

SAN DIEGO WEEKLY

VOLUME 37 / NUMBER 49
DECEMBER 4, 2008

Reader

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It's getting ugly downtown

Disgruntled owners, reluctant lenders,
and condos worth less than their
purchase prices

Story begins on page 24



NEWS & FEATURES

It's Getting Ugly Downtown

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CARLSBAD

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

East Village Tavern & Bowl

Mon.-Fri., 4-7pm: \$3 drafts, wells, 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.

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 Ban Special: beer and a shot for \$7.10.

Moondoggies Pacific Beach

Daily, 4-7pm: \$1 off all drafts. \$2.75 wells, house wines. \$3 margaritas. 3-10 pm: extended Happy Hour.

RANCHO BERNARDO

Capri Blu

Mon.-Fri., 5-7pm: 1/2-price draught beer, well drinks, and bar appetizers.

Carvers

All day, every day: \$2.95 wells, \$3.25 house wines, \$2.35 beer.

RB Sushi

Mon.-Fri., 2-3 pm, 5-6 pm: \$2 large sake, \$3 large beer, 30% off basic rolls & hand rolls (Kai location only). Sat.-Sun.: Happy Hour 11am-3pm, 5-6 pm: \$2 large sake, \$3 large beer, 30% off basic rolls & hand rolls (Kai location only).

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BREAKING NEWS

Hitting the road Democratic state senator **Denise Ducheny** has been taking it on the chin from newspapers around the state for jaunting across the Pacific while the legislature wrestled with the budget crisis. She was among 15 of her peers playing hooky while the red ink increased. "One of the junketeers was a key budget leader in the state Senate," wrote *Fresno Bee* columnist



Denise Ducheny

Jim Boren last week. "But no need to have Sen. Denise Moreno Ducheny, D-San Diego, at the special legislative session. All she does is chair the Senate Budget Committee. She was in India with a bunch of her legislative pals."

Boren made fun of Ducheny staff chief **John Ferrera** for covering for his boss, citing a Ferrera quote in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. "As far as our office is concerned, she is no less engaged in the process than if she were in her San Diego office," Ferrera said. Concluded Boren, "It would be better for him to say: 'Sen. Ducheny decided to go to India because the clowns in Sacramento — her honorable and much-respected colleagues — are not going to do anything about the budget mess anyway. She might as well log some frequent flyer miles while the state heads for bankruptcy.'"

The trip began November 12 and was scheduled to end on November 27. It was paid for by the California International Relations Foundation, run by the legislature to sponsor such activities; the organization is funded by many of the same big corporations that lobby the legislature. ... Some staff members of termed-out legislators are taking the opportunity to grab a few final freebies before their bosses leave office. Take the case of **Brett Dietz**, legislative aide for GOP assemblyman **George Plescia**, who in August got a ticket worth \$63.24 from communications giant AT&T to a Giants game at AT&T Park in San Francisco. His colleague **Beth Helmsin**, Plescia's capitol director, got a ticket worth \$26 in September.

Among those staffers staying around, **Myrna Zambrano**, district director for just-re-elected Democratic state senator **Christine Kehoe**, got a \$90 ticket from AT&T in September to San Diego's Petco Park. Her husband, **Charles Harrington Elster**, the noted local logophile and former host of the public broadcasting radio show *A Way With Words*, got the same. GOP assemblyman **Joel Anderson** and wife **Kate** each received an \$88 dinner at the Volare Ristorante Italiano in Chicago. ... **Cheryl Peace**, wife of ex-Democratic state senator **Steve Peace**, who is now an advisor to Padres owner **John Moores**, is vacating her seat on the state's Integrated Waste Management Board. The position, which pays \$132,178, is being filled by termed-out Democratic assemblymember **John Laird** of Santa Cruz. Peace was named to the board by Assembly Speaker **Fabian Núñez** in June 2007; her term was sup-



Christine Kehoe

posed to last until January 2010. No word yet as to why she is leaving early. Critics have blasted the fat salaries paid to boardmembers at the same time the state budget is going bust.

Not retiring The University of California has decided to take a closer look at hundreds of its pensioners who are double-dipping — receiving fat retirement checks while working as temporary employees at their old jobs, in many cases for bigger pay than they got before they retired. According to a report last week in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, which looked at a database of 1900 pensioners who are still on the university's payroll, there are widespread abuses of the UC rule against rehiring pensioners for more than a year. The paper singled out **Ruth Covell**, who retired in September 2004 from the position of associate dean for capital planning at UCSD. Her job paid \$165,000; she receives \$151,000 in yearly retirement pay. But just a month later, she was rehired as an associate dean for programs and policy at the School of Medicine. "She has been very closely involved in the planning for the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences as well as the planning for the Pharmaceutical Sciences Building," according to a post on a UCSD website. While still collecting her pension, Covell is being paid \$71,000 a year to work part time. She has almost a year more to go on her contract. ... Padres owner **John Moores** has just kicked in \$6000 for **Jerry Brown's** 2010 campaign for governor.



Defense news Republican **Brent Scowcroft**, who was national security adviser in the first Bush administration, has emerged as a key defense adviser to President-elect **Barack Obama**. The 83-year-old Scowcroft, a close buddy of such GOP military and foreign policy lights as Defense Secretary **Robert Gates** and ex-Secretary of State **Colin Powell**, also has a tie to San



Brent Scowcroft

Diego: he's on the board of cell phone giant Qualcomm, Inc., where he gets \$75,000 annually in director's fees. Qualcomm founder **Irwin Jacobs** was a big giver to the Obama presidential campaign. ... A Predator unmanned aerial vehicle made by La Jolla's General Atomics crashed on November 17 while being test flown above El Mirage Dry Lake, near Adelanto in the Mojave Desert. According to a report in the *Victorville Daily Press*, the craft narrowly missed a couple of houses. No other details were released. Meanwhile, the Pentagon has concluded that an electrical short caused the June 2 crash of a \$4 million Predator at Balad air base in Iraq.

— 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.

What We Would Have Asked Andrea

By Don Bauder and Matt Potter

On November 20, we got stood up by Andrea Tevlin, the independent budget analyst who reports to the council. She

had agreed to do an interview at 2:00 p.m., but she called beforehand to tell us she was busy. Her alibi reminded us of that old song, "Makin' Whoopee." The wife is sitting at home and suspects her husband is cheating on her. Goes the song, "He says he's busy. But she says, 'Is he?'" That's how we feel. It's not that Tevlin was too busy to talk with us. It's that she knew the economic situation had changed drastically; things were far worse than anybody but City Attorney Mike Aguirre and the Reader were admitting.

Tevlin's bosses, the councilmembers, were looking the other way, with the exception of Donna Frye. Mayor Jerry Sanders and chief operating officer Jay Goldstone were sticking their heads in the

sand, as usual. So was David Wescoe, chief executive of the pension system. We suspect that Tevlin, who has been



Condo construction around Petco Park; inset photo: Andrea Tevlin

around government for decades, knew that city hall was in denial. There was no way she could answer our questions. So she was "busy."

But was she? Let's take a look at some numbers. On November 12, Joe Esuchanko, the City's consulting actuary, revealed that on October 31, the unfunded liability of the pension fund was \$2.8 billion. The system was about 58 percent funded at that time. Real-

istically, the City would have to plunk \$85 million more into the pension fund for the current fiscal year than the \$162 million it plans to ante up.

On October 31, the Standard & Poor's 500, the best index of U.S. stocks, had closed at 968.75. Reminder: that date was when the unfunded liability was \$2.8 billion and the fund was 58 percent funded. But on November 20, the supposed day of our interview, the S&P 500 ended up at

752.44—more than 200 points lower and the lowest closing since 1997.

So on November 20, the pension unfunded liability was almost certainly above \$3 billion, and the San Diego City Employees' Retirement System was probably only 55 percent funded, if that. Stocks, both domestic and foreign, make up more than 50 percent of the fund's portfolio.

continued on page 8

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

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

Neal Obermeyer



SDPD — Got An Attitude?

By Ernie Grimm

Let's say a man bit your finger so viciously that the flesh was torn away and the bone exposed. Let's say it happened in a

public place in front of dozens of eyewitnesses who prevented the biter from leaving the scene. Say a police officer rolled up to the scene within a minute or two of the bite, and you and many of the eyewitnesses pointed out the biter to the officer. You'd bet your other thumb that he'd be arrested, right?

Victor Vega would have made that bet until September 26, 2008, when he was on the receiving end of such a bite in such a situation and the police officer on the scene did nothing.

Vega's ordeal came around 9:30 p.m., near the end of the Critical Mass group bicycle ride. It was the first time he'd ever ridden in the monthly bicycling event. "Two coworkers of mine, they'd gone to

and 1 day before Vega's fateful ride. It's now, according to Wikipedia, in more than 300 cities throughout the world. There's no official leadership to Critical Mass, no agenda, no planned routes. But it's understood in bicycling communities that riders will gather at a certain spot and time on the last Friday of every month. In San Diego, it's 7:00 p.m. at the fountain in front of the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center in Balboa Park. That's where Vega met his friends September 26. "It was just people hanging out for a while, and then around eight o'clock everyone said, 'Okay, let's take off.' Then it was kind of like follow the leader. We headed across the bridge over the 163, and from there we



Corking on Harbor Drive

bunch of people, kind of amassed in that intersection. Something was going on."

The altercation was taking place in the middle of the stop-lighted intersection of 30th and Redwood in North Park. The riders were moving southbound on 30th, while

section, it appeared that there was a fight going on between a cyclist and some guy who was a passenger in a motor vehicle. And I was riding by looking at them. Fists were being thrown. As I was riding by, the cyclist pushed the passenger of the motor vehicle

tance between us so he couldn't connect the swings. But when he was swinging at me, I put my hands up to block his swings. My left hand was the furthest out, closest to him. He grabbed it and bit down on my thumb so hard that he broke skin. I told him, 'You

some to behold, and Vega says it's painful. But when it happened, "I was in shock, staring at my bone, thinking, 'I can't believe this happened.' Then it started to set in, and it was hurting...throbbing...constant throbbing."

Blood from the bite wound covered Vega's hand and arm and dripped onto the pavement beneath him. The biter went back to the car he was riding in and got in the backseat. Two women occupied the front seats. "People stood around the car so they couldn't leave," Vega recalls. "Of course, there was nowhere they could go because there were all kinds of cyclists going through the intersection. I looked up 30th, and I saw an officer, a cruiser, coming up slowly. He was taking up the rear, following the cyclists. I flagged him down. He asked, 'What is the problem?' I showed him my thumb. I said, 'That guy right there, he just bit my thumb off.' And the officer looked at me and said, 'What did you expect?' Those were his exact words: 'What did you expect?' And I didn't understand what he meant; I was trying to make sense of why he was saying that. I said, 'Dude, he just bit my thumb off!' And then the

continued on page 8



Critical Mass



Victor Vega

Critical Mass before. And they said, 'Why don't you come out and ride with us?' And they told me about Critical Mass. I said, 'Okay, sounds cool.' So I went that evening, picked up a friend of mine who is on my softball team, and went to Balboa Park and met."

Critical Mass is more of a phenomenon than a planned event. The first ride was in San Francisco in 1992, 16 years

started taking some side streets, playing follow the leader, going with the crowd. We rode all the way to San Diego State University, and we turned back around and went down El Cajon Boulevard and headed back down to Balboa Park. We turned left down 30th Street, and I was going down 30th when I noticed there was some kind of altercation going on up ahead in an intersection. There was a

some fellow cyclists were doing what's known in Critical Mass circles as "corking," that is, blocking traffic on side streets by standing in front of the cars. Motorists, you may have guessed, aren't always pleased about having to wait for thousands of cyclists to pedal by. Such was apparently the case that night. "There were a lot of people" gathered in the intersection, Vega recalls. "As I was going through the inter-

into me and knocked me down to the ground. I got up and picked up my bicycle. The guy [from the car], then he turned to me and started to charge me, arms swinging. He swung about three times at me."

Vega insists that he said or did nothing to incite the man. "Nothing at all. I was just riding through like everybody else. So he was swinging at me, and I had my bike between us, and that put some dis-

are biting my thumb, you are biting my thumb, please let go! But he didn't. He bit down all the way until he hit the bone. Then, instead of just letting go, he jerked away and ripped the meat off of the bone. The whole tip of the thumb was dangling by a piece of meat. The bone was exposed."

Two weeks after the incident, the stitched-up wound on Vega's thumb is still grue-

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

Asked Andrea

continued from page 6

The long and the short of it is that on November 20, the City was thoroughly broke. Busted.

We suspect that Tevlin knew it and had no idea what she would say to us. On the day before our scheduled interview, the Dow Jones Industrial Average had plunged below 8000. It had been above 14,000 last year. It closed at 7552 on the day of our scheduled interview. On October 31, it had closed at 9325.

The market rallied after November 20, but we don't know anybody who believes it will come roaring out of this

bear market. The City remains busted.

Only the day before our scheduled meeting, Wescoe had assured the city council in mellifluous tones that there was no reason to panic, even though by definition the market this fall has been in a full-fledged panic. Then, in rasping voice, Wescoe had complained that Aguirre, who is alarmed at the market's tanking, was just using scare tactics. Councilmember/simpleteons, such as Jim Madaffer, had used the same soothing words only a week earlier to explain that there are ups and downs and we are in a down period. Madaffer apparently doesn't know that the consensus of economists is now

that the recession will be deep and last at least a year; stock market analysts say historically extreme volatility will continue and the bear will be around for a long time.

Sanders has said that the current budget deficit is a mere \$43 million. He proposes to close it by taking such baby steps as closing seven libraries and nine recreation centers, cutting down the number of recruits going to police and fire academies, and giving the pink slip to about 100 employees. The public is howling about the libraries and rec centers, and councilmembers — along with Tevlin — are sympathetic to their complaints. Tevlin has proposed some minor moves, such as fur-

loughs for employees. Sanders, playing the macho cop, says she is procrastinating. Actually, Sanders and Goldstone are procrastinating; they are grossly underestimating the City's short-term deficit — and probably the shortfall out to 2014.

So that's exactly what we planned to ask you, Ms. Tevlin: Given the stock market realities, aren't you, the mayor, and the mayor's acolytes whistling past the graveyard? Instead of closing libraries and furloughing employees, shouldn't you be thinking of taking major actions, such as entirely shutting down the Centre City Development Corporation and the Southeastern Economic Development Corporation? And not because they produce so many juicy scandals but because their usefulness has come to an end. And if we can't shut down Centre City, can we at least ask it to pay the City the \$100 million it owes?

With downtown condos empty, residential development foundering, and commercial building showing signs of weakness, can't there be more cuts in the Development Services Department? We realize that the general fund provides only a part of that department's support, but can't it still be cut more? And that chopping of only 100 heads: shouldn't the guillotine be much busier? Can't retirees take over many City jobs on a volunteer, no-pay basis? Can we squeeze more money out of parking and franchise fees? Isn't it time for

aggressive outsourcing of City jobs? Don't San Diegans have to face facts: is it time to think of higher taxes?

Would it be possible to sell Petco Park? Simply defaulting on the bonds and letting the bondholders take it over would present complications should the City try to go back into the bond market. On the other hand, going bankrupt — a practical solution that Aguirre says should be considered — would upset creditors too. We planned to ask you, Andrea, if a Chapter 9 bankruptcy reorganization is in the City's future. Sanders says it is out of the question. The head of General Motors says he won't take his company in either, but he may have no choice.

Under the current rosy forecast, the City says it will plunk \$166 million into the pension fund in the next fiscal year (2010). Isn't that ridiculously optimistic? The City also expects property tax receipts to go up 1 percent in the 2010 fiscal year, with the hotel tax (transient occupancy tax) up 4 percent and sales taxes about flat. C'mon, Andrea, were these forecasts cooked up by Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm?

Early this year, Andrea, you wrote of a structural deficit — City expenditures exceeding revenues year after year after year. Andrea, does Mayor Sanders agree that the deficit is structural? And that it is getting much worse? Does he cooperate with your attempts to do anything about it?

Andrea, you stated in a

report of November 10 that Sanders's minions had provided minimal information on service impacts resulting from the cuts that they intend to impose. Have they now told the public how much suffering is in store? Are councilmembers giving the public such information? You question why some departments, such as Library and Police, still project year-end deficits. Has the mayor explained why?

In these budget hearings, Sanders gives a brief speech before the council and scurries off. Should he stay around and answer some questions?

Will you ask him the tough questions? And at some future date, will you pass on the answers to us at the Reader? ■

SDPD attitude

continued from page 7

officer asked, 'What do you want me to do about it?' And I said, 'I want you to arrest that guy.' So he pulls up, gets out, and he goes and talks to the guy that bit my thumb off. He talks to him really quick, like a few seconds. They kind of chuckle about something, and he comes back to me and he tells me, 'Well, you know what, I've got witnesses that say you assaulted him.' He says, 'So here is what I am going to do: I am going to take you to jail, and I am going to take him to jail, or you can forget about it, go to the hospital, and get it stitched up.' "

Hutch Seese, a 51-year-old

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SDPD attitude

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painter, was exiting a liquor store on the corner as all of this was going on. "I watched the whole thing happen before I got in my truck. That's why I ran over to help Victor. I told him, 'I've got a container of wipes and some rubbing alcohol in my truck.' Because the cop had said [to Victor], 'Just

get the hell out of here.' And I thought, 'How could he leave? This guy's bitten half of his thumb off. How's he supposed to ride to the hospital on a bicycle?' "

Seese says the biter seemed irate that the car he was riding in had to wait for thousands of bicyclists to pedal by, even though the car had the green light. "The lady driving the car kept trying to inch through the intersection

through all the bikers, but the bikers just kept coming [and she couldn't make it across]. Then I saw the man get out, and it was clear he was out for a reason."

Seese wrapped Vega's thumb in antibacterial wipes, put his bike in her truck, and drove him to Mercy Hospital. Both say they were perplexed and angry at the San Diego police officer's dismissive treatment at the crime scene. But,

Vega says, the dismissive treatment by the police didn't stop there. "The ER nurses were asking me about what had happened. I explained, and I told them the story about the officer there at the scene. And they said, 'Well, we need to call San Diego PD, because you are a victim of a crime. Since a report wasn't taken there we need to have an officer come out here and take a report from you.' So, hours

later, an officer does show up. He sits down and starts to ask me what had happened. I said, 'Well, I was cycling in an event called Critical Mass, where a bunch of cyclists meet together and they go for a ride,' and he stopped me, and he said, 'Yeah, I know Critical Mass, I know what Critical Mass is all about.... Why did you participate in Critical Mass?' And I said, 'For the exercise. I have friends that ride, and they

invited me.' So he says, 'Well, the next time you might want to do a little more research before you go out and just join up with a group of people. Critical Mass is an anarchist organization.' "

Vega figured out later what intersection the incident took place in. At the time of the bite, he wasn't sure where he was. He was simply following the riders in front of him. Of course, the first question the officer at the hospital asked him was, "What street were you on?" When I told him I didn't know, he closed his laptop and said, 'You know what, I am going to just refer this to a detective, and they may or may not contact you.' He was just a jerk the whole time. He had an attitude."

Eventually, Detective Eric Stafford got hold of Vega and an investigation is ongoing. Detective Stafford did not return calls for this story.

Tommy Nguyen, who works at Mission Hills Bike Shop and is a frequent participant in Critical Mass, rejects the anarchist tag but acknowledges that for some, at least, Critical Mass "is a political statement that people can ride bikes to get places — they don't need their cars to get everywhere — and that drivers need to be more aware of cyclists."

However, the mood of the rides is not political, Nguyen says, but more of "a party on wheels. It's a family event. If you have a bike, you are invited."

Nguyen believes there is a strong police bias, and possibly an unofficial police policy, against Critical Mass. "I have witnessed it," he says. "The cops side with the driver 99 percent of the time. I have seen numerous times people just use their cars and just hit cyclists, and police don't do anything about it."

San Diego police officer Jim Johnson responds, "Is there a policy with the San Diego Police Department that we don't like Critical Mass so we're going to do everything in our power to discourage it? No, there's no such policy."

Johnson adds, "Handling any kind of protest situation, whether it be a pro-life demonstration, Critical Mass, or anything else, is delicate. We can't be for or against it. Our concern is simply for [the protesters'] safety and the safety of others." ■

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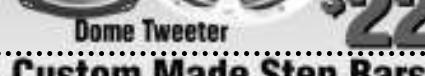
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The Present Craziiness

Thanks for the optimistic article "Can We Create New Life?" (Feature Story, November 26). One has to be suspicious of any government policy being fast-tracked, especially one as revolutionary as genetic-engineering promotion. From a rational perspective, such a mysterious business requires *more* caution than normal, not less. To express the problem/risk as simply as possible requires an analogy:

Think of GIGO — garbage in, garbage out — as used in information processing. The "mal-ware," such as viruses, etc., which can damage computers, are created to appear to be normal information. In this way the computer is tricked and absorbs these programs into the computer software

as if they are beneficial. Only later does the damage appear. But by then it is too late; your work is garbage, or lost altogether.

Science often regards humanity's existence as depending on a delicate balance of forces in nature. These forces evolved this balance over a long time with perhaps trillions of iterations of trial and error in genetic combinations to get to *us* and our environment *now*.

With this in mind, think of the information that we must absorb in order for our life programs to exist, to continue, to improve. Food is not just energy that we consume to keep the machine going. Food contains genetic information that our bodies have evolved with since our beginnings. When we eat, we accept and integrate that information via our messenger RNA into our own DNA and are so modified. Genetic engineering tricks our cells into accepting new, unnatural information as if it were the familiar natural information.

Possible dangerous consequences may not appear right away, or even in the present lifetime of the unwitting victim, unlike the genetic damage caused by nuclear radiation, which seems to be limited to existent life. This makes genetically engineered products

ingested by living beings even more dangerous than radiation poisoning. Why? Because once our DNA integrates the new information as if it were natural, the new characteristics will be passed on to the next generation and the next and the next. This is because it is not recognized as damaging and does not trigger the disabling of the germs of reproduction.

Bottom line: the closed testing of genetic engineering, before introduction into the environment, requires at least a couple of generations of experimentally reproduced human subjects. This is only rational. The present course is therefore irrational. I hope that nature somehow provides some remedy to our progeny to reverse or repair the results of our present craziness.

Pat Palmer
Normal Heights

A Lungfull

I was very alarmed to read your cover story on marijuana ("Shopping at Weedmart," November 20). What your story did not say is that, yeah, marijuana has medicinal benefits; no, marijuana is not safe. That's why the medical profession does not use it. If you're going to smoke anything into your lungs, you're going to get bronchitis or cancer.

The human body is not fit for smoking. You've got to have your head up your a** to think that it is. The people you talked to who have medical issues have better alternatives, such as Chinese medicine, ayurvedic medicine, or acupuncture. Those things have been proven safe and effective.

Paul Lang
San Carlos

Pop Crop

The group that advocates legalization, or decriminalization, of marijuana in the U.S. is aiming at the wrong target ("Shopping at Weedmart," Cover Story, November 20). Times are tough here, but a majority of citizens still won't support relaxing laws against pot. The crisis south of the border is much more dire than it is here. All of the main sources of revenue in Mexico are dwindling. Money from oil, tourism, and remittances from abroad are all down. They desperately need another source of revenue. Legalizing marijuana would solve those problems. The drug wars would become unnecessary. Tourists would return in greater numbers. Mexican farmers would have a very popular crop to grow. The farmers could produce different kinds and potencies of pot. The idea may sound strange, but

continued on page 54

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STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP

BY MATTHEW ALICE

Illustration by Rick Geary



Hey, Matt:

Last year I moved to Point Loma. I grew up in San Diego but never really hung out too much by the bay. My question is, what's up with the Harbor Police? I see them driving around a lot (which seems to be a bit of a non sequitur), gabbing on cell phones while speeding round, running stop signs. I see them on foot occasionally, harassing a bum. Last week I saw one driving down the 101 in Cardiff. What is their scope of service, and who pays for them? Can they really arrest a landlubber like me?

— Phil, Point Loma

Woo-wee! Bad Harbor Police. Bad, *bad* Harbor Police. The law does not permit officers to break speed or other traffic laws while just tootling around town. And if they do pull a U-ie or some such, they have to turn on their flashing red-and-blues while they do it. As for the irritated bum, the legality depends on where the bum is bumming. The Harbor Police are the law-enforcement arm of the San Diego Port District. Their jurisdiction includes most of the wet areas of town (San Diego, Coronado, National City, Imperial Beach coast and wetlands) and marinas and Lindbergh Field. They enforce the same laws the land-bound police do (so don't jaywalk on the bay if they're nearby). They pull dead bodies out of the drink. Maintain suicide statistics for local bridges. Watch for high-performance boats driven by people with low-performance piloting skills. It's a very full day. I don't know whether this satisfies you, since you seem pretty cheesed off. But that's the story of the Harbor Police, San Diego's damp safety patrol.

Hey, Matt:

I was wondering how many Reader issues I am allowed to take from the various locations around San Diego. Is there any law forbidding me from taking two Readers at a time? Ten? Thousands? I never was much of a builder, but I think it would be cool to construct a fort out of the free weekly Readers. BTW, I was going to make a shake-shingle roof out of San Diego City Beats.

— Jay, via email

Git goin' quick, Jay. You have until December 31 to make some headway on Fort Reader. Our business manager sez there's a law in place that allows any citizen to shoot anyone who takes more than ten *Readers* at a time, but I think he's kidding. Anyway, if Arnold signs AB 1778, as of January 1 it will be illegal to bring in to a recycling center more than \$50 worth of newspapers at one time. This law was put in place to stop the increasing problem of gangs of paper thieves who even follow newspaper distribution trucks and scoop up the bundles of papers as they're dropped off. They also clean out public recycling bins and vending machines. Fifty dollars' worth of newspaper weighs just short of 850 pounds, by the way. The only punishment these bin divers will suffer is to have to present a picture ID when they bring in their vanload of newspaper, and they'll be paid by check rather than in cash, as they are now. But hey, wait a minute, the law doesn't say it's illegal to scoop up 850 pounds of *Readers* and make a fort out of them, so maybe you're home free. Anyway, let us know where you'll be so we can stop by after the next big rain.

Hey, Matt:

What's up with all of the people that name their animals with "people names"? I understand that some of the best intentions have ended up in the worst catastrophes. I've discovered that people have named their cats, cows, dogs, horses the same that I have. Sometimes I feel I have superhuman strength; most of the time I feel left out, neglected, unreasonably feared, and totally taken advantage of, castrated, and I can even sense my oncoming death. Have I tapped into some spiritual connections? It's pretty bad when you see something going on and can't stop it from happening and are then punished for making a ruckus. And why don't police officers enforce the laws of physics?

— Jack Rabbit, via email

This same wandering query came in under another whole different email address and name. Just a small example of what we have to deal with here at the Matthew Alice Centre for Peace, Justice, and \$29 Quickie Oil Changes. So, Jack, your first question: People name their pets people names because they consider their pets just very small, furry people. Your spiritual, superhuman, castrated question: No, you've tapped into whatever's in the air in North Park. Your last question: Police don't enforce the laws of physics because they're very rarely broken.

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

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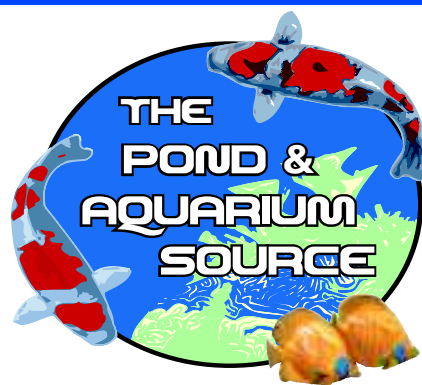
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SportingBox

By Patrick Daugherty

Game Of The Year

Mark ye well, the University of San Diego Toreros men's basketball team goes up against the (San Francisco) Academy of Art University Urban Knights, 7:00 p.m., December 19, at Jenny Craig Pavilion. This is a home game people. Attendance is required.

I'll get to the game preview and all the IMPLICATIONS of what a USD victory would mean, but first, let's review the story to date.

Last year was good for the Toreros. Their biggest regular season game was an 81-72 thumping of Kentucky at Rupp Arena. Putting a stake through the heart of that SEC glory hog and seven-time national champion made the world a better place.

Still, San Diego lost four consecutive games in November, three in December, and finished fourth in the WCC (West Coast Conference), behind Gonzaga (25-8) and St. Mary's (25-7). Their season would have quietly slunk away, except...they won the WCC Tournament, winning three games in three nights, coming from 17 points down to beat St. Mary's in double overtime and finishing Gonzaga off in the championship game.

Of course, they were playing on their home court, and strange things have been known to happen in college basketball. At least that's what everybody said. Still, for the first time the WCC placed three schools in the NCAA's postseason tournament.

USD's conference victory bought them a 13th seed in the West Regional and the right to be demolished by number 4 seed UConn. And then Toreros sophomore guard De'Jon Jackson swished a jumper with 1.2 seconds left and San Diego beat Goliath 70-69. Suddenly, they were for real.

San Diego was led by rookie head coach Bill Grier, who had done hard time (16 years) as assistant coach at Gonzaga. But, one good year in San Diego, with players at least partially recruited by former head coach Brad Holland, was enough to provoke Oregon State, member in good standing of the Collegiate Big Time, to offer Grier a \$4 million jackpot to jump ship.

He didn't take it. I would take it. You would take it. Bill Grier has a higher calling.

What he got for staying in town was essentially the same team he had last year (five starters are back, not one senior was on last year's team) and, with that, a shot at building his own Gonzaga South basketball program.

Last year USD finished 22-14, 11-3 in the WCC. Made it to the NCAA's second round, lost to Western Kentucky 72-63.

As to this year, the Toreros are finishing the first

third of their season in preparation for the December 19 showdown with the aforementioned Academy of Art University. I'll leave the "Why does an art school want an athletic program?" aside for the moment. It is, by the way, an art school; you may choose any of the following degrees: advertising, animation & visual effects, architecture, computer art, digital arts, fashion, fine art, graphic design, illustration, industrial design, interior architecture, motion pictures & television, multimedia communications, or photography. Who knows why the Academy is starting up an athletic department in their 80th year of existence, although, if we guess "Has nothing to do with students and everything to do with money," we're probably not far off.

The Academy of Art University was founded in 1929. "Built by artists for artists," they say. They also say, "To ensure that the Liberal Arts curriculum is relevant to our students...fashion and interior designers attend the opera to observe costuming, set design, and production work.... In Creative Writing, an illustrator may discover a passion for writing stories for children. Photographers who take astronomy learn the properties of light on field trips to observe the night sky, while cinematographers in art history discover that Scorsese and Coppola are fans of Caravaggio."

Don't be fooled; these guys are killers. Follows are headlines provided by the Urban Knights athletic department.

11.14.2008. Men's Basketball Falls to SF State in Inaugural Exhibition Game.

11.18.2008. Men's Basketball Defeated by CSU Stanislaus in Season Opener.

11.21.2008. Urban Knights Lose Battle with Division I Dons.

11.24.2008. Urban Knights Still in Search of Their First Win.

11.26.2008. Masterful Shooting Too Much for AAU Men's Basketball.

11.28.2008. Urban Knights Fall in First Game of Thanksgiving Classic.

11.29.2008. Cassita Scores Game-High 18 Points for the Urban Knights in a Losing Effort.

The Urban Knights are led by one-time forward Peter Thibaux, 47, who was the second all-time scorer at St. Mary's, a fourth-round pick in the 1983 NBA draft. He played two years for Golden State, bounced around Europe, Japan, and the CBA for another six years.

The Academy has been invited to join the Pacific West Conference and will begin playing as a member next year.

Welcome to the party.

The Vegas Line

NFL — Week 14 (Home Team in CAPS)

<u>Favorite</u>	<u>Spread</u>	<u>Over/Under</u>	<u>Underdog</u>
Thursday			
SAN DIEGO	9 ½	43	Oakland
Sunday			
INDIANAPOLIS	13 ½	42 ½	Cincinnati
CHICAGO	6 ½	40	Jacksonville
GREEN BAY	6	47	Houston
TENNESSEE	13 ½	37 ½	Cleveland
Minnesota	10	46	DETROIT
BALTIMORE	6	36 ½	Washington
N.Y. GIANTS	8	44	Philadelphia
NEW ORLEANS	3	52	Atlanta
N.Y. Jets	4	44 ½	SAN FRANCISCO
BUFFALO	1	42	Miami
DENVER	9	48	Kansas City
ARIZONA	13 ½	48 ½	St. Louis
PITTSBURGH	3	41 ½	Dallas
New England	4 ½	43	SEATTLE
Monday			
CAROLINA	3	38 ½	Tampa Bay

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

Vista at La Costa Canyon

Posted November 29, 2008, 2:28 a.m.

In a game that featured two of the best defenses in the section, it was La Costa Canyon's offense that ran all over Vista on Friday night. The top-seeded Mavericks uncharacteristically relied on the run in a 38-18 quarterfinal win over No. 8 Vista.



Vista quarterback David Fisher scrambles away from La Costa Canyon linebacker Dutch Hagood

"We had our top two running backs out for a couple weeks — they both were back full speed this week and it showed," La Costa head coach Darrin Brown said.

La Costa Canyon suffered a huge loss late in the first quarter when starting middle linebacker Jacob Driver was ejected. Referees ruled that Driver punched a Vista player.

In the second quarter, both teams settled in defensively. With 2:35 left in the half, La Costa Canyon running back Matt S. Williams scored from five yards out to give the hosts a 21-10 lead.

With 19 seconds left in the first half, Vista had the ball at the one-yard line and Panthers running back Jordan Alexander tried to get in the endzone by leaping over the pile.

The ball was knocked loose in midair and recovered by Mavericks linebacker Tucker Toolson in the endzone. That stop kept the Panthers

two scores down and gave La Costa Canyon momentum at the break.

After a David Fisher one-yard scoring run narrowed the gap to 10 and Vista's defense held La Costa Canyon to a field goal, the Panthers had possession down by 13 early in the fourth. But La Costa Canyon's defense forced a punt after three downs and the Mavericks ground game — little used during the year — sealed the victory.

"I was surprised," said Vista head coach Dan Williams. "They did a good job of getting up on our linebackers."

Which of five top seeds has easiest road to finals?

Posted November 27, 2008, 7:07 p.m.

In Division IV, defending section champions Valley Center should have little trouble getting back to the finals at Qualcomm Stadium. The Jaguars are in a relatively weak bracket, where the No. 3 seed Mater Dei has a .500 record and No. 2 Madison has not really been tested this season. The Jaguars are one of the best teams in the section, and the gap between them and No. 2 in Division IV is the biggest of all the divisions.

Upset alert

By ryanmettee261 Posted November 25, 2008, 12:54 a.m.

After an exciting first round of playoff action, the competition heats up this week as the top seeds enter play in the second round. Here are the top 10 most exciting matchups in the second round.

10. Foothills Christian (10-1) @ Christian (9-1)
Prediction: Christian 28 Foothills Christian 14
9. Calvin Christian (9-1) @ Francis Parker (9-1)
Prediction: Francis Parker 35 Calvin Christian 27
8. Fallbrook (5-6) @ Escondido (8-2)
Prediction: Escondido 38 Fallbrook 21
7. Patrick Henry (7-4) @ Eastlake (8-2)
Prediction: Eastlake 24 Patrick Henry 23
6. Imperial (9-1) @ Valley Center (8-2)
Prediction: Valley Center 42 Imperial 14
5. Point Loma (5-4-1) @ Cathedral Catholic (10-0)
Prediction: Cathedral Catholic 54 Point Loma 20
4. Westview (9-2) @ Scripps Ranch (7-3)
Prediction: Scripps Ranch 33 Westview 31
3. Carlsbad (6-5) @ Chula Vista (7-3)

Upset Alert: The road warrior Lancers, homeless the entire year due to toxic soil on their field, will come out fired up and squeak out a victory against an overrated Chula Vista Spartans (who also got creamed by La Costa Canyon in week 0)

Prediction: Carlsbad 28 Chula Vista 27

2. Mission Hills (7-3-1) @ Poway (8-3)

Upset Alert: Which Mission Hills team will show up against the Palomar champion Poway Titans? Quarterback Zapata will come out strong and take down the Titans.

Prediction: Mission Hills 24 Poway 21

1. Vista (7-4) @ La Costa Canyon (8-2)

Both teams pride themselves on defense. Both teams beat Escondido. Both teams lost to Mission Viejo by similar scores.

Prediction: La Costa Canyon 28 Vista 20

Comments

1. Westview is the only other team on this list that can pull an upset. Both teams can score and it could come down to the last possession.

By anthonygentile 9:50 p.m., Nov 25, 2008

2. Fallbrook over Escondido for your upset, 21-14; Poway over Mission Hills, 42-14; Vista over LCC, 28-21; Carlsbad over a completely overated Chula Vista, 38-13.

By Estee 9:14 p.m., Nov 27, 2008

3. Do you think Fallbrook can stop Seale and Zier?

By anthonygentile 12:57 a.m., Nov 28, 2008

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Under "Stories" in menu bar, click on "Sports" then
"High School Football"

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SHEEP AND GOATS

PLACES OF WORSHIP REVIEWED

Denomination: United Methodist

Address: 4044 Lark Street, Mission Hills,
619-296-1243

Founded locally: 1913

Senior pastor: Carol Millspaugh

Congregation size: 120

Staff size: 6

Sunday school enrollment: 20

Annual budget: n/a

Weekly giving: n/a

Singles program: no

Dress: semiformal to formal

Diversity: Mostly Caucasian and
African American

Sunday worship: 10 a.m.

Length of reviewed service: 55 minutes

Website: mhumc.net

“The church was built in 1913, before there was even a street here,” said a congregant at Mission Hills United Methodist. “People love it for weddings.” Between the stained-glass dome, the Arts & Crafts woodwork, and the cozy way the curved pews slope down and surround the corner sanctuary, it was easy to see why.

Bootsy the Church Cat sat at the top of the steps leading up to the church, extending silent greetings and receiving the occasional scratch behind the ears. Once homeless, now adopted and given his own donation box beneath a framed photo portrait, the patchwork feline would, during the sermon, stroll across the sanctuary and plop down in a heap center stage, much to the delight of the congregation. “He’s here for all the meetings, whenever the church is open,” a chorister told me.

The cat shared the stage with a sort of tailor’s dummy, outfitted in full Bible-times regalia. When Pastor Millspaugh called the children to the front for a lesson, she told them that the dummy was a prophet. “Have you ever been in a very, very dark place?” she asked. “If you turn on a light, it will help you feel safer. In the Bible, we read about people who were in dark times, where they didn’t feel safe. The people that God sent to help at those times were called prophets; a prophet, in some ways, turns on a light.” She lit a mealwork lantern and gave it to a girl, who hung it from the prophet’s hand. “The light the prophet brought was a promise — a promise that God was with us, and that God was coming to be with us in a very special way.... The promise was that Jesus was going to come, and Jesus is often called the light of the world.”

For the adults, the liturgist lit the first purple candle on an Advent wreath. “We light candles to symbolize the various portions of Advent,” he explained. “First, we light the promise candle, to remind us of the light of hope that the prophets had in the coming of the Messiah.”

“We are here, watching and waiting in hope,” proclaimed the congregation during the Call to Worship. “May God’s light dawn afresh in the darkness!” “Come, thou long expected

Jesus,” boomed the choir, sounding larger than its numbers as it joined with the rollicking piano down front. “Nations are in chaos and lives are in turmoil,” continued the congregation in the Unison Prayer. “Lead us through any present chaos or darkness into the light of Your presence.” The choir answered with twining harmonies, “Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.”

Ushers brought forward the prayer requests from the congregation: prayers for the bereaved, for the sick, and for the unemployed. “Lord, we do ask for Your help in this difficult economy,” said Millspaugh after reading from a card, “that You would sustain individuals and families.... Please help us to be open to ways we think will help.... Help us to, more and more, embody Your love, reaching out to our community and Your world.”

Millspaugh ran down a list of charitable projects for interested souls. “At Uptown Faith Community Center, the number of clients has

doubled in the last few weeks due to the economy, so I would invite us to be generous with donations.... We have adopted a family for Christmas through METRO ministries; we need donations of food and clothing. And next Sunday is the Alternative Christmas Fair; a new project this year is the Nothing But Nets campaign to provide anti-malarial nets in different African nations.”

The Gospel reading recounted the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert, quoting Isaiah: “the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight.’” But where John preached repentance, the text from Isaiah began, “Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God,” and Millspaugh stressed the difference between the two messages. “Both the comfort and the challenge are part of the Advent preparation.”

“In the bleak midwinter, long ago,” sang the choir, recalling the first Christmas. Both the Baptist and Isaiah lived in “bleak, midwinter times,” said Millspaugh, and while they “surely needed comfort,” they also “needed to hear John the Baptist. He was pointing beyond himself, to God’s promise.... God is telling us good news, and it’s important news: it’s an offer of new life and new hope, even in the bleak midwinter.... God the comforter accepts you as you are, but God, the one who calls for repentance, does not leave you as you are. How can we respond to the hope that God offers?”

What happens when we die?

“We trust God’s love,” said Millspaugh. “He holds us and loves us, eternally.”

— Matthew Lickona



CAROL MILLSPAUGH

Mission Hills United Methodist Church Mission Hills

★★★

Sermon

content.....★★★

delivery.....★★½

Liturgy

Music

congregational.....★★½

band.....★★½

Snacks

.....★★½

Architecture

.....★★★

Friendliness

.....★★★

Poor to satisfactory.....(none)

Good.....★

Very good.....★★

Excellent.....★★★

Extraordinary.....★★★★

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— EVE KELLY

Girlfriend Jill wanted to hit the malls, but she needed help. She's pregnant and has a couple of little ones besides. I called around to see what was out there.

Sonia at Mission Valley Center (619-296-6375) told me that they did indeed have expectant mother parking, "between Target and the Outback Steakhouse.

We also have some on the other side of the mall by Nordstrom Rack. And there's a family lounge where mothers can nurse their babies. It features private booths with curtains, and there is also a TV with a DVD player, some books and toys, a restroom, and bottle warmers for formula."

Once inside, we could hit the concierge "in the center of the mall. They have strollers for rental there — \$4, with a \$1 refund upon return. They'll help with shopping questions — they'll offer gift ideas, and if you're looking for a particular item, they can direct you to a store. You can also go to them if you need package carry-out to your car. You can also purchase gift cards there, and if you spend \$250 on any given day between December 1 and December 15, you can bring your receipts to the concierge for a free gift."

So much for shopping; what about activities? "Santa arrived on November 25, and he's here for pictures and wishes. We'll have carolers here on December week-ends from 3 to 6 p.m. On December 5 at 6 p.m., we'll have a Christmas tree-lighting ceremony by Nordstrom Rack, and at 6 p.m. on December 6, 13, 20, and 23, we'll have artificial snow for kids to play in. And, of course, we'll have the Salvation Army Giving Tree by the food court. You pick a name off the tree, purchase the specified gift for that child, and drop the gift back at the tree."

Annie at Parkway Plaza (619-579-9932) offered expectant-mother parking "over by the JCPenney. Our concierge station is by Pat & Oscar's — we have some awesome women there who love to help. They have free wheelchairs, but the strollers are \$5 to rent, with \$1 back upon return. And if you purchase something heavy or awkward, we can help carry it to your car."

For kids, "There's a play town, and next to that, there are some rides that cost a few coins. And there's a double-decker carousel for \$3 a ride. I've heard that it seems faster if you ride on the upper level. On December 7, kids can come and have breakfast with Santa for free. We'll have activities and a little snack breakfast."

Nancy at Horton Plaza (619-239-8180) told me that the downtown mall's parking garage featured expectant-mother parking on levels four and five. "It's painted with blue and pink stripes — for either a boy or a girl. You can get three free hours of parking by validating your ticket at one of the five stations inside the mall. The concierge station



"It's a brand-new Winter Wonderland this year, very white and snowy-looking."

is on level one of the mall, by Victoria's Secret; they have wheelchairs and strollers available for use in the mall at no charge."

The mall's gift-wrap station was set up on level five, "overlooking Santa's House. It's a brand-new Winter Wonderland this year, very white and snowy-looking. You can bring your children there for pictures, and on December 14, the day of the downtown Santa Paws parade, you can bring your pets. Outside the mall, there's a skating rink — from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., you can skate for two hours [\$10-\$12, including skate rental], and all the proceeds go to Children's Hospital."

Kyle at UTC (858-546-8858) told me that their Santa was "available for photo ops on the mezzanine level." The concierge, meanwhile, was "located by the large water fountain in the center of the mall. We can provide wheelchairs or strollers free

of charge; you just need to fill out a liability form. We can help with package carry-out, provide customer escorts, call you a cab, or make you a dinner reservation. Expectant-mother parking is in the Sport Chalet Wing down Towne Centre Drive — the first two rows. For kids, we have a kiddie train [\$3 a ticket, buy five tickets and get five free], three rock-climbing walls [\$5 for all three], and an Astro Jump [\$3]."

Summer at North County Fair (760-489-0631) told me to look for a large black sign designating expectant-mother parking "at all major entrances. There are strollers [\$5 for a single, \$7 for a double] at the entrances as well." The wheelchairs, however, are kept at the concierge station. "And we have a family lounge with changing stations, nursing areas, a family bathroom, a TV, and a few books. There's also a kids' play area on the second level. And Santa's here from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m.; kids or four-legged animals can have their picture taken with him." Grownups can enjoy the music of "several musicians, providing entertainment throughout the mall. And the Salvation Army Giving Tree is here."

Finally, I spoke with Kirsten at Viejas Outlet Center (619-659-2070). "We have wheelchairs available at the security office, but no stroller rental. Santa is here for photos — you can take pictures using your own camera if you want to. And we have a wonderful Christmas tree. Our skating rink is the largest in Southern California. It's open Monday through Friday, 4 p.m. to 10 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. The cost is \$12 — that includes skate rentals and 90 minutes of skating."

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If depression is creeping up and must be faced, learn something about the nature of the beast: You may escape without a mauling.

— Dr. R.W. Shepherd

By the time I turned off the faucet, something within me had shifted. It must have happened while I was washing my hands because I remember feeling normal when I entered the bathroom. I removed my glasses, set them on the granite counter beside the sink, and positioned my face an inch away from the mirror, where I could see every clogged pore, every unauthorized brow hair. Fingers that seemed to belong to someone else besieged my face, pushing here, pinching there, until my reflection appeared Picasso-esque to my mind's eye — all nose, chin, and cheek, more an accumulation of features than a coherent image I would ever recognize as me. I switched off the light, felt my way to the towel rack, grasped it with both hands, and pressed my forehead

"I don't know what you were doing to yourself there, but I think you're done with — Hey, hey, what is it?" I broke into huge heaving sobs, flooding my face with tears.

against the wall.

I'm not sure how long I stood there in the dark, devoid of thought or motivation to move. But when I heard David's voice in the other room asking if I was okay, it occurred to me that what I was doing might be perceived as "not okay." I extracted myself from the bathroom and joined David in the kitchen, where he was loading the dishwasher. "Hey, there you are," he said. "How are you doing?" I smiled blankly, said I was fine. Then I caught a glimpse of the digital clock on the microwave. It read 12:34 a.m. — A.M.! Pressure must have been building beneath my consciousness because suddenly my brain erupted with thoughts, an army of words and ideas that, like so many stars in the sky, were impossible for me to keep track of.

I grabbed a sharp plastic toothpick and absentmindedly probed and jabbed at my teeth, working out broccoli bits and black pepper as I watched David finish. Once he'd wiped down the counter, David looked up and a peculiar expression came over his face. "What's wrong? What's on your mind?" he said.

Speaking around the toothpick, I said, "Nothing," and continued poking at my teeth. David waited. "I mean nothing's wrong," I said, still thrusting at my gums. "It's just that I'm looking at the time and I'm trying to figure out how to plan tomorrow — I wanted to wake up early and go to the gym before that meeting I have downtown, but now that I see how late it is, I don't think there's enough time for me to get there and get back and shower and dress, and then I guess I'm thinking about all the other things I want to get done tomorrow, all those emails I haven't responded to, those calls I have to return, and it's just, well, it's just...maybe I'm a little overwhelmed. But I feel fine; I really do."

I mustered a smile, half of which was blocked by the toothpick. David put one arm on my shoulder, and with the other, he snatched the mangled toothpick from my fingers. He turned around to throw it away, saying, "I don't know what you were doing to yourself there, but I think you're done with — Hey, hey, what is it?" I broke into sobs, huge heaving sobs, flooding my face

with tears. I shook my head back and forth as I wept — I had no answer for him. My day had been ideal: I'd attended a step class with my sister Jane in the morning, helped her out in the afternoon by silently reading a book while her baby daughter napped, then shared wine, snacks, and a slide show of our recent excursion with guests. There was simply no reason for my behavior.

I tried to escape David's embrace, turning left, then right, but his arms were always there. He repeatedly asked me what was up, but I had no words to offer him. He kept trying to catch my eye, but I glared wildly away, afraid of the care and concern I might find on his face. Words bubbled inside me, and I eventually managed to get them out: "Don't you see? That toothpick was holding everything together," I said, braving a peek at David's face. "And when you took it away, I fell apart." David chuckled.

For a moment, I was irritated with myself for the unfounded melodrama, but then a surge of emotion — a cross between anxiety and agony — washed over me, and the next thing I knew I was gasping for breath. Between gulps for air I murmured, "I can't...I can't do it...it's too much...there's no time."

David valiantly tried to keep my cheeks dry, but I was too much for his sleeves. In his naturally soothing voice, he said, "C'mon, take some long, deep breaths.



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Look, you don't have any more on your plate this week than you did last week. You'll get it all done. Everything's going to be just fine. Now please stop scratching at your neck." He grabbed my hand and held it. "Come on, it's late. You don't have to go to the gym in the morning; you don't have to go to the party tomorrow night. There's plenty of time for everything." I took a deep breath and let it out slowly, feeling myself calm down. "Stay right here," said David. "I'm going to go get you something to help you

sleep." Filled with neurotic energy, the idea of lying down horrified me. "I can't go to sleep," I called into the other room. "I mean, I don't want to. I'm not tired." David returned and handed me half of a Xanax. "I don't need this," I said. "I'm fine." He smiled and then proffered a bottle of water. I took it. "I still don't want to go to bed, though," I said. "Well, what do you want to do?" David asked. I looked around, frantic for a task. "I'll wash the dishes."

"I already did that," said David. "No, you loaded the dishwasher," I said. "I'll wash the dishes by hand." David shrugged and stepped aside so I could get to the sink. For 20 minutes I fixated on the hot water as I scrubbed away the demons. When I'd finished, I was physically and emotionally exhausted. I turned off the water and David appeared at my side. "Are you ready for bed now?" he asked. David led me upstairs, where I crawled beneath the comforter and pressed my face

to the pillow. As the fog of sleep began to envelop me, I mumbled to David, "You don't think I'm crazy, do you?" I wasn't awake long enough to hear his reply. ■

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It's getting ugly

Disgruntled owners, reluctant lenders,
and condos worth less than their purchase prices

One Who's Out and Wants In

A man walks into the lobby of a downtown sales office on Sixth Avenue and G Street on a Sunday morning, wheeling his young son in a stroller in front of him.

The glass and marble

lobby has flat-screen televisions showing downtown views and condominium interiors and wall-sized photographs of construction sites. But the centerpiece is an architectural scale model of a building beneath a glass shell. The model is three by

five by four feet high, detailed out to its balconies, with Matchbox cars and model people in the street.

The boy in the stroller points at the model building, wide-eyed, and says, "Whoa!!"

"Do you want to live in

there?" the man asks his son, but the little boy's face scrunches into a frown, and he says nothing. "Do you want to live in that building?" the boy's father asks him again. Still no answer from the young skeptic.



downtown

PHOTOGRAPH BY FRANK GLASER

The sales manager for the building, Donna Lutz, emerges from a nearby glass-enclosed office and laughs. "That's not the real building," she says to the little boy. "You don't have to live in that. That's a model. The real building will be a lot bigger."

In fact, the real building for Vantage Pointe condominiums, when it reaches completion in late spring of next year, will be the largest residential development in downtown San Diego, with 679 condos and 25,000 feet of commercial space. The 40-story project, which encompasses the entire block between A and B streets and Ninth and Tenth avenues, entailed what real-estate analysts say is the largest private construction loan in San Diego County history: \$210 million.

The man who's visiting the sales center today is Scott Spick, and his two-year-old son's name is Ian. Spick was one of the first people to put a deposit down at Vantage

Pointe, back in 2004. His condo will be a two-bedroom, two-bath "K plan," with north-facing views of Balboa Park from the 17th floor.

He's visiting today because he has concerns and questions for Lutz.

"Any update on estimated status for completion on our unit?" Spick asks.

"We hope to start moving in our first buyers in April," Lutz says. "Starting next month, we'll be giving the construction company a punch list of things that need to be corrected, and then we'll start walkthroughs after the first of the year."

"I was reading about all this," Spick begins, "and I'm wondering..." His voice trails off. Spick is 33, a musician — "I'd like to say I'm a full-time musician" — but also works as a project manager at Nokia to help make ends meet. His wife Ana used to work for Qualcomm, but now she's in interior design. Ian is their first child. Spick says now to Lutz,

"I'm X amount of dollars into this for the down payment, and I'm wondering, is it better for me to move forward with this investment or to step back and take my money and try to invest it somewhere else? I personally think it's still a great investment, but I'd like to know my options. Reading through the contracts, I see that there's a clause that says that after 42 months from my

"Oh," says Lutz, "at that floor level, at that size — you've got 950 square feet — you'd be really hard-pressed to beat \$419,000, even in today's market. I know that because I'm buying a property here, too. I'm in the same boat that you are. And as long as you're on the upper levels, you're still very positive. That same home today, list price, would be about \$600,000."

"You feel like a failure, you know?" Harlan says.

signing on, if I don't close escrow, then I can get out."

Lutz says, "If your home is not deliverable by 42 months after signing, then, yes, you're able to get out of it. But, I tell you, all hands are on deck to make that date."

"And that is May 2009?"

"Yes, that's May."

Spick locked into his unit at a price of \$419,000. He put five percent down on the property. "I wonder what it would appraise for right now," he says.

Spick's face brightens. "Is that at this stage right now?"

"Yes."

"That's why I want to try so hard to qualify for this," Spick says. "And get as creative as possible. With my parents being real-estate agents, they're saying, hey, you know, do what it takes. We'll help you if need be."

Spick explains that he used to live in Golden Hill. Then, in 2003, he and his wife started looking for an investment. They purchased a four-bedroom, 1700-square-

foot home in Scripps Ranch. "We should have sold at the peak," he says. "We have neighbors who sold really well, when we, like most people, were thinking, 'Let's wait a little bit and see if we can get a little more out of it.' So I guess we got greedy and didn't get out in time, and now we're stuck there."

"It's nice that you got to keep it, at least." Lutz is alluding to the hundreds of thousands of people in Spick's situation who've been foreclosed on, or short-sold.

"I think, in the long run, if we can hold on to it, that's the best decision," Spick says.

"Well, for Vantage Pointe," says Lutz, "we are allowing co-buyers. So if you do need to add your parents on, the builder is allowing you to do that. Your name still has to remain on the title at closing, but you can add a co-buyer for qualifying or down payment. And we're going to have some seminars with Wells Fargo, and if you come to those — we'll let you know when those are — you'll learn that you can use gift money

for a higher down payment."

"And what about FHA? Does Vantage Pointe qualify?"

"We're working on that. Right now, FHA has been changing their guidelines. And we wouldn't qualify today. But we'll know by the end of November, with the new guideline changes, whether we can proceed with the application."

"So have they released all the units now?"

"We have pricing on all of the homes. The least expensive units, on the second floor, overlooking the courtyard, one bedroom, one bath, are in the low \$300s. And it goes up to \$1.3 million for the penthouses with the large terraces."

"Okay," says Spick. Ian is sitting quietly in the stroller. Lutz has given the boy a peppermint candy to occupy him while she talks to his father. "Now, I guess," Spick continues, "there are some financial questions I have. Let's say I'm scheduled to move in in May. When am I expected to close

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escrow?"

"It'll be within a few days of move-in," Lutz says.

"Okay. So it's not expected months before."

"No. We will probably do the walk-through and have the sign-off sheet done for your home by March. And then we'll get you all processed and do all that within a couple weeks of actually giving you the keys."

"Okay." Spick crosses his arms. "Are there any concerns, with the recent market in the state it's in, that the units may not appraise for loan approvals?"

"You're phase one, right?" Lutz leans against a corner of the table where the Vantage Pointe model sits. Spick says yes, he was one of the first to lock into a place. Lutz says, "Well, I

"To foreclose is...to admit that you had poor judgment."

really think phase-one buyers, especially on the upper floors like you are, will be fine. The lower floors may be a challenge."

"Right," says Spick. "Is the builder prepared

to do anything about that? Because I'm certain he doesn't want any vacancies."

The builder of Vantage Pointe is the Calgary-based development firm Pointe of View.

"No," says Lutz. "That's right. He's really focused on closing as many of the loans as he can that we have under contract right now."

"Why I'm asking is, it looks like I'm going to have to get creative. I went into my bank the other day, Wells Fargo, and I was anticipating being able to rent out the townhome and to use the rent to be able to qualify for this. But I guess there's a new federal policy now that you can't use your rent to count toward equity unless you've had that rent for two years."

"Wow," Lutz commiserates. "Do you have equity in the property?"

Spick shakes his head. "I'm pretty much right at..." He flattens a hand and moves it horizontally in front of his chest.

"Well, see," Lutz says, "and this is the trouble. Wells Fargo is going to hold a seminar for our buyers to bring us all up to speed on stuff like that. Because the rules are changing daily. And they're going to change a hundred times more between now and closing."

"Right. Right," says Spick. "That's my concern. Because I still feel like it's a wonderful investment, but I am concerned that if there's a lot of people who are unable to qualify, what is that going to do to the value of the property if we have a lot of vacancy?"

"I don't know what's

going to happen," Lutz says. "Whether we do a buy-down program, to give a lower interest rate to the buyers, or... whatever we do, we're well aware of it. Big-time talks are going on right now to figure out something."

Spick nods. "Well, what's the vacancy rate at now?"

"We have 43 percent under contract. We've been holding pretty steady. We've actually seen a lot more interested people lately."

"Yeah. All of America's on sale right now."

Back in 2004, Vantage Pointe reserved 337 units — 49 percent of capacity — in the first weekend they were made available to the public. So having 43 percent under contract represents a decline from initial figures. Compounding the troubles at Vantage Pointe is the fact that there are already so

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many unsold condos on the market. The supply could last for several years.

According to Russ Valone, CEO of Market Pointe Realty Advisors, almost 22,000 housing units exist in downtown San Diego. About a third of that (32 percent) is subsidized, or single-room occupancy. The rest of the housing stock breaks down into 3600 apartments and 11,350 condominiums. Prior to 1999, there were only about 1300 condos downtown, so that's 10,036 new units in the past nine years. Currently, 6441 condos are built, sold, closed, and have individuals living in them, either owner-occupied or rented out, and 3595 units are either still being built or are actively selling.

Of those 3595 available units, 1549 are new, or not yet built. Over a

quarter of those, 389, are in Vantage Pointe.

One Who's In and Wants Out

"I'm not at all unhappy with the decision to move to downtown," states 25-year-old Jordon Harlan. Harlan lives with his older brother Landon in Union Square, on the corner of 14th and Broadway, in the northern part of East Village. "It's what I wanted. I wanted to be able to walk everywhere, I wanted to be next to the cultural events. I wanted to be able to go to bars and street fairs. And that's how it is. I live where people park to go to the ballgames. I'm 10 blocks from House of Blues. I'm 20 blocks from the bay. I can run through Balboa Park from my house if I want to. And I'm also about 2 blocks from the freeway, although I don't have any freeway noise."

Union Square is made up of three mid-rise buildings of steel-frame/wood construction and was completed by Western Pacific Housing in 2004. According to the downtown real-estate specialists at 92101 Urban Living, Union Square "sits in the path of development...the

"A foreclosure could keep me from being admitted to the bar."

idea being that prices per square foot will increase as development around the area matures...Union Square is for the investor who is willing to be on the edge of development over the next few years."

Harlan and his brother bought their condo late in 2005, and the two have lived there

since. The price was \$531,000, and they did a "credit back," so that their loan totaled \$550,000. They used the extra money to paint the condo, buy furniture, and make sure they had a little buffer left over in case of hard times.

