

SAN DIEGO WEEKLY

VOLUME 37 / NUMBER 51
DECEMBER 18, 2008

Reader

Would you pay \$750 for a bike with no brakes?

The bike is brown. It's light in my hands; I can lift it over my head, which I do, just to try it, and it's easy. Walking it out of the back door of its home at the Velo Culture bike shop, I expend no effort. The thing is like a feather.

Out on the sandy gravel, I grip the handlebars, which are surprisingly short. I feel the squishy rubber against the pads of my palms. The seat is just the right height, even without adjustment, and I balance myself, going over what Sky Boyer, the owner of Velo Culture, has told me.

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The Maine Event!



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CARLSBAD

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DOWNTOWN

East Village Tavern and Bowl: Happy hour drink prices all night • Free bowling (does not include shoes) • Midnight draft beer toast. (Dundee Honey Brown Lager) • No cover!

Hard Rock Hotel: Black & White Masquerade Ball • Music by DJ Loczi • Complimentary cocktails and hors d'oeuvres 9 to 10 pm • General admission tickets \$100 • VIP table reservations available • New Year's Eve room packages from \$495

House of Blues: Club Massive presented by Victory Nightlife

Onyx/Thin: Spectacular midnight countdown: Party favors, confetti cannons, balloon drops, special effects & lighting, extravaganza champagne toast • Multiple rooms of DJs spinning hip-hop, house & all your favorite club hits! • VIP/Magnum packages • Doors open at 8pm • 21+

Red Circle Café: Two countdowns: DJ Nicky Z (midnight) and DJ Junior (9pm). All-you-can-drink bar and gourmet tapas from 6 to 9 pm. \$40 per person gets you in all night. VIP packages available from \$1000–\$2000. Dine 7 to 10 pm. Dance 10 pm to 2 am. Call 619-234-9211. 21+.

Rock Bottom Brewery, Gaslamp: Black & White Masquerade 2008 • Three venues of entertainment: Main Stage — Sandbox • Downtown Lounge — Club Crush/15 West and Dennis Blaze • Starlight Loft — Acid Jazz Lounge

Sevilla: New Year's Eve Extravaganza • Tapas Bar: 2 seatings: 6:30 pm & 8:30 pm • Main Dining Room Dinner Shows: 3 seatings: 4:30 pm, 7 pm & 9:30 pm • Club Sevilla Dinner Show: 6:30 pm show & dance party

Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina: Big Night San Diego: California's Largest New Year's Gala! • Endless, full, open bars • 16 themed party areas • 6 dance floors • The Discopimps, Metro, Miss Lisa, Mike Czech, Pashaiko, Happee, Vince Delano, Ivan Guerro, Mike G (Retro) • First-class cuisine • Huge midnight celebration • Party favors, etc. • 9 pm - 2am

Shout House: Shout! In 2009 New Year's Eve tickets now on sale. Sold out last year • Get your tickets early! Hot buffet, dessert, champagne toast at midnight, souvenir glass and live entertainment all night long • Dinner packages, party packages, and VIP packages available.

Xavier's Bar & Grill: Shammy Dee spinning • Doors open at 8pm • Hors d'oeuvres 9 to 10pm • Party Favors • Midnight champagne toast • \$25 cover

LA JOLLA

Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines: New Year's Eve Extravaganza 2009 • Over 30 live/DJ performances • \$40 general admission ticket includes after hours till 4am • New Year's Day pool party • \$199 hotel rooms available now.

LINDA VISTA

Tio Leo's Lounge: Karaoke New Year's Eve Party

LITTLE ITALY

Anthology: New Year's Motown Eve

Casbah: 20-Year Anniversary Kickoff! With the Rugburns and Steve Poltz

Puerto la Boca: Live music all night. Choose from appetizers, salad, soup, beef, chicken, fish, shrimp, or pasta — from \$30 per person.

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MISSION BEACH

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OCEAN BEACH

Portugalia: Brazilian Samba Show Packages

MISSION HILLS

Spin Nightclub: Giant New Year's Eve! 9 pm - 4 am • MSTRKRFT with Felix Cartal, Loudnoises & Harvard Bass

MISSION VALLEY

In Cahoots: New Year's Eve Celebration! \$2 drinks 6-10 pm! • \$25 advance tickets available now!

Mission Valley Resort: New Year's Eve con Salsa • The Charlie Chavez Salsa Orchestra • 2 DJs • Late night buffet • Midnight celebration w/ champagne toast • Ample free parking • Special room rate \$75 (why drive?) • Doors open at 8:30pm • 21+w/ ID • \$45 in advance

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SAN MARCOS

Jumping Turtle: New Year's Eve Bash! CCMA Music School presents live music TBA. Champagne toast at midnight! Party favors!

VALLEY CENTER

Harrah's Rincón: \$69.99 whole lobster dinner at Fortunes • \$48 surf & turf special at San Luis Rey Cafe • 8pm disco party with the Superfreaks in the Oasis Lounge • Federal Funk grooves at the Promotions Center • Diva Soul celebrates with Top 40 hits at Cabana Cove • Midnight countdown, confetti cannons, and 3,500 balloons!

**Get all the details at:
SDReader.com/happenings**

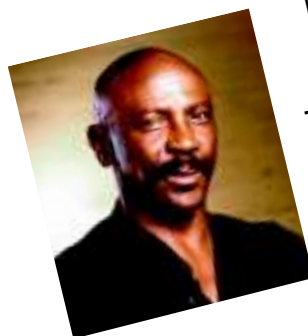
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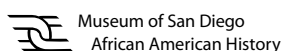
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BREAKING NEWS

Fog of war The sentencing of **Kyle "Dusty" Foggo**, who loomed large in the bribery scandal that brought down

Randy Cunningham

GOP congressman **Randy "Duke" Cunningham**, has been delayed until January 29 of next year while Foggo's lawyers fight to keep the government from releasing secret grand jury testimony detailing his crimes.

Foggo, who served as executive director, or third-ranking official, of the Central Intelligence Agency from 2004 to 2006, pleaded guilty on September 29 to a count of wire fraud and admitted he'd steered CIA contracts to Poway defense contractor **Brent Wilkes** and a front company, Archer Logistics. Wilkes was convicted last year of bribing Cunningham. In his plea agreement, Foggo admitted that Wilkes, a longtime friend, showered him with lavish gifts, meals, and trips.

But when the government asked the court to unseal grand jury testimony containing secret evidence used in the case, Foggo's lawyers objected. "The government can cite no case in which the public's 'right to know' entitled the prosecution to disclose hand-picked portions of grand jury transcripts, much less classified ones," they argued in a motion filed December 2. In a December 5 reply, prosecutors said, "Foggo distinguished himself by becoming the highest ranking member in the history of the CIA to be convicted of a federal crime: a multiple-year scheme to deprive the public of his honest services. Now, Foggo wants to deprive both this Court and the public of the details of his scheme."

The motion says that the government will seek a 37-month prison sentence for Foggo. To make their case, prosecutors say they need to reveal "information from individuals who were co-participants in Foggo's scheme, joined in or knew about Foggo's and Wilkes' vacations and meals together, heard Foggo discuss his future professional plans once he left the CIA, suffered pressure to hire E.R. [the initials of Foggo's mistress], and were manipulated to select Archer to provide the water and procurement contracts." A ruling on the matter by federal judge **James C. Cacheris** in Alexandria, Virginia, is pending.

Crash and burn Earlier this fall, **Dan Schroeder** and his wife **Lisa** gave *Union-Tribune* real estate writer **Roger Showley** a VIP tour of their extravagant new La Jolla abode. Showley's October 30 story described "a marvel in concrete, steel and glass that is understated at the entrance gate and grows in awe

as you proceed from room to room and floor to floor." Inside was "a truly great room — dining room, kitchen and sunken living room — the floor paved here (and throughout the house) in fossilized sandstone from Arizona Tile, the ceiling paneled in polished Douglas fir and the walls covered in anigre, an African hardwood the color of caramel with a slight scent akin to cedar." A ten-foot-long "linear fireplace" was built in Langley, British Columbia, and shipped to the site. "What we had to do was rent a crane, cut the roof out and crane it in because it was so big and heavy," noted a contractor. The sloping roof is made of Rheinzinc, an alloy of copper, zinc and titanium (appropriate since Dan is the owner of locally based Western Titanium, Inc.).

But last week, Schroeder's saga took a new turn when he and his company were indicted for conspiracy and fraud in connection with allegedly falsifying quality certifications of titanium aircraft parts sold for use in Air Force F-15 and F-22 fighter jets, as well as C-17 cargo planes and the NASA Kepler spacecraft.



F-22 Raptors

"Because of this thorough investigation, the Air Force was able to take swift action to protect not only our F-15s, but avoid potential casualties and property losses," **David L. Senness**, special agent in charge for the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, said in a written statement. (The crash last week of a Marine Corps F/A-18D Hornet into a University City neighborhood is still under investigation and has not of yet been linked to inferior parts.)

The eyes have it The *Orange County Register* has put up a new online search engine on its website, allowing lookups of the salaries of all employees of the University of California who make more than \$25,000 a year. Some examples of UCSD officials making big bucks: Chancellor **Marye Anne Fox**, \$382,416, and Associate Vice Chancellor **Mary Lindenstein Walshok**, \$161,225. But the most generous pay went to professors at the medical school. Topping the list is ophthalmologist **Robert Weinreb**, with gross pay of \$804,341.



Marye Anne Fox

— 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.

I Get a Kickback Out of You

By Don Bauder

When a San Diego hotel concierge recommends a restaurant, he or she may be getting a fat kickback. "It's an extortion

ring. Like the Mafia. Restaurants are bribing concierges in hotels. It's a bidding war," says one downtown restaurant owner, who says he could be destroyed if his name got out. "On a given night, some restaurants are full and others are half-full. The full ones are paying the concierges."

In some cases, the concierges are paid in cash tucked into envelopes, delivered clandestinely. It's folly to think the Internal Revenue Service is told about this income. The kickback on a meal reservation is often a minimum of \$5 per person. For a party of ten, the concierge may demand and get 10 percent of the gross.

Earlier this year, the city attorney's office investigated

the practice. The investigator, Dan Andrews, refuses to discuss the matter, so it's not known if the new city attorney, Jan Goldsmith, will



pursue it. However, I was able to get a copy of a letter to hotels mailed by then-city attorney Mike Aguirre in March. "Concierges at your hotel may be in violation of Business and Professions Code section 17200," said the letter. Such violations "may occur where a concierge makes referrals to a restaurant or business without disclosing to the hotel patron that gratuities, gifts or other items of value have been

provided by the restaurant or business for the referral." The letter told the hotels to cease and desist the activity.

"The concierges are destroying the downtown restaurant market," says Aguirre. "It's not fair to clients [of both restaurants and hotels]. One of the things I had intended to do was to bring an action. I sent letters to get concierges to knock it off. But I understand it is getting worse rather than better."

Upon learning of the

letter, the San Diego County Hotel-Motel Association "recommended to our members that concierges not engage in that practice; if they do, they should disclose it," says Namara Mercer, executive director. "Many of our general managers had conversations with staff and said to stop it." (Not many intelligently managed hotels would post a sign confessing. "Warning: Our concierges

continued on page 8

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

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

Neal Obermeyer



Use Me, Then Lose Me

By Joe Deegan

For the past ten years, Louie Holton has owned and operated Louie's pub at Aztec Center at the southeastern edge of the SDSU campus. While serving beer and wine to students weekday afternoons and evenings until ten, he has come to know many of their lifestyle patterns.

Holton's advice has a whiff of the old *in loco parentis*, Latin for "in place of parents," a doctrine that universities have abandoned, sometimes under court orders, since the 1960s. The idea was that when kids leave home for college, universities take over some parenting roles. Dormitory curfews, especially for girls, and dinner dress codes, once common at private colleges, are examples of the policy that was intended to be for students' own good.

Several weeks ago, Holton gave me an earful from behind his bar. "Before the last campus police chief retired, he said he'd love me to be open seven days a week

until two in the morning because he knew I ran a tight ship and it would give a place for students to drink on campus so they wouldn't have to drive to the beach. The worst time for police around here has been the eleven-to-three-o'clock hour, when students are going to and coming home from the beach.

"We don't want the students to have to go off campus to drink," Holton continues, "especially those that live on campus because then you're forcing them to decide whether they're going to drink and drive. You're putting young people in a compromised situation that they don't have to be in if they have a safe, controlled environment on campus."

"The way I view the pub on campus is that it's a controlled environment for students to learn their limits.



Louie Holton

People turn 21 while they're going to college, and I think it's part of the university's responsibility to give them a safe, regulated place to learn their limits while they're still in school. It's a lesson that needs to be learned early and as fast as possible so they don't end up becoming problem drinkers. When you hide stuff, you tend to hide it from everybody, including yourself a lot of

times," observes Holton.

"They're going to drink at this age. It's a foregone conclusion. Give them a safe alternative to drinking and driving. We've seen in recent weeks that even the smartest SDSU students will drink and drive if push comes to shove." (Holton is referring to the arrest on October 17 of the SDSU student body president James Poet for driving under the influence of alcohol and possession of marijuana.)

"It should be part of the university's mission statement," the pub owner concludes, "to both keep the students safe and offer them alternatives to driving back and forth from downtown and the beach. I know there's a liability issue involved, but sometimes we have to think past the liability to the responsibility."

Holton might talk as though he wants to be dean of students. Instead, he's trying to save his pub. At the start of the current school year, an official of Aztec Shops, a nonprofit company that administers food services, dormitories, and the bookstore on campus, informed

Holton that he'd have to close in May 2009. Aztec Center is scheduled to be razed, and over a two-year period the university will

build a new student center called Modern Space on the same site. When Modern Space opens, Aztec Shops plans to put operation of a new pub and grill out to bid. Holton was first told he would not be allowed to bid (Aztec Shops has since changed its mind), and until the new building has been completed, there will be no university pub. Holton had hoped to remain in busi-

ness at least while construction was under way, but he was told no.

University officials told Holton not to speak with



build a new student center called Modern Space on the same site. When Modern Space opens, Aztec Shops plans to put operation of a new pub and grill out to bid. Holton was first told he would not be allowed to bid (Aztec Shops has since changed its mind), and until the new building has been completed, there will be no university pub. Holton had hoped to remain in busi-

students or the student newspaper, the *Daily Aztec*, about the pub's closing. But what irks him the most, he tells me, "is that administrators used the pub, they used my [business name], Louie's, to get

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Louie's Suds n' Sun, SDSU food court

I get a kickback

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get under-the-table payments for making recommendations.”)

Ed Rose, concierge at the Hotel del Coronado, is incoming president of the San Diego Concierge Association. Upon hearing of the letter, “We advised each hotel to check with their legal representatives. It’s not a matter involving everybody. In the association bylaws we are not supposed to receive cash or money for a service, although we accept free dinners. I’m cool with that. That is the way most of us are able to find out about the restaurants.”

Says Rose, “I have heard rumors of [cash in envelopes], but that is an individual issue. We know it is out there. We discourage the practice.” He says that concierges make \$10 to \$12 an hour in salary. “It’s not the highest paying of industries.” Hotel managers say that concierges can make \$13 to \$15 an hour with fringe benefits and, including tips, can make \$50,000 a year.

I interviewed San Diegans in the restaurant and hotel industries. They said they were aware of kickbacks but claimed they themselves

did not participate. One defended the practice.

“I know it goes on. It happens in a lot of places. The real shame is that the concierge’s job is to fulfill hotel guests’ requests,” says David Cohn, whose Cohn Restaurant Group has 12 eateries, 5 downtown. Still, Cohn believes that “a small percentage” of concierges engage in the practice. “We’ve never been approached directly by a concierge — ‘If you guys give us 10 percent, we will send more reservations.’”

Jimmy Parker, executive director of the Gaslamp Quarter Association, says he has been hearing about the kickbacks since the 1970s, when he was a busboy in Fashion Valley. “I hear complaints about it,” he says, but the complainants don’t get specific about restaurants engaged in the practice. “I hear about direct payments but can’t prove it.” Restaurants fete concierges — giving them complimentary meals — and have guided tours, but that is legitimate familiarization, he says.

Howard Hian of Hian Hotel Sales Affiliates is tolerant: “If you get an airline ticket and pay a travel agent a commission, is that a bribe?” he asks. “Some taxis have exclusives with hotels. Ask how they got them. Car

rentals have exclusives with hotels. Ask how they got them.” Getting paid for sending a hotel customer to a restaurant is essentially getting a commission, says Hian, “but if the restaurant is no good, it is a different story.” And he has questions about whether cash in envelopes is being reported for tax purposes.

Hian has questions about people staying in fancy hotels but having to ask a concierge for a restaurant recommendation. “A traveler is staying at a \$250-a-night hotel and asks a front-desk person where there is a nice place to eat,” he says. “There is a little disconnect there.”

“I know [giving kickbacks to concierges] happens,” says Mike Morton, chief executive of the Brigantine Family of Restaurants, which has 14 restaurants in the county. “We don’t do it. It’s a Pandora’s box. If you put cash in an envelope, pay X number of dollars per guest, how do you stop? If you pay one concierge, what do you say to the next one? It can spiral out of control.” Besides, it’s unethical, he believes.

“It definitely is pervasive, and we have to work hard to keep it out of our workplace,” says Jack Giacomini, whose company runs two

Mission Valley hotels. “Our strict policy is that none of our employees will take any kind of commission or referral or kickback. But it is hard to enforce and does happen under the table.” A hotel has nothing to gain and lots to lose: “Cabdrivers are notorious for kickbacking to bellmen and so forth. But what happens when guests walk up and say, ‘What cab should I take?’ and the kid says, ‘Don’t take ABC, take XYZ,’ and there is an accident? Who gets sued? Not the kid but the hotel, because we are the deep pocket.” The same can happen with a restaurant. “The kid says go to XYZ Restaurant, the guest gets food poisoning, and all of a sudden we are named in a lawsuit.”

Robert Rauch, who owns two hotels in the Del Mar area and teaches hospitality at San Diego State, says, “It is probably pervasive in full-service hotels, downtown in particular, and possibly at the resorts.” He doesn’t think the practice is necessarily illegal — “not different from a server who gets a cash tip.” He says, “The problem is that when a guest goes to a concierge, he should feel comfortable he is getting objective recommendations. So I do not allow my team members to recommend any business based

on a commission. I can monitor it generally, but I can’t monitor every possible transaction.” ■

Use me, lose me

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the students to vote yes on a new student center. They used my business name in their voting pamphlet for the referendum.”

The referendum on fees for a new student center was held in March 2006. The ballot indicated that choosing “yes” would be a vote for, among other items, more seating in Louie’s Suds n’ Sun (the bar’s full name), especially on the outside patio. On September 30 of this year, in a story about the pub, the *Daily Aztec* quoted Chris Manigault, student body president in 2006, as follows: “Originally, there was going to be some form of Louie’s pub. There was not an intent to lose the pub in the original ballot.”

“When I mentioned that the students were not getting what they voted for,” says Holton, “the university told me the name Louie’s was used only so that students would understand what a pub is. Yeah, right. I thought our grade point average at San Diego State was going up. I believe that most peo-

ple on this campus know what a pub is.”

Despite the promise of a bidding process for the next campus pub, there has already been talk of bringing in Chili’s to run the pub and grill, which will be on the lower level near the bowling alley in the new building. At first, there were rumors that Chili’s would serve hard alcohol in addition to beer and wine. Campus administrators later squelched the idea, saying hard alcohol will never be allowed on campus.

“Downstairs is the worst possible place for a pub,” says Holton, who thinks that by going there the university shows it wants to hide drinking on campus. Currently, the fenced patio outside Louie’s often has a raucous atmosphere, especially on Thursday afternoons, when many students are done with classes for the week. And it is one of the last sights that visiting parents see when student guides bring them to the edge of campus after escorting the families on campus tours.

The parents might well be concerned. There have been three drinking-related student deaths on or near campus in the past three years. And a well-publicized drug bust in several frater-

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nities last spring caused the university a public relations nightmare. None of these problems originated in

Louie's.

Holton thinks the university wants to bring more profitable corporate businesses onto campus. He says that during a discussion of his bar's closure, a university administrator pointed

out that Holton's income was down 8 percent from the previous year. "Not a single thing the university asked me to do has yet to put me out of business," says Holton. "But the accumulation of things they've done

to the business over the years has started to take a toll. They've shortened my daily hours, they've reduced the number of days I can open, I can't open for basketball or football games. Aztec Shops themselves sell beer and wine

at campus events like concerts. Ten years ago, that was sold in here. I used to be able to open Saturdays and Sundays, especially if there were sporting events on those days. Last basketball season they changed that in

midstream. The policy on the pub, though I'm across campus from Cox Arena, seems to piggyback on the [California State University] chancellor's ruling last year that there should be no more alcohol at athletic events.

"When I was told I couldn't come back after next May, they told me I did not make enough money or have enough experience to operate the type of pub and grill they plan to put in the new center. They even said that if I went off campus and started a pub-and-grill business to show them I can be successful for two years that I would have a chance just like everybody else in the world to put in a bid for the next pub."

Russ Brew, who together with his wife ran several coffeehouse/juice bars at SDSU starting in 1990, had a similar experience. Four years ago, Aztec Shops refused to renew his contract and brought in two Starbucks outlets instead. The move had been preceded by a demand that Brew return a higher percentage of his profits to Aztec Shops. One of his locations was closed, and several coffee carts were brought in to operate in close proximity to his remaining stores, "cannibalizing profits," says Brew.

Brew tells me by phone that he enjoyed good relations with most Aztec Shops employees, including Jack Dement, the company's general manager at the time. But one day, Dement sent him "an absolutely brutal letter." It said Brew was not doing a good job and complained that his sales were dropping. The letter felt like a personal attack, says Brew, because he and his wife produced everything they sold at the store, oftentimes getting up to make sandwiches at three in the morning. He thinks Aztec Shops wanted to "go corporate." He was able to work out a one-year extension, but Starbucks was on campus the minute the year was up. ■

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No More Sobs

My wife just brought home the Reader, and I'm looking at your cover story "Go Directly to Jail...and Die" (December 11). I've read the first paragraph of the darn thing, and I see it's an illegal alien juvenile delinquent that went to jail, and that's as far as I've read. And I don't give a s*** if he died in jail. He's an illegal alien, should have been deported, and I don't want any more sob stories about illegal aliens. I've heard enough sob stories about illegal aliens. And with the damn Obama

in the White House we're probably going to have them crammed down our throat. The worthless Bush did nothing to get them out of here. The damned Obama's not going to do anything, and that old clown McCain wouldn't have done anything either if he'd been elected. I'm sick to death of illegal aliens. They're all over the place here. I don't want any more sob stories about them. Thank you very much. Good-bye. And if he died in jail, f*** him. I don't give a s***.

Name Withheld
via voicemail

That Darn State

This is about your Reader, December 11, "Go Directly to Jail...and Die" (Cover Story). I really don't like the way you or the San Diego Union-Tribune make the illegal immigrants look like they're victims. You know, they're up here and they're on our welfare system — because we are a welfare state — and they and their kids and their wives are on damn welfare here. That's why the darn state is in the problem that it's in now is because we're a welfare state

and we're providing welfare for all Mexicans, legal and illegal. I mean, even the legal ones get on welfare. They got it down. They get their girlfriends pregnant, and then they stay in the background and then get on welfare for one kid, for two kids, for three kids. "Who's the dad?" "I don't know." Hey, you know. I just don't like the way you make the illegal immigrants look like victims. They're the problems, you know? And the welfare system supporting Mexicans, legal or illegal, is the problem.

Name Withheld
via voicemail

View From The Inside

I am sorry to say that I once worked at Corrections Corporation of America in Otay Mesa ("Go Directly to Jail...and Die," Cover Story, December 11). It was time someone exposed these inhumanities. What this article has stated is fact! One hundred percent accurate. I understand inmates and detainees have broken the law, but in that facility only 10 percent of those housed there are level III inmates; the majority are illegal aliens. These inmates have been violated to such extreme that I believe this fa-

cility should be closed and their ICE and USM contract revoked.

Corrections Corporation of America is just there for the money. Qualified officers and staff at that facility are lacking. Half if not more of the detention officers could not pass a psychological evaluation. They are not even required to have a CORE certification by the State of California; all they are required to have is a California Guard Card. A monkey can get that. How can you be a first responder to an emergency if you do not have adequate training? There go our tax dollars.

As to the Castaneda family, my deepest apologies. His death was not necessary nor warranted, at least here in the United States.

Name Withheld
via email

Sensitivity

The "Canyon Trails Traffic Jam" ("City Lights," December 11) piece would have the reader thinking that Del Mar Mesa is a recreational-user mecca, with the inevitable multiple-use conflicts that arise in such locales. But the Del Mar Mesa habitat preserve is so much more than a recreation destination. The

continued on page 50

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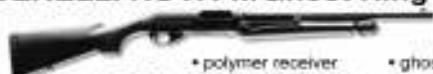
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STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP BY MATTHEW ALICE

Dear Matthew Alice:

While I was waiting for the Tylenol to kick in and stop my headache, I decided to read the ingredient list on the bottle. Active ingredients: Acetaminophen. Inactive ingredients: carnauba wax, cellulose, corn starch, iron oxide, sucralose, talc, titanium dioxide. What? Inactive ingredients? Why are they there if they don't do anything? Why do I have car wax in my pills?

— Naomi, via email

We'd have an easier time answering this if the research elves weren't such inactive ingredients. Half of them are hanging out around the wide-screen watching *Top Gear*. The rest are bugging Grandma Alice for more waffles. They're contributing nothing here, but we'd be lost without their smiley faces. Same goes for carnauba wax and cornstarch.

The whole point of a Tylenol pill is to deliver to you a tiny dab of easy-to-swallow acetaminophen. But if all they gave you was the fly-speck bit of medicine, you'd have a heck of a time getting one dose out of the bottle. There'd be acetaminophen all over the place — stuck under your fingernails, ground into the carpet, sailing through the air by the open window. What to do? Well, how about mixing the meds into other ingredients that turn nothing into something? The stuff would be inactive (have nothing to do with getting rid of a headache), it would just be stuff that would help move the pills through the manufacturing process and make a coating that's easy to gulp down. And have no fear. Carnauba is a versatile vegetable wax that can coat your car or, in its food-grade format, your headache pill.

Hey, Matt:

I have a friend who insists he can tell the difference between the smell of his sweat when he exercises and when he's nervous. Is this possible?

— Abe, North Park

What a fine-nosed friend you have. True enough, we sweat two different kinds of water, but neither one of them has much smell by itself. Eccrine sweat (from glands of the same name) appears all over our bodies when we exercise, but especially in our pits, palms, feet, and foreheads. The stuff is mostly water,

salt, urea, and lactic acid. All this is

smell-less until it encounters bacteria, which use the moisture to feed, reproduce, and excrete wastes that sorta stink. Apocrine glands, and sweat by the same name, are much sexier. They're active beginning in puberty and are concentrated in the armpits and groin. The resulting sweat has

organic content and also human pheromones, good for attracting the opposite sex assuming you're not too drenched in eccrine sweat. Again, this sweat has almost no smell of its own but depends on skin bacteria to create a big stink.

So, Abe, I can't prove your friend can tell the difference, but at least he has a little science to back him up.

Heymatt:

I think I've come up with a great idea for getting rid of the world's trash. Why don't we put it all in a volcano. It must be hot enough to get rid of it all. What do you think of the idea?

— JB, via email

Well, I'm glad I didn't come up with it. Full of holes, unfortunately. See, JB, most of the volcanoes around the globe are mostly just sitting there with plugs of rock in them, so if we filled them full of trash we'd just have a very hard-to-get-to landfill. And once the volcano did blow, it probably would find a weak spot along the side of the cone before it blew the rock plug. If it did shoot the plug, it would be raining Pampers and old mattresses for miles.

So, say we just threw stuff in active cones, the ones with magma near the surface. Good luck finding somebody to run the garbage up there. Active volcanoes spew out lethal gasses and ash that would prevent even a helicopter from depositing our old refrigerators and cat litter over the cone.

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

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BY PATRICK DAUGHERTY

Dog Days, Dog Nights



Bracco Italiano

It's an international organization. We promote the training and ownership of hunting dogs and hunting itself. We go out once a month and do training days and hunt tests. There are 50 members in our San Diego Chapter."

That's Ericka Dennis speaking. She's an officer in the local chapter of NAVHDA (North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association). I wanted to know the dog count per member.

"Five or six. We have specific breeds [27] that are accepted into the club. They're all pointing and flushing breeds."

Having a hard time imagining a Descanso Field & Stream cover. "How is San Diego County for hunting with dogs?"

"It's pretty difficult to find places to train. It's hard to find a property that has a pond and [enough land for] dogs to run on. So, sometimes we pick our poison. We'll go to Lake Elsinore, and then we'll go to places that don't have a pond so we can shoot birds for the dogs. Imperial Valley has all of it, so we try to go out there three times a year."

"How did you train your dogs?"

"The dogs have a natural instinct to hunt and point. You have to teach them not to jump on the bird or run after the bird until it's shot. We teach them to stop when they see a bird and be steady on point."

"How do you do that?"

"We use the 'silent method' of training. It's touch. You use ropes and things to hold the dog in place. It doesn't hurt them, just stops them from moving. You don't say anything to them. They learn, when they feel that stimulation around their flank, to stop. Some dogs never get it, and some pick it up quickly."

"How do you teach the 'Don't rip the bird to pieces' part?"

"Usually, that's something you can't teach. You want a dog that has a natural, what we call, 'soft mouth.' Be able to hold the bird and not mangle it."

Dennis tells me she has four dogs — all Bracco Italiano — and the star is Regina, "a female who's pretty spectacular in the field." I ask where she begins training.

"You teach them to track a wounded bird. You get a dead bird and drag it through a field and then take them by the leash — there's a little feather pile — and get them to smell the bird in their nose. Ideally you have someone else do the dragging so the dog is not following your scent. You put the bird out ten yards and say, 'Track, track, track, track.' And the dog runs off and gets the bird. Then you put the bird out 20 yards, then 30 yards, and you keep going out until the dog realizes when you say, 'Track, track, track,' that means there's scent on the ground and, *I have to find the bird.*"

I ask, "How does that work for a bird that's flying, is shot, falls to the ground? There's no scent on the ground."

"That's a little bit different. That's a hunt, point, and retrieve sequence. You start by putting five to ten birds in the field. You let them go find birds [while you say] 'Find, find, find, find.' Keep doing it until he realizes, *Wow, I'm going to find birds and this is fun. This is exciting.*"

We chat about the mechanics of daily dog-trainer life. Dennis tells me, "The Department of Fish and Game puts on junior pheasant hunts every year in the Jamul area. A lot of people don't have dogs, so I'll go down there and loan my dog."

"That must be fun."

"Yeah," Dennis makes a sweet laugh. "I do that almost every year. They'll pair me up with a young person and his parents. We go out in the field, and I'm guiding my dog and guiding the kid. Most of the kids are very good shots. They know what they're doing. The dogs find birds for them, we'll flush, and they'll shoot. Kids get to take the pheasants home, and my dogs get to have a little fun."

"When you go out on a club outing, what makes a good day for you?"

"When a lot of people show up. We're always looking for new members. We're all about helping each other. You *can't* go out and train your dog by yourself. You have to have two to three people helping you. You're handling and training your dog and they're shooting or putting the birds out for you, or putting ducks on the pond. We'll go out with two, three, four people on an off day just to get extra training in. We rotate around. One person's a gunner, one person's the bird-planter, one person is the dog-handler."

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the red zone

By Anthony Gentile



Cathedral Catholic head coach Sean Doyle is doused with water in the closing minutes of the Dons victory

Cathedral Catholic invited to state bowl

Posted December 14, 2008, 4:33 p.m.

The CIF announced today the State Bowl Game pairings for next weekend at the Home Depot Center in Carson:

Division II (Saturday 4 p.m.)

St. Mary's (Stockton) (12-2) v. Cathedral Catholic (San Diego) (13-0)

Comments

Congrats to Cathedral Catholic High... Their schedule proved this season was not a cake-walk and the CIF commissioners recognized it by rewarding the kids with a bowl game.

By JustWondering 8:30 p.m., Dec 14, 2008

The toughest schedule? Are you myopic? This illustrates the self-absorbed and elitist perception of Cathedral parents. By the way, I like the "F Bombs" that this Catholic school was dropping on their YouTube video. Classy, yet I guess you don't have to be if you hide behind money, politics, and nepotism.

By Bottomline 12:14 p.m., Dec 15, 2008

Division II: Oceanside vs. Helix

Posted December 12, 2008, 9:20 p.m.

Oceanside and Helix have met in the Division II finals five times in the past eight years. Their most recent edition was by far the most exciting, a 23-19 Oceanside win that was in question until the very end.

The game was a back-and-forth affair throughout. Oceanside (12-0-1) began the game by recovering an onside kick and jumped out 7-0 less than a minute in when quarterback Jordan Wynn found Demario Coleman on a screen for a 26-yard touchdown. Helix (10-2-1) answered at the end of the quarter with a Ty Culver five-yard touchdown to make it a one-point game.

The Pirates played the final three quarters without starting linebacker Justin Vaena and wide receiver Demario Coleman. Both suffered injuries in the first quarter that would sideline them for the rest of the game.

Comments

Nine of the ten teams Cathedral played during the regular season made the CIF Playoffs. Oceanside cannot make that claim!

Cathedral posted a 5-0 record against teams who were in higher Divisions than they were. They played no teams that were in lower Divisions than they were.

Oceanside posted a 4-0 record against teams that played in a higher Division than they played in. Oceanside played three teams, and posted a 2-0-1 record against teams that played in a lower Division than they did.

Who played the tougher schedule? You decide!

By sdsportsfan 1:09 p.m., Dec 14, 2008

Here are the true facts. Common opponents, Oceanside outscored the common opponents by 94 points. Cathedral by 69 points. The biggest and most powerful factor is, Oceanside held these common opponents to a average of 12.66 points per game, while Cathedral a whopping 30.0 points per games. Cathedral allowed a weak Lincoln High to score 32 points on them, while the Oceanside Pirates shut them out 41-0.

By Bottomline 11:04 p.m., Dec 14, 2008

Division III: Cathedral Catholic v. Valhalla

Posted December 12, 2008, 5:52 p.m.

The Dons won their second straight section title with a sound 49-13 win over Valhalla at Qual-comm Stadium.

A battle between two of the section's best offenses certainly didn't look the part in a scoreless first quarter. Valhalla got on the board first a minute into the second quarter on a screen pass from quarterback Pete Thomas to receiver James Leighton.

Behind 6-0, Cathedral Catholic woke up. Six minutes and three touchdowns later, the Dons had a commanding 21-6 lead that they would take into the locker room.

Comments

O-Side is way better still! They have all natural talent unlike CC recruiting every guy that they can get. Their top player should have been at Scripps Ranch or Mira Mesa, but too bad that CC recruited him

By antoniocribbs 9:48 p.m., Dec 12, 2008

Sounds like sour grapes Mr. Cribbs.

By JustWondering 7:40 a.m., Dec 13, 2008

Too bad that CC recruited him? You mean too bad that he chose to go there to be part of the winning team? Sour grapes, indeed.

By businesstime 12:09 p.m., Dec 13, 2008

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T.G.I.F.

BY JOHN BRIZZOLARA

His tone was one all too familiar in San Diego, a tone of entitlement.

We have all by now — or most of us anyway — found ourselves familiar with the phrase “random acts of kindness.” I first saw it on a bumper sticker some years ago: “Practice Random Acts of Kindness.” If not that specific saying, then perhaps, “pay it forward,” since it was a passably good movie with a popular movie star. Recently I’ve begun noticing evidence of what might be some effects from these kinds of suggestions.

Recently, Bill Maher made an observation on *The Larry King Show* that our miserable economy seems to be sprouting manners in otherwise habitually rude merchants. His idea was that shop owners will greet you more warmly, maybe offer you a chair or a cup of coffee with a “Gee, I’ve been dying for your business” kind of attitude.

I found myself smiling at Maher precisely because I have noticed and in some cases continue to notice this at times. The most blatant example was nearby, at Andy’s Smoke Shop on Sixth Avenue. I really thought I had brought my wallet. I hadn’t. I was ready to walk back three blocks to get it, but Frank Sagmina said, “Wait!” Frank had seen me smoke some gawdawful cigarettes and asked if I could smoke Grand. I said I bet I could. “Just bring me the \$3.19 [or something] tomorrow.” He gave me the pack on credit.

Within a day or two, at Whole Foods in Hillcrest, a man in front of me asked me to move my cup of coffee a bit to make room for his groceries on the conveyor belt. I agreed, of course, and stifled a crack; his tone was one all too familiar in San Diego, a tone of entitlement. I expected a follow-up suggestion from him along the lines of “and cut your sideburns too,” or “step back a little, you’re crowding my personal space.” I was not prepared for what actually happened. He turned to the cashier and

said, “Let me get his coffee, please. I’d like to pay for that.”

I turned to my right, expecting a punch line, but he was quite serious. His appearance was that of a soul musician from the early ’60s, usually seen photographed seated on a stool and holding a saxophone, with an all-blue background. The album title might be something like *Black Coffee ’Til Dawn*.

“Pass it on,” he then said, just like Kevin Spacey in the movie. This was a new on me. I’d kind of expected it after that film, but it never happened until now. I said that I would. I meant it. I haven’t yet.

The other occasion happened at the City Deli, where I was having a late-night sandwich. A man walked in. He wore a leather motorcycle jacket over a baby-blue pajama top, a bed-head of disheveled hair, sweat pants, and, I’m guessing, his wife’s tattered pink bedroom slippers. He proffered a crumpled handful of single dollar bills to a stooped, Dickensian-looking waiter with an air of permanent and unconditional disapproval of whatever might be presented to him, a kind of 1940s film version of an officious department store floor walker.

The supplicant explained that he was up at this hour with a crying two-year-old who refused to sleep unless he was given an order of Dad’s french toast. The man had all the ingredients but no maple syrup. He displayed his crumpled bills and asked if he might get a small container of the stuff. The waiter actually sniffed, looked at the man as if he were the worst sort of homeless blight upon society, weighed the situation, and then disappeared momentarily, perhaps conferring with a higher authority



among the Maple Syrup Inventory and Dispensary Committee. He soon produced some two ounces of Aunt Jemima’s or whatever it was. The waiter sniffed again; the meaning was unmistakable this time: Go. Consider yourself smiled upon by the gods and never darken our napkins again. The thing about it, it was clear this was nothing less than the most unusual kind of magnanimousness on the part of a man who had waited on kings, lawyers, Michael Reagan.

Next, I left my cell phone in a taxi. Don’t ever do that in a Yellow Cab unless Dan is on shift at the lost and found. He’ll go above and beyond the call of duty. Meanwhile, Trisha, Kevin, and Tim at my old hotel, the Friendship, allowed me to use their cells multiple times. Erika Cooke, a neighbor from across the street, did the same, repeatedly, as I called my son. She always asks about him as if she knows him. She does not. Then Ron drove me to retrieve the phone. He needed the gas money, but still, he didn’t have to do it.

Mine, at the moment, may not have been a crisis, but I must have made it look that way. Could it be that the crushing hard times ahead may press and distill more of that sweet milk of human kindness?

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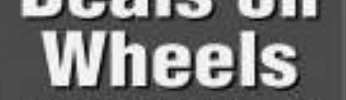
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We don't argue politics at Kelly family gatherings; we argue menus. I want something exotic for Christmas dinner, something fancy. Ma Kelly insists on something traditional. Husband Patrick just wants something that tastes good, "and a house without the hens pecking at each other."

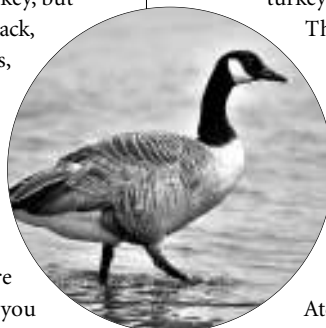
"Hens? *Hens?*!" I gasped, readying a tirade. Just then, my niece galloped through the kitchen. "Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat, please to put a penny in the old man's hat!"

I smiled. "Not hens, honey. Geese. I'm doing stuffed goose for Christmas dinner. That's as traditional as it gets, but for me, it's downright exotic. Everybody wins."

The goose chase was on. I started with Village Market in Rancho Santa Fe (858-756-3726). Richard in the meat department said that a cleaned goose was "like a duck, long and round, except probably twice as big. Ours average about eight or nine pounds at \$7.99 a pound, and you get the same stuff inside as you would with a turkey — liver, gizzards, and neck. You roast it like a turkey, but there's more fat on a goose. The rack, or rib case, is big like a turkey's, and between that and the fat, you won't get quite as much edible meat. We probably sell a dozen or so every Christmas."

Richard transferred me to the service deli, where I spoke with Barbara. "We can prepare the goose for you, so that all you have to do is cook it. That's better than having us cook it because if you had to re-warm the meat, it would dry it out. You can give us a recipe if you want, or we have several of our own. Because of the high fat content, we like to marinate the goose overnight. Then we glaze it — orange-honey goes well with both goose and duck. Oven-ready goose is \$8.99 a pound, and we like to have at least 48 hours' notice."

Stumps Market in Point Loma (619-226-9575) carries frozen goose (eight to nine pounds, \$3.99 a pound). Corey told me that "it's a free-range goose from Stone Valley." Siesel's Old Fashioned Meats in Bay Park (619-275-1234) has them free-range and frozen (four to six pounds, \$3.69 a pound). Mark gave me this tip: "Make sure you buy it a couple of days ahead of time, so that it



*"I know the best ducks are from
Canada, so I'm expecting geese
from there are the most flavorful."*

has time to thaw in your fridge."

David at Whole Foods in La Jolla (858-642-6700) describes goose as "a little bit rich. If you've ever had duck, the taste is in that direction. It's all dark meat, and it tends to be a little bit fattier. But because it's so rich, you don't need quite as much.

A 10- to 12-pound goose could feed 10 to 12 adults, depending on what kind of eaters they are.

Our geese are all-natural, which means no hormones or antibiotics, 100 percent vegetarian feed, and free-range — or cage-free. They run 10 to 12 pounds and cost \$6.99 a pound."

Bristol Farms in La Jolla (858-558-4180) carries a range of sizes, all at \$4.99 a pound: 8–10 pound, 10–12 pound, and 12–14 pound. Keith, the store's meat-department manager, told me that his geese hailed from Canada. "I know the best ducks are from Canada, so I'm expecting geese from there are the most flavorful as well. Or if you're looking for something different in poultry, we have turducken. It's a boneless chicken stuffed into a boneless duck stuffed into a turkey, minus the wings and legs.

There are layers of stuffing between each. It comes oven-ready. The 15-pound turducken is \$129; give it five hours at 350 degrees. We also sell a four-pound breast of turducken for \$55.99."

Finally, I called chef Todd Atcheson of California Cuisine in Hillcrest (619-543-0790) for a little advice. "I would cook it like a duck. You start the process in a covered roasting pan with water a third of the way up the bird. That renders out a lot of the fat. How long depends on the size of the bird — about an hour at 325° will usually do the trick. Then you dry-roast the goose, the way you would a normal chicken or turkey."

As for stuffing, "When in doubt, pancetta or bacon are always good. Add bread crumbs or corn bread, onions, celery, sage, maybe thyme. For fruit, try dried cranberries or cherries. Be sure to put chicken stock in the stuffing — that will help to keep the bird moist from the inside."

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by Barbaraella

If you don't understand how a woman could both love her sister dearly and want to wring her neck at the same time, then you were probably an only child.

— Linda Sunshine

Jenny was right to enlist me as an accomplice. It would take two to convince Jane to set aside her guilt for an entire hour. Though neurosis is Jane's norm, Jenny had recognized that the current events in Jane's life were becoming unnervingly uncontrollable. Both Jenny and I pestered Jane daily until she agreed to join us for a drink one Wednesday afternoon. We weren't so foolish as to think that happy hour would be enough time for our eldest sister to actually relax, but a square of toilet paper in a public restroom doesn't look so small when it's the last one left.

On Wednesday, Jenny headed straight for my place after leaving her downtown office, and Jane came over as soon as she'd finished describing the efficacy of a new drug to a doctor at a hospital nearby. In my dark long-sleeved T-shirt and black pants, I felt underdressed as I walked down University Avenue beside my sharp-dressed sisters, with their heels, jackets, and accessories. We were halfway to our destination before a multitasking Jane ended the call on her Bluetooth and gave Jenny and me a proper greeting. Because this was Jane's night, we were quick to forgive the slight with only one

"That's not a glass," I said, "that's a punch bowl."

sarcastic "So sorry to interrupt you" before taking our hug and a kiss on both cheeks.

Once inside Baja Betty's, we were led to a high table by the bar. My sisters took a moment to study the menu while I appreciated the glittering gold ornaments hanging from the chandeliers. "What are you getting?" Jenny asked.

"Same as always — chicken mini tacos with no onions or cilantro," I answered.

"I guess I'll do the pota-to flautas," said borderline vegetarian Jane. Then, after a moment of silent contemplation, she added, "We should have called Heather." I wondered how she could be hungry when filled with all that guilt. She knew it would have been impossible for our absent sibling to meet us, that happy hour would be over before Heather could ever make it out of San Marcos in the middle of the week. Jenny purposely didn't tell her because she knew Heather would only lament missing out.

A waiter appeared to take our order — a strawber-

ry margarita for Jenny, a chi-chi for Jane, and for me, a signature shot that tasted like a Buttery Nipple but had a much more scandalous name (I'll give you a hint: it rhymes with "sock chucker"). The three of us stared in awe as Jane's drink, a piña colada with vodka in lieu of rum, was set on the table in front of her. "That's not a glass," I said, "that's a punch bowl." If she pushed the fruit aside, Jane's head would have fit easily within the rim. Eyeing Jane's drink with envy, Jenny said, "Are you going to eat those cherries?" Jane shrugged in response.

Once we'd consumed a few bites of food and had a chance to sip our ultra-sweet concoctions, we began to catch up. It was a rare delight to see Jane and Jenny outside of the context of my mother's house — as if we were three friends without the hierarchy of siblinghood; adults, individual and self-defined, not prey to the familial roles we'd fallen into as children.

"This has been a tough year for me," said Jane.

"This has been the best year of my life," said Jenny.

"Well, I did have a baby," said Jane. "That was cool." I shot Jane a look to convey my awareness that Jane's younger daughter is almost two. Jane smiled at her failed attempt. Jenny continued, "I mean, I got married, I moved in with Brad, I went to the Cook Islands —"

"You got laid off," Jane interjected.

Jenny's face fell. Jane allowed some big-sister schadenfreude to creep into the corners of her mouth. Suddenly, Jenny's features lifted and she said, "Wait a minute, I wasn't laid

off, I quit that job!" Jane tried to take a sip through one of two towering straws in her drink, but she was laughing too hard to siphon. Jenny, briefly traumatized but now relieved, if not a little exasperated, laughed along with her two older sisters. As our giggles tapered off, Jenny asked Jane, "Are you going to eat those cherries?" Jane said, "Probably not," but kept her glass close.

It's not that Jane had regressed to the torturous older sister we knew her to be, it's just how she is. Jane has always derived pleasure from torturing people...in a fun, light-hearted way. It's how she keeps herself (and others, though they may be loath to admit it) entertained. For example, on Thanksgiving, once Jane gleaned Heather was disappointed she hadn't been invited to join us at the step class we'd attended earlier in the week, Jane kept finding ways to bring it up, saying things like, "Hey, Barb, are you as sore as I am?" Each time, Heather would grumble, and Jane would laugh in response. Though Heather may have been genuinely upset, the rest of the family was amused at Jane's sadistic, and yet somehow adorable, behavior.

While Jane was still laughing over her "laid off" comment, Jenny and I exchanged a raised brow, a sigh, and a smile. Jane's skutchiness was a good thing — it meant she was allowing herself to unwind. Unfortunately, when the oldest sister unwinds, it's usually at the youngest sister's expense. Jane pushed her cocktail toward me. "Here, have some, I have to drive." She'd been sipping on it for an hour, but the level had only fallen by half an inch.

Jenny eyed the gargantuan beverage,

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paying particular attention to the two maraschino cherries suspended in the icy white liquid. “Are you going to eat those?” she asked. I shook my head and slid the glass toward her. “Why? Don’t you like them?”

“Not really,” I said. Jenny retrieved a cherry, brought it to her smile, and bit the fruit from the stem.

A moment later, while Jenny was mid-chew, Jane turned to her and, in a casual tone, said, “Now, let me tell you why I don’t eat those.”

Jenny’s jaw dropped and her tongue jutted out, as if to keep the remaining bits of cherry in her mouth as far from her esophagus as possible. Jane was rocking left to right from the force of her howls, tears cascading from her eyes. Jenny uttered a desperate, guttural “Why?” which sounded more like “Angh?”

Jane was gasping for breath between exhalations of mirth. When it looked as if Jenny might vomit for fear of the unknown “reason” not to eat the cherry she’d already begun digesting, Jane showed mercy. In a squeaky wheeze amid chortles and chuckles, Jane revealed, “There is no reason.”

Jenny finally closed her mouth. Jane, looking more pleased with herself than she had in weeks, broke into a fresh fit of laughter, so sincere and unrestrained, that Jenny turned to me and smiled in the knowledge that her plan had worked. ■

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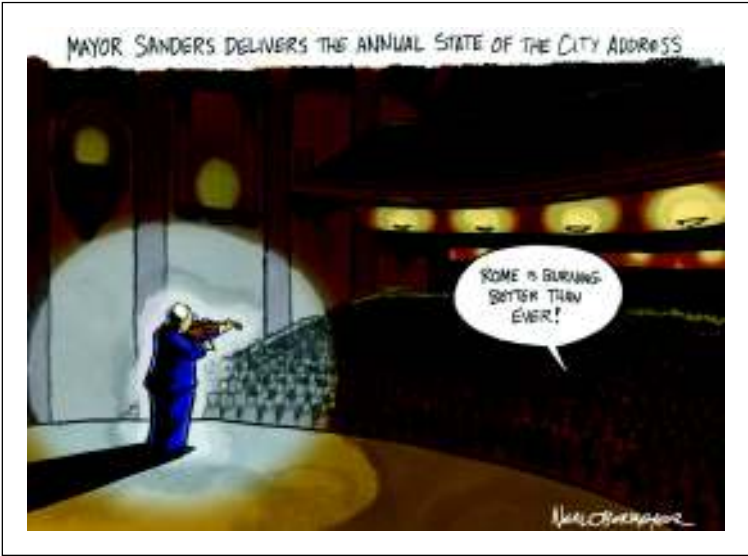
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SAN DIEGO WEEKLY
Reader

Would you pay \$750 for a bike with no brakes?

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

“Don’t stop pedaling,” he’d said, handing over the beautiful, brand-new cycle. “Don’t stop pedaling and you’ll be fine.”

When I ride under normal circumstances, I tend to go for speed, loving the feel of the wind against my body. Not today. Today I’m riding a \$750 fixed-gear bicycle, and I have to be careful because, unlike Boyer and his





The term “fixed gear” has become “synonymous with the word ‘hipster.’”

staff and the other few thousand people who ride fixies in San Diego, I’ve no idea what I’m doing.

“There’s a connection between you, the bike, and the ground that you don’t get when you have a freewheel or when your bike is coasting,” Boyer tells me, as we talk, pre-ride. “Most people sit on a [fixed-gear] bike for the very first time, and they’ll feel that connection, because your body controls the stopping, the forward motion, the turning, the everything. It’s all connected to you. It’s something you don’t get on any [other] kind of bike.”

We sit at the back of his shop, tucked away in his office area, behind a row of exquisite vintage road bikes. The office is made up of a desk, two chairs, and a Mac desktop; the rest of the room is bikes. It's warming up outside, but the store is refreshingly cool.

Velo Culture, a two-room storefront in Bird Rock, started as Boyer's eBay business and soon evolved into a retail endeavor. Boyer and his staff sell only steel, mostly vintage, and collector's-item cycles and frames, mainly fixed gears and road cycles with the occasional townie commuter thrown in. They'll build you a bike from scratch or, for those on a budget or with a need for instant

gratification, a factory-complete. The store has just reached its second year of business at the time of this writing and has not yet moved to its new South Park location. After the move, the shop name will be changed to "Velo Cult."

Boyer is soft-spoken, clad in a black T-shirt bearing the words "E. Vill Doers" (more on that later) in neon yellow, and sports an impressive handlebar mustache. He's been biking for nearly his whole life, hitting the track at the age of 9 in Los Angeles, racing in junior events as a member of the younger set. An injury he sustained at 15 curbed his track-racing career, and shortly thereafter, he turned to street riding and mountain biking. Overall, he says, he's been racing all types of bikes for 17 years.

The differences between a fixed gear and a "regular" bike, construction-wise, are subtle, save for one major component: A fixed gear

doesn't have a "free-wheeling" back wheel, as Boyer mentioned, meaning the back wheel does not spin independently of the crankset — crank arm, chain ring, and pedals — the way it normally would. When one moves, so does the other, which makes my job as the rider a bit more complicated: I cannot, as with a standard ten-speed, stop pedaling. The chain runs

mechanics a combined driving force that propels us on our path.

The gravel spits under my tires, and I'm off, heading for the road.

Everything is peachy until I, concentrating on the odd sensation of feeling almost *connected* to my back wheel, attempt to coast, forgetting Boyer's cardinal rule of "keep pedaling." My legs flop, propelled by the

tom bike-builder and mechanic, tells me. We're standing around the corner from the Adams Avenue bike shop where Ditta works part-time, relaxing in the partial shade from a nearby building. Ten years ago is when bicycle messengers began picking up velodrome track bikes at yard sales and using them to make their runs. Velodromes, I learn, are banked tracks on which cyclists race in timed events.

"Basically," he says, "some of the old-school messengers that were track racers would start riding them on the street for training as well as because it was a bike that they had access to that was cheap. [Riding a fixed gear] was hard to do, not everybody was doing it, and it was a challenge, riding in traffic in New York."

Ditta, a cycle-brand cap covering his red hair, squints into the sunlight that has temporarily invaded our corner. A former messenger him-

self, he used to do deliveries on the streets of both New York and San Francisco, before moving to San Diego with his wife, young son, and custom-bicycle-building business, Ditta Cycles.

"The better you get at [riding], the faster you can do deliveries, and you just fly, you sprint all day, sprint, sprint, sprint," he continues, shaking his arm for emphasis. "Fixed gears slowly started creeping up and creeping up and creeping up, and from there, it went to the Messenger World Championships."

The Messenger World Championships began in Berlin in 1993, around the same time Ditta started taking his fixed gear to the streets. The championships take place on a closed course, are hosted at a different location each year, and consist of several different events designed to "test a rider's physical and mental limits," according to the official 2008 website. While the

"It turned out to be that riding fixies was a lot of fun."

from a single cog on the back wheel to the chain ring on the crankset; this makes all the mechanical parts on the bike one solid, moving unit. As long as the cranks turn, so will I.

As soon as I take off and begin the initial pedal, I can feel it, the connection Boyer spoke of. The bike pushes forward with an easy grace, my legs and the bike's

ever-pumping crankset, and I zigzag dangerously before recovering.

This, I think, as the road stops wobbling in my vision, is *hard*.

Despite what my flailing efforts may suggest, many have mastered the art and have taken to the street.

It all started — this fixed-gear business, that is — around ten years ago, as Richie Ditta, cus-

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championships are not limited to fixed-gear riders, fixie riders have historically been heavily involved, according to Ditta, who earned himself a second-place title in the 1999 Skid Competition.

Ditta continues.

onships [have been] riding fixed gears since then. That was part of the catalyst as far as getting the subculture into the mainstream.”

“It just turned out to be that [riding fixies] was a lot of fun,” Boyer told me, during our talk at

“This is awesome. You’re in total control of the bike.”

“Some were just beginners, some had been riding for a couple of years,” he says of the people who participated in the early years. “Half the riders in the Messenger World Champi-

Velo Culture. “The trend just spread across the whole world. It’s in every major city in the world now.”

Ditta and Boyer are right, I’ve realized; fixed gears are everywhere



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now. Sit outside a café long enough, and you're bound to see a stream of them pass by, or walk around town with half an eye out. There they'll be, colorful and gleaming, locked to signs and lamp-posts outside coffee shops, restaurants, and bars.

They're not cheap, these fixed gears. At the Adams Avenue bike shop, complete bikes fresh off the factory line start at \$550 for a KHS Flight 100 and go up to \$900 for a Specialized Langster. Bikes made "à la carte" (put together piece by piece) range from \$800 all the way up to \$3500 for a custom job with a Colnago Pista frame and fork set.

Still, they're all over the street, riders streaking past at astonishing speeds, messenger bags slung over their shoulders, spoke cards flashing. Enthusiasts are crazy about them.

For Travis Clifford, it

took one ride on his friend's older brother's bike to get him hooked.

"We all started [asking], 'Dude, what is that?' " he says. "The first time I got on it I said, 'I'm not so sure about this,' because it's got no brakes [and it's] kind of scary. So I rode it around and almost crashed after, like, two minutes of riding, but as soon as I got on it I [thought], 'This is awesome. You're in total control of the bike.' After riding it around for a few minutes I said, 'I have to get one.' "

We meet at the Starbucks in Ocean Beach, sitting inside, behind a clot of map-toting Asian tourists. Clifford has wheeled his bike in. He leans it against the wall, looking over at it every now and again. It's a 2008 Bianchi Pista, a factory bike Clifford has customized.

He bought it at the beginning of last October, he says, and has rid-

den it around Ocean Beach ever since he moved in May. An Oakland transplant, he works as a chef in both Point Loma and downtown.

"I've wanted to be the top chef since I was, like, ten years old, so I don't really take breaks in life," he says. "I'm driven toward being the best at what I do, and I really

Velodrome, located in the Balboa Park Recreation Area on Morley Field Drive, is 333.3 meters in oval circumference. Tan, an avid road biker, signed up and got the bug.

She sits outside the Cream café near her University Heights home.

"It was really scary," she says. She smiles at the memory, shaking back

"It matches my personality. It doesn't allow me to coast."

don't have much time to coast, so it kind of matches my personality, the fixed gear. It doesn't allow me to coast. I have to keep pushing, and I'm in complete control of where I go."

Vicki Tan started riding after hitting the San Diego Velodrome for a track-racing class. The

her shaggy black hair. "I'm used to riding a road bike, which has gears and brakes, and track bikes have no gears and no brakes. The thing with riding on the track is you're riding really close to everyone and faster than on the road. So it was exciting, but it was kind of scary."

The class prompted Tan to purchase her own fixed gear, which she is in the process of doing, part by part. She has the frame, a purple-and-white 3Rensho, and will have her mechanically inclined friends help her install components she's ordered from Velo Culture. Tan rides her road bike everywhere except to her job in Chula Vista, where she works as a clinical researcher.

I ask what it's like being a female on a fixed gear, because it seems they're less common around San Diego than male riders.

"[Women are] definitely well received, because I know that every single guy that rides fixed wants — say they have an existing girlfriend — they want [her] to ride fixed too," Tan explains. "So in terms of the community, they're totally nice and...just me building up my track bike right now, they're being really helpful about parts advice and helping me build it up. So it's

good. There are girls out there, and they all try to talk to each other and stuff."

There are, I learn, people in San Diego who ride for work, not just for play. Until I am introduced to John Beals, I was not aware that San Diego has an active force of bicycle messengers. He quickly sets the record straight.

Beals meets me outside Cream, still wearing his brown uniform shirt. He arrives on his bicycle, a red custom-made Australian model he bought from a friend in San Francisco; the bike, he was told, was used by a gold medalist from the Australian national team.

"I get paid to ride my bike all day," he tells me, grinning his wide grin. "I don't know if life could be better. I'm pretty stoked on the job. It's a hard one to get right now, since it's so popular to do. That's the only thing that's keeping me in San Diego, is that I like the messenger job. It's just so hard to get. Any

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For Stan-O Guerrero, fixed-gear riding is mostly about speed and agility. He started riding a fixed gear at the same point Ditta did, making the transition from a broken, non-shifting road bike. Now he rides a jet-black Leader LD, a nice, thick-framed cycle he chains to a nearby signpost.

"The switch [to a fixed gear] was fun," he says, over a plate of rolled tacos at Rancho's restaurant in North Park.

It's warm and the sun is out, cutting through the potted plants that line the restaurant's patio.

"It was different, more exciting, more exhilarating," Guerrero elaborates. "[Riding] a fixed gear, riding with no brakes, the whole being one with the bike...it's a

lot better, you're more in tune with what's going on."

Guerrero wears cut-offs that reveal a tattoo of a bicycle and the words "share the road" on his calf. In addition to riding a fixed gear on the street, he tells me he has also raced mountain bikes for the United States national team, winning

the World Cup in 1993 for junior downhill. The following year, he took the title of Continental Champion for North, South, and Central America in the same event.

For now, though, Guerrero says he puts most of his competitive energy into the alley-cat races, contests riders put

on all over town. For an alley cat, participants convene at a predetermined time and location and, at the start of the race, receive a list of checkpoints they must hit in order to qualify to win. Sometimes they have to answer questions, usually about the characteristics of each spot, the color of a door, the num-

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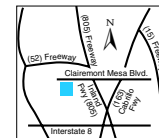
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ber of windows on a building, etc. First one to make it back with all the checkpoints hit and questions answered correctly takes the prize.

