

Reader

Go directly to jail... and die

Francisco Castaneda came to the United States from El Salvador during its civil war of the 1980s. Fleeing the violence, his mother crossed the U.S.-Mexico border illegally in 1982 with Francisco, aged 10, and his three siblings. Her husband had died of a heart attack just before they left. For years, she did odd jobs and sewing in and around Los Angeles. But she died of cancer before turning 40 and before she secured legal status for her children. Story continued on page 24

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DECEMBER 11, 2008

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Go Directly to Jail...and Die
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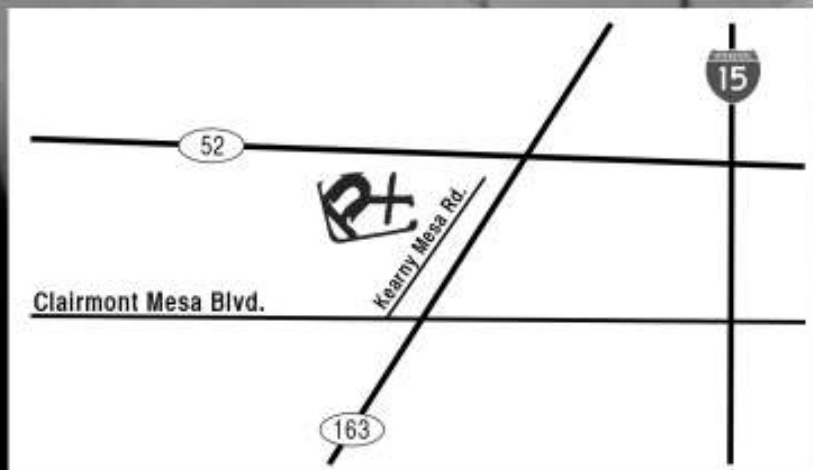
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BREAKING NEWS**After the fall** The tarnished legacy of ex-University of California president **Bob**

Bob Dynes

Dynes — the onetime UCSD chancellor who was forced from UC's top job following a series of high-profile payroll and administrative scandals — has taken yet another blow. **Mark Yudof**, who succeeded Dynes as UC president, has pledged to stop the practice that Dynes created of allowing university executives to collect fat severance checks and then be rehired at university campuses. "I and the Regents recognize this may appear to the public as an objectionable use of resources even though the program is reducing our central administrative spending," Yudof said in a written statement issued last week.

The latest Dynes-related controversy erupted two weeks ago when the *San Francisco Chronicle* recounted the story of **Linda Morris Williams**, a San Diego State University graduate who was a top assistant to Dynes when he was UCSD chancellor. When Dynes became UC president in 2003, she moved with him to the university's Oakland headquarters, where he named her associate president. In 2005, the *Chronicle* reported that Dynes had given Williams a series of generous financial perks, including a \$44,467 relocation allowance and a subsidized mortgage loan of \$832,500. Her salary was \$190,625. Then in January of this year, Williams left that job under the university's "voluntary separation program," set up by Dynes. She received \$100,202 in severance pay. In May, just months after her departure from her old job, Williams was rehired as associate chancellor at UC Berkeley, where she now makes \$200,400. The position was not advertised to the public, and the university undertook no search for other candidates. "At the time of my VSP application the Associate Chancellor position on the Berkeley campus was not open and therefore played no role whatsoever in my decision making," Williams said in a written statement. "Having said that, I was thrilled when the opportunity arose to join the Berkeley team, and I am very grateful that I am able to continue my career in service to the university and the people of California."

Dynes is now a UCSD professor with a salary of \$245,000 a year, one of the highest in the statewide system. He developed close ties to the UC establishment by his marriage to **Frances Hellman**, daughter of wealthy San Francisco investor **Warren Hellman**, a frequent business partner of Padres owner **John Moores**. After Hellman divorced him, Dynes married **Ann Parode**, who was UCSD's top lawyer when he was chancellor.

Homies The arrest last week of **Esteban Núñez**, the 19-year-old son of ex-Assembly Speaker **Fabian Núñez**, in connection with a murder during a late-night rumble near San Diego State, has brought new focus on the former speaker's ties to San Diego. A year ago, when he was still in office, Núñez appointed San Diego city councilman **Ben Hueso** to the California Coastal Commission, ignoring the protests of the Sierra Club and others who said Hueso lacked environmental credentials and was in the pocket of developers. Both Hueso and Núñez, 1 of 12 children of Mexican immigrants, grew up in Barrio Logan and are longtime political allies. Núñez also is closely tied to Hueso mentor **Juan Vargas**, the ex-San Diego city councilman and former Democratic assemblyman who was soundly defeated by incumbent **Bob**



Fabian Núñez

Filner in their 2006 congressional primary race. When Núñez stepped down as speaker in May, the San Diego High School graduate briefly toyed with the idea of returning to his hometown to run for mayor. But, like Vargas — who became a lobbyist — Núñez joined the insurance industry, this month becoming a boardmember of Zenith Insurance, a major beneficiary of his legislative wheeling and dealing.

Low tech La Jolla's General Atomics, which makes the Predator unmanned aerial vehicle and is working on a new generation of experimental nuclear-power reactors, has entered into a deal with Eastern Kentucky University to make fuel from cellulose derived from "nonedible" plants. As is the case with most General Atomics projects, the federal government is putting up a tidy sum, \$4 million, to get the undertaking off the ground. ... Even if his faltering football team isn't going to get there, Chargers owner **Alex Spanos** is spreading the Super Bowl wealth in his hometown of Stockton. He's given six pairs of tickets, along with a \$2000 travel allowance for each pair, for a raffle to be held by St. Mary's Interfaith Community Services. By the end of last month, proceeds from sales of the \$100 raffle tickets had reached \$185,000, according to the *Stockton Record*. "Dad has always donated tickets," Spanos's daughter **Dea Berberian** told the paper. "Stockton is fortunate." No word whether Spanos is going to be giving tickets to any San Diego charities.



Alex Spanos

— 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.

The Villain Is Gluttony

By Don Bauder

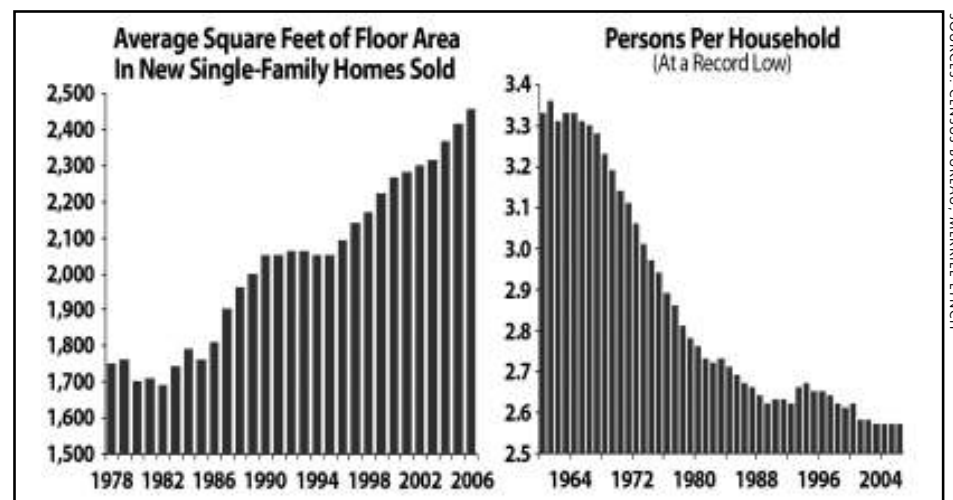
Almost everyone has awakened one morning filled with remorse over the previous evening's behavior. Perhaps it was

the time, drunk as a billy goat, you beppessed the boss at the office Christmas party. That's

the nation was consuming more than it produced and making it up by borrowing —

cial institutions. The big blast began in the 1980s, but both Republicans and Democrats are responsible for the mess. Remember, too, that the economic contraction is global; we aren't the only country that over-borrowed to overconsume.

A little history is in order. In the 1930s, an economist named John Maynard Keynes said that the nation must spend its way out of the Great Depression, incurring unbal-



SOURCES: CENSUS BUREAU, MERRILL LYNCH

what it's like in the American economy today. We all knew that, starting in the early 1980s,

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greatly from foreign countries that were prospering as we sent them jobs. How could we not have realized that ultimately this would be as self-destructive as urinating on the boss?

The 1980s mantra was "Morning in America." Now we're "mourning in America." The party is over. We all share blame: consumers, governments, corporations, finan-

anced budgets to do so. (But we forgot that Keynes said we should restore fiscal sanity once the economy recovered — advice we subsequently almost never followed.) During the Keynes period, we were told that private virtue — thrift — was public folly.

The Democratic Party made hay of the new mentality. Its shibboleth became

continued on page 8

Neal Obermeyer

Canyon Trails Traffic Jam

By Joe Deegan

Trail biking in a north San Diego canyon seems to be running up against its own popularity. Deer Canyon is part of a new

preserve in the City of San Diego's open-space system, whose management is guided by the Multiple Species Conservation Program. The protected area, called Del Mar Mesa Preserve, is located north of Los Peñasquitos Canyon and south of the Ted Williams Freeway. Deer Canyon lies north of and below the eastern section of Del Mar Mesa. The City has been acquiring much of the land for over ten years. It is home to the horned toad and barrel cactus as well as several endangered species.

The City hired Recon Environmental Inc. to write for the new preserve a "resource management plan," which has been in production since 2002. Over the summer, the company unveiled a final version of the document, which the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens' Advisory Committee immediately rejected.

The problem? In the committee's view, the plan failed to describe an adequate trail system for the newly dedicated area. The Peñasquitos Canyon group has also been overseeing trails planning for Carmel Mountain Preserve, immediately to the west.

San Diego's open spaces are intended to protect ecologically sensitive lands and make them publicly available for the enjoyment of beautiful scenery and natural peacefulness. For trails, Recon's management plan relied primarily on San Diego Gas and Electric Company access roads into Del Mar Mesa and Deer Canyon. To allow passage by SDG&E trucks, the roads are much like regular streets, except that they are dirt and about 20 feet wide. They tend to be located on the new preserve's perimeter.

Some members of the



Erik Basil at a migrant camp in Deer Canyon

committee suspected that Recon was largely ignorant of an existing interior system of trails in Deer Canyon. Or Recon may have simply wanted to exclude the trails as too environmentally intrusive. Together with nearby McGonigle Canyon, Deer Canyon was long the make-do, outdoor home for multitudes of migrant farmworkers. In 2002, local media shone a light on the encampments, embarrassing the Carmel Valley and

Del Mar Mesa communities' more affluent members. Shortly thereafter, federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents drove the migrants out of Deer Canyon, and they have not returned. (Hundreds of migrants still live in McGonigle Canyon, however, in close proximity to the houses of well-to-do San Diegans.)

While living in Deer Canyon, the migrants created numerous trails for entering, exiting, and moving around the lower areas. The trails cannot be seen from the canyon's higher reaches because the branches and foliage of abundant Nuttall's scrub oaks cover them. The trees grow to be only about 12 feet high, but they are 12 feet wide at their crests. When they grow close together, the trees form a dense blanket over the ground.

Erik Basil is a member of the Peñasquitos Canyon citizens' advisory committee and president of an advocacy group called the Multi-use Trails Coalition. "Although these canyons have always had 'jeep roads,' motorcycle trails, and SDG&E access roads carved through them," writes Basil in an email, "the itinerant workers...created a vast network of organic pedes-



Rob Mikuteit with son Kai



Rob Mikuteit

trian and bike trails in and among the low, coastal scrub oaks that fill the arroyos there. As [the migrants] moved out, runners and bikers in the know began to move in and, after the fires of 2007 that closed major running and biking trail areas, the kids and families running and riding these trails have grown to immense numbers. Until recently, all this land was private property and, prior to the owner's transfer of the parcels to the City...comprised the largest 'permission'

trails network in the County. The trails are unique in that...a significant number wind through the scrub oaks under 'full canopy' for miles of narrow, shaded, quiet [passageways] near a gurgling stream. They have become famous in the running and cycling community under descriptive but

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

Villain is gluttony

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“Tax and tax, spend and spend, elect and elect.” Conservative Republicans and Southern Democrats clung to the old

virtues of fiscal responsibility, balanced budgets, self-reliance, saving for a rainy day, avoiding debt to buy what one couldn't afford — that is, not living beyond our means. But this philosophy was called reactionary and was politi-

cally unpopular; liberal-spending Democrats dominated the Congress in the 1930s through the 1970s. To get elected president, a Republican (say, Eisenhower or Nixon) had to say they were “moderate” — just a little less spend-

thrift than Democrats.

Robert Snigaroff of San Diego's Denali Advisors points out that from 1950 to 1982, consumer spending was 62 percent of the total economy. By 1990, it was 70 percent. “Baby Boomers became

spendthrifts” as they neared retirement, says Snigaroff, but we can't blame only that age cohort. Beginning with Ronald Reagan in 1981, greed washed over the whole country. Consumer debt was 44 percent of total economic output in 1982

and is now 100 percent, notes E. James Welsh of Carlsbad's *Financial Commentator*.

Beginning in the 1980s, Republicans discovered that they could buy votes just as Democrats had been doing since the 1930s. But the Republicans would do it by *cutting* taxes. They convinced a gullible public that the tax cuts would pay for themselves. Federal deficits soared, but Reagan said government spending was to blame. Nonsense. When Reagan — supposedly the conservative spending-slasher — took office, government spending was 35 percent of total economic output. It is still 35 percent of total output.

The combination of huge federal deficits and easy money from the Federal Reserve continued under George H.W. Bush. Under Bill Clinton, there was tight fiscal policy (balanced budgets) but very loose monetary policy (excessive money creation). Under George W. Bush, it was loose fiscal and loose monetary policy. Excessive consumption became patriotic: remember when W told Americans to buckle up for danger after 9/11 but to continue spending at the mall?

Meanwhile, Wall Street became a casino: exotic, inscrutable financial instruments flooded world markets — all based on debt. Many are now collapsing.

Only a few conservative Republicans and Democrats — many of them Southern — warned that this philosophy would lead to a crack-up. A mere handful of economists and commentators saw what was coming: A. Gary Shilling, Henry Kaufman, Jeremy Grantham, Warren Buffett, James Grant, for example. Almost all others were afflicted by career risk: pointing out that the binge couldn't last was equivalent to pissing all over your employer.

Now the political and economic consensus holds that we must get out of the dilemma by having more of what got us here: excessive borrowing for consumer and

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Villain is gluttony

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government spending, along with tax cuts and low interest rates. We're told that once the economy recovers, then we must go back to frugality: less spending, more saving, balanced budgets. That was the advice Keynes gave. Nobody listened then. Will they now? ■

Traffic jam

continued from page 7

unofficial names, such as the 'Shire,' 'Hobbit Trails,' and the 'Penasquitos Tunnels.'

But some local property owners resent the runners and bikers. Until recent and widespread residential development, Carmel Valley was horse country. "Now there may be as few as 50 horses stabled in the area," Basil tells me. But a horse-country frame of mind still persists. There is strong feeling among a few property owners living close to the new preserves that trail use should be limited to horseback riding. The bikers' presence seems to announce that long-established neighborhood life is ebbing away.

Some ranchers of yesteryear are also unhappy about how much residential development now surrounds them. "But many of them made fortunes by selling land to the developers," argues Basil. "Now they want to keep the Del Mar Mesa and Deer Canyon as their own little private

backyards."

Real estate broker Bunnie Clews, whose son Christian owns Clews Horse Ranch, gives me an equestrian's point of view. Both mother and son are members of the Peñasquitos Canyon committee—and ardent horseback riders. "I was totally unprepared," she says, "for the number of trails that are down in Deer Canyon when I first walked it in August of this year. I saw probably 50 cyclists that day. And I know that some horses have been down there because I saw evidence.

"But horses and cyclists cannot use the same trails very successfully," continues Clews, "because the bikes are so fast and they're quiet. They come zipping up on you, and a horse just blows up. Depending on the horse and rider, that can have disastrous results. Some of the horses recover and some don't. They're frightened and they take off. They're prey animals and they have a fight-or-flight mentality, mainly flight.

"So the two groups cannot use the trails together. If they make the Deer Canyon tunnels part of the trail system, they need to research them and allow bikes on some and horses on the others. I will tell you that I have never ridden down in the tunnels of Deer Canyon on a horse. As it is right now, the tunnels are really low. I'm pretty short and so is my horse. And I would be bent over, not that that doesn't happen on trails, but most of the ones in Deer Canyon are really not used

by horses. I saw one pile of old poop. And it was old. I do agree that horses shouldn't have to be confined to roadways. There's nothing pleasant about riding down a big fat fire road.

"I don't think there's such a big schism between the cyclists and the horseback riders," says Clews. She cites the presence of both cyclists and horseback riders on top of Del Mar Mesa already.

After various controversies over the trails in the planned new preserve erupted, the City set up a September 18 meeting to allow all parties to air their views. Representatives from both the California Department of Fish and Game and the San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Program came to express environmental concerns over allowing any recreational use of the area. Basil's trails coalition and the San Diego Mountain Biking Association used their speaking time to present a joint-trails plan for the area. Rob Mikuteit, a member of both organizations, drew up the plan.

"I took the City's [Multiple Species Conservation Program] map of ecologically sensitive areas in the new preserve," Mikuteit tells me, "and overlaid it with a trails system." The plan included the old interior trails network created by the migrant community.

I ask Mikuteit about the claim of some equestrians that bikes damage trails. "Research studies have shown," he argued, "that bikes do no more harm than walkers. It's not the trails

that are at risk anyway, but the ecologically sensitive areas, such as vernal pools, which are abundant in the new preserve." The idea of his plan, says Mikuteit, was "especially to keep the trails from coming too close to the vernal pools. To protect them, our plan completely eliminates or reroutes probably 70 percent of the old trails."

Vernal pools are low spots in the ground that collect water during rainy periods. They are not connected to other water sources, such as streams or lakes. Their water usually evaporates when dry weather returns. But while they are wet, the spots exhibit scenes of teeming life. The San Diego fairy shrimp, on the federal list of endangered species, is perhaps the most renowned inhabitant of the local pools.

The pools also support amphibian life. One of the unique delights in the Carmel Mountain Preserve during springtime, says Mikuteit, "is that you'll suddenly see hundreds of tadpoles in a vernal pool on a mesa very far from running water, and it's really a fantastic thing to see how the life cycle works. That was one thing that thrilled my son, to see all these creatures coming alive and sprouting legs."

Mikuteit is put off by visions of chain-link fences that might appear in the new Del Mar Mesa Preserve to keep people away from sensitive areas. He knows that something must be done and thinks that split-rail fences would be less obtrusive to the natural experience. Especially

if they carry interpretive signs, as is already the case in Carmel Mountain Preserve, to explain to visitors the sensitivity of certain species and the vernal pools.

How people get in to enjoy the sights, however, has yet to be decided. The Multi-use Trails Coalition favors the most open access. But Mikuteit admits the problem is more complicated than it might first appear. People on foot, for instance, come in as both slow walkers and joggers. He takes into account the problem equestrians face from joggers and bikers who might spook the horses. Agreeing with Bunnie Clews, Mikuteit thinks the ultimate solution may be to divide trails according to the types of users.

For instance, the fact that horseback riders would find the low oak canopies in Deer Canyon difficult to ride under doesn't mean others should be prevented from enjoying them. "I'll tell you," says Mikuteit, "when we ride our bikes through those tunnels, my son gets so energized he goes flying through. It's a special experience."

In the meantime, the Del Mar Mesa Community Planning Board is asserting its right to weigh in on the Del Mar Mesa Preserve. After the board's November 13 meeting, its chairman Gary Levitt sent a letter to Chris Zirkle, director of open space for the San Diego Park and Recreation Department, stating the board's position on the trails. In conformance with standards of the Multiple Species Conservation Program, the letter placed a high priority on protection of the ecologically sensitive lands in the preserve.

It argued that "any expansion of trails beyond those shown in the draft resource management plan should be limited to establishing connectivity."

By email, Levitt tells me that his board's concern about additional trails does not refer to "those apparently originally established by the migrants." Instead, he cites three main developments: first, "the significant increase in the use of some of those original trails" and the fact that these trails, which were quite narrow at first, "are now trail highways up to 3 ft wide or more in places"; second, brand-new trails have been established, creating linkages between older trails "or just creating trails in places which never had trails before"; and third, "that in many places man made jumps have been created through mounding up soil or even by building ramps out of wood, and in other places existing sandstone bluffs are now being used as jumps, damaging these natural features which have probably been there, undisturbed for thousands of years, till they were discovered in the last few years."

The Peñasquitos Canyon citizens' advisory committee was scheduled to approve or deny the final Del Mar Mesa Preserve resource management plan on December 20. On November 13, however, the *Del Mar Times* reported that the City had postponed the meeting until January 15. According to the paper, Chris Zirkle is deliberating "whether [the City] should close the canyon to recreational use or devise a trail plan that is the least disturbing to the biologically sensitive land." ■

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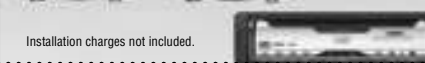
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Give Us Happy Hours

I am writing to make a suggestion. I think most of the restaurants Naomi reviews are too expensive for many of us, while Ed's restaurants tend to be dives. I suggest a middle ground: do a review of good happy-hour food, which we frequent almost exclusively because of their prices.

Our favorites include Gulf Coast Grill (good clam chowder and Caesar salads with chicken or shrimp and many other good items),

Roppongi (still a little high-end but more affordable than their dinner menu), Khan's Cave (this is a great new restaurant in Kearny Mesa on Clairemont Mesa Drive at Ruffin Road, with nice atmosphere, service, food, and prices), Fish Market Express in Mission Valley, Kensington Grill, Parkhouse Eatery, and many others we have yet to try.

Reviewing them would give a boost to all the restaurants that have created these happy hours to survive hard times. People might come out if they knew how inexpensive and high-quality these happy hours are.

Janet Farrell
via email

Naomi Wise replies: Yes, Janet, we're paying attention. Since about mid-July, the majority of my reviews have been of moderate-priced restaurants (Sea Rocket, Linkery, Royal India, Cur-rant, Hexagone, etc.), and

since the serious economic crash in September, more than half have been of restaurants with good-value happy hours, grazing menus, or just plain low prices, including Café Bleu, Tabule, Maryjane's (not such great food, alas), Tender Greens, and Illume. Other reviews have included endnotes spotlighting the best early-bird bargain menus (e.g., Better Half, Bernard'O), something I'd like to make a regular feature — as I hear about the bargains, I'll mention them. In fact, I've been trying to keep the real "high-priced spreads" down to about one per month, for the occasional splurge eats that we all need sometimes. I like your suggestions too — Roppongi, Gulf Coast, and Parkhouse were all reviewed a very long time ago and could each use a fresh look, especially at happy hour. In fact, revisiting them sounds like fun. Thanks for the ideas!

HOA OK

Re Geoff Bouvier's cover story "It's Getting Ugly Downtown" (December 4), some things to keep in mind about street noise and HOA dues:

1. Downtown condominiums of quality construction have double- or even triple-pane windows that mute outside noises to an amazing degree. These windows also block most of the radiant heat from the sun and keep daytime warmth in on winter nights. After living in ten different dwellings in various parts of suburban San Diego and East County, I can honestly say that my condo downtown is the quietest and most comfortable place I've ever lived in.

2. HOA monthly dues are high for some buildings, indeed. But you often get what you pay for, including most utility costs and contract staff who keep the premises clean, properly

maintained, and secure. A significant fraction of HOA dues typically goes into a reserve account that pays for replacement of building components and exterior maintenance, such as painting. This is money set aside in advance. HOA dues that are too low may result in the underfunding of reserves, which eventually leads to special assessments when work such as roofing, painting, or replacement of mechanical equipment is needed. Prospective buyers should check the financial health of the building's HOA, including its reserves.

Jerry Schad
Downtown

Genetic Hogwash

I'm calling regarding this letter that you printed in this week's edition (December 4) from Pat Palmer. It's titled "The Present Crazi-ness." I wonder if you check the accuracy of statements

continued on page 55

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STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP BY MATTHEW ALICE

ILLUSTRATION BY RICK GEARY

Mattster:

Say somebody has a liver transplant and then they die a while later in an accident. Can they take out the transplanted liver and give it to someone else? What would happen if somebody got a secondhand organ?

— Wayne S., El Cajon

Hey, great. We get to hunt down our staff quack, Dr. Doctor. Haven't talked to him in a while. We had a little trouble finding him, but it turns out he was at a medical conference at a resort in Fiji. Something about ophthalmic problems from the use of too much glue on false eyelashes. Anyway, according to Dr. Doctor, there is a chance that the secondhand organ would work in a second recipient. It wouldn't be everybody's first choice, but in a pinch it might be re-transplanted. In fact, it has been done successfully with livers and kidneys.

But here are the ifs that might make the organ a little too shopworn to be used: If the organ has not been damaged too badly by lack of oxygen, it might be okay. When they whip out the organ the first time and put it in that iced-down picnic carrier, the lack of O₂ starts degrading the tissues. So you'd have double the trouble with the second transplant. If there wasn't too much surgical damage done to the tissues during the first transplant, it might be okay. There are specific surgical connections that have to be made in this operation, so if somehow the first surgeon was very careful, and the areas of connection weren't too badly damaged, the second surgeon might be able to work with them. So these ifs, along with the problems of DNA matching, where the dead guy is located, where the recipient is, and how critical the re-transplant is make it pretty unlikely that a transplanted organ would be reused. A sparkly new, fresh liver would be the best choice.

Matt:

While planning a dinner out, somebody asked who was going to "foot the bill." I made a quick dart to the men's room to make sure it wouldn't be me. But what does a foot have to do with a bill? You know. I'm sure you do.

— Out of Here, the men's room

I'm sure I do too. In the 15th Century, a merchant engaged in footing was adding up a total,

usually on a bill. By the 19th Century, "footing" also referred to paying the bill. So now we foot a bill, perhaps cleverly stepping on it so nobody can find it and we don't have to pay it.

Hey, Matt:

For a while now, I've been using Breathe Right strips, those little spring-loaded adhesive strips that you see pro football players wearing, which hold your nostrils open like jet engine intakes.

I'm using them to help control snoring, which they in fact do, allowing me to continue to sleep in the same bed as my wife and not in the garage with our dog. Often, I put the strip on my nose after

I've turned out the light, which has led to an amazing discovery: As I am peeling open the sterile paper wrapper that

the strips are packaged in, visible light sparkles are generated as the adhesive is pulled back. Where is this light coming from? If

I press closed the wrapper and open it again, I get no light on the subsequent peeling. The light is not bright enough to see unless I'm in a darkened room. Also, if this is free light from nowhere, could we solve the world's energy problems by peeling billions of Breathe Right in from of billions of solar cells?

— Mark, via email

If we can add Breathe Rights to our arsenal of free energy solutions, I guess we'd better add Wintergreen Life Savers. The trick works with them too. The elves spent days cramming themselves into Grandma's closet, crunching on the candies and making blue-green sparks appear in their mouths. It absolutely cracked them up. Grandma finally booted them out, and eventually they lost interest.

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Semifinals Scoreboard (Posted December 6, 2008, 12:28 am)

Division I

at No. 1 La Costa Canyon 33, No. 5 Carlsbad 14
at No. 2 Escondido 21, No. 6 Mission Hills 11

Division II

at No. 1 Oceanside 49, No. 4 Scripps Ranch 14
No. 3 Helix 27 at No. 2 Eastlake 24

Division III

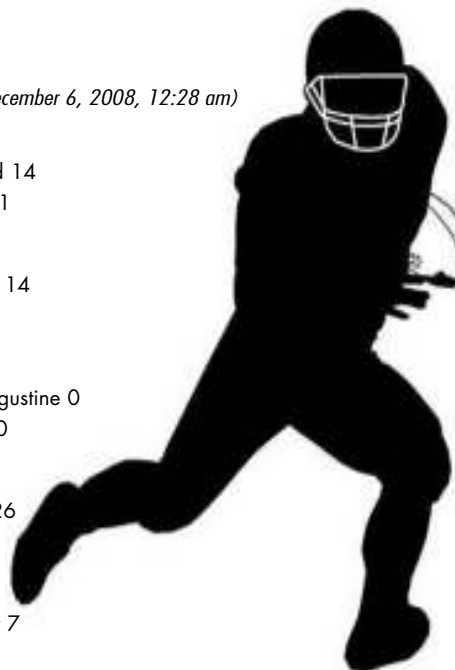
at No. 1 Cathedral Catholic 49, No. 4 St. Augustine 0
at No. 3 Valhalla 28, No. 10 Steele Canyon 0

Division IV

at No. 1 Valley Center 28, No. 5 Coronado 26
at No. 2 Madison 45, No. 6 Mission Bay 26

Division V

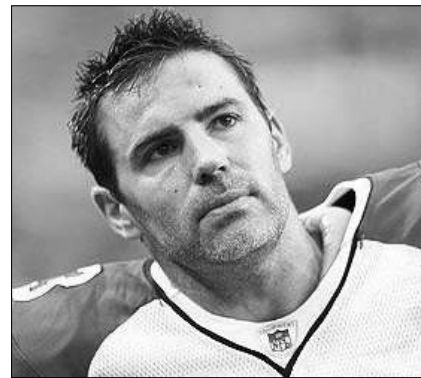
at No. 1 Francis Parker 63, No. 4 Army-Navy 7
No. 6 Bishop's 30 vs. No. 2 Christian 23
(at El Cajon Valley High)



SportingBox

BY PATRICK DAUGHERTY

House Money



Kurt Warner

Gentlemen, please remove your hats. For the first time in Sporting Box history, I am pleased to offer congratulations to the A-R-I-Z-O-N-A C-A-R-D-I-N-A-L-S. Funny how that name rolls awkwardly off the tongue, making a strange, clicking sound akin to pronouncing "Uzbekistan" when it's spelled backward. But, apparently this NFL franchise has won. Let me recheck...yes, Arizona has won the NFC West.

The Cardinals claimed their spoils after besting St. Louis 34-10. True, the Rams are 2-11, but 2-11 is good enough for third place in the NFC West, just behind the second-place 49ers, who own a .385 winning percentage.

The Arizona Cardinals are home-based in Phoenix, otherwise known as Glob City, the place where America went wrong. Think L.A. without freeways. Still, the Cardinals are champions, division-wise.

Against all odds. An owner's decisions, stacked one upon the other over many years, eventually affect every aspect of his team. So, if you have a Bidwill, as the Arizona Cardinals do, you are screwed, fan-wise.

A couple years back, *Sports Illustrated* ran a story on the worst owners in the NFL. Bill Bidwill was ranked 31st worst, only ahead of human waste and New Orleans Saints owner Tom Benson. Honorable men can disagree on this question. But, you've gotta admit that Bill Bidwill has put up the numbers: one winning season in the past 24 years, 33 years since the Cardinals won a division title, 61 years since they hosted a playoff game. When victory came, it came as a stranger.

The *Arizona Republic* gives us a picture of what the Cardinals locker room looked like after Sunday's win. "When the game was over, the sense of joy was palpable. Deuce Lutui peeled the jersey off his back and gave it to a fan in the stands. Darnell Dockett scribbled 'NFC West champs' on a dirty hand towel

and waved it to the crowd. And although you couldn't tell from his poker face as he shuffled through the locker room, owner Bill Bidwill was said to be tickled.

"This is the first time he's gotten a hat," said Michael Bidwill [son and club president]... 'He likes his hat. A lot.'"

Bill Bidwill's soulmate in this shocking development is once-a-big-deal quarterback Kurt Warner, 37, who has his own curious story.

Warner came up the hard way. He was third-string quarterback for the University of Northern Iowa until his senior year. Warner made it to Green Bay Packers summer camp in 1994 and was cut. No one noticed. Next year he signed with the Iowa Barnstormers. Played for the Amsterdam Admirals in 1998, then on to St. Louis as backup quarterback for their 1998 season. He took over after Trent Green went down in a 1999 preseason game.

And then he was *the best*. Transformed. Zero to 60 in rocket-ship time, finishing the regular season with 4353 yards passing and 41 TDs. He led the Rams to Super Bowl XXXIV, beating Tennessee 23 to 16. Warner was named Super Bowl MVP and also NFL MVP. Wow.

As 2000 opened, there was sunshine upon the land...until Warner broke his hand. The Rams made the playoffs as a wild card but lost in the first round. In 2001, Warner and the Rams were in the Super Bowl again. He played well, but the Pats won on a field goal as time expired.

It was over. The Rams lost their first three games in 2002 to confirm. Warner broke his finger during the fourth game. Things got worse. He was yanked in the first game of the 2003 season after fumbling six times.

The Giants picked him up in 2004. He was their guy. Eli Manning took over after nine games.

He signed a one-year contract with the Arizona Cardinals in 2005. A one-year contract is God's way of telling you you're not going to be around for long. Warner started the first three games, then pulled. He climbed back on the pony and started the 2006 season but lost his job to rookie Matt Leinart in Week 4.

Leinart was injured early in the 2007 season, thereby causing Warner to play the last 12 games. Warner did so well that Leinart was named starting quarterback for the 2008 season.

See a pattern yet?

But, when 2008 rolled out it was Warner who was number 1. Since then he's been playing like it's 1999. The man actually has a shot at league MVP. He ranks second in NFL passing yards, pass efficiency, and touchdowns. The Cardinals have won their division, and it's house money from now on.

It can't happen again, can it?

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the red zone

By Anthony Gentile



Eastlake's George Zhebroilov (16) elevates to try and block a Helix field goal attempt in the first quarter

Helix at Eastlake

Posted December 6, 2008, 2:55 a.m.

Friday night's Division II semifinal between Helix and Eastlake was a back and forth battle. In the end it was a goal line stand by the Highlanders that made the difference in a 27-24 win.

"We challenged everybody," said Helix head coach Troy Starr about halftime. "This is a team that since I got here on March 1, has been working out at 6:30 in the morning, working really hard."

Despite Starr's challenge to his team, it looked as if the Titans were going to take control of the contest on the opening possession of the second half. Eastlake, however, turned the ball over inside the red zone and Helix quickly tied the game at 24 on the ensuing possession.

That tie wasn't broken until the fourth quarter, when the Highlanders converted a drive that started at midfield into a 25-yard Jake Reed field goal. Reed's kick put Helix ahead by three with 5:01 left.

"It was one of those games that was like a great heavyweight fight," Starr said. "You lose some, you win some, and you just have to keep going until the end. It was an eyelash — one yard."

No. 3 seed Helix (10-1-1) will face top-seed Oceanside (11-0-1) in the Division II finals next Friday at Qualcomm Stadium. It will be the fifth time in eight years that the Pirates and Highlanders have met in the stadium.

Coronado in semis for first time

Posted December 4, 2008, 10:41 p.m.

"We started football in 1913 and we've had a number of great teams, but no one has gotten to the semifinals," said Coronado head coach Bud Mayfield.

The spread-option offense that Coronado switched to in the offseason has been alive all year. Lead by dual threat quarterback Mason

Mills, the Islanders have scored 38 points per game.

Friday, the No. 5 seed Islanders (9-2) make the more than one-hour trip north to take on No. 1 seed Valley Center (9-2). Englehart said the lengthy bus ride won't bother Coronado.

"I hope it doesn't make us too tired," Englehart said. "As soon as we get off the bus, we're going to be pumped."

New era for La Costa

By ryanmettee26 | Posted December 6, 2008, 4:17 p.m.

In previous years, La Costa Canyon has fielded good teams that have competed with the best football programs in San Diego County, but they've never been able to overcome the bad call or the unfortunate turnover. This year is a different story.

Call it synergy, competitiveness, a knack for aggression, call it whatever you like, but after losing a heartbreaker to south section opponent Santa Margarita in the final minute of the game in week 4, the squad made adjustments and trudged forward, never looking back. Since that frustrating defeat, they have turned into a tenacious machine that has refused defeat. Darrin Brown's team is running on all cylinders heading into the championship game against the Escondido Cougars, a team they defeated 21-17 earlier in the year.

Traveling up and down the sidelines all season while reporting for this site, I have never heard players or coaches complain, bicker, or talk down to their teammates or players. There is an accountability system in play that has been developed by this special class of seniors. They do not play for the coaches, they do not play for the fans, they do not play for the administration, they do not play for an appearance on the Prep Pigskin Report. They play for each other, and that's it. It's a selfless demeanor that is not talking the talk, but walking the walk. This year's team has created a culture of winning.

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T.G.I.F.

BY JOHN BRIZZOLARA

**At the cusp of 58,
or the ledge, the
lip, one may think,
“Ah, a kid. What’s
to worry?”**

I will (the mountain or Allah willing) have turned 58 years old by the time this appears, assuming it does at all. Anything I might be ready to carve in stone looks increasingly like folly at this age. I feel I must carve this at least on a plasma screen, a contemporary equivalent of stone, ergo, whatever it is is folly.

I almost wrote “68 years old” because I honestly, for a moment, did not know the difference. I’m told I’ve always had the morbid (ambitious? — certainly moribund) tendency to rehearse my age ten years in advance. I have found this to help me in dealing with matters of age while avoiding actual maturity.

The last time I officially wrote about a birthday (as best I recall, which means nothing) was when I turned 51. I don’t have it any longer to refer to, but I recall the tone was an attempt at light-heartedness complete with references to Depends and Just for Men hair coloring. Seven years later (a dog’s 49) and every cell in the human body has replaced itself somehow with an older and more wrinkled one, a truly awe-inspiring miracle of nature.

Birthdays — thousands of feet past the base camp of, say, 35 — are an increasing temptation to throw oneself or (like Aleister Crowley on his way up the Himalayas) one’s fellow climbers into an ice chasm if only to relieve the monotony, with the eventual transcendent Om-like sound of a Sherpa’s screams winding gracefully with the indifferent wind. Or call it a blood sacrifice to the mountain. Just read Crowley’s *Confessions*. I may try gumming something at Denny’s this year, if they still do that free birthday thing. The timing is right. I bought some trail mix from a machine in the lobby of the Senior Assisted Arms and Adult Daycare where I live, and the little bag of shrapnel went off against remaining teeth into the soft tissue of my mouth like rak-

ing gunfire into raw liver. When I came to on the bathroom floor, I saw, among my bathroom reading, “Silver Fox: Investments for the Silver and Savvy with Eye Appeal for the Mature Lover.” It had an argent-wigged 14-year-old on the cover, with a 44 bust, peering over the kind of granny glasses we haven’t seen since Roger McGuinn of the Byrds was still Jim McGuinn. I had neglected to invest in anything suggested in the magazine (I had received it free when I cashed in my 401(k) at \$1200 after six months), and I looked up toward the scale where an ad for Denny’s touted birthday dinners free: all ages with ID or parents! The magazine was dated November 1983. I was 32, my son’s age.

At the cusp of 58, or the ledge, the lip, one may think, “Ah, a kid. What’s to worry? There’s still so much ahead,” all of which I’m quick to embrace until I catch the odor of “58 years young,” or “growing better not older.” You can smell this a hearse’s length away.

I have found that 58 is not what you think. And that’s my stab at being original, I suppose. I can hear someone out there, some trooper who has hung this long into my birthday card to myself, “For Crysakkes! Give us something, anything!” All right. It is not flabbergasting. A word I reserve, like “marvelous,” for the style Willie Mays



displayed while catching fly balls up against the wall. I still do not know, precisely, how the can opener works.

My 58th birthday this December will have little to do with what anyone envisaged, least of whom are my parents, but this can hardly be seen as an anomaly, if one asks around. It is the rule rather than the exception when it comes to how we “wind up.” I was, as a toddler, a fine bet for a football player, a Chicago Bear; and when the family priest at Sun-

day dinners administered sips of Carling’s Black Label beer, and I gratifyingly fell to my diapered butt, smiling, and rose to ask for “Mah? Mah?,” the prediction was often revised to “entertainer” or “comedian.” Later, I would be convinced that the family’s last name meant, in Italian, those same two words.

Losing friends to death.

The onset of genuine madness now revealed as hereditary.

This tapestry of caprice we were taught as “right and wrong.”

The end of the box of Lexapro spelling panic.

An informal literary review from an acclaimed friend describing a novel in progress as “a mess.”

The absolute inscrutability of the simple phrase “happy birthday.”

These are a few of the things.

Oh, yeah. An increasing need to apologize for no apparent reason other than you know damned well you’d better.

These are the things for which denial is essential. Dodge these babies and you’ll be the cheerful doddering geezer the world wants you to be.

For more stories by this author, go to sreader.com.



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1st place: "Life Cycle"
Author: Susie Harris
Neighborhood: University Heights
Age: 63
Occupation: Retired



2nd place: "McCain or Obama"
Author: Dan McClatchy
Neighborhood: Golden Hill
Age: 35
Occupation: Scientist



3rd place: "To Tell You Something
Beautiful Like Asphalt"
Author: Joshua Rhome
Neighborhood: El Cajon
Age: 30
Occupation: Student

Winners from October 2008

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

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

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

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

Photos and YouTube links to videos are welcome but not necessary to win.

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

Deadline for this month is midnight, December 31.

BestBuys

—EVE KELLY

Our street is aglow with candy cane lights, snow globe Santas, and icicle lights. The chilly nights bring the smell of wood fires in the fireplace. The Kelly family is beginning its holiday traditions. With them will be movie night. But what movie? The call went out to friends for favorite flicks to watch over the holidays.

"I'm corny," confessed sis Cathy. "Our family's all-time favorite holiday film is *My Favorite Wife* with Cary Grant and Irene Dunn [\$17.99 on Amazon — all prices are from Amazon unless noted otherwise]. The movie ends on a Christmas note, because Irene tells Cary that she'll consider taking him back at Christmas, so Cary roots around the attic, finds a Santa suit, and comes back as Santa for an answer. That movie never fails to bring me to tears."

Friend Bernice is a fan of *Holiday Inn* (\$14.99). "Bing Crosby singing 'White Christmas'; Fred Astaire dancing as if he's drunk at New Year's but somehow making it shine. They simply do not make them like that anymore."

Her hubby Frank suggested *Emmett Otter's Jug-Band Christmas* (\$9.99). "I grew up with the book, and then the TV show came out in '77. It's always been a minor-league Christmas special, but I would prefer to call it a cult classic. Its homey, reality-based Muppets can't compete with the inspired stop-motion madness of things like *A Year Without a Santa Claus* [\$12.99], but that's sort of the point. It's a homey story about homey virtues and the way they bump up against flash and fame. There's not an ounce of supernatural shenanigans in sight — no Santa, even — just love and endurance. But it's a great Christmas story, just like 'The Gift of the Magi,' which is pretty clearly the inspiration. And I'll try to say this without giving too much away: it's one of the earliest examples I can remember of a story where you want it to end one way, but looking back, you're glad it ended the other way. I'm a big sloppy Irishman, so I bawl like a baby every time I see this. So sincere, yet they put it over without getting schmaltzy."

"The Maureen O'Hara *Miracle on 34th Street* is a holiday classic [\$10.99]," said friend John. "And it seems they show *Home Alone* 7000 times each year during the season," he

Every year I was spooked out by one or another version of *A Christmas Carol*.

added.

"During my single years," laughed sis Nancy, "when I had nothing better to do, it seemed every December, there I would be, 11:00 at night, watching *A Christmas Story* [\$9.49]. There are some classic moments in it: the leg lamp in the family home's front window; the boy stuffed into a snowsuit stumbling down the road; and who can forget the line in the movie, 'My father wove a rich tapestry of profanity.'"

Nancy's movie suggestion brought a hail of laughter. One of our neighbors proudly displays his own leg lamp (\$199.99 at redriderleglamps.com) every December in his front window — proof that you can indeed buy anything.

"*A Christmas Story* is just a bit too irreverent for me," offered friend Meg. "I like to catch a showing of *It's a Wonderful Life* [directed by Frank Capra, 1946, \$13.99]. You've got to start crying at 'Auld Lang Syne.' And I love hearing Jimmy Stewart yell, 'Mary, Mary?' If you don't emote with Jimmy, then there is something wrong with you."

Friend Erica offered some cartoons and a religious flick. "As kids, we'd always catch a broadcast showing of *Rudolph* [\$7.99], *Frosty* [\$7.99], *A Charlie Brown Christmas* [\$13.99], and *The Little Drummer Boy* [\$7.99]. Now, for my own family, I'm hoping to start the tradition of watching *The Nativity Story* [with Keisha Castle-Hughes, 2006, \$7.99] each Christmas. We saw it in the theater when it came out, and it is fantastic."

"Every year I was spooked out by one or another version of *A Christmas Carol*," laughed friend Susan. "My mom was a connoisseur of versions of *A Christmas Carol*, and some were scarier than others. I hated the 1951 Alastair Sim rendition [\$10.49] and the 1984 George C. Scott version [\$7.99], but the worst on my list was the dark 1939 Reginald Owen *Christmas Carol* [\$9.99]. I think that was the beginning of my dislike for Dickens."

She added, "I breathed a sigh of relief when the night came to watch *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*" [\$11.99].

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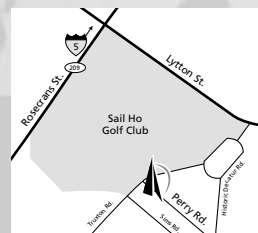
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by Barbarella

Rite of Passage

Mistakes are part of the dues one pays for a full life.

— Sophia Loren

To say I was “looking forward” to Thanksgiving would be a gross understatement. I was giddy with anticipation. This would be David’s first time noshing the big bird with my clan, and I was just as eager to see my man become immersed in the pandemonium as I was to get caught up in the chaotic current myself. It was as if by participating in the one celebration he’d yet to experience with my people that David would finally become a bona fide member of my family.

David understood his role in the day’s festivities. My DNA lacks the gene for domesticity. Save for my mother, who furnished the table by virtue of necessity while

rearing four daughters, the women in my family do not cook. David had gleaned from my nostalgic narratives that before my brother-in-law Sean took over Mom’s kitchen, our Thanksgiving dinners comprised overcooked turkey, potato flakes from a box, corn from a can, and Pillsbury crescent rolls, each of which was enjoyed with zeal, the level of which David couldn’t possibly understand. My mother did her best for many years, for

which we were grateful. But blood is blood — with the same conviction she employs when declaring her strengths, Mom conceded her weaknesses and was more than happy to step aside to make way for a master.

Aware that as a man married into the family he was expected to conjure culinary delights, David carefully considered his contributions before shopping and cooking in the days leading up to the grand feast.

The big day was mellow than any I could remember at Mom’s. Jane and Jenny, who were also sharing Thanksgiving celebrations with their husbands’ families, were only around for a few hours; Dad was away in Japan on business. After Jane left and before Jenny arrived, Heather, Mom, and I played Scrabble outside as my two nephews splashed around in the Jacuzzi. Inside, Ollie entertained chefs David and Sean.

The dinner itself was subdued and short-lived. Heather’s friend Molly and her mother Maggie dropped

by in time for dessert. Finally, when they could eat and drink no more, Ollie, David, and Sean selected couches upon which they could each slip into a food coma. Eventually, when the women were finished talking, it came time to head home. While Heather was putting her boys to bed, I woke mine — Ollie and David. As I made my rounds kissing cheeks, David finished packing our empty Tupperware and ramekins back into the boxes we’d brought.

Once in my own bed, my belly distended and the rest of my body appropriately uncomfortable, I reflected on the day — it had been nice, but not as momentous as I’d expected. I couldn’t put my finger on it, but something had been missing.

The following morning, David and I were seated outside Bread & Cie when I fished my ringing phone from my purse. It was my mother calling for the third time in as many minutes. After some pointless small talk, Mom finally asked, “Did you happen to see that bottle of champagne in the black box that Molly brought?”

“Yeah, it was on the counter when we left,” I said.

“It wasn’t there this morning, and we can’t find it anywhere,” said Mom.

“Well, it was there when we left, so I don’t know what to tell you,” I snapped. Before she could mention it again, and I could tell by her intake of breath that she was about to, I added, “I’m out to breakfast with David right now; I’ll give you a call later.” I dropped my phone back in my purse and looked at David. “I think my

mom just stopped short of accusing me of taking the Moët Molly brought over last night,” I said indignantly. “Can you believe that?”

David had an unsettling smile on his face, as if he were being tickled by a particularly intimidating clown. He leaned forward and, with a nervous giggle, said, “I snatched it.”

“I’m sorry, you what?”

David, sheepish in response to my incredulous glare, rushed to explain. “Your mom only drinks daiquiris. I struggled with whether or not to take it, but usually she asks us to take any leftover wine home with us anyway, and I had no idea that anyone had a plan for the bottle and—” While David gushed, I retrieved my iPhone, selected Mom’s name, tapped her home number, and passed it to him. David looked horrified. “What am I supposed to — Hi, Maria! It’s David. Yes, we had such a great time...um, look, about the champagne...”

I listened as David admitted he had the bottle and offered to return it that very morning. Before we could make it home, Heather was already calling to insist that we keep the bottle. She said she’d only looked for it because she and Molly had talked about popping it open but that it was really no big deal. “After all, you guys are always bringing great wines down here, you deserve it,” she said. But I was adamant — the bottle would be returned. When I relayed the call to him, David was mortified.

Once home, David retrieved the black box and set it on the counter beside a bot-

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tle of Banfi Rosa Regale Brachetto. When I asked him what the Brachetto was for, he said, in a forlorn, beaten tone, "Restitution." Seeing him like that, so flustered and contrite, had a bizarre effect on me — I felt content.

On the drive down to Chula Vista, I analyzed the situation aloud. "You're all embarrassed and bummed and stuff, beh beh, but I have this uncanny sensation that your taking that bottle was a good thing, and not just because we get to eat those yummy leftovers for lunch." David looked at me as if I'd just

declared my regret for not voting for the old guy and Caribou Barbie. "Trust me," I said.

Heather, Jane, and Mom greeted David with open arms. They fussed over the unnecessary gift of Brachetto and mentioned again that he should keep the champagne, that he would enjoy it most of all. There was an unmistakable and familiar enthusiasm in my mother's tone when she said, "If you ever want something, baby, you just take it, what's mine is yours, after all, you're family!" Heather was just as earnest when she consoled, "Don't worry, we all take

stuff from here, especially when it's something you just know is going to go to waste."

As I sat and watched my mother and sisters, it occurred to me that I had never seen them so natural and relaxed around David. I had sensed this might happen. That before my family could ever truly embrace my man as one of their own, they would have to be convinced that he was just like them — flawed. I couldn't remember the last time I'd been so proud. ■

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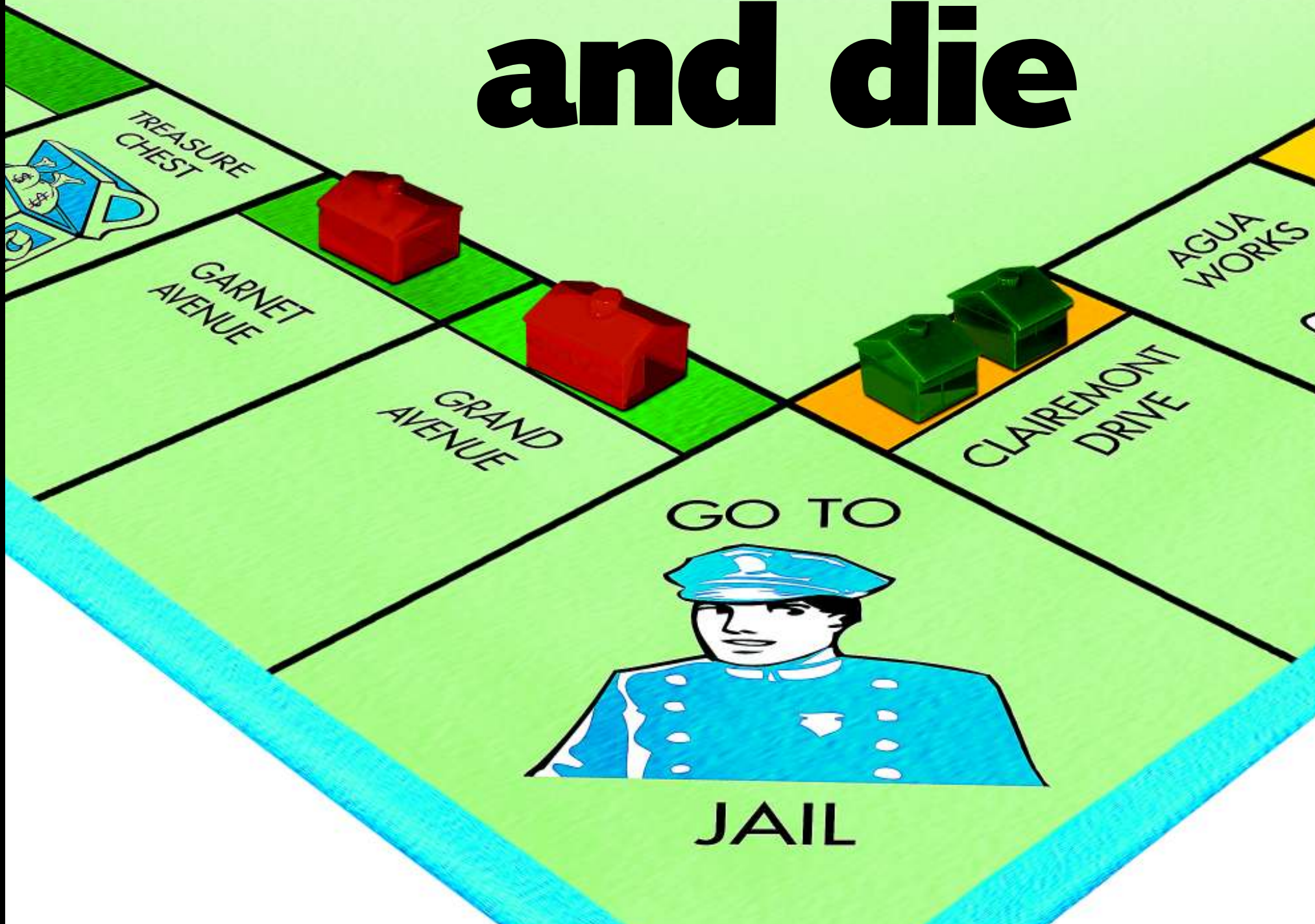


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See the questions on page 146

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Go directly to jail... and die





A

FTER HER DEATH, Castaneda, by then in his late teens, was on

his own. For a time he had a work permit and did construction. But

then he got involved in drugs. In 2005, he was convicted of

methamphetamine possession with intent to sell, a felony, and was

sent to prison for three and a half months. Upon his release, federal

authorities immediately detained him as an illegal immigrant.

Pending deportation, he was transferred to a detention center in

San Diego operated under the auspices of Immigration and Customs

Enforcement, an agency newly organized under the Department

of Homeland Security.

The agency's acronym, ICE, a rare instance of bureaucratic

humor, has stuck. According to its website, ICE "investigates a

wide range of domestic and international activities arising from

the movement of people and goods that violate immigration and

customs laws and threaten national security." Immigration and

Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative agency in the

Department of Homeland Security. In 300 facilities, both detention centers and jails, the government processes more than 300,000 detainees — men, women, and children — every year. One of the agency's five divisions, the Office of Detention and Removal Operations, "is responsible for promoting public safety and national security by ensuring the departure of all removable aliens from the United States through the fair enforcement of the nation's immigration laws." The agency is required to detain immigrants in humane conditions, their "departure" just and swift.

While in prison, Castaneda had noticed a sore on his penis and pain in his groin. His back and kidneys were also hurting. He filled out the requisite health-care request forms and was exam-

**The pain was so bad that
Castaneda couldn't sleep at night.**

ined at the prison's "wart clinic." There, a Department of Corrections medical provider, a man believed to be "S. Pasha," found "a 2 cm x 2 cm raised white and yellow lesion on his foreskin." He prescribed antibiotics and ordered an "urgent urological referral," but Castaneda never received either.

Castaneda was taken to the San Diego Correctional Facility on Otay

Mesa in March 2006. The minimum-medium-security lockup, whose population was 1000 when Castaneda arrived, holds detainees while their cases are reviewed; some stay for weeks, some for years. The facility is leased from the County of San Diego by the publicly traded Corrections Corporation of America, which owns or operates 66 prisons and detention centers. (In

the wake of September 11, the Corrections Corporation of America

Not until 25 minutes after Sarabia's collapse did anyone apply CPR.

received a boon in new contracts. In 2000, the company was nearly

bankrupt while last year its revenue topped \$1.4 billion.) When ICE con-

tracts with private prisons, the agency guarantees "fair enforcement" of

immigration laws, including inmate access to health care. In 2002, the Corrections Corporation of America was relieved of its contract to provide health care at the San Diego Correctional Facility; at the time, a federal medical director found the corporation had decreased its services severely. He returned the job to the Public Health Services' Division of Immigration Health Ser-

vices, which, in an ironic twist, outsources some of its care, sending detainees to private doctors.

At the Otay Mesa facility, Castaneda complained, according to court records, that "a lesion on his penis was becoming painful, growing in size, and exuding discharge." He ranked the pain during urination and erection an eight out of ten. The suppurating wound had a "foul odor,"



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a necrotic smell, the death of living tissue. The lesion was “now draining pus” and was “more macerated at the glans,” or penis head. Lieutenant Anthony Walker, a physician’s assistant employed by the Division of Immigration Health Services, examined him and requested a “urology consult” as soon as possible — and a biopsy, which he termed “a pertinent surgical” follow-up.

Castaneda told Walker that he was worried about the growth because his mother had died of pancreatic cancer at age 39. Walker, who stated later that he was not sure “what the lesion would present, if and when the biopsy was completed,” realized it was best to “rule out penile cancer — the sooner the better.” (A biopsy was the only way to do that.) Walker drained and cleaned the lesion, but within a few days the pus was back.

Castaneda was getting ibuprofen. At times, he would show his bloodied underpants to

pray for him because he could see how much he was suffering.

Two and a half

Between 2004 and April 2008, 71 people died in the nation’s 300 detention centers.

guards. They said they couldn’t help his medical condition but would bring him clean bed-sheets. One guard told Castaneda that he would

months after the initial diagnosis, Castaneda saw Dr. John Wilkinson, an outside oncologist. His recommendation was unequivocal: “I strongly

agree that” the lesion “requires urgent urologic assessment of biopsy and definitive treatment.” He wrote that from even “benign lesions” there can be “considerable morbidity.” Castaneda

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should also have his foreskin circumcised, Wilkinson wrote, adding that everyone understood "the need for urgent... treatment."

Enter Dr. Esther Yun-Hung Hui, the clinical director at the Otay Mesa facility and the only onsite physician for the facility's 1000 detainees. After assessing Castaneda's case, she wrote that the Division of Immigration Health Services rated a biopsy as an "elective outpatient procedure." Her recommendation was "to pursue outpatient biopsy that would be more cost effective." The upshot was, Castaneda received nothing except more pills.

Castaneda filed a grievance, citing Wilkinson's recommendation, but the grievance was denied. A day later, health services personnel documented that Castaneda's penis was "getting worse, more swelling to the area, foul odor, drainage, more difficult to urinate, bleeding from the foreskin." The record also expressed the opinion that he did "not have cancer at this time," as he had not had a biopsy diagnosing cancer. He was advised "to be patient and wait."

Another month passed without his condition changing, while immigration officials continued, with Kafkaesque

efficiency, to document his pain: "The lesion on his penis is draining clear, foul malodorous smell." The "foreskin is bleeding at this time and the patient states his colon feels swollen."

A new request for treatment authorization states that "the lesion now appears to be 'exploding' for lack of better words." This request was approved, and in mid-July Castaneda was taken to the emergency room at Scripps Mercy hospital in Chula Vista.

At Scripps, emergency room doctor Juan Tovar documented the "fungating lesion" and made arrangements for Castaneda to be admitted

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to the hospital, where Tovar, like Walker, wanted to “rule out cancer, versus [an] infectious etiology.”

Next, Scripps urologist Dr. Daniel Hunting performed a brief exam but did not biopsy the lesion. Instead, Hunting “guessed that the problem was condyloma,” or genital warts. Documents reveal that Dr. Hunting did not ask about a family history of cancer and referred the patient back to his primary urologist, dismissing the symptoms as “not an urgent problem.” Castaneda was handcuffed and shackled and returned to Otay Mesa.

He Begged for Amoxicillin, but His Request Was Denied

In July, facing not only the complications of his medical condition but a

complicated detainee health-care bureaucracy, Castaneda again saw Walker. Walker requested an early release to allow Castaneda to seek medical care on his own, but Castaneda was not released. A week later, David Lusche, a physician’s assistant at the Otay Mesa facility, wrote that he explained to Castaneda the following: “While a surgical procedure might be recommended long-term that does not imply that the Federal Government is obligated to provide that surgery if the condition is not threatening to life, limb or eyesight.” Castaneda filed a grievance against Lusche, but that was denied. Officials still considered his surgery “elective” and therefore disallowable. Castaneda was characterized in this

report as “conversational and calm, not confrontational.”

In August 2006, Castaneda was sent to see Dr. Masters, another outside urologist whose opinion he hoped would bolster that of Dr. Wilkinson. Dr. Masters recommended a biopsy and circumcision and said that he would arrange admission to a hospital, but again Castaneda did not receive treatment.

By fall, the pain was so bad that Castaneda couldn’t sleep at night. He was given antihistamines and trazodone, a strong sedative with antidepressant properties. The ibuprofen he took for pain, he said, had “no effect.” He told registered nurse Joanne Galano that at night he’d have a “white discharge” and the lesion was “getting big-

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ger." She noted "a whitish growth approximately 8 mm in diameter." The nurse noted that 800 mg of ibuprofen was having no effect on his pain. He begged for amoxicillin, but his request was denied.

In October 2006, six months after his first medical evaluation at Otay Mesa, a prison guard noted that he "saw some dried blood on [Castaneda's] boxers." In early November, Castaneda told health officials that there was a

"constant pinching pain, especially at night." He said his rectum had swollen, which made his "bowel movements hard."

If this weren't enough, a second lesion appeared, on the underside of his penis. This lesion was moist, and Castaneda could not stand and urinate because the urine sprayed everywhere and he could not direct the stream. The treatment ordered: seven pairs of boxer shorts brought in weekly.

Also that fall, a Division of Immigration Health Services memo seems to acknowledge that officials knew Castaneda needed treatment and recognized it would be impossible for him to seek it himself. The memo states that Castaneda cannot "be released to seek further care due to mandatory hold and, according to Immigration and Customs Enforcement authorities, may be with this facility for quite a while."

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Equally damning is the charge that authorities may have tried to cover up their inadequate treatment by altering official government records. In July, physician's assistant Lusche emailed a colleague that Castaneda's grievance needed to be altered because federal auditors were coming to inspect Otay Mesa's medical files. "We need to write something different," Lusche wrote, "or make some amendment on the grievance for Francisco Castaneda." The grievance stated that his case was "not resolved," which would "attract all kinds of attention." "Could you," Lusche asked his colleague, "somehow 'patch up' that grievance with an amendment then put it in my box. I just want to avoid problems when the auditors show up."

Mid-November, Castaneda was transferred to the San Pedro Service Processing Center, in Los Angeles. On his summary form, an immigration official said Castaneda had no "current medical problems." According to an article in the *Progressive* magazine, Castaneda had been "forced to leave behind all his possessions, including his legal and medical papers." Roused by a fellow inmate, he contacted the American Civil Liberties Union and explained his eight-month fight with immigration's health officials. Attorney Tom Jawetz of the ACLU's National Prison Project began writing letters in December on behalf of Castaneda. (One reason the ACLU and other prisoner-rights advocates take on such cases is that detainees, unlike criminal defendants, have no right to free counsel.) Jawetz

wrote to ICE and Health Services Administration officials that Castaneda's "long term health is being jeopardized by the lack of appropriate medical care he continues to receive in ICE custody."

Jawetz's letters had impact. On Thursday, December 14, Castaneda was taken off-site to see San Pedro urologist Lawrence Greenberg, who wrote that his penis was a "mess." He

required a circumcision. Greenberg's exam noted that Castaneda was in "severe pain."

That weekend, a lump appeared in Castaneda's groin, and he filled out another sick-

call slip. Castaneda's surgical consult was forwarded to Asghar Askari, another urologist. It was not until 40 days later that Askari examined the fungating penile lesion on Castaneda and the

lump in his groin; his assessment was "most likely penile cancer." Askari ordered a biopsy, which was scheduled for early February 2007, almost a year after ICE officials had diagnosed

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Castaneda with a lesion on his penis.

Castaneda Was Right: It Was Too Late

If the failures to help Castaneda were not bizarre enough already, his case now took an even stranger turn. Just before the biopsy was to occur, immigration officials released him from custody. Castaneda later described how "a doctor actually walked me out of San Pedro and told me I was released because of

my serious medical condition and he encouraged me to get medical attention." Castaneda immediately called the ICE medical office to check on his biopsy appointment; the secretary told him that because he was released, his biopsy had been canceled.

Three days later, Castaneda, a free man, limped into the Harbor-UCLA emergency room. At the urology clinic, he finally got his biopsy. The next day, a doctor told Castaneda that he had

metastatic squamous cell carcinoma, treatable if caught early. The doctor told him that without drastic measures, he'd be dead in a year. On Valentine's Day, nine days after he was released from custody, Castaneda's penis was amputated.

The amputation did not take care of the problem: the cancer had metastasized, spreading not only to his groin, where a large nodal mass measured 7 cm by March, but throughout

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You may be eligible for a research study at UCSD Department of Psychiatry.