"We took out a one hundred percent loan to

value," Harlan says. "But our real-estate agent double-ended the deal. So the place had appraised at \$550,000, and basically she cut us a check for half of her commission."

The Harlans paid no money down. Their mortgage is around \$2900 per month, homeowners' association

(HOA) fees are \$378 per month, and taxes are another \$450 — for a total payment of just over \$3700 each month.

Their 1100-square-foot unit is on the sixth floor — the top floor — and it faces the tree-lined courtyard inside Union Square. It has two stories, with a 300-square-foot private deck, stainless-steel appliances, and granite countertops.

Their unit reappraised last year for \$450,000. But now, Jordon Harlan says, the value is closer to \$400,000, or maybe even \$350,000.

"With the economic situation," Harlan says, "it could take five years for my place to get back up to the value it had when I bought it. At that rate, with me paying the interest payments on it and not actually amortizing the loan at all, it doesn't make any finan-

cial sense to stay in the place. For instance, we figure that over the next three years it'll cost us about \$133,000. We'd need to see an increase in value for that to be worth it. And it's not likely to happen."

Harlan and his brother are looking into loan solutions offered by the government, but they're not finding relief there. "There's an \$8.5 billion settlement offered by Countrywide," Harlan says, "although that applies to subprime loans and pay options, which is where you can make a minimum payment for less than the interest on the loan [resulting in negative amortization]. And this is basically predatory lending. So they're allowing you to call Countrywide and just have your place refinanced. But they don't have those programs for prime

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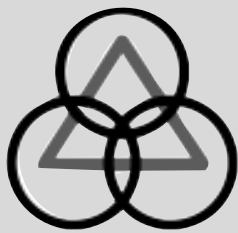
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SYNERGY CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTER

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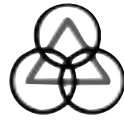
bipolar

We are conducting a research study in bipolar depression. Are these study criteria right for you or someone you know?

- Taking one or two of the following medications: lithium, Zyprexa® (olanzapine) and/or Depakote® (Valproic Acid) for the last two months
- Managing depression for at least one month
- Not currently taking an antidepressant
- Between the ages of 18 and 65

The study will evaluate the investigational product along with your current mood stabilizers. Qualified volunteers will receive study-related exams and study medication at no cost. Study duration is approximately three months.

1-888-486-9150



SYNERGY CLINICAL
RESEARCH

Do you or someone you know suffer from OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE DISORDER

If you are:

- Male or female between 18 and 60 years of age
- In good general health

**YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN A NEW
CLINICAL RESEARCH TRIAL.**

Participants will receive at no charge:

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

For more information, call:

1-888-486-9150



SYNERGY CLINICAL
RESEARCH

Smoked for years? Coughed for months?

We only need you for a few hours.

We are conducting a clinical research study for current or previous smokers with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder (COPD).

You may be able to participate if you:

- Are at least 40 years old
- Have been diagnosed with COPD
- Are a current or previous smoker
- Treat COPD symptoms every day using only a long-acting bronchodilator

Study participation requires only one visit, which will include both your eligibility screening at the study clinic and, if you are eligible, study evaluation. No study medication will be tested, but volunteers will be compensated for participation.

**For more information, please contact
Synergy Clinical Research: 1-888-486-9150**

Are you anxious?

Finding it hard to focus or concentrate?

Tense, tired, or on edge?

Having difficulty sleeping?

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

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

**Synergy Clinical Research Center
1-888-486-9150**

See our website at: www.synergysandiego.com

Office hours: 9 am-5 pm

Are you overweight with type II diabetes?

You might qualify to participate in a new clinical research study. We are investigating new treatment options through medical research that may help overweight people with type II diabetes lose weight.

You must be:

- Between 18 years old and 65 years old
- Considered to be in stable health
- Taking oral medication for type II diabetes
- Not taking insulin
- Able to perform an exercise program
- Willing to participate approximately 1 year (17 visits)

Qualified participants may receive at no charge:

- Personalized dietary counseling
- Study-related investigational medication
- Compensation for your time and travel

**To learn more, call: Synergy Clinical Research Center
1-888-486-9150**

ADOLESCENT DEPRESSION

ARE YOU OR AN ADOLESCENT YOU KNOW

- SUFFERING FROM DEPRESSION
- ARE BETWEEN 12 AND 17 YEARS OF AGE
- HAVE HAD SYMPTOMS FOR GREATER THAN 2 MONTHS

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

Participants will receive free of charge:

1. Study-related exams
2. Investigational drug
3. Compensation for time and travel

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



SYNERGY CLINICAL
RESEARCH

www.synergysandiego.com

Anemia Research Study



eStudySite is conducting a research study of an investigational medication for patients being treated for Iron Deficiency Anemia.

Do you qualify?

To qualify, you must:

- Have Iron Deficiency Anemia
- Be 18 or older
- Not be dialysis-dependent

Qualified participants will receive study-related medical care and study medication at no cost, as well as compensation for time & travel.

619.955.5246
info@eStudySite.com



loans, which sucks, because my value's being hit by the subprimes and the pay options and the foreclosures, but they don't have any solutions for me. But I'm going to call in and try to work out something where either they refinance the value of my loan down to a fair-market value. Or I'd even be open to the lender renting it to me, with the option of buy-

ing it back a few years from now."

Harlan is a second-

in La Jolla. But mostly, he's going into debt, paying school loans on top

"I have no reason to fire-sale units. We are a large developer."

year law student at USD, and he waits tables a couple of nights a week at Tapenade Restaurant

of his home loan, without much income.

Harlan's brother is in the search-engine-optimization business.

Harlan learned about real estate by reading books such as *Home Buying for Dummies* and

RESEARCH STUDIES

South Bay Treatment Center

Addiction Research

has investigational medications with related outpatient drug counseling available in a research setting for...

Methamphetamine or Crystal Meth Users

For more information, call: 1-888-318-2412
Subjects will be compensated for time and travel.



Explore a new path in your **TYPE 2 DIABETES** options.

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

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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
info@amcrinstitute.com


emerge

Will you be one of them?

Type 2 diabetes? Trouble keeping your blood sugar under control?

Help us take the next step.

If you are at least 18 and under 75 years of age and take oral medication combined with exenatide injections for your type 2 diabetes, you may be able to join a clinical study being conducted at this clinic.



Find out more, get in touch today or call into the doctor's office
1-888-423-5093

NEXT STEP CLINICAL STUDY

from spending hours on the phone with his real-estate agent.

"My loan is an 80/20," Harlan says. "The first is a 5.75 percent interest rate, which is really reasonable. And it was full doc [fully documented], which means they got all my income and my brother's income. The 20 percent is a home equity line of credit, and that fluctuates with the prime rate."

A new possibility that the Harlans have put on the table is foreclosure. "I don't want to sit in the house for six years," Harlan says, "waiting for the value to come back. It doesn't make any sense financially. At this point, I'm going to pay more to stay here than I'll ever make from selling it. Not to mention that the adjustable rate I got was for seven years, which was, I thought, more than enough. So my loan could actually adjust, which I thought would be unheard of when I first bought it."

"You feel like a failure, you know," he says. "Because you made such a huge investment, and you had your naysayers when you did it. And you had your supporters, too, people who backed you up, people you trusted. And you didn't know who to believe or what to believe. And then to have to foreclose is to say that you made the wrong decision. To admit that you had poor judgment. And there's the credit issue. Landon's credit has rebounded from the 500s to over 700 now. Mine is bordering on 800. I've never been late for a payment in my life. So to have a foreclosure, it's like, Jesus, I went through so much work to get my credit where it is."

"We had the income to finance a house this size. But 100 percent financing was a bad idea, from the bank's perspective. When you're look-

ing at a half-million-dollar house, if you don't have any equity in it, and it stops appreciating, then you have no reason to stay in it except for your credit. You have no equity."

"It's a tough situation to figure out what to do, because, how do you price your credit score, you know? And it's an interesting side note for me, because I'm going through a moral-charac-

ter application for the California bar, where they evaluate your financial record. So essentially, a foreclosure could keep me from being admitted to the bar. I have to worry about what this

whole housing situation might do to my career."

From a Developer's Point of View

"This isn't particularly a bad time for us," says Brian Stoddard, empha-

sizing the word *us*, "it's a bad time for everyone." Stoddard is the president and chief operating officer for Calgary-based Pointe of View, Vantage Pointe's developer. "We're not having any

RESEARCH STUDIES

Do you suffer from Schizophrenia?

Excell Research is starting several new
**INPATIENT AND
OUTPATIENT** studies.

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may be eligible to participate.

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www.antiagingarts.com

project-related issues, we're having market-related issues. We continue to believe in that building, and we continue to believe in San Diego. We're putting up a landmark in a world-class city."

Stoddard says that Pointe of View hasn't made the decision yet whether it's going to offer properties for rent. "Am I going to rent out units, or reprice the units, just because we're in a bad market?" Stoddard asks. "Or am I going to sit there and carry those units and sell them

at a time when I think the market may be better, if I think that's going to be months instead of years away? That's a mathematical equation for me. And it's the kind

over the continent. We have buildings in Ontario, Calgary, British Columbia, Arizona, Hawaii, Orange County, and we have another site in San Diego (at 11th

"I don't know how long I'll stay, but I like it here a lot."

of thing we've done in the past. We've sat on units. I have no reason to fire-sale units. We are a large developer. We have thousands of units all

and Broadway), just two blocks away from Van-tage, which we haven't begun to build on yet. Again, we believe in San Diego. Those units in

RESEARCH STUDIES

Schizophrenia Research Study

Now enrolling participants for...



...an investigational medication trial to treat impairments of **thinking** and **memory** in adults diagnosed with schizophrenia.

To see if you or someone you know qualifies, call
(858) 566-8222

The California Neuropsychopharmacology Clinical Research Institute, LLC
"CNRI, LLC"

Participants will receive:
-Study medication
-Study related care
-Compensation for time and travel

Do You Get Anxious in Social Situations?

Do you:

- Get very **NERVOUS** around people?
- **Fear** being the center of attention?
- **AVOID** going to social events and meeting new people?



If you answered YES to any of the above, you may be eligible to participate in an experimental research study comparing several study drug options for social phobia. Medical assessment and clinical care are provided.

 For more information, Please call
1-877-UCSD-SHY (1-877-827-3749)
Or e-mail: veryshy@ucsd.edu



CLINICAL RESEARCH

SCHIZOPHRENIA • DEPRESSION • BIPOLAR DISORDER


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

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

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

To learn more, please call the Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital Clinical Research Center at **(858) 694-8350**.

Clinical Research Center
SHARP Mesa Vista Hospital


2007 Award Recipient
Sharp HealthCare

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.**

do you have HEPATITIS C?

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

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

Participants may receive the following at no charge:

- Investigational medication
- 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



"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 suffer from a skin infection?



- Abscess
- Deep tissue infections
- Infected wounds
- Infected burns

eStudySite is conducting a research study of an experimental antibiotic for the treatment of MRSA and multiple other bacterial infections.

Compensation for time and travel may be available.



Call eStudySite at:

(619) 955-5246 in San Diego • (760) 631-3056 in North County
to see if you qualify or e-mail: info@estudy.com

Vantage Pointe are going to sell. Is it going to take 8 months, 10 months, 15 months to sell them? Maybe. I don't know. But it's not going to break us to sit there and carry that building for the next year. We know the market is going to come back, and someday, we're going to have two big residential buildings in San Diego. At least two."

One concern surrounding partially vacant residential buildings is that homeowners' association fees on unoccupied units may not be paid. As a result, a building may go into disrepair, which can affect the value of all the units. "But," says Stoddard, "if you look at the documentation for Vantage Pointe, we've posted something like six months' worth of HOA fees for the entire building. So that shouldn't be a problem."

Stoddard says that

his firm is also working closely with the bank to get Vantage Pointe approved for Federal Housing Administration (FHA) financing.

"I understand that much of the regulation around FHA is going to change," he says. "We have Wells Fargo and our lawyers in San Diego currently exploring how

this time. We've paid for the upgrades, and the owners can pay for them when they close. I don't know what the average is, but people are spending \$10,000 and \$20,000 to upgrade their flooring and their cabinets and their countertops. Obviously, these people believe in the project, and they're trying to

"Close to 50 percent of the building is filled with renters right now."

we may get the building qualified for FHA purposes." In the meantime, Pointe of View is "doing what we can for buyers. People were concerned that they wouldn't have money to do upgrades. We've allowed people to go in and upgrade their units and put no additional money down at

make their suites their suites, and we've allowed them to do that at no cost now."

In the end, Stoddard says the building will speak for itself.

"That lobby is going to be absolutely stunning," he says, with pride in his voice. "It's huge. That building is going to

RESEARCH STUDIES

Crazy Legs?



If you suspect your jerky legs wake you up at night and make you tired the next day, we could have a study for you!

You might think of them as just "crazy legs," but jumpy, jittery or painful legs that act up when you are trying to relax can be a sign that you have Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS).

We are interested in talking to individuals over the age of 18 who are experiencing restless legs and daytime fatigue for possible participation in a 4-month study evaluating a medication for RLS.

The study includes keeping track of your RLS symptoms, 4 overnight stays (spread out over the course of the study) and periodic office visits; all exams, lab work and study medication are provided at no charge. **Qualified participants can receive up to \$1,325 for time and travel.**



PACIFIC RESEARCH NETWORK

Call: 619-294-4302 • www.prnsd.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

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!
Then call 866-818-3253 or visit
TestWithTheBest.com today.

Please reference study 6135-292

COVANCE
THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMPANY
9665 Chesapeake Dr., Ste. 200
San Diego, CA 92123

HAS YOUR LIFE BEEN IMPACTED BY TYPE 1 DIABETES?

HOW WILL FUTURE GENERATIONS MANAGE THEIR DIABETES?

The Profil Institute for Clinical Research is conducting a research study to test a possible investigational medication for Type 1 Diabetics.

To qualify, you must:

- Have Type 1 Diabetes
- Be 18-65 Years Of Age, With Type 1 Diabetes
- Using Insulin For At Least The Past 12 Months

Volunteers may be compensated up to \$1,950.
Up to nine study visits are required but no overnights.



For more information,
call Profil at **619-409-1271**.

Profil

Institute for Clinical Research

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**

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



make a statement. And I think when that building is up and people have the opportunity to see it, they're going to say, 'You know what, I want to live here.' "

almost three years ago and paid "in the \$400s."

Schweighart's place is a "long-term hold," he says. "I was never planning to jump in and jump out. I moved from

but I like it here a lot."

Atria is located on the city block between First, Second, Market, and Island in the marina district. The four-story building has 149 units

Two Who Like It Down Here Just Fine, Thanks

Chris Schweighart, 34, works in commercial real estate and lives in Atria on Market, in a fourth-floor, one-bedroom, 700-square-foot condo with an east-facing view. He can see the Omni and the top of Petco Park and the Hilton. He moved in

"Her mortgage is \$2,300 and H.O.A. is \$521 a month."

Encinitas, and it's like night and day. Residential, family-oriented, versus lively, urban, mostly young people. I don't know how long I'll stay,

and 11,400 square feet of commercial space. Atria was built in 2002 and fully renovated in 2004.

Schweighart pays \$285 a month in

RESEARCH STUDIES



XALATAN® USERS

Are you currently using Xalatan® eyedrops?

We are seeking qualified participants for an upcoming clinical research study that will last 3 months. If you have Ocular Hypertension or Open Angle Glaucoma and are using Xalatan® to treat these conditions, you may qualify for this study.

Benefits of participation include:

- Study-related exams and study medication provided at no cost
- Financial compensation for your time and travel
- No medical insurance is required for participation in this study

For more information about our clinical research study, please call site contact Patti Simpson at: (760) 758-2008
3998 Vista Way, Suite A, Oceanside, CA 92056



Are you suffering from pain associated with Tennis Elbow?

We are seeking volunteers to participate in a Clinical Research Study using an investigational skin patch.

To qualify, you must be:

- 18 years of age or older
- Diagnosed with Tennis Elbow
- Onset of symptom within the past 12 weeks
- Must not be receiving current treatment from a licensed professional for your Tennis Elbow (*over-the-counter pain relief is fine*)
- Men and women must be willing to use contraceptives to prevent pregnancy
- Agree to participate in study up to 21 days with every-other-day visits for 14 days



Qualified participants will receive study-related drug, physical exams, lab tests and compensation for time and travel.

For more information, please call: (619) 229-3909



Always worrying? Anxious? Panic attacks?

You may qualify for free psychological treatment.

Researchers in the Department of Psychiatry at UCSD are conducting a brain imaging study that provides free psychological treatment to individuals experiencing **excessive worry** or **panic attacks**. Compensation is provided. You must be between the ages of 18-55, a nonsmoker, and **not** currently taking psychiatric medication. Other eligibility criteria apply. Please call **858-534-6445** for more information and to see if you qualify.



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



Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) Research Study

**...tired of the urgency to go...and the diarrhea
...bloated...uncomfortable...abdominal pain**

A 5-month clinical research study is underway for men and women, 18-80 years of age suffering from **irritable bowel syndrome**. For those men and women, diagnosed or not, who suffer with **abdominal discomfort, bloating, and episodes of diarrhea, loose or watery stools**, this research study using an oral investigational medication may interest you.

Qualified participants may receive at no cost:

- Screening colonoscopy (for those 50 years and older, and not done in the past 5 years)
- Study-related examination and consultation by a board-certified physician
- Lab studies, EKG, and study medication

Compensation for your time and travel may be provided.

Interested, call:

**Medical Center For Clinical Research
(619) 521-2841**

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

Looks Can Be Deceiving



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Center for Understanding and Treating Anxiety
6386 Alvarado Court, Suite 301, San Diego

homeowners' association fees. "That's on the low side, and that was one of the factors that lured me into Atria," he says. "However, each year, there's been a maximum raise in those fees. When I moved in, it was \$200, and it's gone up \$40 a year. We've got a gym and barbecue patio area, which is actually pretty nice. The amenities aren't bad. But the HOAs just keep going up, and when is it going to stop? I mean, the amenities aren't getting any better, they're just staying the same."

Schweighart's major issue with Atria stems from the large number of renters, relative to owners. "I would probably say that somewhere

between a third or maybe even close to 50 percent of the building is filled with renters right now. The developer is renting out his units. He hasn't been able to sell them all. And then there's probably, I would

that. They're a lot noisier and messier. I think a lot of them are only here short-term. You know, they blow into downtown, and they go out and go crazy, and they come home and take it out on us."

Downtown mortgage broker: "It's really hard to find lenders right now."

guess, 10–20 percent of the original owners who are absentee owners. It's not really a desirable situation. The argument is that renters don't care as much about the place as owners do, and I believe

Repeated calls to Atria to confirm these figures were unreturned.

Besides the noise from his fellow tenants, there's also the city noise to contend with. "There's noise from the street," Schweighart says, "and you have the trains, and if you're a light sleeper, then it's probably not a good place to be." But all of that is offset by the fact that he can "pretty much walk everywhere. I don't have to worry about drinking and driving pretty much ever, which is a nice bonus."

Jennifer Carroll, 23, lives in Acqua Vista, which occupies a city block between Ash and Beech and Columbia and State streets, at the edge of Little Italy. She lives on the fifth floor but has no

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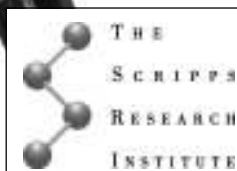
Heavy drinkers not seeking treatment



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.

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



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(must be within 3 days of 1st symptoms)

San Diego Sports Medicine and Family Health Center
619-229-3909

view to speak of. She looks out at some of the other 390 condos in the two towers of her 18-story complex.

She moved into Acqua Vista in March 2005, one year after the building was finished, and she paid \$390,000 for her 830-square-foot, two-bedroom condo. Her mortgage is \$2300, and the HOA fee is \$521 a month. She rents out one of her rooms for \$600.

"You can't park your own car here," Carroll says, "and that [the valet parking] goes into the HOA fees. I think some people like having their cars parked for them, or they get used to it, but to me it's kind of a pain. I don't like to have that interaction. I'd rather park my own car and be in charge of it. And if you forget something, then they have to pull it up, and if they're busy, then your car doesn't come right away. But



Are You Anxious?

- Finding it hard to focus or concentrate?
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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)

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- 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:

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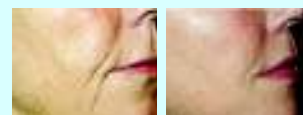
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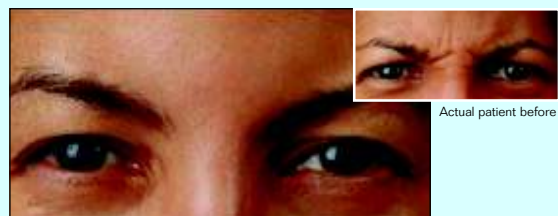
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some people like it, so...."

Carroll, a recent USD graduate, works at her family's hotel, the San Diego Downtown Lodge, on Tenth Avenue and A Street. Her father helped her afford her condo back in 2005.

Carroll doesn't mind the mortgage and looks at her condo as a long-term investment. As such, she isn't worried about the bad economy or what her place might be worth at the present time. The one cost she does find objectionable is the HOA fee.

A homeowners' association is a legal entity that manages the common amenities of a real-estate development. Most HOAs are non-profit corporations and are subject to state statutes that govern non-profits. Typically, fees paid to HOAs represent the common ownership

of a building by its residents.

These fees can, however, turn out to be very high, sometimes almost as much as the mortgage payments. Owners in Horizons (555 Front Street), Meridian (500 Harbor Island Drive), and Harbor Club (100 Harbor Drive) pay monthly HOA fees in the vicinity of \$1000.

"I feel like that's the part that's kind of sucking money out of me," Carroll says. "It's definitely something to consider when you're moving into a condo."

He's Not Just a Tenant, He's Also a Broker

Derrick Gilliam, 45, lives in Horizons, a two-towered 25-story structure bordered by Market Street, Island Avenue, First Avenue, and Front Street. Built by Bosa Development, Horizons

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is luxury concrete construction and was completed in 2001.

But Gilliam isn't just a tenant of a downtown condo, he's also a real-estate broker who sells downtown condos.

"It's really hard to find lenders right now," he says. "They're just a lot stricter now. There's no more funky loans with stated income and 100 percent financing anymore. It's all full doc, and really good credit, and you have to have a lot of cash on hand. Most lenders want 20 percent down now, at least. And another thing is how lenders have become really strict on appraisals. I mean, before, they were just appraising places for whatever the offer came in at. They were appraising for whatever a place would sell for. But now they realize that that wasn't a good thing to do. Now they're more realistic in their appraisals, and my understanding is they consider downtown a declining market, so they're appraising places at 20 percent reductions right now. And there have been places that have come out of escrow because the appraisals are coming in for lower than what the accepted offer is. So the seller will either have to cut the price, or the deal won't go through. I've seen all of this stuff lately. And there's other buildings where the HOA is in litigation with the developer, and banks won't cover loans on those places. For instance, at TREO (1240 India Street), they were going through litigation, and I sold a place there, but I had to go through a lot of lenders to find one who would cover a loan, because they had some issues with the developer because of some cracks in the garage area."

Gilliam lives on the tenth floor in the north

tower of Horizons, in a 1200-square-foot, two-bedroom condo. He has a view of the bay, looking out over the convention center and the Marriott. He's lived in the unit for two years, but

his mother bought the place from the developer in 2001 for \$450,000. Gilliam took over the payments in 2006 when his mother moved to a bigger place in the Pinacle (550 Front Street).

He lives with his spouse and his dog.

"One deal I did recently was all cash for a condo downtown," he says. "And another one was a seller carry-back at the Legend. The seller

assumed the loan, instead of a bank. We couldn't find a bank that would carry the loan, and the seller wanted to get out from under it, and my client had money to spend, so they

worked it out."

Gilliam sighs, then half-chuckles under his breath.

"It's definitely a very challenging time to sell real estate," he says. ■

— Geoff Bouvier

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Saved By Commander Bell

An old nautical joke is that the difference between a fairy tale and a sea story is that the former begins "Once upon a time..." while the latter begins "Now this ain't no BS!" Also, fairy tales are told to children at Mother's knee, while sea stories are told to sailors at some other joint. This story could fit either genre.

On April 19, 2001, working as program manager for an East Coast defense contractor, I received at my office in San Diego an email from a young Vietnamese-American woman. She had posted the message on the guest-book of the website of USS *Morton*, a destroyer I had commanded as a Navy officer 20 years earlier:

"I should have done this a long time ago, but I just never got around to it," she wrote. "My brother recently passed away, and, as I was putting together a scrapbook for him, I found an old postcard of the USS *Morton* given to my family about 18 years ago. I'd like to thank the captain and all the crew who were on board that day when we were rescued (June 1982). We were what you call 'boat people.' We had been on a little fishing boat for days, and, when we thought we weren't going to make it, the USS *Morton* spotted us and let us come on board. There were

about 50 people on that tiny fishing boat and only one person spoke English. We were overjoyed when we realized that we were saved. I remember that families were hiding their food in fear of not getting more, but the crew [of *Morton*] tried to signal us to eat it. Things were so good at that time since some of us had not eaten for a while; it was like going to heaven. We'd never seen so much food either. We were later dropped off in the Philippines, where my late brother was born. The only thing we had to know who had rescued us was a little postcard. Again, thank you very much. We would not have made it here to the U.S. without you. (By the way, one of my brothers still has the little white monkey that sucks its thumb. This was given to him on his birthday by the ship. I don't know who gave it to him, but thank you.) Sincerely,

Jacquelynne Vu."

In the years between 1982 and 2001, I had nearly forgotten about the incident that Jacquelynne so vividly described. My response to that email began an exchange of correspondence and telephone calls, refreshing me on what had happened back then,

The safety of these men seemed more important than Philippine President Marcos's reluctance to accept refugees.

when Jacquelynne was just a child seven years old.

In February 1982, USS *Morton*, a 419-foot destroyer homeported in Hawaii, joined a squadron of San Diego-based destroyers en route to a six-month deployment to the Far East. Our ship had



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a complement of 320 officers and men. This was to be the final deployment of *Morton* before she and all of the ships of her class were decommissioned.

During a brief visit to Guam, the squadron commander assembled the five commanding officers in his hotel room in Agana to brief us on his policies and on the operations and exercises in which we were scheduled to participate. One very specific order that he promulgated orally at the meeting was that we were not to pick up Vietnamese boat people.

The reason for this order was that, over the several years since the end of the Vietnam War, U.S. Navy ships had been handicapped in the performance of their missions by rescuing refugees at sea. Also, refugee camps in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Thailand, and other countries were overflowing with tens of thousands of Vietnamese. These countries were resisting further influx. Furthermore, rescues only encouraged more people to risk their lives at sea, where many refugees had drowned or were victimized and killed by growing numbers of pirates, who believed the refugees possessed gold and jewelry. For these and other reasons, the order was issued for commanding officers to provide only food, fuel, water, and directions to the nearest land.

I never saw the order in writing, but it made perfect sense to me. I had served five years earlier as executive officer (second in command) of another destroyer, which had provided only food and water to refugees. Those people had seemed at the time to be in good shape, and the weather was favorable; therefore, picking them up was not deemed necessary by the commanding officer.

As the only person on board that ship who spoke any Vietnamese (I had been an advisor to a Vietnamese riverine unit during the Vietnam War), I had the unpleasant task of communicating to the desperate people that we would not bring them on board. Although refusing them had not been my decision to make, I had always wondered whether they had made it to shore safely. Their boat had not been designed for open ocean voyages. The

small vessel had no watertight compartments, sealed flotation spaces, emergency radios, or position-indicating beacons, lifejackets, flares, life rafts, etc.

Although I had not questioned the wisdom of

my captain's decision at the time, my conscience was troubled later.

My turn as a commanding officer came soon enough, and in June of 1982, I felt the grasp that Conrad had described — down low,

where it hurt. Scheduled to participate in an exercise with the Thai navy, *Morton* was anchored near Thailand when I received word ashore that the ship's main air-conditioning unit had failed and was hard down. Air-condi-

tioning is absolutely necessary for the electronic equipment and, in the 100-plus-degree Asian summer, for the crew as well. A 20-year-old copper-nickel tube sheet in a condenser had become so porous from years of acid

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engines, two five-inch guns. The single main air-conditioning unit was the sole exception. Because repairs could be performed only in the Philippines, *Morton* was forced to withdraw from the exercise and to steam independently to Subic Bay, PI.

On June 9, *Morton* encountered a 25-foot open sampan loaded to the gunnels with 18 Vietnamese men, begging to come on board. The weather was good, they seemed to be in good condition, and they were less than 100 nautical miles from Thailand. Nevertheless, this was an area teeming with pirates — not far from where the merchant vessel *Mayaguez* had a few years earlier been captured by Cambodians. I was concerned that their chances of survival were poor. A few weeks before our passage, a Navy ship transiting the area had found bodies floating in the water there. Furthermore, I rationalized, just 18 men would not compromise my simple

views revealed that my concern about pirates was valid, for those men had, in fact, been chased twice by pirates before being rescued by us. Also, Ken Huynh, the swimmer, had a severely burned leg from contact with the hot engine of the boat.

An additional day of steaming took us hundreds of miles out into the South China Sea, where the weather worsened considerably as a storm approached. As the combined darkness of evening and the approaching storm gathered, a small contact was detected on radar off to our northeast. In those days, some commanding officers chose to avoid the moral dilemma posed by boat people by altering course away from radar contacts before these small vessels became visible — out of sight, out of mind. In addition, a good argument could be made that the small contact might be a fishing boat with miles of fishing nets strung around it. In such

We were directed to look out for Communists, who reportedly sometimes infiltrated groups of refugees.

mission of getting to the Philippines for repairs. The safety of these men seemed more important than Philippine President Marcos's reluctance to accept refugees. I therefore ordered a boat into the water to tow the sampan alongside. Meanwhile, so desperate to be saved were they that one of the men, Ken Huynh, dove into the water and began swimming toward the ship. I had all of the men brought on board. We sank their empty sampan by gunfire to eliminate it as a hazard to navigation and continued on our voyage.

Orders are orders, but international law of the sea, as well as common humanity, require one to render aid to people in distress. Navy regulations at that time dealt only with specific requests for asylum, but these men were too unsophisticated to request that; they just wanted to live. I felt that I, as the on-scene commander, was the only person in a position to determine the level of distress of the men and the seaworthiness of their boat. Later inter-

views revealed that my concern about pirates was valid, for those men had, in fact, been chased twice by pirates before being rescued by us. Also, Ken Huynh, the swimmer, had a severely burned leg from contact with the hot engine of the boat.

Soon a small wooden Vietnamese fishing boat came within sight. As we approached, we were shocked at the large number of people packed into the 35-foot craft. The people on board the boat were signaling to us with something white and burning. We could see that the boat was taking on water as the rough seas splashed over her sides. People bailing water as fast as they could were apparently losing the battle.

Looking down from the bridge of *Morton* at the large number of people, I ordered my executive officer, Commander Duane Bower, to bring them all on board, adding, "I'm in for it now!"

Duane knew that I was alluding to my twice-violated orders not to pick up refugees, but he reassured me by saying, "Don't worry,

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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.

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

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. **"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. We give the first three months of sessions free to all new customers."** 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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Captain. There is no way you can get in trouble for doing this!"

There were 52 men, women, and children in that boat, bringing *Morton's* total to 70 refugees. Fortunately, the new group contained an English-speaking former nun, Vu Thi Khanh Hoai, or more simply, Sister Theresa. No other person in either boat spoke a word of English. My Vietnamese, never good and unused for many years, had grown so poor that the Vietnamese did not even recognize what language I was trying to speak during my pathetic efforts to communicate. Sister Theresa, I found out later, was Jacquelynne Vu's great-aunt.

Accommodating this many people was very difficult, particularly on this older destroyer. The Vietnamese had to spend most of their time under awnings rigged on deck. Because of our lack of air-conditioning, many of my sailors would gladly have changed places with the Vietnamese.

During the remaining

three days of the passage to Subic Bay, we interviewed the refugees with standard questions provided by Navy intelligence. Some questions were to determine whether any of the refugees had any knowledge of any American POWs still imprisoned in Vietnam. None did, except for one man who said that he had heard of an American spy-plane pilot shot down after the war who might still be held.

We were also directed to look out for Communists, who reportedly sometimes infiltrated groups of refugees. Only two men were in any way suspicious, having boarded the second boat after it had left Vietnam. However, these men were clearly the fishermen they claimed to be, for their fingers bore the characteristic calluses I had come to recognize years earlier as an advisor in the Mekong Delta. These thick, grooved calluses formed on fingertips after years of handling fishing lines and nets. These simple men had merely seized the opportunity of a passing

boat to escape Vietnam.

The people had very few clothes or possessions; fewer yet, because they had tossed many overboard and swallowed jewelry and money in desperation when they thought the approaching boat of the aforementioned fishermen belonged to Communists coming to arrest them.

Morton crew members opened their hearts, wallets, and lockers to their new ship-mates, donating money, clothes, and other items. As a former marathon runner, I had stacks of finishers' T-shirts to donate for people to wear while their clothes were being laundered. For days, I saw little children wearing my size large shirts as baggy, drooping dresses.

The refugees seemed really happy to have been rescued and seemed more like people on a vacation outing than people who had many years of hardship facing them. In the Philippines, I learned later, the refugees could expect to live in abject poverty and abysmal conditions for years before being

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allowed into the few countries that would accept them as permanent immigrants.

The remainder of our trip was uneventful, occupied mainly with interrogating the adult members of the two groups of refugees. I had set aside the empty Squadron Commander's Cabin for the interviews, which were assisted in every case by Sister Theresa.

She related that, after the fall of the South Vietnamese government, she had not been allowed to function as a nun. To survive, she was forced to sell black-market cigarettes on the street.

The primary motivation for the Vu family's perilous escape was the harsh treatment of Jacquelynne's father by the Communists. Following the Communist

takeover, males were checked to see whether they had served in the Republic of Vietnam's military. Because Mr. Vu had served as a helicopter pilot in the air force, he was pressed into slave labor, harvesting and packing hay, digging, and other forms of hard physical work. He was often gone from home for such labor for weeks each month, forcing the family's own crops to lie fallow. If any member of the family earned any money, over half was taken by the government. Vu family members greatly feared the father would eventually be moved to North Vietnam, leaving the family in distress.

The Vu family had an uncle who arranged escapes from Vietnam for people able to pay a few bars of gold. Not having such wealth, Mr.

Vu arranged passage by agreeing to assist in steering and navigating the boat. As reported in a story in the *Oregonian* on August 23, 2002: "Three times the Vu family planned an escape from Saigon, and three times glitches prevented it. Finally, under cover of darkness, they sneaked barefoot across a field to their boat and set out. They embarked on the trip in haste, without any consideration of the weather at sea at that time of year. The boat was a small fishing vessel intended for use only on the rivers in Vietnam. Its sole means of propulsion was one single-cylinder, five-horsepower gasoline engine. The difficulty of the [Vu family's] decision to embark was increased by their knowledge that one of their uncles had left in a similar boat,

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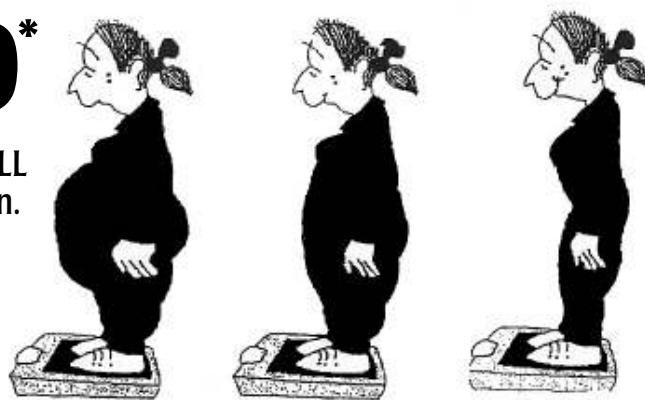
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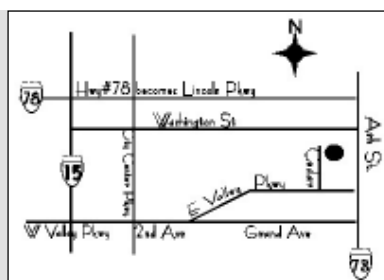
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As summer builds, the ocean heats up. Warm air rising forms low-pressure centers that develop into tropical storms and, later in the summer, into typhoons. The boat people had run afoul of such conditions. While USS *Morton* had the advantage of frequent weather reports and optimal routing guidance from shore stations, the boat people had cast their fate to the winds.

Following the rescue, that weather moved to the northwest as *Morton* steamed at 16 knots to the east for a smooth, uneventful passage to the U.S. Navy base at Subic Bay in the Philippines. In Subic Bay, the Vietnamese were transferred to the control of the Philippine government, which placed them in a refugee camp on the Bataan Peninsula.

Morton's equipment was repaired, and she returned to exercises and operations at sea to finish her six-month deployment. She returned to Pearl Harbor on August 12 to a huge

welcome, featuring bands, Miss Hawaii presenting leis, an Air Force skywriter, 1000 yellow balloons, "Aloha" banners along the channel entrance, and girls dressed as Morton Salt girls. (*Morton* was known as the "Saltiest Ship in the Navy.")

Even amid this hoopla, we were reminded of the boat people whom we had rescued. A television crew and local news anchorman met the ship as it approached Hawaii to interview me about the rescue. The reporter videotaped me on the bridge of the destroyer describing how "we got them before the sea got them." My superiors, perhaps grudgingly, recommended the crew for the Humanitarian Service Medal.

In the Philippines, things were not going so well for the Vu family and other refugees. Food was scarce, and half of it was stolen before it ever reached the refugees. Don Vu, Jacquelynne's father, secured employment as a foreman, assisting the Red Cross with food distribution. The family had some

opportunity to study English through lessons given in the camps.

I wrote a letter to Sister Theresa, offering to help her obtain sponsorship into the U.S., but I did not receive an immediate response. Later, about the time of *Morton's* November 22, 1982 decommissioning ceremony, I received a letter from her telling me that she was about to leave the camp for Springfield, Massachusetts. She had been sponsored by a Vietnamese priest there, Father John Pham Minh Hua. She was grateful to have gotten out of the camp after only five months.

Many refugees spent years in those camps. Fortunately, most of the *Morton* group were allowed into the U.S. quickly. Since a U.S. Navy ship had brought them to the Philippines, policy required the U.S. to accept responsibility for resettling them. Sister Theresa stated that most of our group members were going to California. She requested that I write her, but, knowing she was in good hands, I did not.

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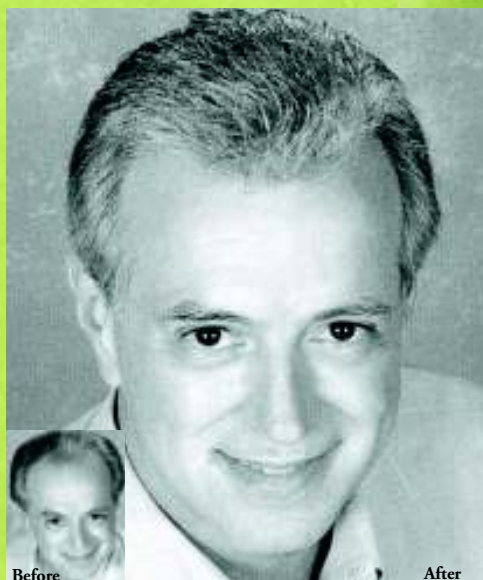
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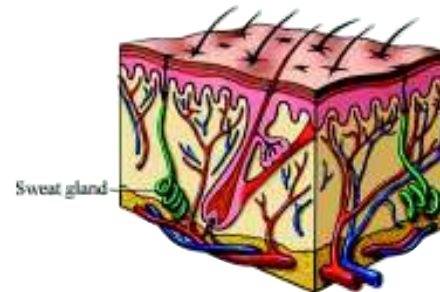
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The Vu family consisted of the father and mother, Don and Karen, plus their four children: John, Jacquelynne, Jenny, and Peter. Peter was born in the camp. They were also accompanied by one of Don's brothers. Unbeknownst to me, six months after arriving in the camp, an uncle in Portland, Oregon, sponsored them into the U.S.

I got on with my life, retiring early from the Navy in 1987 to work for a former commanding officer who was then vice president of a merchant shipping company. That company had the contract to operate and maintain U.S. Navy civilian-manned surveillance ships. That increased my knowledge of government contracts to the point that I made that field my second career. It was in such a contracts position that I was working when Jacquelynne Vu's email arrived. Although seeing the five of my employees who were former refugees from Vietnam made me wonder occasionally what had happened to our group, I had

otherwise not given the incident much thought over the intervening years.

One exceptional reminder was the court-martial of another U.S. Navy commanding officer seven years after my own tour in command. This captain had chosen not to pick up boat people whom his ship had encountered. He gave them food and water, but the boat never made it to land.

Jacquelynne's email brought her group's rescue home to my consciousness. A telephone call to me from Jacquelynne's mother Karen last year also brought home the full impact of the despair her group of people felt in the hours before their rescue, as well as the panic they felt that we might not see and rescue them. She explained that the burning white "flag" that we had seen was the blouse of a girl on the boat. That girl, of course, did not want to surrender her only upper-body covering and was beset by her panicking shipmates, so certain were they that they would not survive the night if not seen by us. Mrs. Vu, now

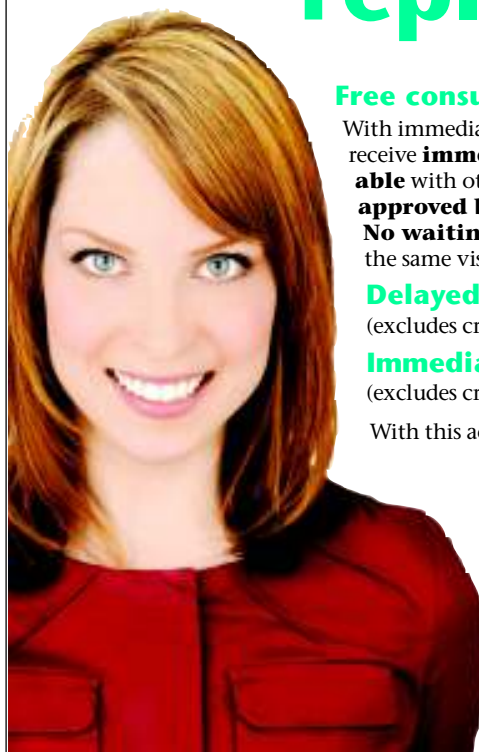
an engineer for Adidas, also brought me up to date on the happy, successful lives their family has enjoyed in the U.S. despite difficult, impoverished beginnings.

These refugees had to work hard to survive and prosper in America. The parents worked half of each day earning money in menial jobs and studied English the rest of the day. Don Vu also received specialized training and is now a skilled machinist. Don's brother is a very successful software engineer. Sister Theresa, no longer a nun and now known by her Vietnamese name, Hoai, is a wealthy property owner and landlord for the nine single-family homes she owns and rents out in Massachusetts. Ken Huynh managed to graduate from college in the U.S. and is now a successful and well-known MetLife financial services representative in Seattle.

The consequence of my renewed contact with the Vu family is that this incident has become elevated in my consciousness as a central event in my life. My sister

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complained to me recently that I had never once mentioned the rescue to her in all of these years. In truth, it had not been a matter of much moment to me in a long and varied life of relatively high adventure, including furious combat in the U Minh forest of Vietnam. Now, however, I consider it among my most important and defining experiences.

The rescue has become a part of a chain of circumstances that lend meaning to my life. Emily Dickinson wrote in her poem "Not in Vain":

*If I can stop one heart
from breaking,
I shall not live in vain:
If I can ease one life the
aching,
Or cool one pain,
Or help one fainting
robin
Unto his nest again,
I shall not live in vain.*

There were 70 "robins" in those two boats. The Vu family has helped me see the events of that dark night at sea in a new light. I feel almost the pride of a parent in what they and other refugees have been able to achieve in this country.

Their experiences cause me to reflect on what life might have been like for my ancestors, who arrived in Massachusetts as refugees, like Sister Theresa — only 250 years earlier. Were they afraid at sea? How did they think they would survive and earn a living here? Personally, I do not think I could handle that kind of stress. I am not brave enough to jump off into the dangerous unknown as they did. Our country is truly fortunate in receiving only the boldest, bravest people from the other parts of the world.

In August 2001, I attended the wedding of Jacquelynne in Portland to a Vietnamese-American man, Loc Nguyen, who was a boat person himself. In Portland, the family did everything in their power to show their thanks to me for being a part of their rescue. In that *Oregonian* story on my reunion with them, Jacquelynne was quoted as saying, "I figured that you never know when you're going to die, and I wanted to say thank you before I was gone. Our family has always been so grateful. Al Bell went against rules

and regulations. He saved us."

At each phase of the wedding ceremonies, which included a traditional Vietnamese ceremony at the bride's home, a Catholic nuptial mass at a church,

and a reception at a large restaurant, they paused to recognize and honor me as their special guest who had made this day possible. They spoke of divine providence as having sent my ship to save them. The groom read

a long speech in Vietnamese, of which I understood only three words repeated twice: "*Cam on ong*" (Thank you, sir). The depth and sincerity of their gratitude was so moving, it brought a tear to my eye.

In the end, I almost regretted that my presence at that special time in their lives detracted from the real purpose of the celebration, the beautiful wedding of Jacquelynne and Loc. The couple is living happily ever

after in the eagerly sought and finally found kingdom of freedom and joy. So, you can see that this is not just a sea story but a fairy tale come true. ■

— Commander Al Bell,
U.S. Navy (retired)

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LETTERS

continued from page 12

what is the better alternative — legalizing the happy weed or chaos?

deuelwoodwardjr
via email

Weed Limit

In the opening paragraph of this story ("Shopping at Weedmart," Cover Story, November 20), Joseph O'Brien writes, "Colleen Daley lives on a sunburnt patch of overzoned Chula Vista real estate. She is besieged by the odoriferous crosscurrents of wafting grease and the crackling bark of drive-in order speakers — her one-bedroom ranch is surrounded by fast-food joints. And that's where she thinks her problems as a marijuana farmer started."

Considering that she suffers from multiple sclerosis and might benefit medically from using cannabis, I suppose it would be churlish of me to suggest that her problems as a marijuana farmer started when she decided to grow a crop the cultivation of which over a certain limit and, despite the Compassionate Use Act of 1996, remains a prosecutable offense under federal law.

Conway Redding
via email

There's No Nothingness

I found misleading Rabbi

Leonard Rosenthal's response to the question "What happens when we die?" quoted by Matthew Lickona in the October 30 Letters column ("Answer, Rabbi").

It is true, as Rabbi Rosenthal says, that "Judaism has a range of beliefs," but "once you're dead, you're dead, and there's nothing afterwards" is not one of them. No doubt there are Jews who have departed so far from traditional Judaism as to believe this. However, it has not been one of Judaism's "range of beliefs" since ancient times when that opinion of the Sadducees was repudiated (Talmud, Sanhedrin 90a-91b).

The rabbi's "simple answer" ("we don't know") is correct so far as the details of the afterlife are concerned, which in any religion must be imagined based on faith rather than knowledge. But missing from his response was any mention of Judaism's unwavering assertion that all things, including the condition of our souls in the afterlife, lie in God's hands. Whatever particular images of life after death Judaism does have — resurrection, purgation, temporary hell, reincarnation, the world to come — Judaism teaches that we, like everything in the universe, exist within the will of the Creator. Hence, it cannot be that even in death we could fall into total nothingness out

of the mind of God, which, being eternal, must hold us eternally if it holds us now. "There's nothing afterwards" is therefore not a possibility that Judaism (as distinct from doubting individuals) admits.

In case Mr. Richard, the letter writer, is more than merely curious but, like many of us, is seeking some authority for hope, he may appreciate knowing that in traditional Judaism among the blessings recited three times every day is one which acknowledges that God "brings the dead to life." The Talmud (Sanhedrin 91a) also records the following exchange: To a skeptic who asked, "If even the living die, shall the dead live?" Rabbi Gebiha son of Pesisa replied, "If what did not live lives now, surely what lives now will live again."

Gideon Rappaport
Clairemont

Duh, What?

This is a question concerning John Brizzolara's article "I Feel My Liver Donor's Presence" in the November 13 *Reader*. He's talking about a liver-transplant patient, David Clark, and he quotes Mr. Clark on page 50, the second column, as saying, "I wasn't real happy with the endgame part of the carrot on that particular episode." It's a very interesting story, but what does that sentence mean? Is it garbled or what? Would

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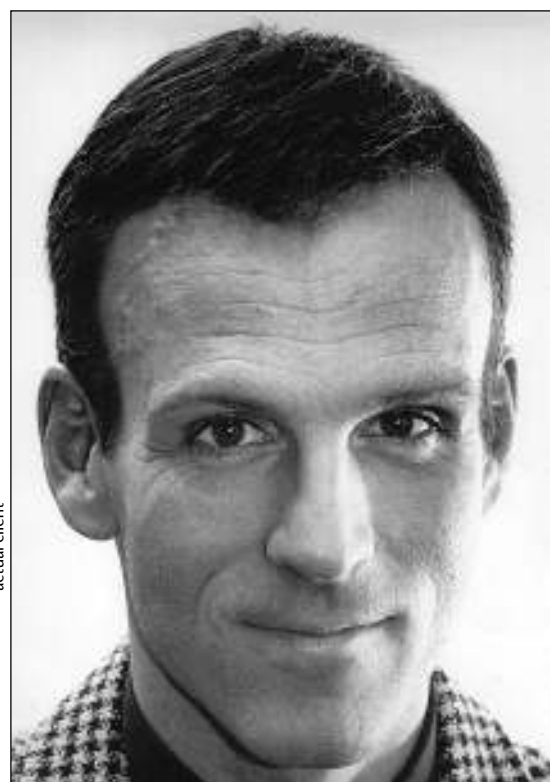
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somebody please translate that?

Name Withheld

The sentence should have read, "I wasn't real happy with the endgame on that particular episode." — Editor

The Clinical-Trials People

Elizabeth Marro is to be congratulated on the candor and perceptiveness of her article about human clinical trials ("Hi, Connie. We're Ready for You," Cover Story, November 13). This article has filled in the missing link with some information from the point of view of the clinical-trial subject that simply is not usually available to the primary investigator in such matters.

I am a medical doctor and psychiatrist and have been primary investigator in a number of clinical trials over the past 20 years. I have been serving as the primary investigator of a clinical trial of a natural substance for San Diego.

When I ran clinical trials of psychotropic drugs for a large Midwestern university, I believed with all my heart that clinical trials were of benefit to the drug company for the collection of powerful data to improve treatments, as well as of benefit to the patient. As I truly believed with all my heart, we were simply making available treatments that were not yet commercially available to treatment-resistant patients who were suffering. I noticed even then that a large amount of the patients whom we recruited were the uninsured and those who probably could not afford any care other than the clinical trial. I felt I was giving them a wonderful chance. I always felt, as I do in my current work, that patient health is paramount, that a patient must be pulled from a clinical trial if another treatment would be better. I knew that when I did such things at least some people were unhappy because they wouldn't receive the full compensation for completing the trial. I thought it was just a different viewpoint. What I could not see then is that we are developing a separate subpopulation of people who do clinical trials. These are people who need compensation to live —

compensation which may be directly proportional to the risks, even risk of death, that may accompany a clinical trial. Once there were a few "creative" people who would get an occasional clinical-trials job to get out of a scrape or, in the more

famous case of *El Mariachi* director Robert Rodriguez, to finance a movie.

Now there is a body of citizens who use the clinical trial to make a living. Many people are against using animals in clinical research because they consider this

cruelty. Recent data eloquently presented in the *Reader* by Elizabeth Marro establishes correctly that recent trials locally involving blood products may have been responsible for higher death rates and that some recent clinical studies in the

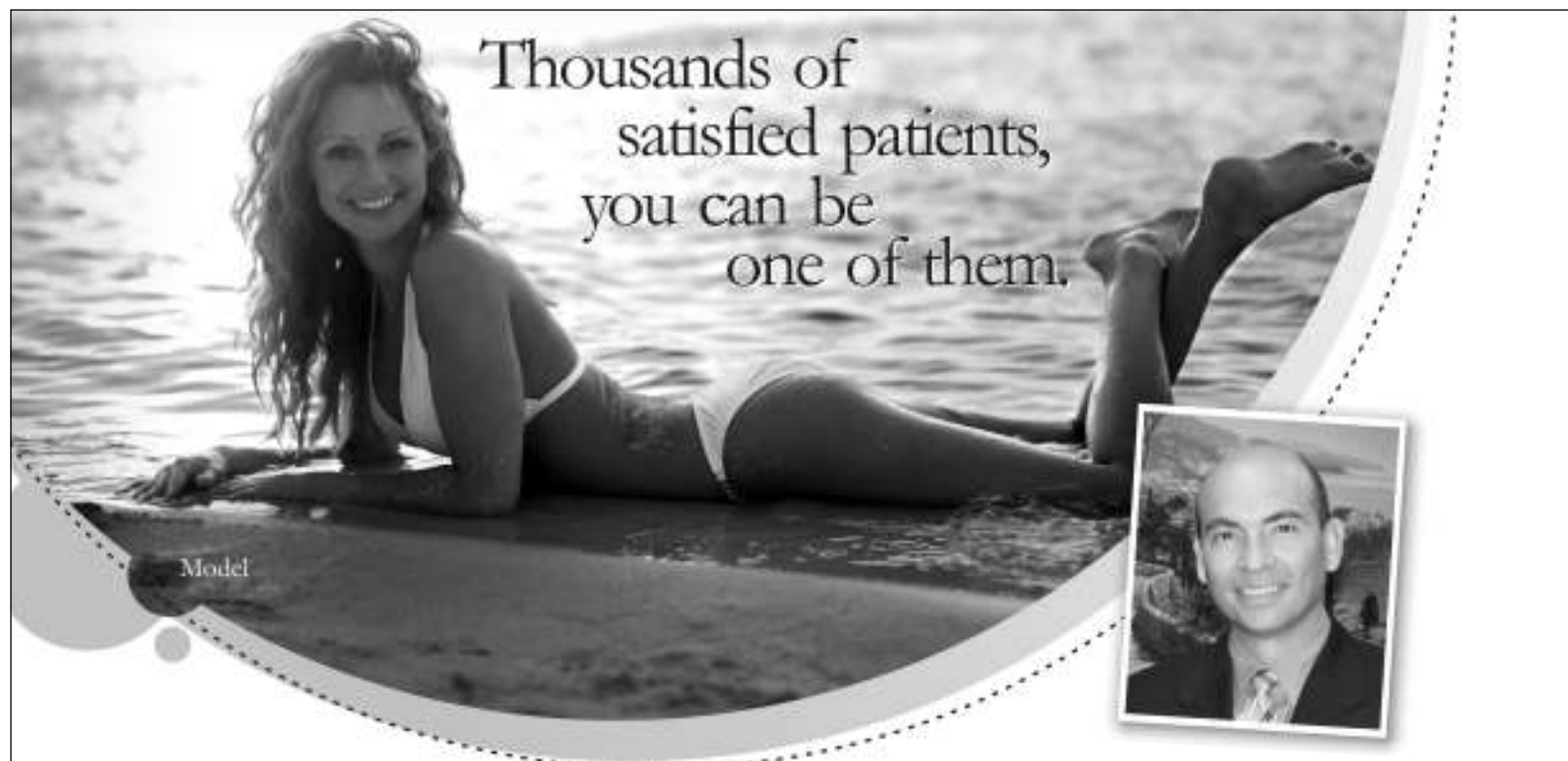
United Kingdom have caused Europeans to revisit clinical-trials criteria.

My recent clinical work has been far removed from either universities or pharmaceutical companies. I have been clinically studying natural substances. Nobody

involved with any of my interests has enough money to compensate patients.

I have received countless telephone calls from would-be patients who hang up when they learn I can offer only a minimal compensation for mileage.

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If research on animals is inhumane, then research on humans can only be worse. There seem to be plenty of people in America who are genuinely dependent upon money received from clinical trials. Usually the clinical-trial protocols aren't equipped with controls to detect people who deceive in order to evade dismissal or prolong their participation and earn more money. We are foolish to trust the veracity of the scientific data they provide.

We are inhuman in terms of our own ethics. We simply cannot let this practice continue. The USA, once the first country to have workable social programs, now obviously has inadequate ones for these people to even exist. We have review boards that check the ethics of practices of human research. Their power is restricted to interpretation of a series of criteria in a meticulous way. It is time to do something about the criteria. They have not been examined in the light of current social realities.

There is an amazing amount of knowledge streaming from high-quality science endorsing natural and nondrug treatments.

We cannot permit the clinical-trials establishment to be a weak and poor substitute for inadequate social programs.

We must stop the human experiments right now. Review the human ethics. We know plenty about how to heal people. Let us simply heal the people, without exposing them to risks in the name of commercial profit. This may present a problem for large institutions, like universities, which have allowed thousands of trials — run now more often by commercial organizations — to pay them. The bias is evident, but it is removable. There is plenty of good human clinical science, perhaps some older or less flashy, to teach healers how to cure patients. Only by letting go immediately of the clinical-research-money bias can educational institutions win the faith of a questioning, angered public.

Stop human clinical research, at least until all ethical guidelines are reviewed.

We as doctor-healers must go back to our ancient roots.

Primum non nocere — first, do no harm.

Preserve and increase the quality of human life at all costs.

Estelle Toby Goldstein, M.D.
San Diego

Brass Tacks Needed

Poor Rico Gardiner (Letters, November 13). All he does is offer a bit of well-intended and constructive criticism of San Diego so that the poor sods unfortunate enough to live here might somehow better

themselves and their benighted burg, and what does he get for his pains, naught but abuse. Sadly, such is often the lot of those of superior intellect who stoop to show lesser minds the errors of their ways. Hoping for a lively and ele-

vated discussion, Rico instead has scorn and vituperation heaped upon him. But what else could he expect from witless troglodytes?

Perhaps part of this stems from Gardiner's habit of denying city status to San Diego. Maybe if he

were to explain to us what makes a real city such as San Francisco as opposed to an ersatz city like San Diego it would help to clarify matters. Unfortunately, Rico can only offer up vague generalities that leave little room for rebuttal

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since they are almost entirely lacking in substance. It would help if he got down to brass tacks.

He lauds his lone defender, attributing her higher intelligence to the fact that she hails from the Bay Area. I cannot argue with him there as I was also born and raised in the Bay Area.

San Francisco is indeed a great city. It is, however, not without its faults. For instance, the amount of litter and trash strewn up and down its streets is vastly greater than here in San Diego. The panhandlers are far more numerous and ag-

gressive than here. And, finally, the homeless have a habit of constructing their cardboard wickiups right on Market Street in the heart of the financial district. But who knows, it may be that Rico regards such things as civic assets.

But one thing is certain, Mr. Mission Hills needs to be reminded that whining is the last refuge of the pathetic.

David Lathrap
Pacific Beach

What's He Doing Here?

The letter submitted November 6, "Crasher Basher," by

Robert Lowth was so true, and it needed to be said. Robert is a very observant man. His profile of Josh Board was right on the money. Great job, Robert.

I have always been convinced that Josh B. and his "Crasher" column is beyond mundane. In fact, it wouldn't even appeal to third graders. Also, I find it strange that Josh the party crasher is on this quest to find a party worth writing about. It is apparent he is void of creative writing skills. It's very one-dimensional how he describes a party. There is no character to his storytelling. His way of writing is very generic and boring.

But on a more serious note, Josh Board appears to be a party predator who preys on innocent partygoers and criticizes the party in question, then writes about it in very poor taste. How deranged can you be? I can't believe he gets paid to do this. How on earth is he employed by the Reader? Who would hire such a person?

