Hi. I used to live here. Can I come in?

Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar, Freud pointed out. He would never have said the same thing about a house. Certainly Carl Jung would not.

In my case, as I approach my former address at the edge of Mission Hills, right where that neighborhood turns into Hillcrest,

Story continued on page 24
January 29, 2009

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City Attorney Goldsmith...toady to toady — see page 6

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The Wiki Reader

“A wiki is a page or collection of Web pages designed to enable anyone who accesses it to contribute or modify content.” – Wikipedia

In the past 12 months the Reader has added features to encourage its readers to contribute or modify content:

**Typo Patrol** – Sharp readers catch the Reader staff’s typographical errors and make $10 per error identified. We publish the results weekly. Over $6000 was paid out to Typo Patrol sharpies in 2008. See this week’s results, page 136.

**My Neighborhood** – Started out as an occasional contest, it is now a monthly competition to foster heartfelt writing about where we live. First place earns $500, second $250, third $100. Essays end up on website neighborhood pages and the winners are published in the paper Reader. Over $7000 was paid in 2008. Submit your story at SDReader.com.

**Movie User Reviews** – The Reader’s movie reviewer, Duncan Shepherd, has been the most reviled man in San Diego. Now the public joins him every week on the website – commenting on current reviews and the 7000 movie capsule reviews. The best three are awarded prizes and printed in the Reader. Submit your comments at SDReader.com.

**Pop Quiz** – Readers of the Reader are tested on each week’s stories. First five correct entrants get $25 or a Reader T-shirt. See this week’s questions and results, page 133.

**Restaurant User Reviews** – The Reader’s reviewers Naomi Wise and Ed Bedford are joined by the public complaining and praising. The best three are awarded prizes and printed in the Reader. Submit your comments at SDReader.com.

**Reader Puzzle** – Hundreds of puzzle solvers send in their results with personal messages. Ten of the solvers earn Reader T-shirts each week. The puzzle is a particular hit in Santee. See this week’s puzzle and results, page 130.

**Neighborhood News Stringers** – Since the end of December, 2008, the Reader has offered to pay stringers for 100- to 250-word news stories – $50 for stories, $10 for photos, $15 for videos. Submit your story at SDReader.com.

**Blog Comments** – The Reader staffers put up blogs on our website (not usually seen in the paper) and produce another whole set of comments from website users. Submit your comments at SDReader.com.

**Submit your stuff** – Band pages, events, music, theater listings – users of the website can upload materials for their own band pages, submit music and theater listings and other events. Submit your information at SDReader.com.

**Upload music** – Local musicians can upload MP3 versions of their songs and website users can download – all free. Upload or download at SDReader.com.

**Upload photos** – Submit your favorite photo of any neighborhood subject. A pair of movie tickets is given for best photo of the week. Upload at SDReader.com.

**Join the party – earn money and prizes!**
One touch and you enter a 3G world. And oh, what a world. This is how Web browsing is supposed to look. Like the actual Web. This would be perfect for social networking. Oh, looky here, it has Facebook. This is a BlackBerry?

Somebody pinch me. Hard.
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SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Getting ready for the battle of two San Diego NFL teams. - Jim Holman
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Andy says Everything Must Go! Save up to 70% off now! Hurry!

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Goldsmith’s Guillotine

By Don Bauder and Matt Potter

On February 25 of last year, professional skydiver Alan (Buzz) Fink and his wife Kristina, who are not residents of San Diego, gave a total of $640 to Jan Goldsmith in his run for city attorney. On July 23, Fink, president of Jamul’s Skydive San Diego, gave Goldsmith another $320.

John Serrano, who worked on real estate property. He is one of nine deputy city attorneys who have been fired by Goldsmith. Serrano is an experienced government attorney Goldsmith to fire. The city attorney’s office denies that such a list exists, but we have interviewed many people who know about it, including one who was in a meeting in which a Goldsmith aide alluded to it. The mayor’s office would not comment.

Fifteen months ago, Serrano was asked to approve a sublease of space on prime City land at Brown Field.

Rehired from Gwinn Days

Deborah Berger
Debra Bervier
Elisa Canato
William Dinnell
Chris Morris
Don McGloth

Gone

Goldsmith won the election, and on January 8 he fired deputy city attorney

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

Neal Obermeyer

SAN DIEGO CITY EMPLOYEES COME UP WITH IDEAS TO HELP THE CITY SAVE MONEY!

- Change city employee’s parking permits to ANIMAL BURIALS AT CITY CEMETERY?

- CUT OFF CREDIT CARDS AT LIBRARIES?

- FURO UP (RUB) THE CITY, LET’S KNOW WHERE THE MONEY IS GOING!

- TAKE ADVERTISEMENTS ON CITY VEHICLES?

- PAY ATTENTION TO CITY BILLS?

- HAY - THAT’S CHRISTMAS!

- THAT’S KIND OF OUT THERE, ISN’T IT?

- WE WERE DOING SOME KIND OF HOLIDAY BUDGET!
Clouds on SDG&E’s Sunny Plans

By Craig D. Rose

When it comes to fighting global warming, San Diego Gas & Electric and its parent company, Sempra Energy, are accomplishing the neat trick of being both first and last. Sempra, for its part, has built a new solar energy plant in Nevada that uses cutting-edge technology to produce electricity from the sun. SDG&E, meanwhile, remains the state’s worst big utility at obtaining electricity from clean, renewable sources.

But let’s start with the positive.

Sempra has generated considerable attention in recent weeks for the new solar-energy plant it completed in a matter of months just outside Las Vegas. Called El Dorado Energy Solar, the facility uses thin-film photovoltaic panels, a technology that reduces the amount of costly materials required to make solar panels with only modest concessions in efficiency.

According to Mark Bachman, an analyst with Pacific Crest Securities, El Dorado is the first solar plant in the nation to generate electricity at prices comparable to those from fossil-fuel power plants. This has long been the target of solar advocates.

“It is very fair to characterize this as a breakthrough,” said Bachman.

Noting that the Sempra plant is located in an area ideal for solar power, Bachman estimates the facility will generate power at 7.5 cents per kilowatt-hour, compared to a benchmark of 9 cents per kilowatt-hour for fossil-fuel-generated power.

And Sempra was pleased to confirm its solar advantage. “Our contract is the least expensive solar power ever delivered in the world [at commercial volume],” said Michael Allman, chief executive of Sempra Generation.

Cheap, clean electricity from facilities like El Dorado solar hold the potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and in the future retiring some fossil-fuel-driven plants.

This is encouraging news for the planet. But it turns out to be of no use to San Diego Gas & Electric, a Sempra utility that is struggling to meet a state mandate for renewable electricity. California law requires all major utilities to generate 20 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by the close of next year. SDG&E generates about 6 percent of its electricity from renewables. During 2008, for comparison, Southern California Edison generated 16 percent of its electricity from renewable sources.

A Sempra spokesman said the sale of electricity from the wind farm was “already in final negotiations” when Sempra bought the project.

When queried about the obligation of a large parent company like Sempra to assist its SDG&E subsidiary in meeting California’s renewable energy requirements, Sempra spokespersons emphasize that transactions between affiliate companies are heavily regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission. They note that a parent company’s legal obligation is to ensure that its utility subsidiaries have adequate capital and say Sempra has invested billions in its utility businesses in recent years and has plans for billions more through 2012.

It is true that consumer advocates and regulators have long insisted on strict oversight of deals between units of the same company, known as affiliate transactions. These regulations are designed to protect against in-house transactions that may come at the expense of utility customers. But affiliate transactions are done.

In 2006, Sempra sold a natural gas–fueled power plant in Escondido to

STRUNGERS

Tax increase too costly?

By Cristina Fernando, 1/23/09

Chula Vista — Can Chula Vista afford the costs of a tax increase? A lone member of the city’s five-member council doesn’t think so.

Councilman John McCann said “this is not a good time to implement a tax increase.”

The tax, if approved by voters, will be one of the highest in California at 8.75%. With Chula Vista residents already faced with declining home equity and job losses, a 1% Transactional and Use Tax is unlikely to be approved.

McCann unsuccessfully proposed during the last city council meeting (January 20th) the sale of excess land and other alternatives to the tax increase.

Monthly downtown report

By Lew Breeze, 1/23/09

Little Italy — The median price of a resale condo downtown was $564,700 for the 30-day period ended January 21, up $8,600 from last month, and $9,100 higher than the same period in January 2008 ($555,600).

The number of condos pending sale for the past 30 days was 37, compared to 39 for the same period last year. The number of condos closing sale during the 30 days prior to January 21 was 34, compared to 26 from the same period last year. There were only 383 resale condos for sale, up from 380 last month, but 11% lower than the same period a year ago.

Rowdy trolley kids

By Thomas Uriah Jarboe, 1/22/09

Downtown — The 11th Ave. and C St. trolley station is situated at the bottom of the new Smart Corner condominiums. San Diego High School and Garfield High School are located down the street off of Park Blvd. and 16th St.

On Thursday, January 22, at 3 p.m., a group of young teenagers was carousing around the trolley station. A policewoman said, “These kids get to jumping around, messing with each other, and when we tell them to settle down, sometimes they don’t listen. When they don’t listen we got to sit them down and force them to. We ran these three’s information and turns out, they’re on probation.”

More subdued teenagers waiting for the trolley said four of the kids were trash-talking another group of kids when the trolley cops showed up. The two groups of kids banded together and began shouting and taunting the first two trolley cops on the scene. In the end, it took 14 trolley cops to break up the group.

New Year’s Day at the laundromat

By Christina Lohn, 1/23/09

Mission Hills — New Year’s Day was, if you can remember, a rainy day.

Most businesses were closed or had limited hours of operation. The local laundromat in Mission Hills was no exception. They were
Goldsmith guillotine

He noted that Juan Escalante, a member of the City of San Diego Airports Advisory Committee, had a very favorable lease at Brown and wanted to retire and transfer it to two members of the Airports Advisory Committee, one of whom was Fink. But Serrano found out that when Escalante got the deal in 1998, he had promised to make major changes — "build hangars, put in show-

tee, one of whom was Fink. He also got to do $700,000 of public improvements and didn’t do them, it’s a theft. Fink sent a letter to the mayor, city attorney, council members that I was not being objective and interfering with a good deal." Serrano went to the council in closed session and explained the situation; in December of 2007, it authorized that the tenant be evicted. But Tussey refused to sign the notice of termination of tenancy for more than a year. "Tussey was backed up by the mayor on this thing."

"After Goldsmith got into office, Serrano was told to see David Jarrell, deputy chief operating officer for public works. Serrano then ran into Phil Rath, the mayor’s policy adviser. ‘As we were walking toward the meeting room, he said, ‘Are you still working with the city attorney’s office?’ That was the first clue.’ Serrano explained the Brown Field situation to Rath, Tussey, and Jarrell. He also got to Goldsmith. ‘He said we had to do whatever the mayor’s office wanted to do. I was not to substitute my personal judgment for anything the mayor wanted to do, as long as it was legal. We are to serve our client; if our client has a need, give the client the benefit of the doubt.’"

This cavalier attitude toward ethical caution was coming not long after the City had been sharply criticized by consultants and regulators for hiding critical information from bond documents and generally doing exactly what Goldsmith was instructing Serrano to do. Serrano doesn’t say it, but Goldsmith was telling him to follow the letter of the law, not the spirit of the law, for the mayor’s friends. As intelligent citizens know, Goldsmith is a toady for the mayor, who is in turn a toady for the downtown establishment, particularly real estate developers. "Goldsmith is going to let developers run the city," says still another deputy city attorney who was fired. Escalante won’t talk. "I’m talking with the City on it," he says. Fink says he is no longer in the deal. "Originally I had looked toward doing something with Juan. The City said Escalante was in default on the lease. It’s not true. Serrano effectively screwed over Escalante," asserts Fink. "I sent a letter to the city attorney’s office requesting an investigation of Serrano. I got nothing.’"

Fink says, "Mike Tussey was in favor of doing something for Mr. Escalante," who purportedly had been told by an airport official that he didn’t have to make the improvements until the City undergrounded the utilities there. Tussey deferred comment to a mayoral public relations person, who did not respond to a call. Fink claims he gave money to Goldsmith because he was unhappy that Aguirre had not replied to his letters. Serrano was shortly fired and replaced by a former Casey Gwinn employee, Debra Bevier, who had been fired by Goldsmith’s predecessor, Mike Aguirre, for permitting allegedly questionable airport contracts to go forward. She sued Aguirre for alleged threatening behavior but dropped the suit. She did not return a phone call for comment.

Goldsmith has hired back seven attorneys from the disastrous Gwinn years, during which the City was pathetically outlawered in the Chargers and Padres contracts, left out key negative information from bond prospectuses, and generally served to feather the nest of the establishment. The other six relired from the Gwinn years are Mary Jo Lanzafame, Joan Dawson, Deborah Berger, David Miller (who Aguirre believed had let Sunroad go forward with its law-defying construction project), Elisa Cuasato, and William (Wink) Donnell, who admitted that he had secretly intercepted a letter before it reached Aguirre. Lanzafame recently advised her fellow attorneys to pay attention to “form and substance — but only a little bit of substance,” according to several sources, including Kathryn Burton, former assistant city attorney who ran the administrative side of the office under Aguirre. Cuasato, Bevier, and Donnell and his wife all contributed significant sums to Goldsmith’s campaign.

The city attorney’s office claims that the firings are a result of cost cutting. But this hardly makes sense when the office is busily hiring back Gwinn people.

Serrano believes that a second matter he handled contributed to his firing. He was in charge of the case in which the City successfully sued energy firm Kinder Morgan over the oil plume underneath Qualcomm Stadium at San Diego property.

"This has been to the 9th Circuit [Court of Appeals] and we won. The court has approved our pleadings," says Serrano. He was in a settlement conference with Kinder Morgan’s law firm. “One of those lawyers laughingly told me, ‘We will see if you still have a job once Goldsmith is in.’” Those lawyers might have tipped off to the coming dismissal. Many San Diegans suspect Sanders still wants to make a gift to the Chargers for a new stadium at the Qualcomm site, despite the City’s horrific financial condition. Anyone making a fat subsidy difficult could wind up on the guillotine list.

Another deputy city attorney who was on the mayor’s list was Michael Calabrese, who worked in resource management and conservation and who also was fired once Goldsmith got in. Andrew Jones, a former member of Aguirre’s staff who campaigned for Goldsmith and was awarded with a position as key aide, told Calabrese about the mayor’s list. "It was very directly acknowledged to us that a list did exist, and I was told by several people that I was on it,” says Calabrese.
Goldsmith guillotine

insistence that a contract awarded to a consulting firm as part of Sanders's sacro-

sant managed-competition program should go to the council for approval. "That may have gotten me in the doghouse," he says.

Kimberly Urie is a long-
time expert in complex white-collar crime cases. She was hired by Aguirre, who wanted to set up sophisticated fraud-

sleuthing systems similar to those in Los Angeles and San Francisco. After Gold-

smith came in, Urie got fired. "Jan Goldsmith intends that the criminal division scale back to han-

dling only the simpler, tra-

ditional crimes such as DUs, which of course are important, shoplifting, and

minor drug possession," says Urie. "Apparently Gold-

smith is not interested in investigating or prosecuting more complex offenses such as violations of the political reform act by appointed and elected officials or instances of govern-

ment procurement fraud — say, where contract

specs are purposely written

so that only one vendor can

win the competitive bid-

ning. Handling complex cases does cost more than doing only the simpler cases, but residents need to real-

ize that the abuses resulting from violations of trust by those in power are ultimately much more expensive."

But the San Diego estab-

lishment is not concerned about violations of trust, particularly since that estab-

lishment is responsible for so many of the violations. It does not want white-
collar-crime enforcement in a city that is known nation-

wide as a haven for politi-

cal corruption. Ponzi schemes, real estate swindles, up-

front loan fee scams, affinity frauds, phony accounting by public com-

panies, money laundering, and other fleece ejue.

Some of the top people in the office were shoved out by other methods. Con-

sider Chris Morris, head of the criminal division, and Mia Severson, head of the civil division. "Goldsmith reached out to me during the campaign, but no direct communications were ever made," says Morris. "After he got elected he called me down for an interview. He made it sound like he was going to keep me around. But I got word through an intermediary that he wasn't going to keep me around. I resigned." Severson was demoted. She resigned instead and is now partner in a law firm with Aguirre and Morris.

Don McGrath was a key Aguirre aide. One of those who worked for McGrath was Andrew Jones, now Goldsmith's aide-de-camp. Goldsmith "never talked with me," says McGrath. "He sends Andrew Jones up, and Andrew says, 'You are a campaign promise.' I was one vote away from a city pension and brought $22 million into the city cof-

fers" by handling monetary settlements with account-

ing firms, pension consult-

ants, insurance companies, and other service providers the City had sued. So McGrath went to Aguirre, who eliminated McGrath's position so he wouldn't have to suffer the indignity. Kathryn Burton, former assistant city attorney, also left before Goldsmith could swing the ax. "The deputy city attorneys were fired because they refused to be yes-men," she says. "Those that were fired were the best public interest lawyers in the office."

And that goes to the heart of it: the fired lawyers were working in the public interest. Goldsmith and Sanders are working for private interests.

SDG&E plans

continued from page 7

SDG&E. And Sempra plans to sell SDG&E a gas-fired power plant located in Nevada, a deal that is part of the settlement Sempra reached with the California attorney general to resolve allegations that it manipulated the natural gas market in the state. Ironically, that plant sits on the same site as the El Dorado solar facility. But while SDG&E will get the elec-

tricity from the gas-fired plant, the electricity cleanly generated next door will go to PG&E.

Spokespersons for SDG&E are quick to point out that other state utilities are report-

ing difficulty in satisfying the state's 20 percent mandate. (There is one large utility that will reach the goal — the publicly owned Sacramento Municipal Utility District.)

SDG&E says it has signed contracts that could allow it to reach 15 percent renew-

able by the end of 2010, the deadline for the state mandate. The utility says con-

tracts should allow it to reach 21 percent renewable by 2011.

But outsiders say that SDG&E is counting for nearly half (44 percent) of its renewable electricity in 2010 on an Imperial County project built by Stirling Energy Systems. That start-

up hopes to deploy a solar technology that has never been demonstrated on a commercial scale, and most outsiders say its odds of succeeding by next year are low.

Despite its record to date, SDG&E characterizes its strategy for developing renewables as "aggressive."

But an administrative law judge for the California Public Utilities Commis-

sion last year reached a dif-

ferent conclusion.

"The image I get is of a passive process," said Steve Weissman, the judge who oversaw much of the lengthy review for the Sunrise Pow-
erlink, SDG&E's controver-
sial plan to build a $2 bil-

lion power line to Imperial County. (Weissman, along with a second judge assigned to the case, recommended rejection of the project, partly because they con-

cluded SDG&E did not need the 150-mile-long trans-

mission line to satisfy the state's 20 percent by 2010 mandate.)

The transmission line, which was approved last month by the commission despite the judges' recom-

mendation and which won a key federal approval last
San Diego Reader, January 29, 2009

11

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SDG&E plans

continued from page 10

week, requires an additional federal permit and faces a likely legal attempt by opponents to kill the project. If built, it will generate $1.5 billion in profits for SDG&E shareholders. In fact, the transmission line project was awarded a higher rate of return from regulators — 11.5 percent — than is typically provided to utilities for building generation projects, renewable or otherwise.

SDG&E insists the line is needed to move electricity from renewable power facilities it says will be built in Imperial County, as well as to increase reliability and to save ratepayers money.

The broad community/consumer/environmental coalition that has developed to oppose Sunrise says Sempra really wants the line because it will tie the company’s fossil-fuel infrastructure in northern Mexico — a liquefied natural gas import terminal and a generating plant — more easily into the California market.

They argue that SDG&E sought to bolster the case that it needed the Sunrise project for renewable development by avoiding development of clean-energy projects that wouldn’t depend on the line.

“SDG&E has a lot of money to make with the Sunrise Powerlink, and they wanted to show that the only renewables they could find were dependent on this line,” said Steven Siegel, staff attorney for the Center for Biological Diversity, which opposes the transmission project.

Michael Shames, executive director of the Utility Consumers’ Action Network agreed: “It was a political calculation on their part not to pursue renewables elsewhere.”

Shames is also skeptical that the experimental solar project that SDG&E hopes will generate 40 percent of its renewable electricity by the end of next year will produce anywhere near that level.

“I think it’s 50-50 that they will ultimately have a viable project — but it won’t be in 2010 or 2011, and it won’t be at the cost levels they anticipated,” he said.

Sempra, although a latecomer to renewable-energy projects, appears eager to make itself a significant renewable developer.

The company says it is planning to expand its Energia Sierra Juarez wind farm in northern Baja, which will generate 130 megawatts when its first phase is complete, to a potential total of 1000 megawatts. (A typical modern fossil-fuel plant generates roughly 500 megawatts, enough to power about 325,000 homes.)

Sempra also plans to add 50 megawatts of generating capacity at its El Dorado site and build 500 megawatts of solar generating capacity at other existing generating sites.

As for SDG&E, it proposes building 52 megawatts of photovoltaic generating capacity at a cost of $250 million in the San Diego region over the next five years, but it won’t use thin-film technology.

SDG&E instead has asked regulators to allow it to use solar-tracking technology: solar panels mounted on units that follow the sun to maximize output.

Bill Powers, San Diego-based engineer and critic of SDG&E’s renewable efforts, says using solar-tracking technology makes no sense, particularly now that Sempra has demonstrated that using thin-film technology lowers costs.

“The extra generating capacity of tracking isn’t worth the cost, and the units take up too much land,” said Powers, who authored a plan to vastly expand solar on small, dispersed sites within the county.

“SDG&E is proposing the most expensive solar technology for its customers. Thin-film systems would be one-half the cost.”

Stringers continued from page 7

open, but without an attendant on the premises. Two of our local homeless characters decided it would be a good day to take over the laundromat. They took their clothes off, threw detergent and trash all over the place, and urinated in the doorway to keep people out.

Oceanside man gasped for help

By Eduardo Menodza, 1/24/09

Vista — A Vista Superior Court judge found enough evidence for an Oceanside man, who allegedly murdered his roommate, to face trial.

The judge bound over Jesus Borja, who is 28, on one count of first-degree murder for the May 18 death of Ramon Garcia Hilario.

Prosecutors allege Borja was intoxicated when he stabbed to death Hilario because he was upset about his aunt’s relationship with Hilario.

Borja’s family owned and lived in the home on Stephanie Avenue in the oceanside where the murder occurred, according to witness testimony.

They rented the back patio out to migrant workers, who blocked out their sleeping area with hang sheets, witnesses said.

Throughout the day and a half preliminary hearing, there were no eye witnesses to the stabbing; however, one renter said he woke to Hilario gasping for help as the defendant was on top of him with the knife. He said both men were covered in blood.

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Good Mosquito Report
Geoff Bouvier did a great job on the West Nile cover story on January 22 (“Deadly Mosquitoes Breed in Our Urban Drool”). I am a physician, so have an interest in this, but the article really keeps your attention, throwing lots of juicy facts about mosquitoes that one would never know! It is also a really good update on how our county is handling the situation. It is refreshing to hear that the county health department is taking this seriously. Thanks for good reporting!
Jennifer Dolby via email

Kudos And A Pulitzer
I just want to thank you for the extremely well done article by Don Bauder (“Self-Probe? Ha!” “City Lights,” January 22). Obviously he has done his research. This case is an example of a classic cover-up. Please keep up the scrutiny. There is much more to this story. I have done some research. The only way to remove Judge Murray is impeachment. She certainly deserves it. Gary Aguirre is a true hero in my mind. He deserves proper recognition for the steps he has taken. I watched the entire congressional hearing on television. I also read the congressional report. Simply put, Linda Thomsen is guilty, in my opinion. Please don’t let this story die. The SEC needs to be scrutinized and reformed. I will do my best to spread your excellent coverage to a large group of interested people. Kudos to your publication and a Pulitzer to Mr. Bauder.

Steven Walker Oxnard

Got Guts?
Just want to send my congrats on the excellent article by Don Bauder (“Self-Probe? Ha!” “City Lights,” January 22). I applaud him for writing it, and I applaud you for putting it out. His article is well written and very correct on the information. I am glad to see that somebody had the guts to write about these issues. I have been following this for years.
Jennifer Dolby via email

Joke No Joke
Re “Head South for No- Frills Dentistry” (Feature Story, January 22).
Thank you for a fun and interesting story, in general. However, I did not appreciate the “joke” which drew upon the old racist saying about coyotes not eating dead Mexicans. Really, I am appalled, and you should be embarrassed and ashamed, in my view.
Karyn Driessen via email

Just So Racist
I’m calling about “Off the Cuff” on January 22. The question was “What’s the best and worst thing about where you live?” There was a comment made by Antonette Melina, a student in National City. She said, “The best thing about living in the streets at night just make me feel unsafe.”
I do not like that. That’s just so racist, and for an editor to publish that is just, like, his mentality or her mentality, whoever published that article, I’m pretty sure if they stepped back and started bad-mouthing Caucasians that they wouldn’t put that inside the Reader — or bad-mouthing Mexicans. And, yes, I am African American, and I feel that that’s very disrespectful, and I read this paper all the time. But just to read something like that and you allow that to be published, that shows the type of people that you are and the people you choose to work for you. It’s close-minded people like Antonette Melina who made it hard for Obama to get in office.
Kenya De La Roche La Mesa

continued on page 51
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San Diego Reader, January 29, 2009 15
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They’re Back

T

he Box will step aside while the hive swarms toward Super Bowl 43, not wishing to excite the gaggle while it’s feeding. Instead, for your sports-minded consideration, I’ll offer up a column about two merry pranksters, Lance Armstrong and Floyd Landis.

I gave up on professional cycling after the 2006 Tour de France. Cheating buffs still consider the 2006 race as the definitive doping year for cycling’s premiere event. By the time the 2006 Tour began, the number two, three, four, and five finishers from the previous year had been removed from the field. Number one had retired. And, the 2006 Tour finished strong — the race champion was disqualified for doping on stage 17.

During the 2007 Tour de France, three riders tested positive for doping, one was suspended for missing a doping test, and one was busted for using dope while training for the tour. Since the cream of the opening field had been caught the year before, one would think an amount of said caution would be deployed by all riders. One would be wrong.

The 2008 Tour de France added to tradition, with one rider busted for cocaine, one rider busted for erythropoietin, a stage winner busted for doping, anotherusted for EPO, the entire Saunier Duval–Scott team withdrew after stage 4, the winner of stage 10 withdrew, and another rider was disqualified after stage 18. Finally, at least three more riders were disqualified two months later when their blood was analyzed using a new kind of blood test.

Sponsors quit, teams folded, and European TV networks walked away. I was long gone by then; after the first dozen scandals, cheating becomes boring. I vowed not to write about pro cycling until they cleaned up their act or the government started handing out free money.

Well, the government is handing out free money. Happily, this coincides with the Amgen Tour of California.

This is the fourth Tour of California, and the race is bigger, goes farther, lasts longer, and reaches San Diego County for the first time. The tour starts in Sacramento on February 14 and ends nine days later in Escondido.

I like the race. It’s pleasant to find an easy spot in country, make a nest, settle in, and watch the best bike riders in the world drive by. But, that in itself is not enough for me to double back and write a column about it. Here’s the hook: Lance Armstrong and Floyd Landis will be racing. It was Landis who got me to write off professional cycling as hopelessly corrupt, so it’s fitting he leads me back.

You remember the 2006 Tour de France. Landis’s urine samples showed that his ratio of testosterone to epitestosterone was 11 to 1, far above the usual ratio of 4 to 1, and way over the allowed ratio of 4 to 1. His sample showed traces of synthetic testosterone.

Landis had a good race through the Pyrenees, good enough to take the yellow jersey (by ten seconds) after the 15th stage. And then the collapse. He finished the 16th stage 8:08 behind the leader. Nobody makes up that much time. And he looked like dead-man-pedaling. He was baked. And then, the next day, Landis flew over five hard climbs, cratered out the last 80 miles alone, and made up all but 38 seconds of what he’d lost. It was, in every sense of the phrase, too good to be true.

I assume Floyd is back racing (this time for the newly formed racing team OUCH, sponsored by his hip-repair doctor, Brent Kay) because cycling is the best thing he does and he needs money. Fair enough. He’s served his time on suspension.

Lance is back, this time racing for newly formed Astana Team, sponsored by the usual bike businesses and Kazakhstan Temir Zhol (develops, operates, and maintains railways in Kazakhstan), KazMunayGas (exploration, mining, refining, and transport of oil in Kazakhstan), Kazakhmys (natural resources company in Kazakhstan), Kazzinc (zinc producer), and the Kazakhstan Electricity Grid Operating Company. Hands across the border.

I assume Lance has returned to the stage for the renal but ordinary human reason: he misses the spotlight. For Lance, the question is, can a 37-year-old man-who’s out of racing and training and racing and training and racing and training and racing and training and racing and training and racing and training three and a half years come back and win the most prestigious cycling race in the world?

Who knows? Barry Bonds hit 73 home runs at the age of 37. Mark McGwire hit his 70th home run four days shy of his 35th birthday; Roger Clemens was pitching for the Yankees at the age of 44. Maybe Armstrong can pull it off.
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by Geoff Bouvier
A few days after an autumn picnic near Los Penasquitos Lagoon, a local grade-schooler comes down with the flu. Fever, chills, headache, and he can’t bring himself to get out of bed. His mother worries, but since it’s flu season… Three days go by. The boy doesn’t seem to be getting any better. The mother begins to worry more. She wonders whether she should make… MORE

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**Fast Break**

By Anthony Gentile

San Diego students harass Fairfax forward Solomon Hill at the free throw line

Under national spotlight, San Diego falls to Fairfax

*Posted January 24, 2009, 12:09 a.m.*

When the Old Spice High School Showcase schedule was announced in November, Friday night’s nationally televised San Diego-Fairfax (Los Angeles) game was supposed to be a clash for southern California supremacy. Instead, the state’s sixth-ranked team dismantled an embattled Cavers club 86-47 at the University of San Diego.

“We need to play smarter and stronger,” said San Diego center Jeremy Tyler. “Smarter plays, make smarter decisions, be smarter with the ball.”

To say the Cavers have had a rough season is a bit of an understatement. Amid speculation of recruitment, San Diego has been without the services of three transfers (LaBradford Franklin, Terrence Boys, and Zechariah Smith) since the beginning of the year, after they were ruled ineligible by CIF.

“We want to think that it’s not that hard and that everything is okay, but in the long run it’s really hard,” Tyler said.

Cavers head coach Kenny Roy and two assistant coaches were placed on leave last Saturday. The team is currently coached by Martin Thomas.

Fairfax (15-3) forced 28 Cavers turnovers with relentless halfcourt trapping, exploiting San Diego’s inexperience and creating easy fast break opportunities. The Lions led by 25 at the half and did not let up after halftime.

As for the one-on-one matchup between Tyler and Fairfax center Renardo Sidney, currently being pursued by a number of Division I schools, it could be considered a push — Tyler finished with 29 points and 8 rebounds while Sidney had 28 and 11. Both players exchanged blows in the low post and monster dunks.

“Personally, I really don’t have too much respect for his game,” Tyler said of Sidney. “I just don’t think he’s a great basketball player.”

Despite the loss, San Diego (9-6) is the third-ranked team in the section and still considered one of the best teams in San Diego. The Cavers have not lost to a San Diego section team this year and are 3-0 in Eastern League play.

