot! Infants will be allowed to go to their rooms and watch something poingi, such as a Michael Moorean movie. By GeorgeM 8:20 p.m., Sept 28, 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.
From 1986 to 1988, the Oakland Athletics had back-to-back-to-back Rookies of the Year: Jose Canseco, Mark McGwire, and Walt Weiss. Under ex-lawyer Tony La Russa’s management, the team looked set for a generation.

On November 15, 1988, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act was signed into law. It prohibited the distribution, possession, and use of controlled substances in the workplace.

Ten years after the act was passed, McGwire hit 70 home runs for the St. Louis Cardinals. He bopped 58 the year before, and people began to wonder how. The umps made the strike zone tighter, he told reporters, and he saw better pitches. New, retro-look ballparks had smaller dimensions, and expansion teams had weak pitching staffs. Plus, he added, one in every four or five balls used in a game was probably “juiced” — i.e., tricked up to clear the fences and revitalize baseball’s sagging ratings.

Though he denied it, McGwire was also juiced. He’d been taking anabolic steroid injections for years. McGwire and Canseco, who got McGwire hooked, became the “Bash Brothers,” leading the A’s to victory in the 1989 World Series. And, hey (many rationalized at the time), if baseball could juice the ball to inflate a hitter’s stats, why shouldn’t players follow suit?

Itamar Moses’s Back Back Back traces a mini-history of the steroid scandal — without ever using the word. locker rooms and dugout steps, strewn with the hulls of sunflower seeds, become a world of euphemisms. Players take “pregame vitamins” and “blow up” their muscles. Raul (Canseco) and Kent (McGwire) debate whether or not to bring Adam (Weiss) into “it.” Anyone who doesn’t do it, they contend, plays “with a handicap.” And Weiss, a good-fielding, banana-hitting second baseman, could bulk up his earnings.

The three players chat, discuss, harangue. They hold press conferences (Kent even tells Adam how to do one well). The 100-minute, intermissionless play has nine scenes (each an inning), a seventh-inning stretch, and some after-game batting practice. Throughout, Raul, Kent, and Adam keep talking. Some of the dialogue is crisp jock-gab. One of the funniest bits: as Adam and Kent get reacquainted during a home-run derby, Barry “Mr. Juice” Bonds pounds ball after ball into the stratosphere.

But often the characters shrink. They become sides in a debate about steroid use (is it cheating or fulfilling one’s potential?). As in the TV show CSI, they explain things the others already know. Back Back Back covers all the steroid-use bases: sure, Bonds and the others have chemically induced statistics, and it is cheating, given the rules of the game. But where to draw the line? Should we ban from the hall of fame every pro athlete who ever took an upper or a “greenie”? That would thin them out. Moses could also tag the hypocrisy of sportswriters who wax sanctimonious about drug abuse. How many of them, on deadline, resort to controlled substances to enhance their performance?

The story’s got the potential for a Greek tragedy about fallen heroes in a hubris-breeding culture. And people unfamiliar with the specifics may see a tale of aspirations, betrayal, and the unimaginable pressures to play baseball, day in and day out, like a god.

But for those who know the story, Back Back’s just a talky retelling of McGwire’s mammoth denial and Canseco’s rat-finking in two books, Juiced and Vindicated (in the latter, he says all athletes should bulk up). And neither McGwire nor...
Canseco is anywhere as verbal as Kent or Saul.

The story might be more effective if Moses freed it from the players’ biographies and actual historical events. He would have to do less explaining (backstory clogs the script). And he could open up the play’s confined structure and demythologize on a mythical level. What comes through most of all: Moses’s profound wrestling with his identity: the boy who could do less explaining (backstory clogs the script). And he could open up the play’s confined structure and demythologize on a mythical level. What comes through most of all: Moses’s profound wrestling with his identity.

The Old Globe Theatre stages the world premiere of Itamar Moses’ seriocomedy about steroid use in sports. Davis McCallum directed.