If you are 18 years of age or older, and are interested in this research program, please call:

1-877-UCSD-SHY (1-877-827-3749)
or e-mail: veryshy@ucsd.edu

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



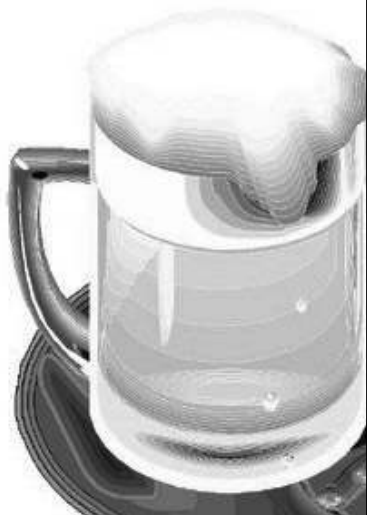
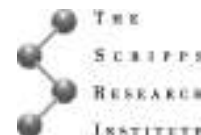
Attn: Heavy Drinkers

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



Are you currently
diagnosed with
Schizophrenia?

You may qualify to participate in
a research study involving an
investigational medication.
Qualified candidates will be
compensated for time and
transportation up to \$1950.

Call 858-566-8222
for more information.

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

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





Prostate Problemscan't go without **STRAINING!!!**

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

Qualified participants must be:

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

Participants may receive all study-related:

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

Interested, please call:

619-521-2841

Medical Center for Clinical Research

his body. It necessitated a series of five aggressive chemotherapy sessions, each a week long. The aggressive treatments were able to slow — but not halt — the rapid growth of the cancer.

In October 2007, the U.S. House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law convened a hearing, "Detention and Removal: Immigration Detainee Medical Care." Castaneda was invited to testify. In a photo taken of him, he looks almost serene; his broad, kind face conveys an immigrant's optimism that fair treatment is still possible in America. Adele Kimmel is a lawyer with Public Justice, a public-interest law firm. Having met Castaneda

when she helped him with his statement to Congress, Kimmel describes him as a "gentle, exceedingly polite man. He had a good sense of humor. Very sweet."

In his testimony, Castaneda lauded the American Civil Liberties Union for helping him and excoriated Division of Immigration Health Services officials for their negligence. He spoke eloquently about the damage he was suffering.

"I am a 35-year-old man without a penis, with my life on the line. I have a young daughter, Vanessa, who is only 14. She is here with me today because she wanted to support me — and because I wanted her to see her father do something for the greater good, so that she will

have that memory of me. The thought that her pain — and mine — could have been avoided almost makes this too much to bear.

"I had to be here today because I am not the only one who didn't get the medical care I needed. It was routine for detainees to have to wait weeks or months to get even basic care. Who knows how many tragic endings can be avoided if ICE will only remember that, regardless of why a person is in detention and regardless of where they will end up, they are still human and deserve basic humane medical care.

"In many ways, it's too late for me. Short of a miracle, the most I can hope for are some good days with Vanessa and justice."

RESEARCH STUDIES



PSORIASIS?

Therapeutics Clinical Research, a center of excellence in psoriasis care, is conducting a clinical research trial of an investigational medication for people with chronic plaque psoriasis.

We need participants:

- 18-65 years of age
- With chronic plaque psoriasis

Qualified participants will receive:

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

No insurance required

THERAPEUTICS
CLINICAL RESEARCH

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

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



Another Migraine?

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

Pacific Research Network is a dedicated research clinic that is currently studying an investigational inhaled medication to assess its effectiveness in treating migraines.

Participation in the study and associated medications, lab work, and physical examinations are at no charge. Compensation up to \$450 is provided to qualified participants for their time and travel. In addition, you may qualify for one year of treatment with this medication, following the initial 8-week program. Call to speak with a staff member about this program and to schedule an appointment.

Pacific Research Network
619-294-4302

www.prnscd.com



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**



We Want You!

*Profil Institute for Clinical Research
is looking for adults with Type 2 Diabetes
to participate in a research study.*

To qualify, you must:

- Have Type 2 Diabetes
- Be 18 to 65 years of age
- Managing Diabetes with diet and exercise alone or taking anti-diabetic medications
- Be a nonsmoker
- (If female) postmenopausal or surgically sterile

You may be compensated up to \$3,230 for your time and travel. This study includes 12 overnight stays.

For more information, call
619-409-1243

Profil

Institute for Clinical Research

TREATED FOR SLEEP APNEA & STILL SLEEPY?



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

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

- Compensation up to \$5520
- Study-related medication/medical care

**CALL TODAY: 1-888-CC-TRIAL (228-7425)
www.cctstudy.com**



Finding answers together - since 1981

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



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



and sometimes you don't make it??

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

To possibly qualify:

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

Participants may receive at no cost:

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

Interested in more information, call:

Medical Center for Clinical Research
619-521-2841

Despite nearly a year of chemo and other treatments, Castaneda was right: it was too late. On February 16, 2008, he died.

Tantamount to Torture

In October 2007, the same month Castaneda testified to Congress, attorneys with Public Justice and the firm Willoughby Doyle filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court, Central District of California on behalf of Francisco Castaneda. The

suit named as defendants the United States of America, California, government officials, and Drs. Esther Hui and Daniel Hunting. The suit listed nine causes of action, among them medical negligence and constitutional violations.

At the time the lawsuit was filed, Castaneda was alive. The suit, nevertheless, declared flatly that he had "fatal penile cancer" and that health officials' "refusal to provide Castaneda reasonable and humane med-

ical care while he was in custody was tantamount to torture...the most painful, terrifying, and humiliating experiences imaginable."

Among other defendants in the suit were officials at the San Pedro detention facility and Stephen Gonsalves, the health services administrator at the San Diego Correctional Facility, who, the suit said, "was aware that Castaneda had a life-threatening medical condition that required urgent medical attention,

RESEARCH STUDIES

Did you overdo it?

Lower back strain, sprain or back spasms?

We are conducting a clinical research trial with an investigational dose of a medication that has been prescribed by physicians for more than 40 years to treat these uncomfortable symptoms.

- 18-70 years of age
- Possibility of 4 visits within 14 days
- Qualified participants receive study-related care, study medication and may be compensated for time and travel

Next time you have low back pain/spasms, please call:
(must be within 3 days of 1st symptoms)

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

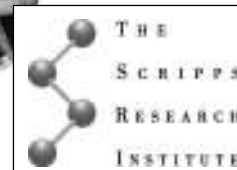
Heavy drinkers not seeking treatment



Investigators at The Scripps Research Institute are currently seeking volunteers who consider themselves to be heavy drinkers and do not have any desire to stop drinking. The purpose of the research is to learn the most effective way of studying predictors of relapse or a return to drinking.

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

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



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

Looks Can Be Deceiving



Almost 24 million Americans have a life-altering disease, but you would never know by looking at them. Type 2 Diabetes is a challenge affecting millions. Current research is being conducted to evaluate an investigational oral medication for Type 2 Diabetes, but your help is needed. Profil Institute for Clinical Research is seeking volunteers with Type 2 Diabetes.

To qualify, you must be:

- 30-75 years of age
- A nonsmoker and otherwise healthy
- Treating your condition with diet and exercise alone or up to two Oral Anti-Diabetic medications, no insulin
- (If female) postmenopausal or surgically sterile

For your participation you may be compensated up to \$2,928 for time and travel, and will receive study-related medical care at no cost. Nine overnight stays and some outpatient visits are required.

For more information, call
619-409-1262

Profil

Institute for Clinical Research

Healthy?

Generations of men and postmenopausal or surgically sterile women have helped test investigational medications by participating in clinical research studies. You could help too.

To qualify for research study 8200-239 involving an investigational medication you must be:

- A man or postmenopausal or surgically sterile woman age 18-50
- A non-smoker
- Willing to make overnight stays



Participants will receive all study-related exams at no cost and compensation up to \$2200 for time and participation.

Think you can help?

Then call 866-818-3253 or visit

TestWithTheBest.com today.

COVANCE

THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMPANY

9665 Chesapeake Dr., Ste. 200
San Diego, CA 92123

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

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



Will you be one of them?

diagnosis, and treatment, and he purposely denied him basic and humane medical care.”

In 183 paragraphs, the suit (later amended) detailed Castaneda’s care by ICE and explicated claims against the defendants.

The United States failed to use reasonable care in the establishment of policies and directives

in the provision of medical care to immigration detainees.

The United States was negligent in caring for Castaneda.

The United States intentionally inflicted emotional distress. Its treatment of Castaneda was conducted in an extreme and outrageous manner with the knowledge that he was unable

to care for himself during his incarceration.

The individual defendants (excluding Hunting), all agents of the United States, violated Castaneda’s right to adequate medical care under the 5th, 8th, and 14th Amendments of the United States Constitution. Their conduct amounted to cruel and unusual punishment and a violation of due process.

The decision of the defendants (excluding

Hunting) to deny Castaneda medical care was not based on a medical reason but rather on economic and/or other reasons.

Dr. Hunting carelessly and negligently cared for and treated Castaneda.

The individual defendants (excluding Hunting) violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 5th and 14th Amendments “by discriminating against Castaneda based on his immigration status with no rational basis to do so.”

The suit asked for compensatory damages, punitive damages, and reasonable attorneys’ fees and court costs.

The prospects for recovering a large amount in damages were not good. The United States of America cannot be sued for constitutional

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.



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



Are You Anxious?

- Finding it hard to focus or concentrate?
- Tense, tired or on edge?
- Having difficulty sleeping?

19 million Americans experience symptoms of anxiety. If you are 18 years or older you may qualify for a clinical research trial currently being conducted by UCSD.

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

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



Are you 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.

violations, and in California, medical malpractice awards are capped at \$250,000. In addition, the government argued that Public Health Service employees were immune from being sued. But the lawsuit brought on Castaneda's behalf, and after he died, on his daughter's behalf, argued that there should be no immunity because the defendants treated Castaneda's serious medical needs with deliberate indifference. The plaintiffs asked for a jury trial. If a jury found the defendants guilty of violating Castaneda's constitutional rights, there would be no cap on damages.

In January of this year, Public Health Service defendants brought a motion to dismiss the charges. U.S. District Judge Dean Pregerson

denied the motion on March 11.

In his denial, Pregerson noted that Dr. Hui and other defendants had "purposefully mischaracterized" Castaneda's "conditions as elective in order to refuse him care." He said they had remained "willfully blind." Judge Pregerson wrote, "The Court rejects Defendants' attempt to sidestep responsibility for what appears to be...one of the most, if not the most, egregious Eighth Amendment violations the Court has ever encountered." Such treatment, if the allegations were substantiated in a jury trial, went "beyond cruel and unusual." The government's own records, Pregerson wrote, "bespeak of conduct that transcends negligence by

HEALTH AND BEAUTY



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*For over 10 years, our licensed physicians
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Regrow hair with proven technology.

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

By **JESSIE LORRENT,**
INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST

Upon discovering this technology, I had the pleasure of interviewing one of the leading dermatologists and also the visionary behind a technology that has taken over 15 million dollars to develop. What does this technology do? Believe it or not, it dramatically improves thinning hair. The company



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.



**Actual results
with customers
using Hair Envy.**

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.

Try it yourself. Free for the first three months.

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- Offer ends Jan. 1, 2009.

miles." The judge characterized health officials' response to Castaneda's condition with "one word: nothing."

A few weeks later, in late April, the federal government admitted negligence in Castaneda's death, and in late summer, the Public Health Service defendants appealed Judge Pregerson's ruling to the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Francisco Castaneda is not the only man who died...

...as a result of the poor care meted out at the Otay Mesa facility. In July 2003, according to an ACLU lawsuit, a detainee "known to be suffering from depression committed suicide by hanging." In January 2005, Ignacio Sarabia-Villasenor col-

lapsed with an apparent seizure while taking a shower. He couldn't breathe, and fellow detainees called for assistance. One officer who responded "ordered the pod on lockdown." This meant moving all inmates to their cells. Not until 25 minutes after his collapse did anyone apply CPR. By then, Sarabia was dead.

In early June 2006, Yusif Osman, a national of Ghana and a diabetic, complained to the medical staff of chest pain. When he was examined, he was told nothing was wrong, only "that he probably ate too much." Indigestion. One night, weeks later, Osman's pain became so bad that he and his cellmate banged on their door and used the facility's intercom system to call for help. The

response, according to the ACLU's suit, was bureaucratic: "a medical unit supervisor pulled Osman's chart, which allegedly contained no documented medical history, and informed the control officer to instruct Osman to file a written sick call request." When Osman was checked again, another officer found him "unresponsive and cool to the touch." More than an hour passed between the time Osman first called for help and the 911 call. The call went to American Medical Response, which sent an ambulance. But Osman was already dead of coronary vasculitis, still locked in his cell.

The Division of Immigration Health Services "primarily provides health care services for emergency care," accord-

HEALTH AND BEAUTY

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Proper evaluation of prior face lift, corrections to earlobe deformities, wide and unsightly scars, and re-creation of facial balance and symmetry.



Actual Patient Before



Actual Patient After



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ing to its Medical Dental Detainee Covered Services Package. "Emergency care is defined as 'a condition that is threatening to life, limb, hearing, or sight.'" Acute illnesses, diseases, accidents, traumas, and maladies that would cause "uncontrolled suffering" are subject to a physician's discretion and "will be reviewed for appropriate care" on a case-by-case basis. What's more, nonemergency care requires prior authorization from division bureaucrats.

Such medical policies do not "govern convicted criminals in the custody of the United States Department of Justice," says Adele Kimmel of Public Justice. Public Justice's lawsuit on behalf of Castaneda's family states that the director and the associate director of the Division of Immigration Health Services "were aware or should have been aware that this policy violates the United States Constitution."

"If you take away a person's liberty and make it impossible for them to care for themselves," says Alison Hardy of the advocacy firm Prison Law Office, in San Rafael, California, "then society has to ensure they get the basic medical care they need."

Between 2004 and July 2008, 74 people died in the nation's 300 detention facilities, with suicides, cardiac ailments, HIV and AIDS, and cancer the most common causes. Immigration officials say that fewer people have died each year since 2004 and the department's health-care budget in 2007 — \$91.6 million — was an 82 percent increase since 2004. Others have suggested that fewer deaths

have occurred because some detainees, like Castaneda, are put out on the street before they die.

Despite these deaths, the American Civil Liberties Union and prison advocacy groups have

had to fight the perception that immigrant detainees are being coddled in detention and that people who are in this country illegally don't deserve medical care. Last June, Congress-

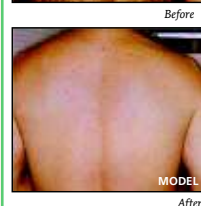
man Steve King, the ranking Republican on the House Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on immigration, said it like this: "Why should the American people be responsible for paying for

Rolls-Royce medical care for illegal aliens?" Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, however, in his 1976 opinion in *Estelle v. Gamble*, another case involving poor inmate health

care, wrote, "The infliction of such unnecessary suffering is inconsistent with contemporary standards of decency." The Eighth Amendment to the Constitution prohibits the infliction of

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cruel and unusual punishments. Justice Marshall continued in his opinion, "We therefore conclude that deliberate indifference to serious medical needs of prisoners constitutes the 'unnecessary and wanton infliction of pain'...proscribed by the Eighth Amendment."

The San Diego Correctional Facility has been the target of two ACLU lawsuits. One, a class-action complaint filed in June 2007, addresses the "grossly deficient" medical care at the facility. According to the suit, the medical staff "routinely ignores requests for urgent care by detainees with dangerous and painful health problems." Detainees typically must submit multiple written sick-call requests, which may go unanswered for weeks or months; the care they receive is often "superficial or inappropriate" and administered by "unqualified" staff; they often get only pain medication for serious illnesses; they are routinely denied diagnostic tests; and they often go undertreated, "premised on the often-false notion" that an inmate's time is short and he'll be released soon. An audit conducted by Homeland Security's inspector general found that substantial numbers of inmates had not received a physical exam when they entered the facility, as the rules require.

The 11 plaintiffs in the lawsuit represent a plethora of serious cases that received inadequate or no care. Among these are people who have neurofibromatosis, a genetic ailment of the nervous system; bipolar disorder and depression; serious dental pain; vision prob-

lems; post-traumatic stress resulting from witnessing the murder of a family member in another country; suicidal ideation; diabetes; hypertension; hemorrhoids; chronic asthma; thyroid

problems; and hepatitis.

Moreover, the lawsuit points out, a Department of Homeland Security review found that the Otay Mesa facility had "immediate staffing needs," including "a full-

time psychologist; increased psychiatric services; increased use of registered nurses, rather than licensed vocational nurses; and a second primary care physician."

The goal of the suit is

to obtain a judgment that declares the medical-care policies at the Otay Mesa facility unconstitutional and that prohibits the government from subjecting detainees to the current conditions.

The other ACLU lawsuit, filed in January 2007, charges Immigration and Customs Enforcement employees and the Corrections Corporation of America with overcrowding at the San

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Diego Correctional Facility. In June 2006, three months after Francisco Castaneda was moved to the facility, the Corrections Corporation of America lost 200 beds when the County began using one unit for prisoners. The result was that immigration detainees were housed three to a cell. The 12-by-6-foot cells were built for two. The unlucky third detainee slept on the floor in a "plastic boat," his or her head right next to the toilet. Inmates were confined to their cells about half the time, seven hours at night and five during the day. Some detainees slept in makeshift beds in a common dayroom area.

Such overcrowding, the lawsuit states, leads to "increased violence, tension, discomfort, stress,

mental suffering, psychiatric problems, and exposure to respiratory and other infections." Of the latter, overcrowding puts people at risk for contracting methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), "highly contagious bacteria known to spread rapidly in institutional settings where poor sanitation and close confinement create a greater likelihood of transmission." In September 2006, inmates in Unit D revolted. They congregated peacefully in the dayroom, according to the lawsuit, and asked to talk to officials. Instead of officials, officers in anti-riot gear appeared and released pepper spray; in the ensuing melee, detainees were shot at with pepper-ball guns and later beaten. Detainees accused of par-

ticipating in the "riot" were placed in disciplinary segregation. The remaining detainees in the unit were put on lockdown for a week; deprived of exercise, showers, mail, and phone calls; and served peanut butter sandwiches for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Phased out over a period of weeks, the lockdown was intended, the lawsuit asserts, to "suppress complaints about overcrowding."

The people whom ICE has locked up in the Otay Mesa prison, points out David Blair-Loy, legal director of the local ACLU office, have been "detained on civil charges" while they "contest and dispute whether the government can, in fact, remove them." Some are political refugees who have escaped torture and

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persecution in their native countries; seeking refuge or asylum, they may have been detained at the border. Others are detained upon their release after serving a criminal sentence. But more than half have never been convicted of a crime. Having overstayed a visa or entered the country illegally, the ACLU argues, many "have been law-abiding, productive residents for many years, and have spouses, children and siblings who are U.S. citizens." Some of those held cannot be deported; their countries will not accept them. They might languish in custody for years. In fact, there is often "no ascertainable limit to the amount of time immigration detainees" can stay in custody. Blair-Loy admits that immigration laws are "very complex. There are multiple levels of civil immigration violations and criminal immigration violations. If the government wants to charge someone criminally, they certainly can and do," he says. But a detainee, by definition, has not been found guilty of anything.

The lawsuit argues that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit "has held that conditions of confinement for civil detainees must be superior to those of pre-trial detainees, who, though not adjudged guilty of a crime, are held pursuant to criminal processes."

The government responded to the overcrowding lawsuit the same month it was filed, Blair-Loy says, "by immediately transferring numerous detainees out of the facility and since that time has maintained the facility at or below

the design capacity." This, he says, came about only "because we filed the suit."

On June 4, 2008, a settlement was reached in which the defendants indicated that they had

"no reasonable expectation" that they would triple-cell or otherwise overcrowd detainees at the facility again. Defendants agreed to provide the ACLU with daily pod rosters and other docu-

ments during June, on October 1, and on January 9, 2009, to demonstrate their compliance.

Spurred by the ACLU and its lawsuits, as well as by Castaneda's testimony to Congress in

October 2007, a few members of the House of Representatives are trying to change what they see as an abusive detention system, described by the *New York Times* in an editorial last year as "Gitmo

Across America." Democrat representative Zoe Lofgren (D-San Jose) has introduced HR 5950, the Detainee Basic Medical Care Act. Lofgren's bill would establish mandatory standards to provide

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detainees with health care, including chronic care, dental care, eye care, and mental health care.

More Than a Few Inmates Have Died in San Diego County Jails and Prisons

Poor medical care is not confined to immigrant detention centers. In San Diego jails, between 2000 and 2006, 71 people died in custody, according to the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics. The worst year was 2005, when 15 died.

In 1999, Juan Leon died while in custody at the George F. Bailey Detention Facility. He suffered from peritonitis, an inflammation of the stomach lining. Attorneys who filed a wrongful-death lawsuit on behalf of Leon's family argued that he died as the result of severe understaffing in

Bailey's medical unit. In the days before his death, he lost control of his bowels; fellow inmates pleaded with guards and nurses to help him.

According to the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, the jail's doctor "was so overworked that he could handle only 30 percent of the requests for medical attention." Leon collapsed, vomiting uncontrollably, and died while being transferred from jail to court for a hearing.


In 2001, Marshawn Washington also died at Bailey. Following a struggle over nude pictures in his cell, Washington was hogtied: his hands were secured behind his back and his ankles were tied and corded to his belt loop. He suffered a heart attack and was checked by nurses. He was placed in a padded cell where he

later died. Though San Diego County officials admitted no wrongdoing, they paid \$400,000 to Washington's widow, whose lawsuit charged that the force was excessive and his medical treatment substandard.

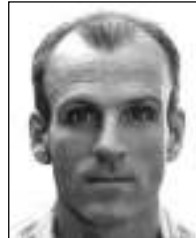
In 2006, Alberto Cruz Peraza was acting crazy when he climbed into the driver's-side window of a National City bus. Peraza, who was high on methamphetamine and had a preexisting mental condition, was subdued by San Diego police at the scene but went berserk in the back of the patrol car, kicking out a window. At the jail, he was hogtied. Peraza kept fighting until he was more forcibly restrained with lap, shoulder, leg, and ankle straps. Then he stopped breathing. He was taken

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to a hospital, but two days later he died. District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis ruled that the personnel who acted to apprehend and restrain Peraza "acted reasonably under the circumstances," and no charges were filed.

California state prisons have been documented as extremely dangerous by California's Legislative Analyst's Office. In 2005, the 33 facilities had almost twice the number of violent incidents reported in Texas prisons and almost three times the number reported in federal prisons, where the inmate populations are about the same as in California.

In response to deaths in California's state prisons, to the understaffing of nurses and doctors, to out-of-date treatment

rooms and equipment, and to a California public and a state legislature that clamors for more prisons and stiffer sentencing yet shows scant interest in expanding the prison system's medical budget, U.S. District Judge Thelton Henderson in February 2006 appointed a federal receiver to take over the \$1.1 billion California prison medical system. (The judgment was the result of a lawsuit filed by the Prison Law Office in the early years of the millennium.) While overcrowding is one issue — more than 165,000 prisoners were crammed into state facilities built for 84,000 — Henderson ruled that state prison medical care was so bad it violated the Constitution. One inmate, he wrote, "needlessly dies every six to seven days

due to constitutional deficiencies in the [California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's] medical delivery system."

Henderson cited several changes to the "dysfunctional" health-care system the receiver must make: attract nurses and physicians with decent pay and safe working conditions; upgrade examination rooms; improve record keeping and the pharmacy.

It is a chicken-egg problem. Do inhumane conditions make people sicker, or does an already sick population worsen the living conditions? Gang activity, racial clashes, and violence by guards all increase the likelihood that inmates will need medical care. But care is often not provided because there is a

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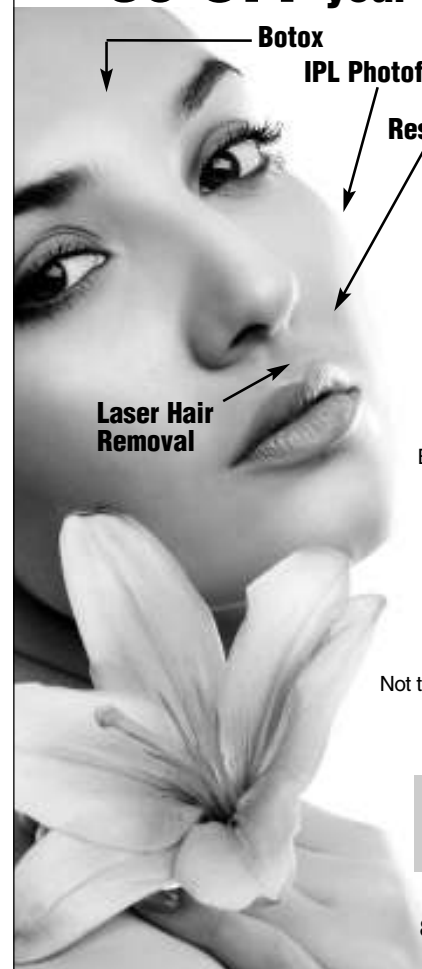
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shortage of medical staff.

As of July 2007, at Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility on Otay Mesa, there was a high vacancy rate and a steady turnover of the 75 nurses and doctors who oversaw some 4700 inmates.

Sixty-Six Preventable Deaths

In August 2007, the office of the prison health-care receiver, under the leadership of Robert Sillen, issued a report on deaths in California prisons. Of the 426 deaths in 2006, 66 were found to be "preventable" (18) or "possibly preventable" (48). (For privacy reasons, none of the institutions or inmates was named.) In the preventable categories, causes included chronic diseases like asthma, sudden cardiac arrest, congestive heart failure, ulcer, hernia, acute pancreatitis, and testicular cancer. While some of these deaths were attributed to lapses on the part of individual doctors and nurses, the avertable fatalities, the report stated, were also due to "systemic" failure — delays in triaging and processing patient requests for care; fragmented care and clinical inertia; delays in specialty referrals; no system for flagging abnormal test results; incomplete medical records; and practices that place midlevel providers in vulnerable clinical situations, poorly supported or unsupported.

Sillen told the *Sacramento Bee* that "you can't expect clinicians to practice good medicine if they don't have good medical records, if they don't have lab results to help diagnosis, if they don't have a pharmacy system to support the

right order of medications, if you don't have a culture within that says, 'My goodness, these are human beings and they ought to be treated as human beings.'"

Despite what seems to be an endless parade of deficiencies, Sillen proposed and, in some cases, made appreciable changes between April 2006 and January 2008, when he was replaced by J. Clark Kelso. During Sillen's tenure, pay for doctors, surgeons, and supervisory medical officers increased; in November 2007, Sillen reported that doctors' salaries had gone up to between \$223,000 and \$265,000. (The vacancy rate for doctors at that time was 39 percent.) Nurses' pay increased, and the receiver's office lowered their abysmal vacancy rate, which was then 87 percent in some prisons. Plans were made to automate the pharmacy system, build an acute care facility at San Quentin, and bankroll new prison medical care construction projects throughout the state. Some prisons now have new medical equipment and supplies.

Sillen also red-flagged the number-one killer of inmates in California prisons, asthma, which has a 250 percent higher incidence rate than in the general population. Sillen took steps to "educate all clinicians and custody personnel" about the "seriousness" of the disease by issuing asthma-medication guidelines, and he proposed that inmates be automatically screened for asthma and other diseases when they enter.

By September 2008, Kelso, the new receiver, reported, 65 physicians had been "separated"

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from employment as a result of the peer review process and 172 new physicians hired; 488 registered nurses and 533 licensed vocational nurses had also been hired. Although funding for the new construction projects was stalled, the prisoner death rate had declined.

The receiver's office estimated that it would

require ten years "to bring the system into constitutional compliance," the price tag in the billions.

Postmortem Justice for Francisco Castaneda

In early October, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals published its opinion in the Castaneda case. The appeals court

agreed with the lower court's decision, allowing Francisco Castaneda's daughter and estate to proceed with their case against federal doctors and officials. The individual plaintiffs have until January 2, 2009, to file a writ of certiorari, asking the U.S. Supreme Court to review the case. ■

— Thomas Larson

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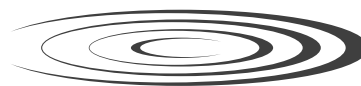
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Crazy Dog People

While I was growing up in Valley Center, my dogs had the life. We lived on a five-acre ranch, and the dogs were free to roam. We had a collie, who was an adult, and a Chihuahua puppy. She was our baby. She stayed close to us, but King was a strong, alpha male who controlled his own destiny. He prowled the neighborhood, frequently making stops at the home of the lady who lived on the hill — a lady who sunbathed in the nude. She was 38, the mother of two and Ivy League-educated. Her gardener said he

had to remove her *pantalones* from the lawn before he could mow.

Editor's note: This is the winner of November's \$500 first-place prize for our monthly neighborhood-essay contest.

Deadline for the next contest is December 31, midnight.

To post your entry, go to SDReader.com/neighborhoods, find your neighborhood or campus, and follow the instructions to create a blog.

I worried that King would disappear, having no fences to keep him in. My dad, a former farm boy, scoffed at my concern. "He'll always come home," he said. Then one day, King didn't come home. We'd had him three years. I couldn't breathe without him. His absence from his command post on the porch made me sob.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY FRANK GLASER

After six months, I resigned myself to never seeing King again. Times were hard, and my dad had bigger things to worry about — like how to feed four horses, a wife, two kids, and a Chihuahua during the recession

of the '70s. He did say that he thought someone had picked King up because he never would have abandoned us on his own.

Then a miracle happened. Dad says he heard a familiar bark in the night

and got up to look out the window. There was King, waiting for him. He always loved Dad the most, even though he was the crabbiest among us.

Flip to 2001 and the grand opening of the

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Mayflower Dog Park on Valley Center Road, near Dixon Lake. King had been replaced by Bliss, my fast-action Labrador retriever. She was the first dog I'd gotten as an adult. With the proliferation of big houses built on postage stamps, dog parks had become the thing. Gone was the "neighborliness" we had enjoyed with the naked lady. She didn't mind when King went up to visit her, and, in turn, we didn't mind when her Great Dane came to visit us. Our Chihuahua would make figure-eights around the big dog's legs, and we'd laugh ourselves silly.

By the 21st Century, these good times had been replaced by dog rage. When Bliss got loose, my neighbors would screech as if I'd told her to pee on their EasyTurf. With the opening of the dog park, I was thrilled that my dog now had 1.5 acres to run on. She was so elegant — a video of her loping across the grass made FOXNews.

Most people use their time in the dog park to socialize with other people. They jaw-jacked on the picnic benches while I played on the ground with their pets. One lady said that I reminded her of the Dog Whisperer because I was always surrounded by dogs. Why wouldn't I be? They're the sweetest, most devoted creatures on earth.

Once, my husband and I brought food from McDonald's, intending to eat at the park if there weren't too many dogs there. Except for one small dog on a table with its owner, the yard was empty. Before I swallowed my first french fry, another lady appeared and yelled about eating in front of the dogs. She claimed that her dog was food-aggressive and that he'd be euthanized because of me. I glanced at the alleged mad dog. He yawned and looked away. She insisted that the sign posted out front prohibited eating and that I was breaking the rules. My husband stood

dumbstruck as I squirted her with the water gun from my Happy Meal.

Upon leaving, I read the sign out in front. It said nothing about food.

Another time, I'd just split with my husband and

was licking my wounds on a park bench. A young couple stood close by, talking in hushed tones. The woman glanced at me as if I'd broken into her bedroom. She clearly didn't want me in the yard, but

tough turkeys. She didn't own the place. When they started to leave, my dog decided to squat. The woman glared at me.

I've always picked up dog poop, but I didn't like the way she looked at me,

so I just sat there. "Aren't you going to pick that up?" she asked. "I don't know. Maybe," I said, studying my cuticles. This launched her into a maniacal tirade. She called me a selfish bitch and reminded me that we were

responsible for picking up our dog's poop. Each time I tried to say anything, she hummed loudly.

Her brother (it had to be — who'd date her?) tugged at her arm. "Let's go," he said. But she wasn't

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finished. She headed to the next yard and announced that I was a crazy bitch who wouldn't pick up her poop. One guy got on the warpath. When he couldn't goad me into action, he placed a fake call to police.

"They're coming right over," he said, snapping his cell phone shut. I laughed. The police don't even come out for car theft anymore, let alone a dog pile. I never did pick up the mess and

would have cast it in iron as a reminder that crazy people can't tell me what to do.

Then one day a short, crusty fellow with gray stubble appeared with his son's dog, Cap'n Jack. The Australian cattle dog scrunched his nose up, bore his teeth, and frothed at the mouth. Thankfully, the guy kept him on a leash and only walked the perimeters of the yard with him. But this wasn't good enough for the

doggie do-gooders. Like the lady on poop patrol, they railed against him. Several people mentioned that aggressive dogs weren't allowed. When the pair got to me, the guy said, "He's fine."

"I'm not worried," I said. "I know how to suffocate them if they get out of line." He and Cap'n Jack left the park.

I was a hero that day. ■
— Amy1231988

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LETTERS

continued from page 12

in letters before you print them, because she presents something in here as science that to me is science fiction. And that is when she says, "When we eat, we accept and integrate that genetic information via our messenger RNA into our own DNA and are so modified." To the best of my knowledge, and I am not a genetic scientist or anything, but to the best of my knowledge, that is complete hogwash. When you eat, you break down what you eat, you derive the nutrients from it, and the rest is excreted. You do not absorb the DNA and integrate it into your own body. She's been watching too many science fiction movies. So you really should print a correction on that, or a lot of people are going to be misguided and misled based on that letter.

Michael Donovan
Vista

Bike Swarm

What a timely article ("SDPD — Got an Attitude?" "City Lights," December 4). The day before I read it, I chewed out one of the participants in this or another Critical Mass event for what I experienced driving home from Balboa Park one night. I was swarmed by extremely reckless bicyclists, some of whom were holding beers. There was nothing articulating what the event was, let alone how it was being conducted. The potential for an organized promotion of a cause was clearly lost in stark contrast to the approaches of the recent cancer-awareness walkers or those of typical organized civil disobedience. Worse — and I say this as a cyclist, environmentalist, and personal injury lawyer — many of them displayed a gross disregard for probability of collisions and injuries. I called the police repeatedly and was given the run-around only to find police purporting to direct traffic

at the intersection of Park Boulevard and University Avenue. The hue and cry of pro-motorist bias on the part of the police is pure BS.

Robert Burns
via email

Critical Mess

I was calling in response to your article on Critical Mass ("SDPD — Got an Attitude?" "City Lights," December 4). Actually, I had my own experience with them on Nimitz Boulevard.

For them to say that the mood of their event is a party on wheels I think is somewhat disingenuous. Our car was pretty much swarmed by these people as we were driving legally in the middle of the road. Sev-

eral of them put their hands on my car, hollering and ranting and raving. I was with my wife and my younger sister at the time, and having no knowledge of the Critical Mass event, it was quite a startling experi-

ence. At the time, I went ahead and called the police nonemergency number and reported where I was.

I would just like to say to Mr. Nguyen, he should acknowledge that with such a large group of people that

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there are going to be elements that are making a political statement and very determined to make their point of view heard, and even on unsuspecting people like myself and others. It was unfortunate to see what happened to that rider's finger, but I would say he should have done more research — just like the police officer said — he should have known what he was getting into. Of course, that doesn't excuse the passenger who assaulted him, but to say that anyone can come out and be a child or that law-abiding adults participate in Critical Mass isn't exactly the safest statement.

Anthony Silva
Point Loma

Got Permits?

Your article on the Critical Mass cyclers ("SDPD — Got an Attitude?" "City Lights," December 4) brings up an interesting point, although having a fingertip bitten off à la Mike Tyson is

too much. Why is it that groups like this think they have even a marginal right to inconvenience the public? Not entirely a San Diego phenomenon, but more prevalent here. These people have no parade or event permit. They feel entitlement by numbers to block off streets, run red lights, and ignore stop signs, a typical cyclist habit, and then they want the police to validate their lawlessness. If they had the courtesy to get a permit, the police could clear a legitimate path for them. Their actions are no different than rioting thugs burning and looting after an athletic event and should be dealt with accordingly.

This attitude leads to other events such as closing the Coronado Bay Bridge and busy streets downtown for various runs and walks. And what about closing the main highways when some idiot pretends to want to jump off the Laurel Street bridge or commit suicide on

the interstate during rush hour to get their names in the news. What about Street Scene, the annual fiasco that inconveniences both residents and customers necessary in the dying downtown?

This inconsiderate behavior is very closely related to shouting "fire" in a crowded theater, although the latter examples have somehow received appropriate sanctions.


When did it become a rule that minimal numbers of people (singly or in groups) have the right to inconvenience literally hundreds of thousands of others?

G.R. Morse
via email

Merciful Coffee

Re "Tin Fork," December 4.

One day I was early for an appointment at Sharp Rees-Stealy Orthopaedic Pavilion, and I had "cawfee" at the Sharp hospital cafeteria. Absolutely foul! I didn't



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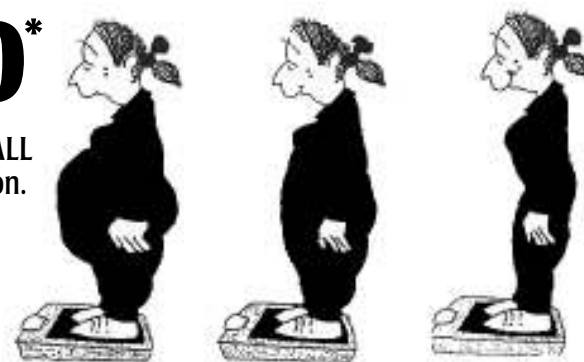


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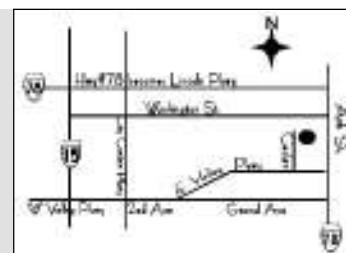
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drink it and never ate there. Better coffee in the orthopaedic waiting room. Mercy Hospital has the best coffee, urn-brewed Boyds Coffee.

Charlie
Downtown

Bobby, Ramona, The Pilot, The Emos

Unbeknownst to me, I was the woman in the picture that went with the article "Dog Is My Copilot" ("Crasher," November 26). Although the article was quirky, casual, and a fun little read, I wanted to straighten out some facts because no one talked with me to confirm any information about Bobby Gordon and/or me, so let me just state the facts:

1. Bobby Gordon is a famous clarinet player who lives here in San Diego.

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2. I sing with Bobby Gordon on a regular basis, and we perform music in the classic jazz genre (jazz from teens, '20s, and '30s) all over San Diego.

3. I don't know the song "My Funny Valentine." Wrong era. I was probably singing the song "Sugar," written in approximately 1918, during the dogfights. Real dogfights at the hangar, that was true.

4. My grandfather was a famous pilot: Max Conrad. He set many world records and was well respected among military pilots and commercial pilots. The fact that he was a famous pilot and I was performing at the hangar was merely a coincidence. And he died in

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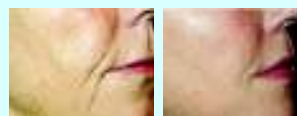
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1980, so if he was at the hangar party (as noted in the article), he would be approximately 110 years old. Plus, I better let Mom know that her dad has been hiding out in a San Diego hangar all this time. Ha ha.

5. Bobby Gordon is 67 years old.

6. My name is Ramona DeRyan.

Now, if you want to do an interesting article, you should come hear Bobby and me rehearse on Wednesday evenings at Albie's Beef Inn, one of the oldest steakhouses and piano bars in San Diego. The piano player, David Timothy Smith, lets some of San Diego's great musicians come in and jam with him. Albie's is what I call God's waiting room, because the decor is exactly the same as the day it was built and the clientele have planted themselves on the barstools for at least 40 years now. But it's also now become such a quirky place, full of charac-

ters, young and old. Oddly enough, Bobby and I have a following of the very old and the local emo scene. Seriously. You should come in and get a feel for this landmark, the characters who frequent it, and the musicians who drop in.

Ramona DeRyan
via email

The Reader And A Beer

I was pleasantly surprised today when I got off work and headed to the little market for a sixer and a sandwich — the *Reader* in its usual rack a day early on Thanksgiving Eve. I really look forward to Barb the Diva's diary every week, and this latest column on her inner child was one of her best — read it twice! She and her husband live a great, interesting, and cultured lifestyle, and she expresses herself in a way that isn't bragging or condescending. She also pokes fun at herself,

her foibles and misadventures, which I think is tremendously appealing.

It's amusing when she gets the occasional critical letters (almost always women except for that geek who I'd bet my life is a Republican — he had his own ideas a couple of weeks ago on how Barb should conform to his standards of anal-retentive, conservative values. That guy probably thinks Bush is getting a bum rap from the "liberal media." I suggest the guy should stick to the *Union-Tribune*) from writers who are obviously jealous/envious of her diva's world. Keep those delusions coming!

Also, the letter from Connor Lastowka (October 30) referring to Josh Board's "Crasher" column as "deadening affairs of soul-crushing tedium" and "life-sapping diversions into Mr. Board's own affairs" was truly laugh-out-loud funny, but I simply

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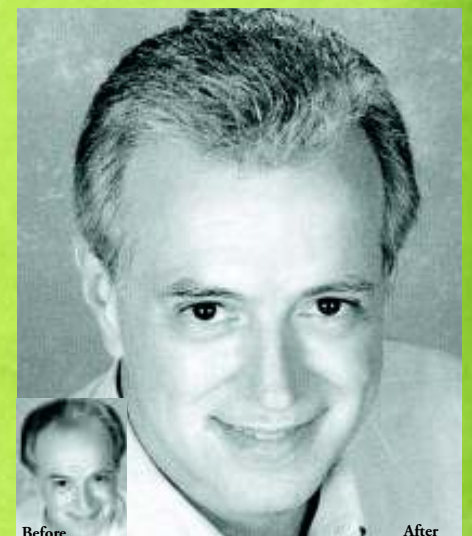
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didn't agree with his opinions (it's weeks later and I'm still laughing!). I too was scratching my head the first few times I read Board's column. The content didn't seem to match the concept, but whatever limits Mr. Board might have, I came to look at the column from a true outsider's (a party crasher's) point of view. And I gradually started to look forward to his column as well, bad grammar and all.

Mr. Lastowka is obviously a gifted writer, and I think it would be interesting to get his perspective of some of the same parties

Josh Board goes to. I bet they'd be hilarious.

P.S. Don't let me forget Brizzolara, a gifted writer as well. His candor and insight compete with good beer for entertainment value!

Frank Waller
Mission Beach

No, No, No

Once again, I am disturbed by Mr. Bauder's column ("Moon Dust," "City Lights," November 26). Is it being ghostwritten by Heidi? We can tell the difference. Please consider these corrections.

Saying that passing regulation had bad conse-

quences. No, that's because when you impose self-regulation this is a passive-aggressive intended consequence to squash smaller business by big business.

Saying the middle class needs a tax raise. No, all that is needed in California is for the 60 percent of corporations that pay no tax to pay their fair share and for rich individuals to pay their 2 percent income tax that Davis and Dems were looking for before Arnold and Diebold cheated the recall to oust them.

Saying that green business and jobs hurt the low income. What a bizarre

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idea. This will create jobs and, in any case, is necessary not to change the weather and bankrupt us all.

Saying there's no other alternative to bailouts. That's wrong. The Republican head of FDIC gave a modify mortgages plan that was rejected and is exactly what the people need, as opposed to the tax-stealing corporations.

Saying you have no alternatives for consumer debt. How about stopping banks from pushing credit cards, making realtors lower prices, and making corpo-

rations cut exec pay and excessive profits for starters.

Saying that the country has gone back and forth from liberals to conservatives except in Clinton. Yeah, that's because the neocons have been cheating elections and taking over media to squash any dissent.

Anytime someone tries to make equality in America, they are punished by the corporate invisible army. Teddy Roosevelt busted the trusts, and then they threw him out of the party. Franklin Roosevelt made jobs, and they tried

to assassinate him. The Kennedys they did assassinate, along with King and maybe Lennon. Clinton they impeached. Obama is walking a tightrope of concessions and appeasements that disgust the true Democrats.

Please stop writing Republican-slanted articles like this one that send all the wrong messages. Please do not add to the propaganda by giving Republican lies and letting it stand as the truth.

Valerie Sanfilippo
San Diego

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Wrapped with Care

Japanese Paper and Its Best Folds

Every single gift must have its proper folds," says Lisa Koide Halverson. "In America, on Christmas, you don't wrap a present in black — usually red or green. On Easter it's usually wrapped in pink or yellow cellophane to represent spring and renewal. In Japan you have to consider the type of box, the folding, the type of paper, and the color of the paper."

On Saturday, December 13, Halverson will conduct a class on how to use Japanese gift-wrapping techniques to package a bottle of wine, a book, and a jar. The Japanese word for the concept of wrapping is *tsutsumi*.

LOCAL EVENTS

Explained by Kunio Ekiguchi in his book, *Gift Wrapping: Creative Ideas from Japan*, *tsutsumi* encompasses much more than simply wrapping gifts. "For example, gods or Buddhas are 'wrapped' in a household altar...gardens are enclosed by a variety of fences. Architectural space is defined by translucent shoji doors, opaque *fusuma* doors, and bamboo blinds...and food is placed in lacquer containers."

Ekiguchi goes on to explain that *tsutsumi* is "not a tight, hermetic seal but a loose, flexible covering or shading. This style embodies the concept of 'gentle concealment,' a central part of the traditional Japanese sense of beauty."

Japanese paper, known as *washi*, is made using fibers from the mulberry tree. "It's not rice paper, as many people think," says Halverson. *Washi* is exceptionally stur-

dy — it can take up to 600 folds before it tears. Contrary to western culture, in which wrapping paper is seen as trash the moment a gift is revealed, the Japanese are more likely to keep and reuse it.

"In ancient times, when the priests of Japan would graduate a student from a particular study, the student would receive an intricately folded piece of origami," says Halverson. "They [the pieces of folded paper] proved you went to school — it was actually a diploma, and you kept it the rest of your life, folded. No one could replicate the highly complex folds, they were so intricate."

Years later, samurai warriors would exchange gifts adorned with *noshi*, ceremonial origami made of folded strips of paper considered to be good-luck tokens. "Origami was originally used for celebrating happy occasions, like origami butterflies for Shinto weddings. In modern times, starting in the early 1900s, it became a fun thing for little kids to fold and entertain themselves."

These paper-folding techniques are now taught as a part of basic curriculum in Japanese schools. "There is hardly any kid you'll meet in Japan who doesn't know how to fold a crane," says Halverson.

Japanese-style gift wrapping employs many of the same folds used in origami. When wrapping a present, Halverson says the goal is to "conceal the gift as beautiful as your thoughts about the person you like or adore."

For Halverson, giving an unwrapped gift is almost unthinkable. In past years,



Tsutsumi

some of her friends have converted her wraps to Christmas tree ornaments after removing the gift. "One year I gave my niece a Billy Idol record, and I made a Billy Idol paper sculpture, with jagged hair, on the front."

It is considered rude in Japan to open a gift in the presence of the giver. "As my mother explained it to me, to do so proves you're more anxious about the gift than the person who came to give it," says Halverson. "The gift is but a pittance compared to the value of your time together. You have to say to a person, 'I respect you. This is not about the gift but about our friendship.'"

A standard gift given in Japan is smoked salmon, or any token on a similar scale. It's not the salmon that matters so much as the "thought and beauty of the gift wrap."

In addition to the pleasing aesthetic of a meticulous wrapping job, there are layers of meaning among the folds. For example, a wedding gift might be embellished with an origami crane, which is not only a sym-

bol of peace but also of matrimony. "A Japanese crane picks one mate and stays with that mate for life," Halverson explains. "If one dies, the [remaining] crane never mates again."

Another important aspect of gift wrapping is the *mizuhiki*, or corded paper. "Once that knot is tied in the *mizuhiki*, it's tied — it can't be bent back and reused," says Halverson. "It is the tie that binds."

Perhaps Ekiguchi best summarizes the role of gift wrapping. "In Japan, it is said that giving a gift is like wrapping one's heart. Just as one helps a friend into a coat carefully and courteously, a gift should be wrapped tenderly and conscientiously."

— Barbarella

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Calendar LOCAL EVENTS

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"Don't Drink, Don't Smoke, What Do You Do?" Second annual Toyland Dance begins with waltz lessons (8:30-9:30 p.m.), continues with deejay playing variety of pop, rhythm and blues, country, rock and roll, more. Bring new, unwrapped toy for admission or pay \$5. 619-584-0840. Friday, December 12, 8:30 p.m.; free. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 4195 Camino Del Rio South. (MISSION VALLEY)

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OUT & ABOUT

CHILDREN OF WINTER

Warren Miller's 59th film, showing at La Paloma, Sherwood Auditorium, Carlsbad Village Theatre, December 11-14.

(SEE FILM)



PHOTOGRAPH BY WILL WISSMAN

goddesses" through improvisation. 619-621-1322. Friday, December 12, 7 p.m.; \$12-\$20. Ages 15 and up. Stage 7 School of Dance, 3980 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

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

\$15-\$20. Tenth Avenue Theatre, 930 Tenth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

2008 Arabesque Belly-Dancing Competition Local and foreign artists compete; instructors present workshops. Bazaar with dance paraphernalia, jewelry, music, more. Family pass (for five): \$55. 858-342-8505. Saturday, December 13, 8 a.m.; \$10-\$20. Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino del Rio South. (MISSION VALLEY)

Balkan Time Clarinetist Jim Stoyneff joins local band Dromia, with guest musician Shea Comfort (of Turlu) for dance party (8 p.m.). Sani Rifati teaches Roma dances (7-8 p.m.). 619-281-5656. Monday, December 15, 7 p.m.; \$6-\$10. Folk Dance Center, 4569 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

English Country Dancing Sharon Green calls for English

country dancing. 858-676-9731. Sunday, December 14, 6 p.m.; \$6. Jean Hart Academy of Dance, 12227 Poway Road. (POWAY)

Gray Beard Makes Music Martha Wild calls for contra dancing hosted by San Diego Folk Heritage. Beginners' dance workshop 7:30 p.m.; dances taught and called to live music 8-11 p.m. Wear soft-soled shoes. 619-283-8550. Saturday, December 13, 7:30 p.m.; \$7. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street. (NORTH PARK)

Holiday Show and Dance Party Couples, singles, all ages welcome when DJ plays Latin, ballroom, swing, nightclub tunes for dancing. 619-275-3533. Saturday, December 13, 8 p.m.; \$10. Pattie Wells' Dancetime Center, 1255 West Morena Boulevard. (BAY PARK)

Hustle Dance Party Disco Dave leads hustle workshop for intermediate/advanced dancers when San Diego Hustle Club gathers, 7-8 p.m. (\$10 members, \$15 nonmembers). Hustle dance party with Jack'n Jill competition follows 8 p.m.-midnight (\$7), with beginner lesson 8-8:30 p.m. (included in admission). 760-803-9982. Saturday, December 13, 7 p.m.; \$5-\$15. Dance North County, 535 Encinitas Boulevard, Suite 100. (ENCINITAS)

Scandinavian Dancing Learn traditional regional, pattern, and turning dances from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Finland. All ages and abilities; singles and couples welcome. 619-286-0355. Wednesday, December 17, 7:30

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

The Nutty Time of Year! City Ballet of San Diego's production of *The Nutcracker* follows choreography by Russian choreographer Lev Ivanov, with Tchaikovsky's score. 858-272-8663. Fridays, 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m.; through Sunday, December 14, \$29-\$59. Spreckels Theatre, 121 Broadway. (DOWNTOWN)

FILM

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. Thursday, December 11, 8 p.m.; \$18. La Paloma, 471 South Coast Highway 101. (ENCINITAS)

Married Life Chris Cooper, Patricia Clarkson, Rachel McAdams, Pierce Brosnan star in this "macabre comedy of manners" by Ira Sach, screening for Film Forum series. 619-236-5800. Monday, December 15, 6:30 p.m.; free. San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (DOWNTOWN)

This Christmas Holiday movie featured, along with screening of *A Colbert Christmas*. 619-299-9360. Sunday, December 14, 6:30 p.m.; free. Libertalia Café, 3834 Fifth Avenue. (HILLCREST)

Gritty and Vivid Alan Parker's *Midnight Express* (1978) offers adaptation of Billy Hayes' struggles to survive in a brutal Turkish prison, starring Brad Davis. 858-454-3541. Thursday, December 11, 7 p.m.; \$5-\$7. Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla, 700 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

Last Chance for 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. Sunday, December 14, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.; \$18. Carlsbad Village Theatre, 2808 State Street. (CARLSBAD)

More 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. Friday, December 12, 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 13, 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.; \$18. Sherwood Auditorium at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, 700 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

FOR KIDS

"A Seussical Sunday" Actors from the Old Globe Theatre's *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* present readings. The Grinch himself will be on hand to act out

story. 619-233-8792. Sunday, December 14, 10:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.; free. The New Children's Museum, 200 West Island Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

"It's All About Bears" Westgate Hotel presents its annual teddy bear teas. Finger sandwiches, desserts served while children await visit from Santa. Activities include Christmas storytelling, face painting. Reservations: 619-557-3655. Friday, December 12, 2:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 13, 2:30 p.m.; Sunday, December 14, 2:30 p.m.; \$26-\$39. The Westgate Hotel, 1055 Second Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

"The Light Within: Stories of the Season" Professional storyteller Harlynn Geisler relates Christmas legends and Hanukkah tales, as well as a story of Kwanzaa for "Saturday Storytelling." 619-239-5548 x105. Saturday, December 13, 11 a.m.; free. Timken Museum of Art, 1500 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Busytown Join familiar characters including Grocer Cat from Richard Scarry's vivid world for silly songs and scenes in play presented by La Jolla San Diego Junior Theatre. 619-239-8355. Fridays, 7 p.m.; Saturdays, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.; through Sunday, December 21, \$10-\$15. Firehouse YMCA Community Center, 7877 Herschel Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

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The "El Vallecito" ("little valley") site is positioned 5 km northeast of the town of "La Rumorosa" in the north of the peninsula. This site is the most well known in the state because of its location it can be visited in only one day. Set in the highlands of the Sierra Juárez it spreads out some 200 hectares among pine and agave groves. There exist here rock formations with pictographs from various groups about different themes from the geometric abstract to representations of humans and stars. The most famous painting is "El Diablito" ("little devil"), an anthropomorphic figure in red with two undulating lines on its head reminiscent of horns. Its merit lies not only in its composition but also in its role as a calendar marker. Each year, on the winter solstice, the sun comes into the cave and illuminates directly and exclusively the eyes of "El Diablito". Near "El Vallecito", on the 57 Km marker on the Rumorosa -

Mexicali Highway there exists another formidable site. On this cube-shaped boulder there are several humanoid figures, some of them done with white on soot-darkened backgrounds from ancient fires. There are also ancient carvings and mortars. In 1916, during the administration of coronel Esteban Cantu Jimenez, the highway, El Camino Nacional was built to connect Mexicali with the rest of the Northern District of Baja California. This road went through the center of Campo Alaska in the community of the Rumorosa where Governor Abelardo L. Rodriguez (1923-1929) was to build the Casa de Gobierno (offices of the State Government). At the same site, El Cuartel Federal (currently the museum) was built to accommodate troops and the Governor. They also built an elementary school called Agustina Ramirez de Rodriguez where the children of the soldiers and the

some families from the area were educated. General Abelardo L. Rodriguez decided to transfer the government offices from Mexicali, the State Capital, to Campo Alaska during the months of June to October in order to enjoy a better climate. When the term of General Rodriguez was up, his successor General Brigadier Jose Maria Tapia Freyding changed el Cuartel General into a hospital for the mentally ill, better known as the house of the crazy. The Casa de Gobierno was changed into a hospital to treat people with tuberculosis. Both buildings were in use until 1955. In 2004, Corredor Historico CAREM, A.C., the Fideicomiso Autopista Rumorosa (FIARUM), the institute of Anthropology and history (INAH) and Instituto de Cultura de Baja California rescued and restored the main building of Campo Alaska. It now serves as a museum depicting the history of the area.

www.tecatebajacalifornia.com.mx

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ROAM--RAMA | A Guide to Unexpected San Diego and Beyond | by Jerry Schad

Diminutive Rocky Oaks Park is typical of the many small properties that have been purchased or earmarked for future acquisition by the National Park Service in the continuing effort to flesh out the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The property, a former cattle ranch, was purchased in 1980. Since then it has essentially reverted to a natural state. In the park today, you'll find restrooms, a parking lot, a picnic area, and about 200 acres of wildland consisting of hillsides covered in chaparral and sage scrub, grassy meadows, and (what else?) rocks and oaks.



Oaks of Rocky Oaks

The trails of Rocky Oaks are open to multiple uses: hiking, mountain biking, and dog walking. Small kids will perhaps be entertained by the larger-than-life (from their viewpoint) landscape of hills, valleys, and rocky crags.

To get there in a relatively quick way, exit the 101 Freeway at Kanan Road in Agoura Hills. Turn south and follow Kanan Road for 5.5 miles to Mulholland Highway. Turn right (west) on Mulholland, and almost immediately turn right again into Rocky Oaks Park.

An easy, one-mile-long loop hike begins across the small stream from the parking lot. Go left and walk 0.2 mile to a four-way intersec-

tion, then continue straight ahead up a steep slope to reach an overlook at the top of some wood steps. The cattle pond in the valley below may or may not contain water, depending on recent rains. In the opposite direction is peak 2061 (aka Mitten Mountain), which itself blocks from view the better-known landmark of Saddle Rock. These two crags, as well as the summit you're standing on, consist of the roughly 15-million-year old Conejo Volcanics rock formation.

The trail continues north, contouring through the tangled growths of chaparral. Dead twigs are accumulating beneath the new growth. In the natural scheme

of things, this vegetation sooner or later will burn again, its ashes providing nutrients for the next, almost identical, generation of plants.

To complete the one-mile loop hike, bear right at the next fork, descend to the meadow below, and make your way past the pond back to the parking lot.

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

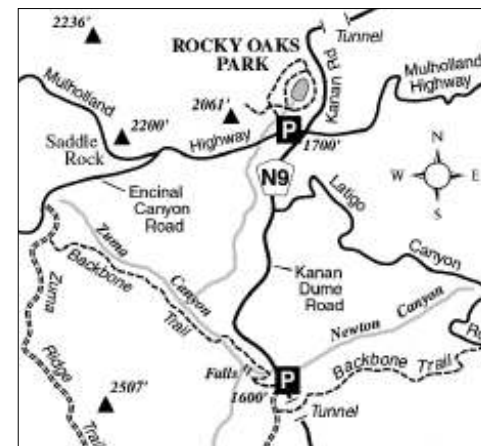
ROCKY OAKS PARK

Discover Rocky Oaks, a pocket park within the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 156 miles

Hiking length: 1 mile

Difficulty: Easy



"fractured fairy tale." Enjoy this Tony Award-winning story featuring familiar characters including Cinderella, Rapunzel, Little Red Riding Hood on journey resulting in a lesson about what happens after "happily ever after." 858-362-1348. Thursday, December 11, 7 p.m.; Saturday, December 13, 8 p.m.; Sunday, December 14, 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.; \$13-\$17. David and Dorothea Garfield Theatre, 4126 Executive Drive. (LA JOLLA)

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. Thursday, December 11, 10 a.m.; Friday, December 12, 10 a.m.; Saturday, December 13, 11 a.m.; Sunday, December 14, 11 a.m.; \$3-\$5. Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Road West. (BALBOA PARK)

The Merry Christmas Show
Puppet Express plans variety show

of skits and songs including a snowman, gingerbread house, frisky mice, and of course, Santa. 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 17, 10 a.m.; free. Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Road West. (BALBOA PARK)

All Aboard! Chula Vista Live Steam Club provides train rides. Donation: 50 cents. Children under 48" must be accompanied by an adult. 619-421-5227. Saturday, December 13, 12:30 p.m.; Sunday, December 14, 12:30 p.m.; free. Rohr Park, 4548 Sweetwater Road. (BONITA)

Cookie Decorating With Santa
Santa and his elves help families

decorate festive cookies during baking event. Light refreshments provided. Reservations: 888-424-3663. Saturday, December 13, 9 a.m.; \$19. Macy's Fashion Valley, 7017 Friars Road. (MISSION VALLEY)

Hike for Young Naturalists
Outing led by naturalist D.J. Summers promises easy hike along chaparral nature trail, followed by craft at picnic area. Reservations: 760-839-4680. Friday, December 12, 9 a.m.; free. Daley Ranch, 3024 La Honda Drive. (ESCONDIDO)

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. Satur-

day, December 13, 10 a.m.; free. The New Children's Museum, 200 West Island Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

Stories, Milk, and Cookies!
Holiday storytelling and craft for kids, with refreshments promised. 858-454-0347. Tuesday, December 16, 6 p.m.; free. Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Tidepooling for Tots at Dike Rock
Learn about ocean critters when Birch Aquarium at Scripps hosts tidepooling led by aquarium naturalist. The outing takes place at a rocky area just north of Scripps Pier on UCSD property, part of La Jolla Underwater Park marine reserve. Required reservations: 858-534-7336. Friday, December 12, 2 p.m.; \$12. Birch

Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (LA JOLLA)

Wanna Be a DJ? Local DJ Laura DJ Pnutz Bolokoski offers workshop for youths; expect introduction for beginners to learn about "turntablism," including scratching and mixing. 760-752-7876. Saturday, December 13, 3 p.m.; free. The Fizzix, 577 South Rancho Santa Fe Road. (SAN MARCOS)

IN PERSON

"Angels Rejoice" Sixty performers from handbell choir, teen rock, children's choir, and Good News Singers perform holiday favorites. Offering. 760-753-1026 x10. Sunday, December 14, 4 p.m.; Bethle-



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66 San Diego Reader December 11, 2008

hem Lutheran Church, 925 Balour Drive. (ENCINITAS)

"One Mike...San Diego: The Comedy and More Show" Enjoy spoken word, live music, comedy. Show stars Cocoa Brown (*Comic View, 1st Amendment Stand Up, Def Comedy Jam*); host is Aida Rodriguez. Bring toy for toy drive, take \$5 off ticket. 619-708-7975. Wednesday, December 17, 8 p.m.; \$20-\$25. Ages 21 and up. Club Rio, 1299 Camino del Rio South. (MISSION VALLEY)

"Traditions of Christmas — A Musical Spectacular" Enjoy show with "high-kicking Rockette-style dancers, Santa and his workshop of elves, magical Suzie's Zoo characters, live nativity pageant" presented by Christian Community Theater. 619-588-0206 or 800-696-1929. Thursday, December 11, 7 p.m.; Friday, December 12, 7 p.m.; Saturday, December 13, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday, December 14, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.; Wednesday, December 17, 7 p.m.; \$17-\$37. East County Performing Arts Center, 210 East Main Street. (EL CAJON)

First Lady Suite Michael John LaChuisa wrote these "four chamber pieces in which Eleanor Roosevelt, Mamie Eisenhower, Jacqueline Kennedy, and other White House figures reveal themselves in song." Piece offered in USD's Black Box Theatre in Camino Hall. 619-260-7934. Thursday, December 11, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, December 12, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 13, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, December 14,

7:30 p.m.; \$8-\$11. University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park. (LINDA VISTA)

Japanese Americans in San Diego San Diego City College history professor Susan Hasegawa discusses her new book, which focuses on development and evolution of Japanese community in San Diego county. 619-236-5821. Sunday, December 14, 2 p.m.; free. San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (DOWNTOWN)

Moments with Baxter Melissa Joseph discusses and signs her book. 858-618-1814. Friday, December 12, 5 p.m.; Sunday, December 14, 1 p.m.; free. Borders Books and Music — Carmel Mountain, 11160 Rancho Carmel Drive. (CARMEL VALLEY)

Ranchos of San Diego County Lynne Newell Christenson (official San Diego County Historian) and Ellen L. Sweet discuss their new book. Mexican ranchos of the county were a vital part of early California history. 858-456-1800. Saturday, December 13, 7 p.m.; free. D.G. Wills Books, 7461 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

The Gospel According to Scrooge Full musical drama presentation with live orchestra based on *A Christmas Carol*, with a "noticeable twist." Old Ebenezer is visited by "angelic visitors" rather than ghosts. 858-560-1870. Friday, December 12, 7 p.m.; Saturday, December 13, 6 p.m.; Sunday, December 14, 6 p.m.; free. San Diego First Assembly, 8404 Phyllis Place. (MISSION VALLEY)

Book Launch Party Creativity coach and author Jill Badonsky signs, discusses her newest book, *The Awe-manac: A Daily Dose of Wonder*. 858-755-3735. Thursday, December 11, 7 p.m.; free. Book Works, 2670 Via de la Valle. (DEL MAR)

Defying Boundaries! GrooveLily plays music incorporating rock, folk, jazz, pop in original songs "with no shortage of wit." Ensemble includes vocals, six-string electric violin by Valerie Vigoda, piano by Brendan Milburn, "joyful" drumming by Gene Lewin. Program includes excerpts from their two concert-musicals, *Striking 12* and *Sleeping Beauty Wakes*. 800-988-4253. Friday, December 12, 8 p.m.; \$34-\$37. California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 North Escondido Boulevard. (ESCONDIDO)

Getting to Know You The Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *The King and I* is first main stage production of season for students. 619-475-8556. Thursday, December 11, 7 p.m.; Friday, December 12, 7 p.m.; Saturday, December 13, 7 p.m.; \$7-\$8. School of Creative and Performing Arts, 2425 Dusk Drive. (PARADISE HILLS)

Harp for the Holidays Harpist Sonia Olivas performs "familiar and festive" classical, Christmas, Latin, Broadway, and pops tunes. 858-552-1657. Friday, December 12, 3 p.m.; free. La Jolla Library, 7555 Draper Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Holiday Books and Authors Celebration Meet some authors! Participants include James Blay-



Grand Opening Home Improvement & Design Center **FREE** photo with Santa

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Ace Hardware in Clairemont Square Shopping Center

Saturday, December 13, 2008

- **FREE** gift to first 100 customers
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Sunday, December 14, 2008

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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

lock (*Knights of the Cornerstone*), police officer and mystery author Robin Burrell (*Face of a Killer*), former FBI agent and author Bob Hamer (*The Last Undercover*), Jane Lindsfold (*Thirteen Orphans*), Tim Maleeny (*Greasing the Pinata*), Marie Reindorp (*The Devil's Stone*), Barrie Summy (*I So Don't Do Mysteries*). 858-268-4747. Saturday, December 13, 5 p.m.; free. Mysterious Galaxy Books, 7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Suite 302. (CLAIREMONT)

Life Without Fear? Gloria Boileau discusses her book *Stop the Fear* during author talk. 619-236-5821. Wednesday, December 17, 6:30 p.m.; free. San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (DOWNTOWN)

Mystery Author Marcia Talley signs *Dead Man Dancing*. 858-268-4747. Thursday, December 11, 1:30 p.m.; free. Mysterious Galaxy Books, 7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Suite 302. (CLAIREMONT)

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)

Suspense! Author J.A. Jance signs *Cruel Intent*. 858-268-4747.