However, I do recall Josh B., music critic for the Reader over half a decade

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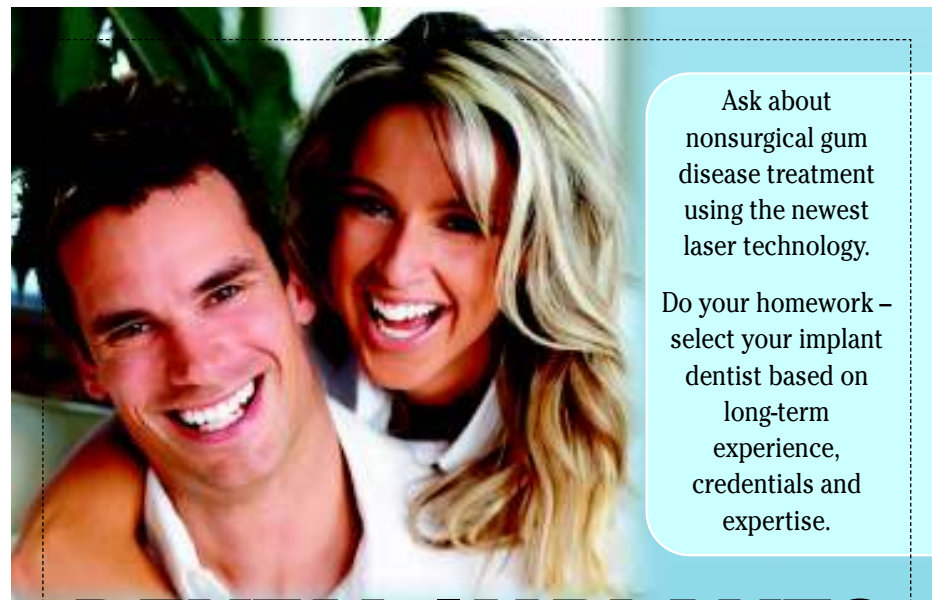


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ago. He wasn't that bad until he interviewed two former members of local progressive metal band Psychotic Waltz in 2004. Josh could have written a nice story, but instead he caused some conflict based upon his lack of knowledge and history on what Psychotic Waltz has accomplished. Josh B. could have been sued for slander, but it never happened.

I understand why people are fed up with Josh and his sarcasm. I find it odd that there are those who enjoy his awful "Crasher" column and seem to defend him. In this day and age, I don't know what to think, and I can't believe he still works for the *Reader*. His occupation as the crasher is nothing to be proud of, especially when you are void of imagination, such as is the case with Josh Board.

The moral to this story is Josh Board is not a genuine writer, and it is unfortunate he stains the reputation within the *Reader*, and I know there are a thousand people out there that

would agree. As a fan of the *Reader* for 25 years, my only concern is, I hope the *Reader* staff is aware of this situation. I can't imagine Josh B. and the "Crasher" continuing on and on for years to come. That would be sinful.

Tony D. Metal
Spring Valley

Sign Man

On your October 16 cover you had a picture of Pavle Ikonik from Belgrade, Serbia ("Keep That Sign Moving"). He was very entertaining with his signboard. I would see him as I went by on the bus. I hope someone helped him get a better job because he took his job seriously. I hope he makes a good life for himself in America because the country needs people like him.

J. Warrington
Hillcrest

Comments from Reader Website

Comments are not edited for spelling, punctuation, or grammar.

Cover Story Published November 26

Posted by JulieParrots on November 26, 3:37 p.m.

Zoinks!! Craig Venter is Apocalypse, and J. Robert Beyster is Mr. Sinister in the flesh. Yay! :) I knew those comic books were real. See mom I told you so.

City Lights, by Don Bauder

Published November 26

Posted by shizzzyfinn on November 26, 12:23 p.m.

It's killing me that none of y'all pundits are talking about a move to a single-payer health system as one step toward economic recovery. Talk about your low-hanging fruit. Currently, our country spends about 15% of GDP on health care, whereas other industrialized nations use single-payer, which costs them closer to 10%. So we switch to single-payer, and boom, all of a sudden we've got 5% more GDP to play around with. That equates to more than \$500 billion a year, amigos - big money.

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gain doesn't even take into account other pluses: we will have no more uninsured Americans; broader access to preventative medicine will reduce aggregate bills even further; U.S. employers will no longer be on the hook for coverage; medical bankruptcies will cease

striking hundreds of thousands of Americans per year. In truth, the move to single coverage is a no-brainer - it'll make all Americans better off, indirectly if not directly. And polls show that a clear majority of Americans, including a clear majority of doctors, are in favor

of major health care reform. For decades, though, a small group of folks with deep pockets have succeeded in preventing change. But today's political climate seems like one in which we could actually get this change done. For me, it'll be the big test of Barack Obama.

If he can push through true single-payer, he really is the mack. If he can't, he's a mere mortal. If he doesn't even try, he's a phony. *Posted by Burwell on November 26, 6:52 p.m.* The 401(k) and the IRA are the primary causes of the financial dislocations

we are witnessing on Wall Street. The 401(k) law was enacted in 1977 and unleashed a massive torrent of cash on the financial markets which the markets did not need and could not handle. The purpose of the stock market is to allocate capital to corporations that

have demonstrated the ability to generate above average rates of return, and not to fund retirements or provide college money for junior. Public corporations were not engaged in massive manufacturing infrastructure and capital spending projects that were

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needed to sop up excess 401(k) and IRA cash flooding the market. The excess cash simply drove stock prices into the stratosphere without regard to economic fundamentals. The 401(k) and IRA should be eliminated because these plans have destroyed the ability of the markets to allocate capital efficiently.

Cover Story

Published November 19

Posted by project219 on

November 23, 1:11 p.m.

I believe any one who has spent any time investigating this subject beyond talking to your casual uninformed friends will conclude its time America embrace this. Its sad when so many of us fall prey to the media, or worse government negative slants on things like the use of this plant.

I am a conservative and yet with my travels have realized how behind western medicine is in many areas.

Its funny when something grows naturally it can be called a Drug, vs something like aspirin which if you take 13 of you might die. The side effects on most of the items in any of your medicine cabinets at home are far more dangerous they just are taxed now and have become a revenue stream.

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sad is how many good people really need to use this as more safe alternative to what they are doing to relax. I see so many people use alcohol to come down after a stressful day, or worse pills. I believe as a country we are becoming more focused more on helping the patient vs the regulation of these types of substances. Its about time :)

On a second note its also sad that some people feel that you have to be a burn victim or have some major accident or horrible unfortunate medical condition to justify using plant.

This would tend to make

us feel our personal anxiety or emotional stress is not a BIG enough deal to warrant finding a natural solution in addition to things working out or yoga.

Learning to manage your stress or even just how you are (wired) is a huge step towards having healthy relationships and a happy life.

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True Crimes and Cases

There's no question that emotions play a big part in determining the outcome of a case," says retired San Diego superior court judge Norbert Ehrenfreund.

"The appearance of the defendant, for example, and the way he reacts if he's on the stand. Look at the case of the drugstore manager," Ehrenfreund says of one of his cases. "A manager of a big store in Linda Vista sees a shoplifter stealing something from the store. The shoplifter runs out, the store manager runs after him." When the manager confronts the boy, who is around 15 years old, "The boy just laughs at him, punches the manager, and runs off with the merchandise.

LOCAL EVENTS

The manager chases him down the street; the boy easily races him, laughing. The manager has a gun and says, 'Stop or I'll shoot! I'm warning you!' but the boy laughs at him and keeps on running. The manager takes out his gun and shoots in the boy's direction. It turns out that the bullet he shot hit the ground first, but it bounced up, struck the boy in the neck, and killed him instantly. The law is, if you fire a weapon at somebody in a reckless manner, even if you don't intend to kill, you're at least guilty of the felony of involuntary manslaughter because it was a reckless act. But the jury found this man not guilty. One of the reasons, I think, is that he was such a sympathetic character."

On Saturday, December 6, Ehrenfreund will discuss his new book *You Be the Judge: 20 True Crimes and Cases to Solve* at D.G. Wills Books in La Jolla. "I have a number of what I

thought were interesting cases," says Ehrenfreund, who wanted to give readers the opportunity to play judge and jury by presenting the facts and transcripts of some of the most controversial real-life cases he has handled in his 30 years as a trial judge. "An interesting case is a case that challenges the law," he says.

"If a jury finds a defendant in a criminal case 'not guilty,' there's absolutely nothing the judge can do about it — even if we feel they disregarded the law, if we feel the man is guilty and the jury made a mistake," Ehrenfreund explains. "It is only if we feel the jury has returned a 'guilty' verdict, which a judge feels is not supported by the evidence, that we can order a new trial."

Ehrenfreund says most jurors don't realize the full extent of their leverage when it comes to deciding the verdict.

"It's called jury nullification — the Supreme Court has ruled that the jury has the power to do that," says Ehrenfreund. Jury nullification is when a jury decides to disregard the judge's instructions and acquit a defendant who has violated a law because the jury has found that law to be unjust or not applicable to the case. "Judges don't tell juries that they have the power to ignore the law or go beyond the law," says Ehrenfreund, "but they do have the power to do that."

If Ehrenfreund had the power to rescind a law it would be the "three strikes" statute enacted in 1994. "The sentence could be too harsh in certain situations," he says.

"Say you have a young man who commits a felony at the age of 17 or 18, maybe it's a burglary, then another burglary a few years later. Then say it goes a long time, maybe 20 or 30 years of peace and law abidingness, and then he commits another crime. That man could be sentenced 25 years to life, even though he's been leading a law-abiding life for a long time." The law as it stands, he says, states that "No matter what the circumstances, no matter what the character of this defendant is or anything, we have to send him to prison for 25 years or longer. It's very

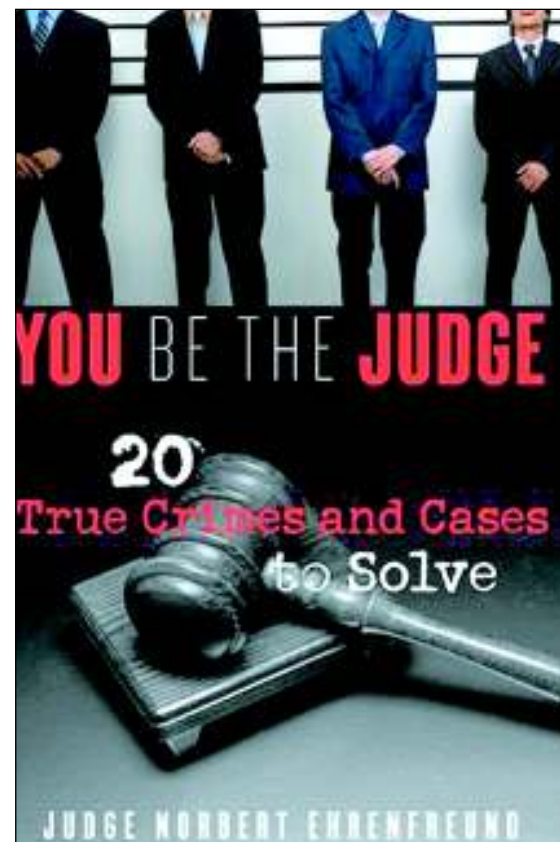
costly to fill up our prisons."

Ehrenfreund says that cases involving battered women are often controversial. He remembers one case in which a woman in East San Diego shot her abusive husband while he was sleeping. "The law doesn't give her a defense in that case. To exercise self-defense, the threat has to be immediate," explains Ehrenfreund. "He has to be coming at her, in the act of trying to beat her or kill her when she shoots him. That's a

controversial law because there are some people, especially active feminists and women's liberation supporters, who think that battered women should have a greater right to act in their defense."



Judge Norbert Ehrenfreund



In a case Ehrenfreund oversaw, a woman was beaten by her husband, and prior to going to bed, he threatened to beat her again in the morning. "There's sympathy there," says Ehrenfreund. "But we still can't go that distance of allowing her to shoot him dead under those circumstances."

— Barbarella

You Be the Judge: 20 True Crimes and Cases to Solve

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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

"Free the Goddess Within" Creative dance class encourages women to "embody multicultural goddesses" through improvisation. 619-621-1322. Wednesday, December 10, 7 p.m.; \$12-\$20. Ages 15 and up. Stage 7 School of Dance, 3980 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

"Informances" Performance, audience participation, lecture make up "Motion," La Jolla Music Society's current production. Program features clarinetist Evan Ziporyn, choreography by Allyson Green, and dance troupe Lux Boreal. 858-234-TIXS. Thursday, December 4, 7 p.m.; \$12-\$15. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

"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.

OUT & ABOUT

BABETTE'S FEAST

Culinary Cinema Series, Oceanside Museum of Art, Saturday, December 6.

(SEE FILM)



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. Tenth Avenue Theatre, 930 Tenth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

"Shapes and Reflections" Hip-hop, ballet, Brazilian, tap, jazz, modern dance pieces directed by Trisha Hanada-Rogers and Dave Massey presented. Accompanying music includes pieces by Duffy, Amon Tobin, Holly Brook. 760-795-6815. Friday, December 5, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 6, 7:30 p.m.; \$8-\$12. MiraCosta College Theatre, One Barnard Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

The Nutcracker City Ballet presents its annual, award-winning production of this magical tale. 858-272-8663. Fridays, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, December 5, 8 p.m.; Satur-

days, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 6, 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m.; through Sunday, December 14, \$29-\$59. Spreckels Organ Pavilion, 2211 Pan American Road. (BALBOA PARK)

Cajun and Zydeco Dancing 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! Chris Page calls, Old Twine String Band makes music for dance hosted by San Diego Folk Heritage at 8 p.m. Beginners' dance workshop: 7:30 p.m. Bring food/beverages to share during (optional) potluck supper, 6:30 p.m. Wear soft-soled shoes. 619-283-8550. Friday, December 5, 6:30 p.m.; \$7. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street. (NORTH PARK)

English Country Dancing Chris Page calls for English country dancing. 858-676-9731. Sunday, December 7, 6 p.m.; \$6. Jean Hart Academy of Dance, 12227 Poway Road. (POWAY)

Grossmont College's Student Showcase Enjoy dance numbers choreographed by Grossmont College students. "Breaking Boundaries: Student Choreographers' Showcase" presents performances demonstrating styles from various dance genres including theater dance, hip-hop, jazz. Cash only accepted if tickets purchased at venue. 619-644-7766. Thursday, December 4, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, December 5, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 6, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, December 7, 2 p.m.; \$10-\$12. Stage-house Theatre, 8800 Grossmont College Drive. (EL CAJON)

Hot Salsa Dance Classes Salsero Jose Bello leads classes. Pay \$10 per class or \$32 for four classes. 619-275-3533. Thursdays, 6 p.m.; through Friday, January 2, \$10. Pattie Wells' Dancetime Center, 1255 West Morena Boulevard. (BAY PARK)

Salsa and Latin Dance Party DJ plays salsa, Latin, and requests for dancing for singles and couples of all ages. Salsa lesson at 8 p.m.; open dancing 8:30-10:30 p.m. First time free. 619-275-3533. Saturday, December 6, 8 p.m.; Pattie Wells' Dancetime Center, 1255 West Morena Boulevard. (BAY PARK)

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 10,

7:30 p.m.; \$6-\$8. Folk Dance Center, 4569 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

USA Dance Party Wide variety of music, first Saturday of each month. Lessons at 7 p.m., dancing 8-11 p.m. All ages, abilities. 760-525-5124. Saturday, December 6, 7 p.m.; \$7. Dance North County, 535 Encinitas Boulevard, Suite 100. (ENCINITAS)

West African Music and Dance Sene Africa and Damaru perform with guest dancer Suzanne Forbes. 760-703-1487. Thursday, December 4, 8 p.m.; \$5. Claire de Lune, 2906 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

FILM

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea Kirk Douglas stars in this 1954 Disney adaptation of Jules Verne's story (written in 1870), showcased for dinner and movie night series. No cover, but there's a "Movie Night Prix Fixe meal deal" on offer (\$20). Details: 858-663-7752. Thursday, December 4, 8 p.m.; Sea Rocket Bistro, 3382 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

Babette's Feast Two elderly Danish sisters' lives are altered

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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

when political refugee, Babette, arrives unexpectedly. Directed by Gabriel Axel. Pre-film refreshments, dinner included as part of museum's Culinary Cinema Series. Reservations: 760-435-3720. Saturday, December 6, 5:30 p.m.; \$60-\$75. Oceanside Museum of Art, 704 Pier View Way. (OCEANSIDE)

Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress Set during China's Cultural Revolution, two university students are sent off to a remote village for Maoist re-education in order to rid them of their Western education. Shown in Room 204. 760-757-7806 x7737 or 7806. Friday, December 5, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.; MiraCosta College San Elijo Campus, 3333 Manchester Avenue. (CARDIFF)

Careless Colin Hanks, Tony Shaloub travel through Los Angeles in hopes of finding the owner of a mysterious severed finger. Watch as they encounter psychics, crooked taxidermists, other colorful characters. 619-236-5800. Monday, December 8, 6:30 p.m.; San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (DOWNTOWN)

Children of Winter Filmmaker Warren Miller presents "world's largest action sports film." With footage from locations including Japan, Austria, Alaska, this film features performances by world-class athletes. 760-436-7469. Wednesday, December 10, 8 p.m.; La Paloma, 471 South Coast Highway 101. (ENCINITAS)

Inheritance Plaszw Concentration Camp Commandant Amon Goeth's daughter, Monika Herwig, shares her story of coming to terms with her father's actions through meeting one of the camp's survivors. This film details how parental actions can affect future generations. Directed by James Moll. 619-236-5800. Sunday, December 7, 2 p.m.; San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (DOWNTOWN)

Killer Nun Film screening in conjunction with "Fear Minus One" exhibition. 858-534-2107. Tuesday, December 9, 7 p.m.; Porter's Pub at UCSD, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Bold Typeface Helvetica celebrates typography, graphic design while examining how type affects our lives. This film invites viewers to examine closely how words we see every day impact us in terms

ROAM-ORAMA

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

Incremental improvements over the past couple of years in Balboa Park's hidden corners are resulting in the park's rebirth. Canyon slopes formerly choked with dense undergrowth and used as de-facto drug dens have been cleared out and made user-friendly for local residents and tourists. Forgotten pathways are being reconstructed.

The latest improvements were highlighted in late October when Mayor Jerry Sanders ceremonially inaugurated the Balboa Park Trails system at the northwest corner of the park. That's exactly where you can now find the Sixth and Upas Gateway, the first of five major trailheads planned for various parts of the park.

Five numbered trails emanate from the Sixth and Upas Gateway, ranging from 1.5 miles to 6.6 miles in length. Each "trail" is actually a route suitable for walk-



ing, running, and sometimes skating or biking. The routes utilize everything from smooth sidewalks to rough paths darting up and down the park's steep canyonsides. All are configured as loops, and their designated direction takes maximum advantage of the scenery and the terrain. A dozen or more numbered trails are envisioned for the four other gateways, which are planned for Morley Field, Golden Hill, Park Administration parking lot, and Marston Point.

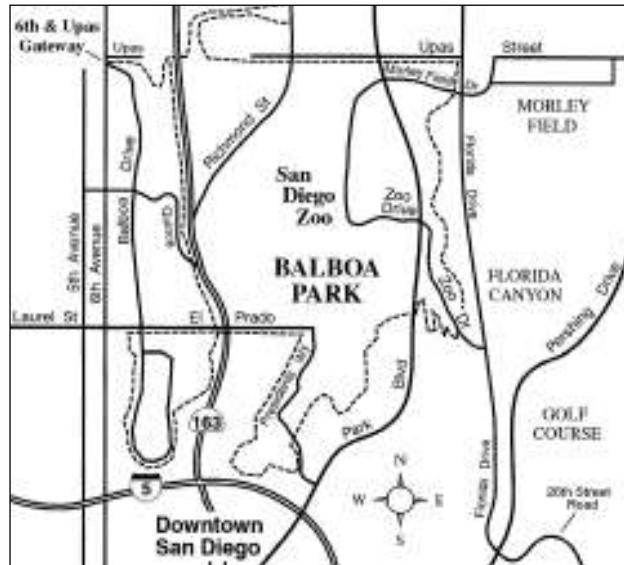
The Sixth and Upas Gateway itself posts a detailed map of the park and the five trails associated with that point of origin. The signage is innovative: Trail signs along each route contain a background color (blue for trails originating at Sixth

and Upas, other background colors for the future gateways); a trail number inside a color-coded geometric shape (round for an easy trail, square for a medium difficulty trail, diamond for a difficult trail); an elapsed mileage figure; and directional arrows.

To get a feel for the layout of the new Balboa Park Trails, and get some significant exercise at the same time, try following Trail 5, which is rated "difficult." That trail, indicated by dashes on this column's sketch map, takes you through park locales both familiar and probably unfamiliar, and includes a number of wickedly steep (though brief) uphill and downhill passages.

You begin by descending toward Highway 163 and crossing over the busy freeway on the antique (by modern freeway standards) Bridle Trail overpass. Next comes a detour into the little-known Marston Hills Addition of the park, which edges into the Hillcrest neighborhood.

You then follow Upas Street east to Florida Drive, where you begin a traverse south along a hillside, using a pathway that has long been a part of the park's Florida Canyon trail system. After crossing Zoo Drive, you follow a zig-zag ascent up through the park's succulent gardens, and then cross over Park Avenue on a footbridge, arriving at the circular fountain.



Nearby, alongside the Fleet science museum, you dart down past the butterfly garden and enter Gold Gulch, home of the park's horse stables. Emerging from the gulch you head south to loop around the back side of the Air and Space Museum and follow Presidents Way to connect with El Prado.

Next, a trip across the Cabrillo Bridge takes you to the green spaces near Sixth and Laurel. After a looping passage south to visit Marston Point, you dive into the canyon to the east and follow the Bridle Trail north alongside

Highway 163. You pass under the tall arches of the iconic Cabrillo Bridge and proceed through stately groves of native coast live oaks, redwoods, and various pines. Arriving at the Bridle Trail overpass once again, you retrace your steps on the initial 0.2-mile segment to return to the Sixth and Upas Gateway.

A full-color map of all five of the Sixth and Upas trails, plus other maps of Balboa Park, may be obtained as PDF downloads by visiting www.balboapark.org/maps/maps.php.

BALBOA PARK TRAILS

Explore the new and improved trails of Balboa Park.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 2 miles

Hiking length: 6.6 miles (longest trail)

Difficulty: Moderately strenuous

of psychology, communication, advertising. 619-236-5800. Wednesday, December 10, 6:30 p.m.; San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (DOWNTOWN)

FOR KIDS

"Books to Movies" Teen Book Club screens *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Snacks provided. 858-538-8159. Monday, December 8,

5:30 p.m.; ages 13 and up. Rancho Peñasquitos Library, 13350 Salmon River Road. (RANCHO PEÑASQUITOS)

"Busytown" Join familiar characters including Grocer Cat from Richard Scarry's vivid world for silly songs and scenes. Presented by La Jolla San Diego Junior Theatre. 619-239-8355. Friday, December 5, 7 p.m.; Saturday, December 6, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.; Sunday, December 7, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.; \$10-\$15. Firehouse YMCA

Community Center, 7877 Herschel Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

"It's All About Bears" The Westgate Hotel presents its annual teddy bear tea. Finger sandwiches, desserts served while children await a surprise visit from Santa. Additional activities include traditional Christmas storytelling, face painting. 619-557-3655. Saturday, December 6, 2:30 p.m.; Sunday, December 7, 2:30 p.m.; \$26-\$39. The Westgate Hotel, 1055 Second Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

"Tales of Now and Zen"

Award-winning storyteller Motoko's tales depict characters from ancient China. Themes include wisdom, strength, fear. 619-298-6363. Saturday, December 6, 5:30 p.m.; University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park. (LINDA VISTA)

"The Wonder Parlor"

Artists Clare Parry, Julie Westerbeke, present their collaborative effort in transforming thrift store furniture into sprawling collages. Fantastical creatures, visual puns accentu-

ate installation. Work station provided where visitors can create their own collages. 619-233-8792. Friday, December 5, 4 p.m.; ages 13 and up. The New Children's Museum, 200 West Island Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

27th Annual Christmas Tree

Lane Breakfast Visit with Santa while benefiting Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater San Diego. Family activities include opportunity drawings. Group pricing available. 760-746-3315. Saturday, December 6, 9 a.m.; \$15-\$40. California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 North Escondido Boulevard. (ESCONDIDO)

Into the Woods J*Company presents its production of Stephen Sondheim's "fractured fairy tale." Enjoy this Tony Award-winning story featuring familiar characters including Cinderella, Rapunzel, Little Red Riding Hood on a journey that results in a lesson about what happens after "happily ever after." 858-362-1348. Thursday, December 4, 7 p.m.; Saturday, December 6, 8 p.m.; Sunday, December 7, 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.; \$13-\$17. David and Dorothea Garfield Theatre, 4126 Executive Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Santa and the Ho Ho Thief

Big Joe Puppet Productions takes stage to tell tale of Santa and Alfie Elf saving Christmas. 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. Thursday, December 4, 10 a.m.; \$3-\$5. Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Road West. (BALBOA PARK)

The Elves and the Shoemaker

Hand puppets depict this story of two sneaky elves. Presented by Millie Patterson's Weaver's Tales. 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. Wednesday, December 10, 10 a.m.; \$3-\$5. Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Road West. (BALBOA PARK)

Arghhh Ye Ready for a Pirate's

Christmas? Swashbuckling pirates interact with the audience while performing original songs in this Christmas tale. Young Eve must save Christmas from these directionally challenged pirates in order to save North Pole citizens, including Santa. 800-98TICKET. Saturday, December 6, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday, December 7, 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.; \$25-\$27. California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 North Escondido Boulevard. (ESCONDIDO)

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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

Chopin and the Jonas Brothers Explorer Elementary Children's Chorus performs its first winter concert. Selections include pieces by Chopin, the Jonas Brothers, ABBA, folk songs, more. 619-573-9306. Wednesday, December 10, 7 p.m.; North Chapel at NTC, 2881 Roosevelt Drive. (POINT LOMA)

Cookie Decorating with Santa Santa will be accompanied by his elves to help families decorate festive cookies at this fun baking event. Light refreshments provided. 619-299-9811. Saturday, December 6, 9 a.m.; \$19. Macy's Fashion Valley, 7017 Friars Road. (MISSION VALLEY)

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, December 6, 10 a.m.; New Children's Museum, 200 West Island Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

Science with Dr. Sally Ride Join Dr. Sally Ride for "a day of science and socializing" at the Sally Ride Science Festival. Event targets girls ranging in age from upper el-

ementary to middle school, as well as parents, teachers. Girls will learn about DNA, computers, engineering. Registration required; includes featured talk, lunch, street fair, workshops. 800-561-5161. Saturday, December 6, 11 a.m.; \$20. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Starlight Parade Come see over 5000 parade participants including carolers, marching bands, floats in South Bay's largest holiday parade. Santa Claus will also appear. 619-422-1982. Saturday, December 6, 6 p.m.; Third Avenue Village area, Third Avenue. (CHULA VISTA)

Theater Workshop Kids will learn new acting skills in this sample class presented as part of museum's winter open house. 619-233-8792. Saturday, December 6, 10 a.m.; \$5-\$10. The New Children's Museum, 200 West Island Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

Toyland Parade Enjoy numerous attractions at 45th Annual North Park Toyland Parade. Festivities include cars from Model T club, historic fire trucks, police cars, as well as performances by Vernetta's Dance School, Bar Pink Drill Team, marching bands from local schools. Band competition begins at 9:30, parade follows at 11:00. 619-233-5008. Saturday, December 6, 9:30 a.m.; North Park Recreation Center, 4044 Idaho Street. (NORTH PARK)

OUT & ABOUT

THE NUTCRACKER

San Diego Academy of Ballet, California Center for the Arts Escondido, Friday, December 5, Saturday, December 6.

(SEE DANCE)



Yoga Workshop Flexibility will be tested in this demonstration presented as part of the museum's Winter Class Open House. 619-233-8792. Saturday, December 6, 10 a.m.; \$5-\$10. The New Children's Museum, 200 West Island Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

IN PERSON

"Jewish Voices" Evening poetry program will feature open-mike readings. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own poems. RSVP. 858-362-1174. Wednesday, December 10, 7:30 p.m.; Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, 4126 Executive Drive. (LA JOLLA)

"Laughter in Bloom" Eddie Carroll, actor and voice of Jiminy Cricket, appears as Jack Benny in this biographical presentation chronicling Benny's six-decade ca-

reer. See how Benny "created a character that was always 39 years old and a penny-pinching cheap-skate" in *The Story of Jack Benny: "Laughter in Bloom."* 619-570-1100. Sunday, December 7, 3 p.m.; \$25-\$50. Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

By the Sword F. Paul Wilson signs and reads from his new novel. Story follows Repairman Jack as he encounters Yakuza bodyguards, cults. 619-295-2201. Thursday, December 4, 7 p.m.; Borders Books and Music — Mission Valley, 1072 Camino del Rio North. (MISSION VALLEY)

Historic Photos of Ronald Reagan Author Jay Whitney will sign his book as part of early literacy program Reach Out and Read. 760-529-0106. Tuesday, December 9, 2 p.m.; Barnes and Noble Bookstore Oceanside, 2615 Vista Way. (OCEANSIDE)

The Four Seasons Author Laurie Corona signs and reads her novel depicting "Vivaldi's Venice." 619-295-2201. Saturday, December 6, 2 p.m.; Borders Books and Music — Mission Valley, 1072 Camino del Rio North. (MISSION VALLEY)

The Spy Who Came for Christmas Author David Morrell promotes his holiday gift book. 858-268-4747. Friday, December 5, 7 p.m.; Mysterious Galaxy Books, 7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Suite 302. (CLAIREMONT)

Doug Jones Actor featured in *Hellboy*, *Silver Surfer* will appear as guest speaker in presentation organized by San Diego Filmmakers. 858-356-0203. Tuesday, December 9, 6 p.m.; Groovy Like a Movie, 5205 Kearny Villa Way. (KEARNY MESA)

F. Paul Wilson Author promotes his novel, *By the Sword*, in which Repairman Jack sets out to find a mystic Japanese sword. 858-268-

4747. Thursday, December 4, 1:30 p.m.; Mysterious Galaxy Books, 7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Suite 302. (CLAIREMONT)

Holiday Concert and Book Signing Guitarist David Maldonado will perform. *From the Belly-button of the Moon and Other Poems* author Francisco X. Alarcón will also sign copies of his books. Limited seating. 760-602-2026. Friday, December 5, 6 p.m.; Carlsbad City Library Learning Center, 3368 Eureka Place. (CARLSBAD)

How Far Have We Come? "The Highest Aspiration: Looking Ahead on the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights" is presented in panel form to examine changes in human rights from 1948 to present. 619-239-7509. Wednesday, December 10, 7 p.m.; Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park. (LINDA VISTA)

Mystery Meet and Greet Authors T. Jefferson Parker and Christopher Reich will be on hand to sign books, as well as recommend their personal holiday favorites. 858-454-0347. Tuesday, December 9, 6 p.m.; Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

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)

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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

LECTURES

"Greenovation Forum: Water and the Built Environment"

Examine complex water issues both locally and globally and hear from experts in academia, industry, government, and the nonprofit community. The goal: "to contribute to the exchange of knowledge and the development of solutions for a sustainable future." RSVP: 858-822-2521. Tuesday, December 9, 4 p.m.; UCSD Faculty Club, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

"Reasons for Irish Emigration and Help in Finding Passenger Records" Mary Russel will address Irish Interest Group. Sponsored by British Isles Ge-

neological Research Association. Nonmembers welcome. 858-453-9053. Wednesday, December 10, 10:30 a.m.; LDS Family History Center, 4195 Camino del Rio South. (MISSION VALLEY)

"Shore and Lake Bird Photography" Adult program teaches principles for capturing quality bird photographs. Topics include field techniques, equipment, artistic principles. Lectures take place on December 9, 16. Field trip to Santee Lakes and La Jolla Shores scheduled for December 13. 619-255-0203. Tuesday, December 9, 6:30 p.m.; \$70-\$80. San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

"The Effects of Aging on Memory and the Brain" Dr. James Brewer will discuss his research using MRI technology to examine memory processes. 858-552-1657. Tuesday, December 9, 2 p.m.; La Jolla Library, 7555 Draper Avenue. (LA JOLLA)



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"The Golden Touch of Silver" Jacquelyne Silver — pianist, stage personality, artistic innovator, educator — plans lecture focusing on music of *Chariots of Fire*, *The Godfather*, more. 858-454-5872. Sunday, December 7, 2 p.m.; \$30-\$35. Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, 1008 Wall Street. (LA JOLLA)

"The Story of the Rancharia of San Pasqual" Guest lecturer Richard Carrico will present history of San Pasqual Valley's Native Americans. Book signing will follow. 760-291-0370. Saturday, December 6, 11 a.m.; San Diego Archaeological Center, 16666 San Pasqual Valley Road. (ESCONDIDO)

"To Be or Not to Be Colonial" Dr. Alexandra Sauvage lectures on "museums facing their exhibitions." Room number to be announced; please call ahead. 619-594-1104. Thursday, December 4, 4 p.m.; San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

"Toss Your Turf: Less Water, Less Grass, More Fun!" Vickie Driver presents short course in turf removal. Tips for evaluating soil, tuning up irrigation system, ideas for "a beautiful low-water landscape in lieu of lawn." Registration: 619-660-0614 x10. Saturday, December 6, 10 a.m.; \$20-\$30. Heritage of the Americas Museum, 12110 Cuyamaca College Drive West. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

"Understanding Environmental Change" Richard Somerville discusses impact of humans on the planet. Signing of his book *The Forgiving Air: Understanding Envi-*



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OUT & ABOUT

SCIENCE WITH DR. SALLY RIDE

Science festival, UCSD, Saturday, December 6.

(SEE FOR KIDS)



ronmental Change will follow. 858-534-5771. Monday, December 8, 6:30 p.m.; \$5-\$8. Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (LA JOLLA)

Decide for Yourself San Diego Superior Court Judge Norbert Ehrenfreund discusses his new book *You Be the Judge: 20 True Crimes and Cases to Solve* while allowing guests to play judge or jury member, deciding what their own verdict would be. 858-456-1800. Saturday, December 6, 7 p.m.; D.G. Wills Books, 7461 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Gifts from the Kitchen Learn to make tasty holiday gifts including pumpkin walnut cake, vanilla walnuts, spicy cashews. Elegant wrapping techniques will also be demonstrated. 760-436-3036. Saturday, December 6, 1:30 p.m.; \$25-\$30. Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Lacrosse Coaching Clinic Learn to hone your coaching skills. 410-235-6882 x148. Sunday, December 7, 9 a.m.; Scripps Ranch High School, 10410 Trenea Street. (SCRIPPS RANCH)

OUTDOORS

Shorebird-Watching enters its most agreeable season this month, with migrant and resident birds sharing common winter grounds. Egrets, herons, terns, and a variety of other species provide endless entertainment as they go about the

business of fishing and feeding in San Diego County's remaining coastal wetlands. Publicly accessible wetlands include the following (listed north to south): San Luis Rey River mouth, Buena Vista Lagoon, Agua Hedionda Lagoon, Batiquitos Lagoon, San Elijo Lagoon, San Dieguito Lagoon, Los Peñasquitos Lagoon, San Diego River flood channel (south of Sea World Drive), Sweetwater River marsh, southwest San Diego Bay, and Tijuana River Estuary. The same birds can also be seen on the shores of inland reservoirs such as Lake Murray and Lake Miramar.

Earliest Sunset (4:43 p.m. from San Diego) occurs Saturday, December 6, a date that is not coincident with the shortest day (winter solstice — December 21) because of factors relating to the non-circular shape of the Earth's orbit around the sun and the tilt of Earth's axis. Early December is a good time to view the setting sun from the spectacular vantage point of Cabrillo National Monument at the tip of Point Loma. During most of the year, you can't do that since sunset occurs well after the park's closing time of 5:15 p.m.

Cross-Country Skiers are in for a short-lived treat this month through February if winter storms intense enough to drop several inches to two feet of snow hit San Diego County's higher mountains. As the clouds are clearing, you may be able to take advantage of good skiing conditions along Highway 79 through Cuyamaca Rancho

State Park and along Sunrise Highway through the Laguna Mountain Recreation Area. More limited opportunities for cross-country skiing may briefly exist on Palomar Mountain. Farther north in Southern California and higher in elevation, the forested crests of the San Gabriel, San Bernardino, and San Jacinto Mountains offer more dependably decent snow conditions.

Toyon, or "Christmas-berry," one of the more distinctive shrubs of Southern California's native chaparral plant community, is now flaunting clusters of red berries. Here in coastal San Diego, toyon can be found wherever large patches of native vegetation survive, but especially in the thick chaparral covering some north-facing slopes. Toyon branches may look inviting to cut as a Christmas wreath — but they're protected from picking by California state law.

"Wintering Waterfowl" Audubon Society takes field trip seeking seasonal birds. 760-451-9370. Saturday, December 6, 8:30 a.m.; San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve, 2710 Manchester Avenue. (CARDIFF)

Balboa Park Architectural Tours San Diego Architectural Foundation hosts tours highlighting Spanish Colonial Revival buildings constructed for 1915 and 1935 International Expositions in Balboa Park. Tours start in front of Museum of Man. 619-232-1385. Saturday, December 6, 10 a.m.; \$8-\$15. Ages 10 and up. San Diego Museum of Man, 1350 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

California Native Plant Society Walk Bring binoculars and drinking water. 858-581-9944. Sunday, December 7, 9 a.m.; Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road. (CLAIREMONT)

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)

Guided Nature Walk Meet at west side of park, at Regents Road entrance. 858-581-9944. Bring binoculars, drinking water. Saturday, December 6, 9:30 a.m.; Mar-



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Kimono as Art: The Landscapes of Itchiku Kubota is made possible by the generosity of the Timken Foundation of Canton and is a collaboration between the Canton Museum of Art, the Itchiku Kubota Art Museum, the San Diego Museum of Art, and the Timken Museum of Art.

Local presentation of this exhibition is supported in part by the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture and the County of San Diego Community Enhancement Program.

IMAGE: Itchiku Kubota, *Ohn/Fuji and Barring Clouds* (detail), tie-dyeing and ink painting on silk crepe with gold wefts, 1991. Courtesy of the Itchiku Kubota Art Museum.

ian Bear Memorial Park, Highway 52 and Regents Road. (CLAIREMONT)

Mission Beach Walk This walk explores northern, southern areas of Mission Beach. Pace is moderate. Meet at ticket booth. 619-484-0349. Thursday, December 4, 10 a.m.; Belmont Park, 3146 Mission Boulevard. (MISSION BEACH)

Stroll Through Balboa Park View seasonal changes on casual walk through Balboa Park. Terrain is mostly paved, flat. Stay for optional refreshments. Rain cancels. Meet at Senior Center across from Museum of Photographic Arts. 619-291-1349. Thursday, December 4, 10:15 a.m.; Balboa Park, Park Boulevard at Presidents Way. (BALBOA PARK)

Sunrise Series Walkabout Moderate walk explores lower Broadway. See decorations while enjoying beautiful harbor views. Optional breakfast follows. 619-496-6223. Thursday, December 4, 6 a.m.; Bayside Bar and Grill, 555 W. Ash St. (DOWNTOWN)

Toyon's Red Berries See these berries on guided nature walks along Father Junipero Serra Trail. 619-668-3281. Saturday, December 6, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, December 7, 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday, December 10, 9:30 a.m.; Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Ven Explora la Naturaleza Conmigo Bilingual nature walk led by Spanish-speaking interpretive guide. Walks introduce visitors to Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge and nature center. 619-409-5900. Sunday, December 7, 1 p.m.; Chula Vista Nature Center, 1000 Gunpowder Point Drive. (CHULA VISTA)

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

"Entre Famas y Cronopios" Art show. 0011 52 664 687 9636. Saturday, December 6, 7:30 p.m.; \$10. Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BAJA)

The Nutcracker Performed by Ballet del Noroeste de México. 011-52-664-687-9636. Saturday, December 6, 5 p.m.; Sunday, December 7, 6 p.m.; Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BAJA)

La Playa Motocross Racing for motorcycles and ATVs. 011-52-661-612-2525. Saturday, December 6, 10 a.m.; \$10-\$30. Pista San Marino, Tijuana-Ensenada toll road. (BAJA)

Los Tiranos del Norte In concert. 011-52-646-152-1852. Thursday, December 4, 4 p.m.; \$10. Plaza Pueblo Antiguo. (BAJA)

SPECIAL

"Art Tap Out" Four artists compete in sessions resembling ultimate fighting. Each "competitor" goes up against critic Kevin Freitas for a 20-minute round. Audience participation encouraged. 619-384-7989. Saturday, December 6, 7 p.m.; Agitprop Gallery, 2837 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

"Children, Toys, and Service" Exhibit features recently rediscovered toys from World War II era. Collection includes extensive doll collection, games, books. Runs

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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

through April 30. 239-2300. Saturday, December 6, 10 a.m.; Veterans Museum and Memorial Center, 2115 Park Boulevard. (BALBOA PARK)

"From Haven to Home" Jewish Historical Society chronicles 350 years of Jewish history in America. Runs through March 1. 619-255-8908. Friday, December 5, 11 a.m.; New Americans Museum in NTC Promenade, 2825 Dewey Road Suite 102. (POINT LOMA)

"Light Up the Grove Holiday Bonfire" Parsonage Museum presents annual exhibition including elaborate decorations, Dickensian holiday village. Refreshments available in park. 619-825-3815. Friday, December 5, 6 p.m.; Parsonage Museum of Lemon Grove, 3185 Olive Street. (LEMON GROVE)

"The Hippie Guide to Climbing the Corporate Ladder" JanSport co-founder presents slide show chronicling his rise to success in the outdoor industry. 619-283-2374. Thursday, December 4, 7 p.m.; Adventure 16 Mission Valley, 4620 Alvarado Canyon Road. (MISSION VALLEY)

"Understanding the War in Afghanistan" P&R Discussion Group meets. 619-370-1027. Thursday, December 4, 7 p.m.; Filter, 4096 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

Principles of Economics Discuss Carl Menger's work with San Diego Great Books group. Newcomers welcome. 619-440-5625. Saturday, December 6, 2 p.m.; San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (DOWNTOWN)

All Hands on Deck! Taste 18th-century shipboard life when top-sail schooner *Privateer Lynx* visits

for dockside tours, Saturday and Sunday, December 6 and 7, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Adventure sails offered both days, 2-5 p.m. Fees, reservations: 866-446-5969. Saturday, December 6, 10 a.m.; Sunday, December 7, 10 a.m.; Oceanside Harbor, 1540 Harbor Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

Ask the Designer Professional landscape designer Connie Beck offers personalized, 45-minute landscape design consultation. Bring a photograph of your area, ideas from magazines, project dimensions for practical advice, suggestions for creating a low-water landscape. Required reservations: 619-660-0614 x10. Saturday, December 6, 1 p.m.; \$40-\$50. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West. (CUYAMACA COLLEGE)

Ask the Horticulturist Tour Enjoy informative walk through garden with a member of the professional horticultural staff. Bring questions. Registration: 619-660-0614 x10. Sunday, December 7, 1:30 p.m.; Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West. (CUYAMACA COLLEGE)

Build a Better World Buckminster Fuller's "World Game" allows players to determine how they would run the world. 760-505-9649. Friday, December 5, 9 a.m.; Quantum Learning Center, 1938 Avenida del Oro. (OCEANSIDE)

Carmel Valley Artist's Show and Sale Wares including blown glass, various forms of jewelry, wood crafts, ceramics are available in this sale. Classical guitarist Mark Alan Langford performs. Event held rain or shine. 760-945-6922. Saturday, December 6, 9:30 a.m.; Karl Strauss Brewing Company, Sorrento Mesa, 9675 Scranton Road. (SORRENTO VALLEY)

OUT & ABOUT

"TALES OF NOW AND ZEN"

Motoko performance, USD, Saturday, December 6.

(SEE FOR KIDS)



Celebrate Christmas Spirit in Imperial Beach Santa will be present for pictures and storytelling as visitors enjoy crafts, raffles, cookie decorating, train rides, more. 619-424-3151. Saturday, December 6, noon; Portwood Pier Plaza, Seacoast Drive at Imperial Beach Boulevard. (IMPERIAL BEACH)

Co-Ed Drumming Circle Elisa Kisselburg leads co-ed circle blending Japanese, Middle Eastern, African traditions. Drums provided if you don't have your own. Circles offered first Sunday of every month. 619-303-6609. Sunday, December 7, 10 a.m.; \$15. Vision Center for Spiritual Living, 11260 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (TIERRASANTA)

December Nights Balboa Park celebrates its annual holiday tradition with international cuisine, music, dance, shopping. Sparkling lights dazzle as visitors enjoy the Santa Lucia Procession. Select museums open their doors to visitors free of charge. This year's festivities include an ice-skating rink and "My Ancestors' Village" — a recreated traditional Native American village. 619-239-0512. Friday,

December 5, 5 p.m.; Saturday, December 6, noon; Balboa Park, Park Boulevard at Presidents Way. (BALBOA PARK)

Holiday Bazaar and Tea Point Loma Garden Club presents member-made decorations, crafts, treats for sale. Come find gifts for those left on your holiday lists. Proceeds benefit student scholarships. 619-564-7036. Wednesday, December 10, 9:30 a.m.; Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal. (POINT LOMA)

Holiday Parade This year's theme is "A Storybook Holiday," celebrating literary works. Morrie Pike serves as grand marshal. 760-633-2740. Saturday, December 6, 5:30 p.m.; Encinitas City Hall, 505 South Vulcan Avenue. (ENCINITAS)

Holiday Party and Family Concert Santa Claus will be available for pictures. Festivities include opera music, crafts, raffles. 858-538-8159. Wednesday, December 10, 6 p.m.; Rancho Peñasquitos Library, 13350 Salmon River Road. (RANCHO PEÑASQUITOS)

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)

Holidays in Escondido Enjoy carriage rides, visits with Santa, tree lighting. 760-745-8877. Saturday, December 6, 5 p.m.; Downtown Escondido, Grand Avenue at Centre City. (ESCONDIDO)

Piñata Workshop All supplies included at this event where you can make your own unique holiday decoration or gift. Space is limited, registration recommended. 858-538-8159. Saturday, December 6, 10:30 a.m.; ages 12 and up. Rancho Peñasquitos Library, 13350 Salmon River Road. (RANCHO PEÑASQUITOS)

Poinsettia Bloom Balboa Park's Botanical Building becomes festive holiday scene when over 500 poinsettia plants display their blooms in this 22nd annual display. Runs through January 7. 619-231-9193. Friday, December 5, 10 a.m.; Balboa Park, Park Boulevard at Presidents Way. (BALBOA PARK)

Psychic Fair and Metaphysical Conference Lectures, tarot, palmistry, numerology, other psychic arts featured. Admission is free; \$20 per reading. 619-298-3422. Saturday, December 6, noon; Sunday, December 7, noon; Alexandra's Bookstore, 3545 Midway Drive, Suite G. (POINT LOMA)

Seeking Unique Art Objects? Time for semiannual student art and craft sale, located to left of Brubeck Theater. Artist demonstrations. 760-744-1150. Thursday, De-

cember 4, 9 a.m.; Friday, December 5, 9 a.m.; Saturday, December 6, 9 a.m.; Palomar College, 1140 West Mission Road. (SAN MARCOS)

Shakespearean Feast Get festive Elizabethan-style with music, games, food, quizzes. 619-675-2007. Sunday, December 7, 6 p.m.; \$55. Ages 10 and up. Town and Country Hotel and Convention Center, 500 Hotel Circle North. (MISSION VALLEY)

Smashing! Lauren Becker Downey teaches mosaic basics in this two-part workshop. Bring small tabletop, terra-cotta pot, wooden tray, bowl, box, wide picture frame to decorate. Participants must also provide their own hammer, dishes or tiles to break, other embellishments desired for use in their piece. Second session December 12. \$8 materials fee in addition to admission. Preregistration required. 619-231-3900. Friday, December 5, 1 p.m.; \$72. Ages 12 and up. San Diego Art Academy, 840 G Street. (DOWNTOWN)

Still-Life Exhibition Works by local artist Grady Williams will be displayed. Paintings are infused with deliberate object placement, use of shape, color in order to convey messages for viewers to "hear." Showing continues through January 31. 858-573-1396. Saturday, December 6, noon; Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library, 9005 Aero Drive. (KEARNY MESA)

Sustainable Fashion Thursday Night Thing presents green showcase. "What Goes Around Comes Around: An Eco-Chic Fashion Show" features local designers who utilize sustainable, organic, repurposed materials. Donation. 858-454-3541. Thursday, December 4, 7 p.m.; Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown, 1001 Kettner Boulevard. (DOWNTOWN)

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Technomania Circus “Alien Invasion: A Sighting in the Barrio Logan” will feature performance artists, circus entertainment, live music. 619-231-1950. Saturday, December 6, 8 p.m.; \$15. Ages 3 and up. The Center for Amusing Arts, 2438 Commercial Street. (LOGAN HEIGHTS)

Teen Art Café Teen artists invited to join opening of *Illuminated Sculpture* for sculpture making, light refreshments. 619-696-1952. Monday, December 8, 6 p.m.; San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Toy Run Rez Riders present “All-Nations Pala Toy Run.” Ride leaves from Kennedy’s Cycle. Festivities at Pala include food, music, beer. Unwrapped toy requested as donation. 760-802-4345. Sunday, December 7, 11:30 a.m.; Kennedy’s Cycle, 3028 San Luis Rey Road. (OCEANSIDE)

Vintage Paper Collectible Show Over 1 million items will be displayed with collections including postcards, advertising trade cards, movie memorabilia, photographs, more. Free appraisal of old paper collectibles given to visitors with price of admission. Free on Sunday. 626-665-9435. Saturday, December 6, 10 a.m.; Sunday, December 7, 10 a.m.; \$5. Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road. (KEARNY MESA)

Woodcraft Show and Sale Holiday wood show features over 60 artists specializing in hardwood design. Expect to find goods including bowls, furniture, ornaments, toys, more. Other festivities include music, refreshments. 858-481-0442. Sunday, December 7, 10 a.m.; Cut & Dried Hardwood, 224-A South Cedros Avenue. (SOLANA BEACH)

SPORTS

Chargers Football San Diego Chargers host Oakland Raiders during game broadcast on Fox. Tickets available through Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). Thursday, December 4, 5:15 p.m.; \$54-\$98. Qualcomm Stadium, 9449 Friars Road. (MISSION VALLEY)

El Camino Real to Oceanside Short, hard ride covers 63 miles. 619-561-3846. Sunday, December 7, 8:45 a.m.; Doyle Park, 8175 Regents Road. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

Group Ride Heads to Rancho Santa Fe. 619-697-6309. Tuesday, December 9, 9:15 a.m.; Doyle Park, 8175 Regents Road. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

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. Thursday, December 4, 10 a.m.; Friday, December 5, 10 a.m.; Saturday, December 6, 10 a.m.; Sunday, December 7, 10 a.m.; La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club, 2000 Spindrift Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Hobie Championship Tour Surfing competition showcasing west coast competitors at Ocean-

side Harbor’s south jetty. 949-369-6677. Saturday, December 6, 7 a.m.; Sunday, December 7, 7 a.m.; Oceanside Harbor, 1540 Harbor Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

Jersey/Shorts Ride Cruise along Highway 52. Meet in parking lot. 619-287-1993. Saturday, December 6, 9 a.m.; De Anza Cove, 3000 East Mission Bay Drive. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Jingle Bell Horse Show 858-794-1171. Thursday, December 4, 8 a.m.; Friday, December 5, 8 a.m.; Saturday, December 6, 8 a.m.; Sunday, December 7, 8 a.m.; Del Mar Horsepark, 14550 El Camino Real. (DEL MAR)

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 Leg-

end, 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 excavated in China. The suits were made of more than 2000 square and rectangular plates of jade sewn together with threads of gold, silver, or bronze (depending upon the status of the wearer). Ongoing.

The museum features art and artifacts from South and North America, concentrating on the utilitarian and decorative artistry of crafts 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)

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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

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 “re-

member the events leading up to the dedication of Presidio Park and the Serra Museum” on July 16, 1929. The exhibit includes a “visit back in time to 1929.”

The museum interprets the Native American, Spanish, and Mexican periods of San Diego’s history and contains Spanish Colonial furnishings, art, and 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 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 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.

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OUT & ABOUT

“HOLIDAY SUITES”

Camerada performance, Perry L. Meyer Gallery, Saturday, December 6.

(SEE CLASSICAL MUSIC)



“Gretsch 125th Anniversary” highlights instruments spanning the company’s rich history. Through Friday, February 20, 2009.

The past 100 years of American music and music making are highlighted at the museum, with over 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 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 ex-

hibit” 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, 2009.

“Tibet: Imagery by Kenneth Parker” — continuing through Sunday, March 1, 2009 — reveals “religious monuments, prayer flags, modest homes, and dramatic mountains of the region.” To create his imagery, Parker engages in five-ten day backpacking excursions to remote areas carrying 75-85 pounds of gear.

“Aerial Portraits of the American West: Photographs by John Shelton” closes on Sunday, March 1, 2009. 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

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

Carols in Founders Chapel “A festival of word and song” will set the mood for Christmas. Performance includes scripture, hymns performed by USD’s Concert Choir, Choral Scholars. 619-260-7936. University of San Diego (5998 Alcalá Park), 7:30 p.m., Thursday, December 4; 8 p.m., Friday, December 5; 2 p.m., Sunday, December 7. (LINDA VISTA)

UCSD Wind Ensemble Bobby Z leads musicians in this all-Russian program. Selections will include pieces by Tchaikovsky, Musorgsky, Shostakovich. Free for students. 858-534-3229. University of California San Diego (9500 Gilman Drive), 8 p.m., Thursday, December 4. (LA JOLLA)

The Cabrillo Singers Group made up of over 30 singers ranging from amateur to professional will perform Christmas favorites including solos, duets, full choir ensembles. Donations accepted. 619-573-9306. North Chapel at NTC (2881 Roosevelt Drive), 7:30 p.m., Friday, December 5. (POINT LOMA)

“Mother Russia” Grossmont College students will perform works by Tchaikovsky, Musorgsky, Shostakovich. Contralto soloist Martha Jane Howe will also appear. Children under 12 receive free admission when accompanied by adult. 619-644-7254. East County Performing Arts Center (210 East Main Street), 8 p.m., Friday, December 5. (EL CAJON)

Jacobs’ Masterworks San Diego Symphony will perform selections by Bach, Mahler while Jahja Ling conducts. Reservations: 619-235-0804. Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street), 8 p.m., Friday, December 5, and Saturday, December 6, plus 2 p.m., Sunday, December 7. (DOWNTOWN)

“Holiday Suites” Camerada performs selections for flute and guitar by composers including Bach, Gounod, Pergolesi. Evening begins with wine and cheese reception. 619-231-3702. Perry L. Meyer Fine Art Gallery (2400 Kettner Boulevard, Suite 104), 6:30 p.m., Saturday, December 6. (LITTLE ITALY)

Vocal Ensemble Concert Betsy Frater directs Mesa College’s vocal ensemble in concert featuring selections by Vivaldi. Performance also features string quartet, oboe player. 619-388-2809. Good Samaritan Episcopal Church (4321 Eastgate Mall), 7 p.m., Saturday,

December 6, and Sunday, December 7. (CARMEL VALLEY)

“The DNA of Music” “Motion” features dance troupe Lux Boreal’s “shadow puppet” dancers in *Frog’s Eye*, as well as cellist Margaret Zhou. Program concludes with Stravinsky’s *Petrushka*. 858-534-4637. Mandeville Auditorium at UCSD (9500 Gilman Drive), 8 p.m., Saturday, December 6, and 3 p.m., Sunday, December 7. (LA JOLLA)

Organ Concert Civic organist Carol Williams in concert. 619-702-8138. Spreckels Organ Pavilion (2211 Pan American Road), 2 p.m., Sunday, December 7. (BALBOA PARK)

Organ Concert Hear pieces from Handel’s *Messiah*, performances from soprano Patricia McAfee, organist Robert Plimpton. Reception to follow. 619-297-4366. First United Methodist Church of San Diego (2111 Camino del Rio South), 7 p.m., Sunday, December 7. (MISSION VALLEY)

“The Sanctuary Choir Christmas Concert” Performance includes Horatio Parker’s *Holy Child*, selections from Benjamin Britten’s *Ceremony of Carols*, other music of the season. Program features soprano Mary Jaeb, harpist Laura Vaughn. Donation. 858-273-7423. Clairemont Lutheran Church (4271 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard), 7 p.m., Sunday, December 7. (CLAIREMONT)

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. Neurosciences Institute (10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive), 7:30 p.m., Monday, December 8. (LA JOLLA)

“Camera Lucida” UCSD faculty members perform alongside San Diego Symphony musicians. Group will perform works by Bach, Purcell. Free to UCSD students. 858-534-3229. Neurosciences Institute (10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive), 8 p.m., Tuesday, December 9. (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

“Dali with a Dr. Frankenstein Approach” Artist Bret Barrett’s exhibition, “Paintings and Kinetics: An Ecclectic Body of New Work,” features works ranging from surrealist paintings to kinetic sculpture. Runs through December 31. 619-563-9770. Art of Framing Gallery (3333 Adams Avenue),

6 p.m., Saturday, December 6. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

“Drawing the Line” Exhibition features paper, fabric, sculptural pieces based around drafting, line-drawing. 858-454-3541. Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown (1001 Kettner Boulevard), 11 a.m., Sunday, December 7. (DOWNTOWN)

“Holiday Lights” Opening reception for San Diego Watercolor Society’s current exhibit. 619-876-4550. San Diego Watercolor Society at NTC Promenade (2825 Dewey Road #105), 5 p.m., Friday, December 5. (POINT LOMA)

“Imagine Alaska” Black-and-white, color, aerial, macro shots are included in bush pilot/photographer Mark Stadsklev’s collection. Exhibition features HDR images of glacier interiors. Runs through December 30. 619-299-9360. Libertalia Café (3834 Fifth Avenue), 6 p.m., Friday, December 5. (HILLCREST)

“Instruments of Vanity” Master of fine arts exhibition debuts. Presented by Tara Magboo. Exhibition continues through December 11. 619-261-1923. Flor y Canto Gallery at San Diego State University (5500 Campanile Drive), 6 p.m., Saturday, December 6. (COLLEGE AREA)

“Partridge in a Pear Tree” Group show. Reception features art, fashion, food. Runs through December 30. 619-283-2611. Junc Boutique and Gallery (2205 Fern Street), 6 p.m., Saturday, December 6. (NORTH PARK)

Artist’s Reception View vibrantly colored oil paintings by artist Lisa Roche. Artist focuses on the “human element.” Exhibition runs through January 5. 760-230-2038. E Street Café (128 E Street), 6 p.m., Saturday, December 6. (ENCINITAS)

Lux Anniversary Celebration Lux celebrates first anniversary with cake slices and “larger-than-life papier-mâché birthday confectation” that visitors will help decorate. 760-436-6611. Lux Art Institute (1550 South El Camino Real), 1 p.m., Saturday, December 6. (ENCINITAS)

Student Exhibition Students’ past year’s work will be displayed. Exhibition runs through December 18. 858-454-5872. Athenaeum Music and Arts Library (1008 Wall Street), 5 p.m., Sunday, December 7. (LA JOLLA)

ART MUSEUMS

Mingei International Museum “India Adorned” features selections from museum’s Stephen Huyler Collection. Exhibit “reveals the col-

orful 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, 2009.

“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, 2009. 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, trelis-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, 2009. 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, 2009. 1001 Kettner Boulevard, 858-454-3541. (DOWNTOWN)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla “Weighing and Wanting: Selec-

tions 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, 2009. 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, 2009.

“Nancy Newhall: A Literacy of Images” continues through Sunday, January 25, 2009. 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, 2009 — boasts 41 quilts selected from 586 entries. Jurors were Judith Content, Mary Anne Jordan, and Don Bacigalupe.

“DAMNGORGEIOUS: 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, 2009.

“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, 2009, 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, 2009.