University City, La Costa Canyon make statement

*Posted January 20, 2009, 3:00 p.m.*

The Martin Luther King Jr. Day Showcase at Hoover High School on Monday was a showcase — but not just for El Camino and Hoover, the section’s top two teams. The four games on Monday showed that the discussion for the best team in San Diego runs further than two deep.

In the second game, No. 6 University City got hot in the first half and never looked back in a wire-to-wire 69-62 win over No. 1 El Camino. The Centurions led by as much as 19 before holding off a late Wildcats rally.

“We shared the basketball,” said University City head coach Terry Stonebreaker. “We were doing that early in the year but we didn’t do that in the middle tournaments.”

Any struggles La Costa Canyon has had offensively this season didn’t show when they met No. 2 Hoover on Monday night. The Mavericks hit 10 three-pointers and held off the Cardinals in the fourth quarter to defeat the hosts 65-59.

“We’ve really struggled to score all season,” said La Costa Canyon head coach Dave Cassaw, “so to see as many go down tonight as they did — I was a little surprised.”

Both teams had trouble finding the basket in the first quarter, and La Costa Canyon only scored two points in the opening six minutes. La Costa Canyon forward Jake Ducey hit a three at the buzzer, but the Mavericks still trailed Hoover 12-7 after the opening quarter.

In the opening game of the showcase, Maranatha Christian (14-3) downed Rancho Bernardo (12-5) 67-41. The Eagles led by eight at the half and took complete control of the game by outscoring the Broncos 27-5 in the third quarter.

Fast Break can be found at SDReader.com. Under “Stories” in menu bar, click on “Sports” then “High School Basketball.”
**BestBuys**

*EVE KELLY*

**Horray!** We’re going to Palm Springs for a weekend at a friend’s place! Boo! My 11-year-old broke his elbow during his first-ever game of pads-free backyard tackle football. “I knew it was a bad idea,” he whimpered as we sat in the ER. The pain meds helped his elbow, but they didn’t allay his disappointment at the thought of not being able to take his cast (along with the rest of him) into the pool out in the desert. The poor guy had suffered enough. I started looking for a cast cover that would let him jump in.

San Diego Orthopedic in National City (619-477-7075) sold a cast cover made by DMI for $8.95. “It’s pretty much a blue plastic bag that goes over your arm,” said the saleslady. “It comes with a band so that you can tie it off at the top. We have another for $23.95. It’s a clear plastic bag, but there’s a rubber ring at the top that seals against your skin.” She noted, however, that neither was cut out to protect a cast during pool-time fun. “They’re just for showering or bathing.”

Eric’s Medical Supply in Linda Vista (619-298-9640) offered something more promising: the CastGuard. “It’s like a big yellow tube-shaped balloon,” said Eric. “You stick your cast in there and jump in the shower,” and the tight rubber opening keeps the water out. “If it breaks, they’ll replace it, and it says on the package that it can be used for swimming. We have them for full- and half-arm casts and for full- and half-legs. The cost is $19.95 for all sizes.”

That sounded good, but I kept looking. Joe at Triad Medical Supply in La Mesa (619-469-4421) offered the DryPro Cast Cover “...for keeping the cast dry while swimming. It’s a blue rubber tube, and it comes with a handheld pump that’s attached to a valve on the cover. You squeeze the pump, and it pumps the air out of the cover, creating a vacuum seal around the limb. To remove, you just run your finger under the edge of the cover and cut a cookie-bite shape out of the edge.” But even then, there’s hope. “If what’s left still covers the cast cover, you can trim it straight across the edge. As long as it still seals, it will work.”

The covers come in large or small in the half-arm or half-leg cast. “Sizing is a simple measurement. If the circumference of your leg is between 10 and 13 inches, you wear a small. If it’s above 13 inches, you wear a large.” The full-arm and full-leg covers come in four sizes, extra-small through large. “Again, size is based on the circumference of your limb.”

1. Dry Pro Cast Cover

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BY JOHN BRIZZOLARA

They certainly must wonder what this bearded old man may want.

Sometimes, on a Friday night, if you're a kid and you live in the wilds of San Marcos, all you have are your friends, your skateboard, and a 7-Eleven.

Here are four guys; we'll call them Thomas (not Tom), Phil, Kurt, and Jason. They are thrashers. They're wearing T-shirts, and it's a bloody cold North County, an overcast evening, a jet and gray sky. The lot is illuminated with tall fluorescent lights — severals; they are not counted. The boys are 12–14 years old. Thomas is dark, almost mulatto, part Spanish. Kurt is fair and blond. Phil is handsome, a chiseled lad; and Jason is heavy, with a kind of Beatle haircut. They are all good on their boards. Not great, but good.

The parking lot slopes just enough between the handicapped space and some 10–12 yards to the north end of the lot, the length of the 7-Eleven. Thomas has just executed a move that is downhill, an abrupt 45-degree turn in the air and a remarkable exclamation. “Benedee — c’io — Del Toro!” he shouts, and it is perfectly timed with his movements. One is impressed.

Kurt follows, a tentative, modest, and straightforward downhill move, possibly to get the feel of the ground. Jason is graceful for a boy his size and moves in an extended, snaking S down the lot — say, eight yards. Phil rides the curb at the north end, a short move, seemingly pointless, but he is smiling.

The four thrashers display their pocket change to each other. It seems they have enough for two 20-ounce Coca-Colas. Inside, they purchase the Cokes. Kurt and Phil execute the transaction with the heavy, pretty, red-haired girl behind the counter then move to the magazine section. It is the muscle magazines that interest them. The titles can’t quite be made out; they are holding the magazines. Muscle, it seems. Possibly Physical or Physique. Your reporter neglects to check this fact. He is rather old and forgetful.

Thomas has enough change for a small bag of Doritos chips. Outside they resume thrashing, sharing the Coke (not the Doritos) and converse.

“You wanna come over and watch Hellboy II?” This is Thomas offering.

“Yeah, I do.” Kurt.

“What about Narnia?” Phil. “Oh, c’mon!” Thomas says this casually, hops on his board, and makes a run toward the handicapped space. A white Toyota, late model, pulls in, and a bearded man in his late 30s steps out, wearing a blue windbreaker.

Jason has not responded to the offer to watch Hellboy, as if he assumes he is not included.

The thrashers continue some moves for the next five minutes or so, none of them terribly impressive but presumably pleasurable. The new arrival enters the store and looks at the modest display of California wines. He buys a $6.99 bottle of syrah and a pack of Camel regulars. He too lingers at the magazine rack for a moment after his purchase, scans the titles and covers, but picks up nothing. He leaves the store, gets in his car, and presumably heads home for dinner. It is about that time, near 7 p.m.

“Want some more pop?” This is Kurt asking Jason, extending the plastic bottle.

“No,” with a frown, as if Jason is dashingly sophisticated. “I’m with a girl now.”

“All right.” Jason offers.

As he rides up the curb, he announces, “I got this for you!” He is pointing at the sky, a near drizzle begins over the lot and a fine mist. “You wanna come over and watch Hellboy II?”

“C’mon!” Thomas says this casually, hops on his board.

Jason is graceful for a boy his size and possibly to get the feel of the ground. He is rather old and forgetful.

“I don’t know. I guess,” he shouts over his shoulder.

“Want some more pop?” This is Kurt asking Jason, extending the plastic bottle.

“Yeah, I do.” Kurt.

“You wanna come over?”

“I don’t know. I guess,” he shouts over his shoulder.

All four of the boys are in a kind of huddle, speaking quietly. No indication is given as to what they may be discussing. The huddle breaks up in laughter. The observer may well look dangerous in some way. None of the boys displays any interest in entertaining him, impressing him. Well, maybe Thomas. He’s a bit of a showoff but a pleasant kid.

All four of the boys are in a kind of huddle, speaking quietly. No indication is given as to what they may be discussing. The huddle breaks up in laughter. A dirty joke? One of them passes gas as if to illustrate the nature of the conversation. More laughter, sharp syllables. A fine mist, a near drizzle begins over the lot and Rancho Santa Fe Road. The temperature seems to drop.

The sky is obscured with the illuminated damp, and the four young men wordlessly gather their boards, head to the south and then uphill west.

“Adios, sucker!” one of them shouts.
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Unfortunately, there seems to be a formatting issue with the document. It appears to be a page from a legal directory, but the natural text is not readable due to the orientation or layout of the page. It seems to be a list of legal topics and services offered by various law firms and attorneys. If you need information on specific topics, such as personal injury, tenant rights, or landlord-tenant disputes, you might need to consult the directory page directly for the relevant information. It's also worth noting that the page includes contact information for various law firms, allowing you to reach out to them directly for assistance.
San Diego: Youth is a wonderful thing. What a crime to waste it on children.

— George Bernard Shaw

Bella was the first to notice me. She waved one hand high above her head and used the other to pull her mother away from the koi pond. Jane's eyes were hidden behind a giant pair of dark glasses, but when she did see me, recognition was apparent in her upturned lips and small, mysterious eyes. She waved one hand high above her head and used the other to pull her daughter out the door that morning. I'd stashed a baggie full of nail-polish remover and cotton balls in my purse before heading out to meet her.

Every good salesperson knows the key to closing a deal is to correctly answer the one and only question about which every buyer cares: What's in it for me? Jane, a woman who understands this basic tenet of sales, had proffered a pedicure as a way to lure me to the park for the hour and a half she'd have to kill while Bella attended Junior Theatre. But Jane was wasting her people-reading skills on me. Sure, I was looking forward to applying that 1950s-red polish of hers to my toes, but I would have agreed with just as much alacrity had she simply asked me to keep her company. Balboa Park is down the street from my place, and Jane is one of the few people in my life for whom I'm always game.

Before retiring to a shady spot on the grass with our coffee and grooming implements, all we had to do was deposit Bella safely in her class. Jane's eldest daughter is two months into her fifth year of life, and this was her first day attending “big girl class” for five-to-seven-year-olds. As Jane explained, after attending this course called "Annie" each Saturday for ten weeks, the children should be able to perform a number from the hit show. Due to lifestyle choices, I rarely find myself in the company of children. When I do interact with the human sprouts, it is always with my sisters' pipsqueaks. It's fun for me to play the part of shrewd aunt, doling out truth in small and mysterious bits so as to leave them hungrying for more. Things such as "No, Liam, mascara is not only for girls" and "You know, Bella, not everyone believes in God." I have so much wisdom to impart that I sometimes find it difficult to contain myself.

Because I had entered into that sunny afternoon unprepared, I decided to engage Bella in a more innocent way. "Hey, Bella Boo, are you excited about your class?" I took the up-down shaking of her flaxen curls as an affirmative. Before I could ask a follow-up question, a little girl in an Annie-emblazoned shirt approached us, followed closely by a woman carrying a toddler. Bella's entire demeanor changed — the appearance of a peer transformed her from indifferent to engaged. As the girl drew nearer, Bella struck little poses (a hand on the hip, a toss of the hair), the way I've seen creatures of the forest. "Hi, I'm Sarah," said the newcomer. "I'm here for Annie." She pointed at her shirt. Bella reacted in a peculiar fashion — the way I've seen the hip, a toss of the hair), the way I've seen the theatre. But Jane was wasting the least likely to play the lead role. She had the energy and the flair, but not the dedication. Annie wasn't even one of her favorite shows — Jane had only just bought the movie that week. But my mind soon wandered from Bella's potential devastation at not being front and center, as I was suddenly up to my knees in Annies. It's one thing to hang out with my sisters' kids at my mother's house, quite another to see them gathered together, backed by their handlers, awkwardly inter-

Lollipop Guild

DIARY OF A DIVA

by Barbara

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facing with their own kind. It pained me to witness the unintentional displays of arrogance or offense as each vied for his or her place in the hubbub. There was more social ineptitude in that little cluster of kids than in all of Comic-Con. The reticent children, their stoic faces slowly roaming through the crowd, were more unnerving than the talkative ones. I’ve seen too many horror movies featuring kids like that. Silent, staring children give me the creeps.

Shrinking voices reverberated off the plaster arches of Balboa Park. Jane chatted with the other parents who quacked away like ducks while herding their chicks into the pond. It was imperative that I get away at once, before I had some kind of “episode,” during which I might exclaim some inarticulate expression of my mental disorder I was suffering, I absconded to a quiet, shady space about 20 feet away and waited for my sister, wondering if I should have tried falling on my tatas.

For more stories by this author, go to sdreader.com.
Hi.
I am approaching a time machine as surely as if I were walking toward and lifting my hand to knock at the address of H.G. Wells’s Victorian scientist in the famous story from 1895.

Actually, the house, built in 1883, predates that story by a dozen years.

But the romance of the thing, the expected flush of sentiment and good-nest, quickly becomes a jarring series of images, elbowing aside a fine nostalgia to focus on a sentence I remember repeating as I walked out this very front door in July of 1985: No matter what you do, you will regret it.

“This was our guest room! Is this your guest room too?”

This front door, this very plate glass framed in stout chestnut,
or possibly dark mahogany, replaces one I had smashed in a fit of rage at my infidelity.

Another life.

Earlier, on the walk west on Robinson toward Carlew Street, delivered from passing cars that lends it immediacy, conviction, and poignancy, just as the colors of the real world only seem “really real when you viddy them on the screen” (Alex, in my small family and I moved into the house before which I now stand. We paid $60,000 for I don’t know how much square footage. Three bedrooms on the second floor, a guest room or study, and a rental unit in the basement. A “granny flat” we called it, and we entertained a string of very entertaining tenants down there. It is vacant at the moment but probably in better shape than it’s been in since it was built 145 years ago.

It is late September in 2008, and I still live in the neighborhood. I have been living maybe ten blocks east on Eighth Avenue, after breaking an ankle in December 2007; the proximity to Mercy Clinic became vital with the onset of infectious complications from that mundane mishap. Still, with digressions to North Park, La Jolla, Pacific Beach, and downtown, I have never managed to wander far. I moved once from an apartment in Mission Hills to Mexico for a good part of 1987, fled to Chicago on the heels of a bad love, lymphatic cancer, and a collapsed multi-novel deal, then back again, as a journalist, to within blocks of here, on Walnut. Since then, it has been a matter of relative lengths of thumb on a Thomas Bros. map that have demarcated “home.”

Stu Maltz, a 40ish, brown-haired man, answers the too-familiar door this Friday afternoon, a handsome, approachable, regular guy of a scientist. A biologist, sans traces of the nerd. In fact, within moments he is reminding me of the fictional Tim Taylor of television’s fictional “Tool Time,” with his enthusiasm for the considerable home improvements he has laid his hand to here. Before we enter the house, Maltz takes me on a brief tour of the surrounding yard, pointing out a hiding (none too successfully) African Sulcata, or African spurred tortoise, in amber/yellow earth tones. That would be “Speedy.”

Once inside, I notice that his raven- and curly-haired six-year-old daughter Virginia is lounging on the sofa in an identical position, and in the same corner, where, over two decades ago, my son reigned as Lord of the Entertainment Center, his remote control, like Virginia’s, an unquestioned scepter. Maltz’s wife, Holly Burch, has not yet arrived home from her work with the Union-Tribune in computers.

Here was a family not unlike my own not too long ago.

“Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.” (Tolstoy, Anna Karenina)

The lived-in quality that they have established with apparent
ease since their residency, dating from 1997, bears remarkable similarities in taste with that of my former wife and me. Key words would be comfortable, unpretentious (well… in our case, maybe not so much), with our ostrich feathers and Art Nouveau wooden tarot cards on the walls), inexpensive, warming, familiar, colorful and welcoming decor, and items selected by the inch or foot, rather than the yard. Even my son’s once-upon-a-time riot in the yard. Even my son’s once-upon-a-time riot of colorful plastic fantasy furnishings, toys, posters, and bedclothes are echoed in an upstairs bedroom.

The first noted difference is downstairs, ten paces west from the front door and into what during the 1980s had been the study, office, and/or library. Then, there were 1000 gaudy paperbacks and 900 hardcovers, first editions, book-club uncollectibles, The Compact Oxford English Dictionary in two 15-pound volumes, and anthropology texts; Kroeber, Le Guin, Meade, and Turnbull held court above science-fiction pulp magazines and matching volumes of Hamnett, Chandler, and Cain. Anthony Burgess and Jack London had once scowled down upon the framed gaudy covers of genre anthologies, between which my wife and I had published our journeyman whimsies. The bulk of our fantasy fiction had been written that way, inspired by M.R. James and a busted water heater, or a lightning-felled pepper tree, which crashed onto a neighbor’s roof. Now the study (or however it may be considered by Stu, Holly, and Virginia) bears no trace of the dusty and musty as well) refuge of the prematurely middle-aged. Where once this room was a recreation of a Victorian fantasy, Dickensian — though with an IBM Selectric or an Apple II monstrosity and jabbering Brother daisy-wheel printer — a room dubbed by visiting workshop–writer friends from Los Angeles (some quite famous now: David Brin and Ray Feist, to drop two names) “THE BALLROOM,” after a sign retrieved from wreckage at the Hotel Del Coronado, it now seems subdued. It is certainly friendly, yet muted by contrast with the chamber in memory. It is as if the beasts of Edgar Rice Burroughs’s worlds could never have breathed here, and the fictions my wife and I spun must needs have evaporated, exposed to any light other than the one from that south window; the one that once looked out on a wild-enough bamboo grove and so gave birth to stories where The Lord of the Flies met Peter Pan and Alice once found her way not into Wonderland but the Heart of Darkness.

I am out of sync the whole time I am in the Maltz/Burch home. Maltz shows me his improvements in the kitchen: far better tiling, flooring, and counter-work than I ever man-
Is Waking Up Tonight Affecting Your Tomorrow?

Do you or someone you know have trouble staying asleep? Is it affecting daytime activities? A research study of an investigational medication is underway for people who have trouble sleeping, characterized by difficulty maintaining sleep.

To qualify for participation in the research study, you must:
- Be at least 18 years old
- Have trouble staying asleep through the night
- Be impacted in your daily life by your sleep problems

If you qualify and choose to participate in this study, you may receive study medication and you will receive physician consultations, study-related medical examinations, laboratory evaluations and follow-up visits at no charge. There are also overnight visits to a sleep laboratory during the study.

Health insurance is not required and compensation for time and travel is provided, of up to $1,300.

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

“I feel controlled by my anxiety.”

If you feel this way, you are not alone.

Millions of people across the world live their lives with a constant burden of anxiety, where their excessive worrying occurs for no apparent reason or is triggered by the smallest or most insignificant of incidents.

We are currently looking for people to participate in a research study for an investigational medicine for Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD). You may qualify if you are between 18 and 65 years of age and have been diagnosed with GAD or regularly experience the symptoms associated with the condition, including chronic anxiety, muscle tightness, restlessness, prolonged sleep disturbance, and even pain.

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

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

Outpatient Clinical programs offered at Affiliated Research Institute include:
- Alzheimer’s Disease
- Bipolar Disorder
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Insomnia

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

If you are interested in learning more about any of these studies, please contact:
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Are you postmenopausal or surgically sterile and experiencing hot flashes?

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

Call Dr. Steven Drosman at 619-260-0010 for more information.
Heavy drinkers not seeking treatment

Investigators at The Scripps Research Institute are currently seeking volunteers who consider themselves to be heavy drinkers and do not have any desire to stop drinking. The purpose of this research is to study the effect of potential medications on factors related to drinking.

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

CLINICAL RESEARCH

SCHIZOPHRENIA • DEPRESSION • BIPOLAR DISORDER

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

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

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

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

Feel Like Everyone’s Going But You?

Researchers are evaluating an investigational medication to see if it effectively treats Constipation. You may qualify for a research study if you experience any of the following symptoms:
- Abdominal pain or discomfort
- Bloating and/or straining
- Have fewer than 3 bowel movements per week

All study-related care will be provided at no cost. Insurance is not needed.

To learn more call:
Medical Center for Clinical Research
619-521-2841

I did that. We did a lot of stuff. That overhang was all redwood. Termites, you know…

And my mind is on the late Cecil “Duke” Crowell, who died a few years ago, a man who was as much a father to me as my own, who’d died in 1968.

“I redid the floor down here.” Maltz is showing me the rental, the granny-flat basement. When I lived here, it had been a nightmare. I remember the pitch and the near complete lack of light. Enough, however, to expose a patch of wall that always seemed to shimmer, separate, scurry with the movement of a thousand cockroaches. Two women had rented this space for years in the 1970s, feminists, lesbians who apparently equated cleanliness, housecleaning, shaving (even facial hair), any type of personal hygiene and/or housekeeping with bondage to the oppressive patriarchy of chauvinist swine. “We didn’t want to change anything that was in here,” Maltz says, and he is, I dearly hope, referring to improvements my wife Diane, her father the Duke, and I and my young son (helping, helping, always helping, and doing a manly little job) had managed, I thought, pretty well. Our greatest contribution might have been the introduction of sunlight, with new windows, cleaner windows, mirrors, etc. The shimmed-up floor, to correct for something like a 20-degree angle downhill, was a stopgap measure that Maltz more finally corrected.

Medical Center for Clinical Research
619-521-2841

Don’t feel rested when you wake up?

A research study is currently being conducted by Pacific Sleep Medicine Services for individuals who are experiencing sleep problems throughout the night.

If you are at least 18 years old, you can be considered to participate in a clinical research trial on insomnia.

Study-related care is provided at no charge to participants. This includes a physical exam, sleep exams, laboratory services and study medication.

Qualified participants will receive compensation for time and effort.

for more information, call:
Pacific Sleep Medicine
877-927-5337

Restless Legs rob you of sleep?

This research study is evaluating a medication for Restless Legs Syndrome.

IF YOU PARTICIPATE, YOU’LL GET:
• Monitoring of your health as it relates to the clinical study.
• Study-related medical care and study medication provided at no cost to you.

TO QUALIFY, YOU MUST:
• Be at least 18 years old.
• Be diagnosed with RLS or experiencing RLS symptoms.

Interested, call: (619) 521-2841
MEDICAL CENTER FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH
MISSION VALLEY
Do you or someone you love suffer from 
ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE?

If you are:
• Male or female between 50 and 85 years of age
• Fluently read and speak English
• In good general health

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN
A CLINICAL RESEARCH TRIAL FOR AN
INVESTIGATIONAL NEW MEDICATION

Participants will receive free of charge:
• Study-related exams
• Investigational drug
• Compensation for time and travel

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

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Do you or someone you know suffer from 
Chronic Obstructive 
Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

Are you at least 40 years of age?
Are you using one of the following bronchodilators:
Serevent (Salmeterol)
Foradil (Formoterol Fumarate)
Spiriva (Tiotropium Bromide)

You may be eligible to participate in a single-visit clinical research trial.

Qualified participants will receive at no cost:
• Study-related exams
• Compensation for study participation.

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

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Are you overweight with type II diabetes?

You might qualify to participate in a new clinical research study.

We are investigating new treatment options through medical research
that may help overweight people with type II diabetes lose weight.

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

Qualified participants may receive at no charge:
• Personalized dietary counseling
• Study-related investigational medication
• Compensation for your time and travel

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

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ADOLESCENT DEPRESSION

Are you or an adolescent you know:
• Suffering from depression?
• Are between 12 and 17 years of age?
• Have had symptoms for greater than 2 months?

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

Participants will receive free of charge:
• Study-related exams
• Investigational drug
• Compensation for time and travel

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

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HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE?

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

If so, you may qualify for a research study of investigational medications to treat high blood pressure.

Qualified participants must be at least 18 years of age.

If you qualify, you will receive at no cost study-related:
• Physical exams
• Laboratory tests
• Investigational study medications
• Compensation for time and travel

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

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Are you anxious?

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

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

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

Synergy Clinical Research Center
1-888-486-9150

See our website at: www.synergysandiego.com
Office hours: 9 am-5 pm

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• Male or female between 50 and 85 years of age
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• In good general health

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• Are between 12 and 17 years of age?
• Have had symptoms for greater than 2 months?

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

Participants will receive free of charge:
• Study-related exams
• Investigational drug
• Compensation for time and travel

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

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HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE?

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

If so, you may qualify for a research study of investigational medications to treat high blood pressure.

Qualified participants must be at least 18 years of age.

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Are you anxious?

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

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

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See our website at: www.synergysandiego.com
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If you are:
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• Fluently read and speak English
• In good general health

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A CLINICAL RESEARCH TRIAL FOR AN
INVESTIGATIONAL NEW MEDICATION

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

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

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Are you overweight with type II diabetes?

You might qualify to participate in a new clinical research study.

We are investigating new treatment options through medical research
that may help overweight people with type II diabetes lose weight.

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

Qualified participants may receive at no charge:
• Personalized dietary counseling
• Study-related investigational medication
• Compensation for your time and travel

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

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Are you or an adolescent you know:
• Suffering from depression?
• Are between 12 and 17 years of age?
• Have had symptoms for greater than 2 months?

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

Participants will receive free of charge:
• Study-related exams
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HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE?

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See our website at: www.synergysandiego.com
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Do you have Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes?

The Profil Institute for Clinical Research is conducting a study to evaluate an investigational device for continuous glucose monitoring.

To qualify, you must be:

- Diagnosed with Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes
- 18 – 65 years old
- Otherwise healthy with no major medical conditions

One overnight stay will be required. You may be compensated up to $600.00 for time and travel.

To learn more about this study, please call 1-866-245-5919.

Do you mind if I ask what you paid?

‘What the heck.’” Maltz gestures at many other improvements. I am struggling to keep my footing in the here and now.

* * *

Stevie Ray Vaughan, the Pretenders, Toots Thielemans and Bill Evans, and Bruce Springsteen provided the soundtrack to the renovation in those earlier years. Also Mink DeVille and Little Feat. The music dovetailed into my second novel, the first that would be published. The renovation was maddening. The insects alone: mosquitoes bred by a leaking water heater emptying down the canyon, cockroaches, spiders, and flies, of course — all conspired to create a pissy discontent, even paranoia, when I confronted my father-in-law (who’d lent us the down payment) and asked, “Are you unhappy with the progress we’re making? We’re doing the best we can, but I really don’t know what I’m doing, and I feel it’s all wrong. I sense you’re angry at me, and you think I’m an idiot.”

After a long pause, Duke said, “No. Not at all. You’re doing fine.”

* * *

Maltz says, “This is kind of a mess, and that kitchen area went all the way to the stairs…”

“Yeah,” I say. “That background is in science.” When I bought this,” he says, “I was doing research at Scripps Oceanography. I wanted to move back to California, to San Diego, and I could see the market rising. I rented at first. This house was probably knocked down [in price] from, like, $850,000.”

RESEARCH STUDIES

Hand Eczema?

Therapeutics Clinical Research, a center of excellence in dermatological care, is conducting a clinical research trial of an investigational medication for hand eczema (also known as hand dermatitis).

We need participants:

- 18-75 years of age
- with hand eczema lasting at least six months

Qualified participants will receive:

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Therapeutics Clinical Research
Had this been true, I was certainly unaware of it. “Do you mind if I ask what you paid?”

“About $205,000, and I got $4000 back to do the electricity. I bought it from Diane in 1996. I got lucky. I understand she has a nice house herself.”

“Kind of similar in a lot of ways.”

“All these windows are original, but they’re more energy efficient. I like the old windows, of course.”

Maltz’s daughter enters the room. She has a toss of hair like jet coral. Energetic, elfin, my own son’s counterpart as he was 20-some years ago, minus the hair length.

We climb the main staircase, which remains unchanged, even to the glossy chocolate-brown enamel on the steps I painted two and a half decades ago. The banisters may have been replaced, though they are much like the ones I installed. The girl’s room is our old master bedroom, colorfully correct for a florid and wholesome imagination. A dream room for a girl. “You know….” Maltz is staring, and I expect him to launch into some business about a child’s environment: education, mobiles, whatever. I forestall this by saying, “If I break down in an uncontrollable fit of weeping….” My hand is raised. Maltz smiles and shakes his head.

“No,” he says. “I was going to say that all this electricity had to be redone. I couldn’t get insurance. Remember you had the glass fuses? All the switches were toggle switches and….”

Stu Maltz goes on quite knowledgably about the electrical nightmare I avoided for years. I suspect the house was built before wiring was commonplace in this part of town. One electrician Diane and I had in told us that while the work was old, the fixtures (crystal, for example) were probably far superior to whatever they might be replaced with. We used this logic to assuage our fear of fire and guilt at doing so little. Maltz had spent quite a bit to correct the ancient stuff, and I felt a pang of dodged responsibility.

He points out his improvements: “Three-prong plugs, three prong.” He points here and there as if he is stabbing me. “Three prong, three prong.”

I edge past him, changing the subject. “Hey, this was our guest room! Is this your guest room too?” I ask, as if I’ve just pointed out Halley’s Comet.

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**RESEARCH STUDIES**

**EXCELL RESEARCH**

**Participate in Our Research Studies**

*If you are one of the 15 million adults affected by depression, you may be eligible to participate in a research trial of a new investigational medication now being studied.*

You may be eligible for the study if:

- You are between the ages of 18 and 65
- You are currently experiencing symptoms of depression, and have been previously diagnosed with depression

All qualified participants will receive study-related care and study medication at no cost for up to 14 weeks.

To find out if you qualify for this study or for more information, please call Excell Research at:

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"Yes, as a matter of fact. Actually, I remember talking to your son. He was very sad to move. Of course, pretty much everyone is sad to move. I got the feeling he really liked the house."

Touché.

I am now looking at a small bookshelf, the current family’s upstairs library wing, full of how-to manuals, some children’s books, and a Bible. And I am back in time again, having the house blessed. Can’t remember the minister’s name.

“We even had Santa Claus come in here that December,” I say. I doubt Maltz hears me, and no matter. The subject of Doug Jacobs from the San Diego Repertory Theatre comes up. I bring it up, and I don’t know why, except that Doug was living in the house at the time my wife and I bought it. I remember his room became my son’s room. Jacobs had cinder-block bookshelves full of books, plays, manuscripts, novels, and reference works, and I remember thinking: Ah! kindred spirits. At the time, he lived with a woman named Judith Essex, who seemed as reluctant to leave (understandably) as later would my son.

Mark Spieller, who also lived in the house for a time (both before and after my residency), knew Jacobs and contacted me when he heard I was writing about the old homestead. In his email, he had this to say:

“The main story about the place was it was abandoned, dirty, the entrance area filled with mud, dirt, old leaves. A bunch of hippies found it, got in touch with the owner, and asked about renting. The hippies agreed to clean up the outside, the landlord would take care of the inside. The rent was $200 on the first. The minute it was late, the rent would double. The rent was never late, and the house was handed down from hippie to hippie, till Doug and his GF [Essex] took over the place. I moved in when the GF, best friend — the first female licensed for pyrotechnics in the US — moved to Washington DC to be an engineer for national radio. She was doing..."
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Attn: Heavy Drinkers

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Or visit: www.pearsoncenter.org

Are your waistline and blood pressure on the rise?

You could be at risk for the metabolic syndrome. (Never heard of it? It’s a condition that affects those who are overweight and have elevated blood pressure, which may put you at an increased risk for cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

Our physicians are participating in a research study using already approved medications to assist in treating the metabolic syndrome.

To be considered, you must:
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• Have elevated blood pressure • Have a larger waistline
• Have abnormal lab results in blood sugar, triglycerides or cholesterol

If you qualify, you will receive all study-related care and compensation for time and travel.
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If so, consider participating in a research study at Prodig Institute for Clinical Research. Prodig is now conducting a research study to evaluate an investigational oral medication for Type 2 Diabetes.