The Old Globe Theatre stages the world premiere of Itamar Moses’ seriocomedy about steroid use in sports. Davis McCallum directed.
with almost universal application these days — unfolds like an anti-
Law and Order. Humpty Dumpty fell. The question becomes: when did
the fissures start? The Iraq War? 9/11? Or back in the boys’ and
men’s presidential race? Until she says she’s a lesbian? Or until she says she’s
liberal and convincing misogyny.
LaBute fires his salvos. Ryan Ross
delivers a snappy performance as
a touch nervous and you drop ‘em
in nice clothes.” And “all they really
are just “baby boys who run around
gets the comeback. Men, she says,
“are just so much more. We’re not
like they were old protégés.” As jilted
lesbian, a smoldering Jenna Dawsey
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The Light in the Piazza

1987, she directed it through Luce's and shed no tear after JFK's death (she often called him a "commie"). And she was no feminist, revisionism to the contrary. When Amazon's Bogart staged The Women at the Rep in 1989, she directed it through Lucie's eyes, fang first (in rehearsals), she encouraged actors to steal each other's characters. For the Globe, Darko Tresnjak's version much balanced. The upper-class Manhattanite—still gossip and connive, but no longer. And looking glamorous trumps everything (this is, first and foremost, a style show, and the style smooths everything (this is, first and foremost, a style show, and the style smooths everything (this is, first and foremost, a style show, and the style smooths everything (this is, first and foremost, a style show, and the style smooths ever-
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- **Bluff**
  - p.82 business out it should be business out of it
- **City Lights**
  - p.10 eat fee should be eat fee,
  - Karen Guarnotta (San Diego) $20
  - p.78 lady Harrison should be Lou Harrison
  - p.78 Sonya Olivas perform should be Sonya Olivas performs

**Linda Cox (San Diego) $40**

- **Something to Remember**
  - p.52 I was talking should I was being talking
  - Clyde Christie (San Diego) $10

**Music listings**

- p.100 Sole & the Skyband should be Sole & the Skyband
- p.149 Puzzle results should be Puzahs
- p.90 The Average White Band should be Average White Band

**Brian Slipper (San Diego) "XL" or "XL shirt & cash" (sorry, Brian, only M & L shirts available) $30**

### Last Call

- p.42 two note, one note should be two note, one note
- **Something to Remember**
  - p.46 tow-headed should be tow-headed
  - p.47 story books should be storybooks

### Massage

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The Reader Puzzle:

Rules of the Game:
1) Each week, we're printing a list of everyone who submits the correct answers to the previous week's puzzle. See this week's contenders below.
2) When you successfully complete a puzzle, you will also print a brief (no more than 10 words) or less) message that you've entered in the spaces provided.
3) We're keeping track of how many entries we receive each week. The entry that is chosen randomly will be the winner. It will be: a) a $15 pizza at Pizza Hut, OR b) $25 to the Reader's T-shirts fund, OR c) both.
4) Entries must be faxed to 619-231-0489 or mailed to Reader's Puzzles, PO Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92138-5803, or delivered through our mail slot at 703 India Street in Little Italy.
5) What now we've going away Reader's Puzzles, each week to contenders chosen randomly! Now for the really small print: All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
6) Entries that arrive after the deadline will not be considered.
7) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
8) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

Across:
1. Bad start?
4. Hits hard
10. Architect Mies van der
14. "little teapot..."
15. Sci-fi author Le Guin
16. "I'm going for the lucky 13!"
18. Caught, in a way
20. "The white zone is never this big, people."
22. Andean capital
23. That is, to Caesar for loading and unloading only.
26. Buries
28. Prime minister of the United Kingdom (2010-)
31. Old: Fr.
34. Stops repressing
36. Oaf
37. "All the way from San Diego!"
39. Old Milano moolah
40. Graze
43. "Borrow money from pessimists; they don't expect it back."
44. Cassidy atop Topper
46. Germany's Adenauer
48. Cassidy atop Topper
50. "Will you look at that!"
51. Pele's first name
52. Paves the way?
53. Padle
55. Big Idol
57. QB stats
58. Popular BBQ dish (its name is represented by the circled letters in 17-, 25-, and 46-Across)
59. Whats with all these people from Santee?
60. ____ Spiegel magazine
66. QB stats