“Visible Places: Works on Paper by Women,” continuing through Sunday, March 22, 2009, 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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FRIDAY 12/5 • 9 PM

THE MAR DELS CHRISTMAS SHOW




SUNDAY 12/7 • 7 PM

THE HOWLS THE NORTHSTAR SESSION THE MIDWINTERS



WEDNESDAY 12/10 • 8 PM

TOM MORELLO: THE NIGHTWATCHMAN
PLAYING WITH HIS BAND



BOOTS RILEY
THURSDAY 12/11 • 9 PM

DYNAMITE WALLS STRIPES AND LINES REPUBLIC OF LETTERS



FRIDAY 12/12 • 9 PM

CASH'D OUT CHRISTMAS



HELL ON HEELS
BURLESQUE REVUE
BRENNEN LEIGH
DJ GONZO
TOYS FOR TOTS BENEFIT
SATURDAY 12/13 • 9 PM

DAVE MASON



JACK TEMPCHIN
SUNDAY 12/14 • 8 PM

MISSY HIGGINS



ROBERT FRANCIS
MONDAY 12/15 • 8 PM

MIKE NESS



TWO NIGHTS
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THURSDAY 12/18 • 8 PM

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FRIDAY 12/19 • 9 PM

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SUNDAY 12/21 • 8 PM

YEARS AROUND THE SUN SCARLET SYMPHONY APES OF WRATH



PRES. BY 91X LOUDSPEAKER
MONDAY 12/22 • 8 PM

RUB-A-DUB TUESDAY THE DEVASTATORS



STRANGER DUB TRAFFIC CONTROL DJS
TUESDAY 12/23 • 9 PM

BASSNECTAR



BEATS ANTIQUE OSAL8
FRIDAY 12/26 • 9 PM

KARL DENSON'S TINY UNIVERSE & ROBERT WALTER'S 20TH CONGRESS REUNION



SATURDAY 12/27 • 9 PM

PARTICLE




MICHAEL KANG OF STRING CHEESE INCIDENT
SUNDAY 12/28 • 9 PM

CRACKER AND CAMPER VAN BEETHOVEN



MONDAY 12/29 • 8 PM

RUB-A-DUB TUESDAY KUSH



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TUESDAY 12/30 • 9 PM

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3/21 Stepping Feet: The Dave Matthews Band Experience
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UPCOMING SHOWS:	1/9 Elijah Emanuel	1/21 North Mississippi Allstars
12/31 FM 94.9 pres. Swami's New Year's Eve w/Night Marchers	1/10 Dead Man's Party	1/22-1/24 Ozomatli - 3 Nights!
1/2 Pato Banton w/The Mystic Roots Band	1/11 David Lindley	1/30 The Cured
1/3 Pepper w/Supervillains	1/14 Marc Broussard	2/15 Susan Tedeschi
1/4 Salsa Sunday	1/15 The Knitters w/The Farmers	2/19 Donavon Frankenreiter
1/5 Villa Musica pres. Project Cabaret	1/16 Marcia Ball	2/20 Super Diamond
1/7 New Acoustic Generation w/Michael Tiernan Trio	1/17 40 Oz. to Freedom	3/12 Solana Beach Baseball Bash feat. Atomic Groove
	1/19 The Walkmen	

FRIDAYS SWINGIN' HAPPY HOURS

12/5 **Billy Watson**
12/12 **Candy Kane**

\$5

SALSA SUNDAY ORQUESTA PRIMO

12/21 • 8 PM
1/4 • 8 PM

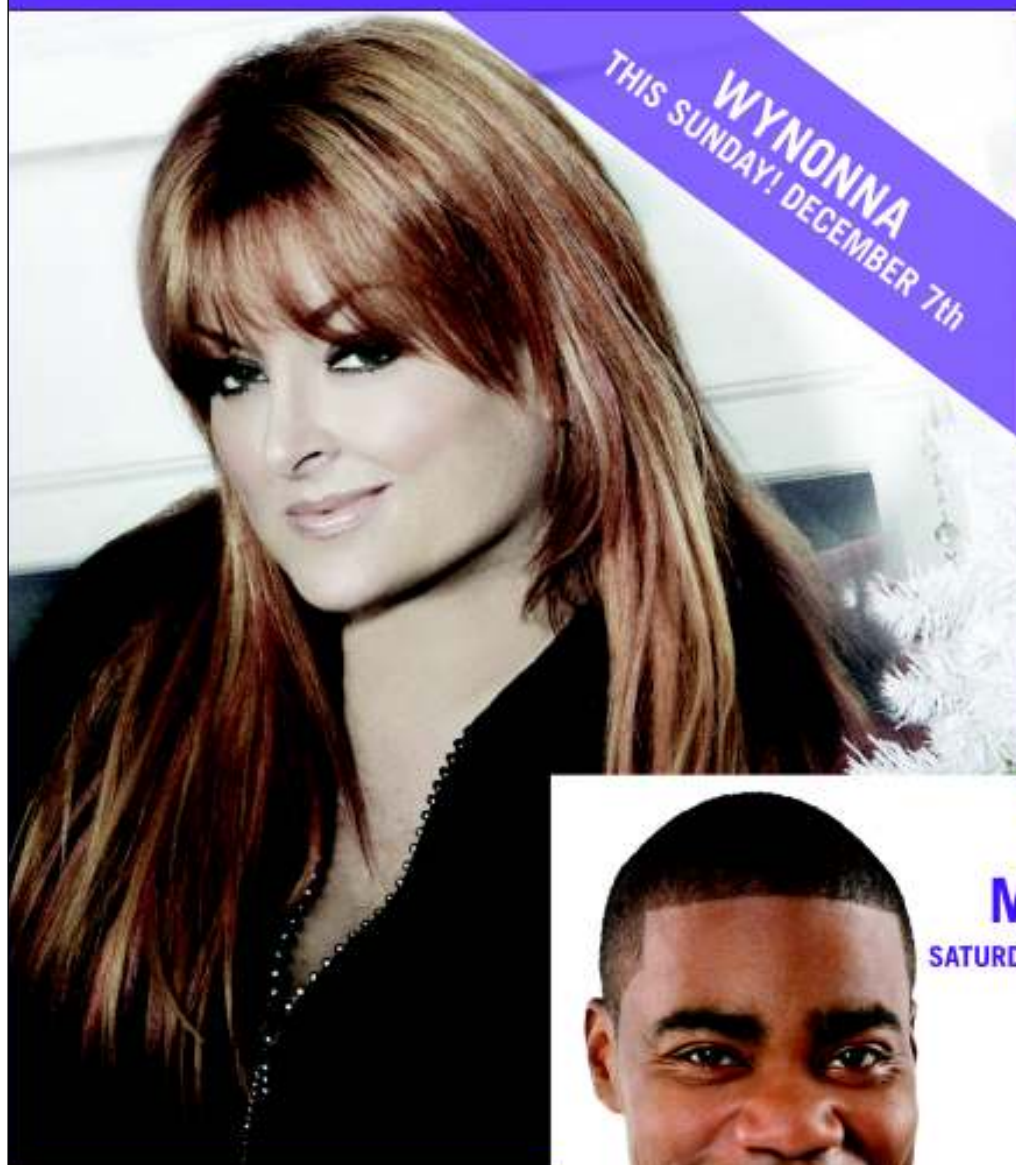
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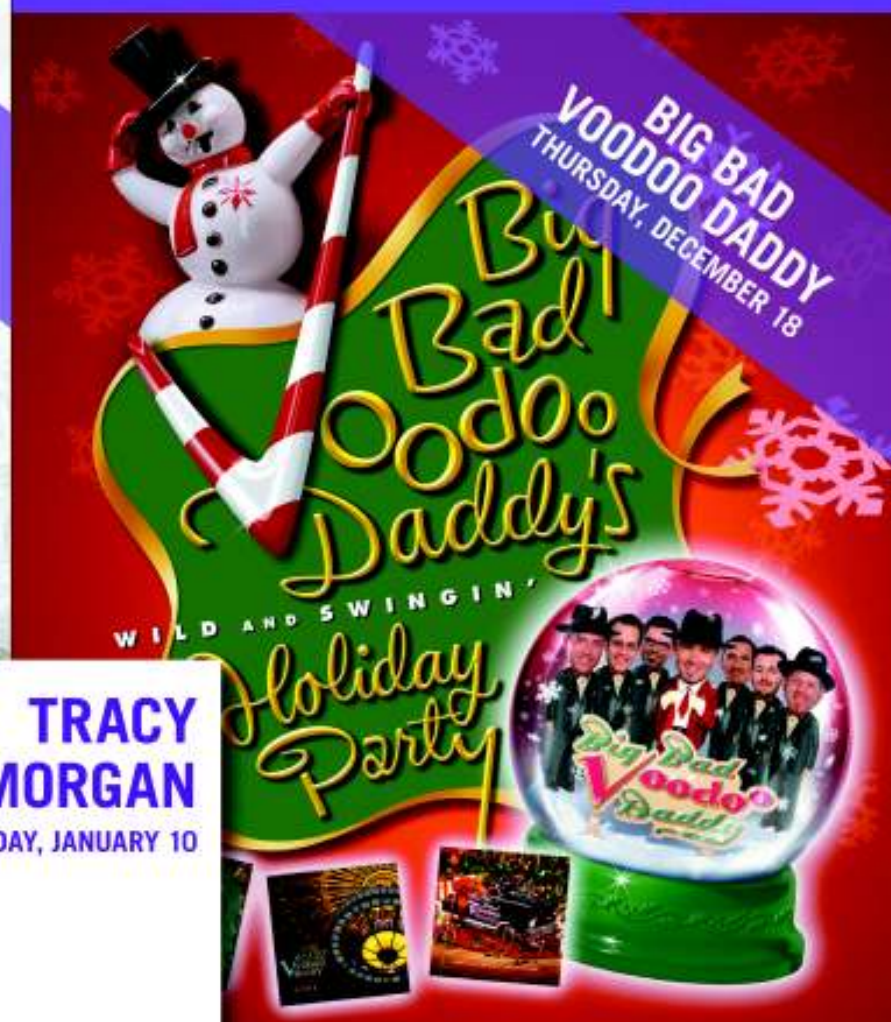
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That's the Spirit Delta Spirit had to cancel their November 21 show at Hailey's in Denton, Texas, after bassist Jon Jameson was arrested. "Jon was arrested last night in Texas for possession of prescription medication," read a post on the band's MySpace page. "As a result, we are stuck in

formerly in Noise Ratchet, who were signed to American Records by producer Rick Rubin. Noise Ratchet has recorded an album for American that has yet to be released.

Local blogger Scott Pactor at *catdirtse* posits that Delta Spirit is not truly a San Diego band. "I understand that three

stated residency as Orange County. Fact: MySpace profile lists them as from California. I have other facts at my fingertips, but I am not disclosing them."

— Jay Allen Sanford

What's in a Name?

When Coors passed on the naming rights of SD's largest local concert venue this year, the 20,000-capacity Chula Vista concert venue formerly known as the Coors Amphitheatre became the Cricket Wireless Amphitheatre.

Now insiders say an Indian casino has stepped up to brand SDSU's largest concert facility.

The agreement between Cox Communications and SDSU to name the 4600-capacity Cox Arena runs out in June. Insiders say chances are the Viejas tribe will win the naming rights.

But it may not stop there. According to the insiders, the aggressive Viejas tribe eventually wants to take over the booking of the arena when the current agreement runs out in 2012.

Cox is now booked by Live Nation, the largest concert company in the U.S. Live Nation also books SDSU's

Open Air Theatre and Cricket Wireless.

Tim Ripke, Cox Arena assistant director, says that only his boss John Kolek could answer questions about



ARE INDIAN GAMERS TO BE COX RENAMERS?

naming rights, but Kolek was not available last week. Ripke did confirm that the current Cox Arena naming agreement is up in June and that the Live Nation pact runs through 2012.

Live Nation spokesman Greg Terlizzi says he has no information regarding Viejas's move. No one from Viejas was available for comment.

— Ken Leighton

Riding in Vans with Boys

Action sports channel Fuel TV has supplanted MTV as the best way for signed and unsigned bands to get international TV exposure. *The Daily Habit* airs four times a day on Fuel and features interviews with pro skaters and surfers and live sets by signed and unsigned bands. Locals the Night Marchers, the Locust, and Grand Ole Party have appeared on the channel, which is delivered to 25 million U.S. homes and airs in Portugal and Australia.

The show's crew includes Cardiff's Chris Cote, the editor of North County-based *Transworld Surf* magazine. He's one of Fuel's fill-in hosts.

"It's like the Conan O'Brien for the action sports world," Cote has done work for Fuel for the past two years. He says his connection with the channel has allowed him to get music by local bands Drowning Men, Hot Snakes,

and his own band Years Around the Sun used for surf, skate, and ski videos that air on Fuel throughout the day.

Bassist/singer Cote admits his first band, Kut U Up, broke up just as it became world famous, blowing what he says was an opportunity of a lifetime. "We all saw the brass ring, but we were too fucked up to reach out and grab it."

Because of Cote's friendship with blink-182 guitarist Tom DeLonge, Kut U Up was invited to be the



KUT UP CHRIS COTE

opening band for the 2002 Green Day/blink tour that played stadiums and large outdoor venues in 52 U.S. cities. "It was one of the biggest tours of the year," says Cote. The pay was negligible. "Each member got a per diem

blurt

the inside track

the middle of nowhere waiting for him to get out."

One posted response from the band's MySpace friend Row_Har reads, "You need to deal with the fact that Jon has a problem. If you keep explaining all these incidents away, you're going to be helping him kill himself."

Jon Jameson was



DELTA SPIRIT'S DOWNER IN DENTON

of the members reside in northern San Diego County, but Delta Spirit does not claim San Diego. Fact: their South by Southwest Artist profile

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for expenses, which we pretty much spent on party supplies," says Cote. "Nearly every show was sold out." Locally the tour played to a packed house at Coors Amphitheatre. Resting Bird, a video production company co-owned by DeLonge and blink bassist Mark Hoppus, paid for a video crew to follow Kut U Up. That footage led to the release of a full-length feature, *Riding in Vans with Boys*. When the DVD was released in 2002, MTV2 featured it in heavy rotation.

"We were playing stadium shows with blink and Green Day. There were chicks backstage. It was rock and roll fantasy camp.... We think about it every day," says Cote about the band's failure to capitalize on their big break. "Sometimes it's painful to go see a good show. There will always be the underlying feeling of regret that that could have been us."

Part of the problem, admits Cote, was that Kut U Up was supposed to appear in the video as four young guys who liked to party and weren't supposed to take things too seriously. According to Cote, they followed the script too well.

The video documented their rock star excess, "Like the time we caused \$5000 damage to a hotel room. We threw up a lot. And then there was the time I got third-degree burns on my ass when Billy Joe from Green Day branded my ass."

"We were fucked up before the tour, but I would

say the tour definitely enabled us.... We developed a fucked-up reputation so that after the tour people didn't want to work with us. No one was taking us seriously. I think our music was good enough, but we just didn't take the business side seriously. Right after that tour, we should have set up our own tour."

Kut U Up played a reunion show at the Belly Up in July. "I think it was the first time we all played together sober." He says that other reunion shows are in the works.

Cote tapes his next *Daily Habit* shows December 16. They'll air on December 30 and 31.

—Ken Leighton

A Skeleton in San Diego's Closet Twenty-nine years ago this week (12/7/79), the city's first punk venue, downtown's Skeleton Club, reopened at 202 West Market Street. The original locale on Fourth Avenue, across from Horton Plaza, had been shut down the previous month due to zoning problems and what club owner Laura Fraser alleged to be police and municipal harassment.

The new Skeleton Club held 350 people and served only soft drinks and coffee, though Fraser hoped to open a bar and restaurant next door. On opening night, the Penetrators, Mature Adults, Non, and the Rick Elias Band all performed free, donating door proceeds to Fraser's fund to keep the club operating. They sold 325 tickets at \$3 apiece.



A PENETRATOR REMEMBERS THE SKELETON

"I remember a room full of sweaty people that were crushed against the stage," recalls former Penetrator Gary Heffern. "The lighting in the place was horrible, there were couches that were spread around, and the place stank. I was overwhelmed and shocked at the amount of

people that showed up."

However, fire marshals appeared and announced the room was 100 people over its capacity, even though the tables and chairs had been removed for the event. Owner Fraser took the stage and asked if any volunteers would depart in return for a refund. "Police are ticketing cars parked illegally on Market Street," she announced, "so maybe those people should be the ones to leave."

Fraser later told local magazine *Kicks* (January 1980), "Can you imagine? I've

never done anything that ridiculous before in my life." Fire marshals were eventually satisfied, and the show continued. The club would remain embattled on many fronts, until its eventual demise. To be continued....

—Jay Allen Sanford

Puck Rock? Before founding Megadeth, veteran thrash-master Dave Mustaine (born September 13, 1961, in La Mesa, currently living in Fallbrook) was Metallica's original lead guitarist before getting replaced by Kirk Hammett in 1983. These days, Mustaine has been breaking in his new SD studio, "Vic's Garage," with work on Megadeth's 12th studio album, due next year. He's also tweaking the forthcoming Megadeth DVD release *Blood in the Water: Live in San Diego*, filmed last May at Cox Arena (premiered on HDNet television in early November).

Mustaine this year solidified Megadeth's popularity with a specific demographic: fans of the National Hockey League's notoriously scrappy Philadelphia Flyers. Ever since the team's '70s heyday as the fight-prone "Broad Street Bullies," the Flyers and their fans have been perceived as

goonish, even brutal. In April, during an NHL playoff series between the Flyers and the Washington Capitals, *Washington Post* sports columnist Mike Wise wrote, "Flyer fans didn't want to beat Washington as much as see... [the Capitals] bludgeoned... emasculated... [M]any of the women and children looked as if they could work security for Megadeth."

Mustaine, a fan of ice hockey and, particularly, the Flyers' hard-hitting physical style, stepped forward with the band to do a pep video to



FROM MYSPACE.COM/HANSONBROTHERS

RINK ROCKERS THE HANSON BROTHERS

show at Flyers' home games. Clad in team jerseys, he informed, "Hey, Flyers fans, we're Megadeth, and I read what they said in the *Washington Post* about you —

and you can 'work security' for us anytime! Now kick ass, it's time to crush 'em!"

Another rock-rink connection comes from British Columbia punk band NoMeansNo, who have a long-running alter-ego band, the Hanson Brothers, that celebrates old-school NHL rowdiness and "enforcer" players like the Flyers' infamous Dave "the Hammer" Schultz and their hometown Vancouver Canucks' Dave "Tiger" Williams, the league's all-time leader in season and career penalty minutes.

The Ramones-esque Canadian "puck rock" band takes its name from the three Hanson brothers in the 1977 hockey movie *Slap Shot*, starring Paul Newman. Pro players in real life, the bespectacled Hansons were cast as violent but dorky tough guys who help a minor-league hockey team survive through tough play and surging ticket sales.

The Hanson Brothers play Brick by Brick tomorrow, Friday, December 5.

—David Stampone

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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club crawler

This Week In Music

Thursday 4

Roll tape. **God Is an Astronaut**, based in a place called Glen of the Downs, Ireland, is a post-rock instrumental trio that reads like Glasgow gang Mogwai but spins more synth-based ambient-to-explosive jams. The DIY outfit is on their first U.S. tour behind their self-released, self-titled fourth. Tour reports describe a “full audio-visual show” with artsy vids for each composition. God Is an Astronaut orbits Casbah with L.A. experimentalists **Frequency** and the **Mt. St. Helens Vietnam Band**, a Seattle noise-pop quintet with a 13-year-old drummer who is reportedly the adoptee of the front man-guitarist and his multi-instrumentalist wife. Sweet.... Rock 105.3 throws **Five Finger Death Punch** at House of Blues. Go to the Angelino-based band's Space page for a taste of their “groove metal,” mug shots, and Monster ads, and feel free to judge this book by its cover — straight-up Jäger-rock. **In This Moment** and **Another Black Day** set the downtown stage.... Else: worthy SanDago garage-rock three-piece the **Stereotypes** throw down at Bar Pink...while round the bends down-tempo duo **Stereotech** tunes in at Beauty Bar...and **Anasaziz** wield **Knives** at the Ken Club.

Friday 5

When I say “WUI!” you say “HYPHEN TANG!” New Yawk hip-hop collective **Wu-Tang Clan** hits House of Blues Friday night. In their nearly 20 years on and off the grid they've become the most commercially successful and controversial rap act ever, though you wouldn't know it by the lukewarm reception and “ringtone rap” reviews of last year's *8 Diagrams*. Who dat next to RZA? These days, can't tell the playas without a scorecard.... On the WAY OTHER end of your radio dial, **Aimee Mann**'s “yuletide variety show” stops at Belly Up. Sets feature Mann behind her latest, *@#%&*!* *Smilers* (apparently pronounced *Fucking Smilers*); comedian **Patton Oswalt**; pop-folkie **Grant-Lee**



AIMEE MANN AT BELLY UP

Phillips; and the multitasking lady from London **Nellie McKay**.... Around town: Canuck “puck-rock” band the **Hanson Brothers** (the dudes from NoMeansNo) hip-check Brick by Brick into the boards...**Cattle Decapitation** rounds 'em up at Radio Room...**Heavy Love** and the **Modlins** pop rock the Ken Club...Ruby Room (old SDSC) fills a bill with quartet of comers **Hotel St. George**, **Calico Horse**, the **Moviegoers**, and **Da Bears**...Surf troubadour **Alex Woodard** and his **Naysayers** carry the night at Casbah with a freebie...and Bar Pink gets heady and hosts a Radio Silence book-release thing for this “selected visual history of American hardcore music”...put out by MTV Press. Huh.

Saturday 6

Let them eat cake, the **Sea and Cake**. The Chi-town indie icons serve it up at Casbah Saturday night. This year's *Car Alarm* does the improv-jazz-rock thing with the best of Prekop and Prewitt's



SEA AND CAKE AT CASBAH

output. Get the new Latin-flavored fare in your carousel. With Touch and Go label mates **Uglysuit**, these psych-pop sets make for best-baked bill of the week.... San Antone she-punk trio **Girl in a Coma** lay it down at Bar Pink. Last year the ladies signed to Joan Jett's Blackheart Records for debut *Both Before I'm Gone*. They were a hit at this year's SXSW and toured with, yup, Morrissey.... Soma stages L.A.-based popular punks **Rancid**. Tim Armstrong et al. are slated to release their first in, what, a decade since they bumped their heads into Green Day's ass. **Buck-O-Nine** and **Danny Diablo** open.... Cashville, TN, rapper **Young Buck** will be out at Canes Satty night rocking the mic with cuts from his latest collection, *Buck the World*. Indeed.... For your consideration: **Alexander Kent**, **Calico Horse**, and **BoomSnake** play the Ché.... **Apes of Wrath** and **Castaneda** (L.A.) coif to club pop at Beauty Bar.... While **Oaks**, **Get Your Death On**, **Hellrancho**, and **Sea Pansy** hard-rock the Ken.

Sunday 7

House of Blues has **Bad Brains**. The D.C. punk perennials are back at it in their own bad fashion. For 30-some-odd years the Brains have kept it real. Check the takes from last year's *Build a Nation*, but go to *I Against I* ('86) for a reggae-rounded hard-core education. With **Dub Trio** and **Kevin Seconds** this is one hella Sunday-nighter. Nothing else matters.



HELMET AT HOUSE OF BLUES

Monday 8

Jagjaguwar outfit **Wilderness** sign on for Casbah's Anti-Monday meet-up. The Baltimore four-piece has been confounding critics with post-punk ooze and operatic wailing, like PiL at half speed. Trippy good...great even. Go back to the beginning, '05's s/t debut, to '06's *Vessel States*, and then follow them down the rabbit hole of this year's *(K)no(w)here*. Voxman James Johnson is calling. **San Serac** and **Moonrats** open.... **All-American Rejects** find some acceptance at House of Blues. The Oklahoma poster boys' new power-pop collection *When the World Comes Down* is due in time for Christmas. Yay. **Jet Lag Gemini** and the **City Lives** support 'em.



BAD BRAINS AT HOUSE OF BLUES

Tuesday 9

Meshell Ndegeocello (pronounced *MEE-shell n-deh-GAY-o-chel-o*) is in the House of Blues. The last lady of soul is out to tout her latest, *The World Has Made Me the Man of My Dreams*. Always a bridesmaid, Ms. N.'s been nominated for ten Grammys over her 20-plus years. D'you know she was a go-go dancer. Mmm-hmm.... Brooklyn band **Longwave** just dropped their fourth collection of impeccable stuff, *Secrets Are Sinister*. The quartet's still playing arena rock in midsize clubs, like Casbah, with the local, less impeccable **Beautiful Noise** and Los Angelino indie kids the **Eulogies**.... It'll be metal mayhem at Brick by Brick, featuring Bay Area bad boys **High on Fire**, with **Black Cobra** and **Suffer Your Life**.... Organs grind and surf swells when **Monsters from Mars** land at Bar Pink. Do you do the Swim?

Wednesday 10

In the meantiime! Bang. Your. Head. It's gut-busting guitar night at House of Blues as '90s alt-metal hits **Helmet**, San Clemente stoners **Fu Manchu**, and SD space rockers **Earthless** kick out the f-ing jams.... Udderwise, Belly Up books local folkies the **Howls** with **Northstar Session** and the **Midwinters**...and **Agua Dulce** does their Latin-lounge thing at Beauty Bar. Shine yer shoes for that one, vato.

— Barnaby Monk

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Cool Clip King

"So were it not for pissing off a member of the Spice Girls, I would probably not have the company I have today."

It turns out that there are thousands of hours of vintage American jazz, blues, rock, and folk performances dating as far back as the '50s stored in the videotape libraries of television stations in, of all places, Europe. A treasure trove of rare footage for the producers of music television and documentaries — think MTV, VH1.

All that footage sat all but forgotten for decades until a video collector-turned-researcher named David Peck angered one of the Spice Girls in a green room at *The Late Show With David Letterman* one night in 1998.

Peck was visiting his longtime friend Paul Shaffer. After an autograph-signing attempt with Baby Spice for his nine-year-old niece went sour, Peck was shuttled to another green room. There he chanced to meet Rolling Stones/Allman Brothers keyboard player Chuck Leavell. Peck offered him copies of some rare old footage, and the two became friends.

"That summer," Peck writes on his website *reelintheyears.com*, "I was in Amsterdam to see the Stones, and I was backstage with both Chuck and Charlie Watts. They introduced me to a friend of theirs from Belgium who had a large library of material. It was through that friend that I became aware of the Belgian TV station RTBF, which subsequently became my first client. So, were it not for pissing off a member of the Spice Girls, I would probably not have the company I do today."

That company is Reelin' in the Years Productions, now a Grammy Award-nominated platinum- and gold-selling production company and licensing agent. Reelin' in the Years controls a library of some 10,000 hours of music performances on video. They have produced 40 music DVDs, including the critically acclaimed Jazz Icons series (*jazzicons.com*).

David Peck works out of modest basement offices in a San Diego house and employs a staff of seven. "Our common denominator," says David Peck of his company, "is that we all love music."

I stopped by on election day last month and

spoke with Peck and art director Tom Gulotta.

What is it exactly that you guys do?

Tom Gulotta: "The main thrust of RITY Productions is clip sales." (Gulotta later explains that a clip is a short segment of filmed footage, usually anywhere from 3 to 30 seconds in length.) "We represent television stations' archives to other producers. We act as agents, find-

ing and getting rare European footage into the hands of mostly American producers who have never seen this stuff and didn't know it existed."

David Peck: "We represent the television stations. We do all the work. We pay for everything; they pay nothing. They get a nice percentage if we make money. We don't buy the rights. We represent them. We know music. We know how much stuff is worth. Do you watch *Entourage*? Think of me as Ari, but not an asshole," he laughs. "Let's say VH1 wants to use 30 seconds of Black Sabbath doing 'Paranoid.' We license the use of the footage, meaning VH1 pays us to use the footage. We don't own the song; we don't own the band's likeness. VH1 pays someone else for those rights. That's how it works."

Why Europe?

TG: "European television stations have 50 years' worth of music footage archives because they didn't throw videotapes away or recycle them like television stations did here. Europeans cherished jazz way more at the time than Americans did in the '50s and '60s. The Europeans loved it, and they would film whole concerts — whereas the jazz guys and the blues guys here couldn't even get on TV in the U.S."

DP: "There's stuff over there that people had no idea existed. For example, no one thought there was footage of Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers with Lee Morgan and Benny Golson from '58. We found it, and it's one of our best sellers."

What's your plan B when all this Euro footage runs out?



David Peck and Tom Gulotta

DP: "Flip hamburgers," jokes Peck. "Actually, the dream for me is that I've got enough DVDs on the market where royalties are trickling in each year." He says later, "I want to stress, when I talk about making money off of the footage, it's not bootlegging. We legitimately license this product."

Back to the beginning — how did this get started?

DP: "I was in Off the Record one night. I was 18 at the time. The guy who worked there turned me on to all these great Stones videos. This was '84, when video collectors were underground. There was no YouTube; there was nothing. Collecting videos was a swapping thing. So he turned me on to this great rare stuff — the Stones playing with Muddy Waters — and that's when I got the bug and started collecting."

"In '86, John D'Agostino, who was then writing for the *Reader*, wrote an article about me as a collector, and it kinda went from there. I started doing research and consulting on projects. By '98, I started representing video libraries, and now I have amassed the world's largest library of music footage."

Does RITY have any video of local concerts or performances?

DP: "We have stuff that Henry Diltz, a famous rock photographer, shot. He made home movies of CSN&Y at Balboa Stadium. It's really cool because you can see the Coronado Bridge in the background. There's no question about where this was filmed. If there's anybody reading this that

has home movies of concerts shot here in the '60s and '70s, come to me. I can make you some cash."

This business must have some unique difficulties....

DP: "One time we were trying to clear a Carpenters' concert for Japanese television. Richard Carpenter is very careful about the image of Karen, and I understand why. People have made fun or twisted the facts around her death, which was obviously very tragic. We have this great concert of them from '74, and I say great because they were a great group. Karen was a really good musician. But Richard didn't like the dress she was wearing. And she wasn't thin at that time. She was a normal-sized woman. But he said, 'no.' You can't argue with that. His call to make. So we couldn't do anything with it."

RITY has been lauded nationally but is not well known in San Diego.

TG: "We've got 40 internationally distributed DVDs...."

DP: "We were given a platinum award, which is 100,000 sales, for our Temptations DVD. It is highly unusual for an archival DVD to sell that much...I would have thought that would be a little blip in the entertainment world of SD — two sentences, a mention — but nothing. The *Wall Street Journal* has written about us. We're getting mentioned in *Newsweek* and *CBS Sunday Morning*.... Why do I care? You want to be validated in your own hometown. It does mean something." ■



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DEC 4
ALL AGES



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THE DEAD TREES
RED CORTEZ
DEC 5
VOODOO STAGE



BAD BRAINS
KEVIN SECONDS AND DUB TINO
DEC 7
ALL AGES



THE ALL-AMERICAN REJECTS
GIVES YOU HELL
LET THE MUSIC
DEC 8
ALL AGES



Meshell Ndegeocello
DEC 9



HELMET
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EARTHLESS
DEC 10



Los Lobos
The Blasters • Indigenous
DEC 11



THE KING OF SOUL
ANTHONY HAMILTON
PLAYIN' IT COOL
DEC 12



BACK IN BLACK
AC/DC TRIBUTE
DEC 17



A SOULFUL CHRISTMAS
Brian Culbertson
Terry Malien
Mark Phillips
and Amanda Marley
DEC 18



UNWRITTEN LAW
SPRUNG MONKEY
DEC 19



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Wild Weekend
DEC 21



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Mephistopheles Burrows
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DEC 26



club LUCKY
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NYE 2008
CLUB MASSIVE
DEC 31



Reel Big Fish
JAN 1
ALL AGES



THE LAW
YOUR 2008
JAN 2
ALL AGES



the Radiators
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JAN 3



B.B. KING
Chris Floner
JAN 4

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12/29 SAN DIEGO ROCKS
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1/9 LED ZEPAGAIN
1/10 BONFIRE -A TRIBUTE TO EARLY ACDC
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1/16 MAZ JOBRANI
1/18 ERIC JOHNSON
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2/7 BADFISH A TRIBUTE TO SMILING

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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. — Epiphany Project. Folk. \$15-\$20.
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. — J.D. Souther. Singer-songwriter. \$15-\$20.

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.
Thursday, 7 p.m., Friday, 7:30 p.m. — The Anthology House Band. Jazz. \$5.
Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. — Crush. Covers/standards. \$10.
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. — Alanis Morissette and O.A.R. With Justin Nozuka, Safetysuit, and

Buckcherry. Alternative rock/pop. \$40-\$100.


Bare Back Grill - Downtown: 624 E Street, Downtown, 619-237-9990.
Tuesday, 8 p.m. — Lindsay White and Mary Grasso. With Chuck Charles, Ricardo Beas, Veronica May, and Tim Malley. Acoustic/rock/pop.

Belly Up Tavern: 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.
Friday, 9 p.m. — Aimee Mann. With Patton Oswalt, Nellie McKay, Grant Lee Phillips, and Morgan Murphy. Rock/pop/jazz. \$28-\$30.
Sunday, 7 p.m. — The Mar Dels. Covers/standards/rock. \$7.
Wednesday, 8 p.m. — The Howls and the Northstar Session. With the Midwinters. Indie/rock/pop. \$8.

Birch North Park Theatre: 2891 University Avenue, North Park, 619-239-8836.
Saturday, 7 p.m. — Makaha Sons. Traditional Hawaiian music. \$34-\$75.
Saturday, 7 p.m. — 8th Annual Hawaiian Christmas Show. Traditional Hawaiian music by the Makaha Sons and guests. \$34-\$75.

Bob Burton Center for the Performing Arts: 2400 South Stagecoach Drive, Fallbrook, 760-731-2278.
Friday, 8 p.m. — The Don Morris Singers and Westwind Brass. Popular Christmas tunes. \$10-\$30.

Brick by Brick: 1130 Buena Vista Avenue, Linda Vista, 619-275-5483.
Thursday, 8 p.m. — Jumbo. With Los Hollywood and Muralla. Rock en Español.
Friday, 8 p.m. — Hanson Brothers. With Rich White Males, the Bugs, and the Postals. Punk/hardcore. \$12.
Saturday, 8 p.m. — My Elysian. With In Every Breath, Otto's





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Sunday, 7:30 p.m. — Jung Ace. With Early the MC, J-Slim, the Female Menace, and more. Hip-hop/rap. \$10.
Tuesday, 8 p.m. — High on Fire. With Black Cobra and Suffer Your Life. Metal/rock. \$12-\$15.
Wednesday, 8:30 p.m. — Mermaid. With Bitter Sober and 3rd Identity. Alternative/indie/rock. \$5.

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.

California Center for the Arts, Escondido: 340 North Escondido Boulevard, Escondido, 800-988-4253.

Sunday, 2 p.m. — Coastal Communities Concert Band. Holiday concert benefit for Meals on Wheels.

Canes: 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-488-1780.

Thursday, 8 p.m. — The Bigfellas and Anna Troy. With the Orange Velvets, Endoxi, and Guava Belly. Alternative/pop/rock. \$6.

Saturday, 9 p.m. — Young Buck. Hip-hop/rap. \$20.

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Calendar MUSIC

Carvers: 11940 Bernardo Plaza Drive, Rancho Bernardo, 858-566-2400.
Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. — The Gold Dust Band. Covers country and classic rock.

The Casbah: 2501 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-4355.
Thursday, 8:30 p.m. — God is an Astronaut and the Frequency. With Mt. St. Helens Vietnam Band and guests. Indie/experimental/rock. \$10-\$12.

Friday, 8:30 p.m. — Alex Woodard. Acoustic/country/rock.
Saturday, 8:30 p.m. — The Sea & Cake. Indie/rock/pop. \$15.
Sunday, 8:30 p.m. — War Stories and the Burning of Rome. With Long Live Logos and Two Guns. Alternative/indie/rock. \$5.
Monday, 8:30 p.m. — Wilderness. With San Serac and Moonrats. Indie/post punk. \$8.
Tuesday, 8:30 p.m. — A Beautiful Noise and Longwave. With Eulogies. Indie/pop/rock. \$8.
Wednesday, 8:30 p.m. — Fever Sleeves and Modern Rifles. With Marasol and Followers. Indie/rock. \$5.

Dick's Last Resort: 345 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-231-9100.
Saturday — Willovealot. Smooth jazz.

Escondido Library: 239 South Kalmia Street, Escondido.
Thursday, 7 p.m. — Peter Sprague. The jazz guitarist is joined by Tripp (flute, sax), Leonard Patton (vocals), Gunnar Biggs (bass), and Duncan Moore (drums) for First Thursday Concert. 760-839-4329.

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.

House of Blues: 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-299-2583.
Thursday, 7 p.m. — Five Finger Death Punch. With In This Moment and Another Black Day. Metal/hardcore/rock. \$15.
Friday, 8 p.m. — Wu-Tang Clan. Hip-hop/rap. \$42-\$52.
Friday, 7:30 p.m. — Little Joy. With the Dead Trees and Red Cortez. Indie/rock/soul. \$11.
Sunday, 7 p.m. — Bad Brains. Punk rock. \$22.
Monday, 6:30 p.m. — The All-American Rejects. Pop/rock. \$20.
Tuesday, 7 p.m. — Meshell Ndegeocello. Soul/funk/rock. \$20-\$35.
Wednesday, 7 p.m. — Helmet. With Fu Manchu. Alternative/rock/metal. \$15-\$30.

Humphrey's Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island

NOTE

BY WILLIAM CRAIN

The **Uglysuit** is woefully misnamed. This Oklahoma City band clothes its songs in so much beauty it's almost embarrassing. "Chicago," the standout track on the Uglysuit's self-titled debut album, has got a chorus so uplifting and catchy that the producers of TV dramas are probably scrambling to win the rights to use it in the most romantic scene of their season finale.

You get the idea. Making fun of "Chicago" is too easy. One online review praised the Uglysuit's album but attacked that song, comparing it to Counting Crows, Travis, the Shins, and other "insipid rock bands." The writer didn't think the Shins

were insipid until the *Garden State* soundtrack made them into stars.

But one thing that makes the Uglysuit different from the radio-friendly likes of Counting Crows is that the Oklahomans really take their time getting to the hooks. That's the flipside of imagining a song like "Chicago" being edited into a TV show: You really can't imagine the song not being edited before it went on television. That gorgeous chorus accounts for a small fraction of the song's running length, and the rest is strangely amorphous. The same goes for the rest of the songs on the album. The Uglysuit noodles around — beautifully — with guitars, bass, drums, Hammond organ, piano, electric piano, setting a mood before suddenly sweeping into an unforgettable chorus.

In another age, a hotshot producer would have whipped these guys into shape,



cut out the filler, and made hit record after hit record. Today, we get to enjoy the leisurely ride up to the high point. It's worth the wait.

The Sea and Cake also perform.

UGLYSUIT, Casbah, Saturday, December 6, 8:30 p.m. 619-232-4355. \$16 advance; \$18 door.

Drive, Point Loma, 619-224-3577.
Thursday, 8 p.m. — Missy Andersen. Blues/soul/funk. \$5.
Friday, 9:30 p.m. — Detroit Underground. Covers Motown and dance hits. \$12.
Saturday, 9:30 p.m. — Rick Estrin & the Nightcats. Blues/R&B/roots. \$14.
Sunday, 8 p.m. — Will Donato. Smooth-jazz. \$12.

Monday, 7 p.m. — Steven White. Blues.
Tuesday, 7 p.m. — Jose Molina. Smooth-jazz. \$5.
Wednesday, 8 p.m. — The Soul Persuaders. Sweet soul music. \$5.

Jack's La Jolla - Ocean Room: 7863 Girard Avenue, La Jolla, 858-456-8111.
6 p.m. — Piano Bar. 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.

The Jumping Turtle: 1660 Capalina Road, San Marcos, 760-741-7778.
Mondays — Reggae Infusion Irie Time. Various reggae bands perform.

The Kraken: 2531 South Highway 101, Cardiff, 760-436-6483.
Saturday, 9 p.m. — The Farmers. Roots rock/Americana.
Sundays, 4 p.m. — The Blues Brokers. Blues/soul/rock.

Mas Fina Cantina: 2780 State Street, Carlsbad, 760-434-3497.
Wednesdays, 8 p.m. — Mike Gardner. Acoustic.



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<p>Tuesday, December 9</p> <p>HIGH ON FIRE</p> <p>BLACK COBRA</p> <p>SUFFER YOUR LIFE</p> 	<p>Friday, December 12</p> <p>B. Savage Productions presents</p> <p>SPLIT FINGER</p> <p>BRENDEN B & THE BREAKS SANDOLLAR RED CIRCLE UNDERGROUND</p> <p>Toys for Tots</p> 		

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12/13: BLUE TURTLE SEDUCTION

THE BLACKBIRDZ

12/18: KIM WILSON and his ALL-STAR

BLUES REVUE

12/20: MIKE PINTO

12/31: New Year's Eve THE DEVASTATORS



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31 • NEW YEAR'S EVE



SATURDAY, JANUARY 3



UPCOMING

1/2: Agua Dulce • Psydecarr

1/9: Lights (Journey Tribute)

1/10: Fishbone • 1/17: Necro

1/24: Tainted Love • 1/31: (hed) p.e.

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Classic Rock



5 Miles High

Sunday, December 7

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Monday, December 8

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KMMNWLTH (Hip-Hop Competition)

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Classic Rock



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Sunday, December 7

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Tuesday, December 9

Corey Wilkins Band ('70s Cover Band)

Wednesday, December 10

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Calendar MUSIC

McCabe's Beach Club: 1145 South Tremont Street, Oceanside, 760-439-6646.
Fridays, 4:30 p.m. — The California Rangers. Country.

Nancy's Pub: 4246 University Avenue, City Heights, 619-280-5834.
Sundays, 5:30 p.m. — The Steemin Heep Blues Band. A blend of traditional blues, swing, and rock. Ages 21 and up.

Nugent's Fishgrille Restaurant & Sportslounge: 12015 Scripps Highland Drive, Scripps Ranch, 858-566-3474.
Saturday, 6 p.m. — Mariner. Covers/standards/acoustic.

Osetra Watergrill: 904 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-239-1800.
Thursdays, 8 p.m. — Live Jazz. In the E5 Lounge.
Wednesdays, 8 p.m. — Los Reyes del Ritmo. Flamenco and Latin music in the E5 Lounge.

Pasquale on Prospect: 1250 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-456-0722.
Sundays, 6 p.m. — Stage 4. Jazz/rhythm and blues.

Peter D's: 5149 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Clairemont, 858-277-3217.
Wednesdays, 8 p.m. — Mystery

Train. Performs and hosts an open blues jam.

Portugalia: 4839 Newport Avenue, Ocean Beach, 619-222-7678.
Friday, 9 p.m. — Danyavaad & the Shimmy Sisters. Middle Eastern lounge and Indian fusion. \$10.

Rancho Bernardo Inn: 17550 Bernardo Oaks Drive, Rancho Bernardo, 858-675-8500.
Fridays, 5:30 p.m., *Saturdays*, 6 p.m. — Jerry Melnick & Tom Bishop. El Bizcocho Restaurant. Jazz/variety.

Red Fox Steakhouse: 2228 El Cajon Boulevard, University Heights, 619-297-1313.
Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, 9 p.m. — The Ed Rapacci Duo.
Mondays and Tuesdays, 9 p.m. — The Shawline Expression. With Dave Shaw & Paul Gregg.
Wednesdays, 9 p.m. — The Ed Rapacci Duo.

Rei Do Gado Churrascaria: 939 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-702-8464.
Thursdays, Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, 6 p.m. — Peter the Prince of Piano. Piano/pop.

Rosie O'Grady's: 3402 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-284-7666.
Tuesdays, 9:30 p.m. — Bdub's Jazz Jam Session. Modern jazz classics and standards every Tuesday, with Bryan Whelan, Doug Walker, Laurel Grinnell, and friends.

NOTE

BY DAVE GOOD

My dream list of bands to play at Barack Obama's inauguration in January includes Bad Brains. Why not? They are controversial, they have a huge reputation, and Washington, D.C., is their hometown. They started there as a jazzy funk band in 1977, but two years later they were playing the hardest, fastest punk ever heard.

Back in 1979 Bad Brains were banned, at least unofficially, from performing in D.C. They relocated to New York and a year later released what is credited by some as being the first (and possibly the finest) hardcore record. Consider also that Bad Brains were (and are) an all-Afro-American group with a serious thing for reggae. They blended Rasta mind and punk mind with extreme speed,

tight playing, and potent riffs and in so doing produced a style of musical opposites the likes of which hadn't been heard.

From a political bent, it is also interesting to consider that the Bad Brains of the '80s were outspoken homophobes. "Don't blow no bubbles/ There's got to be a better way/ Don't blow no spikes." But bassist **Darryl Jenifer** told a reviewer a few years ago that they're not like that anymore.

Politics aside, Bad Brains belongs in the pantheon of punk. You'll hear their influence on bands from Living Color to Smashing Pumpkins. Subject to internal volatility and many personnel changes, the current touring lineup has come full circle and consists of the founding members: H.R., Jenifer, guitarist Dr. Know, and Earl, the drummer. Never a huge success in terms of sales or radio



BAD BRAINS

play, Bad Brains' listening audience has always been a cultish mass out beyond the fringe. The most obvious of their fans have been the musicians and bands who have gained fame by borrowing from their classic sound over the past three decades.

BAD BRAINS, House of Blues, Sunday, December 7, 7 p.m. 619-299-2583. \$22.50.

The Round Table Cocktail Lounge: 1723 Euclid Avenue, City Heights, 619-264-6000.
Tuesdays, 6 p.m. — Charlie Blue. Blues.

Sevilla: 555 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-5979.
Mondays, 9 p.m. — Rock en Español.

Soma: 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma, 619-226-7662.
Friday, 6 p.m. — A Dull Science, Silent Armada, So Long Davey! With Play the Fox, Flight to Athena, Plane Without a Pilot, and Stereo Summer. Pop/punk/rock. \$10.

Saturday, 6:30 p.m. — Rancid. With Buck-O-Nine and Danny Diablo. Punk rock. \$20.

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.
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the variety show**

SAT. DEC 6

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DANNY DIABLO**

8:20 - 8:30 - LIVE NATION

THURS. DEC 11

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A SHATTERED HOPE
SECONDS FROM DISASTER
AS THEY BURN ALIVE**

FRI. DEC 12

SON13

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FRI. DEC 19

**TICK TO VOIT
GUNS**

MY CHILDREN MY BRIDE
GWEN STACY
AGRACEFUL
ATTACK ATTACK

SAT. DEC 20

HOLLYWOOD UNDEAD

FOREVER DAYS FORGOTTEN
THE ALERT SIGNAL

SAT. DEC 27

**NEW AGE HEROES
THE DUREE
MUFF
WITHOUT WARNING**

FRI. JAN 2

**TRAGEDY+TRIUMPH
HELLO MARQUEE
FLIGHT TO ATHENA
CASINO MADRID
LINDBERG SKIES
AMONG THE STORM**

SAT. JAN 3

**GOODNIGHT CAULFIELD
CRASH ENCORE
DYNAMITE WALLS**

SAT. JAN 17

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The casino event of the year is taking place on Saturday, December 6th when Valley View Casino will be giving away \$10,000 cash every hour from 11am to 8pm. Plus on the half hour you could win amazing prizes like iPods, flat screen TVs and GPS systems! We're giving away over \$100,000 in cash and prizes, and the only way to win is to play at Valley View Casino on December 6th. Just play your favorite slot machine and winners will be drawn randomly! It's that easy! To learn more visit ValleyViewCasino.com.

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Calendar

MUSIC

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

Winstons: 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822.
Mondays, 9 p.m. — The Electric Waste Band. Grateful Dead tribute. \$7.

UPCOMING SHOWS

4th&B: 345 B Street, Downtown, 619-231-4343.
December 12 — Slightly Stoopid.
December 13 — Norman Brown and Friends.

AcousticMusicSanDiego: 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights, 619-303-8176.
December 12 — Cris Williamson.
December 13 — Kelly Joe Phelps.
January 24 — Loudon Wainwright III.

Anthology: 1337 India Street, Little Italy, 619-595-0300.
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.
March 15 — The Irish Rovers.
April 28 — Mariza.

Belly Up Tavern: 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.
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.
December 18 — Venice.
December 19 — The Young Dubliners.
December 21 — Orquesta Primo.
December 22 — Years Around the Sun and Scarlet Symphony.
December 23 — The Devastators.

December 27 — Karl Denson's Tiny Universe.
December 28 — Particle.
December 29 — Cracker and Camper Van Beethoven.
December 30 — Kush & Bloodfiyah Angels.
December 31 — The Night Marchers and the Muslims.
January 2 — Pato Banton and Mystic Roots.
January 3 — Pepper.
January 4 — Orquesta Primo.
January 7 — The Michael Tiernan Trio.
January 9 — Elijah Emanuel & the Revelations.
January 10 — Dead Man's Party.
January 11 — David Lindley.
January 14 — Marc Broussard.
January 15 — The Knitters and the Farmers.
January 16 — Marcia Ball.
January 17 — 40 Oz. to Freedom.
January 19 — The Walkmen and Beach House.
January 21 — The North Mississippi Allstars.
January 22, January 23, January 24 — Ozomatli.
January 30 — The Cured.

Birch North Park Theatre: 2891 University Avenue, North Park, 619-239-8836.
January 16 — George Winston.
February 28 — The Lalo Schifrin Trio.

Brick by Brick: 1130 Buenos Avenue, Linda Vista, 619-275-5483.
December 11 — Zac Brown Band.

Canes: 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-488-1780.
December 11 — XIV, Beautiful Trouble, Sheila Sondergard.
December 12 — Murs.
December 15 — Franz Ferdinand.
December 18 — PAC 10 and ThumTac.

The Casbah: 2501 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-4355.
December 11 — Slowdrag and Run Run Run.
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 Misdelpia.

House of Blues: 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-299-2583.
December 11 — Los Lobos.



Album: *Girl Like This*, 2008
Artist: Laura Roppé
Label: self-released
Where available/price: lauraroppe.com (\$12 plus S&H), CDBaby.com (\$12.97) or for download at iTunes (\$9.99 for the full album, 99 cents per track), or Amazon.com (\$7.99 album, 89 cents per track)
Songs: 1) Girl Like This 2) Mama Needs a Girls Night Out 3) Float Away 4) Free 5) You Don't ASK 6) Little Daughter 7) Fly Fly Fly 8) Ooh La La 9) Come to Me 10) Sing a Love Song 11) Crazy About You and Me 12) Can't Take It Back
Band: Laura Roppé (vocals), Marc Intravaia (guitar), Matthew Embree (guitar, percussion), Rick Nash (bass), Bob Sale (drums), Sharon Whyte (keyboard, organ), Dennis Caplinger (violin, mandolin, banjo, Dobro guitar), Jennifer Argenti (violin), Crystal Keith (vocals), Tiffanie Kasner (vocals), Lesley Ballard (vocals), Lucy Arnold (vocals), Allyson Aabram (vocals), Marnie Skeen (vocals), Heather Dugdale (vocals), Liz Odle (vocals), Denise Luna (vocals), Jeri Farrar (vocals)
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BY OLLIE

something exceptional? There are no new musical notes, that's true. Do you play or sing any of those known notes in any of the

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 Waiters.
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 10 — Bonfire.
January 15 — Boyz II Men.
January 21 — Edwin McCain.
January 25 — Ramón Ayala.
January 27 — Tyrone Wells.
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.

Humphrey's Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-224-3577.
December 11 — Ruby & the Red Hots.
December 12 — Viva Santana.

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla: 700 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-454-3541.
February 19 — Carolina Chocolate Drops.

Poway Center for the Performing Arts: 15498 Espola Road, Poway, 858-748-0505.
December 19 — The RB Chorale.

manners inquired about above (exceptional and original being the most esteemed)?

If so, wonderful! Great things await. If not, that's fine. If you're a journeyman singer and you have an adequate band you can fit your time-tested lyrics into standard templates and crank out songs like license plates; every one a little bit different, but all essentially identical. You have the privilege to make a CD of what you do because you like it and because your friends like it.

Enter Laura Roppé. Roppé sings "new country" music in the form that helicoptered into the stadium in Garth Brooks's ugly-shirt pocket and has since stayed. Her band plays the songs competently. Her lyrics seem to be plucked from inspirational posters and the stickers on tailgates.



Laura Roppé

(From the song "Little Daughter": "If you break it you buy it/ Pay your debts and don't be late/ If you do something wrong, admit and learn from your mistakes/ Learn to play piano so your voice can soar and shine.")

If you don't enjoy that particular genre (girl country tinged with mid-century rock), the songs can be particularly grating. If you do enjoy the music, Laura and her band are, in short, "extra medium."

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

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



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Music & Event Calendar of December

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Friday, 5th:
Duane Peters Gunfight

Saturday, 6th:
Hair Metal Night with Leather N Lipstick

Sunday, 7th:
Football

Tuesday, 9th:
Closed from 8 pm on for private party

Wednesday, 10th:
Joe Wood

* Dates are subject to change * Check hensleypub.com for details

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THURSDAY • DECEMBER 11
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SATURDAY • DECEMBER 13
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SUNDAY • DECEMBER 14
SDMA HIP-HOP SHOW
**DEEP ROOTED
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YOUNG MASS
MC FLOW • MIKI VALE
ADDIQUIT • KAYO**

MONDAY • DECEMBER 15
ANTI-MONDAY LEAGUE PRESENTS
**THE VIRGINS
HOCKEY
DJ SkuLLcRuSheR**

TUESDAY • DECEMBER 16
**BLACK HONDO
GLADSTONE BAGS
NAUTICAL DISASTER**

WEDNESDAY • DECEMBER 17
**DARKER MY LOVE
LUMERIANS
CHRISTMAS ISLAND**

THURSDAY • DECEMBER 18
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**ZIGGY SHUFFLEDUST
AND THE SPIDERS
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Calendar MUSIC

94.9. **Wednesdays:** Rotating Crew. Spin house, electro, and hip-hop. 4673 30th Street, Normal Heights. 619-501-9831.

Bar Dynamite: *Thursdays*, 9 p.m.: DJs SG, Dubz, Teknikscian. Hip-hop, old skool, and mashups. \$5. *Wednesdays*, 9 p.m.: Deep House Nite. DJs Duane, Lil Ryan, and Johnny D spin house music.

1808 West Washington Street, Mission Hills. 619-295-8743.

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 DJs Brian Pollard, Stem, and Severin. \$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 and Saturdays*, 10:30 p.m.: DJ Steve Hasty. 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4695.

Deco's Restaurant & Nightclub: *Thursdays:* Krush. Hosted by Chase Costello, Steve Kamp, Jack Kennedy, and more. Hip-hop/mashups/party rock. Ages 18 and up. 731 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-696-3326.

Fannie's Nightclub: *Thursday:* DJ Harvest. 9143 Campo Road, Spring Valley. 619-698-2204.

The Filling Station: *Fridays and Saturdays*, 9 p.m.: DJ Dance Party. 9522 Miramar Road, Mira Mesa. 858-578-0757.

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.

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.

Morena Club: *Thursday*, 9:30 p.m.: DJs Campers and Samix. Spin reggae and underground hip-hop. 1319 Morena Boulevard, Linda Vista. 619-276-1620.

Sevilla: *Fridays*, 9:30 p.m.: Blazin' *Fridays.* Hip-hop and reggaeton with Blazin' '98.9. 555 Fourth Avenue, Downtown. 619-233-5979.

Spin Nightclub: *Friday:* Sharam. Electro/club/house. 2028 Hancock Street, Mission Hills. 619-294-9590.

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

Whistle Stop Bar: *Sundays:* Night of the Cookers. Listen to classics and favorites from personal jazz record collections. Ages 21 and up. *Tuesdays*, 9 p.m.: Friends Chill. Board games and mellow grooves every Tuesday night. Candyland, Connect 4, Operation, Atari and Nintendo on the big screen. Ages 21 and up. 2236 Fern Street, South Park. 619-284-6784.



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Missy Andersen



Friday, December 5 ■ 6 pm
Original Rock

Allegra Barley

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

Sunday, December 7 ■ 10 am-2 pm

Jazz Brunch with Will Donato

8 pm ■ Jazz

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Monday, December 8 ■ 7 pm
Blues

Steven White

Tuesday, December 9 ■ 7 pm
Jazz

Jose Molina Serrano

Wednesday, December 10 ■ 8 pm
Soul

The Soul Persuaders

Friday, Jan. 9

Coco Montoya

Crasher

DRUNKEN LIMBO

by Josh Board

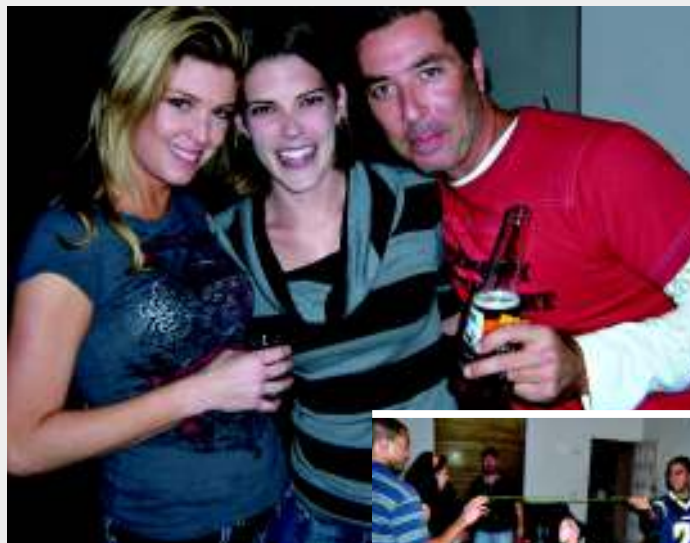
a few times a year, local party legend Bear Paw gives me the heads up on a party. His directions on my voice mail are always amusing. This one said, "I don't know the name of the street. Maybe it's Ohio. But it's behind Vons. You'll find it. Just look for the big Astro Jump thing in the front yard."

I found the North Park locale, and though nobody was using the inflatable jumper, it was the perfect landmark.

There was a handful of people drinking on the porch. The party had started mid-afternoon, and many of the guests would be moving on to the Ken Club to watch some bands. Someone told me about a storm-tunnel concert they were going to after that. "You have to check it out," he said, "but it's late. The bands don't usually go on until about 2:00 a.m."

The North Park party was for Jessica, who was turning 23. She took me inside and showed me a piñata a friend made for her, and I noticed a few cards and presents on the table.

Since Bear Paw wasn't



Top left: From left, Denise, Julie, and Albert; Top right: Julie the hairstylist, on left; Bottom left: As the night is ending, limbo is beginning; Bottom right: Nick, the sushi chef, on far right

there, and it didn't look as if there was much food, my girlfriend and I went out to eat. We got a call from friends going to the Hillcrest theaters for a

movie and decided to join them.

I was going to go back to Jessica's party after the movie but wasn't sure if they'd left for

features.

My girlfriend was glad it was a sushi party.

When we showed up, Nick

for my friends," he told me. "I don't mind the work it takes, and it's fun to have everyone hanging out."

An Asian woman overheard me say that I know little about sushi, so she started telling me about it. The most interesting story she shared involved a restaurant called Ninja in New York. She talked about the swords that the chefs use and the elaborate desserts they keep on a bed of ice. My girlfriend interjected a joke about

The date was horrible, but the wine was excellent.

the Ken Club yet. I decided on a party in Pacific Beach that a guy named Nick told me about.

The P.B. party was at a large, two-story house with some interesting architectural

was out front with a few guys smoking. I asked him about the sushi. He told me that it took him a few hours to prepare. Nick's worked as a sushi chef for years. "I love preparing food

Ninja stars being thrown at customers.

A blonde named Denise came over and offered me a drink. She was one of Nick's roommates. I noticed their large selection of booze. Denise leaned in and said, "I've gotten into wine recently." I ask what wine goes best with sushi. "Oh, we have sake for that." She poured me one and I downed it. Another guy told me that he prefers heated sake. His girlfriend added, "You get drunk a lot faster with hot sake. I don't know why the heat affects the alcohol content, but it does."

Denise, who was getting giggly, offered to show me around the house. In one of the downstairs rooms, a few guys were watching TV. I asked a woman sitting nearby what she did for a living. She said she owned Ellure Salon on Park and Market downtown. She said, "I was going to advertise in the *Reader*, but you guys are too expensive!" I smiled and said, "Okay, well, I'll tell ya what. I'll mention your salon in my column." She jumped up and said,

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Friday, December 5 • No Cover

WEST OF 5

Saturday, December 6 • No Cover

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Sunday, December 7 • No Cover

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January 16

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January 16

"High School Musical Ice Tour"

January 28-Feb. 1

Robin Williams

February 12

Chargers vs. Raiders

December 4



METALLICA
December 15

Mötley Crüe

February 2

Styx

February 14

"Grease"

March 3-8

"Rent"

March 10-15

"Thomas & Friends"

March 20, 21, 22

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March 20

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December 30

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Broncos.....Dec. 28

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Crasher

"I'll give you a free hair-cut." I lifted my cap to show her my receding hair-line and said, "That won't be necessary." Her boyfriend made a few jokes that seemed to make her a bit uncomfortable, so I changed the subject to the

Chargers — someone had a team jersey on. Later, I heard the hairstylist talking about how she teaches her clients about makeup...and arranging flowers.