You may qualify for the study if you are:
• A Type 2 Diabetic
• 30-75 years old and are otherwise healthy
• Using insulin alone or insulin in combination with oral anti-diabetic medications
• A non-smoker
• Women must be post-menopausal

If you qualify, you may be compensated up to $3,155 and you may receive investigational medication at no cost. Up to 12 overnight stays and four outpatient visits will be required.

For more information, please call Prodig Institute for Clinical Research at: 619-409-1243

Prodig Institute for Clinical Research
“You had to go up to the second floor to use the bathroom.”

reach Jacobs for comments. I was told he was no longer with the Rep. I expect mail if that source is wrong.

... “My brother and I were the bottom renters when we first bought had the same tenants for basically five years.”

Here Maltz describes routine maintenance: leaks and repairs to ceilings and floors, and the kind of conflicts that would arise, sounding all too familiar. Maltz summizes: “Which problem do you want?” Exactly the kind of thing memory eases out to make room for the new mundane in that area of the brain falling under the rubric of “Headache.”

The entire time I walked through the place, Maltz leading me moving to San Diego, we lived in Brooklyn, New York, where my wife Diane and I were new parents and trying to pay for Pampers by writing for science fiction and fantasy magazines. In August of 1980, on the same day we sold two short stories: one of mine and a collaboration called “The Opposite House.” This story (not Dickinson’s poem) described a supernaturally dilapidating country home of a type we had to research. Neither of us had any empirical images to draw upon.

... There’s been a Death, in the Opposite House As lately as Today — I know it, by the numb look. Such houses have always —

— Emily Dickinson, “There’s Been a Death in the Opposite House”

... Though we knew of no deaths personally (one would think it inevitable in nearly a century and a half), that we would encounter a house so eerily similar to the one we had jointly imagined and one that, in a way, spelled a kind of end to us could not be ignored. I’ve since spoken with other writers about this phenomenon. Author Richard Bowes (Minions of the Moon, There’s a Hole in the City), for one, did not hesitate to agree. He had recognized this (with 9/11 as one example) and did not even let me finish the question. This is some sort of facet particular to fiction writing, accessing a part of the mind, just for argument’s sake, that dreaming may at other times. It is an experience I will always puzzle over without ascribing any particular mojo to it.

... I visit my ex-wife’s husband at Scripps Mercy Hospital, where he is recovering from a liver transplant. A local wine expert who has been written about in that context several times, I will call him “Gordon” to avoid confusion; he was also the subject of a local feature on his transplant. Gordon is his middle name.

The patient — pale, atypically unmustached, and in good spirits, despite the two catheters depending from his side — sits up and tells me the following:

“It’s my favorite house that I’ve ever lived in. My early impressions of the house, long before I ever lived there… I shared an apartment with a friend down the street. I used to walk past it every day — this is in the early or mid-’70s — and I’d see the house. I always thought Curlew Street had a very interesting atmosphere. Once Robinson makes that curve and heads down the street, the temper of the thing changes completely. So it’s really a gateway to a whole other type of community. There’s a swell little community down in those canyons, like Dove Street down to Reynard, and along there. Then, actually, I met you [the author] when I worked at Wahrenbrock’s at the old location. You and Diane were in some Weird Tales collections, and you guys had a bunch of writers over at
your house, those famous guys we still know. And you invited me to come over. We sat and drank Salignac, sitting in the front room and on the porch. That was the first time I was ever in the house. I really loved the place: the dark wood wainscoting and paneling. The very 19th Century, late-Victorian Arts and Crafts design elements. Old San Diego. It’s everything I love about this area, and this house had it.

“Then, of course, through all the events that occurred, I found myself back at Curlew Street, with Diane. I moved in and came under an instant spell: that verticality to the property, the yard. It struck me as somehow Lovecraftian [H.P. Lovecraft: ironically, perhaps, the most popular writer for *Weird Tales* in the 1920s and ’30s].”

“Yes, the verticality of that house. It’s the only place that, well, it doesn’t leave that big of a footprint on the ground. And you had to go up to the second floor to use the bathroom. Then there was that wonderfully large closet off the office [used by the author for manuscript storage], which I used as a wine cellar. It had the perfect conditions. It was surrounded by heavy wood, and the climate was right there. Perfect for wine storage, without excessive refrigeration.”

He remembers something else. “It was rather like being on a sailing ship, because of the way it would sway with tremors. Imagine the earthquakes that place had weathered. Yes, it was the house I always wanted to live in. It had that Edgar Allan Poe thing about it.”

At this point, Gordon is interrupted for re-catheterization, and I speak with Diane Clark (née Brizzolara). She speaks of the owner we bought the house from, Michael Trant, a notable real-estate owner in Coronado and other interesting locations, and how our real-estate deal was among a few pioneering second trust deeds, with balloon payments, and our monthly mortgage was less than $300 (later raised to as much as $380), and some other nearly unheard-of-at-the-time features of our arrangement. She spoke of the gold smelter we found in the backyard, down the slope, a rusted seven-foot drum laden with ancient slag at its bottom, some of it so golden in appearance that it excited our son tremendously, who dealt with its realistic and eventual appraisal philo-
sophically. The house, it had been said by Michael Trant and others, had been built by a tardy gold-rushing prospector. This, as far as I know, is unconfirmed, but it hardly seems unlikely. Some 100 years later, my six-year-old son and I knocked down the ostensible hazard to tenants with a combination of regret, manly self-congratulations, and childlike glee.

What we remember about Trant: a signature deposit of beer cans always nearby his chair and his habit of replacing spent television sets with new ones placed atop the preceding, defunct set. We agree that he was consistently fair with us, however, and often more than that. “I remember,” Diane says, “we had to drive the check to him in Coronado a few times. He was strict about that.”

Diane regrets that her father, Cecil “Duke” Crowell, had insisted on the sale of the house shortly before his death.
In that hospital room, the three of us agree that Duke was certainly within his rights to do so, the emotional dregs being what they are.

“And then there was the 2:00 a.m. Club,” Diane remembers, smiling. “Ah, yes, drunken car crashes.” I believe that was me. “Coming around that curve on weekend nights after the bars closed. How many cars do you think we had in our front yard, inches from the front door, feet away from the living room?”

“We used to have impromptu little parties out there,” Diane recalls. “The neighbors, the tenants, all gathered sometimes with wine to inspect the damage.”

I remember without pride one occasion when I threw open the front door to peer directly into the passenger side of a vehicle. A near-comatose woman was behind the wheel. I shouted, “What’s wrong with you?” But I’m afraid my first concern was not for her health. She had spilled several garbage cans across the road and into the front yard. These contained recently gutted fish the Duke and I had caught. The area smelled horrendous. We began throwing perfume and a dozen or more limes to kill the stink, laughing heartily once the woman had been taken away, drunk but unhurt. The limes were soon followed by tequila and salt, most of which was consumed at the curb.

That afternoon, visiting the old house with Stu Maltz, his wife Holly Burch arrived home from work at the time most people arrive home from conventional jobs. Ms. Burch is attractive, seemingly in her 30s, but if she told me her age I’ve since forgotten, and so, apparently has the tape recorder. She asked if I could interview her by phone the next day, and I agreed. In the course of a brief and pleasant conversation, I asked her to give one descriptive, a single word that might encompass her feelings about the house. She gave it some thought, and after a moment came up with a word I sensed she used sparingly, and most likely only for family and/or loved ones, her husband, for example, or possibly her father.

“The house seems so…dependable,” she said. “That would be the word I’d use. Dependable.”

After 115 years, that word seems fine.

— John Brizzolara
Down in the Valley

I have to admit that after 18 months here, I actually kind of enjoy living in Mission Valley. Still, I feel strangely guilty writing that.

It’s true, it doesn’t have the avant-garde feel of a home in Ocean Beach, nor does it have the tony appeal of UTC.

But where else in San Diego could I live in a large, modern apartment, chock full of amenities with a gym, pools, and all the rest, and all this at a reasonable price?

It’s not only that. In my better moments, I love the quiet I wouldn’t have in Pacific Beach and the clean, empty sidewalks I couldn’t enjoy downtown. I love the easy access, the students and other young adults. In fact, I must confess that even the more abrasive aspects of new development hold their appeal; I like the homogeneity of red tile, the surfeit of unnecessary cupolas and external beams. I like the notion that I live in some sort of high-tech adobe hut, as if my apartment were the sort of place the Anasazi would live in today’s go-go world.

Secretly, I also like the kitsch, the special helper that makes life in the glow of Qualcomm Stadium worthwhile. I rather like the tacky bowls of agave raised aloft outside of Fenton Marketplace, offerings to the gods of California commercialism who brought you ample parking and rapid egress on that harried afternoon when all you needed was a mattress. If recent development in San Diego is any clue, after all, those gods are extremely partial to Southwestern junk.

I will admit, it does have its drawbacks. Mission Valley, as I recall from some snooty article written by a geological leviathan at UCSD, was formed over millions of years by the slow and steady trickle of the San Diego River, and indeed that river still flows through the valley (albeit in a technologically subdued form) today. Indeed, floods in the historical record have covered Mission Valley’s entire floor, and much of the...
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recent development seems to have been hastily completed without an eye toward the flimsy dam holding everything in place just upstream.

The story of Mission Valley is, at its core, just another rehashing of the tragedy of the commons — an orgy of development interests descended on the city council seemingly at once, and everybody wanted a piece. What’s left is a neighborhood with no schools to speak of, very little parkland, and few amenities — condos and apartments sprung up in multitudes but as apparent afterthoughts to showroom space at Macy’s.

Don’t get me wrong — I’m delighted (and heartened), for example, by recent trends. I love — love — that people care enough about our rare riparian woodland to preserve an important section of it along the Mission Valley greenway, even if the execution has been a little haphazard. I also find it amusing when, in a nod to a parking code dating from the days of the oil embargo, San Diego’s soccer moms fight to edge their Suburbans into minuscule spaces each morning, the Coffee Bean so tantalizingly close, yet out of reach.

And I’m rather fond of the notion that, each year, Mission Valley seems to become just slightly more trendy, as a new wave of working people moves in. (I like to imagine the archetype: too pragmatic to be Bohemian, but with a soft spot for the coffee-house scene or some nonsense.)

In the meantime, the tension between old

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San Diego Reader, January 24, 2009
41
Randa's blood pressure had risen again, and I needed to know why.

An African-American police officer in her 40s and a single mother of three, Randa's lips parted in a jovial smirk. "You really want to know?"

Randa had already had a rough year. After a protracted battle with painful, heavy menstrual periods, she decided to have a hysterectomy last winter, which went fine; but she had far more than the expected amount of nausea while recovering from surgery. Her obstetrician, Dr. B., ordered an abdominal ultrasound because, as he told me later, "One of my attendings during my residency told me to be curious." He uncovered an unsuspected problem: a cancer (renal cell carcinoma, originating from one kidney cell gone awry) at the bottom of Randa's left kidney.

Why didn't he see this during the operation? Because the uterus, ovaries, intestines, liver, and other abdominal organs lie within the peritoneal cavity. The peritoneum surrounding this cavity is a smooth, sterile, glossy, gray sac that separates the abdominal and pelvic organs from the retroperitoneal space behind them, where one finds the kidneys. Dr. B. couldn't see the kidneys during the hysterectomy.

He can take credit for saving Randa's life. Diagnosing renal cell carcinoma is often challenging because it does not cause symptoms suggestive of kidney disease. It occurs in men twice as often as in women, and the age of peak incidence is 60. The only known risk factors for the disease are cigarette smoking and exposure to cadmium. Randa was not the right age or sex, nor was she exposed to either risk factor. All of which proves the tenet that patients do not always read our textbooks; in medicine, we sometimes meet our adversaries in the most unexpected places. We would not have found her cancer until much too late without her surgeon's "curiosity."

So, a couple of weeks later, Randa found herself on the operating table again and left it without her left kidney. Fortunately, the cancer had not spread into the fatty capsule surrounding the kidney nor into any of the nearby lymph nodes, so she had a decent chance at
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a cure and wouldn’t need chemotherapy or radiation.

Over the next couple of months, she did well, and her high blood pressure, which had required two medications to control over the previous three years, vanished. I was able to taper her off both medicines. But while I was doing this, it became obvious that the scar from her kidney operation was forming a painful keloid. Keloids are like nonmalignant cancers of scar tissue; they can grow big and ugly. Sometimes they hurt. They occur most often in black people. “I can’t wear my police belt,” she complained. “The weight of it causes too much pain.”

Her scar was now a pencil-thick hockey stick, with the blade pointing down and to the right from the lower margin of her mid-abdomen, just below the sternum, the long handle extending gradually downward from that same margin all the way across to the far left side. Its pink radiance was not the gentle pink of a rose petal but the angry pink of a first-degree burn. Its induration penetrated beneath its visible margins toward Randa’s subcutaneous fat, and the pressure of my hand upon it elicited from her a grimace that one might see on the face of a tough cop nursing a fresh knife wound.

As often happens in today’s managed-care environment, her pain became our pain. The plastic surgeons in her insurance plan did not want to see her, because the plan pays them a fixed amount (“capitation”) for each patient who joins the plan; it doesn’t pay extra to take care of an individual patient. Because a keloid often becomes a chronic problem requiring multiple office visits, many plastic surgeons try to avoid seeing patients with keloids who have a capped insurance plan.

First, I sent her to see the best plastic surgeon in our region, Dr. K. He met with her a couple of times and once injected her scar with corticosteroids (cortisone analogs), which are strong anti-inflammatory agents and are the first-line treatment for keloids. When this did not help, she tried to get another appointment, but the doctor’s office put her off so many times, she gave up. The other plastic surgeon in the plan refused to see her.

Several months passed. In desperation, I called Dr. T., a personable plastic surgeon five miles away, and he gave us a chance. First, he explained to me the injection technique so that I could give her another trial of a corticosteroid injection. Then he asked

---

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me the key question: “Does she have any other keloids from her other surgeries or wounds?”

“No.”

“Well, then, she should have her keloid excised surgically; she’s the ideal candidate.”

That month, Randa switched her provider plan from the local plan to the one in the next town so that I could refer her to Dr. T. The plan in the next town also pays capitation, but Dr. T. did not let that prevent him from performing the surgery she needed, and now her pain is almost gone.

Which is why I couldn’t understand this latest rise in her blood pressure.” “Yes” was my reply; I really did want to know.

For months, a man had been bothering Willis, Randa’s youngest (midteen) son. The perpetrator often followed him home and threatened him.

It progressed to where the man and his friends were throwing rocks through the windows of Randa’s house. “I had to file several police reports to make sure we had it all documented.”

One day, the conflict escalated. Her older son Eric came out of the house and found that this man was yelling at Willis and had him in a headlock.

“Eric is kind of thin and not a strong guy,” she explained. He yelled at the man to let go of his brother, but the abuse continued. Angry and frightened, Eric returned to the front door. When he found that he was locked out of the house, he summoned enough powerful rage to break through the locked door. He went inside and found his mother’s gun.

Eric did not know anything about using a gun, but it did offer him the possibility of scaring away his brother’s attacker. When the man, upon Eric’s return, still did not release Willis, Eric fired a warning shot. Of course, he misfired. So much so that he hit the
attacker in the head. He killed him. Eric could never have hoped to accomplish this if he had tried. For this, he is now in county jail, facing murder charges. “He’s in with hard criminals and is really afraid.”

The dead man had gang connections and a rap sheet 162 pages long. Eric’s strengths have always been academic, and he has a clean record. Nevertheless, the prosecuting DA has revised his initial plans to try Eric for manslaughter; he now wants a murder conviction. Why the DA is so eager to charge with murder a teenager who dared to protect his younger brother from a dangerous thug isn’t clear.

What is clear is that Randa and her other son are not safe; the family of the dead man told them as much at the preliminary hearing. Randa has moved her family to a different neighborhood. Meanwhile, Eric has spent several months in jail and won’t get his day in court before March.

So cancer isn’t the only killer stalking Randa these days. While listening to her story, I felt small. My prescription pad and standard spiels on stress management seemed like spit-wads, when we needed cannons; I didn’t offer them. I remember only that I offered whatever weighty words of sympathy I could find and sent her back to Dr. T. for another surgery. Randa had breasts that were too heavy even for her well-toned back and torso, causing frequent annoying upper-back pain, so Dr. T. reduced her breasts.

Apparently, fate or God or whatever else is in charge of these matters still didn’t think Randa’s plate was full. In mid-January, she came in for me to check her neck. Seven days before that, Willis was driving through town with her in the passenger’s seat. Another driver ran a stop sign and plowed into the driver’s side of their car hard enough to push Willis’s seat into Randa’s. Everyone escaped serious injury, and there aren’t any hungry DAs around who want somehow to blame Randa’s son for the accident. But Randa’s neck has hurt since the day after the event. She came in to find out what she could do about it and how long it would be before she could return to work. “I want to go back Monday.” It was Wednesday.

Feeling but hiding my frustration and disbelief at her latest calamity, I examined her. She could rotate her head only 30 degrees in each direction, and she had even less range of motion looking up and down. The excess tension in her well-developed trapezius muscles, running in a gentle curve from her shoulders up along the back of her neck on each side to their attachment on the occiput at the base of the skull, pressed against my examining fingers, causing that painful wince that I was becoming too accustomed to seeing on her face. The straplike sternocleidomastoid muscles on either side of her neck expressed similar tautness. Other than some new
We have a few scars, but it has been a very satisfying experience..."
San Diego's Sunk
Re "Nine Sinking Cities" ("City Lights," January 22).

It's inevitable that cities must now reduce expenses because they spent without restraint while revenues were high, but here in San Diego the situation is much worse for several reasons.

First, the mayor is unwilling to stop making promises about new development while telling us we must all expect service cuts and higher fees. In his most recent speech, he promised to expand the convention center, redesign the transportation system serving the airport, charge ahead with a new downtown library and, by the way, provide some unspecified help to the Chargers. Confused?

Second, we have an unbelievably expensive benefit structure for city employees, and the council is basically a captive of the City's unions, so layoffs will be hard to come by and benefit cuts will always be postponed until the public demands change. At the January 21 Budget Committee meeting, newly elected councilman Carl DeMaio presented a document which showed the City is committed to spending 61 cents in benefits for every payroll dollar. He asserted that the average for cities across the country is 34 cents and said San Francisco gets by with 33 cents. He could have added that the average private-sector firm spends even less than that. Where is the public outcry?

By the way, don't look for much "outsourcing," despite a lot of lip service that's gone on for years. There's no stomach to lay off city employees; they'd rather cancel unfilled openings and claim they're saving money. Besides, the recently enacted "living wage ordinance," which specifies minimum wages and benefits contractors must pay to get city contracts, removes a lot of the potential saving from lower-skilled work most readily outsourced.

Perhaps most significant, we have a mayor and a council that looks first to raise fees and taxes and to cut services that serve the broad public rather than harm favored constituencies or disturb the internal workings of the City. You've heard a lot about closing branch libraries, right? Well, if you examine the budget, which is accessible to anyone with an ounce of curiosity on the city website, sandiego.gov, you discover some interesting facts. E.g., did you realize that the City budgets more to administer its retirement plan than it does for the whole library system? Let me say that a different way: The current budget for libraries is $37,013,537, and the city retirement organization gets $41,360,349. This does not include a penny of the millions the City contributes to provide the plan benefits; that's just to administer the plan. Say, what?

Here's another shocker: Did you know that the City has three redevelopment organizations, with a combined budget of over $334 million? And the largest, CCDC, which surely should have peaked in its efforts long ago, got a $17 million increase over last year. The steady campaign contribu-
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tions from developers, organized labor, and the hotel and restaurant industries have been paying dividends for years. Ever see any questions about this in the U-T?

Here’s a reality check: The City has two information-technology organizations, one internal and one a city “agency,” with a combined budget of almost $87 million, plus it’s paying a vendor an additional $10 million this year in connection with developing a new tracking system. I guess we shouldn’t complain. That’s down from $20 million last year.

I could go on and on; there are plenty more, but check it out for yourself. And while you’re at it, you might check the Internet for budgets of other large cities to see what they spend in these areas, as I’m doing. There are some interesting comparisons, such as the Phoenix and San Diego city council budgets. Somehow, Phoenix, with a population over 20 percent larger than San Diego’s, gets by with 54 people working in its eight council offices. Here it takes 93 people for the same number of council members, plus a recently hired “independent budget analyst” with a staff of ten to keep the council informed on the mayor’s budget activities.

Next time city officials talk about new fees and closing libraries, you might suggest they clean up their act before coming to us for more money or cuts in parks and libraries.

Bill Bradshaw
via email

Steamy
Ollie’s article, “Where Can I Get Some Peace and Quiet?” (Cover Story, January 15) was absolutely hilarious. He is really picking up steam. Ollie’s going to be the best writer you ever had.

Dale Anne Thompson
Clairemont

They All Ignore The Law
Your excellent write-up “Where Can I Get Some Peace and Quiet?” (Cover Story, January 15). I am a regular reader of your excellent paper. One cannot find a better witness of unnecessary, loud noise pollution than I. I have resided since 1972 in the Gaslamp Quarter. The City of San Diego noise abatement, County of San Diego, State of California Alcoholic Beverage Control, and even Superior Court—ordered injunctions are constantly and deliberately ignored and violated with the blessings of movers and shakers of San Diego. I hope my unpleasant experience will shed some light on the narrow-minded business executives and the politicians, including some judges of the Superior Court, who cannot protect the rights of the common people.

M.G. Bhakta
Downtown

Comments from Reader Website
Comments are not edited for spelling, punctuation, or grammar.

Feature Story
Published January 21
Posted by TedBurke on January 22, 8:18 a.m.

While living in San Diego I used the services of an Endodontist and a general practice dentist for several years. My insurance was happy to reimburse me for the work that I paid for. It is true there was no soft...
track lighting or large aquariums, no soft muzak and the omnipresent television was crazy making, but the work was done efficiently, the clinical areas were clean, and the dental assistants were knowledgeable and very capable.

But for the travel time involved I would be still using this service… and yeah, you have to pay attention to your surroundings right now more than ever before.

Straight from the Hip
Published January 14

Dogs understand time. They may not perceive it precisely the way that humans do, but they understand far more than most scientists give them credit for.

Because I have a fairly regular work schedule, our dogs always know when to expect me, and they will wake up at the front window at the same time every day. My wife says that they are visibly disappointed on days when I am later than expected, and I know that the same is true for her when she is unexpectedly late.

Our dogs also understand the concept of weekends. They know that weekends mean walks in the mornings, and they will wake us up at about the same time on Saturday and Sunday mornings to walk, while leaving us alone during the week.

Every couple of months, scientists claim to be surprised at new data indicating that dogs are smarter than previously believed. My conclusion is that these scientists don't have a clue about dogs.

City Lights, by Don Bauder

Published January 21

Posted by oldepro on January 22, 8:17 a.m.

Dear Mr. Bauder, A stunning piece. You have done your homework. I beg you to continue. Expose these people for what they are. The story needs to be told. So far, the media has treated the SEC with kid-gloves, we need a bare knuckles fight. You
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• Wax Services:
Bikini $18 (reg. $35)
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There are many options when you are considering breast augmentation. Dr. Samimi is board-certified in plastic surgery and has many years of experience using saline and silicone implants. Dr. Samimi will help you make the right decisions in breast augmentation or any other cosmetic procedure.

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Lifts up to 6 weeks. 5 years’ experience.

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Lifts up to 2 weeks. Feels as light as your natural lash. Fuller, longer, natural look.

• Eyelash Perm $55
Natural curl for 2 months.

• Wax Services:
Bikini $18 (reg. $35)
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• Total Body Wellness
($185 value; $139)
3 hours. Includes: European facial, 1-hour full-body therapeutic massage, manicure, and pedicure.

• Mini Day Spa Package
($100 value; $85) 2 hours total
Includes: 1-hour facial with 15-minute head and neck acupressure and back massage, alpha hydroxy peel (smoothes and softens skin texture and appearance), European facial, plus spa manicure and pedicure. A natural facelift that helps cleanse the skin, reduces fine lines, and reduces stress.

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LUNAR NEW YEAR

MONDAY, JANUARY 26 - MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2009

VISIT CLUB BARONA OR BARONA.COM FOR MORE DETAILS.
A DIVERSE SET OF GOALS
The controversial practice of force-feeding a bird to fatten it up for flavor may have begun in ancient Egypt but is now the most common method by which the French delicacy foie gras is produced. Learn more about protecting ducks, geese — and seals in La Jolla — by attending this benefit dinner. See LECTURES, page 62.

TOSS YOUR TURF: LESS GRASS, MORE FUN!
It's simply selfish to maintain a lawn in Southern California. If you're looking for ways to save water and be a better citizen, Vickie Driver of the San Diego County Water Authority will give you tips for evaluating your soil and tuning your irrigation system to create an attractive low-water-use landscape. See LECTURES, page 62.

BROTHERHOOD OF THE PIGSKIN
Die-hard football fans who just can't get enough of the sport have created imaginary leagues based on real-life players. What is it that drives these fantasy-football leagues? Authors Wade Lindenberger and Mike Ford attempt to answer in their book, which they'll be signing in Carmel Valley. See IN PERSON, page 62.

STINGING NETTLES CAN BE GOOD FOR YOU
Take an outing with expert weed-eater George Sirbu and learn which weeds (dandelions, stinging nettles, lamb's-quarters, malva, and more) can be used as expectorants or anti-inflammatories and can prevent liver disease. See OUTDOORS, page 64.

MONDAY | 2
HIGH VOLTAGE TATTOO
Inked-up, L.A.-based hottie Kat Von D visits San Diego to sign her graphic perspective on global tattoo culture in which she documents unique tattoos and explains the story behind some of her own body art. Oh, and it includes a ten-page centerfold of the permanently painted kitten herself. See IN PERSON, page 62.

Tuesday | 3
MT. WHITNEY CLINIC PART I
Learn what it takes to make it to the top and experience firsthand how thin the air is at 14,505 feet on the highest peak in the country. Climbing-expert Kurt Wedberg gives the skinny on gear and planning a route at Adventure 16 Oceanside. See LECTURES, page 62.

Wednesday | 4
EVOLUTION: WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT?
Darwin was born 200 years ago, and we still can't seem to agree upon the evidence of his life's work. Many see evolution as scientific fact. Why are so many others opposed to accepting it as truth? Listen to possible explanations at this month's Exploring Ethics lecture. See LECTURES, page 62.

Thursday | 29
WILD AND TAME TALK 101
Be a horse-, dog-, and even person-whisperer. Psychic Sindi Somers will show you how to communicate telepathically with animals and people — even when they're not in the same room. See LECTURES, page 62.

GOURD ART
Make art with fire! Pyromaniacs can learn the art of pyrography (writing with fire), a Native American technique used to emblazon designs on gourds. Fiber artist Carol Lang will teach us how to choose, cut, and clean, dye, paint, and pyro-engrave gourds in this class at Quail Botanical Gardens. See LECTURES, page 62.
**Great Escapes**
619-235-8200 TO PLACE AN AD

**Big Bear Cool Cabins**
Cabin or luxury home on or near the lake. Fireplace, BBQ, TV, kitchen, hot tub and more. Professional housekeeping, towels, and linens are included. Pet-friendly available. Check rates and book online: www.bigbearcoolcabins.com or 800-550-8779.

**Cupid’s Castle B&B**

**Legendary Mexico Getaway Only $29**
The Rosarito Beach Hotel is offering a $29+ tax special for a standard room. Valid Sunday-Thursday until 2/19/09, except U.S. holidays. *Per person, based on a 2-person standard room.**

**Recession Special Only $45 per person. Fireplaces, Romantic Jacuzzis**

**Reduction Your Stress!**
For a relaxing getaway, we have cabins from $74 plus tax! Southern California’s 2nd best kept secret – 6200’ in the sky! 11 individual log cabins, fireplaces, kitchens. Reservations: Edelweiss Lodge, 951-669-2787, www.1cabin4u.com.

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**OUT & ABOUT**

**PIBOLONUS RETURNS!**
Birch North Park Theatre, Saturday, January 31. (SEE DANCE)**

**DANCE**

**Collage 2009**
San Diego Civic Dance Company presents 26th annual recitals with dancing in variety of styles through February 15. Guest choreographers include Doug Elkins, Michael Mizner of Malashock Dance, Mike Wittmers from Tap Dogs and A Chorus Line. 619-702-3408. Friday, January 30, 8 p.m.; Saturday, January 31, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday, February 1, 2 p.m.; $12. Casa del Prado Theater, 1650 El Prado, Suite 208. [BIRCH NORTH PARK]

**Once Upon a Belly Dance**
Dozens of professional dancers showcase traditional and fusion belly-dance styles during benefit for Mission Valley YMCA. 619-298-3576. Saturday, January 31, 3 p.m.; $15-$20. Saville Theatre at San Diego City College, 14th and C Street. [SDCCO]

**Viennese Nights: A Grand Victorian Ball**
San Diego Vintage Dance Society presents its fifth annual winter ball as Grand Pacific Waltz Orchestra plays waltzes, polkas, schottisches, mazurkas and more. Non-dancers welcome. Coat and tie, semiformal (no denim), or formal evening wear required; mid-late 19th Century ball attire encouraged. Light refreshments included. 858-622-9924. Saturday, January 31, 6 p.m.; $25-$40. Balboa Park Club, 2150 Pan American Road West. [BALBOA PARK]

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**Flamingo Limo Buses**
Hummers
Limo Buses
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* Scenic flights over the ocean and downtown San Diego
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Developing self-confidence in our spiritual path
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3hrs from $199
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dispatch events section.

