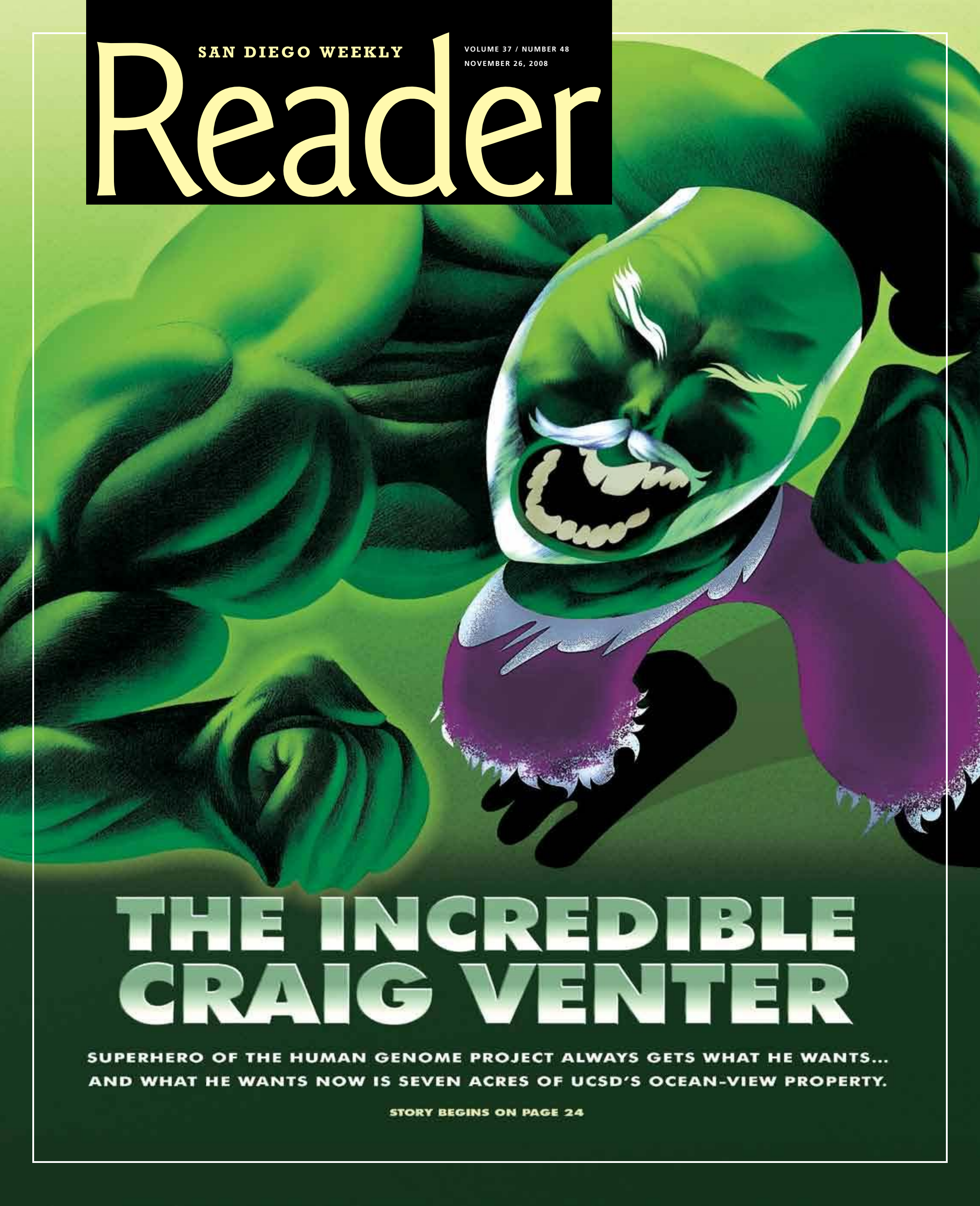


Reader

SAN DIEGO WEEKLY

VOLUME 37 / NUMBER 48

NOVEMBER 26, 2008



THE INCREDIBLE CRAIG VENTER

SUPERHERO OF THE HUMAN GENOME PROJECT ALWAYS GETS WHAT HE WANTS...
AND WHAT HE WANTS NOW IS SEVEN ACRES OF UCSD'S OCEAN-VIEW PROPERTY.

STORY BEGINS ON PAGE 24

NEWS & FEATURES

The Incredible Craig Venter

New life created on a bluff in La Jolla. By Matt Potter**24**

City Lights

The pols all love each other now, but be careful;
and Breaking News**6**

The healer takes the bus.....**7**

Letters**12**

Straight From the Hip

Beautification through pigs, and "I'm speechless"**14**

Sporting Box

We declare this day.....**16**

Sheep and Goats

No more down to hell, only up for Midway Baptist.....**18**

Best Buys

Charity begins right here.....**20**

Diary of a Diva

"Bibbity Bobbity Boo" makes me smile**22**

Can We Create New Life?

Genetic code from scratch. By Jonathan Parkinson**48**

To Tell You Something Beautiful Like Asphalt

El Cajon, like a sullen woman I once knew.
By Joshua Rhyme.....**58**

Off the Cuff.....**131**

Puzzle.....**132**

Surf Diego

When to duck dive.....**137**

Typo Patrol Results.....**138**

Reader Pop Quiz.....**140**

News of the Weird.....**145**

Back When

Unlucky in love? Try poker.....**147**

Remote Control King

A rubber duck and a ceramic cat on the lam**148**

T.G.I.F.

With thanks.....**151**

C A L E N D A R

Local Events

The arts and TJ's mysterious past**61**

Roam-O-Rama

See the borderlands from Blue Angels Peak.....**64**

What's That You're Reading?

Black Hawk Down by Mark Bowden.....**68**

Classical Music Guide**73**

Art Museum and Gallery Guide.....**73**

Pop Music

Blurt.....**74**

Club Crawler**80**

FM and about-town DJ Robin Roth.....**82**

Crasher

Dogs, planes, burgers, and a band**94**

Restaurant Reviews and Guide

Grazing simply at Illume.....**97**

When Kip's closes, Chen's Golden Palace appears**99**

Eavesdropping: Maurizio Zanella and Jeremy Parzen.....**100**

Movie Review and Guide

Duncan Shepherd sips *Milk*, contemplates *Twilight***108**

Theater Review and Guide

We see problems, Bill Schmidt sees potential**116**



Goth Robin Roth gabs about fitness and winter sports.

See page 82

A D V E R T I S I N G

Classified Ads

Antiques & Collectibles	149
Appliances	149
Automotive: Cars.....	150
Automotive: Trucks/Vans/SUVs	150
Automotive: RVs	151
Automotive: Parts.....	151
Bicycles	148
Business Opportunities	130
Career Training.....	124
Classes/Lessons	131
Computers	147
Counseling/Support	134
Electronics	149
Employment Services	124
Furniture	150
Garage Sales	149
Help Wanted.....	120
Massage	131
Miscellaneous For Sale	150
Motorcycles.....	150
Music, Equipment/Instruments	136
Music, Musicians Avail/Wanted.....	136
Music, Services.....	136
Natural Health & Fitness.....	131
Natural Health Directory	141
Notices.....	134
Parent Resources.....	134
Personals	136
Pet Central	142
Photo	147
Real Estate, Condos	146
Real Estate, Houses.....	146
Real Estate, Miscellaneous.....	146
Rentals, Commercial	137
Rentals, Apartments/Condos	138
Rentals, Houses.....	138
Roommates	136
Roommate Services	137
Services Directory	135
Sports.....	147
Stage Notes.....	134
Tickets	147
Travel & Getaways	136
Wanted/Trade.....	148
Wedding/Party Guide	134

Display Ads

Automotive	143
Career Training.....	124
Getaways	61
Great Escapes	62
Health and Beauty	35
Help Wanted.....	120
Instruction	131
Music.....	136
Rentals	26
Research Studies	27
Services.....	133
Singles Events.....	72
Wedding Guide.....	64

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The Alley

Daily, 5-7pm: \$2.25 domestic beers and well drinks. Free food.

Boar Cross'n

Fri.: \$1 Bud, Bud Light, and beer of the month from 8-10pm.

Coyote Bar and Grill

Mon.-Fri., 4-6pm: \$3 wells, beers, margaritas. \$3 off appetizers.

CHULA VISTA

Buon Giorno

Mon.-Fri., till 7pm: \$25 for 1 bottle wine choice.

El Dorado Seafood & Grill

Mon.-Fri., 4-7pm: \$2 margaritas, \$1 tacos.

Veni Vidi Vici

Mon.-Fri., 5-7pm: \$1 off any drink.

DOWNTOWN

Belo

Fri.-Sat.: \$5 U-Call-Its from 12:30 to 1:30am.

Deco's Restaurant & Nightclub

Wed.: \$5 appetinis & cosmos till 10:30pm. \$5 Jäger shots. \$5 beers. Thurs.: \$5 Jäger shots all night. \$5 appetinis and cosmos until 10:30pm. Fri.: drink specials all night. 2-for-1 bottles all night. \$3 beers and \$5 Jäger shots, appetinis, and cosmos.

East Village Tavern & Bowl

Mon.-Fri., 4-7pm: \$3 drafts, wells, wines, \$10 pitchers of Coors Light all night.

Hive Sushi Lounge

Daily, 5-7pm: large sake \$2.49, draft beer \$1.99 and add \$.99 for sake bomb.

House of Blues

Mon.-Fri., 4-7pm: \$2 pints, \$3 wells/wines, \$4 martinis, half off appetizers.

Patrick's II

Daily, 9am-7pm: \$3 wells, bottle beers, import bottles. \$5.25 tap beer.

Rock Bottom Brewery

Mon.-Fri., 4-7pm: \$3.50 pints, wells, house wines. Daily: RockStar energy drink specials all night.

Sevilla

Mon.: 1/2-price mojitos. Tues.: 1/2-price bottles of wine. Wed.: 1/2-price martini bullring. Thurs.: 1/2-price sangritas. Fri.-Sat.: 1/2-price garabatos. Sun.: 1/2-price sangria.

The Shout House

Thurs.: College Night: \$2.50 Miller Lite drafts, \$2 lunchbox shots. \$7 big-ass beer, you keep cup; \$5 refills. \$13.50 hurricanes, you keep glass; \$9 refills. Fri., 6-7 pm: \$1 any draft (w/restrictions). \$13.50 hurricanes, \$9 refills. \$7 32-oz. big-ass beer, \$5 refills. Sat.: \$7 32-oz. big-ass beer, \$5 refills. \$13.50 hurricanes, you keep glass; \$9 refills.

Xavier's Bar & Grill

Mon.-Fri., 3-4pm: \$3 Coppola wines, \$2 Bud Lights. 4-8pm: \$3 wells and drafts. Sat.: \$4 Soco and lime shots. Beer of the month: \$3 Beach Bum Blonde Ale. Sun. Football Specials: \$2.50 10 oz. Bud Light, \$4.50 Bloody Marys.

HILLCREST

Café Bleu

Mon.-Sat., 4-6 pm: \$5 martini, selected wine by glass.

Wine Steals

Mon.-Fri., 4-6 pm: \$3 glasses of wine.

Brass Rail

Mon.: 80¢ drinks, \$80 bottle service. Fri.: \$2 drinks start at 8pm and go up 50¢ every 1/2 hour.

KEARNY MESA

Khan's Cave Grill & Tavern

Mon.: Happy Hour 4-6:30pm. Mon. Night Football with \$2 drafts. Tues.: Happy Hour 4-6:30pm. 1/2 off bottle of wine with dinner.

Crawdaddy's

Daily, 2-7pm: 2-for-1 domestic beers.

94th Aero Squadron

Mon.-Fri., 3:30-6:30pm: free Happy Hour buffet. Sat.-Sun.: 1/2-price bottles of wine.

KENSINGTON/TALMADGE

Beauty Bar

Tues.-Sat.: \$10 Martini Manicures.

The Kensington Club

Daily, 10am-6pm: \$2.50 wells, drafts, domestic bottles.

Thai Taste

Daily, 4-6pm: \$2.50 Thai beers.

LA JOLLA

Beaumont's

Daily, 4-7pm: \$3-\$5 cocktails, wine, and beer.

La Jolla Brewhouse

Sun., 11:30am-3pm: burger & brew \$6.95. 3-7pm: \$4 house wines and beers. Sun. football specials: \$12 house pitchers. Mon.: Mon. Night Football Specials: \$5 shot & beer specials. 3-9pm: \$4 house wines, beers, and appetizers. Tues.-Sat., 11:30am-3pm: burger & brew \$6.95. 3-7 pm: \$4 house wines, beers, and appetizers. (Wed. is \$1 Pint Night.)

Su Casa

Mon.-Fri., 4-7pm: discounted margaritas and special drinks, 1/2 off appetizers.

Brockton Villa

Daily, all day: 50% off older wines till sold out.

LA MESA

O'Connor's Pub

Daily, 8-10pm: \$1 drafts.

LEUCADIA

Bar Leucadian

Daily, 4-7pm: \$2.75 wells. \$2.50 beer of the month.

OLD TOWN

La Mision

Mon.-Fri., 4-7pm: \$1 beer with any appetizer.

PACIFIC BEACH

Pacific Beach Ale House

Wed., 5-10pm: 1/2 off bottles of wine. Thurs., 10pm-close: \$2 house beers, \$3 you-call-its.

Pacific Beach Bar & Grill

Sun., 4-8pm: \$2.50 Bloody Marys. 8pm-close: \$2-3-4 drinks. Mon.: \$3 frozen margaritas, \$2.50 Mexican beers. Tues.: \$2.50 beers, \$3 frozen margaritas. Wed.: \$2 beers all day, \$2 off drinks after 8pm. Thurs., 4-8pm: \$3 wells, wine, & drafts. 1/2-price drinks. After 8pm \$3 off shots. Sat., 4-8pm: \$2 U-Call-Its from 6-10pm.

Costa Brava

Daily, 4-7pm: half-price sangria.

P.B. Mika Sushi

Daily, 4-7pm. One \$.99 small sake w/purchase of sushi or appetizer. \$6.25 small sake w/purchase of large beer.

Miller's Field

Sat.-Sun.: \$3 pints of Bud & Bud Light all day and night. Mon., 3-6pm: \$2 Miller Highlife bottles, \$5 Skyy martinis. Mon. Night

Football: \$8 pitchers of Bud or Bud Light. Tues., 3-6pm: \$2 Miller Highlife bottles, \$2 wells, \$2 off anything on the menu. \$5 Skyy martinis. Wed., 3-6pm: \$2 Miller Highlife bottles, \$5 Skyy martinis. Industry Day: \$3 calls, \$5 premiums. Thurs., 3-6pm: \$2 Miller Highlife bottles, \$5 Skyy martinis. Fri., 3-6pm: \$2 Miller Highlife bottles, \$5 Skyy martinis. \$7 beer-with-a-shot specials.

710 Beach Club

Mon.-Fri., 1-7pm: \$1 off everything. Beach Bar Special: beer and a shot for \$7.10.

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BREAKING NEWS

Sempre fi As noted last week, employees of Latham & Watkins were the single biggest group of local law firm donors to the campaign of President-elect **Barack Obama**, giving a grand total of \$9361, sizably more than the \$5800 that the firm's members gave to the GOP's **John McCain**. And now comes this news: **David**



Barack Obama

J. Hayes — until recently a Washington-based Latham partner whose title was "Global Chair" of the giant firm's environment, land, and resources department — has been named "agency review" team leader by Obama's presidential transition office. Hayes is in charge of looking over the departments of Interior, Energy, and Agriculture "to provide the President-elect, Vice President-elect, and key advisers with information needed to make strategic policy, budgetary, and personnel decisions prior to the inauguration."

In other words, he'll have something to say about who will be running the agencies as they go about their work regulating giant utilities and other big polluters. Turns out that one assignment Hayes had at Latham & Watkins was lobbying on behalf of San Diego Gas & Electric, a subsidiary of Semptra Energy. Before that he was deputy secretary at Interior during the Clinton years.

According to a lobbying disclosure statement filed with the House of Representatives in February of this year, the specific lobbying work handled by Latham for SDG&E centered around "general transmission line siting and permitting issues." That's a reference to the firm's bid to build the Sunrise Powerlink, a line through Anza-Borrego state park; as a result of Latham's efforts, the Bush administration's Department of Energy approved a critical transmission corridor designation for the pending project, which has since run into state regulatory resistance.

Tricky treats This week's *Fortune* magazine is out with a story titled "Ten New Gurus You Should Know," about what the magazine says is "a new generation of big thinkers emerging with radical ideas such as how to use nature as an innovation tool" to help troubled businesses. Near the top of the list: **Patrick**



Patrick Lencioni

Lencioni, a 43-year-old business consultant from Lafayette, California, who has worked for Southwest Airlines and Oracle. He writes books "which feature fictional characters facing up to organizational problems." A big client, notes *Fortune*: the San Diego Chargers. ... Speaking of the stumbling football team, owner **Alex Spanos** is famous here for handing out goodies to favored politicians in the form of generous campaign contributions. In his hometown of Stockton, Spanos does that too, but he ups the ante when Hal-



Alex Spanos

loween comes around. According to a report by Stockton's KXTV, guards at the Spanos mansion in an upscale neighborhood hand out hundreds of giant Snickers bars to children, rich and poor, whose parents drive them in from miles around to collect the loot. The downside is that neighbors living in the vicinity can't keep up with the hordes and complain they run out of treats before the evening is over.

Crimes and punishments When San Diego State University Associated Students president **James Poet** was busted last month by San Diego cops for driving under the influence and pot possession, school officials pledged to get to the bottom of the case and take disciplinary action if the charges were proved. The case is still pending, but statistics recently



released by SDSU after a request under the state's Public Records Act show

that, in a school with an enrollment of about 30,000, relatively few students have been brought up for punishment proceedings under the California Code of Regulations.

Some critics contend that university administrators often look the other way to avoid adding to more negative numbers at what is known as one of America's top-ten party schools. In fact, during the 12-month period ending in June of this year, 7838 violations were handled by the university's Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities, the department in charge of adjudicating campus discipline, according to the documents.

Nearly half of the referrals, 3215, involved a grab bag of offenses, described in the documents as "violation of any published University policy, rule, regulation, or presidential order (e.g., computer policy, alcohol policy, campus residence hall rules, Greek Guidelines, etc.)." Eight of those violators were expelled, 1366 were put on probation, 320 received a variety of suspensions, 12 were exonerated, and the rest got off with warnings or other dispositions.

The next-highest category of accused offenders included students who had violated the university ban on the "use, possession, manufacture, or distribution of alcoholic beverages (except as expressly permitted by law and University regulations), or public intoxication while on campus or at a University related activity." Of the 1833 students hauled in on that rap, 9 were expelled, 1187 got probation, 251 were given varieties of suspensions, 197 received warnings, and 17 were exonerated. The rest of the cases were still open, not acted upon, or in other stages of processing. The total cost to taxpayers of doling out SDSU justice, according to the records, was about \$260,000.

— Matt Potter

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

Moon Dust

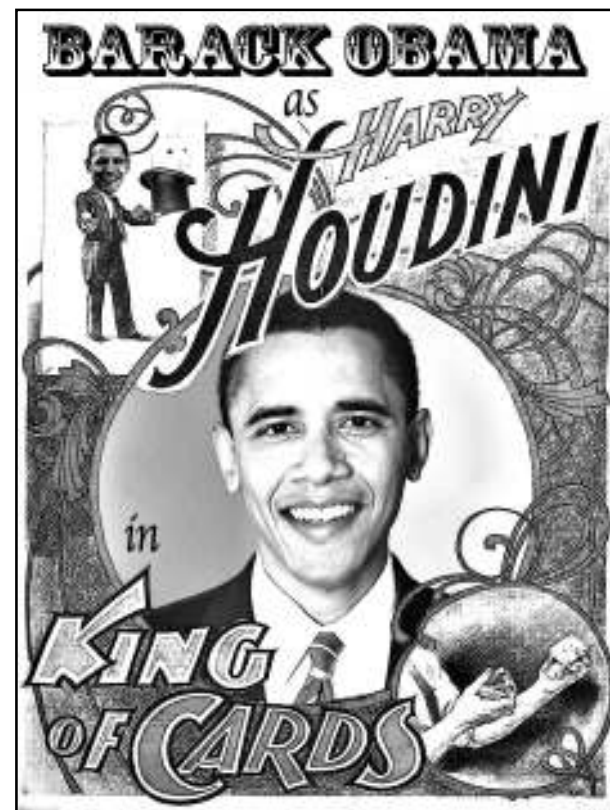
By Don Bauder

It's a Barnum and Bailey world, just as phony as it can be." Those words are from the 1933 song "It's Only a Paper Moon."

Seventy-five years later, Americans understand that the financial system has as much substance as a handful of moon dust: the big banks are broke, sitting on mathematized synthetic portfolios and derivatives that threaten to touch off a nuclear reaction because they are so interconnected in the global financial system. Meanwhile, the consumer, government, and financial sectors are drowning in excessive debt that guarantees a deep recession experts did not see coming but are being called upon to head off. In short, U.S. growth since the 1980s has been powered largely by unsustainable debt. In great measure, that growth was phony.

During the recent political campaign, Barack Obama and John McCain both boasted that as president, they

would cooperate with the opposition. That is a certainty now and would have been



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Contact Don Bauder at 619-546-8529 or **don.bauder@mac.com**

had McCain been elected. The reason: no one wants to see the global economy go back to 1933. "There will be more cooperation," says Keith

Poole, professor of political science at the University of California, San Diego. Two years ago, Poole was coauthor of a hot academic book, *Polarized America: The Dance of Ideology and Unequal Riches*, showing that over the past three decades, political polarization and income inequality have increased in tandem. Now, with the economic threat hanging over the world, the

political polarization may melt a bit. And since Obama wants to rein in the fat pay-offs at the top, income inequality

continued on page 8

Neal Obermeyer



Not By Sight, By Touch

By Joe Deegan

Hiro Iwamoto loves to sail. Not so unusual—except for one apparent drawback.

He is blind. Before moving from Japan to

San Diego two years ago, Iwamoto led a Tokyo team to the Blind Sailing National Championship in Newport, Rhode Island. "It isn't strange," he tells me. "We go up on the bow and climb the mast like all sailors do. Someone who

that San Diego would be a better place to raise her than Tokyo.

In the transition from Japan to San Diego, there were some hurdles to jump in the alternative healing arts. But Iwamoto figured that, given



Hiro Iwamoto works on a stomach meridian

is sighted comes with us, and we just say, 'Tell us what you see.' "

When it comes to his vocation, however, Iwamoto hardly needs the help. For 20 years, he has practiced manual therapies, a traditional career path for the blind in Japan. And he taught at the Tsukuba University School of Acupuncture and Manual Therapy for the Visually Impaired north of Tokyo for 14 years. So it's a shame that he has experienced so much difficulty continuing his work in San Diego.

Iwamoto has lived in the United States once before. In his early 20s, he studied at San Francisco State University. There he majored in special education as a complement to a bachelor's degree in counseling he had already earned in Japan.

When Iwamoto returned to Japan, he took a conversation class to keep up his English. Through the class, he met an American woman whom he later married. "We first got to know each other by hiking together," he says. "And she is a sailor too." Three years ago, the couple had a daughter, and they decided



Hiro Iwamoto feels pulse to determine which meridians to manipulate

based on four years of training.

A national board, not a city police department, grants manual therapy licenses in Japan. Most observers believe that San Diego's police, rather than, say, the county health department, play the licensing role here on account of the city's long experience with massage parlor prostitution.

I ask Iwamoto if there is a similar problem in Japan. "There may be prostitution among those who do not train," he says. "But the long training required of manual therapists eliminates those who would be likely to do it."

Iwamoto passed the American exam with flying colors. It was getting the chance to take the test that was a problem. He sent in an application a year ago. When he didn't hear back, he called to check what had happened. The national testing center said they never received the application and that he should send in a new one. Shortly after sending it, the center returned his original application with the explanation that it had no way to test a blind person.

But accommodations were eventually made, and Iwamoto was allowed assistance to take the exam. A reader called out the question, and Iwamoto answered. The reader then typed the answers into a computer and sent them in. It worked well enough, except that pronunciation of terminology made for rough com-



Hiro Iwamoto and Tawny

munication between test taker and reader.

At the end of August, Iwamoto received his holistic health practitioner's license. He will now prepare to take an acupuncturist's exam required to practice in the state of California. And eventually, in order to open a clinic in Oriental medicine, Iwamoto will have to master Chinese herbal medicine, a field he has yet to study.

In the meantime, Iwamoto has been teaching at the Meridian International School of Health Sciences on Morena Boulevard. He has also built up a client base around San Diego. Upon his arrival in town, Iwamoto obtained a massage technician's license to give manual therapy, which includes traditional massage. He says his preferred technique is called Jin Shin Jyutsu, a combination of acupressure, shiatsu, and anma, techniques that manipulate pressure points. Jin Shin Jyutsu lightly touches two pressure points at once, holding the connection for a short time as though allowing electricity to jump from one to the other.

Without a clinic, Iwamoto

is forced to visit his clients in their homes or offices. How does he get there? "I take the bus and trolley everywhere," he says. "I go from Chula Vista to Rancho Bernardo. I'm sure I ride more miles on the bus than any other visually impaired person in the city."

It helps that Iwamoto lives in Kearny Mesa, a central area. But buses present huge obstacles to the visually impaired. Take just one problem. Iwamoto explains how it unfolds at the southwest corner of Fifth Avenue and Broadway. "I am looking for a certain numbered bus to take me east on Broadway, and I can hear that a bus has pulled up," he says. "I ask people nearby if that is my bus. No, they say, and as they get on, my bus pulls up behind the first one. Then, instead of pulling up to the stop, my bus just drives away behind the first one, and I'm left standing there without realizing until later what happened."

Walking across wide streets is of course a greater hazard. "The U.S. is recognized as being the friendliest nation to the disabled," Iwamoto tells me. "But not to the visually

impaired. In Tokyo, there is beeping at every signal. Only some have beepers here."

While waiting in Kearny Mesa to meet Iwamoto, I witnessed what he meant. He had to cross two streets, one a wide section of Mercury Street, at an intersection that had no beepers. "I can only listen to the traffic flow," he says after he arrives and we introduce ourselves. "I used to have only a cane. But soon after I came here, I had several close calls and realized that I needed a guide dog, which they don't use in Japan. Now I have Tawny," says Iwamoto, pointing to the female blond lab at his feet. "At intersections, I have to give her commands because she doesn't see the red and green lights. But she is trained to be disobedient, too, if she can see traffic that would make it dangerous to cross."

Iwamoto shows me his laptop computer, which has

continued on page 10

An archive of City Lights stories can now be searched on the Internet at SDReader.com

Moon Dust

continued from page 6

ity may ease somewhat.

When they were politicking, Obama and McCain generally spewed the same line. Obama blasted Wall Street and showered love on Main Street. So did McCain. Both talked reregulation. Both tried to distance themselves from Bush administration laissez-faire ideology.

"The kinds of economic policies normally associated

with Democrats are seen as the solution" to the sinking economy, says Gary Jacobson, a professor of political science at UCSD, whose office is adjacent to Poole's. The current Republican administration has thrown trillions of dollars at the credit crisis — even taking ownership positions in banks and arranging shotgun marriages of financial institutions. President Bush "has put government in charge of the private sector in ways that in the past no Republican would have ever touched."

Although the Bush crowd basically threw money at banks, not people, in my opinion the Republicans may not put up much of a fuss about Obama's health-care and entitlements-expansion proposals. Both sides of the aisle will honor spending and easy money. Certainly, reregulation won't encounter much resistance: "There is a broad

consensus that under deregulation, things got out of hand. There will be some form of increased regulation and oversight" of private-sector activities, says Jacobson.

"The most disastrous thing was not regulating those things called credit default swaps," the unregulated, unmonitored, incendiary derivatives that guarantee debt, says Poole. "But you have to be careful with regulation. The road to hell is paved with good intentions." When the Enron/WorldCom fraudulent-accounting controversies hit in the early 2000s, Congress passed Sarbanes-Oxley, a bill requiring companies to spend much more on internal financial control. But the requirements "raised the costs of compliance for small firms" and therefore had bad side effects.

Taxes must be approached carefully too. Obama's pro-

posed increases on higher-income citizens "won't hurt the economy that much," says Poole, but to rake in tax receipts, eventually "you have to go down to the middle class. It's like Willie Sutton. He robbed banks because that's where the money was." If things get worse, Obama may have to tap the middle class. After all, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is proposing a 1.5 percent sales tax increase to help close a huge budget gap in California.

Obama and McCain promised change, and it is coming, without question. "There is certainly a possibility of a new era, although not a New Deal," says Jacobson. "There will be a period of more social consciousness. Extravagance will be out. There will be more focus on the societal costs of economic development." The environmental movement may gain traction lost since 1980. Here's a tip for cocktail conversation: Alan Greenspan, Rush Limbaugh, and Ayn Rand are out; Paul Krugman, Al Gore, and Rachel Carson are in.

Energy and environmen-

tal strategies "have to be designed not to murder low-income people," says Poole. To please one constituency without upsetting another, "Obama will have to be the Harry Houdini of politics."

The late historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr. theorized that there were 30-year cycles in politics. The public-sector activists (call them liberals) take over, and then they are ousted in favor of the private-sector expansionists (conservatives). The liberals prevailed under Teddy Roosevelt (1901), Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1933), and John F. Kennedy (1961). In between the liberal periods, conservatives such as Warren Harding, Cal Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, Dwight Eisenhower, Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, and George H.W. Bush had their times in the spotlight. Schlesinger had thought a liberal cycle would rev up under Bill Clinton, but Newt Gingrich and then George W. Bush threw off the timing.

Corporate America was in the saddle in the 1980s and from 1995 to 2007 and was able to thwart so-called lib-

eral initiatives. But greed got out of control: chief-executive pay got ridiculous, while middle-class incomes stagnated. Stockholders realized they had been paying big bucks for nonperformance. The public may be getting wise to that too. Perhaps the watershed was this fall, when Congress initially voted down the \$700 billion bailout. Pundits said 99 percent of the mail received by Congress members bitterly opposed it. "It was standard populism at work — Wall Street bankers in silk top hats versus the little guy," says Poole. Clearly, "Obama will do something about lifting the bottom" rungs on the income ladder, particularly through education initiatives. There won't be resistance from the right: "I have been reading the blogs of conservative intellectuals. They know we have to start getting serious about education."

And Poole knows that something must be done about derivatives: "We have to get this questionable paper out of the credit system quickly to unclog

continued on page 10

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Moon Dust

continued from page 10

the thing," he says. But no one has come up with a credible plan to wipe away the toxic derivatives and start winding down the whole process. Consumer debt is a dilemma: the savings rate is close to zero. But if people start saving, the recession will deepen. Any ideas?

You may find yourself lamenting, "It's only a paper moon," unless the pols who now love each other and promise to cooperate prove that they know how to prevent a 1933 redux. ■

CITY LIGHTS

By sight, by touch

continued from page 7

a strip at its keyboard base for reading braille. It has software that translates email messages and other text into either sound or braille. "Before email, think what I had to do to write a love letter," he says with a laugh.

The intrepid battles Iwamoto wages with San Diego transportation testify to what he calls his mission. He wants to teach people manual therapies and Oriental medicine. He got the notion after he realized he had to develop a

CITY LIGHTS

positive attitude about his blindness.

Were you blind from birth? I ask.

"No, it happened suddenly when I was an adolescent. Even though my sight had been weak, nobody could explain why it happened. Although I am a Christian, my mother is Buddhist. Every week she still goes to the temple five times to pray. It's to overcome bad things she thinks our ancestors must have done to cause my blindness.

"And shortly before my dad died a few years ago, he wanted to set me up so that I would never have to work again. But I had learned to be grateful for my blindness. It has enabled me to develop sensitive fingers for manual therapy and other techniques that sighted people do not always understand." An example would be the way Orien-

CITY LIGHTS

tal practitioners take the pulse so delicately that they can detect trouble in the liver or the kidneys.

How do you explain the advantage of Oriental medicine?

"We look at the whole person, the body as its own universe, and by making the ch'i, or vital energy, flow better along meridians all through the body, we help people feel better. We also focus on prevention. Western medicine tends to divide the body into parts. But it has its strengths. Some of my colleagues used to tell me that sending patients to a doctor will kill them. But if I am palpating and I detect there might be a tumor, I refer patients to a doctor. I don't diagnose cancer and other diseases. The doctor does that with MRIs or other techniques. At the same time, there is a doctor who sends me patients. She wants me to help control their pain. Oriental and Western medicine can cooperate."

But many Western doctors dismiss Oriental medicine as palliative only. Iwamoto would like to help them understand. He reminds me again of the sensitivity in his fingers. And he begins thinking of sailing, his other passion. For the doctors, he says, "It could be the reverse of our blind situation on the boats. The doctors could say, 'Tell us what you feel.' " ■

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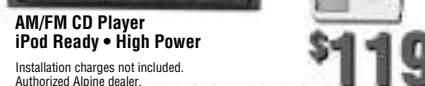


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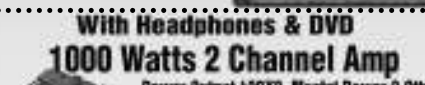
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Comic Error

Oh, November 19 is certainly a Black Wednesday! Where are my *Red Meat*, *Shoehorn Technique*, *Basic Instructions*, and the rest of my weekly comic reads? Only Neal Obermeyer this week? Promise us this was a mistake!

Douglas Meyers
via email

Cartoons run as space permits. — Editor

Football Injuries

Patrick Daugherty is right on target in pleading with SDSU to drop football ("Sporting Box," November 20). I'm old enough to remember the

glory days of Don Coryell, when his Aztecs of the late '60s would not only destroy their competition in dazzling fashion but also outdraw the Chargers in attendance every home game. Those teams sent dozens of players to the NFL (Fred Dryer, Haven Moses, Brian Sipe, et al.). The memory of those teams was enough to keep the passion alive until Marshall Faulk brought the program to new and exciting heights. After he graduated, it has been one laughable and pathetic season after another. Like Daugherty, I don't know why, and I don't even care anymore. Quit embarrassing the school and the community. Either drop down in division or dump the program!

Phil Cerasoli
via email

Wrong, Wrong, Wrong Wrong

It is incorrect to say that labor costs are the reason for the City's shortfall ("Double Ulp!", "City Lights," November 20). Republican misappropriation of pension funds for stadiums and the convention center are the cause of the City's deficit.

It is incorrect to say that labor costs should be cut. It is management salaries that need to be cut; labor is very low-wage.

It is incorrect to say that voters won't vote for taxes. Voters would like to see higher taxes on the rich, not on themselves.

It is incorrect to say that privatizing jobs saves money. Privatizing jobs makes more profit and costs more, at the expense of workers' pay.

It is incorrect to say government workers make more money than private. Legal and medical secretaries earn more in the private sector than sheriff and health-department clerks.

It is incorrect in (Neal Obermeyer's) cartoon to imply Pilgrims and Indians drank. Pilgrims and Indians did not drink, and then Puritans killed Indians after taking their food.

It is incorrect to imply that police are taking away a right to drink on the beach. It is unsafe to drink at the beach, which exists for the purpose of swimming in a dangerous ocean.

Valerie Sanfilippo
Former Member
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Kindred Spirit

Brizzolara's "T.G.I.F." is the first thing I read, every time I open up an issue. There might be a lot of reasons why. But I think he is the best writer you publish, in most issues.

I'm also from Chicago, about his age. I come from that "dour and Slavic reality." Left there for the summer of 1960 to get away from the continual war that was my parents. Had alcoholics and drug addicts in my family too.

I think I'm about John's age, 70; by his picture I think he's younger. My brother missed WWII and got into machine-shop work. I ended up with the education and the expectations. Wish I could be some help with his box of memories and radio scripts. I did send his November 13 piece, "Sympathy? Of course I want your sympathy," to a friend in Manhattan, though.

I love all kinds of music, rock included. Hope one day John and I could cross paths.

Name Withheld
by Request

Foot-Dragging In The Park

I was happy to see the Reader finally address our

so-called Olive Park in "Ping-Pong Park" ("City Lights," November 6). How can attorney Mark Brandon, son of Dr. Milan Brandon, say "the idea that the McKees and the Woods gave the property to the City as a gift" is misinformation and a misconception? The documents speak for themselves. Then he continues on with wild tales of "what really happened" and "somewhere along the way." Where are his supporting documents of evidence for his figment of imagination? Was he there in 1909? His claims that "we are not taking anything from the City" are false. It's the takings of the taxpayers' public park (appraised at \$1.9 million) for their own selfish private use. Anyway, how did they ever get to excavate the park property (midway back in the park) for that underground ramp into their underground garage? They already had access on Third Avenue into their garage and office.

Attorney Brandon's claim that "we shouldn't be paying rent on this" — most folks in the community would agree with. The community would say they should have their revocable permit revoked and they

should be forced to pay back rent for the last 40 years and the park should be given back to the rightful owners, the taxpayers. If he is claiming prescriptive easement with "an established access to our property," you can't get prescriptive easement against any government property no matter how long they have been there. And it is a revocable permit! His hints of a probable lawsuit are just that — that would be the ultimate frivolous lawsuit! No unbiased judge with a jury would ever grant this taxpayer park to the Brandons. Why don't they just pay the back rent for the 40-plus years of use of this park and now graciously completely remove themselves? Why is the City dragging its feet on this? It has been a year since Turko presented this on KUSI. Why isn't Councilman Faulconer correcting this?

Sylvia

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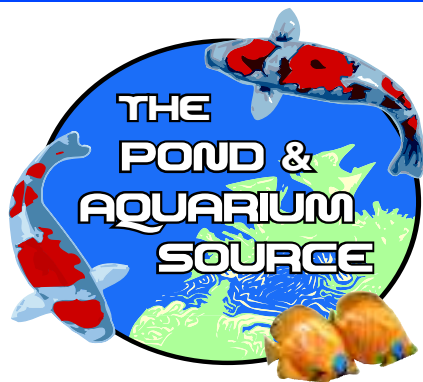
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STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP

BY MATTHEW ALICE



Illustration by Rick Geary

Hey, Matt:

My girlfriend and I have a bet about Botox. I have heard it referred to as “pig botulism.” She, who works in a plastic surgeon’s office, claims NPI (no pigs involved). Dinner rides on your unflinching diligent research.

— When Pigs Fly, via email

Fish out that wallet, Fly. Got a Hamilton or five? Good. You’ll need ’em. Firstly, I’m not sure what “pig botulism” would be. You maybe might on a bad day get botulism from pork, but that’s about the only connection I can see. Secondly, Botox, as all the rest of the world except you knows, is made of a toxic protein complex Botulinum Toxin Type A. It’s produced by a bacterium that is the same one responsible for food poisoning. But in tiny doses, it blocks the action of nerves activating the muscles into which it is injected. The muscles can’t move. No wrinkles are produced. You look smooth-skinned and fetching. So that’s The Botox Story.

Pigs do, however, figure into the beautification of us human beans. One popular type of injectable used to plump up stuff that has fallen flat, like lips and things, is collagen. That’s a natural skin ingredient, totally nontoxic. Medical collagen is obtained from the rendering of either cows or pigs. So there’s the pig-loveliness connection.

But wait. There’s more. How about the Mazola-perky butt story. A sad tale, but a lesson for us all. A beautician in Salinas was charged with second-degree murder because one of her customers died after a series of injections of cooking oil into her behind, intended to round it out into a transfixing caboose.

Less lethal but no less groovy is the story of the South Korean woman who became obsessed with plastic surgery for her face and neck. After 20 years of procedures, she could no longer find a physician who would “improve” her, though she did find one who gave her a dollop of silicone, a syringe, and told her to take care of it herself. And so she did. But — oh, no! — soon she ran out of silicone. Desperate, she grabbed a bottle of cooking oil. By the time she was through plumping her face and neck with the oil, her parents no longer recognized her and she acquired the nickname “standing fan” because her face was huge and her body was very skinny. When she appeared on a national TV show, the audience was so horrified that they sent in money so she could have the oil removed from her head. It took some convincing, since the woman was sure she was alluring just the way she was. But eventually doctors prevailed and removed slightly more than half a pound of the offending salad dressing, and the lady decided she really wanted her original features back after all. The end.

Hey, Matt:

English is my second language, and although I’m pretty much fluent, I’ve noticed that there are certain days in which I just can’t speak it as well as most days. It’s like my tongue goes numb or something. What’s going on?

— @ a loss for words, via email

Today’s your lucky day, @. We have not one answer, we have two. You can take your pick, depending on how you’re feeling that day. But first, I’d like everyone else to think of a time when they were in a foreign country whose language they sorta spoke, dragging along several pals who didn’t speak a word of the prevailing lingo. You were the go-to guy for any and all communication. So how did you feel by the end of the day? Exhausted? Confused? Unable to put together a sentence in any language, let alone this foreign stuff? Vowing to remain silent until the end of the trip? See, @, it’s happened to everyone. You’re not alone.

Sociologists and linguists have identified two types of the confusion you talk about. First there’s cultural stress. This comes from continually operating inside a foreign culture with different rules of conduct and different meanings for words and actions. Simply put, you’re on social overload for the day and you just want to go home where things are familiar and you can relax. Your second language suffers as a result. This is bound to happen to anyone immersed in a new society, and it happens suddenly, even though the causes have been building for a while.

Second, there’s language fatigue. The process of speaking, listening to, and figuring out the meaning of what’s said in a second language is surprisingly hard work. Your brain gets overworked and shuts down for a little R&R. As a result, you lose your second language or mix up both first and second languages. It’s a kind of defense against the overload of decoding an unfamiliar language. And I suppose you might have your bad-language days when you’re just plain pooped from other things.

So, @, there are your choices. Next time it happens, just go home and go to bed and tell everybody you’re suffering from your friends being just too darned American and sometimes it gives you a headache.

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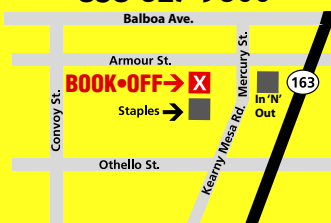
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Thanksgiving Tour

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THANKSGIVING DAY, 1789. Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor. . . Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be. . .GEORGE WASHINGTON.

THANKSGIVING DAY, 1862. To the People of the Confederate States: Once more upon the plains of Manassas have our armies been blessed by the Lord of Hosts with a triumph over our enemies. It is my privilege to invite you once more to His footstool, not now in the garb of fasting and sorrow, but with joy and gladness, to render thanks for the great mercies received at His hand.

A few months since, and our enemies poured forth their invading legions upon our soil. They laid waste our fields, polluted our altars and violated the sanctity of our homes. Around our capital they gathered their forces, and with boastful threats, claimed it as already their prize. The brave troops which rallied to its defense have extinguished these vain hopes, and, under the guidance of the same almighty hand, have scattered our enemies and driven them back in dismay. . .

. . . hereby invite the people of the Confederate States to meet on that day at their respective places of public worship, and to unite in rendering thanks and praise to God for these great mercies, and to implore Him to conduct our country safely through the perils which surround us, to the final attainment of the blessings of peace and security. . .JEFFERSON DAVIS.

THANKSGIVING DAY, 1864. It has pleased Almighty God to prolong our national life another year, defending us with His guardian care against unfriendly designs from abroad and vouchsafing to us in His mercy many and signal victories over the enemy, who is of our own household. . .ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

THANKSGIVING DAY, 1917. We have been given the opportunity to serve mankind as we once served ourselves in the great day of our Declaration of Independence, by taking up arms against a tyranny that threatened to master and debase men everywhere. . . In this day of the revelation of our duty not only to defend our own rights as a nation but to defend also the rights of free men throughout the world. . .WOODROW WILSON.

THANKSGIVING DAY, 1963. As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them. . .JOHN F. KENNEDY.

THANKSGIVING DAY, 1981. Thanksgiving has become a day when Americans extend a helping hand to the less fortunate. Long before there was a government welfare program, this spirit of voluntary giving was ingrained in the American character. . . RONALD REAGAN.

THANKSGIVING DAY, 1991. When this Nation and its coalition partners took up arms in a last-resort effort to repel aggression in the Persian Gulf, we were spared the terrible consequences of a long and protracted struggle. Indeed, the millions of people who prayed for a quick end to the fighting saw those prayers answered with a swiftness and certainty that exceeded all expectations. During the past year, we have also witnessed the demise of communism and welcomed millions of courageous people into the community of free nations.

. . . Therefore, recalling that much will be asked of those to whom much has been given, let us resolve to make food drives and other forms of charity an increasingly important part of our Thanksgiving tradition. . .GEORGE BUSH.

THANKSGIVING DAY, 1997. More than three centuries of change and growth separate us from the Pilgrims and their Native American friends who sat down together for their Thanksgiving meal. . . They remind us that everyone has something to contribute, and that we are all richer when we learn to share. . . sharing our gifts and leaving no one behind. . .WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THANKSGIVING DAY, 2004. We are grateful to the homeland security and intelligence personnel who spend long hours on faithful watch. . .GEORGE W. BUSH.

Good luck on Thanksgiving. May all be well with you and yours.

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Playoffs - First Round Scoreboard

11/21 Scoreboard (Posted November 21, 2008, 10:34 pm)

Division I

Carlsbad 24 vs. Torrey Pines 17
(at El Camino High School)
at Mission Hills 28, El Camino 14
Fallbrook 17 at Mira Mesa 13
at Vista 35, Otay Ranch 0

Division II

at Westview 38, Hoover 0
Grossmont 23 vs. Bonita Vista 21
(at Southwestern College)
at Patrick Henry 28, West Hills 20
at Lincoln 35, Mt. Carmel 29

Division III

at El Capitan 41, Brawley 22
at Serra 9, Monte Vista 7
Steele Canyon 33 at Central Union 22
Point Loma 28 at Castle Park 14

Division IV

at La Jolla Country Day 38,
Mountain Empire 6
Bishop's 49 vs. Julian 0
(at La Jolla High School)
Foothills Christian 34 vs. Holtville 20
(at Seau Park)
Calvin Christian 23 vs. Tri-City Christian 21
(at Escondido High School)



The Vegas Line

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Favorite	Spread		Over/Under	Underdog
Thursday				
Tennessee	10 ½		44	DETROIT
DALLAS	13		47	Seattle
PHILADELPHIA	3		47 ½	Arizona
Sunday				
N.Y. JETS	8		47 ½	Denver
BUFFALO	6 ½		46	San Francisco
TAMPA BAY	4 ½		NL	New Orleans
GREEN BAY	3		NL	Carolina
N.Y. Giants	3		NL	WASHINGTON
Miami	8 ½		44	ST. LOUIS
CLEVELAND	NL		NL	Indianapolis
SAN DIEGO	NL		NL	Atlanta
NEW ENGLAND	1		NL	Pittsburgh
OAKLAND	3		NL	Kansas City
MINNESOTA	3 ½		NL	Chicago
Monday				
HOUSTON	3		NL	Jacksonville

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SHEEP AND GOATS

PLACES OF WORSHIP REVIEWED

“Going up!” said a man as I passed by on my way to the Wednesday night Men’s Bible Study at Midway Baptist. His speech suggested that he might be developmentally disabled, but he and his upturned thumb were right all the same — I was going up to the second floor of one of the campus classroom buildings. Only that’s not what he meant. “No more down — to hell,” he continued, smiling. “Only up!”

The man wore an ID on a lanyard, and it seemed he was in the care of the people walking with him. “This is a put-up-or-shut-up congregation,” said Chris, who had recently joined. “They say it, they do it — in terms of their outreach and their ministry. And Pastor Baize, every Sunday, it’s like he’s found God all over again. This whole church is a big family; it’s just amazing.” A sizable number of the Wednesday night attendees (and there were plenty) wore green T-shirts, marking them as members of a sober living community.

“This is the church my kids latched onto,” said another recent arrival. “They feel so comfortable. That’s a huge thing; if they’re not welcomed immediately, it’s, like, ‘Oh, we’re not going back there.’ The first time we visited here, it was a Wednesday night, and everybody was like, ‘Oh, hello — how are you?’ My kids said, ‘Oh, Mom, we’re staying here tonight.’ It seems Biblically sound, and the pastor is a very nice guy.”

In the canvas Quonset hut behind the main sanctuary, the youth gathered around the pool table and coffee bar while the band prepared to play. Others kicked a ball around the parking lot below the church’s blinking lighthouse tower, itself surmounted by an unblinking neon cross.

Women gathered for their own Bible study in a cozy meeting hall set by itself a little ways off. But the masculine counterpart was cancelled — the leader had thrown out his back — and so I headed into the sanctuary for the Wednesday night service.

The stripped-down band — drums, acoustic guitar, a few backup singers — banged out a couple of praise songs to warm things up in the gray-green sanctuary (most notable feature: the tiny squares of metallic tile surrounding the baptistery up front). “What can wash away our sins? What can make us whole again?/ Nothing but the blood, nothing but the blood of Jesus.” But praise was not the focus — the night was given more to prayer and teaching, led by David Pollom. “Pastor Baize called me up to the pulpit on Sunday and said, ‘I need you Wednesday.’ So I said, like I always say to him, ‘Yes.’”

Pollom was trim and powerfully built; his white hair and beard the only solid indication that he was a man in his mid 60s. Now and then, turns of phrase would hint at his Kentucky heritage: “right away quick”; “the man can flat paint”; etc. I mention it because, while I did not get to study the Bible, I did get to study a Christian —

a Baptist out of the South.

“Over there is David,” he said, welcoming a Hispanic visitor. “Another David. What did you say to me? *Tocayos* — meaning, we have the same first name. I have to learn all this stuff because last Saturday morning I learned that when Christ comes again, He’s not going to say, ‘Come on,’ He’s going to say, ‘*Vamanos!*’ I want to make sure I don’t miss it, you understand.” Laughter followed.

His talk was about experiencing joy, but it was full of personal asides. I learned that Pollom was a registered Democrat who loved guns and America and did not love Obama. “I turned my back to the wall and wailed,” he said, referencing Hezekiah. But he was not caught up in bitterness. “It may be it’s time for things to get bad. Or it may be that I’m wrong, and things are going to go good. That’s the kind of thing that we’re dealing with when we pray — we just don’t

know what God thinks.

Every time I pray, I say, ‘Father, You know best,’” he said — even when that prayer was for a two-year-old to be healed of a brain tumor. Still, he stressed, “We need to become fervent in prayer.”

I learned that he had been a hard father, but that it had kept his son — now a police officer — on the straight and narrow, and both men were grateful for it. And that he was overwhelmed by the beauty of the stars seen from 8600 feet. “That’s what we’re seeing,” he said, reading from a Psalm. “The earth trembles at His glance...He is the



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“The joy that you really want is not that which you paint on top of the rust of your lives.”

source of all my joy.”

Pollom warned against confusing pleasure with joy. “The joy that you really want is not that which you paint on top of the rust of your lives. He quoted Proverbs: ‘Laughter cannot mask a heavy heart.’ The rust always bleeds through. The joy you really want is the joy that Christ gives you when you get in close contact with Him. Joy is a fruit of righteous living; it results from knowing and serving God.”

After the talk, a woman approached him. “Sometimes, when I do the right thing, I feel the joy. It’s overwhelming, overflowing.”

“And if you’re like me,” he replied, “when that happens, you think to yourself, ‘I want to stay here. How do I do this?’”

What happens when we die?

“If you have accepted Christ as your personal savior,” said Pollom, “you go to be with the Lord.... If you have not received Christ, that’s it, it’s the end of the line — that’s hell. People want to tell me, ‘That’s so black and white.’ I say, ‘God’s black and white.’ This isn’t me talking — this is what I’m quoting. That’s what this church stands for. When we have a question, we go to the Bible.”

— Matthew Lickona

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- 25 FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS
- 26 DISABILITY BENEFITS
- 27 HIV AS A DISABILITY

■ EXTENSION 1007 ■

TENANT/LANDLORD

- 80 EVICTING A TENANT
- 81 CAN I BEAT MY LEASE?
- 82 WARRANTY OF HABITABILITY
- 83 RENTAL AGREEMENTS
- 84 SECURITY DEPOSITS
- 85 ENFORCEMENT OF THE LEASE
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- 35 VEHICLE REPOSSESSION
- 36 FORECLOSURE ON YOUR RESIDENCE
- 37 INACCURATE CREDIT REPORTING

■ EXTENSION 1008 ■

TAX & ESTATE PLANNING

- 90 FILING TAX RETURNS
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- 61 WHAT WILL IT COST?
- 62 CHILD SUPPORT - HOW MUCH?
- 63 CHOOSING A PARALEGAL
- 64 MILITARY FAMILY ISSUES
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- 66 MEDIATION AND THERAPY
- 67 WILLS AND TRUSTS

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- 74 WHISTLEBLOWER-RETALIATION
- 75 FRAUD AGAINST THE U.S. GOVERNMENT (FALSE CLAIMS ACT)
- 76 LEGAL FEES

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Author: Dan McClatchy
Neighborhood: Golden Hill
Age: 35
Occupation: Scientist



3rd place: "To Tell You Something
Beautiful Like Asphalt"
Author: Joshua Rhome
Neighborhood: El Cajon
Age: 30
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Winners from October 2008

Write about your favorite neighborhood character, the ugliest house or street, local politics, crosstown rivalries, town bullies, etc.

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

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

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

Deadline for this month is midnight, November 30.

BestBuys

—EVE KELLY

The Kelly family needs an injection of charity. The thought was sparked by my son presenting me with a long gift list for Christmas. "We need to curtail this materialism and teach a bit of giving back to those less fortunate," I complained to my hubby last week. "Get on the phone," he responded. "Find out some ways we can give back this season."

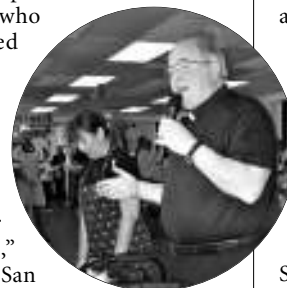
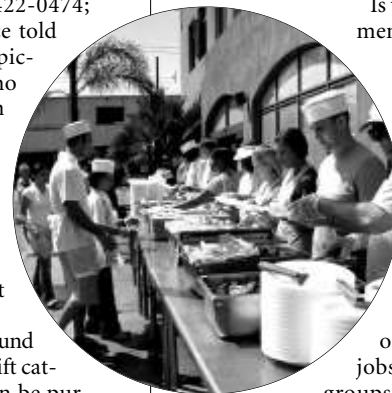
"A few times a year our family makes healthy brown-bag lunches for the homeless," explained sis Meg. "The kids put together the bags, decorate the outside with pictures, and we hop into the car and pass them out downtown. As we deliver the food, the children get a close look at the homeless and their suffering."

"Each birthday my children receive a gift from their grandparents of an animal donated in their name to a poor family by Heifer Project International [800-422-0474; heifer.org]," my friend Bernice told me. "My son received a little picture book about a poor girl who could not go to school but then someone gave her family a goat. The little girl was able to sell milk from the goat to afford to go to school. The story was a tangible thing for my son. We wondered together if maybe they named the goat after him."

I did a little research and found that the Heifer International gift catalog offers many gifts that can be purchased and sent on to the poor throughout the world. A goat costs \$120, water buffalo is \$250, a trio of rabbits runs \$60, and a heifer is \$500.

A similar organization is Food for the Poor. "One holiday season I spent hours making truffles for my office coworkers, only to find out that my boss had given them to his two-year-old son," stated friend Nancy. "The next year I gave gifts through Food for the Poor [800-427-9104; foodforthe poor.org]. It was quick, painless, and everyone felt good knowing they had a fruit tree in their name or some chickens sent in their name to a poor family. It's the perfect gift for someone who might not need anything."

"We make hats, sweaters, booties, and afghans for preemies and newborns in hospitals all over the United States," said Stell Voelker, San Diego County Coordinator for Stitches from the Heart (619-582-3273; stitchesfromtheheart.org). "It was started by a lady in the Los Angeles area when she noticed that you couldn't buy clothes small enough for preemies. We are mostly knitters or crocheters, but there are a few blanket makers, some quilters. Babies come in all sizes, so we take donations all sizes. The smaller hats we say would fit over an orange and the larger ones would fit over a grapefruit and the ideal size for the afghans is 30 by 40 inches. We have lots of patterns that are really easy."



"Everyone felt good knowing they had a fruit tree in their name or some chickens sent in their name to a poor family."

My daughter would love to knit blankets for babies; my son, not so much. He might take to volunteering, though. "We serve 1.7 million meals a year, on average 4000 a day, 365 days a year," said Father Joe Carroll of Father Joe's Villages, located at 15th and Imperial. The shelter cares for 985 residents who receive three meals a day and another 1400 a day that walk in off of the street for the daily 11 o'clock meal. "Thanksgiving and Christmas volunteering fill up quickly, but other days throughout the year still need to be covered," he explained. "And there are lots of ways to volunteer besides in the kitchen. During the year, we need people to teach computers, people to work with children, people to teach English as a second language, medical professionals to volunteer in our medical clinic."

Is there an age requirement for volunteering?

"If you are under 12, you have to be with a parent. I am an old Boy Scout leader, and I like youth to volunteer. We have a lot of young groups coming down to volunteer; they can work in the kitchen, or we give them other jobs to do. Plus, youth groups can do drives, like collect new socks for children. That makes a great Christmas gift for us to give out because the kids need new socks."

Father added another way to help. "Henry's Farmers Market came up with a creative idea called Grab 'n' Give. They have various bags of prepared groceries, which you pay for at the register; they put it in a barrel, and we pick it up. They are items that we know we can use. Part of the food goes to other food banks that we help out."

"And if people get coupons for turkeys from their bosses that they're not going to use, we take those too," he added.

For those wanting to work up a little appetite while giving on Turkey Day itself, "We started our Thanksgiving Day 5K Run/Walk [thanksgivingrun.org]. People can start the day out by running or walking through Balboa Park to help pay for meals for the homeless."

Another run event happening on Thanksgiving morning: Run for the Hungry (kathyloperevents.com), which starts at Petco Park East. Proceeds will go to the San Diego Food Bank, which gives away 10 million meals a year, and Jewish Family Services' Foodmobile, which brings hot meals to 28,000 homebound and elderly people.

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1. Heifer International
2. Meals being served
3. Father Joe Carroll



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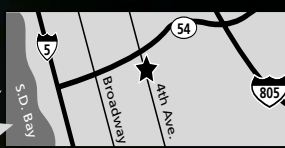


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Inner Child

“Thank heaven for little girls.”
— Maurice Chevalier

Once I set us up with drinks, a bowl of corn chips, and spinach dip from Trader Joe’s, I hopped onto the couch, crossed my legs, and hit the play button on the remote control. When the score began to swell and familiar images filled the screen, I suppressed a yelp of delight. “I can’t believe you haven’t seen this yet — it’s only, like, one of my favorite movies ever,” I said to Jen. When the talking crab made a wisecrack, I let out a belly laugh, as if I’d forgotten the countless times I’d heard the line before.

I’m fairly convinced David was born with the emotional and mental development of a grad student.

Jen shot me a bemused look every time I chortled at the screen. David, accustomed to my behavior, simply smiled. Upon hearing the first few instrumental notes of my favorite song, I could contain myself no longer. “Would it bother you much if I sang along?” I asked.
“Not at all,” said Jen.

“In fact, I insist.” I took a moment to sip my wine and get over my self-consciousness and then opened my mouth wide, Broadway style. I sang in perfect sync with the animated, red-headed mermaid on the screen, hitting every note and audible breath, even mimicking the emotional whisper of the last words, “Part of your wooworld.” For three minutes, I was Princess Ariel. Or, to be more accurate, I was a regressed version of myself, the 12-year-old me watching *The Little Mermaid* in a theater in Plaza Bonita, getting sold on the Disney dream. Little did I know that forever after I would fantasize about a land of magical kisses, altruistic animal

friends, and happily ever after; that regardless of my age, the little girl in me would never disappear.
Most of us don’t grow up entirely. There are boys whose toys get bigger and more expensive as the years go by and girls who never stop playing dress-up or pining for Prince Charming. As with any rule, there are exceptions — for example, I’m fairly convinced David was born with the emotional and mental development of a grad student. Only on rare occasions am I able to catch a glimpse in his dimply smile of the little boy David abandoned long ago in his determined pursuit of sophistication. Whereas my inner girl lies just beneath the surface, awaiting any opportunity to jump up in excitement at the slightest motivation (cue fluffy woodland creature).
Though I am unapologetic about my reoccurring “little girliness,” I admit that it sometimes leads to complications. For instance, I find it nearly impossible to maintain the disposition of a grown woman while babysitting my sister Jane’s two daughters — dropping me in the middle of all those dolls, stickers, and sparkly makeup is akin to asking a raccoon to guard your trash.
Once, I brought a sheet of plastic gemstone stickers to Jane’s place, just to watch with envy as Bella crammed ALL of them onto her tiny face. Later that same

day, Bella refused my offer to “help” her color in the Disney princess coloring book I’d brought with me. I was left to dangle a jingly toy in front of her two-year-old sister’s face while Bella got to decide which blue worked best on Snow White’s sleeves. Fortunately, no other adults were around to see me when, a week later, I argued with the four-year-old about which cartoon to watch. I was all about *Aladdin* or *Sleeping Beauty*, but the child wouldn’t stop shrieking until I popped in the *Cinderella* DVD. Though Gus Gus the chubby mouse made me smile, for the most part I sulked until the Fairy Godmother sang “Bibbity Bobbity Boo.” Regardless of my frustrations, I had the wherewithal to refrain from complaining about such instances when Jane returned from whatever errand she’d been running.
As a child, I enjoyed playacting or imagining what it would be like to be an adult. Now in my day-to-day life, whether I’m driving my car, doing the grocery shopping, or filing my bills, I routinely get the sense that I am still just playing grown-up. Every once in a while, I’ll have a whimsical moment of glee when I remember that I get to make all the important decisions in my life, such as choosing my own bedtime or which cereal to buy. And though I do so love to be taken seriously when I play grown-up, I also have a fondness for retreating into the



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wonderment of looking at the world through a child's eyes.

One afternoon, David walked into my office and sat in the roco-co reading chair beside my desk, as he often does when he becomes bored with his corner of the house. While telling me about the latest news articles he'd found interesting, he absentmindedly grabbed a plush-toy hamster from my desk and turned it in his hands. I was in the middle of telling him that, no, I do not think it is a good idea for someone to purposely default on their mortgage so they can qualify for the bailout deals being offered to slackers, when the look on David's face suddenly switched from

attentive to inquisitive. I waited for him to ask some kind of rhetorical economic question, but instead, he raised the hamster in his hand and said, "Didn't you buy this for Bella?"

Stupefied, I stared at the big round eyes of the cartoon-styled fuzz-ball in his hands, as though waiting for it to speak in its native Japanese tongue.

"You are going to give it to her, right?" David pressed. Gauging the answer in my expression, he shook his head in disbelief and tossed me the toy.

I caught it and clutched it to my chest.

"It's just so soft," I said. "And it's not like she doesn't have a million stuffed animals already. What's the big deal?"

Instead of answering, David looked around my office as though for the first time. His probing eyes made me anxious. "That, right there," David said, pointing to an elaborate ornament hanging from the corner of a frame on my desk. Attached to the golden curlicue at the top of the trinket were jewel-like beads leading down to a large, translucent pink teardrop graced with wispy white feathers. "Didn't Bella pick that out as her reward for

being so good during the photo shoot? Tell me you didn't keep that."

I remembered the moment I'd snatched the bauble from the floor of my sister's minivan, where my niece had discarded it with temporary disinterest. "She didn't really want it," I said. David sighed in resignation and returned to his desk. Once he was out of earshot, I exhaled with relief, grateful that he hadn't noticed *The Faeryland Companion* — the comprehensive guide to winged creatures I'd picked up to give to Bella for her birthday this weekend but decided, after situating it on the

bookshelf in my office, that it belonged right where it was, nestled behind the small ceramic bunny statues. ■

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A

TOP ONE of the last open bluffs in La Jolla,

on the campus of UCSD, a tattered homemade swing hangs from a giant old eucalyptus tree. Swept by Pacific breezes, the land commands a sweeping view of the La Jolla coast and the ocean beyond.

The property has been a place of rare solitude on the busy university campus. Many locals think it should stay that way, a place to sit alone and reflect on the beauty of nature and the peaceful sea beyond. Others say that if the land is to be developed at all, it should be as labs and classrooms for students and graduate researchers.

But this site, one of the few remaining tracts of undeveloped ocean-view property owned by the university, is coveted by J. Craig Venter, known as the nation's preeminent gene warrior, a skilled street fighter in the halls of academe and government, and one of the most controversial figures in the history of modern science.

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Venter wants to lease the land for five decades and build a starkly modern, fortress-like headquarters for his J. Craig Venter Institute. Currently operating out of temporary quarters in a nondescript building in a Torrey Pines office park near the General Atomics building, the institute is home to a controversial plan to make new life employing artificial chromosomes — chemically patterned after those found in nature but endowed by man with awesome new powers to cure and perhaps, some critics say, create human disease.

If successful, Venter would almost certainly change the face of the planet — and human existence — forever. He would also become fantastically rich and probably win the Nobel Prize, an achievement to which he has long aspired.

Venter's sponsors say

they hope that the resulting artificial organisms — their genetic core meticulously fabricated from tiny pieces of DNA, the code of life — will produce new sources of energy and cures for cancer and other deadly diseases. His critics maintain that a new era of biological warfare and patented "life for hire," quietly funded by the

California, to assume the life of a surfer in Orange County. Later, he became a medic in the bloody surgical suites of Vietnam. Back from the war in 1969, he went on to junior college in San Mateo, and then on to UCSD, rising from a humble transfer student to shake the American scientific establishment to its roots.

Venter served a bloody tour of duty at the field hospital in Da Nang.

United States government and Big Oil, has arrived.

Sixty-two-year-old Venter — glib and balding, with a light beard — is a UCSD homeboy to the bone. A brilliant mind but a late starter, he graduated in the mid-1960s from high school in Millbrae,

A self-proclaimed religious skeptic, Venter has cultivated his reputation as a swashbuckling scientist, surfer, open-water sailor, and entrepreneur. In the mid-1990s, he kick-started the genetic revolution when he dared to compete head-to-head

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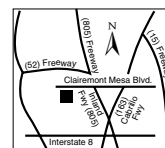
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with a slow-moving federal research establishment that included James D. Watson, cowinner of the 1962 Nobel Prize, in a race to decode the human genome.

Though Bill Clinton's White House declared the Human Genome Project battle a draw, Venter and others continue to insist that he actually won. An undisputed genius in the art of exploiting emerging technologies, Venter has dragged other researchers into a new age of genetic sequencing, using robots and high-powered computers to break nature's hold over the secrets of the human genome.

In much the same way Venter treated his scientific peers, he did not handle the chains of DNA that contain the genetic information gently; in a hurry to get to their secrets, he put the long strands into glass vials of solution and "shot-gunned" them, blasting them into millions of fragments.

He took the resulting fragments and sent them through newly developed machines that mapped the molecular order that spells out the genetic code. Once Venter deciphered the broken-up code contained by each of the small fragments, he used computers to reassemble it in the correct order, resulting in digital representations of thousands of complete genes, coding for the proteins that are the building blocks of life. Though critics said it couldn't be done, Venter hired the best programmers in the business and bought a basement full of computers to derive sense from the millions of seemingly random pieces, making him, at least briefly, master of the genetic universe.

Clinton brought an end to the gene wars at a Rose Garden press conference in June 2000, forcing Venter into an agreement that allowed federal researchers to save face. The deal left Venter nursing a serious grudge. A

considerable amount of the friction between Venter and the government derived from the fact that after April 1992, the federal researchers' efforts were led by Watson's successor, Francis Collins,

whose Christian beliefs differed from Venter's religious skepticism.

As Venter notes in his 2007 autobiography, *A Life Decoded*, "Collins is a devout born-again Christian who believes that sci-

entific truth provides a glimpse of an 'even greater Truth.' When the job [as director of the Human Genome Project] was offered to him, he had wondered if it was God's calling, and spent an after-

noon praying in a chapel before deciding to set forth on what he called an awesome adventure."

Venter recalled Clinton's speech in June 2000, during the White House announcement of

the compromise that ended the war between government researchers and Venter's company. Said Clinton: "Today we are learning the language in which God created life. We are gaining ever more

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awe for the complexity, the beauty, the wonder of God's most divine and sacred gift." Complains Venter in his autobiography, "The religious gloss was familiar: Francis had been working with the President's speech writer." Venter further opines: "I realize that in America such references are a political necessity, but it detracted from all my hard work and that of an army of genome scientists to have this huge advance in the rational pursuit of the secrets of life linked to a particular belief system...the thought of being a self-replicating bag of chemicals that resulted from four billion years of evolution is far more awesome to me than the notion that a cosmic clockmaker snapped his fingers to put me together."