As Denise walked by on her way to the kitchen, she told me that she contributes to Yelp. A guy in the kitchen grabbed me in a headlock, and Denise told him to chill out and chided

him for always acting crazy. He let go of me and apologized.

Continuing our tour, I followed Denise upstairs. She said, "I'll show you the VIP room." I asked her what that was, and she whispered, "My bedroom."

She opened a drawer full of wine corks and told me that she collects them. I mentioned that a guy I smoked cigars with years ago collected his cigar rings, which, when you looked at the variety of colors in the big glass jar, was like artwork. The corks all looked the same. She told me about some of her favorite wines as she held up the different corks. One came with a story about how the date was horrible, but the wine was excellent.

One of her roommates

was in a loft reading a book. With the music blaring, I wasn't sure how she could concentrate. I said, "You're being unsocial." Denise said, "That's what she does at our parties. She stays up here." The roommate smiled.

Denise introduced me to a friend who looked like Hilary Swank. The woman told me that she works in promotions for NBC.

I noticed that the people in this group had interesting jobs. One guy told me about being a marine biologist. But, at that point, I'd had four sakes and two Red Bull and vodkas. I was feeling a buzz, and my notes were getting sloppy.

I thought the crowd had started doing karaoke but soon realized it was a couple of drunk guys

singing along to the music. When I mentioned this to a guy nearby, he said, "Yeah, I know. With this many Asians, you'd think there would be karaoke."

About a half hour later, the crowd in the living room was doing the limbo. Everyone was plastered from the wine, sake, and beer, and it was a lot of fun to watch. A Latina from L.A. who met this crowd online was trying to get me to participate. A woman named Julie offered a good technique for me to try, but my head was spinning.

My girlfriend was talking to Nick about his sushi, and it seemed as if he had to repeat himself several times. I appreciated the fact that he wasn't pushy about having me try it. I ate a few California rolls,

but that's all I touched.

As I was getting ready to leave, Denise told me that she works part-time as a bartender at the Aero Club. I told her that we'd try to stop in for drinks sometime. As I got my camera out to snap a few final photos, Denise said, "Just take pictures of the good-looking people." A guy next to me said to her, "But then you wouldn't be in the photo." She laughed as she opened another bottle of wine. ■

Crash your party? Call 619-235-3000 x421 and leave an invitation for Josh Board.

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

The Kensington Club

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Friday, December 5
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THE MODLINS
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Saturday, December 6
**OAKS
GET YOUR DEATH ON
HELL RANCHO
SEA PANSY**

Thursday, December 11
THE PAPER DOLLS

Friday, December 12
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Modigliani Mussels, Absinthe Fountain

The current may have swept away the Currant I reviewed glowingly a year ago, but it hasn't drowned the restaurant's civilized atmosphere. Last spring, big-shot chef Jonathan Pflueger departed (assisted by a gentle kick in the rear) for reasons that were top secret for all of two minutes, until the online communiqués spread from foodie to foodie and from blog to blog: At the California Restaurant Association annual gala awards banquet, said chef and his girlfriend weren't just pixilated — they were obnoxious. Not only were they seen out of the banquet, but the next day, the chef was tossed out of his gig. He was a terrific cook, but embracing his demons in front of the whole local restaurant industry was a tad indiscreet, no?

An interim chef was swiftly found, and the restaurant's focus changed from Cal-Continental to "American brasserie." By now, that chef has also left, replaced a little over a month ago by Michael Rubino, most recently executive chef of the local branch of Napa Valley Grille. "He's so talented and was so stymied there by corporate restrictions, I was thrilled to get him," says restaurant manager Sanjay Parekh. This review is actually terribly premature — I didn't know until the day before my deadline that Michael was such a newcomer. In this short time, he has changed the kitchen organization and the breakfast and lunch and bar menus but has only begun to remake the dinner menu — where the three best appetizers are his own. He's been fiddling with the interim chef's entrées but hasn't had time yet to thoroughly revise or replace them. No surprise, then, that the new appetizers are better than the old entrées.

I was drawn back to Currant by two reports: The Lynxster (always first on the scene, unless Ariana beats her to it) had eaten there recently and liked it enough to urge me to try it. And the local "newspaper of record" reported with total inaccuracy that the restaurant was offering a weeknight three-course menu for \$30. Well, sorry, it isn't. Once opera season starts, they'll have a three-course "early bird" discount dinner, but it's not there yet. On Monday nights, selected wines are half price, but the bad news is that most of the wines on the half-price "Bon Marché" list are very expensive — like \$200. We did dig up a few interesting under-\$50 bargains, but in gen-



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE KLEIN

eral, if you're on a budget, you're better off with the regular wine menu, which has lots of affordable choices.

Yet, Currant remains one of the most pleasurable eating places in town, handsome and well run. The visual style is deliciously Parisian Art Deco, with high ceilings, black-and-white flooring, a well-populated but mellow center bar, and comfortable banquettes at most of the tables. The ambient music offers classic '50s and '60s jazz played softly, the mellowest of bebop, with lots of meditative alto or baritone sax, all in perfect tune with the decor. The restaurant had me at "Moanin'."

Our waiter was a paragon, not just competent but kindly. He knew most of the answers to our questions, and when he didn't, he'd ask somebody rather than try to snow us with BS. He seemed to share our enjoyments, making us feel as if we were collaborating to make the best possible dinner, as though money weren't even involved.

Currant is one of a few local restaurants to serve absinthe, now that it's legal again. The myths about the fabled potion, nicknamed the

"Green Fairy," were that it was mildly hallucinogenic, slightly poisonous (due to a substance called thujone, a component of wormwood, from which the drink is distilled), and rapaciously addictive. It was famously a favored intoxicant of

Paris bohemians, including Oscar Wilde, poet Charles Baudelaire, artist Amedeo Modigliani, et al. In Edgar Degas's famous painting, *L'Absinthe*,

the subjects look like nodding junkies — haggard, sickly barflies. You could say the painting was exaggerated tabloid reportage: According to Wikipedia, the male model was drinking coffee, and the woman may have just eaten some bad lobster pot pie. Absinthe is no more hallucinogenic or poisonous than any other distilled liquor, although it is quite strong (45–75 percent alcohol by volume). However, the lore about its inspirational and destructive powers and its popularity with the artistic class inspired France (and soon afterwards, the U.S.) to ban it around 1915, when the country needed more healthy cannon fodder for World War I, not happy poetic drunks getting blotto in cafés. If hipsters love a recre-

Currant ★★★ (Very Good)

140 West Broadway, downtown, 619-702-6309, currantrestaurant.com.

HOURS: Breakfast, Monday–Friday 6:30–9:30 a.m., weekends 8:00 a.m.–noon; lunch, weekdays 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.; dinner, nightly 5:30–10:00 p.m.

PRICES: Appetizers, \$3–\$14; appetizer platters to share, \$14–\$20; entrées, \$17–\$32; sides, \$5–\$7; desserts, \$9–\$12; house-made ice creams, \$6.

CUISINE AND BEVERAGES: "American brasserie" food with a Mediterranean palate, local produce, and a lightened, seasonal touch. Wines, beers, full bar with creative cocktails, and absinthe service. Half-price wines on Monday from a select list of mainly budget-buster wines.

PICK HITS: Heirloom beet salad with melted leek tart; mussels and fries with fennel pollen; five-onion soup with short ribs and marrow; applewood-smoked salmon; Duroc pork ribs (specify medium-rare); pumpkin profiteroles, house-made ice creams.

NEED TO KNOW: Valet parking at the Sofia Hotel, on the west side of the building. Civilized, convivial, casual-chic; nice-casual garb.

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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ational substance, however benign, repressive governments are sure to take up arms against it. (Absinthe did remain legal in other countries, including the British commonwealth — perhaps because it was not that popular there.)

It's still powerful and tastes exotic. One glass sufficed for our foursome — we quickly learned that absinthe dothn't make the heart grow fonder. A sugar cube in a small slotted spatula is set over a cocktail glass under a slow-dripping "absinthe fountain" of ice water. The brand they're serving at Currant isn't very green; it's what's called white absinthe. When the liquid turns cloudy, drink at will. You can see why hipper-than-thou would-

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Calendar

RESTAURANTS

be addicts (in thrall to an earlier version of 1970s-'80s "heroin chic") loved it, since the procedure is as ritualistic as cooking junk in a spoon and tying off veins — something to provide ceremonial order and structure to the chaos of real life. The flavor is crisply herbal, anise-like, but less resinous than I expected. It's not a liqueur but liquor.

It was fun to taste the myth at long last, but once our wine arrived, we abandoned the last few sips in favor of a lively \$38 half-priceable white called "G-Licious" from G Cellars in Napa, a Chardonnay-Sauvignon blend. It certainly hit the, uh, spot. For the entrées, we chose a Santa Barbara Cabernet Franc from that list, called "Vixen." Sounded sassy, tasted sassy, and proved extremely food-friendly, fruity, and fun to drink.

Dinner began with yeasty warm rolls and too-chilled butter that was sprinkled with coarse red sea salt from Hawaii. Our first course — all dishes from the new chef — was our best course. In the heirloom beet salad, the marinated red beets are just an excuse for the main attraction, an alluring, melted leek tart garnished with a big white pouf of *fromage blanc* (France's version of *queso fresco*), all lightly touched with basil oil and balsamic reduction. For posse newcomer Micki Two (real name Michelle, but not the same Michelle as Jim's regular squeeze), this was the evening's best dish.

We all loved the *moules frites* — black mussels in an intriguing, slightly tart and

dark-flavored broth based on Sauvignon Blanc, assertive herbs, and that trendy new condiment, fennel pollen. The ingredients created a sinuous and sophisticated new flavor that somehow evoked, for me, the Parisian bohemia that used to drink absinthe — a Modigliani for the mouth. You get fries with that, of course, and they're narrow and good for as long as they're hot.

Caramelized five-onion soup is a whole new twist on the classic, and it's heartbreakingly wonderful. It's actually a meat soup, filled with tender shreds and bites of short ribs among the very sweet onions and tangy liquid, plus (somewhere) black truffles. Instead of the traditional melted Gruyère, it's topped with a crouton spread with roasted beef-marrow butter. If I wanted a light but utterly fulfilling dinner (or breakfast!), this soup, along with a warm buttered roll and a glass of wine, would do it for me — and for those 50 million Frenchmen who can't be wrong. I feel sorry for the weary Greyhound passengers debarking at the station next door who almost certainly don't know about this.

Shrimp pizzette with arugula, basil pesto, crisp pancetta, and Parmesan sounds good, tastes nice, but finally registers as an adept home cook's "raid the fridge" desperation dinner, though its leftovers make a fun breakfast. Other starter choices include salads, ahi tartare, and share-plates of seafood, cheeses, charcuterie (which includes some house-made items), and hummus. Once the chef has time to start stretching out, he intends to do more with house-made charcuterie.

While the chef reworks or replaces the entrées, starters alone would make an ace grazing din-

ner! Mussels, onion soup, beet salad, perhaps ahi tartare, if you're not too bored with the genre, or a charcuterie plate and/or cheese plate, or maybe the sautéed calamari and shrimp share plate, plus a shared dessert — and voila, a meal of all good things for about \$30 a person, plus wine, tip, and tax. If the appetizers were rated separately from the entrées, they'd get at least a half star more — this chef has some fresh ideas.

The entrée we liked best — the only one mainly devised by the current Currant chef — offered fresh salmon lightly smoked in applewood. It's not very smoky but is as tender at its narrow parts as in the thick center, surrounded by baby-veggie sprouts and plated over a revisionist succotash that substitutes carrot chunks and small chick peas for lima beans. The dish didn't sing, but the fish fed us well.

Grilled Maine scallops were barely cooked, seared on the exterior and translucently melting at the centers. They were great, perfect. But beneath them (oh, *far* beneath them) was a sludge of butternut-squash risotto, the worst of all possible worlds. The squash purée was weighed down by the rice, and vice versa, a dysfunctional family soap opera on the plate. It is slated to disappear very soon.

Pork tenderloin, from a Duroc heritage-breed porker, comes well accompanied with braised fennel, Tuscan white bean purée, and currant gooseberry sauce. It has the potential for perfection, but when we asked for the pork "rosy, medium-rare," it arrived well-done, 20 or 30 degrees too cooked. The chef has been torn between the camps of pork-fearers who want it cooked well done, and the foodies, who know

that you can trust a well-reared heritage hog not to be carrying any nasty bugs. We talked about this issue when I phoned him, and he's decided to go with rosy as the default in the future and to train the servers to ask if diners want it more cooked than that.

The lobster pot pie was the creation of the recently departed chef, and it ought to have departed from the menu yesterday. The menu says the sauce is béchamel, but our waiter warned us it would be brown sauce. We tried it anyway and regretted it thoroughly. Waste of good lobster meat, swamped in the mud.

Dessert is a strong suit, even though our first-choice "jasmine soufflé" wasn't available that night. Pastry chef Maggie Nolan's pumpkin profiteroles (mini cream puffs) with dark chocolate sauce offered spiced puréed squash as a velvety second sauce, with whipped cream as the filling. They were surprising and delightful with their perfect light pastry. A *feuilleté* (minus the accent mark on the menu) with persimmons, pears, and lemon verbenia ice cream was rather heavy in comparison — not bad, but those cream puffs were dancing the cancan. Finding "saffron pistachio" ice cream on the menu was exciting — it was one of my favorite ice creams 20 years ago traveling in south Asia — in this case, the recipe comes from manager Sanjay's mother. Highly enjoyable but subtle, it had big chunks of pistachios and merely a hint of saffron.

Currant's food is not yet equal to original chef Jonathan Pflueger's fiercely intelligent cooking (which earned four stars). This is a younger chef, newly freed from a corporate

restaurant, still stretching his wings after years bound into slavery, and he's just barely started to express himself here. But he's hugely promising, and the restaurant itself remains a marvel of casual-chic enjoyment. I find myself envying travelers staying at the Hotel Sofia, who can hop downstairs for their meals and libations.

ABOUT THE CHEF

Like a lot of chefs born to the middle class, Michael Rubino fell into cooking because he didn't like school. Raised in L.A., he was already in college and bored out of his gourd, floundering from one major to the next. After four years with no degree, his father finally told him, "You have to decide on something. Isn't there something you like doing?" The answer was cooking. "I went to a community college in cooking, and then I was in the first Cordon Bleu class at the California Culinary in Pasadena.

"I was at Napa Valley Grille for 2½ years, my first executive chef position. I came from Napa Valley Grille in Los Angeles, where I was chef de cuisine." Before then he worked at a 100-year-old restaurant in Calabasas that specialized in game meats and at several fairly well-known Los Angeles restaurants. He and Currant manager Sanjay Parekh met by chance while he was working at NVG, and when Rubino saw the "help wanted" ad on craigslist, he answered it. Sanjay remembered their meeting and hired him.

"I'm thankful for everything I learned from corporate, but I'm so glad to be out of a corporate environment," Michael says. "I'm so much more comfortable here. At Napa, you had free range on the menu, but at a certain point we were told

where we could order from. I feel like you should order from a meat company, a fish company, a produce company, and I felt it was time to move on." At Currant, he uses Specialty Produce, L.A. Specialty, and Mocerri Produce (a cooperative company composed wholly of local North County growers) and meats from ex-chef turned meat-man Hans-Trevor Gossman at Hamilton Meats — hence, the clean, trustworthy pork. The fish come from an L.A. company Rubino trusts.

"We consider ourselves a brasserie, but an American brasserie where it's lighter and more creative than traditional brasseries. In San Diego, it should be all about the seasonality of the vegetables. I'll keep some traditional dishes — I'm looking forward to cassoulet and making my own sausages for it — but also do lighter fare. We need more fresh white fish here, too. I can't wait to get the fish 'n' chips off the menu." Also look for the scallops to become an appetizer course, plated over a sunchoke purée instead of risotto.

Budget Meal of the Week:

Another great destination goes affordable at the start of the dinner hours, with Bernard'O restaurant offering Sunset Dinners from 4:30–5:30 p.m. on weeknights. Two courses are \$24.75, three courses are \$29, and there are superb choices from top chef Patrick Ponsaty (ex of El Bizcocho) for every course. Among the entrée possibilities: braised venison with celery root mousse and chestnuts, and chicken *sous vide*, with wild mushrooms and black truffle sauce. 12457 Rancho Bernardo Road, Rancho Bernardo, 858-487-7171; bernardorestaurant.com. ■



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Beepers and Omelettes

“We serve 20,000 meals a week,” he says between crunches.

Nobody goes to the hospital unless they have to. Or their buddy has to.

My buddy Cisco had to today. Tests. He’s like me: car-free. So our neighbor Linda offered her Nissan. Bless that gal. Oh, man. Worried about him. That smoker’s cough. I drop him off at Sharp Memorial on Health Center Drive — their new Outpatient Pavilion, a real palace — and suddenly have two hours to kill. What do you do for two hours up in deepest Kearny Mesa at 6:30 in the morning?

“Go have breakfast, for both of us,” says Cisco as the elevator swallows him up.

“We do have a cafeteria,” says the lady at the front desk. “If you turn left out the door, head up toward the walkway, second on your...”

OK, I get lost a couple of times, but 15 minutes later, I’ve joined a stream of nurses and doctors heading up these stairs and onto a balcony with biscuit-colored umbrellas scattered along maybe 20 yards of deck. But, hey, it looks out toward trees and haze and, I’m guessing, right down to the coast. Then — even though there ain’t no sign — I follow this nurse through a mirrored-glass door in a mirrored-glass wall. And suddenly, we’re inside a big cream-on-cream cafeteria.

That’s OK. I’ll forgive them the color scheme, ’cause I can smell the cawfee and the bacon frying, hear a buzz of bleary people bonded by sleep deprivation. I’m also pretty sure they’re going to be charging hospital-cafeteria rates. Like, low.

Still, I feel like pretty much the only civilian right now. The cashier ladies are dressed in chocolate blouses and black slacks, the cafeteria staff are in midnight blue, the nurses are in chemical green, and flashing through them are the white-coats. Doctors.

“Eating helps,” says this gal Cathy into a cell

phone. She’s sitting at one of the round tables. “I’ve been here for a week. Sleeping in a cot beside my daughter. She’s 24. Crohn’s disease.”

She must be talking to someone out of state, because she’s describing the weather, everything.

Including, natch, the food. “Their chicken strips are great. Not greasy. Split pea soup’s to die for. The soup and salad...my dear, I’ve had everything. And it’s all so cheap....”

There’s no music. All you hear is the burble of conversation and the zit-zit-zit of the two cash

registers. I make my way through the checkout ladies toward a forest-green area — hey, color! — a servery and salad bar and an actual purple-painted entrance. That’s where you go to get a squirt of Purell hand sanitizer before you start touching the food.

They have a big breakfast counter where Marcus Rivera is making omelets. You know it’s him, because they have his photo and an inscription below congratulating him for making this a happy place to work in. He has a rack of chafing dishes loaded with everything from egg scramble to hash browns, to macaroni and cheese, to frijoles and bacon and salsa. For sure, we’re not being told to eat only nuts and twigs here.

But — this must be subliminal, right? — I cross to the salad bar, grab a plate and start loading up with granola, grapes, prunes, raisins, slices of pear and peach, a splot of strawberry yogurt...and then I stop myself, because I realize I’m going to be paying by weight, at \$4.80 per pound. On the way to the checkout ladies, I pour myself a 12-ounce coffee into a “No CFCs” cup. My plate weighs 0.7 of a pound at the checkout. They want \$3.38 for that, and \$1.12 for the coffee. No refills, but it’s not a bad deal.

I sit down, surrounded by stressed people on

cell phones. Nursing staff organizing gurneys for the day’s surgery patients, doctors talking about “duodenals,” patients’ relatives reporting to the family on how things are. I gouge into my fruits and yogurt. Mmm, now that I think about it, not a bad way to start the day. Must mention this to Ms. Carla. I wolf it down, then slip back to the Outpatients to check up on Cisco.

“Still another hour,” says the nurse.

So, heck, back to the trough. This time I decide to test Marcus’s skills. I order a cheese-and-meat omelet and start adding on from the extras set out in pots. Tomatoes, green peppers, hash browns, salsa, melted cheese on the omelet. Marcus tosses plenty of chopped sausage into the pan on the hot plate. It all costs \$3.99, plus 70 cents for hash browns. Sweet deal. I grab a black plastic knife and fork, hand over \$5.05 (including tax), and head back to my table. Oh, man. Hash browns, omelet, sausage. Sort of an antidote to the fruit salad I started off with.

Plus, pretty soon Cathy comes over from a nearby table and starts talking with the older woman doing a crossword at the table next to me. And then the three of us are sharing worries about what’s going on with our buddies. Cathy’s got the daughter going through Crohn’s disease, Yolanda has her husband upstairs right now, having his bladder biopsied. “We’ve been married



Marcus Rivera

45 years,” she says quietly. I tell them about Cisco and smoking and how being uninsured sucks, and, bonded by mortal worries, we’re suddenly best of pals. I even get to talking with a tall guy in a chef’s uniform. He’s holding a meeting with half a dozen staff at the next table. Robert B. Hicks, in charge of all the food at this hospital. He’s eating an apple for breakfast.

“We serve 20,000 meals per week,” he says between crunches. And yes, absolutely, the public’s welcome, even if they don’t have a loved one being treated here.

Then, like midnight for Cinderella, it’s 8:30. Must be shift change, ’cause the place seems to empty out. Me too. I’ve got to go check on Cisco. It’s like take-a-deep-breath time for everybody. Out beyond the purple door lies reality, up and down, good and bad. ■

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Calendar RESTAURANTS

RESTAURANT LISTINGS

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BEACHES

Bull and Bear Bar and Grill 1271 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-551-0077. "Bull" and "Bear," as in stock market moods. It's not surprising lots of soigné financial types gather here around sunset, but the food comes at proletarian prices. Of course the names kowtow to mighty Wall Street: the Broker Breakfast Burrito (eggs, bacon), Venture Capital Veggie Burrito, Bull Burger, Dow Jones Dog, Francheesie Dog. Best bang for the buck: the Hot Stock Burger, a half-pound patty with a split Louisiana sausage on top. Bottom line: it's a chew with a view. Open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily (bar open till 2 a.m.). Inexpensive. — E.B.

Café Japengo 8960 University Center Lane, University City, 858-450-3355. Here Bentleys and Beemers far outnumber Buicks. Inside is contemporary with an Asian flair, complete

with kimono stands and bamboo forests. Sushi is the specialty, and it's above average, although the sushi-bar chefs aren't very friendly and the seasoned rice tastes quite salty. The highly prized fatty tuna (*toro*) and flying fish roe (*tobiko*) are offered when available. Otherwise, they may be replaced by smelt roe (*masago*), which may be a minor disappointment. However, the *uni* (sea urchin roe) is pristine. If you appreciate subtlety, try the egg-omelet sushi (*tamago*), a delightful mixture of eggs, sake, and mirin. Creative party rolls are especially popular here, including the amusing Tootsie Roll — sweet and spicy, crunchy and spongy, with fried soft shell crab topped with grilled shiitake mushrooms, avocado, and a sake marinade. Entrées are often a letdown, but diners may be satisfied to make a meal from appetizers like the *char su* duck salad with goat cheese, candied pecans, and pomegranate vinaigrette; duck wontons with coriander pesto and *ponzu* sauce; and an excellent kimchi martini. No reservations for the sushi bar; arrive early for prompt seating. Lunch weekdays only; sushi bar opens at 5 p.m.; dinner begins at 6 p.m. Very expensive. — B.D.

The French Gourmet 960 Turquoise Street, Pacific Beach, 858-488-1725. In the mood for pâté, rata-touille, or calf's liver in a homey atmosphere? Make a reservation at the French Gourmet *tout de suite*. Start off with traditionally prepared escargots or mussels. The onion soup is good, but hope that the soup du jour is gingered cream of carrot. Entrées include lamb loin, veal tenderloin, bouillabaisse, and fish, with several preparation choices for chicken or filet mignon. The pan-roasted halibut is gently enhanced with a champagne beurre blanc sauce and topped with crispy braised leeks. Desserts abound, with an imported French cheese plate topping the list — along with pastries, meringues, etc., all freshly prepared in-house. Bakery, breakfast, and lunch daily; no dinner Sunday or Monday. Moderate to expensive. — S.M.

Island Prime 880 Harbor Island Drive, Downtown, 619-298-6802. Deborah (Kemo Sabe) Scott is the chef

and co-owner (with the Cohn Restaurant Group, owners of many San Diego restaurants) at this high-end steakhouse with a bay view. The steaks and roast beefs are delicious, as you'd expect, but also enjoy creative appetizers and sides like shaved corn with black truffle and a seared ahi stack. Salt runs freely, and the excellent international wine list runs high. Do reserve; free parking. Open daily, dinner only. Very expensive. — N.W.

Kono's 704 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-483-1669. This inside-outside café is your prototypical California surfer hangout. It's cream and green with maroon canvas window canopies, red-painted make-believe shutters, and three surfboards sprouting through the roof. On weekends, lines of tourists come looking for their California fix. But Kono's is known among locals, too, for generous breakfasts. Check out their PBS: Pancakes, Bacon and Scrambled eggs. Or the breakfast sandwich with eggs, bacon, cheese, and tomato on a toasted English muffin. Or the CB Burger (chicken breast, green chili, and pica sauce). Best time: foggy mornings. Chow down on their patio on the pier while you enjoy a bird's-eye view of surfers appearing out of the mists below. Breakfast and lunch daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

The Mission Café and Coffee House 3795 Mission Boulevard, Mission Beach, 858-488-9060. Gourmet and Latino breakfasts served in funky surroundings. Outstanding are cinnamon French toast, blackberry-banana pancakes, and roast beef hash with rosemary potatoes and eggs. Chino-Latino lunch items. All dishes plus fabulous bread, scones, muffins available for take-out. Open daily 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.W.

Roy's 8670 Genesee Avenue, University City, 858-455-1616. Our own noisy outpost of top Hawaiian chef Roy Yamaguchi's ever-expanding chain has elements of both "top chef" and "chain" about it. Decoding Roy's Rules of Ordering can make the difference between a mediocre dinner and a very happy meal: 1. Steer clear of combination platters — the same

dishes come off much better when ordered separately; 2. You can get any element of a combo by asking for it; 3. Don't waste your palate (or money) on weak umbrella drinks when the wine list is brilliant. The menu changes daily, but some frequent tasty choices are pot stickers, *lumpia* Kahana, or chocolate soufflé. Special dietary requests accommodated, including vegetarian meals. Reserve, and hope for a table far from the raucous bar. Open nightly. Very expensive. — N.W.

Sadaf — La Jolla 613 Pearl Street, La Jolla, 858-551-0643. You worry — those formal fixtures and black-tux waiters, the gold-encrusted paintings, and the crisp, pink table linens all scream "expensive!" Actually, prices are easygoing, especially at lunch. After the basket of complimentary bread, try skewers of chicken or ground filet mignon with rice or salad, or *albalou polo* (rice, dried cherries, and chicken). Pistachio-and-rosewater ice cream is a great finale. Nonspecials and evening meals cost more, but at any price this is real Persian food, with typical riotous herbage and sybaritic spicing. Another branch in the Gaslamp turns into a nightclub after dinner, but the food's better at this La Jolla flagship. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

The Shores 8110 Camino del Oro, La Jolla, 858-456-0600. At this family-friendly resort on the oceanfront at La Jolla Shores, the hotel restaurant serves simple steak and seafood entrées, classic steakhouse appetizers, and sides. Friday evenings there's a seafood buffet. Although the legendary Bernard (the Marine Room) Guillas is officially in charge as executive chef, the food bears no sign of his involvement: It is thoroughly ordinary. Wines are mainly familiar top-shelf supermarket bottling, with few by the glass (reasonable corkage). Full bar. Validated parking (three hours) in underground garage. Resort-casual dress. Reasonably quiet. Three meals daily. Moderate to high, with weeknight inexpensive "early bird" three-course dinners for \$20, two courses for \$15. — N.W.

BAJA

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

La Casa del Mole Aquiles Serdán #543, Baja, 664-682-9074. Colonia Libertad is where Tijuana's love affair with mole is said to have begun, around 1991. Herminia Amador dreamed of bringing the flavors of her native state of Puebla to Tijuana. That meant one thing: mole poblano, Mexico's major sauce statement. She opened this flower-filled restaurant, and then a second and a third. And all because Tijuana's love mole poblano, a complex, sweet, dark sauce combination of maybe 20 different spices, chiles, nuts, and chocolate. Sit down here, and your big question is: What's going under your mole? Thick or breast of chicken? Pork? Perhaps enchiladas? Your call. Prices are so reasonable you can try several variations. Whichever, when you bite in for the first time, you're dialing direct back to the earliest days of the conquistadors in Aztec, Mexico. Start with mole poblano, learn its wine-like complexities, then move on to other moles, such as ranchero and *verde*. Open 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Happy Face Restaurant In Plaza Viva Tijuana (near Yellow Cab parking area), Baja. The place is set in front of a bandstand-size gazebo with a big open kitchen. From the acid rock blasting out, you'll think you're back in San Diego (only 100 yards away). There are good, generous Mexican dishes here. Breakfast (all day) includes *chilaquiles* with chips doused in cheese, a thin steak, frijoles, rice, chips, salsa, coffee, and a house salad. This is a deal. Evenings you have a ringside seat watching *turistas* heading for fun and locals coming home. Open daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

La Petite Café Avenida Constitución #720-Q, Baja, 664-688-2171. You're in a side eddy here from the storm of Revolución among Olmec sculptures, Aztec calendars, trees, and amazing quiet. It's standard *casera*

(homestyle) food: Spanish chicken with rice and beans, pork chops in green sauce, red enchiladas, steak ranchero, liver-and-onion stew, *chicharrón* (crisp fried pork rind) in a red sauce, and of course carne asada, but cooked well and priced amazingly low. Vegetarian upon request. Check the generous five-item-plus-coffee breakfast special. Three meals, all-day breakfast and lunches, seven days. Inexpensive. — E.B.

El Rincón del Oso Mercado Hidalgo, Calle Victoria #47, Baja. Eating goat is an acquired taste. This little market restaurant is a good place to start acquiring. It serves kid for breakfast that's surprisingly easy on the taste buds. The best part is scooping the juices and the meat into a hot corn tortilla, adding cilantro, lime, grated onions, and a splash of salsa, and chomping in. It's meaty, slightly rich, almost gamey, like deer or buffalo, except the juices round out that gamey aftertaste. Come early morning for the best kid and the best market scenes. Vegetarian upon request. Open seven days. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Salón Azteca Rosarito Beach Hotel, south end of Boulevard Benito Juárez, Baja, 661-612-1111. This fabled old hotel's all-you-can-eat Sunday brunch buffet offers a great excuse to check out the gorgeous architecture and meet other travelers in town. To reach the buffet, go to the left behind the registration desk to the Salón Azteca, walk in, grab a plate, and start dishing up your breakfast from the long line of cafeteria-like bins filled with gringo, gringo-Mex, real Mexican (*menudo*), and international specialties. Expect to tip if you want something from the omelet or carving station. Next, plunk down at a table where a waiter will arrive to serve you juice and endless cups of decent coffee. Vegetarian upon request. Casual dress. Secure parking in hotel lot for a small extra charge. Three meals daily; brunch Sunday. Somewhat expensive for the area; Visa and MasterCard accepted. — N.W.

Super Antojitos Fourth Street #1810 (between Constitución and Niños Héroes), Baja, 664-685-5070. Sr. Lechuga's restaurant has been around



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for 40 years, for good reason. Early mornings, people line up for breakfast. You enter a sort of heaven: arches, hidden lighting, glass chandeliers, even a statue of the Virgin Mary. The breakfast special, called mole *poblano*, includes two eggs, enchilada de mole, rice, beans, and bread or tortillas. The delicious mole, Sr. Lechuga's own, contains raisins, avocado, plantain, almonds, peanuts, thyme, and cilantro. Plus, you're drinking Sr. Lechuga's own coffee. He grows it down south. "Super antojitos" means super snacks, so search out the *pastes* — pastries stuffed with mole, cheese, or ground meat and potatoes. Also delicious: pork rind *gorditas*. Vegetarian upon request. Open daily, three meals. Inexpensive. — E.B.

CENTRAL

Aladdin's Café — Hillcrest 1220 Cleveland Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-574-1111. These cafés offer a bright, clean atmosphere for bright and clean, if rather generic, Middle-Eastern favorites (hummus, tabbouleh, kebabs, *shawarma*, etc.), plus imaginative Levantine-flavored pizzas and salads. There are ample choices for vegetarians. Both locations offer beer and wine. Hillcrest's owners offer a more Lebanese cuisine. Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W.

Anthony's Fishette 1360 North Harbor Drive, Downtown, 619-232-2175. At the baby brother of Anthony's Grotto and Star of the Sea, the good news is you pay a fraction of the price, and you get to sit outside over the water. The chowder — New England or Fisherman — is fresh, thick, tasty. A meal. Their old-fashioned fish-and-chips or Baja squid steak sandwich are great fillers too. Also good: "hand-battered treasures" like catfish strips,

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Calendar

RESTAURANTS

swordfish, oysters, crab claws, and clam nuggets. Breakfast served during summer only. Open for lunch and dinner seven days. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Asia Café 4710 Market Street, Southeast San Diego, 619-527-1917. May be Asian San Diego's best-kept secret. You have to look behind the smog shop at this all-Laotian shopping center to find it. The menu's Southeast Asian, but the owner — and most of the conversation around you — is Laotian. Laotian dishes include the famous *larb-kai* (chicken salad with hot peppers, lemon grass, and sticky rice). Good regional alternatives: *bamee* (egg noodle) roasted pork soup, Crying Tiger (ground beef salad with vegetables), and *lard nar* (seafood, beef, or pork with sloppy wide noodles and vegetables). Closed Tuesday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Berta's Latin American Restaurant 3928 Twiggs Street, Old Town, 619-295-2343. Sampling the whole range of little-known cuisines from Guatemala down to Patagonia, Berta's lengthy menu reads like a culinary "pick hits" list of each country's best flavors, typically rendered with expertise and verve. Some outstanding dishes include sweet-savory Chilean *pastel de choclo* (a casserole of beef, chicken, and corn pudding) from Berta's homeland; spicy ceviche and subtle *seco de cordero* (citrus-flavored lamb stew) from Peru; earthy Guatemalan *chilemal* (cilantro-laden pork stew); aromatic beef curry from Trinidad; and a sensuous *vatapa* (seafood in coconut sauce) from Brazil's African-influenced Bahia coast. Vegetarians will find many meat- and fowl-free options. Open for lunch and dinner; closed Monday. Moderate. — *N.W.*

Bondi Bar and Kitchen 333 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-342-0212. What's loud, strange, and smart enough to catch the eye of every passerby? It's a huge, raucous Australian gastro-pub offering numerous Aussie brews — with

urban Australian cuisine for ballast — plus a full bar (several of them) of well-known wines plus hard liquor. Prime seating is on the front patio and in large straw fish-traps suspended from the ceiling in the front dining room. (Dining rooms in back are dim; bring a mini-flashlight to read the menu.) The food resembles California-fusion cuisine but is often spicier, made with home-country ingredients including grass-fed beef, South Pacific fish species, and herbs you've never heard of. There's great grazing on appetizers, including outstanding Pacific oysters on the half-shell, beef pies, tempura prawns, seafood pot stickers, and the fun of exploring cheeses from Oz. Mains are generally less exciting, with a tendency to overcook fish and meats. But it's a party. Dress code: Wear clothes. Three meals, seven days until 11 p.m., 2 a.m. on weekends. Mainly moderate, some entrées expensive. — *N.W.*

Buster's Beach House & Longboard Bar 807 West Harbor Drive, Downtown, 619-233-4300. There really was a Buster, a surfer who traveled the world working in restaurants. Baja, Oahu, Fiji, Naples, Ocho Rios, Phuket — you name it, there's a dish from each of those waters, and every one of them ethnically incorrect. The menu's actually an international anthology of surfer-bar grub — and like Waimea Bay's waves, it has huge ups and downs. Skip the greasy Short Board pupu platter and risky daily fish special and go for the well-seasoned crab cakes, fish tacos, spicy paella (more like jambalaya), or pizza. The surfy, fun decor and breezy patio easily compensate for some of the spiciest service in town; a full bar offers a great beer list and decent umbrella drinks. To snag a patio table, reserve it and make sure they write it down. Three hours' validated parking, kid-friendly, plenty for vegetarians. Open three meals daily. Prices cover the waterfront. — *N.W.*

Crest Café 425 Robinson Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-295-2910. "Hearty Homemade Comfort Food" is the boast, and this small retro-deco café backs it up. Cecelia and her dad, Luis Moreno, took over this place back in 1985. Some staff have been here since the start. Loyal cus-

tomers get their photos and names on an honor roll that fills one wall. Lots of lazy ceiling fans, long, hanging blue lights, and art. "Matisse in Morocco," Salvador Dalí, Frida Kahlo. Consider momsy dishes like Sloppy Joes, honey-glazed pork chops, or the healthy vegetable steam basket. And don't turn down their 11 different kinds of burgers, including the fresh salmon burger, the OuiOui burger (aged bleu cheese crumbled under melted Jack cheese) or the wicked, spicy, butter burger (half a pound of lean ground beef stuffed with garlic, tarragon, basil, parsley butter, topped with cheese, garlic-paprikacayenne-cumin mayo and more butter). Best of all, late hours: open 7 a.m. to midnight, seven days. Dinner at 11 is no problem. How rare is that in San Diego? Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Croce's 802 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-4355. "Live music is complimentary with purchase of a dinner entrée" at this restaurant and bar run by Ingrid Croce in honor of her late husband, Jim. Appetizers that mix flavors — like the baked Brie and honey-roasted garlic served with mixed greens and a Grand Marnier berry compote — are delicious. But despite creative dishes, like New Zealand sea bass with a pomegranate-macadamia crust, few entrées rise above the level of average Gaslamp fare. Simple is best here — the rich and creamy shrimp *carbonara* fettuccine with Italian pancetta, Kalamata olives, and basil in a white garlic cream sauce. For dessert, try the flourless chocolate cake with roasted walnuts and pecans served with Tahitian vanilla-bean gelato and Verona chocolate sauce. The menu is seasonal. Sit by the window for great people-watching, or retire to the bar if you prefer live jazz. Open nightly for dining and music (breakfast and lunch Saturday and Sunday). Expensive. — *B.D.*

Dussini Mediterranean Bistro 275 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-4323. The one-time Old Spaghetti Factory has been remade into a more ambitious eatery. It's still huge — way too big to be called a bistro. It rambles over three floors, with a lounge and pool hall on the top. The menu dabbles with the cuisines of southern Europe: Provence,

Italy, Spain. The cooking is uneven, night to night and plate to plate. A pleasing linguica and kale soup represents Portugal, while a tasty, reasonably authentic bouillabaisse flirts with southern France. Pastas and steak are also reliably good, but the house specialty paella is made with orzo pasta instead of rice — not the best idea. The wine list is a joy, with plenty of choices at all price ranges, and the corkage policy (first two bottles get in free) is remarkably liberal. Elevator access to top-floor restrooms. Reservations recommended for week-end dinners. Dinner daily. Expensive. — *N.W.*

Karl Strauss Brewery Restaurant 1157 Columbia Street, Downtown, 619-234-2739. One-time Pabst brewmeister Karl Strauss headed his own brewery and a bunch of brewery restaurants bearing his name, so you can't help but be a little wary of an over-slick operation. But at least at downtown's ivy-covered brick drink and eatery, the food's honest, tasty, and sleek, not slick. And Karl's beers are still interesting. Go for honest-but-beautiful dishes like his Hump Day meat loaf (Wednesday only), which comes looking like a Magic Mountain. Beer influence is everywhere. Filet mignon has an Amber Lager glaze. Ribs boast a Red Trolley Ale barbecue sauce. It can get pricey; try to hit happy hour. Lunch and dinner daily. Moderate. Other branches at 9675 Scranton Road, Sorrento Mesa, 858-587-2739; 5801 Armada Drive, Carlsbad, 760-431-2739; 1044 Wall Street, La Jolla, 858-551-2739. — *E.B.*

Kazumi Sushi 3975 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-682-4054. A simple neighborhood sushi bar offering imaginative rolls, each one so distinctively seasoned that there's no need to mar the pretty fish-scapes with wasabi dip. The fish is fresh and includes salmon that Kazumisan cold-smokes himself. For a family-style dinner, The Ultimate Boat (serving two or more) is an encyclopedia of Japanese specialties, a huge platter of sushi, *gyoza*, assorted appetizers, yakitori, teriyaki, and terrific tempura. Need comfort food? The tempura also graces the top of a satisfying bowl of *nabeyaki udon* (noodle soup) with an onion-sweet broth. With just a small staff of

family members in the kitchen and house, expect a wait for food at busy times. Dinner daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — *N.W.*

The Kebab Shop 630 Ninth Avenue, Downtown, 619-525-0055. Food is one area where the Middle East is definitely taking over the world. Turkish-style *döner* kebabs are already on every street corner in Europe, and they're heading our way. Why? It's fast, flavorful, fresh food. The kebab's "meat" is usually lamb, chicken, or falafel, wrapped in a flatbread. The menu here specializes in all kinds of kebabs, including Moroccan shrimp, beef *kofte* (spiced ground meat with grilled vegetables), and the house special, Iskender, honoring Alexander the Great (lamb on bread with tomato sauce and yogurt). Try also minted zucchini, curried eggs, and Algerian eggplant. The ultimate compliment? Lots of Turkish San Diegans eat here. Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Laurel Restaurant 505 Laurel Street, Banker's Hill, 619-239-2222. Business-class watering hole where for seven dollars per item — food or drink — on the bar menu, we can at least taste how the Other Half lives and dines. The drinks range from Dragon's Blood sangria (a combo of Bordeaux wine, port, fruit and Calvados brandy) to Road Dog Stout (from Colorado's Flying Dog Brewery). As for the munchies, think lamby joes (luscious mini-burgers made of ground lamb); Mediterranean mussels (steeped in Old Monk beer broth); seafood salad (shrimp, squid, mussels, scallops, and sauce); or braised duck and stone-fruit flatbread. If money says one item only, lamby joes are most filling. Happy hour daily, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Magnolias 342 Euclid Avenue, Southeast San Diego, 619-262-6005. If you're looking for an authentic Louisiana-style feast, this is the best place in town. Bessie Johnson (of the once-famed Bessie's Garret) is back in business, and mouths are rejoicing. At her handsome, spacious restaurant, you'll find generous hospitality, huge portions, and a long, delicious menu of Cajun, Creole, and soul-food special-

ties. The fried chicken is beyond compare, the jambalaya well-nigh perfect, and the BBQ shrimp, crawfish bisque, and étouffée are splendid. Great side dishes include candied sweet potatoes and cornbread dressing. Takeouts accepted. Full bar. Lunch and dinner six days; closed Mondays. Low moderate. — *N.W.*

Mama's Bakery and Lebanese Deli 4237 Alabama Street, University Heights, 619-688-0717. You'll remember this lovely little place for two reasons. One, the atmosphere: It's a tiny kitchen attached to an old red-and-green wooden house, with tables and green umbrellas on the sloping sidewalk and also inside a shelter of bougainvillea, green canvas, metal mesh, and white brick. Two, their *sajji*. It's a round Lebanese oven of ancient design which cooks the delicious flat bread (also called *sajji*) that goes with pretty much everything, including baba ghanoush (sweet daddy eggplant dip) and *fool madamas* (fava and garbanzo bean stew). Gotta-haves include beef *shawerma* wrap or falafel wrap and a meat pie unlike any you've had before. A lovely bonus: fresh Lebanese baklava and a little pot of thick, sweet, black Arabic coffee. Open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday, weekends until 4 p.m. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

The Mission — Downtown 1250 J Street, Downtown, 619-232-7662. "Urban assault food for a revolutionary people," say the waitstaff's black T-shirts. But the food here is less revolutionary than halfway between health nut and greasy spoon. Still, their "conscientious cuisine" is generous, good-looking, and intelligent, if a little middle-class timid. Breakfasts are big here. The delicious chicken-apple sausage and eggs comes on a foot-wide plate loaded with unskinned rosemary potatoes, scrambled eggs, and scrumptious baked-on-the-spot rosemary bread. Pancakes and French cinnamon toast are popular staples, as is the Zen Breakfast (scrambled egg whites, braised tofu, brown rice, with veggies). The roast-beef hash can be chewy. Check out the "Chino-Latino" dishes (lunch only) like the mild-but-still-delicious ginger sesame tofu with brown rice and peanut



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sauce, which comes with a plethora of jicama-type veggies. The interior has an arty, postindustrial, coffeehouse feel. Open daily, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Neighborhood 777 G Street, Downtown, 619-446-0002. Chefs from the Gaslamp drop in after work here for hits of simple comfort-cooking in a proletarian-chic no-frills atmosphere. The hip gastropub's menu centers on half-pound burgers made of premium beef with serious sauces and garnishes (and no ketchup, ever!). Starters and sides include honest steak tartare, tasty sweet potato fries with bleu cheese curls, creative deviled eggs, mac'n'cheese and big, interesting salads. (No kiddie menu, but the bill of fare is G-rated.) To drink? Local microbrews and an interesting, affordable choice of international wines. Service is sweet and food comes fast — but be prepared for serious noise, compounded of loud rock and louder talk. Open daily 4 p.m. - midnight. Inexpensive to very low moderate. — N.W.

Ortega's, A Mexican Bistro 141 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-692-4200. Owned by a member of the Ortega family, the Puerto Nuevo lobster pioneers, this is the Baja restaurant group's first north-of-the-border venture. You'll find Baja-style cuisine featuring seafood and grilled foods, with a focus on lobster. Unlike the typical Ortega's, the lobster isn't deep-fried before grilling — an improvement in tenderness and flavor. Of course, the crustacean's best in season (October to February). Fish ceviche makes a good starter course. Other choices include small tacos, steaks, kebabs, etc., plus the standard Puerto Nuevo side dishes — stewed (not refried) beans, and an oddly bland guacamole fixed tableside. Full bar; fun margaritas including almond and pomegranate variations. Reservations recommended for weekends. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Mainly moderate (lobsters and Kobe skirt steak expensive). — N.W.

Red Pearl Kitchen 440 J Street, Downtown, 619-231-1100. An anthology of favorite Asian dishes creatively interpreted for American palates, with touches of fusion and some original dishes. Plenty of appetizers, but main dishes tend to be tastier, including a delicious Cambodian-influenced short rib and pumpkin hot pot — when it's in season. Great veggie side dishes. Sophisticated international wine list priced on the high side (few under \$30); short on choices by the glass. Full bar. Surroundings are chic. Reservations advised. Sound level painfully loud most nights. Open daily, dinner. High moderate. — N.W.

Salad Style 807 F Street, Downtown, 619-255-6731. Is this the tipping point? Whereas traditional meals have always been meat and taters with a side of salad, here, it's salad with a side of meat and taters. Salad's the main item, and it's delicious, even if salad's not your thing, because each concoction is so original. For example, Scott's Grilled Skirt Steak is an arty pile of organic greens, tomatoes, smoky, earthy mushrooms, hearts of palm, crumbled bleu cheese, plus red slabs of meat over it. Each dish does something, from the Moroccan couscous salad to the tuna-and-tomato salad. The Totally Vegan, with its golden volcano of quinoa and snowy tofu slabs, should be in a gallery. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

SoleLuna Café 702 Ash Street, Downtown, 619-232-0436. Put your climbing boots on. This place sits on the shoulder of the El Cortez hill, a sleek cave peeping out from under the historic hotel with an umbrella-strewn front terrace that's great for people watching. Its Italian roots show from the excellent coffee and the menu. Many items come straight from the streets of Milano, such as the breakfast croissant with prosciutto ham, smoked mozzarella cheese, and fruit or salad; or the Rustico Panino (with prosciutto, goat cheese, olive pâté); or *bresaola* (cured sliced beef); or the Siciliana salad (spinach, tuna, boiled eggs, capers, mozzarella). Other dishes include their homemade eggplant parmigiano and lasagna. Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

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Calendar RESTAURANTS

by people who care — like charming owner “Wolfie” and European-trained chef Lothar. The place looks like a dive, but inside you’ll find creative, made-to-order burgers from beef to buffalo, gator, and ostrich (delicious!), and even fish and veggies — each with its own individualized seasonings and sauce, plus salads and flavorful German-style bratwursts. Even the turkey burger is juicy here. Try the house-made “Texas” beans and the house-made mustard and chipotle ketchup. Specialty and regular beers; affordable wines. Parking lot behind restaurant on Howard. Restroom is not wheelchair accessible. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to low moderate. — *N.W.*

Urban Solace 3823 30th Street, North Park, 619-295-6464. Your solace

at this bustling neighborhood eatery is pleasing American comfort food with a faint Southern accent. Among the choices are house-made biscuits, moist and tasty sweet potato fries, or a big burger made of Brandt Natural Beef “cooked your way” (and that can be rare — reasonably safe with this well-raised beef). Sunday brunches, with a live bluegrass band, offer a flawless portobello Benedict, fine butter-pecan French toast, and creamy, smooth grits. But some servers are neither from Mars or Venus but Uranus, apparently, and at busy times (always) they need a strict traffic cop to remind them to record your order and bring your food and beverages to Earth. No reservations, call aheads accepted. Wine and a fine beer list (no hard liquor, despite brunch menu’s mention of mojitos). Moderate. — *N.W.*

Vagabond 2310 30th Street, South Park, 619-255-1035. Seasonal world food filtered through a Gallic sensibility, plus worldwide wines and tropical cocktails. Menu changes often, but don’t miss the classic *moules-frites* or

What the Chef Eats

SOBA NOODLE SALAD

BY JIM PEARSON

Sous Chef, Rice

I love Asian food. All types, especially Thai, such as seafood and pho. I love spice. Growing up in the Pacific Northwest, I was always surrounded by Asian foods. And seafood. Very fresh seafood. Lots of salmon and shellfish. We eat pretty hearty foods up there. Not necessarily comfort food, but not *not* comfort food either. Now I live in Hillcrest and there’s

a lot of good food up here. Usually I don’t cook much at home. I like to see what’s out there and what other people are making. I do cook for my two roommates sometimes. Well, a lot of times, actually. I stick to seafood dishes like halibut, tuna, and salmon. I always do some green vegetables too. I love soba noodles. This soba noodle salad is

a really simple dish made with chicken, peppers, green onions, and almonds. It’s good any day of the week, any meal of the day.

INGREDIENTS

Dressing

1 c. soy sauce

1/2 c. mirin, or rice wine

1/4 c. hoisin

1 tbsp. garlic, fresh chopped

1 tbsp. ginger, fresh chopped

6 oz. peach nectar

6 oz. dark sesame oil

Salad

8 oz. chicken breast cut into

strips

1 medium red bell pepper,

julienned

1 small carrot, julienned

food, though, is detuned for gringos, with a standard menu of Cal-Mex specialties. Even the guacamole is under-seasoned, but if you like this sort of thing, a pleasant “enchilada pie” is as good as any Midwestern mom’s. The huge bargain-priced brunch on Saturday and Sunday brings in the crowds; reservations urged for weekends to save a long wait. The exterior patio sports a big, funny mural, and the interior is carved into several rooms (helps keep the noise down) camped up with cute “Old West” cantina decor. Weekend brunch; lunch and dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Inexpensive to moderate. — *N.W.*

India Princess — San Marcos

1020 West San Marcos Boulevard, San Marcos, 760-744-7599. You walk in through a gold-and-red entrance. Inside it’s all cream cloth-covered tables, vases with fresh flowers, teak chairs that look like giant cellos, silver art objects. This is classy. The deal here is to catch

the deep-flavored Peruvian *seco de carne* meat stew. The tiny, painfully noisy dining room, decorated with exotic souvenirs of the owners’ global travels, is perpetually standing room only, so dinner reservations are a must for any night. Evening crowd of hip South Park locals; lunch crowd dressed for success. Lunch and dinner daily. Moderate. — *N.W.*

NORTH INLAND

Chez Nous Gourmet Deli-Café

9821 Caroll Canyon Road, Suite E, in Eucalyptus Square, Scripps Ranch, 858-566-4766. This Scripps Ranch social

gathering place, in a discreet center of gray timber shops and offices, was started by a couple — originally technocrats from San Diego city schools — who took early retirement. They do sandwiches, but what sandwiches! Their roast beef with ginger-garlic and Dijon, or their spicy chicken melt, or the leg of lamb they roast each day to make a juicy lamb sandwich with garlic and rosemary — all original. They also do roasted eggplant on a roll, and a Special Salad stacked with interesting berries, fruit, chicken, and nuts. Open daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday). Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Gateway to India 9520 Black Mountain Road, Mira Mesa, 858-566-

5522. This huge eating space fills half of Ker’s outlet warehouse. Friday or Saturday, it’s crowded with Indian families — the best guarantee that good vegetarian food is served here — and reasonably priced. Only problem with an all-you-can-eat buffet is deciding what to eat. It’s mainly northern, Punjabi and Gujarati, according to the Sikh cooks. Just have at the aloo curry, basmati rice, *chhole* (garbanzo beans), and *bengan bartha* (eggplant). See what you like. Some dishes are smoky and roasted, others yogurty, others nutty. Try to leave room for dessert, specially the mango concoctions — Asian mangos are sensational. Open for lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Hernandez’ Hide-Away 19320 Lake Drive, Escondido, 760-746-1444. The founder of Hernandez’ claims he invented the margarita at his previous restaurant in Bird Rock. True or not, the margaritas (rocks, not slush-ee) are terrific, on a par with Baja’s best. The

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

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



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What the Chef Eats

3 green onions cut on a bias
1/2 c. peeled water chestnuts,
sliced
1/4 c. almonds, sliced and
toasted
1 tsp. sesame seeds, toasted
2 tsp. salt
8 oz. fresh uncooked soba noodles
pinch of red chili flakes
(optional)

HOW TO DO IT

To make the dressing, blend or whisk soy, mirin, hoisin, ginger, garlic, and peach nectar in a

1 qt. mixing bowl. Slowly add the sesame oil until dressing is an even, smooth consistency. Marinade the chicken breast in one cup of the dressing for 30 minutes in refrigerator. Thinly slice (julienne) the bell pepper and carrots and slice the onions and water chestnuts. Toast the sliced almonds and sesame seeds in a small pan over medium heat, watching carefully so they don't burn.

Then grill or sear chicken in a sauté pan on high heat. Place on a greased baking sheet and bake at 350 degrees until the internal temperature reaches 165 degrees, approximately 10 minutes. Brush with more dressing and cool. In a 2 qt. saucepan, bring 1 qt. of water to a boil. Add 2 tsp. salt. Place fresh soba noodles in water until cooked, approximately 4-6 minutes or less. Drain in a

colander and rinse with cold water so the noodles don't stick together. In a mixing bowl toss the noodles, vegetables, and dressing together. Place in a serving dish and top with the chicken, almonds, and sesame seeds. To get an online version of this column, go to sdreader.com. You can print it, email it to friends, and get other recipes from different local chefs.

the daily lunch buffet, 20 items of interesting and fresh-tasting Northern Indian dishes like tandoori chicken or chicken *tikka masala*, *navratan korma* (veggies with nuts in cream sauce), or *keema muttar* (minced lamb curry with spices and peas). All for an unprincipled sum (dinner is more expensive). Don't miss the wonderful tamarind chutney. Inexpensive (buffet), moderate to expensive (à la carte dinners). — E.B.

Nijiya Market 3860 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-268-3821. If you're not willing to sacrifice quality for convenience when eating fast food, try this Japanese market in Kearny Mesa. Nijiya Market offers prepared box lunches, or *bento*, that are pretty to look at, appetizing, and a real bargain. I suggest,

however, passing by Nijiya's steam trays and heat lamps and going straight to the coolers, where you'll find delicious chicken cutlets, fresh sushi, and chilled noodles, as well as dessert delicacies like sweet-bread roll filled with sweet bean paste. Inexpensive. — M.N.

Pampas Argentine Grill 8690 Aero Drive, Kearny Mesa, 858-278-5971. The Argentine specialties feature grilled grass-fed beef, including a somewhat Americanized version of the *gauchos'* great *parillada mixta* (mixed grill), with a great chorizo but minus any exotic organs. The naturally raised meats are lower fat and lower cholesterol than feed-lot beef but are salted heavily in the kitchen unless you request otherwise. Specify rare or medium-rare, un-

less you really like brown cardboard. Lighter fare includes free-range chicken and fresh, well-treated seafood. Beef empanadas are a tasty, authentic starter. Potatoes (fries and mashed) are splendid, salads are exuberant. The full bar features Chilean and Argentine beverages with many affordable South American wines by the glass. Park in lot at restaurant's front door, not the back-door lot. Lunch (mainly sandwiches) on weekdays. Dinner nightly. Entertainment (harp) Friday through Sunday. Closed Monday. Moderate. — N.W.

Shanghai City Restaurant 3860 Convoy Street #105, Kearny Mesa, 858-278-5883. Forget the blah strip mall it hides in — this little piece of Shanghai

is a jewel. It feels like one of those century-old places in San Francisco's Chinatown. A two-foot-long, satin-silver arowana fish greets you as you come in. Brightly painted dragon columns support a gold dragon arch that leads you into the gold-walled dining room. Mainly, Chinese seem to come here, often eating Shanghai seafood dishes or choosing sumptuous specials like clay hot pots filled with eel and chestnuts or steamed rockfish on a big oval platter. Or, for around five dollars, you can choose lunches like Shanghai chicken, chicken chop suey, or Szechuan pork with crispy noodles, soup, steamed rice, a spring roll, and the main item. Open daily 10 a.m. to midnight. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

NORTH COASTAL

Beach House 2530 South Coast Highway 101, Cardiff, 760-753-1321. This beautiful restaurant, with its breezy seafront patio, is a branch of an upscale beach mini-chain (others are in Dana Point and Laguna Beach). Its main menu features steaks, seafood, and some Continental warhorses (lobster thermidor, etc.) that are best avoided. The view is even more spectacular from the upstairs "Top of the House" which features pub grub and fish in a lighthouse-like setting. On Sundays, local families flock in for the moderately priced à la carte champagne brunch featuring the standard dishes of the genre plus some less-successful fancied-up ones, with endless Freixenet champagne (Wyclef is its house champagne, though). Whatever the meal, stay simple here — burgers, steak, unfussy eggs — and enjoy the atmosphere. Reserve for a view table or outdoor seating at Sunday brunch. Full bar but few wines. \$2 valet parking. Re-

strooms accessible by elevator, may be tight fit for wider wheelchairs. Daily brunch/lunch and dinner. "Top of the House" serves until 9:30 p.m. in winter and until 10 p.m. in summer. "Early bird" cut-price dinners daily. Brunch moderate, dinner moderate to very expensive. — N.W.