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**San Diego Reader January 29, 2009**

Free Your Body, Free Your Soul Nia dance classes to “develop freedom in the mind and body through expressive movement combining dance, martial arts, and healing arts.” No dance experience needed. Fee: $10; new students pay $20 for 4 classes. 858-622-YOGA. Saturday, January 31, noon; $10-$20. Akasha Yoga, 3211 Holiday Court #203. (LA JOLLA)

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

Jammin’ Jitterbug Classes for couples, singles, and all ages on “huge hardwood dance floor.” Fee: $10 per class or $38 for four weeks: 619-275-3533. Wednesday, February 4, 7 p.m.; $10. Pattie Wells’ Dancetime Center, 1255 West Morena Boulevard. (BAY PARK)

Master Class Series Guest artist is Neil Greenberg, who draws “from Klein technique, body-mind centering, and Alexander technique resulting in full-bodied dancing.” Workshops in hustle and nightclub two-step. Couples and singles welcome. Admission fee: $7 (includes one workshop and party), or $10 for two workshops and party. 619-275-3533. Saturday, January 31, 7 p.m.; $7. Pattie Wells’ Dancetime Center, 1255 West Morena Boulevard. (BAY PARK)

Next Generation Dancers Jam Classes and parties for “younger dancers” (16-39 years), with contemporary music and retro disco, workshops in hustle and nightclub two-step. Couples and singles welcome. Admission fee: $7 (includes one workshop and party), or $10 for two workshops and party. 619-275-3533. Saturday, January 31, 7 p.m.; $7. Pattie Wells’ Dancetime Center, 1255 West Morena Boulevard. (BAY PARK)

Pilobolus Returns! La Jolla Music Society opens its dance series with two performances by Pilobolus. Along with an untitled new work for 2009, their program also promises Ocellus, Darkness and Light, Symbiosis, and Battles. 858-459-3724. Saturday, January 31, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; $25-$60. Birch North Park Theatre, 2891 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

Scandinavian Dancing Learn traditional regional, pattern, and turning dances from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Finland when Los Angeles instructors Donna Tripp and Ted Martin instruct. All ages and abilities; singles and couples welcome. 619-286-0355. Wednesday, February 4, 7:30 p.m.; $6-$8. Folk Dance Center, 4569 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)
Sunday, February 1, 5:30-10. Patio Playhouse, 201 East Grand Avenue. (SDO/&)

Chu Chu the Dragon Millie Patterson Weaver’s Tales present a story with a red dragon in this story inspired by two Asian folk tales on stage. Curtain rises at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Wednesday-Friday, and 11 a.m., and 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. 619-544-9203. Wednesday, February 4; 2, $3-$5. Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Road West. (BALBOA PARK)

The Rabbit in the Moon Enjoy tales of the tricky rabbit who stars in this Mexican folk tale, presented during family art day, create a handmade art quilt with a variety of fabrics and materials inspired by current “Quilt Visions” exhibition. No experience necessary. View current exhibitions, “Quilt Visions 2008: Contemporary Expressions” and “Hollywood Memories — A Conversation with Jimmy Lydon” Lydon’s 60-year career included performing in radio, movies, television, commercials, as well as directing and producing. During his career, he worked with Elizabeth Taylor, James Dean, James Caanery, Ingrid Bergman, John Wayne, and Barbara Stanwyck, appearing in over 60 movies, 70 TV shows. Lydon talks about people and experiences, answers questions. Donations appreciated. 619-267-5141. Saturday, January 31, 3 p.m.; free. Bonita Museum and Cultural Center, 4355 Bonita Road. (SDO&)

“Impulse to Suck” West Coast premiere of Karen Finley’s newest piece examines “the sexual psychodrama of our political leaders... inspired by New York Governor Eliot Spitzer’s 2008 confession and apology for patronizing prostitutes.” Text includes examination of “Spitzer’s confession, his underlying compulsion, the role played by his wife Silda, as well as imagining the sexual encounter and the married couple’s therapy sessions.” Pay what you can. 619-235-8466. Thursday, January 29, 8 p.m.; Friday, January 30, 8 p.m.; Saturday, January 31, 8 p.m.; Sushi Performance & Visual Art, 390 11th Avenue. (SDO&)

“Labyrinth of the Heart” Through live music, dance, and film, Palmar faculty and former students “explore the diverse ways of loving.” Pianist Peter Gach is joined by guests including D-Shire Dance Company, soprano Mary Jaeb, film artist Melissa Martine, choreographer Erica Buechner. 760-744-1130 x2453. Saturday, January 31, 8 p.m., $8-$12. Howard Brubeck Theatre at Palomar College, 1140 West Mission Road. (SAN MARCOS)

Brotherhood of the Pigskin Wade Lindenberger and Mike Ford sign their novel, which delves into world of fantasy football, “a national phenomenon with millions of players and thousands of leagues.” 858-481-4038. Saturday, January 31, 3 p.m.; free. Barnes and Noble Bookstore Del Mar, 12835 El Camino Real. (DEL MAR)


Movin’ Out Musical Billy Joel and director-choreographer Twyla Tharp joined forces to create this new musical, which brings 24 Billy Joel tunes to life, telling “story of five lifelong friends over two turbulent decades.” 800-988-4253. Thursday, January 29, 7 p.m.; $49-$67. California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 North Escondido Boulevard. (ESCONDIDO)

Tell Me No, I Dare You! Local author, Second Chance founder Scott Silverman discusses his book. 858-454-0437, Tuesday, February 3, 7:30 p.m.; free. Warwick’s Bookstore, 7802 Girard Avenue. (LA Jolla)

The Comedy of Errors Students at Coronado School of the Arts present this Shakespearean romp of mistaken identities set in San Diego on Halloween. 619-522-4050. Friday, January 30, 7 p.m.; Saturday, January 31, 7 p.m.; $7-$12. Ages 10 and up. Coronado School of the Arts, 650 D Avenue. (CORONADO)

The Secret of Beckham Manor Author Tim Morrow signs equal to his first novel, Noobaka Doppelganger. 760-435-5580. Saturday, January 31, 10 a.m.; Oceanside Li- brary, 330 North Coast Highway. (SDO&)

Author Signing Darlene Quinn, author of Wels of Power, signs her” timely novel which parodies our current political scene.” 858-268-4747. Saturday, January 31, 2 p.m.; free. Mysterious Galaxy Books, 7051 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Suite 302. (CLAIREMONT)


Squeaky-Clean Comedy! Family-friendly comedy, with performances by acrobats, tumblers, contortionists, jugglers, cyclists, gymnasts, live musicians. 619-370-1100, Sunday, February 1, 1 p.m.; $25-$45. Agnes and up. Balboa Theatre, 888 Fourth Avenue. (SDO&)

The Sound of China San Diego Chinese Music Ensemble performs traditional music of guzheng (Chinese violin), pipa (Chinese lute), and erhu (Chinese violin) in Student Center Conference Rooms A and B, in celebration of Chinese New Year. 760-757-2123 x3477. Friday, January 30, 7 p.m.; free. MiraCosta College San Elijo Campus, 3333 Manchester Avenue. (MIRA COSTA)

Uprising Citizens Brigade Tour This Chicago sketch-comedy troupe “that birthed improv lords Amy Poehler and Horatio Sanz” takes stage at ArtPower performance. 858-534-TIXS. Saturday, January 31, 8 p.m.; $10. The Loft, 9500 Gilman Drive. (SDO&)

Lectures

*A Sense of Place: British Art History* Linda Blair’s lecture series on British art concludes with examination of J.M.W. Turner. 858-454-9872. Tuesday, February 3, 7:30 p.m.; $12-$17. Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, 1008 Wall Street. (SDO&)

Put Three Candles on the (Comedy) Cake (Ocean Beach Comedy celebrates third anniversary with performances by comedians Steven Kendrick, Bob Hansen, Andrew Deans, Jesse Egan, Dave Wright, Ibo Brewer, others. Open-mike comedy (6-7 p.m.) precedes show. 619-222-4882. Friday, January 30, 6 p.m.; $5. Winstons, 1921 Bacon Street. (OCEAN BEACH)

North County Poetry Sandy Carpenter, George Goodland, and Clifton King read from their work. Open reading follows. 760-602-2026. Wednesday, February 4, 7 p.m.; free. Cole Library, 1250 Carlsbad Village Drive. (CARLSBAD)
“Building African American Communities” Shirley Weber, chair of Africana Studies at SDSU, speaks in room LL450, in conjunction with library exhibit “Creating Community: African Americans in San Diego” 619-594-4991. Wednesday, February 4, 5:30 p.m.; free. SDSU Library, 5500 Campanile Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

“Evolution: Whose Responsibility is It?” February 9 is 200th anniversary of Charles Dar- win’s birth. “For the scientific community, evolution is not a question-able proposition, but it is fact and is at the core of our understanding of biology. However, the de-bate about including evolution in science education continues. What is the reason for this apparent dis-connect?” Panelists Tom Demerr, Jon Cohen, and Mark Wheeler take on the topic for monthly “Exploring Ethics” lecture. 858-822-2847. Wednesday, February 4, 5:30 p.m.; free. Reuben H. Fleet Science Cen- ter, 1875 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

“Introduction to American Studio Furniture” SDSU professor Wendy Maruyama outlines development of studio or handmade furniture for Decorative Arts Lec-ture Series. Maruyama refers to American craft of woodworking and furniture made in the “studio, or shop,” starting with post-war furniture makers, who helped to shape the field. Continental break-fast at 9:30 a.m.; lecture at 10 a.m. Reservations 858-454-5872. Mon-day, February 2, 9:30 a.m.; $17-$27. Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, 1008 Wall Street. (CLAIREMONT)

“Is It a Portrait or a Caricature?” Guest artist Andrea Walsh — known for her portraits and caricatures — speaks for Pastel So-ciety of San Diego. 619-564-7508. Sunday, February 1, 2 p.m.; free. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fent-son Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

“Migraines: Medication and Meditation” Board-certified neu-rologist Salveet Chaudhary, M.D., discusses traditional and alternative treatments for migraines. Light re-ception at 5:30, program at 6 p.m., in Great Hall of hospital’s Schaetzel Cen-ter. 800-727-4777. Wednesday, February 4, 5:30 p.m.; free. Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla, 9888 Genesee Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

“Mt. Whitney Clinic Part I” Time to prepare for climbing the highest peak in contiguous United States. Whitney expert Kurt Wod-dergans discusses gear, trip planning, routes. Permit applications on hand. 760-866-1700. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, February 2, 3, and 4 at 7 p.m.; free. Adven-ture 16 Oceanside, 2002 South Coast Highway 101. (OCEANSIDE)


“Redress and Human Rights” Professor Elazar Barkan — whose research focuses on human rights, role of history in contemporary so-ciety, politics and the response to gross historical crimes and injustices — speaks in Social Sciences Lec-ture Series. Barkan is professor of International and Public Affairs and co-director of the Center for the Study of Human Rights at Co-lumbia University and the Human Rights Concentration at SDSP, Columbia University. 858-822-5297. Thursday, January 29, 4 p.m.; free. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

“Solar for Homeowners” During workshop, learn how to read your electric bill (bring a bill), “how to estimate amount of PV needed to peak shave or eliminate your bill,” PV options, steps needed to receive rebate. Required advance registration: 858-244-1177. Thurs-day, January 29, 11:30 a.m.; free. California Center for Sustainable Energy, 6890 Balboa Avenue. (CLARINGTON)


“Why the U.S. Cannot Help Pakistan” Answer divulged when Christine Fair of George-town University speaks for Hansen/Hostler Distinguished Lecture Series. Talks examining key international issues facing President Obama take place in Hard Tower room 140. 619-594-6244. Thursday, January 29, 7 p.m.; free. San Diego State Uni-verseity, 5500 Campanile Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)


“Are Women More Likely to Be Accused of a Crime?” with Christine Fair of George-town University speaks for Hansen/Hostler Distinguished Lecture Series. Talks examining key international issues facing President Obama take place in Hard Tower room 140. 619-594-6244. Thursday, January 29, 7 p.m.; free. San Diego State Uni-verseity, 5500 Campanile Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

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San Diego Reader January 29, 2009

Reader
**Out & About**

**MOVIN’ OUT**

**Thursday, January 29**

California Center for the Arts, Escondido.

(SEEN IN PERSON)

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**O U T D O O R S**

The Sun Strides North in February, swinging higher across the sky each successive day. Already quite noticeable is the change in the time of sunset, currently almost a minute later per day, and sunrise, currently almost a minute earlier per day.

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**Groundhog Day** comes Monday, February 2. If the sleepy woodchuck sees his shadow, the story goes, he’ll hole up for another six weeks of winter cold. None of this made much sense in San Diego when the February warm spell can easily push the thermometer into the 70s.

**Big Ocean Swells** and wild surf conditions occurring during San Diego’s winter season can leave certain area beaches partially or wholly drenched of sand. The powerful waves pull sand off the beach and move it into deeper waters offshore, leaving behind deposits of rounded cobbles where sand has been removed. During spring and summer gentle wave action returns much of the sand, usually in time for the arrival of summer tourists. Artificial sand-replenishment projects are usually in the works, too, whereby sand dredged from waters offshore is transported back to the shoreline.

**The Waxing Crescent Moon** and Venus stand together high in the western sky as evening twilight gathers on Thursday, January 29. The increasingly thicker crescent moon will be seen ever higher over the western horizon on several successive evenings. Venus itself will remain a bright, star-like beacon in the western sky for the next several weeks.

Among Birds Palomar Audubon Society hosts bird-watching outing led by Doug Nail. Parking fee: 760-451-9370. Saturday, January 31, 8 a.m.; Dos Picos County Park, 17953 Dos Picos Road. (MIRAMAR)

**Basic Birding** Tom Troy leads basic birding field trips with emphasis on identifying birds by sight and sound using binoculars, spotting scopes, field guides, directions. 760-907-4915. Saturday, January 31, 8:30 a.m.; free. Buena Vista Audubon Society Nature Center, 2202 South Coast Highway. (CARLSBAD)

**California Native Plant Society Walk** Bring binoculars and drinking water. 858-581-9944. Thursday, February 1, 9 a.m.; free. Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road. (CARLSBAD)

**Condos in the Park** Learn whose habitats are in and under coast live oaks during guided nature walks. 619-668-3281. Saturday, January 31, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, February 1, 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday, February 4, 9:30 a.m.; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN DIEGO)

**Explore a Preserve** Join Canyoneers for easy walk with views of many landscape plants planted on property when it was a summer retreat for a Los Angeles newspaper publisher, as well as ponds intended for irrigation. See wildflowers. 619-253-0203. Sunday, February 1, 10 a.m.; free. Wilder ness Gardens Preserve, 14209 Highway 76. (MIRA MESA)

**Hawkwatch 2009** Visit Ramona’s grasslands to witness resident and winter migration of hawks, falcons, and eagles during outing led by Wildfire Research Institute. Events include demonstrations of hawk banding and tracking eagles with transmitters. Walks led by trained biologist every Saturday through February, hunting or walking boots. Bring binoculars or spotting scopes if you have them. 760-789-3992. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-noon; Saturday, February 28, free. Wildfire Research Institute, 18030 Highland Valley Road. (MIRA MESA)

**Mystery Walk** Naturalist Kathryn Flanagan leads fast-paced, strenuous walk of about seven miles based on makeup of the group. Expect “a lot of map reading.” Bring a minimum of two liters of water, layer your clothing. 760-839-4680. Friday, January 30, 7:30 a.m.; free. Daley Ranch, 3024 La Honda Drive. (CARLSBAD)

**Pierre Bovet Adobe History Walk** Anthropologist Will Bowen leads hike in Carroll Canyon to visit ruins of Pierre Bovet Adobe. Find out why many of these adobes were left to deteriorate, learn about Bovet and his family, their place in San Diego history. Bring water, sun protection, good hiking shoes. Rain cancels. 858-452-7091. Sunday, February 1, 3 p.m.; free. San Diego Fire Station #41, 4914 Carroll Canyon Road. (CARLSBAD)

**Stinging Nettles Are Beneficial** George Sulten—a who claims “over 20 years’ experience studying and eating weeds”—leads “Foraging” lectures and walks. Learn “many benefits of consuming dandelions, stinging nettles, lamb quarters, melba,” more. Outings start at half-day #2. Heavy rain cancels. 619-781-2507. Sunday, February 1, 10 a.m.; free. Bobb Field, 2323 Bacon Street. (OCEAN BEACH)

**Support Your Local Nature Center** San Elijo Lagoon Nature Center hosts grand opening festivities with guided nature walks every half hour and children’s story time, treasure hunt, more. Building is a “green” facility made from recycled materials, using solar panels, irrigated roof plants, and recycled water, with array of interactive exhibits exploring the natural and cultural history of the San Elijo Lagoon. Free parking and shuttles at Miramar College, 3333 Manchester Avenue. Free at 10 a.m.; 760-438-3944. Saturday, January 31, 11 a.m.; free. San Elijo Lagoon.
Lagoon Ecological Reserve, 2710 Manchester Avenue. [SUNDAY]

Tour del Dia Offshoot Tours offers an hour-long guided stroll highlighting the Park Palsades area of Balboa Park. 619-235-1122, Saturday, January 31, 10 a.m.; free. Balboa Park Visitors’ Center, 1549 El Prado. (SAN DIEGO)

Waterwise Plant Tours Learn water conservation tips during docent-led guided tours offered on last Saturday of each month. See cactus and desert gardens, along with plants from Mediterranean basin, Cape South Africa, Australia, Chile, California natives. Included basin, Cape South Africa, Australia, with plants from Mediterranean cactus and desert gardens, along with guided tours offered on last Saturday of each month. "On Measuring the Problem of Universal" What is human knowledge? San Diego Objectivist discussion group gathers to discuss Ayn Rand’s essay “Cogitation and Measurement.” 619-277-5840, Sunday, February 1, 1 p.m.; free. Heaven Sent Gardens, 3001 University Avenue. (SAN DIEGO)

“One Book One San Diego” Time Moderator Kathi Diamant leads discussion of The Zookeeper’s Wife by Diane Ackerman. Diamant is author, actress, television producer/anchor, SDSU adjunct professor, 858-454-0347. Wednesday, February 4, 7:30 p.m.; free. Warwick’s Bookstore, 7712 Girard Avenue. (SAN DIEGO)


“Wines: Rich and Hearty” Paule Wakham of Regal Wine Company offers look at red wines including discussion of grape varieties, wine regions of the world, pairing food and wine, more. Blind tasting, lunch from Viva Pasta paired with wines. Reservations: 888-822-5758. Sundays, 10 a.m.; Mondays, 10 a.m.; Tuesdays, 10 a.m.; Wednesdays, 10 a.m.; through Saturday, February 28. Free. UCSD Arts Library, Geisel Library, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)


“Peace for Ourselves and the World” Lecture by Llama Tenzin Wangyal Rinpoche. 011-52-664-315-5464. Thursday, January 29, 6 p.m.; $20. Camino Real Hotel, 3105 Camino de la Reina. (SAN DIEGO)

Rosalito Beach 100 MX Grand Prix Motorcycle racing. 011-52-664-315-5464. Thursday, January 29, 6 p.m.; $20. Camino Real Hotel, 3105 Camino de la Reina. (NORTH PARK)

“Hidden Faces of La Jolla: Portraits of Black San Diegans” Photographic exhibit celebrating Black History Month. Between 1920-1945, black community in La Jolla grew to almost 500 residents. Photograher Molly Low documented what remained of black and Latino community of La Jolla in photographs taken between 1988-1990. Portraits include the subject’s own writing below the portrait, adding a textual layer to visual images, documenting the subject's experiences living in La Jolla. Exhibit continues through February on lower level, west wing of Geisel Li-
The late-winter midday sun gently simmers the lowest elevations of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, yet it more coolly illuminates the 4000-foot plateau of Pinyon Mountain Valley, lying high in the park’s central mountain range — the Vallecito Mountains. Sixty-degree days and possibly sub-freezing, star-filled nights await adventurous car-campers who navigate their vehicles into this secluded bit of flattland. Two pinyon-pine-studded ridges flank the valley north and south, the southern of the two containing 5349-foot Whale Peak, a favorite destination among desert “peak baggers.” A far easier hike darts up the steep ridge to the north and ends at the 4492-foot high point of the Pinyon Mountains (a sub-range of the Vallecito Mountains). To get to Pinyon Mountain Valley, you will certainly need a high-clearance SUV or truck. From Scissors Crossing (12 miles east of Julian on Highway 78), go southeast on Highway 52. After about five miles, specifically at mile 21.4 according to the road-side mile markers, turn left on unpaved Pinyon Mountain Road. Stay right at the fork in 0.1 mile, and continue up a gentle incline on the eastward-trending, sandy road. A short stretch of protruding rocks is encountered about four miles up the road, which will likely block all but off-road-capable vehicles. At 5.7 miles, the road tops a watershed divide at 3980 feet elevation in the middle of a broad saddle named Pinyon Mountain Valley. Find a place to park anywhere in the saddle area. The 4492-foot high point of the Pinyon Mountains swells just north of Pinyon Mountain Valley, and the two-mile (probably 1 1/2-hour) roundtrip, cross-country hike to the summit is an ideal recreational pursuit during the earliest or the latest parts of the day-light period. The south-facing slopes you climb are almost bald, but scattered growths of pinyon pine and nolina (a yucca look-alike that is nicknamed “beargrass”) are found on the summit and on the north-facing slopes, where the sun’s drying effect is alleviated.

From the top, Whale Peak swells across the southern horizon, blocking more distant views in that direction. Opposite, however, is a sweeping vista of the San Ysidro and Santa Rosa mountains, Borrego Valley, the Borrego Badlands, and the Salton Sea — the entire landscape colored by the blue shadows that are either advancing or retreating across the desert floor.

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

Orchid Auction: San Diego County Orchid Society hosts annual auction with all types of orchids. Preview at 11 a.m., auction at noon. 760-732-0055. Saturday, January 31, 11 a.m. (free, Woman’s Club of Carlsbad, 3200 Monroe Street. (CARS))

Ringing in the New Year Chimes atop Geisel Library ring out when university carillonneur Scott Pauktein performs live on the rooftop carillon keyboard. Anyone in a general radius of library will be able to hear a new short work by
ABOUT
and up. Planet Rooth Gallery, 3811
day, January 31, 7 p.m.; $5. Ages 21
admission. 619-846-7180. Satur-
serve Autism Research Institute.
ners, and illusionists. Proceeds ben-
C’est and Silent Comedy, fire spin-
Sight and Sound
day, February 4, free. Reuben H.
days, 9:30 a.m.; through Wednes-
uled to launch from Cape
Canaveral in late 2011. Included in
full effect. “858-822-5758. Friday,
out Library Walk a bit to get the
mind that the actual library en-
trance is the worst possible place
to stand — you really need to walk
t out Library Walk a bit to get the
full effect.” 858-822-3758. Friday,
January 30, noon; free. University of California San Diego, 9500
Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)
See the Rover (Prototype)
NASAs Mars Science Laboratory
(MSL) Rover is on display in lobby
through Wednesday, February 4. This
“full-sized rover prototype” as big
as a small SUV is on loan from
NASAs Jet Propulsion Laboratory
(JPL). Actual spacecraft is sched-
uled to launch from Cape
Canaveral in late 2011. Included in
regular admission. 619-238-1233.
Title: This “full-sized rover prototype”
was on display in the lobby of
the University of California San
Diego.

OUT & ABOUT

SUPER BOWL
ALTERNATIVE?
New Shanghai Circus,
Balboa Theatre,
Sunday, February 1.
(SEE IN PERSON)

SPORTS
Bicycling, Anyone? Jon Knicker-
bikes for (roughly) 25-miler start-
ing in Trophy’s parking lot. Partici-
pants decide route, lunch spot
(bring money). 619-787-7427. Sat-
urday, January 31, 9 a.m.; free. Tro-
phy’s — University City. 422 Es-
planade Court. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

WHAT IS NE-O-EXISTENTIALISM?
Ponder answers with P&R Dis-
cussion Group. 619-370-1027. Thurs-
day, January 29, 7 p.m.; free. Filter,
40th & 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

MUSEUMS

Antique Gas and Steam En-
gine Museum. The museum lo-
cates, collects, documents, and
preserves historical gas-, steam-, and
horse-powered equipment related
to agriculture and the general de-
velopment of America. The collec-
tion is made up of equipment used
in lumbering, mining, oil-drilling,
and construction industries. Black-
smith and wheeleight shop, coun-
ty kitchen and parlor, steam-
operated saw mill, and 1/3-scale
train. 2040 North Santa Fe Avenue,
760-941-1791. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

Bancroft Ranch House Museum
“From the Brown Mercury to
SLABER — A Glimpse of 100 years
of Surfing Culture in Southern Cali-
fornia” celebrates influence of
Surfing on California lifestyle. Dis-
play features collection of unique
surfboards, movie posters, rare
albums, vintage beachwear, assort-
ments. The Lynne and Howard Rob-
sin Shark Reef Exhibit features a
13,000-gallon saltwater tank with
coral, white tip, bamboo, and wob-
bling sharks. 2000 Expedition Way;
858-534-FISH. (LA JOLLA)

California Surf Museum

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pier beach. Free for spectators.
760-476-1694. Saturday, January
31, 7 a.m.; Sunday, February 1, 7 a.m.;
free. Oceanseite Pier, Mission
Ave and Pacific St. (BAYVIEW)

Super Run 2009
Select 10k or 5k run/walk in Mission Bay
Park, starting south of Hilton. Event-
day registration: 6 a.m. 619-298-
7408. Saturday, January 31, 7-10
a.m.; $15-$33. Hilton San Diego
Resort, 1775 East Mission Bay
Drive. (MIRAGE BEACH)

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North County Times
January 29, 2009
San Diego
What are you reading?
"Breaking Dawn [by Stephenie Meyer]. It’s the fourth installment in the Twilight series." "I’m only about 20 pages in, but it’s really good. It’s about a younger lady named Bella who falls in love with a 100-year-old vampire named Edward — though he’s still the same age he was when he died."

It seems a lot of the books’ fans are women. How do you relate to it as a guy?
"It’s just a really good depiction of somebody who doesn’t feel loved, who doesn’t know what’s going on — like everybody at certain points in their life. Bella is kind of misplaced — she moves from Tucson to Washington. She finds someone who can love her no matter what — so it’s kind of fun.

Compare it to other books you’ve read.
"Rames and Juliet, Wuthering Heights — two star-crossed lovers, that kind of deal. I love the gothic aspect of Wuthering Heights, how Katherine falls in love with two men and they’re both really bad for her, but both really necessary at certain points in her life. There are two characters in the Twilight series, Edward and Jacob, who are both in love with Bella, and she’s in love with them, but in different ways. She’s really deeply in love with Edward, and then she loves Jacob in a best-friend kind of way. I like Jacob — he’s a good, stand-up guy, and so I’m kind of rooting for him to get with her in the end."

Who is your favorite character in Wuthering Heights?
In Twilight?
"Probably Heathcliff. He’s very brooding, very damaged, very difficult to be around. He kind of reminds me of myself. In Twilight, Bella, because she’s very brooding, very confused, very difficult to be around sometimes.

What magazines or newspapers do you read?
"It’s just a really good depiction of 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 at the Bayfront Trolley Station or at the parking lot at the foot of E Street and Bay Boulevard. 1000 Gunpowder Point Drive, 619-409-5903. (BAY VISTA)

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 Wentscope 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 at the Bayfront Trolley Station or at the parking lot at the foot of E Street and Bay Boulevard. 1000 Gunpowder Point Drive, 619-409-5903. (BAY VISTA)

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

Flying Leatherneck Museum is dedicated to Marines who provided air support, from the propeller-driven fighters and bombers of the 1940s to the jet fighters 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-202, at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. (MARINA MUSEUM)

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

Heritage Museum is an interpretive wall, replicas of the early post office and general store, and a school room are part of this museum. A mural painted by Michael Strong depicts six periods of Old Town. Edward and Jacob, who are both in love with Bella, and she’s in love with them, but in different ways. She’s really deeply in love with Edward, and then she loves Jacob in a best-friend kind of way. I like Jacob — he’s a good, stand-up guy, and so I’m kind of rooting for him to get with her in the end."

Who is your favorite author?
"Probably Anne Rice. I like vampires, and themes of rebirth and eternal love are kind of a draw for me. And I like her prose — it’s very romantic, very flowery, very Victorian."

What books have been most life-changing for you?
"Anne Rice’s Queen of the Damned really stuck me in a profound way. I was 13 or 14 when I first read it, and I’d never read a book that was so enthralling, so rich, with so many intertwined stories."

What is your favorite breed of dog?
"Vanilla Fair is my favorite magazine. I read everything in it except for Dominic Dunne. He writes society stuff, and he’s a big namerdropper — "Well, I used to have lunch with Elizabeth Taylor." I don’t read newspapers — I read news on the Internet, mostly Yahoo."

Do you talk to your friends about reading?
"Yes. We go out for cocktails and talk about what we’re reading. The last time we got together, one of my friends — she’s a teacher — was very interested about the way Bella comes across an ineffectual role model. She doesn’t like her students reading the books because Bella comes across as being very needy, wanting Edward to take care of her. Because it’s unnecessary in this day and age, that kind of thing. And she was taking it further — the author is a little old-fashioned in her viewpoint. Bella’s waiting to have sex with her boyfriend until she gets married. It’s all very old-fashioned, which a lot of girls like."

Why do they like it?
"It’s romantic. It gives them the way-back kind of feeling. Feeling special."

For more stories by this author, go to sdreader.com.
The past 100 years of American music and music making are highlighted at the museum, with over 450 vintage instruments, hundreds of albums, photos, 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 garden, 20,20-foot reproduction of Wieghorst’s painting Navajos at Castle Creek, and original restored home Wieghorst lived in for many years starting in 1943. 131 Rea Avenue, 619-590-3431. (San Diego)

Ramona Pioneer Historical Society and Guy B. Woodward Museum Complex of historical buildings includes the Verlaque 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 1890, a ranch blacksmith shop and tack room. The Casey Tibbs Memorial Exhibit is dedicated to Tibbs, a local resident who was a world champion rodeo rider. The Bancroft Memorial Rose Garden is on the grounds. Rare documents, historical exhibits, books, photographs, and a research library are also part of the complex. 645 Main Street, 760-789-7644. (Ramona)

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

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 houses artifacts, photographs, equipment, uniforms, and vehicles, along with exhibits from each of the department’s major bureaus. 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 railroad signaling, 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, 619-496-0199. (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, the museum features original service-inspired stained glass, as well as historical murals painted by Richard DeRosset. Main exhibit hall features displays, exhibits of historic artifacts, documents, photographs, memorabilia, artwork honoring men and women who served. Museum is also home to San Diego Vietnam Peace Memorial and Veterans Memorial Garden. 2115 Park Boulevard, 619-239-2100. (Old Town)

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 Doney 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)

OUT & ABOUT

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**Gregorian Chant Mass**

**San Diego Museum of Art**

**Oceanside Museum of Art**
Tweakers Took My Speakers

Drummer Andy Robillard has been playing in local bands for 15 years, including Butch Wax Duo and gogogo airheart. His latest band the Tighten Ups rents a room at the Universal Sound practice complex near the Sports Arena.

He has some words of wisdom to all the other bands who rent practice rooms: There are tweakers out there who can and will rip you off. “Get renter’s insurance. It’s about $300 a year.”

On December 12, the Tighten Ups’ 30’ x 15’ rehearsal room at Universal Sound Studios was broken into. “They got a guitar, a bass, and a couple amps with speakers. They took a Rogers couple of bands put in their own alarm systems.”

He says thefts have never been an issue until recently. “Then we got hit twice in the past few months.”

Robillard appears with the Tighten Ups February 8 at the Bar Pink.

— Ken Leighton

Knockout

Hi-fi-Ya! “It’s outrageously hot on stage inside our ninja outfits,” says keyboardist Matt Liebowitz, one half of the “karate-rock” duo Ninja Love. “Black pants, black shoes, black T-shirts, black hoodies with the hood up at all times, and black masks. It gets so hot, I keep extra ninja masks in my glove box.”

Neither Liebowitz nor singer/guitarist Mike Villemaire has been trained in martial arts. “All the technique is cribbed from kung fu films and how we believe ninjas act. I mean, who’s ever seen a real ninja, right?”

The band’s stage props do include authentic martial arts gear. “We actually use nunchucks in songs,” says Liebowitz, “and Mike is incredibly adept with them, though not trained. He has a tam-bourine mounted on the mike stand, and he hits it with the nunchucks.”

“Our samurai sword is definitely real, and I assume it’s illegal. It’s certainly sharp. We keep that one in a guitar case until it’s on stage.”

Liebowitz admits his hard-rock duo was worried about martial artists not being offended by their act, especially since they hope to shoot a CD cover (“and maybe a video”) at a local dojo. “I guess they might be bothered by us but hopefully not enough to fight us. If real ninjas find out about us, though, we’re screwed. I’m sure we’ll be quickly and expertly disposed of.”

Ninja Love appears at Brick by Brick tomorrow night, Friday, January 30.

— Jay Allen Sanford

Not So Quiet on the Set

While much is being made of pop stars Beyoncé and Mos Def portraying music icons Etta James and Chuck Berry in the movie Cadillac Records, several San Diego artists have also had stints impersonating hit-makers of the ’50s and ’60s.

In 1989, Mojo Nixon made his film debut in Great Balls of Fire, portraying James Van Eaton, drummer with Jerry Lee Lewis (played by Dennis Quaid) and other ’50s-era Sun Records artists. Nixon, a proficient drummer, spent several weeks studying vintage TV clips and changed his drumming style to match that of Van Eaton. However, as it turned out, the skills of Nixon and movie bandmates John Doe and Jimmie Vaughan were never utilized. The actors mimed Lewis’s original Sun Records recordings.