Group rides take place all over town. Cyclists get together and ride to various locations, looping the city en masse, just for the love and fun of it. There are a bunch of bike crews in the city, the Cretins, Nutturbuckets, and Cutters, to name a few, who organize the rides. I went to one, the Bike Prom,

before my bicycle — a cheapo ten-speed, nothing fancy — was stolen, riding down Park Boulevard to meet my compatriots at the fountain in Balboa Park. Tons of cyclists turned out on that chilly night, some in costumes — dresses, suits, ripped-up gowns, and vintage zoots — others in plain clothes, circling the fountain until the lead riders spilled out into the street, into the night. There was something electrifying about it, about riding in a large

group of people, everyone hopped up on adrenaline, pumped just to ride. In the blinking glow of safety lights, I saw riders grin at each other. They whooped and cheered as onlookers waved at our parade. The mass of moving bikes made a whirring noise like ceaseless crickets.

There are also a few rides that are fixed gear only. I don't attempt any of these, as they're often fast and on the longer side for a novice like me, ranging from 5 to 25

miles.

Boyer hosts the Velo Cult ride, which starts from his shop.

"We just gather, have a fixed-gear ride, come back to the shop, and have a party," Boyer says. "It's about the bike, it's about riding more than anything else."

There is also the E. Vill Doers ride, which is put on by a group of boutique owners from the East Village who, in addition to having common business interests, love to ride fixed gears.

Originally formed by the men's clothing shops Unsteady, Five and a Dime, and Blends, others from both inside and outside the East Village have since joined the group.

Aside from E. Vill Doers and his own, Boyer himself doesn't do many group rides; he works too much, he says.

"My employees will do pretty much all of the non-spandex rides," he says with a laugh. "You know what I mean, the Saturday-morning racer

types, they'll get in a big group wearing spandex and go for a ride for 100 miles. It's mostly the nighttime, fun, social rides that we do."

John Beals says he used to host a group ride as well but quit after it got to be, as he says, "too much of a fashion show."

"When I first started doing it, it was fun, we'd do long, fast rides," he says. "Then, over time, it turned into 'Let's just hang out in the parking lot and do skids and wheelies and barspins,' all

RESEARCH STUDIES



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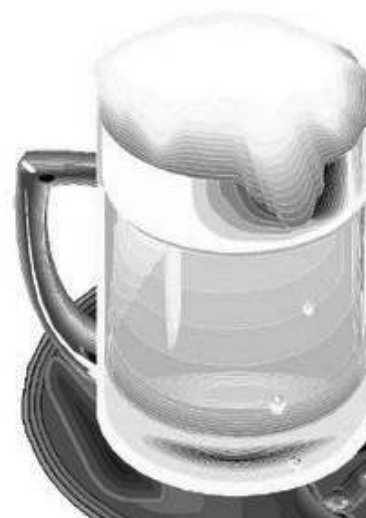
Attn: Heavy Drinkers

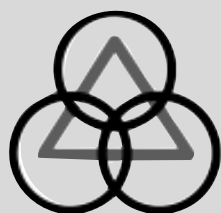
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that fun stuff. I like doing wheelies, but I'd rather just ride and go somewhere and get there."

Clifford prefers to ride on his own or with a small group of friends.

"I just like riding around flatland, cruising around, having a good time," he says. "I guess if that makes me chicken, that's fine, I'm okay with that. But I'm not into the hills as much as the other guys are, which also is another factor that deters me from going on some of these group rides. A lot of the time, they want to bomb Sixth [Avenue] or do something fun like that, which is totally cool, but I don't feel right in

the group because I can't do those hills."

The biggest of the group rides is Critical Mass, a monthly worldwide event with the goal of creating awareness of cyclists on the road — in addition to having a good time riding.

"Everybody's there," Guerrero says, "showing that people on bikes can get together and accomplish something, the movement that is Critical Mass."

He tells me he plans to take his two-year-old daughter with him for the next one, saying she's old enough now to appreciate it.

"It gets to a certain

point when you can stop traffic [and] make the point that we are traffic as well," he says.

Ditta rode his first San Diego Critical Mass in July; he's not a religious Critical Mass rider but will, he says, participate here. He's ridden in 20 Critical Masses all over the world.

"This last Critical Mass, I was saying, 'Thank you for waiting!' " he says. "I was just shouting at the top of my lungs and waving at people, because if I'm going to be somewhat of an ambassador [who says], 'Hey, look, we're on the street, we're riding our bikes,' that's part of the community for me. I'm going to be a representative of the cycling community; I'm going to wave, say, 'Thank you.'"

RESEARCH STUDIES

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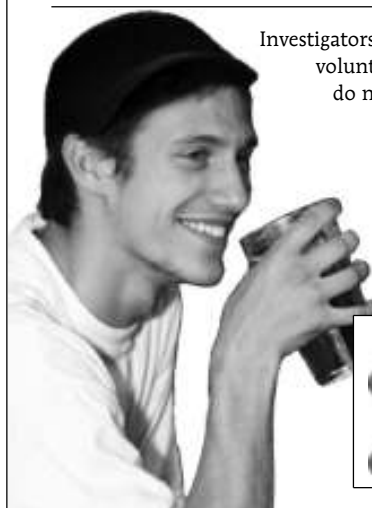
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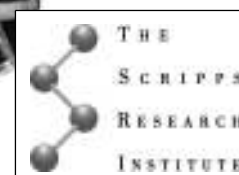
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What I want to do now for the cycling community is for everybody to start tightening up. If this is a group ride, let's ride as a group."

Another hub of bicycle activity is the Velodrome in Balboa Park. Every Tuesday night from six in the evening until nine-something — free to the public — the Velodrome hosts different types of races — usually time trials, keirins (a Japanese-style race), chariot races, and match sprints.

I pick a cool day to go, one that suggests summer is coming to a close. The sun has fallen below the trees, and the stadium lights bathe the track in yellow-orange. Competitors clad in spandex suits that bear the names of companies and schools congregate in the infield, a section of grass in the middle of the track, stretching and talking. Sleek, colorful bikes hang on what look like tall metal chin-up bars, swaying gently.

In the bleachers, a mixed crowd has arrived. Families set up coolers alongside bearded kids drinking 40-ounce beers. Some, obviously cyclists themselves, have come with their bikes to watch, while others drive in to catch the races. Beyond the chain-link fence that lines the Velodrome, spectators sit in groups and observe the action from their bikes.

"You'll see the spectrum right there," says Ditta, when we discuss the Velodrome scene. "You've got the racers, the guys on the track doing what track bikes do, what they're supposed to do, and then you've got the subculture on the outside, usually hanging out and doing their thing and socializ-

ing. And then there are the spectators, who are kind of in the middle, who can be on either side of the track. I've raced on the track, and I've hung out on the other side of the track, so I've been on

both sides of it."

The racers queue up for their time trials, leaning against the rail that lines the track before beginning to pedal off. They ride as a pack, each competitor breaking

away for a rapid-fire lap around the track, one by one. The only female rider in the group, a ponytailed woman riding a bubble-gum-pink bike, is first. The starting bell dings and she pulls away,

hunkering down like a jockey as she pedals like mad, impossibly fast.

The true excitement starts when everyone begins to race each other. They're put in groups of two based on their times

from their solo lap, starting from the rails once more. This is when the rides get close, competitors nose and nose, rising out of their saddles as they try to pull forward. In the final seconds, the

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lagging rider can jet forward in a sudden burst of speed, something that prompts cheers and groans from the crowd. It's a strategy, one I only partially understand. By remaining behind and "drafting" — that is, riding in the disturbed air behind the leaders — one can actually gain ground and push ahead. Two riders jockeying for position, neither wanting to be in front, can halt a race in a "track stand," where both competitors stop their bikes and bal-

ance them, both feet on the pedals, for minutes at a time.

The competition goes on for hours until, finally, the night concludes with a group "chariot" race. Buddies hold racers' bikes up by the seat until the starting gun — a real starting gun — goes off and everybody charges ahead. It's nearing ten when it's all over and families and groups of friends reconvene, racers walking off with their bikes over their shoulders.

Outside the fence, the cyclists gathered prepare to disperse. A police truck sits parked on the dirt path, its driver a racer himself, visiting in a purely off-duty capacity to catch up on the action. He chats with the other cyclists from the driver's seat, watching as they pedal off into the darkness. I follow on foot, heading home.

As I near the corner of Park Boulevard and University, I notice that the candles at the site where Atip Ouypron was

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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.



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killed are still lit, glowing against the backdrop of flowers there. Ouypron was on his way home from work on July 18, riding his fixed gear, when he was struck by an SUV and suffered head trauma. He died the following day. I remember when it happened. I remember driving past his "ghost bike," the unused cycle painted white that mourners chain at the location where a rider has been killed, a few nights after he died. I'd heard about it late but can't remember from whom, only that it reminded me of how, back home in Brooklyn, a local rider was struck in a similar manner. Out in the street on that hot New York morning, I saw the police cars and telltale blue tarp in the middle of the street, blood already pooling, and I felt a chill.

The night of Ouypron's death, cyclists crowded his ghost bike, leaning their bikes against the wall of the adjacent condo complex, surrounding the site with its adorned bouquets and artwork glowing in candlelight. Moved, I slowed my car and watched the crouched figures as they shared their grief.

Tan, who was a friend of Ouypron's, attended the funeral, a Buddhist ceremony, and the fundraiser at the San Diego Sports Club that was organized by members of the cycling community. She was also at the hospital when Ouypron was taken off life support.

"At the end of it, I kind of felt like, wow, that was a lot," she says. "Because they did memorials and fundraisers, and being at the hospital and all this stuff for, like, three weeks. But I can understand, every-

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.

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- Using insulin alone or insulin in combination with oral anti-diabetic medications
- A non-smoker
- Women must be post-menopausal

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Profil

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one wanted to do something.”

“[There are a] lot of bad rumors going on about [Ouypron’s death],” Boyer, who reports that Ouypron was one of his customers, says. “That he crashed because he had a fixed gear, crashed because he had no brakes, crashed because he was drunk, which were all false. All false.”

A lot of assumptions about fixed-gear riders — and the community itself — are false, I learn. As fixed-gear riding gains popularity, so do the stereotypes associated with it. Clifford has noticed that many people think that fixed-gear riders are “all assholes” who blatantly disregard traffic laws, something he says is just not true.

“There’s a lot of guys

out there that don’t obey all the rules of the road, but that is not the majority of the people [who ride],” he says. “When we go on these group rides, everybody makes sure to be safe, so everybody tries to obey the rules. It would really be foolish to blame fixed-gear riders for all the problems on the road, just because there’s so many more cars that are causing problems on a daily basis that disrespect the rules that bicycle riders have.”

The term “fixed gear” has become, as Tan tells me, somewhat “synonymous with the word ‘hipster.’ ”

“[That they] smoke cigarettes, wear tight pants, [have] no respect for the laws of the road I would say [are the stereotypes],” Guerrero says, laughing. “And [that

they] drink a lot of beer. Lots of alcohol. An urban rebel that’s out there to show you their style, to be different, [to] have their own personality.”

Jenny Stanley, who I met a few months ago while I was trying to get my horrid old road bike fixed, tells me she feels like fixed-gear riding has gotten “really trendy.”

Stanley says she learned to work on cycles while living in Olympia, Washington, where she hung out at a community shop that was part of the Emma Goldman Youth and Homeless Outreach Program, an organization that focuses on helping street-bound teenagers. After moving to San Diego, Stanley started the Bike Kitchen — now known as Bikes Del Pueblo: A Bike Kitchen — a volun-

RESEARCH STUDIES



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teer-based bicycle cooperative that builds and repairs all types of bikes from donated parts for anyone who is interested.

"There are people that are really into bikes and love bikes and work on bikes and want to support and create a bike culture that is cognizant of bike safety and that want to see more bikes on the road," she says. "And then there's a whole other bracket of [the] community of fixed-gear bike riders who aren't active in the community, that don't commute with their bike[s] but go on bike rides with a fixed-gear bike [but], outside of that, aren't riding their bike[s]."

Ditta calls these people "fashionistas" and explains how some treat their fixed gears merely as flashy acces-

sories for a "hip" image, rather than as modes of transportation.

"They're part of the community, but not in the same way as somebody who works at a bike shop or somebody who commutes to work every day or commutes to school," he says. "There are people who just want the bike because of the name or because of the color or because of what kind of association it has with a part or a place. It becomes, like, 'Oh well, check out my label.' They're just doing it because it's kind of trendy [or] maybe because it's a status thing."

But, truth is, part of the fun of having a fixed gear is being able to trick it out, I'm told, put bright rims on it and ride in style. "I'm guilty of

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being a color-coordinating bike dork,” Ditta admits with a smile.

Clifford, too, has given his bike some flair, outfitting it with yellow-rimmed wheels and handlebar tape. “It’s also kind of an artistic expression thing too,” he says. “A lot of guys do old-school, BMX-inspired things with bright neon colors and all that, which are really cool. A lot of the old-school track bikes, classic track bike frames

from the ’70s, [are] just straight black with straight black wheels [and] are really classy too. As long as you do it right, it looks good.”

“If you’ve got the bling, that’s cool,” concludes Ditta. “But if you’ve got the riding skills to back the bling up, that’s a lot cooler.”

Speaking of riding skills, I’m still struggling on the brown bike. I skitter into a hairy turn, trying to remember to keep

pedaling, keep pedaling. Thankfully, the bike I’m riding is outfitted with brakes, and I use them, slowly, slowly coming to a stop.

As I pedal back to the shop, I begin to get it. Something clicks in my head and my legs and I’m riding, no longer thinking about what to do. Smiling, I weave back and forth, experimenting with the feel of it, that ever-present connection. I glide, sailing onto the gravel path of Velo Culture’s back entrance, braking, slowing, and dismounting.

I wheel the bike into the shop, smelling the comforting rubber-and-grease odor I’ve always loved, and hand it back to Boyer, who asks how it went.

“Great,” I report. “That was pretty awesome.” ■

— Rosa Jurjevics

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Gotta Keep Movin’

I sit here in San Diego International Airport’s baggage claim area anxiously awaiting my father’s arrival from New Jersey for my birthday celebration. He plans to stay in Ocean Beach with me only three days because, in his words, he’s “gotta keep movin’.”

I am neurotic about being late so I’m an hour and a half early — and I am nervous.



Patricia Alfano and her father

Author: **Patricia Alfano**
Neighborhood: **Ocean Beach**
Age: **over 40**
Occupation: **administrative coordinator**

Editor’s note: This is the winner of November’s \$250 second-place prize awarded 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.

The last time I saw my father was at my mother’s funeral almost two years ago. He had taken care of her for seven years, refusing to accept any help from the family. The ordeal had taken its toll, and his appearance was shockingly frail. I am wondering what he will look like now. Will he be as gaunt? Or will he be worse?

The wait is tedious.
My father is 91. The time we have left together is growing short. I’m hoping to convince him to come and live with me in O.B. but have no illusions that his stubborn, old Italian ways will allow him to even listen to my proposal. I see a crowd descending the esca-

tor. His plane must have landed. My heart is beating so fast I can feel it in my head. And my feet.

I look up and catch sight of him gliding downward on the escalator like some exotic bird searching for a perch. Standing tall, his chin is raised and his eyes scan the area for me.

He looks good, I think to myself. He put on weight. The frailness is gone, and his body more closely

resembles the one I remember from my youth — strong, straight, and muscular. He’s dressed impeccably and wears a newsboy cap which makes him look like the character Uncle Junior from the HBO series *The Sopranos*. I cry and laugh at the same time.

I leap from my chair and dart in his direction. Waving my arms wildly, I jump up and down to get his attention. As if in some

slow-motion movie, we run toward each other. He hugs me so hard I feel my ribs bend.

“Where we gonna go first?” he asks. “You know, I gotta keep movin’.”

“We’ll drive to my apartment. Then we’ll take a walk. I want to show you Ocean Beach,” I answer.
After a short time in my cramped studio we leave the apartment and head toward Collier Park, wend-

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ing our way to Voltaire Street. I'm holding his hand, much like I did as a child. We look at each other while the surreal landscape opens before us. There is so much to say and so much not to say. We talk about my mother. He cries. Sixty-four years is a long time to be with someone and then lose her.

We talk about food and argue about whether the East or West Coast makes better spaghetti sauce. We talk about why I gave up on becoming a ballerina, lawyer, artist, and psychologist. The chatter is punctuated with periods of silence and an occasional hand squeeze.

We walk toward the beach. The discussion has now shifted to politics. He is as much to the right as I am to the left. We debate. I get upset. He laughs and gives me one of his I'm-just-jerking-your-chain looks. Easily we slip back in time. He is my hero. I am his spoiled *principessa*.

I want to impress him with my town and my life. On Voltaire I point a finger in a southerly direction and say, "Over there is O.B. People's Co-op, where I shop." I'm feeling extremely self-righteous as I preach about the merits of organic food cooperatives. "I refuse to give my money to the major grocery-store chains and greedy corporations," I boast.

"What's wrong with corporations?" he asks.

I launch into my corporations-are-killing-America speech and my military-industrial-complex-must-be-stopped lecture.

He listens intently.

"Why don't you run for president?" he responds. "You would make a good president."

My father sees no limits when it comes to what he thinks I could do.

We turn left on Sunset Cliffs Boulevard and walk past all the churches.

"Is there a Catholic

church here?" he wants to know.

"Yes," I answer, "but we're going to Little Italy on Sunday so you can hear the Mass in Italian."

"Italian!" He stops walking and glares at me.

His hands are slicing at the air. "I'm an American! I don't want to speak Italian!"

"But Italian is your native tongue and our heritage..."

He cuts me off. "I'm

an American! I fought for this country. *This* is my country."

Here we go, I thought — first blunder. "We're Italian-Americans," I rebut.

"No!" His face is red

now. "Only Americans!"

We reach Newport Avenue, and I let the Italian Mass discussion drop and start a new topic about education.

"I was a wise guy," he says while peering in the

window at the Portugalia restaurant. "The Army — the Army straightened me out and gave me an education." He goes on, "Had to drop out in seventh grade to go pick beans in Jersey to feed the family."

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He stops walking and lowers his head. "I have regrets," he confesses, in a raspy voice.

I think about his life and how difficult it all must have been living through the Great Depression, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam — serving his country and struggling with the world, his family...himself.

We stop at Willie's

shoeshine stand, and I introduce him to Willie. Decorated with American and POW flags and all sorts of Marine memorabilia, the stand is a tribute to Willie's unwavering patriotism. Willie is holding poppies to sell for the veterans in one hand while reaching out for a handshake with the other.

"Marines," Willie says grabbing my father's

hand.

"Army," my father responds.

We chat until hunger beckons us to find a place for lunch. We backtrack to Sunset Cliffs and decide to eat at Pepe's. Before we turn the corner my father pauses and gestures in the direction of the shoeshine stand. "He wears the emblem," he comments. "It's on his hat," he adds.

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"The Marines...you know, they're the really tough guys," he says softly.

From Sunset Cliffs, we make a jog to the right, then to the left. We walk through a parking lot and enter Pepe's through the back entrance, slamming the screen door to the kitchen. Mouth-watering aromas, gastronomic delights, and the owners greet us as we make our way to the seating area. I love this place. It's like home — like family. It's real Italians cooking real Italian food.

I introduce my father. We eat. We argue again about which coast makes the best spaghetti sauce. We eat so much we can't breathe.

"I gotta get movin'." The 'panzo' is full," he says, meaning to say *pancio* (the Italian word for stomach).

Back on Newport we stop in Dreamgirls, where I introduce him to Bridget. Standing a little straighter, he throws back his shoulders, sticking out his chest. I can tell he likes Bridget. After we leave, he mentions at least three times in about as many minutes how Bridget is a good-looking woman.

It's exhausting trying to keep up with him as we head back to the apartment. Two of my steps equal one of his. We turn on to Santa Monica Avenue. I continue pointing out places of interest where I spend my time: the post office, the library, McAllister's CPA where I get my taxes done, and the little place that used to be a restaurant that hired Brazilian musicians to play on sleepy Sunday afternoons.

Approaching Ebers Street, we begin talking about sports. I let him know that I'm now a big Chargers fan. He says the Phillies are going to win the pennant. He becomes animated as he talks about the players. Then we discuss the Philadelphia Eagles and the time, during the holiday season,

disappointed Eagles fans threw things from the stands and booed Santa Claus. Santa had to make a mad dash for the exit, leaving his sack of goodies behind and barely escaping with his life. I com-

ment that Santa must not have been from Philly but from someplace where the jolly one isn't a target for attack by angry football fans. We laugh so hard we have to stop and wipe the tears from our eyes.

We trudge up the hill passing Mozana's bead store before making it home. I can't wait to sit down. My legs ache. We have coffee, and I begin presenting my case about how his life could be so

much easier if he were closer to me in distance. I propose my plan for him to stay with me. He puts his hand up in a motion to stop. I'm defeated before I even have a chance to get to the main argument.

I try the next best thing — to get him to extend his time and to stay with me longer.

"Why?" I ask. "Why not stay at least a week?" "Cause," he answers, "I gotta keep movin'." ■

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New virus the killer of a polar bear at the zoo

Are humans, other zoo animals in danger?

When a 12-year-old polar bear at the San Diego Zoo died of unknown causes a year ago last July, a team of investigators, led by Dr. Mark D. Schrenzel of the zoo's Center of Research for Endangered Species, was quickly called into the case.

A veterinary pathologist who has a degree in veterinary medicine and a Ph.D. in comparative pathology, Schrenzel heads the center's molecular diagnostics laboratory at the San Diego Wild Animal Park, where the DNA of a mysterious virus found in tissue samples of the dead polar bear was minutely analyzed using cloning and sequencing techniques available at only a few veterinary labs in the world.

What Schrenzel and his team discovered was big news to scientists: a little-understood variation of a herpes virus common in Grevy's zebras and other horse-related animals had somehow found its way into the polar bear and killed it. The so-called cross-species infection had ramifications far beyond the cloistered world of zoos; it indicated that such equine viruses might possibly have the potential to infect and kill human beings.

Schrenzel's findings were so significant that they were published in the October issue of the journal *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, published by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, the government's first line of defense against international contagions. In the paper, Schrenzel



Cross-species infection... might possibly have the potential to infect and kill human beings.

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outlined his research results, calling out the need for further investigation. During a recent telephone interview, he recounted the history leading up to his discovery and its potential long-term ramifications for public health:

Clinically the polar bear became ill and received veterinary care for, I think, about a week. But his illness, despite therapy, progressed. So he was humanely euthanized.

Every animal that dies in our collection, or any animal from the wild that dies within the parameters of the San Diego Zoo or Wild Animal Park, receives a complete postmortem evaluation to assess them for possible diseases they may have had or may

molecular biology and apply them in a creative way to discover agents that haven't been previously described. And this was a case of a virus that had not been recognized before here in San Diego.

It was totally — well, it had been previously described in other zoological institutes, but for us, it was the first time we had seen it in a non-equid. Part of our mission here is to ensure animal health and well-being by surveilling them for possible pathogens, and we had been studying the equids in our collection, which includes zebras, and onagers, kiangs, and Somali wild asses.

We've been surveying them for a number of years for different viruses, and we found several viruses that they

"Part of our mission here is to ensure animal health and well-being."

have been carrying as a way of — so we can know what's going on to protect animals in our collection and also to know what's going on in the adjacent wildlife.

We knew what type of lesions the polar bear had within a few days, and it had encephalitis that was suggestive of a viral infection. We started to add some ancillary diagnostic evaluations to see if we could determine which virus it was. So we tested it for a variety of different viruses, and we found that it was infected with a herpes virus, and that's how we discovered this virus.

Our laboratory is designed to use innovative techniques and research to discover new pathogens in animals, so we use basic principles in

carried and [that] were associated with mild disease. Subsequent to that, we had this disease in the polar bear which developed a fatal, or severe, encephalitis, and we were able to go back to all our database of different viral agents we'd found, and we could see that the polar bear virus was the same as a virus that had been detected in zebras years before.

That's the current belief, that it is indigenous to zebras. They can experience mild disease, but they do not typically experience severe disease, which is very characteristic of herpes viruses in general.

There were some zebras temporarily located near the polar bears, but there was a significant barrier between

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them — a 200-foot dry-land barrier. It's really not clear how that virus was transmitted to the polar bear. But the investigation suggests that — or what's really significant about the investigation is that the virus appears to be highly infective, because there are all kinds of precautions taken to protect animals that are in adja-

cent, or different, parts of the zoo.

So we really don't know exactly how it got there. It could have been from a mechanical vector, such as an insect. It could have been some type of windborne fomite that transmitted it to the polar bear. In both of those cases, the really compelling nature of the finding was that the virus

would be highly infectious and pathogenic, and that's what has been found in other zoological institutes as well.

This is the first case of a polar bear, or any type of bear, contracting this virus, and it is the second part of this investigation that is highly significant in that this virus, by affecting the polar bear, demonstrated that

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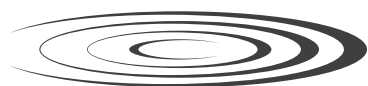
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it's capable of crossing wide taxonomic animal groups, which is not usually typical of herpes viruses. So it's a particularly important finding to be aware of.

Herpes viruses have been studied for many years. They're problematic in people but don't

from primates that are of great concern to human welfare, and those have been studied in great depth. Those viruses, however, do not jump across the wide taxonomic groups like this one did. So this is a very important virus to study, because it could lead to

"There are certain...viruses that come from primates that are of great concern to human welfare."

typically cause [severe problems] except in immunocompromised or immunosuppressed individuals. However, there are certain zoonotic herpes viruses that come

important information about how viruses become zoonotic, or transmissible between animals and humans.

There are other researchers in Japan and in

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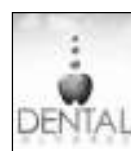
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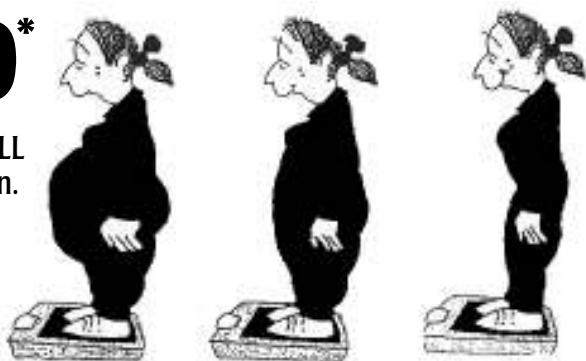
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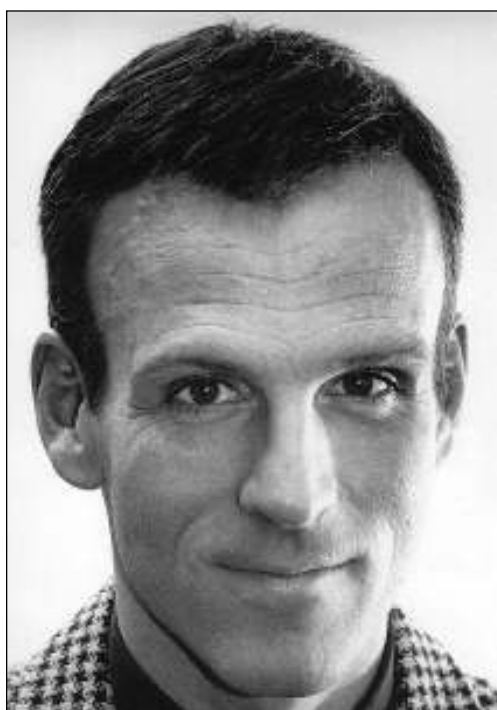
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the United States who are very interested in this virus, and they're studying its genetic composition and looking at potential ways that it can have such a promiscuous nature or ability to infect so many different types of animals. We here are not actively doing any more research other than to continue our surveillance and to provide samples of the virus to other investigators.

It's largely gone unnoticed, because this virus is very similar, or related to, a previously described virus in horses. The equine herpes virus 1 is a virus of domestic horses and is present in many horse populations throughout the world. This virus [the one we had here] kind of went under the radar for a number of years, because it's very similar to that virus.

It was presumed to be just a sub-strain of it, but now we know through more advanced genetic analysis that it is a separate species of virus. It may have — this is just speculation — but it may have arisen from the equine virus many years ago.

There are certain viruses that can infect almost any type of mammal — for example, the rabies virus. For a herpes virus, this is a unique type of virus, because it's now infected animals in three different orders, which is very unusual.

It's infected artiodactyls, which include host stock in ruminates — for example, giraffes and gazelles. It's infected equids like the zebras, as well as onager, and now it's infected an ursid, which is the polar bear. Those are three widely different taxonomic groups of animals. In all cases, infection has been naturally occurring. That led to a lot of people being interested in this virus as a potential threat

to many animals as well as people. So as some researchers have done — in Japan — [they] have done inoculation studies and found that the virus can also infect rodents, cats, dogs, goats, sheep,

and primates.

[Infection in humans] has never been documented, but that is a potential worry. And that is a very primary focus now of the National Institutes of Health,


developing programs and funding for looking at viruses that have the potential to become zoonotic or to infect people. And much of that research has been driven by the recent outbreaks

of SARS and avian influenza, the highly pathogenic influenza, both of which have been extremely costly and detrimental to human health. Now the NIH is really focused on *How*

can we find viruses that are on the verge, or have the potential, of becoming zoonotic? And this is one of the types of viruses that they would be very interested in. ■

— Matt Potter

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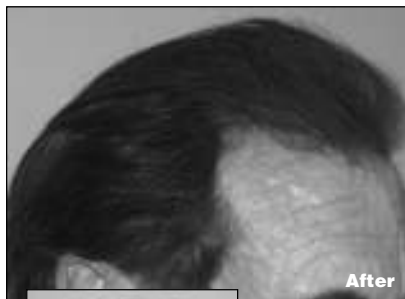
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LETTERS

continued from page 12

Del Mar Mesa Preserve consists of sensitive lands that have been set aside for protection as mitigation ("to make up for") resource damage in other nearby areas such as the Mira Mesa Marketplace development, which destroyed a large vernal pool habitat in violation of federal law, and the SR-56 project. Protected lands on Del Mar Mesa are managed by the City of San Diego, State of California, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The overriding mandate for the protection of these lands is the MSCP, or Multiple Species Conservation Program, to which all the

above-listed parties subscribe, in addition to other stakeholders, including the development industry and environmental and recreational-user constituencies. It is absolutely critical to the success of the MSCP, and to future growth in our region, that these highly sensitive MSCP lands be protected. Once damaged or destroyed, whether it be by one or a hundred willful or unwitting actions on the part of preserve users, these sensitive resources will not bounce back.

We support the recent administrative actions by the resource agencies to safeguard the Del Mar Mesa Preserve through a temporary administrative closure to recreational uses, at least until the publication and

adoption of the Resource Management Plan, which is currently under development and scheduled for review by the advisory committee in March 2009.

Geoffrey D. Smith
Chairperson
Los Peñasquitos
Canyon Preserve
Citizens Advisory
Committee

R.I.P. Ticketmaster

Finally some smart concert promoter has seen the light by dumping Ticketmaster and their excessive "convenience" fees ("Blurt," December 11). I refuse to pay Ticketmaster fees. Recently Pala Casino hosted a special \$12 concert by talk-show host Glenn Beck. Ticketmaster wanted a \$10 fee for each \$12 ticket. I instead

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drove to the casino box office, bought several \$12 tickets, had a nice buffet lunch, and dropped what would have gone into Ticketmaster's greedy pockets into a one-dollar slot instead and came out ahead of the game. Sorry, Ticketmaster, you lose!

Ken Harrison
Oceanside

A Dose Of Science

In response to "The Present Craziness" letter by Pat Palmer (December 4), I think a good dose of factual scientific information would be appropriate.

Pat said, "When we eat, we accept and integrate that information via our messenger RNA into our own DNA and are so modified. Genetic engineering tricks our cells into accepting new, unnatural information as if it were the familiar natural information."

This is not true in the slightest. During digestion, our bodies break down

whatever DNA is in our food into its individual building blocks, destroying whatever genetic information was present. It doesn't matter whether you think that DNA is "natural" or not, it all gets broken down the same way. And the part about messenger RNA is completely backwards. Messenger RNA carries the information from our own genes to a structure called the ribosome that translates the code into a sequence of amino acids for making a protein. It does *not* incorporate new genetic information into our DNA, least of all from our food!

The genetics of our food crops have been in constant change with and without human intervention. The kinds of changes occurring with genetic engineering are far less drastic than the majority of genetic changes that have been made through the history of these plants. Whole chromosomes have been duplicated, recom-

bined, mutated, inserted, and deleted. Adding one or two new genes pales in comparison.

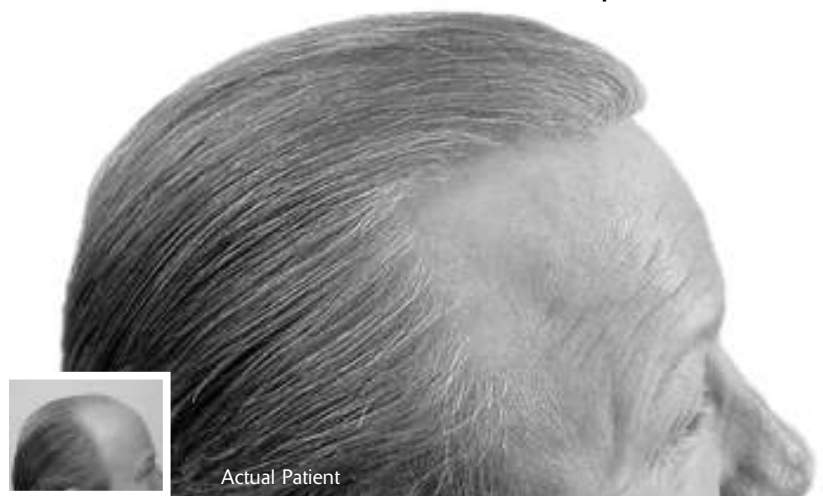
There are real issues and challenges facing our species as we figure out how to use genetic engineering to benefit us and the environment, but in order to properly address these questions, we need to educate ourselves about what is actually going on. Comparing genetic engineering to radiation poisoning is a form of hyperbole the likes of which I have never seen before. In the absence of knowledge about a new and complicated issue, people will often come up with ideas that speak of impending and widespread destruction rather than address those issues rationally. That's "the present craziness."

P.S. I'm a plant genetics grad student. Our website, biofortified.org, is a group blog that I write with another grad student and two professors, where we try to

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Karl Haro von Mogel
Madison, WI

Criminals' Hideout

Yes, downtown San Diego is getting ugly ("It's Getting Ugly Downtown," Cover Story, December 4). And so is all of San Diego, with the traffic, high cost of living, gangs, crime, corruption in city hall, and the immense flow of gangsters and undesirables. About the criminals, as long as they have the money, they can live here.

All sorts of seedy and bad elements are moving in (just check who owns the Coronado properties), since they have the lawyers and the dirty cash.

No better place for corrupt politicians from Mexico to hide than in the Cays or the Taco towers or the huge homes. Does anybody care about quality, or is it just the buck?

The quality of life certainly has gone down, and soon enough this lovely city will be no more. No more "America's finest city."

Charles Borsuk
via email

The Media Makes It Worse

If slanted, misleading, and superficial journalism is all you feel is necessary to consider an article for publication, then you have achieved your limited goals with the cover article in the December 4 edition ("It's Getting Ugly Downtown"). Please! There is too much at stake here and no room for error in reporting on the financial conditions of the downtown market and on people's financial lives. Of course, some of the truths I am about to reveal may not sell as many advertising spots, but they need to be told to balance out the limited and shoddy reporting of your article.

First, there are actually seven distinct neighborhoods downtown, and each supports a different quality, price point, and style of living. To use a broad brush and proclaim it is "getting

ugly downtown" does a disservice to the areas that are actually doing quite well and to the future of the projects under construction.

Take a look at the Marina District, for instance. While there has been a reduction in the overall price

per square foot in most buildings, the actual percentage is quite small compared to other areas of the county. And inventory is hardly overwhelming. The Pinnacle has 202 units with only 10 units on the market for sale. CityFront Terrace

has 320 units and only 14 on the market. Inventory needs to be about 10 percent of the building's total units to equal a three- to four-month supply. These particular examples (and there are many more like this) represent a far less hysterical picture

than your article. The number of units under construction and due to be delivered in the next six months will be all that is available until at least 2012. With the increasing interest from a broader national and international market and actual

purchases that are happening every day, despite the skeptics' interpretation, we may very well experience a shortage of units in the not-too-distant future which will drive prices back up to 2006 numbers and beyond.

In regards to the specific

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Before



After
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examples of individuals caught between their lenders, mortgage/HOA/taxes, and descending values, these stories are not unique nor are they the majority. Many owners bought with 20 percent or more down payment, many had good

credit, did not overextend themselves on the purchase, and will weather the storm until prices rebound on the upswing of the cycle. Yes, it has been an unusually deeper and longer cycle than anyone could have predicted, but real estate led

the country into this recession and real estate will lead it out.

It is disingenuous and sleazy tabloid journalism to smear the newsstands with an article that had so little research behind it and made absolutely no attempt

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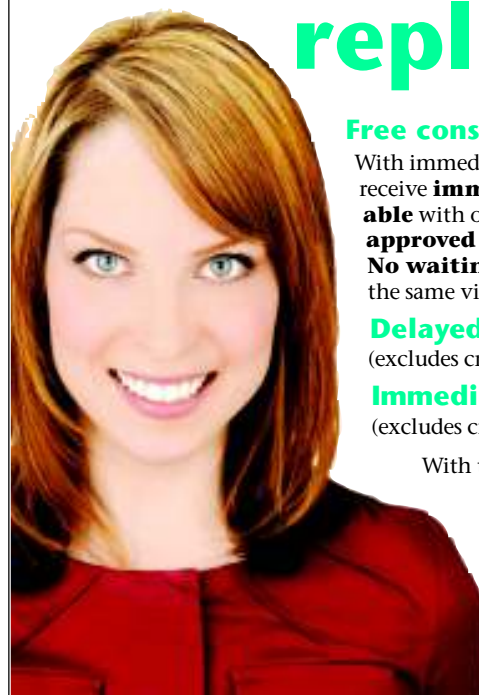
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Before

After

to present any information to balance the flimsy assertions it did present. I know the old media adage "If it bleeds, it leads" is enticing and sells papers, but honestly, when did we lose the passion for truth and non-biased investigative journalism? Isn't it possible that the current economic conditions of our country were exacerbated by the way the media has researched and reported the news? And if that is true, couldn't the media become part of the solution as we move forward rather than the continuous problem? It's time for the media to take responsibility and to take a stand to help highlight the good, not just the "ugly downtown."

Raye Scott
Downtown

Appalled, Simply Appalled

I picked up a copy of the *Reader* yesterday and read your "SDPD — Got an Attitude?" story ("City Lights," December 4). I am outraged by the behavior of the two police officers that handled Mr. Vegas's case. I perceive the police officers as callous, and it bothers me, and it should bother every other San Diegan in several different ways. Part of the police job is to help and to protect us. Better said, here's what the San Diego Police Department's mission is:

Vision: We are committed to working together, within the department, in a problem-solving partnership with communities, government agencies, private groups and individuals to fight crime and improve

the quality of life for the people of San Diego.

Values: The principles upon which we base our policing are:

Human Life — The protection of human life is our highest priority.

Ethics — We will demonstrate integrity and honor in all our actions.

Crime Fighting — Our efforts to address neighborhood problems will be based on a partnership with the community.

Valuing People — We will treat each other with dignity and respect, protecting the rights and well-being of all individuals.

Loyalty — We will be loyal to the community, to the department and its members, and to the standards of our profession.

Open Communication — We will listen to one another's opinions and concerns.

Fairness — Our decisions will be based on common sense and will be balanced, moral, legal, and without personal favoritism.

Diversity — We appreciate one another's differences and recognize that our unique skills, knowledge, abilities, and backgrounds bring strength and caring to our organization.

Mission: Our mission is to maintain peace and order by providing the highest-quality police services in response to community needs by apprehending criminals, developing partnerships, respecting individuals.

It seems that those two officers failed miserably upholding the values of the department: ethics, human





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Robert Kearney, MD

life, crime fighting, valuing people, open communication, fairness, and diversity. They didn't treat Mr. Vega with respect, they didn't apprehend the person who assaulted him, and one of them intimidated Mr. Vega — the victim — by threatening to put him in jail.

In addition, the first police officer passed judgment on Mr. Vega — according to your story — by saying, "What did you expect?" and "What do you want me to do about it?" and "Here's what I'm going to do: I am going to take you to jail, take him to jail, or you can forget about it, go to the hospital, and get it stitched up."

That officer lacks the morality, compassion, sensitivity, and humanity to wear the police uniform. It is hard to believe that he was not impartial, that he took the incident so lightly, especially when Vegas was in pain and bleeding. And

not even to offer to call an ambulance?

What is as appalling is that the officer that showed up at the hospital hours later to take the criminal report comes with a bias toward Critical Mass already by saying, "Yeah, I know Critical Mass, I know what Critical Mass is all about..." Why did you participate in Critical Mass?" And I said, "For the exercise. I have friends that ride, and they invited me." So he says, "Well, the next time you might want to do a little more research before you go out and just join up with a group of people. Critical Mass is an anarchist organization."

The police officer's job is not to judge or to ask why Vegas participated in the Critical Mass ride. In fact, that is none of his business. I might be wrong, but my understanding is that the police officer is there to write a report, to take the account of the victim, not

to judge or to make any comments about it.

I am disgusted by those two officers' behavior and biases but not surprised. I am afraid that the police department here in San Diego has not changed at all and definitely not since the publication of *Breaking Rank: A Top Cop's Exposé of the Dark Side of American Policing* by former assistant chief Norm Stamper and Kevin M. LaChapelle's *Please God, Don't Let My Badge Tarnish*.

The following assertion about policing made by Norm Stamper might help illustrate why such police misconduct still exists. In his book, Stamper writes, "Even today, policing serves the interests of politicians over 'the people,' landlords over tenants, merchants over consumers, whites over blacks, husbands over wives, management over labor, except when 'labor' is the police union."

Lastly, I just would like to remind the SDPD that

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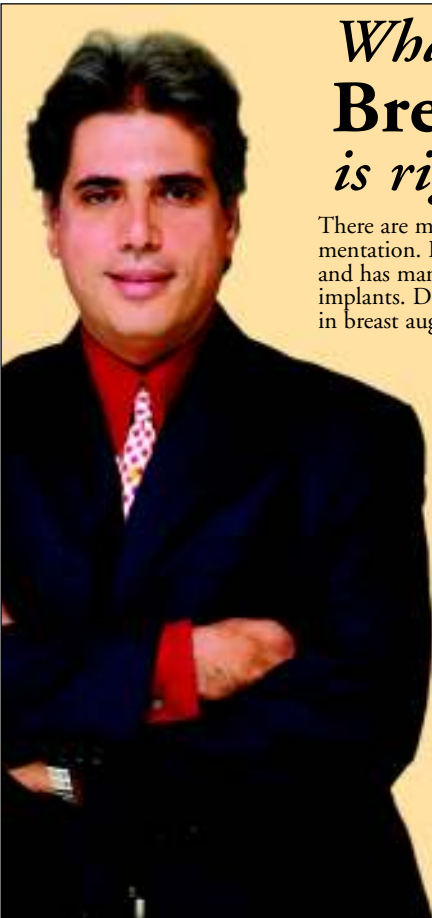
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Orgon
via email

Light Shed By Don

After reading "What We Would Have Asked Andrea" ("City Lights," December 4), I'd like to tip my hat to Don Bauder and his dogged pursuit of answers from San Diego's government officials, including independent budget analyst Andrea Tevlin. It's often tough for laypeople like me to figure out who to believe regarding the trouble at city hall — but when officials like Ms. Tevlin simply refuse to answer fair questions like Mr. Bauder's, well, that sheds a lot of light.

Shane Finneran
Ocean Beach

Disappearing Dole

Re Don Bauder's December 4 *Reader* article ("What We Would Have Asked Andrea").

Look, most government programs are gold-plated shovels with rope handles. San Diego is not alone in its incompetence, lack of transparency, and greed. For example, American taxpayers just shoveled out about half of the \$700 billion requested by Treasury and approved by Congress, but *nobody* knows where the money went. The dole required but got no accounting.

Roger Newell
College Area

Bell Rings True

Thanks for your article by Commander Bell (RET) ("Saved by Commander Bell," Feature Story, December 4). I read every word. It brought back memories of my time on the *Bainbridge* (CGN25) in the South China Seas. And to think there are people today who think we should withdraw from Iraq. Thanks for your service, sir.

John Sadler
Lakeside

There's More To It

I think it is very sad and presumptuous of civilians to read a book about a military action or mission and merely assume that is all that took place ("What's That You're Reading?" November 26). My fiancé was there during the Black Hawk Down "incident." It took place over more than a couple of days; there were many more involved who were killed and sustained casualties that were never reported because this story focuses on the Rangers.

My fiancé was in the Army during that time, and it was his first mission right after basic training. He sustained broken ribs and a punctured lung the day before the incident and still went back in to lay cover for others who were attempting to extract those Rangers. He had to do unspeakable things and saw unspeakable things. The militia there were using women and children as a human shield while they attempted to kill every one of our military. There is much more behind the politics of why we were there and what we did while we were there. My fiancé and his roommate laid down fire at huge crowds within feet of the military while others of their battalion attempted to take up safer positions. They fought with no helmets while they were barraged with constant fire. No one has any concept of what they saw or experienced. It cannot be written about.

He and many others daily *barely* live with the PTSD from that incident and so many more problems and health issues. He and others lived through suicide attempts as a result of that "fight," and some did not live through their attempts. He relives it every day of his life, and he is now 34. He will never be whole, and many of his comrades will not be either. He constantly sees the women and children, the militia, what happened to our soldiers (many not Rangers), and lives with the poor politi-

cal decisions that affected them all.

The other sad thing is the U.S. continues to make poor military decisions based on poor information and egotistical military seniors who have their own agendas. I love the military and I work for them, but they have the capability, knowledge, and technology to do so much more without the life-altering negative effects to so many military men and women and their families.

We cannot affect the military decisions, but we can be wiser about what we read and realize that we should not do a disservice to many other military men and women by our naïve beliefs that "incidents" and missions that happen and are reported in a story are not more extensive than what we hear. It further damages our proud heroes when we as civilians are so naïve to believe that incidents happen in a "day or two," that writers are telling the entire story, that nothing is being left out, and that possibly worse things happened to others that no one ever heard about or will ever know. We are also being naïve to think that those incidents are ever *over* and that somewhere, someplace, our brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers, and other loved ones are not trying to simply get out of bed and live one day without being affected by, constantly thinking about, or feeling like they should not live another day because of what they saw and did. We owe them more respect, more realization, and definitely more appreciation. It is worse than saddening. It breaks my heart for those who are naïve as well as those of our military who are devastated further by narrow descriptions of civilians about what they think happens.

Leigh Ann Bryson
via email

Christmas

at First United Methodist Church of San Diego

Christmas Sunday

December 21, 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.
String Quartet, Choir and Organ

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

5 P.M.

Family Worship and Christmas Pageant
with Children's and Youth Choirs

7 P.M.

Lessons and Carols, The Contemporary
Singers, Dr. Jim Standiford

9 P.M.

Lessons and Carols with
The Chancel Choir, Dr. Jim Standiford

11 P.M.

Communion, Carols, Christmas Story,
Band, Choirs, Rev. Molly Vetter



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Calendar

Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

thursday | 18

CHRISTMAS WITHOUT ELVIS?

No way! The Sews and Shows Community Theatre in La Mesa presents 29 yuletide songs, an Elvis impersonator, and a sketch about *Leave It to Beaver*. See **THEATER**, page 122

friday | 19

SCROOGE IN ROUGE:

Three actors play 23 roles while parading fashion in the funny and frenzied Victorian-era music-hall rendition of a serious classic. See **THEATER**, page 123



LEGIONS OF RATS! Flurries of snowflakes, too, when San Diego Ballet performs *The Nutcracker* with over 100 dancers. See **DANCE**, page 60

saturday | 20

WORK PARTY in Silverwood Sanctuary: If times are too tough to give money to the bell-ringers, do your good deed by helping to excavate non-native plants in Lakeside. See **OUTDOORS**, page 65



BIG RAY'S CLASSIC CAR AND CYCLE SHOW For those who would rather burn oil than sage, hit up San Diego Auto Swap for a helping of hot rods, cycles, and high-performance vehicles (at Kobey's Swap Meet). See **SPECIAL**, page 66

sunday | 21

HO HO HO BREATHER Travel through Asia at San Diego Museum of Art. "Samurai to Shiva: Asian Art" family day offers child-friendly tours, storytelling, art-making. And — what? — it's free. See **FOR KIDS**, page 62

SHAMANIC HIKE

Hikers will be taken to the "power spot" of Peñasquitos to learn how to burn sage ceremonially to create a sacred space, and other shamanic skills. See **OUTDOORS**, page 65

monday | 22

POINSETTIA BLOOM IN BALBOA PARK

The Botanical Building is filled with over 500 poinsettia plants throughout the holiday season. See **SPECIAL**, page 66



XANADU

Based on your favorite movie featuring Olivia Newton-John in roller skates. Set in 1980, when headbands were all the rage. See **THEATER**, page 123

tuesday | 23

ALL ABOUT THE BEARS

Children can have high tea with teddies before hearing stories, having their faces painted, and meeting Santa Claus. See **FOR KIDS**, page 62

PLAID TIDINGS The ghost quartet characters from 1990s off-Broadway comedy *Forever Plaid* are back for a sequel to settle unresolved issues by singing doo-wop. See **THEATER**, page 122

wednesday | 24

GARDEN OF LIGHTS Over 90,000 lights on display at Quail Botanical Gardens, most of which are ultra-bright LEDs. See **SPECIAL**, page 66



IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

Flashback to 1947, when Cygnet Theatre presents their annual holiday classic. The story's still a grabber. See **THEATER**, page 122

Local Events page 60 | **Classical Music** page 70 | **Art Museums & Galleries** page 70
Pop Music page 72 | **Restaurants** page 101 | **Movies** page 113 | **Theater** page 121

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Calendar LOCAL EVENTS

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

DANCE

Argentine Tango Class Introductory Argentine tango classes, ongoing. No partner required. 619-393-1974. Fridays, 9 p.m.; free. Pattie Wells' Dancetime Center, 1255 West Morena Boulevard. (BAY PARK)

Belly-Dance Showcase Eliza, Marissa, Jennifer, Jayna perform to live music by Middle-Earth Ensemble. 619-688-9845. Thursday, December 18, 8 p.m.; \$5. Claire de Lune, 2906 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

Capoeira Brasil Holiday Dancers Ensemble performs traditional

OUT & ABOUT

WHITE CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG

Birch North Park Theatre, Friday and Sunday, December 19 and 21.

(SEE FILM)



cultural dance. 619-573-9306 or 619-573-0124. Saturday, December 20, 1 p.m.; North Chapel at NTC, 2881 Roosevelt Drive. (POINT LOMA)

English Country Dancing Ellen Riley calls for English country dancing. Beginners' instruction at 6 p.m. 858-676-9731. Sunday, December 21, 6 p.m.; \$6. Jean Hart Academy of Dance, 12227 Poway Road. (POWAY)

Hustle and Nightclub Dance Party DJ plays hustle, nightclub two-step, and requests. For singles and couples of all ages. Hustle lesson: 8 p.m. First time free. 619-

275-3533. Saturday, December 20, 8 p.m.; \$4-\$7. Pattie Wells' Dancetime Center, 1255 West Morena Boulevard. (BAY PARK)

Legions of Rats! Flurries of Snowflakes! San Diego Ballet Company performs *The Nutcracker* with over 100 dancers reveling in Tchaikovsky's score. Direction by Robin Sherertz-Morgan and Javier Velasco. 619-294-7311. Thursday, December 18, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, December 19, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 20, 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, December 21, 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.; \$20-\$50. Mandeville Auditorium at UCSD, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Nuts to You! California Ballet presents *The Nutcracker* with Tchaikovsky's score performed by San Diego Symphony. Clara, the

Sugarplum Fairy, mice, toy soldiers, and all the rest dance to Maxine Mahon's choreography. 858-560-6741. Friday, December 19, 8 p.m.; Saturday, December 20, 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sunday, December 21, 1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Tuesday, December 23, 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.; \$25-\$80. San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

Whitetop Mountaineers Make Music! Graham Hempel calls for San Diego Folk Heritage contra dance with this guest band at 8 p.m. Beginners' dance workshop: 7:30 p.m. Wear soft-soled shoes. 619-283-8550. Friday, December 19, 7:30 p.m.; \$9. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street. (NORTH PARK)

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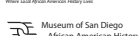
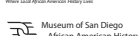
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The "El Vallecito" ("little valley") site is positioned 5km northeast of the town of "La Rumorosa" in the north of the peninsula. This site is the most well known in the state because of its location it can be visited in only one day. Set in the highlands 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.



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

Millennia of geological weathering and erosion have cut and polished the landscape into the striking forms you'll discover while visiting Anza-Borrego's Calcite Mine area. A highlight of the hike is the mine itself. During World War II, this was an important site — indeed the only site in the United States — for the extraction of optical-grade calcite crystals for use in gunsights. Trench-mining operations throughout the area have left deep scars upon the earth, almost as fresh today as when they were made.

To get to the Calcite Mine, hike from Borrego Springs, follow



Palm Wash tributary

Highway S-22 (Palm Canyon Drive, Pegleg Road, and Borrego Salton Seaway) east for about 19 miles to a large northside turnout at mile 38.0. That turnout has a view of both the Calcite Mine area to the north and the Salton Sea to the east.

Start your hike by walking 200 yards east along the left side of the highway to the Calcite Mine jeep road intersection, on the left. An interpretive panel here gives some details about the history of the mine. The road has steadily deteriorated over the years; only the toughest of "jeeps" can make it all the way to the mine now. Follow the rough road on foot as it dips into and out of South Fork Palm Wash and continues northwest toward the southern spurs of the

Santa Rosa Mountains. Ahead you will see an intricately honeycombed whitish slab of sandstone, called Locomotive Rock, which lies behind (northeast of) the mine area.

About 1.4 miles from S-22, the road dips sharply to cross a deep ravine. Poke into the upper (north) end of this ravine and you'll discover one of the best slot canyons in Anza-Borrego. (Agile climbers can squeeze through the slot and go up a break on the right side to reach a point above and northwest of the mine area.)

At road's end, calcite crystals lie strewn about on the ground, glittering in the sunlight. You could spend a lot of time exploring the mining trenches and the pocked slabs of sandstone nearby, including Locomotive Rock

itself. Palm Wash, a frightening gash in the earth, precludes travel to the east.

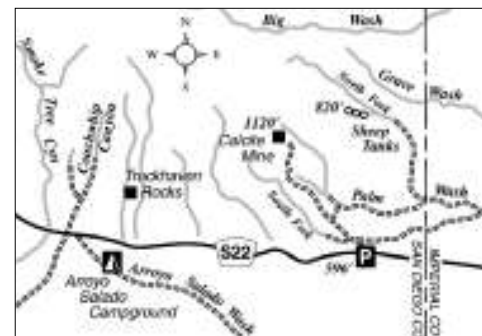
On the return, try this alternate route: Backtrack 0.5 mile to the aforementioned slot ravine. Proceed downstream along its bottom. As you pass through deeper and deeper layers of sandstone strata, the ravine narrows until it allows the passage of only one person at a time. When you reach the jumbled blocks of sandstone in Palm Wash at the bottom of the ravine, turn right, walk 0.3 mile downstream, and exit the canyon via a short link of old jeep trail that leads back to the Calcite Mine road.

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

CALCITE MINE

Explore chaotic rock formations and slotlike ravines in Anza-Borrego's Calcite Mine area.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 112 miles
Hiking length: 4 miles round trip
Difficulty: Moderate



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.

FILM

White Christmas Sing-Along!

Audience participation is encouraged during screening of this "classic family-friendly musical" from 1954 starring Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney. 619-239-8836. Friday, December 19, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, December 21, 2:30 p.m.; \$7-\$9. Birch North Park Theatre, 2891 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

Student Film Festival School of Theatre, Television, and Film presents festival of new student work; program includes fiction, documentary, animation, experimental works. 619-594-6884. Thursday, December 18, 7 p.m.; \$7. Ages 12 and up. Don Powell Theatre at SDSU, 5500 Campanile Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

FOR KIDS

"A Whale of a Time" Watch the gray whale migration from aquarium's tide pool plaza during family day events. Touch real whale baleen, "transform your hand into a whale flipper to see what life is like in cold water." Included in regular admission. 858-534-FISH. Saturday, December 20, 11 a.m.; free. Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (LA JOLLA)

"Books to Movies" Teen Book Club focuses on *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Please read book or watch movie prior to meeting. Snacks provided. 858-538-8159. Monday, December 22, 7 p.m.; free. Rancho Peñasquitos Library, 13350 Salmon River Road. (RANCHO PEÑASQUITOS)

"Cooking Up Music" Family Festival concerts (one-hour long) with holiday music promised

when San Diego Symphony, San Diego Master Chorale, California Ballet Company, San Diego Children's Choir take stage. Reservations: 619-235-0804. Sunday, December 21, 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.; \$10-\$25. Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street. (DOWNTOWN)

"Dancing the Holidays Around the World" Nikola Clay performs holiday dances from all over, including the *sevivon*, the dreidel dance for Hanukkah, the *barnereinlender* from Norway, a penguin dance from South Pole, "a little African dance" for Kwanzaa, the jingle bells dance. Audience participation encouraged. 858-573-5007. Thursday, December 18, 10:30 a.m.; free. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

"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. Thursday, December 18, 2:30 p.m.; Friday, December 19, 2:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 20, 2:30 p.m.; Sunday, December 21, 2:30 p.m.; Monday, December 22, 2:30 p.m.; Tuesday, December 23, 2:30 p.m.; Wednesday, December 24, 2:30 p.m.; \$26-\$39. The Westgate Hotel, 1055 Second Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

"Mathematics" Time for family science day with hands-on activities. Included in regular admission. 619-238-1233. Saturday, December 20, noon; \$6-\$8. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

"Samurai to Shiva: Asian Art" Family Day Travel through Asia, learn about works in museum's Asian Court through interactive games, child-friendly tours, storytelling, art making. Registration

not required for "Drop-In Family Days." For families with children 6-12. 619-231-7092. Sunday, December 21, 11 a.m.; free. Ages 6 and up. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 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)

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. Thursday, December 18; Friday, December 19; Saturday, December 20; Sunday, December 21; free. Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Road West. (BALBOA PARK)

Crafty for the Holidays? Bring family to create a holiday ornament. Take a photograph in the photo booth and make something unique. Included in admission. 619-238-7559. Saturday, December 20, 1 p.m.; free. Museum of Photographic Arts, 1649 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Get Crafty Create an edible gingerbread house during craft time. Bring a bag of decorating candy to share. For those 6-12. Registration: 858-538-8159. Thursday, December 18, 4 p.m.; free. Ages 6 and up. Rancho Peñasquitos Library, 13350 Salmon River Road. (RANCHO PEÑASQUITOS)

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breakfast, pictures with Santa, face painting, balloon artists, kids' show, gift bag for kids. Required reservations: 619-235-4014 x3. Saturday, December 20, 9 a.m.; Sunday, December 21, 9 a.m.; \$25. Harbor House, 831 West Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN)

Saturday Celebrations Enjoy music and dance parties during "Holiday Happenings." Afternoons feature dancers, musical groups, "other unique performers." Create ornaments in holiday-themed design studio. 619-233-8792. Saturday, December 20, 10 a.m.; free. The New Children's Museum, 200 West Island Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

Winter Wonderland Children's Film Series Enjoy various animated shorts "for children of all ages" including *On the Moon*, *Robbitt*, *Gallery Girl*, *Dear Fatty*, and *The Fan and the Flower*. Included in admission. 619-238-7559. Saturday, December 20, 1 p.m.; free. Museum of Photographic Arts, 1649 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

IN PERSON

"A Christmas Story" Actor John Cochran plans one-man presentation of this piece by Langston Hughes. Offering. 619-573-9306 or 619-573-0124. Friday, December 19, 5 p.m.; North Chapel at NTC, 2881 Roosevelt Drive. (POINT LOMA)

"Holiday Parties on a Shoe-string" Syndicated food columnist Catharine Kaufman, who writes

under the nom de plume "Kitchen Shrink," focuses on holiday entertaining, culinary disasters, and damage control. 858-642-6700. Thursday, December 18, 6 p.m.; free. Whole Foods Market La Jolla, 8825 Villa La Jolla Drive. (LA JOLLA)

"Once Upon a Cloud/Sobre Una Nube" Family musical focuses on two "angels that have been given a great task to carry out...will they make it?" Show is presented by Illuminate Creative Arts in English at 4 p.m.; in Spanish at 7 p.m. 760-724-7099. Saturday, December 20, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.; free. Truax Performing Arts Center, 400 Rancho del Oro. (OCEANSIDE)

Book Launch Party Meet author Barrie Summy, celebrating release of her debut, *I So Don't Do Mysteries!* 858-486-5280. Sunday, December 21, 3 p.m.; free. The Yellow Book Road, 7200 Parkway Drive. (LA MESA)

Christmas Concert Fingerstyle guitarist Bob Giesick performs classical, traditional, and contemporary Christmas carols. Offering. 619-573-9306 or 619-573-0124. Friday, December 19, 7 p.m.; North Chapel at NTC, 2881 Roosevelt Drive. (POINT LOMA)

Comics That Kill Benefit Show Erik Knowles, Dangerous Dick, Cate Gary, the Trash Man, Matt Zint, and host Jason Bang entertain. Donations benefit Toys for Tots. 760-230-2038. Saturday, December 20, 8 p.m.; free. Ages 14

and up. E Street Café, 128 E Street. (ENCINITAS)

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 18, 7 p.m.; Friday, December 19, 7 p.m.; Saturday, December 20, 2 p.m.; \$7-\$8. School of Creative and Performing Arts, 2425 Dusk Drive. (PARADISE HILLS)

More Christmas Favorites San Diego School for the Creative and Performing Arts Choir performs Christmas tunes including holiday gospel music, cultural Christmas songs, more. Earlier this year, group was named finest high school choir in America. 619-573-9306 or 619-573-0124. Saturday, December 20, 7 p.m.; free. North Chapel at NTC, 2881 Roosevelt Drive. (POINT LOMA)

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

LECTURES

"An Extraordinary Adventure in Peru" John Top presents program chronicling his month spent in southeast Peru during San Diego Audubon Society meeting. 619-682-7200. Thursday, December 18, 7 p.m.; free. Tecolote Na-

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Calendar LOCAL EVENTS

ture Center, 5180 Tecolote Road. (CLAIREMONT)

Silky! In this blouse workshop, Jan Janas divulges "how to paint on silk to create a unique design you can wear." Fee includes "some materials." 619-299-4278. Saturday, December 20, 11 a.m.; \$40. San Diego Art Department, 3830 Ray Street. (NORTH PARK)

Tie It Up Learn to paint on silk using traditional silk painting techniques. Students in class taught by Jan Janas go home with a hand-painted tie. Fee includes "some materials." 619-299-4278. Thursday, December 18, 11 a.m.; \$40. San Diego Art Department, 3830 Ray Street. (NORTH PARK)

OUTDOORS

Winter Solstice, the moment when the sun reaches its southernmost point on the celestial sphere, occurs this year at 4:04 a.m., Sunday, December 21. This event signals the beginning of winter in the

Northern Hemisphere and the beginning of summer in the Southern Hemisphere. With only about ten hours of daylight, San Diego must endure its darkest and gloomiest nights this week and next. During the day, the sun struggles to an altitude of only 34 degrees (as seen from San Diego), then quickly sinks toward the horizon.