Though casting himself as a rowdy libertarian of science, Venter himself

has often been quietly allied with big government, relying on funding from his nonprofit foundation, which in turn derives much of its financial support from U.S. taxpayers. A good part has come from the Energy Department, and lately, the University of California has become a major partner. Even Venter's epochal decoding of the human genome was based in part on work conducted by federally funded scientists.

Additional financial support for Venter arrived in the form of contributions and investments from wealthy San Diego individuals with close ties to the defense establishment. One is J. Robert Beyster, founder of SAIC (Science Applications International Corporation), the giant military contractor based in La Jolla, which made billions of dollars from the federal

government. Now retired, Beyster is a philanthropist and investor who is helping Venter with a plan to collect and sequence ocean life forms during transglobal voyages on Venter's luxury yacht, *Sorcerer II*.

"I've mentioned before that I am hoping to sponsor Craig Venter's next ocean-sampling trip," Beyster recently wrote on his blog. "The boat will start in San Diego and pass through the Panama Canal on the way to the northeastern United States, where it will spend the winter. In the spring, the boat will cross the Atlantic and then head to the Baltic and Mediterranean Seas. We are trying to consummate a contract for the part of the expedition that I will pay for. Other people and institutions will cover the rest." Beyster added that Venter has been recruiting money from big oil companies,

RESEARCH STUDIES

Are YOU Postmenopausal?



If so, you may qualify for a medical research study at Covance.

Covance San Diego is looking for women who are:

- Healthy, age 40-65 & postmenopausal for at least 12 months
- Non-smoking for at least 3 months
- Able to complete a 6-day/5-night stay, plus 11 outpatient visits

Participants will receive all study-related exams and investigational medication at no cost and may receive up to \$5000 for time and participation.



Think you can help? Great!
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Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS)

...can't eat without runnin' to the bathroom!!
...bloated...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 have HEPATITIS C?

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

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Participants may receive the following at no charge:

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- All study-related medical evaluations and physician visits by board-certified gastroenterologists
- Reimbursement for time and travel



For more information, please call:

858-277-7177

www.MARGINC.com

Are you postmenopausal or surgically sterile and experiencing hot flashes?



If you are a healthy female who is between the ages of 18-70 years old and have been postmenopausal for at least 6 months or surgically sterile (bilateral oophorectomy with or without hysterectomy) for at least 6 weeks and you experience several episodes of hot flashes per day, call Dr. Steven Drosman at the Genesis Center for Clinical Research to see if you may qualify for a research study testing an investigational medication.

**Call Dr. Steven Drosman
at 619-260-0010 for more information.**



"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



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 to you. Compensation for time and travel provided.



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

(619) 688-6565

See our website: www.ari-inc.com

Affiliated Research Institute specializes in clinical research programs, both inpatient and outpatient, with an emphasis on psychiatric and neurological disorders.

Outpatient Clinical programs offered at Affiliated Research Institute include:

• Alzheimer's Disease • Bipolar Disorder • Depression • Anxiety • Insomnia

If you suffer from any of these disorders, you may be eligible for an investigational drug research study. If you qualify and choose to participate, you will receive physician consultations, study-related medical examinations, laboratory evaluations and follow-up visits at no charge, and you may receive study medication. Health insurance is not required and compensation for time and travel is provided.

If you are interested in learning more about any of these studies,
please contact:

(619) 688-6565

See our website: www.ari-inc.com



Do you or someone you know suffer from

Schizophrenia

and are currently stable on
any of the following:

Olanzapine, Risperidone, or Paliperidone

If you are 18-65 years of age you may be eligible to participate in a clinical research trial for an investigational medication.

Participants will receive at no cost:

- Study-related exams
- Investigational drug
- Compensation for time and travel

For more information call:

1-888-486-9150



SYNERGY CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTERS

including BP, the British-based petroleum giant, to fund his research. According to Beyster, Venter outlined his pitch at a June 2008 conference quietly hosted by San Diego real estate mogul Malin Burnham at the Evans Garage, a car museum owned by San Diego's Evans family, owner of the Torrey Pines Inn and other local hotels. "Craig Venter told us that he thinks genetics offers the possibility of an unusual but ingenious answer to our energy problem," wrote Beyster. "He believes that meaningful amounts of algae

that is genetically engineered to create oil-like molecules can be grown. This was the bestseller of the conference, and he has been promoting the idea with the likes of Barack Obama, who feels that something drastic needs to be done to counter the devastating impact oil and gas monopolies are having on the economies of all the world's countries."

But some critics contend that Venter and his commercial backers will hijack the DNA code inside the microbial genomes for private gain. Pressure to appropriate the

information for huge profits, they say, will grow in tandem with the world's oil shortage. Venter and his colleagues insist that they are depositing the code they discover into a federally sponsored computer database known as GenBank, which is freely accessible to the world's scientific community. But Jim Thomas, research manager of ETC Group, an Ottawa-based non-profit that has emerged as one of Venter's major critics, argues that Venter is uniquely positioned to exploit the data for private use.

RESEARCH STUDIES

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Got a Going, Going, Going... Bladder Problem



and sometimes you don't make it??

An 18-week clinical research study is underway for men and women with **urinary frequency** and **urinary urgency** using an investigational oral medication. If you suffer from the embarrassment of way too many trips to the bathroom or the loss of urine before you make it there, you may be suffering from **Overactive Bladder**.

To possibly qualify:

- 1) Male or female, 18 years or older
- 2) Eight or more trips to the bathroom and at least one episode of an urgent need to use the bathroom

Participants may receive at no cost:

- 1) Study-related examinations and consultation by a board-certified physician
- 2) Labs, EKG and all study medications
- 3) Compensation for your time and travel

Interested in more information, call:

Medical Center for Clinical Research
619-521-2841

Heavy drinkers not seeking treatment

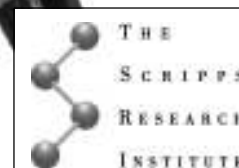


Investigators at The Scripps Research Institute are currently seeking volunteers who consider themselves to be heavy drinkers and do not have any desire to stop drinking.

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

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

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



To find out if you qualify for study participation, please call Marni at 858-784-7867 or visit our website at: www.pearsoncenter.org for more information.



CLINICAL RESEARCH

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

DEPRESSION

BIPOLAR DISORDER 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**.

**Clinical
Research Center**
SHARP Mesa Vista
Hospital

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According to Thomas, Venter's very technical familiarity with the collection and sequencing of the DNA gives him a distinct advantage over his competition when it comes to "data mining" the raw stuff of life for lucrative medical and industrial applications.

"He knows the data intimately, right down to the bone," notes Thomas. "He controls the computers and the very costly software algorithms needed to make sense of the code. He knows where to look in the chain for the most likely places where the useful pieces are going to be found. Nobody else has that advantage. To everybody else, it looks like spaghetti and would take years to decipher."

Now that Venter has set his sights on that seven-acre parcel on a bluff above the Scripps Institution of Oceanography's aquarium, UCSD officials have been eager to accommodate him. But some La Jollans aren't as happy.

Venter's proposal brought a sharp rebuke from Tim Lucas, a La Jolla resident who graduated in computer science from San Diego State University and works as a computer consultant. "This isn't about science, it's about making money via a commercial lease. UCSD is less interested in the research aspect of the project than they are in putting up the first of four or five buildings so they can collect big money."

Lucas notes that the university's master plan, adopted in 2004, originally called for the acreage to house purely academic pursuits, such as classrooms and basic research laboratories for the use of undergraduate and graduate students. "The problem is that UCSD has essentially all of a sudden rezoned it into a business research park," Lucas argues.

"They had kind of a public meeting where they announced this project

3,270 people will try something different for their DIABETES.



Sometimes people with type 2 diabetes still have uncontrolled blood sugar levels even with the help of a healthy diet and exercise, with or without medication. If this sounds like you, then you may be eligible to participate in EMERGE — an international clinical research study exploring an investigational medication for type 2 diabetes.

To participate in the study, you should:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Have a diagnosis of type 2 diabetes
- Have uncontrolled blood sugar levels even with the help of a healthy diet and exercise, with or without medication
- Have not taken insulin for longer than 1 week during the past 6 months

If you are eligible for the study, you will receive study-related care and medication at no cost to you.



To learn more about the EMERGE study, call:
AMCR INSTITUTE INC.
Toll-free: 1-888-318-2411
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Will you be one of them?



Do you have chronic plaque psoriasis?

Therapeutics Clinical Research is conducting a clinical research trial using an investigational medication for people with moderate to severe chronic plaque psoriasis.

We need participants:

- 18 years of age or older
- With moderate to severe psoriasis

Qualified participants will receive:

- Study-related examinations by a Board-Certified Dermatologist and study medication at no cost
- Compensation for time and travel

NO INSURANCE REQUIRED

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CLINICAL RESEARCH

Call us at: 858-279-SKIN (7546)

Or e-mail us at: psoriasis@therapeuticsresearch.com

View our website at: www.therapeuticsresearch.com



If you're having trouble controlling your diabetes with metformin, you could help researchers evaluate an investigational drug that may allow your body to respond better to its own insulin.

Doctors and their study teams are now enrolling participants in a clinical research study evaluating an investigational type 2 diabetes drug taken with metformin. The combination of these drugs may help diabetics better maintain their blood sugar levels.

To qualify for this study, you must be:

- 18-75 years of age,
- diagnosed with type 2 diabetes mellitus,
- taking metformin to treat your diabetes, and
- having difficulty controlling your blood sugar levels.

Study drug as well as study-related medical evaluations and tests are provided at no cost. In addition, reimbursement for time and travel may be provided.



To learn more, please contact:

AMCR Institute

1-888-871-9587

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

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Finding answers together - since 1981

two years ago at the La Jolla Shores Association. There was a big audience there and people weren't real happy, and a lot of them had a lot of questions that weren't answered. Venter wasn't there, but they had a bunch of Scripps Institution of Oceanography researchers there, saying they would get two or three fellowships out of this. I'm thinking, two or three fellowships? That's not much."

Other critics claim that the lab could present a risk to the neighborhood if genetically engineered

artificial organisms should manage to escape from Venter's test tubes. "People in San Diego should be very careful about how the university allows the laboratory to operate," says Thomas, the ETC research manager.

"It may be perfectly safe, especially if no lab work goes on there, but when you are cutting and pasting the genome, you should be very, very concerned. There is the potential for extreme biohazard, and very special precautions must be taken to reduce the chance of escape of the

artificial organisms that result. If not, no one can predict the disaster that might happen." Similar qualms were expressed in September 2003, after Venter told his government sponsors that one of his nonprofits, the Institute for Biological Energy Alternatives, had created an artificial version of Phi-X174, a bacteriophage — a virus that could infect and kill the bacterium *E. coli* — proving that Venter's team had indeed manufactured a fully working genome.

The research had

RESEARCH STUDIES



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Prostate Problems

.....can't go without STRAINING!!!

A research study is underway for men with **significant difficulty urinating** or who **have a weak stream** caused by benign prostatic hypertrophy, or BPH. Qualified participants will receive investigational intramuscular injection medication.

Qualified participants must be:

- 1) Males over the age of 50 years
- 2) Have significant difficulty initiating urine stream
- 3) No history of heart disease or stroke
- 4) No history of prostate surgery or prostate cancer

Participants may receive all study-related:

- 1) Exams and consultation with a board-certified physician
- 2) Medication, laboratory studies, and EKG
- 3) Compensation for your time and travel

Interested, please call:

619-521-2841

Medical Center for Clinical Research

- **Schizophrenia**
- **Bipolar Disorder**
- **Major Depression**

We may currently or in the future have inpatient and outpatient research studies involving investigational medications for the conditions listed above. Qualified participants will be compensated for time and transportation up to \$50.00 per day for each overnight hospital stay and up to \$100.00 for each outpatient scheduled visit.

(Some restrictions may apply to screening visits, inpatient stabilization days, and/or hospital discharge day visits.)

For more information call: (858) 566-8222

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Healthy Volunteers

are needed for a vaccine research study. Call us to find out the details & to see if you qualify.



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Methamphetamine or Crystal Meth Users

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Subjects will be compensated for time and travel.

been funded in part by the U.S. Department of Energy, and the department's then-Secretary Spencer Abraham called a news conference in Washington to announce Venter's breakthrough. Abraham's spin was that future versions of Venter's designer microbes could be engineered to break down pollution or produce energy.

But Hamilton Smith, a Nobel laureate who became Venter's colleague and key scientist, introduced another potential, as Venter's autobiography recounts:

"Although we had rehearsed several times what he [Hamilton] should and should not say, he seemed to forget all that when he was asked by one reporter about the possibility of making deadly pathogens.

"After Ham blurted out that 'we could make the smallpox genome,' I interrupted to point out that while that was indeed possible, it was known that smallpox DNA is not infective on its own, attempting to pour at least a little cold water on Ham's speculation.

"Ham interjected, 'But you and I discussed ways to get around that,' and then turned toward me and said with a sheepish grin, 'I probably shouldn't have said that, huh?'

"Fortunately, our exchange did not go further than a paragraph in the *New York Times* and the coverage was mostly favorable."

How successful Venter will be in trying to exploit for commercial gain the new technology of genetic engineering is anyone's guess. Teams of scientists from around the world are feverishly trying to produce artificial life, and the DNA-sequencing technology that Venter helped pioneer is now in wide use. His critics say Venter cuts ethical corners, that he can be boorish in personal encounters. They say that he has used his non-



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**

Do You Have Trouble Sleeping at Night?

Insomnia is a condition where you might:

- Wake up frequently during the night
- Awaken during the night but usually fall back to sleep
- Wake up too early and not be able to fall back to sleep
- Be impacted in your daily life by your sleep problems

If you are 18 years or older you may qualify to participate in this insomnia research study evaluating whether an investigational medication improves quality of sleep.

Qualified participants will receive all study-related physical and laboratory exams, and study medications at no charge to you. Compensation for time and travel are provided.

Type II Diabetics suffering from insomnia are also encouraged to call.

For more information, please call:

1-888-486-9150



SYNERGY CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTERS

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 UCSD.

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

Medical evaluations and study drug will be provided at no cost. Eligible participants will also receive financial compensation for time and travel.





Are you 65 or older and have high blood pressure?

Have you been diagnosed with, or think that you may have, high blood pressure?

If you are 65 years of age or older, you may qualify for a research study of investigational medications to treat high blood pressure.

If you qualify, you will receive, **at no cost**, study-related:

- ♥ Physical exams
- ♥ Laboratory tests
- ♥ Investigational study medications and
- ♥ Compensation for time and travel

For more information, please contact:

**San Diego Sports Medicine & Family Health Center
619-229-3909**

Overweight Volunteers Needed for VA Endocrine Study

You may be eligible if you:

- Are a **Male** age 40-65
- Are a **Non-Smoker**
- Have **no history of psychiatric illness** and are taking no psychiatric medications
- May be **pre-diabetic or borderline diabetic** (but not diabetic or taking diabetes medications)

Participants will be asked to:

- **Come for two outpatient visits**
- **Come for one overnight stay**

Total Compensation: \$500

If interested, contact Tanya Baker at:
(858) 552-8585 x2875 or tanyab@ucsd.edu

profit foundation for personal gain and cashed in at the expense of his company's shareholders.

There is no doubt that Venter often gets what he wants, though the process can be as messy as the DNA stews created by his shotgun method.

* * *

Craig Venter was raised in Millbrae, California, a town just west of San Francisco International Airport. His mother was from the Ocean Beach neighborhood of San Diego, his father a Mormon from Idaho.

Part of his legend says he used to race airplanes down the runway with his bicycle. Venter recalls in *A Life Decoded*: "...as the DC-3 edged closer, I

became giddy with anticipation. With my head down and my heart pounding I began to pedal the bike as hard as I could down the runway..." Venter tells more stories of his adventures with childhood friends at the airport. He concludes: "Then one day we rode to the airport and found that our racing days were over. A new fence had been erected around the runway."

After high school, instead of heading off to UC Berkeley, like his brothers, he moved to Newport Beach and hung out at his grandmother's house, enrolling in junior college and spending most of his time surfing.

In 1964, with the war in Vietnam starting to

escalate, he joined the navy to avoid the draft and ended up in San Diego. He trained as a medical corpsman, assigned to the navy hospital in Balboa Park, where by his account he performed spinal taps and liver biopsies before heading out to La Jolla to surf every day at 3:00 p.m. The specter of Vietnam, however, was never far from his mind.

"Most corpsmen served as medics in combat, where they did not last long," Venter notes in his autobiography. "The Vietcong would pay a bonus to any soldier who could show he killed a corpsman, usually by bringing back a trophy such as his ID card. After six weeks in the field, a

RESEARCH STUDIES

Research participants needed for a study of Families with Schizophrenia

Has one of your family members been diagnosed with Schizophrenia?

Medical researchers at UCSD are conducting a clinical research study to evaluate whether an investigational medication alters patterns of brain activity in RELATIVES of individuals with schizophrenia. The study drug is taken once and is compared to the effects of a placebo.

Participants must be at least 18 years of age, and have a brother, sister, parent or child with schizophrenia who is available to be interviewed. Certain medical conditions or medications may make you ineligible for this study.

Medical and psychological evaluations will be conducted at no cost. Eligible relatives will receive compensation up to \$1300 for their time. Family members with schizophrenia will also be compensated for their interview time.

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

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



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**

corpsman had only a fifty-fifty chance of survival.

"But because I was highly valued by the doctors in San Diego, each month when the draft list came up, my name was absent — sometimes removed at the last minute. I ultimately avoided the draft for fourteen months before my name was finally posted.

"But the posting included a footnote: I was to be sent to the naval station in Long Beach, where I would run the emergency room. I was stunned, relieved, and delighted. The head doctor had a big grin and was pleased with his last-minute save."

According to Venter's account, jealousy between two nurses he was dating would do him in. "I was surrounded by navy nurses, but as an enlisted corpsman I was technically prohibited from dating them since the nurses were officers. That did not stop me, of course. First it was the head nurse. Then I became more interested in her friend — so interested, in fact, that I began to date her instead. This would turn out to be a big mistake.

"The head nurse whose friend I had been dating was annoyed when she found out that, once again, I had managed to avoid Vietnam. As I was leaving, she told me to get a haircut." Venter told her to "fuck off" and headed out the door to the beach.

"Before I had even gotten to my motorcycle, two MPs arrested me and told me I was to be held for a court-martial. I was quickly found guilty of disobeying a direct order — my long blond hair was damning enough — and sentenced to three months in the brig at Long Beach. I faced hard labor, a criminal record, and a certain posting to Vietnam or a dishonorable discharge from the navy."

Venter recalls that he was given two weeks' leave before having to report to

the brig to serve his sentence. He spent them at his grandparents' house in Laguna Beach, where he hatched a plot to get out of his sentence by tampering with his orders.

As Venter recounts it,

he discovered that he was carrying two sets of orders: the original orders sending him to work in the Long Beach hospital and the revised orders, following his court-martial, sending him to the brig.

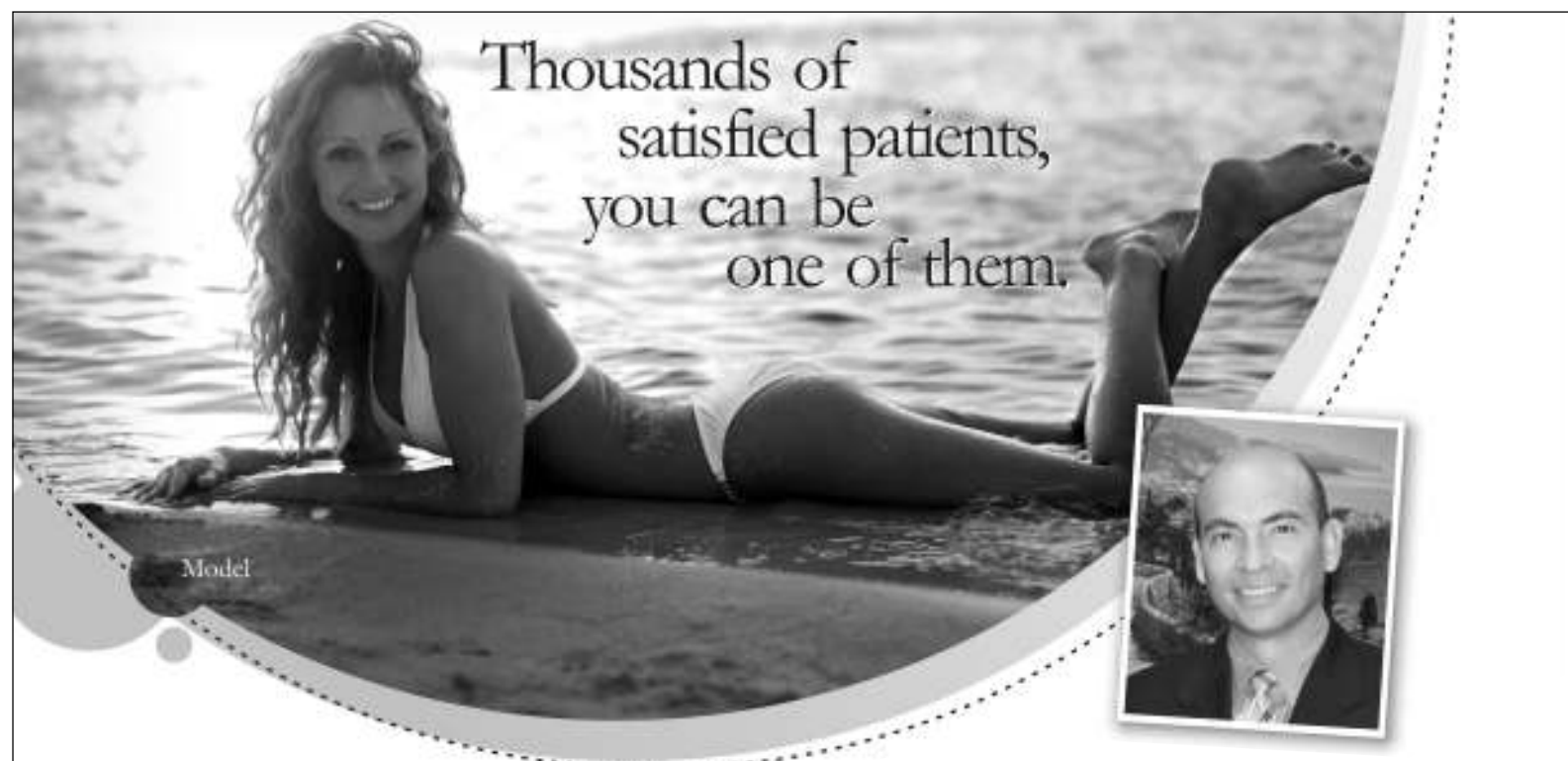
The new orders were attached to an envelope containing the old ones.

"This was 1966. Computerized records did not exist, so when military personnel moved to new assignments, they carried

all their records with them. I thought about my high-speed court-martial and began to wonder if the copies of the orders inside the envelope were the same as the [version] on the outside.

"Did they change all my orders...? I decided to tell my uncle Dave about my predicament and ask whether I should risk tampering with the envelope. Though concerned, he was also amused and

HEALTH AND BEAUTY



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intrigued and brought my grandmother in on the problem.

“On examining the envelope she ordered Dave to boil some water on the stove. I could not believe it when she held the envelope over the steam. After a few minutes it was open and she handed it back to me.

“When I pulled out my records, I found untouched copies of

my...orders to report to the medical station in Long Beach. After making certain all the paperwork was in order, my grandmother helped me reseal the envelope. All I had to do now was ‘lose’ the revised order attached to [the front of] the envelope and come up with a plausible reason that it was missing.

“Since I would be driving to Long Beach by

motorcycle, I had a perfect excuse: I had dropped the envelope while flying down the highway, and the paperwork became detached. My uncle thought it was a good plan.

“For extra realism we went out in the street and began throwing the envelope around and sliding it along the pavement. We stripped off the remains of the [revised] order...”

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Venter says his ruse worked, and he ended up working at the clinic, not doing time in the brig. But his service in Long Beach was only a temporary reprieve. Six months later, he was dispatched to Vietnam, where he served a particularly bloody tour of duty at the navy hospital in Da Nang during 1968's Tet Offensive.

After he got out of the navy, Venter returned to California and in early 1969 enrolled at the College of San Mateo, a two-year community college. A year and a half later, he transferred to UCSD, where he studied under renowned biochemist Nathan Kaplan.

Far more seasoned than his 20-year-old undergraduate peers, Venter excelled at his studies. But he says in his autobiography that he was discomfited by a run-in with authority that resulted from student protests he

had led in junior college.

Venter describes an encounter with the FBI during a 1970 demonstration against the Vietnam War. At a large student rally on the campus of the College of San Mateo, Venter took the microphone to urge a peaceful march into the city. Venter writes, "The next day the local newspaper carried a front-page photograph of me with the headline: 'It's Our School, Let's Take It Over.'"

During the resulting march, he noticed a white van slowly following his group. "With its sliding door open, the men inside were continually photographing me and the other student leaders. I thought they were members of the press, but I learned later that they were police and FBI agents."

Three years later, as a UCSD graduate student living with his first wife

Technology that is truly amazing. Hair Chair improves thinning hair.

ABC News and *Glamour* Magazine are among the few that have discovered a secret that is about to get out!!



By **JESSIE LORRENT,**
INVESTIGATIVE
JOURNALIST

Upon discovering this technology, I had the pleasure of interviewing one of the leading Dermatologists and also the visionary behind a technology that has taken over 15 million dollars to develop.

What does this technology do? Believe it or not, it dramatically improves thinning hair. The company developed two products: Hair Envy Medical Device, or HEMD, that is marketed as a Medical Device outside the United States; and Hair Envy Cosmetic Unit, or HECU, that is their Cosmetic Product available inside the United States.

The medical version of the technology is used outside of the United States to prevent hair loss in cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy. In addition, HEMD has had other controlled clinical trials that have conclusively shown a 96.7% success rate in preventing excessive hair loss and causing the regrowth of hair. Ten years of clinical studies and trials done by some of the most prominent doctors and scientists in the world and over 15 million dollars spent on development have produced a technology that is truly amazing.

One set of clinical trials was conducted under the sponsorship of the University of British Columbia by Stuart Maddin, MD, an accomplished dermatologist, academic, editor and author, who published the results in the *International Journal of Dermatology*. In addition to Hair Envy's trials, Dr. Maddin has acted as Principal Investigator for numerous dermatological studies in a variety of areas including photoaging, sunscreen products, wound-healing agents and hair-growth stimulants. Dr. Maddin is a Clinical Professor of Dermatology Emeritus at the University of British Columbia. We asked Dr. Maddin the three questions that stood out the most: "Does this technology really work? If so, how does this machine work? Does it have any side effects and is it safe?" The answer was a resounding yes! It works and it is safe and extremely effective. Dr. Maddin then went on to explain that the technology utilizes a noninvasive pulsed electrostatic energy; it is a nontoxic technology that is completely safe as it has been used on thousands of people under his careful eye. When

answering the question "Does it really work?" Dr. Maddin's response was, "Yes, my colleagues stand behind this technology with unequivocal certainty that it works. I base my reputation on it!"

So how did we come to discover this technology? Enter the visionary behind the technology's worldwide launch, Jason Olcese, Hair Envy's president and founder. In speaking with Mr. Olcese it quickly becomes apparent that this technology will become readily available and affordable for all. Olcese asked me, "Are you skeptical that this works?" Then he said, **"Well, I was as well when the technology was presented to me, so we give the first three months of sessions for free to all new customers. Typically our customers start seeing results within the first three months, so we wanted to offer them a no-risk trial so they can see with their own eyes what this technology can do for them."** Olcese has done just that by giving consumers the opportunity to test-drive the technology firsthand.

During the process of this interview, I had the chance to speak with customers of Hair Envy and hear their remarkable stories of how this has changed their lives. I was amazed at how many times I was told, "The results that I received from this technology gave me my self-confidence back." As I began developing this story, I was a skeptic, and as I finish writing I am truly amazed at all that this technology does. I look forward to the national launch of Hair Envy's technology into the United States. This is truly a company to watch.



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Barbara, a New Zealander, in a small Del Mar apartment, the FBI was still interested in him. "First, my home telephone suddenly began to sound different, with more background noise. Conveniently enough, a repairman seemed to be in constant attendance, sitting in a small booth on the pole immediately outside my second-story living room window.

"One day he showed up at our door as one of three FBI agents who insisted on interviewing us. At the end of a long discussion, they indicated that they had checks allegedly written by Barbara that had been linked to international money laundering. As well as needing a sample of her handwriting and fingerprints, they warned us that we had better be prudent or they would deport Barbara."

As Venter recounts it,

the FBI mysteriously dropped its surveillance, and he never heard from them again. (Ironically, he would later become the go-to guy for federal agents investigating the 2001 anthrax attacks.) And, despite his battle with the scientists of the federally sponsored human genome project, his J. Craig Venter Institute has grown into one of the federal government's busiest biotech research contractors.

Venter was awarded his Ph.D. from UCSD in 1976 and moved east to become a junior faculty member in the School of Medicine at State University of New York at Buffalo. There the wife he'd married in Australia left him and moved to Texas, leaving behind their young son. Now a single dad, Venter bought a blue Mercedes, wore polyester leisure suits, and took up with one of his students,

Claire Fraser.

"Claire and I now began to see each other and the student who dated her professor soon became an open scandal at the medical school," Venter recounts in his book. "The situation was complicated by the fact that Claire continued living with her boyfriend, and I was still legally married, though separated from my wife."

By 1983, Venter had grown tired of his university job. "Buffalo probably peaked in the late 1970s or early 1980s, after which its lifeblood of top scientists began to trickle away," he writes. He and Fraser found jobs at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. It marked the beginning of Venter's fabled love-hate relationship with the federal government and its myriad top-secret agencies.

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arrived, two Pentagon representatives, dressed “in dark suits and pencil ties,” were waiting in his office. “They explained that they wanted to talk to me about using my research to detect nerve poisons and associated biological warfare agents in the field,” he recalls. “This request made sense, because the receptor proteins I was studying were the selfsame receptors that are the targets of nerve toxins. Despite the grim subject matter, I was relieved to hear that they were interested in my science, not me, and invited them to sit down.”

The work was eventually funded with \$250,000 from the Department of Defense, Venter’s first full-fledged military contract. It also launched his interest in the human genome; within a year Venter was attempting to clone the adrenaline receptor gene found in the human brain.

Other projects swiftly followed. In February 1987, Venter took delivery of his first DNA-sequencing machine, a ticket to the brave new world of the human genome.

By 1989, the Human Genome Project was starting up. The plan was to have the government pay for and organize academic institutions around the country to sequence DNA, the genetic code contained in each cell of the body, to produce a complete map of the human genome. The project was led by Nobel laureate James Watson, who, along with Francis Crick, had discovered DNA itself.

While at the NIH, Venter had perfected a way to shortcut the elaborate chemical and mechanical sequencing processes needed to cut up and create a map of the order of the molecules making up the strands of DNA. He tried to convince

Watson that his way was best, but Watson wasn’t interested in working with Venter, dismissing his system as “sheer lunacy” and adding that “virtually any monkey” could use the method.

That sentiment, shared by many of Venter’s competitors, as well as a raging controversy over whether the government should file for patents on thousands of gene fragments that Venter decoded during his work at NIH, eventually led to his resignation in 1992.

Venter formed his first nonprofit research organization on June 10, 1992, calling it the Institute for Genomic Research (TIGR). He signed a \$70 million contract with an outfit called HealthCare Investment Corporation, funded by a venture capitalist named Wallace Steinberg. Together they then created a private

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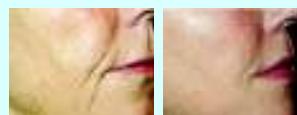
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entity called Human Genome Sciences to exploit TIGR discoveries.

"Unlike Pasteur, few scientists in history have had the freedom, opportunity, and privilege to start their own independent research institute," Venter later recorded in his autobiography. "Thanks to my single-minded drive to read genetic code and my great good fortune, I was given that chance with the Institute for Genomic Research."

In addition to the money paid to his foundation, Venter would own ten percent of the private

company's stock. The idea was that if Venter's institution sequenced enough genes using his fast-track process, some of the genetic code might turn out to have commercial value, such as in finding a cure for cancer. Then it could be licensed at a profit to pharmaceutical companies that would use it to develop lucrative drugs.

In the meantime, working with the federal Centers for Disease Control, TIGR sequenced the smallpox virus and made its genetic code public. "I believed that resurrection of the virus from the

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genome would be possible within a few years," Venter later wrote. "I made this point to urge federal officials not to create a false sense of security by staging a public execution of the smallpox virus."

"Smallpox would continue to play a role in my life for some time to come, from discussions with the CIA and even to being the subject of a briefing to the president and his Cabinet in the White House."

Then, in March 1993, at a conference in Bilbao, Spain, Venter met the collaborator who would help him change the history of DNA sequencing and set off the final race for the human genome.

* * *

Hamilton Smith was a professor at Johns Hopkins University who had won the Nobel Prize in 1978 for discovering so-called restriction enzymes,

proteins that can snip DNA chains at certain precise molecular locations, allowing genes to be cut and pasted in myriad ways useful to teasing out their sequences.

Venter put Smith on his scientific advisory board. Later that year, while Venter's commercial sponsors were pushing for marketable results, Smith introduced the idea of sequencing *Haemophilus influenzae*, a bacterium. Venter successfully used it to develop and test his shotgun sequencing methods.

The final results, revealed at a May 1995 conference in Washington, DC, drew an avalanche of publicity. It was the first complete sequencing of a living organism and as such became a sensation; but Venter's backers were looking for a bigger and more immediate return on their investment, and in 1997 they severed the

relationship.

But Venter wasn't done. In 1998, he and yet another group of venture capitalists put together a private outfit they named Celera, with the principal purpose of beating the government-sponsored Human Genome Project. Venter took a five percent stake in the company, as did his Institute for Genomic Research, the operation of which he turned over to his wife Claire Fraser to run.

The deep pockets behind Celera belonged to PerkinElmer, a scientific instrument maker that wanted to create a large market for its newly developed gene-sequencing machine. By plunking down \$300 million to fire up the race between Venter and his rivals at the NIH, the company guaranteed that it would make money selling the new devices to both sides of the contest, no matter how

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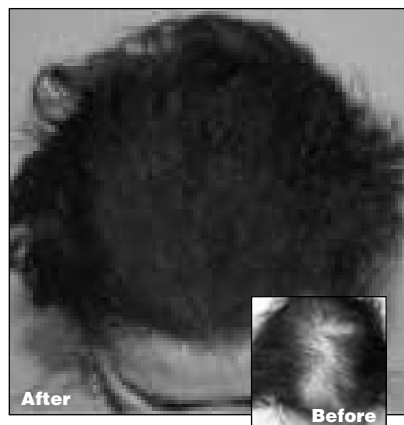
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successful Venter's efforts eventually turned out to be.

With banks of new sequencing machines running 24 hours a day, and by adding the sequence discoveries of the public project into his own data-

base, Venter began to close in on a rough version of the human genome. He did not hesitate to announce his progress to the media, rubbing the noses of the federally funded researchers in his dust.

The much-vaunted decoding duel between Venter's Celera corporation and the government's program ended in a face-saving draw engineered by the Clinton White House in June 2000. Venter and Collins shook hands in the

Rose Garden beside a beaming Bill Clinton. The argument over who, if anyone, was really ahead when the end of the race was called continues to this day, but Venter became the media darling of the hour. The *New*

Yorker, *Business Week*, and *Time* all ran stories hailing him as a superhero of science.

Celera, Venter's startup, did not fare as well, and as time went by, he fell out with the executives running the com-

pany, who saw little profit to be had from Venter's pioneering efforts and wanted to take the firm in a different direction. On January 22, 2002, he was unceremoniously fired as president.

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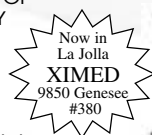
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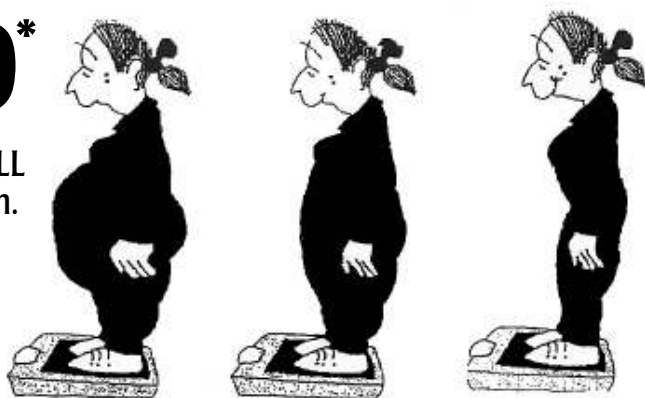
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ter set up yet another non-profit, this one called the J. Craig Venter Foundation, announcing that it would "change the world through genomics." Meanwhile, he'd split up with second wife Claire Fraser in 2005, after living apart for a year. She'd been in charge of Venter's first foundation, the Institute for Genomic Research, and when she departed after the divorce, it was merged into the new organization.

Venter claimed he would create artificial bacteria that would produce hydrogen energy from sunlight and water. He called this the Genesis Project. Mixing business with pleasure, Venter took to the high seas on his 95-foot yacht, *Sorcerer II*, collecting samples of newly discovered bacteria for his labs to sequence in search of something that might make money.

In October 2006, Ven-

ter announced he was opening a branch of his foundation in San Diego, in conjunction with Synthetic Genomics, Inc., a for-profit company he had founded the previous year to exploit ideas about using genetically altered bacteria to produce energy. By then he was already "partnering" with UCSD on a bio-computing project to support the sequencing efforts, using millions of dollars in federal grants to pay for the work.

That November, the university confirmed to reporters that it was quietly negotiating with Venter to build a laboratory and office building on UCSD property. The campus hoped to get the project approved by university regents by 2007 at the latest.

The public got its first look at the project in May 2007, though details of the negotiations remain

cloaked in secrecy, when the university issued an environmental-review document in which it described the future building complex and roughly outlined the terms of its proposed lease with Venter's foundation.

According to planning documents posted on the university's website, a 45,000-square-foot building, along with 140 parking spaces, would be built on the 1.9-acre site in UCSD's "Upper Mesa." According to the plan, "A one- to three-story building... would terrace down from east to west and open up onto a pedestrian Belvedere Terrace overlooking the UCSD Park 'Ecological Reserve.'"

Venter and UCSD hoped to have regents approve the plan by summer of 2007 and break ground that fall. University planners succeeded in having the coastal commission approve the pro-

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posals, and despite opposition from some La Jolla residents, the university's legally required environmental review of the project became final in the spring of 2007.

But just as the proposal seemed destined for quick approval by the regents at their July 2007 meeting, it was pulled from the agenda without explanation. Officials later said that the terms of the deal between Venter and the university were still being worked out but refused to provide details.

The university denied a request made under the California Public Records Act for documents regarding the transaction, citing an exemption in the law

for projects that are still subject to negotiation.

In the year since, the university has maintained its silence. Venter, on the other hand, speaks often of his plans for the building. He has shown architectural renderings as part of his promotional PowerPoint speeches to civic and scientific groups.

"Plans are underway to build a new, carbon-neutral laboratory facility on the campus of the University of California, San Diego," Venter's institute announced in a June 2008 news release. "If funding can be secured to build this state-of-the-art facility, it will be the first laboratory building of its kind in the U.S. and will house

approximately 125 staff and scientists."

The university's continued secrecy has made it difficult to determine the role in the project of Venter's commercial entity, Synthetic Genomics.

In the meantime, Venter, who has purchased a house in La Jolla, is, according to his autobiography, engaged to be married to his third wife, Heather Kowalski, his longtime public relations agent. She did not respond to repeated requests for details about Venter's plans for and the present status of the institute's proposed project at UCSD. ■

— Matt Potter

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Can we create new life?



Craig Venter

Across the boulevard from the fountains of Balboa Park, there's a splash of color that catches my eye: the 2500-odd flowers of the park's rose garden. You can find the queen of flowers in all its colors here, from scarlet red to satin white. All colors, that is, except one. There are no blue roses in the garden; roses don't grow blue in nature. But technology sometimes succeeds where nature has failed. Starting next year, according to one company, some roses will be blue, the latest triumph for the still-young science of genetic engineering. Like most colors of the rose, when given as a gift, blue carries its own meaning: the beautiful fantasy, the impossible dream, heaven here on earth. Perhaps it might now become the symbol of another dream: humankind the master of nature at last. For it is not only flowers that are going to change.

Over the past ten years, we've quietly crossed one of the greatest frontiers in science: remaking life itself. All around us, science is finding ways to rewrite, to alter, to disassemble, to make from scratch the



genetic code — that same genetic code we carry, the one shared with all life on earth. The power to alter and to create; the power to design new species; scientists become gods? And yet, scientific miracles quickly become mundane. Already, the race to remake life doesn't seem so surprising. We read that researchers have added human genes to mice to give them color vision, that the offspring of cloned cows are in our food supply, that some pigs have been altered to glow in the dark, and we're no longer amazed. We've come to expect this kind of latter-day sorcery from modern science. Perhaps we haven't realized just how far we're about to go.

We're entering a new world.

One of the best places to catch a glimpse of that secretive new world may be to take a drive to Torrey Pines. Not to the manicured green and spectacular views at the golf course, the host to the 2008 U.S. Open, but right across the street from the driving range. Here are the San Diego offices of Synthetic Genomics and, nearby, the J. Craig Venter Institute, sparkling in the afternoon sun. Both the JCVI and Synthetic Genomics share the same CEO, Dr. J. Craig Venter, the maverick UCSD grad who raced the government to map the human genome.

"Now we're trying to ask," Dr. Venter told the Technology, Entertainment, Design

(TED) conference in Monterey this February, "can we regenerate life, or can we create new life?" His answer was that we can — and will — do both. In January, the JCVI announced that it had synthesized the entire DNA genetic code, the genome, of a living creature, a bacterium named *Mycoplasma genitalium*. As the name might imply, it's a bacterium that lives in human genitals, and not a very friendly creature either; it's thought to be responsible for conditions like pelvic inflammation. Venter's team, however, picked it not because of where it lives but because of what it is: its genome is shorter than that of most bacteria and easier to synthesize. Venter's team

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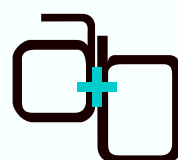
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threw in a couple of tweaks. They added “watermarks” to the new DNA, like a hidden signature to mark it as their own creation: the world’s first man-made DNA. Using this technology, Synthetic Genomics plans to take the next step and begin designing organisms that don’t yet exist.

“We can either design and assemble genes, gene pathways, or whole chromosomes,” explains Melanie Wranaker with Synthetic Genomics. “That’s the bigger goal with this new field of synthetic genomics. Instead of just doing genetic engineering, you can have this organism from scratch that has the properties you want.” Eventually they want to have software that will let scientists design new species on a computer—maybe pick from a menu of traits they want their new single-celled life-form to have. “But we’re not at that stage yet,” Wranaker cautions. “We’re in the basic research and development stages, and we’re taking a much broader approach.”

What would these designer organisms do?

“We’re looking at har-

nessing photosynthetic organisms. We’re looking at microalgae and improving these microbes to produce biofuels directly from sunlight and CO₂. And [applying that] to produce bioenergy or substitute for petrochemicals. There’s a lot of revolutionary applications that that could apply to.” In other words, if we don’t yet have the tools to overcome our coming energy crisis, why not design a whole new species to lend a hand? If bacteria and algae can be designed to synthesize chemicals or fuel, we’ll be able to keep on driving our cars and wrapping our food in plastic long after we burn through our dwindling oil supply.

And yet, some might ask, isn’t there another possibility as well? We’re not just designing machinery in a factory; we’re designing a new species, a new creature with a life of its own. Remember those horror movies where the scientist designs a germ that accidentally gets out of control and wreaks havoc?

Wranaker quickly dismisses that idea. “I don’t think you can do it inadvertently,

but with any emerging technology that holds such great promise there is the potential for misuse. The J. Craig Venter Institute published a policy study on synthetic genomics that explores the risks and benefits of the technology. And of course there’s the potential for misuse, but this is very complicated science, so we’re encouraging that government and scientific communities put these adequate safeguards in place to prevent misuse.” For now, she emphasizes, the technology is in its infancy. Synthetic Genomics and the JCVI may have synthesized an entire genetic code, but there’s much yet to be learned; this quest is still in its early days. It seems an oddly appropriate one for a company with a CEO who owns a yacht named the *Sorcerer II*.

“Now, I’ve argued that this is not Genesis, this is building on 3.5 billion years of evolution,” Venter told the TED conference. “Why do this? I think this is pretty obvious in terms of some of the needs. We’re about to go from 6.5 to 9 billion people over the next 40 years. To put it in context

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for myself, I was born in 1946. There's now three people on the planet for every one of us that existed in 1946. Within 40 years there'll be four. We have trouble feeding, providing fresh clean water, medicines, fuel for the 6.5 billion. It's going to be a stretch to do it for nine." That's why, he believes, the ability to create new species to carry out tasks is vital to our future. "We're a ways away from improving people. Our goal is just to make sure we have a chance to survive long enough to do that." In another few years, we could see scientists designing new life-forms that exist now only in the imagination. We've already taken the first step.

Some might say that we took the first step into the world of artificial life a long time ago, in 1994, to be precise, the first time a genetically engineered tomato went on the market. Fourteen years later, genetically engineered (GE) crops have become the norm. Today, from 70 to 75 percent of processed foods on supermarket shelves contain ingredients from genetically modified crops, according to Grocery Manufacturers of America; but that's only an estimate. No labeling is required, so no one really knows for sure — the real number is probably higher still. Try to find all the foods on a supermarket shelf that contain corn starch, corn syrup, corn flour, canola oil, soy oil, soybeans, or sugar. Eventually you'll give up; there are too many. All of them probably contain ingredients from genetically engineered plants.

According to the USDA, 73 percent of corn, 87 percent of cotton, and 91 percent of soybeans are GE, and those numbers are rising. Most Hawaiian papaya went GE a few years ago. Starting this year, much of our sugar comes from GE sugar beets, planted this year for the first time. It's a reversal. Some companies like American Crystal Sugar didn't used to accept GE sugar beets in their supply. Why did they make the switch?

"We've considered this carefully for a long time," explains David Berg, president of American Crystal Sugar, the largest sugar supplier in the country. "You want to make sure you don't have any consumer backlash." But, he believes, a backlash is less likely — now that the popular mood has changed. "In

the last two to three years, the opposition has just diminished significantly. . . . The general feeling seems to be that this seems to be a technology that's useful to farmers and to consumers." And the price of being left out of the biotech

boom might be high. "If we try to avoid biotech, we'll be left behind, and we just can't afford to do that."

We eat corn that kills pests and sugar from beets that survive herbicides, and it's normal now, just part of

how we grow food. But we're about to take another step.

Dr. Maarten Chrispeels is a professor of biology at UCSD and one of the founders of the San Diego Society for Molecular Agriculture (SDSMA), a group of UCSD,

Scripps, and Salk Institute researchers who meet to work on new ideas in plant biology. He's spent most of his life in the U.S., but he still speaks English with an accent, a legacy of his native Belgium, where he grew up and did his

undergrad degree.

"Because I have a background in agriculture, I've always been interested in the interface of agriculture and plant-biology research," Chrispeels explains, so much so, in fact, that he cowrote a

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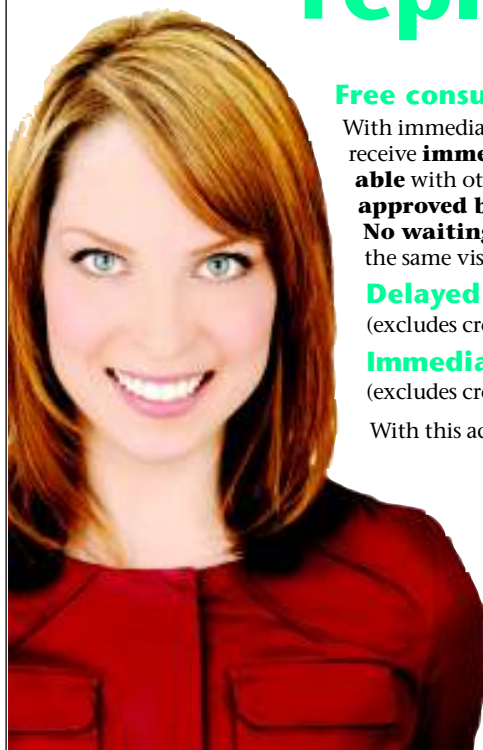
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Before

After



textbook on crop biotechnology — the genetic engineering of crops. All living things, he explains, share the same genetic code — DNA. Think of it at a basic level a little like an extremely complicated code for a computer program; if you find a snippet of code that does something that you want — say, for instance, color vision — in one organism, you can take that snippet and insert it into the code for another organism — very carefully. This is what genetic engineering is all about.

“It’s the same genetic material [in all living things], but in addition, the sequences, the particular genes, you could very often recognize [them] because of evolution. So we have genes in common with bacteria, because everything is eventually descended from or evolved from primitive organisms — all organisms have similar genes. That doesn’t mean that new genes are not acquired. Humans don’t do photosynthesis [the process plants use to capture energy

from sunlight], so we don’t have genes to do photosynthesis. So in the course of evolution, organisms acquired new properties, and those necessitated the evolving of new genes. But the basics of all cells are sort of the same, and those genes are all very much related to each other.”

You can insert certain parts of the genetic code of a mouse into a human, or the other way around, if you find a part of the code you want to use. This is how researchers have created goats that make spider silk, mice that see color, certain medicines that save lives. Genes can also be “knocked out” and disabled or “knocked in” and replaced. Many medications in clinical experiments are now tested on genetically engineered lab rats — sometimes lab rats engineered to better mimic a desired model. For Chrispeels, however, his focus is plant biology. “You have the gene in one plant resemble the gene in another plant; as a matter of fact many leaf plants have

genes in common with humans and with all kinds of animals too.”

So far, most biotech companies like Monsanto have focused on altering plants to benefit farmers, by making them herbicide-tolerant or pest-resistant. This latter is especially important. Pests and plant diseases cause billions of dollars in damage every year. In developing countries in Africa or Southeast Asia, damage from pests like locusts can cause devastating famine. Many GE crops try to minimize that damage by creating plants that kill pests or resist viruses; yet even as scientists design crops that kill pests, the pests develop resistance, a war that’s a little like a never-ending arms race.

“There are three ways to go with developing resistance to pests,” says Chrispeels. “One is traditional breeding. You find a variety, maybe a wild variety, that is resistant to the pest, and you cross it in. It takes about seven to eight generations, and presto! you have a pest-resistant variety of wheat. But ten years later, you have to start over, because the pest will have evolved.”

We start to talk about evolution, and then he pauses a moment. “Can you guys talk about evolution in the *Tribune* [the *SDUT*] or not? Is that a no-no? It’s a fairly conservative newspaper that wants not to offend its readers.” That’s quite all right, I explain; I’m not writing for the *Union-Tribune*, and yes, we can certainly talk about evolution, *SDUT* or no *SDUT*. “So, the pest has evolved, and it has

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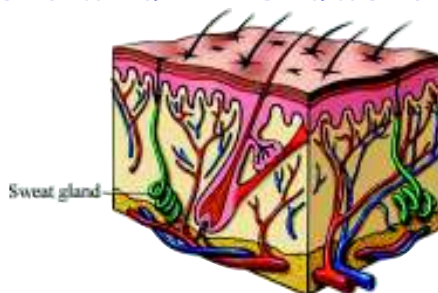
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overcome that resistance. Okay, method number two is you spray [with pesticides]; however, spraying puts on a tremendous selection pressure, and within ten years, your pest has evolved and it's resistant to your spray. You have to make a new spray, you have to invent a new pesticide. Number three is you make a genetically engineered plant, and the pests evolve and get around it. So no matter what method you use, pests, because of their short life cycle, evolve very fast. Insects have a life cycle, some of them, only a month or so. So they evolve much faster than the plants, who have a one-year life cycle. Pests developing resistance is nothing new. Does it make genetic engineering meaningless? Absolutely not. Because the companies will come up with new genetically engineered resistant plants and will probably start what's called pyramiding genes — that is, you put in two genes at once. There will always be jobs for plant breeders."

So we stay ahead in the arms race against pests by continually updating plants — or even by adding multiple modifications, redesigning plants to meet our specs. Genetic engineering has changed agriculture. "It certainly has raised productivity." But haven't some of these modifications been controversial? Some claim there could be unknown health risks from current — or future — modifications. Chrispeels believes the controversy is exaggerated.

"I personally am not worried about eating any of the GE products that are on the market. Having said that, if there are unknown health risks, then they are unknowable. And all this criticism of genetic engineering can be made also of any other method of crop improvement. For example, let's say I do this breeding where I find my rust-[a wheat disease] resistant wheat in Turkey — you know that's where wheat came from — so I find a rust-resistant variety of wheat, I cross it in with domestic wheat, and after seven or eight generations, I have my rust-resistant domestic wheat. Great. But that rust-resistant wheat, after seven or eight generations, has about one percent of the genes from that wild wheat — that's, say, 300 genes. Do I know what those genes are? No. Can I claim that it has potential health risks?

Absolutely, because I don't know what those genes are." In other words, genetic engineering is, he says, no different from any other method we use to develop new species of crops, whether cross-breeding or any other.

Coming up in the pipeline are drought-resistant wheat, fast-growing crops, and foods redesigned to be more nutritious — say, to carry omega-3 oils and vitamins. Genetically engineered crops have become especially important

for the biofuels industry, where many companies are working with genetically modified algae or other crops to augment productivity. Other companies have designed crops that produce medicines — to give one example, rice with

human genes added so that it produces lactoferrin, a protein found in breast milk. The genetically engineered crops are then used to produce medicines or dietary supplements. There are believed to be hundreds of acres of such "phar-

macrops" being grown right now in the U.S. It's difficult to know exactly how many or where, because the USDA classes many of the details on ongoing field tests of new GE crops as "confidential business information," or CBI;

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some of the companies participating in required USDA field tests do not want the USDA to disclose to the public the locations, modifications, or other details about the tests.

Pharmacrops in particular have some researchers concerned. Through cross-pollination, plants can share their genes with other plants of the same species. What happens if a corn plant being used to make insulin shares that gene with a corn plant being grown for human consumption? It could very easily happen, if the pharmacrops were planted near food crops of the same species. Bees, insects, or the wind (depending on the crop) would then carry pollen from one field to the other and with it into our food.

Dr. Michelle Marvier is an ecologist who's done some work in the field of genetically engineered crops — specifically to determine how they impact the environment. Pharmacrops are worrisome, she believes, because they have the potential to enter the food supply. "I would say it's

absolutely not desirable. These are things that would be prescribed, so clearly you don't just want people taking them willy-nilly." She gives an example of a case where that nearly occurred during a field test. "ProdiGene [a biotech company] had a corn that they developed to produce a vaccine that would prevent pig diarrhea, and there were some 'volunteer plants' that popped up the following year, mixed in with other crops, and so a huge amount of soybeans and corn had to be destroyed." That was almost six years ago. Today, field trials of other pharmacrops are still ongoing. Medications from pharmacrops should soon be reaching the market and could be a cheaper method to produce drugs and dietary supplements, the latest scientific advance to become part of our way of life. Other researchers have accomplished the same goal a different way: by genetically engineering animals, like goats, to produce proteins for medications in their milk. Some of these products also are awaiting approval.

As scientists learn how

to take life apart and put it back together, tinker with it, change it, and create it, the technology is quietly changing our world; the way we make fuel, clothes, plastics, medicines, the way we eat and drink, and, eventually, us. The possibilities are as endless as the imagination. We could free ourselves from our oil addiction, power our cars, increase our food supply, produce organs for transplant to humans in animals, cure hereditary disease — all by redesigning plants, animals, and bacteria and improving on nature. But there are many who wonder if in our search to remake life we may have gone too far.

Ocean Beach People's Organic Foods Market has been unique for several decades now: the only completely vegetarian, member-run natural food co-op in San Diego. When it started, OB People's occupied a former pool hall; for the last few years, it's had its own brand-new two-story building on Voltaire Street, an environmentally friendly structure built using recycled-content steel, lit by skylights during the day and powered

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by solar panels on the roof. The atmosphere is totally laid back. It's tough to tell the employees, like the guy in dreads stocking the organic tomatoes, from the customers. Colorful paintings by local artists line the walls. If you're looking for GE food, you won't find it here. At People's, organic is less like a choice than a religion.

Amber McHale is a marketing manager at People's; she's been working there on and off for much of her life. She can even remember to the day when she first volunteered at People's. "August 19, 1971...it was the day after my birthday." McHale was just ten years old. She has a quiet kind of idealism about her; you can hear the strength of her convictions in the way she talks. I incautiously refer to GE foods as genetically modified, or GM, and she corrects me. It may seem like a subtle point, but she believes the term is a subtler form of spin. "I have a really strong feeling about the terms GM versus GE. GE is the correct term, and you'll only ever see it GE in our newsletter. GM is misleading, because we're not talking about modification, we're talking about crossing the species barrier. I was listening to a professor on NPR the other day who was putting a spin on the technology by referring to it as GM. She was claiming that this was very similar to what we've always done with plant breeding, when in fact it's completely different."

GE, McHale believes, is less a modern miracle than an environmental pollutant. She talks about drift, or cross-pollination of a gene from a modified plant. "It's been proven to cross the species barrier. Biotechnologists swore that this would not happen. But it has. And when a GE crop through drift contaminates an organic field, it loses its certification." Once we add a gene to a plant, through cross-pollination other plants of the same or closely related species could end up with the same gene as well. For organic farmers, like those who supply People's, this is a huge problem. Food can only be certified organic if it's not genetically engineered, and cross-pollination will often mean that GE crops share genes with organic crops planted in neighboring fields, forcing the organic farmers to destroy their crops. The

Sierra Club and other groups are using this same argument in the lawsuit they filed to overturn approval of GE sugar beets. The lawsuit is still pending.

Part of the problem, she says, is that the biotech indus-

try is self-regulated to an extent its critics find worrisome. "The biotech companies are getting away with a general revolution that's changing our world. I might not want to eat GE food. That's my right. But I lose that right because

of drift."

Above all, McHale says, when we try to redesign life itself, there is the question of what we don't know. "The ramifications of this stuff. For one, GE is a brand-new science. It's a largely misunder-

stood science. And we humans are the guinea pigs for this science. There's already been a litany of things that have gone wrong." Many of those who question our rush to redesign life ask some of the same questions. They believe

we're like children playing with fire. We've opened Pandora's box. Sooner or later, they say, between our designer bacteria and our pharmaceutical farms, we're going to kill ourselves.

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tive? After all, the world's population is growing. Start reading this sentence, and by the time you finish, another four children will have been born. With oil prices skyrocketing, we'll soon need plants to feed our cars as well. Some critics argue that organic farming wouldn't be able even to feed the 6.5 billion people alive today. Why would we pass up on such a promising technology, one that offers seemingly limitless potential?

There may be something just as important, McHale believes—that we find a way to preserve our environment. "It's how we've farmed for tens of thousands of years. Organic farming is the hope of agriculture. Sustainable farming is the only way to keep the planet alive. We keep on dumping chemicals into our environment. How long can we keep that up?" As McHale reminds me, many of our past decisions, however wise they seemed at the time, carried unintended long-term consequences for the environment. Think, for example, of the damage wrought by DDT on the bald eagle and

other species or the unfolding impact of climate change around the globe. Will the alterations we make to plant and animal genomes—and eventually, perhaps, to human DNA—later bear similar consequences, ones we can't begin to predict? Or is the tremendous potential of genetic alteration simply too great to leave untapped? Whatever happens, People's will be there to offer an alternative, the other way to grow, and with that in mind they hope to open another San Diego-area co-op soon. On my way out, I mention that I might take advantage of the chance to stop by their salad bar; they have some all-organic strawberry crumble I'm eager to try. McHale stops me with a smile. "It's your salad bar," she tells me. Because that, after all, is what People's is all about.

A quarter of an hour later and a few blocks away, I walk by a florist's shop. I run my eye across the roses and for a moment imagine the familiar flower turned blue, the missing color in the Balboa garden; the abiding hope, the

miracle made real. For 20 years, researchers at Florigene, an Australian company, have sought to change the color of the rose—they claim to have only recently succeeded. "The first genetically modified rose variety will be available in Japan next year," says Dr. Steve Chandler with Florigene. They hope to release them in the U.S. as well. So roses are red, roses are blue, we might say, someday soon. Who would want to change a rose? I ask.

Or perhaps...who wouldn't? Ever since the dawn of civilization, we've wanted to believe we could control nature. We saw wolves, we tamed and bred them; we saw rivers, we built dams; we saw plants, we gave them Latin names and classified them. We launch satellites and map clouds to forecast weather; we split the atom to make energy; and wherever we go we pave over the wilderness to make room for our dreams. It's part of what it is to be human, like children playing with fire, chasing the wind, seeking the mystery of life itself. ■

—Jonathan Parkinson

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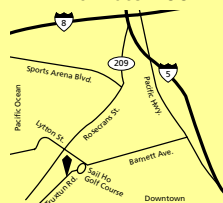
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Author: **Joshua Rhyme**
Neighborhood: **El Cajon**
Age: **30**
Occupation: **Student**

Editor's note: This is the winner of the \$100 third-place prize for October's neighborhood-essay contest.

Deadline for the next essay contest is November 30, 12 midnight.

Post your entry by going to SDReader.com/neighborhoods, find your neighborhood or campus, and follow the instructions to create a blog.



PHOTOGRAPH BY FRANK GLASER

E. Main Street, El Cajon

I was 23 or 24 when I moved to El Cajon from Phoenix, Arizona. A stretch in jail and an odd probation arrangement forced me to leave Arizona, and cheap rent landed me here in El Cajon, renting an apartment on Mollison just south of the freeway exit.

At the time, El Cajon reminded me of a woman I used to date back in Arizona. She had the complexion of dirty dishwater and was angry and sullen.

The things I think about when I remember those first few years in El Cajon are probably not the important ones people want to hear about or the ones that lend the most insight into its heart or

soul or any of those clichés, but they're mine.

I remember Kelly's Pub on Tuesday nights. I'd watch men with tattoo sleeves and flat-brimmed hats buy drinks for women in low-rise jeans and men's undershirts. We'd all drink until our heads rolled off our shoulders and hit the floor, and then we'd pick ourselves up and walk home unsteady and weaving, picking our way past 7-Eleven and craters in the weak gravity of the moon.

I remember Sundays hosing down my old Chrysler LeBaron at the car wash off Main Street, watching families on their way to church, smelling soap and wet

redemption in the air.

I remember spending hours at the Food 4 Less staring at all the colors in the translucence of the fluorescent lights in a swoon of painkillers, trying to fend off the rot and burn of my body, so confused that I walked home empty-handed, leaving my car in the parking lot amongst shoppers loading Tecate and pork chops and Wonder bread and shaving cream into their trunks.

I remember sitting in front of the welfare office off First Street waiting for food stamps, eating pastries and *albondigas*, watching the beautiful copper faces down the street at the Crystal

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I remember Krispy Kreme doughnuts after shooting pool at the Grand all afternoon. I remember getting thrown out of the Quarterdeck the day my mother found out she had breast cancer. I remember Dumont's and the Carousel. I remember falling in love with a tall brunette with a sad mouth at the bar of

memories of last week and first loves and violent homelands left behind. I remember the two beautiful, shy Chaldean kids who worked at the liquor store on Broadway before someone laid them face down and put a bullet in the back of their heads. I remember all the colors of the hands that passed by me and the histories of ancient peoples etched into the

look like on the other side of all those lonely doors?

I'm not sure what I think about El Cajon and all these memories, this city of liquor stores and middle-class homes and low-rent apartments, this city of proud faces and work boots and families. I don't know. I haven't been able to spend much time walking the streets lately. My health hasn't been good, and I've been too busy to daydream about all the stories behind the eyes reflected off the hot asphalt that runs through this city. Sitting here, in the middle of the night, staring out my window into the dark street, I can hear them, all the warm bodies inhaling and exhaling in unison, their hot breath rising up past the streetlights into the black sky. I wonder what they had for dinner, if they're sleeping alone, if they're dreaming about Starbucks or balancing their check-books or the thousands of beating hearts spread out around them. ■

I can hear them, all the warm bodies inhaling and exhaling in unison, their hot breath rising up past the streetlights into the black sky.

the Applebee's next to the Parkway Plaza mall. I remember them soldering the gates in the rear of my apartment building shut so no one could sell dope to the kids walking home from the high school down the street. I remember mothers pushing strollers and towing kids down Second Street, ankle deep in

back of every one of their knuckles. I remember the tired faces on the 874 bus at six in the evening. I remember kicking a habit and getting clean in the rooms of a small church behind the public library. I remember walking past lighted windows smelling chicken frying and wondering *What do the lives*

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The Illegal Tunnel

The Arts and TJ's Mysterious Past

In July 2004, I was coming out of my house and discovered the whole Colonia Federal being invaded by police and soldiers," says Border Council of Arts and Culture founder Luis Ituarte.

"I found out the next day that they discovered a tunnel beneath one of the houses." Authorities confiscated the house, located a few blocks from Ituarte's home in Colonia Federal, a Tijuana neighborhood that abuts the border fence at San Ysidro.

Ituarte had admired the funky boat-shaped structure in the past and had even considered renting studio space there. When

LOCAL EVENTS

the building recaptured his attention, he realized it would make an ideal location for the art center he'd been seeking to establish since 2002 for his nonprofit organization. From neighbors, Ituarte learned that renters of the house had been operating a 150-foot-long tunnel to smuggle drugs and people into the United States. According to reports by the *Associated Press*, the tunnel was equipped with electricity and a pulley system for bundles of marijuana.

"The neighbors were pretty aware of what was going on, but they never denounced it," says Ituarte. "For obvious reasons, like fearing their lives were in jeopardy."

These tunnels are not uncommon — the National Drug Intelligence Center lists 21 additional subterranean passageways connecting Tijuana and San Diego discovered since 2005. When owners of the home (the

Lozano family) were exonerated of any culpability with regard to the illegal activities going on within, Ituarte contacted them and convinced them to donate the building to be used as an international center for the arts.

"It fit with the history of Tijuana, of being a place of ill repute that turned out into something better," says Ituarte, citing as an example the casinos of the 1920s that have since been transformed into cultural landmarks.

To highlight rather than hide the house's illicit past, Ituarte named the new art center La Casa del Túnel, or the House of the Tunnel. Aside from the name of the building, there is no sign of the tunnel — both sides were filled in with five tons of concrete, and Ituarte says there is "no trace" of where it was located in the house.

"At the beginning, we had some neighbors that didn't like the fact that we called it La Casa del Túnel. They thought it would be like putting the finger on the wound, about something they don't feel proud about the neighborhood. Now they have accepted it."

Ituarte claims that Colonia Federal, the area in which he's lived for seven years, was the first neighborhood of Tijuana. "Colonia de los Empleados Federales" was the original name — that means 'the Neighborhood for Employees of Federal Government.' According to Ituarte, most of the original residents of the area in the 1930s were employees of the Mexican Federal Customs Office and had been granted pieces of land beside the border on which to build their homes so that they could be close to their place of employment.

"Colonia Federal is a kind of enclosed



La Casa del Túnel: Art Center

triangle made by the river, the border, and the entrance to Mexico," says Ituarte. "This little triangle of nine blocks in which 500 people live is totally separated from the rest of the city."

Ituarte hopes the cheap rent and what he calls a "romantic" atmosphere will draw more artists. He has already drawn six, of whom Ituarte is one. "I live in a three-bedroom house — a modernist, magnificent California bungalow — which rents me \$500. In San Diego or Los Angeles this would cost me close to \$2000."

The majority of residents in the area are renters. "The owners live somewhere else, like Chula Vista," says Ituarte. "It's very common here in Tijuana that most people who achieve a certain economical status go to live in San Diego."

Installing a cultural center, Ituarte says, is one way of protecting a neighborhood from being made into a freeway or river, which is what happened to the rest of Colonia Federal. "Originally this neighborhood was ten times bigger." The government bulldozed entire streets to make way for the cement construction around the river and wider roadways.