Sunday, December 14, 2 p.m.; free. Mysterious Galaxy Books, 7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Suite 302. (CLAIREMONT)

The Gelato Poetry Series Sam Hamod will read his poetry followed by open mike. 760-434-1240. Friday, December 12, 7 p.m.; free. Korky's Ice Cream and Coffee, 2375 San Diego Avenue. (OLD TOWN)

Treble Choral Ensemble Chorus of 32 young singers from San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts presents holiday music from many different traditions for "Pleasure of Your Company" music series. Reception follows. Donations appreciated. 858-538-8158. Sunday, December 14, 2:30 p.m.; free. Scripps Miramar Ranch Library, 10301 Scripps Lake Drive. (SCRIPPS RANCH)

LECTURES

"Movie Costumes by Adrian" Christian Esquevin, director of Coronado Library, speaks about his personal collection and recent book, *Adrian: Silver Screen to Custom Label*, in Room LL430. 619-594-2447. Thursday, December 11, 3 p.m.; free. SDSU Library, 5500 Campanile Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

Building Kettenburgs Presentation by author Mark Allen, historian Iris Engstrand, Tom and Bill Kettenburg. Event begins with re-

ception (6:30 p.m.), followed by talk (7 p.m.), book signing (8 p.m.). RSVP by December 15: 619-234-9153 x106. Wednesday, December 17, 6:30 p.m.; San Diego Maritime Museum, 1306 North Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN)

Creative Writing Class Author Lisa Shapiro helps writers improve creative writing, including fiction, family history, personal memoirs, and creative nonfiction. 619-588-3718. Monday, December 15, 2 p.m.; free. Ages 16 and up. El Cajon Library, 201 East Douglas Avenue. (EL CAJON)

Holiday Wreath Making Create a wreath using natural materials from the gardens during class taught by Dianna Burke. Materials provided. Bring sack lunch. Required advance registration: 760-436-3036 x206. Saturday, December 13, 10 a.m.; \$55-\$65. Ages 5 and up. Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Make It Today, Wear It Tonight Jan Janas leads silk painting workshop. Learn to paint on silk using traditional silk painting techniques, go home with a finished scarf. Fee includes "some materials." Registration: 619-299-4278. Sunday, December 14, 10 a.m.; \$40. San Diego Art Department, 3830 Ray Street. (NORTH PARK)

Sharing Lessons Learned Local children's authors and illustrators share insights "gained along the

way to being published and tips that could make your path easier as you sell and promote your work" during next meeting of Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

Participants include Laurie Alloway ("Bungle Bear's Burnt Toast"), Jean Burt Polhamus (*Dinosaur Funny Bones, Doctor Dinosaur*), Melissa O'Reilly ("Forbidden Truth"), Samantha Pascarella (illustrator of Reading Recovery books), Joy Raab (author/illustrator of *Kate Sessions: Mother of Balboa Park*), Deborah Ramos (*An Armory of Aardvarks, A Zeal of Zebras*), Eric Shanower (*Adventures in Oz, Age of Bronze*), Karen Scanlon (*Lighthouses of San Diego*). Many books available for sale. Meeting takes place in USD's Hahn School of Nursing Building room 106 (at Linda Vista Road and Marrian Way). 619-713-5462. Saturday, December 13, 2 p.m.; free. University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park. (LINDA VISTA)

Thai Massage Workshop Introduction to Thai massage "designed to give participants the confidence and skills to practice Thai massage and to integrate bodywork techniques into their yoga practice and teaching." 760-632-7093. Saturday, December 13, 1:30 p.m.; \$45-\$50. Ashtanga Yoga Center, 1905 Calle Barcelona, Suite 218. (CARLSBAD)

OUTDOORS

Poinsettias, a favorite of backyard gardeners, are now exhibiting their scarlet, petal-like bracts, just in time for the holidays. The onset of 14-hour-long nights triggers their behavior: In San Diego this condition is met just before the date of winter solstice — Sunday, December 21.

Exceptionally High and Low Tides are set to occur on several days in mid-December. These tides closely coincide with the full moon, and approximately coincide with the winter solstice — two factors that influence tide-level extremities. On Thursday, December 11, a peak high tide of +6.8 feet occurs at 7:08 a.m. Friday's high tide of +7.1 peaks at 7:53 a.m. Saturday's high tide of +7.1 feet peaks at 8:40 a.m. Sunday's high tide of +6.8 feet crests at 9:29 a.m. There are at least two consequences of such high tides. If any strong winter storm happens to arrive from the west during these peak tides, some flooding of low-lying coastal areas around San Diego is likely. On the brighter side, birdwatchers have an opportunity to spot species of rare shorebirds that get pushed to the edges of local bays and coastal marshes by the high water. Several exceptionally low tides will also occur within the same string of mid-December

dates. On Thursday, December 11, the tide falls to -1.6 feet at 2:22 p.m. On Friday, the tide drops to -1.8 feet (almost as low as it can possibly go) at 3:09 p.m. On Saturday, an equally low tide level of -1.8 feet occurs at 3:56 p.m. On Sunday, the tides drops to -1.6 feet at 4:45 p.m. (very near the time of sunset). Any of these low-tide occasions are perfect for exploring marine life in the tide-pool areas along San Diego County's coastline.

December's Full Moon - named the "cold moon," "oak moon," "wolf moon," and "moon of long nights" according to the traditions of certain past cultures - rises spectacularly over the eastern horizon, only a few minutes after the time of sunset, on the evening of Friday, December 12. Some 14 hours later the moon sets in the west near the time of sunrise. Winter-solstice full moons spend a long time (14 hours) in the night sky (as seen from San Diego), just as the summer-solstice sun spends about 14 hours arcing across the daytime sky. The month's full moon is also notable for being a "perihelion full moon," which means that the moon is in a position closest to Earth along its elliptical orbit. The moon appears to be a little larger than normal in the sky as a result of this.

The Geminid Meteor Shower peaks the evening of Saturday, December 13 and the morning of De-

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San Diego Reader December 11, 2008

Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

December 14. The glare from full moon however, will largely spoil the viewing of this, the most intense dependable meteor shower of the year. Because of the glare, you will only see perhaps 10 or 20 meteors per hour, instead of upwards of 80 or 100 per hour.

Asian Pacific Historic District Tours Led on second Saturday of each month, starting at Chinese Historical Museum. Required reservations: 619-338-9888. Saturday, December 13, 11 a.m.; \$2. Chinese Historical Society and Museum, 404 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

Bird and Butterfly Garden Nature Walk Guided walk through park's 3.5-acre bird and butterfly

garden boasting over 40 types of plants attractive to monarch and swallowtail butterflies, hummingbirds, migrating birds, others. Flat, gravel surfaces. 619-428-2946. Sunday, December 14, 11 a.m.; free. Tijuana River Valley Regional Park, 2310 Hollister Street. (SAN YSIDRO)

Explore Batiqitos Lagoon Join Canyoneers for walk on level terrain providing ample opportunity to enjoy lagoon plants and birds. Directions: 619-255-0203. Saturday, December 13, 9 a.m.; free. Batiqitos Lagoon Nature Center, 7380 Gabbiano Lane. (CARLSBAD)

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.; free. Silverwood Sanctuary, 13003 Wildcat Canyon Road. (LAKESIDE)

Gaze Through a Telescope Search for a shooting star or Saturn and Jupiter during stargazing parties planned (weather permitting) in MiraCosta College's baseball field. Call to confirm: 760-757-2121 x6201. Friday, December 12, 8 p.m.; Saturday, December 13, 8 p.m.; free. MiraCosta College, One Barnard Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

Geology and Earthquakes Naturalist Jack Pomeroy discusses rock formations and earthquakes while leading strenuous six-plus-mile hike to top of Stanley Peak with its panoramic views. Bring water, wear hiking boots. 760-839-4680. Saturday, December 13, 8 a.m.; free. Daley Ranch, 3024 La Honda Drive. (ESCONDIDO)

Go Birding! Join Palomar Audubon birders to see variety of birds, including waterfowl, at Lake Hodges East/Bernardo Bay. Park just past Joslyn Senior Center. 858-349-1295. Saturday, December 13, 8:30 a.m.; free. Joslyn Senior Center — Rancho Bernardo, 18402 West Bernardo Drive. (RANCHO BERNARDO)

Got Mistletoe? Learn how mistletoe gets into sycamore trees near Old Mission Dam during guided nature walk. 619-668-3281. Saturday, December 13, 8:30 a.m.; free. Kumeyaay Lake Campground entry station, Two Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Guided Nature Tour of Salt Works See birds, learn about ecology of South San Diego Bay Salt Works. Required reservations: 619-682-7200. Saturday, December 13, 10 a.m.; free. Salt Works trailhead, 1470 Bay Boulevard. (CHULA VISTA)

Habitat Restoration Project Volunteers invited to help restore

OUT & ABOUT

INTO THE WOODS
David and Dorothea Garfield Theatre, through Sunday, December 14.

(SEE FOR KIDS)



PHOTOGRAPH BY DANIEL BAIRD

wildlife habitat during project on Zanja Creek in Black Mountain Open Space Park (meet on northeast side of Black Mountain Ranch Community Park, 14700 Carmel Valley Road). Bring gloves, water, sun protection. 858-342-8856. Saturday, December 13, 9 a.m.; free. Black Mountain Community Park, 12115-A Black Mountain Road. (RANCHO PEÑASQUITOS)

Holly-Jolly Walks Look for holly-leaf cherry, holly-berry, more during guided nature walks. 619-668-3281. Saturday, December 13, 8:30 a.m.; Sunday, December 14, 8:30 a.m.; Wednesday, December 17, 8:30 a.m.; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Mission Valley Preserve River Cleanup San Diego River Park Foundation's Clean and Green Team and Friends of the Mission Valley Preserve host cleanup of San

Diego River. River survey event held earlier this month identified sensitive habitat areas along river with trash, debris dumping. Tools, supplies provided. Volunteers meet at west side of Mission Valley YMCA parking lot. 619-297-7380. Saturday, December 13, 9 a.m.; free. Mission Valley YMCA, 5505 Friars Road. (MISSION VALLEY)

San Diego Field Ornithologists Expert birders lead bird walk on easy trail winding along Tecolote Creek. Bring binoculars, drinking water. 858-581-9944. Saturday, December 13, 9 a.m.; free. Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road. (CLAIREMONT)

Swami's Tidepooling for All Explore Swami's Beach when naturalist from Birch Aquarium at Scripps leads outing in search of native marine life such as hermit crabs, sea hares, and sea anemones. Required reservations: 858-534-7336. Saturday, December 13, 2:30 p.m.; \$12. Ages 2 and up. Swami's Beach, 1298 South Coast Highway 101. (ENCINITAS)

Tracking Walk Easy tracking walk for everyone, starting at Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Adobe Ranch House. Learn to track animals, discover their environments. 858-484-3219. Saturday, December 13, 8 a.m.; free. Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, 12020 Black Mountain Road. (SORRENTO VALLEY)

Weeding and Planting Party Help out with weeding in Old Town State Park's native plant garden. Bring: hat, water, gloves, a weeding tool, something to kneel on. Garden is found across Congress Street from trolley/train/bus depot, right next to parking lot. Saturday, December 13, 1 p.m.; free. Old Town State Historic Park, 4002 Wallace Street. (OLD TOWN)

Where Was Wyatt Earp's Favorite Oyster Bar? Find out when San Diego Architectural Foundation hosts tours of historic Gaslamp Quarter. Learn about area's architectural evolution from 1880s dirt streets and saloons to current restorations and adaptive reuse projects. Tours begin at Arts Tix kiosk. 619-232-1385. Saturday, December 13, 10 a.m.; \$8-\$15. Ages 10 and up. Horton Square, 225 Broadway. (DOWNTOWN)

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

"Baroque December" Concert by Orchestra of Baja California, led by conductor Iván del Prado, joined by Leopoldo González (flute). 011-52-664-687-9636. Thursday, December 11, 8 p.m.; \$15. Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BAJA)

"Sinfonia Navideña" Performances by Mariachi Sinfónico Champaña Kevin, Ballet Folklórico Ticuán, Coro de Niños de la Opera

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de Tijuana, Coro de Niños del Conservatorio de Baja California, more. 011-52-664-687-9636. Wednesday, December 17, 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.; \$30-\$42. Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BAJA)

The Nutcracker Ballet del Noroeste de México and Gloria Campobello Company take stage to present this classic. 011-52-686-554-6419. Thursday, December 11, 7 p.m.; \$20. Teatro del Estado, Calzada López Mateos at Avenida Tapiceros. (BAJA)

The Nutcracker Performed by Compañía de Danza de Baja California. 011-52-664-687-9636. Friday, December 12, 8 p.m.; Saturday, December 13, 8 p.m.; \$15. Centro Cultural Tijuana, Paseo de los Héroes and Mina Street. (BAJA)

African Dance Recital African dance workshop participants perform in Foro Experimental. 011-52-646-173-4307 or 011-52-646-173-4308. Friday, December 12, 6:30 p.m.; free. Centro Estatal de las Artes, Boulevard Costero and Avenida Club Rotario. (BAJA)

Alejandro Filio Concert by this Mexican singer-songwriter, poet, musician. 011-52-664-585-1264. Saturday, December 13, 9 p.m.; El

Lugar del Nopal, Callejón 5 de Mayo #1328. (BAJA)

Rock Concert By Zoé. 619-734-2333. Saturday, December 13, 11 p.m.; El Foro, Seventh and Avenida Revolución, downtown. (BAJA)

Whaddaya Know About Ensenada's Artists? San Diego Natural History Museum hosts excursion to meet artists Estela Husongs, Pedro Peralta, and Carlos and Miguel de la Torre in their studios. Fee includes transportation, gourmet meal. Reservations: 619-255-0203. Saturday, December 13, 8 a.m.; \$87-\$97. San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

SPECIAL

"A Fairy Tale Christmas" It's the theme for 57th annual Escondido Jaycees Christmas Parade. Route runs along Broadway from high school to Grape Day Park. 760-745-8877. Saturday, December 13, 9:30 a.m.; free. Escondido High School, 1535 North Broadway. (ESCONDIDO)

"A Midwinter Night's Dream" "Fishnet Follies Holiday Burlesque Brunch" with jazz, live dance performances, vintage burlesque reels.

Performers: Caburlesque Kittens, Lady Borgia, Las Bandidas, Mija Macabre, Mynx d'Meanor, Sabrina Bellydance. 650-922-3310. Sunday, December 14, 2 p.m.; \$12. Ages 21 and up. Ruby Room, 1271 University Avenue. (HILLCREST)

"Bethlehem Village" Re-creation of "First Century Bethlehem complete with census, Roman guards, nativity show, petting zoo, llama rides, kids' crafts and games, puppet shows, musical entertainment." 858-748-4642. Friday, December 12, 6 p.m.; Saturday, December 13, 6 p.m.; free. North City Presbyterian Church, 11717 Poway Road. (POWAY)

"Garden de Light" Visit the garden as it comes to light for holidays, with docent-led garden tours, shopping, music, cookie decorating for kids, cider. 619-660-0614 x10. Friday, December 12, 5 p.m.; free. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West. (CUYAMACA COLLEGE)

"Seven Women's Perspectives" Opening reception for exhibition by Valorie Barnard (pastel), Shandel Gamer (pastel), Karen Howard (pastel), Wilma J. Lopez (encaustic), Eileen Mandell (digital and infrared photography), Billie Mear (pastel), and Barbara Peterson

(pastel) in Mission Trails Regional Park Art Gallery. Show closes Friday, January 2. 619-668-3280. Sunday, December 14, 1 p.m.; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Adapta vs. Sezio, Round Three The Adapta Project, a Tijuana-based curatorial collective, takes on Sezio.org, an online site dedicated to covering local art and music. Round three, the final round, pits Tijuana artist Jorge Tellaeche against San Diego artist Wes Bruce. Musical entertainment by Joel P. West. Donations accepted. 619-717-2877. Thursday, December 11, 6 p.m.; free. Cream, 4496 Park Boulevard. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

Celebrate the Holiday of Your Choice! Red Lotus Society hosts holiday party at its "Conscious Movement and Meditation Center." DJ Moksha on turntables, "healing musical sounds" by Alex and Robin. Donation includes a beverage. 619-808-9847. Saturday, December 13, 7 p.m.; \$5. Ideal Hotel, 540 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)


Christmas Sing Christmas carols and hymns accompanied by organ and sung by audience along with a solo of "O Holy Night." 619-233-3571. Sunday, December 14, noon; free. First Church of Christ, Scientist, 2450 Second Avenue. (HILLCREST)

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Calendar LOCAL EVENTS

tableware, greeting cards, wood sculpture, jewelry, hand-dyed silk scarves, collages, ceramic art tiles. 858-755-5656. Sunday, December 14, 10 a.m.; free. Eucalyptus Stoneware, 2201 San Dieguito Drive. (DEL MAR)

Garden of Lights Gardens decorated with 90,000-plus sparkling lights on plants and trees through December 30. Horse-drawn wagon rides, holiday crafts, live entertainment, marshmallow roasting, children's activities, food (for sale). Additional fees for some activities. 760-436-3036. Thursday, December 11, 5 p.m.; Friday, December 12, 5 p.m.; Saturday, December 13, 5 p.m.; Sunday, December 14, 5 p.m.; Monday, December 15, 5 p.m.; Tuesday, December 16, 5 p.m.; Wednesday, December 17, 5 p.m.; \$3-\$10. Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Great Train Expo Traveling show rolls in with more than 200 vendors and dealers, operating model railroad layouts, workshops. 630-608-4988. Saturday, December 13, 10 a.m.; Sunday, December 14, 10 a.m.; free. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Holiday Fine Art Open House at the Cove Local artists offer their paintings, sculpture, drawings. Featured artists include Dorothy Gager (sculpture), Victoria Johnson (sculpture), Susan Salazar (drawings), Barbara Schmidt (paintings), Paul Strahm (paintings). 858-361-8345. Saturday, December 13, noon; free. La Jolla Cove Bridge Club, 1160 Coast Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

Holiday Open House See "elaborate holiday decor with an old English model village" and enjoy music, refreshments, sale of vintage artifacts, toys, and Christmas decorations. 619-460-4353. Sunday, December 14, 2 p.m.; H. Lee House Cultural Center, 3205 Olive. (LEMON GROVE)

Holiday in the Park Townsfolk in period clothing, holiday decorations, lantern-lit museums, hundreds of luminarias, entertainment. Visitors see vignettes throughout park including Hanukkah and Jewish traditions at Robinson-Rose House, Irish Christmas in La Casa de Machado y Silvas Commercial Restaurant, 1850s American soldiers encampment, more. Admission is free.

Candlelit walking tours begin at 6 p.m. on Friday, 7:30 p.m. on Saturday (beginning every 20 minutes). Tours are \$10 for adults, \$3 for children 6-12, free for those 5 and under; reservations suggested. 619-220-5422. Friday, December

12, 6 p.m.; Saturday, December 13, 7:30 p.m.; free. Old Town State Historic Park, 4002 Wallace Street. (OLD TOWN)

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)

La Hacienda Holiday Entertainment in both Spanish and English; enjoy singing, dancing, general "making merry" with performances by trick roper Tony Muñoz, Ballet Folklórico Tierra Caliente dancers. Kids may create cornhusk wreath ornaments or tool leather tree decorations. Docent-led tours. Food vendors on hand. Families: \$10. 760-639-6164. Saturday, December 13, 4 p.m.; \$3-\$5. Rancho Buena Vista Adobe, 640 Alta Vista Drive. (VISTA)

Laughter Yoga Learn how to bring more laughter to your life and community. Typical class consists of a series of "simple, fun, gentle laughter exercises combined with deep breathing." Michael Coleman presents workshop. 619-588-3718. Saturday, December 13,

OUT & ABOUT

DEFYING BOUNDARIES! GROOVELILY California Center for the Arts, Escondido, Friday, December 12.

(SEE IN PERSON)



3 p.m.; free. El Cajon Library, 201 East Douglas Avenue. (EL CAJON)

Life Drawing and Painting Open studio offered; bring art materials to work with model. The first 1.5 hours consist of short poses; final 1.5 hours promise long pose. No formal instruction. 619-231-3900. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.; Tuesdays, 6 p.m.; \$10. Art Academy of San Diego, 840 G Street. (DOWNTOWN)

Lux at Night Lux is open late for cocktails, music, festivities, chance to meet artist-in-residence Alison Moritsugu and view her work. 760-436-6611. Wednesday, December 17, 7 p.m.; free. Lux Art Institute, 1550 South El Camino Real. (ENCINITAS)

Persian Family Festival Performances by Persian Cultural Dance Academy, classical and folk musicians. Learn to write names using Persian calligraphy. Docent-led tours of "Nomadic Legacy" exhibition. 760-735-3355. Saturday, December 13, 1 p.m.; free. Mingei International Museum — North

County, 155 West Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

Poinsettia Bloom Balboa Park's Botanical Building boasts festive holiday scene with over 500 poinsettia plants displaying their blooms during 22nd annual display. 619-231-9193. Fridays, 10 a.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.; Sundays, 10 a.m.; Mondays, 10 a.m.; Tuesdays, 10 a.m.; Wednesdays, 10 a.m.; through Wednesday, January 7, Free. Balboa Park, Park Boulevard at Presidents Way. (BALBOA PARK)

Pug Party Pug Rescue of San Diego County hosts party with "pug boutique, Pug Christmas cards, Pug-sized Santa suits, Christmas trees," holiday ornaments for sale (benefiting Pug Rescue of San Diego County). St. Nick will be on hand for Pug photo ops. Saturday, December 13, 10 a.m.; free. Harry Griffen Regional Park, 9550 Milden Street. (LA MESA)

R-Rated Trivia Trivial fun returns with "comedy, mini-games, category rounds," and trivia. Winning team takes all (or "play for free if you're cheap"). 619-294-4848. Sun-

day, December 14, 8 p.m.; \$3. Ages 21 and up. The Wit's End, 420 Robinson Avenue. (HILLCREST)

Ray at Night Explore the "heart of North Park art and culture" during these gallery walks offered on second Saturday of each month by many of the galleries, studios in the neighborhood. 619-297-9663. Saturday, December 13, 6 p.m.; free. Planet Rooth Gallery, 3811 Ray Street. (NORTH PARK)

Rock and Roll Around the Bay! Theme for this year's San Diego Bay Parade of Lights. For viewing on land, north and south ends of Embarcadero as well as pathway along Coronado are good spots as they tend to be less crowded. 619-224-2240. Sunday, December 14, 5:30 p.m.; free. Embarcadero, Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN)

Snow in Alpine? Alpine Village Christmas Parade of Lights and Snow Festival includes parade of lighted floats led by Santa Claus on a fire truck, starting at 6:30 p.m. at West Victoria Drive and Alpine Boulevard. Parade ends at Alpine Community Center for Snow Festival, with sledding, holiday sing-along, Santa. 619-445-2722. Friday, December 12, 6:30 p.m.; free. Alpine Community Center, 1830 Alpine Boulevard. (ALPINE)

Stamp-Collecting Show Stamp and cover dealers offer their wares. 619-218-7835. Sunday, December 14, 10 a.m.; free. Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road. (KEARNY MESA)

Strut Your Mutt! Gaslamp Holiday Pet Parade invites participants to dress up pets in their favorite costumes for promenade throughout Gaslamp Quarter. Pets and their



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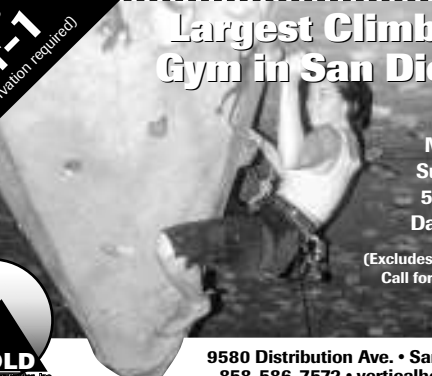
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Connect the Dots Entertainment

people will march down decorated Fifth Avenue, starting and concluding in park next to Hilton Hotel. Pet Expo follows. Viewing: free; pay \$10 to participate. 619-233-5227. Sunday, December 14, 3 p.m.; free. Gaslamp Quarter. (DOWNTOWN)

We Love a (Wet) Parade Oceanside Yacht Club hosts annual Christmas boat parade of lights. Many light-adorned boats circle harbor for viewing pleasure. Watch parade from anywhere within harbor. 760-722-5751. Saturday, December 13, 6 p.m.; free. Oceanside Harbor, 1540 Harbor Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

What Is Intelligent Design? Is it relevant? Deliberate with P&R Discussion Group. 619-370-1027. Thursday, December 11, 7 p.m.; free. Filter, 4096 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

Wrap It Up! Make holiday gifts special when wrapped Japanese style. In class taught by Lisa Koide Halverson, learn three gift wraps using Japanese techniques and some Japanese-made papers and *mizuhiki* paper (cording). Materials list: 619-232-2721. Saturday, December 13, 10 a.m.; \$18-\$22. Japanese Friendship Garden, Pan American Road. (BALBOA PARK)

SPORTS

Backcountry Bicyclin' San Diego Bicycle Touring Society bicyclists head out for 84-mile ride venturing to Valley Center, Lilac, more. 619-688-6536. Sunday, December

14, 8:45 a.m.; free. Doyle Park, 8175 Regents Road. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

Birding by Kayak Spend a morning exploring on Lower Otay Reservoir during outing hosted by San Diego Natural History Museum. Expect a leisurely pace in search of many species of birds, both resident and migrating. Fee includes equipment, paddling instruction. 619-255-0203. Saturday, December 13, 9 a.m.; \$20-\$65. Ages 6 and up. San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Fun in Fallbrook Join Knickerbikers for 48-mile ride to Fallbrook following route along 8-mile San Luis Rey bike path, to lunch at Dominic's Deli (bring money). Outing starts east of railroad track (through the tunnel) at harbor parking lot. 619-255-2890. Sunday, December 14, 9 a.m.; free. Oceanside Harbor, 1540 Harbor Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis The 5k walk/run benefiting Arthritis Foundation boasts course through Balboa Park. Registration at 6 a.m., 5k at 8 a.m., fun run for kids starts at 9:15 a.m. Dress your dog for "festive doggie costume contest." 619-298-7400. Saturday, December 13, 6 a.m.; Balboa Park, Park Boulevard at Presidents Way. (BALBOA PARK)

Run Club Locate new routes in the city, "test-drive" latest Nike footwear, run with motivated people. Runners, walkers of all levels meet to run their choice of three-

five-, and seven-mile routes, starting from Nike Fashion Valley. 619-294-9385. Wednesdays, 6 p.m.; free. Fashion Valley Mall, 7007 Friars Road. (MISSION VALLEY)

Try Wakeboarding Join Fun Times group to wakeboard. Fee includes equipment, including wet-suit. 760-695-2343 Friday, December 12, 9 a.m.; \$25. Ages 18 and up. Mission Bay Boat Rental, 1641 Quivira Road. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Year-Round Waterskiing Convair Waterski Club provides ski boats for waterskiing. Group meets at south end of Crown Point Beach. 858-863-4755. Sundays, 8 a.m.; \$8-\$15. Mission Bay. (MISSION BEACH)

MUSEUMS

Campo Railroad Museum Campo Railroad Museum, showcasing more than 130 years of American railroad history and technology through static and operating exhibits, the museum includes cabooses, steam and diesel locomotives, track motorcars, 1880s "Jim Crow" segregated passenger cars. Interpretive 1.5-hour train rides offered each weekend (11 a.m., 2:30 p.m.) over portion of the San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railway. 31123-1/2 Highway 94, 619-465-7776. (INLAND BORDER TOWNS)

Heritage Walk Museum The museum includes the restored Victorian house, the city's original Santa Fe Train Depot, a railroad car with model train, working

blacksmith shop, and a barn. Find Heritage Walk in Grape Day Park. 321 North Broadway, 760-743-8207. (ESCONDIDO)

J.A. Cooley Museum An eclectic collection of items — including displays on phonographs, clocks, electric trains, and 20 other types of collections — is featured at the museum. The current featured attraction is an "Industrial Product Collection," with examples of the historical progression of auto technology from 1886-1915, "some classics and a concept car." 4233 Park Boulevard, 619-296-3112. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park, old adobe buildings were once vacation retreat and working rancho of actor Leo Carrillo. Tours on Saturdays (11 a.m., 1 p.m.) and Sundays (noon, 2 p.m.). 6200 Flying Leo Carrillo Lane, 760-476-1042. (CARLSBAD)

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Museum Housed in a historic building, the museum features five permanent galleries with artifacts, uniforms, vehicles, weapons, and photographs depicting Marine Corps history. The museum is located in Building 26 at MCRD, just inside Gate 4, off Pacific Highway. Witherby Street and Hancock Street, 619-524-6038. (DOWNTOWN)

Marston House Museum Historic home sits on five acres of landscaped grounds with a formal English Romantic garden. Built for civic leader and department store

founder George Marston and his family by San Diego architects William Hebbard and Irving Gill, the Marston house design is in keeping with the early 20th-Century American Arts and Crafts period, emphasizing simplicity, function, and natural materials. 3525 Seventh Avenue, 619-298-3142. (HILLCREST)

Museum of San Diego History "Dressing a City: Selected Styles from Marston's Department Store, 1878-1961" offers selection of pieces from San Diego Historical Society's costume and textile collection, with clothing and replica costumes. Through December.

"100 Years of Art," continuing through March, showcases a century of artwork by San Diego artists. "Place of Promise: Stories of San Diego" lets visitors "literally walk on San Diego"; a map of county extends from wall to wall across the floor. Also featured in ongoing exhibit are two large 1930s murals by artist Charles Reiffel and a 1910 San Diego streetcar. Stories of San Diego are interpreted through images, artifacts, oral histories from society's collection. The museum is located in the Casa de Balboa building. 1649 El Prado, 619-232-6203. (BALBOA PARK)

New Americans Museum in NTC Promenade "From Haven to Home: 350 Years of Jewish Life in America" — continuing through February — is an exhibit created by the American Jewish Historical Society, chronicling "the American Jewish experience in this

country." Trace the American Jewish journey "from persecution to participation," from the original 23 refugees who landed in 1654 to today's diverse Jewish community.

Chicago photographer Gina Grillo captures family experiences as immigrants arrive in Chicago and chronicles their integration into urban life in "Between Cultures: Children of Immigrants in America." Grillo began by shooting photographs outside lines of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), and later, citizenship swearing-in ceremonies, immigrant neighborhoods, immigrant families arriving at O'Hare Airport. Closes Sunday, February 15. 2825 Dewey Road Suite 102, 619-255-8908. (POINT LOMA)

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center Oozing with disgusting science and hands-on learning games, "Animal Grossology" takes a scientific look at "some of the slimiest, stinkiest, and downright yuckiest creatures on Earth," adapted from author and science teacher Sylvia Branzei's *Grossology* children's book series. Visitors gain perspective on animal kingdom, with 16 exhibits bringing to life gritty and gross facts about some of "nature's most disgusting critters." Continues through Sunday, January 4.

"Tinkering" features more than 20 hands-on exhibits bringing out "your inner inventor" with pulleys, computer circuits, turntables, wind tunnels, more. In the "Tinkering Studio," kids transform household items into catapults, ro-

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ROCK
ENERGY

Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

bots, spectrometers, more. Closes June 7.

Ongoing exhibitions include "Origins in Space: Spin-Offs in Science and Technology," "So WATT! An Illuminating Look at Energy," "Aging for All Ages," "Kid City" (for preschoolers), "Try-Science!" "Escape from Dino Island" is theme for motion simulator ride. Films are shown daily in the IMAX theater. 1875 El Prado, 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

SINGLES

San Diego Air and Space Museum "Star Trek: The Exhibition" is said to contain "the world's most comprehensive collection of authentic *Star Trek* ships, re-creations, sets, costumes, and props" from five television series and ten films created for more than 40 years. Sit on a re-creation of the original USS *Enterprise* bridge, enjoy a motion simulator.

"Gangsters, Glamour, and Glory: Forging America's Future" features historical items from all over U.S. highlighting the 1930's. Exhibit includes "the Bonnie and Clyde Ford, the actual car they drove into the ambush and to their

death in the early 30's." Also on view: the newly constructed airplane, the Gee Bee R-1 Super Sportster; additional Bonnie and Clyde artifacts, sports memorabilia, radio broadcasts, clips from Hollywood films. Through January.

Concurrently, see "The History of Commercial Aviation in America." A section of exhibit celebrates 40-year history of PSA, with original graphics, a re-creation of the airline's first ticket booth at Lindbergh Field, uniforms and memorabilia donated by former employees. Ongoing.

The museum offers exhibits of over 65 aircraft, including an RQ-1K Predator UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) on indefinite loan from

the National Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, which "saw action over the Balkans in the late 1990s"; a replica of *Spirit of St. Louis*, a Fokker Scourge (or Fokker Eindecker E-III), a World War I Spad VII, flight deck of the USS *Yorktown*, and a Lockheed Blackbird spy plane; 1400 scale models, 10,000 aviation-related items, and memorabilia from Montgolfier hot-air-balloon era to Space Age, along with an International Aerospace Hall of Fame. 2001 Pan American Plaza, 619-234-8291. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Hall of Champions Ongoing exhibits include "Bird Watching — Tony Hawk in Flight," "Surfing in San Diego," exhibits of baseball card art, fencing, local rugby history. The museum is dedicated to promoting, recognizing, and preserving athletic achievement. 2131 Pan American Plaza, 619-234-2544. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Maritime Museum "The Art of the Boat — Photos from the Rosenfeld Collection," continuing through July 2009, is collection of over 40 black-and-white photographs celebrating marriage of great yachts and sea through lenses of father-and-son team Morris and Stanley Rosenfeld. Duo is renowned for photographs of yachts, tall ships, and speedboats and photography of every America's Cup race from 1885-1992.

The photography exhibition "Portrait of Tall Ships" features more than 30 photographs by Thad Koza and Michael Berman. Exhibit includes chronicles of sailing adventures of the museum's ships. Through February.

"San Diego's Navy," based upon book by same name written by Bruce Linder, is said to be "the only comprehensive exhibit depicting the extraordinary contribution the Navy has made to the history of the San Diego region."

The museum features permanent exhibits documenting the history of San Diego's waterfront and the building of the West Coast by sea, the old San Diego-Coronado ferryboats, the tuna-fishing industry, and the military. The museum fleet consists of the 1863 bark *Star of India*, the 1898 San Francisco ferryboat *Berkeley*, and the 1904 Scottish steam yacht *Medea*. The HMS *Surprise*, used in film *Master and Commander*, is permanently on exhibit; see artifacts, costumes, props used in making of the flick.

Also open for touring: a B-39 Soviet attack submarine, among the largest conventionally powered submarines ever built. This Project 641/Foxtrot class diesel-electric submarine was designed to track U.S. and NATO warships throughout the earth's oceans. There are also nautical exhibits, ship carpenters, model building, ships in bottles, woodcarvers, complete research library. 1306 North Harbor Drive, 619-234-9153. (DOWNTOWN)

San Diego Museum of Man "Beyond Reasonable Drought" examines "ways in which culture and climate are intimately connected today as they always have been." Exhibition examines how water resources have affected populations, cultures.

"Skull Stories: The Art of Ancient Surgery" marks "the first time the museum will use an entire collection of its own artifacts for an exhibit display." Trephining, or removing a piece of bone from the skull, is oldest surgical procedure known from antiquity; skulls exhibiting different degrees of healing after trephination will be displayed, as well as skulls that have been trephined using different techniques. Trephination tools, instruments such as obsidian blades, tumis, chisels also displayed.

"Gods and Gold: Ancient Treasures from Mexico to Peru" showcases museum's collections of Mexican, Central American, and South American archaeological objects. Rare gold and jewelry, exotic figurines, intricate stonework, and pottery from the ancient

world are on display, as well as a crystal skull, on loan from a private collector.

"Art and Expression: The Legacy of Our Collections" highlights 17 key collections, relates stories of the collectors, how collections came to museum, their significance in preserving history of past generations. Objects include pottery, baskets, beadwork, jewelry, woodcarving, folk art, katsinas, bone and ivory implements, shields, textiles.

In "Artists Speak: Contemporary Art from Ghana and Zimbabwe," museum has partnered with artists from Ghana and Zimbabwe to showcase paintings and sculpture by accomplished African artists.

Permanent anthropology exhibit "Footsteps Through Time: Four Million Years of Human Evolution" features "more than a hundred touchable replicas of early humans, primates, and futuristic cyborgs (part human, part machine)." 1350 El Prado, 619-239-2001. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Tugboat Museum A 100-foot retired Korean War-era tugboat built in 1951 is open for tours at museum. Boat is docked along Harbor Drive, between Grape Street and Broadway. Harbor Drive, 619-200-7417. (DOWNTOWN)

San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park Commemorates the clash (on December 6, 1846) during the Mexican War between the U.S. Dragoons, bolstered by sailors and volunteers from San Diego, and California militia. Narrated slide-show screens throughout the day, telling the story of the war in Mexico and California. Self-guided tour recounts the events of the battle and profiles the leaders of the forces and also describes the lives of the Indians indigenous to the valley. 16666 San Pasqual Valley Road, 760-737-2201. (ESCONDIDO)

Valley Center History Museum Movie star, "world-class body-builder," and longtime Valley Center rancher Steve Reeves is remembered in an exhibit continuing through Tuesday, December 30. He appeared in 18 movies and is best known as star of *Hercules*. Exhibit includes photos, movie memorabilia, personal mementos.

The museum features an educational exhibition centered around a California grizzly bear, described as "the only one on view in San Diego." Also on exhibit: model of an 1862 settler's cabin, collection of Indian baskets, and aerospace display. 29200 Cole Grade Road, 760-749-2993. (VALLEY CENTER)

William Heath Davis House Museum Museum is said to be the oldest surviving structure in the new town area of downtown San Diego. The house is a well-preserved example of a pre-framed lumber "salt box" family home, shipped from the East Coast to California by boat around Cape Horn in 1850. 410 Island Avenue, 619-233-4692. (DOWNTOWN)

Women's History Museum 2323 Broadway, Suite 107, 619-233-7963. (GOLDEN HILL)



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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

"Gloria" Peninsula Singers and Southwestern College Chorus plan combined choir performance of Vivaldi's "Gloria." More than 100 voices join together to perform the classical holiday work, accompanied by orchestra. Peninsula Singers also perform seasonal selections. 619-573-9306 or 619-573-0124. \$5-\$10. North Chapel at NTC (2881 Roosevelt Drive), 7 p.m., Friday, December 12. (POINT LOMA)

"Masterpiece Messiah" San Diego Chamber Orchestra, maestro Jung-Ho Pak, and Bach Collegium choir present George Frideric Handel's "Messiah." This year, orchestra will also play "a dramatic video featuring famous classic paintings to enhance and bring a modern element to their period performance." 858-350-0290. \$25-\$40. Saint James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church (743 Prospect Street), 7:30 p.m., Saturday, December 13. (LA JOLLA)

"Messiah (Part I) Sing-Along" USD Symphony uses Mozart's orchestration on Handel's masterpiece. "Bring your own score, or borrow one at the door" to Founders Chapel. Donation. 619-260-4171. University of San Diego (5998 Alcalá Park), 7:30 p.m., Friday, December 12. (LINDA VISTA)

"A Baroque Christmas" San Diego Symphony and conductor Nicholas McGegan are joined by Jeff Thayer (violin), Dominique La-

belle (soprano), Philip Cutlip (baritone), San Diego Master Chorale for Jacobs' Masterworks concerts. Program includes Handel's "Royal Fireworks Music," "Water Music Suite No. 3," and highlights from "Messiah"; as well as Bach's "Violin Concerto No. 2 in E Major" and "Christmas Concerto No. 8" by Corelli. Reservations: 619-235-0804. \$20-\$93. Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street), 8 p.m., Friday, December 12, and Saturday, December 13; 2 p.m., Sunday, December 14. (DOWNTOWN)

"Holiday Joys" MiraCosta Chamber Chorale and North Coast Chorale plan concerts of "time-honored classics and newly composed favorites." 760-795-6815. \$8-\$10. First Presbyterian Church — Oceanside (2001 El Camino Real), 7:30 p.m., Saturday, December 13, and 2 p.m., Sunday, December 14. (OCEANSIDE)

"Masterpiece Messiah" San Diego Chamber Orchestra, maestro Jung-Ho Pak, and Bach Collegium choir present George Frideric Handel's "Messiah." This year, orchestra will also play "a dramatic video featuring famous classic paintings to enhance and bring a modern element to their period performance." 858-350-0290. \$25-\$40. Saint James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church (743 Prospect Street), 7:30 p.m., Saturday, December 13. (LA JOLLA)

Organ Concert Guest organist Wayne Seppala performs. 619-702-8138. Free. Spreckels Organ Pavilion (2211 Pan American

Road), 2 p.m., Sunday, December 14. (BALBOA PARK)

"A Spanish Guitar Experience" Guitarist David Maldonado and his group present "Navidad" concert. 760-602-2026. Free. Schulman Auditorium at Carlsbad City Library (1775 Dove Lane), 2 p.m., Sunday, December 14. (CARLSBAD)

Christmas Vespers Concert William Hatcher conducts Benjamin Britten's "Ceremony of Carols" and other favorites. Performers include Laurinda Nikkel and Janelle DeStefano, harpist Naomi Alter, the San Dieguito Methodist Church Chancel Choir and Joyful Bells, organist Janice Stewart, pianist Darlene Lawrence. Offering. 760-753-6582. San Dieguito United Methodist Church (170 Calle Magdalena), 4 p.m., Sunday, December 14. (ENCINITAS)

More "Masterpiece Messiah" San Diego Chamber Orchestra, maestro Jung-Ho Pak, and Bach Collegium choir present George Frideric Handel's "Messiah." This year, orchestra will also play "a dramatic video featuring famous classic paintings to enhance and bring a modern element to their period performance." 800-988-4253. \$20-\$35. California Center for the Arts, Escondido (340 North Escondido Boulevard), 4 p.m., Sunday, December 14. (ESCONDIDO)

Hallelujah! Seasonal "Messiah" sing-along of the Christmas portions of the piece hosted by La Jolla Symphony and Chorus. Reservations: 858-534-4637. \$8-\$15. Saint

Elizabeth Seton Church (6628 Santa Isabel Street), 4 p.m., Sunday, December 14. (CARLSBAD)

And Still More "Messiah" Handel's classic showcased by community mass choir and San Diego Chamber Orchestra. Soloists include DeAndre Simmons, Tonia Hampton, Sandra Camarena, Danny Eaton. Offering. 619-239-2346. Christ United Presbyterian Church (3025 Fir Street), 4 p.m., Sunday, December 14. (SOUTH PARK)

Feast of Lights Westminster Choir and members of San Diego Symphony perform "Christmas favorites" including Morten Lauridsen's "O Magnum Mysterium" and "The Manger Suite" by Michael W. Smith, Christmas carols. Offering. 619-232-7513. First Presbyterian Church (320 Date Street), 7 p.m., Sunday, December 14. (DOWNTOWN)

Handel's "Messiah" Enjoy a full performance of the holiday favorite when San Diego Symphony and conductor Nicholas McGegan are joined by soprano Dominique Labelle (soprano), counter-tenor Daniel Taylor, tenor John McVeigh, baritone Philip Cutlip, and San Diego Master Chorale. Reservations: 619-235-0804. \$20-\$93. Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street), 7:30 p.m., Sunday, December 14. (DOWNTOWN)

"Ten Carols and a Mass" La Jolla Renaissance Singers perform traditional Christmas music from Romania and "Missa Hodie Christus Natus Est" by Palestrina. Offer-

ing. 858-755-1616. Saint Peter's Episcopal Church (334 14th Street), 8 p.m., Sunday, December 14. (DEL MAR)

Harp Concert Leah Panos's repertoire boasts "special emphasis in the classical, romantic, and 20th century periods." 619-588-3718. Free. El Cajon Library (201 East Douglas Avenue), 6 p.m., Monday, December 15. (EL CAJON)

Holiday Pops Favorite holiday music tradition returns when San Diego Symphony, conductor Matthew Garbutt, San Diego Master Chorale, and California Ballet Company take stage. Reservations: 619-235-0804. \$20-\$85. Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street), 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 17. (DOWNTOWN)

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

"Catch the Wave" Opening reception for exhibition of work by students of St. Madeleine Sophie's Center. Pieces explore "themes of the ocean and independence" with hand-painted boogie boards and surf boards. Closes Saturday, January 3. 619-299-4278. Free. San Diego Art Department (3830 Ray Street), 6 p.m., Saturday, December 13. (NORTH PARK)

"Face to Face" Opening reception for latest collection of paintings by Richard Stergulz. Exhibit featuring faces on miniature canvases continues through December. 760-728-8870. Free. Pinnell Gallery (124 North Main Street), 4 p.m., Saturday, December 13. (FALLBROOK)

"Figures of Speech" Opening reception for Dave Ghirladucci's show, said to "playfully investigate the various clichés and familiar phrases we use in our everyday lives." Enjoy this mixed-media exhibition using "bronze, humor, paint, and a touch of irony" through closing reception on Friday, December 12. 619-795-3704. Free. Colosseum Fine Arts (2400 Kettner Boulevard, suite F-109), 6 p.m., Friday, December 12; 6 p.m., Friday, December 12. (LITTLE ITALY)

"Junk Mail Takes Flight" Opening reception for new instal-

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Calendar

ART

lation by Stacie Birky Greene, centering around 1000 junk mail origami cranes (according to Japanese legend, one who folds 1000 cranes is granted a wish by a crane spirit). The thousand cranes in exhibit are folded from junk mail delivered to Greene's home over the span of a year. On view through Sunday, January 4. 619-584-4448. Free. Art Produce Gallery (3139 University Avenue), 6 p.m., Saturday, December 13. (NORTH PARK)

"Mano Negra!" Opening reception for painter Sergio Hernandez, an "artist of deep Tijuana and San Diego roots" whose work makes viewers "think and think again." 619-297-9663. Free. Planet Rooth Gallery (3811 Ray Street), 6 p.m., Saturday, December 13. (NORTH PARK)

"Pitiful Fools" Opening reception for show of new works by Jasper Wong, who was recently selected by *Archive* magazine as one of the 200 best illustrators worldwide. Gallery moves to 2479 Kettner Boulevard on January 1; show continues at new venue through Sunday, January 11. 619-876-0664. Subtext (680 West Beech Street #1), 6 p.m., Friday, December 12. (DOWNTOWN)

"Shell Hunter" Opening reception for featured artist Igor Koutsenko, along with artwork from "Outstanding Visual Artists" of region in display juried by Rochelle Kessler. Also on view: work by students of Zamorano Elementary in David G. Fleet Young Artist Gallery. Closes Sunday, January 11. 619-236-0011. Free. San Diego Art Institute: Museum of the Living Artist (1439 El Prado), 6 p.m., Friday, December 12. (BALBOA PARK)

"The 2009 Juried Biennial Exhibition" Opening reception for show featuring works in all media by artists who live, work, or have studios in San Diego County. Bien-

OUT & ABOUT

"THE 2009 JURIED BIENNIAL EXHIBITION"
Opens Saturday, December 13, William D. Cannon Art Gallery.

(SEE GALLERIES)



HOOP ON BURNED TREE, JAMES SOE NYUN, 2008

ennial attracted 270 artists who submitted more than 1200 images for competition. Jurors Stephen Hepworth and Sue Greenwood selected 46 works of art by 26 artists. Closes Saturday, February 7. 760-602-2021. Free. William D. Cannon Art Gallery at Carlsbad Library (1775 Dove Lane), 5 p.m., Saturday, December 13. (CARLSBAD)

North Park Nights Asia Gallery opening with Asian theme, featuring local and international artists displaying collection of styles, themes, media, techniques "inspired by the Orient." Reception includes deejay, live performances, tea ceremony, more. Donations benefit International Humanity Foundation. 504-390-3271. Free. University and Grim (), 6 p.m., Saturday, December 13. (NORTH PARK)

ART MUSEUMS

California Center for the Arts, Escondido Museum 340 North Escondido Boulevard, 760-839-4120. (ESCONDIDO)

Mingei International Museum "India Adorned" features selections from museum's Stephen Huyler Collection. Exhibit "reveals

the colorful diversity of Indian creative expression, presenting an evocative collection of works that are used in the daily routine of a typical Indian family — objects of worship, personal and domestic adornment, utility, and recreation." Closes Sunday, April 19.

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

Mingei International Museum — North County "Nomadic Legacy — Tent and Textiles of Central Asia and Iran" presents aspects of rich artistic heritage of nomadic culture, traditions with origins in antiquity. Highlights include recent gifts to museum such as a Kyrgyz yurt, Persian bag faces, Central Asian hats. The Kyrgyz yurt — a round, domed, trel-

lis-tent dwelling, 22 feet in diameter — won first prize in a national contest celebrating 1000th anniversary of Kyrgyzstan's existence. Also on view: rare Kyrgyz reed screens; Turkoman, Uzbek, and Kazakh costumes and textiles. Exhibit continues through Sunday, March 22. 155 West Grand Avenue, 760-735-3355. (ESCONDIDO)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown "Drawing the Line," opening Sunday, December 7, includes works on paper, sculpture, fabric pieces from museum's collection, revealing "new approaches to the integration of drafting techniques and line-making into media that have not been traditionally associated with drawing genres." Show boasts works by artists Amy Adler, Jaci Den Hartog, Kim Dingle, Iana Quesnell, Nancy Rubins, Margaret Honda, Marta Palau, Eugenie Geb, Tania Candiani, Marisol Rendón, Mely Barragán, Lynne Berman, and Shizu Saldamando. On view through Sunday, April 12.

"Human/Nature: Artists Respond to a Changing Planet" uses contemporary art to investigate relationships between fragile natural environments and human communities depending upon them. Col-

laborative 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 Ramirez ERRE, Rigo 23, Dario Robleto, Diana Thater, and Xu Bing. Closes Sunday, February 1. 1001 Kettner Boulevard, 858-454-3541. (DOWNTOWN)

Museum of Photographic Arts "Picturing the Process: Landscape through Time and Space" — continuing through Sunday, February 1 — includes selections from MoPA's permanent collection, exploring ideas and issues related to landscape.

"Writing with Light" is said to illustrate "the connections between photography and literacy using the photographic arts as inspiration." MoPA's annual youth exhibition offers opportunity to recognize talented students throughout San Diego, linking the medium of photography with writing. Through January.

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

Oceanside Museum of Art "Quilt Visions 2008: Contemporary Expressions" — continuing through Sunday, March 1 — boasts 41 quilts selected from 586 entries. Jurors were Judith Content, Mary Anne Jordan, and Don Bacigalupi.

"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' legacy. In the early 1930s, Sheets helped define a movement known as Southern California Regionalism, depicting rural scenes near his home in Claremont, California. Through Sunday, January 4.

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

San Diego Museum of Art "Kimono as Art: The Landscapes of Itchiku Kubota," closing on Sunday, January 4, features work of Japanese textile artist and kimono designer Itchiku Kubota (1917-2003). Kubota used a variety of traditional techniques, unique personal innovations to create abstract landscapes through complex layering of dyes and inks on monumentally scaled kimono. Exhibition includes Kubota's dramatic series "Symphony of Light," presenting a sweeping landscape across 30 kimonos placed side by side, as well as a selection of Kubota's individual works.

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

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

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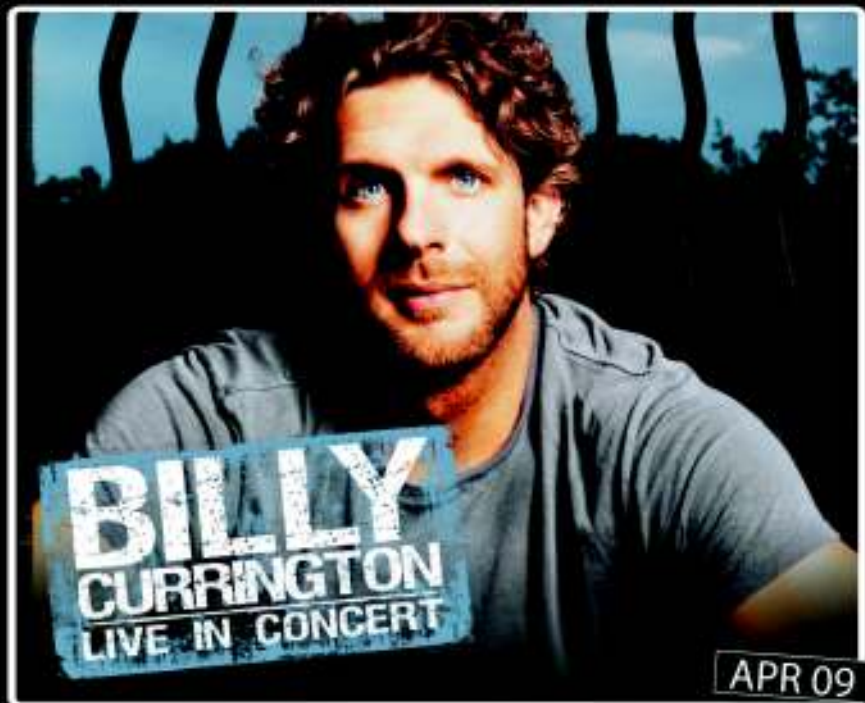
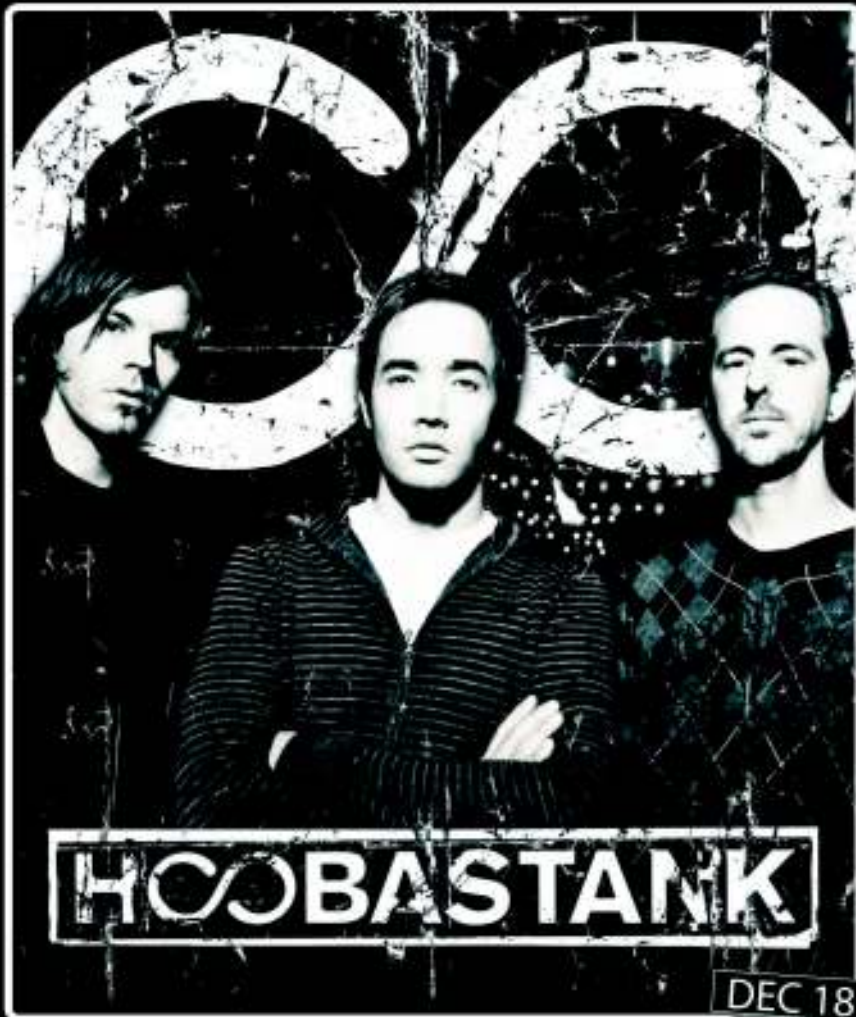
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Rock to Riches Mission Beach author Lee Silber has a radical idea when it comes to starting up a new business in today's economy: aspiring business owners might be better off using Jimmy Buffett's business model over billionaire Warren Buffett's.

In his new book, *Rock to*

allowed her to quit her job and move into her van so she could focus on writing, promoting, and performing full-time. That's commitment."

He also points out that retaining customers through good customer service is no different than creating a fan base with a good live show

Through Loyal Customers," spotlights Ronnie James Dio, who was known to hang out with fans after Black Sabbath and Dio concerts, sometimes spending up to five hours chatting and signing autographs.

From the business side, Silber speaks from experience, taking a chance by selling his chain of local surf shops, Waves and Wheels Surfcenters, to follow his dream of becoming a full-time writer. With 14 books under his belt, he says that successful rock stars, if you look past the decadence and debauchery, can actually be pretty good role models.

"If people can make it in the music business, which everyone knows is highly competitive, very difficult, and dysfunctional, then you can make it in any industry."

— Larry Harmon

It's a Convenience Charge, You

Oxymoron If you bought a ticket through Ticketmaster to see the Wu-Tang Clan last Friday, you were helping Ticketmaster's bottom line almost as much as you were patronizing the House of Blues.

If you bought a \$42.50 ticket through Ticketmaster, you also had to pay \$10.05 to cover Ticketmaster's "convenience charge." That's an additional 23 percent over the ticket price, and all that money went to Ticketmaster.

blurt the inside track

Riches, Silber, who plays bass and drums in a couple of local cover bands, and coauthor Andrew Chapman use anecdotes about Gene Simmons's sales savvy, the Beastie Boys' ability to evolve in changing markets, and AC/DC's work ethic as a model to success in building a business.

"Success leaves clues,"

Silber says. He points to the well-known story about Jewel's rise to fame from O.B.'s coffeehouses to the national spotlight.

"If you want something bad enough, you're willing to make sacrifices," he says. "Jewel gave up her apartment, which

and fan interaction.

"If you're going to run a business, it doesn't matter what you sell — it always involves people and people skills," he says. "The bands that are the most popular to see live, they have a good rapport with their audience. It's the same with a business and its customers."

To make his point, the



SILBER STUDIES ROCK BIZ MODEL

chapter "Raving Fans: Achieving Lasting Success

In August of 2007, Live Nation announced it was ending its relationship with Ticketmaster as of January 1, 2009. Live Nation is the largest concert company in the U.S. In 2007 Live Nation



WU-TANG TIX CHEAPER IN 2010?

concerts brought in \$150 million for Ticketmaster, or 15 percent of its \$1 billion 2007 income.

In announcing its separation from Ticketmaster, Live Nation said it would be selling its own tickets and in turn save its clients money.

San Diego, however, is one of the few cities where Ticketmaster will still have its teeth in Live Nation's business throughout 2009.

That's because when Live Nation (formerly Clear Channel Entertainment) took over House of Blues Entertainment and its quiver of four venues (HoB, Cricket Amphitheatre, Cox Arena, and Open Air Theatre), those properties came with contracts that said that

Ticketmaster would be involved until January 1, 2010.

The Belly Up Tavern, Soma, and the Casbah have long since given up on Ticketmaster and use their

own ticketing service.

AEG Live, operators of the Sports Arena and Qualcomm Stadium's outdoor venue, have not announced any plans to stop using Ticketmaster.

"I wonder about Live Nation suggesting it will save people money," said one music-industry insider. "I'm sure Live Nation will eventually find a way to get that ticket-charge money for themselves."

— Ken Leighton

They Out-Draked

Drake Bill Drake, who created Boss Radio, the Top 40 format that dominated American radio from 1965 to about 1972, died November 29 of lung cancer. The radio

pioneer was 71. Drake's fast-paced Boss Radio format featured the top 30 songs instead of 40 and aired fewer commercials than other stations. He made sure Boss Radio had no dead air. A cappella jingles were sandwiched in between fast-talking deejays who were told to say as little as possible. Boss Radio's flagship station, 93 KHJ in Los Angeles, was launched in May 1965, but the format was perfected in San Diego a year earlier at 136 KGB. Former KGB Boss jock Rich Brother Robbin says KGB's success led to KHJ going Boss. The Boss sound drove KGB and KHJ to the top of the ratings.

"In the late '60s and early '70s, every market in the country had at least one station that was Boss or that copied the Boss format," says Robbin, who was brought to KGB by Drake in 1969.