Hike to San Diego County's High Places to take advantage of the winter season's characteristically clear air. From spots such as Cuyamaca Peak in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, Wooded Hill in the Laguna Mountain Recreation Area, and Boucher Hill at Palomar Mountain State Park, vistas stretching a hundred miles across the Pacific Ocean are not uncommon at this time of year. Look for the dark profiles of Santa Catalina and San Clemente islands, lying northwest and west of San Diego respectively.

Spectacular Sunsets and Sunrises are characteristic of winter's dry spells. You can drive up to Soledad Park in La Jolla or Mount Helix near La Mesa for an all encompassing view. Or try hiking up to vantage points such as Cowles Mountain in the San Carlos area and Woodson Mountain near Ramona.

OUT & ABOUT

STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL
SDSU's Don Powell Theatre,
Thursday, December 18.

(SEE FILM)



FROM FAUSTI

Don't forget to bring a flashlight for the trip up or down.

Ripening Palm Fruit, hanging in great clusters on California's native fan palms (*Washingtonia filifera*), can be seen (and tasted) this month. The black, pea-sized fruit consists of a deliciously sweet but almost paper-thin skin surrounding a hard seed. (These are not

"California dates" — the fruit of cultivated palms introduced into California's deserts from northern Africa.) Our native fan palms can be seen in their natural habitat in about two dozen canyons within Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. They have also been planted widely elsewhere in California, including along the main streets of Palm Springs.

Behind the Scenes Enjoy tour of Little Italy neighborhood. Required reservations: 760-736-1138. Saturday, December 20, 3 p.m.; free. Café Zuccherio, 1731 India Street. (LITTLE ITALY)

Bird Walk Easy walk with variety of birds and views of salt marsh habitat hosted by Friends of Famosa Slough starts at first bench

on Famosa Boulevard. 619-224-4591. Saturday, December 20, 1 p.m.; free. Famosa Slough, West Point Loma Boulevard and Famosa Boulevard. (POINT LOMA)

Birding in the South Join Palomar Audubon Society birders to bird in the estuary, and then check for additional species at 7th Street on South Bay. 858-792-5526. Saturday, December 20, 8:30 a.m.; free. Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center, 301 Caspian Way. (IMPERIAL BEACH)

Cowles Mountain Solstice Sunrise Hikes Journey to Kumeyaay solstice site, halfway up San Diego's highest peak, during hikes led by Mission Trails Regional Park Trail guides. 619-668-3281. Saturday, December 20, 6 a.m.; Monday, December 22, 6 a.m.; free. Cowles Mountain staging area, Navajo Road and Golfcrest Drive. (SAN CARLOS)

Cowles Mountain Winter Solstice Hike Ascend the mountain in near-darkness to watch sunrise on first day of winter at Kumeyaay solstice observatory about halfway up mountain. Directions: 619-255-0203. Sunday, December 21, 6 a.m.; free. Cowles Mountain staging area, Navajo Road and Golfcrest Drive. (SAN CARLOS)

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Deck the Trails with Boughs of Holly Look for toyon, holly-leaf cherry, holly-berry, more during guided nature walks. 619-668-3281. Saturday, December 20, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, December 21, 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday, December 24, 9:30 a.m.; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

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. (LAKEVIEW)

Learn of Liberty Station Walk-about intern Joshua is an 11th-grade student, ready to lead a fairly casual walk passing many historical places. 619-231-7463. Thursday, December 18, 1:30 p.m.; free. Walkabout office, 2825 Dewey Road, Suite 202. (POINT LOMA)

Miner's Loop Trail Hike Naturalist Mike Kelly leads nature hike up Black Mountain with moderate elevation gain. Learn about historic arsenic mine. Wear hiking boots, bring water. 858-342-8856. Saturday, December 20, 9 a.m.; free. Carmel Valley staging area, 14850 Carmel Valley Road. (RANCHO PEÑASQUITOS)

Mystery Walk Naturalist Kathleen Flanagan leads fast-paced, strenuous walk of about seven miles based on make-up of the group. Expect "a lot of map reading." Bring a minimum of two liters of water, wear layered cloth-

ing. 760-839-4680. Friday, December 19, 7 a.m.; free. Daley Ranch, 3024 La Honda Drive. (ESCONDIDO)

Shamanic Hike Take short hike to "power spot to explore shamanic traditions of indigenous people of the Americas." Learn about saging, calling the directions, creating sacred space, and accessing energies of nature for healing, insight, and wisdom. Bring blanket to sit on, drum or rattle. 858-342-8856 Sunday, December 21, 3 p.m.; free. Peñasquitos west-end staging area, 4300 Sorrento Valley Boulevard. (RANCHO PEÑASQUITOS)

Work Party in Silverwood Sanctuary Help remove invasive, nonnative plants during work event. 619-682-7200. Saturday, December 20, 8:30 a.m.; free. Silverwood Sanctuary, 13003 Wildcat Canyon Road. (LAKEVIEW)

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

"Phantom Sightings: Art After the Post-Chicano/a Movement" The Infinity Lab is "touring their irreverent x-stream Chicana altar," featuring a "multimedia installation of misappropriated images so that you can decide who is and isn't relevant in the 21st Century." Artists include Dr. Cuddles with Cats, Dr. Hueso, and Dr. Niku. 619-794-0369. Saturday, December 20, 6 p.m.; free. Lui Velazquez, Calle José Maria Larroque #273, Colonia Federal. (BAJA)

Family Run This 5k run starts and finishes at Unidad CREA in Zona Río. 011-52-664-215-9000. Sunday, December 21, 8 p.m.; Unidad CREA, Zona Río. (BAJA)

The Prince of Song José José plans Christmas celebration showcasing "greatest hits of his music career." 011-52-646-152-1800. Saturday, December 20, 9 p.m.; Salón Casa Blanca. (BAJA)

SPECIAL

"Christmas by Candlelight" Enjoy festive seasonal favorites by MiraCosta College's Chamber Chorale and Camerata Singers, as well as gourmet desserts in student center. Suggested reservations: 760-795-6815. Saturday, December 20, 7:30 p.m.; \$17. MiraCosta College, One Barnard Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

"Holiday of Hope" Charity event including pony rides, photographs with Santa, live music, trading post, food, live auction, petting corral filled with farm animals. Professional motocross racer Ryan Hughes will sign autographs. 760-670-8418. Saturday, December 20, 11 a.m.; free. Leg-Up Ranch, 4859 Highway 79. (JULIAN)

"The Archaeology of Nate Harrison" Exhibition subtitled "Legacies and Legends of an African-American Pioneer in San Diego County" continues through Thursday, January 15, in Donor Hall at Love Library. Harrison was

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Calendar LOCAL EVENTS

this region's first African-American homesteader; a former slave, he lived during the late 19th and early 20th Centuries atop Palomar Mountain. Exhibit focuses on archaeology of legend and everyday life, with artifacts, historical pictures, and primary documents. 619-594-6791. Thursdays, 7 a.m.; Fridays, 7 a.m.; Saturdays, 7 a.m.; Sundays, 7 a.m.; Mondays, 7 a.m.; Tuesdays, 7 a.m.; Wednesdays, 7 a.m.; through Thursday, January 15, free. Malcolm A. Love Library at SDSU, 5500 Campanile Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

Beer Pong Tournament Competition following San Diego Beer Pong League rules. Beer during game play is included in fee. Sign-ins: 12:30 p.m.; games: 2 p.m. 619-255-0383. Saturday, December 20, 12:30 p.m.; \$20. Ages 21 and up. Wings-Pizza-N-Things, 315 Tenth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

Big Ray's Classic Car and Cycle Show This "Toys for Tots" San Diego Auto Swap features classics, hot rods, cycles, high-performance vehicles on display (in conjunction with Kobey's Swap Meet). Vehicles

on display and for sale, along with "acres of parts and accessories." Bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate. 858-484-9342. Sunday, December 21, 7 a.m.; free. San Diego Sports Arena, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. (POINT LOMA)

Dr. Sketchy's Anti-Art School This "holiday pageant on ice...in your cocktails, that is," promises dames, drinks, and drawing, holiday style, as well as "sexy Santa." Bring your art supplies. Contests. 619-756-7891. Saturday, December 20, 3 p.m.; \$10. Ages 21 and up. Ruby Room, 1271 University Avenue. (HILLCREST)

Dueling Drum Majors? Cheer on the Poinsettia Bowl Battle of the Bands. Bands of competing teams — the Texas Christian University Horned Frogs and Boise State Broncos — will line up at opposite ends of Fifth Avenue (at Market Street) and face off to "battle," surrounded by cheer squads, college sports enthusiasts. 619-233-5227. Sunday, December 21, 6 p.m.; free. Gaslamp Quarter. (DOWNTOWN)

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).

OUT & ABOUT

NUTS TO YOU!

The Nutcracker by California Ballet, San Diego Civic Theatre, December 19-23.

(SEE DANCE)



Additional fees for some activities. 760-436-3036. Thursday, December 18, 5 p.m.; Friday, December 19, 5 p.m.; Saturday, December 20, 5 p.m.; Sunday, December 21, 5 p.m.; Tuesday, December 23, 5 p.m.; \$3-\$10. Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Gem Faire Nearly 100 manufacturers, wholesalers, importers

offer jewelry, gems, beads, crystals, silver, minerals. Weekend pass: \$5. 760-390-3599. Friday, December 19, noon; Saturday, December 20, 10 a.m.; Sunday, December 21, 10 a.m.; \$5. Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino del Rio South. (MISSION VALLEY)

Hannukah Party and Memorial Chabad at La Costa's "Grand Hanukkah Celebration" is dedi-

cated to memory of Rabbi and Mrs. Gavriel and Rivka Holtzberg (two victims of November's terrorist attacks in Mumbai). Festivities include a giant menorah-lighting ceremony, face painting, Hanukkah foods (expect *latkes!*), music, entertainment, prizes for children. Everyone is invited. 760-943-8891. Monday, December 22, 4 p.m.; free. Forum Shopping Center, 1923 Calle Barcelona. (CARLSBAD)

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)

Joys and Mysteries of Fragrance Perfume Studio is a perfume workshop led by a fragrance expert who explores 18 different perfume blends (or accords). Participants — men and women — select three or four accords for their "unique formula," and then customized blends are created to take home. Fee includes 20ml-size perfume purse spray with resulting custom perfume. Registration: 917-449-1134. Saturday, December 20, 2 p.m.; \$85. Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, 4126 Executive Drive. (LA JOLLA)

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)

Ponder Planck Discuss Max Planck's *Physics and World Philosophy* with San Diego Great Books group. Newcomers welcome. 619-440-5625. Saturday, December 20, 2 p.m.; free. San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (DOWNTOWN)

Psychic Fair and Metaphysical Conference Lectures, tarot, palmistry, numerology, other psychic arts featured. Admission is free; \$20 per reading. 619-298-3422. Saturday, December 20, noon; Sunday, December 21, noon;

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free. Alexandra's Bookstore, 3545 Midway Drive, Suite G. (POINT LOMA)

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 21, 5:30 p.m.; free. Embarcadero, Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN)

Secular Solstice Celebrations Fête the end of 2008 with atheists, agnostics, humanists, "other seculars," and Humanist Association of San Diego during "potluck/catered event." RSVP: 619-646-2191. Sunday, December 21, 1:30 p.m.; free. Joyce Beers Community Center, 1230 Cleveland Avenue. (HILLCREST)

Sight and Sound Preview night with five diverse performances, including singer-songwriter Gregory Page. Hors d'oeuvres served. Proceeds benefit Toys for Tots Foundation. 619-846-7180. Saturday, December 20, 7 p.m.; \$6. Ages 21 and up. Planet Rooth Gallery, 3811 Ray Street. (NORTH PARK)

Thar She Blows! H&M Landing offers daily three-hour excursions to view the annual migration of California gray whales, with "interpretive narration by trained and

knowledgeable staff." Also available: five-hour cruises depart daily at 10 a.m., voyage to Coronado Islands. Reservations: 619-222-1144. Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Sundays, 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Mondays, 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; through Friday, March 20, \$17-\$25. H&M Landing, 2803 Emerson Street. (POINT LOMA)

The Family That Does Asanas Together... Family yoga class for all ages. Bring yoga mat or a towel for each participant. 858-538-8159. Saturday, December 20, 10:30 a.m.; free. Rancho Peñasquitos Library, 13350 Salmon River Road. (RANCHO PEÑASQUITOS)

Urban Trees 5 Public art exhibit of 31 "urban trees" along North Embarcadero on Harbor Drive (between cruise ship terminal and Hawthorne Street) continues through July, 2009. Artists were supplied with a 12-foot-tall pole placed in a concrete planter to serve as tree's base; artists alter the pole by attaching materials to create their sculptures. 619-686-6200. Thursdays; Fridays; Saturdays; Sundays; Mondays; Tuesdays; Wednesdays; through Friday, July 31, free. Embarcadero, Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN)


What's New in Psychology? Find out when P&R Discussion Group meets. 619-370-1027. Thursday, December 18, 7 p.m.; free. Filter, 4096 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

SPORTS

Big Lagoon Ride Join San Diego Bicycle Touring Society riders for 50-mile "fun ride." 619-647-3212. Saturday, December 20, 8:45 a.m.; free. Doyle Park, 8175 Regents Road. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

CSF California Surf Series Amateur surf competition takes place south of pier. Free for spectators. 760-722-6363. Saturday, December 20, 7 a.m.; free. Ocean-side Pier, Mission Ave. and Pacific St. (OCEANSIDE)


Don't Drink and Ride! Work off those holiday treats with Knickerbiker bicyclists during hilly 35-mile ride on backcountry roads. Bring money to buy sandwiches at Vons towards end of ride, and sample wines during picnic on winery grounds. 760-747-8622. Saturday, December 20, 9 a.m.; free. Belle Marie Winery & Chateau Dragoo, 26312 Mesa Rock Road. (ESCONDIDO)



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Calendar LOCAL EVENTS

Poinsettia Bowl Fourth annual San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl promises gridiron competition between Texas Christian University Horned Frogs and Boise State Broncos. Broadcast on ESPN. Ticketmaster (619-220-TIXS). Tuesday, December 23, 5 p.m.; \$38-\$60. Qualcomm Stadium, 9449 Friars Road. (MISSION VALLEY)

MUSEUMS

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

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

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

Birch Aquarium at Scripps Facility is a component of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UCSD. More than 60 tanks contain marine life of Pacific Northwest, California coastline, Mexico's Sea of Cortés, and South Pacific. The La Jolla Kelp Tank is a two-story-high tank with giant kelp plants and nearly 30 species of local marine life. "Feeling the Heat: The Climate Challenge" examines science behind climate change; "Art of Deception" explores undersea camouflage. "Wonders of Water" waterplay area includes three interactive stations. The Lynne and Howard Robbins Shark Reef Exhibit features a 13,000-gallon shark tank with black tip, white tip, bamboo, and wobbegong sharks. 2300 Expedition Way, 858-534-FISH. (LA JOLLA)

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

Chula Vista Nature Center Interactive living museum devoted to the endangered Southern California coastal wetlands, located in Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge. Visitors can use a Bioscanner to view animals macroscopically, use a Wentzscope for views of microscopic organisms found in the "Sweetwater Soup," and interact with computerized videos exploring how tides affect the bay in the "Moons, Tides, and the San Diego Bay" exhibit. Pet sharks and rays in the David A. Wergeland Shark and Ray Experience, see burrowing owls and migratory birds, and enjoy the xerophytic gardens. Visitors meet a shuttle bus at the Bayfront E Street Trolley Station or at the center's parking lot at the foot of E Street and Bay Boulevard. 1000 Gunpowder Point Drive, 619-409-5903. (CHULA VISTA)

OUT & ABOUT

BUSYTOWN

San Diego Junior Theatre at Firehouse YMCA Community Center, through Sunday, December 21.

(SEE FOR KIDS)



PHOTOGRAPH BY DANIEL BAIRD

ence, see burrowing owls and migratory birds, and enjoy the xerophytic gardens.

Visitors meet a shuttle bus at the Bayfront E Street Trolley Station or at the center's parking lot at the foot of E Street and Bay Boulevard. 1000 Gunpowder Point Drive, 619-409-5903. (CHULA VISTA)

Coronado Museum of History and Art "Public Eye: A Focus on Community Art," continuing through mid-January, features a decorative bench from 2003 Benchmark project, information on some of Coronado's 38 pieces of public art, models, photographs, and sculptured pieces..

Ongoing exhibits explore the overall history of Coronado, Navy and Army, Tent City, and the Hotel

del Coronado. 1100 Orange Avenue, 619-435-7242. (CORONADO)

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

Gaslamp Museum of Historic San Diego Glimpse San Diego's colorful past at the museum, where displays highlight Wyatt Earp's San

Diego days, the Peg Leg Gold Legend, the first maps and photographs of Old Town and "New Town," early military history, the naval disaster in 1923 at Point Honda, and more. 413 Market Street, 619-237-1492. (DOWNTOWN)

Heritage of the Americas Museum More than 100 Chinese jades of the Late Neolithic (4300-2500 B.C.) through the Ming periods (A.D. 1368-1644) are included in "The Stone of Heaven: The Enduring Art of Jade Age China." From ancient times, jades in China were treasured as talismans, worn on the body either as final adornments in death or as ornaments in life. See a rare and valuable jade burial suit of the Han dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 221), one of only about two dozen that have been excavated in China. The suits were made of more than 2000 square and rectangular plates of jade sewn together with threads of gold, silver, or bronze (depending upon the status of the wearer). Ongoing.

The museum features art and artifacts from South and North America, concentrating on the utilitarian and decorative artistry of crafts workers from ancient cultures. The museum also features wings dedicated to natural history, archaeology, education, anthropology, and fine art. Find the museum on the Cuyamaca College campus. 12110 Cuyamaca

College Drive West, 619-670-5194. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

Japanese Friendship Garden Exhibit of woodturning bowls continues through February. Pan American Road, 619-232-2721. (BALBOA PARK)

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

Junipero Serra Museum "Commemorating 75 Years: The Serra Museum" is said to "remember the events leading up to the dedication of Presidio Park and the Serra Museum" on July 16, 1929. The exhibit includes a "visit back in time to 1929."

The museum interprets the Native American, Spanish, and Mexican periods of San Diego's history and contains Spanish Colonial furnishings, art, and artifacts. It's located at the site of the West Coast's first European settlement. 2727 Presidio Drive, 619-297-3258. (OLD TOWN)

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

Magee House Museum Magee House Museum, built in 1887 and surrounded by rose gardens, the site includes "one of the last barns still standing in Carlsbad." Docent and self-guided tours of historic house and gardens. 258 Beech Street, 760-434-9189. (CARLSBAD)

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

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

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

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

Olaf Wieghorst Museum Displays paintings and prints by Olaf Wieghorst and features exhibits of other artists' American West art. Adjacent to museum is courtyard with cactus gardens, 20x20-foot reproduction of Wieghorst's painting *Navajos at Castle Creek*, and original restored home Wieghorst lived in for many years starting in 1945. 131 Rea Avenue, 619-590-3431. (EL CAJON)

Ramona Pioneer Historical Society and Guy B. Woodward Museum Complex of historical buildings includes the Verlaque House (the only Western adobe home of French provincial design still in existence), wagons, antique exhibits, and artifacts. There is a cowboy bunkhouse, women's clothing and accessories from 1700 to 1800, a ranch blacksmith shop and tack room. The Casey Tibbs Memorial Exhibit is dedicated to Tibbs, a local resident who was a world-champion rodeo

OUT & ABOUT

PONDER PLANCK

Physics and World Philosophy with San Diego Great Books, Saturday, December 20, San Diego Public Library.

(SEE SPECIAL)



rider. The Bancroft Memorial Rose Garden is on the grounds. Rare documents, historical exhibits, books, photographs, and a research library are also part of the complex. 645 Main Street, 760-789-7644. (RAMONA)

San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum Museum onboard the decommissioned USS *Midway* is open for tours, now berthed at 910 North Harbor Drive. Exhibits include Navy jet simulators, carrier and flight deck touring, captain's sea cabin, pilot house, navigation

bridge. Admission fee includes audio guide. 910 North Harbor Drive, 619-544-9600. (DOWNTOWN)

San Diego County Sheriff's Museum The 150-year history of the sheriff's department is highlighted at the museum, which is located "just feet away" from the original cobblestone jail site, built in 1850. The museum boasts artifacts, photographs, equipment, uniforms, and vehicles, along with exhibits from each of the departments making up the organization such as crime scene, K-9, court

service, detentions, crime lab, bomb squad, and many others. 2384 San Diego Avenue, 619-260-1850. (OLD TOWN)

San Diego Model Railroad Museum Museum celebrates American railroads with "the largest permanent operating model railroad and toy train exhibit" in North America. Four scale-model railroads of the Southwest, the "San Diego County Relief Map" exhibit, and an interactive toy train. There is a multimedia presentation on rail-

roading, an operating railroad semaphore signal, and interpretive displays on railroads and model railroading. The museum is downstairs in the Casa de Balboa building. 1649 El Prado, 619-696-0199. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Natural History Museum "The Art of Robert Bateman" showcases work by "one of the world's premier wildlife artists." Exhibit reflects his commitment to ecology, preservation. Through January.

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

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

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

Veterans Museum and Memorial Center "Children, Toys, and Service," continuing through April, explores growing up in America during the mid-20th Century through the toys and life experiences of the children who played

with them. Exhibit includes World War II toy collections of Joe Sutter and Richard Roche, doll collection of Marjorie Alliette, many other individual period toys, games, books, artifacts.

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

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



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Calendar

CLASSICAL MUSIC

CLASSICAL LISTINGS

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CLASSICAL

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., Thursday, December 18; 8 p.m., Friday, December 19; and 2 and 8 p.m., Saturday, December 20. (DOWNTOWN)

"An Orchestral Holiday Celebration" North Coast Symphony Orchestra plans recitals featuring mixture of light classical music and seasonal selections. 760-795-6815. \$8-\$10. MiraCosta College Theatre (One Barnard Drive), 7:30 p.m., Saturday, December 20. (OCEANSIDE)

Christmas Sing-Along San Diego Children's Choir and San Diego Harmony Ringers join civic organist Carol Williams in concert. 619-702-8138. Free. Spreckels Organ Pavilion (2211 Pan American Road), 2 p.m., Sunday, December 21. (BALBOA PARK)

"An Orchestral Holiday Celebration" North Coast Symphony Orchestra plans recitals featuring mixture of light classical music and seasonal selections. 760-795-6815. \$8-\$10. MiraCosta College Theatre (One Barnard Drive), 2 p.m., Sunday, December 21. (OCEANSIDE)

"Holiday Favorites" Solana Intimate Ensemble plans Christmas concert for Californiae Foundation for International Global Arts. Program includes "Ave Maria," "O Holy Night," "Gesu Bambino," selections to celebrate Hanukkah, selections from *Fledermaus* by Strauss, Menotti's "Amahl." Medley of carols closes concert with audience sing-along. Recital includes

performance by Pachhouse Dancers, Gretchen Nassif, and Ssok Choi, with choreography by Waltraund Beelitz. Ensemble members are Cherylyn Larson (soprano), Ava Baker-Liss (mezzo-soprano), Tom Oberjat (tenor), David Marshman (baritone), Janie Prim (piano). Reception at 2:30 p.m., concert at 3:15 p.m. 858-677-0367. \$15-\$23. Encinitas Library (540 Cornish Drive), 2:30 p.m., Sunday, December 21. (ENCINITAS)

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

"Salon de Gaslamp" Artists' reception for "great salon-style" ex-

hibition. 619-497-0912 or 858-205-7558. Free. Brokers Building Gallery (402 Market Street), 7 p.m., Sunday, December 21. (DOWNTOWN)

"Small Works" Third Thursday Night reception for "small-scale exhibition" celebrating holidays. Gallery artists represented include Isabel Brown, Phillip Buller, Brooke Chapman, Jaime Chase, Sheldon Greenberg, Daphne Hill, Wade Hoefer, Aleah Koury, Kent Lovelace, Duncan Martin, Joseph Maruska, Miguel Osuna, Stephanie Peek, Mark Rediske, Nancy Sansom Reynolds, James Shay, and Jenny Wunderly. Closes Sunday, January 11. 858-793-4442. Free. Susan Street Fine Art Gallery (415 South Cedros Avenue #160), 6 p.m., Thursday, December 18. (SOLANA BEACH)

Sharpening Your Senses Opening reception for "vwa-la" by "Eliot Greenwald the White Pencil." Also planned: Ray at Night artist reception, Saturday, January 10. 619-297-9663. Free. Planet Rooth Gallery (3811 Ray Street), 6 p.m., Friday, December 19. (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, trellis-tent dwelling, 22 feet in diameter — won first prize in a national contest celebrating 1000th anniversary of Kyrgyzstan's existence. Also on view: rare Kyrgyz reed screens; Turkoman, Uzbek, and Kazakh costumes and textiles. Exhibit continues through Sunday,

March 22. 155 West Grand Avenue, 760-735-3355. (ESCONDIDO)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown "Drawing the Line" 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. Collaborative multiyear exhibition project sent eight artists to eight UNESCO World Heritage sites around globe to complete mini-residencies, create new work informed and inspired by their experiences in these diverse cultural and natural regions. Exhibit features new commissioned works by Mark Dion, Ann Hamilton, Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle, Marcos Ramírez ERRE, Rigo 23, Dario Robleto, Diana Thater, and Xu Bing. Closes Sunday, February 1. 1001 Kettner Boulevard, 858-454-3541. (DOWNTOWN)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla "Weighing and Wanting: Selections from the Collection" marks Hugh M. Davies's 25th anniversary as museum's David C. Copley Director. Exhibit offers "a personal,

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idiosyncratic selection of approximately 130 works acquired between 1983 and the present,” including works by John Baldessari, John Currin, Robert Irwin, William Kentridge, Nathan Mabry, Yoshitomo Nara, Martin Puryear, Lorna Simpson, Bill Viola, and Lisa Yuskavage. View this “cross-section of paintings, prints, drawings, video, installation art, and photography” through Sunday, January 4. 700 Prospect Street, 858-454-3541. (LA JOLLA)

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

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

“Nancy Newhall: A Literacy of Images” continues through Sunday, January 25. Best known for writing text to accompany photographs by Ansel Adams and Edward Weston, Nancy Newhall was also a widely published writer on photography, conservation, Amer-

ican culture. 1649 El Prado, 619-238-7559. (BALBOA PARK)

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

“DAMNGORGEOUS: Millard Sheets and His Southern California Legacy” offers “a comprehensive look at his impressive career from the 1920s to the ‘80s.” Over 40 works of art, including watercolors, oils, etchings, lithographs, and drawings, provide viewers with introduction to Sheets’s legacy. In the early 1930s, Sheets helped define a movement known as Southern California Regionalism, depicting rural scenes near his home in Claremont, California. Through Sunday, January 4.

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

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

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

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

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

from Kubota’s “Mt. Fuji” series, presented as three views of Japan’s most famous mountain at different times of day, as well as a selection of Kubota’s individual works.

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

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Bitter Candy Notes from a local stagehand who worked on Madonna's recent concert at Petco Park:

"We were 50 feet away, in the tunnel, and they made us turn the other way, toward the loading dock, so we wouldn't be able to see

in the green room were a strategically placed Kabbalah book on the coffee table, a movie-director's chair with Madonna's name on the back ("After Madonna went on stage, one of the crew went up to the director's chair to sniff [it]"), and a 16th-centu-

was still brunette, and she had some kind of partial body wrap."

The stagehand says there was something of a close call when they were dismantling the set the day after the show.

"During breakdown, someone f*cked up and three of the steel cross-braces fell about five feet away from me. If one had hit my head, I could have easily died. Something also fell when they were setting up [her stage] in L.A. The point is, stagehands continually risk their lives for her...and for only \$12.50 an hour, and for the seriously back-breaking work and [the risk] that is undertaken at every show, it just pisses me off that this woman thinks we are unworthy of looking at her."

— Edwin Decker

Overdue It's a long way from swinging 1969 London, but over the past few months at Earthling studios in El Cajon, publisher/musician Mike Stax and producer Mike Kamoo have been working on an album of 12 vintage unreleased songs from British R&B legends the Pretty Things on Stax's UT Records.

As Stax explains it, the Pretty Things album fell through the cracks nearly 40 years ago due to unusual circumstances.

"In 1969, a French millionaire playboy and Pretty Things super-fan called

Philippe DeBarge commissioned the group to write and record an album for him. They agreed to do this, so they booked time at one of London's first eight-track facilities, Nova, and made

whereabouts of the master tapes are unknown, so the material Stax and Kamoo worked with was taken from one of only two acetates (an aluminum disc coated with a plastic lacquer used for stu-



PRETTY THINGS PROJECT COMES THROUGH THE CRACKS

this album."

All the songs were written and produced by Phil May and Wally Waller of the Pretty Things. The band performed all the music and background vocals with DeBarge singing the lead, learned verbatim from their demos.

"They were able to take time and experiment with a lot of new sounds. There's lots of backwards guitars, Mellotron, and layered harmonies."

When the album was completed, DeBarge took the master tapes and tried to find a record label in France to release them, but nothing ever happened. DeBarge died about ten years ago, and the

dio reference) known to exist.

Stax was approached by the private collector who owned the disc. Afraid of possible damage that might take place to the rare disc in transit, the acetate was digitized in the owner's home country of Finland.

After 39 years of being in limbo, the plan to press 1000 LPs (along with 1500 CDs) was delayed until Stax managed to put a rush on the job.

"Apparently vinyl is making a big comeback," says Stax. "[The] pressing plant [was] so backed up with work, it [was] difficult to get jobs through quickly or even get a solid delivery date."

— Bart Mendoza

What I Did Last

Summer "I had just seen the Muslims and Wild Weekend at the Belly Up," says Embalmers singer-guitarist Gordo about a night in late July. "I stopped at a few more bars. I got pulled over on Encinitas Boulevard. I passed the field sobriety test, but then they told me I had to take a breath test. I denied them.

"They put me in handcuffs and put me in the cop car. We verbally abused each other on the way to the sheriff's substation [in Encinitas]. I was calling them 'pigs,' and they were calling me 'beaner.' Unknown to them was I had pulled my hands under my legs and used the metal part of my belt buckle to pick the lock on my handcuffs. When we got there, I put my hands back behind my back and pretended I was still in cuffs....

"I pushed both cops off me.... They all tried to tackle me, and they fell over each other like the Three Stooges. I took off running. I wrapped my hand over a shirt and just climbed over the barbed-wire fence. I was chased by the entire Encinitas sheriff department, their dogs, and a helicopter. I hid in the bushes behind Longs for four hours. I heard sirens and cops' voices everywhere. Eventually I made my way through the back streets of Encinitas

(Continued on page 74)

the inside track blur

Madonna getting into her SUV."

It was the stagehand's job to convert Petco's visitors' locker room into a green room for Madonna and her crew. With the help of some drapes and gray pipe, the room was divided into three zones: the main area, a mini office, and a masseuse room.

"She brought some couches and love seats that really weren't all that great.... We also had to cover up any televisions that were hanging in the dressing room. All we did was wrap them in black drape, which is no different than just turning them off. You could still tell they were hanging televisions."

Other items that the singer required to be present

ry-style portrait of herself hanging on the wall.



NO SLACK FOR MADONNA

"It was one of those poses where you face the other way, kind of looking back, and you see the ass crack a little and some side boob. Her hair

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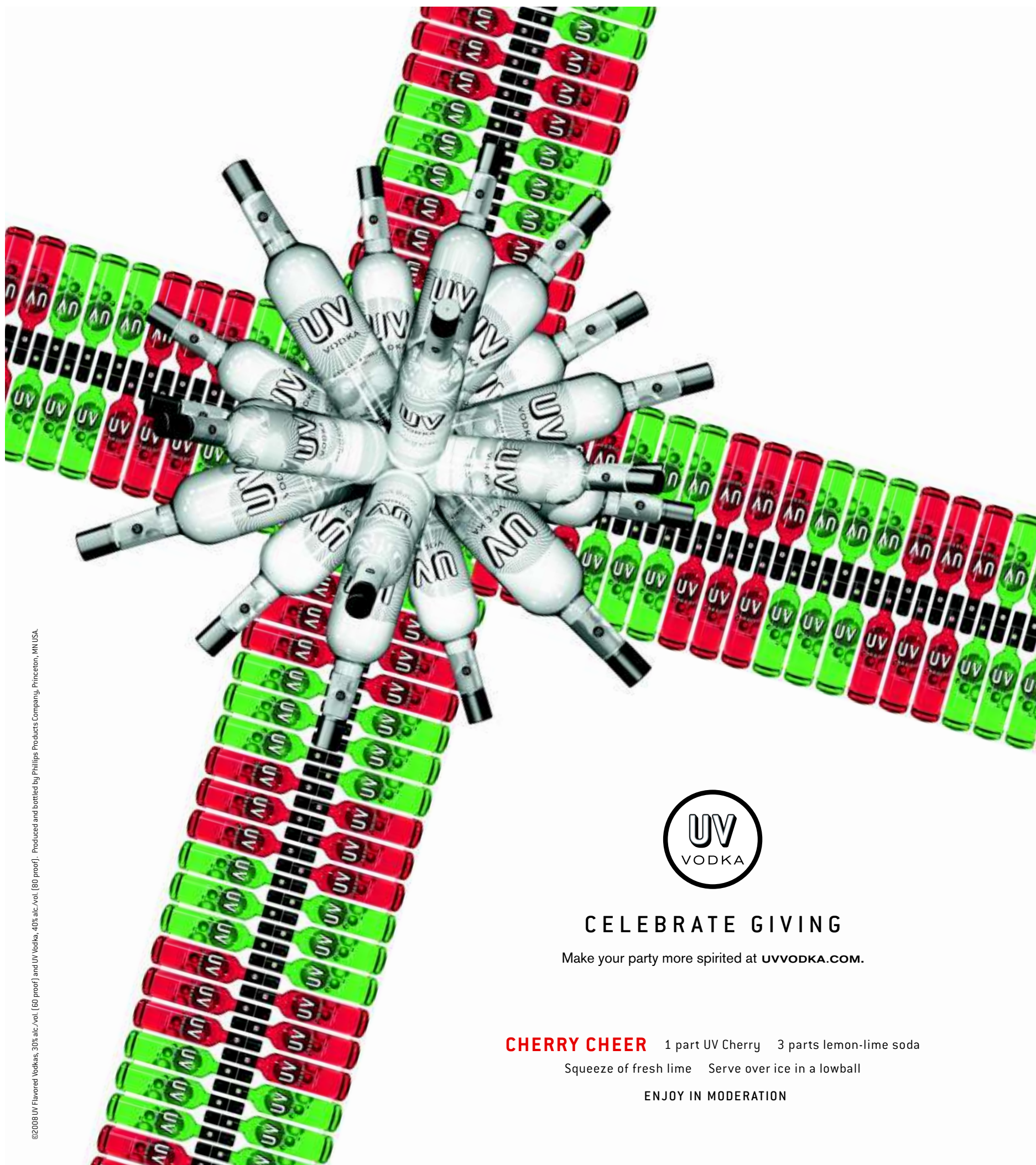
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blurt

continued from page 72

toward the beach. I found a little girl's pink bike that had a flat back tire. I rode it to the cliffs of Swami's.

"I was making my way down the cliffs. I thought I was almost at the bottom, so I jumped. I fell about 100 feet and knocked myself out. All I remember is two women joggers waking me up in the morning.

One said, 'Marge, I think he's dead.' They insisted they call an ambulance, but I denied it.

I walked on the beach to Terramar Point [in Carlsbad]. I saw a friend surfing who gave me a ride home."

Because the deputies had Gordo's cell phone, they were able to find out info on his family.

"They looked up my brother's home address. They

had undercover marshals staking out his house. My brother came to pick me up so I could turn myself in. Twelve agents rushed me as I walked outside my house....

"I was initially charged with escape and making a terrorist threat and causing bodily harm to multiple police officers, which carried 6 to 12 years in prison."

After pleading guilty to a felony terrorist threat to a police officer and DUI, Gordo got 180 days at three



JOHNNY CASH DOESN'T INSPIRE GORDO

different county jails.

"I passed the time by shadowboxing and composing songs in my head. Not comparing myself to them, but I drew inspiration from other musicians, like Tupac and Merle Haggard, who also did time. No disrespect to Johnny Cash, but he only did

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two days....

"I did the crime and I served the time. I will always live my life wild and free. A little county time is not going to break my spirit, and neither is being harassed by the man."

The Embalmers appear January 24 at the Ken Club.
— Ken Leighton

Them Boots "The Russians really do drink a lot of vodka," says Carnifex drummer Shawn Cameron of the patrons at Moscow's Tochka Club, where the band appeared December 1. "And the stuff with labels written in actual Russian is a lot stronger than what you get over here!"

The Moscow date (part of

a European tour opening for Despised Icon) was the band's first time in Russia.

"You can't just request a visa; they have to invite you into the country. We had to overnight them our passports and fill out a government form that asked us things like, 'Have you ever worked around plutonium?' and 'Do you have any special weapons training?'"

Once in Russia, says

Cameron, "The promoter actually put us up in a three-bedroom apartment instead of a hotel and gave us a guide



RUSSIAN SHOUT-OUT FROM CARNIFEX with a van."

He compares the Tochka Club's size and sound system to downtown's House of Blues.

"The stage is on a big

box, though, stuck out in the middle of the room, with no barricades, so the kids were right up on us.... The girls wear those long leather knee-high boots with high heels and tight jeans. They look amazing, and they're pretty starstruck by bands. They don't get metal shows every night.... One girl got up on the stage and flashed everybody!"

Carnifex appears Wednesday, January 7, at Le Drugstore in Tijuana, before going back on tour with Despised Icon in February.
— Jay Allen Sanford

CONTRIBUTORS

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

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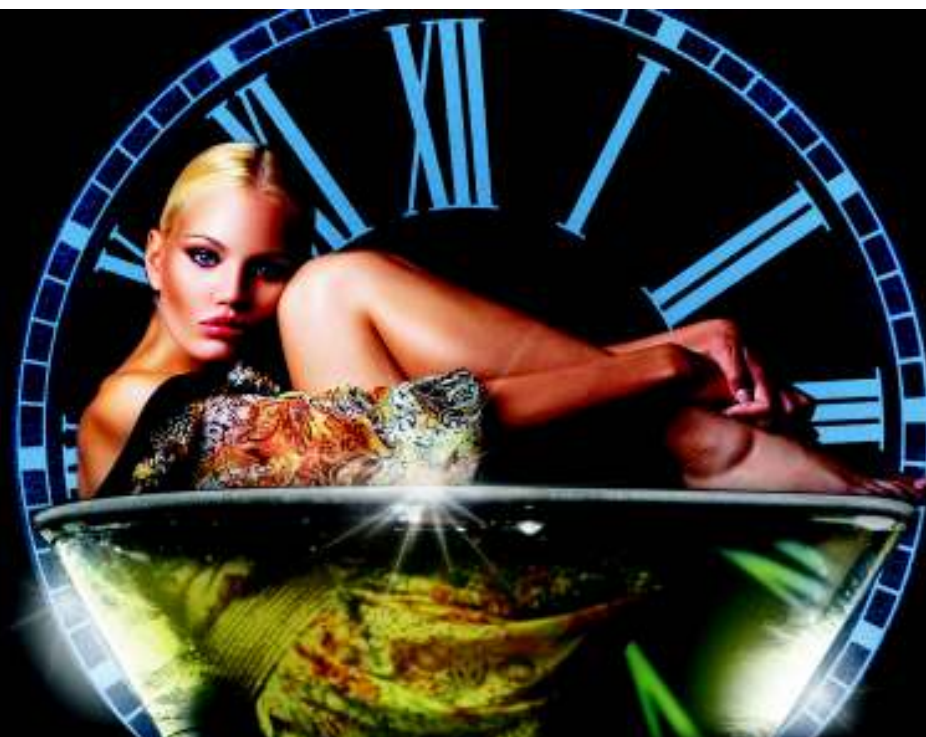
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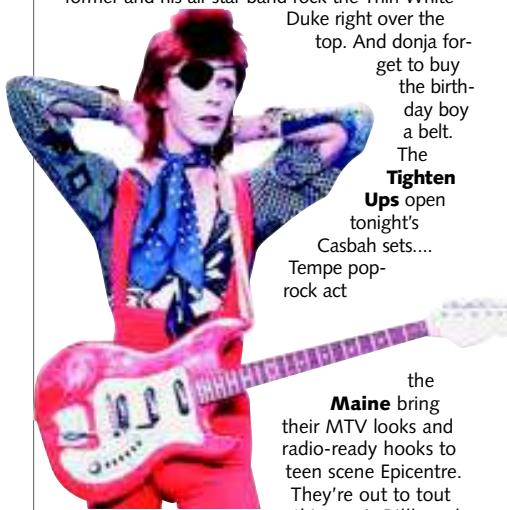
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This Week In Music

Thursday 18

It's time for hometown hit Gary Shuffler's (Honey Glaze) birthday extravaganza, when Shuffl dons his "screwed-up eyes and screwed-down hairdo" as **Ziggy Shuffledust** and the **Spiders from Mars**. If you've never seen a Shuffler trib, which include Bauhaus, Queen, and GNR, among others, then you're in for a treat, Bowie fan, as the performer and his all-star band rock the Thin White Duke right over the top. And donja forget to buy the birthday boy a belt. The **Tighten Ups** open tonight's Casbah sets.... Tempe pop-rock act



ZIGGY SHUFFLEDUST AT CASBAH

the **Maine** bring their MTV looks and radio-ready hooks to teen scene Epicentre. They're out to tout this year's *Billboard* climber *Can't Stop, Won't Stop* and will treat the room to a taste of spanking-new holiday disc *And a Happy New Year*. With **Eye Alaska** (insert Sarah Palin joke here), **This Century**, **Radio Racer**, and **Foto:graph**, that's a lot of bang for your bucks, kids.... SoCal vocal group **Venice** bring their Christmas show to Belly Up. Bend an ear to the seasonal sounds of *Christmas with Venice* for a preview. Your mom'd love this one.... Back downtown, SanDago surf rockers **Secret Samurai** smack the lip at Beauty Bar.

Friday 19

Party like a rock star! SoCal locos **Sprung Monkey** swing through House of Blues Friday



SPRUNG MONKEY AT HOUSE OF BLUES

night. The quintet's catchy dub rock has landed the band movie cuts and face time on *Conan*. Bill reads like a locals-only, homers, with Poway punks **Unwritten Law**, hometown hits **Critical Me**, and alt-rock faves **Buckfast Superbee**.... 'Round downtown, L.A.'s **Jon B** joins **Slim** of Atlanta Grammy winners 112 for a night of R&B at 4th&B....**Creepy Creeps** and **Braaiins!** rock your nightmare before Christmas at Casbah — looks like that might be a free one...and big-horns band **Detroit Underground** rolls up on Anthology.... Uptowners, ya got **MEX** at Bar Pink....**Tiltwheel**, **Madison Bloodbath**, and the **Bible Brothers** at the Ken Club...and **Batar-Zan**, **Metrons**, and **Heavy Cessna** land at Radio Room.... Else: it's a Very Celtic Christmas at Belly Up with the **Young Dubliners**, **Colin Armstrong**, and the **L.A. Scots Pipe Band**.

Saturday 20

"This Ain't a Scene, It's an Arms Race." Mira Mesa's all-ages Epicentre catches Illinois's favorite sons **Fall Out Boy** Saturday night. December 16, Pete Wentz and his pop-punk supergroup dropped their fifth Decaydance disc *Folie à Deux*. At this writing, no telling how far up the *Billboard* charts the "current face of rock and roll" landed with this one. Check



VANDALS AT HOUSE OF BLUES

the Space takes for a taste.... Casbah fills a big-rawk bill with groomed but gritty locals **Dirty Sweet** and Angelino psych-rock acts **Lemon Sun** and **Night Horse**.... English chanteuse, Disney darling, and the ex-Mrs. Andrew Lloyd Webber, **Sarah Brightman**, lights up Sports Arena with her super-soprano renditions of big show tunes (*Phantom*) and classical crossover hits. Take a gander at *Diva: The Video Collection* for a preview.... **40 Oz. to Freedom** (Sublime trib) and **Stepping Feet** (Dave Matthews thing) ape their faves out at Canes.... While in town, the **Modlins**, **Wendy Darling**, and **Joanie Mendenhall** coif at Beauty Bar...and the **Donkeys** haul a load of psych-folk into the Ken.



FALL OUT BOY AT EPICENTRE

Sunday 21

The **Vandals** return '80s party punk to House of Blues. Interest in the Huntington Beach band was rejuvenated when the throwbacks joined this past summer's Warped Tour. For the tongue-in-cheek team's best, revisit early-effort reissues *Peace Thru Vandalism* and *When in Rome Do as the Vandals*. **Wild Weekend** and the **Phenomenauts** set the downtown stage.... Irish drunk-punks the **Downs Family** bring their riverdance rave-ups to North Park hot spot Bar Pink.... **Scarlet Symphony**, **Say Vinyl**, and the **Drowning Men** wash up at Casbah for a rock, pop, and folk Sunday nightger.

Monday 22

Gets thin Christmas week, but here y'are: Casbah's Anti-Monday team tags "acousmatic" locals **Tape Deck Mountain**, Zonie indie kids **Madison County**, and "the new wave of rock and roll," Portland band **Black Mamba**...while Belly Up books a 91X Loudspeaker joint, featuring up-and-comers **Years Around the Sun**, **Apes of Wrath**, and **Scarlet Symphony**.

Tuesday 23

It's Rub-a-Dub Tuesday at Belly Up, hosted by **Dub Traffik Control**, with the **Devastators** and **Stranger**.... Beauty Bar bills an all-country night featurin' **John Meeks** and the **Old Palominos**.... **Fuzz Huzzi**, **Astro Zombies** (Misfits covers), and **Plane Without a Pilot** crash into Casbah.

Wednesday 24

ExMas Eve, babies, and time for the annual **Exile on Kettner** sets at Casbah, with all your fave local players rolling bones and dishing up Stones! Merry hangover.

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| SATURDAY • DECEMBER 20 DIRTY SWEET LEMON SUN NIGHT HORSE | TUESDAY • DECEMBER 23 ROCKIT PRESENTS FUZZ HUZZI PLANE WITHOUT A PILOT ASTRO ZOMBIES (MISFITS COVER BAND) | WEDNESDAY • DECEMBER 31 CASBAH'S 20-YEAR ANNIVERSARY KICKOFF/NEW YEAR'S EVE THE RUGBURNS STEVE POLTZ |
| SUNDAY • DECEMBER 21 SCARLET SYMPHONY SAY VINYL DROWNING MEN | WEDNESDAY • DECEMBER 24 EXILE ON KETTNER BLVD. | FRIDAY • JANUARY 2 NASHVILLE RAMBLERS |
| MONDAY • DECEMBER 22 ANTI-MONDAY LEAGUE PRESENTS TAPEDECK MOUNTAIN MADISON COUNTY BLACK MAMBA | THURSDAY • DECEMBER 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! | |
| | FRIDAY • DECEMBER 26 DYNAMITE WALLS CRASH ENCORE STRIPES AND LINES | |
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FRI.12.26 **DJ FRANCES** : SAT.12.27 **DJ THERON**

We Got Nuthin'

“‘Benny and the Jets’ might be the most annoying song in the history of music.”

I saw a band called the Dateless Losers at the Ould Sod on Adams Avenue in Normal Heights. I liked their songs and their sense of humor. After their set I asked Tim Curns to tell me about the band.

“Growing up in upstate New York,” says Tim, “Gabe [Lander] and I looked to the west to find a solution to our humdrum existence.... I followed Gabe out to Southern California after hearing how much fun he was having in Tijuana. I came out with the intention that we would start a full band and become the next Radiohead and then realized that we were complete nobodies who had no car, no money, and no women.

“Despite all of this, we kept playing our guitars at open mikes and for friends until we discovered that juxtaposing congruent-sounding songs seemed to wake up the audience to sing along and drink copious amounts of beer. We kept on doing that, and it has morphed into a techno/audio/visual/metal nightmare that we refuse to let people wake up from. Keep in mind that we are still nobodies with no money, though.”

Best song: Beck’s “Loser,” Petty’s “Even the Losers,” or the Beatles’ “I’m a Loser”?

Tim: “I prefer Beck’s song because of the bilingual nature. But Reel Big Fish’s ‘Dateless Losers’ is kind of our inspiration, to be honest.”

Gabe: “Definitely Beck’s version. It’s great hearing people who don’t know he’s saying ‘*Soy un perdedor*’ sing along with it. When you ask them what they’re singing, you get some pretty great answers: ‘So open the door’ or ‘Sore head to toe.’ Although Tim will confirm that I am king of making up horrendously butchered lyrics for songs.”

Best dating show?

Tim: “I think *Blind Date* is amazing because host Roger Lodge has nipples that poke through even the heaviest of armored sweaters. There’s no hiding those suckers. And you gotta love the captions that pop up. But I’d say *Cheaters* is just about the

funniest thing in the world. Did you see when the cool-guy host Joey Greco got stabbed and fell off the boat?”

Worst date you ever had?

Tim: “I once tagged along on a date that my friend had with an older woman, and this older woman just happened to bring a

friend of hers who was also older. So I’m not sure if it was technically a date, but I thought it’d be interesting to get to know an older woman...who just happened to have an ‘enhanced’ chest. Anyway, the night went along swimmingly, and I made sure not to come on too strong, like holding the *b* button down for too long in NES’s Excitebike. By the end of the night, I thought I had swayed her. When it came time to make a move, however, she contracted SARS or something and began coughing like she was going to implode. Then her nose started running. I sat and stared. Then she fell asleep, and I watched the end of a surprisingly good episode of *Matlock* on TV. So I guess it wasn’t all bad.”

Gabe: “Date? Are you kidding me? Dateless! Never been on one, ever.”

Best date movie?

Tim: *Shaun of the Dead*. “It’s romantic, it’s scary, it’s funny, and it has zombies.”

Gabe: “What’s with the dating questions?”

Best bar for acoustics?

Tim: “I think we’ve had the best sound at the Gig in Hollywood. We usually have to do our own sound, and we cause feedback, and everyone looks at us like we’re wolfmen. The Ould Sod in Normal Heights is our favorite place to get drunk. And our favorite place to play. Often both of these go well together.”

Gabe: “It’s not something we usually pay attention to. Sometimes we play a show with other bands, and they take eons working with the sound guy to get every nook and cranny of every instrument’s sound tweaked to glorious precision. Makes



Dateless Losers

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEN BERRY

us crazy. We plug in our guitars and iPod and just hope it doesn’t sound too terrible. Hell, the worse the acoustics, the less likely the audience is to notice how terrible our playing really is.”

Your thoughts on drinking and performing?

Tim: “We’re occasionally drunk by the end of the night, but we always sound as if we’re completely hammered. That’s just how little talent we actually have.”

Gabe: “Oh, my goodness. It’s a necessity. I’ve been known to overdo it a bit from time to time. I can think of several instances where I’ve irritated Tim with my complete inability to play or sing on account of too much beverage. I turn into a Tasmanian devil.”

Tim: “Well, his hair looks like one, anyway.”

Most overrated singer-songwriter of all time?

Tim: “Elton John. I’ll give him some credit, but ‘Benny and the Jets’ might be the most annoying song in the history of music.”

Gabe: “People get angry when I say this, but I’ll say the Beatles. Listen to any of their later stuff and pretend it wasn’t the Beatles. Pretend some unknown band had written it. Is it still good? Would anyone bother listening to it more than once? The answer, my friends, is no.”

A song you like that you usually don’t admit to liking?

Tim: “Every Britney Spears song. Actually, I do admit to that. She’ll always be my girl, no matter how many canklles she has.”

Gabe: “Anything by *NSYNC. Definitely a guilty pleasure. Especially ‘O Holy Night’ off their Christmas album. I normally despise Christmas music and all things related to Christmas, but I get the chills when I hear their version of this song.”

Best/worst band names?

Tim: “We’ve changed our name several times over the years, and I think, in my humble opinion, we’ve probably had the greatest names. Some examples include ‘Up, Up, Down, Down, Left, Right, Left, Right, B, A, Select, Start,’ ‘My Name Is Enigo Montoya,’ ‘You Killed My Father,’ ‘Now Prepare to Die,’ the related ‘Wesley and Princess Buttercup,’ and ‘The Wrath of Kahn...Kaaahn!’ I heard once of a band named Boyzone. That’s pretty bad.”

Your dream date?

Tim: “It’s pretty obvious. Britney Spears — we go see *Shaun of the Dead* and have a drink at the Gig in Hollywood while we badmouth Elton John.” ■



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THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

710 Beach Club: 710 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-483-7844. Friday — Mystic Roots and Social Green. Reggae/rock.

Anthology: 1337 India Street, Little Italy, 619-595-0300. Thursday, 7 p.m. — The Anthology House Band. Jazz/R&B/soul. \$5. Friday, 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. — Detroit Underground. Covers Motown and dance hits. \$18. Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. — The Heroes. Covers/standards/dance. \$12.

Balboa Theatre: 868 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-570-1100.

Wednesday, 8 p.m. — Rain. A tribute to the Beatles. \$12-\$74.

Belly Up Tavern: 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.

Thursday, 8 p.m. — Venice. With Charlie Vaughn & the Daily Routine. Folk/rock/pop. \$15-\$17.

Friday, 9 p.m. — The Young Dubliners. Celtic rock. \$22.

Sunday, 8:30 p.m. — Orquesta Primo. Salsa. \$10.

Monday, 8 p.m. — Years Around the Sun and Scarlet Symphony. With the Apes of Wrath. Experimental/indie/rock. \$8. Tuesday, 9 p.m. — The Devastators. Roots/reggae/dub. \$8.

Bing Crosby's Restaurant and Piano Lounge: 7007 Friars Road, Mission Valley, 619-295-2464.

Friday, 7 p.m. — David Patrone. Jazz/lounge. Free.

The Bitter End: 770 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-338-9300. Thursday, 9 p.m. — The Flowerthief and the Turtle Project. Folk/rock/pop.

Brick by Brick: 1130 Buenos Avenue, Linda Vista, 619-275-5483. Thursday, 8:30 p.m. — Priest Heavy. A tribute to Judas Priest. With Steven James. \$5. Friday, 8:30 p.m. — Staring at Strange and Tripp. Rock/pop. \$7. Sunday, 7 p.m. — Cutty D & Shepwee. With Impala and Jung Ace. Hip-hop/rap. \$10.

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. — PAC 10 and ThumTac. With After School Special and Swisher Sweets. Hip-hop/rap. \$6.

Friday, 8 p.m. — Canobliss. Toys for Tots benefit with One Theory, Dante's Boneyard, and Six Reasons. Admission is free with an unwrapped toy. Metal/rock. Free. Saturday, 9 p.m. — 40 Oz. to Freedom. A tribute to Sublime. Stepping Feet also performs a tribute to the Dave Matthews Band. \$12.

The Casbah: 2501 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-4355.

Thursday, 8:30 p.m. — Ziggy Shuffledust & the Spiders from Mars. With the Tighen Ups. Rock/blues/funk. \$12.

Friday, 8:30 p.m. — The Creepy Creeps and Braaiins.

Garage/surf/punk. Saturday, 8:30 p.m. — Dirty Sweet. With Lemon Sun and Night Horse. Alternative/rock. \$12-\$14.

Sunday, 8:30 p.m. — Scarlet Symphony and Sayvinyl. With the Drowning Men.

Alternative/rock/experimental. \$7.

Monday, 8:30 p.m. — Tape Deck Mountain and Madison County. With Black Mamba.

Indie/pop/rock. \$6. Tuesday, 8:30 p.m. — Fuzz-Huzzi and Plane Without a Pilot. With Astro Zombies (Misfits tribute). Alternative/pop/punk. \$7.

Wednesday, 8:30 p.m. — Exile on Kettner Blvd. This year's lineup includes Mario Escovedo (vocals), Steve Rodriguez (bass), Joe Camacho (guitar), George Vidardi (bass), Brian Cantrell (drums), and others. Rock. Free.

Cheers: 2475 Main Street, Ramona, 760-789-0270. Tuesdays, 5 p.m. — Mike Gardner. Acoustic rock. Free.

Del Mar Plaza: 1555 Camino del Mar, Del Mar.

Saturday, 3 p.m. — Rhythm & the Method. Acoustic/blues/rock. Free.

Dirk's Niteclub: 7662 Broadway, Lemon Grove, 619-469-6344. Friday, Saturday — Nemesis. Classic rock/metal/grunge.

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

Friday, 8 p.m. — The Gilbert Castellanos Quartet. Latin jazz. \$12-\$15.

Monday, 7 p.m. — The Jazz Ensemble. Jazz. \$10.

Tuesday, 7 p.m. — Kalido-Skopio. Afro-Cuban/Latin/jazz. \$15.

Dream Street Live: 2228 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-8131.

Friday, 8 p.m. — HeadRUSH. A tribute to Rush.

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

Thursday, 7 p.m. — The Maine and Eye Alaska. With This Century, Radio Racer, and Foto:graph. Pop/punk/rock. \$10-\$12. Friday, 7 p.m. — A Dull Science and the Variety Show. With Lindbergh Skies, Freezing Vinyl, and In the Moment.

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TIESTO, PAUL VAN DYK, DAVID GUETTA, BENNY BENASSI, FERRY CORSTEN TO NAME A FEW

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atb

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XXentire DJ Sam Roberts ev MUSIC

INFINITE

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MSTRKRFT

and Felix Cartal + Loudnoises, Harvard Bass



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Friday, December 26 Homegrown Holiday with Barry Weaver

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Maximus
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DIRTY SOUTH

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HOBASTANK

BUCKFAST & SUPERBEE

DEC 18



Dionne
Warwick

DEC 28



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CURRINGTON
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APR 09

DreamCatcher

FREE WEEKEND ENTERTAINMENT

| | | |
|--------|---------------------|--------|
| DEC 20 | DETROIT UNDERGROUND | 10p-1a |
| DEC 26 | INSIDE OUT | 9p-1a |
| DEC 27 | CRUSH | 10p-1a |

| | | |
|--------|---------------|-------|
| DEC 19 | 80z ALL STARS | 8p-1a |
| DEC 20 | FULL EFFECT | 8p-1a |
| DEC 26 | IZON EDEN | 8p-1a |

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Pop/punk/rock. \$7-\$9.
Saturday, 6 p.m. — Fall Out Boy.
Pop/punk. \$20.

Fannie's Nightclub: 9143
Campo Road, Spring Valley, 619-
698-2204.
Thursdays — Fuzz-Huzzi.
Alternative/pop/punk.
Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m. — The
Bedpost Buzzards. Rock. Free.

Gallagher's Pub & Grill: 5046
Newport Avenue, Ocean Beach,
619-222-5300.
Friday, 9 p.m. — Lipstick N
Leather. Eighties hair-metal.

House of Blues: 1055 Fifth
Avenue, Downtown, 619-299-2583.
Thursday, 6 p.m. — Brian
Culbertson. Smooth jazz/pop. \$22-
\$39.
Friday, 7 p.m. — Unwritten Law.
Alternative rock/punk. \$19-\$34.
Sunday, 7 p.m. — The Vandals.
Hardcore/punk.

**Humphrey's Backstage
Music Club:** 2241 Shelter Island
Drive, Point Loma, 619-224-3577.
Thursday, 8 p.m. — Haute Flash.
Covers/standards. \$5.
Friday, 9:30 p.m. — Rising Star.
Covers disco and dance. \$12.
Saturday, 9:30 p.m. — Dennis
Jones. Blues/rock. \$12.
Sunday, 8 p.m. — Reggie Smith.
Smooth-jazz. Free.
Monday, 7 p.m. — The Robin
Henkel Band. Blues/funk/jazz. Free.
Tuesday, 7 p.m. — Jesse Davis. Jazz
vocalist. \$5.

Jimmy Love's: 672 Fifth
Avenue, Downtown, 619-595-0123.
Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. — The Soul
Revue. Jazz, dance, and top 40.