Down:
1. Point in the wrong direction
2. Actress Bynes
3. Cosmetician Este
4. Deli sandwich
5. TV character who talked to Wilbur Post
6. Cruise stop
7. National flower of the Netherlands
8. "Do Ya" rock grp
9. Tool with teeth
10. Fix, as a pool cue
11. Working vacation, e.g.
12. Scolding
13. Come, Phillips
14. Caught, in a way
15. Spice
16. Final
17. That is, to Caesar for loading and unloading only.
18. Caught, in a way
19. That is, to Caesar for loading and unloading only.
20. Cost an arm ____ leg
21. "The moon is made of America, my dear!"
22. Andean capital
23. That is, to Caesar for loading and unloading only.
24. VCR insert
25. "It's not what you say. It's what they hear."
26. Buries
27. Daily that ran the story the previous week!
28. Prime minister of the United Kingdom (2010-)
29. Veal
30. Emmy-winning scientist
31. Old: Fr.
32. Emmy-winning scientist
34. Stops repressing
35. Droop
36. Oaf
37. "All the way from San Diego!"
38. They might be seen by a surfer
39. Old Milano moolah
40. They follow sliding scales
41. Team building?
42. "Will you look at that!"
43. TV actress Sofer
44. Big Idol
45. Germany's Adenauer
46. Germany's Adenauer
47. They have sliding scales
48. Cassidy atop Topper
49. Team building?
50. "Will you look at that!"
51. Pele's first name
52. Paves the way?
53. Padle
54. QB stats
55. Big Idol
56. John McCain's alma mater, briefly
57. QB stats
58. Popular BBQ dish (its name is represented by the circled letters in 17-, 25-, and 46-Across)
59. Whats with all these people from Santee?
60. ____ Spiegel magazine
61. Gimped
62. Connected, in a way
63. "Norma..."
64. Bear in constellation
65. It's lacking in a woman who asks Elton John out on a date
66. QB stats

This week's contenders:
- Lillian Wagner, Clairemont, 16.
- Susan Morley, Little Italy, 14.
- Dale Duffala, La Jolla, 14.
- Jay Newington, Balboa Park, 13.
- Anna McCutcheon, Downey, 13.
- Ben Espe, Mission Valley, 11.
- Jeff Smith, University City, 10.
- Craig Rudge, North Park, 10.
- Mary Johnson, Del Mar, 11.
- Chuck-Bob, Mira Mesa, 9.
- Michelle Wu, Ocean Beach, 9.
- Tim Clayton, Los Peñasquitos, 8.
- Mary Arana, Encinitas, 10.
- Laurence Altobell III, Carmel Valley, 9.
- Jeff Smith, University City, 10.
- Mike Adkins, Ramona, 9.
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- Mike Adkins, Ramona, 9.
I have never had a black guy. Oh, did you say black eye? When I was around 11, my best friend Lance tried to beat me in the head with a football while I was on my bike. I jumped off the bike and got hit in the face. He asked me if I wanted to fight. He immediately punched me in the eye. I couldn’t believe it. Then he said he didn’t want to fight me and ran off. I didn’t really get a black eye. It was sort of a grey eye for a day. Now, I wear a helmet most of the time for protection.

I have to be careful because it’s a lady before her points to woman with him. No one was at bed, and she pulled me by the neck, and it slammed my eye on the headboard. I was holding myself up with one hand and another hand covering my eye. When I got out of bed, blood flowed out. I needed nine stitches. I told the doctor the story and he laughed. And he said he brought other doctors in to see the eye, and they’d all leave the room laughing. The next day was a big family party for Easter. I wore sunglasses.