Robbin was hired away by major competitor KCQB (1170 AM) in 1971, where the pace was even more frenetic: "To the point we even sped up the records so our competitor sounded like they were dragging." Robbin describes his delivery as "going a million miles an hour with my hair on fire. The pace caused an adrenalin addiction with listeners." The rapid-fire delivery worked. Radio insiders say KCQB's 14 share may have made it the most successful local station of the past 50 years. The

(Continued on page 82)

Thursday, December 11

ZAC BROWN BAND
Hit single "Chicken Fried"
GOOD MAN DOWN
JOSH DAMIGO

Friday, December 12

B. Savage Productions presents
SPLIT FINGER
BRENDAN B & THE BREAKS
SANDOLLAR
RED CIRCLE UNDERGROUND
Toys for Tots

BRICK BY BRICK

Saturday, December 13

HECTOR'S REVENGE
GASOLINE CHICKEN
MINDSTRESS
LINDSAY HAIL

Sunday, December 21

CUTTY D • SHEPWEETZ
IMPALA • JUNG ACE
RUSH MONEY PRODUCTIONS

Friday, December 26
Lloyd Hemmings's B-Day Bash
LLOYD HEMMINGS & THE RASVITAMINS
TRC SOUND
SELECTOR REFA • MARCIL PETER SWEETNESS

Saturday, December 27

DGAF
C-CLAN • CARBITE
LADY KILLAS
RHYMESTONE

1/16 Crooked I • Lil Flip • 1/17 The Dwarves • 1/18 Authority Zero • 1/22 Snoot • 1/24 TSOL • Black President • Shot Out Hoods • 2/14 "Hell on Heels" Burlesque Revue • 3/12 The Start • The Action Design • 3/19 Y&T

"SANTA'S NAUGHTY LIST" featuring the

Saturday, December 20

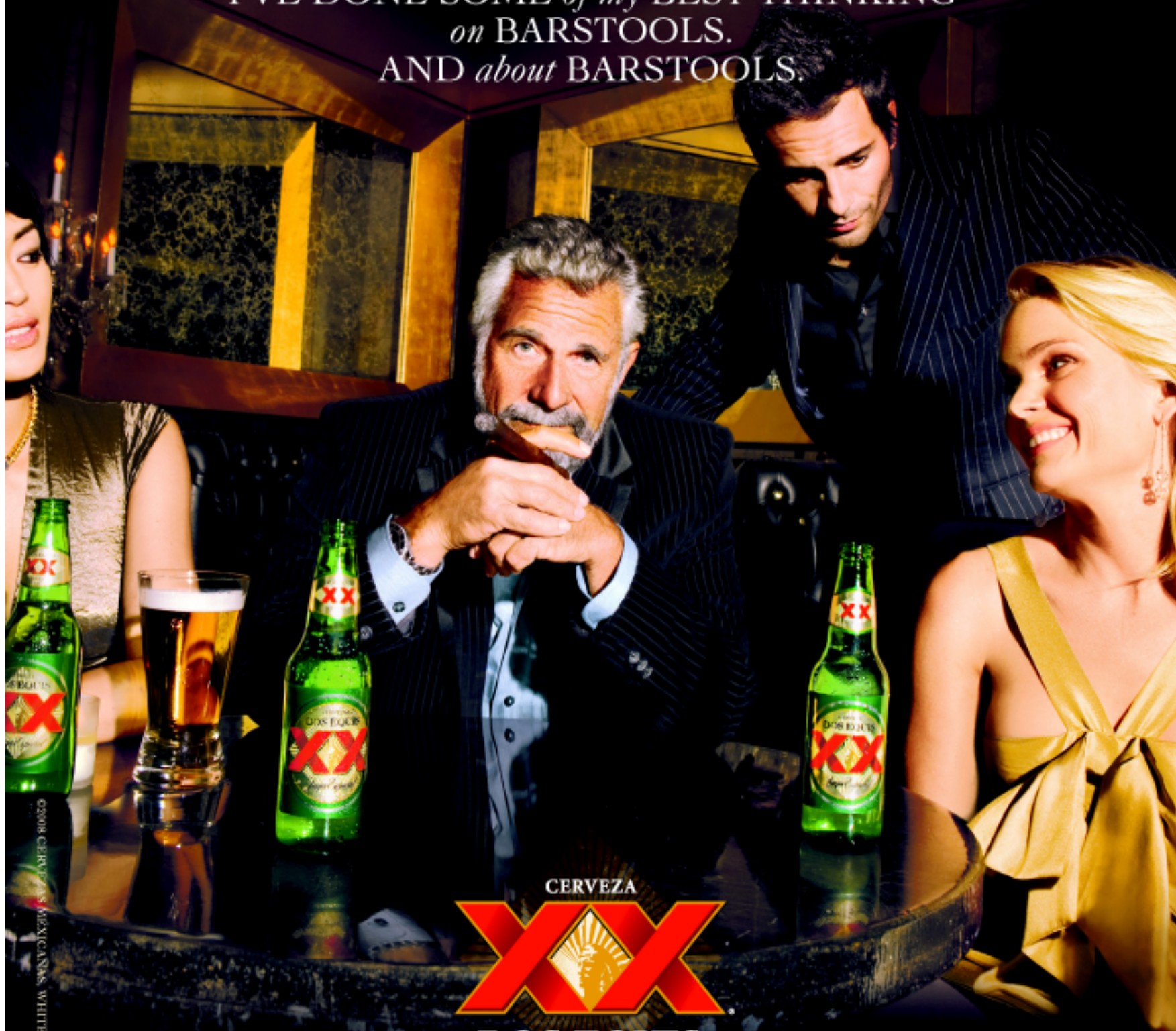
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Thursday, January 15

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Friday & Saturday, December 12 & 13 • 9 pm

Classic Rock



Serious Guise

Sunday, December 14

Fat Man's Misery

Tuesday, December 16

Deadline To Madison

Wednesday, December 17

The Reverend Stickman
Bedpost Buzzards • Fuzz Huzzi

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Thursday, December 11

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Friday & Saturday, December 12 & 13 • 9 pm

Classic Rock



6 ONE 9

Sunday, December 14

The Reverend Stickman
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Tuesday, December 16

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Wednesday, December 17

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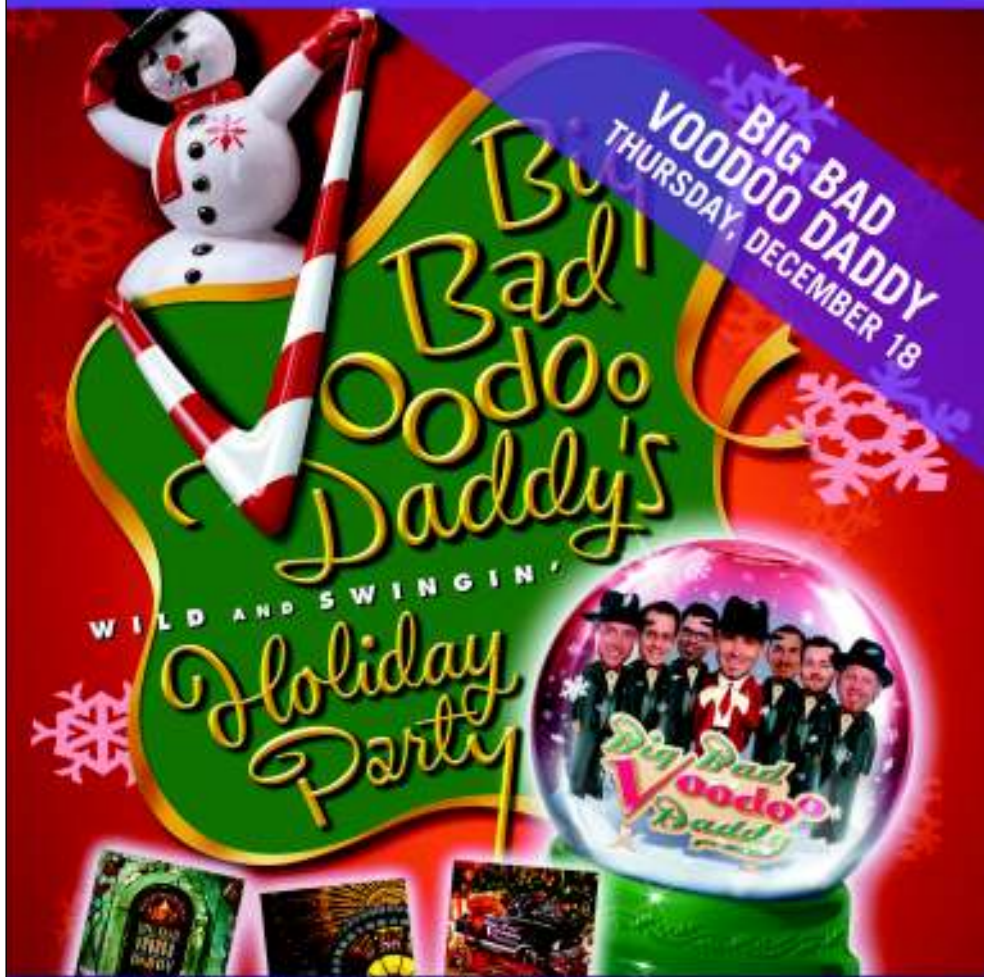
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number-one local station now has a 5 or 6 share.

"We completely decimated KGB. We out-Draked Drake. We forced KGB to abandon the hits and switch to album rock in 1972."

Robbin says this year marks his 50th year in radio. He now runs his own online



BOSS RADIO BOSS (DRAKE)

oldies station, *richbroradio.com* from his home in O.B.

Robbin says live deejays on music stations "are a thing of the past for the most part." Regarding the radio industry, "Budgets have been slashed and staffs have been reduced by greater numbers this year than in any year in radio's history. Several major radio companies' stock prices have fallen to below a dollar a share. A couple are in danger of being de-listed by the NYSE. In other words, radio is about two steps from life support. Drake died at the same time that radio seems to be doing the same thing."

— Ken Leighton

My Happy Ass According to drummer Bill Ray, "My friend called and said, 'Hey, I'm watching this Smithsonian Channel program narrated by Morgan Freeman, and you're on it!' I was, like, WTF?" The TV show, *Sound Revolution*, included a segment on the late Ike Turner, for whom Ray drummed for years. "The footage was shot at the [2002] Montreux Jazz Festival," says Ray, "and it actually included my happy ass playing a drum solo!"

Ray feels Turner's musical legacy is finally being acknowledged. "I believe that the passing of his physical form has stripped away some of the hostilities people held toward him, and his accomplishments are becoming more known."

As for Turner's social legacy, "People don't realize that Ike was the scapegoat for domestic violence. Public awareness of the issue skyrocketed because of that movie [*What's Love Got to Do with It*, portraying Turner as a wife-beater], and it took such a person as Ike to bear that cross. That took fortitude."

One of Ray's current projects is *billysbeats.com*, wherein he posts solo drum tracks and invites others to download and create their own songs around his beats, free of charge. "Neil MacPherson has been creating melodies and lines to some tracks," says Ray. "Smooth-jazz guy Bill Cornish turned in a tune, and Dog Plays Bass from craigslist sent one along. A

OVERHEARD IN SAN DIEGO: UNIVERSITY AVE. JAY ALLEN SANFORD



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guy in Austria sent back a death-metal version to one of my tracks. I'm waiting for the gangsta rappers to start sending me squished, remixed, and tripped-out versions."

He gives away the drum tracks free, though he notes, "If someone were to start making money off something with my tracks, I'd hope that karma would allow them to remember that I have a kid and he's growing constantly."

"There's no way anyone can keep a lid on digital media anymore. You might as well go in prepared to give it away and hope that somehow good things come around."

— Jay Allen Sanford

Good for the Harp, er, Heart "Music played on the harp has several unique healing properties," says Christina Tourin, founder and director

of the International Harp Therapy Program. Based in San Diego, the program trains students to provide comfort and healing through



RAY EXPLAINS IKE

harp music.

Tourin first realized the harp's healing power in 1989, playing for her hospitalized father. Founded in 1995, the Harp Therapy Program works locally with San Diego Hospice and worldwide with Planetree Hospitals, to place harpists at hospital bedsides.

"Children in hospital settings and with other special needs, such as developmen-

tal disabilities, respond well to the harp," says Tourin at *harprealm.com*. "For people in intensive care units and in operating rooms, monitors show that the heart rate decreases and the oxygenation levels increase when soothing harp music is played."

"People who suffer from Alzheimer's disease often

access memory through songs from their past," says Tourin. "During childbirth, harp music helps to create an atmosphere of love and safety, with the possibility of supporting the rhythm of the mother's breathing during appropriate times."

For a \$2400 tuition, the program offers online lessons, books, and DVDs. Students are required to serve hospital shifts at the beginning and end of the course, as well as an 80-hour

internship playing harps in therapeutic settings, under the supervision of an approved mentor.

Since 1991, Christina Tourin has released over a



HARP THERAPIST TOURIN (RIGHT)

dozen music CDs on her own Emerald Harp Productions label, which she sells through her website (\$15 average). She also offers "therapy harps" ("packages starting at only \$391"), including a signature Christina Therapy Harp, from \$1131.

— Jay Allen Sanford

CONTRIBUTORS

William Crain, Dave Good, Larry Harmon, Ken Leighton, Bart Mendoza, Jay Allen Sanford, David Stampone

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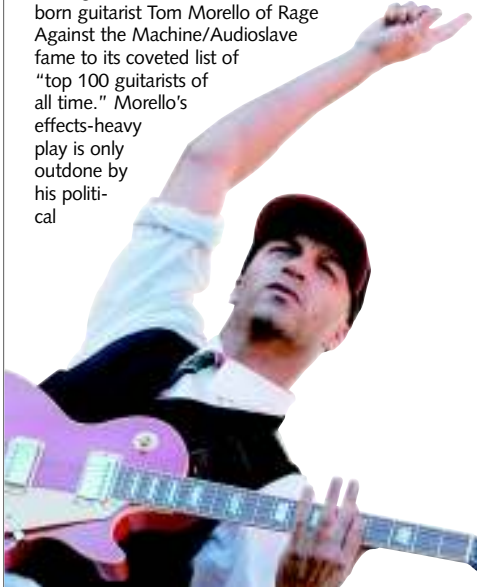
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This Week In Music

Thursday 11

Rolling Stone in 2003 named Harlem-born guitarist Tom Morello of Rage Against the Machine/Audioslave fame to its coveted list of "top 100 guitarists of all time." Morello's effects-heavy play is only outdone by his political



NIGHTWATCHMAN AT BELLY UP

activism, which propelled Rage's work and props his solo sets as the **Nightwatchman**. He is out to tout his new Epic collection *The Fabled City*. Think Woody Guthrie for the punk set. The artist in a *Pitchfork* interview last week addressed the "eerie similarities" between himself and President-elect Obama: "[We both have] Kenyan fathers and white Midwestern mothers...attended Harvard and...are devastatingly handsome." Handsome Nightwatchman Morello will do the late shift at Belly Up tonight with the Coup's wily **Boots Riley** in support.... Around town: House of Blues bills L.A. barroom rockers the **Blasters** and Tex-Mex mainstays **Los Lobos**...local ambients **Ilya** and irreverents **Irradio** mix it up at Bar Pink...Ruby Room snags blues-based **Fred Heath** and his **Slidewinders**...pop rockin' **Paddle Boat** pulls into Whistle Stop with the **Quiet Punx DJs**...Casbah couples **Slow Drag** with **Run Run Run**. Slow Drag is an Argentinean Americana band. Angelinos Run Run Run think Hannah Montana should listen to a little more Joy

Division...and Radio 88.3 tunes in **Illfonix** underground jazz at, appropriately enough, the Radio Room.

Friday 12

"Making Underground Raw Shit." L.A.-based skate-rapper **MURS** hits the beach at Canes Friday night. MURS has been lobbying for the nomination of president of hip-hop, releasing his first on major Warner Bros., *Murs for President*, and an accompanying DVD entitled *Murs Administration*. By his *Billboard* domination, dude's got support, but he still can't land a f-ing kick-flip.... 91X wreX 4th&B with a holiday show featuring party rockers **Slightly Stoopid**, **Cake**, and **Alkaline Trio**.... And for your consideration: Ruby Room fills a bill with punk-pop acts **Wild Weekend**, **Meho Plaza** (L.A.), and **Braaiins!**...SDMA notables **Silent Comedy** and **Transfer** roll into Casbah for a couple this weekend. **Holy Rolling Empire** and **Old Palominos** share the stage Friday night, while it's **BoomSnake** and **Music for Animals** on Saturday...Ché Café stages loudness: **El Ten Eleven**, **Beware of Safety**, **Signal Hill**, and **Japanese Sunday**...while the **Emperors of Japan** join **Starlite Desperation** at Beauty Bar...and **Deadites Revenge**, **G.F.I.**, and **Blood Stained Reality** punk Radio Room.

Saturday 13

Waiting for "a space-age two-step revival"? The Shadox boys're back as psych-folkies **Billy Midnight** join country skrunks **Bartenders Bible** at the Ruby Room Saturday night. Billy Midnight's got a new axe man in Ben Krueger, and the quartet's wrapping up a record due in the spring. Catch 'em working out the new material Fridays at Ould Sod out in Abnormal Heights.... Whistle Stop hosts a video-release thing for SanDago's "Flowfessional rapstronaut" **MC Flow**. The she-rapper will unveil the long-awaited vid to single "Incredible." Check the Space take; it's a'ight.... Our trib to the Man in Black, **Cash'd Out**, wrangle **Hell on Heels Burlesque** for a hoedown at Belly Up.... Indie kids **Mod Amish** will play a CD release for crunchy, catchy debut *No Use for Sunshine* at Radio Room. **Burning of Rome** and **Drowning Men** set the stage.... **Heartaches**

and **Widows** commiserate at the Ken.

Sunday 14

U.K. session man **Dave Mason** takes the stage at Belly Up. The 64-year-old singer-songwriter-guitarist has shared studio and stage with everyone from Hendrix and Clapton to the Stones and Fleetwood Mac. Mason's put out a cool dozen records on his own, too. With Encinitas folk-pop songsmith **Jack Tempchin** (ever heard the Eagles' "Peaceful, Easy Feelin'" or "Already Gone"? Sure you have!), this one's a celebration of the other '70s.... Casbah stages an SDMA hip-hop showcase featuring local playas **Deep Rooted**, the **Kneehighs**, **Young Mass**, **MC Flow**, **Miki Vale**, **Addiquit**, and **Kayo**.... Radio 94.1's Jingle Balls Acoustic events at Anthology have got **Jon McLaughlin** and **Matt Nathanson** Sunday night and **Sara Bareilles** and **Plain White T's** on Monday.... And dark-pop act **Tobyn Clark and the Tender Faeries** conjure a record release at Whistle Stop. **John Meeks** opens.

Monday 15

The mighty **Metallica** meets **Lamb of God** and the **Sword** at Cox Arena Monday night. L.A. metal band Metallica are seven-time Grammy winners. They just released their ninth studio set, *Death Magnetic*, on



METALLICA AT COX ARENA

Warner Bros. Records. They have sold out nearly every date on their yearlong world tour. Paraphrasing a local music writer of some import: "Everything I know about the band I learned from watching the film *Some Kind of Monster* [2004]. Now I really don't get it.... So, go see **Franz Ferdinand**. The Scot poppers are due to drop a new disc, *Tonight*, right after the 'olldays. Catch the quartet at Canes with our own mod-poppy **Muslims**.... Casbah's Anti-Monday league has **Virgins**. And **Hockey!**



BLOC PARTY AT HOUSE OF BLUES

Tuesday 16

Gonna be a **Bloc Party** at House of Blues Tuesday night. The Brit kids broke with 2005's crit-hit *Silent Alarm*, which was named *NME's* album of the year. The quartet's sound has been compared to post-punkers Gang of Four, a common touchstone in current indie-pop circles. Their third, this year's *Intimacy*, all but drops the nu-wave effects of earlier efforts for a rawer trad-pop sound. They are, at bottom, a hell guitar band with a raucous live set. Recommended.... Social D's **Mike Ness** settles his blues-rock and country side into Belly Up for two nights. Ness and the **Mother Truckers** sold out the club Tuesday night, but you can catch him with **Lonesome Spurs** at the Solana Beach hot spot on Wednesday.... Else: Hometown alt-rockers **Black Hondo**, **Gladstone Bags**, and **Nautical Disaster** hit Casbah...while down the street, Anthology stages contempo-jazz Grammy nominees **Spyro Gyra** Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

Wednesday 17

Seattle post-hardcore quartet **These Arms Are Snakes** signed to Suicide Squeeze for their third collection of dance punk, *Tail Swallow and Dove*. The Blood Brothers comparisons make sense, as some of the Bros. have toured and recorded with the Snakes. It's an acquired taste, but the shit rocks socks. They play the Ché Wednesday night with the **Narrows**, **Trap Them**, and **Lewd Acts**.... My Bloody Valentinos **Darker My Love** leave their L.A. outpost to tour behind sophomore Dangerbird set 2. The psych-rock quintet's shoegaze shimmers with the best. Check the Space takes — suggest a smarter, beefier Dandys? SanFran electro-beats band the **Lumerians** and local minimalists **Christmas Island** open these worthy Casbah sets.... Whistle Stop'll screen Nate M. Davis's live concert footage from in and around San Diego. Fifteen years over a few short hours, McFly!

— Barnaby Monk



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Thursday, 11th:
Irish Session: David Lolly

Friday, 12th:
The Mighty Regis

Saturday, 13th:
The Blokes

Sunday, 14th: Special Guest

Monday, 15th:
Monday Night Football

Tuesday, 16th: Ben & Olivia

Wednesday, 17th: Joe Wood

* Dates are subject to change * Check hensleypub.com for details



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Guilty pleasure? "Anything made of silk, satin, or lace."

Melissa Vaughan writes hopeful, heartfelt piano ballads reminiscent of Norah Jones by way of Tori Amos. "My songs have a lot of genres all crumpled together," she says. "I have some jazz, some folk, some circus sounds, and a lot of songs kind of float between styles. It's mostly just mellow music, and the lyrics are usually a bit tongue-in-cheek."

Born and raised in Texas and Oklahoma, Vaughan says she was about seven when she composed her first song. "It was in my great aunt's basement, in Tishomingo, Oklahoma.... My family taught me to appreciate the important things in life: music, reading, expressing yourself creatively, and basements, which are where most important things begin."

After moving to San Diego with little more than a guitar to her name, Vaughan says, "I took a break from doing anything musical for about two years, except for having the occasional hoe-down in my living room." She bought her first piano at a yard sale in 2005 and began writing songs centered around that instrument. Now she can be found performing solo sets around town and throughout Southern California, usually at coffeehouses and open-mike nights.

"I'm just thoroughly content [to be a musician]," she says. "This is my dream."

Melissa Vaughan's self-titled debut album is available on iTunes, CD Baby, and myspace.com/melissavaughan.

WHAT'S IN YOUR CD PLAYER?

1. Dido, *Life for Rent*. "She makes a long road trip danceable."
2. *Once* (soundtrack). "The songs are all so raw, and I love the sound of the acoustic guitar and the way that they use it."
3. "I've always got various soundtracks from the movies, like *The Painted Veil*, *To Kill a Mocking-*

bird, and *Letters from Iwo Jima*. Great music doesn't need lyrics."

MUST-HAVE DVDs?

1. *To Kill a Mockingbird*. "One of the best movies ever made, and Gregory Peck is the god of all actors. Well, besides Paul Newman, of course."
2. *Beauty and the Beast*. "This has been my favorite cartoon since I was seven."
3. *Ponette*. "This story about what goes on in the mind of a four-year-old girl is the one and only movie that makes me cry every time I watch it, but in a good way."
4. *Pee Wee's Big Adventure*. "Creepy, creepy, creepy, cool."

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS?

1. *Elle*. "It's saturated with ads for perfume, which I smell every time, plus it sometimes has insightful articles. Perfumed articles, but insightful."
2. *Fitness*. "This magazine works as an incentive program for me because it makes me feel really bad about eating fast food."

MOST-VISITED WEBSITES?

1. *Twitter.com*. "I just found out about it last weekend, at the behest of a friend. It looks like it's probably the easiest and quickest form of online communication. So far."
2. *Homestarrunner.com*. "This site has hours of entertaining stuff that has nothing to do with anything, which is what's great about it."
3. *T-tapp.com*. "They have some awesome exercises that I do to keep fit, along with forums covering all kinds of healthy do's and don'ts."

FIVE GUILTY PLEASURES?

1. "Sunbathing. I know it's horrible for me, but I do it anyway."



Melissa Vaughan

2. "Godiva Chocolate and Godiva Nut and Caramel assortments."
3. "Bumble and Bumble hair products, which are totally unnecessary but very luxurious."
4. "Sleeping in until one o'clock on a Saturday afternoon when I've gone to bed as early as 9 p.m. the night before."
5. "Anything made of silk, satin, or lace."

WORST JOBS?

1. "I once worked as a certified nursing assistant student at a nursing home. It was difficult because I always got way too attached to residents who then passed away."
2. "When I had a job at Bath & Body Works, I loved the people, but the intensity of the fra-

grances made me dizzy all the time."

SOMETHING IMPOSSIBLE TO DO WITHOUT?

"My cell phone, although I almost never answer it. I like having it handy, in case something happens. I guess I'm a little paranoid sometimes."

FIRST BOOK YOU REMEMBER READING?

"*Little House on the Prairie*, by Laura Ingalls Wilder."

SOMETHING ABOUT YOU FEW WOULD KNOW OR GUESS?

"The first car I ever drove for transportation was a 15-passenger white van." ■

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THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

4th&B: 345 B Street, Downtown, 619-231-4343.
 Friday, 6 p.m. — Slightly Stoopid. With Cake, the Alkaline Trio, the Cold War Kids, and Gaslight Anthem. Reggae/rock/pop. \$32-\$42.
 Saturday, 7 p.m. — Norman Brown and Friends. Smooth jazz. \$35-\$45.

AcousticMusicSanDiego: 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights, 619-303-8176.
 Friday, 7:30 p.m. — Cris Williamson. With Po' Girl. Acoustic/folk/country. \$25.
 Saturday, 7:30 p.m. — Kelly Joe Phelps. Singer-songwriter. \$15-\$20.

Anthology: 1337 India Street, Little Italy, 619-595-0300.
 Thursday, 7 p.m., Friday, 7:30 p.m. — The Anthology House Band. Jazz/R&B/soul. \$5.
 Sunday, Monday — Acoustic Jingle Ball. Presented by local 94.1 FM. Tuesday and Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. — Spyro Gyra. Contemporary jazz. \$32.

Belly Up Tavern: 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.
 Thursday, 9 p.m. — Tom Morello: the Nightwatchman. With Boots Riley. Acoustic/folk/rock. \$25.
 Friday, 9 p.m. — Lady Dottie & the Diamonds. With Mr. Tube & the Flying Objects and Shock & Awe. Blues/soul/rock. \$10-\$12.
 Saturday, 9 p.m. — Cash'd Out. A tribute to Johnny Cash. With Brennen Leigh. \$15-\$17.
 Sunday, 8 p.m. — Dave Mason. With Jack Tempchin. Rock/blues/folk. \$26-\$28.
 Monday, 8 p.m. — Missy Higgins. With Robert Francis. Acoustic/alternative/pop. \$17-\$19.
 Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 p.m. — Mike Ness. The co-founding member of Social Distortion. Punk/blues/country. \$30.

Bing Crosby's Restaurant and Piano Lounge: 7007 Friars Road, Mission Valley, 619-295-2464.
 Friday, 7 p.m. — David Patrone. Jazz/lounge. Free.

Brick by Brick: 1130 Buena Vista Avenue, Linda Vista, 619-275-5483.
 Thursday, 8 p.m. — The Zac Brown Band. Country/folk/rock. \$12-\$15.
 Friday, 8 p.m. — Split Finger and Brendan B & the Breaks. With Sandollar and Red Circle

Underground. Reggae/hip-hop/rock. \$10-\$12.
 Saturday, 7:30 p.m. — Mindstress and Lindsay Hail. With guests. Alternative/rock/acoustic. \$10.
 Sunday, 6 p.m. — Acoustic Alliance. Various acoustic singer-songwriters. \$8.
 Wednesday, 8 p.m. — Kill Chauntel and Lumina. With Con Fusion and Battle of 1337. Alternative/rock/hip-hop.

Bully's La Jolla: 5755 La Jolla Boulevard, La Jolla, 858-459-2768.
 Friday — Willovalot. Smooth jazz.

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.

Canes: 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-488-1780.
 Thursday, 8 p.m. — XIV, Beautiful Trouble, Sheila Sondergard. Alternative/indie/rock. \$6.
 Friday, 9 p.m. — Murs. Hip-hop/rap.
 Monday, 8 p.m. — Franz Ferdinand. Indie/rock/pop. \$20-\$25.

Carvers: 11940 Bernardo Plaza Drive, Rancho Bernardo, 858-566-2400.
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The Casbah: 2501 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-

4355.
 Thursday, 8:30 p.m. — Slowdrag and Run Run Run. With Von Iva and Publicists. Rock. \$8.
 Friday, 8:30 p.m. — The Silent Comedy and Transfer. With Holy Rolling Empire and the Old Palominos. Indie/rock/folk. \$12.
 Sunday, 8:30 p.m. — Kayo, Deep Rooted, the Kneehighs. Local rap showcase with Young Mass, Addiquit, and Miki Vale. \$6-\$8.
 Monday, 8:30 p.m. — The Virgins and Hockey. New wave/R&B/soul. \$10-\$12.
 Tuesday, 8:30 p.m. — Black Hondo and the Gladstone Bags. With Nautical Disaster. Alternative/rock. \$5.
 Wednesday, 8:30 p.m. — Darker My Love and Lumerians. With Christmas Island. Indie/rock/soul.

Ché Café: 9500 Gilman Drive, UCSD, 858-534-2311.
 Friday, 8 p.m. — El Ten Eleven and Beware of Safety. With Signal Hill and Japanese Sunday. Indie/rock/electro. \$7.
 Wednesday, 7 p.m. — These Arms Are Snakes and Narrows. With Trap Them and Lewd Acts. Rock/punk/hardcore.

Claire de Lune: 2906 University Avenue, North Park, 619-688-9845.
 Saturday, 8 p.m. — The Uptown Rhythm Makers. Dixieland jazz.

Copley Symphony Hall: 750 B Street, Downtown, 619-235-0804.
 Monday, 7:30 p.m. — Chris Botti. Jazz for a Winter Pops special event. Reservations: 619-235-0804. \$40-\$100.

Cox Arena: 550 Campanile Drive, College Area, 619-594-6947.
 Monday, 7 p.m. — Metallica. With

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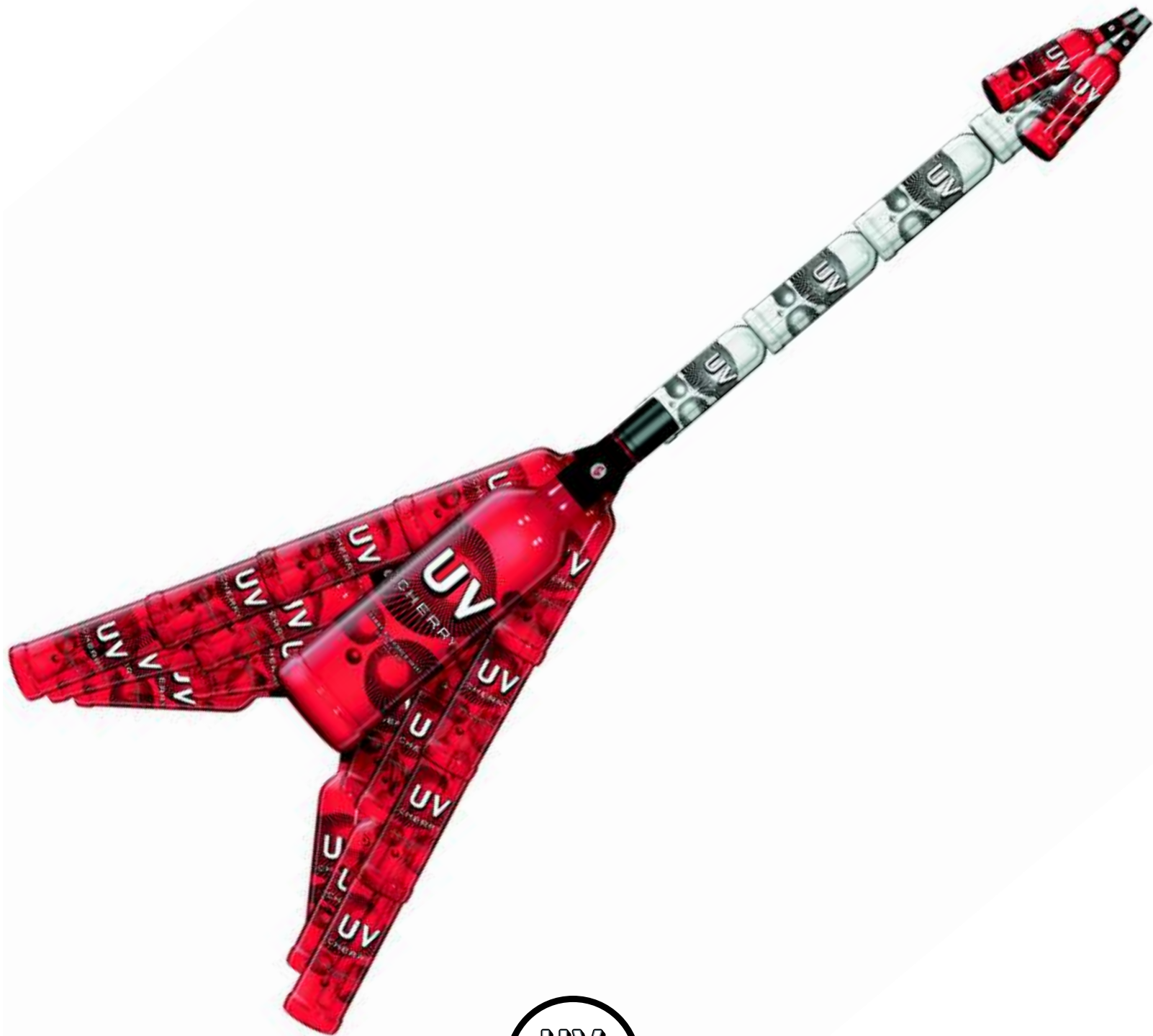
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Dirk's Niteclub: 7662 Broadway, Lemon Grove, 619-469-6344. Friday, Saturday — TNT.

Dizzy's: 200 Harbor Drive, Downtown, 858-270-7467. Sunday, 5 p.m. — Daniel Jackson Benefit Concert. With various local jazz musicians. \$10-\$25. Tuesday, 7 p.m. — Latanya Lockett. A benefit for the Sweetwater High School music program. Soul/funk. \$20.

Epicentre: 8450 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa, 858-271-4000. Saturday, 7 p.m. — The Material and Misdelpia. With Gunpowder Sunset and the Haven. Alternative/rock/pop. \$7-\$9.

Fannie's Nightclub: 9143 Campo Road, Spring Valley, 619-698-2204. Thursdays — Fuzz-Huzzi. Alternative/pop/punk.

Forum Shopping Center: 1923 Calle Barcelona, Carlsbad, 760-479-0166. Sunday, 1 p.m. — Adrienne Nims & Spirit Wind. With Jim Lair. Contemporary jazz/global music.

GIO Wine Bar & Restaurant: 8384 La Mesa Boulevard, La Mesa, 619-462-9100. Wednesday, 7 p.m. — David Patrone. Jazz/lounge. Free.

Galley at the Marina: 550 Marina Parkway, Chula Vista, 619-422-5714. Sunday, 5 p.m. — The Rhythm Jacks. Rhythm and blues.

Gaslamp Quarter: Downtown. Thursday, 5 p.m. — Blue Christmas. Local blues, R&B, and jazz musicians perform at various venues.

Georgina Cole Library: 1250 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad, 760-434-2870. Monday, 7 p.m. — Adrienne Nims and Raggle Taggle. A blend of jazz, Celtic, and Latin music.

House of Blues: 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-299-2583. Thursday — Los Lobos. Rock/Latin/blues.

Friday, 7 p.m. — Anthony Hamilton. R&B/soul. \$27-\$47. Wednesday, 7 p.m. — Appetite for Destruction. A tribute to Guns N' Roses. Back in Black also performs a tribute to AC/DC. \$12-\$22.



Humphrey's Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-224-3577. Thursday, 8:30 p.m. — Ruby & the Red Hots. Blues. \$5.

Friday, 9:30 p.m. — Viva Santana. A tribute to Carlos Santana. \$12. Saturday, 9:30 p.m. — 5 Miles High. Classic rock. \$12. Sunday, 8 p.m. — Daryll Williams. Smooth-jazz. \$12.

Monday, 7 p.m. — Chet Cannon. Blues. Free. Tuesday, 7 p.m. — The 145th Street Deluxe Blues Band. Blues/funk. \$5. Wednesday, 8 p.m. — The Soul Persuaders. Sweet soul music. \$5.

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Lestat's Coffee House: 3343 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-282-0437.

Thursday — Ernie Halter and the Pat McGee Band. With Tony Lucca.

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Wednesday, 8 p.m. — Laguna.

Mulvaney's Wagon Wheel:

8861 Magnolia Avenue, Santee, 619-448-8550.

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Saturday, 6 p.m. — Mariner.

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O'Connell's Pub and

Nightclub: 1130 Morena Blvd.,

Linda Vista, 619-276-5637.

Friday, 9 p.m. — High Tide. With

Baby Mouse & Da Rude Boys and

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Saturday, 9 p.m. — Dead as

Dillinger. With Exit 86 and Eclipse

79. Alternative/rock/reggae.

Sunday, 9 p.m. — Mayhem &

OF NOTE

BY DAVE GOOD

Call them guitar geeks. They are mostly middle-aged white working-class guys who have a thing for guitar heroes past and present. After an evening of guitar pyrotechnics, they will crowd around the bar and pound beers and vodka shots and pontificate on the virtues of, say, Ritchie Blackmore vs. Pat Travers or Joe Satriani vs. George Lynch. They know every famous rock guitarist and keep a mental file of guitar-god trivia such as what brand of amp Stevie Ray Vaughan used. In the spirit of full disclosure, I admit that I too am a guitar geek, so when I mention **Kirk Hammett's** name and say that without him **Metallica** would be just another bar

band, you know where I'm coming from.

"Sometimes," writes Chuck Klosterman in his book *Fargo Rock City*, "I think Hammett is the most underrated guitarist of his generation, even though he bores the piss out of me 80 percent of the time." Likewise, I find **Lars Ulrich** and **James Hetfield** to be tireless rock-and-roll drones. They are dispensable, cartoonish musicians, even though they've won Grammys and are among the richest of heavy-metal musicians. Come on — Hetfield sounds like a singing Popeye.

Founded in '81 in Los Angeles by Ulrich, Metallica had the good judgment early on to eject original guitarist Dave Mustaine in favor of Kirk Hammett, who has since carried the band and created Metallica's most memorable riffs. *Rolling Stone* ranked him at number 11 on its list of the top 100 best guitar players in 2003.



METALLICA

His work is intimidating, always original, and never cliché. He's earned his place in the mythical hall of immortal guitar heroes, a point that I will argue until last call with any guitar geek, metalhead or not.

METALLICA, Cox Arena, Monday, December 15, 7 p.m. 619-594-6947. \$59.50 and \$79.50.

Miracles. With Roosevelt and the Bowers Boys.

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Monday, 8 p.m. — Mystery Train.

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Wednesday, 9 p.m. — The Shamey

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Lafe, and Chuck Schiele.

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Osetra Watergrill: 904 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-239-1800.

Thursdays, 8 p.m. — Live Jazz. In the E5 Lounge. Free.

Wednesdays, 8 p.m. — Los Reyes

del Ritmo. Flamenco and Latin

music in the E5 Lounge. Free.

Pasquale on Prospect: 1250

Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-456-

0722.

Sundays, 6 p.m. — Stage 4.

Jazz/rhythm and blues.

Patrick's II: 428 F Street,

Downtown, 619-233-3077.

Thursday — Blue Four. Blues/soul.

Friday — The Fremonts. Blues.

Saturday, Sunday — Bill Magee

Blues Band. Blues/soul/rock.

Monday — Blue Four. Blues/soul.

Tuesday — Shelle Blue. Rhythm

and blues.

Wednesday — Len Rainey & the

Midnight Players. Blues/jazz/soul.

Radio Room: 3519 El Cajon

Blvd., North Park, 619-284-3323.

Friday — Deadites Revenge and

G.F.I. With Blood Stained Reality. Punk/hardcore.

Saturday — The Burning of Rome

and the Drowning Men. With Mod

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mental.

Sunday — Better Class of Flying

Man. Indie/rock.

Wednesday — Bartenders Bible.

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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.

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 with Bryan Whelan, Doug Walker, Laurel Grinnell, and friends.

The Round Table Cocktail Lounge: 1723 Euclid Avenue, City Heights, 619-264-6000.
Tuesdays, 6 p.m. — Charlie Blue. Blues.

The Royal Dive: 2949 San Luis Rey Road, Oceanside, 760-722-1911.
Friday, 9 p.m. — Heavy Glow. Alternative/rock/blues.

Ruby Room: 1271 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-299-7372.
Thursday, 8 p.m. — Fred Heath &

the Slidewinders. Blues/soul. \$5.
Friday, 8 p.m. — Wild Weekend and Meho Plaza. With Braaiins. Garage/pop/punk.
Saturday, 8 p.m. — Billy Midnight and Bartenders Bible. Alternative/country/rock.
Sunday, 8 p.m. — Janu & the Whalesharks. With Generous Alzir! and Street of Little Girls. Indie/folk/rock.
Monday, 8 p.m. — The Tighthen Ups. Blues/rock/soul. Free.
Wednesday, 8 p.m. — Perfect Blue and Mod Amish. Alternative/rock.

San Diego Humane Society and SPCA: 5500 Gaines Street, Linda Vista.
Friday, 6 p.m. — Forecast. Jazz/rock. \$10.

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.

Thursday, 7 p.m. — Underneath the Gun and the Word Alive. With a Shattered Hope, Seconds From Disaster, and As They Burn Alive. Christian metal/hardcore. \$10.
Friday, 7 p.m. — 3oh!3 and Innerpartysystem. With Chain Gang of 1974 and the Pirate Signal. Electro/rock. \$12.
Saturday, 7 p.m. — My American Heart. With Danger Radio, the

OF NOTE

BY WILLIAM CRAIN

Los Angeles five-piece **Darker My Love** takes their name from a song by the punk band TSOL, and one of their two vocalists used to be in the hardcore band the Nerve Agents, but that doesn't tell you much about what Darker My Love sounds like. (And, in case you were wondering, Darker My Love doesn't sound like I Love You But I've Chosen Darkness.)

When Darker My Love starts off their second album, *2*, with a squall of feedback and a monstrous descending guitar riff, what it sounds like is a grunge band circa 1991. Then comes the next song, "Blue Day," which sounds like a harder-rocking version of a Manchester

baggy act circa 1989. After that it's on to the Supergrass-meets-Jesus and Mary Chain sound of "Two Ways Out." Elsewhere, Darker My Love delves into gentler '60s psychedelia and some other recognizable sounds, but by the time you get to those parts of the album you've realized that it's a mistake to play spot-the-influence with these guys.

Darker My Love knows that being a rock band in 2008 means taking bits and pieces from rock's past and reassembling them into something that moves you. If you're lucky, it will move your fans, too. Never mind the old questions of "Is it original?" or "Is it relevant?" The only question that matters now is "Do you like it?"

"Baby, you got me talking words/ Got me meaning less," vocalists **Tim Presley** and **Rob Barbato** sing at one point. But they sing



DARKER MY LOVE

it against a fuzz guitar riff that's so cool that you will be convinced that the whole concept of "meaning" is overrated.

DARKER MY LOVE, Casbah, Wednesday, December 17, 8:30 p.m. 619-232-4355. \$10.

Morning Of, Artist vs. Poet, and Misdelpnia. Alternative/pop/rock. \$12.
Sunday, 6 p.m. — Mustard Plug. With Chase Long Beach, the Skank Agents, One Drop, and Dr. Skavra. Ska/punk. \$10.

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

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Sundays, 6 p.m. — Original Music Modern Jazz Series. Every Sunday, with Doug Walker, Tim Nunnink, Nick Tocco, and Nathan Hubbard.

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

Thornton's Irish Pub and Grill: 1221 Broadway, El Cajon, 619-447-5665.
Friday — Hugh Gaskins & the G String Daddies. Blues/soul/rockabilly.

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FRIDAY 12/12 • 9 PM

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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



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12/16 & 12/17 • 9 PM

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SUNDAY 12/21 • 8 PM

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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 DJ's**
TUESDAY 12/23 • 9 PM

BASSNECTAR



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OSAL'S**
FRIDAY 12/26 • 9 PM

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CONGRESS REUNION**



SATURDAY 12/27 • 9 PM

PARTICLE



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SUNDAY 12/28 • 9 PM

**CRACKER AND
CAMPER VAN
BEETHOVEN**



MONDAY 12/29 • 8 PM

**RUB-A-DUB TUESDAY
KUSH**



DUB TRAFFIC CONTROL DJ's
TUESDAY 12/30 • 9 PM

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THE NIGHT MARCHERS**



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THE CHEAP LEIS**
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PATO BANTON



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DJ CARLOS CULTURE**
FRIDAY 1/2 • 9 PM

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PEPPER**



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PASSAFIRE**
SATURDAY 1/3 • 9 PM

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2/5 Todd Snider solo acoustic - On sale tomorrow @ noon!

2/12 ALO - On sale Friday @ noon!

2/13 Common Sense • 3/6 Delta Spirit

UPCOMING SHOWS:

1/7 New Acoustic Generation w/Michael
Tiernan Trio & Owen Roberts
1/9 Elijah Emanuel w/Skanic
1/10 Dead Man's Party
1/11 David Lindley
1/14 Marc Broussard
1/15 The Knitters w/The Farmers
1/16 Marcia Ball

1/17 40 Oz. to Freedom
1/19 The Walkmen
1/21 North Mississippi Allstars
1/22-1/24 Ozomatli - Three Nights!
1/30 The Cured
2/15 Susan Tedeschi
2/16 & 2/19 Donavon Frankenreiter
w/Gary Jules

2/20 Super Diamond
3/12 Solana Beach Baseball Bash feat.
Atomic Groove
3/21 Stepping Feet: The Dave Matthews
Band Experience
4/4 John Brown's Body

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12/12 **Candy Kane**
12/19 **Atomic Groove**



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>most downloaded



"Bench to the Bus Stop," by Nature of the Beast, was the most-downloaded MP3 from *SDReader.com* during November. Below is an interview with members of the group.

Ollie: I just gave Nature of the Beast a lukewarm review. All right, clear your name, tell me what you think I missed and what you're trying to do with your music that I didn't quite understand.

MarkmyWords: It's not even necessary to clear our name. I'm pretty happy with what Nature of the Beast stands for and has accomplished at

this point. Those that know, know. And for those that don't, hopefully a half-thought-out and slanderous review won't sway them from listening to new music....

Hip-hop in San Diego is far different than the *Reader* will lead you to believe, and I can assure you my topics are far more than "boasts of my fighting and sexual prowess." Never on the album do I talk about either. This song [lyrics below] is the only song on the album where I mention women; you can see the "cliché" derogatory terms I used, right?

"Bench to the Bus Stop" is a song about my mom dying when I was 15 and the health conditions that my wife deals with currently that could cause

her to die at the same point in my son's life. The topic is about going through the same dramatic situation in life twice, each time in a different role. I feel it's a truly original and deeply personal topic....

DJ Sinn: I agree that the album had its flaws and the overall sound quality and just the way we went about recording the album and making it was with the best we had. I'm not rolling in bread and neither is Mark so we dumped everything into a portable 16-track digital Yamaha outboard recorder. It's rough and grimy, but that was our budget....

I was totally blown away when I read what Ollie had to say about me, though, just because a lot of critics don't



Nature of the Beast

really ever understand scratching or its place in hip-hop culture. Back in the day, the deejay ran the show and was the key member of a group....

I agree, too, with the oversaturation at times with my scratching, and I've talked to Mark about it after the album was dropped. It's cool, though, because we both agreed after working on this album for over two years we needed to just drop the album. It's an opportunity for us to show growth on the next album, which we're gonna start working on full steam

in the beginning of the new year.

Lyrics to first verse of "Bench to the Bus Stop" (see *SDReader.com* for full lyrics)

My childhood, was like a nightmare,
But from the high chair, I never cried tears,
If I died, shit, why would I care,
I'd just disguise it and hide it behind the dyed hair.

I was asleep most of the time on a bed in the streets,
Barely alive hanging on by the skin of my teeth,
Probably high or drunk, or something in between,
F*cking hungry, I had to steal to eat.

My mother just died, father

went senile,
Sister so fed up that she fled the scene,
It was a circus, three rings and worthless,
Human in the middle trying to scrape the remains.

Evaluate the purpose and escape the dreams,
Cause I'll never really see until I break the chains,
I push for the light on every night that it rains,
Until I finally find I have enough light to escape.

[DJ Sinn scratch hook]
Behold my life

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4600.
Thursday, 8 p.m. — Third Eye Blind. Alternative/rock.

Waterfront Bar & Grill: 2044 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy. **Saturday**, 9:30 p.m. — The Rhythm Jacks. Rhythm and blues. Free.

Winstons: 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822. **Saturday**, 5 p.m. — The Bigfellas and Robbie Gennet. Alternative rock/pop. \$3.

UPCOMING SHOWS

AcousticMusicSanDiego: 4650 Mansfield Street, Normal Heights, 619-303-8176. **January 9** — Al Kooper. **January 10** — Trace Bundy.

January 13 — Elliott Murphy. **January 15** — The John Jorgenson Quintet. **January 16** — Fred Eaglesmith. **January 17** — Peter Rowan.

Anthology: 1337 India Street, Little Italy, 619-595-0300. **December 18** — The Anthology House Band. **December 19** — Detroit Underground. **December 23** — The Heroes. **December 26** — Martinis & Sinatra. **December 28** — Robert Vincelli & His Band. **December 30** — David Maldonado. **December 31** — The Anthology House Band. **January 2** — Pocket. **January 2** — Gene Perry's Noche de Rumba Salsa Jazz Orchestra. **January 3** — Janiva Magness. **January 3** — Charmaine Clamor. **January 6** — The Anthology House

Band. **January 7** — Buster Williams, Patrice Rushen, Lenny White. **January 8** — Poncho Sanchez. **January 14** — Chuchito Valdes. **January 16, January 17** — Stanley Clarke. **January 18** — Robben Ford.

Athenaeum Music and Arts Library: 1008 Wall Street, La Jolla, 858-454-5872. **January 12** — Ron Morebello. **January 17** — Marilyn Crispell.

Belly Up Tavern: 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-481-8140. **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.

Brick by Brick: 1130 Buenos Avenue, Linda Vista, 619-275-5483. **December 19** — Staring at Strange and Tripp. **December 21** — Cutty D & Shepweeze. **December 26** — Lloyd Hemmings. **December 27** — DGAF and C-Clan. **January 15** — Alex Skolnick. **January 16** — Lil' Flip. **January 17** — The Dwarves.

Canes: 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-488-1780. **December 18** — PAC 10 and ThumTac. **December 19** — Canobliss. **December 20** — 40 Oz. to Freedom. **December 26** — Blue Sky Blonde and Fuzz-Huzzi. **December 27** — Unified Division and Static Revolution. **December 31** — The B-Side Players. **January 2** — Agua Dulce and Montecristo.

January 3 — Sashamon. **January 9** — Lights. **January 17** — Necro. **The Casbah:** 2501 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-4355. **December 18** — Ziggy Shuffledust & the Spiders from Mars. **December 19** — The Creepy Creeps and Braaiins. **December 20** — Dirty Sweet. **December 21** — Scarlet Symphony and Sayvinyl. **December 22** — Tape Deck Mountain and Madison County. **December 23** — Fuzz-Huzzi and Plane Without a Pilot. **December 24** — Exile on Kettner Blvd. **December 26** — Dynamite Walls and Crash Encore. **December 27** — Sweet & Tender Hooligans. **December 28** — Staring at the Sun

"Larry the Cable Guy"
December 12
"Dancing with the Stars"
December 17
Cheetah Girls
December 21
"Walking with Dinosaurs"
January 1-4
"Annie"
January 9-11
John Legend
January 16
Jeff Dunham
January 16
WEC Cage Fighting
January 25
"High School Musical Ice Tour"
January 28-Feb. 1
Mötley Crüe
February 2
Robin Williams
February 12
Styx
February 14

Holiday Bowl

Oregon vs. Oklahoma St., December 30



Metallica
December 15

"Grease"
March 3-8

Barry Manilow
March 8

Slipknot
March 8

"Rent"
March 10-15

"Thomas & Friends"
March 20, 21, 22

Joe Bonamassa
March 20

"Rain: The Beatles Experience"
April 21-26

Poinsettia Bowl
TCU vs. Boise St., December 23

Chargers vs. Broncos
December 28

Harlem Globetrotters
February 13 & 15

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SAT., DEC. 13

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THURS., DEC. 18

**PAC 10
THUMTAC
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SWISHER STREETS
AFTER SCHOOL
SPECIAL**

SAT., DEC. 20

**40 OUNCES
TO
FREEDOM
(Sublime Tribute)**
STEPPING FEET
Dave Matthews Band Tribute

SAT., DEC. 27

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SAT., JAN. 3

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1/23: CASH'D OUT • 1/24: TAINTED LOVE
1/31: (hed)p.e.**

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FRI., DEC. 12

MURS
PROGRESS • TWOMPS

MON., DEC. 15

**FRANZ
FERDINAND.
THE MUSLIMS**

FRI., DEC. 19

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SIX REASONS**
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DENY THE SILENTS
BOMBAY STATUS**

SUN., DEC. 28

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VASH THE
STAMPEDE
VISION • PRELIM
DJ REDLITE**

FRI., JAN. 2

**AGUA
DULCE
PSYDECA
ROOTS COVENANT**

FRI., JAN. 9

**LIGHTS
(Journey Tribute)
JUMPING JACK
FLASH
(Stones Tribute)
HOT AUGUST NIGHT
(Neil Diamond Tribute)**

as i hear it

BY BRIAN CARVER

Artist: **Jesse Johnson**
Song: "Spread the Love" (from the CD *Cause and Effect*)
Heard By: **Peter Milmo**, New York City



Peter

I thought he had a great voice. The song had a lot of movement, but it was all over the place and a little bit corny. I felt like I was listening to three songs with one chorus. The

chorus was "To reach heaven above, all you've got to do is spread the love." I suppose that was poignant but a little clichéd. I didn't really feel like he was telling a story with his lyrics, which I like in music. I would describe it as pop/funk/soul...kind of like Gavin DeGraw. If I were a music producer, I think there would be some things I'd fix before I put it on the radio, but it's a good "wake up in the morning" song.

Artist: **Philip Treas**
Song: "The End" (from the CD *Scarecrow Chasing Rabbits*)
Heard By: **Garrett Voekle**, Normal Heights



Garrett

It's that singer-songwriter formula. There was nothing really original about it. The music itself — the instruments — sounded all right. It was heavy on the acoustic guitar. That seemed to be

done well, but I didn't like the vocals and I didn't like the lyrics. The lyrics were just random sappiness. The song itself had a pretty common sound, but the vocals were like Dylan at his worst. I don't see that song in particular being successful. I picture open-mike night at Lestat's when I hear that song. There's a lot of folk music I like, but that just didn't click with me.

Artist: **Extinct Animals**
Song: "Bombs" (from the CD *War Is Terror*)
Heard By: **Tony Cooper**, College Area



Tony

I kept thinking of Zach de la Rocha of Rage Against the Machine. It's sort of that school of protest music. The slip-case of the CD reinforces that. In terms of their instrumental, I kind

of wished they pushed it more. It's still got too much of a homegrown feel to it, and it needs more polish. There's a little bit of an electronica influence. It was very politicized. I always think of that Chinese proverb, "May you live in interesting times." It's kind of a curse. We're living in very interesting times. There are all kinds of protest music these days. Angry or subversive stuff like that can be cathartic, depending on your mood.

TO GET YOUR LOCAL CD HEARD, PLEASE MAIL IT TO:

Music Editor, As I Hear It, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803

Vol. 6.
December 29 — Finally Punk and Crocodiles.
December 31 — The Rugburns and Steve Poltz.
January 2 — The Nashville Ramblers.
January 3 — The Slackers and the Impalers.
January 5 — The Long & Short of It.
January 6 — Earthless and Hostile Comb-Over.
January 7 — Bob Log III.
January 8, January 9 — Lucy's Fur Coat.
January 10 — The Dragons and Deadbolt.
January 12 — Furious IV and fluf.
January 13 — The Meat Puppets and Benji Hughes.
January 15 — Honey Glaze and

Choro.
January 16 — El Vez.
January 17 — The Album Leaf.
Ché Café: 9500 Gilman Drive, UCSD, 858-534-2311.
December 28 — Total Fury and Broken Needle.
Cox Arena: 550 Campanile Drive, College Area, 619-594-6947.
February 2 — Mötley Crüe.
March 8 — Slipknot.

Dizzy's: 200 Harbor Drive, Downtown, 858-270-7467.
December 19 — The Gilbert Castellanos Quartet.
December 22 — The Jazz Ensemble.
December 23 — Kalido-Skopio.
January 4 — The Outlaw Collective.
January 10 — The Gilbert Castellanos Quartet.

Dream Street Live: 2228 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-8131.
December 19 — HeadRUSH.
Epicentre: 8450 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa, 858-271-4000.
December 18 — The Maine and Radio Racer.

House of Blues: 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-299-2583.
December 18 — Brian Culbertson.
December 19 — Unwritten Law.
December 21 — The Vandals.
December 26 — The Cured.
December 28 — Ratt.
December 30 — The Wailers.
January 1 — Reel Big Fish.
January 2 — Pepper.
January 3 — The Radiators.
January 4 — B.B. King.

January 5 — The Meteors.
January 6 — George Clinton & the P-Funk All Stars.
January 9 — Led Zepagain.
January 10 — Bonfire.
January 15 — Boyz II Men.
January 17 — Rebelution.
January 18 — Eric Johnson.

Humphrey's Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma, 619-224-3577.
December 18 — Haute Flash.
December 19 — Rising Star.
December 20 — Dennis Jones.
December 21 — Reggie Smith.
December 22 — The Robin Henkel Band.
December 23 — Jesse Davis.
December 25 — Aubrey Fay.
December 26 — Javier Batis & Jose Serrano.
December 27 — Viva Santana.
December 28 — Patrick Yandall.
December 29 — Michele Lundeen & Blues Streak.
December 30 — Private Domain.
December 31 — Detroit Underground.

Lestat's Coffee House: 3343 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-282-0437.
December 18 — Alex DePue & Miguel De Hoyos.
December 19 — Ralpheene and Rob Deez.
December 20 — Allison Lonsdale and Curtis Peoples.
December 21 — Dave Boodakian and Kenny Eng.
December 26 — Silverleaf.
December 27 — Josh Damigo.
December 28 — Nate Donniss and the Wrong Trousers.

Poway Center for the Performing Arts: 15498 Espola Road, Poway, 858-748-0505.
December 19 — The RB Chorale.
January 10 — David Hidalgo & Louie Perez.

Price Center: 9500 Gilman Drive, UCSD, 858-534-6467.
April 15 — Seun Kuti & Egypt 80.

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<p>SUNDAY • DECEMBER 14 SDMA HIP-HOP SHOW DEEP ROOTED THE KNEEHIGHS YOUNG MASS MC FLOW • MIKI VALE ADDIQUIT • KAYO</p>	<p>TUESDAY • DECEMBER 16 BLACK HONDO GLADSTONE BAGS NAUTICAL DISASTER</p>	<p>MONDAY • DECEMBER 22 ANTI-MONDAY LEAGUE PRESENTS TAPEDECK MOUNTAIN MADISON COUNTY BLACK MAMBA</p>
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Crasher

FABULOUS FEMURS, ALUMINUM SHOES

by Josh Board

I remember the first time I came in to a little money as a teenager and went to buy Christmas gifts for friends and family. I went to the Fashion Valley mall and remember walking by the lingerie store, conscious not to look in the window very long. I didn't want anyone to think I was some pervy kid. I did look long enough to notice that the store was packed — with 90 percent men. Do they know what her "secret" is? Am I missing something?

I had a girlfriend at the time but wouldn't have dreamt of buying her lingerie. If I went the clothing route, it would be a dress she could wear out for everyone to admire.

And weren't those guys really just buying those frilly gifts for themselves?

It would be years before a woman put on lingerie for me. I laughed. That wasn't the reaction she wanted. My explanations — saying that she looked like a madam from a brothel or a stripper in an old burlesque show — made it even worse. I'm sure most men feel differently; otherwise, these companies couldn't stay in business.

Just because I'm not a fan of lingerie doesn't mean I'd pass up the opportunity I got this Halloween — a lingerie party. The



Models walked the stairs

best part? I wouldn't have to wear any to get in.

A woman named Pamela runs a local company called Her Playroom. She started the business a few years ago.

I met her last year at the Beauty Bar when she hosted a fashion show there. My girlfriend at the time was friends with one of the models — one of those rare times you could

"My wife and I ordered the Good Cop, Bad Cop outfit."

stare at a date's attractive friend and not get elbowed in the ribs.

The directions that were emailed to me several months earlier said the party was on Indiana Street, but

I lost the printout. My girlfriend said, "I remember when you forwarded me the email. It's on India Street." When I called a friend, he said, "You can't miss the apartments. They're behind another house." He also rattled off the street number.

We were walking up India Street past the closed shops when two rottweilers charged us, barking. Luckily, there was a chain-link fence between us, but I was close enough to see the saliva on their snouts, as if they knew my dad was a mailman.

It wasn't long before we realized there was no party on India Street. When I finally got my friend to answer his cell, we realized our mistake and headed to the North Park area.

Lights on the garage door out front were in the shape of a woman's silhouette. We could hear the crowd in the back.

A chef named Andrea from Lou

and Mickey's restaurant in the Gaslamp treated guests to a variety of hors d'oeuvres. There was Cajun seared tuna and caprese stacks.

Someone told me there were teriyaki-glazed filet tips but that they were long gone. My girlfriend grabbed us something to drink, and my friend Greg handed me a cigar.

Pamela was running all over the place. I heard someone say that her costume was a female Joker from *Batman* and suggested that it looked more like one of the characters from *A Nightmare Before Christmas*.

Half of the crowd wasn't in costume. And there weren't any women running around in lingerie. They were in one of the apartments upstairs getting ready. I occasionally saw a door open and caught a glimpse.

I talked with one of the residents of the complex but didn't realize she lived there until I said, "I bet this is one party the neighbors won't be complaining about." She agreed and informed me that they were all at this event.

She was a tall blonde with a strong Swedish accent. When she said she was from New York, I said, "Ah, yes. That explains the accent." She laughed and told me about moving here recently. I asked about her outfit, which was shiny and silver with shoes she made from aluminum foil. She said, "I'm one of

the women from *2001*." I told her I loved her shoes, and she looked down and said, "Oh, no, they're getting messed up. They looked a lot better earlier in the evening." When she walked away, I heard the shoes make an interesting squishing sound.

Someone suggested I talk to two guys who knew a few of the models. I heard one of them saying, "Very nice!" in the Borat voice anytime a female walked by. I decided not to talk to them.

I was told that there was a surgeon at the party who lost his hearing from listening to loud music. "The interesting part of the story," I'm told, "is that it's classical music the guy listens to. You'd think if someone is going to lose their hearing, it would be from heavy metal. Or the thumping bass in hip-hop."

Pamela ran by again and I said hi. She stopped to tell me a little about her company, saying that it was a coincidence that this was a Halloween party, since she sort of started out sewing and making Halloween costumes for friends when she was 12 years old.

I started to tell her about my Christmas shopping experience with lingerie, and she interjected, "Yeah, lingerie makes a great gift. People can order my stuff online, too." Someone nearby heard this and said, "My wife and I ordered the

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Crasher

Good Cop, Bad Cop outfit. She liked how the patches on it made it look authentic. I liked the handcuffs and baton parts of it.”

His wife told me that her sister ordered the nurse outfit. “It’s weird because she’s a real nurse. But she said that they just wear ugly greenish scrubs, not those cute white outfits with the matching hat. And besides, it would be gross wearing an outfit that has germs from all those sick patients.”

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I turned to ask Pamela if making an outfit of a profession like a police officer has any legal restrictions, but she was already upstairs getting the girls ready for the fashion show.

Someone mentioned the shoes and other “accessories” that you can order with the outfits. I told her that I’m so naïve, I didn’t realize shoes had anything to do with lingerie.

Pamela made an announcement from the balcony, and the show started. I heard the Borat voices starting again...and lots of whistling.

As the models walked across the second-floor balcony of the apartment building, they glanced down seductively at the crowd. After walking back and forth, they then made their way

down the stairs, which were lined with candles. I overheard one gay dude standing nearby say, “I don’t even like girl boobs, but this is hot!”

It was drizzling, and the women were wearing heels and walking down the stairs while trying to look sexy — I kept thinking, *One of these women is going to trip*, but none of them did.

In all the jockeying for good views from the crowd, a guy inadvertently put his jacket over a candle. It caught fire but was quickly stomped out. At the intermission, someone asked whose jacket it was. They looked in the pocket and said, “There are BMW keys,” and suddenly everyone claimed it was theirs.

The conversations among the crowd were getting interesting. One woman asked a

guy, “Did you have a favorite lingerie?” He replied, “Yeah. I liked the blonde.” She said, “I didn’t ask what woman you liked,” and he admitted not remembering a thing she wore.

Another guy said to his friend, “Did you see the femur on that one woman? She was sexy.”

Two guys from Ireland talked for 45 minutes — about Guinness.

We left before the second show started.

A few days later, at a concert at House of Blues, we saw one of the models. We remembered her distinct haircut — short on one side, long on the other, with a patch of dyed blonde hair. I told my girlfriend, “She’s either going to laugh or slap me.” As I approached, her boyfriend eyed me warily. I said, “You looked better with less clothes on.”

They both laughed. She put her head in her hands and said, “I was hoping I wouldn’t run into anyone from that party.” ■

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French-Kissed Comfort Food

For a few decades — roughly Carter through Clinton — old-fashioned French restaurants seemed increasingly *vieux chapeaux*, in view of the lighter, cleaner-flavored “new French” cuisine fermenting during those years. That was also the period of Julia Child teaching us how to cook the classics at home, often about as well as the chef at a “cute little neighborhood French place” — so long as we didn’t mind spending a couple of hours at the stove most nights, or a longer stretch on Sunday, fridge-loading for the week.

But then workweeks blimped out, commutes lengthened, and watching telegenic celebrity chefs compete, whine fetchingly, or yell “Bam!” replaced actual cooking. (Cooking shows are “reality TV” for the tasteful. Do we get brownie points for watching Gordon Ramsay instead of Simon Cowell humiliate some poor schnook?) In the current economy, we’re cooking at home again, but as quickly and cheaply as possible — still have those jobs and those commutes, if we’re lucky. We’re also seeing the rebirth of “the little French place” that offers moderate-priced Gallic comfort food — and we really want it, need it, love it again. Frog’s legs and snails and puppy dog’s tails (whoops — wrong continent!) still seem like faintly exotic adventures, making a refreshing change from ground-beef Stroganoff and spaghetti à la Ragu™.

Although Hexagone (named for the shape of France on a map) is still a very new restaurant, it’s run by a French-born old pro, Patrick Halcewicz, and his nephew, general manager Benjamin Halcewicz. Patrick is the owner of French Market Grille in Rancho Bernardo. Hexagone has slipped into a spot across the street from Laurel, formerly held by Gemelli, a pricey, failed spin-off of the Busalacchi empire. It promises to fulfill the “neighborhood French restaurant” slot that this neighborhood has craved ever since chef Nathan Coulon departed from nearby Modus.

The redone dining room is dimly lighted and romantic, with many slightly undersized tables for four and some for two, up a short staircase from a street-level bar that was fully populated on my visit but quiet in volume — evidently a bar for talkers, not shriekers. A loop of Edith Piaf plays over and over, repeatedly regretting nothing.

The menu is huge — nearly 20 appetizers,



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE KLEIN

over 20 entrées. All the appetizers are \$10 or less, and quite rich, so — you know where I’m going with this — you can make a grazing meal for two for \$20–\$25 each, plus the usual wine, tip, tax, and a dessert if you want one. And the wine list is humane, with French choices priced at close to retail cost, e.g., an attractive Châteauneuf-du-Pape for under \$50.

Executive chef Daniel Durfort certainly has a French name, but whatever his professional background, the menu — nearly a twin of French Market Grille’s — hints that he’s largely confined by the owner’s concepts and adherence to tradition. Nearly all dishes are of the old-fashioned French provincial mode, sometimes with heavy sauces that are classically based on *fond brun* (a beef-stock-based sauce foundation) and/or veal demi-glace, if my palate tells me right. (These are the very sauces that the nouvelle cuisine chefs rebelled against 30-something years ago.) Whether the *fond* and “demi” are made in-house (a 12-hour minimum process over two days) or are purchased ready-made I’m not prepared to guess, but their ubiquity can make various dishes taste

fundamentally alike, however the mother-sauces are amended.

Then, too, we found the same vegetables on nearly every entrée — not the old Sysco medley, but a more elegant one, perhaps *le combinaison du Sysqueau*. (That was not true of the “little neighborhood French places” that introduced me to French cuisine as a teenager in Manhattan and

then as a young adult in San Francisco. I rarely encountered this restaurant shtick before coming to San Diego, outside of my college dining hall, and it’s a major contributor to our city’s bad rep for food.)