The Jumping Turtle: 1660
Capalina Road, San Marcos, 760-
741-7778.

Thursday — K-9 & Shy and Cals.
With T.S.P., Mathmatix, and Lil
Trigger. Hip-hop/rap.
Friday — Lloyd Hemmings. With
Avitia, Irideside, Mean Dinosaur,
and Social Green. Reggae/rock.
Sunday — Long Live Logos.
Acoustic/pop/rock.
Mondays — Reggae Infusion Irie
Time. Various reggae bands per-
form.

The Kensington Club: 4079
Adams Avenue, Kensington-
Talmadge, 619-284-2848.
Friday — Tiltwheel and Madison
Bloodbath. With the Bible Brothers.
Punk/rock.
Saturday — The Donkeys and Bart
Davenport. Indie/pop/folk rock.

The Kraken: 2531 South
Highway 101, Cardiff, 760-436-
6483.
Thursday — 3 EZ Pieces.
Friday — Serious Guise.

Covers/pop/rock.
Saturday — Ghost Riders and
Serious Guise. Covers/pop/rock.
Sundays, 4 p.m. — The Blues
Brokers. Blues/soul/rock.
Mondays, Tuesdays — Doug Allen.
Front man of the Mar Dels.
Wednesday — Jeff Moore & the
Witchdoctors. Down-home
Americana blues rock.

Lestat's Coffee House: 3343
Adams Avenue, Normal Heights,
619-282-0437.
Thursday — Alex DePue & Miguel
De Hoyos. Acoustic.
Friday — Ralpheene and Rob Dee.
Acoustic/alternative/hip-hop.
Saturday — Allison Lonsdale and
Curtis Peoples. Acoustic/pop/rock.

Sunday — Dave Boodakian and
Kenny Eng. With Veronica May.
Acoustic/soul/pop.

**Main Stage Bar at Valley
View Casino:** 16300 Nyemii Pass
Road, Valley Center, 866-843-9946.
Thursday, 7 p.m. — Firefly.
Contemporary rock. Free.
Friday, 9 p.m. — The Heroes.
Covers/standards/dance. Free.
Friday, 4 p.m. — Innovation.
Covers/standards. Free.
Saturday, 4 p.m. — Lady Dottie &
the Diamonds. Blues/soul/rock.
Free.
Saturday, 9 p.m. — The Jones
Revival. Classic rock. Free.
Sunday, 1 p.m. — Metro. Eighties
rock. Free.
Sunday, 6 p.m. — The Jones
Revival. Classic rock. Free.

Main Tap Tavern: 518 East
Main Street, El Cajon, 619-749-
6333.
Tuesday — Hugh Gaskins & the G
String Daddies. Blues/soul/rocka-
billy.

McCabe's Beach Club: 1145
South Tremont Street, Oceanside,
760-439-6646.
Fridays, 4:30 p.m. — The California
Rangers. Country. Free.

McP's Irish Pub and Grill:
1107 Orange Avenue, Coronado,
619-435-5280.
Friday, 9 p.m. — The Taylor
Harvey Band. Bluegrass/rock.
Saturday, 9 p.m. — 4 Way Street.
Tuesday, 8 p.m. — The Taylor
Harvey Band. Bluegrass/rock.

Molly Malone's: 1270 Main
Street, Ramona, 760-789-9050.
Friday, 9 p.m. — Lefthand Thread.
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JAN. 26



BRIAN WILSON

ON SALE FRIDAY 12/19 @ 10AM!

JAN 29



ROCKSTAR CHAPS

ON SALE SATURDAY 12/20 @ 10AM!

FEB 18



ADELE

ON SALE SATURDAY 12/20 @ 10AM!

MAR 9



TAKE ACTION TOUR 2009

ON SALE SATURDAY 12/20 @ 10AM!

MAR 14



gob

ON SALE FRIDAY 12/19 @ 10AM!

MAR. 20



A SOULFUL CHRISTMAS

DEC 18



UNWRITTEN LAW

DEC 19



THE VANDALS

DEC 21



THE CURED

DEC 26



BOYZ n the CITY & DAVE L

DEC 27



RATT

DEC 28



THE WAILERS

DEC 30



CLUB MASSIVE

DEC 31



Reel Big Fish

JAN 1



UNWRITTEN LAW

JAN 2



the Radiators

JAN 3



B.B. KING

JAN 4



THE METEORS

JAN 5



George Clinton & The Parliament Funkadelic

JAN 6



LED ZEP AGAIN

JAN 9

| | | | | | |
|-------|---|-----------|---|------|---|
| 12/20 | RICK ORTIZ PRESENTS NOCHES ROCKERS | 1/27 | TYRONE WELLS | 2/21 | REVEREND HORTON HEAT |
| 12/29 | SAN DIEGO ROCKS | 1/28 & 30 | O.A.R. | 2/24 | ADELITA'S WAY |
| 1/10 | BONFIRE - A TRIBUTE TO EARLY ACDC | 1/31 | RICHARD CHEESE & LOUNGE AGAINST THE MACHINE | 2/25 | VOODOO STAGE |
| 1/11 | RICK ORTIZ PRESENTS INDUSTRY NIGHT | 2/2 | MESSHUGGAH | 2/26 | THE GUITAR GENERATION |
| 1/15 | BOYZ II MEN | 2/3 & 2/4 | NOFX | 2/27 | FEATURING PAUL GILBERT |
| 1/16 | MAZ JOBRANI | 2/7 | BADFISH A TRIBUTE TO SUBLIME | 3/1 | KINKY |
| 1/17 | REBELLION/STATE RADIO | 2/8 | SKA IS DEAD TOUR FEAT. THE TOASTERS AND VOODOO GLOW | 3/3 | BIG HEAD TODD & THE MONSTERS |
| 1/18 | ERIC JOHNSON WITH THE AH VIA MUSKON BAND | 2/11 | THE AIRBOURNE TOXIC EVENT | 3/5 | ZAPPA PLAYS ZAPPA |
| 1/21 | EDWIN MCCAIN | 2/14 | VOODOO STAGE | 3/8 | ADELITA'S WAY |
| 1/24 | VOODOO STAGE | 2/17 | ELEFANTE | 3/17 | VOODOO STAGE |
| 1/25 | FEMI KUTI & THE POSITIVE FORCE | 2/20 | STYX | 3/22 | THE PRETENDERS |
| | COUNTRY RAT PACK FEATURING TRACY | | ADELITA'S WAY | 3/27 | G LOVE & SPECIAL SAUCE |
| | BYRD WITH TRACY LAWRENCE & RICHIE McDONALD | | GIN BLOSSOMS/TONIC | 4/10 | ESCAPE THE FATE |
| | | | | 5/1 | THE ADICTS |
| | | | | 5/15 | BRETT DENNEN |
| | | | | | DON FELDER - AN EVENING OF FESTIVE CUBA CUBANA |
| | | | | | KREATOR |
| | | | | | RAMON AYALA |



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Saturday, 9 p.m. — Radiostar. '80s new wave rock.

Nancy's Pub: 4246 University Avenue, City Heights, 619-280-5834.

Sundays, 5:30 p.m. — The Steemin Heep Blues Band. A blend of traditional blues, swing, and rock. Free. Ages 21 and up.

O'Connells Pub and Nightclub: 1130 Morena Boulevard, Linda Vista, 619-276-5637.

Friday, 9 p.m. — One Inch Punch. With Anthem, In Every Breath, and Smiles & Handshakes. Metal/rock. Saturday, 9 p.m. — The Drabs and Silent Lune. With Inhale and the Lost Transmission.

Alternative/indie/rock. Sunday, 9 p.m. — Sweet Deal and Filtered Aggression. With the Skies of Red. Progressive/rock. Monday, 8 p.m. — Mystery Train. Pro-invitational blues jam.

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 — Missy Andersen. Blues/soul/funk. Friday — Dennis Jones. Blues/rock. Saturday — Aunt Kizzy'z Boyz. Blues/rock/soul.

Peter D's: 5149 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Clairemont, 858-277-3217.

Wednesdays, 8 p.m. — Mystery Train. Performs and hosts an open blues jam.

Pounders: 125 West Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-739-1288. Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m. — Stone Wolf. Rock.

Poway Center for the Performing Arts: 15498 Espola Road, Poway, 858-748-0505.

Friday, 7:30 p.m. — The RB Chorale. Musical selections from the holiday season. Toys for Tots will be accepting donations. \$5-\$30.

Radio Room: 3519 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park, 619-284-3323.

Thursday — The Accoutrements and the Rainman Suite. With Lady Vain and the Prey. Punk/rock/pop. Friday — Batar-Zan and the Metrons. With Heavy Cessna. Garage/rock/punk. Saturday — Slower and the Gift/Curse. With the Bloodflowers. Rock/pop/acoustic. Sunday — The Hybrid Moments and Reverse Cowboys. With Platanos. Punk/rock.

Ramona Mainstage Nightclub: 626 Main Street, Ramona, 760-789-7008. Friday, 8 p.m. — Outta Line and Spero Lumina. Progressive/rock.

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,

NOTE

BY DAVE GOOD

When I read **Wayne "the Train" Hancock** called himself "the stab wound in the fabric of country music," I knew that I had to talk to him. What is the problem with country music? In a word, Nashville. Hancock, via telephone from his east Texas home, agrees.

"I saw what it was all about," he says, "and it's not for me. Country is definitely about who's got the most money and who's got the biggest tour bus. And all the record companies are intent on having the last word." The modern country of today is about bling and pop, and bad pop at that. As music, it looks better than it sounds. Hancock calls it "background noise." He continues, "It embarrasses me. I don't call myself country

because of that." Many think this mess started years ago when traditional country got shelved by the industry in favor of the kind of evangelized big-hair country that artists such as Conway Twitty were making serious coin with. "Country music's been a fixed game since Hank Williams died," says Hancock. "If you got good looks and a great ass, you're in there."

Wayne "the Train's" thing is juke-joint swing, a phrase he says he coined himself. In his mid-40s, scrappy and with a thick drawl, Hancock's music has more to do with Bob Wills or Hank Williams than any other traditional country flavor. He calls out for solos much as did Wills, but with less ham. Hancock fleshes out his studio sound with horns, but on the road the band is a lean four-piece. He works without a drummer. His rhythm guitar is percussive enough to allow him to get away with that. Average shows run



WAYNE HANCOCK

two to three hours, sometimes longer. "If fans are gonna put their hard-earned money on that tabletop, they're gonna get what they're payin' for," he says. "We don't take breaks."

WAYNE HANCOCK, Ramona Mainstage, Sunday, December 21, 8 p.m. 760-789-7008.

Doug Walker, Laurel Grinnell, and friends.

The Round Table Cocktail Lounge: 1723 Euclid Avenue, City Heights, 619-264-6000.

Tuesdays, 6 p.m. — Charlie Blue. Blues.

San Diego Sports Arena: 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma, 619-224-4171. Sunday, 4 p.m. — The Cheetah Girls. Pop/dance. \$35-\$45.

Sevilla: 555 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-5979. Thursday — Son y Clave. Salsa. Mondays, 9 p.m. — Rock en Español.

Soma: 3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma, 619-226-7662. Friday, 6:30 p.m. — Stick to Your Guns. With Mychildren Mybride, Gwen Stacy, Agraceful, Attack Attack!, and Eyes of an Era. Punk/hardcore/metal. \$13. Saturday, 7 p.m. — Hollywood

Undead and Forever Days Forgotten. With the Alert Signal. Alternative/rock/hip-hop. \$12.

South Park Bar & Grill: 1946 Fern Street, South Park, 619-696-0096. Thursdays, 9:30 p.m. — Open jazz jam. Fridays, 7 p.m. — The John Kopecky Trio. Jazz. Saturdays, 8:30 p.m. — Open Blues Jam. With Will Jackson. Sundays, 6 p.m. — Original Music Modern Jazz Series. Every Sunday,

with Doug Walker, Tim Nunnink, Nick Tocco, and Nathan Hubbard.

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

Theatrx: 155 East Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-735-2491. Friday, 8 p.m. — Ben Powell. Blues/jazz/roots. \$10.

Thornton's Irish Pub and Grill: 1221 Broadway, El Cajon, 619-447-5665.

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Three Venues of Entertainment:

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STARLIGHT LOFT - "ACID JAZZ LOUNGE"

\$25 per person pre-sale (ends Dec. 30)

Tickets also can be purchased at the restaurant the day of the event, starting at \$35. **TICKETS ARE LIMITED.** Please check with your server for details and to make your reservation today.

Start your evening with a New Year's Eve Dinner reservation from 4pm - 8pm and get ½ off on your admission.



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Tuesday, Dec 30
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THURSDAY 12/18 • 8 PM

A VERY CELTIC CHRISTMAS THE YOUNG DUBLINERS



**COLIN ARMSTRONG & THE
L.A. SCOTTS PIPE BAND**
FRIDAY 12/19 • 9 PM

SALSA SUNDAYS



SUNDAY 12/21 • 8 PM

YEARS AROUND THE SUN SCARLET SYMPHONY APES OF WRATH



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

RUB-A-DUB TUESDAY THE DEVASTATORS STRANGER



DUB TRAFFIK CONTROL DJs
TUESDAY 12/23 • 9 PM

BASSNECTAR



**BEATS ANTIQUE
OSAL8**
FRIDAY 12/26 • 9 PM

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



SATURDAY 12/27 • 9 PM

PARTICLE



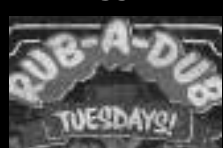
**MICHAEL KANG OF
STRING CHEESE INCIDENT**
SUNDAY 12/28 • 9 PM

CRACKER AND CAMPER VAN BEETHOVEN



MONDAY 12/29 • 8 PM

RUB-A-DUB TUESDAY KUSH



DUB TRAFFIK CONTROL DJs
TUESDAY 12/30 • 9 PM

1st ANNUAL SWAMI'S NEW YEAR'S EVE PRES. BY FM 94.9 THE NIGHT MARCHERS



**THE MUSLIMS
THE CHEAP LEIS**
WEDNESDAY 12/31 • 9 PM

PATO BANTON



**THE MYSTIC ROOTS BAND
DJ CARLOS CULTURE**
FRIDAY 1/2 • 9 PM

91X PRESENTS PEPPER



**SUPERVILLAINS
PASSAFIRE**
SATURDAY 1/3 • 9 PM

VILLA MUSICA PRESENTS PROJECT CABARET



MONDAY 1/5 • 7 PM

NEW ACOUSTIC GENERATION WITH OWEN ROBERTS & THE DOGHOUSE BREWER



WEDNESDAY 1/7 • 8 PM

ROB CARONA



**ALEX WOODARD
GAYLE SKIDMORE**
THURSDAY 1/8 • 8 PM

ELIJAH EMANUEL & THE REVELATIONS



SKANIC
FRIDAY 1/9 • 9 PM

DEAD MAN'S PARTY



THE BURNING OF ROME
SATURDAY 1/10 • 9 PM

DAVID LINDLEY



W/GUEST
SUNDAY 1/11 • 8 PM

MARC BROUSSARD



**JESSE BAYLIN
JOSH HOGE**
WEDNESDAY 1/14 • 8 PM

**JUST
ADDED!**

1/18 Samba Night! Brazilian Pre-Carnaval Ensaio II feat. Jangada

1/28 Ledward Ka'apana and Mike Ka'awa - On sale tomorrow @ noon!

2/7 '80s Fever! w/Hyper Crush • 2/9 Tim Reynolds

2/18 Joshua Radin - On sale tomorrow @ noon! • **2/21 Cash'd Out**

UPCOMING SHOWS:

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 reunited with
Chali 2NA - Three Nights!

1/29 West Indian Girl
1/30 The Cured
1/31 James Morrison
2/4 Devotchka
2/5 Todd Snider, Solo Acoustic
2/12 ALO
2/13 Common Sense
2/15 Susan Tedeschi

2/16 & 2/19 Donavon Frankenreiter
w/Gary Jules
2/20 Super Diamond
3/6 Delta Spirit
3/12 Solana Beach Baseball Bash
feat. Atomic Groove
3/21 Stepping Feet: The Dave
Matthews Band Experience
4/4 John Brown's Body

FRIDAYS SWINGIN' HAPPY HOURS

12/19 **Atomic Groove**
12/26 **Never So Few**

\$5

SALSA SUNDAY
ORQUESTA PRIMO
12/21 • 1/4 • 2/22
8 PM

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and skip the line...next door
at the Wild Note Cafe!**

Friday, 8 p.m. — Zone-4. Classic rock. Free.

Tio Leo's Lounge: 5302 Napa Street, Linda Vista, 619-542-1462. Friday — Sue Palmer & Her Motel Swing Orchestra. Blues/soul.

Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room: 5000 Willows Road, Alpine, 619-445-5400. Thursday, 8 p.m. — Hoobastank. Alternative/rock. \$22-\$25.

Westfield Horton Plaza: 324 Horton Plaza, Downtown. Sunday and Tuesday, 5 p.m. — David Patrone. Holiday standards. Free.

Winstons: 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822. Thursday — Kim Wilson Blues. Blues.

Saturday — Mike Pinto. Acoustic/reggae/rock.

Mondays, 9 p.m. — The Electric Waste Band. Grateful Dead tribute. \$7.

Zuri Banquet Hall: 2200 University Avenue, North Park, 619-299-5400.

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, 7 p.m. — Winter WonderRock. With various local rock bands. \$8-\$10.

UPCOMING SHOWS

4th&B: 345 B Street, Downtown, 619-231-4343.

January 17 — Barrington Levy.

January 23 — Sharon Jones.

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.

January 24 — Loudon Wainwright III.

February 7 — Hot Club of Cowtown.

February 21 — Geoff Muldaur.

February 27 — Lucky Kaplansky.

March 6 — Stephen Bennett.

March 26 — Chad & Jeremy.

April 3 — Hawaiian Slack-Key Masters.

April 5 — Muriel Anderson.

April 11 — Rory Block.

April 24 — David Wilcox.

Anthology: 1337 India Street, Little Italy, 619-595-0300.

December 26 — Martinis & Sinatra.

December 28 — Robert Vincelli & His Band.

December 30 — David Maldonado.

December 31 — The Anthology House Band.

January 2 — Gene Perry's Noche de Rumba Salsa Jazz Orchestra.

January 2 — Pocket.

January 3 — Charmaine Clamor.

January 3 — Janiva Magness.

January 6 — The Anthology House Band.

January 7 — Buster Williams, Patrice Rushen, Lenny White.

January 8, January 9 — Poncho Sanchez.

January 14 — Chuchito Valdes.

January 16, January 17 — Stanley Clarke.

January 18 — Robben Ford.

January 20 — The Anthology House Band.

January 23 — Richie Havens.

January 24 — Fountains of Wayne.

OF NOTE

BY WILLIAM CRAIN

The *Grapes of Wrath*, you probably remember from high school, is John Steinbeck's classic 1939 novel of the working poor. The novel exposed some of the nightmares behind the California dream and helped win Steinbeck the Nobel Prize for Literature. "Apes of Wrath" is the 1959 Bugs Bunny classic about a drunken stork who mistakenly delivers Bugs instead of a baby gorilla to an expectant ape family. Mostly it tells the story of how Bugs and the daddy gorilla, whose name is Elvis, go about hitting each other on the head with sticks.

The San Diego band **Apes of Wrath** is kind of like a combination of both of those clas-

sics — there's a hint of the dark side, a good deal of critical acclaim, and a whole lot of brainless rock 'n' roll fun.

Writing about the Apes of Wrath's album *Plastic, Fake, and Frozen* in these pages a couple of months ago, Ollie noted the Apes' powerful bass lines and heavy drum beats and described the Apes as a more rock 'n' roll, less pretentious version of Franz Ferdinand. That's a fair comparison, but I also hear an appealingly off-kilter quality in the Apes of Wrath's guitar parts that I couldn't put my finger on until I heard the band play a cover of a Devo song.

Whatever comparison you make, the Apes have been gathering buzz, picking up a San Diego Music Awards nomination and going quickly from Monday nights at the Casbah to, next month, the Casbah's high-profile 20th anniversary show. The Apes have also picked



APES OF WRATH

up some powerful allies, including locals Scarlet Symphony (with whom the Apes share some stylistic similarities) and Louis XIV (with whom they don't, really).

Years Around the Sun and **Scarlet Symphony** also perform.

APES OF WRATH, Belly Up, Monday, December 22, 8 p.m. 858-481-8140. \$8.

January 24 — The Clumsy Lovers.

January 27, January 27 — Bill Charlap, Ravi Coltrane, Peter Bernstein.

January 28 — Sacha Boutros.

January 29 — Rebecca Jade.

January 30, January 31 — Bobby Caldwell.

Athenaeum Music and Arts Library: 1008 Wall Street, La Jolla, 858-454-5872.

January 12 — Ron Morebello.

January 17 — Marilyn Crispell.

January 29 — Hoenig Pilc Project.

February 12 — The Michael Wolff

Trio.

February 12 — The Amina Figarova Sextet.

February 23 — Jaeryoung Lee.

Balboa Theatre: 868 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-570-1100.

March 15 — The Irish Rovers.

Belly Up Tavern: 143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.

December 27 — Karl Denson's Tiny Universe.

December 28 — Particle.

December 29 — Cracker and Camper Van Beethoven.

December 30 — Kush & Bloodfiyah Angels.

December 31 — The Night Marchers and the Muslims.

January 2 — Pato Banton and Mystic Roots.

January 3 — Pepper.

January 4 — Orquesta Primo.

January 7 — The Michael Tiernan Trio.

January 9 — Elijah Emanuel & the Revelations.

January 10 — Dead Man's Party.

January 11 — David Lindley.

January 14 — Marc Broussard.

January 15 — The Knitters and the

Farmers.

January 16 — Marcia Ball.

January 17 — 40 Oz. to Freedom.

January 19 — The Walkmen and Beach House.

January 21 — The North Mississippi Allstars.

January 22, January 23, January 24 — Ozomatli.

January 29 — West Indian Girl.

January 30 — The Cured.

January 31 — James Morrison.

February 15 — Susan Tedeschi.

February 16, February 19 — Donavon Frankenreiter.

February 20 — Super Diamond.



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|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--|

Sampler Packages available only on ticketmaster.com starting on Friday, December 19 @ 10am. Gods of Rock offer expires on December 27 @ 10am. Groovy Beats offer expires on Monday, December 29 @ 10am.

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All dates, times and ticket information subject to change without prior notice. A service charge is added to each ticket.

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March 6 — Delta Spirit.
March 21 — Stepping Feet.

Birch North Park Theatre:
2891 University Avenue, North Park, 619-239-8836.
January 16 — George Winston.
February 28 — The Lalo Schiffrin Trio.

Brick by Brick: 1130 Buenos Avenue, Linda Vista, 619-275-5483.
December 26 — Lloyd Hemmings.
December 27 — DGAF and C-Clan.
January 10 — Spero Lumina and Monte Battalion.
January 15 — Alex Skolnick.
January 16 — Lil' Flip.
January 17 — The Dwarves.
January 22 — Snot and Mower.
January 24 — TSOL and Black President.
February 11 — The Zac Brown Band.
March 12 — theSTART.

Canes: 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-488-1780.
December 26 — Bombay Status and Deny the Silents.
December 27 — Chasing Claymores.
December 28 — JayWat and ThumTac.
December 31 — The B-Side Players.
January 2 — Agua Dulce and Psydecar.
January 3 — Sashamon.
January 9 — Lights.
January 10 — Fishbone.
January 14 — After the Crash and the Silent Treatment.
January 17 — Necro.
January 22 — Kemistry and Monday's Alibi.
January 23 — Cash'd Out.
January 24 — Tainted Love.
January 31 — (hed) p.e.

Carlsbad Village Theatre:
2808 State Street, Carlsbad, 760-434-5944.
January 18 — Danny Paisley & the Southern Grass.

The Casbah: 2501 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-4355.
December 26 — Dynamite Walls and Crash Encore.
December 27 — Sweet & Tender Hooligans.
December 28 — Staring at the Sun Vol. 6.
December 29 — Finally Punk and Crocodiles.
December 31 — The Rugburns and Steve Poltz.
January 2 — The Nashville Ramblers and Plastic Nancy.
January 3 — The Slackers and the Impalers.
January 4 — Mike Watt + the Secondmen.
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 Charo.
January 16 — El Vez.
January 17 — The Album Leaf.
January 18 — Three Mile Pilot and Little White Teeth.
January 19 — Three Mile Pilot and Kill Me Tomorrow.
January 20 — Three Mile Pilot and Physics.
January 21 — Louis XIV and the



>hometown CDs

BY OLLIE

Album: *Blood Drops* (2008)
Artist: Writer
Label: self-released
Where available/price: Lou's Records in Encinitas, Off the Record in North Park, M-Theory in Mission Hills, Spin Records in Carlsbad, and live shows for \$8.
Songs: 1) Matthew 2) Anymore 3) Don't Wake the Sun 4) Try and Stop Me 5) Start a War 6) Where Was I 7) Blood Drops
Band: Andy Ralph (vocals, guitar), Eli Bowser (guitar, keys, vocals), James Ralph (drums, bass synth, vocals), Petro Halkowycz (percussion), Crystal Clem (vocals)
Website: writetheband.com

Since their first release in 2006 (*Cover Your Tracks*), Writer has continued to evolve. Having always featured lush, soft, slow-tempo

tracks, their last EP (*Don't Wake the Sun*, seven-inch vinyl) departed into girthier rock chords and featured Kelli Noflte's vocals. I was sad to

see Noflte wasn't added to the regular lineup because she brought a soul-stinging quality to the B side of *Don't Wake the Sun* — a quality now missing.

While Writer has flirted with a further-out indie sound since their early days, *Blood Drops* embraces a new, quirkier quality reminiscent of the Flaming Lips by chiming in with small percussive elements (a triangle, maybe?) and taking the rhythm over with a synthesized bass line.

Andy Ralph's voice still reaches for loftier heights (heights, perhaps, where it's not meant to be), but what he portrayed in 2006 as weepy and, unfortunately, emo, now translates into eccentric rock, similar to San Diego underground legends Optiganally



Writer

Yours.

I was pleased to hear the inclusion of my favorite Writer song, "Don't Wake the Sun," on this latest mini-LP.

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Silent Comedy.
January 22 — Louis XIV and the Apes of Wrath.
January 23 — No Knife and Creedle.
January 24 — The Penetrators and the Loons.
January 25 — Tapes 'n Tapes and Theresa Andersson.
January 25 — Creedle.
January 28 — Goblin Cock and Pleaseeosaur.
January 29 — The Black Heart

Procession.
January 30 — The Adolescents and the Whiskey Dicks.
January 31 — The Dave & Deke Combo.
February 2 — The Fruit Bats and Sera Cahoon.
February 9 — Freeks, Sassy, Pant Hoots.
February 15 — Drag the River.
February 15 — Yo! Majesty.
February 18 — The Annals and Jessica Lea Mayfield.

February 19 — Murder by Death.
February 23 — French Kicks and the Broken West.
February 25 — A.C. Newman and Dent May.

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.
January 4 — The Outlaw Collective.
January 10 — The Gilbert Castellanos Quartet.
January 11 — Denise Donatelli.
February 1 — Road Work Ahead.
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Artist:
ZZYMZZY QUARTET

Song:
"THE WORLD IS WAITING FOR THE SUNRISE"



Artist:
MOWER

Song:
"ROAD RAGE"



Artist:
MANNYFESTO

Song:
"HOW WAS UR DAY?"

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Sunday, December 21

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Monday, December 22

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January 10 — Bonfire.
January 15 — Boyz II Men.
January 17 — Rebelution.
January 18 — Eric Johnson.
January 21 — Edwin McCain.
January 24 — Femi Kuti & the
Positive Force.
January 25 — Ramón Ayala.
January 27 — Tyrone Wells.
January 30 — O.A.R.
January 31 — Richard Cheese &
Lounge Against the Machine.
February 2 — Meshuggah.
February 3, February 4 — NOFX.
February 5 — Katy Perry.
February 7 — Badfish.
February 8 — Ska Is Dead IV.

February 11 — The Airborne Toxic
Event.
February 11 — Elefante.
February 14 — Styx.
February 20 — The Gin Blossoms
and Tonic.
February 21 — Reverend Horton
Heat and Manic Hispanic.
February 27 — Big Head Todd &
the Monsters.
March 1 — Zappa Plays Zappa.
March 5 — The Pretenders.
March 6 — Jimmy Eat World.
March 8 — G. Love & Special
Sauce.
March 17 — Escape the Fate.
March 22 — The Adicts and the
Dickies.
March 27 — Brett Dennen.
April 10 — Don Felder.
May 1 — Kreator.
June 12 — Billy Ray Cyrus.

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December 26 — Javier Batis & Jose
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December 27 — Viva Santana.
December 28 — Patrick Yandall.
December 29 — Michele Lundeen
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December 30 — Private Domain.
December 31 — Detroit
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The Jumping Turtle: 1660
Capalina Road, San Marcos, 760-
741-7778.
December 26 — The Dinner Party.

The Kensington Club: 4079
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Talmadge, 619-284-2848.
December 27 — The Postals.
December 31 — The Creepy Creeps.

The Kraken: 2531 South
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6483.
December 25 — Frankie Dee & the
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December 26 — Blue Heat.
December 27 — Ghost Riders and
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December 31 — The Flat Out Liars.

Lestat's Coffee House: 3343
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619-282-0437.
December 26 — Silverleaf.
December 27 — Josh Damigo.
December 28 — Nate Donniss and
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January 19 — Martin Luther King
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January 10 — The Alert Signal and Heads Down for Takeoff.
January 16 — The 25th Hour and the Dajjal Persona.
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January 23 — Get Back Loretta and Peachcake.
January 25 — After the Burial and Veil of Maya.
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Deco's Restaurant & Nightclub: *Thursdays:* Krush. Hosted by Chase Costello, Steve Kamp, Jack Kennedy, and more. Hip-hop/mashups/party rock. Ages 18 and up. 731 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-696-3326.

The Filling Station: *Fridays,* 9 p.m., *Saturdays,* 9 p.m.: DJ Dance Party. 9522 Miramar Road, Mira Mesa. 858-578-0757.

Humphrey's Backstage Music Club: *Wednesday,* 8 p.m.: DJ John Phillips. Dance/jazz. 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma. 619-224-3577.

Inferno Young Adult Nightclub: *Sunday,* 9 p.m.: Christmas Jam. With guest deejays. Ages 16 and up. *Fridays and Saturdays,* 9 p.m.: DJ Kool T. Spins Top 40, techno, and '80s. \$10. Ages 16 and up. 775 Metcalf Street, Escondido. 760-741-1271.

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Friday, 19th: Reggae with MG3

Saturday, 20th: Special Guest

Sunday, 21st: Special Guest

Monday, 22nd: Monday Night
Football

Tuesday, 23rd: Closed

Wednesday, 24th: Joe Wood

Thursday, 25th: Closed

Friday, 26th: Special Guest

Saturday, 27th: Special Guest

Sunday, 28th: Football

Monday, 29th: The Blokes

Tuesday, 30th: Peter Hall CD
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Wednesday, 31st: New Year's Eve

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Miami Grille: *Friday*, 8 p.m.: DJ Da Wizard. Mixes salsa, merengue, cumbias, and more. Free. 4545 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla. 858-552-0668.

Moondoggies Pacific Beach: *Saturdays*, 9 p.m.: What's Good. DJs Enigma and Cisco. Hip-hop, R&B, and Top 40. Free. 832 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach. 858-483-6550.

On Broadway: *Friday*: DJ John Sautter. *Saturday*: DJ Loczi. House/hip-hop/rock. 615 Broadway Avenue, Downtown. 619-231-0011.

Radio Room: *Tuesday*: DJs Sid Buddha and Ding Dong. *Wednesday*: DJ Heather Hardcore. New wave. 3519 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park. 619-284-3323.

Riley's: *Thursdays*: '80s Night. *Fridays*: Hip-Hop Night. *Mondays*: College Night. With guest deejay. 2901 Nimitz Boulevard, Point Loma. 619-255-8635.

Sevilla: *Fridays*, 9:30 p.m.: Blazin' Fridays. Hip-hop and reggaeton with Blazin' 98.9. 555 Fourth Avenue, Downtown. 619-233-5979.

Whistle Stop Bar: *Sundays*: Night of the Cookers. Listen to classics and favorites from personal jazz record collections. Ages 21 and up. *Tuesdays*, 9 p.m.: Friends Chill. Board games and mellow grooves every Tuesday night. Candyland, Connect 4, Operation, Atari and Nintendo on the big screen. Free. Ages 21 and up. 2236 Fern Street, South Park. 619-284-6784.

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Crasher

HURRICANE PAULA

by Josh Board

about four months ago I was having Mexican food at a vegan place at Sunset Cliffs — I have friends who are vegetarians, and this is one of the places that we all enjoy — and I remember seeing a political banner on a garage door nearby. We could hear people partying on the patio, so I said to my girlfriend, “Let’s crash it.”

When we opened a backyard gate, my girlfriend said, “Maybe this isn’t a good idea.”

A grill had some burgers on it, but only a few people were standing near it. We walked around to the front of the house and found most of the crowd on the porch. We were told that the party was for Samuel’s birthday. “And Robyn,” someone added. A guy named Mike was the host, and he told me the cops made the band Rickshaw stop earlier in the afternoon.

A few people were getting ready to leave the party, but most of the crowd was staying. One woman said, “Here, you can look at my cleavage before I go.” She then shook her breasts as the crowd whistled. Another woman said to her friend, “Amy just ate and ran. I gave her such a hard time for doing that.” I told her that I’ve seen other people get mad at friends for leaving a party too early. I wondered why



Samuel, blowing out the candles

they cared.

“Well, if you’re going to leave a party early, that’s cool. Just don’t eat!”

The logic escaped me. It wasn’t like a guy I saw at my 30th birthday party. He showed up, walked over to the table of food, grabbed a hamburger, ate it quickly, and grabbed a can of Coke. He then shook my hand, wished me a happy

“If you’re going to leave a party early, that’s cool. Just don’t eat!”

birthday, and left. He was there for seven minutes.

A woman asked if I’d mention her realty business in my column. I told her that I couldn’t.

When I lit up a cigar, one guy smoking a cigarette asked if I had another. I handed him one, saying, “I have to warn you, they’re cheap stogies.” I heard a woman in the background say, “Speaking of cheap, I can tell you where people can find cheap prices on some good real estate.” Everyone laughed. One lady said, “Don’t write that you saw me smoking. I don’t want my son to know. I really don’t smoke. Only in crowds at parties like this.”

Someone ran over and said, “Does anyone here have a black Volvo?” A guy responded, “What? A black vulva?” The car was being towed out of the back alley.

When I asked Mike about the “Bob Barr 2008” sign, someone said, “Bob Barker...the price is wrong, bitch!”

“Oh, you won’t hear about [Barr],” Mike said. “He won’t win the presidency.” As he started going into detail about the candi-

date, my girlfriend said, “Was there a time you had a big Ron Paul sign up on that garage?” Mike laughed and admitted that he did. He said he was bummed that Paul dropped out of the race.

I heard the realtor say, “I won’t drop out until we find you the perfect home. Just let me know if you want the name of my real estate company.” I smiled and asked Mike his thoughts on Obama. Everyone in the group said they’d support him. One guy said, “He’s basically the lesser of two tools.”

I smelled pot coming from inside the house, and I walked in to check out the scene. One of the guys with the joint said, “I don’t mind the smell of your cigar. Hopefully you don’t mind the smell of this.”

I grabbed a piece of cake and went back outside.

One lady told me that her sister was pregnant with twins. She went into a lot of detail about pregnancy. I was surprised at how early her sister found out that she would be having twins.

Another cake was on the front patio, and I was told that Sam’s wife Kim had made it. After they lit the candles and sang “Happy Birthday,” only one person took a piece. When he raved about how good it was, I grabbed one too. My girlfriend whispered in my ear,

“You had a piece of cake from inside, you pig.” I quietly said, “Nobody will notice.” When she took a piece that she couldn’t finish, I did the honors.

There was a guy with his eyes half opened who hadn’t said a word the entire time we were there. He looked stoned out of his mind, and when he finally spoke, he shouted, “Wow, man, that’s, like, your third or fourth piece of cake!”

A few people at the party were down from Northern California. One woman lived near Clear Lake, which she told me is the largest natural lake in California. She said that they come down for this party every other year.

I talked with a guy named Austin. Someone told me that he owned a surf shop in O.B. Austin shared a few surfing stories, and then someone started opening the bottles of wine that guests brought. Glasses were passed around.

We found the most interesting person at the party to be Paula, a petite, energetic woman who worked for FedEx or UPS — I forget. Paula talked so fast, you couldn’t keep up with her. A few times, she mentioned medications that she’s either on or has been on. Her boyfriend, who had long blond locks, would occasionally tell her to calm down. He told us, “Hurricane

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Crasher

Paula is only a two, right now. But you don't wanna get her going. Seriously, you won't be able to handle it."

But every story she told us was interesting and funny. She talked like Robin Williams on speed, going from one story to another, often veering into one that had nothing to do with the previous.

I remembered her saying something about fingernails she had painted orange. Another time she complained about a guy she dated and all the idiotic things he did. She mentioned a firefighter that she

was married to and how sad she was when she realized he didn't have the same feelings for her. Yet, he wrote wonderful notes and emails to other women.

It was great to hear that they both play a part in their son's life and can get along now.

The best story Paula told involved the mortuary next door. She said her mom was Portuguese and only four feet tall. She lived to be 105. Before she died she ordered a 12-foot casket, which she designed. It had velvet inside and tulips all around it.

The day of the funeral, Paula got a phone call: "My mom had been lost." She was worried and didn't know

what to do. She went to the funeral home and asked how it could've happened.

Everyone was running around, trying to figure out what to do. Twenty minutes before the viewing, Paula opened the casket and looked inside. Her mom was there. She had slid all the way down to the other side.

As she told the story to a shocked crowd, she burst out laughing and almost knocked her drink over. She fell into a chair in a fit of hysterics. Her boyfriend said, "Hurricane Paula is now up to a six." ■

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Sushi for All Seasons

After looking over the interesting, many-page menu at Azuki, and after trying the miso soup and the first “test roll” (*uni*, of course) to the accompaniment of lilting Brazilian pop, I made a firm decision: This place deserves to live! Yeah, right, I’m the omnipotent food god of San Diego. Blame it on the bossa nova.

Samurai Jim discovered Azuki on a Monday-night happy hour, when it was nearly empty. We went there together for a Wednesday happy-hour pig-out — near-empty again, until a bunch of customers swarmed in around 7:00 p.m., just as the official happiness expired. There was plenty of unofficial happiness available at slightly higher prices. But I still figured that more people ought to know about Azuki. The menu is too much fun to stay a secret.

In San Diego, most sushi restaurants are actually Korean-owned. (I’ve got no problem with that, although many Japanese *itamae* do.) Azuki is Japanese-owned: The beautiful, long-haired Shihomi Boriloo oversees the front of the house, while her partner, “Nao” Ichimura, is the executive chef presiding over both the kitchen and sushi bar. It’s his second restaurant, her first. The other chefs and staff are an ethnic mix — Japanese, Latino, who-knows-whatskis. The restaurant is small and plain-pretty, with a Japanese fabric-hanging on one wall, many bottles of sake displayed behind the bar, and a slide show (huge photos of sushi, sashimi, a famous Japanese temple, Napa Valley vineyards, etc.) projected on an empty wall. The music all that evening was Brazilian, which was absolutely fine with me. What could make a happy hour happier than a hint of *carnava*?

The night was cold, the moon was yellow, and the elaborate miso soup warmed us right up for just \$2 a bowl. It’s loaded with sliced shiitakes, along with the usual tofu cubes and greens, and the miso flavor is very mild. It may be a “beginner’s miso,” but damn, it’s good!



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE KLEIN

I always start with an *uni* roll because it’s potentially the best and worst of all sushi toppings. Bad sea-urchin roe (kept too long, or worse yet, Grade B kept too long) turns into a mush of nasty iodine. Great *uni* is an airy puff of undersea heaven. Plus, *uni* doesn’t take to soy or soy-wasabi dip, as its flavor is sufficient on its own, so it’s also a good test of the sushi rice. Here the rice was fluffy, clumpy, neutral, competent, not heavily sweetened. The *uni* was fresh and tasty — perhaps not the most glorious I’ve ever sampled but thoroughly sound. I could relax.

Happy hour here doesn’t offer an across-the-board discount, but discounts on selected items. Plain sushi included in the plan are just \$3.50 (reduced from \$5), and you can choose them as hand rolls if you prefer. That’s another of my favorite tests. An incompetent hand roll is liable to

fall apart, and a cheapskate or sloppy version has all the good stuff piled on top but devolves into plain rice halfway down the cone. Here, a spicy scallop hand roll proved the chef’s skills and the

management’s generosity. The *nori* cone was crisp and tasted freshly toasted, and it was generously loaded with good, fresh-tasting scallops well over halfway down, with a fine balance between Japan-

ese Kewpie mayo and Japanese hot red pepper. (For reasons I can’t fathom, Kewpie mayo, like the mayo of many other countries, tastes more neutral than American mayos, free of the faint sour, greasy undertones that even our best commercial mayos exhibit.) The crunchy veggies (cukes, radish sprouts, etc.), along with the seasonings, went all the way to the bottom.

Jim and I couldn’t confine ourselves strictly to happy-hour specials in the face of the long, in-

DINING REVIEW

NAOMI WISE

Azuki Sushi Lounge

★★★ (Very Good)

2321 Fifth Avenue, Banker’s Hill, 619-238-4760, azukisushi.com (website still very primitive).

HOURS: Lunch Monday–Friday 11:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m., dinner Monday–Saturday 5:00–10:00 p.m.
PRICES: Simple rolls, \$5–\$11; nigiri, \$4–\$6; house special rolls, \$11–\$17; sashimi (five pieces), average \$15.50; appetizers, \$2–\$13.50 (\$15.50 for king crab); house special appetizers, \$6.50–\$12; Entrées, \$12–\$28, most about \$16; *omakase* sashimi dinners, \$35 for one, \$59 for two. Happy-hour simple rolls, \$3.50, miso soup \$2, discounts on selected rolls and beverages.

CUISINE AND BEVERAGES: Long menu of sushi (from basic to creative), sashimi, party rolls, Japanese and fusion appetizers, and basic Japanese/fusion entrées (teriyakis, etc.). Substantial lists of sakes, Asian beers, cocktails, and intelligent, affordable wine list, plenty by the glass, well described by flavor profiles.

PICK HITS: Miso-shiitake soup, Pon Hama (spicy yellowtail sashimi), Kumamoto oysters, spicy scallop hand roll, RU Kidding Me Roll. Good bet: Amaguru Tataki.

NEED TO KNOW: Easy street parking. A few tables on street. Quiet early, but rather loud once full. Two vegan entrées, a scattering of vegetarian sushi rolls.

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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teresting menu. Knowing I’m an oyster freak, even though he’s not, he pointed out the raw oysters — a choice of Kumamotos, Hama Hamas, or both. Jim confessed he wasn’t sure of the difference, so that prompted an order of the combo plate. Hama Hamas are big, briny, a little coarse, in pale-gray shells; Kumamotos are tiny, sweet, velvety, in black shells, and to die for. (They’re foie gras to the

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Hama Hamas' chicken liver.) Both are garnished here with tart yuzu juice, hot pepper, miniature citrus slices, and tiny diced carrots — livelier and more interesting than standard mignonette.

Our waiter, a shaven-headed *gaijin* (white guy) named John, clearly knew the menu well. He recommended the evening's killer dish, Pon Hama, a sashimi of yellowtail (hamachi) in thin, succulent slices, each topped with a slim slice of jalapeño and a flower of parsley, in an exquisite wash of yuzu juice and Japanese powdered red pepper. The balance between hot, tart, and textural velvet was so perfect it gave me chills of joy. Now that Molly's is closed and chef Tim Au's riveting citrus and herb-cured ahi is out of reach, this will have to substitute — it has a similar thunderclap visceral impact. John also recommended (as his top favorite) Amaguru Tataki, a lightly seared tuna dish. Our chef, Jason, regretted he didn't have the makings for it that night, but given the fabulosity of the Pon Hama, I'd bet on it to be a winner.

To make my happy hour happier, I was drinking nigori, fizzy unfiltered sake, just \$5 for a "large." But the serious, well-described wine list includes a lot of Western temptations — for instance, an affordable Santa Barbara Roussanne (available by the glass) I'd have jumped on if there were no nigori to tempt me; it's a buxom, fruity grape that plays well with seafood, yuzu juice, and hot pepper.

Party time! Now we had to try a few fusion appetizers and "party rolls" (*futomaki*). Tostaditas are deep-fried wonton skins, light as air, topped with three seafood mixtures, garnished with micro-greens and similar amusing culinary frou-frou. These were on the happyhour menu but at the same price as on the regular menu (three for \$8). Albacore tuna is the most successful, resembling in taste and texture the perfect tuna salad you always wanted to make but couldn't quite manage. Yum for that. The second topping has salmon cubes that are lightly smoked, tender, and pleasant (but instantly forgettable), with

seasoned cream cheese beneath. The third topping, spicy lobster, has a serious problem: The finely chopped mince offers no lobster flavor at all, touched with masago roe but overwhelmed by hot pepper. I suspect the lobster is what the trade calls "knuckle meat," the stuff that's vacuumed out of the swimmerets and the tight corners of the lobster carapace, after all the good claw and tail meat has been removed for better purposes. After tasting it — which means, *not* tasting it — I changed my mind about ordering any other lobster-based sushi.

Among the happy-hour choices is a half-price (\$8) party roll called the Cardiac Roll. "If it gets stopped for speeding, is that a cardiac arrest?" Jim asked. You could call it a cereal killer, for sure, as it's piled on top with enough Wheaties-like tempura crunchies to smother the shrimp hidden under the heap. A Caterpillar Roll is also cut-price before 7:00 p.m. It tastes good and has all the usual stuff in it, but there's no attempt at visual panache — more playful chefs will often give this roll eye-stalks and palps and fuzz,

while here it's just a striped avocado wrap, no big deal. Well, it tastes good all the same.

An original roll called RU Kidding Me (not a happy-hour special) proved a winner — it turns out to be owner Shihomi's favorite. It's the perfect gentle roll for sushi beginners, as well as an enjoyable combination for old hands. It offers spicy scallops around tempura asparagus, topped with barely seared tuna and white truffle oil, with an accompanying salad of deep-fried chives and baby lettuce leaves. Mild and soothing, with a dash of spiciness, it's a roll for all tastes — novices and veterans alike.

That balance is Azuki's secret weapon. There's a little bit for purists, more for beginners, and plenty for adventurers at any level of appreciation. It's probably not the greatest sushi you've ever had, but it's fresh, bright, reasonably creative, and the bossa nova soundtrack puts it in perspective: You're here to have fun, enjoy a little *carnaval* for your mouth.

Bargains of the Week: I'm not mad for Bleu Bohème (4090

Adams Avenue, Kensinton, 619-255-4167, bleuboheme.com), but many people are, and if you're among the restaurant's devoted fans, there's now a \$22 prix-fixe three-course dinner if you arrive early enough to get in your order before 6:00 p.m.

And up in La Jolla, one of our best chefs is offering bargains on our favorite crustacean. During local lobster season, the Marine Room (2000 Spindrift Road, La Jolla, 858-459-7222, marineroom.com) is offering a three-course lobster dinner menu every Monday evening from 5:30–9:00 p.m. for \$40 per person (tax, gratuity, and beverages not included). For an additional \$15 per person, wines will be paired with the first two courses. The three-course menu starts with the choice of a salad or mushroom soup, followed by your choice of one of three different lobster preparations, including Nectarine Kalbi Glazed, Pistachio Butter Basted, or Fennel Pollen Spiced Lobster Tail. The meal concludes with a Praline and Chocolate Plantation Pie. Ooh-wee, baby! ■

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Up in the Air

"I flew with ravens the other day."

I can't believe this. I'm looking down — way down — at the kelp beds off La Jolla. Brown bruise on blue ocean. Jet fighter zooms out to sea — underneath us! Chopper whirrs by, maybe half a mile to the north.

"Okay. Ready?" says Jim through the headphones. "Got your hand on the joystick? You have the plane."

D'agh...man, this is too much like real life. Right move, live. Wrong move, John Denver. At this stage, I'm just trying to keep us up and my lunch down.

An hour ago, I hadn't the slightest idea all this was going to happen to me. Was just cruising the neighborhood while my buddy Cisco spent a couple of hours at the hospital nearby. Still getting chemo doses for this pesky growth he's got. Good news is he's quit smoking. So I found myself at this modest-looking strip mall, just across a little road from a bunch of private planes parked in Montgomery Field. And on its corner, a deli. Hey, food. Why not? Inside, it was all pine-planky cafeteria, scattered with flying fanatics' posters, like "Wings Over Gillespie."

"You want the special?" says this Korean-American lady, like that's what everybody asks for.

Uh...I start rapid-reading the large wall menu. Oh, man. Wish I'd been in time for breakfast (they stopped serving that at 11:00 a.m.). They have three-egg omelets that come with hash browns and toast or biscuits and gravy. The cheese omelet's \$5.29, ham and cheese for \$5.99, and Denver for \$6.29. But it's lunches now: sandwiches, lite sandwiches, grilled sandwiches, 1/3 lb. burgers, and, ahh...guess this is what she's talking about: hot lunch specials. Today's (Wednesday's) are roast pork loin, teriyaki chicken, or curry chicken. Other days, it's things like Polish sausage, chow mein, pepper steak, meat loaf, cab-

bage rolls. They all come with potato or rice, veggies, deli salad, and dinner roll. Cost is \$6.96. Not a bad deal.

Also, I see an all-you-can-eat salad bar (\$5.99) and soup bar. (\$5.49. Huh. That's a good idea.)

And soup and salad bar (\$6.99).

Guy ahead of me got the pork, three big slices, but I'm looking at the next chafing dish: teriyaki chicken. Dark and rich. I point. She scoops me a couple of good loads, then some mashed potato, then presses a lakebed into it and

fills it with gravy. Corn, cole slaw — this is '50s food fare, straight up. But one side of you kinda likes it. When you're done loading, you slide down past the salad bar to Brian, the cashier.

Turns out he's co-owner of the place, along with his wife Suzy, who took my order. "Drink?" he says. I get a can of Coke (\$1.65).

I carry my red tray to the nearest table. Must say, the teriyaki is real sweet/soy/ginger-tasting, and just dunkin' into the mash and gravy is like childhood calling out. *Come ba-ack!* But pretty soon I'm getting more interested in the conversation next door. These guys, in their 30s, 40s, 50s, even 70s, looks like, are rip-roaring away about flying into Paris, peeing on Mt. Whitney from a great height, and a buddy who flew from here to Hoover Dam with no engine. Oh, I get it. They're glider pilots.

"I flew with ravens the other day," says one. Man. Gotta butt in. "Uh, you flew along with a bunch of crows?" I ask. "Sure," says the raven guy. George. Used to be a carrier pilot on straight-deck carriers. That has to put him at 70, at least. Another guy, Steve, is a pastor. They fly out of Warner Springs. "Gliding?" George says. "It's a Zen experience. Like sailing in 3-D. When you're gliding, nature is your fuel."

Beautiful. And those ravens? "They accept you. Gliding's so silent. They're not threatened."

George is eating a Reuben sandwich. "It's what I had the first day I came in here. I just can't make myself order anything else."

Hmm...I see the sandwich is grilled, with corned beef, Swiss cheese, sauerkraut, Thousand Island dressing, \$5.99, with a salad or fries. Bargain. Plus, you can get turkey instead of corned beef.

Steve, across from me, has a roast beef sandwich (\$5.89 with potato salad or coleslaw or macaroni, and pickle). Another guy, "Captain Jim," as they call him, is munching on a vegetarian sandwich. It's stuffed with cucumber, lettuce, tomato, cheese, sprouts, avocado. Costs \$5.89.

"I hate tuna," says Jeff, the gent next to me. He's a flight instructor like Jim. He's got this "Dieter's Platter," a scoop of tuna salad on lettuce with macaroni, carrot salad, sprouts, and cheese (\$5.99). "But I'm trying to lose five pounds," he says.

Guess with gliding, every pound counts.

Jim's day job is flying European Airbuses for United. Apart from gliding, he also flies a little stunt plane called the Citabria — "pretty much 'air-batic' spelled backwards" — with an outfit called Pacific Coast Flyers, out of Palomar. The differ-



Brian and Suzy

ence? "Like driving a Mac truck and driving a Beetle," he says.

"Why don't you show him?" says Jeff.

"Like to go up?" Jim asks.

An hour and a lifetime later, I stagger back into B&B, shaken, stirred, and desperate for a coffee to settle my gut. "They're a wild bunch," Brian says. "But they're not the only ones. We get the Chargers in here. Their training center is just down the road. LT comes in. He eats the turkey burger [\$6.59]. We've even had the mayor."

I sink into a lime-green couch. Take a slurp of coffee. Feeling of power suddenly floods over me. Can't believe I was up there. Me and Lindbergh...

"What you been doing for two hours?" Cisco says, 20 minutes later. "Feeding your face as usual?" ■

The Place: B&B Deli, 8690 Aero Drive #120, at corner of Aero Drive and John J. Montgomery Drive, next to Montgomery Field, 858-292-1636

Type of Food: American

Prices: Three-egg cheese omelet (with hash browns and toast or biscuits and gravy), \$5.29; ham and cheese omelet, \$5.99, two eggs, bacon, sausage, or ham, \$5.99; machaca breakfast (with beef, scrambled eggs, bell pepper, hash browns, tortillas), \$6.49; roast beef deli sandwich (with deli salad), \$5.89; 1/3 lb. sourdough bacon-cheeseburger (with fries or salad), \$6.59; grilled Reuben (same sides), \$6.19; hot lunch specials (changed daily), e.g. roast pork loin or teriyaki chicken with potato or rice, veggies, deli salad, dinner roll, \$6.96; all-you-can-eat salad bar, \$5.99; all-you-can-eat soup bar, \$5.49

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RESTAURANT LISTINGS

The Reader's Guide to Restaurants are recommended listings written by our reviewers (Ed Bedford, Barbara David, Ambrose Martin, Shari McCullough, Max Nash, Eleanor Widmer, Naomi Wise). Each issue contains only a fraction of almost 900 reviews. A complete searchable list is available online at [SanDiegoReader.com](#). Price estimates are based on the latest information available for a midrange entrée. Inexpensive: below \$10; moderate: \$10 to \$19; expensive: \$20 to \$29; very expensive: more than \$30. Please call restaurants in advance for reservations.

BEACHES

Adobe el Restaurante 9700 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, 858-550-1000. Adobe offers California-Mediterranean creative seasonal dishes with locally farmed vegetables — try the fine, venturesome chipotle lobster bisque, tender roasted salmon, delightful dessert sampler. The resort is amidst a host of science and technology institutes and UCSD, and its kitchen sometimes must serve too many masters — dedicated diners, hotel guests (including tots), conferencing technocrats, plus the usual parties and banquets. Hence, some of the food is a touch detuned to suit cautious and/or inattentive eaters. California wines exclusively, enough by the glass,

most bottles over \$40. Full bar. No cell phones in dining room. Long trek from validated self-parking to restaurant; mobility impaired should call for directions to valet parking or to arrange lift by shuttle-tram from lot. Lacto-vegetarians easily accommodated to order. Resort casual, a bit dressy on weekends. Three meals daily (including Sunday brunch, when rugrats eat free). Moderately expensive. — *N.W.*

Bare Back Grill - Pacific Beach 4640 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach, 858-274-7117. This may be the first New Zealand food place in town, but that's not what keeps the customers coming in. It's BBG's claim that most of their meat is certified organic. The owners guarantee hormone-free beef and lamb, both from New Zealand. So, what to eat? Burgers, burgers, burgers — all kinds — from Prime NZ Angus to lamb burgers with wasabi dip. They also offer chicken. Decor inside is strictly Kiwiland, from the all-black rugby shirt on the wall to the declaration of food principles. People who had given up on hormone-treated meat are coming here for their first burger in years. Open seven days, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Broken Yolk Café 1851 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-270-9655. Breakfasting P.B.ers love this place for three reasons: its sundeck, its 26 different four-egg omelets (which you can split with your partner, no extra charge), and the challenge of omelet #27. This dozen-egg Broken Yolk Café Special comes stuffed with a mountain of mushrooms, onion, cheese, chili, plus home fries and biscuits. If you can down it in an hour, pay nothing — you've got huevos. If you can't, the yolk's on you — \$19.99. My advice: split a four-egger. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Fairouz Café and Gallery 3166 Midway Drive, Point Loma, 619-225-0308. Seek out this family-owned-and-operated restaurant for wonderful Lebanese and Greek food. The owner, a noted artist, displays his paintings on the

dining room walls. The extensive menu offers excellent lamb, stuffed grape leaves, and a wide selection of exotic vegetarian meals. Copious all-you-can-eat buffet available at lunch or dinner in addition to the regular menu. Given 24 hours, this café will prepare an astonishing Lebanese feast at low cost. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Moderate. — *E.W.*

George's at the Cove — California Modern 1250 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-454-4244. With a new name and renovated for an even better ocean view, George's at the Cove California Modern dining room continues to serve Chef Trey Foshee's ambitious, healthful California cuisine based on prime, seasonal ingredients and emphasizing sustainable wild seafood, local produce, naturally raised meats and poultry. The cooking style is a little lighter now, good for carb-counters, with only small amounts of starch on the entrées. The award-winning wine list offers few bottles under \$50, but many by the half-bottle or glass, including serious dessert wines. Full bar, creative "chef cocktails" with fresh fruit. Wheelchair elevator available but hidden (ask valet parkers); disabled can use neighbor Pasquale's men's room on same floor. Vegetarians and vegans accommodated to order. Reserve well ahead. Dinner nightly. Very expensive. — *N.W.*

Great Moon Buffet 1840 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-273-6868. This is one of the classier Chinese all-you-can-eat buffets in town. They boast a glittering chandelier hanging in the octagonal entrance, plus over 150 items daily. Certainly they have great surf-n-turf, like prime rib and jumbo shrimp or mayonnaise mussels. Or Japanese charcoal-grilled eel with sesame seeds on rice (*unagi-zushi*). It tastes salty yet caramel-y too. Eel-icious. Or Chinese baked crab meat on crab shell. Add crab legs, and maybe some roast duck. Cramping? Feast today, fast tomorrow. Dessert fruits include loquats, pineapple, peach, lon-

gan. Open daily, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

JRDN 723 Felspar Street, Pacific Beach, 858-270-5736. It's a day at the beach: Befitting a restaurant digging its feet into the sand, the food here is fresh, fun, and unfussy, featuring sustainable seafood, natural meats (including truly tasty spice-rubbed steaks), organic/local produce, and a separate sushi bar. The dishes cover the waterfront, ranging from mac 'n' cheese to die for to a sexy, fruited gazpacho to swoon over. The chic interior, relaxed atmosphere, and great grazing draw an exuberant, youngish crowd. Creative cocktails are part of the charm, along with a venturesome wine list with plenty by the glass. Tables (reservable) on the heated beachfront patio could easily become a summertime lifestyle. Validated valet parking. Just one lacto-vegetarian entrée, but vegetable sides plus salads fill in amply. Bread available by request only. Lunch weekdays, brunch weekends, dinner nightly. Entrées expensive. — *N.W.*

La Jolla Rancherita 7404 La Jolla Boulevard, La Jolla, 858-459-5877. Most of the year this modest eatery serves a standard border-Mexican menu (*antojito* combos, a few typical entrées) running toward the mild side but with a wider, more interesting assortment of fresh salads than most of its ilk. (Hey, it's La Jolla!) But when local spiny lobsters are in season (typically from late October to about February), here's one place that gets them live and does them right — and you don't have to put up with a frat party or tourist scene. The good-size, juicy critters (at least a pound each) are halved and gently grilled (not abused by the usual lardy deep fry), and come with two melted butter dips, tart coleslaw, and comforting mashed potatoes. The lobsters aren't on the written menu but are treated as specials. Call before you go to make sure they're on hand that day. Full bar. Moderate. — *N.W.*

Latin Chef 1142 Garnet Avenue, Pacific Beach, 858-270-8810. In a tiny,

cheerful (and noisy) storefront with a small street patio, you'll find Peruvian and Chinese-Peruvian cuisine carefully cooked with rare, authentic ingredients, including *chanchitos* (special toasted corn kernels) to nibble instead of bread. The ceviches are brightly refreshing, and in *papas huancainas*, potatoes are treated to a suave golden cheese sauce. The outstanding *anticuchos* (heart kebabs) are impeccably seasoned; for a perfect Peruvian flavor, ask for the *aji verde* (green hot sauce) for dipping. *Lomo saltado* (sautéed beef, veggies, and fries) is made with tender sirloin. *Aji de gallina* (spicy chicken) is a family recipe that's deliberately detuned for kiddies; the hot salsas (the medium-hot green or the hotter red one) will perk it up. *Chaufas*, Chinese fried rice dishes, are popular with local Peruvians. No alcohol; BYO in a paper bag or try *chicha morada*, a refreshing sweet drink made with purple corn. Friendly, articulate owner is happy to explain the cuisine and culture. Difficult street parking. Three vegetarian entrées plus several meatless appetizers. Reservations vital. Dinner weekdays, lunch and dinner weekends. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Livingston's Chicken and Mexican Grill 5026 Newport Avenue, Ocean Beach, 619-224-8088. Ocean Beach has the longest concrete pier in the world (1971 feet) and Livingston's potato Jos. These garlicky wedges have made grown Irishmen from the international hostel cry. The broasted chicken, pressure cooked in oil, is healthier, tastier, and less greasy than standard fried chicken. There's a touch of Tex-Mex about this place, and there's something decent about their pricing. Health central it ain't, but a little of what you fancy does you good. Try the California burrito (chicken or carne asada, guacamole, cheese), the pork salsa verde plate, or Lalo's tacos with lobster or shrimp and cheese. 10 a.m. to midnight, Monday-Thursday and Sunday; till 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday; breakfast served daily till 3 p.m. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

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Ocean Beach People's Organic Foods Co-Op Deli 4765 Voltaire Street, Ocean Beach, 619-224-1387. This is the land of "organic," "cruelty-free," "environmentally safe," "shade-grown." Vegan country. People look either disgustingly healthy, disturbingly pasty, or just plain smug. But the food tastes pretty good. And they sell it by the pound so you can mix and match. 'Course, you have to learn new words, like tempeh (cultured soy which can be made to taste like anything). And dishes have a sensible momsy East Coast feel — garlic eggplant with beet root and onions, tempeh loaf, sweet squash and rice, millet spinach bake, shepherd's pie, "mango madness," tempeh sausage, steamed vegetables, vegan macaroni and cheese. Bottom line: it's guilt-free. Open seven days, breakfast, lunch, dinner ("serious" breakfasts daily except Tuesday and Thursday). Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

BAJA

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

El Cid Lopez Mateos #993, Baja, 646-178-1809. This restaurant is at the heart of the tourist district, but the cooking and service are way above coach class. Look to the Specialties section of the huge menu for the most interesting selections. Crisp quail with rose petal sauce (famed from *Like Water for Chocolate*) proves outrageously delicious, and the seasonal *chiles en nogada* (meat-stuffed poblano chiles with walnut cream and pomegranate) gain refinement from greaseless ground sirloin. Fish dishes are fresh, rich, and tender, and you'll find nine different ways to enjoy a steak. If you can handle a tableside production number, crêpes with *cajeta* (caramel sauce) make a very grand finale. Fully bilingual staff; English menus available. Vegetarian on request. Sidewalk patio dining available. Reserve for weekends during tourist peaks. Full bar, with excellent margaritas, Baja wines. Open daily, continuous service breakfast through dinner. Moderate. — *N.W.*

Fonda Roberto's Avenida Cuahutemoc #2800 (at Agua Caliente Boulevard, next to CESUN Universidad), Baja, 664-



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686-4687. How often do you get to eat something totally new? Like *huazontle*, the Aztecs' "red spinach" Roberto's presents it as an egg-covered mass of baby sprigs wrapped around a sausage of Monterey cheese, all swimming in a chocolatey mole sauce. You haul the *huazontle* branches through your teeth to de-seed them, just as Montezuma did 500 years ago. This is the fascination of Roberto Reyes's eatery. It's a tribute to his home state of Puebla in the heartland of Mexico. Cactus plays a big part: *Dedos de Moctezuma* ("Montezuma's fingers") is cactus stuffed with steak; *torta de camarón seco* is a shrimp patty topped with cactus; *cecina Oaxaqueña* is cured meat with cactus salad. But there're also steaks, *mole poblano* (chocolatey chicken with seven different chiles), and the delicious *chile en nogada* (chile pepper stuffed with beef, fruits, and nuts—fried in egg and covered with creamy nut sauce). Vegetarian upon request. Nice dining room too—built around a fountain. Open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; closed Monday. Moderate. — E.B.