I used to work out three or four hours a day I did Karate. And I had been in some fights as bare but usually not. But a time in T.I., my cousin knocked over someone’s beer. I went over and was apologizing, telling them we’d buy another beer. As I was out of bed, blood washed out. I noticed nine stitches. I told the doctor the story and he laughed. And he said he brought other doctors in to see the eye, and they’d all leave the room laughing. The next day was a big family party for Easter. I wore sunglasses.

I wasn’t really a black eye but a burned eye. I was seven, and my parents combined my birthday with my two sisters’ because they were cheap. It was a pizza place, and I saw Mickey Mouse on the big screen. I ran toward the screen, turning around fast and right into the ignite in my dad’s hand. I was rushed to the hospital. I stung so bad when they put drops in my eye. I came home, and someone said I looked like a pirate. I started crying. My mom showed me a big piece of cake she had saved me. The next month I went to get it, and there was just a plate full of crumbs.

I was boxing once, working out on a bag, and my glove slipped and I hit myself in the face. I was sure it would puff up and turn black. That didn’t give me a black eye, though. There was a time when I was younger and there was a lot of alcohol involved. I think I fell into a door-knob. I guess it could’ve been something else my head hit as I passed out on my way down to the ground. I can’t remember the details, though.
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Matt has been surfing since he was seven years old. He grew up in Hawaii, where his father was a board shaper. After his family moved to San Diego in 1989, Matt began competing at the junior level. The one thing he dislikes about local surf culture is the aggressive attitudes.

"San Diego has got to be the rudest surf city I’ve ever seen. Don’t get me wrong — places like Dog Beach are great; it’s a cool community and the people are chill. But the entitlement of the kids around the bigger beaches is astounding — they act like they invented water…."

In December of last year I decided to head out to Swami’s for the morning surf. I knew it would be big and I was excited to challenge myself. When I got there it was so packed that I couldn’t even get into the water without bumping into other people — it was kind of gross. So decided to wait on the sand to see if it would clear out. I pulled out a book and it was kind of gross. So I decided to wait on the sand.

"I was shocked that someone wanted to fight me just sitting on the sand. Two guys came up to me and I said ‘what’s your problem?’ and then the fight started…."

So I decided to head back to the car. I look back and I see a hundred people out there already. It was so many people that I had to get in the truck in order to get out of the parking lot.
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$825. 1 bedroom cottage. Walk to Tourmaline Beach.
by Chuck Shepherd

**LEAD STORY**

— The two states whose electoral votes decided the presidential race in 2000 (Florida and Ohio) are provoking anxiety this time around, also. In Palm Beach County, Fla. (home of the "butterfly ballot" in 2000), 3478 of the local voting votes disappeared between primary-night counting on Aug. 26 and the official recount a few days later (flipping the outcome of at least one race). Also in August, Ohio officials claimed that they had fixed a software-tabulating error in Premier Election Systems machines used in some counties (but, according to a spokesperson for Premier, a company formerly known as Diebold, that error had been present for the last ten years). Also in August, the Ohio secretary of state ordered election officials to end the practice of taking voting machines home at night during election season “for safekeeping,” even though such “sleepovers” had been encouraged in order to protect the machines from tampering.

— The New York Post spotted several Manhattan businesses that tried to appeal to nudists this summer with special events. Among the most challenging were John Ordovery’s monthly dinners at selected restaurants (such as the Mercantile Grill), where about 50 diners eat and drink naked (served by the restaurant’s regular, clothed staff), and the Naked Comedy Showcase at People’s Improv Theater in the Chelsea district, where once a month, naked comedians perform (and a section in the audience is reserved for naked patrons).