Hexagone’s French onion soup gratinée arrived seething hot and proved tasty (once cooled enough to sip) but absolutely standard. Frog’s legs Provençale were tenderer than normal — cooked longer, or slower, they’d lost that rubbery

Hexagone ★★★ (Very Good)

495 Laurel Street, Banker’s Hill, 619-236-0467.
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HOURS: Open daily, 11:00 a.m.–about 10:00 p.m.

PRICES: Appetizers, \$5.50–\$10; Dinner, entrées \$17–\$29; desserts, \$6.50.

CUISINE AND BEVERAGES: Classic French bourgeois cuisine, encompassing all the old favorites, plus a few creative dishes. Reasonable wine list with some bargains among the French bottlings. Corkage, \$15.

PICK HITS: Frogs Legs Provençale, Sea Bass with Corn Risotto, Marinated Flat Iron Steak with Béarnaise, Roasted Rack of Lamb with Mustard Crumbs. Other good bets: Bouillabaisse; Calf Liver with Onions.

NEED TO KNOW: Dining room up a few stairs; wheelchair access from side entrance on Fifth Street (phone for instructions). Restrooms at street level (below stairs), so access requires help in chair-wrangling or a long roll-around on the street.

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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feeling, and came swathed in a light, pleasant, tomato-based sauce with garlic and herbs.

Scallops St. Jacques were a simple, homey version: The very tender, thick scallops were cooked just right, robed in a sauce of sautéed mushrooms and quickly reduced cream that made an irresistible dip for the house baguette bread. (There’s also an olive bread, but after a few bites we realized it couldn’t be Bread & Cie’s signature loaf, since it seemed coarser — rye flour? — not as

DINING REVIEW

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Calendar RESTAURANTS

olive-y, and also a bit stale.) Butter is doled out with French thrift, a slender slice cut along the length of a standard four-ounce stick to do for a table of four. You can, however, get seconds.

Crispy sweetbreads in wild mushroom ragout bring on the demi-glace or *fond brun* in a thick brown sauce. The “wild” mushrooms seem to be cremini. (Brown button mushrooms — gee, how wild can you get! Maybe it’s a typo and they meant “mild” mushrooms.) The sweetbreads are thinly sliced, lightly battered, and sautéed. The good part is, you get to eat sweetbreads. The bad part is, this rendition is sort of dreary. Other starter choices include lobster bisque, escargots, a fried calamari steak, the usual salads, charcuterie plate, and a cheese plate. I’d originally meant to come back for another meal, and unlike the Little Sparrow, I do have a few regrets. I regret not trying the appetizer of phyllo-crust crab cake in spicy chermoula sauce, the most avant-garde dish on the menu, or the entrée bouillabaisse, the signature dish of French Market Grille. If Hexagone’s chef makes it the same way, it will (for once!) consist wholly of reasonably authentic-tasting warm-water seafood, with no far-northern ice-water species (e.g., salmon, Alaskan halibut) to upset the balance of nature, worldwide ecology, and the flavor of the stock.

The sea bass with corn risotto and fennel-vanilla sauce was our favorite entrée. The

fish — beneath deliciously salty crusted skin — was tender, and the loose risotto was dotted with sweet corn kernels. None of us could discern the fennel or vanilla in the buttery sauce (nor did a replay from the doggie bag reveal them), but no matter, it was a dainty dish.

Marinated flat-iron steak (the tenderest muscle of the shoulder chuck), which came very rare to our order, was chewy but lively with a blond béarnaise and was garnished with crisp, narrow, tasty fries — really good salty fries, and I don’t normally go nuts for *frites* (give me gratin or give me mashed!). Braised short ribs were, of course, tender, set atop a truffled polenta needing a bit of salt, but the ribs also needed something more to lift them from the land of the bland. The brown, weighty sauce seemed like another variant of the sweetbread gravy. All three of these entrées came with slender flageolet green beans and small, firm-tender brussels sprouts, served at cool room temperature, evidently cooked long before the start of the dinner hour.

The veggie exception came with a roast rack of lamb with a mustard crust in light rosemary sauce, accompanied by a nice gooey potato gratin and soulful greens. As far as I could tell, Hexagone is using the same recipe that *mon cher* chef Robert at little Le Bouc in the Sunset District of San Francisco (now in Alameda) was using in the ’70s for rack of lamb, so it was like meeting an old friend you assumed has passed away — or emigrated to the Seychelles. The rib-rack was rigorously “Frenched,” stripped of all extra fat on the rib bones and backbone, so that the scant bits

of fat that remained were welcome. Served sliced into slim, separate chops, the ribs were beautifully rare to our order (*merci* to chef Robert for teaching me that good lamb is good rare). The meat was crusted with fresh baguette crumbs mixed with gentle mustard and sauced with a light meat deglaze with a touch of rosemary. An oldie but a goodie.

At the start of the meal, the waiter offered a Grand Marnier soufflé that needed to be ordered ahead, and we jumped at the chance. At the end of the meal, he announced that it was unavailable and hinted at an anti-soufflé rebellion in the kitchen. We imagined toqued line-cooks waving cleavers, rhythmically chanting, “*A bas les soufflés! Vive le crêpe, vive la tarte tatin!*” Odd, because last week, Currant wouldn’t cook its jasmine soufflé. Is this some sort of underground mass movement? Can’t they protest against tiramisu, chocolate lava cake, and vanilla bean crème brûlée instead?

We switched to crêpes Suzettes, which weren’t flamed at the table (the servers at this new restaurant don’t seem up to that level of showmanship yet, and maybe never will be). They were pleasant-normal. “Upside-down apple tart” was, of course, tarte tatin translated into English, with a puff-pastry crust, but somewhat mushier, darker, sweeter apples than usual. It tastes homey and unpretentious, as it should, but with a little less sugar and maybe a side of cinnamon ice cream, it would be more worthy of its calories — a little more “pro” and less “home.” The espresso, in any case, was good-normal, too.

The food at Hexagone seems, for better or worse, nearly indistinguishable from that at its suburban parent-restaurant. I found the food better — more strictly traditional and less compromised — than at, say, the slightly more expensive Bleu Bohème, or various other local bistros that have come and gone (or come and boringly remained). At the same time, even within its modest price range, it doesn’t match the local-food delights of Farmhouse, which offers a fresher, more imaginative take on Gallic rural cuisine — much less the somewhat more costly brilliance of a Tapenade, a Cavaillon, or a Bernardo’s, with chefs well versed in modern haute cuisine who then kicked back to less exacting bistro fare.

I’d originally planned to eat at Hexagone twice, given the size of its menu, but the first dinner really told me what I needed to know. The restaurant was already mature, with no major kerfuffles unless you count the cold veggies, and I could imagine what most of the untried dishes would taste like. That is, the fare is generally very good, but/and quite predictable. Predictable is sometimes exactly what you want, especially during scary tough times. No accident that moderate-priced “little French places” are suddenly multiplying again. We’re ready to welcome them back, seeking out the sensual Continental caress of their indulgent, familiar, only faintly foreign comfort food.

Bargains of the Week: Speaking of Tapenade and Cavaillon, both are offering bargain bites. Tapenade (7612 Fay Avenue, La Jolla, 858-551-7500, tapenaderestaurant.com) is serving happy hour snacks (most about \$7) such as escargots, wild mushroom ravioli with truffle foam, and a vegetarian plate, plus select half-price entrées (steak au poivre, coq au vin) at its cushy bar from 5:30–8:30 p.m., Sunday–Thursdays. Cavaillon (14701 Via Bettona, suite 200, Santaluz, 858-433-0483, cavaillonrestaurant.com), owned by Tapenade’s former chef de cuisine, is also featuring happy hour tapas, starting at \$3. ■

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Food and the Law

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And then the Great King came forth, and he did spake, saying, “Let There Be Law!”

Thirty-seven centuries later, I’m lookin’ him in the eye, raising my glass mug of chai, and saying, “Sir, you did good.”

And the greatest lawgiver of the ancient world, King Hammurabi, looks down and strokes his beard and uttereth, “Well, you look like you’ve eaten good.”

“Actually, I don’t know much about him,” says Zak, cutting into my fantasy. We’re sitting on the terrace of his eatery, looking up at the face of Hammurabi on the restaurant’s sign. “Except, he was tough. You stole, forget it. You’re gone. But he wrote the law, eye for an eye. Back then, that was an improvement. He was king of Babylon...part of Iraq today.”

It’s getting dark. About sevenish. Some guys at the next table are drinking chai tea and puffing at hookah pipes. Zak and I are yapping on about how our laws are based on the ideas Hammurabi chiseled into stone nearly 4000 years ago. Things like, you’re innocent till proven guilty. Turns out, our nation’s Capitol, and the Supreme Court too, have tribute portraits of Hammurabi etched into their walls. So U.S. law is based on Iraqi law. Who knew?

I mean, last time I looked, this place was Kozak’s, a ’50s-type coffee shop. But Zak has inherited this great terrace. When the weather’s kind, it’d be a terrific people-gazing place, or, as Zak’s been doing right now, a cool spot to watch sports on the outside television flatscreen.

Actually, I’ve been eating inside, even though it’s a little less sparkly. The long counter doesn’t have the sit-up stools anymore, but the

blue booths and dark Formica “wood” tables look as if they’re Kozak vintage. Bet the long aquarium that divides part of the counter from the kitchen is too. What the heck, I decided to eat right near the counter, so Angela the server

would be handy to explain some of these dishes.

“Enjoy the traditional flavor of our ancient food,” the menu says, right below a picture of Hammurabi.

Hmm...It’s not so cheap here. But at least this stuff is interesting. Like, something called “pacha.”

“Stuffed honeycombs and intestine with rice, including lamb tongue and lamb shank (\$14).” Whoa. Now there’s something I’d love to try. The honeycomb thing. Pity I don’t have 14 Washingtons. Anyway, Angela says that’s off today. “It takes a day to prepare,” she says.

So she suggests I go for a straight kabob. Beef, chicken, or lamb. Comes with tomatoes, parsley, onions, and two round flat breads baked with your order right in the kitchen. I see it’s \$9.95. I cast my eyes around for something more modest. See something called a potato chop, six pieces of “baked and fried potato pie, stuffed with beef,” but it’s \$11. They have marinated lamb-heart pieces on a skewer for \$13, and borak, which is fried egg rolls wrapped with ground beef and parsley (\$10), and tashreeb, a marinated lamb shank (\$10), and, hey, a roasted-chicken plate for \$7, or rice and stew (“freshly cooked rice with stew of your choice: potato, eggplant, okra, or white beans”) for \$8.

Heck, that’s doable. Plus, I see that chai (traditional Iraqi-style tea) is free. For a moment I consider the kobba musilli, a crushed-wheat pie stuffed with beef, because Angela says that’s a very Chaldean dish. But it’s

12 buckeroos, so I order an eggplant stew and chai, and I’m honestly stunned at the amount that Abdu Arazakh the cook brings out. First up, Angela plunks down a large round Frisbee-shaped plate holding these two steaming, fresh rounds of flat bread. Next, a hefty bowl of stew. And last, a big plate of rice — looks like wheaty basmati rice — plus a pile of tomato slices and yellow pickled cauliflower and carrot chunks. The stew’s roiling in eggplant halves. It takes a while for me to realize I’m supposed to empty the stew over the top of the rice. But then the fun begins. It’s squelchy, full of eggplant richness, and way filling. And best: no shortage of sauce to flavor the rice. Man, it’s delicious scooping up the soggy bits with the bread. I keep thinking this can’t be much different from the way the great king himself munched, back in the day.

So now, outside, I sneak in a \$1.25 baklava and one more glass of hot chai. I shake some sugar into it, and what a combo. I drift off, imagining that land as it was before all today’s troubles. The Fertile Crescent. Land of Milk and Honey.

“We were farmers,” says Zak. “Near Mosul. We grew wheat, cantaloupes, melons. We escaped in 1994, before I turned 17. My father didn’t want me to be drafted into the army.”

He hasn’t been back. But he still remem-



Joseph

bers the fresh air, and the fields of wheat, and the snow-capped mountains beyond. ‘Specially when they roast a whole side of lamb (\$225) for a large party of Chaldeans right here, on the terrace.

Then a European soccer match starts on the TV. And I gotta go. I turn left up Main Street, heading for the trolley. But I’m still thinking about those side o’ lamb terrace parties. Carla’s got a birthday coming up. Maybe I should throw her a baa-BQ right here. ■

The Place: Hammurabi Family Restaurant, 401 West Main Street, El Cajon, 619-401-3200

Type of Food: Mediterranean/Chaldean

Prices: Beef, chicken, or lamb kebab (with tomatoes, parsley, onions, flat breads), \$9.95; potato chop (baked, fried potato pie, stuffed with beef), \$11; marinated lamb-heart pieces on skewer, \$13; borak (fried egg rolls wrapped with ground beef), \$10; tashreeb (marinated lamb shank), \$10; roasted chicken, \$7; rice and stew (potato, eggplant, okra, or white beans), \$8; kobba musilli (crushed-wheat pie stuffed with beef), \$12; pacha (stuffed honeycombs and intestine with rice, including lamb tongue and lamb shank), \$14; hookah pipes, \$9.99 Monday–Thursday, \$13.99 Friday–Sunday

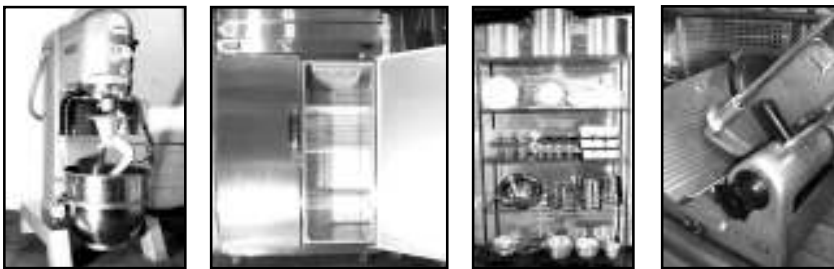
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Calendar RESTAURANTS

RESTAURANT LISTINGS

The Reader's Guide to Restaurants are recommended listings written by our reviewers (Ed Bedford, Barbara David, Ambrose Martin, Shari McCullough, Max Nash, Eleanor Widmer, Naomi Wise). Each issue contains only a fraction of almost 900 reviews. A complete searchable list is available online at SanDiegoReader.com. Price estimates are based on the latest information available for a midrange entrée. **Inexpensive:** below \$10; **moderate:** \$10 to \$19; **expensive:** \$20 to \$29; **very expensive:** more than \$30. Please call restaurants in advance for reservations.

BEACHES

Azul La Jolla 1250 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-454-9616. The flagship of the local Brigantine chain serves ambitious, Japanese-influenced, California-global fusion cuisine on a daily changing menu in a room with a panoramic ocean view. But you need not stuff your shirt to dine here — garb runs to resort-casual and the atmosphere is family friendly. There's even a low-priced kiddie menu. The wine list is friendly, too, with merciful markups and plenty by the glass and half-bottle. Full bar. Short staircase down to restaurant; elevator to the right of entry (ask for directions for wheelchair access when calling to reserve). Valet parking.

Very noisy. One vegetarian entrée, but all food restrictions accommodated to order. Lunch Tuesday through Saturday, dinner nightly, Sunday brunch. Very expensive. — N.W.

Bully's La Jolla 5755 La Jolla Boulevard, La Jolla, 858-459-2768. Despite the plasma TV sports screen, this place is very '60s. For example, dark, woody, plush red booths. And always crowded. Word is, they serve more prime rib with au jus and horseradish than any eatery in San Diego. The Petite Cut 8 ounce, their smallest, fills you plenty, with its baked potato and salad. But just once, come here with your main squeeze and order up the "full cut for two." It does a hang-ten over the edges. Or go bonkers and order the 32-ounce cut (available in Mission Valley) — just to watch your neighbors' eyes bug out. Not flush? Try the Bully Burger, French Dip sandwich, or calamari sandwich. Lonely? Go to the horseshoe-shaped Low Bar. Lunch and dinner daily. — E.B.

Kabuki Sushi Restaurant 4475 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach, 858-270-1986. This place has a unique system of delivering tempting dishes to you via boats floating along a minicanal that surrounds the sushi bar. You take food off and pay according to the plate size. The sushi chefs — they can be a show in themselves — have the usual panoply of sushi, sashimi, nigiri. The dragon rolls (crab, shrimp tempura, eel, avocado) and spider roll (soft-shelled crab) are tasty too. It's young and crowded here — is that because you don't have to sweat the menu, just grab what you like off the boat and chew? Open for lunch and dinner Tuesday to Saturday; dinner only Sunday; closed Monday. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

Karinya Thai 4475 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach, 858-270-5050. Think of the movie *The Beach*, with a bunch of Leo DiCaprio look-alikes get-

ting off on the coconut curries like *gang ped*, *panang*, and *kang kari*. Or noodle dishes like the famous *pad thai*. But they're in the right place: Karinya remains true to its Thai origins. The *tom yum kung* (hot and sour shrimp soup) is a meal in itself. Steaming away with its fierce little charcoal fire at your table, the hot pot holds plenty of shrimp, and you can taste the essential mushrooms, lemon grass, ginger, lime juice, cilantro, and of course *nam pla*, Thai fish sauce. A nice counterpart to the hots of the soup are the Fresh Spring Rolls, filled with tofu and vegetables and mint. Another sizzler: *pad talay*, a sauté pan full of mussels, shrimp, squid, and other seafood in a great spicy sauce. The recipe's from Koh Samed, an island like the one featured in *The Beach*. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

La Jolla Brew House 7536 Fay Avenue, La Jolla, 858-456-6279. Don't expect to see the beach. Do expect to taste some good beers made right here and good solid food, such as the prime rib sandwich (which goes great with their Russian Stout) or the roasted potato. Or maybe best of all, the buffalo burger — big, hefty, and low on cholesterol. You'd call this a family, multigenerational sports bar eatery. Nice mix. It's La Jolla, so it's not dirt cheap, but the guys here seem really interested in making interesting brews and good food to accompany them. Open for dinner seven days; lunch Tuesday through Sunday. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

Mardi Gras Café 3185 Midway Drive, Point Loma, 619-223-5501. The Creole cooking at this café/grocery, to eat in, take out, or have catered for your next party, is sound and tasty, if liberally underseasoned (just add salt and hot sauce to taste). You can also buy the real and rare ingredients from the freezer, deli case, and grocery shelves, including Cajun *tasso* (spiced ham), *boudin blanc* (rice sausage), and crawfish sausage when it's in season. Daily brunch through early dinner. No

alcohol, everything available for take-out. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Michele Coulon Pastries 7556-D Fay Avenue, La Jolla, 858-456-5098. The daughter of Don Coulon (retired chef-owner of the Belgian Lion restaurant) presides at this delightful little café/bakery. (Look for it behind the octagonal sandwich shop that fronts its mini-mall.) Every ingredient is fresh and of top quality. Cakes are light, moist, rich, and available as wholes, slices, and even "miniatures," plus you can choose tarts, chocolates, ice creams, and breakfast pastries. Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Moderate. — N.W.

The Pannikin La Jolla 7467 Girard Avenue, La Jolla, 858-454-5453. Also in Del Mar and in Encinitas. Oh, sure, the inside of this converted bungalow is cool, with its woody-green tables of different heights and cool damsels with animal temp-tattoos on their arms serving you. But here at Pannikin's La Jolla outpost, the outside's the "in" spot, with its brick and earth tones and weathered timber and sixties rainbow tables. But you have to make it through the laptop-clacking, cell phone-blabbing crowd who use this as their garden office and Very Important Meeting spot. Musicians, grad students, and school kids also show up to munch with nuts and think serious thoughts. Breakfasts are mostly steamed-egg variations, including the popular Greek eggs and a filling breakfast burrito. For lunch, a mild chicken curry is a nutty treat, and "pannwiches" such as ham or tuna are fresh, generous, and worthy, though the retros among us will be looking for a salt lick all the way home. La Jolla and Del Mar three meals daily, Encinitas breakfast and lunch only. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Saska's & Saska's Sushi 3768 Mission Boulevard, Mission Beach, 858-488-7311. Venerable, local steak-and-seafood joint that tries harder, from the broth-thin homemade teriyaki sauce

(sweet up front, fading to bitter ginger) for the well-cooked (if mild-flavored) fish to the cut-on-the-premises aged beef. The interior's low wood-slat ceilings, driftwood beams, dim light, and red leather booths combine with the stay-up-late kitchen to make the space feel like a cozy haven, a respite from the brighter buzz of Mission Beach. The wine list runs the gamut from Cook's sparkling wine to Cristal champagne, stopping along the way at an interesting (if expensive) collection of reserves. Next door is the restaurant's serviceable sushi bar (858-488-7255) and two-story patio dining. Lunch weekdays, brunch and lunch weekends; dinner seven days. Sushi bar open nightly, 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Moderate. — A.M.

Sportsmen's Seafoods 1617 Quivira Road, Mission Beach, 619-224-3551. Fifty years ago this restaurant-fish market was a tuna cannery, part of San Diego's late-lamented fishing industry. The same Sicilian family still owns it, and still knows everything about fish and how to cook it. The menu is devoted to the "fruits of the sea" and includes a wonderful seafood platter (shrimp, squid, clams, fish, fries, and salad). And, of course, a crispy-crunchy fish-and-chips platter. Eat outside on deck, contemplating the small ships on the bay. They buy seasonal catch from local fishboats and also sell it at their attached retail market. They're famous for smoking fish for the fishermen. Open daily, lunch/early dinner. Retail market closed Monday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

BAJA

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

Big Boy Restaurant 9892 Agua Caliente Boulevard, Baja, 664-686-3788. Besides having excellent Mexi-

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can-American food, this Big Boy knock-off draws some of the most interesting people in Tijuana — journalists, lawyers, cattle ranchers, politicians, Baja's heavy hitters. Day or night, Big Boy is always busy. Gringo food's no problem. Breakfast includes eggs, bacon, sausage, chorizo or ham, plus hash browns or frijoles, toast, juice, and endless coffee. Nobody will object if you sit sipping the free refills till the moon comes up. But you won't — you'll crack and order more when you smell the popular, macho "royal" hamburger, with two beef patties, smoked ham, onions, lettuce, tomatoes, fries, and salad. Or the chicken breast marinated in tequila with cilantro, guacamole, and beans. Vegetarian upon request. Open 24/7. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Café la Especial Avenida Revolución #718 (down the market steps), Baja, 664-685-6654. Café la Especial was once a great favorite of American aficionados of Tijuana's bullfights at the old downtown Plaza de Toros. Summer Sundays, fans would crowd into the café to chow down before the fights or rush back afterwards for a few drinks and a hearty meal. Inside, little has changed, not even the 50-50 locals-to-



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The new restaurant by Patrizia Branchi & Roberto Bernardoni

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gringos ratio. Food is standard Mexican/American border fare, from tacos and tamales to *carne asada* and *bistek ranchero*, from cactus and eggs to steak and eggs. Vegetarian upon request. But the atmosphere is the real draw: the low ceiling, varnished wood, black furniture with flowers painted up and down the legs and portraits on the backs, and lots of murals of Mexico on the walls. Owner Humberto Brambila's aunt Justina started it all, he says, in 1948, with the steamed taco stand upstairs. That's still going too. Open daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

CENTRAL

Apertivo 3926 30th Street, North Park, 619-297-7799. This wine bistro offers *tapasi* of simple Italian classics lightened up and scaled down to medium-size portions — about the size you probably eat at home. All the condiments are on the table, so you can season or cheese your food to taste as you go instead of having a waiter waft them before you've lifted a fork. Good dishes include prosciutto-wrapped shrimp, eggplant rollatini, and for dessert, an airy lemon cheesecake mousse. Parking via alley half-block west. No reservations, but for weeknight large groups, call ahead. Weekends, arrive very early or late or expect a wait. Call-in/take-out food orders okay. Check chalkboard on sidewalk for specials. Plenty for vegetarians and vegans. Sound level: roaring. Dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Arrivederci 3845 Fourth Street, Hillcrest, 619-299-6282. However you picture an idealized Italian restaurant — sprawling café; on the strada or little cozy corner as in *Moonstruck* — somehow Arrivederci is it. The straight-from-Rome look of the crowded sidewalk deck and yellow-and-white awning helps. The menu is a big yet familiar regional potpourri. Reliable standards include *vitello bel monte* (veal in a brandy cream sauce with tomatoes), "straw and hay" (*paglio e fieno al pesto*), pale yellow-and-green pasta with string beans and pine nuts in a delicious pesto sauce, or shellfish pasta dishes like linguine *mediterraneo*, with clams, mussels, and big garlicky shrimp. Part of the fun is bumping chairs. Think dining car on a narrow-gauge railroad — you're that close to the next table. Lunch and dinner daily. Moderate. — E.B.

Basic Urban Kitchen and Bar 410 Tenth Avenue, Downtown, 619-531-8869. The whole brick, postindustrial thing that rules the Gaslamp really works here. This ex-horse carriage repair shop is one cool hangout, left as is except for a "relaxing room" that divides the two eating/drinking areas by a metal coil curtain and "rugs" made of old inner tube strips. But what really defines Basic is Connecticut, the state that — who knew? — gave us the pizza. Direct from New Haven comes the "thinnest pizza in the country," according to the owners. Try the mashed potato pizza with cheese melted on top, bacon, and red peppers, or the Little Neck clams. Open 11:30 a.m. to 2 a.m. daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Batter Up! 342 Euclid Avenue, Southeast San Diego, 619-262-3333. Chef-owner Mel Johnson was one of the founders of the Gaslamp's late, great Juke Joint Café. The food he serves at Batter Up! is less ambitious (so far) — but talent will tell. The food at this friendly, casual sports bar (about ten minutes from Petco via the 94) may be pub grub, but the cooking is serious. Fried fish, fried shrimp, thick sandwiches, and juicy Certified Angus burgers with creative dressings are well above the norm. Free parking in large lot patrolled by security guards. First-timers should request sauces (especially the house hot sauce) on the side until you know whether you like them. Fairly noisy inside (depending on what's on TV); quiet patio outside. Open daily,

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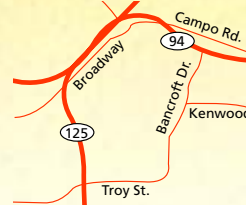


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lunch and dinner, with early closing Sundays. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Bay Café 1050 North Harbor Drive, Downtown, 619-595-1083. If you're hungry at the city ferry landing, you can eat in the bare-bones interior or take your tray upstairs to a handsome bayview terrace (with no wheelchair access). After a chilly crossing, try the enjoyable New England-style clam chowder, which is milky, clean, and not over-thickened, with tender clams and tiny diced potatoes. The menu features breakfast dishes, burgers, sandwiches (all served with generic fries), variations on fish-and-chips including prawns, plus some entrée salads. The burgers are genuinely "have it your way" — for a few extra cents each, the kitchen will add extra ingredients (Jack or Cheddar, mushrooms, grilled onions, bacon, jalapeño). Open daily, 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Bertrand at Mister A's 2550 Fifth Avenue, 12th floor, Banker's Hill, 619-239-1377. Bertrand Hug's airy, open renovation of this formerly "ancient regime" eatery offers a fabled panoramic city view with a casual-chic, highly romantic ambience. Chef Stéphane Voitzwinkler's modern French cuisine is a fine fit for the setting, including bistro classics and fresh inventions, emphasizing top-grade seasonal ingredients. A huge, intelligent wine list covers a full range of prices, ages, and origins, including "ripe" first-growth Bordeaux. Smoking and fair-weather dining on wraparound terrace/observation deck. Note: parking entrance on Fourth Avenue; wheelchair access via ramp to left of reception desk. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Expensive. — *N.W.*

Blue Point 565 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-6623. In a handsome, plush dining room, pristine seafood and Prime-grade steaks and chops are featured in well-focused preparations highlighting Pacific Rim and Mediterranean flavors. A fine lobster bisque includes plenty of lobster, and crab-stuffed trout and dayboat scallops are among the highlights of the menu. But at this conventioners' favorite, be sure to specify the doneness you prefer, especially for fish, which defaults to well-done. Valet parking onsite, or inexpensive self-parking one block east at Park It On Market. Large sidewalk dining patio. Business-casual dress looks best here. Reservations urged. Dinner nightly. — *N.W.*

Café Noir 447 Ninth Avenue, Downtown, 619-235-0075. It's a miracle this little old house is here at all. On every side, condo towers rise up. But the two-story 1886 Hiatt House is protected by the Mother of East Village, Gloria Poore. She bought it, preserved it, painted it black, put an umbrella deck on it, and has expanded it from a straight coffee place to include a light eatery. Highlights include interesting *soup du jour* and a panini with grilled chicken, artichoke, cranberries, and parmesan and cream cheese all stuffed inside. Open 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Café Zia 6686 El Cajon Boulevard, College Area, 619-337-3937. South Asia meets Mexico! Khaled Zia had the brilliant idea of combining wraps with chicken and South Asia's great gift to the world: chutney — mango, papaya, peach, apple, even a serrano chili pepper chutney. The combo works with them all. As soon as you smell the chicken strips hissing away on the grills, you're hooked. Then when they come smothered in peach or mango chutney, or cooling yogurt, along with sweet-sauced potatoes, what can you do? Do as half of San Diego State does: just say yes. Open daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Ciro's Pizzeria — Hillcrest 1202 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-296-2476. This small pizza parlor with the oh-so cool logo has that "back east" feel about it. Lots of old-time photos inside of baseball fields, New York City, and a huge 9/11 mural. The guys at *Ciro's* ("and it's pronounced 'Chiros,") say the recipe for their dough ("flour, sugar, salt, yeast, water") is the simplest, the most traditional. Best combo: chicken bacon pesto. Open daily till late. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Dakota Grill and Spirits 901 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-234-5554. The name may hint at cowboy cooking, but look for simple mid-American comfort food at one of the many local eateries under the Cohn Restaurant Group aegis. A typical entrée includes a hunk of red (or "the other white") meat cooked on a wood-fired grill, smeared with a precooked sauce that, for better or worse, first meets its mate on the plate. Meat-avoiders will find fish and poultry dishes, too. Tasty taters but dull veggies come with most entrées. Desserts run to fruity favorites like cobblers, crisps, and upside-down cake. Treats from the wide-ranging beverage list include three-glass wine flights in four styles of wine, and a pleasant house brew, Dakota Pale Ale, that suits the food. The two-floor restaurant offers big plush booths, tall windowed walls, and a piano player gliding from rinky-dink 1950s pop to Fats Waller stylings and Ellingtonian riffs. Valet parking. Full bar. Lunch weekdays; dinner nightly. High moderate to expensive. — *N.W.*

Dublin Square 554 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-239-5818. The entire pub was handcrafted in Waterford, shipped over, and installed (by Irish craftsmen) in the Gaslamp. The exterior indeed resembles a real (but very new) Dublin pub; the interior has authentically dim lighting and spirited Irish music, including live bands (acoustic but loud) during happy hours

and some evenings. If you're looking for food, too, there's a fine corned beef and cabbage, resembling the corned beef of Katz's Deli on the Lower East Side — it's that wee touch o' the garlic that does the trick. Other choices include Guinness beef stew, shepherd's pie (made with ground beef), steaks, lamb medallion, fish-and-chips, and grilled fish, plus standard pub grub. Lunch and dinner (including Irish breakfast anytime) daily. Moderate. — *N.W.*

Emerald Chinese Seafood Restaurant 3709 Convoy Street, Downtown, 858-565-6888. Arguably the best Chinese restaurant in the county, here's where local Asians (of all nations) go for both casual family dinners and special feasts of Hong Kong specialties. When you dig in, you'll know why. Menu (trilingual in Chinese, Vietnamese, and English) emphasizes seafood and gourmet delicacies of the South China coast, plus lunchtime dim sum carts daily. The staff is bilingual and crisply helpful, and the specialties are well worth exploring. Reservations accepted for all meals, including weekend dim sum brunches. Few dishes include MSG; diners can request none in made-to-order dishes. Live fish tanks, full bar, serviceable wine list. Mainly moderate, with moderate splurges like live fish and Peking duck easily balanced by inexpensive down-home dishes (unless you insist on shark fin or bird's nest). Open daily from lunch until midnight or later. — *N.W.*

The Fish Market 750 North Harbor Drive, Downtown, 619-232-3474. There's something fishy about these crowded, noisy, ever-multiplying restaurants — namely, mesquite-grilled, skewered, steamed, or panko-fried seafood, plus piscine chowders, pastas, and salads. Preparations are generally simple and consistent among locations. All the raw seafood is processed at the chain's Northern California facilities, so when the menu refers to a "local" species it merely means it's from somewhere in

the Pacific. Small retail fish market in the downtown branch offers slightly fresher products than at most supermarkets. Identical products and dishes are served in the dining room, the oyster bar, and at Top of the Market. But the sushi bar is emphatically the top Fish Market venue, with just-right rice, pristine seafood, and expert preparation. The Ichiban Hamachi (also available in the dining rooms) is outstanding. No reservations, but the space is vast so waits are brief. Restaurant open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate to expensive. Also in Del Mar at 640 Via de la Valle, 858-755-2277; mini-branch near Fashion Valley, 2401 Fenton Parkway, 619-280-2277. — *N.W.*

Heaven Sent Desserts 3001 University Avenue, North Park, 619-793-4758. The developing district around the North Park Theatre desperately needed a bakery, and Heaven Sent arrived — and then happily upgraded to a more professional operation in 2008. Under pastry chef Tina Luu (a local who's worked at some of San Francisco's top eateries), Heaven Sent produces a full range of desserts including cookies, tarts, pies, custards, puddings, and intricate cakes and ice cream fantasies. The style is rich and often fancy with choices ranging from hearty American favorites to ethereal (but not low-cal or low-carb) Euro-style elaborations on the theme of sweet. To drink: coffee, excellent espresso, teas, hot chocolate, Italian sodas, and fruit juice. Open daily breakfast until after dinner, past 11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. — *N.W.*

Indigo Grill 1536 India Street, Little Italy, 619-234-6802. This second — and much grander — incarnation of chef Deborah Scott's Indigo Grill expands her original Native-American motif, with its focus on root vegetables, game, and roasted spices. Now, the Pacific Coastal cuisine takes in more coast than most, drawing upon ingredients and techniques from Alaska to Oaxaca. (The decor, dark and urban-primitive, fol-

lows the theme.) Unexpected combinations are a mainstay; a single dish, such as the seafood *mixto*, may span the entire distance, bringing together a multitude of flavors that work together to create a wondrous whole. Fine breads are made in-house, as are desserts (try the decadent, crispy-creamy plantain cheesecake flautas). The wine list includes interesting varietals. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly; closes early Sundays, but open until 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Lunch: inexpensive to moderate; dinner: moderate to expensive. — *A.M.*

Inn at the Park 3615 Fifth Avenue, Banker's Hill, 619-291-0999. Gay and straight mingle nightly at the piano bar of this charming spot (although Fridays are *très gai*), brought together by lively performances of Broadway show tunes. Across the aisle is the dining room, where the fare could be described as Log Cabin Republican cuisine — despite a touch of mango here, chipotle there, it's mainly the nice, conservative, meat-and-potatoes comfort food that the regulars here prefer. Wilder hits include calamari fritto misto, duck breast, and coconut-lime crème brûlée. But mainly, this is one of the world's sweetest scenes, always fun for a drink and a bite. Lunchtime weekdays, the scene shifts to the rooftop Top of the Park, for scenery with the sandwiches. Reservations advised, as hotel guests have dibs on tables. — *N.W.*

Jsix 616 J Street, Downtown, 619-531-8744. Chef Christian Graves is proud to be a card-carrying Slow Foodie, a movement dedicated to preserving traditional ways of farming, cooking, and caring for our food and planet. At Jsix, the kitchen bakes the breads and chef Graves cures charcuterie and makes sausages. The menu offers gently reared free-range meats and local produce. The chef's assortment of charcuterie — sausage, cured beef, and smoked ham — is impossible to pass up. "Small plates" are not so small and will have

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you wiping the platters with the fresh bread, especially the devastating white-corn ravioli in season. Waitstaff talks up the seafood, but the beef dishes are even better — rib eye and Angus short ribs, especially. Wine list is wide and creative. The rooftop J6Bar Lounge is crowded but fun for cocktails, sandwiches, and snacks. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily, plus weekend brunch. Dinner reservations advised, especially on weekends. Grazing meals moderate to expensive, full dinners very expensive. — N.W.

Jyoti Bihanga 3351 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-282-4116. Oh sure, you'll be watching Sri Chinmoy, the Bengali guru, on TV juggling, declaring Geneva International Airport a "peace blossom," or boarding his Italian "treno della pace." Plus, his books, his portraits, his paintings, and his chant-songs surround you. Apart from that, not only is this heavenly blue-domed restaurant run by his students peaceful, but the fresher-than-fresh Bengali-tinged health food is delicious. Their chutney-topped Neatloaf bursts with nutty, intriguing flavors. Even the accompanying mashed potato and gravy tastes different. Also delish: Brahma Burrito, Infinite Blue (interesting brown rice salad with bleu cheese dressing), and the Shiva Wrap (tofu and fresh veggies with a well-integrated curry flavor). On cold days, start with a steaming sweet pea soup. Monday through Saturday lunch and dinner (no dinner Wednesday); Sunday occasional brunch only. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Kemo Sabe 3958 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-220-6802. Audacity is Chef Deborah Scott's culinary signature. In her cooking, Southeast Asia meets the Southwest, with Japanese touches and towering heaps of garnishes. All the edible froufrou decorating the appetizers can wear you out, but most entrées are more focused and friendly. Good choices include a starter of mussels in a seductive chipotle cream sauce, and entrées of spicy, sweet-sour layered "jerk" chicken or the signature "Skirts On Fire," a miraculously tender grilled skirt steak imbued with a *picante* marinade. Desserts by Sharon Bristol follow the house style — sky-high, ornate, complex. Casual atmosphere, very noisy. Heated patio. Dinner served daily. Reservations strongly advised. Moderate. — N.W.

Kensington Grill 4055 Adams Avenue, Kensington-Talmadge, 619-281-4014. This long-standing, comfortable-but-sophisticated neighborhood restaurant has found a fine formula for flavorful, seasonal California cuisine with adventurous touches of Asia and Mexico. It's way beyond what most neighborhoods would expect. Well-known local chef Hanis Cavin (a big, low-key guy) proves an alpha griller, ensuring that every bite is cooked precisely until it's done, not a second longer. Almost everything is more than tasty. Most desserts come from upscale sister-restaurant Laurel, although the house-made choices are fine, too — no baby-food sweets here. Wine list is adventurous with lots of affordable choices; full bar. Small parking lot attached. Always a few dishes for vegetarians and a vegan entrée. Reservations recommended. Dinner nightly. "Early-bird" three-course dinner moderate; regular menu moderate to expensive. — N.W.

King's Fish House 825 Camino de la Reina, Mission Valley, 619-574-1230. To find King's in the mega-mall, go slightly west of Koo Koo Roo and follow the line of cars to the free valet parking. It's a chain, but it's a classy chain, offering fish and seafoods of a quality that's well above average, including crustaceans from a live tank and a half-dozen varieties of pristine oysters. Generously-sized entrées come with soup or salad (including a Caesar that's above suspicion) and two hefty side dishes. The vast menu of American-style preparations changes daily to reflect the fresh catch, and includes some rotating regional specialties (e.g., New Orleans,

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Hawaii, New England). Don't miss the prawn pot-sticker appetizer, if available, and for dessert, the miraculously light bread pudding. The atmosphere is good-timey (with two patios and a bar-room) with beans, rice, and tortillas, the service is enthusiastic, and the management will accommodate special requests if you call ahead. Kiddie menu available. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate. — N.W.

Lydia's Café and Nightclub 1628 Palm Avenue, Imperial Beach, 619-429-3603. This easygoing dancing/eatery has a faithful following that goes back to 1957. But before you dance, eat! Check out the *birria en su jugo* (goat in its juices) with beans, rice, and tortillas, or enjoy filling snacks like taquitos, *cu-caracha* (a corn tortilla stuffed with ham, cheese, and sour cream), or the snack Lydia says she invented: *botanas* (beans, pork, and melted cheese over corn chips). Open daily, three meals. (Call ahead for availability of the *birria*.) Inexpensive. — E.B.

Max New York Steakhouse and Seafood 827 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-235-8500. As steakhouses go, Max is a good value, offering huge portions of fine, gently raised near-organic meat, cooked to order and offered at relatively gentle prices. You don't even have to pay extra for your veggies. For beef, there's full-flavored naturally raised Angus or butter-tender Kobe-style Wagyu beef. Or you can choose a giant, tender rack of lamb. Sauces tend to be pedestrian; request them on the side. The classic steakhouse appetizers are done with some smart twists. Superb international wine list at below-average markups, including plenty by the glass. Full bar. Valet parking or inexpensive lot via alley two doors north. Open nightly, until midnight on weekends. Upper moderate to very expensive. — N.W.

Napa Valley Grille 502 Horton Plaza, Downtown, 619-238-5440. This restaurant at the top of Horton Plaza is staffed by professionals and the food is very good, including the excellent grilled calamari. There is an elegant

homeyness to Napa Valley Grille, a comforting, satisfying dining experience. Moderate to expensive. — M.N.

Parallel 33 741 W. Washington Street, Mission Hills, 619-260-0033. When this restaurant's chef-ordinator, Amiko Gubbins, left the cooking line at last, she left the kitchen to a young hand-picked successor, Benjamin Moore, who has been gently making the menu his own. And it's fun to eat here again. The fare remains near global, touched by the flavors of the world's warm temperate zone, including North Africa, the Middle East, India, China, Southeast Asia, and, of course, Southern California. There's no attempt to reproduce the classic dishes of these cuisines — the regions are more like exotic inspirations for creativity using their ingredients and flavors. Some hits include Indian-inspired potato cakes, pomegranate-glazed duck breast, and a splendid date and nut b'stilla for dessert. Wine list is interesting and international, enough by the glass, with sharply escalating prices but sufficient affordable bottles. Full bar with fun cocktails, happy hour appetizer menu, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. nightly. Next-door Blue Lotus Lounge bookable for parties. Reservations advised (room is small). — N.W.

Pomegranate Russian-Georgian Restaurant 2302 El Cajon Boulevard, University Heights, 619-297-4007. Pomegranate's address is serendipitous, since the food of Deep-South Georgia is the Louisiana cuisine of the Slavic world — alive with fresh herbs, garlic, touches of hot pepper. This rustic-looking restaurant is animated with antic humor (check the multilingual graffiti on the walls) and offers unique, flavor-bomb dishes. Don't miss the world-beating beefy, herb-jungle borscht (beet soup, but it's way more than that), the Lobio bean dip, and Olivier salad. The chef slow-smokes his moist barbecued beef and pork and cold-smokes whole trout, a treat as a group appetizer or summer entrée. On weekends, there's sublimely smoky *shashlik* (shish kebab). The printed menu is only a hint as to what's really cooking, and regular patrons get the best off-menu choices. So become a regular. Street parking is dire. Reservations advised for weekend diners. Dinner nightly (service until 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday). Moderate. — N.W.

La Posta de Acapulco 3980 Third Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-295-8982. (Also in Lakeside and Spring Valley.) People have been coming to this orange-and-white drive-through-without-cars for 20 years. One of the main reasons is the *carne asada* burritos. Rich-tasting, fresh, generous. Folks sit around the outside benches right next to Washington Street, oblivious to the traffic. Also much loved here are the *chile verde* and the quesadilla with *carne asada*. For breakfast, think chorizo burrito. And for value, just to fill you up, you can't beat the bean tostada. You can drink *horchata*, a rice drink, or *jamaica*, made from hibiscus flower, to complete the picture. Open 24 hours in Hillcrest. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Rainwater's on Kettner 1202 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-233-5757. Enjoy culinary time travel with this vintage restaurant's classic chop-house fare — wet-aged USDA Prime beefsteaks and roasts with luxurious "Continental" sauces, plus some seafood, poultry, and other odd meats (including milk-fed calf's liver), served in what looks like a cozy English gentlemen's club writ large. If you've ever wanted to try Beef Wellington, the chef here is one of the few who can pull it off correctly. At weekday lunches, the place buzzes with downtown movers and shakers, but dinner hours are usually serene and gracious (reserve anyway). An awesome international wine list, strong on great French bottles (and scant on affordable ones); no corkage Friday & Sunday. Full bar. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Very expensive, but offers three-course prix fixe menu for \$40/person. — N.W.

Sally's Seafood on the Water One Market Place at Manchester Grand Hyatt, Downtown, 619-358-6740. One of the city's favorite romantic restaurants. Sally's is an outbuilding behind the Grand Hyatt at the edge of Seaport Village and boasts lovely scenery, with cityscapes or bay views seen through picture windows or enjoyed from the outdoor patio in fair weather. The fare is Asian-fusion, emphasizing seafood and also offering sushi and sashimi. An appetizer sampler for two makes delicious shared grazing, as does a raw tuna and salmon Napoleon layered on fried wonton strip, while black cod with miso-orange broth is a sensuous entrée. Another option is reserving the "chef's

table" in the kitchen for a custom-made meal. The mostly Californian wine list is rather steep, with plenty by the glass (at high markups), plus a serious sake list on the sushi menu. Full bar. Long walk from the hotel garage (with validated self-parking) but no barriers to mobility devices; dining room noisy at times. Lunch and dinner daily. Expensive. — N.W.

El Sol Mexican Restaurant 2037 University Avenue, North Park, 619-298-0874. Miguel "Nacho" Madera cooked at Danny's Palm Bar in Coronado for 18 years. In 1994, President Clinton came to town and the Secret Service came to Danny's with a big order for burgers. Instant fame! Now Nacho has his own place and serves the same burgers with the spice recipe even the Secret Service couldn't get out of him. He also does breakfasts and the whole range of Mexican food, including seafood (*tostada de ceviche* is great). But if you want the burger, ask for his Clintonburger with cheese, bacon, and french fries. Open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Soleil @k 660 K Street, Downtown, 619-446-6088. The fare here is simple California cuisine that won't scare the conventioners, but the outdoor dining patio is a nice spot for a light meal. The spiffy, chrome-detailed interior, with an open kitchen, offers the option of eating with strangers at long tables or booking a large party of your own — but be prepared for noise (even when the room's empty, the music is pumped up party-loud). Starters may include a seasonally available fried-calamari salad and crabby crab sticks. Desserts are witty as well as tasty; entrées are unmemorable. Long international wine list with some "finds"; full bar. Service is variable. Validated valet parking. Open daily, three meals. Moderate to expensive. — N.W.

Soltan Banoo Persian Eatery & Tearoom 4645 Park Boulevard, University Heights, 619-298-2801. It's colorful, small, and intimate. This two-room café pulsates with multicolored cloths, midnight blue cushions, Aladdin-shaped pitchers, and samovars. What you're eating is basically Persian health food — most Persian fare is healthy food anyway. Try the pomegranate soup, made of spinach with lentils, beans, wheat, and pomegranate juice, or the strawberry tabbouleh salad.

Lamb is often a part of dishes. *Ghourmeh sabzi* is a lamb stew. *Koufteh-Berenji* is a ball of basmati rice with lamb, eggs, onions, and plums. The selection of teas includes Caspian, decaffeinated peach, and a few others. Lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Stingaree 454 Sixth Avenue, Downtown, 619-544-0867. This huge restaurant has a nightclub on the mezzanine and an outdoor lounge on the roof. The Mediterranean food by chef Antonio Friscia comes in three plate sizes — little, medium, and large. It's a built-in invitation to graze and share if you want to keep it light before you go dancing. The fare features premium, naturally raised meats, wild fish, and local organic vegetables. The rich international wine list is steep, but there's plenty by the glass; full bar. Friday and Saturday nights, dinner is a three- or four-course prix fixe only (your choices from the à la carte menu), but that gets you free entry into the club. Reservations advisable, urged for weekends. Dinner Tuesday through Saturday. Very expensive, but special three-course menu is just \$40. — N.W.

Taste of Africa Cuisine 5241 University Avenue, City Heights, 619-583-5788. This is one of the main gathering places for Somalis in San Diego, but they welcome others to sample their food, which is a combination of African, Italian, Arab, and Indian influences. Fish plays a big role in the diet of a country that boasts the longest coastline in Africa, but so does lamb and goat meat. Start with a *fadareshin*, a mixed plate of roasted goat meat, fried fish, basmati rice (the Indian influence), and a pile of spaghetti — common since the Italians came to colonize. No meal is complete without bananas, which are mixed in with pretty much everything, especially soups. Open three meals daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Taste of Szechuan 670 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-291-1668. Friendly staff serves up standard Szechuan Mandarin fare at this archetypal Chinese restaurant. Szechuan Garlic Shrimp is number one on the list of twelve House Specialties for good reason. This tangy dish of crispy, deep-fried shrimp is one of their best. Not often seen on the menus of strip-mall Chinese restaurants, the Szechuan Orange Fish is also recommended, but don't be

misled by the "hot and spicy" star next to this item. As with any of their "spicy" offerings, the heat in this dish barely registers. Spice lovers should ask for an extra kick. The Toffee Banana and Toffee Apple desserts may tempt you, but unless you have a dentist on-call, it's best to pass on these super-sticky sweets. Inexpensive lunch specials. Open till midnight Monday through Thursday, 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday, Sunday until 10 p.m. Inexpensive to moderate. — B.D.

Tofu House 4646 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-576-6433. This stylish little eatery is proof positive that our city has matured for its specialty ethnic foods. Tofu House is a Korean restaurant serving up specialty tofu dishes. Flavorful, healthy foods. I highly recommend the *soontofu* soups (beef, pork, seafood, or mushroom) with raw egg drop you drop yourself and a side of tasty fresh kimchi. Deliver yourself from sorrowfully generic foreign food — Tofu House serves vivid ethnic food. Open daily. Inexpensive. — M.N.

Top of the Market 750 North Harbor Drive, Downtown, 619-234-4867. The upper-crust upper floor of the downtown Fish Market (see Multiple Locations listing) has largely the same food as the downstairs, plus a few luxury items (e.g., abalone) and occasionally some creative appetizer specials. Prices are about 25% higher for identical items, in exchange for a slightly elevated view and a dressier, white-tablecloth setting that's almost formal by San Diego standards — flip-flops and tank tops aren't allowed on men, and collared shirts (e.g., polos) are suggested at dinner. That doesn't mean that the atmosphere is quietly gracious — the room's just as huge, packed, and raucous as the lower realms, even on the terrace. Reserve, and expect a short wait anyway. Elevator provides wheelchair access. Open daily. Expensive. — N.W.

Zensei Sushi 3396 30th Street, North Park, 619-546-6171. This much-welcomed neighborhood restaurant in a restaurant-starved neighborhood offers a changing menu of sushi, fusion appetizers, and Japanese entrées emphasizing noodle dishes. The sushi is the main draw. It's well made and based on seafood from the same fishmonger used by Ota and Nobu. The "party rolls" (such as "stuffed tomato" and "honey-mooners") may not be original, but

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they're delicious fun. Free parking behind restaurant (enter by alley on Upas east of Jack in the Box lot). Reservations advised for Friday/Saturday evenings, accepted for two or more at sushi bar, four or more at tables. Japanese and American beers, sakes, and wines. Lunch and dinner daily. — N.W.

NORTH INLAND

Addison 5200 Grand Del Mar Way, Del Mar, 858-314-1900. At this gala, gorgeous restaurant a mile or so uphill from the hotel at Doug Manchester's new luxury resort, the brief menu offers dishes made with superior ingredients, executed flawlessly. However, it may be hard to warm up to the chef's palate, which seems to favor sour, tart, and acidic notes, with no concessions to culinary comfort. The creative cooking involves strange flavor combinations, such as well-seasoned lamb shank with a goat-cheese tart served over a slick of acidic lemon-sorrel sauce plus uncured house-made sausage with a

puree of Japanese *umiboshi*, fiercely sour plums that seem to come from a different universe than the meat. Or an amuse of tart yogurt punctuated by sour quince and puckery gooseberries. It seems to be more about the chef's self-expression than about your pleasure, but many people love it — it apparently depends on what night you eat there. Service is formal, deluxe, and quite rigid: The bussers are your bosses. Dinner Tuesday through Saturday only. Reservations essential; request detailed route directions. Extremely expensive. — N.W.

Bolsa Vietnamese Restaurant 9225 Mira Mesa Boulevard #118, Mira Mesa, 858-693-3663. "The name 'Bolsa' isn't Vietnamese," says Kim Trang. "It's Spanish for 'bag.'" She's playing on words here: Trang once owned Pho Bolsa on University Avenue, and every Vietnamese knows *pho bo* is Vietnam's most popular quick meal, a beef rice noodle soup. At this location, Trang still makes excellent *pho bo*, but she has 122 other items as well, including fried catfish with ginger fish sauce, healthy (nonfried) Vietnamese spring rolls, or

egg rolls with lettuce and mint in which to wrap them (sprinkled with *nuoc mam*, Vietnamese fish sauce). We're talking family-style cooking. Come once and Trang will remember you and everything you ate — even if it was just *pho bo*. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Cabana Cove 777 Harrah's Way, Valley Center, 877-777-2457. This fun eatery brings Pacific Beach to Valley Center with its cheerful (make that gorgeous) surfer decor and a menu of classy surfer grub. With glass walls looking out on the mountains and on two curvy swimming pools, this is the only restaurant in the casino to offer views of the outer world. The eclectic menu, from surfing spots around the world, includes wonderful, smoky pork as both a taco and an entrée, plus pristine seafood choices. Full bar, creative cocktails. Breakfast Monday through Friday; lunch and dinner daily. Moderate. — N.W.

Golden Egg Omelet House 316 West Mission Avenue, Escondido, 760-489-6420. This breakfast-lunch treasure-house is vast but cute, its brick walls and open beams festooned with knick-

knacks (all for sale). This is the place on Sunday mornings, when three generations bond over great, generous breakfasts. Omelets are perfect — light, thin crêpe-like eggs wrapped around tall mounds of elaborate fillings. Thick waffles can be topped with fresh seasonal fruit. And then there are eggs, hash, crêpes, humongous burgers, and sandwiches. The potato casseroles, with a choice of a dozen fillings, are as huge in flavor as they are in size. Whatever you choose will carry you through until dinner. Reservations on weekends. In back of a mall. Easiest entry from Mission is at SDG&E driveway; do not pass McDonald's. Good handicapped access; sturdy high chairs; low-salt cooking. Open daily, breakfast and lunch. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Madras Café 9484 Black Mountain Road, Mira Mesa, 858-695-6229. In the same strip mall as Ashoka the Great, this family-friendly café features the savory vegetarian cuisine of South India. It's distinctly different from the standard North Indian menus, centering on numerous varieties of stuffed pancakes — from thin, crisp (and irresistible)

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Calendar RESTAURANTS

crêpe-like *dosais* stuffed with vegetable curry to lacy rice-flour *aupams* drenched in coconut milk to hefty, fritata-like *uttapams*. (Try the last with the delicious, not-too-spicy chili-onion stuffing.) Puffy *poori* bread and tamarind rice are spectacular. Order your dishes in the sequence you hope to eat them — that's usually how they come out of the kitchen. And don't expect hovering "Raj"-style service — it's just not the Tamil way. Seasoning is generally mild to accommodate kiddies; spicy sauces are on the table. No alcohol. Open Tuesday through Sunday with buffet lunches and à la carte dinners. Inexpensive. — N.W.

Mille Fleurs 6009 Paseo Delicias, Rancho Santa Fe, 858-756-3085. One of the area's top destination restaurants, Bertrand Hug's beautiful room with beautiful food draws "the beautiful people" — Hollywood honchos, high-end high school graduation parties, and a steady influx of rarefied Rancho Santa Fe residents flaunting huge twinkling rocks. The daily-changing menu sports first-rate modern French cuisine (with a few German touches) by long-time chef Martin Woesele. Order at will — everything's flawless. The menu's most exciting on weeknights, when crowds are sparser and the kitchen has time to stretch. The wine list is fabulous but exorbitant even at the bottom. Lunch weekdays, dinner nightly. Reservations recommended. Very, very expensive, but less costly and less formal on "Bistro Wednesdays" when simpler food is served. — N.W.

Onami Japanese Restaurant 240 East Via Rancho Parkway, Escondido, 760-738-7522. This Japanese buffet offers everything from miso soup and

sukiyaki to a host of salads, including several variations of *sunomono* (cucumber salad). Then there are teriyakis, sashimis, and a plethora of sushi rolls. Among the winners are the California roll with *masago*, tempura shrimp roll, guacamole roll, and Philadelphia roll. Skip the dry egg rolls and head for the corn crab cakes, teriyaki chicken, tempura shrimp, and veggies. Desserts offer fresh fruits, bite-size cake options, and go-back-for-seconds green tea ice cream. The food is fresh, the presentation artful, and the staff friendly and efficient. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Expensive. — S.M.

The Original Pancake House 3906 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-565-1740. Starve yourself for eight hours, then come in here and order up an Apple Pancake — a foot-wide, batter-filled, five-egg paradise pelted with slices from two Granny Smith apples and baked till it puffs up like a golden mini-superdome. Cinnamon cinches it. The German Pancake, or its kid brother, the Dutch Baby, are good oven-baked alternatives, as is the really, really filling mushroom omelet, which comes with three pancakes. Oh, and the Eggs Michael: sausage patties and poached eggs lost somewhere under a mushroom-sherry sauce. The whole atmosphere — striped gold-and-cream wallpaper, dainty cups, shelves of ceramic dogs — feels like it's the fifties and your granny took you here when you were five. Okay, it's a nationwide franchise, but it's a comfy franchise, from Oregon. All-day breakfast only, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Inexpensive. Other locations at 14905 Pomerado Road, Poway, 858-679-0186; 160 South Rancho Santa Fe Road, Encinitas, 760-943-1939; 435 South Melrose Drive, Vista, 760-758-3441. — E.B.

Super Buffet 8998 Miramar Road, Mira Mesa, 858-566-1888. Curly-haired stone lions greet you outside one of the grander dining halls in the county. "The biggest buffet of San

Diego" claims the menu, "with over 200 items daily." Start at the Mongolian grill. Pick your raw prawns, chicken, pork, beef, *satays*, and hand the plate-load to the Iron Chef. He'll stir-cook them on the hotplate for you. You'll need hiking boots to cover the endless rows of steaming chafing dishes. Must-eat: the fresh sashimi, like salmon and tuna — mouth-wateringly scrumptious. And try the chicken feet (they taste a bit like cow tongue, or brains). Open daily, brunch through dinner. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Venice Ristorante Italiano 4365 Executive Drive, University City, 858-597-1188. The neighborhood is cold and sterile, but the restaurant brings the warmth and gusto of refined Northern Italian cuisine. Delicious dishes include a wonderful antipasto assortment, lush and tender pastas and airy *gnocchi*, and enjoyable, non-clichéd entrées including duck breast with pistachios and veal rack with porcini mushrooms. The vast wine list is mostly Italian, red, and expensive. Validated parking, heated outdoor patio available. Long happy hour in bar (2 p.m. until closing weeknights, all evening Saturdays) offering bargain-price tapas and discounted wines. Plenty in the pasta realm for lacto-vegetarians. Regular meals upper moderate to expensive. Lunch and dinner weekdays, dinner only on Saturdays. — N.W.

NORTH COASTAL

Le Bambou 2634 Del Mar Heights Road, Del Mar, 858-259-8138. No mere "pho joint," this lovely restaurant serves the sophisticated Vietnamese cuisine of prewar Saigon — and the owners' daughters serve it in the flower-be-decked dining room with grace, intelligence, and evident pleasure in teaching Westerners about the cuisine. Appetizers (most of them designed for

rolling with fresh herbs in lettuce leaves and eating with your hands) are varied and of superb quality. Few restaurants here do the royal delicacy of ground shrimp on sugar cane so well. Most of the house specialty entrées are equally accomplished. Lacqué duck, sautéed shrimps or scallops in tamarind sauce, and Star of the Sea curry are outstanding. The gently priced wine list abounds in the fruity whites that go so well with this cuisine, while beer-quaffers can enjoy Vietnam's own "33" brand. Lunch Tuesday through Friday, dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Low moderate. — N.W.

El Callejon Restaurant 345 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-634-2793. This is a Mexican restaurant with a difference: Instead of the standard boring border foods and combo plates, it offers a long menu of genuine, zesty mainland dishes, some with original spins on traditional themes. Shrimp *zarandeados* with a rich sauce of chiles and beef in cilantro sauce are some of the delights. There's even a *parillada* (mixed grill) to serve two. The atmosphere offers more pleasures. At lunchtime, the dining room seems like a serene hacienda. Evenings the restaurant may turn into a rollicking community center, where multi-generational families and groups of friends fill the dining rooms and spill onto the sizable patio hidden in back. Mariachi band on Fridays and Saturdays. — N.W.

The Calypso Café 576 North Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-632-8252. This "Calypso" has nothing to do with Caribbean music (or food), despite its tropical tiki-hut decor. The cuisine is French, ranging from old warhorses like onion soup and coq au vin to new-fangled Gallo-Cal-Italian-Pacific Rim hyphenates. The traditional dishes are generally the most successful. Mussels are the house specialty, and their rapid turnover here ensures freshness. Although there's nothing revolutionary

coming from this kitchen, the cooking is generally agreeable. Dinner nightly, reservations advised. Upper moderate. — N.W.

Firenze 162 South Rancho Santa Fe Road, Encinitas, 760-944-9000. This big, beautiful, gracious restaurant (located in the same mall as Harvest Ranch Market, just north of Rancho Santa Fe) offers both a handsome interior and a romantic fire-lit patio. The well-spaced tables are laden with huge portions of accomplished, multi-regional Italian cuisine and reasonably priced Italian and California wines (with half-price wines Monday nights). Vegetarians will rejoice in the two dozen meatless selections. Lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday, dinner only on Sunday. High moderate. — N.W.

Jake's Del Mar Waterfront Grill 1660 Coast Boulevard, Del Mar, 858-755-2002. Offering surf and turf by the sea, Jake's not only hugs the oceanfront, with a patio overlooking the waves, but has a smaller patio next to Powerhouse Park, with its fragrant mimosa plants, where you can walk off the calories. A branch of the well-known Hawaiian chain, Duke's, Jake's fare is competently cooked, if not inspired. The seafood may flaunt fusion-y, sugary touches, while steaks are Prime or high-grade Choice. Portions are huge — the tasty Dungeness crab cake appetizer is sizeable enough for a substantial lunch, offering loads of crab and little filler. Location is very popular with locals and tourists both, so reservations urged for any meal, essential for the à la carte Sunday brunch. Lunch Tuesday through Saturday, dinner nightly, brunch Sunday. Lunch and brunch moderate, dinner expensive. — N.W.

Paul's Place 3671 Mission Avenue, Oceanside, 760-721-0124. This restaurant looks like a McDonald's or Wendy's (the building used to be a franchise) and the food comes fast, but it's

no chain. The menu strikes a balance between American and Greek fare. The baked Greek half-chicken, the spiced grilled chicken sliced up on a salad with pita bread, and the gyros (all at earthy prices) mix with all-American three-egg breakfast specials with home fries. Lunch offers include meaty hamburgers, gyros with fries, or a surprisingly tasty turkey burger. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Ruth's Chris Steak House — Carmel Valley 11582 El Camino Real, Carmel Valley, 858-755-1454. Flash-cooked steaks from fine (albeit wet-aged) USDA Prime, topped with butter and parsley, are the hallmark of this 95-location chain. All side dishes are à la carte, sized for two or more. The broiled tomatoes — caramelized with a touch of sugar — are a delight, and potatoes are offered in eight guises. Starters include gooey stuffed mushrooms and an outstanding take on America's now-ubiquitous seared ahi. But there's another side to this restaurant. True to its New Orleans origins, it offers a number of Louisiana dishes cooked in the rich, delicate, non-spicy manner of a French plantation (or old NOLA stalwart Antoine's) including shrimp remoulade; a thin tomatoey gumbo; an atypically creamy BBQ shrimp and a terrific, authentic bread pudding drenched in whiskey sauce. Non-beef-eaters can also choose from luxurious seafood dishes, a cheese-stuffed chicken breast, grilled portobello, and more. Award-winning wine list is steep but serious. The downtown location harbors a stunning seaside view. Dinner nightly; lunch Friday only. Very expensive. — N.W.

Vigilucci's — Encinitas 505 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-942-7332. In the Land of 10,000 Trattorias, this is one of the most popular — and for good reason. The restaurant's motto, "a little piece of Italy," is actually accurate. Freshness, simplicity, and savvy seasoning — that's Italian. The pastas are luscious (try the com-



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forting cannelloni with an unusual stewed meat stuffing) and the flavorful entrées come with honest fresh vegetables. The staff is bouncy and jokey, the wines are mainly affordable, and spir-its run high. Of course it's crowded, so reserve to avoid a long, hungry wait. Other locations include Vigilucci Cucina in Carlsbad, Vigilucci's Pizzeria in Leucadia, and Vigilucci's Seafood and Steakhouse in Carlsbad. — N.W.

Vivace 7100 Four Seasons Point, Carlsbad, 760-603-3773. If you ever wished to eat like the Medicis did, here's the place for it. This lovely hotel-restaurant at a gorgeous resort showcases Ital-

ian haute cuisine which is simpler and more natural than the French equivalent. You'll find inventive combinations of first-class ingredients, skillfully executed and beautifully presented with none of the culinary clichés of the *mamma mia* joints. Reservations urged. Valet parking free for diners. Resort-casual — no hats, shorts or jeans, or sandals — but room may be painfully noisy if patrons get too festive. Dinner seven nights. Four-course tasting dinner a relative bargain, but wine list may blow the budget. Moderate (pastas and risottos) to very expensive. — N.W.