"People are very much afraid the government will do that again. So if they see that

we have a cultural kind of development, something for Tijuana to feel proud of, probably the government will think twice before doing an expansion on the border of this land."

In addition to preserving the community, Ituarte hopes to see it gentrify.

"In the future I see a lot of artists from San Diego moving in here because it's very easy to get to here, and I know that to get a studio in San Diego right now would cost more than \$1000 when you can get one here for \$300. All you have to do is take the trolley, do your work, and go back — you don't have to live here, just come and work."

As part of his efforts to make the area more appealing to Americans, Ituarte will soon be opening a restaurant on the roof of La Casa del Túnel called Eco Verde Café.

— Barbarella

La Casa del Túnel: Art Center
Calle Chapo Márquez 133, Colonia Federal
Tijuana BC, Mexico
Price: Free
Hours: Friday through Monday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Info: 011-52-664-682-9570 or cofac101.org

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Calendar

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HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTING: Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday the week prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the 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 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SDReader.com by clicking on the events section.

DANCE

"Lyrics, Beats, and Bricks" Hip-hop, dance theater performances conceived and choreographed by Eveoke choreographer Ericka Aisha Moore in collaboration with Collective Purpose poet Kendrick Dial. Work exploring "what it means to carry the weight of our hearts in our hands through this powerful lens of hip-hop" boasts 13 dancers. Piece also features poetry of Ant Black and Rudy Francisco, scenic design with work by graffiti artist PROK 637. Walk-up tickets are "pay-what-you-can" within one hour before showtime. 619-238-1153. Fridays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m.; through Sunday, December 14, \$15-\$20.

OUT & ABOUT

"JUST A BUNCH OF RECIPES"
Sam "The Cooking Guy"
Zien, Warwick's Bookstore,
Tuesday, December 2.

(SEE IN PERSON)



Tenth Avenue Theatre, 930 Tenth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

Cajun and Zydeco Dance
Zydeco lesson and dance. Beginners' dance lessons at 7 p.m.; open dancing to recorded tunes 8 p.m. 619-857-8409. Tuesdays, 7 p.m.; \$5. Tio Leo's Lounge, 5302 Napa Street. (LINDA VISTA)

Contradance the Night Away!
Steve Barlow calls, Ranting Ban-shee makes music for dance hosted by San Diego Folk Heritage at 8 p.m. Beginners' dance workshop: 7:30 p.m. Bring food/beverages to share during (optional) potluck supper, 6:30 p.m. Wear soft-soled shoes. 619-283-8550. Saturday, November 29, 6:30 p.m.; \$7. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street. (NORTH PARK)

English Country Dancing All callers share duties for English country dancing. 858-676-9731. Sunday, November 30, 6 p.m.; \$6.

Jean Hart Academy of Dance, 12227 Poway Road. (POWAY)

Master Class Series Eric Geiger (of Bill T. Jones and Isaacs McCaleb) leads contemporary forms class. 619-225-1803. Sunday, November 30, 10 a.m.; \$15. Dance Place San Diego in NTC Promenade, 2650 Truxtun Road, Suite 108. (POINT LOMA)

Nuts to You! San Diego Civic Youth Ballet performs *Nutcracker Suite* in store windows of the PianoSD.com showroom. Stop in

or watch from your vehicle. 619-298-5313. Friday, November 28, 6 p.m.; Saturday, November 29, 6 p.m.; PianoSD.com, 1233 Camino del Rio South. (MISSION VALLEY)

Scandinavian Dancing Learn "old-time" regional, pattern, and turning dances from Sweden, Norway, and Denmark from "expert" instructors. All ages and abilities; singles and couples welcome. 619-286-0355. Wednesday, December 3, 7:30 p.m.; \$6-\$8. Folk Dance Center, 4569 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

Swingin' Season II Waltz & Such again offers up "waltz swing" lessons in Casa del Prado room 207. Beginners at 7:15 p.m., intermediates at 8:15, followed by open dancing to mixed music genres until 9:45 p.m. All ages. Partners not required. Donation. 619-583-9956. Friday, November 28, 7:15 p.m.; \$1. Casa del Prado, El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Time for Nutcrackers! New West Ballet Theatre offers 29th season production of *The Nutcracker*. Traditional production boasts "easy-to-follow story-

line and animated choreography" with professional dancers in leading roles, young local talent in supporting roles. 760-738-4751. Friday, November 28, 7 p.m.; Saturday, November 29, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday, November 30, 2 p.m.; \$15-\$27. Poway Center for the Performing Arts, 15498 Espola Road. (POWAY)

FILM

Black Sunday Film screening in conjunction with "Fear Minus

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Calendar

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One" exhibition. 858-534-2107. Tuesday, December 2, 7 p.m.; Porter's Pub at UCSD, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Leaf Newark filmmaker Tim Carr writes, directs, stars as worst first-round pick in history in semibio-graphical documentary chronicling career of quarterback Ryan Leaf, "the highly touted first-round NFL draft pick of 1998, chosen right behind Peyton Manning." Leaf was best known "for outbursts directed at teammates, coaches, fans, and reporters." 619-236-5821. Wednesday, December 3, 6:30 p.m.; San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (DOWNTOWN)

Minority Report Tom Cruise and Colin Farrell star in this "dark, brooding vision of the future" directed by Steven Spielberg. 619-299-9360. Sunday, November 30, 6:30 p.m.; Libertalia Café, 3834 Fifth Avenue. (HILLCREST)

How About a Plucky Romance? See Pierre Salvadori's film *Priceless*, starring Audrey Tautou and Gad Elmaleh, when it screens for Film Forum. 619-236-5800. Monday, December 1, 6:30 p.m.; San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (DOWNTOWN)

FOR KIDS

Santa and the Ho Ho Thief Big Joe Puppet Productions take stage to tell tale of Santa and Alfie Elf saving Christmas, November 26-30 and December 3-4. Curtain rises at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Wednesday-Friday and at 11 a.m., 1, and 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. 619-544-9203. Friday, November 28; Saturday, November 29; Sunday, November 30; Wednesday, December 3; \$3-\$5. Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Road West. (BALBOA PARK)

Meet Jimmy Neutron's Voice! Songstress and "voiceover artist" Debi Derryberry plans concert of original and old favorite songs for kids (aged two to six). Derryberry

A GUIDE TO UNEXPECTED SAN DIEGO AND BEYOND | BY JERRY SCHAD

Blue Angels Peak is the name of a prominent crag practically sitting on the border between California and Baja California, just east of the high-desert community of Jacumba. In fact, the summit of Blue Angels Peak just happens to be the point of highest elevation in California within six miles of the international border.

Blue Angels lies within a rugged set of peaks and valleys in the Jacumba Mountains — an area administered by the federal Bureau of Land Management and designated as the Jacumba Mountains Wilderness Area. South of the border these same mountains stretch about 100 miles into Mexico, where they are known as the



Rock-scape near Blue Angels Peak

Sierra Juarez. On both sides of the border you can see great stacks of weathered boulders, with scattered junipers and pinyon pines growing in pockets of sand or soil.

To get to the starting point from San Diego, drive east on Interstate 8 about 70 miles and exit at In-Ko-Pah Park Road (just east of Jacumba). Turn right and drive southwest 0.2 mile along the frontage road, Old Highway

80. Turn left onto the dirt road heading into the dry hills. Proceed 0.8 mile up this road and park at a large turnout. This is the assumed starting point for hiking, but use discretion about how far you can safely drive up this road. That would depend on the condition of the road and on the toughness of your vehicle. Your hike will measure five miles round-trip if you start walking from the turnout.

On foot, head up the road to a saddle at 3830 feet. An old dirt road branches left and leads to Smuggler's Cave, an historic hideout of bandits and smugglers, now a fire-blackened, graffiti-emblazoned wreck. Proceed another 0.1 mile south and bear right (west). Continue south and finally east to the road's end, staying left at two junctions at 1.1 and 1.4 miles. An old mining prospect lies at the end.

Blue Angels Peak is to the southeast, hidden behind a false peak capped by a massive block of granite seemingly poised to roll. Scramble up over lichen-encrusted boulders and past scraggly pinyons to find a U.S. Geological Survey benchmark on the summit.

On the return trip, you can make a short detour to discover International Boundary Marker 231, a handsome 10-foot steel obelisk, in the middle of a flat south and a little west of the peak. These markers are numbered consecutively along the border from #1 at the Gulf of Mexico shoreline east of Brownsville-Matamoros (Texas) to #258 at the Pacific shoreline near Imperial Beach.

U.S. Border Patrol agents intensively monitor the entire border area. You will almost certainly interact with at least one of them while visiting here. Consider bringing along a passport or other appropriate documentation to prove that

you are a U.S. citizen or have a valid reason to be in the U.S. Also, keep in mind that it is safer to travel in groups while visiting the border region.

This article contains information about a publicly owned recreation or wilderness area. Trails and

pathways are not necessarily marked. Conditions can change rapidly. Hikers should be properly equipped and have safety and navigational skills. The *Reader* and Jerry Schad assume no responsibility for any adverse experience.

BLUE ANGELS PEAK

Climb the wind-blown summit of Blue Angels Peak near Jacumba and behold a binational panorama.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 70 miles

Hiking length: 5.0 miles round-trip

Difficulty: Moderately strenuous



— best known as the voice of Jimmy from the film *Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius* — is celebrating release of her new children's book, *Baby Banana and the Licorice Tree*. 760-943-6400. Monday, December 1, 5 p.m.; ages 2 and up. Barnes and Noble Bookstore Encinitas, 1040 North El Camino Real. (ENCINITAS)

Pokémon City Championships

As first event in Pokémon Organized Play (POP) Championship Series, players in each of the three Pokémon Organized Play-recognized age divisions compete for Pokémon TCG booster packs, city championship medal, bragging rights, chance to advance to world championships. 858-576-1525. Saturday, November 29, 10 a.m.;

Game Empire, 7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard #306. (CLAIREMONT)

Saturday Celebrations Enjoy music and dance parties during "Holiday Happenings." Afternoons feature dancers, musical groups, "other unique performers." Create ornaments in holiday-themed design studio. 619-233-8792. Saturday, November 29, 10

a.m.; New Children's Museum, 200 West Island Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

IN PERSON

"Just a Bunch of Recipes" Sam "The Cooking Guy" Zien signs *Sam the Cooking Guy Cookbook*. The La Jolla High School Madrigals will perform. 858-454-0347. Tuesday, December 2, 6 p.m.; Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

"Light up America" Cheech and Chong — older and wiser? — reunite for tour. Tickets through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). Friday, November 28, 7:30 p.m.; \$39-

\$59. Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street. (DOWNTOWN)

"Now That She's Gone" Ellen Snortland's play explores her sometimes torturous relationship with her Norwegian-American mother. Donations accepted to benefit the Humanities Institute Program. Play offered in Apolliad Theater (building C). 619-388-2829. Tuesday, December 2, 7 p.m.; Mesa College, 7250 Mesa College Drive. (KEARNY MESA)

Antiques: The History of an Idea Leon Rosenstein, SDSU emeritus professor of philosophy and antique dealer since 1985, discusses his new book. 858-755-5156. Monday, December 1, 6 p.m.; Antiques Warehouse, 212 South Cedros Avenue. (SOLANA BEACH)

Oliver Twist Musical presented by World Dance n Arts, performed by 28 student actors from all over county. Benefit for One Heart-One Mind Church Youth Ministry. 858-679-8277. Saturday, November 29, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m.; \$10-\$12. California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 North Escondido Boulevard. (ESCONDIDO)

A Multicultural Journey Celebrate holidays with Craig Newton performing holiday songs from around the world on variety of instruments. Sing-along for all ages. 760-602-2026. Wednesday, December 3, 7 p.m.; Cole Library, 1250 Carlsbad Village Drive. (CARLSBAD)

Cross-Genre? Debut "cross-genre" author Lorelei Armstrong discusses and signs *In the Face*, set in Hollywood in the "not-too-distant future." 858-268-4747. Friday, November 28, 7 p.m.; Mysterious Galaxy Books, 7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Suite 302. (CLAIREMONT)

Fashion, Romance, Rock and Roll Author Lorelei Shellist signs *Runway Runaway*. 858-488-1780. Sunday, November 30, 6 p.m.; Canes, 3105 Ocean Front Walk. (MISSION BEACH)

Poetry Publication Party Magee Park Poets celebrate release of 20th annual *Magee Park Poets Poetry Anthology* with open reading by poets featured in the book. Anthology available (\$5). Reception follows. 760-602-2012. Wednesday, December 3, 7 p.m.; Schulman Auditorium at Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane. (CARLSBAD)

Poetry Reading Sunset Poets gather for readings in new venue. No featured poet, so bring anything you wish to share. 760-758-2410. Sunday, November 30, 2 p.m.;



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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

Oceanside Mission Library, 3861-B Mission Avenue. (OCEANSIDE)

Q: Who Is Willie O'Ree? Meet Willie O'Ree — the National Hockey League's first African-American player — as he discusses his experiences on the Boston Bruins and the San Diego Gulls. 619-463-3006. Wednesday, December 3, 3 p.m.; Spring Valley Library, 836 Kempton Street. (SPRING VALLEY)

Squeaky-Clean Comedy! Family-friendly shows for all ages. 858-433-1457. Saturdays, 7 p.m.; \$5. Naveed's Comedy Club at Bella Roma Pizza and Restaurant, 6830 La Jolla Boulevard #103. (LA JOLLA)

LECTURES

"Ceilings and Floors: When Theories and Data Are About Boundaries Not Central Tendencies" Professor Gary Goertz of University of Arizona focuses on "situations where the data or the theory suggest or require...that one estimate the boundary lines of data." Lecture takes place in IR/PS Conference Room 1428. RSVP: 858-822-5297. Wednesday, December 3, 2 p.m.; University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

"Dance, Dancers, and Degas" Norman Bryson, professor of art history at UCSD, discusses work of artist Edgar Degas for "Evening Encounters" series. The Music and

the Mirror classical ballet troupe performs before lecture. French wine served. 619-696-1953. Monday, December 1, 5 p.m.; \$25-\$30. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

"Global Warming Guaranteed: How the World's Oceans Propel Climate Change" Oceanographer, climate scientist Josh Willis from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory discusses how "oceans not only experience climate change, they help drive and regulate it." Screening of *Global Warming* follows (2 p.m.). Included in regular admission. 619-238-1233. Monday, December 1, 12:30 p.m.; \$5-\$10. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

"Retrospective: Science and Ethics News Stories of 2008" San Diego journalists Kenny Goldberg (KPBS), Terri Somers (*San Diego Union-Tribune*), and Brad Fikes (*North County Times*) look at past year, reflect on science stories having an impact on our lives. What ethical challenges will be faced in 2009 and beyond? Requested reservations: 858-822-2647. Wednesday, December 3, 5:30 p.m.; Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

My Big Fat Greek Diet Dr. Nick Yphandites discusses "his health and life changing journey," having lost 270 pounds. Lecture offered in Markstein Hall room 107. 760-750-4366. Wednesday, December 3, 10 a.m.; CSU San Marcos, 333 South Twin Oaks Valley Road. (SAN MARCOS)

Biting Problems? "Biting" is the topic when Parrot Education and Adoption Center hosts seminar in

OUT & ABOUT

"LIGHT UP AMERICA" — CHEECH AND CHONG
Copley Symphony Hall,
Friday, November 28.

(SEE IN PERSON)



room D-6 at 1 p.m., followed by ask the expert time (2:45 p.m.). Reservations: 619-287-8200. Sunday, November 30, 1 p.m. and 2:45 p.m.; \$5-\$15. Marina Village Conference Center, 1936 Quivira Way. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Digital Nature Photography Intermediate class led by Frank Canziani explores applications of macrophotography utilizing close-up dioters, extension tubes, and macro lenses. Also discuss in-camera digital color balancing versus

postproduction correction. Participants should have basic camera knowledge and photography experience. Registration: 619-255-0203. Monday, December 1, 6:30 p.m.; \$70-\$80. San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Gallery Talk The exhibition "Fear Minus One" focuses on five artists who use preexisting films as their source. Professor Lesley Stern of the Visual Arts Department at UCSD leads exhibition tour. She is author

of *The Scorsese Connection* and *The Smoking Book*. 858-534-2107. Wednesday, December 3, 6 p.m.; University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Perspectives from the Middle East Reverend Dr. Kathy Hearn — recently returned from a trip to Middle East as part of the Path of Abraham Initiative working for peace by "teaching the common roots of Judaism, Islam, and Christianity" — shares her experiences in the region, her perspective on

unfolding events, developments in "Global Heart Vision." Offering. 619-303-6609. Sunday, November 30, 10 a.m.; Vision Center for Spiritual Living, 11260 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (TIERRASANTA)

Pervasive Process of Ethnic Simplification University of Pennsylvania professor Jeff Weintraub focuses on "The Dynamics of Ethnic Simplification in Eastern Europe and the Middle East: From 1923 to 1948 to the 21st Century" in ERC 115. Weintraub's talk will identify main outlines of overall pattern, explore implications for both historical analysis and contemporary political issues. RSVP: 858-822-5297. Tuesday, December 2, 12:30 p.m.; University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Social Issues Talk Renowned Kenyan social activist and debt-relief campaigner Wahu Kaara plans lecture in UC Forum. 619-260-7509. Tuesday, December 2, 7 p.m.; University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park. (LINDA VISTA)

OUTDOORS

"Rainbow Season" arrives with the first rains of late fall. Scattered showers are best for rainbow watching: sunlight refracting and reflecting through the raindrops causes two bows to appear: an intense circular arc at 42°, and a bigger, but weaker arc at 51° from the antisolar point (the point in the sky diametrically opposed to the sun's position). From November through mid-February, the sun never gets higher than 42° above the horizon as seen from San

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What's That You're Reading?

NAME: JULIA WRIGHT | **AGE:** 23 | **OCCUPATION:** BARISTA
NEIGHBORHOOD: GOLDEN HILL | **WHERE INTERVIEWED:** KENSINGTON COFFEE COMPANY



What are you reading?

"*Black Hawk Down*. I saw the movie a while ago and wasn't that interested, but a friend of mine who's big into war books — fiction and nonfiction — gave it to me and said, 'You really need to read this book. It's much better than the movie.'"

What's it about?

"Basically, there are these warring clans in Mogadishu, in Africa, and the UN is trying to supply the people there with food, and the warring clans are trying to intercept the food so they can control the people, and it's about the US military interceding. They go in, and something goes wrong. It's about one single afternoon of battle, and it's really interesting. The Americans went in thinking they were this superpower, and basically, a small militia shot down four Black Hawk helicopters in a single battle. It's about a small group of men relying on each other. One of the things that got lost in the movie is that the author went back to Mogadishu and interviewed Somalis who had gone through it, so you got two sides to the story. You can see why they were scared, and a little bit of why they vilified the Americans. They didn't understand what was going on, and

they were trying to defend their land."

Who's your favorite person in the story?

"There are bits of personal things that go on, but I don't think there's any one person that sticks out. I do think I have a newfound respect for the Delta Force men, and people who do special ops in the military."

Compare this to other books that you've read.

"It's a complete departure for me. I usually read science fiction and fantasy novels. But I'm really enjoying it."

What book has been most life-changing for you?

"I don't know if there's a book that's had that profound an effect. This is going to sound silly, but I just reread the Harry Potter series, and I started thinking about the time when I first started the books, back when I was a little kid. Now, I can see myself growing with the series, as the series progresses and changes. I think it was one

of the first books that taught that little kids can read big books and understand them and be confident about their reading skills."

Who are some of your favorite authors?

"Thomas Hardy and Madeleine L'Engle. I love Hardy's *Far from the Madding Crowd*. Madeleine L'Engle wrote *A Wrinkle in Time*, *A Swiftly Tilting Planet*, and *The Wind in the Door*. I like the scientific edge that L'Engle brings to her books. She had big, interesting subjects, and like J.K. Rowling, she knew that kids did have the ability to comprehend them. It helped me feel confident that I could read bigger books with bigger concepts. Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials* trilogy did that, too."

What magazines or newspapers do you read?

"*Dwell*, which is a modern architecture-and-home-furnishings magazine, and *Game Informers*. I'll read any-

where from 5 to 15 articles to the end."

Do you talk with friends about reading?

"Definitely. We have little book clubs where we'll sit outside and talk about what we're reading. One of my friends is into the fantasy fiction stuff that I like. Another reads those war books. My boyfriend is really into comic books and graphic novels. We're big on loaning and borrowing — if you like it, give it out to someone."

Tell me about graphic novels.

"I think some of the best literature that's come out in the past 20 years has been in graphic novels. Alan Moore has brought a new level of readership — I got one of my friends who swore he'd never read a comic book to read one of Moore's. There's so much substance — I would recommend *V for Vendetta* to anyone who hasn't read one. And they're turning Stephen King's *The Stand* into a graphic novel series, and it's really good."

To get an online version of this column, go to sdreader.com. You can print it, email it to friends, and get other columns on the same subject.

Diego, so (rain and sunlight permitting) the brighter of the two arcs may appear above the horizon at any time of day. In spring and summer, rainbows are never seen in the sky around midday because the sun is too high — and the antisolal point is too low.

The Fremont Cottonwoods along the San Diego River in Mission Gorge are now showing their best tawny foliage. You can park at the Old Mission Dam historic site or the Mission Trails Regional Park visitor center and explore the riparian area by way of riverside trails, or by walking, bike riding, or skating along the bike path high above the river's south and east

banks. Large cottonwoods can also be seen along other watercourses throughout the San Diego County backcountry, including along the Sweetwater River near Cottonwood Golf Course, and in Cottonwood Valley, east of Pine Valley along Interstate 8.

The Moon's Cheshire-Cat Smile returns to the evening sky Saturday evening, November 29. You'll spot its thin crescent shape low in the southwest about half an hour after sunset.

Venus and Jupiter, the two brightest planets in the night sky, are just 2 degrees apart low in the southwest at dusk on Sunday evening, November 30. Venus is

several times brighter than Jupiter, making the pair resemble mismatched cats' eyes. Adding spice to the scene is the crescent moon, appearing below and to the right of the planetary pair. On the following evening (Monday, December 1), the slightly thicker crescent moon will lie above and to the left of Venus and Jupiter — creating a glittering triangular arrangement.

"Having Fun on the Trails" Explore flora, fauna, scenery of Daley Ranch with naturalist/biologist Carol Stanford during three-plus-mile walk around Boulder Loop trail. 760-839-4680. Sunday, November 30, 9 a.m.; Daley Ranch, 3024 La Honda Drive. (ESCONDIDO)

Explore Silverwood Sanctuary Audubon Society offers guided walks offered Sundays, 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. 619-682-7200. Sundays, 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Silverwood Sanctuary, 13003 Wildcat Canyon Road. (LAKESIDE)

Seashore Sans the Tourists Enjoy sound of surf during mostly flat, moderately paced Walkabout outing. 619-231-7463. Friday, November 28, 10 a.m.; Crystal Pier, Garnet Avenue at Ocean Boulevard. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Tawny Foliage See and enjoy cottonwood trees in their fall finery during walks with a trail guide. 619-668-3281. Saturday, November 29, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, Novem-

ber 30, 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday, December 3, 9:30 a.m.; Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Tour del Día Offshoot Tours offers an hour-long guided stroll highlighting the Park Palisades area of Balboa Park. 619-235-1122. Saturday, November 29, 10 a.m.; Balboa Park Visitors' Center, 1549 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Work Party Join in habitat-restoration work with San Diego Audubon Society. Enhance wildlife habitat by removing invasive plants, trimming vegetation. Required reservations: 619-682-7200. Saturday, November 29, 9 a.m.;

Anstine-Audubon Nature Preserve, 2437 Hutchison Street. (VISTA)

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

Pedro y el Lobo Enjoy Sergei Prokofiev's music and the story (a.k.a. *Peter and the Wolf*). 011-52-664-687-9636. Sunday, November 30, 6 p.m.; \$15-\$20. Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BAJA)

Mauricio Náder Piano Concert Acclaimed Mexican pianist in concert. 011-52-646-175-2386 or 011-52-646-176-3005. Monday, De-

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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

cember 1, 8 p.m.; \$10-\$20. Teatro Universitario Benito Juárez, Avenida Guadalupe between Calles 2 and 4. (BAJA)

Méxican Folk Music Musician and composer Fernando Delgadillo in concert. 011-52-664-687-9636. Friday, November 28, 8 p.m.; \$30-\$35. Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BAJA)

Méxican Folkloric Dancing Ballet Ticuán Company takes stage. 011-52-664-687-9636. Saturday, November 29, 7 p.m.; \$10. Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BAJA)

SPECIAL

Community Holiday Celebration Festivities include crafts for kids and teens (5 p.m.), henna artist making temporary tattoos for all (5 p.m.), refreshments, pictures with Santa Claus. 619-424-0474. Wednesday, December 3, 5 p.m.; Otay Mesa-Nestor Library, 3003 Coronado Avenue. (CHULA VISTA)

Cook It Up! "Holiday Entertaining" cooking class promising 90-minute cooking demonstration followed by lunch (featuring demonstrated items) in club's Marine Room. Recipes provided for attendees, including festive hors d'oeuvres, champagne cocktails, fig and hazelnut tapenade crostini, shrimp and andouille sausage lollipops. Reservations: 858-459-7222. Wednesday, December 3, 11:30 a.m.; \$75. La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club, 2000 Spindrift Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Enjoy "Cringe Trivia"? R-Rated Trivia returns with "comedy, mini-games, category rounds," and trivia "guaranteed to burn off your tryptophan." Winning team takes all. 619-294-4848. Sunday, November 30, 8 p.m.; \$3. Ages 21 and up. The Wit's End, 420 Robinson Avenue. (HILLCREST)

Fishnet Follies Rock n' Burlesque Enjoy burlesque and belly-dance performances by Jezza Belle, Lady Borgia, Mija Macabre, Mimi LeMeaux, Mynx d'Meanor. Live music by Nautical Disaster, Echo Revolution. Proceeds benefit Animal Protection and Rescue League. 650-922-3310. Sunday, November 30, 6 p.m.; \$10. Ages 21 and up. Ruby Room, 1271 University Avenue. (HILLCREST)

Gingerbread Contest View first gingerbread contest entries through December. Admission: donation of toy for Children's Hospital. 858-592-0570. Sunday, November 30, 10 a.m.; Bon Bon Bakery and Chocolates, 13330 Paseo Del Verano. (RANCHO BERNARDO)

Hate Wasting Water? Water conservation tips offered by experts during tours slated for last Saturday each month. Participants learn of international plants that are easy to grow, from areas such as the Mediterranean basin, Cape South Africa, Australia, Chile, and California natives. Learn to plant, grow, cultivate with "easy how-to" guidelines and instruction. Included in regular admission. 760-436-3036 x206. Saturday, November 29, 10 a.m.; \$10. Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Holiday House Tours Visit the Marston home decorated for holiday season. "Share in the sights, sounds, and smells of holidays past as you tour the 1905 home decorated for the holiday season." 619-232-6203 x129. Friday, November

OUT & ABOUT

MEET JIMMY NEUTRON'S VOICE! Debi Derryberry concert, Barnes and Noble Encinitas, Monday, December 1.

(SEE FOR KIDS)



28, 11 a.m.; \$8. Marston House Museum, 3525 Seventh Avenue. (HILLCREST)

Holiday of Lights More than 350 lighted, holiday-themed displays for viewing from visitors' cars. Admission: \$14 per vehicle (up to five people), \$19 per vehicle with six or more people, \$49 per bus. 858-793-5555. Thursdays, 5:30 p.m.; Fridays, 5:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 5:30 p.m.; Sundays, 5:30 p.m.; Mondays, 5:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.; through Sunday, January 4, \$14. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Solana Beach Art Association Group's debut exhibit begins with reception for artists Carol Beth Rodriguez, Amber Irwin, Christie Beniston, Irene de Watteville, Ger-

rit Greve, Richard Moren, Helen Montgomery-Drysdale, Nancy Klann, Diane Y. Welch. Music by guitarist, vocalist Ben Powell. Exhibition closes Thursday, January 15. 858-663-9639. Wednesday, December 3, 5:30 p.m.; Solana Beach City Hall, 635 South Coast Highway 101. (SOLANA BEACH)

Stamp-Collecting Show Stamp and cover dealers offer their wares. 619-218-7835. Sunday, November 30, 10 a.m.; Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road. (KEARNY MESA)

World AIDS Day Day "is about raising money, increasing awareness, fighting prejudice, and improving education." Event includes "AIDS Art Live" (noon), Dr. Joseph Caperna presenting his "perspective on the four trips he

has taken to South Africa" (2 p.m.), speakers from Arusha Project (3:15 p.m.), HIV Youth Council Panel (4 p.m.). 858-534-TIXS. Monday, December 1, noon; Loft, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

SPORTS

Chargers Football San Diego Chargers host Atlanta Falcons during game broadcast on Fox. Tickets available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). Sunday, November 30, 1:05 p.m.; \$54-\$98. Qualcomm Stadium, 9449 Friars Road. (MISSION VALLEY)

Father Joe's Thanksgiving Day 5K Walk/Run Seventh annual fundraiser for St. Vincent de Paul Village meal service. Event-day reg-

istration: 6:30 a.m. 800-466-3537. Thursday, November 27, 6:30 a.m.; \$20-\$30. San Diego Museum of Man, 1350 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Hard Courts Tennis Tournament The United States Tennis Association (USTA) National 40 Hard Court Championships return, with play December 1-7. Competition slated for men's and women's in singles, doubles, and mixed doubles events for players over the age of 39. Field boasts former touring pros and "nation's strongest players in this age group."

During competition, singles play in morning, doubles play in afternoon. Finals: December 6 and 7. Free admission for spectators; parking: \$5. 858-551-4616. Monday, December 1, 10 a.m.; Tuesday, December 2, 10 a.m.; Wednesday, December 3, 10 a.m.; La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club, 2000 Spindrift Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Move Your Feet Before You Eat! Third annual "O'side Turkey Trot" ends at Oceanside Pier. Open 5K run/walk for nonresidents at 7:15 a.m., locals-only 5k at 8:15 a.m., kids' pier-to-pier run (one mile) starting at 9:15, 9:20, 9:45 a.m. 760-434-7706. Thursday, November 27, 7:15 a.m.; \$22-\$30. Ages 5 and up. Oceanside Library, 330 North Coast Highway. (OCEANSIDE)

Not Too Hard, Not Too Easy Bicycle over the river and through Point Loma with Knickerbiker riders. Expect "an impressive hill" at end of 30-plus-mile ride. Bring money for coffee stop, lunch at end of ride at Lucky Buck's. 619-920-3198. Saturday, November 29, 9 a.m.; Department of Motor Vehicles - Hillcrest, 3960 Normal Street. (HILLCREST)

Run for the Hungry Annual Thanksgiving Day 5K and 10K starting at Petco Park East (at Imperial and 13th Street). Proceeds benefit San Diego Food Bank and Foodmobile program. 619-298-7400. Thursday, November 27, 8

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a.m.; \$15-\$30. Petco Park, 100 Park Boulevard. (DOWNTOWN)

Tuesday Bicycling Ride to lunch at Dulzura Cafe with San Diego Bicycle Touring Society riders. Ride will be 35 miles. Bring money for food. 619-282-8611. Tuesday, December 2, 9:15 a.m.; McDonald's, 551 Telegraph Canyon Road. (CHULA VISTA)

MUSEUMS

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

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

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

Birch Aquarium at Scripps Facility is a component of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UCSD. More than 60 tanks contain marine life of Pacific Northwest, California coastline, Mexico's Sea of

Cortés, and South Pacific. The La Jolla Kelp Tank is a two-story-high tank with giant kelp plants and nearly 30 species of local marine life. "Feeling the Heat: The Climate Challenge" examines science behind climate change; "Art of Deception" explores undersea camouflage. "Wonders of Water" waterplay area includes three interactive stations. The Lynne and Howard Robbins Shark Reef Exhibit features a 13,000-gallon shark tank with black tip, white tip, bamboo, and wobbegong sharks. 2300 Expedition Way, 858-534-FISH. (LA JOLLA)

California Surf Museum "From the Brown Mercury to SL8ER — A Glimpse of 100 Years of Surfing Culture in Southern California" celebrates influence of surfing on California lifestyle. Display features collection of unique surfboards, movie posters, record albums, vintage beachwear, assortment of photographs. Significant surfing personalities from each decade are highlighted. 223 North Coast Highway, 760-721-6876. (OCEANSIDE)

Chula Vista Nature Center Interactive living museum devoted to the endangered Southern California coastal wetlands, located in Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge. Visitors can use a Bioscanner to view animals macroscopically, use a Wentzscope for views of microscopic organisms found in the "Sweetwater Soup," and interact with computerized videos exploring how tides affect the bay in the "Moons, Tides, and the San Diego Bay" exhibit. Pet sharks and rays in the David A. Wergeland Shark and Ray Experience, see burrowing owls and migratory birds, and enjoy the xerophytic gardens.

Visitors meet a shuttle bus at the Bayfront E Street Trolley Station or at the center's parking lot at

the foot of E Street and Bay Boulevard. 1000 Gunpowder Point Drive, 619-409-5903. (CHULA VISTA)

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

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

Gaslamp Museum of Historic San Diego Glimpse San Diego's colorful past at the museum, where displays highlight Wyatt Earp's San Diego days, the Peg Leg Gold Legend, the first maps and photographs of Old Town and "New Town," early military history, the naval disaster in 1923 at Point Honda, and more. 413 Market Street, 619-237-1492. (DOWNTOWN)

Heritage of the Americas Museum More than 100 Chinese jades of the Late Neolithic (4300-2500 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, jades in China were treasured as talismans, worn on the body either as final adornments in death or as ornaments in life. See a rare and valuable jade burial suit of the Han dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 221), one of only about two dozen that have been exca-

vated 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 workers from ancient cultures. The museum also features wings dedicated to natural history, archaeology, education, anthropology, and fine art. Find the museum on the Cuyamaca College campus. 12110 Cuyamaca College Drive West, 619-670-5194. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

Japanese Friendship Garden "Images of Kyoto" by photographer Kevin Sprowls may be seen through Saturday, November 29. Photographs offered for sale on Sun-

day, November 30. Pan American Road, 619-232-2721. (BALBOA PARK)

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

Junípero 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, 1929. The exhibit includes a "visit back in time to 1929."

The museum interprets the Native American, Spanish, and

Mexican periods of San Diego's history and contains Spanish Colonial furnishings, art, and 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 telegraph 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)

Magee 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



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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

tours of historic house and gardens. 258 Beech Street, 760-434-9189. (CARLSBAD)

Museum of Making Music What is slide? Why is it so hard to play? "The Magic and Mystery of Slide Guitar" — continuing through March — captures "essence and emotion evoked by slide guitar and slide technique." Display includes nearly 70 rare and historic instruments, from early 1920s to present.

"Gretsch 125th Anniversary" highlights instruments spanning the company's rich history. Through Friday, February 20.

The past 100 years of American music and music making are highlighted at the museum, with over 450 vintage instruments, hundreds of audio and video clips, and an interactive stage. Guided tours every Saturday, 2:30 p.m. 5790 Armada Drive, 760-438-5996. (CARLSBAD)

National City Depot San Diego Electric Railway Association operates museum in this historic Santa Fe depot with exhibits, video displays, trolley equipment, restored passenger car from National City and Otay Railroad. 922 West 23rd Street, 619-474-4400. (NATIONAL CITY)

Olaf Wieghorst Museum Displays paintings and prints by Olaf Wieghorst and features exhibits of other artists' American West art. Adjacent to museum is courtyard

with cactus gardens, 20 x 20-foot reproduction of Wieghorst's painting *Navajos at Castle Creek*, and original restored home Wieghorst lived in for many years starting in 1945. 131 Rea Avenue, 619-590-3431. (EL CAJON)

Ramona Pioneer Historical Society and Guy B. Woodward Museum Complex of historical buildings includes the Verlaque 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 Casey Tibbs Memorial Exhibit is dedicated to Tibbs, a local resident who was a world-champion rodeo rider. The Bancroft Memorial Rose Garden is on the grounds. Rare documents, historical exhibits, books, photographs, and a research library are also part of the complex. 645 Main Street, 760-789-7644. (RAMONA)

San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum Museum onboard the decommissioned USS *Midway* is open for tours, now berthed at 910 North Harbor Drive. Exhibits include Navy jet simulators, carrier and flight deck touring, captain's sea cabin, pilot house, navigation bridge. Admission fee includes audio guide. 910 North Harbor Drive, 619-544-9600. (DOWNTOWN)

San Diego County Sheriff's Museum The 150-year history of the sheriff's department is highlighted at the museum, which is located "just feet away" from the original

OUT & ABOUT

OLIVER TWIST

California Center for the Arts, Escondido, Saturday, November 29.

(SEE FOR KIDS)



cobblestone jail site, 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, 619-260-1850. (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)

San Diego Natural History Museum "The Art of Robert Bateman" showcases work by "one of

the world's premier wildlife artists." Exhibit reflects his commitment to ecology, preservation. Through January.

"Tibet: Imagery by Kenneth Parker" — continuing through Sunday, March 1 — reveals "religious monuments, prayer flags, modest homes, and dramatic mountains of the region." To create his imagery, Parker engages in five-day backpacking excursions to remote areas carrying 75-85 pounds of gear.

"Water: H₂O=Life" explores culture, history, and future of wa-

ter. Exhibit includes hands-on activities, live animals, "captivating imagery." Through November.

"Aerial Portraits of the American West: Photographs by John Shelton" closes on Sunday, March 1. Shelton is author of *Geology Illustrated*.

Also on view: "Fossil Mysteries," a permanent exhibition. From dinosaurs to mastodons, discover the rich fossil history of our region. Current "giant-screen film" is *Ocean Oasis*. 1788 El Prado, 619-232-3821. (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. (BALBOA PARK)

Wells Fargo History Museum Museum features a working agents' office staffed by guides in period costumes and contains a working telegraph for visitors to send and receive messages. Short films on California and Wells Fargo history; a gold display, part of the collection assembled by Wells Fargo agent Samuel Dorsey at the end of the 1800s; an exhibit of Concord Coach #251, a restored stagecoach built in 1867; and the Davies watch. The museum is located in the reconstructed Colorado House. 2733 San Diego Avenue, 619-238-3929. (OLD TOWN)

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Calendar

CLASSICAL MUSIC

CLASSICAL LISTINGS

HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTING: *Contributions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday the week prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone number, and a phone number (including area code) for public information to READER CLASSICAL MUSIC, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186-5803. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SDReader.com by clicking on the events section.*

CLASSICAL

The Winners and the Civic Organist Spreckels Scholarship 2008 winners Suzy Webster and Nicholas Allsing join civic organist Carol Williams in concert. 619-702-8138. Spreckels Organ Pavilion (2211 Pan American Road), 2 p.m., Sunday, November 30. (BALBOA PARK)

Winter Pops San Diego Symphony is joined by Compañía Flamenca José Porcel to present “sizzling music” and flamenco dancing for Winter Pops. 619-235-0804. Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street), 2 p.m., Sunday, November 30. (DOWNTOWN)

Holiday Brass Westwind Brass plans holiday program featuring “holiday music from many countries and every era,” including traditional Christmas carols, Hanukah music, selections from a Klezmer’s *Nutcracker Suite*, Handel’s “Messiah,” others. 619-501-3562. La Mesa First United Methodist Church (4690 Palm Avenue), 4 p.m., Sunday, November 30. (LA MESA)

Music of Kurt Weill Pianists Wyn Wilson and Bill Wolfe entertain during mini-concert. Bring your lunch. 858-454-5872. Lyceum Theatre (79 Horton Plaza), noon, Monday, December 1. (DOWNTOWN)

UCSD Chamber Orchestra Geoffrey Gartner directs Chamber Orchestra in concert “that reflects his quirky, provocative, eclectic tastes.” 858-534-3229. Mandeville Auditorium at UCSD (9500 Gilman Drive), 8 p.m., Monday, December 1. (LA JOLLA)

Chamber Music Concert USD Chamber Music Ensembles present varied program of “favorites and novelties” during concert in French Parlor of Founders Hall. 619-260-4171. University of San Diego (5998 Alcalá Park), 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 2. (LINDA VISTA)

More Holiday Brass Westwind Brass plans holiday program featuring “holiday music from many countries and every era,” including traditional Christmas carols, Hanukah music, selections from a Klezmer’s *Nutcracker Suite*, Handel’s “Messiah,” others. 619-501-3562. North Chapel at NTC (2881 Roosevelt Drive), 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 2. (POINT LOMA)

UCSD Singers Philip Larson directs UCSD’s voice students in a program proving “why they are music’s unsung heroes.” 858-534-3229. Mandeville Recital Hall at UCSD (9500 Gilman Drive), 8 p.m., Tuesday, December 2. (LA JOLLA)

UCSD’s Chamber Ensembles János Négyesy directs ensembles in concert of classical music with pieces by Brahms, Beethoven, Cui, Mozart, Quantz, Sammartini, and Telemann. 858-534-3229. Mandeville Recital Hall at UCSD (9500 Gilman Drive), 8 p.m., Wednesday, December 3. (LA JOLLA)

ART LISTINGS

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

GALLERIES

“Mixed Blessing” Opening reception for exhibition of still-life oil paintings by Pat Kelly. Show by Ramona artist continues through Sunday, January 4. 760-765-1676. Santa Ysabel Art Gallery (30352 Highway 78), 4 p.m., Saturday, November 29. (JULIAN)

“Visual Variations” Exhibition of painting and photography by Jeffrey Brosbe, Dana Levine, Caroline Morse, Gwen Nobil, and John Valois includes artists’ reception. Continues through Saturday, December 13. 858-459-1196. La Jolla Art Association Gallery (7734 Herschel Avenue, Suite G), 2 p.m., Tuesday, December 2. (LA JOLLA)

Fusionglass Fall Show Reception for opening of fall show. Proceeds benefit Arts Bus Xpress. 619-461-4440. Fusionglass Company (8872 La Mesa Boulevard), 6 p.m., Saturday, November 29. (LA MESA)

ART MUSEUMS

California Center for the Arts, Escondido Museum Five new exhibitions of work by local artists. See “Active Duty” by Owen Mundy; “Contemporary Ruin: A Selection of Prints by the Los Angeles Printmaking Society”; “United and Severed: That Window of Time”; “Shannon McNeill: Little Drawings”; and “Warning Signs,” prints by R.H. Brownfield. Each “touches on issues relevant to contemporary life in America including motherhood, active-duty military life, loss, and more.” Through November. 340 North Escondido Boulevard, 760-839-4120. (ESCONDIDO)

Mingei International Museum In honor of Mexico’s Day of the Dead, museum exhibits a Day of the Dead altar. Traditional offering to the dead is a collaboration

between the museum, Mexican Consulate in San Diego, and Mexican Cultural Institute. Through November 30.

“India Adorned” features selections from museum’s Stephen Huyler Collection. Exhibit “reveals the colorful 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 domestic adornment, utility, and recreation.” Closes Sunday, April 19.

“Forms in Wood and Fiber: Southern California New Work” features work of six distinguished San Diego wood artists and many California Fibers members. “Both fresh perspectives on traditional forms and cutting-edge contemporary expressions will be included in works of superior design and craftsmanship.” Participating artists include Wendy Maruyama, Russ Filbeck, Patrick Edwards, Del Cover, Brett Hesser, and Gene Blickenstaff. Closes Sunday, January 4. 1439 El Prado, 619-239-0003. (BALBOA PARK)

Mingei International Museum — North County “Nomadic Legacy — Tent and Textiles of Central Asia and Iran” presents aspects of rich artistic heritage of nomadic culture, traditions with origins in antiquity. Highlights include recent gifts to museum such as a Kyrgyz yurt, Persian bag faces, Central Asian hats. The Kyrgyz yurt — a round, domed, trellis-tent dwelling, 22 feet in diameter — won first prize in a national contest celebrating 1000th anniversary of Kyrgyzstan’s existence. Also on view: rare Kyrgyz reed screens; Turkoman, Uzbek, and Kazakh costumes and textiles. Exhibit continues through Sunday, March 22. 155 West Grand Avenue, 760-735-3355. (ESCONDIDO)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown “Human/Nature: Artists Respond to a Changing Planet” uses contemporary art to investigate relationships between fragile natural environments and human communities depending upon them. Collaborative multiyear exhibition project sent eight artists to eight UNESCO World Heritage sites around globe to complete mini-residencies, create new work informed and inspired by their experiences in these diverse cultural and natural regions. Exhibit features new commissioned works by Mark Dion, Ann Hamilton, Inigo Manglano-Ovalle, Marcos Ramírez ERRE, Rigo 23, Dario Robleto, Diana Thater, and Xu Bing. Closes Sunday, February 1.

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

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla “Weighing and Wanting: Selections from the Collection” marks

Hugh M. Davies’s 25th anniversary as museum’s David C. Copley Director. Exhibit offers “a personal, idiosyncratic selection of approximately 130 works acquired between 1983 and the present,” including works by John Baldessari, John Currin, Robert Irwin, William Kentridge, Nathan Mabry, Yoshitomo 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, January 4. 700 Prospect Street, 858-454-3541. (LA JOLLA)

Museum of Photographic Arts “Picturing the Process: Landscape through Time and Space” — continuing through Sunday, February 1 — 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.

“Nancy Newhall: A Literacy of Images” continues through Sunday, January 25. Best known for writing text to accompany photographs by Ansel Adams and Edward Weston, Nancy Newhall was also a widely published writer on photography, conservation, American culture. 1649 El Prado, 619-238-7559. (BALBOA PARK)

Oceanside Museum of Art “Quilt Visions 2008: Contemporary Expressions” — continuing

through Sunday, March 1 — boasts 41 quilts selected from 586 entries. Jurors were Judith Content, Mary Anne Jordan, and Don Bacigalupi.

“DAMNGORGEOUS: Millard Sheets and His Southern California Legacy” offers “a comprehensive look at his impressive career from the 1920s to the ’80s.” Over 40 works of art, including watercolors, oils, etchings, lithographs, and drawings, provide viewers with introduction to Sheets’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.

“Revealing the Divine: Selected Works by Levi J. Casias” offers exhibition in which the Oceanside artist investigates “the concept of mysticism in a religious manner.” Casias believes mysticism cannot be rationalized by the intellect but can only be understood by personal experience, bridging a link between art and spirituality. He uses industrial materials, methods to create contemporary artwork. Through December. 704 Pier View Way, 760-435-3720. (OCEANSIDE)

San Diego Museum of Art “Kimono as Art: The Landscapes of Itchiku Kubota,” closing on Sunday, January 4, features work of Japanese textile artist and kimono designer Itchiku Kubota (1917-2003). Kubota used a variety of traditional techniques, unique personal innovations to create abstract landscapes through complex layering of dyes and inks on monumentally scaled kimono. Exhibition includes Kubota’s dramatic series “Symphony of Light,”

presenting a sweeping landscape across 30 kimonos placed side by side, as well as a selection of Kubota’s individual works.

“Emerging Elites: Indo-Muslim Cultures in Transition” examines artistic transitions that took place in Indo-Muslim cultural centers in the 18th and 19th Centuries. Exhibition treats these paintings as creative, ongoing cultural transformations. Closes Sunday, March 15.

“Visible Places: Works on Paper by Women,” continuing through Sunday, March 22, is comprised of “Spatial Gestures” and “Manners of Sight.” All of the included works are from museum’s permanent collection, many of them presented for first time. 1450 El Prado, 619-232-7931. (BALBOA PARK)

Timken Museum of Art “Kimono as Art: The Landscapes of Itchiku Kubota,” closing on Sunday, January 4, features work of Japanese textile artist and kimono designer Itchiku Kubota (1917-2003). Kubota used a variety of traditional techniques, unique personal innovations to create abstract landscapes through complex layering of dyes and inks on monumentally scaled kimono. Exhibition includes a selection of kimono from Kubota’s “Mt. Fuji” series, presented as three views of Japan’s most famous mountain at different times of day, as well as a selection of Kubota’s individual works.

Permanent collection includes European old master paintings, 18th- and 19th-Century American paintings, and Russian icons. *Saint Bartholomew*, the only Rembrandt painting on public display in San Diego, is featured. 1500 El Prado, 619-239-5548. (BALBOA PARK)

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— Chicago Tribune

No to Metal? No

Thanks For the past four years, Lisa Mettler has organized Rancho Buena Vista High's annual battle-of-the-bands contest. Over the past eight years, the spring concerts have raised more than \$20,000 for the Vista school's annual on-campus grad-night event. Mettler, a

Hermansen said that she would try to have her boss respond to questions about the cancellation. Hermansen and principal Varda Levy did not respond before press time.

"[School officials] weren't happy with the kind of music [last year]," says Mettler, noting that all five of the participating bands played

quickly. The band was disqualified because they egged the crowd on." Also that year, a "drunken mom started fights with kids."

Mettler says there were no problems last year and \$2500 was raised.

"We didn't do as well last year as in previous years. We usually raise \$5000. Our biggest year ever was \$8500."

Regarding the fact that all of last year's bands played metal, Mettler says she wished there would have been more diversity, "...but I can't tell the kids what they like. I don't turn [would-be performers] down."

Over the years, the RBVHS battle of the bands has exposed local bands such as Subliminal Trip, Line Your Dead, Aphotic Murder, and Vietnam Hardcore.

"I'm 40, and it's been the same way since I was in high school," says Mettler. "It's the same prejudice against this type of music. It's never changed. It's what the kids like to do...."

"When I heard they were replacing [the concert] with 'air bands,' I said, 'Are you kidding me?' Why watch your favorite band lip-synch when you can hear the real thing live on stage? They asked me

to organize that instead. I said, 'I decline that offer. No thanks.'"

— Ken Leighton

No Bueno Singer/drummer Joe Serrano of Paradise Hills has been playing in local *norteno* bands for 46 years. He guesses there are close to 2000 "Mexican cowboy" bands in the Southern California/Tijuana region.

The huge number of bands "...drives the price down," says Serrano, leader of Rayo Norteño. "The club owners go for the band that charges the lowest."

Last week, the market got even tighter: pursuant to charges that arose after a bust in March, on November 13, the state's Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control revoked the license of D'Elegantes, a 250-capacity restaurant/bar in Vista that was packed every weekend with fans of live *norteno* music. The ABC said the owner must transfer the bar's liquor license within six months.

Serrano was at D'Elegantes last March, when it was raided by agents from more than one government agency.

"The *migra* came in and asked me for my papers," says Serrano. "A lady from the IRS was there, asking me how I paid my band. Why should I carry papers with me? I'm an American citizen. It is racist and it is a slap in the face."

Bar manager Mike Meraz says, "They stormed in with guns out."

Sheriff's deputy James

On a recent Channel 6 news report, Smith said that the bar was a hotbed for "stabblings, shootings, robberies, prostitution, drugs." He said he has a page full of calls for service involving D'Elegantes. He connected a nearby prostitution arrest to the bar, saying it involved a "cross-dresser who would take clients across the street to a church parking lot."

Meraz says his bar has retained legal representation and will fight the charges alleged by Deputy Smith on Channel 6.

"I have been there for four years," says Meraz, "and I say for them to show me any arrests or citations for underage drinking or drug use."

ABC administrator Robin Van Dyke says that some of her staff went undercover and went into the bar to observe the sale of drugs but that "no cases were made" and no charges were filed.

Meraz admits that his bartender was selling fake IDs. She lost her job, he says.

— Ken Leighton

Not the Same Ol' Song

As far as tunes that name-check the team go, the new

continued on page 78

blurt

the inside track

volunteer and mother of an RBVHS student, recently found out that 2009's contest has been canceled.

"I spoke to the head of the grad-night committee, and she told me that the administration wanted it canceled," says Mettler.

The secretary for RBVHS assistant principal Eileen



APHOTIC MURDER MADE IT TO BATTLE

PHOTOGRAPH FROM MYSPACE.COM/APHOTICMURDER

heavy metal.

Two years ago, says Mettler, there was a problem with a mosh pit.

"[It was] dealt with really



BYSTANDERS: RAYO NORTEÑO

Smith confirms that the March raid was a "collaborative effort" involving the sheriff's department, immigration, customs enforcement, and the IRS. He says the raid resulted in a bartender being arrested for selling fake IDs.

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12/31FM 94.9 pres. Swami's New Year's Eve w/Night Marchers

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1/9 Elijah Emanuel
1/10 Dead Man's Party
1/15 The Knitters w/The Farmers
1/16 Marcia Ball
1/17 40 Oz. to Freedom

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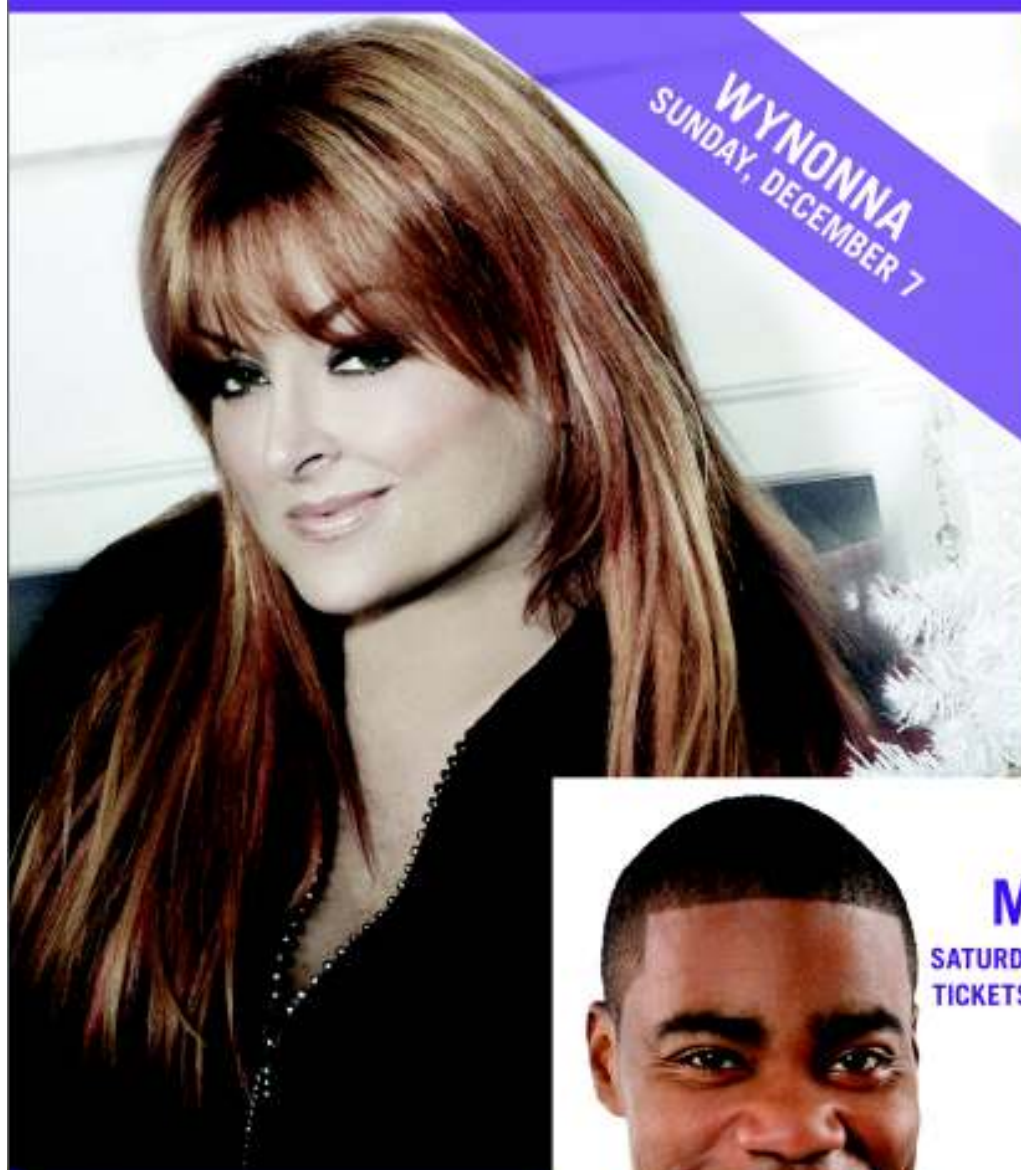
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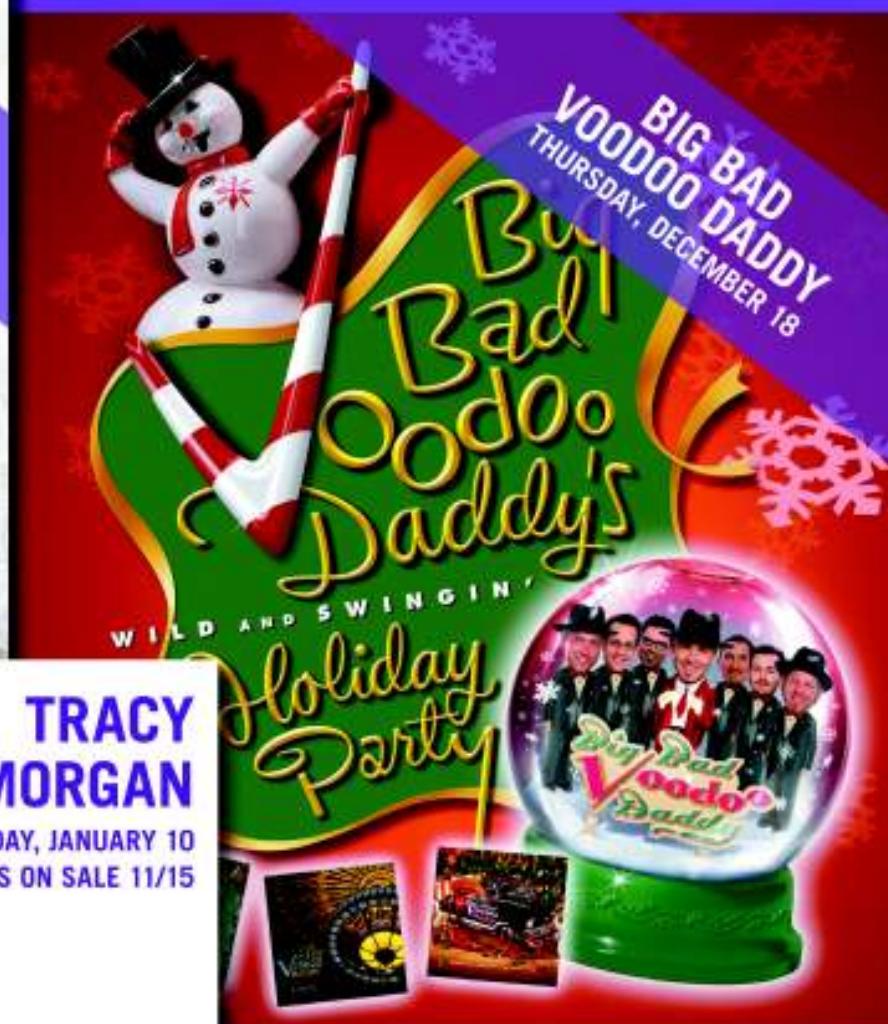


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Calendar
MUSIC SCENEblurt
continued

continued from page 74

track "San Diego Chargers," by Mexican dance-pop-punk-funk duo Plastilina Mosh won't take over first place in the hearts of Chargers faithful anytime soon — not when that deathless discofied ditty "San Diego Super Chargers" continues to hold the top spot — after 29 years.

"Super Chargers" came about through a marketing campaign initiated by Gene Klein, who owned the Chargers in the '70s. Recorded at a Los Angeles studio in 1979, the song was reportedly written in a day by David Sieff and Jerry Marcellino — the latter a recording-industry vet producer/arranger/songwriter who picked up 17 gold albums, six gold singles, and three platinum albums. (Marcellino worked with artists such as Bobby Darin and Michael Jackson from his Jackson Five days on.)

L.A. R&B session vocalist James Gaylen was drafted to sing lead, and Marcellino put the recording out under the name "Captain Q.B. & the Big Boys." The song still rallies the crowds at the Q and is known far beyond SD; a copy of the original seven-inch single fetched \$52.51 on eBay last year.

In August, "San Diego Chargers" came out on Monterrey-based Plastilina Mosh's fourth studio album, *All U Need Is Mosh*. A promo

sheet says the song is an "instrumental track that experiments with a drumline battery" and quotes composer Alejandro Rosso: "It's basically a testosterone song about football tackles. The arrangement is focused on the percussion. The song is a weird blend between two styles that I find original and fresh."

A review on Mexico City website *mehaceruido.com* noted the song's "evident homage to the sound of Daft Punk"; James Hudson in the



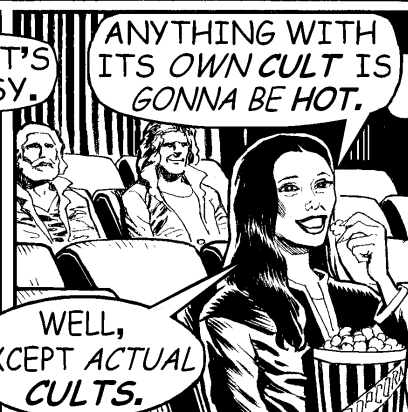
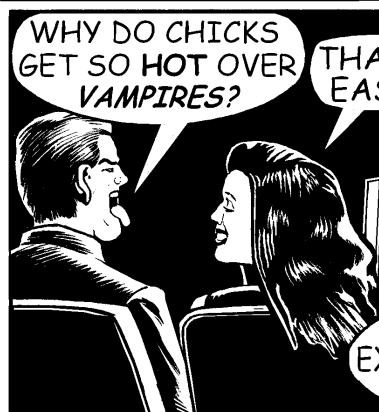
PLASTILINA MOSH AVOIDS LONG ARM OF NFL

Tucson Weekly praised its "spine-tingling, halftime march"; reviewer Tamara Palmer on *Metromix.com* found it "[o]ne of the most charming songs on the album...a marching, drum-heavy groove. It features sounds that give the illusion of being sampled from an actual football game, but were actually created in the studio."

Reached by email, Plastilina's Rosso explained, "I actually recorded some clashes and bought some sound library's football effects to use. I wouldn't dare use any unauthorized NFL audio in a song — they would tackle my bank account faster than a linebacker."

"I had the idea to do a song that involved...manly brutal clashing, etc.; I was in San Diego that day and decided the song could have football elements, and 'San Diego Chargers' sounded nice.

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"I am not a Chargers fan but think that they have a cool team, and wouldn't like the song to be called 'Dallas Cowboys' — that would be distracting in a way because there's a lot of different things that could come to mind rather than football — heh-heh."

— David Stampone

Bradley Spirit "The hardest part about being in a Sublime tribute band is remembering all the lyrics," says Dane Scott, front man for 40 Ounces to Freedom. "Sometimes [Sublime singer] Bradley Nowell rapped so fast, it's hard to tell what he was saying."

Formed in 2007, the 40 Ouncers have already racked up some memorable moments.

"One night in Arizona, over the course of the show, the crowd bought us a total of 13 Jäger shots. Each. That's our signature drink. At Soho Santa Barbara, they actually sold out of Jäger before we were even done playing. At

the end of the night, it looked like a war zone in there, with all the empty shot glasses and beer bottles everywhere. Even in the bathrooms."

At 28, Scott is the youngest member of the band. "Everyone else is thirtysomething," he says, "which is more the age group that was around when Sublime was big. Younger guys my age tend to like [the music] just 'cause it's got a reggae groove with big fat bass lines."



NO CERVEZA - JÄGER!

40 Ounces to Freedom appears Wednesday, November 26, at Winstons in O.B.

— Jay Allen Sanford

Dive on This Recent excerpts of Ocean Beach bar reviews posted at *Yelp.com*:

Catalina Lounge: "It's a guaranteed pickup bar, if you're just looking for a slump-buster." (Starlight M.)

"If you wear a collared shirt, you will look like a douchenugget." (Casey D.)

"There is a very real possibility of a bar fight happening over a shuffleboard game here, but I have only seen a close-call." (George B.)

"I feel like a degenerate when I go here, and I love it." (Michael M.)

Pacific Shores: "No dipshit meatheads or any jarheads trying to grind on your girl." (Hal R.)

"Black light illuminates the fluorescent paint in the kitschy art displayed on the walls...and reminds us to wear clean threads before our evening begins." (Augusta S.)

"If you can't get laid at this bar, then maybe getting laid just isn't your thing." (Stephen L.)

Gallagher's: "Overpriced beers, an attempt to cash in on the whiteboy reggae bro-manticism of being near Winston's, and just a vague air of douchebaggery and

sausagetude." (Ali S.)

"Not as packed as Sunshine [Saloon], and some interesting drinks. Try the Agwa shots." (Alycia H.)

Sunshine Saloon: "This place is the anchor of the



NO MEATHEADS

booze cruise that is Ocean Beach." (Jeff C.)

"On weekends, it turns into a full-fledged brodeo." (Brian M.)

"I always feel like the cleanest person in there, and I'm not that straight laced." (Denise L.)

Winstons: "I love this place when I want to feel dirty, confined, and sweaty." (Hal R.)

— Jay Allen Sanford

CONTRIBUTORS

William Crain, Dave Good, Larry Harmon, Michael Hemmingson, Ken Leighton, Ryan Loyko, Bart Mendoza, Derek Plank, Eric Rife, Jay Allen Sanford, David Stampone

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This Week In Music

Wednesday 26

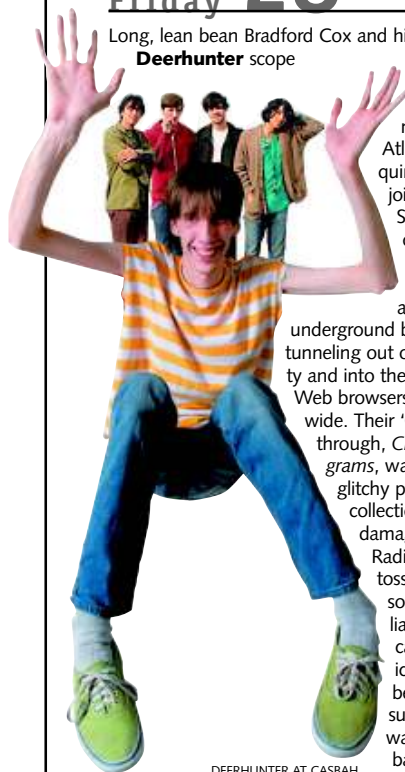
Control a, control c, control v. Tonight's the long-awaited makeup date for Buzzo and Dale of the **Melvins** out at Canes. The Nor'west sludgers'll rock *Nude with Boots* with their other half, L.A. bass and drum band **Big Business**.... It's skintights and skinny-tie night at Belly Up, where you can skank 'n' stomp to mod-rockers **Buck-O-Nine**, the **Devastators**, and **Social Green**.... Back downtownways, it'll be bed-sit pop by indie kids **Sweetness** and the **Fascination** out at Beauty Bar...and a free **Jivewire** night at Casbah, with all the trimmings.

Thanksgiving

Rock the leg bone, yo!

Friday 28

Long, lean bean Bradford Cox and his **Deerhunter** scope



Casbah Friday night. The Atlanta quintet joined the Southern city's seeming pilgrimage of underground bands tunneling out of obscurity and into the glow of Web browsers worldwide. Their '07 breakthrough, *Cryptograms*, was a glitchy psych-rock collection of art-damaged Radiohead toss-offs — some brilliant, some catastrophic, but the beauty, supposedly, was in the balance. With last

month's *Kranky* (a label fit for the group) disc *Microcastle*, Deerhunter squelched the glitch and rang in some semblance of pop-song structure,

making that balance a little less burdensome on the ear. It is this year's critical pick and a sound investment — comes with an outtakes bonus disc that's as good if not better than most "proper" indie releases. With the font-challenged **Times New Viking**, a fuzzed-out — no, make that blown-out (check out this year's Matador debut *Rip It Off*) — pop trio from Columbus and their lounchy L.A. running mates **Nite Jewel**, this is a helluva triple bill. Let's just crown it club date of the week, grab tix, and move on.... Moving on. Frontwomen! Yeah! L.A. pop-punk trio the **Dollyrots** roll on Bar Pink. Check the Space takes from this year's *Because I'm Awesome*, the lead single from which was featured in books-on-film flameout *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2*. Our own girl-led garage-punk group the **Glossines** will set the NorPark stage.... A band formerly known as **English Beat** settles in for two at Belly Up Friday and Saturday nights.... Sac-town metal band **Tesla** bring their *Forever More* tour to House of Blues.... While up in Sillcrest, breakcore band **Fever Sleeves** and the hard-rocking **Oaks** hit Ruby Room. What's breakcore?