A decade later, blink-182’s Tom DeLonge and Mark Hoppus portrayed ’60s surf duo Jan and Dean in the 1999 CBS-TV mini-series Shake, Rattle & Roll. Their musical input in the program was minimal, singing a bit of “Dead Man’s Curve” in a scene set around a publisher’s piano.

In 2004, Jason Mraz portrayed Dion DiMucci of Dion and the Belmonts on NBC-TV’s teen drama American Dreams. Set in the ’60s and based around Dick Clark’s music-TV show American Bandstand, the plotline included Mraz as a guest on the show crooning his own take of DiMucci’s “Ruby Baby.”

Only one local group has been re-created for cinematic purposes — Rosie and the Originals. The part of Rosie Hamlin was played by Jeanette Jurado of vocal trio Exposé, Jurado and actors playing the band sang Rosie and the Originals’ lone hit, 1962’s “Angel Baby,” during a scene of an early ’60s teen scene set around a publisher’s piano.

(Continued on page 74)
**San Diego Reader**

January 29, 2009

**555 4th Avenue, Gaslamp Quarter**

Info or VIP call: 619-610-8633

Email: michael@cafesevilla.com

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**Upcoming Salsa:**

**Thurs., Feb. 5:** Bomba Chante

**Sun., Feb. 8:** Orq. Salsa Caliente

**Tues., Feb. 10:** Primo

**Wed., Feb. 11:** Charlie Chavez y su Afro Truko

**Thurs., Feb. 12:** Pre-Valentine with Orq. Primo

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**New Tuesdays**

**Tropical Tuesdays**

A night dedicated to Merengue & Bachata.
Bachata & Merengue dance lessons by Valerie at 8:30 pm.
Dominican DJ Israel & live bands at 10 pm.
$4 Mojitos & Cuba Libras all night!

*February 3: Mambo Salvaje*

---

**Early Sundays**

**Big Band Salsa**

Salsa or Cha-Cha dance class starts at 6:45 pm with Valerie. Band starts at 8 pm.
Complimentary light Caribbean buffet until 7:30 pm (included with cover).
Mojitos & Cuba Libra specials. Plus 2 DJs.

*February 1: Tabaco Y Ron*

2006 Grammy Nominees.

---

**Wednesdays**

**Singles Salsa**

Meet up with San Diego’s Salsa community at our Singles Salsa Dance Class featuring SoCal’s best Salsa orchestras.
Singles Salsa dance class by Valerie at 8:30 pm.

*February 4: Orq. 8.8*

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**Check out our new Salsa web page @ myspace.com/cafesevillasalsa**

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**Sevilla Nightclub presents**

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**Dance lessons every Tues., Wed., Thurs. and Sunday!**
When Wilson Went on the Lam in June 1978, Beach Boy Brian Wilson — without telling his wife or bandmates — decided to escape his life and hitchhike to Mexico. He wound up in San Diego, according to Stephen Leve, brother of Beach Boy Mike Love. Wilson's wife since 1965, Marilyn Revel, referred to the incident in later divorce papers, saying, "He told me he wanted to know what it feels like to be a bum. [He was] playing for drinks in San Diego bars."

Someone from a local recording studio recognized Wilson and attempted to get him to record a track, unaware that Wilson was living on the street near downtown's Laurel Street Bridge. "The cops found him in Balboa Park under a tree with no shoes on, his white pants filthy, obviously a vagrant, with no wallet, no money," according to another Love brother, Stanley. Wilson was taken by ambulance to nearby Alvarado Hospital, and a doctor called Mrs. Wilson to inform her that her husband was being treated for alcohol poisoning. Mrs. Wilson had already sent a private detective to San Diego to search for her missing husband after someone at the local recording studio called CBS, the Beach Boys' one-time label, with news of Wilson's vagrancy.

Wilson, with Stephen and Stanley Love, came to San Diego to take Brian home but decided to leave him at the hospital for a few days for treatment. Wilson flew straight from the hospital to meet the rest of the Beach Boys and record the group's debut for Caribou Records at Florida's Criteria Studios. He was quickly supplemented as producer by Bruce Johnston after it became evident that Wilson was incapable — or unwilling — to do the job. Brian Wilson returns to San Diego tonight to play the House of Blues.

— Jay Allen Sanford

CONTRIBUTORS
William Cynn, Dave Good, Larry Harman, Ken Leighton, Bart Mendoza, Jay Allen Sanford, David Stamps
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visits to our fair burg....

Sanford’s Blurt this week on

native Los Angeles.” Isn’t that nice. See Jay

processes into Casbah tonight and Spaceland

Get your dose of dark pop when the Procession

and L.A. indie duo the

Transfer

Indian Girl

space...

ration with old compadre Van Dyke Parks that

Wilson

show.... Grammy-winning Beach Boy

Agent Orange and on-again, off-again contribu-

play nice at Casbah Friday night. The hardcore

Punk-rock revivalists the

Adolescents

— that’s Anguish

Die Sabotage

— that’s Anguish

— that’s Anguish

Still Ill

HERETIC

Huntington Beach’s

Hed PE

OK, it’s true. Described as “beach punk’ — hip-hop ‘n’ rock — from Jive to

funk up your mature

ear. There’s a lot of good music playing in town, and the only way to make sure you

vocal. Check out last year’s critical hit but com-

mercial curiosity Heart On for a sampler’. The

Living Things set the Solana Beach stage for the

Death...SoCal skate-punk satirists NOFX

check in at House of Blues for two. Ya get Smoke

or Fire and Poor Habit leading off on Tuesday

night and Youth Brigade on Wednesday.... Jazz

guitarist Al Di Meola has the room at Anthology.

Check the Latin flair on the Jersey-born fret freak’s latest fusion World Sinfonia — La Melodia.

Wednesday 4

Club date of the week on a night of killer club
dates doubles Canuck art punks Fucked Up, on

— that’s Anguish

— that’s Anguish

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— that’s Anguish

— that’s Anguish

— that’s Anguish

Huntington Beach’s Hed PE hits the beach at Canes Saturday night. The boys took their “G-

vibe. Really? The

Belly Up.... Anthology lists a Late Night Live thing

featured on the university’s student-run radio

station. Check it out...

Saturday, January 31

In memory of Lorna ‘Doozie’ Hamilton

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In Bloom

“I got it at the Tower Records on Sports Arena Boulevard, which was heaven to a 13-year-old.”

Inger-songwriter Mary Dolan — a fixture in the San Diego music scene in the ’90s — was off the local radar for several years. “Our son Jack was born in November 2004, the day before my Little Flowers CD release,” says Dolan, “and I continued to play out during his first year or so. I was also working at a library and taking classes part time at City College, and I was just burning out on everything, really. Something had to give. I really lost inspiration and drive and, for the most part, gave up the music.”

After receiving a promotion at the library in 2007, Dolan became ill and was in and out of hospitals through early 2008. “While recovering, I discovered the necessity of music in my life and in the lives of others, and I became reacquainted with creativity as a part of my spiritual path. During this period of recovery, I wrote the songs for the In Bloom CD [released September 2008]. It’s a homegrown and deeply personal collection of tunes, and musically…it’s a pretty big departure from my past recordings. “It’s so well acted, the score is unapproachable, and I love how it depicted the one and only Mozart in a very human light.”

WHAT’S IN YOUR CD PLAYER?
1. Living Now, Dying Later by Droctro Bunny. “This stuff is amazing and fresh and always gives me a lift. You might not figure me for a fan of rap, but this guy is genius and brilliant when freestyling live.”
2. Gloria by Antonio Vivaldi. “It’s getting to be the time of year for choral music, and I love this piece very much. I’ve been to the center of the earth, seen the world’s largest building and enjoy the creativity of a classical pop-rock band.”

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS?
“I don’t subscribe to any magazines but do occasionally pick up What Is Enlightenment, Shambhala Sun, and O for inspiration.”

GUILTY PLEASURES?
1. “Facebook, when I should be doing something else.”
2. “True Blood on HBO.”
3. “Cheese sandwiches in the middle of the night.”

BEST THING YOU’VE EVER WON?
“My little sister entered me in a contest to go for a limo ride, meet Alan Hunter of MTV, and see a Pretenders concert. I won and brought some friends who were mega Pretenders fans, and of course I brought my little sister.”

DRINK OF CHOICE?
“Diet Coke.”

You just never know what treasure may be hidden on some side road when you’re on your way from point A to point B.”

LENNON OR MCCARTNEY?
“I think Paul had more in the way of natural musical talent — where would some of those songs be even without those bass lines? However, John was the more gifted intellectually. He was the visionary…If I had to choose an album from their solo careers, it would be McCartney’s Band on the Run. Go figure.”

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DJ Enigma * DJ V-Smooth * DJ X-Ray * DJ Rich-E-Rich
Spinnin the Best of Hip Hop * Mash Ups * R&B * Old Skool Remixes
* Drink Specials all Night
$3 Selected Beers * $5 Wells Before 11PM
$150 VIP Bottle Service Special
For Guest List Consideration Email: list@gettheeventnow.com (List closes at 10:00 PM)

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 31ST
Decos Presents
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Featuring DJ's J-Smoove * DJ Mac * DJ Big Dude
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Mar 30 - HOT ROD LINCOLN
Mar 31 - SUNDANCE

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**San Diego Reader**

**January 29, 2009**

**FOOTBALL PARTY**

San Diego

January 29, 2009

High Def Wide Screens

Hosted by

Friday, 7:30 p.m. — Al DiMeola. Jazz guitarist. $39.

Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. — Harp Summit. With Mark Hummel, Charlie Musselwhite, Lee Oska, and John Mayall. Blues. $26–$33.

Additional Music and Arts Library:

1080 Volt Street, La Jolla, 858-454-5872.

Thursday, 7:30 p.m. — Hoenig Pilc Project. Jazz. $18–$88.

Belly Up Tavern:

143 South Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.

Thursday, 9 p.m. — West Indian Garl. With Transfer and Years Around the Sun. Psychadelic/indie/pop. $10–$12.

Friday, 9 p.m. — The Cured. A tribute to the Cure. With Rio and Still Ill. $10–$12.

Saturday, 9 p.m. — James Morrison. Alternative/rock/soul. $15–$17.

Saturday, 9 p.m. — The Eagles of Death Metal. Rock/garage/blues. $15–$17.

Wednesday, 9 p.m. — DeVotchKa. With Crooked Fingers and Eric Carson. Indie/rock. $16–$18.

The Bitter End:

720 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-338-9300.

Wednesday, 11 p.m. — Jacqueline Grace. Pop/R&B/Latin.

Brick by Brick:

1130 Buenos Avenue, Linda Vista, 619-275-5483.

Thursday, 8:30 p.m. — Return to Silence and Third Identity. Alternative/rock. $5.

Thursday, 9 p.m. — Third Identity. Rock. $5.

Friday, 7:30 p.m. — SweetTooth. With Moontuck Risen. Rock $10.

Friday, 7:30 p.m. — SweetTooth and Ryan Bingham. Alternative/rock/country. $10.

Saturday, 8:30 p.m. — The Easy Marks and Shave. Indie/rock. $7.

Saturday, 9 p.m. — Glassy Malone. With Mr. Fab. Hip-hop/rap. $15.

Café La Maza:

1441 Highland Avenue, National City, 619-474-3222.

Fridays and Saturdays, 7 p.m. — The Sandy Chopped Quartet. With Burnett Anderson, Robert Sebastian, and Hank Young. Standards/jazz/blues.

Sunday, 7:30 p.m. — Burnett’s Blues. With Robert Sebastian and Scott Wollingford. Jazz/standards/blues.

Calvin’s Sports Bar and Restaurant:

10841 Old Highway 80, Alpine, 619-473-1266.

Saturday, 8 p.m. — Good Mojo. Rock/country.

Candelas on the Bay:

1201 First Street, Suite 115, Coronado, 619-435-4900.

Friday, 6 p.m. — Blue44. Jazz/funk.

Carnes:

3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-488-1780.

Friday, 9 p.m. — Psycho Realm and Third Identity. Death Metal. Rock/garage/blues. $15–$17.

Saturday, 9 p.m. — (hed) p.e. With Kutt Calhoun, The Dirtball, Putlock, and Draf Zero. Punk/rock/hip-hop.

The Casbah:

2501 Ketter Boulevard, Little Italy, 619-232-4355.

Thursday, 8:30 p.m. — The Black Heart Procession. With Buckfast Superbier and A.M. Vibe.

Indie/alternative/rock. $15.

Friday, 8:30 p.m. — The Adolescents and the Whiskey Ducks. With Die Saboteur. Punk/country/psycho/lability. $15.

Saturday, 8:30 p.m. — The Dave & Dike Combo. With Big Sandy & His Fly-Rite Boys. Rockabilly/country/blues. $15.

Monday, 8:30 p.m. — The Fruit Bats and Sara Calhoun. Acoustic/bluegrass/country. $10.

Tuesday, 10 p.m. — Underminer. With The Randies. Rock

Wednesday, 8:30 p.m. — Fucked Up and Mika Mikko. With guests. Punk/hardcore/noise.

Cheers:

2475 Main Street, Ramona, 760-789-0270.

Tuesday, 8 p.m. — Mike Gardner. Acoustic rock. Free.

Cosmos Coffee Café:

8278 La Mesa Boulevard, La Mesa.

Saturday, 7 p.m. — Sharon Hael Township. Acoustic/folk rock.


Cox Arena:

5500 Canyon Crest Drive, 858-564-9444.

Monday, 6:30 p.m. — Motley Crue. With Hinder and Theory of a Deadman. Metal/alternative/rock. $29–$95.

Dirk’s Niteclub:

7662 Broadway, Lemon Grove, 619-469-6344.

Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m. — The Electric Earth Band. Classic rock.

Dizzy’s:

200 Harbor Drive, Downtown, 858-270-7467.

Friday, 8 p.m. — The ESP Quintet. With Mitch Manker (trumpet).

Bob Campbell (saxophone). Lynn ...
**Navajo**

8515 Navajo Road • 619-465-1730
(Albertsons shopping plaza at Navajo & Lake Murray)

**Worthly Cubbins • Cory Wilkins Band**

Friday & Saturday, January 30 & 31 • 9 pm

**Classic Rock**

---

**Monsters Of Rock**

Sunday, February 1

**KMMNWLTH**

Monday, February 2

**Karaoke**

Tuesday, February 3

**International Connection**

Wednesday, February 4

**Reverend Stickman • Bedpost Buzzards • Fuzz Huzzi**

---

**Santee**

8528 Magnolia Avenue • 619-596-8350
(Corner of Prospect & Magnolia)

**Dirty Bones Band**

Friday & Saturday, January 30 & 31 • 9 pm

**Classic Rock**

---

**6 One 9**

Sunday, February 1

**Reverend Stickman • Vaccine • Fuzz Huzzi**

Tuesday, February 3

**Hocus • Squirrily Arts**

Wednesday, February 4

**Priest Heavy** (Judas Priest tribute band) • **Neon Nights** (Dio tribute band)

---

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$2.00 Miller Light Drafts

$2 Lunch Box Specials

FRIDAY

6-7 pm $1 Any Draft

SUNDAY

$2 Domestic Drafts

$3 Well, Wine & Sugar Shocks

$3 Juicy Drinks

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**Humphrey’s NEW Happy Hour**

5-7 pm EVERY DAY! 1/2 off food & drink specials. Live music 5-7 pm on select Fridays & Saturdays. No cover.

---

**Scott Carter & New Breed**

Thursday, January 29 • 8 pm - Indie/R&B

Friday, January 30 • 8:15 pm - Blues

---

**Tribute to Tomcat Courtney**

Saturday, January 31 • 7:30 pm - Jazz/Rock

---

**The Steely Damned**

Sunday, February 1

---

**Humphrey's**

7 pm - 8 pm - DJ

**Johnny Eager Band**

Tuesday, February 3 • 7 pm - DJ

---

**Humphrey's Backstage Live**

Thursday, January 29 • 8 pm • Indie/R&B

Friday, January 30 • 8:15 pm • Blues

Saturday, January 31 • 7:30 pm • Jazz/Rock

---

**Savoy Brown**

Saturday, Feb. 14

**Guitar Shorty**

Saturday, Feb. 18

**Shane Dwight**

Wednesday, Feb. 25

---

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By William Crain

EAGLES OF DEATH METAL

Don’t sound like the Eagles, and they don’t sound like death metal. But with this band it’s not just the nonsensical name, it’s the whole package of ridiculousness. It’s the cheesy early ’80s metal-style album covers (the cover of last year’s Acolyte would have been too embarrassing even for the Scorpions). It’s the butt-rocking rhythms of the type not heard since the glory days of Billy Squier. It’s the lyrics about dancing in dark pants. Here’s the kicker: Eagles of Death Metal may be joking, but they never lay it on too thick. There’s no (or very little) falsetto vocal squawking, sarcastic lyrics, cowbell banging, or Van Halen-style guitar noodling to say, “Look, we’re not joking.” That’s because they are not joking, really. Eagles of Death Metal know there is no way to rock in 2009 without looking silly, and so rather than hide from that fact, they celebrate it. In that, they’re not unlike the Queens of the Stone Age — not surprising, as QOTSA leader Josh Homme is also in EDM. I like to think the two bands represent a new, postironic era, a time when we’ll be able to make rock ‘n’ roll a serious force in music again by making it a little sillier.

Spinal Tap, Tropicana D., and the Conchords are funny because they have satirical lyrics and because they have moxie or TV shows to reinforce the comedy. But Eagles of Death Metal are funny because rock ‘n’ roll is funny. There’s something brilliant about that. As we know by now, “It’s such a fine line between stupid and clever.”

EAGLES OF DEATH, Belly Up, Tuesday, February 3, 9 p.m. 858-481-8140. $15; $17 day of show.

Music & Event Calendar of February

Sunday, 1st: Old Timey Session
Monday, 2nd: The Blokes
Tuesday, 3rd: Rich the Stitch
Wednesday, 4th: Joe Wood
Thursday, 5th: Irish Night/Sléipnín
Friday, 6th: Gregory Michaels
Saturday, 7th: The Blokes
Sunday, 8th: OI! Timey Session
Monday, 9th: The Blokes
Tuesday, 10th: Nate & Olivia
Wednesday, 11th: Joe Wood
Thursday, 12th: Irish Night/Sléipnín
Friday, 13th: The Mighty Regis
Saturday, 14th: Special Guest
Sunday, 15th: Reckless! A Night of Rocksteady & Reggae
Monday, 16th: The Blokes

Tuesday, 17th: Rich the Stitch
Wednesday, 18th: Joe Wood
Thursday, 19th: Irish Night/Sléipnín
Friday, 20th: Special Guest
Saturday, 21st: Special Guest
Sunday, 22nd: Old Timey Session
Monday, 23rd: The Blokes
Tuesday, 24th: Special Guest
Wednesday, 25th: Joe Wood
Thursday, 26th: Irish Night/Sléipnín
Friday, 27th: Art Show
Saturday, 28th: Special Guest

* Dates are subject to change
* Check hensleyspub.com for up-to-date details!
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John Mayall is, at 75 years of age, tireless. With 56 albums to his credit (not including compilations), he says he will record number 57 soon and, following that, take his new band on the road. He’s been called the British godfather of the blues, but I rather fancy Mayall as the blues’ first true rock star. In the sixties he wore his blond hair long, sported lots of glitter and.settings with Bryan Whelan.

The thing about Mayall is that his music, while echoed within the safe harbor of the blues, is mostly his own thing, an iconoclastic stance that may have cost Mayall a pop fame that some former members of his Bluesbreakers have enjoyed. If he cares about any of this, it doesn’t show. “I’ve always felt that you never guess what’s going to be a hit or what’s going to be popular. It’s best to stick with your own honesty and do what’s right for you.”

Mark Hummel, Charlie Musselwhite, and Lee Oskar also perform.

John Mayall, Anthology, Wednesday, February 4, 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. 619-695-0300. $26, $33.

Baroness Valley Ranch Resort & Casino: 1932 Wildcat Canyon Road, La Jolla, 619-443-2300. February 8, 9 p.m. — The Arrowhead Band.

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ROTTING CHRIST • EPICUREAN
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MANTIC RITUAL
DONA EIS REQUIEM

SATURDAY 1-31
CCMA Music School presents
BLOCK PARTY • HARLOT
FEELING OF HATE
WATCH US BURN
LIONS OF CORINTH

SUNDAY 2-1
AUTO ELECTRIC
THE MOTIVES
CABLE CAR
SUPERSTAR
SHORT CIRCUIT PLOY

UPCOMING SHOWS
FRIDAY 1-30
HELSTAR • NIHILIST
WITHER
AVENGER OF BLOOD CALAVERA

SUNDAY 2-4
SUPPER PRODUCTIONS
PRESENTS
TBA!

UPCOMING SHOWS
SATURDAY 2-7
MEDUS
BEDLAM OF CACOPHONY
ARKAIK • REBIRTH

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FLASHING LIGHTS! Live DJs & more!
COME DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY!

WEDNESDAY 2-24
GRACELAND
(A Tribute to Elvis)
LONE GUNMEN

SUNDAY 2-8
WEDNESDAY 2-11
THURSDAY 2-12

THURSDAY 2-12
Twelve 7 Entertainment presents
FLASHING LIGHTS! Live DJs & more!
COME DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY!

FRIDAY 2-6
DETENTE (featuring Axis Bridge of Hellion)
SERPENT UNDERGROUND
ATEN • HATETIMESNINE

SATURDAY 2-7
CCMA Music School presents
BLOCK PARTY • HARLOT
FEELING OF HATE
WATCH US BURN
LIONS OF CORINTH

SUNDAY 2-8
CAREER SOLDIERS (last show ever)
HOMESICK Abortions
SATAYA • THE BOMBPOP$
February 27 — Bionic Joe.
March 6 — G Tom Mac.
March 7 — Chanuk.
March 8 — Acoustic Alliance.
March 12 — theSTART.
March 19 — Yesterday & Today.
Calvin’s Sports Bar and Restaurant: 28851 Old Highway 80, Alpine, 619-473-1266.
February 14 — The Highway 80 Band.
Canes: 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-488-1780.
February 11 — Atomic Punks.
February 20 — One Drop.
February 21 — Souls of Michief.
February 5 — The Bird & the Bee and Old Fart.
February 6 — Greg Laswell and Jessica Hoop.
February 9 — Freeks, Sassy, Pant Hoots.
February 11 — The Appeledast.
February 12 — Don Caballero.
February 13 — The Dogs.
February 15 — Drag the River, Yo! Majesty.
February 17 — Gill Matinez’s Party Dream.
February 18 — The Aumulls and Jessica Lee Mayfield.
February 19 — Murder by Death.
February 23 — French Kicks and the Beekman West.
February 25 — A.C. Newman and Dust May.
February 26 — N.A.S.A.
February 28 — Kool Keith.
March 10 — Plants & Animals.
March 15 — Aboi Seku.
April 16 — The Black Lips.
The Loft: 316 West Mission Avenue, Suite #115, Escondido, 760-746-6188.
February 14 — MoonDance.
Cox Arena: 5500 Canyon Crest Drive, SDSA, 619-394-6947.
March 8 — Slipknot.
March 15 — Los Tenerientos.
March 22 — MX Live Fest.
Dizzy’s: 200 Harbor Drive, Downtown, 858-270-7467.
February 14 — The Gilbert Castanias Quartet.
February 15 — Gary Lefevre.
February 21 — Leonard Patton & Rebecca Jade.
Dos Picos County Park: 17953 Dos Picos Road, Ramona.
March 20 — Sara Petite.
Dream Street Live: 2228 Bucan Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-8311.
February 27 — Deaf As Dillinger.
First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego: 6950 Front Street, Hillcrest, 619-298-9797.
February 13 — Love, Tea, and Chocolates.
Gallagher’s Pub & Grill: 5046 Newport Avenue, Ocean Beach, 619-222-3300.
February 21 — Dazed and Confused.
The Harp: 6935 Newport Avenue, Ocean Beach, 619-222-0166.
February 6 — The Buzzhounds.
February 7 — Rockdyke.
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church: 3081 Sunset Cliffs Boulevard, Ocean Beach, 619-222-0060.
March 6 — Grinda.
House of Blues: 1055 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-299-2583.
February 5 — Katy Perry.
February 7 — Buffalo.
February 8 — Sk8 a Dead IV.
February 12 — Interplan.
February 13 — So Long Dacey and Valencia.
February 14 — Styx.
February 18 — Taste of Chaos.
February 19 — The Game.
February 20 — The Gin Blossoms and Tonic.
February 21 — Reverend Horton Heat and Manic Hispanic.
February 22 — Best of Tributes.
February 27 — The Doors.
February 28 — Dave Weight.
February 29 — Yes.
February 27 — Big Head Todd & the Monsters.
February 28 — Raphael Saadiq.
March 1 — Zapya Plays Zappa.
March 2 — Busted Rhymes.
March 4 — The Oddity Fair: A Mutated Mix Fest.
March 5 — The Pretenders.
March 6 — Jimmy Eat World.
March 8 — C. Love & Special Sauce.
March 9 — Asia.
March 10 — Jesse McCartney.
March 14 — Cate is What We Aim For.
March 16 — Skid Row.
March 17 — Escape the Fate.
March 18 — Blue October.
March 20 — OK Go.
March 22 — The Aliens and the Dickies.
March 23 — Bette Midler.
March 29 — 30-3.
April 3 — Senses Fail.
April 9 — The Dixie Biscuits.
April 10 — Don Felder.
April 11 — Led Zeppelin.
April 12 — Gold.
April 14 — Mecatropilados.
April 23 — Quemariche.
May 1 — Kreativ.
May 15 — Ramon Ayla.
June 12 — Billy Ray Cyrus.
JT’s Clubhouse Pub & Grill: 5921 Morrison Avenue, Ocean Beach, 619-280-4698.
February 5 — The Player’s Touch.
Jack and Giulio’s Italian Restaurant: 2391 San Diego Avenue, Old Town, 619-294-274.
February 19 — Mecatropilados.
The Jumping Turtle: 1606 Calapina Road, San Marcos, 760-741-7778.
February 17 — Powerwave 5000.
The Loft: 9508 Gilman Drive, UTC.
February 7 — Gasoline and Light.
February 27 — Inigo Figuracion.
April 4 — Jordan Reimer.
Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla: 700 Prospect Street, La Jolla, 858-454-3541.
February 19 — Carolina Chocolate Drops.
O’Connell’s Pub and Nightclub: 1130 Morena Boulevard, Linda Vista, 619-276-5637.
February 7 — The Hillbilly Half.
Up the Sweaters: 7525 Convoy Street, San Diego, 619-276-6390.
February 5 — Busta Rhymes.
Main Stage Bar at Valley View Casino: 16300 Nymea Pass Road, Valley Center, 866-843-9946.
February 6 — Innovation, The Heroes.
February 7 — Lady Dottie & the Diamonds, The Jones Revival.
February 12 — The Fabulous Pelicans.
February 13 — Firefly, The Heroes.
February 15 — Detroit Underground.
February 19 — Firefly, The Heroes.
February 20 — The Fabulous Pelicans, Metros.
February 21 — Hot Rod Lincoln, Old School.
February 24 — Ant Kissy’s Boys.
February 28 — The Heroes.
February 27 — Innovation, The Fabulous Pelicans.
February 28 — Lady Dottie & the Diamonds, The Jones Revival.
The Marquees: 835 25th Street, Gold.
February 27 — Inigo Figuracion.
April 4 — Jordan Reimer.
Rockness Road and Siaath wrote his own book, both documenting everyday life of the band during the late 1980s when they rose from Sunset Strip squatter to stadium-rock legends. 2002 was a big year for Guns N’ Roses publicity. In each of the publicity campaigns, Axl Rose Smith is mentioned briefly as being the voice heard during the break on “Rocket Queen,” the last song on Appetite for Destruction. (How she got on that album is a story of rock-and-roll frivolity; Axl had Adriana in the studio, he wanted something special for that track, and nature took its course. If it’s not apparent by now what key vocal elements Adriana lent to the song, you’ll have to find it for yourself and have a listen.) Scrabbles writing for any scrap of nastiness, Adriana has made herself with the igouple and taken the moniker “Rocket Queen” — branding every bit of her persona with the title and even sadding her band with it (check the website info above).
Her intimate time with Axl in that New York recording studio, doing what comes naturally to young rockers, seems to be the last decent thing Adriana has done anywhere near recording equipment. War in the Graveyard is unstoppable because of her off-key warbling and catering. The band minus Adriana is respectable in a backyard, high school, just practicing sort of way, but combined with her singing, better sounds can be heard by striking a scredriver against concrete.
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Promotions subject to change w/out notice.

Ruby Room:
February 7
Point Loma, 619-255-8635.
Riley’s:
February 6
— Help!
March 6 — Chet & the Committee.
February 28 — Latino Band Night.
— Lipstick N Leather.
February 27 — Latino Band Night.
February 20 — The Cured.
February 13 — HeadRUSH.
February 7
March 7 — Copywrite.

San Diego Sports Arena:
February 7, February 12
Gilman Drive, UCSD.

Spreckels Theatre:
April 24
So Long Davey!
— A Cursive Memory
March 4 — She Said Sever.
February 20 — Millionaires.
February 19 — Heart.
February 10 — The Peter Sprague String Consort.

Seaport Village:
February 10
Harbor Drive, Downtown.

U-31:
28th Annual Tribute to the Legends.
February 15 — Barnyard Drama.
— Pamela Z.
April 18 — John Prine.
March 10 — Aiyun Huang.

North Park, 619-584-4188.

Soma:
3350 Sports Arena Boulevard, Point Loma, 619-226-7662.
February 6 — Blessed by a Broken Heart.
February 15 — Andrew Bird.
February 19 — Millionaires.
February 20 — She Said Sever.
March 4 — A Cursive Memory and So Long Davey!
April 24 — The Devil Wears Prada.

Spreckels Theatre:
121 Broadway, Downtown, 619-235-9500.
February 15 — Gilberto Santa Rosa.
March 20 — Joe Bonamassa.
April 14 — John Prine.

Sushi Performance & Visual Art:
190 11th Avenue, Downtown, 619-235-8466.
February 10 — Blevin Blectum.
March 10 — Ayun Huang.
April 14 — Pamela Z.
May 12 — Barnyard Drama.

Theatres:
155 East Grand Avenue, Escondido, 760-735-2491.
February 20 — Bill McKay Blues Band.

The Turquoise, Cafe-Bar
Europa: 675 Turquoise Street, Pacific Beach, 858-488-4848.
February 19 — David Bandrowski & Friends.
U-31: 3112 University Avenue, North Park, 619-584-4188.
March 11 — Republic of Letters.
UCSD Faculty Club: 9500 Gilman Drive, UCSD.
February 7, February 12 — Dr. Bud & the Galapagos Mountain Boys.
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Candelas: Thursdays DJ ALA. Deep soulful house music. 416

The Upstart Crow Bookshop and Coffee House: 830 West Harbor Drive, Downtown, 619-232-4855.

February 7 — Nadja Nara.
February 14 — Greg Campbell.
February 21 — Off Campus.
March 7 — Jim Earp.
March 14 — Greg Campbell.
March 21 — Off Campus.
March 28 — Nadja Nara.

Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room: 5000 Willows Road, Alpine, 619-445-5400.
February 6 — Scott Weiland.
February 8 — David Patrone.
April 9 — Billy Currrington.