SOUTH BAY

Galley at the Marina 550 Marina Parkway, Chula Vista, 619-422-5714. This is a great place to relax, take in the view, and decide which yacht you're gonna buy when you win the lotto. It's run by Fran Muncey, widow of Bill Muncey, San Diego's greatest speed-boat-racing champion. The tasty, bargain-priced happy hour specials (3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday) make a visit worth the trip west of I-5: have a 1/2-pound hamburger with

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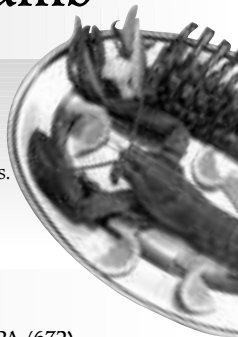


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User Reviews — RESTAURANTS

Best user comments from Reader website

Cowboy Star Restaurant and Butcher Shop, downtown
THE GOOD THINGS: This place is finely decorated with every aspect true to the name and theme of the restaurant from the staff's western style uniforms, to the oldies country ballads. It was a fun experience because it felt like I was taking a trip to another place and time. The menu boast a list of free range, grass fed steaks. I highly recommend the bison sirloin and the aged bone in ribeye. Service was extraordinary and the staff was very friendly, knowledgeable, and attentive. The wine list is well assembled. **THE BAD THINGS:** The location made finding decent parking a difficult challenge. If you happen to be in a smaller party, then chances are you will be seated in the arrangement where you'll have to share a booth-bench with another table. This could seem a bit intrusive if you are trying to go for that "intimately quiet and private" dining experience. The portions of the steaks and appetizers could be a bit larger considering the prices.

By **EddieL** 4:09 p.m., Dec. 4

Bangkok Spices Thai, East San Diego

The food here is delicious, and they are very vegetarian/vegan friendly. When I ask if something is vegetarian or can be prepared vegetarian, they really seem to get what all that entails and ask all the right questions (well, they seem to know me now, so they don't ask anymore but they did the first several times I went there). They would assure me, no chicken stock, no fish sauce, etc. They actually can make a dish that's hot enough for me (and they can make it less spicy for those not like me) The prices, the service, the food...oh, the food. It's my new favorite Thai place.

By **sdterp** 4:57 p.m., Dec. 5

Two Brothers from Italy, Vista

There are three locations of this pizza joint (two in Vista, one in Oceanside), and actually this place should be called "Two Brothers and a Sister from Italy" Pizza, as a family member manages each of the locations. Normally there isn't anything special to say about pizza joints. But Two Guys from Italy I believe is making something that warrants special notice. The pizza they produce is as close to a "New York style" pizza as you can get, in both feel and taste. It's all about the dough; eerily close in that NY flavor, hand-tossed thin, light on the sauce and made to fold. I don't make this declaration flippantly; not only did I live in Manhattan for three years eating slices from Ray's Original at least three times a week, but two other former NYC natives have also concurred and have made Two Guys their ONLY place to order pizza. Other places may declare it, but this place actually delivers it. If you're hunkering for a slice and in the Oceanside/Vista area, look for one of Two Guys locations; cause even if you don't know NY style, it will still be a tasty slice of pizza.

By **pilote** 8:36 a.m., Dec. 8

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Calendar RESTAURANTS

french fries, chicken Caesar salad with sourdough toast, or a filet mignon steak plate with steak fries. Next morning, catch the breakfast favorite: biscuits and sausage gravy with eggs. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Lai Thai Restaurant 1430 East Plaza Boulevard #E10, National City, 619-474-5546. Lai Thai started up as the lone Thai in a sea of Filipino restaurants in South Bay, but has gained a respected place under glamorous Summawadee Bubpha. Prices are so reasonable, you feel the food shouldn't come on such beautiful platters. The soups, *tom kah* (spicy coconut), and *tom yum* (hot and sour), are especially good, as is the house Lai Thai Fish (usually tilapia) in delicious *panang* coconut-curry sauce. But you've got to push for spiciness if you want it. Lunch deals are really cheap. Also check out the Thai art on the walls, some for sale. Open lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

Swaddee Thai 1001 C Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-8110. Tourists never stray to Swaddee's quiet residential location a block from the bright lights of Orange Avenue. Their loss is the locals' gain. The dining room is a quiet, lovely haven from the hustle; the service is caring and gracious. Even if

the long list of Siamese specialties is merely standard, the kitchen, too, is devoted to the art of gently giving pleasure. The peanut sauce accompanying the *sate*, for instance, is classically balanced; the complex but soothing coconut-chicken soup can wash away all cares; and the calamari in the many seafood arrays is cleverly knife-scored to achieve sheer tenderness along with good looks. Even the jasmine rice is an exceptionally fragrant brand. Unless you specify otherwise, spicy dishes have a nice nip tuned to brave-but-tender *farang* tastebuds. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W.

Thai Café — Coronado 1201 First Street, Coronado, 619-522-0217. Tourists may not take this little open-sided kiosk restaurant at Coronado's Ferry Landing seriously, but this has to be some of the best-prepared Thai food in the county. It's all laid out buffet style in chafing dishes. You can sample before you commit. They're all good. None of the watered-down versions of, say, green curry, you sometimes get elsewhere. Grilled satay is excellent, as are spicy basil chicken, *panang* curry, Thai pork salad, and tilapia topped with sweet veggies and Thai chili sauce. Pick two (the best deal), find a table under the shade of a fig tree, go "Ommm." You're approaching nirvana. Daily, 11 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Village Club Card Room 429 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-425-3333. Yes, it's mostly poker players, but anybody can come in and order a meal. And here's the thing: first-time players

get their meal free. Of course, the idea is to keep players' bellies full so they can return to the game, so even second-timers get a deal with down-home comfort-dishes like grilled chicken breast sandwich, spaghetti with meatballs and garlic bread, or garlic shrimp with fried rice and egg, plus Chinese dishes including Kung Pao beef or chicken, Mongolian beef, and a good wonton soup with noodles. Cardroom open and non-Chinese food menu available 24 hours; Chinese menu noon to 4 a.m. Inexpensive. — E.B.

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. Breakfast: 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.

Fix Me a Plate Café 9168 Fletcher Parkway, La Mesa, 619-466-6084. Chef-owner Jimmy Pomier was executive chef at the great Juke Joint Café, and now he's got his own place to serve up whopping portions of authentic Cajun and Louisiana-style soul food. His oyster po' boy is (as France's Michelin Guide might say) "worth a detour," as good as it gets this far away. His gumbo is eccentric; his deep-fried chicken gizzards with aioli are fun. His delicious étouffées are among the highlights of the long menu (on which not all dishes are available all the time). Skimpy wine and beer selection, and BYOB is strictly forbidden, but the lemonade is okay. Lunch and dinner Tuesday through Sunday (with break in between). Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W.

Johnny B's 4728 Fourth Street, La Mesa, 619-464-2465. This "Burgers and Brew" bar is a real 1950s place with burgers to die for and good bar snacks, in-

cluding a zesty jalapeño dip. Play pool, watch TV, hide from your ex on the smoker's patio out back. On Sundays (1 p.m. to 7 p.m. only), their ten-ounce New York steak, fries, beans, and salad is a must-eat at a rock-bottom price. Open daily, lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday, three meals Sunday. Inexpensive. — 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, lively 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. Open in the summer; other seasons, open for lunch and dinner (with a break between). Inexpensive to low moderate. — N.W.

Ranas.Com 9683 Campo Road, Suite A, Spring Valley, 619-589-1792. With 33 Mexican restaurants in the area, this Mexico City eatery has got to be good. It's

a cheery place with lime green walls and orange accents. Cooking from the capital tends to be less biting hot than some northern food, with unexpected taste combos, like *pollo en salsa de cacahuete* (an almost Thai-tasting chicken in peanut sauce which comes with rice, beans, and tortilla). Aztec *huarache* (cactus with potato, cheese, lettuce, sour cream, and salsa) is also easy to love. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Tyler's Taste of Texas 576 North Second Street, El Cajon, 619-444-9295. Unfussy home cooking. Some dishes outshine others. The slab of smoky ham steak that comes with the first-rate breakfast is in itself enough to rouse the sleepiest appetite. Expertly sautéed onions and mushrooms lend flavor to fried potatoes and omelets, respectively, while pebbly-smooth hash and gingery sweet potato pancakes give the lineup character. For lunch and dinner, the Texas menu features Texas-style barbecue (chicken, beef, pork, and sausage) that's sufficiently smoky, but a little uneven in texture. The barbecue beef is reliable and the sweet-ish sauce shows well on the chicken. Pleasant surprises: a substantial, peppery cornmeal crust on the tender catfish and the fried green tomatoes, and the rich stock in the vegetable soup. All-you-can-eat catfish Wednesdays and Fridays. Open 24 hours. Inexpensive to low moderate. — A.M.

West Coast Barbecue 606 Lake Murray Boulevard, La Mesa, 619-462-3663. This relocated revival of the popular former Bekker's BBQ serves pit-smoked Texas-style "cue" that seems more like the Bushes of Crawford, Texas than the soulful south: Meats are leaner and less smoky. Best bets are the full-flavored ribs (beef, baby back, spare) and chicken wings. Other cuts (brisket, pulled pork, chicken) run a little dry. The red soppin' sauce is thin, very sweet, with some tang but no heat. Most sides are rather bland, regionless picnic fare except for the good pinto beans and the outstanding, authentic Texas bean-free chili, well seasoned and classically garnished with chopped white onion and melted yellow cheese. It deserves promotion to an entrée. Dessert is a choice of canned-fruit cobblers topped with shortening pie crust. Beer and house wine; small outdoor patio. Low-moderate, inexpensive for shared takeout. Full catering services available; not confined to BBQ. — N.W.

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

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Nook and Cranny

She wasn't going to be trapped in Charlotte's Web forever.

The natural suspicion surrounding any and all of the "alternative" programs at the Reading Gaslamp (né Pacific Gaslamp) is that these must be films that the Landmark chain turned up its nose at. Rejects. Undesirables. Beggars. Two openings last Friday provided conflicting evidence.

MOVIE REVIEW
DUNCAN SHEPHERD

Hounddog, a quasi Carson McCullers coming-of-age tale set in rural Alabama in the late Fifties, has attained some small notoriety, too small to amount to a full-blown controversy, as the Dakota Fanning Rape Movie. That boils it down a bit too far. Needless to say, thirteen-year-old girls have been known to be raped, and filmmakers ought to retain the prerogative of putting that on screen, and thirteen-year-old actresses should not have to cede the role to Ellen Page or her equivalent. The deed itself, at the hands of a bad-complexioned older boy, could be said to be treated discreetly — neck-up framing, including the preludial nude dance — were it not for the gaudy symbolism of the impalement of the

victim's hand on a rusty nail.

But there's much more where that came from, both before and after. The show-me-your-thing flirtation with a lad her own age. The smooches on the lips. The Elvis-the-Pelvis gyrations in imitation of the heroine's idol, who blows her a kiss from his convertible

on a country road in the dark of night. (Fanning's unaccompanied rock-and-rolling perhaps constitutes the greatest betrayal of trust on the part of her director: hanging the plucky actress out to dry.) The strategic soapsuds in the bathtub. The wet underwear at the swimming hole. The trying-on of a grownup's bra over her clothes. The sharing of the screen with a stark-naked, albeit discreetly photographed, David Morse, as her sit-on-my-lap father. And finally, the hallucinatory snakes slithering over her entire body, not missing her crotch.

All of this, under the eye of a female filmmaker, Deborah Kampmeier, is assuredly meant to arouse discomfort, and nothing more than discomfort.



Hounddog

And the film would most charitably be seen as a significant step, an unmissable plateau, in the process of watching Dakota Fanning grow up before our eyes. She wasn't going to be trapped in *Charlotte's Web* forever. Along with a little provocation, however, come a lot of backwater tedium and triteness (the fire-and-brimstone grandmother, the avuncular black man, the snotty rich

girl) and a lot of jaundiced color (Ed Lachman, the normally capable cinematographer). There are plenty of reasons, besides possible controversy, why Landmark might have opted to pass on it. And Landmark has scant history of shying from controversy.

Claude Miller's *A Secret* is an altogether different matter, a manifest film of quality. (For the cognoscenti famil-

iar with the sneering use of that noun by Miller's mentor, François Truffaut in his green years as a film critic, let me be plain that I'm using it without the sneer.) "Based on true events," and on an autobiographical novel by Philippe Grimbert, it chronicles more than a half-century in the lives of a family of French Jews, working its way forwards and backwards from its postwar start-



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Calendar

MOVIES

ing point: the weakling son of athletic parents, taking refuge in fantasies of an adept fraternal alter ego, and of his parents' idealized earlier lives. (In a reversal of the norm, the later years are shot in black-and-white, for easy differentiation.)

That's a lot of ground to cover in only an hour and three-quarters. The pivotal periods of 1955, 1962, and 1985 have been linked together by three separate actors with an identifying mole between the eyes, the oldest of them being the new James Bond villain, Mathieu Amalric. And although these periods seem involving enough when we're in them, the years before and during the Occupation — when the truth of the parents' earlier lives comes to light — decisively dominate the action, and concentrate our attention, to such extent that the other periods

begin to feel in retrospect a little like dead weight.

The truth of the parents' past is of course very unlike the fantasy. They meet as in-laws at the future father's wedding, the mother at that time married to the bride's brother: the look in the groom's eye at First Sight of his soon-to-be sister-in-law tells us he'd be willing to swap on the spot. (It's strange to see the pixieish Ludvine Sagnier, as the new bride, so outshone in the pulchritude department: the tan, tall, erect Cécile de France, perilously perky in the light comedy of *Avenue Montaigne*, and still sporting the Tinkerbell haircut, is thoroughly imposing as an Olympic swimmer and *haute couture* model.) Then come the Nazis; and simultaneous with the slow-boil adulterous passion, the film probes the complexities of anti-Semitism, even among Jews. All aspects — the time shuffle, the fleeting fantasy, the engulfing history and politics, the microscopic intimacy and sensuality, not

neglecting a silently suffering lesbian masseuse — are handled with delicacy and finesse, straight through to the ironic and touching epilogue in a pet cemetery. Landmark, seven films filling up its ten screens last week, could offer nothing to rival it. Next up at the Gaslamp, this coming Friday, are *Take Out*, a drama of illegal immigrants (Chinese) in New York City, and *The Order of Myths*, a documentary on the evolving Mardi Gras tradition in Mobile, Alabama. Scorecards at the ready.

Previously — to turn back the clock a week — your dutiful reviewer, caught up on the major new releases and happy to take it easy over the Thanksgiving holiday, found himself without a forum when, out of left field, the UltraStar Chula Vista unveiled a Kurosawa film festival starting this past Friday and continuing through tonight, Thursday the 11th. Not, mind you, the UltraStar Mission Valley, home to the San Diego Asian Film Festival and San Diego Latino Film Festival, but the UltraStar Chula Vista, a shopping-mall multiplex where I have been lured once in my life for a Spanish-language promo screening. Some sort of a warning, a word to the wise, a heads-up, a tip-off, more prosaically a press release or a phone call, would have been appreciated. Landmark Theatres, although more and more disinclined in this direction, could have been counted on to make sure I knew about it ahead of time. (I know already about the midnight series at the Ken that kicks off in January with Walter Hill's Kurosawesque gang film, *The Warriors*, as close to a classic as Landmark will have come in some while.)

All I could do at a moment's notice,

anyhow, was to shuffle the recycled old capsule reviews into the weekly movie listings, and I must say I was struck by the alphabetical surreality of *Hidden Fortress* and *High and Low* butting up against *High School Musical 3: Senior Year*, and *Yojimbo* butting up against *Zack and Miri Make a Porno*, and even *Seven Samurai* butting up against *Slumdog Millionaire*. I am aware, scratch my head though I may, that a lot of people are excited by the razzle-dazzle, the hustle-bustle, the hurly-burly of *Slumdog Millionaire*. But how exciting, I wonder, will it still be in fifty years? An artist of the stature of Akira Kurosawa truly puts things in perspective, and his presence under the same roof as *Quantum of Solace* and *Transporter 3* immediately upgrades the quality of life in our fair (to middling) city. I would have liked to make more of the occasion. ■

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.

Australia — Nearly three million square miles of tripe. A Ferber-esque epic of a "delicate English rose" who takes over her late husband's cattle ranch in rugged northern Australia on the eve of World War II, a *Cimarron* Down Under, with a sprinkle of 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; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 14; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; TOWN SQUARE 14)

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 dog-giness, 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; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; TOWN SQUARE 14)

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; HILL-CREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

Burn after Reading — The Coen brothers revisit their favored stupidity theme: *Raising Arizona*, *Barton Fink*, *Fargo*, *The Big Lebowski* (that one above all), *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, the secondhand *Ladykillers*, at least the Llewellyn Moss protagonist in *No Country for Old Men*. Back to the well once more. The placement of this timeless theme within the Washington, D.C., intelligence community is, however, highly strategic, calculating, revitalizing, resonating, and, well, intelligent. (The memorable line from the original *Manchurian Candidate* swims up from the depths: "Intelligence officer! Stupidity officer is more like it.") The central theme has been interlarded with secondary themes of deception, discontentment, self-delusion, double lives, so that while the film is unmistakably a comedy, it's a pretty deep one. And regardless how repetitive the theme, there is no slacking off in technique and execution. The fast hour and a half is consistently, unobtrusively funny, with only a rare lapse in taste (a homemade marital aid, a couple of splashes of Scorsese-esque gore) and never really a lapse in tone. And although the regular and reliable Roger Deakins has been replaced with Emmanuel Lubezki (*Children of Men*, most noteworthy), the cinematography doesn't suffer, with its crystal-clear air, its fine-line focus, and its scythe-like camerawork, angling slightly upwards, attacking from all sides, intermittently cutting a path in a spurt of purposeful fluidity. George Clooney, Frances McDormand, Brad Pitt, Tilda Swinton, John Malkovich, Richard Jenkins, David Rasche, J.K. Simmons. 2008.

★★★★ (HORTON PLAZA 14)

Cadillac Records — The emergence of rock-and-roll, as seen from the catbird seat of Chess Records in Chicago: Muddy Waters, Little Walter, Howlin' Wolf, Chuck Berry, Etta James, et al. The golden music, the vintage cars, the period hairdos retain their glamour; the backstage clichés are just old. Adrian Brody, as producer Leonard Chess, and Jeffrey Wright as Waters outdo one another in unintelligible murmurs and mutters; Beyoncé Knowles sings up a firestorm as James; and Mos Def is an all-around delight as Berry. With Columbus Short, Gabrielle Union, Eamonn Walker, and Cedric the Entertainer; written and directed by Darnell Martin. 2008.

★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Changeling — Clint Eastwood was due for a dud, and this stacks up as his flattest film, his stumpiest film, since *Blood Work*, bookending his hot streak of *Mystic River*, *Million Dollar Baby*, and the Second World War diptych, *Flags of Our Fathers* and *Letters from Iwo Jima*. Time once again to take it easy. Perhaps a partial explanation (or excuse) might be found in the fact that Eastwood took over the project from Ron Howard (still a co-producer on it), and certainly it possesses a moral simplicity that would seem these days to be beneath his interest. Never beneath Howard's, however. An eighty-year-old nugget unearthed from the annals of the LAPD, fit for a remember-

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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 overflowing, 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)

A Christmas Tale — Family reunion and reconciliation: the black sheep returns from banishment in time for his mother's battle with cancer. The setting-up of who's who is clumsy, and the occasional direct address to the camera is lazy, and two and a half hours are more than enough. But the unified French ensemble breathes some life into it: Catherine Deneuve, Jean-Paul Roussillon (offbeat casting as Deneuve's toadish husband), Anne Consigny, Mathieu Amalric, Melvil Poupaud (always a screen-brightener), Chiara Mastroianni (Deneuve's daughter in real life but a daughter-in-law on screen), Emmanuelle Devos, and Laurent Capelluto. Directed by Arnaud Desplechin. 2008. ★★ (LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

The Day the Earth Stood Still — Scott Derrickson's remake of the 1951 s-f classic, starring Keanu Reeves and Jennifer Connelly. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; FROM 12/12)

Eden — Irish marital drama with Aidan Kelly and Eileen Walsh, directed by Declan Recks. (KEN, 12/12 THROUGH 18)

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; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Frost/Nixon — Director Ron Howard restages David Frost's TV interview of Richard Nixon, with Michael Sheen and Frank Langella. (MISSION VALLEY 20, FROM 12/12)

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 amor-

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MOVIE SHOWTIMES

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CENTRAL

CLAIREMONT

Town Square 14

4665 Clairemont Drive (858-274-1234)
Australia (Not Rated); **Bolt** (PG); **Cadillac Records** (R); **The Day the Earth Stood Still** (PG-13); **Delgo** (PG); **Four Christmases** (PG-13); **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG); **Milk** (R); **Nothing Like the Holidays** (PG-13); **Punisher: War Zone** (R); **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13); **Transporter 3** (PG-13); **Twilight** (PG-13)

DOWNTOWN

Gaslamp 15

701 Fifth Avenue (619-232-0400)
Australia (Not Rated); **Cadillac Records** (R); **Changeling** (R); **Four Christmases** (PG-13); **Hounddog** (R); **Let the Right One In** (R); **Nobel Son** (R); **The Order of Myths** (Not Rated); **Rachel Getting Married** (R); **Role Models** (R); **A Secret** (Not Rated); **Take Out** (Not Rated); **Transporter 3** (PG-13); **W.** (PG-13)

Horton Plaza 14

Horton Plaza (619-444-FILM)
Bolt 3-D (PG) Fri. (1:30, 4:05) 7:05, 9:25 Sat.-Sun. (1:30) 4:05, 7:05, 9:25; **Burn after Reading** (R) Fri. (2:20, 4:35) 7:25, 9:50 Sat.-Sun. (2:20) 4:35, 7:25, 9:50; **The Day the Earth Stood Still** (PG-13) Fri. (1:45, 2:15, 2:45, 4:15, 4:45, 5:15) 6:45, 7:15, 7:45, 9:15, 9:45, 10:15 Sat.-Sun. (1:45, 2:15, 2:45) 4:15, 4:45, 5:15, 6:45, 7:15, 7:45, 9:15, 9:45, 10:15; **Delgo** (PG) Fri. (1:50, 4:20) 7:00, 9:20 Sat.-Sun. (1:50) 4:20, 7:00, 9:20; **Happy-Go-Lucky** (R) Fri. (2:05, 4:55) 7:40, 10:25 Sat.-Sun. (2:05) 4:55, 7:40, 10:25; **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG) Fri. (2:00, 4:30) 7:25, 9:35 Sat.-Sun. (2:00) 4:30, 7:25, 9:35; **Nothing Like the Holidays** (PG-13) Fri. (1:35, 4:10) 7:10, 9:30 Sat.-Sun. (1:35) 4:10, 7:10, 9:30; **Punisher: War Zone** (R) Fri. (2:30, 5:00) 7:30, 10:10 Sat.-Sun. (2:30) 5:00, 7:30, 10:10; **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13) Fri. (2:10, 4:40) 7:30, 10:00 Sat.-Sun. (2:10) 4:40, 7:30, 10:00; **Synecdoche, New York** (R) Fri. (1:55, 4:50) 7:35, 10:20 Sat.-Sun. (1:55) 4:50, 7:35, 10:20; **Twilight** (PG-13) Fri. (1:40, 4:25) 7:20, 10:05 Sat.-Sun. (1:40) 4:25, 7:20, 10:05; **Zack and Miri Make a Porno** (R) Fri. (2:35, 5:05) 7:40, 10:10 Sat.-Sun. (2:35) 5:05, 7:40, 10:10

LA JOLLA

La Jolla 12

8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (858-558-2262)
Australia (Not Rated) Fri.-Sun. (11:40) 3:20,

7:00, 10:10; **Bolt** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:05) 1:35, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10; **The Day the Earth Stood Still** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:45, 11:30) 1:30, 2:15, 4:15, 5:00, 7:00, 7:45, 9:45, 10:30; **Four Christmases** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:50) 2:20, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55; **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG) Fri. (11:15) 1:50, 4:20, 6:45 Sat. (11:15) 1:50, 4:20, 6:45, 9:15 Sun. 1:50, 4:20, 6:45, 9:15; **Nothing Like the Holidays** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:25) 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:05; **Punisher: War Zone** (R) Fri. (11:20) 2:10, 4:55 Sat. (11:20) 2:10, 4:55, 7:40, 10:20 Sun. 2:10, 4:55, 7:40, 10:20; **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:00) 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:45; **Role Models** (R) Fri.-Sun. 12:15, 2:50, 5:25, 8:00, 10:35; **Transporter 3** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:35) 2:05, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00; **Twilight** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:50) 1:40, 4:35, 7:35, 10:25 Sun. 1:40, 4:35, 7:35, 10:25

La Jolla Village

8879 Villa La Jolla Drive (619-819-0236)
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 1:50, 4:55, 7:20, 9:40; **A Christmas Tale** (Not Rated) Fri.-Sun. 1:30, 4:45; **Milk** (R) Fri.-Sun. 1:15, 4:05, 7:00, 8:00, 9:50; **Slumdog Millionaire** (R) Fri.-Sun. 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 10:00

MIRA MESA

Mira Mesa 18

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MISSION VALLEY

Fashion Valley 18

7037 Friars Road (858-558-2262)
Australia; **Bolt**; **Cadillac Records**; **Changeling**; **The Day the Earth Stood Still**; **Delgo**; **Four Christmases**; **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa**; **Nothing Like the Holidays**; **Punisher: War Zone**; **Quantum of Solace**; **Role Models**; **Transporter 3**; **Twilight**

Mission Valley 7

7510 Hazard Center Drive (619-685-2841)



The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG-13) (10:00 12:30 3:00) 5:30 8:00 10:45; **Nobel Son** (R) 7:15 10:00pm; **Four Christmases** (PG-13) (10:00 12:15 2:45) 5:15 7:45 10:15; **Australia** (PG-13) (12:00 3:30) 7:00 10:30; **Twilight** (PG-13) (10:30 1:15 4:00) 7:00 9:45; No 10:15 a.m. Sat. 12/13 & Sun. 12/14; No 7p.m. Thu. 12/18; **Bolt 3-D** (PG) (11:30 2:15) 5:00 7:30 10:00; **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13) (10:15

12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45; **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG) (10:00 12:10 2:30) 4:45; **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; **Bolt**; **Cadillac Records**; **The Day the Earth Stood Still**; **Delgo**; **Four Christmases**; **Frost/Nixon**; **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa**; **Nothing Like the Holidays**; **Punisher: War Zone**; **Quantum of Solace**; **Role Models**; **Transporter 3**; **Twilight**

STATE UNIVERSITY

Ken

4061 Adams Avenue (619-819-0236)
Eden (R) Fri. 5:05, 7:15, 9:25 Sat.-Sun. 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:25; **Repo! The Genetic Opera** (R) Fri.-Sat. 11:55p.m.

UPTOWN

Hillcrest Cinemas

3965 Fifth Avenue (619-819-0236)
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (PG-13) Fri. 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45 Sat.-Sun. 12:00, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45; **The Matador** (R) Fri. 1:55, 3:40, 5:25, 7:30, 9:35 Sat.-Sun. 12:10, 1:55, 3:40, 5:25, 7:30, 9:35; **Milk** (R) Fri.-Sun. 1:10, 3:10, 4:05, 7:00, 8:55, 9:55; **Slumdog Millionaire** (R) Fri. 1:20, 4:15, 6:05, 7:10, 10:05 Sat.-Sun. 12:20, 1:20, 4:15, 6:05, 7:10, 10:05

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1875 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-1233)
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San Diego Natural History Museum

1788 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-232-3821)
Ocean Oasis (Not Rated) Fri.-Sun. 12:00, 2:00, 4:00

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); **The Day the Earth Stood Still** (PG-13); **Four Christmases** (PG-13); **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG); **Nothing Like the Holidays** (PG-13); **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)
 Call theater for program information

SANTEE

Santee Drive In

10990 Woodside Avenue (619-448-7447)
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG-13); **Four Christmases** (PG-13); **Max Payne** (PG-13); **Twilight** (PG-13)

SOUTH BAY

CHULA VISTA

Chula Vista 10

Broadway between H and I (619-338-4214)



The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG-13) (10:00 11:30 12:30 2:00 3:00) 4:30 5:30 7:00 8:00 9:30 10:30; **Nothing Like the Holidays** (PG-13) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45; **Delgo** (PG) (11:15 1:45 4:00) 6:15 8:30 10:45; **Punisher: War Zone** (R) (11:45 2:15) 5:00 7:30 10:00; **Four Christmases** (PG-13) (11:00 1:30 3:45) 6:00 8:15 10:30; **Transporter 3** (PG-13) (10:30 1:00 3:30) 6:00 8:30 10:45; No 10:30 a.m. Sat. 12/13 & Sun. 12/14; **Twilight** (PG-13) (10:15 1:15) 4:15 7:15 10:15; **Bolt 3-D** (PG) (10:00 12:15 2:45) 5:15 7:45 10:15; **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG) (10:00 12:15 2:30) 4:45 7:15 9:45; **Barney in the Night Before Christmas** (G) 10:30 am Sat.-Sun. only; **Kurosawa Film Festival**
 No 9 pm-10:45 pm shows Sun.-Thu.

Otay Ranch 12

Eastlake Parkway at Olympic (858-558-2262)
Australia (Not Rated) Fri.-Sun. (11:50) 3:20, 7:00, 9:20; **Bolt** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:05) 1:25, 3:40, 5:55, 8:15, 10:30; **The Day the Earth Stood Still** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 11:45) 12:30, 1:40, 2:20, 3:15, 4:15, 5:00, 6:05, 7:05, 7:40, 8:40, 9:45, 10:15; **Delgo** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:40) 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 10:25; **Four Christmases** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:35) 2:05, 4:40, 7:20, 9:40; **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:10) 1:20, 3:35, 5:50; **Nothing Like the Holidays** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:30) 1:55, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55; **Punisher: War Zone** (R) Fri.-Sun. 8:00, 10:25; **Quantum of**

Solace (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:15) 1:50, 4:25, 7:25, 10:00 Sun. 1:50, 4:25, 7:25, 10:00; **Transporter 3** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10; **Twilight** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:25) 2:10, 5:05, 7:50, 10:30

Palm Promenade 24

770 Dennery Road (858-558-2262)
Australia; **Bolt**; **Cadillac Records**; **The Day the Earth Stood Still**; **Delgo**; **Four Christmases**; **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa**; **Nothing Like the Holidays**; **Punisher: War Zone**; **Quantum of Solace**; **Role Models**; **Twilight**

Rancho Del Rey 16

East H Street (619-216-4707)
 Call theater for program information

IMPERIAL BEACH

South Bay Drive In

2170 Coronado Avenue (619-423-2727)
 Call theater for program information

NATIONAL CITY

Plaza Bonita 14

3030 Plaza Bonita Road (858-558-2262)
Australia (Not Rated); **Bolt** (PG); **The Day the Earth Stood Still** (PG-13); **Delgo** (PG); **Four Christmases** (PG-13); **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG); **Nothing Like the Holidays** (PG-13); **Punisher: War Zone** (R); **Role Models** (R); **Transporter 3** (PG-13); **Twilight** (PG-13)

NORTH INLAND

CARMEL MOUNTAIN

Carmel Mountain 14

11620 Carmel Mountain Road (858-674-9770)
Australia (Not Rated); **Bolt** (PG); **The Boy in the Striped Pajamas** (PG-13); **The Day the Earth Stood Still** (PG-13); **Delgo** (PG); **Four Christmases** (PG-13); **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG); **Nothing Like the Holidays** (PG-13); **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13); **Transporter 3** (PG-13); **Twilight** (PG-13)

ESCONDIDO

Escondido 16

350 W. Valley Parkway (760-291-0119)
Australia (Not Rated) Fri.-Sun. (2:15) 6:00, 9:35; **Bolt** (PG) Fri. (1:45, 4:15) 6:50, 9:50 Sat.-Sun. (1:45) 4:15, 6:50, 9:50; **The Boy in the Striped Pajamas** (PG-13) Fri. (1:15, 4:10) 6:40, 9:25 Sat.-Sun. (1:15) 4:10, 6:40, 9:25; **The Day the Earth Stood Still** (PG-13) Fri. (12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30) 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 9:40, 10:10, 10:40 Sat.-Sun. (12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 3:30) 4:00, 4:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 9:40, 10:10, 10:40; **Delgo** (PG) Fri. (1:10, 4:20) 7:20, 10:05 Sat.-Sun. (1:10) 4:20, 7:20, 10:05; **Four Christ-**

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Del Mar Highlands
12905 El Camino Real • San Diego

River Village
5256 S. Mission Rd. • Bonsall

La Costa
6941 El Camino Real • Carlsbad

Poway Creekside Plaza
13475 Poway Rd. • Poway

Flower Hill
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mases (PG-13) Fri. (1:05, 2:10, 4:50) 7:05, 7:50, 10:25 Sat.-Sun. (1:05, 2:10) 4:50, 7:05, 7:50, 10:25; **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG) Fri. (2:20, 4:40) 7:25, 9:45 Sat.-Sun. (2:20) 4:40, 7:25, 9:45; **Nothing Like the Holidays** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:45, 3:50) 7:40, 10:35; **Punisher: War Zone** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:50, 3:40) 7:35, 10:15; **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:55, 3:55) 7:10, 9:55; **Role Models** (R) Fri. (2:00, 4:55) 7:45, 10:20 Sat.-Sun. (2:00) 4:55, 7:45, 10:20; **Transporter 3** (PG-13) Fri. (1:55, 4:45) 7:55, 10:30 Sat.-Sun. (1:55) 4:45, 7:55, 10:30; **Twilight** (PG-13) Fri. (12:35, 3:35, 4:05) 6:30, 9:30, 10:00 Sat.-Sun. (12:35, 3:35) 4:05, 6:30, 9:30, 10:00

FALLBROOK

River Village 6
5256 S. Mission Road (760-945-8784)



The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG-13) (10:00 12:30 3:00) 5:30 8:00 10:30; **Delgo** (PG) (10:00 12:15 2:30) 4:45 7:15 9:30; **Punisher: War Zone** (R) 8:15 10:45; **Four Christmases** (PG-13) (10:00 12:15 2:45) 5:15 7:45 10:15; **Twilight** (PG-13) (10:45 1:30) 4:15 7:00 9:45; **Bolt 3-D** (PG) (10:15 12:30 2:45) 5:00 7:30 10:00; **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG) (10:30 12:45 3:15) 5:45; No 10:30am Sat. 12/13 & Sun. 12/14; **Barney in the Night Before Christmas** (G) 10:30 am Sat.-Sun. only. No 9 pm-10:45 pm shows Sun.-Thu. No 11 am-3:45 pm shows Mon.-Thu.

POWAY

Poway 10
13475 Poway Road (858-646-9423)



The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG-13) (10:00 11:30 12:30 2:00 3:00) 4:30 5:30 7:00 8:00 9:45 10:30; **Nothing Like the Holidays** (PG-13) (11:15 1:45 4:00) 6:15 8:30 10:45; **Punisher: War Zone** (R) (11:45 2:15) 5:00 7:30 10:00; **Nobel Son** (R) 7:15 10:00; **Four Christmases** (PG-13) (11:00 1:30 3:45) 6:00 8:15 10:30; **Australia** (PG-13) (12:00 3:30) 7:00 10:30; **Twilight** (PG-13) (10:15 1:15) 4:15 7:15 10:15; **Bolt 3-D** (PG) (10:00 12:15 2:45) 5:15 7:45 10:15; **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13) (10:00 12:15 2:30) 4:45; **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.

SAN MARCOS

San Marcos 18
1180 West San Marcos Boulevard at Old California Walk (760-471-3711)
Call theater for program information

VISTA

Vista Village
Highway 78 at Vista Village Drive (760-945-7469)

Australia (Not Rated) Fri.-Sun. (12:25, 4:00) 7:30; **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; **The Day the Earth Stood Still** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 12:10, 12:45, 2:00, 2:40, 3:15, 4:30, 5:10, 5:45) 7:00, 7:40, 8:15, 9:35, 10:10, 10:40; **Delgo** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:50, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30) 7:45, 10:00; **Four Christmases** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:05, 2:20, 3:00, 4:35, 5:15) 7:05, 7:35, 9:25; **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:40a.m.); **Milk** (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:50, 1:35, 4:25) 7:20, 10:15; **Nothing Like the Holidays** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:45, 2:25, 4:50) 7:15, 9:45; **Punisher: War Zone** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:50, 2:35, 5:20) 8:00, 10:40; **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:10, 2:40, 5:15) 7:50, 10:20; **Role Models** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:25) 10:05; **Transporter 3** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (2:15, 4:50) 7:25, 9:50; **Twilight** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:50, 1:30, 4:20) 7:10, 10:10

NORTH COASTAL

CARLSBAD

Plaza Camino Real
2385 Marron Road (760-729-7469)
Four Christmases (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:45, 1:45, 3:50) 5:55, 8:00, 10:00 Sun. (11:45, 1:45, 3:50) 5:55, 8:00; **Punisher: War Zone** (R) Fri.-Sat. (12:20, 2:40) 5:05, 7:30, 9:45 Sun. (12:20, 2:40) 5:05, 7:30

DEL MAR

Del Mar Highlands 8
El Camino Real at Del Mar Heights Road (858-646-9420)



The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG-13) (10:00 12:30 3:00) 5:30 8:00 10:30; **Nothing Like the Holidays** (PG-13) (10:00 12:15 2:30) 5:00 7:30 10:00; **Punisher: War Zone** (R) (11:00 1:45)

4:30 7:15 9:45; **Nobel Son** (R) 7:00 9:30; **Four Christmases** (PG-13) (11:15 1:30 3:45) 6:00 8:15 10:30; **Transporter 3** (PG-13) (11:00 1:45) 7:15; No 11am Sat. 12/13 & Sun. 12/14; **Twilight** (PG-13) (10:15 1:15 4:00) 7:00 10:00; **Bolt 3-D** (PG) (10:00 12:15 2:45) 5:15 7:45 10:15; **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45; **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG) (11:30 2:00) 4:30; **Barney in the Night Before Christmas** (G) 10:30 am Sat.-Sun. only. No 9 pm-10:45 pm shows Sun.-Thu.

Flower Hill 4

2630 Via de la Valle (858-646-9425)



Milk (R) (10:00 1:00 4:00) 7:00 10:00; **Slumdog Millionaire** (R) (10:45 1:45) 4:30 7:30 10:30; **Australia** (PG-13) (10:00 1:30) 5:00 8:30; **The Boy in the Striped Pajamas** (PG-13) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45 No 9 pm-10:45 pm shows Sun.-Thu.

ENCINITAS

La Paloma
471 South Coast Highway 101 (760-436-SHOW)

Repo! The Genetic Opera (R) Sat. 7:00, 9:15, 12:00 Sun. 7:00, 9:15

LA COSTA

La Costa 6
6941 El Camino Real (at Aviara/Alga) (760-599-8221)



The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG-13) (10:00 12:30 3:00) 5:30 8:00 10:30; **Four Christmases** (PG-13) (10:00 12:15 2:30) 5:00 7:30 10:00; **Australia** (PG-13) (12:00 3:30) 7:00 10:30; **Twilight** (PG-13) (10:30 1:30) 4:30 7:15 10:15; **Bolt 3-D** (PG) (10:15 12:30 2:45) 5:15 7:45 10:15; **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45; No 10:15am Sat. 12/13 & Sun. 12/14; **Barney in the Night Before Christmas** (G) 10:30 am Sat.-Sun. only. No 9 pm-10:45 pm shows Sun.-Thu.

OCEANSIDE

Mission Marketplace 13
College Boulevard and Mission Avenue (760-806-1790)



The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG-13) (10:00 11:30 12:30 2:00 3:00) 4:30 5:30 7:00 8:00 9:45 10:30; **Nothing Like the Holidays** (PG-13) (10:30 1:00 3:30) 6:00 8:30 10:45; **Delgo** (PG) (10:00 12:15 2:30) 4:45 7:15 9:30; **Punisher: War Zone** (R) (11:45 2:15) 5:00 7:45 10:15; **Nobel Son** (R) (10:45 1:45) 4:30 7:30 10:00; **Four Christmases** (PG-13) (11:00 1:15 3:45) 6:00 8:15 10:30; **Australia** (PG-13) (12:00 3:30) 7:00 10:30; **Transporter 3** (PG-13) (10:00 12:15 2:45) 5:15 7:45 10:15; **Twilight** (PG-13) (10:30 1:30) 4:15 7:15 10:15; **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) (11:15 1:45 4:00) 6:15 8:30 10:45; **Barney in the Night Before Christmas** (G) 10:30 am Sat.-Sun. only. No 9 pm-10:45 pm shows Sun.-Thu.

Oceanside 16

401 Mission Avenue (760-439-1733)
Australia (Not Rated) Fri. (1:00, 4:30) 8:30; **Bolt** (PG) Fri. (1:20, 4:05) 7:05, 9:30; **Cadillac Records** (R) Fri. (12:50) 4:10, 7:20, 10:00; **The Day the Earth Stood Still** (PG-13) Fri. (12:00, 12:30, 1:45, 2:30, 3:00, 4:20, 5:00, 5:30) 6:50, 7:30, 8:00, 9:20, 9:55, 10:25; **Delgo** (PG) Fri. (12:40, 2:50, 5:10) 7:40, 9:50; **Four Christmases** (PG-13) Fri. (1:25, 3:35, 5:45) 8:05, 10:20; **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG) Fri. (1:50, 4:00) 6:10, 8:20, 10:25; **Nothing Like the Holidays** (PG-13) Fri. (12:15, 2:35, 4:55) 7:15, 9:35; **Punisher: War Zone** (R) Fri. (1:15, 4:35) 7:45, 10:15; **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13) Fri. (1:10, 4:25) 6:55, 9:25; **Role Models** (R) Fri. (12:25, 2:45, 5:05) 7:25, 10:05; **Transporter 3** (PG-13) Fri. (12:35, 3:05, 5:25) 7:55, 10:20; **Twilight** (PG-13) Fri. (1:30, 4:15) 7:00, 9:45; **Zack and Miri Make a Porno** (R) Fri. (1:40, 4:45) 7:35, 10:10

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Rafer Guzmán, Newsday

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Owen Gleiberman, Entertainment Weekly

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Joe Morgenstern, The Wall Street Journal

“ROLICKING AND INSIGHTFUL”

A.O. Scott, The New York Times



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Calendar MOVIES

phous 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. ★★★★★ (HORTON PLAZA 14)

Hounddog — Reviewed this issue. With Dakota Fanning, David Morse, Robin Wright Penn, and Piper Laurie; written and directed by Deborah Kampmeier. ★ (GASLAMP 15)

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 infantic. 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 Hedebrand and Lina Leandersson; directed by Tomas Alfredson. 2008. ★ (GASLAMP 15, FROM 12/12; LA JOLLA VILLAGE, THROUGH 12/11)

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; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; TOWN SQUARE 14)

The Matador — Bullfighting documentary co-directed by Stephen Higgins and Nina Golden Seavey. (HILLCREST CINEMAS, FROM 12/12)

Midnight Express — The true story (or half-true) of an American student's run-in with the indecipherable Turkish penal code is structured as a sort of gauntlet of indignities; and it adds up to a test of whether one feels more readily righteous than bored. The personality of the American student and petty drug smuggler, who only wanted to please his friends back home with a gift from the Orient, is kept almost a total blank so that nothing impedes the youth audience (which is not apt to hold a little hashish against the fellow) from identifying with him as an unblemished martyr. To exactly what cause he is a martyr is also left accommodatingly open — to, perhaps, saner drug laws, or to better prison conditions the world over, or to friendlier foreign relations, or to spending tourist dollars closer to home. The intellectual appeal of this vacant character is just about summed up in his

finding delicious irony in the fact that, though Turkey is a country of pigs, they don't eat them there. Brad Davis, Randy Quaid, John Hurt; directed by Alan Parker. 1978.

● (MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, LA JOLLA, 12/11, 7 P.M.)

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.

★★ (FLOWER HILL 4, FROM 12/12; HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE, FROM 12/12;

TOWN SQUARE 14, FROM 12/12)

Nobel Son — Jaunty dark comedy, vacillating between the chaotic and the sloppy, to do with family dysfunction, college chemistry, anthropology, anthropophagy, adultery, kidnapping, revenge. Writer-director Randall Miller, tripping over big words, lacks the ear for academia, to say nothing of the eye for cinema. His cast carries over key members of his cast in *Bottle Shock*, Alan Rickman, Bill Pullman, Eliza Dushku, reinforced with Bryan Greenberg, Shawn Hatosy, Mary Steenburgen, Ted Danson, Danny DeVito. 2008.

● (DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; GASLAMP 15; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; POWAY 10)

Nothing Like the Holidays — Puerto Rican family gathering in snowy Chicago at Christmastime. Mechanical gear-shifting between comedy and drama, but a congenial environment for the Hispanic cast: Alfred Molina, Elizabeth Peña, John Leguizamo, Vanessa Ferlito, Luis Guzman, Jay Hernandez, Melonie Diaz, and the excruciatingly likable Freddy Rodriguez (plus, as an Anglo in-law, Debra Messing). Directed by Alfredo de Villa. 2008.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; TOWN SQUARE 14;

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THELMA ADAMS, US WEEKLY

★★★★★

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LOU LUMENICK, NEW YORK POST

★★★★★

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CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

★★★★★

CLAUDIA PUIG
USA TODAY

★★★★★

LEAH ROZEN
PEOPLE

★★★★★

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JOE MORGENSTERN, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

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Transporter 3 2008

ZZZ...um, what? Oh. I was watching a Jason Statham movie. By **scotte** 3:21 p.m., Dec. 2, 2008

Milk 2008

Milk is a movie I made of point of seeing twice. I watched it once to gain knowledge as to the subject matter and the specific events that transpired during this tumultuous era. It was, more or less, a history lesson for myself the first time around (since I had never even heard of Harvey Milk and, as a gay male, I found that to be quite shameful). The second time, I saw it for its merits and the cinematic values it imbues and tries to carry across the silver divide from the screen to the audience mind. What I found in both viewings was a movie that is relentless in its optimism and its universal application of this hopeful perspective. Sure, the movie deals directly with gay rights and activism; but it's a model for any segment of society that is oppressed or ignorantly labeled. Really, a broad-enough theme of equality and progress that can be applied to any ideal for change or to any group of outcasts and prejudged minorities. The film serves as both documentary of great events during the Stonewall-era and as cinematic entertainment for the layman who simply wants to see a good story on screen. Gus Van Sant delivers both in this movie. He serves as faithful storyteller representing a community that has, generally speaking, grown to take their freedoms of expression for granted and who would see the events in this movie as pre-history from a neighboring galaxy. At the center of that galaxy of stars and planets would be Sean Penn, whose portrayal of Milk is more than just a looks match-up; but goes into the depths of a character in life who was so fearless and brave (truly brave — not "brave" as the word is thrown around in the gay community nowadays.) Milk's relentlessness and drive to oust bigotry and hate in San Francisco and beyond is portrayed beautifully by Penn and his ability to completely immerse himself in the culture and seem like a real gay man — not a straight man playing one. The supporting cast, including James Franco, Josh Brolin and Emile Hirsch are brilliant examples of great casting (again, not only because of their physical resemblance to their real-life shells, but) because of their evident dedication to portray these people as the true heroes and pioneers that they were. These were men who were a part of something grand and great — whether they knew it or not. But when you watch this movie, you know it for sure. A touching display of tribute and homage to Milk in the film's final sequence is breathtaking and provides perspective as to how much of an impact Milk made and how many lives — gay, straight and otherwise — it is that he affected. Lives that his actions continue to affect to this day. By **flickfever** 10:04 a.m., Dec. 8, 2008

Blow-Up 1966

Duncan, you used the word "indelible" to describe David Hemmings's performance as the photographer. You nailed it. I saw this on TV in my childhood (*Tuesday Night at the Movies* or some such) and never ever forgot the scenes of the photo shoots and the photog burning off roll after roll of film while wrapping himself around the models. (And Verushka was quite one drink of water, wasn't she.) For years after, that formed my impression of what a photographer was and how he worked. By **trailertrash** 11:04 a.m., Dec. 8, 2008

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A Secret

FROM 12/12)

The Order of Myths — Margaret Brown's sociological documentary on Mardi Gras in Mobile, Alabama. (GASLAMP 15, FROM 12/12)

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 superspys 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; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; POWAY 10; TOWN SQUARE 14)

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, 12/11, 7:30 P.M.)

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; GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14)

A Secret — Reviewed this issue. With Cécile de France, Patrick Bruel, Ludivine Sagnier, Julie Depardieu, and Mathieu Amalric; directed by Claude Miller.

★★★ (GASLAMP 15)

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, 12/11, 3:00 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; HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

Take Out — Chinese restaurant delivery man (Charles Jang) in debt to illegal-immigrant smugglers, co-directed by Sean Baker and Shih-ching Tsou.

(GASLAMP 15, FROM 12/12)

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, together 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; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PLAZA BONITA 14; TOWN SQUARE 14)

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. (Eeuuw!) 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; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14)

W. — Pronounced "dubya." Oliver Stone's diplomatic biopic on our forty-third President (Josh Brolin, a dead-on impression, but where to go with it?) is so careful to avoid bias as to avoid purpose. It barely matches the caliber of a TV docudrama, much less the compensating snickers. In that department, Thandie Newton as Condi Rice takes the cake. With Elizabeth Banks (Laura Bush), James Cromwell (George Bush, Sr.), Ellen Burstyn (Barbara Bush), Richard Dreyfuss (Dick Cheney), Jeffrey Wright (Colin Powell), Scott Glenn (Donald Rumsfeld), and Toby Jones (Karl Rove). 2008.

★ (GASLAMP 15)

Were the World Mine — Gay musical fantasy, inspired by *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, but deflated by the amateurish acting, the substandard digital image, the all-over poverty. Tanner Cohen, Wendy Robie,

Judy McLane, Nathaniel David Becker, Zeldia Williams, Jill Larson; directed by Tom Gustafson. 2008.

● (KEN, THROUGH 12/11)

"AN AMERICAN CLASSIC!"

A total triumph. If there's a better movie around this year, I haven't seen it. Sean Penn gives the performance of the year. James Franco is warmly funny. Emile Hirsch is sensational. Diego Luna excels. Alison Pill is excellent. Josh Brolin is simply astounding. Gus Van Sant's best film."

PETER TRAVERS *Rolling Stone*

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ROGER EBERT *Chicago Sun-Times*

WESLEY MORRIS *The Boston Globe*

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DAVID DENBY *THE NEW YORKER*

★★★★★! ★★★★★!

STEPHEN REBELLO *PLAYBOY*

MICK LABALLE *San Francisco Chronicle*

"A MARVEL."

Its power lies in its uncanny balancing of nuance and scale, its ability to be about nearly everything — love, death, politics, sex, modernity — without losing sight of the intimate particulars of its story. Sean Penn, an actor of unmatched emotional intensity and physical discipline, outdoes himself here."

A.D. SCOTT *The New York Times*

★★★★★! ★★★★★!

LOU LUMENICK *NEW YORK POST*

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Anything for a Laugh

How do you cure people who are “blacktose intolerant”?

Talk of Broadway surrounds *The Princess and the Black-Eyed Pea*, an African retelling of the Hans Christian Andersen fable. If the buzz refers to the cast, one of the finest ever assembled at the San Diego Rep, or to Jennifer Brawn Gittings’s gold-flecked, Afrocentric costumes, then, yes, they merit an extended stay at the Big Hotel. But *Princess* is a house divided: an amazing group of performers grafted, by cutesy directorial touches, onto an aimless book and a score with intermittent hits and misses.

The singers are better than the songs. Throughout the two-and-a-half-hour show, the performers appear held back. They do ensemble duties, yielding focus, injecting energy. Then from nowhere, and often unmotivated, one will step out and dazzle. P.L. Brown, a giant with a voice, it would seem, octaves below bass, sings “Harrumph!” — a modest ditty — as if resonating from the center of a pyramid. Brown takes his bow, steps back, and disappears, pretty much, for the rest of the evening.

TON3X, who plays the Prince’s pal Rolin, handles second-fiddle duties for the first 20 songs and then threatens to dismantle vast portions of the Gaslamp Quarter with “Partay.” At the end of the rocking, penultimate number (which should

be the show’s finale), TON3X holds a note, then spirals upward with three dazzling vocal curlicues, and the crowd goes nuts. Then he loops on three more: higher, faster. It’s the musical equivalent of a double helix — a riff, needless to say, never heard before in the Lyceum, and you wonder, where’s this guy been all evening?

It’s that kind of show. The talent is either underutilized — Ken Prymus, as King Kemo, can step to the head of that class — or often at odds with the text. Tony Award-winner Lillias White plays Queen Zaubu. The character, as directed, is a one-note, jealous control freak demanding her progeny have the bluest blood. In act 2, the lights dim and White sings “My Only Son” with such oceanic feeling and wisdom, she breaks through the confines of the musical. Problem is, nothing in Queen Zaubu’s shallow character prepared White for such an elevated — nay, epic rendition.

The story’s set in the African kingdoms of Kheba and Torel. Sheltered Princess Quelie of Kheba wants to take charge of her life. How? Compete in Torel’s annual “challenge dance.” But princesses just don’t *do* that. So she and Hena, her “lonely orphaned cousin,” sneak away. Meanwhile, back in Torel, Prince Gallant has a scientific



Ken Prymus, Lillias White, Josh Tower, Jennifer Leigh Warren, TON3X, and (center) Sabrina Sloan in *The Princess and the Black-Eyed Pea*

The Princess and the Black-Eyed Pea, book by Kirsten Childs, music by Andrew Chukerman, lyrics by Chukerman and Karole Foreman
San Diego Repertory Theatre, 79 Horton Plaza, downtown
Directed by Stafford Arima; cast: Randy Aaron, Brooke Aston, P.L. Brown, Loren Sharice Lott, Sylvia MacCalla, Warren G. Nolan Jr., Angela Wildflower Polk, Kalif Price, Ken Prymus, Sabrina Sloan, Angela Teek, TON3X, Josh Tower, Jennifer Leigh Warren, Lillias White; scenic design, Beowulf Boritt; costumes, Jennifer Brawn Gittings; lighting, Jennifer Setlow; sound, Tom Jones
Playing through December 21; Tuesday, Wednesday, and Sunday at 7:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Matinee Sunday at 2:00 p.m. 619-544-1000.

vent (even cured his asthma) and can’t dance a lick. He’s more worried about a strange blue light looming over his kingdom than finding a mate. Quelie bumps into Gallant, and zing go the strings. Now she must pass the wedding test — detect-

ing a black-eyed pea through 20 mattresses — even though she’s allergic to said legume.

That sketch promises at least four boffo scenes: the challenge dance, the mattress test, the blue light puzzle, the marriage. Yet the first three hap-

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pen almost behind-the-scenes, and the marriage is a come-down after TON3X just belted "Partay." The script's consistently anticlimactic: it raises expectations — the first image "Princess and the Pea" conjures up is a tall, preferably wobbly stack of mattresses, no? — then shoots them down.

The production, especially the 85-minute first act, is herky-jerky; scenes and songs feel cut short. When Lillias White sings "The Bluest of Blood Is Hard to Find," the song feels about half through when intrusive stage business blurs it out. As if worried we aren't being entertained — or afraid things might get too serious — director Stafford Arima adds cute bits. Example: When *American Idol*'s Sabrina Sloan (Quele) and Josh Tower (Gallant), who played *The Lion King*'s Simba on Broadway for five years, sing "Love at First Sight," they don't need a tree branch with white, cartoony doves waving over their heads to help them make the point.

Worse: some of the bits, and some of the writing, use African-American stereotyping. How do you cure people who are "blacktose intolerant"? Ham hocks and cornbread. *Anything* for a laugh...

Most of all, the episodic book needs to give us stronger reasons to turn the page. Hena, the conniving cousin, is the villain. But even though Jennifer Leigh Warren's terrific in the role, the character itself isn't villainous enough. Hena's pas-

sive-aggressive; her threats are just asides. But fables of this sort demand monsters as big as your nightmares. So the story has nothing firm to push against and, in the end, no earned victory.

In effect, the Rep's *Princess* is a talent show — a great parade, but that naked dude on the throne waving to the crowd? Just a pretender. ■

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.

An American Christmas

Lamb's Players and the Hotel del Coronado take audiences back to Christmas 1908. The Marshall family presents an evening of music, dance, song, and a five-course yule-

meal in the Grand Ballroom. HOTEL DEL CORONADO, 1500 ORANGE AVENUE, CORONADO. 619-435-6611. SUNDAYS, 6:30 P.M. MONDAYS, 6:30 P.M. TUESDAYS, 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAYS, 6:30 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 28.

Boomers

Lamb's Players Theatre reprises one of its most popular shows. In this salute to the Baby Boom generation, when a guy sings a snippet from "Big Girls Don't Cry" a woman counters with "It's My Party and I'll Cry If I Want To," as if Lesley Gore wrote the song in response to the Four Seasons. Now in its fourth — fifth? — version, *Boomers* has grown a great deal since it premiered in 1993. It's added social dimensions (the original was mostly about middle-class whites), more period details, and a much better understanding of one's later years (gained from experience: authors Kerry Meads and Vanda Eggington are now 15 years older). Ostensibly the piece is a lecture about the generation from 1946 to 1964. A deliberately, sometimes annoyingly, crotchety Jim Chovik recalls major events and provides statistics, from JFK to Kent State (but leaves out Jackson State!), from hippies to yuppies, marriage to divorce, and beyond. Themes from TV commercials and shows zip past, medleys of parts of songs

cluster around a theme (Vietnam, relationships), and the evening unfolds like a game of "name that tune" in fast-forward. Boomers in the audience gulp "oh's" of recognition when a musical fragment triggers memories. One could wish that, at least once or twice, the company would do a whole song (let Anise Ritchie's Aretha-strong voice do all of "Respect" or Keith Jefferson all of "I Heard It Through the Grapevine"). One could also wish that the characters weren't so one-note (Bill Doyle's hippie must express the same Owsley-marinated perplexity at least ten times). But the performances overall are quite good, as are Meads's direction and the four-piece backup band. You won't learn why the pump don't work or how good brown sugar can taste, but if you're of a certain era, *Boomers* will time-machine you back in a lively manner. 619-437-0600.

Worth a try

HORTON GRAND THEATRE, 444 FOURTH AVENUE, DOWNTOWN. 619-234-9583. THURSDAYS, 7:30 P.M. FRIDAYS, 4 AND 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 4 AND 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 21.

A Christmas Carol

A gun went off a year ago, when the Old Town Theatre became available. Cygnet Theatre, which signed a ten-year lease with the state, had 12 months to bring the space up to

code, renovate, and stage its first show. Last weekend Cygnet cut the ribbon and opened with a lush, though a tad wordy, new version of Charles Dickens's *Christmas Carol*. The one-year achievement's amazing, and would be even if the economy were coming up roses. Plus, the familiar story's a tough choice for a shakedown cruise. It calls for a full integration of design elements and a flexible cast in multiple roles. The strengths of the production, along with Jim Chovick's Scrooge (who could curmudge more but whose awakening's a gem), are its visuals. Unlike at Cygnet's Rolando space, now director Sean Murray has a much larger canvas: a tall ceiling and deeper stage (and a trap door) to work with. Murray utilizes all with abundant theatricality and arresting pictorials: as when Amanda Cooley-Davis's Ghost of Christmas Past rises from the basement, of Sean Fanning's appropriately grim Victorian set, as a cold, white icicle. Matthew Novotny's spooky shadows, gobo branches, and slender cones of light are always a plus, as are Tom Christ's animations on the tall rear doors. The cast has many local favorites — Craig Huisenga, Annie Hinton, Manny Fernandes, Paul Kruse — and new faces (in a role that often jerks tears with a crowbar, Max Oilman-Williams's

Tiny Tim is just right). The book, also by Murray, honors Dickens's narrative almost to a fault, but it is more than serviceable. It could use a trim in the back and down the sides, and now that the dust of a year's renovation has cleared, Murray may have time to crop it.

Worth a try

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, SOUTHEAST SAN DIEGO. 619-527-5256. FRIDAYS, 7:30 P.M. SATURDAYS, 7:30 P.M. SUNDAYS, 3 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 18.

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Calendar THEATER

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CYGNET THEATRE — ROLANDO, 6663 EL CAJON BOULEVARD, SUITE N, COLLEGE AREA. 619-337-1525. SATURDAY, 2 P.M.

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.

Holiday Memories

Center Stage Players present their fourth annual, which includes 29 yuletide songs, an Elvis impersonator, and a sketch about *Leave It to Beaver*. Thomas Walker and Rob Johnston co-directed. 619-269-6206. SEWS AND SHOWS COMMUNITY THEATRE, 7860 GOLDEN AVENUE, LEMON GROVE. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 21.

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 en-

ergizes 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, COLLEGE AREA. 619-337-1525. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 AND 7 P.M. TUESDAYS, 7:30 P.M. WEDNESDAYS, 7:30 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 28.

La Posada Magica

Hispanic Arts Theatre presents "a classic holiday musical performed with a Latin beat." Gracie and her companions go for a neighborhood walk on Christmas Eve. Their journey commemorates Joseph and Mary's search for lodging. Carlos Mendoza directed.

LYCEUM THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN. 619-858-0322. FRIDAY, 8 P.M. SATURDAY, 3 AND 8 P.M. SUNDAY, 3 P.M.

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.

National Comedy Theatre

Improvisational comedy, making up funny stuff on the spot, is difficult enough. Years ago, however, Keith Johnstone thought it'd be more exciting if done competitively. He got the idea from pro wrestling ("where Terrible Turks mangled defrocked priests while grannies waved their handbags"). National Comedy Theatre, an offshoot of Johnstone's TheatreSports (artistic director Gary Kramer says the two compare like "rugby and American football"), resembles an athletic event more than an improv. Teams wear uniforms and compete on ActroTurf. Using suggestions from the audience, they play "Emotional Sympathy," "Blind Line," and "Freeze Tag," with judges awarding points to the best scenes. Klunkers and groaners get booed; quick wit rewarded (one of the most refreshing parts of the contest: people acknowledge failure, abundantly, then forget it). It makes for a lively, often funny evening. And Gary Kramer is one talented comedian.

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(619) 246-4853 www.tonicproductions.org

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400 Rancho Del Oro, Oceanside (760) 967-7918

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 P.M., 7:30, AND 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. TUESDAYS, 1:45 AND 8 P.M. WEDNESDAYS, 1:45 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 28.

Scrooge in Rouge

Seventeen of the 20 Royal Music Hall Variety Players came down

with food poisoning. So the three remaining members of the 19th Century troupe must tackle all the roles in their musical version of *A Christmas Carol*: the men cross-dressing, on occasion, and Vesta Virile, the famous male impersonator, essaying Scrooge. They'll face a tougher crowd than, say, at the Old Vic. In a music hall everyone was an on-the-spot critic, and usually ale-infested as well. Ricky Graham (book and lyrics) and Jefferson Turner's (music) bawdy homage to the trooper tradition demands precise, spontaneous timing and trained musical voices — for songs with a red-cheeked, pub-like swagger. In the wrong hands, things could go gravely askew. Diversionary Theatre's trio of performers, backed by a game Rick Shaffer on piano, blaze through the material as if to the manner born. There are slow spots, but overall it's a funny, entertaining piece. Kim Strassburger makes Scrooge both a meanie and an on-stage director who must keep the show going (Scrooge is so "tight-fisted, fortune tellers have to read his knuckles"). Eric Vest and Tony Houck handle 20-plus roles with aplomb. Vest emcees with many a groaner (his reactions funny even when a joke nose-dives). Houck sings with an impressively accurate soprano voice (even does coloratura). *Scrooge in Rouge* is also one of the year's most dazzling fashion shows. Jennifer Brawn Giddings's costumes (and Peter Herman's wigs) not only conjure the Victorian era with precision, many are cartoon-comical — a punchline without a setup; and, they must be changeable in seconds. Great work!

Worth a try
DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BOULEVARD, UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-220-0097. THURSDAYS, 7:30 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 AND 7 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 21.

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 THEATRE, 3704 SIXTH AVENUE, HILLCREST. 619-688-9210. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. 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.

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www.carlsbadvillage theatre.com

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Vantage Theatre

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 naiveté. 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:

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, 2910 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DRIVE, UCSD. 858-550-1010. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 2 AND 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 AND 7 P.M. TUESDAYS, 7:30 P.M. WEDNESDAYS, 7:30 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 21.



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CAREGIVER/ATTENDANT. Male quad needs personal care, part time. Requires experience, California Driver's License, some college, cell phone. **Nonsmoker.** Del Cerro area. Leave message. 619-582-4569.

CAREGIVER/COMPANION. Caring people needed! Make a real difference in lives of seniors by providing companionship in their homes. Flexible, part-time hours available. 619-461-2964.

CAREGIVERS needed immediately. 1 year experience. All shifts available. Hourly and live in. Call Assertive Home-care Services, 3774 Grove Street, Suite L-1, Lemon Grove. 619-466-6890.

CAREGIVERS. Home Instead Senior Care needs cheerful, dependable people to help seniors stay at home with our non-medical home care services. Competitive pay/training. Flexible hours. Great benefits. Central/East Jobline: 619-433-6200. South Bay/Coastal: 858-277-3722.



CAREGIVERS/COMPANIONS. Home care agency has immediate openings for compassionate and experienced Caregivers in the El Cajon, Lakeside, Granite Hills, Bostonia and Rancho San Diego areas. Must have 1 year experience, valid CA driver's license and reliable transportation. Background check required. Visiting Angels, 619-401-2040.