**Weird Science**

— In July, microbiologists writing in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences reported that the Malaysian pen-tailed tree shrew diet consists of fermented palm nectar that is roughly the equivalent of 100 percent beer. “They seem to have developed some type of mechanism to deal with that high level of alcohol and not get drunk,” according to one researcher, who hoped further study could help with human alcoholics of the condition. Intuitive: Among the photo exhibits at New York City’s Museum of Sex in July was the display of the genitalia of the spotted benna, which was described by Bloomberg News “[b]oth the male and female have penises. The female, it turns out, has a scrotal sack, too. For reproductive purposes, the male transfers his sperm through the female’s penis, which doubles as her clitoris.” Other exhibits included “Gay Dolphin Blow-Hole Sex” and a “Deer Threserries,” featuring “Bambi” with two nurses. Said the museum’s director, the exhibit simply commemorates for museums’ traditional animal exhibits in which depictions of genitalia are suppressed.

**Leading Economic Indicators**

— Some dermatologists have created significant divides between their “medical” patients (acne, cancer) and their beauty-treatment patients (plastic surgery, botox), with the latter offered luxurious waiting rooms, frequent telephone contacts and more personalized of treatment. One doctor told the New York Times in July, “You have to class it up for those patients” who pay their own way and with minimal paperwork. Besides, said another, “If you do an extreme makeover on someone, you are a hero.”

— In July Newsweek review of “faith-based” mutual funds (which managers invest in companies whose work does not offend their particular spiritual values), big-short-term losers included one Menomonie fund emphasizing pacifism (eschewing high-performing military and energy stocks), but big winners lately were Islamic funds. Not only do they screen out the sin (tobacco, alcohol) and sellers of pork products, but they avoid financial services stock (based on the Quran’s prohibition about borrowing or lending if interest is charged) and thus were unaffected by the initial mortgage-market meltdown.

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 or to WeirdNewsTips@yahoo.com

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The Cake Fell

In the summer of 2001, shortly after graduating with a master’s in politics, I landed a one-year internship with the Congressional Hunger Center to study poverty and food banks in Phoenix, Arizona. I was young, idealistic, and wanted to save the world.

Although I was earning close to nothing, the fellowship did provide rent-free living in a swanky furnished two-bedroom apartment near Scottsdale. I arrived at the apartment a few days after my roommate and immediately noticed that she had taken it upon herself to claim the master bedroom and the majority of the shared space. The coffee table in the living room was decorated with personal photo albums. When I finally met her — Marisa — she offered no apologies and no excuses, just a blank look on her face.

The girl and I never hit it off. She suggested that we carpool together to the food bank but never volunteered her vehicle. I dropped the carpool after a couple of weeks. Although constantly bragging about what a lavish upper-class upbringing she had had in Chicago, she lived as miserably as possible.

The first couple of weeks I took the trash out several times before realizing that she never did. I stopped taking the trash out. The trash piled up, doubling the size of the trash bins in the bathroom and the kitchen. I think the only thing I liked about her was her long, beautiful, silky hair — however, it shed in the shower and would clog the drain. She never bothered removing the hair from the drain, either. My options were to stand in inches of tub water while showering or remove disgusting gobs of mildewy hair from the drain.

One Friday afternoon I set out to

Roommate From Hell

by DAWN BERNIER | SOLANA BEACH

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to meet my boyfriend from San Diego in Yuma. Before even exiting the parking lot, I realized that I had forgotten something — I urinated back to the apartment. There was Marisa, angrily mashing a chocolate cake that I had made a couple of days prior down the garbage disposal.

“What the hell are you doing?” I said. She, without skipping a beat, and with that blank look on her face, said only one thing: “The cake fell!”

The straw that broke the camel’s back was when I ordered a bottle of perfume online. I received an email notification that the perfume had been delivered and signed for at the apartment-rental office. I dropped by and was informed that the package had been signed for and picked up by my roommate. When I questioned Marisa about the package, she adopted that blank look and said, “I did pick up a package, but it was a birthday gift from my boyfriend.”