Whistle Stop Bar: 2236 Fern Street, South Park, 619-294-6714.
February 21 — Wild Weekend.

Winston’s: 1921 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822.
February 5 — Diego’s Umbrella.
February 18 — Ten Mile Tale.

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- Fridays, 9 p.m.: Guest DJs. Spin Top 40, '80s techno, and rock. Ages 18 and up.
- Saturdays, 9 p.m.: Guest DJs. Spin Top 40, '80s techno, and rock. Ages 18 and up.

6195 University Avenue, Suite A, College Area. 619-544-0807.

The Coyote Bar & Grill:
- Thursdays, 10:30 p.m.: DJ Earl Henry.
- Fridays, 10:30 p.m.: DJ Steve Hasty.
- Saturdays, 10:30 p.m.: DJ Steve Hasty.

300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. 760-729-4695.

Deco’s Restaurant & Nightclub:

731 Fifth Avenue, Downtown. 619-696-3326.

The Filling Station:
- Fridays and Saturdays, 9 p.m.: DJ Dance Party.

9522 Miramar Road, Mira Mesa. 858-578-0757.

The Flame:
- Saturday: Club Sabbat. Gothic and industrial every second and fifth Saturday of the month. Resident DJs Robin Roth, Atom, and Diskdroid spin along with special guests.

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Inferno Young Adult Nightclub:
- 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.

Jack’s La Jolla - Ocean Room:
- Thursdays and Saturdays, 10 p.m.: Wall Street Bar. DJs and dancing.

7863 Girard Avenue, La Jolla. 858-456-8111.

Kadan:

4696 San Diego
Le Passage French Bistro: Saturday, 5 p.m.; MLDC. Electronic. 2961 State Street, Carlsbad. 666-377-3150.

McDini’s: Fridays, 7 p.m.; Classic Soul & R&B Review. Top 40, hip-hop, dance, and more with DJ Dizzy D. Saturdays, 8 p.m.; DJ Damon. Spin rock and R&B. 105 East 8th Street, National City. 619-474-6772.


Moondoggies Pacific Beach: Saturdays, 9 p.m.; What’s Good. DJs Enigma and Cisco. Hip-hop, Saturday, March 6 & 20


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Miami Grille: Fridays, 8 p.m.; DJ Da Wizard. With DJ Misterioso. Hip-hop, dance, and more. Free. 4545 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla. 858-552-0618.

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When I learned Harrall's Rincon was opening up a sports bar called the Sports Pit in late September, I decided to hit it. They offered lots of free food and drinks and two former NFL stars. And because I'm in a fantasy football league, I'm always looking for places that have big screens.

Dallas Cowboys Hall of Fame receiver Michael Irvin was there. I brought an 8˝x10˝ for him to sign-for a friend.

I told Irvin that my step-brother had him on his fantasy team last year. He was a big deal—two former NFL stars. And later, when I approached Irvin, I told him I once bowled with Glenn in Mira Mesa.

The Sports Pit had an 8˝x10˝ for him to sign—but he wasn't. I couldn't figure it out. I overheard a guy named Don talk about a woman winning $4000 at a nearby slot machine. He said, "I sat there a few minutes earlier, but I cashed out."

I started talking with him and his friend. Don said he used to like to go into bars and challenge people to arm-wrestling matches. He'd never lose. He showed me a muscle in his arm that looked like Popeye's. He told me about some losers that wanted to start fights. But Don is a black belt. One time he beat the crap out of a big biker who wanted to "step outside" because Don was sarcastically saying, "Uh-oh…I think I'm going to lose. It feels like you got me…oh, wait…" before slamming his arm to the table. The guy ended up a bloody mess and said, "Thanks, man, I really needed that."

Don was having a birthday party the next day at Wings, Pizza N Things in Oceanside, where he hosts karaoke under the name DJ Don Juan. I decided to crash that party.

I ended up talking to Derek, the owner of the place. He talked about how he's owned the restaurant for a year and that it's been hard, but he's breaking even, he's considering it a success.

When I mentioned something about the Eagles jersey on the wall, he said, "I'm from Philly. But I have that Chargers jersey. It's Vince Glenn, right next to it." I told him I once bowled with Glenn in Mira Mesa.

Because there was a buy-one, get-one-free deal on the pizza, we ate a lot more than we should have. I met Don's wife, who wasn't at the casino the night before. She was holding their twins, who were cute. One had blue eyes, the other had brown. Don said, "We had them December 15. Just in time for tax write-offs!"

Someone nearby told me about a couple that recently had twins, and one child was black and the other was white. I asked, "Was his name Michael Jackson?"

We saw a basketball-shooting game. My girlfriend joked that she could beat me, so we played. I smoked her.

I then noticed that if I beat the high score of 51, I could win a free pizza. I told her I probably could if she handed me the basketballs (instead of me reaching down for them). As we were trying to reply sternly, "Yeah, but so what! It's true, man. He should've played. It was the playoffs."

I laughed nervously as he walked away. I thought about chasing him down and saying, "You're the guy that got injured when you were high stepping into the end zone." I chickened out.

Later, when I approached Sanders to sign my football cards, I asked him what the weirdest thing was he's ever been asked to autograph. He said, "Two football cards! I thought he was joking, but he wasn't. I couldn't figure it out. I saw Irvin sign eight items for one lady. I assumed these two players were paid handsomely to be here, yet Sanders didn't seem to be enjoying himself.

I went and grabbed some food. One table had the type of food you'd see at a sports bar: hot wings, sliders, french fries. The other table included desserts, shrimp, and fancier things. I stuck with the sports grub.

When Sanders went over to do the raffle, he seemed in better spirits. But, when I saw that he was leaving (about 30 minutes earlier than he was scheduled to), I learned he's ever been asked to autograph. I was leaving (about 30 minutes earlier than he was scheduled to), I

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I then noticed that if I beat the high score of 51, I could win a free pizza. I told her I probably could if she handed me the basketballs (instead of me reaching down for them). As we were trying to
win, I missed my first few shots. She started giving me crap, and I said, “Hey, these balls aren’t regulation. They’re tiny.” I ended up with a score of 47.

I jokingly complained to Derek, who said, “I’ll give you free pizza. Don’t worry about it.”

The birthday cake was being cut, and I said, “I probably won’t like it. So many cakes have that whipped-cream frosting. I like butter cream.” He said, “Yeah, I’m with ya on that.” As we were leaving, my girlfriend and I talked about coming back to watch the Super Bowl. I said, “We’ll have to see if we get invites to Super Bowl parties first.” Just then, we saw guys standing around a trophy that was about six feet tall. We asked them about it. They were a group of pool players that meets there, and they’d won a tournament. As they began telling an elaborate story about a difficult shot, I was thinking about saying, “I’ll bet you that trophy that I know a guy in there that can beat any one of you at arm-wrestling.”

Crash your party? Call 619-235-3000 x421 and leave an invitation for Josh Board.

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

For more information on upcoming events visit sdreader.com.
After nearly nine years in San Diego, I’d never been to any of the Bully’s restaurants and felt a tad guilty about my ignorance of a local institution. The mini-chain was established back in 1967, when I was still hanging around the Haight, festooned with beads, eating brown rice, and inhaling. A few weeks ago, Samurai Jim and Michelle had lunch at Bully’s East and reported positively. “Did you know it’s not all red meat but lots of seafood, too?” Jim asked. Michelle had been captivated by a special of tender salmon steak. We made a date to eat dinner there during Restaurant Week, when the menu was $30 and included three choices of both appetizers and entrees and four options for dessert.

The decor won my heart immediately: woody, comfortable, cozy — minus any hint of high-class steakhouse smoothness, no ermines and pearls. The long list of cheap (mainly $8) cocktails further warmed the spirits. Somehow, steakhouses have become associated with classic cocktails, so a little purely recreational drinking during the first course, especially at people’s prices, seemed apropos. Michelle’s Blue Mojito (splashed with blue curaçao) was the best and brightest; Jim’s elaborate Mai Tai was mellow. My Hurricane was just okay, a mere tropical drizzle.

Our waitress was a brown-haired “blonde” — cordial, sweet, clueless about the wine list, and thrown for a loop by the concept of eating “family style.” No, we weren’t ordering one dinner to split between three of us, we were ordering three dinners, but it didn’t matter who got what dish, etc.… Don’t panic, girl. Relax. Take a breath. We are so confident that you will agree that our hotcakes are the best you’ll ever taste that we are willing to put your taste buds to the test. Try them once. You’ll be hooked for life. We also offer these delicious waffles with our special fried chicken.

The first official Restaurant Week appetizer offered sesame-crusted seared ahi. Not much searing, but nice ahi, and a light scattering of gomem, Japanese black sesame seeds, which have a darker and nuttier flavor than the white ones. The fish was plated over an amiable Asian coleslaw, along-side a ponzu-like dip. Too bad this isn’t on the regular dinner menu, it’d be a “pick hit.”

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As expected, the “prime rib bits” appetizer (which, since it came with the meal anyway, I took it home as my next night’s dinner) was a miniature of the prime rib entree — but with the beef chopped into inch-size chunks, most pieces prominently displaying ribbons of fat. These “bits” came from the outer edges of the roast, which is where the fat is. They’re not on the regular menu, which is good because I don’t think chefs are legally allowed to send out a side of Lipitor with the appetizer.

Michelle and I were conspiring to share a couple of wines by the glass as we headed into the entrées, from a rich array of choices, until boozehound Samurai Jim decided he’d like wine, too, so we switched to choosing a bottle. The list of reds was no thrill — affordable supermarket choices like Clos du Bois and Murphy-Goode, and affordable supermarket choices like Clos du Bois and Murphy-Goode, and then a great leap upward in price. (Corkage is just $10. Worth bringing your own, especially if you’ve got some Rhônes in your hall closet that would fl
ter this food.) But then I spotted a list of “Other Reds,” which included a $38 Rutherford Ranch Rhamonn Meritage, mellowing Merlot, Syrah, and Zin. It was a serendipitous guess. Had our roast beef or steak been sublime great, this choice might have been too mild-mannered — great beef (that is, well-aged USDA Prime grade) craves the dark underlying tannins of serious aged Bordeaux or top California Cabs — but the meats here proved to be lightweight as well.

Horseradish-crusted prime rib (ordered very rare, arriving lightweights as Cabs — but the meats here proved to be minor Volcano’s “roasted garlic-mashed potato” sludge. Using water rather than milk in the mash is a commonplace in moderately priced restaurants and among impoverished people the world over, but our ancestors came to America having to put loads of butter and milk in their mash and their children’s mash. Later, we added other ingredients. Mashed potatoes are sluts, they’ll take almost anything you want to put into them — but you still need to caress them first with sufficient dairy products before they’ll swallow your fancier culinary fetishes.

Trying out the seafood choice on the fixed menu was saddening. Pan-seared scallops in a pomegranate glaze tasted like ordinary commercial-grade wet-pack scallops (meaning, flown from back east in tourist class, surrounded by a protective liquid bath heavily loaded with potassium, which prevents spoilage but doesn’t do the flavor or texture any good. Had they been day-old or diver scallops, the menu would have boasted about it, and the price would be considerably higher. They were also overcooked until rubbery and opaque all the way through, not opalescent. The glaze was light and savory, at least. “After the salmon I had at lunch,” said Michelle, “I’m so disappointed. I really thought they’d be better with seafood than this.” The scallops came with caramelize baby carrots and yet another replay of the Volcano mash.

With four desserts to choose from, we skipped the créme brûlée. The “mud pie” turned out to be a great kiddie indulgence — mocha-almond ice cream piled atop a chocolate fudge crust, with whipped cream and nuts on the side. If you like this sort of thing, you’ll be happy.

“Girl Scouts Go Gourmet” is a spin-off of a Restaurant Week promo this year, where Girl Scout cookies are used in restaurant desserts. Here the Trefoil cookies were crushed for the crust of a key lime cheesecake pie. It was an odd combo — the richness of cheesecake, the tartness of lime, the sweetness of cookies, plus whipped cream on the side. It was odd and heavy but likable in small doses.

Warm bread puddling studded with cranberries was dense, weighty, and elusively familiar as we tried to figure out what bread it was based on. (Hawaiian Wonder Baguettes?) We all liked it, vaguely. “Good for breakfast” was my verdict.

Nearly every time I’ve played catch-up and tried any of the city’s older favorite restaurants (particularly those charging moderate prices), I’ve been disappointed. (Is this why San Diego has a bad food reputation?) Bully’s East is better than some, but as some palate-propelled, it’s not where I’d spend my own money. I found the food decent rather than de-licious but can see why lots of locals love this institution. You don’t have to dress like a stiff or pay like a hailed-out bank exec making whoopee but can come as you are and enjoy a few good drinks and a warm and friendly cholesterol-raising session. If you want lots of red meat — and care less about inventive cooking or fabulous quality than the conviviality of the surroundings — Bully’s fits the bill.

About Bully’s

Bully’s was founded in the Bird Rock area of La Jolla in 1967 by George Bullington (nicknamed “Bully,” of course), a jockey agent at Santa Anita Racetrack, and Lester Holt, a thoroughbred horse trainer. Bullington had tended bar with J.D. Dahlen at the Courtyard in La Jolla, and George brought in J.D. to manage Bully’s bar.

Even now, few restaurants routine serve roast beef except at buffets, but Bullington had a different idea. Bully’s won rapid success, mainly by offering roast prime rib in various sizes every day as the centerpiece of the menu. Bully’s also became a pioneer of late-night dining, taking its place as one of a scant few local restaurants to serve dinner until past midnight every night.

The Bully’s concept quickly expanded. Bully’s North in Del Mar opened in 1968. In 1971, Bullington and Holt brought in a new partner, Frank Sanchez, and converted an A&W root beer stand in Mission Valley into Bully’s East, with J.D. Dahlen as its managing partner. Eventually, Dahlen bought this branch outright, and today he and his family (wife Ginny and son Derek) are the sole proprietors.
**Sushi Secret**

“We keep nearly 200 sets of chopsticks for regulars.”

Remember the guy who hijacked a tank and drove it through the streets of San Diego? They say this is where he got the tank, at the National Guard Armory in Linda Vista. And not too far past that, near where the 163 and 805 meet, I come across another surprise: a little house with bamboo torches, a maroon canopy, and a tiny outside deck, plus a red-and-white doorway-cloth flapping in the breeze and a sign that says “Sushi Diner.” You get the feeling this could be a little eating place in the countryside of Japan. Natch, just have to pop in.

I swipe my way through the flap over the door. Lone customer. Just me, and Bob Marley wailing, “One love, one heart! Let’s get together and feel all right.” The place is tiny, with a sushi counter, a few tables, surfboards slung from the ceiling, hanging rattan screens, palm-frond roof fringes, rows of weird bottles of sake, and ceiling, hanging rattan screens, palm-frond roof fringes, rows of weird bottles of sake, and a couple of metal Japanese kanji symbols for love and peace.

Racks behind the counter hold rows of different-colored chopsticks. There’s a picture of Bob Marley laughing and smoking a big colored chopsticks. There’s a picture of Bob Marley laughing and smoking a big different-colored chopsticks. There’s a picture of Bob Marley laughing and smoking a big chopsticks for regulars, says Daisuke, the guy in charge. Wow.

I check the menu. Prices are good, starting with the teriyaki chicken rice bowl, which goes for $3.75. An edo bowl is $6.95, and, like, even a chicken katsu curry plate is only $7.95, and that’s with a rice salad and a sushi roll, such as a four-piece spicy crab or three-piece shrimp tempura.

But I concentrate on the lunch specials. They run about $6 to $8. Mixed tempura (battered, deep-fried veggies and, say, shrimp) plus chicken katsu is $6.95. With the 11-piece sushi roll combo instead — which includes spicy tuna, crunch roll, and California roll — it costs $7.95. A simple “California roll set,” basically a California roll with green salad (or edamame) and miso soup, will set you back $4.95. At first I decide I’ll go for the mixed tempura and the sushi roll combo ($7.95), till — whack! — I discover I don’t quite have the funds. So Mari says the best thing, if I want to fill up, is the $6.95 roll combo sampler set.

She’s right. The big square plate is packed with four pieces of spicy tuna, a three-piece crunch roll, and a four-piece California roll. Plus the miso soup and a big salad bowl. This is when I realize how rusty I’ve gotten with the sushi scene. I have to ask Daisuke how to use that green wasabi horseradish, dammit. How could I forget, the soy sauce, the mixing! While I’m at it, I get Daisuke to explain the crunch roll. It’s imitation crab and shrimp, with peach-colored spicy mayo, eel sauce, and crunchy tempura crumbles on top. Dee-lish, “specially dipped in the wasabi-soy mix.”

Now, suddenly, the place is filling up. Bunch of school students, a couple of families. “I tell you, this is just as good as Okinawa,” says a retired Marine named David. His wife and son, Elizabeth and Cyrus, come here all the time. Bright Laotian kid named Thomas, a sophomore from Kearyn High School, tells me how being Asian is cool at school. “Clothes, cars, computers,” he says, “and Asian food. We’re happening!”

Right now, Mari’s taking a long green plate past with a giant caterpillar aboard. Oh, man. Everything they present is sheer elegance. This one’s an eight-segment cel-crab-shrimp caterpillar roll, $8.95. That’s mine, next time.

**The Place:** Sushi Diner, 7330 Mesa College Drive #B, Linda Vista, 858-565-1179

**Type of Food:** Japanese

**Prices:** teriyaki chicken rice bowl, $3.75; edo bowl, $6.95; chicken katsu curry (with salad and sushi roll, e.g. four-piece spicy crab or three-piece shrimp tempura), $7.95; mixed tempura with chicken katsu, $6.95; teriyaki chicken with 11-piece sushi roll combo, $7.95; California roll set (spicy tuna, crunch roll, and California roll) with green salad or edamame, miso soup, $4.95; seaweed salad, $4.95; salad, $4.95; eel bowl, $6.95

**Hours:** Lunch, 11:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Monday–Friday; dinner, 5:00 p.m.–9:30 p.m., Monday–Thursday; 5:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m., Friday; 4:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m., Saturday; closed Sunday

**Bus:** 44

**Nearest Bus Stops:** Mesa College Drive at Ashford Street (northbound); Linda Vista Road at Mesa College Drive (southbound).
A Charmed Life

“Ramsey Lewis said to me, ‘Every time that door opened, a legend walked in.’”

Anthony Terlato — importer, distributor, marketer, and now winery owner — never intended to write a book about his life in the wine business. He was content being the guy in the background who made things happen: who got Robert Parker to meet with and “discover” Rhône superstar Michel Chapoutier, who made Santa Margherita Pinot Grigio the monster brand it became — heck, who began importing both Mateus and Lancer’s back in the day. Rather, the idea came from one of his PR workers. “She said, ‘You cook lunch with Count Alexandre de Lur-Saluces of Château d’Yquem. You go to dinner with Anthony Paterno’s invitation to come to Chicago during his honeymoon tasting wines with Robert Mondavi has been your friend since the 1950s. You think that’s not interesting to people?’

Terlato wasn’t convinced. “For me, cooking and having lunch with Alexander, smoking cigars and drinking ‘34 d’Yquem is a workday” — nothing special, nothing worth putting between covers. But then Terlato invited his old friend Ramsey Lewis, a jazz pianist of some renown, to his annual duck-and-risotto dinner — Dan Duckhorn of Duckhorn Vineyards on the duck, Anthony Terlato on the risotto. “Lewis was staying at my house — he was doing a concert in the area. We had all these guys from Napa, and one after another, they came up to me and said, ‘You know Ramsey Lewis?’ Then, the next morning, Ramsey Lewis says to me, ‘I couldn’t believe it. Every time that door opened, a legend walked in.’” Each side was impressed with the other, and Terlato was the nexus. “I called my PR gal and said, ‘Pam, maybe I should write a book — let me write it for the future of my family, open a bigger door for the kids. You look at families like Antinori and Frescobaldi — they’ve been around for 600 years. We’re in the third generation; I guess I better start writing about it. The next generation won’t remember all the things that my father did.”

The result — Taste: A Life in Wine — begins, not surprisingly, with Terlato’s father (and mother, and grandmother…). In particular, it begins with his father’s acceptance of wine bottleer Anthony Paterno’s invitation to come to Chicago and open a liquor store back in the mid-’50s. The store, Leading Liquor Marts, carried Premier Cru Burgundy and First-Growth Bordeaux, and it wasn’t long before Terlato was doing his own blind tastings so as to better serve the discriminat-
pose of the game was to hit the ball. And there’s plenty of heady work-ethic stuff in the mix, starting even before Terlato left his father’s business to sign on with his father-in-law at what eventually became Paterno Imports. “The idea behind working with [Paterno] was that we would be able to distribute fine wines at some point. I thought it would be an easy transition. But my father-in-law was selling kosher wine and Burgundy at 99 cents a gallon. I’d dress in a shirt and a tie and call on Madison Street, and there would be bums in the doorways. I was selling cases of pints of wine for $6.95, and back at my father’s store, I had been selling ‘47 Lafite in 1955. I hated that work. ” But he did it, right alongside his buildup of the company’s fine-wine portfolio.

It’s that buildup that makes it a shame to think of Taste as simply a business book, because it’s also the story of a charmed life. Again and again, instinct and plain good luck do things for Terlato that work alone could never manage. A chance seating by importer Alexis Lichine landed him the chance to represent the French legend’s wines. Getting Lichine helped him get Frank Schoomaker, another early titan, and the French bubbly house of Roederer followed soon after. He befriended Chapoutier before Michel took over the operation from his father. The operation had fallen on hard times, and the bank was getting ready to foreclose. Terlato buoyed Chapoutier, and that won him the winemaker’s loyalty. When Chapoutier found the spot for his Australia project, he called Terlato and invited him to put his name on the label.

The book is full of stories like that; Terlato’s career tracking right along with the development of the American wine palate. But then, just when it seems he can do no wrong in the wine business, he starts buying wineries. The distributor becomes the owner. It begins with Rutherford Hill in 1996; renovations and upgrades, undertaken to burnish a faded brand, cost him $7 million. He pours $11 million more into Chimney Rock and another $5 million into Alderbrook. And on and on.

The work has brought success, and on his own terms. In a kind of homage to the Santa Margherita wine that brought him so much success, “I made this Pinot Grigio in the Russian River Valley for $22 a bottle, where I should be planting Pinot Noir that I could sell for $50.” (It became the first wine with his name on the label: Terlato Family Vineyards.) “So I said to my winemaker Doug Fletcher, ‘You’ve got to make me the best Pinot Grigio in America. Can you do it?’ He says, ‘I can. And if not, we can always blend it into something else.’ We just got an article — a journalist wrote, ‘It’s the best Pinot Grigio I ever tasted.’ I was kind of excited to see that.”

But he didn’t spend his millions for the sake of getting good press. Nor did he spend just to have his name on a great bottle of wine. Rather, he says, “I wanted to leave something concrete to my grandchildren. If I’m going to bring them into this business, I need to leave something concrete for them. When you’ve got children, you

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**San Diego Reader**

January 29, 2009

“Best new wine bar!”

– S.D. Magazine 2007

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An unpretentious environment to try wine by the glass or bottle, plus microbrews and a limited bites menu.

the caskroom
spend your whole life wanting to make their life good. If you haven’t, you’ve failed. I wanted them to have a good life.

RESTAURANT LISTINGS

The Reader's Guide to Restaurants are recommended listings written by our reviewers (Ed Hallock, Barbara Davis, Amber Martin, Shari McDougall, Max Nao, Elam Widmer, Naomi Wise). Each issue contains only a fraction of almost 900 reviews. A complete searchable list is available online at www.SanDiegoReader.com. Price estimates are based on the latest information available for a midrange meal. Inexpensive: $10 or less; moderate: $10 to $19; expensive: $20 to $37; very expensive: more than $37. Please call restaurants in advance for reservations.

OPENING

San Diego’s first Ethiopian restaurant to offer ground ethio beef to barbecue. Ethiopian Cuisine

HAPPY HOUR

$2 BEERS

Perfect Spot to chill and enjoy a beer. 997 Tropico Street, Pacific Beach, 858-488-1725. In the mood for psi, rataouille, or caffè’s live jazz? The Presidio is your place! Great wine and food in a relaxed atmosphere for expensive prices! Enjoy the Presidio in the heart of the Presidio district. A perfect spot to enjoy a glass of wine and some delicious food. The Presidio is the perfect place to experience the best of San Diego’s culinary scene. Enjoy the atmosphere, the food, and the wine! Happy Hour: 4-7pm. Live jazz on select evenings.

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Over 900 more restaurant listings at SanDiegoReader.com

Over stuffing can make a difference between more dinner and a very happy meal. 1. Steer clear of combination plates — some dishes come off much better when ordered separately. 2. You get any element of a combo by asking for it; the same dishes come off much better the restaurant is asked. 3. Don’t waste your time (or money) on weak umbrella drinks when the wine list is brilliant. The menu changes daily, but some frequent tasty choices are pot stickers, kimchi, leek soup, or soy sauce. Special dietary requests accommodated, including vegetarian. Be sure, and hope for a stable from the house bar. Open 11am to 10pm daily. Moderate to expensive.

Caffe Japengo 8960 University Center Lane, University City, 858-433-3355. This place has a great atmosphere with a huge selection of dishes to choose from. Japanese food is my favorite, so I always make sure to try something new. Today I ordered the sushi special and it was delicious. The service was fantastic. I would definitely recommend this place to anyone looking for good Japanese food. Moderate to expensive.

Galileo’s Italian Restaurant 2197 San Diego Blvd, La Jolla, 858-551-0643. Galileo’s is one of my favorite restaurants in La Jolla. The atmosphere is warm and inviting, and the food is always delicious. I love trying new dishes here, and the staff is always friendly and helpful. I would highly recommend this place to anyone looking for great Italian food. Moderate to expensive.
The menu's Southeast Asian, but the Crying Tiger (ground beef salad with bamee — noodles) or pork with sloppy wide noodles and vegetables. Closed Tuesday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Bondi Bar and Kitchen 353 Fifth Avenue, Downtown, 619-323-4500. This well-loved, smart and smart enough to catch the eye of every passerby! It’s a huge, rauccous Australian gastro-pub offering numerous Aussie beers — with urban Australian cuisine for ballast — plus a full bar (several of them) of well-chosen wines plus hard liquor. Frame seating is on the front patio and in large steel fish-traps suspended from the ceiling in the front dining room. (Dining rooms in back are dim, bring a flashlight to read the menu.) The food resembles California-fusion cuisine but is singularly itself: the spicing is exotic but above the level of average Gaslamp fare. A full bar offers a great beer list and delectable numerous Aussie brews — with a tendency to overcook fish and seafood potstickers served with yogurt and meat sauce (unlike jambalaya), or pizza. The surfy, fun atmosphere is kid-friendly, plenty for vegetarians. Open daily till 11 p.m., 12 p.m. and Saturday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Confidential 901 Fourth Avenue, Downtown, 619-550-8880. Hideaway whose “small plates” many fondly remember from California Cuisine and W.C.Olif, in his stride here with a menu of creative international grazing foods, from one-bite sashimis to small entrees and mini-burgers. Unexpected, ultramodern techniques and combinations of ingredients make a trip through the menu an adventure in flavors and textures. This is truly eating for fun. Wide-ranging wine list with something for everyone; pricey creative cocktails at early (or upstairs) if you prefer quiet; menu and patio perfect for someone’s “sunny” covered confection to drink. Many dishes on the sweet side. Reservations strongly advised for weekends and two or three meals daily. Prices cover the waterfront.

Chopan Authentic Afghan Cuisines 750 Sixth Avenue, Downtown, 619-236-9050. Authentic Afghan cuisine resembles Indian and Persian food but is singularly itself: the spicing is exotic but the flavors are clear and unadulterated. It emphasizes grilled-to-order marinated meats (especially lamb), stew, well-seasoned rice dishes, and uniquely delicious appetizers such as loh naan (sesame), leek or meat turnovers (burev), and battered vegetables (pakPhones). The grilled salmon is excellent, and don’t miss the side dish of sweet pumpkin topped with yogurt and meat sauce (ka$di). Plenty for vegetarians, too. Interesting, affordable wine list. Moroccan and domestic beers. Small plates. Lunch, dinner, nightly. Moderate. — W.C.

City Pizzeria 1135 Sixth Avenue, Downtown, 619-313-0593. There’s a cultural war going on here. “City” has a New York attitude — just listens to the guys in the kitchen grabbing dough, flailing it around, saucing, yoking. But the dough has been a West Coast family’s secret for 30 years. “Try the Ranch Chicken pizza with garlic chicken, basil, and ranch dressing, or the BBQ chicken pizza, red onion, BBQ sauce and chives.” Of course, no self-respecting New York pizzeria would ever serve mozzarella in the form of a macaroon-bean mix, like W.C. does. Even if they were in New Jersey.) If you choose the baked Brie and honey roasted garlic served with mixed greens and a band, Jim.Appetizers that mix flavors — like the baked Brie and honey roasted garlic served with mixed greens and a band, Jim. Appetizers that mix flavors — like the baked Brie and honey roasted garlic served with mixed greens and a band, Jim. Appetizers that mix flavors — like the baked Brie and honey roasted garlic served with mixed greens and a band, Jim. Appetizers that mix flavors — like the baked Brie and honey roasted garlic served with mixed greens and a band, Jim. Appetizers that mix flavors — like the baked Brie and honey roasted garlic served with mixed greens and a band, Jim.
All-You-Can-Eat Sushi Bar $23.95 per person

With this ad. Expires 2/12/09. Up to 5 persons. Reg. $25.95.

Lunch Daily 11:30 am-2 pm
Dinner Daily 5-9 pm

Appetizers:
Gyoza, Egg Roll, Soft Shell Crab, Miso Soup, Shrimp Tempura, Chicken Teriyaki, Agedashi Tofu, Green Salad, Rice

Nigiri Sushi:
Avocado, Amaebi Avocado, Cab, Crab, Eel, Egg, Hamachi, Ikura, Saba, Smelt Egg, Topping, Oyster, Salmon, Scallop, Shrimp, Smoked Salmon, Squid, Tuna, Uni, Red Snapper

Cut Rolls:
California, Cucumber, Pimento, Phly, Rainbow, California Roll, Soft Shell Crab, Spicy Tuna, Shrimp Tempura, Vegetable, Yummi, Firecracker, Seafood Dynamite, Shrimp

Hand Rolls:
Eel, Salmon Skin, Scallop, Crab, Spicy Tuna, Shrimp, Temptara R, California

Calendar

All-You-Can-Eat Sushi Bar

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Hand Rolls:
Eel, Salad Skin, Scallop, Crab, Spicy Tuna, Shrimp, Temptara R, California
Vincenzo Ristorante Italiano 1702 10th Street, Little Italy, 619-762-4181.
The specialty of this first-rate tourist favorite is Si-
cilian seafood. The cooking is compe-
tent, but the restaurant’s fisherman set-
tles for ordinary quality (as does the pro-
cut provider). The most jobber does a bet-
ner job, providing succulent salmon that
the chef grills expertly, and the Italian su-
curries (from Pete’s Meats, up the
block) are the textured in town.
The restaurant’s hard-surfaced interior is so
noisy, you have to eave conversation but
your own, reserve for the sidewalk patio
for a quieter evening. Open lunch week-
days, dinner nightly. Moderate.—N.W.