CAREGIVERS/CNAs/HHAs. Immediate openings. Hourly, Live-in, Nights. Cheerful Caregivers needed to assist seniors in-home. Minimum 1-year experience. Premium pay/bonuses/benefits, 24-hour office support. Age Advantage, 619-660-8881, 760-720-7272.

CAREGIVERS/COMPANIONS. Home-care agency is looking for compassionate and experienced Caregivers to start immediately in the Coronado, Point Loma and Downtown San Diego area. Must have valid CA driver's license and reliable transportation. Background check required. Please call 760-294-8070.

CAREGIVERS/COMPANIONS. Minimum 1 year experience non-medical home care for seniors. Valid California Driver's License. Serving Santee/La Mesa/Del Cerro/San Carlos. Maureen, Visiting Angels, 619-749-7525.

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Must have valid CA driver's license and clean DMV. Background checked. All shifts available, full time and part time. \$11+ per hour DOE. Benefits for full time. Resume and cover letter accepted via e-mail only: jobs@borrit.net. Home Of Guiding Hands.

CAREGIVERS: LIVE-INS, 2, 3, 4 or 5 days/week, \$120/day including sleep and meal periods. Weekends and hourly: 4-hour, 8-hour and 12-hour shifts, AM/PM. Top pay, flexible shifts 24/7, 401(k), production bonus, rewards for good work. Requires valid driver's license, vehicle/insurance, registration, one year of paid elder caregiving experience, eligibility to work in the United States. \$50 Hiring Bonus after 90 days of employment. Comfort Keepers, 2006 Workplace Excellence Medallion Award SD-SHRM, San Diego: 619-795-6036. San Marcos: 760-598-3400.

CAREGIVERS/COMPANIONS. Visiting Angels, America's Choice in Homecare. Now hiring compassionate, caring Caregivers/Companions. Requires minimum 1 year experience in non-medical home care for seniors and valid CA driver's license. Serving Poway, Rancho Penasquitos, Scripps Ranch and Mira Mesa areas. Call for an immediate interview: 858-775-1176.

CNA/ACUTE CARE. CNA-Nursing Unit Secretary (dual skill set position), Nursing Unit Secretary, Healthcare Assistant (Advanced level C.N.A., with EKG, ECG, or Telemetry Certification). Apply online: www.pph.org or in person via the kiosks provided, Monday-Friday, 7:30am-4:30pm, Palomar Medical Center, HR: 456 East Grand Avenue, Es-

condido, 92025; Pomerado Hospital, HR: 15615 Pomerado Road, Poway, 92064; Palomar Continuing Care, 1817 Avenida del Diablo, Escondido, CA 92029.

CNA/CHHA. Beginners, experienced. Family Caregivers, Childcare, Home Care Aides, Drivers. Great pay! New-hire bonus! Nonmedical, in-home help for seniors, children, disabled. 12-and 24-hour shifts! Training. Flexible schedules, benefits, retirement, childcare. At Your Home Familycare. E-mail: homecarejobs@atyourhomefamilycare.com. Toll free: 1-877-903-JOBS.

CNC MACHINIST. Full time. Do you have 3-5 years on-the-job experience working with CNC Mill and/or related machines? Are you looking for a great job opportunity or a change in your career? If so, we currently have 2nd and 3rd shift openings in North San Diego County (Carlsbad and surrounding communities). Ideal candidate would need one-year certificate from a college or technical school plus 1-4 years related experience and/or training (or equivalent combination of education and experience). Perform consistent and accurate results, demonstrate competency for setting up and running various machine tools (FADAL milling center, Mori Seiki milling center, Mori Seiki turning center, CMS turning center, Mitsubishi wire EDM, HAAS turning center, HAAS milling center and have working knowledge of mechanical inspection equipment including, but not limited to: calipers, micrometers, height gage, thread gages and inspection pins. EOE. carlsbad@volt.com. 1650 Marron Road, #114, Carlsbad 92008. Fax: 760-720-7341. 760-729-8916.

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CONSTRUCTION, REMODEL, room additions. Must work in all trades. Pass drug test. Valid California Driver's License. Good references. Truck and tools. Call 619-280-3650.

CORRECTIONAL DEPUTY PROBATION Officer I. County of San Diego Probation Department now hiring. Test Date: January 10, 2009, 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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DEPUTY PROBATION OFFICER. Now hiring! County of San Diego Probation Department. Test Dates: December 20, 2008, or January 31, 2009. Qualified applicants will be notified by mail of the time and location of the test. Applications must be submitted no later than 15 days prior to exam date. Qualifications: Bachelor's degree with experience. Must be at least 21 years old, good physical condition, no illicit drug usage. U.S. citizen or in process of becoming a citizen. Pass criminal/personal background investigation. No felony convictions. \$52,520-\$63,835/year. Safety Retirement—Sworn Officers 3% at age 50. Bilingual men/women encouraged to apply. Applications can be accessed online from the Job/Current Recruitment section of the County website at: www.sdcounty.ca.gov. Jobline: 858-514-8558.

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GENERAL SERVICES. Cooks, Food Service Workers, Environmental Service Workers, Security Officer. Apply online: www.pph.org or in person via the kiosks provided, Monday-Friday, 7:30am-4:30pm, Palomar Medical Center, HR: 456 East Grand Avenue, Escondido, 92025; Pomerado Hospital, HR: 15615 Pomerado Road, Poway, 92064; Palomar Continuing Care, 1817 Avenida del Diablo, Escondido, CA 92029.

GENERAL. Gain skills to succeed. Are you 14 to 21, low income, need high school diploma or GED and work experience? Turning the Hearts Center, 619-691-9643.

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Note Application Process:
Prior to taking the written examination, applicants must complete the following: Complete and submit the online application form and provide correct and complete responses to the Supplemental Questions. Applicants will be invited to the written exam by written notice that will be sent either by e-mail or U.S. mail per applicant's request. You must be sure to complete the online application before you appear for the written examination.

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at: www.portofsandiego.org or picked up at the Port District's Administration Building, 3165 Pacific Highway or the Harbor Police Department, 3380 North Harbor Drive before 1/24/09. Applications will be accepted ONLY at the written test on Saturday, 1/24/09, at 8am, Balboa Park Club, 2125 Park Boulevard, San Diego, CA, 92101. EOE. Jobline: 619-686-6599.

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HOME HEALTH. LVN, LVN-Ventilator Certified/Tagalog Speaking Preferred (days, 12 hour shifts, Oceanside area). Personal Care Assistants, Homemaker/Companion/Sitter. Skilled Nursing Facilities: CNA, LVN. Apply online: www.pph.org or in person via the kiosks provided, Monday-Friday, 7:30am-4:30pm, Palomar Medical Center, HR: 456 East Grand Avenue, Escondido, 92025; Pomerado Hospital, HR: 15615 Pomerado Road, Poway, 92064; Palomar Continuing Care, 1817 Avenida del Diablo, Escondido, CA 92029.

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IN-HOME CARE. Caregivers and Companions. Minimum 1 year experience non-medical home care for seniors. Valid California Driver's License. Serving Santee/La Mesa/Del Cerro/San Carlos. Maureen, Visiting Angels, 619-749-7525.

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- U.S. citizen or in process of becoming a citizen
- No felony convictions • Bachelor's degree with experience

Salary – New: \$52,520-\$63,835 annually
Safety Retirement-Sworn Officers 3% at age 50.
Bilingual men/women encouraged to apply.

Test dates: December 20, 2008 or January 31, 2009

Qualified applicants will be notified by mail of the date, time and location of the test. All applications must be submitted no later than 15 days prior to the exam date. Applications received after the 15th day will be scheduled for the following exam. Applications can be accessed on-line from the Job/Current Recruitments section of the County website at:

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*www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/education/cps2006.html (See Table 8) ** Certifications/licenses may require additional study and cost. † Offered fully online by Stevens-Henager College®, an affiliated college.



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\$83,657 per year. For more information, call 619-531-COPS or visit our website at: www.joinspdnow.com.

PROBATION CAREERS. Correctional Deputy Probation Officer I. County of San Diego Probation Department now hiring. Test Date: January 10, 2009, 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 on-line application before you appear for the written examination! Jobline: 858-514-8558. www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation.

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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 conducted at no cost. Eligible Relatives will receive compensation up to \$1300 for their time. Family members with Schizophrenia also will be compensated for their interview time. For more information, please call UCSD Department of Psychiatry, 619-543-2096.

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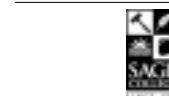
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SurfDIEGO

Name: Sunshine Granaldi
Age: 28
Lives in: Gaslamp Quarter
Surfing: Ocean Beach
Post-surf food: Pho
Ideal surf vacation: Thailand

"Surfing almost ruined my wedding. My husband and I got married in La Jolla two years ago; we met surfing there in 1998. The day we were getting married, I noticed these amazing sets coming in. I had my suit and board in my car and thought I could get a short session in before the ceremony. Well, one wave led to another and the next thing I knew, I was 20 minutes late!"

Sunshine's husband had sent family to look for her, knowing that she was going to be on the beach. She ended up getting married in her wet-suit. Her husband wasn't mad — he had arrived an hour early to surf.

"We spent our reception cooking out on the beach with our friends and family. I managed to do a little more surfing. It was the best wedding you could imagine."

Sunshine and her husband spent their hon-



eymoon surfing in Dana Point, where she had a run-in with local police.

"I had been surfing for about six hours, the longest I've ever spent. I passed out on the beach when I was done because I was so exhausted. I woke up with a flashlight in my

eyes and two cops pulling me to my feet. I had no idea what I had done. They gave me a sobriety test and confiscated my water bottle. I wasn't drinking or anything. One cop stepped on my board and broke the fin.

"They said they had a

report of a drunk and disorderly woman that matched my description, but I think they were just hassling me because surfers have a bad image...people think we are all true heroes. It's just not true."

For more stories by this author, go to sreader.com.

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Shelli Sannes
Software Testing
Ocean Beach

It was when we were driving to Canada. The roads had inches of ice, and we slid the car into a ditch. Other cars had landed in the same ditch, which we hadn't seen. And when our car started spinning around, this teacher in the backseat with a deep voice kept saying, "Hold on." We were the only car able to get out of there because we had this 4x4. People were telling us to get back into the car, so no other vehicle would hit us. The weirdest part was that we had a travel Scrabble game. And not one of the tiles came off the board as we spun around and crashed.



Therese Rossi
Painter
Kensington

Mine would be when I got my marital bride doll in first grade. It was a Madame Alexander, with the little wedding ring on the finger and everything. I was so happy that Christmas when I opened it. My mom and dad usually gave me presents that I wanted, but of all the things they had given me before or after, I liked this doll the most. And I still have it.



Eber Agnos
Accountant
South Park

The time my very Catholic grandmother came to the house of us heathens in Vermont. We said we'd go to church, and this is in a town with a population of 1200. Everyone knew everyone else. We were going to take two cars, and the Raiders were playing the Broncos. It was really close, and my father and I were actually getting dressed in front of the TV. When the game was tied, we got in the car and listened on the AM radio, fading in and out as we went down hills. My father had the great line, "God damn church!" We were in the parking lot listening as the game ended and we walked in, with the big door being loud. Mass had already started.



Shanon Bates
Music Editor
Normal Heights

I remember a time at Thanksgiving where my cousin, who was seven at the time, took these antique pots and pans and was pretending to make popcorn. She would walk over and hand some to each person, and they'd pretend to get a handful. My dad said he was too full from eating. She then said, "Just go to the bathroom and make more room." We all started laughing.



Andrea Washington
Student
San Diego

It doesn't have to be Christmas, right? Because I had a weird Easter. I actually saw the Easter Bunny. It was in my house. I was four years old. It wasn't a real rabbit but a big Easter Bunny outfit. My parents denied it. And they still do to this day. They say I must've been dreaming or sleep-walking. At the time they really tried to convince me I didn't see it. And nobody wore that outfit later in the day, so I have no clue what it was doing there. We still joke about that now.



Steve Smith
Software Engineer
Rancho Bernardo

If you mean most memorable, and not the best, there was a Christmas when I was 17. I had this piece of artwork I knew my mother would love. I had it framed at a place off Grand or Garnet, which was a lot more expensive than I anticipated. And on the drive home, I hit a dip and the glass broke. My brother's girlfriend, on Christmas Eve, had a guy at her place. He had gone over to bring her presents. And the gift my mom ordered for a nephew never came. Oh, and the turkey for some reason wasn't cooking properly. We were getting so hungry, we just went out for Chinese food.

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Medical Admin Careers

Medical Insurance Technician, Medical Administrative and Insurance Specialist courses offered for Medical Administrative careers at Kaplan College. We offer on-the-job training, career placement, financial aid available for those who qualify. Kaplan College (formerly Maric College) San Diego and North County campuses. Call today! 888-356-4000, Dept. 234, or visit www.ChooseKaplanCollege.com.



Medical Careers

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WIA. Job Placement Assistance, Financial Aid (if qualified). United Education Institute, 3666 Kearny Villa Road, #100, 92123; 310 3rd Avenue, #C6, Chula Vista 91910. Call today! 1-877-206-1915. Visit our website: www.infotromuei.com

NEWSCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE: Open house: Saturday, December 13, 10am. NewSchool of Architecture. Campus Tour and Panel discussion with Faculty, Alumni and Students. Architectural Accrediting Board and offers afternoon and evening classes with individual studio spaces for students. Apply online today! www.newschoollarch.edu or call 1-888-739-1915. Located in San Diego's East Village, 1249 F Street (92101).

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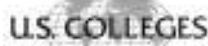
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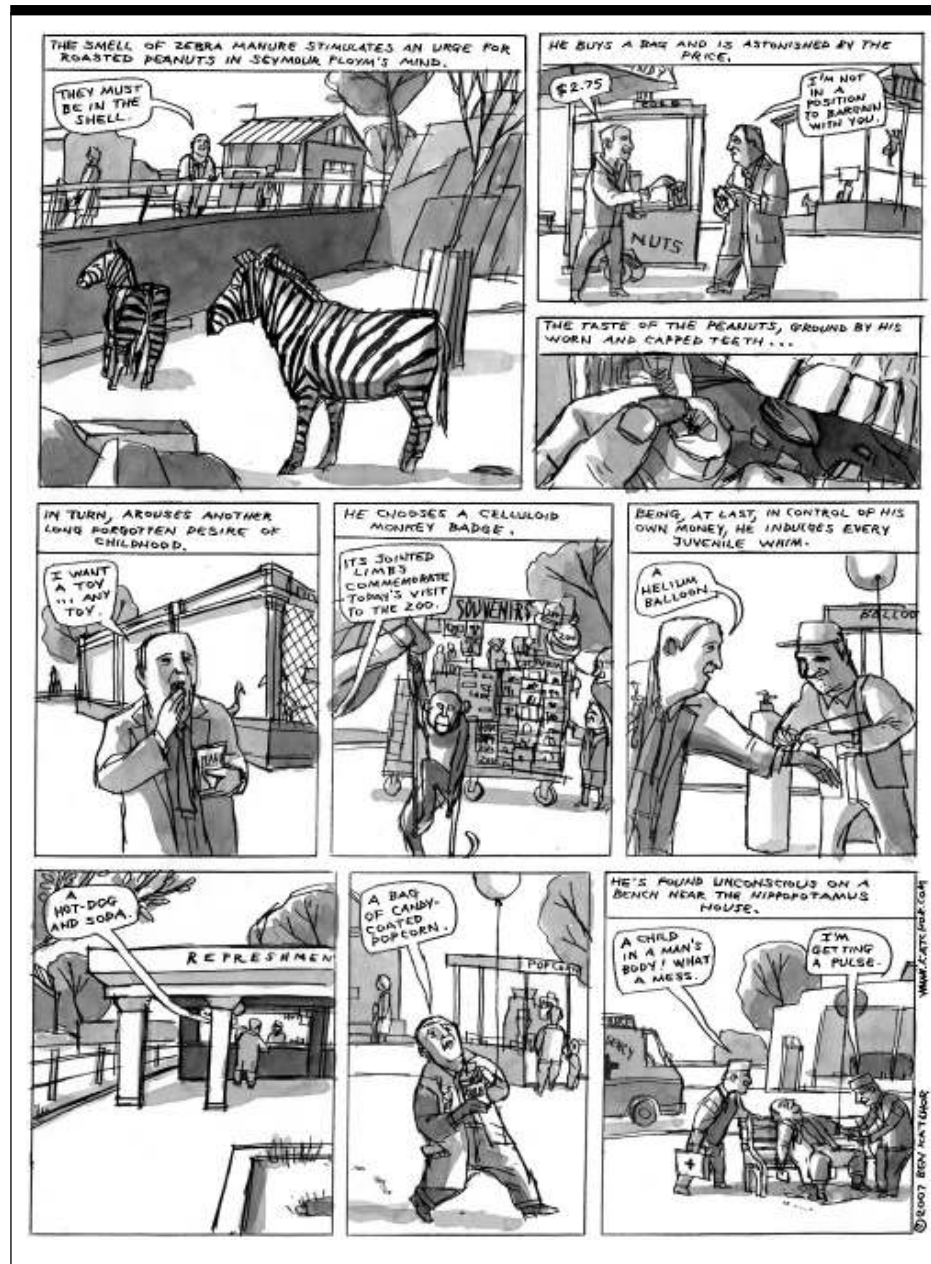
BHAGAVAD-GITA CLASSES: By Vedic Scholar. Monday-Wednesday, 7:30-8:30pm. Hare Krishna Temple, 1030 Grand Avenue, Pacific Beach, 92109. 858-483-2500.

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THE READER PUZZLE:

RULES OF THE GAME

- 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - Wow! Now we're giving away 10 Reader T-shirts each week to contenders chosen randomly!
- And now for the really small print:
- All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
 - Entries that arrive after the deadline will not be considered.
 - One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
 - Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

Across

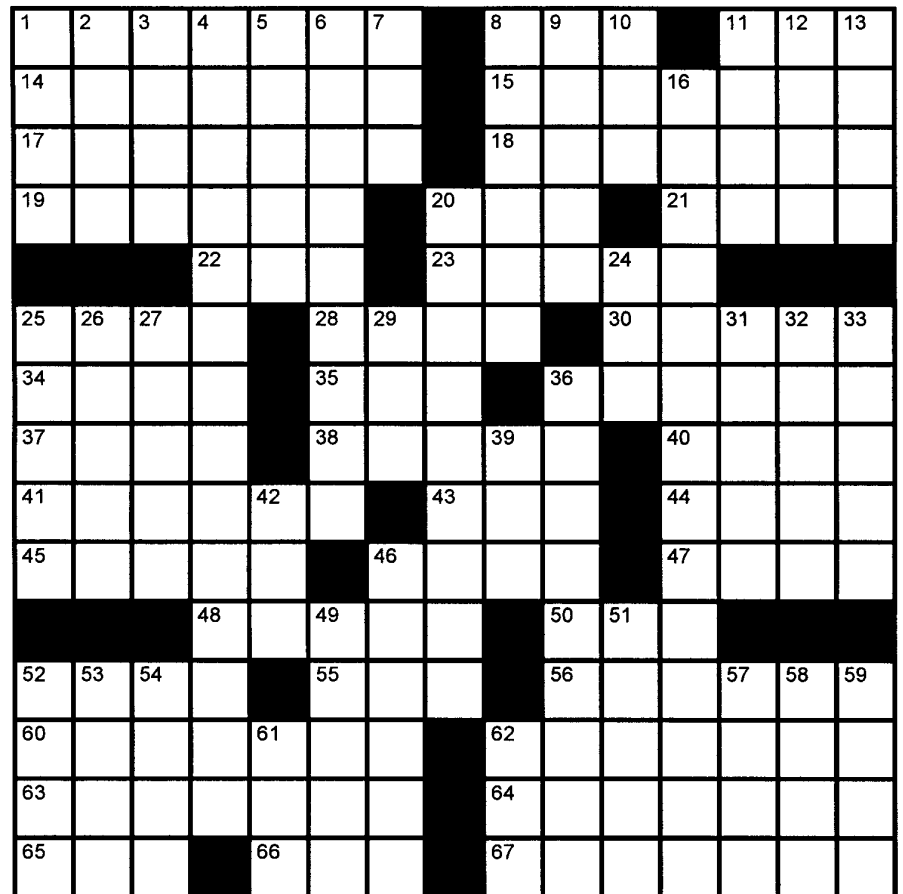
- Enliven
- Pained replies
- 1960 World Series hero, familiarly
- Like some geodes
- Cook first, as pie crust
- Move about idly, as one's thumbs
- Grateful person's reply
- Foe of George H.W. and George W.
- Back muscle, briefly
- Howard and Silver
- Baton Rouge sch.
- Had dinner at home

- Miami-___ County
- Physics unit
- Start of a phrase meaning "always"
- God of war
- "___ be my pleasure!"
- Business biggies
- Lure
- Girl in a #1 Everly Brothers hit
- Fashion initials
- Air rifle ammo
- USPS delivery
- "Count ___!"
- Latin stars
- Thailand, once
- 2008 Emmy winner Baldwin
- "Agnes ___" (1985 film)
- "Friendly skies" co.
- Baseball's Moises or Matty
- Sweet ending?
- Within one's power
- Unfairly outnumbers, with "on"
- Send via plane
- Kind of nest egg
- Pure
- Bear, in Bolivia
- Teaching deg.
- One way to stop

Down

- Red army?
- "And ___ word from our sponsor"
- "Look what ___!"
- Manages somehow
- Actors Alan and Robert
- Jewish scholar, perhaps
- Afore
- It can knock you out

- Penned
- Stitch
- It may be held at the deli
- "I Wanna Love You" singer
- Chief Olympian
- "The Magic Barrel" author
- Natural disaster playing out in 4-, 6-, 16- and 36-Down
- Boise's state: Abbr.
- Middle of a Fred Flintstone shout
- Oman men
- Thomas Paine, for one
- "And you?": Sp.
- Hayseed
- Concave belly button
- Justin Timberlake's former band
- Native of an Atlantic Ocean archipelago
- "Isn't ___ pity?"
- Stumblebum
- Certain scrubber
- Noggin
- Blood carrier
- Soil: Prefix
- Country name Matt Lauer called "an anagram of a synonym of a homophone of an even prime number"
- Not fooled by
- Adriatic seaport
- Neeson of "Nell"
- "Legally Blonde" blonde
- "Sprechen ___ Deutsch?"
- "It's ___-brainer"



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:



THIS WEEK'S CONTENDERS:

♦ indicates T-shirt winner. Number indicates successful entries.

- Julie Osburn, North Park, 25.**
"Almost missed one last week. Check four times, submit once."
Ric Witt, Clairemont, 25.
"Wealth redistribution is nothing but legalized theft."
D. Faulkner, University Heights, 24. "Ride a bike. Cool the earth."
Pamela Swain, College Area, 24. "What happened to the Chargers?"
Lil Wagner, Clairemont, 24.
George Jackson, Oceanside, 23.
Anna McCutcheon, Downtown, 23.
www.paintwithdan.com
♦ **Joseph Ciprian, Little Italy, 22.** "Great seats, great football - go

- Chargers!"
Susan Morfey, Little Italy, 22.
"Had a great time at the Charger/Raider game. Thanks."
Chris Peterkin, Scripps Ranch, 22. "Uh oh, I still haven't started my Christmas shopping."
Janie Redmond, Cardiff, 22.
"Encinitas Hheat 2-0, Rock Idol Grant!"
Paul Stanton, Canyon Hills, 22. "Adopt a homeless cat or dog today and spay/neuter."
Carolyn Dalton, Escondido, 21.
Dale Duffala, La Jolla, 21.
"Marie - thanks for the great Europe trip!"
Bob Maxwell, Coronado, 21.
"Almost got some Zs doing this one."

Iggie Guerrero, Bay Ho, 21.
"Here eye go again!"

Jay Newington, Balboa Park, 21. "Janis - that was the best Thanksgiving ever! How about Christmas?"
Jim Odell, Vista, 21. "Happy Humberg!"
Betsy Cory, Chula Vista, 20.
"Scots and everyone: Bobby Burns Dinner, Jan. 25, St. Mark's."

Charlotte Brown, Clairemont, 20.
Frank Kuzniar, Carlsbad, 20.
"Thursday night, a little wine, and the Reader puzzle. Joy."
Tom Seaman, Alpine, 20.
Danny Wilson, Mira Mesa, 20.
"No clean slate! No clean slate!"
Norman Kenney, Carlsbad, 19.
"Hi Kiera! Hi Boda! Ho ho ho!"
Barry Newman, Escondido, 19.

Jeff Smith, University City, 19.
"What, no Johann Joanhim Quantz?"
Mary Arana, Encinitas, 18.
"Enjoy live theater!"
Donna Cresta, Chula Vista, 18.
"I finally got a piece of the pie."
Gerard Dermody, Encinitas, 18.
"Sorry, I've been away - hope you've managed."
Bud Fisher, Mira Mesa, 18. "I'm only going to show you this one more time."
Jim Koziol, UTC, 18. "Guys, no games til your homework is done!"
Rich Sewell, Ocean Beach, 18.
"Washington apples are the best."
Laurence Altobelli III, Carmel Valley, 17.
Sheilah Doyle, Santee, 17.
Barney Firks, Ocean Beach, 17.
Ken Hanson, Clairemont, 17.
Michael McGriffin, Bay Park, 17.
"www.geocaching.com"

Steve Wilson, Spring Valley, 17.
Sheila Agahan-Price, Oceanside, 16. "Pay it forward, help the homeless."
Woody Anderson, Carmel Valley, 16. "I actually miss Mike's stand up meetings at Symitar!"
A. T. Certik, Bonita, 16.
William Cushing, Rancho Bernardo, 16. "Happy Birthday, Hailie!"
Anne Hinton, Point Loma, 16.
Dave Small, San Carlos, 16.
Eddie Spaghetti, Coronado, 16. "143UNIT15! I still want you, you old bitty, you! CIUM21"
Elenore Stephens, Potrero, 16.
"P-town 4 life."
Dave Washington, La Jolla, 16.
"God is love."
Doretha Albee, Santee, 15.
Bud Anderson, Santee, 15.
Neal Brown, Santee, 15.

We're wiping the slate clean!

Our final issue of the year, published Wednesday, December 31, will be the last one considered for our current tally of puzzle winners. On Thursday, January 8, we'll recognize the person(s) with the most correct entries in 2008 and the count will begin again! Sharpen your pencils!

THIS WEEK'S CONTENDERS CONTINUED:

☛ indicates T-shirt winner

Olga Betteridge, Ocean Beach, 15. "Tender Infinite Magic = My Love."
Maria Coda, Oceanside, 15. "Hi All!"
Laura Conshafter, Santee, 15.
Mike Downey, Santee, 15.
Eduardo Emmett, Santee, 15.
Harry Engel, La Jolla, 15.
Ward Harrington, Santee, 15.
Troy Knapp, Santee, 15.
Eugene Padua, Santee, 15.
Derek Rasmussen, Santee, 15.
Tom Somich, Clairemont, 15.
Bob Vollmar, La Jolla, 15.
Tim Betteridge, Hillcrest, 14. "My O makes time fly and happiness grow. T-10."
Marvin A. Brown, Clairemont, 14.
Mike D'Asaro, Santee, 14.
Byron Ellsworth, Santee, 14.
Marie Grace, College Area, 14. "Merry Christmas everyone!"
Larry Hartpence, Santee, 14.
Donnie Nelson, Santee, 14.
Ann Winder, Hillcrest, 14. "Let's kick it up a notch!"
☛ **Stuart Aunger, Chula Vista, 13.** "Fa ra ra ra ra ra ra ra"
Bruce Bell, South Park, 13. "Got mail slot? That's twice now."

Bruce Barshop, La Jolla, 13.
E. T. Cage, Carmel Mtn., 13. "Hi, Nathan Petty."
Wally Chapman, Chula Vista, 13. "Hey Ski, send the puzzle in."
Glen and Tesi Chavira-Cournoyer, Chula Vista, 13. "It's beginning to lool like Christmas."
Marilyn Cooper, Chula Vista, 13.
Kathleene Evans, Santee, 13.
☛ **Rand Feura, Santee, 13.**
Douglas Meyers, La Mesa, 13. "Junot Diaz? I dunno Diaz!"
☛ **Richard Miner, Cherokee Point, 13.** "Late adapter turns over a new rock - the Foveon Chip."
Ken Najbert, Mira Mesa, 13. "Bacon lemon pie!"
Don Prince, Serra Mesa, 13. "How can I tell you - all the things inside, y head?"
Sue Coffey, Southwest S.D., 12. "Happy Birthday Yira."
Howard Donnelly, Mission Valley, 12. "o, t, t, f, f, s, s?"
Edward C Horbett, Jr., Crown Point, 12. "Billy rocks Hiromi."
Wayne Mathieu, Clairemont, 12. "Forgot to proofread last week."
Elizabeth Noll, Alpine, 12. "33 shopping days left until the big 4-0!"

Robert Ott, Mira Mesa, 12. "An even dozen."
Don Romero, Ramona, 12. "I miss my little pumpkin!"
Ken A., Ocean Beach, 11. "No spare change, no cigarettes."
Evelyn Bowser, Hillcrest, 11. "All my love to Eric."
Bryan Breckenridge, Santee, 11.
Jon Hutchens, Encinitas, 11. "Thx."
Mary Hutchings, City Heights, 11.
Rumir Miravalles, San Diego, 11. "Mabuhay ka Manny Pacquino. You make us Filipinos very proud."
Elizabeth Rainbolt, Mission Valley, 11.
Tom Laurin, Chula Vista, 10. "Plz St. Anthony - help us find our game this Christmas!"
James C. Nelson, El Cajon, 10.
John Prince, Serra Mesa, 10. "4 Rivers Pour Upon Ye: Hydro-geologic History of San Diego Bay."
Kathy Law, La Mesa, 9. "Love to Bill. Hi Rocio. You're the best. Miss you."
☛ **Susie Letorich, Coronado, 9.** "Islander IPA keeps the doctor away!"
Mike Deliman, Santee, 8. "Karen Marie, did you say Amazon Puddin' Whale?"
Alfredo Garcia, San Diego, 8.

Chuck Merritt, Spring Valley, 8.
Sal Vitale, Pacific Beach, 8. "I'm stuffed."
Ernie Hsu, San Diego, 7. "Hey SD Reader, I don't think your fax machine works!"
G.R. Morse, San Diego, 7. "Mabuhay Lynn!"
Rich Tschiegg, Scripps Ranch, 7. "Santee, Santay, Santucket, Santooth - best of DSC on KGB 101.5."
Flo Abena, Rancho Penasquitos, 6. "Manny Pacquiao owns!"
Gunnar Eldof, Oceanside, 6. "Nice T-shirt."
I.C. Garcia, Golden Hill, 6. "Jesus, if he did exist, was not a white man."
Sandra Groves, Bonita, 6. "I'm back!"
Ricky Hartpence, Santee, 6.
Kyle Matzke, Vista, 6. "Peace, earned by those with the strength to protect it."
Robert McQuay, Linda Vista, 6. "Merry Christmas to all!"
Cecile Alcaraz, San Diego, 4. "Goodbye, college! Hello CV!"
Benvicky Javier, San Diego, 4. "Happy Birthday Big Gervy '98 USNA and Mama Z."
James Thomas, Downtown, 4. "To Reader - have a merry Christmas and New Year wishes."
G. Barker, Santee, 3.

Terri Beach, Santee, 3.
Philip Blase, San Diego, 3. "Mt. Kilimanjaro is calling me."
Carrie Collins, Santee, 3.
☛ **Alfred Egaran, San Diego, 3.** "Happy 5th Birthday, Jenna!"
Melody Johnson, San Carlos, 3. "Happy bday to me."
Gloria Kaufman, El Cajon, 3. "No help, no computer, less than 1 hour!"
Janet Reilly, University City, 3.
Jeff Battles, Serra Mesa, 2. "Gunner, they misspelled your name. Guess my handwriting does suck."
William Edwards, Kensington, 2.
Ryan Leighty, Scripps Ranch, 2. "Happy Birthday Jen Turfler and Sarah."
Craig Martin, Serra Mesa, 2.
☛ **Irving Metzger, San Diego, 2.**
Ted Scafidi, Hillcrest, 2. "Yes, we aren't."
Kevin Schimpf, Santee, 2.
Capn Skarz, Encinitas, 2. "Monkey muchachos forever."
☛ **Barbara Varga, San Diego, 2.** "Happy Birthday, Paul!"
Jennifer Wesson, Paradise Hills, 2. "Where's my Mini Cooper?"
Linda Adsit, San Diego, 1.

Brian Albrecht, City Heights, 1.
Tom and Jenn, Mira Mesa, 1. "You gonna be die!"
Pat Beatty, Escondido, 1.
Gerard Bolla, San Diego, 1. "Hey Gator, feeling a little tired tonight."
Rosa Rita Cabal, Chula Vista, 1.
Michelle Castaneda, North Park, 1. "If animals spoke English they'd say, Please don't eat me."
☛ **Brianna DePew, San Diego, 1.** "Julie Osburn is so smart. She's gonna win."
Ralph Fear, San Diego, 1. "Did I do it?"
Jo Gibilisco, Lemon Grove, 1. "Mom Power!"
Sandi Heida, Poway, 1. "Oh cheese and rice."
Richard Johnson, San Diego, 1. "Ho ho ho."
Ratt Mead, La Mesa, 1. "Getting warmed up for the slate-cleaning."
☛ **Pam Mecklenborg, Pacific Beach, 1.** "You are an angel!"
Joel Wolfberg, Point Loma, 1. "Thanks for the room and board, Nate!"

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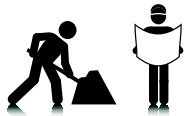
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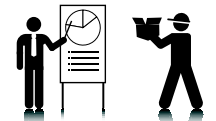
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FREE PRAYER LINE. When you need an ear, it's nice to have someone to talk to. Call Elma, 619-440-6043.

FREE PSYCHIC HEALING. Lecture Clinic. Free readings for new visitors. Mondays, 7:30pm, 12/1, 1/5, 2/2, 3/2, 4/6 by Vessa's Clairvoyant Program students. 4455 Morena Boulevard, #108. 858-509-7582.

GAIN SKILLS TO SUCCEED. Are you 14 to 21, low income, need high school diploma or GED and work experience? Turning the Hearts Center, 619-691-9643.

HIJOS ADULTOS de alcoholicos. Recuperación y tolerancia. Bienvenidos grupo Alanon. Sesiones: Lunes, Miércoles, Viernes, 7-9pm. Alateen, Viernes 7-

8:30pm. 495 H Street, Chula Vista, CA 91910.

MOVIE BUFFS. Interested in watching movies, then discussing them afterwards (like book clubs)? Ages 25 to mature welcome. Please call 619-850-6075 or 858-231-0647.

OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE Anonymous, free 12-step meeting for people with OCD. Mondays, 6-7pm. Department of Health Services Complex, 3851 Rosecrans Street, Mission Room. Information: OCAhelp@cox.net.

PATHWORK DISCUSSION. "The Christmas Message." December 16, 7-9pm. Eureka Street/Mission Valley. Open meeting, no fee. Materials available. Please call for directions, 619-296-9046.

PRAYER-BASED SOLUTIONS for problems. Achieve inner peace and balance. Eliminate chronic disease, pain. Lose crippling fear, addiction. Call 858-272-3246.

PRIVATE COUNSELING. Your journey can be clearer, more peaceful, relationship issues, body image, self-esteem, anger. I can help. Work toward acceptance of yourself. Fee. 619-838-6817.

T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST: Win \$250! Competition never ends! Upload your design, let the public rate it, we'll select the best one(s) to be printed! www.ModernTee.com.

TWELVE STEPS NOT working for you? Try a self-empowering, skill-building approach with S.M.A.R.T. Recovery, free support groups. 858-546-1100.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. UCSD Medical Center needs healthy volunteers, 40-65 years old, for a research study. Please call 619-543-7201.

WHY ADOPT?? Children need families! Family Connections Christian Adoptions presents free information session, Saturday, January 10, 2009, 9-11am. 2191 El Camino Real #202, Oceanside. 760-966-0531. www.fcadoptions.org.

YOU WANT TO USE DRUGS? That's your business. Want to stop using? That's our business. Call 619-584-1077. In Espanol, 619-491-1984. In North County 866-331-1958.

TRAVEL & GETAWAYS

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PERSONALS

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BEAUTIFUL ASIAN WOMAN, 11/24, Australian Pink Floyd concert. Asked if lady was my wife (she's good friend). Caught up in music/blew it. Michael, michaelmusic@cox.net.

DAVIEBABE in Boston. Thanksgiving 1996. Cherry dining room set. The cleaning lady was for you—not Michelle. Great turkey! Still crazy after all these years!

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a Happy New Year. Let's hope it's a good one without any fear. John Lennon. Peace.



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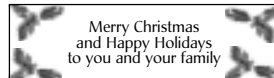


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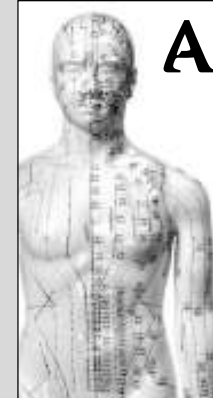
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AMPS AND GUITARS. Fender reissue Super Reverb \$800, 1970s Fender Bandmaster head \$450, Marshall Valvestate S80 \$375, B-52 AT-212 100 watt all tube \$450, Fender Prosonic combo \$799, Line 6 Spider II \$299, Ampeg GT-10 \$199, Ampeg B@RE head \$299, Mesa Boogie 1x12 rectifier cab \$250, Crate VTX-65 \$275, Peavey Wolfgang \$799, 2005 USA Fender Strat S1-HSS \$899, Korean Lite Ash Strat with Duncans \$450. Carvin AC Model \$599. At Moze Guitars, 619-698-1185.

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SINGER/SONGWRITER/FRONTMAN. With PA and gear looking for the right band. Influences: Counting Crows, Goo-Goo Dolls, Petty, Originals. Will travel. Please call Rick, 530-416-7473.

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BASS PLAYER/KEYBOARD PLAYER. Wanted to form blues/rock band. Club owners already interested in my material. Call Mike, 858-922-0808.

COUNTRY WESTERN BAND. Seeking experienced bass guitar player. If interested please call Bob at 858-753-1775.

DRUMMER WANTED. Metal in your blood? Hard Echo seeks double bass monster, studio ready/metal chops. Check out tunes, www.myspace.com/hardecho. Norm, 619-251-6061; Tony, 619-823-7536.

FEMALE SINGER WANTED. Attractive, sexy vocalist wanted for a dance funk band. For more information, call 858-672-7700.

FREE WORLD WIDE PROMOTION, auditioning bands/artists, to promote radio play, television/touring. Career minded/professional. E-mail name, name of band/(artist) contact number, music4everca@yahoo.com.

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 Turner band. Michael, 760-521-5504.

MALE VOCALIST AVAILABLE for right band. 29 years, can play rhythm guitar/acoustic/electric. Influences: Spoon, Tool, Chromeo. Not into hard core metal. 858-525-3679, baxclash@yahoo.com.

MALE VOCALIST WANTED. To sing America, Eagles, Beatles, Stones, Neil Young, etc. I play bass, guitar, and harmonica. Escondido rehearsal room. Mark, 760-738-8059.

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BAY PARK. \$625, includes utilities. 1 bedroom upstairs in tri-level house, cable TV. No pets/drugs/smoking. On quiet cul-de-sac, near bus/stores. 858-272-1594.

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.

BAY PARK/MISSION BAY, \$545. Laundry, quiet street, off-street parking. Near Clairemont Drive. Male only. \$395 security deposit. Cats OK. 619-275-6260.

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.

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CLAIREMONT. 1 furnished bedroom. Balboa/Genesee area. Quiet residential area. Cable TV, refrigerator, microwave, and shower. \$650, includes utilities. First and last month. Call 858-531-2947.

CLAIREMONT/UNIVERSITY CITY. \$600. 1 bedroom in home. Private entrance, private bath. Microwave, refrigerator, cable. Like attached studio. No pets/smoking/alcohol/drugs. 858-455-7150.

COLLEGE AREA. 2 bedroom, 1 bath on lower level of older house on acre. Private entrance. Nonsmoker, male only. References required. Off-street parking. \$900. 619-264-9356.

COLLEGE AREA. Share small 2 bedroom house. \$550/month, plus 1/2 utilities, \$400/deposit. Parking. No pets/drugs. 619-698-5509.

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GOLDEN HILL. Room available now in 3 bedroom house. Full kitchen, parking, utilities, cable included. \$550. 2832 L Street, San Diego. 619-886-8111.

GROSSMONT COLLEGE. Private master bedroom and bathroom. Walk to Grossmont College. Pool, cable TV, computer hookup available. \$700/month, 2 people OK. Available December 20. 619-667-9142.

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/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.

LA JOLLA/DOWNTOWN VILLAGE. \$675. By beaches, extra large bedroom, security building. Laundry, share bath, 1/2 utilities. No pets. Deposit. Available January 1. Bev. 858-454-3000.

LA JOLLA/UTC. Share 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Master bedroom. Air conditioning. Laundry. Pool, Jacuzzi, tennis courts, fitness center. \$800/month includes utilities. Female preferred. 858-366-2905.

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 BEACH, SOUTH. Quiet Bayside near coaster. Semi-private entrance. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Month-to-month. \$600. \$300 deposit. Female only. Cat considered. 619-905-9493.

NATIONAL CITY. Private master bedroom with bath. Washer/dryer, TV, cable, utilities included. Quiet, clean. \$650. 858-254-4469.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. Share 3 bedroom, 1 bath house. Fenced yard. Near park/free-ways. 2 blocks from Kensington/restaurants, grocery. \$500, split utilities, \$250/ deposit. 619-281-2133.

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. \$775. Private bed and bath in second floor condo. Pools, spas, gym, tennis courts, more. Parking in secure garage. Female preferred. 858-344-8029.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$750. Share newly remodeled house. Only need own bedroom furnishings. Living and kitchen areas will be furnished. No pets. Female only. Dennis. 760-518-6250.

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 Nordahl and 78. Private bath, garage, includes utilities, cable, pool, kitchen, washer/dryer. Female nonsmoker, no pets. Available. \$650/month. Jean. 760-745-0482.

SAN MARCOS/CSUSM. \$600 + \$500, 2 rooms with bathrooms in new house. Satellite TV, broadband Internet, laundry, fireplace, kitchen appliances. Huge backyard. Victor, 760-744-1724, sendtome04-rent@yahoo.com.

SANTEE. 2 rooms available in 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. \$575/each, share utilities. Quiet area. Near Santee Lakes, 52/125, Grossmont College. Laundry/barbecue. 619-994-9250.

SCRIPPS RANCH. \$625. Share 3 bedroom condo. Furnished room/private bath. Includes utilities, maid service, laundry, cable. No smoking/drugs/pets. 858-693-0834.

SOUTH BAY. 1 room available in 4 bedroom house, share bathroom. Washer/dryer. \$400, plus \$100/deposit, utilities included. Female preferred. Nonsmoking, no drugs. 619-808-2683.

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.

UTC. \$800. Share 2 bedroom apartment. Washer/dryer, air conditioning. Gym. No drugs. Smoking outside. Deposit upon signing lease. Cats OK. Female preferred. 573-999-5331.

ROOMMATE SERVICES

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.

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)

SAN DIEGO. Rooms for rent: seniors, vets, disabled. \$550/month includes free meals. Call 619-846-6993.

RENTALS COMMERCIAL

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.

DOWNTOWN. Corner lot/building for sale. Commercial, interior: 2065 Square foot lot, 3054 square feet. 245 25th Street, San Diego. Asking \$750,000. Call 619-517-8011.

PACIFIC BEACH. Office space. \$2000. 1400-square-foot ground floor office, ample parking. Easy access. 4455 Lamont Street, Suite 3. 858-270-4492 x203.

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.

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.

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.

Typo Patrol Results

Issue of December 4, 2008

Say What?

p.143 lead *should be led*

News of the Weird

p.149 Men on a Mission calendar" *should be Men on a Mission"* calendar

Back When

p.151 ha! *should be ha!"*

Mtume Salaam (San Diego) \$30

The Red Zone

p.17 Mavericks ground game *should be Mavericks'* ground game

Brian Slipper (Del Mar) \$10

Sheep and Goats

p.18 mealwork *should be metalwork*

Linda Cox (San Diego) \$10

Club Crawler

p.84 DIY *should be DIY*

Chelsea Navarro (Carlsbad) \$10

Hometown CDs

p.94 Artist *should be Artist*

Barbara Akers (Escondido) \$10

Letters

p.12 Lungfull *should be Lungful*

Armin Moths (San Diego) \$10

You must send in a copy of the printed error — either the actual page or a copy (including page number). Ads, blogs, user reviews, and letters to the editor exempt from consideration. Typo exceptions: errors in direct quotations, slang, colloquialisms, house/writer style idiosyncrasies. Reference sources: *The Chicago Manual of Style* (14th edition), any/all English-language dictionaries. Submissions accepted until Monday at 7 a.m. after the issue in question. Only one award per error — first identification of error wins \$10 or a Reader Typo Patrol T-shirt (indicate preference). Mail to: Typo Patrol, SD Reader, Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186; or fax to 619-231-0489; or deliver to 1703 India Street in Little Italy (we have an after-hours mail slot).

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.

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.

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.

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.

RENTALS HOUSES

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.

BAY PARK/USD. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Newly remodeled. Refrigerator, stove, washer/dryer. Private, lower level. 1303-A Brunner Street. \$1150/month. Near USD. Available January 1. 858-756-5702; 858-775-7970.

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Reader Pop Quiz

This week's questions

1. Barbarella's otherwise upright husband confesses to stealing what from his in-laws' home?
2. Name the Babylonian king whose name adorns a Chaldean restaurant in El Cajon.
3. Naomi Wise calls ____ "reality TV" for the tasteful."
4. The late Ike Turner and his drummer recently were on what Smithsonian Channel program?
5. Consumer debt is currently what percent of the U.S.'s total economic output, as *Financial Commentator* tells it in "City Lights"?
6. Name the American Idol contestant in the San Diego Rep's production of *The Princess and the Black-Eyed Pea*.
7. What Japanese paper, used for wrapping, can be folded up to 600 times without tearing?
8. L.A.'s Darker My Love take their name from what?
9. Josh Board admits that the first time a woman put on lingerie for him, he reacted how?
10. What was the *NME's* album of 2005 and the group that released it, appearing at the House of Blues on Tuesday, Dec. 16?

Last week's answers

1. Baby Spice. (p. 86)
2. Possession of prescription medicine. (p. 80)
3. Meshell Ndegeocello. (p. 84)
4. Currant. (p. 101)
5. The Philadelphia Flyers. (p. 82)
6. San Francisco, 1992. (p. 7)
7. Skating rink. (p. 20)
8. The Mt. St. Helens Vietnam Band. (p. 84)
9. Emotions. (p. 65)
10. AB 1778. (p. 14)

Last week's winners:

Roger Huff, Michelle Adams, Nathalie Ramirez, Brian Slipper, Karli Hochner.

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 will 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).

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. \$2195. \$250 off first month's rent if rented by 12/31! 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.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$1095. Super house, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Front yard. No backyard. No garage. On site laundry. 2 parking. No smoking. No pets. \$900 deposit. 4161 42nd Street. 619-251-0030.

CITY HEIGHTS. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Total remodel. Big patio. Storage. Plenty of parking. \$1600. 858-205-3996.

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. \$1895. \$250 off first month's rent if rented by 12/31! 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. 2-car garage, washer/dryer hookups, heater, storage, hardwood floors, quiet cul-de-sac, tree-lined shaded backyard with beautiful canyon view. 4202 Dakota Drive, 92117. Cogan Properties, 619-283-2144.

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 or 4 bedroom. New house, 2300sf. View, washer/dryer, fireplace, garage, yard. No pets. 619-218-0730, trubiw2@cox.net.

COLLEGE AREA/DEL CERRO. \$1550-\$2160. Canyon views. Spacious 4 bedroom, 2 bath. New appliances/carpet, skylight, Roman tub, fireplace, Garages. Rebates! No pets! 858-270-0214.

COLLEGE AREA/LA MESA. \$2295. Option to buy for \$399,500. Move-in special: \$250 off first month's rent if rented by 12/31! 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.

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.

HILLCREST/MISSION HILLS. 1 bedroom plus office, \$1295. Hardwood floors, laundry hookups, deck, tandem parking. No pets. Walking distance to hospital and shopping. Agent, 619-296-3189.

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. 619-216-3426.

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 COSTA/CARLSBAD. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhome, 2100 square feet, modern appliances, granite counters, travertine floors. Quiet neighborhood. No pets. Lease. \$2900. 760-470-2105.

LA JOLLA. 5 bedroom, 3 bath, big backyard, ocean view, remodeled, cul-de-sac. Close to UCSD. No pets. \$4500/month, deposit, first, last. 1-year lease. 858-456-9087.

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.

LA MESA. Near SDSU. \$1550. Totally renovated 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Washer/dryer, hardwood floors. French doors open to large terrace. Stainless appliances. Granite countertops. Gardener included. Pets OK. 619-339-6153.

LA MESA/MT HELIX. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1850 square foot, lovely one-story ranch home with large kitchen, upgraded appliances, breakfast nook, pantry and built-in buffet. Living room has French doors out to private backyard with beautiful, mature trees. Dual brick fireplace in living room. 2-car finished garage, walk through to house, horseshoe driveway, washer/dryer. Includes gardener weekly. \$2295. 4545 Calavo Drive. 619-683-9274.

LEMON GROVE. \$1195. 1 bedroom, 1 bath house, fully furnished, laundry, yard, patio. Utilities/cable included. Temporary 6 month rental. Nonsmoking. No pets. Parking. Deposit \$1000. 858-354-5051.

MIRA MESA/SCRIPPS RANCH. Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. Close to Scripps Ranch, University Town Center. Beautiful landscaping, gardener included with rent. No pets. Gas stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer/dryer, fireplace. 1300 square feet. 2-car garage. Tile and carpet. \$2150. 10076 Baffin Street. 858-483-5111 x10. www.melroyproperties.com.

MISSION BEACH. \$2600. Move in now! 2 bedroom, 1 bath beach house with front patio. Shared garage, storage, beach shower, no pets. 735 Jamaica Court. Call Leigh at 858-483-3534 x12. www.cal-prop.com.

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 HILLS. \$3300. 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. Hardwood floors. Fireplace. 2-car garage. Located in Spruce Canyon. Large patio. Drive by and view with appointment, 3350 Horton Avenue. Agent Paula Keenan, 619-871-8915.

MISSION HILLS. 2 bedroom, 2 bath corner house, garage, storage shed, fenced yard. Available after December 15. \$1400/month. Call Vince, 619-295-5398.

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.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, hardwood floors, yard. Cats OK, no dogs. Open house Saturday/Sunday, 12pm-3pm. 3343 North Mountain View Drive. \$1390. 760-815-5978.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 3 bedroom, 1 bath house, hardwood floors, \$1800/month. Large yard, 1-car garage, nice neighborhood. Available immediately. No pets. Call 619-280-3650.

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. New windows, stove and refrigerator. 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. \$1075 rent, \$800 deposit. OAC. Large 2-bedroom, 1-bath detached house. Hardwood floors, garage, laundry. No pets, at 4541 Hamilton Street #6. 619-299-8515.

NORTH PARK. \$1745. 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. Extra storage. Remodeled Ikea kitchen. 3791 Arnold Avenue. Xlarent.com, 619-683-7638.

NORTH PARK. \$895. 1-bedroom, 1-bath house. Parking, laundry. New carpet with yard. Available now. 3124 University Avenue, www.amgsd.com, 619-295-1165.

NORTH PARK. \$950. Cottage. Wood floors. Built-in china cabinet. Gated complex. Laundry on site. Available now. 4058 Hamilton Street. www.stevenleproperties.com, 619-295-1161.

NORTH PARK. 1/2 off first! \$1025. Charming 1 bedroom, 1 bath cottage plus den. Large kitchen, appliances, plenty of storage. Laundry. Parking. 3141 Boundary Street. 619-804-3325.

NORTH PARK. 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. Ceramic tile, new carpet/paint, remodeled bathroom. Washer, dryer, refrigerator, gas stove. 1015 square feet. Fenced yard. Cat OK. 4124 Florida Street. \$1650/month. Martha, 619-295-4351.

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. \$1800. \$1800 deposit. 3 bedroom, 1 bath house. No pets. Small yard. Washer/dryer hookups. 4754 Cape May Avenue. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.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.

OCEANSIDE. 4-bedroom, 3-bath new, custom-built home. Ocean view. Game room with wetbar, deck, 3 car garage. Gourmet kitchen. 4000 square feet. \$3200. 760-809-1555.

OCEANSIDE. 4-bedroom, 3-1/2-bath. 3-car garage. 3200 square feet. New custom home. Ocean view. Office. 2 fireplaces. Jacuzzi. 2 decks. Landscaped yard. \$3200. 760-809-1555.

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. \$2750. Available now. 4 bedroom 2 bath, private home. Full bed and bath separate from main house. All appliances, fireplace, washer/dryer. Pets negotiable with deposit. 2175 Grand Avenue. 858-483-3534 x12, www.cal-prop.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1325. 1-bedroom, 1-bath cottage. 1-car garage. Yard. All appliances, includes water. 1453 Thomas Avenue. Available January 1. Alta Vista Properties, 858-274-3600. www.altavistamanagement.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1595. Move in now! 2 bedroom 1 bath newly remodeled home. Shared yard, granite, stainless kitchen, new tile flooring, parking and onsite laundry. No pets. 2169 Reed Avenue, #B. Call Leigh at 858-483-3534 x12. www.cal-prop.com

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. \$1735. 2 bedroom 1 bath house. Mov in 12/23/08. Private home, hardwood floors, patio/yard, fireplace, garage, laundry hookups. No pets. 1000 square feet. 2040 Oliver Avenue. Call Leigh 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

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 bedroom, 1 bath house, large fenced yard. Quiet street. Laundry hookups, hardwood floors, garage, 1351 Missouri. \$1950/month. Call 858-273-4812.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Upgrades. Oak/tile floors, fireplace, garage. No pets. Available 1/1/09. \$2100. 3434 Yosemite Street. 760-747-2196.

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.

POINT LOMA. \$2750. City view! 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath home. 2 fireplaces. Large family room. Near Rosecrans. Garage. New carpet. Small pet. 3240 Lowell. 619-435-0387.

POINT LOMA. 2 bedroom home in nice area. Large garage/storage, new carpet/paint, dining area, yard, cellar. \$1600. 4411 Mentone. 619-274-2330, 619-435-7393 or 619-435-3830.

ROLANDO. \$1500. Great home 2 bedroom, 1 bath home in quiet neighborhood. Large and beautiful backyard with a shed. 795 square feet. Refrigerator, stove and dishwasher. Single car garage with lots of storage. 4503 Patria Drive. Please contact Rob Inglat at 619-435-7780 or for more information visit our website at www.mckeecompany.com.

SAN CARLOS. \$1795. \$1795. 1.5 bath house. Yard, pet negotiable. 6349 Lake Aral Drive. Gardener included! Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

SAN CARLOS. Section 8 OK. 4 bedroom 2 bath house. Double garage. 6388 Aril Lake Avenue. Fireplace, fenced yard. No pets. \$1700, \$1500/deposit. 619-254-2216.

SAN MARCOS. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath house, \$1650. 1/2 off first month's rent! Community pool/spa, central heat, 1350 square feet, 2-car garage. 577 Whitesage Road. People Helping Others property Management, 619-282-5400. peoplehelpingothers.com.

SANTEE. \$1900. 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.

SCRIPPS RANCH. Large 3 bedroom, 3 bath home available now. Yard, deck, fireplace. Close to parks. Dog OK. \$2200. 10792 Pointed Oak Lane. 619-334-6781. www.poseidonproperty.com.

SOUTH BAY. 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath house. \$1500/month. Fenced yard. Near trolley. Laundry hookups. No Section 8. Small pet OK. 863 Harris. 619-884-3887, 619-424-5005.

SOUTH PARK. \$2795. 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.

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ALPINE. 2 bedrooms, \$1205. Newly remodeled. Private garages, fireplaces, vaulted ceilings. Resort-size pool and spa. Alpine Woods, 1829 Arnold Way. 619-445-1341.

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BALBOA PARK EAST. Walk to Park! Historic District Victorian flat. 2 bedrooms. Wood floors. Remodeled kitchen. Walk-through pantry. Fireplace. Granite countertops. Southwest facing with natural light. Vintage bathroom. Huge deck, laundry room. \$1199. 1228 24th Street. Available 1/1/09. 858-568-5081.

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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.

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BANKER'S HILL. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, \$1600. Central air/heat, balcony, water/sewer/trash included, underground parking, 1054 square feet. 3266 1st Avenue #39. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. peoplehelpingothers.com.

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BAY PARK. \$1350. Move in now. Large 2-bedroom, 1-bath apartment with huge, private fenced yard. Parking and

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BAY PARK. \$950. 1 bedroom, 1 bath mother-in-law quarters. Panoramic ocean view from large living room/huge deck. Private entrance. Stove, refrigerator. Available 1/1/09. No pets. 858-270-2822.

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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. \$1725. 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath. Fireplace, garage, all appliances, some ocean view. Community pool/spa. 901C Caminito Madrigal. Leasing Unlimited, 760-436-7273.

CARLSBAD. \$1950/month. Spacious 4 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhome. 2-car garage plus guest parking, tile/carpet, tennis courts, pool. Near I-5/78/shopping/restaurants/beach. Pets OK with deposit. 3218 Via De Canto. Available now. 760-595-5466.

CARLSBAD. \$925. 1 bedroom. Small complex with off-street parking. Remodeled. Laundry. Quiet street. No pets. 3366 Roosevelt Street. Agent, 760-434-7721.

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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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.torreycc. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2106.

CHULA VISTA. \$100 off first month's rent! 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1125 with \$900 deposit. Pool, laundry room. Close to mall/freeway. No pets. Available now. 433 D Street. Call 619-651-8600.

CHULA VISTA. \$1050. 2 bedroom, 1 bath in upscale property with central vacuum and air conditioning. Beautiful garden setting. Controlled access parking. No pets. 144 Garrett Avenue. TPPM, 619-585-1959.

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CHULA VISTA. \$825. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. All Utilities Included. Clean. Quiet. Secure. New paint/carpet. A must see! Laundry and pool on site. 540 Flower Street. Best deal in South Bay. If you can find a better deal "rent it!" Call Krista, 619-425-5451 or Rachael, 619-804-1044.

CHULA VISTA. \$995. Upstairs 1 bedroom, 1 bath in attractive, award winning, home-like fourplex. Includes in unit washer/dryer and private 1 car garage. 256 Beech Avenue #B. TPPM, 619-585-1959.

CHULA VISTA. 1 bedroom apartments, \$720-\$750. Deposit \$500. All utilities included. Pool, off-street parking. Laundry facilities. Call Park Regency Apartments, 619-422-0792.

CHULA VISTA. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Gated, central air/heat, dish-washer, patios, laundry, off-street parking. No pets. \$1150. Deposit \$800. 619-425-6511.

CHULA VISTA. Move-in special! Downstairs studio, \$650/month. Utilities included. New carpet/paint/vinyl. 2 bedrooms also available (downstairs/upstairs.) Jacuzzi, pool, laundry on site. Lots of storage space. Assigned gated parking. Near all. 212 Palomar. No pets. Call 619-426-1381 or apply at www.melroyproperties.com.

CHULA VISTA/EASTLAKE. \$1595. Upgraded unit, newer appliances. Air conditioning, fireplace, washer/dryer. Large balcony. Walk-in closet. Community pool/spa. Walk to lake, parks, school, restaurants and more. www.utopiamanagement.com. 858-598-1111 x193.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$995 rent, \$800 deposit. OAC. Large 2 bedroom 1 bath condo. Parking space, laundry. No pets, at 4377 Marlborough Street #4. 619-299-8515.

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CITY HEIGHTS. \$750. 4265 Chamoune 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. \$775. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Gated. Laundry. Parking. No pets. Available 1/10/09. 4344 Van Dyke Avenue #5. Agent, 858-514-8201.

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CITY HEIGHTS. \$950 Cute 2 bedroom duplex, 3834 47th. \$600 Small 1 bedroom duplex, 4035 Menlo. Very clean, yard, parking. No smoking. No pets. 619-275-2648.

CITY HEIGHTS. Available now. 1 bedroom four-plex; new appliances; fenced yard/security gates; off-street parking. No pets. \$700/month, \$700/deposit. 4251 Poplar Street. 858-279-3023.

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CLAIREMONT. \$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. \$1250. Nice 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. Remodeled! Small yard, garage. Walk to park and shopping. Cat OK. 4429 Manitou Way. Agent, 619-469-7790. www.westmanproperties.com.

CLAIREMONT. \$1275. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. One-car garage. No pets. 2 bedrooms. Carpet. New paint. Clean. Fenced yard/porch. 4416 Clairemont Drive. Juno, 619-275-3455.

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. \$2300. 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath condo in Pacific Bluffs ready now! Beautiful townhome, 1872 square feet, 2 fireplaces, all appliances, pool, parking and laundry. No pets. 5212 Mt. Alfranz Drive. 858-483-3534 x12. www.cal-prop.com

CLAIREMONT. \$300 off first month's rent! \$875. 1 bedroom. Pool. Laundry. Off-street parking. 7322 Mesa College Drive. 858-560-6204.

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.

CLAIREMONT. 1/2 off first month's rent! \$1295. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo, 1 parking space. Upper unit. Swimming pool. Jacuzzi. Mount Ailfin Place. Great setting. Call agent, 619-692-4121.

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CLAIREMONT. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1175. All new kitchen and bath, new dual pane windows. Quiet complex, laundry, parking. Move-in special! 5310 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. Available now. Agent, 619-260-1368. View at www.sevillamgmt.com.

CLAIREMONT. Move-in special! From \$1235. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Large, sunny townhomes. Pool. Parking. No pets. The Gardens, 5544 Balboa Arms Drive. Call 858-278-5862.

CLAIREMONT/KEARNY MESA. Wexford Manor. Large 1 and 2 bedrooms in beautiful complex with pool, spa, laundry, air conditioning, dishwasher. Sorry, no pets. \$1050-\$1375. Photos at www.WexfordLiving.com. 7870 Stalmer Street. 858-277-4843.

COLLEGE AREA. \$1195-\$1395. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condos. Hardwood floor, new carpet/tile. Balcony/patio. Gas stove, microwave. Central air/heat. Dishwasher. Washer/dryer hook-ups. Gated. 2 miles to SDSU. Near all/golf course. Pets upon approval. 5170 Orange Avenue, 92115. 619-285-3822.

COLLEGE AREA. \$1195. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Dual master suite! New washer/dryer and carpeting. No pets. 5980 Dandridge Lane. Agent, 619-469-7790. www.westmanproperties.com.

COLLEGE AREA. \$200 off first month! 1 bedroom from \$895. 2 bedroom from \$1200. Free credit application. \$100 military discount. Internet access. Gourmet kitchen. Microwave. Gas range. Air conditioning/heating. Walk-in closet. Controlled access. Free poolside Wifi. Barbecue/picnic areas. Cat friendly. Parking. Walking distance to campus. Near bus, trolley. Aztec Pacific Apartments, 6663 Montezuma Road. 1-800-433-6120. www.pacificliving.com. www.sdreader.com/news/rent1042.

COLLEGE AREA. \$650 rent, \$700 deposit OAC. 1 bedroom. New carpet. Parking, laundry. No pets, at 6735 El Cajon Boulevard #A-3, 619-299-8515.



COLLEGE AREA. \$695. Studio. All utilities paid, laundry and parking. Also 1 bedroom with attached garage for \$850. 7232 El Cajon Boulevard #4, #9. 619-698-6911. www.goldenmanagement.com.

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. \$895. Large 1 bedrooms. Quiet, gated community. New paint/carpet, pool, laundry (with yard). Near shopping, restaurants, bus. Cat OK. 4666 63rd Street. 619-286-1376.

COLLEGE AREA. \$900 and up. 1 bedrooms. \$1250. 2 bedroom. Fireplace. Central heat/air. Microwave, dishwasher. Balcony. Gated. Intercom entry. 4828 Art Street. Agent, 619-298-7724.

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. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$820. On approved credit. Gated entry, laundry, air conditioning. Assigned parking. Pool. Cat OK. 4601 63rd Street. 619-229-9248.

COLLEGE AREA. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Balcony/storage, upstairs unit. Parking, laundry, pool, Jacuzzi. \$1300. Rent 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, \$1690 month to month. Marble counters, tandem parking, steps from SDSU. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. www.peoplehelpingothers.com.

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, 619-713-1044.

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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. No pets. Windsor Hotel, 843 4th Avenue. 619-235-6088. 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.

DOWNTOWN/EAST VILLAGE. December move-in special! Only \$668-\$802/month with 12 month lease! Utilities included! Office hours: daily 8am-6pm. Near Petco Park, bus/trolley. Fully furnished. Bay/Ballpark views. Underground parking. Air conditioning. Laundry. Internet. Clubhouse/Library. Income qualify! Island Village. 1245 Market Street. For details, 1-800-351-0613. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2070.

DOWNTOWN/EAST VILLAGE. Newly remodeled rooms available for weekly/monthly rentals, \$500/up plus \$300-\$400 security. Controlled access, shared bath-rooms/kitchens. Full size beds. Laundry facility. Patio area. Palms Hotel, 619-233-0408.

DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. \$99 moves you in! \$1720 with first month rent free. Includes on-site parking space. Historical building. Hardwood floors. On-site management. Keyless entry system. High-speed Internet capability. Generous closet space. Central air/heat. Exposed duct work. High ceilings. Dishwasher, range, stove, refrigerator. Across the street from Horton Plaza and Gaslamp. Call today. 619-231-1333. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2145.