Lonchería la Poca Lucha Municipal Market, Avenida Niños Héroes #105, Baja. Venturing to the far end of Tijuana's *Mercado Municipal* is like entering a scene from *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*. Shafts of sun penetrate the dark of an incredible kitchen of great black iron stoves and giant steaming pots, and hoods gathering into black pipes that snake up and out through the roof. But what a welcome! As you walk through the *mercado*, ladies bounce up, enticing you away to their eateries. Hang in there till you reach *Lonchería La Poca Lucha*, "The Small Struggle Lunch Place." Ask for *carne de puerco* (pork), *chiles rellenos*, *bistek ranchero*, or *higado al gusto* (liver), all around \$3. *Pescado frito* (fried fish), *milanesa con papas* (veal with fries), *pollo frito* (fried chicken), and *carne asada* are slightly more. Price includes soup, steaming hot corn tortillas, and a soda. Open seven days, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Inexpensive. — E.B.

CENTRAL

Alambre's Mexican Grill 756 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-233-2838. Surprise: this place strives to be inexpensive, like a Mexico City café-bar, where you hang out to watch soccer or talk over the night at two in the morning. They keep the kitchen open till the wee hours. Breakfasts are decent workaday deals, like the burrito stuffed with chorizo, spuds, and eggs. Try the interesting *chicharrón de queso* that looks like a foot-long golden scroll, and watch for the impulse-cooked teaser plates like *cebollitas*, small grilled onions in Maggie's sauce. Specialty is the namesake Alambres Mexico City-style taco, usually meat or fish plus bell peppers, onions, and bacon. Open 9 a.m. to 3 a.m. daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Alexander's 3391 30th Street, North Park, 619-281-2539. The southern part of North Park needed a good neighborhood Italian restaurant. The son of the owners of Point's Loma's Old Venice has provided one, with a menu abbreviated from that of the mothership, including plenty of seafood and many Greek-influenced dishes. The new restaurant still cleaves to its parent's old San Diego ways (e.g., ingredients aren't impressive, and all entrées come with the same veggie medley), but the competent kitchen turns out some delicious dishes, especially pastas (try the linguine de Kathleen), specials, and reasonably thin-crust, interesting pizzas. The interior is bright, white, and very loud; the roofed and heated back patio is dimly lit and quieter. Wine, sangria, beer. Take-out orders accepted by phone. Reservations advised. Moderate (pastas) to expensive. — N.W.

The Better Half Bistro 127 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-543-9340. "Explore—don't bore!" is the unspoken motto of world-traveled chef John Kennedy (a veteran of the kitchens of Thomas Keller, Charlie Trotter, and Daniel Boulud) at this civilized little



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Calendar RESTAURANTS

haven for fearless foodies. The globe provides Kennedy's flavor palette, while his techniques are rigorously French. The seasonal menu ranges from frog legs to antelope and includes that rarity, a house-made charcuterie platter (right down to the mustard). Sunday brunches include house-smoked bacon and an outrageous "Monte Cristo" of beer-battered fried bread filled with pork and duck confit with foie gras butter. But that's just the start of the creative ethic here: phone 24 hours ahead, and he'll cook you just about whatever you want. A Chef's Whim tasting menu is aimed at the growing crowd of regulars — like *omakase* at a sushi bar, it's designed not by the night but for the individual, to please each diner's particular palate. The restaurant is named for its vast array of

wines by the half-bottle (lots of great French choices) assembled by owner-sommelier Zubin Desai. Or bring your own prized bottle — corkage is minimal. Vegan, vegetarian, gluten-free meals on request. Two shallow steps up into dining room, but heated dining courtyard is wheelchair accessible. Reservations a must. Moderate. — N.W.

Bite Bistro and Wine Bar 1417 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-299-2483. Chef-owner Chris Walsh, long-time culinary saint of Hillcrest, cooks up the inventive California tapas he's known for at this lively, local spot. The flavors are Mediterranean-influenced with original touches. The top of the hit list includes a foie gras *crème brûlée*; luscious poached oysters with truffle-chive butter; and witty foie gras medallions with tropical fruit and pine-nut brittle (Perigord meets Dollywood). Grilled Japanese eggplant with beet carpaccio, lamb meatballs, steak frites, and berry sabayon are nothing to sneeze at, either. Bring friends to share with. An eclectic international wine list offers loads by the glass and bottlings at a wide price range, but don't miss the fragrant, seductive cocktail of prosecco with rose syrup. Tuesday nights, bargain-priced (\$20) *prix fixe* dinner. Wines half off on Mondays. Grazing dinners Wednesday through Monday; open weekends until 11 p.m. Individual dishes inexpensive to moderate, but they add up. — N.W.

Bleu Bohème 4090 Adams Avenue, Kensington-Talmadge, 619-255-4167. Restaurateur Philippe Beltran's classic French bistro, *très chic* but informal and quite noisy, emphasizes familiar favorites from the old-fashioned, French-in-America, bourgeois-cuisine restaurant repertoire — dishes like Burgundian escargots (perfect), a lightened coq au vin (nice) and Mediterranean bouillabaisse (nearly fatally compromised by wrong-tasting cold-water species like salmon

and halibut). But in this restaurant-starved, fashion-conscious part of town, many patrons adore the joint. (*Chacun à son goût*.) And at the end you can feast on an air-light *soufflé glacé au Grand-Marnier*, almost making the dinner "worth a detour," as they say in the *Michelin Guide*. Smart, mainly French wine list includes wide choice of tasty, affordable "food wines," with lots by the glass and half-bottle; full bar with creative martinis. Small parking lot, sidewalk patio seating in fair weather. Lunch and dinner daily. High moderate. — N.W.

Buga Korean BBQ Restaurant 5580 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Clairemont, 858-560-1010. Here you'll find a full range of engaging traditional Korean dishes as well as tabletop gas-fired barbecue featuring Coleman Natural grass-fed beef and premium Berkshire pork. (There's also a sushi bar.) Dinners include plenty of *pan chan*, small plates of savory relishes that make the meal special, furnishing an ever-changing array of piquant flavors. Aside from the BBQ meats (which you should order last, to leave table room until you're ready to turn pure carnivore), some tasty treats include simmered black cod in hot and spicy sauce (dinner item #7), miso soup with pork (dinner item #4), stone pot rice, bibimbap (dinner item #22), mandoo dumplings (casserole item #13). Few vegetarian choices. Bar items include Asian beers, sake, soju. Can get noisy. Dinner reservations advised. Open daily, lunch and dinner, moderate prices, with special *prix fixe* BBQ and Korean dinners available for groups. — N.W.

Busalacchi's Ristorante 3683 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-298-0119. Remember Olympia Dukakis in *Moonstruck* retreating for comfort to her local trattoria? Busalacchi's has that settled, warm feel, but it's more interesting. Multi levels create nooks and crannies for li-

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aions dangereuses, or there's the street-side casual level. Niche fountains and faux-marble columns make it feel old-fashioned. Being Sicilian, they have plenty of the tomato-sauce-dominated dishes (like *torta di melanzana*, eggplant layered with mozzarella). But also try the excellent calamari piccata, a calamari steak bathed in butter, mushrooms, lemon, capers, and white wine. Simple but delish. Or salads like *insalata di fileto* with filet mignon, goat cheese, walnuts, eggs, and arugula. And hey, if you want to keep the budget intact, nothing wrong with *spaghetti della casa*. Lunch Monday through Friday; dinner nightly. Moderate to expensive. — E.B.

Cantina Mayahuel 2934 Adams Avenue, Normal Heights, 619-283-6292. Here, you're in a Latino-chic world, but don't be afraid to order simple things, like shrimp or beef tacos. Larry Auman, the owner-chef-artist, makes you feel you're in Mexico City or Veracruz with his masks and yellow-wash walls and those awesome, interesting tacos. The Caesar salad is wonderful, too. Try it with mahimahi or shrimp. Also look for specials like Chili Colorado (slow-cooked beef) or Yucatán seafood stew with salsa, habanero, and ginger on black beans and rice. For all the folk-industrial glamour, we're talking Latin-American comfort food. This cantina is what San Diego should be: bicultural. Bring both languages. Open noon to 10 p.m.; closed Monday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Celadon 3671 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-297-8424. The menu was originally devised by a chef who cooked for the Siamese royal family. Some dishes taste luxurious, and all the dishes taste authentic — and carefully prepared. The regular entrées offer a choice of sauces (red curry, green curry, etc.) with your choice of protein, but go straight to the Chef's Specialty items on the menu to find the best and rarest. Stuffed chicken wings are extraordinary, seafood soup *talay* is fabulous, and among the entrées, don't miss *choo chee duck* or the Queen of Thailand's favorite, pineapple fried rice. Lunch Monday through Saturday, dinner nightly. — N.W.

City Delicatessen 555 University Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-295-2747. Some folk come for the Jewish food (chicken-in-the-pot, brisket of beef, chopped liver), others to soak in the art-deco colors — the cornucopia of fruit above the entrance, the mustard yellow walls, the black-and-white checkered tile, or the flower bunches of red, blue, green, and yellow lamps. And then some come for both: the stuffed cabbage roll (with ground beef and rice inside) is a glowering red ball with maroon, oniony, sweet-and-sour raisin sauce to die for, set off by green parsley and bright orange slices. Scandalously delicious. Downsides? Our pastrami sandwich tasted dry and chewy by comparison. But City Deli is less strictly Jewish (they have bacon on their breakfast menu) and more of an everyday New York-style eatery. Waitstaff are good-humored, and the Seeburg Wall-o-Matic tablesides actually work. Bring plenty of quarters. Breakfast all day; early-bird dinner specials; late-night dining. Open from 7 a.m. till midnight; until 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

De'Medici Cucina Italiana 815 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-702-7228. This lovely, cream-and-sepia dining room evokes an Italian Renaissance villa, while its sidewalk patio offers a prime pageant of Gaslamp follies. Either way, you'll enjoy exceptional service — attentive but utterly unobtrusive — and a menu centered on succulent pastas and refined seafood dishes. The nightly specials and the waiter's recommendations for the freshest catch will lead you to the evening's best entrées. Fish dishes are exquisite, and anything with calamari (fresh local catch) is worth ordering; Atlantic shellfish, though, tend to be a tad overcooked. Reserve, and dress on the spiffier side — some Hollywood celebs hang their Borsalinos here, upping the clothing curve. Dinner 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. weekdays, 5 p.m. to midnight weekends.

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Calendar RESTAURANTS

Valet parking available. Moderate (simpler pastas) to very expensive. — *N.W.*

European Market & Deli 4135 Park Boulevard, Hillcrest, 619-298-8661. Basically a Greek deli, but charming, especially if you're into patios. Inside has painted grapes, hanging copper pans, and framed pictures of Paris cafés. The most popular dish is the lemon-roasted chicken, but if you love lamb, Paul's Special, with potatoes, salad, and pita — Fridays and Saturdays only — is the way to go. (They do offer lamb sandwiches daily.) Other good dishes include the Veggie Diabolou pita sandwich (hot and spicy), the ground beef moussaka plate (eggplant, potatoes, and bechamel sauce), Greek chicken soup and, of course, gyros. But go just to play bon vivant on the patio. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, till 5:30 p.m. Saturday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Extraordinary Desserts — Banker's Hill 2929 Fifth Avenue, Banker's Hill, 619-294-2132. Patrons looking for a quiet dessert still cling to the original charming cottage near Balboa Park. Those wanting more of a meal head for the newer Little Italy location, a vast, noisy space with industrial-chic decor and a menu of eclectic small plates — *mezze* spreads, bruschetta, sandwiches, and cheese plates. Flavors tend to be intense; some creations (such as a bacon-cured salmon sandwich and *pantelleria*, a celery-date spread) are wonderful, others are exhausting even in small portions. Both locations offer pastry cases full of desserts that live up to "extraordinary," to eat on-site or to take home. Chef-owner Karen Krasne incorporates flavors inspired by the global reach of her travels, from the cooking schools of Paris to the rice fields of Bali. The white cakes are food for angels. Wines (including champagnes), beers, fruit elixirs. Vegetarian-friendly menu. Both locations open seven days, three meals. Uptown location desserts only, all day. Moderate. — *N.W.*

Georges on Fifth 835 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-702-0444. This steakhouse is in a historic building that was once a hangout of Wyatt Earp — it now boasts faux-Victorian decor and amusing wall art. Formerly Roger's on Fifth, it was owned by former mayor-felon Roger Hedgecock; now Roger's rabbit and left it to his partner George Harrington. It's still wildly popular with conventioners on expense accounts. The menu offers Prime and ultra-Prime steaks, some of it at jaw-dropping prices — although entrées do include free vegetables. Ask for sauces on the side unless you like them thick and heavy. Some of the best items are non-beef: the cold seafood appetizers ("lobster martini," oysters, tuna tartare) and a juicy grilled pork chop. Good range of wines at normal to slightly high markups; full bar. Valet parking; cheaper lot through alley next to restaurant. Dinner nightly. Expensive to extreme. — *N.W.*

The Guild Restaurant and Lounge 1805 Newton Avenue, Logan Heights, 619-564-7584. A succinct menu features worldwide cuisine served in "small plates" to share with friends in this artistic, bohemian, out-of-the-way spot where other chefs are often spotted snacking. International boutique wines and sakes, most available by the glass and half-glass, plus creative *shoju* (strong rice wine) cocktails. Reservations advisable for dinner any evening. Call for directions; restaurant is south of where freeway ramps bisect the barrio. Calm-to-lively sound level. Four lacto-vegetarian dishes. Three meals, Tuesday through Saturday. Moderate. — *N.W.*

Hawthorn's Restaurant 2895 University Avenue, North Park, 619-295-1688. When this long-standing Banker's Hill restaurant moved to spiffy (if quite noisy) new digs here, the change proved positive in every way. Menu choices are now fewer but better, with superior ingredients including varied and seasonal locally grown vegetables matched to the individual entrées. The kitchen now does more from scratch, and you can taste all these improvements on the plate. The fare is Mediterranean-American with Mexican touches. Most desserts outsourced. Wide-ranging wine list, full bar, corkage a reasonable \$15. Reservations

recommended, especially on weekends. Expensive. — *N.W.*

Illume Bistro 675 West Beech Street, Little Italy, 619-550-5600. This menu of this trendy, convivial spot was shaped by celeb chef Brad Ogden, an upstairs neighbor in the building who served as consultant. It offers California grazing cuisine with a Mediterranean accent featuring natural, sustainable, seasonal food products in simple preparations and medium-size portions, designed for sharing. The smart, heavily Italian wine list is mainly affordable with plenty by the glass, plus full bar. Ample street parking, plus two pay lots on the block. Lively bar scene, loud but not painful. Casual. Reserve for table seating; restaurant often full. Open daily, 4 p.m. until 1 a.m. Moderate.

Islander Grill 3645 Park Boulevard, Hillcrest, 619-297-3929. Here's a chance to sample the unique tropical cuisine of Guam, an island at the crossroads of the South Pacific. The cooking includes traces of Mexico, the Philippines, Japan, and Hawaii — all filtered through the spicy Chamorro palate. Try the chicken *kelaguen*, a citric salad resembling ceviche, or the brilliant coconut shrimp (available as a starter or entrée). Stews are flavorful: The saucy ipot roast is definitely not your mother's, unless Mom's from Guam, and the chicken stews are equally savory. Other choices include a range of salty, teriyaki-style barbecued meats, barbecued chicken in a less salty marinade, plus numerous exotic appetizers. Free parking in small hotel lot. Everything available for take out. No alcohol. Lunch through dinner daily, early dinner Sundays. Very inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Jayne's Gastropub 4677 30th Street, Normal Heights, 619-563-1011. You'll find great appetizers for sharing here — not pub grub, but fine, sophisticated southern-European treats like savory hummus, tasty fried calamari, and Spanish-style shrimp with garlic. Main courses run to comfort food and are rather a matter of taste — the younger drinking crowd eats 'em up, while seasoned gastronomes aren't always as enthusiastic. Either way, it's a hip, nabe hangout for those who can handle ear-busting noise. In good weather, seating

on the back patio relieves the sonic overload. Full bar with excellent wine and beer choices. One vegan entrée, one vegetarian-adaptable pasta. Dinner Tuesday through Saturday. Appetizer dinners moderate, mains moderate to expensive. — *N.W.*

Phil's BBQ — Point Loma 3750 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma, 619-226-6333. Although Phil grills his BBQ (rather than slow-smoking it), he must be doing something right. He is: That sweet, rich rib sauce he invented is one thing. The fall-off-the-bone pork and beef is another. The sweet baked beans a third. Plus, the restaurant is a rabbit-warren that grew, but it's kid-friendly, has open wash-basins for your greasy mitts, and has paper towel rolls at every table. Ribs can be expensive, but a quarter-rib (four bones) will fill you fine. A great second-best is the BBQ sandwich with char-grilled pork shoulder. Remember: you'll get pork unless you specify beef. Open for lunch and dinner; closed Monday. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B.*

Pizza Fusion 3827 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-278-0057. This may be the greenest eatery in town. It's part of a chain, but a green chain. The foods are organic, the restaurant's walls and floors are made of renewable bamboo, the bar is recycled old bottles, and natural light pours in through solar tubes. The drinking straws are corn-based and biodegradable. They even deliver their pizzas in hybrid cars. The food? The pizzas are odd-shaped but fresh and tasty, with multigrain oval crusts, plenty of veggies, cheese, and sweet Italian sausage. Try Bill's Pizza (includes organic NY strips) and wash it down with MateVeza ale that's also an energy drink. All this does not come cheap, but watch for happy hour specials. 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B.*

Puerto la Boca 2060 India Street, Little Italy, 619-234-4900. Argentines love their beef and they love it lean and wholesome — freerange and grass fed. That's what you'll find at this uncommonly authentic outpost of Buenos Aires cuisine. The great national entrée is the mixed grill (*parrillada*) for two or more — a massive meatarama featuring

numerous grilled cuts of marinated beef, chicken, and sausages. Start with luscious beef or corn empanadas or, if you're feeling hungry and adventurous, *matambre* (rolled beef galantine). Not a steak lover? Try the shrimp *la boca*. Don't eat meat? There are vegetarian pastas and pizzas. Gnocchi (*ooquis*) are served only on the 29th of each month. International, affordable choice of wines, plus Latin and U.S. beers. Full bar. Patio dining. Daily lunch and dinner hours, with dinner menu all day Friday and Saturday. — *N.W.*

Sausage King 811 W. Washington Street, Mission Hills, 619-297-4301. Not too many delicatessens in the county still make their own sausages, luncheon meats, and jerky. But the German couple who run this place do. They make an unbelievable 34 different sausages and luncheon meats, plus 10 different smoked meats like turkey, beef, Westphalian ham, Black Forest ham, and even bacon. For lunch they will make you a really cheap bun-sandwich filled with anything from homemade liverwurst to blood sausages to salami. Two would really fill you up. As with the nearby cheese shop (see Venissimo), the Starbucks at Falcon and Washington is a good place to chow down this unique sausage experience. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Sister Pee Wee's Soul Food 2971-1/2 Imperial Avenue, Golden Hill, 619-236-0470. One of the oldest, best soul food cafés in the county. Sister Pee Wee says her lunch and dinner menu depends on what she feels like cooking that day — you might find big pork ribs with mashed red-skin potatoes, black-eyed peas, collard greens, and two-inch-thick corn bread, or Southern-fried chicken, or catfish fillet with all the trimmings. Sister's special is chitlins and catfish. (Call ahead about the availability of chitlins.) Breakfast includes eggs, bacon, ham, sausages, and hominy grits. Weekdays 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday to 4 p.m., Sunday closed. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Starlite 3175 India Street, Little Italy, 619-358-9766. No pedestrian pub grub at this lounge — nearly all the major staffers are protégés of now-departed Michael Stebner, conduit of the Alice

Waters's ethos of local and natural. Chefs hang out here off duty. The seasonal menu of California-Mediterranean cuisine features naturally raised meats, house-made pasta and sausages (do try the house-made sausage plate!), and local produce. The Jidori chicken and Prime flat-iron steak are knockouts, and for dessert let your inner child commune with your outer adult over the irresistible toffee-chip ice cream sandwich. Short, smart, merciful wine list with French and California wines at way-below-average markups, scanty by the glass; special wine bottle discounts, Sunday & Monday. Full bar with creative cocktails. Happy hour, Monday-Saturday, 5-7 p.m. About seven lacto-vegetarian dishes, one for vegans. Age 21 and up only. Free parking lot attached. Dinner nightly, moderate. — *N.W.*

The Strip Club 340 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-231-3140. This grill-your-own steak joint is a homage to Golden Hill's Turf Supper Club — but if Turf is a low-budget indie cult film, Strip Club is the Gaslamp's big, brassy, high-budget Hollywood remake (even though prices, like those of movie tickets, are roughly the same). It's loud and handsome, and if the USDA Choice steaks (available in numerous cuts) are not quite as flavorful as Turf's, they're still good enough for the price — and you can take them up a notch with numerous spice blends and sauces on hand at each gas grill. Other choices include burgers, chicken breast, ahi tuna steak, and meat or seafood kabobs (the shrimp is particularly good, with peppers, onions, and meaty hunks of portobello mushroom). Entrées come with salad and puffy, cook-it-yourself garlic bread, resembling hamburger buns with gigantism. Six veg and starch side dishes (including two types of gluey mashed potatoes) are available at extra cost; desserts are commercial ice cream novelties. Casual, no reservations, street-patio dining available. Over 21 only, no minors even with adult accompaniment. Dinner nightly, open until 2 a.m. Inexpensive to moderate. — *N.W.*

Venissimo Cheese 754 W. Washington Street, Mission Hills, 619-491-0708. Just don't ask for Velveta here. Everything else, they've got: 60-plus varieties



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Cut Rolls: California, Caterpillar, Cucumber, Philly, Rainbow, Crab, Soft Shell Crab, Spicy Tuna, Tempura Shrimp, Vegetable, Yummy, Firecracker, Seafood Dynamite, Shrimp

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of cheese, most from Europe. But a meal? Yes. You can get a baguette-style sandwich stuffed with cow cheese, sheep cheese, goat cheese, fruity, moldy, runny, stinky, any cheese in the house, same price, around five bucks. Even *Boschetto* cheese, with truffles in it, which sells at around \$30 per pound, or Napoleon's favorite, stinky *Epoisses Berthaut*, or the beautifully tangy *Schloss*. Plus you get grapes or a pear to go with the sandwich. Where to eat it? Starbucks, a few doors down, usually doesn't mind. Coffee, bread, interesting cheese, fruit — it's the perfect combo. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Sunday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Yakitori Yakyudori 3739 Sixth Avenue, Hillcrest, 619-692-4189. Yakitori are the Japanese equivalent of satay or mini-kebabs — little grilled skewers of grilled or fried goodies, each marinated and/or garnished to flatter its nature. Making a meal of them is as much fun as eating Spanish tapas — but more exotic. A highlight here is *kawasu* (chicken-skin salad, divinely tender and unrecognizable in its dressing). Tender fried tofu, skewered pork with *shiso*, chicken heart, and octopus fritters are among the standouts — but all variations of the less-challenging beef skewers are wonderful, too. Posters on the wall list the "top tens" of Japanese and American clients, and between them they'll guide you to the best dishes. Arrive early, preferably on a weeknight. No reservations, small restaurant fills up fast. Happy hour weeknights 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. with discounts on drinks and appetizers. About six vegan dishes (if you discard bonito flakes) plus salads, tofu, rice. Gets noisy as night progresses. Dinner Wednesday through Sunday. Inexpensive to moderate. — N.W.

NORTH INLAND

Buca di Beppo — Mira Mesa 10749 Westview Parkway, Mira Mesa, 858-536-2822. People come here to celebrate, in party droves, by gobbling huge plates of "themed" Italian. Buca di Beppo ("Joe's Cellar") is a mighty national chain — but it works. Try the *penne arrabiata* with its spicy sausage or the popular chicken parmigiana. Standard stuff, but what the heck — you're having fun. Don't leave without conquering the mountainous, wicked Bella Festa, two huge balls of ice cream on double chocolate cakes running with sambuca sauce,

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Calendar RESTAURANTS

caramel, and nuts on an 18-inch plate. Open for lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B.*

Casa Reveles Mexican and Seafood Restaurant 29000 Lilac Road, Valley Center, 760-749-8041. “Revels,” as the locals pronounce it, is probably the best restaurant in Valley Center proper, offering zesty, careful cooking with some unusually authentic flavors. The Michoacán-style carnitas (available in several “stuffed” dishes as well as an entrée) are outstanding for their moist smokiness, and the house’s slightly crunchy fresh-tomatillo version of salsa verde is exciting. Seafood is necessarily frozen (given the inland location), but is handled tenderly. In fact, everything’s a good deal better than it has to be, given the lack of neighborhood competition. Definitely worth a stop-off when heading to or from the nearby casinos. Late breakfast through dinner daily. Breakfast specials Saturday and Sunday until noon. Family atmosphere, but watch out for karaoke nights (Wednesday and Saturday). Full bar (cantina attached). Inexpensive to low moderate, with some three-course seafood dinners high moderate. — *N.W.*

Crab Hut 4646 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa, 858-565-1678. A local Vietnamese family runs this friendly, bare-bones eatery, specializing in Louisian-oid fried seafood and boiled seasoned shrimp, crabs, and crawfish. Whatever you order, you’ll have a great time suckin’ da heads and getting smeared with red sauce (bibs are provided and needed). But this isn’t N’awlins — instead of seasoning by the boil alone, the crabs and crawfish are drenched in thick, spicy sauces (“medium” means “cayenne-loaded”). And the light, tasty seafood gumbo with crisp veggies is more Asian than Cajun. Check the hanging board near the back for the specials and current crawfish condition. Live season runs from November through spring. Fried catfish filet and shrimp with lemon-pepper sauce are

particularly savory. No reservations, no veggies. Crowded parking lot; come early on weeknights. No alcohol; no BYO. Inexpensive to moderate. — *N.W.*

A Delight of France 126 West Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-746-2644. This authentic French bakery is one of the best in the region, offering daily baked authentic baguettes, brioches, quiches, and croissants, including a luscious almond croissant studded with nuts and laced with sweet almond paste. They claim to use all-organic ingredients, even the eggs, and locally grown produce. For a hearty breakfast, you can choose omelets, frittatas, French toast, and eggs. Lunch dishes include several savory tarts, a French deli plate, crêpes, salads, and sandwiches. And ooh la la, there are dessert pastries, too. Open for brunch/lunch and pre-dinner snacks Tuesday through Saturday; lunch/brunch only on Sunday. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

The French Market Grille 15717 Bernardo Heights Parkway, Rancho Bernardo, 858-485-8055. Ambience is served in generous portions at this romantic establishment with elegant indoor dining or a charming garden setting. The wine list has over 50 selections, including several available by the glass, and the varied menu offers Gallic dishes of duck, lamb, fish, veal, frog legs, and more. Most dishes are served with the usual French cuisine sauces, but if you’re dieting, they’ll gladly omit sauce. Ingredients and execution of the entrées can be inconsistent (e.g., some nights the fish is overcooked or the meat is tough, other nights they’re fine) but the crab-cake appetizer is always outstanding. Save room for dessert, especially the excellent crème brûlée. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Moderate. — *S.M.*

Hunan 16719 Bernardo Center Drive, Rancho Bernardo, 858-487-8131. This casual family restaurant serves the cuisines of two spicy Chinese provinces, Szechuan and Hunan — each with its own dedicated chef — but both chefs tone the spice way down to a suburban American comfort level. If you don’t already know the difference between these neighboring cuisines, you’re unlikely to learn them here. But you can have an en-

What the Chef Eats

WEEKEND BEER BREAD

BY BENJAMIN MOORE

Executive Chef, Parallel 33

I like to take everyday food and pair it in unique ways people wouldn’t think of. I taste something and think, *Oh my gosh, this would go really well with this other thing.* My kitchen staff is always surprised with what I think up. For example, I have a scallop dish that I serve with bacon and maple syrup. One of my chefs in culinary school told me there was no way I could have bacon and maple syrup in an upscale restaurant. I guess I took it as a challenge. I made a maple stock with serrano [peppers] and paired it with lentils sautéed with bacon.

It’s exciting to me that I don’t know my style yet and I’m trying to define a style. At the same time I’m

just trying to cook every day. The greatest thing in the world is when I cook something that I think is good and people love — you can’t put a price on that. I cook less at home because I’m not there as much, but my wife and I like to go to the farmers’ market and get some cheese, a baguette, some fresh fruit and have a wine-and-cheese diner. I cook all day, I have to make these things with different levels to them. When I go home, I like to cook with my stomach. One thing we do a lot is go to Trader Joe’s and get a 99-cent pizza dough. We head to the farmers’ market for toppings and go from there.

We also make a beer

bread sometimes on the weekend. It’s quick and easy, and you can change the beer to play with the flavors. This bread, some nice cheese, and wine, for us, that’s a meal. It’s really simple.

INGREDIENTS

2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

1 T baking powder

1/2 tsp baking soda

1/4 teaspoon salt

3 T white sugar

2 T olive oil

1 can or bottle of beer (Stone Brewing Company’s smoked porter really works)

HOW TO DO IT

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl, mix together the dry ingre-



dients and make a well in the center. Pour in the beer and olive oil and mix with a wooden spoon until just blended. The batter will be sticky. Pour into a 9 x 5-inch greased loaf pan. Bake at 350° for 50 to 60 minutes. The top will be crunchy, and the insides will be soft. Serve warm and topped with butter, onions or cheese.

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NORTH COASTAL

Americana 1454 Camino del Mar, Del Mar, 858-794-6838. Housed in a historic building, this casual breakfast/lunch joint turns into a serious dinner house at nightfall. The cooking represents the American melting pot, featuring world-wide flavors. Mornings, along with flawless eggs Benedict and utopian waffles, you can get a "Roman breakfast" of prosciutto, mozzarella, and fried egg on English muffin. At dinner, don't miss the lamb chop and eggplant appetizer or the duck breast with fig sauce. During summer, some of the veggies come from

chef-owner Randy Gruber's home garden; the french fries (which don't come from his garden) are world class. To finish, a banana *tarte tatin* shouldn't be resisted. Thoughtful, reasonable wine list. Breakfast (until 3 p.m.) and lunch daily, dinner Tuesday through Saturday. Kids' menu available. Breakfast and lunch inexpensive to moderate; dinner moderate to expensive. — *A.M.*

The Bird House Grill 250 North Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-944-2882. A great place to check out real Turkish cuisine. The inside has a fine collection of blue-and-white wall plates and blue glass eyes to ward off evil spirits. Try the house specialty, Iskender Kebab (ground meat kebab, rice, tomato sauce, and house-grown yogurt) — "Iskender" means "Alexander." Or the Kofte plate (ground meat kebab, rice, salad, pita, and *tzatziki* sauce). The Shepherd's Salad is a traditional dish brimming with fresh tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, parsley, oil, and lemon. Good healthy Mediterranean diet. Even the baklavas are less gloopy. Open Monday to Saturday, lunch and dinner. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

California Pizza Kitchen — Carmel Valley 11602 Carmel Moun-

tain Road, Carmel Valley, 858-675-4424. Two Beverly Hills lawyers started this chain in 1985 to exploit "the premium pizza segment." Some 150 restaurants later, guess it worked. The place is all shiny chrome, glass, etched palm trees, golden wood and black furniture, and two pizza ovens with real logs burning inside. The Original BBQ chicken pizza, the chain's first hit, is still their top seller. It has barbecue sauce, smoked Gouda and mozzarella cheeses, BBQ chicken, red onions, and cilantro. The BBQ chicken chopped salad is good too, as is the jambalaya. If you've got a sweet tooth, but are embarrassed to order Hawaiian pizza, try the pear and Gorgonzola. It has caramelized pears, caramelized onions, Gorgonzola and other cheeses, and hazelnuts. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B.*

Knockout Pizza 2959 Carlsbad Boulevard, Carlsbad, 760-434-4468. It's New York pizza only here. They make the pies with traditional thin, crisp crusts and toppings like pepperoni, meatball, garlic, and "whitestone" (mozzarella, Parmesan, ricotta, garlic, and spinach). Maybe their best is the "Bronx Special," an assortment of pepperoni, sausage,

onions, olives, mushrooms, pepper and garlic. Open daily. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Market Restaurant and Bar 3702 Via de la Valle, Del Mar, 858-523-0007. Market occupies an odd location, way out in the boonies of far-east Del Mar, but it's worth seeking out. The menu, which changes daily, is inspired by whatever seasonal foodstuffs chef-owner Carl Schroeder (formerly at Arterra) finds at the local produce market (Chino Farms) and from the nearby seas. Despite the ambitious food and prices, vibes are neighborhood restaurant — people are having a good time here, and so will you. For once, the appetizers and entrées are equally good, with no letdown. At our visit, boneless beef shortribs, North Atlantic monkfish, bluenose bass, and venison chops were all imaginative, with perfectly sized portions and intriguing sides. Appetizers may include celery-root soup, Maine lobster salad, bleu-cheese soufflé, and a strudel of forest mushrooms and artichokes, all of them scrumptious — but the menu could be completely different when you visit, so be prepared. This is truly seasonal, local cuisine, and hurry for that. Dinner nightly. Reservations

essential. Expensive to very expensive. — *N.W.*

El Q'ero 564 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-753-9050. You'll feel like a guest at an intimate party eating a leisurely dinner in this small, noisy, pretty dining room. Chef Monica Szepezy offers personalized, home-style renditions of South American cuisines, including house-made beverages. Be sure to try the house's *chicha morada*, a tangy soft drink made from Peruvian purple corn. The fare includes numerous types of empanadas, tapas-like small plates, and full-size entrées — most from the family homeland, Peru. Desserts vary nightly and can include a cloud-like *tres leches* cake. Vegetarian- and allergy-restricted diets accommodated. Lunch and dinner Tuesday through Saturday. Reservations necessary. Moderate. — *N.W.*

Saint Germain's Café 1010 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-753-5411. Despite the Parisian name, the food here is all-American. Omelets are the café's best-known dish — 14 variations of three-egggers (or Eggbeaters by request) served with toast or a muffin, plus tasty herb-strewn café potatoes or fresh fruit salad. But don't overlook the Bel-

gian waffles, scrambles, pancakes, Louisiana sausages, or the three versions of expertly poached eggs Benedict with genuine hollandaise. Sandwiches run to hearty American classics (including some veggie choices), and along with beef burgers, turkey burgers, and veggie burgers, there are no fewer than six twists on lean charbroiled chicken breast on a burger bun. The sheltered patio is always crowded, but there's a large interior dining room with a separate smoothies-and-ice-cream bar. Open daily, breakfast to late lunch. Inexpensive. — *N.W.*

Tip Top Meats 6118 Paseo del Norte, Carlsbad, 760-438-2620. This geranium-splashed blue-and-white Bavarian chalet is more than a butcher's shop. It's a combination butcher-deli-diner. Enter through the bulging deli and listen for the shouts and clatter of serving ladies. Look for the "*Es ist Wunderbar!*" sign over the counter. Try German and American dishes like Big John's all-you-can-eat bacon, pork-link sausage, bratwurst, or ham breakfast with three eggs, home fries, and toast. Or the sausage plate: bratwurst, knackwurst, and smoked Polish with German potato salad and traditional stuffed cabbage. Owner Big John



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is a heavyweight Olympic boxer from the former East Germany with an M.A. in meat sciences. Generous portions abound. Friday through Sunday after 4 p.m., he roasts his famous prime rib dinner. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Trattoria Positano 2171 San Elijo Avenue, Cardiff, 760-632-0111. If you're tired of Italian restaurants, you'll be revitalized by this one. Original recipes, wonderful fresh fish, nightly specials, excellent lamb and pastas. Very warm atmosphere. A treasure. Reservations accepted for parties of four or more; expect a wait at prime dinner hours, especially on weekends. Lunch and dinner six days, Sundays dinner only. Upper moderate. — *N.W.*

Asian Noodle 1430 East Plaza Boulevard, Suite E-12, National City, 619-477-5390. You've got to be a noodle fan to be into this. It's an outpost of the venerable Ma Mon Luk family's Filipino restaurant

empire. Mr. Ma went to Manila from China nearly a century ago and introduced the idea of egg noodles in chicken soup (instead of rice noodles). His now-famous soup (with beef or chicken these days) came to be called MaMi, (Mr. Ma's "Mi" — noodles). Yes, MaMi's a little bland, but it's filling, and their *siopao* (stuffed steam buns) make a good accompaniment. Most interesting is another invention Ma Mon Luk claims: sweet spaghetti. Inexpensive. — *E.B.*

Birrias, Chivos & Cheves 2401 Highland Avenue, Suite 104, National City, 619-477-7660. This might be the nearest thing to the goat restaurant at Mercado Hidalgo, the Tijuana market known for its good food, including goat stew. Goat is what you get here, and it's good. Guadalupean style. The taste is rich but not too gamey. The family's speciality is great too: *quesabirria frita*, a kind of empanada with birria, Monterey Jack cheese, cream, and marinated purple onion, topped with mom's sesame salsa. Open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Inexpensive. —E.B.

Chez Loma French Bistro 1132 Loma Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-0661. Occupying a charming, cozy historic cottage a few blocks from the Del, this very French bistro has ceased its previous descent into decay, thanks to a change of owners in late 2005. They've introduced

more careful cooking, fresher ingredients, more accommodating service. You'll still find all the classics of French bourgeois cuisine on the menu along with lighter, more modern dishes such as salmon crusted with horseradish. Don't miss the heartwarming Normandy-style onion soup flavored with apple cider. An adventurous wine list with interesting regional French bottles at modest markups adds to the pleasures. Three different three-course prix-fixe dinners (at varying prices) all offer good value, especially the early-bird super-bargain menu (\$24.95) available 4-6 p.m. nightly (all evening on Tuesdays). On Wednesdays, most wines are half price. Ground-floor dining room wheelchair accessible; specify when reserving. Dinner only, Tuesday through Sunday. À la carte expensive. — N.W.

China Super Buffet 3007 Highland Avenue #9, National City, 619-636-9989. This buffet promises "over 100 items daily." Yellow-gloved girls constantly row the rows checking, stirring, wiping. A lot of the stuff is very good, like the marinated baby octopuses that look like large blushing spiders, or the mussels in their shells, bubbling golden on top with melted cheese, and of course, roast beef au jus. If you must be healthy, they have groaning salad bars and adequate sushi. It's an incredible value. Lunch and dinner daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Mistral 4000 Coronado Bay Road, Coronado, 619-424-4000. Not just for tourists, but a lovely getaway for locals, the luxurious dining room with its wrap-around windows on the bay is one of the most romantic spots in town with comfortable banquette seating, a view from every table, and an atmosphere that's quietly festive, not formal. The light, elegant, healthful Mediterranean-style cuisine (northern Italy and southern France) emphasizes seasonal ingredients, as local and sustainably raised as possible, including herbs and some fruits grown organically on the resort grounds. Combinations can be witty and a bit whimsical. An excellent wine list at very reasonable markups is strong on half-bottles. (If you want a tasting dinner with matching wines, speak to the knowledgeable, trustworthy sommelier.) Inexpensive validated valet parking at the resort cohere of the main lobby. Reserve a few nights ahead, as many dinners here are sold out or special events. Dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Expensive. — N.W.

Restaurant el Patio 410 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-422-9745. This family restaurant has hardly changed in 54 years. It has the easy feel of a place beloved by many of Chula Vista's multi-generational families. The food is old-fashioned, too. So don't expect anything new, unless you go for the Flying Saucer (fried tortilla stacked with beef, tomatoes, and a mound of salad). Otherwise

just go for the tried and true: chile relleno, enchiladas, taco combo, and open-faced chiliburgers with fries. You should try El Patio's famous cheese sauce that smothers their shredded beef burrito. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Friday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sunday 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Inexpensive to moderate. — *E.B.*

The Hideout Steakhouse and Saloon 27413 Highway 76, Julian, 760-782-3656. If you're a Harley-Davidson weekend warrior, this is for you: an old dark timbered roadhouse peeking out of the trees, with its own spring-fed water wheel, 3000 feet up the mountains. Back in the thirties, Hollywood celebs (Roy Rogers, Alfalfa, et al.) used to hang out here on huntin' and fishin' trips. Now, bike enthusiasts make it their weekend day-trip destination. It still has a 1920s fireplace roaring at one end, a big pot-belly stove at the other, a honky-tonk upright piano, and a forty-foot-long oakwood bar. Cheeseburgers are the default dish. Available are a "Texas-sized baked potato," vegetables, salad, and squaw bread. Open Saturday and Sunday only. Inexpensive to moderate. — E.B.

Paipa's Oasis 5469 Casino Way, El Cajon, 619-445-6002. Forget gambling—gamble through the slots till you pass under two huge elephant tusks. The “Jaws and the Volcano”-style place with a fountain tower gurgling in the center is Paipa's. Pay the woman. Now decide: a lot of a little, or a little of a lot. The huge salad bar is surrounded by a groaning U-shaped table laden with everything from peel-and-eat shrimp to baked cod to Certified Black Angus prime rib. Keep coming back. Save them from throwing away this stuff. End with, say, strawberry cheesecake and coffee. Unlike the other suckers, you've gotten a return on your money. Moderate. —*E.B.*

La Posta 32337 Old Highway 80, Pine Valley, 619-478-5600. Is the Wild West dead? Not out here. Swagger in past the rocking chairs on the wooden porch, by the “NRA meets here, every 3rd Wednesday, 7 p.m.” sign, past bows and arrows, dream catchers, lariats, and brass spittoons, and swing into a chair. Now think vintage American food. Hefty anytime-breakfasts include two eggs, hash browns, biscuits, and coffee or eggs with chicken-fried steak or a bulging veggie omelet. (“With syrup” breakfast items, such as pancakes, stop at 2:30 p.m.) Their sourdough cheeseburger with fries or potato salad is big, or delve into a bowl of chili. Folks hereabouts talk about that chili in low, reverent voices. For dinner, the rib eye steak or pork chops is good enough to make city folks swoon. Three meals daily. Inexpensive. —E.B.

Trattoria Antica 5654 Lake Murray Boulevard, La Mesa, 619-463-9919. This is the Italian cooking of joy. New York expats, especially, will rejoice to discover fabulous food and warm hospitality to equal their Manhattan favorites — in a La Mesa strip mall. The indulgent, ambitious, full-flavored dishes are made with uncompromised Italian ingredients (e.g., San Daniele prosciutto, imported fontina cheese) and the Sicilian-born chef knows just what to do with them. This is *abbondanza* — not just abundance in portion size, but in the soul-felt appreciation of the pleasure of life. Wine (with lots of interesting Italian bottlings) and beer. Reservations strongly advised. Moderate (pastas) to slightly expensive. — N.W.

Vine Ripe Market Grill 8191 Fletcher Parkway Drive, La Mesa, 619-462-9900. Maybe the nearest feeling you'll get this side of the Pacific to being in the actual Middle East. The scents, the smells, the music. Women in robes and shawls, men with prayer beads. Behind the food counter, three giant vertical spits of beef, chicken, and a lamb-beef combo rotate in front of blue flames. Ask for the Beef Shawerma, or a lamb kabob spiked on a real sword. The shrimp kabob (basmati rice, hummus, feta salad, pita bread) is wonderful, and their grilled salmon is their most popular dish. Sandwiches include a kafta kabob (thin bread stuffed with meat loaf, lettuce, onions, tomatoes, served with a Grecian sauce) and chicken kabob (thin bread stuffed with chicken, lettuce, onions, tomatos, garlic sauce). Don't hurry — be prepared for conversation. 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Best user comments from Reader website

Tango is fantastic. Chef Russ is a food genius. He clearly loves food and loves to present his guests with the best experience he can. He has a new small plates menu, which is great. You can order several small plates to share a few bites and taste everything. But save room for dessert. Last week, sous chef Brandon Hunsaker created a heavenly pumpkin soufflé, warm and puffy, rich in pumpkin flavor, but not overly sweet. And stop on the way out to make a reservation for next week — you'll want to come back soon! The new, larger dining room should be opening soon, and I'm going back to dine there.

By **FoodieGirl** 11:19 p.m., Dec. 10

We were thrilled last Friday to arrive and be treated royally at The Pearl. We found the atmosphere to be so tranquil. Our server Jennifer gave us excellent service and suggestions. We chose Cuban cigars as our starter along with pumpkin ravioli. I pride myself on being a gourmet cook, but these were beyond my expertise. My husband's Brandt beef burger was superb. We did have a coupon; however, not having one will not keep us from dining here often like this Friday evening. Loved it! Oh, what a treat after a long work week.

By **nglmd** 1:08 p.m., Dec. 11

By far the best vegan comfort food I've ever eaten. It's so close to my house too! If anyone wants a recommendation, please try the vegan fusion sandwich accompanied with the potato and leek soup. It is truly delicious.

By **Diana** 4:19 p.m., Dec. 12

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Stretch Drive

This spectacle may satisfy the undying urge to spit on the corpse of the 37th President.

Counting down the final movies till Christmas....

Doubt, from the prize-winning stage play by John Patrick Shanley, is an ambiguous drama of possible priestly pedophilia at a Catholic school in the Bronx. The playwright, perhaps best known to moviegoers (with long enough memories) as

the writer of *Moonstruck* and writer-director of *Joe versus the Volcano*, handles the direction of his own work on screen, and the freedoms of the medium enable him to detail operations of the parish to almost anthropological ends: the nuns' rising and dressing in the A.M., the altar boys' preparations for Mass, the crosscutting contrast between the bloody-roast-beef and red-wine dinner table of the jovial priests as against the silent and austere table of the milk-fed nuns, the students' coed dance lesson to "Blame It on the Bossa Nova," and so on. The time, as the aforesaid musical selection would sug-

gest, is early Sixties, the time of the playwright's own Catholic boyhood in the Bronx, although the sermon on communal despair after the JFK assassination — one of three pithy sermons in the script — could easily have been recycled post-9/11.

The three principal characters are types: the progressive priest who believes in a "friendlier" church that moves with the times, a friendliness that may or may not have gone too far in embracing the school's first black student, a vulnerable target; the hide-bound and humorless old nun ("Penmanship is dying, all across this country") who lays down the law — "Frosty the Snowman," a pagan song, should be banned from the airwaves, let alone the school Christmas pageant — and who rules through fear; and the innocent and idealistic novice, young and pretty, who wants to believe the best of everyone, and who has to ask herself whether the older nun's crusade

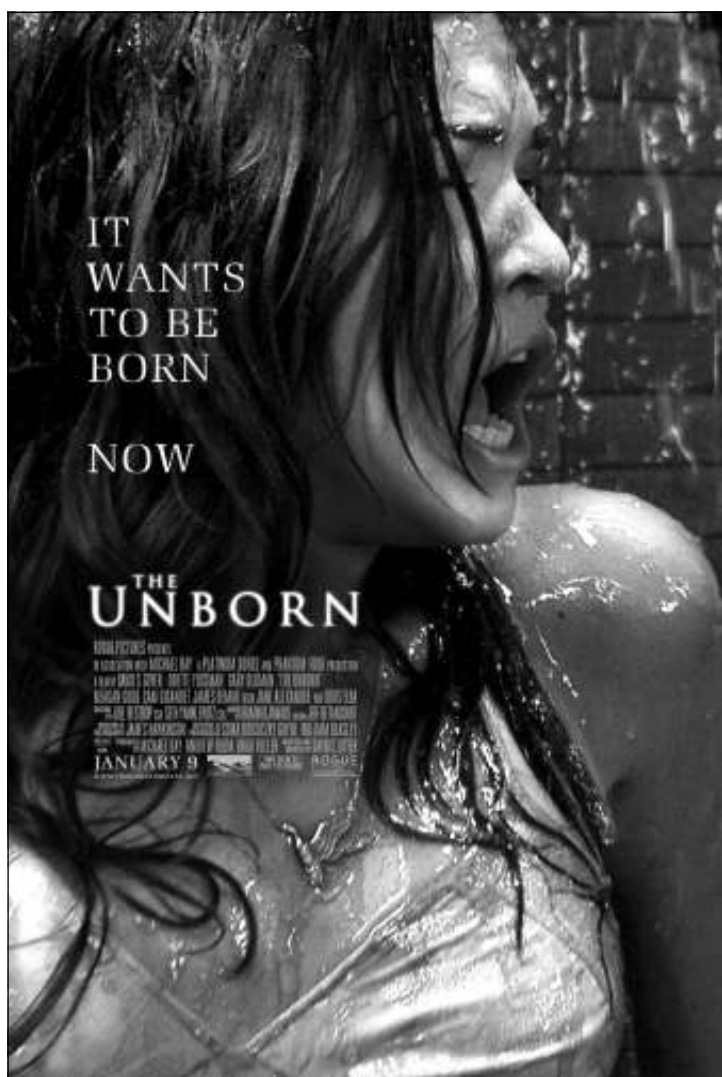


Frost/Nixon

against the priest might be fueled by disapproval of his laxities: his three lumps of sugar in his tea, his modernistic preference for ballpoint pens, his indulgence of "Frosty the Snowman." The clash of personalities, strictly limited by the play's title and tactical guideline, illuminates nothing so much as the players. Meryl Streep, overacting awesomely, is not only a holy ter-

ror as a nun but as a thespian, booby-trapping every scene with unforeseeable little diversions, inventions, stratagems, embellishments. Philip Seymour Hoffman and Amy Adams, no slouches themselves, appear to enjoy their one scene alone together in the courtyard, no one to steal it from them, no one to show them up or slap them down.

Frost/Nixon is also based on a stage play, this one by Peter Morgan, author of the speculative re-enactment of the behind-the-scenes negotiations between Elizabeth II and PM Tony Blair in the aftermath of Princess Diana's death, *The Queen*. The current piece is likewise a speculative re-enactment, albeit with much more on-the-record material to work from: the "no holds barred"



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Calendar MOVIES

television interview in 1977 of Richard Nixon by British talk-show host David Frost. The putting-together of the deal ("It'll be a big wet kiss," predicts the ex-President's literary agent, Swifty Lazar) will be the less familiar if also less interesting material, a lengthy buildup to the series of four separate on-camera sessions, while Frost is still scrambling to scrape up the financing for the project and to secure a venue for it. A prizefight metaphor runs throughout, permitting director Ron Howard to slip comfortably into the underdog mode of his *Cinderella Man*, with Frost,

as it were, failing to lay a glove on Nixon going into the final round, then at last pinning him in a corner and pummeling some semblance of a confession out of him.

This spectacle may satisfy the undying urge to spit on the corpse of the 37th President, as well as supply a general-purpose stand-in for the still elusive and impenitent 43rd President. (The undying urge to spit, it must be pointed out, tends to contradict the film's premise that the interview in some way provided "closure.") As a job of stagecraft, however, or screencraft, it's a bit stunted, endlessly and explicitly talking out its points, and employing the unpardonable short-cut of pseudodocumentary interviews of various secondary characters, osten-

sibly at a later date, to further analyze, comment on, and embroider the points made elsewhere. Frank Langella proves to be a serviceable Nixon. He has the stoop, and he has the glower, though the rounded and resonant tones of his voice are far too affectedly theatrical, and the material requires him to give short shrift to the clumsily charming Nixon and to miss altogether the embarrassingly maudlin Nixon. Of so complicated and well documented a figure, any impersonator can only be a reductionist. Michael Sheen, *The Queen's* Tony Blair, certainly sounds like Frost in my memory's ear, but my memory also tells me that Frost's British accent automatically gave him, to the average American ear, an air of culture and erudition he couldn't fully back up. To heighten the drama — to hype the verbal prizefight — the script diminishes Frost to a simple soul with simple tastes (fame, fortune, willing women), closer to a Johnny Carson or Mike Douglas than to a Tom Snyder or Dick Cavett, hopelessly overmatched against Tricky Dick. In his obligation to play David to Nixon's Goliath, Rocky Balboa to Nixon's Apollo Creed, Sheen rather scamps the pretentiousness of the man.

The Day the Earth Stood Still refashions the 1951 s-f classic into a 2008 tolerable time-passer on a fast track to oblivion. The urgent mobilization of an *ad hoc* team of scientists and the descent of a UFO on Central Park get the movie off to a gripping start, once past the prolonged opening credits and 1928 prologue. And the dissipation of the robot GORT (a military acronym for Genetically Organized Robotic Technology) into a deadly locust cloud is quite spectacular. He, or it, still can't hold a candle to his, or its, clunky archetypal namesake in the original. Most of the action, under director Scott Derrickson, is mere going-through-the-motions; and for all the bigger and splashier special effects, and all the dashing around the countryside, the remake somehow feels smaller in scope, narrower in vision. Meddlesome busybody aliens affronted by humans' mistreatment of the planet ("It's not *your* planet") seem a little petty alongside self-defensive aliens worried, post-WWII, about humans spreading their bellicosity throughout the universe. Jennifer Connelly, as a really hot astrobiologist and really warm interracial single stepmom, is convincingly hot and convincingly warm if not convincingly astrobiological. And Keanu Reeves, sad to say, as the expressionless human husk of an emotionless extraterrestrial, has never been better.

Yes Man, directed by Peyton Reed, measures the loss of elasticity in rub-

ber man Jim Carrey, now showing the effects of age and experience on his creased, rumpled, baggy face. (*The Number 23* can't be easy to bounce back from. Ever.) He nevertheless strives to recover his antic former self in the role of a gray-souled, nay-saying loan officer who attends a self-empowerment seminar that compels him to answer every question in the affirmative. Hollywood tastemakers take it from there. A business loan for a baker of unrecognizable celebrity-lookalike cakes? Yes! A blow job from the white-haired toothless old lady next door? Yes! Zooey Deschanel, forging a career from looking like she can't figure out how to play her part, has ample reason to look like that in the part of a rock singer, painter, photographer, and all-around free spirit who, nearly young enough to be his daughter and apparently friendless, is supposed to fall in love with him. For the moviegoer, the response should be obvious. Just say no.

Seven Pounds gives us the *de rigueur* December Will Smith, who tends to be more sensitive, tormented, teary, and Oscar-hungry than the July Will Smith. Here he takes his crinkled brow in tight closeups on a cryptic personal mission ("We have a plan. Do what you promised me"), flashing an IRS identity card to gain access to total strangers so as to judge whether or not they are "good," "worthy," "deserving." (The nursing-home administrator may require a bone-marrow transplant for survival, but in spite of his deep debt to Uncle Sam he has splurged on a Beemer: not good.) The aim and outcome of his mission are, for review purposes, Top Secret, but suffice to say that the film combines the bleeding heart of *The Pursuit of Happyness* — not to mention the director of it, Gabriele Muccino — with the galloping ego of *I Am Legend*.

Trend to watch: English-speaking actors lapsing into English-subtitled foreign tongues. Will Smith, Spanish, in *Seven Pounds*. Jim Carrey, Korean, in *Yes Man*. Keanu Reeves, Chinese, in *The Day the Earth Stood Still*. And upcoming, Tom Cruise, German, in *Valkyrie* and Daniel Craig, Russian, in *Defiance*. ■

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 SDRReader.com.

Antarctica — Multicharacter gay romantic drama out of Israel, written and directed by Yair Hochner. (KEN, 12/19 THROUGH 25)

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; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; 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; 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; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; LA PALOMA, FROM 12/19)

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. Adrien 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)

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

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The Day the Earth Stood Still

Howard (still a co-producer on it), and certainly it possesses a moral simplicity that would seem these days to be beneath his interest. Never beneath Howard's, however. An eighty-year-old nugget unearthed from the annals of the LAPD, fit for a remember-when newspaper story on a round-number anniversary, it tells of the disappearance of a nine-year-old boy on the day his working single mother, a roller-skating switchboard supervisor, was to have taken him to the new Chaplin picture (*The Circus*, presumably), and of the strong-arm attempts of the beleaguered police department, five months later, to palm off on her an imposter — the world's oldest changeling — rounded up at a diner in Illinois. The situation, for all its purported factuality, is too ridiculous to be truly gripping; too much so even to be minimally maddening. Angelina Jolie, with Star Power on her side, in addition to Mother Love, in addition to Truth and Justice, campaigns for sainthood in a cloche hat and a hummock of crimson lipstick, accentuating her most grotesque feature — a pair of novelty-shop plastic lips — and providing the only dash of color in a frigid blue image. Validation, if not official canonization, will come in the form of four rounds of applause in open court. With inferior material, Eastwood's "classical" style and deliberate pace (filling, and overfilling, his accustomed two-and-a-quarter-hour time slot) amount to little more than proficient hackwork. John Malkovich, Jeffrey Donovan, Colm Feore, Jason Butler Harner. 2008. ★ (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, THROUGH 12/18)

The Day the Earth Stood Still — Reviewed this issue. With Jennifer Connelly, Keanu Reeves, Jaden Smith, Kathy Bates, and John Cleese; directed by Scott Derrickson. ★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MIS-

SION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Doubt — Reviewed this issue. With Meryl Streep, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Amy Adams, Viola Davis, and Joseph Foster; written and directed by John Patrick Shanley. ★★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA 12; FROM 12/19)

Eden — Rueful Irish marital drama, the chill getting chillier on the tenth anniversary. The working-class surroundings are vividly filled in; and even if the common-folk actors (Aidan Kelly, Eileen Walsh) are often indecipherable, they well communicate the general drift. Written by Eugene O'Brien; directed by Declan Recks. 2008. ★★ (KEN, THROUGH 12/18)

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 — Reviewed this issue. With Michael Sheen, Frank Langella, Sam Rockwell, Kevin Bacon, and Rebecca Hall; directed by Ron Howard. ★ (MISSION VALLEY 20)

Hounddog — Deborah Kampmeier's quasi Carson McCullers coming-of-age tale, set in rural Alabama in the late Fifties, 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. (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. And finally, the hallucinatory snakes slithering over her entire body, not missing her crotch. All of this, under the eye of a female filmmaker, is assuredly meant to arouse discomfort, and nothing more than discomfort. 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. 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). With Piper Laurie and Robin Wright Penn. 2008.