Saturday 29

Wild Mountain Nation, unite! Not getting the Pavement refs for Portland six-pack **Blitzen Trapper**, but I suppose the experts online oughta know — ambitionlessness is an aesthetic. *Wild Mountain Nation* was one of oh-seven's weirdest indie-rock hits, running the gamut of styles from real folksy folk rock to experimental pop psychouts. Indie ADDers love a mélange. But so does *Rolling Stone*, who apparently placed the record's two-year-old titular single in this year's top 100. Trapper got back to deconstructing Americana on this year's *Furr*. Check the Space takes — tasty *farre*. L.A. psych folkies **Parson Red Heads** and like-minded locals **Team**



Abraham share the Casbah

bill. And mark this: the Trappers'll play an in-store at M-Theory Sunday afternoon.... 'Round downtown Saturday night: U.K. goth-rockers **Sisters of Mercy** appear at House of Blues.... SanDago post-punk quartet **Pierce the Veil** get back to Soma....



HOLLY GOLIGHTLY AT CASBAH

Triple-bill **Braaiins!**, **Bad Parents**, and **Mermaid** is out at the Ken.... And Bowie trib **Ziggy Shuffledust** joins **Rafter** at Ruby Room.

Sunday 30

Despite all my rage, alt-rock outcast Billy Corgan and his **Smashing Pumpkins** resurrect their nineties AOR at UCSD's RIMAC Sunday night. This year the new Pumps released EP *American Gothic*, and now the team's got a new single up on the Web called "G.L.O.V.V." Also saw a live DVD of the second coming called *If All Goes Wrong* in remainder bins around town if yer *that* interested. Anyway, this reunion's in its second full year, and Billy and Jimmy are still smilin'. Hm.... Fifty percent of Boston boy band New Edition has kept that genre's synchronized singsong alive in **Bell Biv DeVoe**. The trio and their posse of playas visit House of Blues.... Casbah stages Oakland rap-rock act **Subtle**, which feature San Diego ex-pat Jordan Dalrymple, with **Zach Hill** and the **Illuminatus**.

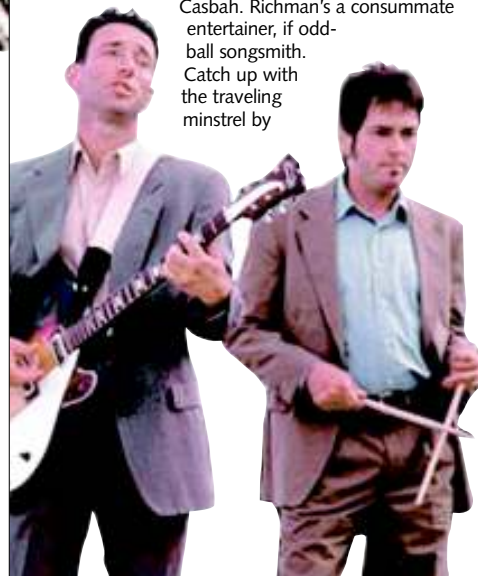
Monday 1

Eeeeverybody's favorite British chanteuse, **Holly Golightly**, brings her **Brokeoffs** (ex-Thee Headcoatees pardner Lawyer Dave) to Casbah's

Anti-Monday meet-up. They've got a fun-filled new one called *Dirt Don't Hurt*. Lend it an ear and we'll see you there. **Bartenders Bible** sets the stage, and at the break, catch **Pant Hoots** in the Atari.... 94/9 stages Our Lady Peace front guy **Raine Maida** at Belly Up for another in their It's About the Music series. Maida's out behind last year's solo debut *The Hunters Lullaby*, a collection, according to the artist, "of a bunch of poems put to music." Suh-weet, Raine! **Sayvinyl** also on the bill.

Tuesday 2

Mr. Modern Lover **Jonathan Richman** strums and croons his left-field folk at Casbah. Richman's a consummate entertainer, if odd-ball songsmith. Catch up with the traveling minstrel by



JONATHAN RICHMAN AT CASBAH

checking takes from his latest Vapour disc, *Because Her Beauty Is Raw and Wild*, or sit and spin last year's Modern Lovers remaster of their eponymous debut.... Ché Café hosts an open-mic night. Ché Café hosts an open-mic night?

Wednesday 3

Super-secret (*sh, ben harper*) superstars **Relentless Seven** appear at Belly Up. Fuh-getit. Sold out.... There be **Randies** roaming Bar Pink...and **Monsters From Mars** scaring the shit out of Casbah.

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DAILY 4-7 PM

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Thursday, November 27 • Happy Thanksgiving! • No Cover

FRANKIE-DEE & THE FUNK-NATRA BAND

Friday, November 28 • No Cover

SOFA KINGS

Saturday, November 29 • No Cover

GHOST RIDERS (Day)

SLOW BURN (Night)

Sunday, November 30 • No Cover

BLUES JAM anchored by the **BLUES BROKERS**

Mondays

BLUES JAM with **DOUG ALLEN**

Tuesdays

DOUG ALLEN and **BONGO SUZY**

Wednesday, December 3 • No Cover

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Sweet Ever After

Thur Dec 11th
9pm- Yesterdays Papers
Jon Garner Trio

Wed Dec 17th
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Thur Dec 18th
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Darkwave Batcave

"I will probably never try snowboarding again. I fell off a cliff."

Robin Roth can be heard on Rock 105.3 FM Monday through Friday from 10 p.m. to midnight, but she's best known for the Friday night *11th Hour* spot when she plays noncommercial goth and industrial oldies and goodies from classic '80s bands Bauhaus, Sisters of Mercy, Killing Joke, and KMFDM as well as subgenre music niches labeled "darkwave, synthpop, batcave, deathrock, powernoise, and ethereal."

Roth is also a fixture in the San Diego club scene, hosting occasional theme parties such as Naughty School Girl and Sparks Flying Metal Grind Nights. She spins vinyl at the Kava Lounge's Club Ascension the first Saturday every month, at the Flame's Sabbath the second and fifth Saturday every month, and on the second Friday of each month she is DJ Pussy Galore at the Whistle Stop — and, yes, that night tends to have a James Bond, old-school secret-agent feel to it.

WHAT'S IN YOUR MUSIC PLAYER?

"I'm listening to a new compilation CD I made to see what I want to play on *The 11th Hour*."

WHAT SONG IS STUCK IN YOUR HEAD?

"The music playing when you are on Space Mountain. I went to Bats Day [annual gothic and industrial gathering] at Disneyland recently."

WORST GIG?

"Being the emcee at an arm-wrestling contest. And I forgot to wear sunscreen."

BEST THING DONE WHILE DRUNK?

"I've only been drunk once, and that was a long time ago, and I don't remember most of it. I do remember the fast food I ate that didn't sit too

well. You can figure out the rest...that's why I don't get drunk. Just pleasantly buzzed is fine."

THREE WORST JOBS?

1. "Working at a fast-food restaurant, having to deal with the crazy people on drive-through...especially the one guy that asked me to be in a porn. Um, I said 'no.'"
2. "Waiting tables. Got a two-

dollar tip from a party of ten, and I didn't do anything wrong. Oh yeah, there was the time I spilled a glass of red wine on a customer (not the two-dollar-tip table)."

3. "I haven't had any other worst job, and I don't plan to."

THREE GUILTY PLEASURES?

"Since I am all about trying to stay in shape, it has to do with food: Honey Bunches of Oats with Almonds, Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, and Chocolate Croissant Bread Pudding."

EARLIEST CHILDHOOD MEMORY?

"Trying to play the piano."

BEST DEAD CELEB?

"Jim Morrison."

IF YOU COULD HAVE LUNCH WITH ANYONE...

"Christopher Walken. He's a fascinating man."

FAVORITE PLACE NOT IN SAN DIEGO?

"Anywhere I can ski, if the snow is good. Vail is one of my favorite places to ski. I will probably never try snowboarding again. I fell off of a cliff — don't ask, or if you do, make sure I've had a few drinks in me first so I don't punch your lights out."

LISTS

MICHAEL HEMMINGSON



Robin Roth

PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBERT BURROUGHS

MOST RECENT DVD RENTAL?

"I have discovered *Dexter* and *Weeds*. I know! What took me so long? I borrowed season one of *Dexter* from a friend and went through that in a week. I am currently in the midst of season two [via] Netflix."

PROM NIGHT?

"Oh my gawd — bad hair, bad dress, but I could dance!"

BEST ADVICE EVER RECEIVED?

"Don't be afraid to break out of your comfort zone."

FAVORITE QUOTE?

"When one door closes, another opens. But often we look so regretfully upon the closed door that we fail to see the one that has opened for us." — Helen Keller ■

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SATURDAY: NOVEMBER 29
RED LLAMA DOG
REVIVAL
DJ EV

SUNDAY: NOVEMBER 30
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LONGSTAY
CAROLINA FEVER
THE BOWERY BOYS

MONDAY: DECEMBER 1
BLUES JAM Hosted by
MYSTERY TRAIN 8 PM

TUESDAY: DECEMBER 2
JIMMY DEAN
& FRIENDS

WEDNESDAY: DECEMBER 3
THE BILL CARDINAL SHOW
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Saturday, November 29
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Friday, December 5
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Friday, November 28
Jeff Moore & the Wit

Saturday, November 29
Triple Shot

Sunday, November 30
Rick Ross

Monday, December 1
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Tuesday, December 2
Jack Tempchin & Friends

Wednesday, December 3
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LIVE NATION

Calendar MUSIC

Classical listings can be found in the *Classical Music Guide*. Music videos, driving directions, maps, event alerts, coupons, and more available online at SanDiegoReader.com.

HOW TO SUBMIT A MUSIC LISTING: Call 619-235-3000 x405, night or day by 5 pm Friday, the week prior to publication. To send weekly or monthly schedules, fax to 619-231-0489 or mail to Reader Music Scene, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA, 92186. You may also submit information online at SDReader.com by clicking on the music section.

THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

AcousticMusicSanDiego: 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights, 619-303-8176. Friday, 7:30 p.m. — Tom Russell. Americana singer-songwriter.

The Alley: 421 Grand Avenue, Carlsbad, 760-434-1173. Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays — The Love Rangers. Dance music.

Anthology: 1337 India Street, Little Italy, 619-595-0300. Friday, 7:30 p.m. — Back to the Garden. Rock. \$18. Tuesday, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. — Tuck & Patti. Traditional jazz. \$26.

Bar Leucadian: 1542 North Coast Highway 101, Leucadia, 760-753-2094. Saturday, 7:30 p.m. — Illicit Behavior. Classic rock.

Belly Up Tavern: 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-481-8140. Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m. — The English Beat. With Skanick. Soul/reggae/pop punk. \$18-\$20. Sunday, 8 p.m. — Jangada. Brazilian/samba/world. \$10. Monday, 8 p.m. — Raine Maida. Founding member of Our Lady Peace. Folk/alternative. \$6. Wednesday, 9 p.m. — Relentless7. With Grace Woodroffe. Rock/soul.

The Bitter End: 770 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-338-9300. Tuesday, 10 p.m. — Radiostar. Eighties new-wave rock.

Café La Maze: 1441 Highland Avenue, National City, 619-474-3222. Fridays and Saturdays, 7 p.m. — The Sandy Chappel Quartet. With Burnett Anderson, Robert Sebastian, and Hank Young. Standards/jazz/blues. Sundays, 7:30 p.m. — Burnett's Bliss. With Robert Sebastian and Scott Wallingford. Jazz/standards/blues.

The Calypso Café: 576 North Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-632-8252. Sunday, 6:30 p.m. — Freefall. Jazz.

Canes: 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-488-1780. Saturday, 9 p.m. — Cash'd Out. A tribute to Johnny Cash. Graceland also performs a tribute to Elvis. \$15.

The Casbah: 2501 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-4355. Friday, 8:30 p.m. — Deerhunter and Times New Viking. With Nite Jewel. Ambient/punk/rock. \$14. Saturday, 8:30 p.m. — Blitzen Trapper and the Parson Redheads. Indie/country/rock. Sunday, 8:30 p.m. — Subtle and

NOTE

BY DAVE GOOD

The unofficial title of **Deerhunter's** first full-length CD was *Turn It Up Faggot*. Once you've made that sort of artistic statement, where do you go from there? Despite the criticism...up, apparently. For example, consider the music e-zine *Pitchfork*. I've commented before in these pages about how critical their reviewers can be, but from the outset *Pitchfork* has put a positive frame on the Atlanta-based five-piece.

Deerhunter is fronted by **Bradford Cox**, a knife-thin singer who appears to be anorexic but is said to have a digestive disorder. He is known for appearing on stage in a dress (he told a reporter he wore them as a child) sometimes with blood, or a reasonable facsimile, smeared on his hands and arms.

When not singing like a normal bloke, his voice can devolve into a series of hoots and chirps and shrieks. Sometimes he just sticks the microphone in his mouth and makes noise. Then there is at least one image posted online of Cox onstage, dress lifted, getting oral sex, or a reasonable facsimile, from the band's guitarist. So, with that as Deerhunter's public persona, how's the music?

Not bad, actually. In fact, Deerhunter can be as engaging as they are challenging. For a self-proclaimed ambient punk band, Deerhunter's music is far more organized than I had expected. It rolls out as a friendly, almost dreamy mashup of Bowie and '60s Britpop. There is the occasional noisy, lusty reverb-laden guitar played almost in the style of Tom Verlaine, a '70s art-rock pioneer unknown to most modern club audiences. There are intelligent things going on with rhythm and meter coupled with wry,



DEERHUNTER

introspective lyrics: "My days were through, it was too late/ My greatest fear, I organized/ Into something more realized/ And now what's left I get to spend/ Knowing that it's about to end." Dress or no dress, who hasn't been there before?

DEERHUNTER, Casbah, Friday November 28, 8:30 p.m. 619-232-4355. \$14.

Zach Hill. Noise/experimental/rock. \$10-\$12. Monday, 8:30 p.m. — Holly Golightly and Delaney Davidson. Country/blues/soul. \$10-\$12.

Coyote Bar and Grill: 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad, 760-729-4695. Friday, 6 p.m. — The Robin Henkel Band. Blues/funk/jazz.

Dirk's Niteclub: 7662 Broadway, Lemon Grove, 619-469-6344. Friday, Saturday — Full Xposure. Covers/standards.

Downtown Café: 182 East Main Street, El Cajon, 619-440-5687. Friday, 7 p.m. — Joey & the Sting Rays. Covers rock and country hits.

Fannie's Nightclub: 9143 Campo Road, Spring Valley, 619-698-2204. Thursdays — Fuzz-Huzzi. Alternative/pop/punk.

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

Hennessey's Tavern - PB: 4650 Mission Boulevard, Pacific

Beach, 858-483-8847. Friday, 9 p.m. — The O'Brien Brothers. Traditional Irish music. Saturday, 9 p.m. — Ecosave. Reggae/jam band.

Hensley's Flying Elephant Pub and Grill: 850 Tamarack Avenue, Carlsbad, 760-434-2660. Friday — The Bleeding Irish. Punk/folk/acoustic.

House of Blues: 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-299-2583. Friday, 7 p.m. — Tesla. Hard rock/metal. Saturday, 8 p.m. — The Sisters of Mercy. Gothic rock. \$32-\$57. Sunday, 6:30 p.m. — Bell Biv

Devoe. R&B/pop/hip-hop. \$30-\$50. Wednesday — Secondhand Serenade and Cute Is What We Aim For. Acoustic/rock/pop.

Jack's La Jolla - Ocean Room: 7863 Girard Avenue, La Jolla, 858-456-8111. Piano Bar. 6 p.m. every day of the week in the Ocean Room.

Jimmy Love's: 672 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-595-0123. Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. — The Soul Revue. Jazz, dance, and top 40.

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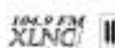
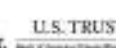
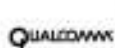
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Calendar

MUSIC

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South Park Bar & Grill: 1946 Fern Street, South Park, 619-696-0096.

Thursdays, 9:30 p.m. — Open jazz jam.
Fridays, 7 p.m. — The John Kopecky Trio. Jazz.
Saturdays, 8:30 p.m. — Open Blues Jam. With Will Jackson.
Sundays, 6 p.m. — Original Music Modern Jazz Series. Every Sunday, with Doug Walker, Tim Nunnink, Nick Tocco, and Nathan Hubbard.

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

Thornton's Irish Pub and Grill: 1221 Broadway, El Cajon, 619-447-5665.
Friday, 8 p.m. — Hugh Gaskins & the G String Daddies. Blues/soul/rockabilly.

Winstons: 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822.
Mondays, 9 p.m. — The Electric Waste Band. Grateful Dead tribute. \$7.

WorldBeat Cultural Center: 2100 Park Boulevard, Balboa Park, 619-263-7911.

Thursday, 8:30 p.m. — Giving Thanks Bash. Reggae/roots. \$8.

UPCOMING SHOWS

4th&B: 345 B Street, Downtown, 619-231-4343.

December 13 — Norman Brown and Friends.

AcousticMusicSanDiego: 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights, 619-303-8176.
December 5 — Epiphany Project.
December 10 — J.D. Souther.
December 12 — Cris Williamson.
December 13 — Kelly Joe Phelps.
January 24 — Loudon Wainwright III.

Anthology: 1337 India Street, Little Italy, 619-595-0300.
December 4, December 5 — The Anthology House Band.
December 9 — Crush.
December 10 — Alanis Morissette and O.A.R.
December 11, December 12 — The Anthology House Band.
December 14, December 15 — Acoustic Jingle Ball.
December 16, December 17 — Spyro Gyra.
December 18 — The Anthology House Band.
December 19 — Detroit Underground.
December 26 — Martinis & Sinatra.

Balboa Theatre: 868 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-570-1100.

NOTE

BY WILLIAM CRAIN

Holly Golightly is probably best known as the special guest who shows up at the end of the White Stripes' 2003 album *Elephant* in a duet with Jack White on "It's True That We Love One Another." But Golightly had a prolific career long before that and has hardly slowed down since.

The British singer, reportedly born Holly Smith, took the name of a character in *Breakfast at Tiffany's* in 1991 when she joined Thee Headcoatees, a spin-off group from Billy Childish's garage-rock heroes Thee Headcoats. She went solo four years later and has released 14 albums over the past 13 years — not to mention many non-album singles

and guest appearances on other people's records. Over the years, Golightly has explored rock, country, and soul, but whatever she's doing, it's always in a quiet, down-tempo style that makes a virtue out of her voice's limitations.

She chooses covers wisely, interpreting lesser-known works by the Kinks, Lee Hazlewood, and Ike Turner, among many others. (I am a huge Ray Davies fan, but I think I like her version of "Tell Me Now So I Know" even better than the Kinks' original.)

Remarkably, her own material fits in well alongside all these great old songs.

What's most notable about Golightly is the fact that in her collaborations — whether it's White, Childish, or, recently, a guy who goes by the name Lawyer Dave and performs as a one-man band called the Brokeoffs — the collaboration almost always comes



HOLLY GOLIGHTLY

across sounding like a Holly Golightly record: slow, quiet, old-fashioned, intimate, like friends hanging out. And she always sounds like the coolest person in the room.

HOLLY GOLIGHTLY, Casbah, Monday, December 1, 8:30 p.m. 619-232-4355. \$10 advance; \$12 door.

March 15 — The Irish Rovers.
April 28 — Mariza.

Bare Back Grill - Downtown: 624 E Street, Downtown, 619-237-9990.
December 9 — Lindsay White and Mary Grasso.

Belly Up Tavern: 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.

December 5 — Aimee Mann.
December 7 — The Mar Dels.
December 10 — The Howls and the Northstar Session.
December 11 — Tom Morello: the Nightwatchman.
December 12 — Lady Dottie & the Diamonds.
December 13 — Cash'd Out.
December 14 — Dave Mason.
December 15 — Missy Higgins.

December 16, December 17 — Mike Ness.

Birch North Park Theatre: 2891 University Avenue, North Park, 619-239-8836.
December 6 — 8th Annual Hawaiian Christmas Show.
December 6 — Makaha Sons.
January 16 — George Winston.

February 28 — The Lalo Schiffrin Trio.

Bob Burton Center for the Performing Arts: 2400 South Stagecoach Drive, Fallbrook, 760-731-2278.
December 5 — The Don Morris Singers and Westwind Brass.

California Center for the Arts, Escondido: 340 North



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

<p>Wednesday, November 26 ■ 8 pm Sweet Soul Music The Soul Persuaders</p> <p>Thursday, November 27 ■ 11 am-3 pm Thanksgiving Jazz Brunch with Jose Serrano</p> <p>Friday, November 28 ■ 9:30 pm Dance Crush</p> <p>Saturday, November 29 ■ 9:30 pm Latin Rock Viva Santana</p>	<p>Sunday, November 30 ■ 8 pm Smooth Jazz Toni Redd</p> <p>Monday, December 1 ■ 7 pm Blues Chet Cannon's Blue Monday Blues Party</p> <p>Tuesday, December 2 ■ 7 pm Billy Joel Tribute Band 52nd Street Tribute to Billy Joel</p> <p>Wednesday, December 3 ■ 8 pm Rhythm & Blues Blu Rockit</p>	  
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Upcoming Shows

Friday, Dec. 12 NovaMenco	Friday, Dec. 26 Javier Batis	Friday, Jan. 9 Coco Montoya
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Calendar

MUSIC

Escondido Boulevard, Escondido, 800-988-4253.

December 7 — Coastal Communities Concert Band.

Canes: 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-488-1780.
December 12 — Murs.

The Casbah: 2501 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-4355.
December 5 — Alex Woodard.
December 6 — The Sea & Cake.
December 14 — Kayo, Deep Rooted, the Kneehighs.

Cox Arena: 550 Campanile Drive, College Area, 619-594-6947.
December 15 — Metallica.

Epicentre: 8450 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa, 858-271-4000.
December 13 — The Material and Misdelfhia.

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

House of Blues: 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-299-2583.
December 4 — Five Finger Death Punch.
December 5 — Little Joy.
December 5 — Wu-Tang Clan.
December 7 — Bad Brains.
December 8 — The All-American Rejects.
December 9 — Meshell Ndegeocello.
December 10 — Helmet.
December 11 — Los Lobos.
December 12 — Anthony Hamilton.
December 17 — Appetite for Destruction.
December 18 — Brian Culbertson.
December 19 — Unwritten Law.
December 21 — The Vandals.
December 26 — The Cured.
December 28 — Ratt.
December 30 — The Wailers.
January 1 — Reel Big Fish.
January 2 — Pepper.
January 3 — The Radiators.
January 4 — B.B. King.
January 5 — The Meteors.
January 9 — Led Zepagain.
January 15 — Boyz II Men.
January 21 — Edwin McCain.
January 25 — Ramón Ayala.
January 30 — O.A.R.
January 31 — Richard Cheese & Lounge Against the Machine.
February 3, February 4 — NOFX.
February 5 — Katy Perry.

February 7 — Badfish.
February 14 — Styx.
February 21 — Reverend Horton Heat and Manic Hispanic.
March 6 — Jimmy Eat World.
April 10 — Don Felder.
May 1 — Kreator.

The Kraken: 2531 South Highway 101, Cardiff, 760-436-6483.
December 6 — The Farmers.
McCabe's Beach Club: 1145 South Tremont Street, Oceanside, 760-439-6646.
December 27 — Fleetwood Max.

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla: 700 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-454-3541.
February 19 — Carolina Chocolate Drops.

O'Connells Pub and Nightclub: 1130 Morena Boulevard, Linda Vista, 619-276-5637.
January 24 — Hershel Abram.

Portugalia: 4839 Newport Avenue, Ocean Beach, 619-222-7678.
December 5 — Danyavaad & the Shimmy Sisters.

Poway Center for the Performing Arts: 15498 Espola Road, Poway, 858-748-0505.
December 19 — The RB Chorale.

Price Center: 9500 Gilman Drive, UCSD, 858-534-6467.
April 15 — Seun Kuti & Egypt 80.

San Diego Sports Arena: 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma, 619-224-4171.
December 21 — The Cheetah Girls.
February 16 — 28th Annual Tribute to the Legends.

Soma: 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma, 619-226-7662.
December 5 — A Dull Science, Silent Armada, So Long Davey!
December 6 — Rancid.

Valley View Casino: 16300 Nyemii Pass Road, Valley Center, 866-843-9946.
December 26 — Federal Funk.

Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room: 5000 Willows Road, Alpine, 619-445-5400.
December 28 — Dionne Warwick.
April 9 — Billy Currington.

Winstons: 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822.
December 13 — The Bigfellas and Robbie Gennet.

as i hear it

BY BRIAN CARVER

Artist: **Lillian Palmer**
Song: **"Swinging on the Moon"** (from the CD *Like a Lover*)
Heard By: **Gonzalo Dremoniz**, Normal Heights



Gonzalo

Overall, it's cookin'. It's very tight and swingin'. It's everything I like about "proper" jazz. The piano and guitar are phenomenal. The organ brought to mind the organist Jimmy Smith — very tight, very funky. I heard a little bit of Wes Montgomery or George Benson in the guitar. They don't improvise on technical ability — they improvise on the "soul" part of jazz. I got a hint of Sarah Vaughan with her vocals. It's almost like the phrasing of the notes are more important than the words that are coming out. It's funny because when an instrumental sounds like a vocalist it impresses me, but here I'm impressed with the reverse side; her singing is almost like a saxophone or a clarinet.

Artist: **Mod Amish**
Song: **"Fade"** (from the CD *No Use for Sunshine*)
Heard By: **Carlos Angeles**, Normal Heights



Carlos

I kind of liked it, to tell you the truth. I liked the way it felt. They'd do a basic chord progression, but instead of hitting the chord I thought they were going to hit to resolve, they played a half step down or up. The vocals were almost soft, and then the music would come in hard again. Something about the way it was recorded...it didn't draw me to the lyrics. Relative to what I would call "alternative" music, this is *more* alternative. It was guitar-driven. I could imagine hearing this song on 91X or 94.9. When it was playing, I was picturing someone putting on some sort of black-and-white artsy film — lowering the sound on the TV and maybe having this song play at a party.

Artist: **Behind the Wagon**
Song: **"Drinking in the Morning"** (from the CD *The Bottle, God and the Ones Who Really Love You in the End*)
Heard By: **Matt Rhodes**, Normal Heights



Matt

I thought it was a good song. I liked the context of the song. He doesn't know where he's going, but he's still rockin' on. It was a song about moving through life and how you've got to keep on truckin'. The only thing is, the end is kind of sudden when he says, "I'll have another beer." Is that really how you want to end a song? He says, "I've been doing this for 15 years," but what is he doing now to get past that to make things better for himself? It's got kind of that garage-rock sound. It's got a good tempo. If you're a *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* fan, it's sort of what you'd hear if you walked into the Bronze [nightclub]. I'd give that song a seven out of ten.

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

DJ

HOW TO SUBMIT A DJ LISTING: Call 619-235-3000 x405, night or day by 5 pm Friday, the week prior to publication. To send weekly or monthly schedules, fax to 619-231-0489 or mail to Reader Music Scene, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA, 92186. You may also submit information online, get directions, maps, event alerts, RSS feeds, club coupons, and more at SanDiegoReader.com.

Air Conditioned Lounge:
Fridays: DJ Junior. Disco, funk, and '80s music. *Saturdays:* Juicy. With Mike Czech and DJ SG. *Sundays:* Guest DJ Night. Guest DJs to be announced. *Mondays:* Rock N Bowl. With guest DJ. *Tuesdays,* 11:30 p.m.: Big Sonic Chill. Sponsored by San Diego's Local 94.9. *Wednesdays:* Rotating Crew. Spin house, electro, and hip-hop. 4673 30th Street, Normal Heights. 619-501-9831.

Bar Pink: *Mondays,* 9:30 p.m.: Grown Folk Music. Features the Husky Boy All Stars DJ Buddha and

Duse. Hip-hop/soul. 3829 30th Street, North Park. 619-564-7194.

Beauty Bar: *Tuesdays,* 9 p.m.: Trans Am Tuesdays. New wave '80s dance party with DJ Heather Hardcore. 4746 El Cajon Boulevard, Kensington-Talmadge. 619-516-4746.

Bourbon Street: *Wednesday,* 9 p.m.: Flashback. New wave, industrial, and alternative hits with deejays Brian Pollard, Sickboy, Stem, and more. \$3. 4612 Park Boulevard, Normal Heights. 619-291-0173.

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

Candelas: *Thursdays:* DJ ALA. Deep soulful house music. 416 Third Avenue, Downtown. 619-702-4455.

Coyote Bar and Grill: *Thursdays,* 10:30 p.m.: DJ Earl Henry. *Fridays,* 10:30 p.m., *Saturdays,* 10:30 p.m.: DJ Steve Hasty. 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4695.

Deco's Restaurant & Nightclub: *Thursdays:* Krush.

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San Diego Reader November 26, 2008 91

Calendar MUSIC

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The Filling Station: *Fridays and Saturdays,* 9 p.m.: DJ Dance Party. 9522 Miramar Road, Mira Mesa. 858-578-0757.

The Flame: *Saturday:* Club Sabbat. Gothic and industrial nightclub hosted at the Flame every second and fifth Saturday of the month. Resident DJs Robin Roth, Atom, and Diskdroid spin along with special guests. 3780 Park Boulevard, Hillcrest. 619-295-4163.

**Inferno Young Adult
Nightclub:** *Friday and Saturday,* 9 p.m.: DJ Kool T. Spins Top 40,

techno, and '80s. \$10. Ages 16 and up. 775 Metcalf Street, Escondido. 760-741-1271.

**Jack's La Jolla - Ocean
Room:** *Thursdays and Saturdays,* 10 p.m.: Wall Street Bar. DJs and dancing. 7863 Girard Avenue, La Jolla. 858-456-8111.

Kadan: *Monday,* 9 p.m.: Gimmie Gimmie Gimmie. Old-school punk and new wave with deejays Bryan Pollard, Stem, and guest. 4696 30th Street, North Park. 619-640-2500.

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

Moondoggies Pacific Beach: *Saturdays,* 9 p.m.: What's Good. DJs Enigma and Cisco. Hip-hop, R&B, and Top 40. 832 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-483-6550.

Ruby Room: *Saturday,* 9 p.m.: Therapy. Industrial Gothic with deejays Bryan Pollard, Xian, and Detonator. 1271 University Avenue, Hillcrest. 619-299-7372.

Sevilla: *Fridays,* 9:30 p.m.: Blazin' Fridays. Hip-hop and reggaeton with Blazin' 98.9. 555 Fourth Avenue, Downtown. 619-233-5979.

Static Lounge: *Friday:* Club Pop Noir. Every fourth Friday of the month, Maystar's *Club Noir* featuring DJ Groundfloor and DJ Edgartronic. Indie/electroclash/dance music. Ages 18 and up. 634 Broadway, Downtown. 619-544-1609.

Whiskey Girl: *Fridays and Saturdays,* 9 p.m.: DJ Marc Thrasher. Mixes music videos. *Sundays,* 9 p.m.: DJ Famous Dave.



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November 28
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November 29
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December 12
"Dancing with the Stars"
December 17
Cheetah Girls
December 21
"Walking with Dinosaurs"
January 1-4
"Annie"
January 9-11
John Legend
January 16
Jeff Dunham
January 16

Chargers vs. Falcons
November 30


METALLICA
December 15

Robin Williams
February 12

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January 28-Feb. 2
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February 2
Styx
February 14
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March 3-8
"Rent"
March 10-15
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Holiday Bowl
December 30
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February 13 & 15
Chargers
Raiders.....Dec. 4
Broncos.....Dec. 28

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THURS. DEC 11

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SUN. DEC 14

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FRI. DEC 19

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SAT. DEC 20

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SAT. JAN 3

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DEC 8
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BACK 10 BLACK

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- 12/27 :: CLUB LUCKY
- 12/28 :: RATT
- 12/30 :: THE WAILERS
- 1/1 :: REEL BIG FISH
- 1/2 :: PEPPER

- 1/3 :: THE RADIATORS
- 1/4 :: B.B. KING
- 1/5 :: THE METEORS
- 1/6 :: GEORGE CLINTON & THE P-FUNK ALL STARS
- 1/9 :: LED ZEPAGAIN - SO CAL'S PREMIER
LED ZEPPELIN TRIBUTE
- 1/10 :: BOMFIRE - A TRIBUTE TO EARLY AC/DC
- 1/15 :: BOYZ II MEN
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Crasher

DOG IS MY COPILOT

by Josh Board

the last weekend in August, I was invited to a party in an airplane hangar, which is funny because the word one associates with parties is “hang-over,” not “hangar.” James, a local doctor with a pilot’s license, throws this annual bash. I received the invite via fax, and it read that the party would be from “1400 to 1800 hours.” I turned into the guys in *Spinal Tap* and counted out the hours on my fingers to figure it out. “I’ve read that you smoke cigars,” the fax continued, “but you can’t smoke here. There are things that can blow up.”

As I drove to Montgomery Field in Kearny Mesa, I recalled the last time someone told me to meet them there. I was doing a morning radio show with him, and he took me out in his Piper Seminole. We hit a lot of turbulence, and the only thing going through my mind was that this was probably the size plane that Buddy Holly, members of Lynyrd Skynyrd, and Ozzy guitarist Randy Rhoads died in. Two small-time



deejays wouldn’t even be a blip on the radar.

I convinced myself to decline if James offered me a flight. He never offered one, but he did offer lots of food. He had a hangar emptied out and then filled with grub from a catering company.

“You can’t smoke here. There are things that can blow up.”

He moved a couple of his planes out of another hangar, where he had the Bobby Gordon band playing. I laughed when the 70-year-old (I’m guessing) clarinet player stood looking



Top right: Bobby Gordon and his band performed in a hangar; Bottom left: The creator of Montgomery Field, Bill Gibbs, on the left; Bottom right: Kids yearning to fly...find other vehicles

bored as the drummer was playing his solo. I think we can all relate as far as drum solos go.

them were getting along. I asked James what the deal was with all the canines. “I invite the dogs but tell them they can bring their owners.” He told me that he loves dogs but gets too sad when they die, so now he just enjoys other people’s pets.

He handed me a T-shirt that read “Hangar Party XVIII” and then told me to go get some food. A teenager who was pointing at an older guy said to his friend, “Hey, look, it’s a Wright Brother.”

When I walked outside to the end of the food line, I noticed that James provided appetizers for the dogs. One guy was laughing as he told his friend, “I almost ate one of those. I thought it was beef jerky.”

I figured between the band and all the food and drink, James probably spent several thousand bucks putting on this event. There were so many varieties of soft drinks and alcohol. Someone told me, “There’s so much beer left over... I remember 15 years ago, they’d run out of beer. But the older everyone gets, it seems they drink less. Now it’s the bottled water that disappears first.”

As I was standing out in the sun eating my burger, I saw a strange-looking plane in the hangar next door. I walked over and said something that I thought was funny about how it looked, but the guy working on it mumbled back something I didn’t understand.

Someone walked over and told me it was a VariEze (pro-

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

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nounced “very easy”), an experimental plane like the one that John Denver crashed in — another musician’s death in small aircraft.

This plane was tiny, and it had something that looked like the spoiler you’d see on the back of a race car. I was told, “You can buy these things reasonably priced; some are

around ten grand. They go 170 knots.” I didn’t want to sound dumb, so I didn’t ask him what that is in miles per hour. Instead, I asked him how much fuel they use. “About 4.5 gallons an hour,” he said.

A few people were talking with a guy named Bill Gibbs. I was told he founded this airport in the ’30s and knows a lot about aviation history. I was going to interview him when I caught him alone, but there always seemed to

be folks gathered around him.

A couple was napping in the shade of the wing of a yellow Cessna. People were trying to snap photos of another airplane, but a dog kept walking into the shots.

I listened in when people talked about the various airplanes. There was some technical talk, and I heard a guy declare, “I haven’t flown one of those since 1982.” But not all of the people there that

day were pilots; the crowd was mostly friends and family of the people who fly.

I saw something that looked like a skateboard-sled hybrid on the wall and asked James about it. He told me about a hill in La Jolla by Windansea. He has a friend who takes it out nights and lies on the board with a flashlight and rides it down the hill. James added, “I’m not originally from La Jolla, but it’s a La Jolla tradition

going way back.”

I went back inside to listen to the band and noticed a punching bag hanging from the ceiling. It was pulled up high so that people had more room, and I joked with a guy next to me, “You’d have to be a tall boxer to work out on that thing.” He smiled and said, “Does anyone box anymore, or is it just cage fighting?”

I noticed the band had a young woman singing. Someone said that she was the granddaughter of one of the pilots at the party. As she sang “My Funny Valentine,” I was eavesdropping on a couple sitting at a table nearby. They couldn’t decide between going to Zanzibar or one of the smaller islands off Africa to celebrate his 50th

birthday. A guy asked him, “Will you fly there yourself?” He smiled and shook his head no.

There was a black dog that looked like Toto that kept coming over to us. We’d pet it for a few minutes, and then the owner would call out to it to stop bugging us. It walked back to her but would show up again 15 minutes later. We were happy to pet it.

One guy told a woman that he had a standard poodle; “I’m the one that recommended that dog to your husband.” She said, “Oh, they’re such great dogs, especially if you’re in New York City. They’re great guard dogs that can stay indoors.” He added, “And best of all, they don’t shed.”

I overheard the teenager I saw earlier say, “Man, these guys are either talking dogs or planes.” ■

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


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

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Nicole Should Be a Mousse

Recession? You'd never know it if you judged by Illume (pronounced ill-LOOM, no accent on the e) and by the light but constant pedestrian traffic in its neighborhood. As for depression, it's impossible at this cheerful bistro. The room's center is a busy wraparound bar with pastel Day-Glo lighting and every stool occupied from early 'til late on an ordinary Thursday, which was when we were there. Bare floors, a wall-corner made from an old wooden beer or booze barrel, and unclothed tables with red napkins indicate the casual house spirit. Many of the tables, too, were filled with patrons in their 20s and early 30s, most a little arty, but not so out-front about it as the North Park crowd. Club music plays on the sound system, and with the exuberant conversations of the diners and drinkers, it's a bit loud, like a lively but not yet raucous party.

The menu matches the relaxed ambience, offering medium-size "grazing" dishes proportioned for sharing among friends, with no firm line between appetizers and entrées. Figure two dishes per person, dessert optional. Our eight pre-dessert dishes (ranging from \$8-\$17) were perfectly sized for four sharers, with only a few bites left for this "old maid" to take home — not the usual waddle-out excess, but never too little either. (Figure \$35-\$60 a person, all told, including some modest wine. More, of course, with brazenly immodest wine, but there are only a few of those on the list.)

The menu is still changing (already gone, alas, is the goat cheese soufflé, which didn't sell, while Italian-sausage-stuffed cannoli have been banished to the weekend late-night menu), and the kitchen is still finding out what its target population would like to eat. Celebrity chef Bradley Ogden (who originally shaped the flavors at Arterra and at Anthology) lives upstairs, in the apartment building atop the restaurant — as does his neighbor, Illume owner David Brienza, a general contractor making his first foray into the restaurant biz. Ogden served as the restaurant's consultant, and the fare has his stamp of natural, seasonal, simple, and lightly seasoned dishes.

The food is largely transparent — you know just what you're eating while you're eating it. I've made no secret over the years that I respect Ogden's skills but don't really love his rather genteel culinary style; he seems the most purely heartland-Amer-



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE KLEIN

ican of the California-cuisine chefs, the least influenced by the rural French cuisine that originally inspired Alice Waters to pioneer the genre. (I prefer a more adventurous and indulgent take on natural flavors, e.g., locally, Jeff Jackson's food at A.R. Valentien.) Keep this in mind when you weigh these opinions. If you love other local Ogden-influenced restaurants, push my star rating up by at least half a star.

For an example of simplicity, a roasted-beet salad with Bosc pear, blood orange-Port reduction, and goat cheese arrives looking like a diva on Oscar night, plated as a thick snow-white disk topped with sunny orange freckles of finely chopped golden beets and pears, sweetly dressed. (Oooh, it's Nicole!) But that disk is apparently just goat cheese, straight-up. It's good goat (probably Humboldt Fog), but I had to agree with my tablemates that, unmediated, the slightly gamey, lean cheese overmastered the beets and pears. My posse and I started re-making the dish in the kitchens of our minds: "If it were a goat-cheese mousse instead, thinned with some cream or crème fraîche...." "Seasoned with something herb-y, like chives...." "And lifted with

a bit of gelatin, like a panna cotta...." "...it would all taste better," we concluded. (Honest, we do talk like this. People who are into cooking don't stop cooking just because somebody else is in the kitchen. Alone in our own kitchens, we're prone to muttered culinary soliloquies. Drives our mates, if we have them, totally bats.)

My friends loved the grilled-eggplant rolls filled with mildly herbed ricotta cheese and topped with marinara sauce. I merely liked them — they were agreeable but didn't equal the swoony lushness of great eggplant *rollatini*, e.g., the versions at Firenze in Encinitas (where pine nuts enliven the stuffing) and at North Park's Apertivo (where the roll includes Swiss chard and a topping of gooey mozzarella). The flavors and textures here seemed a bit minimalist, cleaving to the well-trodden middle road.

Our least favorite was a winter-squash soup topped with spiced pumpkin seeds and laced with crème fraîche. From the touch of sweetness, the soup tasted as if it might be made with apple cider, but aside from the lively spiced seeds, it

REVIEW NAOMI WISE

Illume Bistro

★★½ (Good to Very Good)

675 West Beech Street (between Kettner Boulevard and India Street), 619-550-5600, illumbistro.com

HOURS: Daily 4:00 p.m.–1:00 a.m.

PRICES: Soups and salads, \$7–\$11; substantial appetizers, \$12–\$16; entrées, \$12–\$21; desserts, \$6–\$7; cheese plate, \$15.

CUISINE AND BEVERAGES: California grazing cuisine with a Mediterranean accent, featuring natural, sustainable, seasonal products in medium-size portions. Smart international (heavily Italian) wine list, mostly under \$50, with a dozen choices by the glass.

PICK HITS: Grilled-eggplant rolls; crab and onion pancake; small pizza with chorizo, Italian sausage, and burrata; duck breast with mushroom pudding; mascarpone cheesecake.

NEED TO KNOW: Ample street parking, plus two pay lots on the block. Lively bar scene, loud but not painful. Casual. Reserve, restaurant often full.

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

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lacked oomph. I looked around both our table and the neighbors' for a salt shaker, and I'm usually a salt minimalist. "Where's the pepper grinder?" asked Ben. To no avail. (When Alice Waters opened Chez Panisse, initially she, too, refused to put salt and pepper on the tables, on grounds that the food was already perfectly seasoned. Within a few years, cute little dishes filled with sea salt appeared, as even cute little Alice came to realize that nobody's perfect for all tastes.) "Needs cinnamon," said Lynne. "Mace," said Mark. "Warm curry spices — cardamom and coriander," I said. With the pumpkin seeds consumed, the cooling soup congealed into ancient memories of Gerber's baby food purées.

All of the above came from a menu section

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**GINZA
SUSHI**

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called "Earth," located at the top of the page. Moving on to "Sea," we chose the lively "crab and onion pancake, celery root-apple salad, Meyer lemon aioli," to quote the menu details, a smart alternative to yet another boring ol' crab cake. The thin, delicate pancakes were entrancing, though none of us could really taste the crab-meat. (Lump crab is a flavor that gets lost in a crowd as easily as a toddler at the mall.) I thought I tasted a hint of haunting celery root *in*, not just *on*, the crêpes. Turns out the shade of darkness came from shiitake mushrooms and the "rootiness" from a mixture of potatoes and three types of onions. The crisp raw salad on top and the daubs of brightly citric aioli were fine complements.

Our more substantial dishes began, from the third menu section titled "Range," with a spectacular little thin-crust pizza topped with lean Span-

ish chorizo slices, bites of yummy house-made Italian sweet sausage, a thin wash of *salsa pomodori*, and a bountiful pillow of burrata ("buttery") mozzarella, cheese so young the insides aren't yet set, exploding in the mouth into soft creaminess. You gotta have it if you love melted cheese — makes ya moan and groan.

Orange-glazed duck breast, although amiable, is hardly an original flavor combination, but the duck is tender, and it comes with a wild-mushroom pudding that's airy but earthy — essentially a baked mushroom mousse. The posse fell madly in love with it. Once again, my palate was amused but not overcome. "What's wrong with it?" asked Ben, indignant. "I'm from San Francisco," I said. Regional gastro-snobbery raises its ugly head again! "Chef Roland Passot at La Folie was doing this better 20 years ago," I said. "Spoiled, spoiled!" Mark scolded. "Yes, I have been. Passot used intense, European-type wild mushrooms — cêpes, chanterelles, maybe even morels, with much darker, wilder, more intense flavors.

This one is great for the price, but it's...born to be mild."

We went back to the "Sea" again for Arctic char with lemon butter, a nice tender hunka fish (its flavor resembles a gentler salmon), but it didn't quite get along with its garnishes of cannellini beans and Italian kale. Maybe the Arctic and the Mediterranean don't mix that well — an assertive warm-water species (sardines, mackerel, yellowfin, or even *branzino*, Mediterranean sea bass) might fit better. It's a near miss, every individual element in the dish delicious separately, but we decided they shouldn't even date, much less marry.

An Italo-Cuban paella was fun. Instead of rice, its starch was *fregula* ("freckles"), a circular wheat pasta resembling large-bore Israeli couscous, with what the chef describes as "a nutty, toasty flavor." The mix included baby octopus (tiny enough to pass for baby squid rings), black mussels, Spanish chorizo, and peas, with a base of *sofrito*, a Cuban/Puerto Rican/minced-veggie seasoning mixture that serves as the flavor base of Spanish-Caribbean casseroles — an island version of French *mirepoix*, or the New Orleans "Holy Trinity." Chef Matt Richman picked up on this mixture when he was working in Miami a few years ago. (And yes, paella is legit with pasta instead of rice, given a firm, wheaty pasta. It's a common variation in Catalan cuisine.)

"Don't call me Scarface — my name is Mascarpone," I murmured over the dessert choices (called "Heaven"), finding a mascarpone cheesecake with macerated strawberries and *dulce de leche* sauce that I knew I couldn't resist. It proved lush but not oversweet, all in balance, but also less exciting than I'd hoped (again, that elusive "oomph" factor was missing — in this case, probably not enough fruity acidity to contrast with the dairy richness). Baked Julian apple pudding was homey comfort food, almost aggressively bland, mushy and baby-foodish again. Happily, it came with powerful cinnamon ice cream, of the sort that is often paired with tarte tatin but will freely bestow its muscular grace on lesser desserts.

There's no espresso. The French-press coffee was dreadful (bitter and sour). Don't know whether the fault lay with the beans or the measurement. It was cheap (\$3.50 for a pot to serve four), but I'd rather a happy ending at a slightly higher price. Attention must be paid, because rarely is coffee this awful at a decent restaurant.

Although Brad Ogden made his name in the Bay Area, he has San Diego tastes down pat. Most people here love his clean, gentle palate. And Illume's chef, Matt Richman, who is turning out flawlessly executed dishes in his style, probably doesn't need to pay much attention to my quibbles (except about the coffee). The restaurant looks like

a survivor — right location, right menu, right vibes for its demographic, already popular. Definitely the right food for post-Thanksgiving, when you may crave something lighter than those weighty festal leftovers. And it's a great place to hang out with your homies and taste lots of pretty-good goodies. Most of the food doesn't thrill me, but it will please anybody, and it might thrill you.

ABOUT THE CHEF

Chef Matt Richman is a local who wandered afield and came home again. After graduating from La Jolla Country Day School, he got a totally irrelevant university degree in New Mexico, while realizing his real passions lay in the kitchen. "I came from a cooking family — not professionally, but Mom and Dad always cooked. I was always fascinated by flavor combinations. Going to Chino Farms when I was younger was always really a treat." He graduated from the CCA in San Francisco in 2001. While still in school there, he worked at the fabled Fifth Floor under the wildly talented (but erratic) George Morrone and after graduation worked at Kokkari Estiatorio, arguably America's best Greek restaurant. "I would have loved to stay, but it was the dot-com era, and I couldn't afford to live up there."

Returning south, he worked at Pacifica Del Mar for almost five years. "Chris Idso, the chef there, really taught me a lot — both foodwise and back-of-the-house issues. And then I moved to Miami for a little bit and worked with some great chefs, great restaurants. They had completely different produce and proteins there. A little of that style definitely comes through in the foods I cook here, like the paella with Cuban *sofrito*, or the plantain chips on the ahi tartare. Then I came back and worked for a little [short-lived] French place in La Jolla called My Place.

"My consulting chef here was Bradley Ogden. He was living upstairs in the same building as the restaurant, and he got together with Illume's owner, David Brienza, who was also living in the building and wanted to get into the restaurant business. Bradley hired me on. I subscribe to his theory of using the best ingredients possible and not really complicating the things and keeping it simple and let the natural flavors of the ingredients do their own thing. I don't believe in overburdening foods with marinades or exotic spices. I like using different colors, so the food looks good on the plate. I think we're involved in a renaissance of going back to simpler-style foods. I focus on the Mediterranean — French-, Greek-, and Italian-style flavors. I live a block away, and I knew I wanted to live up the neighborhood with a good restaurant. I understand the San Diego scene, and I definitely want to be a torchbearer for where it's going." ■



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Good-bye, Mr. Wing

Gold-and-black fabric wall art is more Indian.
Or is it Thai? War elephants rampaging.

'Oh, man. Where am I going to get my curry now?" Jim stands staring at the notice taped to the front door.

"Dear customers," it begins. "After serving El Cajon for 52 years since 1956, Kip's will be closed for business as of Sunday, November 23rd, 2008. Thank you very much for your years of patronage...."

Sigh. RIP Kip. This was two weeks ago. Jim was waiting for his to-go order. "I've been coming for years. It's what I always get: chicken curry, extra spicy, and egg rolls."

Dammit, open 52 years and still I miss out. I'd always heard how Kip's was one of the best-loved eateries of this valley. It's in the sprawling Town and Country shopping center on Second Street.

So I pop in for one first-last visit, just to see what I missed. You enter between two aquariums. On the left, wow, big purple-spotted piranha and a bunch of oscar and blood parrot fish. On the other side, whoa, a pair of silver fish, each two feet long, with mighty jaws and huge eyes. Arowana, from the Amazon, where they grow to four, maybe six feet long and leap from the water and grab birds and monkeys from trees, according to Belinda the waitress.

Belinda says to sit anywhere, so I take a window seat in one of the plum-colored booths.

Now I see the menu. Kip's Cafe serves Chinese and Japanese food.

At the table near the kitchen, Jocelyn and Dee, two middle-aged El Cajon women, sit and chat. They haven't heard the news. Dee looks up from her sweet and sour pork (\$8.50), shocked. "I can't believe it," she says. "This has been my favorite Chinese place since 1963."

I order Japanese, the pork teriyaki rice bowl

(\$5.75) and a crunchy roll, stuffed with salmon and cream cheese (\$5.95).

The crunchy roll looks like a giant caterpillar, with brown stripes of teriyaki sauce, tempura crunchies on top, and a great lake of spicy sauce (chile, eggs, garlic, and mayo).

Mr. Wing, the owner, comes out of the kitchen. He's a happy-looking guy who, turns out, has been working here for the last 28 years. It was his uncle, Kip Tam, who started the place. "We all came from a village near Canton, China, called Tai Shan," says

Wing. "In 1956, El Cajon was also pretty small. A cowboy town, horses, cattle, dusty unpaved roads." Times have changed for Wing too. "Now I have two and a half acres in Blossom Valley. My wife and I have started a little vineyard there. One acre. We got our second harvest this year, 900 bottles."

"But why are you closing, when you're doing so well?" I ask.

"Because the new owner of this shopping center wants to raise our rent by 82 percent," he says. "Besides, I'm 55. Wing needs to take wing!"

B...but, where are all these folk going to go for their Oriental fix?

Next time I'm here, I get my answer. It's nighttime, four days before Kip's closes. The place is blazing with life. Even more crowded. Guess word of the closure's out. But I keep on walking, looking for someplace else that's not going to be gone on me next time.

And right in the next shopping center, Madison Plaza, next to a Wings N Things, a red sign shines out with an odd message: "Chinese Cuisine. Fish'n' Chips."

It's a little place, but a warm little place. Actually a warm little palace. The menu says it's called "Chen's Golden Palace" (although the

phone book, I find later, just says "Chen Golden Palace"), even though gold-and-black fabric wall art is more Indian. Or is it Thai? War elephants rampaging. Wall menus offer everything from \$3.95 rice bowls with pork or beef or chicken to \$6.95 lunch specials like orange chicken on rice, kung pao chicken, or sweet and sour chicken. Most dinner plates run \$8.95. And those fish and chips start at \$5.95.

A little lady at the cash register end of the counter notices me. Wow. Her smile lights up the room. Turns out she's Lao-Chinese. Now my face lights up too. Laos. Favorite place on earth, least when I was a kid. It was the nearest thing to Shangri-la.

Her name's Em. "We've been here since 1992," she says. She and her husband Doug, and Wen, their son, working there in the kitchen right now. They left Laos in 1990. I just want to start jawing about that country of theirs, with its mountains and mighty muddy Mekong and the freshwater fish that taste so good hooked straight out of the river and cooked over a fire.

"That's one thing I miss," says Em. "Freshwater fish. Here you only get saltwater ocean fish. They taste different."

I ask if they have any Lao dishes. But looks like the nearest thing is Thai spicy shrimp noodles (\$8.95). I should just go for the \$3.99 rice bowl, but who can resist those big floppy Thai noodles? And what the heck, I get the Thai iced tea too (\$3 with boba — tapioca balls — and the



Wing-Tam

wide straw to suck them through).

I go find a seat. The molded benches are red Formica. The floor tile's red. The little lights at the gold family altar shine red. Em brings the red tray loaded with the steaming noodles. "Try the Sriracha hot sauce on it," she says. "It has more flavor than the pepper sauce."

I do. It does. The noodles are sloppy, *rico*, the shrimp are squelchy, delicious. She brings a little pot of fried rice to act as a dampener to all the heat.

Man, there's a lot. Noodles, rice, those big shrimp, bits of egg, whole little sprigs of basil, nice big crunchy chunks of green bell pepper, plus milky tea and big tapioca balls.

And then, like Cinderella, gotta rush, catch the last bus to the trolley. Nice to know that even if Kip's, the El Cajon Chinese icon, is gone, Chen's is here to pick up the slack, with a little bit of Laos tossed in. ■

The Place: *Chen's Golden Palace, Chinese Cuisine Fish and Chips, 530 N. Second Street, El Cajon, 619-442-2541*
Type of Food: *Chinese, Thai*
Prices: *Chicken teriyaki bowl, \$3.95; lunch specials (e.g., orange chicken on rice, kung pao chicken, or sweet and sour chicken), \$6.95; Mongolian beef and rice (fried or steamed), \$8.95; ma-poh tofu (pork), \$8.55; shrimp chow mein, \$8.95; two-piece fish and chips, \$5.95; pho beef noodle soup, \$6.95; Thai spicy fried rice, \$8.95*
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Rebel to Vintner

"I was a hippie — worse than a hippie. I was in jail."

I can't tell you how it came to pass that the Italian winemakers Mario Schiopetto, Giacomo Bologna, and Maurizio Zanella joined Italian gastronomic giant Luigi Veronelli on a trip to America in 1981, a trip that would ultimately spark the modern revolution in Italian wine quality. (Veronelli, in a conversation with Piero Selvaggio of Los Angeles's Valentino restaurant, lamented his discovery that California's upstate wine industry had surpassed Italy's. Selvaggio's reply: *"Co l'acqua toca 'l cul tutti impara a nodar"* — when the water touches one's ass, one learns to swim. "We will learn to swim." And learn they did, adopting various aspects of California's beloved winemaking technology and even bringing wine-making legend André Tchelistcheff over to Florence for a seminar on the subject.) I can't tell you because the answer belongs to Jeremy Parzen, a wine writer who's been chasing that particular story for some time. I just happened to be sitting next to him when he asked the question of Zanella, somewhere near the end of a long and delightful evening in the courtyard behind Jayne's Gastropub a few weeks back. (If you're at all curious, you can get the story at Parzen's blog, Do Bianchi: dobianchi.wordpress.com.)

Happily, I can tell you about the rest of the night — very much An Evening with the Wine Luminary — and try to give you something of its

flavor. Zanella is the man behind Ca' del Bosco, one of Italy's most celebrated wineries and certainly its most famous producer of the bubbly Franciacorta. He makes plenty of still wine as well — the evening featured two sparklers, a couple of Chardonnays, a Pinot Noir, a Carmenère, and a Bordeaux blend. (Despite a fair number of guests at the table, including local wine educator/tour guide Robin Stark, my notes get wobbly after the Pinot, though I have happy memories of the Carmenère....)

Crush
 MATTHEW LICKONA

Zanella was in town for the first time — professionally, anyway. "Like all Europeans," he noted, "I had taken my kids to Sea World — it's one of the points to be seen — but that was 18 years ago or so. My other reason is that one month ago, he" — he gestured toward Parzen — "was in my cellar, and I was not there. There was lots of damage. He drank a '79."

"That was a fantastic tasting," smiled Parzen, who had visited with an Italian colleague. "It's better when you're not there. The '79 was unctuous and oxidized and fantastic."

"The lady who let you in no longer works at Ca' del Bosco," said Zanella, not even trying for deadpan.

"It was an important wine for me," rhapsodized Parzen, "because I saw that you guys have been making the wine in the same house style all this time."

"You're right — very conservative," answered Zanella. "If you want to have a style, you have to do small changes, but you cannot change your philosophy." He turned to me. "The common point that makes the Ca' del Bosco taste is harmony and elegance. We are 'over-nothing.' We try not to be massive. I believe that wines over 14 percent alcohol are not wines, they are Port. A strong wine wins a tasting, but we don't drink like this. We drink one glass with food, for pleasure. If a wine is over 14 percent, it's better they don't do wine. Wines that give emotion come from elegance, not power."

"Conservative" may sound funny coming from a man who helped revolutionize an industry, and even more so from a man who owes his wine-making career to "playing war with the police" back in '68. Funny, that is, until you hear him spin out the details of those heady days. "I was a hippie — worse than a hippie. I was in jail. I was in the student revolution — it was more fun than going to school. I was a student in Milano. When I was in private school, and the conservative party was the right side, I was a communist. My parents changed me to a public school, where everyone was communist — so I was fascist. The party wasn't important — it was important to go out into the street, to play far away from the school." Eventually, his parents sent him to a little house they owned in the country — the house that eventually gave the winery its name. "I was happy there, because I was living alone at 15. I did motocross. And then the wine started to be interesting. So." It wasn't that he was a revolutionary,



Maurizio Zanella

then or now. What mattered was the devotion to pleasure. (Yes, such a devotion tends toward hedonism. But when was the last time a wine critic described a 13.8 percent wine as "hedonistic"?)

Case in point: Zanella's personal crusade against serving sparkling wine — and not just his own — in flutes. "I hate those glasses," he said. "It's the most wrong glass ever thought up to destroy a wine, to destroy our work, to destroy your pleasure in drinking." (Emphasis mine.) One might be tempted toward words like "crank" or "snob" in the face of such animus regarding something that's so generally accepted, but that last phrase saves the day. This is a man who wants you to enjoy yourself. And how can you enjoy yourself if your glass is suffocating your vintage bubbly, tainting it with the dank that comes from imperfect drying, forcing the wine down a narrow strip of your palate, and making you tip your head back

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in abnormal ways just to get a sip? "The flute was a big mistake," he growled, "and I have allies. I have, already, Krug, Pol Roger, Salon. The good people, they are with me."

The pleasure principle can also make a man humble, however celebrated he may be. What is pleasant to him may not be pleasant to all. Zanella had me compare the '04 and '05 Chardonnays, and I allowed as how I liked the '05, because it offered the unwooded, mineral leanness I like in Chardonnay. Zanella's face let me know that I had not given the hoped-for answer — and as time went on, the richer '04 showed better and better — but he remained exquisitely polite. "I will not tell you how I feel about the wine. I never speak about my wine, because it is not easy for me to be honest. I will never say, 'This wine is great' — it's stupid when a winemaker speaks about his wine. You judge. But '05 was a very rich harvest, very difficult to manage. The temperature was very high — it burns the acidity, and you lose a little finesse. But it was a good year for white, if the winemaker was able to read the year the right way. We harvested August 4, the earliest harvest ever done in Europe. But if you had the technology, I believe it could have been a good year. And from your word, I believe it was a good year."

And Zanella had the technology. Again, when pleasure is your rule, you embrace change or preserve tradition according to that rule. Zanella may have worked to preserve the house style at Ca' del Bosco, but it's a far cry from those early, earthy days of the '70s. "The vineyard manager puts a bar code on each palette of grapes that comes into the winery," he explained. "The code indicates the varietal, the vineyard, and the sanitary state — how the grapes look, if there is any rot. Perfect is five, a lot of problems is one. The pressing speed in the winery is determined by this code — if the harvest is difficult, the machines run slowly, because you need more time to do the hand selection of grapes. And the receiving door won't accept a crate of grapes if the code is from the wrong vineyard. Everything in its place." Once inside, the grapes are cooled to just before the point where condensation would kick in, keeping excess moisture out and fermentation down until the winemaker is ready to get things started. The precision temperature control allows Zanella, for example, to shift his Chardonnay into barrels mid-fermentation and so derive just the degree of barrel-fermented character he desires.

"It's like the beginning of Space Mountain at Disneyland," marveled Parzen, "where you see all the robots working. But not in an anonymous way."

*Credit where it's due: Do Bianchi is also where I found the account of the conversation between Veronelli and Selvaggio. ■

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RESTAURANT LISTINGS

The Reader's Guide to Restaurants are recommended listings written by our reviewers (Ed Bedford, Barbara David, Ambrose Martin, Shari McCullough, Max Nash, Eleanor Widmer, Naomi Wise). Each issue contains only a fraction of almost 900 reviews. A complete searchable list is available online at SanDiegoReader.com. Price estimates are based on the latest information available for a midrange entrée. Inexpensive: below \$10; moderate: \$10 to \$19; expensive: \$20 to \$29; very expensive: more than \$30. Please call restaurants in advance for reservations.

BEACHES

A.R. Valentien 11480 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, 858-777-6635. A superb choice for a splurge: Chef Jeff Jackson cooks up a daily changing menu of California cuisine emphasizing the natural flavors of peak, in-season produce and top-quality well-raised meats and wild seafood. Not only is the food delicious and quietly inventive, but it's relatively healthy, with less fat, salt, and "bad carbs" than at most restaurants. Note that all dishes on the "chef tasting" dinner are also available solo. The setting (a country inn on a golf course) is beautiful, the warren of dining rooms quiet and romantic unless packed. Validated valet parking, free self-parking; full bar with steeply priced wines, moderate-priced cocktails. Reservations essential for weekend and holiday dinners. Open three meals daily. Very expensive. — N.W.

The Cookie Lady Café and Bakery 7596 Shingle Lane, La Jolla, 858-456-1640. Pretend you're going to Tape-nade, then veer off up Shingle Lane. You come to a sunny brick patio with mosaic tables, trees, plants, and a little Curiosity Shoppe-looking place. Ask for Joan, the Cookie Lady. Think Hermione Gingold ("There's no business like show..."). She's so bursting with life you'll almost forget to eat. Yes, this is soup-and-sandwich land, and good in both departments. A half-and-half turkey sandwich (and it's real turkey, roasted here each morning) and Italian wedding soup will overstuff you. Best of all: your total here is about what you'd pay for the tip next door. Open daily except Sundays. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Great Khan's Mongolian Festival 4545 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla, 858-678-0950. This is a chain that stretches almost as far as the Mongolian Empire, but that's because the idea is good. One meal, plenty of it, and guaranteed fresh because it's either frozen (curled shavings of beef, chicken, turkey, pork) or raw (veggies including cabbage, celery, broccoli, cucumber, green peppers, carrots, mushrooms, pineapple, water chestnuts). Stuff as much as you can into your bowl and hand it to the chef to braise on the huge hotplate, and add noodles. Bonus: gallery view of skaters or an ice hockey match while you eat. Open lunch through dinner weekdays, earlier closing weekends. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Gringo's 4474 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach, 858-490-2877. With better cooking than you'd guess from its name, this ambitious spin-off of the local Moondoggies chain serves the sort of Mexican cuisine you might find at a seaside resort in Cabo or Puerto Vallarta — skillfully prepared with good, fresh ingredients, just a bit dumbed-down in the flavors. The *chile verde*, say, is beautifully seasoned, if barely *picante*. Given the surefire location at the hub of P.B. party town, the food is actually better than it needs to be. A vast list of tequilas, interesting margaritas, and a sensible wine list emphasizing affordable, food-friendly Chilean bottlings add to the draw for a lively young crowd that revs the decibels to a roar on weekends. Three meals daily,

brunch available Sunday. Moderate. — N.W.

Harry's Coffee Shop 7545 Girard Avenue, La Jolla, 858-454-7381. When Harry Rudolph II opened Harry's back in 1960, his idea was simple: to create a down-home eatery and soda fountain where all La Jolla — rich, poor, Brahmins, and gardeners — could mix and meet with plenty of good eats. Everyone from Joan Kroc to Junior Seau to Brooke Shields has been spotted here, along with regular folks who've been coming in for three decades. Now Harry III reigns quietly among a dozen whirling dervish waitresses at lunch. The big ham steak and eggs is a favorite breakfast, as is the simple, rich Hot Creamy Oatmeal with strawberries. Pecan pancakes and thin, crisp waffles ring true to many Easterners (though Harry offers thick Belgian-style waffles, too), and for lunch, turkey burgers and the bacon-loaded British Burger are popular. At the counter, the banter between been-here-forever waitresses and customers sounds like family life. Nice sidewalk patio, too. Breakfast and lunch daily. Long lines on weekends. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Piatti Ristorante 2182 Avenida de la Playa, La Jolla, 858-454-1589. If this is a chain, then tie me up, tie me down! Piatti started in the Bay Area and retains that foodie ethos, giving chefs at the local branches freedom to produce splendid, classic Italian menus including multi-regional starters, interesting pastas, and thin-crust pizzas. The quality of ingredients and cooking is beyond suspicion. You are almost guaranteed a tasty meal. This is one of a few local eateries to offer sweetbreads to those who love them. Ravioli *al limone*, prosciutto-grilled romaine, and key lime-raspberry tart are among the favorites. Californian-Italian wine list, full bar. Plenty for vegetarians, plus some vegan dishes (varying seasonally). Reservations essential — beg for patio seating in good weather to avoid the indoor din. Lunch and dinner, seven days. Moderate to expensive. — N.W.

Ranchos Cocina — Ocean Beach 1830 Sunset Cliffs Boulevard #H, Ocean Beach, 619-226-7619. At both locations of this delightful mini-chain you'll find healthy, creative Mexican and vegetarian cuisine in cheerful, tropical-style settings

burgeoning with plant life and craft objects. A big plus: zero attitude. You don't have to be vegi-virtuous to enjoy full-flavored combinations that are as creative as they are wholesome. Try anything with lobster or calamari steak — in fact, all the seafood here is pristine. And sample something with the house-made mole sauce of a 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. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Red Marlin Hyatt Regency Mission Bay Spa and Marina, 1441 Quivira Road, Mission Beach, 619-224-1234. When you've got vacationing relatives or friends in tow or just wish you could take a vacation yourself, this view-endowed, indoor-outdoor seaside dining room is a great escape, offering beautifully executed food that appeals to all palates. Emphatically a "hotel-chain restaurant," Red Marlin features a cautious menu of light California fusion cuisine featuring fine unendangered seafood and sustainably raised ingredients. What makes it special is the flawless cooking and creative tweaks 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 flaw: The hotel company's remodeling plans severely skimmed on signage, so the stand-alone restaurant is hard to locate (and so is its ramped wheelchair entrance). Get detailed directions when you call to reserve, as there's ample free parking at the restaurant's back door that can save you a long trek through the grounds. Good wines at all prices, full bar. — N.W.