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Downtown/Gaslamp. Historic Beaumanor, urban mini lofts, \$675-\$875. Several sizes, 12' ceilings, brick, hardwood floors, near Horton Plaza. Hardwood furniture available. Paid cable/electric/water. Most include sleeping decks. Refrigerator/microwave included. High-speed Internet available. On-site laundry, barbecue deck, outdoor kitchen. Impeccable renovation. No pets. 927 6th Avenue. Michael, 619-232-1517. beaumanor927@yahoo.com. http://www.sdreader.com/news/rent2127.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. Columbia Lofts. Large 1 bedrooms, windows, \$1650-\$1750. Open floor plans, track lighting. City, harbor views, 17-foot ceilings, gated parking. www.sdurbanliving.com. 619-255-0526.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. From \$800/month. Private bath, cable TV, microwave, refrigerator. Utilities included. Secure, quiet, charming. Efficiency apartments with laundry. Near trolley/bus lines, blocks from harbor. On-site manager. Villa Caterina, 1654 Columbia Street. 619-232-3400.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. India Street Loft, 1261 square feet, 1 parking, gym, tile/hardwood, granite kitchen, stainless steel appliances, washer/dryer. \$2595/month. sdcondo.com/rental. 619-381-6374.

DOWNTOWN/MARINA DISTRICT. \$2100. 2 bedroom, 2 bath top-floor corner unit. Gated, 2 parking. Gym/jacuzzi/barbecue. One year lease. Available 12/1/08. Gary, 619-675-6513.

DOWNTOWN/NORTH. \$850. 1 bedroom, downstairs. Stove, refrigerator, coin laundry. Cat okay with additional \$300 deposit. Convenient location. Available 1/1/09. 101 West Fir. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, www.delsolpm.com.

DOWNTOWN/CORTEZ HILL. Studio, \$785. Limited access building. Charming. Quiet. Residential neighborhood. Utilities paid. On-site laundry. No pets. EOH. 619-299-8746.

DOWNTOWN/GASLAMP. Las Flores Hotel. Small, quiet. \$125/week and up. Four-week minimum. Color TV with basic cable. Refrigerator in most rooms. Secure. 619-235-6820.

DOWNTOWN/LITTLE ITALY. One bedroom apartment, \$1095. 9' ceilings. Nice kitchen. Ideal location. Secure, quiet building with laundry. 1534 Front, near Beech Street. 619-233-7428.

EAST SAN DIEGO. \$695. Furnished studio alcove apartment. Complete living room, bedroom and kitchen furniture. No SDG&E deposit or hook-up fee required. Near 52nd and University. 5101 Towle Court. Close to SDSU. Laundry room. Off-street parking. Low \$300 deposit. 619-281-9451.

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ments. No pets. 314 Wisconsin Street. TPPM, 619-742-7600. www.palmstates.info.

EL CAJON. \$725. 1 bedroom. Beautiful landscape with gated entry. No pets. 1018 E. Lexington Avenue. TPPM, 619-838-8088. www.eastwindsapts.com.

EL CAJON. \$725. Spacious studio, full-size appliances. Air conditioning, walk-in closet. Pool, jacuzzi. Gated community. Utilities included. Call 619-444-5799. www.sdapbtobrokers.com.

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EL CAJON. \$805. 1 bedroom 1 bath apartment. 600 square feet. No pets. 1551 Melvin Lane #1. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

EL CAJON. \$850. Spacious 1 bedroom, 1 bath, walk-in closet. Dishwasher, air conditioning, 2 patios. Barbecue area, pool. Cat welcome. Call 619-447-1880. www.sdapbtobrokers.com.

EL CAJON. \$850. Spacious 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Air conditioning, balcony, pool and spa. Off-street parking. On-site laundry. Call 619-447-7386. www.sdapbtobrokers.com.

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EL CAJON. 1 bedroom starting at \$725. \$975 moves you in! Beautifully maintained apartments with sparkling pool. No pets. 234 West Park Avenue. TPPM, 619-850-9722. www.palmtowers.com.

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EL CAJON. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1225. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1200. Newly renovated units. Private yards/patios, fireplaces, ceiling fans, air conditioning/heat. Carport. 619-318-9735.

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EL CAJON/GRANITE HILLS. \$1000. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 baths, dishwasher, air conditioning, pool. Cat welcome. Call 619-447-2552. www.sdapbtobrokers.com.

ENCINITAS. \$1250. 1 bedroom. Balcony. Small complex. Assigned parking, laundry. New paint, new carpet. Bright, airy. Garden setting. 1-1/2 blocks to beach. Close to shopping, freeway, coaster. No pets/smoking. 760-929-1950.

ENCINITAS. \$925 & up. Sick of room-mates? Cozy beach trailers in quiet park. Near beach, Coaster, restaurants, shops. 152 North Coast Highway 101. 760-753-4101.

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ESCONDIDO. \$825. \$795 moves you in! Huge 1 bedroom with balcony/patio and quiet open space between units. Gated entrance. Air conditioning. Fireplace. Pool, spa. Small pet OK. Se habla Espanol. 720 E. Mission. TPPM, 760-815-6210.

ESCONDIDO/NORTH. \$1450. 2 bed, 1/2 bath townhouse, 1 car garage. Private patio. Washer/dryer in unit. Well maintained. Available 12/1/08. No pets. 760-802-3115.

ESCONDIDO/VALLEY CENTER. Affordable RV sites available for short or extended stay in wooded, close-in, beautiful park with fishing, pond, pool, clubhouse and much more. Wood Valley Campground and RV Park. 760-749-2905.

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FASHION VALLEY. \$1100. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Huge walk-in closet. Dishwasher. On-site parking. Balcony. No pets. 5720 Gaines Street. 619-299-3477.

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FASHION VALLEY. Presidio Place condo. 1 bedroom, 1.5 bath with washer/dryer, dishwasher, stove/oven, refrigerator, built-ins, 1 underground parking space. Complex amenities. Pool, Jacuzzi, racquetball courts, tennis courts. 24-hour guard house. 800 square feet. No pets. \$1250/month. Stephanie, 619-275-2525 x4. For more information, visit www.timcassidy.com.

FASHION VALLEY/USD. \$1150 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. \$875 rent, \$800 deposit. OAC. 1 bedroom. Laundry. Near USD. No pets. At 1330 Eureka Street #30. Agent, 619-298-5820.

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GOLDEN HILL/DOWNTOWN. Save money, walk to trolley! Downtown. \$250 off first month! 1 bedroom starting \$1170. 2 bedroom townhouse from \$1595. Free application fee. Views! Controlled access. Washer/dryer. Dishwasher. Refrigerator. Stove/range. Microwave. Central air conditioning/heat. Rooftop deck. Spa. Outdoor barbecue lounge. Underground parking. Pet friendly! Golden Pacific, 1015 19th Street. Call today, 1-800-433-6156. www.pacificliving.com. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2028.

GOLDEN HILL/SHERMAN HEIGHTS. \$650/month. Senior building (55 plus). Wonderful studio, location. Block from bus; five blocks from trolley. Walk to ball-park, downtown in 20 minutes. Covered parking. Well-maintained modern building. 2020 Island Avenue, manager apt. #1. 619-237-5064.

GOLDEN HILL/SHERMAN HEIGHTS. Studio, \$645. Deposit: \$395. Free utilities! Street upgraded. Upper, quiet, gated unit. Move-in availability 12/10/08. 532 21st Street #6. SDCPM, 619-540-3009. v@sdcpm.net.

HILLCREST. \$1015. 1 bedroom, charming, downstairs in quiet 4 plex, wood floors, stove, refrigerator. Coin laundry. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Great location. Available 1/13/09. 3943 Centre. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

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. \$1295 rent, \$800 deposit. OAC. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Gated.

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HILLCREST. \$1550: 2 bedroom, 2 bath; and \$800 studio apartment. Recreation room, pool, laundry. Close to all. 4201 Sixth Avenue. Cori, Sleepy Hollow Apartments. 619-298-1059. www.centrecity.net.

HILLCREST. \$200/week and up. Refrigerators, cable TV and HBO. Embassy Hotel, 3645 Park Boulevard, San Diego 92103. 619-296-3141.

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. \$775 rent, \$800 deposit. OAC. Studio triplex unit. No pets, at 3794 Vermont Street (at Essex, south of University) 619-299-8515.

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. 1 bedroom in small Spanish courtyard. Hardwood floors, fireplace mantel. Antique charm! 3542 4th Avenue. 619-293-7426.

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.

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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. 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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HILLCREST. Spacious 1 and 2 bedroom! Berber carpet, fireplace, spa, gym, intercom and elevator. Sorry, no pets. Hillcrest Summit, 4134 4th Avenue. See photos at www.WexfordLiving.com. 619-299-0047.

HILLCREST. Studio. \$785. Lovely garden courtyard with fountain. Walk to Uptown Village. Hardwood floors, blinds, on-site laundry. No pets. EOH. Agent. 619-299-8746.

HILLCREST/MISSION HILLS. \$795 rent, \$800 deposit. OAC. 1 bedroom. Hardwood floors, parking space, laundry. No pets, at 1004 West Palm Street #D, off Columbia. 619-299-8515.

IMPERIAL BEACH. Starting at \$785. 1 bedroom in well-maintained garden setting. Pool. Parking. Laundry. No pets. 1445 Grove Avenue. TPPM, 619-575-0778.

KEARNY MESA. 1 1/2 bedrooms. Small patio. Living/dining room area. Kitchen/bath. Lower condo unit. Laundry onsite. Clubhouse. \$995/month. 858-549-8994.

KENSINGTON. \$1265. 2 bedroom 2 bath. Move in 1/19/09. Great area, ground floor entry, garden style unit. Dishwasher, on-site laundry. Walk to area shops and eateries! No pets. 4656 Edgeware Road #1. Call Leigh 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

KENSINGTON. \$925. 1 bedroom, downstairs, remodeled. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, coin laundry. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. In the heart of Kensington on a quiet tree-lined street. Available now. 4182 Madison, 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

LA COSTA/CARLSBAD. First month free with 12 month lease. \$1200. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. \$700 deposit. Quiet. Vaulted ceiling. Assigned covered parking. Indoor cat OK. 7552 Gibraltar Street. Hot tub. On site laundry. Great neighborhood. Off La Costa Avenue, near golf course. 760-943-7590. 760-402-8325.

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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. **Open house Saturday 10am-11am** 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.

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LA JOLLA. \$2950. 3-bedroom, 2-1/2-bath, 2-story townhome with ocean views. Beautiful 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 starting at \$1119. 1/2 block to beach, surf and sunsets! 1 Laundry, pool, tropical setting and assigned parking available. No pets. 858-536-1900.

LA JOLLA/WINDANSEA BEACH. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, available 1/1. No pets. \$1750. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, available now, \$1350. Call Mark, 858-459-1065.

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, 1.5 bath condo, approximately 1053sf, spa, tennis courts, in-unit washer/dryer, garage parking. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

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LA MESA. \$1200. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. Great area. Hardwood floors. New kitchen/bath. Washer/dryer hookups. No pets. Nonsmoking. Available now, 619-589-6868.

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. \$725/month. Nice studio with patio. Newer carpet and paint. Small pet welcome. Call about our move-in special! OAC. 619-462-1550. www.sdaprotobrokers.com.

LA MESA. \$850/month. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Pool and laundry. 4905 73rd Street. Call Maria, 619-697-8458. kandrproperties.com.

LA MESA. \$875 rent: 1 bedroom. Parking. Pool. 5436 Vincetta Court. Call 619-417-4964. kandrproperties.com.

LA MESA. \$925. 1 bedroom. \$450 deposit. Near College Area, El Cajon, trolley, bus, freeways. Air conditioning. Dishwasher. High speed Internet. Covered parking. Storage. Pool. Gated community. No pets. \$25 credit check. 5435 Morengo Avenue. 619-698-7926. Villaknollsapts.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, #6. 619-460-1074.

LA MESA. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex, hardwood floors, washer/dryer, park-like setting, gated, private, tranquil. Move-in special. \$1140. 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, \$1275-\$1395. 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.

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.bajainimalsanctuary.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.

Maggie's Dog Designs

Adorable, affordable outfits for your best friend. Many designs, all sizes. Custom orders welcome. Visit: www.maggiesdogdesigns.com; e-mail: mguerra@maggiesdogdesigns.com; Toll free: 866-961-1722.

ANIMALS HAVE NO NATIONALITY! Volunteer for Humane Society de Tijuana monthly spay/neuter clinics in poorer neighborhoods of T.J. Help end the suffering. Contact michelle@friendsofhstj.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-

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. "\$600 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 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, \$1495-\$1495. 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, 619-713-1044.



LAKESIDE. \$2195. 3-bedroom, 3-bath, 2-story house, solar panels, all appliances, washer/dryer hookups, vaulted ceilings, skylight, large deck. No smoking. 9460 Garden Knoll Way. 619-698-6911. www.goldenmanagement.com.

LAKESIDE. \$900. Utilities paid. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Across from Lindo Lake Park, 12x17 bedroom, air, storage, laundry. No dogs. Yearly lease. 619-405-6159; 619-216-2240.

LAKESIDE. From \$650. Nice 1 bedroom in quiet 55+ community. \$200 off first month! Laundry, air conditioning, clubhouse. Parking. 12133 Rockcrest Road. Agent, 619-443-9611.

LEMON GROVE. \$1245 rent. 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath, 2 parking spaces. Washer/dryer hook-ups. 7165 Central Avenue. Call Myra 619-697-8458.

LEMON GROVE. Outstanding location near shopping and trolley! 2 bedroom, \$1050/month. 1 bedroom, \$800/month. Good credit required. No pets. No Section 8. Leave message. 619-252-5175.

LEMON GROVE/NORTH. \$950. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Clean, quiet, secure. On-site laundry and parking. Call Rachael at 619-804-1044 or Jeff at 619-713-1044.

LINDA VISTA. \$1150 rent. \$800 deposit. OAC. Large 2-bedroom, 2-bath duplex. Parking. Laundry in unit. Storage. No pets. At 2450 East Ingersoll Street. Agent, 619-299-8515.

LINDA VISTA. \$695-\$1250. Studios, utilities included. 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms. Laundry, gated parking. \$400-\$800 deposits! No pets. Astro Vista Apartments, 2249 Ulric Street. 858-565-6400.

LINDA VISTA. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. \$995. New paint, Laundry and parking. Move-in special! 6512 Kelly Street, #4. Agent, 619-820-2584.

LINDA VISTA. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhome, \$1600. Washer/dryer, 2-car garage, washer/sewer/trash included, 1000 square feet. 5588 Caminito Roberto. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. peoplehelpingothers.com.

LINDA VISTA. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, \$1400. Washer/dryer included, 1138 square feet. Pet OK. 2065 Burton Street #74. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. peoplehelpingothers.com.

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. \$1450. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, fireplace, washer/dryer, carport. 10828 Aderman Avenue, #135. www.centrecity.net. Call 619-296-6699.

years old. Please if you see him, call 619-938-2223.

MINIATURE PINSCHER MIX. Neutered, 14 pounds, 1-1/2 years. 3 legs, one was amputated from injury. Gets along fine. Likes dogs/people. Energetic. \$150. 619-583-5122.

POODLE. White, miniature size, 2 years. Spayed, sweet, endearing. Can climb, needs safe home, no young kids. \$100. 619-466-0426.

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! Levy, 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.

Pet and Housinging

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.

YORKIE/YORKIE MIXED PUPPIES. Great prices on adorable Yorkiepoos and Morkies. See all of our available puppies, www.yourpup.com. Give us a call. 903-961-2818.

YOUNG DOGS. We have quite a few 3.5-4 months old looking for forever homes. They are all matts 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.

LOST FEMALE PIT BULL, Lucy Luu is a brindle, spayed 10-month-old pitt bull. Belongs to loving family that misses her dearly. Reward, 619-694-7825.

LOST PARROT, in El Cajon/East County area. Arthur is grey with a red tail, 14

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MIRA MESA. \$1595. Move in now! 1-bedroom, 2-bath condo is top floor, large master, balcony, garage, pool, no pets. 9745 Mesa Springs Way, #136. Call Leigh at 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.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.

MIRA MESA. \$925. Charming 1 bedroom, 1 bath, upper, walk-in closet, air conditioning, appliances, laundry, parking. Cat OK. 8777 Mira Mesa Blvd #5. 619-804-3325.

RV Sites

Mission Bay. RV spaces available near Mission Bay and Sea World. Extended stay sites available. Pool, clubhouse and friendly park. Morena Mobile Village, 619-276-5699.

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, granite countertops, 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. \$1275. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs. New vinyl windows. Parking. Steps to beach. No pets. Available 1/10/09. 733 Ensenada Court #C. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

MISSION BEACH. \$1350. Small 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. Beach side. No pets. No parking. Nonsmoking. Carpet/paint. Appliances. Clean. 731 San Jose Place. Juno, 619-275-3455.

MISSION BEACH. \$1395. Ready now! 1 bedroom, 1 bath steps to the sand! Updated interior, parking and laundry. Bay and ocean view. No pets. 715 Sunset Court. 858-483-3534 x12. www.cal-prop.com.

MISSION BEACH. \$1395. Upstairs 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Parking. Steps to the beach. No pets. No smoking. 807 Venice Court. Available now. More Property Management, 818-514-8201.

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. \$1875. Classic 2 bedroom. Ocean view. Steps to beach. Hardwood floors. Parking. All appliances. Laundry facility. 712 Santa Rita Place. Owner, 858-272-9547.

MISSION BEACH. \$1975. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Bay front unit with great view. Close to restaurants and shops. 1 garage. Free laundry. 3284 Bayside Walk. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

MISSION BEACH. \$2295. 3 bedroom 2 bath. Move in 1/08/09. Ocean view from Mission Bay. Upper level, upgraded condo quality apartment. Carport parking for 2 cars. Laundry. No pets. 1200 square feet. 713 Sunset Court #B. Call Leigh 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

MISSION BEACH. \$795. Upper studio. Steps to Bay! Includes utilities. Full kitchen. Excellent condition. Parking space. No pets. 3264.5 Bayside Lane. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

MISSION BEACH. \$995. Ready now. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, close to bay, downstairs unit, parking and laundry on site. 3588 Mission Boulevard. Leigh at 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

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 BEACH. Reduced deposit. 2 bedroom duplex, 3628 Mission Boulevard. \$1600. 2-car parking. Storage. Fenced yard, small pet. Water/trash paid. Steps to ocean. Hookups. 619-435-0387.

MISSION 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, 619-850-8013.

MISSION HILLS. \$1395. Available now! Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath, upstairs unit. Upgrades throughout. Balcony, parking, laundry. No pets. 3737 Keating Street #12. 858-483-3534 x12. www.cal-prop.com.

MISSION HILLS/MIDDLETOWN. \$1650. Charming 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. Refrigerator. Stove. Fenced backyard. Patio. Storage. Garage. Hook-ups. Private. Pet OK. Available 1/01/09. 619-260-0752. 619-865-5944.

First Month Free.

Mission Hills/Hillcrest. New, luxurious, very large 2 bedroom, 2 bath condos, \$2400. Designer kitchen, washer/dryer, HVAC, decks. Parking, security. Credit check. 3972 Albatross Street. Call Broker, 619-293-3118 x5.

MISSION VALLEY. \$1060. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, parking included, fitness center, fireplace. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

MISSION VALLEY. \$1195. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo. Third floor overlooking pool. Near Stadium. Tennis, Jacuzzi. 2 parking spaces. 750 square feet. No pets. 619-857-2299.

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. \$1375. Spacious, 2-bedroom, 1-bath condo. Newly renovated. Microwave. Air conditioning, ceiling fans, pool, spa, laundry facilities. Security. Parking. Near trolley/SDSU. Nonsmoking. Deposit. Lease. 619-584-1835.

MISSION VALLEY. \$1450. Condo. Resort living, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 1 level. Refrigerator, washer/dryer. Community pool/gym/business center. Pet on approval. Agent 858-456-3211.

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. \$1595. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Designer paint colors. Upgraded carpets and tile. Fireplace, air conditioning, 9" ceilings. Washer/dryer, gym, spa, pool, view! 2 parking. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

MISSION VALLEY. \$850. Large studio. Patio. Pool. On-site laundry. 1 parking space. Free basic cable. No pets. Mission Center Court. Agent, 619-692-4121.

MISSION VALLEY. \$950. Furnished large studio condo. No pets. Parking. Nonsmoking. Air conditioning. Carpet. Balcony. Pool/gym. 1605 Hotel Circle South, #B202. Juno, 619-275-3455.

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. Stonecrest Village 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, 2-story, 2-car garage. Big kitchen, Pool, jacuzzi, gym. Pets OK. Available after 12/20. \$1995. 808-652-0506.

MISSION VALLEY. Winter special! From \$350/weekly. Renovated, fully furnished studios/suites! Pool, spa. Full kitchen. On-site laundry. Complimentary continental breakfast. Off-street parking. Free high-speed Internet, cable—80 channels, HBO! Near SDSU, Qualcomm, more! Days Inn & Suites, 5343 Adobe Falls Road. 1-800-492-9471; 619-287-1911. SanDiegoHotelsDaysInn.com. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2139.

MISSION VALLEY/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 TVs! Parking. Pet friendly! Mission Pacific Apartments, 4454 44th Street. Call today, 1-800-372-9146. missionpacific_pacificliving@crossfiremail.com. www.pacificliving.com. www.sdreader.com/news/rent1010.

MISSION VALLEY/USD. 2 bedroom. Move-in special! \$1600 (includes water). New appliances/remodel, washer/dryer, panoramic views, 2-parking, hardwood, patio/jacuzzi. Pets OK. Available. 858-353-6878.

MISSION VALLEY/USD. Large 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, 2-story townhouse, private patio, new paint. Laundry on site, storage, assigned parking. No pets. \$1325/month with move-in special. Available now. 1280 Goshen Street, #4. 858-483-5111 x10. www.melroyproperties.com.

MISSION VALLEY/USD. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. 1200 square feet, washer/dryer, air conditioning, fireplace, 2-car parking, pool, spa, gym. \$1795 plus deposit. Water included. 619-890-1697.

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. Hill-top Villa, 315 East 30th Street. 619-477-7442. www.melroyproperties.com.

NATIONAL CITY. Great location! 1 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath; 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhouse, \$905-\$1225. Balcony. Washer/dryer hookups. Views. Parking. Garages. Lease. No pets. 940 Palm Avenue. 619-336-0436.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$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. \$800. \$800 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. \$895. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Deposit \$800. Nice carpet. New stove, refrigerator. Gated community. Laundry room. Lovely landscaped. Off-street parking. Require good credit. 1-year lease. Cat OK. 4522 Oregon Street. 858-481-1138.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$900. 1 bedroom downstairs unit. Laundry. Parking. Available 12/10. No pets. 4429 Idaho Street #2. Agent, 858-514-8201.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$925 per month. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Total remodel. Wood and tile floors. All new appliances. Washer and dryer in unit. Best 1 bedroom in town. Small pet OK. Available 1/01/09. 4451 Cherokee Avenue. Call Theresa, 858-382-3621.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$980. Remodeled large 2 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs apartment. On-site laundry. Off-street parking. Nice area off Adams. 4625 East Mountain View Drive. 760-744-5626.

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. Senior/disabled building (62+). Quiet, clean. Two 1 bedroom, 1 bath, first floor. Small patio, elevator, laundry room. Street parking. \$765/month. 619-269-3487.

NORMAL HEIGHTS/KENSINGTON. \$975 rent, \$800 deposit OAC. Upper 2 bedroom 1 bath. Laundry. No pets, at 4742 East Mountain View Drive #6, 619-299-8515.

NORMAL HEIGHTS/NORTH PARK. \$995. Charming, clean 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Carpet. Stove, refrigerator. On-site laundry. Parking. Sorry—no pets! Near bus line. 619-674-8311.

NORTH PARK. \$1050. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath, lower, gated, new carpet and paint. Stove, fridge, laundry, parking. 4138 Kansas Street #2. 619-804-3325.

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. On-site laundry. Parking. Available 12/8/08. 4625

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NORTH PARK. \$725 rent, \$700 deposit. OAC. 1 bedroom duplex. Parking. No pets, at 3039-1/2 Monroe Avenue. 619-299-8515.

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. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs. Parking. Laundry. No pets. Available 1/15/09. 4160 36th Street #8. More Property Management, 858-514-8201.

NORTH PARK. \$795 rent, \$800 deposit. OAC. Large upper 1 bedroom. Parking space, laundry. No pets, at 4178 Kansas Street #9. 619-299-8515.

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.

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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 Management, Broker, www.delsolpm.com.

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NORTH PARK. \$935. 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. \$975 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.

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NORTH PARK. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, downstairs. New paint, good storage, off-street parking. 3662 32nd Street. #2. \$975. 619-683-9274.

NORTH PARK. 1/2 off first month! \$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.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1200. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, second level. Off-street parking. Laundry on site. No pets. 4451 Haines Street. 858-270-4492 x203.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1200. 1 bedroom, 1 bath luxury condo at The Plaza. Second floor. Carpet/paint. Lushly landscaped. Laundry. Microwave. Dishwasher. Pools. 2 Parking. Tennis. Billiards. Health club. Sauna. 24-hour security. Available now. No pets. 1801 Diamond Street. 619-888-6604.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1200. 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage; small, private patio. Parking. Laundry. No pets. \$1000 deposit. 4123_1/2 Ingraham Street. 858-270-4674.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1295. Ground-level 2 bedroom, 1 bath, dishwasher, private laundry, off-street parking, small storage. Fenced yard, pets negotiable. Easy freeway access. 619-200-5141.

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. \$1350. 2 bedroom 1 bath apartment. Upper unit. No pets. 1 parking. Newer carpet. Nice! 2122 Balboa Street. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

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

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1675. 2 bedroom 1 bath. Move in 1/10/08. 2 blocks to bay. Upstairs unit, bonus room for office/den. Garage, laundry, dishwasher. No pets. 4013 Honeycutt Street. Call Leigh 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

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. \$1795. Move in now! 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhome, contemporary design, granite and stainless kitchen, stained concrete flooring. No pets. 3509 Del Ray Street, #212. Call Leigh at 858-483-3534 x12. www.cal-prop.com.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1850. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. Cute house with front porch and 1-car garage. 1419 Oliver Street. TTPM, 858-699-3851.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1895. Move in now! 2-bedroom, 2-bath townhome close to the beach. Private patio, fireplace, parking and on-site laundry. No pets. 915 Diamond Street #C. Call Leigh at 858-483-3534 x12. www.cal-prop.com.

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LEAD STORY

— Dutch designer Eric Klarenbeek, 29, has developed jewelry consisting of tiny crystals or flowers that hang directly from the eye via micro-thin medical wire attached to either prescription or blank contact lenses and, in the light, give the appearance of tears streaming down the cheek. He expects to hit the market soon, according to an October report in London's *Daily Mail*, at a price of the equivalent of around \$325. Though the adornments appear to be painful or dangerous, Klarenbeek said users of his prototypes so far have been "amazed" at their comfort.

Can't Possibly Be True

— Residents of an Austin, Texas, neighborhood undergoing a federally mandated sewer replacement noticed that, for several weeks starting in September, the work crews would spend the first three hours of their twelve-hour days digging a huge hole in the street, and the last three hours refilling and paving over it (repeating the process each day). The 20-by-20-by-20-foot hole in Monroe Street was too big to be covered with metal plates, and the city's "policy" of minimal traffic disruption required repaving for nighttime use,

at least doubling the cost of the work.

Pay Those Dentist's Bills!

— (1) In October, a 58-year-old patient accused the Rush Green Dental Practice in Romford, England, of injecting Novocain in preparation for an extraction but then refusing to pull the tooth until he had handed over an additional 30 pounds (\$47) cash. The patient had to go home to get his ATM card, according to a *Daily Mail* report, and did not make it back until the Novocain had begun to wear off. (2) Police in the Bavarian town of Neu-Ulm said they were investigating a dentist who allegedly barged into the home of a 35-year-old patient in September, tied her hands, forced her mouth open, and removed dentures worth the equivalent of about \$500 because the woman's insurance company had declined to pay.

Blind Justice

— An administrator of criminal-case appeals in Louisiana committed suicide in 2007, partly (according to his suicide note) because of guilt that, for 13 years, he had complied with a judge's order to deny, sight-unseen, all appeals filed by

defendants who were acting without lawyers. (Under state law, only death-row convicts get assistance for appeals; all others, even convicted murderers, either fend for themselves or forfeit the appeal right, no matter how indigent.) According to the administrator (the extent of whose claims are still being investigated by the state Supreme Court), none of the supervisory judges involved in denying the 2400 appeals ever read a single word in them.

People Who Need Attention

— (1) In October, Travis Fessler of Florence, Ohio, broke the *Guinness Book* record by holding 11 Madagascar hissing cockroaches in his mouth for the mandatory ten seconds. (2) Briton Sarah Burge, 49, broke the *Guinness Book* record for the most cosmetic surgeries, having now spent a total of 539,500 pounds (\$850,000) on more than 100 procedures, according to an October report in London's *Daily Mail*.

Unclear on the Concept

— In November, after two years of controversy, the school board in Jacksonville, Fla., voted 5-2 to retain the designation of Nathan Bedford

Forrest High School, which is named for a Confederate general who was also an early Ku Klux Klan leader. Advocates for change described Forrest as one of America's biggest Civil War slave traders, but a local Confederacy historian said his research indicated that Forrest was "nice" to his slaves and that "[t]hey loved him."

It's Good to Be a British Prisoner

— (1) The *Sun* reported in September that officials at London's Holloway Prison had recently staged a morale-boosting costume dance party for female inmates, even though Holloway houses Britain's worst female murderers. As a result, families of murder victims learned that the killers had dressed up as, for example, vampires and ghouls covered with fake blood. (2) Britain's Prison Service issued guidelines recently calling for guards to refer to their male charges as "Mr." and their surnames, to foster "decency" and "respect." Inmates should be treated, said one official, "like [we expect] our children to be treated."

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 or to WeirdNewsTips@Yahoo.com

paint colors. Tiled kitchen and bath floors. Laundry. Parking. 3991 Crown Point Drive. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1995. 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhouse with 1-car garage plus 1 space. Fireplace, new paint, new carpet, new full-size washer/dryer, new dishwasher, balconies. Available now. No pets. Nonsmoking. 1-year lease desired. Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.

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 minimum. 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. \$2200. 3 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, parking included, in-unit washer/dryer, dishwasher. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2235. 3 bedroom 3 bath. Move in 1/15/08. Bright, spacious unit. 1200 square feet, 2 parking spots. Laundry hook-ups. No pets. Dishwasher and microwave. 1654 Diamond Street #1. Call Leigh 858-48303534. www.cal-prop.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2295. 3 bedroom 2 bath condo. Move in 1/10/09. Blocks to beach. 2 parking spaces. Laundry in unit. Extra storage, dishwasher, 1100 square feet. No pets. 842 Agate Street #1. Call Leigh, 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2400. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhouse. 2 fireplaces, 2 balconies, laundry hookups, double car garage. Great location. No pets. Agent, 619-296-3189.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2495. Townhome near beach/bay! Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Fireplace. Washer/dryer hookup. Garage. Refrigerator. Stove. Microwave. Dishwasher. 2050 Garnet Avenue #1. 619-223-0254.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$250 off first month's rent! 1 bedrooms at \$1250. 2 bedrooms starting \$1595. Free application fee! Free poolside WiFi. Sundeck. Cardio fitness center. Equipment and weight room. Access from Mission Bay bike trail. Spectacular views. Super floor plans. Limited availability. Cat friendly. The Pacific at Mission Bay, 2636 Grand Avenue. 1-800-490-6372. pacificatmissionbay_pacificliving@crossfiremail.com. www.pacificliving.com. www.sdreader.com/news/rent1049.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2695. 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath condo. Upgraded throughout. Travertine, granite, stainless appliances. Bay view from rooftop deck. Solar. Garage and parking space. 2025 Grand Avenue. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$350 off first month's rent! \$1060. Quiet 1 bedroom apartment. 1450. 2 bedroom with garage, new carpet. Upstairs. Laundry. Off-street parking. 1920 Felspar. Agent, 858-457-4509.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$795. \$1000 moves you in! Upgraded 1 bedroom in garden setting. Easy access, location. Pool, recreation room. Laundry. No pets. Open Saturday and Sunday 12-4pm. 2710 Grand Avenue. TPPM, 858-273-8657.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$825. Studio, 1 bath apartment, steps to beach and bay, 1-year lease. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$895. 1 bedroom. Close to transportation and shopping. Parking. No pets. Call Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$895. 1 bedroom. One-car garage, \$50 extra. Excellent central location. Open Saturday 1-2pm. 2009 Thomas #2. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$900. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, centrally located. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$925. Studio. 3 blocks to beach. Assigned off-street parking. Laundry on-site. No pets. 1050 Hornblend. Call 858-270-4492 x203.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$965. 1 bedroom 1 bath apartment. Upper large unit. No pets. 1 parking. Newer carpet. Nice! 2122 Balboa Street. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. 1 bedroom on beach. 6 month's lease. Pets under 30 lbs ok. Roomies/co-signers ok. Office open 7 days. 4217 Oliver Court. 858-483-7670.

PACIFIC BEACH. 1 bedroom on Boardwalk. Ocean views. Balconies. Community Jacuzzi, sauna. 1 parking in garage. No pets. Available now-May 2009. \$1500, 858-805-1334, 858-386-6581.

PACIFIC BEACH. 1 bedroom, 1 bath duplex, newly painted. No pets. 4330 Morrell. \$950 with move-in special! Call 858-483-5111 x10. www.melroyproperties.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs. Laundry, parking. Near bay/ocean. Available now. \$1195. 1258 Pacific Beach Drive. Also 1 bedroom, \$895. No dogs. 858-454-4161.

PACIFIC BEACH. Condo living at apartment rent for 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1195. New granite kitchen, new appliances, new tile and carpet. 1433 Reed Avenue; 1 bedroom plus den, patio, \$1050. 4467 Dawes. Walk to bay/shops. No pets. Lease. 858-483-4553.

PACIFIC BEACH. Gorgeous 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse. Balcony, deck, laundry, hardwood floors, walk-in closet, parking. Close to beach/bay. \$1700/month. 858-342-2591.

PACIFIC BEACH. Great specials! Studios from \$975. 1 bedrooms from \$1245. \$350 off first month's rent (move-in before 12/10)! 2 bedrooms from \$1595. 1/2 off first month's rent (move-in before 12/10)! Free credit check! Pool. Gym. Business center. More! Bay Pointe, 3866 Ingraham. www.progressmanagement.net. Toll Free: 1-888-759-7435. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2081.

PACIFIC BEACH. Great values, nice, clean, convenient apartments in multiple Pacific Beach locations. Studios from \$795. 1 bedrooms from \$1015. 2 bedrooms from \$1410. Parking, laundry. Some buildings with gated entry, pool and/or deck. No pets. 858-483-3796.

PACIFIC BEACH. Huge 2 bedroom, 1 bath; \$1425. Move-in special! Laundry, parking, 2024 Reed Avenue. Available now. Agent, 619-260-1368. View at www.sevillermgt.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. Large upstairs 1 bedroom, assigned parking. Balcony, on-site laundry. Near beach and bay. 1663 Diamond Street, #6. \$1195/month with move-in special! Call 858-483-5111 x10. www.melroyproperties.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. Large, clean detached studio with private yard. 1 block to ocean. Gas and electricity paid. \$1000/month. No pets.

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PACIFIC BEACH. Magnificent whitewater view! 2 bedroom, 2 bath furnished oceanfront condo. On boardwalk. Balcony, pool. All appliances, underground parking. Water/cable included. Available now till 5/30/09 except February/March. \$2700-\$3300. 626-626-9263.

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.

PACIFIC BEACH. Ocean front. Views, views, views! \$4000. 3 bedroom, 3 bath penthouse in the Seashore Building. Laundry in complex. 2 parking spaces. Balconies. Large unit. Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.

Pacific Beach. Premier location. \$299 moves you in! Receive up to 1 month free! 1 bedroom from \$950. Fabulous 2 bedrooms, 1 bath from \$1150! Free application fee! Across from Mission Bay. Gated community. Trails to bay, beach. Adjacent amenities: pool, spa, sundeck, barbecue lounge. Equipment and free weight room. Cardio fitness center. Computer lab with printer. TV lounge. On-site laundry. Cat friendly! 1-800-490-6372. www.pacificliving.com.

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BACK WHEN *in the Reader*

Thirty Years Ago

Victorian melodrama, on the other hand, does not lie high on anybody's list of significant art. It is not even a current art, one worth attacking in order to raise the quality of taste; it is as dead as Queen Victoria herself.

— "LOW NECK LINES," *Jonathan Saville, December 14, 1978*

Twenty-Five Years Ago

Several weeks ago the *Tribune* published a two-page map of San Diego with more than 70 named residential districts.... The community traditionally referred to as Southeast San Diego has been broken up into nine neighborhoods — Chollas View, Valencia Park, Emerald Hills, Lomita Village, Skyline District, one unnamed blank, and three unconnected patches he still calls Southeast San Diego. The hazy boundary between Old Town and Loma Portal around Midway Drive has been named the Midway District. The corridor between down-

town and Old Town just east of Pacific Highway, previously referred to as South Mission Hills, is called Middletown. Other new neighborhoods include Birdland (east of Linda Vista) and Kensington-Talmadge (so much confusion existed among residents that he chose a compromise).

— CITY LIGHTS: "I'VE GOT THIS REALLY NICE LITTLE PLACE IN LEMON MESA," *Thomas K. Arnold, December 15, 1983*

Twenty Years Ago

Bishop Leo T. Maher of the diocese of San Diego turns 75 on July 1, 1990, and the local clergy rumor circuit is already brimming with speculation about his replacement.

Nevertheless, the local priests have been hearing the same names rumored to be on the short list for Maher's replacement. They include Fr. Lawrence Purcell, who is attached to the San Diego diocese but currently holds the prestigious position of rector of the North American College in Rome, and Fr.

Richard Duncanson, rector of the St. Francis Seminary in San Diego.
— CITY LIGHTS: "THE NEXT BISHOP," *Neal Matthews, December 15, 1988*

Fifteen Years Ago

It's a movie you will never see. A smart black youngster excels at basketball and basketball, but in his 20s he becomes a poet. Quincy Troupe's career is full of such surprises. Though he is of the build — 220 pounds, 6 foot 2 — that makes him scary to many whites, he is able to persuade members of the white establishment to back his programs.

When he gave a party on the occasion of the publication of one of his magazines, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis showed up. Only someone with Troupe's energy and dedication could draw thousands of people to a series of New York poetry readings sponsored by the Frederick Douglass Creative Arts Center, named for the 19th-century abolitionist.

— "QUINCY TROUPE GOES WEST," *Ishmael Reed, December 16, 1993*

Ten Years Ago

The '80s Server (www.80s.com), a big website that, as its name suggests, is a lot more than a site. The '80s Server functions as a hub for a whole decade; everything here is, like, megabig, you know what I mean?... [T]he generous archive of the server's Awesome Site of the Day, where lie such gems as the Paula Abdul Fansite, the Joanie Loves Chachi Page, Kelster's James Spader Page, and the Classic Canadian Rock Page. The '80s Server also offers a Spotlight link, where it focuses on one major event or phenomenon of the decade, such as Hands Across America, the Pac-Man Story, or '80s fashion, from acid-washed jeans to the Michael Jackson "Thriller" jacket.

— SIGHTSEER: "SPACE INVADERS," *Justin Wolff, December 17, 1998*

Five Years Ago

The *Union-Tribune's* Bob Kittle fired the first volley last week in what is widely expected to be the



San Diego Reader, December 16, 1993

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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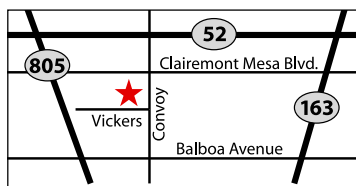
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SHEEP AND GOATS

PLACES OF WORSHIP REVIEWED

Denomination: Evangelical Free Church
Address: 11501 Rancho Bernardo Road, Rancho Bernardo, 858-487-0100
Founded locally: 1984
Senior pastor: Doug Kyle
Congregation size: 500
Staff size: 10
Sunday school enrollment: 100
Annual budget: n/a
Weekly giving: n/a
Singles program: no
Dress: casual to semiformal
Diversity: mostly Caucasian, some Hispanic and Pacific Islander
Sunday worship: 8:30 a.m., 10:15 a.m.
Length of reviewed service: 1 hour, 10 minutes
Website: greenvalleychurch.com

The wall of windows looking into Green Valley's vestibule was frosted around the transparent words: "Believe, Belong, Become...self-control, kindness, faithfulness, goodness, patience, peace, love."

Inside the vestibule stood a painting of what looked like a dryad, standing in a wasteland. The artist's statement named her as the bride of Isaiah 61, in which the Lord declares a year of favor, when He will give "beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning." "Her lover

has not taken her out of the damage, but has made her beautiful in the midst of it... New growth can't help but spring up around her." ("As the earth bringeth forth her bud...so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth...")

Inside the sanctuary, the stage decor was tastefully hip. Tasteful: birch branches, purple and leafless, reaching up from angular planters and bearing a scattering of bold white blooms. Hip: an old-time upright piano and bench, painted the brightest of apple-greens.

"Our worship here is light and casual," said the woman behind me, "and the music is wonderful. David is great; we never know what he's going to do — every Sunday is different." Indeed. When David Toney and the band struck up "Go Tell It on the Mountain," the folksy sincerity of the old chestnut came through as if it had just been discovered — "Hey, look at this neat song I found in the attic." "Silent Night" featured a soloist on vocals and five women singing

the song in hushed unison. And syncopated drum fills, speedy bass lines, and jangling guitars were mingled and tweaked to provide rock backings for traditional carols.

"Sometimes it's hard for me to actually worship God when singing Christmas songs," said Toney from the stage. "I've sung them so many times, and we sing them every year, and it just seems like a cool song that we can sing together. That's okay — we need that. But this morning, this Christmas season, I just really want to encourage us as a community to worship as we're singing."

"Most of the people in the church are active in the church," said a man who approached me after the service. "Not 24/7, but definitely more than once a week." The announcements mentioned the upcoming "Men's Breakfast." "We've got a Navy SEAL who is going to be speaking. He came to know the Lord when he went into the Navy, and he's had five tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He's got some great stories, and he's going to relate them to his relation-

ship with the Lord. This is a great opportunity for you to bring other men to the breakfast...maybe it's a stepping-stone for them to come to know the Lord. Doors open at 6:30."

The sermon concerned the final entry in the church's series, "Whatever you need...God is." This week: "God is love." "Jesus said we would be known for our love," said Pastor Doug Kyle. "Ironically, it is at this time of year that we are prone to forget that. It's ironic that we can be celebrating the birth of love itself while fuming at our in-laws."

He read from John's first letter, pausing to note that John, now known as "the apostle of love," was nicknamed "son of thunder" by Jesus, "because he was so fiery. But a lifetime of following Jesus...had slowly molded John into a man of love." He recited a legend about John's death — pressed for a final teaching, the apostle replied, "Love one another." They asked, "Is there more?" And he said, "That is enough."

"Dear friends, let us love one another. For love comes



Doug Kyle

Green Valley Church Rancho Bernardo

★★½

Sermon	
content	★★
delivery	★★
Liturgy	★★½
Music	
congregational	★★½
band	★★★★
Snacks	★★
Architecture	★★½
Friendliness	★★★★

Poor to satisfactory	(none)
Good	★
Very good	★★
Excellent	★★★★
Extraordinary	★★★★★

from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God because God is love." Kyle offered three "takeaways." First, "Love like you're related to God.... If you're a follower of Christ and you're still struggling to love, perhaps you've for-

gotten where your source of love is." Second, "Love like God loved you"; that is, initiating love unconditionally, without expectation or desire. Third, "Love like God is loving people through you. If we are to experience God," he said, "it will be experienced in very practical ways: the way we love other people."

Though the service was light on liturgy, there was still some sense of the time. "This year, it feels like we're tiptoeing into Christmas," said Kyle, "kind of going into it with trepidation.... I'm much closer to Christmas, just because we've worshipped today, this first Sunday of December."

"God's best to you from Green Valley," he said by way of benediction. Outside, his wife served hot apple pie chai tea to the milling congregation.

What happens when we die?

"Well," said Kyle, "we go to be with God forever or we're separated from Him."

— Matthew Lickona

For more stories by this author, go to sdreader.com.

Tvs. 1 is 19", 1 is 13". \$10/each. Both work well. Stereo, 500 watts, 9 months old, \$200. 619-448-1910.

FURNITURE

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DESKS. \$100/up. 858-864-2708.

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DINING TABLE. Glass with gold brass legs. 5' x 3' x 29". \$60. Rancho Penasquitos. Call 858-484-3548.

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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,

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OUTDOOR BAMBOO ARMCHAIRS. Cushioned, very high quality, oak-colored. Buy all for \$100. 619-813-0955.

PATIO SET. With 2 tall director style chairs. Table, white/glass 36" round top, 40" tall. Chairs, white/dark green plastic webbing, 30". \$60. 760-941-0541.

ROLL TOP DESK. 40" wide, 18" deep. Excellent condition, barely used. \$200. No checks. 858-576-1344 or 619-524-3832.

TABLE. Glass top, 36" x 50". \$35. Desk, oak finish, \$25. 858-277-7197.

VARIOUS ITEMS. Table with 2 chairs, \$30. Bar chair, swivel, wood, \$15. Bar stool, \$10. 3 plastic patio chairs, \$5/all. Computer chair, \$5. Escondido, 760-685-8291.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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AQUARIUMS/STANDS. 120, 60, 40, 30, and 20 gallons. Can separate. \$1/gallon. 619-990-5487.

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PEOPLE HAVE CALLED ME A "HATER" because I'm quick to give my opinion on most everything and usually within my stated opinion the word "crap" pops up. If you asked me, "What did you think of *Kung-Fu Panda*?" I'd give you a five-minute oration that includes the phrase "craptacular flying garbage."

For this I have been labeled a "hater."

Tim Wilson, a professor of psychology at the University of Virginia, did a study about our preferences. For this study, he had a room. In the room were two types of posters: prints of impressionist paintings and that cat dangling from a branch by its last claw with the caption "Hang in there, baby!"

He told students to take any poster they liked for free. Wilson asked half of the students who took posters to justify and explain their choice, and the other half he let go with their poster and no explanation. The group who had to explain why they liked the poster they chose opted for the dangling cat and the trite sentiment. Those who weren't required to express their opinions chose the impressionist painting prints. Some months later, all the students were called up and asked if they still liked their posters; the ones who did not have to explain and chose the impressionist prints still loved their posters, and those who explained their selection and chose the cat picture hated their poster.

This means that if you have to analyze and explicate your opinion, you'll most likely choose something you don't really like, and you'll choose something less sophisticated.

Tim Wilson called this the "peril of introspection," and I call it the "Wayans brothers effect," or *Shrek the Fourth*.

Now think of everything produced by focus groups: television shows, movies, music. Think of *American Idol*. Think of something you like and why you like it, and if the reason is "Because I damn well like it," then that is valid!

Be bold, dear readers. BE BOLD!

Don't fall into group thinking and public opinion. If you ever hear the phrase "Oh, I thought it was good.

You didn't think it was good? How come?" stand up, climb onto the nearest elevated surface, and shout, "Because I'm not asking your permission to enjoy the things I enjoy! Because I *hate* the disposable culture of twice-fried butt cracklings, and I'm not going to take it anymore!"

WHAT I WILL AND WON'T WATCH THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

EUROPEAN PGA TOUR

GOLF 8:00 A.M.

Please, Federal Reserve chairman or treasury secretary or Santa, please make the recession bad enough to bankrupt the golf channel but not bad enough that I lose my job. And I want to buy a new fire truck and a *Star Wars* AT-AT from the Ice Planet of Hoth. Thank you.

RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER

AND THE ISLAND OF MISFIT TOYS

FAMILY 9:00 P.M.

Damn, I want to eat a reindeer.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

GREATEST HOLIDAY MOMENTS: SONGS

OF THE SEASON COUNTDOWN

NBC 8:00 P.M.

Not sure how someone translated "greatest holiday moments" into

"Mariah Carey walrus-barking into a headset microphone," but there you have it. Perhaps my childhood was a bit different, but for me the greatest holiday moments start with three martinis and end with an odd selection of body hair shaved to look like Abraham Lincoln.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

TOM & JERRY

TOON 6:30 A.M.

The other day while watching *Tom & Jerry* cartoons, I had the 100 percent serious thought, *My God, these are violent*. I watched these when I was a kid? They still show them to kids legally? Wait a minute. Wow, I'd really love to whack the ever-lovin' hell out of something with a guitar. *WHANG!* That'd be rad! I need a guitar! I'm gonna whack somethin'!

2008 HEISMAN TROPHY PRESENTATION

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Okay, you can have your little statue

CARGO/LUGGAGE TOTE (straps to top of car). Made of black weather-proof canvas. New, never used. \$35. 619-339-7318.

CHINA SETS. Noritake bamboo pattern, serves 8. MINT!! \$325. Matching tea set, \$175. Floral 40 piece set, \$275. Pictures available. 858-864-2708.

CHRISTMAS ITEMS. Christmas wrap, 20 rolls, \$5/all. Tree stand, \$5. Christmas lights, large bag, \$15/all. Christmas wreaths, \$5/each. Escondido, 760-685-8291.

DOWN JACKET. Women's. Removable fur-trimmed hood. Never worn. \$35. 619-282-9581.

ELECTRIC CHAIR. Zero gravity, model # PC-P3B-RF. Maple face, black leather, like new. \$1095. 619-656-8491.

FIREPLACE. Artificial, traditional, white/black marble. No heat. Electric, crackling artificial new logs, \$175. 619-262-2458.

FOOSBALL TABLE. Harvard, 35h x 36w x 56l. Well constructed, very nice condition. Dark wood, 3 man goalie. \$135. El Cajon, may deliver. 619-456-2575.

GARDEN TOOLS. Seventy-five-foot garden hose with terra cotta container. Spades, hoes, shovels, clippers, miscellaneous pots and more. Cheap! Point Loma. 619-222-3242.

GLASS WINDOWS, 2. 30" x 65-1/2" h. Free. You haul. 619-296-7185.

HARRY POTTER BOOKS. First edition. With sleeves. Mint condition. \$400. 619-449-1104.

HELMET. For roller blades or bicycle. Used once. \$8. 619-466-8663.

HIGH CHAIR and car restraint seat, \$40 for both. 858-277-7197.

INK CARTRIDGES. Epson. To 781, TO 782, TO 783, TO 784, TO 785, TO 786. \$35. 619-445-5898.

KAYAK FRAME. Plus skin boat, 2 place. Red and black skirts, ruder pads, \$3500 new, asking \$1000/best. 858-864-8960.

KNIFE COLLECTION. Old Kershaws, Schrade IXL's, Marbles. 619-260-8482.

LADIES CLOTHING. Black velvet slacks with belt hooks, size 6, worn once, \$8. Corduroy slacks, size 12P. Season Ticket, never worn, gray, cream, \$7/each. 619-296-9415.

LADIES DANCE SHOES. Beige, size 8/8-1/2, narrow, 2" heel, like new, all leather. \$20. \$75 new. 619-656-8491.

LADIES T-SHIRTS. Size medium, multi colors. 7. \$8/all. 619-656-8491.

LASERDISCS. Large selection, \$10/each. Disney pins new in package, from Millennium collection, \$10/each. Scene It & Trivial Pursuit, new, \$15. 858-864-2708.

LAWN MOWER. 6-1/2 hp, new, self-propelled, \$120. Push-mower, \$20. 858-581-6223.

LAWN MOWERS. Reel type. I no longer need. Tri-Cut front throw, the best! \$240. Cooper Klipper rear throw, older, high quality, \$140. In top condition. 760-732-1315.

LITHOGRAPH. "Scene Scape" by Kresman, under glass, white wood frame. 40.5"l x 29"h. \$150. 619-656-8491.

LITHOGRAPH. Caribbean scene "Turtle Crossing" by Mackin, under glass, white wood frame. 38"l x 27"h. \$125. Like new. 619-656-8491.

MINERAL COLLECTION. Cabs, slabs, cutting rough, varieties of quartz, including Herkimer diamonds—unusual tumbled, jewelry points, much more. Knife collection, old Kershaws, Schrade, IXLs, Marbles. 619-260-8482.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS. Air purifier, "Living Air 880," black, \$25. White toilet, \$25. Glass shower door, \$25. Metal bed frame, California king, \$50. Metal security door. \$25. 858-484-3548.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS. Men's ice skates, 11-2/3. Movie stills. Microwave oven. Movie poster collection. Record albums. Videos. Ladies leather jacket. Derby hat. Aluminum walker. Books. 619-420-3312.

MISCELLANEOUS. Car cover, \$35. Lawn mower, 1 year old, 6-1/2 HP, \$85. Out-board 4-1/2 HP, \$235. Dress form, \$30. China cabinet with desk, 1948, \$295. 858-581-1869.

MISCELLANEOUS. Medical walker, shower chair, toilet, \$55/all. 858-581-6223.

MOVING SALE. Air conditioner, refrigerator, washer/dryer, dishwasher, compact, TVs/stands, stereo, beds, dressers, coffee/end, dining/chairs, china, daybed, vacuum, bikes, trailer, garden. 619-670-7821.

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PILATES DVD. New, 20 minute workout, step by step guide, \$8. 858-277-8544.

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POKER SET. Texas hold 'em, 200 chips, felt, cards, chip rack, in tin box, used once, \$18. 858-277-8544.

RC BOATS. Uses nitro, 40" hull, Steve Muck, 7.5cmb motor, all stainless hardware. 32" hull seaducer, Kevlar, 3.5 K+B. Will separate extra parts. 619-980-3519.

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ROW BOAT. Single, ply epoxy best glass, 16'. White and gray. \$750/best. 858-864-8960.

SCONCE, OIL GAUGE, wall light, brass and wood. Price \$40/best. 619-296-7185.

SEWING MACHINES, 2. Industrial, with tables. One is a US blind stitch, model 5184. The other is a Singer serger model 842U. \$250/each/best. 619-471-4422.

SHOES. Mens dress loafers or casual all leather, size 8/8-1/2, black/tan, like new. (5). \$7/each. 619-656-8491.

SPA/HOT TUB. Deluxe 2008 model. Neck jets, therapy seat. Never used! Warranty. Can deliver. Worth \$5950, sell for \$1950. 858-530-0980.

SPIN BIKE. Greg Lemond. Stationary. \$1500 new, asking \$750/best. 858-864-8960.

TOOLS. Door plane, Rockwell, #126, \$200. Belt sander, \$50. Plate joiner, \$75. 760-960-6950.

VACUUM. Hoover porta power attachments, 7.4 amps, \$15. 619-656-8491.

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WEDDING DRESS, hat, shoes, size 8, \$50 for all. 858-277-7197.

AUTOMOTIVE CARS

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ACURA INTEGRA, 1998. Blue, hatchback. Runs great. Bought newer car, this one still running great. Reliable vehicle. New tires/brakes recently purchased. \$1199/best. 858-401-3330.

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BMW 323i, 1999 convertible. White with a black top. Leather interior. 147,000 miles. Great car, moving and must sell. \$6000. 858-380-9922.

BMW 325i 2001 automatic, 70,000 miles, metallic blue/gray, mint condition. New tires, European lights, salvage title but flawless. Valued \$13,000 asking \$8950/best. 619-408-9733.

CHEVY CAMARO, "sports coupe," dream car 1994, interior/exterior restored to Original Classic. Upgraded engine, 4.5 of 5 Stars. Kelley Blue Book pre-owned rating, mileage 177,000 (Average \$12,000 per year). Green, automatic, bushing kit, new Yokohama tires. 760-439-9393.

CHEVY CAMARO. 1995. Beautiful, V6, 5-speed, T-tops. Air conditioning. Power steering, cruise, tilt, Bose. Recently rebuilt engine. Like new. Mystic teal, \$2100/best. 619-462-5454.

CHRYSLER LEBARON. 1989. Convertible. 61,000 miles. Original owner. Automatic. 4 cylinder. Turbo. \$1500. 858-488-0324.

MOTORCYCLES

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HARLEY DAVIDSON. Heritage Softail. 1999. \$11,900. "Show Bike." Custom. Chromed to the max. Purple and black. APE hangers, windshield, saddlebags. Huge sacrifice, must sell. 619-301-9344.

HONDA CB-750, 1980, one cylinder damaged, willing to part out or sell for \$435. Salvage title. Ask for Douglas, 619-232-2020.

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MOTORCYCLE REPAIRS! Mobile service. Bike been sitting? Won't start? Call us. Honda, Kawasaki, Suzuki, Yamaha. Credit cards accepted. House Calls Motorcycle Repair, 800-481-6531. We'll come to you!

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if you promise not to kill anyone in a hot tub and then cruise around town in your buddy's Bronco and lie in court and then steal memorabilia from your upcoming days as a pro football player and kidnap people. Here you go. Hey, wait! Were you crossing your fingers behind your back, you little scamp? Why, you Heisman Trophy winners are ever so precocious!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS: A UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO SEASONAL CELEBRATION CASD4 8:00 P.M.

See, this just seems like revenge on someone's big sister who had a lisp. That's certainly a superflu-

ous selection of syllables with "s" sounds. Someone should stop this student!

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

PRANCER

AMC 10:15 P.M.

Prancer was my nickname in high school, although you'd never guess why. Well, actually, you're right; it's pretty easy to guess why. Cut me some slack, man. I was reading a lot of elf-fantasy literature and listening to a lot of prog rock featuring the flute. Sue me. Wait! Don't sue me. That nursing home already did. Wow, were those old people mean. I'd do it all again. The feel of that floral-patterned shawl and the sun in

that poppy field...

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

THE GREATEST GAME EVER PLAYED

ESPN 8:30 P.M.

Finally, Naked Crisco Slip-n-Slide for Shots of Whiskey and Beer Bongs gets the recognition it's due.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

LIFE

NBC 9:00 P.M.

Haven't seen the show, but I'm assuming its about bicycles and booze and rocket pops and cocaine and G.I. Joe and flowers and coffee and movies and boobies and A.D.D. Wow. If it's not, it should be.



Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and the Island of Misfit Toys

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

SPAIN...ON THE ROAD AGAIN

PBS 8:00 P.M.

Some ugly ginger chef eats things then licks his grimy fingers as Gwyneth

Paltrow vapidly babbles about her kids and then visits spas. Oh, set the DVR for this one. You won't want to miss a rich woman pampered and a fat man eat. PBS, you magic makers!

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.

FORD CONTOUR GL, 1997, 4 door, low miles, automatic, air conditioning, power steering, brakes, windows, locks, tilt, cruise, stereo/cassette, premium wheels, must sell, \$2975. 619-838-0779.

HONDAS FROM \$500. Police impounds and tax repos. Cars, trucks, SUVs. Many makes and models! For listings, 800-495-0660, x2180.

JAGUAR, S type, 4.0, 2001. New brakes/tires. Seafrost exterior, eggshell interior. Looks beautiful. Not driven anymore. Call 9am-7pm. 858-459-5333.

LEXUS GS300, 2002. Immaculate! Perfect condition, low 29,000 miles. Like new. Beautiful gold. Leather interior. Loaded. Certified preowned 100K warranty. Lojack, Oceanside. \$18,950. Owner, 760-521-9880, 760-967-0229. LMellon@sdreader.com

MERCURY SABLE WAGON, 1997. 3.0L, V6, fully equipped, cassette, roof rack, 3rd seat. Excellent driving/running condition and appearance. \$3150. Owner will help finance. 619-896-0779.

OLDSMOBILE SW, 1993. White with wood trim, burgundy interior. 3rd seat, automatic, air conditioning, 6 cylinder. Power everything. 124,000 miles. \$1100. Please call, 619-688-1235.

PORSCHE BOXSTER S, 2003. \$27,900. Absolutely mint! 29,500 original miles. Guards red with black leather interior. All the standard "S" upgrades including 17" wheels and large red brake calipers. This car is a real head turner! Garaged, immaculate. Pictures at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/28183771@N08/>. 619-890-9600.

TOYOTA CELICA, 1981. Convertible. Only 1500 made. Garaged. 4 cylinder. 22R engine. Only 90,000 miles. Excellent condition. Asking \$2450. 858-278-1587.

VOLVO 850, 1995. \$500 down drives you away. Buy here, pay here. A Plus Rentals, 760-633-3552.

VOLVO 850, 1996. \$1000 down drives you away. Buy here, pay here. A Plus Rentals, 760-633-3552.

VOLVO S80, 1999. \$1000 down drives you away. Buy here, pay here. A Plus Rentals, 760-633-3552.

VOLVO V70, 2000. \$1000 down drives you away. Buy here, pay here. A Plus Rentals, 760-633-3552.

VW PASSAT GLS, sedan, 2002. White, in great condition. One nonsmoking owner, no dents or accidents, drives great! \$8000, 858-793-7962.

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AUTOMOTIVE TRUCKS / VANS / SUVs

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.

CADILLAC ESCALADE, 2002, \$14,000, fully loaded, extra clean, TVs, towing package. A Plus Rentals, 760-633-3552.

CHEVROLET BLAZER, K5 convertible, 1975, 4X4, restored! Bikini top, new paint, slightly lifted, new tires, more. No smog required. Valued \$11,000, asking \$6450. 619-408-9733.

CHEVROLET SUBURBAN, \$2100/best. 1988. 5.7 automatic. Tinted windows, new radiator hose, recently overhauled transmission. 6 disk, alarm. 858-864-8960.

CHEVROLET, 1984. 3/4 ton. Runs well. \$650. 619-204-2445.

CHEVY SILVERADO, 2001, \$1000 down drives you away. Buy here, pay here. A Plus Rentals, 760-633-3552.

DODGE, 1994. 6 cylinder, mini window van. \$1500. Runs great. 619-696-5313.

FORD E-350, 2004. Extender Super Duty 15-passenger van. 60,000 miles. V8, 5.4 liter, XL power steering. Air conditioning,

tilt wheel. Privacy glass. \$10,500, 619-306-6556.

FORD EXPEDITION, 2001, Eddie Bauer Edition, 4-door, automatic, air conditioning, power steering, windows lock, stereo cassette, video player, new tires, perfect condition. 858-453-9170.

FORD RANGER, 2000, \$1000 down drives you away. Buy here, pay here. A Plus Rentals, 760-633-3552.

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HUMMER H2, 2003, \$25,000, fully loaded, towing package, super clean. A Plus Rentals, 760-633-3552.

ISUZU HOMBRE, 1997 pick up. Dark metallic green, aluminum rims, low profile tires. Excellent condition. All maintenance records. 112,000 miles, gas saver. \$3700. 760-689-8246.

ISUZU NPR FLATBED TOW TRUCK. Turbo diesel, 1991, needs body work, \$4900 or best offer. Parts: rebuilt starter/alternator, new 3000-pound electric winch with remote control. \$195/each. 619-460-0466.

NISSAN FRONTIER, 1998, \$1000 down drives you away. Buy here, pay here. A Plus Rentals, 760-633-3552.

PICKUP, CHEVY SCOTSDALE, 1978, 1-ton, good condition, \$1000/best offer. 858-483-6723.

AUTOMOTIVE CLASSIC / CUSTOM CARS

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CADILLAC EL DORADO, 1969. Classic. 97,000 original miles. Engine rebuilt less than 1,000 miles ago. New tires, brakes, radiator, battery. Retail \$17,400. Asking \$15,000, 619-282-6115.

CHEVROLET EL CAMINO, 1984. \$9000. 305 V8 engine. 91,000 miles. Fully rebuilt transmission. Beautiful. Power windows/doors. Alarmed. Blue exterior, blue interior. Bucket seats. 619-741-0168.

FORD PICKUP, 1939. \$16,500. Beautiful blue on black Chevy 350/350 with Edelbrock-Edelbrock front disc, power steering, dual exhaust, new interior, new oak bed. 619-442-8660.

MERCEDES BENZ 190, 1961. \$4500. 4 door sedan. overhead cam 4 cylinder. New tires, runs great, engine in excellent condition. Needs interior work. 619-280-5298.

AUTOMOTIVE RVs

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CHAMPION TRANSTAR, 1986. \$3200. 23'. Sleeps 3/4. 144,000 miles. New transmission at 125,000. New radiator in 2004. 619-977-7399.

CHAMPION, 1977. \$485. 25'. Needs major work. Engine/transmission/generator OK. No paperwork available, lean sale will be necessary for new title. 619-269-1194.

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ROADTREK VERSATILE, 1996. 19', 318-V8 Dodge chassis engine, Onan gas generator, roof air conditioning, refrigerator, 2-burner range, awning. Great shape, 87,600 miles. \$14,500, 760-597-9653.

TRAIL-LITE, 2001, 25', excellent condition. \$7,650. Barely used. Parked under cover. 3,500 pounds. TV, surround sound, microwave/convection oven, queen bed, air conditioning, awning. 858-220-1487.

AUTOMOTIVE PARTS

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FORD MOTOR, 1990 F150 302. Ran strong, removed to install performance motor. Comes with upper and lower in-

take and throttle body. \$300. 619-454-5306.

GRILL/BRUSH GUARD, \$150. For 2000-2001 Nissan Xterra or 1998-2000 Nissan Frontier. Black, great shape, comes with off road lights attached. Firm price, cash. 619-817-7986.

SHOCK SET. Pro competition. Set of 4, brand new, still in box with all hardware, \$75. Jarrod, 619-381-3989.

TIRES, 2, 165x13 with Honda rims, like new, \$20/both. 858-581-6223.

VALVE COVER. Toyota 4 cylinder 22r-e. Excellent condition, intake plenum also available. 858-395-7252.

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