But I had proof that the perfume had been delivered and signed for! I accused her of stealing it. She denied everything, saying only that the package she had picked up was one from her boyfriend. I told her that I would believe her if she could come up with proof that her boyfriend had indeed sent her a package. Of course she could not. What is to do?

While at work the next day I decided to go back to the apartment at lunch to search her belongings. Marisa was never home for lunch. As I was entering the front door of the apartment I realized that someone was right behind me. It’s Marisa! She ran into her room and then dashed right back out, past me and out of the apartment. My biggest regret is not tackling her down the stairs, retrieving the perfume that I know she had stashed on her.

I called the program directors of the Congressional Hunger Center and told them what had happened, sending them proof of the delivered perfume and my roommate’s thiefy. I requested that they relocate her to another site. They preferred that we mediate the situation. I opted for quitting and moving back to San Diego, but not before exacting my own revenge — I urinated into her bottle of shampoo.

I could have handled the situation better, but every time I think of her beautiful hair, I smile.

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KERNSY MESA, 7140 S. Check St. (11000 sq. ft.) 3290 Ashford Street, 92111. Approximately 463 square feet, nice layout. Parking, pool/spa, storage space. 858-571-1977.

LA JOLLA/UREA: Sunny, lovely 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with pool and jacuzzi. Monthly rental $1695. $15,000 down. APR only 5.9%. Call Agent, Elizabeth at 619-286-5813.

UNIVERSITY CITY, Apartments 1-4 bedroom, 2 bath, all car garage. Vauluted ceilings, tile style master bedroom. Wou, fridge, air conditioning. Wrap around patio. $490-1000. 619-861-0000.


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Miscellaneous

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FAMOUS FORMER NEIGHBORS

by Jay Allen Sanford ©2008

LAKESIDE

YUCA, ARIZONA
Fishing lake, great mountain views. $300 per week, $600 per month. Call 619-295-0385.

Vegetable gardens, 5 acres. Call 619-977-4777.

DEL MAR
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Thirty Years Ago
The lobby of the downtown library, normally not the scene of high drama, was the arena for some cops-and-robbers-style action last Wednesday at lunch time. When a young man (carrying a hidden copy of Jessica Miodford’s A Fine Old Conflict in his knapsack) triggered the alarm system at the exit and bolted through the front doors out to E Street, library personnel near the front desks rushed after him, caught him, and called four policemen to cart the miscreant off to the county jail.

Twenty Years Ago
We moved. We live in the South. My mother sends me to the beauty shop. The “beauty operator,” Selma, grasps my pigtails at the nape of my neck. Snips. Laughing, she holds the pigtails aloft, wakes women dozing in chairs under silver hair dryers, “I got these off, at the root.”
Are those women, dazed and pink, legs slightly apart, who I will become?
— THERE ARE NO SECRETS, Judith Moore, October 6, 1988

Fifteen Years Ago
The bow of the To Chong No. 212 looks like the nose of a fighter who should have quit sooner. An almost catastrophic dentist distorts the port stern. Above it, some 20 feet of deck rail curled in. Now, pinned between a 60-meter patrolboat and the Ensenada Naval Pier, she’s no longer a Mexico. Mexico officially seized the ship, its crew, and 254 undocumented Mexican passengers.
That was at 3:15 this morning. About two hours later the government did the same to the Long Sen, which lies with its nary escort at the far end of the pier. From a distance, the

Long Sen looks as though it offered its 169 would-be immigrants a more

infidelity, drinking, insensitivity, and all-around emotional numbness are primary re-

asons relationships dissolve, I was getting the other side of the story. My group included a man whose wife had left him after 22 years for a woman. She took off with her half of their “community” property and spousal support payments, although their three teenage children continued to live with him.
— WHAT DO WOMEN WANT? Fred Maramaro, October 2, 2003

To get an online version of this column, go to sедерe.com. You can print it, email it to friends, and get other columns and stories by these authors.
GOOD LORD, I NEED TO GET OUT OF THIS SLUM. While watching TV the other night, a knock came at my screen door.