Sushi Ota 4529 Mission Bay Drive, Pacific Beach, 858-270-5670. What becomes a legend most? This renowned sushi bar offers seafood of exceptional quality, perfect tart-sweet rice, tight wraps, and disciplined creativity. And beauty, of course, such as the ahi sashimi, a whole small Spanish mackerel bent into the shape of a swelling sail. 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 Rubio's). Don't waste your time with the California roll ilk; instead, snoop on your neighbors' choices (particularly those of Japanese customers), watching for off-menu extravaganzas. A printed *omakasa* menu at the tables (the equivalent of a lavish chef's tasting dinner) of either sashimi or sushi will feed one person royally or two lightly for under \$30. Cooked dishes are dull except for seafood miso soups and *chawan mushi* (custard broth with ginkgo nuts). Alas, when Ota-san's away, his elves may play, so best bet is to go late in the week, when the master's most likely to be present and keeping an eye out. To be served at the counter by Ota-san himself, reserve one month ahead. Lunch Tuesday through Friday, dinner daily. Moderate. — N.W.

BAJA

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

Cien Años Calle Jose Maria Velazco #1407, Baja, 664-634-3039. This lovely, comfortable, dressy-casual "destination restaurant" serves extraordinary Mexican haute cuisine, graced with a brilliant variety of sauces based on elaborations of Mexican ingredients, including tropical fruits, nuts, and above all, a vast variety of chili peppers, each with its own distinctive flavor (not all of them spicy). You could eat here a dozen times and not begin to exhaust the possibilities. Just a few of the treats are mushrooms steeped in beef marrow, crocodile meat mini-tacos, posole with crab meat, and an irresistible beef and shrimp stew. (Food critic Ruth Reichl consumed a meal of exotic Aztec delicacies, including ant roe and mesal worms, and you can try them too when they're in season.) The wine list is devoted wholly to ambitious Baja wineries; you're also welcome to BYO. Bar choices include damiana and hibiscus liqueurs. Menu and staff are bilingual. Vegetarian on request. Reservations strongly advised; ask for directions. Moderate. — N.W.

La Leña Agua Caliente Boulevard #11191, Baja, 664-686-2920. The nicest

thing about La Leña ("The Fire Log") is its view. You come off noisy, fummy, traffic-wracked Agua Caliente 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 Tijuana? Golfers thwack balls, giant mowers look like *Star Wars* creatures. So no surprise that you get country-club type eating: open-grill *charro* food for well-to-do *charros*. Old-style BBQ steaks, surf-and-turf combos, and big salads of Mexican-cut *filete cabreria*, which are flabby but tender. Most arrive at your table sizzling on black iron hotplates. Servings are generous (meals come with soup or salad and you get a free appetizer such as shredded beef and tortillas) if not remarkable. Or even especially Mexican — their hamburger is darned tasty. Vegetarian upon request. But the atmosphere is a great break from the raucous TJ we all know and (sometimes) love. Lunch and dinner daily from 11 a.m. until late. Moderate. — E.B.

Señor Frog's Via Oriente 60 C6, La Zona Río, Baja, 664-682-4962. Normally this is a moderately priced eatery, but Tequila Tuesdays promise as much food and drink as you can handle for one cover charge (\$15, last time we checked in). Food includes a buffet with good fish tacos, *birria* (stew, usually beef), pork, *chicharrón*, carne asada, ceviche, 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, truly. 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.

CENTRAL

Athens Market 109 West F Street, Downtown, 619-234-1955. Alex Spanos and lots of local hotshots come here for honest Greek home cooking'. Yes, it's classy — white tablecloths, linen napkins — but you can fill up on just a bowl of *fakae*, owner Mary Pappas's "secret recipe" lentil soup, and an appetizer, like

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Bambu Bistro 3882 Fourth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-299-9727. How many American chefs do you know who actually went to Asia and learned by working in traditional restaurant kitchens of Vietnam, Indonesia, India? Chef Alexandria did. The result is her Asian-fusion cuisine. The Bistro is huddled in the corner of a strip mall, but you can still eat under exotic umbrella lampshades (inside) or tropical *palapas* (outside). The food is fresh, original, and often tasty. Dishes to try include Chinese Chopstick Salad (shredded chicken, fried rice noodles, mandarin oranges, toasted almonds), Indo-Chinese burrito with steak (beef, rice noodles covered with a sesame and lime sauce), Drunken Noo-

dles (chicken, steak, shrimp, salmon, or tofu), and Sea Salad (glass noodles, wild salmon, greens). Lunch and dinner six days, closed Sundays. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Bread and Cie 350 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-683-9322. At least 20 breads emerge daily from this bakery's 10,000-pound French stone hearth oven. Most are dense, crusty, and delicious French or Italian peasant breads, including the outstanding anise-fig and black-olive loaves that are served in many top local restaurants. Scones, brownies, muffins, banana bread, and cookies are the sweet side of the house. Focaccia pizza and sandwiches (many with thick-sliced bread and rather thin fillings) are available to take out or eat on the spot — inside the café or on the sidewalk patio. Open daily except Christmas, breakfast through early dinner. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Chipotle 734 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-209-3688. 11 other locations in San Diego County. Hard to believe: This chain that McDonald's acquired

cleaves firmly to the original vision of the chef who founded it: naturally raised tender meats in authentic marinades made on-premises. It's quality all the way, and way better than most local "Berto's" (which often use cheap meat marinated by their meat-jobbers). The fresh-grilled *carne asada* is splendid, the *carnitas* outstanding. And it's "have it your way" with a wealth of choices as to what you get — burritos, tacos, bowls, fajitas — and what goes into it. You can eat indoors or outside (or take-out), drink margaritas, beer, or soft drinks, and park for free (if a slot's open). Open 10:45 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Rock-bottom prices. — *N.W.*

Chow Noodle House 540 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-269-9209. If you want to taste your way through Asia and you're looking for economy fare, this could be your one-stop destination — with no reservations needed. Renowned Thai restaurateur Alex Thao (Celadon, Rama) set his sights lower, wider, and cheaper here, serving noodle dishes and rice bowls of China, Japan, Thailand, and Vietnam in cool, airy, black-and-white

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surroundings. It sure ain't Chinatown, Jake, but it's kind of fun and very filling. The best dishes (e.g., pot-stickers, tom yum soup) are equivalent to those at good restaurants specializing in these specific cuisines. But mostly they seem "gringofied" to appeal to less-traveled American palates. Oddly, Thai dishes



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Calendar RESTAURANTS

suffer most, from severe reductions in hot spice and heavy doses of sugar in many sauces, with few veggies to lighten their weight. (It's not Rama either, Jake.) Good desserts, smart wine and sake list. Inexpensive. Open daily, 11 to 11.—*N.W.*

Farm House Café 2121 Adams Avenue, University Heights, 619-269-9662. At this charming, cozy spot in a near-rural corner of the central city, chef-owner Olivier Bioteau serves rustic but sophisticated farm-fresh French cuisine. His cooking is light, precise, refined, drawing the best from fine local and seasonal ingredients combined with an authentic Gallic sensibility. The dinner menu changes often, but nearly every dish is terrific, including exquisite house-made soups and charcuterie. Save room for dessert — especially the chef's own avant-garde chocolates. On a warm weekend, brunch on the shaded front patio is heavenly: The fluffy ricotta pancakes with orange butter nearly lift off the plate, the *pain perdu* is truly *French* toast, omelets and baked eggs are stellar, and the sausages (which can come on the side or with the lightest, healthiest, Conceptual Art version of biscuits and gravy) are scrumptious uncured Bruce Aidell's chicken-apple links. No kiddie menu, but plenty of kid-friendly dishes. Small dining room, reservations urged for any meal. Dinner moderate, brunch inexpensive to moderate. — *N.W.*

Fat City Steakhouse 2137 Pacific Highway, Little Italy, 619-232-9303. In the Deco "pink palace" at the edge of downtown, the USDA Choice steaks (and one velvety Prime cut) are cooked over mesquite charcoal, which lends them a deliciously smoky campfire flavor. Don't like beef? You can choose nicely grilled chicken, pork, or salmon, two vegan pastas, or scampi. The appetizer list is mainly trite pub grub, but the fry cook does a great job with calamari. And in fair weather, the lush garden dining patio is a little piece of Eden. Full bar, rather basic wine list. Casual ambience, above-average wheelchair access from large, free parking lot. Dinner daily 5

p.m. to 10 p.m. Inexpensive to moderate. — *N.W.*

Gen Lai Sen Hakka Seafood Restaurant 1065 12th Avenue, Downtown, 619-239-5478. Across the street from City College, you'll encounter a split personality. The good twin provides superb Hakka dishes, a style developed by a nomadic people originally from northwest China, now residents of mainly the south China coast. The bad twin dishes out gluey cornstarch-ridden stir-fries for starving students. But it's easy to tell which twin is which: The "chef recommended sizzle plates," the hot pots that taste like home cooking (best ordered by four or more), the greaseless fried rice, the noodles (especially "house special rice noodles"), and the whole steamed fish-of-the-day are palpable hits. And if you really want to know what the fuss about Hakka is all about, try the sizzle plate stuffed tofu — these deep-fried crisp rectangles with a pork meatball inserted in each tender center resemble meat-flavored roasted marshmallows, and may just change your mind about bean curd. Open brunch through dinner Monday through Friday. Pleasant service, very casual, mainly inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Jack and Giulio's Italian Restaurant 2391 San Diego Avenue, Old Town, 619-294-2074. After more than four decades in business, this father (Giulio) and son (Jack) operation manages to stay fresh. The antipasto salad, with its thin-cut prosciutto and salami, will get your juices flowing. All the traditional Italian entrées like veal parmigiana and fettuccine Alfredo are there, but go for the house specialties like Spaghetti New Orleans with shrimp, crawfish, and crab meat, or the expensive scampi dishes. Broke? Get a simple Angel Hair Mediterraneo or rigatoni with meat sauce to enjoy out on the patio. Open for lunch and dinner, seven days. Moderate. — *E.B.*

Khyber Pass 523 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-294-7579. The room's very modern, but Afghan cuisine is full of history, carrying echoes of both Persian and Indian foods, with even a hint of Greek (Alexander the Great conquered the region). Dinners feature kebabs, tandooris, curries, and some unique regional specialties. Flavors are exotic but oddly comfortable to the cosmopolitan palate. Among the don't-miss items are the outstanding *aushak* (spring onion ravioli)

and *mantu* (ground-meat ravioli) — both with lively yogurt sauces — and *zamordd chalow*, a spicy lamb-and-spinach stew. Save room for the sexy desserts. Can be noisy inside; small sidewalk patio. Private dining room upstairs bookable for parties. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Moderate. — *N.W.*

Lotus Thai — Hillcrest 3761 Sixth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-299-8272. This restaurant has taken a giant step up from standard Thai eateries. Most of the menu consists of the usual dishes, but each branch also offers a selection of chef's specialties. Some of these are more authentic; others are more creative than the norm. The chefs are from northern Thailand, and something in their cooking hints of their region — a certain zestiness, a love of strong citrus and fresh herbs that speaks of the Ping River and the hills of Chiang Mai. Well-chosen, affordable wine list, Asian and American beers, and cocktails based on *soju* (Asian lower-proof rice liquor), including a yummy rambutan cosmo. Noisy when crowded. Reservations recommended for Hillcrest on weekends. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Low moderate. — *N.W.*

Marie's Café 3016 University Avenue, North Park, 619-220-0142. One of the last old-time diners in town. Marie and son Erik took over in 2002. It had already been operating for 50 years as Johnny's. They kept the tradition but created a sparkling kitchen and a reputation for generous servings. Try the three-egger breakfast omelet with Italian sausage, avocado, and olives. If Erik's smokin' up some ribs (you'll smell them half a block away), grab them. And forget fries. Go for the "side" salad, a huge dish of romaine, with tomatoes, red onions, cheese, croutons, and bleu cheese dressing. Go ahead. Mess yourself up. Open 24 hours Wednesday through Saturday; from 8 a.m. till 3 p.m. Sunday and Monday; till 8 p.m. Tuesday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Los Reyes 2496 Broadway, Southeast San Diego, 619-231-0716. Smaller branch at 47th and Market. If you've ever craved those fabulous Mexican fish soups that can be such energy restorers, these strip-mall Mexican restaurants have a great one. It's *Caldo 7 Mares* (Seven Seas Soup) and it comes as a big bowl of savory red fish soup clunking with giant crab legs, clams, chunks of

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User Reviews — RESTAURANTS

Best user comments from Reader website

Brazil by the Bay Restaurant and Sports Bar, San Diego

The food is horrible and expensive.

By **goodtaste** 6:01 p.m., Nov. 19

Richard Walker's Pancake House, Downtown

There are only so many ways you can screw up breakfast. But believe it or not, so many establishments overlook these simple concepts. Richard Walker, on the other hand, takes a purebread approach to breakfast where he essentially goes to the edge on taste but never takes away from the natural qualities of life's most important meal. At first, I was apprehensive upon choosing this as a destination for breakfast this morning, based on other reviews I had been subjected to on yelp. However, I have since been there enough times to know that a good breakfast might have to slam itself on some yelper's head for them not to fully comprehend the necessities of a quality meal. In retrospect, it was almost as if the same people who deterred me away for a few months might have had a serious chip on their shoulder. The service was excellent, the food impeccable, the ambiance extraordinary...and it really equates the point that anytime you deal with the public, some people will be happy all the time and some never. I felt pretty good with a great meal and the memories I created there, which is plenty enough to keep me coming back and stand the test of time. Well done, sir, don't let the naysayers ruffle your feathers...keep on keeping on, and I will keep on coming back. You just keep the coffee hot and the food tasty. Deal?

By **samanthasimone** 10:21 p.m., Nov. 19

RA Sushi, Downtown

This place is not for real sushi eaters. Nothing on the menu is out of the ordinary. Simple menu offerings at high prices. The only thing I liked here was the mango ceviche. Everything else was *whatever*. Don't order sushi here. You will regret it. First-time sushi eaters may get a bad impression. Stick to the rolls and you might be safe. Service is super slow. Only bright side is that they have good-looking hostesses. Won't be coming here again.

By **Talls** 1:23 p.m., Nov. 21

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white fish, shrimp, the pink and purple suckers of octopus, and vegetables. It's also called *Vuelta a la vida*: "Return to life." On a hot day, their Cocktail Campechana (shrimp and octopus in a light, spicy tomato broth) will return you to life, too. Four brothers and one sister from Michoacan run the place. A very Michoacan dish is *carnitas* — pork shoulders. Or try their gringo lunch deal of a bacon cheeseburger with fries and a can of soda. The prices make this a tightwad's paradise. Three meals daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Sai Gon 4455 El Cajon Boulevard, City Heights, 619-284-4215. You're in a big glass palace here. It's especially good on Sundays, when three- or four-generation Vietnamese families gather for lunch. Gaggles of waiters hover a glance away, but take your time. The menu has over 250 items on it. Default choice: *pho*, the famous, filling soup-meal of Vietnam where beef cooks in the soup. Another safe bet is stir-fried crispy or soft egg noodle with seafood and assorted vegetables. 33 Vietnamese beer is on hand to make Saigon lovers sentimental. Open daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Sunrise Buffet 3860 Convoy #121, Kearny Mesa, 858-715-1608. "Oysters are here!" It's what everyone here waits for. Apart from the usual array of meats, fish, shellfish, and novelties like stuffed mushrooms, stuffed clams, dragon rolls (cucumber, avocado, asparagus), and *mochi* (sticky rice cake), these plates of raw oysters in their big shells are one of the big draws. This buffet restaurant is smaller than many, but it still looks like a mega-McDonald's eating barn inside, except for a sky-blue-lit ceiling recess heaven. Like McDonald's, it attracts lots of families, maybe because it's not just all-you-can-eat, but all-you-can-drink, too — in-

cluded in the price. Lunch and dinner daily. Sunday all-day lobster buffet. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Sushi Itto 441 Washington Street, Hillcrest, 619-291-6060. Don't come here looking for Japanese food. This is Mexican sushi, from a chain based in Mexico City that's dedicated to creating rolls for Mexican tastes. Nearly all the party rolls feature cream cheese and avocado and most include a shot of hot spice and some fake crab (surimi), too. In their own way, they're fun, so long as you're prepared to give up any puristic standards and go with the flow. But don't bother with the plain *nigiri* — the rice lacks classic sushi seasonings (and is often dry), and the seafood is too mediocre to be appealing in simple preparations. Rock-bottom prices, though. Another branch is in the Gaslamp at 409 F Street, 619-237-1037. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Terra 3900 Vermont Street, Hillcrest, 619-293-7088. Co-owner Jeff Rossman, formerly in charge of the front of the house, has moved into the kitchen to serve as chef at this comfortable neighborhood spot, serving venturesome, if uneven, tropical-influenced American cooking. You can settle in a spacious Southwest-tinged dining room or people-watch from a sheltered outdoor patio (with smoking permitted). Generously sized tapas can serve as appetizers or as a sustaining bite before venturing into Trader Joe's across the street. The dinner menu changes seasonally, featuring barbecue items during the summer, comforting fare in colder weather, and special dinners on all major holidays. Good wine list with several flights available, full bar with tropical cocktails (pisco sours, caipirinhas, etc.). Reservations advised, especially for weekends, holidays and special events

(e.g., Sunday "blues and barbecue" during the summer). Saturday and Sunday three meals, weekdays lunch and dinner. Moderate. — N.W.

Trieu Chau 4653 University Avenue, City Heights, 619-280-4204. This is as near as you'll come to eating breakfast in Phnom Penh or lunch in Vientiane. Cambodians come in the morning to talk politics and play Cambodian chess. At lunch, Laotians replace them. Maps of "Kampuchea" decorate the walls, as well as long-distance telephone ads. The menu includes Chinese, Khmer, and Lao dishes. In the morning, ask for "djak kvai coffay dok ko" — fried bread with Cambodian coffee, the standard French-Khmer breakfast. Later in the day, you might try pan-fried noodles with broccoli and beef or shrimp and gravy ("koitiow bahat sai kho"). If in doubt, ask for Kathy, who speaks Chinese, Khmer, Lao — and English. Open daily, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Turf Supper Club 1116 25th Street, Golden Hill, 619-234-6363. At this cozy saloon (a landmark since 1950, reestablished in 1998), if your meat's done wrong, it's your own fault. Every night's an indoor cookout, as patrons huddle by the communal fire-pit tending their steaks (a choice of three ritzy cuts, well-marinated in garlic and olive oil), burgers, chicken breasts, or portobello mushrooms; others choose the veggie kabobs or teriyaki skewers of beef, chicken, or fish. And that's the menu. The only side dish is a simple salad — not even fries. But the meat's a treat, especially the huge, juicy Delmonico rib eye. If you're an utterly hopeless cook, a staffer will mind your meal for you, but you'd miss half the fun. Full bar, no reservations. Weekdays dinner only; open until 2 a.m.

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Calendar RESTAURANTS

Wednesday through Saturday. Inexpensive to barely moderate. — *N.W.*

Westgate Gourmet Delicatessen Third Avenue, between Broadway and C Street, Downtown, 619-557-3698. This is where you take your respectable Aunt Martha for lunch. The place reeks of gentility. Green carpets, white linen cloths, fresh flowers, chandeliers, giant potted palms. It's part of the Westgate Hotel and looks like a grocery for the rich who just can't live without specialty olive oils and expensive wines. But prices for sandwiches, light breakfasts, and lunches are down there with the best Market Street liquor-deli. Among the menu items offered, the best deal is the soup and half-sandwich combo, especially the Friday cioppino: a tomato-based soup filled with fish such as sea bass, shrimp, and scallops. Open Monday through Friday for breakfast and lunch. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

NORTH INLAND

El Bizcocho 17550 Bernardo Oaks Drive, Rancho Bernardo, 858-675-8500. The deluxe restaurant in this rural golf-and-tennis hideaway features upscale, creative French-California cuisine, incorporating old-is-new techniques and imaginative combinations of seasonal ingredients. The weighty wine tome starts out expensive and goes up from there, with relative bargains at the high end and some half-bottles; by-the-glass choices are just adequate. To find it: Take Bernardo Oaks Drive (a long block west of Pomerado) north to the end of the road to the RBI parking lot (with validated parking for restaurant goers). If disabled, specify when you reserve, and they'll set up your table in an accessible area. Otherwise there's a maze of short staircases to negotiate en route to the restaurant. Tie-and-jacket requirement now relaxed, but still very dressy. Great service, luxury-resort ambience. Dinner nightly, Sunday brunch. Very expensive. — *N.W.*

Flavor Thai 4768 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-268-3750. This opulent-venting, great-value place (especially for lunch), is housed in an ex-Taco Bell restaurant, but you'd never know it. It has a small rose garden outside and ferns and plants inside. Nearly two dozen lunch specials include curries, soups, rice, and noodle dishes. Mock (or real) duck with green curry is great, as is the *massaman*, the potato curry. They set the spice heater-meter at low but respect heat requests. Check out the chef's specials — a couple of dollars more but usually interesting, like *ho mok* (shrimp, green-shell mussel, and calamari with veggies in red curry sauce). Open for lunch and dinner seven days. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Rancho Valencia 5921 Valencia Circle, Rancho Santa Fe, 858-759-6216. Nestled in the lush garden setting of the Rancho Valencia Resort is one of San Diego's dining gems. They advertise the cuisine as California-French. Whatever. Every bite from appetizer to dessert is prepared and presented to delight Californians, French people — actually, any person on the planet with taste buds. Enjoy an entrée of prime mesquite-grilled steak, fresh fish, veal, or chicken. Portions are generous, as is the wine list. Casual-elegant dress. Open daily, lunch and dinner; brunch Sunday. Very expensive. — *S.M.*

Vincent's Sirino's 113 West Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-745-3835. French-born chef-owner Vincent Grumel serves Gallic classics in an intimate, small-town bistro setting. This is a cuisine of rich dark sauces robbing fine ingredients, such as a huge, flavorful veal chop (no factory calf, that). Mushrooms and vegetables (from local farmers or Grumel's own garden) are the season's best and sensitively treated. Desserts are worth every calorie — save room for the spectacular Bavarian. Full bar, fine wine list. Lunch Tuesday through Friday, dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Expensive. — *N.W.*

NORTH COASTAL

Beach Grass Café — Solana Beach 159 South Coast Highway 101, Solana Beach, 858-509-0632. Formerly a branch of Parkhouse Eatery, Beach Grass has been bought by a mini-chain (with Swami's Café and Honey's), but

still serves the original recipes. You could eat breakfast here daily and never get bored with the creative morning menu, which includes foamy, fresh orange juice and Beach Benedict with eggs and house-made hollandaise on a soft, lush crab cake. Oddly, though, the "maple" syrup and "butter" spread are both mass-market blends. Lunches and dinners feature multiethnic "coastal cuisine," with the best results in seafood dishes like Moroccan Crabcakes and the fish-and-yam chips (with fine house-made tartar sauce). Vegetable accompaniments are tasty and creative. Reservations essential for weekend breakfasts. Free parking in back via driveway to right of restaurant. Breakfast through dinner daily. Moderate to slightly expensive. — *N.W.*

Besta Wan Pizza House 148 Aberdeen Drive, Cardiff, 760-753-6707. This ever-popular North County restaurant which opened back in 1965 is a family operation all the way. Their thin-crust East Coast-style pizzas are famous locally. Also check for the big-pile spaghetti or lasagna specials if you just want to fill up. Open seven days, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Café Zinc 132 South Cedros, Solana Beach, 858-793-5436. The Rancho Santa Fe set like to hang out here in the garden patio with their Porsches at the curb and their shih tzus under the table (dogs are welcome). Even for non-dog people, the California pepper trees and garden sculpture make this indoor-outdoor eatery a really pleasant kick-back place (which gets its name from the zinc-top bar inside). The menu, a mixture of Italian and vegetarian, offers dishes like frittata with cucumber salsa, and baked eggplant "pizzette" (personal-size pizza) with marinara, mozzarella, and Parmesan cheese. The vegetarian chili and the Zinc veggie burger (served on a La Brea bun) are tasty too. Open daily, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Firefly 251 North El Camino Real, Suite B, Encinitas, 760-635-1066. At this spacious wine bar and restaurant (sharing a small mall with well-known Savory), the wine list emphasizes California boutique wineries and lesser-known bottlings from around the world, and plentiful choices by the glass make it easy to experiment with unfamiliar wines. The menu starts with a half-dozen wine-bar snacks including a cheese plate and a charcuterie plate.

The most popular lunch item is a grand Cobb salad, and at dinner there's a tasty bourbon-and-mustard-brined pork tenderloin. Desserts are a strong suit here, including a creative crème brûlée featuring white chocolate and the fragrant bergamot of Earl Grey tea. For weekend brunches, Firefly does it up big with a long, seductive array of choices, including a delicious Dungeness crab Benedict. The menu changes frequently, but this likeable spot feels like a sophisticated neighborhood restaurant where, if you're old enough to enjoy a taste of the grape, you can pretty much come as you are. Open for lunch Monday through Friday, brunch weekends, dinner nightly. Moderate to expensive. — *N.W.*

Pacifica del Mar 1555 Camino del Mar, Del Mar, 858-792-1803. The chic crowd is drawn here by Pacific Rim/California-fusion cuisine centering on seafood and organic, locally grown produce. It's quality all the way, but some nights the restaurant is a victim of its own success. The riotous overflow crowds can challenge the kitchen's capacities, not to mention diners' tender ears. (Best strategy for pleasure: Reserve for early or late on a weeknight, and ask for patio seating or Room #2.) Fun list of low-priced mini-appetizers, plus great baked oysters, seared scallops, mustard catfish, and house-cured rib eye. The award-winning wine list is half price Thursday nights, and the full bar specializes in creative martinis. Pacifica Dine-In offers call-in take-out for selected items. Lunch and dinner daily. Early-bird dinner discount. Pacifica Breeze Café (a level down) offers savory dishes for breakfast through late lunch daily. Expensive to very expensive. — *N.W.*

Ruby's Diner 1 Oceanside Pier, Oceanside, 760-433-7829. One thing about Ruby's: You can build an appetite just getting there. It's at the end of the 1/3-mile-long Oceanside pier. (There's a \$1 shuttle tram, too.) Ruby's is part of a themed '40s-diner chain stretching from LAX to Scottsdale, Arizona. But it's fun. Shiny Chevy Corvette-style red-leatherette-and-chrome booths, white walls, portholes, old Coca-Cola signs, Dewey-Warren presidential buttons, and that view to Hawaii. Good-sized servings, too — try their omelets. Also in Carlsbad and Mission Valley. Open daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Tony's Jacal 621 Valley Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-755-2274. Come here at night, when the mysterious low mud-brick arches with the stained-glass windows make you think Old Mexico, when the Del Mar racing bar makes you think 1930s Hollywood, and the dining patio, under the 100-year-old chinaberry tree, looks straight out of Guadalajara. Back in 1946, Tony Gonzales's wife Catalina started preparing food for fellow Mexican workers. Since then, their daughters have continued the tradition, and everybody from Liz Taylor to J. Edgar Hoover has passed through these portals. Try the "La Colonia" combination of just about anything with rice and beans. Turkey meat is big here, and the (real) crab quesadilla in a corn tortilla is delicious too. Cheapest: probably chicken strips with french fries. And "Jacal"? It means "shack." No lunch or dinner on Tuesday; no lunch Sunday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

SOUTH BAY

Clayton's Coffee Shop 979 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-5425. This diner, one of the longest-running in San Diego, has really hit the refresh button with a new owner. The decor is still straight out of the 1940s, but brighter. The place is always filled with locals in the morning. The food is all American: steak and eggs, veggie omelets, old-fashioned waffles, hot and cold sandwiches. Dinner specials include pork chops with dressing, gravy, and applesauce; homemade meat loaf with gravy; baby beef liver, and beer-battered fish-and-chips. Current owner Mary's homemade apple pies are a major hit. Open daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Coronado Boathouse 1887 1701 Strand Way, Coronado, 619-435-0155. For a relaxing good time with lovely views and tasty food to match, put on your aloha shirt and head over the bridge. The old Coronado Boathouse boasts a handsome, historic structure with architecture mirroring the nearby Hotel Del, plus enthusiastic servers, terrific water views, and satisfying mainstream American cooking. The herbed artichoke appetizer and fresh macadamia-crusted halibut sauced with coconut milk are wonderful. The juicy roast beef here is USDA Prime (translates to "melt in your mouth")

and even the desserts offer some old favorites cooked with classy ingredients and imaginative twists. A perfect place to entertain your in-laws or hold your birthday dinner. Full bar. Dinner seven days. — *N.W.*

Filipino Desserts Plus 2220-Q East Plaza Boulevard, National City, 619-479-6748. Filipinos often mix sweet and savory, so it's no surprise that this desserts place has regular dishes too, including *adobo* pork, *pancit*, and *lumpia*. *Dinuguan*, a Filipino specialty, is pork made with "chocolate milk," slang for pig's blood. But the pride of the place is the desserts, from the *ube halea* (purple yam custard) and *maja blanca* (coconut-corn combo) to the *sapin sapin* (multicolored layer cake) and fried sweet *saba* banana on a skewer. Open daily, breakfast through early dinner. — *E.B.*

Jimmy's — Chula Vista 1198 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, 619-427-7161. Thank goodness for this family-friendly restaurant with good, old-fashioned, American food. Their six-page plastic menu tells all — forget your diet and dig into the breakfast "Eggs and Cakes" (two eggs, three pancakes), the "Touchdown" (two eggs, two hotcakes, four strips of bacon or three link sausages), or the "Monte Cristo" sandwich (ham and turkey grilled on batter-dipped Texas toast with Swiss cheese, hot syrup, 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. — *E.B.*

McP's Irish Pub and Grill 1107 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-5280. With a crowd ranging from Navy retirees to chic singles barely of drinking age, the perpetual party on McP's' patio is nurtured by above-average Irish-Mexican-American pub grub (burgers, potato skins, nachos, etc.). The Irish fare includes a pleasing Mulligan stew served in a hollowed bread-loaf and an absolutely fabulous corned beef and cabbage plate with tender, thick slices surrounding cabbage so young and sweet it ought to be carded. Good soups, too. Open daily, standard pub hours. (Breakfast Sunday during football season.) Inexpensive to low moderate. — *N.W.*

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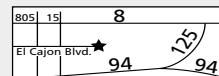
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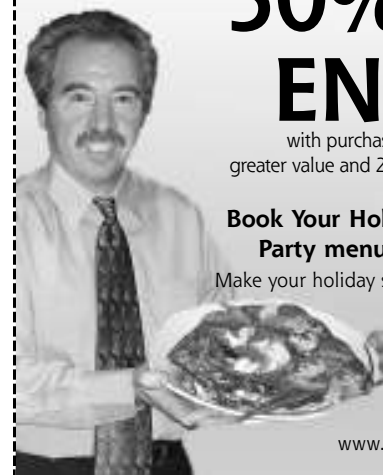
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dowed restaurant offers upscale, Hawaiian-inspired fish and gargantuan steaks in a plush tropical-style setting with indoor waterfalls and three separate patios. Given the visual splendor, much of the food is better than it needs to be, featuring top-quality seafood prepared with care, e.g., halibut in a lush, sassy Frangelico-touched macadamia *beurre blanc*. 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.

EAST COUNTY

Barnes Bar-B-Que 2625 Lemon Grove Avenue, Lemon Grove, 619-462-9206. Clayton Davis's sign says it all: "Let Us Bring Tha South to 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, from smothered 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 ribs or shoulder, beef ribs, red snapper, and hot links or ham — 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.

Ciao Bella Caffè Bar e Ristorante 5263 Baltimore Drive, La Mesa, 619-337-0238. Aging La Mesa goes to bed at eight, but that's when the Argentinean Tango Masters come out and expect to eat, "way into the small hours." Ciao Bella's one of the city's go-to places for hungry dancers, which might explain why the food is so good. To look at this place, behind the Shell gas station, you might think "ordinary Italian restaurant." Who could guess the passions within? If you don't dance or sing, at least you can eat, and eat well. Try the antipasti like the Pizzetta Rustica, a marvelous minipizza with black-olive pâté and Gorgonzola. Or the *zuppa del sole* (clam soup). Great house dishes include

Penne Ciao Bella (salmon, shrimp, and spinach in a light creamy sauce), Car-toccio (baked spaghetti with mushrooms, shrimp, clams, salmon in garlic white sauce), and San Remo pizza (tomato sauce, cheese, steamed asparagus, and sunny-side-up eggs). 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Moderate. — E.B.

Jimmy's — Mission Gorge 9635 Mission Gorge Road, Santee, 619-448-8994. We're at the end of the line here, the trolley's Orange Line. Feels like a safari. You walk back through the grass to the streets of Santee. Thank goodness for this family-friendly restaurant with good, old-fashioned American food. Their six-page plastic menu tells all — forget your diet and dig into the breakfast "Eggs and Cakes" (two eggs, three pancakes), the "Touchdown" (two eggs, two hotcakes, four strips of bacon or three link sausages), or the "Monte Cristo" hot sandwich (ham and turkey grilled on butter-dipped Texas toast with Swiss cheese, hot syrup, 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. — E.B.

Los Michoacanos 8001 Mission

Gorge Road, Santee, 619-449-9032. You get a lot for a little here. Order even one really cheap potato taco from Luis Gabriel, the owner, and you get the full treatment of tortilla chips and salsa beforehand. Then out comes this hot, crisp-shelled taco, bursting with shredded lettuce, two cheeses, and inside, the most scrumptious sautéed potatoes. It may be way cheap, but it's no way mean. Other good Mexican dishes here include the chorizo torta 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, Santee, 619-596-9686. 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's a great sprawling place that's ideal to bring the kids for a big breakfast. You can't beat their omelets, 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 aban-

doned 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* gyro meat, two cheeses, and onions. Breakfast and lunch, seven days. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Popeye's Chicken & Biscuits — El Cajon 110 Jamacha Road, El Cajon, 619-441-3355. This is the one major national chain to cling firmly to a regional American identity: Wherever you go, if you find a Popeye's, you'll be eating Louisiana flavors. But some flavors travel better than others in fast-food translations: The spicy, crisp fried chicken and air-light drop biscuits are fine as can be. The étouffé (whether of chicken or crawfish, when available) is surprisingly decent. The gumbo, offered at some locations, is weird — flavors aren't bad, but it's more like a Creole risotto, with wet rice instead of liquid (where's the soup?). Dirty rice and jambalaya are nasty and dry. Food quality varies subtly from branch to branch, as does the attitude of the counter-persons. Open daily, three meals. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Ramon's Smokehouse BBQ 1730 Alpine Boulevard, Suite 110, Alpine, 619-445-1008. The smell of mesquite wood burning under fresh-cut beef rib is beyond resistance. The secret Texas

recipe draws crowds. Go Sunday morning, especially, when chefs in maroon aprons dance around the fat-spitting fire, disappearing into the clouds of fra-

grant smoke to flip the racks of beef and pork ribs. In good weather you can eat out back next to an authentic chuck wagon. Inexpensive. — E.B.

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Struggle and Strife

It immediately takes a place in the actor's best-of portfolio.

Got Milk. An affirmation, that, not a question. Gus Van Sant's biopic on Harvey Milk, the gay-rights activist and San Francisco City Supervisor martyred by assassination in 1978, should afford sustenance and fortification for all those staggered by the passage of Proposition 8 earlier this month. Thirty years ago, the equivalent was Proposition 6, a measure aimed not at marital rights but at vocational ones, figureheaded by former Miss Oklahoma, pop singer, and orange-juice spokeswoman Anita Bryant (chillingly represented in archive footage, no villainous impersonation necessary). The struggle, in case you need reminding, is long. The struggle continues. However useful as pep rally or memorial service, though, the film comes up short as drama, relying altogether too much on Position Statements, Slogans, Bromides, primarily through the protagonist's stump speeches and a serialized in-the-event-of-my-death tape recording that ties the narrative together. (Screenplay by Dustin Lance Black.) What nonetheless humanizes all this plain talk is the transformational performance of Sean Penn, a totally new

REVIEW

DUNCAN SHEPHERD

and different Sean Penn, almost bird-like in his lightness and tightness, very vulnerable in his worries and very touching in his joys, unshy about the kissy-face with James Franco and Diego Luna, bravely not avoiding homosexual stereotype yet nicely avoiding caricature. It immediately takes its place alongside the performances of *Mystic River*, *Dead Man Walking*, *Casualties of War*, maybe one or two others, in the actor's best-of portfolio. During the closing credits, photo documentation of the actual *dramatis personae* in the story testifies to the fidelity with which the filmmakers adhered to real life, Penn above all, but notably also an unusually extroverted Emile Hirsch (whom Penn himself directed in *Into the Wild* a year prior) as Milk's curly-top campaign manager, and Josh Brolin (staying on the same side of the political spectrum as in *W.*) as the churchy assassin with the steam-ironed hair, Dan White, never shown within arm's reach of a Twinkie.

Ashes of Time Redux is a spruced-up reissue of the 1994 Wong Kar-wai film of the same name minus the *Redux*. I first saw it, somewhere near



Milk

that time, in the late, lamented film festival staged every spring at UCSD. I saw it back then with great anticipation, having previously seen his *Days of Being Wild* in the same venue. It was too long ago to remember from this perspective much more than my general confusion and disappointment — just enough to scale down my anticipation of the reissue. The

changes, I gather, consist principally of a new musical score showcasing the plangent, pensive cello of Yo-Yo Ma. Confusion and disappointment still reign, however, in an arty, abstract, almost actionless martial-arts period piece (even the infrequent action is abstract, hardly more than slo-mo blurs), a nonlinear narrative of assorted swordsmen at a desert way

station, engaging in melancholy rumination on past, present, and possible future, preferably with a loose strand of hair dangling over an eye. The stellar cast (Leslie Cheung, Tony Leung Chiu-wai, Tony Leung Ka-fai, Brigitte Lin, Carina Lau, Maggie Cheung, Charlie Young) is glamorously photographed by Christopher Doyle, and some of the visual effects are exciting

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enough to compensate for any lack of action: the crosshatch shadows thrown by a revolving woven birdcage, for example, or the shimmering reflections from beneath a recumbent horse-woman languorously hugging and stroking her watering steed. After *My Blueberry Nights* earlier in the year, Wong could have done with some reclamation. He could still do.

No, *Twilight* is not a tenth-anniversary reissue of the last decent leading role for the late Paul Newman, a *Twilight Redux*. It is rather a teen vampire romance that heralds a new screen “franchise” based on the popular (so they tell me) series of girls’ books by Stephenie Meyer, a sort of *Nancy Drew* — *Vampire Lover*. (A gender reversal of the recent preteen vampire film from Sweden, *Let the Right One In*.) It merits a modicum of credit for attempting to bring some virgin blood to a tired old genre. The nonnuclear vampire family, having settled in the rural Northwest for maximum privacy and cloud cover, strive to fit in and stay straight, fancying themselves “vegetarian” for dining only on animal blood instead of human. It’s something like, in a further sample of vampire wit, human beings eating tofu: nourishing but not fully satisfying. Because the narrative point of view is that of an ordinary flesh-and-blood high-school girl, we don’t witness the gory details of their daily diet. (Exsanguination of deer and rabbit, to say nothing of pet dog and cat, could tend to alienate the audience.) What we mainly witness is the cultivated aura of mystery and danger around the eternal seventeen-year-old adopted son of the family, who, despite his actual age of over a hundred, dutifully attends school whenever it’s not too sunny. The sun, in deviation from conventional vampire lore, won’t incinerate his flesh, but will cause it to glisten in a socially unacceptable manner. And the only prescribed method of killing a vampire — a handy piece of information when a pack of vagabond vampires invades the territory — is to tear one limb from limb and burn the body. Garlic, crucifixes, stakes in the heart never enter into it. But the business of being a blood-sucker in the 21st Century takes a distant backseat to the business of campus courtship: the classic pattern of Good Girl meets Bad Boy. He flatteringly lusts after her (“You’re like my own personal brand of heroin”), but even more flatteringly he respects her (“I can’t ever lose control with you”): a parent’s least nightmare, and little wonder that the hearts of school-girlish readers, and now moviegoers, might go pitty-pat. As for the heroine (or heroin), she’s *ready*. She figures that every minute of every day brings her closer to death anyway, so why not take the leap with the one she loves?

I see no harm in any of this, and even some possible benefit in it: the boy has on his CD player the edgy music of his 1918 deathday, Debussy. And the exemplary young lady is herself no benighted twit: “Yeah, *Clair de Lune* is great.” Given the general level of innocuousness and salubriousness, we don’t expect the frustrated teen sweethearts now or in future installments to explore the engorgement option in Theodore Sturgeon’s novella *Some of Your Blood*, namely menses. (Eeuuww!) But in all honesty, given the fixation on the girl’s “scent” and given the old-fashioned prescription against Going Too Far or indeed Going All the Way, that option kept coming to my mind. Kristen

Stewart, a cashew head on a pipe-cleaner body, to all appearances unsullied by vanity, does very well with things like adolescent insecurity, crippling self-consciousness, unvoiced feelings, and the scariness of sex; and on those counts Catherine Hardwicke (*Thirteen*, most pertinently, but also *The Lords of Dogtown* and, honed to its teen-pregnancy angle, *The Nativity Story*) is a sympathetic director. She is less sympathetic in shooting everyone in the cast, human and vampire alike, with a deathly bluish pallor. Robert Pattinson as the bloodthirsting heart-throb, meanwhile, achieves little more than Cornball Cool and requires a lot of slow-motion and a lot of hair gel to help him with it. His head-ducking gazes — his pupils sliding up into his skull, his brow buckling — no doubt convey inner conflict, rather as if he’d very much like to make an overture were it not for a hellacious head cold. And personally I started to lose interest in these revamped vampires once they were revealed to possess the strength, speed, and aeronautical abilities of Superman. I prefer my vampires to be vulnerable, even frail, and to have to rely on cunning rather than brute force. (The climax of good vampire and bad vampire flinging one another around a ballet studio is a bore.) I couldn’t say exactly when the

genre went past the point of no return, though I’m sure that the venerated Christopher Lee has something to answer for. At the time — fifty years ago — his robustness and virility in the Hammer series of *Dracula* films made a certain sense as part of a strategy of overt sexualization. He himself could not be faulted for, so to speak, Going Too Far. But he pointed the way. The old-fashionedness of *Twilight* demanded no rollback in vampire potency. ■

MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by Duncan Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of past reviews sorted alphabetically, by year of release and by rating, are available online at SDReader.com.

Ashes of Time Redux — Reviewed this issue. With Leslie Cheung, Tony Leung Chiu-wai, Tony Leung Ka-fai, and Maggie Cheung; directed by Wong Kar-wai. ★★ (KEN, 11/28 THROUGH 12/4)

Australia — Nearly three million square miles of tripe. A Ferber-esque epic of a “delicate English rose” who takes over her late husband’s cattle ranch in rugged northern Australia on the eve of World War II, a *Cimarron* Down Under, with a sprinkle of



Ashes of Time Redux

Aboriginal magic, and a thick coat of high-gloss lacquer. Baz Luhrmann, never mistaken as a man of taste, starts out treating it almost as a spoof, and ends up, after a series of grandiose climaxes, treating it as a solemnization, selecting Elgar’s “Nimrod” variation as accompaniment to the little half-caste narrator’s departure on walkabout. This, and much else, might very well wrest a smile from your lips. Or a sneer.

With Nicole Kidman, Hugh Jackman, David Wenham, Bryan Brown, Jack Thompson, and Brandon Walters. 2008. ● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA

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BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16;
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SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Bolt — TV series superdog escapes from the backlot under the impression his powers are real. (Shades of *The Truman Show*.) Even the vast possibilities of computer animation can't convince us of this particular possibility. Once the canine hero, about two-thirds of the way through, awakens to his limitations and discovers his inner dogginess, the film warms up. With the voices of John Travolta, Miley Cyrus, Susie Essman, and Mark Walton; directed by Bryan Howard and Chris Williams. 2008.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas —

Contrived concentration-camp fable, from the novel by John Boyne, about the budding friendship, through barbed wire, between the eight-year-old Aryan son of the camp commandant (in his innocence, he thinks it's a farm) and a same-aged, shaved-headed Jew. It roughly recalls *Life Is Beautiful* in its mixture, or collision, of sticky sentiment and gorgeous cinematography (Benoit Delhomme, in this case). The resolution, whether because it is signalled too far ahead and dragged out too long or because its tragedy is leavened with undeniable justice, shapes up as profoundly unmoving. With Asa Butterfield, Vera Farmiga, Davis Thewlis, and Zac Mattoon O'Brien; written and directed by Mark Herman. 2008.

★ (FLOWER HILL 4; HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; RANCHO DEL REY 16; SAN MARCOS 18)



Australia

Burn after Reading — The Coen brothers revisit their favored stupidity theme: *Raising Arizona*, *Barton Fink*, *Fargo*, *The Big Lebowski* (that one above all), *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, the secondhand *Lady-killers*, at least the Llewellyn Moss protagonist in *No Country for Old Men*. Back to the well once more. The placement of this timeless theme within the Washington, D.C., intelligence community is, however, highly strategic, calculating, revitalizing,

resonating, and, well, intelligent. (The memorable line from the original *Manchurian Candidate* swims up from the depths: "Intelligence officer! Stupidity officer is more like it.") The central theme has been interlarded with secondary themes of deception, discontentment, self-delusion, double lives, so that while the film is unmistakably a comedy, it's a pretty deep one. And regardless how repetitive the theme, there is no slacking off in technique and ex-

ecution. The fast hour and a half is consistently, uninsistently funny, with only a rare lapse in taste (a homemade marital aid, a couple of splashes of Scorsese-esque gore) and never really a lapse in tone. And although the regular and reliable Roger Deakins has been replaced with Emmanuel Lubezki (*Children of Men*, most noteworthy), the cinematography doesn't suffer, with its crystal-clear air, its fine-line focus, and its scythe-like camerawork,

angling slightly upwards, attacking from all sides, intermittently cutting a path in a spurt of purposeful fluidity. George Clooney, Frances McDormand, Brad Pitt, Tilda Swinton, John Malkovich, Richard Jenkins, David Rasche, J.K. Simmons. 2008.
★★★★ (HORTON PLAZA 14)

Changeling — Clint Eastwood was due for a dud, and this stacks up as his flattest film, his stumpiest film, since *Blood Work*, bookending his hot streak of *Mystic River*, *Million Dollar Baby*, and the Second World War diptych, *Flags of Our Fathers* and *Letters from Iwo Jima*. Time once again to take it easy. Perhaps a partial explanation (or excuse) might be found in the fact that Eastwood took over the project from Ron Howard (still a co-producer on it), and certainly it possesses a moral simplicity that would seem these days to be beneath his interest. Never beneath Howard's, however. An eighty-year-old nugget unearthed from the annals of the LAPD, fit for a remember-when newspaper story on a round-number anniversary, it tells of the disappearance of a nine-year-old boy on the day his working single mother, a roller-skating switchboard supervisor, was to have taken him to the new Chaplin picture (*The Circus*, presumably), and of the strong-arm attempts of the beleaguered police department, five months later, to palm off on her an imposter — the world's oldest changeling — rounded up at a diner in Illinois. The situation, for all its purported factuality, is too ridiculous to be truly gripping; too much so even to be minimally maddening. Angelina Jolie, with Star Power on her side, in addition to Mother Love, in addition to Truth and Justice, campaigns for sainthood in a cloche hat and a hummock of crimson lipstick, accentuating her most grotesque feature — a pair of novelty-shop plastic lips — and providing the only dash of color in a frigid blue image. Validation, if not official canonization, will come in the form of four rounds of applause in open court. With inferior material, Eastwood's "classical" style and deliberate pace (filling, and overfilling, his accustomed two-and-a-quarter-hour time slot) amount to little more than proficient hackwork. John Malkovich, Jeffrey Donovan, Colm Feore, Jason Butler Harner. 2008.

★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GASLAMP 15; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MIS-

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SION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; TOWN SQUARE 14)

A Christmas Tale — Family reunion and reconciliation: the black sheep returns from banishment in time for his mother's battle with cancer. The setting-up of who's who is clumsy, and the occasional direct address to the camera is lazy, and two and a half hours are more than enough. But the unified French ensemble breathes some life into it: Catherine Deneuve, Jean-Paul Roussillon (offbeat casting as Deneuve's toadish husband), Anne Consigny, Mathieu Amalric, Melvil Poupaud (always a screen-brightener), Chiara Mastroianni (Deneuve's daughter in real life but a daughter-in-law on screen), Emmanuelle Devos, and Laurent Capelluto. Directed by Arnaud Desplechin. 2008.
★★ (LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

The Duchess — Fine costume piece. Well, the costumes anyhow are fine. The piece as a whole is only fairish, a predigested potage of 18th-century sexism, blue-blood cold-bloodedness, paramours, bastards, the mandatory male heir, all of it "based on a true story." Rachel Portman's music, much more than Saul Dibb's direction, creates the frequent illusion of something better than fairish. And Keira Knightley, unshadowingly surrounded by Ralph Fiennes, Dominic Cooper, Hayley Atwell, Simon McBurney, and Charlotte Rampling, commands the screen with force and nuance and bone structure. The camera, as they say, loves her. 2008.
★★ (GASLAMP 15)

The Dukes — Shabby little comedy about a doo-wop group that time forgot ("In 1963 we were on top of the world"),



Bolt

three of whose members attempt a gold heist at a dental lab to finance a restaurant. Emotionally flat, despite the constant proping-up by golden oldies. The climactic concert raises more questions than goose bumps: Didn't they need to practice? Are they lip-synching? Whose song is that, really? With Robert Davi, Chazz Palminteri, Peter Bogdanovich, and Miriam Margolyes; directed by Davi. 2008.
● (GASLAMP 15)

Eagle Eye — Political paranoia thriller so utterly preposterous that it has the opposite

effect and reassures us we have nothing to worry about. (And so pell-mell in presentation that we can barely follow it.) Shia LaBeouf and Michelle Monaghan, as ordinary citizens under the eye, thumb, and puppet-strings of Big Brother, are ordinarily likable, or in these circumstances, pitiable. With Billy Bob Thornton, Rosario Dawson, and Michael Chiklis; directed by D.J. Caruso. 2008.
● (MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24)

Fear(s) of the Dark — Animated anthology of tales of the macabre, in a variety

of styles and shades of black-and-white. More disjointed than it needed to be, what with the intermittent interruptions from a continuing charcoaly chronicle of Dog Bites Man and a geometrical abstraction narrated by a tortuously introspective fe-

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male ("I'm scared of looking down on people who are different," etc.). The coming-attractions trailer proves to have been just as good a format for the isolated creepy image. Uninterrupted, the final two broody mood pieces, directed by Lorenzo Mattotti and Richard McGuire respectively, are the strongest segments. Other segments are directed by, alphabetically, Blutch, Charles Burns, Marie Caillou, and Pierre Di Sciullo. 2008.

★ (KEN, 11/28 THROUGH 12/4)

Four Christmases — A blissfully unmarried couple (Reese Witherspoon, Vince Vaughn) make the rounds, one day over the holidays, to the four households of their respective divorced parents. Any truth in the humor is buried in crudeness. The classy supporting cast (Robert Duvall, Sissy Spacek, Mary Steenburgen, Jon Voight) proves to be an optical illusion. Directed by Seth Gordon. 2008.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Happy-Go-Lucky — Character portrait of a singular person, a primary-school teacher called Poppy, almost dementedly upbeat, seeing it as her mission in life to spread sunshine and joy wherever she goes. A tipsy giggler, a babbling fount of inanities (“Here we go, gigolo”), a constant commenter (“Never been here before,” she announces to no one in particular on her tour of a bookshop; “Don’t want to go there,” she reacts upon pulling *The Road to Reality* off the shelf), an avocational clown, a tireless self-amuser, she’s the nearest thing to Pee-wee Herman you could ever hope to find in a realistic context. (Is it significant that her bicycle gets stolen right off the bat? Unlike Pee-wee, she sighingly lets it go — “I didn’t even get a chance to say goodbye” — and signs up for driving lessons.) The context, however, demands that she once in a while drop the good cheer in order to handle crises with her ranting, racist, rigid driving instructor (“It’s not easy being you, ay?”), a violent bully at school, and an added tramp in the street. She’s not a one-note character. She can rise to the occasion, and there is always, even at the best of times, an underpinning of thin ice. Sally Hawkins, who had worked with writer-director Mike



Burn after Reading

Leigh previously in *Vera Drake* and *All or Nothing*, takes total possession of the role, or vice versa, indelibly visualized in a neo- or retro-Flower Child wardrobe, too youthful by a decade, too loud by a hundred decibels, of clashing colors and multiple layers (a last layer, revealed on the chiropractor’s table, of pink bra and orange

panties beneath black fishnet hose), and a full range of mirth from lopsided grin, pulling to the right, to open-wide glee. Leigh himself, you might have noticed, especially if you saw either of the samples mentioned above, is not the jolliest sort of fellow, and it would be easy to imagine him making a movie in which the central char-

acter were the volcanic driving instructor — the stalwart Eddie Marsan, who also appeared in *Vera Drake* — and in which the bubbly driving student were only one of several supporting characters, a movie, that is to say, more like his *Naked*, a portrait of a negativist. Any viewer less effervescent than Poppy, in any event, will be inclined to look at her as a kind of scientific specimen, to be observed with curiosity and wonder — along with unscientific amusement and a silent prayer of thanks she’s not living next door or coming over for dinner — in a somewhat amorphous and arbitrary succession of scenes, situations, circumstances. At all times the movie boasts beautiful bright color, rather as if Leigh’s regular cameraman, Dick Pope, had emptied a bottle of Windex on our window on the world. (Ah, we can see!) And please don’t propose that this is meant to be expressive of Poppy’s *Weltanschauung*. Clear bright colors ought not to be the exclusive privilege of the Pollyanna. 2008.
★★★★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

High School Musical 3: Senior Year — Candy-colored sequel to two Disney Channel television movies with which the viewer is presumed to be conversant. (In what way, you might have to wonder, did Gabriella change East High forever? And what’s the deal between Troy and Rocket Man?) Evidently intended as an anti-anxiety pill for growing tweens, it should work almost as well for hoary old

nostalgists who mourn the illusory innocence of Mickey Rooney, Judy Garland musicals, and who will only need to grit their teeth for the vocal and dance styles. (The roof-garden waltz is most unobjectionable.) Two boys dashing out of the locker room in nothing but towels, straight through a girls’ volleyball game, and into the thick of a stage rehearsal, is about as racy as it gets. The well-scrubbed cast — Zac Efron, Vanessa Hudgens, Ashley Tisdale, Lucas Grabeel, Corbin Bleu, Monique Coleman — looks unsettlingly like a collection of dolls. It would not be surprising to find them for sale, singly or as a set, at the Disney Store. Directed and co-choreographed by Kenny Ortega. 2008.
★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; TOWN SQUARE 14)

JCVD — Martial-arts legend Jean-Claude van Damme, “the Muscles from Brussels,” casts himself in a new light: the comic-pathetic. Playing “himself,” in all candor a has-been Hollywood star, he first loses a custody fight in family court, then loses a role to Steven Seagal when the latter consents to cut off his ponytail, then haplessly gets caught in the middle of a Post Office robbery for which the Belgian police tab him as the mastermind. The single-take track of one-man-army action at the outset is too artsy for the purposes of parody (“It’s very difficult for me to do everything in one shot. I’m forty-seven years old”), and the photography throughout is a murky

MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Bargain showtimes are in parentheses.

CENTRAL CLAIREMONT

Town Square 14

4665 Clairemont Drive (858-274-1234)
Australia (Not Rated); **Beverly Hills Chihuahua** (PG); **Bolt** (PG); **Changeling** (R); **Four Christmases** (PG-13); **High School Musical 3: Senior Year** (G); **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG); **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13); **Role Models** (R); **The Secret Life of Bees** (PG-13); **Transporter 3** (PG-13); **Twilight** (PG-13); **Zack and Miri Make a Porno** (R)

DOWNTOWN

Gaslamp 15

701 Fifth Avenue (619-232-0400)
Australia (Not Rated); **Changeling** (R); **The Duchess** (PG-13); **The Dukes** (PG-13); **Four Christmases** (PG-13); **Loins of Punjab Presents** (Not Rated); **Max Payne** (PG-13);

Rachel Getting Married (R); **Role Models** (R); **The Secret Life of Bees** (PG-13); **Transporter 3** (PG-13); **W.** (PG-13)

Horton Plaza 14

Horton Plaza (619-444-FILM)
Bolt (PG); **Burn after Reading** (R); **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG); **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13); **Religulous** (R); **Synecdoche, New York** (R); **Twilight** (PG-13); **Zack and Miri Make a Porno** (R)

LA JOLLA

La Jolla 12

8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (858-558-2262)
Australia (Not Rated); **Bolt** (PG); **Four Christmases** (PG-13); **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG); **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13); **Role Models** (R); **Transporter 3** (PG-13); **Twilight** (PG-13)

La Jolla Village

8879 Villa La Jolla Drive (619-819-0236)
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (PG-13); **A Christmas Tale** (Not Rated); **Rachel Getting Married** (R); **Slumdog Millionaire** (R)

MIRA MESA

Mira Mesa 18

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MISSION VALLEY

Fashion Valley 18

7037 Friars Road (858-558-2262)
Australia (Not Rated); **Bolt** (PG); **Changeling** (R); **Four Christmases** (PG-13); **High School Musical 3: Senior Year** (G); **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG); **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13); **Role Models** (R); **Transporter 3** (PG-13); **Twilight** (PG-13); **Zack and Miri Make a Porno** (R)

Mission Valley 7

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Four Christmases (PG-13) (10:15 12:30 2:45) 5:15 7:30 10:00; **Australia** (PG-13) (12:00 3:30) 7:00 10:30; **Twilight** (PG-13) (10:30 11:30 1:15 2:15 4:00) 5:00 7:00 8:00 10:00 10:45; **Bolt 3-D** (PG) (10:00 12:30 3:00) 5:30 8:00 10:30; **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45; **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG) (10:00 12:15 2:30) 4:45 7:15 9:30
No 9 pm-10:45 pm shows Sun.-Thu.

Mission Valley 20

1640 Camino Del Rio North (858-558-2262)
Australia (Not Rated); **Bolt** (PG); **Changeling** (R); **Eagle Eye** (PG-13); **Four Christmases** (PG-13); **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG); **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13); **Role Models** (R); **The Secret Life of Bees** (PG-13); **Transporter 3** (PG-13); **Twilight** (PG-13); **Zack and Miri Make a Porno** (R)

STATE UNIVERSITY

Ken

4061 Adams Avenue (619-819-0236)
Ashes of Time Redux (R); **Fear(s) of the Dark** (Not Rated)

UPTOWN

Hillcrest Cinemas

3965 Fifth Avenue (619-819-0236)
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (PG-13); **Happy-Go-Lucky** (R); **Let the Right One In** (R); **Milk** (R); **Slumdog Millionaire** (R)

Museum of Photographic Arts

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San Diego Natural History Museum

1788 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-232-3821)
Ocean Oasis (Not Rated) Fri.-Sun. 12:00, 2:00, 4:00; **Planet Earth: Fresh Water** (NR) Fri.-Sun. 11:00, 1:00, 3:00

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2 Africa (PG); **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13);
Transporter 3 (PG-13); **Twilight** (PG-13)

Rancho San Diego 15
2951 Jamacha Road (800-326-3264)
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Santee Drive In
10990 Woodside Avenue (619-448-7447)
Bolt (PG) Fri.-Sun.; **Four Christmases**
(PG-13) Fri.-Sun.; **High School Musical 3:**
Senior Year (G) Fri.-Sun.; **Madagascar: Es-**
cape 2 Africa (PG) Fri.-Sun.

Chula Vista 10
Broadway between H and I (619-338-4214)



Eastlake Parkway at Olympic (858-558-2262)
Australia (Not Rated); **Bolt** (PG); **Four**
Christmases (PG-13); **Madagascar: Escape**
2 Africa (PG); **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13);
Role Models (R); **Transporter 3** (PG-13);
Twilight (PG-13)

770 Denmery Road (858-558-2262)
Australia (Not Rated); **Bolt** (PG);
Changeling (PG); **Eagle Eye** (PG-13); **Four**
Christmases (PG-13); **High School Musical**
3: Senior Year (G); **Madagascar: Escape 2**
Africa (PG); **Max Payne** (PG-13); **Quantum**
of Solace (PG-13); **Quarantine** (R); **Role**
Models (R); **Saw V** (R); **Transporter 3**
 (PG-13); **Twilight** (PG-13)

East H Street (619-216-4707)
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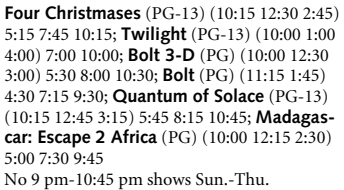
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2170 Coronado Avenue (619-423-2727)
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3030 Plaza Bonita Road (858-558-2262)
Australia (Not Rated); **Bolt** (PG);
Changeling (R); **Four Christmases** (P
High School Musical 3: Senior Year
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (PG); **C**
tum of Solace (PG-13); **Role Models**
Transporter 3 (PG-13); **Twilight** (PG-

Carmel Mountain 14
 11620 Carmel Mountain Road (858-674-9770)
Australia (Not Rated); **Bolt** (PG); **Four**
Christmases (PG-13); **Madagascar: Escape**
2 Africa (PG); **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13);
Role Models (R); **The Secret Life of Bees**
 (PG-13); **Transporter 3** (PG-13); **Twilight**
 (PG-13)

Escondido 16
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River Village 6
5256 S. Mission Road (760-945-8784)



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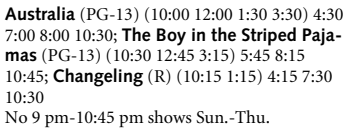
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Del Mar Highlands 8
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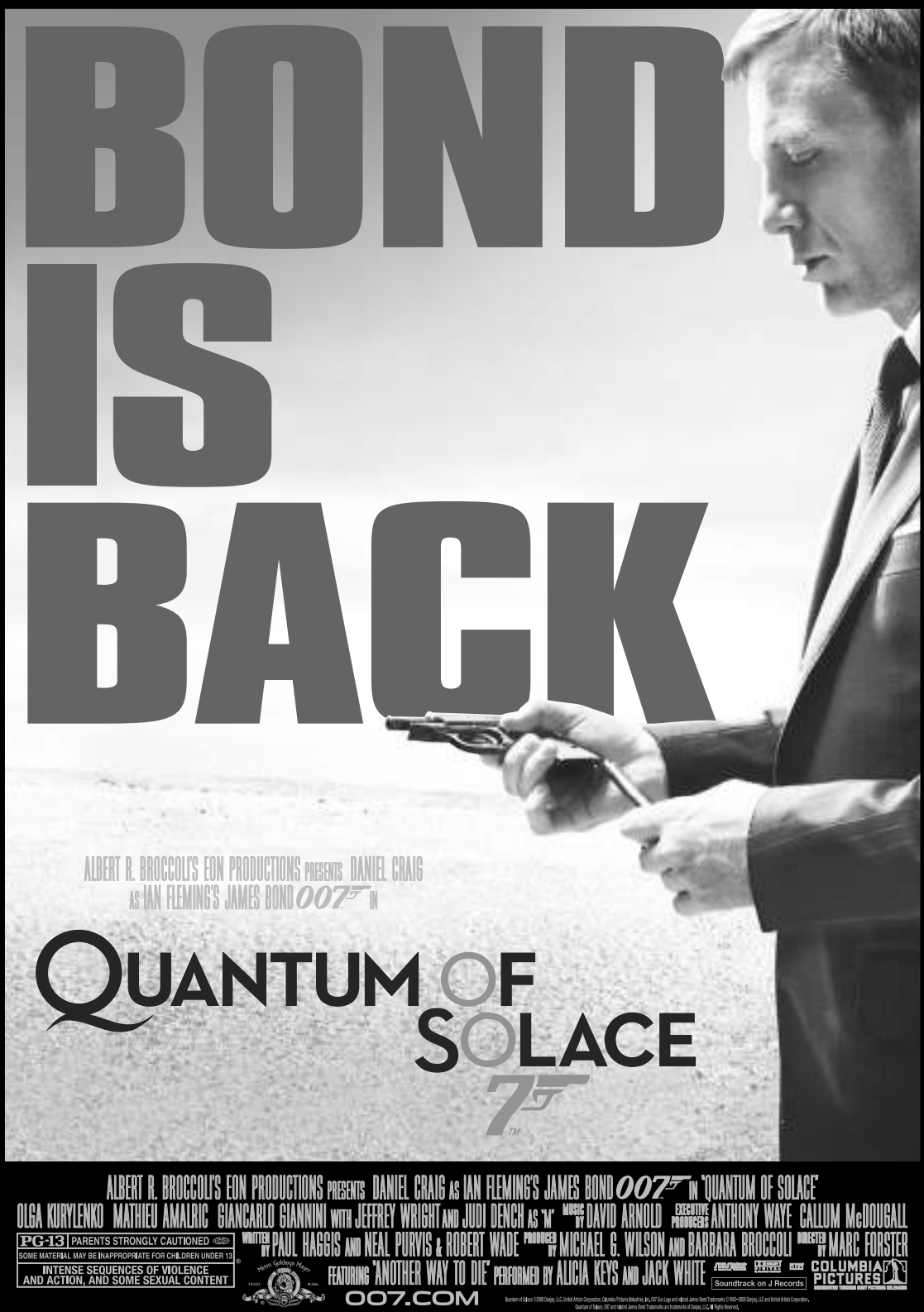
La Costa 6
6941 El Camino Real (at Aviara/Alga)
(760-599-8221)



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College Boulevard and Mission Avenue
(760-806-1790)



401 Mission Avenue (760-439-1733)
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monochrome, and the *Dog Day Afternoon* hostage situation is static and tedious. Laughs are few and small: e.g., the casual reprise, on demand, of the star's kick-the-cigarette trick. And while his decaying face speaks for itself, and quite eloquently, his straight-to-the-camera big dramatic monologue — trembles and tears — hardly opens up a promising new path. Directed by Mabrouk El Mechri. 2008.
★ (KEN, THROUGH 11/27)

Let the Right One In — Bullied blond Swedish schoolboy meets dark and dusky Miss Tween Vampire. Slow, almost ludicrously sensitive, ninety-five-percent realistic and unfantastic. The other five percent houses some mild chills: the girl's monkey-like shimmy up the outside wall of a hospital; the mass cat attack on a new vampire convert; the sweat and tears of blood when the vampire crosses a threshold uninvited. With Kare Hedebrant and Lina Leandersson; directed by Tomas Alfredson. 2008.
★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

Loins of Punjab Presents — Cripplingly cheap comedy with the promising premise of a sort of Hindi Idol talent contest — the competitors singing cover ver-



A Christmas Tale

sions of Bollywood hit tunes — sponsored by “the largest suppliers of pork loins on the East Coast,” a/k/a “The Loin King.” It has almost no assets beyond the funny accents. With Shabana Azmi, Ajay Naidu, Ayesha Dharker, Michael Raimondi, and

Seema Rahmani; directed by Manish Acharya. 2008.
● (GASLAMP 15)

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa — The light-in-the-loafers cartoon lion, a self-pro-

fessed “protégé of Fosse and Robbins,” accidentally finds his way, along with the zebra, the hippo, and the giraffe, back to his ancestral home, where he proves to be an embarrassment to his kingly father: “Lions don’t dance.” The not so subtle pleas for di-

versity (not just the nonviolent lion, but the forbidden love of giraffe for hippo) do not overwhelm the no less subtle jokes. With the voices of Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer, Jada Pinkett Smith, and Sacha Baron Cohen; co-directed by Eric Darnell and Tom McGrath. 2008.
★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Max Payne — Steroidal cop film (literally, pharmaceutical performance-enhancement to a science-fictional degree) featuring dark shadows, leeches color, CG hallucinations, and Mark Wahlberg’s frown lines. With Mila Kunis, Beau Bridges, and Ludacris; directed by John Moore. 2008.
● (GASLAMP 15; PALM PROMENADE 24)

Milk — Reviewed this issue. With Sean Penn, Josh Brolin, James Franco, Emile Hirsch, and Diego Luna; directed by Gus Van Sant.
★★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

Priceless — Pierre Salvadori’s Gallic romantic comedy tarries a long time in mercenary amorality before succumbing, not too persuasively, to sentiment. Well-paced

User Reviews — MOVIES

Best user comments from Reader website

To Live and Die in L.A. 1985

This film is one of the reasons William Friedkin is a personal favorite director. His ’71 masterpiece *The French Connection* garners a single, epitomizing word: “unsparing.” *To Live and Die in L.A.* is a film of concrete grittiness, with William Petersen playing a brutal, unyielding cop whose obsession with criminal Willem Dafoe leads to his eventual downfall. If you compare this work to the majority of films of the past ten years, the film is NOT conventional by any means. It shows the audience what needs to be seen, that criminals are more brutal and vile than they can ever believe. The strong violence in this film only shows the extent individuals must go to in order to accomplish the most dangerous of tasks. The character of Richard Chance feels that the destruction of crime is only possible by effective methods, even if they may require excessive force. It is regrettable that this thriller has been ignored for the past 23 years. At the very least it is profound entertainment, at the most a minor classic. By **johnjeffries44** 6:50 p.m., Nov. 17, 2008

Changeling 2008

I saw Angelina Jolie's new film about a month ago. *Changeling* is still haunting me. It is a classic story superbly told by director Eastwood. I like how he honors the viewer's intelligence by slowly building a story, layer by layer. The movie was fascinating to observe, always trying to figure out the next move, a move not easy to see. Or believe. The movie was indeed mesmerizing; Ms. Jolie was magnetic, as she flawlessly delivered another Academy-worthy performance. What a hideous story. What horrible people in Los Angeles. Remember to always remember the story was one of true events. Fascinating, horrifying, haunting and yet a love story of a mother for her son. Inspiring, too. Never give up; never give in. By **3KITMOM** 2:52 p.m., Nov. 21, 2008

Changeling 2008

Duncan's review couldn't be more off on this movie. This is one of my top five movies of the year so far and a likely candidate for best picture. I can't believe he would give this movie anything less than three stars. It was well written, produced, filmed, directed, and acted. Angelina Jolie, John Malkovic, and Jeffrey Donovan all turn in excellent performances. Donovan should be nominated for best supporting actor for playing such an incredible douchebag, Captain JJ Jones. This film is disturbing on so many levels. Disturbing because a woman's son goes missing and she calls the police to file a report only to be told that he will probably turn up in the morning. Disturbing that the LAPD would try to pawn off another kid on Christine Collins and try to convince her into believing that it wasn't her son. Like any mother wouldn't be able to recognize their child? What kind of balls did that take to orchestrate all of those shenanigans. Disturbing that when Collins spoke out to the press, the police arrested her and had her committed to a mental institution with other women who had been involved in incidents that put a damper on the police department's public image. Disturbing that a guy on a ranch was kidnapping children and slaughtering them and the LAPD didn't know about it for over a year. It was a story that needed to be told and I'm glad I saw it. Thank you, Clint Eastwood. By **spooks69** 11:06 p.m., Nov. 22, 2008

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all the way, well-constructed most of the way, very well-played by stick-thin Audrey Tautou and liquid-eyed Gad Elmaleh, and scrumptiously photographed on the Côte d’Azur. 2007.