★ (GASLAMP 15, THROUGH 12/18)

Let the Right One In — Bullied blond Swedish schoolboy meets dark and dusky Miss Tween Vampire. Slow, almost ludicrously sensitive, ninety-five-percent realistic and unfantastic. The other five percent houses some mild chills: the girl's monkey-like shimmy up the outside wall of a hospital; the mass cat attack on a new vampire convert; the sweat and tears of blood when the vampire crosses a threshold uninvited. With Kare Hedebrant and Lina Leandersson; directed by Tomas Alfredson. 2008. ★ (GASLAMP 15)

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa — The light-in-the-loafers cartoon lion, a self-proclaimed "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; FASHION VALLEY 18; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14)

The Matador — Stephen Higgins's and Nina Gilden Seavey's digital documentary on Spanish bullfighting, mostly on the individual quest of the young torero David Fandila, "El Fandi," to become only the thirteenth in history to do a hundred corridas in a single season. Though the filmmakers aren't there when he finally does it, they provide workmanlike coverage of the territory, in a tidy hour and a quarter, even taking time for a brief nod to the anti-bullfighting movement and its mantra, "Torture is neither art nor culture." 2008. ★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS, THROUGH 12/18)

Max Payne — Steroidal cop film (literally, pharmaceutical performance-enhancement to a science-fictional degree) featuring dark shadows, leached color, CG hallucinations, and Mark Wahlberg's frown lines. With Mila Kunis, Beau Bridges, and Ludacris; directed by John Moore. 2008. ● (SANTEE DRIVE IN)

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 protago-

nist'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 transforma-

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tional 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; HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MIRA MESA 18; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

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. ★ (CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8;

FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10)

Quantum of Solace — The first true sequel in the twenty-odd entries of the James Bond series, picking up our Blond Bond (Daniel Craig) on the trail of vengeance after the death of his ladylove, Vesper, at the end of *Casino Royale*. (This was a trail closed off to the newly widowed Bond at the end of *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, when poor George Lazenby, the only one-timer in the series, got booted out the door as if he never should have happened.) The film fails, however, to solidify, much less build upon, the promise of the fresh start in its forerunner. It perhaps meets the fundamental requirements of action and pace, hurtling forward with only the briefest of pauses and coming in at a tidy hour and three-quarters, the shortest Bond film in the entire series. As a likely result of that, it can seldom make time for the preparation that would give the action scenes sense and import. They are little more than turbulence. And the underlying split personality still remains: Why bother to infuse the Bond character with a greater air of reality if he's going to continue to be allowed the acrobatics of a Jackie Chan? Surely our rougher and tougher superspy wouldn't want us snorting in derision, or even



Doubt

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; FASHION VALLEY 18; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10)

Rachel Getting Married — A sort of Rainbow Coalition wedding weekend: the father of the Jewish bride had remarried a black, the bride too is marrying a black (it might be noted that Sidney Lumet, the father of first-time scriptwriter Jenny Lumet, had remarried a black himself), and the theme of the wedding is inexplicably Indian. Director Jonathan Demme, striving for an improvisational feel, stages the goings-on with an almost Danish dishevelment: a hand-held camera in the grasp of an arm-weary cameraman. Anne Hathaway, as the bride's just-out-of-rehab sister, a con-

stant and tiresome threat of disruption ("She needs a lot of acknowledgment"), proves to be too actress for the style; but Rosemarie DeWitt makes a fine impression as her well-behaved sister, and the conviviality of the gathering, with heavy representation from the cool cats of the music industry, is by and large believable and admirable. With Mather Zickel, Bill Irwin, Anna Deavere Smith, Tunde Adebimpe, and Debra Winger. 2008. ★ (GASLAMP 15)

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-Plassé, 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; POWAY 10)

NADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14)

A Secret — Claude Miller's adaptation of an autobiographical novel by Philippe Grimbert chronicles more than a half-century in the lives of a family of French Jews, working its way forwards and backwards from its postwar starting 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. And although the periods of 1955, 1962, and 1985 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. 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. Cécile de France, Patrick Bruel, Ludvine Sagnier, Julie Depardieu, Mathieu Amalric. 2007. ★★ (GASLAMP 15)

Seven Pounds — Reviewed this issue. With Will Smith, Rosario Dawson, Woody Harrelson, Michael Ealy, and Barry Pepper; directed by Gabriele Muccino. ● (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; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Slumdog Millionaire — Feverish day-dream, partly amorous, partly avaricious, around an unschooled Bombay teenager

6 CRITICS' CHOICE AWARD NOMINATIONS INCLUDING BEST PICTURE

5 GOLDEN GLOBE AWARD NOMINATIONS BEST ACTRESS • Meryl Streep

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR • Philip Seymour Hoffman BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS • Amy Adams BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS • Viola Davis BEST SCREENPLAY • John Patrick Shanley

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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; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; RANCHO DEL REY 16; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWN SQUARE 14)

The Tale of Despereaux — Computer-animated rodent adventure, with the voices of Matthew Broderick, Dustin Hoffman, Emma Watson, Tracey Ullman. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; TOWN SQUARE 14; FROM 12/19)

Transporter 3 — The glorified delivery man has been coerced into chauffeuring a freckled Ukrainian redhead to Budapest and beyond, strapped with an irremovable



Seven Pounds

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.

● (GASLAMP 15; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24;

PLAZA BONITA 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 at-

tempting to bring some virgin blood to a tired old genre: the nonnuclear vampire family, having settled in the rural Northwest for maximum privacy and cloud cover, strive to fit in and stay straight, fancying themselves “vegetarian” for dining only on animal blood instead of human. Because the narrative point of view is that of an ordinary flesh-and-blood high-school girl, we don't witness the gory details of their daily diet. (Exsanguination of deer and rabbit, to say nothing of pet dog and cat, could tend to alienate the audience.) What we mainly witness is the cultivated aura of mystery and danger around the eternal seventeen-year-old adopted son of the family. And the business of being a bloodsucker in the 21st Century takes a distant backseat to the business of campus courtship: the classic pattern of Good Girl meets Bad Boy. He flatteringly lusts after her (“You're like my own personal brand of heroin”), but even more flatteringly he respects her (“I can't ever lose control with you”): a parent's least nightmare, and little wonder that the hearts of schoolgirlish readers, and now moviegoers, might go pitty-pat. Given the general level of innocuousness and salubriousness, we don't expect the frustrated teen sweethearts now or in future installments to explore the engorgement option in Theodore Sturgeon's novella *Some of Your Blood*, namely menses. (Eeuuww!) But given the fixation on the girl's “scent” and given the

Bargain showtimes are in parentheses.

CENTRAL
CLAIREMONT

Town Square 14
4665 Clairemont Drive (858-274-1234)
Australia (Not Rated); **Bolt** (PG); **The Day the Earth Stood Still** (PG-13); **Four Christmases** (PG-13); **Slumdog Millionaire** (R); **The Tale of Despereaux** (G); **Twilight** (PG-13); **Yes Man** (PG-13)

DOWNTOWN
Gaslamp 15
701 Fifth Avenue (619-232-0400)
Australia (Not Rated); **Cadillac Records** (R); **Changeling** (R); **Four Christmases** (PG-13); **House of Sleeping Beauties** (Not Rated); **Let the Right One In** (R); **Rachel Getting Married** (R); **Role Models** (R); **A Secret** (Not Rated); **Seven Pounds** (PG-13); **Take Out** (Not Rated); **Transporter 3** (PG-13); **Vicky Cristina Barcelona** (PG-13)

Horton Plaza 14
Horton Plaza (619-444-FILM)
Call theater for program information

LA JOLLA
La Jolla 12
8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (858-558-2262)

Australia (Not Rated) Fri.-Sun. (11:40) 3:25, 7:05, 10:15; **Bolt** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (11:15) 1:50, 4:20, 6:55, 9:20 Sun. 1:50, 4:20, 6:55, 9:20; **The Day the Earth Stood Still** (PG-13) Fri. (10:35, 11:20) 1:15, 2:00, 4:00, 4:40, 6:45, 7:20, 9:25, 10:05 Sat.-Sun. (11:20) 1:15, 2:00, 4:00, 4:40, 6:45, 7:20, 9:25, 10:05; **Doubt** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:45, 11:30) 1:30, 2:15, 4:15, 5:00, 7:00, 7:40, 9:40, 10:20; **Four Christmases** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 12:00, 2:25, 5:05, 7:35, 10:10; **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:25) 4:35, 10:40; **Role Models** (R) Fri.-Sun. 2:05, 7:10; **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:30) 1:25, 4:25, 7:30, 10:30; **Twilight** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:40) 1:35, 4:30, 7:25, 10:25 Sun. 1:35, 4:30, 7:25, 10:25; **Yes Man** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 11:45) 1:45, 2:30, 4:30, 5:15, 7:15, 8:00, 10:00, 10:45

La Jolla Village
8879 Villa La Jolla Drive (619-819-0236)

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 2:10, 4:30, 7:20, 9:40; **Milk** (R) Fri.-Sun. 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50; **Slumdog Millionaire** (R) Fri.-Sun. 1:30, 2:30, 4:20, 5:20, 7:10, 8:10, 10:00

MIRA MESA
Mira Mesa 18
10733 Westview Parkway (800-326-3264)
Call theater for program information

MISSION VALLEY
Fashion Valley 18
7037 Friars Road (858-558-2262)
Australia; **Bolt**; **Cadillac Records**; **The Day the Earth Stood Still**; **Four Christmases**; **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa**; **Nothing Like the Holidays**; **Quantum of Solace**; **Role Models**; **Seven Pounds**; **The Tale of Des-**

pereaux; **Twilight**; **Yes Man**
Mission Valley 7
7510 Hazard Center Drive (619-685-2841)



Yes Man (PG-13) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45; **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) (10:15 1:15) 4:15 7:15 10:15; Will play at 10 am Wed. 12/24; **The Day the Earth Stood Still** (PG-13) (10:00 12:30 3:00) 5:30 8:00 10:45; **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; **Bolt 3-D** (PG) (11:30 2:15) 5:00 7:30 10:00;

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1640 Camino Del Rio North (858-558-2262)
Australia; Bolt; Cadillac Records; The Day
the Earth Stood Still; Four Christmases;
Frost/Nixon; Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa;
Nothing Like the Holidays; Punisher: War
Zone; Quantum of Solace; Role Models;
Seven Pounds; The Tale of Despereaux;
Transporter 3; Twilight; Yes Man

Ken
4061 Adams Avenue (619-819-0236)
Antarctica (Not Rated) Fri. 4:55, 7:15, 9:35
Sat.-Sun. 2:35, 4:55, 7:15, 9:35

Hillcrest Cinemas
3965 Fifth Avenue (619-819-0236)
Doubt (PG-13) Fri. 1:00, 2:20, 3:30, 4:50, 6:00,
7:20, 8:30, 9:45 Sat.-Sun. 11:50, 1:00, 2:20, 3:30,
4:50, 6:00, 7:20, 8:30, 9:45; **Milk** (R) Fri.-Sun.
1:10, 3:20, 4:05, 7:00, 8:55, 9:55; **Slumdog Mil-
lionaire** (R) Fri. 1:20, 4:15, 6:10, 7:10, 10:05
Sat.-Sun. 12:30, 1:20, 4:15, 6:10, 7:10, 10:05

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center
1875 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-1233)
Call theater for program information

EAST COUNTY

Parkway Plaza 18
405 Parkway Plaza (619-401-3456)
Australia (Not Rated) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 3:25) 6:50, 10:15; **Bolt** (PG) Fri. (12:20, 2:45, 5:10) 7:35, 10:00 Sat.-Sun. (12:20, 2:45) 5:10, 7:35, 10:00; **Cadillac Records** (R) Fri. (12:35, 3:10, 5:45) 8:20, 10:50 Sat.-Sun. (12:35, 3:10) 5:45, 8:20, 10:50; **The Day the Earth Stood Still** (PG-13) Fri. (12:10, 12:30, 2:50, 3:10, 5:20, 5:40) 7:55, 8:15, 9:35, 10:30, 10:50 Sat.-Sun. (12:10, 12:30, 2:50, 3:10) 5:20, 5:40, 7:55, 8:15, 9:35, 10:30, 10:50; **Four Christmases** (PG-13) Fri. (12:50, 3:05, 5:30) 7:45, 10:00 Sat.-Sun. (12:50, 3:05) 5:30, 7:45, 10:00; **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG) Fri. (12:30, 2:50, 5:05) 7:20 Sat.-Sun. (12:30, 2:50) 5:05, 7:20; **Nothing Like the Holidays** (PG-13) Fri. (12:15, 3:00, 5:35) 8:10, 10:40 Sat.-Sun. (12:15, 3:00) 5:35, 8:10, 10:40; **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13) Fri. (12:15, 3:00, 5:35) 8:10, 10:45 Sat.-Sun. (12:15, 3:00) 5:35, 8:10, 10:45; **Role Models** (R) Fri. (12:10, 2:35, 5:00) 7:25, 9:50 Sat.-Sun. (12:10, 2:35) 5:00, 7:25, 9:50; **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) Fri. (1:00, 1:20, 3:55, 4:15) 7:00, 7:20, 10:05, 10:25 Sat.-Sun. (1:00, 1:20, 3:55) 4:15, 7:00, 7:20, 10:05, 10:25; **Slumdog Millionaire** (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:00, 3:55) 7:00, 9:55; **The Tale of Despereaux** (G) Fri. (12:00, 2:20, 4:50) 7:10, 9:55 Sat.-Sun. (12:00, 2:20) 4:50, 7:10, 9:55; **Transporter 3** (PG-13) Fri. (12:50, 3:15, 5:40) 8:05, 10:30 Sat.-Sun. (12:50, 3:15) 5:40, 8:05, 10:30; **Twilight** (PG-13) Fri. (1:20, 4:15) 7:10, 10:05 Sat.-Sun. (1:20) 4:15, 7:10, 10:05; **Yes Man** (PG-13) Fri. (12:05, 12:25, 2:35, 2:55, 5:05, 5:25) 7:35, 8:00, 10:10, 10:35 Sat.-Sun. (12:05, 12:25, 2:35, 2:55) 5:05, 5:25, 7:35, 8:00, 10:10, 10:35

Grossmont Center 10
5500 Grossmont Center Drive (619-465-7100)
Bolt (PG); The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG-13); Four Christmases (PG-13); Nothing Like the Holidays (PG-13); Seven Pounds (PG-13); The Tale of Despereaux (G); Twilight (PG-13); Yes Man (PG-13)

Rancho San Diego 15
2951 Jamacha Road (800-326-3264)
Australia (Not Rated) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 3:05)
6:40, 10:15; **Bolt** (PG) Fri. (11:55, 2:25, 4:55)
7:35, 10:05 Sat.-Sun. (11:55, 2:25) 4:55, 7:35,

7:30, 10:10, 10:35; **The Tale of Despereaux**
(G) Fri. (11:45, 2:10, 4:45) 7:15, 9:45 Sat.-Sun.
(11:45, 2:10) 4:45, 7:15, 9:45; **Twilight** (PG-13)
Fri.-Sun. (12:25, 3:15) 6:45, 9:35; **Yes Man**
(PG-13) Fri. (11:30, 12:10, 2:30, 3:00, 5:10)
7:20, 7:50, 10:00, 10:30 Sat.-Sun. (11:30, 12:10,
2:30, 3:00) 5:10, 7:20, 7:50, 10:00, 10:30

Santee Drive In
10990 Woodside Avenue (619-448-7447)
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG-13) Fri.-Sun.; **Four Christmases** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun.; **Max Payne** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun.; **Yes Man** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun.

Chula Vista 10
Broadway between H and I (619-338-4214)



The Tale of Despereaux (G) (10:00 12:15)

2:30) 4:45 7:30 9:45; **Yes Man** (PG-13) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45; **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) (10:30 11:15) 4:15 7:15 10:15; **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) (11:15 1:45 4:00) 6:15 8:30 10:45; **Four Christmases** (PG-13) (11:00 1:30 3:45) 6:00 8:15 10:30; **Twilight** (PG-13) (11:30 2:15) 5:00 8:00 10:45; **Bolt 3-D** (PG) (10:15 12:30 2:45) 5:15 7:45 10:00; **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG) (10:45 1:00 3:15) 5:30 7:45 10:00; **No 10:45 Sat. 12/20 & Sun. 12/21; Barney in the Night Before Christmas** (G) 10:30 am Sat.-Sun. only. No 9 pm-10:45 pm shows 12/24.

Eastlake Parkway at Olympic (858-558-2262)
Australia; Bolt; The Day the Earth Stood Still; Four Christmases; Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa; Nothing Like the Holidays; Quantum of Solace; Seven Pounds; The Tale of Despereaux; Twilight; Yes Man

770 Dennerly Road (858-558-2262)
Bolt; Cadillac Records; The Day the Earth
Stood Still; Four Christmases; Madagascars;
Escape 2 Africa; Nothing Like the Holidays;
Punisher: War Zone; Quantum of Solace;
Role Models; Seven Pounds; Slumdog Mil-
lionaire; The Tale of Despereaux;
Transporter 3; Vicky Cristina Barcelona;
Yes Man

East H Street (619-216-4707)
Call theater for program information

South Bay Drive In
2170 Coronado Avenue (619-423-2727)
Call theater for program information

Plaza Bonita 14
3030 Plaza Bonita Road (858-558-2262)
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); **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13); **Role Models** (R); **Seven Pounds** (PG-13); **The Tale of Despereaux** (G); **Transporter 3** (PG-13); **Twilight** (PG-13); **Yes Man** (PG-13)

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); **Four Christmases** (PG-13); **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG); **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13); **Seven Pounds** (PG-13); **The Tale of Despereaux** (G); **Twilight** (PG-13); **Vicky Cristina Barcelona** (PG-13); **Yes Man** (PG-13)

Escondido 16
350 W. Valley Parkway (760-291-0119)
Australia (Not Rated) Fri.-Sun. (2:15) 6:00, 9:35; **Bolt** (PG) Fri. (11:05, 1:45, 4:15) 6:50, 9:50 Sat.-Sun. (11:05, 1:45) 4:15, 6:50, 9:50; **Cadillac Records** (R) Fri. (1:20, 4:00) 7:30, 10:30 Sat.-Sun. (1:20) 4:00, 7:30, 10:30; **The Day the Earth Stood Still** (PG-13) Fri. (11:40, 12:30, 2:20, 3:30, 5:10) 6:45, 8:05, 9:40, 11:10, 10:45 Sat.-Sun. (11:40, 12:30, 2:20, 3:30, 5:10, 6:45, 8:05, 9:40, 10:10, 10:45; **Four Christmases** (PG-13) Fri. (11:50, 2:10, 5:00) 7:50, 10:25 Sat.-Sun. (11:50, 2:10) 5:00, 7:50, 10:25; **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG) Fri. (11:30, 2:00, 4:20) 7:25, 9:45 Sat.-Sun. (11:30, 2:00) 4:20, 7:25, 9:45; **Nothing Like the Holidays** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:45, 3:50) 7:40, 10:15; **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13) Fri. (12:55, 4:10) 7:10, 10:05 Sat.-Sun. (12:55) 4:10, 7:10, 10:05; **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) Fri. (11:00, 12:10, 1:55, 3:45, 4:50) 7:00, 7:45, 10:00, 10:40 Sat.-Sun. (11:00, 12:10, 1:55, 3:45) 4:50, 7:00, 7:45, 10:00, 10:40; **The Tale of Despereaux** (G) Fri.-Sun. (11:10, 1:30, 3:55) 6:30, 9:25; **Transporter 3** (PG-13) Fri. (1:50, 4:30) 7:15 Sat.-Sun. (1:50) 4:30, 7:15; **Twilight** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:35, 3:35) 6:05, 9:30; **Yes Man** (PG-13) Fri. (11:20, 12:00, 2:05, 2:45, 4:40, 5:20) 7:20, 8:00, 9:55, 10:35 Sat.-Sun. (11:20, 12:00, 2:05, 2:45) 4:40, 5:20, 7:20, 8:00, 9:55, 10:35

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Joe Morgenstern,
The Wall Street Journal

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The Tale of Despereaux (G) (10:00 12:15 2:30) 4:45 7:00 9:30; **Yes Man** (PG-13) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45; **The Day the Earth Stood Still** (PG-13) (10:00 12:30 3:00) 5:30 8:00 10:30; **Four Christmases** (PG-13) (10:15 12:30 2:45) 5:15 7:45 10:15; **Twilight** (PG-13) (10:30 1:30) 4:15 7:30 10:15; No 10:30 am Sat. 12/120 & Sun. 12/21; **Bolt 3-D** (PG) (11:00 1:45) 4:30 7:15 9:45; **Barney in the Night Before Christmas** (G) 10:30 am Sat.-Sun. only.
No 9 pm-10:45 pm shows 12/24.

POWAY

Poway 10
13475 Poway Road (858-646-9423)



The Tale of Despereaux (G) (10:00 12:15 2:30) 4:45 7:30 9:45; **Yes Man** (PG-13) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45; **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) (10:30 1:15) 4:15 7:15 10:15; Will play at 10 am Wed. 12/24; **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) (11:15 1:45 4:00) 6:15 8:30 10:45; **Four Christmases** (PG-13) (11:00 1:30 3:45) 6:00 8:15 10:30; **Twilight** (PG-13) (11:30 2:15) 5:00 8:00 10:45; No 11:30 am Sat. 12/20 & Sun. 12/21; **Bolt 3-D** (PG) (10:15 12:30 2:45) 5:15 7:45 10:00; **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13) (10:45 1:30 4:15) 7:00 9:45; **Barney in the Night Before Christmas** (G) 10:30 am Sat.-Sun. only.

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. (12:25, 4:00) 7:30; **Bolt 3-D** (PG) Fri. (10:05, 12:20, 2:45, 5:15) 7:30, 9:45; **The Day the Earth Stood Still** (PG-13) Fri. (11:30, 12:10, 2:00, 2:40, 4:30, 5:10) 7:00, 7:40, 9:35, 10:15; **Four Christmases** (PG-13) Fri. (12:05, 2:20, 4:35) 7:05, 9:25; **Milk** (R) Fri. (10:45, 1:45, 4:45) 7:45, 10:35; **Nothing Like the Holidays** (PG-13) Fri. (10:00, 12:25, 3:00, 5:20) 7:50, 10:15; **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) Fri. (10:40, 11:20, 1:35, 2:15, 4:30, 5:10) 7:25, 8:00, 10:20, 10:50; **Slumdog Millionaire** (R) Fri. (10:55, 1:40, 4:25) 7:15, 10:00; **The Tale of Despereaux** (G) Fri. (10:00, 12:20, 2:40, 5:05) 7:20, 9:40; **Twilight** (PG-13) Fri. (10:50, 1:30, 4:20) 7:10, 10:10; **Yes Man** (PG-13) Fri. (10:10, 11:15, 12:00, 12:40, 1:50, 2:30, 3:10, 4:25, 5:00, 5:40) 7:00, 7:35, 8:15, 9:35, 10:10, 10:45

NORTH COASTAL
CARLSBAD

Plaza Camino Real
2385 Marron Road (760-729-7469)
Call theater for program information

DEL MAR

Del Mar Highlands 8
El Camino Real at Del Mar Heights Road (858-646-9420)



The Tale of Despereaux (G) (10:00 12:15 2:30) 4:45 7:00 9:30; **Yes Man** (PG-13) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45; **Seven Pounds**

(PG-13) (10:30 1:15) 4:15 7:15 10:15; Will play at 10 am Wed. 12/24; **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) (11:15 1:45 4:00) 6:15 8:30 10:45; **Four Christmases** (PG-13) (11:00 1:30 3:45) 6:00 8:15 10:30; **Twilight** (PG-13) (10:15 1:00 4:00) 7:00 10:00; No 10:15 am Sat. 12/20 & Sun. 12/21; **Bolt 3-D** (PG) (10:15 12:30 2:45) 5:15 7:45 10:15; **Barney in the Night Before Christmas** (G) 10:30 am Sat.-Sun. only.
No 9 pm-10:45 pm shows 12/24.

Flower Hill 4
2630 Via de la Valle (858-646-9425)



Milk (R) (10:30 1:30 4:30) 7:30 10:30; **Slumdog Millionaire** (R) (10:00 11:00 1:00 2:00) 4:00 5:00 7:00 8:00 10:00 10:45; **Australia** (PG-13) (10:15 1:45) 5:15 8:45
No 9 pm-10:45 pm shows 12/24.

ENCINITAS

La Paloma
471 South Coast Highway 101 (760-436-SHOW)
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (PG-13)

LA COSTA

La Costa 6
6941 El Camino Real (at Aviara/Alga) (760-599-8221)



Yes Man (PG-13) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45; **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) (10:30 1:15) 4:15 7:15 10:15; Will play at 10 am Wed. 12/24; **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; **Twilight** (PG-13) (10:15 1:00) 4:00 7:00 9:45; No 7 pm & 9:45 Fri. 12/19; No 10:15am Sat. 12/20 & Sun. 12/21; **Bolt 3-D** (PG) (10:00 12:15 2:45) 5:15 7:45 10:15; **Barney in the Night Before Christmas** (G) 10:30 am Sat.-Sun. only.
No 9 pm-10:45 pm shows 12/24.

OCEANSIDE

Mission Marketplace 13
College Boulevard and Mission Avenue (760-806-1790)



The Tale of Despereaux (G) (10:00 12:15 2:30) 4:45 7:30 9:45; **Yes Man** (PG-13) (10:15 11:45 12:45 2:15 3:15) 4:45 5:45 7:15 8:15 9:45 10:45; **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) (10:30 1:15) 4:15 7:30 10:15; **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; **Delgo** (PG) (10:45 3:30); No 10:45 am Sat. 12/20 & Sun. 12/21; **Nothing Like the Holidays** (PG-13) (11:15 1:45 4:00) 6:15 8:30 10:45; **Punisher: War Zone** (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; **Bolt 3-D** (PG) (10:15 12:30 2:45) 5:15 7:45 10:00; **Twilight** (PG-13) (11:30 2:15) 5:00 8:00 10:45; **Transporter 3** (PG-13) (1:00) 6:00 8:30 10:45; **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG) (10:00 12:15 2:30) 4:45; **Barney in the Night Before Christmas** (G) 10:30 am Sat.-Sun. only.
No 9 pm-10:45 pm shows 12/24.

Oceanside 16
401 Mission Avenue (760-439-1733)
Bolt (PG) Fri. (1:20, 4:05) 7:05, 9:30 Sat.-Sun. (1:20) 4:05, 7:05, 9:30; **The Day the Earth Stood Still** (PG-13) Fri. (12:20, 1:35, 2:30, 3:00, 5:00, 5:30) 7:25, 8:00, 9:55, 10:25 Sat.-Sun. (12:20, 1:35, 2:30, 3:00) 5:00, 5:30, 7:25, 8:00, 9:55, 10:25; **Four Christmases** (PG-13) Fri. (1:25, 3:35, 5:45) 8:05, 10:25 Sat.-Sun. (1:25, 3:35) 5:45, 8:05, 10:25; **Nothing Like the Holidays** (PG-13) Fri. (12:10, 2:35, 4:55) 7:15, 9:35 Sat.-Sun. (12:10, 2:35) 4:55, 7:15, 9:35; **Punisher: War Zone** (R) Fri. (1:15, 4:35) 7:45, 10:15 Sat.-Sun. (1:15) 4:35, 7:45, 10:15; **Quantum of Solace** (PG-13) Fri. (1:10, 4:25) 6:55, 9:25 Sat.-Sun. (1:10) 4:25, 6:55, 9:25; **Role Models** (R) Fri. (12:15, 2:45, 5:05) 7:35, 9:55 Sat.-Sun. (12:15, 2:45) 5:05, 7:35, 9:55; **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) Fri. (1:00, 1:40, 4:00, 4:40) 6:50, 7:30, 9:40, 10:15 Sat.-Sun. (1:00, 1:40) 4:00, 4:40, 6:50, 7:30, 9:40, 10:15; **The Tale of Despereaux** (G) Fri. (11:50, 2:20, 4:45) 7:00, 9:30 Sat.-Sun. (11:50, 2:20) 4:45, 7:00, 9:30; **Transporter 3** (PG-13) Fri. (12:35, 3:05, 5:25) 7:55, 10:20 Sat.-Sun. (12:35, 3:05) 5:25, 7:55, 10:20; **Twilight** (PG-13) Fri. (1:30, 4:15) 7:10, 10:00 Sat.-Sun. (1:30) 4:15, 7:10, 10:00; **Yes Man** (PG-13) Fri. (12:00, 12:30, 2:25, 2:55, 4:50, 5:20) 7:20, 7:50, 9:45, 10:20 Sat.-Sun. (12:00, 12:30, 2:25, 2:55) 4:50, 5:20, 7:20, 7:50, 9:45, 10:20; **Zack and Miri Make a Porno** (R) Fri. (4:30) 7:40, 10:05 Sat.-Sun. 4:30, 7:40, 10:05

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS

WILL SMITH SEVEN POUNDS

COLUMBIA PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH RELATIVITY MEDIA AN OVERBROOK ENTERTAINMENT ESCAPE ARTISTS PRODUCTION A FILM BY GABRIELE MUCCINO "SEVEN POUNDS"

ROSARIO DAWSON MICHAEL EALY WITH BARRY PEPPER AND WOODY HARRELSON MUSIC BY ANGELO MILLI COSTUME DESIGNER DAVID CROCKETT HAIR AND MAKEUP BY DAVID BLOOMFIELD KEVIN STOVITZ EDITOR DOMENICO PROCCACCI EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS GRANT NIEPORTE PRODUCED BY TODD BLACK JAMES LASSITER JASON BLUMENTHAL STEVE TISCH WILL SMITH WRITTEN BY GABRIELE MUCCINO COLUMBIA PICTURES

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THEMATIC MATERIAL, SOME DISTURBING CONTENT AND A SCENE OF SENSUALITY

ESCAPE

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Calendar

MOVIES

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; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MIS-

SION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20;
OTAY RANCH 12; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10;
RIVER VILLAGE 6; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Vicky Cristina Barcelona — You can't claim that Woody Allen's rapid rate of production doesn't show. Even the title of this one sounds more like brainstorming for a title than like a final decision: three names off the chalkboard of keywords. Vicky and Cristina, two separate people, are dissimilar American friends, the first pragmatic and steady, the second capricious and restless, together visiting Barcelona for the summer. (Allen's British sojourn seems to be over, though he's not ready to come home.) The young women are picked up in tandem by a brooding Catalan artist with a legendarily tempestuous love life, flown off to Oviedo, seduced in sequence, separated by choice. Then the artist's ex-wife re-enters the scene after her attempted suicide, setting up a ménage. The film is almost more a sketch than a fully filled-in picture, a skeleton thin on flesh. (If Allen tends to hurry his ideas, it



Yes Man

may be because he always has new ones waiting to join the queue. More than he can get to in a lifetime.) The dialogue, much of it in the writer's laziest declarative vein — *I'm this, you're that, he or she's the other* — has not been polished anywhere near his

brightest sparkle. And the dryasdust omniscient narrator spares him a heap of expository labor: "One evening Mark and Judy took them to the opening of a friend's art gallery." The half-baked aspect has its upside. In consequence of the cut corners and

rushed development, a lot happens in only ninety minutes, and Allen can lay out on a broad canvas his vision of human discontentment and self-ignorance. He can lay it out as a pattern, not as an isolated instance. The complicating appearance of Penelope Cruz as the ex-wife, shrewdly put off till just past the halfway point, is a potent pick-me-up in a flagging narrative, a powerfully physical, sensual, passionate presence that deliciously shows up the callow blankness of Scarlett Johansson and Rebecca Hall. With Javier Bardem, Patricia Clarkson, Kevin Dunn. Chris Messina. 2008.

★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; GASLAMP 15; PALM PROMENADE 24; FROM 12/19)

Yes Man — Reviewed this issue. With Jim Carrey, Zooey Deschanel, Bradley Cooper, John Michael Higgins, and Terence Stamp; directed by Peyton Reed.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; 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; FROM 12/19)

User Reviews — MOVIES

Best user comments from Reader website

Quantum of Solace 2008

My wife and I are coming to believe Daniel Craig is the best Bond actor. Here, Bond learns to restrain impulse and see things from M's point of view. I was amused by the climactic difference between rainy England and bone-dry Haiti and Bolivia.

By **MarkScha** 8:06 p.m., Dec. 10, 2008

Brokeback Mountain 2005

So you thought *Brokeback Mountain* was “crap?” Oh, not enough car chases? Too few machine gun shootings? Not enough murders? Not even one single explosion?! *That movie really sucked!* Well, like many, I thought Ang Lee’s *Brokeback Mountain* was a masterfully directed and acted work of art, a truly exceptional and genuine masterpiece. *Brokeback Mountain* is certainly one of the very best and most touching films I have ever seen in my life, and I am 47. Since its release three years ago, that movie has reached the “legendary” status, and is now a cult movie for people from all walks of life. It was undeniably one of the most talked about and most important films of the last 20 years. *Brokeback Mountain* represents a watershed in American cinematic history, not only for its subject matter, but also and mostly for the truthfulness, the subtlety, and the overall high quality of its treatment. *Brokeback Mountain* was deservedly named best picture of 2005 over 30 times (!) around the world and stands as one of the most decorated films in the history of cinema. I would say that’s not too bad for “crap.”

By **Daniel** 5:03 a.m., Dec. 12, 2008

Brokeback Mountain 2005

I'm glad you took the time to reply and send your thoughts. You see, I'm a University Professor in an arts faculty and oftentimes in art, there is more than meets the eye, and I think that *Brokeback Mountain* belongs to that category of works. In many ways, *Brokeback Mountain* belongs more to the tradition of brilliant foreign films such as *Babette's Feast*, *Wings of Desire* (*Der Himmel über Berlin*), *The Piano*, *Au revoir les enfants*, etc. Perhaps you didn't like *BBM*; it is not the type of movie that everyone likes, especially in America, but does that make it "crap"? Some people don't like the music of Beethoven or Debussy, but does that make it crap? Is it thus less valuable and important in the history of music? Regarding *BBM*, one can rationalize and debate various scenes, one can agree or not with the behavior of the protagonists, but in the end, we can't deny, as illustrated by the quotes I sent you earlier, that this film had a major impact on the lives of many and has touched a lot of people very deeply. Some got it...and some simply didn't get it. That's normal. Beyond personal preferences, one has to acknowledge that *Brokeback Mountain* is a landmark film. Its impact has been absolutely historical in scope and undeniable. Rarely have we seen a film have such an impact on society, in the media, and with the general public, even on those who haven't seen it or did not have the courage to go see it. I regularly read articles that mention the terms "pre-*Brokeback*" or "post-*Brokeback*." There is thus before, and there is after. Several books have since been published on the subject: *Beyond Brokeback – The Impact of a Film*, *Reading Brokeback Mountain – Essays on the Story and the Film*, *On Brokeback Mountain – Meditations about Masculinity, Fear, and Love in the Story and the Film*, etc. Numerous papers have been written by scholars who have studied the *Brokeback* phenomenon on various levels. I think that what makes this film (and the brilliant short story by Annie Proulx) so special and so great, is that everything is not said, nor explained. It is a film with many layers, and it carries implications on various levels. The screenwriters and the director put their trust in the viewer to put the pieces together and, ultimately, to "feel" the power of this heart wrenching story. *Brokeback Mountain* has irrefutably been the movie event of 2005 and will remain a milestone in cinematic history.

By **Daniel** 8:08 p.m., Dec. 13, 2008

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Woe Plus Meanness

“Wouldn’t you rather shoot somebody than watch ’em run off with your new toaster?”

Hooo-boy... Christmas is just around the corner, yet the residents of Tuna, the third-smallest town in Texas — even counting “greater” Tuna — are so low on holiday cheer it won’t wet the dipstick.

The Christmas Phantom’s sabotaging radio OKKK’s annual lawn-display competition. Only Vera Carp, who’s dominated the event 14 years straight (and who’s using live sheep this year, the cheat), has been spared so far. Even though she’s the logical candidate, most people think the phantom is Bertha Bumiller’s disturbed boy Stanley. When told he has a lot on his mind lately, what with his parole and all, Stanley’s twin sister Charlene replied, “That’s impossible.”

Even though their leader, Reverend Spikes, is still in prison, the Smut Snatchers of the New Order promise not only to shut off the local community theater’s electricity (the SS’s still riled about that the *Medea* director relocated in Yazoo City), they want to ban the song “Silent Night” because of its indecent line about “round, young virgins.”

“Censorship’s as American as apple pie,” one says.

Chain-smoking Didi Snavely’s celebrating the holidays with a “Peace on Earth” sale at her used-weapons store. “Wouldn’t you rather shoot somebody,” she asks customers, “than watch ’em run off with your new toaster?” One of the few permanent fixtures in Tuna, if you don’t count galloping dysfunction, is her radio spot: “Didi’s Used Weapons: if we can’t kill it, it’s immortal.”

Garrison Keillor created Lake Wobegon, a warm and fuzzy fictional town where “all the

women are strong, all the men are good looking, and all the children are above average.” Jaston Williams, Joe Sears, and Ed Howard’s Tuna series (*Greater Tuna*; *A Tuna Christmas*; *Red, White and*

Tuna; and *Tuna Does Vegas*) satirizes a fictional town where the opposite’s the case and where woe plus meanness somehow generates laughter.

A Tuna Christmas wraps a mystery (the phantom’s identity) around an enigma: what’s stopping Tuna’s nastier denizens from going over to Didi’s, loading up on assault rifles and discount hand grenades, and lighting up the town? A smidge of civility or a not-too-distant tipping point?

When they perform, Williams and Sears play 10 or 11 roles each. They’ve been so memorable for so long, they’re almost an impossible act to follow. In Compass Theatre’s current *Tuna Christmas*, however, Fred Harlow and Don Loper come pretty darn close.

Like Sears, Harlow is a large man. He plays, among others, Bertha Bumiller and Sheriff Givens (who “believes in old-fashioned jails”). Like Williams, Loper is a slender man and plays, among others, Vera Carp, the town snoot, and Stanley Bumiller. If you put Loper and Harlow in mid-20th-century sport coats, slacks, and black bowler hats, they could pass for Laurel and Hardy.

Born to play the Tuna series, Harlow shows his impressive range as dog-hating Pearl Burrus, as flamboyant theater director Joe Bob Lipsey, and as Didi’s amorphous husband, R.R., through whose booze-marinated brain dance visions of UFOs. Though he could make more vocal differentiations among his characters, Loper scores as

Didi Snavely, the walking cancer stick, and as poor Petey Fisk, humane society saint and the loneliest star in Texas.

Stage versions of Dickens’s *Christmas Carol* come in large and small packages. The North Coast Rep’s chamber piece, adapted by Jacqueline Goldfinger, may rank among the swiftest, clocking in around 85 minutes. Although it often has a White Rabbit, “I’m late” feel, the Stephen Elton-directed production has the virtue of being more accessible than most for young attention spans.

It also has the virtue of Ron Choularton in the lead. Choularton’s white-haired, crotchety Scrooge is a clear, deceptively simple creation. The pace allows for an unimpeded arc from the railer against Christmas to the three-ghost intervention-rehab to the joyous “Founder of the Feast.” The intimate North Coast stage also lets Choularton build from within — no melodramatic excesses, just a life-sized curmudgeon opening a frozen heart to his greatest fear: living in the moment.

In supporting roles, Von Schauer is a truly tormented Jacob Marley and a Henry VIII-sized Ghost of Christmas Present, among others. Well-spoken Rachel Van Wormer and Brian Mackey (stars of Ion Theatre’s recent *Bash*), Geno Carr, and Susan

Denaker also contribute. As does Marty Burnett’s flexible set, which includes a turntable, a mobile four-poster and, on the rear wall, a Thames-eye view of London through a fog. ■

THEATER REVIEW

JEFF SMITH



Fred Harlow, Don Loper in *A Tuna Christmas*

A Tuna Christmas by Jaston Williams, Joe Sears, and Ed Howard
Compass Theatre, 3704 Sixth Avenue, Hillcrest
Directed by Josh Hyatt; cast: Fred Harlow, Don Loper; scenic design, Christian Lopez; costumes, Lisa Burgess; lighting, Mitchell Simkovsky
Playing through December 27; Wednesday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Matinee Sunday at 2:00 p.m. 619-688-9210.

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, adapted for the stage by Jacqueline Goldfinger
North Coast Repertory Theatre, 987D Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Solana Beach
Directed by Stephen Elton; cast: Ron Choularton, Geno Carr, Von Schauer, Rachael Van Wormer, Michael Zlotnik, John Tessmer, Susan Denaker, Brian Mackey, Austyn Myers, Molly O’Meara, Alexis Young, Rachel Dovsky, Karli Stults; scenic design, Marty Burnett; costumes, Michelle Hunt Souza; lighting, Jason Bieber; sound, Chris Luessmann
Playing through December 27; Wednesday through Friday at 7:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at 6:00 p.m. Matinee Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. 858-481-1055.

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SD Union-Tribune

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Horton Grand Theatre
444 Fourth Ave.
in San Diego’s Gaslamp Quarter
Now Playing!
by Kerry Meads
and Vanda Egginton

Ref: the cast of BOOMERS photo by Nathan Peisan. Cast: the cast of An American Christmas. LIT: the cast of Angel’s Arms, photos by Ren Jacques

Calendar

THEATER

THEATER LISTINGS

Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith. Information is accurate according to material given us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last-minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.

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 yuletide meal in the Grand Ballroom. HOTEL DEL CORONADO, 1500 ORANGE AVENUE, CORONADO. 619-435-6611. THURSDAYS, 6:30 P.M. FRIDAYS, 6:30 P.M. SATURDAYS, 6:30 P.M. 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

North Coast Repertory Theatre presents Jacqueline Pardue Goldfinger's stage-adaptation of the Dickens classic. Popular San Diego actor Ron Choularton plays Scrooge under Stephen Elton's direction.

NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DRIVE, SOLANA BEACH. 858-481-1055. THURSDAYS, 7 AND 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 7 AND 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 2, 6, AND 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2, 6, AND 7 P.M. TUESDAYS, 7:30 P.M. WEDNESDAYS, 7 AND 7:30 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 27.

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 kazooos, 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 Isadora Tulalian beams her natural charm). The Old Globe's 11th annual Christmas show has polish and spirit in abundance. John Lee Beaty's flats wheel on and off like kaleidoscopic snowdrifts; *Grinch* veterans, led by Melinda Gilb, Steve Gunderson, and Eileen Bowman provide valuable support as always, and John DeLuca and Bob Richard's choreography energizes the house. Martin Van Treuren's Old Max narrates the story with a kind of gentle wisdom. And Kevin Bailey's Grinch amazes. His voice climbs up and down (way down, like basso *profundo* down) octaves with astonishing ease. And, if the three children sitting in front of me are an indication, Bailey's just scary enough. By the time he changes, they were hoping he would.

Worth a try.

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. THURSDAYS, 7 P.M. FRIDAYS, 7 P.M. SATURDAYS, 2:30 AND 7 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2:30 AND 7 P.M. TUESDAYS, 7 P.M. WEDNESDAYS, 7 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 28.

It's a Wonderful Life

In Cygnet Theatre's annual holiday show, you not only watch the familiar story of George Bailey, you also watch how it's made in a 1947 radio studio: announcers, actors reading their lines, flashing applause signs, even a commercial for Lux soap. The story's still a grabber: what would life be like without George, whose selfless generosity abandoned his dreams for others? The radio frames the familiar parts. Then a change happens toward the end. The fiction trumps the fact. As George undergoes an existential identity crisis, the actors — and the radio studio — fall away and the characters emerge. The story leaps forward, and how it's being made disappears. Along the way, the show's a treat, especially Scott Paulson's ingenious sounds, made from unlikely objects. Marybeth Bielawski-DeLeo, who made an impressive local debut by directing *Terra Nova* at Compass Theatre this year, directed.

Worth a try.

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.

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 AcroTurf. Using suggestions from the audience, they play "Emotional Sympathy," "Blind Line," and "Freeze Tag," with judges awarding points to the best scenes. Klunkers and groaners get booed; quick wit rewarded (one of the most refreshing parts of the contest: people acknowledge failure, abundantly, then forget it). It makes for a lively, often funny evening. And Gary Kramer is one talented comedian.

Worth a try.

MARQUIS THEATRE, 3717 INDIA STREET, MISSION HILLS. 619-295-4999. FRIDAYS, 7:30 AND 9:45 P.M. SATURDAYS, 7:30 AND 9:45 P.M. OPEN-ENDED RUN.

Plaid Tidings

For its Christmas show, Welk Resorts Theatre presents a yuletide sequel to the popular musical *Forever Plaid*, in which the Plaids come back to earth "to stage a nostalgic holiday extravaganza for world-weary mortals."

WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DRIVE, ESCONDIDO. 888-802-7469. THURSDAYS, 1:45, 7:30, AND 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 7:30 P.M. SATURDAYS, 1:45, 2, 7:30, AND 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. TUESDAYS, 1:45 AND 8 P.M. WEDNESDAYS, 1:45 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 28.

The Princess and the Black-Eyed Pea

Talk of Broadway surrounds this African retelling of the Hans Christian Andersen fable. If the buzz refers to the cast, one of the finest ever assembled at the Rep, or to Jennifer Brawn Gittings's gold-flecked, Afrocentric costumes, then sure: they merit an extended stay at the Big Hotel. But *Princess* is a house divided: an amazing group of performers grafted, by cutside directorial touches, onto an aimless book and a score with intermittent hits and misses. The singers are better than the songs. Talent is either underutilized — Ken Prymus and TON3X (who threatens to dismantle vast portions of the Gaslamp Quarter when he belts "Partay")



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can step to the head of that class — or often at odds with the text. Lillias White sings “My Only Son” with such oceanic feeling and wisdom she breaks through the confines of the musical and her shallow, one-note character, Queen Zanuba. The book promises boffo scenes (the mattress test, a challenge dance) but doesn’t deliver them. As if worried we aren’t being entertained, or afraid things might become too serious, director Stafford Arima adds silly, intrusive bits. When *American Idol*’s Sabrina Sloan and Josh Tower, who played *The Lion King*’s Simba for five years on Broadway, sing “Love at First Sight,” they don’t need a tree branch with white, cartoony doves waving over their heads to make the point. Worse: some of the writing uses African-American stereotypes to get laughs. In effect, the Rep’s *Princess* is a talent show, a great parade, but that naked dude on the throne waving to the crowd? A pretender.

Worth a try:

SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN. 619-544-1000. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 AND 7 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 21.

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’s funniest 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 punch-line 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. 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.

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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. FRI-

DAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 7 P.M. THROUGH DECEMBER 21.

When We Dead Awaken

Ion Theatre concludes its year-long Intimate Ibsen staged reading series with the Norwegian's drama about a celebrated sculptor and his wife and the people from their past they encounter while traveling through a mountainous hinterland. Glenn Paris directed. 619-374-6894. LYCEUM THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN. 619-858-0322. MONDAY, 7 P.M.

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. THROUGH DECEMBER 21.

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1200 Third Ave., Downtown
(619) 232-7636 www.sdopera.com

San Diego Repertory Theatre

79 Horton Plaza, Downtown
(619) 544-1000 www.sandiegorep.com

S.D. School Of Creative & Performing Arts

2425 Dusk Dr., Paradise Hills
(619) 470-0555 www.scpa.sandi.net

San Diego State University

Don Powell Theatre
and Experimental Theater
(619) 594-6884 <http://theatre.sdsu.edu/>

San Diego Theatresports

1531 Tyler Ave., Hillcrest
(619) 465-7469 www.improvise.net

Scripps Ranch Theatre

10455 Pomerado Rd., Scripps Ranch
(858) 578-7728
www.scrippsranchtheatre.org

San Diego Black Ensemble Theatre

(619) 280-5650

Sledgehammer Theatre

(619) 544-1484 www.sledgehammer.org

Southwestern College

900 Otay Lakes Rd., Chula Vista
(619) 482-6367 www.swc.cc.ca.us

The Spreckels Theatre

121 Broadway, Downtown
(619) 235-9500

Star Theatre

402 North Coast Highway, Oceanside
(760) 721-9983 www.startheater.org

Starlight Musical Theatre

Starlight Bowl, Balboa Park
(619) 544-7827
www.starlighttheatre.org

Sullivan Players

1531 Tyler Ave., Hillcrest
(858) 274-1731

Sushi Performance & Visual Art

320 Eleventh Ave., Downtown
(619) 235-8466 www.sushiar.org

Teatro Máscara Mágica

(619) 231-3586
www.sandiegoreps.com

TheatrX

155 East Grand Ave., Escondido
(760) 735-2491 www.theatrX.8m.com

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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.

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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.

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.

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Continuing Care, 1817 Avenida del Diablo, Escondido, CA 92029.

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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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CUSTOMER SERVICE/DISPATCHER. ARS of San Diego is seeking a motivated multitasker with good communication and leadership skills for a fast-paced environment. Must be a team player with a minimum of 2 years Dispatcher experience. Fax resume: 858-677-5479; or apply in person: 9895 Olson Drive, Suite A, San Diego 92121. Drug-free work environment. License #791820.

CUSTOMER SERVICE/DISPATCHER. National plumbing and drain company in search of self-motivated Customer Service/Dispatch Representative able to work without supervision. Basic computer skills a must. Minimum 3 years experience. Various shifts. Must be able to work nights, weekends and holidays. Fax resume: 619-702-6067.

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DEPUTY PROBATION OFFICER. Now hiring! County of San Diego Probation Department. Test Date: 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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Safety Retirement—Sworn Officers 3% at age 50.
Bilingual men/women encouraged to apply.

Test date: 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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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.

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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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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 online application before you appear for the written examination! Jobline: 858-514-8558. www.sdcountry.ca.gov/probation.

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One way to talk without really saying anything is to talk solely about subjects the listener doesn't care about.

I found this great cable channel. It's all about hiking and camping and fishing.

Is it called "The Stuff Scott Avoids Channel"?

It's called "Outdoor Life Network."

So, pretty much yes.

Another method is to hold forth at length on a subject about which your knowledge is incomplete at best.

There was a show about two guys hiking.

Where?

Dunno. Anyway, they had this thing they drank out of to make the water safe to drink.

What does it remove from the Stuff, water?

No one wants stuff in their water.

You can also tell long, rambling stories that have no discernible point at all.

So, two guys somewhere didn't drink "stuff" out of a "thing." What was this show called?

I didn't catch the title.

Well thanks for sharing.

It was my pleasure.

Yes, it was.

If all else fails, state obvious facts that everyone else already knows as if they are your own profound discoveries.

This is how you all feel when I talk about science fiction, isn't it?

And videogames.

And you all just listen politely.

Yup.

So ... tell me more about the thing.

It had, like, a doohickey on it!

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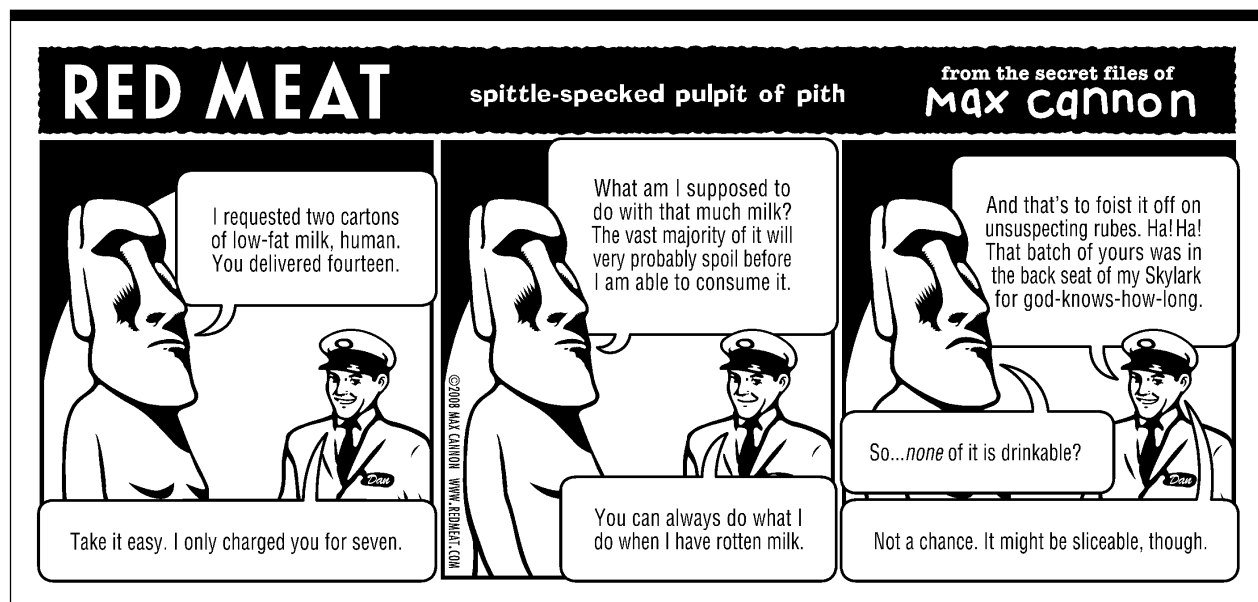
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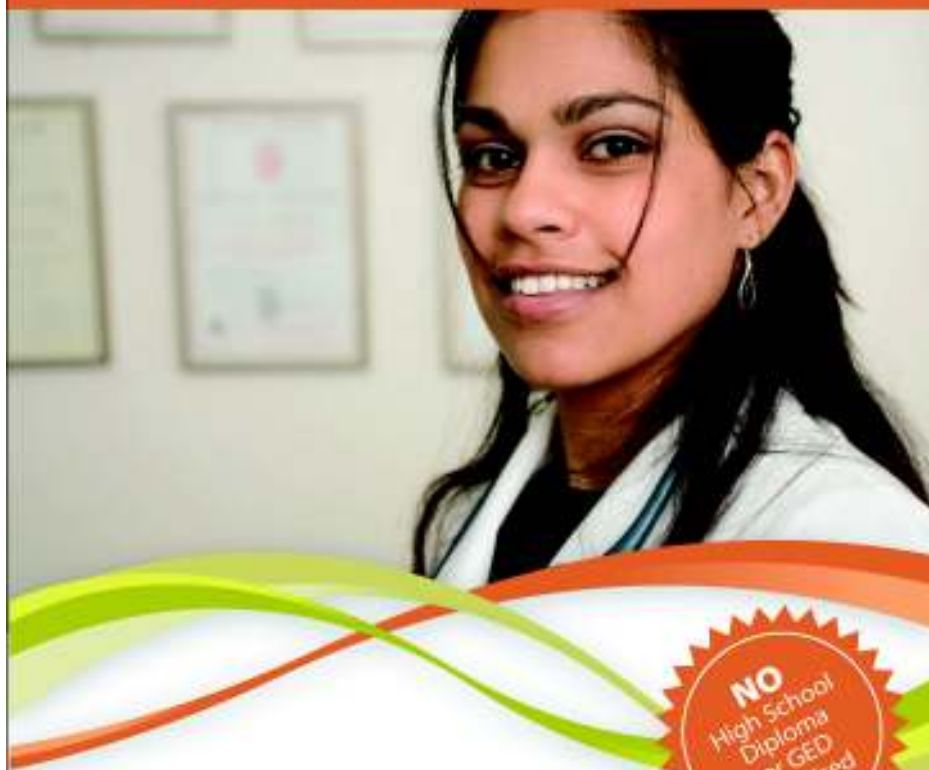
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Sherry Wilkerson

Loan Officer

La Mesa

It's Monopoly. I love the fact that you can control everything. And you can do so many versions of the game. You can play it like it's a crazy eight. You can have teams or get into marathon games. The properties I like to own are the ones right after Go, the cheap ones. You can put hotels on them, and everyone seems to land on them. I also like Broadway and Park Place. I like most of the properties on the corners.



Kim Smith

Public Relations

Pacific Beach

My favorite game is Sorry. It's simple, and you can play it drunk. We actually have a version we have made into a drinking game. We've also had variations like Strip Sorry, where clothes come off. I also like Connect Four, although we haven't made a drinking version of that. My dad recently found our original Sorry game when he cleaned out the shelves in the garage.



Jessica Holland

Student

Downtown

It's definitely Boggle. I love word games, like Scrabble. But ever since I was a kid, I've loved playing Boggle. It's never the same, since different letters come up each time. And you only have a limited time to find the various words. I've had so many arguments playing that game, because I do a word that someone doesn't think is a real word. We end up going to the dictionary.



Elle Leary

Fashion Designer

San Diego

It's a toss-up between Twister and Jenga. Some people get all stressed out playing Jenga, but it's a lot of fun. And how can you not like Twister? You get random people's body parts in your face. That's always nice.



Denise Valdez

Medical Assistant

San Diego

I like Monopoly and Scattergories. I think Scattergories is becoming more popular, although it will never be as big as Monopoly was. In Scattergories, you have a different letter of the alphabet, and everyone has a bunch of things they have to write down that start with that letter. And you have a short time to do that, and you can't write down an answer someone else has, so you have to try and be creative.



Mark Camacho

Self-Employed

North Park

The first thing that pops into my mind is Monopoly. I haven't played it in a long time, though. My favorite game was probably this rock 'n' roll trivia game I once had. The company made movie-themed ones, too. I ended up selling it, although I have a KISS trivia game now. Speaking of KISS, the rock trivia game did have some info wrong. It listed the bassist of KISS as Paul Stanley. Sometimes my friends just thought I got the answer wrong because I was claiming the game had it wrong.

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2) When you successfully complete a puzzle, we'll also print a brief (10 words or less) message that you've written. This is optional, but it's a great opportunity for you to give a shout out to your mom, or toot your own horn! Each time you submit a new puzzle, you may submit a new message.
3) We're keeping track of how many puzzles you successfully complete. But your information will only be printed when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by the new puzzle deadline: 7:00 a.m., Monday.
4) Entries must be faxed to **619-231-0489** or **619-233-7907** or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803, or delivered through our mail slot at 1703 India Street in Little Italy.
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1) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
2) Entries that arrive after the deadline will not be considered.
3) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
4) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

Across

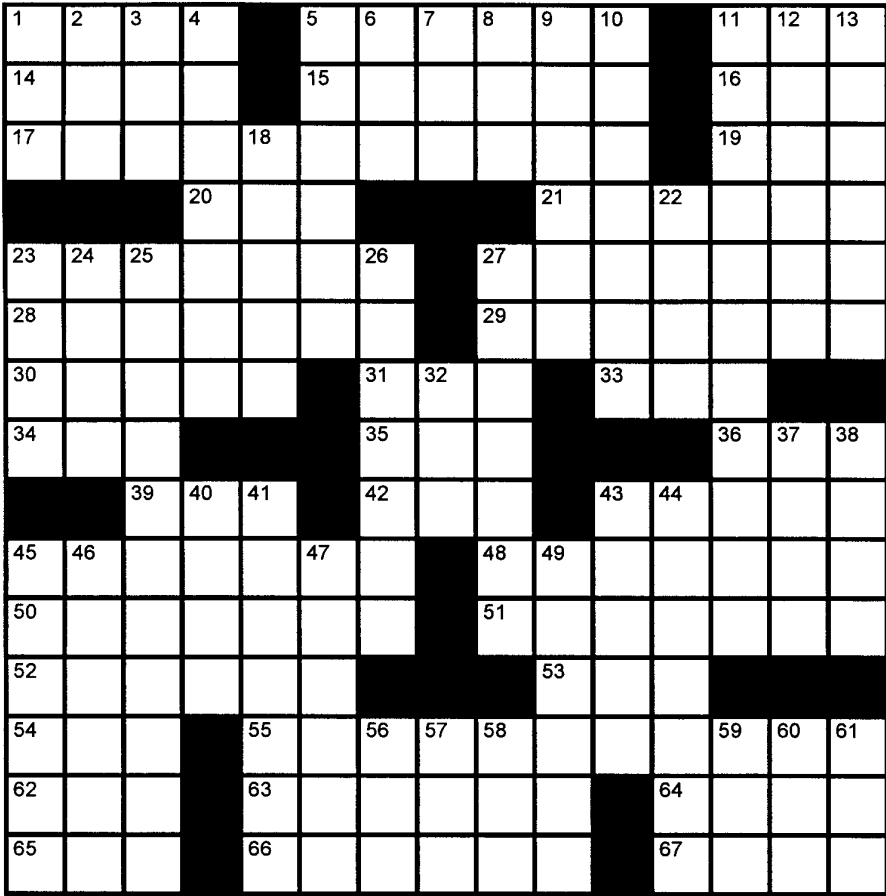
- Carrey and Henson
- Bad thing to be caught asleep on
- Miracle-_____
- From the start
- Fix a piano
- It might shock you
- Three-time French Open champ who knows tennis backwards and forwards?
- Photo _____
- "There's _____ in 'team'"
- Pied-_____
- Restless
- Language in which

- "quchjaj qoSliij" means "happy birthday"
- Parent's explanation after "Because"
 - Malady
 - Reynolds and Lancaster
 - Documentarian Burns
 - Arles article
 - Mole, e.g.
 - Web address ending
 - It's a ball
 - Inc.'s kin
 - Grain in Cheerios
 - Person who gives a hoot
 - Herald
 - Surgical specialty
 - Charge for using
 - Betrays, in a way
 - Past and present, e.g.
 - Boxer, e.g.
 - Overnight stop
 - Words that read the same backwards and forwards
 - 1959 Kingston Trio hit
 - "_____ kick from champagne ..."
 - "Great" kid-lit detective
 - Cry at the circus
 - "Hold your horses"
 - Physical, e.g.

Down

- Tough spot
- Daughter of Cadmus
- All U.S. senators until 1922
- Manage
- Personality aspects
- "For _____ a jolly ..."
- A season abroad
- It precedes Aug.
- Common soccer score
- "Stop squirming!"