“Does José live here?” the man said, pointing down to indicate he was inquiring about my apartment complex but not my specific apartment.

“What he looks like?”

“Short.” He held out his hand in an identical pose to that of a cartoon penguin indicating how tall a child must be to ride a rollercoaster.

I pointed across the courtyard. “Yeah. There.”

José had a job once, about a year ago. He was a day laborer, recruited from hardware-store parking lots. I’d see him after work, behind the apartment complex, on the tailgate of his truck. He was covered in tiny specks of flung-off paint, his hair matted down, his jeans dirty with mud. He always had a tarp full of cheap beer and his tattered boots taken off, sitting next to him in the bed of the truck — the working man’s pipe and slippers. Then there was more beer than working man. He stopped working, substituted drudgery for leisure, shrugged off opportunity for cold alcohol relaxation, all day and night. Soon his truck was gone and so too were his boots. Sitting in the empty spot his pickup formerly occupied he and three homeless friends yammered in loud Spanish and spilt their foamy beer across the oily concrete.

A parade of shady people, each taller than the last, stopped by José’s empty spot behind the complex. José stopped saying hello when I passed by, instead relying on a slurred joke: “I’m going to steal your truck today. I don’t have mine anymore. I’m stealing yours.” After which he’d howl at his own cleverness. His eyes grew glossy every day, eventually like frost covering a pond. Bicycles around the neighborhood disappeared, their chains and locks left in slack coils on the cement.

Then the stranger came and knocked on my door and asked for José. After I pointed to José's house, the unmistakable stains, crash of overturning furniture, and cried pleas of a debt-collection beating blared through José’s screen door and carried over to mine.

The lungs act as a drum when hard swift fists beat ribs.

The bags of his boots. Sitting in the empty spot his pickup formerly occupied he and three homeless friends yammered in loud Spanish and spilt their foamy beer across the oily concrete.

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5
PARIS HILTON’S MY NEW BF!!
10:00 P.M.
Cow tongues: Creepy. A cow tongue is wet, covered in the cow’s throw-up, and it pops out of their head at odd intervals. Nothing about that is pleasant. Unicorn tongues: not creepy. Unicorn tongues do not because they’re not wet. Unicorn tongues do not secrete saliva; instead they manufacture glitter and wishes. Unicorns also fart rainbows; therefore, their butts are not creepy.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6
LIFE
10:00 P.M.
Breastfeeding is creepy. Yes, yes, I’ve heard all of the “it’s nature” and “women’s rights, blah blah blah” arguments. Bottom line: creepy. I don’t need to see a special person eating something you made in your body. And that blanket over your shoulder is not feeling anyone; we all know what’s going on under there. GROSS AND CREEPY!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7
PRIVILEGED
9:00 P.M.
Home-schooled kids are creepy. They’re tiny, red-haired hermits who are smart and don’t trust people. I can’t relax when I’m around a home-schooled kid because I’m always waiting for his jaw to unhinge, swing open, and his poison-dripping fangs to sink into my ankle. Keep that damn, weird, little snake-child away from me. He’s creepin’ me out!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8
BONES
8:00 P.M.
Bla. I need to un-creep myself.
I’ve got all these creepy things dancing around in my head like spindly, bitty, sinewy sugarplums on the night before zombie Christmas, when zombie Santa’s boots crunch across the dried weeds and he opens his sack filled with antlers and cans of motor oil. Zombie Santa knows when you’re asleep, and he knows when you’re lying in bed wide-eyed, trying to not blink or breathe.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9
OUT OF THE WOODS
HALLMARK 9:00 P.M.
That didn’t help. What if I’m stuck like this? What things aren’t creepy? Beavers aren’t creepy. Sure, they could bite the livin’ snot out of you, but they’re not creepy. I think it’s their big teeth and that flat tail. I doubt the sincerity of all beavers and sincerity is probably the heart of creepiness. Beavers: not creepy. Ah, that’s better.
ENTERTAINMENT CENTER, Light oak, 2 piece, 2 CABINET FILES, 2-52x18, 1-30x18, 1-BOOKCASE, maple, 2 years old, great x23.5"d. Call Jena, 858-678-0333.