★★ (SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY, 12/1, 6:30 P.M.)

Quantum of Solace — The first true sequel in the twenty-odd entries of the James Bond series, picking up our Blond Bond (Daniel Craig) on the trail of vengeance after the death of his ladylove, Vesper, at the end of *Casino Royale*. (This was a trail closed off to the newly widowed Bond at the end of *On Her Majesty’s Secret Service*, when poor George Lazenby, the only one-timer in the series, got booted out the door as if he never should have happened.) The film fails, however, to solidify, much less build upon, the promise of the fresh start in its forerunner. It perhaps meets the fundamental requirements of action and pace, hurtling forward with only the briefest of pauses and coming in at a tidy hour and three-quarters, the shortest Bond film in the entire series. As a likely result of that, it can seldom make time for the preparation that would give the action scenes sense and import. They are little more than turbulence. And the underlying split personality still remains: Why bother to infuse the Bond character with a greater air of reality if he’s going to continue to be allowed the acrobatics of a Jackie Chan? Surely our rougher and tougher superspy wouldn’t want us snorting in derision, or even chortling in delight, when he’s busy exacting payment for the snuffed-out life of his beloved. James Bond appears to be turning little by little into Jason Bourne. It’s not a step up. With Mathieu Amalric, Olga Kurylenko, Judi Dench, Jeffrey Wright, and Giancarlo Giannini; directed by Marc Forster. 2008.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Rachel Getting Married — A sort of Rainbow Coalition wedding weekend: the father of the Jewish bride had remarried a black, the bride too is marrying a black (it might be noted that Sidney Lumet, the father of first-time scriptwriter Jenny Lumet, had remarried a black himself), and the theme of the wedding is inexplicably Indian. Director Jonathan Demme, striving for an improvisational feel, stages the goings-on with an almost Danish dishevelment: a hand-held camera in the grasp of an arm-weary cameraman. Anne Hathaway, as the bride’s just-out-of-rehab sister, a constant and tiresome threat of disruption (“She needs a lot of acknowledgment”), proves to be too actressy for the style; but Rosemarie DeWitt makes a fine impression as her well-behaved sister, and the conviviality of the gathering, with heavy representation from the cool cats of the music industry, is by and large believable and admirable. With Mather Zickel, Bill Irwin, Anna Deavere Smith, Tunde Adebimpe, and Debra Winger. 2008.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; FLOWER HILL 4; GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

Religulous — Comedian Bill Maher, the smirking skeptic, travels the globe to goad and taunt, and talk behind the backs of, believers of many stripes (not Far Eastern), all in an effort to galvanize the silent minority of Americans — 16% by latest count — who profess to be atheists and agnostics. He is content to keep it light and superficial and once in a while funny, though at the end he climbs into his own figurative pulpit, in a moralizing manner not dissimilar to the wrap-ups of Jerry Springer. Directed by Larry Charles. 2008.

★ (HORTON PLAZA 14)

Role Models — Court-ordered community service for two full-grown screwups. Overplayed by everybody but sourpuss Paul Rudd (who co-wrote), and yet a couple of



Twilight

prime comic targets retain their ripeness: the rehabilitated rah-rah directress of a mentoring charity called Sturdy Wings, and a nerdy role-playing club of would-be dwellers in Middle Earth. With Seann William Scott, Elizabeth Banks, Jane Lynch, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, and Bobb’e J. Thompson; directed by David Wain. 2008.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

The Secret Life of Bees — The place is South Carolina, the time is 1964, right when LBJ has signed the Civil Rights Act (“Nothin’ but a piece of paper”). An abused white teenage runaway and her fugitive black maid find refuge at a honey farm of “cultured” black sisters named after months of the year, August, June, and May (twin of the deceased April). Sticky sentimentality, by way of the Sue Monk Kidd novel, but Queen Latifah brings some real strength to it, and Dakota Fanning (apparently unspoiled in early adolescence) some real vulnerability. With Jennifer Hudson, Alicia Keys, Sophie Okonedo, and Paul Bettany; written and directed by Gina Prince-Bythe-wood. 2008.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; GASLAMP 15; MISSION VALLEY 20; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Slumdog Millionaire — Feverish day-dream, partly amorous, partly avaricious, around an unschooled Bombay teenager

who, hoping to reconnect with his childhood sweetheart, climbs toward the top prize on the Indian *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* It breaks down into three time zones, shuffled together in a jumble: the game show itself, the torture and third degree of the contestant by police who presume he’s cheating, and the flashbacks to the life experiences that explain how he could answer the questions. Much squalor and brutality, but filmed by Danny Boyle with a heedless, almost uncaring, exuberance and exhibitionism. Dev Patel, Freida Pinto, Irfan Khan. 2008.

★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

Synecdoche, New York — The erudite title, when pronounced correctly, is an obvious play, not to say a meaningful play, on Schenectady, New York, the main setting of the film, where a regional stage director of high pretension and acute hypochondria gets left behind by his wing-spreading painter wife and their young daughter, then gets a MacArthur Fellowship — the “Genius Grant” — freeing him to reconstruct his life in a neverending work-in-progress inside a cavernous brick warehouse. In short — and it’s a challenge to keep it short — this is one of screenwriter Charlie Kaufman’s ongoing explorations of the human mind (*Being John Malkovich*, *Adaptation*, *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind*, *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*), except that for the first time he is also the director, a recipe for self-indulgence if not megalomania. The early mundanities (perusing the paper at the breakfast table: “Harold Pinter died. No, wait. He won the Nobel Prize”) are often amusing, thanks in large part to the infectious dyspepsia of Philip Seymour

Hoffman, heading a cast of indie all-stars: Catherine Keener, Hope Davis, Samantha Morton, Michelle Williams, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Dianne Wiest, Emily Watson. But the narrative soon goes irretrievably off the rails, smashing through barriers of time and space, soaring off into fancy and obscurity, and viewers one by one are apt to be dropping by the wayside and waving at the film to go on without them. 2008.

★ (HORTON PLAZA 14)

Transporter 3 — Action sequel with Jason Statham, Natalya Rudakova, and François Berléand, directed by Olivier

Megaton.

(CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; 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)

Twilight — Reviewed this issue. With Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Billy Burke, and Peter Facinelli; directed by Catherine Hardwicke.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; PLAZA CAMINO REAL; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

W. — Pronounced “dubya.” Oliver Stone’s diplomatic biopic on our forty-third President (Josh Brolin, a dead-on impression, but where to go with it?) is so careful to avoid bias as to avoid purpose. It barely matches the caliber of a TV docudrama, much less the compensating snickers. In that department, Thandie Newton as Condi Rice takes the cake. With Elizabeth Banks (Laura Bush), James Cromwell (George Bush, Sr.), Ellen Burstyn (Barbara Bush), Richard Dreyfuss (Dick Cheney), Jeffrey Wright (Colin Powell), Scott Glenn (Donald Rumsfeld), and Toby Jones (Karl Rove). 2008.

★ (GASLAMP 15)

Zack and Miri Make a Porno — A Kevin Smith film, self-explanatorily titled, of incessant dirty-talk, a bit of dirty-do, and a splatter of dirty-doo-doo. It is strictly for those sufficiently sheltered that they’re able to find it daring and sophisticated. Starring Seth Rogen (our reigning Everyrslob), Elizabeth Banks, Jason Mewes, Traci Lords, and Justin Long. 2008.

● (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION VALLEY 20; TOWN SQUARE 14)

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It'll Get Done

Old Town is a state park, and the building must have an "Early American Period" look.

A gutted theater's a depressing sight. October 25, 2008: painters apply a foundation coat to the Old Town Theatre's interior walls. A heat wave forced them to open the tall stage doors to catch the slightest breeze. Not happening. Swarms of dust motes flicker unperturbed.

The space looks as if someone roofed an amphitheater: no seats, just concrete tiers with armrests angling up the aisles. On stage: piles of wooden scraps, drills, cords, and, behind a tall aluminum ladder, an intertwined rainbow of wires — the new lighting system, someday. From a radio blaring in the lobby, talk-show callers panic about the economy.

Cygnnet Theatre will open here in a month? From the looks of things, that's a pipe dream. Two hundred forty-eight seats still have to go in, plus carpeting and paint, not to mention fine-tuning the lobby and newly expanded bathrooms. Amid the renovations, Cygnnet must also construct a Victorian set with wooden pillars, a staircase, and soot-smudged brick walls for its inaugural production of *A Christmas Carol*.

"It'll happen," says Bill Schmidt, executive director of Cygnnet, with soft-spoken assurance. "It'll get done."

"Bill can see farther down the road than most," says Sean Murray, artistic director. "Where the rest of us see problems, he imagines potentials. He's the brains behind Cygnnet, not me."

The team started the theater six years ago.

Murray, who had been artistic director of North Coast Repertory, was leaving that company and wondered what to do next. Teaching? Freelance directing?

"Why not start a theater," said Schmidt, who worked as a software engineer for Peregrine.

Murray: "Are you...? Do you have any IDEA what that takes?"

He didn't reply, says Murray, "He just went and did it."

They leased a small space in a strip mall in Rolando. Against the advice of many, who said no one would attend a theater on El Cajon Boulevard, Schmidt and Murray built one of San Diego's most successful companies. Along with winning numerous Craig Noel Awards from the San Diego Critics Circle, Cygnnet developed such a large following that, after four years, they began to consider expansion — but way down the road, maybe around 2011. Then the Old Town Theatre, owned by the state, became available.

Just off the intersection of I-5 and I-8, the theater has one of the best locations in San Diego. Not only that, the playhouse has the intimate feel they wanted, even the same number of rows — eight — as the Rolando space. That the theater was bigger, but not much bigger, made it the natural next step.

"The space became available like NOW," says Murray, "a lot sooner in our growth than we thought."

INTERVIEW

JEFF SMITH



Old Town Theatre

Murray and Schmidt repeated a previous conversation.

Schmidt: "We're doing it."

Murray: "You crazy?"

Schmidt: "Guess so."

The space came with restrictions. Old Town is a state park, and the building must have an "Early American Period" look: 1846 to 1872. Also Cygnnet had to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and provide a new lighting system, since the original 18 dimmers were 30 years old. If Cygnnet won the bid, they'd have one year to complete the changes.

"That compressed time-period was a big issue," says Schmidt, "but it wasn't like we were building a new theater. That'd cost \$25 million. Instead, we wanted to renovate one."

Along with the state's requirements, they envisioned new seats, a more updated feel, and, says

Schmidt, "countless details you don't know exist until you complete other details first. When you make a choice, you must think at least four steps in advance."

The process, Murray admits today, "has been the most nerve-racking, stressful, and exciting you can imagine." Although they almost abandoned the project twice during the early stages, Murray always had a feeling it would work. "I could picture it happening."

San Diego theater has precedents for this move. In 1986, the San Diego Rep went from the Sixth Avenue Playhouse to the new Lyceum Theatre; Lamb's Players, in 1994, from a small National City space to its Coronado home. Schmidt and Murray studied these changes. They also read Lisa Mulcahy's sobering yet positive *Building the Successful Theater Company*, which became their bible. The book, which talks about the growth of

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the La Jolla Playhouse among others, begins: "That any theater company comes together at all, ever, is a miracle."

Extensive research gave them an estimate of \$975,000 for the project. After renovating Rolando, says Schmidt, they knew that "things will always cost twice what you think." They hired Ann Laddon, a campaign consultant, to interview potential donors. Based on their confidential responses, she wrote a feasibility study to determine what they were capable of raising.

"Should we go ahead?" Schmidt and Murray asked. When Laddon said yes, the question became how much money they could generate. They wanted to go far beyond the minimum requirements. The extent of improvements would depend on revenue.

As negotiations with the state continued, Schmidt and Murray met potential donors, one or two at a time, in the lobby, and walked them through the building, showing the changes they wanted to make. "That was one of the best parts of the process," says Murray. "We shared our plans, and they became a part of them. They and our board were truly inspiring."

"They're the wind at our backs," says Schmidt.

Most arts fundraising uses the model of a pyramid. At the top, a massive gift from a single donor — \$5 million, say, for a new theater — then a scaling down from there. Since they had no "top gift" donors, Schmidt and Murray "may have invented a new model, of necessity": a diamond. They encouraged donors to participate "at the level they can." This gave them a wider span of "middle" contributors and broader base of support.

They signed the contract on December 31, 2007. In effect, a starter's gun went off: a one-year deadline, not just to raise the money and become ADA

compliant, but to make their own renovations.

Last spring, to preview the new venue and attract audiences, Cygnet staged Sondheim's musical *A Little Night Music* at Old Town; 11,656 people saw that show, still praised as one of the year's best. The eye-opener: 3000 were new to Cygnet. "Some had heard about us," says Schmidt, "others just came off the street, tourists."

"And," Murray adds with pride, "we had all local talent on that stage."

By comparison, Cygnet's *Fences*, another of the year's best shows, ran seven weeks at Rolando, including an extension, and played to 4829.

When they renovated at Rolando, Murray admits, "It was like having a big party in a small apartment." The work was "production- and product-oriented. It had eye appeal, if you didn't peek under the rug."

Old Town renovations run deep. The new barn-red exterior has the "American period" look. The box office and lobby have Victorian touches: Persian carpet, kerosene-style lamps, and a coved ceiling. The stage, however, is neutral, which enables Cygnet to perform contemporary works amid the state park's requirements. "We feel really good about the changes we made," says Schmidt. "The state wants this to work, and we're excited about bringing theater back to Old Town."

Both Schmidt and Murray admit that their timing, which felt hectic at first, was fortunate. Since the economic climate has changed so much since they won the bid, could they have begun the process today?

"We started raising funds about a year ago," says Schmidt. "As of October 15, we had signed pledges and gifts of about \$950,000. So the drive continues. If we started today? It'd be a lot more difficult. We'd

need much more time, that's certain. But we'd do it. It'd get done."

Previews for Cygnet's *Christmas Carol* at the Old Town Theatre begin this Friday, November 28. ■

THEATER LISTINGS

Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith. Information is accurate according to material given us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last-minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.

As You Like It

UCSD Theatre presents Shakespeare's comedy about banished nobility trying to live "like Robin Hood" in the Forest of Arden. POTIKER THEATRE AT UCSD, 9500 GILMAN DRIVE, LA JOLLA. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 6.

Boomers

Lamb's Players Theatre reprises one of its most popular shows. In this salute to the Baby Boom generation, when a guy sings a snippet from "Big Girls Don't Cry" a woman counters with "It's My Party and I'll Cry If I Want To," as if Lesley Gore wrote the song in response to the Four Seasons. Now in its fourth — fifth? — version, *Boomers* has grown a great deal since it premiered in 1993. It's added social dimensions (the original was mostly about middle-class whites), more period details, and a much better understanding of one's later years (gained from experience: authors Kerry Meads and Vanda Eggington are now 15 years older). Ostensibly the piece is a lecture about the generation from 1946 to 1964. A deliberately, sometimes annoyingly, crotchety Jim Chovik recalls major events and provides statistics, from JFK to Kent State (but leaves out Jackson State!), from hippies to yuppies, marriage to divorce, and beyond. Themes from TV commercials and shows zip past, medleys of parts of songs cluster around a theme (Vietnam, relationships), and the



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evening unfolds like a game of "name that tune" in fast-forward. Boomers in the audience gulp "oh's" of recognition when a musical fragment triggers memories. One could wish that, at least once or twice, the company would do a whole song (let Anise Ritchie's Aretha-strong voice do all of "Respect" or Keith Jefferson all of "I Heard It Through the Grapevine"). One could also wish that the characters weren't so one-note (Bill Doyle's hippie must express the same Owsley-marinated perplexity at least ten times). But the performances overall are quite good, as are Meads's direction and the four-piece backup band. You won't learn why the pump don't work or how good brown sugar can taste, but if you're of a certain era, *Boomers* will time-machine you back in a lively manner. 619-437-0600.

Worth a try.

HORTON GRAND THEATRE, 444 FOURTH AVENUE, DOWNTOWN. 619-234-9583. THURSDAYS, 7:30 P.M. FRIDAYS, 4 AND 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 4 AND 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. THROUGH NOVEMBER 30.

A Christmas Carol

Cygnnet Theatre opens its newly renovated Old Town Theatre with

the popular Dickens tale of a meanie's magical transformation. Sean Murray, who wrote the script, co-directed with Esther Emery. CYGNET THEATRE — OLD TOWN, 4040 TWIGGS STREET, OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 2 AND 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 AND 7 P.M. TUESDAYS, 7:30 P.M. WEDNESDAYS, 7:30 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 28.

The Color Purple

Broadway*San Diego hosts the first North American touring production of the Broadway "musical about love," based on the Alice Walker novel. Gary Griffin directed.

SAN DIEGO CIVIC THEATRE, 1100 THIRD AVENUE, DOWNTOWN. 858-570-1100. TUESDAY, 7 P.M. WEDNESDAY, 7 P.M.

Driving Miss Daisy

Hoke's a patient man. Good thing, because he's Daisy Werthan's private chauffeur, and she must rank among the world's worst backseat drivers. Control issues? She counts the number of canned salmon, in an arrow-straight row, in her pantry! Like Felix Unger and Oscar Madison, Hoke and Daisy are opposites. Hoke's an African-American, Daisy's a Jewish Southern matron. In the space of 75 minutes, Alfred Uhry's gentle drama moves from 1948 to 1973. As it follows the Civil Rights movement (in the rearview mirror, so to speak), the play bonds its odd couple. Unlike Uhry's comparatively boisterous *Last Night at Ballyhoo*, currently in



The Color Purple

a fine production at Scripps Ranch, *Daisy's* a quiet piece in which silences can be as eloquent as the dialogue. One of the strengths of the Moonlight Stage production, director Dana Case smartly restrains the tone: no melodrama or boffo moments. To-

ward the end, in fact, when Hoke and Daisy are in their 90s, the soft-sell, trust-the-material approach becomes eerie: it's the exact opposite of TV sitcoms. Cast Antonio T.J. Johnson as Hoke and Sandra Ellis-Troy as Daisy and you're already miles toward your destina-

tion. Both deliver detailed, moving performances (their eyes slowly withdraw with age, their backs bend, their voices scratch), and their tandem efforts, the ingrained habits they share, are impressive. Howard Bickle makes a welcome return to the stage as Daisy's con-

siderate, put-upon son Boolie, trapped between family needs and the demands of business. Marty Burnett's handsome set includes plush Oldsmobile seats and a Roman colonnade-interior. Roselyn Lehman's costumes span 25 years. *Daisy's* structured like a sketch comedy: brief scenes and black-outs. Stephen Sakowski's lighting knows when to darken and when to slow fade.

Worth a try.

AVO PLAYHOUSE, 303 MAIN STREET, VISTA. 760-724-2110. THURSDAYS, 7:30 P.M. FRIDAYS, 7:30 P.M. SATURDAYS, 2 AND 7:30 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. THROUGH NOVEMBER 30.

Helen

The Theatre, Inc., remounts its production of Euripides' drama about Helen of Troy (translated by Marianne McDonald and J. Michael Walton).

THEATRE, INC., 899 C STREET, DOWNTOWN. 619-216-3016. SUNDAYS, 7 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 14.

Hotel Cassiopeia

San Diego State University School of Theatre presents a memory play inspired by Joseph Cornell's life and art, an "articulation of the moments that make a life worth living." Note: no performances during Thanksgiving week.

DON POWELL THEATRE, 5500 CAMPANILE DRIVE, SDSU. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 7.

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The Green Meanie’s heart’s at least two sizes too small. And he wants to shrink Whoville’s glad tidings down as well: steal their presents, their feast-food, and, most of all, stop them from making that infernal yuletide cheer. In a — for him — nightmare vision of same, pear-shaped Who kids whirl around him like a Maypole, singing, tooting kazoos, and he shouts at the audience, “I want to stop it, and you wonder *why?*” Will the Grinch have a change of heart (or, as t’were, an expansion?). Can Cindy-Lou Who melt him, and us, in only 85 minutes? Bet on it (especially when Issadora Tulalian beams her natural charm). The Old Globe’s 11th annual Christmas show has polish and spirit in abundance. John Lee Beaty’s flats wheel on and off like kaleidoscopic snowdrifts; *Grinch* veterans, led by Melinda Gilb, Steve Gunderson, and Eileen Bowman provide valuable support as always, and John DeLuca and Bob Richard’s choreography energizes the house. Martin Van Treuren’s Old Max narrates the story with a kind of gentle wisdom. And Kevin Bailey’s Grinch amazes. His voice climbs up and down (way down, like basso *profundo* down) octaves with astonishing ease. And, if the three children sitting in front of me are an indication, Bailey’s just scary enough. By the time he changes, they were hoping he would.

Worth a try.

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. THURSDAYS, 7 P.M. FRIDAYS, 7 P.M. SATURDAYS, 2:30 AND 7 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2:30 AND 7 P.M. TUESDAYS, 7 P.M. WEDNESDAYS, 7 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 28.

It's a Wonderful Life

Cygnnet Theatre presents its holiday show, a “live radio play,” based on the Frank Capra film and adapted for the stage by Joe Landry, in which George Bailey undergoes an identity crisis. Marybeth Bielawski-DeLeo directed. CYGNNET THEATRE — ROLANDO, 6663 EL CAJON BOULEVARD, SUITE N, COLLEGE AREA. 619-337-1525. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 AND 7 P.M. TUESDAYS, 7:30 P.M. WEDNESDAYS, 7:30 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 28.

Lamb's Festival of Christmas: Angel's Arms

Lamb’s Players stages one of its more popular Christmas shows. It’s 1860, and novelist Jeffrey Scott has writer’s block. A picturesque, deserted inn, the Angel’s Arms, may revive his inspiration. LAMB’S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 ORANGE AVENUE, CORONADO. 619-437-0600. TUESDAYS, 7:30 P.M. WEDNESDAYS, 7:30 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 28.

The Last Night of Ballyhoo

Atlanta, December 1939. *Gone With the Wind* is opening downtown and Christmas draws nigh, which means, for the city’s Jewish community, Ballyhoo will soon be here: hayrides, parties, and a dance on the last night designed for eligible women and men not only to “embrace your heritage” but seek prospective mates. Alfred Uhry’s comedy-drama takes place in an interim between the Great Depression and World War II, but in the Freitag family there’s always drama aplenty. This is a world where a torn dress is a catastrophe, a corsage a shining star. It’s also a world where anti-Semitism exists without and within the Jewish community. The script pays tribute (i.e., owes a debt) to Tennessee

Williams’s *Glass Menagerie*. But instead of sad, imploding Laura, Uhry gives us Lala Levy, who wears her emotions on her sleeve, skirt, and, when she faints to the floor, bloomers. For Scripps Ranch Theatre, DeNae Steele gives Lala an emotional hair-trigger. Her eyes respond to every word, converting each into sky-high joy or doom-shrouded fear. Roller coasters ride more smoothly. Steele’s would be a standout performance if the Tim Irving-directed production were of lesser quality. But Irving has assembled a fine cast of savvy veterans (Jill Drexler, Dana Hooley, Danny Campbell) and new faces (Jude Evans, Morgan Trant, and Alex Chernow, each a young actor to watch) and gives the piece a tight ensemble feel, including repartee between the lines and familial subtexts suggesting years of strain just below the surface. They perform on Tim Wallace’s detailed set and black walnut furnishings and wearing Mary Larson’s 1939 apparel. Another well-done show at Scripps Ranch, which has become the norm of late.

Worth a try.

SCRIPPS RANCH THEATRE, 10455 POMERADO ROAD, SCRIPPS RANCH. 858-578-7728. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 6.

National Comedy Theatre

Improvisational comedy, making up funny stuff on the spot, is difficult enough. Years ago, however, Keith Johnstone thought it’d be more exciting if done competitively. He got the idea from pro wrestling (“where Terrible Turks mangled defrocked priests while grannies waved their handbags”). National Comedy Theatre, an offshoot of Johnstone’s TheatreSports (artistic director Gary Kramer says the two compare like “rugby and American football”), resembles an athletic event more than an improv. Teams wear uniforms and compete on ActroTurf. Using suggestions from the audience, they play “Emotional Sympathy,” “Blind Line,” and “Freeze Tag,” with judges awarding points to the best scenes. Klunkers and groaners get booed; quick wit rewarded (one of the most refreshing parts of the contest: people acknowledge failure, abundantly, then forget it). It makes for a lively, often funny evening. And Gary Kramer is one talented comedian.

Worth a try.

MARQUIS THEATER, 3717 INDIA STREET, MISSION HILLS. 619-295-4999. FRIDAYS, 7:30 AND 9:45 P.M. SATURDAYS, 7:30 AND 9:45 P.M. OPEN-ENDED RUN.

1984

OnStage Playhouse presents a stage adaptation of George Orwell’s novel about life and “freedom” in a totalitarian state. Bob Christiansen directed. ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE, 291 THIRD AVENUE, CHULA VISTA. 619-422-7787. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. THROUGH NOVEMBER 29.

Plaid Tidings

For its Christmas show, Welk Resorts Theatre presents a yuletide sequel to the popular musical *Forever Plaid*, in which the Plaids come back to earth “to stage a nostalgic holiday extravaganza for world-weary mortals.” CYGNET THEATRE COMPANY, 6663 EL CAJON BLVD., STE. N, COLLEGE AREA (619) 337-1525 www.cygnnettheatre.com

WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DRIVE, ESCONDIDO. 888-802-7469. THURSDAYS, 1:45, 7:30, AND 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 7:30 P.M. SATURDAYS, 1:45, 2 P.M., 7:30, AND 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. TUESDAYS, 1:45 AND 8 P.M. WEDNESDAYS, 1:45 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 28.



Xanadu

Reckless

Patio Playhouse stages Craig Lucas’s “offbeat holiday fable” about a husband who takes out a contract on his wife, then changes his mind. Patrick McBride directed.

PATIO PLAYHOUSE, 201 EAST GRAND AVENUE, ESCONDIDO. 760-746-6669. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 7.

Scrooge in Rouge

Diversionary Theatre presents a “quick-change, cross-dressing” version of the Dickens classic. Rayme Sciaroni directed. DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK

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U.S. Drag

Ion Theatre stages Gina Gionfriddo and Susan Smith Blackburn’s “save-age new comedy” about two young women in Manhattan. They seek “love and happiness, but they’ll settle for rent money.” Claudio Raygoza directed. ION THEATRE COMPANY, 4580-B ALVARADO CANYON ROAD, GRANTVILLE. 619-374-6894. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 7 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 21.

Xanadu

The La Jolla Playhouse stages the “tongue-in-cheek roller-skating extravaganza” in which a Greek goddess comes to life, in 1980, and inspires a struggling artist to pursue his dream: a roller disco. Christopher Ashley directed. LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, 2910 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DRIVE, UCSD. 858-550-1010. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 2 AND 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 AND 7 P.M. TUESDAYS, 7:30 P.M. WEDNESDAYS, 7:30 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 21.

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San Diego State University
Don Powell Theatre
and Experimental Theater
(619) 594-6884 http://theatre.sdsu.edu/

San Diego Theatresports
1531 Tyler Ave., Hillcrest
(619) 465-7469 www.improvise.net

Scripps Ranch Theatre
10455 Pomerado Rd., Scripps Ranch
(858) 578-7728
www.scrippsranchtheatre.org

San Diego Black Ensemble Theatre
(619) 280-5650

Sledgehammer Theatre
(619) 544-1484 www.sledgehammer.org

Southwestern College
900 Otay Lakes Rd., Chula Vista
(619) 482-6367 www.swc.cca.us

The Spreckels Theatre
121 Broadway, Downtown
(619) 235-9500

Star Theatre
402 North Coast Highway, Oceanside
(760) 721-9983 www.startheater.org

Starlight Musical Theatre
Starlight Bowl, Balboa Park
(619) 544-7827
www.starlighttheatre.org

Sullivan Players
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Teatro Máscara Mágica
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www.sandiegoreps.com

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Tonic Productions
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University Of California San Diego
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www-theatre.ucsd.edu

University Of San Diego
5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego
(619) 260-7934 www.sandiego.edu

Vantage Theatre
(619) 262-6162
http://home.san.rr.com/vantagetheatre

Welk Resort Theatre
8860 Lawrence Welk Dr., Escondido
(888) 802-7469
www.welkresort.com/sandiego

The Wild Parrot Players Community Theatre
Point Loma United Methodist Church
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Dump that dull telemarketing torture grind or low-paying 9-to-5 job and step into the fresh air. Our top Canvasser is content splurging on his \$1500 weekly paychecks, but he knows the sky is the limit.

We are an exciting, environmentally friendly, going-green professional company with nearly 25 years in the business. We need devoted, energetic people, but positions are filling up fast. Don't pass up this opportunity. Call today to schedule an interview at: (858) 866-0183

Pacific Home Remodeling
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San Diego, CA 92121

Visit our website at:
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A Professional Home Improvement Group



THE SANTALUZ CLUB

The Santaluz Club, an exclusive country club located in the Fairbanks Ranch area, has openings for the following positions:

CATERING SALESPERSON

Full-time, 30-40 hours/week. \$20/hour plus service charges.
Prior experience preferred. Must be available some weekends and nights.

RECREATION MANAGER

Full-time. Salary based on experience. Prior experience preferred. Must be available weekends.

FITNESS ATTENDANTS

Full-time. Hours are 6 am-2 pm and 2-10 pm. Prior experience preferred.

Please apply at: santaluzjobs@email.com

For more information, call Sue: (858) 759-3126

The Santaluz Club offers top compensation and benefits with excellent growth potential in a pleasant drug-free workplace. All full-time employees receive company-paid medical/dental/vision after 90 days of employment.

IN-HOME CARE. Caregivers and Companions. Minimum 1 year experience non-medical home care for seniors. Valid California Driver's License. Serving Santee/La Mesa/Del Cerro/San Carlos. Maureen, Visiting Angels, 619-749-7525.

Swimming Instructors

Instructors needed for San Diego and North County. \$11-\$19/hour, North County: 760-744-7946 or San Diego: 858-273-7946.

JOB COACHES. Community-oriented Center for Independent Achievement is seeking dependable individuals in East County. 1:4 group ratio maximum. \$8.50-\$9.50/hour. Annual raises. Bonuses for exceptional performance. Benefits with full-time. pficareer@yahoo.com. Fax 619-440-6864. 619-440-6802.

JOB WANTED. Seeking evening job to do at home, after my tots are tucked in for the night. Bachelor's degree in Sociology, excellent computer skills, very trainable/ hard working. Please contact cyberlicious@msn.com. No multi-level marketing.

JOBS WANTED: Nanny, estate management, housemanager nanny. Can relocate or travel. Available for 24-hour care

and companion work. Certified. \$18-\$30/ hour. 760-486-7829.

LEASING AGENT for North County luxury apartments. Sales experience a plus. Will train. Fax resume to 888-369-9229 or e-mail wmaplicants@aol.com.

LIGHT INDUSTRIAL. Volt Services Group has immediate Temporary, Temporary-to-Direct Hire and Direct Placement opportunities. Competitive wages, paid weekly, paid holidays and vacation. Medical and dental insurance plans, state of the art training, career management and more. www.jobs.volt.com. Call Volt Services Group for more information. EOE. San Diego: 858-576-3140; e-mail: clairemont@volt.com. Carlsbad: 760-729-8916; email carlsbad@volt.com. El Cajon: 619-401-1524; email elcajon@volt.com. San Marcos: 760-471-0800; email sanmarcos@volt.com. Scripps Ranch: 858-578-0920; email scrippsrancho@volt.com.

LOAN OFFICER/SALES. No real estate license required! Training is provided! Leave message 24 hours for return call

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LUCRATIVE! Earn \$1,000 to \$24,000+ per month!

SUCCESSFUL! If you give a solid 2-4 hours a day.

PROVEN! If you are coachable, you will be successful.

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LVNS NEEDED to care for medically fragile child in Santee. Must have minimum 1 year experience. Call Mom: 619-339-6664 or 619-749-2227.

MAIL SORTERS. CNC Machine Operator, CNC Programmer, Shop Supervisor and Project Engineer. Optimal Employment Service is accepting resumes for these positions. Please e-mail resume to nancy@optimalemploymentservice.com or fax resumes to 858-277-5621.

MAINTENANCE/HVAC. UTC, North and East County luxury apartments. Must be experienced and have certification. Background/drug test required. Benefits. Fax resume to 888-369-9229 or e-mail wmaplicants@aol.com. Call 888-252-7976.

MANICURIST needed for busy Coronado salon. Minimum 2 years' experience. Full time, commission. Growth potential. Call Domani Salon of Beauty and Wellness. 619-813-5337.

MANICURIST. Benefits! Move-in incentives! Upscale Hillcrest salon seeking Manicurist with own clientele. Make money selling own retail. Reasonable rent. Ample parking. Antoine, Salon Antoine, 619-277-7747; 619-291-7747.

MANICURIST/HAIRSTYLIST. Full or part time. Recession-proof your business. Lower your expenses today with inexpensive booth rental rates. Please call, leave message at 858-382-8795.

MANICURISTS. Beautiful Italian spa in El Cajon (Blossom Valley) is seeking Manicurists with clientele to join our professional team. Booth rent. Move-in special: 1 month free! Call 619-993-0867.

MANUFACTURING POSITIONS! Experience needed. Electronic Assembler: Component ID, color codes, polarity, soldering. Tech Technicians: Analog/digital theory, formulas, troubleshoot to component level. Contact HireFactor at 619-325-1305.



MARKET RESEARCH Telephone Interviewers. No selling. Friendly, outgoing. San Diego's fastest-growing market research company. Bilingual Spanish a plus. Hourly, bonuses, medical. Advancement opportunities. www.luthresearch.com. Apply: Luth Research, 1365 Fourth Avenue, Downtown. Job Hotline: 619-243-8045.

MARKETING. 20-hour work week. Generate \$250K in first year working from home. Don't believe it, don't call! Business/marketing opportunity. 800-631-9439. www.swanlifestylecoop.com.

MASSAGE THERAPIST for Chiropractic office. Licensed. Part time; some Saturday mornings. Therapeutic massage experience helpful. Come join the fun! 858-483-4770 or e-mail: service@drlabbe.com.

MEDICAL CODER. \$15-\$18/hour. Certification desired or 1+ year experience. Strong CPT, ICD-9 codes, written/communication. Contact Tristaff Group. Fax resume: 858-453-9632, or e-mail: staffing@tristaff.com.

MOVIE EXTRAS NEEDED! All looks and ages wanted for films. No experience needed. Earn from \$150-\$250 per day. Call now! 1-888-268-5460 x307, www.amxcasting.com.

Get Paid To Shop!

Mystery Shoppers. Earn up to \$200/day. Experience not required. Call now: 800-486-7204.

PERSONAL TRAINERS. Male and female Trainers. Corporate and residential facilities. All client types. Locations all over San Diego. Minimum Personal Trainer Certification and 2 years in club experience required. E-mail: FitX@fitxsandiego.com. Please fax resume to 858-715-8681. Call 858-715-8611.

PHONE SALES. Business-to-business. \$12/hour to start. 7am-2:30pm. Come meet our long-time employees who turned their part-time positions into careers and now earn over \$1000/week...every week! Close to bus and trolley. Call Rick, 866-580-7367.



Plumbers & Drain Cleaners

Plumbers/Drain Cleaners needed with minimum 5 years experience in the service and repair industry. Rescue Rooter offers excellent pay, vans, tools, uniforms, year-round work and outstanding benefits: Medical/dental, 401(k), paid vacations/overtime, drug-free workplace. To apply, e-mail: lmyking@ars.com or call: 858-457-6506. License #765155, AA/EOE.

PLUMBING SERVICE TECHS. ARS of San Diego is seeking Plumbers with minimum 2 years experience. If you like the idea of working for a national leader in the service industry, with benefits that rival the the industry standard, and have the motivation and desire to earn an income that would make many college graduates envious, fax your resume to 858-677-5479; or apply in person: 9895 Olson Drive, Suite A, San Diego (92121). Drug-free work environment. License #791820.

POLICE OFFICERS. San Diego Police Department is hiring! Are you ready for a career change? See our upcoming test dates on our website. Police Recruit base

pay starts at \$52,000 per year. Police Officer II base pay starts at \$83,657 per year. For more information, call 619-531-COPS or visit our website at: www.joinspdnow.com.

PROBATION CAREERS. Correctional Deputy Probation Officer I. County of San Diego Probation Department now hiring. Test Date: December 6, 2008. 8am. Montgomery Middle School, 2470 Ulric Street, San Diego 92111. Must be at least 21 years old, good physical condition, no illicit drug usage. U.S. citizen or becoming a citizen. Pass criminal/personal background investigation. No felony convictions. High school diploma/GED. \$36,275-\$46,300/year. Note Application Process: Prior to taking the written examination, applicants must complete and submit the online application form and provide correct and complete responses to the Supplemental Questions. Applicants will be invited to the written exam by written notice that will either be sent by e-mail or U.S. Mail per applicant's request. You must be sure to complete the online application before you appear for the written examination! Jobline: 858-514-8558. www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation.

Agents Wanted!

Real Estate Agents! Now's the time to get your Real Estate License. 2.5 week fast-track program with 1-on-1 coaching/free video cram. \$100K+ potential. Prudential Dunn. Susan: 858-245-7880/800-319-1031.

Ad Spec Reloaders

Reloaders. Account base. Signing bonus. We're serious about this business; if you are, please call today! 800-717-8002, ask for Rick.

RESEARCH STUDY VOLUNTEERS. Overweight Volunteers needed for VA Endocrine Study. Must be male, age 40-65, non-smoker, have no history of psychiatric illness and not taking any psychiatric medications. May be pre-Diabetic or borderline Diabetic, but not Diabetic or taking Diabetes medications. Participants will have two Outpatient visits and one overnight stay. Total compensation \$500. If interested, contact Tanya Baker at 858-552-8585 x2875. tanyab@ucsd.edu.

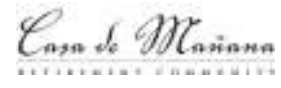
RESEARCH STUDY VOLUNTEERS. UCSD. Research participants are needed for a study of families with Schizophrenia. Has one of your family members been diagnosed with Schizophrenia? UCSD medical researchers are conducting a clinical research study to evaluate whether an investigational medication alters patterns of brain activity in Relatives of individuals with Schizophrenia. The study drug is taken once, compared to the effects of a placebo. Participants must be at least 18 years of age, have a brother, sister, parent or child with Schizophrenia who is available to be interviewed. Certain medical conditions or medications may make you ineligible for this study. Medical and psychological evalu-

ations will be conducted at no cost. Eligible Relatives will receive compensation up to \$1300 for their time. Family members with Schizophrenia also will be compensated for their interview time. For more information, please call UCSD Department of Psychiatry, 619-543-2096.

Endometriosis Study.

Research Study: Endometriosis, 18-49, having pain, not on treatment, laparoscopy in last 7 years. Questionnaire study only (no medication). Four 20-minute visits, receive \$250. Kim at the Medical Center for Clinical Research, 619-521-2841.

RESERVATION AGENTS. No sales! Experience a plus. Hourly plus bonuses! Top Agents earn \$1000+/weekly. Fun atmosphere. Near Grantville trolley station. Call today for more information: 619-516-4276. rcorrea@pmonarch.com. www.monarchjobs.com.



RESORT/RETIREMENT COMMUNITY: Casa De Manana, an upscale retirement community in La Jolla offering independent and assisted living for seniors, is seeking an LVN (part time, nocturnal), Line Cook (full time), Dishwasher (full time), and Server (part time, morning). We offer competitive wages, benefits, and a friendly work environment. Apply in person at 849 Coast Boulevard, La Jolla, CA 92037. Fax resume to 858-456-4293, e-mail kmoore@frontporch.net or call 858-362-5727. EOE.

RESPITE CARE for children and teens with developmental disabilities. Critical need, Countywide! Great pay! New-hire bonus! Nonmedical, in-home help. Caring heart more important than experience. Training. 12-and-24-hour shifts. Flexible schedules, benefits, retirement, childcare. Visit homecarejobs@atyourhomefamilycare.com. At Your Home Familycare. Call toll free: 1-877-903-JOBS.

RESTAURANT: SUSHI CHEF. Experience required. Popular Japanese sushi restaurant in Gaslamp. Apply in person 3pm-5pm, Tuesday-Saturday: Taka Restaurant, 555 5th, 92101. 619-338-0555.

SALES and Call Center Reps. Optimal Employment Service is accepting resumes for these positions. Please e-mail resume to nancy@optimalemploymentservice.com or fax resumes to 858-277-5621.

SALES REP. Inside Sales. Make \$100k a year plus! 401K. Medical and Dental. Paid vacations and holidays. Paid training. Great work environment. Convenient location. If you are disciplined, coachable and looking to join a great team with an easy to sell product that's high integrity. Call us today! Media All-Stars, 8525 Gibbs Drive, 92123. Ask for Leah, 619-225-0249. www.MediaAllStars.com.

Telemarketing Pay in 3 Days

Sales. Ad specs. Monday-Friday. Get paid while you train to earn \$500-\$1000/weekly. No experience necessary. Sign-on bonus for experienced Reloaders, 19% commission. 619-220-7025.

SALES. Call today—start tomorrow. A great telemarketing company has immediate positions available for nationwide business-to-business promotional advertising sales. Paid training. Clairemont. Monday-Friday, 8am-2:30pm. 858-272-7177.

SALES. eLiveLife.com Inside/Outside Sales: full/part-time, business-to-business, sell salon & spa certificates. eLiveLife.com Account Executive: new business development. American Satellite DirecTV Phone Center, \$300-\$500/day, 1660 Hotel Circle North Suite 101, Mission Valley, 92108. Call 619-398-5050 or e-mail resume to info@eLiveLife.com or fax to 1-866-655-9004.

Seeking Sales Pros

Sales. Executive-level income. No travel required. 800-645-1296.



SALES. Our client representing Verizon Wireless, Verizon Business, Time Warner Cable and other fortune 500 companies seeks top notch Sales Representatives. Requires: One year sales experience selling specifically wireless telephone/services, computer literacy, call center experience, excellent verbal skills, ability to close sales on the telephone, exceptional customer service skills, experience working with sales quotas. If you have the skills required above, please submit resume to noemi.vidana@expresspros.com for immediate consideration or call 858-784-3676. \$9-\$10/hour plus bonuses. Temp-to-hire.

Travel USA

Sales. Publication sales company hiring 18 sharp, enthusiastic individuals to travel the U.S. Travel, training, lodging, and transportation provided. Visit: www.ismags.com. 1-800-781-1344.

SALES. Supplement your income! Excellent income potential in today's changing economy! \$10 starts you in a new career. Full- or part-time. Build your business working with top-selling Avon representatives. Perfect for self-starters. Kathleen: 619-429-1253; 888-429-1253.

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- **\$28,000 in days, not weeks, simply returning phone calls.**
- **No selling. No explaining. No convincing...**
- **Private gifting, allowed by IRS tax codes.**

1-888-593-8287

*"My first 72 hours brought me \$11,000,
and I just started!"*
— *LeAnn, Housewife, CA*

*"I received \$34,000 cash to my front door
in my first 3 weeks!"*
— *Joe, Banker, CA*

SALES/PHONE. Ad Spec Reloaders. Best products, lowest pars! True factory direct company has great opportunity for the right Reloader Closer. Account base. Signing bonus. Serious only, please call: 800-717-8002, ask for Brock.

SALES: \$2500/WEEK. AT&T Authorized Representatives work hard 6 days/week and make great money. Leads provided, weekly pay, benefits (90 days). Commission only. 619-299-9079.

Closers Wanted!

Sales: Inbound/outbound call center. Full-time/part-time opportunities. Call 619-516-7881 or apply in person 12-3pm Monday-Thursday: 2851 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 300, San Diego 92108.

SALON BOOTH RENTALS. Looking for busy professionals. \$170/week. 5 locations: Encinitas, Carmel Mountain, Mission Valley, Eastlake. Nail room: Mission Valley. Ultra Hair & Beauty, 760-809-7904.

SALON. Benefits! Hairstylists and Manicurists. Upscale European-style Uptown salon hiring experienced Stylists with own clientele. Reasonable rent. Can retail own products. Ample parking. Good, natural lighting! Antoine, Salon Antoine, 619-277-7747 or 619-291-7747.

SALON. Move-in incentives! Insurance, commission on products, back bar. Parking. Remodeled Kensington salon seeks Hairstylist, Manicurist, Aesthetician/Massage Therapist and Receptionist/Assistant (Cosmetology license) to join our team. Full or part time. Booth rental or commission with some clientele. Call Marissa, 619-666-7707 or e-mail gr8stylist@gmail.com.

SECURITY GUARD. Free Guard Card training class. Call 619-757-8043.

SECURITY GUARDS! Immediate openings for Security Guards for prestigious Downtown San Diego sites. Securitas offers: Must be customer-service oriented, computer literate, and have excellent communication skills. All Shifts available! Free Guard Card training, medical/dental/vision and 401(k). Excellent working environment, free uniforms. For fastest response, apply online now! www.securitasjobs.com, or call San Diego: 619-641-0049; San Marcos (North County): 760-591-3733; Temecula: 951-676-3954. EOE/M/F/V/D, drug free. PPO #14827.

SECURITY GUARDS. Full-time positions available in North and South County. Armed and unarmed. Call Cornerstone Security at 619-300-5726 or 619-271-0494.

SECURITY GUARDS. Shield Security has immediate openings, full and part time. Higher paid Rover positions are available. Assistance in guard card. Career advancement opportunities. Profit sharing. Employee-paid medical and dental. If you have no criminal convictions, and have a high school diploma or GED, a good work history, phone and transportation, apply in person: 2144 El Cajon Boulevard, San Diego, Equal Opportunity Employer. Call 619-497-6333.

SECURITY INSTRUCTOR. Seeking professional with all security permits to teach classes, 6 hours/day Monday-Thursday days, Chula Vista. No teaching experience required. Competitive wage commensurate with experience. Call 619-420-0437. www.CoastCareer1.com.



SECURITY OFFICERS. Allied Barton Security Services. Full/part time, variety of shifts available. Up to \$12/hour, medical/dental/vision, 401(k) with company match, holiday pay, paid vacation, free uniforms, Guard Card class offered, uniform cleaning allowance, free life insurance/full term. Must be at least 18 years of age and have a high school diploma/GED. Apply online: www.AlliedBarton.com or www.GreatSecurityJobs.com. Or apply in person 8am-4pm, Monday-Friday: 9370 Sky Park Court, Suite 150, San Diego, 92123. Call: 858-874-8200.



SECURITY PROFESSIONALS. Secure a new career in the growing field of Security and Asset Protection. GMI provides all training, Guard Card testing, Live Scan for GMI potential hires. Full/part time countywide. Excellent compensation and benefits: 401(k), Health/Wellness. Professional certification. Eligibility conditional. Apply: 8001 Vickers Street, San Diego (92111); call: 858-244-1870; e-mail: RVentura@GMIweb.com.

SECURITY. Bald Eagle Security hiring licensed Security Officers. Full/part time. Downtown San Diego locations only. No car or cell phone required. Guard Card required. Must be able to work flexible hours, mostly swing and graveyard plus every weekend. Background check. EEO/Drug free. Health benefits available. Call 619-230-0022, e-mail jacinm@baldeaglesecurity.com, or apply in person at 2015 Main Street, San Diego, CA 92113.

Special Response Officers

Security. Full/part time. High starting pay. Excellent benefits. Requires CA guard card. Training available. Drug/background. EOE, M/F/D/V. Apply: Weekdays, 9am-4pm, ABM Security Services, 1620 Fifth Avenue, Suite 875, San Diego. Email: eric.wallis@abm.com. 619-338-9360.

\$12/hr. to start

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Come meet our long-time employees who turned their part-time positions into careers and now earn over \$1000/week ... EVERY WEEK!

Fun atmosphere! Earn while you learn!

Call today!

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Ask for Rick.

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Careers in Probation

Correctional Deputy Probation Officer I

Minimum Qualifications

- 21 years old • Good physical condition • No illicit drug usage
 - U.S. citizen or in process of becoming a citizen
- No felony convictions • High school diploma or GED

Salary:

New: \$36,275-\$46,300 annually
Safety Retirement-Sworn Officers 3% at age 50.
Bilingual men/women encouraged to apply.

Test date:

December 6, 2008 • 8 am

Montgomery Middle School
2470 Ulric Street • San Diego, CA 92111

Note Application Process:

Prior to taking the written examination, applicants must complete the following: Complete and submit the online application form and provide correct and complete responses to the Supplemental Questions. Applicants will be invited to the written exam by written notice that will be sent either by e-mail or U.S. mail per applicant's request. You must be sure to complete the online application before you appear for the written examination.

For additional information, contact the department's

Jobline: 858-514-8558

www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation

Call Center Closers Wanted

Full-time/Part-time Opportunities



Call: 619-516-7881

Or apply in person 12-3 pm Monday-Thursday:

2851 Camino del Rio South, Suite 300

San Diego, CA 92108

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PLUMBING & DRAIN CLEANING SPECIALISTS

Service Techs/ Plumbers

Service Techs/Plumbers needed with minimum 5 years experience in the service and repair industry. Rescue Rooter offers excellent pay, vans, tools, uniforms, year-round work and outstanding benefits: Medical/dental, 401(k), paid vacations/overtime, drug-free workplace. To apply, e-mail: lmyking@ars.com, or call: 858-457-6506. License #765155, AA/EOE.

SOCIAL SERVICES. Instructors needed for day training program in Lakeside for adults with developmental disabilities. Excellent benefits, no nights/weekends, start \$10.25-\$10.75/hour. Entry-level also available, \$9.00/hour. Unyeway, Inc.: 619-562-6330.

SOCIAL SERVICES. Promising Futures, Inc., is hiring reliable, caring individuals to work with the developmentally disabled in East County and Ramona. Part-and full-time positions. \$8-\$10/hour plus benefits. Overtime opportunities available. pficareer@yahoo.com. Fax resume: 619-440-6864. Call 619-440-6802.

TELE-FUNDRAISING. Raising money for local nonprofit organizations for less fortunate children. Monday-Friday, 5pm-9pm and Saturday mornings, 9am-1pm. Hourly plus commission plus bonuses. Call today. Start tonight! Mission Valley. 619-291-2113.

TELEMARKETING. Full-time, paid training. \$60K+/year possible. Guaranteed \$8/hour starting. Performance/attendance bonuses, cash contests, paid vacation for full-time. Only call businesses. Basic computer skills required. Ask for Shane at Sports Boosters: 858-244-0190.

TELEMARKETING. Fundraising for Democratic Party and national charities. Over 20 years in business. \$9/hour. Paid training. Performance bonuses. Medical, dental, 401(k). Full time or part time. Convenient location. Apply at Gordon & Schwenkmeier: 9620 Chesapeake Drive, San Diego 92123-1369. For appointment, call 858-496-2100.

TELEMARKETING. If you can close on the phone, give us a call! Pacific Graphics Advertising Specialties in La Mesa for 20 years. Hours: Monday-Friday, 8am-2:30pm. Call Joe: 619-461-0365.

TELEMARKETING. Phone personalities wanted for business-to-business phone sales. \$12/hour to start. 7am-2:30pm. Close to bus and trolley. Call Rick, 866-580-7367.

TELEPHONE INTERVIEWERS. Friendly, outgoing. No sales! Bilingual Spanish a

plus. Hourly plus bonuses. Paid training, parking, medical benefits. www.luthresearch.com. Apply: Luth Research, 1365 Fourth Avenue, downtown. Job Hotline: 619-243-8045.

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TELESERVICE REPS. Immediate openings on all shifts! Dial America is seeking Outbound (flexible hours) and Inbound (bilingual) Teleservice Reps for English, Korean or Spanish-speaking programs. Represent nationally recognized financial institutions and non-profits. www.dialamerica.com. 858-292-8822.

TEST TECHNICIANS. Experience needed. Analog/digital theory, formulas, troubleshooting to component level. Contact HireFactor at 619-325-1305.

TESTING TECHNICIAN GSM/GPRS/HS-DPA/CDMA. Requires ASEE and previous radio modem testing lab work experience. Complete description: sandiego.backpage.com under computer/technical jobs. Resume: career@nexusira.com.

UNEMPLOYED HOMELESS VETERANS. You may be eligible: job search/resume preparation, placement assistance, support services, job-related clothing/tools, housing referrals. VA benefits referrals. Appointment: 619-449-5513.



VALETS. Ace Parking is now hiring Valets for the Holiday Season! Let us drive your career! Must be able to work weekends and New Year's Eve. Cash tips available! Must have clean driving record, ability to drive manual (stick shift) vehicles, ability to work in fast-paced environment and one or more years of Customer Service experience. Hiring on the spot, Monday-Friday, 8am-3pm: 2550 Fifth Avenue, Suite 105, San Diego 92103. If you have questions, please call 619-231-9501.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.

POST OFFICE NOW HIRING! Average pay \$20/hour or \$57K/year, includes federal benefits and overtime. Placed by ad-Source, not affiliated with USPS who hires. 1-866-616-7019. (AAN CAN)

RESUME HELP. If you imagine knowing a company that would interview you, you can develop a better resume! I can help...reasonable rates. Jeffery, jefferyb1122@hotmail.com, 858-342-4802.

\$600 WEEKLY POTENTIAL. Helping the Government part time. No experience. No selling. Call 1-888-213-5225 Ad Code L-5. Void in Maryland and South Dakota. (AAN CAN)

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A ACADEMY OF BARTENDING. Make money! Fun! New friends! Learn behind real bar. 1-2 week course. Weekend classes available. Part-and full-time. Job placement assistance. Please call 619-296-0600.

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ACCOUNTING, COMPUTERS. Medical: Day, evening, and online classes start soon! Also offered: Medical Assisting, Respiratory Therapy, X-ray Technology (limited scope), Lab Technology, Pharmacy Technology, Healthcare Administration, Medical Coding/Billing, Nursing Administration, Medical Specialties, Medical Office Administration, Associate's/ Bachelor's degrees, Certifications and Licenses. Programs approved for Veterans. Accredited member ACCSCT. See Job Giant, page 5. Job placement assistance for graduates, financial aid (if qualified). Classes begin each month! Enroll today! California College San Diego, 2820 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego (92108). 1-888-202-2654. www.californiacollege.info



Insurance Course

Also consider low-cost job training courses for Anesthesia Technologist, Personal Trainer, Medical Office Assistant, Orthopedic Tech, Telemetry Tech, Adobe InDesign, Culinary Arts, Emergency Dispatch, Security Academy. Grossmont College. Visit: www.grossmont.edu/rop. 619-644-7550.



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Caryn Sholtz
Receptionist
EastLake

It was in a grocery store parking lot. The guy just asked me if I liked steak. He offered to take me to Black Angus. And, on the subject of restaurants as a pickup line, one guy handed me a note that said, "Red Lobster to start." I thought those were bad. One man asked me, "What are the chances of us leaving here together?"



J. Carroll
Writer
San Diego

Are there many good lines? When I was 15, this 30-year-old guy said, "If I told you you had a nice body, will you hold it against me?" I thought that was so clever and original at the time. Once I had one dude following me down the street. He finally got close enough and said, "I want to..." Well, I won't repeat what he said. It was filthy. I stopped in my tracks and said, "Are you talking to me?" I couldn't believe he would yell something like that out.



Lori Haimsohn
Freelance Writer
Point Loma

It's hard to remember bad lines you've heard or that my girlfriends have told me over the years. But the one I remember that a guy said to me was "Have you considered a career in pornography?" I just looked at him and laughed. That happened at the P.B. Bar and Grill but back when it was something else.



Mira Wood
Retired
Mira Mesa

I haven't heard any in a long time! The bad ones I remember people using were always old clichés. They would say, "Do you come here often?" They might ask what sign you were. I think it would work best to just walk up and say that it's crowded here and ask them if they'd like to go somewhere else. I had a guy knock a drink over. Actually, it was my friend that knocked it over. He handed me his handkerchief to wipe it up. And I ended up marrying him.



Michael Nieder
Doorman
Normal Heights

I've heard lots of bad ones that are corny. Things like "Are you tired? Because you've been running around my mind." There's that one "Are you hurt, from falling down from heaven?" I think those types of lines would only work if the person was really drunk. Or if the woman just thought it was so cheesy that it actually made her laugh.



Corey Patterson
Bartender
San Diego

I've never really used lines, but as a bartender I have heard a lot of them. I can't think of them all off the top of my head. To me, the best approach seems to be asking questions. That requires more than one- or two-word responses, and the other person engages, starts talking, and feels flattered. They might see you have some knowledge and wit. There's nothing more attractive than that.

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ABSOLUTELY WORLD CLASS massage! Exquisite and memorable! Enter your private oasis with soft hands, soothing scents and a sweet touch. Reward yourself! Lic-95001894. Call 858-259-6677.

MASSAGE SO WONDERFUL, it's guaranteed to be the best part of your day. Come explore the magic of my touch. Licensed Acupuncturist, #8648. Heidi, 619-280-7784.

HAPPY DAYS. Are you in need of a woman's touch? I am offering mind-blowing massages that will cater to your massage needs! blackbeautykiera@yahoo.com. 619-825-6431.

AFFORDABLE DEEP TISSUE MASSAGE. Specializing in migraine headaches, neck, shoulder, back, tightness/injury. Flexible hours. Centrally located. \$60.

Health and Vision Acupuncture & Massage Center. www.DeepTissueMassage.biz. 619-519-5335.

MASSAGE IN THE COMFORT of your own home or hotel room by European-trained massage therapists. Available 7 days/week. HHP-92009389. Call: 619-295-5594.

EXOTIC BEAUTIFUL MASSAGE. Feather light to deep tissue. In office/outcall. Last minute scheduling. Hotels welcome. 7 days. Relax and revive. MTP-6352. Call 760-419-0645.

ENTER INTO THE DIVINE! Divine healing touch-relaxing. Therapeutic. Swedish. Light, Acupressure, deep tissue. In office/out/hotel appointments. Credit cards, Paypal. Lic-15363. Milana, 858-245-7188.

MASSAGE/SLIMMING/ toning in Little Italy. Treat yourself to royal treatment at Relaxation Plus. 20% off all services. Gift certificates. Open daily. HHP-92009389. 619-295-5595.

FEELING A LITTLE ROUGH around the edges? It may be time for a massage. Call Vivi for your appointment. Lic-21708. 619-379-5992.

MASSAGE \$40 (first time clients only). Swedish, Pregnancy, Deep Tissue, Sports, NMT, Hot Stone, Thai Massage, Reiki, Couples. Mobile Massage—we'll come to you! Customized to you. Affordable rates. Memberships starting at \$20/month. Gift certificates available. Satisfaction guaranteed! BTC #07008572. Healing Hands Massage Center, 444 Camino Del Rio S. #100, San Diego, CA 92108. 619-574-0053. www.healinghands-sd.com.

MASSAGE THERAPY HILLCREST. Exceptional massage therapy: \$40 per 45-minute massage session special! Also couples massages great rates! Acupuncture/hypnotherapy also available. Lic-G028769. Jonathan/Amy, 619-300-7229.

Couples Massage

Beautifully decorated room with tables side by side. Relaxation Plus, Little Italy, 20% off all services. Gift certificates. 7 days/week. HHP-92009389. 619-295-5595.

FEEL THE DIFFERENCE! Quality massage, comfortable setting, convenient location. Escape and discover "your spa alternative." Lic-2003001485. Call 619-226-0378.

LATIN ANGELS MASSAGE. We specialize in pampering you. Couples welcome. Lunchtime specials available. 619-246-7784.

YVONNE'S MAGIC HANDS! Enjoy a nurturing light touch for deep relaxation. These are hands you will never forget. Lic-93004782. For appointment, call 619-260-1950.

PUERTO RICAN MASSEUR. Swedish and deep-tissue bodywork by certified fitness-trainer athlete. Military discounts. Lic-96009528. Daytime and evening appointments available. Revitalizing effect! puertoricanCMT@sbcglobal.net. 619-688-0668.

\$49/HOUR, \$75/1-1/2 HOUR. Massage and reflexology. Private rooms, table shower, easy parking. Visa/Mastercard. 620 South Melrose #100, Vista. 760-732-1091.

CHRIS BLISS TOUCH MASSAGE. Experience soothing, reassuring, exquisite care. Surround yourself in a beautiful, relaxing environment. Lic-HHP1991008706. 7 days, 10am-6pm. Credit cards welcome. 619-206-0992.

SOOTHING/HEALING ASIAN massage. Acupressure, deep tissue, relaxing Swedish, Thai stretching, foot reflexology, scalp massage. \$45-\$65 1/2-1 hour. Lic-2008014105. www.tranquilitysd.com. 3333 Midway, Point Loma. 619-226-2056.

A LASTING IMPRESSION. The moment you have waited for! Rose petal soft fingertips offering tender touch and a caring beautiful massage. Instant healings, just sensational! Last minute scheduling available. Incalls/outcalls. Hotels welcomed. Credit cards. MTP-6352. Mercedes, 760-726-1100.

BARE ESSENTIALS HEALING massage. Golden touch, blissful quiet moment of heavenly delight. In office/outcall. Credit cards accepted. Hotels welcome. MTP-6352. Jewel, 760-716-5635.

PROFESSIONAL MASSAGE. 1-1/2 hours, \$75. Absolutely first-rate, healing, deep-muscle Swedish massage. Excellent shoulder work. Legitimate, experienced, references. Lic-97005459. Jim, 619-459-6872.

WE CAN SURPASS even your greatest expectations. We know the way a quality massage is supposed to be. Call Far East Spa. Lic-98011375. 619-283-6122.

SPECIAL PRICE! \$10 off with free body scrub or body shampoo with 1 hour of massage. Lic-2006003419. Call today and ask for Izabela, 619-281-8851.

LUXURIOUS MASSAGE! \$75/HOUR plus body shampoo. \$95, 1-1/2 hour. Escape. Perfect European massage. Caring, skilled female therapist. Swedish, Shiatsu, Sport, Reflexology. Park Boulevard.

In/outcalls. Lic-930070051. Brigitte, 619-297-8600; Celeste, 619-581-1101.

ALINA'S SPECIAL MASSAGE. In-call/outcalls/hotel service. 7 days. Unique experience. Balance body and mind. International techniques. Gift certificates. Lic-93007588. 619-708-1261.

HILLCREST/NORTH PARK location. 16 years' experience. Swedish, Myofascial Release, deep tissue, Thai, Reflexology and Lomi-Lomi. ATM, credit cards accepted. Lic-96009525. Frank, 619-294-8559. frank@frankarce.com. www.frankarce.com.

AFFORDABLE MASSAGE! Been invited to a Christmas gift exchange party and need a \$25 gift? Well, get a \$50 massage gift certificate for only \$25. Teacher and student special. Women, men, couples. Incall/outcall. MTP-15532. Ken, 619-449-6689.

\$10 OFF ONE HOUR or longer massage when you book with one of our newest therapists. Call for schedules. A Better Body. Lic-96001191. 858-560-6740. www.abetterbodyspa.com.

NURTURING, PROFESSIONAL RN. Healing, relaxing massage. Infrared Bio-Mat, sports injuries, light touch to deep tissue, combination. Elder care, 30 years' experience. RN-125108. Liz, 760-942-0977.

GRAND OPENING! New facility. Massage, hot stone massage, therapeutic massage and bodywork. Open 7 days 9am-10:30pm. Lic-B2007028882. Mercury Spa, 44.1 Mercury Street, San Diego. 858-560-0680.

COME ON, JUST MAKE THE CALL and take a one-hour break to experience the royal treatment! I give a seriously great massage. I'm located off the I-5 and Manchester exit. Relaxing and private atmosphere. I'll even give you 20% off your treatment for calling because I'm really nice. Be happy! HHP. Lic-96001467. Kim, 619-417-9226.

NATURAL HEALTH & FITNESS

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.

INSTRUCTION

The most unique gift you can give!

Fencing Lessons

at San Diego's Finest Facility

The Cabrillo Academy of The Sword

Our Special Holiday Gift Package Includes

- 8 weeks of fencing classes
- All necessary equipment provided
- Internationally accredited coaching
- A personalized gift certificate for under the tree

On Antique Row in Normal Heights • 619-584-2478

Astound your friends & become famous!

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, we'll also print a brief (10 words or less) message that you've written. This is optional, but it's a great opportunity for you to give a shout out to your mom, or toot your own horn! Each time you submit a new puzzle, you may submit a new message.
3) We're keeping track of how many puzzles you successfully complete. But your information will only be printed when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by the new puzzle deadline: 7:00 a.m., Monday.
4) Entries must be faxed to **619-231-0489** or **619-233-7907** or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803, or delivered through our mail slot at 1703 India Street in Little Italy.
5) Wow! Now we're giving away 10 Reader T-shirts each week to contenders chosen randomly!
And now for the really small print:
1) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
2) Entries that arrive after the deadline will not be considered.
3) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
4) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

Across

- 1. Bilko's rank: Abbr.
- 4. Sort of: Suffix
- 7. They're hung up to dry
- 14. For
- 15. Longtime Elton John label
- 16. Waiting one's turn
- 17. ____ Kippur
- 18. Opp. of departure
- 19. It might cause lockjaw
- 20. Lodging where guests need extra blankets?
- 23. Gaston's girlfriend
- 24. Agnus ____
- 25. Virgil epic

- 27. "The Rachel Maddow Show" aier
- 29. Howard Dean chairs it: Abbr.
- 31. Plus
- 32. Turncoat
- 34. Melville captain
- 37. In the dumps
- 38. Lodging where guests wear togas?
- 43. Songwriter Gershwin
- 44. Hatcher of "Desperate Housewives"
- 45. It's in your genes
- 46. Huff and puff
- 48. There are 16 in a lb.
- 50. Ancient rival of Sparta
- 54. Tempt into wrongdoing
- 57. Drum site
- 59. Go against
- 60. Lodging where guests like to romanticize the past?
- 63. Most flaccid
- 64. Darken
- 65. Acquired
- 66. Went slowly
- 67. PC bailout key
- 68. ____ Kappa Nu (honor society)
- 69. Fosse posse
- 70. PBS supporter
- 71. T. ____

Down

- 1. Surveillance device
- 2. Prepares
- 3. Lily of "All of Me"
- 4. New tech product of 1998

- 5. New England seafood
- 6. Impaired
- 7. Explorer Hernando de ____
- 8. "It's the end of ____"
- 9. Starbucks serving
- 10. "227" actress ____ Reed Hall
- 11. "Liza With a Z" singer
- 12. Together
- 13. His, to Henri
- 21. She played Grace on "Will & Grace"
- 22. Made complete, as arrangements
- 26. Elevator button
- 28. Is unable to
- 30. Greek X
- 33. Not just "a"
- 35. Throw in
- 36. Eric of "Munich"
- 38. Fit for picking
- 39. Drink in pear-shaped bottles
- 40. Like some combat
- 41. Oaxaca gold
- 42. Fabric measures
- 47. Hot and humid
- 49. Depress
- 51. Pioneering radiation researcher Hans ____
- 52. Famous
- 53. Sentence structure
- 55. Simpson of fashion
- 56. "Cheese" sayer
- 58. Union demand
- 61. Old Fords
- 62. 1978 disco hit
- 63. What Timothy Leary dropped

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We cannot accept your entry without the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Neighborhood/City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Circle T-shirt size: M L XL

Personal Message: _____

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

R	I	P		S	A	R	D	I		H	E	I	R	
A	M	A		K	N	O	W	N		F	E	N	C	E
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A	R	A	B			C	D	C	A	S	E			
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				M	R	T	O	A	D		C	A	N	D
P	I	N	O	T		P	D	F	F	O	R	M	A	T
A	N	N	O	Y		E	Y	E	O	N		A	R	E
W	E	E	D			S	L	E	E	K		N	E	D

THIS WEEK'S CONTENDERS:

☛ indicates T-shirt winner. Number indicates successful entries.