- "The Bubble of American Supremacy" author who knows finance backwards and forwards?
- They're not original
- Acting sisters Ashley and Mary-Kate
- Sorority members
- Cousin of -trix
- Lies
- "The rest _____ to you!"
- "Steel Magnolias" costar who knows acting backwards and forwards?
- "Walking on Thin Ice" songwriter who knows music backwards and forwards?
- 3,330-year-old ruler who knows ancient Egypt backwards and forwards?
- Memorable time
- _____ Park, Queens
- _____ Mawr College
- Minus
- Enter covertly
- Pigment
- Spent
- Of last month
- Taken care of
- "We're on!"
- Measles symptom
- Allow
- Odd suffix
- U-turn from SSW
- Mel Gibson's "mad" role
- Cockpit guess, for short
- Half a yr. of college



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We cannot accept your entry without the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

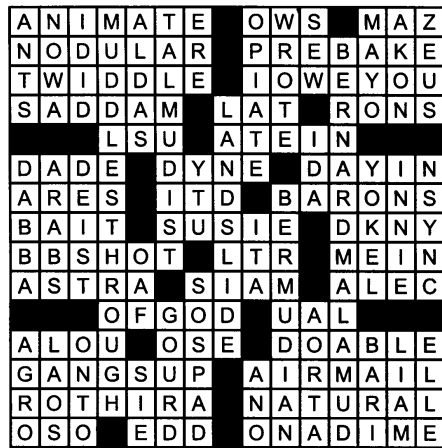
Neighborhood/City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Circle T-shirt size: M L XL

Personal Message: _____

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:



THIS WEEK'S CONTENDERS:

☛ indicates T-shirt winner. Number indicates successful entries.

Julie Osburn, North Park, 26. "Ric - looks like it's down to the two of us."
Ric Witt, Clairemont, 26. "Feliz Navidad to the Cass St. Kitchen. Get well Fredo."
D. Faulkner, University Heights, 25. "Don't buy gas. Ride your bike."
Pamela Swain, College Area, 25. "We need rain."
Lil Wagner, Clairemont, 25. "25 is really my score."
George Jackson, Oceanside, 24. "From the cesspool of Chicago comes an immaculate Messiah."
Anna McCutcheon, Downtown, 24.
Peter Kronfeld, Normal Heights, 23.

Joseph Ciprian, Little Italy, 23. "New year, clean slate, fresh start, closer to death."
Vince Cuseo, Vista, 23. "I love the smell of napalm in the morning!"
Susan Morfey, Little Italy, 23. "Come on Joe - it's gotta get better - take a cab!"
Don Reckles, Carmel Valley, 23. "Tim: Wishing you the speediest and easiest of recoveries."
Paul Stanton, Canyon Hills, 23. "Adopt a homeless cat or dog today and spay/neuter."
Carolyn Dalton, Escondido, 22.
Dale Duffala, La Jolla, 22. "Next year put the xwords online! Happy New Year!"

☛ **Iggie Guerrero, Bay Ho, 22.** "How great can eye be! 1 in a row!"
Bob Maxwell, Coronado, 22. "Here's mud in your eye."
Jim Odell, Vista, 22. "My fax sends bleed thru mess."
Stephen Wilder, Rancho Bernardo, 22. "Merry Christmas to one and all!"
Charlotte Brown, Clairemont, 21.

Betsy Cory, Chula Vista, 21. "Everybody loves Bobby Burns Dinner, Jan. 25, St. Mark's."
Frank Kuzniar, Carlsbad, 21. "Congratulations Renee. I love you."
Thomas McVeagh, Lakeside, 21. "Missed it by one letter! Hi Al and Alister!"
Ron Meyer, Santee, 21. "Happy 21st Birthday Jessica."

Glenn Walker, Pacific Beach, 21. "No one listens - until you make a mistake."
Danny Wilson, Mira Mesa, 21. "Want to continue the competition? Write to nokleenslate@gmail.com"
Ben Espe, Mission Valley, 20. "What happened to last week? Oh well, clean sweep."
Norman Kenney, Carlsbad, 20. "Hi Kiera! Hi Bodo! Hi ho, hi ho!!"
Barry Newman, Escondido, 20. "Sculpin and Sea Monster for the win!"
Clemencia Angus, Linda Vista, 19. "Bye to EDD. Will miss friends, not the job. Peace."
Mary Arana, Encinitas, 19. "Check out classical music concerts!"
Martha Awdziewicz, Clairemont, 19.

Donna Cresta, Chula Vista, 19. "Look Ski, I won again."
Gerard Dermody, Encinitas, 19. "The pessimistic horse was a neigh sayer."
Jim Koziol, UTC, 19. "Use your light saber, Luke!"
Elaine Marume, Oceanside, 19.
Laurence Altobelli III, Carmel Valley, 18. "Next year 52/52!"
Leslie Chase, Campo, 18. "Ryme rsmatchi lowlie elrsuzzp."
Sheilah Doyle, Santee, 18.
Barney Firks, Ocean Beach, 18.
Ken Hanson, Clairemont, 18.
Michael McGriffin, Bay Park, 18. "Camry was made in Kentucky, F-150 in Mexico. Go figure."
Cindy Pellett, University Heights, 18. "Jesus is God's greatest gift! Merry Christmas, fellow puzzlers!"

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

Adele West, Rancho Bernardo, 18.
Steve Wilson, Spring Valley, 18.
Sheila Agahan-Price, Ocean-side, 17. *"For Adolfo Romo Ortiz Simpson"*
Woody Anderson, Carmel Valley, 17. *"Corrupt politicians in Chicago? I'm shocked, shocked!"*
Don Austin, Laguna Beach, 17.
A. T. Certik, Bonita, 17.
William Cushing, Rancho Bernardo, 17.
Kurt Dornbusch, Mission Valley, 17. *"I can barely afford my own habit."*
Anne Hinton, Point Loma, 17. *"Merry Christmas Reader people."*
Michael Lodahl, Mission Valley, 17. *"After a two-week back-slide, hopefully I've muddled through."*
Nathan Petty, Santee, 17.
Dave Small, San Carlos, 17.
Eddie Spaghetto, Coronado, 17. *"143UNIT15! Our faith gives us strength (and vice versa)! CIUM21"*
Elenore Stephens, Potrero, 17. *"P-town 4 life."*
Ivan Yanev, Santee, 17.
Doretha Albee, Santee, 16.
Bud Anderson, Santee, 16.
Shannon Barry, Pine Valley, 16. *"Q is for Quite Quanesane."*
Olga Betteridge, Ocean Beach, 16. *"Reader rocks! My babe rocks! Merry Christmas."*
Neal Brown, Santee, 16.
Margaret Buckner, Santee, 16.
John Bullock, Santee, 16.
Maria Coda, Oceanside, 16. *"Hi All!"*
Laura Conshafter, Santee, 16.
Mike Downey, Santee, 16.
John L. Drechner, North Park, 16. *"I never met a cat I didn't like."*
Ed Edwards, Santee, 16.
Eduardo Emmett, Santee, 16.
Ward Harrington, Santee, 16.
L.D. Hartpence, Santee, 16.
W. Hodgson, Escondido, 16. *"Santa Claus: The only man interested in an empty stocking."*
Troy Knapp, Santee, 16.
Gary Kuske, Santee, 16.
Rick Marin, Santee, 16.
Kevin McNearney, Santee, 16.

Heber Moore, Santee, 16.
Eugene Padua, Santee, 16.
Jim Piburn, Point Loma, 16.
Derek Rasmussen, Santee, 16.
Jean D. Smickle, Santee, 16. ☛ **Tom Somich, Clairemont, 16.**
Bob Vollmar, La Jolla, 16. ☛ **Rick Austin, Santee, 15.** *"I hope it's a winner."*
Tim Betteridge, Hillcrest, 15. *"I've had the bestest year because of you! T-3."*
Rolan Bloomfield, Santee, 15.
Marvin A. Brown, Clairemont, 15.
Dave Capehart, Santee, 15.
Doug Coffin, Santee, 15.
Dan Collins, Santee, 15.
Mike D'Asaro, Santee, 15.
Matt Dene, Santee, 15.
Dave Descoteaux, Santee, 15.
J. DeWitt, Santee, 15.
Byron Ellsworth, Santee, 15.
Emma Friemuth, Santee, 15.
Mike Gross, Santee, 15.
Hugh Hagues, Santee, 15.
Sondra Hartpence, Santee, 15.
Larry Hartpence, Santee, 15.
LeRoy Hemingway, Santee, 15.
Mark Hill, Santee, 15.
Eric Jespersion, Santee, 15.
M. Jordan, Santee, 15.
Bill Love, Santee, 15.
Eben Maat, Santee, 15.
Ken Milne, Santee, 15.
Kevin Moreau, Santee, 15.
Donnie Nelson, Santee, 15.
Richard Rose, Santee, 15.
Nathan Squire, Santee, 15.
Matt Taylor, Santee, 15.
Laurie Teemsma, Santee, 15.
Woody Weaver, Santee, 15.
Ann Winder, Hillcrest, 15. *"Loved clue 53 down - very clever!"*
Mary Woodbury, Santee, 15.
Stuart Auger, Chula Vista, 14. *"Spalding! You'll get nothing and like it!"*
Roy Bailey, Santee, 14.
Bruce Barshop, La Jolla, 14.
Bruce Bell, South Park, 14.
Carl Bennett, Escondido, 14.
Derek Besand, Santee, 14.
E. T. Cage, Carmel Mtn., 14. *"Yabba Dabba Doo."*
Wally Chapman, Chula Vista, 14.

Marilyn Cooper, Chula Vista, 14. *"Merry Christmas to all."*
Jill Dickens, Santee, 14.
Kathleene Evans, Santee, 14.
Steve Fagerwold, Santee, 14.
Rand Feura, Santee, 14. *"Characters do unto others as has been done to them."*
Tim Glover, Santee, 14.
E.M. Hutchings, Santee, 14.
Steve Jenks, Santee, 14.
Sara Khwaja, Poway, 14. *"What's Hecuba to him, or he to Hecuba..."*
Donald Millsberg, Santee, 14.
Barbara Neill, Santee, 14.
Charles Overdorf, Santee, 14.
Bill Pischke, Ramona, 14. *"Adn a payph ohoh enw aeyr."*
Don Prince, Serra Mesa, 14. *"Now I can tell you - all the things inside my head."*
J. Schwendinger, Santee, 14.
Ron Shields, Santee, 14.
Randy Sjoblom, Santee, 14.
Dave Descoteaux, Santee, 14.
Tom White, University City, 14.
Sue Worthen, Santee, 14.
Steven Young, Santee, 14.
Dan Abernathy, Santee, 13.
Don Albee, Santee, 13.
Rick Braithwaite, Santee, 13.
J. Breckenridge, Santee, 13.
Howard Donnelly, Mission Valley, 13. *"e for 8. Where does 44 + 8 = 48, sometimes?"*
Mark Franc, Santee, 13.
Edward C Horbett, Jr., Crown Point, 13. *"Hiromi rocks Billy."*
Jim Hutchings, Santee, 13.
Wayne Mathieu, Clairemont, 13.
Linda Millsberg, Santee, 13.
Elizabeth Noll, Alpine, 13. *"Help our friends! Donate at www.friendsofcats.org."*
Robert Ott, Mira Mesa, 13. *"A baker's dozen."*
David Papworth, Santee, 13.
Jeff Smith, Santee, 13.
Ken A, Ocean Beach, 12. *"Solve et coagula - pre Hegelian dialectic"*
Brian Beach, Santee, 12.
Shirley E Bolden, College Area, 12. *"Hi Clemmie! I'm soo happy for you. Peace."*
Evelyn Bowser, Hillcrest, 12. *"Sell thst house."*
Bryan Breckenridge, Santee, 12.
Andy Harrison, Santee, 12.

Jack Hawkins, Encinitas, 12. *"Merry Christmas."*
Paula Henderson, La Jolla, 12.
Jon Hutchens, Encinitas, 12.
Mary Hutchings, City Heights, 12.
David Kuntze, El Cajon, 12.
Dennis Lamboy, Santee, 12.
Rumir Miravalles, San Diego, 12. *"Maligayang Pasko, San Diego!"*
Elizabeth Rainbolt, Mission Valley, 12.
Diane Sengir, Downtown, 12. *"Thanx 2 Richard."*
John Stead, Santee, 12.
Warren Winters, Santee, 12.
Jan Dawson, North Harbor, 11. *"Handy Jan for your household repairs!"*
jansenterprises@yahoo.com"
Billy Horton, Santee, 11. *"Does your fax work?"*
Diane Hutchings, Santee, 11.
Angie Longoria, Santee, 11.
Aaron Lundblade, Santee, 11.
John Prince, Serra Mesa, 11. *"Mulch that soil, save that rain, here come winter storms."*
Edward J. Swain, Downtown, 11. *"Lex non distinguiturmosnon."*
Lee Woodbury, Santee, 11.
Manny Espino, Santee, 10.
Monty Landy, Santee, 10.
Kathy Law, La Mesa, 10. *"Happy Holidays to neighbors Al and Marylou. Love to Bill"*
Susie Lektorich, Coronado, 10. *"Proud surf team member! Thanks."*
Erin Marin, Santee, 10.
Randy Schimpf, Santee, 10.
M. Sherritt, Santee, 10.
Sam Spaeth, El Cajon, 10.
Gayle Squire, Santee, 10.
Jerry S. Anders, Scripps Ranch, 9. *"Andy, I know what you're doing. Pretty lame dude."*
Gerry Austin, Chula Vista, 9.
Loren Broadstone, Santee, 9.
Mike Deliman, Santee, 9. *"My loves: Karen Marie Otter and my dryer."*
Tim Dene, Santee, 9.
Heather Ellsworth, Santee, 9.
Gina Glover, Santee, 9.
Bob Harper, Lakeside, 9.
Chuck Merritt, Spring Valley, 9.
Denis Rees, Alpine, 9. *"Jesus is the reason for the season!"*
Tom Stam, Lakeside, 9. *"Merry Christmas to you ACLU."*

Sal Vitale, Pacific Beach, 9.
Marilynn Harrington, Santee, 8.
Carol Kuske, Santee, 8.
Bob Werner, Bay Park, 8. *"Sydnie Sdm."*
Flo Abena, Rancho Penasquitos, 7. *"There is a light that never goes out."*
Gunnar Eklof, Oceanside, 7.
I. C. Garcia, Golden Hill, 7. *"The Universe has always been here."*
Sandra Groves, Bonita, 7. *"Thank you, Reader!"*
Ricky Hartpence, Santee, 7.
Robert McQuay, Linda Vista, 7. *"Merry Christmas and Happy 2009!"*
R. Blue, San Diego, 6. *"Good show."*
Thomas Diehl, Escondido, 6. *"No one dies when we wage a war of words."*
Julie Hocking, Normal Heights, 6. *"Go crazy!"*
Estevan Soto, Chula Vista, 6. *"Heart of stone. Smoking gun. Give you life. Take away."*
Cecile Alcaraz, San Diego, 5. *"This puzzle's the hardest one for me so far..."*
Kelly Whitson, Carlsbad, 5.
Jackie Austin, Chula Vista, 4.
G. Barker, Santee, 4.
Terri Beach, Santee, 4.
Mike Broadhead, El Cajon, 4.
Jim Chris, 4. *"Karen Murphy was the best I ever had."*
Glenda Feilen, El Cajon, 4.
Mike Hartpence, El Cajon, 4.
Randolph N. Richard, El Cajon, 4. *"Happy Birthday Niki!"*
Thomas E Woolf, La Jolla, 4. *"Ho ho ho."*
Vickie Austin, Santee, 3. ☛ **Jeff Battles, Serra Mesa, 3.** *"Grats Susie on two shirts. Love you Gunner always."*
Wendy Besand, Santee, 3.
Heather Bloomfield, Santee, 3.
Craig Curtis, Escondido, 3. *"Happy retirement to Floyd Dudley. CSUSM misses you!"*
Doug Fuller, Bonita, 3. *"Ziggy played guitar, thrice!"*
Russell Hill, Lake Forest, 3.
Dennis Howey, La Verne, 3.
Craig Martin, Serra Mesa, 3.
Irving Metzger, San Diego, 3.
Alex Moran, San Diego, 3. *"Merry Christmas Olivia and Makayla,"*

Chis Oliveira, Santee, 3.
Will Rogers, Santee, 3.
Ted Scafidi, Hillcrest, 3. *"Pagheranno nelle fiamme dell inferno."*
N'Namdi Sikumbuzo, Serra Mesa, 3.
Capn Skarz, Encinitas, 3. *"And what rough beast slouches toward Washington to be sworn."*
Linda Adsit, San Diego, 2. ☛ **Thomas Baggot, Carlsbad, 2.**
S. Depka, Vista, 2. *"Dam that tzar. It got us last time!"*
Jaques F. Dulois, Del Mar, 2. *"Second attempt."*
Paul Lindgren, Clairemont, 2. *"Smile at someone - they won't know what to think!"*
Matt Read, La Mesa, 2. *"The art of living: desire less, experience more."*
Niccole Schultz, University Heights, 2. *"32 days till the end of Bush's reign of terror!"*
Joel Wolfberg, Point Loma, 2. *"Hire me: BS Fin/Biz; Mil. vet. jwolf-berg@hotmail.com"*
☛ **Leo Baggerly, Encinitas, 1.** *"Some mistakes are too much fun to make only once."*
☛ **John Borgen, El Cajon, 1.** *"20 minutes in a moving car in pen."*
☛ **Bob Cook, San Diego, 1.** *"Hi Debi!"*
Jeff Fotheringham, Santee, 1. ☛ **Esther Janowsky, Chapel Hill, 1.** *"This is a great part of my vacation!"*
Billy Josen, Santee, 1.
Lillie Nelson, Santee, 1. ☛ **John Pertle, Santee, 1.** *"Acts 16:31."*
Joyce Quinn, Point Loma, 1. *"Always celebrate!"*
Candy Sadleir, Santee, 1.
Sam Spaeth Jr, El Cajon, 1.
Julie Van Aken, Mira Mesa, 1. *"I threw it so hard, I broke the corn casing!"*
Randall Van Dyek, San Diego, 1. *"I love you Elisa."*
Jeff Zyskind, Spring Valley, 1.

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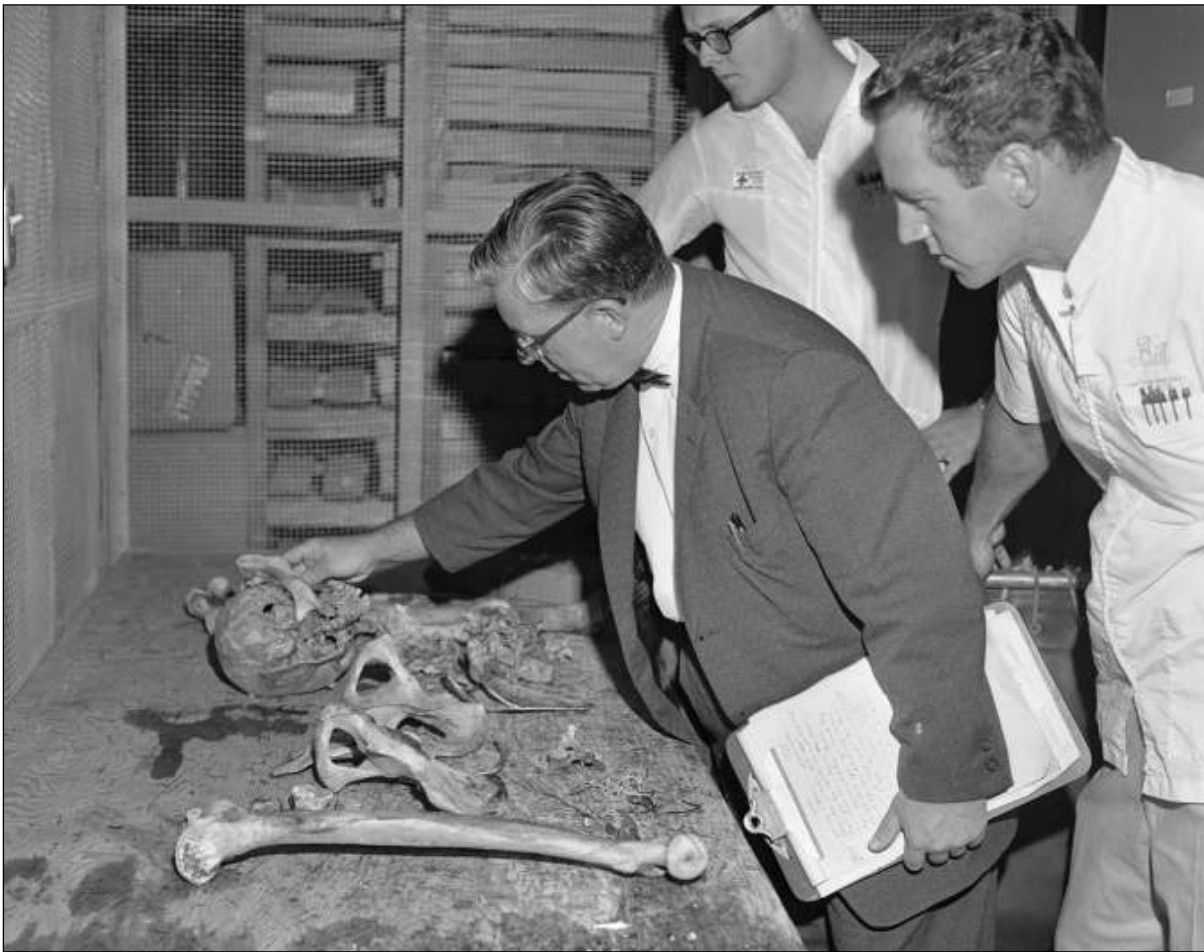
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PICTURE STORY

Photograph from the San Diego Historical Society



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Anthropologists study ancient skeletal remains found at La Jolla Cove, 1960. No indexed information pertaining to this discovery is available at the downtown library, but prehistoric bones have been found “in the Cliffs at La Jolla” for over 100 years. The earliest

Union article to report such a discovery was in 1901, when J. Jessop uncovered the skeleton of a man and “many implements believed to date before the glacial period.”

— by Robert Mizrachi

YOU CAN PURCHASE THIS PHOTO AND MANY MORE AT THE SAN DIEGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY RESEARCH LIBRARY OR ONLINE AT WWW.SANDIEGOHISTORY.ORG. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 619-232-6203, EXT. 127.

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ALLERGIES? ELIMINATE THEM Naturally! Drug free! Jill Nahama, L.Ac. O.M.D., utilizes an all-natural approach (N.A.E.T.) in treatment of allergies, related disorders such as hay fever, fatigue, asthma, eczema, sinusitis, hives, headaches, digestive complaints, chronic infections, food and environmental sensitivities. 22 years' experience. Trained in China. Great results for children and adults. No needles necessary. Covered by some insurance programs. 619-275-4501, www.eliminateallergies.com.

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DETOX SPA OF LA JOLLA. \$30 off any 3-hour signature detox! Let us be your personal fountain of youth! Colon Hydrotherapy. Liver detox. Lymphatic decongestive therapy. Cellulite. Weight Loss. Candida and heavy metals. Cove Wellness, 7946 Ivanhoe Avenue, #202, La Jolla. 858-551-9228. www.detoxspaoflajolla.com.

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FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH! \$30 off any 3-hour signature detox! Natural and effective. Let Detox Spa of La Jolla be your personal fountain of youth! Weight loss. Cellulite. Colon Hydrotherapy. Liver detox. Lymphatic decongestive therapy. Candida and heavy metals. Cove Wellness, 7946 Ivanhoe Avenue, #202, La Jolla. 858-551-9228. www.detoxspaoflajolla.com.

FREE HEALTH INFORMATION session. Everyone invited to Coronary Health Improvement Project: 6:30pm, January 20, 22, 25, 27. Clairemont SDA Church, 4125 Hathaway, 92111. 858-774-1979, www.sdclairmontadventist.org.

FREE TAI CHI AND QI GONG classes, January 12 and 13, 2009, 6pm. Winter Open House, Taoist Sanctuary, 4229 Park Boulevard, San Diego, 92103, 619-692-1155 or www.taoistsanctuary.org.C

GIFT CARD FOR YOGA or massage. 50 minute Swedish massage or 4 class card. Limit 1 per client. Offer valid till 12/31/08. Affirmations BodySpa & Yoga Studio, 12222 Poway Road, Suites #14 and 20, Poway. 858-513-0034. www.affirmationsbodyspa.com.

HIPPYVILLE.COM -BOHEMIAN Essentials. Natural incense, imported oils, eco-friendly hemp. Fast service. Inventory updated daily! 10% discount code: SDR (expires 12/31). 800-428-0473.

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CHRISTMAS BOOK FOR CHILDREN. "Peter Penny Discovers The Gift." A story of faith, hope and love. Meaningful literature for children. Reader ages 5-12. www.peterpennybooks.com.

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AMAZING DJs/BANDS! San Diego Parties & Entertainment. Excellent DJs, fabulous bands, specialty entertainment. Book your holiday party today! Wedding/Event Coordination available. 619-321-9893. SanDiegoPartys@hotmail.com.

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STAGE NOTES

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ABANDON YOUR ACTING FEARS! Actors' Workshop Studios. San Diego's #1 film/TV studio! Professional 3-camera set. Weekly in-house auditions with Hollywood/local casting directors, producers, agents. www.actorsworkshopstudios.com; 858-587-6666.

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MODELS. Amateur models needed for photo, video, web work. Ages 18-60. All types. No experience necessary. Cash paid, Professional setting. Call Jenn, 619-379-4964.

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VOICEOVER WORKSHOP. Break into voiceover! Taught by voice actor/author James Alburger. Learn interpretation, character voices, microphone technique, more for radio/TV. www.voiceacting.com; 858-484-0220.

**COUNSELING &
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ADDICTION OUTPATIENT Treatment. Intensive 12 week ambulatory, detox. Ongoing Support groups and relapse prevention. Family therapy and interventions. Call Samuel Newman, MFT and Associates. 619-944-1346.

ANGER MANAGEMENT classes, court approved, 5 weeks, Mondays from 5:30-7:30pm at Alpha Behavioral Health Services. Call for information, 619-285-9999.

ANGER MANAGEMENT for kids and teens. 10 week educational individual/group classes to help express anger appropriately. Alpha Behavioral Health Services. Call for information, 619-285-9999.

ANXIOUS? DEPRESSED? Relationship issues? Parenting/family issues? Insurance and sliding scale accepted. Individuals, couples, children, adolescents/families. Private Mission Valley location. Phaedra Scoortis, MA, MFT, MFC-43174. 619-972-0209.

ARE YOU MAD? Learn how to manage your anger constructively. Gain power, control, reduce conflict and improve your relationships. Classes begin soon. Mission Valley, Jay Schneider, LCSW, Lic. 9573. www.manageangerdaily.com. 858-538-5587.

CLINICAL HYPNOTHERAPY. "What the mind can conceive, the body can achieve." All issues addressed. Free consultation. Patricia R. Parlin, Ed.D. CHT403-250. Call 619-442-3661 or 619-504-1935.

DREAMWORK. Curious? Unsettled dreams? MFT hours? Jungian dreamwork for understanding, life issues, transitions, growth. Caring and respectful. \$40/1 hour session. Paul Hartsuyker, MFT-15896. www.sandiegotherapists.com/hartsuyker.html. 619-269-8939.

EMOTIONAL WOUNDS from childhood? Heal Inner Child wounds from dysfunctional family. Terrific adjunct for people in recovery. Thought Field Therapy eliminates phobias and traumas. Counseling for individuals, couples' enrichment and family bonding. Sharon Goodlove, TFT Diagnostician; Glenn Goodlove, LCSW-1450. Goodlove Counseling Center, 858-569-8975, www.goodlove-online.com.

FEELING STUCK? STRESSED? Experiencing crisis? Relationship issues? Career problems? Family conflicts? Grief? Past trauma? Take back your power. Free consultation: 619-723-9244. Trish Deignan, LCSW21861.

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WORKSHOPS: RELATIONSHIP Enhancement. Free. 4-part series, Saturdays from 10am-11am at Alpha Behavioral Health Services. Ongoing classes. Call 619-285-9999.

NOTICES

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AL-ANON. Grupo paz mental. Sufre por el alcoholismo en su familia? Juntas sesionan Martes, 5:30pm-7pm, y Sabados, 1-2:30pm, 3450 Bonita Road, #207, Bonita, CA 91902.

ALANON-GRUPO RENCUENTRO. Hay problemas de alcoholismo en su familia? Sesiones Lunes y Jueves de 5:00-6:30pm, 3450 Bonita Road #207, Bonita, 91902. 619-470-6955.

ALCOHOLICOS ANONIMOS. Problemas con el alcohol? Nosotros le ayudamos a vivir mejor. Sesiones Lunes-Viernes, 7am y 8pm. Sabados, 8am y 7pm. Domingo 8am y 5pm. Grupo Bonita Hispano, 3450 Bonita Road, #207. 619-280-7224.

ALCOHOLICOS ANONIMOS. Reunion de mujeres. Sesion Miercoles, 9am-10:30am. Desea dejar de beber? Lleve una vida util y feliz! 3450 Bonita Road, suite #207. 619-280-7224.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL works for human rights. Meetings: 7pm, 2nd and 4th Thursdays. First Unitarian Church, 4190 Front (opposite UCSD Medical Center). Information, 619-283-1637.

ANNOUNCER. Fantasy sports club needs an announcer. Must understand baseball, basketball, and football. This is not a job. Recreation only. 619-295-0385.

ATTENTION MEN: Have you lost weight naturally, kept it off at least 2 years? May qualify for research project. Confidential. Alliant International University. Shannon 619-795-9827.

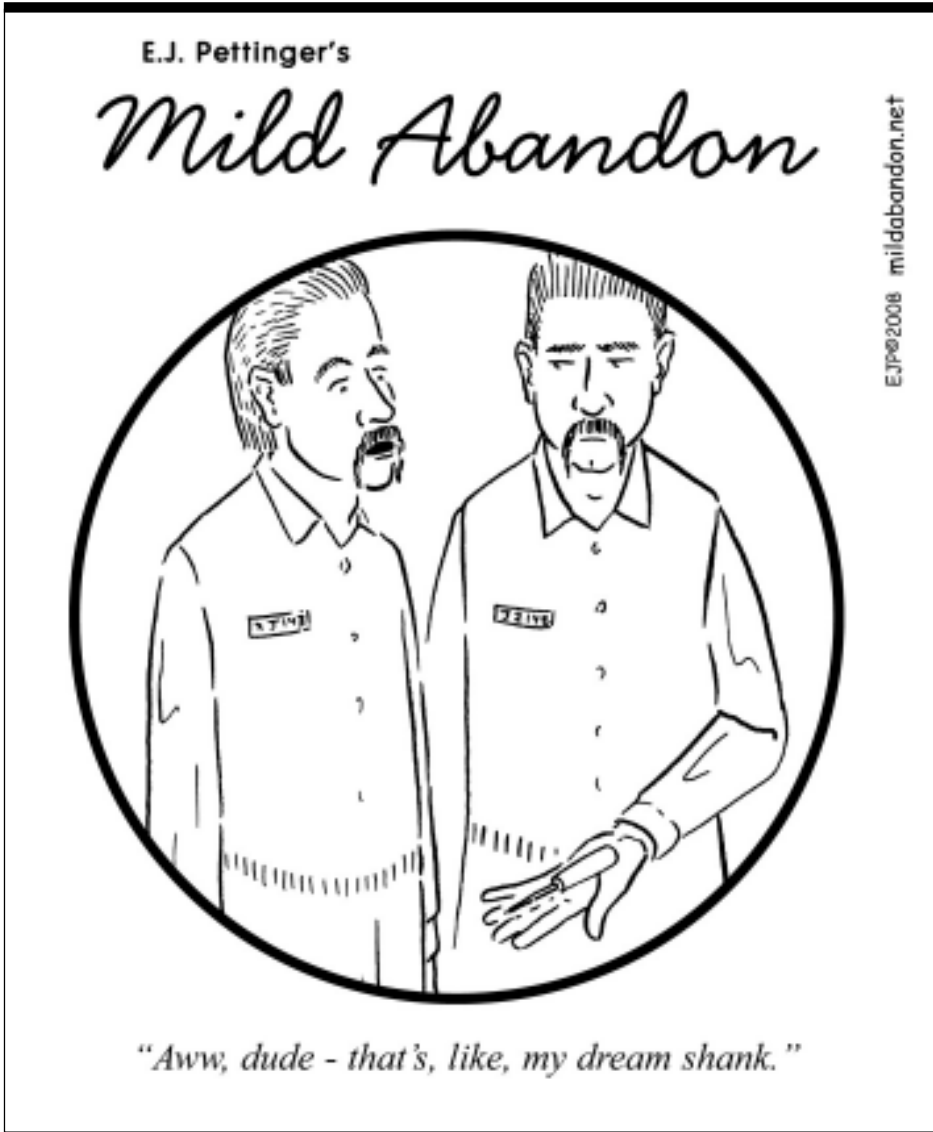
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CANNABIS PATIENT(S) ACT. (Association Cannabis Therapeutics.) Nonprofit. Seeks caregiver/patients interns with questions about cooperatives, clones, medicine, growing guidelines. Proposition 215 local guidelines. Meth kills. 619-528-0907.

DISCOVERY SHOPS SEMI-ANNUAL sale. 50% off everything! 12/19/08, 12/20/08. American Cancer Society Discovery

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shops, fight against cancer. Clothing, jewelry, furniture, artwork. 3609C Midway Drive. 619-224-4336.

DIVORCECARE meets every Sunday at 9am at 4926 La Cuenta, Suite 203-A, Tierrasanta. Special Free support group for those divorcing, divorced, or with broken live-in relationship. 4926 La Cuenta, Suite 203A, Tierrasanta. Bruce, Bruce@sfunding.com or 619-461-4480.

FREE PSYCHIC HEALING. Lecture Clinic. Free readings for new visitors. Mondays, 7:30pm, 1/5, 2/2, 3/2, 4/6 by Vessa's Clairvoyant Program students. 4455 Morena Boulevard, #108. 858-509-7582.

FREE WRITERS WORKSHOP, reopening. All skill levels, genres. Barnes & Noble (Westview parking, Mira Mesa), first Tuesday of each month, 7pm. Claudia, 858-693-3939, or info@cre8ink.com.

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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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.

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Typo Patrol Results

Issue of December 11, 2008

Blurt

p.78 money." said *should be* money," said

Art Listings

p.76 () empty parens *should be deleted*

Classical Music Listings

p.75 soprano Dominique Labelle (soprano) *should note soprano only once*

Mtume Salaam (San Diego) \$30

Event Listings

p.64 unwrappped *should be* unwrapped

Clyde Christie (Coronado) \$10

Restaurant Listings

p.108 Downtown *should be* Kearny Mesa

Karen Guarnotta (San Diego) \$10

Roam-o-Rama

p.66 15-million-year old *should be* 15-million-year-old

Linda Cox (San Diego) \$10

Straight From the Hip

p.14 in from of *should be* in front of

Crazy Dog People

p.54 bore his teeth *should be* bared his teeth

Pop Quiz results

p.146 "reality TV" *should be* "reality TV"

Restaurant Listings

p.108 pronounced 'Chiros') *should be* pronounced 'Chiros'")

Armin Moths (San Diego) \$40

Dining Review

p.103 Frog's legs *should be* Frogs legs

Barbara Akers (Escondido) \$10

Red Zone

p.17 Lead by *should be* Led by

Crasher

p.100 came in to *should be* came into

Darinda Smith (San Diego) \$20

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PASTORELA. Showdown in Bethlehem. Join this Hispanic tradition, in Spanish. Better than any Telenovelas. 12/19/08, 5pm, 12/20/08, 6:30pm. Our Lady of Guadalupe. Free entrance, 619-259-8007.

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SEX AND/OR RELATIONSHIP problems? Out of control? You are not alone. Call Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, a 12-step fellowship. PO Box 3791, San Diego 92163 or 619-685-7211 or www.slaa-san-diego.org.

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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.

WRITERS WANTED. The Academy for Alternative Journalism, established by papers like this one to promote diversity in the alternative press, seeks talented journalists and students (college seniors and up) for a paid summer writing program at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. The 8-week program (June 21-August 16, 2009) aims to recruit talented candidates from diverse backgrounds and train them in alt-weekly style feature writing. Ten partici-

pants will be chosen and paid \$3000 plus housing and travel allowances. For information and an application visit http://altjournalism.org. You may e-mail us at altacademy@northwestern.edu. Applications must be postmarked by February 13, 2009. Northwestern University is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

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NEW YEAR'S IN SAN DIEGO Down-town! \$100/night (compare to \$255-\$315/night). 1 bedroom condo, Wyndham timeshare. Monday, December 29-Monday, January 5. Stephanie, 619-466-8663.

NEW YEARS AT THE LEGEND. For \$199, 1 night & 2 tickets to New Year's Ball. Includes party favors, deluxe New Year's buffet, dance show, live music for dancing, and mariachi. Buffet dinner only \$49/person. Rates plus tax. Restrictions apply. Reservations: 1-866-Rosarito. www.rosaritobeachhotel.com.

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TIMESHARE FOR SALE. Only \$5000. Call today, 619-794-0107.

PERSONALS

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.

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, michaelismusik@cox.net.

DAVIEBABE in Boston. December 10. McDonald's, Lake Miramar, red coat, red Camaro, picnic table, lots of kisses. Best first date ever, best woman ever.

DAVIEBABE in Boston. Miss the hell out of you! 'Tis the season to tell myself what a jerk I was to leave you!

LETTERS ANYONE? Me: Kenyan, 36, 6', spiritual, positive. You: spiritual, any age. P40373, Box 799001, San Diego, CA 92179.

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.bajaanimalsanctuary.org to see all of our adoptable faces. Dogs and cats are spayed/neutered and up to date on shots.

ADOPTION EVENT every Saturday of the month from noon-6pm at PetSmart in Chula Vista, 1840 Main Street. Call Jim from the Baja Animal Sanctuary for more information, 619-341-3145.

ANIMALS HAVE NO NATIONALITY! Volunteer for Humane Society de Tijuana monthly spay/neuter clinics in poorer neighborhoods of TJ. Help end the suffering. Contact michelle@friendsofthstj.org.

AQUARIUM SALE at Octopus's Garden. 20H aquarium \$20; 29 for \$29; 40R \$40. Even a 60E is just \$60. Other tank specials also. Lots of healthy saltwater fish and beautiful corals. Protein skimmers. Lighting systems, pumps, decorations and supplies at low prices at Octopus's Garden. Noon-9pm, 7 days. Call 858-576-7449.

AQUARIUMS AND PONDS! Freshwater/saltwater fish. Extensive reef animals. 9000 square feet. Low warehouse prices! Expertise not found in Southern California cookie-cutter stores! Aquatic Warehouse. 5466 Complex Street #204, San Diego. Behind Superior Courthouse, off Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. www.aquaticwarehouse.com. Daily, 10am-7pm. Saturday, 10am-6pm. Sunday, 11am-6pm. 858-467-9297.

BENGAL LEOPARD BABY. Take a walk on the mild side of wild. Drop dead gorgeous. TICA registered. Canaries also available. North County/Vista. 760-724-9316.

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CATS/KITTENS. 10+ weeks. Virus tested, spayed/neutered, vaccinated, dewormed, de-fleaed. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 6-8pm. Saturday/Sunday, noon-4pm. PetSmart, 8657 Villa La Jolla. Fee. www.sdscats.org.

CHIHUAHUAS. Baja Animal Sanctuary has quite a few rescued, young Chihuahuas. All different colors, ages, and interesting markings. They are all looking for forever homes. Interested? Call Baja Animal Sanctuary, 619-231-6960.

CHINCHILLAS. Two male chinchillas, grey and biege, keep together. Includes 5' tall cage, feed, treats, chew blocks. Quiet pets. Live about 15 years. \$175. 858-761-1045.

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DOG LOVER? Baja Animal Sanctuary is looking for volunteers who are willing to foster dogs. We provide food, supplies, etc. All you need to provide is love. If you reside in North County please contact Patricia, 858-254-8733 or Judy, 858-538-8350. If you reside south of La Jolla, please contact Alisa, 858-270-4056.

KITTEN. Snowflake, white neutered male, 4 months. Rescue, healthy, shy but affectionate. Good companion for your cat. \$30 donation. Loving, indoor home. Encinitas, 619-267-6722.

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LABS? Looking to adopt a goofy Lab or pup? Contact Aubree at 619-990-7455 with Labs & Friends Rescue or log onto www.labradorsandfriends.org to see our adoptable dogs.

LOOKING FOR A COMPANION? Check out www.petfinder.com, the temporary home of adoptable pets and adoption groups. Search by breed, age, sex, and location.

LOST GRAY PERSIAN CAT. \$1000 cash reward! White with mustache. Named Sky. Has medical needs. Must find immediately. Please call 760-801-1014.

LOST PARROT, in El Cajon/East County area. Arthur is grey with a red tail, 14

years old. Please if you see him, call 619-938-2223.

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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.

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SHIH TZU LOST! Lexy, white/black, lost from home 11/15/08. 3 years old, she is a twin, her sister not doing well. Please help 619-254-1100.

SMALL DOGS. If you have been looking for that special, small, furry 4-legged friend, contact us! 619-231-6960.

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Veterinary Technician, 2 years' experience, references. Flexible, short notice okay. Call: Mark S. Pipes, 858-220-1022.

WANT A DOG for just the weekend? We have weekend foster opportunities for small or big dogs, puppies, adults, or seniors depending on what suits you. Contact the Baja Animal Sanctuary for more information, 619-231-6960 or 858-270-4056.

YOUNG DOGS. We have quite a few 3.5-4 months old looking for forever homes. They are all mutts but mostly shepherd or Labrador mixes with gorgeous markings. If you're interested in adopting a new companion, contact the Baja Animal Sanctuary for more information, 619-231-6960.

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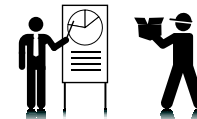


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For more stories by this author, go to [sdreader.com](#).

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ROLAND VS-880, 8 track. Installed new hard drive, never used it. Must sell! Comes with manual/zip drives. \$200/best. 858-442-1875, 619-286-9964. Email, Robert.Desmond@L-3Com.com.

VIOLIN. Newer German instrument, fine condition and outstanding tone. Has case and bow. Only \$145. Call 858-453-2835.

MUSIC MUSICIANS AVAILABLE / WANTED

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.

COUNTRY GUITARIST/BACKUP available. Play all styles, Country Western, Brad Paisley, Keith Urban. Seasoned, mature, semi-professional player with vintage guitar, great tone, no flakiness, 760-230-1091.

COUNTRY WESTERN BAND. Seeking experienced bass guitar player. If interested please call Bob at 858-753-1775.

DRUMMER. Jazz/rock/fusion. Looking for band. Extensive training and experience. Studio, stage, TV, no start-up bands, please! Equipment, transportation. 619-581-0326.

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 PLAYER/ORGANIST wanted. Must have prior experience playing in an African-American Pentecostal church environment. Traditional and contemporary gospel music. Send resume to [info@shilohcogic.org](#).

KEYBOARD/ORGANIST WANTED. Rhythm and blues, funk, jazz, and

rock. King Fish Turner band. Michael, 760-521-5504.

PRODUCER seeks prolific, talented composers, performers, any age, with original material. Interns, copyists, songwriters. We have professional tools. 619-528-0907; [www.myspace.com/sherilopez](#); [www.myspace.com/isitfrankzappa](#); [www.myspace.com/phyllispyrror](#).

PROFESSIONAL SAXOPHONE PLAYER available for Holiday gigs. Limited keyboards and vocals. All types of music. 619-889-4833.

REGGAE HIP-HOP jazz/rock lead rhythm guitarist available. CD/tour credits. Pato Banton, Fully Fullwood, Majek Fashek, Myka Nyne, Scientist, Tippa Irie. Dale, [myspace.com/dalehauskins](#), 858-401-2973.

SINGER/SONGWRITER/FRONTMAN. With PA and gear looking for the right band. Influences: Counting Crows, GooGoo Dolls, Petty, Originals, Will travel. Please call Rick, 530-416-7473.

WANTED: BASS PLAYER/KEYBOARD player to form blues/rock band. Club owners already interested in my material. Call Mike, 858-922-0808.

MUSIC SERVICES

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.

AUDIO RECORDING STUDIO. Spacious, commercial location. 24-48 tracks. ProTools HD, ADAT, analog tape. 60 channel console. Steinway piano. Vintage microphones/preamps/signal processors. [www.hitsinglerecording.com](#). 619-258-1080.

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DJ & EVENT PRODUCTION. Private parties, club/bar/restaurant owners, promoters looking for DJs specializing in House (Chicago, Deep, Minimal, Progressive) and Lounge/Chill-Out (Ambient, DownTempo, Mushroom Jazz). Info & podcasts: [www.digitalvinyl.net](#). 619-591-8806.

GUITAR REPAIR. The area's newest, coolest extraordinary repair shop for serious players. Bring your guitar to Bill Meyer, luthier. Bay Park location. 619-276-1677. [www.tecoloteguitarworks.com](#).

RECORD A DEMO at HobarTrax, efficient experienced engineer, Pro Tools, Mackie, Avalon, etc. Session musicians available, all styles. Creative, inspiring atmosphere. \$30/hour. [www.hobartrax.com](#), 858-243-7728.

RECORD AND MASTER AT BLITZ Studios. ProTools HD, 24-track ADAT, Sonar, Acid. Protocols lessons. Creative environment, total CD packages. \$40/hour. 10-hour block, \$350. Weekdays until 4pm at \$30/hour. 619-260-0837. Check out our cool website at [www.blitzrecording.com](#).

RECORD AND MASTER AT EXUM Studio! Comfortable, relaxed atmosphere. Protocols HD3. Great drum sounds! Baldwin Grand Piano! Fast. Efficient. 20 years' experience. 2" analog. [www.exumrecording.com](#). 760-739-9700.

RECORD AT CV STUDIOS. San Diego's best value! ProTools, professional gear. Rates from \$25/hour. Get the sound you want without pressures of expensive studios. Jon, 858-414-2143.

RECORD AT EARTHLING Studios. Analog and digital multitrack recording and mastering services. Call Mike for rates at 619-441-8341.

RECORD AT EMPIRE STUDIOS. \$30/hour, engineer included. Specializing in Electronic, Rap, and Urban music. High-end equipment, radio quality guaranteed. Visit our facility at [www.empirerecordings.com](#). 619-249-8355.

RECORD AT EPICENTRE Studio. Pro Tools HD-quality recording. Full service digital recording, mixing and mastering. Library of pre-made beats. 5-hour blocks for \$175 or \$400/hour. [www.epicentre.org](#), 858-271-4000 x15.

RECORD AT KING'S RANSOM Studio. Top vintage and contemporary gear for fat, warm sound. All styles music welcome. I care about your project as much as you do! Fast and efficient. \$30/hour and up. 619-278-8752.

RECORD/MASTER AT POWERHOUSE ProTools HD3, experienced staff, Yamaha Grand, mic selection and more. Low rates include engineer. [www.powerhouserecording.com](#). Credit cards accepted. 858-277-0514 or 760-789-7420.

REHEARSAL IN OCEAN BEACH at Spotless. 1922 Bacon Street across from Winston's. 3 air conditioned rooms with PA, available for hourly rentals. Parking, loading. 619-523-3073.

REHEARSAL STUDIOS! Current special: \$100 off first months rent with ad! Two locations-Sports Arena & Miramar. Monthly and hourly available. Universal Sound, 619-306-2222.

REHEARSAL STUDIOS, \$15/hour with PA. Monthly \$350-\$475. 1/2 off first month's rent! Ventilated. Wi-Fi connection. Affordable recordings, screen printing, DVD, CD duplication, web design services. Dead Records, 760-967-1420; cell, 760-707-8606.

REHEARSE AT ADDER. New rooms open now! Upscale Kearny Mesa facility. All rooms have individual air conditioning, high ceilings and 24-hour access. Monthly rooms available. 858-505-8644. [www.adderstudios.com](#).

REHEARSE AT HINDSIGHT— Miramar. Hourly rooms, fully equipped (drum kit, two half stacks, bass rig, PA), starting \$18/hour. PA only, \$16/hour. 858-635-9611, [www.hindsightrehearsal.com](#).

ROOMMATES

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.

BAY PARK. \$575/month. Room in large home. Quiet, no drugs/smoking. Utilities included. Near Sea World, freeways, etc. 619-276-7873.

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/MISSION BAY, \$545. Laundry, quiet street, off-street parking. Near Clairemont Drive. Male only. \$395 security deposit. Cats OK. 619-275-6260.

CARDIFF, \$475. Room in 4-bedroom house in Cardiff by the Sea. Washer/dryer, fireplace (utilities included!) First and deposit. Call after 5pm, 760-436-6500.

CARDIFF. \$900, 1/2 utilities. Spectacular, 180 degree whitewater view. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, furnished townhome. Huge balcony, laundry, fireplace, cable, garage. Nonsmoking/pets. Jeff, 760-436-6426.

CARMEL MOUNTAIN. Cozy, fireplace, private entry/bath. Male only. Pool, spa, washer/dryer, gated. Great area. Close to everything. Near I-15 freeway 56. \$550/month, 858-673-4799.

CHULA VISTA. Large furnished bedroom in spacious condo. Internet, phone, digital cable included. Washer/dryer, two balconies. Male only. Pets OK. \$600, \$100/deposit. 619-200-4069.

CLAIREMONT. \$750. Everything included. Laundry, furnished room. Parking, access to internet. Free coffee in the morning. No smoking/pets. Female preferred. Balboa and Genesee. 858-349-5993.

CLAIREMONT. \$750. Everything included. Laundry, furnished room. Parking, access to internet. Free coffee in the morning. No smoking/pets. Female preferred. Balboa and Genesee. 858-349-5993.

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 quiet, clean 4-bedroom, 3-bath house. Near SDSU. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath available. Parking. Laundry. \$500/each, \$400 deposit, one quarter utilities, 619-501-8696.

COLLEGE AREA. Share small 2 bedroom house. \$550/month, plus 1/2 utilities, \$400/deposit. Parking. No pets/drugs. 619-698-5509.

COLLEGE AREA/ROLANDO. Bedroom in spacious 3-bedroom home. Washer/dryer. Month to month lease. \$525 rent, split utilities. Female preferred. Quiet neighborhood. Cesar. 619-994-4422.

COLLEGE AREA/SDSU. Two rooms. 1 furnished private bedroom, \$700. Second bedroom, very large, shared, \$600. Parking. Modern amenities/kitchen/laundry. Large backyard. 909-229-7485, [waterpolo44@hotmail.com](#).

DEL CERRO. Room available in spacious 3-bedroom, 2-bath, animal-friendly house. Backyard, quiet neighborhood, near SDSU. \$650, 1/3 utilities. Available immediately. 619-280-0371, 619-892-4131.

EASTLAKE/CHULA VISTA, \$700/month, 1/2 utilities, \$600/deposit. Share 2 bedroom 3 bath house, fully remodeled. Washer/dryer, garage. Gated community, pools, Jacuzzi, tennis, golf. Near freeways, shopping, theaters. No pets 619-248-5496.

EL CAJON. Room available in 4 bedroom house. Washer/dryer. \$550/month, plus quarter utilities, \$550/deposit. Nonsmoking, no drugs. 619-820-3746.

EL CAJON. Room, walk-in closet, private bathroom in beautiful condo. Washer/dryer. Private community. Pool, Jacuzzi, fitness center. \$650, plus security, 1/2 utilities. Nonsmoking. 619-980-0973.

ENCINITAS. \$600, includes utilities. Room for female. Family home. Quiet retreat. Large closet. 90% private bath. Kitchen/laundry privileges. No drugs, smoking, pets. 760-943-8136; 619-235-2415.

ENCINITAS. 1.1/2 miles from Moonlight beach. Newly remodeled house. Spacious, clean. Room 11x12, own full bath. Private backyard. \$730/month. 760-207-1953.

ENCINITAS. Spacious room, \$650. Large master, private entrance/bath, \$950. Utilities included. Quiet house. Near all amenities/beach. Single occupant. No smoking/pets/drugs, 760-230-6782.

ESCONDIDO. \$500, \$500 deposit, 1/3 utilities. DIRECTV. Own room, kitchen privileges. No smoking, drugs, pets. Off-road parking. Washer/dryer, Jacuzzi. Private, end of cul-de-sac, 760-492-6275.

GOLDEN HILL. \$460/\$475. Utilities included. Large, quiet. Centrally located. 3 private bedroom apartment. Share bath and kitchen. Deposit. 2220 E Street. Appointment necessary. 619-584-5900.

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.

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. \$600/month includes utilities. Female preferred. 858-366-2905.

LA MESA. Room, big bathroom in 3200-square-foot house. Have 3 dogs. \$900 including all utilities, \$500/deposit. \$25/credit check. Available 1/01/09. 619-698-9249.

LAKE SIDE. Share 2000-square-foot 4-bedroom, 2-bath house with one. \$1000/month, 1/2 utilities. Credit/background check required. Available mid-January/beginning February, 619-889-6607.

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. Credit/background check required. 1 room. Cable, laundry. No pets (except for my cat). No smoking. Rent/deposit, \$500/\$500, 1/4 SDG&E, 858-204-6059.

MIRA MESA. Half off first month! \$550 plus utilities. Large home. \$250/deposit. Fireplace. Large kitchen. Dayroom. Dishwasher. Washer/dryer. Pool. Maid service. No pets. Tom, 619-708-4925.

MISSION BEACH, SOUTH. Quiet Bay-side near coaster. Semi-private entrance. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Month-to-month. \$600, \$300 deposit.

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Reader Pop Quiz

This week's questions

1. "If we can't kill it, it's immortal." That's the slogan of what business in *A Tuna Christmas* at the Compass Theatre?
2. "A mush of nasty iodine" is Naomi Wise's description of what?
3. Local musician/publisher Mike Stax is releasing a lost, undiscovered album by what legendary British R&B group?
4. The two prerequisites for country-music success, according to Wayne "the Train" Hancock, are ____ and ____.
5. What random act of kindness did a stranger perform at Whole Foods that momentarily restored John Brizzolara's faith in humanity?
6. Name the local David Bowie tribute holding forth at the Casbah on Barnaby Monk's schedule for Thursday the 18th.
7. What's the vegetable wax that coats a Tylenol tablet to make it swallowable?
8. SDSU's Aztec Center will be razed in the near future; name the student center that will replace it.
9. What sandwich does LT order at the B&B Deli?
10. Where can a cook procure an all-natural, free-range goose in La Jolla for \$6.99/lb?

Last week's answers

1. A bottle of (Moët) champagne. (p. 22)
2. Hammurabi. (p. 105)
3. "Cooking shows." (p. 103)
4. *Sound Revolution*. (p. 82)
5. One hundred percent. (p. 8)
6. Sabrina Sloan. (p. 123)
7. *Washi*. (p. 63)
8. A TSOL song. (p. 94)
9. By laughing. (p. 100)
10. *Silent Alarm*, by Bloc Party. (p. 84)

Last week's winners:

Karen Guarnotta, Jeffrey McMenamin, Clyde Christie, Monique Hernandez, Rob Koehorst.

Rules Pop Quiz answers must include page numbers from the *Reader* print edition on which the answers are found. First five entrants to deliver correct sets of answers win Reader T-shirts or \$25 (indicate preference). Answers must be submitted by Monday at 7 a.m. after the issue in question. Only one winner per household or email address per month. Multiple entries will be disregarded. Mail answers to: Reader Pop Quiz, SD Reader, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92186; or fax to 619-231-0489; or email to Quiz@sdreader.com; or deliver to 1703 India Street in Little Italy (we have an after-hours mail slot).

ances, washer/dryer. No pets. Available 1/1/09. \$2600. 858-735-4222.

SAN CARLOS. \$1795. 3 bedroom, 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 Anvil Lake Avenue. Fireplace, fenced yard. No pets. \$1800, \$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.

SOUTH PARK. \$2695. 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.

SPRING VALLEY. \$1395. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2.25 bath plus den, all new ceramic floors, carpet and paint, all appliances, air conditioning, yard. 715 Pecos Street. 619-384-9219.

TALMADGE. \$2195. \$250 off first month's rent if rented by 12/31! 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. 2-car garage, fireplace, Jacuzzi, air conditioning and heat, washer/dryer, hardwood floors, tree-shaded fenced yard. Landscaper and trash included. 4657 Altadena Avenue, 92115. Cogan Properties, 619-283-2144.

TALMADGE. \$2500. 3-bedroom, 2-bath house; 1-car garage. Beautiful hardwood floors and landscaping. Corner lot. Pets negotiable. Available January 1. 4525 Estrella. Alta Vista Properties, 858-274-3600, www.altavistamanagement.com.

TALMADGE. \$850/\$2250, 3 bedroom, 2 bath house, hardwood floors, fireplace, wood deck off master bedroom. Gated fenced yard. Washer/dryer. 4518 Euclid Avenue. \$850. Back studio unit, share laundry, shared yard, pets on approval. Tenant pays 1/3 electricity. Water included. 4518 #A Euclid Avenue. 619-640-7530. www.sdforrent.com.

RENTALS APARTMENTS / CONDOS

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.

ALLIED GARDENS. \$1138. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. On-site parking, laundry and pool. Move-in special! 1 month free rent! 4550 Vandever Avenue. Call manager, 619-279-2183.

ALLIED GARDENS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. \$1295. Air conditioning. Pool. New paint, cabinets. Granite countertops. Near restaurants, trolley, shopping. 5360 Adobe Falls. 619-265-1645.

ALLIED GARDENS. Studio condo. All new! Granite counters, Murphy bed, pool, assigned parking, laundry on site. Excellent location near SDSU. No pets. \$850. Available now. 7787 Margerum #141. Carole, 858-485-9234.

ALPINE. \$850. Spacious 2 bedrooms, 1 baths. New carpet, vinyl and appliances. Air conditioning, on-site laundry, pool. Assigned parking. Small pets welcome. Call about our move-in special! Section 8 welcome. OAC! 619-445-0805. www.sdaptbrokers.com.

ALPINE. 2 bedrooms, \$1205. Newly remodeled. Private garages, fireplaces, vaulted ceilings. Resort-size pool and spa. Alpine Woods, 1829 Arnold Way. 619-445-1341.

ALPINE. 55 and up. Spacious luxury living. 1 bedrooms, \$795. 2 bedrooms, \$1105. Creekside Meadows, 1750 Arnold Way. 619-445-2480.

BALBOA PARK. \$1195. Charming 1-bedroom apartment with excellent view of Balboa Park. New flooring throughout. Crown molding. Gated entry. 2820 6th Avenue #10. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

BANKER'S HILL. \$2100/month. Furnished 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo, 1400 square feet. View of Maple canyon. Quiet area. Pets OK. Ask for Kathy, 619-987-3764.

BANKER'S HILL. \$750. Studio apartments. \$200 off first month's rent! Nice unit. View. Laundry. Close to all. 2027 Front Street, #1 and #3. AMI Property Management, 619-697-6314.

BANKER'S HILL. \$875. Studio apartment. \$200 off first month's rent! Completely remodeled and upgraded. Hardwood floors, laundry. View, must see, 2027 Front Street, #12. AMI Property Management 619-697-6314.

BANKER'S HILL. \$895. Cozy studio apartment. Utilities paid. Parking. On-site laundry. 1820 4th Avenue. Call for appointment: 619-300-1365 or 619-588-4106.

BANKER'S HILL. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Classic 1920's! 2230 Albartross Street. Call 858-583-0182. www.Cal-Prop.com.

BANKER'S HILL. 2 bedroom, 1 bath upgraded condo, hardwood floors. Walk Balboa Park, skyline view. Laundry. Balcony/patio. Water/trash included. Pets OK. \$1600. 619-471-0118.

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.

BANKER'S HILL. Furnished studios, \$750 and up. Furnished 1 bedroom apartments, \$850 and up. Close to park, downtown. Some utilities paid. Laundry facility. No pets. 619-234-7572.

BANKER'S HILL. Starting at \$1150/month. 1 and 2 bedroom apartments. Balcony, air conditioning, secured parking included. Laundry on site. Convenient to downtown. Greg, 619-239-7313.

BANKER'S HILL. Studio apartment. Gated community, laundry, parking. Also 1-bedroom, 1-bath, \$990. 1818 6th Avenue. Call Mike, 619-640-8834. kandr-properties.com.

BANKER'S HILL/DOWNTOWN. \$1295. 1 bedroom townhouse. Very private. Spacious. Hardwood floors. Laundry. Patio. Free parking. Pets OK. Available January 1. Call Steve, 619-696-7500.

BANKERS HILL. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. 1024 square feet. Comes with parking, on-site laundry, storage. Gated. Close to Downtown. Available 12/19/08. \$1300. 1922 2nd Avenue. Call Nikki 619-964-3901, kandroperties.com.

BAY PARK. \$1150 includes utilities. 2 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs apartment. 1 parking. Laundry facilities. Pets under 12 pounds with additional deposit. Near Bay Park Elementary. Westwind Apartments, 619-275-5329.

BAY PARK. \$1195 moves you in! 1 bedroom, 1 bath starting at \$975. 2 bedrooms starting at \$1150. Bay Park's best maintained property with beautiful courtyard and sparkling pool. No pets. 2520 Chicago Street. TPPM, 619-405-7200. www.debonairapts.com.

BAY PARK. \$1480. Deluxe 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Panoramic sailboat views/your terrace! Dishwasher. Berber. Gated. Laundry. Parking. Cat friendly! Beach/freeway. 2805 Morena. 858-459-1544.

BAY PARK. Duplex. \$1275. **Holiday special-1/2 month off rent!** Fresh 2 bedroom, 1 bath with new carpet. Garage, washer/dryer. Great location, near all. **Open house Saturday, 10-11am.** 3158 Clairemont Drive. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

BAY PARK/FASHION VALLEY. \$1050. Remodeled 2-bedroom, 1-bath apartment. Off-street parking. No pets. Near trolley/USD. Available immediately. Credit check. 619-325-9108, 619-260-9062.