Jimbo's, Naturally! 12853 El Camino Real, Carmel Valley, 858-793-7755. Jimbo — and there is a real Jimbo — started out selling healthy eating with the famous OB Co-op. Now he has these organic palaces of his own. Inside the Carmel Valley branch, it's high ceilings and lots of color — yellow, purple, white — with all the ducts and pipes exposed like in a giant submarine. The deli bulges with cheese, hams, burritos, wraps, and an elaborate salad bar. At the juice counter they grind carrots and wheatgrass and organic coffee. A "hot case" counter offers all kinds of rice, tabbouleh-type preparations. Best deals are usually the daily specials. Try Seitan stew (a high-protein, low-fat meat substitute) or Shelton's Jerk Turkey in Fig Sauce,



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Calendar RESTAURANTS

served with organic mashed potatoes, gravy, and steamed vegetables. — *E.B.*

Kim's Restaurant 745 First Street #103, Encinitas, 760-942-4816. Both Vietnamese and Chinese dishes are offered in a calm atmosphere with quick, pleasant service. The menu lists 265 items, including many Vietnamese house specialties, 28 seafood dishes, and

a whopping 45 vegetarian/vegan dishes, many made with *seitan* (mock poultry). The seafood isn't necessarily fresh catch — some shellfish is evidently obtained frozen, scallops are phosphate-preserved, and the reasonably priced abalone dishes involve slightly chewy, rehydrated dried abalone from Asia. On the other hand, portions are enormous, and the cooking is careful and tasty, although some flavors have evidently been adapted to American palates and ingredients. Open Tuesday through Sunday, continuous service lunch and dinner; closed Monday. Moderate. — *N.W.*

A Little Moore Coffee Shop 1030 North Highway 101, Leucadia, 760-753-

8228. How did this place slip by unnoticed for so long? Inside, with its low ceiling and snaky counter, it could be out of an early California movie. The specials are named after recent local characters: The Billy is an omelet with ham, avocado, and cheese, plus home fries or hash browns (or cottage cheese or rice). The Cindy is two pieces of French toast with two eggs and spuds. A plate of grilled veggies and chicken or beef on a mountain of rice is the Pablo. It's standard but generous fare, a formula that's kept the place humming since at least the 1950s. Breakfast and lunch six days, closed Tuesdays. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Nobu Japanese Restaurant 315 South Coast Highway 101, Solana Beach, 858-755-7787. No, this isn't the famous fusion-food Nobu of NY, L.A., and branches located wherever the money is. Our Nobu has been in the sushi business ten years longer than his namesake, and what he creates is classic non-fusion Japanese sushi and sashimi, with well-seasoned rice, freshly toasted seaweed wrappings, and fresh, fresh seafood. If you're in the mood for a different sort of grazing, you can settle at a table or booth to nibble on a score of appetizers, including a fine monkfish pâté and enchanting *chawan mushi* (egg custard) soup served super hot in the cup it was baked in. The Japanese entrées are standard fare, with plenty for vegetarians. It's all comfortable, casual, and kid-friendly, with gracious sushi chefs. Nobu himself usually works the bar Friday through Sunday nights. Dinner daily; open weekends until 11 p.m. Large free lot behind restaurant (via Sierra Street, a block west). Mostly moderate; some delicacies expensive. — *N.W.*

Samurai Japanese Restaurant 979 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Solana Beach, 858-481-0032. Set in a suburban mall, Samurai is rumored to have the longest sushi bar in California — 50 feet, stretching around 2 walls — with up to 12 chefs. The pure Japanese sushi is made from never-frozen seafood, and the visual side of the art isn't neglected: The friendly chefs take care to make their compositions look as beautiful as they taste. There's also a spirit of something extra — e.g., not just free edamame to nibble, but the *ama ebi* often includes a delicious miso soup made with extra shrimp heads. Additional dining choices include standard Japanese fare in the pretty dining room, *kaiseki* (prix fixe) dinners in the Tatami Room (for groups of 4 to 14, advance reservations required), or grilled items in the Teppan Room (two people minimum, reservations required). Open weekdays for lunch; dinner served nightly. For sushi, best to arrive early or lateish, as it gets crowded at prime time. Mostly moderate; *kaiseki* and some *teppan* items expensive. — *N.W.*

Spices Thai Café — Del Mar 3810 Valley Centre Drive, Carmel Valley, 858-259-0889. Superb Thai restaurant that's not only elegant but whose food contains no MSG and very little fat. The seafood dishes rate highly. Among other delicacies are duck and frog legs. Put Spices Thai Café at the top of your list. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.W.*

Swami's Café 1163 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-944-0612. No coincidence it's near the famous surf break and the Self-Realization Fellowship compound. You gotta love the very Encinitas vegetarian-spiritual-surfer origins. You eat surrounded by gurgling fountains, wind chimes, wheat grass racks, a rainbow-colored wind sock, and the manager's 1969 surfer van. There are plenty of standard dishes, like eggs Benedict or black bean burrito, but the big emphasis is health. Try the protein veggie wrap, with avocado, feta cheese, tofu, and mole, or the Indian curry with tofu. Open 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

SOUTH BAY

The Barbecue Pit 920 East Plaza Boulevard, National City, 619-477-2244. Outside, it reminds you of a barn; inside, a meeting hall. Rustic timber, knotty pine, a set of Texas longhorns on one wall and an eight-point buck head on the other. People have been coming here all their lives. Two cousins started this back in 1947 at 1413 Market, downtown. Now their grandkids run this and its sister restaurant in Fletcher Hills. They still burn oak, and sell lots of the (still-cheap) beef or pork ribs, with two sides and a bun. But maybe the best deal is the ham or link sandwich. Lunch and dinner; closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Bino's European Coffees and Crepes 1120 Adella Avenue, Coronado, 619-522-0612. This little round-the-corner café (south of the post office) has to be good: it's a favorite retreat for local chefs. Bino bakes his own breads and croissants daily and creates great crunchy sandwiches. Try the Brie

Fantasy (chicken breast, roasted marinated peppers, double-cream Brie cheese) or the roast beef and jack cheese. Even the veggie sandwich squishes with luscious eggplant, and the crêpes are delicious and filling too. Bino's wife is Austrian and makes great Viennese-style coffee. Open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, to 8 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

MZM Seacoast Bistro 875 Seacoast Drive, Imperial Beach, 619-424-5800. If you can make it past the bland exterior, you'll discover a well-disguised classy joint inside. A harbinger of a new I.B.? Interior is all peach-colored walls, trendy blue scone wall lights, tweedy booths, and photos of owners Marek and Zofia Migdalski with people like President Bush, Lloyd Bentsen, Sam Donaldson, and Joan Kroc. Migdalski is a recognized private chef who has decided to put I.B. on the gastronomic map. Breakfast, available Saturday and Sunday, tends to be simple but sophisticated, like frittata with Polish sausage, prime rib steak and eggs, or scrambled eggs with smoked salmon. Burgers at lunch are often lamb sirloin. Dinner can be anything, including filet mignon or flatiron steak. Reservations recommended. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B.*

Primavera Ristorante 932 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-0454. A handsome dining room is the setting for classic fine Italian cooking of many regions, and with creative nightly specials. Stuffed pastas are made in-house and rolled thin, gnocchi are expertly crafted, and entrées are, for a change, more interesting than the appetizers. The *osso buco* is outstanding, as is a frequent summertime special of white king salmon. Choose the simplest desserts, as the fancy ones are outsourced (and heavy). Three parking slots behind restaurant, or scuffle for street parking. Fine service. Romantic ambience early and late in the evening but often raucous with loud parties at prime dinner time. Dinner nightly until 10:30 p.m. Expensive. — *N.W.*

Rhinoceros 1166 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-2121. This bright, hectic bistro next door to the Lamb's Players Theatre draws pre-theatre



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crowds as well as locals — and that may be a problem, since the rushed pace of service doesn't abate even after the playgoers have departed. Perhaps that's why there are few appetizer choices (as though to discourage diners from spending extra time at the table). You may even be charged a "split plate" fee for sharing a first course despite ordering individual entrées. Meat and fish choices are simply prepared with ingredients of ordinary quality and generic veggie accompaniments. Why, then, is Rhino so popular? Pasta (and nothing but pasta) is the answer — that's where the kitchen shines. Very noisy when crowded; street tables are slightly quieter despite heavy traffic. Lunch and dinner daily. Reservations advised for weekends and pre-show dinners. Moderate (pastas) to expensive. — *N.W.*

Zorba's Greek Buffet 100 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-422-8853. We haven't got to plate-breaking yet, but Greek dancing is alive and well at Zorba's on Fridays and Saturdays. That includes the *zembekikos*, where the dancer picks a glass of ouzo off the floor with his/her mouth and drinks it. The rest of the week? Families fill this place. They're here for the buffet, spooning up the *spanakopita* (spinach in deliciously flaky pastry), *dolmas* (ground beef and rice rolled in grape leaves), moussaka (eggplant, zucchini, and ground beef),

and lamb. Try dividing your meal into three: first visit the salad section. Grab their real, strong-tasting olives, tabbouleh, hummus, onions, lettuce, and pita bread. Return for the heavies, the lamb and beef dishes. Then leave room for baklava and other desserts. It may not be the gourmet's method, but there's no better way to fill a belly. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

EAST COUNTY

Chef Axel European Bistro 7097 University Avenue, La Mesa, 619-421-

8844. Chef Axel is a real chef with classic European training, bringing his expertise and high standards to this neighborhood German restaurant. Currently, he's offering only a set-price Sunday brunch plus occasional special dinners, along with catering on or off site. The food is made-from-scratch home-style cooking, including hearty soups, Bavarian veal sausage, rich noodle gratin, perfect schnitzel, and a Hungarian goulash that "really gets it" about Hungary's spirited flavors. The brunch buffet includes a wide sampling of these dishes. — *N.W.*

Elaine's Coffee Shoppe 1212 South 43rd Street, Southeast San Diego, 619-264-6525. When Su Cha Yang took over Elaine's a quarter century ago, this was one tough part of town. No problem. Su had survived the Korean War and Vietnam before she came here. Now, with Southcrest looking up, she is famous for her fun and her food. Most customers are regulars — judges, ministers, teachers among them — and they don't want change. So Elaine's remains a bright, genuine 1970s-style breakfast-all-day coffee shop. Break-

fast: try the ham, bacon, mushroom "hunter" omelet. Lunch: the pork-chop plate is a great filler. Su Cha Yang also cooks dishes for vegetarian, Muslim, and Korean customers. Breakfast and lunch six days; closed Tuesdays. — *E.B.*

Kountry Kitchen 826 Main Street, Ramona, 760-789-3200. Thank goodness the Kountry Kitchen's still around. They still open at 5 a.m. for the farmers and anyone else who's up then. The Italian Sausage Breakfast is truly delicious: a fat pale-brown sausage with a rich, sharp, livery flavor, along with eggs and hash browns. Up there, too, is the Cowpoke Country Special, a buttermilk short stack with eggs and sausages or bacon. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

The Olde Homestead Fudge Factory 590 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs, 760-767-7782. The Fudge Factory's greatest dish is not what it's named for, and some of its pick hits aren't fudge, either. Of the 24 flavors of house-made fudge, barely a half dozen are available on any given day. The chocolate walnut is especially delicious, but the real masterpiece when in season

is the Date Shake — a cold quaff that's ambrosial on a hot afternoon. Then, too, this is one of the few spots in town with an espresso machine. Open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., closed Monday. (Closed summer months.) Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Pablito's of the Desert 590 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs, 760-767-5753. Pablito's claims "Authentic Mexican Cuisine, patio dining, and great tequila margaritas." Well, the gorgeous patio is open when the weather is favorable, and the cuisine runs to gringo favorites in the Mexican mode (lots of combo platters), but the flavors are honest and pleasing. The most authentic dishes come from the "Specialties" section of the menu, including a good *chile verde* (pork in green chile sauce), numerous varieties of enchiladas, and several flavors of *chilaquiles*. Full bar, including sangria, margaritas, Mexican beers. Closed in the summer; other seasons, open for lunch and dinner (with a break between). Inexpensive to low moderate. — *N.W.*

User Reviews — RESTAURANTS

Best user comments from Reader website

Wild Note Café, Solana Beach

Before my wife and I moved downtown, we lived in Solana Beach. One thing we miss from those days, other than the beach itself, are all of the funky/quaint little shops and restaurants in the area. Recently, we were up in that neck of the woods around lunchtime and decided to grab a bite. We stopped at The Wild Note Café. I am happy to report that things at The Wild Note are better than they've ever been. We started out with drinks and the house bread & butter. While there is nothing especially remarkable about the bread, it is worth mentioning because it is the only thing in the restaurant that is not made on-site, from scratch. However, they do reach out locally and bring it in from Del Mar bakery, O'Briens. We ordered two appetizers - the lobster dumplings with port wine sauce and the sashimi-grade ahi tower with avocado, mango and crispy wontons. Both were absolutely delicious, but I would give a small nod to the lobster dumplings. The flavor combination of the lobster stuffing and the port wine sauce was fantastic. Our friend had a bowl of the potato/artichoke soup and I, regrettably, only got to enjoy a spoonful. It was hearty and flavorful and I will be ordering it the next time that I visit. Shortly after, even though the small room was packed with lunchtime patrons, our entrees were served. My wife had the teriyaki tenderloin kabob salad and I had the Brie Burger. The salad is made with spinach, roasted potatoes, asparagus, feta cheese, pear tomatoes and is served with a red wine vinaigrette. The Brie burger is certified Sterling beef stuffed with Brie, topped with sautéed mushrooms and port wine sauce, and served with french fries. Both the tenderloin and the burger were cooked to perfection and had an excellent flavor, but were on exact opposite ends of the richness scale. The salad was light and scrumptious, despite having the meat/potato base. The roasted potatoes were a welcome addition and the dressing was pleasantly tart. The richness of the Brie burger made a fat piece of NY cheesecake seem like a communion wafer, but had an excellent flavor and is an indulgence worth taking on as long as you have friends along to help you take a few bites. It is something that is great to share. We finished by all sharing a piece of Granny Smith apple upside cake with vanilla bean gelato, fresh strawberries and a mango puree drizzle. There is no need to describe this sinful confection. If the ingredient list alone does not make your mouth water, I don't know how a description can help.

Everyone in our group had an awesome experience and the prices are quite reasonable. I'm not sure what the nighttime prices are, but there was nothing on the lunch menu over \$13. They offer a wide variety of starters/main dishes and the chef has a special that changes daily. If you're on the coast and want a fine-dining/gourmet lunch, but want Chili's/Applebee's prices, stop by The Wild Note Café. You'll be glad that you did.

By **sam17** 11:13 a.m., Nov. 24

Canes, Mission Beach

All I can say is "SUPER" about this place. First time we had been there and we will be back. With any restaurant there are two things that are most important, one being the food and the other being the service. BINGO on both! First off the service was on top of everything. Our waitress treated us like we were the only ones there, we weren't. The food in the menu looked inviting even before we ordered. I got the Enchiladas Del Mar which had snow crap and shrimp inside with rice and beans, all I can say is WOW! Excellent. My other two guests had a Burrito Grande with carne asada and loved it. The Pollo ChimmiChanga was the other, both looked just as inviting as mine did. This place "Canes" is something else. We ate on the patio balcony which is on the roof right along the boardwalk on Mission Beach, spectacular view and friendly atmosphere. They have inside stairs and outside stairs for easy access. This place is also poppin' with live music gigs at night and lots of action. You can tell the management knows what they are doing. Bubbling friendly service from our waitress was tops. Give it a try, I know for sure we will be back.

By **richinsd** 9:23 a.m., Nov. 25

Tom Ham's Lighthouse, Harbor Island

I remember visiting Tom Ham's as a kid with my parents; I've been here for an anniversary dinner and for lunch, but never have I tried the Sunday Brunch — what was I thinking! While being seated, you are guided past a circle of tables crowned by shiny chafing dishes - impressive - yet just ahead is a jaw-dropping boatload of fresh seafood! We feasted on giant barbecued shrimp skewered on sugar cane slivers and sampled oysters on the half shell, peel-and-eat shrimp, three types of ceviche, smoked tuna, yellowtail and mahi mahi; poached salmon, lox and bagels, then gorged ourselves on Alaskan King crab legs. A quick tour of the hot dishes revealed many treats, such as beef and chicken skewers, barbecued beef ribs, salmon, seafood pasta, slab bacon, sausage and country potatoes. There is a well appointed omelette station as well as a waffle station accompanied by fresh pastries. We rounded out the meal with a stop at the dessert table bursting with pies, petits fours, cookies and truffles. We enjoyed the included coffee, juice and champagne while taking in a picturesque stretch of the harbor. This brunch is a value for anyone who loves quality seafood. Try it out soon!

By **g_martinez** 10:35 a.m., Nov. 27

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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 — Spruced-up reissue of the 1994 Wong Kar-wai film of the same name minus the *Redux*. The changes consist principally of a new musical score showcasing the plangent, pensive cello of Yo-Yo Ma. They have not, however, amended the confusion and disappointment 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 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 horsewoman languorously hugging and stroking her watering steed. 2008.
★★ (KEN, 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 north-



Four Christmases

ern Australia on the eve of World War II, a *Cimarron* Down Under, with a sprinkle of 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 BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN 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.
★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; FLOWER HILL 4; HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; RANCHO DEL REY 16; SAN MARCOS 18)

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*,



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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 interlaced 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 execution. 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 fo-

cus, 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)

Cadillac Records — Fact-based tale of pop music in the Fifties, with Adrien Brody, Beyoncé Knowles, and Jeffrey Wright, written and directed by Darnell Martin. (FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; TOWN SQUARE 14; FROM 12/5)

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; GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 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)

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 female (“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, 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; SANTEE DRIVE IN; 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 addled 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 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 character 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, THROUGH 12/4; HORTON PLAZA 14, FROM 12/5)

The Hidden Fortress — Kurosawa’s first use of the wide screen, and his ingeniousness with images of that shape becomes apparent fairly soon — say about the first or second shot. The storyline, if not the images alone, pulls you in, and along, with a folk-tale kind of enchantment, and it makes room for what must surely be the meatiest female role in Kurosawa’s entire output — a doughty princess disguising herself in servant’s clothing and travelling through hostile territory under the protection of a loyal samurai. Toshiro Mifune, Minoru Chiaki,

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Ikiru

and Kamatari Fujiwara. 1958.
★★★★★ (CHULA VISTA 10, 12/7, 6:30 P.M.)

High and Low — Out of an Ed McBain 87th Precinct novel, Akira Kurosawa has

fashioned a formula kidnapping melodrama that, elaborated to two-and-a-half hours, manages to engage all his burning moral concerns, undimmed, as well as all his ingenuity as an action director unsur-

passed on the wide-screen. Kurosawa makes good use of McBain's knowledge of familial police operations, the pep talks, teamwork, joshing, etc. But besides that, he shows an excruciating appreciation of the

ironies and ambiguities in the conflict between the Haves and the Have-Nots (the High and the Low, if you will) that isn't quite equalled in American detective fiction — McBain, McGivern, MacDonald, Macdonald, McAnyone — maybe in Dostoevski or Dickens. The plot is laid out in precise and evocative arenas (the haughty hilltop mansion occupied by the kidnap victims and, far below, the sleazy, neon-lit Ginza strip haunted by the psychopathic kidnapper); it is continually tricky and surprising (an early twist, for instance: the abducted boy turns out, after the first ransom demand, to be not the son of the rich shoe manufacturer but the son of the chauffeur); and it is faultlessly paced and timed (the mounting tensions of almost an hour of claustrophobic, stage-like drama inside the mansion are explosively released in a frantic scene aboard a rattling express train; the kidnapper, halfway through, finally makes a slithery, unpredictable entrance, sighted first as a reflection in a pool of water and followed along narrow streets, stairs, halls, to a tiny room where he gloats over his newspaper notices; and the clues and revelations, ferreted out only with difficulty and patience, are met by oddly appealing outbursts of trumpets on the soundtrack and, on one special occasion, by a splash of pink on the black-and-white film stock). Toshiro Mifune is fine, strong, restrained, as the shoe man; but he takes second place to Tatsuya Nakadai as the humble, humane policeman in charge of the case. Nakadai's reactions — his eyes bug out unnaturally, like

a strangulation victim, and his chin drops to his chest, when the kidnapper, under surveillance, incredibly bumps into Mifune in front of a shoe-store window — serve as a sort of mirror or model for audience reactions. His supporting performance is the epitome of unselfish sideline-sitting. 1963.
★★★★★ (CHULA VISTA 10, 12/7, 12:30 P.M.; 12/8, 7:40 P.M.; 12/9, 2:00 P.M.)

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-choreo-

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graphed by Kenny Ortega. 2008.
★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; PLAZA BONITA 14)

Hounddog — Deborah Kampmeier’s coming-of-age story set in the rural South in the Fifties, with Dakota Fanning, David Morse, Piper Laurie.
(GASLAMP 15, FROM 12/5)

Ikiru — Akira Kurosawa’s lengthily spun-out anecdote, telling of a dying man’s solo crusade to leave his mark and to accomplish something worthwhile in his lifetime, balances its philosophic appeal, diplomatically, between heroic individualism and servile altruism. Takashi Shimura’s tragic

mask of grieved humility becomes wearisome at this length, but the director’s facility as a scene-builder frequently revivifies things. 1952.
★★★★ (CHULA VISTA 10, 12/6, 12:30 P.M.; 12/9, 7:30 P.M.; 12/10, 3:00 P.M.)

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, THROUGH 12/4; LA JOLLA VILLAGE, FROM 12/5)

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa — The

light-in-the-loafers cartoon lion, a self-professed “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 diversity (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)

Milk — Gus Van Sant’s celebratory biopic on Harvey Milk, the gay-rights activist and San Francisco City Supervisor martyred by assassination in 1978. However useful as pep rally or memorial service, 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 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. With Josh Brolin, Emile Hirsch, Alison Pill, Victor Garber. 2008.
★★★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

Nobel Son — Black comedy with Alan Rickman, Bryan Greenberg, Mary Steenburgen, and Bill Pullman, directed by Randall Miller.
(CARMEL MOUNTAIN; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; POWAY 10; TOWN SQUARE 14; FROM 12/5)

Punisher: War Zone — Ray Stevenson takes over the avenger’s role from Thomas Jane, directed by Lexi Alexander.
(CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ES-

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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)

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Australia (Not Rated); **Cadillac Records** (R); **Changeling** (R); **Four Christmases** (PG-13); **Hounddog** (R); **Nobel Son** (R); **Rachel Getting Married** (R); **A Secret** (Not Rated); **The Secret Life of Bees** (PG-13); **Transporter 3** (PG-13); **W.** (PG-13)

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Horton Plaza (619-444-FILM)
Bolt (PG) Fri. (1:30, 4:05) 7:00, 9:20 Sat.-Sun. (1:30) 4:05, 7:00, 9:20; **Bolt 3-D** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (1:00, 3:20, 5:40) 8:00, 10:20; **Burn after Reading** (R) Fri. (2:05, 4:45) 7:25, 9:50 Sat.-Sun. (2:05) 4:45, 7:25, 9:50; **Happy-Go-Lucky** (R) Fri. (1:50, 4:35) 7:25, 10:15 Sat.-Sun. (1:50) 4:35, 7:25, 10:15; **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG) Fri. (1:55, 4:15) 6:40, 9:00 Sat.-Sun. (1:55) 4:15, 6:40, 9:00; **Punisher: War Zone** (R) Fri. (1:20, 4:10) 7:10, 9:45 Sat.-Sun. (1:20) 4:10, 7:10, 9:45; **Quantum of Solace**

(PG-13) Fri. (1:15, 1:50, 3:45, 4:15) 7:05, 7:35, 9:40, 10:10 Sat.-Sun. (1:15, 1:50, 3:45) 4:15, 7:05, 7:35, 9:40, 10:10; **Religulous** (R) Fri. (2:00, 4:40) 7:30, 10:10 Sat.-Sun. (2:00) 4:40, 7:30, 10:10; **Synecdoche, New York** (R) Fri. (1:45, 4:30) 7:20, 10:05 Sat.-Sun. (1:45) 4:30, 7:20, 10:05; **Twilight** (PG-13) Fri. (1:10, 1:40, 2:10, 3:50, 4:20, 4:50) 6:45, 7:15, 7:45, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30 Sat.-Sun. (1:10, 1:40, 2:10, 3:50) 4:20, 4:50, 6:45, 7:15, 7:45, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30; **Zack and Miri Make a Porno** (R) Fri. (2:10, 4:35) 7:30, 9:55 Sat.-Sun. (2:10) 4:35, 7:30, 9:55

LA JOLLA

La Jolla 12
8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (858-558-2262)
Australia (Not Rated); **Bolt** (PG); **Changeling** (R); **Four Christmases** (PG-13); **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG); **Nobel Son** (R); **Punisher: War Zone** (R); **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) Fri. 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00 Sat.-Sun. 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00; **A Christmas Tale** (NR) Fri.-Sun. 1:30, 4:50, 8:00; **Let the Right One In** (R) Fri. 4:30, 9:50 Sat.-Sun. 11:10, 4:30, 9:50; **Rachel Getting Married** (R) Fri.-Sun. 1:50, 7:10; **Slumdog Millionaire** (R) Fri. 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40 Sat.-Sun. 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

MIRA MESA

Mira Mesa 18
10733 Westview Parkway (800-326-3264)
Call theater for program information

MISSION VALLEY

Fashion Valley 18
7037 Friars Road (858-558-2262)

Australia (Not Rated); **Bolt** (PG); **Cadillac Records** (R); **Changeling** (R); **Four Christmases** (PG-13); **High School Musical 3: Senior Year** (G); **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG); **Punisher: War Zone** (R); **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
7510 Hazard Center Drive (619-685-2841)



Nobel Son (R) (11:30 2:15) 5:00 7:30 10:15; No 11:30 Sat. 12/6 & Sun. 12/7; **Four Christmases** (PG-13) (10:00 12:15 2:45) 5:15 7:45 10:00; **Australia** (PG-13) (12:00 3:30) 7:00 10:30; **Twilight** (PG-13) (10:30 1:15 4:00) 7:00 10:00; **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 7:15 Thu. 12/11; **Barney in the Night Before Christmas** (G) 10:30 am Sat.-Sun. only. 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); **Cadillac Records** (R); **Four Christmases** (PG-13); **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG); **Nobel Son** (R); **Punisher: War Zone** (R); **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)
Were the World Mine (Not Rated) Fri. 5:10, 7:15, 9:20 Sat.-Sun. 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20

UPTOWN

Hillcrest Cinemas
3965 Fifth Avenue (619-819-0236)
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (PG-13) Fri. 2:05, 4:50, 7:10, 9:35; **Milk** (R) Fri. 1:45, 2:45, 4:30, 5:30, 7:20, 8:30, 10:10 Sat.-Sun. 11:00, 12:00, 1:45, 2:45, 4:30, 5:30, 7:20, 8:30, 10:10; **Slumdog Millionaire** (R) Fri. 1:00, 1:55, 3:45, 4:40, 6:35, 7:30, 9:25, 10:15 Sat. 11:10, 1:00, 1:55, 3:45, 4:40, 6:35, 7:30, 9:25, 10:15 Sun. 11:10, 1:00, 1:55, 3:45, 4:40, 6:35, 7:30, 9:25

Museum of Photographic Arts
1649 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-7559)
Call theater for program information

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center
1875 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-1233)
Call theater for program information

San Diego Natural History Museum
1788 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-232-3821)
Ocean Oasis (Not Rated) Fri.-Sat. 12:00, 2:00 Sun. 12:00, 2:00, 4:00

EAST COUNTY

EL CAJON

Parkway Plaza 18
405 Parkway Plaza (619-401-3456)
Call theater for program information

LA MESA

Grossmont Center 10
5500 Grossmont Center Drive (619-465-7100)
Australia (Not Rated); **Bolt** (PG); **Four Christmases** (PG-13); **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG); **Punisher: War Zone** (R); **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13); **Transporter 3** (PG-13); **Twilight** (PG-13)

RANCHO SAN DIEGO

Rancho San Diego 15
2951 Jamacha Road (800-326-3264)
Australia (Not Rated) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 12:30, 3:35) 6:50, 8:00, 10:30; **Bolt** (PG) Fri. (12:10, 12:40, 2:40, 3:15, 5:10) 7:15, 7:45, 9:40, 10:10 Sat.-Sun. (12:10, 12:40, 2:40, 3:15) 5:10, 7:15, 7:45, 9:40, 10:10; **Four Christmases** (PG-13) Fri. (12:05, 12:35, 2:30, 3:00, 4:50, 5:15) 7:05, 7:35, 9:25, 9:55 Sat.-Sun. (12:05, 12:35, 2:30, 3:00) 4:50, 5:15, 7:05, 7:35, 9:25, 9:55; **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (1:00, 3:20) 6:45, 9:10; **Nobel Son** (R) Fri. (1:10, 4:55) 7:30, 10:20 Sat.-Sun. (1:10) 4:55, 7:30, 10:20; **Punisher: War Zone** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:15, 2:55) 7:25, 10:05; **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:25, 12:55, 3:05, 3:30) 7:10, 7:50, 9:50, 10:25; **Role Models** (R) Fri. (1:05, 5:00) 7:55, 10:15 Sat.-Sun. (1:05) 5:00, 7:55, 10:15; **Transporter 3** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:45, 3:10) 7:20, 10:00; **Twilight** (PG-13) Fri. (12:20, 12:50, 3:25, 4:45) 6:55, 7:40, 9:45, 10:30 Sat.-Sun. (12:20, 12:50, 3:25) 4:45, 6:55, 7:40, 9:45, 10:30

SANTEE

Santee Drive In
10990 Woodside Avenue (619-448-7447)
Bolt (PG) Fri.-Sun.; **Four Christmases** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun.; **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG) Fri.-Sun.; **Twilight** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun.

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Australia (Not Rated); **Bolt** (PG); **Cadillac Records** (R); **Changeling** (R); **Four Christmases** (PG-13); **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG); **Nobel Son** (R); **Punisher: War Zone** (R); **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13); **Role Models** (R); **Saw V** (R); **Transporter 3** (PG-13); **Twilight** (PG-13)

Call theater for program information

Call theater for program information

Australia (Not Rated); **Bolt** (PG); **Changeling** (R); **Four Christmases** (PG-13); **High School Musical 3: Senior Year** (G); **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG); **Punisher: War Zone** (R); **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13); **Role Models** (R); **Transporter 3** (PG-13); **Twilight** (PG-13)

11620 Carmel Mountain Road (858-674-9770)
Australia (Not Rated); **Bolt** (PG); **The Boy in the Striped Pajamas** (PG-13); **Four Christmases** (PG-13); **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG); **Nobel Son** (R); **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13); **Rachel Getting Married** (R); **The Secret Life of Bees** (PG-13); **Transporter 3** (PG-13); **Twilight** (PG-13)

Call theater for program information

5256 S. Mission Road (760-945-8784)



13475 Poway Road (858-646-9423)

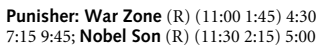


California Walk (760-471-3711)
Call theater for program information

Australia (Not Rated) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 3:30)
7:00, 10:30; **Bolt** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:15, 1:45,
4:15) 6:45, 9:15; **Bolt 3-D** (PG) Fri.-Sun.
(12:00, 2:30, 5:00) 7:30, 10:00; **Cadillac**
Records (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:10, 1:50, 4:30) 7:10,
9:45; **Four Christmases** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun.
(12:00, 12:45, 2:20, 3:00, 4:35, 5:15) 7:05, 7:35,
9:25, 10:05; **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa**
(PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:20, 2:40, 5:00) 7:15, 9:30;
Nobel Son (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:40, 2:15, 4:50)
7:30, 10:05; **Punisher: War Zone** (R) Fri.-Sun.
(11:25, 12:10, 2:05, 2:45, 4:40, 5:20) 7:20, 8:00,
10:00, 10:40; **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13)
Fri.-Sun. (11:45, 2:30, 5:05) 7:40, 10:20; **Role**
Models (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:15, 2:45, 5:15) 7:50,
10:15; **Transporter 3** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:20,
11:50, 2:25, 4:50) 7:25, 9:50, 10:35; **Twilight**
(PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:50, 1:30, 1:55, 4:20, 4:50)
7:10, 7:45, 10:10

Bolt (PG) Fri.-Sat. (11:55, 2:15, 4:30) 6:45, 8:55 Sun. (11:55, 2:15, 4:30) 6:45; **Four Christmases** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:20, 1:25, 3:30) 5:35, 7:45, 9:55 Sun. (11:20, 1:25, 3:30) 5:35, 7:45; **Twilight** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:00, 1:40, 4:20) 7:00, 9:35 Sun. (11:00, 1:40, 4:20) 7:00

El Camino Real at Del Mar Heights Road
(858-646-9420)



7:30 10:15; **Four Christmases** (PG-13) (10:00 12:15 2:45) 5:15 7:45 10:15; **Transporter 3** (PG-13) (10:30 1:00 3:30) 6:00 8:30 10:45; No 10:30 am Sat. 12/6 & Sun. 12/7; **Twilight** (PG-13) (10:15 1:15 4:00) 7:00 10:00; **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; **Barney in the Night Before Christmas** (G) 10:30 am Sat.-Sun. only.
No 9 pm-10:45 pm shows Sun.-Thu.

2630 Via de la Valle (858-646-9425)

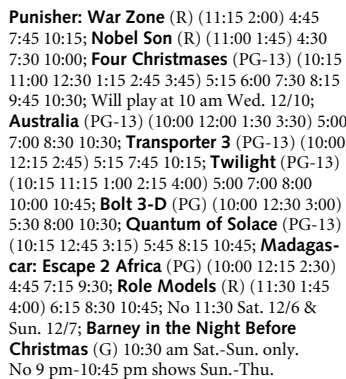


W. (PG-13)

(760-599-8221)



(760-806-1790)



Call theater for program information

San Diego Reader December 4, 2008 **117**

SEEN ON DVD



The Year without a Santa Claus

JANEANE WHITE

Senior, Mount Miguel High School

For Christmas I have no idea what movie I'd want because I love too many films. I would probably pick a scary movie even though it's the holidays because they catch my attention more then most. As for giving movies, I would probably pick *The Year without a Santa Claus* because it's cute, and when I was little I used to sing along with the Snow Miser and the Heat Miser. My mom still sings those songs every year. I hear that a sequel has come out this year, and I would get it for my mom. It would bring a smile to her face, and I bet anything she would watch it immediately.

My family is a fan of the older puppet-animation movies like *Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer* and *Jack Frost*. They remind me of when I was younger and when life used to be so much easier.

THE YEAR WITHOUT A SANTA CLAUS (USA) 1976, Warner
List price: \$19.98

RUDOLPH, THE RED-NOSED REINDEER (USA) 1964, Sony
List price: \$15.99

JACK FROST (USA) 1979, Warner
List price: \$14.98



Ima, Ai ni Yukimasu

LILY CANONES

Senior, Mount Miguel High School

For fans of horror, *Shutter* makes a very good Christmas gift. You may have seen the American version, but the Thai one is completely different and might make you not want to leave your camera lying around ever again. The original will keep you hiding behind a pillow as you wonder what will happen next. Horror fans will absolutely love it, and they will get insight into how Asian cultures believe in the spiritual world.

Ima, Ai ni Yukimasu (Be With You) is a touching story about a father and six-year-old son who experience the hardships of the mother and wife passing away. The son recalls the promise she made: "I'll be with you again in a year's time, when the rain comes." This film has a simple structure and flows very smoothly between memories and the present. It would make another great Christmas gift for those who love foreign films or a simple, tender love story.

SHUTTER (Thailand) 2004, Tartan
List price: \$19.95
IMA, AI NI YUKIMASU (BE WITH YOU) (Japan) 2004, Tokyo Broadcasting System
List price: \$38.99 (Import)



MST3K

ERIC ZACARIAS

Senior, Mount Miguel High School

Oh, the magical qualities of Christmas consumerism. In these times of economic distress and financial insecurity, holiday shopping is expected to decrease significantly. In times of economic peril, what more simple gift to give than that of a DVD. Relatively cheap and able to be watched over and over again, DVDs provide an easy way to satisfy one's entertainment wishes. Here are a pair of DVDs I'd gladly take in my stocking.

The Dark Knight, the biggest film of 2008, hits stores December 9. Packed with all the action, drama, and messages that have been synonymous with *Batman*, *The Dark Knight* is the best film of the year and sure to please everybody from the casual moviegoers to the most devoted followers of comics.

MST3K is also great. Any season of the classic comedy series would do; its peanut-gallery format is sure to amuse all fans of cynicism and buffoonery.

THE DARK KNIGHT (USA) 2008, Warner
List price: \$34.98 (two discs)
MST3K: 20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION (USA) 1988-1999, Shout! Factory
List price: \$69.99 (four discs)

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; 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 disavement: 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 Ade-bimpe, and Debra Winger. 2008.
★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

Rashomon — A pregnant parable on truth and the eye of the beholder. The construction is neat, tight, and schematic (four conflicting points of view on a mysterious forest killing), whereas Kurosawa's treatment is full-blown (torrential rains, hysterical performances) and long-drawn-out. Toshiro Mifune, Machiko Kyo, Takashi

Shimura. 1952.
★★★ (CHULA VISTA 10, 12/6, 3:45 P.M.; 12/8, 5:45 P.M.; 12/11, 7:30 P.M.)

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 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.
★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; TOWN SQUARE 14)

A Secret — Claude Miller's Second World War drama, with Cécile de France, Patrick Bruel, Ludivine Sagnier, and Mathieu Amalric.
(GASLAMP 15, FROM 12/5)

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-Bythewood. 2008.
★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; GASLAMP 15; MISSION VALLEY 20)

Seven Samurai — Kurosawa's inspiring action film — inspiring particularly to John Sturges's *The Magnificent Seven* — about a loose-knit team of free-spirited, unemployed samurai who are hired for pittance to defend a farming village against the local huns. The movie itself could be called loose-knit too; but because the action scenes, like the characters, are wonderfully varied and energetic, it is one of the least tedious three-and-a-half-hour movies in existence. Takashi Shimura, Toshiro Mifune. 1954.
★★★ (CHULA VISTA 10, 12/6, 6:30 P.M.; 12/8, 2:00 P.M.; 12/11, 7:00 P.M.)

Slumdog Millionaire — Feverish daydream, 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.
★ (FLOWER HILL 4, FROM 12/5; 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

CONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; 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; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 12/5)

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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 — The glorified delivery man has been coerced into chauffeuring a freckled Ukrainian redhead to Budapest and beyond, strapped with an irremovable bracelet that will explode if he strays seventy-five feet from his Audi. Jason Statham offers himself up as an alternative to the rougher James Bond of Daniel Craig, to-

gether with a rougher production and rougher photography in the bargain. All the foolishness; less finesse. With Natalya Rudakova, Robert Knepper, François Berléand, and Jeroen Krabbé; directed by Olivier Megaton. 2008.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAM 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION MARKET-PLACE 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 VIL-LAGE)

Twilight — Teen vampire romance from the popular series of girls' books by Stephenie Meyer, a sort of *Nancy Drew* — *Vampire Lover*. 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. 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. And the business of being a bloodsucker 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 schoolgirlish readers, and now moviegoers, might go pitty-pat. 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 given the fixation on the girl's "scent" and given the old-fashioned proscription against Going Too Far or indeed Going All the Way, that option insistently comes to 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 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 heartthrob, 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. 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; PARK-

WAY 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)

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 Condoleezza 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; LA PALOMA, FROM 12/5)

Were the World Mine — Gay musical fantasy with Tanner Cohen, Nathaniel David Becker, and Wendy Robie, directed by Tom Gustafson.

(KEN, 12/5 THROUGH 11)

Yojimbo — Akira Kurosawa's bloody-minded political parable about the struggle for supremacy in a godforsaken 17th-century rural village. The feudists on both sides are uniformly petty, pea-brained, and ba-

boonish (the only thing protecting them from one another is their cowardice), and justice is done when an unemployed samurai wanders into their midst and capriciously slaughters them all. Toshiro Mifune, scratching and swaggering to a great musical score, enjoys himself enormously as the nihilistic samurai who is endowed with an unsportsmanly superiority in the art of swordfighting. 1962.

★★★★★ (CHULA VISTA 10, 12/5, 7:30 P.M.;
12/7, 4:15 P.M.; 12/9, 5:30 P.M.)

Zack and Miri Make a Porno — A Kevin Smith film, self-explanatorily titled, of incessant dirty-talk, a bit of dirty-do, and a platter 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 Everyblob), Elizabeth Banks, Jason Mewes, Traci Lords, and Justin Long. 2008.

● (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION VALLEY 20)

User Reviews — MOVIES

Best user comments from Reader website

Transporter 3 2008

I am a big fan of Jason Statham; someone needs to take the place of Van Damme and Seagal asskicking action movies. And I like the *Transporter* movie franchise, with reservations. The fight choreography is always spectacular; you will not find any complaints there. The movie is worth it if only to see that. My problem is some of the major stunt sequences (there are three in this sequel) are believable only in the world of a video game. But it's all escapism entertainment, right? Forget about romance; go into this movie looking to see great fight sequences and out-of-this-world car stunts from a charismatic action movie star and you will be thoroughly entertained.

By **pilote** 2:01 p.m., Nov. 26, 2008

Sukiyaki Western Django 2008

Miike plays it like a contemporary international co-production b/w Corbucci and Gosha, pre-dubbed for your viewing pleasure. Rather than method, it emphasizes strong character types — like a bunraku or kabuki drama of the aftermath of the Genpei Wars. Momoi Kaori rocks the s***, abolishing all memory of that Geisha Memoirs crap. A screwball QT cameo kicks it off, with him emulating two distinct styles of dubbing and shrieking the refrain from *Il Buono, Il Brutto, e Il Cattivo* before CGI sukiyaki flies at the screen with the film's title branded onto a block of tofu. Watch for a brief but key cameo from the “Mercedes Zaro” cross out of the original Django. Uncompromisingly great.

By **trere8** 6:33 p.m., Nov. 26, 2008

Milk 2008

Milk is a must see for members of the gay community. Many younger gays just don't know who Harvey Milk was or who George Moscone was, either, nor for that matter Dan White.... Back in the 1970s, when all this really happened, was part of the beginnings of gay activism. A time when gays were beat, killed, and harassed by not just gay haters, but the police, sheriffs, and any other law enforcement segment. Gays were afraid to be who they were in public or public places and this movie reflects part of that era. Casting of this movie was right on with Sean Penn as Harvey Milk — the looks were quite stunning, to say the least. Josh Brolin as Dan White was an excellent match. James Franco's part as Milk's lover fitted well. Emile Hirsch gave a good performance as a young gay activist. There were some actual scenes of San Francisco during that time in the movie which added a realness to it. What actually went thru the mind of Dan White and why he killed Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone, God only knows. You can see the push of Harvey Milk in his pursuit to free gays from being persecuted. His long, hard fight to become supervisor of San Francisco finally came to fruition in 1977 when he became the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in California. Dan White could not handle Harvey Milk and his drive to push gay agendas, nor the support of George Moscone. Finally, Dan White reached his limit and went off the deep end by killing both of them. 3 1/2 stars is well deserved for this well done movie by director Gus Van Sant.

By **richinsd** 7:29 a.m., Dec. 1, 2008

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Elizabeth Olubodun, OK! MAGAZINE



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THEATER

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.

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. 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 28.

Christmas Is Comin' Uptown!

Common Ground Theatre presents its annual holiday production, a musical loosely based on Dickens's *Christmas Carol* in which Scrooge is a Harlem slumlord about to foreclose on a house and a church. EDUCATIONAL CULTURAL COMPLEX, 4343 OCEAN VIEW BOULEVARD, SOUTH EAST SAN DIEGO. 619-527-5256. FRIDAYS, 7:30 P.M. SATURDAYS, 7:30 P.M. SUNDAYS, 3 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 18.

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. THURSDAY, 7:30 P.M. FRIDAY, 8 P.M. SATURDAY, 2 AND 8 P.M. SUNDAY, 1 AND 6:30 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 7.

Gods of Hollywood

The Hispanic Theatre and Robert Wald Studio present a staged reading of Jesus Sierra Oliva's drama about Hollywood legends Ramon Novarro and Jose Mojica, whose sexual orientation was at odds with 1930s Hollywood. NORTH PARK VAUDEVILLE AND CANDY SHOPPE, 2031 EL CAJON BOULEVARD, NORTH PARK. 619-647-4958. SUNDAY, 7 P.M. MONDAY, 7 P.M. RUNS DECEMBER 7 AND 8.

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."

DON POWELL THEATRE AT SDSU, 5500 CAMPANILE DRIVE, SDSU. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 7.

How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

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 Tullalian 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. CYGNET THEATRE — ROLANDO, 6663 EL CAJON BOULEVARD, SUITE N, COL-

LEGE 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. THURSDAYS, 7:30 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 4 AND 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. 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

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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. THROUGH DECEMBER 6.

Off the Ground

New Village Arts brings back its popular Christmas show, by Tom Zohar and Amy Chini, about a family that hasn't seen each other in a long time, and some would like it even longer. Joshua Everett Johnson directed.

NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787 B STATE STREET, CARLSBAD. 760-433-3245. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 AND 7 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 21.

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."

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, 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.

Reckless

Patio Playhouse stages Craig Lucas's "offbeat holiday fable" about

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THEATER

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.

A Tuna Christmas
 Compass Theatre presents Ed Howard, Joe Sears, and Jaston Williams's sequel to *Greater Tuna*. Twenty-four hours before Christmas, seasonal traumas commence in the small Texas town. Josh Hyatt directed.
 COMPASS THEATER, 3704 SIXTH AVENUE, HILLCREST. 619-688-9210. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. WEDNESDAYS, 8 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 27.

U.S. Drag
 Ed, a serial killer, disguises himself as a person in need. That's why Evan started SAFE. If you don't want to be murdered in Manhattan, "stay away from Ed." How? Don't

help the needy. "A good Samaritan," says a SAFE poster, "is a dead Samaritan." Gina Gionfriddo packs her often blazingly funny satire with rapturous leaps in logic. For example, Christopher (a guts-spewing writer whose best-seller's about made-up parental abuse) reasons that Ed might not exist: victims earn 15 minutes of fame by "self-assault" and blaming Ed. When it comes to Having It All, now, for free, recent college grads Angele and Allison are the champs. Exuding entitlement, they scheme for golden parachutes without ever joining a firm. The 95-minute play's title comes from William S. Burroughs's *Naked Lunch* (an invisible heaviness, "like a cold wind from postcard mountains," that loads Americans down). The play feels uneven because the better scenes (the opening sequence, a nonalcoholic double-date gone awry) are such tough acts to follow. Laura Bozanich and Karson St. John make Angela and Allison variations on a theme: Angela uses reason to deal with an irrational world, Allison to usurp it. Both are a scream. Supporting cast members do what they can with one-dimensional roles. Among them, newcomer Melissa Coleman Reed often makes humor from nothing. Director Claudio Raygoza helped his cause

by designing sets that slide on and off in seconds. Sylvia Enrique and Glenn Paris's coal-black, spangly costumes come straight from the NYC club scene.
Worth a try.
 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
 Is fun. But is it ever slight! By contrast, the La Jolla Playhouse's *Cry-Baby*, an imitation John Waters piffle, seems Sophoclean. In a way, *Xanadu* beats a dead horse. It parodies one of the, if not the (say some), worst movies of all time: the 1980 Olivia Newton-John fiasco in which Clio, the Greek muse of history, abandons immortality for the chance to fall in love with Sonny, a Venice Beach chalk muralist, and create art — well, okay, build a roller-disco. What saves the musical, some, is that the playful parody forgives the errors of the original's ways. What also saves the show, for some: Douglas Carter Beane's book pays homage as much to the era of mirror balls and leg-warmers as it does the movie — and clearly envies their late-1970s naïveté. Beane's best lines, however, are in-

jokes for theater cognoscenti that evoke intermittent bolts of laughter amid pockets of dead silence. The Christopher Ashley-directed cast performs with energy and does justice to the music — especially when Sharon Wilkins and Joanna Glushak belt "Evil Woman" (better justice, in fact, than the live band, which sounds synthesized). Max von Essen makes Sonny two different people: the near-brain-dead male ingenue has a mature, powerful singing voice. The show's star, Elizabeth Stanley, who played Allison in the Playhouse's *Cry-Baby*, warps Newton-John's Aw-zee accent (and gets laughs the first time but not the next twelve) and deftly skates around designer David Gallo's restricted performing space. She handles "Strange Magic" and "Suddenly" with ease. She even sounds sincere when she croons the goofy ditty (not in the original) which asks THE metaphysical question of the disco era: "Have You Never Been Mellow?"
Worth a try.
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DRIVER/COURIER. Part-time shifts available. Must have pickup with shell, mini-van or cargo van. Excellent pay, mileage and benefits! Call 858-444-2350.

DRIVERS WANTED. Requires valid CA driver's license, current H-6 DMV printout and good, safe driving skills. Must be 25 years or older. Up to \$2000 commission plus tips. Apply in person only: Xpress Shuttle, 1065 Bay Boulevard, Suite B, Chula Vista, CA 91911. No phone calls/faxes, please.

DRIVERS. \$1700-\$2400 monthly. Fuel paid. Auto parts delivery with late model pickup truck, car or van. Clean DMV. Local and North County openings. Bonus paid. Independent contractors. 619-233-4374.

DRIVERS. Dominion Distribution is seeking part-time Drivers to deliver free publications on Mondays and Fridays. Requires a truck, van or SUV, currently insured. EOE. Drug screening. DMV and criminal background check required. Call Monday-Friday, 8am-12pm, 858-279-3137 x243.

DRIVERS. Must have Class B license with passenger endorsement and at least 6 months experience. Fixed route, Monday-Friday, 36-40 hours/week with benefits. Call 619-287-0628.

DRIVERS. Teams earn top dollar plus great benefits. Solo drivers also needed for Western regional. Werner Enterprises, 800-346-2818 x123.

DRIVERS: Deliveries throughout San Diego, or on-the-job training as Airport Agent/Dispatcher. Choose your schedule! Your own vehicle required. Paid weekly. Excellent income! 619-543-1372.

DRIVERS: MORTUARY DRIVERS. Growing transportation company has full-and part-time openings for reliable employees. Good driving record, heavy lifting

and clean background check required. No felonies, no misdemeanors. Healey, Scott & Bradt. Fax resume to 619-441-9872 or e-mail hsbtrans@aol.com.

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 Medical Center for Clinical Research, 619-521-2841.

FEMALE VOLUNTEERS 18 YEARS or older with pelvic inflammatory disease needed for research study. Participation in this study involves no medication or treatment. One visit to our offices (approximately one hour) required. Visit will consist of a blood draw and completion of a questionnaire. Compensation for participation will be \$130 plus travel allowance of \$20—total \$150. For further information and to check if you qualify, please call Tracy Savra at 1-800-519-8810 or email tracysavra@precisionmed.com.

FINANCIAL SERVICES Marketing. Rapidly expanding financial services marketing company seeks local sales representatives. Ideal candidate will be motivated, honest, outgoing, entrepreneurial, with 4 years of college or equivalent. Call our office and leave message (or fax) 24 hours: 877-286-5339.

FLORIST DESIGNER, PART-TIME. Permanent part-time position. Experience is a must. Wire-service friendly a plus. Scripps Ranch Marketplace. Ask for Chris, 858-566-9797.

FUNDRAISING for national charities and the Democratic Party. Over 20 years in business. \$9/hour. Paid training. Performance bonuses. Medical, dental, 401(k). Full and part time. Convenient location. Apply at Gordon & Schwenkmeyer: 9620 Chesapeake Drive, San Diego 92123-1369. Call for interview, 858-496-2100.

GARDENERS WANTED full time, Monday-Friday. 3-4 years experience required. Coastal and city central locations. Competitive wage. Positive, motivated individuals, call 619-475-9669.

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GUARDS/SECURITY. Immediate openings for prestigious Downtown San Diego sites. Must be customer service oriented, computer literate, and have excellent communication skills. All shifts available. Excellent benefits, 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/N/D, drug free. PPO #14827.

HAIRSTYLIST needed in Coronado. Full time, commission. Minimum 2 years' experience. Career oriented. Contact Domani Salon of Beauty and Wellness, 619-813-5337.

HAIRSTYLIST/MANICURIST. Recession-proof your business. Lower your expenses today with inexpensive booth rental rates. Full or part time. Please call, leave message: 858-382-8795.

HAIRSTYLISTS. Benefits, reasonable rent. Upscale European-style Uptown salon now hiring experienced Stylists with own clientele. Can retail own products. Ample parking. Good, natural lighting! Antoine, Salon Antoine, 619-277-7747 or 619-291-7747.

HEALTHCARE: RNs, LVNs, AIDES. Join La Jolla Nurses! Looking for Home Health Aides, ongoing assignments. Also per diem work—you pick the days, hours and shifts! Competitive pay rates, excellent work assignments. Employee-owned agency—you receive shares of company stock free! State-licensed home health agency. Medical, dental and vision benefits; 401(k) plan, referral bonus. La Jolla Nurses HomeCare, 858-454-9339.

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HHAs, CNAs, and Personal Assistants. Competitive/weekly pay, flexible hours, training opportunities. Call today! Right at Home, 858-451-5762. 858-277-5900; Apply: www.rahencinitas.com, www.rajalajolla.com.

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HOTEL PAstry COOK. Full-time. Ideal candidate will have Culinary School and six months' pastry work experience. Must be available for full-time evening shifts, however flexible availability is preferred. Experience in fine dining environment a plus! Please send your resume to hr@ranchovalencia.com. Or apply in person at 5921 Valencia Circle, Rancho Santa Fe, 92067. Or submit your resume using the application link on our website <http://www.ranchovalencia.com/resort/careers.php>. No phone calls please. EOE/Drug-free workplace.

Sales Associate and Sales Manager-Now!

Hotel: Del Mar Inn. Great money to start! Full time/part time. Front Desk, Guest Services Relations, Sales Associate, Sales Manager, Maintenance, Housekeeping/Laundry. No calls. Apply in person: 720 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar.

HVAC TECHNICIANS. ARS of San Diego is seeking career-minded HVAC Technician with minimum three 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

HELP WANTED

RESTAURANT

The Rancho Valencia Restaurant in Rancho Santa Fe, recipient of the *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence and named “One of the Top 100 Hotel Restaurants” by Zagat Survey, is a wonderfully romantic and elegant dining experience.

We are currently seeking a **Host/Hostess** with previous fine dining experience. This position requires strong computer skills, professional dress and phone manner, excellent organizational skills and the ability to work gracefully under pressure. Knowledge of Open Table is a tremendous plus!

Please send your resumé to: hr@ranchovalencia.com

Or apply in person at:
5921 Valencia Circle, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067

Or submit your resumé using the application link on our website:
<http://www.ranchovalencia.com/resort/careers.php>
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Rancho Valencia Resort in Rancho Santa Fe is an intimate, secluded hideaway defined by its character, charm and exceptional staff. The resort offers the highest-quality accommodations, amenities, cuisine and recreation, enhanced by unsurpassed personal service.

We are currently seeking a full-time **Pastry Cook**! Ideal candidate will have Culinary School and six months' pastry work experience. Candidates must be available for full-time evening shifts, however flexible availability is preferred. Experience in fine dining environment is a plus!

Please send your resumé to: hr@ranchovalencia.com

Or apply in person at:
5921 Valencia Circle, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067

Or submit your resumé using the application link on our website:
<http://www.ranchovalencia.com/resort/careers.php>
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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.

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LOAN OFFICER/SALES. No real estate license required! Training is provided! Leave message 24 hours for return call 888-313-7226 or fax resume: 858-454-2437.

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. 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.

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.

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MASSAGE THERAPIST. Relaxed, professional Chiropractic office. Therapeutic massage experience helpful. Sharp, self-motivated. Casual atmosphere. Have fun while working hard! Some Saturday mornings. 858-483-4770 or e-mail: service@drfabbe.com.

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OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST for skilled nursing facility. Sign-on bonus! Benefits. Call for more information. 7760 Parkway Drive, La Mesa. Call 619-469-0124 x12.

PAID VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for research study. Are you diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and available to take part in a research study? To participate, you must have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease for at least 1 year and be 60 years or older. This research study involves blood sampling and spinal tap and requires one visit to our office in North County. Free transportation is available. As compensation for participating, volunteers may receive up to \$100. For further information and to check if you qualify, please call Matthew Harper at 1-800-519-8810 or email matthewharper@precisionmed.com.

Call Center

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Full-time/Part-time Opportunities



Call: 619-516-7881

Or apply in person 12-3 pm Monday-Thursday:
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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: 8895 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.joinspdnw.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.

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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.

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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 evaluations will be con-

ducted 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.

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RESTAURANT HOST/HOSTESS with previous fine dining experience. Requires strong computer skills, professional dress and phone manner, excellent organizational skills and ability to work gracefully under pressure. Knowledge of Open Table is tremendous plus! Please send your resume to hr@ranchovalencia.com. Or apply in person at 5921 Valencia Circle, Rancho Santa Fe, 92067. Or submit your resume using the application link on our website http://www.ranchovalencia.com/resort/careers.php. No phone calls please. EOE/Drug-free workplace.

RESTAURANT SERVER. DiMille's now hiring lunch time Server, part time. Fast-paced environment. Multi-tasking, energetic, hard working. Weekends a must. Apply: Tuesday-Thursday 3pm-5pm: 3942 Adams Avenue, 92116. 619-283-3153.

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Restaurant. Now hiring Wok Cooks with working experience in Chinese restaurant or similar. Resume: sdavis@citywok.com; 619-220-8888. City Wok, 718 West Washington Street, San Diego (92103). www.citywok.com.

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.

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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.

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SALES: FIRE EXTINGUISHER Service Tech. Requires valid Certificate of Registration with State of California Fire Marshall Office. Must know San Diego geography. E-mail resume: anitafire@sbcglobal.net.

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.

SALE 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.

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 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.CoastCareer.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.



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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.

SEEKING HELP TO ASSIST DISABLED person in house in exchange for room only. 619-479-4212.

SERVERS AND HOSTS/HOSTESSES. McDini's now hiring. All shifts, bar and diner. Apply 2-4pm Monday-Friday: 105 East 8th Street, National City. No calls!



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.

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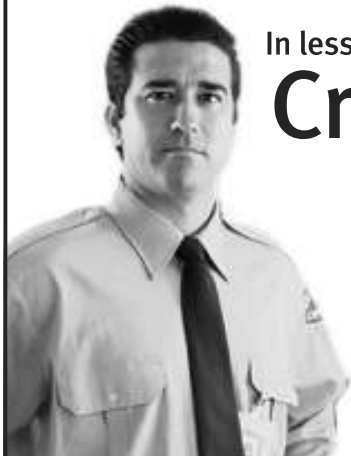
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Crush

p.101 palette *should be* pallet

Armin Moths (San Diego) \$10

Sheep and Goats

p.18 lives. *should be* lives."

Molly Cravey (San Diego) \$10

City Lights

p.10 from page 10 *should be* from page 9

Zachary Lara (Encinitas) \$10

The Illegal Tunnel

p.61 Government." *should be* Government."

Blurt

p.78 Winston's *should be* Winstons

Brian Slipper (Del Mar) \$20

Restaurant listings

p.107 etouffe *should be* etouffee

Mtume Salaam (San Diego) \$10

Can We Create New Life?

p.54 started. *should be* started,

Roam-o-Rama

p.64 adminstered *should be* administered

Puzzle contenders

p.133 Drew , *should be* Drew,

Linda Cox (San Diego) \$30

Errata: technical glitches rendered our programs unable to render the hacek in Dvořák or the superscript in 10³⁰ correctly before last Typo Patrol went to press. It is obvious that they were not typos, since they replicated the original errors. Sorry!

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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. Overjoy
- 6. Fed. agency with an acid rain hotline
- 9. Magic charm
- 13. 1956 Four Lads hit "____ Much!"
- 14. Bean bag?
- 15. Singer Joplin
- 16. Voice of Artie Ziff on "The Simpsons"
- 18. "You ____ one!"
- 19. Comic strip "The Wizard ____"
- 20. Prefix with thermal
- 21. Either of two Old Testament bks.

- 22. Tie up the phone
- 23. He played Van Helsing in "Van Helsing"
- 25. Oil-rich fed.
- 27. A whale of an attraction
- 29. Navy officer: Abbr.
- 30. Paris-to-Amsterdam dir.
- 31. Munch on
- 33. Thailand, once
- 34. Court pos. for Yao Ming
- 35. In 2001, she had the #1 movie and album in the same week
- 39. Gymgoer's pride
- 40. Futile
- 41. ____-pitch softball
- 42. Undeveloped
- 43. Canine cry
- 44. Pre-1917 Russian rulers
- 48. ____ trial basis
- 49. ____-faire
- 53. "Stupid me!"
- 54. Pitt and Paisley
- 56. Your and my
- 57. "Garfield" waitress
- 58. Inner circle
- 59. 2008 Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist of "The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao"
- 61. "57 Varieties" company
- 62. Tempe sch.
- 63. Tennis pro Dementieva
- 64. Singer Pinza
- 65. Output from Jay-Z (who also happens to be the inspiration for this puzzle's theme)
- 66. Luth. or Meth., e.g.