Gary Mocko, Ocean Beach, 23.
Julie Osburn, North Park, 23. "If you think puzzles are fun you should try geocaching."
Lil Wagner, Clairemont, 23. "Am I missing in action?"
Ric Witt, Clairemont, 23. "The D in LCD is diode, not display."
D. Faulkner, University Heights, 22. "Drive gas prices even lower, ride your bike more!"
Peter Kronfeld, Normal Heights, 22. "Hi Yonaton, Raphael, Gavriel! Your names are in the paper!"
☛ **Clinton Smith, La Mesa, 22.** "We're proud of our son, Schuyler, awarded Purple Heart."
Pamela Swain, College Area, 22. "Happy Thanksgiving every-one!"
Joseph Ciprian, Little Italy, 21. "Bah Humbug - here come the holidays!"
Vince Cuseo, Vista, 21. "Did you get my Cheez Whiz, boy?"
George Jackson, Oceanside, 21.
Anna McCutcheon, Down-town, 21. "

www.paintwithdan.com"
Susan Morfey, Little Italy, 21. "Happy Thanksgiving to my family and friends!"
Don Reckles, Carmel Valley, 21. "Happy Thanksgiving! Grateful for my wonderful family and friends. ILYKSR."
Iggie Guerrero, Bay Ho, 20. "Loretta Loretta Wagner."
Jay Newington, Balboa Park, 20. "Janis - I celebrate Thanksgiving every day because you are my love!"
Jim Odell, Vista, 20. "I would prefer daylight savings time all year!"
Chris Peterkin, Scripps Ranch, 20. "Scripps united GU11 made AAA!"
Janie Redmond, Cardiff, 20. "Congras Pumas! 8-1-0 season, Jakey-Dude."
Paul Stanton, Canyon Hills, 20. "Adopt a homeless cat or dog today and spay/neuter."
Stephen Wilder, Rancho Bernardo, 20. "Thankful more days than just Thanksgiving day."
Carolyn Dalton, Escondido, 19.
Bob Maxwell, Coronado, 19.

Thomas McVeagh, Lakeside, 19. "I love my family - Paula, Tommy, and Jake."
C. J. Muellner, Spring Valley, 19. "A big black tee for me would not be redundant!"
Glenn Walker, Pacific Beach, 19. "Capitalism without bankruptcy is like Christianity without Hell."
Charlotte Brown, Clairemont, 18.
Betsy Cory, Chula Vista, 18. "Robin, have a good Thanksgiving in Fayettville."
Ben Espe, Mission Valley, 18. "A vote of confidence for non? ...hmmnm."
Richard Hutchings, Santee, 18.
Frank Kuzniar, Carlsbad, 18. "Get ready for trickle up poverty!"
Ron Meyer, Santee, 18. "Happy THanksgiving everyone."
☛ **Tom Seaman, Alpine, 18.** "Where's an ATM machine?"
Lisa Torrescano, Spring Valley, 18. "We were robbed! Put us in the paper!"
Danny Wilson, Mira Mesa, 18. "Further up and further in...R-U-OK, Lil?"
Martha Awdziejewicz, Clairemont, 17.
Norman Kenney, Carlsbad, 17. "Kiera and Bodo together again! Hi Palomar Polo!"

Elaine Marume, Oceanside, 17.
Barry Newman, Escondido, 17.
Jeff Smith, University City, 17. "Senior! Senior! Senior!"
Mary Arana, Encinitas, 16. "Don't be a grinch!"
☛ **Leslie Chase, Campo, 16.** "Congratulations! Knock knock. Who's there? Orange. Orange who?"
Kurt Dornbusch, Mission Valley, 16. "SD Chargers, just win baby!"
Barney Firks, Ocean Beach, 16.
Bud Fisher, Mira Mesa, 16. "Happy Thanksgiving San Diego!"
☛ **Jim Koliol, UTC, 16.** "Happy Turkey Day, Lukie, Jiminy, Timothy!"
Michael Lodahl, Mission Valley, 16. "Muchas gracias to my Christian Tradition scholars, mornings, PLNU!"
Cindy Pellett, University Heights, 16. "Fans don't know what redundancy means, so NASCAR racing is OK!"
Gayle Studer, Mission Valley, 16. "Happy Thanksgiving!"
Marie Turock, North Park, 16.
Nedda Viscovich, Cardiff, 16.
Adele West, Rancho Bernardo, 16.
Laurence Altobell III, Carmel Valley, 15. "Breathe, breathe in the air. Don't be afraid to care."

Don Austin, Laguna Beach, 15.
Sheilah Doyle, Santee, 15.
John L. Drehner, North Park, 15. "Describe the universe and give two examples."
W. Hodgson, Escondido, 15.
Michael McGriffin, Bay Park, 15. "Happy Thanksgiving to you all."
Nathan Petty, Santee, 15.
Eric Sandquist, Allied Gardens, 15. "Happy 65th Birthday, Dad. Suiz Batiquitos Lagoon."
Steve Wilson, Spring Valley, 15.
Ivan Yanev, Santee, 15.
Sheila Agahan-Price, Ocean-side, 14. "Happy Thanksgiving to all!"
Shannon Barry, Pine Valley, 14. "O is for ordering oatmeal!"
Rolan Bloomfield, Santee, 14.
Margaret Buckner, Santee, 14.
John Bullock, Santee, 14.
A. T. Certik, Bonita, 14.
William Cushing, Rancho Bernardo, 14. "Happy birthday Amber and hi to Virginia at Sharp Oncology."
Ed Edwards, Santee, 14.
L.D. Hartpence, Santee, 14.
Anne Hinton, Point Loma, 14.
Gary Kuske, Santee, 14.
Rick Marin, Santee, 14.
Kevin McNearney, Santee, 14.

Heber Moore, Santee, 14.
Eugene Padua, Santee, 14.
Jim Piburn, Point Loma, 14.
Jean D. Smickle, Santee, 14.
Eddie Spaghetio, Coronado, 14. "143UNIT15! ...more than these ten words can ever say... CIUM21"
Elenore Stephens, Potrero, 14. "P-town 4 life."
Stacy Tool, Santee, 14.
Dave Washington, La Jolla, 14. "Thanks be to God!"
Doretha Albee, Santee, 13.
Bud Anderson, Santee, 13.
Rick Austin, Santee, 13.
Olga Betteridge, Ocean Beach, 13. "Give my babe a T-shirt - he is in a funk."
Neal Brown, Santee, 13.
Dave Capehart, Santee, 13.
David Castillo, Bay Park, 13.
Korey Castillo, Bay Park, 13.
Maria Coda, Oceanside, 13. "Hi All!"
Doug Coffin, Santee, 13.
Dan Collins, Santee, 13.
Laura Conshafter, Santee, 13.
Matt Dene, Santee, 13.
Dave Descoteaux, Santee, 13.
J. DeWitt, Santee, 13.
Mike Downey, Santee, 13.
Eduardo Emmett, Santee, 13.
Harry Engel, La Jolla, 13.
Emma Friemuth, Santee, 13.

THIS WEEK'S CONTENDERS CONTINUED:

☛ indicates T-shirt winner

Tim Glover, Santee, 13.
Mike Gross, Santee, 13.
Hugh Hagues, Santee, 13.
Ward Harrington, Santee, 13.
Sondra Hartpence, Santee, 13.
Ralph Hayward, El Cajon, 13.
"54 days and counting."
LeRoy Hemingway, Santee, 13.
Mark Hill, Santee, 13.
Eric Jespersen, Santee, 13.
M. Jordan, Santee, 13.
Troy Knapp, Santee, 13.
Bill Love, Santee, 13.
Eben Maat, Santee, 13.
Ken Milne, Santee, 13.
Kevin Moreau, Santee, 13.
Derek Rasmussen, Santee, 13.
Richard Rose, Santee, 13.
Nathan Squire, Santee, 13.
Matt Taylor, Santee, 13.
Laurie Teemsma, Santee, 13.
Bob Vollmar, La Jolla, 13.
Woody Weaver, Santee, 13.
Tom White, University City, 13.
Kelley Wilson, Santee, 13.
"Nice home run, Scoop. What a baseball player! Love, Mom."
Mary Woodbury, Santee, 13.
Roy Bailey, Santee, 12.
Bruce Bell, South Park, 12.
Tim Betteridge, Hillcrest, 12.
"Our journey together is unending like our love."
Marvin A. Brown, Clairemont, 12.
Glory Cadenhead, Clairemont, 12.
"This one's for you Clarky Boy...smile!"
E. T. Cage, Carmel Mtn., 12.
"Hi, Nathan Petty."
Mike D'Asaro, Santee, 12.
Andre Desilets, Downtown, 12.
Jill Dickens, Santee, 12.
Byron Ellsworth, Santee, 12.
Steve Fagerwold, Santee, 12.
Rand Feura, Santee, 12. "Forty percent? Santeeans have too much time on their hands!"
Marie Grace, College Area, 12. "Happy Thanksgiving - hello Vegas!"
Larry Hartpence, Santee, 12.
E.M. Hutchings, Santee, 12.
Steve Jenks, Santee, 12.
Sara Khwaja, Poway, 12. "Love my black T-shirt. Where is Lil?"
Donald Millsberg, Santee, 12.

Douglas Meyers, La Mesa, 12.
"Like auctions? El Cajon VFW Dec. 14!"
Barbara Neill, Santee, 12.
Donnie Nelson, Santee, 12.
Charles Overdorf, Santee, 12.
David Papworth, Santee, 12.
☛ Bill Pischke, Ramona, 12.
"Orange you glad you walked 3 days for breast cancer?"
J. Schwendinger, Santee, 12.
Ron Shields, Santee, 12.
Randy Sjoblom, Santee, 12.
Sue Worthen, Santee, 12.
Steven Young, Santee, 12.
Dan Abernathy, Santee, 11.
Mike Adkins, Santee, 11.
Don Albee, Santee, 11.
Stuart Aunger, Chula Vista, 11.
"Brain! My conscience said, Insert SIM card. What to do!"
Bruce Barshop, La Jolla, 11.
"Even worse: for your FYI."
J. Breckenridge, Santee, 11.
Glen and Tesi Chavira-Courmoyer, Chula Vista, 11.
"Gobble, gobble, gobble. Lite or dark?"
Sue Coffey, Southwest SD, 11.
"Happy Turkey Day and 4 day weekend."
Kathleene Evans, Santee, 11.
Mark Franc, Santee, 11.
Jim Hutchings, Santee, 11.
David Kuntze, El Cajon, 11.
"Ok, maybe now we can all just get along."
Geoff Mao, Encinitas, 11. "Hi Sam!"
Wayne Mathieu, Clairemont, 11. "Happy Turkey Day."
Linda Millsberg, Santee, 11.
Elizabeth Noll, Alpine, 11.
"One year and going strong!"
Don Prince, Serra Mesa, 11.
"What happened to Lil Wagner? HAppy Thanksgiving everyone."
Jeff Smith, Santee, 11.
Andrea Vollmer, Vista, 11.
Peter Woodbury, Chula Vista, 11.
Brian Beach, Santee, 10.
Evelyn Bowser, Hillcrest, 10.
"House is sold."
Ben Brainard, Santee, 10.
Jan Dawson, North Harbor, 10.
"Thankyouthankyouthankyouthankyouthankyouth."
Edward C. Horbett, Jr., Crown Point, 10. "Billy rocks Hiromi."

Howard Donnelly, Mission Valley, 10. "Headlights, 'cause they can't see you!"
Andy Harrison, Santee, 10.
Mary Hutchings, City Heights, 10.
Dennis Lamboy, Santee, 10.
Clarice Albinana Larson, UTC, 10. "Happy birthday, Aunya!"
Jenny McReynolds, Linda Vista, 10.
Marge Nelson, El Cajon, 10.
"Heartland Lions, We Serve."
Robert Ott, Mira Mesa, 10.
"Ten out of ten."
Don Romero, Ramona, 10.
"Mei Ling, you are H-O-T."
John Stead, Santee, 10.
Warren Winters, Santee, 10.
Bryan Breckenridge, Santee, 9.
Diane Hutchings, Santee, 9.
Angie Longoria, Santee, 9.
Aaron Lundblade, Santee, 9.
Pat McMann, Solana Beach, 9.
"Happy Thanksgiving - let's get drunk!"
Rumir Miravalles, San Diego, 9.
"Terry P., I kept my promise. You'll get the XLT."
James C. Nelson, El Cajon, 9.
Phil Nichols, Escondido, 9.
"Lance? Jackie? Dave?"
Jennifer Rabner, Escondido, 9.
"Happy Tofu Turkey day."
Elizabeth Rainbolt, Mission Valley, 9.
Thelma Strickland-Hicks, Del Mar, 9. "Try acuphonthepathy.com for chronic pain and dysfunction."
Marisa Torres, San Marcos, 9.
"Noni rocks!"
David A. Weim, Chula Vista, 9.
Lee Woodbury, Santee, 9.
Gerry Austin, Chula Vista, 8.
Max Calhoun, Vista, 8. "The girls of cartoons won't leave you in ruins."
Marilyn Contreras, El Cajon, 8.
"Yipee."
Heather Ellsworth, Santee, 8.
Manny Espino, Santee, 8.
Gail Kotner, University Hts, 8.
"Take a walk - Mother Nature needs love."
Monty Landy, Santee, 8.
Kathy Law, La Mesa, 8. "Love ya Bill. This one's for you Rocio. Miss you."
Erin Marin, Santee, 8.
Aleksa Mendive, Normal Heights, 8. "Happy birthday Aunt Marie! Lorianak...eta urte asko-tarko!"

Claudia Nordquest, Carmel Mtn., 8. "Welcome to San Diego Susan and Butch!"
John Prince, Serra Mesa, 8.
Denis Rees, Alpine, 8. "I am thankful!"
Randy Schimpf, Santee, 8.
M. Sherritt, Santee, 8.
Sam Spaeth, El Cajon, 8.
Gayle Squire, Santee, 8.
Mark Wilde, Spring Valley, 8.
"Go Monte Vista!"
Loren Broadstone, Santee, 7.
Mike Deliman, Santee, 7.
"Eschew obfuscation - drink Hennessy!"
Gina Glover, Santee, 7.
Bob Harper, Lakeside, 7.
Marilynn Harrington, Santee, 7.
Chuck Merritt, Spring Valley, 7.
Sal Vitale, Pacific Beach, 7. "I'm stuffed."
Dot Waterman, Santee, 7.
"Classy shirt."
Jenny Hughes, Escondido, 6.
"I'm tired."
Carol Kuske, Santee, 6.
Rich Tschiegg, Scripps Ranch, 6. "Say la v. C'est what?"
M. Zimmermann, Vista, 6.
"www.GOPnot4me.blogspot.com."
Mike and Karen, Talmadge, 5.
"You will believe a cat can fly. acat-namedturtle.com."
Daniel Day, Pacific Beach, 5.
"Way to go Gary!"
Terry Golden, Clairemont, 5.
"This was a hard one!"
Robert McQuay, Linda Vista, 5. "Socialism will get old quick."
G.R. Morse, San Diego, 5.
"Mabuhay Lynn!"
Eddie and Andrea Schroder, Carlsbad, 5. "www.howobam-agotelected.com"
Estevan Soto, Chula Vista, 5.
"That's so not Raven. I missed one letter last puzzle!"
Brian Tilley, Clairemont, 5. "I am thankful for my special girl Maggie Carter."
Eric Yeager, Carlsbad, 5.
"Pantsuit Dragqueen: best band ever."
Flo Abena, Rancho Penasquitos, 4. "Yummy turkey grinders at Braga's in Middletown, RI."
R. Blue, San Diego, 4.
Gunnar Eklof, Oceanside, 4.
Ricky Hartdenle, Santee, 4.
Philip Heinz, Escondido, 4.
"Confidence is high! Thanks Dawn."

Kyle Matzke, Vista, 4.
"Greed/lack of morals, cause of current economic woes."
Cindy McMahon, El Cajon, 4.
Kelly Whitson, Carlsbad, 4.
"Happy Thanksgiving!"
Thomas Diehl, Escondido, 3.
Joseph McGuire, Downtown, 3. "Happy, happy birthday Yvonne and many more to come."
Kyle Sleeth, Scripps Ranch, 3.
"Beaches kissed a girl and he liked it!"
Larry Van Horn, Carlsbad, 3.
Thomas E. Woolf, La Jolla, 3.
"No #4."
Cecile Alcaraz, San Diego, 2.
"Wish I had an SD Reader shirt for Thanksgiving."
Aurora Alvarado, Carmel Valley, 2. "Seasick, yet still docked."
Dwayne and Karen, Clairemont, 2. "Praying for a free T-shirt."
Jackie Austin, Chula Vista, 2.
Mike Broadhead, El Cajon, 2.
Ken Cunningham, Oceanside, 2. "Obviously you're not a golfer."
Glenda Feilen, El Cajon, 2.
Mike Hartpence, El Cajon, 2.
Russell Hill, Lake Forest, 2.
Melodye Johnson, San Carlos, 2. "Happy bday to me."
☛ Matthew Junker, San Diego, 2. "Feed the poor - eat the rich!"
☛ Danni Montano, Mira Mesa, 2. "Thanks professor, what what?"
Alex Moran, San Diego, 2.
"What up Stretch. Peace out."
Philip Paradissis, Del Mar, 2.
"Yes we can!"
Clanoy Sloan, Clairemont, 2.
"Go Celtics!"
Craig Smith, Clairemont, 2. "I love Burning Sensations salsa and Viva Pops."
Vickie Austin, Santee, 1.
Thomas Baggot, Carlsbad, 1.
"Go Chargers, win the west."
G. Barker, Santee, 1.
Terri Beach, Santee, 1.
Mark Belleau, College Area, 1.
Wendy Besand, Santee, 1.
Heather Bloomfield, Santee, 1.
Carrie Collins, Santee, 1.
S. Depka, Vista, 1. "Jane Loon, look what your sisters have done!"
N.M. Drew , Normal Heights, 1. "Why not?"
Marian Dujsik, El Cajon, 1. "It's all good."
William Edwards, San Diego, 1.

K. Robert Eaton, University Heights, 1. "Liquid Crystal Diode Display. Redundancy?"
Tom Gibilisco, Lemon Grove, 1. "Tom and Mom rule!"
Walter C. Gierszewicz, Ramona, 1.
Phyllis Grant, San Diego, 1.
Andrew Hanusch, Point Loma, 1. "I'm going home now."
Clark Henry, Del Mar, 1. "Congratulations Katie!"
Nitz Hernandez, Santee, 1. "I love u Ashley, my Babu."
Dennis Howey, La Verne, 1.
Stan Kellar, Escondido, 1.
"Desmo-tastic!"
Frances Marceau, Santee, 1. "Another one for Santee."
☛ Michael McCarville, Encinitas, 1. "Plants are people too!"
Bruce Mueller, Escondido, 1.
Sunny Nelson, El Cajon, 1.
"Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!"
Chis Oliveira, Santee, 1.
Helen Parson, Santee, 1.
"Finally."
Will Rogers, Santee, 1.
Kevin Schimpf, Santee, 1.
Michael Sheehan, Ocean Beach, 1. "A warm welcome to the world my new niece!"
☛ Fredric Signori, Rancho Bernardo, 1. "Someone's new album comes out Jan. 27th. Bruuce!"
Barbara and Will Slater, San Diego, 1. "Another reason for my son's conception! Reader Puzzle Tyrol!"
☛ Enrique Soto, Chula Vista, 1.
Linda Tripp, Rancho Bernardo, 1. "Hi Max and Josh! Love, Mom."
Barbara Varga, San Diego, 1.
"Harry rocks!"
Kierkegaard Victoria, San Diego, 1. "Happy Thanksgiving, y'all!"
John Willis, National City, 1.
"Lean like a cholo."
Andy Wilson, Carlsbad, 1. "In vino veritas."

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San Diego Reader November 26, 2008 133

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HIJOS ADULTOS de alcoholicos. Recupera-cion y tolerancia. Bienvenidos grupo Alanon. Sesiones: Lunes, Miercoles, Viernes, 7-9pm. Alateen, Viernes 7-8:30pm. 495 H Street, Chula Vista, CA 91910.

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OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Meetings daily. No dues or fees. Contact www.oasandiego.org or 619-521-2538.

PARENTS, FAMILIES and Friends of Les-bians and Gays (PFLAG). Find help, sup-port, and understanding. Meetings: Hillcrest, East County, North County. www.pflag.com. Call for details, 619-579-7640.

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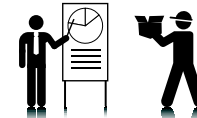
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CLAIREMONT. \$600/month. 1 bedroom and bath, includes utilities. Quiet, convenient. Laundry facilities. No smoking/pets. Female preferred. Available now, 858-829-3338.

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CLAIREMONT. Nice room in house with yard. Near Beaches/Downtown. \$575, includes utilities, \$250 deposit, month to month. Female only. No pets. Available 12/05/08. 858-715-8221.

CLAIREMONT. Room for rent in quiet house on cul-de-sac. Your own bath, 2-1/2 closets. Great area, near 52. Washer/dryer on premises, free DirecTV with NFL package, 1/2 utilities. No pets. \$600. 858-490-6264.

CLAIREMONT/NORTHWEST. Room, \$600 month. Utilities, Dish TV, Internet, laundry included. Shared bathroom. No smoking/drugs/pets. References. First/second security. 619-246-7447, 858-270-1436.

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COLLEGE AREA. Share 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. \$550, \$400/deposit, share utilities. Some pets OK. Large deck, storage. Near SDSU, I-8. Smoking outdoors. 619-414-6530.

DEL CERRO, \$600. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Quiet. No smoking/loud partying. Nice location. Half utilities, which are low. Upstairs unit. Must see. Details, 619-229-9953.

ENCINITAS. Female wanted. Available 12/1. Nonsmoker. No pets. Fully furnished apartment. Clean, quiet. Flowers, sunny porch, 3 blocks from ocean. \$650, plus \$50 utilities. 775-830-8973.

ENCINITAS. Small trailer, country setting, share bathroom, lots of windows, skylight, clean, small yard, covered patio, storage. No smoking/pets. \$600/month, \$600/deposit. Available 8/04/08 760-943-7193.

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LA COSTA. \$600. Bedroom with private bath. Gated community. Includes utilities, air conditioning, cable, parking. No smoking/pets/drugs. Quiet and responsible. \$600 deposit. 760-436-1403.

LA JOLLA. \$650. Furnished, cable TV, Internet, laundry, share bath. Utilities included. Kitchen privileges. Safe street parking. Near UCSD. No smoking/pets. Near I-5, 805.52 858-453-5007.

LA JOLLA/WINDANSEA BEACH. \$700-\$950. Lovely completely furnished rooms in house, private entrance. Utilities/wireless internet included, cleaning service. Nonsmoker, no drugs/pets. References: 858-336-1545; 858-459-3089; 619-235-2415, x27313.

LA MESA/LAKE MURRAY. \$685. Peaceful. Very large. Private entrance, bath, air conditioning, fan, washer/dryer, patio, pool, parking. Near lake, Starbucks and SDSU. Credit check, references. 619-517-7119.

LAKESIDE. \$500. Small, private ranch. Female preferred. Furnished room. Separate entrance. Share bath, kitchen, washer/dryer. Utilities/cable included. No smoking/drugs/inside pets. 619-443-6424.

LINDA VISTA. \$480. 3 bedroom home. Ocean view, central, tropical yard. Quiet. New carpet/marble, laundry. \$400 deposit. No smoking/pets. Male preferred. Bill, 858-518-1517.

MIRA MESA, NORTH/ Sorrento Valley area. Luxury house. Canyon view. \$700. Furnished bedroom. Use of kitchen and all facilities. Cable, Internet. 619-955-9979.

MIRA MESA. \$565. Utilities and Internet included, \$200/deposit. Near freeways and shopping centers. Share bath. No smoking/pets. Available end of November, 951-491-1607.

MISSION BAY. \$755/month. Bedroom in 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Walk to beach/bay. Great yard, barbecue. Available 12/1. No pets. Nonsmoker. Deposit \$200. 858-337-4367.

MISSION VALLEY. Room for rent. \$475, share bathroom, kitchen, living room. No drugs/pets. \$250 cleaning deposit. Near trolley and Stadium. Background check required. 619-871-3827.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. Nice condo to share. Private bathroom. Pool, Jacuzzi, gated parking, laundry, Ocean view. \$600, 1/2 utilities, \$375/deposit. Nonsmoking/drugs. Available 12/1/08. 619-851-0971.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. Share 3 bedroom, 1 bath house. Parking. 6 months or longer. Male preferred. \$550, first month's rent, half-month deposit, split utilities. 619-261-2133.

OCEAN BEACH. \$800. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Close to all. Semi-retired female has partly furnished (optional) bedroom. Internet/cable. Storage/garage negotiable. 619-225-2271.

OCEANSIDE. \$675. Roommate wanted to share 3 bedroom home. You get the master bedroom. All utilities included: cable TV/high speed internet. No pets. 760-757-0866.

OCEANSIDE. Private garage, entry, room and bath. 2.5 miles to beach. Lovely home. \$635/month. Basic cable, water, trash, all amenities included. Female only, 858-603-9507.

PACIFIC BEACH/NORTH. Share 1600-square-foot, 3-bedroom house. Quiet neighborhood, nice yards, front deck, gardens. Plenty of parking. No smoking/drugs. \$725, 858-366-3603.

PENASQUITOS. Share quiet, spacious home. Furnished room with balcony, cable, all amenities. All utilities included, \$500/month, \$250/deposit. Female only. Jing/Wes, 858-538-1747.

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SAN CARLOS. \$525, room with private bath in 4 bedroom house. Minutes to Grossmont College and SDSU. No pets. 619-838-6654.

SAN DIEGO. Townhouse, quiet. \$599/month, \$100/deposit, Utilities included. Provide 2 references. Washer/dryer. Street parking. 1 person, no overnight guests. Nonsmoking, no drinking/drugs. 619-475-2039.

SOUTH BAY. Private master bedroom with bath. Washer/dryer, TV, cable, utilities included. Quiet, clean. \$650. 858-254-4469.

SPRING VALLEY-SOBER LIVING. 12 bedroom house. 2 kitchens, Internet, cable, free nationwide long distance, all fitness equipment, parking, furnished rooms. At 94 and 125 freeways. \$80-

SurfDIEGO

Name: **Byron Thompson**
Age: **19**
Surfing: **La Jolla**
Occupation: **Student**
Lives in: **North Park**
Best surf in SD: **Bird Rock**
Longest duration surfed: **Five hours**

“I don’t mind girls that surf as long as they are there for the right reasons,” says Byron, who has been in San Diego for two years. “I’ve seen a lot of chicks get in the water and do something stupid so that a guy had to rescue them. I think it’s a pretty desperate way to meet someone, and it can be really dangerous. As long as someone can surf, they are welcome in the line-up.”

Byron, originally from Georgia, says, “I was shocked at how polluted the beach can get after the rain. It’s disgusting. No one warned me — I just found out the hard way. Last year after some really heavy rains, I decided to hit up Dog Beach. Two days later I was really sick, throwing up with a high fever. I guess there are some hardcore surfers that go out every single day; after that, I realized that I’m not one of them.”

An incident in La Jolla may have further convinced



Byron that he’s “not one of them.”

“Last summer my friend towed me out on his dinghy to an unfamiliar break in La Jolla. The waves were about seven feet high, and I didn’t know how to duck dive. I got knocked around and then washed up onto some rocks. I messed up my hand and skinned part of my

knee...probably could have used a few stitches. I hit my head and got a mild concussion and wrecked my board. It was really hard to paddle back in, but another surfer helped me out....

“That’s the cool thing out here. People are willing to help you out. Sure, there are always some people that will be rude, but for the most

part, the surf community here is pretty friendly. It was a stupid thing to do, and I learned from my mistake.”

To see an online version of this column, go to sdrader.com. You can print it, email it to friends, and find archived columns.

ROOMMATE SERVICES

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\$100/week. Thomas, The Treehouse, 714-787-8744.

TIERRASANTA. \$595 plus utilities plus \$350 deposit. Washer/dryer. Very large room, furnished/unfurnished. Near all. No smoking, drugs, pets. Male preferred, 858-292-0145.

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VISTA. 2 rooms for rent. May rent for one month or more. Home totally remodeled. \$550/each/monthly, plus damage security deposit. Utilities included. No pets. James/Debbie 760-468-0577.

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CHULA VISTA. \$100 off first month's rent! 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1125 with \$900 deposit. Pool, laundry room. Close to mall/freeway. No pets. Available now. 433 D Street. Call 619-651-8600..

CHULA VISTA. \$1090. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Spacious unit in small complex. Amenities. Walk-in closet. Covered parking. Gated community. Near all. 363 Moss Street. Manager, 619-426-7476.

CHULA VISTA. \$825. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. All Utilities Included. Clean. Quiet. Secure. New paint/carpet. A must see! Laundry and pool on site. 540 Flower Street. Best deal in South Bay. If you can find a better deal "rent it!" Call Krista, 619-425-5451 or Rachael, 619-804-1044.

CHULA VISTA. \$875. 1 bedroom in up-scale property with central vacuum and air conditioning. Beautiful garden setting. Controlled access parking. No pets. 144 Garrett Avenue. TPPM, 619-585-1959.

CHULA VISTA. 1 bedroom apartments, \$720-\$750. Deposit \$500. All utilities included. Pool, off-street parking. Laundry facilities. Call Park Regency Apartments, 619-422-0792.

CHULA VISTA. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Gated, central air/heat, dishwasher, patios, laundry, off-street parking. No pets. \$1150. Deposit \$800. 619-425-6511.

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CHULA VISTA/EASTLAKE. \$1595. Upgraded unit, newer appliances. Air conditioning, fireplace, washer/dryer. Large balcony. Walk-in closet. Community pool/spa. Walk to lake, parks, school, restaurants and more. www.utiopiamanagement.com, 858-598-1111 x193.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$1095 rent. \$800 deposit. OAC. Large 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhouse condo. New carpet and paint. Laundry. Parking. No pets. At 4243 47th Street #C. Agent, 619-299-8515.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$1200. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Half off first month! Dishwasher, fireplace, patio, laundry. Gated parking. No pets. 4416 47th Street #1. Agent, 619-298-7724.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$650 rent. \$700 deposit. OAC. 1 bedroom duplex. No pets. At 4331-1/2 41st Street. Agent, 619-299-8515.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$750. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Move-in special! Upper and lower units available, gated, parking, on-site laundry. 4122-4126 39th Street. Agent, 858-560-1178.

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CITY HEIGHTS. \$800. Upstairs apartment, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Section 8 OK. Move in ready. 3827 35th Street #7. 619-640-7530. www.sdforrent.com.

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CITY HEIGHTS. \$995. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Move-in special! New carpet, paint and kitchen counter. 5450 University Avenue #4. Agent, 858-560-1178.

CITY HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 700 square feet, new carpet/tile, new paint, parking, on-site washer/dryer, gated. Available now. \$850. Cat OK. Applications: www.innoreventerprises.com. 619-368-9410.

CITY HEIGHTS. Available now. 1 bedroom four-plex; new appliances; fenced yard/security gates; off-street parking. No pets. \$700/month, \$700/deposit. 4251 Poplar Street. 858-279-3023.

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CLAIREMONT. \$1195. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo. Balcony. Secure parking. Laundry in complex. Pool. Large unit. No pets. One-year lease desired. Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.

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CLAIREMONT. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$995. With parking. Pool on site. Laundry. On very nice, quiet street. 5150 Balboa Arms Drive. Call Tia, 858-571-0104. kandpropertes.com.

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COLLEGE AREA. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Balcony/storage, upstairs unit. Parking, laundry, pool, Jacuzzi. \$1400. Near all. 5422 Adobe Falls Road #11. 619-459-0370.

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DOWNTOWN. \$1950/month. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Views. Beautiful flooring. All appliances. 1 parking space. Small pets OK. Available immediately. 1541 Seventh Avenue. Alta Vista Properties, 858-274-3600. www.altavistamanagement.com.

DOWNTOWN. \$2238. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, dog OK, hardwood floors, 900sf, 2-car parking, pool, fitness, bay/city views. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

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Reader Pop Quiz

This week's questions

- Deerhunter's blood-stained, cross-dressing lead singer allegedly owes his anorexic physique to what?
- Once and for all: Does Botox come from pig parts?
- Name the international art center sited at a former base of drug and illegal alien smuggling.
- Father Joe Carroll informs Eve Kelly that Father Joe's Villages serves __ million meals a year.
- While babysitting her niece, Aunt Barbarella regresses to her 12-year-old self (it doesn't take long) and gets in an argument over which cartoon to watch. Which selection wins out?
- "Overpriced beers, an attempt to cash in on the whiteboy reggae bro-manticism of being near Winston's" is the warning issued in "Blurt" about what Ocean Beach bar?
- To illuminate the elections and the current financial crisis, Don Bauder cites historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr.'s claim that politics runs in __-year cycles.
- Name the vintner who went from 1960s revolutionary in Milano to the owner of respected Italian winery Ca' del Bosco.
- Following a year of negotiating, fund-raising, and renovating, Cygnet Theatre is opening this week in the site of what previous venue?
- What Mexican rock group released what song in August named after a San Diego sports team?

Last week's answers

- Hamlet. (p. 119)
- There is none. (p. 14)
- U31. (p. 76)
- Madonna's. (p. 100)
- David Brockie. (p. 92)
- Michael Tiernan. (p. 82)
- Blasting it off. (p. 20)
- A winery. (p. 76)
- The Comedy Store. (p. 63)
- 58 percent. (p. 6)

Last week's winners:

Burk White, Gordon Kanteena, Chelsea Navarro, Noah Najbert, and Allison Vaughn.

Rules Pop Quiz answers must include page numbers from the *Reader* print edition on which the answers are found. First five entrants to deliver correct sets of answers win Reader T-shirts or \$25 (indicate preference). Answers must be submitted by Monday at 7 a.m. after the issue in question. Only one winner per household or email address per month. Multiple entries will be disregarded. Mail answers to: Reader Pop Quiz, SD Reader, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186; or fax to 619-231-0489; or email to Quiz@sdreader.com; or deliver to 1703 India Street in Little Italy (we have an after-hours mail slot).

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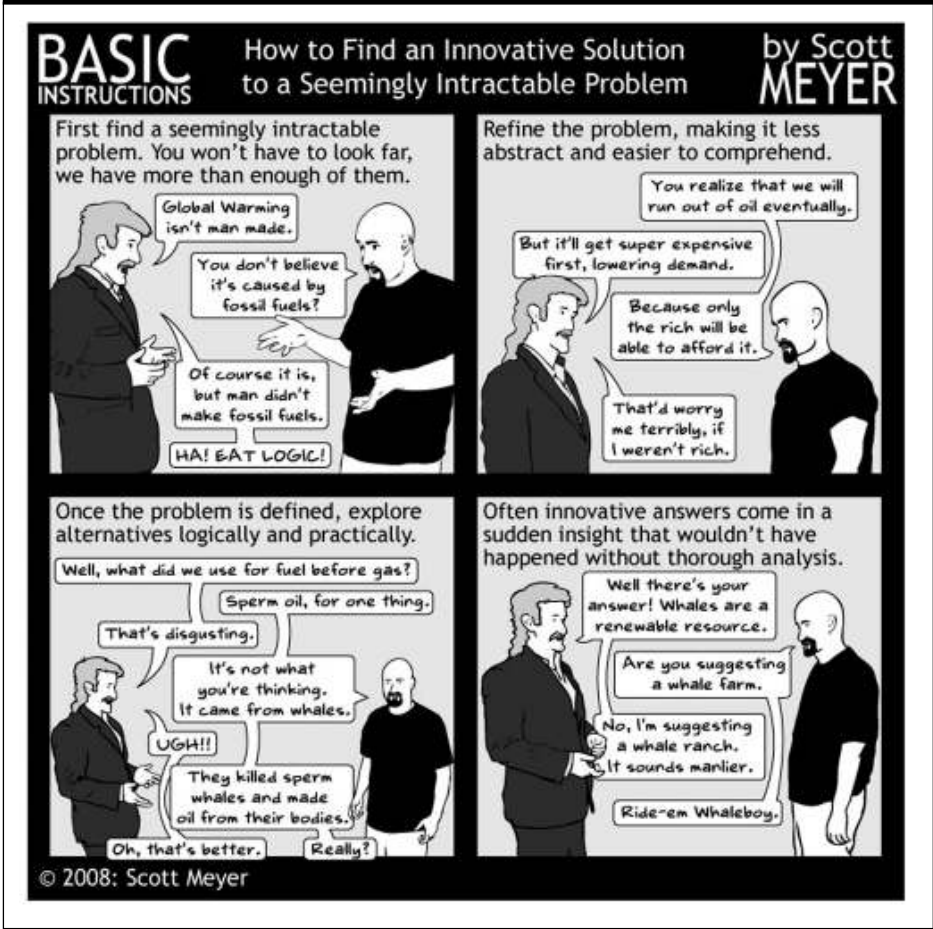
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IMPERIAL BEACH. \$100 off first month's rent! \$875: Large 1 bedroom. \$1100: 2 bedroom apartments. \$600/\$800 deposits. Gated. Laundry. Courtyard. Close to beach, Coronado. No pets. 750 11th Street. 619-423-4610.

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IMPERIAL BEACH. \$950. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Garage. Refrigerator, stove. No laundry. Fenced front yard. No pets. Near beach. 221 Evergreen Avenue. 1 year lease. Available now. Contact Rob Inglat, 619-435-7780 or visit website at www.mckeecompany.com.

KENSINGTON. \$925. 1 bedroom, downstairs, remodeled. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, coin laundry. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. In the heart of Kensington on a quiet tree-lined street. Available now. 4182 Madison. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

LA COSTA/CARLSBAD. First month free with 12 month lease. \$1200. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. \$700 deposit. Quiet. Vaulted ceiling. Assigned covered parking. Indoor cat OK. 7552 Gibraltar Street. Hot tub. On site laundry. Great neighborhood. Off La Costa Avenue, near golf course. 760-943-7590. 760-402-8325.

LA JOLLA VILLAGE. \$1050. Charming European-style 1 bedroom. Pool, community laundry, elevator. Walk to The Cove, dining and business district. No pets. 858-459-8254.

LA JOLLA VILLAGE. Stunning oceanfront 180-degree views! Best location! \$1750, 1 bedroom, 2 bedroom apartment facing ocean, \$2750 including garage. Hardwood floors, multiple decks, sunsets, gardens, barbecues. Furnished/unfurnished. Utilities/cable/Internet optional. Laundry. Terms negotiable. 616 Prospect Street, In Eden. 858-869-5746.

LA JOLLA. \$1425. 1 bedroom. Cottage style apartment in small complex. Steps to Windansea. 1 parking space. Fireplace. 344 Rosemont. TPPM. 858-699-3851.

LA JOLLA. \$1575. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs. Remodeled. Stove, refrigerator. Dishwasher. Microwave. Coin laundry. Garage. No pets. Available 11/18/08. 6231 La Jolla Boulevard. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

LA JOLLA. \$1795. 2 bedroom, 2 bath in Bird Rock area. One level ground floor. New paint, new carpet. Patio. Pool. Laundry in complex. Parking space. Quiet complex. No pets. Nonsmoking. Call Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.

LA JOLLA. \$1950/month. Upgraded 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Granite counters. 2 parking spaces. All appliances. Close to UCSD. Fresh paint. Available immediately. Small pets OK. 3137 Via Alicante. Alta Vista Properties, 858-274-3600. www.altavistamanagement.com.

LA JOLLA. \$2750. Condo. Block ocean! 2 bedroom, hardwood floors. Live in the heart of the village. Walk to restaurants, shops. Small pet OK. 858-342-6944.

LA JOLLA. \$2950. 3-bedroom, 2-1/2-bath, 2-story townhome with ocean views. Laminated wood floors, designer paint. Available now. 5443 La Jolla Boulevard. Alta Vista Properties, 858-274-3600. www.altavistamanagement.com.

LA JOLLA. Available now. Studios, 1, 2 bedrooms starting at \$1139. 1/2 block to beach! Tropical setting with pool and laundry. Carports extra. No pets. Hurry! 858-536-1900.

LA JOLLA/BIRD ROCK. Quint, charming 1-bedroom cottages starting at \$1605. Close to beach. Laundry facility. Off-street parking. Cat OK. Walking distance to the village. Toll free: 1-800-490-6372. www.pacificliving.com.

LA JOLLA/UTC. \$1200. 1 bedroom, 1 bath duplex, hardwood/carpet floors, 1-car parking, refrigerator, stove, microwave, paid water. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

LA JOLLA/UTC. \$1675. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, pet OK, flexible lease, parking, pool, balcony, patio, central air. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

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La Mesa's Premier Community, newly remodeled and upgraded 1 and 2 bedrooms to lease. Granite counters, crown molding, designer flooring and fixtures. New appliance package that includes washer/dryer and more. Be in your new place to celebrate the Holidays. Call Adagio to schedule your private tour now, 619-698-9144.

LA MESA. \$1175. 2 bedroom, 1-1/4 bath. Move-in special: 1/2 off first month's rent! Upper unit. Carport and parking space, community pool, laundry and rec room. 7502 Parkway Drive #309. Agent, 858-560-1178.

LA MESA. \$1395. 3 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, garage, pool, fireplace, laundry. 5530 Jackson Drive, #4. AMI Property Management. 619-697-6314.

LA MESA. \$780. Studio available 12/5. \$350 deposit. \$950. 1 bedroom available 11/15. \$450 deposit. Air conditioning. Dishwasher. Carport. Storage. Pool. Gated. No pets. \$25 credit check. 5435 Morengo Avenue. Please call 619-698-7926. Go to at: villaknollsapts.com.

LA MESA. \$795 rent: Studio apartment. \$995 rent: 1 bedroom, 1 bath with garage. Laundry on site. Cat OK. 5027 Guava. Call Leslie, 619-303-2643. kandrproperties.com.

LA MESA. \$875 rent: 1 bedroom. Parking. Pool. 5436 Vincetta Court. Call 619-417-4964. kandrproperties.com.

LA MESA. \$895. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Upper. Stove, refrigerator. Wood cabinets. Laundry. Parking. Barbecue areas. Cat OK. Near all. 4969 Mills Street #13. 619-460-2420.

LA MESA. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex, hardwood floors, washer/dryer, park-like setting, gated, private, tranquil. Move-in special. \$1245. 3886 American Avenue. Call 619-698-3262. 619-980-6076.

LA MESA. Huge apartment homes in great La Mesa neighborhood. Storage space. Near shopping and public transportation. 1 bedroom, 1 bath \$925, 2 bedroom, 2 bath \$1200-\$1300. 2 bedroom

townhouse, \$1295. Community pool, laundry, covered parking. 619-697-3285. For photo, floor plans, map and directions, see website: www.sreader.com/news/rent1035.

LA MESA. Junior 1 bedroom. \$900. Half off first month! Clean, quiet complex with pool, spa, community laundry, air conditioning, parking. No pets. Close to shopping. 4850 Williamsburg Lane. www.csapartments@gmail.com. 619-550-6712.

LA MESA. Mellmanor Apartments. \$920/up, 1 bedroom. \$1220/up, 2 bedroom. Across Grossmont Center, trolley, Costco. Quiet, spacious units. Pools. 8750 Mellmanor Drive. 619-461-1940.

LA MESA. Move-in special. 1 bedroom, 1 bath duplex, small yard, garage. Small dogs welcome. 4352 Rosebud Lane. \$950/month. Lucy, 619-980-0019.

LA MESA. Move-in special. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex, small yard. Small dogs welcome. 4362 Rosebud Lane. \$1075/month. Lucy, 619-980-0019.

LA MESA. Villa Morocco. 2 bedroom townhome, \$1200. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1425. Spacious. Near Grossmont Center. Great neighborhood. Near all 5545 Morro Way. 619-589-8854.

LA MESA/FLETCHER PARKWAY. \$1200 moves you in! Super spacious studios and 1 bedrooms available. Studio starting at \$795. 1 bedroom starting at \$945. **Open house Saturday, 8am-5pm.** Award-winning community for beautiful landscaping. Pool and spa. Great location. No pets. 5500 Morro Way. TPPM. 619-466-8444 or 619-884-7900. www.villageaptslamesa.com.

LA MESA/CASA DE ORO. 1 bedrooms, \$945-\$995. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1145-\$1195. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1395-\$1445. Air/heat. Huge patios/balconies. Gated access and parking. Small pet OK. Elegant, sculptured courtyards with flower gardens, fountains, gas lamps, park benches. Charming, New Orleans ambiance. 3903 Conrad Drive. 866-894-6343. www.sreader.com/news/rent1017.

LA MESA/COLLEGE AREA. \$950 with lease. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Clean, quiet, secure. Laundry on site with new carpet, paint. Completely remodeled! If you can find one better, rent it. 7240 El Cajon Boulevard. Call Rachael 619-804-1044 or Mercedes 619-288-4731.



LAKESIDE. \$2195. 3-bedroom, 3-bath, 2-story house, solar panels, all appliances, washer/dryer hookups, vaulted ceilings, skylight, large deck. No smoking. Free electric. 9460 Garden Knoll Way. 619-698-6911. www.goldenmanagement.com.

LAKESIDE. \$900. Utilities paid. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Across from Lindo Lake Park, 12x17 bedroom, air, storage, laundry.



PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.

ADOPTABLE DOGS! The Baja Animal Sanctuary is a no-kill shelter. Our dogs live in foster care in San Diego until they are adopted. Check out www.bajaanimalsanctuary.org to see all of our adoptable faces. Dogs and cats are spayed/neutered and up to date on shots.

ADOPTION EVENT every Saturday of the month from noon-6pm at PetSmart in Chula Vista, 1840 Main Street. Call Jim from the Baja Animal Sanctuary for more information, 619-341-3145.

ADORABLE DACHSHUND PUPPIES. AKC pedigree certificate, sweet temperament, 2 males, 3 females. Piebalds, Isabella's, blue and double dapple, chocolate. Health guarantee, \$499, 619-312-1895.

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ANIMALS HAVE NO NATIONALITY! Volunteer for Humane Society de Tijuana monthly spay/neuter clinics in poorer neighborhoods of T.J. Help end the suffering. Contact michelle@friendsofthstj.org.

AQUARIUM SALE at Octopus's Garden. 20H aquarium \$20; 29 for \$29; 40R \$40. Even a 60E is just \$60. Other tank specials also. Lots of healthy saltwater fish and beautiful corals. Protein skimmers. Lighting systems, pumps, decorations and supplies at low prices at Octopus's Garden. Noon-9pm, 7 days. Call 858-576-7449.

AQUARIUMS AND PONDS! Freshwater/saltwater fish. Extensive reef animals. 9000 square feet. Low warehouse prices! Expertise not found in Southern California

dry. No dogs. Yearly lease. 619-405-6159; 619-216-2240.

LAKESIDE. From \$650. Nice 1 bedroom in quiet 55+ community. \$200 off first month! Laundry, air conditioning, clubhouse. Parking. 12133 Rockcrest Road. Agent, 619-443-9611.

LEMON GROVE. \$1245 rent. 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath, 2 parking spaces. Washer/dryer hook-ups. 7165 Central Avenue. Call Myra 619-697-8458.

LEMON GROVE. 1 bedroom, 1 bath duplex, good condition, new carpet, cook-top. Located on private road. Water/trash paid. Available now. \$850. 2719 Drew. 619-462-4708.

LEMON GROVE. Outstanding location near shopping and trolley! 2 bedroom, \$1050/month. 1 bedroom, \$800/month. Good credit required. No pets. No Section 8. Leave message. 619-252-5175.

LINDA VISTA. \$1150 rent. \$800 deposit. OAC. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath duplex. Parking. Laundry in unit. Storage. No pets. At 2450 East Ingersoll Street. Agent, 619-299-8515.

LINDA VISTA. \$695-\$1250. Studios, utilities included. 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms. Laundry, gated parking. \$400-\$800 deposits! No pets. Astro Vista Apartments, 2249 Ulric Street. 858-565-6400.

LINDA VISTA. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. \$995. New paint, Laundry and parking. Move-in special! 6512 Kelly Street, #4. Agent, 619-296-2584.

LINDA VISTA. 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo, \$2300. 2 story, near USD, washer/dryer, 1-car garage, 1221 square feet, balcony. 6283 Caminito Luisito. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. peoplehelpingothers.com.

LITTLE ITALY. 1 bedroom condo, top floor. Quiet, underground parking. Air conditioned. Courtyard, built-in barbecue. Nonsmoking. Built 2005. Near Gaslamp, Balboa Park. \$1495. 619-609-9071.

MIRA MESA. \$1795. Upscale 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo at luxurious Monarch Scripps Ranch. Fireplace, washer/dryer, garage. Gated. 10832 Scripps Ranch Boulevard. www.centrecity.net. 619-296-6699.

MISSION BAY/BAY PARK. \$850. Spacious studio in fantastic location. Bay view. Controlled access. Laundry. 2821 Morena Boulevard. TPPM, 619-275-1352.

MISSION BEACH. \$2700/month. 2 bedroom plus small den. 2-car garage with remotes. Deck. Small yard. Laundry hookups. Bay and ocean views. Steps to Boardwalk and beach. One-year lease and then month/month. Cat OK. 714 Rockaway Court. Agent, 858-866-5636.

MISSION BEACH. \$500 off first! \$1225. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. On the board walk! Wood floors. Appliances. Shared patio with ocean view. Parking. Pet negotiable. 717 Dover Court. 619-804-3325.

MISSION BEACH. \$750. Studio. Steps to Bay! Included utilities. Excellent condition. No pets. 3264 Bayside Lane. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

cookie-cutter stores! Aquatic Warehouse. 5466 Complex Street #204, San Diego. Behind Superior Courthouse, off Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. www.aquaticwarehouse.com. Daily, 10am-7pm. Saturday, 10am-6pm. Sunday, 11am-6pm. 858-467-9297.

BENGAL LEOPARD BABY. Take a walk on the mild side of wild. Drop dead gorgeous. TICA registered. Canaries also available. North County/Vista. 760-724-9316.

BLUE AMERICAN PITBULL terriers, champion blood line, Razor Edge and Gotti. \$1000 for pick of litter. Dogs include papers, first and second vaccinations, housebroken, crate trained, ADBA papers. Can also purchase dog without papers for cheaper price, \$600-\$900. 619-715-6805.

BUY/SELL/TRADE reptiles, amphibians, turtles, tortoises, snakes, lizards. Largest reptile selection in Southern California. Voted #1 in San Diego. Pet Kingdom, 619-224-2841.

CATS/KITTENS. 10+ weeks. Responsible homes. Virus-tested, neutered, vaccinated, de-wormed. Fee. Tuesday/Thursday/Friday 6pm-8pm. Saturday/Sunday, noon-4pm, PetSmart, 8657 Villa La Jolla Drive. www.sdscats.org.

CHIHUAHUA MIX. 11 pounds, 2 years, happy. A bit timid, responds to kindness. Healing from broken jaw. Tan, smooth coat. \$150. 619-583-5122.

CHIHUAHUAS. Baja Animal Sanctuary has quite a few rescued, young Chihuahuas. All different colors, ages, and interesting markings. They are all looking for forever homes. Interested? Call Baja Animal Sanctuary, 619-231-6960.

DOG LOVER? Baja Animal Sanctuary is looking for volunteers who are willing to foster dogs. We provide food, supplies, etc. All you need to provide is love. If you reside in North County please contact Patricia, 858-254-8733 or Judy, 858-538-8350. If you reside south of La Jolla, please contact Alisa, 858-270-4056.

KOI PONDS AND WATER GARDENS. Equipment and supplies, free water testing, service and maintenance, construction and design, commercial and residential. Koi-Koi Living Jewels' 20th year. 1975 Jamacha Road, El Cajon. Monday-Saturday, 10am-5pm, Sunday 11am-4pm. 619-441-9275.

MISSION BEACH. \$995. Cozy 1 bedroom apartment. Small garage. Yard. Includes utilities. Block to ocean and Bay. New paint. No pets. 803 Jamaica Court. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

MISSION BEACH. 2 bedroom duplex, 3628 Mission Boulevard. \$1600. 2-car parking. Storage. Fenced yard, small pet. Water/trash paid. Steps to ocean. Hookups. 619-435-0387.

MISSION BEACH. Furnished condo, ocean view, 100 feet from sand. 1 bedroom \$1600/month; \$700 weekly. 717 Rockaway Court. Pets OK. Parking space, laundry. wagonerapacific.com, 858-349-9977.

MISSION BEACH. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath, new carpet, \$1750/month. Steps to ocean! Laundry facilities, parking. Near shopping. Available now till 6/15/09. Water/trash paid. 619-234-7572.

MISSION BEACH. Move-in special! On the boardwalk! Newly renovated large 2 bedroom, 2 bath units. Luxury units for rent. Granite, Stainless steel appliances. Travertine tile. Everything new! Private balconies, new pool, security building/parking. 3790 Riviera Drive. \$2750. Manager at 619-247-2114.

MISSION HILLS. \$775. Studio, small building. Private parking, full kitchen/bath. Clean! Take India Street west to Chalmers to 1527 Linwood Street, Apt #1. 619-459-6889.

MISSION HILLS. \$1050. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, on-site parking and \$1095. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Garage, laundry. Cat OK. 3224 Reynard Way. www.centrecity.net. 619-296-6699.

MISSION HILLS. \$1150. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. \$200 off first month's rent. Patio view, laundry, parking, cat OK. 801 Torrance. AMI Property Management, 619-697-6314.

MISSION HILLS. \$1200/up. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Laundry. Parking. Pets OK. La Paloma Apartments. Open daily, 1-5pm. 3911 Dove. 619-297-1134.

MISSION HILLS. \$1250. \$200 Off first month's rent. 2-bedroom, 1-bath apartment. Quiet, laundry. Close to all. Parking. 723 Torrance. AMI Property Management, 619-697-6314.

MISSION HILLS. \$1350. 2 bedroom duplex. Sunny, charming, remodeled. Tile, hardwood floors, patio, storage. Ceiling fans. Fresh paint. No pets. 619-574-6253.

MISSION HILLS. 1 bedroom upstairs condo, balcony, gated parking. Appliances, on-site laundry. Nonsmoking. No pets. Walk to Little Italy and Hillcrest. \$1150/month. 619-571-0201.

MISSION HILLS. 1 bedrooms from \$950. 1/2 off first month! Patios, pool, laundry room, storage and more! Cat OK. 3505 Reynard Way. 619-683-9239. aspen-park.rasnyder.com.

MISSION HILLS/MIDDLTOWN. \$1700. Charming 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. New refrigerator. Stove. Fenced backyard. Private. Storage. Garage. Hook-ups. Pet. Pet OK. 619-260-0752, 619-865-5944.

LABS? Looking to adopt a goofy Lab or pup? Contact Aubree at 619-990-7455 with Labs & Friends Rescue or log onto www.labradorsandfriends.org to see our adoptable dogs.

LOOKING FOR A COMPANION? Check out www.petfinder.com, the temporary home of adoptable pets and adoption groups. Search by breed, age, sex, and location.

LOST CAT ALERT. Bastian, Russian Blue, medium, 7-15lbs, white male, last seen Harbor Island. More information: http://dogdetective.com/pet-details.cfm/id/998085. Call day/night, 858-815-3572.

PUPPIES, PUPPIES, PUPPIES! If you are looking for a new companion, contact Baja Animal Sanctuary at 619-231-6960.

S.N.A.P. (Spay Neuter Action Project) is looking for foster homes to take care of some of our small dogs until they find forever families. If you're interested please contact Dorell at 760-815-0945.

SHIH TZU LOST! Lexy, white/black, lost from home 11/15/08. 3 years old, she is a twin, her sister not doing well. Please help 619-254-1100.

SMALL DOGS. If you have been looking for that special, small, furry 4-legged friend, contact us! 619-231-6960.

TERRIER MIX. Gray, shaggy. 5.5 pounds. 2 years, cuddly but energetic. OK with cats/dogs. No young kids. Plays fetch/tug. \$100. 619-466-0426.

Pet and Housesitting

Veterinary Technician, 2 years' experience, references. Flexible, short notice okay. Call: Mark S. Pipes, 858-220-1022.

WANT A DOG for just the weekend? We have weekend foster opportunities for small or big dogs, puppies, adults, or seniors depending on what suits you. Contact the Baja Animal Sanctuary for more information, 619-231-6960 or 858-270-4056.

YOUNG DOGS. We have quite a few 3.5-months old looking for forever homes. They are all mutts but mostly shepherd or Labrador mixes with gorgeous markings. If you're interested in adopting a new companion, contact the Baja Animal Sanctuary for more information, 619-231-6960.

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Mission Hills/Hillcrest. New, luxurious, very large 2 bedroom, 2 bath condos, \$2400. Designer kitchen, washer/dryer, HVAC, decks. Parking, security. Credit check. 3972 Albatross Street. Call Broker, 619-293-3118 x5.

MISSION VALLEY. \$1060. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, parking included, fitness center, fireplace. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

MISSION VALLEY. \$1350. 2 bedroom, 2 baths condo (dual masters), 1-car parking, pool, balcony, central air/heat, small storage. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

MISSION VALLEY. \$1395. 2-bedroom, 1-bath spacious condo. Approximately 1000 square feet. Near stadium. Newly renovated. Microwave, Air conditioning, ceiling fans, pool, spa, sauna, coin-operated laundry. Security. Parking on site. Close to trolley, shops, SDSU. Non-smoking. Deposit. Lease. Call Kelly, 619-584-1835.

MISSION VALLEY. \$1500. The Franciscan. 2 bedroom, 2 bath third-floor courtyard-view condo. 6780 Friars. To view, call your Realtor or Iris Hirsch, 858-459-0501.

MISSION VALLEY. \$1525. Newer one level. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Great kitchen, side-by-side washer/dryer. Patio. Community pool/spa, gym. Agent 858-456-3211.

MISSION VALLEY. \$1650. 2 bedroom condo with private patio/balcony. Washer/dryer. Community pool/spa. Fitness center. Fireplace. Air conditioner. Half off first month's rent! www.utopiamanagement.com. 858-598-1111 x193.

MISSION VALLEY. Autumn special! From \$350/weekly. Renovated, fully furnished studios/suites! Pool, spa. Full kitchen. On-site laundry. Complimentary continental breakfast. Off-street parking. Free high-speed internet, cable, 80 channels, HBO! Near SDSU, Qualcomm, more! Days Inn & Suites, 5343 Adobe Falls Road. 1-800-492-9471; 619-287-1911. SanDiegoHotelsDaysInn.com. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2139.

MISSION VALLEY. Escala. View, 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhome. Like brand new: paint/carpet. Perfect condition. 2-car garage. Patio. Air. Appliances. Washer/dryer. \$2499. 619-261-5906.

MISSION VALLEY/TALMADGE/KENSINGTON. \$250 off first month's rent! Free application fee! 2 bedrooms from \$1395! 3 bedrooms from \$1650! Gated community! Pool, spa. Free WiFi access. Outdoor billiards, barbecue lounge. Fitness center. Computer lab with printer. Laundry center with flat screen TVs! Parking. Pet friendly! Mission Pacific Apartments, 4454 44th Street. Call today, 1-800-372-9146. missionpacific_pacificliving@crossfiremail.com. www.pacificliving.com. www.sdreader.com/news/rent1010.

MISSION VALLEY/USD. 2 bedroom. Move-in special! \$1600 (includes water). New appliances/remodel, washer/dryer, panoramic views, 2-parking, hardwood, patio/jacuzzi. Pets OK. Available. 858-353-6878.

MISSION VALLEY/USD. Large 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, 2-story townhouse, private patio, new paint. Laundry on site, storage, assigned parking. No pets. \$1350/month with move-in special. Available now. 1280 Goshen Street, #4. 858-483-5111 x10. www.melroyproperties.com.

MOUNT HELIX. \$1800. Newly remodeled 2 bedroom, 2 bath (masters) apartment, 1700sf, pool, Jacuzzi, huge yard. Close to shopping, parks. Pets OK. Available now. 619-246-7880.

MOUNT HELIX/CASA DE ORO. Move-in special, OAC! \$1125. 2 bedroom. \$1350. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Spacious. Laundry. Garages. Balconies. Pool. Military accepted. Espanol. 619-857-0365.

MOUNTAIN VIEW. \$1750. 4 bedroom, 2 bath upstairs apartment. Gated complex. Laundry on site. Off-street parking. No pets. 3712 Hemlock Street #1. 619-640-7530. www.sdforrent.com

NATIONAL CITY. 1 bedroom apartment, \$825. Newly renovated. Gated community. Laundry facility. Available now. Hill-top Villa, 315 East 30th Street. 619-477-7442. www.melroyproperties.com.

NATIONAL CITY. Great location! 1 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath; 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhouse, \$905-\$1225. Balcony. Washer/dryer hookups. Views. Parking. Garages. Lease. No pets. 940 Palm Avenue. 619-336-0436.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$100 off first month's rent! 1 bedroom, \$895 with \$500 deposit. Studio, \$750. Newly remodeled. Pool, barbecue, laundry. Open house Saturday and Sunday, 1-4pm. 4566 36th Street. Call 619-284-2104 or 858-401-3397. www.melroyproperties.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1050. 2 bedroom, 1 bath upper duplex apartment. Gated courtyard. On-site laundry. New stove, refrigerator. Pet considered. Available 12/1. \$900 deposit. 619-822-7664.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$695. Studio. Gas, water, trash paid. Newer cabinets. Ceramic tile floors. Laundry. No pets. Near Adams. www.SeeTheUnit.com. Agent, 619-298-7724.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$750 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, 4263 42nd. \$795 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, 4670 Cherokee. Nice, on-site laundry. No pets. \$650/deposit. 760-672-0425.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$795 rent. \$800 deposit. OAC. Large upper 1 bedroom. Laundry. Near I-15. No pets. At 4742 East Mountain View Drive, #7 (North of Adams). Agent, 619-299-8515.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$800. \$800 deposit. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs. Refrigerator, stove. Laundry. Parking. No pets. 4655 33rd Street #6. 619-226-7368, or www.bkbinc.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$825. \$825 deposit. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs. Parking. Laundry. No pets. 4669 Iowa Street #8. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$850. Deposit \$850. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Refrigerator. Stove. Close to all. No pets. 4737 West Mountain View Drive. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$900. 1 bedroom downstairs unit. Laundry. Parking. Available 12/10. No pets. 4429 Idaho Street #2. Agent, 858-514-8201.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$975. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs unit. Gated complex. Laundry. Available 12/07/08. 4580 39th Street, #4584. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$980. Remodeled large 2 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs apart-

ment. On-site laundry. Off-street parking. Nice area off Adams. 4652 East Mountain View Drive. 760-744-5626.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. Large, refurbished 1 bedroom. 4669 Wilson. \$775; deposit \$600. Quiet gated complex. Gas stove, refrigerator, breakfast bar. Off-street parking. Near shopping, freeways. 619-952-7006.

NORMAL HEIGHTS/KENSINGTON. \$1050. Sweet little 2 bedroom house, quaint and quiet—just refurbished. Small pets OK. 619-987-0001.

NORMAL HEIGHTS/KENSINGTON. \$995 rent, \$800 deposit OAC. Upper 2 bedroom 1 bath. Laundry. No pets. At 4742 East Mountain View Drive #6, 619-299-8515.

NORTH PARK. \$1000. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath in heart of North Park. All amenities, parking, laundry on site, controlled entry, air conditioning. Walk to all. No pets. 4557 Utah Street. 619-521-1901, 619-461-9415.



NORTH PARK. \$1150. Large 2-bedroom, 1-bath downstairs apartment in beautiful gated building with laundry and assigned off-street parking. Move-in special: \$300. 4077 Utah Street, #2. 619-698-6911. www.goldenmanagement.com.

NORTH PARK. \$1150. Loft style studio, 1 bath. Newly remodeled. Stainless steel appliances. Air conditioning. 3425-1/2 Ray Street. Xlarent.com, 619-683-7638.

NORTH PARK. \$1250. 3 bedroom, 1-1/4 bath, upstairs unit, garage and gated parking, fresh paint, new blinds. 3738 Swift Avenue. 619-741-4378 or 619-540-6526.

NORTH PARK. \$1350 rent. \$900 deposit. OAC. Large 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath house. New carpet. Private deck and patio. No pets. At 3818 Pershing Avenue. Agent, 619-299-8515.

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NORTH PARK. \$550. Studio. Senior complex 62+, gated complex, laundry on site, wheelchair access, elevator. 4226 41st Street #16. 619-640-7530. www.sdforrent.com.

NORTH PARK. \$750. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Senior complex 55+, gated complex, laundry on site, bus stop in front of complex, and all amenities. 3776 Alabama Street #C115. 619-640-7530. www.sdforrent.com.

NORTH PARK. \$825. 1 bedroom. Spacious 2 bedroom, \$1050. Quiet complex. Gated. Parking. Laundry. Easy freeway access. 1 year lease. No pets. 4837-43-1/2 Kansas Street. 619-303-4969.

NORTH PARK. \$850. Small studio, water included, washer/dryer in unit, off street parking. Pets on approval. Tenant pays SDG&E. 619-640-7530. www.sdforrent.com.

NORTH PARK. \$875. Upper level duplex. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Large living room. Hardwood floors. Walk-in closet. No pets. 3944 Bancroft Street, San Diego, CA, 92104. 619-298-3324.

NORTH PARK. \$995 rent. \$800 deposit. OAC. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Laundry. Parking space. No pets. At 4222 Alabama Street #18. Agent, 619-299-8515.

NORTH PARK. \$995. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Wood floors. Street parking. Coin-operated laundry on site. Indoor cat OK. Available now. 4123-1/2 Kansas Street. www.stevenleeproperities.com. 619-295-1161.

NORTH PARK. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, downstairs. New paint, good storage, off-street parking. 3662 32nd Street. #2. \$975. 619-683-9274.

NORTH PARK. 1/2 off first month! \$1495. Large upper 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. Garage. Appliances including washer and dryer. Deck. Near all. Pet negotiable. 4005 Kansas Street. 619-804-3325.

NORTH PARK. 1/2 off first! \$1395. Completely renovated. 2 bedroom, 1-1/4 bath. All new wood flooring. Granite counter tops. Stainless steel appliances. Fireplace. Cat OK. 3337 Herman Avenue #7. 619-804-3325.

NORTH PARK. 2 bedroom, 2 bath in a garden setting. Underground parking, laundry on site, patio/balcony, new carpet/refrigerator, lots of storage. Cat OK. \$1175-\$1225. 619-241-2596.

NORTH PARK. 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhome. Dual suite masters, one with large oval tub, dual sinks, walk-in closet. Vaulted ceilings. Upgraded lighting, new paint, new wood flooring in living room and fireplace. 1-car garage walk through to unit. Great neighborhood, close to all. 3520 Herman Avenue #2. \$1895. 619-683-9274.