30x15, all $200. Call 858-270-2952.

MATTRESS $150. Gently used, from Mattress World in Hillcrest sells new beds at 858-272-7769.

$60, 858-272-4812.

$100. 619-260-8482.

Sheepskin coat, men's medium, good, $100. 619-665-3103.

19" TV. Excellent condition, works great, 619-461-1432.

PAINTING BY, Mary Sills, Chinese landscape, 6"x12," 1983. 619-461-0222.

PAINTING BY, Van Wyken, 3 statues in drawing, signed/title framed, $800, 619-449-1104.

PAINTING BY, Gary Bee, still life, 8"x10," signed, $100. 619-461-0222.

PAINTING BY, Tony, Landsacpe, 8x10," signed, $50. 619-461-0222.

PAINTING BY, Alfonso, 8x10," signed, $50. 619-461-0222.

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Only three months until Christmas! It’s enough to throw me into a panic now, weeks earlier in September. This gives rise to my thoughts this morning on drama. For one, have been surrounded by far too much of it in recent weeks. As a younger man I must have adored it, mistaking it no doubt for a lack of boredom. Nowadays it is no longer only dangerous, but well-heeded as I am with a few ounces of sterling silver pace-maker ready to send me into an electronic boogaloo if things get too interesting.

Families are a well-known minefield of explosive scenes, undoubtedly number one in that category. My friend Rick calls it "drama with a comma," implying, I suppose, a list to follow. And from a Puerto Rican family, he knows whereby he speaks. My 31-year-old son might be compared to an entire family of Puerto Ricans himself. No disrespect intended, only a certain awe. Italian families like mine? Forget about it.

I decided long ago that the only thing worth envying in anyone is peace of mind. I have tried to lower my expectations in this area, to stop reaching for the stars, as it were (The universe was born in drama and will likely go with a whimper, which is melodramatic, wouldn’t you say?), and settle for only a reasonable amount of histrionics from life. This, I soon find, is tantamount to waiting for the other shoe to drop. More precisely it is (as one psychiatrist defined anxiety to me) like walking down a journal path and knowing that a deadly snake will drop onto your head at some point but you never know when.

Last week’s column, a kind of birth drama, actually happened, of course. I could only write it with fictitious names to gain distance and traction on this surrealist and quicksilver bit of stage play I am forever darting in the wings of events. “Don’t bother trouble,” my mother used to say, and I am often reminded by a good friend. It is good advice, such as it is, but anticipating things going horribly wrong seems more and more sensible as one ages; and at the end of it, here is the Grim Reaper. If, like Deepak Chopra (someone I wish I could emulate more fully) you do not consider death as something going horribly wrong, then of course you have a huge advantage. You may now leave your seat, dismissing me as a Gloomy Gus, a pessimist.

In The Big Sleep, Humphrey Bogart says to Lauren Bacall, “I don’t mind a reasonable amount of trouble.” I thought this was a fine attitude for many years until I noticed the failure of that reasonable amount of trouble to show up. It’s always something with you, John, isn’t it?” Friends and relatives offer this refrain much too often, and I can hardly disagree. But I look around me, at others, and think to myself, You’re hardly Teflon yourself, pal. You’re a diabetic, an addict, a man with a cancer diagnosis, and your disease is incurable, the answer is because there is simply no way around it. I sometimes admire actors who have not only made peace with drama but embraced it. Like my brother, Dave. If he does not get an opportunity to exercise his craft, a dramatic situation is provided right there and quite probably with an appreciative audience. He always plays it with genteel aplomb, rolling with the punches and without long-suffering persecution...in fact, with a kind of weary nobility. But playing it, he is. Very well too, Dave.

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