Down

- 1. Takes great delight in
- 2. Bathroom item made from gourd fibers

- 3. Golf pro Sorenstam
- 4. Blabbed
- 5. D-Day arena: Abbr.
- 6. Alternative to Luth. or Meth.
- 7. "The Chosen" author
- 8. Wood-shaping tool
- 9. Bryn ____ College
- 10. Sixteen drams
- 11. CBS sportscaster since 1985
- 12. Sugar suffix
- 15. The only MLB pitcher with over 200 wins and 150 saves
- 17. By way of
- 21. "Streets" of Venice
- 23. Ad icon with a mule named Conchita
- 24. Golda of Israel
- 26. Market closing?
- 28. What boys will be
- 32. Royal crowns
- 33. Six-yr.-term holder
- 35. Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award winner in 2007
- 36. King of England, 1307-27
- 37. Name for a poodle
- 38. Above zero: Abbr.
- 39. "My man!"
- 45. Actor Brody
- 46. "Everybody Loves Raymond" star
- 47. Captain Marvel's magic word
- 50. Composer with an instrument named after him
- 51. Dawn
- 52. Suffix with ranch
- 55. Florence's river
- 57. Like some chatter
- 58. Revolutionary Guevara
- 59. Unsettle
- 60. A Kennedy

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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:

S	G	T		I	S	H		S	A	L	A	M	I	S
P	R	O		M	C	A		O	N	A	L	I	N	E
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S	N	A	I	L	E	D		E	S	C		E	T	A
D	A	N	C	E	R	S		N	E	A		R	E	X

THIS WEEK'S CONTENDERS:

☛ indicates T-shirt winner. Number indicates successful entries.

☛ **Gary Mocko, Ocean Beach, 24.**
Julie Osburn, North Park, 24. "Four more Reader puzzles left this year."
Ric Witt, Clairemont, 24. "Welcome back Lil. I need another T-shirt."
D. Faulkner, University Heights, 23. "Pedal daily for health and wealth."
Clinton Smith, La Mesa, 23. "Too soon we get old, too late we get smart."
Pamela Swain, College Area, 23. "Thank you for my T-shirt!"
Vince Cuseo, Vista, 22. "The new Oldsmobiles are in early this year!"
George Jackson, Oceanside, 22.
Anna McCutcheon, Downtown, 22. "www.paintwithdan.com"
Don Reckles, Carmel Valley, 22. "The road to success is always under construction. ILYKSR."
Chris Peterkin, Scripps Ranch, 21. "It's time yo get out the ornaments!"
Stephen Wilder, Rancho Bernardo, 21. "Coined word: snailed?"

Carolyn Dalton, Escondido, 20.
Dale Duffala, La Jolla, 20. "Back from vacation! Back to SD Reader crosswords!"
Bob Maxwell, Coronado, 20. "Rain rain don't go away."
Thomas McVeagh, Lakeside, 20. "Live drug free!"
C. J. Muellner, Spring Valley, 20. "It is so tee time!"
Glenn Walker, Pacific Beach, 20. "There's democracy and there's dictatorship. Anything in between is purgatory."
Charlotte Brown, Clairemont, 19.
Betsy Cory, Chula Vista, 19. "Scots: Celebrate Bobby Burns Day in January at St. Mark's!"
Ben Espe, Mission Valley, 19. "Beat Army. Go Navy."
Richard Hutchings, Santee, 19.
Frank Kuzniar, Carlsbad, 19. "I love geocaching. FKREXCAL. Welcome back Lil."
Ron Meyer, Santee, 19. "Congratulations Matt and Megan on your engagement."
Danny Wilson, Mira Mesa, 19. "Olga - Just skip a week and U'm!"

Tom Seaman, Alpine, 19.
Lisa Torrescano, Spring Valley, 19. "Happy Birthday Kell! U R awesome."
Clemencia Angus, Linda Vista, 18. "Hi Pepe, Maria, and Jayar! Love you guys. Peace!"
Martha Awdziejewicz, Clairemont, 18.
Norman Kenney, Carlsbad, 18. "Kiera Kenney water polo First-Team All-American! Hi Bodo!"
Elaine Marume, Oceanside, 18.
Barry Newman, Escondido, 18.
Jeff Smith, University City, 18. "In Soviet Russia, line waits on you!"
☛ **Mary Arana, Encinitas, 17.** "Happy Birthday JCI!"
Leslie Chase, Campo, 17. "Omnia praeclara rara. Hi Bill"

Donna Cresta, Chula Vista, 17. "Good Golly Miss Molly. Hello Barbara."
Bud Fisher, Mira Mesa, 17. "Looks like rain!"
Jim Koziol, UTC, 17. "Hey Lukie, where's your light saber?"
Cindy Pellett, University Heights, 17. "Warm blessings to all my fellow puzzlers! Enjoy the season!"
Rich Sewell, Ocean Beach, 17. "Friday, forty, fantastic."
Marie Turock, North Park, 17. "Life is but a dream."
Adele West, Rancho Bernardo, 17.
Laurence Altobell III, Carmel Valley, 16. "Leave, don't leave me. Look around and choose your ground."
Don Austin, Laguna Beach, 16.

☛ **Sheilah Doyle, Santee, 16.**
Michael McGriffin, Bay Park, 16. "Minnie, happy 13th anniversary. Let's do another 13."
Nathan Petty, Santee, 16.
Eric Sandquist, Allied Gardens, 16. "Support the Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation."
Steve Wilson, Spring Valley, 16.
Ivan Yanev, Santee, 16.
Sheila Agahan-Price, Oceanside, 15. "How can you diet with all this good food!"
Shannon Barry, Pine Valley, 15. "P is for pushing people!"
Margaret Buckner, Santee, 15.
John Bullock, Santee, 15.
A. T. Certik, Bonita, 15.
William Cushing, Rancho Bernardo, 15. "Welcome to the world. Isaac!"
Ed Edwards, Santee, 15.
L.D. Hartpence, Santee, 15.
Anne Hinton, Point Loma, 15. "Geo rocks!"
Gary Kuske, Santee, 15.
Rick Marin, Santee, 15.
Kevin McNearney, Santee, 15.
Heber Moore, Santee, 15.
Jim Piburn, Point Loma, 15.
Eddie Spaghetti, Coronado, 15. "143UNIT15! Poor Pepe LePew's Petunia's both chased and chaste! CIUM21"

Jean D. Smickle, Santee, 15.
Elenore Stephens, Potrero, 15. "P-town 4 life."
Stacy Tool, Santee, 15.
Dave Washington, La Jolla, 15. "God is love."
Doretha Albee, Santee, 14.
Bud Anderson, Santee, 14.
Rick Austin, Santee, 14. "I hope it's a winner wonderland."
Olga Betteridge, Ocean Beach, 14. "Marriage means commitment. So does insanity."
Neal Brown, Santee, 14.
Dave Capehart, Santee, 14.
David Castillo, Bay Park, 14.
☛ **Maria Coda, Oceanside, 14.** "Hi Al!"
Doug Coffin, Santee, 14.
Dan Collins, Santee, 14.
Laura Conshafter, Santee, 14.
Matt Dene, Santee, 14.
Dave Descoteaux, Santee, 14.
J. DeWitt, Santee, 14.
Mike Downey, Santee, 14.
Eduardo Emmett, Santee, 14.
Harry Engel, La Jolla, 14.
Emma Friemuth, Santee, 14.
Mike Gross, Santee, 14.
Hugh Hagues, Santee, 14.
☛ **Ward Harrington, Santee, 14.**
Sondra Hartpence, Santee, 14.
Ralph Hayward, El Cajon, 14. "47 days and counting."

THIS WEEK’S CONTENDERS CONTINUED:

☛ indicates T-shirt winner

LeRoy Hemingway, Santee, 14.
Mark Hill, Santee, 14.
Eric Jespersion, Santee, 14.
M. Jordan, Santee, 14.
Troy Knapp, Santee, 14.
Bill Love, Santee, 14.
Eben Maat, Santee, 14.
Ken Milne, Santee, 14.
Kevin Moreau, Santee, 14.
Derek Rasmussen, Santee, 14.
Richard Rose, Santee, 14.
Tom Somich, Clairemont, 14.
Nathan Squire, Santee, 14.
Matt Taylor, Santee, 14.
Laurie Teemsma, Santee, 14.
Bob Vollmar, La Jolla, 14.
Woody Weaver, Santee, 14.
Mary Woodbury, Santee, 14.
Roy Bailey, Santee, 13.
Carl Bennett, Escondido, 13.
Derek Besand, Santee, 13.
Tim Betteridge, Hillcrest, 13.
“Our love greater always + together in marriage = heaven!”
Marvin A. Brown, Clairemont, 13.
Glory Cadenhead, Clairemont, 13.
“For my golfing girlsies.”
Mike D’Asaro, Santee, 13.
Andre Desilets, Downtown, 13.
“Keep smiling. Happy Holidays.”
Jill Dickens, Santee, 13.
Byron Ellsworth, Santee, 13.
Steve Fagerwold, Santee, 13.
Marie Grace, College Area, 13.
“Great trip! Thanks Sasha and Kaitlin!”
Larry Hartpence, Santee, 13.

E.M. Hutchings, Santee, 13.
Steve Jenks, Santee, 13.
Sara Khwaja, Poway, 13. “Love my black T-shirt. Where is Lil?”
Donald Millsberg, Santee, 13.
Barbara Neill, Santee, 13.
Donnie Nelson, Santee, 13.
Charles Overdorf, Santee, 13.
Bill Pischke, Ramona, 13.
“Tempis fugit quando amor.”
J. Schwendinger, Santee, 13.
Ron Shields, Santee, 13.
Randy Sjoblom, Santee, 13.
Ann Winder, Hillcrest, 13.
“Unlucky 13. forgot to fax my entry last week.”
Sue Worthen, Santee, 13.
Steven Young, Santee, 13.
Dan Abernathy, Santee, 12.
Mike Adkins, Santee, 12.
Don Albee, Santee, 12.
Stuart Aunger, Chula Vista, 12.
“Brain, I’m all hepped up on Mountain Dew and Alka Seltzer!”
Bruce Barshop, La Jolla, 12.
“Snailed?”
Rick Braithwaite, Santee, 12.
J. Breckenridge, Santee, 12.
Wally Chapman, Chula Vista, 12.
Glen and Tesi Chavira-Cournoyer, Chula Vista, 12.
“Love. love me do.”
Kathleene Evans, Santee, 12.
Mark Franc, Santee, 12.
Jim Hutchings, Santee, 12.
Richard Miner, Cherokee Point, 12. “Time to shop for calendars.”

Linda Millsberg, Santee, 12.
Ken Najbert, Mira Mesa, 12.
“Bacon!”
Don Prince, Serra Mesa, 12.
“Turn the Earth to sand - and still commit no crime.”
☛ Jeff Smith, Santee, 12.
Andrea Vollmer, Vista, 12.
Brian Beach, Santee, 11.
Ben Brainard, Santee, 11.
Howard Donnelly, Mission Valley, 11.
Andy Harrison, Santee, 11.
Edward C. Horbett, Jr., Crown Point, 11. “Billy rocks Hironi.”
Dennis Lamboy, Santee, 11.
Robert Ott, Mira Mesa, 11.
“Happy Thanksgiving.”
Don Romero, Ramona, 11.
“Long semester Mei Ling. I miss you!”
John Stead, Santee, 11.
Warren Winters, Santee, 11.
Ken A., Ocean Beach, 10. “Ross is a ladies’ man, Justin is Spiderman.”
Bryan Breckenridge, Santee, 10.
Diane Hutchings, Santee, 10.
Angie Longoria, Santee, 10.
Aaron Lundblade, Santee, 10.
Rumir Miravalles, San Diego, 10.
“Next XLT is for Manong Juan, my crossword puzzle teacher.”
Phil Nichols, Escondido, 10.
“Where’s all the water?”
Jennifer Rabner, Escondido, 10.
“Happy Birthday Lexi.”
Elizabeth Rainbolt, Mission Valley, 10.
David A. Weim, Chula Vista, 10.
Lee Woodbury, Santee, 10.
Marilyn Contreras, El Cajon, 9.
“Yahoo.”

Manny Espino, Santee, 9.
Monty Landy, Santee, 9.
Erin Marin, Santee, 9.
John Prince, Serra Mesa, 9.
“We were poor, but we were happy. - Mom, Pennsylvania, 1930s.”
Randy Schimpf, Santee, 9.
M. Sherritt, Santee, 9.
Sam Spaeth, El Cajon, 9.
Gayle Squire, Santee, 9.
Mark Wilde, Spring Valley, 9.
“Happy Holidays to everyone!”
Loren Broadstone, Santee, 8.
Tim Dene, Santee, 8.
Gina Glover, Santee, 8.
Bob Harper, Lakeside, 8.
☛ Carol Kuske, Santee, 7.
☛ Terry Golden, Clairemont, 6.
G.R. Morse, San Diego, 6.
“Mabuhay Lynn!”
Michael Williams, Downtown, 6.
“Tony Madrid says, I am going on a PI holiday.”
Flo Abena, Rancho Penasquitos, 5. “The NFL had rivalries? Go Navy, beat Army!”
Steve and Dawn, North Park, 5. “Be a good citizen - go buy a new washer/dryer.”
R. Blue, San Diego, 5. “Good show.”
Gunnar Eklof, Oceanside, 5.
I.C. Garcia, Golden Hill, 5. “We thank Europeans for disease, genocide, habitat destruction.”
Ricky Hartpence, Santee, 5.
Julie Hocking, Normal Heights, 5. “Go crazy!”
Kyle Matzke, Vista, 5. “Hope, what people do when they won’t work for something.”
Vicki Flora, Bonita, 4. “Sebastian, Mom loves you.”

Thomas Diehl, Escondido, 4.
“Who said and why: Linger awhile! So fair thou art!”
Kyle Sleeth, Scripps Ranch, 4.
“Hipsters, the elderly, and the only literate person in Santee...”
Cecile Alcaraz, San Diego, 3.
“Hope I’ll be lucky this time!”
☛ Aurora Alvarado, Carmel Valley, 3. “Nicholas Eyer is the best nephew ever!”
Dwayne and Karen, Clairemont, 3. “Didn’t know oran had a gina.”
Jackie Austin, Chula Vista, 3.
Mike Broadhead, El Cajon, 3.
Jeff Carroll, Pacific Beach, 3.
“Dear Angie, Disneyland is waiting...let’s roll!”
Glenda Feilen, El Cajon, 3.
Gian Ghio, Chula Vista, 3.
“What’s he gonna say next? Only the man-beast knows.”
☛ Mike Hartpence, El Cajon, 3.
Matthew Junker, San Diego, 3. “I believe in Socialism because I believe in humanity.”
Archie McAllister, Chula Vista, 3.
Thom Michaels, Palm City, 3.
“Sell the team John Moores!”
Jay Nunez, Encinitas, 3.
“Happy birthday Jilly, my cinnamon girl.”
Oliver Alvanado, El Centro, 2.
“Imperial Valley wants The Reader.”
Vickie Austin, Santee, 2.
G. Barker, Santee, 2.
Terri Beach, Santee, 2.
Mark Belleau, College Area, 2.
Wendy Besand, Santee, 2.

Heather Bloomfield, Santee, 2.
Carrie Collins, Santee, 2.
Craig Curtis, Escondido, 2.
“Hello to the Bastien family. 22 days to Christmas.”
Alfred Egaran, San Diego, 2.
“Eppy, B-Knuckle, and make up the house.”
Doug Fuller, Bonita, 2. “Ziggy played guitar, again!”
Tom Gibilisco, Lemon Grove, 2. “My kingdom for a T-shirt!”
Joseph Gold, San Diego, 2. “I got a life! I won a Reader T-shirt!”
Dennis Howey, La Verne, 2.
Chis Oliveira, Santee, 2.
Will Rogers, Santee, 2.
Leonard Sciuto, Point Loma, 2. “Tio Leo’s: Home of the perfect taco.”
Barbara and Will Slater, San Diego, 2. “Just the two of us.”
Jeff Battles, Serra Mesa, 1.
“Did I finally get it? Thanks Gunnar and CBC friends!”
Ed Fox, Carlsbad, 1. “Go Obama!”
Diana Holt, Hillcrest, 1. “Any other Marriott puzzlers out there?”
David MacCarthy, North Park, 1. “L’essential est invisible pour les yeux!”
Irving Metzger, San Diego, 1.
Matt Read, La Mesa, 1.
“Whither the non-crossword Reader puzzles of yore?”

PARENT RESOURCES

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.
CHRISTMAS BOOK FOR CHILDREN. “Peter Penny Discovers The Gift.” A story of faith, hope and love. Meaningful literature for children. Reader ages 5-12. www.peterpennybooks.com.
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Band. Weddings, corporate, private parties. High-energy dance band featuring sax player, female vocalist. Swing, jazz, rock, R&B, country, dance hits. 760-751-1876. www.HotPursuitMusic.com.

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AUDITIONS, OPEN CALL. Vocalists, musicians, groups, duets, actors, song writers, performers. All children and adults welcome, 8 years and up. New classes starting soon. Artists development studio. Saturday, December 6. 9am. Connect the Dots Entertainment. 2110 Hancock Street, Suite 300, San Diego, 92110. 619-840-8024.

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ANGER MANAGEMENT for kids and teens. 10 week educational individual/group classes to help express anger appropriately. Alpha Behavioral Health Services. Call for information, 619-285-9999.

ANXIOUS? DEPRESSED? Relationship issues? Parenting/family issues? Insurance and sliding scale accepted. Individuals, couples, children, adolescents/families. Private Mission Valley location. Phaedra Scoortis, MA, MFT, MFC-43174. 619-972-0209.

ARE YOU MAD? Learn how to manage your anger constructively. Gain power, control, reduce conflict and improve your relationships. Classes begin soon. Mission Valley. Jay Schneider, LCSW. Lic-9573. www.manageangerdaily.com. 858-538-5587.

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Reduced Fee Therapy.

Clinical Psychologist in UTC area dealing with major crises and ordinary issues of daily living. Call Dr. Tiffany P. Crawshaw, (Psy.D.) 858-336-5475.

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Maria Peterson

Skin Care

North Park

I’ve always hated it when people say, “That hit the spot.” I don’t know why. Maybe because it’s usually big, fat gross guys. And they have their hands on their stomachs. For some reason, that just creeps me out. I can’t think of any other phrases that really bother me. Or if they do, they just aren’t said enough for me to remember them.



Jeremy Frombach

Vintage Motorcycle Business

Los Angeles

I hate when people say, “Get ’er done!” Maybe it’s because I hate that man that says it. Is it really that funny a phrase? It seems like that’s such a big part of his routine. I hear the phrase a lot when I talk to this old guy in Wisconsin that I do business with. Although, it never really bothers me when he says it. I’ll be asking about something, and he just kind of ends his sentences by saying, “We’ll get ’er done.”



Lucy Duarte

Clerk

Hillcrest

‘That’s what she said.” I hate that phrase. People need to just stop saying it. It got so popular because of *The Office*. And I have to admit, I used to actually say it. There was a time I thought it was funny. But there reaches a point when you just get sick and tired of hearing it.



Elana Andrew

Housewife

New York

It has to be what my kids say all the time. It’s “in a minute.” It doesn’t matter what you ask them, they’ll say, “In a minute.” And it rarely ends up being just a minute later. They have other variations of that, too. They might say, “I’ll get to it,” after you ask them to do some of the chores.



Rafael Lopez

Cashier

Downtown

I have a lot of them that I hate. It could be things people say when I’m at work, or customers. I can’t think of a lot of them right now, but the one that I do hate, and it’s a bit random: it’s when people win anything...the lottery, the Super Bowl, and they say, “First off, I want to thank God.” Why are they thanking God for something they accomplished? Was God going against the team that lost?



Emanuel Martinez

Student

Mission Valley

‘It is what it is.” I hate that expression. For some reason, when people say it, I think it’s just a cop-out. You may want some explanation for something or just a proper answer to a question. When someone says that, it does neither. And I hear the phrase often. On a scale of one to ten, the amount of times I hear it is probably an eight.

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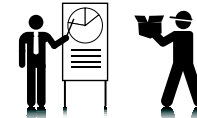
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KEYBOARD PLAYER WANTED. Looking for a George Martin type keyboard player for a Beatles tribute band to play only in background. No vocals necessary. 760-473-5344.

KEYBOARD PLAYER. Band needs experienced keyboard player. If interested, call Bob at 858-753-1775.

KEYBOARD/ORGANIST WANTED. Rhythm and blues, funk, jazz, and rock. King Fish Turned band. Michael, 760-521-5504.

PRODUCER seeks prolific, talented composers, performers, any age, with original material. Interns, copyists, songwriters. We have professional tools. 619-528-0907; www.myspace.com/sherilopez; www.myspace.com/isitfrankzappa; www.myspace.com/phyllispryor.

PROFESSIONAL SAXOPHONE PLAYER available for Holiday gigs. Limited key-

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REGGAE HIP-HOP jazz/rock lead rhythm guitarist available. CD/four credits. Pato Banton, Fully Fullwood, Majek Fashek, Myka Nyne, Scientist, Tippa Irie. Dale, myspace.com/dalehauskins, 858-401-2973.

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RECORD AT EARTHLING Studios. Analog and digital multitrack recording and mastering services. Call Mike for rates at 619-441-8341.

RECORD AT EMPIRE STUDIOS. \$30/hour, engineer included. Specializing in Electronic, Rap, and Urban music. High-end equipment, radio quality guaranteed. Visit our facility at www.empirerecordings.com. 619-249-8355.

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REHEARSAL STUDIOS! Current special: \$100 off first months rent with ad! Two locations-Sports Arena & Miramar. Monthly and hourly available. Universal Sound, 619-306-2222.

REHEARSAL STUDIOS, \$15/hour with PA. Monthly \$350-\$475. 1/2 off first month's rent! Ventilated, Wi-Fi connection. Affordable recordings, screen printing, DVD, CD duplication, web design services. Dead Records, 760-967-1420; cell, 760-707-8606.

REHEARSE AT ADDER. New rooms open now! Upscale Kearny Mesa facility. All rooms have individual air conditioning, high ceilings and 24-hour access. Monthly rooms available. 858-505-8644. www.adderstudios.com.

REHEARSE AT HINDSIGHT— Miramar. Hourly rooms, fully equipped (drum kit, two half stacks, bass rig, PA), starting \$18/hour. PA only, \$16/hour. 858-635-9611, www.hindsightrehearsal.com.

ROOMMATES

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.

BAY PARK. 1 room available, 4 bedroom house, \$700. Hardwood floors throughout, tile kitchen/bath, stainless appliances, washer/dryer. Jacuzzi. Deposit plus shared utilities, 858-344-0333.

CARDIFF, \$475/month. Room for rent in 4 bedroom house in Cardiff by the Sea. Washer/dryer, fireplace, near beach. First and deposit. After 5pm, 760-436-6500.

CARDIFF. \$925, 1/2 utilities. Spectacular, 180 degree whitewater view. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, furnished townhome. Huge balcony, laundry, fireplace, cable, garage. Nonsmoking/pets. Jeff, 760-436-6426.

CARMEL MOUNTAIN. 3 windows, private entry/bath. Male only. Pool, spa, washer/dryer, gated. Great area. Close to everything. Near I-15 freeway 56. \$550/month, 858-673-4799.

CARMEL VALLEY. 2 rooms, 4-bedroom, 4-bath home. Includes cable, Internet, utilities. \$500/each, \$500/deposit. Lovely gardens. Near hiking/beach. No pets. 858-794-6882.

CLAIREMONT. \$600, includes utilities, small deposit. Roommate to share 4 bedroom, 2 bath house. Laundry facilities. Near 805/Balboa. 2 miles from Mesa College. 858-361-2576.

CLAIREMONT. 1 furnished bedroom. Balboa/Genesee area. Quiet residential area. Cable TV, refrigerator, microwave, and shower. \$750, includes utilities. First and last month. Call 858-531-2947.

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.

COLLEGE AREA/SDSU. Large room in nice 4 bedroom house. Near Trolley and bus. Male preferred. \$485. 619-403-3549.

COLLEGE AREA/SDSU. \$550/\$650, plus utilities. Share bath. 3 blocks from SDSU. Very clean home. Laundry. No pets. 619-885-0810.

DEL CERRO, \$600, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Quiet. No smoking/loud partying. Nice location. Low utilities. Upstairs unit. Must see. Available now. Details, 619-229-9953.

EASTLAKE/CHULA VISTA, \$700/month, 1/2 utilities, \$600/deposit. Share 2 bedroom 3 bath house, fully remodeled. Washer/dryer, garage. Gated community, pools, jacuzzi, tennis, golf. Near freeways, shopping, theaters. No pets 619-248-5496.

EL CAJON. Fully furnished townhouse except bedroom, \$580, includes utilities, \$200 deposit. 325 East Bradley. Pool, Jacuzzi, laundry room, tennis court. Female. Cat friendly. Outside smoking only. Available immediately. 619-449-0375.

EL CAJON. Large room for rent in townhome. All inclusive. \$550/month, includes everything, utilities, Wifi, phone/cable, washer/dryer. Further questions, Volcomsd@gmail.com. 619-813-3585.

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.

ESCONDIDO. \$550. \$550 deposit, 1/3 utilities. DIRECTV. Own room, kitchen privileges. No smoking, drugs, pets. Offroad parking. Washer/dryer, Jacuzzi. Private, end of cul-de-sac, 760-492-6275.

ESCONDIDO. Rooms in brand new home. Room/separate bath, \$695. Room/private bath, \$795. Master suite, walk-in closet, full bath, \$1195. Includes all utilities. 760-443-4045.

ESCONDIDO. Share apartment. 1 bedroom. Balcony. Air conditioning, heating. Gated community. Pool, Jacuzzi. Female only. \$500/month, including utilities, zero deposit! Near shopping. 858-776-6648.

GOLDEN HILL. \$460/\$475. Utilities included. Large, quiet. Centrally located. 3 private bedroom apartment. Share bath and kitchen. Deposit. 2220 E Street. Appointment necessary. 619-584-5900.

HILLCREST. Share bungalow. Master bedroom available. Available 1/1/09. I have small cat/dog. No drugs/alcohol/indoor smoking. \$750, \$1000/refundable deposit. References required, 619-501-4522.

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. Large furnished bedroom/bath, patio. Kitchen privileges, parking, pool, monthly. No smoking or storage. References required. \$500/month, plus utilities, and 20 hours per month caregiving. 858-452-9552.

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. \$425 plus utilities. Share quiet, comfortable house with 3 others. Laundry, deck, Internet, skylights, hardwood floors, yard. Nice location. No pets/smoking. 619-466-7500.

LA MESA. Roommate to share 2 bedroom 3 bath townhouse, full-size washer/dryer. Parking space. Pool, tennis. \$795/month, split utilities. No pets. No smoking. 619-916-7442.

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.

LA MESA/SAN CARLOS. \$550, includes utilities. Furnished, share bath. \$100 deposit. Pool, Jacuzzi, sauna, laundry. References. Nonsmoker. Male preferred. Month to month. 619-469-3468; 619-750-6432.

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. Room for rent with own bath. Nice neighborhood. Female only. No illegal drugs or smoking. \$675 includes cable. Available now. 858-382-1663.

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.

NATIONAL CITY. Private master bedroom with bath. Washer/dryer, TV, cable, utilities included. Quiet, clean. \$650. 858-254-4469.

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.

PACIFIC BEACH. Room for rent in house. Kitchen privileges. No pets. First, 1/2 month rent, \$250 deposit, total \$1000. Furnished or unfurnished, backyard, 1 parking spot. 626-217-8612.

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.

POINT LOMA. Share 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Master bedroom \$625, or share, \$312. Female preferred. Call Tola 619-222-2481.

POWAY. \$600/month, 1/3 utilities. Share 3 bedroom house. Pool, fireplace, large kitchen, backyard. Quiet cul-de-sac. No pets/drugs/smoking. Street parking, washer/dryer. 760-877-0086.

SAN CARLOS. \$600. Large room/mirrored closets. Nonsmoking female only. Large 2 bedroom condo, newly remodeled. Have a cat, no other animals. Deposit \$300. 619-698-7350.

SAN MARCOS. Off Nordsahl and 78. Private bath, garage, includes utilities, cable, pool. Kitchen, washer/dryer. Female nonsmoker, no pets. Available. \$650/month. Jean, 760-745-0482.

SCRIPPS RANCH, \$625. Share 3 bedroom condo. Furnished room/private bath. Includes utilities, maid service, laundry, cable. No smoking/drugs/pets. 858-693-0834.

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-\$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.

UNIVERSITY CITY, SOUTH: Large, quiet upstairs room, 2 closets, private bath/entry, quiet street, storage, Jacuzzi, balcony, appliances, cable/utilities included, nonsmoking female: \$775. 858-546-8214.

VISTA. \$550 all inclusive. Master bedroom, gated community, sunset views, garage, spa, pool. Close to Highway 78. 760-801-1073 or 760-295-9076.

ROOMMATE
SERVICES

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ALL AREAS-ROOMMATES.COM. Browse hundreds of online listings with photos and maps. Find your roommate with a click of the mouse! Visit: www.Roommates.com. (AAN CAN)

RENTALS
COMMERCIAL

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.

GASLAMP ART SPACE! \$150/up. High ceilings, tall windows. Gallery venue for shows. Uniquely affordable. 100-600 square feet. 402 Market. Hughes Management, 619-239-1639 x103. www.HughesManagement.net.

GARAGE FOR RENT. Chula Vista. \$150 single 200 square feet. For dry storage only. Gated, 24/7 access. 619-425-6511.

Move-in Specials

Office spaces available. 7364 El Cajon Boulevard, 4535 30th Street, Starting at \$1.25/square foot. Multiple square footage. Utilities included. Donna, 619-820-6035.

NATIONAL CITY RETAIL SPACE. Near base. 1725 square feet. \$1.25 per square foot. Triple net lease for 1 year. Parking available. 3280 Main Street. Hughes Management, 619-239-1639 x103. hughesmanagement.net.

MISSION BAY/OFFICE SUITE. 413 square feet at \$1.15. Next to I-5. Easy access. Free parking. Near shopping center. 2445 Morena Boulevard, #205. Juno, 619-275-3455.

POINT LOMA/MIDWAY. \$1.10/square foot gross. Great street frontage at this high-traffic location. 500-3000 square feet available. Improvements planned. Lock in your low rate now! 3333 Midway Drive. Agent, 619-231-2727.

PACIFIC BEACH. Office space. \$2000. 1400-square-foot ground floor office, ample parking. Easy access. 4455 Lamont Street, Suite 3. 858-270-4492 x203.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1.50/square foot gross. Nice professional building. 640-1100 square feet available. Elevator, common restrooms, parking. Utilities included except phone and Internet. 2180 Garnet Avenue. Agent, 619-231-2727 x233.

MISSION HILLS. Small retail center, 2 spaces available now. From \$900/month. Manager in #11 at 930 West Washington Street, San Diego 92103. www.centrecity.net. 619-296-6699.

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RENTALS
HOUSES

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ALLIED GARDENS. \$1995. Spacious 3 bedroom, 1 bath house. Canyon view! Hardwood floors. Garage and driveway. Nonsmoking. Near freeways. Available 1/1/09. Pets on approval. 619-818-2740.

CHULA VISTA \$1250. 2 bedroom, 1 bath excellent home, centrally located. Nonsmoking. Small pet OK. 561 Roosevelt Street. Appointment necessary. 619-584-5900.

CHULA VISTA. \$1395. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. New carpeting. 1-car garage. \$1500 security deposit. Laundry hookups. No pets. Available now. 619-651-1427.

CHULA VISTA. \$2195. \$250 off first month's rent if rented by 12/15! 4 bedroom, 3 bath house. Washer/dryer, 2-car garage, fireplace, remodeled kitchen, marble floors, air conditioning and heat, private fenced yard. 827 Caminito Estrella, 91910. Cogan Properties, 619-283-2144.

CHULA VISTA/SUNBOW. \$2475. 4 bedroom, 2-1-2 bath. 2400 square foot house with 2 car garage. Private pool/spa. Air conditioning. Fenced yard. No pets. 617 Sipes Circle (at Diamond), 619-339-4025.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$1095. Super house, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Front yard. No back-yard. No garage. On site laundry. 2 parking. No smoking. No pets. \$900 deposit. 4161 42nd Street. 619-251-0030.

CITY HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house, \$1600. 725 square feet. Hardwood floors, washer/dryer. Adult pets OK. Gardener included. 3625 Chamaine Street. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. www.peoplehelpingothers.com.

CITY HEIGHTS. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, completely upgraded. New carpet/paint. Quiet street. Fenced yard, patio. Washer/dryer. Pets OK. \$1650. Available now. 619-200-0801. alisonsorley@yahoo.com.

CITY HEIGHTS/AZALEA PARK. \$1800. 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. 2 full baths, 2-car garage with washer/dryer. Quiet neighborhood on canyon. Access to all freeways. Pet on approval. Extras. 2119 Tulip Street. Carol, 619-282-2617.

CLAIREMONT NORTH. Beautiful quiet 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath canyon home. Mountain views. 2-car garage. Washer/dryer. Fenced yard. Close to UCSD. \$2000. Agent: Michael, 619-886-9565.

CLAIREMONT. Northwest. \$1975. Huge 3 bedroom, 3 bath. 15x20 master. 18x22 living. Approved pet OK. 2 parking spaces. Fireplace. Near I-52. 4962 Ensign. Agent, 619-286-3400.

CLAIREMONT. Very Nice duplex, 2 bedroom 1 bath. Near Clairemont Square/freeways. Porcelain tile throughout, yard, patio. Gardener/water included. Washer/dryer. Available 11/15/08-12/01/08, \$1650, 858-395-9463.

COLLEGE AREA. \$1725. 3 bedroom, 1 bath house, with 1/2 off first month's rent. New carpet and custom paint throughout. Stainless appliances and spacious yard. 858-598-1111 x128, utopiamanagement.com.

COLLEGE AREA. \$2100. \$300 off first month. 3 bedroom 3 bath, optional studio. New house, 2300sf. View, washer/dryer, fireplace, garage, yard. 4712 Wendell. No pets. 619-218-0730, trublu2@cox.net.

COLLEGE AREA/LA MESA. \$2295. Option to buy for \$399,500. 4 bedroom, 3 bath home. Corner lot. 2-car garage, washer/dryer hookups, fenced yard, hardwood floors, heat and air conditioning, indoor BBQ. 2 large recreation/game rooms. 6869 Duchess Street, 92115. Cogan Properties, 619-283-2144.

DEL CERRO. \$2300. Large, lovely 4 bedroom, 2 bath, double garage, fenced yard, close to all. 6-month lease. Available now. 6219 Chrismark Avenue. 619-465-6588.

ESCONDIDO. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2-story home. Fireplace, central air. All appliances, new paint/carpet. 2-car garage. Fenced yard. \$1850. Reduced \$100. 619-972-0003.

HILLCREST. \$895. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Charming cottage. Stove, refrigerator. Coin laundry. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Available 12/10/08. 3933 Centre Street. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

IMPERIAL BEACH. \$2100. 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. 2100 square feet, 2-car garage, RV parking. Fenced. Available 12/15. No pets. Lease. Good credit. 619-26-3426.

KENSINGTON. 2 bedroom, 1 bath with hardwood floors, newly remodeled kitchen with island and new appliances, washer/dryer hookups, 1-car garage, private yard with cabana and outdoor eating area. Close to all. Beautifully landscaped, includes gardener. Small pet OK. Available now. 4237 Meade Avenue. \$1795. 619-683-9274.

LA JOLLA. Beautifully upgraded ocean-view home. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths. Stainless appliances. 2500 square feet. Granite countertops. Large patio with fire pit. Fireplace. Built-in flat screen TV. 2-car garage. Pool. Gardener/pool maintenance included. \$6500. 1681 Paseo Bonita. Available immediately. Alta Vista Properties, 858-692-5140. www.altavistamanagement.com.

LINDA VISTA/USD. \$1300. Small 2 bedroom house. Garage. Laundry hookups. Small yard; small pets OK. Small patio. Freeway close. Near trolley. 5520 Riley. 619-871-5977.

MISSION HILLS. \$3300. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Hardwood floors. Fireplace. 2-car garage. Located in Spruce Canyon. \$1500. 1 bedroom penthouse. Large living room. Large bathroom with spa. Full kitchen. Large patio. 3350 Horton Avenue. Agent, 619-871-8915.

MOUNT HELIX. \$3050. 4 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath. Beautiful executive home. 2800 square feet. Pool/spa. 3 fireplaces. Cul-de-sac. Available now. Rick, 619-254-5378 or 619-757-3040.

NORTH PARK. \$780, 1 bedroom 1 bath. 750 square feet upstairs, dining/living

room, kitchen. 2 parking. Small pet OK. 4248 Wilson Avenue #C. 858-717-5232.

NORTH PARK. \$1025. Darling 1 bedroom cottage. New appliances, dishwasher. New cabinets. Hardwood floors. Yard and laundry hookups. No pets. Parking. 1902 Howard Avenue. 619-298-7724.

NORTH PARK. \$1050. 1 bedroom, 1 bath cottage. Washer/dryer hookups. New carpet and paint. Clean. Quiet. Secure. If you can find one better... rent it! 3691 Grim Avenue. Call Rachael at 619-804-1044 or Jeff at 619-713-1044.

NORTH PARK. \$1300. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. Garage. Refrigerator, washer/dryer hookups. Rear cottage with fenced yard. Deposit \$1500. 3917 Louisiana Street. 619-981-2770.

NORTH PARK. \$1795. 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. Extra storage. Remodeled Ikea kitchen. 3791 Arnold Avenue. Xilarent.com, 619-683-7638.

NORTH PARK. \$950. Cottage. Wood floors. Built-in china cabinet. Gated complex. Laundry on site. Available now. 4058 Hamilton Street. www.stevenleeproperties.com. 619-295-1161.

NORTH PARK. 1/2 off first! \$1095. Charming 1 bedroom, 1 bath cottage plus den. Large kitchen, appliances, plenty of storage. Laundry, Parking. 3141 Boundary Street. 619-804-3325.

NORTH PARK/CHOLLAS CREEK. \$1475. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Charming home. 1/2 off first month's rent. Garage. Large yard. Hardwood and tile throughout. Landscaper included. 858-598-1111 x128, utopiamanagement.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1095. 1 bedroom, 1 bath attached cottage with tandem parking for two cars. Enclosed patio with grill and patio set. Blocks to beach. Internet included. Month to month or lease available. No pets. 4805-1/2 Santa Monica Avenue. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1800. \$1800 deposit. 3 bedroom, 1 bath house. No pets. Small yard. Washer/dryer hookups. 4754 Cape May Avenue. 619-226-7368 or www.bkincn.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$2100. 1 block from the beach! Quiet, 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. Sunset Cliffs area. 3 off-street parking. Washer/dryer. Patio. 858-279-6129.

PACIFIC BEACH NORTH. 3 bedroom, 2 bath house, washer/dryer, \$2100/month. Or 2 bedroom, 1 bath house, washer/dryer \$1550/month. Off-street parking. 619-261-7433.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1400. Secluded, charming, 2-bedroom home with yard. On cul-de-sac, fantastic location, on the border of La Jolla/Pacific Beach. Recently renovated. 619-733-7608.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1650, 2 bedroom, 1 bath front house. 1 car garage plus 1 space. Yard. Laundry room. Gardener. Available now. Pet ok. 858-270-4080; 858-483-0567.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1675. 2 bedroom, 1 bath front house. Yard. Pets considered. No parking. Washer/dryer. Available now. 1947 Missouri Street. Agent, 858-514-8201.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1995. 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. North Pacific Beach-La Jolla schools. Patio. Off-street parking. One year lease desired. Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.

PACIFIC BEACH. 2-story, detached. 2-bedroom, 1-bath back duplex, 2 off-street parking, washer/dryer, patio, close to all. \$1650. 2016 Felspar. 858-735-8593.

PACIFIC BEACH. Spacious 3-bedroom, 2-bath house. 1 car garage. Quiet neighborhood. Hardwood floors. Large private fenced yard with deck. Pet OK. \$2450. 858-349-8545.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. Dogs allowed. 2 bedroom lower duplex house. 3 blocks to bay. Parking. \$0.50 laundry. Tropical yard/patio, great for BBQs. Don't disturb front house; use alley access! \$1495-\$1695/make best offer. 1924 Oliver Avenue. 619-822-0093.

PACIFIC BEACH/NORTH. \$1725. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher. Wood floors. Garage, plus parking space. Nice front lawn. Large patio. Water and gardener paid. No pets. Available 1/10/09. 1852 Chalcedony, 858-270-2071, Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

PARADISE HILLS. First month's rent 1/2 off! 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Fireplace. Covered patio. \$1735. Keen Drive. Section 8 OK. Contact agent, 619-692-4121.

SANTEE. \$1675. 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. 2-car garage. Large fenced yard. Covered patio. Storage shed. Quiet. Near park. Pets possible. No smoking. 619-867-2126.

SANTEE. \$2000. Beautiful. Remodeled. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2-car garage. Large fenced/gated yard. 1800 square feet. Large family/dining. Must see! 619-203-5247, 619-302-1856.

SOUTH PARK. \$2850. Craftsman style 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom home with studio, wood floors, fireplace, dining room, washer and dryer. Appliances. Pet's negotiable. 3004 Kalmia Drive. 619-384-9219.

SOUTH PARK. \$500 first month! 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom. Wood floors. Granite. Stainless steel. Appliances. Washer and dryer. Air conditioning. Garage. 2160 Montclair Street. 619-384-8219.

TALMADGE. \$2195. 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. 2-car garage, fireplace, Jacuzzi, air conditioning and heat, washer/dryer, hardwood floors, tree-shaded fenced yard. Landscaper and trash included. 4657 Altadena Avenue, 92115. Cogan Properties, 619-283-2144.

TIERRASANTA. \$300 off first month! \$1800. 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath in Portofino community. Fenced yard. Covered parking. Gas fireplace. 5151 Abuela Drive. 619-793-4010.

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ALPINE. \$900. Spacious 2 bedrooms. New carpet and vinyl. Air conditioning, on-site laundry, pool. Small pets welcome. Call about our move-in special! OAC. 619-445-0805. www.sdaptbrokers.com.

ALPINE. 2 bedrooms, \$1205. Newly remodeled. Private garages, fireplaces, vaulted ceilings. Resort-size pool and spa. Alpine Woods, 1829 Arnold Way. 619-445-1341.

ALPINE. 55 and up. Spacious luxury living. 1 bedrooms, \$795, 2 bedrooms, \$1105. Up to \$1200 off! Creekside Meadows, 1750 Arnold Way. 619-445-2480.

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BALBOA PARK/ East. Forest-like setting. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Remodeled kitchen. Storage. Carport. Secured building. Very quiet. \$1375. Available 12/15/08. No pets. 619-299-1530.

BANKER'S HILL. \$750. Lovely, remodeled 1 bedroom on second floor. New kitchen, paint and more. Stove, refrigerator, no pets. 619-280-5177.

BANKER'S HILL. \$750. Studio apartments. \$200 off first month's rent! Nice unit. View. Laundry. Close to all. 2027 Front Street, #1 and #3. AMI Property Management, 619-697-6314.

BANKER'S HILL. \$875. Studio apartment. \$200 off first month's rent! Completely remodeled and upgraded. Hardwood floors, laundry. View, must see. 2027 Front Street, #12. AMI Property Management 619-697-6314.

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BANKER'S HILL. Furnished studios, \$750 and up. Furnished 1 bedroom apartments, \$850 and up. Close to park, downtown. Some utilities paid. Laundry facility. No pets. 619-234-7572.

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BAY PARK. \$1500. Deluxe 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Panoramic sailboat views/your terrace! Dishwasher. Berber. Gated. Laundry. Parking. Cat friendly! Beach/freeway. 2805 Morena. 858-459-1544.

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BAY PARK. 1 bedroom, 1 bath starting at \$975. 2 bedrooms starting at \$1150. Bay Park's best maintained property with beautiful courtyard and sparkling pool. No pets. 2520 Chicago Street. TPPM, 619-405-7200. www.debonairapts.com.

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CARLSBAD. \$1325. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, parking included, refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, balcony, fireplace, 850 square feet. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

CARLSBAD. \$925. 1 bedroom. Small complex with off-street parking. Remodeled. Laundry. Quiet street. No pets. 3366 Roosevelt Street. Agent, 760-434-7721.

CARLSBAD. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with loft. Bright, clean, view. 3 balconies, appliances, garage plus one space. Pet considered with deposit. \$1400. 619-561-6544. Deannawilmsn@cox.net.

CARLSBAD. Beautiful 1 and 2 bedrooms, some with fantastic views! Pool, community laundry, Gated parking, Barbecue areas. Spacious floorplans. Walk to the beach! No pets. 2303 Ocean Street. Agent 760-434-7721.

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CARLSBAD/ The Grove. \$1375. 2 bedroom, 2 bath upstairs condo in gated community. All appliances. Nonsmoking. 2332 Hosp Way #208. Leasing Unlimited, 760-434-7273.

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CARLSBAD/LA COSTA. \$1650. **\$1600 moves you in!** Prestigious 3 bedroom, 2 bath with all amenities in regal development above La Costa Golf Course. Fireplace, washer/dryer, air conditioning, pool/spa/sauna. Alicante Views. Open daily. 2391 Caringa Way. TPPM, 760-431-7575. www.alicantevIEWS.com.

CARMEL VALLEY. \$400 off first month! 2 bedrooms, \$100 gift card from Ralphs! 6 month lease by 11/23/08. Near beaches, shopping, freeway access, quiet neighborhood! Free tennis, swimming lessons! Washer/dryer. Parking. Fitness center. Pool. No pets. The Club Torrey Pines, 12646 Torrey Bluff Drive. 1-866-354-2096. www.torrey.cc. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2106.

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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. \$650 rent. \$700 deposit. OAC. 1 bedroom duplex. No pets. At 4331-1/2 41st Street. Agent, 619-299-8515.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$750. 4265 Chamounne Avenue across KFC. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs. Carpet. Central air conditioning. Heating. Dishwasher. Laundry room. Lots of parking not assigned. No pets. Section 8 OK. Phillips Realty, 619-291-6686.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$795. 1 bedroom. Gated. Laundry. Parking. No pets. Available 12/1, 4153 42nd Street, #7. Agent, 858-514-8201.

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. 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.

CITY HEIGHTS. Quaint 300-square-foot studio, includes water, gas, electric, cable. \$650/month, \$650/deposit. Newly renovated, private entrance, street parking. Credit check. 619-640-8268.

CLAIREMONT. \$1165 plus deposit. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Fresh paint, new carpet.Gated entry. Indoor kitten OK. Wood burning fireplace, icemaker. Carport. Laundry room. Call 858-337-8054 or 858-206-2566.

CLAIREMONT. \$1195. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo. Balcony. Secure parking. Laundry in complex. Pool. Large unit. No pets. Available January 1, 2009. One-year lease desired. Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.

CLAIREMONT. \$1250. 2 bedroom, 1 bath top-floor corner unit. Pets welcome. Vaulted ceiling, balcony, parking included, pool, laundry. 814 square feet. Available now. 619-276-3222.

CLAIREMONT. \$1275. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. One-car garage. No pets. 2 parking. Carpet. New paint. Clean. Fenced yard/porch. 4416 Clairemont Drive. Juno, 619-275-3455.

CLAIREMONT. \$1275. Nice 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. Remodeled! Small yard, garage. Walk to park and shopping. Cat OK. 4429 Manitou Way. Agent, 618-469-7790. www.westmanproperties.com.

CLAIREMONT. \$1475. 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath duplex, 1 car garage, laundry hookups. Big back yard, no pets. Water included. Front maintenance included. Available 12/17/08. 858-442-5279.

CLAIREMONT. \$2250. Large 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhome. Located on canyon in the desirable Fox Run Trails. 2-car garage. Private patio. Dishwasher, microwave. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

CLAIREMONT. \$300 off first month's rent! \$875. 1 bedroom. Pool. Laundry. Off-street parking. 7322 Mesa College Drive. 858-560-6204.

CLAIREMONT. \$730. Unique studio with separate bedroom, no stove. Included internet and TV cable. Near 52 and 5 Freeway. No pets. Nonsmoking. No drugs. 619-384-7193.

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. kandrproperties.com.

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COLLEGE AREA. \$675 rent, \$700 deposit OAC. 1 bedroom. New carpet. Parking, laundry. No pets, at 6735 El Cajon Boulevard #A-3, 619-299-8515.

COLLEGE AREA. \$775-\$795. 1 bedrooms. Near shops. Laundry room. No pets. 6769 El Cajon Boulevard. Apartments in rear courtyard. 619-464-0901.

COLLEGE AREA. \$775. 1 bedroom in nice community. Pool, laundry, barbecue. Close to SDSU and all conveniences. No pets. 4333 College Avenue. 619-287-8380.

COLLEGE AREA. \$800. 1 bedroom 1 bath apartment, on-site laundry, 575 square feet. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

COLLEGE AREA. \$935. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, one mile from SDSU, month-to-month lease, parking included. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

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.

COLLEGE AREA. Senior/disabled building. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Dishwasher. Air conditioning. Courtyard. Tile kitchen/bath. \$750 rent, \$400 deposit. Bus nearby. Gated building. Water, garbage included. Section 8 OK. 619-368-9410.

COLLEGE AREA. Upper 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, 5540 Lindo Paseo #11,

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COLLEGE AREA/SAN DIEGO. \$950 with lease. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Remodeled. Paint, carpet, clean, secure. "Ready now." Laundry on site. See it now, it won't last. If you can find one better, rent it! 7240 El Cajon Boulevard. To view, Rachael, 619-804-1044 or Mercedes, 619-288-6731.

COLLEGE AREA/TALMADGE, \$925. Large newly renovated 1 bedroom. Maple laminate floors, Ikea kitchen, new bath, dishwasher. Air conditioning. Parking. Laundry. Courtyard. 619-583-3270, 858-688-3046.

COLLEGE AREA/TALMADGE. \$675 rent, \$700 deposit. OAC. 2 units available, 1 bedroom. Laundry. Parking. No pets. At 4423 Menlo Avenue #4 or #13 (North of El Cajon Boulevard). Agent, 619-299-8515.

COLLEGE AREA/TALMADGE. \$925. Nice 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Quiet building upstairs, large rooms. Coin laundry. Cat OK. 4438 Menlo Avenue. Agent, 619-469-7790. www.westmanproperties.com.

DEL MAR. \$1620. 2 bedroom corner unit, dual master suites. Fenced patio overlooking landscape. Tennis, spa, gym, sauna. Parks, shopping, beach close by. 858-509-0117, 858-361-9117.

DEL MAR. Gorgeous studios, 1 and 2 bedrooms starting at \$1250 in beautiful complex with heated pool, spa, fitness center, outdoor cook center, dishwasher, microwave and more! No pets. 526 Camino Del Mar. 858-755-4721.

DOWNTOWN. \$1250. 2 bedroom 1 bath apartment, 1000sf. Hardwood floors, backyard, quiet complex, gated parking, remote entry, on-site laundry. No pets. 1830 Market Street. 619-405-7368.

DOWNTOWN. \$1460. Loft, 1 bath apartment, pet OK, in-unit washer/dryer, balcony, patio, central air, parking available. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN. \$1710. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths apartment, pet OK, 1-car parking, balcony, amazing views, large closets, pool, fitness, barbecue. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN. \$1750. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath, approximately 1250 square feet. Close to all. Can be used as office and/or residence. New carpet. 121 Juniper Street, Apartment A (downstairs). Agent, 619-582-9436.

DOWNTOWN. \$1950/month. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Views. Beautiful flooring. All appliances. 1 parking space. Small pets OK. Available immediately. 1514 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.

DOWNTOWN. \$675. Studio, 1 bath apartment, great views, all utilities paid, near Petco Park, controlled access building. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN. \$750. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, cat OK with deposit, hardwood floors, paid water/trash/gas. Fee.

Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN. Attractive rooms. Shared bath. Utilities included! Near City College! \$450-\$595/month. Weekly rates from \$125! 719 14th Street, Villa Victoria. Hughes Management, 619-231-2385. www.HughesManagement.net.

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DOWNTOWN. Brand new rooms near City College. Single rooms with kitchenettes from \$140/week plus deposit (long-term). Includes utilities/cable. Quiet, secure. Shared bath/laundry. Hotel Mediterranean. 619-231-8656. www.hotelmed-sd.com.

DOWNTOWN. Comfortable rooms, \$450/up. Studios, \$650/up. Near Gaslamp District. Very quiet and clean. Free cable TV, on-site laundry, vending machines, community kitchen, shared bathrooms. Near shopping, restaurants, movie theatres and Horton Plaza. No pets. Arlington Apartments, 701 7th Avenue. Hughes Management. 619-231-2385. www.HughesManagement.net, www.sdreader.com/news/rent2097.

DOWNTOWN. Cozy rooms, \$486-\$625. Very comfortable, convenient location, historic building near C Street trolley. Choice of shared or private bathrooms. Free cable TV, on-site laundry, vending machines, modern elevator, no pets. Southern Hotel, 1159 6th Avenue at B. Hughes Management, 619-239-3808. www.HughesManagement.net, www.sdreader.com/news/rent2099.

DOWNTOWN. Economical furnished rooms, \$450-\$550, best price, save money. Conveniently located on C Street trolley line, near restaurants, free cable TV, shared bathrooms, on-site laundry facilities, vending machines, elevator service, no pets, 636 C Street (between 6th and 7th). C Street Inn, Hughes Management, 619-234-4165. www.HughesManagement.net, www.sdreader.com/news/rent2098.

DOWNTOWN. Fully furnished studios with utilities included. Rates start at \$160/week. Free wireless Internet. Baltic Inn: 521 6th Avenue. 619-237-0687. www.affordablehousingsd.com.

DOWNTOWN. Gaslamp area. \$425-\$550. Community kitchen, shared bath, on-site laundry, vending machines, no pets, Star Hotel, 522 7th Avenue. 619-235-6068. Hughes Management. www.HughesManagement.net.

DOWNTOWN. Outstanding furnished rooms, \$450-\$500. Heart of Gaslamp. Shared bathrooms. Community kitchen. Free cable. No pets. Windsor Hotel, 843 4th Avenue. 619-235-6068. Hughes Management. www.HughesManagement.net.

DOWNTOWN. Premier location. Furnished studios with full baths, from \$199/weekly. Two award-winning buildings to choose from with 24-hour staff, gyms, laundry rooms, sun decks. Free wireless Internet. Island Inn: 202 Island Avenue (Second and Island), 619-232-4138. J Street Inn: 222 J Street, 619-696-6922. www.affordablehousingsd.com.

DOWNTOWN. San Diego's first hip hostel hotel. From \$49/night. Weekly rates from \$37.14 per night. Free wireless Internet. Near bus/trolley. Flat screen TVs. European-style detached bathrooms. Shared eat-in kitchen. Restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. 500 West Hotel. 500 West Broadway. Toll free: 1-888-895-0875. www.500WestHotel.com, www.sdreader.com/news/rent2114.

DOWNTOWN. Studios with kitchen and bath, \$625-\$700. Single room with private bathroom, \$550-\$595. Nonsmoking. No pets. 10th and E Street. Hughes Management, 619-239-1639 x103. www.HughesManagement.net.

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Say What?



Embrey Newman | Age: 23 | Occupation: Museum Expert | Lives: Golden Hill

When I was 18 I liked to party a lot, which lead to drinking, which led to making up weird words. One that I still use is “**durts**.” It means cigarettes. My friend and I came up with it because tobacco

looks kind of like dirt. I turned a bunch of people on to saying it; I don't know if they get why we call them “durts.” They get the idea of what it means when I say, “Let's go smoke some durts,” and they see

a pack of cigarettes in my hand.

To see an online version of this column, go to sdreader.com. You can print it, email it to friends, and find archived columns.

and carpet. Remodeled kitchen with custom cabinets, new appliances including washer and dryer. Private yard with patio. Walk to local shops. Privacy gates, pool, 1 covered parking. Move-in before holiday. 244 Roanoke Road. \$1395. 619-683-9274.

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FASHION VALLEY/USD. \$1200 rent. \$800 deposit. OAC. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath fourplex. Parking for 2 cars. Laundry. No pets. At 1351 Brunner Street. 619-298-5820.

FASHION VALLEY/USD. \$895 rent. \$800 deposit. OAC. 1 bedroom. 1-car garage available for \$50. Laundry. Near USD. No pets. At 1330 Eureka Street #30. Agent, 619-298-5820.

FASHION VALLEY/West. \$1250/month. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. All appliances. Near USD. No pets. 1266 Benicia Street. 619-985-8488.

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Reader Pop Quiz

This week's questions

1. What British pop star did David Peck manage to anger in the green room of *The Late Show With David Letterman*, setting in motion events that led to the formation of his production and video-licensing company?
2. What did Delta Spirit bassist Jon Jameson get arrested for that forced them to cancel their show in Denton, Texas?
3. Which ex-go-go dancer has racked up ten Grammy nominations in over 20 years as a soul singer?
4. Naomi Wise identifies which local establishment as one of the few to serve the previously outlawed alcoholic beverage absinthe?
5. What NHL team did guitarist Dave Mustaine and Megadeth record a home-game pep video for?
6. Give the birthplace and year of the first Critical Mass bike ride.
7. The Viejas Outlet Center claims to have the largest what in Southern California?
8. What quintet and its 13-year-old drummer play the Casbah Thursday, December 4?
9. According to retired San Diego superior court judge Norbert Ehrenfreund, "There's no question that ____ play a big part in determining the outcome of a case."
10. What bill awaiting the governor's signature would outlaw selling over \$50 worth of newspapers to a recycling center?

Last week's answers

1. A digestive disorder. (p. 84)
2. No. (p. 14)
3. La Casa del Túnel or the House of the Tunnel. (p. 61)
4. 1.7 million. (p. 20)
5. *Cinderella*. (p. 22)
6. Gallagher's. (p. 78)
7. Thirty. (p. 8)
8. Maurizio Zanella. (p. 100)
9. The Old Town Theatre. (p. 116)
10. Plastilina Mosh, "San Diego Chargers." (p. 78)

Last week's winners:

Tricia Grant, Candie Smith, Brian Berlau, Armin Moths, Jolorie Abad.

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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condo. Air conditioning, carport, complex gym, Jacuzzi, refrigerator, stove, carpet, tile. \$875/month, 6675 Mission Gorge Road, A214, 92120. Agent, 619-471-2201.

HILLCREST. \$1025. Deposit \$1025. Spacious 2 bedroom upper. Small cozy complex. Laundry. No pets. Available now. Close to Henry's. 4115-1/2 Park Boulevard. Agent, 619-298-7724.

HILLCREST. \$1250. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 2 upstairs units. Close to the Zoo. Wood floors. Formal dining room. Detached small garage. On the park. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Available 12/05/08 and 12/10/08. 1632 Upas Street. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

HILLCREST. \$1550: 2 bedroom, 2 bath; and \$850 studio apartment. Recreation room, pool, laundry. Close to all. 4201 Sixth Avenue. Cori, Sleepy Hollow Apartments. 619-298-1059. www.centrecity.net.

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HILLCREST. \$2125. Classic 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath apartment home. Available now. Part of a fourplex, this unit has 1450 square feet of living space. This unit was painstakingly restored to its 1920s vintage splendor. All hardwood floors were refinished. The beautiful mahogany woodwork restored. Original light fixtures were restored. New ceramic tile in the kitchen and bath as original. Unit is painted in designer colors. Enormous size living room with a gas log space heater. There's a formal dining room. Laundry room with washer and dryer, microwave, refrigerator and antique range. Lots of closet space, ceiling fans. Comes with one-car garage. Don't miss this opportunity to live in one of Hillcrest's premier apartments. It's the next best thing to owning your own home. Security deposit \$850. One-year lease required. Indoor cats and small dogs (under 15 pounds) are welcomed. 3754 Fourth Avenue at Robinson Avenue. Call Scott at **619-846-6615** or e-mail inquiries.to.scott@hendershawandassociates.com.

HILLCREST. \$2395. 2 bedroom, 2 bath new condo! Spectacular city views from your private balcony. Fully equipped stainless steel kitchen. Fitness center. Pool/spa and more! 3687 Fourth Avenue. 619-793-4010.

HILLCREST. \$595. Studio. Utilities included. Full kitchen, shared bath. Hardwood floors. Washer/dryer available. Near shopping. Nonsmoking. No pets. Move-in ready. 1033 University Avenue. 619-952-7056.

HILLCREST. \$795 rent, \$800 deposit. OAC. Studio triplex unit. No pets, at 3794 Vermont Street (at Essex, south of University) 619-299-8515.

HILLCREST. \$795. Spacious studio. Hardwood floors. Full kitchen and bath. Dressing room. Laundry. Cat OK. Near downtown. 2263 4th Avenue. Agent, 619-804-3325.