NORTH PARK. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs apartment, dishwasher, balcony, quiet 3-unit complex, on-site laundry. No pets. \$995/month, \$900/deposit. 4359 Cherokee Avenue. 619-887-8786.

NORTH PARK/HILLCREST. \$100 off first month! Large 2 bedroom, \$1100. Upstairs, newly upgraded. Gated, laundry facilities, parking. No pets. Close to Naval Hospital, shops, freeways. 3710 Alabama Street. 619-299-1699. www.melroyproperties.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1000. Deposit \$1000. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Laundry. Parking. No pets. 5035 Brighton Avenue #6. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1000. Deposit \$1000. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Parking. Close to beach. Refrigerator, stove. No pets. 5057-1/2 Muir Avenue. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1100. Deposit \$1000. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Garage. Small yard. No pets. 4653 Lotus Avenue. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1275. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. 1/2 block to beach. Downstairs. On-site laundry. Carpets. No pets. 4850 Orchard Avenue, #4. 619-222-6427.

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OCEAN BEACH. \$850. Large downstairs studio. Blocks to beach. No pets. 4876 Voltaire Street #5. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$925. Large 1 bedroom apartment. Laundry, patio, close to beach. No dogs/cats. 5045 Lotus. Available now. 858-292-6046.

OCEAN BEACH. \$960. Blocks to the beach! 1 bedroom. Clean. Parking. Laundry. No pets. Includes water/trash. Seacoast Apartments, 5030 Lotus. Call Doris, 619-204-1651. 619-224-0759.

OCEAN BEACH. Beautiful beachfront ocean view! Studio, \$995. 1 bedroom, \$1075-\$1200. 2 bedroom, \$1400-\$1600. Serene security garden buildings. Hardwood floors, ceramic tile, laundry. Garages available. Pets considered. For address and availability, call 619-224-1748. For applications, call 619-501-5553.

OCEAN BEACH. Large newer 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath apartment, view, dishwasher, garage, laundry hookups, near all. No smoking. Pet? 4688 Newport. \$1900. Available 12/1. 619-994-9088.

OCEAN BEACH. Studio, \$875 plus deposit. New paint, new carpet, partial ocean view, 1 block to beach. Pets OK. Call 619-339-9951.

OCEAN BEACH/WEST POINT LOMA. \$1250. 2 bedroom, 2 bath in great building with views. Gated entrance and parking. Convenient location near Robb Field, beach and YMCA. No pets. **Open house Saturday 2-3pm.** 4457 Temecula at West Point Loma Boulevard. TPPM, 619-770-1959.

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OCEANSIDE. \$1095. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, cat OK, 900 square feet, paid water/trash. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

OCEANSIDE. \$800. Studio apartment, full bath/shower, on-site laundry, refrigerator, stove, balcony, patio, secured/covered parking, mile to beach. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

OCEANSIDE. Large 1 and 2 bedrooms, \$995-\$1250, west of Interstate 5, just 8 blocks to beach, in vibrant downtown village. Beautiful remodeled units. 508 North Nevada Street. See photos at www.WexfordLiving.com. 760-433-8810.

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PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$1195. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, in quiet 4-plex. Large fenced patio area. Small 1-car garage. Stove, refrigerator. Coin laundry. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Available 12/02/08. 1013 Opal Street. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$1475. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Large. Stove, refrigerator. Dishwasher. Parking. Available 12/10/08. 981 Loring Street. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$1500-\$1550. 2 bedroom, 2 bath in beautiful North Pacific Beach property. Great amenities, parking, no pets. **Open house Saturday, 10-11am.** 1530 Chalcedony. TPPM, 858-270-5847 or 858-699-3851.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$1595. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Large, downstairs. Stove, refrigerator. Patio. Gas fireplace. Coin laundry. Garage space. 3 blocks to ocean. Available 10/30. 1032 Beryl Street. 858-270-2071. Del

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PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$1595. Duplex. Like new, large upper 2 bedroom. Immaculate, sunny, 1.5 blocks ocean. Dishwasher, white tile. Patio. Parking. Laundry, yard. 865 Missouri. 619-275-2610.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1075/month: 1-bedroom. \$1500/month: 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Spacious remodeled apartments. 6-month or 1-year lease. Parking. Pools. Laundry facilities. Cats OK. 3883 Jewell Street. Manager, 858-272-0068. See www.apartments.com/tuscanapartments for photos, floor plans.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1115. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs. Remodeled. Stove, refrigerator. Dishwasher. Microwave. Coin laundry. No pets. Available 11/27/08. 1433 Oliver Avenue. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1125. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Large, upstairs. Stove, refrigerator. Dishwasher. Balcony. Coin laundry. Parking. Available 12/17/08. 1448 Thomas Avenue. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1200. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, second level. Off-street parking. Laundry on site. No pets. 4451 Haines Street. Available mid October. 858-270-4492 x203.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1200. 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage; small, private patio. Parking. Laundry. No pets. \$1000 deposit. 4123, 1/2 Ingraham Street. 858-270-4674.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1250 with move-in special! Large downstairs condo-quality, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Near bay. Newly remodeled unit with granite counters, limestone tub enclosure, built-in microwave, new paint, new carpet, crown molding, mirrored closet doors, lots of cabinet space, on-site laundry room, assigned parking. No pets. Available now. 2138 Thomas #2. Call 858-483-5111 x10. www.melroyproperties.com.

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LEAD STORY

— Recent research in the *Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy* sheds light on why females continue to earn less money than males, even in similar jobs. Competing hypotheses have been advanced: It's either gender discrimination or simply that more women than men de-emphasize career aggressiveness in favor of family. The recent research suggests discrimination. Researchers found that females who were established in jobs and who then underwent sex changes actually increased their earnings slightly, but that males who became females lost about one-third of their earning power, according to an October summary of the research in *Time* magazine.

Fine Points of the Law

— (1) A 38-year-old man was cited for disorderly conduct in Fond du Lac, Wis., in September after he bought a beer for his sons, ages 2 and 4, at the county fair. He could not be cited for providing alcohol to minors because, under Wisconsin law, parents are exempt, but he was written up for swearing at police. (2) Melanie Hain's Pennsylvania concealed-weapons permit was revoked in September after spectators com-

plained about her openly carrying her loaded, holstered Glock at her five-year-old daughter's soccer game. However, the only penalty under state law is the loss of the privilege of concealment, so that if Hain continues to carry the gun, she must do so openly.

Least Competent Criminals

— (1) What started as a "strong-arm" street robbery in Warren, Mich., in October, ended when the victim turned out to be stronger than the perp. When it was over, the victim had gotten his money back, plus \$30 of the mugger's as the man fled, according to a police report in the *Macomb Daily*. (2) In Bristow, Va., early one October morning, as a woman stood nearby with her car running, a stranger jumped in and started to drive off, though the woman's six-year-old daughter was still in the car. The incident ended quickly, though, as the child kicked the man, pinched him, and screamed until he bailed out and fled, according to a report on WRC-TV (Washington, D.C.).

Recurring Themes

— Recent Heroic Dogs: (1) Buddy, the German

shepherd trained to punch 911 on a special phone and bark, came through in the clutch in September when owner Joe Stalnaker of Scottsdale, Ariz., had a seizure. (Stalnaker said it was the third time Buddy had saved him.) (2) Cash, a German shepherd, remained at the side of his 25-year-old master for six weeks this summer after the man's suicide in the Colorado prairie. The body was found in August. Cash apparently strayed only to catch mice and rabbits for food but then returned.

News That Sounds Like a Joke

— A plumbing error in October at the annual Grape Festival in Marino, Italy, stymied the traditional hookup in which white wine cascades through the famous fountains in the center of town. Instead, water continued to run in the fountains, but "10 to 12" nearby homeowners must have thought it glorious divine intervention, briefly, when they opened their taps and found white wine flowing freely.

Something to Scream Over

— Food engineers in Japan, especially, are notorious for their odd-flavored ice creams that challenge the palate. In August, voters at the Taste

of Britain festival selected their own regional favorites, some of which rivaled Japan's (e.g., ice creams of sausage and mash, pork pie, cheddar cheese, Worcestershire sauce, Welsh rarebit, and even haggis). The Japanese still love their ice cream, though. Among the flavors at this year's Yokohama Ice Cream Expo in August (celebrating the 130th anniversary of ice cream in Japan) were beef tongue, octopus, eel, and beer.

Scenes of the Surreal

— According to the Palais de Justice in Paris, a recent preliminary hearing marked the first time in France — and perhaps in the world — in which a dog was called as a formal witness in a murder case. "Scooby Doo" was brought into the courtroom so that a judge could watch how he reacted when he approached the defendant, who was accused of killing Scooby's master, and according to a dispatch in London's *Daily Telegraph*, the dog "barked furiously," helping convince the judge to set the case for trial.

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 or to WeirdNewsTips@Yahoo.com

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1300-\$1650, 1 and 2 bedroom, 1 bath condos. Washer/dryer, stainless appliances, wood-burning fireplace, granite. Parking. 2123 Garnet Avenue. Call 858-274-1585. E-mail: tamee@oceanpacificcompanies.com.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1395, 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, 3 blocks from ocean, small quiet complex, 2-car parking included. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1470. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Triplex. Stove, refrigerator. Garage with gas laundry hookups. Backyard. Dog OK with additional deposit upon approval. Available 11/22. 2036 Diamond Street. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1525/month. Spacious 2 bedroom 2 bath apartment. Close to bay. New carpet. 1 covered parking spot. No pets. Move-in special! Call Jason 858-837-0364.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1550. Upgraded 2 bedroom condo like, small gorgeously landscaped garden complex, fireplace. 2-car garage available. No pets. **Open house Saturday 1-2pm.** 1075 Agate. Corner of Dawes and Agate. TTPM, 858-699-3851.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1795. 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath townhouse. Close to Bay and ocean. Patio. Parking. Pool. Laundry in complex. No pets. One-year lease desired. Available January 1, 2009. Call Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1875. Classic 2 bedroom. Ocean view. Steps to beach. Hardwood floors. Parking. All appliances. Laundry facility. 712 Santa Rita Place. Agent, 858-272-9547.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1995. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Bay and city view! Custom paint colors. Tiled Kitchen and bath floors. Balcony, laundry, parking. 3991 Crown Point Drive. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2100. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. About 1000 square feet. Off-street parking. New windows and paint. 6-month lease. Large rear yard. Pet friendly. 1144 Reed Avenue. Available late November. Call Alta Vista Properties, 858-274-3600. www.altavistamanagement.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2100. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Close to the Bay and ocean. Parking. Patio. No pets. One-year lease desired. Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2200. 3 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, parking included, in-unit washer/dryer, dishwasher. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2495. Townhome near beach/bay! Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Fireplace. Washer/dryer hookup. Garage. Refrigerator. Stove. Microwave. Dishwasher. 2050 Garnet Avenue #1. 619-223-0254.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$250 off first month's rent! 1 bedrooms at \$1250. 2 bedrooms starting \$1595. Free application fee! Free poolside Wifi. Sundeck. Cardio fitness center. Equipment and weight room. Across from Mission Bay bike trail. Spectacular views. Super floor plans. Limited availability. Cat friendly. The Pacific at Mission Bay, 2636 Grand Avenue. 1 - 8 0 0 - 4 9 0 - 6 3 7 2 . pacificatmissionbay.pacificliving@crossfiremail.com. www.pacificliving.com. www.sdreader.com/news/rent1049.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2695. 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath condo. Upgraded throughout. Travertine, granite, stainless appliances. Bay view from rooftop deck. Solar. Garage and parking space. 2025 Grand Avenue. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$350 off first month's rent! \$1060. Quiet 1 bedroom apartment. Upstairs. Laundry. Off-street parking. 1920 Felspar. Agent, 858-457-4509.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$825. Studio, 1 bath apartment, steps to beach and bay, 1-year lease. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$850. Large studio. New kitchen cabinets/gas stove/car-

pet/paint. Vertical blinds, laundry on site. Available now. 2155 Garnet Avenue. No pets. 858-278-2562.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$895. Upgraded 1 bedroom in garden setting. Easy access, location. Pool, recreation room. Laundry. No pets. 2710 Grand Avenue. TTPM, 858-273-8657.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$995. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, pool, refrigerator, stove, about 650 square feet. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$995. Large quiet 1 bedroom apartment. Stove, refrigerator, laundry, parking. Easy access to Freeway I-5, near shopping. No pets. 2228 Felspar. 858-270-0929.

PACIFIC BEACH. 2 bedroom, 1 bath with off-street parking \$1550/month or 3 bedroom, 2 bath \$2150/month. 1119 Turquoise Street. Kevin, 619-972-9527.

PACIFIC BEACH. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1375. Deposit \$750. Gated garden building. 5 blocks to beach or bay. Manager on site. No pets. 1-year minimum lease. Available now. 4445 Fanuel Street. 858-483-3221.

PACIFIC BEACH. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs. Laundry, parking. Near bay/ocean. Available now. \$1295. 1258 Pacific Beach Drive. Also 1 bedroom, \$895. 858-454-4161.

PACIFIC BEACH. Condo living at apartment rent. 1 bedroom, 1 bath \$1195. New granite kitchen/appliances. New tile floor/carpet. New granite bathroom cabinets. Newly painted walls/ceilings. 1433 Reed. Also, 1 bedroom plus den, \$1195. Third floor, balcony view with newer granite kitchen. Laundry, parking. No pets please! 4467 Dawes. 858-453-4553.

PACIFIC BEACH. Gorgeous 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse. Balcony, deck, laundry, hardwood floors, walk-in closet, parking. Close to beach/bay. \$1700/month. 858-342-2591.

PACIFIC BEACH. Great specials! Studios from \$975. 1 bedrooms from \$1245. \$350 off first month's rent (move-in before 11/29)! 2 bedrooms from \$1595. 1/2 off first month's rent (move-in before 11/29)! Free credit check! Pool. Gym. Business center. More! Bay Pointe, 3866 Ingraham. www.progressmanagement.net. Toll Free: 1-888-759-7435. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2081.

PACIFIC BEACH. Great values, nice, clean, convenient apartments in multiple Pacific Beach locations. Studios from \$795. 1 bedrooms from \$1015. 2 bedrooms from \$1425. Parking, laundry. Some buildings with gated entry, pool and/or deck. No pets. 858-483-3796.

PACIFIC BEACH. Huge 2 bedroom, 1 bath \$1425 and 2 bedroom, 2 bath: \$1500. Move-in special! Laundry, parking. 2024 Reed Avenue. Available now. Agent, 619-260-1368. View at <http://www.sevillamgmt.com>.

PACIFIC BEACH. Large upstairs 1 bedroom with garage, balcony, on-site laundry. Near beach and bay. 1663 Diamond Street, #5. \$1195/month with move-in special! Call 858-483-5111 x10. www.melroyproperties.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. Large upstairs 1 bedroom, 1 bath duplex, assigned parking, newly painted. No pets. 1971-1/2 Grand Avenue. \$995 with move-in special! Call 858-483-5111 x10. www.melroyproperties.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. Live so close to beach and make friends envious! \$250 off first month's rent! Charming 1 bedroom apartments from \$1155. Free application fee. Only 1 block from the beach! Located in the north Pacific Beach neighborhood with beachfront access only minutes away. Short distance to downtown La Jolla shopping and dining. Our quaint apartment homes include on-site laundry facility, extra storage and a quiet location. Cat friendly. Call our rental office today! 858-272-7464. www.pacificliving.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. Magnificent whitewater view! 2 bedroom, 2 bath furnished oceanfront condo. On boardwalk. Balcony, pool. All appliances, underground parking. Water/cable included. Available now till 5/30/09 except February/March. \$2700-\$3300. 626-826-9263.

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San Diego Reader November 26, 2008 145

PACIFIC BEACH. Studio, \$840. Large, quiet. Utilities included. Sundeck. Easy access to I-5. No pets. 2176 Thomas Avenue. 858-270-0929.

PACIFIC BEACH. Well maintained studio, \$795; 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$925; 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1250. Clean, quiet, parking, laundry, ceiling fans, pool. No pets. Available now. 619-279-0331.

PACIFIC BEACH/BAY HO. \$1900. Ocean bay view! Spacious 2-bedroom, 2-1/2 bathroom. All appliances, newly renovated. Near beaches /downtown. 2-car garage. 760-632-6878.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1345. 2-bedroom, 2-bath large upstairs front unit. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave. Private balcony. Garage space, coin laundry. No pets. Close to bay. Available now. 3711 Ingraham Street. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1195. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Large, downstairs. Stove, refrigerator. Coin laundry. Parking. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Available 12/10/08. 2154 Reed Avenue. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

PARADISE HILLS. 1/2 off first month's rent! 3 bedroom, 2 bath house, \$1850. 2-car garage, 2 kitchens. Pets OK. Month-to-month or 6-month lease only. 5946 Cumberland Street. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. peoplehelpingothers.com.

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POINT LOMA. \$100+ move-in special! Large 1 bedroom. Parking, laundry. No pets. \$1050/month. Available now. Call 619-523-3969.

POINT LOMA. \$1150. 2 bedroom, 1 bath downstairs with hardwood floors in living room! Laundry on site! Located near Shelter Island and the new Liberty Station! No pets. 3140 Macaulay Street. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

POINT LOMA. \$2095. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Over 1500 square feet. Sundeck. New carpet. Washer/dryer. Central heat. Pool. 2777 Nimitz Boulevard. Pet friendly. 619-297-0269.

POINT LOMA. 1 bedroom with walk-in closet, \$950/month. Bright, airy, beautifully landscaped, security gate. Tile kitchen/bath, laundry onsite. No pets. Available 12/5. 3181 Kemper Street, Apt #1. 760-505-7736, www.lomascenic.com.

POINT LOMA. 50% off deposit! Spacious 1 and 2 and 3 bedrooms starting at \$1099. 2 bedrooms, \$1459. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1710. OAC. Pet friendly! Club-

house. Fitness room. Business center. Tennis. Pool. Jacuzzi. Near shopping, beaches, restaurants, freeway. Stonewood Gardens, 3889 Midway Drive. 1-888-773-6259. MG Properties. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2118.

POINT LOMA. Available now. New carpet/paint, garage, 2 bedroom home in nice area. Dining area. Yard. \$1600. 4411 Montone. 619-274-2330, 619-435-7393 or 619-435-3830.

POINT LOMA. Studio and 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartments available, starting at \$950! Close to ocean. Off-street parking. Spa area, on-site laundry. Cats/dogs 20 lbs OK. Water and trash included. *Limited offer, on approved credit, see manager for details. 2449 Soto Street, Apartment #102, San Diego, 92107. 619.224-1973. Or visit us on our website at www.sdrenting.com.

POINT LOMA. Studios, \$1095. Newly remodeled studios with fantastic upgrades! Everything is new! Gated entry, parking, laundry, barbeque area. No pets. 2089 Chatsworth Boulevard. 619-222-0152.

POINT LOMA/LIBERTY STATION. 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath condo. 2-car garage. Hardwood floors. Fireplace. Balcony. Washer/dryer. Air. No pets. Near shopping/dining. \$2150. 619-602-0500.

POWAY. \$1050. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Nice, well-maintained complex with air conditioning, off-street parking, community laundry. Near all. No pets. 12529 Oak Knoll Road. 858-486-0109.

POWAY. \$1200. Nice 2 bedroom. \$300 off first month! Dishwasher, patio or balcony, parking, laundry. Beautiful courtyard. No pets. 12500 Oak Knoll. Agent, 858-679-1789.

RAMONA. 1/2 off first month's rent! \$895/month. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Close to shops. On-site laundry. Pool. Off-street parking. Habla Espanol! 619-469-5010. 1606 Montecito Road. 760-789-4577. Agent, 619-465-9934.

RANCHO BERNARDO. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Second floor. Air conditioning, fireplace, complex pool, gym, tennis, laundry, carpet, refrigerator, stove/oven, dishwasher, microwave. \$1650/month. Agent, 619-471-2201.

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SAN CARLOS. Super special! 2 and 3 bedroom townhouses. \$1395 and up. Stove, dishwasher, garage, large patio, pools, laundry facilities. Lakewood Villa Townhomes, 8492 San Carlos Drive, San Diego. 619-469-3585; 619-944-0671.

SAN DIEGO. \$1100 includes utilities. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Parking. Washer/dryer hookup. \$600 deposit. 619-846-1254.

SAN MARCOS. \$1075. Holiday Special! \$500 off 1st month's rent! Large 2 bed-

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SANTEE. Arbors Apartments. "600 off move-in special" Spacious 2 and 3 bedrooms available. Full-size washer/dryer. Fully equipped kitchens. Private patio/balcony. Pool and Jacuzzi. Carports and garages available. Near shops. Wood burning fireplaces. *Water/sewer fees may not be included. *Limited offer, on approved credit, see manager for details! 9700 Magnolia Park Drive, Santee, CA 92071. 619-562-6690. Visit us on our website at www.sdrenting.com.

SCRIPPS RANCH. \$1795. Upscale 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo at luxurious Monarch Scripps Ranch. Fireplace, washer/dryer, garage, Gated. 10832 Scripps Ranch Boulevard. www.centrecity.net. 619-296-6699.

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SOUTH PARK. \$850. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, upper unit. Wood floors. Available now. 3013-1/2 30th Street. www.stevenleeproperties.com. 619-295-1161.

SOUTH PARK. Victorian flat/studio in elegant restored building. Park view. Wood floors. Huge bathroom with clawfoot tub. Secured entrance, second story. 2034 30th Street. \$699/month. 858-568-5081.

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SOUTHEAST SAN DIEGO. Spacious 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. New tile throughout, all appliances, off-street parking, on-site laundry, gated. \$1600/month, \$1000/security. No pets. Linda, 619-203-9233.

SPRING VALLEY. \$1650. Townhome, 2 master bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths. Laundry room appliances, large storage room. Landscaped backyard, fence. Huge community pool/Jacuzzi. Available 12/1/2008. 619-258-0014.

SPRING VALLEY. Move-in special, \$250 off first month's rent! OAC. \$950. Deposit \$800. Nice upgraded duplex, 2 bedroom, 1 bath unit. New carpet, floors, paint, blinds. No pets. 1134 Koe Street. Call manager at 619-574-8009.

TALMADGE. \$1350. Charming house, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Fireplace. Fresh paint. Washer/dryer, yard with gardener. Garage. \$1550 deposit. Year lease. 4468 Highland Avenue. 619-840-8228.

TALMADGE. \$850. Back studio unit, share laundry, shared yard, pets on ap-

porval. Tenant pays 1/3 electricity. Water included. 4518 #A Euclid Avenue. 619-640-7530. www.sdforrent.com.

TALMADGE. 1 bedroom, \$865. Spacious, well-kept unit. Quiet, nice location. Gated, parking, laundry, air conditioning, barbecue. Cats OK. 4544 Winona Avenue. 619-229-1406.

TALMADGE/KENSINGTON. \$250 off first month! 3 bedroom, 1 bath cottage style home at \$1295. No application fee. Adjacent amenities. Outdoor billard lounge. Pool. Spa. Fitness center. Business center. 4454 54th Street. 619-282-1191.

TIERRASANTA. \$1025. 1 bedroom, 1 bath upper apartment, newly remodeled, recreation room with activities, elevator, on-site laundry. Gated. Shopping close. 62+ living. 4906 La Cuenta Drive. Linda, 858-278-4910. www.centrecity.net.

TIERRASANTA. \$1635. Large 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhouse. 2 parking. Yard. No pets. Nonsmoking. Washer/dryer hookups. Dishwasher. Nice. 10838 Caravelle Place. Juno, 619-275-3455.

TIERRASANTA. \$1725. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo. New carpet. New paint. Washer/dryer hookups. Extra large kitchen. Large patio. Small yard. 2 parking spots. Pool. Tennis courts. No pets. 11035 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. Agent, 619-692-4121.

TIERRASANTA. Executive condo. Near Mission Trails. 2 master bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 2-car garage. Washer/dryer. Patio, balcony. Fireplaces. Pets negotiable/additional security. \$2195. 619-252-3186.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$1025. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Small, cozy complex. Laundry on-site. Parking. No pets. 4460 Cleveland Avenue. Agent, 619-298-7724.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$1195. Extra large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Large kitchen. Crown molding. Stove, refrigerator. On-site laundry. Small pet negotiable. 4664-1/2 Hamilton Street. 619-804-3325.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$750. All utilities included. Extra large studio. Private fenced yard. New paint. Carpet and vinyl. Small pet negotiable. 4385 Alabama #B1. 619-804-3325.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$875. 1 bedroom. Large upper units with courtyard setting, gated entry, parking and laundry. Sorry, no pets. Agent, 619-297-0957.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 1 bedroom, upstairs. Hardwood floors. Free washer/dryer. Free U-verse TV. Air conditioning, gas heat. Ceiling fans. Off-street parking. 619-296-6774.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. Condo, \$1150. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. Upstairs, patio, sunny. Fireplace, garage, dishwasher, microwave, in unit washer/dryer. Gated. Sorry, no pets. 4436 Arizona Street. Available 12/15. 619-276-6413.

UTC. 55/up. Spacious luxury living. Pool, spa, golf course. 1 bedroom, \$1149. 2 bedrooms, \$1359. \$99 deposit. Town Park Villas, 4633 Governor Drive. 858-453-0441.

VALENCIA PARK. \$995. East of Downtown. 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath lower corner apartment. Storage. Parking. On-site laundry. 5337 Groveland Drive #2. Xilar-ent.com. 619-683-7638.

VISTA. Move-in special! Remodeled 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$850. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1075. Air conditioning, new carpet/ new paint, large patio, storage. Gated hill-side community. \$500 deposit. OAC. 760-672-6405. www.melroyproperties.com.

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EL CAJON. Furnished 2-bedroom mobile home for sale/trade. 12x60. Carport. Quiet senior park. Pool. New appliances, central air, bathroom. Financing available. \$47,000, 702-756-4160.

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MOBILE HOME FOR SALE By owner. \$34,900. 20'X55', 2 bedroom, 2 bath, California room, central heat/air, quiet senior park, close to downtown/beaches. 619-980-1988.

POINT LOMA. New carpeting/newly painted, garage. 2 bedroom home plus two 2 bedroom apartments and yard. Separate dining area. 619-274-2330. 619-435-7393 or 619-435-3830.

YUMA, ARIZONA. No money down. 3 units, 2 bedroom, 1 bath; 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 400-square-foot shop. \$240,000. Will consider a trade. 619-618-5061.

REAL ESTATE CONDOS

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.

DEL MAR. Lovely, sunny 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with pool and Jacuzzi. Monthly interest \$1695. \$15,000 down. APR only 5.9%. Call Agent, Elizabeth, at 619-286-5813.

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HILLCREST MODEL UNIT. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condos. Fabulous views! Hardwood floors. Granite countertops. Washer/dryer. Parking. Pool. Executive suite. Game room. Storage. 3907 Georgia Street #12. \$339K, reduced! Call agent for details, 619-871-8915.

KEARNY MESA. For sale by owner. Studio condo, \$150,000/*as is.* 3250 Ashford Street, 92111. Approximately 463 square feet, nice layout. Parking, pool/spa, storage space. 858-571-6829.

LA JOLLA/UTC. Sunny, lovely 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with pool and Jacuzzi. Monthly interest \$1695. \$15,000 down. APR only 5.9%. Call Agent, Elizabeth at 619-286-5813.

REAL ESTATE MISCELLANEOUS

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ATTENTION SELLERS! We'll buy your house in 11 days or pay you \$500 cash! 24 hour information: 800-398-8864, Box 305.

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GOVERNMENT 100% LOANS available. FHA, VA. Bank-owned foreclosures and short sales. Pre-foreclosure homes and condos for sale. Buy them before the bank does! Agent, Elizabeth, 619-286-5813.

HOTEL OWNER WANTS TO BUY property anywhere. Small houses, big houses, condos, apartments, commercial, vacant land, and notes. Call 619-204-0610.

MOBILE HOME. Santee. \$39,000. Cozy, for the holidays. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 20'x46', central heat/air. Near shopping. Pool, 2 pets OK, senior park. 619-442-4514.

RANCHO BERNARDO. Award winning community. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath corner unit with driveway! Gated community. Call for details. Top Notch Realty, Inc., 858-715-0688.

ROSARITO, MEXICO. Oceanview lots (2). One away from ocean. View to Coronado Islands. 1 mile south of future Donald Trump Towers. Price reduced! Hurry won't last. 858-268-4233.

WE BUY HOUSES. Cash or make your payments. Call Lupe, 619-550-7137.

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Free retest when we do repair.
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Must present DMV renewal notice.

*All prices plus tax. With this ad. Exp. 12/29/08.

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BASIC TUNE-UP:

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Includes parts & labor. Most 4-cyl. cars. 1995 and older. Dual overhead cam extra.

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BACK WHEN

In the Reader

Thirty Years Ago

In the incessant border skirmishes between illegal Mexican immigrants and the Border Patrol, a new battle has developed in the last few months. It's the "rock chuckers" versus the phlegm-green Border Patrol vehicles, and currently the chuckers seem to have the upper hand. Though Border Patrol officials can't put an exact figure on it, they do admit that "several hundred dollars" worth of damage is wrought monthly to their cars and trucks.

—CITY LIGHTS: **"STONING THE BORDER PATROL,"**

Neal Matthews, November 29, 1978

Twenty-Five Years Ago

The Sexual Freedom League is folding; an era has ended. By the dawn of the Eighties the San Diego chapter was the league's last remaining enclave.

Jim D., the financial officer, who says the chapter sponsored only four or five swing parties in the last year, compared to 40 to 60 participants at parties held every Saturday night a half-dozen years ago.

The financial officer says he's heard that in the last two years swinging in general has suffered a decline as fears of herpes and AIDS have multiplied.

"Over the years the more attractive peo-

ple migrated to the private groups. We were finally left with people who didn't look that good."

—CITY LIGHTS: **"AND TAKE YOUR MAZOLA WITH YOU,"**

Jeannette De Wyze, December 1, 1983

Twenty Years Ago

I work in downtown San Diego, and I am addicted to the cinnamon rolls from the Cinnamon Roll Fair on Broadway, near First Avenue. We've had an ongoing discussion about just how many calories these rolls have.

For the same caloric intake, your coffee break could consist of 9-1/2 pounds of lettuce, a quart of Tang, 29 pieces of bubblegum, or 75 stalks of celery. How about 30 cloves of garlic, 18 cups of clam juice, or 10 cups of sauerkraut? Or you might try 5 tablespoons of lard, 75 brussels sprouts, 13 onions, or 197 cups of coffee.

—STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP, *Matthew Alice,*

December 1, 1988

Fifteen Years Ago

Whom is Ken Mayer trying to kid? ("Disciple of Flesh," November 24.) All this hooley just to validate his personal obsession? If he wants to chase fat women, then let him run after them to his heart's content (they surely can't be dif-

ficult to catch!). But to spend this much print on the jerk is a complete waste. You could have used it to print something more interesting, like the treatment of foot fungus, or 101 fun things to do with lint. To call him a macho pig would be an insult to the pig.

—LETTERS: **"THE POMPOUS, SELF-ADORING JERK,"**

L.A. Massey, San Diego, December 2, 1993

Ten Years Ago

I'd been unlucky in love. Ergo: time to try poker. I hadn't played in many years and then I played badly, impatiently. But that didn't matter. Only the adage alluded to above mattered. And one other thing I was counting on: beginner's luck.

There used to be about 60 card rooms in San Diego. Last May only 3 remained, Ace's Duce's, the Lucky Lady, and the Palomar Card Club.

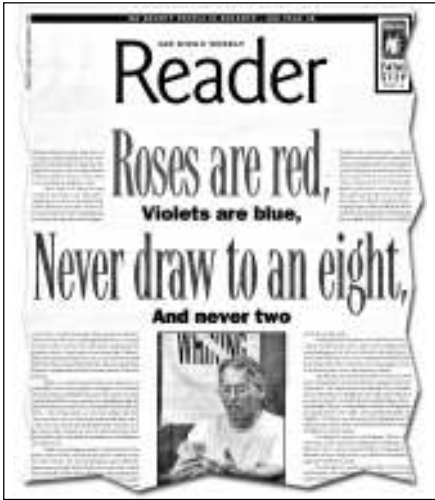
—**"ROSES ARE RED, VIOLETS ARE BLUE, NEVER DRAW**

TO AN EIGHT, AND NEVER TWO," *Thomas Lux,*

December 3, 1998

Five Years Ago

But how sentient these days is Audrey Geisel? The La Jolla socialite divorced her first husband, packed her two young teenaged children off to boarding school, and married Ted "Dr.



San Diego Reader, December 3, 1998

Seuss" Geisel in 1968. That was a year after the suicide of his first wife, Helen Palmer, who killed herself after becoming despondent over his affair with Audrey.... Two years ago Dr. Seuss [made it to] the humorously morbid list of "top-earning dead celebrities," with an estimated yearly take of \$19 million.

—CITY LIGHTS: **"UNDEAD CELEBRITY,"** *Matt Potter,*

December 4, 2003

To get an online version of this column, go to sdreader.com. You can print it, email it to friends, and get other columns and stories by these authors.

TICKETS

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.

CHARGERS TICKETS, Press level, premium location, individual games for sale, face value, \$98. Leave message for Don, 619-291-9996.

SPORTS

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BAY LINER/CAPRI. 1991, 20' boat. Galvanized trailer. 120 HP outboard engine.

Sony CD player. GPS. \$4500/best. Uses gasoline, current registration in CA. 858-245-0006.

BOAT, SEAQUEST. 2007. 10'2", bait tank, battery box, fish storage, 400lb cap, lake/bay fishing, outboard available. \$700/best. 619-804-2025.

BOAT. 10', inflatable, roll-up bottom, boat U.S. Very good condition. \$500 firm. 760-967-8623.

CANARI CYCLING CLOTHES Warehouse Sale! Friday, 12/12, 8am-4pm, Saturday, 12/13, 8am-12noon, 2471 Coral, Vista. Discounted 50%-90%. Credit cards welcome. Linda: Canari@roadrunner.com. Jami: 760-598-0505.

SCOOTERS, 150cc. New scooters out of container, ready to ride. Just try to find these scooters anywhere near this price. Call for details/appointment, 619-988-0702.

SNOWBOARD GEAR WANTED. We pay cash for snowboards, bindings, boots and clothing. We also buy surfboards, wetsuits, baseball gloves, skateboards, golf equipment, lots more. You can trade the gear towards other stuff for even more value. Three convenient locations. Play It Again Sports, 858-490-0222. www.playitagainsd.com.

SOFTBALL PLAYERS. We want a 3rd baseman and a left fielder. 619-295-0385. **SOFTBALL TEAM** wants a shortstop and a center fielder. 619-517-5791.

SURFBOARDS. New and used. 10'6" ex-oxy WWS, 24" wide, great condition, \$450; 9'8" \$300. Three 9 footers \$225 each, water tight. Several fun shapes and twin fins. Around 20 boards. Hurry! Won't last! Call 760-809-8642.

YOUTH SOCCER SEASON. Enroll now, registration October 7, season starts November 15. Director Armando at Cottonwood Community Park 1778 E. Palomar Street. Information, www.thelonofjudahsc.com, 619-888-9601.

PHOTO

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CANNON EOS, Rebel K2 35mm, SLR outfit, Tamron 28-200. Cannon 28-105, 28-90 lenses. Filters etc. Mint, \$250. 619-222-2990.

CANON REBEL, XTii digital SLR camera package, all original equipment, software, manuals, box. Also a tripod. Camera

near new, tripod new. Cash only. \$350, 619-590-2000.

CANON TS-E, 24mm, f3.5L tilt-shift lens. Perfect shape, hardly used. Original Canon box, all accessories, manual, UV filter. \$800/cash only. More information, 619-590-2000.

CANON VC1. 8mm, \$200. Pat, 619-540-5604.

COMPLETE PACKAGE. Haliburton case with dividers, \$100. Nikon F-100 camera with MB15 motor, \$400. Nikon lenses, 35-70 2.8D, \$400. 80-200 2.8D, \$750. Richard, 760-809-1777.

COMPUTERS

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COMPUTER CIRCULATION CENTER. Buy, sell, trade. Laptops, PCs. Repairs, upgrades, virus/spyware removal. 24-48 hour turnaround. 9350 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, San Diego 92123. Call 858-573-0411.

COMPUTER. E-machine, 2.7 GHZ, 256m RAM, 40gb HD. DVD burner, Windows XP Home, keyboard, mouse, monitor. \$125. 619-440-0627.

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Plus installation & disposal. No carry-out. Other sizes available. Call for a quote on your vehicle.

Automotive Service Coupons

<p>Cooling System Flush \$4499*</p> <p>Most cars. Includes: top off all fluids, rotate & balance 4 tires.</p>	<p>Tune-Up \$2990* and up</p> <p>Most 4-cyl. Inspect, scope, and adjust. Install 4 new spark plugs. Additional parts and labor extra if required.</p>	<p>Oil & Filter Change \$1599*</p> <p>Most cars. Drain and refill with quality 10W30 motor oil. Install new oil filter. Waste disposal fee extra.</p>	<p>Transmission Service \$5990*</p> <p>Most cars. Maintain your transmission and prevent costly repairs with new filter, new pan gasket, and transmission fluid refill.</p>	<p>Brake Service \$5990*</p> <p>Starting at Most cars. We install brake pads or shoes, resurface drums or rotors and adjust.</p>
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- Complete Auto Repairs

ROCKY, MY RUBBER DUCK, IS TUNNELING OUT OF THE BATHROOM. I know he's tunneling because upon morning muster and inspection he's been congenial and respectful, which is unfamiliar behavior for him. At night inspection, he's tucked in and stage-snoring; it's all an act. When I'm not looking, he's in there busting his little rubber tail, sweating and chipping away at grout and tile, and when I'm around he pretends to be an angel.

It kills me that I can't catch him doing it or find evidence of the act. I'm sure he's recruited my roommate's ceramic cat from atop the television and together they've worked out an elaborate signaling system. The cat watches me and tells Rocky where I am and when it's safe to dig. In the early morning, sometimes I swear I can hear the *tink tink tink* of tiny improvised metal tools. When I rouse from slumber and clop into the hallway the noise ceases. The ceramic cat wears a nonchalant demeanor and Rocky the Rubber Duck is snoozing soundly in his bunk.

For good measure, I check the shutters on the bathroom windows, tap my cane on random tiles to check for any that fit improperly, and toss the medicine cabinet for contraband. So far I've found nothing, but recently I've awakened to the routine *tink tink tink*. Bursting from my room and crashing into the bathroom, I caught Rocky and the ceramic cat chatting casually and sipping coffee, their little legs crossed as they sat straight-backed in their chairs.

"What in the name of Freddy Mercury's ghost is going on here?" I asked.

"Clearly, we're building a summer cottage," the ceramic cat answered.

"Watch your smart mouth," I said. "You know you're not allowed to fraternize with other household decorative animals, you know you don't get coffee until breakfast, and YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO LEAVE YOUR CELL ON TOP OF THE TELEVISION!"

"Okay, okay, man, straighten your wig. We were just chatting."

"Get back on the TV. NOW!"

The cat smugly brushed past me.

"And you!" I shouted at Rocky. "I know you're up to something. I can hear it, and I can see it on your arrogant little bill."

Rocky merely set his coffee down and went about his morning routine.

I closed the door and walked to the kitchen. The ceramic cat followed me with his gaze and I swear I heard a muffled, tiny *tink tink tink*.

WHAT I WILL AND WON'T WATCH THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27

THE NATIONAL DOG SHOW

NBC 12:00 P.M.

Oh, here's what I want to watch while I'm gearing up to eat some turkey and mashed potatoes: stinky, hairy, dog butts prancing around a floor. Super. Bring on the bird while I'm starin' straight down Fido's fuzzy barrel.

STORYTELLERS: KID ROCK

VH1 9:00 P.M.

Tell us, Kid Rock. Tell us a story. "Okay, children. Gather 'round the fire and hand me a Natural Light. Let me just take my Hep C medicine and a syringe of methadone to get into that Christmas spirit. Ah, that's the good stuff. When my leg shakes like that, I call it 'yule-logging the elves' eggnog.' It's the magic of the season!"

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

BETJ VIRTUAL AWARDS

BET 9:00 P.M.

When we find Sasquatch, which awards show will he attend? He's not black, white, or Latino. Perhaps we'll have to create an entirely new awards show for just him, Tiger Woods, and Barack Obama. Lindsay Lohan can drag her spent carcass onstage and present the award for "Best Artist in the...You Guys" category. You may ask why Lindsay would be there. It's because she's one-sixteenth Wookiee. (You can tell by her armpits.)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

CAREBEARS: ADVENTURE IN CARE-A-LOT CBS 9:30 A.M.

I've solved the energy crisis. Line up all the eight-year-olds, put electrodes in their ears, and give them an unending supply of tinfoil to chew on. Their little cavity-filled molars will spark an electrical revolution!

ALONG CAME POLLY

NBC 8:00 P.M.

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MACBOOK PRO. \$1000. 15". 1.83 GHz, 1.5 GB, 160 HD. Upgraded memory/hard

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BICYCLES

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BMX/FREESTYLE BIKES. Overhauled/dialed in. Haro back trails X0, \$125. Haro F2 BMX/freestyle bike, \$145. Specialized 415 Fatboy freestyle/jumping bike, \$190, 858-945-5304.

JAMIS CROSS COUNTRY. 2.0 girls, 14.5" MTB, 26" wheels. Excellent. For teenager, shorter woman. Overhauled/dialed in. This is the real deal. \$265, 858-945-5304.

SPECIALIZED EXPEDITION ELITE, MTB/Hybrid bike. Large frame, cosmetically

good condition. Functionally bike is perfect. Saddle has tear, but still works. Great bike. \$275, 858-945-5304.

VITUS CARBON, original owner, religiously maintained. Campagnolo chorus: head set, cranks, hubs, pedals, brakes, shift levers, front 50-34 derailleur. Mavic rims, Cinelli handlebars, \$700, 760-942-7881.

WANTED / TRADE

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CARDBOARD SHOTGUN and rifle shell boxes (pre-1960), duck and game calls, hunting and fishing badges (pre-1940), and paper licenses (pre-1930). Call 858-565-1756.

CASH FOR COMICS. Before 1970, vintage Disney items, autograph collections, Walt Disney autographs, original cartoon, animation and comic art. 619-465-3090.

CASH FOR JAZZ, SOUL, ROCK, punk, metal. We buy collections and CDs. Record City, 3757 Sixth Avenue, Hillcrest. Call 619-291-5313.

COMPUTER PERSON WANTED. Who knows Craigslist dealings. Will trade for service. Private party, retired school teacher. 858-581-1869.

FISHING TACKLE. Collector wants for his personal collection wooden lures, reels, miscellaneous by Heddon, Pflueger, Creek Chub, South Bend, Shakespeare, to name a few. 619-972-3488.

INDIAN ARROWHEADS/ARTIFACTS. Must be authentic. Call Steve at 619-985-8562.

MEMORABILIA WANTED. Historic pictures/memorabilia from Mc Dini's Historic Irish restaurant in National City. Private party. 619-501-1883.

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Labor \$675

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Computer-controlled (FWD or RWD)

Labor to rebuild and install. Parts additional.

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New Clutch

Rear-wheel drive Labor \$145

Front-wheel drive Labor \$175

Most cars. With this ad.

Free towing on major jobs

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Includes pan gasket, filter, fluid & road test.

\$85

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Mastercard • Visa • Discover • ATM

Brakes Special!

From \$78⁹⁵

parts & labor.

Replace pads or shoes, inspect rotors, repack wheel bearings. Semi-metallic or premium pads not included. Turn rotors extra if needed. Most cars & light trucks. With this ad.

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Computer diagnostic \$19⁹⁵

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Test only • 15 minutes

Fast • Easy • No Appointment Needed

\$26⁷⁵

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question: Would you rather watch Along Came Polly or..." Yes! Whatever the second option is, I'll take it. "But I didn't finish the..." Doesn't matter, I'll take it. "It's eating your next three meals out of a hobo's underwear. Are you sure?" Done. Sign me up. Tell Little Scamp to strip down and sauté the hot dogs, I'm comin' over.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30
BRITNEY: FOR THE RECORD
MTV 9:00 P.M.
 Please, please, please, whoever's listening and holds the power to do this: Please make Britney stop being normal. She adds far more entertainment value to society when she's not trying to sing and she's just letting her Britney hang out. Get her back on crystal, throwing her under-

wear to the wind, and crashing the Crazy Bus into the side of the Nut Hut.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1
HEROES
NBC 9:00 P.M.
 Previously I think I mentioned wanting the superpower of flying and never having to use the toilet. But this morning I witnessed a squirrel run up a telephone pole, and now for a superpower I want strong claws and pulling muscles. What I do when I get to the top of the pole is irrelevant. I'll be up there. I'll be in moose antlers and a cape. And I'll be happy.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2
SANTA CLAUS IS COMIN' TO TOWN
PBS 8:00 P.M.
 As an agnostic, I'm not wild about

Christmas as a religious ceremony, but as a drug enthusiast I cannot overlook the importance of Christmas as a psychedelic treasure chest. There are flying deer, flashing lights, a fat man in a floppy hat who gives you a colorful present, elves, trees in our living rooms... If we can somehow incorporate a chupacabra with a tennis racket — *blammo!* — we're celebrating the weirdest thing ever.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3
THE ULTIMATE FIGHTER
SPIKE 10:00 P.M.
 If you ever watch this show you'll understand the term "ultimate fighter" refers to the ongoing battle of who can have the ugliest haircut and the stupidest tattoos. Competition is stiff this season, boy. Stiff!



Carebears: Adventure in Care-A-Lot

ANDERSON COOPER 360
CNN 8:00 P.M.
 This recession has me worried and I know (I know!) the werewolf hordes are only biding their time, sharpening their claws and canine teeth, and when we are at our most vulnerable, they're going to strike. Obviously I need a tank and a castle. And bars of silver. And an army of genetically mutated baboons. Attack! Attack, my army of baboon men! (I'm rethinking my decision to mix scotch and cough syrup with my morning coffee. Things have gotten decidedly weird.)

To get an online version of this column, go to sdreader.com. You can print it, email it to friends, and get other columns and stories by Ollie.

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.

ANSTEAD'S AUCTION. We buy antiques, collectibles, household furniture, appliances, TVs, home electronics, pianos. Prompt service. Local buyers. Licensed/bonded. Serving San Diego since 1971. 619-233-3148; 1-888-722-2002.

CHINA CABINET. 7' x 4-1/2' with desk, 1940's, nice, \$350. 858-581-6223.

COLLECTIBLES. 1950s Chenille bedspread, Pyrex clothing, canning jars, etc. Call 858-274-2720.

WATER JARS, 2. Mexican, rare. Museum pieces. Serious collectors only. 760-290-3545.

GARAGE SALES

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.

COLLEGE AREA. Saturday, November 15, 8am-2pm. Christmas, decor, gifts, treadmill, bike, Beanie Babies, keyboard,

clothing. For details/directions, or to see anything sooner, call 619-269-6552.

EASTLAKE AREA. Garage sale. 7am, Saturday, 11/29. Miscellaneous items! 740 San Angelo Place, Chula Vista, 91941.

LA MESA. Multifamily yard sale. Great bargains! Huge variety! Friday, November 28 and Saturday, November 29, 8am-5pm. 8545 Porter Hill Terrace, 91941.

MOVING SALE, ESCONDIDO. Table with 2 chairs, \$30. Bar chair, wood, \$15. Bar stool, \$10. 3 plastic patio chairs, \$5/all. Vacuum, bagless, \$15. 760-685-8291.

APPLIANCES

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.

APPLIANCES: Refrigerator, frost-free energy saver. Stove, washer/dryer, \$145/each. Year warranty. Leon's Appliances, pick up and delivery. Repairs. Can deliver free. 619-702-3270.

KENWOOD REFRIGERATOR, for sale. Stainless steel. Hardly used, great condition. One year old. Originally \$1300. Selling for \$650. 858-361-7347.

REFRIGERATOR. Side-by-side white Kenmore refrigerator, ice and water door dispensers, good condition, \$500, 619-447-0396.

ELECTRONICS

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.

ALL-IN-ONE PRINTER. Hewlett-Packard Photosmart 2575. Scanner, copier, \$29. Call before 9pm, Lemon Grove. 619-466-6754.

APPLE 3G iPhone, \$250! New! 16GB black/white unlocked. Touch screen, MP3 player, PDA-PC sync, internet browser, e-mail access, Bluetooth, GPS, video recording, more! 305-609-5996.

COMPUTER MONITOR. 17", not flat screen, \$10. Computer chair, \$5. Keyboards, \$5/each. Mouse, \$4. Escondido. 760-685-8291.

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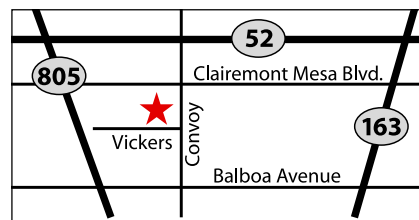
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PRINTER. Epson Stylus photo R 300 series in color. Cost \$179, selling for \$75. 619-445-5898.

SLIDE PROJECTOR. Bell & Howell TDC headliner 303 with selectron semainatic slide changer, holds 30 slides. Works great. \$75. 619-224-4820.

TV, 52-INCH SUPER WIDE, screen Magnavox. Paid \$2800, 4 years ago. In fantastic condition, must sell, \$500/best, 760-809-8642.

TV, COLOR. 27", with remote, like new, excellent picture, \$99. 619-461-4805.

FURNITURE

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.

ANTIQUA CHINA CABINET, cherrywood. China cabinet with glass doors/shelves/drawers, \$85, 760-451-0102.

BABY CRIB. Brand-new never-used baby crib with comforter \$100. 619-447-0396.

BED \$100 ABSOLUTE BARGAIN! The Furniture Warehouse is now open to the public. We sell warehouse direct. Come see our large showroom. We have over 70 sets in stock from \$89! 995 Bay Boulevard, Chula Vista, 91911. Open 11am-7pm daily. Closed Monday. Credit cards accepted. Legitimate warranties in writing! Fast delivery. Call 619-426-2727. www.tfwarehouse.com.

BED \$169 A BARGAIN. A Ortho Pillowtop Queen, new in plastic with warranty, mattress/box. All sizes. Credit cards accepted. Can deliver. 800-464-6420. North County, 800-464-6490.

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BEDROOM SET, QUEEN MATTRESS, three wall units for TV, \$350. Sofa, green, \$275. Toddler bed, wood, \$300. Hello Kitty, Mickey Mouse TVs, \$60/each, 619-829-3704.

BEDS. Adjustable Craftmatic like remote control, 2 twins and 1 full size, \$100, \$200, \$300. Best offer or trade. 619-670-8356.

DINING ROOM SET. Solid wood set, dark oak color, rectangular table 64" X 42" with 18" leaf, 6 chairs with upholstered seats. \$650. 619-813-0955.

DOORS. Pre hung, French 10 pain pocket doors. Each door is 36" x 80", perfect condition, still has plastic on glass. \$350. 760-599-0249.

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KIDS' NICE FURNITURE, car bed/drawer set, \$275. TVs: Hello Kitty (pink), Mickey Mouse, \$60/each. Kid's wood bed, \$275. Pink flower lamp, \$30. 619-829-3704.

LA-Z-BOY RECLINER. Carlyle. Red leather, modern designer series. Maple arms, 3 position recliner. Nearly new. Paid \$1250, will sacrifice for \$499. Fallbrook, 760-728-2172.

MATTRESS \$150. Orthopedic mattress, plush, queen, new with warranty. Must sell. Can deliver. Twin, full and king also available. 619-929-5244. 4810 Mercury Street, 92111. www.realdealfurniture.com.

MATTRESS BOX PILLOWTOP SET. New in plastic with warranty. Queen \$169. King \$239. Credit cards accepted. Can deliver. Call 800-464-6420. North County, 800-464-6490.

MATTRESSES. Save 40% or more! Mattress World in Hillcrest sells new beds at warehouse pricing lower than regular stores. Student specials. Legitimate warranties. Fast delivery or pickup. Name brands. Member of the Better Business Bureau. Authorized Sealy, Simmons, Spring Air, Aireloom dealer. Also Latex, chemical-free and Swedish style Visco-Memory! Mattress World, 1601 University Avenue, 2 blocks west of Park Boulevard in Hillcrest. www.sandiegobeds.com or email to: info@davisworld.com. Call: 619-260-8000.

OUTDOOR BAMBOO ARMCHAIRS. Cushioned, very high quality, oak-colored. Buy all for \$100. 619-813-0955.

PATIO UMBRELLAS, 2. New. Authentic, "Miller Draft Beer" logo. Gold/black vinyl. Original, \$75 each. Asking \$45 each. Must see! 760-753-6996.

TABLE. Glass top, 36" x 50", \$35. Desk, oak finish, \$25. 858-277-7197.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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BACKPACKING KAYAK. Seda/French design. Wood frame, Hypolon hull. 2 place paddles. \$3500 new/best. Red and black. 858-864-8960.

BEDS A PILLOWTOP MATTRESS Box Set. New in plastic with warranty. Queen \$169. King \$239. Credit cards accepted. Can deliver. 800-464-6420. North County, 800-464-6490.

BEVELED GLASS BAR. Must see. Unique, custom detailed oak, stainless steel. Rotating liquor dispenser. \$700/best. Inquiries with Herrin, 858-454-3934 before 3pm, 858-373-8731 after 3pm.

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CAR COVER. Expensive, \$30. 858-581-6223.

CEMETERY PLOTS, El Camino Memorial Park, Madonna Lawn section. Single, also two adjacent plots available, \$3500 each (list \$5030). Nice location, near creek, by trees. Peter 760-753-3794.

CHEMISTRY TEXTS. 1830-1971. University and professional. 112 Vols (109 hb, 3 pb), \$900/lot. By appointment, Santee. Request list. 619-562-0152.

COWBOY BOOTS, Tony Lama, men's 8D, as new, \$50. Filson cotton vest, new, men's medium, \$50. Sheepskin coat, men's medium, good, \$100. 619-260-8482.

EXERCISE BIKE. Lifecycle by Life Fitness model 5500. \$1500 new. 4 years old, 12 levels. Excellent. \$250/best. Can deliver. 619-462-8131.

FOOSBALL TABLE. Harvard, 34h x 30w x 56l. Well constructed. Solid wood, 3 man goalie. \$150. El Cajon, may deliver. 619-456-2575.

FREE: Air conditioner, window mount, ceiling fan 5 blade with lights. Call Brad 858-755-2446.

GARDEN CART. \$15. 858-581-6223.

GLASS WINDOWS, 2. 30" w X 65-1/2" h. Free. You haul. 619-296-7185.

GREENWOOD CEMETARY PLOTS, 2 adjacent double depth LDS sect'n. Separately \$6000/each or both for \$11,000. Each separate site 2 people, both sites for 4. 619-269-6552.

HIGH CHAIR and car restraint seat, \$40 for both. 858-277-7197.

INK CARTRIDGES. Epson. TO 781_TO 782_TO 783_TO 784_TO 785_TO 786. \$35. 619-445-5898.

KNIFE COLLECTION. Old Kershaws, Schrade IXL's, Marbles. 619-260-8482.

LADIES SLACKS. Black velvet, with belt hooks, size 6. Worn once. Washable, \$8. Corduroy slacks, size 12p, season ticket, never worn, gray, cream, \$7/each. 619-296-9415.

LAWN MOWER. 6-1/2 hp, 8 months old, self-propelled, \$125. 858-581-6223.

LAWNMOWERS. Reel type. I no longer need. Tri-Cut front throw, the best! \$240. Cooper Klipper rear throw, older, high quality, \$140. In top condition. 760-732-1315.

LOCKBOX. Sentrilock Realtor and Sandic Sentrilock. \$60. Eve, 619-278-9201.

MENS SUB MARINER ROLEX, watch. Solid 18k gold band. Blue face and bezel. Immaculate condition. New ones of this model \$24,000. Selling for \$11,500. 619-723-9568.

MINERAL COLLECTION. Cabs, slabs, cutting rough, varieties of quartz, including Herkimer diamonds—unusual tumbled, jewelry points, much more. Knife collection, old Kershaws, Schrade, IXLs, Marbles. 619-260-8482.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS. Men's ice skates, 11-23, \$20. Videos, \$2-\$5. Vinyl record albums, \$3-\$30. Movie stills, \$1-\$20. Books, etc. Microwave oven, \$49. 619-420-3312.

MISCELLANEOUS. Bathroom sink, square, heavy duty, \$15. Inside door, \$10. 2 metal medicine cabinets, \$10/both. 2 vertical blinds, 65" w x 66" l, \$25/both. 760-685-8291.

MISCELLANEOUS. Car cover, \$35. Sony speakers, \$10. Luggage, no wheels, \$8. Spare tire, \$20. Trash cans, \$10. TV remote, \$5. 1986 Honda visors, \$10/each. 619-583-3751.

MOVING SALE. Air conditioner, refrigerator, washer/dryer, dishwasher, compact, TVs/stands, stereo, beds, dressers, coffee/end, dining/chairs, china, daybed, vacuum, bikes, trailer, garden. 619-670-7821.

OUT-BOARD MOTOR. \$275. 858-581-6223.

PATIO TABLE, concrete, seats 6, high grade, your choice of tile installed, all weather, \$300. Credit cards accepted. 760-250-7055.

RC BOATS. Uses nitro, 40" hull, Steve Muck, 7.5cmb motor, all stainless hardware. 32" hull seaducer, Kevlar, 3.5 K+B. Will separate extra parts. 619-980-3519.

ROW BOAT. Single, wood Epoxy glass, 16'. Used, built-in flotation. White outside, dark gray inside. 858-864-8960.

SCONCE, OIL GAUGE, wall light, brass and wood. Price \$40/best. 619-296-7185.

SEEBURG JUKEBOX, 1969. Jukebox in working condition. Needs minor repair and cleaning. Has 80 45rpm records for 160 plays. Uses coins for selections, \$399. 760-451-0102.

SPA/HOT TUB. Deluxe 2008 model. Neck jets, therapy seat. Never used! Warranty. Can deliver. Worth \$5950, sell for \$1950. 858-530-0980.

SPIN BIKE. Lemond. \$1500 new/best. 858-864-8960.

TOOLS. Door plane, Rockwell, #126, \$200. Plunge router, \$100. Belt sander, \$50. Plate joiner, \$60. 760-960-6950.

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WEDDING DRESS, hat, shoes, size 8, \$50 for all. 858-277-7197.

WIEGHORST PRINT. "No tracks." Nicely framed. \$200. 619-447-2029.

MOTORCYCLES

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HARLEY DAVIDSON FLSTF Fat Boy, 2002. Like new, only 8,000 miles. Screaming Eagle exhaust, fuel injection, extras. Always, garaged, black in color. \$13,966. 619-403-4585.

HARLEY DAVIDSON. 2002. Fat Boy, fuel injection, 5300 miles, just serviced, clean title. Black and chrome. \$11,800. 619-384-5474.

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AUTOMOTIVE CARS

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ACURA INTEGRA, 1998. Blue, hatchback. Runs great. Bought newer car, this one still running great. Reliable vehicle. New tires/brakes recently purchased. \$1199/best. 858-401-3330.

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HONDA ACCORD EX, coupe, 1996. Great gas saver. Manual transmission. Air conditioning. Moonroof, alloy wheels, leather seats, rear spoiler. 195,000 miles. VIN:1HGCD7158TA027838, \$3200, 858-401-2053.

HONDAS FROM \$500. Police impounds and tax repos. Cars, trucks, SUVs. Many makes and models! For listings, 800-495-0660, x2180.

LEXUS GS300, 2002. Immaculate! Perfect condition, low 29,000 miles. Like new. Beautiful gold. Leather interior. Loaded. Certified preowned 100K warranty. Lojack. Oceanside. \$18,950. Owner, 760-521-9880, 760-967-0229. LMellon@sdreader.com

PORSCHE BOXSTER S, 2003. \$27,900. Absolutely mint! 29,500 original miles. Guards red with black leather interior. All the standard "S" upgrades including 17" wheels and large red brake calipers. This car is a real head turner! Garaged, immaculate. Pictures at: http://www.flickr.com/photos/28183771@N08/ 619-890-9600.

TOYOTA 4RUNNER. 2000. Automatic, 116,000 miles, air conditioning. Alloy, CD, all power, 4 cylinder, looks/runs great. Salvage title. Asking \$5000/best. Call 619-281-6238 or 602-373-8853.

TOYOTA CELICA. 1981. Convertible. Only 1500 made. Garaged. 4 cylinder. 22R engine. Only 90,000 miles. Excellent condition. Appraised at \$4000, asking \$2500. 858-278-1587.

TOYOTA CELICA. 1988. Convertible. \$600. Red, 4 cylinder, 5 speed. Smogged, registered, new timing belt. Cruise control, cassette, power windows. Not running. Lemon Grove, 619-264-9167.

VOLVO 850, 1995, \$500 down drives you away. Buy here, pay here. A Plus Rentals, 760-633-3552.

VOLVO 850, 1996, \$1000 down drives you away. Buy here, pay here. A Plus Rentals, 760-633-3552.

VOLVO S80, 1999, \$1000 down drives you away. Buy here, pay here. A Plus Rentals, 760-633-3552.

VOLVO V70, 2000, \$1000 down drives you away. Buy here, pay here. A Plus Rentals, 760-633-3552.

VW PASSAT GLS, sedan, 2002. White, in great condition. One nonsmoking owner, no dents or accidents, drives great! \$8000, 858-793-7962.

\$500! POLICE IMPOUNDS. Cars, trucks, SUVs from \$500! Hondas, Chevys, Jeeps, Toyotas, Nissans and more! For listings and information, call 800-495-0660, xC664.

AUTOMOTIVE TRUCKS / VANS / SUVs

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CADILLAC ESCALADE, 2002, \$14,000, fully loaded, extra clean, TVs, towing package. A Plus Rentals, 760-633-3552.

CHEVROLET SUBURBAN, \$2299. 1988. 5.7 gas/automatic. White, tinted windows, ambulance rear doors. Recently overhauled transmission. Glycol hoses, CD, alarm. Somewhat new BF Goodrich tires. 858-864-8960.

CHEVY SILVERADO, 2001, \$1000 down drives you away. Buy here, pay here. A Plus Rentals, 760-633-3552.

DODGE. 1994. Window mini van. 6 cylinder, automatic, K&T in trans. Brake, runs super. Will take you anywhere. \$1500/best. 619-696-5313.

FORD AEROSTAR. 1993. New tires, 6 passenger. 160,000 miles. Automatic transmission, power locks, pass smog,

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By John Brizzolara

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A bit o' work and a bit o' fun:
Give us all in the struggle and Sputter
Our daily bread and a bit o' butter.
— On the wall of an
old inn in Lancaster, England

Don't ask where I found that. I may tell you.

If there is a name for the confusion of dates and/or the inability to project what day will fall upon what date—the opposite of certain savants who, when given a date in the far past or future, will, within seconds, be able tell you if it is a Wednesday or a Monday—I don't know what it is. Possibly I am the opposite of a savant; I can barely count, as my son will tell you. I am assuming this column will run close enough to Thanksgiving (may, in fact, land directly upon it) that I may at least mention it.

Gratitude is what I'm really after here rather than the holiday involving Pilgrims, fowl, and injuns; and without breaking down in an excess of public piety, I feel some thanks are in order. I am one lucky bastard, a designation placed upon me more than once by my own mother, who should know, and usually voiced at high volume in regard to having escaped death at her hands. No exaggeration. Nor is it any bid for sympathy. You could not ask for a more fascinating case when it comes to mothers, and she was hardly all homicidal. As my brother Andrew once pointed out, "Not all of us made it over the fence, you know? But she popped out as many as are missing by my count." She could be quite pleasant, and often, just as long as you did not have the bad joss to be born unto her. Children were "slave labor and a cross to bear: mightily convenient, wholly unfair." Many of you may be familiar

with this syndrome. No, I'm glad she was who she was in most ways. And it seems as if I'm off in the right direction here.

She's dead and I'm hardly grateful for that. But let me count the ways. At the risk of sounding a complete fool (which is historically undaunting to me), I had an odd and pleasant sensation upon waking one recent October morning. That alone is cause for gratitude, but that's not it. I woke up, probably finishing some seamy dream, but the feeling was not; there was no leer of the lascivious about it. I merely woke up with what I thought was a half phrase in the midst of being formed. That phrase was, "I love...." Naturally I waited for the other metaphorical shoe to drop, certain the end of that phrase would be supplied in the form of some image or word like "donuts" or "my son" or "that woman across the street." It was during the course of my constitutional, fiber-rich movement that I realized that was it: *I love*.

The epiphany (if that's what it was) should not have been as surprising as it had left me feeling. Very nice of course, but love what? It didn't matter, and that alone seemed curious. Not that I feel I've been so emotionally brutalized that I'm beyond it—no more so than anyone else is my guess; but I was quite pleased with myself, much in the way I felt physically relieved moments later.

It had to do with whatever it was Shakespeare (aka "Willy the Shake," as my late and beloved friend Gerry Bowes would say, the Brooklyn bartender and author of *The Park Slope Book of Skells*) was going on about in, I think, his 116th sonnet. It was this, the thing that

...alters not with his brief hours and weeks,
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.
If this be error and upon me proved,
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

— From The Young Reader's Digest Golden Guide to Happy Thoughts, Golden Digest Books, 1959. Excerpted in "Our Weekly Message": The Bishop Buddy Diocesan Ministry of Dogma Fun.

Novelists, if not writers per se, are issued an unwritten license for such things as smoking pipes, quitting drinking (even if they must force themselves to begin in the first place), wearing ascots and/or monocles, and writing in convoluted ways (as above), as well as using words such as "alas!" or phrases such as "spatulate fingers." Rarely are they allowed to use source material such as *Family Word Finder*, published by *Reader's Digest*, and yet that is what I have in my hotel room.

Under "Gratitude," this illustrious tome reads, "acknowledgement, recognition, obligation, beholdenness, giving thanks, thanksgiving...." And so I do.

Unsure that I am permitted to quote Graham Greene as much as I am wont, I nonetheless quote again from *A Burnt-Out Case*, about lepers in the sense that *War and Peace* is about Russia, *Moby Dick* is about a whale, and *Lawrence of Arabia* is about sand. "Suffering is always provided when it is needed," a cleric character points out, and when the truth of it becomes clear, gratitude is likely to follow, suggesting either spiritual advancement or masochistic optimism. In my case it may be both; I'm fairly certain about the latter.



Another volume I have in my hotel room is what is called "The Big Book," the bible more or less of Alcoholics Anonymous. On page 193, among the stories that range from awful to brilliant, is "Gratitude in Action," a title I found so off-putting I delayed its reading longer than was clever. As it is, I'm rather glad in a way. It meant far more to me a year or two later (2001, I think) after a complete stranger brought me three pairs of perfectly fitting pants, carrying them down his stairs to where I had spent the night seeking shelter from the hideous blinding of a January full moon. You may surmise why I needed them. You may or may not be right, but you'll be close enough if you assume it was necessary. It was within moments after some half-muttered/slurred prayer of gratitude that, one increment at a time, my life unmistakably if by no means grandly improved. It was not of the William James sudden variety, and unlike Paul I was not stricken from my horse (I forgot where I had parked it), nor was I on my way to Damascus, though, oddly enough, that was where my car was later located.

I am, by all lights as I reread this, "quote happy." And so I will leave you with the words of no lesser a personage than Stephen King the Theologian who, when asked by Terry Gross on *Fresh Air* why the sudden change? Why did he now, after a near killing by some motorized Bubba on the side of a New England road, believe in God when in reams of fiction he seemed to be asking for the Deity's badge number to report to Internal Affairs?

His answer was good and as open to interpretation as any self-respecting even deluded Jesuit: "It makes my life better."

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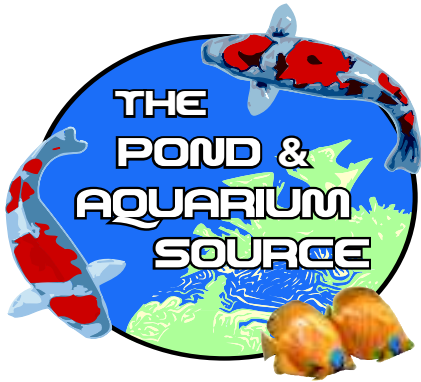
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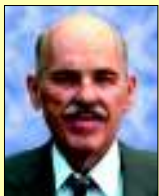
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