NORTH INLAND

Chez Nous Gourmet Deli-Café 8932 Carroll Canyon Road, Suite E, in
Encinitas, Square, Scripts Ranch, 858-
366-4786. This Strips Ranch social
meeting place, in a discreet center of
grey timer shops and offices, was started by a couple — originally technocrats
from San Diego city schools—who took
early retirement. They do sandwiches,
but what sandwiches! Their roast beef with
ginger-garlic and Dijon, or their
spicy chicken melt, or the leg of lamb
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but what sandwiches! Their roast beef with
ginger-garlic and Dijon, or their
spicy chicken melt, or the leg of lamb
with ginger-garlic and Dijon, or their
early retirement. They do sandwiches,
but what sandwiches! Their roast beef with
ginger-gar-
Restaurant Coupons at SDReader.com

Here’s a small sample to whet your appetite!

10% off entire check

Or $1 off Spring Rolls or Egg Rolls. $10 minimum purchase. Offer expires February 28, 2009. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month. Coupon is not valid on holidays.

Pho Lucky
Vietnamese Special Plow Beef Noodle Soup.

770 Sycamore Avenue, Suite E & F, Vista, 760-727-2738
www.pholucky.com
Reader Coupons 619-235-3000

Free cupcake!

With every order of 5 cupcakes or more. Offer expires February 28, 2009. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month.

Cupcakes Squared
Using only the finest, all-natural ingredients. We create 10-12 daily flavors.

3772 Voltaire Street, San Diego, 619-226-3485
www.cupcakesquared.com
Reader Coupons 619-235-3000

25% off lunch or dinner entree

Buy one entree and two beverages, get second entree of equal or lesser value 25% off. Offer expires February 28, 2009. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month.

Centifonti’s Restaurant

3860 Convoy Street, Sls. 121, 858-715-1608
Reader Coupons 619-235-3000

$3 off buffet

Lunch or dinner. Minimum $10 purchase. Or $2 off buffet with minimum $15 purchase. All-you-can-eat buffet includes free drink. Offer expires February 28, 2009. Expiration dates are renewed the last week of each month.

Sunrise Super Buffet

South Bay

Pacific Beach, Mission Beach & Ocean Beach

The Blue Parrot Bar & Grill 50% off entree
Canes 5$ off any entree
Costa Brava Free tapa for lunch
Gringo’s Free appetizer at lunch
Lahaina Beach House Free breakfast
The Mission 50% off any entree
Pacific Beach Bar & Grill 2 for 1 entree
PB. Mike’s 99¢ sake
Saska’s $12 off second entree

North County

Calympso Free appetizer
Greek Village Free breakfast or lunch
Mikko Japanese 50% off sushi
Pho Lucky 10% off entire check

La Jolla

Brockton Villa 50% off any dinner entree
Cafe Milano Free Comedy Store tickets
Ginza Sushi Sushi dinner for 2 $16.95
La Jolla Brew House Free lunch or dinner entree
Su Casa 20% off entire check

East County & State College

California Comfort Restaurant 1/2 off breakfast, lunch or dinner
Centifonti’s Restaurant 25% off entree
Dinner A-Go-Go Free half-order
Himalayan Cuisine $2 off Indian food

Uptown & North Park

Baby Back Jack’s BBQ $2 off any purchase
The Cask Room $10 off any bottle of wine
India Princess Free dinner
Lips 50% off dinner
Medgrill Free lunch or dinner
Mille Feuille Chocolates & Patisseries 30% off any purchase
Rudford’s $2 off any menu entree
Toro Bravo $1 off all beers

Midway, Old Town & Mission Valley

Lot 81 Restaurant & Bar 1/2 price dinner
Tio Leo’s Dinner combos $9.49 each

Downtown & Point Loma

Alex’s Brown Bag Philly cheese steak $6.49
The Boathouse 2-for-1 lunch or brunch
Country Kabob Greek Restaurant Half off entree
Cupcakes Squared Free cupcake
House of Blues 20% off restaurant receipt
Jewel Box 2 for 1 entree
Puerto La Boca Free Argentinian dessert
Richard Walker’s Pancake House $1 off entree
Sevilla $10 off Spanish cuisine
Xavier’s Free appetizer

Clairemont, University City, Miramar Rd., Poway, Mira Mesa, Scripps Ranch & Kearny Mesa

Filling Station Free appetizer
Jeong Won Korean BBQ All-you-can-eat BBQ $16.85
The Philadelphia Sandwich Co. Free 6” Philly cheese steak sandwich
Sunrise Super Buffet $3 off buffet
Thai Cafe $1 off buffet
VIP Oriental Buffet $5.99 all-you-can-eat crab leg buffet

Restaurants listed without coupon offers have only menus online. Restaurants with * have multiple locations. See online menu or coupon for all locations.
erved, and the reasonably priced abalone dishes involve slightly chewy, rehydrated dried abalone from Asia. On the other hand, portions are enormous, and the cooking is careful and tasty, although some flavors have evidently been adapted to American palates and ingredients. Open Tuesday through Sunday, continuous service. Breakfast, dinner, closed Monday. Moderate. — N.W.

A Little Moore Coffee Shop 130 North Highway 101, Leucadia, 760-753-8228. How did this place slip by unnoticed for so long? Inside, with its low ceiling and noisy counter, it could be out of an early California movie. The specials are named after recent local characters. The Bills is an omelet with ham, avocado, and cheese, plus home fries or hash brown (or cottage cheese or rice). The Cindy is two pieces of French toast with two eggs and spuds. A plate of grilled veggie and chicken or beef on a mountain of rice is the Palmdo. Standard but generous fare, a formula that’s kept the place humming since at least the 1970s. Breakfast and lunch six days, closed Tuesday. Inexpensive. — E.B.

Nobu Japanese Restaurant 315 South Coast Highway 101, Solana Beach, 858-553-7797. No this isn’t the famous fusion-food Nobu of N.Y., L.A., and Chicago. This is located wherever the money is. Nobu has been in the business of serving very long hours since his namesake, and what he creates is clas-

ic non-fusion Japanese sushi and sashimi, with well-seasoned rice, freshly toasted seaweed wrappers, and fresh, fried sushi roll. If you’re in the mood for a different sort of grazing, you can set-
take at a table or booth to nibble on a score of Japanese appetizers, including a fine moonfish pate and enchan
ting chocolate mousse (egg custard) soup served super hot in the cup it was baked in. The Japanese centers are standard fare, with plenty for vegetarians. It’s all comfort-
able, casual, and kind with gracious

Nobu herself usually works the bar Friday through Sunday nights. Dinner: daily open weekends until 11 p.m. Large free lot behind restaurant (via Suer Street, a block west). Mostly moderate; some delici-
ous specials. — N.W.

Samurai Japanese Restaurant 879 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Solana Beach, 858-481-0352. Set in a small building, Samurai is rumored to have the longest sushi bar in California — 50 feet, stretching around two walls — with at least 12 chefs. The pure Japanese sushi is made from never-frozen seafood, and the visual side of the art isn’t neglected. The highly chefs take care to make their compositions look as beautiful as served, and the reasonably priced abalone dishes involve slightly chewy, rehydrated dried abalone from Asia. On the other hand, portions are enormous, and the cooking is careful and tasty, although some flavors have evidently been adapted to American palates and ingredients. Open Tuesday through Sunday, continuous service. Breakfast, dinner, closed Monday. Moderate. — N.W.

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When People Lost Their Ideals

“Doubt can be a bond as powerful and sustaining as certainty.”

I n the theater, said Marlon Brandt, “You can have a universal experience of fear, of anger, of tears, of love, and I discovered that it’s the audience, really, that’s doing the acting.”

Audiences can also become disturbed — even shaken to the point where they question their own certainty. The great plays linger in the mind because you can’t pin them down. Was Hamlet crazy? Why couldn’t the Prozorov sisters go to Moscow? Will Godot ever arrive? Possibilities ping-pong. John Patrick Shanley shaped a play for that effect. Doubt, which he says can be “a passionate exercise,” is both its title and its outcome.

The play is set at St. Nicholas, a Catholic Church and school in the Bronx. It’s 1962, about a year after the JFK assassination, when hosts of people lost their ideals — some even their sense of permanence. In 1962, Pope John XXIII advocated “Vatican II,” an attempt to make the Catholic Church more responsive to the needs of society. And in 1964, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act, outlawing discrimination in government, schools, and employment. In a short period of time, these events drove wedges into traditions etched in granite.

In an opening sermon, Father Brendan Flynn looks for positives. JFK caused profound disorientation, even despair, but it bound people together. “Think of that,” he says, “it was awful, but we were in it together!” Flynn claims that “doubt can be a bond as powerful and sustaining as certainty. When you are lost, you are not alone.”

Flynn subscribes to Vatican II and the Civil Rights movement (which could explain why he’s taken the school’s first black student, Donald Muller, under his wing). Sister Aloysius Beauvier, the principal, is spare-not-the-rod old school. Vigilant to the point of vigilantism, she thinks art’s a “waste of time,” that one shouldn’t idealize Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and that Father Flynn performed a sexual “infringement” with Donald Muller.

Her evidence: hearsay and stereotypes. Flynn’s espousing a more familial church makes him suspect, to her, as do his longish nails and championing of secular Christmas songs. Her proof: when Muller left his meeting with Flynn at the rectory, he had alcohol on his breath and made a “peculiar” expression. Sister’s case is far too skimpy for a court of law. But in what Shanley calls our “courtroom culture,” where bluster trumps reason, “communication has become a contest of wills.” And Sister presses on.

The San Diego Rep hands out a questionnaire for Doubt: “Do you think the priest is guilty?” Honestly? I’d need more information. But the question also asks if the play made you unsure. And that answer is yes. Even though rigid to the letter of the law, Sister Aloysius may be on to something. And given the 2004 John Jay Report, in which Catholic bishops revealed 4300 cases of sexual misconduct in the priesthood, there’s a chance that humane Father Flynn may be less so.

But Sister’s on such a witch hunt, it’s hard to take her side. She’s obsessed with slamming Father Flynn. (In case he tipped his scales by making her too fearsome, Shanley dedicated the play to the “many orders of Catholic nuns who have devoted their lives to serving others.” And he gives Sister a gratuitous concluding line that re- strikes the balance.)

For the Rep, Giulio Perrone’s pale gray church façade and pastel stained-glass windows feel too tempered for a play with such tough questions. Todd Salovey’s direction is capable, for the most part, but tends to put clues to character on the surface — reactions, in particular, that steer the case for and against — that would be better expressed as subtexts.

Douglas Roberts walks kindly Father Flynn on a tightrope. Does he become paranoid because he’s been caught, or because he could lose his beloved calling? Innocent Sister James wants life to remain simple. Amanda Sitton traces her almost speechless disillusionment with eloquence. In a brief, explosive cameo, Monique Gaffney plays Mrs. Muller. Sister James has become a moral battlefield. Mrs. Muller lives in a real one that contempts goods and evils can’t contain.

Rosina Reynolds makes Sister Aloysius unyielding and authoritarian but shows that she’s trapped in a larger, even more authoritarian system. The church’s male-dominated chain of command protects Father Flynn and makes her almost powerless. Reynolds walks an intriguing tightrope: Sister seems monstrous, true, but she has to be since she’s also the outnumbered underdog.
Craig Noel Award Winners, 2008:
Special Awards: Jonathan M cremurty, Arthur Wagner, Steve Karo

Resident Musical: Dreamgirls, San Diego Music Theatre; Xanadu, La Jolla Playhouse
New Musical: Memphis, La Jolla Playhouse
Orchestrations for a Musical: Larry Hochman, Dancing in the Dark, Old Globe Theatre
Direction of a Musical: Sean Murray, A Little Night Music, Cygnet Theatre; Steve Glaudini, Les Miserables, Moonlight Stage Productions

Lead Performance in a Musical, Male: Chad Kimball, Memphis, La Jolla Playhouse
Lead Performance in a Musical, Female: Deborah Gilmour Smyth, The Light in the Piazza, Lamb’s Players Theatre

Featured Performance in a Musical, Male: Tony Houck, Scrooge in Rouge, Diversionary Theatre; Patrick Page, Dancing in the Dark, Old Globe Theatre; Tom Stipe, Dreamgirls, San Diego Musical Theatre


Choreography: Bill T. Jones, The Seven, La Jolla Playhouse

Direction of a Play: Delicia Turner Sonnenberg, Fences, Cygnet Theatre
Sound Design: Tim Boyd, Streetcar Named Desire, Ion Theatre
Costume Design: Jennifer Brawn Gittings, Scrooge in Rouge, Diversionary Theatre; Anna Oliver, The Women, Old Globe Theatre
Lighting Design: David Lande, 33 Variations, La Jolla Playhouse

Set Design: Derek McLane, 33 Variations, La Jolla Playhouse Ensemble Acting: Fences, Cygnet Theatre

Featured Performance in a Play, Female: JoAnne Glover, The Receptionist, Cygnet Theatre; Rachael Van Worner, Bath, Ion Theatre

Featured Performance in a Play, Male: Manny Fernandez, Golden Boy, New Village Arts; Bobby Plascencia, Water and Power, San Diego Repertory Theatre

Lead Performance in a Play, Female: Sylvia M’Lafi Thompson, Fences, Cygnet Theatre; Amanda Satton, Golden Boy, New Village Arts

Lead Performance in a Play, Male: Antonio T.J. Johnson, Fences, Cygnet Theatre; Tom McAndrew, Terra Nova, Inukshuk Theatre Company

Solo Performance: Linda Libby, Request Programme, Ion Theatre

New Play: In This Corner, Old Globe Theatre
Touring Production: Spring Awakening, Broadway/San Diego

Dramatic Production: Fences, Cygnet Theatre

THEATER LISTINGS

Theatre 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.

American Buffalo
David Mamet’s terse, mean street drama has been praised for its realism. His dialogue cuts to the marrow. His three characters don’t speak their minds so much as externalize their nerves. The play’s realistic, but only on the surface. Buffalo grows progressively surreal. As Don, Teach, and young Bob plan to steal a coin collection, the play transforms into an inertia-dream where everyone’s knees-weak in muck and one step forward yanks them two back. Donny and Teach speak a fragmented language that’s also mud-stuck (their goal is “the thing”), and in act 2, if they weren’t planning theft and possibly murder, you’d swear they were Abbott and Costello asking “Who’s on first?” Buffalo’s been staged across the spectrum, from low comedy to junk-shop noir. For Compass Theatre, director Buff Yoeger wisely sticks to the present moment and lets the humor fall where it may. I caught a preview and, even with some rough spots, it had a stark, improvisational feel. Donny, Teach, and Bob plot, and compose Mamet’s play, inch by inch as they go along. Chad Jagger packs his set, Don’s basement-level junk shop, with rows of second-hand items. The set’s realistic in great detail but looks too orderly for such a chaotic scene. Matt Scott had Teach’s paranoia down, and his need for human contact, but went over the top vocally for his outbursts. As Bob, Don’s go-pher/protégé (and the only one who makes any money in the play), Nathan Dean Snyder’s eyes, like a young dog’s, searched under the veneer of stability, though underneath he’s trapped in a vertiginous world where business is war by other means and value has become destabilized.

Wuthering Heights
COMPASS THEATER, 7241 30TH STREET, ENGLEWOOD, 619-488-2220, THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 4 AND 8 P.M. FEBRUARY 1-21.

Boomers
Lamb’s Players Theatre repurposes 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 a...
My Party and I Cry If Want To” as Lesley Gore wrote the song in response to the Four Seasons. Now in its fourth — fifteenth — version, Brommer has grown a great deal since it premiered in 1993. It’s added social dimensions (the original was mostly about middle-class white), more period details, and a much better understanding of one’s later years (gained from experience: authors Kerry Mead and Linda Egginson are now 15 years older). Ostensibly the piece is a lecture about the generation gap, mostly about middle-class white kids, but it also provides a game of “name that tune” in fast-forward. Boomers in the audience gallop “aloha” and recognize when a musical fragment triggers memories. One could wish that, at least once or twice, the company would do a whole show (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 Owlesy-marinated precept at least ten times). But the performances overall are quite good, as are Mundy’s opinions, marriage and the four-piece backup band. You won’t learn why the pump don’t work or how good the maple sugar can taste, but if you’re of a certain era, Boomers will time-machine to a lively manner. 419-437-0600.

Worth a try:

The San Diego Repertory Theatre presents the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama by John Patrick Shanley about the real or imag. from Little Boy, a Catholic priest. Todd Salzinger directed.

SAN DIEGO REPETRERO THEATRE, 444 FOURTH AVENUE, DOWNTOWN, 7:30 P.M. FRI., 4 AND 8 P.M. SAT., 2 AND 7 P.M. WEDNESDAYS, 7:30 P.M. THROUGH FEBRUARY 15.

Doubt

The San Diego Repertory Theatre presents the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama by John Patrick Shanley about the real or imag. of a Catholic priest. Todd Salzinger directed.

SAN DIEGO REPETRERO THEATRE, 7947 D LOMAS SANTA FE DRIVE, SOLANA BEACH, 858-485-4313. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., FRIDAYS, 8 P.M., SATURDAYS, 2 AND 7 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 AND 7 P.M. THROUGH FEBRUARY 8.

The Dresser

In his youth, playwright Ronald Harwood’s recognition for Sir Donald Wolfit, a British actor who performed mostly in the movies (“Oliver” was a tour de force), went a joke, “Wolfit was forced to tour”.

Harwood’s experiences shape one of the theatre’s most moving celebrations of the craft. Sir, a Wolf, like actor, is old, frail, and has one of the most demanding jobs in the world (he played Othello last night; tonight, his 2276 King Lear; tomorrow, Richard III). When the play begins, in England during the 1942 Blitz, his agent is and Sir can’t remember where he’s been, let alone his lines. As bombs fall, his way of thinking, his sense of time, of Norman, practices his craft with pop talk, cal LEVEL 7-1101. 8-11 P.M., THURSDAYS, 8 P.M., WEDNESDAYS, 7:30 P.M. THROUGH FEBRUARY 15.

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compare like “rugby and American football,” resembles an athletic event more than an improvement. Teams wear uniforms and compete on AstroTurf. 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 booted; quick-witted re-warded (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.

MARGO'S THEATER, 2317 INDIAN AVE, MISSION HILLS. 619-205-4090. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 7:30 AND 9:45 P.M. THROUGH FEBRUARY 1.

Pump Boys and Dinnettes

Moonlight Stage Productions offers the popular musical set at a gas station-diner on Highway 57. Songs include “Farmer Tan,” “Be Good or Be Gone,” and “The Night Dolly Parton Was Almost Mine.” David Brannen directed. 400 PLAYHOUSE, 303 MAIN STREET, VISTA. 760-724-2110. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 2 AND 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 7 AND 7 P.M. THURSDAYS, 7 P.M. WEDNESDAYS, 7 P.M. THROUGH MARCH 8.

Six Degrees of Separation

John Guare based his play with the famous title on an actual event. A young black man pretending to be Sidney Poitier’s son (Poitier had none) entered homes he couldn’t have otherwise and robbed them. In the play, Paul may not be who he says, but it’s a good enough act to convince upscale New Yorkers Flan and Ouisa Kittredge to allow him into their art-rich Upper East Side apartment. A bonding spiritual breakthrough with Ouisa and Paul’s naked male lover scurrying about make connections for and separations. At the Old Globe, even when you know Paul’s a fraud, Samuel Strichen makes you wonder if Poitier had an illegitimate son. Strichen handles Guare’s lectures (about the imagination, drama’s emotionally “paralyzed” characters, etc.) without becoming too preachy — no mean feat — and his best work comes when the real Paul enters through the back door and realizes he can only gain acceptance as someone else. Guare said six degrees should move like the wind. Though his early scenes threaten to crack the sound barrier, director Trip Cullman shows a good sense of the play’s colloquial form and how to bring the script’s 17 characters (most of them cameos) and some of contemporary theater’s more alluring brings to life. Thomas Jay Ryan gives Flan the reality-avoidance instincts of an ostrich, to comic effect. Wearing Emily Rebbold’s color-burst costumes, Karen Ziemba’s terrific as Ouisa. As her understanding grows, Rebholz’s color-burst costumes, to comic effect. Wearing Emily Rebbold’s color-burst costumes, Karen Ziemba’s terrific as Ouisa. As her understanding grows, Rebholz’s color-burst costumes, to comic effect. Wearing Emily Rebbold’s color-burst costumes, Karen Ziemba’s terrific as Ouisa.

Worth a try.

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. THURSDAYS, 8 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 2 AND 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 7 AND 7 P.M. THURSDAYS, 7 P.M. WEDNESDAYS, 7 P.M. THROUGH MARCH 8.

The Star-Spangled Girl

The Real Theater, a new company, stages Neil Simon’s comedy about two San Francisco males who fall for the same woman in the mid-1960s. Bob Korbit directed.

REAL THEATER, 135 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, HILLCREST. 619-297-7039. FRIDAYS, 7 P.M. SATURDAYS, 7:30 P.M. THROUGH FEBRUARY 14.

The Toughest Girl Alive

For four performances only, Javier Velasco directs a workshop production of his tribute to the turbulent life, tempestuous times, and toe-tapping music of a bottle of gin; eating Christmas pastrries. Yet each event frac- tures relations and suggests eventual severings. Carver’s renowned for his minimalist style, and Moramarco’s adapta- tion, plus linking the three stories, is impressive.

On opening night, however, the Laternever production had yet to find a theatrical equivalent for Carver’s spare prose. The script caught its moments of lucid insight, but the acting had loose stretches, including long scene changes and overexplained motives. The cast in general could pare things down, tighten up, and (the males especially) speak to the back row. Pluses include David Weisner’s useful set and Pa Hicks’s sound. Krista Bell shows versatility, and Jacquie Wilke, relatively new to San Diego, follows her hilarious per- formance in the North Coast Rep’s “Don’t Dress for Dinner” with a trio of nicely etched women: a giggle hipped, a jaded wife, and a hunched-over matron whose emotional swings could qualify her for a painting of German-American Gothic. Carver died in 1988. Thanks to Moramarco’s adaptation, Carver may emerge as a new theatrical voice.

Worth a try.

TENTH AVENUE THEATRE, 1310 TENTH AVENUE, OCEANSIDE. THURSDAYS, 7:30 P.M. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 4 AND 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 7 P.M. THROUGH FEBRUARY 1.

The Wizard of Oz

Coronado Playhouse offers a stage version of L. Frank Baum’s immensely popular tale about a yellow Brick Road and an in- trepid quartet (if you don’t count Tin Man) who dare to follow where it leads. Nick Reeves directed.

CORONADO PLAYHOUSE, 3415 MAIN STREET, CORONADO. 619-435-4856. FRIDAYS, 8 P.M. SATURDAYS, 8 P.M. SUNDAYS, 2 P.M. THROUGH MARCH 8.

The Real Theater, a new company, stages Neil Simon’s comedy about two San Francisco males who fall for the same woman in the mid-1960s. Bob Korbit directed.

REAL THEATER, 135 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, HILLCREST. 619-297-7039. FRIDAYS, 7 P.M. SATURDAYS, 7:30 P.M. THROUGH FEBRUARY 14.

The Toughest Girl Alive

For four performances only, Javier Velasco directs a workshop production of his tribute to the turbulent life, tempestuous times, and toe-tapping music of
The dim month after the year-end Oscar drive — Paul Blart: Mall Cop, Bride Wars, The Unborn, Notorious, My Bloody Valentine, Inkheart, Outlander, Underworld: Rise of the Lycans, et al. — looked to be brightened by the revival of François Truffaut’s Wild Child at the Ken Cinema beginning January 30. It has been many, many moons since Landmark has put on a revival to rival it, and in truth the theater chain over the past year has cut back on revivals at any level of competition. Unhappily, word came down that there would be no press screening of it, and I hardly feel equipped to write at length about a film I haven’t seen in decades. I could have had a DVD screener of it, thanks very much, but then again I could have watched it on video and written about it at any time I pleased in the last umpteen years. It pleases me instead to see it in a theater. The best I can do for now is to offer the sort of superficial introductory remarks in which Robert Osborne traffics before prime-time presentations on Turner Classic Movies. Picture me in silk tie and creaseless suit, with mouth slightly agape.

Here are a couple of things to be aware of when watching it. The first is that Truffaut — aficionados kindly pardon my ABC’s — launched his filmmaking career even before it with the short film The Mischief Makers, as something of a champion of anarchic youth, the spiritual heir of Jean Vigo. And as a leading figure in the first swell of the New Wave, not to mention previously as a firebrand critic for Cahiers du Cinéma, he stood for the New Way: anti-Establishment, independent, unconventional, iconoclastic, insurrectionist (albeit apolitical), young and reckless and free. His films, to be sure, had already blended into the commercial mainstream prior to the end of the Sixties — The Bride Wore Black, Mississippi Mermaid — but that’s just life. The compromise, the irony, the joke of life.

The second thing to keep in mind is May ’68. I won’t insult you, nor embarrass myself, by explaining what that was and what it meant, beyond saying for purposes of clarity that the spirit of revolution, sans guillotines, had once again reached the streets of Paris, and especially the students of Paris. See, if need be, Bertolucci’s The Dreamers for reference. Or think Kent State ’70 multiplied exponentially. It was against that backdrop that Truffaut cast himself (a starchy nonactor) in the role of a doctor in the age of the French Revolution, who took upon himself the taming, civilizing, acculturating of the titular and emblematic wild child, the nature boy, the fledgling noble savage. Never mind its intrinsic merits, although these would put it in the running for the finest film ever made about the loftiest subject: education. The thought I wanted to convey is simply that this going against the grain — this bucking of the trend — this flying in the face of fashion — to say nothing of this personal reversal of field — is quite extraordinary, quite valorous, quite quixotic, and not quite what we came to expect of the ingrating Monsieur Truffaut. In a black-
...and-white period film of nearly forty years ago, that might not be as appar
tent today as it was at the time. And now, let’s roll film....

Meanwhile, readers of the Reader, by which I mean readers of the tangible
tablet-sized paper named the Reader, will have been unaware of the online
appendix to my 2008 wrap-up, in specific the extended valley between
主持人, which is to have become the

No doubt embryonic or larval journal-
ists in the 21st Century dream one day
of writing for a website where they can

I was born too soon. And third, “johnrubio” ably represented my inter-
ests, as he has done in the past, within

All the same, now that I am again
scuffling for filthy lucre, I might belat-
eely inject a few points that won’t be

crossfire. First point: the one area where
I would have tightened the rein on
“johnrubio” is his contention that I go
to movies in search of masterpieces. I
grant that “masterpiece” is in my vocab-
ulary as well as in my faintest hopes, and

butler castrated for a writer in my position
to wade into the middle of such an

Third point: my snap diagnosis of
what ails “joshb” is the common mis-
apprehension — other sufferers will have
their own individualized versions of it —
that the job of a film critic is to express the views of “joshb.” More
broader, he believes that the job of a

Fourth point: I mentioned the ex-
devaluation of the word “great” in crit-

 הסרטון, Button, Button, Slumdog, Slum-
dog, Button, Slumdog, Button, Slum-
dog, Button, Button. And that’s that.

One knows what’s right better than

one who takes personal affront at an
opposing opinion really isn’t ready for
grown-up conversation. For certain,
matters of taste are “personal,” and dif-

esses among tastes are unresolvable. If,
for example, you’re on a first date and
your tablemate concedes that his or
her all-time favorite film is There’s Some-
thing about Mary, you then have a use-
ful indicator of your future together.

But no new man will be served by throw-
ing your championship in his or her face.

Such a clash of personalities on the
page ought to be so much easier, so much

less awkward, than across a restaurant
table. Set the offender aside, remove your
self, don’t come back. You need-
not even wait around for the check.

The Oscar nominations.... Oh, dear.

Baton, Slumdog, Button, Button, Bat-
ton, Slumdog, Button, Button, Bat-
ton, Slumdog, Button, Slumdog, Bat-
ton, Slumdog, Button, Slumdog, Button,

Buton. And that’s that. With Sally Hawkins shut out of the
Best Actress derby (and less startlingly,

Clink Eastwood out of the Best Actor),
I have nothing to root for and no new
reason to give the awards credence. I
saw Hawkins’s excessive display of
emotion at the Golden Globe podium
as a measure not of how seriously she
took the award — God knows it’s next
CARMEL MOUNTAIN
Carmel Mountain 14
16200 Carmel Mountain Road (858-474-0700)
Bride Wars (PG); Defiance (R); Frost/Nixon (R); Gran Torino (R); Hotel for Dogs (PG).
Inheritance (PG-13); Last Chance Harvey (PG-13); New in Town (PG-13); Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG); Slumdog Millionaire (R); Taken (PG-13).
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (R); The Unborn (PG-13); The Uninvited (PG-13); Yes Man (PG-13).

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TAKEN
PG-13 (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15
10:45; New in Town (PG-13) (10:15 12:30)
3:15 5:45 8:15. The Uninvited (PG-13) (12:45)
3:15 5:45 8:15; Inheritance (PG-13) (11:30 2:00)
4:45 7:50 10:00; Slumdog Millionaire (R) (11:00 1:45)
4:30 7:15 10:15; Hotel for Dogs (PG) (11:00
1:30 4:15); Gran Torino (R) (12:15 3:15) 5:00
7:45 10:00; The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13) (7:00 10:15); PBS Kids Goes to the Movies (G) (10:30 am Sat.-Sun. only).

POWAY
10
13475 Poway Road (619-646-9162)

TAKEN
PG-13 (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15
10:45; New in Town (PG-13) (10:15 12:30)
3:15 5:45 8:15. The Uninvited (PG-13) (12:45)
3:15 5:45 8:15; Inheritance (PG-13) (11:30 2:00)
4:45 7:50 10:00; Slumdog Millionaire (R) (11:00 1:45)
4:30 7:15 10:15; Hotel for Dogs (PG) (11:00
1:30 4:15); Gran Torino (R) (12:15 3:15) 5:00
7:45 10:00; The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13) (7:00 10:15); PBS Kids Goes to the Movies (G) (10:30 am Sat.-Sun. only).

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San Marcos 18
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VISTA
Vista Village
Highway 76 at Vista Village Drive
(760-945-7469)
Bride Wars (PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 2:25, 4:45)
7:05, 9:25; The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:10, 4:10) 7:45; Defiance (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 2:05 7:15, 10:10); Gran Torino (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:05, 1:45, 4:25, 7:15, 9:50); Hotel for Dogs (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 2:30, 4:30) 7:25, 9:30; Inheritance (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00) 10:15; Frost/Nixon (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:30) 10:00; My Bloody Valentine (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 2:15, 5:10 7:40, 10:15); New in Town (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 2:25, 4:45, 7:20, 9:45); Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:05, 1:35, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15); Taken (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:25, 2:20, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30); The Unborn (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (3:05) 10:00; Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (R); The Uninvited (PG-13); Yes Man (PG-13).

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La Costa 6
6941 El Camino Real (at Arains/Alpio)
(760-994-2221)

TAKEN
PG-13 (10:15) 12:45 3:15 5:45 8:15
10:45; New in Town (PG-13) (10:15) 12:30
3:15 5:45 8:15. The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13) (7:00 10:15); PBS Kids Goes to the Movies (G) (10:35 am Sat.-Sun. only).

OCEANSIDE
Mission Marketplace 13
College Boulevard and Mission Avenue
(760-806-1790)

TAKEN
PG-13 (12:30) 3:00) 5:30 8:00 10:30; New in Town (PG-13) (12:15 2:45 5:15 9:15 9:45). The Uninvited (PG-13) (11:15 1:30 3:45) 6:00 8:15 10:45; Inheritance (PG-13) (10:15 2:15) 4:45 7:15 10:30; Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (R) (11:15 3:30) 5:45 8:15 10:30; Slumdog Millionaire (R) (11:00 2:15) 5:00 8:00 10:45. Frost/Nixon (R) (2:10 7:30); Milk (R) (11:15) 4:45 10:15; My Bloody Valentine 3D (PG-13) (12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45; Hotel for Dogs (PG) (11:20 2:00) 4:15 7:45 10:15; Nobby (R) (10:45) 4:30 7:30 10:00; Defiance (R) (1:00 4:00) 7:00 10:00; Slumdog Millionaire (R) (11:00 2:00) 5:00 8:00 10:45. No 9 pm-10:45 pm shows Sun.-Thu.