HILLCREST. \$850. 3820 Georgia Street between Robinson and University Avenue. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath. New carpet. 4 closets. Downstairs. Laundry room. 1 assigned parking. No pets. Phillips Realty, 619-291-6686.

HILLCREST. \$975. Studio, 1 bath apartment, hardwood floors, kitchen featuring stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, new cabinetry. Fee. Free Search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

HILLCREST. \$985. Deposit \$450. Rustic 1 bedroom. Hardwood floors. Beamed ceiling. Large redwood deck. Trees. 1/3 acre. Cat OK. Available 1/1/09. 605 West Pennsylvania. 619-220-0990.

HILLCREST. 1/2 off first month. \$895. Large studio, beautiful hardwood floors, new vinyl and paint, full kitchen and bath,

laundry. Near downtown. Pet negotiable. 2311 4th Avenue #23 and #4. 619-955-5014.

HILLCREST. 1/2 off first! Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath at \$995. Upper. Stove. Refrigerator. New paint. Near Balboa Park. Pet negotiable. 3533 6th Avenue #6. 619-904-3325.

HILLCREST. 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhome, \$2450. Garage, 3 levels plus rooftop deck, view, 1103 square feet, marble counters, stainless steel appliances. 4374 Cleveland Avenue. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. www.peoplehelpingothers.com.

HILLCREST. Hillcrest Palms. Senior complex, 55+. \$900. 1 bedroom apartments. Gated community. Convenient location. Near hospitals, restaurants, shopping. No pets. 4042 Albatross Street. 619-574-0784.

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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 view! 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. \$1250. Spacious furnished studio with granite counters, stainless steel appliances. Covered parking. Great location. Clean, quiet. Secure. If you can find one better rent it! 3136, Alicante. Call Rachael, 619-804-1044 or Jeff 619-713-1044.

LA JOLLA. \$1425. **Holiday special-1/2 off first month's rent!** 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 now. 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. \$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. \$500 off first month's rent! \$1500. 2 bedroom apartment. New carpet. Balcony. Laundry. Walk to UCSD, shops. 8849 Villa La Jolla Drive #11. Agent, 858-457-4509.

LA JOLLA. 1 bedroom condo, \$2400. Views to the ocean. Gorgeous building and unit. Highly upgraded. Balcony. Stainless steel appliances. Granite counters. Lovely hardwood floors. Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.

LA JOLLA. Move-in specials! Studios and 1 bedrooms starting at \$1119. 1/2 block to beach! Laundry, pool, tropical setting and assigned parking available. No pets. 858-536-1900.

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, 1-866-622-9888.

LA MESA. \$1295. Beautiful 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Available for your consideration is this recently remodeled apartment located in the Lake Murray region of La Mesa. This is a family-owned and operated complex and we take great pride in offering our tenants a superior apartment at an affordable price. As soon as you walk in, you can't help but notice attention to detail and the quality of the craftsmanship that went into the remodel. From the ceramic tile floors with granite accents to the tiled countertops, crown moldings, new interior doors, light fixtures, ceiling fans, all new hardware, range, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave and air conditioning. Master bedroom has a walk-in closet with a built-in organizer. Painted in designer colors. We surely have the most bang for your buck. This unit also has a private, enclosed patio with a storage closet. Comes with one off-street parking space and on-site laundry. Available by December 15. Treat yourself to an early Holiday Gift. 5543 Shasta Lane at Lake Murray Boulevard. Cats are OK. To schedule a showing, contact the manager at **619-460-9107. Credit check fee is \$30. 5543 Shasta Lane at Lake Murray Boulevard. Cats OK. Call 619-846-6615 for more details. To schedule showing, call the resident manager at 619-460-9107.**

PET CENTRAL

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.bajanimalsanctuary.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.

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ANIMALS HAVE NO NATIONALITY! Volunteer for Humane Society de Tijuana monthly spay/neuter clinics in poorer

neighborhoods of TJ. 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 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.

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.

CAT CLIMBER; DOG CAGE, medium. Climber, asking \$15. Dog cage, asking \$20. 619-292-2542.

CAT/KITTEN ADOPTION FAIR, December 6 and 7, Saturday and Sunday, 10am-3pm. Sponsored by The Rescue House; at Petco in La Costa. All colors/ages. 760-591-1211.

CHIHUAHUA PUPPIES. 9 weeks. First shots and wormed. Indoor trained. Great around kids. 2 white, 1 traditional sandy, 2 apple head. \$200/best. 619-423-3436.

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.

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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 PARROT, in El Cajon/East County area. Arthur is grey with a red tail, 14 years old. Please if you see him, call 619-938-2223.

POODLE. White, 2 years, miniature size. Spayed, endearing little sweetie. She can climb, so needs safe home. No young children. Shots, license. \$100. 619-583-5122.

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, scruffy, cute, tiny, 2 years. Spayed, sweet, cuddly, likes dogs/people. Chews toes, fetch, tug of war. No small kids. \$150. 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 3.5-4 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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LA MESA. \$1350. Large Foxhaven townhouse. 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath. New carpet/blinds. Garage. Pool. Spa. Tennis. No pets. 7730 Saranac Place #14. Agent, 619-469-7790. www.westmanproperties.com.

LA MESA. \$1395. 3 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, garage, pool, fireplace, laundry. 5530 Jackson Drive, #4. AMI Property Management. 619-697-6314.

LA MESA. \$750/month. Nice studio with balcony. Garage. New carpet and paint. Small pet welcome. Call about our move-in special! OAC. 619-462-1550. www.sdpaprotkers.com.

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. \$950. Classic 1950s 1 bedroom apartment. Located in the heart of the village of La Mesa is this charming apartment. Refinished hardwood floors and kitchen cabinets. Current upgrades to the unit include new paint in designer colors, new windows, blinds, all new door hardware and updated light fixtures including ceiling fan in bedroom. Gas range with a new refrigerator. This is a corner unit with lots of light. Property has on-site laundry and is close to many shops and restaurants. Sorry, no pets allowed! Available November 1. \$500 security deposit. Credit check required. 8447 La Mesa Boulevard at University. Please call between 9am and 5pm: Call Scott at**619-846-6615. scott@hendershawandassociates.com**.

LA MESA. 1/2 off first month! \$1125. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Stove, fridge, air conditioning, laundry, parking. Near SDSU and all. Pet negotiable. 6004 Lake Murray Boulevard #D and #E. 619-804-3325.

LA MESA. 1/2 off first month! \$895. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Upper. Stove, refrigerator. Wood cabinets. Laundry. Parking. Barbecue areas. Cat OK. Near all. 4969 Mills Street #13. 619-384-9219.

LA MESA. 1/2 off first month. \$895. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. New paint, carpet, vinyl, laundry, parking. Near all. Cat OK. Section 8 OK. 4325 Lowell Street, #8. 619-460-1074.

LA MESA. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex, hardwood floors, washer/dryer, park-like setting, gated, private, tranquil. Move-in special. \$1150. 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.sdreader.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. The Woodbridge Apartments. "6000 off move-in special!" Spacious 2 bedrooms and 3 bedrooms available. Full-size washer/dryer. Fully equipped kitchens. Private patio/balcony. Pool and Jacuzzi. Carports. Near shops. Wood-burning fireplaces. *Water/sewer fees may not be included. *Limited offer, on approved credit, see manager for details! 10874 Calle Verde, La Mesa, CA 91941. 619-670-1402. Visit us on our website at www.sdrenting.com.

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 \$785. 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 ambience. 3903 Conrad Drive. 866-894-6343. www.sdreader.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.

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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.

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LINDA VISTA. 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo, \$2100. 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.

MIRA MESA. \$1695. Upscale 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo at luxurious Monarch Scripps Ranch. Fireplace, washer/dryer, garage. Gated. 10832 Scripps Ranch Boulevard, #303. www.centrecity.net. 619-296-6699.

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MISSION BAY/BAY PARK. Studios starting at \$795. **\$1000 moves you in!** Spacious studio in fantastic location. Bay view. Controlled access. Laundry. 2821 Morena Boulevard. TPPM, 619-275-1352.

MISSION BAY/CLAIREMONT SOUTH. \$1595. Quiet 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath 2-story condo, pool, deck, spectacular canyon view. Carport, washer/dryer. Dog OK. No smoking. 619-405-1823.

MISSION BEACH \$995. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Steps to beach. 1 year lease. No dogs. 858-488-1759.

MISSION BEACH. \$1795. Modern 2-bedroom, 2-bath apartment. Steps to Bay, 2-car garage. Dishwasher, microwave, washer/dryer. 833 Santa Barbara Place. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

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! \$1195. 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. 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. \$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. \$1375. Quiet, 1 bedroom, 1 bath unfurnished condo, gated, parking. Pets negotiable. Coin laundry. Dishwasher. Available now, 3972 Jackdaw Street. Agent, 619-878-5240.

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. aspenpark.rasnyder.com.

MISSION HILLS/MIDDLETOWN. \$1650. Charming 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. Refrigerator. Stove. Fenced backyard. Pet Storage. Garage. Hook-ups. Private. Pet OK. Available 1/01/09. 619-260-0752. 619-865-5944.

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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. Nonsmoking. 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. \$1595. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condominium. Designer paint colors. Upgraded carpets and tile. Fireplace. Air conditioning, 9-foot ceilings. Washer/dryer. Gym, spa, pool, view! 2 parking. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

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.utiaplanagement.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/rent12139.

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. Park Villa condo. 1 bedroom, upstairs, balcony. \$1100/month. Centrally located. Parking space. Non-smoker, no pets. On-site laundry, community pool, recreation room. 619-602-0500.

MISSION VALLEY/TALMADGE/KENSINGTON. Free application fee! 2 bedrooms from \$1350 with \$500 off or \$250 off first month's rent! 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 TV! Parking. Pet friendly! Mission Pacific Apartments, 4454 44th Street. Call today, 1-800-372-9146. missionpacific.pacificliving.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/CASA DE ORO. Move-in special, OAC! \$1125. 2 bedroom. \$1350. 3 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, \$795. Newly renovated. Gated community. Laundry facility. Available now. Hilltop 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. \$1050. 2 bedroom, 1 bath upper duplex aptartment. Gated courtyard. On-site laundry. Newer stove, refrigerator. Pet considered. Available 12/1. \$900 deposit. 619-822-7664.

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. \$825. Deposit \$825. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs. Stove, refrigerator. On-site laundry. No pets. Close to all. 4334 Texas Street #3. 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. Hacienda-style 1 bedroom apartment, private balcony, washer/dryer, all stainless appliances, granite floors, custom counters, minibar, electrical fireplace. \$995. No pets. 619-787-9560.

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. Senior/disabled building (62+). Quiet, clean. Two 1 bedroom, 1 baths, first floor. Small patio, elevator, laundry room. Street parking. \$765/month. 619-269-3487.

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. \$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. \$1195. 2 bedroom 1 bath apartment, upstairs. Ceramic tiled. Newer appliances, with dishwasher. Laundry onsite. Parking. Available 12/8/08. 4625 Kansas #6. www.stevenleeproperties.com, 619-295-1161.

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.

NORTH PARK. \$1675. 2 story, 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom. Parking. Wood floors. Granite. Stainless steel. Appliances. Washer and dryer. Patio. Pets negotiable. 3376 Grim Avenue #4. 619-804-3325.

NORTH PARK. \$1795. Clean, spacious 3 bedroom, 2 bath, washer/dryer, fireplace, tile floors, 2-car parking. 3618 31st Street #1. Available now. Vesna, 619-916-7961.

NORTH PARK. \$2200. Remodeled 3 bedroom, 2 bath. 1600 square feet. Washer/dryer. Dishwasher. Range, refrigerator. Central heat. Wood floors. Available December. 3412 33rd. 619-269-0897.

NORTH PARK. \$550. Studio. Senior complex 62+, gated complex, laundry on site, wheelchair access, elevator. 4226 41st Street #16. 619-280-3083; 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. \$775. Great 1 bedroom duplex, beautiful hardwood floors, large kitchen. Nicely landscaped with lawn and plants. No pets. 4653 Kansas Street, 858-272-1550.

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 and up. 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, 619-280-7788, and 4016 Ohio Street, 619-280-7788.

NORTH PARK. \$850. 1 bedroom. Very large downstairs. Stove, refrigerator, air conditioned. Coin laundry. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Available 1/1/09. 4152 Utah. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Managment, Broker, www.delsolpm.com.

NORTH PARK. \$850. Small studio, water included, washer/dryer in unit, off street parking. Pets on approval. Tenant pays SD&E. 619-640-7530. www.sdforrent.com.

NORTH PARK. \$900. 1 bedroom 1 bath apartment, upstairs. Wood floors/carpet. Gated complex. Walk to nearby coffee shops and eateries. Laundry on-site. 3949 Kansas #20. www.stevenleeproperties.com, 619-295-1161.

NORTH PARK. \$950. Nice 1 bedroom condo. Quiet, small complex. Downstairs. Washer/dryer. Refrigerator. Carport. Spa. No pets. 2044 Robinson Avenue #B. Agent, 619-469-7790. www.westmanproperties.com.

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. Huge unit, new paint, mirrored closet, separate dining room. Laundry. 4118 Arizona Street. Call 619-316-9995.

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.stevenleeproperties.com. 619-295-1161.

NORTH PARK. New paint, good storage, off-street parking. 3662 32nd Street. #2. \$975. 619-683-9274.

NORTH PARK. 1/2 off first month! \$1450. Large upper 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. Garage. Appliances including washer and dryer. Deck. Near all. Pet negotiable. 4005 Kansas Street. 619-384-9219.

NORTH PARK. 1/2 off first! \$1350. 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, 2-1/2 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. \$1695. 619-683-9274.

NORTH PARK. Large studio. Recently remodeled. Stove, refrigerator. Patio, plenty of storage space. \$625, all utilities included. 619-384-9292.

NORTH PARK. Nonsmoking apartment. 2 bedroom, 2 bath in a garden setting. Underground parking, laundry on site, patio/balcony, new carpet/refrigerator, lots of storage, fireplace. Cat OK. \$1175-\$1225. 619-241-2596.

NORTH PARK/CITY HEIGHTS. \$895. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs corner apartment. 1-car garage. Pets OK. 3848 36th Street. Xlarent.com. 619-683-7638.

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. \$1195. 1 bedroom cottage with private garage. Two blocks to ocean. New paint. Very clean. Laundry. Available 1/1/09. 4859 Niagara Avenue. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

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.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1300. Very clean 1 bedroom cottage, free laundry. Hardwood floors. Nice kitchen. Small pets OK. 4978 Santa Monica. Josh, 619-230-1234, 619-944-1935.

OCEAN BEACH. \$200 off first month's rent! \$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. \$200 off first month's rent! \$950. \$950 deposit. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 car parking. Small patio. Refrigerator. Stove. No pets. 5057-1/2 Muir Avenue. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$2300. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath condo with two fireplaces, washer/dryer, two patios, vaulted ceilings, 2 covered parking spaces. All bathrooms and kitchen have been remodeled. Travertine floors and granite. Approximately 1852 square feet. No pets. 3268 Loma Riviera Drive. Call 619-222-4836, x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$775. Studio, mile from beach in quiet tropical setting. New carpet/paint. Laundry. Available immediately. 4166-68 Udall St #6. 619-222-9308.

OCEAN BEACH. \$825. Large downstairs studio. Blocks to beach. No pets. 4876 Voltaire Street #5. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$925. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs with laundry on site. Great location. No pets. 4154 Udall Street #2. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$950. \$950 deposit. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Includes garage. Refrigerator. Stove. No pets. Available 12/6/08. 5104 Muir Avenue. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$950. \$950 deposit. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs. 1 car parking. On-site laundry. Refrigerator. Stove. No pets. 5076 Lotus Street. Available 12/5/28. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$950. Deposit \$950. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Includes 1 car garage. Refrigerator. Stove. No pets. Available 12/5/08. 5016 Santa Monica Avenue. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

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. \$975. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs apartment. Parking and laundry. Blocks to beach! No pets. 4918 West Point Loma Boulevard, apartment G. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

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. Sunset Cliffs-steps away from your new home. 1 bedroom apartments at \$975. No application fee! Assigned parking. Cats welcome. Stove. Refrigerator. Laundry facilities. Sundeck with ocean view. 4925 Del Mar Avenue. Call for appointment, 619-235-9018. www.pacificliving.com.

OCEAN BEACH. Walk to beach! Small 1 bedrooms, \$800 plus \$500 security deposit. One second floor, one first floor. Off-street parking. No pets. Nonsmoking. 619-223-3946.

OCEAN BEACH/WEST POINT LOMA. \$1400. 2 bedroom, 2 bath in great building with views. Gated entrance and parking. Convenient location near Robb Field, beach and YMCA. No pets. 4457 Temecula at West Point Loma Boulevard. TPPM, 619-770-1959.

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. \$1095/month. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Granite countertops throughout. Laminate-wood/tile floors. Pool, spa, laundry, gated parking. Cat OK. 760-439-5728. www.casavistaapartments.com.

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.

OLD TOWN. \$695-\$750. Low \$150 deposit. Fully furnished studios-alcoves on excellent hillside location. Free basic cable. 1616 Guy Street. 619-298-6242.

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 1/1/09. 1011 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. \$1500 moves you in! 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. Duplex. Newer, large upper/lower 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. \$1095. 2 bedroom 1 bath over garage. Stove, refrigerator. New carpet, easy freeway access. Ask about small dog with additional deposit. Available 12/10/08. 4554 Bond. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1115. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs. Remodeled. Stove, refrigerator. Dishwasher. Microwave. Pool. Coin laundry. No pets. Available now. 1433 Oliver 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. \$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.

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.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1325. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Close to transportation and shopping. No pets. Available now. Call Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1350. Large unit: 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Half block from Crown Point Drive. Upstairs, no pets. Deposit \$1000. Garage space. Blane Realty. 619-846-8754.

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.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1395. Deposit \$1395. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs. Laundry. Parking. No pets. 1433 Grand Avenue #1. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1470. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Stove, refrigerator. Garage with gas laundry hookups. Backyard. Dog OK with additional deposit upon approval. Available now. 2036 Diamond Street. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1500. 2 bedroom apartment, close to beach/bay, spacious kitchen, private patio, generous closet space, storage shed. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1500. Available now. Newly remodeled! 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. 2-off-street parking. Gated

yard. Hardwood/ceramic tile, laundry hookups. 1468 Chalcedony. 858-733-1073.

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. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Very nice large unit in small quiet complex. Fireplace, off-street parking, laundry and more. Available 1/1/09. No dogs. 1771 Thomas. 858-270-5088.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1650. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, 1100 square feet. Fireplace, balcony. Walk-in closets. Laundry. 2 parking spaces. No smoking/pets. Available now. 858-272-7616.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1650. Move in ready! 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhouse. Garage. Parking. Fireplace. Patio. Laundry hookups. No dogs. 2122 Balboa. Cross street Noyes. 858-576-8292.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1745. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1100 square feet, balcony, views, intercom entry, dishwasher. Lovely courtyard, heated pool, parking, laundry, close to everything. 858-272-4398.

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. Laundry. Parking. 3991 Crown Point Drive. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1995. 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. \$2100. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. About 1000 square feet. 6-month lease. New windows and paint. Off-street parking. Large rear yard. Pet friendly. 1144 Reed Avenue. Available late November. Call Alta Vista Properties, 858-274-3600. www.altavistamanagement.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2195. 3 bedroom, 2 bath upper unit condo. Fireplace, balcony, laundry, covered parking. Small complex, available 12/20. Cat OK. Fax application/phone 619-223-5944.

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.

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PACIFIC BEACH. Move-in special. First month's rent free! \$2200 rent. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Washer/dryer. Dishwasher. Parking. 1-year lease. 1749 Reed Avenue. Call 858-490-1600 or kandrproperties.com.

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PACIFIC BEACH/SAIL BAY. \$1645. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, steps to Sail Bay. New carpet and flooring. Garage. Laundry facility. Bike storage. No pets. Available 12/15/08. 858-220-4599. esqsas@aol.com.

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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.

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RANCHO PENASQUITOS. \$50 off per month with 6 month lease! \$1250. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1600. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Low \$500-\$700 deposits! Newly remodeled. Air conditioning. Pool, spa. Carport. No pets. Rancho Villas Apartments. ranchovillas@earthlink.net, 858-484-0744.

RANCHO PENASQUITOS. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Nice neighborhood. Balcony, fireplace, swimming pool, Jacuzzi, laundry. \$1299/month. Available now. Assigned parking. Pets OK. Call 858-349-5672.

ROSARITO. Two 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, \$775/\$900. Gorgeous ocean views! Washer/dryer. Vonage phone, DSL and Direct TV service available. 619-819-9451, 011.52.661.613.2090, tomjanward@gmail.com.

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 DIEGO. Studios, \$650/month. 1 bedroom, 1 baths, \$650-\$780. 2 bedrooms, \$1100/month. Nonsmoking. Call 619-262-6278 or 619-675-9088.

SAN MARCOS. \$1075. Holiday Special! \$500 off 1st month's rent! Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. New throughout, view, large balcony, carport, private storage. Gated, small complex. No pets. Call for appointment for showing, 760-599-0989.

SANTEE. \$1650. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhome, 1/2 off first month's rent. Home has air conditioning. Wood floor. Washer/dryer. Granite counters and pool. 858-598-1111 x128. utopiamanagement.com.

SCRIPPS RANCH. \$1695. Upscale 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo at luxurious Monarch Scripps Ranch. Fireplace, washer/dryer, garage, Gated. 10832 Scripps Ranch Boulevard. www.centricity.net. 619-296-6699.

SOLANA BEACH. The perfect studio apartment homes from \$1185. Ask about our move-in special! Located in the corner of Via de la Valle and 101, close to Del Mar Beaches, race track and Cedro's Design District. Our community is perfect for the Southern California lifestyle. Separate kitchen and bath, breakfast bar, balconies/patios. Mirrored closet doors, ceiling fans, pool, parking, electricity included. 833 South Cedros Avenue. 858-755-1466. rasnyder.com.

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SOUTH PARK. \$850. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, upper unit. Wood floors. Available now. 3013 1/2 30th Street. www.stevenleepropties.com. 619-295-1161.

SPRING VALLEY duplex. \$800. Small 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Fenced yard. Country atmosphere. Close to shopping. 3606 S. Bonita Street. Good credit, references. Appointment only. Agent, 619-585-9471.

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.

TALMADGE. \$850. Back studio unit, share laundry, shared yard, pets on approval. Tenant pays 1/3 electricity. Water included. 4518 #A Euclid Avenue. 619-640-7530. www.sdforrent.com.

TALMADGE. \$925. Upstairs unit, 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Pool. All utilities included. Patio. Off street parking. Shared laundry. 4641 55th Street #A. 619-640-7530. www.sdforrent.com.

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LEAD STORY

— In September, despite an increasing chorus of complaints, Peruvians celebrated the annual Gastronomic Festival of the Cat in a village just south of Lima, serving a variety of feline delicacies (fried cat strips, cat stew, grilled cat with spicy huacatay). For the most part, according to a *Chicago Tribune* report, the dishes are made with specially bred cats rather than street prowlers, and are consumed for their health benefits, though centuries-old tradition is the likeliest explanation. Said one Peruvian, such cultural events “are our roots and can’t be forgotten.”

More Cultural Diversity

— Rituals: (1) The chairman of a Nigerian development company was charged in August with stealing what is now the equivalent of \$5.5 million and burning \$2 million of that in cash so he could smear the ashes over his naked body in a nighttime “fortification” ritual in a cemetery. (2) Four people were arrested in October after a family gathering in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, when a Ramadan-ending ceremony turned into the fatal beatings of two relatives who were being administered an aggres-

sive ritual, supposedly to stop their tobacco habit.

Turks!

— Villages in western Turkey traditionally hold camel-wrestling matches during gala weekend festivals in winter, which is mating season and the only time bull camels will fight (and even then, not always). There is at least one professional league, and sometimes camels embody the pride of an entire village. A female is paraded in front of two males, then led away, and the supposedly frisky bulls tussle but only occasionally reach a resolution in which one subdues the other by sitting on him, according to a dispatch in Germany’s *Der Spiegel*. Usually, judges have to pick the winner on style, and sometimes the decision is easy, as one camel has simply run away.

— Wrestling in Turkey II: Camel-wrestling is a winter celebration, but the summers are (and have been for 650 years) for Kirkpinar, the country’s oil-wrestling celebration and tournament, during which a thousand men, slathering on two tons of olive oil, fight matches until one man earns the solid-gold title belt. Several months of regional tournaments lead up to Kirkpinar, which,

incidentally, has recently experienced the same doping controversies as mainstream world sports.

Athletes Demanding Respect

— (1) “I think one day it should be an Olympic sport,” said Jeannine Wiking, 26, who finished third while representing Germany in the ten-nation European pole-dancing championship in Amsterdam in September. (2) Australia’s champion sheep-shearers prepared to once again lobby the country’s sports commission for official recognition, which would enable them to apply for training grants and corporate sponsorship. Shearers are revered in New Zealand, with televised matches and large prizes, according to an August dispatch from Sydney in Britain’s *Guardian*, but Australia’s top shearers get much less respect.

Latest Religious Messages

— A Buddhist temple in Nakhon Nayok, Thailand, offers quickie “reincarnation” sessions in which people climb into “coffins,” “die” while a priest’s chants chase away the evil spirits of the old person, who is then “reborn” as someone

different. The temple has nine such coffins to serve the long lines of optimists (who must stand well back while waiting, so as not to absorb the “dying” people’s escaping evilness), many of whom adhere to predestination beliefs based on one’s name and time of “birth,” according to a September *New York Times* dispatch.

— Spiritual Rulings: (1) The highest-ranking Muslim authority in the Turkish province of Adana declared in August that observing the fasting requirement of Ramadan could be assisted by the use of medical “patches” that reduced hunger pangs. (2) In September, Chad Hardy released the 2009 version of his “Men on a Mission calendar,” which features photos of young, shirtless Mormon men, intended, he said, to help his church overcome its image of being stodgy, and he said he plans a female version for 2010: “Hot Mormon Muffins.” (In July, Hardy was excommunicated for producing the 2008 “Men on a Mission” calendar.)

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 or to WeirdNewsTips@Yahoo.com

cue. Cats OK. 4544 Winona Avenue. 619-229-1406.

TALMADGE. Extremely large 1 bedroom. Park-like grounds, all amenities, controlled entry, parking, laundry on property. fine residential area. Near shops. \$850. 619-287-1996 or 619-818-9950.

TALMADGE/COLLEGE AREA. \$950. Private downstairs 2 bedroom, 1 bath; large living room; freshly painted and clean. Off-street parking, on-site laundry. Hardwood floors, stove and refrigerator. Available now. 4452 49th Street. Call George. 619-507-7119.

TIERRASANTA. \$1000. 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. \$1500. 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. \$1620. 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.

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. \$500 off first month! \$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. \$725. 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. 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, \$1099. 2 bedrooms, \$1299. \$99 de-

posit. Town Park Villas, 4633 Governor Drive. 858-453-0441.

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 hillside community. \$500 deposit. OAC. 760-672-6405. www.melroyproperties.com.

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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.

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CAMARDA/HOLIDAY SUITES concert on Saturday, December 6, 6:30pm. 2 tickets, \$30/each. Perry Meyer Fine Art Studio. Open seating, wine/cheese reception. 858-668-0551.

CHARGERS TICKETS, Press level, premium location, individual games for sale, face value, \$98. Leave message for Don, 619-291-9996.

CHARGERS Vs. Raiders. \$98. 2 tickets, side by side. Seats are located at Plaza 19, row 5, 16/17. Derek, 619-944-4549.

CHARGERS, versus Oakland Raiders at Qualcomm Stadium. December 4, 2008, 5:15pm. 2 tickets, 20 yard line, plaza 3, row 5. Season tickets, \$200/each/best. 646-225-8213.

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BOAT. 10', inflatable, roll-up bottom, boat U.S. Very good condition. \$500 firm. 760-967-8623.

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BACK WHEN

In the Reader

Thirty Years Ago

I was astounded (but somehow, not surprised) to read of the \$3 million suit being filed against your paper by Ted Giannoulas, the KGB Chicken, over a personal ad that appeared a year ago.

If Giannoulas is concerned about embarrassment and shame, he might stop for a moment to consider his own actions. I very distinctly recall the embarrassment and shame caused me by his obscene, vulgar gestures toward me during a public concert at the Sports Arena.

—LETTERS: **“CHICKEN BELITTLE,”** *Gail Eileen Wesely, San Diego, December 7, 1978*

Twenty-Five Years Ago

Recently I spent an entire endless afternoon in a delicatessen while the man in my life, whom we'll call Henry, backed away from a previous urgency to marry me. I drank stone-cold tea and tried to paste the remains of some bleu cheese onto croissant pieces I'd practically fidgeted into crumbs.

And so I told him — gently, I hoped — that I was overwhelmed by the responsibilities falling to me in our union: those of principal breadwinner, head of the entertainment committee, business manager, and mother of souls.... At which point he said calmly, “Yes, I think you're right. I'm just not a suitable

choice for you.”

—**“A WORLD FULL OF WORMBOYS,”** *Deborah Laake, December 8, 1983*

Twenty Years Ago

Counting the number of skinheads in San Diego is not simple, because there are different types. They can be divided, roughly, into three camps: the WAR skins, the Boot Boys, and the imitators (known derisively as “baldies”). They differ in degrees of racism, violence, and articulation. Of the three groups, the WAR skins are the most organized, the most political, the most strident. They consider themselves as the front-line soldiers for the White Aryan Resistance (WAR), Tom Metzger's reincarnation of the Ku Klux Klan. In San Diego County, they claim to have 72 members. Five of the local WAR skins are incarcerated, mostly on assault charges.

—**“YOUNG MEN WITH OLD IDEAS,”** *Brae Canlen, December 8, 1988*

Fifteen Years Ago

As she lay dying, a friend told me that the worst part of cancer was television.

“It's the canned laughter,” she said. “It goes on all day long: *ha, ha, ha!*”

My friend's roommate, the woman sharing her hospital room, spent her time screaming half-heartedly for nurses to bring her a

cigarette. When my friend asked to have the television turned off, the nicotine fiend really got out of hand. The television stayed on almost 24 hours a day.

“*Ha, ha ha!*” said my dying friend. “It's like the television's mocking me. I think it's going to kill me.”

Perhaps it did.

—AS SEEN ON TV: **“SICK TV,”** *Abe Opincar, December 9, 1993*

Ten Years Ago

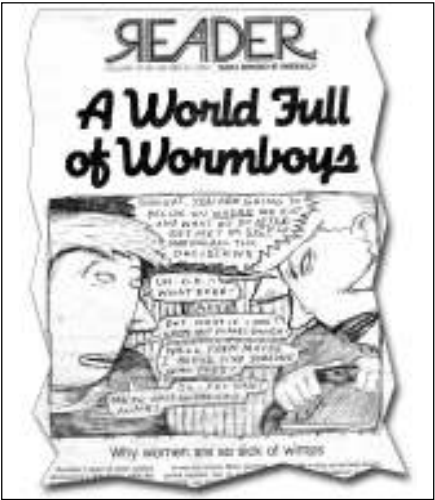
I do not understand what Jangchup Phelgyal's obsession is with obese persons (“I'm Sorry,” December 3). It seems almost voyeuristic and cruel, but he sounds like your average chubby-chaser. I find the fact that Mr. Phelgyal chooses to write about this subject offensive and sad. Your standards are lowering to the *National Inquirer* level, where the peanut-crunching crowd wants to know everything albeit freakish about everyone.

Also, Anne Albright, I am sick of hearing about your mewling, pooping progeny. Get your tubes tied and stop torturing us with your Gerber-spewing brood.

—LETTERS: **“GET YOUR TUBES TIED, FOR CHRIST'S SAKE,”** *Rachel Smith, Kensington, December 10, 1998*

Five Years Ago

The *Union-Tribune's* Bob Kittle fired the first



San Diego Reader, December 8, 1983

volley last week in what is widely expected to be the paper's rough treatment of city attorney candidate Michael Aguirre. Kittle used his position as perennial member of the SDSU-run KPBS's *Editor's Roundtable* to blast Democrat Aguirre — who represented plaintiffs in an unsuccessful legal battle against the U-T-favored Chargers ticket guarantee — as a “loose cannon.”

—CITY LIGHTS: **“SHOWING THEIR HAND,”** *Matt Potter, December 11, 2003*

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TABLE, PORTUGUESE MARBLE. Round. Cream with golden brown veins. Faint stains, some abrasions. 17"x48" on 3-claw iron pedestal. \$400. 858-279-0492.

WANTED: I buy 1950s-1980s rock and roll concert posters, flyers, handbills, used or unused tickets, programs. Private party. Please call 619-501-6210.

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CARLSBAD. Huge moving sales. X-mas, kitchen, linen, clothes, shoes, knick knacks, electronics, couch, great prices. 945 Aspen Court. 12/6, 12/7, 7am-3pm, no early birds, please.

CHULA VISTA. Brand name clothes, girls 18m-4T. TVs, housewares, furniture, toys. Christmas decorative items, used for display only! 1756 Ithaca Street 91913. December 12/6, 12/7.

CHULA VISTA. Neighborhood block sale. Costume/vintage jewelry. Earrings, rhinestone necklaces, broaches. Beautiful pieces. Dolls, glassware, glass (jewelry) showcase. 12/6/08, 7am-1pm. 605 Serrena Lane, 619-271-5442.

CHULA VISTA. Saturday, December 6, 7am-3pm. Huge sale! Toys, clothes, books, furniture, bikes, etc. Many, many new items. 524 Padera Way in Rancho Del Rey.

CLAIREMONT. Household items! Christmas decorations, and treasures galore. December 6, 7am-12pm. 2030 Garfield Road (off Milton Street).

EL CAJON. 1598 East Washington Avenue. Furniture, housewares, clothes,

baby clothes. Saturday, December 6, 7am-3pm.

MOVING SALE. Vista. Buffet, server, roll top desk, rugs, men's clothes, Saturday and Sunday after 12 noon. 760-599-0249.

PACIFIC BEACH NORTH. Snowboard sample sale, top name brand, current/prior year product. Boards, boots, binding, outerwear. 12/13 and 12/20, 10am-2pm. 1119 Turquoise.

PACIFIC BEACH. Moving sale! 12/6, 9am-2pm. 1351 Missouri Street. Furniture, VCRs, Kodak print dock, mountain bike, poker set, TV, washer/dryer, kitchen, decor, much more.

POINT LOMA. Saturday, 12/6. 8am-3pm. Slide projectors, woodworking vise,

sports memorabilia. Collectibles, posters, books. Glassware, household, clothing, tennis racquets. Much more. 1243 Savoy Street.

SERRA MESA. December 6, 8am-11am. Christmas items, lamps, clothing, bed spreads, pillows. 8931 Pollard Avenue.

SERRA MESA. Twin bed, handmade rug, HP printer, chairs, clothes, much more. Saturday, December 6, 8am-1pm. 619-549-4690.

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.

AUTOMOTIVE

MR International Auto Repair

7030 Carroll Road • 858-455-5440

(Near Miramar Road)

Unlimited Mileage Warranty! Call for details.

Your Friendly & Honest Auto Service Center

<p>Starting at GOOD \$69*</p> <p>Brake Special</p> <p>BETTER \$89*</p> <p>BEST \$139*</p> <p>Front or rear. Call for details! Parts & labor. Resurfacing rotors additional for the \$69 price. \$89 or higher includes resurfacing rotors.</p>	<p>Starting at 4-cyl. \$129*</p> <p>Water Pump</p> <p>Timing Belt \$98* 4-cyl. Parts extra.</p> <p>Rebuilt Transmission \$399* Most cars. Parts extra.</p> <p>Head Gasket \$199* Labor only.</p> <p>Clutch Special \$180* Starting at Plus parts. Rear wheel.</p> <p>“Check engine” light on? FREE*</p> <p>Computer Scan</p>	<p>From \$39⁹⁵ Most cars.</p> <p>New Axles \$89* Installed! Remanufactured Rebuilt available. Lifetime warranty.</p> <p>Starters & Alternators \$190* Installed Lifetime warranty. Most cars.</p> <p>Japanese Engine Replacement \$1200* Installed. 6-cyl., 8-cyl. extra. Call for details.</p> <p>Fuel System Flush \$75⁹⁵</p>
<p>30K/60K/90K Factory Service \$69* 4-cyl.</p> <p>• Replace engine oil & filter • Check timing • Inspect air filter</p> <p>• Rotate tires • Replenish all fluids • Inspect brake system & adjust brakes • Other services as needed</p>		
<p>Manager's Special 1!</p> <p>Oil & Filter Change \$14^{88*} Most cars. Plus \$3.50 disposal fee.</p> <p>Manager's Special 2!</p> <p>Synthetic Blend Premium Oil Change \$36^{95*} Includes filter and up to 5 quarts synthetic blend oil. Most cars. Plus \$3.50 disposal fee.</p>		
<p>BRAKE FLUID FLUSH 50% OFF</p>		
<p>Import & Domestic • Shuttle Service Available</p> <p>TOWING AVAILABLE • 10% Military Discount</p> <p>*Most cars. MasterCard / Visa / Discover</p>		

25%-35% Off

WINTER TIRE SALE!

Passenger, Performance, Light Truck, SUV and 4x4 Tires

30,000-MILE WARRANTY • ALL BRANDS

<p>Starting at 4 TIRES \$160</p> <p>P185/70/R14 P195/70/R14 P205/75/R14 P215/75/R14</p>	<p>Starting at 4 TIRES \$215</p> <p>P205/75/R15 P215/75/R15 P225/75/R15 P235/75/R15</p>	<p>Starting at 4 TIRES \$250</p> <p>P205/65/R15 P205/60/R15 P215/60/R16 P225/60/R16 P235/60/R16</p>	<p>Starting at</p> <p>265/7016 \$89.99</p> <p>205/4017 \$49.99</p> <p>215/4017 \$59.99</p> <p>245/4517 \$69.99</p> <p>265/7017 \$101.99</p>
<p>Plus installation & disposal. No carry-out. Other sizes available. Call for a quote on your vehicle.</p>			

Automotive Service Coupons

<p>Cooling System Flush \$44^{99*}</p> <p>Most cars. Includes: top off all fluids, rotate & balance 4 tires.</p>	<p>Tune-Up \$29^{90*} 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 \$15^{99*}</p> <p>Most cars. Drain and refill with quality 10W30 motor oil. Install new oil filter. Waste disposal fee extra.</p>	<p>Transmission Service \$59^{90*}</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 \$59^{90*}</p> <p>Starting at</p> <p>Most cars. We install brake pads or shoes, resurface drums or rotors and adjust.</p>
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South Bay Tire & Auto Services
1-888-318-2418
Call Mr. Labastida for a quote!
77 Broadway, Chula Vista
Hours: Mon.–Fri. 8 am-6 pm, Sat. 8 am-5 pm
*Not valid with other offers. Offers expire 11/30/08.
Se habla español. Family owned and operated.
Under new ownership.

25% Off

8 minutes from Downtown!

• Tires & Wheels

• Full Brake Repairs

• All Struts & Shocks

• Lube, Oil & Filter

• Computer Alignments

• Suspension & Steering

• Complete Auto Repairs

I AM GENGHIS KHAN.

Bill Bryson, in his book *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, explains how lineage works by starting out: “If your two parents hadn’t bonded just when they did — possibly to the second, possibly to the nanosecond — you wouldn’t be here.” He continues on to count your grandparents, their parents, their parents, their parents, and so forth until he reaches a surprising conclusion: “If you go back 64 generations, to the time of the Romans, the number of people on whose cooperative efforts your eventual existence depends has risen to approximately 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000, which is several thousand times the total number of people who have ever lived.

“Clearly something has gone wrong with our math here. The answer, it may interest you to learn, is that your line is not pure.”

Yes, we are talking about that beloved pastime of families both royal and trailer park but shunned by most everyone else. Although, it’s not quite as bold as the way princes and princesses and gap-toothed yokels do it. Given quite a few generations of removal, a distant cousin of your father’s commingled with someone in your mother’s lineage. It seems that, just as in a real forest, the brushy breadth of our family trees interlace.

Which leads us to an exciting discovery. Spin the table of time around, tracing accurately through heritage, and we’re all related to great names in history. (It doesn’t work well with people of recent times; John F. Kennedy, the creator of *The Transformers*, and I are not directly descended of the same pilgrims. You have to go back a little further.)

I am Genghis Khan.

In 1206, Genghis Khan united the nomadic tribes of Mongolia and through them gathered armies, then he began a campaign that finished with the largest empire in history. His domain eventually stretched from Japan, through Russia and into parts of Hungary and Austria. These were nomads! The Europeans were building cathedrals and castles from stone, paving roads, milling grain, and establishing universities, when a man who lived in a tent and had never seen something so technologically advanced as a window decided to rule the world. And he got damn close.

And in the afternoon, on the trailing end of a long day of riding a bicycle and driving little green army men around in the bed of a Tonka truck, I, Genghis Khan, like to cross my feet on the coffee table and watch cartoons involving talking dogs.

WHAT I WILL AND WON'T WATCH THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

LARRY THE CABLE GUY’S CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

VH1 8:00 P.M.

Larry the Cable Guy needs to meet Dennis Miller in a Pocatello Denny’s so they can carve out who gets the stupid audience and who gets the stupid audience who thinks they’re smart. “Stay away from references to the War of 1812 and I promise not to do trailer park jokes. Now that that’s settled, let’s get some sleeves on you because you’re dropping arm hair in my pigs-in-a-blanket, okay?”

WORLD’S UGLIEST DOG COMPETITION

ANIMAL PLANET 9:00 P.M.

When I eat french fries, I eat them so fast that I bite my fingers. I also enjoy kicking my feet out in front of me and sliding my rear end across the rug. As humans go, I’m

only slightly below average on the looks scale. As dogs go, I might have a shot at winning the whole shebang here.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

GRANDMA GOT RUN OVER BY A

REINDEER

CW 8:00 P.M.

If ever anyone deserved to have the holy pie slapped out of him, it’s the man who wrote this song. If he ever sticks his face out of whatever hovel he’s crawled into, I’ll be there. SLAP! PIE!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET

MYTV 8:00 P.M.

Thirty-two years I’ve made it without watching this or *It’s a Wonderful Life*. My roommate has threatened to snare me, tie me up, and force me to watch both. This Saturday I’m going to come home and there’s going to be a box propped up by a stick over a taco and a new X-Men

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.

WASHER/DRYER. Whirlpool. \$940. Great condition! Front loading, automatic washer, gas dryer. Large load size, auto-

water level, high efficiency, automatic temperature control, much more. 619-955-7199.

WASHERS AND DRYERS. Guaranteed. \$100-\$195 each. Over 200 to choose from. In-shop/in-home service and we sell parts. Stoves, refrigerators, dishwashers, too. Can deliver. Calwest Appliance Exchange, 619-723-1545.

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, never used-still in box.. 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.

LASER PRINTER. HP 4050T, envelope feeder, mp & twin paper trays, full toner, low page count, excellent condition, network possible. \$350/best. 619-303-9279.

SONY DVD PLAYER. DVFPFX810, portable. 8" Windescreen swivel LCD. Dual Headphone Jacks. NIB. Only \$160. 858-232-9271.

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.

BABY CRIB. Brand-new never-used baby crib with comforter \$100. 619-447-0396.

BED \$169 A BARGAIN. A Ortho Pillow-top Queen, new in plastic with warranty, mattress/box. All sizes. Credit cards accepted. Can deliver. 800-464-6420. North County, 800-464-6490.

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 FRAME. Metal. Fits different size beds. Can be easily taken apart to be transported in a car. \$20. 858-277-3065.

AUTOMOTIVE

Brake Service

\$89

Includes: install new brake pads, top off brake fluid, inspect complete brake system. Most cars & light trucks.

Timing Belt

\$169

Includes: remove & replace timing belt, check for leaks, make necessary adjustments. Most cars & light trucks.

COX AUTO SERVICE
5782 Miramar Road • 1-888-638-0606
More specials at: CoxAutoService.net. Offers expire 12/31/08.

mobile window tinting

Competitive prices. Lifetime guarantee. 18 years' experience.

\$199*

Complete tint job
Most 4-door sedans.

619-892-2263



SMOG CHECK

\$15⁹⁵

Most cars.

Free retest when we do repair. Plus \$8.25 certificate and \$1.50 transfer fee. 1995 & older, \$15 for evap test. Vans, trucks & European cars extra. Cash only. Must present DMV renewal notice. *All prices plus tax. With this ad. Exp. 1/5/09.

OIL CHANGE \$23⁹⁵*
Most cars. Includes up to 5 qts. and new filter. Cash only.

BASIC TUNE-UP:
4-CYL. \$25/6-CYL. \$35/8-CYL. \$45*
Includes spark plugs. Additional parts extra. Most cars.

TIMING BELT SPECIAL \$95*
Includes parts & labor. Most 4-cyl. cars. 1995 and older. Dual overhead cam extra.

BRAKES...\$10 OFF
Front & rear. Turn rotors, drums, new pads, lining. Most cars, 4WD extra.

STEVE AUTO REPAIR

1370 Garnet Ave. • Pacific Beach
(858) 274-1195 ASE

Free Bumper-to-Bumper Diagnostic

\$100 value. With this ad. Expires 12-18-08.
"Check engine" light, track down leaks or noises using computer scan.

10% off labor

on Alignment • Brakes • Belts Suspension • Tires • Smog Repair 30K/60K/90K Services

Minutes from downtown off Hwy 94 & I-15

LUTZ TIRE & AUTO REPAIR
2853 Market Street • 619-234-3535



Rebuilt and installed Automatic Transmission

with a **2-year/24,000-mile warranty**
Parts & labor. Includes torque converter.

Labor **\$350** 3-spd. rear- & front-wheel drive
Labor **\$675** Transmissions with overdrive
Labor **\$750** Computer-controlled (FWD or RWD)
Labor to rebuild and install. Parts additional. Call our service manager for quote.

New Clutch

Rear-wheel drive Labor **\$145**
Front-wheel drive Labor **\$175**
Most cars. With this ad.

Free towing on major jobs

Transmission Flush

\$75
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Automatic Transmission Service

Includes pan gasket, filter, fluid & road test. **\$85**
Most cars. With this ad.

Value Transmission

Under new ownership.
619-589-2123
8730 Jamacha Rd. Spring Valley
(across from Sears, two blocks east of the 125 Freeway)
Mastercard • Visa • Discover • ATM

Oil Change \$16⁹⁵

Most vehicles.

Smog Check \$24⁹⁵

Most vehicles. Present coupon and DMV renewal slip. Plus \$8.25 cert. and \$2 transmittal fee. Free retest when we do the repairs.

"Check Engine" Light \$29⁹⁵ | **Brakes \$30 off**

Sports Arena/Pt. Loma

For more specials visit: Precisiontune.com

3425 Midway Dr. (Behind Shell station) 1-888-486-9153

Coupons must be presented at time of service. Not valid with any other offer or discount or for prior service. See manager for details. All coupons expire 12/18/08.



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*Deductible savings given at time of free estimate.



comic book. From the other room I'll hear the yank of a taut string and a "Gotcha!"

EXTERMINADOR 2: EL DÍA DEL JUICIO FINAL (1991)

TELEMUNDO 9:00 P.M.

I wonder if the term "volveré" (translation: I shall return) has been over-used by every bad Spanish-speaking standup comic or if that's just how we do it.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

PANDA TALES

PBS 8:00 P.M.

There's just so much pressure to like pandas these days. I can't do it. I can't. Until four teenaged ones mutate and develop ninja skills, pandas will

always be at least second banana.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS

ABC 8:00 P.M.

What they don't tell you is that Linus is Jewish and insanely jealous of Charlie Brown's fame. He plays along with the Christmas thing to fit in, but at night, he puts on a yarmulke, lights his menorah, and scrawls in crayon across his bedroom door, "It's a Linus Hanukkah, You Little Bald Dummy!"

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

REHAB: PARTY AT THE HARD ROCK HOTEL

MTV 9:00 P.M.

Contrary to the title, this is not a booze- or drug-free event. Rehab is

some smartass title suggesting that the best way to kill a hangover is to start drinking again. My only problem is that it's held at the Las Vegas Hard Rock Hotel. I'll drink early in the morning, but I don't want to look at Tito Jackson's hairnet while I do it.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

UFC FIGHT FOR THE TROOPS

SPIKE 7:00 P.M.

If there is any justice in this universe, somehow someone would combine UFC fighting with *My Super Sweet 16*. "What do you want for your birthday, you rich little snot? Doesn't matter. You know what you're getting? A knuckle sandwich and a size 11 to your ass! Yeehaw!"



Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer

LITTLE SPIRIT: CHRISTMAS IN NEW YORK NBC 8:00 P.M.

Oh, God, how I'll try. I'll try. This entire holiday season I will hold back, grit my teeth, clench my fists,

and bear down, but at a very inappropriate moment I will lose my internal battle and yell, "HA HA HA HA! YOU SAID, 'NUT-CRACKER!'"

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.

BED: DISCOUNT FURNITURE and Mattress. Bed sets, dinettes, sofas, sectionals, mattresses and more! 30%-70% below retail every day! Free layaway, free financing, 12 months no interest/no payments. Fast delivery. Open Monday-Friday, 10am-7pm, Saturday/Sunday, 11am-5pm. Factory warranties included. 858-495-3325. Address: 4810 Mercury Street, San Diego, 92111. www.realdealfurniture.com.

BEDROOM SET, QUEEN MATTRESS, three wall units for TV, \$350. Sofa, green, \$275. Toddler's bed, wood, \$300. Hello Kitty, Mickey Mouse TVs, \$60/each, 619-829-3704.

BOOK CASE. Maple. 2 years old. Great condition! 72" h x 24.5" w x 23.5" l. Call Jen, 858-678-0333.

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.

DINING TABLE. With 6 chairs. Oak rectangular with leaf, solid 30 x 60, new fabric on all chairs. \$325, can deliver. 619-280-5155.

FURNITURE. Save 40% or more! Order from manufacturers' catalogues and save. Factory direct store. Solid cherry, maple, oak or pine, American made Vermont craftsmanship or imported. San Diego's best home furnishings source since 1960. Member of the Better Business Bureau. Al Davis Furniture, 1601 University Avenue, 2 blocks west of Park Boulevard in Hillcrest. www.davisworld.com or email to info@davisworld.com. Call 619-296-1221.

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.

MAPLE HUTCH. Matching table. 2 leaves, 4 chairs. Good condition. \$500. 858-272-4812.

MATCHING SOFA & LOVE SEAT, light brown, great condition, very comfortable, \$195. 619-405-9413; 619-884-2378.

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.

MATTRESS. Full size. Luxurious, Sealy Posture Premiere. Pillow top, plus box and frame. \$200. Charles, 619-804-7926.

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 SET. Tall table, 2 chairs, white with glass top, 30" round. Swivel chairs with arms, dark green plastic webbing. \$60. Call for pictures. 760-519-5926.

TABLE. Glass top, \$25. Desk with wheels, \$20. 858-277-7197.

WANTED: EAMES CHAIR, OTTOMAN, Herman Miller. \$500. John, 619-459-1201.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.

ADULT DIAPERS. Medium. 10/package. Asking \$4/package. 619-292-2542.

BED AND CLOCK. Beautiful brass bed, full size. Oak wall clock, battery operated, chimes on hour. Best offer both. 619-749-2227 or 619-339-6664.

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OVER 200,000 VEHICLES REPAIRED SINCE 1978!

30K/60K/90K Service Special
\$149⁹⁵*

Starting at

- WE REPLACE:**
- Oil (5w30 synthetic blend, up to 5 qts.)
 - Oil filter • Spark plugs (premium plugs extra)
 - 1 gallon coolant (premium coolant additional)

WE INSPECT:

- Secondary Ignition System • Drive Belts
- Suspension Steering Linkage • Struts & Shocks
- Coolant Hoses • Exhaust System • Lights • Brakes
- For Fluid Leaks • A/C System

PLUS WE:

- Rotate Tires (4) • Adjust Air Pressure
- Check & Adjust Timing (where applicable)
- Pressure-test Cooling System
- Test Battery & Charging System
- Lube Chassis • Top Off Fluids

*Plus environmental fee.

"Check Engine" Light On?

Our ASE MASTER Technicians use the latest state-of-the-art computerized diagnostic equipment. Includes computer scan, code translation, and repair recommendation.

\$39⁹⁵

Most cars and light trucks. Some problems may require additional diagnostic procedures.

Car Care Special
\$29⁹⁵

Starting at

Up to 5 qts. 5w30 Valvoline Synthetic Blend, oil filter, comprehensive battery test, inspect fluid condition, tire rotation, 60-pt. inspection.

Call for appt.

WE NOW DO TEST ONLY



Smog Test Only/ Gold Shield Station **\$29⁷⁵**

Free retest with our repairs. Most cars. Plus \$8.25 certificate fee and \$2 transfer fee. Call for appt.

DISCOUNT COUPON

This coupon entitles holder to receive a 10% discount to a maximum of \$100 off* all non-advertised service and repairs at Convoy Auto Repair and Towing.

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\$19⁹⁵

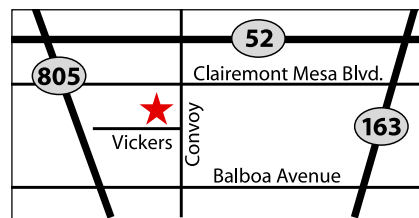
Plus certificate and transfer fee. '95 and older \$10 additional.

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Most vehicles and light trucks.

- Service "Engine Soon" light
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- Carburetor or fuel injection problems

Professional Detailing
\$79⁹⁵

Starting at

A/C Service
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Most vehicles. Freon extra.

- Includes: • Recovery • Evacuate
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Free hand car wash with any automotive service

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.

BOBCAT S250, 2004. Hi-Flow skid steer loader, lift capacity 2500lbs., diesel engine. I'm asking \$2900, 865-245-4540.

BOHEMIAN ESSENTIALS AT Hippyville.com. Natural incense, imported oils, eco-friendly hemp. Fast service. Inventory updated daily! 10% discount code: SDR (expires 12/31). 800-428-0473.

CAR COVER. Expensive, \$30. 858-581-6223.

CHINA SETTINGS. Vintage, 12 place-ments, beautiful silver rose pattern with large amount platinum trim by Spring, Japan. Includes 10 serving pieces/lids/saucers. \$750. 619-224-4820.

COMICS, GRAPHIC NOVELS, Maga-zines. Up to 80% off. Saturday 12/6 10am-3pm. IDW Publishing, 5080 Santa Fe, 92109. Giveaways with purchase. Cash, major credit cards only.

DOWN JACKET. Women's. Removable fur-trimmed hood. Never worn. \$35. 619-282-9581.

EXECUTIVE DESK. With matching confer-ence table. Excellent condition, easy move. \$650/all or \$400/each. 4 tall 4-drawer file cabinets, \$65/each. Can del-iver, 619-280-5155.

FOLK ART. 2 (pair). Beautiful, rare. From Michoalan, Mexico. Height is 3'. Carved, serious collectors only. 760-290-3545.

FRYING PANS, 5. Cast iron. 2 Griswold, 1 Wagner, 2 WSA. Take all, \$45. Leave message, 760-845-3024.

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T.G.I.F.

“I figure I must have smoked the weight of my own soul in heroin that week.”

By John Brizzolara

Maitland is standing, fourth from the teller, on Friday afternoon at an undisclosed Hillcrest bank. He is holding a paycheck for \$1050 and a deposit slip. His cell phone at his waist is ringing, a soft “meeting setting,” and he knows it will be his wife with a short grocery list: items for dinner and Saturday’s barbecue with neighbors and colleagues. The former will include the book review editor for the *Mission City Union*, for which he has been reviewing thrillers for over ten years. The check, however, his bread and butter as it were, is from *the Silver Gate Voice*, where Maitland contributes a column called “Weekend.”

Every Friday afternoon at this time, on this same spot more or less, he silently reviews his life in a cursory, largely financial way. It is usually a disappointing business punctuated with Fridays of self-congratulation: a high school diploma but no degree, and yet he is widely considered knowledgeable about literary matters. This always provokes a wry grimace at the charade. Still, as his father used to say about a mediocre golf partner, “He talks a good game.” In Maitland’s case, it is more a matter of writing a good game of literary savvy. His current column, though not among his lesser-paying reviews, is also about books, more or less. He finds his subject matter, since his gradual failure as a novelist, gravitating more and more to other people’s novels, a terminal sign he had been told once and now understood.

The man in front of Maitland is reading “Weekend,” an event notice about a book signing in Mission Valley at Borders, and Maitland is trying to ward off worshippers at the throne of Otto Salmo and the overrated novelist famous for his Mafia books until his drinking dropped him from sight. The book Maitland was writing about in the column in the hands

of the realtor ahead of him in line was called *Serenity Road: A Novel of Rehabilitation*. It was in fact about a corrupt spin-dry establishment, expensive, and the crime scene for a confusing plot involving murder, blackmail, and drugs. It was, Maitland had said, “a mess.”

He read this excerpt from the fatuous novelist in Maitland’s column:

* * *

He had less than a half of a pack of Marlboro Light 100s and only one match; but Blackwood (aka Otto Salmo, it would appear, younger, handsomer, and doing well with all the women in detox — an irony lost, it seemed, on the more famous writer) did not want to walk back to his room and get caught in a conversation with the Marine. The guy was a compulsive talker and almost punched the out-of-shape and middle-aged writer when he made the mistake of referring to his new roomie as an ex-Marine. Completely nuts. Another one, this time with Desert Storm as his excuse.

Marlon Castle sat alone, finishing a cigarette, reading a paperback. Blackwood saw that it was some rock biography, but he couldn’t tell whose it was from this angle. He greeted the younger man, and though they’d met previously, they hadn’t spoken much. Blackwood liked him as far as it went, and Marlon Castle felt pretty much the same. After a few preliminaries, they got specific.

“How much heroin did you smoke?” Blackwood asked some ten minutes into the conversation, which up to now consisted mostly of draconian house rules. “I mean, like, how much a day?”

“Well, I could never afford that much, but one time, after my band played this back-to-school fashion show at this department store and we each got \$350, I figure I must have smoked the weight of my own soul in heroin that week. That weight being, I’m told, 7½ grams. Is that right?”

“I wouldn’t know. Where did you get that?”

“A movie. Supposedly if you weigh the human body just before and then just after death, it loses that much weight.”

“So you would smoke, like, a gram a day?”

“Pretty much. After that, I figured I was just getting sleepy, wasting it. How much did you drink?” Castle wasn’t aware he was lying. He often smoked more, most often none at all. He was usually without money except for what his father sent or what the band could generate once in a while.

“At my peak, I guess one of those 750 milliliter bottles of some kind of whiskey or another in a day, maybe a little more if it was there, but I don’t think I physically could drink more than that before passing out.” Blackwood figured that wasn’t always the truth either. He hadn’t drunk for years, and then he did. It was only toward the end that he could kill a big bottle like that. He asked himself if he was bragging or what? He laughed. “You feel bad about it?”

“I do. I know you’re not supposed to but I do. How about you?”

“No,” Marlon shrugged. “I look at it like William Faulkner did. He was really interested in altering normal perception. He said somewhere that he even found hangovers interesting for that reason. I feel the same way about withdrawal from heroin. It’s bad but it’s interesting.” Course I’ve never done it for years and kicked. Where did I read that about Faulkner?” Castle searched the sky across the street.



“Faulkner,” Blackwood repeated and let it go. Inevitably, he asked him about music. So much conversation at Serenity Road consisted of loving recollections of getting stupid on drugs or booze, and he was glad Castle didn’t seem to find the subject the soul of wit much less the sum total, that or sex, of subject matter. Rock and blues and Gibson vs. Fender. The younger man asked Blackwood if he had a guitar in his dorm somewhere; Blackwood shook his head, “I’ve already got one contraband item, though I have permission.”

“Computer?” Castle asked though it wasn’t quite a question. “Figures,” he nodded when the older man said nothing.

* * *

It is Maitland’s turn with the teller. His check, deposit slip, pen, and wallet drop from his grip. He feels light-headed and nauseous. He excuses himself from the teller’s window and navigates to the men’s room on the second floor. He will return after splashing some cold water on his face and figuring out what it is precisely that is wrong with him. He must not allow this to become a ritual every Friday afternoon, and it threatens to. It threatens.

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