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. \$795. Small studio cottage in village. Complete separate kitchen/bath. Approximately 400 square feet. Funky with uneven floors. Parking. No pets. Lease. 760-505-7736

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.

CARLSBAD/LA COSTA. \$1495. **\$1299 moves you in!** Prestigious 2 bedroom, 2 bath with all amenities in regal development above La Costa Golf Course. Fireplace, washer/dryer, air conditioning, pool/spa/sauna. Alicante Views. Open daily. 2391 Caringa Way. TPPM, 760-431-7575. www.alicantevIEWS.com.

CARLSBAD/LA COSTA. \$1650. **\$1299 moves you in!** Prestigious 3 bedroom, 2 bath with all amenities in regal development above La Costa Golf Course. Fireplace, washer/dryer, air conditioning, pool/spa/sauna. Alicante Views. Open daily. 2391 Caringa Way. TPPM, 760-431-7575. www.alicantevIEWS.com.

CARLSBAD/LA COSTA. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Beautiful views. Garage, parking space, all appliances, fireplace, patio, pool, tennis. Available now. Year lease. \$1650. Arnie, 858-774-4988. See pictures at members.cox.net/seapoint

CARMEL VALLEY. \$400 off first month! 2 bedrooms, \$100 gift card from Ralphs! 6 month lease by 11/23/08. Near beaches, shopping, freeway access, quiet neighborhood! Free tennis, swimming lessons! Washer/dryer. Parking. Fitness center. Pool. No pets. The Club Torrey Pines, 12646 Torrey Bluff Drive. 1-866-354-2096. www.torrey.cc. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2106.

CHULA VISTA, Eastshore Terrace. \$1500. Upgraded 2 master bedroom unit. Huge walk-in closets, air conditioning, washer/dryer. Vaulted ceilings, balcony, community pool/spa. Lake facilities/clubhouse available. Detached garage. www.utiopiamanagement.com, 858-598-1111 x193.

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.

CHULA VISTA. \$1090. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Spacious unit in small complex. Amenities. Walk-in closet. Covered parking. Gated community. Near all. 363 Moss Street. Manager, 619-426-7476.

CHULA VISTA. \$775/month. Low \$150 deposit. 1 bedroom, fully furnished. 2 blocks from Chula Vista Center and trolley. Off-street parking. Laundry room. 521 Park Way. Office open daily (near Fifth and G). 619-420-5084.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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DOWNTOWN. \$750. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, cat OK with deposit, hardwood floors, paid water/trash/gas. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

DOWNTOWN. \$950 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Hardwood floors, backyard, quiet complex, gated parking, remote entry, on-site laundry. No pets. 1830 Market. 619-405-7368.

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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.

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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.

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DOWNTOWN. Outstanding furnished rooms, \$450-\$500. Heart of Gaslamp. Shared bathrooms. Community kitchen. Free cable. No pets. Windsor Hotel, 843 4th Avenue. 619-235-6068. Hughes Management. www.HughesManagement.net.

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DOWNTOWN. Studios with kitchen and bath, \$625-\$700. Single room with private bathroom, \$550-\$595. Nonsmoking. No pets. 10th and E Street. Hughes Management, 619-239-1639 x103. www.HughesManagement.net.

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FASHION VALLEY WEST. 1 bedroom, \$950. Nice upper unit with assigned parking. Across from USD and close to shops and freeways. Sorry, no pets. Agent, 619-296-3189.

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.

FASHION VALLEY. \$1150 rent, \$800 deposit. OAC. Large 2 bedroom 2 bath. Parking, laundry, elevator. Near USD. No pets, at 1330 Eureka Street #1, #11 or #39. 619-298-5820.

FASHION VALLEY. \$1575. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo. Laundry hookups! 1081 square feet. 6277 Caminito Luisito. No pets. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

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. \$875 rent. \$800 deposit. OAC. 1 bedroom. Laundry. Near USD. No pets. At 1330 Eureka Street #30. Agent, 619-298-5820.

FASHION VALLEY/USD. \$1250 rent, \$800 deposit. Large 2-bedroom, 2-bath, 2-level townhouse with tandem parking for 2 cars. Laundry. No pets. At 5550 Mildred Street #25. 619-291-1755.

FASHION VALLEY/West. \$1200/month. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. All appliances. Near USD. No pets. 1266 Benicia Street. 619-985-8488.

GOLDEN HILL. \$1735. 2 bedroom 2 bath condo. Highly upgraded! Washer/dryer in unit! Cat ok! 1233 22nd Street #17. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

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LA JOLLA/UTC. \$1000. Studio. Granite counters, newer appliances, covered parking. Location, location. If you can find one better, rent it! 3136 Alicante #C. Call Rachel to view, 619-804-1044.

LA JOLLA/WINDANSEA BEACH. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, available 1/1/09. No pets. \$1750. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, available now, \$1350. Call Mark, 858-459-1065.

LA JOLLA/BIRD ROCK. Quaint, charming 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottages starting at \$1660. Close to beach. Laundry facility. Off-street parking. Cat OK. Walking distance to the village. Toll free: 1-800-490-6372. www.pacificliving.com.

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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 bedroom, 1 bath, with laundry. Garage. Cat OK. Rent \$995. 5027 Guava. Call Leslie, 619-303-2643. kandrproperties.com.

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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](mailto:csapartments@gmail.com). 619-550-6712.

LA MESA. Mellmanor Apartments. \$920/up, 1 bedroom. \$1220/up, 2 bedroom. Across Grossmont Center, trolley, Costco. Quiet, spacious units. Pools. 8750 Mellmanor Drive. 619-461-1940.

LA MESA. Move-in special. 1 bedroom, 1 bath duplex, small yard, garage. Small dogs welcome. 4352 Rosebud Lane. \$950/month. Lucy. 619-980-0019.

LA MESA. Move-in special. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex, small yard. Small dogs welcome. 4362 Rosebud Lane. \$1075/month. Lucy. 619-980-0019.

LA MESA. Move-in special: Half off first month's rent! \$1175. 2 bedroom, 1-1/4 bath. Upper unit. Carport and parking space, community pool, laundry and rec room. 7502 Parkway Drive #309. Agent, 858-560-1178.

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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.

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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.

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LINDA VISTA. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, \$948. 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, water/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. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath townhouse, \$1095. Deposit \$900. Assigned parking, hardwood floors. No pets, please. Office at 7025 Eastman Street. Call 619-249-9585.

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.

LOGAN HEIGHTS. \$1025. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. \$900. Large 1 bedroom, utilities paid. Security gate. Near bus, trolley, NASCO shipyard. 2818 Boston Avenue. 619-435-0387.

MIRA MESA. \$1450. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, fireplace, washer/dryer, carport. 10828 Aderman Avenue, #135. www.centrecity.net. Call 619-296-6699.

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. \$1600. 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.

MIRA MESA. Condo \$1650. Very cute! 2 bedroom, 2 bath plus loft. New paint. Washer/dryer in unit. Pool, Jacuzzi and clubhouse access. Parking. 11595 Caminito La Bar. Agent, 619-820-2584.

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. **\$995 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, SOUTH. \$1550. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Stove, refrigerator. New carpet. Close to beach and bay. Cat OK with \$300 deposit. No parking. Available 1/1/09. 725 Ensenada Court. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

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. \$1595. Spacious, large 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom. Block to beach. Parking. Fantastic bargain! Large patio. No pets. Available. 809 Island Court. 858-459-7391.

MISSION BEACH. \$1795. Modern 2-bedroom, 2-bath apartment. Steps to Bay. 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. \$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. Furnished condo, ocean view, 100 feet from sand. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, month; \$700 weekly. 717 Rockaway Court. Pets OK. Parking space, laundry. wagonerapacific.com, 858-349-9977.

MISSION BEACH. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath, new carpet, \$1750/month. Steps to ocean! Laundry facilities, parking. Near shopping. Available now till 6/15/09. Water/trash paid. 619-234-7572.

MISSION BEACH. Move-in special! On the boardwalk! Newly renovated large 2 bedroom, 2 bath units. Luxury units for rent. Granite, Stainless steel appliances. Travertine tile. Everything new! Private balconies, new pool, security building/parking. 3790 Riviera Drive. \$2750. Manager at 619-247-2114.

MISSION 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. \$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. \$1500. Large 1-bedroom penthouse with views! New carpet. Fireplace. Large patio. Full kitchen. Sunken Jacuzzi tub/shower. Located in Spruce Canyon. 6-month lease. Available 1/05/09. 3350 Horton Avenue. Drive by and view by appointment. Agent Paula Keenan, 619-871-8915.

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.

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Mission Hills/Hillcrest. New, luxurious, very large 2-bedroom, 2-bath condos, \$2400. Designer kitchen, washer/dryer, HVAC, decks. Parking, security. Credit check. 3972 Albattross Street. Call Broker, 619-293-3118 x5.

MISSION VALLEY. \$1060. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, parking included, fitness center, fireplace. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

MISSION VALLEY. \$1350. 2 bedroom, 2 baths condo (dual masters), 1-car parking, pool, balcony, central air/heat, small storage. Fee. Free search at www.westsiderentals.com. 619-367-3333.

MISSION VALLEY. \$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.

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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. Non-smoking. 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. Spacious 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath condo, 2-car garage. Washer/dryer. Pool. Jacuzzi, gym, Dogs OK. Available in January. \$2100/month. 619-665-8269. vidalife08@yahoo.com.

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. 1 bedrooms from \$1125. 2 bedrooms, 2 bath from \$1420. Gated community! Pool, spa. Free WiFi access. Outdoor billiards, barbecue lounge. Fitness center. Computer lab with printer. Laundry center with flat screen TV! Parking. Pet friendly! Mission Pacific Apartments, 4454 44th Street. Call today, 1-800-372-9146. missionpacific_pacificliving@crossfiremail.com. www.pacificliving.com. www.sdreader.com/news/rent1010.

MISSION VALLEY/USD. 2 bedroom, \$1600 (includes water). New appliances/remodel, washer/dryer, panoramic views, 2-parking, hardwoods, patio/Jacuzzi. Pets OK. Available. Move-in special! 858-353-6878.

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.

MOUNT HELIX/CASA DE ORO. Move-in special, OAC! \$1125. 2 bedroom. \$1350. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Spacious. Laundry. Garages. Balconies. Pool. Military accepted. Espanol. 619-857-0365.

MOUNTAIN VIEW. \$1750. 4 bedroom, 2 bath upstairs apartment. Gated complex. Laundry on site. Off-street parking. No pets. 3712 Hemlock Street #1. 619-640-7530. www.sdforrent.com

NATIONAL CITY. \$1100. Spacious 2 bedroom apartment. Laundry hookups, near shopping area and bus stops. Quiet neighborhood. No pets. Nonsmoking. Available 1/1. 858-864-2295.

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. \$775. \$600 deposit. OAC. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs. Parking. Laundry. No pets. 4669 Iowa Street #8. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

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. \$795 rent. \$800 deposit. OAC. 1. 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. \$600 deposit. OAC. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs. Refrigerator, stove. Laundry. Parking. No pets. 4655 33rd Street #6. 619-226-7368, or www.bkbinc.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$825. Deposit \$800. OAC. 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. \$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. \$975. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs unit. Gated complex. Laundry. Available now. 4580 39th Street, #4584. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$980. Remodeled large 2 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs apartment. On-site laundry. Off-street parking. Nice area off Adams. 4652 East Mountain View Drive. 760-744-5626.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 1 bedroom apartment, \$775. All new carpet, paint, vertical blinds! Don't miss it! No pets. 4546 Boundary Street. Agent, 619-820-2584.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. Hacienda-style 1 bedroom apartment, private balcony, washer/dryer, all stainless appliances, granite floors, custom counters, minibar,

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NORMAL HEIGHTS. Senior/disabled building (62+). Quiet, clean. Two 1 bedroom, 1 baths, first floor. Small patio, elevator, laundry room. Street parking. \$765/month. 619-269-3487.



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 now. 4625 Kansas #6. www.stevenleproperties.com. 619-295-1161.

NORTH PARK. \$250 off first month's rent! OAC with lease. \$995. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Wood floors. Street parking. Coin-operated laundry on site. Indoor cat OK. Available now. 4123-1/2 Kansas Street. www.stevenleproperties.com. 619-295-1161.

NORTH PARK. \$495/month includes utilities. Bright, clean room in centrally located Victorian rooming house. No kitchen, share bath/laundry. Small pet OK. 619-987-0001.

NORTH PARK. \$725 rent, \$700 deposit. OAC. 1 bedroom duplex. Parking. No pets, at 3029 or 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 rent, \$800 deposit. OAC. Large upper 1 bedroom, Parking space, laundry. No pets, at 4178 Kansas Street #9. 619-299-8515.

UPSTAIRS. \$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. Charming 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Lower. Stove, refrigerator, laundry. Parking. Near all. Cat OK. 4325 Texas Street #3. 619-804-3325.

NORTH PARK. \$795. Large 1 bedroom upstairs, new carpet, paint, appliances, blinds, wall-to-wall closet. Gated complex. Parking. Laundry. No pets. 4354 Utah Street. 619-994-1672.

NORTH PARK. \$795. Studio. New carpet and paint. On-site laundry. Section 8 welcome. Will be available 1/1/09. 3668 A Louisiana Street. Agent, 858-560-1178.

NORTH PARK. \$825. 1 bedroom. Spacious 2 bedroom, \$1050. Quiet complex. Gated. Parking. Laundry. Easy freeway access. 1 year lease. No pets. 4837-43-1/2 Kansas Street. 619-303-4969.

NORTH PARK. \$850 and up. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath in heart of North Park. All amenities, parking, laundry on site, controlled entry, air conditioning. Walk to all. No pets. 4557 Utah Street, 619-280-7788, and 4016 Ohio Street, 619-280-7788.

NORTH PARK. \$850. 1 bedroom. Very large downstairs. Stove, refrigerator, air conditioned. Coin laundry. Cat OK with additional \$300 deposit. Available 1/1/09. 4152 Utah. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, www.delsolpm.com.

NORTH PARK. \$850. Large studio, water included, washer/dryer in unit, off street

parking. Pets on approval. Tenant pays SDG&E. 619-640-7530. www.sdforrent.com.

NORTH PARK. \$950. 1-bedroom, 1-bath apartment, upper unit, refrigerator, stove, laundry, parking. Small pet OK. 4170 Texas Street #6. www.centrecty.net. 619-296-6699.

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. 1 bedroom apartment. \$1125, utilities paid. Bamboo floors, garage, on-site laundry, 6-unit complex. 619-588-4106, 619-300-1365.

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! \$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. 1/2 off first month! \$1050. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Stove, refrigerator, laundry, parking. Near all. Cat OK. 4185 Texas Street #9. 619-804-3325.

NORTH PARK. 1/2 off first month! \$1495. Large upper 2-bedroom, 1-bath duplex. Garage. Appliances including washer and dryer. Deck. Near all. Pet negotiable. 4005 Kansas Street. 619-804-3325.

NORTH PARK. 1/2 off first month. \$1675. 2 story, 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom. Parking. Wood floors. Granite. Stainless steel. Appliances. Washer and dryer. Patio. Pets negotiable. 3376 Grim Avenue #4. 619-804-3325.

NORTH PARK. 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhome. Dual suite masters, one with large oval tub, dual sinks, walk-in closet. Vaulted ceilings. Upgraded lighting, new paint, new wood flooring in living room and fireplace. 1-car garage walk through to unit. Great neighborhood, close to all. 3520 Herman Avenue #2. \$1695. 619-683-9274.

NORTH PARK. 2-bedroom, 1-bath condo. 1-car detached garage. Available 1/01/09. Section 8 OK. \$1200/month. Dogs/cats OK. For more information, 619-281-7043.

NORTH PARK. La Boheme 2-bedroom, 2-bath luxury condo. \$500 off first month! Custom interior! Balcony. Washer/dryer. Gym/spa. Views. \$1995. 619-248-9103. jerryhands@yahoo.com.

NORTH PARK. Large 1 bedroom, upstairs. Quiet. Newly remodeled. Gated community. Pool, lots of natural light. No pets. \$895/month. 3051 Meade Avenue, #17. Call 858-483-5111 x10. www.melroyproperties.com.

NORTH PARK. Move-in special! 3 bedroom, 2 bath duplex, hardwood floors, parking. No pets. No smoking. Available now. 4234 Wilson Avenue, 92104. \$1390. 619-980-6076.

NORTH PARK. Nonsmoking apartment. 2 bedroom, 2 bath in a garden setting. Underground parking, laundry on site, patio/balcony, new carpet/refrigerator, lots of storage, fireplace. Cat OK. \$1150-\$1200. 619-241-2596.

NORTH PARK/CITY HEIGHTS. \$845. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs corner apartment. 1-car garage. Pets OK. 3848 36th Street. Xilarent.com. 619-683-7638.

OAK PARK. \$1195. 2 bedroom 1.5 bath condo. Laundry hookups! No pets. 5322 Camino Minda. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1275. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. 1/2 block to beach. Downstairs. On-site laundry. Carpets. No pets. 4850 Orchard Avenue, #4. 619-222-6427.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1275. Very clean 1 bedroom cottage, free laundry. Hardwood floors. Nice kitchen. Small pets OK. 4978 Santa Monica. Josh, 619-230-1234, 619-944-1935.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1375. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, deck, on park, garage, parking, coin-laundry. No smoking. Pets?

4678 West Point Loma Boulevard. Available 1/5. 619-221-9047.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1850. Historic 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage. Walk to beach, cliffs. Fireplace, private backyard. Street parking. Pet negotiable. Credit check. 1821 Cable. 619-459-7204.

OCEAN BEACH. \$200 off first month! \$950, \$950 deposit. Parking 1 car. Small patio. Refrigerator. Stove. No pets. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$2275. 3-bedroom, 2-1/2-bath condo with two fireplaces, washer/dryer, two patios, vaulted ceilings, 2 covered parking spaces. All bathrooms and kitchen have been remodeled. Travertine floors and granite. Approximately 1852 square feet. No pets. 3268 Loma Riviera Drive. Call 619-222-4836, x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.



OCEAN BEACH. \$695. Large studio near all. All utilities paid. 2165-1/2 Catalina Boulevard. 619-698-6911. www.goldenmanagement.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$745. Block to beach. Clean, bright upper studio. Berber carpet. Skylight. Gas appliances. Shared deck. Laundry, parking. No pets. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

OCEAN BEACH. \$745. Studio, mile from beach in quiet tropical setting. New carpet/paint. Laundry. Available immediately. 4166-68 Udall St #6. 619-222-9308.

OCEAN BEACH. \$895. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs with laundry on site. Great location. No pets. 4154 Udall Street #2. Call 619-222-4836 x14 or www.sunsetpacificrealty.com.

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LEAD STORY

— When a four-bedroom house inhabited by 50 tenants partially collapsed in October in Honolulu, at least 10 of the residents said they had been pressured to let the property manager give them experimental “stem-cell” injections. Manager Daniel Cunningham, 56 and a delicensed chiropractor, said he has been injecting the substance, phenol, into himself for years to treat gnarled hands (though the hands appeared to a *Honolulu Advertiser* reporter to be deteriorating to the point where Cunningham wears socks over them). One man said Cunningham injected him directly into the eye, and others complained of various side effects. Cunningham ran for mayor of Honolulu this year and in the September primary received 737 votes on a platform of complaining about government’s meddling into health care.

The Continuing Crisis

— Deceitful mating strategies may be rife in the animal kingdom, but Australian researchers recently documented the sexual guile of a group of orchids that basically trick male wasps into pollinating them by resembling the look and smell of female wasps. Writing in *The American*

Naturalist, the authors noted that female wasps reproduce both with and without sperm, with the latter creating male offspring. Consequently, the researchers hypothesized, when orchids commandeer sperm, it indirectly leads to the birth of more future pollinators. (Charles Darwin’s book — after *The Origin of Species* — was titled *The Various Contrivances by Which Orchids Are Fertilized by Insects*.) — According to an October *Winnipeg Sun* report, the remote Manitoba First Nations tribes in Canada have largely moved away from alcohol abuse to the abuse of much more potent “super-juice,” made with a fast-acting yeast that encourages quick brewing. According to a local probation officer, though, underbrewing results in the swill’s continuing to ferment in the stomach after consumption, causing violent pain and progressive inebriation lasting for days.

The Sacred Institution of Marriage

— In September, a Wisconsin appeals court suppressed the surveillance video that allegedly captured David Johnson, 59, having sex with his comatose wife in a Portage nursing home, obviously violating the state law against sex without

consent. Nursing-home caregivers had installed the camera to protect the wife, but the court ruled it an invasion of the privacy of the marital relationship. — In November, the Bombay high court expunged the arranged-marriage records of an Indian couple who had separated immediately after their 1998 honeymoon when the husband complained that he had been unable to consummate because the bride had large boils on her face. She has since been cured of her disorder and did not want future suitors to read of her past.

The New Nature of Work

— (1) Officer Keith Breiner, suspended from the police force in Beaumont, Texas, for crossing the line during an undercover prostitution sting (that is, he had sex), defended himself in an August hearing: “It was a job, sir. I didn’t have pleasure doing it.” It was, he said, “something I did for the city.” (2) In his murder trial in October in Leeds, England, chef Anthony Morley testified that the killing was in self-defense, but he did admit to carving, cooking, and eating part of the body afterward. “At some point [the victim’s] body had just become something

I would deal with at work, a piece of meat... That’s my daily task, preparing meat.”

News That Sounds Like a Joke

— (1) In October, the local government council in Worcester, England, ordered Bill Malcolm to take down the three-foot-high barbed-wire fence he had installed to deter the thieves who had broken into his storage shed three times in the previous four months. According to the *Daily Mail*, the council said it feared the government would be sued by a wounded trespasser. (2) In August, the local government in Dymchurch, England, said a traditional celebration of the inspirational character Dr. Syn would have to be altered because the town had been unable to obtain liability insurance. According to legend, the swashbuckling Dr. Syn braved enemy troops to bring food to starving villagers by horseback, but without liability insurance, the man portraying Dr. Syn would now have to merely walk through the village.

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 or to WeirdNewsTips@Yahoo.com

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$2365. 3 bedroom 2.5 bath condo. Move in 1/10/08. Townhome, split level condo. Attached garage. Deck, fireplace, washer/dryer. No pets. 1348 square feet. 1844 Diamond Street #2. Call Leigh, 858-483-3534.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$895. Studio apartment. Residential parking. No pets. Remodeled. Cutel 4121 Kendall Street. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$1475. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Large. Stove, refrigerator. Dishwasher. Parking. Available 12/10/08. 981 Loring Street. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, NORTH. \$1500-\$1650. **\$1299 moves you in!** 2 bedroom, 2

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1075/month; 1-bedroom. Spacious remodeled apartments. 6-month or 1-year lease. Parking. Pools. Laundry facilities. Cats OK. 3883 Jewell Street. Manager, 858-272-0068. See www.apartments.com/tuscanapartments for photos, floor plans.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1095. 2 bedroom 1 bath over garage. Stove, refrigerator. New carpet, easy freeway access. Ask about small dog with additional deposit. Available 12/10/08. 4554 Bond. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1100. 1 bedroom, 1 bath unit, 630 square feet, parking, laundry on premises, patio, cable ready, security door. Near Crown Point. 858-270-1605; 619-224-8454.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1115. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Downstairs. Remodeled. Stove, refrigerator. Dishwasher. Microwave. Pool. Coin laundry. No pets. Available now. 1433 Oliver Avenue. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1195 with move-in special! Large downstairs condo-quality, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Near bay. Newly remodeled unit with granite counters, limestone tub enclosure, built-in microwave, new paint, new carpet, crown molding, mirrored closet doors, lots of cabinet space, on-site laundry room, assigned parking. No pets. Available now. 2138 Thomas #2. Call 858-483-5111 x10. www.melroyproperties.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$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.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1445. 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.

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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. 1/2 first month! \$1495. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 2-4 blocks from Mission Bay and the beach. Stove. Refrigerator. On-site laundry. 4406-4416 Dawes Street. 619-804-3325.

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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. Huge 2 bedroom, 1 bath: \$1425; and 2 bedroom, 2 bath: \$1500. Move-in special! Laundry, parking. 2024 Reed Avenue. Available now. Agent, 619-260-1368. View at <http://www.sevilemngmt.com>.

PACIFIC BEACH. Just steps to beach! \$1250. Upstairs 1 bedroom. Hardwood floors. Appliances. Parking and just a short walk to all the shopping and restaurants on Garnet Avenue and Mission Boulevard. 736 Emerald Street. Owner, 858-272-9547.

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. James, Prudential Dunn Realtors, 619-807-5478.

PACIFIC BEACH. Magnificent white-water view! 2 bedroom, 2 bath furnished oceanfront condo. On boardwalk. Balcony, pool. All appliances, underground parking. Water/cable included. Available now till 5/30/09 except February/March. \$2700-\$3300. 626-826-9263.

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. No pets. Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.

PACIFIC BEACH. Studio, \$840. Large, quiet. Utilities included. Sundeck. Easy access to I-5. No pets. 2176 Thomas Avenue. 858-270-0929.

PACIFIC BEACH. Walk to the beach! 3 bedroom plus den at \$2430. Only 1 block from the beach! Located in the North Pacific Beach neighborhood with beachfront access only minutes away. Short distance to downtown La Jolla shopping and dining. Our quaint apartment homes include on-site laundry facility, extra storage and a quiet location. Cat friendly. Call our rental office today! 858-272-7464. www.pacificliving.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. Well-maintained 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1150. Clean, quiet, parking, laundry, ceiling fans, pool. No pets. Available now. 619-279-0031.

PACIFIC BEACH/BAY HO. \$1900. Ocean bay view! Spacious 2-bedroom, 2-1/2 bathroom. All appliances, newly renovated. Near beaches downtown. 2-car garage. 760-632-6878.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1050 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Half block to Sail Bay. Laundry. 3813 Riviera Drive. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$1195. Upstairs. Clean, quiet, 1 bedroom. Steps to Mission Bay/Sequoia Street. Upgraded. New carpet, laundry. No pets. Long term. 858-454-1375.

PACIFIC BEACH/LA JOLLA. \$1250: Large 1 bedroom garden cottage. \$1480, large 2 bedroom, private, patio, storage. 851-1/2. 853 Agate. Quiet, parking, no pets. 858-459-1352.

PACIFIC BEACH/NORTH. \$1125. 1 bedroom, large, upstairs. Stove, refrigerator, gas fireplace. Balcony, coin laundry. Parking. 3 blocks to ocean. Available 12/24/08. 1032 Beryl 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH/NORTH. \$1545. 2 bedroom 1 bath, large, downstairs. Stove, refrigerator, garage space, coin laundry. 1 block to ocean. No pets. Available 1/14/09. 830 Sapphire. 858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH/NORTH. \$3600. 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath large townhome. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, washer/dryer. Garage with opener. Balcony, patio. Lawn area. 1 block to ocean. Available 1/15/09. 856 Felspar Street.

858-270-2071. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH/CROWN POINT. \$725. Studio unit in small complex. Walk to bay. Easy freeway access. 1926 Fortuna Avenue. TPPM, 858-699-3851.

PACIFIC BEACH/SAIL BAY. \$1645. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, steps to Sail Bay. New carpet and flooring. Garage. Laundry facility. Bike storage. No pets. Available 12/15/08. 858-220-4599. esqsas@aol.com.

PACIFIC BEACH: Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath, The Plaza. \$1150. Quiet, resort style. On the pool, tennis, gym, garage parking, dishwasher, microwave, laundry, 24-hour security. No pets. Available now. 619-279-0031.

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POINT LOMA. \$1150 rent, \$800 deposit. OAC. Large 2-bedroom, 1-bath, one-car garage, laundry. No pets. at 2833 Shelter Island Drive, 619-299-8515.

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POINT LOMA. \$1095 rent, \$800 deposit. OAC. Large 2-bedroom, 2-bath. Laundry. No pets. At 4359 Mentone Street #8. 619-299-8515.

POINT LOMA. \$1350. 2 bedroom 2 bath condo. No pets, 800 square feet! 3140 Midway Drive #A214. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

POINT LOMA. \$1500. 2-bedroom townhouse with huge patio area. Complex has pool and tennis. Cat OK. Westbourne Realtors. 858-488-4800.

POINT LOMA. \$199 first month's rent! Large 1 bedroom. Parking, laundry. No pets. \$1050/month. Also, 1 bedroom, \$925/month. Available now. 619-523-3969.

POINT LOMA. \$2095. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Over 1500 square feet. Sundeck. New carpet. Washer/dryer. Central heat. Pool. 2771 Nimitz Boulevard. Pet friendly. 619-297-0269.

POINT LOMA. \$975. Large 1-bedroom garden condo; gated community and parking. Appliance, pool, tennis, volleyball. Pet negotiable. Move now! 3050 Rue D'Orleans. 619-423-3023.

POINT LOMA. \$995. \$995 deposit. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Refrigerator, stove. Close to all. Great location. Upstairs. No pets. 1458 Rosecrans Street. 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

POINT LOMA. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. \$1100/month. Parking. Close to all. No pets. Open daily 9am-4pm, applications inside. 1537 Rosecrans Street #H. 619-224-0306.

POINT LOMA. Special \$1550, December 2008 rate. Then one-year lease starts January 2009 at \$1575/monthly. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhouse, spacious 1194 square feet. Immaculate, sunny unit with new carpet, paint, appliances, fixtures, and imported ceramic tile in bathrooms with marble countertops, walk-in closets, private patio, 3 laundry facilities, pool, saunas, recreation room, hilltop views. Sorry, no pets. 619-226-8158.

POINT LOMA. Studio and 1-bedroom, 1-bath apartments available, starting at \$950! Close to ocean. Off-street parking. Spa area, on-site laundry. Cats/dogs 20 lbs OK. Water and trash included. *Limited offer, on approved credit, see manager for details. 2449 Soto Street, Apartment #102, San Diego, 92107. 619-224-1973. Or visit us on our website at www.sdrenting.com.

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BACK WHEN *in the Reader*

Thirty Years Ago

Real estate has been very high for the past 28 months, but if you had bought on the coastline early this year, you would have an irreplaceable resource. Also, getting into an apartment for condo conversion early this year would have been a good deal for three reasons: lower interest rates, the county's new guidelines for apartment conversions, and no rent control.

— **"BEST DEALS DURING INFLATION,"**
Denise Carabet, December 21, 1978

Twenty-Five Years Ago

"Ventura Place has the vitality of Venice Beach but it's all compressed into one street," says airbrush artist Paul Vauchet, who now works as business director for Hamel's Cyclery and Surf Shop and who's lived in the area for nine years. "It's not unusual here to see a kid on a bicycle leap over the hood of a taxi. It happened just the other day," he says.

— **"A SHORT STREET WITH A LONG LIFE,"**
Sue Garson, December 22, 1983

Twenty Years Ago

Bill Richardson, whose name was synonymous with Landmark Theatres in San Diego for the past decade, isn't impaling his bosses on a sword of nasty words. Instead, he says his boss "had every right" to fire him from his job overseeing the Ken, Guild, Cove, and Park theaters because he didn't keep up with the paperwork that was part of his job. In fact, he says he will one day apologize to his immediate supervisor for having been an embarrassment to him.

— **"CITY LIGHTS: 'FILM FREAK CANNED,'"**
Jackie McGrath, December 22, 1988

Fifteen Years Ago

And for the first time as a member in good standing — from out of the shadows! — now that my dear wife Cora has gone to her, ahem, reward: my longtime mistress Actress Irene Forrester. (Had to sneak her in — as "maid" — until this year.)

Not present: grandson Upto,

whose dad last month shot my least favorite daughter, Eff, along with siblings Wug, Seabase, Buzzbo and Floonce. Upto, off at med school (the Univ. of Oslo), is to be excused for "avoiding family" this yuletide, but he did send his best: "Have one on me."

— **"MELTZER FAMILY CHRISTMAS BEER BUST,"** Richard Meltzer,
December 23, 1993

Ten Years Ago

It has happened to all of us that at some point in a particular friendship we feel that our friend has betrayed us. "Oh," we might say, "she and I have quarreled several times about politics." From the moment that we learn of the betrayal, however, all that was harmonious between us turns discordant and ugly.

I don't doubt that Naipaul said and did most of what Theroux writes that he said and did. I don't doubt the accuracy of Theroux's

recounting of Naipaul's cutting remarks or chilly assessments of fellow writers. I don't doubt that Naipaul has made remarks easily interpreted as racist or sexist, or that he's shown himself on occasion as penny-pinching, hypochondriacal, self-serving, and cruel to his first wife. Yet I can't help but believe that the Naipaul whom we meet in *Sir Vidia's Shadow* is not what Theroux has written but what Theroux didn't write.

— **READING: "SIR VIDIA'S SHADOW,"**
Judith Moore, December 23, 1998

Five Years Ago

Since October 11, 2003, union employees of Albertsons, Ralphs, and Vons have been on strike. Approximately 70,000 people are out in front of the grocery stores with picket signs in their hands. My dad is the manager of a grocery store in the South Bay and I, along with other members of my family, have been working at the store during the labor



San Diego Reader, December 21, 1978

dispute.

One night, after my dad had left the store, the picketers began shouting at me through the doors as I was bagging groceries. A group of about ten people began calling me a "scab" and taunting me, "Oh, are you going to tell your daddy?"

— **"STINK BOMB,"** Anonymous,
December 18, 2003

For more stories by these authors, go to sdreader.com.

laundry. No pets. Available 12/10. 3191 Kemper. 760-505-7736. www.lomascenic.com.

POINT LOMA. Studios, \$1095. Newly remodeled studios with fantastic up-

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POWAY. \$1200. Nice 2 bedroom. \$300 off first rent! Dishwasher, patio or balcony, parking, laundry. Beautiful courtyard. No pets. 12500 Oak Knoll. Agent, 858-679-1789.

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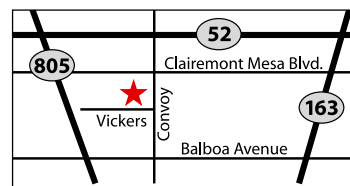
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RAMONA. 1/2 off first month's rent! \$875/month. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Close to shops. On-site laundry. Pool. Off-street parking. Habla Espanol! 619-469-5010. 1606 Montecito Road. Agent, 619-469-5010.

RANCHO BERNARDO. \$1585. Large bright 2 bedroom upstairs end unit, dual masters, balcony, ample storage, washer/dryer. Racquetball, pool, spa, tennis, sauna, gym. 858-509-0117, 858-361-9117.

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RANCHO SAN DIEGO. 1 bedrooms, brand new resort-style community! \$1125. Granite, tile, washer/dryer in unit, parking, pool, tennis, gym. Pets OK. 619-279-0031.

ROSARITO. Two 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, \$775/\$900. Gorgeous ocean views! Washer/dryer. Vantage phone, DSL and Direct TV service available. 619-819-9451, 011.52.661.613.2090, tomjanward@gmail.com.

SAN CARLOS. \$985. Available now! 1 bed 1 bath. Ground floor unit. Parking, laundry, carport. No pets. 6930 Hyde Park Drive #120. Call 858-483-3534 x12, www.cal-prop.com.

SAN CARLOS. Super special! 2 and 3 bedroom townhouses. \$1395 and up. Stove, dishwasher, garage, large patio, pools, laundry facilities. Lakewood Villa Townhomes, 8492 San Carlos Drive, San Diego. 619-469-3585; 619-944-0671.

SAN DIEGO. \$1150. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo with granite counters. Stainless steel appliances, laundry in unit, parking, pool. One-year lease desired. Call Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.

SAN MARCOS. \$1075. Holiday Special! \$500 off 1st month's rent! Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. New throughout, view, large balcony, carport, private storage. Gated, small complex. No pets. Call for appointment for showing, 760-599-0989.

SANTEE. \$1150. 2 bedroom 1 bath condo. Small pet negotiable! 903 square feet. 8841 Mission Greens Road #2. Call 858-583-0182. www.cal-prop.com.

SANTEE. \$1650. 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath townhome, 1/2 off first month's rent. Home has air conditioning. Wood floor. Washer/dryer. Granite counters and pool. 858-598-1111 x128. utopiamanagement.com.

SANTEE. \$825. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. On-site laundry, air conditioning, dishwasher, garbage disposal, assigned parking. Available now. OAC move-in special: \$200 off first month's rent! 10267 Mast Boulevard. On-site manager. 619-448-8808.

SANTEE. \$995. Large 2-bedroom garden apartment. Appliances, air conditioning. Off-street parking. Laundry on site. Water/trash free. 8832 Olive Lane. 619-562-8331 or 619-423-3023.

SCRIPPS RANCH. \$1600. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo at luxurious Monarch Scripps Ranch. Fireplace, washer/dryer, garage, Gated. 10832 Scripps Ranch Boulevard. www.centrecity.net. 619-296-6699.

SCRIPPS RANCH. \$1895. \$250 off first month's rent if rented by 12/31! 3-bed-

room, 2-1/2-bath townhouse condo. 2-car garage, tree-lined wood deck and patio, washer/dryer, secure gated entry, nice community with pool and rec room. 10635 Caminito Banyon, 92131. Cogan Properties, 619-283-2144.

SOUTH PARK. \$700/\$800. 2 studios available. The smaller one is tiled throughout. The larger has wood floors. Both units are generous in size. A must see! Available now! 3007 30th and 3011 30th Street. www.stevenleeproperties.com, 619-295-1161.

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SOUTHEAST SAN DIEGO. Spacious 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. New tile throughout, all appliances, off-street parking, on-site laundry, gated. \$1600/month, \$1000/security. No pets. Linda. 619-203-9233.

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TALMADGE. SDSU. \$795. Studio condo. All stainless steel appliances. Granite countertops. Full kitchen and bath. Parking. 6101 Adelaide Avenue. Xlarent.com. 619-683-7638.

TALMADGE/KENSINGTON. 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage style home at \$1090. Adjacent amenities. Outdoor billboard lounge. Pool. Spa. Fitness center. Business center. 4454 54th Street. 619-282-1191.

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TIERRASANTA. \$895. 1 bedroom, 1 bath upper apartment, newly remodeled, recreation room with activities, elevator, on-site laundry. Gated. Shopping close. 62+ living. 4906 La Cuenta Drive. Linda, 858-278-4910. www.centrecity.net.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$1025. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Small, cozy complex. Laundry on-site. Parking. No pets. 4460 Cleveland Avenue. Agent, 619-298-7724.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$500 off first month! \$1195. Extra large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Large kitchen. Crown molding. Stove, refrigerator. On-site laundry. Small pet negotiable. 4664-1/2 Hamilton Street. 619-804-3325.

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GARAGE SALES

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COLLEGE AREA/ROLANDO. Saturday, December 20. 7am-noon. Framed posters, old tools, appliances, furniture. Men's clothes, books, gifts. 6741 Rosefield Drive.

LA MESA. Multi-family garage sale. Everything from A-Z must go (Rain, no sale). Saturday and Sunday, 7am-?, 7050 Hybeth Drive. La Mesa.

PACIFIC BEACH NORTH. Snowboard sample sale, top name brand, current/prior year product. Boards, boots, binding, outerwear. Saturday 12/20, 10am-2pm. Awesome pricing! 1119 Turquoise.

RANCHO BERNARDO. Everything in the garage must go. Arcade stuff, vending machines and supplies, clothes. New small toys, great for stockings. Saturday, 12/20, from 6:30am-11:00am. 18634 Wessex Street.

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SHEEP AND GOATS
PLACES OF WORSHIP REVIEWED

Denomination: United Church of Christ
Address: 404 8th Street, Ramona, 760-789-3348
Founded locally: 1898
Senior pastor: Tom Bentz
Congregation size: 500
Staff size: 7
Sunday school enrollment: 50
Weekly giving: n/a
Annual budget: n/a
Singles program: no
Dress: semiformal to formal
Diversity: mostly Caucasian
Sunday worship: 9 a.m., 10:15 a.m.
Length of reviewed service: 1 hour
Website: fccramona.org

Ramona held its annual Christmas-tree lighting on the evening of December 13. At nine the next morning, the bell in the brown wood steeple above the First Congregational Church clanged out a summons to the congregation's annual Christmas cantata.
"A cantata is a combination of songs on a theme," said music director Sue Trukken. "It tells a story; all the songs have to relate. I chose this one — 'Glorious Joy' — for this year because it's not as involved as some of the ones we've done in the past, and I thought we

were going to have a smaller choir. Last year, our choir was really small because of the fires. But then, this year, we had all these people come in — people from the Catholic Church, people from the community. It makes this kind of simple cantata sound really full. It's a joy to sing with all these people."
Inside, all was wood-work and uniformly brown — from the slats on the ceiling to the beams that supported them to the rough Gothic window casings to the walls and wainscoting. Only the bright Good Shepherd stained glass in the nave provided permanent color — but the temporary sort was in full flower: a raft of scarlet poinsettias set above and below the purple-draped altar, and more surrounding the gold-and-white Christmas tree beside the pulpit. A winged cherub looked down from the rafters, garlands weighted with ornaments hung down below his feet.
The choir filled four risers in the sanctuary — red

ties, white shirts, black pants; more women than men; more old than young; but varied. After the opening prayer, they stood and led the congregation in the rousing (and somewhat martial) anthem "Joy to the World": Joy to the world, the Lord is come...Joy to the world, the Savior reigns...He rules the world with truth and grace..."
Following the call to worship, Pastor Bentz smilingly led a versified Lighting of the Advent Candle of Joy — the pink one on the Advent Wreath. "Like a shepherd still on the hill in Judea/ we thrill to an angel cantata on a hill in Ramona/ Delight in the delivery of God's own boy/ And light the glad candle of joy." Two women took up the verse and did the actual lighting: "The prophet foretold it, but the angel was the first to announce the birth/ As the earth lit up, the glory shone 'round and the mirth/ Burst for as the angel said, 'I bring you glad tidings of great joy that will come to all people: born to you, this day in this

town, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'"
A solo at the offertory, then prayer in unison for the dedication, and the cantata was ready to begin. Trukken hit the play button on her remote, and the orchestra came in over the speakers, replete with flourishes from synth and electric guitar.
This swirling of tradition and (relative) novelty carried through the whole of the performance. In the cantata's penultimate chapter, built around the scripture telling how the shepherds "spread the word concerning what had been told them," the modern, swinging "Good News" got mashed up with a new verse for "Joy to the World": "Go tell the world the glorious word/ That Christ the Lord is here..."
But the singing itself echoed with tradition: the gentle harmonies, the trade-offs between male and female voices, the sopranos reaching up high full-bore on the big finishes ("...the new — born — KING!"). So did the

First Congregational Church Ramona
★ ★ 1/2
Sermon content n/a
delivery n/a
Liturgy ★ ★
Music congregational ★ ★ 1/2
band ★ ★ ★
Snacks ★ 1/2
Architecture ★ ★ ★
Friendliness ★ ★ 1/2
Poor to satisfactory (none)
Good ★
Very good ★ ★
Excellent ★ ★ ★
Extraordinary ★ ★ ★ ★

assemble."
Finally, worship and pleading at the feet of the infant King. "Come, O come Emmanuel," implored the narrator. "To our disenchanted world, be our wonderful Counselor. To our weak and powerless lives, be our mighty God. To our fractured families, be our everlasting Father. To our strained and shattered relationships, be our Prince of Peace. O come Emmanuel, from Your glory into our world, from Your eternity into our lives, from Your throne into our hearts."
"Jesus in dust and hay I kneel/ Stable in deepest peace/ My only hope Your righteousness, Mercy my only plea."
What happens when we die?
"There is a life for us in Christ," said Bentz, "in heaven — with God and angels. We especially celebrate that at Christmas."
— Matthew Lickona
Videos of this church and others featured in this column are available at sandiegoreader.com.

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TV, 52-INCH SUPER WIDE, Flat screen Magnavox. Paid \$2800, 4 years ago. In fantastic condition, must sell, \$400/best, 760-809-8642.
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A NATION DOESN'T LEAP OFF OF A CLIFF AND FALL INTO CHAOS; it slides over the course of months. In 2001, Argentinean started that slide.

By 2002, the price of food had rocketed 200 times higher, unemployment forced angry young men to embrace thievery, cops took bribes to feed their families, universities emptied, and regular people — people with jobs and spouses — carried handguns to get water and gas.

The Argentineans can point to a day when the slide started; they call it “1:1 Day.” It’s the day their government linked the Argentinean peso to the American dollar — one peso for one dollar. It was a bad decision in a long line of bad financial decisions, and it marked the beginning of the drift into anarchy.

A popular metaphor for easing into unfamiliar surroundings involves a frog and boiling water. I’ve never done it, but I’ve heard that if you set a frog in a pot on a range and slowly turn the heat up, the frog won’t hop out, even to the point of boiling. The frog simply acclimates itself. This is what happened in Argentina. Motorcycle gangs with tacky mohawks and sawed-off shotguns didn’t begin terrorizing the cities on “1:1 Day,” but a year later, architects, professors, mechanics, doctors, and carpenters thought nothing of tucking a 9mm pistol into their pocket before walking to a local black market to buy razors and medicine. They acclimated.

Today, Fox News, *Meet the Press*, *Late Edition* on CNN, and every news hour in every city reported that the Senate and House approved a \$14 billion bailout for the American auto industry. This is months after legislation provided 700 billion dollars to rich men who ran Ponzi schemes and got caught with their fingers in their bellybuttons — a bad decision in a long line of bad decisions, starting with the day we invaded Iraq for no good goddamn reason.

While I’m sitting here watching coverage of the financial crisis, waiting for a sign that tells me this is our “1:1 Day,” I received a text from a friend: “Fight on my street last night. Shots fired at 2 a.m. Police here.”

There’s a pawnshop on El Cajon Boulevard that sells 9mm pistols for \$350. I’m not sure if our “1:1 Day” came or not, or if it will come. In any scenario, I’ve got a few months. I better start acclimating.

WHAT I WILL AND WON'T WATCH THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

WALKER, TEXAS RANGER

USA 9:00 A.M.

Marketing of toilet paper is less than useless. Toilet paper shouldn’t be rated in the “soft,” “softer,” “softest” manner. I don’t cuddle a roll to help me sleep. It should be rated according to texture; obviously, the least-expensive brands should be rated as “Chuck Norris’s beard.”

GREY’S ANATOMY

ABC 9:00 P.M.

I’ve never seen the show, but I’m familiar with the nicknames “Dr. McSteamy” and so forth. I’m telling you right now, nobody who looks like Patrick Dempsey works at the Hillcrest ER. There was, however, one “Dr.

McMorbidityobese,” a “Dr. McMid-dleagedlesbian,” and a “nurse McButterface.”

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

SUPERNANNY

ABC 9:00 P.M.

As has been discussed here before, I don’t play an instrument, but I’m very good at choosing band names. My latest theoretical band name is “Supernanny and the Bingo Wings.”

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

ANIMAL EXPLORATION WITH JAROD MILLER

KUSI 12:30 P.M.

A friend recently told me that the only way to release a pitbull’s jaw from clamping down on something (say, another dog or your ankle) was to jam your thumb up its butt. I’m not going to write a joke down for that

MATTRESS \$150. Orthopedic mattress, plush, queen, new with warranty. Must sell. Can deliver. Twin, full and king also available. 619-929-5244. 4810 Mercury Street, 92111. www.realdealfurniture.com.

MATTRESS BOX PILLOWTOP SET. New in plastic with warranty. Queen \$169. King \$239. Credit cards accepted. Can deliver. Call 800-464-6420. North County, 800-464-6490.

MATTRESS. Twin size, Simmons. Excellent condition. \$89. 858-689-8410.

MATTRESS. With box spring. \$120. Like new, full size. White metal frame, headboard, single. \$15. 858-672-1566.

MATTRESSES. Save 40% or more! Mattress World in Hillcrest sells new beds at warehouse pricing lower than regular stores. Student specials. Legitimate warranties. Fast delivery or pickup. Name brands. Member of the Better Business Bureau. Authorized Sealy, Simmons, Spring Air, Aireloom dealer. Also Latex, chemical-free and Swedish style Visco-Memory! Mattress World, 1601 University Avenue, 2 blocks west of Park Boulevard in Hillcrest. www.sandiegobeds.com or email to: info@davisworld.com. Call: 619-260-8000.

PATIO SET, tall, 2 director-style chairs. Table, white/glass 36" round top, 40" tall. Chairs, white/dark green plastic webbing, \$50. 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", \$25. 858-277-7197.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.

BEDS A PILLOWTOP MATTRESS Box Set. New in plastic with warranty. Queen \$169. King \$239. Credit cards accepted. Can deliver. 800-464-6420. North County, 800-464-6490.

BOHEMIAN ESSENTIALS At Hippysville.com. Natural incense, imported oils, eco-friendly hemp. Fast service. Inventory updated daily! 10% discount code: SDR (expires 12/31). 800-428-0473.

BOOK. Mint condition. Country Christmas music with 15 track CD inside! First edition! \$125/best. 619-449-1104.

CARGO/LUGGAGE TOTE (straps to top of car). Made of black weather-proof canvas. New, never used. \$35. 619-339-7318.

CHILD CAR RESTRAINT SEAT. Excellent condition, \$25. 858-277-7197.

CHRISTMAS ITEMS. Christmas wrap, 20 rolls, \$5/all. Tree stand, \$5. Christmas lights, large bag, \$15/all. Christmas wreaths, \$4/each. Escondido, 760-685-8291.

COMFORTER. Queen size, 4 piece ensemble. Unused, soft earth tones, \$50. 619-466-1887.

DOUBLE BURIAL PLOTS. 8 or 4. Greenwood Memorial Park. \$7750 for 2. Lets talk-moving must sell. 619-466-6537 or 619-794-7536. Mornings or weekends.

ELECTRIC CHAIR. Zero gravity, model # PC-P3B-RF. Maple face, black leather, like new, \$1095. 619-656-8491.

FOOSBALL/SOCCER TABLE. Harvard, 35" h x 36" w x 56" l. Well constructed, very nice condition. Dark wood, 3 man goalie. \$135. El Cajon, may deliver. 619-456-2575.

FREE TABLE/WORK BENCH. 6' l x 3' t x 26" w. Also used to pot plants. 619-469-7888.

FRYING PANS, 2. Cast iron. #5 Griswold-8". #6 Griswold-9". Both \$35. 760-845-3024.

GLASS WINDOWS, 2. 30" w X 65-1/2" h. Free. You haul. 619-296-7185.

HORSE AND PONY/MINI TACK. Sheet, blanket, bridles, halter, headstall, lead rope, bits, more. All for \$80 or sold separately. Oceanside, 760-231-8446.

INK CARTRIDGES. Epson. To 781-. TO 782-. TO 783-. TO 784-. TO 785-. TO 786. \$35. 619-445-5898.

JARS. 2 beautiful jars from Oaxaca Mexico. Rare. 3'h, carved. 760-815-2140.

KNIFE COLLECTION. Old Kershaws, Schrade IXL's, Marbles. 619-260-8482.

LAWN MOWER. Rear bag, \$25. 858-277-7197.

LAWN MOWERS. Reel type. I no longer need. Tri-Cut front throw, the best! \$225. Cooper Klipper rear throw, older, high quality, \$125. 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.

MATTRESS SET. California king, Simmons pillow top, air pedic, sleep adjustable, firmness system, electric pump, \$200. Different size metal bed frames, \$50. Penasquitos. 858-484-3548.

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. Air purifier, black 880, \$25. Metal toilet, \$25. Glass shower door, \$25. Metal bed frame, California king, \$50. Metal screen security door, \$25. 858-484-3548.

MISCELLANEOUS. Car cover, \$25. Sony speakers, \$10. Luggage, Samsonite, \$8. Spare tire, lugs, \$20. Trash cans, \$10. TV remote, \$5. Telephone extension cord, \$3. 619-583-3751.

ORIGINAL SKETCHES. By John Wayne. 4 depictions—signed. \$150/best. 619-449-1104.

PAINTING. Original. Girl painting a picture. "La Jolla Cove." \$500/best. 619-449-1104.

PATIO TABLE, concrete, seats 6, high grade, your choice of tile installed, all weather, \$300. Credit cards accepted. 760-250-7055.

PILATES DVD. New, 20 minute workout, step by step guide, \$8. 858-277-8544.

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.

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.

SNOW SKIS. Salomon with matching binding F-9. Comes with bag and 2 sets of poles. They are straight shovel to tail. Make offer. 619-518-5456.

SPA/HOT TUB. Deluxe 2008 model. Neck jets, therapy seat. Never used! Warranty. Can deliver. Worth \$5950, sell for \$1950. 858-530-0980.

STAR WARS BOOK. 1999 first edition. New Jedi order. \$150. 619-449-1104.

SURFBOARD. 7'6" Gun 18.5" wide tri-fin gun has graphics. In perfect shape, no dings, huge rocker, get ready for winter. \$325. 619-518-5456.

TOOLS. Freud plate jointer, \$65. Rockwell door plane, \$200. Porter-cable belt sander, \$50. 760-960-6950.

VARIOUS ITEMS. Vacuum, bag-less, \$15. 2 bathroom medicine cabinets, metal, with mirror, \$10/both. Inside door, white, with knob, \$10. Cloth hanger, movable, \$10. Escondido, 760-685-8291.

WATERCOLOR. Breathtaking. By Myra Sides Copus. Signed, numbered, framed. \$400/best. 619-449-1104.

WEDDING DRESS, hat, shoes, size 8, \$50 for all. 858-277-7197.

WEDDING GOWN. Size 5, value \$1200, asking \$300/best. 619-466-1887.

WORMS. Redworms, nature's fertilizer, 1 bucket, \$40. Guaranteed 1000+ worms. Lisa, 619-449-7875.

MOTORCYCLES

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.

HONDA 450 TRX, 2007 quad limited edition. Anodized red frame and black plastic with flames. All stock, original owner, 3 trips to desert. \$5500. 619-518-5456.

HONDA CB-750, 1980, one cylinder damaged, willing to part out or sell for \$435. Salvage title. Ask for Douglas, 619-232-2020.

KAWASAKI NINJA, 650r, 2007. Red and gray, stock. 7200 miles. \$3800, 858-245-0274.

MOTORCYCLE REPAIR. Independent mechanic. Street/dirt/ATV. Tune up, maintenance, repair, accessory installation. Reasonable rates. Pick up available. 619-820-2529.

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!

VESPA ET2, 2003. 50cc. Red, 3065 miles. Drives great, always serviced. Has a few scratches. 70mpg. Comes with crash bars/rear rack. \$3000/best, 619-479-9888.

AUTOMOTIVE CARS

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.

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.

Money in Minutes

Auto loans secured by vehicle and title. Autos, trucks, cycles, ATVs, boats and RVs welcome. Fast/friendly service. Deerhorn Motors, 619-464-2131. www.autopledgeloans.com.

BMW 323i. 1999 convertible. White with a black top. Leather interior. 147,000

AUTOMOTIVE

Smog Check \$14⁹⁵ Most cars.

Plus \$8.25 certificate and \$1.95 transfer fee. 1995 and older \$10 additional for evap test. Vans and trucks extra.

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\$39⁹⁵ 4-cyl. + tax Most cars.

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“Check Engine” Light Diagnostic \$34⁹⁵

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- Oil change up to 5 qts. 10w/30
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- Check tire pressure • Check & fill power steering • Check & fill brake master cylinder • Check & fill washer fluids • Lube chassis (if needed) • Inspect belts & hoses
- Inspect cooling system • Inspect for fluid leaks
- Inspect tires for wear

*Offers valid for most cars. Vans, trucks & SUVs extra. With ad. Expires 12/25/08.

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one. I'll just let that bit of information sit with you for a minute and allow the questions to roll around in your head. Yes, you read correctly. Pitbull. Your thumb. Its butt.

WWE TRIBUTE TO THE TROOPS
NBC 9:00 P.M.

With all of these tributes to the troops, do you think they ever have that “gee, thanks” reaction that you have when someone buys you something impractical and mostly unwanted. As if you just received a sculpture of Dick Cheney in tofu. “Wow, we’re being shot at in the desert and you flew in 30 gigantic oily men who want to wrap their hairless legs around each other’s heads. Sweet. You know what we really like? Candy bars and dirty magazines. But, no, this is cool too, I guess.”

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21
WILL YOU KILL FOR ME: CHARLES MANSON AND HIS FOLLOWERS
MSNBC 8:00 P.M.

It’s a shame that previous cult leaders have only been interested in killing. I think they missed out on quite an opportunity. I mean, here is this group of people that will do anything for you, and you chose “kill” instead of the more comical options of “Feed each other grapes using only your toes” or “Come here, smell this. Get down in there and smell it! HA HA HA! Smell that! Woo!”

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22
SHREK THE HALLS
ABC 8:00 P.M.
Shrek this, you Shrekin’ Shreks. Sick of this Shrek. Try to foist this Shrek on us constantly... It’s not funny, it’s

not entertaining; in fact, it’s just pandering, trendy Shrek. Shrekin’ Shrek. Shrek you.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23
DR. SEUSS’S HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS
ABC 8:00 P.M.

Look alive, people! This is not a drill! This does not involve Jim Carrey or bad writing from that ginger kid on *Happy Days*. This is the genuine article! Yes, it will be as good as you remember. Let’s go! Move! Move! Move! Not a drill! There are tiny Whos involved here! This is going to be wonderful!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24
COX PRESENTS THE NUTCRACKER BALLET
CA4SD 8:30 P.M.



Will You Kill for Me: Charles Manson and His Followers

Followed by...
YULE LOG
CA4SD 10:00 P.M.
Oh, come on. “Cox,” “nutcracker,” “yule log,” all on the same night. Now you’re just doing this on purpose.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25
No jokes for this one, folks. Good night. Be well. Do good work. Your friend, Ollie.

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

miles. Great car, moving and must sell. \$6000. 858-380-9922.

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.

CHEVY CELEBRITY. 1984. Runs great, low mileage, everything works. \$1000 or best offer. 985-774-3241.

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.

FORD FOCUS SE. 2000. 78,000 miles. Well maintained. New tires, runs smoothly. 4-cylinder, cold air conditioning. Power windows. Automatic. \$4900/ moving, open to negotiate, 619-471-5683.

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

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.

com/photos/28183771@N08/. 619-890-9600.

VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE. 1968, electric blue, black interior, four cylinder, alarmed, well maintained. \$5,000/best. 619-262-1004.

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, 2003. V6, GLS. Red, gray leather interior. Sunroof. Wood trim. V6, automatic tiptronic transmission. CD/cassette. New rear brakes/rotors. \$9000, 619-549-5277.

\$500! POLICE IMPOUNDS. Cars, trucks, SUVs from \$500! Hondas, Chevys, Jeeps, Toyotas, Nissans and more! For listings and information, call 800-495-0660, xC664.

AUTOMOTIVE TRUCKS / VANS / SUVs

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, TV's, towing package. A Plus Rentals, 760-633-3552.

CHEVY SILVERADO, 2001, \$1000 down drives you away. Buy here, pay here. A Plus Rentals, 760-633-3552.

FORD EXPEDITION, 2001, Eddie Bauer Edition, 4-door, automatic, air condition-

ing, power steering, windows lock, stereo cassette, video player, new tires, perfect condition. 858-453-9170.

FORD EXPLORER XLT, 2003. Mint condition. Automatic. Power everything. CD. Split cargo door. Candy apple red. One owner, only 51,200 miles. \$8000/make offer, 760-471-5369.

FORD RANGER, 2000, \$1000 down drives you away. Buy here, pay here. A Plus Rentals, 760-633-3552.

FORD RANGER, 2001, \$1000 down drives you away. Buy here, pay here. A Plus Rentals, 760-633-3552.

HONDA ELEMENT EX, 2007. Meticulously maintained. Moving out of country, must sell. Automatic. MP3/Ipod. Air conditioning. Attachable tent for camping. Owner nonsmoker. \$17,500, 760-505-0159.

HUMMER H2, 2003. \$25,000, fully loaded, towing package, super clean. A Plus Rentals, 760-633-3552.

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.

JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT, 1993. New quality tires, alloy wheels, radiator, water pump. CD changer. 162,000 mostly freeway miles. Original owner. Just serviced. \$2600. 619-293-3286.

NISSAN FRONTIER, 1998, \$1000 down drives you away. Buy here, pay here. A Plus Rentals, 760-633-3552.

PICKUP, CHEVY SCOTTSDALE. 1978, 1-ton, good condition, \$1000/best offer. 858-483-6723.

TOYOTA 4RUNNER. 2000. Automatic, 4 cylinder, all power. Stereo, alloy rims, good tires. Keyless entry, 121,000 miles, runs great. Good condition, salvage title, \$5000/best. 602-810-6915 or 619-281-6238.

AUTOMOTIVE CLASSIC / CUSTOM CARS

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.

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.

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RV Sites

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 Kampground and RV Park. 760-742-2905.

AUTOMOTIVE PARTS

PLACE ADS IN THE READER by calling 619-235-8200, 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Deadline: 5pm Tuesday.

CHROME WHEELS/RIMS, 4. 15", for Lexus ES300/Toyota Avalon, \$60. Escondido, William, 760-740-0231.

AUTOMOTIVE

Power Window Repair **\$99⁹⁵***

*Most cars. With this ad.

Windshield Repair starting at **\$139***

- New windshields
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Parts & labor. Includes torque converter. Labor **\$350**

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Transmissions with overdrive

Labor **\$750** Computer-controlled (FWD or RWD) Labor to rebuild and install. Parts additional. Call our service manager for quote.



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Or free with repairs. Most cars. With this ad.



From **\$78⁹⁵**

parts & labor.

Replace pads or shoes, inspect rotors, repack wheel bearings. Semi-metallic or premium pads not included. Turn rotors extra if needed. Most cars & light trucks. With this ad.

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Includes pan gasket, filter, fluid & road test.

\$85

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Value Transmission

Under new ownership.

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Drunk Driving Attorney

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