ENCLITAS
La Paloma
47 South Coast Highway 101
(760-436-2820)
Doubt (PG-13); Rachel Getting Married (R)

La Costa 6
6941 El Camino Real (at Arainas/Alpio)
(760-599-2221)

TAKEN
PG-13 (10:15) 12:45 3:15 5:45 8:15
10:45; New in Town (PG-13) (10:15) 12:30
2:45 5:15 9:45. Revolutionary Road (R) (10:45) 4:30 7:45 10:45; Last Chance Harvey (PG-13) (10:00 12:30 3:00) 5:00 10:30; Gran Torino (R) (10:30 1:30 4:15) 7:15 10:15; The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13) (12:00 3:30) 7:00 10:30; PBS Kids Goes to the Movies (G) (10:30 am Sat.-Sun. only).

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to worthless — but how seriously she took the work. Young though she is, she must have had an inkling that Happy-Go-Lucky was a once-in-a-life-time role, whether or not she had an inkling it wouldn’t even carry her through to Oscar night. I can feel relieved that her exclusion at least diminished the possibility of her spontaneous combustion on stage.

Festival season opens this weekend with the sixth annual San Diego Black Film Festival, formerly the Noir Film Festival, January 29 through February 1 at the Regal Horton Plaza. You can view the full schedule, heavy on shorts and documentaries, at sdff.org. And next week kicks off the nineteenth annual San Diego Jewish Film Festival, a nice balance of documentary and fiction, February 4 through 15, at the AMC La Jolla for the most part, and at the ultra-luxury mission valley, the Reading Carmel Mountain, and the Jewish Community Center Garfield Theatre for other parts. Got to Illic.com/sdjff to see where what, when.

MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by duncan shepherd. priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black dot. Criticized movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of past reviews sorted alphabetically, by year for other parts. Go to lfjcc.org/sdjff for other parts. Go to lfjcc.org/sdjff to get; the hidebound and humorless old nun school's first black student, a vulnerable tar— Antipathies who sheltered hundreds of Jews from the Nazis in the forests of birkenau, some dark days that color itself evidently went un— Masking, leaving behind only a greedy or oc— Ancestral orange residue. Daniel Craig, a blind blue-eyed Jew like paul newman in-evoking ("He is a Jew!" wonders aloud a plain-speaking child), delivers heroic declara— The seamless surgery by which Blanchett. the movie is at some pains to shore up the plausibility of the tale — a plain-spoken child), delivers heroic declara—★ — From the prize-winning stage

The Curious Case of Benjamin But— The central conceit, and little else, has been retained of a once— Moore: with Frost, the humor of it. On screen, nothing is more absurd about it than its length, two hours and—\\n
 Doubl — From the prize-winning stage play by John Patrick Shanley, an ambiguous drama of possible priestly pedophilia at a Catholic school in the Bronx. The pitcher, perhaps best known to moviemakers as the writer of Mountain 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 original intent of the parish to all—\n
★★ — Glossy women's film, a once-in-a-life-\n
The Associated Press
Sixties and Seventies, the last of the B-pics — at first. Two movies in one, a prepackaged package and Tarantino writing, in bad bets to carry it off with straight faces (his feature debut); general geniality. With Rose McGowan, Freddy Ro-...
ment: a hand-held camera in the grasp of an arm-waving cameraman. Anne Hathaway, as the bride’s just-out-of-rehab sister, a con- 

undauntably entertaining as her well-behaved sister, and the convivi-

city of the gathering, with heavy represen-

tation from the cool cats of the music in-

dustry, is by and large believable and 
admirable. With Mather Zickel, Bill Irwin, 

Anne Draver Smith, Tunde Adebimpe, and 


★ | Garrison Valley 18; Horton Plaza 24; Palm Pronenade 24; Plaza Bonita 14; Town Square 14)


Outsider 2008

Wow! I see this at a small screening in L.A. and we freakin’ loved it. Do you even get the Viking. Alien thing? How long we’ve been waiting for this. ZERO is wayyy too hard, man. There’s a monster that roars Perlman!(!) and Jack Huston (!!). So overlook Cavziel being a stiff; it’s still worth the ticket if you want to see sci-fi all bent up. It might not be for you, but ZERO! The fanboys and girls are not in agreement with you on this.

by Fenetta 10:10 a.m., Jan. 22, 2009

Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2009

Okay, Mall Cop was questionable as we went into the full house. I saved my reservations until the movie as the hypoglycemic overweight mall cop, Paul Blart (Kevin James) was quite odd to say the least. However, Paul Blart was a real trooper and the biggest douche you have ever seen. He did things that made you want to hide under a blanket and pretend you weren’t there, that’s how creepy some of his antics were. Now, most of you who have seen the previews pretty much know the mall was taken over by a bunch of thugs and Paul Blart defended the mall singlehandedly. That’s where the fun begins and I say well worth the effort. I could tell the whole audience enjoyed Mall Cop as I sure am sure you will too. This movie gets 2 1/2 stars out of 4.

by richhend 4:10 p.m., Jan. 21, 2009

Defiance 2008

Anybody having trouble trying to figure out why the concept of disproportionate force is irrelevant in Israel’s recent incur-

sion into Gaza to stop Hamas from firing rockets need only to see the new film Defiance. When you have a malignant can-
cer on your border that’s sole existence is to terminate you and deny your right to exist, any force used to eradicate that cancer is justifiable. This film is not a great work of art, but it tells a true and rare story of Jews who didn’t go passively in 1941 to their deaths in the concentration camps, but took up arms and formed an army of resistance in the forests of Belorusia and survived the Nazi’s frequent attempts to terminate them. It’s an old-fashioned David and Goliah story that works well to educate, entertain, and evoke your emotions, all without special effects or computer wizardry.

by alanseg 9:21 p.m., Jan. 25, 2009

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The Reader review system is a good example of a user-generated content platform. It provides a platform for users to share their opinions and experiences with others, and allows for a community of reviewers to build on each other’s comments. This can be a powerful tool for both users and the movies themselves, as it allows for a more diverse range of opinions to be heard and encourages critical thinking and discussion.

Overall, the Reader review system is a useful and engaging feature for any movie lover who wants to share their thoughts and opinions with others. It provides a platform for users to connect with others who share their interests and allows for a community of reviewers to come together to share their insights and experiences.
Nighy (wonderfully transformed through dickel-back hair and grandfatherly eye-glasses), Edie Lazard, and an unreliable fence-sitter in the conspiracy, Tom Wilkinson, to say nothing of the German-accented English of the really, really bad Nazi, Hitler and Goebbels. But that’s not the only way Cruise seems not to belong. Even with eye-patches and digitalized arm stump, he comes across as something of a lightweight, no matter how hard he glares with his one operatic eye. Roughly as hard as a purlicue comic-book addict who believes he can develop X-ray vision if only he practices. It’s a comic-book addict who believes he can deny its actual date, which is about denying its actual date, which is neither a surprise from a fashion-plate like Truffaut, and it pursues a scrupulous exactness about the physical properties of the bygone period: the starchy clothes, the antique household objects, and the commonplace

Wendy and Lucy

sounds heard around these cramped old houses — the footfalls, the opening and closing of a door, the scratch-scratch of a quill pen. Truffaut’s tendency toward neoclassic sentimentality is held in harness here, thanks partly to Nestor Almendros’s calm gray images, partly to Truffaut’s stiff, toneless acting as the doctor, and partly to the unfaltering sense of rhythm. 1970. ★★★ (KEN, 1/30 THROUGH 2/7) The Wrestler — It was a stroke of fortune of not of genius for filmmaker Darren Aronofsky to cast Mickey Rourke in the title role of Randy “The Ram” Robinson (nephew of a Ramones), a Dodge Ram-driving, self-described “old broken-down piece of meat,” two decades past his prime, yet persisting in plying his trade at sparsely populated venues outside the glare of TV lights, dreaming of one last big payday at a twentieth-anniversary rematch with a Southern California car salesman formerly known as The Ayatollah. Rourke, monstrously bulked up since his stint of moonlighting as a professional prizefighter, has one of the most ravaged faces in the entire gallery of once beautiful leading men, somewhere between Jan-Michael Vincent and Francesco Rinaldi, and his no-nonsense laboring breathing is exorcising. There is, however, an inherent sentimenality in the basic situation, and it’s not at all toughened through the by-the-numbers plotting around an attempted détente with his neglected lesbian daughter (Dyan Rachel Wood), a chummy courtship with an over-the-hill stripper (Maria Tomeo), carrying on in the before-it’s-too-late exhibitionistic mode of before The Devil Knows You’re Dead; plus nipple rings and tattoos; a post-motum heart attack, a bypass operation, an obvious and inevitable self-martyrdom. Aronofsky’s handheld camera follows Rourke around — often literally behind his back and over his shoulders, as in a Darren Aronofsky art film — in ghoulish anticipation of a train wreck; follows him into the locker room to map out the matches with his fellow combatants (an amusing glimpse behind the scenes); follows him to the hair salon (for upkeep of his Eighties heavy-metal mop); to the tanning salon, to his drug dealer, to his degrading day job in the stock room of a grocery store. Best scene: reluctantly working behind the deli counter in direct contact with the customers, but really warming up to it. (Bad scene: flipping out behind the deli counter, specifically at the meat slicer.) The wrestling matches, natural dramatic climax, are crucibles for the actor and the character alike. Not to forget the spectator. 2008. ★★★ (HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MISION VALLEY 20; PALM PROVENCE 24; TOWN SQUARE 14) Yes Man — Measurement of the loss of elasticity in rubber man Jim Carrey, now showing the effects of age and experience on his creased, rumbled, buggy 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-suited, neu-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 knockoff cakes? Yes! A blow job from the white-haired toothless old lady next door? Yes! For the massage, the response should be obvious. Just say no. With Zooey Deschanel, Bradley Cooper, John Michael Higgins, and Terence Stamp, directed by Peyton Reed. 2008. ★★★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 24; OCEAN RANCH 12; PLAZA PONIENTE 14) Yonkers Joe — Chazz Palminteri as a con man with a retarded son (Clown Guiry), written and directed by Robert Celestino. (GASLAMP 15; FROM 1/30)
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RESEARCH STUDY ON WOMEN WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA

Are you an female between the ages of 18 and 49? Are you available for 60 minutes a day for 30 days? Are you willing to complete questionnaires and take blood? Are you motivated to help others? If so, you might be eligible for a clinical research study for women with Schizophrenia. Medical researchers at UCSD are conducting a clinical research study to evaluate whether an investigational medication works better than a placebo in people with schizophrenia. Participants will be monitored closely throughout the study.

To learn more, call 619-231-3066.

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RESEARCH STUDY VOLUNTEERS

Are you pregnant and not more than 16 weeks? Are you 18 to 49 years old? Clinically diagnosed with schizophrenia who is available to be in the study? Are you motivated to help others? If so, you might be eligible to participate in the study. Study participants may receive up to $420 for their time. For more information about the study, please call (858) 582-6941 or email: research@ucsd.edu.

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My friends and I have a game that we invented in our group. It's called “butt-cracked.” Being butt-cracked is when you accidentally see someone bent over with pants that don’t fit well and you see a little bit of their rear. We all try to trick each other into looking at someone that is accidentally butt-cracking you. Once you start doing it, you would be surprised at how many people walk around in pants that don’t fit. You can also say that you’ve been butt-cracked if something didn’t turn out the way you wanted...like you bought Lotto tickets but lost.

For past Say What columns, go to sdreader.com.
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San Diego Reader, January 29, 2009 125
Have you ever been stabbed by a pencil?

San Diego

January 29, 2009

Reader

OFF THE CUFF
by Josh Board

And it left this scar, like a tattoo.

that got in trouble with my teacher.

I screamed and was the one

to her. I screamed and was the one

a pencil. I guess so I wouldn’t talk

at first. And then, well, I guess she

recognized that I was talking to her

casual conversation. I don’t think she

lady in front of me, just making

over danger to my nether regions.

went farther in. I was panicking and

leaning forward I went back, and it

got caught on my thigh, with the

eraser side on the desk. Instead of

wrapping it up. It was bleeding, but I

see the wrath of Mrs. Thompson

darted for the door, turning back to

what little self-esteem I had left.

I didn’t get any stitches or anything, and nei-

I got stabbed in the lip. I didn’t need

what grade, though. I got into a

pushing fight with someone, and I

actually stabbed myself with a pen-

knives, which sometimes we’d stab

ourselves with, too. But one time, I

stabbed myself with a pencil. Does

any of us got in any trouble.

I was in junior high. I was goof-

ing around, and one guy was pre-

tending to stab someone. I blocked

it, and the pencil had been freshly

sharpened. I went to the nurse’s

office, and she got tweezers to get

the broken piece of lead out. And

they put hydrocortisone on it, and I

was on my way. I think school nurses

just put petroleum on everything.

I don’t even think I got a Band-Aid.

At least it got me out of class for a

day, night & weekend classes

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The Reader Puzzle:

Rules of the Game:
1. Each week we're printing a list of everyone who submits the correct answers to the previous week's puzzle. See this week's contenders below.
2. When you successfully complete a puzzle, we'll also print a brief (10 words or less) message that you've written. This is optional, but it's a great way to express yourself. You may submit a new message weekly.
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 7:00 a.m., Monday.
4. Entries must be faxed to 858-378-3499 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, or scanned and e-mailed to: puzzles@sdreader.com.
5. Reader Tokens are awarded weekly to contenders chosen randomly!
6. And now for the really small print: 1. All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
7. Late entries will not be considered.
8. One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
9. Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

Across:
1. Trudges
6. Actors Epps and Sharif
11. Ave. crossers
14. Peter of "Casablanca"
15. Garbage
16. Browser address
17. C
19. Paolo
20. Wally's little bro
21. From ___ Z
22. TV monitor?
24. E
28. "Permit me...
30. "____ Anything"
31. Cocky Aesop character
32. Acknowledge tacitly
33. ____ belt
34. All ____ sudden
35. Kid
36. River in the D-Day invasion
38. H
42. "Do Ya" rock grp.
43. Mountaineer's grip
45. Hullabaloos
47. Sufficient, informally
48. Gets ready for a fight
49. French or Italian bread
50. Hill of law
52. Clothing retailer Bauer
53. Keenly
54. S
55. Model who attended San Francisco State University
56. ____ bonding
57. Yank or Tiger
58. Beatty and others
59. ____ belt
60. D
62. 1996 Olympic Torch lighter
63. Cash substitute
64. Turn bad
65. Circle T-shirt size: M
66. 60.
67. Fed. agency that's ass
68. Union demand
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100.

Solutions to last week's puzzle:

Name: ______________________________
Address: ____________________________
Neighborhood/City: __________________
State: __ Zip Code: __________________
Circle T-shirt size: M  L  XL
Personal Message: ____________________

We cannot accept your entry without the following:

THIS WEEK'S CONTENDERS:

Indicates T-shirt winner. Number indicates successful entries.


Jeff Battles, Sierra Mesa, 3. "Thanks Sue and Dolly! Couldn't have done it without you!

Toni Betteridge, Ocean Beach, 3. "No T-shirt come my way. Hope, cast your styro ray."

Bill Betteridge, Hillcrest, 3. "I choose to fly high and only wonder woman." Olga Betteridge, Ocean Beach, 3. "No T-shirt come my way. Hope, cast your styro ray."

Tim Betteridge, Hillcrest, 3. "I choose to fly high and only wonder woman."


Marvin A. Brown, Clairemont, 3. "Got well soon, Clarksy"

Glory Cadenahead, Clairemont, 3. "Got well soon, Clarksy"

E. T. Cape, Carmel Mountain, 3. "I told you!"

Phil Cast, Carlsbad, 3. "Amazing are our friends, not our dinner."

A. T. Cerutti, Bonita, 3. "Let's get ready for a fight."

Leslie Chase, Campana, 3. "Here's for you an orange rose which written becomes prose!"


Marie Grace, College Area, 3. "3rd Ave. crossers thru our mail slot at 1703 India Street in Little Italy, or scanned and e-mailed to: puzzles@sdreader.com."

Barney Firks, Ocean Beach, 3. "Three on a match."

Carolyn Dalton, Escondido, 3. "It's great way to express yourself. You may submit a new message weekly."

Pat DePew, San Diego, 3. "SD urban gal since 1983."

Gerard Donnelly, Encinitas, 3. "I was at her beck but not her call."

Craig Curtis, Escondido, 3. "Dazed Rock City! Kiss me baby!"

Steve Jones, Vista, 3. "Say hello to my little friend!"

Gary Dimukes, Scripps Ranch, 3. "Login into our larcenography."

Jeff Doerner, Clairemont, 3. "If I had you, Go bolts!"

Carollyn Delton, Escondido, 3. "I'll try to love you."

Pat DePew, San Diego, 3. "I'm a fan of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible."

William Edwards, Kensington, 3. "I'm a fan of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible."

Bette Eberhardt, Pine Valley, 3. "Hello to my little friend!"

Vince Cases, Vista, 3. "Say hello to my little friend!"

Gary Dimukes, Scripps Ranch, 3. "Login into our larcenography."

Jeff Doerner, Clairemont, 3. "If I had you, Go bolts!"

Carollyn Delton, Escondido, 3. "I'll try to love you."

Pat DePew, San Diego, 3. "I'm a fan of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible."

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Craig Curtis, Escondido, 3. "Dazed Rock City! Kiss me baby!"

Vince Cases, Vista, 3. "Say hello to my little friend!"

Gary Dimukes, Scripps Ranch, 3. "Login into our larcenography."

Jeff Doerner, Clairemont, 3. "If I had you, Go bolts!"

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Pat DePew, San Diego, 3. "I'm a fan of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible."

William Edwards, Kensington, 3. "I'm a fan of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible."

Alfred Egan, San Diego, 3. "Happy Birthday Papa lost!"

Harry Engel, La Jolla, 3. "Loo is my Obama mama."

Ben Espo, Mission Valley, 3. "And IP should just shut up!"

Thomas Diehl, Escondido, 3. "Here’s looking at you kid. Happy Birthday, my dear wife!"

Gary Dimukes, Scripps Ranch, 3. "Login into our larcenography."

Jeff Doerner, Clairemont, 3. "If I had you, Go bolts!"

Carollyn Delton, Escondido, 3. "I'll try to love you."

Pat DePew, San Diego, 3. "I'm a fan of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible."

Rand Feura, Santee, 3. "Excercise your bike daily.


Marie Grass, College Area, 3. "Carlson cleans house, hugs good. Good luck to all!"

Iggie Guerrero, Bay Ho, 3. "Carlson cleans house, hugs good. Good luck to all!

Ralph Hayward, El Cajon, 3. "I’d like a black tie please."

Lizzy Henry, Encinitas, 3. "I love you. Yes, you!"

Julie Hurley, Normal Heights, 3. "Go crazy!"

Ernie Hu, San Diego, 3. "For severe rubs, eat raw dillkin. It works really well!"
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Reader Pop Quiz

This week’s questions:

1. What local rock group makes full use of riffs, a camaro sword, and ninja outfits in its stage act?
2. Ouch! At the San Diego Repertory Theatre, is set one year after what event?
3. What was the first record singer-songwriter Mary Dolan ever bought with her own money?
4. At a sports bar grand opening, Josh Board presents Dallas Cowboy Hall of Famer Michael Irvin with what for him to autograph?
5. What international pop star was taken to Alvarado Hospital in 1978 and treated for alcohol poisoning?
6. The first solar plant in the nation to generate electricity at prices comparable to those from fossil-fuel powered plants now operates just outside Las Vegas. Its name, please?
7. What local musician portrayed John Denver DiMuaco (of Di and the Bromants) on NBC’s American Dreams?
8. Sushi Diner in Linda Vista keeps 200 sets of what on hand for regular customers?
9. Where was godfather of British blues John Mayall when wildlife destroyed his house and everything in it?
10. Horse trainer Lester Holt and jockey agent George Bellington founded what local restaurant chain?

Last week’s answers:

1. Urine. (p. 72)
2. Itself. (p. 6)
3. Cockroach. (p. 21)
4. A party. (p. 72)
5. “Itself.” (p. 6)

Last week’s winners:

Dana Collins, Mikkent Kent, Jon Nuanez, Marla Locklar, and Elizabeth Morse

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 $15 (indicate preference). Answers must be submitted by Monday at 7 a.m. after the issue in question. Only one per household per email address per month. Multiple entries will be disregarded. Mail answers to Reader Pop Quiz, SD Reader, Box 8580, San Diego CA 92116; or fax to 619-231-0489; or email to readerservice@sandiegoreader.com.
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**LEAD STORY**

— Maryland lobbyist and former state assembyman Gilbert Genn was attacked by a deer outside his home in November, butted to the ground and repeatedly stabbed by the buck’s antlers in the chest and groin. Genn told WTOP Radio that after finally realizing he was in a life-or-death struggle, he managed to subdue the animal by stabbing the antlers long enough to tire it and cause it to flee. Bleeding badly, Genn said he disregarded his wife’s admonitions to get to the hospital and instead dressed the wound himself and headed off for a scheduled meeting in Annapolis with Speaker of the House Michael Busch. He told the reporter, “There was no way I could miss this meeting.” Only afterward did he report to the emergency room.

**New Frontiers of Self-Defense Law**

— Eugene Falle, 35, was acquitted of murder in Edmonton, Alberta, in December, as jurors apparently accepted his claim of self-defense even though the victim had 39 stab wounds. Falle said he was forced to keep stabbing the man because of previous threats by the victim and his gang and that the victim “wouldn’t bleed properly the way he should’ve bled, according to the movies.” And in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Sydney Teerhuis, on trial for killing a man, claimed self-defense even though he admitted not only stabbing the man 68 times but also spraying his body during the spree. However, unlike Falle, Teerhuis was convicted.

**It’s Good to Be a British Prisoner**

— (1) In November, British justice minister Jack Straw discovered, and immediately closed, a ten-year-old program for inmates at Whitmoor prison in Cambridgeshire for “workshops” in comedy. (2) Scotland’s justice secretary similarly canceled a program in November after he learned that officials at Scotland’s police force had set up poker classes, sanctioning games run on paper earnings (but which the inmates converted into real trades and favors). Said one astounded official: “There’s no such thing as a tap-dancing club…because after this, nothing would surprise us.”

**Creme de la Weird**

— Peter Trigger, 59, was “adamant,” according to England’s Kettering Evening Telegraph, that he had the right to wear whatever outfits he wanted, even though his favorite hangout was in front of Woodvale Primary school in the mornings, where he usually wore schoolgirl-like short skirts with nothing underneath. In December, after numerous complaints, a Northampton magistrate issued Trigger a five-year Anti-Social Behavior Order commanding him to stop.

**Least Competent Criminals**

— Arousing Suspicion: (1) April Westfall, 40, was arrested in Reno, Nev., in December for DWI. An ambulance crew called the Highway Patrol after spotting her driving down U.S. 395 at 4:30 a.m. with a service station’s nozzle and severed hose protruding from her gas tank. (2) Jeremy Aron, 33, was arrested for DWI on Thanksgiving night in Portsmouth, N.H., when an off-duty police officer spotted him driving down Lafayette Road with a fire hydrant stuck to his bumper.

**Yikes!**

— Officials in South Africa, where the government only recently came to accept the connection between HIV and AIDS, revealed in December that supplies of retroviral drugs are being used recreationally as hallucinogens smoked by schoolchildren. Health officials told BBC News that the drugs are prescribed to those at risk for AIDS but are not taken seriously by HIV-diagnosed South Africans who are just now starting to understand the decades-old disease.

— According to a November sheriff’s depart- ment report, an 11-year-old Fort Pierce, Fla., boy hit his mother with a saw during an argument, lacerating her skull, and then, as she threatened to call police, offered her a $50 bill not to. The mother said the kid had previously threatened to cut his 19-year-old pregnant sister’s abdomen “to give her a C-section” and once tried to use hair spray and a cigarette lighter to torch the family’s cat.

**Recurring Theme**

— According to an October report by London’s Daily Mail, foot surgeons’ business has improved since Manolo Blahnik’s sleek, narrow models have become so popular. In addition to shortening and narrowing, young women seem concerned about the symmetry of their “too cascades” (the curve from the big toe around to the little toe) and whether their ankles are shapely enough, with some women opting for liposuction on the lower calf.

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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Thirty Years Ago

GOOD WOMAN STILL LOOKING, the Saturday after this appears, I’ll be in the science exhibit next to the Space Theater, same time. I wear a turquoise windbreaker with white trim. Ask for Mike. Still Looking. LOVELY. I’m into trich, Spiottoons, Rust. Greasy hands, foot odors & I never tie my shoe laces. Hear an aestheticmongol as he seeks eternal wisdom. Hardly Gurdy.
— GASSMITH, February 1, 1979

Twenty-Five Years Ago

Martin Montoya, who owns My Rich Uncle’s in East San Diego: “The hot spots change because there’s a certain clique that almost creates them,” says Montoya, whose club held the top position in 1978 when it was an after-hours discotheque. “And if you get that core of about 300 people—the flashy, loud dressers in their midtwenties to their midthirties who go out to clubs at least three or four nights a week—those people generally follow.”

In 1978 it was My Rich Uncle’s; the following year it was Carlos ’n’ Charlie’s in La Jolla; in 1980 it was the Mustang Club in the Midway area and the Spirit in Bay Park; in 1981 it was the Bacchanal in Clairemont; in 1982 it was Los Amigos in Mission Bay and the Rodeo in La Jolla; and last year it was Club Diego’s.

— CITY LIGHTS, “I’VE GOT A GOOD MIND TO OPEN UP A CLUB AND SEE WHAT THE HECK WITH IT,” Thomas K. Arnold, February 1, 1984

Twenty Years Ago

She heard the baby crying for what must have been the eighth time in four hours. Karen Warren (not her real name) likes to sleep in on Sunday mornings; that particular Sunday, the howling of her neighbor’s newborn cut through the walls without diminishing.

The mother started screaming, “Shut up! Shut up!” The baby took this as a cue to cry louder. The baby wailed on, and the mother kept screaming, “Shut up!”

Karen heard a muffled thump.

— CITY LIGHTS, “SAN DIEGO, TEXAS,” Abi Ospinar, January 27, 1994

Ten Years Ago

In the waning weeks before my expulsion from Yale became final I’d invite these dullards up to my room and put on some sides. Though I had everything by the Beatles, Stones, Dylan, Byrds, Love, most of the Kinks, the first Doors — it was the spring, by now, before the SUMMER OF LOVE — all they would sit for was “I Feel Like Homemade Shit,” on The Fugs First Album (ESP 1018).

— “VINYL RECONCILIATION,” Richard Meltzer, January 28, 1999

Five Years Ago

This is how out of control the Super Bowl has become. This year, America Online and CBS.com have teamed up (think Jeffrey Dahmer and Donald Trump) and invited people with way too much time on their hands to log on to CBS.com and vote for their favorite Super Bowl commercial.

According to people in the pay of the above-mentioned scam, there have been 2200 television commercials since 1967, the year of our first Super Bowl. Out of that total, nameless persons picked ten commercials representing Apple Computer, Budweiser, Coke, Levi’s, McDonald’s, Mountain Dew, Noxzema, Pepsi, Tabasco, and Xerox.

On Saturday night — yes, this Saturday night — CBS will televise Super Bowl’s Greatest Commercials.

— SPORTING BOX, “HOU STON, WE HAVE MONEY,” Patrick Daugherty, January 29, 2004

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Sunday at Cornerstone Church of San Diego was bright with promise. It was also bright with spotlights and searchlights, glowing now white, now green, now pink during the opening half-hour of praise. The lights matched the singers and the sound — intense, high-energy, with all the thrum in the chest and thrill in the stomach. A young man who led the singing in a dark suit accented by a pink shirt — French cuffs poked out the sleeves of his jacket — actually bounced in place as he pointed heavenward, crying, “Our father” — ba-DUM — “Who is in” — ba-DUM — “Heaven...hallowed be Thy name” — ba-DUM DUM. Behind him, a choir swayed and clapped behind the backup singers, themselves backed by a doubled-up band — two drummers, two keyboards, two electric gui-
tars (as well as a bass and an acoustic).

But back to the promise. Pastor Georgina took the mic over a Latin piano riff to sing: “Something is on the way! Just believe and start to pray... Hey, something good, yes we believe it! Something good, yes we receive it! Halilujah, something good!”

“This year is our year to reign!” she proclaimed over the beat. We stand in agreement, and we will have our way. It’s a new year, and God is going to give you new visions and new dreams... God is in control, and God sees bigger and better things for you! We can walk in places that we thought we never deserved to walk.” The music began to swell beneath her. “When Peter saw Jesus walking on the water...he stepped out of the boat! We need to step out of the boat! I want you to lift your leg up and step out! We just need to receive it right now! How many of you see something greater for yourself today?” Happy cheers answered her question.

Pastor Sergio, the light clinging to his velvet sport coat, said that it was the year for “Cornerstone to answer the call of God to take its seat in history to reign! Say, ‘I’m ready to reign!’” (I’m ready to reign?) came the reply. He exponed on Ephesians and quoted Pastor Sunday Adaya: “The church...is the most potent organization on earth because it was started by Jesus and His bride... and it seemed like the idea of God because through it, and only it, the kingdom can come.”

Sergio called on the church to “take its message of grace beyond its walls! Grace is getting who you don’t deserve... You need to send this place an ambassador of grace. You come here Sunday morning to get so empowered that you’ve got something to say to your friends who say they would never go to church. Go to people who are tired of going to church, who are burned out on being told what the church told them they can or cannot do. Say, ‘No, no, come to a place where we have don’t you have the ladder of life... The message of grace here is not about how high you can get up the ladder. It’s about everyone coming to the foot of the cross.’”

The message of grace was threefold and full of promise. First, God loves you and is not angry with you. “God satisfied His anger over our sin with Christ on the cross. From this point on... God will never be angry with the believer and never judge them for their sin.” Second, God is greater than the struggle that you’re encountering with sin. “God is saying, ‘I’ve liberated you from sin’s power and dominion over you. Any time you do sin, I have twice as much grace for you to deal with the sin.’”

Third, God is waiting for you at the cross, not the ladder. “People think that to meet God, they got to climb the religious ladder... The next time you start feeling guilty, you need to get off the ladder and start looking at the cross.”

At the altar call, with bloody scenes from The Passion playing behind him, Ser-
gio picked up a pile of nails from beside the on-stage cross and spoke to the souls gathered below. “You’ve been nail-
ing yourself because of what you’ve done... Jesus wants you to know that He took the nails on the cross for all the times you nailing yourself. Jesus says, ‘Give Me your nails.’ After today, you will never again have to deal with the consequences of your sin before God. God will never again see you as a sinner.

From this point on, God sees you as perfect, righteous, holy... You don’t have to work at being a Christian. Just be it.”

“What happens when we die?”

“As a believer,” said Ser-
gio, “when a person dies, they’re ushered into the presence of God to enjoy a relationship with God for eternity.”

— Matthew Lickona

“Videos of this church and others featured in this column are avail-
able at sandiego reader.com.”

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